

# GII Survey Report

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*Selection: Jamaica.*

## 1) Jamaica, 1873 - 1873

Survey ID: 2026

### 1 households

Notes: The Young (1875) report includes, in a chapter on Labor in Jamaica, a table showing the average weekly and yearly expenditures and earnings for 1 family in Kingston, Jamaica.

Ref ID: 94

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**Edward Young, *Labor in Europe and America: a special report on the rates of wages, the cost of subsistence, and the condition of the working classes in Great Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, and other countries of Europe, also in the United States and British America* (Washington DC: Government Printing Office, 1875)**

Ref ID: 1296

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**Faith M. Williams and Carle C. Zimmerman, *Studies of Family Living in the U.S.A. and other Countries: An Analysis of Material and Method* (Washington D. C.: United States Dept. of Agriculture, 1935)**

## 2) Jamaica, 1939 - 1939 (Labour Office)

Survey ID: 579

486 households

Sample Duration: 4 Month(s)

Ref ID: 569

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**Jamaica Labour Department, *Report on the Cost of Living Survey Carried out in Kingston, Jamaica, by the Labour Department, August-November 1939* (Kingston: Government Printer, 1940)**

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3 ) **Jamaica, 1944 - 1944**

Survey ID: 580

**1,011 households**

Ref ID: 570

**Jamaica Labour Department, *Report on an Economic Survey among Field Workers in the Sugar Industry, November 1944* (Kingston: Govt. Printers, 1945)**

4 ) **Jamaica, 1953 - 1954 (Jamaica Central Bureau of Statistics)**

Survey ID: 1394

**1,517 households**

Sample Duration: 1 Week(s)

**Notes:** Using statistical sampling based on the population census, this survey (a collaboration between the government's statistical office and University College), which was the first since 1939, aimed to develop a cost of living index for working class households in the Kingston metropolitan area.

The aim was to get a representative week's expenditure using the interview method. To this end, some households were sampled for up to 5 months. The income of a household was assessed as being that of the main wage-earner. A household was defined as a group of people living together who shared housekeeping.

The survey was carried out in three phases (time periods) - A, B and C. Data is presented in these three groups. Data presented is in the form of grouped average weekly expenditure on items of food and household goods. Weighting of these items for preparing a cost of living index is given in an appendix.

Ref ID: 1439

**Department of Statistics, *Household expenditure survey, 1953-54.* (Kingston, 1955)**

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5) **Jamaica, 1956 - 1956 (Jamaica Department of Statistics)**

Survey ID: 1395

**790 households**

Sample Duration: 3 Month(s)

Notes: The survey was designed to create a new rural cost of living index to replace the Sugar Workers' Cost of Living Index, which had been in place since 1941.

In methodology it very much functioned as a follow-on to the 1953-4 urban survey, based in Kingston. However, the value of home produce, significant since this was a rural survey, was not sufficiently taken into account due to the use of an urban methodology. To make the results comparable to the Kingston survey, this survey was kept to lower-income households, with the main wage earner bringing in less than £500 per year. The 10% sampling technique was used to select households in parishes deemed to be representative. Questionnaires were used.

Data is presented in group format, and includes detailed expenditure on food.

Ref ID: 1440

**Department of Statistics, Rural Household Expenditure survey, 1956. (Kingston, 1957)**

6) **Jamaica, 1958 - 1958 (Department of Statistics)**

Survey ID: 1396

**1,160 households**

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: The Jamaica survey was carried out by the Government Department of Statistics. It covered 1,160 households divided roughly according to the distribution of total population between the main urban area, Kingston, the other main towns on the island, and the rural areas. It was the first national survey.

An itemised food budget, including both purchased foods and those obtained as gifts or from domestic production, was requested from each participating household for two weeks at different periods of the year. Information was also asked for on other principal categories of expenditure during the year, and on the earnings of members of the household.

Ref ID: 1619

**US Department of Agriculture, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Leeward Islands, Windward Islands, Barbados, and British Guiana projected levels of demand supply, and imports of agricultural products to 1975. (Washington: US Department of Agriculture, 1965)**

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Ref ID: 1441

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**Department of Statistics, *Household expenditure survey, 1958* (Kingston, 1960)**

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### **Report Stats:**

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<b>Surveys:</b>	6
Reference instances:	8
<b>Total Households:</b>	4,965