

Jamaica's Unemployment Rises to 12.6% in July 2020

According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Jamaica's unemployment rate rose to 12.6% in July 2020, an increase of 4.8 percentage points compared to the 7.8% recorded in July 2019 and an increase of 5.3 percentage points when compared to the 7.3% pre-pandemic record in January 2020. As at July 2020, the total number of persons employed declined by 6% year over year to 1,279,600 from the 1,360,800 reported in July 2019. The largest decline of 45,900 workers or 7.3% was seen among females, while males lost 35,300 or 4.8% of their jobs. An industry group analysis showed that the groups 'Service Workers and Shop and Market Sales Workers' and 'Elementary Occupations' dominated the decline, losing 45,100 and 39,000 jobs, respectively. Employment was however slightly tempered by an increase of 6,600 persons in the category 'Professionals, Senior Officials and Technicians'. In July 2020, the labour force participation rate, which compares the labour force by the total working age population, was 61.3%, lower than the 65.2% recorded in July 2019.

The COVID-19 health crisis continues to pose a threat to global demand, supply chains, and overall business activity and has led to an increase in unemployment. Given the push to "reopen the economy", even as the number of COVID-19 infections and deaths increase in Jamaica, we anticipate that the unemployment rate at 12.6% represents the peak in job losses. Notwithstanding, it is likely that the unemployment rate will remain elevated given that the ongoing threat of contracting the virus is still present and the possibility of tighter social distancing measures remains.



Foreign Exchange Market

Currency	22-Oct	21-Oct	DoD % Δ	YTD % Δ
USD:JMD	146.65	147.11	-0.31%	10.63%
GBP:JMD	191.43	191.85	-0.22%	11.5%
CAD:JMD	113.13	113.22	-0.07%	13.0%

Caribbean & Latam

- Next year's rebound from a sharp, 8.1% contraction in Latin American and Caribbean economies in 2020 will be partial and uneven, with output not catching up for years and tourism-dependent countries seen struggling the most, the International Monetary Fund wrote in a report published on Thursday.

USA & Canada

- The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell more than expected last week, but remained very high as the labor market recovery shows signs of strain amid a relentless COVID-19 pandemic and ebbing fiscal stimulus.

Europe

- European shares fell for a fourth straight day on Thursday, though they trimmed losses after Britain's Finance Minister Rishi Sunak unveiled billions of pounds more of financial aid for pandemic-hit businesses.

Asia

- Thai shares bounced from earlier losses on Thursday after the government lifted emergency measures aimed at ending months-long protests against Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and the monarchy.

Local Equity Market

Stock Index	Today's close	DoD Δ	DoD% Δ	YTD % Δ	YoY% Δ
JSE Combined Index	372,251.10	-2,280.59	-0.61%	-26.32%	-24.96%
JSE Index	375,941.91	-2,537.24	-0.67%	-26.27%	-24.80%
All Jamaican Composite Index	411,956.48	-2,930.79	-0.71%	-26.42%	-24.97%
JSE Select Index	9,116.40	-43.78	-0.48%	-30.22%	-29.52%
Junior Market Index	2,449.13	5.22	0.21%	-26.87%	-26.85%

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS

ADVANCERS		DECLINERS	
SSLVC	15.69%	KLE	-22.54%
KEX	15.02%	tTech	-14.06%
MTLJA	15.00%	MJE	-12.89%

Today's combined market activity (excluding preference and deferred shares) resulted in trading of 81 stocks, of which 34 advanced, 35 declined and 12 traded firm.

International Markets

International Equity Markets					International Currency Market				
Index	22-Oct	DoD % Δ	YTD % Δ	YoY % Δ	Currency	22-Oct	DoD % Δ	YTD % Δ	YoY % Δ
S&P 500	3,451.45	0.46%	6.83%	15.20%	EUR: USD	1.1821	-0.34%	5.42%	6.26%
Dow Jones	28,363.66	0.54%	-0.61%	5.88%	GBP: USD	1.3078	-0.54%	-1.35%	1.60%
FTSE All Share	3,268.54	0.23%	-22.11%	-17.93%	USD: CAD	1.3137	-0.07%	1.13%	0.32%
Euro Stoxx 50	3,171.41	-0.29%	-15.32%	-12.02%	USD: JPY	104.91	0.31%	-3.41%	-3.30%
Nikkei 225	23,474.27	-0.70%	-0.77%	4.10%					
MSCI World Index	579.92	0.10%	2.60%	9.88%					
Global Interest Rates					Commodities				
Rates	22-Oct	DoD Δbps	YTD Δbps	YoY Δbps	Commodity	22-Oct	DoD % Δ	YTD % Δ	YoY % Δ
10-Year US Treasury Bond	0.86%	4.04	-105.45	-89.77	Crude Oil	40.64	1.52%	-33.44%	-24.96%
10-Year UK Gilt	0.28%	4.20	-53.80	-42.70	Gold	1,904.84	-1.01%	25.54%	28.04%
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	4.17%	0.00	32.00	15.20	Silver	24.69	-1.44%	38.28%	40.88%
					Aluminium	1,843.50	0.49%	1.85%	7.24%

*As at October 21, 2020



Mutual Funds

JN MUTUAL FUNDS

October 21, 2020

Fund Managers Ltd.

A member of the Group

JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$13.5130	-5.49%	-7.45%	1.90%
Global Equity	J\$14.0153	-18.27%	-22.48%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J\$12.6565	5.87%	5.62%	4.64%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$10.5433	3.28%	2.72%	3.74%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$10.6044	3.03%	2.60%	4.89%
Local Money Market	J\$11.0033	3.96%	3.43%	4.18%

	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global 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	To achieve an attractive total return through capital injection and 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 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	To invest in regional, sovereign debt securities, local and international corporate bonds.	To invest in fixed income, high dividend yielding stocks, REITs and structured products	To invest in the shares of local and international companies which offer 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.

Contact us

Kingston & St. Andrew

Paul Penn – 876-564-8276 pennp@jngroup.com

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

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 mwilliams1@jngroup.com

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