

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
July 2007**

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The July 2007 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's expenditure on imports for the period January to July 2007 amounted to US\$3,581.9 million. This represented an increase of US\$289.3 million or 8.8 per cent over the amount recorded for the comparable period 2006. Total exports were valued at US\$1,383.4 million, increasing by US\$222.4 million or 19.2 per cent. The trade deficit at the end of the review period was US\$2,198.5 million, an increase of US\$66.9 million or 3.1 per cent above the comparable period.

During this review period "Mineral Fuels, etcetera" was the largest commodity group imported and was valued at US\$1,044.3 million. Other major import commodity groups included "Machinery and Transport Equipment" valued at US\$ 752.6 million, "Chemicals" US\$454.2 million, "Manufactured Goods" US\$424.8 million and "Food" US\$402.6 million.

The Domestic Exports for the period increased by US\$214.4 million or 18.8 per cent to US\$ 1,355.6 million when compared to the similar period of 2006. Re-exports for the period amounted to US\$27.8 million with "Machinery and Transport Equipment" accounting for US\$18.4 million.

Traditional domestic export for the seven month period were valued at US\$968.5 million, increasing by US\$160.2 million or 19.8 per cent. Exports of non-traditional items earned US\$387.1 million, increasing by US\$52.2 million or 16.3 per cent.

The July 2007 External Trade Bulletin outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Office, 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.