

IMPORTATION OF CIGARETTES INCREASE AS LOCAL PRODUCTION FALLS

Data from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) are indicating that the importation of cigarettes for 1999 increased by 1246 % in comparison to the import figure for 1997. In that regard, imported cigarettes increased from 1,320 kgs. to 17,762 kgs.

The data also indicate that locally manufactured cigarettes are on the decline. For the period January 1997 to December 1999, local production of cigarettes reduced from 1,175,037,000 units (aprox. 1,618,940 kgs.) to 1,073,256,000 units (aprox. 1,478,708 kgs.) a decrease of 9 %.

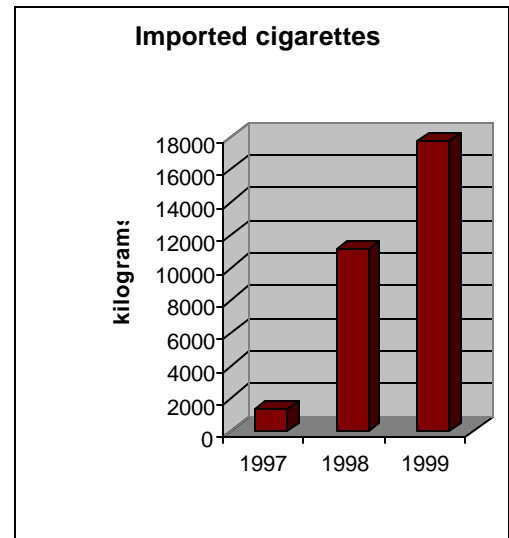
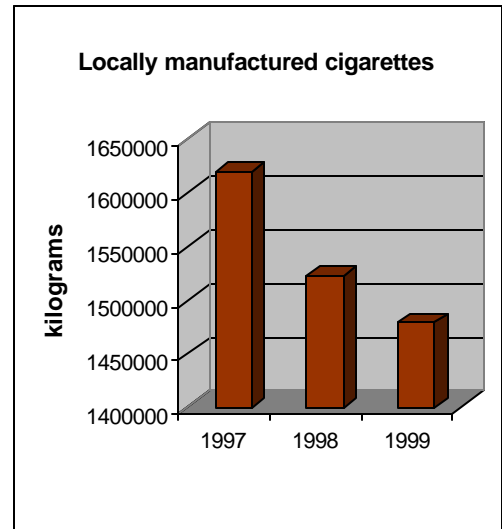
The Centers for Disease Control Prevention (CDC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a survey known as the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) in 12 developing countries in 1999, which found that 25% of child smokers started their habit before the age of 10. Data from CDC are indicating that worldwide some 250 million children and teenagers alive today will eventually die as a result of their tobacco habit and that 70% of them will be in developing countries.

The National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA) continues to monitor the local consumption of cigarettes, because of its negative impact on health.

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Locally produced cigarettes vs imported cigarettes for the period January 1997 - December 1999

Year	Local (kg)	Imported (kg)
1997	1618940	1320
1998	1522070	11134
1999	1478708	17762



The NCDA acknowledges the cooperation of allied agencies that consistently provide data presented in infosum.