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## Bank of Jamaica Hikes Policy Rate to 1.50% in September 2021

The Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on September 30, 2021, announced a 100 basis points hike in the policy interest rate (the rate offered to deposit-taking institutions on overnight placements with BOJ) from 0.50 per cent to 1.50 per cent per annum effective October 1, 2021. The central bank also indicated that it would continue to implement measures to contain the expansion of the Jamaican dollar's liquidity and ensure that future exchange rate movements do not jeopardize the inflation target. To meet its medium-term inflation target sustainably, the BOJ also indicated its intention to continue to reduce the level of monetary accommodation at subsequent policy meetings. However, this action is contingent on inflation and other macroeconomic data developing as projected.

Notably, the policy rate has been at a historic low of 0.5 per cent since August 2019 and the decision to raise the policy rate was based on the MPC's assessment that it is likely that the inflation target will be breached in the subsequent quarters. The Committee indicated that the risks to inflation forecast are skewed to the upside and these risks have intensified. Significant increases in international commodity prices and shipping costs have had a higher-than-expected pass through to local prices, contributing to further increases in inflation expectations. The Committee further stated that as a result of the passage of tropical storms Grace and Ida in August 2021, consumers will likely face higher agricultural commodities prices, which may contribute to a worsening of inflation expectations.

### Currency Markets

#### International Currency Market

Currency	1-Oct	24-Sep	DoD % Δ	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
EUR: USD	1.160	1.172	0.14%	-1.06%	-5.08%	-1.29%
GBP: USD	1.355	1.368	0.55%	-0.96%	-0.89%	5.10%
USD: CAD	1.264	1.265	-0.35%	-0.13%	-0.71%	-4.92%
USD: JPY	111.040	110.730	-0.22%	0.28%	7.54%	5.22%

#### Local Foreign Currency Market

Currency	1-Oct	30-Sep	24-Sep	DoD % Δ	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ
USD:JMD	147.54	147.24	147.77	0.20%	-0.16%	3.43%
GBP:JMD	202.83	202.93	205.49	-0.05%	-1.30%	4.7%
CAD:JMD	117.91	117.66	118.09	0.21%	-0.15%	5.8%

### Global Interest Rates

Rates	1-Oct	24-Sep	DoD Δ bps	WoW Δ bps	YTD Δ bps	YoY Δ bps
10 Year US Treasury Bond	1.46%	1.45%	-2.40	1.24	55.01	78.59
10 Year UK Gilt	1.00%	0.93%	-2.00	7.70	80.50	76.80
GOJ 2025 Global Bond	3.62%	3.63%	1.90	-1.30	16.60	-56.30
5 Year US Treasury Bond	0.93%	0.95%	-3.53	-1.73	56.88	65.75
5 Year UK Gilt	0.62%	0.59%	-1.50	3.80	70.80	68.80

### Week in Review: Sept 27 - Oct 1, 2021

#### Local Equity Market

##### BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS

ADVANCERS		DECLINERS	
PJX	28.21%	EPLY	-14.51%
MEEG	23.39%	AMG	-12.12%
MTL	22.22%	1834	-11.32%

JSE Main Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 47 stocks of which 31 advanced, 13 declined and 3 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 116,117,252 units valued at over \$5,718,137,154. JSE Junior Market activity (excluding preference shares) resulted from trading in 41 stocks of which 29 advanced, 12 declined and 0 traded firm. Market volume (excluding preference shares) amounted to 37,873,029 units valued at over \$171,037,187.
















#### Global Equity Indices

Index	31-Dec	24-Sep	1-Oct	WoW % Δ	YTD% Δ	YoY% Δ
S&P 500	3,756.07	4,455.48	4,357.04	-2.21%	16.00%	28.88%
Euro Stoxx 50	3,552.64	4,158.51	4,035.30	-2.96%	13.59%	26.34%
MXWD Index	646.27	730.46	712.68	-2.43%	10.28%	25.47%
JSE Main Market Index	395,614.93	403,871.30	414,577.75	2.65%	4.79%	10.35%
JSE Junior Market Index	2,643.38	3,189.83	3,312.50	3.85%	25.31%	30.77%
JSE Combined Index	392,435.92	405,934.80	417,072.90	2.74%	6.28%	11.84%

### Upcoming Week: Oct 4 - Oct 8, 2021

Country	Report	Period	Forecast	Prior
US	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Sep	470,000	235,000
US	Initial Jobless Claims	2-Oct	350,000	362,000
US	MBA Mortgage Applications	1-Oct-21	--	-1.10%
US	Durable Goods Orders	Aug F	1.80%	1.80%
CA	Unemployment Rate	Sep	6.90%	7.10%
JN	BoP Current Account Balance	Aug	1.49E+12	1.91E+12
JN	Tokyo CPI Ex-Fresh Food YoY	Sep	0.20%	0.00%
JN	Tokyo CPI YoY	Sep	-0.10%	-0.40%

# LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

COMPANY NAME	PRICE MOVEMENTS	J\$	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE		
October 1, 2021								
Guardian Holdings Ltd. (GHL)	Current Price	\$580.10	EPS	\$80.71	ROE	18.20%	 ROE 13.71%  P/E 7.19  P/B 1.31	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	\$443.33	ROE	13.71%		
Derrimon Trading Co Ltd (DTL)	53 Week Low	\$560.00	T12M Div.	\$4.04	P/E	12.85	 ROE 7.36%  P/E 24.90  P/B 1.83	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.
	WoW %	-0.81%	Div. Yield %	0.69%	P/E	20.32		
Seprod Ltd (SEP)	YTD %	-0.41%			P/B	2.00	 ROE 15.47%  P/E 16.36  P/B 2.53	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 companies 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	\$3.00	BVPS	\$1.24	ROE	18.51%		
Jamaica Producers Group (JP)	53 Week Low	\$2.00	T12M Div.	\$0.01	P/E	12.92	 ROE 15.06%  P/E 10.75  P/B 1.62	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.
	WoW %	0.20%	Div. Yield %	0.42%	P/E	4.05		
Jamaica Producers Group (JP)	YTD %	10.82%			P/B	1.58	 ROE 15.47%  P/E 16.36  P/B 2.53	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 companies 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	\$24.48	ROE	18.51%		




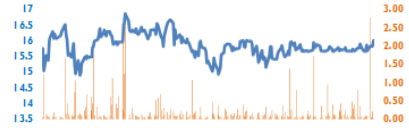








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# LOCAL STOCK RECOMMENDATIONS

COMPANY NAME	PRICE MOVEMENTS	J\$	STATISTICS	COMPANY VITALS	INDUSTRY VITALS	RATIONALE
October 1, 2021						
Wisynco Ltd (WISYNCO)	Current Price	\$15.99	EPS \$0.82	 ROE 20.41%	ROE 18.51%	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.
	52 Week High	\$17.50	BVPS \$4.01	 P/E 19.52	P/E 23.29	
BUY	53 Week Low	\$13.00	T12M Div. \$0.30	 P/B 3.98	P/B 4.05	
	WoW %	2.04%	Div. Yield % 1.91%			
Barita Investments Ltd (BIL)	Current Price	\$104.14	EPS \$3.63	 ROE 14.62%	ROE 13.71%	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.
	52 Week High	\$109.50	BVPS \$24.79	 P/E 28.73	P/E 12.85	
BUY	53 Week Low	\$60.07	T12M Div. \$2.96	 P/B 4.20	P/B 2.00	
	WoW %	6.44%	Div. Yield % 3.54%			
Grace Kennedy Ltd (GK)	Current Price	\$99.19	EPS \$7.09	 ROE 11.11%	ROE 12.38%	Despite the impact of COVID 19 on economic activity in Jamaica and other source markets, Grace Kennedy demonstrated strong resiliency and remained profitable. During 2020, the company made significant changes to ensure that its products and services were delivered to clients across many channels by ensuring its international supply chains remained strong, active and efficient. GK's recent deal with Nestle is one example of a strategy it has implemented to increase distribution as it moves closer to accomplishing its goal of creating a wider wingspan in the global arena. Additionally, GK's strategic vision of expanding its financial services business in the region is aligned with the acquisition of Scotia Insurance Eastern Caribbean. This addition could help to boost the already thriving insurance segment which grew by more than 20% in 2020 alone. GK's results delivered over the 6-month period ending June 2021, which saw profit after tax coming in at 30% above the amount posted in the same period in the previous year is a further reflection of its continued progress towards improving the operating margins and overall efficiency which will serve it well in the future.
	52 Week High	\$105.99	BVPS \$63.83	 P/E 13.98	P/E 12.92	
HOLD	53 Week Low	\$56.98	T12M Div. \$1.93	 P/B 1.55	P/B 1.58	
	WoW %	0.19%	Div. Yield % 3.33%			

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# Mutual Funds

## JN MUTUAL FUNDS

September 28, 2021



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JN Mutual Funds	NAV Price	12 Months Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
<b>Global Diversified Income</b>	J\$13.9648	3.59%	0.89%	2.22%
<b>Global Equity</b>	J\$15.8658	13.28%	5.38%	0.00%
<b>Global Fixed Income</b>	J\$13.0770	4.19%	3.32%	4.74%
<b>Global Money Market (US\$)</b>	US\$10.7547	2.26%	1.28%	2.40%
<b>Global Fixed Income (US\$)</b>	US\$11.2579	7.58%	2.22%	3.15%
<b>Local Money Market</b>	J\$11.3823	3.98%	3.19%	4.17%

	Global Money Market Fund	Local Money Market Fund	Global Fixed Income Funds	Global Diversified Income Fund	Global Equity Fund
<b>Objective</b>	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.
<b>Strategy</b>	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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