

PW-ABG-555

ISA 69028

SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS
JAMAICA 1975, 1976 AND 1977.

DEMOGRAPHY

1. The percentage of females in all the surveyed years were greater than that of the males.
2. The percentage of females in most age groups were greater than the percentage of males.
3. Over 40 percent of the population in the surveyed years were below 15 years of age.
4. Majority of the household heads were males. In the age group 24-54 the percentage of households that were males were nearly double that of females.
5. At age groups above 54 years, there were relatively more female household heads than in the lower age groups.
6. In 1975 the percentage of household heads (41%) who reported as being a non-government employee was largest. In 1976 and 1977 own account worker were the largest group.
7. In 1976 and 1977 the percentage of household heads who reported being employed by the government was 16 and 17 percent compared to 13 percent in 1975.
8. In all the three years the percentage of household heads who reported agriculture as their occupation was largest and were respectively 33, 35 and 36 percent in 1975, 1976 and 1977.
9. Single member household was the largest household size group in all the three years. The largest household size group consisting of eight or more members was about 14 percent in all the years.
10. Rural households accounted for over 50 percent of the households in most of the years in Jamaica in all the three years, followed by Kingston households.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

11. In 1975 the mean annual household expenditure of the clerical and sales occupation group was the highest (J\$,7212). Self employed in agriculture households had the lowest mean annual household expenditure (J\$ 2,354).
12. In 1976 and 1977 the highest mean household expenditure was

1. The sample sizes in 1975, 1976 and 1977 were respectively 3,495, 486 and 1,002 households.

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reported by the professional and administrative occupation group and was respectively J\$ 5,907 and J\$ 7,000. Self employed in agriculture households had the lowest mean annual household expenditure in both the years and were less than half that of the professional and administrative group.

13. Government employees had the highest mean annual household expenditures in all the three years and the own account workers had the lowest.
14. In all the three years the own account workers mean annual expenditure were about half that of the paid government employee employment group.
15. Kingston households had mean annual household expenditure that were the highest in all the years (J\$ 5,234, J\$ 4,850 and J\$ 5,133 respectively in 1975, 1976 and 1977). The rural households on the other hand had about half the mean annual expenditure of Kingston households in all the years. The main town households mean annual household expenditure were generally in between that of the above two groups.
16. Among the eight different household size groups the highest mean annual household expenditure varied across the three years. Household size groups with five members in had the highest mean annual household expenditure in 1975 (J\$ 4,860) and 1977 (J\$ 4,771).
17. On a per capita basis the single member households had the highest mean annual expenditure in all the years.

EXPENDITURE PATTERNS

18. Food and beverages expenditures were the largest in all the three years. In terms of the budget shares the food and beverages budget accounted for 47 and 49 percent of the mean annual expenditure of households in 1975 and 1976. In 1977 this budget share was about 40 percent.
19. Following the food and beverages budget share household operation and transportation budget shares were the second largest.
20. The health care budget share were the smallest in all the three years.
21. In general the households food and beverages budget shares declined with increasing levels of the mean annual household expenditures.
22. The food and beverages budget shares were the largest across

the different sample partitions namely, employment status, occupation status, location, household size and income classes.²³

23. Among the lower expenditure classes the food and beverages budget share of household were about 60 percent of their annual household expenditure.
24. Household fuel budgets shares were also found to be larger among the lower expenditure classes than among the higher expenditure classes.
25. The household operating budget shares were substantially higher among the upper expenditure classes than among the lower expenditure classes. Similar pattern was observed among households personal care budget shares.
26. Health care budget shares was seen to be more or less the same across the different expenditure classes.
27. Clothing budget shares were seen to be relatively larger among the lower expenditure classes than among the higher expenditure classes. The opposite was observed in the transportation budget shares across the expenditure classes.
28. Across the four employment groups food and beverages budget shares were the largest and varied modestly across the four groups.
29. Similar though less pronounced patterns of expenditures relative to employment status were observed for household operating expenses, personal care, health care and recreation.
30. Food budget shares among the occupation groups were also the largest, and the variation was moderate for different occupation groups as well as over the years.
31. Household operation budget shares were greater among the professional and administrative groups, and clerical and

²³. The expenditure classes were based on the annual expenditure of the households. Information on the household incomes were incomplete and as a result household expenditure had to be used to classify households into expenditure classes. These classes consisted of J\$ 1,000 intervals, starting at J\$ 1,000 and below and with the last class at J\$ 10,000+. In the report income and expenditure classes are used interchangeably.

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sales occupation groups in all the years.

32. Fuel, clothing and recreational budget shares were fairly similar across the occupation groups as well as across the years.
33. Among the household size groups food and beverages budget shares were the largest and single member household spent the greatest proportion of their expenditure on food and beverages than larger households.
34. Fuel budget shares of households did not vary noticeably across the household sizes as well as the years.
35. Household operating budget shares were smaller for larger households than for smaller households.
36. In all the three location food and beverages budget shares were the largest but rural households allocated a greater proportion of their expenditure on food and beverages than households in Kingston or the main towns.
37. Rural households allocated a greater proportion of their expenditure on clothing than Kingston or main town households. Household operating budget shares were larger among Kingston and main town households than rural households.
38. Transportation budget shares were in general large and had increased over the years for most types of households.
39. Majority of the households fell in low income group i.e with annual incomes less than J\$ 8,000.²
40. Across the three years the food and beverages budget shares of the low income households varied between 55 percent in 1975 to 48 percent in 1977. In contrast the high income household allocated between 24 percent (1977) and 31 percent (1975) of their annual expenditure on food and beverages.
41. Lower income households also spent a greater proportion of their annual expenditures on fuel than higher income households.
42. The high income households spent a greater proportion of their annual expenditures relative to the low income households on household durable, health care, household

². Low and high income households refer to households with annual expenditure less than J\$ 8,000 and greater than J\$ 8,000. As noted earlier household annual expenditure was used to classify households into the two income groups.

operations and personal care.

FOOD EXPENDITURES

43. Among Jamaican households the value of food produced at home was fairly significant, especially so among agricultural households, own account worker households, low income households, lower expenditure class households and among rural households.
44. Among the lowest expenditure class as much as 20 percent of the household food expenditure was accounted for by the value of food produced at home. This value had increased over the years.
45. Across the different household size groups the value of food produced at home was more pronounced among the eight or more members groups than among the other household size groups.
46. In the rural areas as much as 17 percent of the rural households food expenditure were accounted for by the value of food produced at home.
47. Household food budget shares varied noticeably across the 11 different food groups analysed. In all the sample partitions and the years meats, poultry and fish food group accounted for the largest food budget shares. A modest variation in this food groups budget share was observed across each sample partition.
48. Cereals and the starchy roots and tubers budget shares were the second largest budget shares for most households and in all the years.
49. Purchased meals or meals away from home budget shares were also large among households with relatively higher mean annual expenditure and this budget share was about the third largest budget share for most types of households.
50. Generally the oils and fats and sugar and other sweets budget shares were the smallest in all the sample partitions as well as the years.
51. The above noted patterns in the allocation of the households food budget shares were fairly similar in the various sample partitions considered.
52. Households purchased inputs to produce food at home. For the three years the values of inputs purchased was about three percent of the households annual expenditure. However, in all the years only a small percentage of the households reported purchasing inputs.

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53. The number of households that reported having at least one member eating a meal away from home varied considerably across the years for the whole of Jamaica. In 1975 out of the 3,495 household only 1,719 households reported expenditure on meals away from home. The figures for 1976 and 1977 were respectively 290 and 502 out of the 406 and 1,002 household surveyed in each of the years.
54. Households spent the most on lunch followed by expenditure on dinner and breakfast in all the three years.
55. In the three surveyed years the food item that was most frequently purchased by households was sweetened condensed milk. Other food items than were more frequently purchased than others were rice, whole plucked chicken, hard dough bread, flour and margarine in Jamaica.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

56. The income distribution⁴ analysis indicated that income inequality was more pronounced among the occupation groups and household size groups than among the employment groups and locations.
57. The income distribution picture indicated a distribution that was rightward skewed, with 10 percent of the richest household receiving about the same amount of income as received by the poorer 90 percent of the households.
58. The estimated Gini coefficient for 1975, 1976 and 1977 were respectively 0.4452, 0.4492 and 0.4459. Compared with the Gini coefficient estimated for 1958 (0.5766) the newer Gini coefficient indicate a moderate improvement in the income distribution in Jamaica.⁵

⁴. Note that household expenditure was used to proxy household income.

⁵. The 1958 results were obtained from another study which utilized similar household expenditure survey data and was conducted in 1958.

**ANALYSIS OF THE 1975, 1976, AND 1977 JAMAICAN
HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE SURVEYS:
DRAFT MEMORANDUM AND REPORT***

OCTOBER, 1985

*Supported by OICD/USDA-University of Missouri-Columbia cooperative agreement #58-319R-4-073.

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