

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
December 2005**

March 20, 2006

The December 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to December 2005 was valued at US\$4,739.4 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$1,531.5 million. Representing increase increases of 20.7 percent and 9.0 percent. The trade deficit at the end of the year stood at US\$3, 207.9 million increasing by 27.2 percent or US\$685.2 million, when compared to the same period for 2004.

In 2005 increase in imports was recorded for most groups. The major groups were "Mineral Fuels" (US\$1,360.1 Million), "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$ 870.0 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$637.8 million), "Food" (US\$602.9 million) and "Chemicals" (US\$555.3 million).

Domestic Exports increased by 10.0 percent to US\$ 1501.7 million in 2005. Re-exports fell by 23.9 percent to US\$29.8 million. This was largely due to the significant reduction in the value of "Machinery and Transport Equipment" and "Manufactured Goods".

Traditional domestic export grew by US\$78.1 million to US\$1.160.1 million in the 2005. While non-traditional domestic exports grew by 20.6 percent to US\$341.6 million. This was due to the significant growth in exports of "Mineral Fuels" which grew by US\$77.6 million to US\$110.6 million.

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