



NEWS RELEASE
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The January to July 2009 period saw Jamaica importing goods amounting to US\$2,809.1 million. When compared to the January to July 2008 period, this represented a reduction of US\$2,553.5 million or 47.6 per cent, influenced largely by comparatively lower fuel prices. Total exports also contracted, from US\$1,786.9 million in the 2008 review period to US\$788.6 million in the 2009 review period.

The trade deficit for the January to July 2009 period was US\$2,020.5 million, relative to the US\$3,575.7 million recorded for the period, the trade gap narrowed by US\$1,555.1 or 43.5 per cent.

“Mineral Fuels etcetera” was the largest commodity group imported and was valued at US\$744.5 million or 26.5 per cent of the import bill and declined by US\$1,603.4 million or 68.3 per cent. “Machinery and Transport Equipment” was the second largest commodity imported and was valued at US\$480.6 million compared to the US\$786.6 million reported for the corresponding 2008 period. Expenditure on “Food” imports also declined and was valued at US\$469.6 million, falling by US\$35.3 million or 7.0 per cent. Imports of “Chemicals” declined by US\$153.3 million or 27.3 per cent to US\$561.8 million, while “Manufactured Goods” declined by US\$209.0 million or 40.4 per cent to US\$308.2 million.

Domestic Exports for the period was valued at US\$741.8 million of which “Crude Materials (excl. Fuels)” earned US\$271.2 million falling notably from US\$857.0 million in the 2008 review period. Of the US\$46.8 million re-exported during the review period, US\$26.0 million was “Machinery and Transport Equipment” and “Manufactured Goods” US\$7.0 million.

Traditional Domestic Exports also fell notably from US\$989.1 million in the 2008 period to US\$385.1 million in the 2009 period. Exports from the “Mining and Quarrying” group was valued at US\$262.0 million, down from US\$839.9 million in the previous period..

Non-traditional Domestic Exports also declined during the period and was valued at US\$356.7 million. This was influenced largely by reduced earnings from “Mineral Fuels, etcetera” which fell by US\$172.9 million or 58.8 per cent to US\$121.4 million, while “Ethanol” exports fell by US\$217.8 million or 70.6 per cent to US\$90.7 million in the 2009 period.

During the January July 2009 period, the value of Jamaica’s imports from **CARICOM** fell by US\$666.8 million or 62.2 per cent and was valued at US\$404.8 million. This decline was largely influenced by the reduction in the fuel importation bill which saw the value of “Mineral Fuels, etcetera” moving from US\$926.1 million to US\$ 276.3 million in the 2009 period.

Total exports to CARICOM was 39.5 million with domestic exports earning US\$34.2 million, up from US\$32.3 million in the previous period. Re-exports to the region amounted to US\$5.3 million, below the US\$6.2 million reported for the January to July 2008 period.

Jamaica’s trade deficit with our CARICOM partners for the first seven months was a negative US\$365.3 million. In comparison to the US\$1,033.0 million deficit recorded for the similar 2008 period, the trade gap narrowed by US\$667.8 or 64.6 per cent.

The **January to July 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