

NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
July 2005

The July 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports of goods during January to July 2005 was valued at US\$2,497.3 million, while total exports earnings amounted to US\$837.5 million. When compared to the same period in 2004, imports grew by 13.8 percent, while export declined by 4.2 percent. At the end of the period under review the trade deficit stood at US\$1,659.8 million.

During this period under review the major commodity groups of imports were "Mineral Fuels" was the most outstanding with expenditure moving from US\$531.7 Million in the comparable 2004 period to US\$633.9 million in the period under review. Other significant groups were "Machinery and Transport Equipment" (US\$ 485.7 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$375.2 million), "Food" (US\$332.8 million) and "Chemicals" (US\$270.1 million).

Domestic Exports fell by 2.9 percent to US\$ 821.3 million during the first seven months. Re-exports fell by 43.1 percent to US\$16.2 million due to the decline in value of "Machinery and Transport Equipment".

Traditional domestic export declined by 0.1 percent, earning US\$680.5 million in the period under review. Non-traditional domestic exports decline by 14.5 percent to US\$140.8 million.

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