

**NEWS RELEASE  
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN  
June 2008**

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The January to June 2008 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica showed that Jamaica's expenditure on imports during the first half of 2008 was US\$4,020.5 million. This represented an increase of US\$965.3 million, or 31.6 per cent when compared to the amount recorded for the similar 2007 period. Total export also increased over the period and was valued at US\$1,308.2 million. Compared to the US\$1,155.9 million recorded for the January to June 2007 period, this was an increase of US\$152.3 million or 13.2 per cent. At the end of the six month review period, the trade deficit stood at US\$2,713.3 million, in comparison to US\$1,899.3 million in the first half 2007. Over the January to June 2008 period the trade gap widened by US\$813.0 million or 42.8 per cent.

"Mineral Fuels, etcetera" was the chief commodity group imported and was valued at US\$1,524.5 million. "Machinery and Transport Equipment" was the second largest commodity group imported and accounted for 15.3 per cent of total imports. Imports of "Chemicals" were valued at US\$466.1 million, growing by US\$82.6 million. There was steady growth in the value of imports of "Manufactured Goods" and "Food" while the value of "Chemicals" fluctuated greatly over the period.

**Domestic Exports** for the first half of 2008 showed an increase of US\$141.1 million or 12.5 per cent in the export of locally produced goods. Re-exports for the period were valued at US\$34.6 million, an increase of US\$11.2 million or 47.6 per cent. "Machinery and Transport Equipment" was the major commodity group re-exported and was valued at US\$23.0 million.

**Traditional domestic exports** during the January to June 2008 period earned US\$857.2 million accounting for 67.3 per cent of total domestic export. Non-traditional domestic exports for the period amounted to US\$416.4 million, increasing by US\$78.3 million or 23.1 per cent.

Imports from **CARICOM** during the period January to June 2008 totaled US\$851.9 million, compared to the US\$464.9 million recorded in the comparable 2007 period. Total exports to CARICOM earned US\$31.6 million of which Domestic Exports earned US\$26.3 million and Re- Export were valued at US\$5.3 million. At the end of June 2008 the trade deficit was US\$820.3 million, Compared to the deficit of US\$442.7 million at the end of June 2007.

**The June 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).