



MONTHLY TRADE BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2005

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1. Turks and Caicos Islands' (TCI) total merchandise trade deficit widened for the month.
2. Total traditional domestic exports of sea-foods went down this month.
3. Turks and Caicos Islands' trade balance with United States of America widened in December when compared to November 2005. The trade balance with CARICOM also widened for the same period.

Direction of Trade	December 2005 (US\$)	% CHANGE OVER		January- December 2005 (US\$)
		Previous Month November 2005	Previous Year December 2004	
Total Exports	866,088.00	-67.57	-48.36	14,514,910.00
Traditional Domestic Exports	697,940.00	-48.85	25.64	6,418,520.00
Lobster	262,400.00	-58.53	-31.85	2,815,100.00
Conch	435,540.00	-40.47	155.46	3,589,423.00
Scalefish	0	0	0	13,997.00
Imports	32,890,584.08	12.57	37.89	303,260,296.27
Imports from US	32,246,772.50	14.78	44.12	296,720,126.95
Imports from CARICOM	362,980.58	-8.58	62.62	5,811,136.32
Trade Balance	-32,024,496.08	20.63	44.42	-256,720,890.19
Balance with US	-31,494,201.90	19.40	48.61	-284,028,051.21
Balance with CARICOM	-249,463.18	141.47	-73.84	-4,304,186.06

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Expenditure of merchandise imports amounted to US\$220.4 million for the 2004 calendar year. This represents an increase of 29.1 percent over the 2003 calendar year.
- For the calendar year 2004, revenue from total exports were valued at US\$12.1 million. This represents an increase of 28.9 percent over the 2003 data.
- The resultant trade deficit amounted to US\$208.3 million.



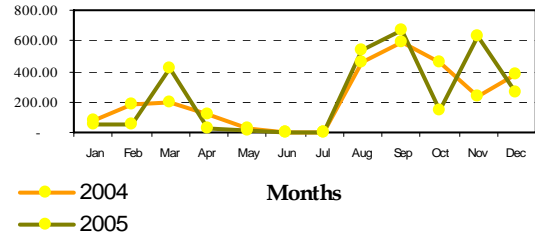
THE TRADE DEFICIT WIDENED...

The overall trade deficit increased by US\$ 5,476,794.91 in December to reach US\$32,024,496.08. This amount surpasses the corresponding period recorded last year by US\$9,849,383.35.

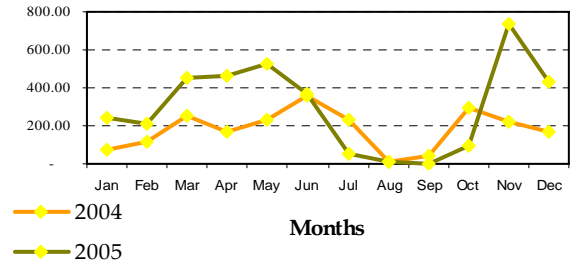
...TRADITIONAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS

- Traditional domestic exports decreased by 48.85 percent from US\$1,364,382 to US\$697,940.
- This is primarily due to the decrease in the earnings from lobster and conch this period.
- There are no recorded earnings from scalefish this month.

Monthly Domestic Exports of Lobster
(in US\$ '000)
2004-2005



Monthly Domestic Exports of Conch
(in US\$ '000)
2004-2005



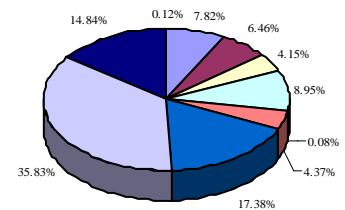
COMMODITIES	December 2005 (US\$)	November 2005 (US\$)	December 2004 (US\$)
All Commodities	697,940.00	1,364,382.00	555,515.00
Lobster	262,400.00	632,740.00	385,020.00
Conch	435,540.00	731,642.00	170,495.00
Scalefish	0	0	0

“Traditional domestic exports recorded an all time high of US\$4.9 million for the calendar year 2004”.

VALUE AND DISTRIBUTION OF IMPORTS...

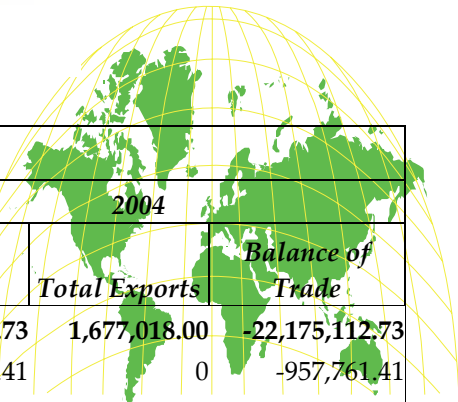
S.I.T.C SECTIONS	December 2005 (US\$)	%	January-December 2005 (US\$)
All Sections	32,890,584.08	100.00	303,260,296.27
Food and live animals chiefly for food	2,572,567.35	7.82	32,558,167.78
Beverages and tobacco	2,124,068.93	6.46	10,515,290.32
Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	1,364,983.04	4.15	11,985,346.15
Mineral fuels, lubricants & related material	2,944,759.10	8.95	31,113,552.16
Animals and vegetable oils and fats	24,917.97	0.08	312,302.45
Chemicals	1,436,532.62	4.37	16,197,399.28
Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials	5,717,472.86	17.38	68,306,186.79
Machinery and transport equipment	11,784,225.22	35.83	93,309,901.85
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	4,880,704.99	14.84	38,260,535.49
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	40,352.00	0.12	701,614.00

Distribution of Imports - December 2005



DIRECTION OF TRADE BY COUNTRIES...

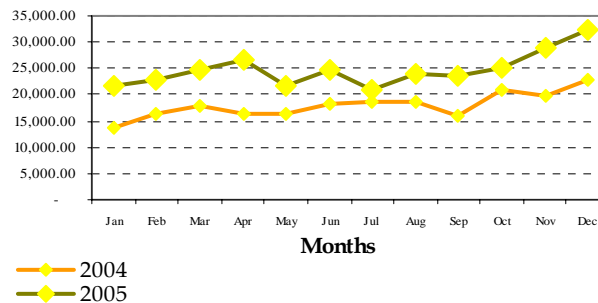
Partner Country	December (US\$)					
	2005			2004		
	Imports	Total Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Total Exports	Balance of Trade
Total	32,890,584.08	866,088.00	-32,024,496.08	23,852,130.73	1,677,018.00	-22,175,112.73
Bahamas	252,863.18	0	-252,863.18	957,761.41	0	-957,761.41
Dominican Republic	48,440.00	0	-48,440.00	2,943.00	3,600.00	657.00
Haiti	0	3,400.00	3,400.00	13,184.00	17,500.00	-4,316.00
Indonesia	0	0	0	41	0	-41.00
Japan	0	0	0	30,105.00	0	-30,105.00
Panama	231,840.00	0	-231,840.00	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	551.00	0	-551.00	69.00	0	-69.00
United States	32,356,889.90	862,688.00	-31,494,201.90	22,848,027.32	1,655,918.00	-21,192,109.32



MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH THE US...

Turks and Caicos Islanders merchandise imports from the United States increased by 11.51 percent from US\$29,017,706 to US\$32,356,890 in December. Total merchandise exports to the United States on the other hand, decreased for the month of December. The decrease in exports was 67.34 percent, reaching US\$862,688 from US\$2,641,056.

Monthly Imports of Goods from the United States
(in US\$ '000)
2004-2005

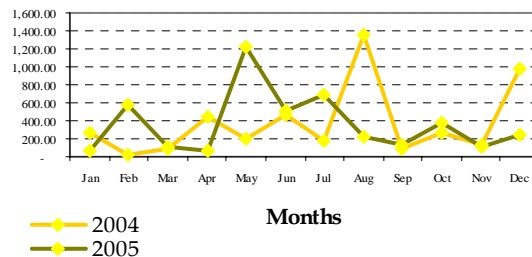


“The United States is our main trading partner, which accounted for US\$215.4 million of imported goods for the calendar year 2004”.

MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH CARICOM...

The Turks and Caicos Islands imported US\$252,863.18 worth of goods from CARICOM Member States. These goods are all from Bahamas and represent more than 100 percent increase in imports from the previous month.

Monthly Imports of Goods from CARICOM
(in US\$ '000)
2004-2005



**INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS
CONCEPTS & DEFINITIONS**

CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight... named port of destination)	The seller has the same obligations as under CFR but with the addition that he has to procure marine insurance against the buyer's risk of loss of or damage to the goods during the carriage. The seller pays the insurance premium and is only
Classification	The categorization of merchandise: - In transportation - to permit determination of freight rates within a tariff. - In customs - to permit the determination of duty status within the Harmonized Tariff Schedules.
Domestic Exports	Exports of goods which were grown, produced, mined, or manufactured in the country from which exported.
Export	To send or transport goods abroad out of a customs territory; to sever them from the mass of things belonging to one country with the intention of uniting them to
FOB (Free On Board ... named port of shipment)	The seller fulfills his obligation to deliver when the goods have passed over the ship's rail at the named port of shipment. The buyer has to bear all costs and risks
Import	The act of bringing or causing any goods to be brought into a customs territory.
International Trade	The business of buying and selling commodities beyond national borders.
Trade Deficit	A nation's excess of imports over exports over a period of time.
Trade Surplus	A nation's excess of exports over imports over a period of time.



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Statistical Publications

<p><u>Monthly</u></p> <p>Trade Bulletin</p> <p><u>Annually</u></p> <p>Turks & Caicos Islands Yearbook of Statistics Turks & Caicos Islands Quick Facts & Figures Social Indicators Trends & Statistics Vital Statistics Report Report on Government Finance Statistics External Trade Report National Accounts Statistics</p>	<p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Standard of Living Assessment Survey of Departing Visitors Preliminary Census Report</p>
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