



## News Release: Currency Issue

09 December 2014

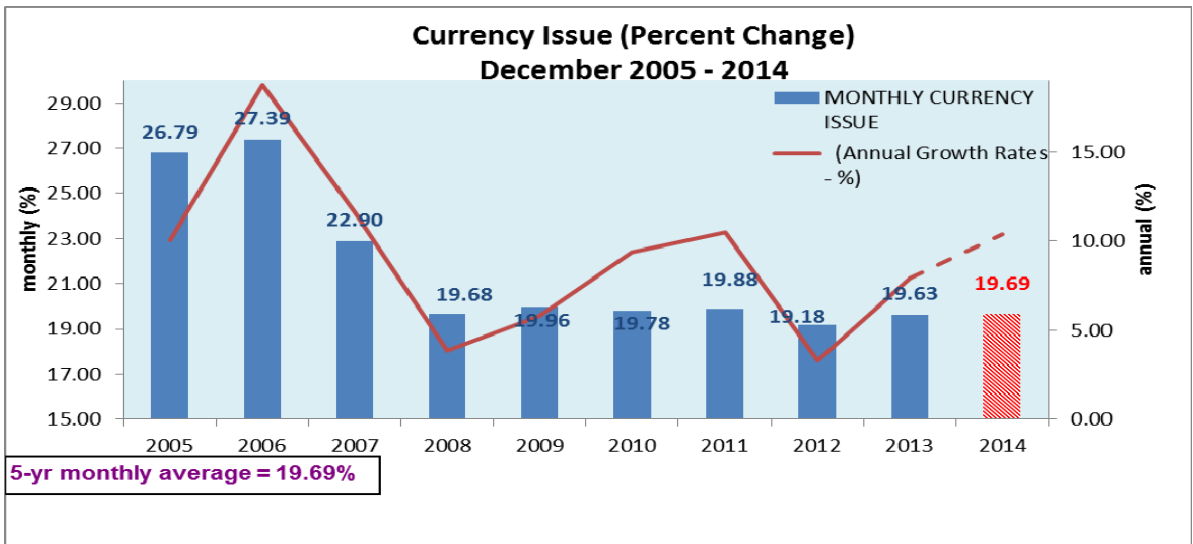
Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) issues and redeems notes and coins daily in order to meet the demand for cash from individuals and businesses. There is normally a stronger demand for cash during the month of December, associated with increased spending during the holiday period. Financial institutions therefore request more currency from BOJ to satisfy this demand.

In that context, for December 2014, the Bank projects that the currency stock will increase by approximately *\$12.7 billion (19.7 per cent)*, relative to end-November 2014 (see **Figure 1**). This projection is in line with the growth rates observed in December over the past 5 years. The demand for currency is projected to be strongest during the third and fourth weeks of the month and is expected to peak at approximately *\$78.1 billion* on Christmas Eve.

The projected currency stock of *\$77.0 billion* at end-December 2014 represents nominal growth of *10.4 per cent* relative to end-December 2013. **When the change in the general level of consumer prices is taken into account, the projected demand for currency in real terms is 2.7 per cent higher than the previous year.**

For the period 01 to 05 December 2014, the BOJ recorded net currency redemption of *\$784.2 million (1.2 per cent)*. Consequently, as at 05 December, the stock of currency in the hands of the public and in the vaults of financial institutions was *\$63.6 billion*. (See **Figure 2**).

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

