



MONTHLY ECONOMIC BULLETIN

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The CEO'S Remarks

Last month we saw improvements in the confidence indices, which showed the highest confidence numbers in approximately 15 years. This supports the PSOJ has stated that there is a greater level of optimism and we have been seeing more investments on the ground.

This is an enviable position that we must protect, as confidence is a primary driver of investments and consumption. It is this increased investments and consumption that drive markets, and hence produce growth, which is what must be addressed as a matter of urgency for the Jamaican economy.

We have also recently had a tax package, which saw those persons earning between \$1.5 and \$6 Million, annually, receiving a tax break on their incomes. The irony of the package, however, is that while it gives a tax break to those in the \$1.5 million to \$6 million earnings group, on the same hand, persons who are earning less than the original threshold of \$592,000, will actually see a real reduction, as a result of the inflationary impact of the budget. And persons earning above \$6 million will see an increased tax rate. Therefore this does not represent a true move towards indirect taxation.

Even with this impact, however, the economy is expected to grow at a rate of close to 2 percent, for the current calendar year. This is very possible, given the performance of tourism, and other non-traditional sectors.

The question going forward then is, what will be the impact of the tax package on the economy, and what can be expected.

My own view is that there will not be any major impact on spending from the tax relief initially, especially as those outside of the band will see a real decrease. There will, however, be some minimal impact from this tax relief, as expenditures should see marginal increases.

My own disappointment with the budget process thus far, is that it has not yet addressed in any focussed way the long term sustainable developmental goals. So although the tax measures will have some short term impact, the longer term growth is going to depend to a very high degree on productivity improvements.

This is the challenge that the government faces. That is, now that more money is placed in the hands of those with a higher propensity to consume, we must move quickly to improve growth and productivity levels, so that the greater spending is supported by greater productivity. If not the result will be higher inflation levels, to compensate for the greater monies in the economy.

So while PSOJ has in the past (PSWG Report) supported, and continues to support, the move towards indirect (consumption) to direct taxation (especially on PAYE), the pace at which it is done is going to be critical to support fiscal revenues and low economic numbers.

I do, however, think that Jamaica is on track to see economic improvements, but unless we address the training issues, the increased growth will not result in broad based benefit. This is so even with the tax relief, which will see short term improvements, and can only be sustained with productivity improvements.

Economic Highlights April 2016

- ◆ In April, the Business and Consumer Confidence Indices for the first quarter of 2016 was released. The Business Confidence Index was 144.6 in the 1st quarter 2016 survey, up from 123.0 in the 4th quarter and 131.9 in last year's 1st quarter. According to the survey, optimism among Jamaican firms rose at the start of 2016 to its highest level in the fifteen-year history of the survey. All the index components increased. The components include, Current Return on Investments (101), Investment/Expansion Climate (137), Expected Change in Economy (147), Expected Change Firm's Finances (165), Expected Change in Profitability (166). The Consumer Confidence Index was 147.9 in the 1st quarter of 2016, up from 124.4 in the 4th quarter and 114.3 one year ago. The survey reflected an increase in the expectations index as consumers expected the new economic policies to have as significant impact on the economy and their own finances. All index components increased. The components include, Current Business Conditions (83), Current Job Prospects (18), Expected Business Conditions (114), Expected Job Prospects (111), Expected Change in Income (138).
- ◆ At the end of April 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by J\$0.49 or 0.40% relative to the previous month to J\$122.45=US\$1.00. The Canadian dollar depreciated by J\$4.65 or 5.06% to J\$96.61 = CAD\$1.00 relative to March. The Great Britain pound depreciated by J\$2.07 or 1.20% relative to the previous month to end at J\$174.77 = GBP£1.00.
- ◆ Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica "All Divisions" Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by 0.4% for the period April 2016 over March 2016. The decrease in the rate for February brought inflation for the calendar year to date to -1.7%. The decrease in the rate for April 2016 over March 2016 brought inflation for Fiscal Year to January to -0.4%. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of April 2016 was 2.4%.
- ◆ Data for the month ending April 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$267.83 billion (US\$2,335.90 million). This reflected a decrease of J\$9.131 billion (US\$79.63 million) relative to March 2016.
- ◆ The monetary base decreased by J\$0.173 billion to J\$119.838 billion for April 2016 relative to March this year.
- ◆ On the last trading day in April 2016, for the period April 01, 2016 to April 29, 2016, the main JSE index declined by 3,872.15 points or 2.52% to close

Economic Highlights April 2016

at 150,039.18 points. The JSE Combined Index declined by 2,159.96 points or 1.33% to close at 160,357.96 points. The JSE Junior advanced by 139.63 points or 7.25% to close at 2,064.85 points. In contrast, once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at 499.06 points.

- ◆ For the month of March 2016, the production of Alumina was 166,803 tonnes. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to 146,371 tonnes. The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for March 2016 was 355,358 tonnes. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for March this year was 807,849 tonnes. The total crude bauxite sold for the month was 298,987 tonnes. For the calendar year to date, the production of crude bauxite was 1,103,208 tonnes. For the calendar year to date, the production of total bauxite was 2,315,925 tonnes.
- ◆ For February 2016, the overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased to 16.81% from 17.27% relative to the previous month. The weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits remained unchanged at

1.56% relative to January. For February this year foreign currency loans rate decreased relative to January 2016. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate marginally declined by 1bps to 7.32%. The interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased for February relative to January this year.

- ◆ Stopover tourist arrivals for February 2016 were 185,272. This month's total was 5,716 or 3.18% higher than the 179,556 in February this year. For the January to February period, arrivals increased by 2.9%, with 364,831 stopovers compared to 354,426 in 2015. A total of 197,467 cruise passengers visited Jamaica in January, 2016. This represented a 10,723 or 5.74% increase over the 186,744 recorded in the previous number.
- ◆ At the end of January 2016 gross remittance inflows were US\$160.3 million. This represented a decrease of 24.0% or US\$50.6 million relative to the US\$210.9 million recorded in December.
- ◆ There were price reductions observed in 24% (5) of the commodities monitored for April 2016. The price of crude oil index Brent increased in March 2016 as well as the WTI. The Brent moved up by 8.14% and the WTI increased by 8.45%. Natural gas increased by 11.76%.

International Commodity Prices

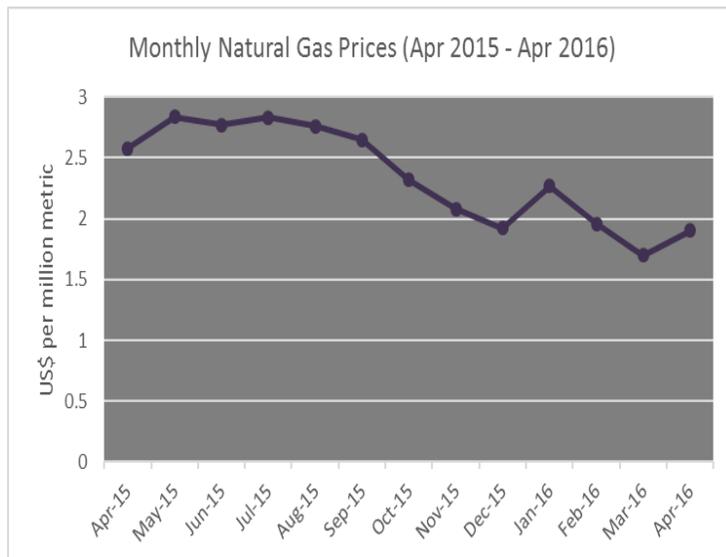
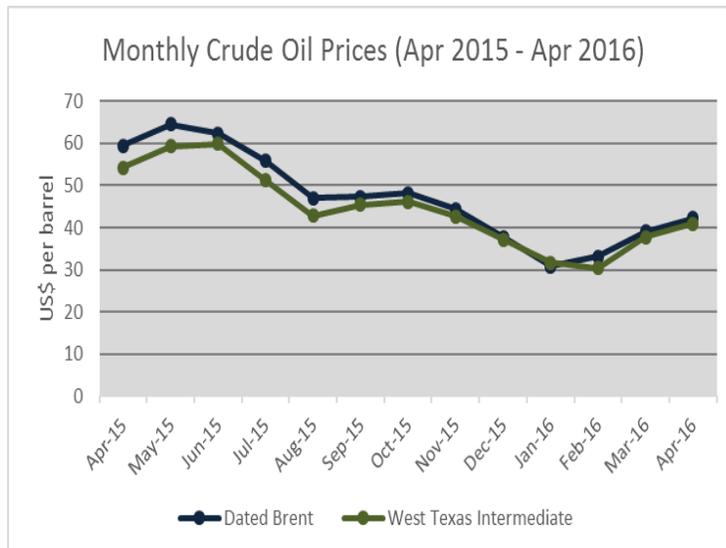
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Crude Oil Prices

For the month ending April 2016, both the average price of the Dated Brent and the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) increased. The Brent ended the month of April at **US\$42.25 per bbl**. This represented a **US\$3.18** or **8.14%** increase from the **US\$39.07 per bbl** recorded for the previous month. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) ended the month at **US\$40.96**. This represented a **US\$3.19** or **8.45%** increase relative to last month. A one-year comparison of prices revealed that this year's price for the Brent is **28.86%** or **US\$17.14 per bbl** lower. When compared to last year's price, this year's WTI price is **24.43%** or **US\$13.24** below. When compared to their price levels two years ago both the Brent and WTI are **60.84%** and **59.91%** respectively below. The 5-year average of prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 for the Dated Brent and the West Texas Intermediate are **US\$93.09 per bbl** and **US\$82.768 per bbl** respectively. This month's price was **55%** below the 5-year average of prices for the Brent and **50.51%** for the WTI.

The Word Bank in its latest Commodity Markets Outlook published in April, rose its 2016 forecast for crude oil prices to \$41 per barrel from \$37 per barrel. This was as a result of the improving market sentiment and a weakening dollar, as an oversupply in markets is expected to recede.

Senior Economist and lead author of the Commodities Markets Outlook, John Baffes, stated that slightly higher prices for energy commodities over the course of the year is expected as markets



rebalance after a period of oversupply. In addition, energy prices could fall further if OPEC increases production significantly and non-OPEC production does not fall as fast as expected.

Natural Gas

For the month ending April 2016, natural gas price increased relative March. The price for natural gas ended at **US\$1.9** per million metric. This reflected an increase of **US\$0.2** or **11.76%** from **US\$1.7** in March.

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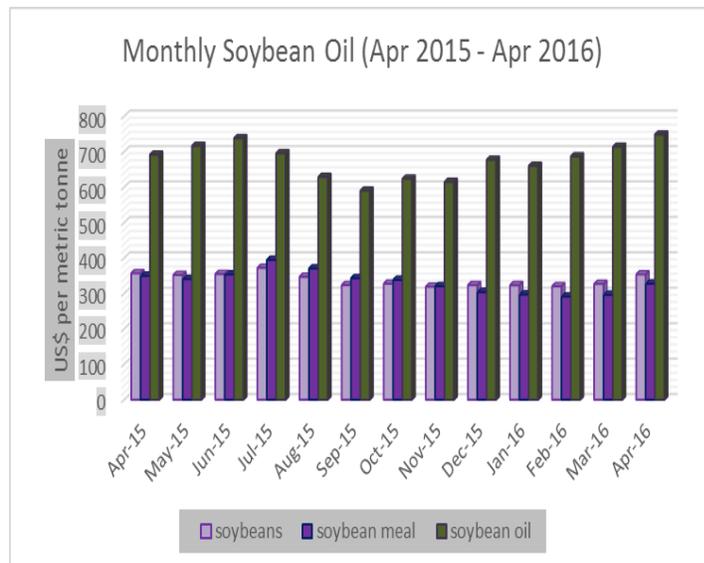
International Commodity Prices

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In April 2015 natural gas per million metric was valued at **US\$2.58** signifying that this year's price is **US\$0.68** or **26.36%** lower. Similarly, a two-year comparison revealed that natural gas prices have decreased, this time by **US\$2.73** or **58.96%** per million metric. The five-year average monthly price for natural gas ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$3.38** per million metric, hence this year's April price was **US\$1.48** or **43.82%** below.

Soybean Prices

For the month ending April 2016 soybean price per metric tonne was **US\$353.8**. This denoted a **8.22%** or **US\$26.86** increase from March's value of **US\$326.94** per metric tonne. In April this year, both the average prices of the soybean meal and soybean oil price increased. Soybean meal ended the month at **US\$327.7** per metric tonne. This represented an increase of **US\$31.52** or **10.64%**. At the end of April, the price per metric tonne for soybean oil stood at **US\$748.53** representing a **4.86%** or **US\$34.67** increase compared to the previous month. A one-year comparison revealed that prices for soybean decreased by **0.8769%** or **US\$3.13**. This month soybean price was also **US\$193.39** or **35.34%** lower than its price two years ago. When compared to the corresponding period last year the soybean meal price was **US\$22.01** or **6.294%** below. However, soybean oil price was above last year's price by **US\$56.86** or **8.22%**. A two-year comparison of prices for soybean meal and soybean oil revealed that they decreased by **38.59%** and **19.87%** respectively. The five-year average monthly price for soybean meal ranging from April



2011 to March 2016 is **US\$424.30** per metric tonne, which means that April's price was **US\$96.60** or **22.77%** lower. The five-year average monthly price for soybean oil ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$944.21** per metric tonne, which means that April's price was **US\$195.68** or **20.72%** lower.

Sugar Prices

At the end of April 2016 the average price of the Free Market Sugar ended at **US\$0.1522** cents per pound. This represented a decrease of **US\$0.0022** or **1.42%** when compared to March 2016. For the US Sugar imports, the average price increased from **US\$0.2632** in March to **US\$0.279** in April. This represented an increase of **US\$0.0158** or **6.00%** cents per pound. At the end of April 2016 the European Sugar imports ended its seven months' decline to end at **US\$0.2367** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0001** or **0.04%** increase compared to the previous month. For the period April 2016 relative to April 2015, the price of Free Market sugar increased by **US\$0.0231** or

International Commodity Prices

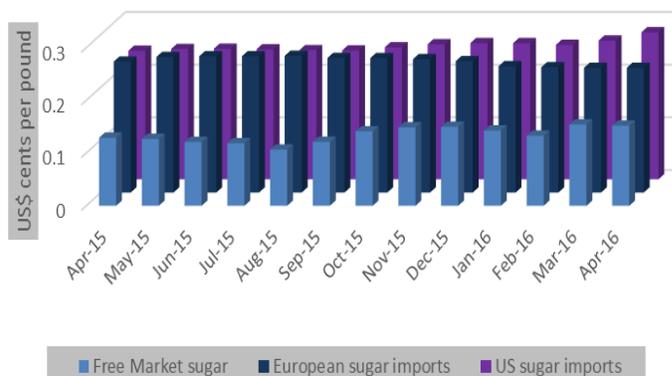
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17.89% cents per pound. A one-year comparison revealed that the price of the US Sugar imports has increased by **US\$0.0351** or **14.39%**, while the European sugar imports price has decreased by **US\$0.0118** or **4.748%**. In April 2014 the price for the Free Market sugar was **US\$0.1821** cents per pound, which means that this year's April price is **US\$0.0299** or **16.42%** lower. The price of the US Sugar imports is **13.18%** higher than the 2014 price while the price of the European Sugar imports is **4.16%** lower than the 2014 price. The 5-year average of prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 for the US imports and the European imports are **US\$0.2684** cents per pound and **US\$0.2623** cents per pound respectively. Hence the prices of US imports is above its long term average by **3.956%** while the European imports is below it average by **9.7563%**.

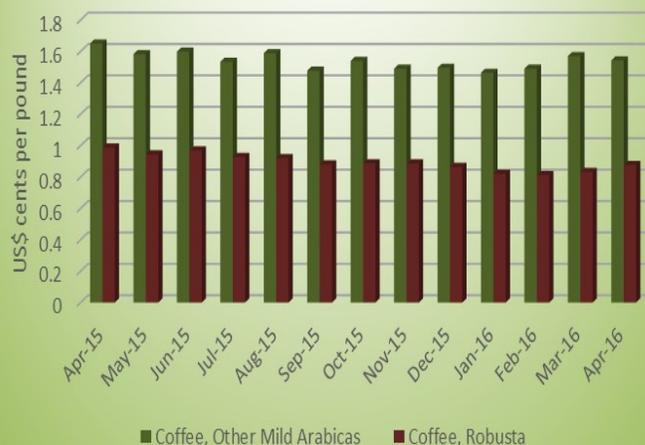
Coffee Prices

For the month ending April 2016 the average price for Coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category decreased while the price for the Robusta coffee increased. The price per pound for coffee of the Other Mild Arabicas category was **US\$1.542** cents per pound representing a decline of **US\$0.0274** or **1.75%**. A one-year comparison revealed that this month's price was **US\$0.1075** or **6.52%** lower than last year's April price. Robusta Coffee ended the month at **US\$0.876** cents per pound. This month's price is above the previous month's price by **US\$0.0441** or **5.30%**. A one-year comparison revealed that the price of coffee in the Robusta category has fallen by **US\$0.1113** or **11.27%**. A

Monthly Sugar Prices (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



Monthly Coffee Prices (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



two-year comparison revealed that prices have fallen by **32.07%** for coffee of the 'Other Mild Arabica's category and by **20.85%** for coffee in the Robusta category. The five-year average monthly prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 for Arabica and Robusta are **US\$1.864** and **US\$1.038** respectively. This implies that this year's April price for the Arabica was **17.31%** lower than the average price and for the Robusta coffee it was **15.59%** lower than its average price.

International Commodity Prices

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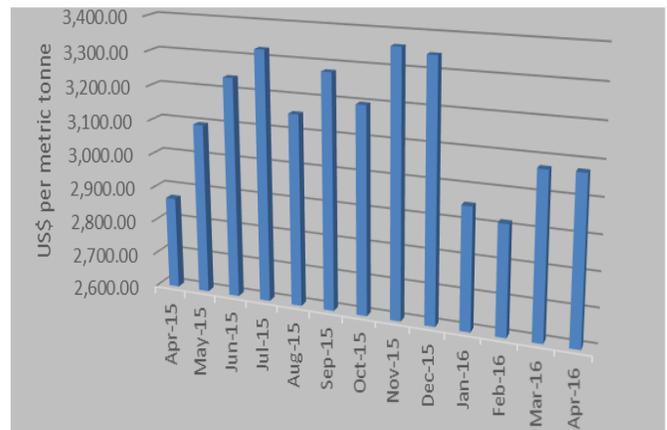
Cocoa Bean Prices

For the month ending April 2016, cocoa bean prices marginally increased relative to the previous month. Prices increased by **US\$2.18** per metric tonne or **0.07%** to close at **US\$3,075.70** per metric tonne. A one-year comparison revealed that, this year's price is higher by **US\$207.43** or **7.232%**. A two-year price comparison showed that the April 2016 price for cocoa beans is higher by **US\$25.09** or **0.8225%** than its price in April 2014. The five-year average for monthly prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 for cocoa bean is **US\$2,780.41** per metric tonne, this means that this year's April price was **US\$295.29** or **10.62%** higher.

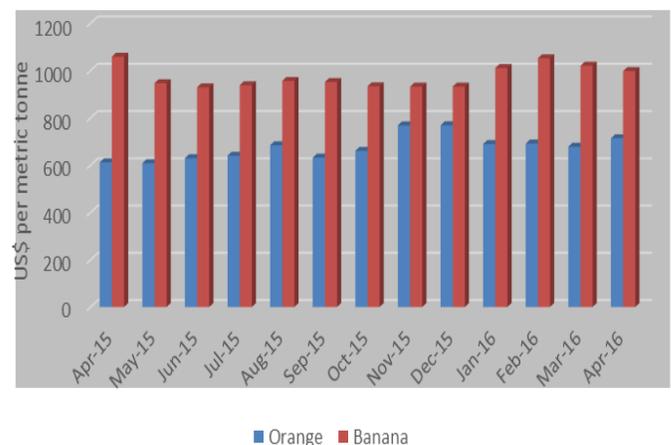
Orange Prices

For the month ending April 2016 orange price increased to **US\$713.8** per metric tonne. The month's price increased by **5.31%** or **US\$35.97** per metric tonne, relative to March. When compared to the same period in 2015, this year's price was **US\$101.67** or **16.61%** higher. A two-year comparison revealed that prices have fallen by **US\$133.09** or **16%**. The five-year average monthly price ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$829.89**, indicating that this month's price was **US\$116.09** or **14%** lower.

Monthly Cocoa Beans Prices (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



Monthly Orange and Banana Prices (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



Banana Prices

Banana prices for the month ending April 2016 decreased to **US\$998.09** per metric tonne. This represented a decline of **US\$22.81** or **2.23%** relative to the previous month. For April 2016 relative to April



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International Commodity Prices

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2015, banana prices decreased by **US\$61.05** or **5.76%** per metric tonne. A two-year comparison revealed that this year's price is above the April 2014 price of **US\$945.5** per metric tonne by **US\$52.59** or **5.56%**. The five-year average monthly prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$957.556**, this means that this year's price was **US\$40.534** or **4.23%** above.

Corn Prices

For the month ending April 2016, corn prices ended its five months decrease. This time prices increased by **US\$5.27** or **3.31%** relative to March, to close the month at **US\$164.41** per metric tonne. Between April 2015 and April 2016 prices decreased by **US\$7.64** or **4.44%**. A two-year price comparison

Monthly Cereal Price (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



showed that this year's price was **US\$57.95** or **26.06%** lower. The five-year monthly average for corn prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$236.21** per metric tonne, this means that this year's price was **US\$71.80** or **30.40%** lower.

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International Commodity Prices

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Wheat

In April 2016, wheat prices marginally decreased by **US\$0.67** or **0.41%** relative to March 2016 to end at **US\$163.36** per metric tonne. Relative to April 2015, prices have fallen by **US\$32.54** or **16.61%** per metric tonne. A two-year comparison of wheat prices showed that this year's April price was **US\$110.11** or **40.26%** below the April 2014's price. The average five year monthly prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$265.56** per metric tonne, meaning that this year's April price was **US\$102.20** or **38.49%** below.

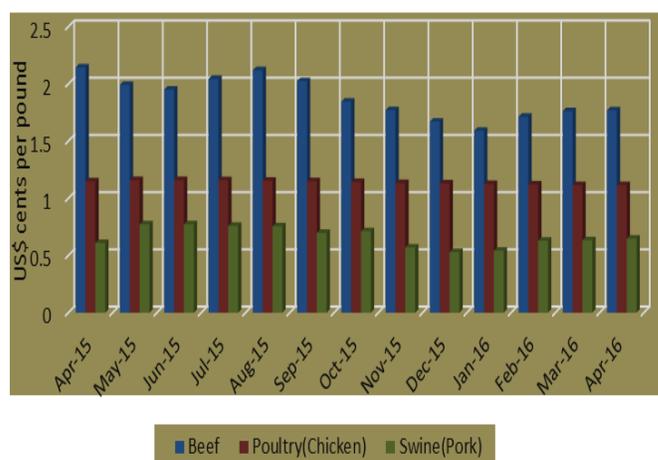
Rice

For the month ending April 2016 the price of the 5 percent broken milled white rice ended at **US\$376.05** per metric tonne. This value was **US\$5.57** or **1.50%** above the **US\$370.48** in March this year. This month's price is below the April 2015 price by **US\$16.36** or **4.1691%**. A two-year price comparison revealed that the commodity's price was **US\$33.89** or **8.267%** lower than its price in 2014. The five-year monthly price average for rice prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$483.673** per metric tonne, indicating that April's price was **US\$107.623** or **22.25%** below the long term average.

Beef Prices

In April 2016, the average price for beef increased. Prices marginally increased by **US\$0.007** or **0.40%** when compared to March, to close at **US\$1.769** cents per pound. When compared to April 2015,

Monthly Meat Prices (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



prices have fallen by **US\$0.3753** or **17.50%** cents per pound. In April 2014 prices were **US\$1.9123** cents per pound hence this year's price was **US\$0.1433** or **7.493%** below the 2014 price. The five-year average for prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$1.9501** cents per pound indicating that this month's price was **US\$0.1811** or **9.287%** below.

Swine (Pork) Prices

Pork prices increased for the month ending April 2016. Price of pork was **US\$0.6481** cents per pound. This represented a **US\$0.0138** or **2.18%** increase from March's price of **US\$0.6343**. When compared with April 2015, prices increased by **US\$0.0383** or **6.28%**. Prices are below the price level 2-years ago by **US\$0.5552** or **46.139%**. It is also below the 5-year average of **US\$0.84852** for prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 by **US\$0.20042** or **23.62%**.

Poultry Prices

Chicken prices continued to decrease, this time for the

International Commodity Prices

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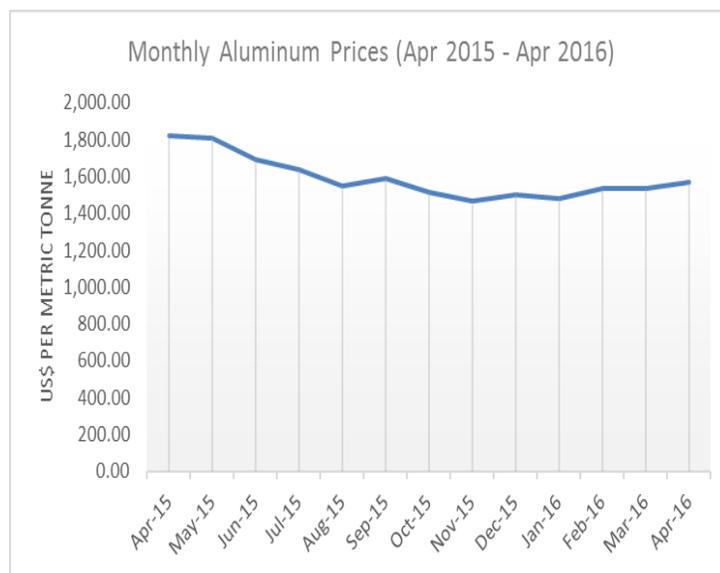
tenth month in a row. At the end of April 2016 chicken was valued at **US\$1.1155** cents per pound, representing a marginal decrease of **US\$0.0001** or **0.01%** from March. The price in April 2016 was approximately **US\$0.0333** or **2.90%** lower than the April 2015 price. In April 2014, the price for poultry was **US\$1.0727** cents per pound, indicating that this year's price was **US\$0.0428** or **3.99%** higher. The average monthly price ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 is **US\$1.034** cents per pound, this means that this year's price was **US\$0.0815** or **7.884%** more.

Aluminum Prices

The price of aluminum increased in April. Prices increased by **US\$40.22** or **2.63%** to end the month at **US\$1,571.23** per metric tonne. For April 2016 relative to April 2015, prices decreased by **US\$247.96** or **13.63%** per metric tonne. A two-year comparison revealed that this year's price was **US\$239.45** or **13%** below the price for the corresponding period in 2014. The five-year average for monthly prices ranging from April 2011 to March 2016 for aluminum is **US\$1,910.99** per metric tonne, this means that this year's April price was **US\$339.76** or **17.78%** lower.

Impact of global prices on Jamaica

There were price reductions observed in **24% (5)** of the commodities monitored for April 2016. The price of crude oil index Brent increased in April 2016 as well as the WTI. The Brent moved up by



8.14% and the WTI increased by **8.45%**. Natural gas increased by **11.76%**. The IMF's Fuel Energy index increased by **7.30%**, and the Food and Beverage Index increased by **2.448%**. The all commodity price index increased by **4.73%**.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Food Price Index averaged 151.8 points in April 2016, up 1.1 points (0.7%) from March, but almost 10% below its April 2015 level. A relatively strong rise in vegetable oil quotations coupled with a more modest gain in international prices of cereals more than offset a decline in dairy and sugar prices. The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged nearly 150 points in April, up 2.2 points (1.5%) from March, but still down 10.4% year-on-year. Maize quotations increased the most, influenced by weaker US dollar and spill over from soaring prices in the vegetable oils complex. However, favourable weather conditions and expected large supplies in the new season limited gains in wheat markets. Averaged 146.6 points in April, up 1.2 points (0.8%) from March. The prices of pig and poultry meats were



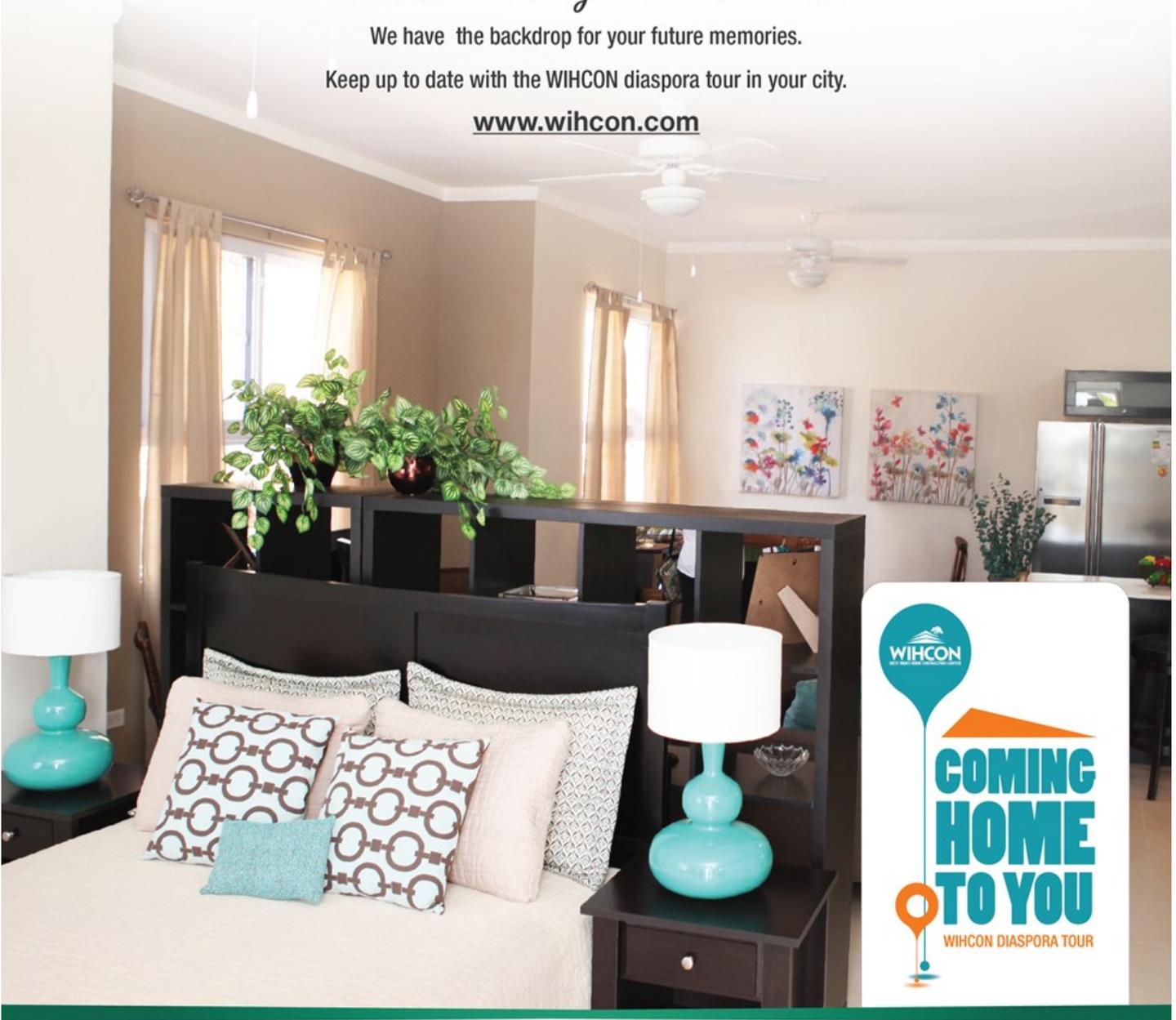
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mostly steady, reflecting an overall balanced supply and demand situation. The FAO Sugar Price Index averaged 215 points in April, down 3.8 points (1.7 percent) from March. Last month's decline reflected generally large export availabilities in Brazil, supported by a bumper crop (second highest on record) and expectation of reduced use of sugarcane for the production of ethanol in the country.

All main commodity indexes tracked by the World Bank are expected to decline in 2016 from the year before due to persistently elevated supplies, and in the case of industrial commodities – which include energy, metals, and agricultural raw materials -- weak growth prospects in emerging market and developing economies.

Commodity	Unit	March Price	April Price	Monthly Change %
Aluminum	Metric tonne	1531.01	1571.23	2.63
Bananas	Metric tonne	1020.9	998.09	-2.23
Beef	Pound	1.762	1.769	0.4
Cocoa Beans	Metric tonne	3073.3	3075.7	0.07
Coffee-Arabicas	Pound	1.5694	1.542	-1.75
Coffee-Robusta	Pound	0.8319	0.876	5.3
Com-Maize	Metric tonne	159.14	164.41	3.31
Natural gas	MMBTU	1.7	1.9	11.76
Crude Brent	Barrel	39.07	42.25	8.14
Crude West Texas Intermediate	Barrel	37.77	40.96	8.45
Oranges	Metric tonne	677.83	713.8	5.31
Pork (Swine)	Pound	0.6343	0.6481	2.18
Poultry	Pound	1.1156	1.1155	-0.01
Rice	Metric tonne	370.48	376.05	1.5
Soybean	Metric tonne	326.94	353.8	8.22
Soybean meal	Metric tonne	296.18	327.7	10.64
Soybean oil	Metric tonne	713.86	748.53	4.86
Sugar (free market)	Pound	0.1543	0.1522	-1.42
Sugar US (Import)	Pound	0.2364	0.279	6
Sugar European (Import)	Pound	0.2632	0.2367	0.04
Wheat	Metric tonne	164.03	163.36	-0.41

International Commodity Prices

April 2016 Issue

Actual prices through 20-Jan-2016

Table 1. Near Term Commodity Price Baseline (In U.S. Dollars)

Commodities	Units	Projections															
		Actual	2014Q1	2014Q2	2014Q3	2014Q4	2015Q1	2015Q2	2015Q3	2015Q4	2016Q1	2016Q2	2016Q3	2016Q4	2017Q1	2017Q2	2017Q3
Food																	
Cereals																	
Wheat	\$/MT	248.8	274.3	226.3	220.6	205.0	196.3	178.8	162.3	186.3	174.8	178.4	185.0	188.8	190.7	193.4	198.2
Maize	\$/MT	210.1	213.9	173.9	173.5	174.2	168.4	169.4	167.1	156.6	146.9	149.9	153.7	157.3	159.5	159.9	158.1
Rice	\$/MT	440.7	409.4	435.0	420.8	406.6	381.8	374.0	358.3	356.0	357.6	347.8	345.9	308.9	310.3	301.8	300.2
Barley	\$/MT	162.7	166.9	132.8	122.0	132.2	128.1	127.9	123.2	121.6	124.0	125.4	110.9	134.7	137.4	138.9	122.8
Vegetable oils and protein meals																	
Soybeans	\$/MT	498.3	540.4	421.7	370.9	369.9	354.6	347.6	323.3	321.6	321.4	323.6	324.2	326.5	328.0	328.9	325.7
Soybean meal	\$/MT	493.3	531.9	436.0	406.7	372.7	348.0	369.3	320.8	297.1	300.2	304.9	307.3	310.1	311.5	312.7	312.3
Soybean oil	\$/MT	877.9	899.7	757.1	716.1	696.4	715.4	688.3	638.6	656.3	661.8	668.3	669.9	677.6	683.2	687.2	682.4
Palm oil	\$/MT	813.7	794.7	695.9	653.3	627.9	599.9	514.6	518.0	536.3	559.7	557.2	552.5	556.6	557.3	557.0	556.6
Fish meal	\$/MT	1657.9	1861.6	1973.6	2192.7	2031.9	1744.2	1558.9	1701.9	1704.5	1603.5	1405.2	1363.6	1358.2	1277.8	1119.8	1086.6
Sunflower Oil	\$/MT	1133.1	1121.5	1012.5	1054.2	974.0	1062.3	1010.4	1042.1	1022.1	1013.1	1004.0	995.9	1014.3	1005.3	996.3	988.2
Oilse oil	\$/MT	3599.0	3663.5	4122.1	4262.5	4568.3	4855.3	5616.4	4638.4	4190.4	4200.0	4248.3	4290.2	4342.4	4352.4	4402.4	4445.8
Groundnuts	\$/MT	2377.3	2228.8	2046.8	1940.1	2016.8	2023.4	2012.9	1731.8	1656.9	1616.7	1576.3	1535.9	1634.4	1694.7	1554.8	1514.9
Rapeseed oil	\$/MT	980.3	963.1	849.6	824.4	755.1	772.6	772.7	798.2	811.0	784.4	779.0	773.6	739.9	715.7	710.8	705.8
Meat																	
Beef	cts/lb	191.8	195.5	252.9	256.0	216.6	202.9	206.3	176.2	167.1	156.8	152.0	157.3	160.7	150.7	146.1	151.3
Lamb	cts/lb	124.1	135.4	132.8	130.2	122.5	112.4	101.3	95.3	95.5	95.5	96.4	97.6	98.2	98.2	99.1	100.3
Swine Meat	cts/lb	92.8	115.4	112.8	90.3	65.5	71.9	73.8	60.5	53.1	52.2	52.0	49.5	48.2	47.4	47.1	44.9
Poultry	cts/lb	104.7	109.0	113.0	113.9	114.0	115.6	115.5	113.6	113.1	117.5	120.1	118.4	120.6	125.3	128.1	126.3
Seafood																	
Salmon	\$/kg	7.8	6.9	5.9	5.8	5.6	5.1	5.3	5.3	5.8	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.5
Shrimp	\$/lb	17.1	17.8	17.0	14.3	15.7	15.7	15.0	10.0	10.1	9.4	9.3	9.8	9.5	8.8	8.7	9.2
Sugar																	
Free market	cts/lb	16.8	18.2	17.7	15.8	14.1	12.6	11.6	14.7	14.3	13.9	13.7	13.8	14.2	13.9	13.7	13.6
United States	cts/lb	22.4	25.3	26.5	25.3	24.8	24.6	24.5	25.5	25.8	25.9	26.0	26.0	25.5	25.6	25.6	25.5
EU	cts/lb	27.5	28.0	27.8	26.3	25.2	25.5	25.8	25.3	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2
Bananas	\$/MT	947.1	929.2	939.3	911.9	974.8	978.4	948.9	932.7	932.3	921.3	900.7	891.1	897.7	887.1	867.3	858.0
Oranges	\$/MT	777.4	838.8	774.1	739.8	698.5	616.9	652.1	733.1	770.0	765.3	760.8	758.1	769.9	765.2	760.7	758.0
Beverages																	
Coffee																	
Other milds	cts/lb	175.8	213.7	208.4	213.5	177.0	161.0	153.2	150.8	132.2	113.9	117.0	120.6	123.1	124.6	126.6	128.6
Robusta	cts/lb	102.0	107.9	106.0	106.6	101.4	96.7	90.9	87.9	61.5	63.5	65.6	67.3	68.8	70.2	71.4	72.4
Cocoa Beans	\$/MT	2951.3	3085.0	3229.2	2985.6	2918.5	3068.1	3252.8	3301.5	2991.0	2863.5	2863.8	2833.2	2813.8	2813.6	2811.0	2802.3
Tea	cts/kg	247.9	222.2	233.7	247.6	291.2	320.1	387.2	369.0	343.5	343.5	355.1	364.8	345.9	345.9	357.6	367.4
Agricultural raw materials																	
Timber																	
Hardwood																	
Logs	\$/M3	289.8	291.5	286.5	260.4	249.9	245.4	243.6	245.2	244.6	244.6	244.6	244.6	254.6	254.6	254.6	254.6
Sawnwood	\$/M3	901.9	917.3	910.0	862.6	826.2	834.8	844.9	827.1	816.8	809.3	817.6	853.1	824.6	817.0	825.4	861.2
Softwood																	
Logs	\$/M3	178.4	169.7	167.4	181.5	169.8	159.1	159.8	159.4	159.4	169.1	159.4	160.5	164.0	174.0	164.0	165.2
Sawnwood	\$/M3	306.1	312.6	308.3	302.1	306.8	298.0	310.4	329.0	329.0	321.5	312.1	306.8	322.4	315.1	305.8	300.7
Cotton	cts/lb	94.0	92.6	77.1	68.7	68.8	72.3	71.0	69.5	62.0	62.3	62.6	62.0	63.0	63.3	63.5	63.6
Wool																	
Fine	cts/kg	1114.0	1086.0	1068.1	1029.4	947.8	1079.7	999.7	995.8	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3	1028.3
Coarse	cts/kg	1083.6	1058.7	1025.0	954.3	887.7	962.7	942.0	898.9	909.9	883.9	859.0	809.5	760.3	742.7	717.7	678.4
Rubber	cts/lb	102.1	96.1	83.4	73.5	78.6	81.2	66.1	57.0	57.2	58.9	58.7	60.4	61.0	62.0	62.2	62.0
Hides	cts/lb	107.6	109.8	110.8	112.7	105.8	96.8	76.1	71.7	70.0	71.5	72.2	74.5	77.7	79.3	80.1	82.7
Metals																	
Copper	\$/MT	7080.2	6795.3	6995.8	6692.3	5833.2	6056.6	5267.1	4894.9	4384.1	4357.5	4354.5	4352.0	4351.0	4351.0	4351.0	4351.0
Aluminum	\$/MT	1709.3	1800.2	1989.7	1970.4	1802.1	1770.3	1592.4	1489.9	1468.9	1471.3	1479.5	1487.9	1496.9	1507.8	1518.5	1529.1
Iron Ore	\$/MT	120.4	102.6	90.3	74.0	62.3	57.9	54.4	46.2	39.9	36.3	34.3	33.0	32.2	32.1	32.1	32.1
Tin	\$/MT	22636.3	23146.2	21915.2	19897.9	18370.0	15389.8	15229.5	15077.2	13553.8	13461.7	13430.0	13400.0	13380.0	13370.0	13316.9	13290.3
Nickel	\$/MT	14661.0	18467.8	18394.2	15860.5	14392.8	13055.8	10578.9	9423.0	8520.8	8562.0	8398.0	8691.7	8662.0	8692.0	8721.7	8745.0
Zinc	\$/MT	2026.5	2071.4	2310.7	2235.3	2079.8	2192.2	1842.8	1611.8	1484.4	1486.8	1497.5	1506.3	1514.2	1521.6	1527.8	1533.8
Lead	\$/MT	2101.4	2097.1	2182.4	2000.9	1810.4	1942.2	1717.0	1681.7	1619.9	1612.7	1615.8	1619.8	1624.5	1629.8	1635.1	1641.0
Uranium	\$/lb	35.2	29.8	31.2	37.8	37.9	36.8	36.4	36.0	35.1	30.0	30.9	35.4	35.8	30.5	31.5	36.1
Energy																	
Spot Crude 1/	\$/bbl	103.7	106.3	100.4	74.5	51.7	60.4	48.8	42.2	27.0	28.9	31.0	32.7	34.1	35.4	36.4	37.4
Natural Gas																	
Russian in Germany	\$/MMBTU	10.8	10.7	10.1	10.3	9.4	7.4	6.6	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Indonesian in Japan (LNG)	\$/MMBTU	17.8	17.6	16.5	16.1	14.4	9.6	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
US, domestic market	\$/MMBTU	5.2	4.6	3.9	3.8	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8
Coal																	
Australian, export markets	\$/MT	82.6	77.9	72.7	67.4	65.6	63.2	61.6	56.1	56.0	52.5	46.7	48.9	56.8	53.2	47.4	49.6

1/ Petroleum price is average of spot prices for U.K. Brent, Dubai and West Texas Intermediate.

International Commodity Prices

April 2016 Issue

Actual prices through
20-Jan-2016

Table 2. Medium Term Commodity Price Baseline
(In U.S. Dollars)

Commodities	Units	2009A1	2010A1	2011A1	2012A1	2013A1	2014A1	2015A1	2016A1	2017A1	2018A1	2019A1	2020A1	2021A1
					Actual					Projections				
Food														
Cereals														
Wheat	\$/MT	190.1	194.5	280.0	276.1	265.8	242.5	185.6	181.1	192.8	199.7	202.7	201.0	199.3
Maize	\$/MT	165.5	186.0	291.8	298.4	259.0	192.9	169.8	151.8	158.7	163.0	166.4	166.4	166.4
Rice	\$/MT	389.4	520.6	551.7	580.2	518.8	426.5	380.2	351.8	305.3	305.3	305.3	305.3	305.3
Barley	\$/MT	128.4	158.4	207.2	238.2	206.4	146.1	127.9	120.5	133.4	128.9	128.4	127.7	127.0
Vegetable oils and protein meals														
Soybeans	\$/MT	378.5	384.9	484.2	537.8	517.2	457.8	347.4	322.7	327.3	328.2	328.2	328.2	328.2
Soybean meal	\$/MT	359.3	331.3	378.9	473.3	477.3	467.0	352.7	302.4	311.6	314.9	316.9	316.9	316.9
Soybean oil	\$/MT	787.0	924.8	1215.8	1151.8	1011.1	812.7	672.2	664.1	682.6	681.0	681.0	681.0	681.0
Palm oil	\$/MT	644.1	859.9	1076.5	939.8	764.2	739.4	565.1	551.4	556.9	569.6	529.3	486.8	447.2
Fish meal	\$/MT	1255.9	1739.2	1519.3	1624.3	1710.5	1921.5	1759.2	1519.2	1210.6	1210.6	1210.6	1210.6	1210.6
Sunflower Oil	\$/MT	1041.7	1186.0	1621.8	1489.5	1341.1	1080.3	1022.2	1008.8	1001.0	1001.0	1001.0	1001.0	1001.0
Olive oil	\$/MT	3509.3	3171.3	3070.3	3135.7	3816.7	3911.8	4927.1	4232.2	4385.8	4385.8	4385.8	4385.8	4385.8
Groundnuts	\$/MT	994.6	1239.4	1724.0	1688.2	2314.5	2148.3	1946.2	1596.5	1574.7	1574.7	1574.7	1574.7	1574.7
Rapeseed oil	\$/MT	856.2	1011.7	1366.6	1239.1	1081.2	904.4	774.6	787.0	718.1	719.0	719.0	719.5	719.0
Meat														
Beef	cts/lb	119.6	152.5	183.2	187.9	183.6	224.1	200.5	158.3	152.2	152.2	152.2	152.2	152.2
Lamb	cts/lb	146.9	145.7	149.2	100.9	106.7	130.6	107.9	96.3	99.0	98.4	97.7	97.1	96.2
Swine Meat	cts/lb	55.8	74.4	89.1	82.8	86.5	102.8	67.9	51.7	46.9	47.4	46.9	46.1	45.5
Poultry	cts/lb	85.6	85.8	87.4	94.3	103.8	110.1	114.7	117.3	125.1	125.1	125.1	125.1	125.1
Seafood														
Salmon	\$/kg	4.9	6.1	5.9	4.8	6.8	6.6	5.3	5.4	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Shrimp	\$/lb	9.5	10.1	11.9	10.1	14.0	16.6	14.1	9.7	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Sugar														
Free market	cts/lb	18.2	20.9	26.2	21.4	17.7	17.1	13.2	13.9	13.9	13.6	14.5	14.5	14.5
United States	cts/lb	24.3	31.1	37.6	28.9	21.2	24.9	24.9	25.9	25.6	25.5	24.8	24.7	23.8
EU	cts/lb	26.0	25.7	26.7	26.4	26.0	27.4	25.4	25.0	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2	25.2
Bananas	\$/MT	848.0	881.4	975.9	984.3	926.4	931.9	958.7	911.3	877.5	861.2	853.4	845.5	837.2
Oranges	\$/MT	909.0	1033.2	891.1	868.0	967.3	782.5	675.1	763.5	763.4	763.4	763.4	763.4	763.4
Beverages														
Coffee														
Other milds	cts/lb	141.6	194.4	273.2	187.6	141.1	202.8	160.5	120.9	125.7	132.2	137.3	137.3	137.3
Robusta	cts/lb	77.1	84.1	116.0	110.6	100.5	105.6	94.2	64.5	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7
Cocoa Beans	\$/MT	2895.0	3130.6	2978.5	2377.1	2439.1	3062.8	3135.2	2872.9	2810.2	2760.0	2660.7	2557.4	2458.1
Tea	cts/kg	314.0	316.7	346.2	348.9	266.0	237.9	340.4	351.7	354.2	354.2	354.2	354.2	354.2
Agricultural raw materials														
Timber														
Hardwood														
Logs	\$/M3	287.2	278.2	390.5	360.5	305.4	282.0	246.0	244.6	254.6	254.6	254.6	254.6	254.6
Sawnwood	\$/M3	805.5	848.3	939.4	876.3	852.8	897.9	833.2	824.2	832.0	830.1	826.3	824.2	821.1
Softwood														
Logs	\$/M3	136.7	141.5	150.0	148.0	164.5	174.3	162.0	162.1	166.8	163.9	161.9	157.8	156.9
Sawnwood	\$/M3	291.0	281.8	280.9	284.7	301.4	307.3	311.0	317.3	311.0	309.0	304.6	301.3	298.3
Cotton	cts/lb	62.8	103.5	154.6	89.2	90.4	83.1	70.4	62.2	63.3	62.9	62.6	54.2	46.3
Wool														
Fine	cts/kg	778.5	1023.2	1638.2	1345.3	1197.7	1074.4	1005.8	1028.3	1028.3	1006.2	877.2	773.7	652.3
Coarse	cts/kg	611.4	820.1	1209.2	1212.6	1128.1	1030.4	922.8	866.8	724.3	608.7	601.8	540.2	485.4
Rubber	cts/lb	87.2	165.7	218.5	153.2	126.8	88.8	70.7	59.1	61.8	54.2	49.4	44.0	39.2
Hides	cts/lb	44.9	72.0	82.0	83.2	94.7	110.2	87.6	72.1	79.9	79.0	78.2	78.6	78.2
Metals														
Copper	\$/MT	5165.3	7538.4	8823.5	7958.9	7331.5	6865.4	5510.5	4362.0	4351.0	4360.8	4377.1	4394.7	4401.0
Aluminum	\$/MT	1689.2	2173.0	2400.6	2022.8	1846.7	1867.4	1664.7	1476.9	1513.1	1562.9	1625.4	1694.3	1751.7
Iron Ore	\$/MT	80.0	146.7	167.8	128.5	135.4	96.8	55.2	35.9	32.1	31.6	35.9	35.9	35.9
Tin	\$/MT	13602.7	20367.2	26051.4	21109.4	22281.6	21898.9	16066.6	13461.4	13339.3	13339.3	13339.3	13339.3	13339.3
Nickel	\$/MT	14672.4	21810.0	22909.1	17541.7	15090.0	16893.4	11862.6	8578.1	8705.2	8810.8	8900.8	8970.8	9017.0
Zinc	\$/MT	1638.4	2160.4	2195.5	1950.0	1910.2	2161.0	1931.7	1493.7	1524.3	1544.6	1553.8	1555.8	1555.8
Lead	\$/MT	1719.4	2148.2	2400.7	2063.6	2139.7	2095.5	1787.8	1617.0	1652.6	1659.3	1697.2	1735.0	1754.5
Uranium	\$/lb	46.7	46.0	56.2	48.9	38.6	33.5	36.8	32.9	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.4	33.5
Energy														
Spot Crude 1/	\$/bbl	61.8	79.0	104.0	105.0	104.1	96.2	50.8	29.9	35.8	39.7	43.1	45.3	46.5
Natural Gas														
Russian in Germany	\$/MMBTU	8.9	8.2	10.6	12.0	11.2	10.5	7.3	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Indonesian in Japan (LNG)	\$/MMBTU	7.5	9.4	15.6	18.1	17.3	17.0	10.9	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5
US, domestic market	\$/MMBTU	3.9	4.4	4.0	2.8	3.7	4.4	2.6	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2
Coal														
Australian, export markets	\$/MT	77.0	106.0	130.1	103.2	90.6	75.1	61.6	51.0	51.7	51.7	51.7	51.7	51.7

1/ Petroleum price is average of spot prices for U.K., Brent, Dubai and West Texas Intermediate.



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Monthly Inflation Rate

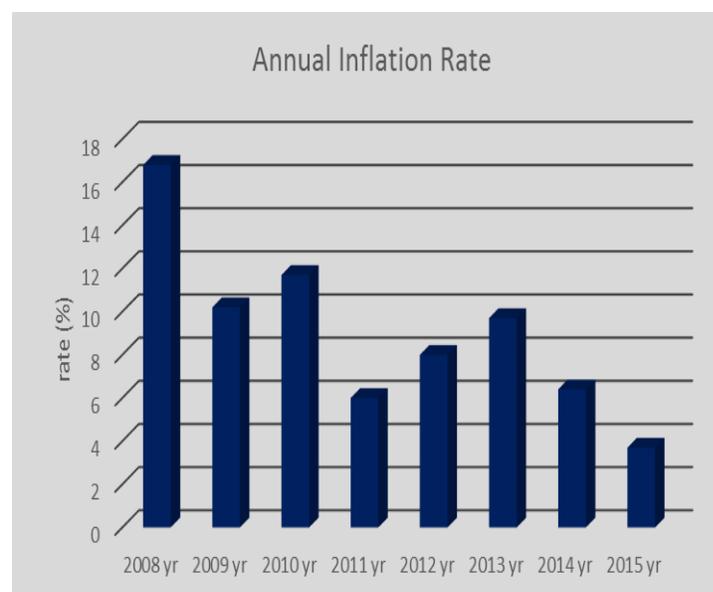
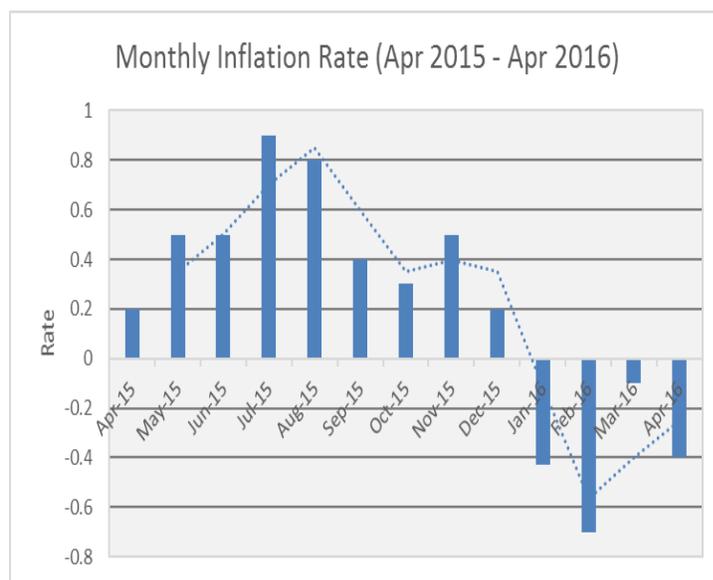
Domestic Inflation Rate

Inflation, measured by the All Jamaica “All Divisions” Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by **0.4%** for the period April 2016 over March 2016. The decrease in the rate for February brought inflation for the calendar year to date to **-1.7%**. The decrease in the rate for April 2016 over March 2016 brought inflation for Fiscal Year to January to **-0.4%**. The 12-month point to point rate at the end of April 2016 was **2.4%**.

According to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, the outturn for the month was largely influenced by a decrease of 0.5% the division ‘Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages’ recording and a decline of 2.2% in the division of ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’. The decrease reflected in the division of ‘Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages’ was mostly impacted by the decrease reflected in the sub-division ‘Vegetables and Starchy Foods’. The fall recorded for the division ‘Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels’ division’s decrease, was due to lower electricity and water rates for the month of April.

However, these decreases were offset by an increase of 6% in the division ‘Transport’. This was chiefly as a result of higher prices for petrol on the local market. The other divisions that recorded increases in the All Jamaica ‘All Divisions’ index were: ‘Clothing and Footwear’ (0.2), ‘Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance’ (0.1), ‘Health’ (0.2), ‘Recreation and Culture’ (0.2), ‘Restaurants and Accommodation Services and ‘Miscellaneous Goods and Services’ (0.1).

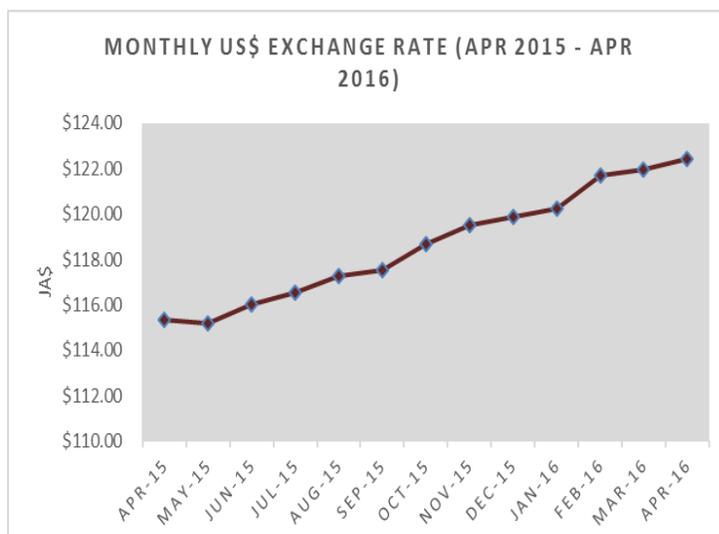
Inflation in all the three regional areas decreased for the month of March 2015 relative to April 2016. Inflation for the Greater Kingston Metropolitan area (GKMA), Other Urban Centers (OUC) and Rural Areas declined by 0.6%, 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively.



Monthly Exchange Rates Update

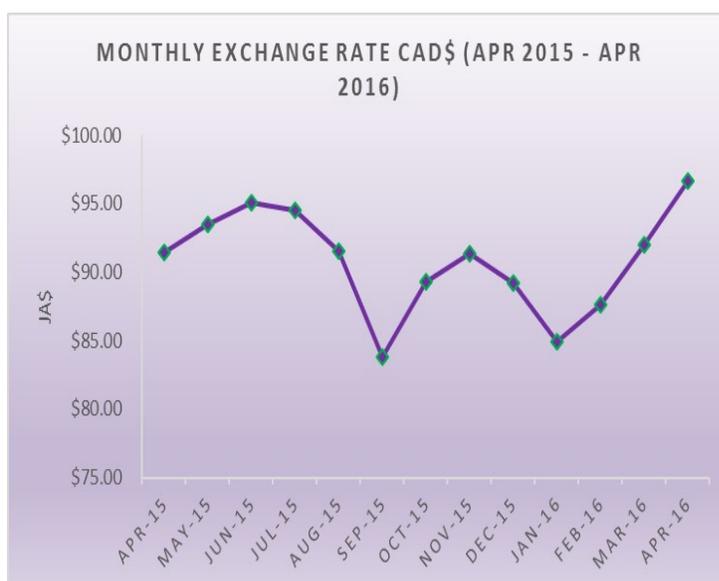
JMD:USD

For the month of April 2016, the average value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by **J\$0.49** relative to the previous month. This represented a **0.40%** increase to end at **J\$122.45=US\$1.00**. When compared to April 2015, this year's value was **J\$7.28** or **6.32%** more than the **J\$115.17** recorded in 2015. A two-year comparison revealed that the month's value was **J\$12.59** or **11.46%** more.



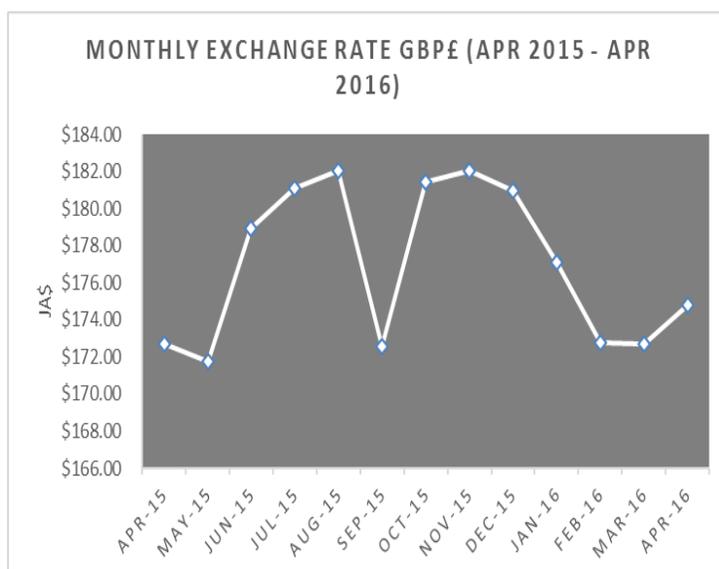
JMD:CAD

For April 2016 relative to March 2016 the monthly average value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by **J\$4.65** or **5.06%** when compared to the Canadian dollar to end at **J\$96.61 = CAD\$1.00**. A one-year comparison revealed that, this year's value was **J\$3.14** or **3.36%** more than the **J\$93.47** in 2015. In April 2014, the value of CAD\$1.00 was equivalent to **J\$100.27**, which means that the value of the dollar for April this year was **J\$3.66** or **3.73%** below.



JMD:GBP

The monthly average value Jamaica Dollar depreciated by **J\$2.07** or **1.20%**, relative to the Great Britain Pound for April 2016 relative to March this year. April ended with **J\$174.77 = GBP£1.00**. When compared to the corresponding period last year, the value of the GBP\$1.00 in April this year was below the **J\$171.73** by **J\$3.04** or **1.77%**. When compared to the **J\$184.11** recorded in 2014 the value of the GBP\$1.00 for this month was **J\$9.34** or **5.20%** lower.



Net International Reserves & Money Base

April 2016 Issue

Net International Reserves

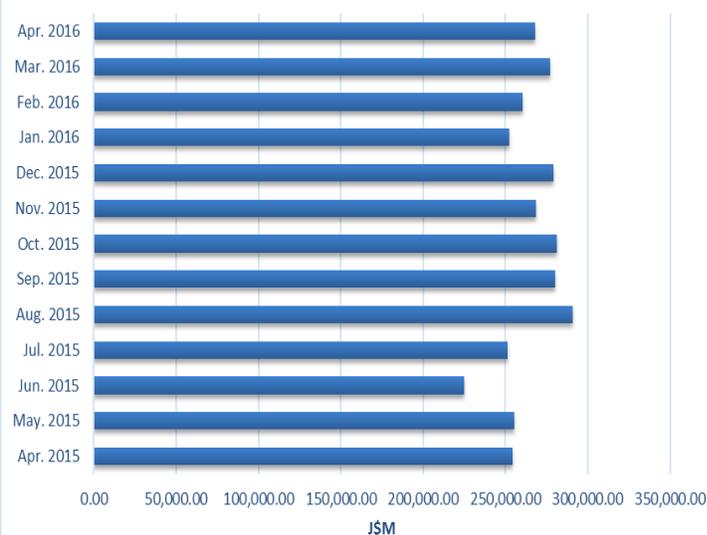
Data for the month ending April 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was **J\$267.83 billion (US\$2,335.90 million)**. This reflected a decrease of **J\$9.131 billion (US\$79.63 million)** relative to March 2016. The change in the NIR for the month was due to a decrease in foreign assets and an increase in foreign liabilities. Under the category of foreign asset two of the sources decreased while one increased. Currency and Deposits decreased by **US\$69.91 million**, Securities decreased **US\$8.49 million** while SDR increased by **US\$1.53 million**, to end the month with total foreign asset **US\$2,817.43 million**. This represented a total decrease of **US\$76.88 million**. Under foreign liabilities IMF expenditures increased while Other expenses remained unchanged; Payments to IMF increased by **US\$2.76 million** which was the total increase in foreign liabilities. At the end of April, the gross reserves were sufficient to finance **33.47** weeks of goods imports which represented **21.47** weeks over the international benchmark of **12** weeks of goods imports.

Monetary Base

The monetary base decreased by **J\$0.173 billion** to **J\$119.838 billion** for April 2016 relative to March this year. The change in the base reflected decreases in the Net Currency Issue and the Commercial Banks' Current Account while the Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves increased. Net Currency Issue decreased by **J\$0.644 billion** to

end at **J\$79.344 billion** and the Commercial Banks' Current Account decreased by **J\$0.054.97 billion** to a total of **J\$0.348.31 billion**. Commercial Banks' Statutory Reserves increased by **J\$0.526 billion** to a total of **J\$40.145 billion**.

Monthly Net International Reserve (Apr 2015 to Apr 2016)



Monthly Monetary Base (Apr 2015 - Apr 2016)



Remittance Inflow Update

April 2016 Issue

At the end of January 2016 gross remittance inflows were **US\$160.3 million**. This represented a decrease of **24.0%** or **US\$50.6 million** relative to the **US\$210.9 million** recorded in December. When compared to the corresponding month of the previous year gross remittance declined by **US\$5.9 million** or **3.6%**. For January 2016, net remittances were **US\$137.9 million** reflecting a decrease of **US\$50.7 million** or **26.89%** relative to December last year. When compared to the corresponding period of 2015, net remittances decreased by **US\$9.5 million** or **6.4%**. These inflows were above the average of **US\$154.6 million** for the

previous five corresponding periods. The reduction in total remittance inflows emanated from decreases of **US\$2.5 million** and **US\$3.4 million** inflows through Remittance Companies and Other Remittances.

For the fiscal year 2015/16 to January, total remittance inflows increased by **US\$49.8 million** or **2.8%** to **US\$1 858.2 million** relative to the corresponding period of last year. Net remittances inflows also increased for the fiscal year 2015/16 to December. Net remittance inflow rose by **US\$45.8 million** or **2.8%** to **US\$1 660.2 million** relative to the corresponding period of the last fiscal year.

JAMAICA'S REMITTANCES				
(US\$MN)				
	2015 January	2016 January	Change	% Change
Total Remittance Inflows	166.2	160.3	-5.9	-3.6
Remittance Companies	139.3	136.8	-2.5	-1.8
Other Remittances	26.9	23.5	-3.4	-12.6
Total Remittance Outflows	18.9	22.4	3.5	18.7
Net Remittances	147.4	137.9	-9.5	-6.4

Interest Rates

April 2016 Issue

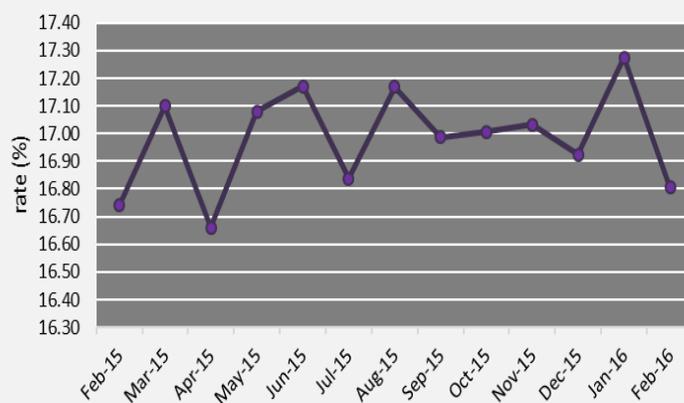
For February 2016, the overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans decreased to **16.81%** from **17.27%** relative to the previous month. This occurred in the context of decreases in the rates of three of the six loan types. These were, decreases in Personal Credit of **134bps**, in Central Government of **22bps**, and in Installment Credit of **9bps**. The impact of these decreases was offset by an increases in Mortgage Credit, Commercial Credit and Local Government and other Public Entities of **1bps**, **15bps** and **120bps** respectively.

Meanwhile, the weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits remained unchanged at **1.56%** relative to January.

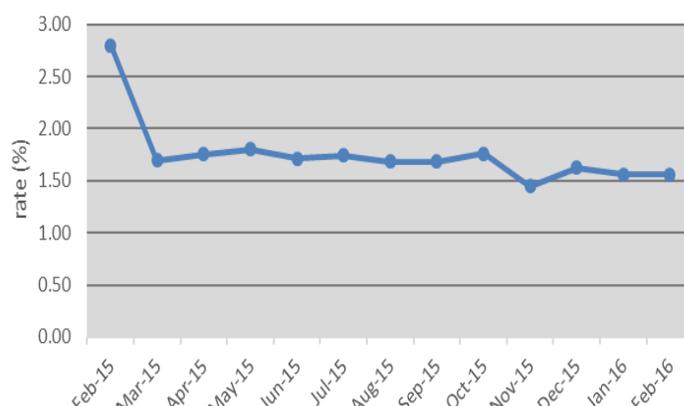
For February this year foreign currency loans rate decreased relative to January 2016. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate marginally declined by **1bps** to **7.32%**. Two of the loan types decreased; Local Government and Other Public Entities by **3bps** and Installment Credit by **2bps**. While Personal Credit, Mortgage Credit and Commercial Credit increased by **14bps**, **9bps** and **1bps** respectively.

Meanwhile the interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased for February relative to January this year. In this regard foreign currency deposits rate fell by **4bps** to **1.70%**.

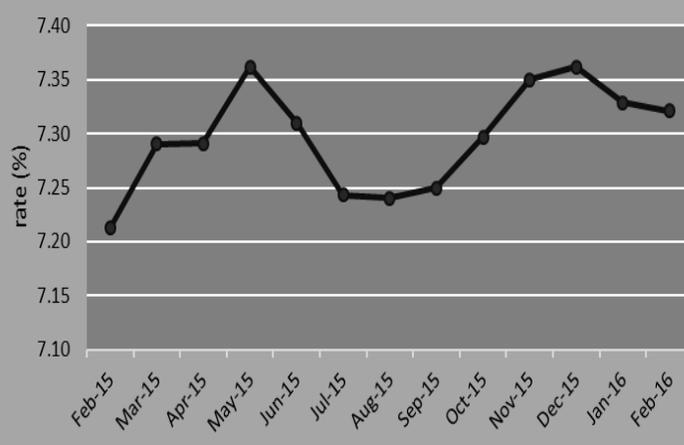
Domestic Currency Weighted Loan Interest Rates
(Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



Domestic Currency Overall Weighted Deposit
Interest Rates (Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



Foreign Currency Weighted Loan Interest Rates
(Feb 2015 - Feb 2016)



Domestic Bauxite and Alumina

April 2016 Issue

For the month of March 2016, the production of Alumina was **166,803 tonnes**. This represented a **24,750** or **17.42%** increase, relative to February. Alumina production has increased by **4.10%** when compared to March 2015. It also increased relative to March in 2014, by **12,221** or **7.90%**. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to **146,371 tonnes**. This represented a decrease of **14,375 tonnes** or **8.94%** relative to February 2016. When compared to March 2015 sale of alumina, this year alumina sales was **11.53%** less. Alumina sales decreased by **64,786** or **30.68%** in comparison to March 2014.

The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for March 2016 was **355,358 tonnes**. This is an **817 tonnes** or a **0.23%** increase from the **354,541 tonnes** recorded in February this year. Crude bauxite production declined by **28.31%** when compared to March 2015 and it decreased by **118,051** or **24.94%** when compared to March 2014. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for March this year was **807,849**

tonnes. This represented a **76,219 tonnes** or **10.42%** increase from February this year. Total bauxite production decreased by **10.28%** relative to March 2015 and by **65,681 tonnes** or **7.52%** relative to March 2014. Meanwhile, the total crude bauxite sold for the month was **298,987 tonnes**. This represented a **47,423** or **13.69%** decrease relative to February 2016. March's value was **37.18%** and **35.43%** less than the recorded amounts in March 2015 and March 2014 respectively. In addition, the sale of total bauxite was **691,603 tonnes**. This represented a decrease of **83,474** or **10.77%** compared to February this year. This year's value was **22.63%** and **31.546%** less than the recorded amounts in 2015 and 2014 respectively.

For the calendar year to date, the production of crude bauxite was **1,103,208 tonnes** which is **12.09%** and **4.89%** less than the recorded amount for the corresponding period in 2014 and 2013 respectively. For the calendar year to date, the production of total bauxite was **2,315,925 tonnes**. This is **5.27%** less and **4.58%** more than the recorded amounts in recorded in 2014 and 2013 respectively.

PERIOD:2016	PRODUCTION			SALES		
	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE**	ALUMINA	CRUDE BAUXITE	TOTAL BAUXITE
MONTH: March						
2016	166,803	355,358	807,849	146,371	298,987	691,603
2015	160,227	495,685	900,458	165,453	475,932	893,937
% Chg 2016/15	4.10	-28.31	-10.28	-11.53	-37.18	-22.63
2014	154,582	473,409	873,530	211,157	463,032	1,010,329
% Chg 2015/14	3.65	4.71	3.08	-21.64	2.79	-11.52
Y-T-D						
2016	476,794	1,103,208	2,315,925	463,249	985,422	2,222,890
2015	476,839	1,254,989	2,444,809	487,367	1,238,883	2,456,253
% Chg 2016/15	-0.01	-12.09	-5.27	-4.95	-20.46	-9.50
2014	475,671	1,159,791	2,426,985	498,736	1,143,414	2,467,614
% Chg 2015/14	0.25	8.21	0.73	-2.28	8.35	-0.46

NOTE:

Crude Bauxite = Bauxite mined for export

Total Bauxite = Crude bauxite + bauxite converted to alumina

Economics Division, JBI
2016/04/20

Tourism

April 2016 Issue

Stopover tourist arrivals for February 2016 were **185,272**. This month's total was **5,716** or **3.18%** higher than the **179,556** in February this year. February's total was an increase of **4.2%** over the **177,805** recorded in February last year. In 2014 total stopovers for the corresponding period was **169,328**, hence this year's February total was **15,944** or **9.42%** more. For the January to February period, arrivals increased by **2.9%**, with **364,831** stopovers compared to **354,426** in 2015.

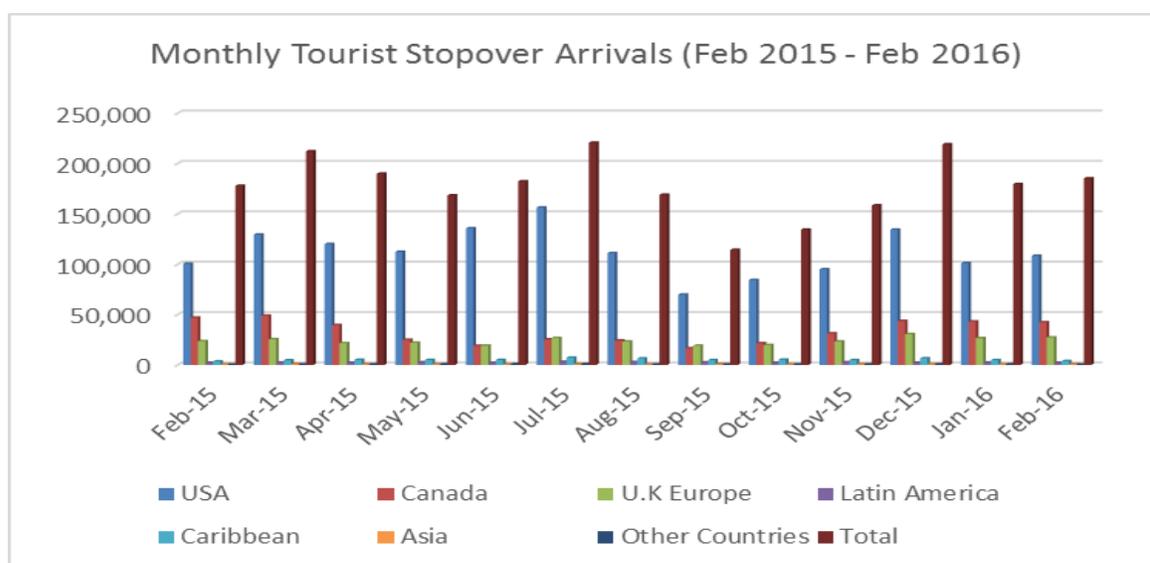
For February 2016, the changes reflected in the total stopovers observed for the seven categories of destination varied. Out of the seven categories four recorded an increase in numbers, three recorded decreases while one remained flat when compared to February 2015. The largest percentage increases were reflected in the stopovers from Asia, Other Countries, and Europe with **12.1%**, **11.9%** and **11.1%** respectively. Of the Other Countries, once again Australia provided the most stopover arrivals to Jamaica, with **475** visitors in 2014 compared to **447** in 2015. The

other increase in arrivals was Canada with **3.2%**.

These increases were offset by a decreases in arrivals from Latin America and the United States. The decreases in Latin America and the United States were **7.0%** and **0.3%** respectively. While arrivals from the Caribbean remained flat. The market share of stopover visitors for January 2016 was as follows: USA (**57.4%**); Canada (**23.4%**); UK (**8.7%**); Continental Europe (**6.1%**), the Caribbean (**2.4%**); and the others, including Latin America and Asia (**2.0%**).

A total of **197,467** cruise passengers visited Jamaica in January, 2016. This represented a **10,723** or **5.74%** increase over the **186,744** recorded in the previous number. For the corresponding period in 2015 total cruise passengers was **150,803** hence this year's total was **30.9%** more. In February 2014, the total arrivals stood at **131,948**, this means that this year's total was **49.66%** more.

For February 2016, Cruise passengers visiting the Falmouth port increased by **9.7%**. Cruise passengers visiting the port of Ocho Rios increased by **30.5%** and those visiting Montego Bay increased by **92.9%**.



Stock Market Update

April 2016 Issue

On the last trading day in April 2016, for the period April 01, 2016 to April 29, 2016, the main JSE index declined by **3,872.15 points** or **2.52%** to close at **150,039.18 points**. The JSE Combined Index declined by **2,159.96 points** or **1.33%** to close at **160,357.96 points**. The JSE Junior advanced by **139.63 points** or **7.25%** to close at **2,064.85 points**. In contrast, once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at **499.06 points**.

Overall, the market activity for April resulted from trading in sixty-eight (**68**) stocks of which **28** advanced, **34** declined and **6** traded firm. In total **383,617,529.00 units** of stock were traded during the month, which had a total value of **J\$2,108,897,928.73**. This resulted in market capitalization of **J\$537,921,305,981.00 billion** as at end April 2016.

Radio Jamaica Limited was the volume leader for the month with **196,982,447 units** amounting to **50.88%** of market volume. Second was Supreme Ventures Limited, which traded **32,351,299 units**

amounting to **8.36%** of the market volume. Next in line was Cable & Wireless Jamaica Limited with a total of **22,140,271 units** amounting to **5.72%** of the market volume.

The top four advancing stocks for the month of April were the Palace Amusement (**28.38%**), Cable Wireless Jamaica Limited (**8.73%**), Jamaica Producers Group (**7.72%**) and Seprod Limited (**6.00%**). The top four declining stocks were, 1834 Investments Limited (**51.00%**), Mayberry Investments Limited (**26.47%**), Ciboney Group (Jamaica) (**22.22%**) and Pulse Investments Limited (**21.67%**).

For the calendar year to date, the top four advancing stocks were Jamaica Broilers Group (**39.96%**), Caribbean Cement Company (**39.15%**), Berger Paints (Jamaica) (**25.00%**) and Supreme Ventures (**13.79%**). Meanwhile, the top four declining stocks for the calendar year to date were Radio Jamaica Limited (**68.58%**), Ciboney Group (**33.33%**), Hardware & Lumber (**32.38%**) and Mayberry Investments Limited (**31.03%**).

Index	Date	Value	Change (\$)	Change (%)	Volume Traded
JSE-Index	3/1/2016	154435.17	-2264.11	-1.44	3850773
JSE-Index	3/2/2016	154244	-191.17	-0.12	3867337
JSE-Index	3/3/2016	154828.16	584.16	0.38	5973096
JSE-Index	3/4/2016	155747.82	919.66	0.59	4188782
JSE-Index	3/7/2016	155242.8	-505.02	-0.32	18628793
JSE-Index	3/8/2016	153186.49	-2056.31	-1.32	4908124
JSE-Index	3/9/2016	153042.48	-144.01	-0.09	2920807
JSE-Index	3/10/2016	153605.25	562.77	0.37	2875641
JSE-Index	3/11/2016	153612.85	7.6	0	2400778
JSE-Index	3/14/2016	153435.78	-177.07	-0.12	2762480
JSE-Index	3/15/2016	151473.49	-1962.29	-1.28	14645338
JSE-Index	3/16/2016	151747.82	274.33	0.18	2269814
JSE-Index	3/17/2016	152610.01	862.19	0.57	5040820
JSE-Index	3/18/2016	153083.07	473.06	0.31	5041502
JSE-Index	3/21/2016	153581.38	498.31	0.33	3385787
JSE-Index	3/22/2016	153150.85	-428.48	-0.28	2968200
JSE-Index	3/23/2016	153623.04	472.09	0.31	6240385

Previous Highlights: March 2016 Summary

April 2016 Issue

- ◆ On March 4th, 2016. An IMF staff team led by Mr. Nigel Chalk, Deputy Director of the Western Hemisphere Department, and Ms. Uma Ramakrishnan, Mission Chief for Jamaica visited Jamaica. The team, in their statement release, highlighted that fiscal measures should be designed to be consistent with a primary surplus target of 7% of GDP in 2016/17 and tax policy reforms should continue to contribute to a fair, equitable, and efficient tax system. On March 8th, 2016, the IMF published a Working Paper on Caribbean Energy: Macro Related Challenges. The paper outlined power sector challenges and took stock of national and regional strategies to address them. It presented recommendations to move the energy agenda forward, based on analyses of macro-aspects of energy reform. The paper looked at three main areas, which included, quantitative assessment of the impact of energy costs on growth and competitiveness, evaluation of gains from implementing announced renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, and analysis of the impact of energy investments on debt sustainability.
- ◆ For the month of March 2016, the value of the Jamaica Dollar depreciated by J\$0.28 or 0.23% to J\$121.96=US\$1.00. Similar to the US dollar the Jamaican dollar depreciated against the Canadian Dollar by J\$4.30 or 4.91% to J\$91.96 = CAD\$1.00 relative to February. The Great Britain Pound appreciated by J\$0.06 or 0.035% relative to February 2016 to end the month at \$172.71 = GBP£1.00
- ◆ Data for the month ending March 2016 revealed that the stock of Net International Reserves (NIR) at the Bank of Jamaica was J\$276.97 billion (US\$ 2,415.53 million). This reflected an increase of J\$16.72 billion (US\$145.78 million) relative to February 2016.
- ◆ Consumer prices in Jamaica rose 3% year to date to March 2016, which was 3.66% in the previous month.
- ◆ The monetary base increased by J\$2.06 billion to J\$120.01 billion for March 2016 relative to February year.
- ◆ On the last trading day in March 2016, for the period March 01, 2016 to March 31, 2016, the main JSE index declined by 2,787.95 points or 1.78% to close at 153,911.33 points. The JSE Combined Index declined by 2,830.40 points or 1.71% to close at

Previous Highlights: March 2016 Summary

April 2016 Issue

162,517.92 points. The JSE Junior declined by 22.69 points or 1.16% to close at 1,925.22 points. In contrast, once again, the JSE Cross Listed Index remained firm and closed the month at 499.06 points.

- ◆ For the month of February 2016, the production of Alumina was 142,053 tonnes. This represented a 25,885 or 15.41% increase, relative to January 2016. For the month, the sale of alumina amounted to 160,746 tonnes. This represented an increase of 4,614 tonnes or 2.95% relative to the previous. The production of crude bauxite, which is bauxite mined for exports, for February 2016 was 354,541 tonnes. This is a 38,768 tonnes or a 9.86% increase from the 393,309 tonnes recorded in January this year. Total bauxite production, which is the sum of bauxite mined for exports and bauxite converted to alumina, for February this year was 731,630 tonnes. This represented a 27,766 tonnes or 3.40% decrease from the previous month.
- ◆ The overall weighted average lending rate on domestic currency loans increased to 17.27% from 16.92% at end January 2016 relative to December 2015. The weighted average domestic interest rates on deposits decreased by 6bps to 1.56% at end January 2016 relative to end December 2015. For the month of January foreign currency loan rate decreased relative to December 2015. In this regard, the foreign currency loan rate declined by 3bps to 7.33%. The interest rates on foreign currency deposits decreased in January relative to December. In this regard the foreign currency deposit rate fell by 1bps to 1.74%.
- ◆ Stopover tourist arrivals for January 2016 were 179,559. This month's total was 42,537 or 19.41% lower than the 219,096 in December last year. January's total was an increase of 1.7%% over the 176,621 recorded in January.
- ◆ There were price reductions observed in 38% (8) of the commodities monitored for March 2016. The price of crude oil index Brent increased in March 2016 as well as the WTI. The Brent moved up by 17.68% and the WTI increased by 24.45%. Natural gas however, decreased by 13.27%.

ACP— Africa Caribbean Pacific States	Loan – Average Loan Rate
BM – Base Money	M – Monthly Percentage Change
BP — Basis Points	M2 – Money Supply
CaPRI— Caribbean Policy and Research Institute	MT – Million tonnes
CARICOM— Caribbean Community & Common Market	N/A – Not Available
CARIFORUM— CARICOM and Dominican Republic	NIR – Net International Reserves
CPI – Consumer Price Index	OMO – Open Market Operation
CSME— Caribbean Single Market & Economy	P – Point-to-Point Percentage Change
EC— European Commission	R – Revised
EPA—Economic Partnership Agreement	S – Stopover
EU—European Union	Save – Average Savings Deposit Rate
FX Dep – Foreign Exchange Deposit	T-bill – 6-month Treasury Bill Yield
JCB – Jamaica Conference Board	Tourism – Total Tourist Arrivals
JCC – Jamaica Chamber of Commerce	WATBY- weighted average Treasury bill yield
KMA — Kingston and Metropolitan Area	WTO—World Trade Organization
KSA—Kingston and St. Andrew	OECD—Organisation for Economic Co-operating and Development (membership of 30 major countries)
WTI — West Texas Intermediate (Spot Oil Price)	

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