

US Core PCE Inflation Cools, Consumer Spending Misses Forecasts

The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measures eased in November while consumer spending stagnated, suggesting the central bank's interest-rate hikes are helping to cool both price pressures and broader demand — with more tightening on the way. The Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index excludes food and energy, which Fed Chair Jerome Powell has stressed is a more accurate measure of where inflation is heading. Commerce Department data showed on Friday that the PCE rose 0.2% in November from a month earlier, matching estimates. Data for the prior month were also revised upward. Compared to a year earlier, the inflation gauge was up 4.7% this month, a step down from a 5.0% gain in October. The month-over-month PCE price index increased 0.1% and was up 5.5% from a year ago, the lowest since October 2021 but still well above the central bank's 2.0% goal.

Personal spending, adjusted for changes in prices, stalled in November, ending at the weakest reading since July and was below forecast. An increase in services spending, led by restaurants and accommodation, offset a decline in outlays on merchandise with new vehicle purchases being the leading contributor of that decrease. Like the consumer price index figures released earlier this month, the figures point to a welcome retreat in price pressures and suggest the US has passed peak inflation. While many expect to see a rapid pullback in inflation over the next year, the Fed is ultimately aiming for a 2.0% goal. This was emphasized by Powell last week when he said the central bank needs "substantially more evidence" to have confidence that inflation is on a sustained downward path.

Source: Bloomberg

Currency Markets
International Currency Market

Currency	23-Dec	16-Dec	DoD % Δ	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
EUR: USD	1.062	1.059	0.22%	0.31%	-6.61%	-6.25%
GBP: USD	1.205	1.210	0.12%	-0.78%	-10.93%	-10.11%
USD: CAD	1.359	1.370	-0.47%	-0.78%	7.56%	6.10%
USD: JPY	132.830	136.600	0.36%	-2.76%	15.42%	16.12%

Local Foreign Currency Market

Currency	23-Dec	22-Dec	16-Dec	DoD % Δ	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	153.15	153.01	153.83	0.09%	-0.44%	-1.25%
GBP:JMD	185.38	185.84	188.28	-0.25%	-1.54%	-11.8%
CAD:JMD	112.79	112.70	112.66	0.08%	0.12%	-8.1%

Global Interest Rates

Rates	23-Dec	16-Dec	DoD Δ bps	WoW Δ bps	YTD Δ bps	YoY Δ bps
10 Year US Treasury Bond	3.75%	3.48%	7.00	27.00	224.00	226.00
10 Year UK Gilt	3.64%	3.33%	5.00	31.00	267.00	272.00
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	6.39%	6.33%	1.00	6.00	235.00	235.00
5 Year US Treasury Bond	3.86%	3.62%	6.00	24.00	260.00	262.00
5 Year UK Gilt	3.65%	3.31%	3.00	34.00	283.00	288.00

Week in Review: December 19 - December 23, 2022
Local Equity Market
BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS

ADVANCERS		DECLINERS	
ROC	30.56%	PAL	-24.59%
PBS	21.00%	RPL	-20.11%
tTech	15.11%	MTL	-15.00%

JSE Main Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in **48** stocks of which **26** advanced, **19** declined and **3** traded firm. Market Volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to **111,845,072** units valued at over **\$1,192,093,007**. JSE Junior Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in **47** stocks of which **17** advanced, **29** declined and **1** traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to **148,234,182** units valued at over **\$422,154,889**.




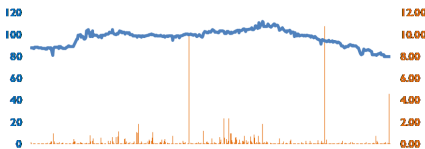



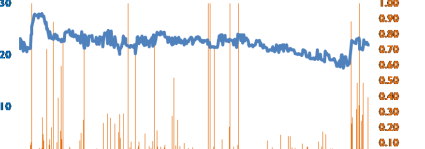








Global Equity Indices

Index	31-Dec	16-Dec	23-Dec	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
S&P 500	4,766.18	3,852.36	3,844.88	-0.19%	-19.33%	-18.64%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,298.41	3,804.02	3,817.01	0.34%	-11.20%	-10.52%
*MXWD Index	754.83	606.13	605.56	-0.09%	-19.78%	-19.11%
JSE Main Market Index	396,155.61	338,773.99	341,994.74	0.95%	-13.67%	-11.50%
JSE Junior Market Index	3,428.30	3,893.49	3,918.16	0.63%	14.29%	16.31%
JSE Combined Index	401,130.23	351,765.66	354,996.64	0.92%	-11.50%	-9.33%

Upcoming Week: December 26 - December 30, 2022

Country	Report	Period	Forecast	Prior
US	Initial Jobless Claims	24-Dec	225,000	216,000
US	MNI Chicago PMI	Dec	40	37.2
US	Wholesale Inventories MoM	Nov P	0.30%	0.50%
US	Pending Home Sales MoM	Nov	-1.00%	-4.60%
US	Richmond Fed Manufact.	Dec	-10	-9
US	FHFA House Price Index	Oct	-0.80%	0.10%
JN	Industrial Production MoM	Nov P	-0.30%	-3.20%
JN	Jobless Rate	Nov	2.60%	2.60%

LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

COMPANY NAME	PRICE MOVEMENTS	J\$	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE			
December 23, 2022									
Grace Kennedy Ltd (GK)	Current Price	\$80.93	EPS	\$8.39	ROE	12.08%	 ROE 10.77%  P/E 9.64  P/B 1.17	ROE 10.77% P/E 11.42 P/B 1.35	<p>Despite elevated levels of geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions, we expect the GK's strong resiliency to persist even as the company make significant changes to ensure its products and services are delivered to its customers across the various channels. These include ensuring its international supply chains remain strong, active, and efficient. Its recent agreement with Nestle is one such initiative that GK has implemented to improve its distribution as the Group moves closer to achieving its goal of creating a wider wingspan in the global arena. We believe that GK is poised for further sustainable growth given its well diversified businesses across its two segments which will likely be boosted by inorganic growth from acquisitions. GraceKennedy Limited has initiated its multi-year transformational strategy in which it seeks to achieve (i) sustainable efficiency, (ii) greater agility and (iii) revenue growth. To achieve these goals, the Group has made changes to its organisational and cost structure as well as its business processes which have so far resulted in an upswing in its margins and profitability, and which augurs well for the Group's future.</p>
	52 Week High	\$115.00	BVPS	\$69.46	P/E	9.64			
	53 Week Low	\$75.00	T12M Div.	\$2.57	P/B	1.17	P/B	1.35	
	WoW %	1.16%	Div. Yield %	2.56%					
	YTD %	-19.09%							
BUY									
Jamaica Producers Group (JP)	Current Price	\$22.23	EPS	\$1.30	ROE	7.75%	 ROE 10.77%  P/E 17.16  P/B 1.33	ROE 10.77% P/E 11.42 P/B 1.35	<p>Undoubtedly, COVID-19 has had a negative impact on aspects of JP's business over the last two years and could continue to weigh on some of those segments in the short term. Further, inflation, supply chain issues, reduced business confidence and trading due to the war in Ukraine, and ongoing economic uncertainty related to the pandemic will present challenges in the short term. However, the JP Group has remained strong, and the pandemic has created opportunities for new retail channels to offset the downturn anticipated in some. JP remains strong along several key financial metrics, including its relatively large equity base and growing cash and securities balance, providing the group with the flexibility to manage and execute on strategies of acquiring undervalued assets as they become available. Most importantly, JP continues to strengthen its operations and we anticipate that its recent acquisitions in the food and logistics businesses will likely further improve its capacity and drive its medium to long-term growth.</p>
	52 Week High	\$28.00	BVPS	\$16.71	P/E	17.16			
	53 Week Low	\$17.10	T12M Div.	\$0.00	P/B	1.33	P/B	1.35	
	WoW %	-2.97%	Div. Yield %	0.00%					
	YTD %	0.53%							
BUY									
Wisynco Ltd (WISYNCO)	Current Price	\$17.15	EPS	\$1.17	ROE	22.93%	 ROE 17.20%  P/E 14.69  P/B 3.37	ROE 17.20% P/E 13.87 P/B 2.52	<p>Today, Wisynco is a prominent manufacturer and distributor of beverages and food items in Jamaica. With one of the largest sales forces locally, with more than 700 sales-related employees, Wisynco boasts a sales and distribution infrastructure that has a significant presence in the marketplace. As its customers typically include restaurants, supermarkets retail and wholesale outlets, schools and other food service outlets, during the pandemic its customer base was severely disrupted. Now with the restrictions which impacted its business negatively over the last two years removed, we anticipate that this will provide a fillip to the company's revenue and profits in the short to medium term. Additionally, its strong balance sheet, particularly its cash position, not only positions the company to absorb shocks but also to capitalize on opportunities as they arise.</p>
	52 Week High	\$26.90	BVPS	\$5.09	P/E	14.69			
	53 Week Low	\$16.00	T12M Div.	\$0.40	P/B	3.37	P/B	2.52	
	WoW %	3.75%	Div. Yield %	2.47%					
	YTD %	2.72%							
BUY									
JMMB Group Ltd (JMMBGL)	Current Price	\$32.34	EPS	\$1.45	ROE	6.11%	 ROE 13.16%  P/E 22.26  P/B 1.36	ROE 13.16% P/E 11.61 P/B 1.71	<p>Over the years, JMMBGL has successfully deployed its capital to generate returns for its shareholders. Traditionally, the Company has relied on interest income from repurchase agreements, dividend income from investment holdings, gains from securities trading and fees from Unit Trust management. Over the last ten years, Jamaica has seen a significant decline in interest rates, which has influenced financial entities to lean more towards generating fee income from areas such as asset management, investment banking and trading activity in contrast to interest income from repurchase agreements. To that end JMMBGL has grown its operations from strictly investment management, trading, stockbroking, and market-making activities to include commercial banking and while Jamaica remains the core of its operations, it has a significant presence in Trinidad and the Dominican Republic. Looking ahead, we anticipate that JMMBGL's earnings will be further diversified and boosted through its equity stake into "Sagicor Financial Corporation". One of SFC's strongest growth areas has been its USA operations and as a result, this investment has allowed JMMBGL to get exposure new markets and the insurance business line and anticipate that this will help the group to yield positive results over the short to medium term.</p>
	52 Week High	\$61.24	BVPS	\$23.78	P/E	22.26			
	53 Week Low	\$30.00	T12M Div.	\$0.50	P/B	1.36	P/B	1.71	
	WoW %	2.93%	Div. Yield %	1.32%					
	YTD %	-18.00%							
BUY									

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LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

COMPANY NAME	PRICE MOVEMENTS	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE				
December 23, 2022									
Jamaica Broilers Group Ltd (JBG)	Current Price	\$29.29	EPS	\$3.60	ROE	18.71%	ROE	17.20%	Having been in operation for over sixty years, JBG has grown into an iconic Jamaican company with an increasing presence in the region. The Company's Jamaican operations continue to have a significant impact in the local marketplace through its Best Dressed Chicken and Hi-Pro divisions. With operations already firmly set in Haiti, JBG moved further to cement a stronghold and presence along the supply chain in the US with its recent acquisitions. Now a multinational entity, the Group is best described as a vertically integrated poultry business with operations spanning the full gamut of poultry rearing as a means for food production. In our view, these acquisitions and other inorganic initiatives are expected to be the catalyst for JBG's growth going forward.
	52 Week High	\$32.00	BVPS	\$19.26	P/E	8.13	P/E	13.87	
	53 Week Low	\$25.00	T12M Div.	\$0.67	P/B	1.52	P/B	2.52	
	WoW %	-2.50%	Div. Yield %	2.29%					
	YTD %	0.89%							
BUY									
Sygnus Real Estate Finance Limited (SRFJMD)	Current Price	\$9.70	EPS	(\$2.04)	ROE	-9.93%	ROE	7.15%	Sygnus Real Estate Finance Limited is a speciality real estate investment company, dedicated to providing flexible financing to unlock value in real estate assets across the Caribbean region. SRF is an alternative investment firm that is solely dedicated to the real estate asset class, by providing customized financing solutions in various forms across the credit and equity spectrum. Through the application of flexible financing, and with careful screening, managing and assessment of its highly experienced Real Estate Investment Advisory Committee, SRF will seek to earn attractive risk-adjusted returns with downside protection. We believe that Sygnus Real Estate Finance's offers a good investment opportunity given the business model of active management, track record of the Investment Manager, robust governance structure and the pipeline of opportunities on the table. Given the present inflationary economic environment and market dynamics characterized by high we anticipate that real estate could continue to perform well as a leading growth sector.
	52 Week High	\$18.31	BVPS	\$20.51	P/E	-4.76	P/E	12.23	
	53 Week Low	\$9.00	T12M Div.	\$0.00	P/B	0.47	P/B	0.81	
	WoW %	-11.82%	Div. Yield %	0.00%					
	YTD %	-41.07%							
BUY									
Pan-Jamaican Investment Trust (PJAM)	Current Price	\$55.21	EPS	\$4.00	ROE	8.72%	ROE	10.77%	Panjam has an expanding real estate portfolio where it owns some of the most iconic properties across the island plus strong brownfield investments generating steady flows of rental income and providing a strong base for investment. However, Panjam is much more than real estate powerhouse. Its strategy is built on three main pillars: strategic equity, tradeable securities and real estate. A key feature of this strategy is its investment portfolio which includes its over 30% stake in Sagicor Group Jamaica. Overall, the Panjam's investments are very well diversified, providing sector exposure to real estate, insurance, financial services, manufacturing, tourism and business process outsourcing services. Over the next few years Panjam will pursue strategies to continue to broaden its footprint across the region and continue to deliver great value for its shareholders.
	52 Week High	\$71.00	BVPS	\$45.82	P/E	13.82	P/E	11.42	
	53 Week Low	\$47.50	T12M Div.	\$1.28	P/B	1.20	P/B	1.35	
	WoW %	3.20%	Div. Yield %	1.99%					
	YTD %	-14.87%							
BUY									

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Mutual Funds



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JN MUTUAL FUNDS

December 22, 2022

JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$12.7757	-8.07%	-9.70%	2.46%
Global Equity	J\$14.2037	-6.25%	-9.59%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J\$13.7851	3.91%	3.90%	5.27%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$11.3868	3.72%	3.63%	4.12%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$11.4406	1.00%	0.87%	3.94%
Local Money Market	J\$12.0859	4.39%	4.33%	6.81%

	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.

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