

PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
July 2004

The July 2004 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports for the first seven months in 2004 were valued at US\$2,081.5 million while exports earnings amounted to US\$861.9 million. This figure shows a decline of 4.4 percent for imports and an increase of 23.5 percent for exports. The trade deficit at the end of the period under review stood at US\$1219.6 million, below the US\$1,480.1 million recorded for the period.

During this period under review the major groups of imports were "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$483.4 million), "Mineral Fuels" (US\$419.1 million), "Food" (US\$294.7 million), "Manufactured Goods" and Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles" (US\$527.6 million combined) and "Chemicals" (US\$238.4 million).

Domestic Exports accounted for US\$833.5 million or 96.7 percent of total earnings, while re-exports were valued at US\$28.5 million during the period under review. For the corresponding period in 2003 these were valued at US\$683.8 million and US\$14.0 million respectively.

Traditional domestic export grew by 20.2 percent to US\$668.7 million, while Non-traditional domestic export grew by 29.3 percent to US\$164.8 million.

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