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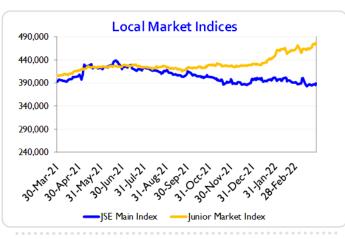
March 30, 2022

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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.** 

A member of the <u>///</u> Group

March 29, 2022

| JN Mutual Funds   |  | NAV Prie  | ce Growth F   |  | Yield<br>h (Estimated Yearly<br>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<br>Fund  | Local Money Market<br>Fund  | Global Fixed Inco   | ne Funds Global Div<br>Income  | Global Equity Fund   |
| Objective   | To preserve capital whilst<br>providing US dollar (US\$)<br>money market returns | To preserve capital whilst<br>providing Jamaican Dollar<br>(J\$) money market returns | To achieve an attractive<br>return through capital<br>income growth. This is<br>through two separate<br>(i) A Jamaican dollar (J<br>(ii) A US dollar (US\$) f | injection and investment grow<br>offered exposure to a di<br>Funds: range of asset cl<br>\$) and | vth through growth and risk<br>iversified diversification. |
| money market instruments money market instruments debt securities, lo |  | To invest in regional, s<br>debt securities, local a<br>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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