



# **JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS**

## **REPORT**

**1993**

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

***April 1995***

**Copyright © 1995 by  
Statistical Institute of Jamaica  
Planning Institute of Jamaica**

**All rights reserved**

**A Joint Publication of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and  
The Planning Institute of Jamaica**

**The Statistical Institute of Jamaica  
97B Church Street,  
Kingston  
Jamaica, West Indies**

**Telephone: (809) 967-2680-9  
Fax: (809) 967-2239**

**The Planning Institute of Jamaica  
8 Ocean Boulevard  
Kingston  
Jamaica, West Indies**

**Telephone: (809) 967-3689-99  
Fax: (809) 967-3688**

**Printed in Jamaica by United Co-operative Printers Limited**

**Printed April 1995**

# JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

## Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
LIST OF CHAPTER TABLES .....	v
LIST OF FIGURES.....	viii
LIST OF STANDARD TABLES.....	ix
OVERVIEW .....	xii
CHAPTER 1	
Demographic Characteristics .....	1
CHAPTER 2	
Household Consumption .....	5
CHAPTER 3	
Education .....	17
CHAPTER 4	
Health .....	27
CHAPTER 5	
Food Stamp Programme .....	37
CHAPTER 6	
Housing .....	45
STANDARD TABLES .....	53
APPENDICES .....	113
Appendix I - Survey Design .....	114
Appendix II - Some Technical Aspects.....	121
ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS .....	129

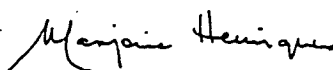
## Preface

The data made available by the Survey of Living Conditions since its inception in 1988 provide an important measure of the manner in which household welfare has been affected by the macro-economic policies associated with structural adjustment. The survey gleans household data from a subset of the population covered by the Labour Force Survey. Information is collected on consumption, health, education, nutrition, housing, demographic characteristics, and the food stamp programme.

The 1993 Report presents a descriptive analysis of the findings of the survey. In addition to the perspectives mentioned above, this survey collected data on Employment and Time Use. This additional module will be analysed in other papers.

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

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



**Marjorie Henriques**  
Director General  
The Planning Institute  
of Jamaica  
March 1995



**Vernon James**  
Director General  
The Statistical Institute  
of Jamaica  
March 1995



# Acknowledgements

The contribution of all those who helped to prepare this document is gratefully acknowledged.

Special mention is due to the staff at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) in the Surveys and Computer Systems Divisions and, in particular, to Mr. Pattisapu Murthy, Mr. Hubert Sherrard and Ms. Isbeth Bernard. Staff from the Social and Manpower Planning Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) also contributed significantly, including Dr. Dennis Brown, Mr. Colin Williams, Mrs. Aldrie Henry-Lee, Mrs. Heather Ricketts, Ms. Terry Ranglin and Miss Ann Marie Chandler; contribution was also made by Ms. Pauline McHardy, a Consultant. The work of editing and desktop publishing was done by the Research, Publication and Documentation Division of the Planning Institute.

# List of Chapter Tables

## CHAPTER 1 - DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Table 1.1	Age Profile of Population for Selected Years, 1975 - 1993 (Percentages)
Table 1.2	Household Composition, Jamaica, 1990 - 1993
Table 1.3	Distribution of Households by Size, (Selected Years), 1975 - 1993
Table 1.4	Household Composition by Sex of Household Head, SLC 90 to SLC 93
Table 1.5	percentage Distribution of Household Heads by Sex and Age Groups, SLC 93
Table 1.6	Household Characteristics by Per Capita Consumption Quintiles, SLC 90 to SLC 93
Table 1.7	Distribution of Household Members by Regions, SLC 92 and SLC 93

## CHAPTER 2 - HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION

Table 2.1	Mean Per Capita Annual Consumption Expenditure 1988 - 1993
Table 2.2	Indices of Mean Per Capita Consumption by Area, 1989 - 1993 (Base: Jamaica = 100)
Table 2.3	Mean Per Capita Consumption Expenditure by Area, SLC 90 - 93
Table 2.4	Mean Food and Non-food Consumption Expenditure by Area, SLC 92 and SLC 93
Table 2.5	Percentage Share of Commodity Groups in Total Per Capita Consump-

tion, Jamaica, SLC 90 to SLC 93 (at current prices)

Table 2.6	Percentage Shares of Commodity Groups in Total Per Capita Consumption, by Regions, SLC 92 and SLC 93 (at current prices)
Table 2.7	Percentage Change in Group Expenditure in SLC 90 to SLC 93 at Constant (Oct - Dec 1990) Prices, by Area
Table 2.8	Mean Per Capita Consumption by Sex of Household Head, SLC 92 and SLC 93
Table 2.9	Distribution of Consumption by Deciles, SLC 90 - 93
Table 2.10	Mean Per Capita Annual Value of Home Production and Gifts Consumed, by Area, SLC 93
Table 2.11	Home Production and Gifts as Percentage of Total Consumption, by Area, SLC 90 - 93
Table 2.12	Mean Per Capita Annual Expenditure on Consumption and Non-Consumption Items by Area and Quintile, SLC 93
Table 2.13	Cumulative Distribution of Households by Monthly Household Consumption Expenditure, by Area, SLC 93 (Per Cent)
Table 2.14	Percentage of Households Whose Present Level of Consumption is Less Than Adequate, SLC 93

### CHAPTER 3 - EDUCATION

Table 3.1	Enrolment Rate by Age Group and Education Level, 1989 - 1993
Table 3.2	Enrolment in Secondary and Tertiary Institutions, 1989 - 1993
Table 3.3	School Enrolment of 3-24 Year Olds, by Quintile, 1989 - 1993
Table 3.4	Enrolment Rate, by Age and Area, 1990 - 1993
Table 3.5	Enrolment in Secondary and Tertiary Institutions, by Area, 1990 - 1993
Table 3.6	Highest Grade Achieved by Out-of-School Children (Percentage), by Area, 1990 - 1993
Table 3.7	Highest Grade Achieved by Out-of-School Children (Percentage), by Sex, 1990 - 1993

### CHAPTER 4 - HEALTH

Table 4.1	Mean Number of Days of Illness and Impairment and Percentage Reporting Protracted Illness, 1989 - 1993
Table 4.2	Reported Illness, Use of Medical Facilities and Prevalence of Health Insurance, by Consumption Quintile, 1989 - 1993
Table 4.3	Level of Care (Percentage of Respondents) Used in Jamaica, 1989 - 1993
Table 4.4	Mean Patient Expenditure (\$) on Health Care in Private and Public Facilities, 1989 - 1993
Table 4.5	Reported Illness, Use of Medical Facilities and Prevalence of Health Insurance, by Sex, 1989-1993
Table 4.6	Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Malnutrition (Percentage of Children), 1989 - 1993
Table 4.7	Prevalence of Malnutrition (Percentage of Children), by Area
Table 4.8	Prevalence of Malnutrition (Percentage of Children), by Quintile, 1989 - 1993
Table 4.9	Prevalence of Malnutrition (Percentage of Children), by Sex, 1989 - 1993

Table 4.10	Prevalence of Malnutrition (Percentage of Children) by Age, 1991 - 1993
------------	---

### CHAPTER 5 - FOOD STAMP PROGRAMME

Table 5.1	Distribution of Benefits by Established Targets, by Category of Recipient, 1992 - 1993
Table 5.2	Distribution of Food Stamps by Category of Recipient, by Area and Quintile, 1993
Table 5.3	Distribution of Total Benefits by Categories, by Area and Quintile, 1993
Table 5.4	Percentage of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps and Distribution of Recipients, by Area and Quintile, 1990 - 1993
Table 5.5	Percentage of Households Receiving Food Stamps and Distribution of Households, by Area and Quintile, 1990 - 1993
Table 5.6	Distribution of Households Receiving Food Stamps According to Number of Recipients in Household, by Area and Quintile, 1992 - 1993

### CHAPTER 6 - HOUSING

Table 6.1	Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Types, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.2	Percentage Distribution of Tenure Status of Households, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.3	Percentage Distribution of Type of Toilet Facilities, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.4	Percentage Distribution of Utilities, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.5	Mean Monthly Expenses in Constant Prices (\$)
Table 6.6	Monthly Mortgage Expenditure, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.7	Monthly Rent Expenditure, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.8	Monthly Expenditure on Electricity, 1990 - 1993
Table 6.9	Electricity Expenditure as a Percentage of Household Consumption Expenditure, by Quintile, 1990 - 1993

Table 6.10 Monthly Expenditure on Water, 1990 - 1993

Table 6.11 Monthly Expenditure on Telephone Services, 1990 - 1993

## APPENDIX I

Table Appendix I.1 Distribution of Household Members by Regions, SLC 92 and SLC 93

## APPENDIX II

Table Appendix II.1 National and Regional Monthly Price Indices January 1993 to March 1994 (Base: January 1988 = 100)

Table Appendix II.2 Items included in Commodity Groups and Sub-groups, SLC 93

Table Appendix II.3 Contents of STATIN's Data Set "Annual"

Table Appendix II.4 Number in Sample, Mean and Standard Error of Estimate of Per Capita Consumption, SLC 92 and SLC 93

Table Appendix II.5 Industrial and Occupational Classifications at One-Digit Level (Adopted for Labour Force Surveys 1988 to 1993)





# List of Figures

Fig. A	Consumption Levels and Health Indicators, 1989 - 1993	Fig. 4.3	Immunization Coverage, 1989 - 1993
Fig. 3.1	Attendance Rates of Poorest and Wealthiest Children	Fig. 5.1	Number of Recipients in Households Receiving Food Stamps
Fig. 3.2	Share of Nutribun Snacks Received by Each Quintile, 1993	Fig. 5.2	Percentage of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps, by Category, 1990 - 1993
Fig. 4.1	Percentage of Self-Reported Illness/Injury by Area, 1989 - 1993	Fig. 6.1	Mean Monthly Household Expenses, 1990 - 1993
Fig. 4.2	Percentage Usage of Public Health Facilities, 1989 - 1993		



# List of Standard Tables

## A. Demographic

- A-1 Distribution of Sample Households and Household Members, by Area and Quintile
- A-2 Percentage Distribution of Household Members, by Quintile, by Area
- A-3 Percentage Distribution of Households by Household Size, by Area, Quintile and Sex of Head of Household
- A-4 Household Composition, by Area and Quintile
- A-5 Household Composition by Sex of Household Head, by Area
- A-6 Household Composition by Sex of Household Head, by Quintile
- A-7 Percentage Distribution of Household Members, by Sex of Household Head, and Area, by Age Group
- A-8 Composition of Households with Females as Head, by Area and Quintile
- A-9 Composition of Households with Females as Head, by Area (Weighted by Household Size)
- A-10 Distribution of Households, by Sex of Head of Household, by Area and Quintile

## B. Household Consumption

- B-1 Mean Annual Per Capita Consumption by Area, by Commodity Group

- B-2 Mean Annual Per Capita Consumption by Quintile, by Commodity Group
- B-3 Mean Annual Per Capita Consumption by Sex of Head of Household, by Commodity Group
- B-4 Mean Annual Per Capita Food Expenditure, by Area, by Commodity Group
- B-5 Mean Annual Per Capita Food Expenditure, by Quintile, by Commodity Group
- B-6 Mean Annual Per Capita Food Expenditure by Sex of Head of Household, by Commodity Group
- B-7 Mean Annual Per Capita Consumption and Non-Consumption Expenditure, by Area, Quintile and Sex of Head of Household
- B-8 Distribution of Annual Per Capita Consumption Expenditure, by Decile and Quintile
- B-9 Percentage Distribution of Household by Annual Consumption Expenditure by Area
- B-10 Percentage Distribution of Household Annual Consumption Expenditure, by Quintile
- B-11 Percentage Distribution of Household Annual Consumption Expenditure, by Sex of Head of Household

B-12	Percentage Distribution of Households, by Area, by Household Perception of Adequacy of Consumption	D-2	Prevalence of Malnutrition Among Children Aged 0-59 Months, by Quintile
B-13	Percentage Distribution of Households by Quintile, by Household Perception of Adequacy of Consumption	D-3	Prevalence of Malnutrition Among Children Aged 0-59 Months, by Sex
<b>C. Health</b>		D-4	Prevalence of Malnutrition Among Children Aged 0-59 Months, by Age
C-1	Morbidity Among Household Members and Care-Seeking Behaviour of Those Affected by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	<b>E. Education</b>	
C-2	Use of Public/Private Sector by Ill/Injured Persons form Medical Care Purchase of Medications and Hospitalization During the Four Week Reference Period by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-1	Percentage Enrolment Rate, by Age, Education Level, Area and Sex
C-3	Level of Care by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-2	Percentage Enrolment by Education Level
C-4	Expenditure on Medical Care, by Those Ill/Injured, in Public/Private Sector by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-3	Percentage Enrolled in Public and Private Institutions, by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age
C-5	Immunization Coverage of Children (0-11 Months Old) by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-4	Percentage Enrolment Rate by Age, Education Level and Quintile
C-6	Percentage of Births Registered (Children 0-59 Months) by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-5	Percentage Enrolment in Secondary and Tertiary Education by Area, Quintile and Sex
C-7	Percentage of Children (0-59 Months) With Diarrhoea in the Last Two Weeks by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-6	Percentage Distribution of Highest Grade Achieved by Out-of-School Children, by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age
C-8	Percentage of Respondents With Health Insurance by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-7	Percentage Attendance in Primary and Secondary Schools by Sex, School Type, Quintile and Area
C-9	Mean Annual Hospitalization Expenses in Public Sector by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-8	Percentage Distribution of Participation in the School Feeding Programme, by Type of Meal, School Type, Area and Quintile
C-10	Mean Annual Amount Paid by Insurance Companies for Hospitalization by Area, Quintile, Sex and Age	E-9	Percentage Distribution of Acceptance of Each Type of Meal Provided Under the School Feeding Programme, by School Type, Area and Quintile
<b>D. Nutrition</b>		<b>F. Housing</b>	
D-1	Prevalence of Malnutrition Among Children Aged 0-59 Months, by Area	F-1	Percentage Distribution of Dwellings by Type of Housing Unit, by Area and Quintile
		F-2	Percentage Distribution of Dwellings by Material of Outer Wall, by Area and Quintile
		F-3	Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Toilet Facility, by Area

F-4	Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Toilet Facility, by Quintile
F-5	Percentage Distribution of Dwellings by Source of Drinking Water, by Area and Quintile
F-6	Percentage Distribution of Households by Distance From Public Water Source, by Area and Quintile
F-7	Percentage Distribution of Households by Source of Lighting, by Area and Quintile
F-8	Percentage of Households Having Kitchen Facilities and Exclusive Use of Kitchen Facilities, by Area and Quintile
F-9	Percentage Distribution of Households by Tenure Status, by Area and Quintile
F-10	Percentage Distribution of Tenant Households by Landlord Type, by Area and Quintile
F-11	Mean Monthly Rental Payment and Rent as a Percentage of Total Household Consumption, by Area and Quintile
F-12	Mean Monthly Water Payment and Water Payment as a Percentage of Total Household Consumption, by Area and Quintile
F-13	Mean Monthly Electricity Payment and Electricity Payment as a Percentage of Total Household Consumption, by Area and Quintile
F-14	Mean Monthly Telephone Payment and Telephone Expenses as a Percentage of Total Household Consumption, by Area and Quintile
F-15	Mean Monthly Mortgage Payment and Mortgage Payment as a Percentage of Total Household Consumption, by Area and Quintile
F-16	Mean Monthly Property Tax Payment and Property Tax Payment as a Percentage of Total Household Consumption, by Area and Quintile
F-17	Percentage of Households Owning Selected Durable Goods, by Area

F-18	Percentage of Households Owning Selected Durable Goods, by Quintile
------	---

### **G. Food Stamp Programme**

G-1	Percentage of Households Receiving or Ever Applied for Food Stamps, by Area and Quintile
G-2	Number and Percentage of Households Receiving Food Stamps, by Area and Quintile
G-3	Percentage Distribution of Number of Recipients in Households Receiving Food Stamps, by Area and Quintile
G-4	Number of Eligible Households and Percentage Receiving Food Stamps, by Beneficiary Category, Area and Quintile
G-5	Percentage Distribution of Individuals in Terms of Application for, and Receipt of, Food Stamps, by Area and Quintile
G-6	Distribution of Individuals Receiving Food Stamps, by Area and Quintile
G-7	Number and Percentage of Eligible Individuals Receiving Food Stamps, by Beneficiary Category, Area and Quintile, 1992 - 1993
G-8	Self-Reported Reasons (Percentage) for Households Not Applying for Food Stamps, by Area and Quintile
G-9	Percentage Distribution of Areas in Which Self-Reported Problems in Obtaining Food Stamps Occurred, by Area and Relative Frequency of Problems in Jamaica

# Overview

## BACKGROUND

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

The present document is the ninth SLC report produced to date. The series of reports currently available is as follows:

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

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

Excluding the first two rounds of the survey, each round has selected a particular sector or area of concern for focus and expanded treatment. The areas of focus of the surveys have been as follows:

Round 3	Health
Round 4	Education
Round 5	Housing
Round 6	Consumption.
Round 7	Employment and Time Use

The survey being reported on in this document focussed on Employment and Time Use in order to provide information which could be used to analyze the utilization of time by the employed, unemployed and those outside the Labour Force. Unlike last year though, it is not possible to extend this analysis to the parish level. SLC 1993 reverts to collection of data at the three regional levels of the Kingston Metropolitan Areas (KMA), Other Towns and Rural Areas. SLC 1993 is also distinguished by the fact that the 1993 Labour Force Survey of which it is a subset was based on a revised sample of dwellings from the 1991 census. It therefore takes into account the new dwellings constructed between 1982 (the time of the last census) and 1991. There was an 8.9

percent increase in the number of dwellings between the two points in time. This increase in the number of dwellings was associated with a disproportionate increase in the size of the regional populations. The sample on which SLC 1993 is based reflects this new distribution of the population by region. In all, SLC 1993 collected information from 2,496 dwellings and comprised one-third of the Labour Force Survey.

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

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### Demography

Declines in household size over the recent past continued at an increased rate in 1993. Although the mean number of children per household has stabilized at 1.33, the decline in the mean number of adults, especially males, has also increased relative to the rate experienced since 1990. In the general population these developments manifest themselves in the form of marginal declines in the relative share of the population of those aged 15-54, a stabilization of the share held by those 55 and above and a marginal increase in the share held by the 0-14 group. The population growth rate which was constrained by declining fertility in the period since 1970 continues to be affected by external migration.

Variations in household size were found to be associated with region, gender of household head and consumption levels. The size of the household tended to be smaller if the head was a male, if it was located in an urban area and if it enjoyed consumption levels which placed it in quintiles 3-5. The clear association between relative deprivation and household size is somewhat more opaque when it comes to deprivation and gender of household head. Academic research suggests that child welfare seems to fare better in female headed households. However, indications are that the crucial factor may not be female headship but the presence or absence of a female decision-maker in the household, regardless of the gender of its head. SLC 1993 reports 45.4 per cent of households with female heads, up from 43.7 per cent in 1992.

### Consumption

Including the value of goods produced or received as gifts, the SLC recorded mean annual per capita consumption expenditure of \$23,408 in 1993. This compares very well with the per capita final consumption computed from National Accounts estimates of \$23,684. At current prices, this figure represents a 38 per cent increase in consumption over the period 1992 to 1993. In terms of 1990 prices the increase is a more modest 3.3 per cent. These increases, whilst they continue the trend of recovery from the marked decline experienced between 1989 and 1991, represent a slowing of the rate of increase. The corresponding increase between 1991 and 1992 was 8.7 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index for 1992 and 1993 registered price increases for the years 1992 and 1993 of 40.2 per cent and 30.1 per cent respectively. This compares to 49.0 percent for the 1991 to 1992 period. If it is accepted that the increase in mean per capita annual consumption in 1991-1992 was related to 'substantial wage and salary settlements', the slowing of the rate of increase in the mean per capita annual consumption for 1993 is therefore probably related to a reduction in the relative size of the wage settlements made in the 1992-1993 period. This is in keeping with the Rural Areas enjoying the highest regional increase in mean per capita consumption over the period. Given its large own account sector and a reported good food crop harvest in 1993, the Rural Areas was free to compensate for the high price increases of 1991 in a way that the Urban Areas were not. As a result whereas Other Towns and the KMA registered declines in mean per capita consumption at constant prices of 2.3 per cent and 5.7 per cent respectively over the period 1992 - 1993, the Rural Area experienced an 11.1 per cent age increase.

Both food and non-food consumption as a share of total consumption remained stable between 1992 and 1993. Thus, for the former year, expenditure on food amounted to 54.3 per cent as opposed to 53.9 per cent of total consumption expenditure for the latter year. This stability is in marked contrast to the changes which took place between 1991 and 1992. These changes reflect the facts of exchange rate liberalization in 1991 and the compensatory increases in wages, salaries, utility rates and school

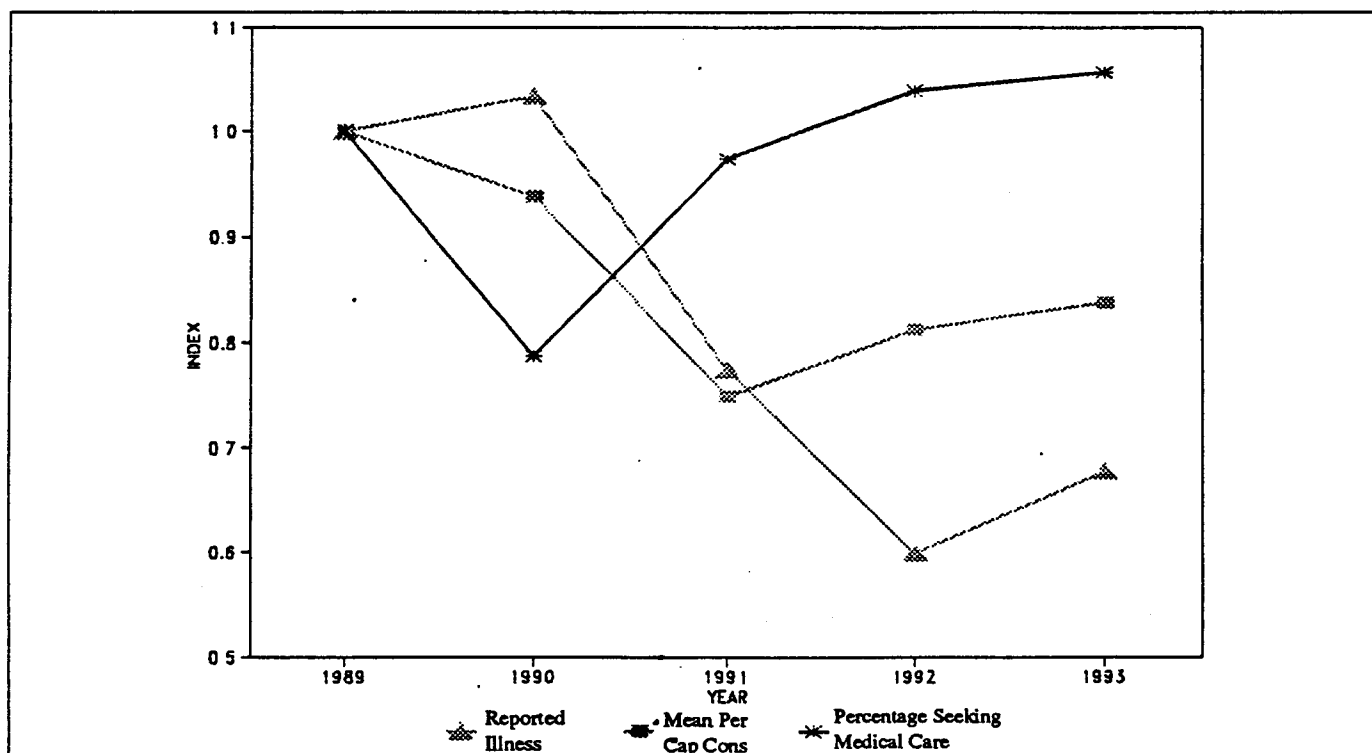
fees which occurred in the following year. Stability of consumption expenditures in 1993 points to the absence of any such developments at the macroeconomic level during that year. The virtual non-movement in the relative shares of consumption expenditures in 1993 indicates a levelling-off of the increases which took place in 1992 as compensation for the declines between 1990 and 1991.

The gap between the consumption levels of the wealthiest 10 per cent and the poorest 10 percent of the population, whilst remaining very wide, narrowed slightly in 1993. This continues the trend noted since 1990. In 1993 the mean annual consumption of the top 10 per cent was \$66,332. This was 12.0 times that of the bottom 10 per cent which had a mean per capita consumption of \$5,538. It represented a 0.8 percentage point difference from the 1992 figure. Coupled with increases in real mean per capita consumption which have been recorded since 1992 this has resulted in less persons falling below the poverty line in 1993. Notwithstanding this development, the effects of absolute deprivation among significant numbers of the population was reflected in some of the data collected by the survey. Thus, whereas universal school enrolment rates obtained for the 6 to 14 age cohort, this was not the case with the older age cohorts. Among them, poverty was associated with a short-

ened length of stay in school. Similarly, malnutrition among children less than 5 years showed marginal increases, with the poorest quintile having the largest proportions of its members under 5 suffering from this ailment.

### Welfare Programmes

Data from SLC 1993 indicate that in the area of nutrition the food stamp programme was responsive and well targeted. While the percentage of households receiving foodstamps remained stable between 1992 and 1993, at 20.0 per cent and 20.5 per cent respectively, the households in quintiles 1 and 2 increased their share of the percentage of households receiving food stamps. Households in quintile 1 increased their share from 27.1 per cent in 1992 to 30.2 per cent in 1993. In the case of quintile 2, the share of its households moved from 25.4 per cent to 28.3 per cent of the total. In regards to the school feeding programme there seemed to be room for improved targeting. Although the programme was most extensive in its coverage in the Primary schools whose population was made up mostly of the children of the poor within the school, children from all the quintiles had participation rates which did not vary dramatically. Part of the problem associated with improved targeting may be the stigma attached to being identified as poor.



CONSUMPTION LEVELS AND HEALTH INDICATORS 1989-1993

## Health

SLC data seem to suggest that there is a positive, but lagged, relationship between the perception of illness and economic well being. As can be seen in Figure 1 between the years 1989 to 1991 the movement in self reported illness followed that of mean per capita consumption. The lag in the upward movement of self reported illness between 1992 and 1993 complements that which occurred between 1989 and 1990. This delay may well represent a continued preoccupation with economic well being during the time of 'economic recovery', which overrode concerns with personal health. The percentages of the population ill seeking medical care have increased marginally over the period 1989 to 1993. The decline in 1990 has to do with a change in the wording of the question in that year rather than with a real movement of the percentages seeking medical care.

Between 1990 and 1992 there was a marked fall-off in the percentage of the sick and injured which used public medical facilities. During this time the percentage moved from 39.0 to 28.5. This decrease probably reflects the effects of staff and equipment shortages which began to plague the public health-care sector around this time. Between 1992 and 1993 there was a small increase in the percentage of the sick and injured who use the public health institutions. The figure moved from 28.5 per cent in the former year to 31 per cent in the latter. Hopefully this movement signals a return of public confidence in these institutions attendant upon the implementation of programmes such as the Health Sector Initiatives Project.

Increases in the cost of health services in the private medical sector may also account for the increased use of public health facilities. The cost of health care in the public sector had remained low and very stable between 1989 and 1992. With the introduction of cost recovery schemes in the public institutions this changed somewhat. Between 1992 and 1993 there was a 700 per cent increase in the cost of health care in the public sector. However, the charges in this sector were still nearly three times less than those in the private medical sector.

## Housing

In 1993, some 59 per cent of the households owned the houses in which they lived. At the same time those households which did not own a house had to pay more in order to do so. Between 1992 and 1993 mean monthly mortgage increased by 32 per cent moving from J\$1,172 to J\$1,550. If the condition of the housing stock is measured in terms of the services available there was little or no change over the period. Slight increases were registered in the proportion of households which had access to private piped water, but, as in 1992, more than one third of all households did not enjoy this amenity. Similarly, the situation in regard to type of toilet facility remained unchanged between the two years. In 1993, one half of all households had access to a WC. The majority of these were found in the urban areas. As much as 73 per cent of the households in the rural areas had a pit latrine as their toilet facility. Improvements in the availability of electricity continued, moving to 68 per cent of the households in 1993. Data on the availability of telephone services were not available for 1993.

In the next section the variables of region and socioeconomic status are introduced. The socioeconomic variable is measured using the mean per capita expenditure. On this basis the population is divided into consumption deciles (10 per cent) and quintiles (20 per cent). The SLC divides the country into three major regions, the Kingston Metropolitan Area, Other Towns and the Rural Area.

### Variations by economic status and region

Each of the major regions into which the country is divided experiences markedly different levels of consumption. One means of demonstrating this is by indexing the consumption levels. If the level of per capita consumption in Jamaica is indexed at 100 in 1993 then the KMA would have an index of 131, Other Towns 101 and Rural Areas 79. This fairly wide variation in consumption levels indicates uneven economic development across the regions. What is most noteworthy about the 1993 regional consumption data, though, is that they indicate that the Rural Areas experienced increases in the face of declines in consumption levels in the urban centres of the country. This development is the outcome of a number of factors some policy related, others natural. Mention will be made here of three of these



factors. The first is natural. There was good rainfall in 1993. This coincided with the second notable factor; a number of initiatives undertaken by the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture to provide farmers with planting material and other inputs into food crop production. The result was a 15 per cent increase in agricultural food production in 1993. Thirdly, increasingly, greater amounts of this produce were marketed in the tourist sector with its better than average price structure.

Studies of poverty in Jamaica in 1993 reveal that the majority of the poor is made up of the first two consumption quintiles. In 1991, 82 per cent of quintile 1 and 65 per cent of quintile 2 were found in the Rural Areas. There is no reason to believe that this distribution has changed meaningfully since that time. Increased levels of consumption in the Rural Areas were therefore associated with an overall decline in the amount of the country's population which fell below the poverty line between 1992 and 1993.

It is interesting to compare this objective measure of deprivation with the perceptions of the populace of their conditions of living. SLC 1993 allowed for the first time the subjective assessment by the households of their present levels of consumption. As a general rule, the wealthier the quintile, the higher the expressed level of satisfaction. Thirty nine per cent of the households in the country felt that their food in-take was inadequate, with 72.4 per cent and 19.2 per cent of the households in the lowest and highest consumption quintiles respectively holding this view. Disparity in consumption of education in the country is mirrored in the fact that whilst 19.7 per cent of the households in Jamaica feel that they do not enjoy enough schooling as much as 43.7 per cent of the households in quintile 1 hold this view. Only 6.0 per cent of the households in quintile 5 feel that the amount of schooling they consume is inadequate. Consumption levels in housing were deemed inadequate by 41.9 per cent of the households with as much as 73.5 per cent of the households in quintile 1 and 26 per cent of the households in quintile 5 sharing this view. As far as transportation is concerned 47.3 per cent of the households felt that their consumption was inadequate. The poorest quintile had the largest proportion of its members (64.6 per cent) who considered their access to transport less than adequate.

In regards to health, 40 per cent of the households felt that the level of health care they enjoyed was less than adequate. As much as 69 per cent of the households in the poorest quintile held this view, while 23 per cent of the households in the wealthiest quintile expressed this opinion.

The 1993 data indicate that there was a marginal increase in reported illness over the reference period. This increase at the aggregate level was manifested in increases mainly in the two poorest quintiles and to a lesser extent in quintile 3. Quintiles 4 and 5 reported similar levels of illness to those of 1992. This represents a continued reversal of the trend whereby reported illness was most prevalent in the wealthiest groups. In 1993 the pattern of a positive relationship between consumption status and the inclination to seek medical treatment, noted in the previous reference period, continued. However, whereas there were increases in the percentage of respondents from quintiles 1 and 2 who sought this service the percentage of such persons from quintile 5 remained unchanged.

There continued to be a marked positive relationship between economic status and education in 1993. This was more so for certain age groups. Judging from enrolment, and attendance statistics it is clear that the ability to consume educational services in Jamaica after age 14 is highly related to the possession of wealth. Prior to this age universal access is ensured by Government policy. Notwithstanding this, there are still marked differentials in attendance rate and type of school attended between the poorest and the wealthiest quintiles even during these early years. SLC data reveal that there has been marked improvements in enrolment at the secondary level among the age categories 15-16 and 17-19. However, inequity of access is manifest when enrolment by school-type is examined. Quintiles 1 and 2 had enrolment proportions of 66 and 69 per cent respectively in All Age and New Secondary schools. Only 17 per cent of quintile 5 students attended these institutions. The proportions were almost the exact opposite in respect of the Traditional Secondary Schools and the Technical High schools which offer the best quality secondary education in the country. The association between education and the reproduction of poverty in Jamaica thus stands out clearly. It seems clear that any long term effort to reduce poverty must address the

issue of inequity of access to good quality education by the children of the poor.

The 1993 housing data tell of a continuation of the inverse relation between economic status and home ownership. A smaller proportion of quintile 5 owned their dwelling than quintile 1. This fact undoubtedly reflects the large proportions of the rural folk who own their own homes. It also tells of the tendency of young upwardly mobile persons to rent their dwelling. Many of these persons have migrated to urban centres from the countryside in search of economic betterment. Although those in the lower quintiles were more likely to own their home than those in the upper quintile the homes of the poor often lack much of the basic amenities associated with modern living. As much as one third of households in both quintiles 1 and 2 had to rely on a public standpipe as their source of drinking water. Only 36 per cent and 49 per cent respectively of quintiles 1 and 2 had electricity as their source of lighting. As little as 18 per cent and 25 per cent of quintiles 1 and 2 respectively had access to a water closet. The data on housing amenities indicate high levels of sharing of these facilities among the urban poor. This can be taken as a proxy for overcrowding and probably speaks of a pent up need for housing among the urban poor which cannot be translated into effective demand due to an insufficiency of income.

Expenditure on housing and shelter related services continued the increase noted over the period 1990 - 1992, even though at a much reduced rate of increase. Electricity and mortgage payments formed the most significant element of these increases. Differences between the proportion of consumption expenditure paid by the poorest and richest quintiles for these services continued to lessen. Thus whereas in 1990 there was a 50 per cent difference in the proportion of consumption expenditure which quintile 5 and quintile 1 paid for electricity by 1993 this difference had narrowed to 14 per cent. Notwithstanding this development, however, quintile one still paid a larger share of their income for this service than quintile 5. This situation was reversed in regards to rent and mortgage.

### Geographic Variations

The relative mean consumption positions of the three major geographic regions KMA, Other Towns

and Rural Areas did not change during the reference period. As indicated above, during 1993 the KMA continued to enjoy the highest mean consumption levels followed by Other Towns and Rural Areas. The latter region though, managed to increase its mean per capita consumption levels when the other areas were suffering declines.

Of the three regions, the Rural Areas continued to expend the largest proportion of total consumption on food and beverages, fuel and household supplies and clothing. At the same time it spent the least on housing and associated expenses. At current prices, expenditure on education as a percentage of total per capita consumption registered its most marked change in the KMA. This took the form of a 25 per cent decline between 1992 and 1993.

At 1990 prices, consumption levels declined on the average by 10 per cent in Jamaica as a whole between 1990 and 1993. Notwithstanding this, there was a 12 per cent increase in the amount spent on transportation during this time in Other Towns and a 13.5 per cent increase in the Rural Areas. The KMA registered a 2.5 per cent decline.

In the education sector the KMA enjoyed the highest levels of enrolment among all age groups and the Rural Areas the lowest. There were continuing improvements in enrolment among most age groups, but more so in the 17-19 and 20-24. The exception to this was the 20-24 age group in Other Towns which experienced a decline in enrolment. In regards to attendance the KMA continued to record the the highest attendance rates of the three regions, 83.5 per cent. Other Towns had a full attendance rate of 80.5 and Rural Areas, 75.2. In light of the government's recently instituted cost sharing exercise these statistics should be closely monitored over the coming years.

Residents of the KMA reported the lowest proportion of their members ill or injured over the reference period. Other Towns had the distinction of reporting the highest levels of illness/injury, although it was the Rural Areas which reported the highest proportion of chronic illness at 40.2 per cent of those ill. The KMA with the lowest proportion of its residents reporting illness had the highest proportion seeking medical care. The Rural Areas, in keeping with its relatively low consumption status,

had the lowest proportion of its ill or injured population seeking medical care.

The data on malnutrition have not always displayed consistency for all of the regions over the years. Between 1992 and 1993, however there was a disturbingly consistent increase in the percentages of children in the Rural Areas suffering from low weight for age, stunting and wasting. In the case of the first measure there was an 18.2 per cent increase. In the case of the second and third measures of malnutrition, the percentage increases were 26.3 and 428.5 respectively. It should be noted, though, that the percentages themselves remain low, the highest being 10.4 in the case of rural children suffering from low weight for age.

Variations in housing across the regions followed the pattern displayed by the other social sectors which have been examined, they tend to be coloured by the regional distribution of the quintiles. Thus, as in 1993, home ownership was greatest in the Rural Areas since most of the poor owned their homes and were to be found mostly in this region. For similar reasons, the availability of household amenities such as light, water and toilet facilities tended to be greatest in the KMA and least in the Rural Areas.

### CONCLUSION

The year 1993 witnessed a continued improvement in mean per capita consumption in Jamaica. This follows on the major reversals in this indicator which began in 1989 and accelerated during the period 1990 to 1991. The rate of improvement, however, slowed relative to that experienced between 1991 and 1992. Furthermore, the year is distinguished by the fact that this improvement in mean per capita consumption took place only in the Rural Areas. This development had a positive impact on poverty reduction since most of the poor are found in this area. This improvement in mean per capita consumption was accompanied by a marginal decrease in the gap between the consumption quintiles. At the same time poverty continued to exist at

uncomfortably high levels among the population. It is estimated that in 1993, an overall 28.2 per cent of the Jamaican population fell below the poverty line. In real terms this means that these persons were unable to adequately feed themselves and provide for the other basic necessities of life.

This situation manifested itself in most of the social sectors examined in the report. Thus, in spite of improvements in the School Feeding and Food Stamp programmes and overall improved consumption in the Rural Areas, malnutrition in children especially in the Rural Areas was on the increase. Improved enrolment in school among the older age groups was accompanied by marked differentials in the access of the rich and the poor to the better quality educational institutions. Poverty was also associated with a shortened stay in school by young persons. In 1993 there was an increase in the numbers using public health-care facilities. Even so, while equal proportions of the rich and the poor reported illness or injury much less of the poor sought medical treatment than the rich. Most of the poor owned their homes but the quality of household services and amenities of the poor left much room for improvement. Overcrowding especially among the urban poor manifested itself in the high percentage of households in certain of these communities which shared toilet facilities and piped water. Furthermore, there were too many rural, poor households which lacked proper toilet facilities and access to a private source of potable water. Although electrification continued high proportions of the poor were forced to rely on kerosene as their source of lighting.

The living conditions revealed by these data point to the obvious need for the society to promote development programmes which have an improved focus on human resource development and the more efficient delivery of social services. The aim of these must ultimately be the eradication of the increasingly unaffordable levels of poverty which now prevail in the society. □

# Demographic Characteristics

## AGE PROFILE

The age profile of the population between 1975 and 1991, showed a declining trend in the proportion of children during that period (See Table 1.1). Children of the age group 0-14 years formed as much as 44.8 per cent of the total population in 1975, while in 1991, they accounted for only 33.7 per cent, the lowest percentage since 1975. However, this decline in the percentage of children in the population seems to have been arrested, as the corresponding percentages in 1992 and 1993 were 34.3 per cent and 35.3 per cent.

There was a gradual reduction in the mean number of adults in the household, from 2.58 in 1991 to 2.55 in 1992 and 2.45 in 1993 while the children per household remained constant at 1.33 in all three years. The higher percentages of children in the age group 0-14 years in 1992 and 1993, therefore, seems to be due to a contraction in the number of

adults per household and not due to an increase in the number of children.

The proportion of persons in the age group 55 years and over, which increased from 11.4 per cent in 1975 to 15.0 per cent in 1991, declined to 14.3 per cent in 1992 and 14.0 per cent in 1993. This age group, together with the age group 15-34 years, seems to have contributed largely to the decline in the average number of adults in the household during 1991-93. The persons of age 60 years and above in 1993 were 11.7 per cent of all household members compared with 11.3 per cent in 1992.

## AGE PROFILE BY REGION

In 1993, among the three regions of SLC classification, that is, KMA, Other Towns and Rural Areas, the Rural Areas had the largest proportion of children of the age group 0-14 years and persons 55 years and over, at 37.4 per cent and 16.8 per cent respectively. These two groups formed 31.1 per cent and 11.8 per cent in the Kingston Metropolitan

TABLE 1.1  
AGE PROFILE OF POPULATION FOR  
SELECTED YEARS, 1975-1993 (PERCENTAGES)

Year	Source	Age Group (Years)				Total
		0-14	15-34	35-54	55+	
1975	(HES)*	44.8	28.6	15.2	11.4	100.0
1982	(Census)	38.4	34.4	15.0	12.3	100.0
1984	(HES)	38.1	34.0	14.7	13.2	100.0
1990	(SLC)	34.4	35.6	15.5	14.5	100.0
1991	(SLC)	33.7	35.4	15.8	15.0	100.0
1992	(SLC)	34.3	34.3	17.3	14.3	100.0
1993	(SLC)	35.3	34.0	16.8	14.0	100.0

\*HES = Household Expenditure Survey

**TABLE 1.2**  
**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, JAMAICA, 1990-1993**

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

Area (KMA) and 36.5 per cent and 10.4 per cent in Other Towns (See Table A-7).

### HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Between 1990 and 1993, household size and composition in Jamaica showed only very marginal variations, particularly when the figures are rounded to one decimal place. When rounded to two decimal places, however, some interesting, albeit still weak, trends are revealed (See Table 1.2).

There was a consistent but marginal decline in the mean household size between 1990 and 1993. This was reflected more consistently in the changes in the mean number of adult males than in that of adult females. The mean number of children per household was 1.35 in 1990 and thereafter it remained constant at 1.33 in 1993.

### HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY REGION

The mean household size, according to SLC 93 (See Table A-3), was largest in Rural Areas at 4.0 members per household followed by Other Towns with 3.7 members and the KMA with 3.5 members. Compared with 1992, there was a small decline in mean household size in all the three regions. The corresponding mean sizes in SLC 92 were 4.1

members in Rural Areas, 3.9 members in Other Towns, and 3.6 members in the KMA.

### DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE

The data show that between 1975 and 1993, there was a marked decrease in the proportion of families with six or more members and a corresponding increase in the proportion of families with one to four members. The SLC 93 also confirmed this trend, as can be seen from Table 1.3.

There was a steady increase in single member households, from 16.5 per cent of all households in 1975 to 21.0 per cent in 1993. The proportion of households with two to four members increased from 39.3 per cent in 1975 to 46.7 per cent in 1993. The households with five members did not exhibit any distinct trend over the period 1975 to 1993 and moved in a narrow range from 11.2 per cent in 1990 and 1992 and 12.2 per cent in 1991. In 1993, this percentage was 11.8.

On the other hand, the proportion of households with six or more members declined from 32.3 per cent in 1975 to 20.6 per cent in 1993. Between 1992 and 1993, the proportion of households with six or more members declined from 22.3 per cent to 20.6

**TABLE 1.3**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY SIZE,**  
**(SELECTED YEARS) 1975-1993**

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

**TABLE 1.4**  
**HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD,**  
**SLC 90 TO SLC 93**

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

**TABLE 1.5**  
**PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS BY SEX AND**  
**AGE GROUPS, SLC 93**

Age Group (Years)	Sex		
	Male Heads	Female Heads	All Heads
0-14	0.1	0.0	0.05
15 - 24	5.6	5.7	5.7
25 - 34	22.5	22.7	22.6
35 - 44	21.9	20.8	21.4
45 - 54	15.7	15.3	15.6
55 - 64	13.8	13.6	13.7
65+	20.4	21.9	21.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

per cent, while those with two to four members increased from 45.4 per cent to 46.7 per cent.

#### SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

The proportion of households with females as heads increased steadily. In SLC 93, some 45.4 per cent of the households reported females as heads, compared with 43.7 per cent in 1992; 42.3 per cent in 1991; and 41.5 per cent in 1990. In 1993, households with females as heads formed 51.0 per cent in the KMA, 43.8 per cent in Other Towns and 39.1 per cent in Rural Areas. SLC 93 also confirmed the observation from the earlier rounds of SLC, that females as head had a larger mean household size with more adult women and children than those with males as head (See Table 1.4).

In 1993, the mean size of a household with a female as head was 4.1, compared with 3.6 for households with males as head. The mean numbers of adult males, adult females and children in male headed households during 1993 were 1.4, 1.0 and 1.2 respectively. In female headed households, the

corresponding numbers were 0.9, 1.6 and 1.5 respectively.

#### AGE DISTRIBUTION OF HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

In Table 1.5, the data show the ages of the heads of households according to their sex and age groups in 1993. The age distribution of household heads is similar both for male and female heads.

#### HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY QUINTILE

In Appendix II the method of dividing the members of the sample households into quintiles, based on per capita consumption expenditure is provided. A summary of important characteristics by quintiles is given in Table 1.6.

Between 1992 and 1993, there was a decline in the proportion of households with over five members in the poorest two quintiles, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of households with two to four members and single member house-

**TABLE 1.6**  
**HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY PER CAPITA**  
**CONSUMPTION QUINTILES,**  
**SLC 90 TO SLC 93**

Household Characteristic	Survey	Quintile				
		Poorest	2	3	4	5
Mean Size	SLC 90	5.5	4.9	4.6	3.8	2.5
	SLC 91	5.7	5.0	4.3	3.7	2.6
	SLC 92	6.0	5.2	4.3	3.6	2.5
	SLC 93	5.5	4.9	4.4	3.5	2.4
Percentage With Female as Head	SLC 90	47.7	42.5	42.5	42.9	34.2
	SLC 91	42.1	47.9	43.3	45.8	37.3
	SLC 92	44.1	46.9	46.4	41.0	38.9
	SLC 93	49.5	49.5	47.4	45.8	34.8
Percentage With Single Member	SLC 90	6.0	12.0	11.7	16.5	39.3
	SLC 91	6.1	12.3	12.4	18.4	34.8
	SLC 92	8.5	8.6	12.2	18.9	38.7
	SLC 93	9.6	9.8	10.3	19.3	40.3
Percentage With 2-4 Members	SLC 90	38.3	38.8	43.0	49.3	47.2
	SLC 91	29.1	40.2	46.7	47.3	52.2
	SLC 92	26.7	38.9	47.1	53.3	49.1
	SLC 93	27.7	41.9	49.4	55.6	48.2
Percentage With 5+ Members	SLC 90	55.6	49.2	45.2	34.4	13.5
	SLC 91	64.8	47.5	40.9	34.3	13.0
	SLC 92	64.7	52.6	40.7	27.9	12.3
	SLC 93	62.7	48.2	40.3	27.1	11.5

holds. Perhaps, the decline in mean size in these two quintiles is due to splitting of the large households.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS BY REGIONS**

The SLC 93 and the corresponding Labour Force Survey (LFS) were conducted on a new sample of dwellings, the sampling regions for which were formed on the basis of the preliminary data on dwellings furnished by the 1991 population census (vide Appendix I). For the earlier rounds of SLC, the sampling regions were those formed gen-

erally with the data on the number of dwellings furnished by the earlier population census conducted in 1982. Thus, the sample adopted for SLC 93 takes into account the new dwellings constructed between 1982 and 1991. The total number of occupied dwellings in the country in 1991 was 553,829 as against 508,710 in 1982, an increase of 8.9 per cent. During this period, KMA's population increased by 12.8 per cent; that of Other Towns by 15.0 per cent and Rural Areas by 3.2 per cent. These differential rates of population growth changed the pattern of representation of these three area divisions in the new sample, as shown in Table 1.7.

The increase in representation of KMA in the SLC 93 sample, with a corresponding decline in the rural samples, was reflected in all the quintiles, as can be seen from Table A-2.

In spite of these differences in the sample dwellings of SLC 92 and SLC 93, it is remarkable that the aggregates generated from both these surveys agree closely, as observed in the previous paragraphs□

**TABLE 1.7**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS**  
**BY REGIONS,**  
**SLC 92 AND SLC 93**

Region	Distribution of Household Members		Distribution of Census Population	
	SLC 92	SLC 93	1982	1991
KMA	28.8	32.2	31.4	32.7
Other Towns	18.3	18.9	16.4	17.4
Rural Areas	52.8	48.9	52.2	49.9
Jamaica	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

# Household Consumption

## INTRODUCTION

**T**he consumption of goods and services is an important indicator of the welfare of the households. A module to collect consumption expenditures was therefore included in all the rounds of the Survey of Living Conditions (SLC). In the context of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAP), aimed at making the economy more efficient and competitive, the data obtained on consumption expenditure is particularly relevant and useful. It provides a basis to monitor and so alleviate any adverse short-term impact the implementation of the programmes may have on vulnerable pockets of the population.

In order to facilitate meaningful comparisons, current price expenditures in this and all earlier rounds of the survey are also given at constant (1990) prices. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), the deflator used, is compiled by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), Other Towns, Rural Areas and for all Jamaica. Indices are computed for major commodity groups. The 'All Group' index is a weighted average of the group indices, the weights being the respective percentage shares in total consumption in the base period. The constant price estimates of mean consumption by commodity groups in the SLC are calculated using these group indices. Except for 'Personal Care' and 'Health Care' which are grouped together and the 'Education and Recreation' group which is combined with the 'Miscellaneous' group, all the other groups for

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

The field work for SLC 93 extended over five months (November, 1993 to March, 1994), due to the backlog of work on other surveys in STATIN. The field work was also not evenly spread in these five months. The proportion of questionnaires completed in each month is given in Appendix 1. For deflating the SLC 93 estimates of consumption, a weighted average of the monthly CPI was used, the weights being the proportion of questionnaires completed in each month.

## PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

The current price mean per capita consumption expenditure (including the estimated value of home production and gifts consumed) recorded in SLC 93 (See Table 2.1) was \$23,408 compared with \$16,998 in 1992; \$10,384 in 1991; and \$7,616 in 1990. Thus, at current prices, the 1993 figure was 38 per cent higher than in 1992, 125.0 per cent higher than in 1991, and 207 per cent higher than in 1990. When deflated to 1990 price levels, the real per capita consumption in 1993 (SLC 93) was \$6,805 compared with \$6,586 in 1992; \$6,080 in 1991 and \$7,616 in 1990; or an increase of 3.3 per cent over 1992 and 11.9 per cent over 1991; and a decrease of 10.6 per cent relative to 1990.

It is relevant to recall that in 1991, due to the steep increase in prices, without a corresponding increase in incomes, there was a substantial decline in per capita consumption at constant prices. The decline was as much as 20 per cent. In 1992, however, there were substantial wage settlements both in the public



**TABLE 2.1**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE,**  
**1988-1993**

Survey	Period of Investigation	CPI (Base: Jan 1988)	Months Covered	Mean Consumption	
				At Current Prices (\$)	At 1990 Prices (\$)
SLC 88	August	103.4	Jul-Aug	4,700	7,309
SLC 89 <sup>a</sup>	May-Jun	115.6	Apr-Jun	5,581	7,763
SLC 89 <sup>b</sup>	Nov-Dec	124.9	Oct-Dec	6,304	8,116
SLC 90	Nov-Dec	160.8	Oct-Dec	7,616	7,616
SLC 91	Nov-Dec	278.6	Oct-Dec	10,384	6,080
SLC 92	Aug 92-Mar 93	415.1	Aug 92-Mar 93	16,998	6,586
SLC 93	Nov 93-Mar 94	553.3	Nov 93-Mar 93	23,408	6,805

a - 1st round SLC 1989

b - 2nd round SLC 1989

**TABLE 2.2**  
**INDICES OF MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, BY AREA,**  
**1989-1993**  
**(BASE: JAMAICA = 100)**

Survey	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
SLC 89 <sup>a</sup>	100	138	112	78
SLC 90	100	139	108	73
SLC 91	100	141	110	72
SLC 92	100	143	106	74
SLC 93	100	131	101	79

a - 2nd round of SLC 89

and private sectors, which helped to push up consumption, though not to the same levels as in 1990. In 1993, for Jamaica as a whole, there was a small increase of 3.3 per cent in mean per capita consumption in real terms. This increase was mainly contributed by a recovery in Rural Areas.

The estimate of mean per capita private final consumption from National Income & Product Accounts for 1993, which adopts the commodity flow approach, was \$23,684. Thus, the estimate of \$23,408 from the SLC 93 differs from the National Accounts estimate by only 1.2 per cent, indicating the satisfactory nature of SLC 93.

#### CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA

The mean per capita consumption expenditure according to SLC 93 was \$30,766 in the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), \$23,523 for Other Towns and \$18,517 for Rural Areas. The indices of mean per capita consumption show that, relative to

the country as a whole, there was a substantial decline in the KMA and Other Towns; while there was a recovery in Rural Areas between 1992 and 1993, as shown in Table 2.2.

In 1993, the index number of per capita consumption, with Jamaica=100, was 131 in the KMA, 101 in Other Towns and 79 in Rural Areas, indicating the wide difference in per capita consumption in the three regions and in relation to the Jamaica average. Compared with the earlier year, the position deteriorated in KMA and Other Towns, while the Rural Areas regained much of the ground lost since 1990.

In real terms the annual growth in mean per capita consumption between 1991 and 1993, was highest in the Rural Areas, at 11.1 per cent in 1993 and 11.7 per cent in 1992. In 1993, the mean per capita consumption in Rural Areas was thus only 4.2 per cent lower than that in 1990, indicating that the

**TABLE 2.3**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA,**  
**SLC 90 - 93**

Item/Survey	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
Mean Per Capita Cons. (at Current Prices)			
SLC 90	10,553	8,185	5,562
SLC 91	14,646	11,445	7,433
SLC 92	24,311	18,068	12,627
SLC 93	30,766	23,523	18,517
Mean Per Capita Cons. (at Oct-Dec 90 Prices)			
SLC 90	10,553	8,185	5,562
SLC 91	8,746	6,646	4,295
SLC 92	9,586	6,963	4,797
SLC 93	9,036	6,801	5,328
Variation in Mean Per Capita Consumption at Constant Prices	(%)	(%)	(%)
(i) SLC 91 over SLC 90	- 17.1	- 18.8	- 22.8
(ii) SLC 92 over SLC 91	+ 9.6	+ 4.8	+ 11.7
(iii) SLC 93 over SLC 92	- 5.7	- 2.3	+ 11.1
(iv) SLC 93 over SLC 90	- 14.4	- 16.9	- 4.2

Rural Areas quickly recovered from the initial shock of the high order of price rises in 1991. This would require an in depth study of the underlying factors.

On the other hand, there was a decline in mean per capita consumption in 1993, compared with 1992, at constant prices, both in the KMA and Other

Towns, the decline being 5.7 per cent in the KMA and 2.3 per cent in Other Towns. Consequently, in spite of some recovery noticed in 1992, both these areas showed a sizeable decline compared to the mean per capita consumption in 1990; the decline was 14.4 per cent in the KMA and 16.9 per cent in Other Towns.

**TABLE 2.4**  
**MEAN FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, BY AREA,**  
**SLC 92 AND SLC 93**

Region	Group	SLC 92		SLC 93	
		(\$)	(%)	(\$)	(%)
KMA	Food	12,017	49.4	15,284	49.7
	Non-food	12,294	50.6	15,482	50.3
	Total	24,311	100.0	30,766	100.0
Other Towns	Food	9,974	55.2	12,392	52.7
	Non-food	8,094	44.8	11,131	47.3
	Total	18,068	100.0	23,523	100.0
Rural Areas	Food	7,447	59.0	10,952	59.2
	Non-food	5,180	41.0	7,565	40.8
	Total	12,627	100.0	18,517	100.0
Jamaica	Food	9,229	54.3	12,619	53.9
	Non-food	7,769	45.7	10,789	46.1
	Total	16,998	100.0	23,408	100.0

**TABLE 2.5**  
**PERCENTAGE SHARE OF COMMODITY GROUPS IN TOTAL PER**  
**CAPITA CONSUMPTION, JAMAICA, SLC 90 TO SLC 93**  
**(at current prices)**

Commodity Group	Year			
	SLC 90	SLC 91	SLC 92	SLC 93
Food & Beverages	53.1	55.7	54.3	53.9
Fuel & Household Supplies	7.1	7.1	5.8	5.8
Housing & Household Operational Expenses	10.5	10.8	11.9	11.9
Durable Goods	2.1	1.6	1.5	1.6
Personal Care	3.2	3.5	2.7	2.6
Health Care	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.4
Clothing & Footwear	10.4	8.8	11.2	11.5
Transportation	5.9	6.2	5.1	5.6
Education & Recreation <sup>a</sup>	3.4	1.4	2.7	2.3
Recreation		1.3	1.3	1.0
Miscellaneous Consumption	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5
Total Consumption	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

a - In 1990, Education and Recreation were combined.

### FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION

In SLC 93, the mean per capita expenditure on Food (See Table 2.4) in Jamaica, as a percentage of total consumption expenditure was 53.9 per cent compared with 54.3 per cent in SLC 92, 55.7 per cent in SLC 91, 53.1 per cent in SLC 90 and 54.1 per cent in SLC 89. Thus, there was some improvement in the Non-food consumption in 1993, compared to 1992, at current prices.

It is interesting to note that, among the three regions, the percentage expenditure on food showed a marginal increase in both KMA and Rural Areas in SLC 93 compared to SLC 92. In Other Towns, however, the percentage declined from 55.2 per cent in SLC 92 to 52.7 per cent in SLC 93. It may be recalled that the percentage share of total consumption expenditure spent on Food in Other Towns was 54.0 per cent in SLC 91 and only 52.1 per cent in SLC 90.

**TABLE 2.6**  
**PERCENTAGE SHARE OF COMMODITY GROUPS IN TOTAL PER CAPITA**  
**CONSUMPTION, BY REGION, SLC 92 AND SLC 93**  
**(at current prices)**

Commodity Group	Area					
	KMA		Other Towns		Rural Areas	
	92	93	92	93	92	93
1. Food & Beverages	49.4	49.7	55.2	52.7	59.0	59.2
2. Fuel & Household Supplies	5.0	5.2	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.2
3. Housing & Household Operational Expenses	15.8	16.5	12.4	12.2	7.7	6.8
4. Durable Goods	2.0	1.8	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.4
5. Personal Care	2.5	2.3	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.7
6. Health Care	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.0	2.4
7. Clothing & Footwear	10.7	10.6	10.2	10.9	12.2	12.8
8. Transportation	5.5	6.2	5.6	6.4	4.4	4.5
9. Education	3.5	2.8	2.2	2.3	2.0	1.8
10. Recreation	1.9	1.3	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7
11. Miscellaneous Consumption	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.6
Total Consumption	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMPTION BY COMMODITY GROUPS

The percentage of total consumption spent on the various commodity groups is given in Table B-1. While there was a small decline in the share of Food in total consumption in SLC 93, compared with SLC 92, there was an increase in the shares of Clothing & Footwear, Health Care and Transportation, at current prices. The shares of Housing, Fuel & Household Supplies and Miscellaneous Consumption remained at the same level in SLC 92 and SLC 93, at current prices, while there was a decline in the shares of all other groups, except Durable Goods, which showed a marginal increase (See Table 2.5).

The distribution of consumption expenditure by commodity groups in the three regions in SLC 93 is given in Table B-1. The percentage shares of commodity groups in total consumption in the three regions in SLC 92 and SLC 93, at current prices, are summarized in Table 2.6.

As noticed in the previous rounds of SLC, among the three regions, the share of Food in total consumption expenditure in SLC 93 was the highest at 59.2 per cent of total consumption in the Rural Areas (at current prices) compared with 52.7 per cent in Other Towns and 49.7 per cent in the KMA. Next to Food, Housing accounted for the highest share of total consumption expenditure in both the KMA and Other Towns, while in the Rural Areas, Clothing accounted for the second highest share. In 1993, the

share of Housing was as high as 16.5 per cent in the KMA and 12.2 per cent in Other Towns, while it was 6.8 per cent in Rural Areas. There was an increase in the share of Housing in total consumption in KMA in 1993, compared with 1992.

The Clothing and Footwear group accounted for 10.6 per cent of total consumption expenditure in the KMA, 10.9 per cent in Other Towns and 12.8 per cent in Rural Areas. The share of the Clothing and Footwear group also increased between 1992 and 1993 in both Other Towns and Rural Areas, while it showed a marginal decline in the KMA.

The share of Health Care and Transportation increased in all the three regions in 1993, while those of the Personal Care and Recreation groups either remained at the same level or declined in all the three regions. The share of Education showed some decline in KMA and Rural Areas, while it showed a marginal increase in Other Towns.

The data in Table 2.7 shows the percentage variation in the expenditure of the grouped items in the three regions at constant (Oct-Dec 1990) prices, between 1990 and 1993.

Compared with 1990, in Jamaica as a whole, there was a 10.6 per cent decline in total private consumption in 1993. Even with this reduced consumption in 1993, consumers spent 19.0 per cent more on Housing and 5.7 per cent more on Transportation, than in 1990. All the other groups showed reduced expenditure at constant prices, compared

**TABLE 2.7**  
**PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN GROUP EXPENDITURE FROM SLC 90**  
**TO SLC 93 AT CONSTANT (OCT-DEC 1990) PRICES, BY AREA**

Group	Area			
	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
1. Food & Beverages	-12.8	-17.8	-18.4	-5.9
2. Fuel & Household Supplies	-20.6	-20.7	-29.5	-15.4
3. Housing & Household Operational Expenses	+19.0	+30.3	+2.4	+18.0
4. Durable Goods	-27.0	-14.6	-35.6	-35.9
5. Personal Care	-30.4	-37.3	-30.4	-29.0
6.. Health Care	-7.6	-9.9	-20.6	-4.3
7. Clothing & Footwear*	-14.2	-29.1	-16.0	+4.9
8. Transportation	+5.7	-2.5	+12.2	+13.5
9. Education & Recreation	-21.3	-27.1	-29.2	-6.2
10. Miscellaneous Consumption	-36.7	-55.2	-31.7	-3.7
All Groups	-10.6	-14.4	-16.9	-4.2

with 1990, the reduction being the lowest on Health Care followed by Food and Clothing groups. There was a heavy reduction in expenditures on Miscellaneous Consumption, Personal Care items, Durable Goods and Recreation.

Among the three regions, the Rural Areas, which, as observed earlier, had recovered much of the ground lost since 1990 when there was a steep rise in prices, showed a very small decline of 5.9 per cent in Food consumption between 1990 and 1993, while the decline was about 18.0 per cent in both the KMA and Other Towns. Even the Rural Areas showed a substantial increase in expenditure, at constant prices, on Housing and Transportation in 1993 compared with 1990. The Rural Areas also spent more on Clothing and Footwear in 1993 at constant prices, than in 1990. There was a decline in expenditures on all other groups, although the decline was largely on Fuels and Household Supplies, Durable Goods and Personal Care Items.

Though there was an increase in Housing and Household Operational Expenses in 1993 compared with 1990, in all three regions, at constant prices, the increase was the lowest at 2.4 per cent in Other Towns, while it was the highest at 30.3 per cent in the KMA, followed by 18.0 per cent in Rural Areas. Transportation expenses went up by 12.2 per cent in Other Towns and 13.5 per cent in the Rural Areas, while they showed a decline of 2.5 per cent in the KMA, perhaps on owned vehicles. The decline in Miscellaneous Consumption was by far the largest in the KMA at 55.2 per cent, followed by Other Towns with a decline of 31.7 per cent.

#### FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Just as in the previous rounds, the Meals and Beverages consumed away from home accounted for a sizeable share of the total expenditure on Food

and Beverages in all three regions. In 1993, at current prices, it accounted for 27.1 per cent in the KMA, 32.1 per cent in Other Towns and 22.1 per cent in Rural Areas. Compared with 1992, there was an increase in the share of Meals and Beverages consumed away from home in the total consumption of Food and Beverages in all the three regions, presumably due to the change in the format, which was revised to collect the expenditures separately by individuals and by category, namely, breakfasts, lunches and dinners and drinks.

Among the sub-groups in the Food and Beverages group, the Meat, Poultry and Fish sub-group accounted for the largest share of the expenditure. In SLC 93, the share of this sub-group was 23.9 per cent in KMA, 26.5 per cent in Other Towns, 27.3 per cent in Rural Areas and 25.8 per cent in Jamaica as a whole.

The shares of Dairy Products, Oils and Fats, Cereals and Cereal Products, Starchy Roots and Tubers, Vegetables, Fruits, Sugar/Sweets and Miscellaneous Foods sub-groups generally declined in SLC 93 compared with SLC 92 in all three regions. The share of the Beverages sub-group increased marginally in the KMA and Rural Areas; while it showed a substantial decline in Other Towns.

#### CONSUMPTION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

According to SLC 93, the mean per capita consumption of a household with a male as head, was \$25,117 compared with \$21,509 for a household with a female as head (See Table 2.8). This is consistent with the findings of earlier rounds of the SLC, that, on the average, the households with females as head have lower consumption levels than those with males as head. Compared with SLC 92, the mean per capita consumption expenditure of a

TABLE 2.8  
MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD,  
SLC 92 AND SLC 93

Sex of Head	Mean Per Capita Consumption		Mean Food Expenditure		Food as Percentage of Total Consumption	
	(\$)	(\$)				
	SLC 92	SLC 93	SLC 92	SLC 93	SLC 92	SLC 93
Male	17,753	25,117	9,624	13,380	54.2	53.3
Female	16,090	21,509	8,755	11,774	54.4	54.7

male-headed household increased, at current prices, by 41.5 per cent, while the corresponding increase for a female-headed household was 33.7 per cent. Thus, while the mean per capita consumption of a female-headed household was 83.0 per cent in 1991 and 91.0 per cent in 1992, the corresponding figure in 1993 was 86.0 per cent.

The share of the Food and Beverages group of total consumption expenditure was higher for female-headed households compared with those headed by males in 1993.

As observed in the earlier rounds of SLC, in SLC 93 also, the share of the Clothing and Accessories group in total consumption expenditure was higher for female-headed households, while the share for Transportation was higher for the male-headed households. In SLC 93, the share of the Clothing group in total consumption was 10.8 per cent for male-headed households and 12.4 per cent for female-headed households; while the share of Transportation was 6.9 per cent for male-headed households and 3.9 per cent for female-headed households.

## DISTRIBUTION (DECILES) OF CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

### Population Deciles

In SLC 93, the mean per capita annual consumption expenditure in the poorest 10 per cent of the sample was \$5,538 and that in the wealthiest 10 per cent was \$66,332; thus, the mean consumption for the wealthiest 10 per cent was 12 times that for the poorest 10 per cent. The comparable ratios were

12.8 per cent in 1992; 13.7 per cent in 1991 and 12.3 per cent in 1990. Thus, the widening of the gap between the rich and the poor observed in 1991, as a result of the steep rise in prices, was reduced by 1993 (See Table B-8).

The share of the top 20 per cent in national consumption which was 45.9 per cent in 1990 and 47.1 per cent in 1991 declined to 45.2 per cent in 1992 and to 44.8 per cent in 1993 (See Table 2.9).

All the decile groups, excepting the top two, improved their share in 1992, compared with that in 1991 and 1990. However, in 1993, there was a small decline in the share in consumption of the lowest three deciles, followed by an improvement in the next three higher deciles, compared with 1992. There were also mixed trends in the highest four deciles. The highest decile showed a decline in its share of national consumption from 29.59 per cent in 1992 to 28.86 per cent in 1993.

In SLC 93, the consumption expenditure allocated to Food was 65.5 per cent of total consumption expenditure for the poorest decile, which progressively moved down to 43.1 per cent in the highest decile.

## CONSUMPTION OF HOME PRODUCTION AND GIFTS

Out of the mean per capita consumption expenditure of \$23,408 in Jamaica in 1993, home production and gifts consumed accounted for \$1,242, or 5.3 per cent of the total (See Table 2.10), compared with 5.6 per cent in 1992 and 5.2 per cent in 1991,

**TABLE 2.9**  
**DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMPTION BY DECILES,**  
**SLC 90 - 93**

Decile	Share in National Consumption (per cent)			
	SLC 90	SLC 91	SLC 92	SLC 93
1	2.53	2.22	2.58	2.42
2	3.85	3.59	3.92	3.88
3	4.84	4.73	5.00	4.98
4	5.78	5.72	5.82	6.08
5	6.90	6.83	6.92	7.17
6	8.15	8.16	8.30	8.45
7	9.83	9.65	9.98	9.94
8	12.21	11.98	12.26	12.24
9	16.31	15.70	15.63	15.98
10	29.59	31.42	29.59	28.86
Jamaica	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

**TABLE 2.10**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL VALUE OF HOME PRODUCTION AND**  
**GIFTS CONSUMED, BY AREA, SLC 93**

Commodity Group	Area							
	Jamaica		KMA		Other Towns		Rural Areas	
	Value (\$)	% to Group	Value (\$)	% to Group	Value (\$)	% to Group	Value \$	% to Group
<b>Non-food</b>								
Durable Goods	31	8.3	33	6.1	25	6.4	32	12.7
Clothing & Footwear	451	16.7	525	16.1	368	14.4	433	18.2
Other	78	1.0	122	1.0	42	0.5	61	1.2
<b>Total Non-food</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>7.0</b>
<b>Food</b>								
Meat, Poultry, & Fish	104	3.2	81	2.2	115	3.5	115	3.8
Roots, Tubers	196	28.6	47	8.0	122	18.7	322	42.3
Fruits & Vegetables	135	17.0	49	4.7	95	13.5	207	30.7
Other Food & Drinks	247	3.1	251	2.5	120	1.5	294	4.5
<b>Total Food</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>8.6</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,242</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>7.9</b>

showing a marginal decline. The consumption of gifts of non-food items was 5.2 per cent of all non-food expenditure (4.6 per cent in 1992 and 4.2 per cent in 1991). Consumption of home production and gifts of food items was 5.4 per cent of all food expenditure (6.5 per cent in 1992 and 6.0 per cent in 1991) (See Table 2.11).

Just as observed in the earlier rounds, SLC 93 also confirmed that Clothing and Footwear ac-

counted for more than 80 per cent of all Non-food gifts consumed. In the KMA, it accounted for 77 per cent, and 85 per cent in Other Towns and 82 per cent in Rural Areas.

Among Food items, the consumption of Starchy Roots and Tubers, and Fruits and Vegetables was the highest, accounting for 56 per cent of all Food items consumed, home produced or received as gifts in the Rural Areas, 48 per cent in Other Towns, 22 per cent

**TABLE 2.11**  
**HOME PRODUCTION AND GIFTS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL**  
**CONSUMPTION, BY AREA, SLC 90 - 93**

Group/Survey	Area			
	Jamaica	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas
<b>Food Group</b>				
SLC 90	6.1	0.9	4.4	12.0
SLC 91	6.0	0.8	4.8	11.7
SLC 92	6.5	1.8	4.5	8.8
SLC 93	5.4	2.8	3.6	8.6
<b>Non-food Group</b>				
SLC 90	4.4	3.7	4.9	5.1
SLC 91	4.2	3.4	5.0	5.0
SLC 92	4.6	3.6	4.9	5.8
SLC 93	5.2	4.4	3.9	7.0
<b>Total Consumption</b>				
SLC 90	5.3	2.3	4.6	9.2
SLC 91	5.2	2.1	4.9	9.1
SLC 92	5.6	2.7	4.7	7.6
SLC 93	5.3	3.6	3.8	7.9

in the KMA and 49 per cent in the country as a whole.

If consumption expenditure by groups is considered, the consumption of home production or gifts accounted for a substantial portion of the total consumption. The Clothing group ranked highest among Non-food items while Starchy Roots and Tubers, and Fruits and Vegetables were highest among Food items.

The trends in consumption of home production and gifts in SLC 90 to SLC 93 are shown in Table 2.11.

Some interesting observations emerge from Table 2.11. The consumption of food produced at home or received as gifts, as a share of total food consumed, an important element in the Rural Areas, had progressively declined from 12.0 per cent to 8.6 per cent during 1990 to 1993. In Other Towns also, it declined from 4.8 per cent in 1991 to 3.6 per cent in 1993. On the other hand, in the last three years, the share of home production and gifts in total food consumption increased in the KMA from 0.8 per cent in 1991 to 2.8 per cent in 1993.

The share of gifts in total non-food consumption increased significantly in Rural Areas from 5.1 per cent in 1990 to 7.0 per cent in 1993. In 1993,

compared with 1992, the share increased in the KMA from 3.6 per cent in 1992 to 4.4 per cent, from 5.8 per cent in 1992 to 7.0 per cent in 1993 in Rural Areas. In Other Towns it declined from 4.9 per cent in 1992 to 3.9 per cent.

#### NON-CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

In all SLC rounds, one module is devoted to collecting information on non-consumption expenditure. The items covered include, *inter alia*, insurance payments, repayment of loans and interest, payments for supporting children living elsewhere, maintenance of relatives living outside the home, legal services, donations and gifts.

The data on per capita non-consumption expenditure, with comparative figures for consumption, by regions and quintiles for SLC 93 are given in Table 2.12.

The per capita non-consumption expenditure as a percentage of total household expenditure in the country increased from 3.5 per cent in 1992 to 4.9 per cent in 1993. This increase was reflected in all three regions. Even among the quintile groups there was an increase in the share of non-consumption expenditure in total household expenditure in all quintiles.

**TABLE 2.12**  
**MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CONSUMPTION AND**  
**NON-CONSUMPTION ITEMS, BY AREA AND QUINTILE, SLC 93, AND COMPARISONS OF NON-**  
**CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, SLC 92 AND 93**

Group	SLC 93			Non-Consumption as Percentage of Total	
	Consumption (\$)	Non-Consumption (\$)	Total Consumption (\$)	SLC 92	SLC 93
<b>Area</b>					
KMA	30,766	1,985	32,751	3.7	6.1
Other Towns	23,523	1,193	24,715	4.0	4.8
Rural Areas	18,517	718	19,235	3.0	3.7
<b>Quintile</b>					
Poorest	7,238	174	7,412	1.1	2.3
2	12,754	290	13,044	1.9	2.2
3	17,949	536	18,484	2.4	2.9
4	25,419	828	26,247	2.6	3.2
5	51,525	4,036	55,561	4.9	7.3
Jamaica	23,408	1,216	24,623	3.5	4.9



**TABLE 2.13**  
**CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD**  
**CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, BY AREA, SLC 93 (PER CENT)**

Monthly Household Consumption Expenditure (\$)	Area			
	KMA	Other Towns	Rural Areas	Jamaica
Less than 1,000	2.0	2.1	3.1	2.5
Less than 2,000	5.2	8.1	11.8	8.8
Less than 3,000	11.0	17.4	24.0	18.2
Less than 4,000	20.0	30.8	37.2	29.9
Less than 5,000	30.0	41.3	48.8	40.7
Less than 6,000	40.4	49.5	59.9	51.0
Less than 7,000	49.5	58.4	67.7	59.5
Less than 8,000	55.9	65.6	74.1	66.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

As observed in the earlier SLC rounds, the per capita non-consumption expenditure in SLC 93 was negligible at \$174 in the poorest quintile. This progressively increased to \$4,036 in the wealthiest quintile. The percentage of non-consumption expenditure to total household expenditure was 2.3 per cent in the poorest quintile and 7.3 per cent in the wealthiest quintile.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TOTAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE**

In Tables B-9 to B-11 the distribution of households according to 17 ranges of total annual house-

hold consumption expenditure is given by regions, quintiles and sex of household head respectively. The frequency of households by a few monthly consumption expenditure classes for the regions, for 1993 is summarized in Table 2.13.

In Jamaica, the total consumption expenditure of 29.9 per cent of the households in 1993 was less than \$4,000 per household per month, while 66.0 per cent of the households spend less than \$8,000 per month. Among the three regions, only 20.0 per cent of the households in the KMA, 30.8 per cent in Other Towns and 37.2 per cent of the households in Rural Areas spend less than \$4,000 per month per house-

**TABLE 2.14**  
**PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE PRESENT**  
**LEVEL OF CONSUMPTION IS LESS THAN ADEQUATE, SLC 93**

Classification	Percentage of Households Who Expressed Less Than Adequate					
	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transport	Health	Schooling <sup>a</sup>
<b>Region</b>						
KMA	32.3	37.4	27.8	39.3	37.1	28.3
Other Towns	33.3	38.5	31.3	28.9	34.3	28.4
Rural Areas	45.6	46.6	42.2	61.0	45.5	41.3
<b>Quintile</b>						
Poorest	72.4	73.5	69.0	64.6	68.7	59.5
2	58.6	56.9	51.6	58.2	53.8	41.8
3	46.8	43.5	39.9	49.4	48.5	34.4
4	27.5	34.4	27.0	50.6	34.3	29.6
5	19.2	25.6	17.2	33.3	23.2	16.2
Jamaica	38.7	41.8	35.2	47.3	40.5	34.5

a - Excluding those households for whom the question is not applicable.

hold. The cumulated frequency of the households spending less than \$8,000 was 55.9 per cent in the KMA, 65.6 per cent in Other Towns and 74.1 per cent in Rural Areas. On the other hand, of the households spending \$8,000 or more, the largest was the KMA with 44.1 per cent, followed by Other Towns with 34.5 per cent and Rural Areas with 25.9 per cent. Thus, the consumption levels in the KMA are higher than either in Other Towns or Rural Areas.

#### **HOUSEHOLDS' PERCEPTION OF ADEQUACY OF CONSUMPTION**

In SLC 93, a module was introduced for the first time to ascertain how the households view their present levels of consumption. Six questions were asked to determine whether the household feels that the present level of expenditure is adequate, more than adequate or less than adequate. The six questions cover food consumption; housing; clothing; access to transport; health care; and children's schooling. The responses of those persons who said

their consumption was less than adequate are summarised by regions in Table 2.14. More details by regions and quintiles are given in Tables B-12 and B-13.

It is interesting to observe that 38.7 per cent of the households in Jamaica said that their present expenditure level for consumption of food was less than adequate. The percentage expressing inadequacy was least in respect of children's schooling (34.5 per cent), followed by clothing (35.2 per cent). More than 40 per cent expressed dissatisfaction with their present level of consumption expenditure on housing, transportation and health care. The proportion expressing inadequacy of consumption was the highest in the Rural Areas for all six items; followed by Other Towns, except in the case of Transport and Health, where the KMA percentage was higher than in Other Towns but less than that in Rural Areas. The level of dissatisfaction was the highest in the lowest quintile, and progressively declined in the higher quintiles.□

# Education

**T**his section reviews data on enrolment and attendance throughout the education system. It also examines the characteristics of children of school age not enrolled in school, and the dynamics of the school feeding programme.

## ENROLMENT

In the sample, the school age population was defined as individuals 3 to 24 years old, since official entry into school begins at age 3, and the age group 20 to 24 is considered the official tertiary age group. They represented 46 per cent of the SLC sample. Some 67 per cent of them were currently enrolled in school, with the remaining 33 per cent representing the Out-of-School population ( See Table E-1).

Of the total number enrolled in school, 18 per cent were in the 3 to 5 age group, 44 per cent were age 6 to 11, 22 per cent were between 12 and 14 years, 10 per cent were 15 and 16 years, 4 per cent were in the 17 to 19 age group, and the remaining 2 per cent were in the tertiary age group. A breakdown of enrolment by education level showed the majority of students, 64 per cent, enrolled at the Early Childhood and Primary levels of the education system, 33 per cent enrolled at the Secondary level, and the remaining 3 per cent, enrolled at the Tertiary level (See Table E-2). The Tertiary level is taken to refer to enrolment in University, Post-Secondary Institutions, Community Colleges, and Night School.

The majority of students enrolled at the Primary and Secondary levels, 95 per cent, were enrolled in public institutions. Differences in school-sector

type enrolment were observed between age groups, explained by the fact that the State provides the bulk of primary and secondary education. The impact of private schools was most noticeable among the 3 to 5 (Pre-Primary) age group.

Because policies have been implemented/introduced to create impact at the secondary and tertiary levels, enrolment at these levels will be highlighted where deemed necessary.

## Enrolment by Age Group and School Level

Among the 3 to 5 year olds, with the exception of the 1992 enrolment rate which was by far the lowest over the 1989 to 1993 period, the available data on enrolment showed the rate to have been between 83 per cent and 86 per cent.<sup>1</sup> The 1993 rate of 86 per cent, being the highest over the period, was an unexpected occurrence, since it was expected that the 1991 introduction of a policy aimed at raising the age of admission to Basic school from 3 years to 3 years and 8 months, would have by then realized a decline in enrolment.

As was expected, the majority (95 per cent) of this age cohort who were enrolled in school, were enrolled at the Early Childhood level. The remaining 5 per cent of the enrolled were at the Primary level. Enrolment at this level in 1993, was the

<sup>1</sup> 1992 was an odd year for the Survey of Living Conditions, since it was conducted during the summer period, and not during the school year. Data on current school enrolment could not have been collected, therefore. Only data on enrolment in the previous school year could have been collected, when less of the then current 3 to 5 year olds would have been enrolled. This explains the 74.8 per cent enrolment rate for 1992.