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## Fitch Affirms Jamaica's Rating at B+; Outlook Remains Stable

Jamaica's Long-Term Foreign Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) was affirmed at 'B+' by Fitch Ratings Agency on March 18, 2021, with the country's outlook remaining stable. The country's favourable business climate, moderate inflation, and moderate commodity dependence are some of the key factors that support Fitch's rating action. The ratings agency also pointed out that these benefits are counterbalanced by the sovereign's vulnerability to external shocks, high public debt, and debt structure, which renders it susceptible to exchange rate fluctuations. The stable outlook is supported by their expectation that the public debt level will return to a firm downward path post-pandemic. Jamaica is forecasted to be one of the few Fitch-rated sovereigns to report a primary surplus (2.6% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)) in FY 2021/22, according to Fitch. Even after accounting for the one-time dividend payment of J\$33 billion from the Bank of Jamaica and the hopes for an incremental return of tourists due to the vaccine rollout, Fitch forecasts a fiscal deficit to GDP of 0.8%, compared to the government's forecast for a surplus of 0.3%.

Fitch states that Jamaica's external finances are resilient to the pandemic, the banking sector is well-capitalized, and the external sector has benefited from the exchange rate stability given the two-way movement of the currency. According to Fitch, the Jamaican economy is projected to expand by 4.5% in 2021 and then accelerate to 5.2% in 2022. However, due to the uncertainties surrounding the vaccine rollout and the possibility of a third wave of the virus, risks remained skewed to the downside, but they expect a boost to the tourism industry from a likely better winter season in 2021-2022.

#### **Currency Markets International Currency Market** Currency 12-Mar DoD $\% \triangle$ WoW $\% \triangle$ YTD% $\Delta$ YoY% A **EUR: USD** 1.191 -0.07% -0.38% -2.53% 11.36% **GBP: USD** 1.386 1.390 -0.44% -0.43% 1.42% 20.71% **USD: CAD** -13.83% 1.250 1.250 0.14% 0.23% -1.74% **USD: JPY** 108.900 109.030 0.01% -0.12% **5.47%** -1.63%

| Local Foreign Currency Market |        |        |        |                |                |        |  |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------|--|
| Currency                      | 19-Mar | 18-Mar | 12-Mar | <b>DoD</b> % Δ | WoW % $\Delta$ | YTD% ∆ |  |
| USD:JMD                       | 146.42 | 146.55 | 147.42 | -0.09%         | -0.68%         | 2.64%  |  |
| GBP:JMD                       | 204.79 | 203.43 | 204.06 | 0.67%          | 0.36%          | 5.7%   |  |
| CAD:JMD                       | 119.71 | 117.38 | 118.98 | 1.99%          | 0.62%          | 7.4%   |  |

### **Global Interest Rates**

| Rates                        | 19-Mar | 12-Mar | DoD Δ<br>bps | WoW ∆<br>bps | YTD Δ<br>bps | YoY \( \Delta \) bps |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 10 Year US<br>Treasury Bond  | 1.72%  | 1.62%  | 1.00         | 10.00        | 81.00        | 58.00                |
| 10 Year UK Gilt              | 0.84%  | 0.82%  | -4.00        | 2.00         | 64.00        | 12.00                |
| GOJ 2025 Global<br>Bond      | 3.68%  | 3.58%  | -1.00        | 10.00        | 23.00        | -239.00              |
| 5 Year US Treas-<br>ury Bond | 0.88%  | 0.84%  | 2.00         | 4.00         | 52.00        | 19.00                |
| 5 Year UK Gilt               | 0.39%  | 0.38%  | -3.00        | 1.00         | 48.00        | -9.00                |

#### Week in Review: Mar 15 - Mar 19 2021 **Local Equity Market BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS ADVANCERS** 309.09% **GWEST** -19.00% **CBNY AMG** 22.35% **EFRESH** -18.18% **KEY** 14.53% **KEX** -13.13%

JSE Main Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 43 stocks of which 23 advanced, 20 declined and 0 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 44,114,016 units valued at over \$420,408,514. JSE Junior Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 40 stocks of which 18 advanced, 16 declined and 6 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 52,846,563 units valued at over \$158,872,563.

| Global Equity Indices      |            |            |            |                |           |               |  |  |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|--|--|
| Index                      | 31-Dec     | 12-Mar     | 19-Mar     | <b>WoW</b> % ∆ | YTD%<br>Δ | <b>YoY%</b> ∆ |  |  |
| S&P 500                    | 3,756.07   | 3,943.34   | 3,921.28   | -0.56%         | 4.40%     | 62.75%        |  |  |
| Euro Stoxx 50              | 3,552.64   | 3,833.36   | 3,837.02   | 0.10%          | 8.00%     | 56.35%        |  |  |
| MXWD Index                 | 646.27     | 674.47     | 671.99     | -0.37%         | 3.98%     | 66.35%        |  |  |
| JSE Main Market<br>Index   | 395,614.93 | 397,038.27 | 394,570.77 | -0.62%         | -0.26%    | 5.05%         |  |  |
| JSE Junior Market<br>Index | 2,643.38   | 2,932.84   | 2,924.15   | -0.30%         | 10.62%    | 38.69%        |  |  |
| ISE Combined Index         | 392,435.92 | 396,825.46 | 394,463.76 | -0.60%         | 0.52%     | 7.13%         |  |  |

|         | <b>Upcoming</b>  | Week:  | Mar 22 - Mar 26 2021 |         |
|---------|------------------|--------|----------------------|---------|
| Country | Report           | Period | Forecast             | Prior   |
| US      | Initial Jobless  | 20-Mar | 733,000              | 770,000 |
| US      | GDP Annualized   | 4Q T   | 4.10%                | 4.10%   |
| US      | U. of Mich.      | Mar F  | 83.60                | 83.00   |
| US      | Durable Goods    | Feb P  | 0.80%                | 3.40%   |
| UK      | CPI YoY          | Feb    | 0.80%                | 0.70%   |
| UK      | CPI MoM          | Feb    | 0.50%                | -0.20%  |
| JN      | Tokyo CPI Ex-    | Mar    | -0.20%               | -0.30%  |
| JN      | Jibun Bank Japan | Mar P  |                      | 51.40   |
|         |                  |        |                      |         |

#### LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS **INDUSTRY PRICE STATISTICS** COMPANY VITALS **COMPANY NAME RATIONALE** J\$ **MOVEMENTS** VITALS March 19, 2021 **ROE 13.08%** EPS \$3,42 **ROE 10.92%** Current Price \$32.36 52 Week High **BVPS** \$39.98 \$26,13 JMMBGL is one of Jamaica's largest financial services corporations, entering the market IMMB Group Ltd in 1992 as the first Money Market Brokerage firm. The holding company, JMMB Group 53 Week Low \$28.00 TI2M Div. \$0.25 P/E 9.47 P/E 18.92 Limited, was formed as a parent to house the group of companies. To date, the JMMB (IMMBGL) WoW % -1.31% Div. Yield % 0.67% Group Ltd. has extended its reach across the Caribbean, including the Dominican P/B 1.24 P/B 1.71 Republic and Trinidad and Tobago. The Group has over 316,000 clients and continues to -6.73% grow steadily. We believe that in addition to its core businesses, key strategic partnerships such as the 22.2% stake in Sagicor Financial Corporation allows JMMBGL to 50 8.00 achieve further diversification and increased profitability. RUV 30 **Current Price EPS** \$0.07 **ROE 19.40% ROE 13.22%** \$2.60 Derrimon is vertically integrated whereby it manufactures and distributes through its **BVPS** \$0.35 52 Week High \$3.10 own channels such as Sampars and its Select grocers retail outlets. Over the last five Derrimon Trading years the company has gone through a tremendous transformation driven by its organic 53 Week Low \$1.40 TI2M Div. \$0.01 P/E 37.89 P/E 33.30 growth in its primary distribution segment and through acquisitions. Consequently, it Co Ltd (DTL) WoW % 1.96% Div. Yield % 0.81% has delivered expansion which has seen its revenue more than double in five years and P/B 7.35 P/B 3.38 9.40% 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. BUY With the onset of COVID-19, restaurants, supermarkets, bakeries and corner shops in **Current Price** \$71.02 **EPS ROE 18.27% ROE 17.55%** \$4.22 communities have been forced to operate within restricted parameters or have 52 Week High \$83.99 **BVPS** \$23.11 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. 53 Week Low \$30.00 TI2M Div. \$0.30 P/E 16.82 P/E 22.85 Looking ahead, there are still risks that could negatively impact global supply chains and WoW % 0.07% Div. Yield % 0.90% Seprod Ltd (SEP) ultimately affect raw material prices, consumer income and economic growth. YTD % 9.43% P/B 3.07 P/B 3.61 Notwithstanding, given our estimate that the worst part of the covid-19 restrictions may be behind us, we are expecting that the companies good performance could likely 80 continue into at least the short term. Over the last five years, the group has invested 0.80 significantly in strengthening its operations and its resiliency. The investments include 0.60 consolidating aspects of its business where costs were being duplicated, which is a move 0.40 to position itself for continued resilience and competitiveness in face of the uncertainty BUY 0.20 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. **ROE 18.12% ROE 6.77%** Current Price EPS \$0.07 \$0.65 \$0.95 BVPS \$0.37 52 Week High We believe that Wigton Windfarm provides an advantage for investors in three main Wigton Windfarm P/E 9.81 P/E 25.76 53 Week Low \$0.50 T12M Div. \$0.00 ways. The first is diversification, as it is an alternative energy investment which becomes Ltd(WIG) WoW % 1.56% Div. Yield % 0.00% more crucial in the midst of global warming. The second is an increase in medium to long term value driven by profitability. The third is liquidity as the availability of shares YTD % -13.48% P/B 1.78 P/B 1.08 is wide and allows a tidy entry into or exit out of the investment. Wirton Windfarm has potential competition from MPC Caribbean and New Fortress Energy but they together 80.00 form an ecosystem which is needed to move the Caribbean away from its reliance on 0.6 60.00 Fossil Fuels, the 2nd most expensive item on Jamaica's import bill. 40.00

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#### LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS **PRICE INDUSTRY COMPANY NAME STATISTICS COMPANY VITALS RATIONALE** J\$ **MOVEMENTS VITALS** March 19, 2021 **ROE 11.53% ROF 17.55% Current Price** \$29.64 **EPS** \$1.74 52 Week High \$15.09 Having been in operation for over sixty years, JBG has grown into an iconic brand in Jamaica and now has an increasing presence in the region. The Company's Jamaican 53 Week Low \$21.00 T12M Div. \$0.31 Jamaica Broilers P/E 17.04 P/E 22.85 operations continue to have a significant impact in the local marketplace through its WoW % -1.59% Div. Yield % 1.35% Best Dressed Chicken and Hi-Pro divisions. However, the local market is mature with Group Ltd (JBG) growth expected to be low in the medium term. With operations already firmly set in YTD % 0.61% Haiti, JBG moved further to cement a stronghold and presence along the supply chain in P/B 1.96 P/B 3.61 the US with its recent acquisitions. In our view, these acquisitions and other inorganic initiatives are expected to be the catalyst for JBG's growth going forward. BUY 6.00 4.00 **ROE 17.38% Current Price** \$15.65 \$0.68 **ROE 17.55%** Wisynco's customers typically include restaurants, supermarkets retail and whole-sale 52 Week High \$20.80 RVPS \$3.89 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 53 Week Low \$11.50 T12M Div. \$0.19 Wisynco Ltd P/E 23.16 P/E 22.85 Company's customers base have been severely disrupted. We acknowledged, however, that the Company's strong brand presence in the food manufacturing and distribution WoW % -1.32%Div. Yield % 1.29% (WISYNCO) sector, strong balance sheet and distribution network will go a far way to ensure that YTD % -7.09% Wisynco remain resilient over the long-term. We believe that the Management's P/B 4.03 P/B 3.61 experience in distribution and the Company's investment in Innovation will be huge drivers of equity return over time. Notwiths tanding, over the short to medium term (up 8.00 to three years) Wisynco's profitability will be challenged as over 95% of the Company's 7.00 revenues are generated locally and local consumer demand has declined and likely to 6.00 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. 3.00 2.00 **Current Price** \$21.75 **FPS** \$3.33 **ROE 12.08% ROE 8.50%** 52 Week High \$25.00 **BVPS** \$27,56 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 53 Week Low \$15.00 T12M Div. \$0.20 Jamaica Producers P/E 6.53 P/E 20.16 company adjusts its operations to deal with the pandemic. Some segments have remained strong; however, the pandemic has created opportunities for new retail WoW % -4.73% Div. Yield % 1.28% Group (JP) channels to offset the downturn seen in some segments. Importantly, JP is further YTD % 3.57% seeking to strengthen its business over the medium term to improve its capacity, to P/B 0.79 P/B 1.27 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 1.00 metrics, including its large and growing cash and securities balance, providing the group BUY with the flexibility to manage and execute on strategies of acquiring undervalued assets. 0.40

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## **JN MUTUAL FUNDS**

March 18, 2021

Managed by



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| JN Mutual Funds            |   | NAV Pri  | ce Growth Rate   | YTD Growth<br>Rate   | Yield<br>(Estimated Yearly<br>Income)                        |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Global Diversified Income  |   | e J\$13.931  | 4.47%  | 0.65%  | 2.05%  |  |
| Global                     | Equity  | J\$15.089  | 6.68%  | 0.22%  | 0.00%  |  |
| Global Fixed Income        |   | J\$12.822  | 25 5.50%   | 1.31%  | 5.29%  |  |
| Global Money Market (US\$) |   | <b>S\$)</b> US\$10.68  | 3.50%  | 0.64%  | 3.68%  |  |
| Global Fixed Income (US\$) |   | \$) US\$10.84  | 159 10.20%   | -1.52%   | 4.59%  |  |
| Local Money Market         |   | J\$11.156  | 4.39%  | 1.14%  | 4.21%  |  |
|                            | Global Money Market<br>Fund   | Local Money Market<br>Fund   | Global Fixed Income Fund   | ds Global Diversified 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 | To invest in regional, sovereign debt securities, local and international corporate bonds.   | To invest in fixed income, high dividend yielding stock 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

### **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 I@jngroup.com

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