

PRESS RELEASE
EXTERNAL TRADE BULLETIN
September 2004

The September 2004 External Trade Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that Jamaica's trade in goods was significantly affected by Hurricane Ivan in September as the values for imports and exports were the lowest recorded for 2004. At the end of the nine-month period imports fell marginally by 0.6 percent to US\$2,724.5 million, while exports earnings for the same period increased by 17.3 percent to US\$1,066.8 million. The trade deficit for the 2004 period under review stood at US\$1,657.7 million, below the US\$1,831.0 million recorded in the 2003 period.

During this period under review the major groups of imports were "Machinery and Transport Equipment" which accounted for (US\$617.9 million), "Mineral Fuels" (US\$589.5 million), "Food" (US\$380.0 million), "Manufactured Goods" (US\$378.3 million), "Chemicals" (US\$274.3 million), and "Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles" (US\$296.8 million).

Domestic Exports accounted for US\$1,034.5 million, while re-exports were valued at US\$32.3 million during the January to September period. For the corresponding period in 2003 these were valued at US\$890.4 million and US\$18.6 million respectively.

Traditional domestic export grew by 15.4 percent to US\$825.4 million, while Non-traditional domestic export grew by 19.3 percent to US\$209.1 million.

The September 2004 External Trade Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained at our Distribution Centre; 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.