

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN**  
**January to December 2007**

March 31, 2008

The January to December External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica showed that Jamaica 's expenditure on imports for the period amounted to US\$6,459.3 million. This represented an increase of US\$808.8 million or 14.3 per cent over the amount recorded for the comparable 2006 period. Total exports were valued at US\$2,169.1 million, increasing by US\$185.2 million or 9.3 per cent. At the end of the period, the trade deficit increased by US\$623.7 million or 17.0 per cent when compared to the US\$3,666.5 million recorded for the previous year.

"Mineral Fuels, etcetera" was the largest commodity group imported and was valued at US\$2,013.0 million. This group recorded an increase of US\$254.6 million or 14.5 per cent, due primarily to higher world oil prices. Other notable import commodity groups included "Machinery and Transport Equipment" valued at US\$1,252.4 million, "Chemicals" US\$831.2 million, "Manufactured Goods" US\$753.4 million and "Food" US\$730.7 million. These five commodities accounted for 86.4 per cent of Jamaica's total import bill.

Domestic Exports for the period were valued at US\$2,118.2 million, increasing by US\$170.1 million or 8.7 per cent. Re-exports for the period were valued at US\$50.8 million, with "Machinery and Transport Equipment" worth US\$32.2 million.

Traditional domestic exports for the calendar year amounted to US\$1,498.9 million, increasing by US\$162.3 million or 12.1 percent. Non-traditional domestic exports for the twelve month period totaled US\$619.3 million, growing by US\$7.8 million or 1.3 per cent.

The December 2007 External Trade Bulletin outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Office, 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10. Data is also available on the STATIN website at [www.statinja.com](http://www.statinja.com)