



## NEWS RELEASE

# EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN

### August 2009

**November 30, 2009**

The January to August 2009 period saw Jamaica importing goods amounting to US\$3,267.5 million. When compared to the January to August 2008 period, this represented a reduction of US\$2,804.6 million or 46.2 per cent. Total exports for 2009 amounted to US\$894.3 million falling by US\$1,096.1 or 55.1 per cent.

The trade gap narrowed by US\$1,708.6 million or 41.9 per cent.

“Mineral Fuels, Etcetera” remained the largest commodity group imported and was valued at US\$895.9 million or 27.4 per cent of the total import bill. Influenced by comparatively lower fuel prices, the value of this commodity declined by US\$1,794.5 million or 66.7 per cent. Expenditure on “Food” imports was valued at US\$538.5 million, falling by US\$21.9 million. “Machine and Transport Equipment” was valued at US\$535.7 million a decline of US\$346.5 million or 39.3 per cent, while “Chemicals” were valued at US\$459.1 million.

**Domestic Exports** for the period was valued at US\$894.3 million while re-exports during the review period amounted to US\$52.2 million there was a general decline in domestic export earnings in all major categories.

**Traditional Domestic Exports** also fell during the review period from US\$1,106.3 million in the 2008 period to US\$419.1 million in the 2009 period. This represents a decline of US\$ 687.3 million or 62.1 per cent.

**Non-traditional Domestic Exports** also declined during the period and was valued at US\$423.0 million. However its contribution to total domestic export increased from 43.2 per cent in the January 2008 period to 50.2 per cent in 2009.

Imports from CARICOM fell by 59.6 per cent to US\$490.1 million in 2009 review period, were worth US\$ 43.7 million in the previous period. Domestic exports earned US\$37.6 million, increasing by US\$2.4 million or 6.9 per cent. Re-exports to the region amounted to US\$6.1 million, below the US\$6.8 million reported for the January to August 2008 period.

Jamaica’s trade deficit with our CARICOM partners for the first eight months stood at US\$446.4million., the trade gap narrowed by US\$724.6 million or 61.9 per cent.

The **January to August 2009 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.gov.jm](http://www.statinja.gov.jm)