

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
September 2005**

The September 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to September 2005 was valued at US\$3,392.4 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$1,131.7 million. When compared to the same period in 2004, imports grew by 20.8 percent, while export grew by 7.0 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$2,260.8 million.

During this period under review an increase in imports was recorded for most groups. The major groups were "Mineral Fuels " (US\$935.0 Million), "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$ 632.9 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$489.2 million), "Food" (US\$436.2 million) and "Chemicals" (US\$384.9 million).

Domestic Exports increased by 8.2 percent to US\$ 1,109.5 million during the first nine months. Re-exports fell by 31.4 percent to US\$22.2 million.

Traditional domestic export grew by US\$63.5 million to US\$879.5 million in the period under review. Non-traditional domestic exports grew by 9.9 percent to US\$230.0 million.

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