

**PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
February 2005**

The February 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to February 2005 was valued at US\$625.8 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$ 222.7 million. When compared to 2004, imports grew by 6.4 percent, while export declined by 7.1 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$403.1 million.

During this period under review the major commodity groups of imports were "Machinery and Transport Equipment" which accounted for US\$ 137.6 million. Other areas of note were "Mineral Fuels and Lubricants" (US\$ 126.0 million)," "Manufactured Goods" (US\$102.0 million) and "Food" (US\$93.0 million) expenditure on "Manufactured Goods" grew by US\$ 29, 9 million. The Major items imported under this group were construction materials.

Domestic Exports fell by 4.8 percent or US\$10.9 million to US\$218.9 million due to the decline in earnings from the sale of traditional and non-traditional commodities. Re-exports fell by US\$6.0 million to US\$3.7 million due to the decline in "Machinery and Transport Equipment".

Traditional domestic export declined by 5.2 percent, earning US\$176.8 million in the period under review. Non-traditional domestic exports decline by 2.7 percent to US\$42.2 million.

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