

**PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
January - March 2005**

June 27, 2005

The January to March External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports for the first quarter of 2005 were valued at US\$995.3 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$343.2 million. This figure shows an increase of 7.0 percent for imports and a decline of 11.3 percent for exports. The trade deficit at the end of the period under review stood at US\$652.1 million, US\$108.5 million more than the comparative period.

The Major Commodity groups imported during the first three months of 2005 were "Minerals Fuels" (US\$214.7million), "Machinery and transport Equipment", (US\$ 204.0 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$159.7million), "Food" (US\$139.8 million) and "Chemicals"(US\$114.2 million).

Earnings from domestic Exports declined by US\$35.6 million to US\$335.9 million and re-exports also declined by US\$8.1 million to US\$7.3 million due to the decline in the value of "Machinery & Transport Equipment".

Traditional Domestic exports fell by US\$25.9 million to US\$273.6 million, while non-traditional domestic exports were valued at US\$ 62.3 million below the US\$72.1 million earned in the comparable period.

The External Trade Bulletin for January-March 2005 further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.