

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
October 2008**

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The January to October 2008 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica showed that Jamaica imported goods amounting to US\$7,574.1 million. This represented an increase of US\$2,004.6 million or 36.0 per cent when compared to the same period in 2007. Total exports for the 2008 review period were valued at US\$2,413.4 million, an increase of 26.7 per cent or US\$508.4 million. The trade deficit at the end of the period rose by 40.8 per cent or US\$1,496.2 million to US\$5160.6 million.

"Mineral Fuels, etcetera" was the main commodity imported and was valued at US\$3,172.8 million in the 2008 review period. Imports of this commodity accounted for 41.9 per cent of the total bill. The other leading category was 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' which grew by US\$20.2 million to US\$1,076.6 million. "Chemicals" increased during the first ten months of 2008 and was valued at US\$956.6 million. "Manufactured Goods" increased to US\$770.4 million and "Food" to US\$736.8 million.

Domestic Exports for the January to October 2008 grew by 26.5 per cent or US\$494.3 million, to US\$2,358.3 million. **Re-exports** for the period were valued at US\$55.1 million, increasing by US\$14.1 million or 34.4 per cent. "Machinery and Transport Equipment" was the main group re-exported and was valued at US\$32.3 million. **Traditional domestic exports** for the review period amounted to US\$1.435.4 million, increasing by US\$195.2 million or 15.7 per cent. **Non-traditional domestic exports** for the period rose by 47.9 per cent or US\$299.1 million to US\$922.9 million.

Imports from **CARICOM** during the January to October 2008 period grew by US\$525.5 million or 50.4 per cent. "Mineral Fuel" and Lubricants" accounted for 86.1 per cent of the total import bill and was valued at US\$1,350.4 million. Total exports to the Region grew by 18.2 per cent to US\$55.2 million. The trade deficit with the region at the end of the ten month review period increased by US\$517.0 million or 51.9 per cent. To US\$1,513.4 million

The October 2008 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.