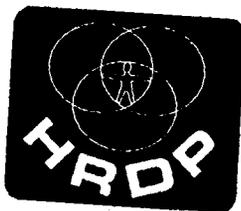


**JAMAICA
SURVEY**

**OF
LIVING CONDITIONS
ANALYTICAL REVIEW
1990**



Published by the Planning Institute of Jamaica

JAMAICA SURVEY
OF
LIVING CONDITIONS

ANALYTICAL REVIEW

1990

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SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

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Preface

The Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) is a national household survey for Jamaica which was first executed in 1988. It provides information on the social status of the nation with specific reference to household consumption, health, education, nutrition, housing, and participation in selected government welfare programmes.

The survey is an integral feature of the monitoring system of the Human Resources Development Programme (HRDP) which is executed by the main social sector Ministries and is co-ordinated and managed by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). Responsibility for conducting the SLC and analyzing the data is shared between the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica.

The present report provides a descriptive analysis of the findings of the survey conducted in November 1990. This survey collected the accustomed set of data on the perspectives mentioned above; however, in addition, it dealt in greater depth with the education sector. Additional information collected in the module for that sector is included in the discussions in the text. Besides this publication, a report has been published by STATIN designed to provide a standard set of tabulations from the survey.

We are grateful to the many persons and agencies who made the production of this report possible. The sample design, field work and data management were undertaken by the staff of the Survey Division and the Computer Services Division of STATIN. Questionnaire design was coordinated by the HRDP Secretariat in the Social and Manpower Planning Division of the PIOJ; the effort made by all members of staff who contributed to the survey and to the production of this report is to be acknowledged. Finally, personnel from the Ministries of Health, Education and Labour, Welfare & Sports, the University of the West Indies and the World Bank gave invaluable assistance. Special mention must be made of the respondents who co-operated with the interviewers, thus providing the basis for a successful survey.

The SLC is an important monitoring device which should be fully utilized to augment and deepen our understanding of socio-economic inter-relationships in Jamaica. We strongly encourage analysts to avail themselves of the wealth of information it contains for their own use. This may be done by making a request to either the PIOJ or STATIN.

We hope that the discussions contained herein will be interesting and informative, as well as provide a stimulus for further research.

Omar Davies

Omar Davies
Director General
Planning Institute of Jamaica
June 1992

Overview

BACKGROUND

In 1989 the Government of Jamaica instituted a comprehensive programme designed to improve the provision of social services to the nation. This programme, the Human Resources Development Programme (HRDP), involves institutional and policy reforms and an increased flow of funds to the social sectors which had been deprived of resources in recent years due to economic austerity measures and the structural adjustment programme.

The Survey of Living Conditions was introduced by the government in 1988 to enable close assessment of the living conditions of the population. It has continued as a component of the monitoring system of the HRDP, which also relies on statistics gathered through social institutions (schools, hospitals, etc.). The SLC is a household-based survey and is designed to collect information on a variety of topics, such as consumption, education, health, nutrition, housing, the use of public services and the participation of households in selected welfare programmes. The SLC sample is a subset of the Labour Force Survey sample, allowing for linkages, cross-references and new permutations of data from the two surveys.

The execution of the SLC is a joint undertaking of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and the Planning Institute of Jamaica, with inputs from staff of the University of the West Indies and social sector ministries. The sample design, field work and data management are the responsibility of the staff of the Surveys Division and the Computer Systems Division of STATIN, while questionnaire design, co-ordination of inputs and data analysis are the responsibility of the Social and Manpower Planning Division of the PIOJ.

The survey conducted in November 1990 (SLC 90) was the fourth of five rounds of the survey conducted to date: these have been done in August 1988, July 1989, and November 1989, 1990 and 1991, respectively. The first two rounds of the survey were general in scope, but subsequent rounds have focused on particular sectors by expanding the relevant module of the questionnaire to collect the information required for a more thorough assessment of the sector. Round 3 focused on the health sector and involved an expansion of the questionnaire in relation to that sector and the addition of questions on fertility, as well as surveys of public and private and health facilities. Round 4 placed emphasis on the education sector and in this case, surveys of school facilities and administrators were conducted and students tested to ascertain their achievement levels. For Round 5, the housing module was expanded to focus on that sector.

Perhaps the most critical feature of the SLC is that it seeks to measure welfare status, doing so through the collection of data on the total value of goods consumed by households. At

the request of the PIOJ, therefore, this module of the survey has been subjected to in-depth examination and evaluation by staff of the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), University of the West Indies, Mona. This investigation has basically validated the techniques of data collection and processing that have been used in the consumption module of the SLC, and only very minor modifications were recommended as a result of the assessment carried out.

Other tests of the SLC data have also indicated a high degree of reliability of the results. For example, in general, the data collected have displayed remarkable consistency from one round to the next. Secondly, comparison with other data sources such as the National Accounts estimates and institutional reports (e.g. school and hospital) substantiates the findings in the areas covered. Finally, the overall standard error of the estimate of mean per capita consumption for the 1990 survey has the relatively low value of 3.7 per cent; for the Kingston Metropolitan Area the value is 5.9 per cent; for Other Towns 8.6 per cent; and for Rural Areas 4.3 per cent. (See Table A.1 in the Appendix). Hence it may be accepted that the data collected by the SLC are generally valid and reliable and can be used with confidence.

The present report is the fourth in the series of descriptive/analytical reports which have been prepared for each round of the survey. In addition, two standard sets of tables have been published, for the November 1989 and 1990 surveys, respectively. The information collected on the three sectors focused on to date are the subject of in-depth studies, the results of which will also be made available in separate publications. Access may be had to data available from the surveys in addition to that which is contained in the published reports. Researchers are invited to submit their requests for such data to either the Planning Institute of Jamaica or the Statistical Institute of Jamaica.

SUMMARY

The report is structured as shown below:

- Chapter 2 examines trends in household consumption as evidenced in the SLC series plus other sources of similar data.
- Chapter 3 analyses the expanded education module including assessments of enrolment, factors affecting attendance, use of welfare programmes, expenditure, and reasons for school abandonment, etc. (There is no coverage of the results of the facilities surveys and achievement tests.)
- Chapter 4 reports on health conditions in terms of the occurrence of illness, the use of public and private facilities, costs, and nutrition status.

- Chapter 5 investigates the coverage and usage of the Food Stamp Programme (FSP).
- Finally, Chapter 6 discusses housing conditions including building materials, tenure, utilities, and costs.

Details on the survey design, response rate, sampling errors, and data processing methods are given in the Appendix. A summary of the findings in the chapters is presented below.

Household Consumption

According to SLC-90, the mean per capita annual value of consumption was \$7,616. This compares well with the preliminary estimate of per capita final consumption expenditure of about \$7,273 for the year 1990, in the National Accounts. This difference between the two may be related to the fact that the National Accounts estimate was based on average prices for the whole year, while the SLC estimate relates to November-December only. The mean per capita consumption was \$10,553 in KMA; \$8,185 in Other Towns; and \$5,562 in Rural Areas. The constant (1984) price estimate of mean per capita consumption expenditure from SLC 90 was about 4.4 per cent higher than that from SLC 88; that is, an annual increase of about 2 per cent.

The households with females as head had, on the average, lower consumption levels than those with males as head. In 1990, the mean per capita consumption of a household with female head was \$6,898 (or 79.0 per cent) compared to \$8,741 for a household with male head.

The mean per capita annual consumption in the poorest decile of the population was \$1,796 as against \$22,029 in the wealthiest decile. In 1990, there was some improvement in the shares of the lowest six decile groups of population in national consumption, with a corresponding decrease for the higher decile groups. The share of the two poorest decile groups increased from 5.05 per cent in 1989 to 6.38 per cent in 1990.

The share of food in total consumption was 63.3 per cent in the poorest decile and progressively decreased to 45.0 per cent in the wealthiest decile. The overall fraction was 53.1 per cent.

In the country as a whole, mean consumption of home production/gifts was about \$402 (or 5.3 per cent of the total). Expenditures on non-consumption items (e.g. insurance, weddings, funerals, etc.) formed 3.9 per cent of the total. There was wide disparity in the mean annual non-consumption expenditure across the population quintiles. It was a meagre \$26 per capita per annum in the poorest quintile, compared to \$948 in the wealthiest quintile.

Education

Educational coverage as measured by enrolment was high among students in the age groups up to 14 years but declined sharply thereafter. With the exception of the 6-11 and 12-14 groups, access to education was strongly associated with welfare status – with the wealthiest quintiles showing higher levels of enrolment. This was particularly noticeable among the tertiary level age group (17-19 and 20-24 years) where enrolment of the poorest quintile was negligible.

School attendance rates continued to be lower at the primary than at the secondary level and showed direct relationship to school type, welfare status and area so that students in Secondary High schools, those in the KMA and those of the wealthiest quintiles recorded the highest levels of full attendance.

Illness and lack of money were identified as the principal factors affecting attendance and the data revealed that contrary to expectations, attendance was only negligibly affected by children being needed in the home, working outside the home, market day activities or transportation problems. Distance of residence from school was also found to have little impact on attendance, but it was found that mode of transportation had some relationship to attendance, with those using private transport having the best attendance. Attendance patterns were found to be positively related to welfare status.

With regard to the welfare programmes, it was found that both the school feeding and textbook programmes were progressively targetted towards the more needy, though by a process of self-targetting.

Outlay on school expenses shows that more was generally spent at the secondary than at the primary level – the exception being for tuition fees which reflected expenditure on fees at private preparatory schools. Patterns of expenditure were shown to be directly related to welfare status, school type attended and area of residence.

In respect of persons of school age not in school, the data show that 60.7 per cent had left school after having completed their desired course of study and that while males had a marginally higher incidence of this, they were more likely than females to have dropped out of school because of lack of interest, taking a job, etc. Most school quitters were found to be gainfully employed, but there was a wide disparity between the employment level of the sexes with female employment being significantly lower. Wealthier quintiles recorded higher levels of employment than the poorer groups, following the pattern of reasons for leaving school where a larger percentage of the wealthier had left school on completion of their studies.

Health

Like earlier rounds of the Survey of Living Conditions, this one found that Jamaicans are reasonably healthy with less than 20.0 per cent reporting illness during the previous four weeks. The prevalence of illness/injury was greatest among the very young and the elderly. As would be expected, chronic problems were most frequent among the elderly. There was no significant change in the pattern of illness/injury over the three-year period 1988 to 1990.

On the other hand, some changes in trends in health care seeking behaviour were noted. Over the three-year period, there was a decrease in the percentage of ill/injured who sought medical care, and of those who did so there was an increase in the proportion who utilized hospital facilities. The reason for this is unclear since it does not appear that there was any increase in the severity of problems being experienced. The age-dependent groups – the elderly and the very young – were the main users of public facilities.

The cost differentials between the private and public sector increased over the three-year period because of a

sharp increase in the cost of private consultations. The wealthiest groups paid considerably more for health care in spite of the fact that more had health insurance and their illnesses/injuries were no more severe than any of the other groups.

The downward trend in the prevalence of malnutrition since 1978 halted in 1990 and there was a small upward swing in the proportion of children who were underweight for age, stunted and/or wasted. Still, the prevalence of wasting and stunting was low. Malnutrition was greatest in KMA and in towns, and was inversely related to expenditure.

Food Stamp Programme

The November 1990 round of the SLC showed 13.0 per cent of the households to be in receipt of food stamps. This continued a decline in coverage since August 1988, resulting from the cleaning of the rolls in 1989 and a major restructuring of the programme in 1990.

Efforts to stem leakage to ineligible beneficiary households continued to be successful, as this was reduced to only 2.0 per cent of beneficiary households. There was no improvement in the progressive distribution of benefits across consumption quintiles.

In SLC 90, 3.7 per cent of individuals surveyed were in receipt of food stamps. The targetted 60/40 percentage distribution of benefits to the mothers/children vs. elderly/poor categories was not met, as 44.0 per cent of benefits went to the mother/children category and 54.0 per cent to the elderly/poor. While the elderly category appears adequately covered in relation to the target, there was serious under-coverage of pregnant women and lactating mothers by the FSP.

Nearly one-third of all households reported having made contact with the FSP. Householders in rural areas had a higher level of contact with the programme and were also most likely to receive food stamps.

Non-participation in the programme continued to be chiefly as a result of self-perceived ineligibility and ignorance of the programme. Hence the need for public education remains important.

Though targetting appears to be moving in the right direction, increasingly households in greatest need were not considering it worth the effort to apply for benefits. Notably, there were still significant numbers of households in the individual categories who had applied for stamps without their applications being approved.

Housing

According to the SLC 90 data, block and steel predominated as the material used in the construction of outer walls of housing units. At the same time, the majority of poor households occupied dwellings with outer walls made of wood.

Fewer of the wealthy than of the poorer groups owned the housing unit they occupied. However, the data suggested that although more of the poor had owner-occupied dwellings, the value of these housing units was much less than that of the owner-occupied dwellings of the wealthy.

The poorer, and to a large extent, rural households depended more on pit latrines whereas the wealthier households, primarily of KMA and to a much lesser extent Other Towns, had water closets as the predominant toilet facility.

The SLC revealed that there had been a general increase in the percentage of households using electricity in 1990 as against 1989. There had also been an overall increase in the use of piped treated water. However, the poorer rural households showed the least improvement in the quality of their drinking water, and were still depending, to a significant extent, on river or pond water. With regard to access to a telephone, this continued to be a service available mainly to wealthy urban dwellers.

Mortgage and rent payments, where these applied, constituted between 9.0 and 10.0 per cent of the total household consumption expenditure, with mortgage payments being, on the average, higher than rent.

Charges for electricity were generally higher than those for water, and both constituted less than 5.0 per cent of the total household consumption expenditure. As regards property taxes, more than half of all households paid less than \$10 annually, and in the case of rural households, 50.0 per cent paid \$5 or less annually. ■

Household Consumption

The consumption of goods and services by households is an important indicator of human welfare. In the surveys on living conditions, a module for collecting data on household consumption and non-consumption expenditures has been included in all the rounds. Apart from providing useful cross sectional information on differences in consumption patterns across geographic areas and across socio-economic groups, the consumption data as a measure of welfare status are useful as an adjunct in the analysis of data collected on other topics such as health, education and housing.

Methodology

The Consumption Module in SLC 90 was divided into 5 Parts - D to H. The reference periods for which the expenditures were collected differed from Part to Part, depending on their frequency of purchase. It was 7 days for Part D (daily expenses on meals away from home, purchase of fuels such as kerosene and wood, personal care items like soaps, tooth paste, etc); past 4 weeks and past 12 months for Part E (non-food consumption expenditures); past 30 days and past 12 months for Part F (non-consumption expenses such as insurance, taxes, gifts and donations); and past 7 days and past 4 weeks, respectively, for Parts G (food expenses) and H (consumption of home production and food received as gift).

Briefly, in all the Parts, for items for which only one reference period was specified, the method of annualisation was straightforward multiplication (i.e. weekly figures multiplied by 52 and monthly figures by 12). For items for which two reference periods were specified, the portion of the long term expenditure that did not include the short term expenditure (e.g. the 11 months previous to the last month if the long period is one year and the short period is one month)

was calculated and then annualised, and an equal-weighted average of this annualisation and the short period annualisation was taken.

Mean Per Capita Consumption

According to the SLC 90, the mean annual per capita household consumption expenditure was \$7,616. This compares with the preliminary estimate of per capita final consumption expenditure of about \$7,273 for the year 1990, in National Accounts. The National Accounts estimate was built up from commodity flows, that is, independent of the SLC. The SLC 90 estimate was about 4.7 per cent higher than that from National Accounts. Even this difference might be overestimated, if one considers the fact that the National Accounts estimate was on average prices for the whole year while the SLC estimate related to November-December 1990. However, this would broadly indicate the reliability of the SLC estimates.

A comparison of the mean per capita annual consumption expenditure in the first four rounds of SLC and that in the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) 1984, is given in Table 2.1.

The survey estimates of mean per capita annual consumption expenditure are at current prices and are, therefore, not comparable unless adjusted for price variations. Table 2.1 also shows the estimates at current and at constant 1984 prices.

At 1984 prices, the mean per capita annual consumption was \$3,159 in SLC 90; \$3,361 in SLC 89-2; \$3,215 in SLC 89-1; \$3,027 in SLC 88; and \$ 2,905 in HES 84- the estimates at constant prices from the two SLCs in 1989 being higher and out of step with the other estimates. This was due to the liberal donations of money, food, clothing, medicines, etc.,

TABLE 2.1
MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, 1984-1990 (\$)

Survey	Period of investigation	CPI (Base:Jan 1988)		Mean consumption	
		Index	Months covered	At current prices	At 1984 prices
HES 1984	Sept-Dec	66.6	July-Dec	2,905	2,905
SLC 88	August	103.4	July-August	4,700	3,027
SLC 89-1	May-June	115.6	April-June	5,581	3,215
SLC 89-2	Nov-Dec	124.9	Oct-Dec	6,304	3,361
SLC 90	Nov-Dec	160.8	Oct-Dec	7,616	3,159

received in 1989 in the wake of Hurricane Gilbert, which would be reflected in the estimates for 1989.

The constant price estimate from SLC 90 was about 4.4 per cent higher than that from SLC 88; that is, an annual increase of about 2 per cent.

Mean Consumption by Area

The mean per capita consumption from SLC 90 was \$10,553 in KMA; \$8,185 in Other Towns; and \$5,562 in Rural Areas. The mean for the country was \$7,616. Thus, with the country mean as 100, the mean per capita consumption in KMA would equate to 139; Other Towns, 108 and Rural Areas, 73. The corresponding indices in HES 84 and SLC 89-2 are shown in Table 2.2.

The mean per capita consumption for an area is arrived at by dividing the total consumption by the total sample population in that area; while the country mean is arrived at by dividing the total consumption of all areas by the total of the sample population. Hence, the area indices will not add up to 100.

In 1990, both in Other Towns and Rural Areas, the index was less than in 1989, that is, the mean consumption declined relative to the mean for the country, while there was a slight improvement in KMA.

Food and Non-food Consumption

In SLC 90, the fraction of total consumption expenditure devoted to food was 53.1 per cent as against 54.1 per cent in SLC 89-2 and 50.5 in HES 84. Thus, there was a slight increase in the fraction devoted to non-food in 1990 compared to 1989. Domestic agricultural production was greatly affected in 1989 as an after effect of the hurricane (Gilbert). In consequence, the country was forced to purchase more imported foodstuffs which were at higher prices than those traditionally home grown. Furthermore, prices of domestic

foodstuffs increased with the shortage in supply. In 1990, there was a significant recovery in domestic agricultural production. (See Table 2.3)

Distribution of Consumption by Commodity Groups

The percentage of total consumption expenditure devoted to the various commodity groups in 1989 and 1990 is presented in Table 2.4.

There is consistency in the share of total consumption expenditure devoted to different commodity groups in 1989 (SLC 89-2) and 1990 (SLC 90).

The distributions for KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas show that the percentage share of total consumption devoted to food was the highest in Rural Areas (58.8 per cent) and the lowest in KMA (48.9 per cent). It does not, however, mean that actual volume of food consumption in Rural Areas was higher than that in KMA, as the mean total consumption expenditure in Rural Areas was just about half that in KMA. In fact in dollar terms, the mean expenditure on food was \$5,159 in KMA and \$3,269 in Rural Areas.

The shares of housing, clothing and footwear, transportation, education and recreation groups in KMA were higher. Since the level of mean per capita total consumption expenditure was also substantially higher in KMA than in Other Towns or Rural Areas, the expenditure on these groups was on the average much higher in KMA.

Food Consumption Patterns

The food consumption patterns in KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas reveal some interesting features. (See Table 2.5) The percentage share devoted to meat, poultry and fish was the highest of all the commodity groups in all three areas. This percentage was higher in Other Towns (27.3 per cent) and Rural Areas (27.7 per cent) than in KMA (22.5 per cent), presumably because the total amount available for food itself

TABLE 2.2
INDICES OF MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY AREA, 1984-1990

Area	(Base: Jamaica = 100)			
	KMA	Other Towns	Rural	Jamaica
HES 84	133	113	78	100
SLC 89-2	138	112	78	100
SLC 90	139	108	73	100

TABLE 2.3
MEAN FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURES 1984-1990

Survey	Total (\$)	Food (\$)	Non-Food (\$)	Food as % of total
HES 84	2,905	1,468	1,437	50.5
SLC 89-2	6,304	3,410	2,894	54.1
SLC 90	7,616	4,046	3,570	53.1

TABLE 2.4
PERCENTAGE SHARES OF COMMODITY GROUPS IN TOTAL CONSUMPTION

	SLC 89-2	SLC 90	SLC 90		
	All Jamaica	All Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural
1. Food and beverages	54.8	53.1	48.9	52.1	58.8
2. Fuel & household supplies	6.3	7.1	6.0	8.1	7.8
3. Housing & household operational expenses	11.4	10.5	13.1	12.2	6.6
4. Household durable goods	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.3	2.3
5. Personal care	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.3
6. Health care	2.0	2.3	2.2	2.7	2.1
7. Clothing & footwear	9.6	10.4	11.4	9.2	10.0
8. Transportation	5.9	5.9	6.6	5.5	5.4
9. Education & recreation	2.8	3.4	4.4	3.2	2.3
10. Miscellaneous	1.7	1.9	2.5	1.7	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

was relatively smaller in Other Towns and Rural Areas, compared to KMA.

The meat, poultry and fish group accounted for a larger percentage share in total food expenditure in 1990 compared to the previous year. This is possibly because of the general price increases coupled with the fact that these items are essential components of the diet. The other item which showed substantial variation was the starchy roots & tubers

group. In SLC 89-2, it accounted for 12.4 per cent of total food expenditure, while in SLC 90 it declined to 7.0 per cent. As mentioned earlier, food prices escalated in 1989 as a result of the effects of Hurricane Gilbert. Given the importance of starchy roots and tubers as another item in the diet of a majority of the population, households on the average spent more in 1989 on this group. In 1990, normal supply of starchy roots and tubers was restored; and the percentage share of food expenditure going to this group was the highest in Rural

TABLE 2.5
FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS BY AREA

	SLC 89-2	SLC 90	SLC 90		
	All Jamaica	All Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural
Meat, poultry & fish	21.9	25.6	22.5	27.3	27.7
Dairy products	9.8	10.8	10.5	11.4	10.8
Oils & fats	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.9
Cereals & cereal products	11.8	11.1	9.4	11.0	12.8
Starchy roots & tubers	12.4	7.0	4.7	5.6	9.9
Vegetables	4.8	4.3	4.6	4.6	3.8
Fruits	4.3	3.0	2.8	3.4	2.9
Sugar/sweets	2.8	2.6	2.0	2.7	3.2
Miscellaneous foods	5.2	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.3
Beverages	3.1	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.9
Meals away from home	21.8	22.0	29.9	20.5	14.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Areas (9.9 per cent), compared to KMA (4.7 per cent) or Other Towns (5.6 per cent).

The increase in the percentage share on beverages was due to the inclusion of the breakfast drinks (coffee, tea, cocoa, etc.) which in SLC 89-2 were grouped with the cereal and cereal products group.

The meals away from home group accounted for a very large percentage share of food expenditure equivalent to the meat, poultry and fish group. The mean percentage share on this group in the country as a whole was more or less identical in SLC 89-2 (21.8 per cent) and SLC 90 (22.0 per cent). Among the regions, the percentage share of food expenditure devoted to meals away from home was the highest in KMA (29.9 per cent), followed by Other Towns (20.5 per cent) and Rural Areas (14.8 per cent).

Mean consumption by sex of household head

It may be noted that the households with females as head have, on the average, lower consumption levels than those with males as head (see Table 2.6).

TABLE 2.6
MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY SEX
OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Sex of head	Mean consumption expenditure (\$)	Food expenditure (\$)	Food as % of total
Male	8,741	4,341	52.1
Female	6,898	3,694	54.8

The mean per capita consumption expenditure of a household with a female as head was \$6,898 compared to \$8,741 for a household with a male as head. The mean for households with female heads was about 79 per cent of the mean for those with male heads. The lower level of the amount available for total consumption is reflected in the lower order of per capita food consumption. In fact, the households with female heads, on the average, devoted a larger proportion of expenditure to food (54.8 per cent) than those with male heads (52.1 per cent).

There was not much difference in the percentage shares devoted to the various other commodity groups by the households with male or female heads except that the share of transportation in total consumption was 7.2 per cent for male heads and 4.0 per cent for female heads, presumably because the former group used more of owned transportation.

Mean Per Capita Consumption by Household Size

The mean per capita consumption steadily declined from \$15,868 for single-member households to \$5,065 for households of size six or more members, as shown in Table 2.7.

The food consumption expenditures by household size suggest that economies of scale operate as the household size increases.

TABLE 2.7
MEAN ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AND FOOD CONSUMPTION BY HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Household size (No. of members)	Total (\$)	Food (\$)	Food as % of total
1	15,868	8,651	54.5
2	10,465	5,486	52.4
3	8,774	4,539	51.7
4	7,626	4,118	54.0
5	7,098	3,891	54.8
6 or more	5,065	2,829	55.9

The share of food in total consumption was the highest at 55.9 per cent for large-sized households, i.e. with six or more members. This may be due to the fact that the family size is generally larger among poorer households.

Welfare Status

As mentioned earlier, the population was divided into quintile groups on the basis of per capita consumption. For this purpose, the total consumption expenditure of a household was divided by the number of members in the household to arrive at mean per capita consumption for the household. The sample population may then be ranked, assuming the same per capita consumption for each of the members in a particular household, and divided into a discrete number of welfare groups. Dividing into five groups, or quintiles, the first quintile represents the poorest fifth of the population and the fifth quintile the wealthiest fifth of the population.

The mean per capita annual consumption in the poorest quintile in SLC 90 was \$2,263 compared to \$16,588 in the wealthiest quintile. Thus, the mean per capita consumption in the wealthiest quintile was 7.3 times higher than that in the poorest quintile. (See Table 2.8).

When divided into ten groups or deciles, the mean per capita annual consumption was only \$1,796 in the poorest decile of population against \$22,029 in the wealthiest decile. Thus the mean for the richest decile was 12.3 times higher than that for the poorest decile. (See Table 2.9).

The percentage share of food in the total mean consumption expenditure progressively declined, with welfare status being around 63.0 per cent for the poorest groups and below 50.0 per cent for the richest. However, though in percentage terms the share of food in total consumption was the highest in the poorest quintile, the actual amount spent was low.

There was some improvement in 1990 in the shares of the lowest six deciles in National Consumption, with a corresponding decrease in the shares of the higher groups. For instance, the share of the poorest two decile groups increased from 5.05 per cent of National Consumption in 1989 to 6.38 per cent in 1990. This would indicate improvement in economic conditions for the poorer groups who would have benefitted, for instance, from the increase in the production of domestic agricultural crops, compared to 1989.

TABLE 2.8
MEAN ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY QUINTILES

	Total (\$)	Food (\$)	Non-Food (\$)	Food as % of total
Poorest	2,263	1,420	843	62.8
2	3,754	2,354	1,400	62.7
3	5,308	3,216	2,092	60.6
4	7,741	4,432	3,309	57.3
5	16,588	7,930	8,658	47.8

Consumption of Home Production and Gifts

In the country as a whole, out of a mean per capita annual consumption of \$7,616 in 1990, the home production/gifts consumed was valued at about \$402 or 5.3 per cent of the total. This average was \$244 in KMA, \$378 in Other Towns and \$509 in Rural Areas. Since the overall mean per capita consumption in Rural Areas was \$5,562 and in Other Towns \$8,185 as against \$10,553 in KMA, the home production/gifts consumed formed 4.6 and 9.2 per cent of total consumption in Other Towns and Rural Areas, respectively, compared to 2.3 per cent in KMA.

Though in general home production/gifts did not form a high percentage of total consumption, nevertheless, in the case of the Clothing, Footwear and Accessories Group, gifts represented a major source of the goods acquired. Out of the total mean annual per capita consumption of \$793 worth of Clothing, Footwear and Accessories, as much as \$129 or 16.2 per cent was from gifts. (See Table 2.10).

Gifts formed a substantial percentage of total consumption of the Clothing, Footwear and Accessories Group in all the three regions – 13.2 per cent in KMA, 21.0 per cent in Other Towns and 17.8 per cent in Rural Areas.

Among non-food gifts, apart from the Clothing, Footwear and Accessories Group, the gifts of Household Durable Goods were the next important. Household Durable Goods formed a small percentage of total consumption in all three regions, varying from 1.9 per cent in KMA to 2.3 per cent in Other Towns and Rural Areas. Out of this, the gifts formed 14.8 per cent in KMA, 12.4 per cent in Other Towns and 9.8 in Rural Areas.

The consumption of home production and gifts of food items contributed, on the average, \$246 to the annual per capita food consumption, forming 6.1 per cent of all food consumption. However, in Other Towns and Rural Areas, the mean per capita annual consumption of home production and food gifts was much more substantial than in the KMA at \$187 in Other Towns and \$393 in Rural Areas as against only \$46 in KMA.

TABLE 2.9
MEAN ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY DECILES

	Total (\$)	Food (\$)	Non-food (\$)	Food as percent of Total
Poorest	1,796	1,137	659	63.3
2	2,730	1,703	1,027	62.4
3	3,421	2,151	1,270	62.9
4	4,091	2,564	1,527	62.7
5	4,890	2,945	1,945	60.2
6	5,742	3,481	2,261	60.6
7	6,921	3,993	2,928	57.7
8	8,631	4,925	3,706	57.1
9	10,580	6,087	4,493	52.7
10	22,029	9,914	12,115	45.0

TABLE 2.10
MEAN ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF HOME PRODUCTION/GIFTS BY COMMODITY GROUPS

Commodity Group	Consumption of home production/gifts							
	All Jamaica		KMA		Other Towns		Rural	
	(\$)	% to Group	(\$)	% to Group	(\$)	% to Group	(\$)	% to Group
Durable Goods	20	12.3	30	14.8	23	12.4	12	9.8
Clothing, Foot Wear & Accessories	129	16.2	159	13.2	157	21.0	99	17.8
Other	7	0.3	8	0.2	11	0.3	5	0.3
Total Non-Food	156	4.4	198	3.7	191	4.9	116	5.1
Meat, Poultry & Fish	27	2.6	10	0.9	43	3.7	31	3.4
Fruits & Tubers	122	43.3	12	5.0	68	28.5	211	65.3
Fruits & Vegetables	53	18.1	11	2.9	38	11.2	85	38.8
Other Food	44	1.8	13	0.4	38	1.5	66	3.6
Total Food	246	6.1	46	0.9	187	4.4	393	12.0
Grand Total	402	5.3	244	2.3	378	4.6	509	9.2

The more important items of home production and food gifts consumed were starchy roots and tubers; vegetables and fruits; and meat, poultry and fish.

Non-Consumption Expenditure

In all rounds of the SLC, one part of the questionnaire is devoted to the collection of information on the non-con-

sumption expenditures of the household. The items covered in 1990 were Life and Fire Insurance payments; Weddings/Funerals; Donations/Gifts, Repayment of Loans/Interest Payments; Support for Children who live elsewhere; Other Maintenance of Relatives Outside Home; and Other Non-consumption Expenditures such as legal services, etc.

TABLE 2.11
MEAN ANNUAL PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION AND NON-CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA AND QUINTILE

	Consumption	Non-Consumption	Total	Non-consumption as %
Region				
KMA	10,553	446	10,998	4.1
Other Towns	8,185	453	8,638	5.2
Rural	5,562	173	5,735	3.0
Quintile				
Poorest	2,263	26	2,290	1.1
2	3,754	90	3,844	2.3
3	5,308	104	5,412	1.9
4	7,741	210	7,952	2.7
5	16,588	948	17,536	5.4
All Jamaica	7,616	311	7,927	3.9

TABLE 2.12
CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY MONTHLY CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE CLASS BY AREA

	KMA	Other Towns	Rural	All Jamaica
Less than \$1,000	10.1	17.2	31.4	21.6
Less than \$2,000	35.2	50.4	64.1	51.9
Less than \$3,000	57.8	71.0	82.0	71.9
Less than \$4,000	71.6	84.2	92.1	83.8
Less than \$5,000	81.1	93.4	96.4	90.8
\$5,000 & more	18.9	6.6	3.6	9.2

The total of consumption expenditures and the non-consumption expenditures is broadly equivalent to the total household expenditure. It is interesting to examine the non-consumption expenditures and total household expenditure across regions and population quintiles. Table 2.11 shows the mean household expenditure and its two components, namely, consumption and non-consumption expenditure across regions and population quintiles.

The non-consumption expenditure formed 3.9 per cent of mean per capita annual household expenditure in the country as a whole. Among the regions, the mean non-consumption expenditure was the highest (\$453) in Other Towns, closely followed by KMA (\$446). It was the lowest (\$173) in Rural Areas, presumably because of the lower levels of expenditures compared to the urban areas. In terms of percentage share in total mean per capita household expenditure, however, the percentage was 3.0 in Rural Areas compared to 4.1 in KMA and 5.2 in Other Towns.

In the poorest quintile, the mean non-consumption expenditure was a meagre \$26 per capita per annum, compared to \$948 in the wealthiest quintile. The share of non-consumption expenditure in total household expenditure was

only 1.1 per cent in the poorest quintile compared to 5.4 per cent in the wealthiest quintile.

Household Consumption Expenditure

So far the discussion has been in terms of mean per capita expenditure. Sometimes, the interest lies in the classification of households on the basis of their total consumption expenditure, that is, irrespective of their size. It can be seen from Table 2.12 that 52.0 per cent of the households in the country spend less than \$2,000 per month on consumption; while 72.0 per cent spend less than \$3,000. Only 9.3 per cent spend more than \$5,000 per month on consumption.

The households with more than \$5,000 consumption expenditure per month were the largest in KMA (18.9 per cent). Both in Other Towns and Rural Areas, they were very few – 6.6 per cent in Other Towns and 3.6 per cent in Rural Areas. On the other hand, the households with less than \$1,000 consumption expenditure per month were the most numerous in Rural Areas (31.4 per cent), followed by Other Towns (17.2 per cent) and least in KMA (10.1 per cent). ■

Education

INTRODUCTION

The November 1990 SLC focused on the education sector and contained, in respect of this sector, an expanded module consisting of an achievement test, school administrators and facilities questionnaires. Data from the household module are analyzed below.

The analysis focuses on enrolment among the school age population (that is, age 3-24 years); attendance pattern among those at the primary and secondary levels; factors affecting attendance; outlay on school expenses; and the use of government-funded welfare programmes. It also looks at persons of school age not in school, examines their reasons for quitting, educational level attained and their current occupational activities. Most variables are examined by quintile, sex and area. Some variables, however, such as enrol-

ment and attendance, expenditure, and use of welfare programmes are further analyzed by school type.

The data also provide other useful information on the school age population, such as mode of transportation used, incidence of working outside the home and characteristics of absence such as student days lost and reasons for absence.

ENROLMENT

Enrolment by Age Group and Quintile

A total of 3,460 of the persons canvassed in the November 1990 survey fell in the school age group, that is those aged 3 to 24 years. Of this total, 2,200 or 63.7 per cent were enrolled in educational institutions at the pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The percentage enrolment by age group is shown in Table 3.1. The data reveal that enrol-

TABLE 3.1
ENROLMENT RATES BY AGE, EDUCATION LEVEL AND QUINTILE (%)

Age and Level	All Jamaica	Poorest	2	3	4	5
3-5 years						
Basic (n=340)	77	72	75	78	83	83
None (n=99)	23	28	25	22	17	17
Subtotal (n=439)	100	100	100	100	100	100
6-11 years						
Basic (n=26)	2	3	2	2	2	3
Primary (n=1001)	93	93	94	94	95	90
Secondary (n=36)	3	3	3	4	3	5
None (n=11)	1	2	1	0	0	2
Subtotal (n=1074)	100	100	100	100	100	100
12-14 years						
Primary (n=77)	16	20	30	13	7	7
Secondary (n=387)	81	75	67	85	89	93
None (n=16)	100	6	4	2	4	0
Subtotal (n=480)	100	100	100	100	100	100
15-16 years						
Secondary (n=250)	78	75	73	71	87	86
Tertiary (n=1)	0.3	0	0	0	0	2
None (n=69)	22	25	27	29	13	12
Subtotal (n=320)	100	100	100	100	100	100
17-19 years						
Secondary (n=55)	11	11	6	9	11	23
Tertiary (n=12)	2	0	0	4	4	6
None (n=422)	86	89	94	88	85	71
Subtotal (n=489)	100	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 3.2
ENROLMENT RATES BY AGE, EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND AREA (%)

Age and Level	All Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural
3-5 years				
Basic (n=340)	77	83	77	75
None (n=99)	23	17	23	25
Subtotal (n=439)	100	100	100	100
6-11 years				
Basic (n=26)	2	3	2	2
Primary (n=1001)	93	93	93	94
Secondary (n=36)	3	3	4	3
None (n=11)	1	2	1	1
Subtotal (n=1074)	100	100	100	100
12-14 years				
Primary (n=77)	16	11	7	21
Secondary (n=387)	81	85	92	76
None (n=16)	3	4	1	4
Subtotal (n=480)	100	100	100	100
15-16 years				
Secondary (n=250)	78	87	82	72
Tertiary (n=1)	0.3	0	2	0
None (n=69)	22	13	16	28
Subtotal (n=320)	100	100	100	100
17-19 years				
Secondary (n=55)	11	15	11	9
Tertiary (n=12)	2	3	2	2
None (n=422)	86	81	87	89
Subtotal (n=489)	100	100	100	100

ment rates up to age 14 continue to be high and confirm the findings of all three previous surveys that educational coverage is quite good for students up to this age, but declines significantly between ages 15 and 24 years.

The data show a 77.0 per cent level of enrolment among children in the 3-5 age group. This reflects a 6 per cent slippage on the rate recorded in the last survey and is slightly lower than that recorded by the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the 1990/91 academic year. All the students in this age group were enrolled in pre-primary institutions with the majority being in Basic schools. The data also show that although enrolment is high among all the consumption groups it increases progressively to the fifth quintile.

Ninety-nine per cent of children in the primary school age group (6-11) were enrolled. This is consistent with national enrolment data ascertained by other means including recent censuses. The majority of the children (93.0 per cent) in this age group were enrolled in public and private primary schools, while 2.0 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively were enrolled in pre-primary and secondary schools. Overall, en-

rolment among the 6-11 cohort was relatively uniform both by area and by quintile. This demonstrates the importance ascribed to education at this level by all population groups and shows relative equity in its access.

The high level of enrolment in the primary age group is extended to the lower secondary, that is, 12-14 years. Eighty-one per cent of these children are enrolled in secondary schools while 16 per cent are still in primary schools. The high percentage of the age group still in primary school can be explained partially by the fact that some of these children are still eligible to sit the Common Entrance Examination for entry to public Secondary High schools. Examination of the data shows that while there is uniformity of enrolment by quintile, the children of the two poorest quintiles are more than twice as likely as their wealthier counterparts to be pursuing primary education or to be out of school.

Seventy-eight per cent of children in the 15-16 age group were enrolled during the reference week. While this reflects a 6 per cent increase on the reported enrolment of the November 1989 survey, it shows the tendency for a sharp

TABLE 3.3
DISTRIBUTION OF ENROLLED SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
STUDENTS BY QUINTILE AND SCHOOL TYPE (%)

	Poorest	2	3	4	5
School Type					
All Age (n=171)	39.0	25.0	25.0	15.0	10.0
New Secondary (n=283)	37.0	50.0	43.0	32.0	24.0
Comprehensive (n=20)	3.0	5.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Technical High (n=34)	4.0	7.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
Secondary High (n=214)	12.0	13.0	19.0	41.0	50.0
Vocational/Agricultural (n=13)	5.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Post Secondary (n=34)	0	0.0	5.0	6.0	10.0
Total (n=769)	100	100	100	100	100

fall-off in enrolment between the younger age groups and this one. It indicates that the formal education process ends for a large number of students by the age of 14 years. These children are likely to be enrolled in All Age schools which cater to them only up to Grade 9.

While a strong link between welfare status and enrolment is evident in this age group, with 88.0 per cent of the wealthiest compared to 75.0 per cent of the poorest being enrolled, the pattern is not distinct and it is found that the second and third quintiles account for the lowest levels of enrolment.

The fall-off in enrolment rates observed between the 15-16 age group and earlier ones is accelerated after age 16 such that rates decline significantly by the end of the school age. For example, national enrolment falls to 13.0 per cent among the 17-19 age group, and to 3.0 per cent among those 20-24 years old. Both groups show similar patterns indicating a very strong link between welfare status and enrolment, with the wealthiest being predominant among those enrolled. The data also show a somewhat progressive relationship between the two variables, except that in both age groups, the second quintile instead of the first has the lowest level of enrolment. It is also found that among those enrolled, the poorest are more likely to be pursuing secondary education while tertiary education is pursued only by those of the third to highest quintiles. Compared to the November 1989 survey, percentage enrolment among the 17-19 age group has shown a 6.0 per cent decline while that among those aged 20-24 has increased by 1.0 per cent.

In summary, enrolment patterns in the local education system are strongly associated with consumption levels in the pre-primary, upper secondary and tertiary age groups, and the wealthier quintiles access education (as demonstrated by enrolment) more than the poorest quintiles.

Enrolment by Area

The pattern of enrolment by area among the age groups is somewhat similar to that of enrolment by quintile, with the Rural Area mirroring the poorest quintiles and the KMA, the wealthiest. At the pre-primary level, 83.0 per cent of KMA respondents were enrolled in school compared with

75.0 per cent of those in the Rural area (See Table 3.2). Enrolment by area was uniform among the primary and lower secondary groups but at the higher levels of the education system there was some variation, with rates being highest among KMA residents followed by Other Towns. The difference at the upper levels of the system is quite distinct and could reflect both the income status of residents by area as well as differential access to education by area, due to the location of institutions offering education at and above the upper secondary level.

Enrolment by School Type

The analysis here focusses on enrolment by school type at the secondary and tertiary levels and assesses this by quintile and area. Table 3.3 shows enrolment by quintile. From the Table it can be seen that New Secondary, Secondary High and All Age schools account for the major share of enrolment at these levels. This and the general distribution of the data are consistent with the findings of the previous survey as well as with MOE estimates for the 1990/91 academic year.

Examination of the data by quintile indicates that the children of the poorest quintiles (39.0 per cent) are most likely to be enrolled in All Age (Grade 7-9) and New Secondary schools (37.0 per cent) and only a relatively small percentage of them are enrolled in schools such as Secondary High schools which offer greater potential for improved social status. On the other hand, 50.0 per cent of the children in the wealthiest quintile are enrolled in Secondary High schools and an additional 10.0 per cent are registered in post secondary institutions. At the same time, only 10.0 per cent of these children are enrolled in All Age schools where schooling officially ends at around age 14 years and the curriculum is known to offer less than an adequate secondary education.

While there appears to be no discernible relationship between school type and consumption grouping with regard to the Comprehensive and Technical High schools, it is noted that the poorest account for the highest proportion in Vocational/Agricultural schools. This may be accounted for par-

TABLE 3.4
DISTRIBUTION OF ENROLLED SECONDARY AND TERTIARY
STUDENTS BY AREA AND SCHOOL TYPE (%)

School type	KMA	Other Towns	Rural
All Age (n=171)	15.0	8.0	32.0
New Secondary (n=283)	36.0	36.0	37.0
Comprehensive (n=20)	3.0	0	3.0
Technical (n=34)	2.0	8.0	5.0
Secondary High (n=214)	36.0	41.0	18.0
Vocational/Agricultural (n=13)	1.0	1.0	2.0
Post Secondary (n=34)	6.0	6.0	3.0

TABLE 3.5
ATTENDANCE IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY QUINTILE, AREA, SEX AND SCHOOL TYPE (%)

Quintile	Days attendance in reference week						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Poorest (n=389)	12.1	0.3	2.8	4.9	12.3	67.6	100
2 (n=375)	11.7	0.3	1.6	4.5	9.1	72.8	100
3 (n=366)	5.5	1.4	1.9	2.2	9.6	79.5	100
4 (n=339)	3.2	0.3	2.1	1.8	4.7	87.9	100
5 (n=268)	3.0	1.1	1.9	1.1	3.0	89.9	100
Area							
KMA (n=502)	2.6	0.2	2.0	0.8	2.6	91.8	100
Other Towns (n=292)	7.5	0.7	3.1	4.5	10.6	73.6	100
Rural (n=943)	10.1	0.8	1.8	3.8	10.3	73.2	100
Sex							
Male (n=864)	7.9	0.3	1.6	3.6	8.0	78.6	100
Female (n=873)	7.1	0.9	2.5	2.5	8.2	78.7	100
School Type							
Primary (n=598)	8.9	1.2	1.7	4.0	8.9	75.4	100
All Age (n=567)	9.5	0.4	2.1	3.4	9.0	75.7	100
New Secondary (n=263)	5.7	0.4	2.7	2.3	8.0	81.0	100
Comprehensive High (n=21)	4.8	4.8	0.0	0.0	4.8	85.7	100
Technical High (n=33)	6.1	0.0	0.0	3.0	18.2	72.7	100
Secondary High (n=191)	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.5	3.7	91.6	100
Vocational (n=8)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	100

tially by the fact that these schools are predominantly in rural areas which are characteristically occupied by poorer residents.

The distribution of enrolment by school type by area to a large extent reflects the distribution of school by type nationally where for example, All Age schools and Vocational/Agricultural schools are predominantly located in rural areas and New Secondary schools are well represented islandwide. Enrolment by area is shown in Table 3.4. It is seen that while most of the rural children are enrolled in All Age and New Secondary schools, most of those in the more urbanized areas, Other Towns and KMA, are enrolled in Secondary High and New Secondary schools and the representation of the rural respondents is low at the post secondary level. The above analysis clearly implies a relationship between area of residence, consumption status and the quality of education being received.

ATTENDANCE

Analysis on attendance relates to persons enrolled in primary and secondary schools only. The rates presented were derived from some 1750 records and are presented by sex, school type, consumption quintile and area. The analysis also examines some of the factors affecting attendance such as reported cases of illness, lack of money, truancy and the students' involvement in work activities in and outside of the home.

The attendance rate among students pursuing primary education, that is children in Grades 1-6 of Primary and All

Age schools, was 77.2 per cent during the reference week, while that of secondary students was 83.4 per cent. Although the primary rate is not itself high, it is considered as such for local schools based on past attendance patterns among primary students, and is in fact some 7.0 per cent higher than that recorded for November 1990 under the Institution Based Monitoring System (IBMS). The rate is also somewhat higher than that recorded by the November 1989 SLC.

Among the sample of students attending primary and secondary schools, some 78.6 per cent attained full attendance, that is, attended school all five days, while 7.5 per cent did not attend school at all. No real differential by gender was recorded in either full attendance or total absence among the sample of students as a whole (See Table 3.5). For secondary students, however, girls recorded a 2.0 per cent higher rate of full attendance than boys who also had a higher rate of non-attendance.

Attendance by School Type

Table 3.5 presents percentage attendance by school type. It shows, as is generally known, that full attendance is likely to be higher among secondary than primary schools and to be very high in Vocational/Agricultural Schools which are boarding institutions and in Secondary High Schools which are regarded as the school type most associated with the wealthier quintiles. Percentage full attendance for Primary and All Age schools is surprisingly high at 75.4 and 75.7 per cent, respectively. It is also unexpected for these schools to record roughly the same level of full attendance contrary to the known fact that students in the latter school type have

TABLE 3.6
REASONS FOR ABSENCE BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (%)

	Primary	Secondary	Total
Illness (n=115)	35	24.1	31.9
Truant (n=14)	2	7.7	3.9
Working Outside Home (n=6)	1.2	2.6	1.7
Needed at Home (n=35)	6.9	15.5	9.7
Market Day (n=2)	0	1.7	0.6
Transportation Problem (n=1)	0	0.9	0.3
School Closed (n=0)	0	0	0
Lacks Money (n=77)	28.6	6.0	21.3
Other (n=109)	24.9	41.4	30.1
Total (n=361)	100	100	100

poorer attendance records. This has been the finding in previous SLC surveys as well as in the IBMS which tracks attendance patterns in Primary and All Age schools on a monthly basis.

Attendance by Area

The data show a high percentage (91.8) full attendance among respondents in the KMA region compared to 73.6 and 73.2 among those in Other Towns and Rural Areas, respectively. While a higher level in the main urban centre is acceptable, the disparity appears to be abnormally wide and it is believed that this could be the result of some bias having been inadvertently introduced into the data. This may also be reflected in the findings for Primary and All Age schools which comprise a large portion of the sample. For example, KMA's full attendance is some 15.8 per cent higher than that recorded in the previous round of the SLC while those for Other Towns and Rural Area increased by 4.6 and 4.2 per cent, respectively. The high increase in KMA attendance must also be seen as abnormal since no drive to increase attendance in schools there was undertaken.

Attendance by Quintile

Based on the data, there is a significant relationship between attendance and consumption status with the likelihood of full attendance being closest to 100 per cent as consumption rises (See Table 3.5). The converse is also true and the children of the poorest quintile are therefore more likely than those of any other to be absent for all five days of the school week. Among those students attending school during the reference week, those in the poorest quintile were also most likely to be absent for between one and three days. This pattern of attendance is dissimilar to that of the previous survey where attendance was relatively uniform across quintiles. Given the high indication of lack of money as a reason for non-attendance by the poorest quintile, it can be

opined that worsening economic conditions played a part in the change in the pattern observed.

Factors Affecting Attendance

In order to determine some of the reasons for irregular attendance and complete absence from school, respondents were asked to state why their children did not attend school during the reference week. A list of nine possible reasons was provided and the answers are analyzed in the discussion which follows. An assessment of the impact of distance from school, and of mode and cost of transportation on attendance is also made. The possible impact on attendance of the child's working either in or outside of the home is also explored.

Some 360 or 21.0 per cent of primary and secondary level students were absent from school for between one and five days during the survey week. The distribution of these students by the number of days absent is given below:

Days Absent	Percentage of Students
1 (n=131)	36.3
2 (n=52)	14.4
3 (n=33)	9.1
4 (n=12)	3.3
5 (n=132)	36.6
Total	100.0

(i) Reasons for Non-Attendance:

Table 3.6 shows reasons for absence by schooling level. Illness and lack of money were cited as the principal reasons for absence by 31.9 and 21.3 per cent of the respondents, respectively. The 'Other' category with 30.1 per cent indicating unspecified reasons is large and could hold information vital to the understanding of the attendance issue.

Of note is the fact, that while primary and secondary students both indicated illness as the chief factor leading to absence, secondary students listed the lack of money as the fifth most important reason, while this was the second most important for primary students.

The low indication of Market Day and Working Outside the Home as reasons for absence was somewhat unexpected and has put paid to the long held view that these factors have been, to a large extent, responsible for poor attendance.

Further examination of the data on those absent during the week indicates that for those who had not attended school at all, illness was the principal reason (44.0 per cent) followed by lack of money (18.0 per cent) and the unspecified Other (12.8 per cent). Interestingly, only 3.0 per cent of these persons said that they had not attended school because they were needed in the home and only one indicated being absent because of employment outside the home. This clearly confirms that neither working in nor out of the home can be presently considered to have any serious influence on children's attendance pattern. The evidence of children seen working might therefore be considered to be more relevant to low enrolment.

An analysis was done of those who cited lack of money as their reason for absence in order to establish whether this

TABLE 3.7
LACK OF MONEY AS REASON FOR ABSENCE BY SCHOOL TYPE AND QUINTILE (%)

	Poorest	2	3	4	5
Primary (n=70)	47.1	42.9	4.3	4.3	1.4
Secondary (n=7)	14.3	28.6	57.1	0.0	0.0
Total (n=77)	44.1	41.5	9.1	3.9	1.3

had any relationship to welfare status. It was found that there is in fact a direct relationship between the two, with 85.0 per cent of those citing this reason falling within the two poorest quintiles. Ninety-one per cent of these persons also attended primary level institutions (See Table 3.7).

A total of 532 students days were lost during the reference week out of an aggregate of 8685. The incidence of absence was most pronounced in the Rural Areas which, with approximately 50.0 per cent of the sample population, accounted for 68.6 per cent of the students absent for 5 days, compared to 6.1 per cent for KMA residents who accounted for 31.2 per cent of the sample. Other Towns with 17.6 per cent of those absent for the full week, registered a level of absence almost proportionate to its share of the sample population. The distribution of students absent from school by area is shown in Table 3.8.

(ii) *Distance from School*

The daily distance travelled by students was investigated to see whether this had any impact on their attendance pattern and to infer, in the case of the primary schools, to what extent students travelled long distances in pursuit of a preferred school. It was found that, on average, primary level students travelled between 1.8 and 2.5 miles to school on a daily basis and that there was really no difference between the distance travelled by absentees and those who attended school all week (See Table 3.9). This indicates that schools are located in fairly close range to students' residence and that most students attend the school within their communities. It also suggests that because most students attend school within a three-mile radius of home, distance does not

TABLE 3.8
NUMBER OF DAY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL BY AREA (%)

	KMA	Other Towns	Rural	Jamaica
5 (n=132)	6.1	17.6	68.7	100
4 (n=12)	31.2	6.3	62.5	100
3 (n=33)	12.5	25.0	62.5	100
2 (n=52)	15.0	25.0	60.0	100
1 (n=131)	4.8	25.8	69.4	100
Total	9.0	22.4	68.6	100

TABLE 3.9
MEAN DISTANCE TRAVELLED DAILY BY NUMBER OF DAYS' ATTENDANCE AND EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (Miles)

	Primary	Secondary
0 days	2.04	4.43
1 days	2.45	4.54
2 days	2.37	3.39
3 days	1.79	2.69
4 days	2.24	4.06
5 days	1.96	5.20
Total	1.99	4.99

then become a factor affecting attendance. The low indication of Transportation Problems as a reason for absence and the high percentage indicating that they walk to school further minimize the significance of distance on attendance.

In the case of secondary students, the mean distance travelled to school ranged between 2.7 and 5.2 miles. Of note is that students who attended school all five days were those who travelled the longest distance. Close examination of the data shows that most of these were students enrolled in the Secondary High schools which are located predominantly in urban centres and draw most of their students from the two wealthier quintiles. It was also noted that those not attending and attending for only one day have among the longest mean distances to travel. In this case some relationship can be said to exist between attendance and distance, though it must be assumed that some other variable (perhaps lack of money) would be working in tandem with distance to achieve this result given the fact that distance does not, by itself, seem to be a strong factor either at the primary level or for those having full attendance.

(iii) *Mode of Transportation*

Respondents were asked to identify the mode of transportation used by their children. Three such were identified. These are walking, using public transportation and using private transportation. Some 56.7 per cent of the students were said to walk to school compared with 39.7 who used public transport and 3.4 using private means. While 70.1 per cent of primary level children walked to school, only 36.6 did so at the secondary level with 59.3 per cent of them identifying public transport as their preferred mode. Most of the students who walked to school (64.5 per cent) resided in the Rural Areas while students from the KMA registered their

TABLE 3.10
MODE OF TRANSPORTATION BY AREA (%)

	KMA (n=506)	Other Towns (n=290)	Rural (n=949)	Total (n=1745)
Walk	39.1	60.0	65.2	56.7
Public	54.7	37.2	32.4	39.7
Private	6.1	2.8	2.2	3.4
Total	100	100	100	100

TABLE 3.11
MODE OF TRANSPORTATION BY NUMBER OF DAYS' ATTENDANCE (%)

	0 days	1 days	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days
Walk	9.4	0.8	2.0	3.6	8.6	75.6
Public	5.3	0.3	1.6	6.2	6.2	84.5
Private	1.7	1.7	1.7	3.3	3.3	86.7

principal mode of transportation as 'public transport' (See Table 3.10). Only 60 students were said to use 'private transportation' and most of them, approximately 52.0 per cent, were KMA residents.

From the data there seems to be some relationship between mode of transportation and attendance. In the instance of children walking to school the percentage of those attaining full attendance at 75.6 per cent was low compared to those using public transportation (84.5 per cent) and those travelling by private means (86.7 per cent). There was also a higher incidence of non-attendance among the group walking than those using any form of transportation. The incidence of walking was highest in the rural areas and among children from the poorer quintiles.

PARTICIPATION IN WELFARE PROGRAMMES

An assessment was made of students' participation in the two major programmes funded by government with a view to determining the coverage attained, and the degree to which they are progressive in the spread of benefits. The School Feeding Programme and the Primary and Secondary Textbook Programme were examined. As the former was dealt with to some extent in the November 1989 Survey Report, more emphasis will be placed here on the Textbooks programme.

School Feeding

It was found that the government-assisted School Feeding Programme had a wide outreach benefiting some 73.9 per

cent of the students in Primary and All Age and 46.8 per cent in Secondary schools. The Nutribun and Milk programme catered to approximately 60.0 per cent of those receiving meals in Primary and All Age schools and approximately 10.0 per cent of those in Secondary schools.

Coverage at the primary level decreased compared to the previous survey period but secondary students, especially those in New Secondary schools, recorded higher levels of participation.

The programme continued to be self-targetting with the result that children in the wealthier quintiles had as much access to it as those of the poorer groups and in fact used the programme almost equally (See Table 3.13). Of note, however, is the finding that some 10.0 per cent less children in the wealthiest quintile participated in the Nutribun programme than those in the poorest quintile. The former were also more than twice as likely as the latter to use the Other programme. The data further reveal that while government subsidized lunch expenses for all consumption groups, the amount of the subsidy accessed by the wealthiest was less than that accessed by the poorest.

The distribution of students receiving meals by area shows that 61.6 per cent of those in the KMA, 77.4 per cent of those in Other Towns and 77.3 per cent of those in Rural Areas received meals at school. The Nutribun and Milk category has the widest coverage in all areas supplying between 41.0 and 52.0 per cent of the students receiving meals. In the Rural area, however, the Cooked Lunch programme was well patronized and supplied approximately one-fifth of the students.

Students receiving the Nutribun and Milk snack continued to pay \$0.20 per day while those participating in the Cooked Lunch and Other programmes paid substantially more. The result is that mean daily expenditure on lunch was significantly higher than \$0.20 - being \$3.00 at the primary and \$6.00 at the secondary level. The higher cost at the secondary level is understandable, given the fact that government-assisted programmes are operated only to a very small extent in these schools.

Overall, some 71.8 per cent of the students participated in school feeding programmes.

TABLE 3.12
STUDENTS RECEIVING MEALS BY SCHOOL TYPE (%)

	Nutri-bun	Cooked Meal	Other	No Meals	Total
Primary (n=627)	63.2	11.2	5.3	20.4	100
All Age (n=580)	56.0	17.6	3.6	22.8	100
New Secondary (n=272)	18.0	23.5	13.6	44.9	100
Comprehensive High (n=21)	4.8	33.3	9.5	52.4	100
Technical High (n=30)	0	30.0	36.7	33.3	100
Secondary High (n=194)	1.0	26.8	21.6	50.5	100
Vocational (n=10)	0	30	20.0	50.0	100

TABLE 3.13
STUDENTS RECEIVING MEALS BY QUINTILE (%)

	Nutri-bun	Cooked Meal	Other	No Meals	Total
Poorest (n=397)	44.8	18.1	5.8	31.2	100
2 (n=366)	51.0	16.1	6.3	26.5	100
3 (n=369)	46.1	16.5	7.6	29.8	100
4 (n=338)	43.8	18.6	12.4	25.1	100
5 (n=264)	34.1	19.7	12.1	34.1	100

Textbooks

Two textbook programmes are currently operated by the government in association with a number of local private and international organizations. At the primary level a set of books covering the core curriculum area are given to children each year, free of cost, and at the secondary level, a textbook rental scheme is established in all schools, public and private, so as to make the books that are needed more available at affordable cost. The coverage of both programmes is assessed below.

It was found that although 83.8 per cent of primary level students had some books, only 53.0 per cent of them were said to be in possession of full sets of books even though the school year was less than a term old. (A full set of books at the primary level includes those supplied by the Ministry of Education as well as books recommended by the school as being required texts. At the secondary level, it comprises the required texts for each subject.) Investigations showed that problems with the distribution of books during that term could have contributed to this, as a number of schools were not fully supplied until the following term.

In an attempt to determine the extent to which government assists in the acquisition of books, the data were analyzed to identify the welfare status of persons having books and the proportion assisted by government in the acquisition of those books. The data show that there is a strong relationship between the possession of the full required set of books and consumption status, but that government plays a stronger role in the acquisition of books by the poorer groups than it does for the wealthier.

As shown in Tables 3.15 and 3.16, government played the major role in acquisition of books by the third to poorest

quintiles and this fact in itself, coupled with the late delivery for the 1990/91 academic year could explain the low level of possession of books, especially of full sets, by these quintiles.

Approximately 88.0 per cent of students at the secondary level were reported to have had books, with 54.7 per cent having full sets. The pattern of ownership of full sets of books at this level mirrors that at the primary level, with ownership rising steadily with welfare status. There was, however, no rigorous pattern of government assistance in the acquisition of the books, but it was observed that the greatest assistance was rendered to the poorest quintile, 51.6 per cent of whom acquired textbooks with the aid of the government.

Government's assistance to all groups at this level is noticeably lower than at the primary level. This is expected because the programmes at both levels are distinct in nature, the one providing books free and the other making them more accessible through the rental scheme, requiring financial outlay by the beneficiaries. There was no difference in the ownership of textbooks by gender at either schooling level.

Respondents reportedly spent an average of \$161 per year on primary school books compared to mean annual expenditure of \$383 on books for secondary students. These expenditures are complementary to the subsidies provided by government under the Primary and Secondary Textbook Programmes and, in the case of the primary level, are made to supplement books provided by government. It can be assumed that the expenditure at the secondary level was comprised principally of rental fees.

Other Methods of Obtaining Textbooks

The shortfall of books not provided by the government was filled by a number of means including private purchase,

TABLE 3.14
STUDENTS RECEIVING MEALS BY AREA (%)

	Nutri-bun	Cooked Meal	Other	No Meal	Total
KMA (n=500)	41.0	12.4	8.2	38.4	100
Other Towns (n=283)	51.9	15.9	9.5	22.6	100
Rural Area (n=951)	44.3	21.0	8.4	26.3	100

TABLE 3.15
PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT'S OWNERSHIP OF
TEXTBOOKS BY QUINTILE (%)

	Owning Complete Set	Owning complete set with Government assistance (n=579)
Poorest	46.3	66.3
2	56.3	73.2
3	64.4	67.2
4	76.0	49.6
5	82.4	38.9

TABLE 3.16
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' OWNERSHIP OF
TEXTBOOKS BY QUINTILE (%)

	Owning Complete Set	Owning complete set with Government assistance (n=385)
Poorest	54.7	51.6
2	54.2	39.2
3	61.0	31.4
4	64.5	29.2
5	76.0	32.6

borrowing or passing down from one sibling to another. Most persons acquired additional books by purchasing, while 23.9 per cent had acquired no books additional to those procured with the assistance of the Government (See Table 3.17).

The method of acquiring additional books was relatively uniform by area with most persons in all three areas obtaining books by purchase (See Table 3.18).

Though uniformly the highest ranked method of obtaining additional books, the incidence of purchasing was greater for secondary students (70.3 per cent) than for those at the primary level (63.3 per cent).

The two welfare programmes assessed undoubtedly benefited the poorest groups most, but by their self-targeting nature they also provided some level of subsidy to those in the wealthier quintiles.

OUTLAY ON EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

Respondents were asked to state how much their families expended on the following six major areas of schooling: Tuition and Fees, Lunch and Snacks, Uniforms, Books, Room and Board, and Other Supplies. Expenditure for all the variables represents estimated annual outlay, except that for Lunch and Snacks which is represented as an average daily expenditure. Mean expenditures at the primary and secondary levels are presented in Table 3.19.

As one would expect, more was spent on the various items at the secondary level than at the primary. This partly reflects government's assistance for primary education through the provision of books, subsidised meals and, to a lesser extent, uniforms. Tuition fees were unexpectedly higher at the primary level where, except for private preparatory schools, no tuition fees are officially sanctioned. Fees at the preparatory schools are, however, significantly higher than those for secondary schools, and this fact coupled with the possibility that persons may have categorized the number of ancillary fees payable as tuition fees, might be responsible for this finding.

Expenditure on Primary Education

Table 3.20 shows expenditure on primary education by quintile. It highlights a wide disparity in spending between the poorest and wealthiest quintiles with the latter spending four times the amount spent by the former. Tuition fees accounted for much of this difference being over ten times more costly for the wealthiest quintile. This, it is believed, bears direct relationship to the school type in which the children were enrolled, and the expenditure level by the fifth quintile suggests that most of their children were enrolled in private preparatory schools which are fee-charging. The data suggest that the children of the poorest to third quintile, on the other hand, are enrolled mainly in public schools.

The pattern of expenditure on uniforms, other supplies and books while showing a distinct relationship with consumption status, can be said to be fairly uniform up to the fourth quintile in the sense that the difference in mean expenditure between quintiles is small. The gap between the poorest and the wealthiest is wide, however, and in the case of books, the wealthiest spend twice as much as the poorest. This may be related to the pattern of ownership of full sets of books and government's assistance in their procurement, as discussed earlier under Welfare Programmes. It may also be associated with the fact that most of the children of the fifth quintile attend private schools and are therefore not

TABLE 3.17
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS' SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL TEXTBOOKS BY QUINTILE (%)

	Poorest	2	3	4	5	All
No others	29.3	26.7	29.0	20.6	11.2	23.9
Purchase	60.0	60.3	61.0	71.7	80.8	66.1
Gift	1.8	3.4	1.5	0.3	1.6	1.7
Sibling	6.0	4.1	2.7	1.6	3.6	3.6
Other	3.0	5.8	5.8	5.5	2.8	4.6

TABLE 3.18
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' SOURCE OF
ADDITIONAL TEXTBOOKS BY AREA (%)

	KMA (n=451)	Other Towns (n=243)	Rural (n=822)
No other	17.1	19.3	29.1
Purchase	74.9	69.1	60.3
Gift	0	1.6	2.7
Sibling	4.2	3.3	3.4
Other	3.8	6.6	4.4

eligible to obtain the textbooks issued to primary students under the Primary Textbook Programme.

Expenditure on lunch can also be said to be relatively uniform but again the fifth quintile expends much more than other groups. This may again be related to their low access to the welfare school feeding programme, that is, the heavily subsidised Nutribun programme.

Overall, based on the total expenditure for areas of schooling, it can be said that the poorer groups benefitted most from government subsidies (both direct and indirect) to education at this level and that even where self-targetting programmes (such as school feeding) exist, the wealthier groups are found to take advantage of them, but do so to a lesser extent than the poorer groups.

Analysis of the data on expenses at primary level by area shows tuition costs to be the single most expensive item in most areas, with the exception of Rural where it is the second highest. Tuition expenses were also highest in the KMA reflecting the fact that most fee-charging private preparatory schools are located in this area. Uniform expenses show no distinct pattern by area, but expenditure on books was highest in the KMA and lowest in the Rural Areas, thus approximating the pattern of ownership of books by area and quintile. The pattern of mean expenditure on lunch and snacks shows an inverse relationship to participation in the government-assisted school feeding programme by area. Thus average daily expenditure is highest in the KMA where participation is lowest.

From the data, it can be said that the pattern of expenditure on the selected areas of schooling is directly related to

welfare status, the wealthiest quintile spending significantly more than others. Expenditure on items receiving government support shows that the government programmes are progressively targetted (though by self-selection) to the poorer quintiles who depend on and access them to a greater degree than the wealthier groups.

Expenditure on Secondary Education

Respondents reportedly spent, on average, approximately \$1300 per student on Tuition, Books, Uniform and Other Supplies on an annual basis. This estimate excludes Boarding costs which are borne by a negligible fraction of the sample, and Transportation and Lunch expenses, the annual cost of which items is dependent on the attendance pattern of the child. Assuming, however, that a child attends school regularly for the school year, his/her Lunch and Transportation costs could be \$1,080 and \$608, respectively.

The data show a direct relationship between consumption status and all items of expenditure shown above, with the latter rising as consumption status improves. The pattern of expenditure can be linked to a number of other features in the data, viz., school type attended by student, participation in welfare programmes and ownership of books. In the case of Tuition Fees, it is noted that while payment by the poorest quintile approximates that of the second, it is only a quarter of that paid by the wealthiest.

This is in keeping with the fact that 39.0 and 37.0 per cent, respectively, of the children of the two poorest quintiles were enrolled in the government-owned All Age schools. In contrast, 10.0 per cent of the children of the fifth quintile were in these schools, but the majority (50.0 per cent) were enrolled in Secondary High schools. It can be concluded then, that the disproportionately high tuition costs borne by the wealthier group is directly related to their enrolment in the more costly Secondary High schools with mean tuition expenditure of \$689. Similarly, the wide difference in expenditure on books may be associated with the fact that the wealthiest quintile had a 21.3 per cent higher level of ownership of complete sets of required books than their poorest counterparts. They also recorded a substantially lower level of government assistance in the procurement of the books. Their expenditures were therefore higher not only because they purchase more books but also because they were more likely than the poorest to spend their own money to purchase the books.

Expenditure on other supplies is believed to be linked to the school type attended, and expenditure on uniforms indicates that the wealthiest have more sets of uniforms than the

TABLE 3.19
MEAN ANNUAL OUTLAY ON SCHOOL EXPENSES BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL (\$)

	Tuition	Uniform	Books	Board	Other Supplies	Lunch
Primary (n=1129)	751	224	161	60	77	3
Secondary (n=554)	417	318	383	850	137	6
All (n=1683)	538	255	241	692	97	4

TABLE 3.20
MEAN ANNUAL OUTLAY ON SCHOOL EXPENSES BY
QUINTILE (%)

	Tuition	Uniform	Books	Board	Other Supplies	Lunch
Poorest	110	197	114	60	44	2
2	227	202	143	0	60	3
3	231	229	138	0	79	3
4	907	232	184	0	93	4
5	1409	297	253	0	125	5

other groups. Lunch expenses mirror participation in the school feeding programme in which it was seen that the richer children participated more in the cooked lunch and other programmes which are the most costly ones. The relatively low expenditure on lunch by the poorest group must be related to the point made earlier that they are most likely to be enrolled in the All Age schools which participate in the Nutribun programme.

Generally, there was a wide variation in mean expenditure on the selected items by school type - being lowest overall for the least prestigious All Age schools and highest for the most prestigious Secondary High schools (See Table 3.23). At the individual school level, tuition and book expenses represented the highest outlay by respondents. Again, exception is made in the case of Boarding which had the highest mean costs but so few respondents (n=4) that it cannot be taken to be representative. Variations in mean costs for Other Supplies and Books are expected to be related to the school type but more directly so to the type of curriculum followed.

Examination of the data on expenditure at the secondary level by area shows that, excluding payments for boarding fees, respondents in the KMA made the largest outlay on educational expenses (See Table 3.24). Rural area respondents made the lowest in keeping with the predominance of

the All Age schools in those areas and also in keeping with their lower income levels generally. It is to be noted that All Age schools by the very nature of their curriculum would have relatively low Book and Other Supplies costs. This school type also has primary level departments and thus benefits, unlike other secondary schools, from such welfare programmes as school feeding and free texts. In short, government subsidy on these items is only accessed at the secondary level by the All Age school.

Expenditure in Other Towns and the KMA was relatively equal and would be reflective of the presence of similar school types in those areas.

PERSONS NOT IN SCHOOL

This section examines the extent to which persons of school age were not enrolled in school and identifies the reasons for non-enrolment, including the possibility of student drop-outs. Some 1100 persons in the 6-24 age group were identified as being out of school. Only 0.4 per cent of these fell in the 6-11 age group; 7.5 per cent were in the 12-16 age group and 92.1 per cent in the age group 17-24 years.

Among the group, 8.8 per cent had attained primary education only, while the remainder had varying levels of secondary education. While there was no relationship between the attainment of secondary education and status, for those with primary education only, there was a distinct relationship between welfare status and educational level attained (See Table 3.25).

The reasons given for leaving school revealed that most of the persons (60.7 per cent) had in fact completed their desired level of study while an additional 8.0 per cent reportedly left school after having failed their exams.

All other reasons identified can be associated with school abandonment (See Table 3.26). Among the 12-16 year olds,

TABLE 3.21
MEAN ANNUAL OUTLAY ON PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPENSES BY AREA (\$)

	Tuition	Uniform	Books	Board	Other Supplies	Lunch
KMA	1066	247	217	0	103	4
Other Town	567	220	169	0	69	3
Rural	462	215	131	60	576	2

TABLE 3.22
MEAN ANNUAL OUTLAY ON SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPENSES BY QUINTILE (\$)

	Tuition	Uniform	Books	Board	Other Supplies	Lunch
Poorest	170	204	220	0	78	3
2	179	252	214	0	99	4
3	346	282	311	200	129	6
4	461	316	347	1000	126	6
5	686	420	554	1200	160	8

TABLE 3.23
MEAN ANNUAL OUTLAY ON SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPENSES BY SCHOOL TYPE (\$)

	Tuition	Uniform	Books	Board	Other Supplies	Lunch
All Age	242	217	154	0	66	4
New Secondary	163	270	248	0	120	5
Comprehensive	405	392	482	0	98	6
Technical	358	268	371	200	170	7
Secondary High	689	389	567	1067	155	7
Vocational/ Agricultural	920	249	206	0	209	3

lack of interest in school was a major reason for school abandonment at 22.5 per cent of total. There were only slight differences in the reasons given by males and females for being out of school.

A slightly higher percentage of boys than girls had left school after having completed their desired level of study; however, there was a higher level of school drop-out among boys than among girls. The data show, for example, that boys were more likely than girls to have left school because of lack of interest, finding school work difficult or taking a job. On the other hand, pregnancy was the leading cause of school drop-out among girls (See Table 3.26).

TABLE 3.24
MEAN ANNUAL OUTLAY ON SECONDARY SCHOOL EXPENSES BY AREA (\$)

	Tuition	Uniform	Books	Board	Other	Lunch
KMA	489	324	419	0	164	7
Other Towns	563	335	345	1067	98	6
Rural	274	265	289	200	109	5

TABLE 3.25
PERSONS OF SCHOOL AGE NOT IN SCHOOL BY EDUCATIONAL LEVEL ATTAINED BY QUINTILE (%)

	Poorest	2	3	4	5
Primary (n=97)	34.3	28.3	20.2	9.1	8.1
Secondary (n=1108)	19.9	19.6	22.9	22.0	15.6

Reasons for Leaving School by Quintile

Finishing the desired course of study was uniformly indicated as the principal reason for quitting school by all quintiles. However, quitting on completion of studies is directly related to welfare status with the wealthier quintiles showing

a higher incidence of this than the poorer. In the same way, the poorer groups recorded a higher incidence of some of the reasons more directly associated with school drop-out such as lack of interest, pregnancy and not being able to afford schools. (See Table 3.27).

Current Occupational Activities of Persons not in School

Analysis of the employment status of persons in this group shows that slightly more than a half of them were employed as wage earners, 49.6 per cent working during the day and an additional 1.0 per cent working part-time at night. Approximately 15.0 per cent of the group were reportedly seeking employment while the others were involved in domestic activities such as caring for children and other housework. Table 3.28 shows activities in which the group was involved by area. In all three areas most of the respondents were employed but the employment level was highest for KMA residents and lowest for those in the rural areas. This might be related to the fact that the KMA and Other Towns would have a higher level of employment opportunities than the Rural Areas given the concentration of industrial, manufacturing and other non-agricultural activities in those areas. It might also be associated with the educational attainment of the respondents and with their reasons for leaving school. In the case of the latter, the KMA had the highest percentage of those leaving school on completion of course of study (67.4 per cent), compared to 59.0 per cent in Other Towns and 57.0 per cent in Rural Areas. The job seeking rate was highest among rural area respondents (17.3 per cent) but the incidence of job seeking was equal among those in the KMA and Other Towns.

Employment status among the group is directly related to welfare status with those in the highest quintile having a 10.0 per cent higher level of employment than average employment for the group as a whole and some 20.0 per cent more than that for the poorest quintile (See Table 3.28).

Seeking employment follows no distinct pattern by consumption group but by, contrast, there is a marked pattern relating to child caring activities with the incidence of this falling as consumption rises. As shown by the data, the poorest are several times more likely than the wealthiest to be caring for their own children after having quit school. This is partly attributable to the fact that pregnancy as a

TABLE 3.26
REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL BY AGE AND SEX (%)

Reason	Age			Sex		All (n=1061)
	6-11 (n=4)	12-16 (n=16)	17-24 (n=978)	Male (n=536)	Female (n=525)	
Successfully completed study	50.0	30.0	63.1	61.3	59.8	60.7
Completed study but failed exam	0.0	6.3	8.4	9.3	7.0	8.1
School too difficult	0.0	2.5	1.4	2.4	0.6	1.5
Lack of interest	50.0	22.5	7.1	9.3	6.1	8.4
Found employment	0.0	7.5	3.8	5.8	2.3	4.0
Pregnancy	0.0	11.3	5.9	0.0	12.8	6.3
Needed at home	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.3
Lack of money	0.0	8.8	5.1	5.9	4.9	5.5
Relocated from area	0.0	5.0	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2
Other	0.0	6.2	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.0

reason for leaving school is highest among the poorest quintile which also has the lowest level of employment.

Occupational activity by gender shows that there is a relatively high employment rate (70.1 per cent) among the males in the group whereas less than a third (28.8 per cent) of the females were employed outside of the home (See Table 3.28).

The wide disparity in employment between the sexes, though somewhat startling, is reflective of the low level of

female participation in the labour force. It is seen, for example, that a large portion of the females (36.6 per cent) were involved in child care activities compared to a low level of involvement (2.0 per cent) by the males. A larger percentage of females than males also carried out other domestic activities in keeping with societal norms.

At the same time, females were more likely to be unsuccessful in the labour market with 19.0 per cent of them compared to 13.4 per cent of the males seeking employment.

TABLE 3.27
REASONS FOR LEAVING SCHOOL BY QUINTILE (%)

	Poorest	2	3	4	5	Total
Successfully completed study	54.0	54.1	60.4	64.6	73.8	60.7
Completed study but failed exam	7.9	11.5	8.3	7.3	4.9	8.1
Too difficult	1.6	0.5	1.3	2.3	1.8	1.5
Lack of interest	11.8	11.9	8.7	5.4	2.4	8.4
Found employment	2.2	3.2	5.0	4.1	6.1	4.0
Pregnancy	9.2	9.2	3.7	5.9	2.4	6.3
Needed at home	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.6	0.3
Lack of money	8.3	4.1	5.4	5.4	3.7	5.5
Relocated from area	0.8	1.4	2.5	0.4	0.6	1.2
Other	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.6	3.6	4.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

TABLE 3.28
OCCUPATIONAL ACTIVITY OF PERSONS OF SCHOOL AGE NOT IN SCHOOL BY QUINTILE, AREA AND SEX

	Work	Work at Night	Care own Child	Care Family Member Child	Other House work	Seeking Employment	Stay Home	Visit	Other
Quintile									
Poorest	39.5	0.4	19.3	7.9	10.1	17.5	4.0	1.0	0.5
2	42.9	1.8	16.6	8.3	10.6	13.8	2.3	3.2	0.5
3	53.1	0.4	10.5	5.9	7.5	18.0	2.5	1.7	0.4
4	54.6	1.4	8.6	5.9	12.7	11.4	1.4	3.6	0.4
5	61.0	0.6	4.3	5.5	8.5	14.6	3.1	1.8	0.6
Area									
KMA	55.9	1.0	10.7	3.8	11.0	12.8	1.7	2.8	0.3
Other Towns	49.2	1.0	15.0	8.3	10.1	12.4	1.6	1.0	0.5
Rural	46.7	0.8	12.1	7.7	9.1	17.3	3.4	2.4	0.5
Sex									
Male	70.1	1.1	0.7	1.3	8.8	13.4	3.3	3.2	..
Female	28.8	1.0	24.2	12.4	10.7	19.0	1.7	2.1	..
All Jamaica (n=1068)	49.6	1.0	12.3	6.7	9.9	15.2	2.1	2.3	0.5

Health

The November 1990 round of the Survey of Living Conditions included only the core questions on health. These included information about self-reported illness/injury, the use and cost of medical care; nutritional status and vaccination coverage of children less than five years. This report describes the findings of the round and makes comparisons with previous rounds.

Self-reported illness or injury

The SLC measures the health status of the population using indicators of self-reported illness/injury, duration of the condition and level of medical care sought.

In November 1990, 18.3 per cent of the population reported ill health (Table 4.1). The prevalence of illness and the length of the condition varied by consumption quintile, area of residence, sex and age groups.

More persons in the higher consumption quintiles reported illness/injury, but fewer reported chronic illness/injury - i.e. in the two lowest consumption quintiles, one-quarter of those reporting some infirmity said that the condition began more than four weeks before the reference period compared with 16-17 per cent of the two highest quintiles. This suggests that persons in the lower consumption quintiles suffer more from chronic conditions.

TABLE 4.1
PERSONS SUFFERING ILLNESS OR INJURY

Quintile	Percent reporting illness/injury	Condition began before past 4 weeks (%)	Mean days of illness/injury	Mean days of impairment	Percent seeking medical care (%)
Poorest (n=1448)	17.3	24.9	10.1	5.0	35.7
2 (n=1446)	16.0	24.8	11.1	4.8	38.0
3 (n=1445)	16.3	17.6	9.1	4.9	38.8
4 (n=1450)	22.1	16.9	10.0	4.6	40.2
6 (n=1427)	19.8	15.6	10.3	4.6	39.7
Area					
A (n=2004)	17.4	18.2	9.9	3.8	40.5
Other Towns (n=1275)	22.3	15.5	9.8	5.4	40.9
Rural (n=3937)	17.5	22.1	10.4	5.0	36.8
Sex					
Male (n=3560)	16.3	18.4	10.2	4.9	37.9
Female (n=3656)	20.3	20.6	10.2	4.6	39.2
Age (years)					
Less than 1 (n=142)	23.9	0.0	7.3	2.8	58.8
1-4 (n=655)	30.4	7.6	9.3	3.2	43.4
5-13 (n=1569)	21.1	9.4	7.5	3.6	28.7
14-39 (n=3041)	12.0	10.5	8.1	3.6	38.4
40-59 (n=984)	16.7	27.2	12.7	6.1	42.3
60+ (n=824)	27.8	57.0	16.4	8.8	43.4
All Jamaica (n=7216)	18.3	19.6	10.1	4.7	38.6

TABLE 4.2
SELF REPORTED ILLNESS /INJURY 1988-1990

	% reporting illness/injury	% with condition beginning more than 4 weeks ago	Mean days of illness/injury
1988	16	n.a.	11
1989 (July)	17	33	11
1989 (Nov.)	18	n.a.	11
1990	18	20	10

Residents in Other Towns reported more illnesses than those in KMA or in the Rural Areas, but had the lowest percentage of chronic illness. Residents in Rural Areas (22 per cent) reported the most illnesses that were suffered for an extended period, i.e. more than four weeks before the reference period.

Females reported more illness/injury and more protracted conditions than males. Children less than 5 years and the elderly reported more illnesses/injuries than any of the other age groups. However, as would be expected, the percentage of chronic conditions was very low in the very young and increased with age. Among the elderly, over half of those reporting illness said that their state was chronic.

The trend in higher prevalence of self-reported illness or injury among women, persons living in towns, the young and the elderly compares well to the pattern found in previous rounds of the SLC. However, this round, unlike earlier ones, revealed differences by consumption quintile as noted above.

Illnesses/injuries lasted an average of 10.1 days. Duration of illness/injury did not vary by income group, area of residence or sex, but marked differences were recorded between age-groups. The mean period of ill health was considerably shorter among children (7 - 9 days) than adults (12.7 days) and the elderly (16.4 days).

Overall, the average length of restricted activity was 4.7 days. There were no sex differentials nor differences in area or income groups, but the mean period of disability varied substantially, i.e. from 2.8 to 8.8 days, between age-groups increasing with age.

The trend in self-reported illness/injury between 1988 and 1990 is shown in Table 4.2. Very little difference was observed

TABLE 4.3
PERSONS SEEKING HEALTH CARE BY QUINTILE, AREA, SEX AND AGE

	Public	Private	Primary	Outpatient	Hospitalization
Quintile					
Poorest	51.1	48.9	70.3	26.4	3.2
2	43.0	57.0	79.3	16.1	4.6
3	48.4	51.7	73.6	19.8	6.6
4	34.4	65.6	73.6	21.7	4.7
5	25.9	74.1	75.0	21.4	3.6
Area					
KMA	39.0	61.0	68.8	27.7	2.8
Other					
Towns	37.9	62.1	70.7	24.1	5.2
Rural	40.4	59.6	79.1	16.2	4.7
Sex					
Male	42.5	57.5	70.1	24.9	5.0
Female	37.2	62.9	77.5	18.3	4.2
Age (yrs)					
0	52.6	47.4	84.2	15.8	0.0
1-4	54.7	45.4	70.9	27.9	1.2
5-13	46.2	53.8	70.5	26.3	3.2
14-39	27.3	72.7	79.8	13.7	6.5
40-59	25.0	75.0	76.4	13.9	9.7
60+	45.4	54.6	69.4	27.6	3.1
All					
Jamaica	39.4	60.6	74.3	21.2	4.5

in self-reported illness/injury and a high degree of consistency is noted in the findings over the three-year period. The biggest difference occurred in the percentage of those with conditions of long duration, where 33 per cent reported protracted conditions in 1989 but only 20 per cent did so in 1990. Unfortunately, this information was not obtained in other rounds of the survey, so that this observation is difficult to explain.

Use of Health Care

With respect to health care seeking behaviour, wealthier persons (39.7 per cent) and urban dwellers (40.5 per cent) were more likely to seek medical care in response to illness than the poorest (35.7 per cent) or rural households (36.8

TABLE 4.4
PERSONS SEEKING HEALTH CARE BY SOURCE AND LEVEL OF CARE

	% seeking care	Source of Care		Level of Care		
		Public	Private	Primary	Level Out-Patient	Hospitalisation
1988	55	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1989 (July)	55	43	56	79	17	4
1989 (Nov.)	49	39	61	78	19	3
1990	39	39	61	74	21	5