



NEWS RELEASE

International Merchandise Trade Bulletin¹

January to April 2010

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The January to April 2010 period saw Jamaica importing goods amounting to US\$1,640.5 million, of which US\$54.5 million was imported by the Jamaica Free Zone. The value of imports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone) amounted to US\$1,626.9 million, relative to the US\$1,632.2 million imported during the January to April 2009 period. Total Exports for the period amounted to US\$458.8 million, with US\$26.4 million coming from the Jamaica Free Zone. Total exports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone) amounted to US\$455.3 million, of which Domestic Exports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone) amounted to US\$429.7 million with the remaining US\$25.6 million being re-exports. For the first four months of 2010, the total merchandise trade deficit was US\$1,181.7 million, while the deficit (incl. Single Entity Free Zones) amounted to US\$1,171.6 million.

During the January to April 2010, the United States of America remained Jamaica's main trading partner with US\$587.3 million of imports and US\$246.7 million of total exports being traded with the United States. For the January to April 2010 period, Jamaica's trade deficit with the United States was US\$340.5 million, down from US\$502.4 million in January to April 2009 period.

"Mineral Fuels, Etcetera" was the primary commodity imported, representing 34.1 per cent of imports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone). Amounting to US\$554.3 million, the value of this commodity increased by US\$111.5 million or 25.2 per cent above its 2009 value due largely to comparatively higher fuel prices. "Food" was the second largest commodity group imported, and was valued at US\$262.5 million. Accounting for 16.1 per cent of imports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone), the value of food imports fell by US\$34.1 million or 11.5 per cent in relation to the US\$296.6 million recorded for the January to April 2009 period. "Machinery and Transport Equipment" valued at US\$233.8 million, declined by US\$50.6 million, or 17.8 per cent while "Chemicals" fell to US\$178.1 million.

Imports by End-Use: Imports of "Consumer Goods (excl. Motor Cars)" amounted to US\$509.2 million, relative to the US\$535.9 million recorded for the January to April 2009 period. Imports of "Raw Materials/Intermediate Goods" increased, moving from US\$897.2 million in the 2009 review period to US\$966.8 million in the 2010 review period as the value of fuel imports increased. "Capital Goods (excl. Motor Cars)" fell notably from US\$162.8 million in the January to April 2009 period to US\$119.5 million in the January to April 2010 period. Imports of "Passenger Motor Cars" also fell during the 2010 review period and was valued at US\$31.4 million, down from US\$36.3 million in the similar 2009 period.

Traditional Domestic Exports amounted to US\$211.1 million in the 2010 review period, down from US\$235.1 million in the previous 2009 period. This represented a decline of US\$24.0 million or 10.2 per cent. The "Mining and Quarrying" group declined by US\$17.1 million or 10.1 per cent and was valued at US\$152.2 million as activity within the industry remained low. The "Manufacture" group also declined in the 2010 period under review, moving from US\$51.0 million in the 2009 review period to US\$49.3 million in the current period. Exports of "Agriculture" commodities contracted by US\$5.1 million or 34.9 per cent and was valued at US\$9.6 million.

Non-Traditional Domestic Export commodities earned US\$218.6 million and accounted for a larger share (50.9 per cent) of domestic exports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone) during the 2010 review period. Exports of non-traditional "Food" increased to US\$40.0 million, up from US\$37.1 million in the comparable 2009 period. Exports of "Beverages & Tobacco (excl. Rum)" however declined during the 2010 review period and was valued at US\$17.5 million. "Other Non-Traditional Exports" made a notable increase in the January to April 2010 period, and was valued at US\$153.0 million. Relative to the

US\$101.1 million recorded for the same period of 2009, exports from this group increased by US\$51.9 million or 51.3 per cent. Earnings from “Mineral Fuels etcetera” grew to US\$119.3 million, up from US\$75.0 million in the similar 2009 period, while “Chemicals” (incl. Ethanol) increased to US\$29.2 million from US\$22.7 million in the previous period.

Imports from **CARICOM** for the first four months of 2010 accounted for 15.2 per cent of total imports (incl. Single Entity Zone) and was valued at US\$246.5 million. This represented an increased of US\$24.0 million or 10.8 per cent, when compared to the US\$222.6 million recorded for 2009. The value of non-fuel imports from CARICOM amounted to US\$73.5 million, up from US\$72.3million in the comparable 2009 period. Total exports to the Region for the January to April 2010 period was US\$18.6 million, representing a marginal decline of US\$0.7 million or 3.6 per cent. Domestic Exports to CARICOM increased to US\$16.6 million and accounted for 3.9 per cent of domestic exports (incl. Single Entity Free Zone). Re-exports however declined and was valued at US\$2.0 million. The first four months of 2010 saw Jamaica incurring a trade deficit of US\$227.9 million with her CARICOM Partners. Compared to the US\$203.2 million recorded for the first four months of 2009, the trade gap grew by US\$24.7 million or 12.1 per cent.

The **January to April 2010 International Merchandise 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