

PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
OCTOBER 2003

The value of "Raw Materials/Intermediate Goods" increased by 15.3 percent while "Consumer Goods" and "Capital Goods" declined by 2.8 percent and 14.4 percent respectively.

Earnings from Traditional Domestic Exports increased by 4.8 percent to earn US\$772.7 million. Non-traditional exports grew by 1.8 percent to earn US\$197.2 million.

Imports from CARICOM for the period September 2003 were valued at US\$407.9 million, a 22.6 percent increase in expenditure, the major commodities being "Food" and "Mineral Fuels". Total exports fell by 2.2 percent to US\$39.5 million with the major categories being "Food and "Chemicals". The trade deficit with the region stood at US\$368.3 million.

The October 2003 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that for the first ten months in 2003 imports were valued at US\$3,079.7 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$991.3 million. These figures show increases of 4.4 percent for imports and 4.6 percent for exports. The trade deficit at the end of the 2003 period under review moved from US\$2,003.5 million to US\$2,088.4 million.

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