



# MONTHLY ECONOMIC BULLETIN

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November 2016 Issue

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## The CEO'S Remarks

As we look back on 2016, we can say with certainty that this has been a turning point for Jamaica. You will recall that at the end of 2015, we had indicated at the PSOJ that 2016 should be a turning point for Jamaica, and where we end up will depend on whether or not we maintain the fiscal policies and discipline that guided us under the IMF agreement.

When the government changed, in February 2016, there was concern that the track we were on would not have been maintained. However, Jamaica began to show its political maturity, when the newly elected Government not only recommitted to the fiscal programme but also (1) showed the intent to move towards Indirect Taxation, thereby addressing the compliance issues; and (2) maintained some of the key persons such as Richard Byles, at EPOC, and Vin Lawrence, at ESET.

In addition the private sector and civil society were very vocal about the need to continue the path we were on. In fact, one overseas person indicated to me that one of the primary reasons why Jamaica was able to achieve so much under the IMF agreement was because we developed a unity of purpose amongst all stakeholders. This is no doubt due in a significant way to the Partnership for Jamaica, established under the previous Government, and now continued under the current Government, as the Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica.

The result of our unity, and perseverance by the former and current Governments, was a return to a Balance of Payments surplus, record low inflation and interest rates, balanced fiscal budget, record

levels of consumer and business confidence, and a record quarterly growth of 2.3% annualized.

As the PSOJ has advocated for a very long time, the market began to reward the economy for sensible fiscal and monetary policies.

This trend, we think, will continue into 2017, as oil prices remain relatively low and confidence levels are high. We also see the stock market performing well, on the back of increased profitability by companies, with many looking at overseas markets.

Despite all of this optimism, however, Jamaica's economy still remains very fragile, as a return to poor fiscal policies and a failure to deal with crime and indiscipline, bureaucracy, and poor tax policy could once again push us back to economic challenges. For this reason we must not only maintain fiscal discipline but take every step necessary to address the crime and bureaucracy challenges, as these remain the achilles heel for economic and social development.

2017 must also see a focus on building human capacity, as it is only through doing so that growth can become localized and we can address economic and social development in any sustainable manner. The primary vulnerability we face is the unproductive labour force and this can only be addressed by specific policies and actions, and taking a hard look at the Labour Laws and environment so that we can compete with innovation and productivity.

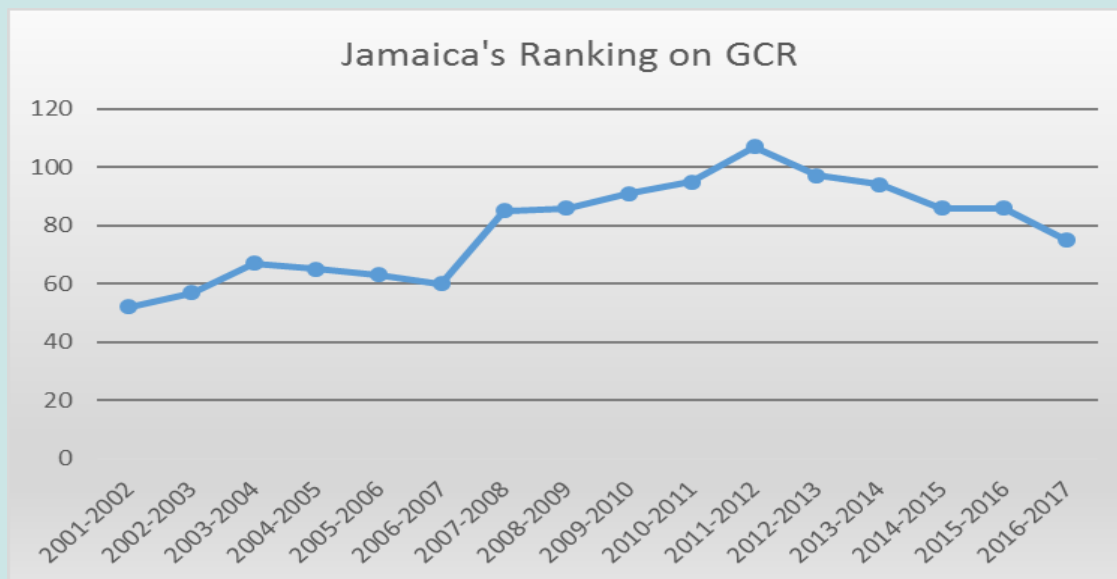
My belief is that Jamaicans are ready for this challenge and with the right leadership we can conquer these obstacles and be one of the most prosperous nations on earth. Happy Holidays from PSOJ.

## Economic Highlights November 2016

- At the end of November 2016, the Monthly average value of the Jamaican Dollar depreciated against the US dollar and the Great Britain Pound. The Dollar depreciated against the US\$ by J\$0.22 or 0.1707% to end at J\$129.07=US\$1.00. The value dollar depreciated by J\$1.31 or 0.8272% against the Great Britain Pound to end at GBP\$1.00=J\$159.68. The value of the Canadian dollar appreciated by J\$2.14 or 2.176% to end at CAD1.00=J\$96.18.
- Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.4% for the period November 2016 over October 2016. The increase in the rate for November brought inflation for the calendar year to date to 1.4%. The increase in the rate for November 2016 over October 2016 brought inflation for the fiscal year to November to 2.8%. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of November 2016 was 1.7%.
- Data for the month ending November 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$293.12 billion (US\$ 2,556.43 million). This reflected an increase of J\$12.979 billion (US\$113.21 million) relative to October 2016.
- The monetary base increased by J\$1.682 billion to J\$126.447 billion for November 2016 relative to October this year.
- On the last trading day in November 2016, for the period November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016, the main JSE index advanced by 11,902.46 points or 7.14% to close at 178,661.73 points. The JSE Combined Index advanced by 10,963.28 points or 6.10% to close at 190,643.03 points. The JSE Junior declined by 7.27 points or 0.30% to close at 2,429.13 points. The JSE Cross Listed Index advanced by 1,447.29 points or 290.00% to close at 1,946.35 points.
- Stopover tourist arrivals for October 2016 were 135,467. This month’s total was 15,127 or 12.57% higher than the 120,340 in September this year. For the months May to October, arrivals were up 2.6%, with 1,014,971 stopovers compared to 989,033 in 2015. For the January to October period, arrivals increased by 2.4%, with 1,788,079 stopovers compared to 1,745,496 in 2015. A total of 90,233 cruise passengers visited Jamaica in October 2016. The January to October 2016 period saw 1,313,841 cruise passenger arrivals at the three major ports.
- There were price reductions observed in 57.14% (12) of the commodities monitored for November 2016. Both the price of Brent and the WTI decreased for the period November relative to October. The Brent declined by 6.62% and the WTI increased by 8.56%. Natural gas price decreased by 15.25% for the period November over October. The IMF’s Fuel Energy index decreased by 5.44%, and the Food and Beverage Index decreased by 0.0140%. The all commodity price index decreased by 1.22%.

## Economic Highlights November 2016 (Review)

Jamaica was ranked 75 out of 138 countries on the Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017 with a 4.13 score out of seven (7). This reflects an improvement in country's performance moving from rank 86 out of 140 in the 2015-2016 report. Only four Caribbean nations were listed on the report this year, namely; Jamaica, Barbados (72), Dominican Republic (92) and Trinidad and Tobago (94).



The above graph shows the ranking of Jamaica in the Global Competitiveness Report since 2001.

Of the six categories, the country's highest rank was seen under the category 'Goods Market Efficiency'. The country was ranked third under the subcategory 'No. Of procedures to start a business'. The second highest rank for Jamaica was seen under the category 'Health and primary education' at the sixth position, under the subcategory 'Tuberculosis incidence cases/100,000 pop'. Next, the country was ranked eight under the category 'Financial market development', subcategory 'Legal rights index 0-10 (best).

Jamaica's lowest rank was 136 under the category 'Institutions' under the subcategory 'business costs of crime and violence'. Jamaica was also ranked low at 134 under the category 'Institution' however this time in the subcategory of 'organized crime'. The third lowest rank was seen under the category

'Macroeconomic environment' under the subcategory 'Government debt % GDP'.

### Most problematic factors for doing business

Most problematic factors for doing business	
Crime and theft	16.5
Inefficient government bureaucracy	14.4
Tax rates	11.9
Corruption	8
Poor work ethic in national labor force	7.3
Inadequately educated workforce	7
Access to financing	6.8

The table above shows the most problematic factors for doing business and their corresponding scores.

## Economic Highlights November 2016

The top four factors listed are the same as last year. The only difference was that Crime and theft was the second most problem area while inefficient government bureaucracy was listed first. The positions of tax rates and corruption remain the same. Last year inflation was listed among the top seven, however, it was replaced this year by the inadequately educated workforce. According to the survey, businesses view inflation as less problematic compared to last year. In last year's review of the survey, the effects of the top four factors were discussed. In this review, the effects of the next three factors will be discussed.

### *Poor work ethic in the national labor force*

Investopedia defines business ethics as the study of proper business policies and practices regarding potentially controversial issues, such as corporate governance, insider trading, bribery, discrimination, corporate social responsibility and fiduciary responsibilities. Without any deep thought, it is easy to see how poor work ethics in the labour force do affect businesses. How businesses deal with internal relations will impact its external relationships. In other words, poor business ethics will transpire into poor operations which lead to low productivity. In 2011, the Governor of the central bank, Mr. Brian Wynter pointed out that poor work ethic is one of the factors which have contributed to Jamaica's low productivity over the years. He also stated that poor work ethics is as a result of dissatisfaction with the widening gap between managers and workers. One commonly recommended solution for poor work ethics is education on proper work ethics, however, the process does not stop there. A good relationship is needed between managers and staff. Staff needs to know that the company values their time and effort and that each employee makes a valuable contribution to the organization. When each employee recognizes their importance in making the organization what it is

then the practice of proper work ethic will be understood and employees will be willing to practice same.

### *Inadequately educated workforce*

Like many other countries, Jamaica's education system has problems which all interact with each other to produce the inadequately educated workforce. Problems in the system include lack of resources in schools, uneven distribution of the few resources and poor attendance rate in schools. Improving the level of education in the workforce will require effort from the government, schools, and students. In addition to the given curriculum focus should be placed on developing problem-solving skills and interpersonal skills in children. Education should not only be limited to what takes place in schools, but children should be encouraged to read wisely and widely. The responsibility of creating an adequate workforce does not rest solely on teachers but also on parents.

### *Access to financing*

Access to finance is a vital factor for business growth. The Bank of Jamaica recognized that access to financing has been a major constraint to expanding job creation. According to the Bank 'providers have a preference for traditional collateral-based lending as well as the provision of business plans'. It is very difficult for business, in particular, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to access financing in Jamaica. The country has one of the lowest Domestic Credit to private sector to GDP ratio and the effects can be seen by the lack development in businesses.

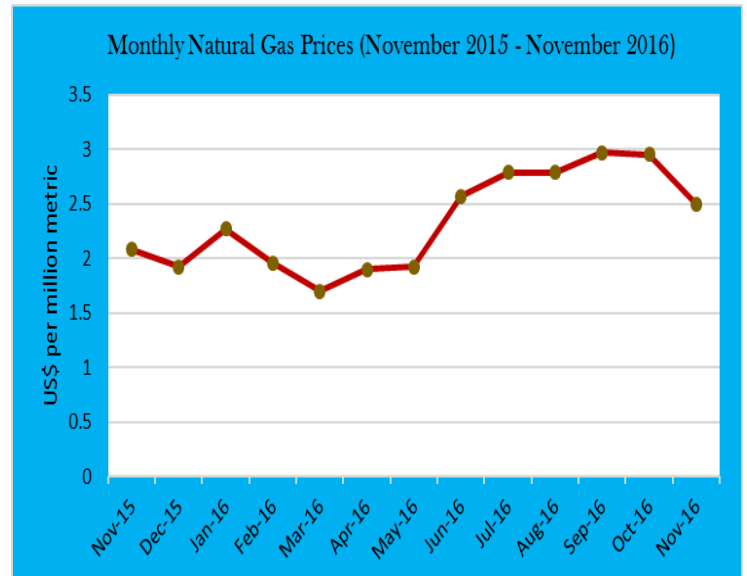
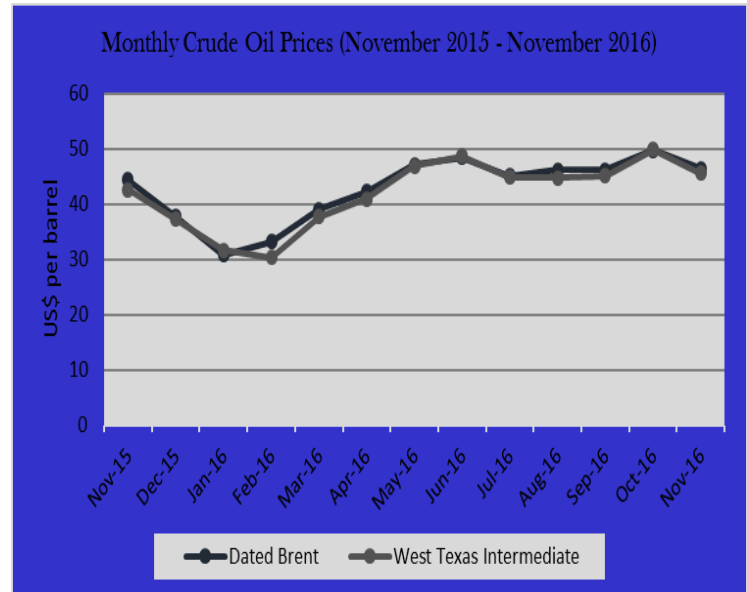
All the factors listed under the most problematic factor for doing businesses all interact together to create the business environment. Government and businesses alike have an important role to play in moving Jamaica forward.

## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

### Crude Oil Prices

For the month ending November 2016, the average price of both the Dated Brent and the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) decreased. The Brent ended the month of November at **US\$46.44 per bbl**. This represented a **US\$3.29** or **6.62%** decrease from the **US\$49.73 per bbl** recorded for the previous month. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) ended the month at **US\$45.62**. This represented a **US\$4.27** or **8.56%** decrease relative to last month. A one-year comparison of prices revealed that this year's price for the Brent is **4.547%** or **US\$2.02 per bbl** higher. When compared to last year's price, this year's WTI price is **6.964%** or **US\$2.97** higher. When compared to the price level two years ago both the Brent and WTI are **40.79%** and **39.73%** respectively below. The 5-year average of prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 for the Dated Brent and the West Texas Intermediate are **US\$85.20 per bbl** and **US\$77.07 per bbl** respectively. This month's price was **45%** below the 5-year average of prices for the Brent and **40.81%** for the WTI.



comparison revealed that natural gas prices have decreased by **US\$1.6** or **39.04%** per million metric. The five-year average monthly price for natural gas ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$3.20** per million metric, hence, this year's November price was **US\$0.6965** or **21.79%** below.

### Natural Gas

For the month ending November 2016, natural gas price decreased. The price for natural gas ended at **US\$2.5** per million metric which represented a **US\$0.45** or **15.25%**. This month's decrease is the largest percentage decrease since January last year. In November 2015, natural gas per million metric was valued at **US\$2.08** signifying that this year's price is **US\$0.42** or **20.19%** higher. A two-year

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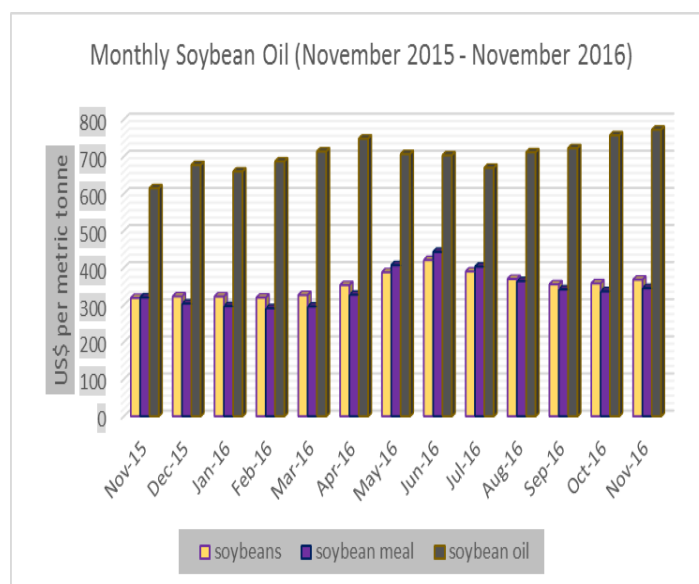


## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

### Soybean Prices

For the month ending November 2016, soybean price per metric tonne was **US\$368.37**. This denoted a **US\$2.49 or 0.70%** increase from October's value of **US\$358.39** per metric tonne. In November, this year, both the average price of soybean meal and soybean oil increased. Soybean meal prices ended its four month increase to end the month at **US\$345.7** per metric tonne. This represented an increase of **US\$8.58 or 2.55%**. At the end of November, the price per metric tonne for soybean oil stood at **US\$772.41** representing a **US\$15.15 or 2.00%** increase compared to the previous month. A one-year comparison revealed that prices for soybean increased by **15.45%** or **US\$49.29**. This month soybean price was **US\$10.97 or 2.892%** lower than its price two years ago. When compared to the corresponding period last year the soybean meal price was **US\$25.36 or 7.917%** above. Soybean oil price was above last year's price by **US\$157.67 or 25.65%**. A two-year comparison of prices for soybean meal revealed that this year's price is below the two year price by **US\$77.55 or 18.32%**. When the November 2016 soybean oil price was compared to corresponding period in 2014 this year's price is **US\$51.01 or 7.071%** above. The five-year average monthly price for soybean meal ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$423.39** per metric tonne, which means that November's price was **US\$77.69 or 18.35%** lower. The five-year average monthly price for soybean oil ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$884.59** per metric tonne, which means that November's price was **US\$112.18 or 12.68%** lower.



### Sugar Prices

At the end of November 2016, the average price of the Free Market Sugar ended its six month increase to end the month at **US\$0.2087** cents per pound. This represented a decrease of **US\$0.0205 or 8.94%** when compared to October 2016. For the US Sugar imports, the average price increased from **US\$0.2823** in October to **US\$0.2876** in November. This represented an increase of **US\$0.0053 or 1.88%** cents per pound. At the end of November 2016, the European Sugar imports ended the month at **US\$0.2067** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0014 or 0.68%** increase compared to the previous month. For the period November 2016 relative to November 2015, the price of Free Market sugar increased by **US\$0.0598 or 40.16%** cents per pound. A one-year comparison revealed that the price of the US Sugar imports has increased by **US\$0.0315 or 12.30%**, while the European sugar imports price has decreased by **US\$0.0463 or 18.30%**. In November 2014 the price for the Free Market sugar was **US\$0.1588** cents

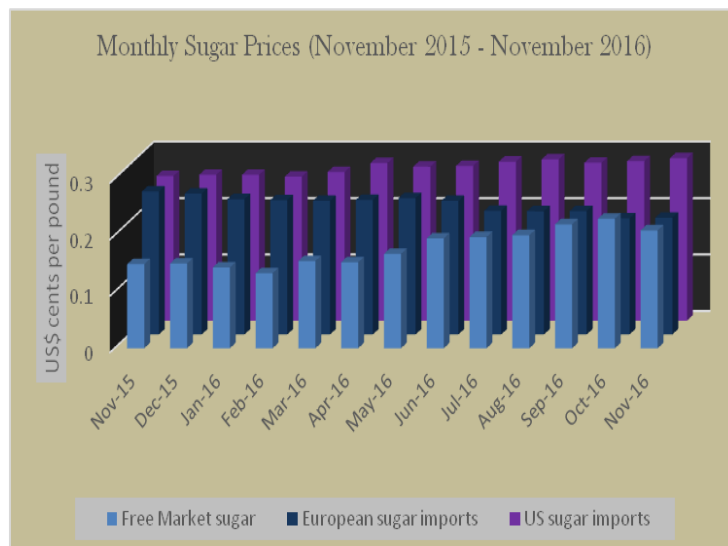
## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

per pound, which means that this year's November price is **US\$0.0499** or **31.42%** higher. The price of the US sugar imports is **US\$0.0416** or **16.91%** higher than the 2014 price while the price of the European Sugar imports is **US\$0.0558** or **21.26%** lower than the 2014 price. The 5-year average of prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 for the US imports and the European imports are **US\$0.2576** cents per pound and **US\$0.2572** cents per pound respectively. Hence, the price of US imports is above its long-term average by **11.64%** while the European import is below its average by **19.65%**.

### Coffee Prices

For the month ending November 2016, the price of the Coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category increased while the price of the Robusta coffee decreased. The price per pound for coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category was **US\$1.8513** cents per pound representing an increase of **US\$0.0651** or **3.64%**. A one-year comparison revealed that this month's price was **US\$0.3619** or **24.30%** higher than last year's November price. Robusta Coffee ended the month at **US\$1.0694** cents per pound. This month's price is below the previous month's price by **US\$0.0059** or **0.55%**. A one-year comparison revealed that the price of coffee in the Robusta category has increased by **US\$0.1831** or **20.66%**. A two-year comparison revealed that prices have fallen by **13.05%** for coffee of the 'Other Mild Arabica's category while prices rose by **1-0.1217%** for coffee in the Robusta category.



The five-year average monthly prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 for Arabica and Robusta are **US\$1.737** and **US\$1.012** respectively. This implies that this year's November price for the Arabica was **6.563%** higher than the average price and the Robusta coffee was **5.631%** higher than its average price.

### Cocoa Bean Prices

For the month ending November 2016, cocoa bean prices continued to decrease for the fifth month in a

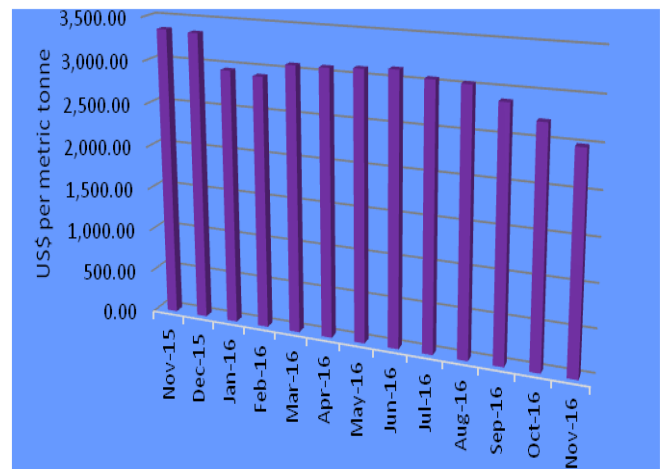


## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

row. Prices decreased by **US\$219.35** per metric tonne or **8.09%** to close at **US\$2,492.00** per metric tonne. A one-year comparison revealed that this year's price is lower by **US\$868.84** or **25.85%**. A two-year price comparison showed that the November 2016 price for cocoa beans is lower by **US\$417.09** or **14.34%** than its price in November 2014. The five-year average of monthly prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 for cocoa bean is **US\$2,780.23** per metric tonne, this means that this year's November price was **US\$288.23** or **10.37%** lower.

Monthly Cocoa Beans Prices (November 2015 - November 2016)



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## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

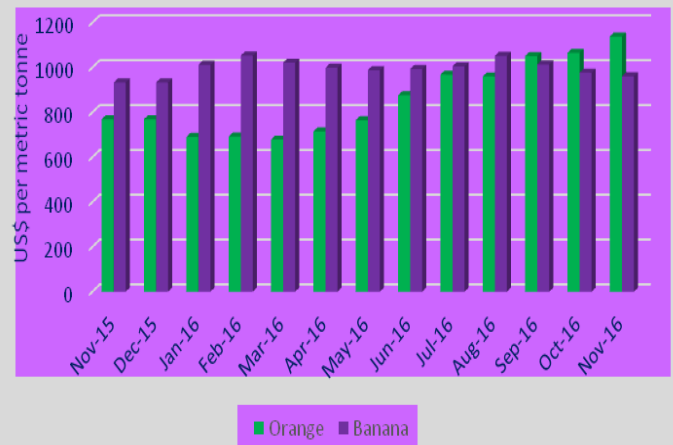
### Orange Prices

For the month ending November 2016, orange prices increased. Prices increased by **6.87%** or **US\$73.11** per metric tonne to end at **US\$1,137.77** per metric tonne relative to October. When compared to the same period in 2015, this year's price was **US\$369.28** or **48.05%** higher. A two-year comparison revealed that prices have risen by **US\$419.9** or **58%**. The five-year average monthly price ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$823.47**, indicating that this month's price was **US\$314.30** or **38%** higher.

### Banana Prices

Banana prices for the month ending November 2016 decreased to **US\$959.94** per metric tonne. This

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



represented a decrease of **US\$16.45** or **1.68%** relative to the previous month. For November 2016, relative to November 2015, banana prices increased by **US\$27.62** or **2.9625021%** per metric tonne. A two-year comparison revealed that this year's price is above the

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## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

November 2014 price of **US\$904.7** per metric tonne by **US\$55.24** or **6.106%**. The five-year average monthly prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$960.50**, this means that this year's price was **US\$0.56** or **0.0582%** below.

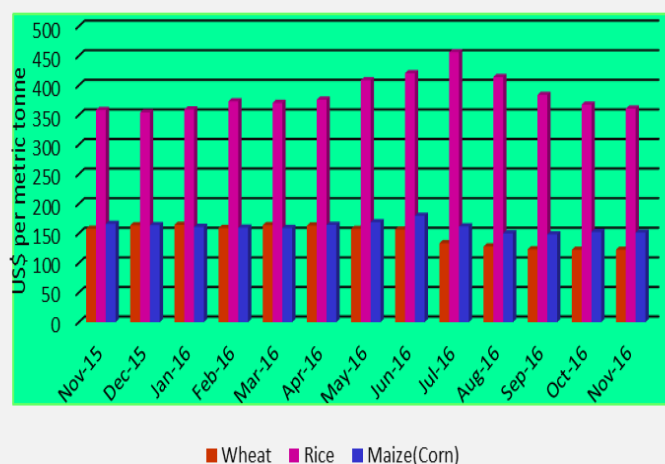
### Corn Prices

For the month ending November 2016, corn prices increased. Prices decreased by **US\$1.28** or **0.84%** relative to October, to close the month at **US\$151.3** per metric tonne. Between November 2015 and November 2016 prices decreased by **US\$14.73** or **8.872%**. A two-year price comparison showed that this year's price was **US\$27.37** or **15.32%** lower. The five-year monthly average for corn prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$219.65** per metric tonne, this means that this year's price was **US\$68.35** or **31.12%** lower.

### Wheat

For the month ending November 2016 wheat prices decreased for the eighth month in a row. This time prices decreased by **US\$0.01** or **0.01%** relative to October 2016 to end at **US\$122.51** per metric tonne. Relative to November 2015, prices have fallen by **US\$35.23** or **22.33%** per metric tonne. A two-year comparison of wheat prices showed that this year's November price was **US\$93.44** or **43.27%** below the November 2014's price. The average five-year monthly prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$244.43** per metric tonne,

Monthly Cereal Price (November 2015 - November 2016)



meaning that this year's November price was **US\$121.92** or **49.88%** below.

### Rice

For the month ending November 2016 the price of the 5 percent broken milled white rice ended at **US\$360.82** per metric tonne. This value was **US\$6.85** or **1.86%** below the **US\$367.67** in October this year. This month's price is above the November 2015 price by **US\$2.44** or **0.6808%**. A two-year comparison revealed that the commodity's price was **US\$58.18** or **13.88%** lower than its price in 2014. The five-year monthly price average for rice prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is **US\$466.46** per metric tonne, indicating that November's price was **US\$105.64** or **22.65%** below the long term average.

### Beef Prices

In November 2016, the beef prices increased. Prices decreased by **US\$0.0238** or **1.32%** when compared to October, to close at **US\$1.8314** cents per pound. When compared to November 2015, prices have risen by

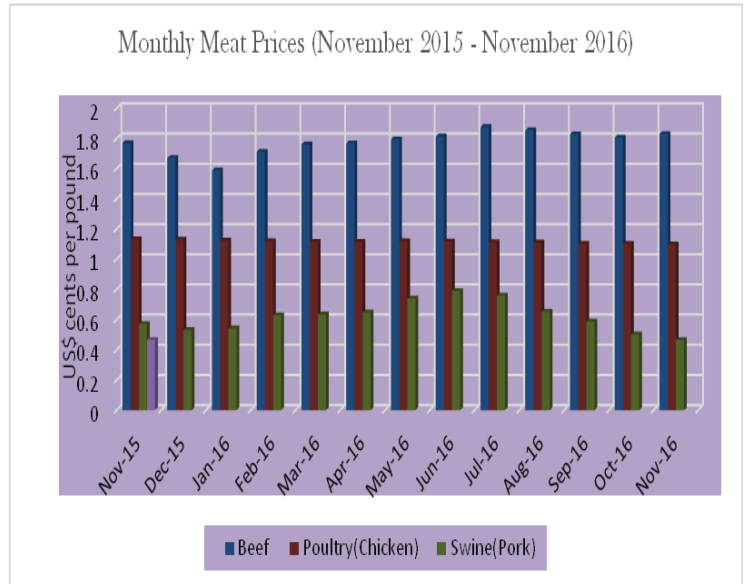
## International Commodity Prices

November 2016

US\$0.0607 or 3.428% cents per pound. In November 2014 prices were US\$2.615 cents per pound hence this year's price was US\$0.7836 or 29.96% below the 2014 price. The five-year average for prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is US\$1.951 cents per pound indicating that this month's price was US\$0.1205 or 6.172% below.

### Swine (Pork) Prices

For the month ending November 2016 the price of pork declined relative to the previous month. The price of pork was US\$0.4661 cents per pound. This represented a US\$0.0362 or 7.21% decrease from October's price of US\$0.5023. When compared with November 2015, prices decreased by



US\$0.1042 or 18.27%. Prices are below the price level 2-years ago by US\$0.3955 or 45.90%. It is also below the 5-year average of US\$0.8165 for prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 by US\$0.3504 or 42.91%.

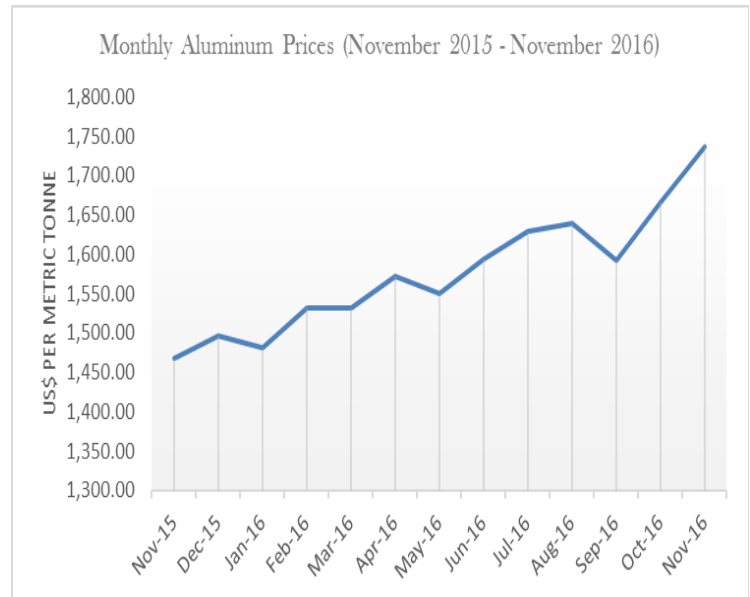
### Poultry Prices

For the month ending November 2016 chicken prices continued to decrease this time for the sixth month in a row. At the end of the month chicken was valued at US\$1.0984 cents per pound, representing a decrease of US\$0.0034 or 0.31% from October. The price in November 2016 was approximately US\$0.0352 or 3.105% lower than the November 2015 price. In November 2014, the price for poultry was US\$1.1393 cents per pound, indicating that this year's price was US\$0.0409 or 3.59% lower. The average monthly price ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 is US\$1.061 cents per pound, this means that this year's price was US\$0.037 or 4-3.478% more.



## Aluminum Prices

The price of aluminum increased in November relative to October this year. Prices increased by US\$71.21 or 4.27% to end the month at US\$1,737.11 per metric tonne. For November 2016 relative to November 2015, prices increased by US\$269.22 or 18.34% per metric tonne. A two-year comparison revealed that this year's price was US\$318.45 or 15% below the price for the corresponding period in 2014. The five-year average for monthly prices ranging from November 2011 to October 2016 for aluminum is US\$1,811.81 per metric tonne, this means that this year's November price was US\$74.70 or 4.12% lower.



## Impact of global prices on Jamaica

There were price reductions observed in **57.14% (12)** of the commodities monitored for November 2016.

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Both the price of Brent and the WTI decreased for the period November relative to October. The Brent declined by **6.62%** and the WTI increased by **8.56%**. Natural gas price decreased by **15.25%** for the period November over October. The IMF's Fuel Energy index decreased by **5.44%**, and the Food and Beverage Index decreased by **0.0140%**. The all commodity price index decreased by **1.22%**. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 171.3 points in November 2016, only 0.4% below its October level, but still 10.4 percent higher than in November 2015. The month-to-month small decline marked a departure from an almost uninterrupted rising trend in the Index since the start of the year. The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 141.4 points in November, down 0.6% from October and as much as 12 points (7.9%) below the previous year's level. The strengthening US dollar and ample supplies contributed to the generally weak tone lingering in cereal markets. The FAO Meat Price Index averaged 161.5 points in November, essentially unchanged from its revised value for October. The FAO sugar price index averaged 287.1 points in November, down nearly 28 points (8.9%) from October and marking the first decline after six consecutive monthly increases. The fall in international sugar prices was largely imputable to a weakening of the Brazilian currency (Real) with respect to the United States Dollar, which stimulated sugar exports from Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer and exporter.

Commodity	Unit	October Price	November Price	Monthly Change %
<b>Aluminum</b>	Metric tonne	1665.9	1737.11	4.27
<b>Bananas</b>	Metric tonne	976.39	959.94	-1.68
<b>Beef</b>	Pound	1.8076	1.8314	1.32
<b>Cocoa Beans</b>	Metric tonne	2711.35	2492	-8.06
<b>Coffee-Arabicas</b>	Pound	1.7862	1.8513	3.64
<b>Coffee-Robusta</b>	Pound	1.0753	1.0694	-0.55
<b>Com-Maize</b>	Metric tonne	152.58	151.3	-0.84
<b>Natural gas</b>	MMBTU	2.95	2.5	-15.25
<b>Crude Brent</b>	Barrel	49.73	46.44	-6.62
<b>Crude West Texas Intermediate</b>	Barrel	49.89	45.62	-8.56
<b>Oranges</b>	Metric tonne	1064.66	1137.77	6.87
<b>Pork (Swine)</b>	Pound	0.5023	0.4661	-7.21
<b>Poultry</b>	Pound	1.1018	1.0984	-0.31
<b>Rice</b>	Metric tonne	367.67	360.82	-1.86
<b>Soybean</b>	Metric tonne	358.39	368.37	2.78
<b>Soybean meal</b>	Metric tonne	337.12	345.7	2.55
<b>Soybean oil</b>	Metric tonne	757.26	772.41	2
<b>Sugar (free market)</b>	Pound	0.2292	0.2087	-8.94
<b>Sugar US ( Import)</b>	Pound	0.2823	0.2876	1.88
<b>Sugar European (Import)</b>	Pound	0.2053	0.2067	0.68
<b>Wheat</b>	Metric tonne	122.52	122.51	-0.01



# International Commodity Prices

November 2016

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
<b>Food</b>																	
<b>Cereals</b>																	
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	408.4	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
<b>Vegetable oils and protein meals</b>																	
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
<b>Meat</b>																	
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
<b>Seafood</b>																	
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
<b>Sugar</b>																	
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
<b>Beverages</b>																	
<b>Coffee</b>																	
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
<b>Agricultural raw materials</b>																	
<b>Timber</b>																	
<b>Hardwood</b>																	
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
<b>Softwood</b>																	
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
<b>Wool</b>																	
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
<b>Metals</b>																	
Copper	\$/MT	7080.2	6795.3	6995.8	6692.3	5833.2	6056.6	5267.1	4884.9	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
<b>Energy</b>																	
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
<b>Natural Gas</b>																	
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
<b>Coal</b>																	
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

November 2016

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				
<b>Food</b>														
<b>Cereals</b>														
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
<b>Vegetable oils and protein meals</b>														
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
<b>Meat</b>														
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
<b>Seafood</b>														
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
<b>Sugar</b>														
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
<b>Beverages</b>														
<b>Coffee</b>														
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
<b>Agricultural raw materials</b>														
<b>Timber</b>														
<b>Hardwood</b>														
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
<b>Softwood</b>														
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
<b>Wool</b>														
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
<b>Metals</b>														
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	15030.0	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
<b>Energy</b>														
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
<b>Natural Gas</b>														
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
<b>Coal</b>														
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.

## Monthly Inflation Rate and Treasury Bill Rates

### Monthly Inflation Rate

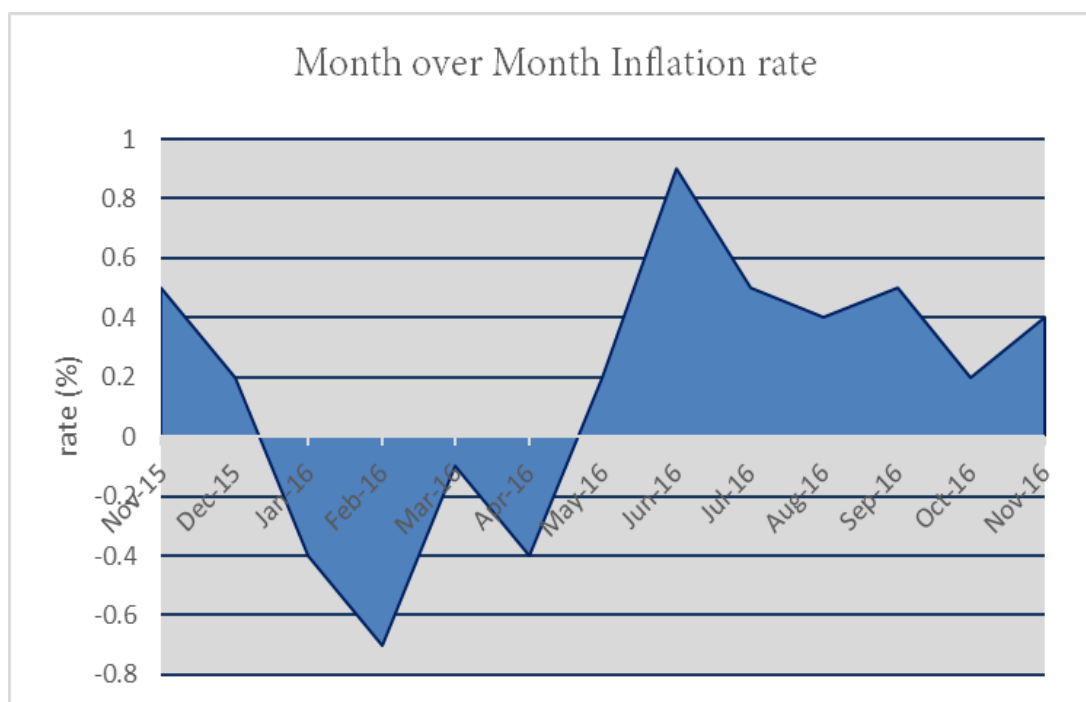
Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by **0.4%** for the period November 2016 over October 2016. The increase in the rate for November brought inflation for the calendar year to date to **1.4%**. The increase in the rate for November 2016 over October 2016 brought inflation for the fiscal year to November to **2.8%**. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of November 2016 was **1.7%**.

According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, the outturn for the month was largely influenced by an increase of 0.5% in the most heavily weighted division ‘Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages’. The increase in this division was primarily due to an increase in the prices of vegetables and starchy

foods. Another influential increase was seen in the division of ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ of 0.7%. The movement for this division was

mainly due to rise in electricity cost. Another significant increase was seen in the division of ‘Education’ of 0.2% which was mainly because of an increase in the cost of examination fees.

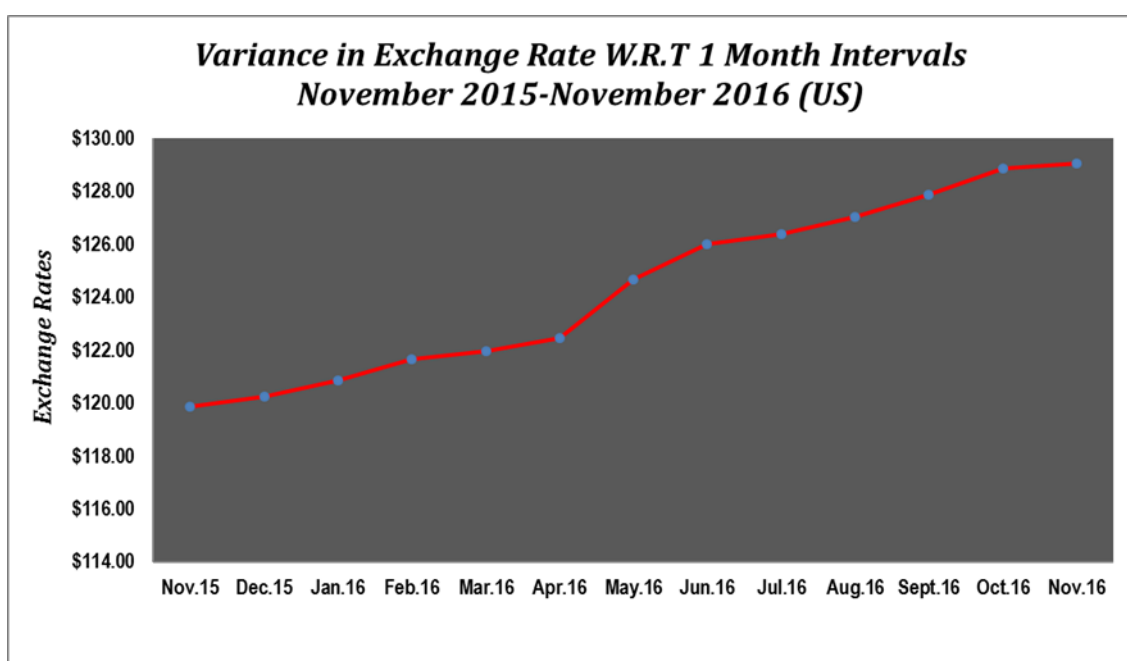
Inflation in all the three regional areas increased for the month of November 2016 relative to October 2016. Inflation for the Greater Kingston Metropolitan area (GKMA), Other Urban Centers (OUC) and Rural Areas increased by 0.5%, 0.3% and 0.3%, respectively.



## Monthly Exchange Rates Update

### JMD:USD

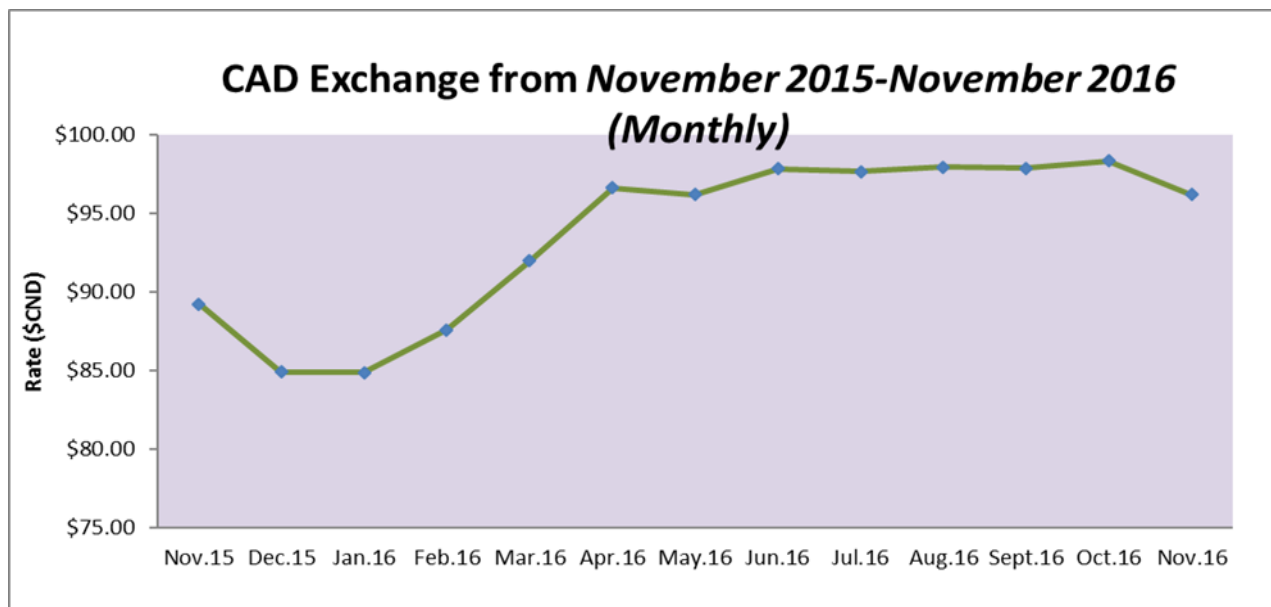
In the analysis of the exchange rates over the period November 2016 to October 2016, the monthly average value of the Jamaican dollar depreciated by **\$0.22** or **0.1707%** relative to the US dollar. As a result, the exchange rate progressed to settle at **US\$1.00=J\$129.07**. A one-year comparison revealed depreciation in the currency ratio of J\$9.21, resulting in an overall increase in the value of the \$US by 7.684%. The month's exchange rate was further compared with the rate of the same month recorded previously in 2014, the comparison showed that there was an increase in the value of the \$US by \$J15.92 (percentage increase of 14.07).



### JMD:CAD

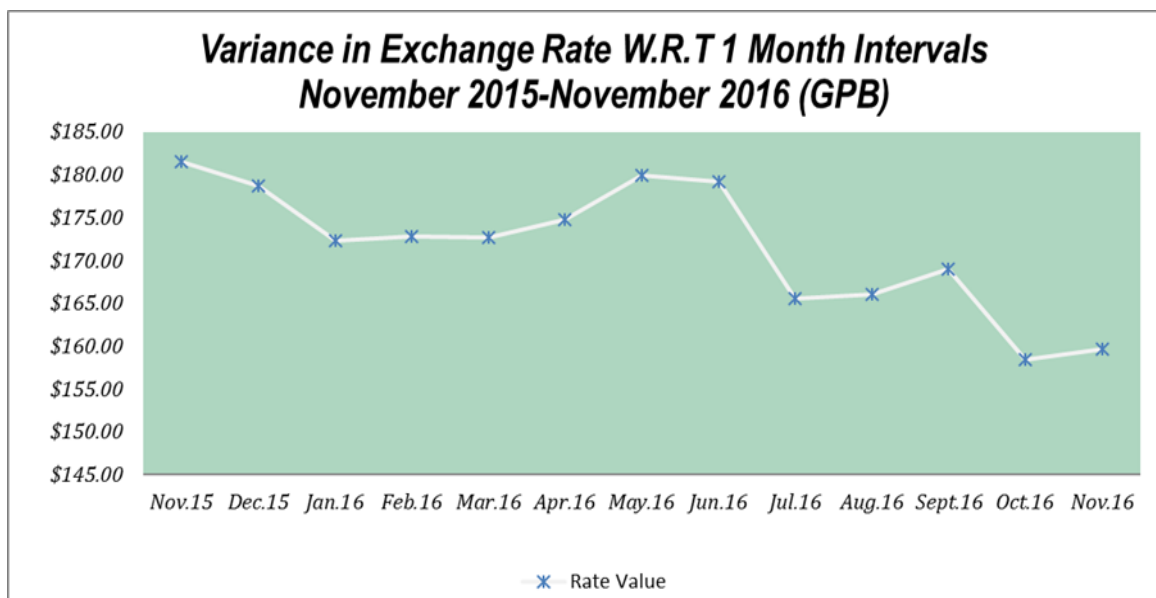
In relation to the exchange rate recorded for the month of November 2016, calculations accentuated the fact that the Jamaican dollar appreciated by **2.176%** (**\$J2.14**) relative to the previous month, October. In this regard the value of the Jamaican dollar to the US dollar at the end of November was **CAD\$1.00=J\$96.18**. The exchange rate of November 2016 was further set side by side with the rate 1 year earlier (November 2015) which revealed that the value of the Jamaican dollar slid by J\$6.97 or 7.813%. Furthermore, calculations comparing the exchange rate values for November 2016 and November 2014 made clear the overall appreciation of the dollar over the 2-year period. This conclusion was made because of the difference in the value of the dollar of \$J3.38 (appreciation of 3.39%).

## Monthly Exchange Rates Update



### JMD:GBP

The exchange rate's monthly variance of **J\$1.31** was seen to exist within the boundaries of October 2016 and November 2016, this indicates that the Jamaican dollar depreciated by some **0.8272%**. The exchange rate at end November was **GBP1.00=J\$159.68** in comparison to the previous month **GBP1.00=J\$158.37**. The annual comparison of the exchange rates for the months November 2015 and November 2016 revealed that the Jamaican dollar appreciated in such a way that there was a decrease in the price of the \$GBP equal to J\$21.27 (11.75%). Further investigation of the exchange rate extending to November 2014 showed that the cost of the Pound decreased by J\$18.83 or 10.55%.



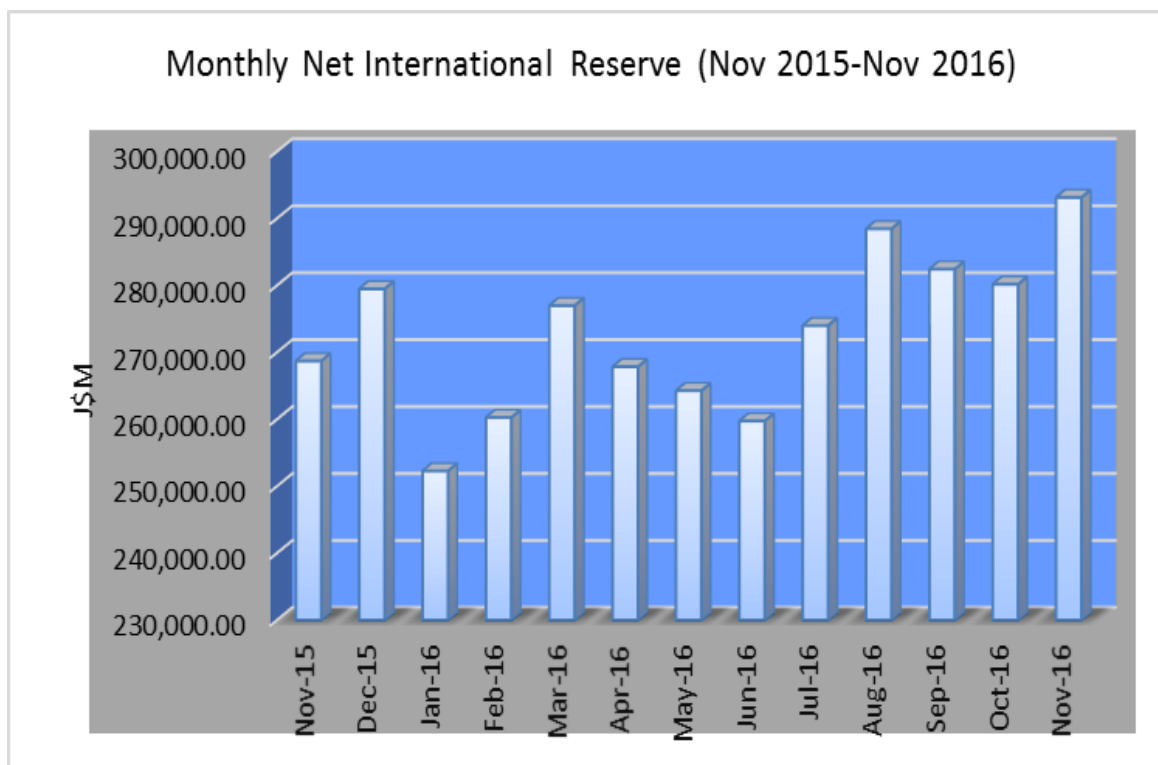
## Net International Reserves & Money Base

November 2016

### Net International Reserves

Data for the month ending November 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was **J\$293.12 billion (US\$ 2,556.43 million)**. This reflected an increase of **J\$12.979 billion (US\$113.21 million)** relative to October 2016. The change in the NIR for the month was due to an increase in foreign assets and a decrease in foreign liabilities. Under the category of foreign asset, two sources increased while one decreased. Currency and Deposit increased by **US\$111.37 million**, Securities increased by **US\$1.01 million** and SDR & IMF Reserve

Position decreased by **US\$7.38 million** to end the month with total foreign asset **US\$3,132.39 million**. This represented a total decrease of **US\$104.99 million**. Under foreign liabilities, IMF expenditures decreased while Other expenses remained unchanged; Payments to IMF decreased by **US\$8.21 million** which was the total increase in foreign liabilities. Foreign liabilities for the month ending was **US\$575.96**. At the end of November, the gross reserves were sufficient to finance **36.55 weeks** of goods imports which represented **24.55 weeks** over the international benchmark of **12 weeks** of goods imports.

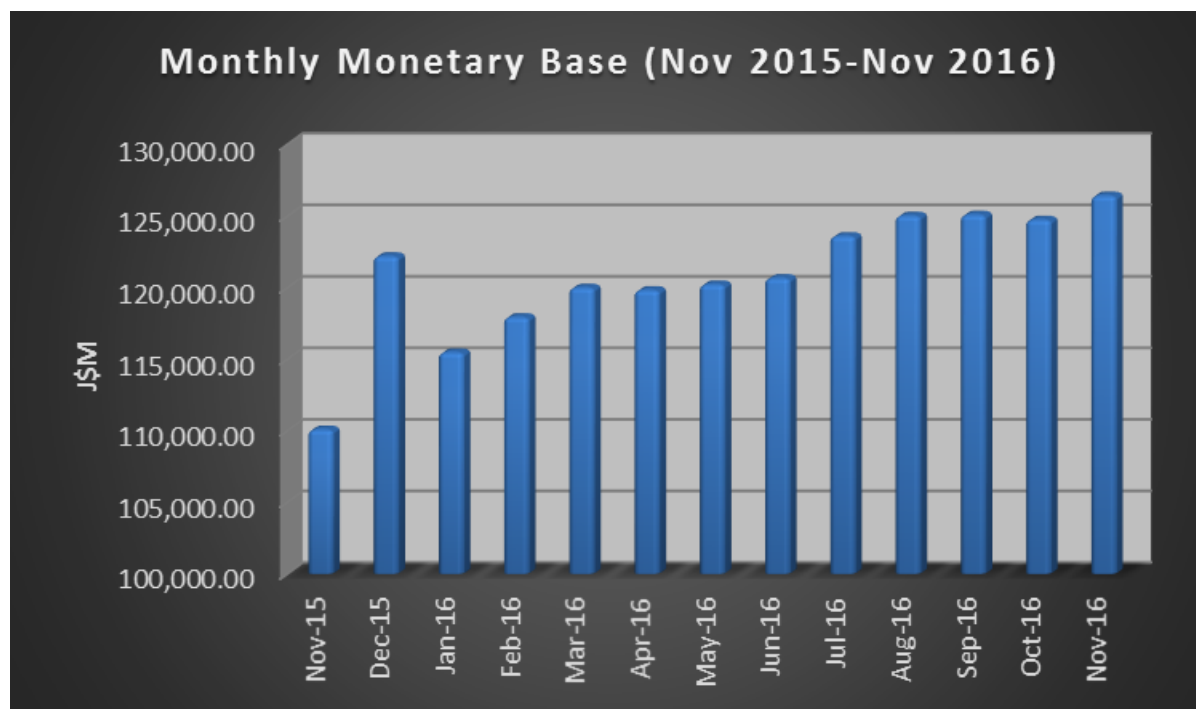


## Net International Reserves & Money Base

November 2016

### Monetary Base

The monetary base increased by **J\$1.682** billion to **J\$126.447** billion for November 2016 relative to October this year. The change in the base reflected increases in Net Currency Issue and the Commercial Banks' Current Account while a decrease was seen in the Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves. Net Currency Issue increased by **J\$1.569** billion to end at **J\$83.954** billion and the Commercial Banks' Current Account increased by **J\$0.386** billion to a total of **J\$0.740** billion. The Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves decreased by **J\$0.273** billion to a total of **J\$41.751** billion.



## Remittance Inflow Update

November 2016

At the end of July 2016, gross remittance inflows were **US\$195.3 million**. This represented an increase of **0.1538%** or **US\$0.3 million** relative to the **US\$195 million** recorded June. When compared to the corresponding month of the previous year gross remittance increased by **US\$5.3 million** or **2.8%**. For July 2016, net remittances were **US\$174.0 million** reflecting a decrease of **US\$0.5 million** or **0.2865%** relative to June this year. When compared to the corresponding period of 2015, net remittances increased by **US\$6.0 million** or **3.6%**. Total net remittances for January to July were **US\$1 186.0 million**, which represented a growth of **US\$32.5 million** or **2.8%** relative to the corresponding period of 2015. Total remittance inflows for the first quarter of 2016 was **US\$1 320.3 million**, representing an increase of **US\$37.1**

**million** or **2.9%** relative to the previous year. These inflows were above the average of **US\$1212.6 million** for the previous five corresponding periods. The increase in total remittance inflows reflected an increase of **US\$20 million** or **1.8%** inflows through remittance companies and an increase of **US\$17.1 million** or **10.1%** in Other Remittances.

For the fiscal year 2015/16 to July, total remittance inflows increased by **\$28.0 million** or **3.7%** to **US\$783.0 million** relative to the corresponding period of last year. Net remittance inflows also increased for the fiscal year 2015/16 to June relative to last year. Net remittance inflow rose by **US\$27.4 million** or **4.0%** to **US\$709.9 million** relative to the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

JAMAICA'S REMITTANCES				
(US\$MN)				
	2015 July	2016 July	Change	% Change
Total Remittance Inflows	190	195.3	5.3	2.8
Remittance Companies	167.1	167.6	0.5	0.3
Other Remittances	23	27.8	4.8	20.9
Total Remittance Outflows	22.1	21.3	-0.7	-3.4
Net Remittances	167.9	174	6	3.6



## Tourism

November 2016

Stopover tourist arrivals for October 2016 were **135,467**. This month's total was **15,127** or **12.57%** higher than the **120,340** in September this year. October's total represented an increase of **0.9%** compared to the **134,317** recorded in the same month last year. For the months May to October, arrivals were up 2.6%, with 1,014,971 stopovers compared to 989,033 in 2015. For the January to October period, arrivals increased by **2.4%**, with **1,788,079** stopovers compared to **1,745,496** in 2015.

For October 2016, the changes reflected in the total stopovers observed in the seven categories of destination varied. Out of the seven categories three recorded increase in numbers while four recorded decreases when compared to October 2015. Increases in arrivals were reflected in stopovers from the Latin America, Europe, and the Canada with **26.6%**, **10.5%** and **1.3%** respectively.

The overall impact of increases was offset by decreases in arrivals from the Caribbean, Other

Countries, Asia and the United States. Stopover arrivals decreased by **8.3%**, **8.1%**, **7.6%** and **1.6%** for the Caribbean, Other Countries, Asia and the United States respectively. Of the Other Countries, once again Australia provided the most stopover arrivals to Jamaica, with 2,116 visitors in 2016 compared to 2,430 in 2015. The market share for stopover visitors for the January to October 2016 was as follows: USA **65.2%**; Canada **16.5%**; the UK **9.4%**; Continental Europe **3.8%**, the Caribbean **3.0%**; and the others, including Latin America and Asia **2.0%**.

A total of **90,233** cruise passengers visited Jamaica in October 2016. This represented a **4,200** or **4.88%** overall increase compared to the **86,033** recorded in the previous month. For the corresponding period in 2015 total cruise passengers was **87,719** hence this year's total was **2.9%** more.

The January to October 2016 period saw **1,313,841** cruise passenger arrivals at the three major ports, an increase of **109,609** or **9.1%** compared to the corresponding period last year.



## Stock Market Update

November 2016

On the last trading day in November 2016, for the period November 01, 2016 to November 30, 2016, the main JSE index advanced by **11,902.46 points** or **7.14%** to close at **178,661.73 points**. The JSE Combined Index advanced by **10,963.28 points** or **6.10%** to close at **190,643.03 points**. The JSE Junior declined by **7.27 points** or **0.30%** to close at **2,429.13 points**. The JSE Cross Listed Index advanced by **1,447.29 points** or **290.00%** to close at **1,946.35 points**.

Overall, the market activity in November resulted from trading in thirty-five (**35**) stocks of which **21** advanced, **10** declined and **4** traded firm. In total **119,428,172.00 units** of stock were traded during the month, which had a total value of **J\$2,764,186,328.51**. This resulted in market capitalization of **J\$642,689,654,768.00 billion** as at end November 2016.

Gracekennedy Limited was the volume leader for the month with **29,524,276 units** amounting to **24.72%** of the market volume. Second was Supreme Ventures Limited, which traded **18,796,328 units** amounting to **15.74%** of the

market volume. Next in line was National Commercial Bank Jamaica Ltd. with a total of **11,699,349 units** amounting to **9.80%** of the market volume.

The top four advancing stocks for the month of November were the Trinidad Cement Limited (**290.00%**), Barita Investments Limited (**23.60%**), Pulse Investments Limited (**18.18%**) and National Commercial Bank Jamaica (**14.71%**). The top four declining stocks were, Cable Wireless Jamaica Limited (**11.76%**), Radio Jamaica Limited (**10.34%**), Caribbean Cement Company Limited (**8.56%**) and Berger Paints (Jamaica) Limited (**8.49%**).

For the calendar year to date, the top four advancing stocks were Trinidad Cement Limited (**290.00%**), Palace Amusement (1921) Company Limited (**124.68%**), Berger Paints (Jamaica) Limited (**71.88%**) and Kingston Wharves Limited (**67.25%**). Meanwhile, the top four declining stocks for the calendar year to date were Cable Wireless Jamaica Limited (**45.65%**), Ciboney Group Limited (**19.05%**), Mayberry Investments Limited (**15.86%**) and 1834 Investments Limited (**7.69%**).

## Previous Highlights: September 2016 Summary

November 2016

- At the end of October 2016, the monthly average value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated against the US dollar. However, the value of the dollar appreciated against the Canadian dollar and the Great Britain Pound. The Dollar depreciated against the US\$ by J\$0.98 or 0.7664% to end at J\$128.85=US\$1.00. The value of the Canadian dollar appreciated by J\$1.61 or 1.645% to end at CAD\$1.00=J\$96.24. The value of the Great Britain pound appreciated by J\$10.57 or 6.256% to end at GBP1.00=J\$158.37.
- Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.2% for the period October 2016 over September 2016. The increase in the rate for October brought inflation for the calendar year to date to 1.1%. The increase in the rate for October 2016 over September 2016 brought inflation for the fiscal year to October to 2.4%. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of October 2016 was 1.8%.
- Data for the month ending October 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$280.14 billion (US\$ 2,443.23 million). This reflected a decrease of J\$2.27 billion (US\$19.78 million) relative to September 2016.
- The monetary base decreased by J\$0.348 billion to J\$124.76 billion for October 2016 relative to September this year.
- On the last trading day in October 2016, for the period October 04, 2016 to October 31, 2016, the main JSE index advanced by 2,277.02 points or 1.38% to close at 166,759.27 points. The JSE Combined Index advanced by 2,589.31 points or 1.46% to close at 179,679.75 points. The JSE Junior advanced by 46.50 points or 1.95% to close at 2,436.40 points. In contrast, once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at 499.06 points.
- For the month of September 2016 relative to the previous month, yields on the Government of Jamaica 30-day and 182-day treasury bills decreased by 11bps and 6bps. Yields on the 90-day treasury bill, however, increased by 13bps for the same period.
- The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased for September relative to August this year. The weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased by

## Previous Highlights: September 2016 Summary

November 2016

- 11bps to end the month at 16.22% relative to 16.33% from the previous month. The weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits for the month ending decreased by 7bps for the period September relative to August. In this regard, weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits moved from 1.45% in August to 1.39% in September this year. Foreign currency loans rate increased relative to August 2016. The foreign currency loan rate decreased by 5bps. In this regard the rate moved from 7.15% in August, to 7.10% in September. Interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased by 12bps moving from 1.84% in August to 1.72% in September.
- Stopover tourist arrivals for August 2016 were 169,023. For the January to August period, arrivals increased by 2.4%, with 1,532,272 stopovers compared to 1,496,899 in 2015. A total of 99,677 cruise passengers visited Jamaica in August, 2016. This represented a 11,662 or 13.25% overall increase compared to the 88,015 recorded in the previous month. The January to August 2016 period saw 1,137,575 cruise passenger arrivals.
- At the end of June 2016 gross remittance inflows were US\$195.0 million. This represented an increase of 0.257% or US\$0.5 million relative to the US\$194.5 million recorded May. For June 2016, net remittances were US\$174.5 million reflecting a decrease of US\$3.2 million or 1.80% relative to May this year. Total net remittances for January to June were US\$1 011.8 million.
- There were price reductions observed in 47.61% (10) of the commodities monitored for October 2016. Both the price of Brent and the WTI increased for the period October relative to September. The Brent moved up by 7.66% and the WTI increased by 10.45%. Natural gas price decreased by 0.67% for the period October over September. The IMF's Fuel Energy index increased by 10.07%, and the Food and Beverage Index increased by 0.7112%. The all commodity price index decreased by 5.717%.

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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November 2016

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