

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN**  
**December 2004**

The December 2004 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during 2004 was valued at US\$3,927.2 million, while total exports earned US\$ 1,411.2 million. When compared to 2003, imports grew by 6.7 percent, export rose by 18.0 percent. At the end of the 2004 period under review the trade deficit was valued US\$2,515.9 million representing an increase of 1.3 percent over the comparable period.

During this period under review the major commodity groups of imports were "Mineral Fuels, Lubricants..." (US\$ 910.5 million), "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$880.7 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$563.1 million) "Food" (US\$527.3 million), "Miscellaneous Manufactured Article" (US\$426.4 million) and "Chemicals" (US\$403.2 million) respectively.

In 2004 Domestic Exports grew by US\$205.5 million due to the increased earnings from both traditional and Non-traditional commodities. Re-exports rose by at US\$10.1 Million.

Traditional domestic export grew by 16.9 percent to US\$1,088.7 million, while Non-traditional domestic export grew by 20.4 percent to US\$283.3 million.

**The December 2004 External Trade Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.**