

**NEWS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
November 2008**

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The January to November 2008 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica showed that Jamaica's expenditure on imports during January to November amounted to US\$8,071.3 million. This represented an increase of US\$1,830.5 million or 29.3 per cent when compared to the same period in 2007. Total exports for the 2008 review period were valued at US\$2,567.6 million, and increasing by US\$476.7 million or 22.8 percent above the comparable period of 2007. The trade deficit at the end of the period stood at US\$5,503.7 million, increasing by 32.6 per cent or US\$1,353.8 million.

"Mineral Fuels, etcetera" was the major commodity group imported during the eleven month period accounting for 40.7 per cent of the country's import bill. This commodity rose by US\$1,156.5 million or 54.4 per cent to US\$3,281.4 when compared to the same period in 2007. The other category was 'Machinery and Transport Equipment' which grew by US\$12.3 million to US\$1,177.3 million. "Chemicals" increased during the first eleven months of 2008 and was valued at US\$1,032.6 million, while "Manufactured Goods" rose by US\$137.7 million to US\$833.4 million, and "Food" increased to US\$808.9 million.

Domestic Exports for the January to November 2008 grew by 22.8 per cent or US\$465.6 million, to US\$2,508.9 million. **Re-exports** for the period were valued at US\$58.7 million, increasing by US\$11.1 million or 23.3 per cent. "Machinery and Transport Equipment" accounted for US\$33.3 million.

Traditional domestic exports for the review period amounted to US\$1.456.4 million, increasing by US\$93.6 million or 6.9 per cent. **Non-traditional domestic exports** for the period rose by US\$371.9 million or 54.7 per cent to US\$1,052.4 million.

Imports from **CARICOM** during the January to November 2008 period grew by 37.9 per cent or US\$447.0 million over the corresponding period in 2007 to US\$1,624.9. "Mineral Fuel' and Lubricants" accounted for 85.4 per cent of the total import bill and was valued at US\$1,387.2 million. Total exports to the Region grew by 16.4 per cent to US\$61.1 million. The trade deficit with the region at the end of the eleven month review period increased by US\$438.4 million or 39.0 per cent to US\$1,563.8 million.

The November 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.