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Report #2

**Summary Results from the 1984 Consumer
Expenditure Survey for Jamaica***

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Introduction

This report summarizes some of the more interesting results of household expenditure patterns, income distribution, and food expenditures of households in Jamaica based on the 1984 household expenditure surveys. In addition, information on the demographic characteristics of the Jamaican population are presented in tabular form. A general profile of the Jamaican household population emerges from these results.

Demographic

The distribution of Jamaican population by age and sex was tabulated using the expenditure survey. These results are reported in Table 1. The 0-14 age group constituted the largest population group in Jamaica, followed by the 15-24 age group. Only about 7 percent of Jamaican population fell in the 45-54 age group in 1984. In that year, over 50 percent of the Jamaican population consisted of persons who were 35 years old or younger. Compared to the 1977 survey, the percentage of the population in the 0-14 age group had declined marginally from about 41 percent to about 38 percent in 1984.

The results also indicate that there were more females than males in Jamaica: about 51 percent females compared to 49 percent males. In the 1977 survey, as well as the 1976 and 1975 surveys, the population of females in Jamaica was about the same, i.e., 51 percent. The distribution of the population across the age groups over the 1977-1984 period reveals some changes that may be largely due to sampling fluctuations. For example, in 1977 the percentage of population in the 14-24 age group was 20 percent and in 1984 it was 21 percent. The difference (1 percent) may be due to sampling fluctuations.

The sampled households were grouped by age and sex of the household heads. Nearly 59 percent of household heads were males (Table 2). Across

the age groups most of the household heads reported their sex as male. Compared to 1977, the 1984 survey shows some changes in the distribution of household heads by age and sex group. For example, the number of male household heads in the 0-24 age group declined from 7 percent in 1977 to about 5 percent in 1984.¹

The distribution of households based on the expenditure classes are reported in Table 3. Beyond the expenditure class J\$ 2,001-4,000, the percentage of household in each subsequent class declines until the expenditure class J\$ 18,001-20,000. Beyond this expenditure class, the percentage of households is fairly well concentrated.²

The distribution of households by the employment status of the household head is reported in Table 4. As in the previous years, the own-account-worker households accounted for the largest group. The percentage of households in this group in 1984 was about 46 percent compared to 44 percent in 1977. The percentage of households who reported their employment status as government employee showed a small decline in 1984 (13.27 percent) compared to 1977 (16.17 percent).³

The distribution of households based on the occupation status of the household heads is reported in Table 5. The percentage of households in agriculture appears to have declined in 1984 (32 percent) compared to 1977 (36 percent). Households self-employed in nonagriculture appear to have increased in 1984 (17 percent) compared to 1977 (14 percent). Similar increase may also be noticed in the service sector group (13 percent in 1977 compared to 16 percent in 1984).

The distribution of households based on the household size reported in Table 6 revealed that the distribution of households in 1984 was not very different from 1977.

Finally, Table 7 shows the distribution of households across the three main regions of Jamaica. In 1977 the households in Kingston accounted for about 28 percent of the sampled households. In 1984 this was about 32 percent. The rural households accounted for about 58 percent of the sampled households in 1977, and about 52 percent in 1984. The percentage of households in the other main towns remained about the same in the two years.

Household Total Expenditure

The mean income⁴ (proxied by household annual expenditure) of households by the major occupation and employment status, location, and household size are reported in Tables 8 through 11 for 1984. Professionals and administrators had mean incomes slightly higher than clerical and sales workers. These two groups had the highest and second highest mean income in 1984 as well as in most of the previous years. The self-employed in agriculture had the lowest mean incomes in all the years, including 1984. In 1984 the ratio of the highest and lowest mean incomes was about 2.0, which was smaller than the ratio for 1977 (Table 8).

Across the employment groups, the paid government employee group had the highest mean incomes and the own-account-worker group the lowest. This was true in the earlier years as well. However, the ratio of the highest to the lowest mean income in 1984 was lower than that in 1977 (Table 9).

Kingston households had on an average a mean income of J\$ 15,452 in 1984, which compared with J\$ 13,501 and J\$ 10,108 mean incomes of other main towns and rural households, respectively. The order was similar in the previous years, but again the ratio of the highest and lowest mean incomes in 1984 was smaller than in 1977 (Table 10).

The highest mean incomes across the household size group were reported by households containing eight or more members. However, on a per capita basis

this group had the lowest mean income in 1984. The results for the previous years were very similar (Table 11). A more detailed breakdown of household sizes by income classes of households is presented in Table 12.

The importance of home food production among Jamaican households is highlighted in Table 13. Households were asked to report the approximate value of the food produced at home. Also presented in the table is the value of food purchased by households in 1984. Food produced at home accounts for about 11 percent of the total household expenditure. Notice that the standard deviations of the home-produced food value is high relative to the mean, which may be reflecting the difficulty households have in imputing values to home-produced food.

In Table 14 the distribution of households' total expenditures over 11 commodity groups is presented. As in the previous years, food share accounted for the largest budget share of households in 1984. Compared to 1977, the food budget share recorded an increase of nearly 4 percentage points. The other budget shares may be observed in Table 14.

Food Expenditure

Households expenditure on food and the associated food budget shares are reported in Table 15. The meat, poultry, and fish group accounted for the largest food budget share in 1984 as well as in the previous years. However, this food group budget share in 1984 was about the same as in 1977. The starchy food budget share recorded a moderate decline in 1984 (8 percent) compared to 1977 (11 percent). The oils and fat budget share was the smallest in all the surveyed years.

Purchased meals, or meals away from home, accounted for over 14 percent of the food budget share of households in 1984. In Table 16 the breakdown of the meals away from home into breakfast, lunch/snacks, and dinner are

presented.⁵ As in the previous years, expenditure on lunch accounted for bulk of households expenditure on meals away from home in 1984.

Income Distribution

The income distribution of households in Jamaica are reported in Tables 17 through 20. The share of income accruing to pentile groups are reported for the whole of Jamaica, Kingston Metropolitan area (KMA), other main towns, and rural areas. Across the whole of Jamaica about 80 percent of the households account for about 55 percent of the total household income. Income distribution is skewed to the right. The top percent of the household population account for nearly 30 percent of the total household income in 1984. The degree of income inequality as measured by the Gini ration is 0.4223.⁶

The degree of income inequality is less pronounced in KMA and the other main towns, as well as the rural areas, than it is in the whole of Jamaica (see Tables 18-20). The percentage share of income accruing to households in the top 10 percent is greater in the rural areas than in either KMA or the other main towns. Across the three regions, the degree of income inequality is most pronounced in the rural areas.

Employment

The household expenditure survey contained information on the numbers of months worked in the previous year by individuals. The largest percentage (63 percent) of the sampled population reported no work in the previous year. However, the reported figures in Table 2' do not account for the age of the members. Since the age group 0-24 years is the largest group, and a significant number of individuals in this group are not normally found in the

work force, the large percentage reporting no work in the previous year (Table 21) is not surprising.

Those reporting having worked a full 12 months compose the second largest group. Also note in Table 21 that the percentage of males who reported work in the previous year is greater than the percentage of females.

Footnotes

- ¹As indicated earlier, some of the observed changes in the distribution between 1977 and 1984 may be attributed to sampling fluctuations. Comparisons with other survey results should be able to indicate whether such changes are in fact true.
- ²The distribution of households based on the expenditure classes in 1984 will not be compared with the distribution from the earlier samples. This is because the earlier surveys utilized different expenditure classes. See Memorandum #1 for more details.
- ³The employment and occupational status of a household is based on the employment and occupation status of the household head. See Memorandum #1.
- ⁴Households total annual expenditure had to be used to proxy household incomes because the incomes reported by households were not reliable. See Memorandum #3 for more details.
- ⁵Note that in the meals away from home the separate category of drinks (alcoholic) is not accounted for in the results.
- ⁶See Memorandum #3 for more details on the meaning of the Gini ratio and income distribution profiles across selected partitions of the sample.

Table 1. Percentage Distribution of Sampled Population by Age and Sex:
Jamaica, 1984.

Age Groups	1984		
	Male	Female	Total
0-14 years	19.41	18.71	38.12
15-24 years	10.24	11.00	21.24
25-34 years	5.97	6.79	12.76
35-44 years	3.72	4.22	7.94
45-54 years	3.22	3.49	6.71*
55-64 years	2.61	2.93	5.53
65+ years	3.42	4.26	7.68
Percent	48.60	51.39	100.00
Sample Size	8,852	9,361	18,214

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

*One Individual Sex is Unspecified.

Table 2. Percentage Distribution of Sampled Household Heads by Age and Sex:
Jamaica, 1984.

Age Groups	1984		
	Male	Female	Total
0-24 years	2.62	2.61	4.81
25-34 years	12.74	8.09	20.83
35-44 years	11.36	7.70	19.06
45-54 years	10.99	6.51	17.49
55-64 years	9.21	6.44	15.65
65+ years	11.97	10.29	20.29
Percent	58.78	41.22	100.00
Sample Size	2,520	1,767	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 3. Percentage Distribution of Households by Expenditure Class:
Jamaica, 1984.

Income Class (J\$)	Years
	1984
0 - 2,000	6.30
2,001 - 4,000	11.34
4,001 - 6,000	13.27
6,001 - 8,000	12.27
8,001 - 10,000	10.03
10,001 - 12,000	8.51
12,001 - 14,000	7.28
14,001 - 16,000	5.83
16,001 - 18,000	4.06
18,001 - 20,000	3.76
20,000+	17.35
Sample Size	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

**Table 4. Percentage Distribution of Household by Employment Status of Heads:
Jamaica, 1984.**

Employment Status	Years
	1984
Paid Government Employee	13.27
Paid Nongovernment Employee	36.04
Own Account Worker	45.63
Others	5.06

Sample Size	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 5. Percentage Distribution of Households by Occupation Status of Heads: Jamaica, 1984.

Occupation Status	Years
	1984
Professional and administrative	8.82
Clerical and sales	7.37
Self-employed in agriculture	31.51
Self-employed in non-agriculture	17.05
Manufacturing and related	3.41
Services	16.28
Transport and communication	2.80
Construction, installation repairs	6.69
Others	5.67
Missing	.40
Sample Size	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 6. Percentage Distribution of Households by Family Size: Jamaica, 1984.

Family Size	Years
	1984
One member	18.73
Two members	14.51
Three members	13.81
Four members	13.51
Five members	11.85
Six members	7.77
Seven members	7.02
Eight or more members	12.81
Sample Size	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 7. Percentage Distribution of Households by Locations: Jamaica, 1984.

Area	Years
	1984
Kingston	32.03
Main towns	15.58
Rural areas	52.39

Sample Size	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 8. Average Annual Expenditure (J\$) of Households by Employment Status of Heads: Jamaica, 1984.

Employment Status	Years	
	Expenditure	Standard Deviation
Paid government employee	16,406.10	12,867.14
Paid nongovernment employee	12,891.47	11,156.92
Own account worker	10,561.03	9,178.33
Others	13,948.67	13,385.48

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 7. Percentage Distribution of Households by Locations: Jamaica, 1984.

Area	Years
	1984
Kingston	32.03
Main towns	15.58
Rural areas	52.39
Sample Size	4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 9. Average Annual Expenditure (J\$) of Households by Occupation Status of Heads: Jamaica, 1984.

Occupation Status	Years	
	Expenditure	Standard Deviation
Professional and administrative	19,807.10	15,459.20
Clerical and sales	19,311.17	13,723.97
Self-employed in agriculture	8,818.17	8,433.14
Self-employed in non-agriculture	12,947.95	10,415.32
Manufacturing and related	13,070.21	8,401.15
Services	10,969.85	9,309.88
Transport and communication	16,054.96	10,457.78
Construction, installation repairs	13,448.55	8,811.58
Others	9,468.56	6,792.97
Missing	18,618.52	17,792.21

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 10. Average Annual Expenditure (J\$) of Households by Family Size:
Jamaica, 1984.

Family Size	1984	
	Expenditure	Standard Deviation
One member	6,119.22	6,167.78
Two members	9,433.19	8,730.81
Three members	12,160.17	9,794.75
Four members	13,934.56	11,829.15
Five members	14,574.06	12,835.22
Six members	16,099.63	11,825.25
Seven members	15,144.95	10,841.80
Eight or more members	17,422.75	10,807.07

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 11. Average Annual Expenditure (J\$) of Households by Locations:
Jamaica, 1984.

Area	1984	
	Expenditure	Standard Deviation
Kingston	15,451.96	12,419.82
Main towns	13,500.54	10,462.54
Rural areas	10,108.07	9,349.02

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 12. Distribution of Households by Family Size and Income/Expenditure Class: Jamaica, 1984

Income/ Expenditure Class	One Member	Two Member	Three Member	Four Member	Five Member	Six Member	Seven Member	Eight Member	Percent	Sample Size
0-2,000	4.15	1.07	.44	.16	.21	.02	.14	.09	6.30	270
2,001-4,000	4.60	2.68	1.38	1.05	.70	.30	.30	.33	11.34	486
4,001-6,000	3.29	2.47	2.26	1.98	1.38	.72	.54	.63	13.27	569
6,001-8,000	2.19	2.10	1.68	1.96	1.54	.86	.82	1.12	12.27	526
8,001-10,000	1.42	1.26	1.54	1.59	1.40	.70	.91	1.21	10.03	430
10,001-12,000	.84	1.12	1.56	1.31	.98	.93	.79	.98	8.51	365
12,001-14,000	.51	1.12	1.00	.77	.96	.72	.70	1.49	7.28	312
14,001-16,000	.49	.58	.82	.79	1.00	.58	.47	1.10	5.83	250
16,001-18,000	.26	.51	.44	.51	.79	.37	.30	.86	4.06	174
18,001-20,000	.26	.26	.47	.49	.44	.49	.40	.96	3.76	161
20,000+	.72	1.33	2.22	2.89	2.45	2.05	1.66	4.04	17.35	744
Percent	18.73	14.51	13.81	13.51	11.85	7.77	7.02	12.81	100.00	
Sample Size	803	622	592	579	508	333	301	549		4,287

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 13. Purchased and Home Produced Food Expenditure Shares Average Food Expenditure per Household: Jamaica, 1984.

Year	Sample Size	Purchased Food Expenditure			Value of Home Produced Food		
		Average Expenditure (J\$)	Standard Deviation	Percent of Total	Average Expenditure (J\$)	Standard Deviation	Percent of Total
1984	4,287	5,538.52	4,289.94	88.74	702.52	1,030.52	11.26
		Average Total Food Expenditure			Standard Deviation		
		6,241.03			4,482.77		

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 14. Distribution of Total Expenditure Shares and Average Expenditure per Household by Expenditure Type: Jamaica, 1984

Expenditure Type	1984		
	Share	Average Expenditure	Standard Deviation
Purchased meals	7.24	894.56	1,370.73
Food	43.30	5,346.46	3,741.13
Fuel	6.62	817.46	791.60
Household operation	10.89	1,344.28	3,111.99
Household durables	3.85	475.88	1,831.77
Personal care	5.82	719.24	1,579.22
Health care	1.59	195.84	503.98
Clothes	4.99	616.36	808.43
Transportation	7.80	963.51	1,803.45
Recreation	4.98	614.54	1,005.95
Miscellaneous	2.92	360.03	832.18
Total	100.00	12,348.18	10,868.22

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 15. Distribution of Food Expenditure Shares and Average Expenditure per Household by Expenditure Type: Jamaica, 1984

Food Type	1984		
	Share	Average Expenditure	Standard Deviation
Meat, poultry, fish	28.91	1,804.32	1,543.31
Dairy products	8.40	524.53	476.31
Oils and fats	3.54	220.88	188.58
Cereals and breakfast drinks	14.59	910.45	637.39
Starchy roots and tubers	8.18	510.59	519.03
Vegetables	8.86	552.95	464.98
Fruit and fruit juices	2.54	158.71	205.66
Sugar and other sweets	3.82	238.51	180.14
Beverages	2.51	156.58	357.95
Purchased meals	14.33	894.58	1,370.73
Miscellaneous	4.31	268.93	313.03
Total	100.00	6,241.03	4,482.77

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 16. Purchased Meal by Type and Average Meal Expenditure per Reporting Household: Jamaica, 1984

Purchased Meals			Breakfast		
Average Expenditure (J\$)	Standard Deviation	Sample Size	Average Expenditure (J\$)	Standard Deviation	Meal Share
1,591.96	1,494.52	2,409	46.56	223.75	2.93
Lunch			Dinner		
Average Expenditure (J\$)	Standard Deviation	Meal Share	Average Expenditure (J\$)	Standard Deviation	Meal Share
1,479.47	1,391.50	92.93	65.93	340.47	4.14

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 17. Income Distribution by Ordinal Groups: Jamaica, 1984

Year	Percentage Share of Ordinal Groups						Gini
	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-90	91-100	
1984	4.12	9.52	15.15	23.63	17.57	29.93	.4223

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 18. Income Distribution by Ordinal Groups: Kingston, 1984

Year	Percentage Share of Ordinal Groups						Gini
	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-90	91-100	
1984	4.41	10.23	16.04	23.85	17.17	28.31	.3944

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 19. Income Distribution by Ordinal Groups: Main Towns, 1984

Year	Percentage Share of Ordinal Groups						Gini
	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-90	91-100	
1984	4.92	10.24	15.48	24.21	17.82	27.33	.3881

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 20. Income Distribution by Ordinal Groups: Rural Areas, 1984

Year	Percentage Share of Ordinal Groups						Gini
	0-20	21-40	41-60	61-80	81-90	91-100	
1984	4.28	9.69	15.07	23.37	17.35	30.24	.4142

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

Table 21. Distribution of Population by Number of Months Worked Last Year and Sex: Jamaica, 1984

Months Worked Last Year	1984		
	Male	Female	Total
0	27.36	35.44	62.80
0-1 month	.16	.30	.47
1-2 months	.31	.32	.63
2-3 months	.42	.55	.97
3-4 months	.46	.54	.99
4-5 months	.36	.30	.66
5-6 months	1.21	1.22	2.43
6-7 months	.31	.37	.68
7-8 months	.80	.67	1.47
8-9 months	1.05	.81	1.86
9-10 months	1.04	.71	1.75
10-11 months	.48	.40	.88*
11-12 months	14.53	9.64	24.16
Not Reported	.11	.14	.25
Percent	48.60	51.39	100.00

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, STATIN, Jamaica.

*One Individual Sex is Unspecified.

References

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica. 1986. Household Expenditure Survey:
Report on Household Expenditure Surveys: 1975-1977. Kingston, Jamaica.