

**PRESS RELEASE - EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
JANUARY- DECEMBER 2002**

The January to December 2002 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports were valued at US\$3,570.4 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$1,117.3 million. When compared with the year 2001, these figures show an increase of 4.9 percent for imports and a decline of 8.6 percent for exports. The merchandise trade at the end of the 2002 period under review shows a deficit of US\$2,453.1 million compared with US\$2,179.4 million the year 2001.

The value of imports by major end-use category shows 'Raw Materials/Intermediate Goods declined by 1.8 percent. "Consumer Goods" and 'Capital Goods' increased by 11.1 percent and 15.7 percent respectively.

Earnings from Traditional Domestic Exports declined by 3.2 percent to US\$868.9 million. Non-traditional exports declined by 23.7 percent to earn US\$228.7 million.

Imports from CARICOM for the period January to December 2002 were valued at US\$398.6 million, 7.9 percent less than the US\$433.0 million spent in the similar period of 2001. Total exports declined by 3.7 percent to US\$48.7 million. The trade gap with the region moved from US\$382.4 million in the 2001 period to US\$349.9 million in the year 2002.

The External Trade bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre located at 9 Swallowfield Road, Kingston 5.