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Jersey Household Expenditure Survey

On Wednesday 12th July the States Statistics Unit published the findings from the 2004/2005 Household Expenditure Survey (HES), enabling Jersey, for the first time, to have a detailed understanding of household spending.

The information presented in the report has many uses. It will be used to ensure that the Retail Prices Index (RPI), the official measure of how prices are changing in the Island, remains accurate. This means checking that the items included in the index continue to reflect the items that people buy and that the weights (or relative importance of individual items in the index) accurately reflect their importance in households' budgets.

The report also provides a detailed insight into the way Jersey residents live in terms of the range of goods and services purchased and allows analysis to be undertaken to look at how different types of household spend their money, both in absolute and percentage terms, and thus to understand the degree to which expenditure differs.

This analysis, together with the Jersey Annual Social Survey (JASS), provides an extremely rich tool to better understand social issues.

The data underlying the HES report were collected from a random sample of over 1,000 households in the 12 months to September 2005. Each member of the sampled household aged 16 and over kept a diary of all their expenditure for two weeks and also recorded larger personal purchases that they had made over the previous 12 months. In all over 300,000 individual transactions have been analysed to produce this comprehensive report on household spending.

The HES is part of the ongoing work to develop official statistics in Jersey. More information on official statistics can be found at www.gov.je/statistics.

Commenting on the survey Duncan Millard, Head of the States Statistics Unit, said: "*The HES is a very rich source of information for Jersey meaning, for the first time, we can really understand household spending. It has only been possible to produce such a comprehensive report thanks to the great co-operation we received from Jersey households*".

Notes:

Copies of the report are available from the Statistics Unit (440426) and website (www.gov.je/statistics). Over 750 of the 1,000 participating households requested copies of the report; these will be sent out in the next week.

For further information, please contact:

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