

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Source of Data: The external trade statistics in this report are compiled primarily from the administrative records of the Customs Department. This department is responsible for control of the flow of goods into and out of Jamaica. When goods are imported into or exported from Jamaica, declarations must be filed with the Customs Department, giving such information as description and value of the goods, origin of the commodities and the mode of transportation. Most of this information is required for purposes of Customs Administration. However, the Customs and Exchange Control Acts designate that one copy of each declaration should be made available for statistical purposes. After the Customs Department has checked and verified the information this copy is given to the Institute. The statistics developed from these Customs records are commonly referred to as "Customs Based Trade Statistics".

Supplementary data on the trade in certain major commodities (exports of banana, sugar, bauxite, alumina and gypsum, and imports of petroleum and petroleum products) are also collected from the relevant importing/exporting bodies and other reliable independent sources.

Period Covered: The statistics in this report relate to the period under review. In general, the data are recorded in the calendar month in which the Customs procedures have been completed. Therefore, the figures of imports and exports shown for the period do not necessarily represent the actual amount of goods arriving in or departing from the harbours and airports during this period. They represent the data derived from documents submitted to the Statistical Institute by the Customs Department for that period. This at times may result in discrepancies between the published data and that obtained from other sources.

Coverage: The figures given represent Jamaica's trade on the "Special System" of trade as defined by the United Nations Statistical Office. Under this system, imports include all goods which have come into Jamaica, whether for domestic consumption or transformation and imports entering customs storage or manufacturing warehouses. Exports are a combination of domestic exports and re-exports. Domestic exports include commodities grown in the country, extracted from its natural resources or manufactured in the country. These include goods of foreign origin which have been assembled or transformed in the country. Re-exports are exports of goods of foreign origin which have NOT been materially transformed while in Jamaica. These include goods moving outward from customs storage or manufacturing warehouses. In principle the "General System" of trade records all goods entering the country, as imports, and all goods leaving the country, as exports.

Not included however are: -

- a) Migrants' effects and personal purchases by travellers.
- b) Ships/Aircraft stores and bunkers supplied to locally registered craft.
- c) Monetary gold and bullion, bank notes and coins in circulation.
- d) Goods consigned to territorial enclaves and international organizations, (Embassies, High Commissions and Diplomatic Representatives etc).
- e) Goods on lease for less than 1 year, such as, cinematographic films.
- f) Goods on loan, samples, or goods brought in for exhibition or study.

g) Trans-shipment goods, that is, goods being trans-shipped through the island.

Included are: -

Goods entering or leaving via Parcel Post (imports and exports), for which import entries and shipping bills are submitted. These are included under the appropriate S.I.T.C. item number. When no customs document is prepared as in the case of Detained Parcel Post, entries are classified according to the S.I.T.C. Item Number or grouped together in Item 991-200000, Special Entries.

The Jamaica Free Zone:

The Free Zone (exclusive of the single entity companies) is treated as a foreign country (being outside of the Customs territory). As such, its trade with countries other than Jamaica ("the rest of the world") is not included in the data shown in this report. Account is however, being taken of the need to harmonize with the System of National Accounts 1993, and the Balance of Payments (BOP) Manual, Fifth Edition.

Commodity Classification: The import and export data in this report are recorded under the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) 2002 version, and subsequently converted on a one to one relationship to the Standard International Trade Classification (S.I.T.C.) Revision 3. This is essentially an economic classification which categorizes by type, e.g. Food, Beverages, Mineral Fuels, Chemicals, Manufactured Goods, Machinery and Equipment.

Allied to this system is an End-Use or Economic Function Classification which groups goods into the following broad categories: -

- i) Consumer Goods
- ii) Raw Materials and or Intermediate Goods
- iii) Capital Goods

These broad groups are broken down into a number of sub-groups. Tables 2a and 2b, (Summary tables of part 1), show these sub-groups.

Basis of Valuation: For Customs purposes, imports are recorded at values established according to the provisions of the Customs Act. In general it requires that the value for duty of imported goods be equivalent to the transaction value or the price actually paid or payable. Values shown are primarily in terms of Jamaican dollars. However, the rates of exchange prevailing at the time of importation or exportation are used to convert to U.S dollars. The tables in Part I of this report are in both currencies, while those in Part II are in Jamaican dollars. Exports are shown on a f.o.b. (free on board) valuation basis, i.e. the value of the goods including charges up to delivery on board the exporting vessel. Imports are valued on the c.i.f. basis (cost including insurance and freight) which represents the cost to the importer of buying the goods and bringing them to this country, but excluding customs or any other duty paid on arrival.

Quantity Data: All quantities and values are based on the declaration of importers/exporters on the customs documents which are subject to verification by Customs Officials. Quantities are normally expressed in terms of the unit of quantity specified in the Common External Tariff. Measures of weight and volume generally exclude any packaging required for shipment and "numbers" relate to complete units, and do not include parts. Where different units are involved, quantity aggregates are not given.

Import Duty: The values of gross duty presented in Table 2 of Part I, of the annual report relate to goods entered for consumption having passed into the hands of the importers. The duty recorded in this table does not always correspond to the quantity and value of the relative item, since the latter includes goods on which duty concessions have been granted and goods on which duty payment is delayed due to their entering warehouses. The duty paid on ex-warehouse imports during the year is, however, included. No adjustment is made for any subsequent drawback of duty.

Countries: The Statistics in this report refer to merchandise trade between Jamaica and the rest of the world. Imports are credited to "Country of Origin or Manufacture" or, where origin cannot be established to the country from which consigned. Exports are assigned to the "Country of Consignment", that is to the country of final destination, (last country to which the goods are to be shipped from Jamaica without, as far as known, any commercial transaction in an intermediate territory, irrespective of whether or not bulk has been broken in the course of transport).

Rounding of Figures: In a number of tables the figures are rounded to the nearest thousand or some other convenient figure. Addition of the rounded off figures may not always exactly agree with the rounded off totals shown in the tables.

Symbols: - The following symbols are used in these reports

...	not available
-	by itself, nil or negligible, or before a figure, minus
N.E.S.	Not elsewhere specified
R.	Revised figures

Sources of Further Information:- Monthly and quarterly trade statistics are published during the year. Detailed descriptions and indexes of commodity classifications are available. In addition, trade statistics are also available from the External Trade Unit of the Institute (in the form of print-out or magnetic tapes and diskettes). The Institute also undertakes research of unpublished data at a minimal cost.

Revisions

(a) Statistics for current months published in the monthly bulletins and quarterly reports, contain preliminary figures. These figures are subsequently revised and published in the annual provisional External Trade Report. Figures for previous months of the current year (except occasionally for major items), remain subject to revision until the annual report is published.

(b) Annual Data: Revision to the data for one year will appear in the Annual Report of the following year. These revisions are shown in the summary tables in Part I of the Report.

Questions, comments or requests for further details should be addressed to the External Trade Unit of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10 or e-mailed to: info@statinja.com. Information is also available on the website: [www:statinja.com](http://www.statinja.com).