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# US Business Activity Rises to a New Record High in May

According to the most recent IHS Markit report, the United States (US) Flash Composite Output Index, which measures services and manufacturing activity, recorded a preliminary reading of 68.1 in May 2021, up from the final reading of 63.5 in April. The index's rise was fuelled by an increase in manufacturing output amid stronger client demand, as well as the fastest service sector upturn on record. The increased client demand was attributable to the reopening of non-essential businesses and the generally improved consumer confidence. However, inflationary pressures remained strong as supply shortages persisted and prices for polyphenylene ether (PPE), fuel, metals, and freight rose. Despite this, business confidence improved in the private sector in May, owing largely to improved optimism in the service sector, while manufacturers expressed concern about the risk of unstable demand conditions and raw material shortages, which they feared could extend through 2021.

The gradual reopening of the economy, additional stimulus, and the rapid pace of vaccination continue to support the increase in private-sector output in the US. Given these positive factors, as well as firms' general optimism about the future, we expect that US business activity is likely to continue to expand over the short term. However, the uncertainty surrounding the increasing number of COVID-19 variants, as well as general supply constraints remain the key risk factors to the downside as they both have the potential to slow the pace of growth in business activity in the coming periods.

Currency Markets									
International Currency Market									
Currency 21-May I4-May DoD % $\Delta$ WoW % $\Delta$ YTD% $\Delta$ YoY%									
EUR: USD	1.218	1.214	-0.38%	0.34%	-0.28%	11.25%			
GBP: USD	1.415	1.410	-0.28%	0.38%	3.51%	15.77%			
USD: CAD	1.207	1.210	0.04%	-0.31%	-5.18%	-13.54%			
USD: JPY	108.960	109.350	0.17%	-0.36%	5.53%	1.25%			

Local Foreign Currency Market								
Currency	21-May	20-May	I 4-May	DoD % $\Delta$	WoW % ∆	YTD% ∆		
USD:JMD	149.79	150.25	150.97	-0.31%	-0.78%	5.01%		
GBP:JMD	213.15	213.63	211.90	-0.23%	0.59%	10.1%		
CAD:JMD	125.14	124.76	126.31	0.31%	-0.92%	12.3%		

Global Interest Rate
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Rates	21-May	14-May	DoD Δ bps	WoW ∆ bps	YTD \( \Delta \) bps	YoY ∆ bps
10 Year US Treasury Bond	1.62%	1.63%	-1.00	-1.00	71.00	95.00
10 Year UK Gilt	0.83%	0.86%	-1.00	-3.00	63.00	66.00
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	3.38%	3.54%	-3.00	-16.00	-7.00	-296.00
5 Year US Treas- ury Bond	0.82%	0.81%	1.00	1.00	46.00	48.00
5 Year UK Gilt	0.36%	0.38%	0.00	-2.00	45.00	37.00

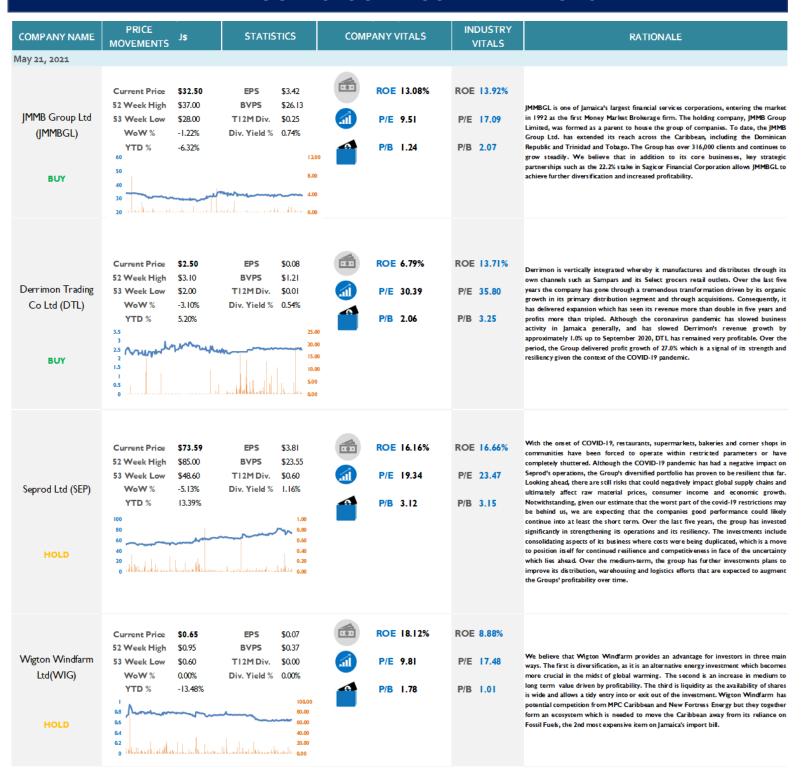
# Week in Review: May 17 - May 21, 2021 Local Equity Market BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS ADVANCERS JETCON 21.84% MDS 17.65% FIRSTROCKUSD -25.68% LASF -18.78%

JSE Main Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 46 stocks of which 18 advanced, 26 declined and 2 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 62,622,914 units valued at over \$910,343,426. JSE Junior Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 42 stocks of which 20 advanced, 19 declined and 3 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 66,380,896 units valued at over \$154,582,289.

Global Equity Indices							
Index	31-Dec	I 4-May	21-May	<b>WoW</b> % <b>\( \Delta\)</b>	<b>ΥΤΟ</b> % Δ	ΥοΥ% Δ	
S&P 500	3,756.07	4,173.85	4,155.86	-0.43%	10.64%	40.95%	
Euro Stoxx 50	3,552.64	4,017.44	4,025.78	0.21%	13.32%	38.58%	
MXWD Index	646.27	699.13	701.57	0.35%	8.56%	42.03%	
JSE Main Market Index	395,614.93	428,015.27	424,303.18	-0.87%	7.25%	11.67%	
JSE Junior Market Index	2,643.38	3,321.55	3,324.08	0.08%	25.75%	31.59%	
JSE Combined Index	392,435.92	429,604.72	426,201.24	-0.79%	8.60%	13.12%	

	Upcoming Week: May 24	- May 28	B, 2021	
Country	Report	Period	Forecast	Prior
US	Initial Jobless Claims	22-May	425,000	444,000
US	GDP Annualized QoQ	IQ S	6.50%	6.40%
US	U. of Mich. Sentiment	May F	83.00	82.80
US	Conf. Board Consumer Confidence	May	118.90	121.70
US	MBA Mortgage Applications	21-May		1.20%
JN	Tokyo CPI Ex-Fresh Food YoY	May	-0.20%	-0.20%
UK	Nationwide House PX MoM	May	1.00%	2.10%

#### LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS



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## **LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS**

COMPANY NAME	PRICE J\$ MOVEMENTS	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE
May 21, 2021					
Jamaica Broilers Group Ltd (JBG) BUY	Current Price \$34.99 52 Week High \$36.00 53 Week Low \$23.00 WoW % 1.19% YTD % 18.78%	EPS \$1.74 BVPS \$15.09 T12M Div. \$0.41 Div. Yield % 1.55%	ROE 11.53%  P/E 20.11  P/B 2.32	P/E 23.47 P/B 3.15	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 operations continue to have a significant impact in the local marketplace through its Best Dressed Chicken and Hi-Pro divisions. However, the local market is mature with growth expected to be low in the medium term. 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. In our view, these acquisitions and other inorganic initiatives are expected to be the catalyst for JBG's growth going forward.
Wisynco Ltd (WISYNCO)	Current Price \$15.54 52 Week High \$19.87 53 Week Low \$13.00 WoW % -2.81% YTD % -7.75%	EPS \$0.70 BVPS \$3.97 T12M Div. \$0.19 Div. Yield % 1.10%	ROE 17.64%  P/E 22.17  P/B 3.91	P/E 23.47 P/B 3.15	Wisynco's customers typically include restaurants, supermarkets retail and whole—sale 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.
Jamaica Producers Group (JP) HOLD	Current Price \$23.31 52 Week High \$31.00 53 Week Low \$19.00 WoW% -7.13% YTD% 11.00%	EPS \$4.34 BVPS \$28.03 T12M Div. \$0.20 Div. Yield % 0.88%	ROE 15.48%  P/E 5.37  P/B 0.83	ROE 9.80%  P/E 17.75  P/B 1.35	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.

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### **JN MUTUAL FUNDS**

May 20, 2021

Managed by



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JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
Global Diversified Income	J\$14.0645	3.67%	1.61%	2.48%
Global Equity	J\$15.7704	10.56%	4.75%	0.00%
Global Fixed Income	J\$12.9331	4.75%	2.18%	5.14%
Global Money Market (US\$)	US\$10.7629	3.63%	1.36%	2.46%
Global Fixed Income (US\$)	US\$11.0319	10.33%	0.17%	3.11%
Local Money Market	J\$11.2490	4.06%	1.98%	4.31%

	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Income Funds	Global Diversified Income Fund	Global Equity Fund
Objective	To preserve capital whilst	To preserve capital whilst	To achieve an attractive total	To provide long-term	To provide long-term capital
	providing US dollar (US\$)	providing Jamaican Dollar	return through capital injection and	investment growth through	growth and risk
	money market returns	(J\$) money market returns	income growth. This is offered	exposure to a diversified	diversification.
			through two separate Funds:	range of asset classes.	
			(i) A Jamaican dollar (J\$) and		
			(ii) A US dollar (US\$) fund.		
Strategy	To invest in local and global	To invest in local and global	To invest in regional, sovereign	To invest in fixed income,	To invest in the shares of
	money market instruments	money market instruments	debt securities, local and	high dividend yielding stocks,	local and international
	for safety, liquidity and	for safety and liquidity and	international corporate bonds.	REITs and structured products	companies which offer
	yield.	yield			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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