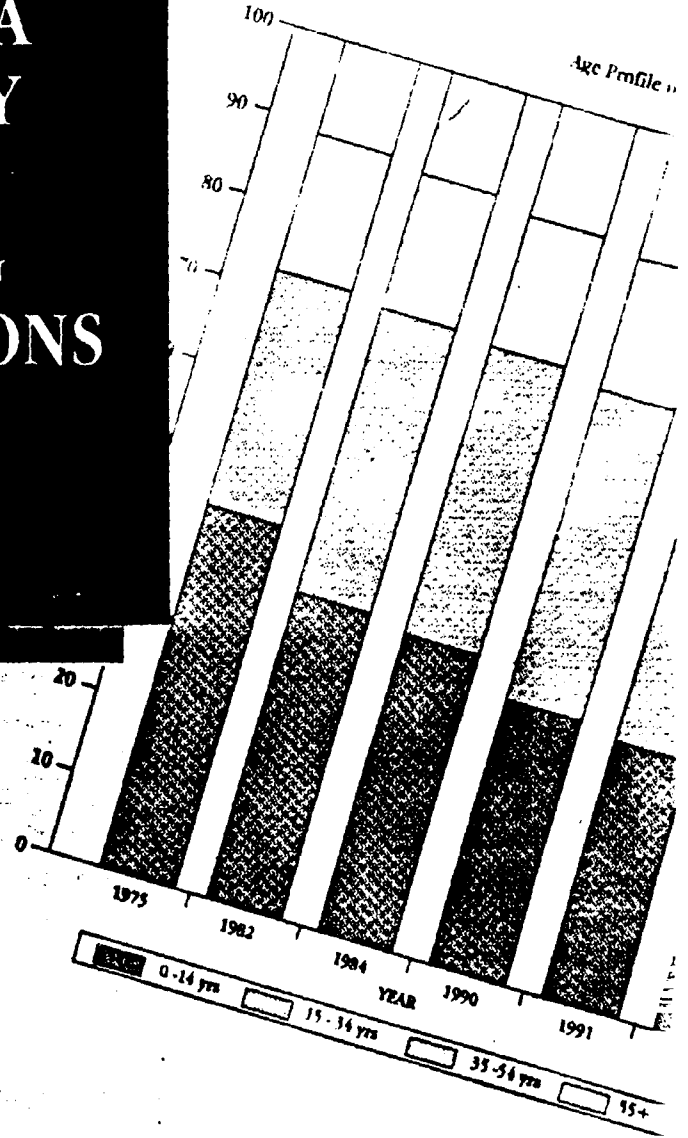
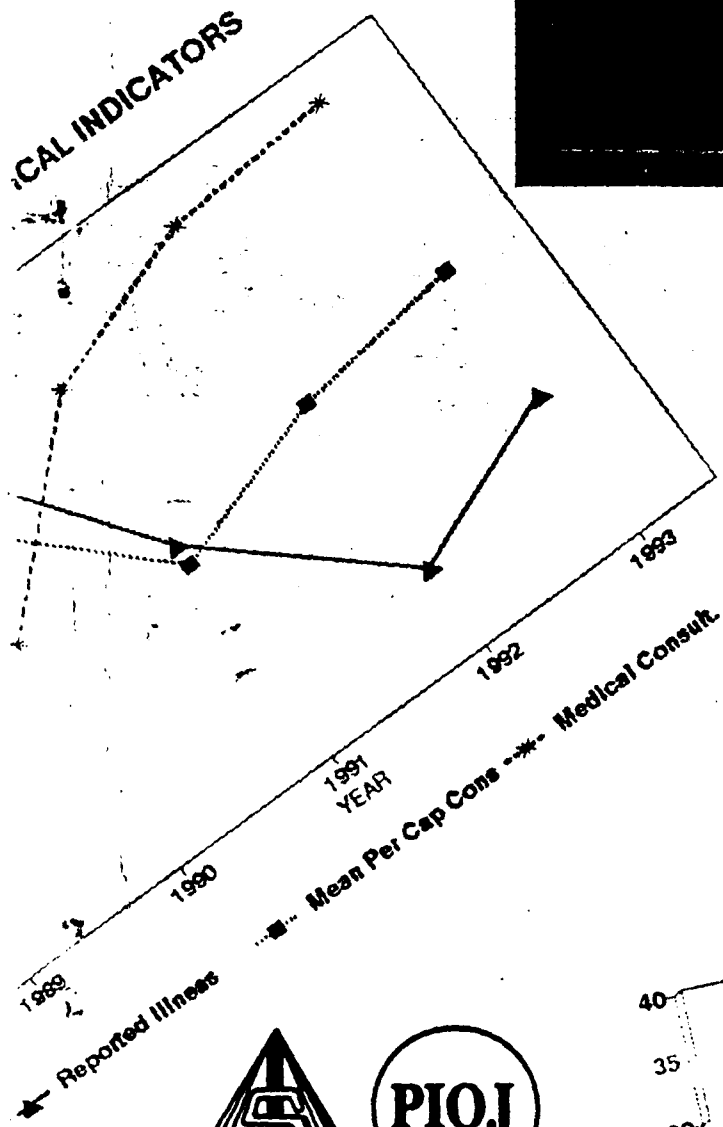
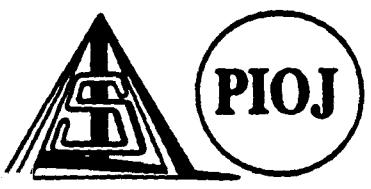
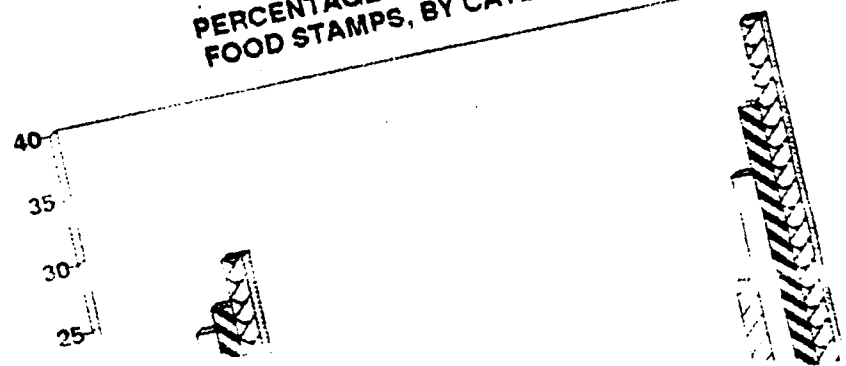


JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS 1994



PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING
FOOD STAMPS, BY CATEGORY, 1990-1993



JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

REPORT 1994

**A Joint Publication of
The Statistical Institute of Jamaica
and
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JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

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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 macroeconomic 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 have been of vital importance in the planning of the Poverty Reduction Programme and are used to monitor the impact of this Programme.

The 1994 Report presents a descriptive analysis of the findings of the Survey. In addition to the perspectives outlined above, this survey included two experimental modules on Household Consumption, along with the standard module. Details of these are to be found in Appendix III. This survey also collected data on social mobility.

We extend our gratitude to the Ministries of Education, Labour, Social Security and Sport, the University of the West Indies, and the World Bank, for their contribution to the publication of this report. We also deeply appreciate the contribution of all households which participated in the survey.

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



Wesley Hughes
Director-General
The Planning Institute
of Jamaica
January 1996



Vernon James
Director-General
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January 1996



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Overview

BACKGROUND

This report on the eighth 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 tenth SLC report produced 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

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 Module (ii) Social Mobility

The 1994 Survey being reported on in this document had two special areas of focus. The first of these dealt with the possibility of collecting information on household consumption expenditure using a shortened item-by-item consumption module in order to reduce the length of the interview. Two experimental modules - the shortened 'item-

by-item' and 'the point-of-purchase' module - were tested. They were administered alongside the standard consumption module to allow for comparison of results. The second special focus of the 1994 Survey was that of social mobility. Collection of this data allows for the updating of work done previously on this subject. The data allow for assessment of changes in occupational structure and social status in Jamaican society during the period of structural adjustment. Both areas of focus will be the subject of special reports.

As is usually the case, the SLC 1994 sample was a subset of the immediately preceding Labour Force Survey (LFS). It comprised one third of the 7,488 dwellings covered by the LFS. It should be noted that the dwellings covered in the 1994 survey are the same as those covered in 1993 due to the fact of a repetition of the dwellings covered in the LFS in 1993 and 1994.

SLC 1993 and SLC 1994 are also distinguished by the fact that the sample of 78 strata on which they are based was drawn from all of the 234 sampling regions into which the country has been divided. This obviates the need to weight at the parish level in order to take account of sampling fraction differences. These arise where sampling strata are not drawn from a comprehensive sampling region list but are selected separately for each parish.

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

The average household size in Jamaica in 1994 was 3.69. This was made up of 1.16 adult males, 1.26 adult females and 1.27 children. Since 1990 there has been a gradual but consistent decline in the average family size in Jamaica. This decline is

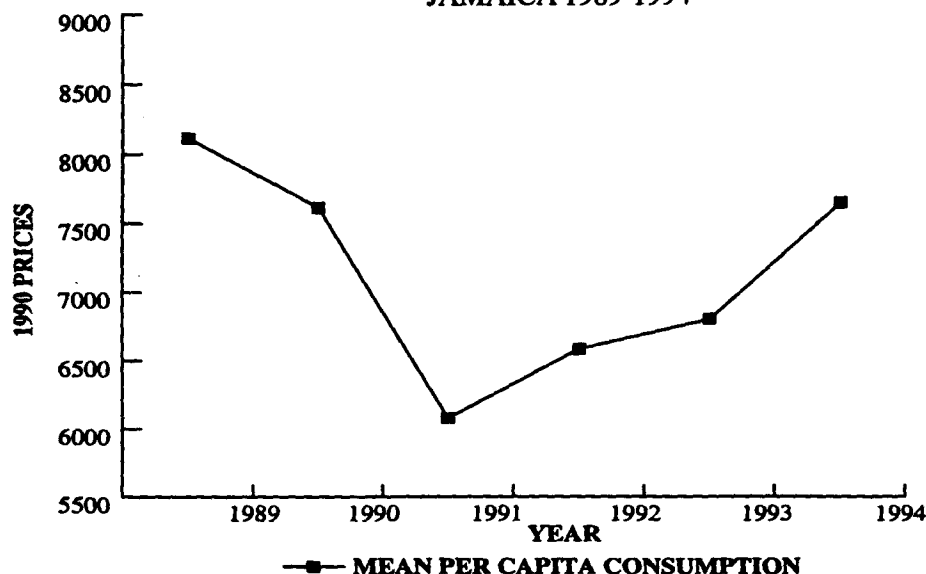
reflected in an increase in the proportion of families with less than 4 members and a corresponding decline in the proportion of families with 5 or more members. This trend, captured by SLC data, is borne out by HES data beginning in 1975. It is quite in keeping with overall population movement as indicated by census data over the period. There have been sustained declines in fertility and migration has been an important source of decrement in the population dynamics of the country. Decline in average household size is also partially reflected in the changing age profile of the population since 1975. The proportion of the 0-14 age group in the total population has declined while the proportions of the 15-34, the 35-54 and the 55+ age groups have experienced corresponding increases. Average household size was greatest in Rural Areas, and inversely related to consumption quintile.

The gender pattern of household headship revealed by the Survey is worthy of note. As much as 44 per cent of the households were headed by females. There was a positive relationship between this variable and urbanism. There are important correlations between the gender of the household head and features of the household. These include household size, the welfare of children and the poverty status of the household. In attempting to understand the phenomenon of female headship it should be borne in mind that it is the outcome of a complex pattern of mating which has its basis in history, community structure and economics. It should also be remembered that in Caribbean society and culture household and family are not always coterminous. Female headship, although usually meaning that no male resides in the household does not necessarily indicate the lack of emotional and economic support of that family by a male.

Consumption

Including the value of goods produced or received as gifts, the SLC recorded mean annual per capita consumption expenditure of \$32,712 in 1994. This compares favourably with the per capita final consumption computed from National

FIG. A. MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION
JAMAICA 1989-1994



Accounts estimates, which was \$35,819. At current prices, this figure represents a 40 per cent increase in consumption over 1993. When viewed in terms of constant prices (1990 prices) per capita consumption in 1994 was \$7,652, an increase of 12.0 per cent over the 1993 level. The 1994 level of consumption represents a return to consumption levels experienced in 1990 after the marked declines suffered between 1990 and 1991. See figure 1A.

Both Education and Health constituted only 2.0 per cent, respectively, of total consumption in 1994. This compared with a percentage share of total consumption of 11 per cent for Clothing and Footwear. For Jamaica as a whole, Food and Beverages made up the largest of the consumption groups, 53 per cent of total consumption. Regionally, its share ranged from 47 per cent in the KMA to 56 per cent in Other Towns and as much as 59 per cent in the less well off Rural Areas. Housing and Household Operations made up the second largest consumption group after Food and Beverages, 11.3 percentage share of total consumption.

¹ This compares with shares of 56.9 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively for the top and bottom consumption quintiles in Guyana and 39.4 per cent and 7.6 per cent respectively in Trinidad and Tobago in 1992.

Levels of inequity as reflected in mean per capita consumption were high in 1994. The wealthiest one-fifth of the population shared 46.0 per cent of total consumption in 1994. At the other end of the distribution the poorest one fifth of the population shared 6.0 per cent of total consumption.¹ The mean per capita annual consumption of the poorest 10.0 per cent of the population amounted to \$8,137 while that of the wealthiest 10.0 per cent was \$97,309. This means that in 1994 the wealthiest 10.0 per cent of the population consumed, on average, 11.9 times that of the poorest. This share of total consumption by the top and bottom consumption deciles has remained virtually unchanged since 1990. Levels of inequity such as these tell of relatively high levels of social and material deprivation. Government policies on industrial development, labour market reform, and those relating to monetary and fiscal matters must be informed by the need for: greater equity in the distribution of income; ensuring that proper value is placed on the labour of workers, especially those on the periphery of the formal economy; controlling inflation; and the promotion of economic opportunities in a manner which will lead to a geographically wide but balanced dispersal of resources. In this regard, the community level focus of the poverty eradication policy of the Government is a move in the right direction.

Welfare Programmes

Data from SLC 1994 point to improvement in targeting by the Food Stamp Programme. Not only did more of the poor receive food stamps but also the poor of the KMA, which has tended to be neglected by the programme, improved their share of the stamps distributed. This year, 41.6 per cent of those who received stamps were from the poorest quintile, compared with 34.2 per cent for 1993. Furthermore, the percentage of total recipients who belonged in Quintile 4 fell from 14.1 per cent to 10.4 per cent, while the percentage in Quintile 5 declined from 5.4 per cent to 4.4 per cent between 1993 and 1994. Coverage of the programme moved from 3.7 per cent of the population to 6.8 per cent of the population over the period.

Those eligible for receipt of food stamps must meet either income or health related criteria. The income group comprised the elderly/poor/disabled and single member households and families whose income falls below certain levels. In the case of single member households the income threshold is \$7,000 per annum while in families with more than one person income must not exceed \$18,000 per annum. The health subgroup consists of pregnant and lactating women and children under 6 years of age who attend a health clinic. As in 1993, children aged less than 6 years and the elderly/poor/disabled accounted for some 90 per cent of the recipients. Since 1994 a training component has been included in the programme. Under this scheme, food stamp recipients with the potential to become self supportive are identified and provided with skills training.

In 1994 the School Feeding Programme was characterized by reduced levels of production due to factors such as industrial unrest, budgetary limitations and a shortage of packaging and other raw material. The consequence of this was a reduction in the scope of the programme's coverage. Only 60.0 per cent of the students targeted were reached by the programme. As in previous years, participation by school-type, quintile and area reflected the fact that the poorest members of the school population were the major beneficiaries of the pro-

gramme. However, there clearly was some room for improvement in the programme's targeting procedure, since as much as a quarter of the students from the two wealthiest quintiles participated in the programme.

Health

SLC data have drawn attention to the close association between health status and economic status among the Jamaican populace. In SLC 1993 it was pointed out that there was a seemingly positive, but lagged, relationship between the perception of illness and economic well being. The 1994 data indicate a continued positive relationship between the two variables. Self-reported illness is, of course, a subjective measure and should therefore not be used as an indicator of the health status of the population. Those belonging to the lower quintiles, in their preoccupation with economic survival are, perhaps, less minded of bodily dysfunction than those of greater economic means. It might even be the case that, in some instances, the poor, because of lack of knowledge, interpret their ailment as something other than physical dysfunction.

Two more telling indicators of the health status of the population are mean number of days of impairment due to illness, and protracted illness, that is illness occurring before the four-week reference period of the survey. Both of these tell of the severity of the reported illnesses. Severity of illness provides a measure of the effectiveness of the prevention, detection and treatment of illness among the population. There was a 58 percent increase in reported protracted illness between 1989 and 1994. The movement in mean number of days of impairment was less dramatic. From a mean of 4.7 days in 1990 the average moved to 6.2 days in 1994. The severity of illness appeared to increase over the period since 1989. Interestingly, during this time, the percentage of the sick who sought medical care has not witnessed marked change. From 49.0 per cent in 1989 the figure moved, only slightly, to 51.0 per cent between 1993 and 1994.

Between 1993 and 1994 there was a decline in

the percentage of the sick and injured who used public medical facilities. After moving from 28.5 per cent in 1992 to 31.0 per cent in 1993, the percentage of the sick and injured who used public health care facilities in 1994 was 28.8. The 37.0 per cent decline in the use of the public health-care system which, it was noted in the 1993 report, occurred between 1990 and 1992 has therefore remained, notwithstanding the slight reversal which occurred between 1992 and 1993. The fall off in the use of public health-care facilities is thought to have been associated with staff and equipment shortage which began to have an acute effect on the public sector in the early 1990s². In light of the Government's effort at improvement in the service being offered to the public through the Health Sector Initiatives Project, this statistic is an important benchmark for measuring the success of these efforts.

There is an interesting hypothesis regarding increases in severity of illness in Jamaica since 1989. This suggests that it may be related to declines in the quality of service offered in the public health care sector at the same time that there have been substantial increases in the cost of health care in the private health care sector and the cost of drugs in both sectors. This means that increases in severity of illness may be due to the inability of the population to afford the cost of accessing effective health care. This would be borne out by the extent to which severity over the period was manifested disproportionately among the poorest in the society. In looking at socioeconomic and geographic variations in the data, this postulation will be investigated. When considering the possible effect of the increasing cost of medical care on the health status of the population, it is of interest to note that in 1994 only 9.0 per cent of the Jamaican population was covered by health insurance. Furthermore, only 11 per cent of those seeking medical care had the benefit of health insurance. With regard to the four week reference period used by the survey, there was a 55.0 per cent increase, between 1993 and

1994, in the average expenditure on medical visits by patients using private medical professionals. The mean expenditure on drugs in the private sector increased by a little more than one-fifth over the same period.

Education

The relationship between a well educated population and development is quite clear. The universal provision of good quality education up to the end of the secondary level and social harmony are highly correlated. Certainly if the 21st century is correctly regarded as an era in which natural products will be replaced by synthetic materials in the production process and information technology will be salient, then the educational requirements for economic prosperity are going to undergo radical transformation. A universally literate and numerate population is going to become a fundamental requirement of development. Failure to ensure the provision of enough resources to bring this about is going to represent a historical backlog of neglect which will be associated with crime, deprivation and high levels of social alienation well into the next century.

It is against the background of these concerns that the performance of the education sector should be assessed. The sector is composed of Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary levels. In 1994 virtually full enrolment up to the first cycle of secondary education (Grade 9) was recorded by the SLC. Beyond this level the inadequacy of school places prevented universal access to higher education. Some 17.7 per cent of those enrolled in the educational sector were infants at the Early Childhood level. Approximately 48 per cent of the enrolled belonged to the Primary School level. Just less than one third of total enrolment took place at the Secondary level whilst a mere 2.1 per cent of total enrolment was at the tertiary level.

The Government's attempt to reform secondary education is manifested in the redistribution of the school population among the various school types which make up this sector. In particular, between 1990 and 1994 there was a shift of the school pop-

² D.A. Brown, *Manpower Losses and Return Migration to the Caribbean: A Case Study of Jamaican Nurses*: CIPRA, Georgetown University, 1991

ulation out of the New Secondary schools into Comprehensive and Secondary High schools. Whereas the Comprehensive schools only shared 3.0 per cent of the enrolment in secondary and tertiary institutions in 1990 by 1994 that figure had increased to 13.0 per cent. The New Secondary schools which held 37.0 per cent of the total in 1990 had by 1994 declined to 20.0 per cent.

For the first time data on expenses associated with schooling were collected in this year's survey. The expenses associated with schooling up to the secondary level are lunch and snacks, extra lessons, tuition and fees, transportation, uniforms, books, miscellaneous supplies and room and board.

Housing

In 1994 some 59.1 per cent of the households owned the houses in which they lived. This is approximately the same percentage which obtained in 1993. There was, however, a change in the average cost of acquiring a home. The data indicate an 18.0 per cent decrease to \$1,274 in the mean mortgage payment between 1993 and 1994. In the light of fairly high levels of inflation during the period, as well as a pattern of yearly increase since 1990, this is an unusual finding. Possibly, it is related to the relatively low mortgage payments associated with the recent housing development in Greater Portmore, St. Catherine. The possibility also exists that no inferences can be made from the survey due to the lower number of respondents providing information on mortgage payments in 1994.

The condition of the housing stock can be measured in terms of the services available to it. In the 1992 to 1993 period very little change was noted in this indicator. Some 37.0 per cent of households, virtually the same percentage as in 1993, did not have access to private piped water in 1994. Similarly, the situation in regard to type of toilet facility remained virtually unchanged between the two years. In 1994, one-half of all households had access to a WC. Improvement in the availability of electricity continued, moving to 71.0 per cent of the households in 1994. Importantly, this repre-

sents the highest percentage of households with this facility since 1990 when the figure was 66.0 per cent. There has been a corresponding small decline in the number of households which rely on kerosene as their major source of lighting. In 1990 some 31.0 per cent of households relied on kerosene in this regard. In 1994 the figure was 27.0 per cent, down from 29.0 per cent in 1993. The availability of telephone services has shown dramatic increases since 1990, when 8.0 per cent of the households in Jamaica had the services of a telephone. By 1994 the figure had increased to 19.0 per cent.

Variations by Region and Economic Status

In this section variations associated with region and socioeconomic status in the subject areas which have been examined are discussed. As in the discussion on consumption in the previous section, the socioeconomic variable is measured using the mean per capita expenditure. On this basis the population is divided into consumption deciles and quintiles. The SLC divides the country into three major regions, the Kingston Metropolitan Area, Other Towns and the Rural Areas.

The increase in consumption enjoyed by the nation as a whole between 1993 and 1994 was experienced disproportionately within the three geographic regions into which the country is divided. In the KMA, there was as much as a 20 per cent increase in mean per capita consumption during this time. In Other Towns the percentage increase was approximately half of that experienced in the KMA. In the Rural Areas the percentage increase enjoyed was approximately one half of the increase for Other Towns. This pattern represents a departure from that evinced in the 1992 to 1993 period. During this time, although there was a small overall growth in the mean per capita consumption for the entire country, it was only in Rural Areas that annual percentage increase was experienced. In the two other regions there were declines.

Another way of expressing the share of the regions in mean per capita consumption is through

indexing. If mean per capita in Jamaica as a whole in 1994 is indexed at 100 then the KMA enjoyed levels of consumption which were 41.0 per cent above this level. Other Towns experienced levels one per cent below it, whilst consumption levels in the Rural Areas were 16.0 per cent below the base figure³. Total consumption in 1994, at 1990 prices, for Jamaica as a whole, was a mere 0.5 per cent greater than in 1990. In light of this virtual equivalence, the corresponding figures for 1990 are of interest. With mean per capita consumption for Jamaica as a whole indexed at 100, the KMA at that time enjoyed levels of consumption which were 38.0 per cent above this level. Other Towns were 8.0 per cent above the base figure. Rural Areas, on the other hand, experienced mean per capita consumption levels which were 17.0 per cent below the national level.

To the extent that there is a correlation between degree of urbanism and relatively high levels of consumption then the data indicate a de-urbanization of Other Towns since 1990. The marked differences in standard of living between the KMA and Rural Areas which were attenuated somewhat by the relative prosperity of the Other Towns have been brought into relief by the gradual decline in the levels of prosperity which obtain in these other urban centres. The indices point to the fact that the attempts made to restructure the economy over the period have not been reflected in any fundamental changes in the way in which production is organized in the Jamaican economy. The disproportionate share of the regions in consumption reflects an overconcentration of resources in the principal urban area. It also points to the need for higher levels of productivity in Rural Areas through greater rationalization and efficiency in the use of the nation's agricultural resources.

One way of concretizing differentials in the level of material prosperity of the population is by look-

³ *One interesting trend which seems to be emerging is an apparent correlation between rainfall and consumption levels which obtain in the Rural Areas. Increases in mean per capita consumption in this region have consistently been associated with high levels of rainfall and increased agricultural output. The relatively small increase in mean per capita consumption enjoyed by Rural Areas in 1994 was associated with drought.*

ing at its ownership of durable goods. Respondents were asked about their possession of 16 durable goods. These included sewing machines, refrigerators, radio/cassette players, television sets, fans, and motor vehicles. As much as 13.0 per cent of the households in Jamaica owned none of these goods. The data indicate that in the case of gas stoves 41.0 per cent of the population did not own one. Furthermore, as much as 44.0 per cent of Jamaican households were without a television set, while 52.0 per cent of Jamaican households did not possess a refrigerator/freezer. As is pointed out in the chapter on Housing, these goods are among the first to be acquired when a household's living standard improves. They are therefore excellent indicators of an improvement in the living standards of the population.

Variation in ownership of these durables across region paralleled the differences in general consumption levels which have been noted. Whereas 73.0 per cent of the households in the KMA possessed gas stoves, only 47.0 per cent of those in Rural Areas did so. The figure for Other Towns was 64.2 per cent of households. In the KMA 69.0 per cent of the households owned a television set; in Rural Areas, 45.0 per cent and in Other Towns, 57.0 per cent. The data indicate that as much as 63.0 per cent of the households in Rural Areas were without a refrigerator/freezer, while in the KMA 39.0 per cent of the households did not enjoy this facility. The non-possession figure for Other Towns was 48.5 per cent.

In keeping with the pattern evinced since 1989, the KMA had the lowest proportion of its members reporting illness in the reference period in 1994. What is noteworthy about 1994 is the fact that the proportion reporting illness in Other Towns declined to the same level as the KMA at the same time that the proportion of Rural Areas population reporting illness increased. The difference between the KMA and Rural Areas was highly significant ($p < 0.01$). The difference between the regions may be due to the greater availability of health services in the urban centres. Globally, there is a positive relationship between health status and socioeconomic

status. Over the duration of the survey, mean per capita consumption and percentage reporting illness have moved in tandem. However, when disaggregated by region, the regional variable seems to intervene in this relationship. Respondents in the more prosperous urban centres reported lower levels of illness than those in the less prosperous Rural Areas. If it is the case that greater availability of health facilities and services in the urban areas are associated with lower levels of reported illness then the data point to the need of Rural Areas vis-à-vis the other regions for health facilities and services. Only 47.0 per cent of the population reporting illness in Rural Areas sought medical treatment in 1994, compared with 56.0 per cent and 59.0 per cent in the KMA and Other Towns respectively.

In the education sector, Rural Areas had the lowest levels of enrolment in all of the age groups between 3 and 24 years during 1994. Its most impressive showing was in the age group 6-11 where 99 per cent of the children were enrolled in school. Beyond the 12-14 age group, where school attendance is optional, the proportionate difference in enrolment levels between Rural Areas and the other regions widens. In all instances the KMA enjoyed the highest levels of enrolment. In this region there were increases in enrolment among the 15-16 age group and declines among the 17-19 age group. Other Towns suffered declines in enrolment in the 12-14, the 17-19 and the 20-24 age groups in the 1993-1994 period. Conversely, this region witnessed increases in enrolment among the 15-16 age group.

In the area of housing, an Index of Amenity was constructed for 1994. This consisted of the unweighted mean of the percentages of households which enjoyed detached units, block and steel walls, exclusive use of water closet, indoor taps, electricity, exclusive use of kitchens, ownership of units and an index of Durable Goods. These items it is assumed have a positive bearing on well-being. The KMA scored the highest at 60, Other Towns was second with a score of 55, while Rural Areas had a score of 51. These findings indicate that the differences in the quality of life, between the

regions, afforded by housing amenities are relatively small. This remains unchanged even when the Index for Durable Goods is omitted from the Index of Housing Amenity. The differences between regions would be greater if 'exclusive use of kitchen', an indicator which increases the Rural Area Average without necessarily adding anything to the socioeconomic status of the household, was omitted. It is of importance to note that all the indices are low. This means that for the country as a whole these indicators point to living conditions which are not of a high standard.

Socioeconomic Variations

Socioeconomic variations in the various sectors which are the focus of SLC analysis were coloured by the very high levels of income maldistribution to which allusion has been made. Thus, the poorest one-fifth of the population in 1994 spent, on average, 8 times less than the wealthiest one-fifth on health and education. In the area of housing and household expenses the ratio was 25 to 1 in favour of the top consumption quintile. In the case of food and beverages the poorest quintile consumed, on average, 5 times less than the wealthiest. Against this background, in this section a closer look is taken at socioeconomic differentials within each sector.

In 1994 the marginal increases in those reporting illness in the country as a whole were reflected in small increases in the percentage reporting illness across all quintiles. The pattern remained the same as in 1993 with the two wealthiest quintiles having smaller percentages reporting illness than the others. The differences between quintiles were, however, only marginally significant ($p=0.13$).⁴ Whereas the percentage reporting illness appeared to decline with economic prosperity, the percentage of those ill seeking treatment increased with economic prosperity. Only 44 per cent of those reporting illness in quintile 1 sought medical care whilst 63.0 per cent

⁴ *In fact these differences may not be statistically significant at all, since the significance tests assume random sampling when, in fact, cluster sampling was used in the selection of the sample. The tests may therefore overstate significance levels.*

of those in quintile 5 who reported illness managed to see a medical professional. This disparity probably arises because of differences in income and the availability of health facilities between persons belonging to the two quintiles.

¹⁹⁹⁰ The negative effect of severe shortages on the quality of health care provided by the public sector and increases in the cost of drugs and private sector health-care are probably responsible for the increase in severity of illness, which has occurred over the period of the SLC surveys. The poor have found it prohibitively difficult to access health care over the period. This has not been the case with the non-poor. In the relatively prosperous year of 1989, 44.0 per cent of those belonging to Quintile 1 who reported illness sought medical care. With increased economic hardship from 1990 onward the percentage declined to as low as 35.0 in 1992 before rising to 39.0 per cent in 1993. By contrast the corresponding percentages in Quintile 5 were 52.0, 60.0 and 60.0 per cent.

Over this period the use of the public health care system by those belonging to Quintile 1 has increased whilst the opposite has been the case for sick persons from Quintile 5. Some 51.0 per cent of the ill from Quintile 1 who sought treatment in 1989 did so at public health care facilities, 58.0 per cent did so in 1993. In contrast whereas 24 per cent of those ill belonging to Quintile 5 sought treatment in a public health care facility in 1989 only 17.0 per cent did so in 1993. In 1994 the pattern remained the same. Virtually the same proportion of the ill poor sought treatment in the public health care system, while the ill in Quintile 5 made even less use of the public health care system than in 1993.

After six years of this pattern of health-care-seeking behaviour, severity of illness has increased and a disproportionate share of the increase is borne by persons belonging to the poorest two quintiles. In 1994, some 33.0 per cent of those reporting protracted illness belonged to Quintile 1, whereas 26.0 per cent belonged to Quintile 5. Mean number of days of impairment for the ill in

Quintile 1 was 8, while mean number of days of impairment for the ill in Quintile 5 was 6. Finally, the hypothesis is supported by the hospitalization data which point to the fact that in 1994 of all those who sought medical care, the highest levels of hospitalization occurred among persons belonging to the first two consumption quintiles. These findings lend themselves to the interpretation that increases in the severity of illness over the period are related to the inability of the poor to afford effective medical treatment offered in the private health care system.

In the 1993 report note was made of the marked positive relationship between economic status and education. The enrolment data by quintile clearly demonstrate this relationship for all of the age groupings between 3 and 24 years of age. The disparity in enrolment levels between the poorest two quintiles and the other three is greatest in the age groups beyond 14 years. Up to this age provision is made by the State for universal school attendance. Within this broad age band the disparity is least in regard to the 6-11 and the 12-14 age groups where there is a mere 2-percentage point difference in enrolment between the poorest and wealthiest quintiles. However, even as early as in the 15-16 age group there is as much as a 27.0 per cent difference in levels of enrolment between the quintiles at the top and bottom of the consumption ranking. This difference increases markedly up to the 20-24 age group.

Data on mean expenditure on school related expenses collected for the first time in 1994, enable an understanding of the constraints which face the poor in their efforts to acquire education. If the assumption is made that amounts which are spent on education by persons in Quintile 5 represent the cost of good quality education, then the following differences in expenditure are instructive. In the area of Tuition and Fees Quintile 5 had a mean annual expenditure which was four times that of Quintile 1. In the case of School Lunches and Snacks there was a threefold difference between the two quintiles. The mean annual expenditure on books by students in the top quintile was 5 times

that of those in the bottom quintile. In the area of Extra Lessons the mean annual expenditure in the top quintile was 4 times that of the bottom.

These differences in expenditure on school associated expenses offer a concrete example of the way in which economic status affects the quality of the educational experience. Excessive differences in expenditure on books and extra lessons translate themselves into unequal levels of educational achievement by the poor and the wealthy. The inability of the poor to meet these expenses must be one of the main reasons for their high levels of non-participation in the school system beyond the age of 14. Analysis of merged LFS and SLC data reveal that 95.0 per cent of the employed who fall below the poverty line in the Jamaican economy do not possess secondary school level certification. The cost of schooling is a major contributor to this situation. Inability to meet the cost of schooling is probably also related to frustration, alienation and the high degree of involvement of young males in gun crime and violence. The recently established Student Assistance Programme for needy students should be broadened and strengthened. In addition, a well designed communications strategy should accompany this programme. This is one area into which funds under the Government's Poverty Eradication Programme should be channelled.

The inverse relationship between economic status and home ownership noted in 1993 was once again evident. Tenure is broken down into the following categories: owner, rent free, rented, squatter-occupied and other. 'Owner' comprised between 60.0 per cent and 70.0 per cent of the forms of tenure in all quintiles except the wealthiest. In this quintile this form of tenure represented only one half of the various types of tenure. 'Rented' was an important form of tenure. Its share of the percentage tenure distribution varied from 13.3 in Quintile 1 to 36.6 in Quintile 5. The distribution of rented units across quintiles varied with levels of ownership which prevailed within them. Quintile 1 which had the highest levels of ownership had the lowest level of 'rented', while

Quintile 5 with the lowest levels of ownership had the highest levels of 'rented'. The high levels of home ownership which characterize Quintile 1 are related to the greater availability and low cost of land in Rural Areas. The higher levels of squatting which are found among persons belonging to this quintile is probably a response to the greater scarcity and cost of land in the urban areas.

Examination of the Index of Housing Amenity by consumption quintile produces some interesting results. Most notable is the fact of the relatively disadvantaged position of the poorest two quintiles relative to Quintile 5. The Index, it will be recalled, is a summary measure of the extent to which a given group, in this case consumption quintiles, enjoys the amenities which make up the Index. Included in the Index of Amenity is the Index of Durable Goods. This index is the mean of the percentage of the goods of which it is composed. It was found that only 40.0 per cent and 49.0 per cent of the households in Quintiles 1 and 2 respectively enjoyed a living standard deemed acceptable as measured by the indicators which make up the index. In the case of Quintile 5 the percentage was 63.

The main housing-related expenses were electricity, telephone, rent, water and mortgage. For Quintile 1 these amounted to shares of total consumption of between 3.1 per cent for water and 5.7 per cent for electricity. For Quintile 5 the corresponding percentages were 1.7 per cent for water and 11.6 per cent for rental. Electricity expenses for Quintile 2 amounted to as much as 5.9 per cent of its total consumption, for Quintile 5 electricity expenses amounted to 4.8 per cent. In the case of water and electricity the poorer quintiles consumed less than the amount used by the upper quintile but expended a larger proportion of their total consumption on these services.

Conclusion

In 1994 there was a continued improvement in mean per capita consumption in Jamaica. This follows on the major reversals in this indicator which

began in 1989 and accelerated during the period 1990 to 1991. In constant dollar terms, there was a 12.0 per cent increase in consumption levels in 1994 over 1993, compared with a 3.3 per cent increase in 1993 over 1992. The 1994 level of consumption is equivalent to that which obtained in 1990. In effect, this means that it has taken the country three years to reverse the decline in living standards which took place between 1990 and 1991. The distribution of consumption across region and socioeconomic group has witnessed only slight change over the period. The position of the KMA and Rural Areas relative to the nation as a whole remains approximately the same as it was in 1990. However, Other Towns suffered a 9.0 per cent decline in consumption levels, relative to the national average. In 1990 the top 10.0 per cent of the population consumed on average 12.3 times that of the bottom 10.0 per cent of the population. In 1994 the difference was 11.9.

SLC data up to 1994 have demonstrated clearly that the mix of policies which include currency devaluation and privatization has since 1990 been associated with no real improvement in levels of mean per capita consumption enjoyed by the Jamaican people. The 1994 data indicate that there have been three years of increase in mean per capita consumption which has returned the country to the levels of consumption which obtained before the steep decline of 1990. If the increases in consumption levels which have occurred since 1991 are

to continue Government policies which ensure a stable macroeconomy will be of fundamental importance. The portion of the population which belong to the first two consumption quintiles have borne a disproportionate share of the burden associated with the decline and recovery of consumption levels which has occurred since 1990. The health data point to the fact that this group has suffered increases in severity of illness relative to persons in higher socioeconomic groupings. The education data tell of high levels of enrolment up to age 14. They also point to the efforts being made within this sector to reform the secondary system so as to ensure greater access to better quality education. However, data on school-associated expenses draw attention to the real costs of good quality education. These costs are some of the factors which result in a disproportionate number of the youth from these two socioeconomic groupings who are not enrolled in secondary schools in general and in the higher quality secondary high schools in particular.

SLC 1994 data illustrate the need for greater equity in the share of consumption. Disparities in access to education and health, and in the quality of housing which derive from income maldistribution are much too large. Equitable access to good quality health, education and housing is a correlate of economic growth. The social policies which guide Jamaica into the 21st century should have this as a major objective.

Demographic Characteristics

AGE PROFILE

The age profile of the population showed a declining trend in the proportion of children during 1975 - 1991. Children of the age group 0-14 years formed as much as 44.8 per cent of the total population in 1975, while in 1991, they accounted for only 33.7 per cent, the lowest percentage observed since 1975. The corresponding percentages in 1992 and 1993 were 34.3 and 35.3 which indicated an apparent arrest of the decline. The 1994 figure however, was 34.4 per cent, a decline of 0.9 percentage point compared with that in 1993.

There was also a decline in the mean number of adults per household in 1994 compared with 1993. This reflects a continuation of the gradual decline observed since 1991. The 1994 figure was 2.42. The corresponding figures for 1991 - 1993 were 2.58, 2.55 and 2.45 respectively. A test of the difference in the mean number of adults in 1994 and 1990 showed that it was statistically significant,

confirming the declining trend (See Appendix II).

The proportion of persons in the age group 55+ years increased gradually from 11.4 per cent in 1975 to 15.0 per cent in 1991. This proportion has since declined to 13.6 per cent in 1994.

AGED 60+ YEARS

Individuals of age 60 years and above in 1994 were 11.4 per cent of all household members compared with 11.7 per cent in 1993 and 11.3 per cent in 1992.

AGE PROFILE BY REGION

As observed in the earlier years, in 1994 also, among the three regions of SLC classification - KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas - Rural Areas had the largest proportion of children of the age group 0-14 years and persons 55+ years, at 37.0 and 15.2 per cent respectively. These two age groups formed 30.2 and 12.5 per cent in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) and 34.5 and 11.4 per cent in Other Towns (Table A-7).

TABLE 1.1
AGE PROFILE OF POPULATION (PERCENTAGES), 1975-1994

Year	Source	Age Group (Years)				
		0-14	15-34	35-54	55+	Total
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	(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

TABLE 1.2
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, JAMAICA, 1990-1994

Survey		Mean Household Size	Mean Number of		
			Adult Males	Adult Females	Children
1990	(SLC)	3.92	1.24	1.32	1.35
1991	(SLC)	3.91	1.23	1.35	1.33
1992	(SLC)	3.88	1.22	1.33	1.33
1993	(SLC)	3.77	1.16	1.29	1.33
1994	(SLC)	3.69	1.16	1.26	1.27

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Between 1990 and 1994, household size and composition in Jamaica showed only marginal variations, particularly when the figures are rounded to one decimal place. When rounded to two decimal places however, some interesting, albeit still weak, trends are revealed See Table 1.2).

There was a consistent but marginal decline in the mean household size between 1990 and 1994. The difference in mean size in 1994 compared with 1990 was tested and found to be statistically significant (See Appendix II). In 1990, it was 3.92, of which 1.24 were adult males and 1.32 adult females. For 1994, the mean household size was 3.69; mean adult males and females were 1.16 and 1.26 respectively.

The mean number of children per household was 1.35 in 1990 and thereafter it remained constant at 1.33 up to 1993. In 1994 it was 1.27. The decline in the mean household size and number of adult males, was relatively greater in 1993 compared with the other years.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY REGION

The mean household size, according to SLC 94 (See Table A-4), was the largest at 4.0 members per household in the Rural Areas, followed by Other

Towns with 3.6 members and KMA with 3.4 members. These figures show a small decline in the mean household size in KMA and Other Towns, compared with those in 1993. The corresponding mean sizes in SLC 93 were 4.0 members in Rural Areas, 3.7 members in Other Towns, and 3.5 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 1993. The SLC 94 also confirmed this trend, as can be seen in 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, and for 1994 it was 22.3 per cent. 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. Over the same period, no distinct trend was observed for households with five members. For the period 1975 to 1994, the percentages have moved within the narrow range of 11.9 to 12.2. It was 11.2 per cent in 1990 and 1992; 12.2 per cent in 1991; 11.8 per cent in 1993, and 11.9 per cent in 1994.

TABLE 1.3
DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE, 1975-1994

Household Size	1975 (HES)	1984 (HES)	1990 (SLC)	1991 (SLC)	1992 (SLC)	1993 (SLC)	1994 (SLC)
1	16.5	18.7	20.7	19.3	21.1	21.0	22.3
2	13.9	14.5	15.6	16.3	15.9	16.4	16.5
3	13.2	13.8	14.4	15.7	14.8	15.7	14.6
4	12.2	13.5	15.0	14.2	14.7	14.6	15.7
5	11.9	11.8	11.2	12.2	11.2	11.8	11.9
6	8.8	7.8	7.9	7.7	8.0	7.4	6.6
7	7.9	7.0	6.5	5.5	5.1	4.5	5.2
8+	15.6	12.8	8.7	9.1	9.2	8.7	7.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 1.4
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD
SLC 90 - SLC 94

Sex of head	Survey	Mean Household Size	Mean number		
			Adult Males	Adult Females	Children
Male	SLC 90	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC 91	3.7	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC 92	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC 93	3.6	1.4	1.0	1.2
	SLC 94	3.5	1.4	1.0	1.2
Female	SLC 90	4.1	0.9	1.7	1.6
	SLC 91	4.2	0.9	1.8	1.5
	SLC 92	4.0	0.9	1.7	1.5
	SLC 93	4.1	0.9	1.6	1.5
	SLC 94	3.9	0.9	1.6	1.4

TABLE 1.5
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY SEX AND AGE GROUPS, SLC 94

Age group (years)	Male heads		Female heads		All heads	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
0-14	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.05	0.0
15-24	5.6	4.2	5.7	5.3	5.7	4.7
25-34	22.5	22.5	22.7	22.1	22.6	22.3
35-44	21.9	24.7	20.8	20.6	21.4	22.9
45-54	15.7	17.6	15.3	15.6	15.6	16.8
55-64	13.8	11.1	13.6	12.0	13.7	11.5
65+	20.4	19.9	21.9	24.4	21.0	21.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the other hand, the proportion of households with 6 or more members declined from 32.3 per cent in 1975 to 19.2 per cent in 1994. Between 1993 and 1994, the proportion of households with 6 or more members declined from 20.6 per cent in 1993 to 19.2 per cent in 1994.

SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

In SLC 94, some 44.2 per cent of the households reported females as the head of the household, a slight decline from the SLC 93 figure. Corresponding percentages for 1990 - 1993 showed a steady increase and are as follows; 41.5 percent in 1990; 42.3 per cent in 1991; 43.7 per cent in 1992; and 45.4 per cent in 1993.

In 1994, households with females as head were 50.7 per cent in KMA, 43.3 per cent in Other Towns and 38.7 per cent in Rural Areas. SLC 94 also confirmed the observation from the earlier rounds of SLC, that the females as head had a larger mean household size with more adult women and children than those with males as head (See Table 1.4).

In 1994, the mean size of households with females as head was 3.9, compared with 3.5 for households with males as head. The mean number of adult males, adult females and children in male headed households during 1994 were 1.4, 1.0 1.2 respectively. In female headed households, the corresponding numbers were 0.9, 1.6 and 1.4 respectively.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

Overall, there are similarities in the age distribution of male and female household heads with only marginal variations occurring between 1993 and 1994. For 1994, 24.4 per cent of female heads fell in the 65+ age group compared with 19.9 percent of male heads (See Table 1.5). This is not surprising, as females have a longer life expectancy than males.

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY QUINTILE

The method of dividing the members of the sample households into quintiles, based on per capita

TABLE 1.6
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS, BY PER CAPITA
CONSUMPTION QUINTILES
SLC 90 - SLC 94

Household Characteristic	Survey	Quintile				
		Poorest	2	3	4	5
Household Size	SLC 90	5.5	4.9	4.6	3.8	2.5
	SLC 91	5.7	5.0	4.3	3.7	2.6
	SLC 92	6.0	5.2	4.3	3.6	2.5
	SLC 93	5.5	4.9	4.4	3.5	2.4
	SLC 94	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.4	2.4
Percentage with Female as Head	SLC 90	47.7	42.5	42.5	42.9	34.2
	SLC 91	42.1	47.9	43.3	45.8	37.3
	SLC 92	44.1	46.9	46.4	41.0	38.9
	SLC 93	49.5	49.5	47.4	45.8	34.8
	SLC 94	55.0	48.4	41.9	40.9	35.3
Percentage with Single Member	SLC 90	6.0	12.0	11.7	16.5	39.3
	SLC 91	6.1	12.3	12.4	18.4	34.8
	SLC 92	8.5	8.6	12.2	18.9	38.7
	SLC 93	9.6	9.8	10.3	17.3	40.3
	SLC 94	8.9	14.0	12.2	18.4	39.9
Percentage with 2-4 Members	SLC 90	38.3	38.8	43.0	49.3	47.2
	SLC 91	29.1	40.2	46.7	47.3	52.2
	SLC 92	26.7	38.9	47.1	53.3	49.1
	SLC 93	27.7	41.9	49.4	55.6	48.2
	SLC 94	33.3	38.4	50.3	57.4	48.2
Percentage with 5+ Members	SLC 90	55.6	49.2	45.2	34.4	13.5
	SLC 91	64.8	47.5	40.9	34.3	13.0
	SLC 92	64.7	52.6	40.7	27.9	12.3
	SLC 93	62.7	48.2	40.3	27.1	11.5
	SLC 94	58.0	47.7	37.5	24.1	12.0
Percentage Household Members from:						
KMA	SLC 94	9.9	20.2	25.0	34.8	53.5
Other Towns	SLC 94	18.1	18.0	17.8	21.9	20.9
Rural Areas	SLC 94	72.0	61.8	57.2	43.4	25.6

consumption expenditure is described in Appendix II. The important characteristics by quintiles are summarized in Table 1.6.

As one moves from the poorest to the richest 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. During 1992 - 1994, this household group showed a steady decline in its percentage within each quintile, the decline being more pronounced in the poorest quintile and marginal in the richest quintile.

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 quintile. In 1994, the proportion of households with 2-4 members showed a decline in

the poorest two quintiles compared with that in 1990, while the proportion showed a significant increase in the third and fourth quintiles; in the wealthiest quintile there was only a marginal increase.

Single member households on the other hand were more numerous in the richest two quintiles. Overall, the proportion of this group in the wealthiest quintile is approximately twice that in quintile 4 and five times that in the poorest quintile. The 1994 data also showed that the Rural Areas had the greatest proportion of household members in the poorest two quintiles - 72 per cent and 61.8 per cent respectively. Conversely, KMA had the greatest proportion in the wealthiest two quintiles with percentages of 34.8 per cent and 53.5 per cent respectively. Other Towns however showed more evenly distributed proportions across quintiles.

SUMMARY

The declining trends observed in recent years in Jamaica's age profile continued in 1994. These include the mean number of adults per household, at 2.42, and the proportion of individuals in the 55+ years age group at 13.6 per cent. The percentage of children in the 0-14 age group continued to level off. Rural Areas accounted for the largest percentage of children and adults of 55+ years, with figures of 37.0 and 15.2 respectively.

The period 1990-1994 showed a declining trend in the mean household size from 3.92 to 3.69. The 1994 household size of 3.69 comprised on average 1.16 adult males, 1.26 adult females and 1.27 children. Adult females and children showed marginal declines over 1993. On a regional level, Rural Areas were ranked the highest in mean household size of

4.0, followed by Other Towns with 3.7, and KMA with 3.5.

Approximately 44 per cent of the households had a female as the head and the corresponding percentage in KMA was 50.7. The households with females as head were 55 per cent of all households in the lowest quintile, followed by 48.4 percent in the second quintile. The size of these households was larger than those with male heads (3.9 vis a vis 3.5). Also in these two quintiles, the percentage of households with 5+ members continued to decline, whereas, those with 2-4 members continued to increase.

A large proportion of the household members in the lowest two quintiles were from the Rural Areas and the majority in the wealthiest quintile were from KMA.

Household Consumption

INTRODUCTION

The consumption of goods and services is an important indicator of the welfare of households. In the surveys on living conditions, therefore, a module to collect consumption and non-consumption expenditures was included in all the rounds. 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 the analysis presented in the report on SLC 93, the consumption expenditures reported in the earlier rounds of SLC at current prices were deflated to the price levels prevailing in 1990, to make them comparable. In this report, the consumption estimates for SLC 94 were also deflated to the 1990 price levels, for facilitating constant price comparisons with previous years. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) series compiled by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica for Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), Other Towns, and Rural Areas and for all-Jamaica were used as the deflators. The CPI figures are compiled for major groups of commodities as well as for all groups combined. 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 in the base period. The constant price estimates of mean consumption by commodity groups are worked out 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 worked out in SLC are identical to those adopted in the compilation of the CPI.

Most of the field work for SLC 94 was completed during November-December, 1994. For deflating

the SLC 94 estimates of consumption, the average monthly CPI for October to December 1994 was, therefore, used, as compared with a weighted average in SLC 92 and SLC 93.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

The mean per capita consumption expenditure (including the value of home production and gifts consumed) recorded in SLC 94 for Jamaica was \$32,712 compared with \$23,408 in 1993; \$16,998 in 1992; \$10,384 in 1991, and \$7,616 in 1990 at current prices (see Table 2.1). Thus, at current prices, the 1994 figure was 40.0 per cent higher than in 1993; 92.0 per cent higher than in 1992; 215.0 per cent higher than in 1991, and 330.0 per cent higher than in 1990. When deflated to 1990 price levels, the per capita consumption in 1994 (SLC 94) was \$7,652 compared with \$6,805 in 1993; \$6,586 in 1992; \$6,080 in 1991; and \$7,616 in 1990. Thus, consumption in real terms, which declined by about 20.0 per cent in 1991 compared with the previous year, recovered somewhat in 1992 and 1993. By 1994 it was again on par with that of 1990. Compared with 1990, the per capita consumption in 1994 in real terms was just 0.5 per cent higher.

It is relevant to recall that in 1991, due to the steep increase in prices by 73.3 per cent between December 1990 and December 1991, without a corresponding increase in incomes, there was a substantial decline in per capita consumption at constant prices. The decline for Jamaica was as much as 20.0 per cent. In 1992, however, there were substantial wage settlements in the public and private sectors, which helped to increase consumption, though not to the same levels as in 1990. In 1993, though, for Jamaica as a whole, there was a small increase of 3.3 per cent in mean per capita consumption in real terms, compared with 1992.

TABLE 2.1
MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE,
1988-1994

Survey	Period of Investigation	CPI (Base: Jan 1988)	Months Covered	Mean Consumption	
				At Current Prices (\$)	At 1990 Prices (\$)
SLC 88	August	103.4	Jul-Aug	4,700	7,309
SLC 89-1	May-Jun	115.6	Apr-Jun	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	Nov 93- Mar 94	553.3	Nov 93- Mar 94	23,408	6,805
SLC 94	Nov-Dec	687.4	Oct-Dec	32,712	7,652

TABLE 2.2
INDICES OF MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY AREA,
1989-1994
(BASE: JAMAICA = 100)

Survey	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
SLC 89-2	100	138	112	78
SLC 90	100	139	108	73
SLC 91	100	141	110	72
SLC 92	100	143	106	74
SLC 93	100	131	101	79
SLC 94	100	141	99	74

This increase was mainly contributed by a recovery in Rural Areas. In 1994, all three regions, namely KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas, showed further improvement in mean per capita consumption in real terms.

The estimate of mean per capita private final consumption from National Accounts⁰ for 1994 adopting the commodity flow approach, was \$35,819. Thus, the estimate of \$32,712 from the SLC 94 differed from the National Accounts estimate by 8.7 per cent.

CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA

The mean per capita consumption expenditure according to SLC 94 was \$46,127 in Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), \$32,406 in Other Towns and \$24,296 in Rural Areas. The indices of mean per capita consumption with the average for Jamaica as 100, which showed a decline in KMA in 1993, recovered in 1994 while in Other Towns, there was not much difference in 1993. In Rural Areas, after the spurt in the index in 1993, which was partly due to the decline in the other two regions, the index in 1994 was similar to that in 1992 (See Table 2.2).

In 1994, the index number of per capita consumption, with Jamaica=100, was 141 in KMA, 99 in Other Towns and 74 in Rural Areas, indicating the wide gulf in per capita consumption which continues to exist in the three regions and in relation to the Jamaica average.

The growth in mean per capita consumption in 1994, in real terms, compared with 1993 was at the highest in KMA at 20.6 per cent, followed by 11.5 per cent in Other Towns and 5.3 per cent in Rural Areas. The Rural Areas already showed a substantial increase of 11.7 per cent in 1992 and 11.1 per cent in 1993 in per capita consumption in real terms and, therefore, the further increase of 5.3 per cent in 1994 returned consumption to 1991 levels. In 1994, real per capita consumption in Rural Areas was 0.9 per cent higher than that in 1990. In KMA also, real per capita consumption in 1994 was 3.3 per cent higher than in 1990 because of the substantial increase of 20.6 per cent in 1994 over the previous year. In Other Towns, however, real per capita consumption in 1994 still lagged behind that in 1990 by about 7.3 per cent, in spite of an increase of 11.5 per cent in 1994 over 1993.