



# ECONOMIC STATISTICS

---

VOLUME 19 - NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2009

---



# CONTENTS

	Pages
Figures 1-6	1
Monetary Aggregates	2
Commercial Banks Assets and Liabilities	2
Commercial Banks Deposits and Loans	2
Interest Rates (Selected)	3
Securities	4
Instalment Credit	4
Near-Banks	4
Building Societies	4
Inflation Rates	4
Actual Production	4
Stock Market Activities	4
External Trade	5
Tourism	5
Balance of Payments	5
BOJ Net International Reserves	7
Foreign Exchange	7
Reviews on Balance of Payments	9

© 2009 Bank of Jamaica  
Nethersole Place  
Kingston  
Jamaica

Telephone: (876) 922 0750-9  
Fax: (876) 922 0854  
E-mail: [library@boj.org.jm](mailto:library@boj.org.jm)  
Internet: [www.boj.org.jm](http://www.boj.org.jm)

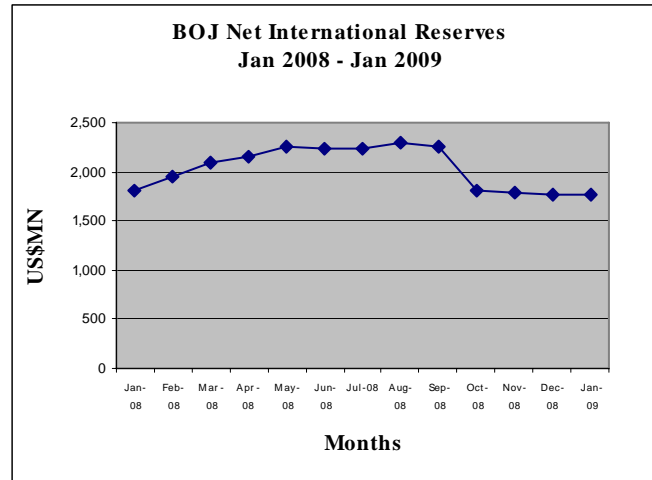
ISSN 1018-9084

# SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

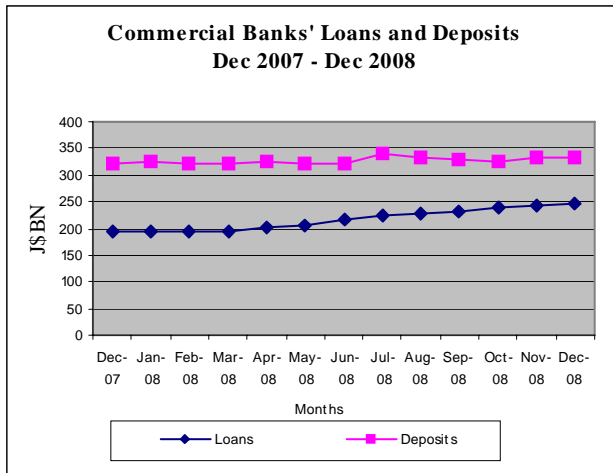
**Figure 1**



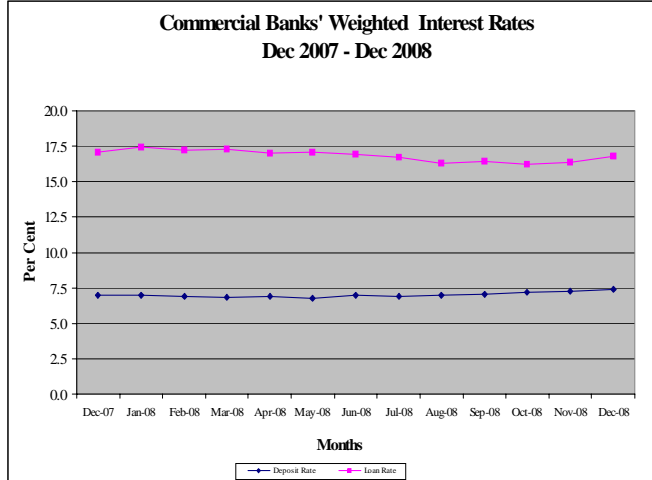
**Figure 2**



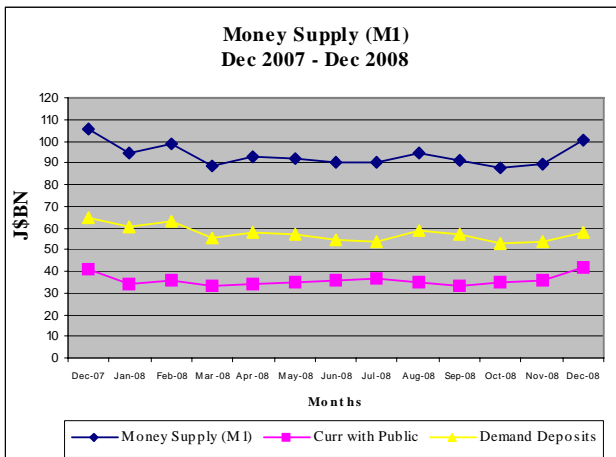
**Figure 3**



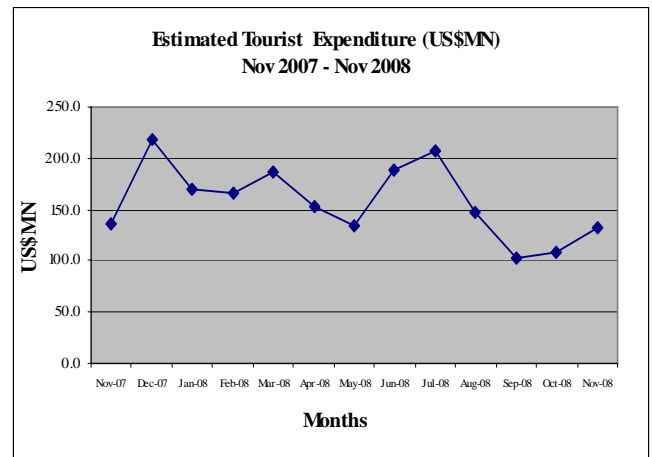
**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**



1. MONETARY AGGREGATES (J\$mn.)				%
<b>Local and Foreign Currency</b>	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Change p.a.</b>
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>105,554.66</u>	<u>89,295.98</u>	<u>100,097.13</u>	<u>-5.17</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	40,674.92	35,794.10	41,995.77	3.25
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	64,879.74	53,501.88	58,101.36	-10.45
Quasi-Money.....	<u>194,645.64</u>	<u>210,709.58</u>	<u>213,042.33</u>	<u>9.45</u>
(a) Time.....	47,264.91	54,239.13	53,682.75	13.58
(b) Savings.....	147,380.73	156,470.45	159,359.58	8.13
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>300,200.30</u>	<u>300,005.56</u>	<u>313,139.46</u>	<u>4.31</u>
Domestic Credit .....	<u>270,973.95</u>	<u>341,924.93</u>	<u>359,973.50</u>	<u>32.84</u>
<b>Local Currency</b>	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>89,337.47</u>	<u>80,385.63</u>	<u>91,017.86</u>	<u>1.88</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	40,674.92	35,794.10	41,995.77	3.25
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	48,662.55	44,591.53	49,022.09	0.74
Quasi-Money.....	<u>113,228.13</u>	<u>120,844.29</u>	<u>119,565.24</u>	<u>5.60</u>
(a) Time.....	25,016.74	30,843.85	29,174.36	16.62
(b) Savings.....	88,211.39	90,000.44	90,390.88	2.47
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>202,565.60</u>	<u>201,229.92</u>	<u>210,583.10</u>	<u>3.96</u>
Domestic Credit .....	<u>204,278.10</u>	<u>255,129.07</u>	<u>264,284.30</u>	<u>29.37</u>
	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
Base Money.....	<u>57,602.83</u>	<u>71,498.60</u>	<u>69,104.23</u>	<u>19.97</u>
<b>II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.) *</b>	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Assets & Liabilities (J\$mn.)**.....	<u>490,960.60</u>	<u>538,025.62</u>	<u>548,341.55</u>	<u>11.69</u>
Loans**.....	<u>195,102.94</u>	<u>241,276.19</u>	<u>246,167.52</u>	<u>26.17</u>
Agriculture.....	2,163.73	4,538.32	4,588.07	112.04
Manufacturing.....	6,259.15	9,769.03	9,302.64	48.62
Construction & Land Development.....	8,977.37	13,325.98	12,902.12	43.72
Mining.....	513.41	708.46	700.89	36.52
Tourism.....	29,562.84	37,919.56	40,769.01	37.91
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	8,191.31	11,240.23	11,468.15	40.00
Consumer-Oriented.....	104,331.13	129,005.63	130,732.64	25.31
Government Services.....	31,663.20	30,223.50	30,775.42	-2.80
Other.....	3,440.80	4,545.48	4,928.58	43.24
	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
DEPOSITS.....	<u>321,053.08</u>	<u>331,898.33</u>	<u>333,960.01</u>	<u>4.02</u>
Private Sector (including overseas residents).....	<u>276,124.62</u>	<u>286,009.20</u>	<u>292,275.44</u>	<u>5.85</u>
Time.....	56,266.92	68,020.72	67,856.12	20.60
Savings.....	156,136.57	165,017.24	168,165.95	7.70
Demand.....	63,721.13	52,971.24	56,253.37	-11.72
Government.....	<u>23,483.75</u>	<u>19,530.06</u>	<u>21,231.50</u>	<u>-9.59</u>
Time.....	829.11	1,402.44	1,414.09	70.56
Savings.....	2,473.12	2,826.51	2,447.19	-1.05
Demand.....	20,181.52	15,301.11	17,370.22	-13.93
Public Entities.....	<u>13,123.64</u>	<u>10,615.86</u>	<u>8,759.64</u>	<u>-33.25</u>
Time.....	5,493.79	5,278.64	5,223.15	-4.93
Savings.....	5,174.50	2,962.83	1,271.32	-75.43
Demand.....	2,455.35	2,374.39	2,265.17	-7.75

\* 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

				%
<b>II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.) (Cont'd)</b>	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Change p.a.</b>
Spec. & O. F. Insts.....	<u>8,321.07</u>	<u>15,743.21</u>	<u>11,693.43</u>	<u>40.53</u>
Time.....	1,993.73	5,256.26	4,529.17	127.17
Savings.....	1,576.21	1,215.11	1,067.20	-32.29
Demand.....	4,751.13	9,271.84	6,097.06	28.33
	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
Current Account Balances with BOJ (J\$mn).....	<u>333.16</u>	<u>489.57</u>	<u>194.27</u>	
<b>LIQUIDITY (Average) %</b>	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Actual Liquid Assets Ratio.....	<u>30.02</u>	<u>35.62</u>	<u>36.96</u>	
Cash.....	3.83	2.48	3.33	
Deposits with B.O.J.....	9.41	9.21	11.15	
Treasury Bills.....	1.22	0.61	0.47	
Local Registered Stocks.....	0.31	0.72	0.65	
Other.....	15.25	22.60	21.36	
Statutory Requirement.....	<u>23.00</u>	<u>23.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>	
<b>III. SELECTED INTEREST RATES (%)</b>				
<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS (Domestic Currency)</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
Fixed Deposits (J\$100,000 & over)				
3-6 months.....	6.80-11.85	7.30-12.85	7.30-16.33	
9-12 months.....	6.50-12.35	7.00-13.35	7.00-18.11	
Call Deposits.....	5.00-9.25	9.00-41.00	7.00-32.00	
Average Savings Deposits .....	4.88	5.33	5.89	
Average Loan Rate.....	21.64	23.17	22.91	
Average Inter-bank Rate .....	7.42	24.50	15.43	
	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Weighted Fixed Deposits Rate.....	6.99	7.25	7.37	
Weighted Loan Rate.....	17.11	16.39	16.78	
<b>G.O.J. Treasury Bills (Weighted Average) Yield</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
2 Months:.....	-	-	-	
3 Months:.....	12.97	22.01	22.33	
6 Months:.....	13.33	24.45	24.26	
9 Months:.....	-	-	-	
12 Months:.....	-	-	-	
<b>BOJ Open Market Rates (%)</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
30-Day .....	12.65	17.00	17.00	
60-Day .....	12.70	17.50	17.50	
90-Day .....	12.80	20.00	20.00	
120-Days .....	12.85	20.20	20.20	
180-Days .....	13.00	21.50	21.50	
365-Days .....	13.50	24.00	24.00	
540-Days .....	12.80	-	-	
<b>COMMERCIAL BANKS (Foreign Currency)</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
Fixed Deposits (Under US\$100,000)				
1-3 months.....	3.00-4.85	2.25-4.85	1.00-5.60	
3-6 months.....	3.20-5.35	2.00-5.35	1.00-6.10	
6-12 months.....	3.28-5.85	2.00-5.85	1.00-6.60	
Fixed Deposits (US\$100,000 & Over)				
1-3 months.....	3.00-5.60	2.70-5.60	2.70-5.60	
3-6 months.....	3.20-6.10	2.45-6.10	2.45-6.10	
6-12 months.....	3.40-6.60	2.45-6.60	2.45-6.60	
Average Loan Rates .....	11.15	11.46	11.46	
Average Savings .....	2.20	1.77	1.77	

+ Revised

				<b>% Change p.a.</b>
<b>IV. SECURITIES (J\$m.)</b> (outstanding balances)	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
GOJ Local Registered Stock.....	224,228.40	206,489.34	205,120.09	-8.52
	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
GOJ Treasury Bills.....	4,700.00	4,194.50	4,194.50	-10.76
BOJ Open Market Operations 1/.....	126,117.32	132,728.79	125,991.50	-0.10
<b>V. INSTALMENT CREDIT (J\$m.)</b> (Banks & Near-Banks)	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Total Credit Outstanding.....	28,426.76	30,601.36	30,563.35	7.52
New Business.....	1,832.32	1,124.27	1,288.91	-29.66
<b>VI. NEAR-BANKS (J\$m.)****</b> (Merchant Banks, Trust Com. & Finance Houses)	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Assets/Liabilities.....	46,643.37	32,593.68	32,763.61	-29.76
Loans Outstanding.....	14,207.21	10,991.63	10,818.50	-23.85
Total Deposits.....	17,153.29	14,242.94	14,519.40	-15.36
Loans.....	<u>14,207.20</u>	<u>10,991.63</u>	<u>10,818.50</u>	<u>-23.85</u>
Agriculture.....	1,029.57	26.93	28.35	-97.25
Manufacturing.....	519.11	358.07	363.53	-29.97
Construction & Land Development.....	2,977.48	2,616.24	2,514.90	-15.54
Mining, Quarrying & Processing.....	10.23	41.86	47.26	361.97
Tourism.....	810.65	280.89	283.50	-65.03
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	842.15	424.10	443.36	-47.35
Consumer Oriented.....	6,837.44	6,114.16	6,151.24	-10.04
Government Services.....	435.39	355.36	126.88	-70.86
Other.....	745.18	774.02	859.48	15.34
	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Liquid Assets Ratio (average) %.....	46.89	22.10	23.18	
Statutory Requirement.....	23.00	23.00	25.00	
<b>VII. BUILDING SOCIETIES (J\$m.)</b> (members & associate members)	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Assets/Liabilities.....	123,560.93	137,383.19	139,240.31	12.69
Loan Balances.....	58,981.77	74,080.74	76,098.06	29.02
Savings Funds.....	84,377.31	91,125.00	93,285.27	10.56
<b>VIII. INFLATION</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
Consumer Price Index (Dec. 2006 = 100).....	119.4	136.5	136.0	13.90
Monthly Rate (%).....	2.2	0.0	-0.3	
Calendar Year to Date (%).....	2.2	16.8	-0.3	
Fiscal Year to Date (%).....	16.4	11.0	10.7	
<b>IX. ACTUAL PRODUCTION ('000)</b>	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Crude Bauxite (tonnes).....	359.25	280.28	406.92	13.27
Alumina (tonnes).....	339.87	331.50	336.76	-0.92
Sugar (tonnes).....	9.40	0.00	0.20	-97.87
Banana Exports (tonnes).....	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
<b>X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	
Index**.....	108,493.72	80,152.03	87,206.90	-19.62
Volume Traded (mn.)***.....	249.46	59.99	112.66	-54.84
Ordinary Shares.....	249.18	59.99	112.66	-54.79
Block Transactions.....	0.28	0.00	0.00	-100.00

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

	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2008	% Change p.a.
<b>X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES (cont'd)</b>				
Value of Stocks Traded (J\$mn.)***	3,820.01	548.68	527.32	-86.20
Ordinary Shares	3,819.79	548.68	527.32	-86.20
Block Transactions	0.22	0.00	0.00	-100.00
Advance/Decline Ratio***	33/8	12/26	20/15	
<b>XI. EXTERNAL TRADE (US\$mn.)</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2007</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2008</b>		<b>Change</b>
<b>1. EXPORTS</b>				
(a) Major Traditional Exports	<u>987.57</u>	<u>1,084.61</u>		<u>97.04</u>
Bauxite	76.12	76.72		0.60
Alumina	801.95	903.61		101.66
Sugar	100.28	104.24		3.96
Bananas	9.22	0.04		-9.18
(b) Other Traditional Exports	54.78	62.16		7.38
(c) Non-Traditional Exports	362.09	506.65		144.56
(d) Re-exports	33.76	41.06		7.30
<b>General Merchandise Exports</b>	<u>1,438.20</u>	<u>1,694.48</u>		<u>256.28</u>
(e) Freezone Exports	36.44	39.29		2.85
(f) Goods Procured in Ports	67.17	123.80		56.63
<b>Total Goods Exports</b>	<b><u>1,541.81</u></b>	<b><u>1,857.57</u></b>		<b><u>315.76</u></b>
<b>2. IMPORTS (by S.I.T.C.)</b>				
(a) Food	462.76	560.43		97.67
(b) Beverage & Tobacco	60.22	60.97		0.75
(c) Crude Material	46.28	55.06		8.78
(d) Mineral Fuel	1,232.33	2,583.46		1,351.13
(e) Animal & Vegetable Oil	17.00	38.37		21.37
(f) Chemicals	515.17	673.39		158.22
(g) Manufactured Goods	497.87	607.81		109.94
(h) Machinery & Transportation	859.20	882.27		23.07
(i) Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods	395.20	497.25		102.05
(j) Miscellaneous Commodities	55.02	71.76		16.74
<b>General Merchandise Imports</b>	<u>4,141.05</u>	<u>6,030.77</u>		<u>1,889.72</u>
Freezone Imports	11.86	13.42		1.56
Goods Procured in Ports	91.36	147.44		56.08
<b>Total Goods Imports</b>	<b><u>4,244.27</u></b>	<b><u>6,191.63</u></b>		<b><u>1,947.36</u></b>
<b>Trade Balance</b>	<b><u>-2,702.46</u></b>	<b><u>-4,334.06</u></b>		<b><u>-1,631.60</u></b>
<b>XII. TOURISM</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2007</b>	<b>Jan-Nov 2008</b>		<b>% Change</b>
Tourist Arrivals ('000)	<u>2,581.99</u>	<u>2,555.95</u>		<u>-1.01</u>
Stop Overs	1,520.76	1,587.66		4.40
Foreign Nationals	1,416.84	1,467.39		3.57
Non-Resident Jamaicans	103.92	120.27		15.73
Cruise	1,061.23	968.29		-8.76
Armed Forces	-	-		
Estimated Expenditure (US\$mn.)	<u>1,690.96</u>	<u>1,682.06</u>		<u>-0.53</u>
<b>XIII. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (US\$mn.)</b>				
<b>Balance of Payments (Calendar)</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2007</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2008</b>		<b>Change</b>
<b>1. Current Account</b>	<u>-893.6</u>	<u>-2,447.2</u>		<u>-1,553.6</u>
<b>A. Goods balance</b>	<u>-2,169.0</u>	<u>-3,643.8</u>		<u>-1,474.8</u>
Exports (f.o.b.)	1,541.8	1,857.6		315.8
Imports (f.o.b.)	3,710.8	5,501.4		1,790.6
<b>B. Service Balance</b>	<u>392.2</u>	<u>248.3</u>		<u>-143.9</u>
Transportation	-325.1	-462.4		-137.3
Travel	1,156.9	1,167.3		10.4
Other Services	-439.6	-456.7		-17.1

\*\*\* Monthly values



<i>Balance of Payments (Calendar) (Cont'd)</i>		Jan-Aug 2007	Jan-Aug 2008	Change
<b>C. Income</b> .....		<u>-437.3</u>	<u>-455.0</u>	<u>-17.7</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		16.8	17.9	1.1
Investment Income.....		-454.1	-473.0	-18.9
<b>D. Current Transfers</b> .....		<u>1,320.6</u>	<u>1,403.3</u>	<u>82.7</u>
Official.....		91.0	86.7	-4.3
Private.....		1,229.5	1,316.7	87.2
<b>2. Capital and Financial Account</b> .....		<u>893.6</u>	<u>2,447.2</u>	<u>1,553.6</u>
<b>A. Capital Account</b> .....		<u>-24.2</u>	<u>21.4</u>	<u>45.6</u>
Capital Transfers.....		<u>-24.2</u>	<u>21.4</u>	<u>45.6</u>
Official.....		0.7	41.6	40.9
Private.....		-24.9	-20.2	4.7
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets....		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>B. Financial Account</b> .....		<u>917.8</u>	<u>2,425.8</u>	<u>1,508.0</u>
Other Official Investment.....		381.2	406.8	25.6
Other Private Investment.....		286.3	2,429.2	2,142.9
<i>(incl. errors &amp; omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		<u>250.3</u>	<u>-410.2</u>	
		<b>Apr-Aug</b>	<b>Apr-Aug</b>	
<i>Balance of Payments (Fiscal)</i>		<b>2007/2008</b>	<b>2008/2009</b>	
<b>1. Current Account</b> .....		<u>-628.4</u>	<u>-1,857.9</u>	<u>-1,229.5</u>
<b>A. Goods balance</b> .....		<u>-1,415.6</u>	<u>-2,587.3</u>	<u>-1,171.7</u>
Exports (f.o.b.).....		956.3	1,191.7	253.4
Imports (f.o.b.).....		2,371.9	3,779.0	1,407.1
<b>B. Service Balance</b> .....		<u>225.0</u>	<u>87.7</u>	<u>-137.3</u>
Transportation.....		-211.6	-327.4	-115.8
Travel.....		710.2	703.7	-6.5
Other Services.....		-273.6	-288.6	-15.0
<b>C. Income</b> .....		<u>-287.3</u>	<u>-252.5</u>	<u>34.8</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		20.5	18.6	-1.9
Investment Income.....		-307.8	-271.1	36.7
<b>D. Current Transfers</b> .....		<u>849.5</u>	<u>894.2</u>	<u>44.7</u>
Official.....		58.4	53.6	-4.8
Private.....		791.1	840.6	49.5
<b>2. Capital and Financial Account</b> .....		<u>628.4</u>	<u>1,857.9</u>	<u>1,229.5</u>
<b>A. Capital Account</b> .....		<u>-14.8</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>15.7</u>
Capital Transfers.....		<u>-14.8</u>	<u>0.9</u>	<u>15.7</u>
Official.....		0.4	12.1	11.7
Private.....		-15.2	-11.2	4.0
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets		0.0	0.0	-
<b>B. Financial Account</b> .....		<u>643.2</u>	<u>1,857.0</u>	<u>1,213.8</u>
Other Official Investment.....		204.4	447.4	243.0
Other Private Investment.....		176.7	1,614.2	1,437.5
<i>(incl. errors &amp; omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		<u>262.1</u>	<u>-204.6</u>	

<b>XIV. BOJ NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (US\$mn.)</b>	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008+</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>	<b>% Change p.a.</b>
BOJ Net International Reserves (US\$mn.).....	<u>1,819.08</u>	<u>1,772.94</u>	<u>1,764.98</u>	<u>-2.97</u>
Gross Foreign Assets.....	1,847.21	1,795.44	1,787.48	-3.23
Gross Foreign Liabilities.....	28.13	22.50	22.50	-20.01
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods				
Imports.....	<u>16.04</u>	<u>14.81</u>	<u>14.75</u>	
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods and				
Services Imports.....	<u>11.77</u>	<u>10.90</u>	<u>10.86</u>	
 <b>XV. FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEVELOPMENTS (US\$mn.) *</b>	 <b>Jan 2008</b>	 <b>Dec 2008</b>	 <b>Jan 2009</b>	
Combined Foreign Exchange Trading				
Foreign Exchange Purchases (spot).....	1,010.54	1,120.94	839.08	-16.97
Foreign Exchange Sales (spot).....	1,010.22	1,063.08	896.61	-11.25
Foreign Currency Deposit Balances of Authorised Dealers (US\$mn.)	<b>Dec 2007</b>	<b>Nov 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	
Commercial Banks Balances.....	<u>1,741.28</u>	<u>1,734.97</u>	<u>1,603.79</u>	<u>-7.90</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	190.10	167.62	158.07	-16.85
"B" Accounts .....	0.00	61.53	0.00	-
Other.....	1,551.18	1,505.82	1,445.72	-6.80
F.I.As Balance.....	<u>205.47</u>	<u>144.84</u>	<u>142.05</u>	<u>-30.87</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	127.52	78.92	77.61	-39.14
"B" Accounts .....	0.30	0.28	0.18	-40.00
Other.....	77.65	65.64	64.26	-17.24
Building Societies Balances.....	<u>477.45</u>	<u>452.89</u>	<u>445.20</u>	<u>-6.75</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	312.25	200.52	195.88	-37.27
"B" Accounts .....	68.19	63.50	60.95	-10.62
Other .....	97.01	188.87	188.37	94.18
Total Foreign Currency Deposits (US\$mn.).....	<u>2,424.20</u>	<u>2,332.70</u>	<u>2,191.04</u>	<u>-9.62</u>
Total Foreign Currency Loans (US\$mn.).....	<u>1,314.41</u>	<u>1,545.02</u>	<u>1,554.74</u>	<u>18.28</u>
Commercial Banks.....	1,136.51	1,410.66	1,415.25	24.53
F.I.As .....	124.00	71.32	66.23	-46.59
Building Societies.....	53.90	63.04	73.26	35.92

\* 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 (%)	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>
3 months.....	4.38	2.89	2.09
6 months.....	4.36	2.98	2.19
U.S. Prime Rate (end of period) (%).....	6.98	3.61	3.25
Selling Exchange Rates (end period)	<b>Jan 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan 2009</b>
US\$1.00 = J\$.....	71.74	80.47	86.07
Can. \$1.00 = J\$.....	71.63	65.54	70.03
U.K. Pound = J\$.....	141.95	116.84	122.59
Euro = J\$**.....	105.94	113.08	112.42
Caricom Selling Exchange Rates**			
T.T. \$1 = J\$.....	11.38	12.80	13.90
Bdos. \$1 = J\$.....	35.83	40.14	42.97
Guy. \$1 = J\$.....	0.36	0.40	0.43
E.C. \$1 = J\$.....	26.54	29.73	31.83

*\*\* Indicative Rates*

**JAMAICA:**  
**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEVELOPMENTS**  
**AUGUST 2008**

**August 2008**

**Provisional data indicate that the current account deficit widened by US\$272.1 million in August 2008, relative to the deficit in August 2007 (see Table).** This deterioration largely stemmed from increased spending of US\$346.5 million on imports, mainly related to expansions of US\$327.0 million (198.6 per cent), and US\$25.9 million (48.4 per cent) in the values of fuel and chemicals imports, respectively. The higher spending on fuel-related imports was partly associated with significant increases in the price of oil on the international market.

There was also a deterioration in the services account, primarily reflecting an increase in net transportation payments in the context of the higher value of imports. Partly offsetting the impact of the deterioration in the other accounts on the current account balance was a US\$15.7 million improvement in the balance on the income account. This was mainly attributed to lower interest payments on official external debt as well as a reduction in the imputed profit remittances of direct investment companies.

Within the financial account, net private and official capital inflows were more than sufficient to finance the deficit on the current account. As a result, the NIR of the Bank of Jamaica increased by US\$43.0 million for the month.

**January – August 2008**

**The current account deficit widened by US\$1,553.7 million for the period January to August 2008, relative to the comparable period in 2007.** A deterioration in the merchandise trade deficit was the main source of the widening, stemming from respective increases of US\$1,351.1 million (109.6 per cent), US\$158.2 million (30.7 per cent), US\$109.9 million (22.1 per cent), and US\$102.1 million (25.8 per cent) in the values of mineral fuel, chemicals, manufactured goods and miscellaneous manufactured goods imports. The impact of the expansion in imports was partly offset by increased earnings from non-traditional exports and alumina.

There was also a contraction in the surplus on the services account for the review period, driven primarily by increased transportation costs associated with the growth in imports. A small improvement in the travel sub-account reflected the impact of a 4.6 per cent expansion in foreign national visitor arrivals as well as a fall in payments for travel by Jamaicans.

The impact of the deterioration in the other sub-accounts on the current account deficit was partly offset by higher net current transfers, which reflected growth of 7.6 per cent in gross private inflows.

Within the capital and financial account, net private capital inflows increased by US\$2,142.9 million, reflecting robust growth in foreign direct investment inflows, largely associated with the sale of Lascelles deMercado to the Trinidadian firm, Angostura Limited. Net private capital inflows, as well as higher official capital inflows were, therefore, more than sufficient to finance the current account deficit. In this context, there was an increase of US\$410.2 million in the NIR over the review period. At end-August 2008, the gross reserves of the Bank of Jamaica stood at US\$2,406.4 million, representing 14.2 weeks of projected imports of goods and services.

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY (US\$M)**

	<b>August 2007</b>	<b>August<sup>1/</sup> 2008</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Jan-Aug 2007</b>	<b>Jan-Aug<sup>1/</sup> 2008</b>	<b>Change</b>
<b>1. CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>	<b>-191.1</b>	<b>-463.2</b>	<b>-272.1</b>	<b>-893.6</b>	<b>-2,447.2</b>	<b>-1,553.7</b>
<b>A. GOODS and SERVICES</b>	<b>-322.3</b>	<b>-608.3</b>	<b>-285.9</b>	<b>-1,776.8</b>	<b>-3,395.5</b>	<b>-1,618.7</b>
<b>a. GOODS BALANCE</b>	<b>-339.7</b>	<b>-603.5</b>	<b>-263.7</b>	<b>-2,169.0</b>	<b>-3,643.8</b>	<b>-1,474.8</b>
Exports (f.o.b.)	134.2	217.0	82.8	1,541.8	1,857.6	315.8
Imports (f.o.b.)	473.9	820.4	346.5	3,710.8	5,501.4	1,790.6
<b>b. SERVICES BALANCE</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>-22.2</b>	<b>392.2</b>	<b>248.3</b>	<b>-143.9</b>
Transportation	-44.8	-64.5	-19.7	-325.1	-462.4	-137.2
Travel	113.0	114.2	1.2	1,156.9	1,167.3	10.4
Other Services	-50.8	-54.5	-3.7	-439.6	-456.7	-17.1
<b>B. INCOME</b>	<b>-37.5</b>	<b>-21.8</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>-437.3</b>	<b>-455.0</b>	<b>-17.7</b>
Compensation of employees	10.5	8.7	-1.8	16.8	17.9	1.1
Investment Income	-48.0	-30.5	17.5	-454.1	-473.0	-18.8
<b>C. CURRENT TRANSFERS</b>	<b>168.7</b>	<b>166.9</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>1,320.6</b>	<b>1,403.3</b>	<b>82.8</b>
Official	10.7	10.4	-0.2	91.0	86.7	-4.4
Private	158.1	156.5	-1.6	1,229.5	1,316.7	87.1
<b>2. CAPITAL &amp; FINANCIAL ACCOUNT</b>	<b>191.1</b>	<b>463.2</b>	<b>272.1</b>	<b>893.6</b>	<b>2,447.2</b>	<b>1,553.7</b>
<b>A. CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-24.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>45.6</b>
<b>a. Capital Transfers</b>	<b>-2.9</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-24.2</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>45.6</b>
Official	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	41.6	40.9
Private	-2.9	-2.6	0.4	-24.9	-20.2	4.7
b. Acq./disposal of non-prod. non-fin'l assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>B. FINANCIAL ACCOUNT</b>	<b>194.0</b>	<b>465.7</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>917.8</b>	<b>2,425.8</b>	<b>1,508.1</b>
Other official investment	3.3	112.0	108.7	381.2	406.8	25.6
Other private investment 2/	111.8	396.7	284.9	286.3	2,429.2	2,142.9
Reserves	78.9	-43.0		250.3	-410.2	

*1/ Provisional*

*2/ Includes errors & omissions*

