

**NEWS RELEASE  
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN  
February 2008**

May 27, 2008

The January to February 2008 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica showed that Jamaica's expenditure on imports during the review period amounted to US\$1,201.3 million. This was an increase US\$222.2 million or 22.7 per cent when compared to the US\$979.2 million recorded for the similar 2007 period. Total exports for the two month review period was US\$ 392.1 million. This was an increase of US\$17.4 million or 4.6 per cent when compared to the similar period of 2007.

At the end of the period, the trade deficit stood at US\$809.3 million. This represented an increase of US\$204.8 million or 33.9 per cent. "Mineral Fuels, etcetera" was the largest commodity group imported during the month of February 2008 which was valued at US\$382.1 million or 43.9 per cent above the amount recorded for the similar 2007 period. "Machinery and Transport Equipment" was the second largest group imported and was valued at US\$216.1 million, increasing by US\$ 20.2 million or 10.3 per cent. "Manufactured Goods" amounted to US\$151.5 an increase 31.5 per cent, "Chemicals" were valued at US\$147.4 million or 12.3 per cent, of total imports and "Food" imports was US\$139.7 million, increasing by 19.4 million or 16.2 per cent .

**Domestic Exports** for the first two months of 2008 were valued at US\$383.0 million, increasing by US\$14.8 million or 4.0 per cent. Re-exports for the period were valued at US\$9.1 million, an increase of 2.5 million or 38.3 per cent, of which "Machinery and Transport Equipment" was worth US\$5.9 million.

**Traditional domestic exports** during the January to February 2008 period earned US\$259.9 million increasing by US\$7.7 million or 3.0 per cent over the amount recorded for the comparable period 2007. Non-traditional domestic exports for the review period earned US\$123.1 million, growing by US\$7.2 million or 6.2 per cent.

Imports from CARICOM during the period January to February 2008 was valued at US\$265.7 million increasing by US\$ 110.1 million or 70.7 per cent when compared to the similar 2007 period. Total exports amounted to US\$10.1 million when compared to the US\$9.1 million recorded for January to February 2007. At the end of the period the trade gap widened as imports exceeded exports by US\$225.6 million

The February 2008 External 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.com](http://www.statinja.com).