

**RESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
APRIL 2003**

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The April 2003 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports for the first four months of 2003 were valued at US\$1,245.8 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$393.5 million. When compared to the corresponding period of 2002, both imports and exports showed increases of 14.8 and 1.6 respectively. The balance of visible trade stood at US\$852.3 million in the 2003 period under review, moving from US\$698.1million.

The value of imports by major end - use category shows 'Consumer Goods' increased by 6.5 percent and "Raw Materials/ Intermediate Goods" grew by 26.2 percent while "Capital Goods" decline by 3.0 percent.

Earnings from Traditional Domestic Export increased by 3.2 percent to US\$316.0 million above the comparable period of 2002. Non-traditional exports fell by 6.9 percent to US\$69.9 million.

Imports from CARICOM for the period January- April 2003 were valued at US\$169.6 million, a 36.8 percent increase in expenditure, relative to the 2002 period. Total exports also increased by 10.0 percent to US\$15.8 million, largely influenced by the growth in 'Food' which moved from US\$6.2 million in 2002 to US\$ 7.3 million in the 2003 period under review.

The External Trade Bulletin January- April 2002 further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.