

**EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN  
June 2005**

The January to June External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports for the first half of 2005 were valued at US\$2,162.2 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$724.0 million. This figure shows an increase of 18.0 percent for imports and a decline of 5.2 percent for exports. The trade deficit at the end of the period under review grew by US\$368.6 million, to US\$1438.2 million.

The Major Commodity groups imported during the first three months of 2005 were "Minerals Fuels" (US\$547.9 million), "Machinery and transport Equipment", (US\$ 417.5 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$320.1 million), "Food" (US\$289.5 million) and "Chemicals"(US\$243.7 million).

Earnings from domestic Exports declined by US\$27.7 million to US\$709.6 million and re-exports also declined by US\$11.7 million to US\$14.4 million due to the decline in the value of "Machinery & Transport Equipment". Non-traditional domestic exports fell by 17.5 percent to US\$123.2 million as all groups with the exception of "Beverages & Tobacco (excluding Rum) recorded a decline.

**The External Trade Bulletin for January - June 2005 further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.**