



**News Release**  
**18 December 2006**

## **CURRENCY ISSUE**

For the period 8 to 15 December, 2006, Bank of Jamaica recorded \$2.5 billion in net currency issue to the commercial banks, building societies, and cambios. This resulted in a net currency issue of \$3.6 billion or an increase of 11.0 per cent for the month to date. Consequently, the stock of currency as at 15 December, 2006 stood at \$36.9 billion, which represents an increase of 16.9 per cent relative to 15 December, 2005. This was substantially higher than the 4.1 per cent recorded for the corresponding period in December 2005. The growth for the month to date is generally in line with the Bank's projection (see chart). The higher growth for the period can be attributed to an increase in real wages, higher employment and increased economic activity in 2006.

Additional demand for currency will take place in the period 18 to 22 December because of the intense shopping period which ends on Christmas Eve. It is expected that the flows during this period will amount to approximately \$5.4 billion, an increase of 14.7 per cent relative to the stock on 15 December, 2006.

### Currency Issue - December Daily Stock

