

## **March 2003**

The January - March 2003 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports for the first quarter of 2003 were valued at US\$938.2 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$294.1 million. When compared with the 2002 period, these figures show increases of 17.2 per cent and 0.8 per cent for imports and exports. The trade deficit at the end of the period under review stood at US\$644.1 million widening the trade gap by \$US135.7 million.

The value of "Consumer Goods", "Raw Materials/Intermediate Goods" and "Capital Goods" all by increased by 8.1 per cent, 28.0 per cent and 2.2 per cent respectively.

Earnings from Traditional Domestic Exports grew by 0.8 per cent to US\$231.6 million. Non-traditional exports fell by 2.3 per cent to earn US\$56.9 million.

Imports from CARICOM for the period were valued at US\$122.0 million, while exports grew by 19.4 per cent to US\$12.5 million. The trade deficit with the region rose by US\$26.9 million to US\$109.6 million. The major items exported were food and chemicals.

The External Trade Bulletin January - March 2003, further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.