



ECONOMIC BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2026

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JAMAICA MACROECONOMIC DASHBOARD

SEPTEMBER 2026

KEY INDICATORS AT A GLANCE

1



INFLATION RATE

7.9%

(AUG 2026)



- Above BOJ target range (4%–6%)
- Primary macroeconomic risk

2



REAL GDP GROWTH

-2.9%

(Q2 2026)



- Contraction narrowing after Hurricane Melissa
- Recovery underway

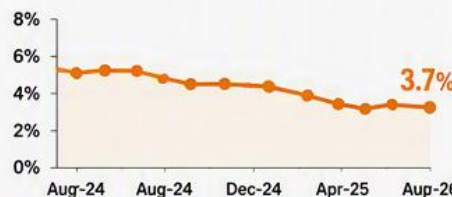
3



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

3.7%

(APR 2026)



- Remains historically low
- Labour market resilient

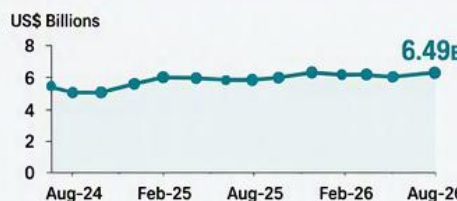
4



NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVES

US\$6.49B

(AUG 2026)



- Strong external buffer
- Covers 20.6 weeks of imports

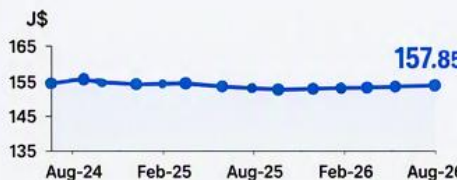
5



EXCHANGE RATE (JMD/USD)

J\$157.85

(AUG 2026, AVG)



- Relatively stable
- Supports business planning and import costs

6



BOJ POLICY RATE

5.50%

(AUG 2026)



- Unchanged
- Key indicator for borrowing and investment conditions

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



Recovery
strengthening



Inflation
remains elevated



Stable currency and
strong reserves provide
resilience



Growth expected to
return as reconstruction
advances

Executive Director's Message

From Recovery to Resilience: The Work Ahead

September always feels like something of a turning point. Summer comes to an end, our attention shifts decisively toward the final quarter of the year, and businesses begin the important work of assessing performance, adjusting plans, and determining what must still be accomplished before another year closes.

This September carries additional significance. In a matter of weeks, Jamaica will mark one year since Hurricane Melissa disrupted lives, communities and businesses and delivered a significant shock to our economy. An anniversary of this nature should not simply be an occasion to remember what happened. It should prompt harder questions: How far have we come? What have we learned? Where do vulnerabilities remain? And, importantly, are we simply recovering what was lost, or are we rebuilding in ways that leave Jamaica stronger than we were before?

The economic picture examined in this month's Economic Bulletin gives us reason for cautious optimism. The contraction in economic activity has narrowed considerably, and the timeline for returning to pre-Melissa output levels has improved. Our international reserves

remain strong, the exchange rate has been relatively stable, unemployment remains historically low, and our financial system continues to demonstrate resilience. These are important strengths, and they should not be understated. But they should not make us complacent.

Inflation reached 7.9% in August, above the Bank of Jamaica's target range. Reconstruction continues to place pressure on imports and public expenditure, and financing conditions remain an important consideration for businesses contemplating expansion and investment. At the household level, increased prices continue to affect purchasing power. At the business level, higher input, energy, logistics and financing costs ultimately affect competitiveness.

This distinction between recovery and resilience matters. Restoring aggregate output is necessary, but it cannot be our only measure of success. Real recovery must also be reflected in businesses that have



Sacha Vaccianna Riley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANISATION OF JAMAICA



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rebuilt, workers whose livelihoods have been restored, communities better able to withstand the next shock, and productive sectors that emerge more competitive than before.

For the PSOJ, this reflection must begin with our members. As a membership organisation, we must continually ask ourselves: What do our members need from us right now? What barriers are constraining their ability to recover, invest, employ, innovate and grow? Where is collective private-sector advocacy required? And where can the PSOJ use its convening power to bring government, business, development partners and other stakeholders together to move from identifying problems to implementing solutions?

The other features in this month's Bulletin demonstrate precisely why those questions matter.

The conversation surrounding the proposed transition to regionally produced refined sugar, for example, is larger than sugar. Regional integration and investment in CARICOM productive capacity are objectives that the private sector should support. But regionalism must ultimately strengthen competitiveness, not inadvertently undermine it. For Jamaican manufacturers already navigating higher operating costs, the pricing, reliability, and quality of critical inputs are not abstract policy considerations; they directly affect

investment, employment, exports, and ultimately the prices consumers pay. Our responsibility must therefore be to advocate for both ambition and balance—supporting greater regional productive capacity while ensuring that transitional arrangements, tariff structures and supply conditions do not place established Jamaican businesses at an avoidable competitive disadvantage.

That same emphasis on competitiveness was at the heart of our final EmpowerJA Forum with the Inter-American Development Bank. The discussions on logistics, digital transformation and talent reinforced something we already know: Jamaica does not lack ideas, studies or diagnoses. Our continuing challenge is execution. Businesses cannot become globally competitive while containers remain unnecessarily delayed, government processes are fragmented, infrastructure constraints raise the cost of moving goods, digital systems cannot communicate with each other, or employers cannot find the skills an increasingly technology-enabled economy requires. These are not separate problems. They are parts of the same competitiveness equation.

As we enter this final quarter, therefore, my own conviction is that we must become increasingly impatient about implementation. Recovery provides us with an opportunity not merely to repair, but to rethink. Reconstruction spending should leave behind more productive



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infrastructure. Digitalisation should result in measurably easier ways of doing business. Training must translate into skills employers demand. Regional integration must create genuine commercial opportunity. And private investment must increasingly expand Jamaica's productive capacity.

For the PSOJ, that means listening even more deliberately to our members, ensuring that their experiences inform our advocacy, and using our influence not simply to participate in national conversations but to help move those conversations towards outcomes.

The first anniversary of Hurricane Melissa will understandably invite us to look back. We should. There are lessons to remember, losses that should not be forgotten, and remarkable examples of resilience that deserve recognition. But our greater responsibility is to look forward. Because ultimately, the measure of Jamaica's recovery will not be whether we successfully return to where we were on the eve of Melissa. It will be whether we use this period to build a Jamaica that is more productive, more competitive and more resilient than the one the hurricane encountered.

That is the work ahead. And the private sector, and the PSOJ on behalf of the members we serve, must continue to lead.



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Powering Growth: Jamaica's Economic Recovery and Financial Outlook

Jamaica's economy is moving away from the sharp contraction that followed Hurricane Melissa, but the latest indicators show that recovery is not the same as a full return to normal conditions. Output losses have narrowed, inflation has moved above the Bank of Jamaica's target range, foreign reserves remain strong, the exchange rate has been relatively stable, and unemployment remains low by historical standards. At the same time, reconstruction is increasing public expenditure and import demand, creating a period in which growth, price stability, and fiscal discipline must be managed together.

Economic Growth and Recovery

The clearest sign of improvement is the trend in real GDP. PIOJ's March review estimated that the economy contracted by 7.5% in the October-December 2025 quarter, immediately after Hurricane Melissa. STATIN's final data later showed a 4.1% year-on-year contraction in January-March 2026, while seasonally adjusted real value added increased by 3.3% from the previous quarter. By April-June 2026, PIOJ estimated that the year-on-year contraction had narrowed further to 2.9%. Goods-producing industries declined by

6.4% and services by 1.7%, but manufacturing, construction, and financial and insurance activities recorded growth. Taken together, the figures point to an economy still below its pre-hurricane level but recovering from the deepest part of the shock.

At PIOJ's August quarterly media briefing, Director General Dr Wayne Henry said the expected timeline to regain pre-Melissa output had been shortened to roughly one and a half to two years after the hurricane, potentially as early as the April-June 2027 quarter. He also distinguished a return to the previous level of economic output from the much longer process of rebuilding housing, infrastructure and livelihoods. PIOJ still expects real GDP to decline by 0.5% to 1.5% in July-September 2026 before returning to growth, with FY2026/27 growth projected at 1% to 3%. The recovery is therefore progressing faster than initially expected, but it remains incomplete and uneven.

Inflation and Monetary Policy

Inflation has become the most pressing macroeconomic pressure. Point-to-point CPI inflation rose to 7.9% in August 2026, up from 7.5% in July, and remained above BOJ's 4%-6% target range. BOJ's August monetary policy assessment noted that inflation was expected to remain above the upper limit of the target in the near term, reflecting elevated international commodity prices, domestic demand linked to post-Hurricane Melissa



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reconstruction, worsening drought and heat conditions, and emerging second-round effects in services and processed foods.

BOJ has nevertheless kept its policy rate at 5.50%, with the next policy decision scheduled for 28 September 2026. This should be distinguished from movements in other short-term BOJ rates. At the 14-day repo auction on 14 September, the weighted-average interest rate was 6.10%, while the 30-day certificate of deposit auction on 16 September produced an average yield of 6.15%. These market rates do not signal a change in the policy rate, but they point to tighter short-term funding conditions and higher interest-rate expectations. For businesses, sustained or higher financing costs could restrain borrowing and investment, while elevated inflation can weaken consumer purchasing power and demand. BOJ's July survey also showed 12-month inflation expectations rising to 7.3%, with 31.9% of respondents expecting the policy rate to be marginally higher and future business conditions to weaken slightly. The challenge for monetary policy is therefore to contain inflation expectations without unnecessarily weakening an economy that is still recovering.

Foreign Reserves, Exchange Rate and External Position

Jamaica's external buffers remain one of the stronger parts of the current picture. BOJ's August Quarterly Monetary Policy

Report recorded Net International Reserves of approximately US\$6.49 billion at the end of June 2026. The Bank's August monetary policy assessment also noted that the exchange rate had remained relatively stable, with a marginal appreciation for the calendar year to 14 August. By 18 September, BOJ's published foreign-exchange rates showed the US dollar at approximately J\$156.81 to buy and J\$157.85 to sell. A relatively stable exchange rate helps contain the pass-through of higher international commodity prices to domestic inflation and provides some protection for businesses facing elevated import costs, although reconstruction-related demand for imported fuel, machinery and building materials continues to create foreign-exchange pressure.

A strong reserve position does not remove external risks. BOJ expects the current account to move into a deficit of roughly 4% to 6% of GDP in FY2026/27 as reconstruction raises merchandise imports and higher fuel and freight costs increase the foreign-exchange bill. Strong reserves and a relatively stable exchange rate therefore provide Jamaica with a cushion, but that cushion is being tested by the very import-intensive recovery reserves are meant to support.

Employment and the Fiscal Position

The labour market continues to show a low headline unemployment rate, although the underlying picture is more mixed.



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Unemployment stood at 3.7% in April 2026, with 1,418,800 people in the employed labour force and 55,000 in the unemployed labour force. However, the employed labour force was lower than a year earlier, and youth unemployment increased to 11.7%. A low unemployment rate is therefore encouraging, but it should be read alongside changes in employment, labour force participation and the pace at which hurricane-affected industries restore jobs.

Fiscal policy is also playing a larger role in the recovery. PIOJ reported a fiscal deficit of J\$23.8 billion for April-June 2026. The Ministry of Finance's Fiscal Policy Paper projects a Central Government fiscal deficit of 4.9% of GDP for FY2026/27 as the budget prioritises recovery and reconstruction. Capital expenditure is projected to rise to 2.1% of GDP, while the public debt-to-GDP ratio is projected to decline from an estimated 68.9% at end-FY2025/26 to 65.7% at end-FY2026/27. The fiscal rules were temporarily suspended through the end of March 2027, but the Government continues to target a debt-to-GDP ratio of 60% by FY2029/30. The central policy challenge is to finance rebuilding quickly enough to support the recovery without allowing temporary disaster spending to become a permanent loss of fiscal discipline.

Financial Stability and Banking Leadership

The financial system has remained resilient so far despite the economic shock. PIOJ estimated that financial and insurance activities grew by 1.9% in April-June 2026, supported by higher net interest income and increased fees and commissions. BOJ reported that deposit-taking institutions had a risk-weighted capital adequacy ratio of 14.9% at end-June, comfortably above the 10% statutory requirement, while liquidity coverage ratios remained above 100% and the ratio of non-performing loans to gross loans improved to 2.2%. BOJ's macroprudential assessment also found the system broadly resilient, even as Hurricane Melissa and geopolitical uncertainty continued to create risks.

Dr Brian Langrin therefore assumes leadership of BOJ at a point when the institution has to preserve monetary and financial stability while helping the financial system function more effectively for households and businesses. At his first Quarterly Monetary Policy Report press conference as Governor, he signalled continuity in the Bank's inflation-control framework while also identifying modernisation of the financial system, improved payment infrastructure, stronger banking competition and wider access for underserved communities as priorities. Those issues are directly connected to growth: a stable banking system is necessary, but its wider economic value



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depends on whether firms and households can access efficient payment services, appropriately priced credit and reliable financial products.

Jamaica's economic indicators point to a recovery that is clearly underway but not yet secure. GDP losses are narrowing, and the growth outlook has improved, while reserves, the exchange rate and the financial system provide important buffers. At the same time, inflation has risen further above target, and short-term BOJ market rates have moved above the unchanged 5.50% policy rate, increasing the risk of tighter financing conditions for businesses. Reconstruction is also widening fiscal and external financing requirements, while elevated prices may constrain household purchasing power and consumer demand. The September 28 monetary policy decision will therefore be important for businesses, particularly in assessing the outlook for borrowing costs, investment and inflation expectations. Sustained growth will depend on preserving macroeconomic stability while converting reconstruction spending and private investment into stronger productive capacity.

Submitted by: Giovanni McKenzie

MSc, International Public and Development

Management (IPDM), UWI

PSOJ Intern



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Manufacturers Call for Balanced Transition to Regional Refined Sugar Supply

JMEA supports regional investment while seeking competitive pricing, tariff reform and safeguards for Jamaican manufacturers

The Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA) has called for a transparent, predictable and commercially sustainable transition to increased regional sourcing of refined sugar. The Association emphasised that the new supply arrangement must support regional production while protecting the competitiveness, investments and employment generated by Jamaica's manufacturing sector.

The position emerged from a stakeholder meeting held on August 24, 2026, involving JMEA members, representatives of the Caribbean Sugar Refinery (CSR), government officials and other private-sector stakeholders. The meeting examined the refinery's operational readiness, proposed pricing arrangements, product quality, supply capacity, logistics and the implications of the transition for Jamaican manufacturers.

CSR reported that construction of its new refinery in Belize was nearing completion, with approximately 85 per cent of the

equipment installed by August 2026. The company expected the first sugar to pass through the refinery by the end of September 2026 as part of commissioning.

CSR cautioned that the initial production runs would not necessarily be immediately available to large commercial users. The refinery would first need to fine-tune its operations, confirm product quality, distribute samples and complete the necessary testing and certification requirements.

The company indicated that it would produce its refined sugar to at least the internationally recognised London No. 5 specification. CSR also expressed its willingness to accommodate customer-specific requirements relating to colour, quality, documentation, food-safety certification and facility audits.

CSR outlined a proposed five-year supply transition for the CARICOM market. Under the proposal, regional refined sugar would account for 30 per cent of supply in the first year, rising progressively to 70 per cent by the fifth year. The extra-regional share would decline correspondingly from 70 per cent to 30 per cent over the same period.

The proposed schedule is:

- Year 1: 30 per cent regional and 70 per cent extra-regional supply
- Year 2: 40 per cent regional and 60 per cent extra-regional supply



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- Year 3: 50 per cent regional and 50 per cent extra-regional supply
- Year 4: 60 per cent regional and 40 per cent extra-regional supply
- Year 5: 70 per cent regional and 30 per cent extra-regional supply

CSR indicated that duty suspensions or waivers for extra-regional supplies were expected to remain available during the initial transition, including up to April 1, 2027. The company said the phased arrangement was intended to give manufacturers time to manage existing contracts, budgets and procurement changes.

Pricing Remains the Central Concern

While welcoming CSR's investment

and its potential contribution to regional food security, productive capacity and intra-regional trade, JMEA identified the price of refined sugar as the principal unresolved issue.

Refined sugar is a critical input across Jamaica's food and beverage manufacturing industries. JMEA cautioned that a substantial increase in its cost could

weaken the competitiveness of Jamaican products, place further pressure on consumer prices and negatively affect manufacturers serving both domestic and export markets.

Manufacturers were particularly concerned that pricing could effectively reflect the world market price plus the applicable Common External Tariff, less a relatively small discount. JMEA representatives stressed that Jamaica's manufacturing sector, particularly the beverage industry, could not absorb an approximate 35 per cent increase in the

cost of refined sugar.

CSR advised that its pricing would use the London No. 5 refined sugar price as the underlying reference.

Logistics costs,

operational premiums, payment terms and other commercial considerations would be negotiated directly with individual customers. The company indicated that it could also consider fixed-price and price-to-be-fixed arrangements.

To support a more balanced transition, JMEA proposed reducing and harmonising the Common External Tariff on refined



sugar at approximately 10 per cent across CARICOM.

JMEA maintained that a lower, harmonised tariff would give manufacturers and suppliers greater certainty, reduce inflationary pressures, and preserve the competitiveness of Jamaican goods in domestic and export markets. It would also allow manufacturers to access alternative supplies at a reasonable cost if the regional refinery experienced production, logistics or quality-related disruptions.

The Association proposed that the tariff apply while refined sugar remains on List A and continue to apply if the product later meets the requirements for transfer to the List of Ineligibles.

CSR did not commit to supporting the proposed tariff reduction. It noted that decisions concerning the Common External Tariff rest with CARICOM Member States through the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). The company nevertheless committed to engaging directly with customers to develop competitive commercial arrangements.

Opportunities for Jamaican Logistics Investment

The stakeholder discussion also identified opportunities for Jamaican businesses to participate in the regional sugar supply chain through shipping, warehousing and distribution.

CSR expressed openness to establishing localised logistics arrangements in Jamaica, including the possible use of warehousing within a Special Economic Zone. A local inventory arrangement could provide manufacturers with more immediate access to refined sugar and reduce the need for each company to manage individual importation and storage requirements.

Such an arrangement could also position Jamaica as a distribution hub for refined sugar moving from Belize to other CARICOM markets. Existing port infrastructure, warehousing capacity and regional shipping connections were identified as potential advantages.

CSR further indicated that it was prepared to work through established Jamaican distributors. This would allow smaller manufacturers to continue purchasing quantities appropriate to their operations rather than importing and storing large volumes independently.

Protecting Manufacturing Growth and Employment

JMEA stressed that regional integration should strengthen Caribbean production without placing existing industries, investments and employment in other Member States at risk.

The Association noted that Jamaica's manufacturing sector employs approximately 90,000 people and has attracted substantial investment in recent



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years. Decisions affecting the price and availability of refined sugar must therefore consider the wider value chain, including manufacturers, employees, distributors, exporters and consumers.

The discussions demonstrated broad support for regional investment and stronger intra-regional trade. However, they also highlighted the need for verifiable production capacity, competitive pricing, reliable supply, appropriate quality certification and clearly defined transition safeguards.

Continued engagement among JMEA, CSR, the Government of Jamaica, private-sector organisations and CARICOM institutions will be required to address the outstanding issues. These include tariff treatment, pricing transparency, waiver arrangements, supply reliability, logistics and the process governing any future transfer of refined sugar to the List of Ineligibles.



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EmpowerJA Forum Calls for Coordinated Action to Strengthen Jamaica's Competitiveness

PSOJ and IDB forum identifies logistics, digital integration, workforce development and public-private collaboration as priorities for sustainable growth

KINGSTON, Jamaica | September 2026:

The Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have called for faster, more coordinated action to strengthen Jamaica's competitiveness by improving logistics, digital transformation, and workforce development.

The call emerged from the sixth and final staging of the EmpowerJA Forum series, held under the theme "Leveraging Logistics, Digital Transformation and Talent to Strengthen Jamaica's Competitiveness and Resilience." The forum brought together senior representatives of the public and private sectors, development partners, educational and training institutions, industry associations and other stakeholders.

Discussions centred on three interconnected priorities: unlocking logistics and infrastructure investment through public-private partnerships; integrating digital trade and connectivity

systems; and developing a workforce equipped for the digital logistics economy. Participants stressed that these issues should not be approached separately, as Jamaica's ability to compete depends on the efficient movement of goods, services, information and people across the economy.

Opening the forum, PSOJ President Patrick Hylton urged stakeholders to move decisively from research and consultation to implementation. He noted that the speed and efficiency of Jamaica's business processes directly affect operating costs, productivity, investment, employment and economic growth.

Mr. Hylton identified several areas requiring action, including the movement of goods through the ports, access to government services, the adoption of new technology, talent development and the ability of Jamaican companies to scale and compete internationally. He encouraged the public and private sectors to pursue ambitious goals, embrace technology and maintain a strong focus on execution and customer needs.

Country Representative for the IDB in Jamaica Natacha Marzolf said Jamaica possesses strategic advantages, including its geographic location, transport assets, international connections, private-sector capabilities and workforce. However, she cautioned that geography alone does not create competitiveness.



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Ms. Marzolf emphasised that competitiveness also depends on resilient infrastructure, predictable trade systems, effective regulation, digitally connected institutions and alignment between public policy and private-sector initiatives. She reaffirmed the IDB Group's commitment to supporting Jamaica through public-sector financing, technical expertise, private investment mobilisation, innovation and workforce development.

If we are going to be that fourth node, or some important node in the logistics chain, we need to solve the space problem, and we need to solve it sooner rather than later.

Andrew Macdonald, Business Development Manager,
Kingston Wharves Limited

Addressing Logistics and Infrastructure Constraints

Participants identified port congestion, limited warehousing space, inadequate road configurations, drainage problems and delays in moving containers as significant constraints affecting manufacturers, importers, exporters and logistics providers. The Newport West area was highlighted as requiring improved road access, expanded cargo-handling capacity and a more coordinated approach to land use and port development.

The discussion also underscored the need for Jamaica to adopt a long-term, multimodal infrastructure plan connecting ports, airports, roads,



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warehousing facilities, special economic zones and other logistics assets. Participants argued that infrastructure projects should be properly sequenced and designed to provide cumulative value rather than being developed as isolated interventions.

Managing Director of the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), David Low, explained that public-private partnerships should be supported by clear business cases, appropriate risk allocation, climate resilience and credible mechanisms for attracting private investment. He noted that project preparation and approval processes must become more efficient without compromising legal, environmental and financial assessments.

The forum also highlighted the importance of incorporating climate resilience, redundant capacity and emerging technologies into infrastructure planning. Participants observed that Jamaica must address immediate constraints while preparing ports, transport systems and supporting infrastructure for future trade volumes and climate-related risks.

Integrating Trade and Digital Systems

A recurring concern was the lack of interoperability among the digital

platforms and government agencies involved in trade. Participants referred to systems supporting customs, permits and port operations, but noted that businesses still encounter duplication, fragmented processes and inconsistent access to real-time information.

Chairperson of Jamaica's Trade Facilitation Working Group Patricia Francis said meaningful reform must extend beyond customs to include the many border and certification agencies involved in imports and exports. She reported that approximately 100 pieces of legislation had been identified as requiring review to

reduce duplication and improve trade facilitation.

Participants called for a unified digital environment where traders could submit information once, track shipments, and receive coordinated decisions from the relevant agencies. They also emphasised the need to modernise outdated legislation, simplify certification procedures, strengthen risk-based regulation and improve coordination across government.

The private sector was encouraged to play a more active role in identifying bottlenecks and advancing reform. Participants agreed that sustained

We cannot outsource development to the education sector. We work in partnership with the education sector. We hire the graduates of the education sector

Mariam McIntosh Robinson, Vice President, Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica



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leadership, accountability, and investment in change management would be necessary to overcome institutional silos and ensure that digital transformation results in faster, less costly business processes.

Building a Future-Ready Workforce

The forum also examined how automation, artificial intelligence and digital systems are changing tasks and competencies across the logistics sector. Participants agreed that technology is more likely to change job content than eliminate entire

occupations,

creating a

growing need for

digital literacy,

data analysis,

equipment

diagnostics,

cybersecurity,

problem-solving, communication and supervisory skills.

Representatives of HEART/NSTA Trust, the Caribbean Maritime University and the Mona School of Business and Management stressed that training programmes must become more flexible, responsive and closely connected to the workplace. Recommendations included expanded apprenticeships, work-based learning, recognition of prior learning, short professional courses and stackable credentials that allow workers to build qualifications progressively.

Employers were urged to participate at the beginning of the training process by identifying required competencies, helping to design curricula, providing access to equipment and technology, and offering structured mentorship and workplace experience. Participants maintained that the private sector should be a co-producer, rather than simply a consumer, of talent.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of upgrading existing workers' skills. Participants noted that Jamaica's future labour force will consist largely of

people who are already employed, making continuous reskilling and upskilling essential to productivity, wage progression and the successful adoption of technology.

A dream that you dream alone is just a dream, but a dream that we dream together is a reality.

Dulce Baptista, Senior Specialist in Social Protection and Labour Markets, IDB.

A Shared Agenda for Action

Closing the forum, representatives of PSOJ and the IDB identified partnership, accountability, reform, human capital development, cultural transformation and execution as central themes arising from the discussions. They emphasised that the forum's success should ultimately be measured by the actions and initiatives implemented after the event.

PSOJ Executive Director Sacha Vaccianna-Riley encouraged participants to act within their respective areas of influence, noting that coordinated improvements



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across institutions, businesses and professional networks could contribute to wider national transformation.

IDB Chief of Operations in Jamaica Carissa Ribero reiterated the institution's willingness to work with public- and private-sector partners to translate identified priorities into programmes and investments. The PSOJ, in turn, accepted the challenge to continue advancing implementation and collaboration beyond the forum.

The final EmpowerJA Forum reinforced the need for a joined-up national approach linking infrastructure, trade facilitation, technology, financing and workforce development. Its central message was clear: Jamaica has significant assets and opportunities, but realising their full value will require speed, coordination, long-term planning and disciplined execution.



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