



ECONOMIC STATISTICS

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SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Figure 1

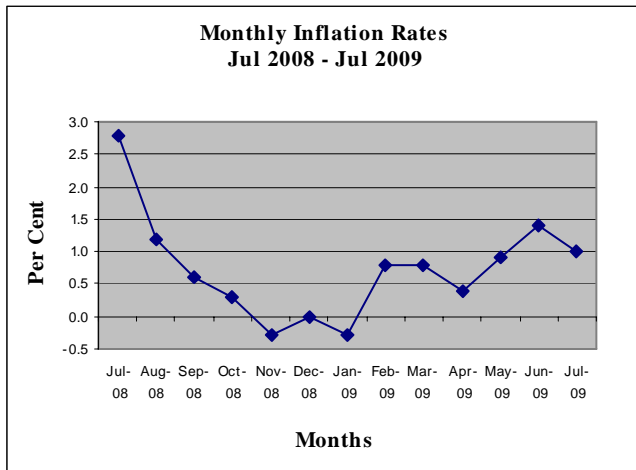


Figure 2

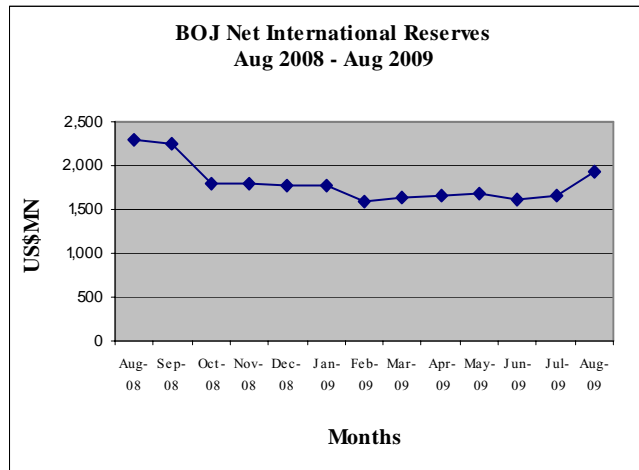


Figure 3

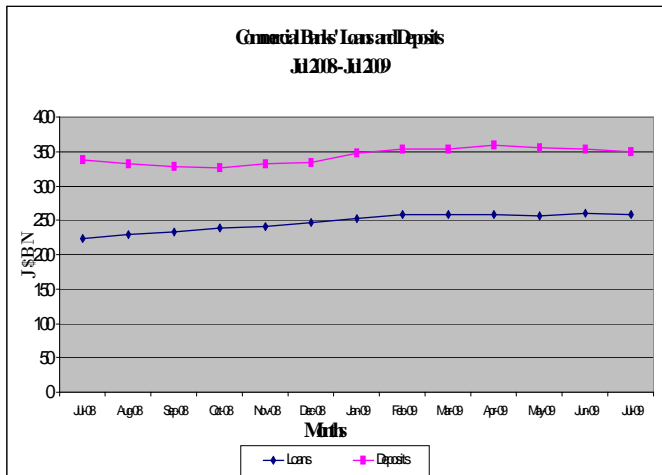


Figure 4

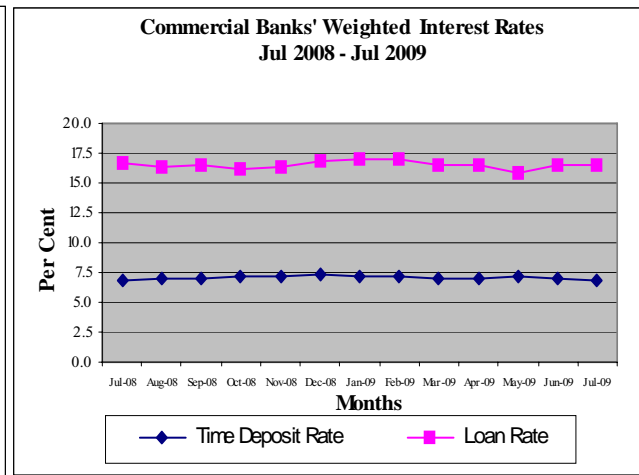


Figure 5

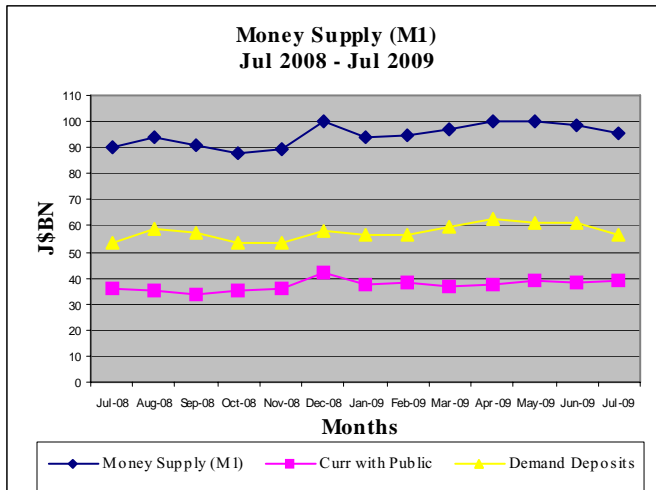
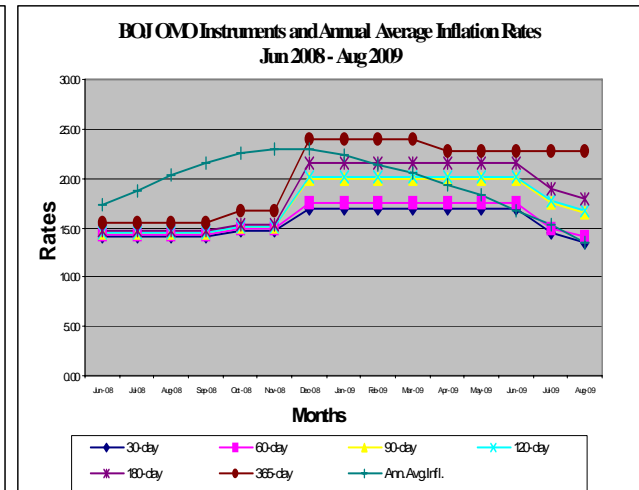


Figure 6



1. MONETARY AGGREGATES (J\$mn.)				%
Local and Foreign Currency	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Change p.a.
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>90,032.79</u>	<u>98,875.90</u>	<u>95,769.26</u>	<u>6.37</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	36,280.57	38,133.46	39,255.48	8.20
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	53,752.22	60,742.44	56,513.78	5.14
Quasi-Money.....	<u>212,032.71</u>	<u>220,604.97</u>	<u>222,950.59</u>	<u>5.15</u>
(a) Time.....	49,987.11	54,780.76	55,119.91	10.27
(b) Savings.....	162,045.60	165,824.21	167,830.68	3.57
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>302,065.50</u>	<u>319,480.87</u>	<u>318,719.85</u>	<u>5.51</u>
Domestic Credit	<u>301,338.69</u>	<u>353,635.48</u>	<u>345,313.08</u>	<u>14.59</u>
Local Currency	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>82,336.85</u>	<u>88,752.13</u>	<u>84,984.84</u>	<u>3.22</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	36,280.57	38,133.46	39,255.48	8.20
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	46,056.28	50,618.67	45,729.36	-0.71
Quasi-Money.....	<u>117,537.21</u>	<u>117,687.48</u>	<u>117,741.27</u>	<u>0.17</u>
(a) Time.....	27,015.83	25,818.61	25,517.62	-5.55
(b) Savings.....	90,521.38	91,868.87	92,223.65	1.88
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>199,874.05</u>	<u>206,439.61</u>	<u>202,726.11</u>	<u>1.43</u>
Domestic Credit	<u>225,231.68</u>	<u>248,295.65</u>	<u>243,029.05</u>	<u>7.90</u>
Base Money.....	<u>61,677.25</u>	<u>73,139.70</u>	<u>73,075.83</u>	<u>18.48</u>
II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.) *	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Assets & Liabilities (J\$mn.)**.....	<u>537,521.12</u>	<u>573,621.89</u>	<u>571,406.81</u>	<u>6.30</u>
Loans**.....	<u>223,893.45</u>	<u>259,340.58</u>	<u>258,312.93</u>	<u>15.37</u>
Agriculture.....	3,173.41	4,652.12	4,148.64	30.73
Manufacturing.....	9,066.86	9,398.84	8,600.58	-5.14
Construction & Land Development.....	11,183.71	15,333.04	19,169.42	71.40
Mining.....	629.26	558.89	1,087.68	72.85
Tourism.....	33,792.52	43,645.90	41,429.98	22.60
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	10,608.28	12,230.38	13,131.45	23.78
Consumer-Oriented.....	122,739.22	133,421.78	131,410.56	7.06
Government Services.....	27,917.08	34,979.12	34,466.26	23.46
Other.....	4,783.11	5,120.51	4,868.36	1.78
DEPOSITS.....	<u>338,757.49</u>	<u>352,625.74</u>	<u>350,372.55</u>	<u>3.43</u>
Private Sector (including overseas residents).....	<u>287,690.49</u>	<u>307,780.44</u>	<u>305,240.31</u>	<u>6.10</u>
Time.....	62,801.73	71,182.24	71,387.02	13.67
Savings.....	171,046.34	175,510.28	177,450.51	3.74
Demand.....	53,842.42	61,087.92	56,402.78	4.76
Government.....	<u>21,777.86</u>	<u>21,225.70</u>	<u>18,838.81</u>	<u>-13.50</u>
Time.....	1,259.37	2,351.02	1,588.76	26.16
Savings.....	2,668.47	3,365.08	2,844.13	6.58
Demand.....	17,850.02	15,509.60	14,405.92	-19.29
Public Entities.....	<u>13,592.55</u>	<u>12,403.14</u>	<u>11,553.00</u>	<u>-15.00</u>
Time.....	3,907.75	5,798.60	4,449.49	13.86
Savings.....	7,169.51	3,009.51	3,467.33	-51.64
Demand.....	2,515.29	3,595.03	3,636.18	44.56

* PanCaribbean Commercial Bank began operations in June 2008

** Includes provision for loan losses; and excludes loans acquired by FINSAC.

*** Excludes Deposits of Government, Public Entities, Financial Institutions and Non Residents

				%
II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.) (Cont'd)	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	Change p.a.
Spec. & O. F. Insts.....	<u>15,696.59</u>	<u>11,216.46</u>	<u>14,740.43</u>	<u>-6.09</u>
Time.....	4,137.30	2,476.42	2,085.71	-49.59
Savings.....	1,260.54	1,270.65	1,292.55	2.54
Demand.....	10,298.75	7,469.39	11,362.17	10.33
	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
Current Account Balances with BOJ (J\$mn).....	<u>3,260.97</u>	<u>162.25</u>	<u>210.20</u>	
LIQUIDITY (Average) %	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Actual Liquid Assets Ratio.....	<u>36.07</u>	<u>37.21</u>	<u>35.93</u>	
Cash.....	2.55	2.50	2.39	
Deposits with B.O.J.....	9.20	14.89	14.25	
Treasury Bills.....	0.82	0.17	0.20	
Local Registered Stocks.....	0.85	1.87	1.62	
Other.....	22.65	17.78	17.47	
Statutory Requirement.....	<u>23.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>	
III. SELECTED INTEREST RATES (%)				
COMMERCIAL BANKS (Domestic Currency)	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
Fixed Deposits (J\$100,000 & over)				
3-6 months.....	7.30-12.85	7.30-16.37	7.30-15.49	
9-12 months.....	7.00-13.35	7.00-18.74	7.00-15.75	
Call Deposits.....	1.00-12.00	3.00-15.00	3.00-10.00	
Average Savings Deposits	5.48	5.87	5.87	
Average Loan Rate.....	22.00	22.89	22.89	
Average Inter-bank Rate	8.00	7.79	7.07	
	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Weighted Fixed Deposits Rate.....	6.91	7.08	6.89	
Weighted Loan Rate.....	16.74	16.49	16.42	
G.O.J. Treasury Bills (Weighted Average) Yield	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
2 Months:.....	-	-	-	
3 Months:.....	14.58	18.46	16.72	
6 Months:.....	15.08	20.60	18.21	
9 Months:.....	-	-	-	
12 Months:.....	-	-	-	
BOJ Open Market Rates (%)	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
30-Day	14.00	14.50	13.50	
60-Day	14.20	15.00	14.00	
90-Day	14.40	17.50	16.50	
120-Days	14.50	17.70	16.70	
180-Days	14.70	19.00	18.00	
365-Days	-	22.67	22.67	
540-Days	-	-	-	
COMMERCIAL BANKS (Foreign Currency)	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
Fixed Deposits (Under US\$100,000)				
1-3 months.....	2.25-4.85	1.00-4.85	1.00-4.85	
3-6 months.....	2.00-5.35	1.00-5.35	1.00-5.35	
6-12 months.....	2.00-5.85	1.00-5.85	1.00-5.85	
Fixed Deposits (US\$100,000 & Over)				
1-3 months.....	2.70-5.60	1.00-5.60	1.00-5.60	
3-6 months.....	2.45-6.10	1.00-6.10	1.00-6.10	
6-12 months.....	2.45-6.60	1.00-6.60	1.00-6.60	
Average Loan Rates	10.49	11.00	11.00	
Average Savings	2.10	1.97	1.97	

+ Revised

				% Change p.a.
IV. SECURITIES (J\$m.) (outstanding balances)	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
GOJ Local Registered Stock.....	216,680.65	196,257.89	188,816.29	-12.86
	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
GOJ Treasury Bills.....	4,100.00	3,955.65	3,705.69	-9.62
BOJ Open Market Operations 1/.....	147,617.90	111,182.20	117,807.20	-20.19
V. INSTALMENT CREDIT (J\$m.) (Banks & Near-Banks)	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Total Credit Outstanding.....	30,566.73	30,259.43	29,983.78	-1.91
New Business.....	1,081.65	849.06	869.87	-19.58
VI. NEAR-BANKS (J\$m.)**** (Merchant Banks, Trust Com. & Finance Houses)	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Assets/Liabilities.....	32,390.53	33,800.52	32,798.10	1.26
Loans Outstanding.....	10,512.28	10,533.68	10,414.88	-0.93
Total Deposits.....	14,806.66	13,387.56	13,451.41	-9.15
Loans.....	<u>10,512.28</u>	<u>10,533.66</u>	<u>10,414.88</u>	<u>-0.93</u>
Agriculture.....	45.39	24.79	26.08	-42.54
Manufacturing.....	346.54	375.57	375.25	8.28
Construction & Land Development.....	2,647.26	2,742.81	2,715.84	2.59
Mining, Quarrying & Processing.....	32.55	39.62	38.39	17.94
Tourism.....	302.71	583.10	567.96	87.63
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	515.13	338.74	356.57	-30.78
Consumer Oriented.....	5,484.50	5,641.19	5,554.47	1.28
Government Services.....	342.68	131.58	131.55	-61.61
Other.....	795.52	656.26	648.77	-18.45
	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Liquid Assets Ratio (average) %.....	31.55	33.14	35.69	
Statutory Requirement.....	23.00	28.00	28.00	
VII. BUILDING SOCIETIES (J\$m.) (members & associate members)	Jul 2008	Jun 2009	Jul 2009	
Assets/Liabilities.....	132,785.08	153,300.69	154,368.10	16.25
Loan Balances.....	68,718.87	82,834.39	82,969.93	20.74
Savings Funds.....	89,795.36	105,502.96	105,868.67	17.90
VIII. INFLATION	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
Consumer Price Index (Dec. 2006 = 100).....	135.6	143.3	143.9	6.12
Monthly Rate (%).....	1.2	1.0	0.4	
Calendar Year to Date (%).....	16.1	5.0	5.4	
Fiscal Year to Date (%).....	10.3	3.7	4.1	
IX. ACTUAL PRODUCTION ('000)	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
Crude Bauxite (tonnes).....	322.80	232.09	365.10	13.10
Alumina (tonnes).....	347.85	102.04	120.47	-65.37
Sugar (tonnes).....	0.00	2.42	0.00	0.00
Banana Exports (tonnes).....	39.00	0.00	0.00	-100.00
X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	
Index**.....	108,044.77	79,304.49	79,883.87	-26.06
Volume Traded (mn.)***.....	103.75	64.74	120.26	15.91
Ordinary Shares.....	103.75	64.74	120.26	15.91
Block Transactions.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1/ As at May 2005 the Bank of Jamaica no longer issues Reverse Repurchases

- No Production

** As at end of month

*** Monthly values

**** As at June 2008 PanCaribbean Merchant Bank ended operations

	Aug2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	% Change
X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES (cont'd) Mar 2008				
Value of Stocks Traded (J\$mn.)***	1,088.85	505.67	1,198.22	10.04
Ordinary Shares	1,088.85	505.67	1,198.22	10.04
Block Transactions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Advance/Decline Ratio***	16/23	9/28	16/17	
XI. EXTERNAL TRADE (US\$mn.)	Jan-May 2008	Jan-May 2009		Change
1. EXPORTS				
(a) Major Traditional Exports	671.16	264.76		-406.40
Bauxite	48.62	30.38		-18.24
Alumina	546.97	169.62		-377.35
Sugar	75.58	64.76		-10.81
Bananas	0.00	0.00		0.00
(b) Other Traditional Exports	36.42	36.95		0.53
(c) Non-Traditional Exports	308.73	181.44		-127.29
(d) Re-exports	31.14	32.42		1.28
General Merchandise Exports	1,047.45	515.57		-531.88
(e) Freezone Exports	24.64	22.18		-2.46
(f) Goods Procured in Ports	66.43	37.85		-28.57
Total Goods Exports	1,138.52	575.60		-562.91
2. IMPORTS (by S.I.T.C.)				
(a) Food	341.25	349.67		8.42
(b) Beverage & Tobacco	38.14	31.66		-6.48
(c) Crude Material	37.36	19.66		-17.70
(d) Mineral Fuel	1,586.79	532.83		-1,053.96
(e) Animal & Vegetable Oil	20.16	13.89		-6.26
(f) Chemicals	395.10	266.18		-128.92
(g) Manufactured Goods	357.92	214.75		-143.17
(h) Machinery & Transportation	515.29	361.72		-153.57
(i) Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods	268.28	158.13		-110.16
(j) Miscellaneous Commodities	41.62	44.28		2.66
General Merchandise Imports	3,601.92	1,992.77		-1,609.14
Freezone Imports	8.83	4.88		-3.95
Goods Procured in Ports	71.48	30.86		-40.62
Total Goods Imports	3,682.23	2,028.51		-1,653.71
Trade Balance	-2,543.71	-1,452.91		1,090.8
XII. TOURISM	May 2008	May 2009		% Change
Tourist Arrivals ('000)	201.10	221.62		10.20
Stop Overs	141.24	153.44		8.64
Foreign Nationals	130.79	143.24		9.52
Non-Resident Jamaicans	10.45	10.20		-2.39
Cruise	59.86	68.18		13.90
XIII. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (US\$mn.)				
Balance of Payments (Calendar)	Jan-May 2008	Jan-May 2009		Change
1. Current Account	-1,244.0	-226.1		1,017.8
A. Goods balance	-2,137.0	-1,189.8		947.2
Exports (f.o.b.)	1,138.5	575.6		-562.9
Imports (f.o.b.)	3,275.5	1,765.4		-1,510.1
B. Service Balance	268.2	370.3		102.1
Transportation	-250.9	-130.8		120.1
Travel	791.7	748.8		-42.9
Other Services	-272.7	-247.7		24.9

*** Monthly values

+ Revised

<i>Balance of Payments (Calendar) (Cont'd)</i>		Jan-May 2008	Jan-May 2009	Change
C. Income		<u>-271.6</u>	<u>-211.5</u>	<u>60.1</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		11.7	7.0	-4.7
Investment Income.....		-283.4	-218.5	64.9
D. Current Transfers		<u>896.4</u>	<u>804.9</u>	<u>-91.5</u>
Official.....		42.7	49.5	6.8
Private.....		853.7	755.4	-98.3
2. Capital and Financial Account		<u>1,224.0</u>	<u>226.1</u>	<u>-1,017.8</u>
A. Capital Account		<u>17.6</u>	<u>28.9</u>	<u>11.3</u>
Capital Transfers.....		<u>17.6</u>	<u>28.9</u>	<u>11.3</u>
Official.....		29.5	41.9	12.4
Private.....		-11.9	-12.9	-1.0
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets....		0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Financial Account		<u>1,226.4</u>	<u>197.2</u>	<u>-1,029.2</u>
Other Official Investment.....		92.9	-153.5	-246.5
Other Private Investment.....		1,514.9	249.5	-1265.4
<i>(incl. errors & omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		<u>-381.5</u>	<u>101.2</u>	
		Apr-May	Apr-May	
		2008/2009	2009/2010	
<i>Balance of Payments (Fiscal)</i>				<u>559.3</u>
1. Current Account		<u>-604.3</u>	<u>-45.1</u>	<u>497.4</u>
A. Goods balance		<u>-937.2</u>	<u>-439.9</u>	<u>-257.4</u>
Exports (f.o.b.).....		487.0	229.6	-257.4
Imports (f.o.b.).....		1,424.3	669.5	-754.8
B. Service Balance		<u>51.3</u>	<u>133.2</u>	<u>81.9</u>
Transportation.....		-117.2	-48.0	69.2
Travel.....		269.8	275.7	5.9
Other Services.....		-101.3	-94.5	6.8
C. Income		<u>-97.9</u>	<u>-69.4</u>	<u>28.5</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		5.8	5.3	-0.5
Investment Income.....		-103.7	-74.7	29.0
D. Current Transfers		<u>379.5</u>	<u>331.0</u>	<u>-48.5</u>
Official.....		16.4	17.6	1.2
Private.....		363.0	313.4	-49.7
2. Capital and Financial Account		<u>604.3</u>	<u>45.1</u>	<u>-559.3</u>
A. Capital Account		<u>-3.2</u>	<u>-3.2</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Capital Transfers.....		-3.2	-3.2	0.0
Official.....		0.0	0.0	0.0
Private.....		-3.2	-3.2	0.0
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets		0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Financial Account		<u>607.5</u>	<u>48.2</u>	<u>-559.3</u>
Other Official Investment.....		88.3	-3.8	-92.1
Other Private Investment.....		695.1	95.2	-599.8
<i>(incl. errors & omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		-175.8	-43.2	

XIV. BOJ NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (US\$mn.)	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009	% Change p.a.
BOJ Net International Reserves (US\$mn.).....	<u>2,287.84</u>	<u>1,648.93</u>	<u>1,934.22</u>	<u>-15.46</u>
Gross Foreign Assets.....	<u>2,406.44</u>	<u>1,693.64</u>	<u>1,981.40</u>	<u>-17.66</u>
Gross Foreign Liabilities.....	<u>118.60</u>	<u>44.71</u>	<u>47.18</u>	<u>-60.22</u>
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods				
Imports.....	<u>17.96</u>	<u>18.38</u>	<u>21.80</u>	
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods and				
Services Imports.....	<u>13.50</u>	<u>12.96</u>	<u>15.42</u>	
 XV. FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEVELOPMENTS (US\$mn.) *	 Aug 2008	 Jul 2009	 Aug 2009	
Combined Foreign Exchange Trading				
Foreign Exchange Purchases (spot).....	<u>896.97</u>	<u>710.73</u>	<u>652.51</u>	<u>-27.25</u>
Foreign Exchange Sales (spot).....	<u>916.22</u>	<u>740.58</u>	<u>636.94</u>	<u>-30.48</u>
 Foreign Currency Deposit Balances of Authorised Dealers (US\$mn.)	 Jul 2008	 Jun 2009	 Jul 2009	
Commercial Banks Balances.....	<u>1,939.95</u>	<u>1,648.94</u>	<u>1,714.09</u>	<u>-11.64</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	<u>147.08</u>	<u>165.80</u>	<u>166.33</u>	<u>13.09</u>
"B" Accounts	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.15</u>	<u>0.14</u>	<u>-</u>
Other.....	<u>1,792.87</u>	<u>1,482.99</u>	<u>1,547.62</u>	<u>-13.68</u>
F.I.As Balance.....	<u>162.95</u>	<u>114.71</u>	<u>114.16</u>	<u>-29.94</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	<u>80.87</u>	<u>60.42</u>	<u>59.57</u>	<u>-26.34</u>
"B" Accounts	<u>0.29</u>	<u>0.16</u>	<u>0.16</u>	<u>-44.83</u>
Other.....	<u>81.79</u>	<u>54.13</u>	<u>54.43</u>	<u>-33.45</u>
Building Societies Balances.....	<u>495.54</u>	<u>493.20</u>	<u>489.35</u>	<u>-1.25</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	<u>232.73</u>	<u>223.76</u>	<u>222.49</u>	<u>-4.40</u>
"B" Accounts	<u>68.49</u>	<u>56.32</u>	<u>56.34</u>	<u>-17.74</u>
Other	<u>194.32</u>	<u>213.12</u>	<u>210.52</u>	<u>8.34</u>
Total Foreign Currency Deposits (US\$mn.).....	<u>2,598.44</u>	<u>2,256.85</u>	<u>2,317.60</u>	<u>-10.81</u>
Total Foreign Currency Loans (US\$mn.).....	<u>1,502.72</u>	<u>1,586.67</u>	<u>1,581.95</u>	<u>5.27</u>
Commercial Banks.....	<u>1,369.51</u>	<u>1,441.28</u>	<u>1,440.40</u>	<u>5.18</u>
F.I.As	<u>73.95</u>	<u>60.05</u>	<u>59.29</u>	<u>-19.82</u>
Building Societies.....	<u>59.26</u>	<u>85.34</u>	<u>82.26</u>	<u>38.81</u>

* Foreign Currency balances represent the US dollar equivalent of the value of total transactions in major international currencies
1/ 'A' Accounts are tax free Foreign Currency Accounts held by non-residents
+ Revised

London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) Eurodollars (%)	Jun 2008	May 2009	Jun 2009
3 months.....	4.95	1.27	1.10
6 months.....	5.13	1.48	1.31
U.S. Prime Rate (end of period) (%).....	5.00	3.25	3.25
Selling Exchange Rates (end period)	Aug 2008	Jul 2009	Aug 2009
US\$1.00 = J\$.....	72.07	89.01	89.00
Can. \$1.00 = J\$.....	69.41	82.55	80.85
U.K. Pound = J\$.....	132.09	146.95	144.75
Euro = J\$**.....	105.83	125.21	127.97
Caricom Selling Exchange Rates**			
T.T. \$1 = J\$.....	11.63	14.12	14.10
Bdos. \$1 = J\$.....	36.04	44.52	44.52
Guy. \$1 = J\$.....	0.36	0.44	0.44
E.C. \$1 = J\$.....	26.69	32.97	32.97

*** Indicative Rates*

**JAMAICA:
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEVELOPMENTS
MAY 2009**

MAY 2009

Provisional data indicate that the current account deficit narrowed by US\$465.6 million in May 2009, relative to the deficit in May 2008 (see Table). This improvement largely stemmed from a decline of US\$387.7 million (82.7 per cent) in spending on fuel imports, reflecting the impact of a 52.8 per cent decrease in the average price of oil on the international market in May 2009, relative to May 2008. All the other categories of imports also declined. The impact of the fall in imports on the merchandise trade deficit was partly offset by declines of US\$78.9 million (74.7 per cent) and US\$6.8 million (48.3 per cent) in earnings from alumina exports and goods procured in Jamaican ports by foreign vessels, respectively.

There were also improvements in the services and income sub-accounts. Within the services sub-account, a decline in net transportation payments, associated with the lower level of imports, was the main source of the improvement. With respect to the income account, the decline in the deficit was largely attributed to lower imputed profit remittances of the direct investment companies, particularly in the mining sector.

The main offsetting influence to the improvement of the above noted sub-accounts was a reduction in net inflows from current transfers, associated with a decline of 19.3 per cent in gross remittance inflows.

With regard to financing, net official investment capital inflows were more than sufficient to offset net private investment outflows and the current account deficit. As a result, the NIR of the Bank of Jamaica increased by US\$8.2 million for the month.

January – May 2009

There was a US\$1,017.8 million reduction in the current account deficit for the period January to May 2009, relative to the comparable period in 2008. An improvement in the merchandise trade deficit was the main source of the reduction, stemming primarily from a decline of US\$1,054.0 million (66.4 per cent) in the value of mineral fuel imports. All the other categories of imports, with the exception of food and miscellaneous commodities, also declined. The impact of the contraction in imports on the merchandise trade deficit was partly offset by lower earnings from major traditional exports, particularly alumina, as well as non-traditional exports.

For the review period, there were also improvements in the income and services sub-accounts. The increase in the surplus on the services sub-account resulted from a fall in freight charges as well as a decline in insurance payments, related to the reduction in the value of imports. This was partially offset by lower earnings from tourism, associated with an estimated fall in the average daily expenditure of stopover visitors. The improvement in the income account was principally related to lower imputed profit remittances of direct investment companies, mainly attributed to the downturn in the mining sector.

The impact of the improvement in the merchandise trade, services and income sub-accounts on the current account deficit was partly offset by lower net current transfers, which reflected a contraction of 17.1 per cent in gross remittance inflows.

In relation to financing, net private investment inflows were insufficient to finance net official capital outflows as well as the deficit on the current account. As a result, there was a decline of US\$101.2 million in the NIR during the review period.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY (US\$M)

	May 2008	May ^{1/} 2009	Change	Jan-May 2008	Jan-May ^{1/} 2009	Change
1. CURRENT ACCOUNT	-465.8	-0.2	465.6	-1,244.0	-226.1	1,017.9
A. GOODS BALANCE	-602.3	-176.6	425.7	-2,137.0	-1,189.8	947.2
Exports (f.o.b.)	216.4	134.3	-82.1	1,138.5	575.6	-562.9
Imports (f.o.b.)	818.7	310.9	-507.8	3,275.5	1,765.4	-1,510.1
B. SERVICES BALANCE	1.7	55.4	53.6	268.2	370.3	102.1
Transportation	-65.8	-25.0	40.9	-250.9	-130.8	120.1
Travel	116.8	124.8	8.1	791.7	748.8	-42.9
Other Services	-49.2	-44.5	4.7	-272.7	-247.7	25.0
C. INCOME	-56.5	-45.3	11.3	-271.6	-211.5	60.1
Compensation of employees	3.9	3.8	-0.1	11.7	7.0	-4.7
Investment Income	-60.4	-49.0	11.4	-283.4	-218.5	64.9
D. CURRENT TRANSFERS	191.3	166.3	-25.0	896.4	804.9	-91.5
Official	8.1	8.0	-0.1	42.7	49.5	6.8
Private	183.2	158.3	-25.0	853.7	755.4	-98.3
2. CAPITAL & FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	465.8	0.2	-465.6	1,224.0	226.1	-1,017.9
A. CAPITAL ACCOUNT	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	17.6	28.9	11.3
a. Capital Transfers	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	17.6	28.9	11.3
Official	0.0	0.0	0.0	29.5	41.9	12.4
Private	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-11.9	-12.9	-1.0
b. Acq./disposal of non-prod. non-fin'l assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
B. FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	466.3	0.7	-465.6	1,226.4	197.2	-1,029.2
Other official investment	35.7	9.7	-25.9	92.9	-153.5	-246.5
Other private investment 2/	527.0	-0.9	-527.9	1,514.9	249.5	-1,265.4
Reserves	-96.4	-8.2	-381.5	-381.5	101.2	

1/ Provisional

2/ Includes errors & omissions