

**PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
September 2003**

The September 2003 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that for the nine months in 2003 imports were valued at US\$2,723.8 million, while export earnings amounted to US\$902.2 million. These figures show increases of 3.5 percent for imports and 7.6 percent for exports. The trade deficit at the end of the period under review grew by US\$29.3 million to US\$1,821.6 million.

The value of "Raw Materials/Intermediate Goods" increased by 12.5 percent while "Consumer Goods" and "Capital Goods" declined by 2.6 percent and 11.7 percent respectively.

Earnings from Traditional Domestic Exports increased by 8.4 percent to earn US\$708.3 million. Non-traditional exports grew by 3.5 percent to earn US\$175.3 million.

Imports from CARICOM for the period September 2003 were valued at US\$384.5 million, a 31.7 percent increase in expenditure, the major groups being "Mineral Fuel and Lubricants". Total exports fell by 1.3 percent to US\$35.5 million with the major groups being "Food and "Chemicals". The trade deficit with the region stood at US\$348.9 million.

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