



# JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

1995



## ERRATA

### 1. TABLE 2.3

Under "Variation in Mean per Capita Consumption at Constant Prices".

To read:	SLC 91/SLC90	-20.2*
	SLC92/SLC91	+ 8.3
	SLC93/SLC92	+ 3.3
	SLC93/SLC90	-10.6*
	SLC94/SLC93	+12.5
	SLC94/SLC90	+ 0.5
	SLC95/SLC94	+ 1.8
	SLC95/SLC90	+ 2.3

### 2. TABLE 2.6

'Food & Beverages', under 'Other Towns', for 1994, the figure should be 56.4 and not 556.4.

### 3. TABLE 2.7

'All Groups', under 'Jamaica', the figure should be +2.3 and not +24.3.

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# JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

## REPORT 1995

**A Joint Publication of  
The Statistical Institute of Jamaica  
*and*  
The planning Institute of Jamaica**

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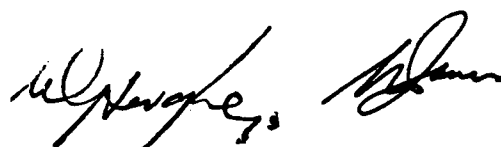
## Preface

The data made available by the Survey of Living Conditions, since its inception in 1988 provide an important measure of the manner in which household welfare has been affected by the macro-economic policies associated with structural adjustment. The survey gleans household data from a subset of the population covered by the Labour Force Survey. Information is collected on consumption, health, education, nutrition, housing, demographic characteristics, and the food stamp Programme. The data continue to be of vital importance to the formulation of the Governments' social policies, and in particular, the targeting and impact monitoring of the Poverty Eradication Programme.

The 1995 Report presents an analysis of the findings of the survey. In addition to the perspectives mentioned above, this survey collected data on the Aged. This additional module will be analysed in separate working papers.

Gratitude is owed to the Ministries of Health, Education, Labour and Welfare, the University of the West Indies, and the World Bank for their contributions to the publication of the report. In addition, the co-operation of the households which participated in the survey is greatly appreciated.

The SLC is a joint effort of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN).



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March 1997

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Special mention is due to the staff of the Surveys and Computer Systems Divisions of the Statistical Institute and, in particular, to the staff of the Survey of Living Conditions Unit. Staff from the Social and Manpower Planning Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) also contributed significantly. Personnel in the Policy Development Unit are due special thanks. A special note of appreciation as well to Dr. Vincent George of the National Housing Trust for his assistance with the chapter on Housing. Similarly, we gratefully acknowledge the valuable input from the various external reviewers. The document was edited by Mrs. Beryl Roper, while desk-top publishing was done by Costech Limited.

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# Overview

## BACKGROUND

**T**his report on the ninth round of the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) is a continuation of the series of reports providing data on conditions in Jamaica relating to demography, consumption, education, health, nutrition, housing (including utilities) and participation in selected welfare programmes.

The present document is the eleventh SLC report to date. Reports are available on the following surveys:

Round 1 (August 1988)	Mimeographed report (unpublished)
Round 2 (July 1989)	Descriptive report
Round 3 (November 1989)	Descriptive report + separate Standard Tables
Round 4 (November 1990)	Descriptive report + separate Standard Tables
Round 5 (November 1991)	Combined descriptive report and Standard Tables
Round 6 (August 1992)	Combined descriptive report and Standard Tables
Round 7 (November 1993)	Combined descriptive report and Standard Tables
Round 8 (November 1994)	Combined descriptive report and Standard Tables
Round 9 (May 1995)	Combined descriptive report and Standard Tables

In addition to the above series, in-depth studies have been conducted on various aspects of the SLC data collected. Further information on the availability of the output from these studies may be obtained from the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

In each round of the survey, with the exception of the first two, a particular sector or area of concern was selected for focus and expanded treatment. The areas of focus have been as follows:

Round 3	Health
Round 4	Education
Round 5	Housing
Round 6	Consumption
Round 7	Employment and Time Use
Round 8	(i) Experimental Consumption Modules (ii) Social Mobility
Round 9	The Aged

The Aged Module fielded as the Special Focus Area of the SLC 95, addressed issues affecting the health, financial support, dependency and employment status of those over 60 years of age. A mental status screen was firstly applied to validate the quality of subsequent responses. Questions regarding receipt of pensions were also included.

The data derived from this module, merged with other data from the survey, should provide a useful information base for the assessment of the status of the aged in the society, and practical guidelines for policy actions. The analysis of the module will be undertaken in a separate working paper to be published.

### SLC Sample

The sample dwellings for the Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) is selected as a random sub-set of the sample for the immediately preceding Labour Force Survey (LFS), to facilitate the linkage of an integrated analysis of the data collected in both surveys. Thus, one-third of the LFS sample dwellings were covered in SLC 88, SLC 89-1, SLC 90 and SLC 91, SLC 93, SLC 94 and SLC 95; and two-thirds of the LFS sample dwellings in SLC 89-2. In SLC 92, all LFS samples in ten parishes and two-thirds of the samples in Kingston, St. Andrew, Clarendon and St. Catherine were covered, to provide parish estimates.

In the Labour Force Survey conducted in April 1995, the sample comprised 468 Enumeration Districts (EDs), drawn from 234 sampling regions, with 16 dwellings

selected from each ED, a total of 7,488. For the SLC 95, conducted in May 1995, 78 sampling regions (selected from the 234 sampling regions using circular systematic sampling with equal probability), along with the two EDs and 32 dwellings from each sampling region covered in the April LFS were included in the SLC sample. Thus, the sample for SLC 95 covered 2,496 dwellings.

It may be noted that the sample of 78 sampling regions were selected from all the 234 sampling regions in the country for SLC 93 to SLC 95, unlike some of the previous rounds in which the sampling regions were selected separately from each parish giving rise to rounding off errors in the parish proportions. Thus, no weighting at the parish level to take account of the differences in sampling fractions have been necessary since SLC 93 to the current SLC 95.

In the text of the descriptive chapters, references to lettered tables, e.g. Table A-1, indicate the Standard Tables, while references to numbered tables e.g. 2.1 indicate those formulated for and included in the chapters themselves.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Demography

Average household size in Jamaica in 1995, comprising 1.2 adult males, 1.3 adult females and 1.3 children, remained consistent with data over the past five years. Any differences in the mean household size were due to rounding. The proportion of families with household size less than 4 members remained almost constant between 1994 and 1995, while the proportion of families with 5 or more members for the same period showed an increase. Mean household size was largest in the Rural Areas at 4.0 members, while in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) it was 3.6 members, and 3.7 members in Other Towns.

Single member households continued to be more evident in the wealthiest quintile at 40.9 per cent; while on the other hand, the lower the quintile, the higher the percentage of households with 5+ members.

In 1995, the age profile of the population continued to show the slight, apparently random, variations characteristic of the period 1991 to 1994. Between 1994 and 1995, the percentage of persons in both age groups 0-14 years and 15-34 years increased, while the percentage in the age groups 35-54 years and 55+ years declined.

Persons aged 60 years and over were 10.1 per cent of the sample in 1995 compared with 11.4 per cent in 1994 and 11.7 per cent in 1993. The corresponding percentage for males was 8.9 and for females 11.1. The share of the aged in the total population was the highest in Rural Areas at 10.9 per cent for males and 13.3 per cent for females. In the KMA this was 6.5 per cent for males, 6.4 per cent for females, and in Other Towns, 8.1 per cent for males and 10.7 per cent for females.

Among the three regions, the Rural Areas had the largest proportion of children 0-14 years at 37.3 per cent, comparing with 32.8 per cent in the KMA and 34.4 per cent in Other Towns.

As in 1994, the 1995 survey showed 44.0 per cent of households with females as head. The proportion of households with females as head was highest in the poorest quintile at 50.2 per cent, compared with 35.4 per cent in the wealthiest quintile. The urban areas also continued to have the highest proportion of female-headed households. These households formed 51.7 per cent in the KMA, 42.1 per cent in Other Towns and 38.1 per cent in Rural Areas.

The 1995 survey also confirmed the observation from the earlier rounds, that the female headed households had a larger mean household size with more adult women and children than those with males as head. In 1995, the mean size of households with females as head was 4.1 (comprising 0.9 adult males, 1.7 adult females and 1.5 children) compared with 3.6 (comprising 1.4 adult males, 1.0 adult females and 1.2 children) with males as head.

In 1995, 23.4 per cent of female heads belonged to the 65+ age group compared with 17.0 per cent in the case of male heads, due, perhaps, to the longer life expectancy of females.

The proportion of single gender households is being reported on for the first time. Some 18.0 per cent of all households comprised only males, 14.9 per cent of which were single member households. Only 12.2 per cent of households contained only females, 6.8 per cent of these being single member households.

Single member households were predominant in the richest two quintiles. Overall, the proportion of this group in the wealthiest quintile is approximately twice that in quintile 4 and almost 5 times that in the poorest quintile.

A large proportion of respondents in the lowest two quintiles was from the Rural Areas while a majority in the wealthiest quintile was from the KMA.

### Consumption

The 1995 survey recorded mean annual per capita consumption expenditure of \$35,522, including the value of goods produced or received as gifts. At current prices, this represents an 8.6 per cent increase in consumption over 1994. When viewed in terms of constant prices (1990 prices), per capita consumption in 1995 was \$7,793, an increase of 1.8 per cent over the 1994 level. Thus, the steady recovery from the marked decline in real consumption experienced in 1991 continued, with 1995 per capita consumption being 2.3 per cent higher than the 1990 figure of \$7,616.

The widespread positive growth in per capita consumption in each of the three regions in 1994 did not continue in 1995. Other Towns and Rural Areas showed

annual growth rates of 3.4 and 4.6 per cent respectively, whereas, KMA showed negative growth of 2.6 percent.

The survey results reflected the decline in the Fuel & Household Supplies group - due mainly to the newly created zero rated goods category of consumption tax liability - and the moderate increases in the Food and Beverages group. There was also a significant decline in the Durable Goods group, which may be a reflection of the erosion of the household member's spending power, given the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar and the price increases associated with the rate increase for the General Consumption Tax.

Some 54.7 per cent of total consumption was from the Food & Beverages sub-group. Regionally, the share of this sub-group ranged from 59.5 per cent in Rural Areas and 56.2 per cent in Other Towns to 50.0 per cent in the KMA. Total real consumption increased by 2.3 per cent for the country, with major contributors being Housing & Household Operational Expenses, Health Care and Transportation. Transportation showed the largest increase in all three geographical areas and was highest in the Rural Areas with 64.1 per cent.

In general, Non-Food consumption expenditure per capita was highest in the KMA at \$23,881, compared with \$15,624 in Other Towns, and \$11,016 in Rural Areas. For the country as a whole, Non-Food consumption expenditure increased by 5.5 per cent in 1995, over the 1994 figures.

Home production and gifts was 5.8 per cent (\$2,047) of total consumption in 1995, compared with 7.2 per cent in 1994. Non-food gift items made up 7.0 per cent of all non-food expenditures, and food, either home produced or gift, was 4.8 per cent of all food items.

The mean per capita consumption expenditure figures reveal the levels of inequity in the society. The mean per capita consumption expenditure for male-headed households was \$38,140, compared with \$32,536 for female-headed households. It should also be noted that the population decile with the highest levels of consumption had a per capita consumption of \$102,091, compared with \$10,294 for the lowest consumption decile.

Nevertheless, the general level of inequity in the country seems to be declining. The GINI coefficient of consumption equality showed a substantial improvement from .3816 in 1994 to .3624 in 1995. In general the country achieved its lowest degree of income inequality since the benchmark year of 1990 when inequality was indexed at .3811 and 1991 when the largest disparity achieved in recent years was at .3969.

Some 11.5 per cent of households had total consumption expenditures of \$20,000 or more per household per month, and 49.2 per cent had less than \$9,000.

## Food Stamp Programme

Relative to 1994, the allocation of food stamps to individuals remained fairly stable, moving from 6.8 per cent in 1994 to 7.2 per cent in 1995. The percentage of households which received food stamps decreased by 3.1 percentage points, moving from 19.5 per cent in 1994 to 16.4 per cent in 1995. Proportionate reduction in coverage was experienced by the Elderly/Poor/Disabled, Children Aged Less Than Six Years and Pregnant/Lactating Women relative to 1994. Pregnant/Lactating Women continued to experience low coverage, 5.0 per cent for 1995, a reduction of 9.9 percentage points relative to 1994. The vast majority of households receiving benefits, 80.6 per cent, were those with single recipients, while 19.4 per cent of households had two or more recipients.

## Health

The 1995 data indicated an overall decline in the level of self-reported illness from 12.9 per cent in 1994 to 9.8 per cent in 1995. There appeared to be very little difference in self-reported illness between those in the lower consumption groups and those in the wealthiest consumption groups. Self-reported illness is, however, a subjective measure and therefore should not be used as an indicator of the health status of the population.

Two additional indicators of health status employed in the survey were mean number of days of impairment due to illness, and protracted illness, or illness originating before the four-week reference period of the survey. Both are indicators of the severity of the reported illness, and therefore provide a measure of the effectiveness of the prevention, detection and treatment of illness. There was a 12.4 percentage point increase in protracted illness between 1990 and 1995. The movement in mean number of days of impairment was less dramatic, from a mean of 4.7 days in 1990, to 5.6 days in 1995. The severity of reported illness by this measure appeared to decrease between 1994 and 1995. It is of interest to note that the percentage of sick who sought medical care increased, from 51.0 per cent in 1994 to 58.9 per cent in 1995, coinciding with the decrease in reported cases of illness/injury.

Between 1994 and 1995 there was a decline in the percentage of the sick and injured who used the public health care facilities. The percentage of the ill/injured accessing public health care in 1995 fell to 27.2 per cent from the 28.8 per cent observed in 1994.

The observed decline in the severity of illness between 1994 and 1995, however, suggests improvements in the quality of the health care provided. This was clearly reflected in the increase in the health seeking behaviour of those ill/injured, particularly those from the Rural Areas, and from the lower consumption groups. In 1994, 44.3 per cent of the ill/injured sought medical care; this increased to 55.4 per cent in 1995, the highest since the implementation of the survey.



Notable increases in mean patient expenditure on drugs and visits, in both the public and private health systems were observed. In 1994, only 9.0 per cent of the Jamaican population were covered by health insurance. Coverage increased minimally in 1995 to 9.7 per cent. When the possible effects of increasing health care costs on the health status of population groups were considered, it was observed that high patient expenditure and low insurance coverage were characteristic of the 60+ years age group.

Efforts made by the Ministry of Health to maintain preventive health care programmes for children in the 0-59 months age groups, were reflected in high rates of immunization and low rates of undernutrition and diarrhoeal disease in this age group. In 1995, immunization rates ranged from 92.6 per cent for the vaccination against measles to 98.1 per cent for DPT vaccinations.

Two measures employed to assess the health status of the 0-59 month age group, and hence the effectiveness of health programmes offered to the age group, were the prevalence of undernutrition and the prevalence of diarrhoeal disease. There appeared to be a strong association between the prevalence of these two conditions and the consumption quintile into which the child's household fell. Rates of diarrhoeal disease and undernutrition were higher among children in the poorest consumption group when compared with other consumption groups.

### Education

The education system is divided into four levels - early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary. Percentage enrolment by education level showed some 17.9 per cent at the early childhood level, 49.3 per cent at the primary level, 31.0 per cent at the secondary level, and 1.8 per cent at the tertiary level. The provision of Basic Education (primary and first cycle secondary levels (grades 1-9)), continued to be good. This was witnessed in the near universal enrolment of 6-14 year olds across all consumption groups. Among 6-11 year olds, percentage enrolment was 99.2 per cent, while among 12-14 year olds it was 98.3 per cent.

Beyond the level of first cycle secondary education (grade 9), the inadequacy of school places continued to be a factor preventing universal access to higher education. The relationship between welfare status and access to higher education, therefore remained. The highest percentage enrolment among all age groups was recorded in the KMA. Some 30.0 per cent of the sample of 12-19 year olds were not enrolled in any school. The percentage non-enrolment increased with age.

Although there was a general decline in percentage full attendance, the data continued to show a close relationship between attendance and welfare status.

Although the redistribution of the school population among the various school types continued under the Reform of Secondary Education programme's school up-

grading component, 1995 SLC data did not show the expected attendant shifts of the school population between these school types. Percentage enrolment in New Secondary schools increased from 20.5 per cent in 1994 to 23.5 per cent in 1995, while percentage enrolment in Comprehensive High schools and Secondary High schools declined from 13.0 per cent and 33.7 per cent in 1994 to 11.3 per cent and 32.6 per cent in 1995, respectively. However, these changes between 1994 and 1995 were not statistically significant.

Targeting with respect to the School Feeding Programme remained good, with the bulk of the nutribun and milk provisions being distributed to children of the poorest consumption groups. Financial assistance to needy students (through the Government's Student Assistance Programme or Welfare Fund) continued. The poorest students received the largest mean value of assistance with Tuition and Fees, which was \$1,400.00. This represented approximately 65.0 per cent of their school fees. None of the students of the wealthiest consumption group received government assistance.

### Housing

As was the case for 1993 and 1994, approximately 59.1 per cent of households in Jamaica owned their own homes in 1995. However, the cost of owning a home and its impact on the household budget appeared to have increased dramatically from 1994 to 1995. Mean monthly mortgage payments increased by 74.8 per cent from \$1,274 in 1994 to \$2,227 in 1995, compared with a decline of 8.0 per cent between 1993 and 1994. The increased cost raised the burden of home ownership on the family as household income failed to keep pace with the cost of home ownership. The typical Jamaican household with a mortgage in 1995 spent 11.5 per cent of total household consumption making payments, compared with 8.7 per cent in 1994. The data on housing costs as they relate to mortgage payments have, in the 1994 and 1995 surveys, been affected by a significant level of non-response. The 1995 data is consistent with the general pattern of increased mortgage costs and burden on the household budget evident since 1990.

The data on the cost of renting a home provides a more tempered view of the situation. Mean monthly rent actually showed a small decline from \$1,136 in 1994 to \$1,120 in 1995, ending a five year trend of steady increases in rental costs from 1990 to 1994. Moreover, the burden of rentals on the household budget stabilized at 10.2 per cent of total consumption expenditures in 1994 and 10.1 per cent in 1995. Taken together with the reduction of the burden of mortgages in total household consumption from 12.6 percent in 1993 to 11.5 percent in 1995, the slight improvement in the rental situation seems to indicate that the burden of housing costs on the average household stabilized in 1995.

The condition of the housing stock, as measured by the services available to it, also remained quite stable in 1995.

As has been the case since 1992, 37.0 per cent of households continued to live in homes without private piped water in 1995, but nearly 80.0 per cent of all households had access to piped water. The households with access to WC toilet facilities improved slightly from 51.0 per cent of the total in 1994 to 52.3 per cent in 1995. Consistent with the trend for the decade, the fraction of households with electrical lighting also continued to increase, though the change was only slight, moving from 70.8 per cent in 1994 to 71.5 per cent in 1995. The pattern for households with telephones was similar, with a small increase from 18.7 per cent of households in 1994 to 20.9 per cent in 1995. The general finding seems to be a slow but steady improvement in the housing conditions in Jamaica.

### Variations by Region

The distribution of food stamps among the regions changed in favour of the Rural Areas. Compared with 1994, the proportion of food stamps allocated to the KMA and Other Towns decreased, while the proportion to Rural Areas increased. There was an increase of 3.1 percentage points in the relative share of food stamps allocated to Rural Areas. The data showed that 72.4 per cent of food stamps went to individuals in Rural Areas in 1995, compared with 69.5 percent in 1994. The KMA received 14.3 per cent in 1995, compared to 16.1 percent in 1994 and Other Towns received 13.4 per cent in 1995 as compared to 14.5 percent in 1994. Although the urban share increased in 1994, by 1995 it had reverted to what it was in 1993. In general, the percentage of households which received food stamps decreased in the KMA and Other Towns in 1995, while the reduction was largest in the KMA. Rural Areas continued to benefit from the highest level of coverage under the Food Stamp Programme, with the percentage on food stamps increasing in 1995.

Unlike the previous year, the KMA had the highest proportion of households with single recipients. Other Towns, on the other hand, had the largest proportion of multiple recipients. As was the case for the nation as a whole, the vast majority of households receiving benefits in each region were those with single recipients; only a small percentage of households in each region had two or more food stamp recipients.

The increase in real consumption of 1.8 per cent from 1994 to 1995 was distributed unevenly among the three major regions identified in the SLC survey, the KMA, Other Towns and the Rural Areas. In the KMA, real consumption actually fell by 2.6 per cent while Other Towns and Rural Areas respectively achieved growth of 3.4 per cent and 4.6 per cent. This pattern represents a change from the positive real growth for all areas from 1993 to 1994, with the majority of the gains going to the KMA.

The regional index of mean per capita consumption, based on a benchmark of 100 for Jamaica, confirms the above picture. In 1995, KMA enjoyed mean per capita consumption which was 35.0 per cent above that for the

whole country but which was down from 41.0 percent above the benchmark achieved in 1994. In contrast, the mean per capita consumption in the Rural Areas increased from 26.0 percent below the national average in 1994 to 23.0 per cent below the national average in 1995. The change in the relative position of the Other Towns was marginal. With a consumption index of 135, the position of the KMA relative to the whole is now below its position of 138 for 1990. The Rural Areas have regained their relative consumption status with an index of 77 in 1995 as compared with 78 in 1990, while the Other Towns showed a substantial decline from 112 in 1990 to 100 in 1995. In each case, the relative position of the region showed significant variability from year to year and no obvious general trend is readily identifiable without further statistical analysis.

Durable goods can double as both consumer goods and investment goods, so possession of such goods can have significant implications for the material prosperity of households in Jamaica. Households were asked questions about ownership of, and expenditures on, 16 durable goods, including stoves, sewing machines, refrigerators and motor vehicles as well as television sets and stereos. The situation from 1994 continues to prevail, as data indicates that approximately 13.0 per cent of households own none of these durables. In 1995, as much as 36 percent of households continued to do without gas stoves, though this is a distinct improvement over the 41.0 percent for 1994. In addition, 51.6 percent continued to operate without a refrigerator/ freezer and 42.3 percent without a television set, again with both indicators showing improvements over the situation for 1994. Keeping in mind that these goods are among the first to be acquired when household incomes rise, these indicators, like the general consumption indicator, suggest that there was a general improvement in living standard in Jamaica in 1995.

As supported by the data, rational households would first address their need for stoves before their needs for television sets; however, the high percentage of households owning television sets indicates that entertainment and relaxation is a basic need of the household. In an era of concern with structural adjustment to competitive self-reliance, this should suggest that efforts are necessary to include indigenous forms of entertainment and relaxation in the estimates of consumption and hence future measurements of living standards.

As was the case with real consumption, the distribution of improvements in the ownership of durables was not spread evenly among the regions of the country. Households owning gas stoves in the Rural Areas increased from 47.0 per cent in 1994 to 49.3 percent in 1995. In Other Towns, the percentage of households owning gas stoves also grew to 71.0 per cent of households in 1995 from 64.2 percent in 1994. In contrast, the figure for the KMA was 79.9 per cent, up from 73.0 per cent in 1994. Similarly, in Rural Areas, 45.9 per cent owned a television, compared

with 45.5 per cent in 1994. The increase in Other Towns was from 57.3 per cent in 1994 to 62.0 per cent in 1995 while that in the KMA was from 69 per cent in 1994 to 74.1 per cent in 1995. The percentage of households in Rural Areas owning a refrigerator/freezer was 36.2 per cent in 1995, not significantly different from the 37.0 per cent recorded in 1994. The comparative figures for Other Towns were 52.0 per cent in 1994 and 53.4 per cent in 1995, and those for the KMA were 61.0 per cent in 1994 and 64.8 per cent in 1995. The general patterns seems to be that rural Jamaica is the region of the country showing the greatest improvement in the quality of life. This is perhaps not surprising in the light of the increasing integration of eco-tourism into the development of the rural communities, but the causes must be investigated further.

A more general regional comparison of the consumption of the services of durable goods is that provided by the Index of Durable Goods, the unweighted mean of the percentages of households possessing each type of durable good. This indicator reveals that while the KMA scored the highest among the regions with 60.4 per cent, Other Towns and Rural Areas were not far behind at 54.7 per cent and 52.3 per cent respectively. These figures were roughly similar to those for 1994, but it should be noted that the actual figure for the Rural Areas showed an increase from 51.8 per cent in 1994 while that for Other Towns showed a decrease from 55.4 per cent.

To complete the regional comparisons, it is important to look at the data on health and education. There was a marked change in the behaviour of the indicators of health care status in all regions in 1995, though the Rural Areas continued to show the lowest status. In Rural Areas, 11.0 per cent of the individuals reported some type of illnesses in 1995, down by 2.36 per cent from 14.4 per cent in 1994. Compared with this, 8.5 per cent reported illness in Other Towns in 1995, also a reduction of 2.86 per cent over the 11.9 per cent reporting in 1994. The KMA showed a corresponding reduction - from 11.2 per cent in 1994 to 8.9 per cent in 1995. As in 1994, there is no statistically significant difference between the illness rate of the KMA and Other Towns. This suggests that the health status of Other Towns has finally caught up with that of the KMA, which traditionally reported the lowest rate of illness.

One reason for the apparent improvement in health status might be the general improvement in the incomes of individuals and households, reflected in the improvement of consumption reported above. However, the general improvement of the health status of the regions should also be traced to efforts by the Ministry of Health to increase the level of public health education and the level of access to preventive health care across the country. The improvement of the status of Other Towns and Rural Areas relative to the KMA may be due to improved targeting of communities to eliminate historical deficiencies in regional health education and preventive health

care, and perhaps improved availability of health care facilities and services in these regions. This was indicated by the use of health care facilities in Other Towns where a higher percentage of those reporting illness/injury, sought medical care in 1994 (59.0 per cent) and 1995 (57.5 per cent) than in the KMA. In the KMA the corresponding percentages were 56.0 per cent and 52.6 for 1994 and 1995. In the Rural Areas increased availability and access to care and services were also evident with dramatic improvements in the use of available health care services. Approximately 62.8 per cent of those reporting illness/injury sought care in 1995, compared with 47.0 per cent in 1994. It should nevertheless be noted that the higher rate of illness which continues to prevail in Rural Areas seems to point to the need for increased efforts to upgrade rural health care facilities and services.

In education, enrolment in Rural Areas and Other Towns was virtually the same among age groups between 3 and 14 years. With the provision of Basic Education being universal, there continued to be almost universal access to education by the 6-11 year olds regardless of geographical location. Compared with 1994, there was a clear improvement in the enrolment of the 12-14 age group in all regions. However, Other Towns recorded the strongest gains as the enrolment rate increased by 6.7 percentage points, compared with 3.1 percentage points for the KMA, and 2.5 percentage points for the Rural Areas. In the age group 15-16, there was a general and substantial decline in enrolment rates in all regions, with the KMA recording a decline of 5.8 per cent from 88.2 per cent in 1994 to 83.1 per cent in 1995 and the Other Towns recording a decline of 10.6 per cent from 87.7 per cent to 78.4 per cent. The Rural Areas experienced the least decline as the enrolment rate fell by 2.9 per cent from an already low rate of 76.0 per cent in 1994 to 73.8 per cent in 1995. The causes of this general decline in the enrolment of this age group are not readily obvious and should be investigated. In contrast, enrolment among the 17-19 age group grew significantly in all areas, again with the Rural Areas and Other Towns recording the largest improvements. Compared with 1994, enrolment in these areas increased by 74.4 per cent and 49.1 per cent, respectively. For the KMA, the increase was 24.9 per cent. Again, the causes of this general improvement in enrolment in all of the areas are not obvious and should be the subject of further investigation. Enrolment among the tertiary level age group (20-24 years) saw the KMA outstripping the other areas. Some 5.5 per cent were enrolled, compared with 3.5 per cent in Other Towns, and 0.6 per cent in the Rural Areas.

### **Socioeconomic Variations**

The survey data indicated that the Food Stamp Programme was successful in targeting the poor. Except for a few cases, the data continued to show an inverse relationship between consumption levels and food stamps received. The distribution to each category of beneficiary by quintile revealed that, in general, the proportion of

benefits decreased with increasing consumption levels. This is reflected in the relative proportion of stamps allocated to the wealthiest group (quintile 5) 6.9 per cent, and to the poorest quintile, 32.7 per cent. The relative proportion of food stamps allocated to individuals in quintiles 3 and 4 remained stable over the period, averaging 19.8 per cent and 10.5 per cent respectively. The net effect is that relatively poor individuals remained the primary beneficiaries of the food stamp programme. However, the share of benefits among quintiles did not become any more progressive than in 1994. The poorest quintiles (1 and 2) accounted for 62.9 per cent of beneficiaries compared with 65.4 per cent in 1994, while the wealthiest quintiles (4 and 5) accounted for 17.5 per cent of the beneficiaries, compared with 14.8 per cent in 1994. The net effect on allocation among household quintiles is similar to that for individuals. As in the previous year, the distribution of benefits across quintiles declined as consumption rose, varying from 62.5 per cent for the poorest household quintiles to 19.4 per cent for the wealthiest. Also, consistent with the national and regional trend, the vast majority of households receiving benefits in all quintiles were those with single recipients.

Even though the distribution of consumption continued to be quite uneven across consumption quintiles, there was general improvement in the degree of inequality in 1995. The lowest consumption quintile increased its share of consumption from 6.41 per cent in 1994 to 7.11 per cent in 1995, the highest share recorded since 1990. Quintile 2 similarly increased its share to 11.2 per cent, up from 10.76 per cent in 1994. These gains were reflected in a strong improvement in the GINI coefficient of socioeconomic inequality which fell by 5.03 per cent from .3816 in 1994 to .3624 in 1995. The degree of inequality in 1995 was the lowest recorded since 1990, and more importantly, continues a trend to greater income equality among socioeconomic groups evident since 1991. An important view of the relative gains by the lowest income group can be obtained by considering the Index of Housing Amenity, computed as an average (equal weights) of the percentages of households enjoying detached units, block and steel walls, exclusive use of water closet, indoor taps, electricity, exclusive use of kitchens, ownership of units and various durable goods. When durable goods are excluded, the Index for the poorest quintile increased by 11.7 per cent from 45.2 per cent in 1994 to 50.5 per cent in 1995. With durable goods included, the gains are even more dramatic as the Index for the poorest quintile increased by 14.1 per cent from 39.8 per cent in 1994 to 45.4 per cent in 1995. In comparison, none of the other quintiles showed any significant improvement in the position over the period. These gains in the relative position of the poor should nevertheless be placed in the context of a generally

low rate of possession of amenities and durables by the households in all socioeconomic groups.

The significant decline in the percentage of those reporting illness in Jamaica in 1995 was reflected across all quintiles. This is notably so in consumption quintile 3 where reported illness declined by 53.9 per cent from 13.9 per cent in 1994 to 7.5 per cent in 1995. There was no significant difference in the pattern of reported illness between the two wealthiest consumption quintiles and the two poorest consumption quintiles. This, in conjunction with an improvement in the use of health care services by those in need of care from the poorer consumption groups up to levels observed in the wealthier consumption groups, suggest a lessening of the disparity observed in previous years due to differences in income and the availability of health care facilities among the various socioeconomic groups. In 1994, only 44.3 and 44.6 per cent of those reporting illness from the two poorest consumption quintiles, sought medical care for their condition(s), compared with 56.8 per cent and 63.4 per cent of those reporting illness from the two wealthiest consumption quintiles. In 1995 however, 55.4 per cent and 60.1 per cent of the ill from the two poorest consumption quintiles sought medical care, closer to 63.4 per cent and 58.4 per cent of the ill from the two wealthiest consumption quintiles.

There is substantial differentiation among the socioeconomic groups for the age groups between 3 and 24 years whenever affordability and income play significant roles in accessing education. All consumption quintiles recorded similarly high, nearly universal, enrolment rates for the age groups 6-11 and 12-14, for which government guarantees the education of the child even in the context of cost-sharing at the secondary level. However, in the age group 3-5, where there are no similar enrolment guarantees, the enrolment rate varied with socioeconomic status, from 78.0 per cent for the poorest quintile to 91.0 per cent for the wealthiest. It is usually the case that children of the wealthiest consumption groups are enrolled in private Preparatory schools at age 3, while the poorer groups heavily rely on the public Primary school system where the entry age is 6 years, unless there is an Infant department. Similarly, in the age groups 15 years and above, where there are also no government guarantees, the enrolment rates of consumption Quintiles 1 and 2 remained significantly below those of the higher consumption quintiles. With the exception of Quintile 1, there was a significant increase in the enrolment of the 17-19 year olds, which generally was the highest since 1989. It should be a worthwhile exercise to investigate the causes of this increase. While the enrolment of the poorer consumption groups in the 20-24 age cohort declined tremendously, that by the wealthier groups declined only marginally.

# Demographic Characteristics

## AGE PROFILE

When statistics on age distribution of the population over the period 1975-1995 are examined, a declining trend in the 0-14 year age group becomes evident. The children aged 0-14 years formed 44.8 per cent of the total population in 1975, while in 1995, they accounted for 35.4 per cent. The fluctuations observed between 1991 and 1995 may be due to sampling rather than an actual pattern (See Table 1.1). The proportion of persons in the age groups 15-34 years, 35-54 years and 55+ years reflected a tendency to increase over the twenty year period. This tendency relates primarily to declining fertility and mortality rates. Again, the fluctuations of the percentages in these age groups between 1991 and 1995 relate more to sampling than to actual changes.

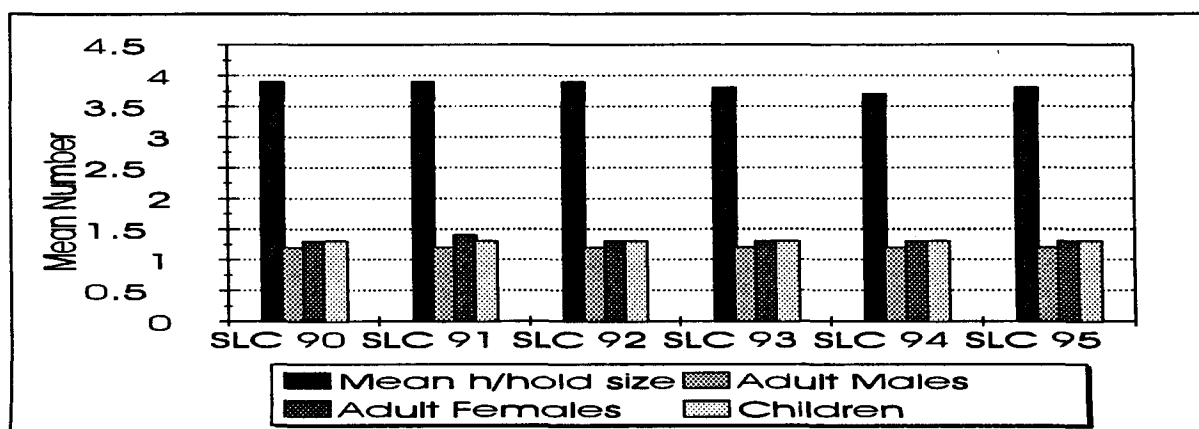
The individuals in the age group 60 years and over in 1995 were 10.1 per cent of all household members compared with 11.4 per cent in 1994 and 11.7 per cent in 1993.

Table A-7 presents the detailed distribution of males and females by five year age groups, while Table A-8 gives the distribution of the household members in the male headed households and female headed households, respectively.

**TABLE 1.1**  
**AGE PROFILE OF POPULATION (PERCENTAGES),**  
**1975-1995**

YEAR	Source	Age Group (Years)				Total
		0-14	15-34	35-54	55+	
1975	HES	44.8	28.6	15.2	11.4	100.0
1982	CENSUS	38.4	34.4	15.0	12.3	100.0
1984	HES	38.1	34.0	14.7	13.2	100.0
1990	SLC	34.4	35.6	15.5	14.5	100.0
1991	CENSUS	35.2	36.1	16.1	12.7	100.0
1991	SLC	33.7	35.4	15.8	15.0	100.0
1992	SLC	34.3	34.3	17.3	14.3	100.0
1993	SLC	35.3	34.0	16.8	14.0	100.0
1994	SLC	34.4	34.1	17.9	13.6	100.0
1995	SLC	35.4	34.6	17.4	12.7	100.0

In 1995, the age group 60 and over comprised 8.9 per cent males and 11.1 per cent females. The share of the aged in the KMA was 6.5 per cent males and 6.4 per cent females. In Other Towns, 8.1 per cent of the group were males and 10.7 per cent were females. In Rural Areas, the



**FIG. A1 HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND COMPOSITION**

**TABLE 1.2**  
**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, JAMAICA, 1990-1995**

SURVEY	Mean Household Size	Mean Number Of		
		Adult Males	Adult Females	Children
SLC90	3.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
SLC91	3.9	1.2	1.4	1.3
SLC92	3.8	1.2	1.3	1.3
SLC93	3.7	1.2	1.3	1.3
SLC94	3.7	1.2	1.3	1.3
SLC95	3.8	1.2	1.3	1.3

**TABLE 1.3**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE, 1975-1995**

HOUSE-HOLD SIZE	1975	1984	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
	HES	HES	SLC	SLC	SLC	SLC	SLC	SLC
1	16.5	18.7	20.7	19.3	21.1	21.0	22.3	22.2
2	13.9	14.5	15.6	16.3	15.9	16.4	16.5	15.5
3	13.2	13.8	14.4	15.7	14.8	15.7	14.6	15.5
4	12.2	13.5	15.0	14.2	14.7	14.6	15.7	15.3
5	11.9	11.8	11.2	12.2	11.2	11.8	11.9	11.3
6	8.8	7.8	7.9	7.7	8.0	7.4	6.6	8.9
7	7.9	7.0	6.5	5.5	5.1	4.5	5.2	4.8
8	15.6	12.8	8.7	9.1	9.2	8.7	7.4	8.4
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

shares were the highest at 10.9 per cent males and 13.3 per cent females.

There was no significant difference in the proportion of aged (i.e. 60+ years) among male headed households and female headed households. The proportion was 10.2 per cent of all household members in male headed households, and 10.0 per cent in female headed households.

#### AGE PROFILE BY REGION

As observed in previous years, 1995 also saw the Rural Areas having the largest proportion of children in the age group 0-14 years and persons 55+ years, at 37.3 and 15.0 per cent respectively. In the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), these two age groups formed 32.8 and 9.6 per cent and in Other Towns, 34.4 and 12.3 per cent respectively (Table A-8).

In this context, it is relevant to mention that the sample dwellings in SLC 95 are all different from those in SLC 94. As explained in Appendix I, the SLC 94 sample dwellings were drawn from the October 1994 LFS, while the SLC 95 sample dwellings were drawn from the April 1995 LFS. The 1994 survey was conducted in November-December 1994; while the 1995 survey was fielded during May-June 1995. In the scheme of panel rotation in LFS, the eight panels were designated as A to H; the

panels adopted for April 1995 LFS were A, B, C and D; and those for October LFS were E, F, G and H. Thus, the advantage of identical dwellings which was obtained in SLC 93 and SLC 94 did not exist between SLC 94 and SLC 95. The estimates derived from SLC 95 differed, though marginally, from those of SLC 94; but these differences will not only reflect the natural changes but also the changes in sample households. The differences however, are not statistically significant. The type of analysis done in the SLC 94 report on the changes in household size and composition given the identical samples used in SLC 93 and SLC 94, could not, therefore, be carried out in this report.

#### HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Between 1990 and 1995, household size and composition in Jamaica showed only marginal variations (See Table 1.2 and Figure A 1).

There was a marginal change in the mean household size between 1994 and 1995. For 1995, the mean household size was 3.8 while the mean number of adult males and females were 1.2 and 1.3 respectively. The mean household size in 1995 was slightly higher than that in 1994 because of the change in sample dwellings.

The mean number of children per household was 1.4 in 1990, marginally declining to 1.3 in 1991 and remaining constant since.

#### HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY REGION

The mean household size in the Rural Areas (Table A-4), was the largest at 4.0 members per household, followed by Other Towns with 3.7 members and the KMA with 3.6 members. These figures reflect a small increase in the mean household size in KMA and Other Towns, compared to 1994. The corresponding mean sizes in SLC 94 were 4.0 members in Rural Areas, 3.6 members in Other Towns, and 3.4 members in KMA.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE

There has been a marked decrease in the proportion of families with 6 or more members, and a corresponding increase in the proportion of families with 1 to 4 members for the period 1975 to 1994 (Table 1.3).

The steady increase in single member households, from 16.5 per cent of all households in 1975 to 21.0 per cent in 1993 continued; in 1995, the percentage was 22.2. The proportion of households with 2 to 4 members increased from 39.3 per cent in 1975 to 46.7 per cent in 1993 and 46.8 in 1994. In 1995, the proportion declined to 44.3 per cent. For households with five members, the percentages have moved within the range of 11.2 to 12.2. The percentage was 11.2 in 1990, the same as in 1995.

On the other hand, the proportion of households with 6 or more members declined from 32.3 per cent in 1975

**TABLE 1.4**  
**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD, 1990-1995**

SEX OF HEAD	Survey	Mean Household Size	Mean Number Of		
			Adult Males	Adult Females	Children
Male	SLC90	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC91	3.7	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC92	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC93	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.2
	SLC94	3.5	1.4	1.0	1.2
Female	SLC90	4.1	0.9	1.7	1.6
	SLC91	4.2	0.9	1.8	1.5
	SLC92	4.0	0.9	1.7	1.5
	SLC93	4.1	0.9	1.6	1.5
	SLC94	3.9	0.9	1.6	1.4
	SLC95	4.1	0.9	1.7	1.5

**TABLE 1.5**  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS, 1994-1995**

Age Group	Male Heads		Female Heads		All Heads	
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
Years						
0-14	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-24	4.2	4.5	5.3	4.3	4.7	4.4
25-34	22.5	23.2	22.1	23.4	22.3	23.3
35-44	24.7	25.1	20.6	22.4	22.9	23.9
45-54	17.6	17.8	15.6	13.3	16.8	15.9
55-64	11.1	12.2	12.0	13.2	11.5	12.7
65+	19.9	17.0	24.2	23.4	21.8	19.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

to 19.2 per cent in 1994; in 1995, the percentage was 21.1.

### SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

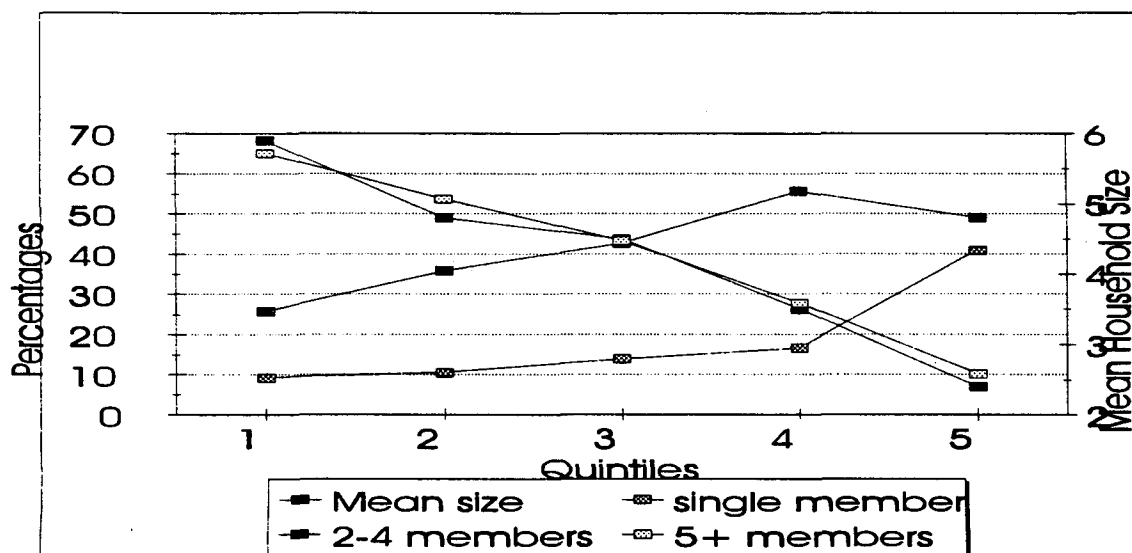
In SLC 95, 44.0 per cent of the households reported females as head, a slight decline from the SLC 94 figure of 44.2 per cent. Corresponding percentages for 1990 to 1993 showed a steady increase and are as follows: 41.5 per cent in 1990; 42.3 per cent in 1991; 43.7 per cent in 1992; and 45.4 per cent in 1993.

In 1995, households with females as head formed 51.7 per cent in the KMA, 42.1 per cent in Other Towns and 38.1 per cent in Rural Areas. Some 50.2 per cent of households in the lowest quintile were female headed, a percentage which progressively declined to 35.4 per cent in the wealthiest quintile.

SLC 95 also confirmed the observation made in earlier rounds of the SLC, that the households with females as head had a larger mean household size with more adult women and children than those with males as head (Table 1.4).

In 1995, the mean size of households with females as head was 4.1, compared with 3.6 for households with males as head. The mean number of adult males, adult females and children in female headed households during 1995 were 0.9, 1.7, and 1.5 respectively. In male headed households, the corresponding numbers were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.2 respectively.

Tables A-9 and A-10 present the distribution of female headed households according to the presence of a male spouse or children or both. It is interesting to observe that 75.2 per cent of all female headed households did not have an adult male (spouse) in the household while 43.9 per cent did not have an adult male but had children.



**FIG. A2 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS**



## SINGLE GENDER HOUSEHOLDS

In SLC 95, the percentage of single gender households for Jamaica, the three area divisions and the quintiles, were presented for the first time. Tables A12 and A13 give the distributions.

In the country as a whole, 18.0 per cent of all households contained only males, but 14.9 per cent of these were single member households. On the other hand, only 12.2 per cent of all households contained all females, comprising 6.8 per cent single member households and 5.4 per cent with two or more members. All-male households were more numerous in the Rural Areas, while all-female households were more numerous in the KMA.

The percentages of single gender households progressively increased across the poorest to the wealthiest quintiles. In the wealthiest quintile, the all-male households (mostly single member) formed as many as 33.7 per cent of all households, compared with only 5.1 per cent in the poorest quintile; while the all-female households formed 17.2 per cent of all households in the wealthiest quintile compared with 7.0 per cent in the poorest quintile.

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

Table 1.5 shows the 1995 distribution of the ages of heads of households according to sex, with corresponding percentages for 1994.

Overall, there are similarities in the age distribution of male and female household heads with only marginal variations occurring between 1994 and 1995. For 1995, 23.4 per cent of female heads belonged to the 65+ age group compared to 17.0 percent in the case of male heads. This is not surprising, as females have a longer life expectancy than males.

## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY QUINTILE

Appendix II describes the method of dividing the members of the sample households into quintiles, based on per capita consumption expenditure. Table 1.6 and Figure A2 summarize the important characteristics by quintiles.

As one moves from the poorest to the wealthiest quintile, an inverse relationship is observed between the proportion of households with 5+ members and the quintile number i.e. the lower the quintile number, the higher the percentage of households with 5+ members.

On the other hand, households with 2-4 members were quite substantial in all the quintile groups, the proportions rising steadily from the poorest to the wealthiest quintiles. In 1995, the proportion of households with 2-4 members showed declines in the poorest three quintiles compared

**TABLE 1.6**  
**HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS, BY PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION QUINTILES, SLC 90 TO SLC 95**

Household Characteristics	Survey	Quintile				
		Poorest	2	3	4	5
Mean Size	SLC90	5.5	4.9	4.6	3.8	2.5
	SLC91	5.7	5.0	4.3	3.7	2.6
	SLC92	6.0	5.2	4.3	3.6	2.5
	SLC93	5.5	4.9	4.4	3.5	2.4
	SLC94	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.4	2.4
	SLC95	5.9	4.8	4.5	3.5	2.4
Percentage with female at head	SLC90	47.7	42.5	42.5	42.9	34.2
	SLC91	42.1	47.9	43.3	45.8	37.3
	SLC92	44.1	46.9	46.4	41.0	38.9
	SLC93	49.5	49.5	47.4	45.8	34.8
	SLC94	55.0	48.4	41.9	40.9	35.3
	SLC95	50.2	47.6	48.8	42.4	35.4
Percentage with single member	SLC90	6.0	12.0	11.7	16.5	39.3
	SLC91	6.1	12.3	12.4	18.4	34.8
	SLC92	8.5	8.6	12.2	18.9	38.7
	SLC93	9.6	9.8	10.3	17.3	40.3
	SLC94	8.9	14.0	12.2	18.4	39.9
	SLC95	9.3	10.5	13.9	16.6	40.9
Percentage with 2-4 members	SLC90	38.3	38.8	43.0	49.3	47.2
	SLC91	29.1	40.2	46.7	47.3	52.2
	SLC92	26.7	38.9	47.1	53.3	49.1
	SLC93	27.7	41.9	49.4	55.6	48.2
	SLC94	33.3	38.4	50.3	57.4	48.2
	SLC95	25.7	35.8	42.7	55.7	49.0
Percentage with 5+	SLC90	55.6	49.2	45.2	34.4	13.5
	SLC91	64.8	47.5	40.9	34.3	13.0
	SLC92	64.7	52.6	40.7	27.9	12.3
	SLC93	62.7	48.2	40.3	27.1	11.5
	SLC94	58.0	47.7	37.5	24.1	12.0
	SLC95	65.0	53.7	43.4	27.7	10.2
Percentage household members from:						
KMA	SLC95	14.7	17.1	30.5	35.7	54.4
Other Towns	SLC95	16.2	16.2	21.5	23.4	24.0
Rural Areas	SLC95	69.1	66.7	47.9	40.9	24.0

with that in 1994, while the proportion showed only marginal changes in the fourth and fifth quintiles.

Single member households on the other hand continued to be more numerous in the wealthiest two quintiles. Overall, the proportion of this group in the wealthiest quintile is approximately twice that in quintile 4 and almost five times that in the poorest quintile.

The 1995 data also showed that the Rural Areas had the greatest proportion of household members in the poorest two quintiles - 69.1 per cent and 66.7 per cent respectively. Conversely, the KMA accounted for the largest proportion in the wealthiest two quintiles with percentages of 35.7 per cent and 54.4 per cent respectively. Other Towns, however, showed relatively more evenly distributed proportions across quintiles.



# Household Consumption

## INTRODUCTION

The consumption of goods and services is an important indicator of the household welfare. A module to collect consumption and non-consumption expenditures was therefore included in all the rounds of the SLC. The consumption data have also become relevant, in the context of the structural adjustment programmes undertaken by the government in the last few years.

In keeping with the format of previous SLC reports, the consumption estimates for SLC 95 were deflated to the 1990 price levels. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) series compiled by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), Other Towns, Rural Areas and All-Jamaica were used as the deflators. The CPI figures are compiled for major groups of commodities as well as for all groups put together. The All-Group index is a weighted average of the group indices, the weights being the percentage share of the group in the total consumption for the base period.

The constant price estimates of mean consumption by commodity groups are calculated using these group indices. Except for Personal Care and Health Care which are grouped together and the Education and Recreation group which is combined with the Miscellaneous group, all the other groups for which estimates are calculated in the

SLC are identical to those adopted in the compilation of the CPI.

Most of the field work for SLC 95 was completed during May to June, 1995. Therefore, in deflating the SLC 95 estimates of consumption, the average monthly CPI for April to June 1995 was used. For the SLC 94 report, the average monthly CPI for October to December 1994 was used, whereas in SLC 92 and SLC 93, a weighted average was used as the field work extended over a longer period.

## PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

In 1995, the mean per capita consumption expenditure (including value of home production and gifts consumed) recorded at current prices for Jamaica was \$35,522, compared with \$32,712 in 1994 (See Table 2.1 and Figure B1). This represents an increase of 8.6 per cent over the 1994 figure. When deflated to 1990 price levels, the per capita consumption in 1995 was \$7,793. Thus the steady recovery from the 20.0 per cent decline in real consumption in 1991 over 1990 continues, being 2.3 per cent higher than the \$7,616 figure of 1990 and 1.8 per cent higher than the 1994 figure of \$7,652.

It is relevant to recall that in 1991, there was a steep increase of 73.3 per cent in prices without a corresponding increase in incomes. Consequently, there was a substantial decline in real per capita consumption by 20.0 per

**TABLE 2.1**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE**  
**1988-1995**

Survey	Period Investigationm	CPI(Base: Jan. 1988	Months Covered	At Current Prices	Mean Consumption at Constant prices
				(\$)	(\$)
SLC 88	August	103.4	July Aug	4,700	7,309
SLC 89-1	May-Jue	115.6	April-June	5,581	7,763
SLC 89-2	Nov-Dec	124.9	oct-Dec	6,304	8,116
SLC 90	Nov-Dec	160.8	Oct-Dec	7,616	7,616
SLC 91	Nov-Dec	278.6	Oct-Dec	10,384	6,080
SLC 92	Aug 92-Mar 93	415.1	Aug 92-mar 93	16,998	6,586
SLC 93	Nov93-Mar 94	553.3	Nov 93-Mar 94	23,408	6,805
SLC 94	Nov-Dec	687.4	Oct-Dec	32,712	7,652
SLC 95	May-June	733.0	April-June	35,522	7,793