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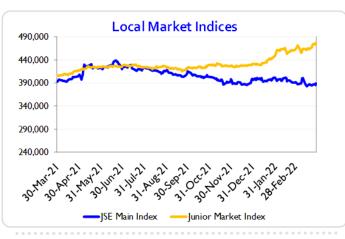
March 30, 2022

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# Bank of Jamaica Increases Policy Rate to 4.50% in March 2022

The Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announced on March 29, 2022, that it will raise its policy interest rate (the rate offered to deposit-taking institutions on overnight placements with the BOJ) by 50 basis points to 4.50 per cent per annum effective today, March 30, 2022. The Committee also indicated that it would continue pursuing other measures to contain the Jamaican dollar liquidity expansion and maintain stability in the foreign exchange market.

The MPC also stated that they are prepared to take further actions at its next meeting scheduled for May 19, 2022, depending on incoming data. The Committee's decision to increase the policy rate was based on the assessment that the risks to inflation continued to be skewed to the upside and likely to successively breach the upper limit of the bank's target range over the next eight to 10 months. A major upside risk is higher-than-projected increases in international commodity and shipping prices and their impact on domestic prices. This major risk stems from the invasion of Ukraine and the resulting sanctions imposed against Russia. However, the committee indicated that a downside risk is lower domestic demand as the conflict could adversely affect the tourism industry and related services and worsen already impaired supply chains. In addition, new waves of the COVID-19 virus and the impact of higher inflation on real incomes could negatively affect both domestic and external real GDP growth. Recently, the United States Federal Reserve signalled that the policy rate could increase at a faster pace in 2022 than originally projected. The MPC noted that this signal supports their decision to increase domestic interest rates further.



### Foreign Exchange Market

	<u> </u>			
Currency	30-Mar	29-Mar	<b>DoD %</b> Δ	<b>YTD%</b> $\Delta$
USD:JMD	154.13	154.13	0.00%	-0.62%
GBP:JMD	202.82	203.80	-0.48%	-3.5%
CAD:JMD	124.22	123.98	0.20%	1.2%

#### Caribbean & Latam

 Latin American currencies firmed against a weaker dollar on Wednesday as optimism around ceasefire talks between Russia and Ukraine lifted risk appetite, but Chile's peso underperformed following a smaller than expected interest rate hike.

#### USA & Canada

U.S. stocks are languishing in negative territory in mid-afternoon trade on Wednesday and look set to end the session on a weak note, amid fading hopes about Russia-Ukraine ceasefire talks following Russia's continued attack on certain areas in Ukraine.

#### **Europe**

 A day after surging higher amid hopes about encouraging progress in Russia-Ukraine cease-fire talks, European stocks lost ground, as doubts about Russia's promise to scale down military operations in Ukraine rendered the mood cautious and prompted investors to lighten commitments.

#### <u>Asia</u>

 Asian currencies and equity markets gained on Wednesday as the likelihood of a negotiated resolution to the Russia-Ukraine war boosted risk appetite, while Thailand's central bank stood pat on its key interest rate to support a pandemic-ravaged economy.

*****	Local Equity Market								
Stock Index	Today's close	<b>DoD</b> $\Delta$	<b>DoD%</b> $\Delta$	<b>YTD %</b> $\Delta$	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ				
JSE Combined Index	401,411.93	2,582.90	0.65%	0.07%	2.10%				
JSE Index	389,024.39	3,384.50	0.88%	-1.80%	- <b>0.9</b> 1%				
All Jamaican Composite Index	439,468.85	4,746.65	1.09%	0.26%	2.08%				
JSE Select Index	9,962.53	64.81	0.65%	0.81%	2.67%				
Junior Market Index	4,189.32	-65.96	-1.55%	22.20%	41.10%				

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS								
	ADVANCERS		DECLINERS					
LEARN	I I.89%		PTL	-12.07%				
JFP	9.91%		LASM	<b>-9.36</b> %				
PROVEN	6.69%		SILUS	<b>-7.69</b> %				

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of **92** stocks, of which **47** advanced, **29** declined and **16** traded firm.

### **International Markets**

International Equity Markets							International Currency Market			
Index	30-	Mar	DoD % <b>A</b>	<b>YTD%</b> $\Delta$	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ	Currency	30-Mar	<b>DoD % A</b>	<b>YTD% Δ</b>	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ
S&P 500	4,60	2.45	-0.63%	-3.44%	16.27%					
Dow Jones	35,22	28.81	-0.19%	-3.05%	6.54%	EUR: USD	1.1159	0.66%	-1.86%	<b>-4.76</b> %
FTSE All Share	4,21	9.75	0.27%	0.28%	9.34%	GBP: USD	1.31	0.31%	- <b>2.94</b> %	-4.41%
Euro Stoxx 50	3,95	9.14	-1.08%	-7.89%	0.84%	USD: CAD	1.25	-0.13%	-1.23%	-1.21%
Nikkei 225	28,02	27.25	-0.80%	<b>-2.66</b> %	-4.78%		121.83	-0.85%	5.87%	10.39%
MSCI World Index	72	.11	-0.28%	-4.47%	7.29%	USD: JPY	121.05	-0.03%	3.01%	10.37%
	Global Interest Rates					Commodities				
Rates		30-Mar	DoD Abp	s YTD Abps	YoY ∆bps	Commodity	/ 30-Mar	<b>DoD</b> % Δ	YTD% 🛆	<b>ΥοΥ%</b> Δ
10 -Year US Treasury	Bond	2.35%	-4.00	84.00	65.00	Crude Oil	107.82	3.43%	43.36%	78.07%
		1.67%	3.00	70.00	85.00	Gold	1,932.87	0.70%	5.67%	I 4.70%
10-Year UK Gilt						Silver	24.87	0.41%	6.71%	3.51%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond		5.21%	-5.00	117.00	165.00	Aluminium	3,551.00	3.35%	26.48%	<b>59.17</b> %

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



## **JN MUTUAL FUNDS**

**Fund Managers Ltd.** 

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March 29, 2022

JN Mutual Funds		NAV Prie	ce Growth F		Yield h (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global I	Diversified Income	<b>J</b> \$14.154	3 1.38%	0.05%	1.30%
Global I	Equity	J\$15.414	l 2.44%	-1.88%	0.00%
Global I	Fixed Income	J\$13.377	3 4.27%	0.83%	3.76%
Global I	Money Market (US	<b>\$)</b> US\$11.02	68 3.09%	0.36%	2.62%
Global I	Fixed Income (US\$	) US\$11.28	72 3.26%	-0.48%	2.25%
Local M	oney Market	<b>J</b> \$11.622	4 4.11%	0.33%	4.49%
	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Inco	ne Funds Global Div Income	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 return through capital income growth. This is through two separate (i) A Jamaican dollar (J (ii) A US dollar (US\$) f	injection and investment grow offered exposure to a di Funds: range of asset cl \$) and	vth through growth and risk iversified diversification.
money market instruments money market instruments debt securities, lo		To invest in regional, s debt securities, local a international corporat	nd high dividend yie	elding 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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