



CONSUMER PRICE INDICES

August 1993

The All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for August 1993 was 481.9. This represented a 3.4 percent increase over the index for July 1993 which was 466.0. The movement in July was 4.1 percent, while that for June was 1.1 percent. The inflation rate from August 1992 to August 1993 stood at 20.6 percent, compared with 76.8 percent for the comparable period August 1991 to August 1992. The year to date inflation rate stood at 14.9 percent, as against 34.8 percent for the corresponding period last year. The fiscal year to date inflation rate stood at 11.9 percent, while it was 13.5 percent when compared with the same period last year.

The regional indices for August 1993 were:

Kingston Metropolitan Area	473.6 (up by 3.7%)
Other Towns	482.7 (up by 4.0%)
Rural Areas	492.3 (up by 2.8%)

For the month of August, all the groups recorded higher indices than in July. The index for the group 'Food and Drink' went up by 4.0 percent. There was an increase of 4.3 percent in the sub-group index for 'Meals Away From Home', with cooked meals recording higher prices in all the regions, while there were higher prices for aerated water in the Kingston Metropolitan Area, patties and rum and water in the Other Towns, and beer in the Rural Areas. The sub-group index for 'Starchy Foods' went up by 4.8 percent due to increased prices for yams, sweet and irish potatoes, and breadfruit. The index for the sub-group 'Vegetables and Fruit' rose by 13.0 percent as a result of higher prices for tomatoes, carrots, cabbage, and escallion with thyme.

The index for the group 'Housing and other Housing Expenses' moved up by 4.2 percent due to a 4.7 percent increase for the sub-group index for 'Other Housing Expenses'. Higher rates for electricity, as well as higher prices for cement and steel influenced the index for this group. The group index for 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' rose by 3.0 percent as a result of a 4.9 percent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels'. Increased prices for cooking gas, as well as for charcoal in the Kingston Metropolitan Area were responsible.

The impact of the drought, high temperatures, and price increases for farm inputs have continued to result in higher prices for agricultural products which contributed significantly to the rise in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. Continued depreciation of the Jamaican dollar has also added to the rise of the index for this month.

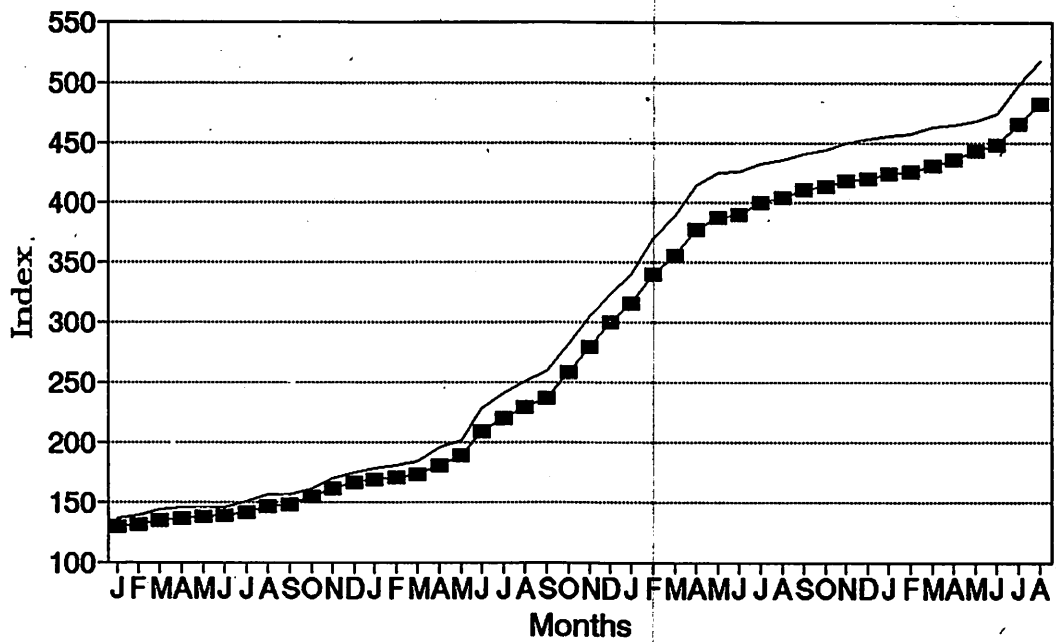
Table 1 below shows the 'All Groups' and main group indices for August 1993 and July 1993.

Consumer Price Indices by Groups - August 1993 (Base year January 1988 = 100)

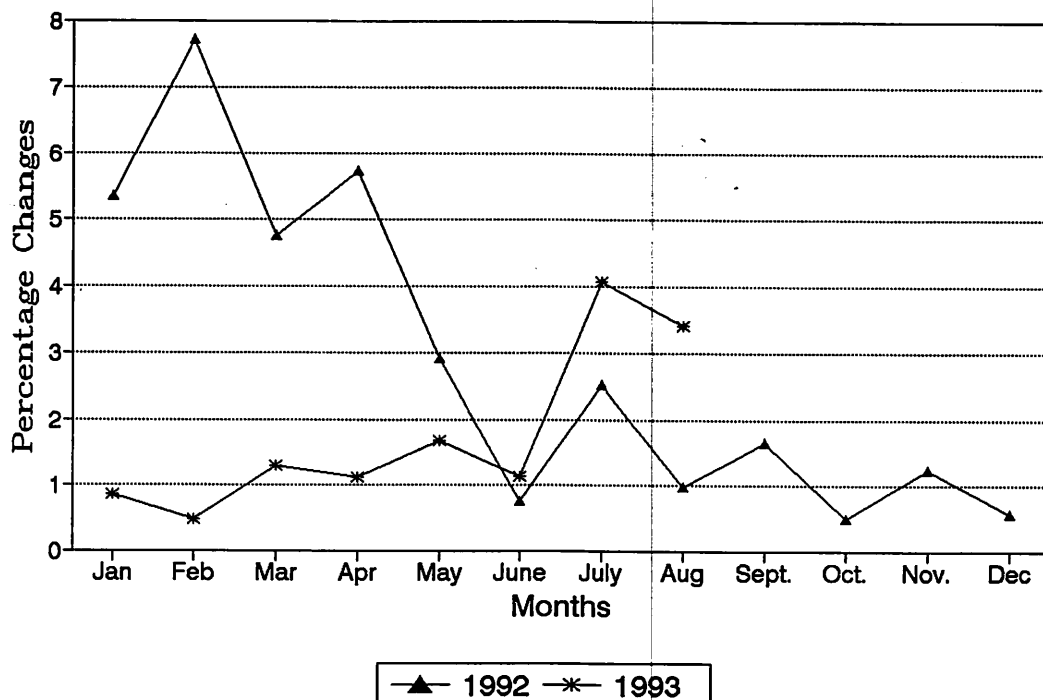
Table 1

GROUP	All Jamaica		Kingston Metropolitan Area		Other Towns		Rural Areas	
	August	July	August	July	August	July	August	July
ALL GROUPS	481.9	466.0	473.6	456.9	482.7	464.4	492.3	478.9
Food and Drink	517.5	497.4	516.6	496.1	517.3	491.3	518.6	502.1
Fuels and Other Household Supplies	465.5	451.8	471.5	452.8	458.5	451.9	462.1	450.5
Housing	367.8	353.1	338.1	325.4	394.8	379.0	425.9	406.3
Household Furnishings and Furniture	379.5	372.3	369.0	365.2	374.5	364.3	393.0	384.7
Healthcare and Personal Expenses	469.7	459.6	435.5	422.9	489.6	482.8	533.6	527.0
Personal Clothing, Footwear and Accessories	521.7	509.3	541.0	519.7	501.1	485.9	513.3	511.9
Transportation	408.2	401.5	434.4	426.7	416.4	407.3	367.5	363.6
Miscellaneous Expenses	461.8	453.0	466.4	456.0	459.9	455.5	455.9	446.6

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX , ALL JAMAICA ALL GROUPS: January 1990 - August 1993

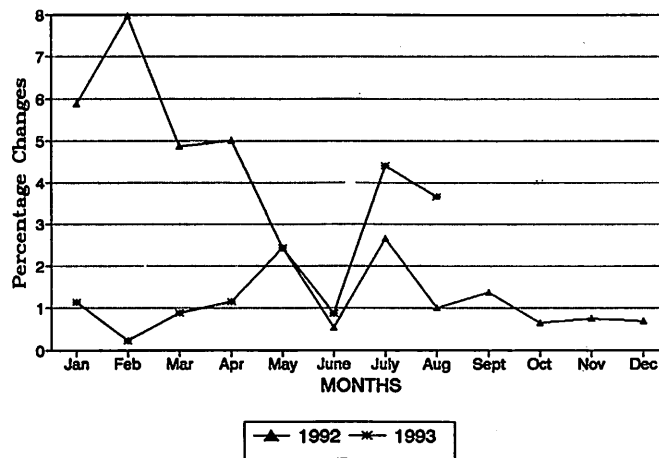


MONTHLY PERCENTAGE CHANGE ALL JAMAICA All Groups: January 1992 - August 1993



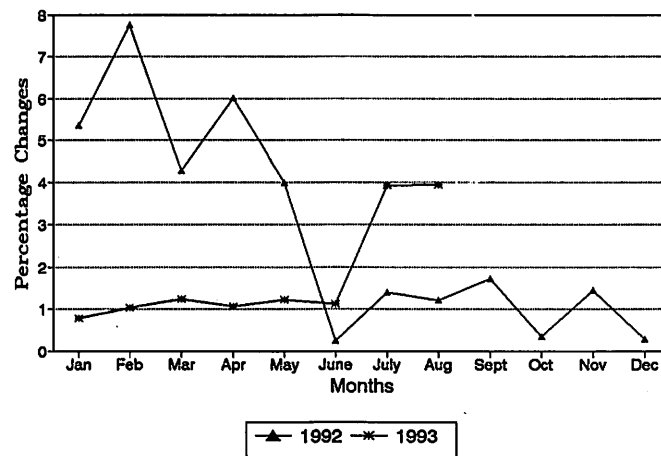
MONTHLY PERCENTAGE CHANGE K.M.A.

All Groups: January 1992 - August 1993



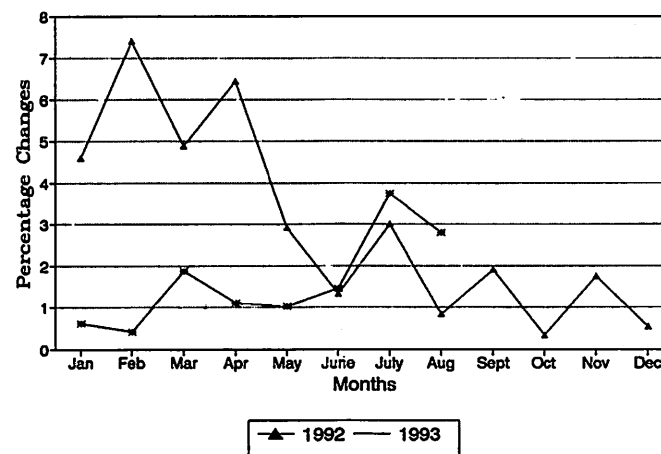
MONTHLY PERCENTAGE CHANGE OTHER TOWNS

All Groups: January 1992 - August 1993



MONTHLY PERCENTAGE CHANGE RURAL AREAS

All Groups: January 1992 - August 1993



**Consumer Price Indices - All Areas - Percentage Increases over Past Month,
Year to Date and 1992 Point-to-Point (12 Months)**

Table 2

Group	All Jamaica			Kingston Metropolitan Area			Other Towns			Rural Areas		
	Past Month	Year to Date	Point to Point	Past Month	Year to Date	Point to Point	Past Month	Year to Date	Point to Point	Past Month	Year to Date	Point to Point
ALL GROUPS	3.4	14.9	20.6	3.7	15.6	20.9	4.0	15.1	21.0	2.8	13.8	20.0
Food and Drink	4.0	14.5	20.0	4.1	15.2	21.2	5.3	15.3	20.7	3.3	13.2	18.3
Fuels and Other Household Supplies	3.0	9.5	8.9	4.1	10.9	8.6	1.5	9.2	10.1	2.6	7.9	8.6
Housing	4.2	8.8	7.1	3.9	7.9	6.3	4.2	9.7	7.7	4.8	10.2	8.2
Household Furnishings and Furniture	1.9	16.7	24.9	1.0	7.5	13.5	2.8	19.4	28.2	2.2	23.9	34.3
Health Care and Personal Expenses	2.2	18.4	26.2	3.0	17.0	24.7	1.4	22.5	29.1	1.3	18.6	27.2
Personal Clothing, Footwear and Accessories	2.4	12.4	28.8	4.1	14.2	22.4	3.1	13.9	31.7	0.3	9.7	34.9
Transportation	1.7	28.9	28.8	1.8	38.2	38.1	2.2	20.4	22.7	1.1	22.2	20.5
Miscellaneous Expenses	1.9	17.7	35.2	2.3	18.6	35.2	1.0	14.8	32.3	2.1	18.5	37.3

**Consumer Price Indices - All Groups, Mean and Point to Point Increases
by Quarters 1991, 1992 and 1993**

Table 3

Period		Mean				Point-to-Point			
		All Jamaica	K.M.A.	Other Towns	Rural Areas	All Jamaica	K.M.A.	Other Towns	Rural Areas
1991	March	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.0	4.1	3.2	4.5	4.8
	June	12.9	12.3	12.3	14.0	20.3	19.5	19.5	22.0
	September	18.4	17.4	19.0	19.3	13.8	13.6	14.5	13.6
	December	22.1	22.2	22.6	21.8	26.5	26.7	27.3	25.7
1992	March	20.9	22.0	21.3	19.3	18.8	19.9	18.4	17.8
	June	14.1	13.1	14.7	15.1	9.6	8.1	10.5	11.0
	September	5.2	5.0	4.3	6.1	5.2	5.1	4.4	5.9
	December	2.9	2.6	3.0	3.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.6
1993	March	2.4	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.2	3.1	2.9
	June	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.5	3.4	3.6

The full report for August 1993 will be available shortly. Inquiries may be made to the Information Section, Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 9 Swallowfield Road - Telephone: 926-2175-6.

This Bulletin is available at the Distribution Centre of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 9 Swallowfield Road, Kingston 5.