

US small business sentiment up, but labour, inflation worries persist

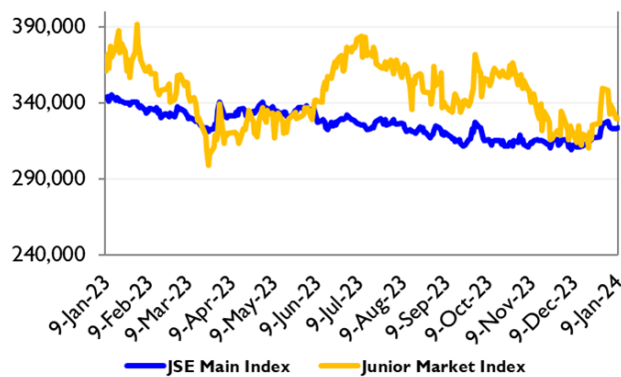
The United States (US) small business sentiment rose for the first time in five months in December, a survey published on Tuesday showed, but hiring costs and ongoing concerns around inflation continue to sour business owners' confidence. The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) index rose to 91.9 in December from November's 90.6. It was the first increase since July and matched that month's reading, but it held below its 50-year average of 98 for a 24th straight month. Conditions have tracked the Federal Reserve's most aggressive rate hike campaign since the 1980s, launched in 2022, during which small business owners have described tightened credit conditions.

A net negative 25% of businesses reported improved profits in December, a 7 point increase from the month prior, with labour costs continuing to weigh on earnings, the report said. Inflation was the top problem for owners, and the share of owners reporting inflation as their main concern rose to a seasonally adjusted 23%. The jump comes after US consumer prices unexpectedly rose by 0.1% in November, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data showed.

On a 12-month basis, prices in November edged up by 3.1% driven in part by a resurgence in the prices of cars and trucks, the BLS data said. Uncertainty around future economic conditions has also eroded the business outlook, the NFIB report said. The share of business owners citing labour quality as their greatest concern fell four points to 20%, while labour costs rose slightly as an area of worry. The portion of owners expecting better business conditions on a six-month basis rose 6 points to a net negative of 36% in December.

Source: Reuters

Local Market Indices



Foreign Exchange Market

Currency	9-Jan	8-Jan	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	155.72	155.61	0.07%	0.50%
GBP:JMD	195.07	197.98	-1.47%	-1.22%
CAD:JMD	116.65	121.16	-3.72%	-1.06%

Caribbean & Latam

- Latin American stocks fell more than 1% on Tuesday, dragged down by Mexican shares after data showed a rise in domestic headline inflation, while the Chilean peso hovered around nearly two-month lows, extending declines from the previous session.

USA & Canada

- The S&P 500 and Dow Industrials slipped on Tuesday, pressured by a modest rise in Treasury yields as investors assess the timing and size of the Federal Reserve's interest rate cuts in 2024 ahead of inflation data this week.

Europe

- European equities slipped on Tuesday, weighed by the losses in technology and financial stocks, with investors anticipating more economic data to assess the European Central Bank's monetary policy for the year.

Asia

- Most emerging Asian currencies and stocks edged higher on Tuesday, with the Thai baht and South Korean won leading gains, as traders awaited inflation data from the U.S. for clues on the Federal Reserve's monetary policy stance this year.

Local Equity Market

Stock Index	Today's close	DoD Δ	DoD% Δ	YTD % Δ	YoY% Δ
JSE Combined Index	336,013.76	503.65	0.15%	-0.93%	-5.69%
JSE Index	323,288.33	554.13	0.17%	-0.74%	-5.89%
All Jamaican Composite Index	360,920.75	900.26	0.25%	-1.66%	-7.48%
JSE Select Index	7,935.95	19.84	0.25%	-2.27%	-7.41%
Junior Market Index	3,747.53	-1.83	-0.05%	-2.62%	-4.00%

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS

ADVANCERS		DECLINERS	
CBNY	20.77%	KLE	-24.50%
SALF	19.70%	ISP	-21.02%
KEX	18.31%	ICREATE	-15.38%

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of **93** stocks, of which **37** advanced, **42** declined and **14** traded firm.

International Markets

International Equity Markets					International Currency Market				
Index	9-Jan	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ	Currency	9-Jan	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
S&P 500	4,756.46	-0.15%	-0.28%	22.21%	EUR: USD	1.0929	-0.19%	-1.00%	1.85%
Dow Jones	37,525.16	-0.42%	-0.44%	11.96%	GBP: USD	1.27	-0.33%	-0.20%	4.28%
FTSE All Share	4,196.15	-0.19%	-0.85%	-0.60%	USD: CAD	1.34	0.36%	1.16%	0.05%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,467.17	-0.41%	-1.20%	9.80%	USD: JPY	144.50	0.19%	2.45%	9.57%
Nikkei 225	33,763.18	1.16%	17.27%	29.99%					
MSCI World Index	719.82	-0.27%	-0.99%	15.74%					

Global Interest Rates					Commodities				
Rates	9-Jan	DoD Δbps	YTD Δbps	YoY Δbps	Commodity	9-Jan	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
10 -Year US Treasury Bond	4.02%	-1.00	14.00	49.00	Crude Oil	72.21	2.03%	0.78%	-3.24%
10-Year UK Gilt	3.78%	1.00	24.00	25.00	Gold	2,029.35	0.06%	-1.63%	8.42%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	6.51%	0.00	247.00	7.00	Silver	22.96	-0.64%	-3.50%	-2.91%
					Aluminium	2,249.50	0.58%	-5.64%	-7.75%



Mutual Funds

Fund Managers Ltd.

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JN MUTUAL FUNDS

January 8, 2024

JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$13.4185	4.04%	-0.44%	3.21%
Global Equity	J\$14.2664	-1.25%	-1.30%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J\$14.9928	8.39%	0.25%	7.15%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$11.5550	1.37%	0.06%	3.05%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$11.4578	0.01%	0.01%	3.00%
Local Money Market	J\$13.0657	7.76%	0.22%	7.43%

	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Income Funds	Global Diversified Income Fund	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 total return through capital injection and income growth. This is offered through two separate Funds: (i) A Jamaican dollar (J\$) and (ii) A US dollar (US\$) fund.	To provide long-term investment growth through exposure to a diversified range of asset classes.	To provide long-term capital growth and risk 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, sovereign debt securities, local and international corporate bonds.	To invest in fixed income, high dividend yielding stocks, REITs and structured products	To invest in the shares of local and international companies which offer 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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