



## NEWS RELEASE

# EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN

### November 2009

February 19, 2009

The January to November 2009 period saw Jamaica importing goods amounting to US\$4,591.4 million, declining by US\$3,327.8 million below the figure recorded for the 2008 period. Total exports for the period amounted to US\$1,235.0 million, contracting by US\$1,314.0 million or 51.5 per cent. At the end of the eleven month review period, the trade deficit stood at US\$3,356.4 million, narrowing by US\$2,013.8 million, when compared to the January to November 2008 period.

January to November 2009 saw Jamaica importing “Mineral Fuels, Etcetera” worth US\$1,275.9 million. Accounting for 27.8 per cent of the import bill, the cost of importing this commodity fell by US\$2,008.3 million or 61.2 per cent below its 2008 value. Comparatively lower fuel prices, coupled with a reduction in the quantities imported for a number of commodities within this group were the main reason for this decline. “Machinery and Transport Equipment” valued at US\$748.4 million also declined, falling by US\$428.9 million or 36.4 per cent below the US\$1,177.3 million recorded during the January to November 2008 period. “Food” imports declined by 10.6 per cent during the review period, to US\$723.0 million. Imports of “Chemicals” fell from US\$877.7 million to US\$677.5 million, while “Manufactured Goods” fell by US\$323.1 million or 38.8 per cent to US\$510.2 million.

**Domestic Exports** for the period earned US\$1,163.2 million. This represented a decline of US\$1,327.1 million or 53.3 per cent when compared to the amount recorded for the comparable 2008 period. **Re-exports** for the period were valued at US\$71.8 million, increasing by US\$13.1 million or 22.3 per cent. “Machinery and Transport Equipment” was the main group re-exported and was valued at US\$37.3 million

**Traditional Domestic Exports** amounted to US\$572.8 million, representing a decline of US\$869.2 million or 60.3 per cent. Exports from the “Mining and Quarrying” group fell notably by US\$848.1 million or 67.1 per cent, and was valued at US\$415.3. Of this “Alumina” exports earned US\$339.5 million while Bauxite earned US\$75.7 million. “Manufacture” exports also declined and was valued at US\$119.3 million. Exports of “Sugar” fell and was valued at US\$72.3 million. “Rum” exports however increased in value earning US\$44.6 million in January to November 2009 period compared to the US\$42.6 million earned in the comparable 2008 period. **Non-traditional Domestic Exports** fell by US\$458.0 million or 43.7 per cent to US\$590.5 million. “Food” grew by US\$3.4 million or 3.2 per cent. The main Commodities sold to other countries were ‘Yams’ US\$17.4 million, Ackee US\$12.8 Million, ‘Sauces’ US\$10.0 million ‘Baked Products’ US\$10.0 million, ‘Juices excl. ‘Citrus’ US\$6.5 ‘Dairy products & ‘Bird Eggs’ US\$5.9 million and ‘Other Fruit and Fruit Preparations’ US\$5.7 million.” **Other Non-traditional Exports** fell by US\$454.6 million or 52.3 per cent to, US\$414.1 due to significant declines in “Mineral Fuels” and ‘Ethanol’. Exports of ‘Mineral Fuels’ fell by US\$221.6 million to earn US\$194.4 million and ‘Ethanol’ also declined by US\$218.8 million US\$169.6 million

During the January to November 2009 period, the value of Jamaica’s imports from **CARICOM** fell by US\$865.0 million or 56.0 per cent to US\$678.8 million. This decline was largely influenced by the reduction in the fuel import bill. Total exports grew during review period and was valued at US\$62.8 million. Exports of “Food” to the Region, increased marginally and was valued at US\$21.2 million, while “Chemicals fell to US\$13.4 million. Re-exports to the Region amounted to US\$9.6 million, just below the US\$9.8 million reported for the January to November 2008 period. The trade deficit at the end of the eleven month review period was a negative US\$616.0 million, in comparison to the US\$1,482.7 million deficit recorded for the similar 2008 period. The trade gap narrowed by US\$866.7 million or 58.5 per cent.

The **January to November 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.statin.gov.jm](http://www.statin.gov.jm)