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### Bank of Jamaica Holds Policy Rate at 0.5% in December 2020

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) announced its decision to hold the policy rate at the historic low of 0.5% per annum on December 18, 2020. The policy rate is the rate offered to deposit-taking institutions on overnight placements with the BOJ. The central bank noted that they intend to maintain this monetary policy stance until there are strong indications that economic activity in Jamaica is returning to pre-COVID-19 levels. Additionally, the BOJ anticipates that inflation will likely average 5.3% over the next two years and, for the most part, remain within the 4.0% to 6.0% target range. This inflation forecast was based on their expectation for higher agricultural food prices stemming from the recent flood rains, which affected crop yield; higher international commodity prices; and higher regulated utility prices. Higher than expected inflationary pressures on food and international oil and grains prices could cause the inflation rate to be higher than forecast, but lower than forecast if demand conditions are weaker than projected.

The ongoing challenges in containing the virus leave the economic outlook uncertain despite positive developments with respect to vaccines over the last few weeks. However, the central bank remains cautiously optimistic and will continue to monitor developments. The BOJ forecasts a contraction between 10% and 12% for Jamaica in FY 2020/21 with a partial recovery between 3.0% and 6.0% in FY 2021/22. Their assessment suggests that the risks to the economic outlook are skewed to the downside and further implies that the economy's recovery may be slower than expected over the next two years. On the upside, however, if the COVID-19 pandemic is effectively contained possibly through a successful vaccination programme, the economy is likely to recover at a faster pace than expected.



## Foreign Exchange Market

Currency	21-Dec	18-Dec	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% $\Delta$
USD:JMD	143.95	144.19	-0.16%	8.59%
GBP:JMD	192.11	194.27	-1.11%	11.9%
CAD:JMD	111.51	111.87	-0.32%	11.3%

#### Caribbean & Latam

 Latin American assets were hit on Monday as investors preferred the safety of the dollar after the UK imposed tough restrictions to fight a highly infectious new coronavirus strain.

#### **USA & Canada**

 A gauge of equities around the world fell on Monday and oil prices plunged as concerns about a new coronavirus strain in Britain overshadowed optimism over a vaccine-fueled rebound in economic growth.

### **Europe**

European shares fell on Monday in their worst session in almost two months as the rapid spread of a new strain of the coronavirus forced more stringent curbs in Britain and travel bans from several countries.

#### Asia

 China stocks closed higher on Monday, as investors cheered Beijing's continued policy support to shore up its economy hurt by the coronavirus crisis.

# **Local Equity Market**

Stock Index	Today's close	<b>DoD</b> Δ	DoD% ∆	YTD % ∆	ΥοΥ% Δ
JSE Combined Index	386,875.97	2,205.73	0.57%	-23.43%	-22.54%
JSE Index	390,163.47	2,168.39	0.56%	-23.48%	-22.62%
All Jamaican Composite Index	427,530.58	2,558.91	0.60%	-23.64%	-22.82%
JSE Select Index	9,610.95	107.20	1.13%	-26.44%	-26.11%
Junior Market Index	2,592.67	19.62	0.76%	-22.58%	-21.33%

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS					
	ADVANCERS		DECLINERS		
ICREATE	14.55%	<b></b>	KPREIT	-14.34%	
MAILPAC	11.67%		SSLVC	-10.17%	
CBNY	11.11%		SALF	-9.74%	

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of **79** stocks, of which **30** advanced, **29** declined and **20** traded firm.

### **International Markets**

International Equity Markets						
Index	21-Dec	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% ∆	<b>ΥοΥ</b> % Δ		
S&P 500	3,694.92	-0.39%	14.37%	14.71%		
Dow Jones	30,216.45	0.12%	5.88%	6.19%		
FTSE All Share	3,624.30	-1.78%	-13.63%	-13.84%		
Euro Stoxx 50	3,448.68	-2.74%	-7.92%	-8.68%		
Nikkei 225	26,714.42	-0.18%	12.93%	12.17%		
MSCI World Index	634.60	-0.81%	12.27%	12.72%		

International Currency Market						
Currency	21-Dec	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% ∆	<b>YoY%</b> ∆		
EUR: USD	1.2244	-0.11%	9.19%	10.52%		
GBP: USD	1.3464	-0.44%	1.56%	3.58%		
USD: CAD	1.2857	0.54%	-1.02%	-2.31%		
USD: JPY	103.32	0.02%	-4.87%	-5.59%		

Global Interest Rates						
Rates	21-Dec	DoD ∆bps	YTD ∆bps	YoY ∆bps		
10 -Year US Treasury Bond	0.93%	-1.16	-98.29	-98.25		
10-Year UK Gilt	0.21%	-4.40	-61.70	-57.70		
GOI 2025 Global Bond	3.52%	-4.50	-33.80	-35.80		

	Con	nmodities		
Commodity	21-Dec	DoD % $\Delta$	YTD% ∆	<b>ΥοΥ</b> % Δ
Crude Oil	47.74	-2.77%	-21.81%	-21.01%
Gold	1,876.89	-0.24%	23.70%	26.97%
Silver	26.17	1.39%	46.59%	52.16%
Aluminium	2,020.50	-1.75%	11.63%	12.25%



# **JN MUTUAL**



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JAL FUNDS	i una managers ccu.
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JN Mutu	al Funds	NAV Pri	12 Months ce Growth Rat		Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global I	Diversified Income	J\$13.667	6 -6.21%	-6.40%	2.29%
Global I	Equity	J\$14.709	-17.13%	-18.65%	0.00%
Global I	ixed Income	J\$12.655	5.38%	5.61%	5.03%
Global I	Money Market (US	US\$10.60	3.39%	3.33%	3.66%
Global I	ixed Income (US\$)	US\$10.97	<b>6.27</b> %	6.18%	4.76%
Local M	oney <b>M</b> arket	J\$11.040	3.85%	3.78%	4.12%
	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Income	Funds Global Diversif	Global Equity Fund
Objective	To preserve capital whilst providing US dollar (US\$) money market returns	To preserve capital whilst providing Jamaican Dollar (J\$) money market returns	To achieve an attractive to return through capital injecting income growth. This is offethrough two separate Function (i) A Jamaican dollar (J\$) are (ii) A US dollar (US\$) fund.	ered exposure to a diversifies: range of asset classes.	rough growth and risk ied diversification.
Strategy	To invest in local and global money market instruments for safety, liquidity and yield.	To invest in local and global money market instruments for safety and liquidity and yield	To invest in regional, sover debt securities, local and international corporate bo	high dividend yielding	stocks, local and international

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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