

**EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN  
May 2005**

The May 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to May 2005 was valued at US\$1,798.9 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$ 623.4 million. When compared to 2004, imports grew by 16.8 percent, while export declined by 3.3 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$1,175.5 million.

During this period under review the major commodity groups of imports were "Mineral Fuels and Lubricants" (US\$453.6 million) "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$ 343.7 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$270.3 million), "Food" (US\$243.0 million) and "Chemicals (US\$203.0 million). Expenditure on these items was significantly higher in this period.

Domestic Exports fell by US\$ 12.1million to US\$612.0 million during the first five months. Re-exports fell by US\$8.9 million to US\$11.4 million due to the decline in the value of "Machinery and Transport Equipment".

Traditional domestic export earned US\$503.7 million, US\$5.7 million above the comparable period of 2004. "Agriculture" was the only commodity earning less due to the decline in the exports of "Coffee" and "Banana". Non-traditional domestic exports declined by 14.1 percent to US\$108.3 million.

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