

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
October 2005**

January 31, 2006

The October 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to October 2005 was valued at US\$3,768.6 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$1, 241.4 million. When compared to the same period in 2004, imports grew by 19.5 percent, while export grew by 6.7 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$2,527.2 million.

The major contributor to the increase in the import bill was the category "Mineral Fuels & Lubricants" .Expenditure rose from US\$767.5 million in the comparable period 2004 to US\$1,056.8 million in 2005. The other notable categories of imports were "Machinery and Transport Equipment" US\$ 700.2 million, "Manufactured Goods" US\$536.8 million, "Food" US\$483.4 million and "Chemicals US\$425.0 million.

Domestic Exports increased by 7.9 percent to US\$ 1,216.9 million during the first ten months. Re-exports fell by 30.4 percent to US\$24.4 million.

Traditional domestic export stood at US\$949.1 million, 6.9 percent above the comparable period in 2004. Non-traditional domestic exports grew by 11.4 percent to US\$267.8 million.

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