

PRESS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
September 2003

The September Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica "All Group" Consumer Price index for September 2003 was 1728.4. Showing an increase of 1.6 per cent over 1702.0 index recorded for August 2003. The rate of inflation for the month of August was 1.4 percent and 1.5 percent for the month of July. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 10.4 percent. Additionally the rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 10.8 percent, 6.7 percentage points above the 4.1 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2002.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 2.7 percent, 'Other Towns' 0.7 percent and 'Rural Areas' 0.6 percent.

For the month of September all groups recorded higher indices than in August except for the group, 'Household Furnishings and Furniture' which recorded a 0.6 percent decline in the index for the group. The group 'Food and Drink' showed a 0.2 percent increase. This increase was largely the result of an increase in prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Meals Away from Home', 'Meat Poultry and Fish', 'Dairy Products Oils & Fats', 'Baked Products Cereals & Breakfast Drinks'. The index for each of the sub-groups recorded a similar 0.6 percent increase.

The index for the groups 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' (0.3 percent) and 'Personal Clothing, Footwear and Accessories' (0.4 percent) each recorded increases of less than one percent.