

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
August 2005**

November 29, 2005

The August 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to August 2005 was valued at US\$2,963.5 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$999.3 million. When compared to the same period in 2004, imports grew by 16.9 percent, while export grew by 1.4 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$1,964.2 million.

During this period under review an increase in imports was recorded for most groups. The major groups were "Mineral Fuels " (US\$786.5 Million), "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$ 566.5 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$438.5 million), "Food" (US\$384.1 million) and "Chemicals" (US\$329.1 million).

Domestic Exports increased by 2.7 percent to US\$ 980.8 million during the first eight months. Re-exports fell by 39.9 percent to US\$18.5 million.

Traditional domestic export grew by US\$18.8 million to US\$790.3 million in the period under review. Non-traditional domestic exports grew by 4.0 percent to US\$190.5 million.

The August 2005 External Trade Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Center; 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.