

# Eurozone Retail Sales Rose above Market Expectations in March 2021

According to the European Union's statistics agency, Eurostat, Eurozone retail sales rose month-over- month by 2.7% in March 2021, which was higher than market expectations for an increase of 1.5%. However, March's retail sales increase was lower than the 4.2% month-over-month increase recorded for February 2021. March's retail sales increase was attributable to the increased sales volume of 'non-food products' and 'food, drinks and tobacco' up by 4.6% and 1.0% respectively. However, this upward movement was tempered by the decline in the sale of automotive fuels, which was down by 2.9%. Denmark, the Netherlands, Germany and Lithuania, recorded the highest monthly increases in total retail trade among the member states for which data was available. Retail sales increased by 12% year-over- year in March, outperforming market expectations for a 9.6% increase.

Retail sales increased for the second consecutive month, signalling that Eurozone is on a path to economic recovery. It is likely that as the restrictions continue to ease and vaccination rolls out, Eurozone retail sales will continue to improve given that consumer confidence is almost back to pre-pandemic levels. Notwithstanding, the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the path of COVID-19 and the emergence of new, more transmissible, variants are likely to weigh on the pace of retail sales growth in the Eurozone in the coming months.



# Foreign Exchange Market

| Currency | 6-May  | 5-May  | DoD % $\Delta$ | YTD% $\Delta$ |
|----------|--------|--------|----------------|---------------|
| USD:JMD  | 152.69 | 153.38 | -0.45%         | 15.18%        |
| GBP:JMD  | 214.18 | 212.41 | 0.83%          | 10.6%         |
| CAD:JMD  | 126.14 | 124.93 | 0.97%          | 25.9%         |

#### Caribbean & Latam

 Brazil's real led gains across Latin American currencies on Thursday after the central bank pointed to more strong rate hikes, while the Colombian peso recovered from six-month lows on the prospect of a revised tax reform bill.

#### **USA & Canada**

 U.S. stock index futures rose on Thursday ahead of data that is expected to show a decline in weekly jobless claims, while shares of vaccine makers looked to extend losses after President Joe Biden's plan to back intellectual property waivers on COVID-19 shots.

#### <u>Europe</u>

 European stocks edged lower on Thursday, with the travel sector leading declines on weak results from Britain's Trainline, while food and beverage stocks hit a 14-month high on a batch of strong earnings.

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

 Asian shares rose on Thursday and commodity prices held near multi-year highs as investors switched to cyclicals amid hopes of a strong economic recovery, while the Australian dollar fell after China said it would end economic dialogue with Canberra.

### Local Equity Market

| Stock Index                  | Today's close | <b>DoD</b> Δ | DoD% ∆ | YTD % ∆ | ΥοΥ% Δ |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------|---------|--------|
| JSE Combined Index           | 423,700.56    | 15,134.97    | 3.70%  | 7.97%   | 16.89% |
| JSE Index                    | 422,743.06    | 16,869.80    | 4.16%  | 6.86%   | 15.39% |
| All Jamaican Composite Index | 447,339.23    | 1,416.87     | 0.32%  | 3.19%   | 11.31% |
| JSE Select Index             | 9,879.74      | 8.84         | 0.09%  | 1.41%   | 5.83%  |
| Junior Market Index          | 3,221.12      | -43.79       | -1.34% | 21.86%  | 36.46% |

| BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS |        |         |       |         |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|-------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| ADVANCERS DECLINERS       |        |         |       |         |  |  |  |  |
| GHL                       | 49.56% | <b></b> | 138SL | -14.85% |  |  |  |  |
| ROC                       | 14.01% |         | LASF  | -12.00% |  |  |  |  |
| SSLVC                     | 8.62%  |         | LASD  | -8.53%  |  |  |  |  |

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of 85 stocks, of which 36 advanced, 35 declined and 14 traded firm.

### **International Markets**

| I                | nternationa | l Equity Ma | International Currency Market |        |            |        |         |         |         |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Index            | 6-May       | DoD % ∆     | YTD% ∆                        | ΥοΥ% Δ | Commonweal | / Man  | D-D % A | VTD9/ A | V-V9/   |
| S&P 500          | 4,201.62    | 0.82%       | 30.05%                        | 47.51% | Currency   | 6-May  | DoD % ∆ | YTD% ∆  | YoY%    |
| Dow Jones        | 34,548.53   | 0.93%       | 21.06%                        | 45.99% | EUR: USD   | 1.2065 | 0.50%   | 7.60%   | 11.76%  |
| FTSE All Share   | 4,032.10    | 0.51%       | -3.92%                        | 25.04% | GBP: USD   | 1.39   | -0.12%  | 4.77%   | 12.46%  |
| Euro Stoxx 50    | 3,999.44    | -0.08%      | 6.79%                         | 40.64% |            |        |         |         |         |
| Nikkei 225       | 29,331.37   | 1.80%       | 23.99%                        | 49.50% | USD: CAD   | 1.21   | -0.96%  | -6.47%  | -14.129 |
| MSCI World Index | 704.14      | 0.64%       | 24.57%                        | 47.30% | USD: JPY   | 109.09 | -0.11%  | 0.44%   | 2.80%   |

| Glo                       | Commodities |          |          |          |           |          |                |        |                |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Rates                     | 6-May       | DoD ∆bps | YTD ∆bps | YoY ∆bps | Commodity | 6-May    | DoD % $\Delta$ | YTD% ∆ | <b>YoY</b> % ∆ |
| 10 -Year US Treasury Bond | 1.57%       | 0.36     | -34.79   | 86.66    | Crude Oil | 64.71    | -1.40%         | 5.98%  | 169.74%        |
|                           | 0.79%       | -2.70    | -3.00    | 56.10    | Gold      | 1,815.22 | 1.59%          | 19.64% | 7.68%          |
| 10-Year UK Gilt           |             |          |          |          | Silver    | 27.31    | 3.10%          | 52.98% | 83.87%         |
| GOJ 2025 Global Bond      | 3.39%       | -0.30    | -46.90   | -340.60  | Aluminium | 2,511.25 | 2.73%          | 38.74% | 69.74%         |

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



# **JN MUTUAL FUNDS**



May 5, 2021

| JN Mutual Funds            |   | NAV Pri  | ce   | 12 Months<br>Growth Rate  | YTD Growth<br>Rate   | Yield<br>(Estimated Yearly<br>Income)                        |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Global Diversified Income  |   | e J\$14.067  | 73   | 4.92%   | 1.63%  | 1.64%  |  |
| Global                     | Equity  | J\$15.595  | 53   | 12.92%  | 3.58%  | 0.00%  |  |
| Global                     | Fixed Income  | J\$12.939  | 97   | 5.24%   | 2.24%  | 4.26%  |  |
| Global                     | Money Market (U   | <b>S\$)</b> US\$10.74  | 477  | 3.63%   | 1.22%  | 3.97%  |  |
| Global Fixed Income (US\$) |   | \$) US\$11.04  | 473  | 11.57%  | 0.31%  | 4.83%  |  |
| Local Money Market         |   | J\$11.268  | 80   | 4.54%   | 2.15%  | 4.06%  |  |
|                            | Global Money Market<br>Fund   | Local Money Market<br>Fund   | Glob   | al Fixed Income Funds   | Global Diversified<br>Income Fund  | Global Equity Fund   |  |
| Objective                  | To preserve capital whilst<br>providing US dollar (US\$)<br>money market returns        | To preserve capital whilst providing Jamaican Dollar (J\$) money market returns                    | To achieve an attractive total return through capital injection 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 capita 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<br>money market instruments<br>for safety and liquidity and<br>yield | debt s   | vest in regional, sovereign<br>ecurities, local and<br>ational corporate bonds. | To invest in fixed income,<br>high dividend yielding stock<br>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.

## Contact us

### Kingston & St. Andrew

Peta-Gay Walker- 876-588-8886 pmiller@jngroup.com

Kimberly Savage — 876-307-9461 ksavage@jngroup.com

Tamara Honeyghan - 876-557-0082 tamarah@jngroup.com

Gayon Knight - 876-564-9563 gknight@jngroup.com

Jason Adams - 876-550-9504 | Yadams@jngroup.com

### **Mandeville**

Horace Walters – 876-487-9267 waltersh@jngroup.com

St. Catherine

Nickesha Mullings-Gilling - 876-891-4736 nmullings@jngroup.com

**Montego Bay** 

Marissa Williams - 876-465-3726 mwilliams | @jngroup.com

Jheanell Adjudah - 876-552-0919 |Aadjudah@jngroup.com

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