

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Consumers to pay 4% increase in textbook prices**

Consumers will pay an average increase of 4% for the price of textbooks this academic year. This is the main finding from the annual national survey of the textbook industry which was conducted by the Consumer Affairs Commission (CAC) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information (MoEYI). The survey was executed between July 25 and August 5, 2016 in thirteen parishes across Jamaica. The objective of the survey is to supply consumers with information that will aid in their final decisions, especially in finding the most affordable prices for textbooks, a vital back to school consumer item.

One hundred and thirty three (133) of the most popular textbooks were selected for observation at major franchise bookstores such as Sangster's Bookstore and Kingston Bookshop, as well as smaller/independent retailers. Of the books selected 13 were infant school texts; 30 primary school texts; and 90 high school texts.

On average for the island, infant school books cost J\$1,090.63, primary school books J\$1,432.22, high school literature books cost J\$1,928.00, Grade 7-9 texts cost \$1,600.08 and CSEC/CAPE books cost J\$3,343.17. Traditionally, textbook prices have moved with exchange rate fluctuations.

The CAC is encouraging parents to utilise the approved list endorsed by the Ministry of Education and, where possible, utilise the National Textbook Rental Scheme or purchase pre-owned books. Parents are also urged to take advantage of lower prices where they are available, but ensure that a proper receipt is collected and retained should a complaint arise.

***Table showing price and availability observations by category of books and region***

	Infant School Books			Primary School Books			Grade 7-9			High School Lit Books			CSEC/CAPE Books		
	GKMA	Other	Island	GKMA	Other	Island	GKMA	Other	Island	GKMA	Other	Island	GKMA	Other	Island
<b>Average % of stores with available stock</b>	88%	80%	82%	81%	68%	71%	56%	22%	30%	68%	51%	55%	43%	18%	24%
<b>Average Price of Books in Category (\$)</b>	1091.25	1090.91	1090.63	1442.39	1426.98	1432.22	1709.73	1481.96	1600.08	1961.61	1907.62	1928.00	3606.34	3306.29	3467.08
<b>Average Variation in Price of Books in Category (%)</b>	3%	10%	9%	5%	9%	8%	15%	24%	23%	7%	13%	12%	5%	15%	14%
<b>Price of Most Expensive book (\$)</b>	1350.00	1795.00	1440.77	2385.00	2651.00	2610.00	4045.00	4045.00	4045.00	2770.00	3470.00	3470.00	9250.00	9250.00	9250.00
<b>Price of Least Expensive Book (\$)</b>	655.00	600.00	600.00	1032.00	959.00	959.00	470.00	470.00	470.00	813.00	380.00	380.00	1200.00	291.00	291.00

For additional information on the Annual School Textbook Survey, visit the Consumer Affairs Commission website [www.cac.gov.jm](http://www.cac.gov.jm) for the full report.

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