

**PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
November 2005**

February 28, 2006

The November 2005 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that imports for the period January to November 2005 were valued at US\$4,247.3 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$1,376.8 million. This figure shows an increase of 19.3 percent for imports and an increase of 8.0 percent for exports. The trade deficit at the end of the period under review stood at US\$2,870.5 million, a 25.7 percent increase above the comparable.

The Major Commodity groups imported during January to November 2005 were "Minerals Fuels" (US\$1,188.9 million), Machinery and Transport Equipment', (US\$790.4 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$593.8 million), "Food" (US\$545.6 million) and "Chemicals"(US\$489.6 million).

Earnings from domestic Exports increased US\$111.8 million to US\$1,349.2 million and re-exports declined by US\$10.1 million to US\$27.6 million due to the significant reduction in the value of "Machinery & Transport Equipment". Earnings from traditional domestic exports grew by US\$66.9 million or 6.9 percent to US\$1,043.6 million. Non-traditional domestic exports increased by 17.2 percent to US\$305.6 million due to significant increases in "Beverages" and "Mineral Fuels".

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