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Jamaica's Net International Reserves Up by 10.05% in March 2021

According to the Bank of Jamaica, Jamaica's Net International Reserves (NIR) increased by US\$303.15 million or 10.05% in March 2021 to US\$3.32 billion and is currently at the highest level in over a year. The movement in the NIR in March was driven by an increase in foreign assets and a simultaneous decline in foreign liabilities. Foreign assets increased by US\$273.06 million, which was primarily due to an increase in currency and deposits, while foreign liabilities declined by US\$30.09 million as a result of reduced liabilities to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Year-to-date, Jamaica' NIR has increased by 6.02% and at the current level, represents more than 38 weeks of goods and services imports, which is higher than the 12-weeks benchmark.

At the current level, Jamaica's NIR has surpassed the pre-pandemic level recorded in February 2020 by over 6.0% and indicates that the country continues to recover from COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic remittance inflows to Jamaica have been very strong and may have been a large factor in the country's strong reserves. With the robust vaccination programmes being rolled out in in Jamaica's main trading partner countries and the recent large stimulus provided by the US government to its citizens, we anticipate that remittances could remain strong in at least the short term. However, considering the current spike in new COVID-19 cases locally and the lockdown measures implemented to curtail the spike, risks continue to be skewed to the downside and will likely weigh on tourism inflows and general business activities, especially if lockdown measures are tightened in the coming weeks. Notwithstanding, we anticipate that the NIR will likely remain at a sustainable level over the short-term excluding further external shocks to the local economy.



Foreign Exchange Market

Currency	8-Apr	7-Apr	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	148.43	147.72	0.48%	11.96%
GBP:JMD	206.28	205.33	0.46%	6.5 %
CAD:JMD	120.09	117.46	2.23%	19.9%

Caribbean & Latam

 Latin American currencies rose on Thursday as dovish signals from the Federal Reserve weakened the dollar and U.S. treasury yields, inviting more buying into risk-driven assets.

USA & Canada

• The S&P 500 hit a record high on Thursday, as Treasury yields fell following softer-than-anticipated labor market data and helped lift technology and other growth stocks.

Europe

 European markets ended on a firm note on Thursday amid optimism about global economic recovery thanks to some upbeat data out of the U.S., Europe and Asia, and the recent upward revision in global growth projections by the International Monetary Fund.

<u>Asia</u>

 Asian share markets lagged behind on Thursday as U.S. stock futures hit new peaks after the Federal Reserve underlined its commitment to keeping policy super loose even as the economy enjoys a rapid recovery.

•		Local I	Equity M	arket		
Stock In	dex	Today's close	DoD Δ	DoD% Δ	YTD % Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ
SE Combined Index		395,688.31	493.20	0.12%	0.83%	1.40%
JSE Index		394,522.77	213.26	0.05%	-0.28%	0.23%
All Jamaican Composite Index		433,000.56	233.35	0.05%	-0.12%	0.20%
SE Select Index		9,759.19	32.95	0.34%	0.17%	-3.55%
Junior Market Index		3,040.03	27.15	0.90%	15.01%	16.59%
		BEST AND WO	ORST PERFO	ORMERS		
	ADVANC	ERS		DE	CLINERS	
KREMI	I 5.06 %		V	MIL	-5.29%	
PURITY	13.64%		EFRESH		ESH -5.05%	
SILUS	6.93%		S	CIUS	-4.58%	

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of **78** stocks, of which **38** advanced, **23** declined and **17** traded firm.

International Markets

International Equity Markets				International Currency Market					
Index	8-Apr	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ	Currency	8-Apr	DoD % A	YTD% A	YoY%
S&P 500	4,097.17	0.42%	9.08%	48.99%	Currency	U-Api		ΠD/λΔ	101/02
Dow Jones	33,503.57	0.17%	9.47%	42.97%	EUR: USD	1.1916	0.40%	-2.46 %	9.74%
FTSE All Share	3,960.97	0.75%	7.82%	26.14%	GBP: USD	1.37	-0.01%	0.48%	10.92%
Euro Stoxx 50	3,977.83	0.53%	II. 97 %	39.51%					
Nikkei 225	29,708.98	-0.07%	8.25%	53.51%	USD: CAD	1.26	-0.37%	-1.28%	-10.35%
MSCI World Index	692.56	0.48%	7.16%	49.81%	USD: JPY	109.27	-0.53%	5.83%	0.40%
	Global In	terest Rates	;			Co	mmodities	;	
Rates	8-Ар	• DoD Abps	YTD ∆bps	YoY Abps	Commodity	8-Apr	DoD % A	YTD% Δ	YoY% 4
10 -Year US Treasury Bo	ond 1.62%	-5.00	71.00	85.00	Crude Oil	59.84	0.12%	23.33%	138.50 %
10-Year UK Gilt	0.75%	0.75% -2.00	55.00	37.00	Gold	1,755.97	1.05%	-7.50 %	6.67%
					Silver	25.46	1.24%	-3.57%	70.19%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	3.50%	-1.00	5.00	-295.00	Aluminium	2,282.50	1.00%	15.31%	55.75%

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

Mutual Funds

JN MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund Managers Ltd.

April 7, 2021

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Yield 12 Months YTD Growth (Estimated Yearly **JN Mutual Funds NAV Price Growth Rate** Rate Income) Global Diversified Income 2.09% 2.58% 0.16% **|\$|3.8630 Global Equity** 4.77% \$15.0684 0.08% 0.00% **Global Fixed Income** \$12.8452 5.52% 1.49% 5.14% Global Money Market (US\$) 3.56% US\$10.7085 0.85% 3.70% Global Fixed Income (US\$) 10.57% -0.91% 4.55% US\$10.9135 Local Money Market \$11.1829 4.46% 1.38% 4.15% **Global Money Market Local Money Market Global Diversified Global Fixed Income Funds Global Equity Fund** Fund Fund **Income Fund** To preserve capital whilst To preserve capital whilst To achieve an attractive total To provide long-term To provide long-term capital Objective providing US dollar (US\$) providing Jamaican Dollar investment growth through return through capital injection and growth and risk (|\$) money market returns exposure to a diversified diversification. money market returns income growth. This is offered range of asset classes. through two separate Funds: (i) A Jamaican dollar (1\$) and (ii) A US dollar (US\$) fund. To invest in local and global To invest in fixed income, Strategy To invest in local and global To invest in regional, sovereign To invest in the shares of money market instruments money market instruments debt securities, local and high dividend yielding stocks, local and international for safety and liquidity and **REITs** and structured products for safety, liquidity and international corporate bonds. companies which offer yield. yield strong growth possibilities and consistent income

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

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