

**NEWS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**

October 2005

November 15, 2005

The October Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for October 2005 was 2285.7 showing a 0.6 percent increase over the index for September. The rate of inflation for the month of September was 2.6 percent, while for August it was 0.1 percent. The rate of inflation for the period October 2004 to October 2005 was 15.9. For the calendar year to date, December 2004 to October 2005, the rate of inflation was 12.5 percent. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 10.9 percent.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions: "Kingston Metropolitan Area 0.5 percent, "Other Towns" 0.3 percent and "Rural Areas" 0.8 percent.

For the Month of October 2005 All Groups recorded increases over September. The index for the group 'Food and Drink' recorded a 0.5 percent increase. Among the sub-groups, the index increased by 2.2 for 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks,' 2.1 percent for 'Vegetables and Fruit' and 1.8 percent for 'Meat, Poultry and Fish'. The index for the sub-groups Dairy Products, Oils and Fats (0.4 percent) and 'Other Food and Beverages, (0.8 percent) recorded increases of less than one percent. There was a 4.3 percent decline in the index for the sub-group 'Starchy Foods.

The Index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' reflected the largest movement with an increase of 1.4 percent, followed by the index for the group 'Household Furnishings and Furniture' with 1.1 percent increase.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin October 2005 Further Outlines additional Information and may be obtained from the distribution office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.