

**PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
November 2004**

The November 2004 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports during January to November 2004 was valued at US\$3,501.9 million, while total exports earned US\$ 1,283.0 million. When compared to the 2003 period this represents a 3.8 percent increase in imports and a 16.0 percent rise in export earnings. At the end of the 2004 period under review the trade deficit fell by US\$49.3 million to US\$2,218.9 million.

During this period under review the major commodity group of imports were "Food" (US\$475.1 million), "Mineral Fuels (US\$790.0 million), "Chemicals (US\$373.6 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$514.4 million), "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$780.0 million) and "Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles" (US\$379.2 million).

Domestic Exports accounted for US\$1,245.3 million while re-exports were valued at US\$37.7 million. In the corresponding period in 2003 these were valued at US\$1,079.7 million and US\$25.9 million respectively.

Traditional domestic export grew by 14.9 percent to US\$984.6 million, while Non-traditional domestic export grew by 16.9 percent to US\$260.7 million.

The November 2004 External Trade Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.