

17 November 2020

BANK OF JAMAICA HOLDS POLICY RATE

Bank of Jamaica announces its decision to hold the policy interest rate (the rate offered to deposit-taking institutions on overnight placements with Bank of Jamaica) unchanged at **0.50 per cent per annum**.

Monetary policy decisions taken by Bank of Jamaica are aimed at ensuring that the annual increase in the prices of consumer goods and services (i.e. inflation) remains within the Bank's inflation target range of 4.0 per cent to 6.0 per cent. Today's decision to hold the policy rate unchanged reflects Bank of Jamaica's assessment that, while inflation will be temporarily elevated over the next 4 – 5 months, it will remain within target over the next two years. This revised inflation outlook is influenced by the impact of the recent flood rains on domestic agricultural supplies over the near term as well as the ongoing impact on the economy of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These and other factors influencing today's monetary policy decision will be discussed at Bank of Jamaica's monetary policy press briefing scheduled for Thursday, 19 November 2020.

The next policy decision announcement date is 18 December 2020.