

News Release
Consumer Price Index
October 2008

November 19, 2008

The All Jamaica **'All Divisions'** Consumer Price Index for the month of October 2008 was **136.9**; this represented a **0.3** per cent increase over the index of 136.5 recorded for September 2008. This has been the lowest increase recorded since the beginning of the calendar year 2008. This reflects the slowing down of inflation, as the inflation rate peaked in July at 2.8 per cent. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 17.2 per cent. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 11.3 per cent and the point-to-point inflation rate stood at 24.0 per cent.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions **'Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area'** up by 0.1 per cent, **'Other Urban Centres'** up by 0.1 per cent and **'Rural Areas'** by 0.5 per cent.

The deceleration of the rate of inflation was mainly due to the falling oil prices. As occurred in September two divisions continued to record declines in the index, **'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels'**, and **'Transportation'**, falling by 0.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively for the month of October. The major areas contributing to the increase in the index were **'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages'** **0.9** per cent, **'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco'** **0.2** per cent, **'Clothing and Footwear'** **0.6** per cent, **'Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance'** **0.9** per cent, **'Health'** **0.3** per cent **'Recreation and Culture'** **0.3** percent, **'Restaurants and Accommodation Services'** **0.5** per cent, and **'Miscellaneous Goods and Services'** increased by 0.8 per cent, and **'Communication'** and **'Education'** remained at 0.0 per cent.

The **Revised Consumer Price index Bulletin October 2008** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10. Data is also available on the STATIN website at www.statinja.com.