



MONTHLY ECONOMIC BULLETIN

Inside This Issue

January 2016 Issue

CEO's Report	3
Economic Highlights	4-5
International Commodity Prices	6-13
International Commodity Prices: Impact	13-17
Inflation Rate & GOJ Treasury Bills	18
Exchange Rates	19
NIR & Money Base	20
Remittance Inflow Update	21
Interest Rates	22
Domestic Bauxite and Alumina	23
Tourism	24
Stock Market Update	25
Previous Economic Highlights	26-27
Appendices	28-29

The CEO'S Remarks

2016 will be a defining moment for Jamaica's development. This will be the year when we determine if the country will reap the benefits of the adjustments made over the past four years, or we will throw it all out the window, like we have done many times before. In other words will we display the tenacity to stick to, and improve on, the reform of the economy and the society, or will we once again give in to the uncertainty that always accompanies significant reform.

I say uncertainty because, even when one is going through personal or corporate changes, there is going to always come a time when you question your journey because "it always is darkest before the dawn". So that usually when persons, companies, or countries are faced with the darkness of the uncertainty it always takes a special type of leadership and determination to get us through.

There is no doubt that we have seen significant positives at the macroeconomy level, such as lower interest and inflation rates, improved balance of payments performance, improved NIR, and improving business and consumer confidence, among other things.

The problem though is that much of this has not trickled down to the lower echelons of the working class and there seems to be some lapse in making the transition from fiscal reform to economic growth.

There are reasons for these two challenges. The first is that irrespective of how much the economy grows, the trickle down effect can only happen to the extent of the capacity of the labour force to absorb it. And so in the last bulletin I addressed the matter of the challenges facing the labour force and how it should be addressed. What we must not be tempted to do, as we have done in all our years since independence (and maybe before) is to create fiscal budgets and policy that merely redistribute income from the more productive to the less productive. That is a recipe for the fiscal challenges we have seen before.

The second challenge, however, is that policy has been focussed on fixing the fiscal only, and has not given enough attention to facilitating capital and labour productivity. In other words, what we have been doing is concentrating of fiscal consolidation rather than fiscal expansion through growth.

So (i) tax policy has been focussed more on revenue collection than capital and investment expansion (hence the tight timelines for implementation); (ii) tax compliance has been focussed more on those already in the tax net, rather than the majority outside of the net; (iii) not enough urgency is placed on public sector transformation (is happening but the pace is very slow e.g. service delivery and development approval process); and (iv) labour market reform, which is a huge negative to labour productivity and more jobs, is also not happening fast enough.

What is therefore required is an urgent realization by the policy makers that in order for us to make the shift to significant growth, what we need is a shock to the system in terms of policy. In other words policies aimed at only incremental changes, will only have incremental results, and will either lead to stagnation or recovery long after all of us would have been gone.

What is needed is bold leadership that is going to make the changes necessary to move us from the level we are at to the next. It is not going to come through merely redistributing resources from more productive assets and labour to less productive. It is not going to come through merely making incremental changes to policy. It is not going to come through using the same ideas and thinking that got us to where we are today after 53 years of political independence. It is not going to come unless we address the matter of law and order, as development cannot happen in disorder and lack of rules.

This is a task for the government to face and we at the PSOJ must be at the forefront of that dialogue.

Economic Highlights January 2016

- ◇ On January 20, 2016 the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce released the fourth quarter 2015 Business and Consumer Confidence indices. The Business Confidence Index was 123.0 in the fourth quarter 2015 survey, rebounding from last quarter's 110.6 to just over last year's 122.9. This is as a result of firms becoming more confident that their revenues and profits will remain strong and allow them to expand investments in their productive capacity during the year ahead. The Current Business Condition Index increased to 156.2 in the fourth quarter, from last quarter's 115.9 and last year's 139.2. In the first and fourth quarters of 2015 firms viewed current economic conditions more favourably than at any other time in the fifteen-year history of the survey. Consumer Confidence Index was 124.4 in the fourth quarter survey, up from 103.9 in the prior quarter and 110.0 one year ago. The fourth quarter figure was a 20% increase relative to the previous quarter and it is also the second highest on record since the closing quarter of 2008. For this quarter optimism improved in all regions of the country. All components of the overall confidence index improved with the largest gains recorded in the expected employment growth.
- ◇ At the end of January 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by J\$0.62 or 0.156% to J\$120.86=US\$1.00. Similar to December both the Canadian dollar and the Great Britain pound appreciated. The Canadian dollar appreciated by J\$0.62 or 0.156% and the Great Britain pound went down by J\$4.79 or 2.70%. At the end of the month the Jamaican dollar value relative to the CAD\$1.00 and GBP£1.00 was JA\$84.86 and JA\$172.33 respectively
- ◇ Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica "All Divisions" Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by 0.4% for the period January 2016 over December 2015. The decrease in the rate for January 2016 over December 2015 brought inflation for Fiscal Year to January to 3.9%. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of January 2016 was 3.7%.
- ◇ Data for the month ending January 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$252.27 billion (US\$2,200.12 billion). This reflected a decrease of J\$27.19 billion (US\$236.90 million) relative to December 2015.
- ◇ The monetary base decreased by J\$6.72 billion or 5.5% to J\$115.49 billion for January 2015 relative to December last year.
- ◇ On the last trading day in January 2016, for the period January 01, 2016 to January 29, 2016, the main JSE index advanced by 9,657.16 points or 6.41% to close at 160,349.29 points. The JSE Combined Index advanced by 12,570.97 points or 7.94% to close at 170,840.11 points. The JSE Junior advanced by 383.76 points or

Economic Highlights January 2016

21.43% to close at 2,174.81 points. In contrast once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at 499.06 points.

- ◇ For the month of December 2015 relative to November 2015, yields on the Government of Jamaica 30-day, 90-day and 182-day treasury bills all decreased by 53bps, 89bps and 6bps respectively. There were no increases in yields during this period.
- ◇ For December 2015, the production of Alumina was 163,837 tonnes. This represented a 7,649 or 4.90% tonnes increase, relative to November 2015. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to 192,690 tonnes. This represented an increase of 56,272 tonnes or 41.25% relative to November 2015. The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for December 2015 was 364,231 tonnes. This is a 95,731 tonnes or a 35.65% reduction from the 268,500 tonnes recorded in November this year. Crude bauxite production fell by 1.49% and 1.19% when compared to December 2014 and 2013 respectively. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for December 2015 was 814,693 tonnes. This represented a decrease of 115,488 tonnes or 16.51% relative to November this year. Total bauxite production increased by 2.37% relative to December 2014

- ◇ The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans increased to 17.03% from 17.01% at end November 2015 relative to October 2015. The weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits decreased by 31bps to 1.45% at end November 2015 relative to end October 2015. For the month of November foreign currency loans rate increased relative to October 2015. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate rose by 5bps to 7.35%. The interest rates on foreign currency deposits increased for November relative to October this year. In this regard foreign currency deposits rate rose by 2bps to 1.79%.
- ◇ Stopover tourist arrival for November 2015 was 158,450. This month's total was 24,133 or 17.97% higher than the 134,317 in October 2015. Year to date, January to November 2015, 1,903,946 arrivals visited the Island, which was 2.0% or 36,894 stopovers more than the 1,867,052 in 2014. A total of 135,450 cruise passengers visited Jamaica in November, 2015. This represented a 7.9% increase over the 125,509 November 2014
- ◇ There were price reductions observed in 76% (16) of the commodities monitored for January 2016. The price of both crude oil indices decreased for January 2016 - the Brent fell by 18.35% and the WTI by 14.88%. Natural gas decreased by 18.36%. The IMF's Fuel Energy index decreased by 16%, and the Food and Beverage Index increased by 0.48%. The all commodity price index decreased by 0.8%.

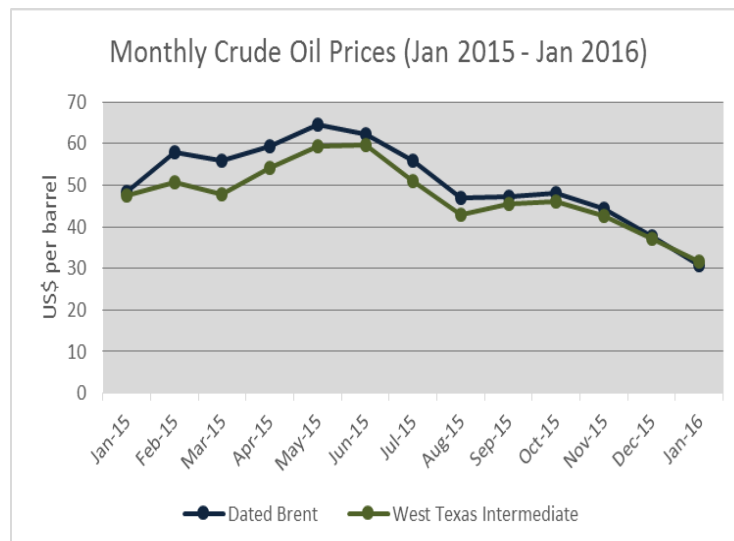
International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

Crude Oil Prices

For the start of the year 2016, for the month ending January, both the Dated Brent crude oil price as well as the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) continued its three months decline. The average price for the Brent at the end of January this year was **US\$30.8 per bbl**. This represented a **US\$6.92** or **18.35%** decrease from the **US\$37.72 per bbl** recorded for the previous month. This is largest percentage decrease since February 2015. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) decreased by **US\$5.54** or **14.88%**. The average WTI prices moved from **US\$37.24 per bbl** in December 2015 to **US\$31.7 per bbl** at the end of January this year. A one year comparison of prices revealed that this year's price for the Brent is **36.39%** or **US\$ 17.62 per bbl** lower. When compared to last year's price, this year's WTI price is **33.40%** or **US\$15.90** below. When compared to the price level two years ago both the Brent and WTI are **71.37%** and **66.63%** respectively below. The 5-year average of prices ranging from January 2010 to December 2015 for the Dated Brent and the West Texas Intermediate are **US\$96.62 per bbl** and **US\$85.801 per bbl** respectively. This month's prices were **68%** below the 5-year average of prices for the Brent and **63.05%** for the WTI.

Oil prices have been decreasing since mid-2015 which continued into December and as expected translated into January 2016. The Morgan Stanley has predicted that the price of Brent may fall below US\$20 per barrel. They believe that with rapid appreciation of the U.S. dollar may send Brent oil to as low as \$20 a barrel. In a research note dated



January 11, 2016, Morgan Stanley analysts including Adam Longson said that oil is particularly leveraged to the dollar and may fall between 10 to 25 percent if the currency gains 5 percent. Morgan Stanley is not the first to forecast a drop to \$20 oil, but its reasons differ from other banks. Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has said there's a possibility storage tanks will reach their limit, pushing crude down to levels necessary to force an immediate halt to some production. In addition to this economists at the Royal Bank of Scotland say that oil could fall to \$16, while Standard Chartered predicts that prices could hit just \$10 a barrel.

Natural Gas

For the month ending January 2016, natural gas price ended its seventh month decline. The price for natural gas ended at **US\$2.27** per million metric. This reflected an increase of **US\$0.35** or **18.23%** from **US\$1.92** in December 2015. In January 2015 natural gas per million metric was valued at **US\$2.97** signifying that this year's price is **US\$0.70** or **23.57%** lower. Similarly, a two year comparison revealed that natural

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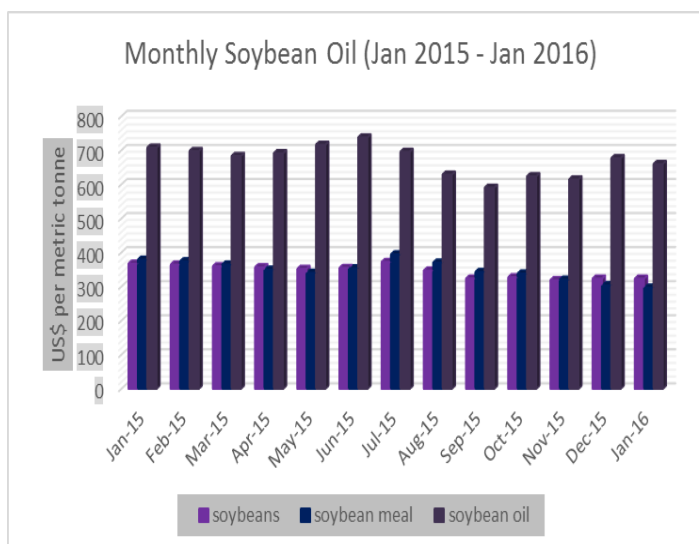
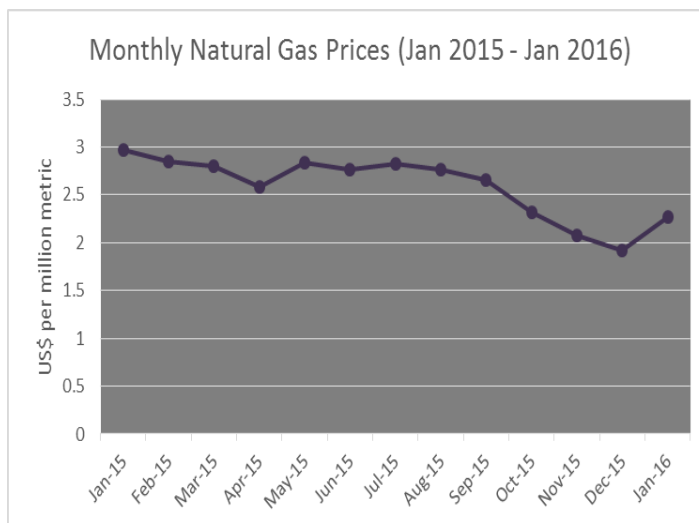
International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

gas prices have decreased, this time by **US\$2.43** or **51.70%** per million metric tonne. The five year average monthly price for natural gas ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$3.49** per million metric, hence this year's January price was **US\$1.22** or **35%** below.

Soybean Prices

For the month ending January 2016 soybean price per metric tonne was **US\$323.20**. This denoted a **0.04%** or **US\$0.12** decrease from December's value of **US\$323.32** per metric tonne. For January this year, both the soybean meal soybean oil prices declined. Soybean meal entered its sixth month decline in prices to end January at **US\$297.18** per metric tonne. This represented a decrease of **US\$6.68** or **2.20%**. At the end of January the price per metric tonne for soybean oil stood at **US\$659.9** representing a **2.55%** or **US\$17.30** decrease compared to December 2015. A one year comparison revealed that prices for soybean decreased by **12.05%** or **US\$44.29**. This month soybean price was also **US\$152.9** or **32.12%** lower than its price two years ago. When compared to the corresponding period last year the soybean meal price was **US\$81.86** or **21.60%** below. This month's soybean oil price was also below last year price by **US\$47.98** or **6.78%**. A two year comparison of prices for soybean meal and soybean oil revealed that they decreased by **37.27%** and **20.62%** respectively. The five year average monthly price for soybean meal ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$429.83** per metric tonne, which means that January's price was **US\$132.65** or **30.86%** lower. The



five year average monthly price for soybean oil ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$972.71** per metric tonne, which means that December's price was **US\$312.81** or **32.16%** lower.

Sugar Prices

At the end of January 2016 Free Market sugar ended its four month rise to end at **US\$0.1429** cents per pound. This represented a decrease of **US\$0.0071** or **4.73%** when compared to December 2016. For the

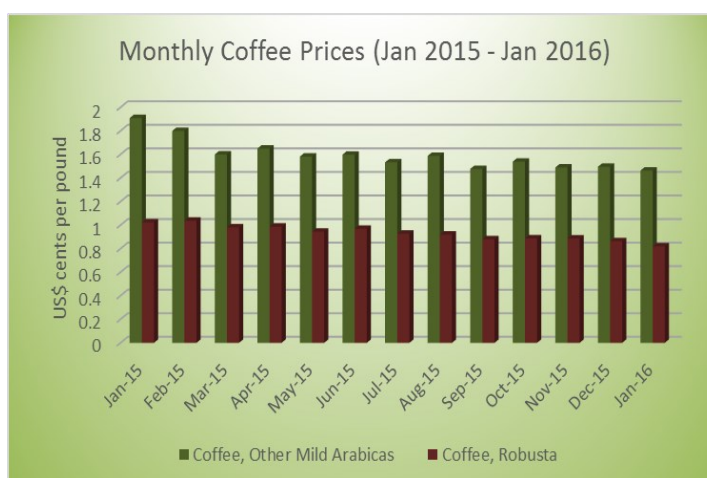
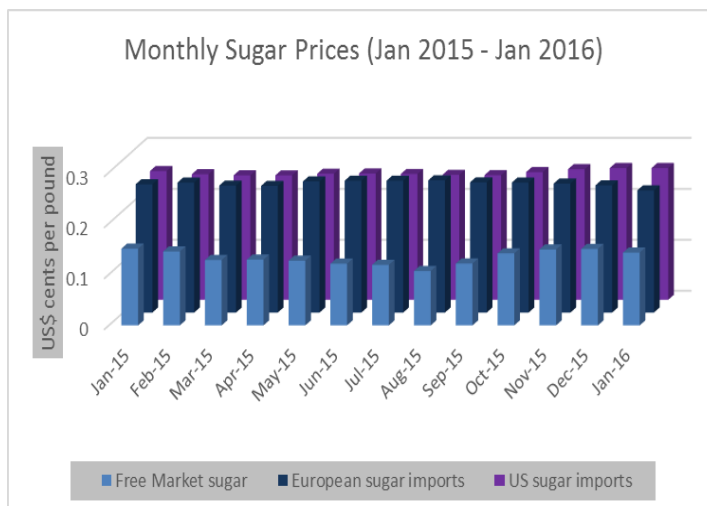
International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

US Sugar imports, the average price remained the same for January 2016 relative to December 2015 at **US\$0.2583** cents per pound. At the end of January 2016 the European Sugar imports continued its five month decline to end at **US\$0.2395** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0098** or **3.93%** decrease compared to the last month in 2015. For the period January 2016 relative to January 2015, the price of Free Market sugar decreased by **US\$0.0077** or **5.11%** cents per pound. A one year comparison revealed that the price of the US Sugar imports has increased by **US\$0.0059** or **2.34%** while the European sugar imports price has decreased by **4.85%** or **US\$0.0122**. In January 2014 the price for the Free Market sugar was **US\$0.1571** cents per pound which means that this year's January price is **US\$0.0142** or **9.04%** lower. The price of the US sugar imports is **19.70%** higher than the 2014 price while the price of the European Sugar imports is **12.56%** lower than the 2014 price. The 5 year average of prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 for the US imports and the European imports are **US\$0.2748** cents per pound and **US\$0.2637** cents per pound respectively. Hence the prices of US imports and European imports were below their averages by **9.18%** and **6.00%** respectively.

Coffee Prices

For the month ending January 2016 the prices for both the Coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas Robusta coffee decreased. The price per pound for coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category was **US\$1.4632**



cents per pound representing a decrease of **US\$0.032** or **2.14%**. A one year comparison revealed that this month's price was **US\$0.4458** or **23.35%** lower than last year's January price. The price of Robusta coffee for January was **US\$0.8196** cents per pound which is **US\$0.0436** or **5.05%** less than the previous month's price. A one year comparison revealed that the price of coffee in the Robusta category have fallen by **US\$0.2037** or **19.90%**. A two year comparison revealed that prices have risen by **8.36%** for coffee of the 'Other Mild Arabica's category while for coffee in the Robusta category prices fell by **11.80%**. The five

International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

year average monthly prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 for Arabica and Robusta are **US\$1.9304** and **US\$1.0539** respectively. This implies that this year's January price for the Arabica was **24.20%** lower than the average price and for the Robusta coffee it was **22.23%** lower than its average price.

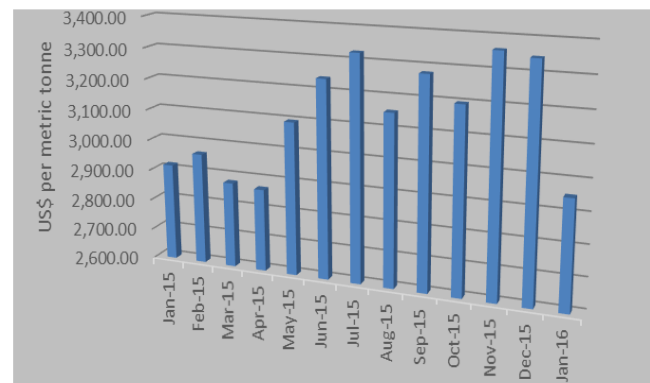
Cocoa Bean Prices

For the month ending January 2016, cocoa bean prices decreased by **US\$393.24** per metric tonne or **11.75%** to close at **US\$2,952.42** per metric tonne. This is the largest percentage decrease since January 2012. A one year comparison revealed that, this year's price is higher by **US\$36.82** or **1.26%**. A two year price comparison showed that the January 2016 price for cocoa beans is higher by **US\$132.99** or **5%** than its price in January 2014. The five year average for monthly prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 for cocoa bean is **US\$2,798.52** per metric tonne, this means that this year's December price was **US\$153.90** or **5%** higher.

Orange Prices

For the month ending January 2016 orange prices ended its three months increase. This time prices

Monthly Cocoa Beans Prices (Jan 2015 - Jan 2016)



decreased by **US\$79.29** or **10.31%** to **US\$689.41** per metric tonne, relative to the last month of 2015. When compared to the January price in 2015, this year's price fell by **US\$68.61** or **9.05%**. This year's price is also lower by **US\$63.74** or **8%** than the January price two years ago. The five year average monthly price ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$836.78**, which indicated that the January's price was **US\$147.37** or **18%** lower.

Banana Prices

Banana prices for the month ending January 2016 rose to **US\$1,037.56** per metric tonne. This represents an increase of **US\$105.24** or **11.29%** for this year January relative to December 2015. For January 2016 relative January 2015, banana prices increased by **US\$125.96** or **13.81%** per metric tonne. A two year comparison revealed that this year's price is above the



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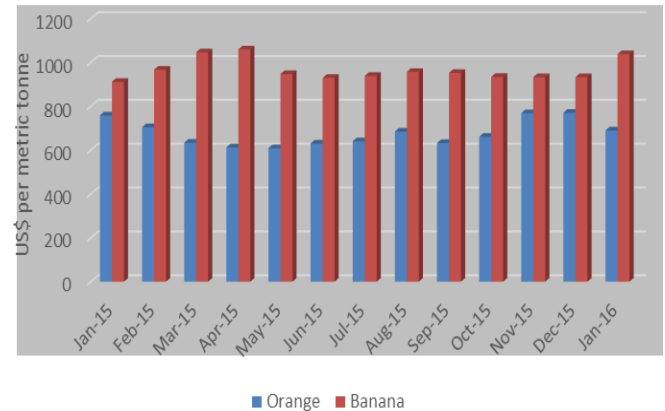
January 2016 Issue

January 2014 price of **US\$928.42** by **US\$109.14** or **11.76%** per metric tonne. The five year average monthly prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$955.43**, this means that this year's price was **US\$82.13** or **8.60%** lower.

Corn Prices

Corn prices decreased by **US\$2.92** or **1.78%** relative to December 2015, to close the month of January at **US\$161.03** per metric tonne. Between January 2015 and January 2016 prices decreased by **US\$13.68** or **7.83%**. A two year price comparison showed that this year's price was **US\$37.69** or **18.96%** lower. The five year monthly average for corn prices ranging from January 2011 to December

Monthly Orange and Banana Prices (Jan 2015 - Jan 2016)



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International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

this year's January price was **US\$81.33** or **33.56%** lower.

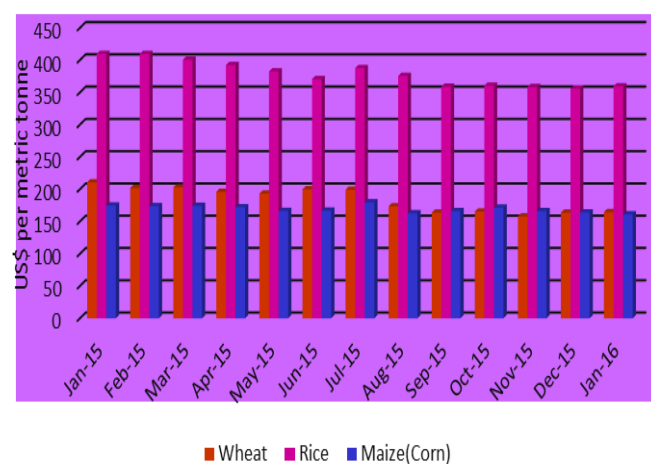
Wheat

In January 2016, wheat prices increased by **US\$0.77** or **0.47%** relative to December 2015 to end at **US\$164.56** per metric tonne. Relative to January 2015, prices have fallen by **US\$46.05** or **21.87%** per metric tonne. A two year comparison of wheat prices showed that this year's January price was **US\$63.65** or **27.89%** below the January 2014 price. The average five year monthly prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$273.96** per metric tonne, meaning that this year's January price was **US\$109.40** or **39.93%** below.

Rice

For the month ending January 2016 the price of the 5 percent broken milled white rice ended at **US\$359.48** per metric tonne. This value was **US\$2.38** or **0.66%** per metric tonne above the **US\$354.35** in December last year. In addition, this month's price is below the January 2015 price by **US\$50.2** or **12.25%**. A two year comparison revealed that the commodity's price was **US\$81.56** or **18.49%** lower than its price in 2014. The five year monthly price average for rice prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$491.46** per metric tonne, indicating that January's price was **US\$131.98** or **26.85%** below the long term average.

Monthly Cereal Price (Jan 2015 - Jan 2016)



Beef Prices

In January 2016, beef prices continued its five months decrease. This time prices declined by **US\$0.0447** or **2.67%** when compared to December 2015, to close at **US\$1.6264** cents per pound. When compared to January 2015, prices have fallen by **US\$0.6938** or **29.90%** cents per pound. In January 2014 prices were **US\$1.8746** cents per pound hence this year's January price is **US\$0.2482** or **13.24%** below the 2014 price. The five year average for prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is **US\$1.9585** cents per pound indicating that this month's price was **US\$0.3321** or **16.96%** below.

Swine (Pork) Prices

Pork prices increased for the month ending January 2016. Price of pork was **US\$0.5425** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0114** or **2.15%** increase from December's price of **US\$0.5311**. When compared with January 2015, prices fell by **US\$0.1875** or **25.68%**. Prices are below the price level 2-years ago by

International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

US\$0.246 or 31.20%. It is also below the 5-year average of US\$0.8582 for prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 by US\$0.3158 or 36.79%.

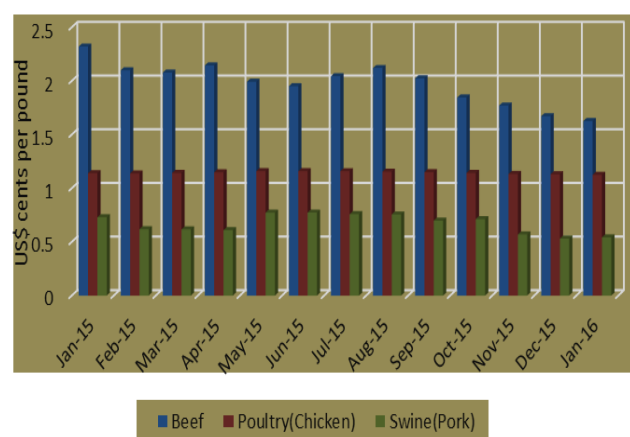
Poultry Prices

Chicken prices continued to decrease for the seventh month in a row. At the end of January 2016 chicken was valued at US\$1.1252 cents per pound, representing a US\$0.0054 or 0.48% decrease from December last year. The price in January 2016 was approximately US\$0.0158 or 1.38% lower than the January 2015 price. In January 2014, the price for poultry was US\$1.044 cents per pound, indicating that this year's price was US\$0.0812 or 7.78% higher than prices two years ago. The average monthly price ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 is US\$1.0206 cents per pound, this means that this year's January price was US\$0.1046 or 10.24% more.

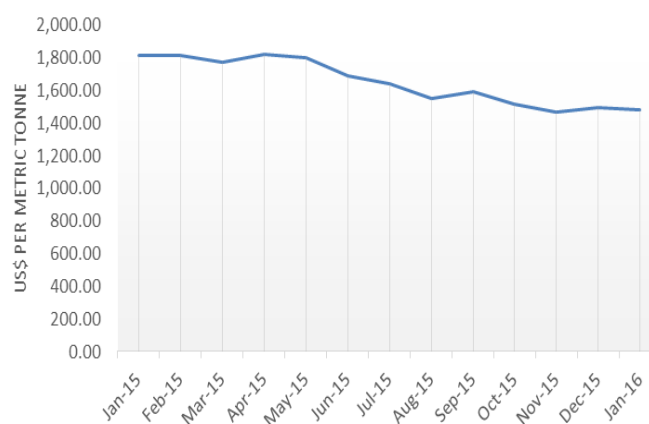
Aluminum Prices

The price of aluminum decreased in January. Prices decreased by US\$16.10 or 1.08% to end the month at US\$1,481.10 per metric tonne. For January 2016 relative to January 2016, prices decreased by US\$333.62 or 18.38% per metric tonne. A two year comparison revealed that this year's January's price was US\$246.31 or 14% below the price for the corresponding period in 2014. The five year average for monthly prices ranging from January 2011 to December 2015 for aluminum is US\$1,960.44 per metric tonne, this means that this year's January's price was US\$479.34 or 24.45% lower.

Monthly Meat Prices (Jan 2015 - Jan 2016)



Monthly Aluminum Prices (Jan 2015 - Jan 2016)



Impact of global prices on Jamaica

There were price reductions observed in 76% (16) of the commodities monitored for January 2016. The price of both crude oil indices decreased for January 2016 - the Brent fell by 18.35% and the WTI by 14.88%. Natural gas decreased by 18.36%. The IMF's Fuel Energy index decreased by 16%, and the Food and Beverage Index increased by 0.48%. The all commodity price index decreased by 0.8%. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Price Index averaged 150.4 points in January 2016, down almost 3 points

or 1.9% from December and as much as 29 points 16% below January 2015. The prices of all the commodities tracked by the Index fell, with sugar and dairy products registering the steepest declines. The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 149.1 points in January, down 2.5 points or 1.7% from December. Ample global supplies, increased competition for export markets and a strong US dollar continued to weigh on international wheat and maize prices, with the US maize quotations falling to multi-year lows. Rice prices declined only marginally. The FAO Meat Price Index averaged 148.3 points in January, down 1.7 points or 1.1% from its December value. Sugar

Price Index averaged 199.4 points in January, down 8.4 points or 4.1% from December, marking the first decline after four months of steady rises. In a report released January 26, 2016, the World Bank cut its price forecast for 80 percent of the world's major commodities as oversupply and weaker emerging market growth prospects weigh on demand. In addition to this the bank has cut its 2016 forecast for crude oil prices to US\$37 per barrel, down from US\$51 per barrel in its October report, citing the sooner-than-anticipated resumption of exports by the Islamic Republic of Iran and greater resilience in U.S. production.

Commodity	Unit	December Price	January Price	Monthly Change %
Aluminum	Metric tonne	1497.2	1481.1	-1.08
Bananas	Metric tonne	932.32	1037.56	11.29
Beef	Pound	1.6711	1.6264	-2.67
Cocoa Beans	Metric tonne	3346.25	2952.42	-11.75
Coffee-Arabicas	Pound	1.4952	1.4623	-2.14
Coffee-Robusta	Pound	0.8632	0.8196	-5.05
Com-Maize	Metric tonne	163.95	161.03	-1.78
Natural gas	MMBTU	1.92	2.27	18.23
Crude Brent	Barrel	37.72	30.8	-18.35
Crude West Texas Intermediate	Barrel	37.24	31.7	-14.88
Oranges	Metric tonne	770	689.41	-10.31
Pork (Swine)	Pound	0.5311	0.5425	2.15
Poultry	Pound	1.1306	1.1252	-0.48
Rice	Metric tonne	356	359.48	1.45
Soybean	Metric tonne	323.32	323.2	-0.04
Soybean meal	Metric tonne	303.86	297.18	-2.2
Soybean oil	Metric tonne	677.2	659.9	-2.55
Sugar (free market)	Pound	0.15	0.1429	-4.73
Sugar US (Import)	Pound	0.2583	0.2583	0
Sugar European (Import)	Pound	0.2496	0.2395	-3.93
Wheat	Metric tonne	163.79	164.56	0.47

International Commodity Prices

January 2016 Issue

Actual prices through
20-Jan-2016

Table 2. Medium Term Commodity Price Baseline
(In U.S. Dollars)

Commodities	Units	2009A1	2010A1	2011A1	2012A1	2013A1	2014A1	2015A1	2016A1	2017A1	2018A1	2019A1	2020A1	2021A1
					Actual					Projections				
Food														
Cereals														
Wheat	\$/MT	190.1	194.5	280.0	276.1	265.8	242.5	185.6	181.1	192.8	199.7	202.7	201.0	199.3
Maize	\$/MT	165.5	186.0	291.8	298.4	259.0	192.9	169.8	151.8	158.7	163.0	166.4	166.4	166.4
Rice	\$/MT	389.4	520.6	551.7	580.2	518.8	426.5	380.2	351.8	305.3	305.3	305.3	305.3	305.3
Barley	\$/MT	128.4	158.4	207.2	238.2	206.4	146.1	127.9	120.5	133.4	128.9	128.4	127.7	127.0
Vegetable oils and protein meals														
Soybeans	\$/MT	378.5	384.9	484.2	537.8	517.2	457.8	347.4	322.7	327.3	328.2	328.2	328.2	328.2
Soybean meal	\$/MT	359.3	331.3	378.9	473.3	477.3	467.0	352.7	302.4	311.6	314.9	316.9	316.9	316.9
Soybean oil	\$/MT	787.0	924.8	1215.8	1151.8	1011.1	812.7	672.2	664.1	682.6	681.0	681.0	681.0	681.0
Palm oil	\$/MT	644.1	859.9	1076.5	939.8	764.2	739.4	565.1	551.4	556.9	569.6	529.3	486.8	447.2
Fish meal	\$/MT	1255.9	1739.2	1519.3	1624.3	1710.5	1921.5	1759.2	1519.2	1210.6	1210.6	1210.6	1210.6	1210.6
Sunflower Oil	\$/MT	1041.7	1186.0	1621.8	1489.5	1341.1	1080.3	1022.2	1008.8	1001.0	1001.0	1001.0	1001.0	1001.0
Olive oil	\$/MT	3509.3	3171.3	3070.3	3135.7	3816.7	3911.8	4927.1	4232.2	4385.8	4385.8	4385.8	4385.8	4385.8
Groundnuts	\$/MT	994.6	1239.4	1724.0	1688.2	2314.5	2148.3	1946.2	1596.5	1574.7	1574.7	1574.7	1574.7	1574.7
Rapeseed oil	\$/MT	856.2	1011.7	1366.6	1239.1	1081.2	904.4	774.6	787.0	718.1	719.0	719.0	719.5	719.0
Meat														
Beef	cts/lb	119.6	152.5	183.2	187.9	183.6	224.1	200.5	158.3	152.2	152.2	152.2	152.2	152.2
Lamb	cts/lb	146.9	145.7	149.2	100.9	106.7	130.6	107.9	96.3	99.0	98.4	97.7	97.1	96.2
Swine Meat	cts/lb	55.8	74.4	89.1	82.8	86.5	102.8	67.9	51.7	46.9	47.4	46.9	46.1	45.5
Poultry	cts/lb	85.6	85.8	87.4	94.3	103.8	110.1	114.7	117.3	125.1	125.1	125.1	125.1	125.1
Seafood														
Salmon	\$/kg	4.9	6.1	5.9	4.8	6.8	6.6	5.3	5.4	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Shrimp	\$/lb	9.5	10.1	11.9	10.1	14.0	16.6	14.1	9.7	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Sugar														
Free market	cts/lb	18.2	20.9	26.2	21.4	17.7	17.1	13.2	13.9	13.9	13.6	14.5	14.5	14.5
United States	cts/lb	24.3	31.1	37.6	28.9	21.2	24.9	24.9	25.9	25.6	25.5	24.8	24.7	23.8
EU	cts/lb	26.0	25.7	26.7	26.4	26.0	27.4	25.4	25.0	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2
Bananas	\$/MT	848.0	881.4	975.9	984.3	926.4	931.9	958.7	911.3	877.5	861.2	853.4	845.5	837.2
Oranges	\$/MT	909.0	1033.2	891.1	868.0	967.3	782.5	675.1	763.5	763.4	763.4	763.4	763.4	763.4
Beverages														
Coffee														
Other milds	cts/lb	141.6	194.4	273.2	187.6	141.1	202.8	160.5	120.9	125.7	132.2	137.3	137.3	137.3
Robusta	cts/lb	77.1	84.1	116.0	110.6	100.5	105.6	94.2	64.5	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7
Cocoa Beans	\$/MT	2895.0	3130.6	2978.5	2377.1	2439.1	3062.8	3135.2	2872.9	2810.2	2760.0	2660.7	2557.4	2458.1
Tea	cts/kg	314.0	316.7	346.2	348.9	266.0	237.9	340.4	351.7	354.2	354.2	354.2	354.2	354.2
Agricultural raw materials														
Timber														
Hardwood														
Logs	\$/M3	287.2	278.2	390.5	360.5	305.4	282.0	246.0	244.6	254.6	254.6	254.6	254.6	254.6
Sawnwood	\$/M3	805.5	848.3	939.4	876.3	852.8	897.9	833.2	824.2	832.0	830.1	826.3	824.2	821.1
Softwood														
Logs	\$/M3	136.7	141.5	150.0	148.0	164.5	174.3	162.0	162.1	166.8	163.9	161.9	157.8	156.9
Sawnwood	\$/M3	291.0	281.8	280.9	284.7	301.4	307.3	311.0	317.3	311.0	309.0	304.6	301.3	298.3
Cotton	cts/lb	62.8	103.5	154.6	89.2	90.4	83.1	70.4	62.2	63.3	62.9	62.6	54.2	46.3
Wool														
Fine	cts/kg	778.5	1023.2	1638.2	1345.3	1197.7	1074.4	1005.8	1028.3	1028.3	1006.2	877.2	773.7	652.3
Coarse	cts/kg	611.4	820.1	1209.2	1212.6	1128.1	1030.4	922.8	866.8	724.3	608.7	601.8	540.2	485.4
Rubber	cts/lb	87.2	165.7	218.5	153.2	126.8	88.8	70.7	59.1	61.8	54.2	49.4	44.0	39.2
Hides	cts/lb	44.9	72.0	82.0	83.2	94.7	110.2	87.6	72.1	79.9	79.0	78.2	78.6	78.2
Metals														
Copper	\$/MT	5165.3	7538.4	8823.5	7958.9	7331.5	6865.4	5510.5	4362.0	4351.0	4360.8	4377.1	4394.7	4401.0
Aluminum	\$/MT	1689.2	2173.0	2400.6	2022.8	1846.7	1867.4	1664.7	1476.9	1513.1	1562.9	1625.4	1694.3	1751.7
Iron Ore	\$/MT	80.0	146.7	167.8	128.5	135.4	96.8	55.2	35.9	32.1	31.6	35.9	35.9	35.9
Tin	\$/MT	13602.7	20367.2	26051.4	21109.4	22281.6	21898.9	16066.6	13461.4	13339.3	13339.3	13339.3	13339.3	13339.3
Nickel	\$/MT	14672.4	21810.0	22909.1	17541.7	15090.0	16893.4	11862.6	8578.1	8705.2	8810.8	8900.8	8970.8	9017.0
Zinc	\$/MT	1638.4	2160.4	2195.5	1950.0	1910.2	2161.0	1931.7	1493.7	1524.3	1544.6	1553.8	1555.8	1555.8
Lead	\$/MT	1719.4	2148.2	2400.7	2063.6	2139.7	2095.5	1787.8	1617.0	1652.6	1659.3	1697.2	1735.0	1754.5
Uranium	\$/lb	46.7	46.0	56.2	48.9	38.6	33.5	36.8	32.9	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.4	33.5
Energy														
Spot Crude 1/	\$/bbl	61.8	79.0	104.0	105.0	104.1	96.2	50.8	29.9	35.8	39.7	43.1	45.3	46.5
Natural Gas														
Russian in Germany	\$/MMBTU	8.9	8.2	10.6	12.0	11.2	10.5	7.3	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Indonesian in Japan (LNG)	\$/MMBTU	7.5	9.4	15.6	18.1	17.3	17.0	10.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
US, domestic market	\$/MMBTU	3.9	4.4	4.0	2.8	3.7	4.4	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
Coal														
Australian, export markets	\$/MT	77.0	106.0	130.1	103.2	90.6	75.1	61.6	51.0	51.7	51.7	51.7	51.7	51.7

1/ Petroleum price is average of spot prices for U.K. Brent, Dubai and West Texas Intermediate.



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We Value Your Property

Monthly Inflation and Treasury Bill Rates

January 2016 Issue

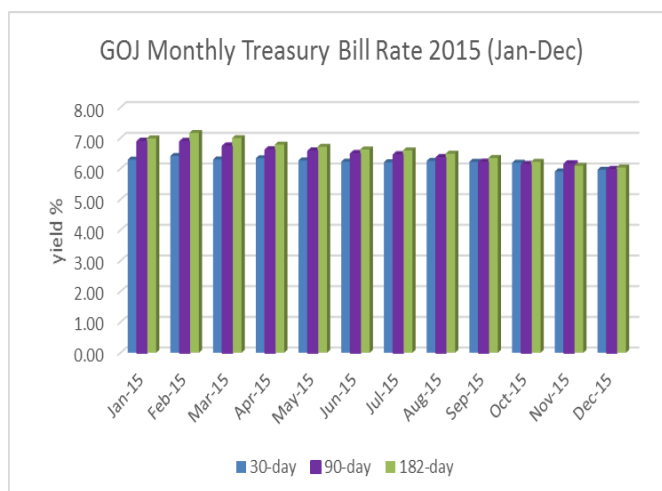
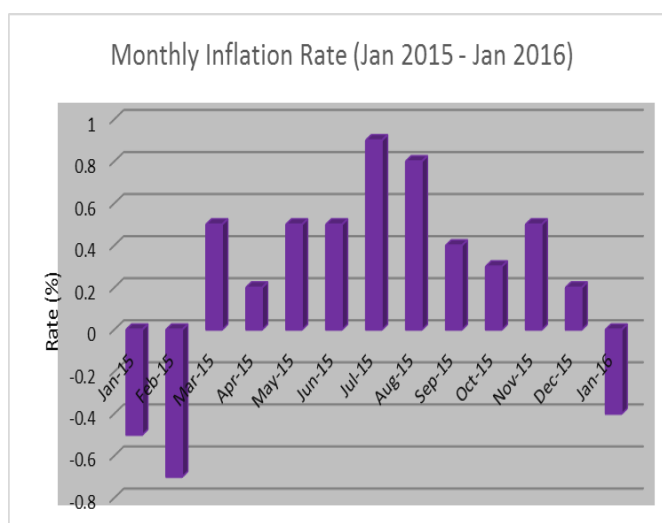
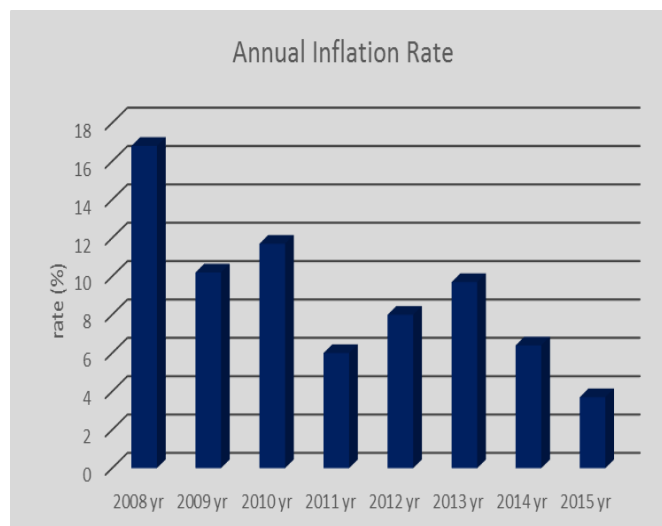
Domestic Inflation Rate

Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by **0.4%** for the period January 2016 over December 2015. The decrease in the rate for January 2016 over December 2015 brought inflation for Fiscal Year to January to **3.9%**. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of January 2016 was **3.7%**.

The change in inflation for January 2016 was due to a **0.7%** decline in the highest weighted division Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages. In this class, Food and Vegetables & Starchy Foods decreased by **0.7%** and **3.4%** respectively. While in same class, non-alcoholic beverages increased by **0.2%**. The division Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels division also decreased by **1.4%**. This was mainly attributed to a significant fall in the Electricity, Gas and other fuels subcomponent by **2.7%**. However, this was partially offset by an increases in Rental for Housing and Maintenance and Repair of Dwelling services subcategories by **0.1%** and **0.1%** respectively.

GOJ Treasury Bill Rates

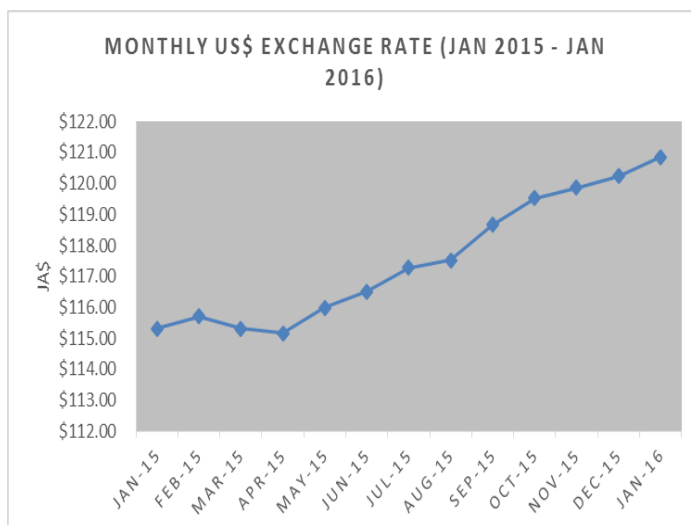
For November 2015 relative to October 2015, yields on GOJ 30-day, 90-day treasury bills increased by **30bps** and **72bps** respectively. However yields on the 182-day treasury bill decreased by **3bps**. Yields on GOJ Treasury Bills have decreased by **21 bps**, **20 bps** and **129 bps** for the 30-day, 90-day and 182-day tranches respectively for the period November 2015 relative to November 2014. A two year comparison showed decreases of **107 bps**, **97 bps** and **15 bps** on the yields of the 30-day, 90-day, and 182-day.



Monthly Exchange Rates Update

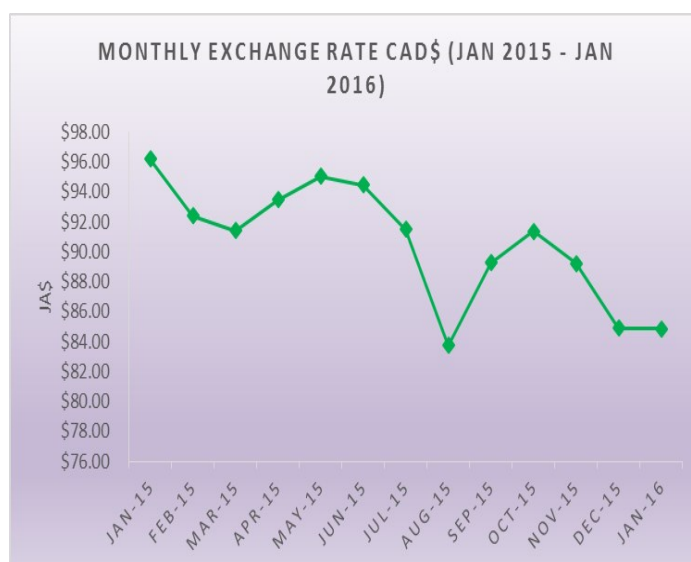
JMD:USD

For the month of January 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by **J\$0.62** relative to December last year. This represented a **0.516%** increase to end at **J\$120.86=US\$1.00**. When compared to January 2015, this year's value was **J\$5.54** or **4.80%** more than the **J\$115.32** recorded in 2015. When compared to the corresponding period in 2014 the month's value was **J\$13.96** or **13.06%** more.



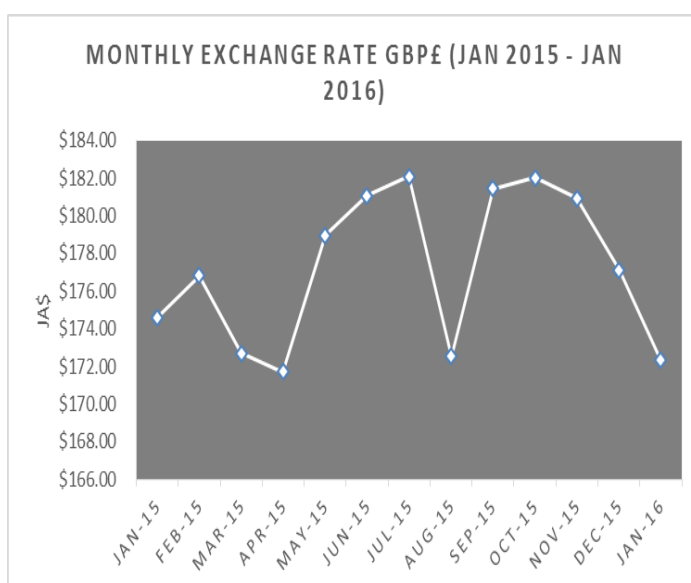
JMD:CAD

For January 2016 relative to December 2015 the Jamaica Dollar appreciated by **J\$0.05** or **0.059%** when compared to the Canadian dollar to end at **J\$84.86 = CAD\$1.00**. When compared to the corresponding period of last year, this year's value was **J\$11.33** or **11.78%** less than the **J\$96.19** in 2015. In January 2014, the value of CAD\$1.00 was equivalent to **J\$98.12**, which means that the value of the dollar for January this year was **J\$13.26** or **13.51%** below.



JMD:GBP

The Jamaica Dollar appreciated by **J\$4.79** or **2.70%**, relative to the Great Britain Pound for January 2016 relative to December last year. January ended with **J\$172.33 = GBP£1.00**. A one year comparison revealed that the value of the GBP\$1.00 in January 2016 was **J\$2.27** or **1.30%** lower than it was in 2015. When compared to the **J\$176.71** recorded in 2014 the value of the GBP\$1.00 for this month was **J\$4.38** or **2.48%** lower.



Net International Reserves & Money Base

January 2016 Issue

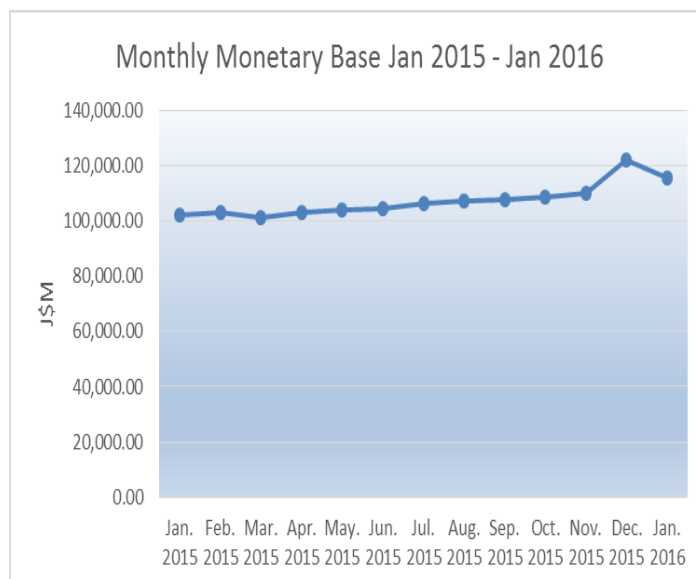
Net International Reserves

Data for the month ending January 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was **J\$252.27 billion (US\$2,200.12 million)**. This reflected a decrease of **J\$27.19 billion (US\$236.90 million)** relative to December 2015. The change in the NIR for the month was due to a decrease both foreign assets and foreign liabilities. Under the category of foreign asset all three sources declined: Currency and deposits decreased by **US\$243.09 million**, SDR decreased by **US\$0.08 million**, and Securities decreased **US\$0.94 million** to end the month with total foreign asset **US\$2,669.72 million**. This represented a total decrease of **US\$244.11 million**. The month's decreases in foreign liabilities was as a result of a reduction in the payments to the IMF; Payments to IMF decreased by **US\$7.22 million** which was the total decrease in foreign liabilities. At the end of January, the gross reserves were sufficient to finance **31.71 weeks** of goods imports which represented **19.71 weeks** over the international benchmark of **12 weeks** of goods imports.

Monetary Base

The monetary base decreased by **J\$6.72 billion** or **5.5%** to **J\$115.49 billion** for January 2015 relative to December last year. The change in the base reflected increases in the Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves and the Commercial Banks' Current Account while Net Currency issue decreased. The Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves increased by **J\$1.44 billion** to end at **J\$39.04 billion** and the

Commercial Banks' Current Account increased by **J\$0.0081 billion** to a total of **J\$0.327 billion**. Net Currency Issue decreased by **J\$8.17 billion** to a total of **J\$76.12 billion**.



Remittance Inflow Update

January 2016 Issue

At the end of October 2015 gross remittance inflows were **US\$191.8 million**. This represented an increase of **4.58%** or **US\$8.4 million** relative to the **US\$183.4 million** recorded in September this year. When compared to the corresponding month of the previous year gross remittance increased by **US\$12.1 million** or **6.7%**. For October 2015, net remittances were **US\$171.4 million** reflecting an increase of **US\$7.7 million** or **4.70%** relative to September 2015. When compared to the corresponding period of 2014, net remittances has increased by **US\$11.1 million** or **7.0%**. Net remittances for calendar year to October 2015 were **US\$1 653.2 million**, which represented a growth of **US\$58.9 million** or **3.7%** relative to the corresponding period of 2014. Total remittance inflows for January 2015 to October 2015 were **US\$1 843.9 million**, representing an increase of **US\$62.6**

million or **3.5%**. These inflows were above the average of **US\$1,512.8 million** for the previous five corresponding periods and above the corresponding pre-crisis outturn for 2008. The increase in total remittance inflows reflected an increase of **US\$71.7 million** inflows through remittance companies which was partly offset by a decline of **US\$9.1 million** or **3.6%** in Other Remittances.

For the fiscal year 2015/16 to October, total remittance inflows increased by **US\$49.4 million** or **3.9%** to **US\$1 315.8 million** relative to the corresponding period of last year. Net remittances inflows also increased for the fiscal year 2015/16 to October. Net remittance inflow rose by **US\$50.7 million** or **4.5%** to **US\$1 182.3 million** relative to the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

	JAMAICA'S REMITTANCES			
	(US\$MN)			
	2014 October	2015 October	Change	% Change
Total Remittance Inflows	179.7	191.8	12.1	6.7
Remittance Companies	154.9	166.7	11.80	7.6
Other Remittances	24.7	25	0.30	1.2
Total Remittance Outflows	19.4	20.3	0.90	4.9
Net Remittances	160.3	171.4	11.10	7.00

Interest Rates

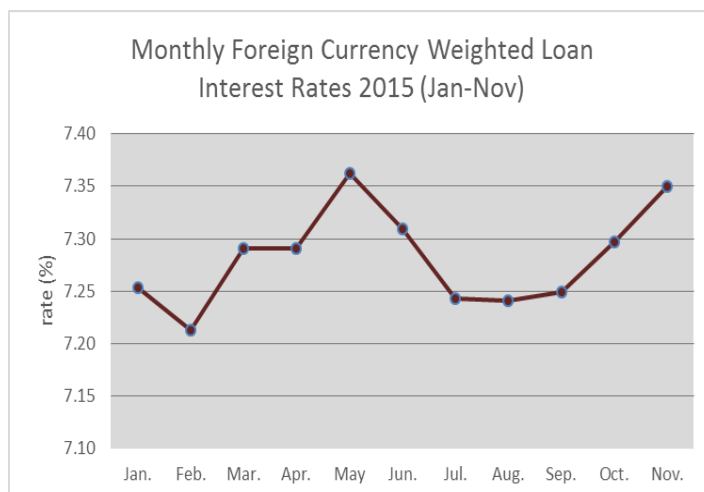
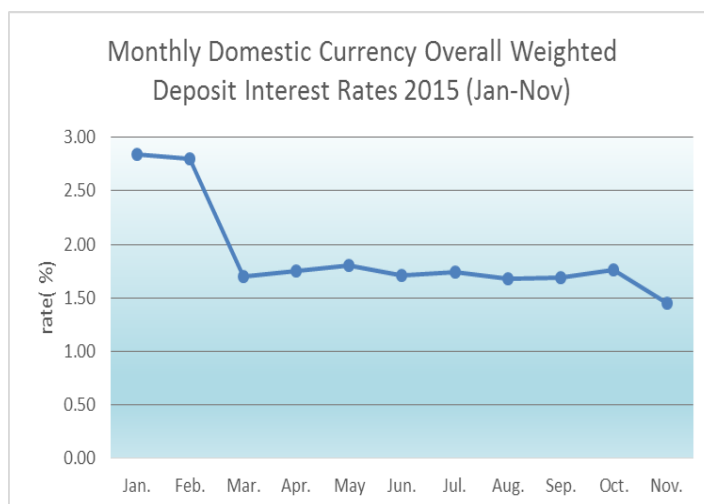
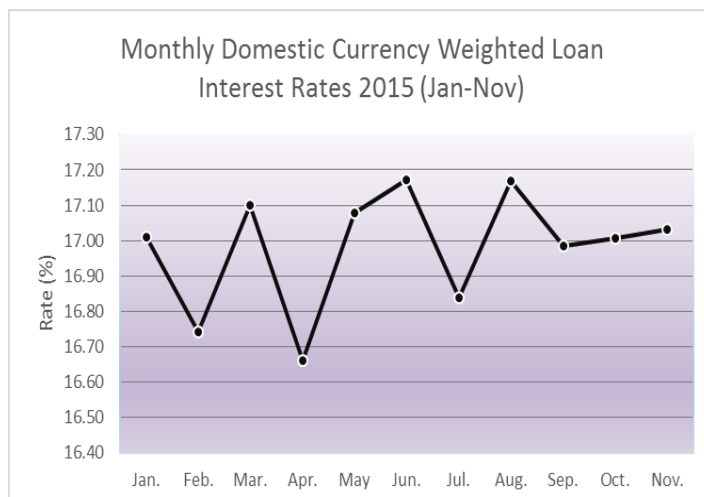
January 2016 Issue

The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans increased to **17.03%** from **17.01%** at end November 2015 relative to October 2015. This occurred in the context of increases in the rates of three of the six loan types. These are, increases in Personal Credit of **27bps**, Local Government and Public Entities of **5bps**, and Central Government of **7bps**. The impact of these increase was partially offset by decreases of **10bps** in Instalment Credit, **2bps** in Mortgage Credit, **10bps** in Commercial Credit.

Meanwhile, the weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits decreased by **31bps** to **1.45%** at end November 2015 relative to end October 2015

For the month of November foreign currency loans rate increased relative to October 2015. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate rose by **5bps** to **7.35%**. This increase was reflected by changes in the six credit types. A decrease of **3bps** was shown on Mortgage Credit. While Installment Credit, Personal Credit Commercial Credit and Credit on Local Government and other Public Entities increased by **4bps**, **1bps**, **5bps** and **5bps** respectively.

Meanwhile the interest rates on foreign currency deposits increased for November relative to October this year. In this regard foreign currency deposits rate rose by **2bps** to **1.79%**.



Domestic Bauxite and Alumina

January 2016 Issue

For December 2015, the production of Alumina was **163,837 tonnes**. This represented a **7,649** or **4.90% tonnes increase**, relative to November 2015. Alumina production has decreased by **0.95%** when compared to December 2014, and by **3.32%** when compared to December 2013. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to **192,690 tonnes**. This represented an increase of **56,272 tonnes** or **41.25%** relative to November 2015. When compared to December 2014 sale of alumina, this year alumina sales is **110.86%** more. Similarly, alumina sales increased by **16.71%** in comparison to December 2013. For the calendar year-to-date, alumina exports amounted to **1,936,228 tonnes** representing an increase of **16.18%** compared to the same period last year and **1.81%** when compared to the corresponding period two years ago.

The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for December 2015 was **364,231 tonnes**. This is a **95,731 tonnes** or a **35.65%** reduction from the **268,500 tonnes** recorded in November this year. Crude bauxite production fell by **1.49%** and **1.19%** when compared to December 2014

and 2013 respectively. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for December 2015 was **814,693 tonnes**. This represented a decrease of **115,488 tonnes** or **16.51%** relative to November this year. Total bauxite production increased by **2.37%** relative to December 2014 and by **9.76%** relative to December 2013. Meanwhile, the total crude bauxite sold for the month was **341,299 tonnes**. This represented a **10.14%** decrease relative to December 2014 and a **24.93%** decrease relative to December 2013. In addition, the sale of total bauxite was **871,400 tonnes**. This represented an increase of **41.61%** compared to December in 2014 and **2.34%** decrease compared to December 2013.

For the calendar year to date, the production of crude bauxite was **4,816,620 tonnes** which is **0.03%** less and **2.74%** more than the recorded amount for the corresponding period in 2014 and 2013 respectively. For the calendar year to date, the production of total bauxite was **9,628,824 tonnes**. This is **0.49%** less and **14.20%** more than the recorded amounts in recorded in 2014 and 2013 respectively.

PERIOD 2015	PRODUCTION			SALES		
	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE**	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE
MONTH : December						
2015	163,837	364,231	814,693	192,690	341,299	871,400
2014	165,401	369,736	795,838	91,381	379,792	615,363
% Chg 2015/14	-0.95	-1.49	2.37	110.86	-10.14	41.61
2013	169,470	460,957	902,844	165,096	461,506	892,299
% Chg 2014/13	-2.40	-19.79	-11.85	-44.65	-17.71	-31.04
Y-T-D						
2015	1,864,645	4,816,620	9,628,824	1,936,228	4,558,048	9,555,060
2014	1,850,960	4,818,064	9,676,697	1,823,485	4,812,541	9,597,408
% Chg 2015/14	0.74	-0.03	-0.49	6.18	-5.29	-0.44
2013	1,854,910	4,688,328	9,435,214	1,901,753	4,707,375	9,573,399
% Chg 2014/13	-0.21	2.77	2.56	-4.12	2.23	0.25
NOTE:						
Crude Bauxite = Bauxite mined for export						
Total Bauxite = Crude bauxite + bauxite converted to alumina						

Tourism

January 2016 Issue

Stopover tourist arrival for November 2015 was **158,450**. This month's total was **24,133** or **17.97%** higher than the **134,317** in October 2015. Last year's November total is an increase of **0.5%** over the **157,737** recorded in November 2014. For the seven months of summer 2015, May to November, arrivals were flat **0.1%**, with **1,147,483** stopovers compared to **1,146,048** in 2014. Year to date, January to November 2015, **1,903,946** arrivals visited the Island, which was **2.0%** or **36,894** stopovers more than the **1,867,052** in 2014. In 2013 total stopovers for the period January to November was **1,807,062**, hence 2015's total for the corresponding period was **96,884** or **5.36%** more.

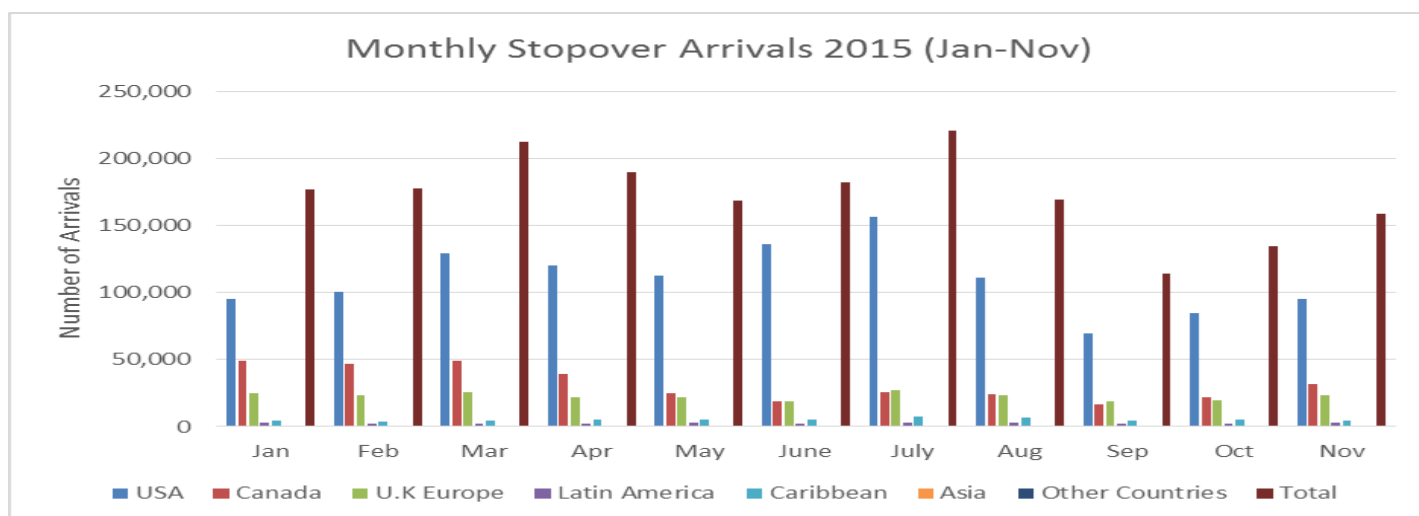
For November 2015, the changes reflected in the total stopovers observed for the seven categories of destination varied. Out of the seven categories six recorded an increase in numbers, and one recorded a decrease when compared to November 2014. The largest percentage increases were reflected in the stopovers from the Caribbean, Latin America and the Other Countries with **25.9%**, **15.7%** and **12.1%** respectively. Of the Other Countries, once again for the fifth month in a row Australia provided the most

stopover arrivals to Jamaica, with **2,662** visitors in 2015 compared to **2,226** in 2014. Other increases in arrivals were Asia with **6.5%**, Europe with **2.4%** and the United States with **1.6%**.

These increases were offset by a decrease in arrival from Canada when compared to November 2014. Canada's stopovers decreased by **8.1%**. The market share of stopover visitors for November 2015 was as follows: USA (**60.0%**); Canada (**19.8%**); UK (**9.6%**); Continental Europe (**5.1%**), the Caribbean (**3.0%**); and the others, including Latin America and Asia (**2.5%**).

A total of **135,450** cruise passengers visited Jamaica in November, 2015. This represented a **7.9%** increase over the **125,509** November 2014. In November 2013, the total arrivals stood at **99,000**, this means that arrivals for November 2015 were **36,450** or **26.91%** more.

The January to November 2015 period saw **1,339,682** cruise passenger arrivals from **386** ship calls at the three major ports, which is an increase of **7.7%** or **96,127** more passengers than in 2014, and **165,649** more passengers than the previous record in 2012.



Stock Market Update

January 2016 Issue

On the last trading day in January 2016, for the period January 01, 2016 to January 29, 2016, the main JSE index advanced by **9,657.16 points** or **6.41%** to close at **160,349.29 points**. The JSE Combined Index advanced by **12,570.97 points** or **7.94%** to close at **170,840.11 points**. The JSE Junior advanced by **383.76 points** or **21.43%** to close at **2,174.81 points**. In contrast once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at **499.06 points**.

Overall, the market activity for January resulted from trading in sixty three (**63**) stocks of which **41** advanced, **13** declined and **9** traded firm. In total **234,068,876.00 units** of stock were traded during the month, which had a total value of **J\$2,366,670,763.38**. This resulted in market capitalization of **J\$643.22 billion** as at end January 2016.

Cable & Wireless Jamaica Limited was the volume leader for the month with **61,552,516 units** amounting to **26.11%** of market volume. Following was Lasco Manufacturing Limited,

which traded **19,414,894 units** amounting to **8.24%** of the market volume. Next in line was Supreme Ventures Limited with a total of **14,542,067 units** amounting to **6.17%** of the market volume.

The top four advancing stocks for the month of January were the Gleaner Company (**92.31%**), Caribbean Cement Company (**50.24%**), Jamaica Broilers Group (**37.82%**) and Supreme Ventures (**36.21%**). The top four declining stocks were, Desnoes & Geddes (**4.97%**), Hardware & Lumber (**4.86%**), Seprod Limited (**4.00%**) and Scotia Investments Jamaica (**3.70%**).

For the calendar year to date, the top four advancing stocks were Gleaner Company (**92.31%**), Caribbean Cement Company (**50.24%**), Jamaica Broilers Group (**37.82%**) and Supreme Ventures (**36.21%**). Meanwhile, Desnoes & Geddes (**4.97%**), Hardware & Lumber (**4.86%**), Seprod Limited (**4.00%**) and Scotia Investments Jamaica (**3.70%**) for the top four declining for the calendar year to date.

Previous Highlights: December 2015 Summary

January 2016 Issue

- ◇ On December 16, 2015 the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund completed the tenth review of Jamaica's economic performance under the program supported by a four-year, SDR 615.38 million arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). According to Mr. Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair, on one hand the authorities continue to have an impressive track record of strong program implementation under the Extended Fund Facility. He highlighted that macroeconomic stability continues to strengthen, vulnerabilities have reduced substantially, and structural reforms have progressed and Jamaica has made important achievements under the economic program. He added that with macroeconomic stability well-established, the recalibration of fiscal and monetary targets should help support growth and job creation. On another hand fiscal sustainability requires continued reduction in the government wage bill and safeguarding revenues. In this regard, concrete efforts are needed to modernize the public sector and improve the efficiency of public services.
- ◇ The United States federal fund rate is the rate at which banks offer to lend to each other overnight. On December 15, 2015 Janet Yellen, Chair of the US Federal Reserve, announced that there will be an increase in the federal fund rate. The US Federal Reserve move takes the range of rates to between 0.25% and 0.5%. An increase or decrease in the rate is said to have a domino effect as this will impact the loans rates at which banks lend their customers. In this case an increase could result in higher borrowing costs for developing economies, many of which are already seeing slow growth. According to the BBC news there are concerns that a rise will compound that slowdown, as higher rates in the US could strengthen the dollar, the currency in which many countries and companies borrow.
- ◇ At the end of December 2015, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by J\$0.38 or 0.32% to J\$120.24=US\$1.00. While Canadian dollar and the Great Britain pound appreciated by J\$4.30 and J\$3.83 respectively. At the end of the month the Jamaican dollar value relative to the CAD\$1.00 and GBP£1.00 was JA\$84.91 and JA\$177.12 respectively.
- ◇ Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica "All Divisions" Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.2% for the period December 2015 over November 2015. The increase in the rate for December 2015 over November 2015 brought inflation for the calendar year (January to December) to 3.7% and inflation for FY-to-December to 4.3%. The average rate per month at

Previous Highlights: December 2015 Summary

January 2016 Issue

the end of December 2015 was 0.3%.

- ◇ Data for the month ending December 2015 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$279.46 billion (US\$2,437.27 million). This reflected an increase of J\$10.77 billion (US\$93.93 million) relative to November 2015.
- ◇ The monetary base expanded by J\$12.12 billion or 11.0% to J\$122.21 billion for December 2015 relative to the previous month.
- ◇ On the last trading day in December 2015, for the period December 01, 2015 to December 31, 2015, the main JSE index advanced by 10,518.16 points or 7.50% to close at 150,692.13 points. The JSE Combined Index advanced by 11,293.21 points or 7.68% to close at 158,269.14 points. The JSE Junior advanced by 152.59 points or 9.31% to close at 1,791.05 points. In contrast, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at 499.06 points.
- ◇ For November 2015 relative to October 2015, yields on GOJ 30-day, 90-day treasury bills increased by 30bps and 72bps respectively. However yields on the 182-day treasury bill decreased by 3bps.
- ◇ For November 2015, the production of Alumina was 156,188 tonnes. This represented a decrease of 7,193 or 4.40% tonnes, relative to October 2015. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to 136,418 tonnes. This represented a decrease of 27,881 tonnes or 16.97% relative to October 2015. The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for November 2015 was 268,500 tonnes. This is an 81,200 tonnes or a 23.22% reduction from the 349,700 tonnes recorded in October this year.
- ◇ The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans increased to 17.01% from 16.99% at end October 2015 relative to September 2015. For the month of October foreign currency loans rate increased relative to September 2015. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate rose by 5bps to 7.30%.
- ◇ Stopover tourist arrival for October 2015 was 134,317. This month's total is 20,037 or 17.53% higher than the 114,280 recorded in September 2015.
- ◇ There were price reductions observed in 57% (12) of the commodities monitored for December 2015. The price of both crude oil indices decreased in December 2015 - the Brent fell by 15.08% and the WTI by 12.68%. Natural gas decreased by 7.69%.

KEY

January 2016 Issue

ACP— Africa Caribbean Pacific States	Loan – Average Loan Rate
BM – Base Money	M – Monthly Percentage Change
BP — Basis Points	M2 – Money Supply
CaPRI— Caribbean Policy and Research Institute	MT – Million tonnes
CARICOM— Caribbean Community & Common Market	N/A – Not Available
CARIFORUM— CARICOM and Dominican Republic	NIR – Net International Reserves
CPI – Consumer Price Index	OMO – Open Market Operation
CSME— Caribbean Single Market & Economy	P – Point-to-Point Percentage Change
EC— European Commission	R – Revised
EPA—Economic Partnership Agreement	S – Stopover
EU—European Union	Save – Average Savings Deposit Rate
FX Dep – Foreign Exchange Deposit	T-bill – 6-month Treasury Bill Yield
JCB – Jamaica Conference Board	Tourism – Total Tourist Arrivals
JCC – Jamaica Chamber of Commerce	WATBY- weighted average Treasury bill yield
KMA — Kingston and Metropolitan Area	WTO—World Trade Organization
KSA—Kingston and St. Andrew	OECD—Organisation for Economic Co-operating and Development (membership of 30 major countries)
WTI — West Texas Intermediate (Spot Oil Price)	

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