

# TRADE 'N' SPACES

INSIGHTS

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## TRADE VISUALIZATIONS

Figure IV: Average Percentage Distribution of CARICOM's Intra-Regional Exports: 2011-2016

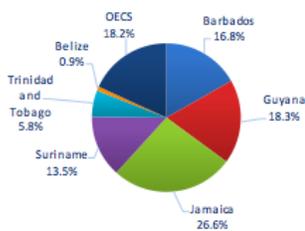
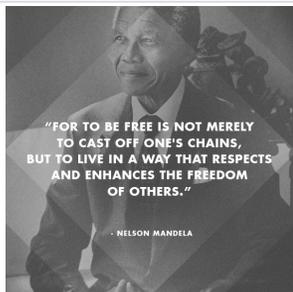
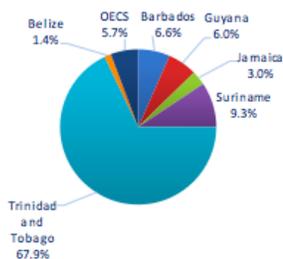


Figure V: Average Percentage Distribution of CARICOM's Intra-Regional Imports: 2011-2016



## OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH IN CARIBBEAN ALUMINUM EXPORTS

The Caribbean's export of aluminum ore and concentrates-HS 2606 lays in 'limbo' for growth or decline as Trump's tariffs of 25% on steel and 10% on aluminum products takes effect. Jamaica and Guyana are the primary exporters of this commodity from the Caribbean. Exports from Jamaica stand to be most impacted, as for the 2015-2016 period, export of the commodity-HS 2606 to the US market as a share of Jamaica's total export of the HS 2606 stood at 98%, 100% and 78% respectively. Guyana has a less concentrated export market as its top 5 export destinations in 2017 included Ukraine, Germany, the US, Japan and China, with its top three accounts for a share of over 20%.

Jamaica is a significant source of aluminum ore for the US market, accounting for an excess of 20% of all US imports of aluminum ore in the 2015-2017 period. Notwithstanding the diversity of the Guyanese export portfolio of the commodity, its importers have been directly impacted by the imposition of the tariffs.

The US domestic producers of steel and aluminum products are the short run winners, on account of the increase in price in the domestic market. With the noted inability of the US domestic economy to supply the steel and aluminum products needed to meet domestic consumption, imports of aluminum ore from the Caribbean to the US may increase. The inability to directly substitute most aluminum and steel products mean the demand for most products will remain stable. These tariffs may have profound impacts on the Caribbean economy in the long run, but Caribbean exporters of aluminum ore and concentrate to the US market may continue to receive short-term gains.

by Denisha Hector, MITP Alum

## CANNABIS TAKES CENTRESTAGE IN VINCENTIAN PARLIAMENT

The underground cannabis industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) has an excellent reputation and 'Vincy weed' as it is popularly known is frequently trafficked between the Eastern Caribbean islands. Having noticed the economic importance of this industry to rural farmers and the high number of arrests on possession charges, the government has opened parliament for conversations on cannabis and have drafted legal documents to commence the process of decriminalizing the plant towards the development of a medical cannabis industry.

Moreover, the international demand for medical cannabis presents opportunities for investment and export diversification, factors which have positive benefits for small developing economies. A change in legislature requires that quality standards be implemented in an effort to regulate the product and keen attention must be placed on international industry developments. Of key importance however, is the exclusion of existing markets.

Regulated medical cannabis would only comprise of exports to 'legal' markets, or countries which have decriminalized cannabis for medical use. This therefore means that the bulk of producers in the current market, the small rural farmers, are likely to remain within the illegal market. Unless provision is made to integrate small rural farmers into the legitimate production of cannabis towards medical purposes, the interests of small farmers will be chipped away. Therefore, legislature and industry proposals must pay special attention to those whose livelihoods depend on the industry and who first lobbied for the plant's legitimacy.

by Stephanie Matthew, MITP Alum

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### POLICY ADVISER

New Zealand High Commission to Barbados and the OECS

Location: Barbados

Deadline: September 14 2018

### PROGRAMME AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Department for International Development, Caribbean Barbados

Location: Barbados

Deadline: September 14 2018

Click the job titles for further information.

## MITP ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



**Ms. Shekita Walcott**

Cohort 11

Shekita currently serves as a Trade in Services consultant on the Barbados delegation to identify “non-conforming measures in trade and investment services.” This national delegation works under the mandate of the Barbados Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with assistance from the CARICOM Secretariat Office of Trade Negotiations.

Her substantive position is Project Officer at the Barbados Coalition of Services Industries (BCSI) where she works within the Department of Trade. She previously worked at the St Lucia Coalition of Services Industries (SLCSI) as well. Shekita is currently pursuing her license in PMP at the Project Management Institute.

Shekita is a graduate of the UWI Mona Campus with a BSc in International Relations (major) Gender and Development Studies (minor). She pursued further studies in MITP and completed her research paper on “An Examination of the Implications of Trade Facilitation in the Caribbean: Lessons from Singapore for Barbados,” which was subsequently published by the Barbados Ministry of International Business and Commerce.

In her spare time she enjoys being a stylist in the fashion industry but travelling is her favourite hobby. She also enjoys dance and playing a good game of netball with friends. Shekita is proficient in Intermediate Spanish and Advanced Sign Language.

## NEWS TO WATCH



Photo credit - Jamaica Broilers Group

### Jamaican Acquisition of US Crystal Farms Mills

Jamaica Broilers Group (JBG) recently acquired Crystal Farms Mills, Georgia, USA as part of its growth strategy to expand and vertically integrate its operations in the US. The Group's US operations include breeder hatcheries in Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa and Pennsylvania. The Mills represent an important strategic acquisition as the JBG also acquired the company's land and fleet.



Photo credit - Barbados Business

### Boosting the Blue Economy

CARICOM Member States should consider approaching the Cuban Government to boost the Blue Economy via a boat building program. The Cubans are also well placed to provide assistance in the renewable and ocean energy arenas. Although not a CARICOM Member State, the time is nigh for CARICOM to start to explore Cuba to advance its forward trade agenda.



Photo credit - Google Images

### The Future of US Trade Agreements

A call is made by Dr. Anthony Gonsalves for the Caribbean to be more vigilant and observe what is taking place internationally regarding American trade deals. Trinidadian firm, Nulron Ltd manufactures direct reduced metal for its parent company NuCor Ltd in North Carolina, USA. As a result of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), Trinidad and Tobago has duty-free access to the US market.

### Regional Standard for Poultry Imports



Photo credit - Google Images

Forty percent of poultry consumed in Trinidad and Tobago is imported. Thus, greater attention must be paid by regional exporters to be aware of the CARICOM Regional Standard for Poultry and Poultry Products developed by the CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ). Aside from the labelling requirements, the standard stipulates that the best before date for chilled poultry should not be more than 5 days post-slaughter.

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## CALL FOR PAPERS/SCHOLARSHIPS

### MIXED METHODS RESEARCH CONFERENCE

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Trinidad

Abstract submission deadline:

October 31 2018

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For persons interested in pursuing a specialisation, master's or doctorate degree.

Application Deadline:

September 28 2018

Click the conference titles for further information.