

THE CARICOM-DR

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

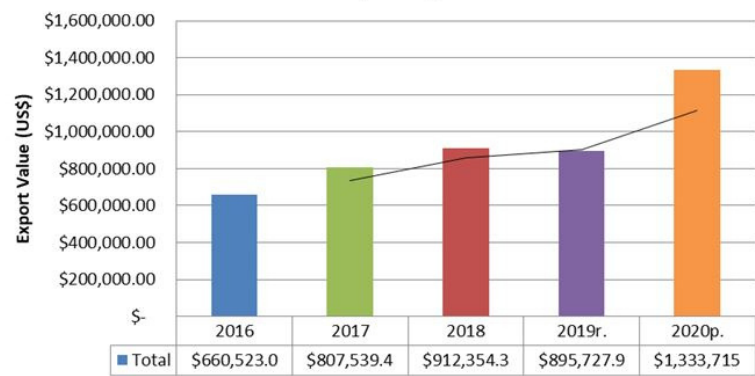
BACKGROUND

Jamaican products can enter the Dominican Republic market duty-free under the **CARICOM-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement**. The Agreement, which has been in force since 2001, allows for free trade in goods and services between both countries, under special terms. All products, with the exception of a few, may qualify for duty-free entry, after an assessment by the Trade Board Limited. [Click here to see exempted products.](#)

It should be noted that those items that do not qualify for duty-free treatment can still enter the Dominican Republic market, but at the regular rate of duty (MFN rate) for that country.

EXPORTS FROM JAMAICA TO THE DR 2016-2020

Trend in Jamaican Domestic Exports to Dominican Republic, 2016-2020



Source: Statistical Institute of Jamaica

ANALYSIS

Since 1997 Jamaica has recorded persistent trade deficits with the Dominican Republic, an abysmal performance that has continued despite the trade opportunities presented under the CARICOM-DR Free Trade Agreement. Over the 5-year period analyzed, exports have recorded a general downward trend, with a slight 13% year-on-year increase in 2018 and a 46% increase in 2020. Based on the data analyzed, the increase in exports realized in 2020 resulted from a slight increase in food items such as cheese, browning, counter flours and flavoured milk beverages.

Main items exported (cumulative value)

- 2202 - Beverages (mostly flavoured milk beverages)
- 3917- Fittings (Hydrogol Irrigation Pipes)
- 2309 - Animal Feed
- 3101 -Animal or vegetable fertilizer
- 2208 - Liqueurs & cordials, NESOI

Merchandise Trade b/w Jamaica and the DR (USD)

YEAR	IMPORTS	DOMESTIC EXPORTS	RE-EXPORTS	BALANCE OF TRADE
2016	75,412,302	660,523	367,024	-74,384,755
2017	94,061,479	807,539	449,038	-92,804,901
2018	65,092,395	912,354	2,593,094	-61,586,946
2019r	72,123,572	895,728	497,983	-70,729,861
2020p	70,710,313	1,333,715	188,509	-69,188,088

Products currently utilizing Duty-Free Access

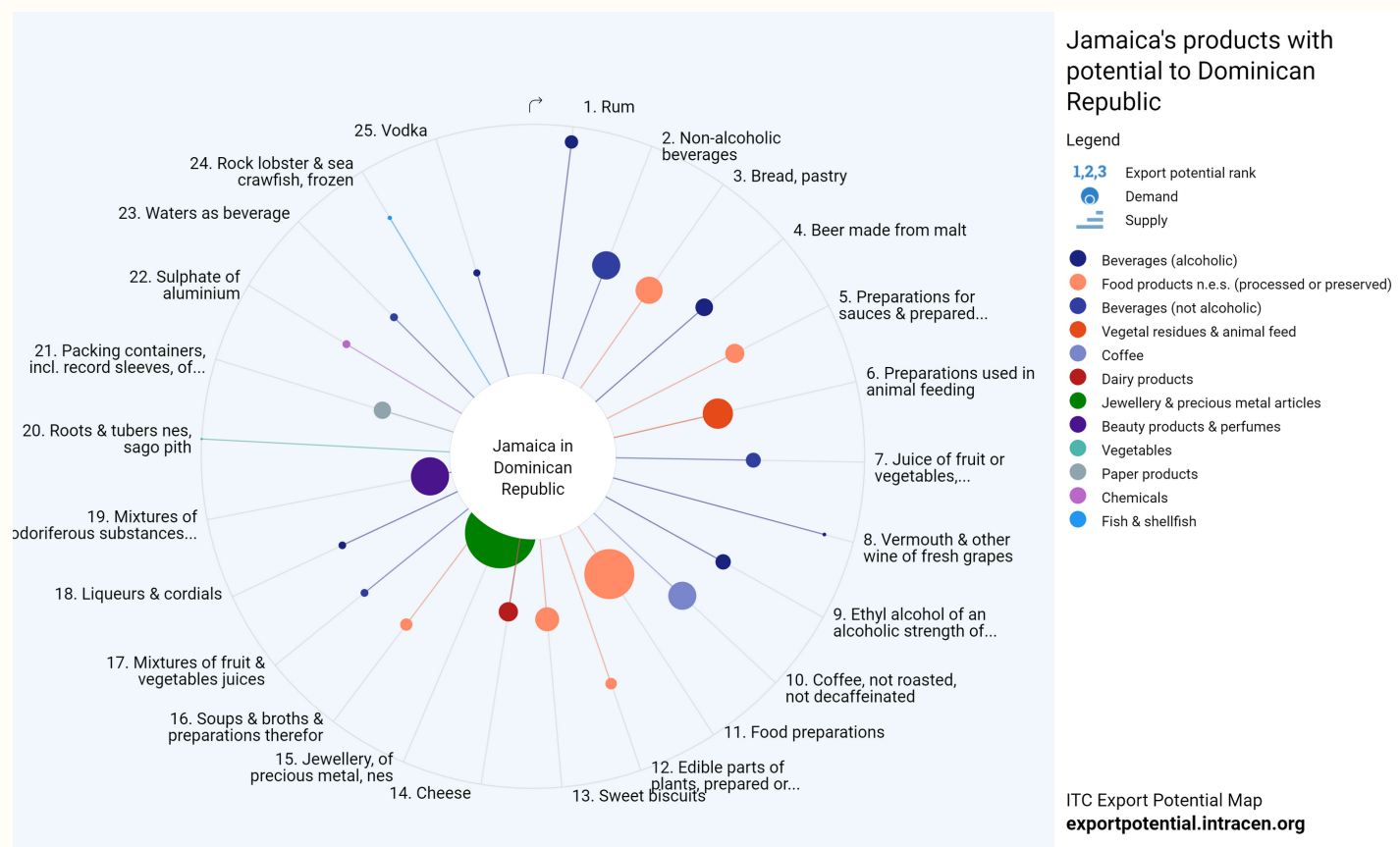
- Nutritional Drinks (Flavoured Milk)
- Scotch Bonnet Pepper Powder

OPPORTUNITIES

The following table compares some of DR's main imports, highlights Jamaica's export of these commodities to the DR, thereby identifying the potential market

Tariff Heading	Product	DR's Avg. Import (2019) USD	JA's export to DR 4 yrs cummulative
2309	Animal Feed	\$66,582,000	US\$193,756
3101	Animal or Vegetable Fertilizer	\$2,974,000	US\$76,090
0901	Coffee, whether or not roasted or decaf	\$37,871,000	US\$2, 322
2208	Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol; spirits, liquers and other spirituous beverages	\$123,964,000	US\$76,015

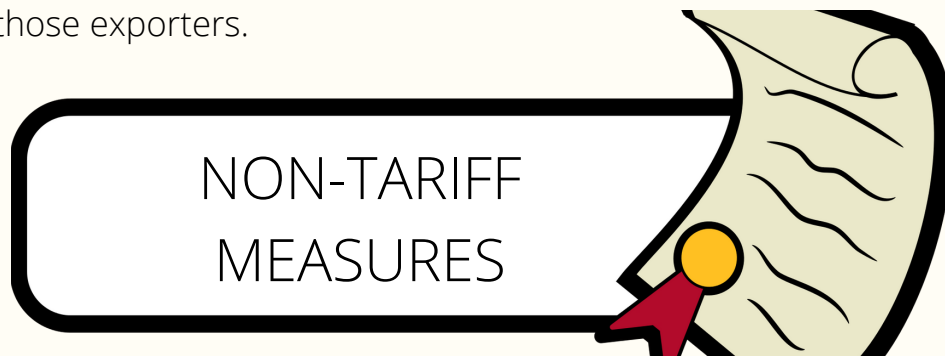
New & Existing Target Products for the DR Market



Certificate of Origin granted under the CARICOM-DR

The Certificate of Origin (CoO) serves as the main instrument for the accordance of duty-free treatment pursuant to a Free Trade Agreement, by certifying the country of origin of the products.

The Trade Board Limited (TBL) is the certifying agency responsible for issuing the Certificate of Origin under the CARICOM-DR FTA. Based on data obtained from the TBL, of the **approximate USD 1.3 million worth of goods exported to the DR** in 2020, **only USD 322,735.00** worth, representing two tariff lines (milk-based beverages and Scotch Bonnet Pepper Powder) utilized the duty-free access under the CARICOM-DR Agreement in 2020. This is a key point of concern as it suggests that some qualifying exports are not taking advantage of the duty-free access to the DR market, which would have essentially resulted in savings to those exporters.



In addition to customs duties, there may be some Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements and labelling and packaging standards that must be satisfied to enter the Dominican Republic market.

It is therefore required that a product-specific investigation be conducted to ascertain the exact requirements for market entry.

DR CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

DR has implemented the following border management systems that have served to simplify customs procedures and logistics to make exporting to that country seamless.

- **Single Customs Declaration**
- **Integrated Customs Management System**
- **Authorised Economic Operator (AEO)**

For consignments valued above US\$2,000 the importer must submit the following documents to the Customs Authority of the Dominican Republic :

- **Single Customs Declaration (SCD)**
- **Commercial invoice, original and translated into Spanish**
- **Customs Value Declaration (CVD)**
- **Shipping documents**
- **Certificate of origin, if a preferential regime is applicable**
- **Import license, No Objection Guide or phytosanitary or animal health certificate (if applicable)**

All these documents must be submitted online through the Integrated Customs Management System (SIGA).

Need more information?

Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC)

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