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US jobless claims fall as labor market remains tight

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell last week, as labor market conditions remained tight despite the Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate hikes. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits decreased by 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 230,000 for the week ended Aug. 19, the Labor Department said on Thursday. The previous week's level was revised up modestly by 1,000. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast 240,000 claims for the latest week.

The labor market is continuing to defy expectations in the face of the Fed's aggressive interest hikes since March 2022, as employers hoard workers after struggling to find labor during the COVID-19 pandemic. Labor market strength and receding inflation are fanning optimism that the economy could avoid a recession. The number of people receiving benefits after an initial week of aid, a proxy for hiring, decreased 9,000 to 1.702 million during the week ending Aug. 12, the claims report showed. These continuing claims remain low by historical standards, indicating that some laid-off workers are experiencing short spells of unemployment.



Foreign	Exchange l	Market

Currency	24-Aug	23-Aug	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	155.60	155.92	-0.21%	2.33%
GBP:JMD	196.85	197.85	-0.50%	8.11%
CAD:JMD	114.66	116.36	-1.47%	5.69 %

Caribbean & Latam

Colombia's banks have called on the country's central bank to tackle liquidity issues amid lower-than-expected government spending and compliance with international regulatory framework Basel III, which strengthens bank risk management.

USA & Canada

The Dow closed lower Thursday, sidestepping a rip-roaring move higher in Nvidia (NASDAQ:NVDA) as investors remain wary of making bullish bets a day ahead of potential clues on monetary policy from Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell at the upcoming Jackson Hole symposium.

Europe

European shares closed in the red on Thursday, as the early rally in chipmakers fizzled and miners snapped a three-day winning streak, while concerns over any economic downturn kept investors on edge.

<u>Asia</u>

 Asian shares rallied on Thursday after blockbuster results from tech darling Nvidia NVDA.O boosted Wall Street and a retreat in U.S. bond yields eased pressure on borrowing costs globally.

					Source: Reute
	Local	Equity M	arket		
Stock Index	Today's close	DoD Δ	DoD% Δ	YTD % Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ
JSE Combined Index	333,982.14	-3,151.37	-0.93%	-9.39 %	-9.01%
JSE Index	320,306.69	-3,329.09	-1.03%	-10.00%	-9.32 %
All Jamaican Composite Ind	dex 355,008.73	-1,860.37	-0.52%	-11 .93 %	-12.27%
JSE Select Index	8,063.53	-92.23	-1.13%	-9.36 %	-11. 73 %
Junior Market Index	3,835.97	-4.93	-0.13%	-3.77%	-6.22 %
	BEST AND W	ORST PERFO	ORMERS		
AD	VANCERS		DE	CLINERS	
BPOW	11.01%	C	CAC	-15.07%	
ELITE	0.65%	MP	CCEL	-12.80%	
CABROKERS	9.88%	FIRST	ROCKJMD	-11.89%	-

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of **91** stocks, of which **32** advanced, **48** declined and **11** traded firm.

International Markets

li li	International Equity Markets					ternatior	nal Currenc	y Market	
Index	24-Aug	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ	Currency	24-Aug	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ
S&P 500	4,376.31	-1.35%	13.98%	5.69%	EUR: USD	1.081	-0.49%	0.98%	8.46%
Dow Jones	34,099.42	-1.08%	2.87%	3.43%	GBP: USD	1.26	-0.98%	4.30%	6.81%
FTSE All Share	3,997.66	0.12%	-1.90%	-2.52%	GBP: USD	1.26	-0.98%	4.30%	0.01%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,232.22	-0.81%	11.56%	15.40%	USD: CAD	1.36	0.41%	0.21%	4.74%
Nikkei 225	32,287.21	0.87%	12.14%	I 4.03%	USD: JPY	145.83	0.68%	11.22%	6.35%
MSCI World Index	669.87	-0.83%	10.65%	5.50%					

Global Interest Rates					Cor	nmodities					
Rates	24-Aug	DoD Abps	YTD ∆bps	YoY ∆bps	Commodity	24-Aug	DoD % A	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ		
10 -Year US Treasury Bond	4.24%	5.00	37.00	114.00	Crude Oil	79.05	0.20%	-1.51%	- 16.69 %		
	4.43%	-4.00	76.00	173.00	Gold	1,916.91	0.07%	5.09 %	9.46 %		
10-Year UK Gilt							Silver	24.12	-0.77%	0.70%	26.21%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	6.80%	0.00	276.00	122.00	Aluminium	2,160.00	-0.89 %	-9.17%	-11.11%		

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters, Jamaica Stock Exchange, Bank of Jamaica, Jamaica Observer, Jamaica Gleaner, Nasdaq, Investing.com

Mutual Funds

JN MUTUAL FUNDS

August 23, 2023

JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$13.2720	2.81%	2.50%	3.19%
Global Equity	J\$13.9334	-3.80%	-4.45%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J\$14.6399	8.45%	6.21%	7.02%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$11.6598	4.00%	2.32%	4.36%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$11.6861	3.49%	2.14%	5.22%
Local Money Market	J\$13.0343	10.89%	7.96%	7.60%

	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Income Funds	Global Diversified Income Fund	Global Equity Fund
Objective	To preserve capital whilst	To preserve capital whilst	To achieve an attractive total	To provide long-term	To provide long-term capital
_	providing US dollar (US\$)	providing Jamaican Dollar	return through capital injection and	investment growth through	growth and risk
	money market returns	(J\$) money market returns	income growth. This is offered	exposure to a diversified	diversification.
			through two separate Funds:	range of asset classes.	
			(i) A Jamaican dollar (J\$) and		
			(ii) A US dollar (US\$) fund.		
Strategy	To invest in local and global	To invest in local and global	To invest in regional, sovereign	To invest in fixed income,	To invest in the shares of
57	money market instruments	money market instruments	debt securities, local and	high dividend yielding stocks,	local and international
	for safety, liquidity and	for safety and liquidity and	international corporate bonds.	REITs and structured products	companies which offer
	yield.	yield			strong growth possibilities
					and consistent income

With a suite of six investment portfolios, each with a distinct financial profile, JN Mutual Funds offers a premium opportunity for investors to align their personal financial strategy with their goals, time horizons and risk profile.

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