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# Jamaica's Inflation Increases by 6.2 per cent for February 2024

According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), the All-Jamaica Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a decrease of 0.6 per cent for the month of February 2024. This movement in inflation was primarily driven by a decrease in the Index for the 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' division (down by 1.1 per cent). This was as a result of lower prices in class for agricultural produce such as yam, sweet potato, escallion, cabbage, carrot, and tomato due to increased supplies. Also, contributing to the increased monthly reading was a 1.6 per cent fall in the index for the 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' division, primarily due to a reduction in the electricity rates which resulted in a 4.7 per cent fall in the 'Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' index. The overall inflation rate for February 2024 experienced a slight moderation, influenced by a 0.3 per cent increase in the transportation division's index. This was driven by a 1.1 per cent rise in the 'Operation of Personal Transport' index group, attributed to higher petrol prices.

As of February 2024, the point-to-point inflation rate was 6.2 per cent, influenced by advances in the following divisions: 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' (7.7 per cent), 'Transport' (9.6 per cent) and 'Restaurants and Accommodation' (8.2 per cent). While inflation declined in February, it remains above the BOJ's target band of 4% to 6%. Additionally, with a further increase in PPV fares scheduled for April, inflation is expected to remain above target for the medium term.



### **Foreign Exchange Market**

Currency	18-Mar	15-Mar	<b>DoD % A</b>	<b>YTD%</b> $\Delta$
USD:JMD	154.83	154.90	-0.04%	-0.07%
GBP:JMD	195.54	200.18	-2.32%	-0.98%
CAD:JMD	114.09	115.92	-1. <b>59</b> %	-3.23%

#### **Caribbean & Latam**

Latin American currencies weakened on Monday as the dollar firmed amid concerns the Federal Reserve will keep interest rates higher for longer, though stock markets in the region got a lift from rising commodity prices following upbeat China data.

#### **USA & Canada**

Wall Street's main indexes rose on Monday, with a rally in megacap growth stocks such as Alphabet and Tesla supporting a sharp recovery in the tech-laden Nasdaq ahead of the U.S. Federal Reserve's meeting this week.

#### Europe

European shares edged higher on Monday, supported by strength in commodity-linked stocks, although investor caution ahead of euro zone inflation data curbed gains.

#### **Asia**

Asian shares firmed on Monday as Chinese data surprised on the upside for once, while investors looked to navigate a minefield of central bank meetings this week that could see the end of free money in Japan and a slower glide path for U.S. rate cuts.

Local Equity Market								
Stock Inc	dex	Today's close	<b>DoD</b> Δ	<b>DoD%</b> $\Delta$	<b>YTD %</b> $\Delta$	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ		
JSE Combined Index		343,170.91	1,282.72	0.38%	1.18%	1.56%		
JSE Index		330,255.57	1,460.26	0.44%	I.40%	1.47%		
All Jamaican Composi	te Index	369,462.42	1,665.47	0.45%	0.67%	0.36%		
JSE Select Index		8,188.04	-27.33	-0.33%	0.84%	1.89%		
Junior Market Index		3,818.66	-9.91	-0.26%	-0.77%	2.21%		
		BEST AND WO	ORST PERFO	ORMERS				
	ADVANC	ERS		DE	CLINERS			
TTECH	17.96%		١	1TL	-12.38%			
SRFUSD	15.04%		I	νTL	-12.34%			
KW	12.00%		GV	VEST	-12.24%			

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of 104 stocks, of which 42 advanced, 42 declined and 20 traded firm.

## **International Markets**

h	nternationa	Equity Ma	International Currency Market						
Index	18-Mar	<b>DoD %</b> $\Delta$	<b>YTD%</b> $\Delta$	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ	Currency	18-Mar	<b>DoD % A</b>	<b>YTD%</b> $\Delta$	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ
S&P 500	5,149.42	0.63%	7.96%	31.48%	EUR: USD	1.087	-0.17%	-1.53%	1.87%
Dow Jones	38,790.43	0.20%	2.92%	21.75%	GBP: USD	1.27	-0.08%	-0.04%	4.54%
FTSE All Share	4,218.89	-0.08%	- <b>0.3</b> 1%	5.27%	GBF: USD	1.27	-0.00%	-0.04%	4.34%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,982.76	-0.07%	10.20%	22.58%	USD: CAD	1.35	-0.03%	2.23%	-1.41%
Nikkei 225	39,740.44	2.67%	38.03%	<b>45.39</b> %	USD: JPY	149.17	0.09%	5.76%	13.14%
MSCI World Index	771.28	0.48%	<b>6.09</b> %	25.19%					

Global Interest Rates					Commodities				
Rates	18-Mar	DoD Abps	YTD ∆bps	YoY ∆bps	Commodity	18-Mar	<b>DoD % A</b>	<b>YTD%</b> $\Delta$	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ
10 -Year US Treasury Bond	4.33%	2.00	45.00	90.00	Crude Oil	82.98	2.39%	15.81%	24.33%
	4.09%	-1.00	55.00	81.00	Gold	2,159.91	0.19%	4.70%	8.58%
10-Year UK Gilt					Silver	25.04	-0.60%	5.22%	10.77%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	6.83%	0.00	279.00	-17.00	Aluminium	2,277.50	0.13%	-4.47%	0.15%

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

# Mutual Funds

Fund Managers Ltd.

## **JN MUTUAL FUNDS**

March 15, 2024

JN Mutual Funds		NAV Pri	ce	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)	
Global	Diversified Incom	e J\$13.532	24	5.96%	0.40%	3.06%	
Global	Equity	J\$14.438	87	2.38%	-0.11%	0.00%	
Global	Fixed Income	<b>J\$</b>  5.2 4	44	9.24%	I.73%	7.31%	
Global	Money Market (U	<b>S\$)</b> US\$11.63	323	1.39%	0.72%	3.29%	
Global Fixed Income (US\$)		<b>\$)</b> US\$11.53	394	0.29%	0.73%	3.40%	
Local Money Market		J\$13.294	45	8.81%	1.97%	7.38%	
	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Glob	al 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	returr incom throug (i) A Ja	hieve an attractive total n through capital injection and ne growth. This is offered gh two separate Funds: amaican dollar (J\$) and 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	debt s	vest in regional, sovereign ecurities, local and ational corporate bonds.	To invest in fixed income, high dividend yielding stock REITs and structured produ		

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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