TRADE NEWSLETTER Q1 2026

STRATEGY OVERVIEW

NON-ENERGY MANUFACTURED EXPORTS (2020-Q3 2025)

TTMA's Non-Energy Export Manufacturing Strategy (2020-2025) is forecasted to be fully achieved at the end of Q4 2025, predicted from the current data shown in the graph below. Post pandemic, non-energy manufactured exports have generally fluctuated due to external factors and most recently, the rise in geopolitical tensions, directly affecting the TTD economy overall. Top export markets for non-energy manufactured products continue to be within the CARICOM region: Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica and Grenada.

SOURCE: CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE (CSO), MINISTRY OF PLANNING, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS & DEVELOPMENT

TTMA'S NON-ENERGY MANUFACTURING STRATEGY (2026-2030)

Aims to accelerate the value of non-energy exports from $7.0 billion TTD in 2026 to $10.0 billion TTD by 2030, under strategic pillars and objectives of advocacy, demand & supply, infrastructure, labour and focus on the SME sector. With continued collaboration and partnership with the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism (MTTI) and other Ministries, the Association is positive that this goal will be met by the end of 2030.

TRADE NOTIFICATION & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

FRONT OF PACK LABELLING (FOPL) CONSULTATIONS



ISSUE:

The Ministry of Health (MoH) drafted a National Draft Policy on Front of Pack Labelling (FOPL)

*Policy referenced: the PAHO Nutrient Model as the guiding model

CONSULTATIONS:



- Three virtual sessions were held with members
- More than seventy (70) companies were in attendance
- Regional and national updates provided

KEY TAKEAWAY (TTMA'S POSITION):



- Non-adoption of the PAHO Nutrient Profile model and related warning labels
- The FOPL scheme should be aligned with trading partners
- In support of the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's)
- To work with the government on the development of a FOPL model
- Advocate on evidence-based policy implementation
- Impact of a FOPL model varies - results are not generalizable
- Ongoing evaluation is needed to assess the sustainability of FOPL in the future

CONSULTATIONS:



- Consultations to continue with the MoH, MTTI & TTBS
- To continue conducting research on the issue – monitor global trends
- Consult with international organizations
- Correspond with regional agencies to ensure alignment with CARICOM member states

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JAMAICA WILL BE IMPLEMENTING A SPECIAL CONSUMPTION TAX (SCT)

ON NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, EFFECTIVE **MAY 1ST, 2026.**

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED:

- Jamaican manufacturers of non-alcoholic beverages
- Regional manufacturers of non-alcoholic beverages who export to Jamaica
- Importers in Jamaica

AFFECTED TTMA MEMBERS:

Non-alcoholic beverage manufacturers – products with added sugar

E.g. of affected products: Juices, flavored waters, carbonated sodas, dairy beverages, etc (with added sugar)



SPECIAL CONSUMPTION TAX TO BE IMPOSED:

JM $0.22 per gram of added sugar

TTD$0.0095 per gram OR **USD**$0.0014 per gram



LEGAL FRAMEWORK:

NON-ALCOHOLIC SWEETENED BEVERAGES (NASBS) UNDER THE GENERAL CONSUMPTION TAX ACT (GCT).

"NASBs are defined as ALL non-alcoholic beverages containing added sugar or other caloric sweeteners, as well as beverages containing artificial or non-nutritive sweeteners, whether carbonated or non-carbonated, and whether manufactured locally or imported"
– General Consumption Act excerpt

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ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

REGIONAL SUGAR SUPPLY CONSULTATIONS

BACKGROUND/ISSUE

- Caribbean Sugar Refinery (CSR) of Belize reported its intention to supply refined white sugar from August 2026.
- Safeguard certificate approvals will only be granted until August 2026.

***Supplier: Caribbean Sugar Refinery (CSR)**

- The TTMA sent correspondence to the CSR on March 19th, requesting an urgent meeting, noting that T&T manufacturers are the largest users of sugar in the CARICOM market & will be affected

***A copy of this letter to be shared with members**

- This meeting was held on March 27th, 2026

WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED:

- F&B manufacturers/exporters who use refined cane sugar in their final product – to be exported to external markets (Safeguard Certificate)

CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TTMA & CSR:

- Members provided comments regarding quality concerns, purchasing, pricing, supplies, risk procedures, and requested a fair transitional period

***A copy of the presentation to be shared with members**

- The CSR committed to working closely with the TTMA and all affected members to address specific concerns

MOVING FORWARD

- Continue consultations for status updates
- Companies to work closely with the CSR for standard/quality testing

PRODUCT IN QUESTION:

HS 1701.99.90 – Refined WHITE Sugar







INWARD TRADE MISSION:
WELCOMING THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN TO T&T

A delegation from the French Caribbean Islands of Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guiana visited T&T during the period March 23rd to 27th, 2026. This inward trade mission was hosted by the TTMA in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce Martinique (CCIM). Participating companies were:

- **Caribbean Hermatics Services** – service & maintenance provider of Bitzer compressors
- **Doux Caprices** – confectionery manufacturer
- **Private Cashless** – service provider of cashless transaction systems
- **Siwopetedjel** – chili-syrup manufacturer
- **Spoconline ADS** – service provider of bus shed software
- **Theobroma** – gourmet chocolate manufacturer

Over the 5-day period, the delegation was highly engaged with the local business community. Activities held consisted of a 'Doing Business in T&T' seminar, curated business-to-business (b2b) meetings, factory tours, site visits, engagement with students at UWI French Day and a cool-down to Maracas Bay. High-leads were reported by the delegation post-mission as they continue to engage with prospective distributors.











OUTWARD TRADE MISSIONS

GRENADA



During January 19th – 23rd, 2026, the TTMA led a 25-team delegation to the 'spice isle' of Grenada. Companies across the food and beverage, electrical and safety supplies, cosmetic and household, and service sectors were engaged over the 4-days with packed agendas. Our sister isle, Tobago, was well represented by 6 SME's and THA reps.

TOBAGO SME HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Chenseya's Fishing Services** – seafood processor
- **Beard Boss** – cosmetic manufacturer
- **Bliss Collective** – cosmetic manufacturer
- **Tavaco Enterprises** – wine manufacturer
- **Tonci Company** – gourmet chocolate & coffee manufacturer
- **TJM Designs** – artisan



ON THE SEAS



This 2nd edition of our mission on the seas took place from March 1st – 10th, 2026. 15 companies seized the opportunity to target 7 high-potential markets in under 7 days, forging new partnerships and unlocking new export pathways across the Caribbean.



This high-seas expedition showcased T&T manufacturers across all sectors with sectors comprising of food and beverage, construction, printing and packaging and services. Exporters were engaged in fast-paced b2b meetings, reporting at least 25 leads at the end of the mission.



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