

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN**  
**April 2005**

The April 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to April 2005 was valued at US\$1,422.3 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$ 497.5 million. When compared to 2004, imports grew by 16.5 percent, while export declined by 6.2 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$924.8 million.

During this period under review the major commodity groups of imports were "Mineral Fuels and Lubricants" (US\$316.4 million) "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$ 285.6 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$222.7 million), "Food" (US\$197.3 million) and "Chemicals (US\$171.2 million). Expenditure on these items was significantly higher in this period.

Domestic Exports fell by US\$ 24.1million to US\$488.1 million during the first four months. Re-exports fell by US\$8.6 million to US\$9.3 million due to the decline in value of "Machinery and Transport Equipment".

Traditional domestic export declined by 1.6 percent, earning US\$408.0 million in the period under review. Non-traditional domestic exports decline by 17.9 percent to US\$80.2 million.

The April 2005 External Trade Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.