Jamaica

Sources:
Ahiram 1964, Table 1
Paukert 1973, Table 6 p.104-105
Jain 1975
Cromwell 1977, Table 1
Boyd 1988, Table 7.2 p 100
Fields 1989
Psacharopoulos et al. 1997
World Bank Poverty Monitoring Database 2002
Deininger & Squire, World Bank 2004
World Bank, World Development Indicators 2004

Surveys:
Household Expenditure Survey 1958, 1975
The income concept reported by Ahiram (1964) is gross monetary income including annual money income of wage earners, non-wage earners and other income recipients before any deductions. It excludes income from capital and gifts and probably also pensions. Boyd (1988) seems to use some kind of expenditure aggregate.

Continuous Social and Demographic Survey 1968, 1973, 1980
Used by Fields (1989). No documentation is available.

Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions 1988-1999
This is a World Bank Living Standards Measurement Survey that is linked to the ongoing quarterly Labor Force Survey (LFS). The sampling strategy is a two stage stratified process, designed to select approximately one and a half percent of the dwellings in Jamaica. In the first stage, enumeration districts are selected from a geographic frame. In the second, households are selected from the frame of dwellings in the enumeration district. The sample is self-weighted, that is, each household in Jamaica is equally likely to be included in the survey sample. From 1988 through 2000, there have been four versions of the LFS sample design which have been used as the basis for the JSLC sample. The sample consists normally of between 1800 and 2000 households, but occasionally the samples have been bigger (in the D&S source some 4300 in 1989, 3400 in 1992 and 5400 in 1998). To avoid response fatigue, the LSMS survey was as an exception made in only one interview (compared to many other LSMS-surveys). A few changes have been made in the questionnaire between the different surveys, but these do not seem to be very fundamental.

Food consumption was asked in 43 categories and was recorded for both past seven days and past four weeks. In 1992 through 2000, the value of home production and gift food was integrated into the food expense module. Daily expenses (does not include “normal” food expenses but only expenses from eating outside the home) were asked for the week prior to the survey. Non-food expenditures were asked in several categories, larger household expenses and clothing were asked for both past four weeks and past twelve

months whereas household maintenance was asked for the past four weeks. The ownership of durable goods was also recorded, and from 1989, information on the year acquired, amount paid, and current resale value of each good owned was asked. Apart from in 1988 when sufficient information was not available, the use-value of durables is included in the consumption aggregate. Imputed rents are also included.

Deininger & Squire (2004) uses a consumption aggregate that do not include non-consumption expenditures (this should be the preferred one for welfare analysis) whereas Psacharopoulos et al. (1997) use an aggregate including non-consumption expenditure.

The income concept includes earnings, remittances, pensions, social security and public assistance, rental income and interest from loans and food stamps. Both in-cash and in-kind incomes were asked. In 1997, dividends, windfall receipts (lottery winnings etc.), and a question on total in-cash and in-kind income during the year were added. Home production and imputed rent are not included in the income aggregate. The income means are much lower than those for expenditure and in addition, 25-45% (the figure varies over the years) did not report any incomes. Many of the households not reporting any incomes answered that they received help from Social Security, Poor Relief or food stamps.