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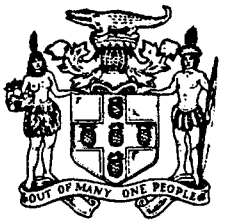
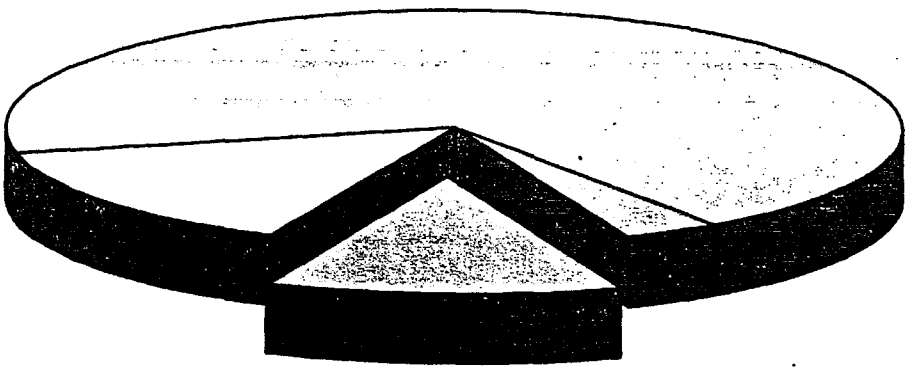
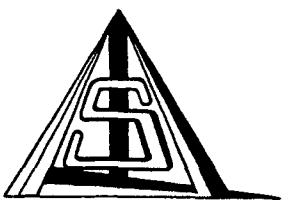




JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS REPORT 1991



JAMAICA SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

REPORT

1991

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

October 1992

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

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica
9 Swallowfield Road,
Kingston 5
Jamaica, West Indies

Telephone: (809) 926-2175-6
Fax: (809) 926-4859

The Planning Institute of Jamaica
39-41 Barbados Avenue
Kingston 5
Jamaica, West Indies

Telephone: (809) 926-1480-8
Telex: 3529 PLANJAMJA
Fax: (809) 926-4670

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Statistical Institute of Jamaica
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SURVEY OF LIVING CONDITIONS

Contents

Preface

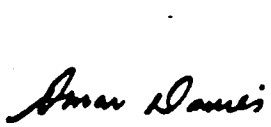
The Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) seeks to measure the effects of the economic adjustment programme on the most vulnerable groups within the society. This survey, which has been conducted since 1988, provides information on changes in the various socio-economic variables which facilitate a scientific assessment of the impact of macro economic policies. These include indicators of household consumption, health, education, nutrition, housing and demographic characteristics as well as of the operation of the Food Stamp Programme.

The survey represents a collaborative effort between the Planning Institute (PIOJ), the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), and the various Social Sector Ministries.

This 1991 report is jointly produced by PIOJ and STATIN. As was the case for previous surveys, emphasis is placed on a particular sector; in this case, housing. However, the discussion which is presented in this document represents only a preliminary exposition of the survey results. A fuller analysis of the expanded housing module will be published at a later date.

The list of agencies and persons to which we are indebted is long. It includes the staff of the major line Ministries i.e. Health; Education; and Labour, Welfare and Sports; as well as colleagues from the University of the West Indies and from the World Bank. Most importantly, thanks are due to those persons who responded to our enumerators.

This series of reports does not exhaust the potential analysis to be derived from the survey. We therefore urge social scientists, professional planners and students conducting research, to make fuller use of the wealth of information available. In order to do so, contact should be made with either PIOJ or STATIN.



Omar Davies
Director General
The Planning Institute of Jamaica
October 1992

Vernon G. James
Director General
The Statistical Institute of Jamaica
October 1992

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Assistance from the Ministry of Education was provided by Ms Ruth Morris and, from the Ministry of Health, by Ms Kristin Fox. Those at STATIN include Mr Pattisapu Murthy, Mr Stuart Brown and Ms Isbeth Bernard as well as others from the Surveys Division and the Computer Systems Division. PIOJ staff inputs were provided by the members of the Social and Manpower Planning Division, particularly by Mr Colin Williams, Ms Claire Bernard, Mr Copeland Brown, Ms Terry Ranglin, Ms Joyce Vincent and Mrs Pauline Knight; in addition, Mr Hopeton Peterson, Mr Errol Graham and Mrs Beverley Lawrence of other Divisions also made valuable contributions. Finally, credit is due to Mrs Patricia Desai who edited the document, and to Mr Neil Fairclough who was responsible for the desktop publishing.

List of Standard Tables

Overview

BACKGROUND

The Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (SLC) has been conducted five times to date, that is in August 1988, July 1989 and November 1989, 1990 and 1991. The survey has collected information on a variety of topics, *viz* demography, consumption, education, health, nutrition, housing, the availability of public utilities and participation in selected welfare programmes. Through this series, data on short term trends in important socio-economic areas have, therefore, been made available and permit close assessment of the living conditions of the population. It should also be noted that the SLC sample is a subset of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample which is conducted by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN). The two surveys may thus be linked to each other allowing for a wide range of permutations of their data.

The first two rounds of the survey were general in scope, but subsequent rounds have focussed on particular sectors by expanding the relevant module of the questionnaire to collect the information required for a more thorough assessment of the sector. Round 3 focussed on the health sector and, besides expanding the questionnaire in relation to that sector, including the addition of questions on fertility, surveys were done of public and private health facilities. Round 4 placed emphasis on the education sector and in this case, surveys of school facilities and administrators were conducted and students tested to ascertain their achievement levels. For round 5, the housing module was expanded to focus on that sector. The sixth round of the survey being conducted in 1992, has been designed to focus on consumption patterns and to enable their assessment in relation to individual parishes. This is a departure from previous rounds of the survey when such detailed geographic comparisons were not possible because of the smaller sample size.

The present report on the November 1991 survey is the seventh of the SLC reports published to date. Descriptive/analytical reports have been published for each of the four previous surveys, and in addition there were two reports, produced for the November 1989 and 1990 surveys respectively, which were designed to provide standard tabulations of the data. The present report combines in one volume brief descriptive analyses of the data along with the standard tabulations. In the text of the following chapters, reference to lettered tables, e.g. Table A-1, indicate the standard tables, whilst references to numbered tables, e.g. Table 2.2, indicate those formulated especially for the present descriptive analysis. The information collected on the three sectors that have been focussed on are the subject of indepth studies, the results of which will be made available in separate publications.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Demography

Basic demographic data from the SLC are consistent with the long established trend in Jamaica of declining household size. The mean household size according to SLC-91 was 3.9 persons, with a mean of 1.3 children. This compares with previous most recent data i.e. from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) (1984), which reported a mean size of 4.3 persons with 1.6 children. The contraction in household size is associated with steep fertility declines in Jamaica since the 1960s, which have also resulted in a changing age profile reflecting the ageing of the population. Thus the proportion of the younger age group (0-14 years) was 33.7 per cent in SLC 91, falling from 38.1 in HES 1984.

Household size in Jamaica has varied according to gender of head, geographic location and welfare status, with larger sizes for poorer households, those headed by females and those in rural areas. The widest variation is related to welfare status, with the poorest quintile having a mean size of 5.7 persons and the wealthiest 2.6 persons.

Overall Patterns/Trends

According to the SLC, the value of the overall mean per capita annual consumption expenditure was $10,384 in November 1991. At current prices, this represents a 36.3 per cent increase over the previous year, but at constant prices there was a decline of 20.2 per cent. This decline in the real value of expenditure points to a fall in living standards, but because it coincided with a period of high inflation, there are likely to have been changes in consumption practices to cope with the rising prices, e.g. reducing waste, or purchasing in bulk. The true fall in the standard of living would thus be somewhat less than the observed 20% decline in constant price estimates.

All categories of expenditure recorded increases in 1991; those with the greatest increases were food, housing, transportation and personal care which thereby expanded their share of total consumption expenditure. Health care, clothing and footwear, durable household goods, education and recreation had much smaller increases, and their share of total consumption accordingly decreased. Details on housing costs in the SLC reveal that, on average, households paying rent spent 80.0 per cent more per month in 1991, 70.8 per cent more was spent on mortgage repayment, 30.3 per cent more was spent on electricity but practically the same amount was spent on water. While there have been recent steep rises in utility charges, it should be noted that the present survey preceded these increases.

There was an increase in food expenditure per capita of 43 per cent between November 1990 and 1991 which compares with a 79 per cent increase in the cost of 'Food and Drink' in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Indepth analyses of food consumption patterns would be required for drawing conclusions concerning nutritional intake, but it is noted that malnutrition (low weight for age) rates for those under five years old rose for the second consecutive year in 1991. Notably, the upswing in these two years coincided with two consecutive years of decrease in real mean per capita consumption expenditure. The changes recorded in food consumption patterns by

the SLC revealed a cutback in more costly areas such as 'Meat, poultry and fish', 'Dairy products' and 'Beverages' with a switch to 'Cereals and cereal products', 'Vegetables' and 'Oils and fats'. It is significant to note that there was also a reduction in the share of income devoted to 'Meals away from home' which one may consider a relative luxury.

The Food Stamp and School Feeding Programmes are the two main components of the Government's 'safety net', intended to cushion the shocks of structural adjustment on the poor. Coverage by the former was reduced in 1989 and 1990 as a result of an overhaul and restructuring of the programme. This was followed by some recovery of the programme in 1991, with the proportion of beneficiary households rising, according to the SLC, from 13.8 per cent in 1990 to 17.8 per cent in 1991. Primary and All Age schools are the principal targets of the School Feeding Programme, and in 1991, the SLC recorded that 65.0 per cent of students in these schools benefitted from the Programme, falling from 73.9 per cent in 1990. This decline undoubtedly reflects the contraction of the Nutribun and Milk Programme as a result of severe administrative problems experienced during the year.

Running counter to malnutrition trends was the reported p lence of illness/injury which declined from approxi- n y 18 per cent in the previous two SLC surveys, to reg..ter 13.7 per cent in 1991. Declines were registered for both sexes and in all age groups except for those below one year of age. On the other hand the proportions seeking medical care increased, rising from 38.6 per cent of those affected in 1990 to 47.7 per cent in 1991. There was a 14% increase between 1990 and 1991 in the mean cost of visits to private facilities, while public costs remained stable. In spite of this, there was no change recorded in the proportions of persons seeking care in private rather than public facilities, and this remained at a 60:40 ratio in favour of the former.

In relation to education, enrolment rates for children up to 16 years of age remained fairly static between 1990 and 1991. The 17-19 year olds, however, recorded markedly higher rates at both secondary and tertiary level, resulting in 21.1 per cent being enrolled in an educational institution compared with 13.0 per cent in 1990. Attendance rates at both primary and secondary levels however remained fairly stable, averaging 78.0 per cent overall.

One may conclude from the above assessment that the SLC found few apparent effects of the adverse economic developments between November 1990 and 1991. Those evident from the assessment include changes in general consumption patterns with housing, food, transportation and personal care claiming larger proportions of disposable income. In addition food consumption patterns themselves suffered certain modifications most likely reflecting the need to economize. The youngest members of the population were seen to have suffered slightly increased malnutrition rates as well as possibly other negative health effects. Education indices, however, remained unaffected. The Food Stamp Programme has exhibited welcome signs of improved coverage, but the School Feeding Programme has done the opposite. Prevailing conditions for the different socio-economic groups and regions of the country are now outlined below.

Variations by Expenditure on Consumption Items

The differential between the wealthiest and poorest in the population is quite large with the poorest decile having a mean annual per capita consumption expenditure of $2,195 and accounting for 2.2 per cent of national consumption, while the wealthiest spent $30,140 and accounted for 31.4 per cent. The data also show that during 1991 there was some widening of this differential as the wealthiest decile increased its share of national consumption at the expense of all the other deciles.

Consumption patterns by welfare status reveal that all groups spent larger proportions of their per capita consumption on food in 1991 than they did in 1990. Concomitantly, there were decreased shares for all other commodity groups with the exception of 'Personal care' for the poorest quintile and 'Housing' and 'Transportation' for the wealthiest quintile. Food expenditure thus continued to absorb the largest proportion of national consumption, ranging from a low of 51.4 per cent for the wealthy to a high of 65.6 per cent for the poorest residents. Within the food group, meats and dairy products suffered cut backs across the welfare range.

Examination of health status by welfare levels reveals that nutritional status tended to vary according to welfare status with the poorest two quintiles having highest percentages of children under 5 with low weight for age. Following the established pattern, in 1991 larger percentages of the wealthiest group reported illness or injury, but smaller percentages had the condition for a protracted period or had to be hospitalised. This suggests that wealthier residents were more likely to seek care at the earlier stages of their illnesses.

There has been no regular pattern in the percentage of the different welfare groups seeking medical care. However, the source and cost of care is strongly associated with welfare status and 73.8 per cent of the wealthiest quintile had consultations with private doctors at a mean cost of J$104, as against 34.4 per cent of the poorest at a mean cost of J$63. The purchase of pharmaceuticals followed a very similar pattern. Worthy of note is the vast difference in health insurance coverage of the different consumption groups. This varied from 0.7 to 7.9 per cent for the first four quintiles but rose to 28.4 per cent for the wealthiest.

Welfare assistance via both the Food Stamp and the School Feeding Programmes was progressively distributed. The former was, however, even more so as it deliberately targets disadvantaged persons, while the School Feeding Programme is open to all students of a recipient school. Hence 32.3 per cent of persons in the poorest quintile received food stamps and 62.8 per cent took school meals, while 8.8 per cent of the wealthiest got stamps and 52.3 per cent took school meals.

Education data from the survey indicate major differences in accessing education by welfare status. Enrolment between ages 6 and 14 years is relatively uniform, but otherwise it varies to the extent that in 1991 35.0 per cent of the poorest 15-16 year olds were not enrolled in any school compared with only 8.3 per cent of the wealthiest. Enrolment at tertiary levels was also very minimal for the former welfare group at 1.3 per cent, while 13.3 per cent of the latter were in tertiary institutions. Attendance rates again varied directly with welfare status, rising with higher status. Attainment levels did the same, and among those of school age not in school, the wealthiest were the most likely to have attained some level of secondary education.

There are consistent, strong differences in the housing characteristics of the different welfare groups. The poor utilize detached houses almost exclusively, but lack amenities to a great extent. Only one in ten of the poorest quintile was

recorded as having a water closet (WC) in 1991, one in five had either indoor or outdoor piped water, and one in three had electricity. By contrast, the wealthier households had more varied house types, e.g. apartments/town houses, approximately three quarters had a WC and 85 per cent had piped water and electricity. Home ownership was, however, more prevalent among the poorer groups with less sharing of facilities such as toilets and kitchens. It should be noted that compared with the wealthy, the poorer households had to devote larger percentages of their consumption expenditure to water and electricity but, in general, spent lower percentages on rent or mortgage payments.

Regional Variations

In 1991 mean annual per capita expenditure was $14,646 for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), $11,445 for 'Other towns' and $7,433 for rural areas. Detailed examination of the data reveals that *relative to other parts of the country*, the value of consumption in the KMA has improved over the last two years while that in towns and rural areas has deteriorated. This is particularly the case for the rural areas which experienced a 26 per cent decline in constant price per capita consumption compared with a 19 per cent decline in the towns and 17 per cent in the KMA.

Along with variations in consumption *levels* for the three geographic areas, marked differences have been found in consumption *patterns*. For example, the percentage share of total consumption devoted to food has been highest in the rural areas and lowest in the KMA (61.2 per cent, compared with 52.0 per cent in 1991). Housing and household operational expenses (i.e. expenditure on rent, utilities, helpers, gardeners, etc.) are also higher and more inelastic in the urban areas. Meanwhile transportation costs absorb a larger proportion of expenses in towns and rural areas than in the KMA. They are also more inelastic in the former two areas because of the greater dependence on public transport there.

During 1991, all three types of geographic areas increased the percentage share of total consumption devoted to food. One striking difference in food consumption patterns between the regions is that the KMA which had the lowest share devoted to meat, poultry and fish increased this share in 1991, while the other two areas reduced their shares.

One would expect differences in dietary intake between the regions to be responsible for differences in nutritional status. Hence in connection with the above, it is relevant to note that in 1991 the SLC data showed a reversal of the pattern observed in previous rounds of the survey, with the KMA replacing the rural areas as having the lowest rates of malnutrition (low weight for age) for children under 5 years. The KMA rates then equalled 5.2 per cent as against approximately 10 per cent for the rest of the country.

The two major 'safety net' programmes mentioned above are intended to improve food intake but both favour areas outside of the KMA in their allocation of benefits. Thus in 1991, 50 per cent of school children in the KMA participated in the School Feeding Programme, compared with 60.3 per cent of those in rural areas. Similarly households receiving food stamps amounted to 5.3 per cent of those in the KMA, 12.6 per cent of those in towns and 26.8 per cent of those in rural areas. These food stamp allocations parallel quite well the estimates of the Jamaican Poverty Line Project which indicated that 6.8 per cent of KMA households were in poverty, 26.3 per cent of those in towns and 32.5 per cent of those in rural areas.

In relation to health status, the KMA has consistently had the lowest rates of illness/injury reported in the SLC. This was maintained in 1991. Health service delivery in terms of immunisation coverage was, however, equitably spread with highest coverage for BCG (96.7 per cent) and lowest for OPV (81.3 per cent). Persons residing in the towns were notably most likely to use private sources of care and incurred highest mean costs for consultations.

It was found in the 1990 survey that illness was the most common reason for absence from school, followed by lack of money. Since the KMA has the best record in both of these variables, it is not surprising that school attendance rates have been highest in the KMA where, in 1991, 87.9 per cent of children attended school every day of the reference week compared with 72.0 per cent for rural areas.

Variations in housing conditions between the three regional types reinforce and exacerbate differences in welfare status. For example, the 1991 data reported that over 80 per cent of KMA households had WCs, compared with 47.2 per cent of those in towns and 25.0 per cent of those in rural areas. The availability of running water for proper sanitation and of electricity was similarly inequitably distributed. A much larger percentage of rural households however, were homeowners and had exclusive use of the facilities they had access to.

The SLC has shown that welfare status, as measured by consumption expenditure, is closely related to area of residence. This is illustrated by the fact that in 1991, 81.6 per cent of the poorest quintile resided in rural areas with 12.8 per cent being in towns and only 5.6 per cent in the KMA. One may be inclined, therefore, to relate the characteristics of the different welfare levels to the geographic regions, i.e. equating the KMA with the highest expenditure groups and the rural areas with the lowest. It is important to bear in mind, however, that each region is heterogeneous and contains households across the entire spectrum of welfare levels. □

CHAPTER 1

Demographic Characteristics

AGE PROFILE

The age profile of the population(Table 1.1) indicates a substantial decline in the proportion of children in the last 16 years. Children aged 0-14 years formed as many as 44.8 per cent of the population in 1975, while in 1991 they formed only 33.7 per cent. On the other hand, persons in the age group 15-34 years increased from 28.6 per cent of the population in 1975 to 34.4 per cent in 1982 and to 35.4 per cent in 1991 (Table A-8).

The ageing of the population can be seen from the steady increase in the size of the age group 55+ years from 11.4 per cent of total in 1975 to 15.0 in 1991 (Table A-8).

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The mean household size in Jamaica declined in the last few years, due to the greater acceptance of family planning measures. The mean size of 4.3 members per household in 1984, as measured by the HES, declined to about 3.9 in SLC 91 (Table A-5), a decline of about nine per cent over the last seven years. The mean size in SLC 90 was 3.9 members. Thus, there was close agreement in the estimates from SLC 90 and 91 (Table 1.2). The decline in the mean size was largely due to a decline in the number of children per household, from a mean 1.6 in 1984 to 1.3 in 1991 (Table A-5), a decrease of 18.8 per cent.

As shown in Table 1.3, in the last few years there has been a marked decrease in the larger sized families, with a corresponding increase in families with one to four members only. In 1991, households of size 1-4 members formed 65.5 per cent of all households in the country (Table A-3), compared with 55.8 per cent in 1975, 60.5 per cent in 1984, and 65.7 per cent in SLC 90. On the other hand, the households of size 5 or more declined from 44.2 per cent in 1975 to 34.5 per cent in 1991.

There was a steady increase in single member households, the proportion of which increased from 16.5 per cent in 1975 to 20.7 per cent in SLC 90. In SLC 91, however, this percentage came down marginally to 19.3, possibly due to sample variation. The percentage of households with 2, 3 and 4 members also generally showed an increase. There was a corresponding decrease in the percentage of households with 6 or more members. It is significant that households of size 8 or more declined from 15.6 per cent in 1975 to 8.7 per cent in SLC 90. In SLC 91, the corresponding percentage was 9.1 (Table A-3).

Household size by region

According to SLC 91, the mean household size (Table A-5) was the largest in rural areas, with 4.2 members per household, followed by the KMA and 'Other towns' with 3.7 and 3.6 members respectively.

TABLE 1.1
AGE PROFILE OF POPULATION (PERCENTAGES), 1975-1991

Age group (years)	1975 (HES)	1982 (CENSUS)	1984 (HES)	1990 (SLC)	1991 (SLC)
0-14	44.8	38.4	38.1	34.4	33.7
15-34	28.6	34.4	34.0	35.6	35.4
35-54	15.2	15.0	14.7	15.5	15.8
55+	11.4	12.3	13.2	14.5	15.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 1.2
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION, 1984-1991

Survey	Mean household size	Mean number of adult males	Mean number of adult females	Mean number of children (less than 15 years of age)
1984 (HES)	4.3	1.2	1.4	1.6
1990 (SLC)	3.9	1.2	1.3	1.4
1991 (SLC)	3.9	1.2	1.4	1.3

TABLE 1.3
DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD SIZE, 1975-1991

Household size	Year			
	1975 (HES)	1984 (HES)	1990 (SLC)	1991 (SLC)
1	16.5	18.7	20.7	19.3
2	13.9	14.5	15.6	16.3
3	13.2	13.8	14.4	15.7
4	12.2	13.5	15.0	14.2
5	11.9	11.8	11.2	12.2
6	8.8	7.8	7.9	7.7
7	7.9	7.0	6.5	5.5
8+	15.6	12.8	8.7	9.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 1.4
HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Sex of head	Survey	Mean household size	Mean number of adult males	Mean number of adult females	Mean number of children aged less than 15 years
Male	SLC 90	3.8	1.5	1.1	1.2
	SLC 91	3.7	1.5	1.1	1.2
Female	SLC 90	4.1	0.9	1.7	1.6
	SLC 91	4.2	0.9	1.8	1.5

SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

In SLC 91, 42.3 per cent of the households reported females as head of the household (Table A-6) compared with 41.5 per cent in SLC 90, thus showing a marginal variation between these surveys. The households with females as head formed 44 per cent in the KMA and 'Other towns' and about 40 per cent in rural areas.

As observed in SLC 90, SLC 91 also showed that households with female heads had a larger mean size, with more adult women and children than had those with males as head (Table 1.4).

Household Characteristics by Quintile

The appendix describes the method of dividing the members of the sample households into quintiles, based on per capita consumption expenditure.

The findings of SLC 90 and SLC 91 provide similar data. The mean size of a household in SLC 91 was the highest in the poorest quintile at 5.7, a figure which progressively decreased to 2.6 in the wealthiest quintile (Table A-7). In both SLC 90 and SLC 91 the percentage of households with female heads was lowest in the fifth (wealthiest) quintile, with the first to fourth quintiles having similar, higher, percentages. The proportion of single member households was the largest (34.8%) in the wealthiest quintile, while households with 5+ persons were the most numerous (64.8%) in the poorest quintile. □

TABLE 1.5
HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS BY QUINTILE, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

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
Percentage with female head	SLC90	47.7	42.5	42.5	42.9	34.2
	SLC91	42.1	47.9	43.3	45.8	37.3
Percentage with single members	SLC 90	6.0	12.0	11.7	16.5	39.3
	SLC 91	6.1	12.3	12.4	18.4	34.8
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
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
Total	SLC 90	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	SLC 91	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CHAPTER 2

Household Consumption

INTRODUCTION

Jamaica is currently in a state of economic transition as the government seeks to implement policies and programmes aimed at making the economy more efficient and competitive, thus ensuring sustainable growth in the future. It is expected that these policies and programmes will impact on human welfare. In this regard the consumption expenditure data collected in the SLC rounds acquire prime importance as they provide the basis for objective analyses for the impact of policies and programmes on human welfare. In addition, the household consumption data are also useful in the cross analysis of data collected on other areas such as health, education and housing.

In the analysis following, the CPI is used to convert the consumption prices obtained in the SLC to constant prices. It should be noted that the CPI figures are worked out for major groups of commodities as well as for all groups put together. The 'All group' index is a weighted average of the group indices, the weights being the percentage share of the group in total consumption in the base period. The constant price estimates of mean consumption by commodity groups are worked out using these group indices. Except for 'Personal care' and 'Health Care' which are grouped together and the 'Education & recreation' group which is combined with the 'Miscellaneous' group, all the other groups for which estimates are worked out in SLC are identical to those adopted in the compilation of the CPIs.

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION

The mean annual per capita consumption expenditure (including value of home production and gifts consumed) recorded by the 1991 SLC (Table 2.1) was $10,384, or 36.3 per cent above the 1990 figures in nominal terms. In real terms, however, there was a marked reduction in the mean annual per capita expenditure, moving from $7,616 in 1990 to $6,080 in 1991, a reduction of 20.4 per cent. At 1990 prices, therefore, the mean annual per capita expenditure was lower than the 1988 level of $7,309. This implicit reduction in consumer welfare is indicative of the impact of the inflationary trends established in 1991. Price movements during 1991 reflected, among other things, the removal of subsidies and price controls and the depreciation of the Jamaican dollar following the further liberalisation of the foreign exchange system in September 1991.

The increase in consumption at current prices in SLC 91 compared with the corresponding estimate from SLC 90 seems to be consistent with the rise in earnings in large establishments during this period. According to the quarterly surveys conducted by STATIN on employment, earnings and hours worked in large establishments (i.e. those employing ten or more persons each), the mean earnings of an employee in all large establishments (excluding Government and agricultural sectors) in the country increased by 34 per cent in September 1991 compared with September 1990.

It is also relevant to note that the CPI in Oct-Dec 1991 was about 73 per cent higher than that in the corresponding period of 1990. In a period of rising prices, households will make all efforts to obtain the goods economically by adopting methods such as purchasing from the cheapest outlets and purchasing in bulk; they will also try to substitute cheaper items for costlier ones and to reduce waste. The CPI, which is compiled with a fixed basket of goods in the base period, cannot take into account these changes in the purchasing patterns.

Thus, though the above figures suggest that there was a substantial decline in mean per capita consumption during Nov-Dec 1991 compared with the preceding year, the actual percentage decline in standards of living could be somewhat less than the 20 per cent decline in constant price estimates of mean per capita consumption expenditure.

CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA

The mean per capita consumption expenditure for SLC 91 was $14,646 for the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA), $11,445 for 'Other towns' and $7,433 for rural areas. The mean for Jamaica was J$10,384. Using the mean for Jamaica as 100, the indices of mean per capita consumption by area indicate growth in per capita consumption relative to 1990

TABLE 2.1
MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, 1988-1991

Survey	Period of investigation	CPI Base: Jan 1988	Months covered	Mean consumption	
				At current prices ($)	At 1990 prices ($)
SLC 88	August	103.4	Jul - Aug	4,700	7,309
SLC 89 -1	May - Jun	115.6	Apr - Jun	5,581	7,763
SLC 89 -2	Nov - Dec	124.9	Oct - Dec	6,304	8,116
SLC 90	Nov - Dec	160.8	Oct - Dec	7,616	7,616
SLC 91	November	278.6	Oct - Dec	10,384	6,080

TABLE 2.2
INDICES OF MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY AREA, 1989-1991
(BASE : JAMAICA=100)

Survey	Jamaica	KMA	Other towns	Rural areas
SLC 89-2	100	138	112	78
SLC 90	100	139	108	73
SLC 91	100	141	110	72

in both the KMA and 'Other towns' but a decline in the rural areas (Table 2.2).

In real terms, the relative decline in the rural areas is exacerbated by the fact that the rate of price increase for the rural areas was higher than that for both the KMA and 'Other towns', as shown in Table 2.3 .

The price rise shown in Table 2.3 was for the last quarter of 1991 over the last quarter of 1990, the period relevant to the SLC estimates. The decline in the mean per capita consumption in SLC 91, at constant Oct-Dec 1990 prices, compared with the estimate from SLC 90, was the largest(at 26 per cent) in the rural areas, compared with 19 per cent in 'Other towns' and 17 per cent in the KMA.

FOOD AND NON-FOOD CONSUMPTION

For the 1991 survey, expenditure on food (Table 2.4) as a percentage of total expenditure was 55.7 per cent, compared with 53.1 per cent for SLC 90 and 54.1 per cent for SLC 89-2. The position between 1989 and 1990 was, therefore, reversed, in 1991, with a greater share of consumption expenditure being devoted to food. This reversal is directly related to the general increases in food prices, necessitating increased expenditure for food relative to non-food expenditure. This pattern is, therefore, an indication of the possible welfare loss between 1990 and 1991 attributed primarily to the depreciation of the Jamaican dollar and the removal of subsidies.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMPTION BY COMMODITY GROUPS

The percentage of total expenditure committed to the various commodity groups in 1991 is given in Table B-1.

For Jamaica in general, there was an increase in the percentage share of total consumption devoted to 'Food and beverages' in 1991 compared with 1990. There was also a small increase in the share devoted to 'Housing', 'Personal care' and 'Transportation'. All the other commodity groups showed a decline in their percentage share in total consumption expenditure with the major losers being 'Health care', 'Household durable goods' and 'Education and recreation'.

Regionally, the distribution of total consumption by commodity groups (Table B-1) shows that the percentage share of total consumption at current prices devoted to food had increased in SLC 91 compared with SLC 90, in all the three areas. As in previous SLC surveys, the finding for 1991 was that the percentage share of total consumption devoted to food was highest in the rural areas and lowest in the KMA, the figures being 61.2 per cent and 52.0 per cent respectively. This compares with 58.8 per cent and 48.9 per cent respectively for SLC 90.

In respect of non-food expenditure, comparison with SLC 90 shows that there were generally declining shares across the three regions, reflecting the increased shares devoted to food expenditures. In the KMA, the three major losers were 'Clothing and footwear', 'Education and recreation' and 'Health care', in that order. In the rural areas the three major losers were 'Clothing and footwear', 'Household durable goods' and 'Household operational expenses', in that order.

Worthy of note is the fact that while the share allocated to 'Education and Recreation' declined to 3.3 per cent points in the KMA, it remained constant at 2.3 per cent in the rural areas, and that the share of consumption expenditure allocated to transportation was higher for 'Other towns' and rural areas than for the KMA.

Table 2.5 shows the percentage variation in the group-wise expenditures in the three regions at constant (Oct-Dec 1990) prices. Across the three regions, with the exception of the housing group in the KMA and the transportation group in the rural areas, all commodity groups showed decline in expenditure at constant prices. The 'Housing & household operational expenses' group includes expenses on rent, utilities, mortgage and property tax payments, and operational expenses on helpers, gardeners, etc. The rental and operational expenses are generally higher in the KMA and are also relatively inelastic. This may explain the increase on this group in KMA. In the case of transportation, in rural areas there is a great dependence on public transport, which is used primarily for business activities. The demand for public transport in rural areas is therefore relatively inelastic, hence for a small increase in cost it is expected that the total expenditure on transportation will also increase.

TABLE 2.3
MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE : SLC 91 COMPARED WITH SLC 90, BY AREA

Area	Mean per capita consumption SLC 90	Mean per capita consumption, SLC 91		Change in mean per capita consumption SLC 90-SLC 91	
	($)	Current prices ($)	Constant (Oct-Dec 90) prices ($)	Current prices (%)	Constant prices (%)
KMA	10,553	14,646	8,746	+71.0	-17
Other towns	8,185	11,445	6,646	+74.3	-19
Rural areas	5,562	7,433	4,295	+75.5	-26

TABLE 2.4
MEAN FOOD AND NON- FOOD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE BY AREA, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Period	Group	Jamaica		KMA		Other towns		Rural areas	
		($)	(%)	($)	(%)	($)	(%)	($)	(%)
SLC 90	Food	4,046	53.1	5,159	48.9	4,261	52.1	3,269	58.8
	Non-food	3,570	46.9	5,394	51.1	3,924	47.9	2,293	41.2
	Total	7,616	100.0	10,553	100.0	8,185	100.0	5,562	100.0
SLC 91	Food	5,789	55.7	7,609	52.0	6,183	54.0	4,550	61.2
	Non-food	4,595	44.3	7,037	48.0	5,262	46.0	2,883	38.8
	Total	10,384	100.0	14,646	100.0	11,445	100.0	7,433	100.0

FOOD CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

The 1991 SLC revealed that the 'Meat, poultry and fish' group accounted for a smaller percentage share in total food expenditure in 1991 than in 1990 (Table B-2). This is possibly related to the switch to the high energy 'Cereals and cereal products' (up 2.4 percentage points) in light of the general price increases and the need to provide a minimum caloric requirement subject to lower real incomes.

Besides 'Cereals and cereal products' only two food groups showed an increased share. These were 'Oils and fat' (up 1.1 percentage points) and 'Vegetables' (up 0.6 percentage points). The increased share to oil and fat is possibly related to the significant increase in price of this food group (up 107.3 per cent over 1990).

The food groups that declined in relative share included 'Dairy products', 'Beverages' and 'Meals away from home'. These movements appear to reflect consumers' attempts at the rationalisation of their budgets in the face of lower real incomes.

As in the previous SLC, the percentage share of consumption expenditure devoted to meat, poultry and fish was the highest in all three regions. However, relative to 1990, while the KMA showed an increased share (1.3 percentage points) to this food group, both 'Other towns' and rural areas showed declines (2.3 and 2.6 percentage points) respectively. The increased share for the KMA is possibly related to the combined fact that not only was the inflation rate lower in the KMA but also to the fact the price increase in the 'Meat, poultry and fish' group was lower in the KMA than in 'Other towns' and the rural areas.

The 'Meals away from home' group continued to account for a relatively large share of total consumption expenditure, with little variation since SLC 89. For SLC 91, the percentage share of food expenditure devoted to 'Meals away from home' was highest in the KMA (27 per cent), followed by 'Other towns' (18.8 per cent) and rural areas (17.2 per cent) as has been the case in all previous surveys. However, while the relative share of meals away from home declined in both the KMA and 'Other towns', in the case of rural areas there was an increase.

TABLE 2.5
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN GROUP EXPENDITURE FROM SLC 90 TO SLC 91 AT CONSTANT(Oct-Dec 1990) PRICES, BY AREA

Group	KMA	Other towns	Rural areas
Food & beverages	-17	-20	-23
Fuel & household supplies	-24	-20	-30
Housing & household operational expenses	+19	- 9	-18
Durable goods	-44	-34	-57
Personal & healthcare	-43	-22	-23
Clothing & footwear	-44	-24	-22
Transportation	-22	- 3	+ 3
Miscellaneous	-39	-29	-23
All groups	-17	-19	-26

CONSUMPTION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

For the 1991 SLC, the mean per capita consumption expenditure of a male-headed household was $11,220 (Table 2.6) compared with $9,362 for a female-headed household. This is consistent with the findings of SLC 90, that, on average, households with female heads have lower consumption levels than those with male heads. Relative to 1990, the mean per capita consumption expenditure of male-headed households increased by 28.3 per cent, while the comparable increase for female headed households was 35.7 per cent. Therefore, whereas the mean for households with female heads was 79 per cent of those with male heads in 1990, in 1991 the corresponding figure was 83 per cent, indicating some closing of the gap.

As observed in SLC 90, there was not much difference between households with male and female heads in the percentage shares devoted to the various commodity groups, except that the mean share of transportation in total consumption was higher for households with male heads than for those with female heads, as observed in SLC 90. It was 7.4 per cent for male heads and 4.4 per cent for female heads in SLC 91, (Table B-6) compared with 7.2 and 4.0 per cent respectively in SLC 90.

DISTRIBUTION (DECILES) OF CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

Population Deciles

For 1991, the mean per capita annual consumption expenditure in the poorest 10 per cent of the sample was $2,195. This may be compared with $30,140 for the wealthiest 10 per cent of the sample, a figure which was 13.7 times higher than the poorest decile. For 1990, the mean for the wealthiest decile was 12.3 times higher than that for the poorest decile, suggesting a widening in the income distribution (Table B-5).

As expected, the percentage share of food in total consumption expenditure (Table B-3) was highest (68.1 per cent) in the poorest decile and lowest (47.9 per cent) in the wealthiest decile.

TABLE 2.6
MEAN PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION BY SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Sex of head	Mean consumption expenditure ($)		Food expenditure ($)		Food as percentage total expenditure (%)	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
Male	8,741	11,200	4,341	6,130	52.1	54.6
Female	6,898	9,362	3,694	5,371	54.8	57.4

TABLE 2.7
ACTUAL VALUE AND VALUE AS PERCENTAGE OF MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF HOME PRODUCTION/GIFTS, BY AREA, SLC 91

Commodity group	Jamaica		KMA		Other towns		Rural areas	
	$	%	$	%	$	%	$	%
Non-food								
Durable goods	14	8.4	12	4.1	20	10.4	13	16.3
Clothing, footwear & accessories	174	19.1	220	15.7	231	24.7	125	20.4
Other	7	0.2	8	0.2	12	0.3	6	0.3
Total non-food	195	4.2	240	3.4	263	5.0	144	5.0
Food								
Meat, poultry and fish	32	2.2	17	0.9	61	3.9	30	2.6
Roots & tubers	174	46.2	14	4.3	106	29.0	296	71.8
Fruits and vegetables	77	17.1	12	2.0	72	13.5	118	36.9
Other food	62	1.8	21	0.4	59	1.6	88	3.3
Total food	345	6.0	64	0.8	298	4.8	532	11.7
Grand total	540	5.2	304	2.1	561	4.9	676	9.1

Compared with 1990, with only two exceptions, all other sample deciles showed an increase in the share of consumption expenditure allocated to food, an indication of the general welfare loss across all income groups due primarily to the high inflation and the removal of food subsidies.

CONSUMPTION OF HOME PRODUCTION AND GIFTS

Of total household consumption in the country (Table 2.7), only 5.2 per cent represented consumption of gifts or home production in SLC 91. In the country as a whole, out of a mean per capita annual consumption of $10,384 in 1991, the home production/gifts consumed was about $540. Regionally, the mean was $304 in the KMA, $561 in 'Other towns' and $676 in rural areas. This represented 2.1, 4.9 and 9.1 per cent of total consumption in KMA, 'Other towns' and rural areas respectively.

Home production and gifts did not represent a high percentage in total consumption; nevertheless, in the case of the 'Clothing, footwear & accessories' group, gifts represented 19.1 per cent or $174 of the total mean annual per capita consumption of $913 worth of clothing, footwear and accessories in Jamaica (Table 2.7).

The consumption of home production and gifts of food items contributed on the average $345 to the annual per capita food consumption, forming 6.0 per cent of all food consumption. However, in 'Other towns' and rural areas, the mean per capita annual consumption of home production and food gifts was higher, at $298 in 'Other towns' and $532 in rural areas than in the KMA, with only $64.

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

There were only marginal differences (Table 2.8) in the share of 'Home production and gifts' in total food and non-food consumption in SLC 91 compared with the previous round.

NON-CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

As in previous years, one part of SLC 91 was allocated to the collection of information on non-consumption expenditure. The items covered included, *inter alia*, insurance payments, repayment of loans and interest payments, support for children living elsewhere, maintenance of relatives outside the home and legal services.

Data on non-consumption expenditure (Table 2.9) was analysed by region as well as by quintile. For the country as a whole, the mean per capita non-consumption expenditure was estimated at $382 for 1991. This was a 22.8 per cent increase over 1990. As a share of per capita annual expenditure, non-consumption expenditure for the country as a whole was 3.7 per cent.

The 1991 SLC revealed that in the poorest quintile the mean non-consumption expenditure was $25 per capita, compared with $1,297 for the wealthiest quintile. The share of non-consumption expenditure in mean per capita expenditure was 0.9 per cent for the poorest quintile compared with 5.4 per cent for the wealthiest quintile.

TABLE 2.8
HOME PRODUCTION AND GIFTS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CONSUMPTION, SLC 90 AND SLC 91, BY AREA

Group Survey	Jamaica	KMA	Other towns	Rural areas
Food group				
SLC 90	6.1	0.9	4.4	12.0
SLC 91	6.0	0.8	4.8	11.7
Non-food group				
SLC 90	4.4	3.7	4.9	5.1
SLC 91	4.2	3.4	5.0	5.0
Total consumption				
SLC 90	5.3	2.3	4.6	9.2
SLC 91	5.2	2.1	4.9	9.1

TABLE 2.9
MEAN PER CAPITA ANNUAL EXPENDITURE ON CONSUMPTION AND NON-CONSUMPTION ITEMS BY AREA AND QUINTILE, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

	Consumption	Non consumption	Total	% Non-consumption	
Sub-group	($)	($)	($)	SLC 90	SLC 91
Area					
KMA	14,646	462	15,108	4.1	3.1
Other towns	11,445	682	12,127	5.2	5.6
Rural areas	7,433	225	7,658	3.0	2.9
Quintile					
Poorest	2,854	25	2,879	1.1	0.9
2	5,107	78	5,185	2.3	1.5
3	7,354	84	7,438	1.9	1.1
4	10,575	203	10,778	2.7	1.9
5	22,787	1,297	24,084	5.4	5.4
Jamaica	10,384	382	10,766	3.9	3.5

Among the regions, the mean non-consumption expenditure was highest ($682) in 'Other towns', followed by $462 in the KMA and $225 in the rural areas. This is consistent with the findings of SLC 1990. However, there are two other interesting developments worthy of note when SLC 91 is compared with SLC 90.

Firstly, the gap between 'Other towns' and the KMA has widened considerably, and relative to Jamaica as a whole the KMA is also lower in 1991. Secondly, in terms of percentage share in mean per capita expenditure, the rural areas remained stable at about 3 per cent, while that in the KMA decreased from 4.1 to 3.1 per cent and that in 'Other towns' increased from 5.2 to 5.6 per cent.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS

So far the discussion has been in terms of mean per capita expenditure. Sometimes the interest lies in the classification of *households* on the basis of their total consumption expenditure, that is, irrespective of their size. It can be seen from Table 2. 10 that 36.6 per cent of the households in the country spent less than $2,000 per month on consumption, while 55.7 per cent spent less than $3,000. Only 18.3 per cent spent more than $5,000 per month on consumption.

The proportion of households with more than $5,000 consumption expenditure per month was the largest in KMA (28.3 per cent). Both in 'Other towns' and rural areas, the proportions were fewer (17.2 per cent and 11.9 per cent respectively). On the other hand, the proportion of households with less than $2,000 consumption expenditure per month was greatest in rural areas (51.6 per cent), followed by 'Other towns' (29.8 per cent) and least in KMA (19.3 per cent). □

TABLE 2.10
CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION (%) OF MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE, BY AREA, SLC 91

Monthly houschold consumption expenditure ($)	KMA	Other towns	Rural	Jamaica
Less than 1,000	4.1	11.1	19.6	12.8
Less than 2,000	19.3	29.8	51.6	36.6
Less than 3,000	38.4	52.4	69.1	55.7
Less than 4,000	58.1	71.7	80.2	71.4
Less than 5,000	71.7	82.8	88.2	81.9
All expenditure groups	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Education

INTRODUCTION

This analysis is focussed exclusively on the 2,642 persons in the survey who were of school age, that is, 3 to 19 years. Of this group, 80.4 per cent were enrolled in institutions at various levels of the education system. Table 3.1 shows levels of education of school-age persons.

ENROLMENT

Within the 3-5 year age group, 82.5 per cent were enrolled in schools, with basic schools accounting for 77.3 per cent of (Table E-1) the student enrolment. This is similar to the SLC 90 findings and is a marginal 3 per cent less than the statistics of the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the same period. The level of 5.3 per cent enrolment for 3 to 5 year olds in primary schools was inconsistent with previous SLC findings, which recorded no under-age pupil in primary schools.

Approximately 99 per cent of children in the age group 6-11 years were enrolled in schools. This finding was in keeping with the consistently high enrolment rate for this age group. The distribution by school type of [illegible] year olds was, however, a departure from national enrolment rates which indicate that universal primary education has been achieved, i.e., that almost all 6 to 11 year olds in the population are enrolled in primary schools. The 87.1 per cent primary school enrolment was also some 6 per cent lower than the previous SLC findings. It is of interest to note that pupils in the poorest consumption groups in this age group recorded the highest enrolment in primary schools. The data also reveal that all consumption groups have equal access to primary education and the out-of-school rates were as low among the children of the poorest as they were among the children of the wealthiest quintile.

School enrolment (Table E-1) of children in the 12-14 year age group was 96.5 per cent. The 78.1 per cent enrolment in secondary schools was marginally lower than the rate shown in previous SLC surveys and the MOE enrolment rate for this group. Although the data did not allow for analysis by cycle of secondary education, it is safe to assume that most of these students were concentrated in the first cycle of secondary school, i.e. grades 7 to 9. The 18.4 per cent presence of 12 to 14 year old students in primary schools, though high, is consistent with the findings of SLC 90 and is consistent with the MOE primary gross enrolment rate, which consistently exceeds 100 per cent. The data (Table E-2) show no sensitivity of access to secondary education by consumption groups. The apparent rate of repetition of primary grades was a feature of all consumption groups but was highest among the poorest.

Of the total number of 15 to 16 year olds in the survey, 78.2 per cent were enrolled in schools. Secondary enrolment shows 15 to 16 year old students from the poorest homes having the lowest representation in secondary institutions. The number of students enrolled in tertiary institutions (N=6) was too small to permit meaningful analysis (Table E-2).

Just over 20 per cent of the 17 to 19 year olds were enrolled in the formal education system, (Table E-2) with 15.9 per cent found at the secondary level. Their tertiary enrolment was characteristically low at 5.2 per cent, although 3.2 per cent higher than SLC 90 findings; enrolment at this level notably reflects a dominance by the wealthier quintiles.

Analysis of student enrolment in the different types of secondary and tertiary institutions showed that the All Age and New Secondary schools accounted for 58.6 per cent of secondary enrolment, with the two school types accounting (Table E-3) for a relatively equal share of the enrolment. The relationship between consumption group and type of secondary school is of particular relevance given the wide variation in quality between the different school types. Approximately 45.0 per cent of the poorest quintile were enrolled in All Age schools (which are concentrated in rural Jamaica) compared with 16.0 per cent of their wealthiest (Table E-4) counterparts. This situation was also reflected in the New Secondary schools where only 33.8 per cent of students from the poorest quintile were enrolled in these institutions, compared with 16.8 per cent of the wealthiest.

The reverse situation existed in Secondary High schools (Table E-4) situated mainly in the urban areas. In these schools only 10.2 per cent of the poorest quintile were enrolled compared with 47.1 per cent of students from a more privileged background. Tertiary education appears to be the domain of the wealthy, as their chance of being registered in

TABLE 3.1
LEVEL OF EDUCATION (PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL AGE PERSONS) BY AGE

Age group (yrs)	Pre-primary	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
3-5	77.3	5.2	-	-	82.5
6-11	3.7	87.1	7.7	-	98.5
12-14	-	18.4	78.1	-	96.5
15-16	-	-	76.2	2.0	78.2
17-19	-	-	15.9	5.2	20.1

a post-secondary institution was five times as great as that of the poor. Despite this, however, the presence of persons from the two poorest welfare groups at this level was an improvement over the SLC 90 findings, which recorded absolutely no participation of these persons in tertiary education.

ATTENDANCE

Analysis of school attendance (Table E-5) was focussed on students enrolled in primary and secondary schools only. The data indicate that of the 1,669 students attending school, 78.0 per cent recorded full attendance, that is, attended all five school days. This was roughly equivalent to SLC 90 findings. Girls recorded a 3.6 per cent higher attendance rate than boys. Although no clear pattern was observed in the attendance rates as they related to consumption groups, the data indicate that the lowest rate of full attendance (76.0 per cent) was among the children of the poorest welfare group. During the survey week, 9 per cent of students sampled did not attend school, a feature which was as common among boys as among girls. This non-attendance was, surprisingly, highest for the fifth quintile at 10.0 per cent. Children from the 'Rural areas' and 'Other towns' were twice as likely as those from the KMA to be absent from school for a full five days.

The findings on attendance rates by school type (Table E-5) were similar to those of SLC 90, with the exception of Secondary High schools, with 85 per cent full attendance, a figure some 7 per cent lower than that of SLC 90.

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

Assessment of the participation of students in the School Feeding Programme, a government assisted welfare programme, revealed that the programme (which is self-targeting) was accessed by approximately 57 per cent of students (Table E-10) in primary and secondary schools. Approximately 65 per cent of students in primary and All Age schools participated in the programme during the survey week. This was a significant 13 per cent decline in the participation rate compared with SLC 90. A 10 percentage point decline was also observed in secondary schools, where only 37.0 per cent of the students participated in the programme. With regard to the Nutribun and milk snack, 41.8 per cent of primary and All Age pupils benefitted, compared with 6.4 per cent of students in secondary schools.

The relationship between level of participation in the lunch programme and consumption quintile is of particular interest. The data reveal a fairly uniform level of involvement, up to 55.7 per cent, by children from the top three welfare groups. However, the two poorest quintiles had much higher levels, at 62.8 per cent and 60.1 per cent respectively. Table E.10 presents the percentage distribution of students participating in the lunch programme, by quintile.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PERSONS OUT-OF-SCHOOL (6-19 YEAR OLDS)

The educational status of respondents of school age (6-19 years) who were not enrolled in school (Table E-7) was also canvassed. This group, which accounted for 17.3 per cent of the total school age sample, was concentrated mainly in the rural area. Approximately 90 per cent of these respondents had pursued secondary level programmes, with the attainment levels of girls being a marginal 1.1 per cent higher than that of boys.

The data also indicate a linear relationship between highest grade attained and consumption quintile. Table E-7 shows that most of the poorest (63.0 per cent) have attained primary or lower secondary education only while most of the wealthiest (83.0 per cent) had attained some level of second cycle secondary education. In relation to completion rates, the data show high rates for both primary and first cycle secondary levels. These increased with welfare status. □

CHAPTER 4

Health

INTRODUCTION

In addition to the core questions on health, SLC 91 included questions on chronic conditions, namely arthritis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, heart disease, asthma and epilepsy. This section therefore describes the prevalence of these diseases along with self-reported illness/injury, the use and cost of medical care and nutritional status and immunisation coverage of children aged less than five years.

SELF-REPORTED ILLNESS OR INJURY

In 1991, 13.7 per cent of the sample reported illness/injury (Table C-1). This is a decline over previous years when the percentage ranged between 16 and 18 per cent. The prevalence of illness varied by area of residence, sex and age group.

There was no regular pattern in the occurrence of reported illness/injury by consumption quintile. The wealthiest quintile is outstanding, however, in having both the highest prevalence of reported illness/injury (16.0 per cent, compared with 11 to 14 per cent for the other quintiles), and also for the lowest prevalence of protracted illness/injury, i.e. beginning more than four weeks before the survey (15.9 per cent, compared with 24 - 34 per cent for the other quintiles).

In 1991, as in previous years, residents in 'Other towns' continued to report more illness than those in the KMA or in the rural areas. However, there was little difference between areas in the percentage of those reporting protracted complaints.

Females reported more illness/injury, but did not report more protracted conditions than males did.

One quarter of the children aged less than 5 years and of the elderly reported illness/injury, more than any of the other age groups. Over half of the elderly reporting illness said that their condition began over four weeks prior to the survey. This pattern is typical and similar to previous years. The prevalence of protracted illness/injury, however, increased with age among adults.

Duration

The mean duration of illness/injury (Table C-1) of 10.2 days was similar to than in previous years and varied little by consumption group, area of residence or sex. By contrast, marked differences were recorded between age groups, with the mean period of ill-health being considerably shorter among children (7-9 days) than adults aged 14-59 years(9-11 days) and the elderly (14.7 days).

The mean length of restricted activity of 4.9 days was also similar to previous years. There were practically no sex difference or differences between area or income groups, but differences occurred between age groups, with the length of restricted activity increasing somewhat with age.

USE OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The proportion of those ill or injured who sought medical care (Table C-1) in this survey period was 47.7 per cent, representing an increase from 38.6 per cent reported in SLC 90. Increases were evident in all the population groups under examination. However, the findings showed dissimilarity from previous surveys in that there were no clear patterns for seeking health care by quintile or area, and little or no difference between the two genders. The patterns observed by age group were similar to those noted in previous rounds of the SLC and may be considered typical. Babies under one year old had the highest rate of those seeking medical care (82.4 per cent). Persons aged over 40 years were next, while 5-13 year olds were least likely to seek medical care.

Data on source and level of care (Table C-2) reveal that the majority of those seeking care (57.7 per cent), attended private health facilities. Another 35.6 per cent went to public facilities and 6.7 per cent went to both. While no allowance was made in the earlier period for recording persons who sought care from both public and private sources, it is possible to conclude from the data that there was no change

TABLE 4.1
PATIENTS' EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH CARE, AND PERCENTAGE OF PATIENTS WITH HEALTH INSURANCE, 1989-1991

Survey	Mean total expenditure		Mean expenditure on drugs		Percentage of patients with health insurance
	Private ($)	Public ($)	Public ($)	Private ($)	
SLC 89-1	6	48	4	30	8.2
SLC 89-2	11	57	5	48	8.1
SLC 90	11	72	4	43	9.0
SLC 91	11	81	8	95	8.6

TABLE 4.2
PERCENTAGE PREVALENCE OF MALNUTRITION, 1978-1991

Survey	Wasting			Stunting			Low weight for age		
	Moderate	Severe	Total	Moderate	Severe	Total	Moderate	Severe	Total
MOH 1978	-	-	5.1	-	-	5.0	-	-	15.0
MOH 1985	3.8	1.3	5.1	4.8	2.3	7.1	13.6	1.0	14.6
SLC 89-1	1.3	0.1	1.4	4.5	0.4	4.9	8.5	0.7	9.2
SLC 89-2	1.5	0.6	2.2	1.7	1.2	2.9	6.5	0.8	7.3
SLC 90	3.2	0.4	3.6	2.1	1.3	3.4	7.9	0.4	8.3
SLC 91	1.9	0.2	2.1	1.6	1.0	2.6	9.0	0.0	9.0

reported in the proportionate usage of public and private facilities between 1990 and 1991.

Patterns of usage by quintile, area, age and sex were similar to those found in previous SLC rounds. Towns continued to be least likely to use public facilities while rural areas were the heaviest users. There was increasing use of public facilities with declining welfare status and age. Females continued to be greater users than males of private facilities.

HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURE

For those seeking medical care, the mean expenditure on all visits made in the last four weeks for private medical services was $81.90 and for public services was $10.90 (Table C-3). The disparity between their expenditure on private and that on public services widened further in this round as private sector visit expenditure increased when compared with the previous round of the SLC but public sector expenditure remained the same. Reported expenditure by persons using public facilities displayed some irregularity by quintile, varying from a low of $6-$7 for quintiles 1, 2 and 5 to a high of $21.90 for quintile 3. By area, age and sex the data followed established patterns where the KMA ($4.80) continued to have lowest mean expenditure. Mean expenditure tended to increase with increasing age, and females paid marginally more than males did for care ($11.10 compared with $10.70).

For those seeking care at private facilities, expenditure showed steady increases by quintile, rising from $62.90 (quintile 1) to $104.60 (quintile 5). Mean expenditure in 'Other towns' was higher than in the rest of the country. By sex and age group, the expenditure pattern was similar to that of public facilities, where females ($85.90) paid marginally more than males ($77.50), and older persons paid more for care than those in the younger age groups.

With regards to the mean expenditure on drugs by those persons who used them, the difference between the public sector ($8.10) and the private sector ($94.60) also increased. There were some variation particularly by area and age for those using public sources. Persons in the KMA had highest expenditure at $12.30, as did those under one year of age ($31.10). Those using private sources maintained the pattern found in previous surveys where the older age groups and the wealthier quintiles spent more for drugs.

Overall, fewer than 10 per cent of persons who sought medical attention had health insurance. Greater proportions of persons in the wealthiest group, in the urban areas and those of working age reported having health insurance.

Table 4.1 provides data on expenditure and insurance health care between 1989 and 1991. Spending on consultations by persons using the public sector remained quite stable, but in the private sector it continued to increase over the period. The increase in the spending on drugs by those who use the health care facilities was significant, doubling the cost in the previous year in both public and private sectors. Among those seeking health care, the percentage with health insurance remained fairly stable over the period.

IMMUNISATION COVERAGE

In spite of the negative economic trends the health service apparently was able to maintain the high level of immunisation coverage of children aged less than five years. Eighty-two per cent of the children had received DPT immunisation, 84 per cent measles, 81 per cent polio and 97 per cent BCG. There were no significant differences by consumption quintile. However it is noteworthy that, with the exception of BCG, coverage in rural areas was higher than in other parts of the country (Table C-4).

NUTRITION

Nutritional status of young children is assessed using anthropometric measures (weight and height) in relation to age and to each other. Standing height was measured for children aged over two years, and length (lying down) in younger children were measured using a measuring board. The investigators were trained by the MOH nutritionists to use the equipment, i.e. measuring boards and scales.

Secular Trends In Malnutrition

Secular trends in malnutrition among children aged less than five years between 1978 and 1991 are shown in Table 4.2. Low weight for age, (one measure of malnutrition) declined between 1978 and 1989, from 15.0 per cent to 7.3 per cent, but increased to 8.3 per cent in 1990, and again in 1991 to 9.0 per cent.

The situation regarding stunting and wasting is less clear in that the prevalence of both conditions declined during the period 1978 to 1989, showed slight increases in 1990 and declined again in 1991 to approximately the 1989 levels.

Table D-1 shows malnutrition levels by quintile. It is indicated that low weight for age was more pronounced in the poorest quintiles but the prevalence of stunting and wasting was so low that there was no discernible pattern. The data by geographic area (Table D-2) show that low weight for age was reduced in the KMA from 9.9 per cent (SLC 90) to 5.2 per cent, it remained stable in 'Other towns' at around 10 per cent, and in rural areas it increased from 7.0 to 9.8 per cent. Stunting, by contrast showed general declines, while wasting followed a mixed pattern. More males than females were classified as malnourished in all categories and grades

TABLE 4.3
PERCENTAGE PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASES REPORTED, BY QUINTILE, AREA, SEX AND AGE

Category	Diabetes	Hyertension	Arthritis	Asthma	Heart disease	Epilepsy
Quintile						
Poorest (N = 1383)	1.8	8.2	7.0	1.1	0.7	0.4
2 (N = 1388)	2.2	8.0	6.8	2.0	0.7	0.4
3 (N = 1380)	2.7	7.8	6.2	2.5	0.7	0.3
4 (N = 1387)	2.3	7.8	6.3	2.5	0.9	0.1
5 (N = 1413)	3.0	10.0	6.6	2.3	0.6	0.1
Area						
KMA (N = 1918)	2.1	6.9	4.9	2.6	0.5	0.2
Other towns (N = 1279)	2.7	10.1	6.2	2.3	0.9	0.2
Rural areas (N = 3753)	2.4	8.5	7.6	1.8	0.8	0.3
Sex						
Male (N = 3350)	2.0	5.6	4.3	2.9	0.8	0.3
Female (N = 3570)	2.8	11.9	8.7	2.0	0.7	0.2
Age group						
0-9 (N = 1555)	0.1	0.0	0.1	4.1	0.1	0.1
10-19 (N = 1539)	0.1	0.5	0.1	1.6	0.2	0.1
20-24 (N = 637)	0.2	1.6	0.2	1.6	0.6	-
25-29 (N = 569)	0.9	3.5	0.5	1.4	0.3	0.2
30-34 (N = 479)	1.0	5.4	2.3	0.8	-	0.6
35-39 (N = 346)	0.9	7.5	1.5	1.2	-	-
40-44 (N = 294)	2.7	11.2	6.1	-	-	0.7
45-49 (N = 261)	3.5	11.9	10.8	2.3	0.4	0.4
50 + (N = 1236)	10.7	34.1	31.3	1.6	3.1	0.5
Jamaica	2.4	8.5	6.6	2.1	0.7	0.2

of malnutrition (Table D-3). Among the age groups, more children between 3 and 5 years old showed signs of low weight for age than those in the younger age groups; differences in wasting and stunting by age were small and irregular (Table D-4).

CHRONIC DISEASES

The reported prevalence of chronic diseases ranged from a high of 8.5 per cent of persons having hypertension and 6.6 per cent for arthritis to a low of 0.7 per cent for heart disease and 0.2 per cent for epilepsy (Table 4.3).

Hypertension and arthritis were, therefore, the two most prevalent of the chronic diseases, and both displayed similar patterns by geographical area, age and sex. Both had lowest levels in the KMA, increasing with age (rising to over 39 per cent of those over 60 years), and both were twice as frequently reported among females as among males. The main differences found were that there were much larger percentages of the younger age groups suffering from hypertension than from arthritis, while hypertension was also slightly more prevalent among persons in the wealthiest quintile and arthritis was roughly equally prevalent among all quintiles.

Diabetes and asthma had roughly equivalent reported prevalence at 2.4 and 2.1 per cent respectively. For both of these diseases, there was little variation by region, quintile and sex. However, the picture by age showed some difference as asthma was most prevalent (twice the national average) amongst children below age 9 years, while diabetes was most prevalent for persons over 50 years, where it was almost five times the national average.

Heart disease and epilepsy were both reported in less than one per cent of the sample overall, and for both there was little meaningful variation in the prevalence of these diseases in relation to any of the population variables under analysis, except that the groups over 60 years old had a far higher rate of heart disease (4.4 per cent) than the other age groups did.

From the above assessment, one may conclude that age is the most significant factor associated with the prevalence of chronic diseases in general. At the same time, gender appears to be of some relevance to hypertension and arthritis, with females being more prone to these diseases, while there is also evidence that persons of higher economic status are more susceptible to hypertension.

Table 4.4 shows the categories of persons who first informed the individuals of their illness, for the six ailments being considered. Medical personnel told them about the illness in at least 98 per cent of cases for all diseases except epilepsy and arthritis, which were identified by other persons (friends, pharmacists, etc.) in 11.8 and 5.2 per cent of cases respectively.

Nurses were particularly important in informing persons that they had heart disease (22.8 per cent) diabetes (12.0 per cent) and high blood pressure (10.0 per cent). Doctors were most frequently involved in diagnosing asthma (93.1 per cent) and least involved in diagnosing heart disease (75.4 per cent); for the other diseases, these practitioners diagnosed 82-89 per cent of cases. □

TABLE 4.4
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSON WHO IDENTIFIED CHRONIC DISEASES

Disease	Doctor	Nurse	Other	All
Diabetes	86.8	12.0	1.2	100.0
Hypertension	88.9	10.0	1.0	100.0
Arthritis	87.0	7.7	5.2	100.0
Asthma	93.1	5.5	1.4	100.0
Epilepsy	82.1	5.9	11.8	100.0
Heart disease	75.4	22.8	1.8	100.0

Food Stamp Programme

INTRODUCTION

The 1991 round of the SLC was designed to capture information in relation to significant changes in the Food Stamp Programme(FSP) which were instituted in September 1990. These included two new low-income categories in operation for the first time: the 'Single-person household' earning less than $3,000 per annum, and the 'Family plan', for households with two or more persons jointly earning less than $7,200 per annum. The introduction of these household-based categories was intended to complement the individual allowances available to mothers, children, pensioners, the indigent and the incapacitated. The present analysis also examines the programme on a new dimension, i.e. it distinguishes between single - and multiple - recipient households.

As in previous rounds of the SLC, this analysis assesses the distribution of benefits with a view to examining the degree of coverage and leakage. For the two new categories, coverage is considered in relation to eligible households only, that is those falling below the maximum income specified. For other categories, the data collected allows the identification of those potentially eligible (e.g. pregnant women) but not of those who actually meet the criterion of attending Government clinics. However, steps are being taken to make this identification possible in the 1992 round. With respect to leakage, the 1991 survey classified all persons in receipt of stamps under one of the official categories of eligibility, hence no recipients were considered to be in the category 'None of the above' as in previous reports.

Overall, 17.8 per cent of households surveyed and 5.5 per cent of individuals reported receiving stamps during the two months preceding the survey in November 1991. This compares with 12.8 per cent of households and 3.7 per cent of individuals reported in SLC 90. (Table 5.1 and 5.4)

TABLE 5.1
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS BY CATEGORY OF RECIPIENT, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Category	SLC 90	SLC 91
Children aged less than 5 yr	16.6	26.2
Pregnant/lactating women	0.5	7.2
Elderly; on relief; on assistance	22.3	30.1
Single member household (income below $3,000 p. a.)	-	100.0*
Family plan (income < $7,200 p. a.)	-	7.4*
All households	12.8	17.8

* Based on very small numbers

HOUSEHOLD COVERAGE

Coverage by Category of Eligibility

The first three categories indicated in Table 5-1 are comparable with 1990. Proportionate increases in coverage were enjoyed by all three categories, ranging from almost 7 per cent for households with pregnant and lactating women (from 0.5 per cent in 1990 to 7.2 per cent) to almost 10 per cent for households with children under five (from 16.6 per cent in 1990 to 26.2 per cent). Households with the elderly continued to enjoy the best coverage and those with pregnant women and lactating mothers continued to receive the worst. For the two new categories that were implemented in 1991, the 'Single member household' and the 'Family plan', the numbers in the sample were too small to make the coverage figures meaningful.

Coverage By Quintile

Overall, the distribution of benefits across quintiles (Table 5.2) indicates a progressive decline in benefits as consumption rises. Only households with pregnant and lactating women showed any exception, indicating an irregular pattern of allocation of stamps. In quintile 5 the only two household categories receiving stamps were those with children under five years of age and those with the elderly. The single member household and family plan categories received benefits for households in the poorest quintile only, as would be expected (Table G-5).

Compared with 1990 data (Table 5.2), all quintiles showed increases in the proportion of households receiving benefits. The poorest quintile had the largest increase, of 13.3 percentage points, moving from 29.3 per cent in SLC 90 to 42.6 per cent in SLC 91. The size of the increases for the other quintiles fell off sharply and regularly to a low of 1.3 percentage points for the wealthiest quintile.

In spite of this development which favoured the poorer quintiles, the data show that the share of benefits across quintiles did not become any more progressive. The poorest quintiles (quintiles 1 and 2) contained 58.2 per cent of beneficiaries compared with 59.6 in SLC 90, while the richest beneficiaries (quintiles 4 and 5) contained 20.9 per cent of the beneficiaries, compared with 21.3 per cent in SLC 90.

TABLE 5.2
HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS BY AREA AND QUINTILE AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RECIPIENTS, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Variable	Percentage of households receiving stamps		Distribution of recipient households	
	SLC 90	SLC 91	SLC 90	SLC 91
Area				
KMA	4.2	5.3	9.4	8.9
Other towns	11.5	12.6	17.0	14.2
Rural areas	18.0	26.8	73.6	76.9
Total	12.8	17.8	100.0	100.0
Quintile				
Poorest	29.3	42.6	33.6	32.6
2	20.4	27.6	26.0	25.6
3	14.2	20.3	19.1	20.9
4	9.2	11.7	14.9	13.9
5	2.7	4.0	6.4	7.0
Total	12.8	17.8	100.0	100.0

Coverage by Area

According to the survey data (Table 5.2), rural households continued to benefit from the highest level of coverage under the FSP. A total of 26.8 per cent of the sample in rural areas were in receipt of stamps, compared with 12.6 per cent of households in 'Other towns' and 5.3 per cent of those in the KMA. Between 1990 and 1991, there was an 8.8 percentage point increase in the proportion of households receiving benefits in rural areas, while 'Other towns' and the KMA had increases of only approximately one percentage point each.

Rural households thus accounted for 76.9 per cent of households receiving food stamps while the KMA represented 8.9 per cent and households in 'Other towns' represented 14.2 per cent of those receiving benefits. This is indicative of a small proportionate decrease (approximately 3.0 per cent) for the latter two areas since November 1990, with a corresponding proportionate increase of benefits to rural households.

NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS PER HOUSEHOLD

As shown in Table G-3, the vast majority of households, (78.2 per cent) receiving benefits were those with single recipients, while 18.3 per cent were households with two recipients and 3.5 per cent of households had three or more recipients. The KMA had the largest proportion of households with single recipients at 96.4 per cent; the other 3.6 per cent of KMA households had two recipients each. In the rest of the country, only approximately three quarters of households had single recipients, with close to one quarter having multiple recipients.

As one might expect, the proportion of households with multiple recipients increased with declining welfare status. Hence the poorer quintiles have the smallest proportions of households with single recipients and the largest proportions of households with multiple recipients. The differentials between the quintiles are marked and regular, increasing from 9.0 per cent of the wealthiest quintile to 27.2 per cent of the poorest quintile being multiple recipients.

Multiple Food Stamp Recipients

Households receiving two or more sets of food stamps overwhelmingly did so on the basis of having children and or elderly persons as recipients (Table 5.3). In fact, 94.1 per cent of multiple recipient households were households with either the elderly, or with children less than five years of age or a combination of both. Only a very small proportion of multiple recipient households (4.3 per cent) qualified on the basis of having at least one pregnant or lactating women.

TABLE 5.3
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH MULTIPLE FOOD STAMP RECIPCIENTS, SLC 91

Category	Percentage
Two recipients in a household	**83.9**
Both < 5 yrs	34.8
One elderly, one < 5 yrs	15.9
Both elderly	27.5
One pregnant/lactating, one < 5 yrs	2.9
Both pregnant/lactating	1.4
Other	1.4
Three or more recipients in a household	**15.9**
Three < than 5 yrs	7.3
One elderly, two < 5 yrs	5.8
One elderly, three < 5 yrs	1.4
Two elderly, one < 5 yrs	1.4
Total	**100.0**

Of all households with multiple recipients, the largest proportion(34.8 per cent) were households receiving two sets of stamps for children less than five years old. Households with two elderly persons receiving stamps ac-

TABLE 5.4
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS, BY CATEGORY, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Category	SLC 90	SLC 91
Children aged less than 5 yr	13.7	23.3
Pregnant/lactating women	0.5	7.0
Elderly; on relief; on assistance	18.9	26.6
Single member Household (income < $3,000 p.a.)	-	100.0*
Family plan (income < $7,200 p.a.)	-	7.4*
All households	3.7	5.6

* Based on very small numbers

counted for 27.5 per cent, the next largest proportion. None of the multiple recipient households fell in the single member household category. Among households receiving three or more stamps, the largest proportion, 7.3 per cent, had only children as the recipients.

COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARIES

In relation to the target of having 60 per cent of beneficiaries being mothers/children and 40 per cent being in the elderly/poor category, the survey findings reveal an improvement since November 1990. Benefits in the former category totalled 48.6 per cent, compared with 45 per cent in November 1990, while 51.4 per cent of beneficiaries were in the latter, compared with 55 per cent in the last round.

Coverage by Category of Potential Beneficiary

Of the three categories (Table 5.4) that are comparable to 1990, the elderly continued to have the best coverage, at 26.6 per cent, followed by children under five years of age with 23.3 per cent, and pregnant and lactating women with 7.0 per cent. All three categories indicated some level of increase in coverage over 1990.

Coverage by Quintile

The allocation of benefits to quintiles showed the same pattern for individuals as for households. For the three individual categories for which the data permits comparison with SLC 90, (children less than five, pregnant women and lactating mothers) increases in proportions of persons benefitting were found across all quintiles.

In relation to the proportion of total benefits which each quintile received, there were no significant changes since November 1990, as 62.0 per cent of food stamp recipients were in the poorest two quintiles, while 18.9 per cent were in the wealthiest two (Table 5.5).

Coverage by Area

Table 5.5 shows that, overall, 7.9 per cent of individuals in rural areas received benefits compared with 4.5 per cent in 'Other towns' and 1.5 per cent in the KMA. This pattern, where rural households are more likely to receive food stamps, is maintained in relation to each beneficiary category. For the single member household category, benefits were only reported in the rural areas, while for the Family Plan, no benefits were reported in the KMA.

The distribution of beneficiaries among the three regions reveals a marked increase in the proportion of individuals

TABLE 5.5
PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS BY AREA AND QUINTILE AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RECIPIENTS, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

	Percentage of individuals[a] receiving stamps		Distribution of individuals receiving stamps	
Variable	SLC 90	SLC 91	SLC 90	SLC 91
Area				
KMA	1.2	1.5	8.7	7.3
Other towns	3.9	4.5	18.4	15.1
Rural areas	4.9	7.9	72.9	77.6
Total	3.7	5.5	100.0	100.0
Quintile				
Poorest	6.7	9.8	36.1	34.5
2	5.0	7.7	27.1	27.5
3	3.2	5.4	17.3	19.1
4	2.5	3.6	13.4	12.6
5	1.1	1.8	6.1	6.3
Total	3.7	5.5	100.0[b]	100.0

a - These are percentages of the total population *not* of eligible persons only.
b - Total includes 9 heads of household from the household-based categories.

TABLE 5.6
SELF-REPORTED REASONS(PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS) FOR NOT RECEIVING FOOD STAMPS, SLC 90 AND SLC 91

Reason	SLC 90	SLC 91
Non-applicants	**78.5**	**81.3**
Self-perceived ineligibilty	31.4	37.3
Ignorance of application procedure	16.7	23.3
Not worth the trouble	15.0	9.2
Do not want stigma	9.4	6.8
Other	5.8	4.6
Applicants	**21.5**	**18.7**
Application rejected	4.4	1.5
Outcome not known	11.4	15.6
Application accepted but stamps not received for various reasons	5.7	1.6
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**

in the rural areas between 1990 and 1991, moving from 72.9 per cent of the beneficiaries in the November 1990 round to 77.6 per cent in November 1991. Thus individuals in rural areas by far constituted the greatest proportion of beneficiaries, followed by those in 'Other towns' (15.1 per cent), and in the KMA (7.3 per cent) (Table 5.4).

LEVEL OF CONTACT WITH THE FSP

Table G-1 shows the percentage of households by area and by consumption level which made contact with the FSP. Contact with the FSP is defined as application to the programme, irrespective of receipt of benefits. The success rate is regarded as the proportion of those who applied who received benefits.

Overall, of all 1,768 households surveyed (Table G-1), approximately one-third reported having made contact with the FSP. Compared with other areas, the KMA continued to show the lowest level of contact (14.7 per cent) with the FSP, while the rural areas continued to show the highest level of contact (45.9 per cent). The data therefore indicate a similar trend to that of SLC 90.

Taken from the perspective of consumption levels, the poorer households, quintiles 1 and 2, maintained the highest level of contact with the FSP - 63.9 per cent and 53.4 per cent respectively. The pattern is maintained where, as consumption levels rise for households, level of contact with the FSP declines. The richest households (i.e. quintile 5) had the lowest level of contact with the FSP (10.6 per cent).

Of those making contact (Table G-1), 53.8 per cent overall were successful, as against 40.9 per cent in November 1990. The success rate for households receiving food stamps in different areas, follows the same trend as for level of contact, with the 'rural areas' showing the highest success rate (58.4 per cent). For these areas, this represented a proportionate increase in the success rate of 19 per cent over November 1990, where the figure was then the second highest success rate behind 'Other towns'. By quintile, the success rate appears to be progressive, as the rate declines when consumption levels rise. The poorest households had a success rate of 66.7 per cent, well above the overall rate. The success rate for the wealthiest quintile was 37.7 per cent.

Self-Reported Reasons for Non-Receipt of Stamps

Of all households that reported non-receipt of stamps, 18.7 per cent(proportionately almost three per cent less than November 1990) had in fact applied while 81.3 per cent had not (Table 5.6).

The most frequently cited reasons reported for not receiving stamps (Table G-9) remained as in previous rounds - self-perceived ineligibility (37.3 per cent), followed by ignorance of how to obtain stamps (23.3 per cent), and by applications made but not or not yet approved (17.1 per cent). All three major reasons indicated proportionate increases over November 1990.

There were reductions in the proportion of persons who failed to receive stamps, although they had applications approved, as this dropped from a level of 5.7 per cent in 1990 to 1.6 per cent in 1991.

It is noted also that there were proportionately fewer households in this round which felt it was not worth the trouble to apply for stamps, and also fewer which were affected by any stigma attached to the receipt of stamps.

Dissemination of information about the programme remains an important issue to be addressed as the evidence is that this has not improved. Similarly, failure to inform applicants of the result of their application continues to be a too frequent occurrence reported in this survey, affecting as many as 20 per cent of applicants in the elderly, pregnant and lactating women and children categories. □

Housing

INTRODUCTION

The SLC housing module monitors housing conditions and associated quality of life indicators such as quality and/or availability of drinking water, toilet facilities and electricity. This section presents a brief description of the findings in relation to these factors.

DWELLING TYPE

The category 'Part of a house' was excluded as a dwelling in SLC 91. This has resulted in noticeable increases in the proportion of households reported to be living in separate detached and semi-detached houses. In SLC 90, the figure for 'All Jamaica' in relation to the former stood at 79.0 per cent, but in 1991 it rose to 93.3 per cent. Those living in semi-detached houses rose from 2.0 to 4.3 per cent (Table 6.1).

In the KMA and 'Other towns', the increase was more pronounced than in the rural areas because these two regions, according to SLC 90, were the regions where the 'Part of a house' category was most manifest. The rural areas thus displayed the slightest gains, moving from 92.6 per cent to 96.8 per cent (Table F-1).

An examination of dwelling types by quintile reveals the same upward movement in all quintiles, but the wealthier the quintile, the larger was the increase in detached and semi-detached houses. Nevertheless, the poorer quintiles (Table F-2) still maintained the highest rankings as occupants of separate detached houses; this was linked in previous SLC reports with the high percentage of rural residents occupying such type houses. The larger increases in the wealthier quintiles is related to the larger proportions reflecting the 'Part of a house' concept in these quintiles.

Additionally, one notes also an increase in the 'Apartment/Town house' category, moving from 0.2 to 2.5 per cent in the wealthiest quintile. This category is predominantly a feature of the KMA where it represents 2.1 per cent of house types, and it will be interesting to watch developments within this category in the next rounds of the SLC in view of the expansion of apartment buildings and townhouses in the metropolis.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL

For the 1991 survey, the classification of dwelling types used in previous rounds of the SLC was modified to make it comparable to that used in the 1991 Population Census. In particular, this affected the classification of dwellings made of concrete nog or wood and concrete. As a result, the present findings in relation to these types of materials may not be readily compared with that in previous rounds of the survey.

The most prevalent outer wall material reported by households is shown in Table F-3. Continuing the trend established in previous surveys, the largest proportion of dwellings was made from block and steel, 54.9 per cent. In the KMA, the percentage of households using this type of outer wall material was 62.8 per cent, and in the rural areas, it was 49.8 per cent. These figures underline the growing dominance of block and steel as house building material.

Within quintiles, the distribution of households by outer wall material (Table F-4) shows considerable variations. In the poorest quintile, there was a narrowing of the gap be-

TABLE 6.1
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF DWELLING TYPE, 1989-1991

Dwelling type	SLC 89-2	SLC 90	SLC 91[b]
Separate house, detached	78.0	79.0	93.3
Part of a house	17.9	17.8	N/A
Other	3.9[a]	0.2	0.3
Semi-detached house	N/A	2.0	4.3
Apartment/Townhouse	N/A	0.4	1.1
Part of a commercial building	N/A	0.7	1.0
All types	100.0	100.0	100.0

a - For the 1989 report, Semi-detached, Apartment/Townhouse, Improvised housing unit, Commercial building and Other were grouped to give 3.9%

b - For the 1991 report 'Part of a house' was omitted

TABLE 6.2
PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS BY TENURE, 1989 - 1991

Tenure	SLC 89-2	SLC 90	SLC 91
Owner household	64.0	69.1	64.5
-With outstanding mortgage	N/A	(8.6)	(11.3)
-no outstanding mortgage	N/A	(91.3)	(8.1)
Renter household	27.6	24.4	33.2
Other	8.3	6.4	2.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

tween block & steel and wood due to the ascendancy of the former, resulting in practically no difference between the proportion of households living in block houses (40.1 per cent) and wooden houses (44.6 per cent). The gap however, grew in the wealthiest quintile with block & steel accounting for 68.4 per cent and wooden houses comprising only 19.0 per cent.

HOUSING TENURE

The number of households in which a family member actually owned the house, or in which the household membershad rent-free declined from 69.1 per cent to 52.6 per cent between 1990 and 1991 (Tables F-2 and 6.2). Meanwhile, the number of individuals living in rented houses increased in all regions. This may reflect the trend which has emerged recently, in which a growing number of individuals acquire houses as a means of investment and then rent out these houses.

As expected, the level of squatting for 'Other' urban areas, at 2.9 per cent, exceeded that for the KMA (1.3 per cent). Comparative data on squatting was not collected in the previous SLC surveys.

HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES

Sanitation

Overall, there was a decline in the use of Wcs compared with 1990 (Table 6.3). As a result, just under half (47.4) of the households had access to Wcs, while as many as 50.8 per cent continued to use pit latrines (Table F-5). This reflects widespread use of pit latrines in the rural areas (73.0 per cent).

As expected, households in the KMA mainly used WCs (80.3 per cent) and the disparity between Kingston and other areas widened in 1991. However, it is important to note that just under half the WCs reported for the KMA were not linked to sewers.

One significant pattern emerging from the data was the high degree of sharing of toilet facilities. At the national level, over 25 per cent of the households had only limited access to toilet facilities. At the regional level, the level of sharing becomes even more prominent. In the KMA, for example, over 60 per cent of the households with WCs linked to a sewer did not have exclusive use of their facility. These patterns are instructive, given that access to physical facilities is a key variable affecting the vulnerability of low income houses to certain infectious diseases. The level of sharing was lower in rural areas, understandably so, because of the predominant types of dwelling in these areas and the widespread use of pit latrines.

Disparities in terms of sanitary convenience continued at the quintile level(Table F-6). For example, while 73.4 per cent of the richest households had WCs, the comparable figure for the poorest households was 10.7 per cent. In addition, while 85.7 per cent of the poorest households used pit latrines, only 26 per cent of their richer counterparts utilised this type of facility.

Kitchen Facilities

The proportion of households having kitchen facilities (Tables F-11 and 6.3) fell slightly from 94.6 per cent in SLC 90 to 89.2 per cent in SLC 91. Among the latter there were 12.6 per cent who did not have exclusive use of the facility.

Consistent with the findings recorded for SLC 90, those either not having or only sharing kitchen facilities were more evident in the KMA than in opposed to 'Other towns' and rural areas, and disparities were maintained in 1991.

Utilities

Electricity, the dominant mode of lighting, increased to 67.2 per cent from 66.0 per cent of households in 1990 (Tables F-9, 6.4). The proportion of new households using electricity however grew at a slower rate than in previous surveys. At the regional level, electricity was used by over 80 per cent of households in the KMA and by about half of the households in rural areas.

There was an increase in the use of electricity in all quintiles and a commensurate fall in the use of kerosene.

Water Supply

Compared with SLC 90 there was a slight increase in the proportion of households using tap water (whether the supply was located inside or outside), and the use of the standpipe declined (Tables F-7 and 6.4). The question of access (which cannot be fully determined from the data) is a matter of concern as the proportion of those getting water from a standpipe or pipe located in the yard rather from a pipe in the house is high outside of the KMA, totalling 47.5 per cent in rural areas and 47.9 per cent in 'Other towns'.

The regional disparity in terms of access to public water supply maintained the patterns observed in previous SLC surveys. Households living in the KMA were four and a half times more likely to have indoor taps than their counterparts in the rural areas. Over 23.0 per cent of the rural households also used water tanks as their major source of water supply, compared with 10.7 per cent for 'Other towns' and 0.2 per cent for the KMA.

TABLE 6.3
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH TOILET AND KITCHEN FACILITIES, 1989-1991

Facility	SLC 89-2	SLC 90	SLC 91
Toilet			
WC	45.8	51.4	47.4
Having exclusive use	N/A	38.2	35.3
Pit	51.5	47.7	50.8
Having exclusive use	N/A	36.8	40.2
Other	0.5	0.4	0.2
Having exclusive use	N/A	0.2	0.0
None	2.0	0.5	1.5
All types	100.0	100.0	100.0
Having exclusive use	78.1	75.2	75.7
Kitchen	93.8	94.6	89.2
Having exclusive use	82.2	81.1	76.6

HOUSING EXPENSES

There was an increase in the numbers of those reported as paying rent, moving from 390 to 418 (Table F-15), and those living in rented accommodation moved from 24.4 per cent in SLC 90 to 33.3 in SLC 91. Quite a different picture emerges, however, when one looks at the percentage increase in mean monthly payments. For 'All Jamaica', the mean monthly payment increased by 80 per cent over the 1990 findings. This level of increase was reflected in urban areas and the wealthier quintiles. In the KMA, the increase was 95 per cent, in 'Other towns' 80 per cent and in rural areas 31 per cent. This clearly confirms the high level of increases in rental costs reported in 1991 for both the KMA and 'Other towns'.

An examination by quintile of the percentage increase in monthly rentals mirrors what is happening at the regional level, with increases in the poorest quintile standing at 32 per cent and in the wealthiest, 85 per cent. Rent cost as percentage of total household consumption recorded small increases in geographic areas with a high of 12.2 percentage points in the KMA.

Mortgage Expenses

Only 53 respondents (Table F-18) actually responded as having outstanding mortgages. This is once again a small number and, as in SLC 90, caution is advised when interpreting these data.

Nevertheless, some of the patterns reported in SLC 90 have once again manifested themselves in SLC 91. Mortgage payments on the average were still higher in 'Other towns' than in the KMA, and the percentage of household consumption devoted to mortgage payments was still higher in 'Other towns' than in the KMA. The disparity between the KMA and rest of the country widened in SLC 91. The increase over SLC 90 was 99 per cent for the KMA, 49 per cent for 'Other towns' and 39 per cent for rural areas.

At the quintile level, the respondents reporting mortgage expenses were still concentrated in the last three quintiles recording approximately the same percentage as in SLC 90.

Electricity Expenses

Between 1990 and 1991 there was a 30 per cent increase in electricity costs reported by those who actually paid for this. This increase was relatively uniform throughout all geographic areas (Table F-15). 'Other towns', however, recorded the highest increase, 36 per cent.

Water Expenses

Payments by households for water (Table F-16) corresponded basically to those of SLC 90 and followed much

TABLE 6.4
PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH HOUSEHOLD UTILITIES, 1989-1991

Utility	SLC 89-2	SLC 90	SLC 91
Lighting			
Electricity	61.6	66.0	67.2
Kerosene	36.4	31.3	30.1
Other	0.3	0.3	2.6
None	1.7	2.3	0.1
Drinking water			
Indoor tap/pipe	34.3	38.4	37.1
Outside private tap/pipe	22.3	22.8	25.8
Public standpipe	20.9	17.1	14.8
River/pond	6.1	5.7	5.1
Rain water (tank)	13.4	13.4	13.1
Other	2.7	2.7	4.3
Telephone	5.4	8.2	9.4

the same pattern as electricity payments. The KMA still recorded the highest mean water payment but the mean cost actually fell from $118 in SLC 90 to $105 in SLC 91, while in rural areas the mean cost rose from $68 to $96.

Property Taxes

A total of 760 respondents (Table F-19) reported that they paid property taxes. The mean annual tax moved from $48 in SLC 90 to $64 in SLC 91. Noteworthy movements took place in the 'Other towns' with the mean annual tax moving from $97 to $167. As an indicator of the value of property within the different areas, the value of property in 'Other towns' moved from roughly four and half times that in rural areas to five and half times as high. The difference is even greater at the quintile level, with the difference in property taxes between the poorest and wealthiest quintiles moving from six times in SLC 90 to over twelve times in SLC 91.

Property taxes as a percentage of household consumption expenditure remained practically identical to that of SLC 90. □