



STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

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News Release Consumer Price Index September 2020

KINGSTON October 16, 2020: The All Jamaica Consumer Price Index for September 2020 was 106.1, indicating an inflation rate of 0.2 per cent as released today, October 15, 2020, by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).

The heaviest weighted division 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' recorded a negligible increase in its index. Contributing to this increase were the class 'Cereals and cereal products' moving up by 1.0 per cent and a 2.1 per cent increase in the class 'Meat and other parts of slaughtered land animals. However, a decline of 2.8 per cent for the class 'Vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses', which was due to lower prices for agricultural produce moderated the overall division's movement. Also contributing, was the division 'Education' which recorded an increase of 22.4 per cent, due to higher tuition fees for the new school year.

The overall movement of September's inflation rate was tempered by a decline of 2.2 per cent in the index for the division 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels'. This was primarily as a result of a 20.7 per cent fall in water and sewage rates. The movement within this division was moderated, however, by a 1.9 increase in electricity rates. The 'Transport' division also recorded a decline in its index of 0.1 per cent due mostly to a reduction in petrol prices.

For the review period, the calendar year-to-date inflation rate is 3.6 per cent, the fiscal year-to-date is 2.3 per cent and the point-to-point is 4.9 per cent as at September 2020.

The inflation rate for the three regions are Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area (GKMA) 0.5 per cent, Other Urban Centres (OUC) 0.6 per cent and Rural Areas (RA) -0.2 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by private households. The September 2020 CPI Bulletin outlines additional information and may be obtained from STATIN's website at www.statinja.gov.jm or from the Information Section of the Institute. Visit the Institute's Facebook page at facebook.com/STATINJA for the September 2020 CPI infographic.

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