

# TRADE IN 3

## TRADE HIGHLIGHT >

### BAN ON IMPORTED ROMAINE LETTUCE; IS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR JAMAICA?

The ban on the imported Romaine lettuce from the United States can be viewed very positively for the local producers of the product.

The US is the premier supplier of lettuce to Jamaica, besides Peru and China, supplying over **23,154 kg** in 2018. The ban has, therefore, created a shortfall of this approximate amount within the Jamaican market.

Over 169,240 kgs are produced in **Mason River and Douglas Castle**, in the regions bordering St. Ann and Clarendon, under conditions that can facilitate traceability from the field.



Production in these regions has been noted as favourable, with considerable potential for increase in volume to fully satisfy local demand; inclusive of hotels, restaurants and fast food franchises. The volume of total lettuce production increased by 38%, from **11,299 tonnes** to **15,630 tonnes**, between 2014 to 2019. Farmers/markets should therefore seek to **maximize revenues** by leveraging the favourable production volumes to supply markets that are most affected by the import ban on Romaine lettuce.

## TRADE FACILITATION >

### GOING PAPERLESS

Jamaica's **NEW** paperless systems are facilitating greater efficiency in its trading environment. Through electronic inspection and clearance of goods, e-generated permits, and automated electronic payment systems, Jamaica has joined a global cohort of states striving to improve the ease of doing business by implementing trade facilitation reforms. One component of this system includes the Jamaica Single Window for Trade, which is a single portal where traders can apply and pay for licences, permits, certificates and other international trade-related documents (LPCOs).



This and other systems implemented under the Trade Facilitation Agreement will facilitate efficient exchange of information between governments and traders, faster processing of LPCO applications, decreased costs, higher transparency, and will stimulate private sector investments as a result of greater predictability.

### JTIP

Over 7,000 people from 98 countries have utilized the Jamaica Trade Information Portal (JTIP) since its launch in May 2019. The **Jamaica Trade Information Portal** serves as a virtual hub for all information related to the import and export of goods to and from Jamaica. The portal acts as a rich, and increasingly comprehensive database through which local and international traders and investors may access information on standards, tariffs, fees, levies and applicable penalties, and information on market access opportunities available through existing trade agreements.

Try for yourself: <https://jamaicatradeportal.gov.jm/>

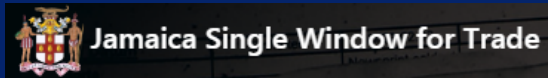
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## TRADE FACILITATION >

### JSWIFT: A PORTAL TO GREATER EFFICIENCY

Jamaica's new Single Window for Trade (**JSWIFT**), is set to reduce the time and cost of doing business by facilitating improved efficiencies in trade for importers and exporters alike. JSWIFT is a “one-stop” electronic system where traders can submit information to fulfil all import and export requirements.



This web-based solution reduces the need for traders to expend unnecessary time and resources to apply to multiple agencies for licences, permits, certificates and other international trade-related documents (LPCOs). Instead, they can now complete a single application form for multiple agencies, submit validating documents, and even make payments for their LPCOs online.

As added benefits, (JSWIFT) enables **faster processing of LPCO** applications and supports the GoJ's thrust to deliver impact-driven policy measures under Jamaica's Trade Facilitation Reform Programme.

## TRADE HIGHLIGHT>

### NEW TRADE DEALS AMIDST WIDESPREAD PROTECTIONISM – ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAMAICA?

Recent months have borne new relationships that could change the trading landscape as we know it. The US and China have recently struck a trade deal after months of an all-out trade war that some say has left the US weak. This is, however, just one of the interesting developments in recent months. Notwithstanding what seems to be a move towards increased protectionism globally, some recently concluded trade deals could shift the dynamics of global trade.

These include closer ties between the EU and Japan, with the signing of the **European Union-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)** (February 2019), covering a third of the world's economy; the finalization of the **EU- MERCOSUR trade deal** (June 2019), which involves Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay and covers 800 million consumers, making it the largest in the world in terms of population; and the announcement of the slated finalization of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** in 2020, which includes major markets like China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and India, and their partnership with smaller East Asian states, which will account for one-third of the world's GDP.

#### **What effect will these new agreements have on SIDS like Jamaica?**

Jamaica has long been criticized for its largely one-sided trading relationships with the countries and groupings mentioned above. It ,therefore, begs the question of whether these new trade deals further widen the country's trade deficit with these trading partners or present opportunities to use existing trade relationships as platforms to gain indirect access to non-traditional markets. This is, however, entirely up to domestic trade policy and a proper assessment of the current climate in these prospective destination markets for Jamaica products.

