



MONTHLY ECONOMIC BULLETIN

Inside This Issue

February 2016 Issue

CEO's Report	3
Economic Highlights	4-5
International Commodity Prices	6-13
International Commodity Prices: Impact	13-18
Inflation Rate & GOJ Treasury Bills	19
Exchange Rates	20
NIR & Money Base	21
Remittance Inflow Update	22
Interest Rates	23
Domestic Bauxite and Alumina	24
Tourism	25
Stock Market Update	26
Previous Economic Highlights	27-28
Appendices	29-30

The CEO'S Remarks

February 25th saw a new government elected, and with it speculation about the way forward, and specifically how the new government will treat with the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP). Much of the concerns was laid to rest with an assurance from the government that the continuation of the ERP remains a priority. This was important, as with just four more IMF tests to go, we could not afford to derail the programme now, as there has been too much sacrifice and there is too much at stake.

Evidence of the confidence in the direction was evident in the handling of the retirement of the debt in February, which created \$billions of liquidity in the system. This happened without anyone really noticing and with a successful issue of J\$ debt by the government. This no doubt shows stability in the markets and is an indication of confidence, and is a true indication of the progress made under the ERP.

As we move forward though, we are going to need to do much more than maintain the programme as is, and move towards addressing the challenges that continue to inhibit growth. In other words, we must not only get to growth of 3 percent, and above, but this growth must of necessity be felt at the community level.

The PSOJ has recognized this, and through our Economic policy Committee have documented the focus areas for achieving sustainable growth.

What is clear, and must be understood, is that sustainable growth can only come through value and wealth creation and even so must be widespread. In other words, our objective must not only be to create full employment (defined as 5% and less unemployment) but also to create high value employment opportunities. This means that training, innovation, and a competitive market must take centre stage in any growth policy. It also implies that a well documented growth strategy with timelines must be in place as soon as possible.

What is also clear is that value creation cannot come from moving money around, and so while tax relief is essential to create a more equitable society (as a part of comprehensive tax reform), it is at best temporary. Only value creation can create sustainable growth.

What this means is that our growth strategy (which is a primary focus of the government) must be about increasing value through productivity, which reminds us of what our major challenge has been since the early 1970s. That is, the underlying problem why Jamaica has not experienced any meaningful sustainable growth is because we have failed to address not only Total factor Productivity, but more specifically Labour Productivity. This has been the primary cause of an erosion of the middle class and increasing poverty levels. Reversing this position must be central to the growth strategy.

As we focus on productivity, however, we must also understand that productivity (or innovation) can only happen if capital is allowed to invest and get the highest return with certainty (as in Panama) and we establish institutions that encourage rather than prevent innovation. It is for this reason why legislative reform is critical, as well as focussing on the main public sector bodies that drive efficiency and order.

Some of these have already started to show greater efficiency, including TAJ, PICA, and RGD. There are of course other institutions that must also improve significantly, if we are to see greater innovation and sustainable growth, because of their impact on labour and capital productivity. These include Customs, Police Force, JUTC, and NSWMA among others.

My own view is that we are on the way to achieving sustainable economic and social development, as we have made much progress since the 2009 recession in our legislative and institutional infrastructure.

However, there are still many vulnerabilities and risks, such as the health threat, that can set us back. Therefore co-operation and strong leadership is essential.

Economic Highlights February 2016

- ◆ For the month of January 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by J\$0.82 or 0.69% to J\$120.86=US\$1.00. Similar to the US dollar the Jamaican dollar depreciated against the Great Britain Pound by J\$4.74 or 0.25% to J\$172.76 = GBP£1.00 relative to January. The Canadian dollar depreciated by J\$2.80 or 3.30% relative to January 2015 to end the month at \$87.66 = CAD\$1.00.
- ◆ Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by 0.7% for the period February 2016 over January 2016. The decrease in the rate for February brought inflation for the calendar year to date to -1.2%. The decrease in the rate for February 2016 over January 2016 brought inflation for Fiscal Year to January to 3.1%. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of January 2016 was 3.7%.
- ◆ Data for the month ending February 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$260.25 billion (US\$ 2,269.76 million). This reflected an increase of J\$7.984 billion (US\$69.64 million) relative to January 2016.
- ◆ The monetary base increased by J\$2.46 billion or 2.13% to J\$117.95 billion for February 2016 relative to January this year.
- ◆ On the last trading day in February 2016, for the period February 01, 2016 to February 29, 2016, the main JSE index declined by 3,650.01 points or 2.28% to close at 156,699.28 points. The JSE Combined Index declined by 5,491.79 points or 3.21% to close at 165,348.32 points. The JSE Junior declined by 226.90 points or 10.43% to close at 1,947.91 points. In contrast, once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firmed and closed the month at 499.06 points. For the calendar year to date, the top four advancing stocks were Gleaner Company (76.92%), Berger Paints (Jamaica) (52.50%), Caribbean Cement Company (43.35%) and Jamaica Broilers Group (39.28%). Meanwhile, the top four declining stocks for the calendar year to date were Desnoes & Geddes (23.77%), Hardware & Lumber (18.92%), Palace Amusement (14.74%) and Ciboney Group (9.52%).
- ◆ For the month of January 2016 relative to December last year, yields on the Government of Jamaica 30-day treasury bill increased by 8bps.

Economic Highlights January 2016

While yields on the 90-day and 182-day treasury bills decreased by 2bps and 10bps respectively.

- ◆ For the first month of 2016, the production of Alumina was 167,938 tonnes. This represented a 4,101 or 2.50% increase, relative to December 2015. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to 156,132 tonnes. This represented a decrease of 36,558 tonnes or 18.97% relative to December 2015. The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for January 2016 was 393,309 tonnes. This is a 29,078 tonnes or a 7.98% increase from the 364,231 tonnes recorded in December last year. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for January this year was 842,460 tonnes. This represented a 27,766 tonnes or 3.40% increase from December last year.
- ◆ The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased to 16.92% from 17.03% at end December 2015 relative to November 2015. The weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits decreased by 18bps to 1.62% at end December 2015 relative

to end November 2015. For the month of December foreign currency loan rate marginally increased relative to November 2015. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate rose by 1bps to 7.36%. The interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased in December relative to November this 2015. In this regard the foreign currency deposit rate fell by 4bps to 1.75%.

- ◆ Stopover tourist arrivals for December 2015 were 219,096. This month's total was 60,646 or 38.27% higher than the 158,450 in November 2015. A total of 229,020 cruise passengers visited Jamaica in December, 2015.
- ◆ There were price reductions observed in 57% (12) of the commodities monitored for February 2016. The price of crude oil index Brent increased for February 2016 while the WTI decreased. The Brent moved up by 7.79% and the WTI went down by 4.26%. Natural gas decreased by 13.66%.

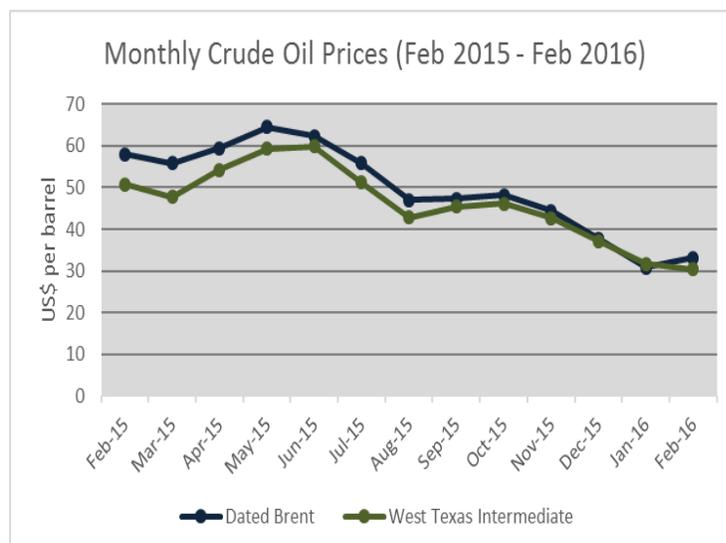
International Commodity Prices

February 2016 Issue

Crude Oil Prices

For the month ending February 2016, the average price for Dated Brent increased while the average price of the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) decreased. The Brent ended its three month decrease, to end the month at **US\$33.2 per bbl**. This represented a **US\$2.40** or **7.79%** increase from the **US\$30.80 per bbl** recorded for the previous month. This was the largest percentage increase since June last year. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) continued its four month decrease. This time prices declined by **US\$1.35** or **4.26%** to end at **US\$30.35**. A one year comparison of prices revealed that this year's price for the Brent is **42.69%** or **US\$24.73 per bbl** lower. When compared to last year's price, this year's WTI price is **40.16%** or **US\$20.37** below. When compared to the price level two years ago both the Brent and WTI are **69.49%** and **69.99%** respectively below. The 5-year average of prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 for the Dated Brent and the West Texas Intermediate are **US\$95.53 per bbl** and **US\$84.84 per bbl** respectively. This month's prices were **65%** below the 5-year average of prices for the Brent and **64.23%** 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 February 2016, natural gas price decreased relative January. The price for natural gas ended at **US\$1.96** per million metric. This reflected a decrease of **US\$0.31** or **13.66%** from **US\$2.27** in January. In February 2015 natural gas per million metric was valued at **US\$ 2.85** signifying that this year's price was **US\$0.89** or **31.23%** lower. Similarly, a two year comparison revealed that natural gas prices have decreased, this time by **US\$4.02** or **67.22%** per

Play it now!
**THE 5 MINUTE
ROULETTE GAME**



**PLAY AT ALL
Supreme Ventures outlets
WATCH DRAW AT SELECT outlets**

Approved under the Betting, Gaming & Lotteries Act. Tickets sold by Supreme Ventures.
SVL encourages responsible gaming. Players must be 18 years and older.



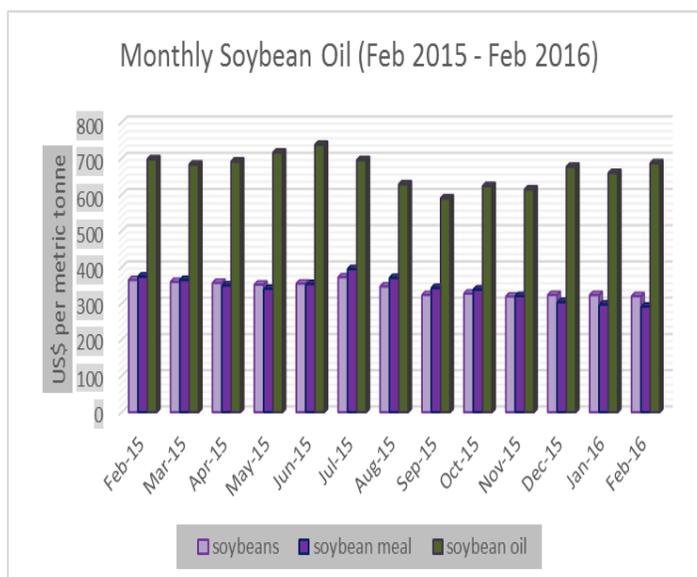
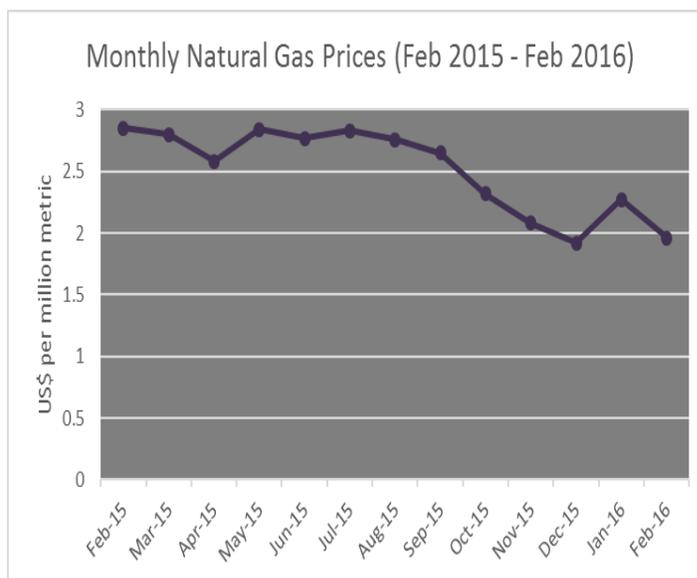
International Commodity Prices

February 2016 Issue

million metric tonne. The five year average monthly price for natural gas ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$3.46** per million metric, hence this year's February price was **US\$1.50** or **43.27%** below.

Soybean Prices

For the month ending February 2016 soybean price per metric tonne was **US\$320.13**. This denoted a **0.95%** or **US\$3.07** decrease from January's value of **US\$323.2** per metric tonne. In February this year, the soybean meal price decreased while the soybean oil price increased. Soybean meal entered its seventh month decline in prices to end February at **US\$291.37** per metric tonne. This represented a decrease of **US\$5.81** or **1.96%**. At the end of February the price per metric tonne for soybean oil stood at **US\$686.9** representing a **4.09%** or **US\$27.00** increase compared to the previous month. A one year comparison revealed that prices for soybean decreased by **12.23%** or **US\$44.61**. The month's soybean price was also **US\$176.67** or **35.56%** lower than its price two years ago. When compared to the corresponding period last year the soybean meal price was **US\$82.88** or **22.15%** below. The month's soybean oil price was also below last year's price by **US\$11.04** or **1.58%**. A two year comparison of prices for soybean meal and soybean oil revealed that they decreased by **41.65%** and **21.38%** respectively. The five year average monthly price for soybean meal ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$427.91** per metric tonne, which means that February's price was **US\$136.54** or **31.90%** lower. The five year average monthly price



for soybean oil ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$962.76** per metric tonne, which means that February's price was **US\$275.88** or **28.65%** lower.

Sugar Prices

At the end of February 2016 the average price of the Free Market Sugar ended at **US\$0.1329** cents per pound. This represented a decrease of **US\$0.01** or

International Commodity Prices

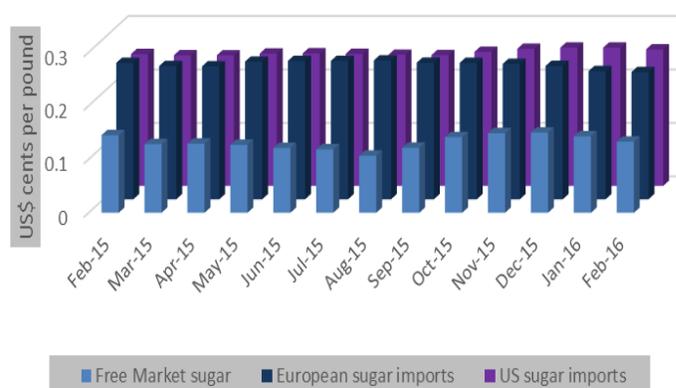
February 2016 Issue

7.00% when compared to January 2016. For the US Sugar imports, the average price decreased from **US\$0.2583** in January to **US\$0.255** in February. This represented a decrease of **US\$0.0033** or **1.28%** cents per pound. At the end of February 2016 the European Sugar imports continued its six month decline to end at **US\$0.2377** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0018** or **0.75%** decrease compared to the previous month. For the period February 2016 relative to February 2015, the price of Free Market sugar decreased by **US\$0.0122** or **8.41%** cents per pound. A one year comparison revealed that the price of the US Sugar imports has increased by **US\$0.0088** or **3.57%** while the European sugar imports price has decreased by **6.74%** or **US\$0.0172**. In February 2014 the price for the Free Market sugar was **US\$0.1689** cents per pound, which means that this year's February price is **US\$0.036** or **21.31%** lower. The price of the US sugar imports is **12.83%** higher than the 2014 price while the price of the European Sugar imports is **13.56%** lower than the 2014 price. The 5 year average of prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 for the US imports and the European imports are **US\$0.2725** cents per pound and **US\$0.2633** cents per pound respectively. Hence the prices of US imports and European imports were below their averages by **6.42%** and **9.73%** respectively.

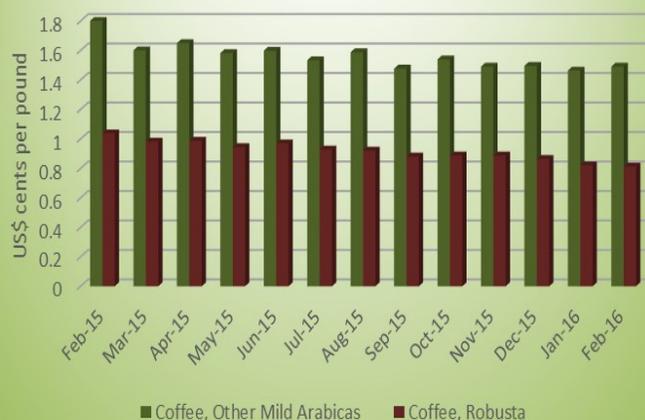
Coffee Prices

For the month ending February 2016 the price for Coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category

Monthly Sugar Prices (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



Monthly Coffee Prices (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



increased while Robusta coffee once again decreased. The price per pound for coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category was **US\$1.4894** cents per pound representing a rise of **US\$0.0262** or **1.79%**. A one year comparison revealed that this month's price for Arabicas was **US\$0.31** or **17.23%** lower than last year's February price. The price of Robusta coffee declined for the fourth month to end the month at **US\$0.8116** cents per pound. This month's price for Robusta is marginally below the previous month's price by **US\$0.008** or **0.98%**. A one year comparison revealed that the price of coffee in the Robusta category

International Commodity Prices

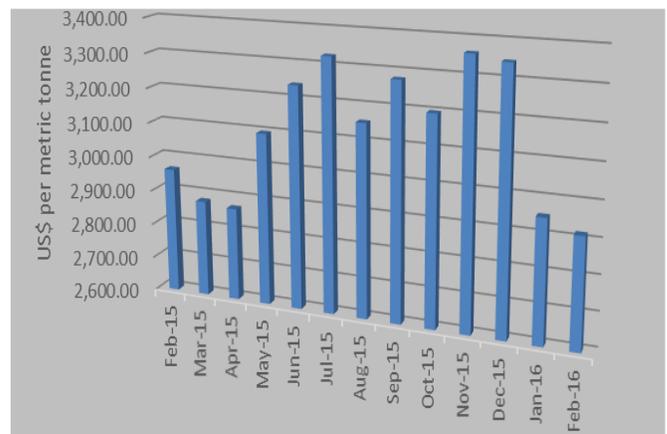
February 2016 Issue

has fallen by **US\$0.2258** or **21.77%**. A two year comparison revealed that prices have fallen by **15.51%** for coffee of the 'Other Mild Arabica's category and by **19.75%** for coffee in the Robusta category. The five year average monthly prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 for Arabica and Robusta are **US\$1.911** and **US\$1.0499** respectively. This implies that this year's February price for the Arabica was **22.06%** lower than the average price and for the Robusta coffee it was **22.70%** lower than its average price.

Cocoa Bean Prices

For the month ending February 2016, cocoa bean prices decreased for the third month in a row. This time prices declined by **US\$36.05** per metric tonne or **1.22%** to close at **US\$2,916.37** per metric tonne. A one year comparison revealed that, this year's price is lower by **US\$45.57** or **1.53%**. A two year, price comparison showed that the February 2016 price for cocoa beans is lower by **US\$76.39** or **2.55%** than its price in February 2014. The five year average for monthly prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 for cocoa bean is **US\$2,794.98** per metric tonne, this means that this year's February price was **US\$121.39** or **4.34%** higher.

Monthly Cocoa Beans Prices (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



Orange Prices

For the month ending February 2016 orange price increased to **US\$691.37** per metric tonne. The month's price rose by **0.28%** or **US\$1.96** per metric tonne, relative to January. When compared to the same period in 2015, this year's price fell by **US\$12.8** or **1.81%**. A two year comparison revealed that prices have fallen by **US\$79.56** or **10%**. The five year average monthly price ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$836.03**, which indicated that this month's price was **US\$144.66** or **17%** lower.

Banana Prices

Banana prices for the month ending February 2016 increased to **US\$1,052.35** per metric tonne. This represented an increase of **US\$41.1** or **4.06%** relative



BUILDING SERVICES

REFURBISHING PROJECTS

BUILDING ENGINEERING

ENERGY AUDITS

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Head Office - Kingston
New Kingston Business Centre
(876) 906-0856

Branch Office - Montego Bay
Fairview Towne Centre
(876) 979-8427

www.lamaisonproperty.com

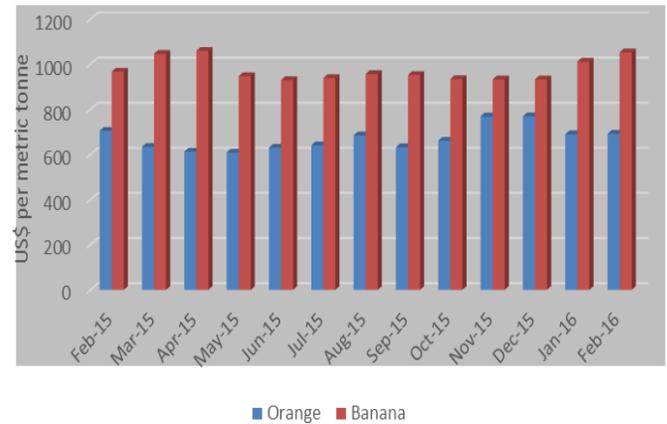
Many activities involving projects are complex, costly and time consuming. Working with a project manager can reduce your risk of not having a successful outcome. The La Maison team will work with you to define the objective and scope of your project and will implement, supervise and complete the agreed programme of work.

International Commodity Prices

February 2016 Issue

to the previous month. For February 2016 relative February 2015, banana prices increased by **US\$85.5** or **8.84%** per metric tonne. A two year comparison revealed that this year's price is above the January 2014 price of **US\$946.13** by **US\$106.22** or **11.22%** per metric tonne. The five year average monthly prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$955.43**, this means that this year's price was **US\$96.92** or **10.15%** above.

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



Corn Prices

For the month ending February 2016, corn prices decreased for the fourth month in a row. This time prices decreased by **US\$1.35** or **0.84%** relative to January, to close the month at **US\$159.68** per metric tonne. Between February 2015 and February

IDEAS
CREATE VALUE
VALUE
CREATES WEALTH

PROTECT YOUR IDEAS, SECURE YOUR WEALTH

Ideas are amongst the most valuable things anyone can possess. The firm practices the full range of intellectual property services, including the protection of trade marks, service marks, designs, patents, geographical indications and copyright, handling passing off cases, entertainment law, use of intellectual property on the Internet, handling appropriation of personality matters, intellectual property licensing, assignment and use in security transactions.

MYERS, FLETCHER & GORDON
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Myers, Fletcher & Gordon
21 East Street
Kingston, Jamaica
Tel: 1 (876) 922-5860
Fax: 1 (876) 922-4811 (876) 922-8781

Member
LexMundi
World Ready

Email: info@mfg.com.jm
www.myersfletcher.com

International Commodity Prices

February 2016 Issue

year, price comparison showed that this year's price was **US\$49.64** or **23.71%** lower. The five year monthly average for corn prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$240.626** per metric tonne, this means that this year's price was **US\$80.946** or **33.64%** lower.

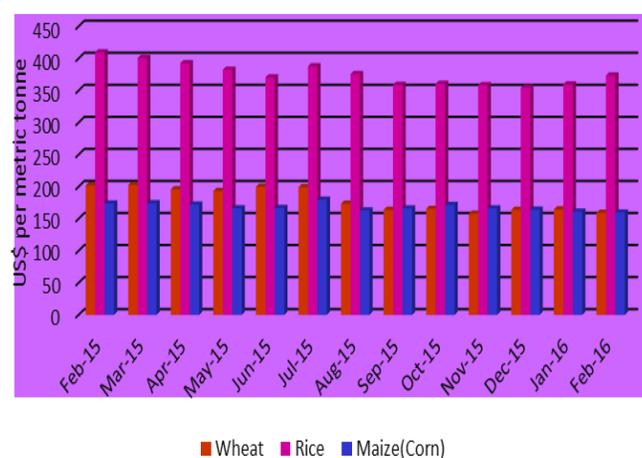
Wheat

In February 2016, wheat prices decreased by **US\$5.31** or **3.23%** relative to January 2016 to end at **US\$159.25** per metric tonne. Relative to February 2015, prices have fallen by **US\$42.46** or **21.05%** per metric tonne. A two year comparison of wheat prices showed that this year's February price was **US\$83.51** or **34.40%** below the February 2014 price. The average five year monthly prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$271.257** per metric tonne, meaning that this year's February price was **US\$112.01** or **41.29%** below.

Rice

For the month ending February 2016 the price of the 5 percent broken milled white rice ended at **US\$373.33** per metric tonne. This value was **US\$13.85** or **3.85%** per metric tonne above the **US\$359.48** in January this year. In addition, this month's price is below the February 2015 price by **US\$36.17** or **8.83%**. A two year comparison revealed that the commodity's price was **US\$73.67** or **16.48%** lower than its price in 2014. The five year monthly price average for rice prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$488.64** per metric tonne, indicating that February's price

Monthly Cereal Price (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



was **US\$115.31** or **23.60%** below the long term average.

Beef Prices

In February 2016, beef prices ended its five month decrease. This time prices increased by **US\$0.1224** or **7.69%** when compared to January, to close at **US\$1.7131** cents per pound. When compared to February 2015, prices have fallen by **US\$0.3857** or **18.38%** cents per pound. In February 2014 prices were **US\$1.9025** cents per pound hence this year's price was **US\$0.1894** or **9.96%** below the 2014 price. The five year average for prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$1.9541** cents per pound indicating that this month's price was **US\$0.2410** or **12.33%** below.

Swine (Pork) Prices

Pork prices increased for the month ending February 2016. Price of pork was **US\$0.6294** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0869** or **16.02%** increase from January's price of **US\$0.5425**. This is the largest

International Commodity Prices

February 2016 Issue

percentage increase since June 2015. When compared with February 2015, prices increased by **US\$0.011** or **1.78%**. Prices are below the price level 2-years ago by **US\$0.2341** or **27.11%**. It is also below the 5-year average of **US\$0.8548** for prices ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 by **US\$0.2254** or **26.37%**.

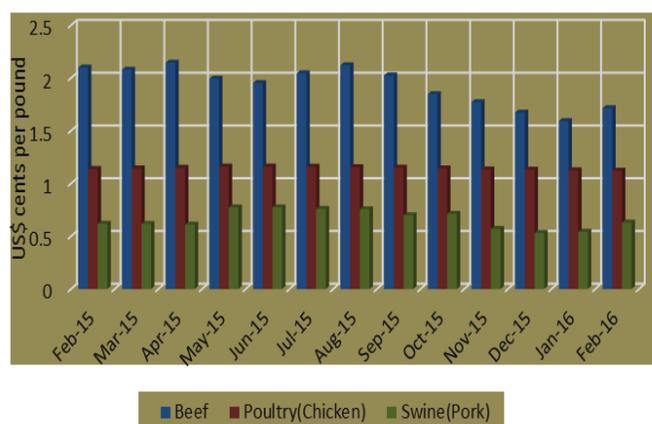
Poultry Prices

Chicken prices continued to decrease for the eighth month in a row. At the end of February 2016 chicken was valued at **US\$1.121** cents per pound, representing a **US\$0.0042** or **0.37%** decrease from January. The price in February 2016 was approximately **US\$0.0167** or **1.47%** lower than the February 2015 price. In February 2014, the price for poultry was **US\$1.045** cents per pound, indicating that this year's price was **US\$0.076** or **7.27%** higher than prices two years ago. The average monthly price ranging from February 2011 to January 2016 is **US\$1.02523** cents per pound, this means that this year's price was **US\$0.09577** or **9.84%** more.

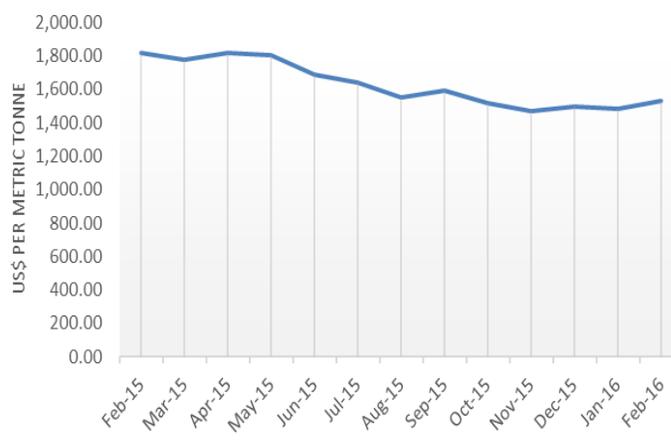
Aluminum Prices

The price of aluminum increased in February. Prices increased by **US\$16.10** or **3.39%** to end the month at **US\$1,531.26** per metric tonne. For February 2016 relative to February 2015, prices decreased by **US\$286.56** or **15.76%** per metric tonne. A two year comparison revealed that this year's price was **US\$163.91** or **10%** below the price for the corresponding period in 2014. The five year average for monthly prices ranging from

Monthly Meat Prices (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



Monthly Aluminum Prices (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



February 2011 to January 2016 for aluminum is **US\$1,944.47** per metric tonne, this means that this year's February price was **US\$413.21** or **21.25%** lower.

Impact of global prices on Jamaica

There were price reductions observed in 57% (12) of the commodities monitored for February 2016. The price of crude oil index Brent increased for February 2016 while the WTI decreased. The Brent moved up by 7.79% and the WTI went down by 4.26%. Natural gas decreased by 13.66%.



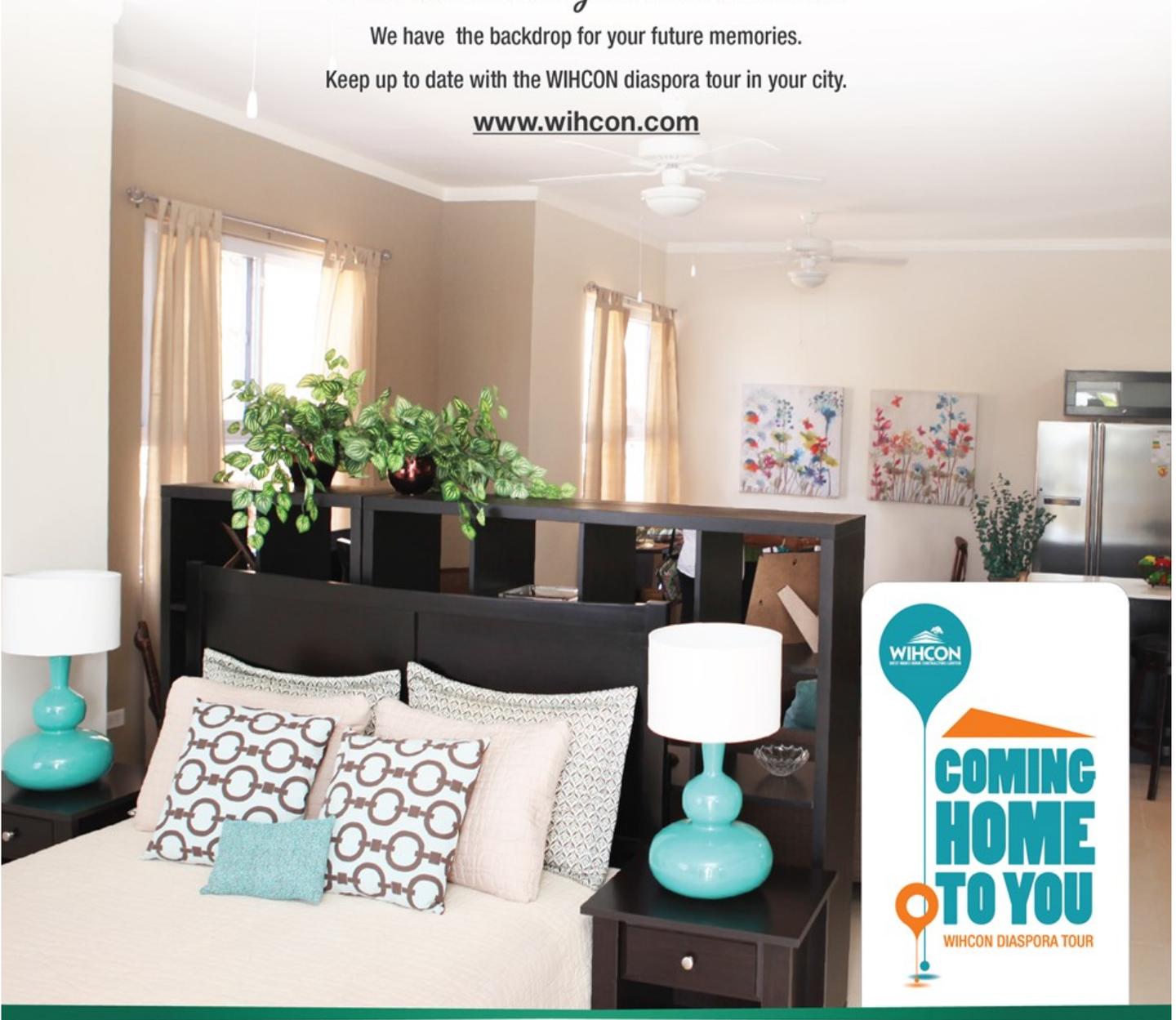
Pioneer real estate developers in Jamaica since 1958.

You've Been Waiting. Now We are Here!

We have the backdrop for your future memories.

Keep up to date with the WIHCON diaspora tour in your city.

www.wihcon.com



Come Home To Comfort



Call: Jamaica: **1(876) 754-7008** Call Toll Free: USA/Canada: **1(855) 852-3746** UK: **0(808) 234-5409**
Email: sales@wihcon.com. Head Office: **7-9 Harbour Street, Kingston.**

The IMF's Fuel Energy index increased by 2.74%, and the Food and Beverage Index increased by 0.28%. The all commodity price index decreased by 2.03%.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Price Index averaged 150.2 points in February 2016, nearly unchanged from January, but 25.6 points or 14.5% below February 2015. The most outstanding development last month was a surge in vegetable oil quotations, which, along with a small recovery in meat prices, more than offset declining cereal, sugar and dairy prices. The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 148.3 points in February, marginally down from January and 13.7% less than one year ago. Among the major

cereals, wheat prices fell the most, influenced by slow trade activity and expectations of continued large export supplies for the remainder of the marketing season. Maize quotations were only marginally lower, sustained by large purchases by a number of countries. The FAO Meat Price Index averaged 148.2 points in February, up marginally from its January revised value. Sugar Price Index averaged 187.1 points in February, down 12.3 points or 6.2% from January, marking the second consecutive monthly decline after four months of steady rises. The decrease mainly mirrored better than expected crop conditions in Brazil, the world's leading sugar producer and exporter. Prospects for a larger world sugar production decline than earlier anticipated did not reverse the price fall, amid comfortable global sugar inventories.

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

February 2016 Issue

Actual prices through

20-Jan-2016

Table 1. Near Term Commodity Price Baseline
(In U.S. Dollars)

Commodities	Units	Projections															
		Actual	2014Q1	2014Q2	2014Q3	2014Q4	2015Q1	2015Q2	2015Q3	2015Q4	2016Q1	2016Q2	2016Q3	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
Food																	
Cereals																	
Wheat	\$/MT	248.8	274.3	226.3	220.6	205.0	196.3	178.8	162.3	186.3	174.8	178.4	185.0	188.8	190.7	193.4	198.2
Maize	\$/MT	210.1	213.9	173.9	173.5	174.2	168.4	169.4	167.1	156.6	146.9	149.9	153.7	157.3	159.5	159.9	158.1
Rice	\$/MT	440.7	409.4	435.0	420.8	406.6	381.8	374.0	358.3	356.0	357.6	347.8	345.9	308.9	310.3	301.8	300.2
Barley	\$/MT	162.7	166.9	132.8	122.0	132.2	128.1	127.9	123.2	121.6	124.0	125.4	110.9	134.7	137.4	138.9	122.8
Vegetable oils and protein meals																	
Soybeans	\$/MT	498.3	540.4	421.7	370.9	369.9	354.6	347.6	323.3	321.6	321.4	323.6	324.2	326.5	328.0	328.9	325.7
Soybean meal	\$/MT	493.3	531.9	436.0	406.7	372.7	348.0	369.3	320.8	297.1	300.2	304.9	307.3	310.1	311.5	312.7	312.3
Soybean oil	\$/MT	877.9	899.7	757.1	716.1	696.4	715.4	688.3	638.6	656.3	661.8	668.3	669.9	677.6	683.2	687.2	682.4
Palm oil	\$/MT	813.7	794.7	695.9	653.3	627.9	599.9	514.6	518.0	536.3	559.7	557.2	552.5	556.6	557.3	557.0	556.6
Fish meal	\$/MT	1657.9	1861.6	1973.6	2192.7	2031.9	1744.2	1558.9	1701.9	1704.5	1603.5	1405.2	1363.6	1358.2	1277.8	1119.8	1086.6
Sunflower Oil	\$/MT	1133.1	1121.5	1012.5	1054.2	974.0	1062.3	1010.4	1042.1	1022.1	1013.1	1004.0	995.9	1014.3	1005.3	996.3	988.2
Oilse oil	\$/MT	3599.0	3663.5	4122.1	4262.5	4568.3	4855.3	5616.4	4638.4	4190.4	4200.0	4248.3	4290.2	4342.4	4352.4	4402.4	4445.8
Groundnuts	\$/MT	2377.3	2228.8	2046.8	1940.1	2016.8	2023.4	2012.9	1731.8	1656.9	1616.7	1576.3	1535.9	1634.4	1694.7	1554.8	1514.9
Rapeseed oil	\$/MT	980.3	963.1	849.6	824.4	755.1	772.6	772.7	798.2	811.0	784.4	779.0	773.6	799.9	715.7	710.8	705.8
Meat																	
Beef	cts/lb	191.8	195.5	252.9	256.0	216.6	202.9	206.3	176.2	167.1	156.8	152.0	157.3	160.7	150.7	146.1	151.3
Lamb	cts/lb	124.1	135.4	132.8	130.2	122.5	112.4	101.3	95.3	95.5	95.5	96.4	97.6	98.2	98.2	99.1	100.3
Swine Meat	cts/lb	92.8	115.4	112.8	90.3	65.5	71.9	73.8	60.5	53.1	52.2	52.0	49.5	48.2	47.4	47.1	44.9
Poultry	cts/lb	104.7	109.0	113.0	113.9	114.0	115.6	115.5	113.6	113.1	117.5	120.1	118.4	120.6	125.3	128.1	126.3
Seafood																	
Salmon	\$/kg	7.8	6.9	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.5
Shrimp	\$/lb	17.1	17.8	17.0	14.3	15.7	15.7	15.0	10.0	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.8	9.5	8.8	8.7	9.2
Sugar																	
Free market	cts/lb	16.8	18.2	17.7	15.8	14.1	12.6	11.6	14.7	14.3	13.9	13.7	13.8	14.2	13.9	13.7	13.6
United States	cts/lb	22.4	25.3	26.5	25.3	24.8	24.6	24.5	25.5	25.8	25.9	26.0	26.0	25.5	25.6	25.6	25.5
EU	cts/lb	27.5	28.0	27.8	26.3	25.2	25.5	25.8	25.3	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2
Bananas	\$/MT	947.1	929.2	939.3	911.9	974.8	978.4	948.9	932.7	932.3	921.3	900.7	891.1	897.7	887.1	867.3	858.0
Oranges	\$/MT	777.4	838.8	774.1	739.8	698.5	616.9	652.1	733.1	770.0	765.3	760.8	758.1	769.9	765.2	760.7	758.0
Beverages																	
Coffee																	
Other milds	cts/lb	175.8	213.7	208.4	213.5	177.0	161.0	153.2	150.8	132.2	113.9	117.0	120.6	123.1	124.6	126.6	128.6
Robusta	cts/lb	102.0	107.9	106.0	106.6	101.4	96.7	90.9	87.9	61.5	63.5	65.6	67.3	68.8	70.2	71.4	72.4
Cocoa Beans	\$/MT	2951.3	3085.0	3229.2	2985.6	2918.5	3068.1	3252.8	3301.5	2991.0	2863.5	2863.8	2833.2	2813.8	2813.6	2811.0	2802.3
Tea	cts/kg	247.9	222.2	233.7	247.6	291.2	320.1	387.2	369.0	343.5	343.5	355.1	364.8	345.9	345.9	357.6	367.4
Agricultural raw materials																	
Timber																	
Hardwood																	
Logs	\$/M3	289.8	291.5	286.5	260.4	249.9	245.4	243.6	245.2	244.6	244.6	244.6	244.6	254.6	254.6	254.6	254.6
Sawnwood	\$/M3	901.9	917.3	910.0	862.6	826.2	834.8	844.9	827.1	816.8	809.3	817.6	853.1	824.6	817.0	825.4	861.2
Softwood																	
Logs	\$/M3	178.4	169.7	167.4	181.5	169.8	159.1	159.8	159.4	159.4	169.1	159.4	160.5	164.0	174.0	164.0	165.2
Sawnwood	\$/M3	306.1	312.6	308.3	302.1	306.8	298.0	310.4	329.0	329.0	321.5	312.1	306.8	322.4	315.1	305.8	300.7
Cotton	cts/lb	94.0	92.6	77.1	68.7	68.8	72.3	71.0	69.5	62.0	62.3	62.6	62.0	63.0	63.3	63.5	63.6
Wool																	
Fine	cts/kg	1114.0	1086.0	1068.1	1029.4	947.8	1079.7	999.7	995.8	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3
Coarse	cts/kg	1083.6	1058.7	1025.0	954.3	887.7	962.7	942.0	898.9	909.9	883.9	859.0	809.5	760.3	742.7	717.7	678.4
Rubber	cts/lb	102.1	96.1	83.4	73.5	78.6	81.2	66.1	57.0	57.2	58.9	58.7	60.4	61.0	62.0	62.2	62.0
Hides	cts/lb	107.6	109.8	110.8	112.7	105.8	96.8	76.1	71.7	70.0	71.5	72.2	74.5	77.7	79.3	80.1	82.7
Metals																	
Copper	\$/MT	7080.2	6795.3	6995.8	6692.3	5833.2	6056.6	5267.1	4894.9	4384.1	4357.5	4354.5	4352.0	4351.0	4351.0	4351.0	4351.0
Aluminum	\$/MT	1709.3	1800.2	1989.7	1970.4	1802.1	1770.3	1592.4	1489.9	1468.9	1471.3	1479.5	1487.9	1496.9	1507.8	1518.5	1529.1
Iron Ore	\$/MT	120.4	102.6	90.3	74.0	62.3	57.9	54.4	46.2	39.9	36.3	34.3	33.0	32.2	32.1	32.1	32.1
Tin	\$/MT	22636.3	23146.2	21915.2	19897.9	18370.0	15389.8	15229.5	15077.2	13553.8	13461.7	13430.0	13400.0	13380.0	13370.0	13316.9	13290.3
Nickel	\$/MT	14661.0	18467.8	18394.2	15860.5	14392.8	13055.8	10578.9	9423.0	8520.8	8562.0	8398.0	8691.7	8662.0	8692.0	8721.7	8745.0
Zinc	\$/MT	2026.5	2071.4	2310.7	2235.3	2079.8	2192.2	1842.8	1611.8	1484.4	1486.8	1497.5	1506.3	1514.2	1521.6	1527.8	1533.8
Lead	\$/MT	2101.4	2097.1	2182.4	2000.9	1810.4	1942.2	1717.0	1681.7	1619.9	1612.7	1615.8	1619.8	1624.5	1629.8	1635.1	1641.0
Uranium	\$/lb	35.2	29.8	31.2	37.8	37.9	36.8	36.4	36.0	35.1	30.0	30.9	35.4	35.8	30.5	31.5	36.1
Energy																	
Spot Crude 1/	\$/bbl	103.7	106.3	100.4	74.5	51.7	60.4	48.8	42.2	27.0	28.9	31.0	32.7	34.1	35.4	36.4	37.4
Natural Gas																	
Russian in Germany	\$/MMBTU	10.8	10.7	10.1	10.3	9.4	7.4	6.6	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Indonesian in Japan (LNG)	\$/MMBTU	17.8	17.6	16.5	16.1	14.4	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
US, domestic market	\$/MMBTU	5.2	4.6	3.9	3.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8
Coal																	
Australian, export markets	\$/MT	82.6	77.9	72.7	67.4	65.6	63.2	61.6	56.1	56.0	52.5	46.7	48.9	56.8	53.2	47.4	49.6

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

International Commodity Prices

February 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.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

BUILDING SERVICES PROJECT MANAGEMENT

We provide building services project management skills for our clients by integrating the relevant technical teams to ensure project delivery on time and within budget. Our professionals guide you through the process from project inception, through laying the first foundation to final fit-out.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Commercial and Residential Refurbishments
- Construction and development projects
- HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditions) Maintenance
- Building Services Engineering
- Energy Management Solutions
- Project Management Advisory Services

CONTACT US:

HEAD OFFICE:
Suite 42A
New Kingston Business Centre
30 Dominica Drive
Kingston 5, Jamaica
phone: (876) 906-0856
fax: (876) 906-9762

email:
projectmanagement@laisonproperty.com
www.laisonproperty.com

BRANCH OFFICE:
Fairview Towne Centre
B-10 Shop 15, Alice Eldemire Dr.
P.O. Box 284, Montego Bay
St. James, Jamaica
phone: (876) 684-9542, 391-9079
telefax: (876) 979-8427
mobile: (876) 585-6649

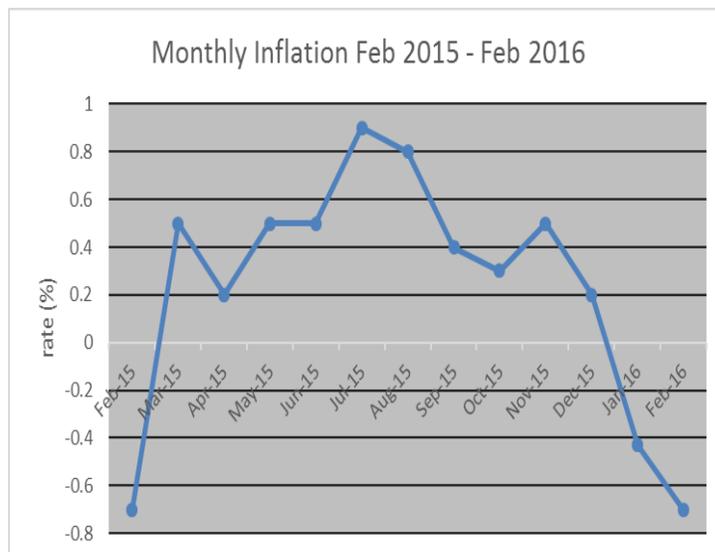
We Value Your Property

Monthly Inflation and Treasury Bill Rates

February 2016 Issue

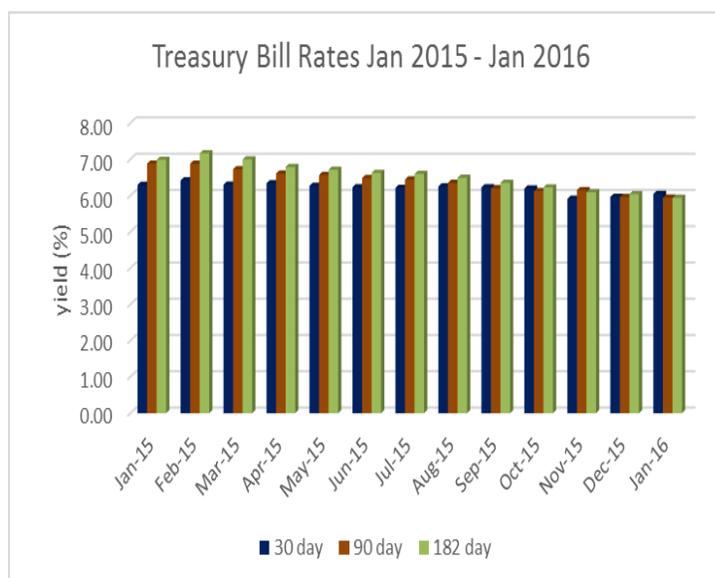
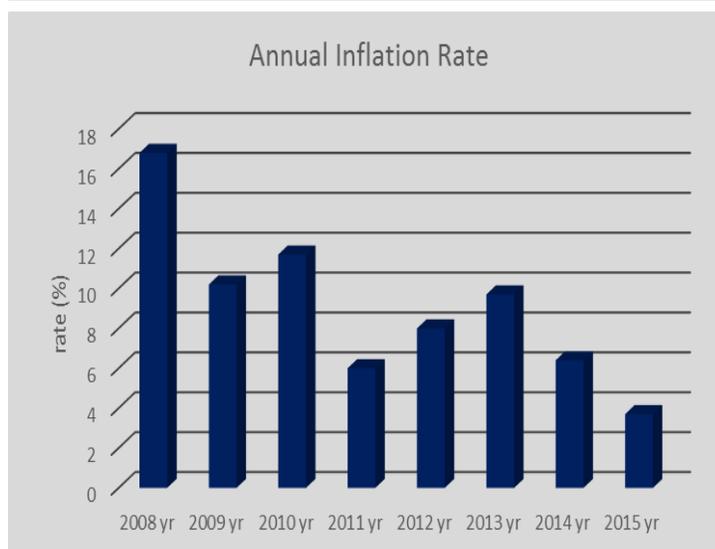
Domestic Inflation Rate

Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by **0.7%** for the period February 2016 over January 2016. The decrease in the rate for February brought inflation for the calendar year to date to **-1.2%**. The decrease in the rate for February 2016 over January 2016 brought inflation for Fiscal Year to January to **3.1%**. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of January 2016 was **3.7%**.



GOJ Treasury Bill Rates

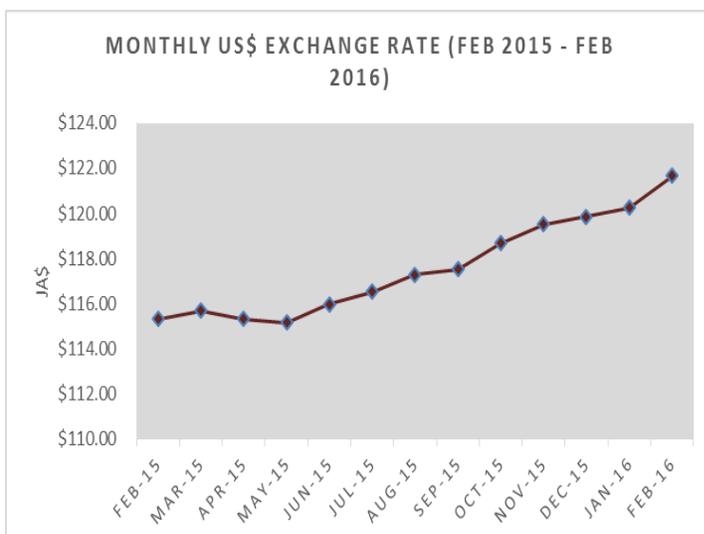
For the month of January 2016 relative to December last year, yields on the Government of Jamaica 30-day treasury bill increased by **8bps**. While yields on the 90-day and 182-day treasury bills decreased by **2bps** and **10bps** respectively. For the period January 2016 in comparison to January 2015, yields on GOJ treasury bills recorded a decrease of **25bps**, **94bps** and **105bps** for the 30-day, 90-day and 182-day treasury bills respectively. A two year comparison showed decreases of **8bps**, **149bps**, and **278bps** on the yields of the 30-day, 90-day, and 182-day.



Monthly Exchange Rates Update

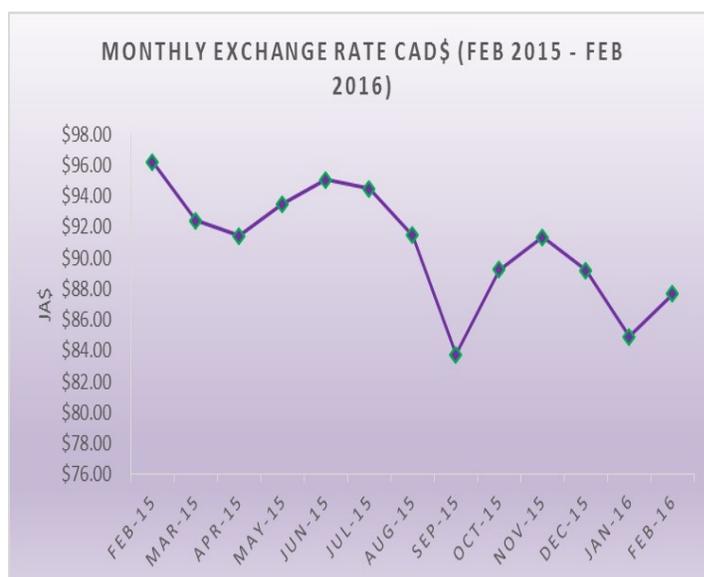
JMD:USD

For the month of February 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by **J\$0.82** relative to the previous month. This represented a **0.69%** increase to end at **J\$121.68=US\$1.00**. When compared to February 2015, this year's value was **J\$5.98** or **5.17%** more than the **J\$115.70** recorded in 2015. A two year comparison revealed that the month's value was **J\$13.75** or **12.74%** more.



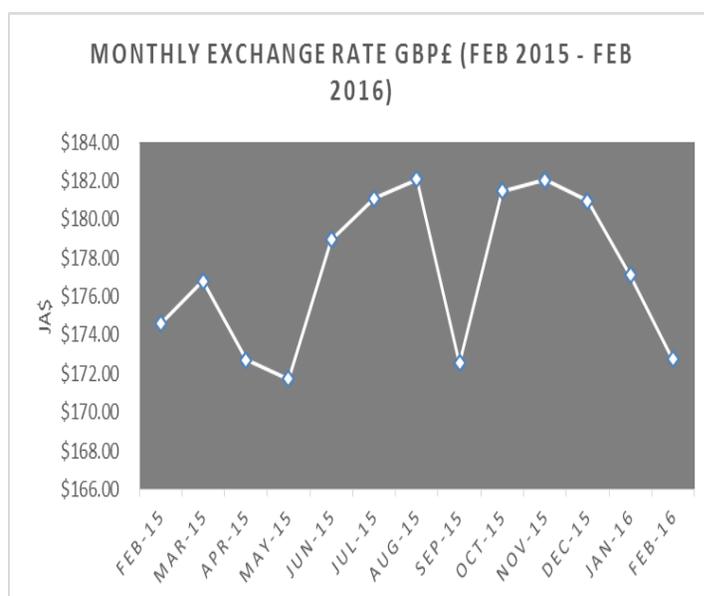
JMD:CAD

For February 2016 relative to January 2016 the Jamaican Dollar depreciated by **J\$2.80** or **3.30%** when compared to the Canadian dollar to end at **J\$87.66 = CAD\$1.00**. A one year comparison revealed that, this year's value was **J\$4.74** or **5.13%** less than the **J\$92.40** in 2015. In February 2014, the value of CAD\$1.00 was equivalent to **JAS\$98.02**, which means that the value of the dollar for February this year's was **JAS\$10.36** or **10.57%** below.



JMD:GBP

The Jamaica Dollar depreciated by **J\$0.43** or **0.25%**, relative to the Great Britain Pound for February 2016 relative to January this year. February ended with **J\$172.76 = GBP£1.00**. When compared to the corresponding period last year, the value of the GBP\$1.00 in February this year was **J\$4.06** or **2.30%** less than it was in 2015. When compared to the **J\$179.43** recorded in 2014 the value of the GBP\$1.00 for this month was **JAS\$6.67** or **3.71%** lower.



Net International Reserves & Money Base

February 2016 Issue

Net International Reserves

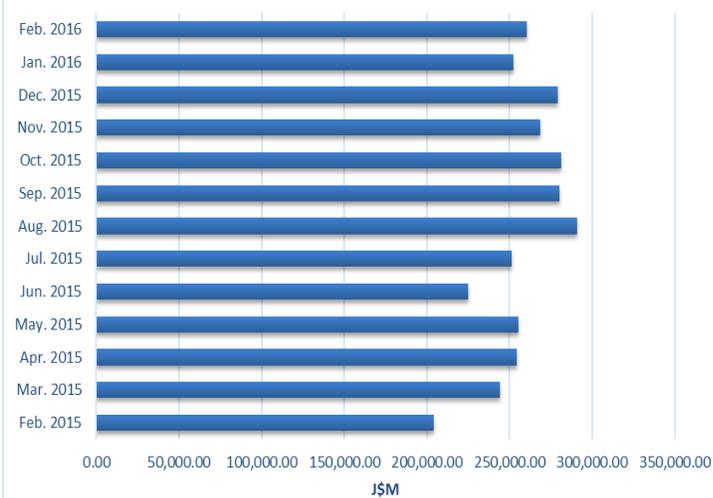
Data for the month ending February 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was **J\$260.25** billion (US\$ 2,269.76 million). This reflected an increase of **J\$7.984** billion (US\$69.64 million) relative to January 2016. The change in the NIR for the month was due to an increase both in foreign assets and foreign liabilities. Under the category of foreign asset two sources declined while one increased. SDR decreased by **US\$1.56** million, and Securities decreased by **US\$6.49** million while Currency and Deposits increased by **US\$77.95** million, to end the month with total foreign asset **US\$ 2,739.62** million. This represented a total decrease of **US\$69.90** million. Under foreign liabilities, IMF expenditures increased while Other expenses remained unchanged; Payments to IMF increased by **US\$0.26** million which was the total decrease in foreign liabilities. At the end of February, the gross reserves were sufficient to finance **32.54** weeks of goods imports, which represented **20.54** weeks over the international benchmark of **12** weeks of goods imports.

Monetary Base

The monetary base increased by **J\$2.46** billion or **2.13%** to **J\$117.95** billion for February 2016 relative to January this year. The change in the base reflected increases in the Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves, the Commercial Banks' Current Account and the Net Currency issue. The Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves increased by

J\$0.372 billion to end at **J\$39.04** billion, the Commercial Banks' Current Account increased by **J\$0.441.18** billion to a total of **J\$0.768** billion and Net Currency Issue increased by **J\$1.651** billion to a total of **J\$77.774** billion.

Monthly Net International Reserve (Feb 2015 to Feb 2016)



Monthly Monetary Base Feb 2015 - Feb 2016



Remittance Inflow Update

February 2016 Issue

At the end of November 2015 gross remittance inflows were **US\$171.3 million**. This represented a decrease of **10.68%** or **US\$20.5 million** relative to the **US\$191.8 million** recorded in October. When compared to the corresponding month of the previous year gross remittance increased by **US\$0.4 million** or **0.3%**. In November 2015, net remittances were **US\$151.6 million**, reflecting a decrease of **US\$19.8 million** or **11.55%** relative to October 2015. When compared to the corresponding period of 2014, net remittances increased by **US\$0.3 million** or **0.2%**. Net remittances for the calendar year to November 2015 were **US\$1 804.7 million**, which represented a growth of **US\$59.1 million** or **3.4%** relative to the corresponding period of 2014. Total remittance inflows for January 2015 to November 2015 were

US\$2 015.1 million, representing an increase of **US\$63.0 million** or **3.2%**. These inflows were above the average of **US\$1 840.0 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\$74.6 million** inflows through remittance companies which was partly offset by a decline of **US\$11.6 million** or **4.2%** in Other Remittances.

For the fiscal year 2015/16 to November, total remittance inflows increased by **US\$49.8 million** or **3.5%** to **US\$1 487.0 million** relative to the corresponding period of last year. Net remittance inflows also increased for the fiscal year 2015/16 to November. Net remittance inflow rose by **US\$50.8 million** or **4.0%** to **US\$1 333.8 million** relative to the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

JAMAICA'S REMITTANCES				
(US\$MN)				
	2014 November	2015 November	Change	% Change
Total Remittance Inflows	170.8	171.3	0.4	0.3
Remittance Companies	143	145.9	2.9	2
Other Remittances	27.9	25.4	-2.5	-8.9
Total Remittance Outflows	19.5	19.6	0.2	0.9
Net Remittances	151.4	151.6	0.3	0.2

Interest Rates

February 2016 Issue

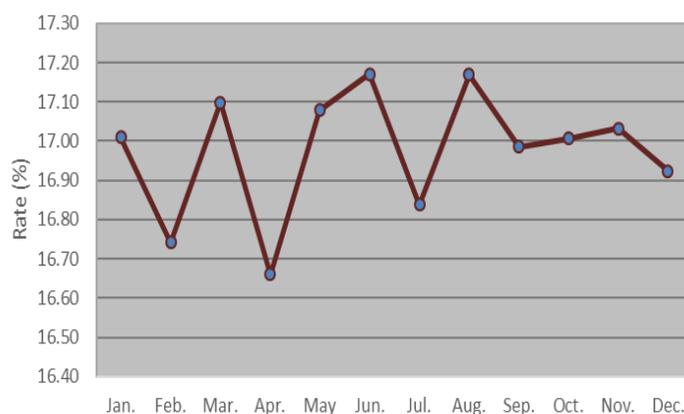
The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased to **16.92%** from **17.03%** at end December 2015 relative to November 2015. This occurred in the context of increases in the rates of four of the six loan types. These were, increases in Central Government of **28bps**, Personal Credit of **27bps**, Installment Credit of **10bps** and Mortgage Credit of **1bps**. The impact of these increases was offset by decreases of **66bps** in credit on Local Government and Other Public Entities and **21bps** in Commercial Credit.

Meanwhile, the weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits decreased by **18bps** to **1.62%** at end December 2015 relative to end November 2015

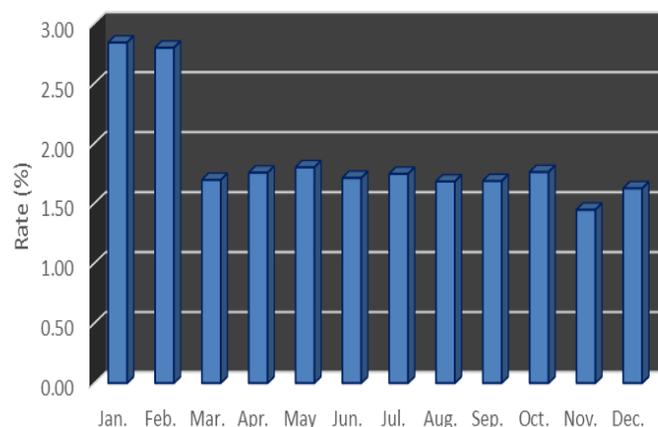
For the month of December foreign currency loan rate marginally increased relative to November 2015. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate rose by **1bps** to **7.36%**. Three of the loan types increased; Local Government and Other Public Entities by **39bps**, Mortgage Credit by **6bps** and Installment Credit by **2bps**. While Commercial Credit and Personal Credit decreased by **11bps** and **7bps** respectively.

Meanwhile the interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased in December relative to November this year. In this regard foreign currency deposit rate fell by **4bps** to **1.75%**.

Domestic Currency Weighted Loan Interest Rates 2015
(Jan-Dec)



Domestic Currency Overall Weighted Deposit Interest Rates
2015 (Jan-Dec)



Foreign Currency Weighted Loan Interest Rates 2015 (Jan-Dec)



Domestic Bauxite and Alumina

February 2016 Issue

For the first month of 2016, the production of Alumina was **167,938 tonnes**. This represented a **4,101** or **2.50%** increase, relative to December 2015. Alumina production has increased by **3.56%** when compared to January 2015, however it decreased by **3,320** or **1.93%** when compared to January 2014. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to **156,132 tonnes**. This represented a decrease of **36,558 tonnes** or **18.97%** relative to December 2015. When compared to January 2015 sale of alumina, this year alumina sales is **22.98%** less. However, alumina sales increased by **11,075** or **7.63%** in comparison to January 2014.

The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for January 2016 was **393,309 tonnes**. This is a **29,078 tonnes** or a **7.98%** increase from the **364,231 tonnes** recorded in December last year. Crude bauxite production rose by **19.44%** and **0.71%** when compared to January 2015 and 2014 respectively. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for January this year was **842,460 tonnes**. This

represented a **27,766 tonnes** or **3.40%** increase from December last year. Total bauxite production increased by **11.03%** relative to January 2015 while it decreased **7,992 tonnes** or **0.94%** relative to January 2014. Meanwhile, the total crude bauxite sold for the month was **340,025 tonnes**. This represented a **1,274** or **0.37%** decrease relative to December 2015. January's value was **0.12%** and **11.79%** less than the recorded amounts in January 2015 and January 2014. In addition, the sale of total bauxite was **753,209 tonnes**. This represented a decrease of **118,191** or **13.56%** compared to December last year. This year's value was **14.01%** less than the recorded amount in 2015 and **2.90%** less compared to 2014.

For the calendar year to date, the production of crude bauxite was **340,025 tonnes** which is **0.12%** and **11.79%** less 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 **753,209 tonnes**. This is **14.01%** and **2.90%** less than the recorded amounts in recorded in 2014 and 2013 respectively.

PERIOD 2016	PRODUCTION			SALES		
	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE**	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE
MONTH: January						
2016	167,938	393,309	842,460	156,132	340,025	753,209
2015	162,170	329,295	758,751	202,704	340,433	875,902
% Chg 2016/15	3.56	19.44	11.03	-22.98	-0.12	-14.01
2014	171,258	390,553	850,452	145,057	385,488	775,696
% Chg 2015/14	-5.31	-15.68	-10.78	39.74	-11.69	12.92
Y-T-D						
2016	167,938	393,309	842,460	156,132	340,025	753,209
2015	162,170	329,295	758,751	202,704	340,433	875,902
% Chg 2016/15	3.56	19.44	11.03	-22.98	-0.12	-14.01
2014	171,258	390,553	850,452	145,057	385,488	775,696
% Chg 2015/14	-5.31	-15.68	-10.78	39.74	-11.69	12.92
NOTE:						
Crude Bauxite = Bauxite mined for export						
Total Bauxite = Crude bauxite + bauxite converted to alumina						

Tourism

February 2016 Issue

Stopover tourist arrivals for December 2015 were **219,096**. This month's total was **60,646** or **38.27%** higher than the **158,450** in November 2015. December's total was an increase of **2.8%** over the **213,129** recorded in December 2014. For the seven months 2015, May to December, arrivals were flat **0.5%**, with **1,366,579** stopovers compared to **1,359,177** in 2014. For the calendar year of 2015, **2,123,042** arrivals visited the Island, which was **2.1%** or **42,861** stopovers more than the **1,867,052** in 2014. In 2013 total stopovers for the period January to November was **2,008,409**, hence 2015's total for the corresponding period was **114,633** or **5.71%** more.

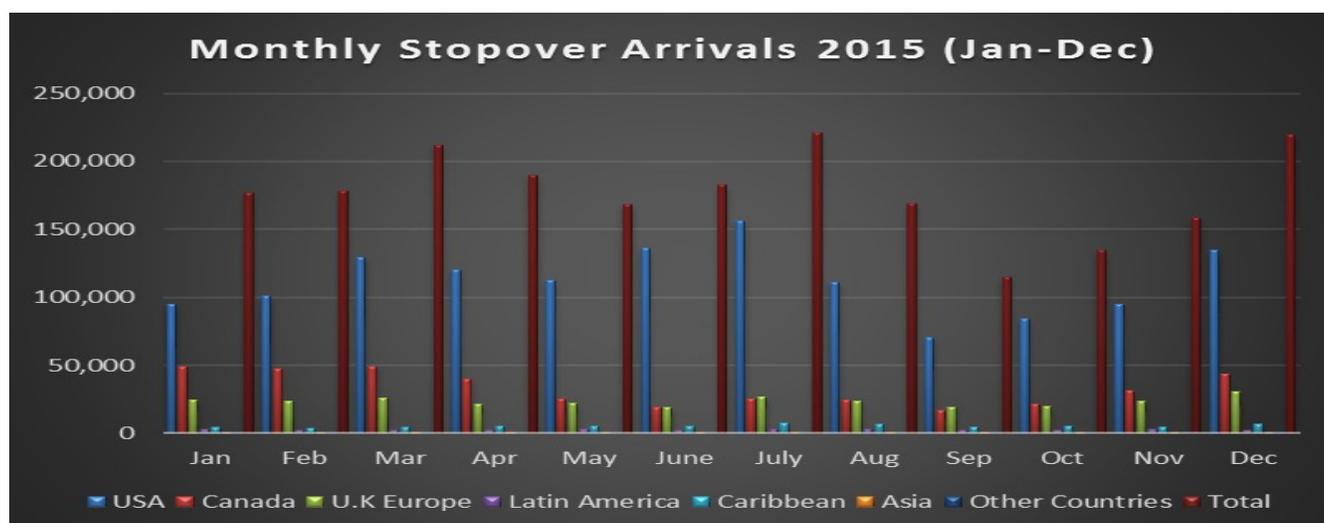
For December 2015, the changes reflected in the total stopovers observed in the seven categories of destination varied. Out of the seven categories six recorded an increase in numbers, and one recorded a decrease when compared to December 2014. The largest percentage increases were reflected in the stopovers from Asia, the Caribbean and Other Countries with **22.9%**, **15.2%** and **11.0%** respectively. Of the Other Countries, once again, for the sixth month in a row Australia provided the

most stopover arrivals to Jamaica, with **2,999** visitors in 2015 compared to **2,513** in 2014. Other increases in arrivals were Europe with **9.6%**, the United States with **6%** and the Latin America with **3.7%**.

These increases were offset by a decrease in arrival from Canada when compared to November 2014. Canada's stopovers decreased by **11.0%**. The market share of stopover visitors for November 2015 was as follows: USA (**61.3%**); Canada (**20.0%**); UK (**8.9%**); Continental Europe (**5.1%**), the Caribbean (**3.0%**); and the others, including Latin America and Asia (**1.7%**).

A total of **229,020** cruise passengers visited Jamaica in December, 2015. This represented a **27.1%** increase over the **180,242** December 2014. In December 2013, the total arrivals stood at **160,076**, this means that arrivals for December 2015 were **68,944** or **43.07%** more.

The January to December 2015 period saw **1,568,702** cruise passenger arrivals from **458** ship calls at the three major ports, which is an increase of **10.2%** or **144,905** more passengers than in 2014, and **248,619** more passengers than the previous record in 2012.



Stock Market Update

February 2016 Issue

On the last trading day in February 2016, for the period February 01, 2016 to February 29, 2016, the main JSE index declined by **3,650.01 points** or **2.28%** to close at **156,699.28 points**. The JSE Combined Index declined by **5,491.79 points** or **3.21%** to close at **165,348.32 points**. The JSE Junior declined by **226.90 points** or **10.43%** to close at **1,947.91 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 thirty five (35) stocks of which 16 advanced, 14 declined and 5 traded firm. In total **100,093,313.00 units** of stock were traded during the month, which had a total value of **J\$1,519,864,709.77**. This resulted in market capitalization of **J\$628,576,070,576 billion** as at end February 2016.

As in January, Cable & Wireless Jamaica Limited was the volume leader for the month with **16,173,235 units** amounting to **16.16%** of the market volume. Second was Pulse Investments

Limited, which traded **11,653,386 units** amounting to **11.64%** of the market volume. Next in line was Jamaica Money Market Brokers Group Limited with a total of **11,105,687 units** amounting to **11.10%** of the market volume.

The top four advancing stocks for the month of February were the Berger Paints (Jamaica) (**31.54%**), Pulse Investments Limited (**15.99%**), Jamaica Stock Exchange (**12.02%**) and Mayberry Investments Limited (**9.89%**). The top four declining stocks were, Ciboney Group (**20.83%**), Desnoes & Geddes (**19.78%**), Hardware & Lumber (**14.77%**) and Palace Amusement (**14.74%**).

For the calendar year to date, the top four advancing stocks were Gleaner Company (**76.92%**), Berger Paints (Jamaica) (**52.50%**), Caribbean Cement Company (**43.35%**) and Jamaica Broilers Group (**39.28%**). Meanwhile, the top four declining stocks for the calendar year to date were Desnoes & Geddes (**23.77%**), Hardware & Lumber (**18.92%**), Palace Amusement (**14.74%**) and Ciboney Group (**9.52%**).

Index	Date	Value	Change (\$)	Change (%)	Volume Traded
JSE-Index	3/1/2016	154435.17	-2264.11	-1.44	3850773
JSE-Index	3/2/2016	154244	-191.17	-0.12	3867337
JSE-Index	3/3/2016	154828.16	584.16	0.38	5973096
JSE-Index	3/4/2016	155747.82	919.66	0.59	4188782
JSE-Index	3/7/2016	155242.8	-505.02	-0.32	18628793
JSE-Index	3/8/2016	153186.49	-2056.31	-1.32	4908124
JSE-Index	3/9/2016	153042.48	-144.01	-0.09	2920807
JSE-Index	3/10/2016	153605.25	562.77	0.37	2875641
JSE-Index	3/11/2016	153612.85	7.6	0	2400778
JSE-Index	3/14/2016	153435.78	-177.07	-0.12	2762480
JSE-Index	3/15/2016	151473.49	-1962.29	-1.28	14645338
JSE-Index	3/16/2016	151747.82	274.33	0.18	2269814
JSE-Index	3/17/2016	152610.01	862.19	0.57	5040820
JSE-Index	3/18/2016	153083.07	473.06	0.31	5041502
JSE-Index	3/21/2016	153581.38	498.31	0.33	3385787
JSE-Index	3/22/2016	153150.85	-428.48	-0.28	2968200
JSE-Index	3/23/2016	153623.04	472.09	0.31	6240385

Previous Highlights: January 2016 Summary

February 2016 Issue

- ◇ 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 21.43% to close at 2,174.81 points. In contrast once again, the JSE

Previous Highlights: January 2016 Summary

February 2016 Issue

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%.

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)	

The contents of this bulletin are only for use by the addressee. The information is provided on a strictly confidential basis to subscribers.

All **opinions and estimates** constitute the PSOJ's judgment as at the date of the bulletin and are subject to change without notice.

Copyright Reserved © 2003.

The Private Sector Organization of Jamaica, 39 Hope Road, Kingston 10

Tel: 927-6238/6958 Fax: 978-2709 Email: Web site: <http://www.psoj.org>

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ECONOMIC BULLETIN

Please **complete form** and return to PSOJ by fax as soon as possible. Thank you.

(Complete form in **Capital Letters** and make a **mark** where appropriate)

FAX # : (876) 927-5137

Subscriber: _____ (Company / Individual)

Address: _____

Contact Person Information (Matters pertaining to Subscription)

Name: _____ (Mr. / Mrs. / Miss. / Dr. / Hon)

Position: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Fax: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Bulletin Recipients (additional recipients) [*first then last name*]

NAME 1: _____ (Mr. / Mrs. / Miss. / Dr. / Hon)

Position: _____

Email: _____

NAME 2: _____ (Mr. / Mrs. / Miss. / Dr. / Hon)

Position: _____

Email: _____

The Economic Bulletin is a monthly synopsis of the major developments impacting the Jamaican economy. It covers a wide range of areas including inflation, the financial markets, fiscal accounts, tourism, the productive sectors and external trade. In addition to tracking changes in the main indicators, it also goes behind the numbers to examine the underlying factors driving those changes. The Bulletin also provides insight into how current trends may shape developments going forward in order to help inform your business decisions.

Annual

Subscription

(Jan-Dec)

PSOJ Members:

\$10,500.00

(Plus G.C.T.)

Non-members:

\$14,000.00

(Plus G.C.T.)

Payment Options

Cheque

Money Order

(No Cash Payment)

(Payment must be included with your order form)