



# Bank of Jamaica Holds Policy Rate at 0.5% in February 2021

On February 16, 2021, the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) announced its decision to continue to hold the policy rate at the historic low of 0.5% per annum. The central bank highlighted that its monetary policy decisions are aimed at ensuring that the annual increase in the prices of consumer goods and services (that is inflation) remains within the bank's inflation target of 4.0% to 6.0%. This decision to keep the policy rate unchanged reflects their assessment that inflation will average 5.0% over the next two years and remain within the target range. The BOJ also noted that in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the macroeconomic outlook continues to reflect significant uncertainties and as a result it has made the decision to remain accommodative in its monetary policy stance to support the recovery in economic activity.

In BOJ's last forecast, the Jamaican economy was projected to contract between 10.0% and 12.0% in FY 2020/21 and recover partially in FY 2021/2022 with an expansion of between 3.0% and 6.0%. The BOJ's assessment suggests that risks to Jamaica's recovery may be skewed to the downside. However, with Jamaica's main trading partner countries currently ramping up their vaccination programmes and Jamaica expected to start its own vaccination soon, economic activities could recover faster than expected. The pandemic remains the main upside risk to Jamaica's growth. On Friday, February 19, 2021 the BOJ will provide further insights on the factors influencing its rate decision in its monetary policy press briefing and the next policy decision announcement date is set for March 29, 2021.



# Foreign Exchange Market

Currency	18-Feb	I6-Feb	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	151.79	151.42	0.24%	14.50%
GBP:JMD	209.57	209.91	-0.16%	8.2%
CAD:JMD	119.77	120.60	-0.69%	19.6%

#### Caribbean & Latam

 Mexico's peso led losses across Latin American currencies on Thursday as a prolonged energy freeze in the U.S. state of Texas disrupted activity across the border, while higher U.S. yields pressured risk-driven assets.

## **USA & Canada**

 Wall Street stocks fell on Thursday as investors shifted out of big technology names, while an unexpected rise in weekly U.S. jobless claims pointed to a fragile recovery in the labor market.

#### **Europe**

 European shares marked a third straight day of losses on Thursday as a clutch of disappointing earnings reports added to concerns over a quicker-than-expected spike in inflation due to higher commodity prices and a strong euro.

### <u>Asia</u>

 The Indonesian rupiah was little changed while stocks declined after the country's central bank cut interest rates by 25 basis points, as expected, and downgraded the economic growth outlook for 2021.

# **Local Equity Market**

Stock Index	Today's close	DoD $\Delta$	DoD% ∆	YTD % ∆	ΥοΥ% Δ
JSE Combined Index	391,747.58	485.12	0.12%	-0.30%	-18.30%
JSE Index	392,156.46	648.27	0.17%	-1.04%	-19.42%
All Jamaican Composite Index	429,893.90	530.13	0.12%	-0.96%	-19.52%
JSE Select Index	9,706.10	-10.09	-0.10%	-0.27%	-21.97%
Junior Market Index	2,877.69	-10.53	-0.36%	9.26%	-2.50%

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS						
ADVANCERS DECLINERS						
CBNY	16.05%		SCIJA	-17.24%		
GWEST	14.29%		KLE	-17.14%		
MPCCEL	14.21%		TJHUSD	-9.57%		

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of 83 stocks, of which 39 advanced, 35 declined and 9 traded firm.

### **International Markets**

International Equity Markets					
Index	18-Feb	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% ∆	YoY% ∆	
S&P 500	3,914.03	-0.44%	4.21%	16.13%	
Dow Jones	31,493.34	-0.38%	2.90%	7.74%	
FTSE All Share	3,763.78	-1.31%	2.45%	-8.62%	
Euro Stoxx 50	3,681.04	-0.51%	3.61%	-4.05%	
Nikkei 225	30,236.09	-0.19%	10.17%	30.36%	
MSCI World Index	679.17	-0.52%	5.09%	17.64%	

International Currency Market							
Currency	18-Feb	DoD % A	YTD% ∆	<b>YoY%</b> ∆			
EUR: USD	1.2093	0.46%	-1.01%	12.06%			
GBP: USD	1.40	0.84%	2.22%	7.51%			
USD: CAD	1.27	-0.20%	-0.39%	-4.40%			
USD: JPY	105.66	-0.20%	2.33%	-3.83%			

Global Interest Rates						
Rates	18-Feb	DoD ∆bps	YTD ∆bps	YoY ∆bps		
10 -Year US Treasury Bond	1.29%	2.00	38.00	-27.00		
10-Year UK Gilt	0.62%	5.00	42.00	1.00		
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	3.53%	-2.00	8.00	-31.00		

	Con	nmodities		
Commodity	18-Feb	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% ∆	<b>ΥοΥ</b> % Δ
Crude Oil	60.04	-1.80%	23.74%	15.35%
Gold	1,775.44	-0.04%	-6.48%	10.85%
Silver	27.05	-1.21%	2.45%	48.85%
Aluminium	2,137.50	1.06%	7.98%	24.27%

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



# **JN MUTUAL FUNDS**



February 16, 2021

JN Muti	ual Funds	NAV Pri	ice	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield Estimated Yearly Income)	
Global Diversified Income		e J\$13.918	83	-2.25%	0.56%	2.08%	
Global	Equity	J\$15.14	53	-10.83%	0.59%	0.00%	
Global	Fixed Income	J\$12.82	58	5.29%	1.34%	5.58%	
Global	Money Market (U	<b>S\$)</b> US\$10.6	587	3.52%	0.38%	3.54%	
Global	Fixed Income (US	\$) US\$10.93	777	5.90%	-0.32%	4.66%	
Local M	loney Market	J\$11.15	14	4.35%	1.09%	4.29%	
	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Glol	bal Fixed Income Funds	Global Diversified Income Fund	Global Equity Fund	
Objective	To preserve capital whilst providing US dollar (US\$) money market returns	To preserve capital whilst providing Jamaican Dollar (J\$) money market returns	retui incoi throi (i) A	chieve an attractive total rn through capital injection and me growth. This is offered ugh two separate Funds: Jamaican dollar (J\$) and to US dollar (US\$) fund.	To provide long-term investment growth through exposure to a diversified range of asset classes.	To provide long-term capita growth and risk diversification.	
Strategy	To invest in local and global money market instruments for safety, liquidity and yield.	To invest in local and global money market instruments for safety and liquidity and yield	debt	nvest in regional, sovereign securities, local and mational corporate bonds.	To invest in fixed income, high dividend yielding stocks REITs and structured produc		

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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