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China's industrial profits return to growth as conditions stabilise

China's industrial firms posted higher profits in the opening months of the year, official data showed on Wednesday, reinforcing signs that an economic recovery was gaining traction despite persistent sluggishness in the property sector. Profits at China's industrial firms jumped 10.2% in the first two months from a year earlier, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data showed, following a 2.3% profit decline for the whole of 2023. The surge comes on the heels of upbeat indicators earlier this month that suggest a stabilisation in Asia's largest economy. But overall gains remain tempered by the persistent fragility of China's property market, pointing to a divergence in the country's post-pandemic recovery. State-owned firms recorded a 0.5% rise in earnings in January-February, foreign firms saw a 31.2% gain, while private-sector companies booked a 12.7% increase, the data showed. A broad-based rebound in China's domestic demand also remains to be seen.

Earlier in March, Chinese electric vehicle battery giant CATL posted its first drop in quarterly earnings since the second quarter of 2022. In the face of lingering economic weakness, a deputy central bank chief last week assured markets of policy options at its disposal, including cuts in banks' reserve requirement ratios (RRR). The central bank announced the biggest RRR reduction in two years in January. China's statistics bureau publishes combined data for the first two months to sort out distortions due to the varied timing of the Lunar New Year. Industrial profit numbers cover firms with annual revenues of at least 20 million yuan (\$2.78 million) from their main operations.



Foreign Exchange Market

Currency	27-Mar	26-Mar	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	154.78	154.57	0.14%	-0.11%
GBP:JMD	195.65	195.00	0.33%	-0.93%
CAD:JMD	114.93	114.05	0.78%	-2.52%

Caribbean & Latam

 Most resource-heavy Latin American currencies fell against a steady dollar on Wednesday, with weakness in key commodities also weighing, while South Africa kept its benchmark rate unchanged.

USA & Canada

 U.S. stocks were higher on Wednesday, with the Dow leading gains and the S&P 500 setting a closing record, paced drugmaker Merck, while investors looked towards the next piece of inflation data and Federal Reserve commentary for signals on the rate path.

Europe

 European stocks opened flat on Wednesday after closing at record high in the previous session, as investors awaited more economic data due this week, while H&M shares jumped on upbeat quarterly results.

<u>Asia</u>

Japanese stocks advanced amid a weakening yen on Wednesday while Chinese stocks slipped, with overall regional trading lacking strong direction in a holiday-shortened week that ends with a key reading of U.S. inflation.

					Source: Reuters
and a second	Local	Equity M	arket		
Stock Index	Today's close	DoD Δ	DoD% Δ	YTD % Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ
SE Combined Index	340,171.27	-1,382.30	-0.40%	0.30%	0.71%
SE Index	327,011.25	-1,536.68	-0.47%	0.40%	0.39%
All Jamaican Composite Index	366,309.30	-2,210.62	-0.60%	-0.19%	0.29%
SE Select Index	8,102.27	-59.76	-0.73%	-0.22%	1.74%
unior Market Index	3,829.89	13.03	0.34%	-0.48%	3.67%
	BEST AND WO	ORST PERFO	ORMERS		

	ADVANCERS	DECLINERS		
LASM	I 4.26%	PTL	-16.11%	
SPURTREE	9.54%	ROC	-15.08%	
SRFJMD	9.01%	KLE	-15.06%	

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of **102** stocks, of which **40** advanced, **41** declined and **21** traded firm.

International Markets

	International Equity Markets					ternatior	nal Currenc	y Market	
Index	27-Mar	DoD % Δ	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ	Currency	27-Mar	DoD % A	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ
S&P 500	5,248.49	0.86%	10.04%	32.16%	EUR: USD	1.0828	-0.03%	- 1.9 1%	-0.16%
Dow Jones	39,760.08	1.22%	5.49%	22.74%	GBP: USD	1.26	0.10%	-0.71%	2.41%
FTSE All Share	4,325.93	0.04%	2.22%	6.22%	GBF: U3D	1.20	0.10%	-0.71%	2.41%
Euro Stoxx 50	5,081.74	0.35%	12.39%	21.92%	USD: CAD	1.36	-0.11%	2.46%	-0.24%
Nikkei 225	40,762.73	0.90%	41.58%	48.13%	USD: JPY	151.32	-0.16%	7.29%	15.61%
MSCI World Index	782.94	0.57%	7.69%	24.78%					

Global Interest Rates						Cor	nmodities			
Rates	27-Mar	DoD Abps	YTD ∆bps	YoY ∆bps	Commodity	27-Mar	DoD % A	YTD% Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ	
10 -Year US Treasury Bond	4.19%	-4.00	31.00	62.00	Crude Oil	81.71	0.11%	I 4.04%	11.63%	
	3.93%	-4.00	39.00	47.00	Gold	2,194.81	0.73%	6.39 %	11.21%	
10-Year UK Gilt	S					Silver	24.64	0.77%	3.56%	5.61%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	6.70%	-1.00	266.00	-8.00	Aluminium	2,298.50	-0.22%	- 3.59 %	- 3.79 %	

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

Mutual Funds

In Fund Managers Ltd.

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JN MUTUAL FUNDS

March 26, 2024

JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$13.5933	6.42%	0.85%	3.06%
Global Equity	J \$14.4754	5.54%	0.14%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J \$15.2414	8.24%	1.91%	7.31%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$11.6522	I.33%	0.90%	3.29%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$11.5614	0.13%	0.92%	3.40%
Local Money Market	\$13.3200	8.30%	2.17%	7.38%

	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Income Funds	Global Diversified Income Fund	Global Equity Fund
Objective	To preserve capital whilst	To preserve capital whilst	To achieve an attractive total	To provide long-term	To provide long-term capital
	providing US dollar (US\$)	providing Jamaican Dollar	return through capital injection and	investment growth through	growth and risk
	money market returns	(J\$) money market returns	income growth. This is offered	exposure to a diversified	diversification.
			through two separate Funds:	range of asset classes.	
			(i) A Jamaican dollar (J\$) and		
			(ii) A US dollar (US\$) fund.		
Strategy	To invest in local and global	To invest in local and global	To invest in regional, sovereign	To invest in fixed income,	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, liquidity and	for safety and liquidity and	international corporate bonds.	REITs and structured products	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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