

EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN

January - September 2002

The January to September 2002 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports were valued at US\$2,597.8 million, while exports amounted to US\$836.9 million. When compared with the same period of 2001, these figures show an increase of 3.4 per cent for imports and a decline of 12.8 per cent for exports. The balance of trade at the end of the 2002 period under review increased to US\$1,761.0 million, from US\$1554.3 million.

The value of imports by the end-use categories increased with the exception of 'Raw Material/ Intermediate goods', which declined by 2.4 per cent. 'Consumer Goods' increased by 10.3 per cent and Capital Goods' by 9.9 per cent.

Earnings from Traditional Domestic exports declined by 11.2 per cent to earn US\$652.0 million. Non-traditional exports also declined by 18.0 per cent to earn US\$169.4 million.

Imports to CARICOM for the first nine months of 2002 fell by 14.8 per cent to US\$283.1 million. Total exports decreased by 4.3 per cent to US\$36.0 million. The trade deficit with CARICOM moved up from US\$294.6 million in the 2001 period to US\$247.1 million in the 2002 period under review.