

US Job Growth Falls Below Market Expectations in December 2021

The United States (US) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported a 199,000 increase in non-farm payroll in December 2021, which was lower than the revised 249,000 job gain in November and below market forecasts for 400,000 new jobs. The top sectors contributing to December's job gains were leisure and hospitality, professional and business services, and manufacturing adding 53,000, 43,000, and 26,000 jobs respectively. Employment showed little or no change in other major industries such as retail trade, information, financial activities, health care, other services, and government. Despite only modest employment growth, the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 3.9% in December which was better than market expectations for a rate of 4.1%.

Currently, the unemployment rate in the US is near its pre-pandemic low of 3.5% and is a positive indication of the rebound in the economy. However, given that the US economy is grappling with the rise in COVID-19 cases, in particular due to the Omicron variant, the trajectory from here onwards remains highly uncertainty. It is likely that if the current spike in COVID-19 cases are not brought under control, this could lead to tighter restrictions which could negatively impact consumer demand, supply chains, business activity and employment. In light of this, it is possible that US job growth might continue to slow over the short term.

Currency Markets

International Currency Market

Currency	7-Jan	31-Dec	DoD % Δ	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
EUR: USD	1.136	1.137	0.56%	-0.09%	-0.09%	-7.43%
GBP: USD	1.359	1.353	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.18%
USD: CAD	1.265	1.264	-0.64%	0.08%	0.08%	-0.35%
USD: JPY	115.550	115.080	-0.24%	0.41%	0.41%	11.31%

Local Foreign Currency Market

Currency	7-Jan	6-Jan	31-Dec	DoD % Δ	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	155.70	155.38	155.09	0.20%	0.40%	0.40%
GBP:JMD	209.87	209.88	210.14	-0.01%	-0.13%	-0.1%
CAD:JMD	118.83	122.37	122.76	-2.89%	-3.20%	-3.2%

Global Interest Rates

Rates	7-Jan	31-Dec	DoD Δ bps	WoW Δ bps	YTD Δ bps	YoY Δ bps
10 Year US Treasury Bond	1.76%	1.51%	4.09	25.19	25.19	68.25
10 Year UK Gilt	1.18%	0.97%	2.20	20.70	20.70	89.40
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	4.08%	4.05%	-0.30	2.90	63.20	24.60
5 Year US Treasury Bond	1.50%	1.26%	3.00	23.57	23.57	103.95
5 Year UK Gilt	1.00%	0.82%	2.30	17.60	17.60	105.20

Week in Review: Jan 3 - Jan 7, 2022

Local Equity Market

BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS

ADVANCERS		DECLINERS	
KLE	65.92%	AFS	-13.42%
FOSRICH	32.27%	SOS	-10.80%
1834	21.13%	EPLY	-9.60%

JSE Main Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 48 stocks of which 21 advanced, 25 declined and 2 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 36,441,589 units valued at over \$346,883,284. JSE Junior Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 41 stocks of which 19 advanced, 19 declined and 3 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 20,701,613 units valued at over \$89,435,503.

Global Equity Indices

Index	31-Dec	31-Dec	7-Jan	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
S&P 500	4,766.18	4,766.18	4,677.03	-1.87%	-1.87%	22.96%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,298.41	4,298.41	4,305.83	0.17%	0.17%	18.87%
MXWD Index	754.83	754.83	743.18	-1.54%	-1.54%	13.03%
JSE Main Market Index	396,155.61	396,155.61	398,168.83	0.51%	0.51%	0.86%
JSE Junior Market Index	3,428.30	3,428.30	3,411.84	-0.48%	-0.48%	28.25%
JSE Combined Index	401,130.23	401,130.23	402,834.92	0.42%	0.42%	2.80%

Upcoming Week: Jan 10 - Jan 14, 2022

Country	Report	Period	Forecast	Prior
US	Initial Jobless Claims	8-Jan	208,000	207,000
US	CPI MoM	Dec	0.40%	0.80%
US	U. of Mich. Sentiment	Jan P	70	70.6
US	Retail Sales Advance MoM	Dec	-0.10%	0.30%
UK	Industrial Production MoM	Nov	0.20%	-0.60%
JN	BoP Current Account Balance	Nov	586T	1,180T
JN	PPI YoY	Dec	0.09	0.09
FR	CPI YoY	Dec F	2.80%	2.80%

LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

COMPANY NAME	PRICE MOVEMENTS	J\$	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE
January 7, 2022						
Guardian Holdings Ltd. (GHL)	Current Price	\$509.89	EPS (\$0.02)	ROE 111.39%	ROE 14.45%	Guardian is one of the region's leading financial institutions with a long history of delivering strong revenue growth and profitability. The company operates in most of the countries in the Caribbean and is rated among the top five in the major markets in which it operates. Like most companies regionally, the Guardian Group was severely challenged in 2020. However, in 2020, the Group delivered operational and financial results which were creditable along several metrics and especially when taken in the context of the pandemic. While we are very aware that the COVID-19 pandemic is not over, it is very likely that the worst is behind us. With vaccination programme being rolled out regionally and as respective governments continue to ease out of the pandemic the companies within the region continue to gradually recover from the crisis. This recovery is also evident for Guardian Group which posted revenues and profits in Q1 2021 which are significantly above its previous year's.
	52 Week High	\$1,134.90	BVPS \$7.28	P/E 70.00	P/E 14.65	
BUY	53 Week Low	\$500.01	T12M Div. \$0.03	P/B 457.75	P/B 1.84	
	WoW %	-1.70%	Div. Yield % 403.70%			
	YTD %	-1.70%				
Derrimon Trading Co Ltd (DTL)	Current Price	\$2.24	EPS (\$0.03)	ROE 188.51%	ROE 16.48%	Derrimon is vertically integrated whereby it manufactures and distributes through its own channels such as Sampars and its Select grocers retail outlets. Over the last five years the company has gone through a tremendous transformation driven by its organic growth in its primary distribution segment and through acquisitions. Consequently, it has delivered expansion which has seen its revenue more than double in five years and profits more than tripled. Although the coronavirus pandemic has slowed business activity in Jamaica generally, and has slowed Derrimon's revenue growth by approximately 1.0% up to September 2020, DTL has remained very profitable. Over the period, the Group delivered profit growth of 27.0% which is a signal of its strength and resiliency given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
	52 Week High	\$2.79	BVPS \$22.59	P/E 0.10	P/E 18.67	
BUY	53 Week Low	\$2.00	T12M Div. \$0.00	P/B 1.19	P/B 2.87	
	WoW %	-2.85%	Div. Yield % 0.00%			
	YTD %	-2.85%				
Seprod Ltd (SEP)	Current Price	\$63.11	EPS (\$0.03)	ROE 255.30%	ROE 14.78%	With the onset of COVID-19, restaurants, supermarkets, bakeries and corner shops in communities have been forced to operate within restricted parameters or have completely shuttered. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on Seprod's operations, the Group's diversified portfolio has proven to be resilient thus far. Looking ahead, there are still risks that could negatively impact global supply chains and ultimately affect raw material prices, consumer income and economic growth. Notwithstanding, given our estimate that the worst part of the covid-19 restrictions may be behind us, we are expecting that the company's good performance could likely continue into at least the short term. Over the last five years, the group has invested significantly in strengthening its operations and its resiliency. The investments include consolidating aspects of its business where costs were being duplicated, which is a move to position itself for continued resilience and competitiveness in face of the uncertainty which lies ahead. Over the medium-term, the group has further investments plans to improve its distribution, warehousing and logistics efforts that are expected to augment the Groups' profitability over time.
	52 Week High	\$85.00	BVPS \$22.14	P/E 2.85	P/E 27.41	
HOLD	53 Week Low	\$53.79	T12M Div. \$0.15	P/B 24.72	P/B 3.67	
	WoW %	-2.55%	Div. Yield % 130.00%			
	YTD %	-2.55%				
Jamaica Producers Group (JP)	Current Price	\$22.50	EPS \$0.02	ROE 156.52%	ROE 11.53%	Undoubtedly, COVID-19 has had a negative impact on aspects of the business and is likely to continue to weigh on those segments for the remainder of this year, even as the company adjusts its operations to deal with the pandemic. Some segments have remained strong however, the pandemic has created opportunities for new retail channels to offset the downturn seen in some segments. Importantly, JP is further seeking to strengthen its business over the medium term to improve its capacity, to drive long term growth at the same time it continues to invest in strong food and logistics businesses. Despite COVID-19, JP remains strong with several key financial metrics, including its large and growing cash and securities balance, providing the group with the flexibility to manage and execute on strategies of acquiring undervalued assets.
	52 Week High	\$31.00	BVPS \$20.07	P/E 1.12	P/E 14.35	
HOLD	53 Week Low	\$19.60	T12M Div. \$0.07	P/B 14.38	P/B 1.58	
	WoW %	1.76%	Div. Yield % 20.00%			
	YTD %	1.76%				

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LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

COMPANY NAME	PRICE MOVEMENTS	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE				
January 7, 2022									
Wisynco Ltd (WISYNCO)	Current Price	\$17.25	EPS	\$0.03	ROE	403.66%	ROE	14.78%	<p>Wisynco's customers typically include restaurants, supermarkets retail and wholesale outlets, schools and other food service outlets. As a result of the social distancing orders being enforced by the Government to curb the spread of the virus, the operations of the Company's customers base have been severely disrupted. We acknowledged, however, that the Company's strong brand presence in the food manufacturing and distribution sector, strong balance sheet and distribution network will go a far way to ensure that Wisynco remain resilient over the long-term. We believe that the Management's experience in distribution and the Company's investment in Innovation will be huge drivers of equity return over time. Notwithstanding, over the short to medium term (up to three years) Wisynco's profitability will be challenged as over 95% of the Company's revenues are generated locally and local consumer demand has declined and likely to remain subdued over the short to medium term. In our scenario, the Company is projected to return to pre-COVID state in the FY 2024/FY 2025.</p>
	52 Week High	\$19.00	BVPS	\$20.29	P/E	0.85	P/E	27.41	
	53 Week Low	\$14.02	T12M Div.	\$0.15	P/B	4.27	P/B	3.67	
	WoW %	3.33%	Div. Yield %	30.00%					
	YTD %	3.33%							
BUY									
Barita Investments Ltd (BIL)	Current Price	\$96.42	EPS	(\$0.02)	ROE	324.63%	ROE	14.45%	<p>In the most recently concluded 9-month period, up to June 30, 2021, Barita continued to deliver recordbreaking growth and profitability for its shareholders. Undoubtedly, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted financial markets locally and globally and is likely to pose significant challenges for businesses going forward. So far, however, BIL has responded well to the pandemic from a social and operational perspective. Over the period, the Group posted net profits, which was 83% above the amount generated over a similar period in the previous year and already ~22% above the amount generated in the entire 12 months in FY 2020. Following its successful APO in September 2020, BIL bolstered its investment banking underwriting capabilities, upgraded its technology - including the implementation of its BOSS platform, seeded alternative investment strategies, widened its footprint and expanded its trading operations. So far, the early indications are that the company has seen further operational improvement and is experiencing accelerated revenue and profit growth.</p>
	52 Week High	\$109.50	BVPS	\$28.99	P/E	3.33	P/E	14.65	
	53 Week Low	\$75.00	T12M Div.	\$0.03	P/B	29.70	P/B	1.84	
	WoW %	-1.73%	Div. Yield %	377.50%					
	YTD %	-1.73%							
BUY									
Grace Kennedy Ltd (GK)	Current Price	\$99.79	EPS	(\$0.00)	ROE	152.61%	ROE	11.53%	<p>Going forward, we expect the GK's strong resiliency to continue despite COVID-19, 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. With growth in all segments, the Group outperformed its prior year results, posting arguably its strongest financial results since inception. GK is well positioned financially and has displayed the ability to continue growing despite the economic downturn caused by the effects of COVID-19.</p>
	52 Week High	\$105.99	BVPS	\$13.29	P/E	7.51	P/E	14.35	
	53 Week Low	\$61.21	T12M Div.	\$0.06	P/B	65.39	P/B	1.58	
	WoW %	-0.23%	Div. Yield %	193.00%					
	YTD %	-0.23%							
BUY									
Sygnus Real Estate Finance Limited (SRFJMD)	Current Price	\$15.66	EPS	(\$0.05)	ROE	81.60%	ROE	14.82%	<p>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 offer is 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 economic environment and market dynamics characterised by low-interest rates and high liquidity, we anticipate that real estate could continue to perform well as a leading growth sector. Additionally, the low-interest rate may enable the use of financial leverage to enhance returns which could further enhance the value proposition of SRF.</p>
	52 Week High	\$22.20	BVPS	\$2.18	P/E	7.18	P/E	9.13	
	53 Week Low	\$14.05	T12M Div.	\$1.00	P/B	19.19	P/B	0.75	
	WoW %	-4.84%	Div. Yield %	0.00%					
	YTD %	-4.84%							
BUY									

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Mutual Funds



A member of the Group

JN MUTUAL FUNDS

January 5, 2022

JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$14.2554	2.73%	0.76%	2.18%
Global Equity	J\$15.4714	3.96%	-1.52%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J\$13.2838	4.78%	0.12%	4.82%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$10.9927	3.48%	0.05%	2.43%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$11.3409	2.86%	-0.01%	3.14%
Local Money Market	J\$11.6051	5.08%	0.18%	4.24%

	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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