



ECONOMIC STATISTICS

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SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Figure 1

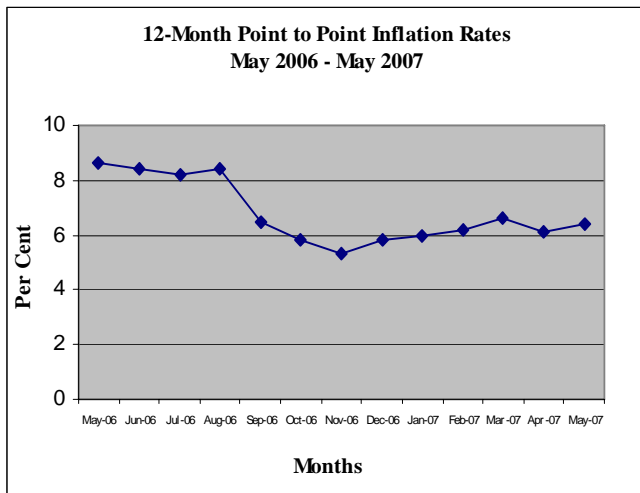


Figure 2

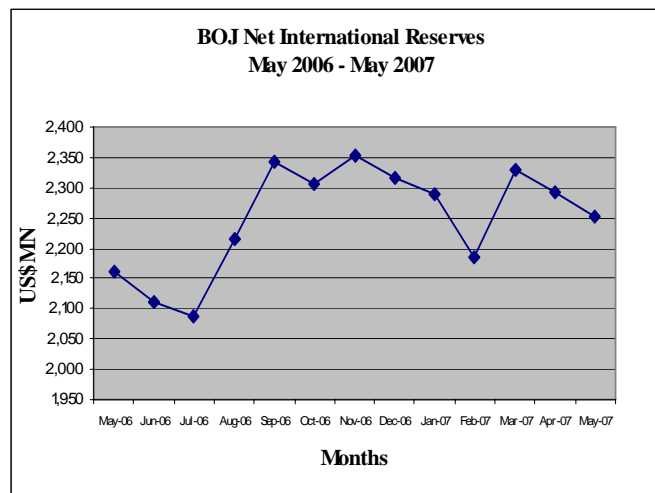


Figure 3

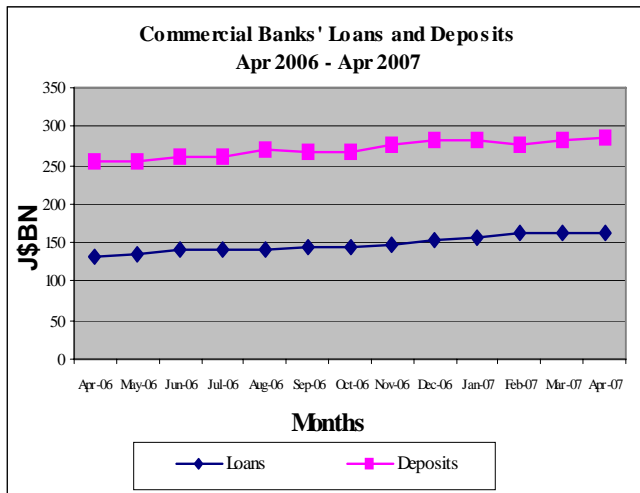


Figure 4

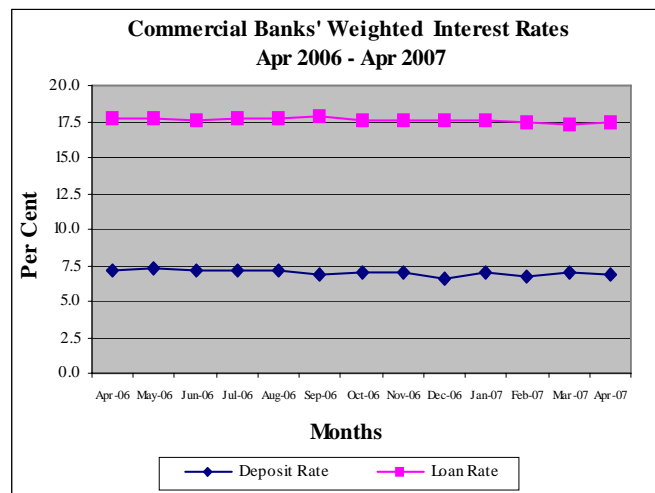


Figure 5

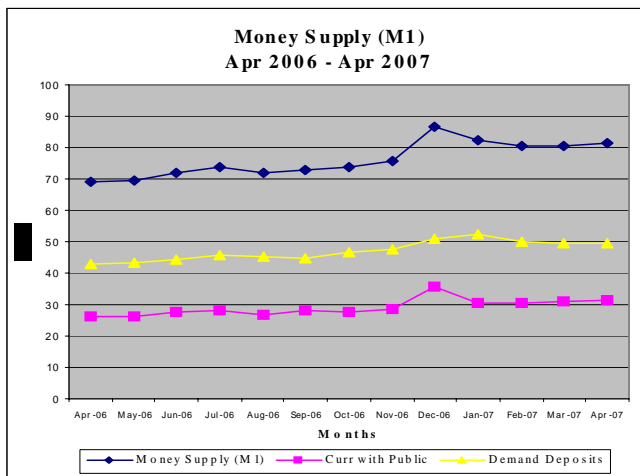
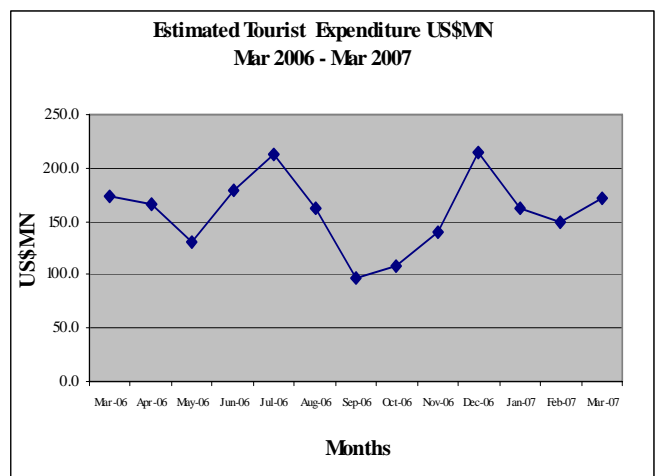


Figure 6



1. MONETARY AGGREGATES (J\$mn.)				%
	Apr 2006	Mar 2007+	Apr 2007	Change p.a.
Local and Foreign Currency				
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>70,147.11</u>	<u>80,588.28</u>	<u>81,339.18</u>	<u>15.96</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	27,124.61	31,149.56	31,610.21	16.54
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	43,022.50	49,438.72	49,728.97	15.59
Quasi-Money.....	<u>160,106.21</u>	<u>172,488.23</u>	<u>176,018.99</u>	<u>9.94</u>
(a) Time.....	40,536.48	40,076.78	42,234.02	4.19
(b) Savings.....	119,569.73	132,411.45	133,784.97	11.89
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>230,253.32</u>	<u>253,076.51</u>	<u>257,358.17</u>	<u>11.77</u>
Domestic Credit (net).....	<u>227,792.57</u>	<u>250,973.72</u>	<u>240,933.75</u>	<u>5.77</u>
Local Currency				
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>60,556.57</u>	<u>70,887.80</u>	<u>71,319.80</u>	<u>17.77</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	27,124.61	31,149.56	31,610.21	16.54
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	33,431.96	39,738.24	39,709.59	18.78
Quasi-Money.....	<u>97,078.76</u>	<u>104,430.37</u>	<u>105,938.16</u>	<u>9.13</u>
(a) Time.....	23,022.41	22,882.31	23,809.36	3.42
(b) Savings.....	74,056.35	81,548.06	82,128.80	10.90
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>157,635.33</u>	<u>175,318.17</u>	<u>177,257.96</u>	<u>12.45</u>
Domestic Credit (net).....	<u>183,848.46</u>	<u>194,618.63</u>	<u>190,920.33</u>	<u>3.85</u>
Base Money.....	<u>44,770.93</u>	<u>51,733.16</u>	<u>52,317.74</u>	<u>16.86</u>
II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.)				
Assets & Liabilities (J\$mn.)**.....	<u>385,160.49</u>	<u>439,454.81</u>	<u>441,477.29</u>	<u>14.62</u>
Loans**.....	<u>133,130.49</u>	<u>164,106.08</u>	<u>163,216.95</u>	<u>22.60</u>
Agriculture.....	2,166.64	2,660.02	2,495.87	15.20
Manufacturing.....	4,919.54	5,963.42	5,763.73	17.16
Construction & Land Development.....	6,013.56	9,337.78	9,789.14	62.78
Mining.....	347.62	602.85	596.58	71.62
Tourism.....	21,601.85	24,010.62	23,323.27	7.97
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	5,195.66	4,899.65	5,195.10	-0.01
Consumer-Oriented.....	61,257.51	84,851.73	86,615.81	41.40
Government Services.....	29,338.98	30,479.53	28,169.79	-3.99
Other.....	2,289.13	1,300.48	1,267.66	-44.62
DEPOSITS.....	<u>254,831.35</u>	<u>281,934.56</u>	<u>285,739.91</u>	<u>12.13</u>
Private Sector (including overseas residents).....	<u>223,965.15</u>	<u>241,618.95</u>	<u>245,753.72</u>	<u>9.73</u>
Time.....	53,139.27	51,932.57	53,554.72	0.78
Savings.....	127,444.92	140,807.51	142,206.49	11.58
Demand.....	43,380.96	48,878.87	49,992.51	15.24
Government.....	<u>12,877.73</u>	<u>22,280.22</u>	<u>17,823.64</u>	<u>38.41</u>
Time.....	207.59	717.37	729.76	251.54
Savings.....	1,534.42	1,893.58	1,941.30	26.52
Demand.....	11,135.72	19,669.27	15,152.58	36.07
Public Entities.....	<u>10,800.01</u>	<u>10,663.91</u>	<u>10,850.93</u>	<u>0.47</u>
Time.....	5,969.04	5,630.20	5,648.22	-5.37
Savings.....	2,686.59	3,059.72	3,168.22	17.93
Demand.....	2,144.38	1,973.99	2,034.49	-5.12

+ Revised

* Provisional

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

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

				%
II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.) (Cont'd)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	Change p.a.
Spec. & O. F. Insts.....	7,188.46	7,371.48	11,311.62	57.36
Time.....	1,340.38	1,924.27	2,135.39	59.31
Savings.....	939.29	796.87	777.75	-17.20
Demand.....	4,908.79	4,650.34	8,398.48	71.09
	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Current Account Balances with BOJ (J\$mn).....	79.05	112.99	133.04	
LIQUIDITY (Average) %	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Actual Liquid Assets Ratio.....	43.68	36.78	37.73	
Cash.....	2.81	2.79	2.91	
Deposits with B.O.J.....	9.37	9.58	9.49	
Treasury Bills.....	0.73	0.63	0.57	
Local Registered Stocks.....	2.49	0.74	0.62	
Other.....	28.28	23.04	24.14	
Statutory Requirement.....	23.00	23.00	23.00	
III. SELECTED INTEREST RATES (%)				
COMMERCIAL BANKS (Domestic Currency)	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Fixed Deposits (J\$100,000 & over)				
3-6 months.....	2.50-14.10	2.50-14.10	6.80-11.15	
9-12 months.....	3.00-14.30	3.00-14.30	6.50-11.60	
Call Deposits.....	1.00-15.00	1.00-15.00	2.00-12.50	
Average Savings Deposits	5.30	5.15	5.13	
Average Loan Rate.....	21.84	23.07	23.04	
Average Inter-bank Rate	8.27	8.42	8.38	
	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Weighted Fixed Deposits Rate.....	7.17	6.94	6.88	
Weighted Loan Rate.....	17.67	17.29	17.43	
G.O.J. Treasury Bills (Weighted Average) Yield	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
2 Months:.....	-	-	-	
3 Months:.....	12.67	11.74	11.80	
6 Months:.....	12.84	11.81	11.96	
9 Months:.....	-	-	-	
12 Months:.....	-	-	-	
	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
BOJ Open Market Rates (%) *				
30-Day	12.60	11.65	11.65	
60-Day	12.70	11.70	11.70	
90-Day	12.75	11.80	11.80	
120-Day	12.85	11.85	11.85	
180-Day	13.00	12.00	12.00	
270-Day	-	-	-	
365-Day	-	-	-	
COMMERCIAL BANKS (Foreign Currency)	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Fixed Deposits (Under US\$100,000)				
1-3 months.....	0.25-5.00	0.25-4.85	3.18-4.85	
3-6 months.....	0.25-5.50	0.25-5.35	3.25-5.35	
6-12 months.....	0.25-6.00	0.25-5.85	3.28-5.85	
Fixed Deposits (US\$100,000 & Over)				
1-3 months.....	0.50-5.75	0.50-5.60	3.35-5.60	
3-6 months.....	0.50-6.25	0.50-6.10	3.47-6.10	
6-12 months.....	0.50-6.75	0.50-6.60	3.50-6.60	
Average Loan Rates	11.95	10.96	11.05	
Average Savings	2.60	2.74	2.48	

* As at Tuesday 18 April 2006, no placements will be accepted for the 270- and 365- day tenors until further advised.

				%
				Change p.a.
IV. SECURITIES (J\$mnn.) (outstanding balances)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
GOJ Local Registered Stock.....	234,632.66	226,631.05	232,223.36	-1.03
	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
BOJ Open Market Operations 1/.....	167,539.20	151,731.80	152,564.47	-8.94
GOJ Treasury Bills.....	4,100.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	2.44
V. INSTALMENT CREDIT (J\$mnn.) (Banks & Near-Banks)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Total Credit Outstanding.....	15,829.20	21,923.64	22,297.27	40.86
New Business.....	1,087.12	476.73	311.62	-71.34
VI. NEAR-BANKS (J\$mnn.) (Merchant Banks, Trust Com. & Finance Houses)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Assets/Liabilities.....	48,433.86	46,630.38	47,770.22	-1.37
Loans Outstanding.....	9,077.25	13,405.55	13,861.96	52.71
Total Deposits.....	13,568.35	14,816.45	14,763.79	8.81
Loans.....	<u>9,077.25</u>	<u>13,405.55</u>	<u>13,861.96</u>	<u>52.71</u>
Agriculture.....	972.16	1,028.41	1,022.43	5.17
Manufacturing.....	521.60	471.81	434.79	-16.64
Construction & Land Development.....	977.54	2,459.61	2,408.25	146.36
Mining, Quarrying & Processing.....	22.57	16.00	15.30	-32.21
Tourism.....	942.76	796.19	811.46	-13.93
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	389.26	690.62	742.36	90.71
Consumer Oriented.....	4,469.37	6,620.57	6,802.06	52.19
Government Services.....	471.26	846.50	821.22	74.26
Other.....	310.73	475.84	804.09	158.77
	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Liquid Assets Ratio (average) %.....	25.30	37.50	43.80	
Statutory Requirement.....	23.00	23.00	23.00	
VII. BUILDING SOCIETIES (J\$mnn.) (members & associate members)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Assets/Liabilities.....	94,355.89	109,306.94	110,488.66	17.10
Loan Balances.....	38,593.41	46,572.90	46,572.90	20.68
Savings Funds.....	66,661.64	75,991.75	76,799.66	15.21
VIII. INFLATION	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Consumer Price Index (Jan. 1988 = 100).....	2,332.6	2,466.0	2,482.6	6.43
Monthly Rate (%).....	0.4	0.7	0.7	
Calendar Year to Date (%).....	1.7	1.7	2.3	
Fiscal Year to Date (%).....	1.5	0.7	1.4	
IX. ACTUAL PRODUCTION ('000)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Bauxite (tonnes).....	403.29	407.67	401.33	-0.49
Alumina (tonnes).....	333.69	348.59	357.57	7.16
Sugar (tonnes).....	23.79	31.47	29.31	23.20
Banana Exports (tonnes).....	2.86	2.61	2.55	-10.84
X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Index**.....	87,094.49	91,110.61	90,057.73	3.40
Volume Traded (mn.)***.....	125.34	76.99	90.93	-27.45
Ordinary Shares.....	123.65	76.98	77.15	-37.61
Block Transactions.....	1.69	0.01	13.78	715.38

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

- No Production

** As at end of month

*** Monthly values

X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES (cont'd)	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	% Change p.a.
Value of Stocks Traded (J\$mn.)***	1,130.17	766.21	885.94	-21.61
Ordinary Shares	1,128.50	766.20	830.82	-26.38
Block Transactions	1.67	0.01	55.12	3200.60
Advance/Decline Ratio**	6/30	8/23	13/19	
XI. EXTERNAL TRADE (US\$mn.)	Jan-Mar 2006	Jan-Mar 2007		Change
1. EXPORTS				
(a) Major Traditional Exports	<u>322.39</u>	<u>326.80</u>		<u>4.41</u>
Bauxite	27.47	29.40		1.93
Alumina	247.85	249.76		1.91
Sugar	44.08	44.77		0.69
Bananas	2.99	2.87		-0.12
(b) Other Traditional Exports	20.92	18.73		-2.19
(c) Non-Traditional Exports	137.80	171.69		33.89
(d) Re-exports	10.91	13.17		2.26
General Merchandise Exports	<u>492.03</u>	<u>530.39</u>		<u>38.36</u>
(e) Freezone Exports	13.56	13.55		-0.01
(f) Goods Procured in Ports	19.92	19.92		-
Total Goods Exports	<u>525.50</u>	<u>563.86</u>		<u>38.36</u>
2. IMPORTS (by S.I.T.C.)				
(a) Food	158.64	182.17		23.53
(b) Beverage & Tobacco	15.50	21.22		5.72
(c) Crude Material	27.42	16.58		-10.84
(d) Mineral Fuel	497.90	401.44		-96.46
(e) Animal & Vegetable Oil	7.21	7.93		0.72
(f) Chemicals	156.32	184.58		28.26
(g) Manufactured Goods	146.95	171.76		24.81
(h) Machinery & Transportation	257.77	326.07		68.30
(i) Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods	113.31	159.77		46.46
(j) Miscellaneous Commodities	17.40	19.86		2.46
General Merchandise Imports	<u>1,398.42</u>	<u>1,491.38</u>		<u>92.96</u>
Freezone Imports	6.35	4.79		-1.56
Goods Procured in Ports	29.21	29.21		-
Total Goods Imports	<u>1,433.98</u>	<u>1,525.38</u>		<u>91.40</u>
Trade Balance	<u>-908.48</u>	<u>-961.52</u>		<u>-53.04</u>
XII. TOURISM	Mar 2006	Mar 2007		% Change
Tourist Arrivals ('000)	<u>321.41</u>	<u>309.31</u>		<u>-3.76</u>
Stop Overs	167.44	164.55		-1.73
Foreign Nationals	160.26	157.19		-1.92
Non-Resident Jamaicans	7.18	7.36		2.51
Cruise	153.97	144.76		-5.98
Armed Forces	-	-		-
Estimated Expenditure (US\$mn.)	<u>174.2</u>	<u>172.1</u>		<u>-1.21</u>
XIII. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (US\$mn.)	Jan-Mar 2006	Jan-Mar 2007		Change
<i>Balance of Payments (Calendar)</i>				
1. Current Account	<u>-255.4</u>	<u>-305.5</u>		<u>-50.1</u>
A. Goods balance	<u>-735.9</u>	<u>-763.7</u>		<u>-27.9</u>
Exports (f.o.b.)	525.5	563.9		38.4
Imports (f.o.b.)	1,261.4	1,327.6		66.2
B. Service Balance	<u>243.4</u>	<u>208.9</u>		<u>-34.5</u>
Transportation	-62.1	-86.9		-24.7
Travel	428.2	418.9		-9.3
Other Services	-122.7	-123.1		-0.5

* Provisional

** As at last trading day of month

*** Monthly values

<i>Balance of Payments (Calendar) (Cont'd)</i>		Jan-Mar 2006	Jan-Mar 2007	Change
C. Income		<u>-169.8</u>	<u>-192.2</u>	<u>-22.5</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		9.1	3.3	-5.8
Investment Income.....		-178.9	-195.5	-16.6
D. Current Transfers		<u>406.9</u>	<u>441.6</u>	<u>34.7</u>
Official.....		35.7	34.4	-1.4
Private.....		371.2	407.2	36.1
2. Capital and Financial Account		<u>255.4</u>	<u>305.5</u>	<u>50.1</u>
A. Capital Account		<u>-1.8</u>	<u>-1.4</u>	<u>0.4</u>
Capital Transfers.....		<u>-1.8</u>	<u>-1.4</u>	<u>0.4</u>
Official.....		0.0	0.2	0.2
Private.....		-1.8	-1.5	0.2
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets....		0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Financial Account		<u>257.1</u>	<u>306.8</u>	<u>49.7</u>
Other Official Investment.....		-17.0	187.2	204.1
Other Private Investment.....		264.8	131.4	-133.4
<i>(incl. errors & omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		<u>9.3</u>	<u>-11.8</u>	
		Apr-Mar	Apr-Mar	
		2005/2006	2006/2007	
Balance of Payments (Fiscal)				
1. Current Account		<u>-1,165.4</u>	<u>-1,141.2</u>	<u>24.2</u>
A. Goods balance		<u>-2,716.0</u>	<u>-2,972.7</u>	<u>-256.7</u>
Exports (f.o.b.).....		1,808.6	2,155.8	347.2
Imports (f.o.b.).....		4,524.6	5,128.5	603.9
B. Service Balance		<u>642.8</u>	<u>767.6</u>	<u>124.8</u>
Transportation.....		-289.8	-347.0	-57.2
Travel.....		1,371.7	1,604.2	232.5
Other Services.....		-439.1	-489.6	-50.5
C. Income		<u>-681.6</u>	<u>-697.6</u>	<u>-16.0</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		89.1	101.0	11.9
Investment Income.....		-770.7	-798.6	-27.9
D. Current Transfers		<u>1,589.4</u>	<u>1,761.5</u>	<u>172.1</u>
Official.....		130.3	129.1	-1.2
Private.....		1,459.1	1,632.4	173.3
2. Capital and Financial Account		<u>1,165.4</u>	<u>1,141.2</u>	<u>-24.2</u>
A. Capital Account		<u>-3.6</u>	<u>1.7</u>	<u>5.3</u>
Capital Transfers.....		-3.6	1.7	5.3
Official.....		0.2	4.2	4.0
Private.....		-3.8	-2.5	1.3
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets		0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Financial Account		<u>1,169.0</u>	<u>1,139.5</u>	<u>-29.5</u>
Other Official Investment.....		366.3	782.1	415.8
Other Private Investment.....		979.3	608.8	-370.5
<i>(incl. errors & omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		-176.6	-251.4	

XIV. BOJ NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (US\$mn.)	May 2006	Apr 2007+	May 2007	% Change p.a.
BOJ Net International Reserves (US\$mn.).....	<u>2,162.76</u>	<u>2,292.36</u>	<u>2,252.22</u>	<u>4.14</u>
Gross Foreign Assets.....	2,375.78	2,570.11	2,508.33	5.58
Gross Foreign Liabilities.....	213.02	277.75	256.11	20.23
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Imports.....	<u>23.72</u>	<u>26.09</u>	<u>25.47</u>	
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods and Services Imports.....	<u>17.30</u>	<u>18.83</u>	<u>18.37</u>	
XV. FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEVELOPMENTS (US\$mn.) *	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007	
Combined Foreign Exchange Trading				
Foreign Exchange Purchases (spot).....	1,093.38	989.95	1,036.15	-5.23
Foreign Exchange Sales (spot).....	1,094.77	948.22	1,063.23	-2.88
Foreign Currency Deposit Balances of Authorised Dealers (US\$mn.)	Apr 2006	Mar 2007	Apr 2007	
Commercial Banks Balances.....	<u>1,490.66</u>	<u>1,512.13</u>	<u>1,590.97</u>	<u>6.73</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	158.26	131.03	130.37	-17.62
"B" Accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Other.....	1,332.40	1,381.10	1,460.60	9.62
F.I.As Balance.....	<u>175.65</u>	<u>182.46</u>	<u>181.85</u>	<u>3.53</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	118.57	110.52	111.94	-5.59
"B" Accounts	0.06	0.25	0.26	333.33
Other.....	57.02	71.69	69.65	22.15
Building Societies Balances.....	<u>367.06</u>	<u>425.75</u>	<u>432.46</u>	<u>17.82</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	218.01	267.63	274.24	25.79
"B" Accounts	64.78	66.24	66.10	2.04
Other	84.27	91.88	92.12	9.32
Total Foreign Currency Deposits (US\$mn.).....	<u>2,033.37</u>	<u>2,120.34</u>	<u>2,205.28</u>	<u>8.45</u>
Total Foreign Currency Loans (US\$mn.).....	<u>923.39</u>	<u>1,131.16</u>	<u>1,108.72</u>	<u>20.07</u>
Commercial Banks.....	825.40	983.87	954.23	15.61
F.I.As	87.77	129.32	136.46	55.47
Building Societies.....	10.22	17.97	18.03	76.42

+ Revised

* 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

	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007
London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) Eurodollars (%)			
3 months.....	2.93	4.02	4.12
6 months.....	3.10	4.14	4.25
U.S. Prime Rate (end of period) (%).....	8.00	8.25	8.25
Selling Exchange Rates (end period)	May 2006	Apr 2007	May 2007
US\$1.00 = J\$.....	65.73	68.08	68.22
Can. \$1.00 = J\$.....	59.34	62.33	63.46
U.K. Pound = J\$.....	122.21	135.45	134.72
Euro = J\$**.....	84.35	92.70	91.53
Caricom Selling Exchange Rates**			
T.T. \$1 = J\$.....	10.51	10.85	10.87
Bdos. \$1 = J\$.....	32.86	34.02	34.10
Guy. \$1 = J\$.....	0.33	0.34	0.34
E.C. \$1 = J\$.....	24.34	25.20	25.26

*** Indicative Rates*

INFLATION

APRIL 2007

The All Jamaica Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.7 per cent in April 2007, relative to an increase of 0.5 per cent in the previous month and 1.1 per cent in April 2006. The outturn for the review month resulted in a point-to-point inflation rate of 6.1 per cent, 4.5 percentage points below the outturn for the corresponding period to April 2006. The mean annual inflation rate was 6.8 per cent, representing a sharp reduction relative to the rate of 14.7 per cent one year ago. For the calendar year to April, the inflation rate was 1.7 per cent, 0.4 percentage point higher than the rate for the corresponding period of 2006.

The primary influence on the month's outturn was the pass-through of increased cigarette prices, increased demand for fish in the Lenten season and adverse developments in grains prices. Additionally, price impulses in healthcare were significant for a third consecutive month. Pass-through from movements in international crude oil prices was minimal as there was offset between household utility costs and the cost of air and ground transport. Continued buoyant supplies of agricultural produce led to overall declines in the prices of vegetables and starchy foods for the month.

With the exception of *Housing & Other Housing Expenses*, all the groups in the CPI recorded increases during April. The most influential increases were recorded in *Miscellaneous Expenses*, *Food & Drink* and *Healthcare & Personal Expenses*. *Food & Drink* and *Healthcare & Personal Expenses* increased by 0.3 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively, while *Miscellaneous Expenses* rose by 4.2 per cent. These subcategories together accounted for approximately 97.2 per cent of the overall inflation outturn

The expansion in *Miscellaneous Expenses* was chiefly influenced by the increases in cigarette prices. A 30.0 per cent per case increase by the distributor translated into a 20.0 per cent increase per cigarette. Based on past practice, a large portion of this change occurred in April, with lagged adjustment anticipated in the ensuing months. Accordingly, the average increase across the regions was 12.0 per cent, with the sharpest increase being recorded in the KMA. The movement in the *Miscellaneous Expenses* group accounted for more than 50.0 per cent of the inflation out-turn in the month.

The increase of 0.3 per cent in *Food & Drink* resulted primarily from increases of 1.3 per cent in *Meat, Poultry & Fish* and 1.0 per cent in both *Baked Products, Cereals & Breakfast Drinks* and *Dairy Products, Oils & Fats*. Increases in fish prices, chiefly a result of increased demand in the Lenten season, were the primary influence on the upward movement in the *Meat* sub-group. The latter sub-groups principally reflected the impact of increasing international demand for corn and soybean for energy usage. Consequently, there were increases in vegetable oils and wheat by-products. Offsetting the impact of these increases were declines of 2.1 per cent and 1.6 per cent in *Starchy Foods* and *Vegetables & Fruits*, respectively. These compare to seasonal average increases of 3.0 per cent and 1.1 per cent, respectively.

The increase of 0.8 per cent in the *Healthcare & Personal Expenses* sub-index emanated mainly from the *Healthcare* component. In particular, there were increases of 4.5 per cent and 2.0 per cent in dentists' and opticians' fees in the Other Towns and Rural Areas. The cost of a pair of spectacles also increased in both areas.

Contrasting movements occurred in two of the oil-related groups of the CPI. *Housing & Other Housing Expenses* declined by 1.4 per cent while *Transportation* expanded by 0.8 per cent. *Housing & Other Housing Expenses* mainly reflected the impact of declines of 7.1 per cent of 0.8 per cent in water and electricity rates, respectively. *Transportation* was affected by increases in airfares and petrol prices.

The CPI in the KMA and Rural Areas increased by 0.9 per cent and 0.6 per cent, while the change in the Other Towns was 0.3 per cent. This disparity was mainly reflected in the most heavily weighted *Food & Drink*. The index of *Food & Drink* changed by 0.9 per cent and 0.0 per cent in KMA and Rural Areas respectively, but declined by 0.5 per cent in the Other Towns. This pattern was mostly evident in the *Starchy Foods* sub-group which increased by 2.4 per cent in the KMA but recorded respective declines of 9.0 per cent and 1.7 per cent in the Other Towns and Rural Areas.

The trimmed mean index increased by 0.25 per cent in April 2007, 0.13 percentage point below the change in the previous month (Table 4). The outturn brought the calendar year-to-date core inflation to 1.0 per cent which compared well with the 1.1 per cent recorded for the comparable period of 2006. The point-to-point and annual average core inflation rates of 3.2 per cent and 3.6 per cent for the month were 1.5 percentage points and 1.9 percentage points, respectively, below what obtained in April 2006.

The measure of underlying inflation that excludes agricultural prices (CPI-A) was 0.79 per cent in April, 0.13 percentage point above the estimate in the previous month. The calendar year-to-date movement in the index was 2.38 per cent compared to 2.99 per cent at the similar position last year. On an annual average basis, the CPI-A was 8.4 per cent relative to 11.6 per cent for the corresponding period last year. The lower outturn relative to April 2006 was primarily due to lower impulses arising from the cost of energy and fuel as increases in international crude oil prices moderated.

Table 1
JAMAICA: INFLATION RATES

	1/ C.P.I.	3 Month AVG. C.P.I.	Monthly % change	3 Month* % change	3 Month # % change	12 Month* % change	12 Month # % change
2003							
Jan	1,561.3	1,561.9	-0.31	1.44	2.12	6.30	6.83
Feb	1,552.2	1,559.9	-0.58	-0.39	1.17	5.74	6.64
Mar	1,559.5	1,557.7	0.47	-0.42	0.20	6.20	6.52
Apr	1,584.0	1,565.2	1.57	1.45	0.21	7.33	6.50
May	1,613.4	1,585.6	1.86	3.94	1.65	9.01	6.66
Jun	1,653.1	1,616.8	2.46	6.00	3.80	10.74	7.04
Jul	1,678.4	1,648.3	1.53	5.96	5.31	10.74	7.38
Aug	1,702.0	1,677.8	1.41	5.49	5.81	11.88	7.85
Sept	1,728.4	1,702.9	1.55	4.56	5.33	13.11	8.47
Oct	1,756.7	1,729.0	1.64	4.67	4.90	14.13	9.17
Nov	1,773.0	1,752.7	0.93	4.17	4.46	13.78	9.74
Dec	1,786.8	1,772.2	0.78	3.38	4.07	14.09	10.32
2004							
Jan	1,801.8	1,787.2	0.84	2.57	3.36	15.40	11.08
Feb	1,811.9	1,800.2	0.56	2.19	2.71	16.73	11.99
Mar	1,820.8	1,811.5	0.49	1.90	2.22	16.76	12.86
Apr	1,828.2	1,820.3	0.41	1.47	1.85	15.42	13.52
May	1,839.9	1,829.6	0.64	1.55	1.64	14.04	13.93
Jun	1,854.8	1,841.0	0.81	1.87	1.63	12.20	14.03
Jul	1,854.8	1,855.8	0.97	2.44	1.95	11.58	14.08
Aug	1,897.3	1,875.0	1.31	3.12	2.48	11.47	14.02
Sept	1,909.2	1,893.1	0.63	2.93	2.83	10.46	13.77
Oct	1,972.2	1,926.2	3.30	5.31	3.79	12.27	13.61
Nov	2,020.0	1,967.1	2.42	6.47	4.92	13.93	13.62
Dec	2,032.1	2,008.1	0.60	6.44	6.07	13.73	13.60
2005							
Jan	2,032.8	2,028.3	0.03	3.07	5.30	12.82	13.39
Feb	2,041.7	2,035.5	0.44	1.07	3.48	12.68	13.07
Mar	2,061.5	2,045.4	0.97	1.45	1.86	13.22	12.81
Apr	2,100.4	2,067.9	1.88	3.32	1.95	14.89	12.79
May	2,147.1	2,103.0	2.23	5.17	3.32	16.70	13.04
Jun	2,178.9	2,142.2	1.48	5.69	4.73	17.48	13.49
Jul	2,213.3	2,179.8	1.58	5.38	5.41	18.18	14.04
Aug	2,214.7	2,202.4	0.06	3.15	4.72	16.73	14.48
Sept	2,272.4	2,233.5	2.61	4.29	4.26	19.03	15.19
Oct	2,285.7	2,257.7	0.59	3.27	3.57	15.90	15.48
Nov	2,292.3	2,283.5	0.29	3.50	3.69	13.48	15.42
Dec	2,293.8	2,290.7	0.07	0.94	2.56	12.88	15.33
2006							
Jan	2,295.7	2,294.0	0.08	0.44	1.61	12.94	15.31
Feb	2,295.3	2,295.0	-0.02	0.13	0.50	12.42	15.26
Mar	2,297.1	2,296.1	0.08	0.14	0.24	11.43	15.08
Apr	2,323.3	2,305.2	1.14	1.20	0.49	10.62	14.70
May	2,332.6	2,317.6	0.40	1.63	0.99	8.64	14.00
Jun	2,362.3	2,339.4	1.27	2.84	1.89	8.42	13.24
Jul	2,394.5	2,363.1	1.36	3.06	2.51	8.19	12.41
Aug	2,401.9	2,386.2	0.31	2.97	2.96	8.45	11.73
Sept	2,419.8	2,405.4	0.75	2.43	2.82	6.49	10.71
Oct	2,417.9	2,413.2	-0.08	0.98	2.12	5.78	9.87
Nov	2,413.5	2,417.0	-0.18	0.48	1.29	5.29	9.18
Dec	2,425.9	2,419.1	0.51	0.25	0.57	5.76	8.59
2007							
Jan	2,432.9	2,424.1	0.29	0.62	0.45	5.98	8.03
Feb	2,437.2	2,432.0	0.18	0.98	0.62	6.18	7.53
Mar	2,449.4	2,439.8	0.50	0.97	0.86	6.63	7.16
Apr	2,466.0	2,450.8	0.68	1.36	1.10	6.14	6.80

1/ January 1998 = 100
Moving average
* Point to point
Source: STATIN

Table 2
COMPONENT CONTRIBUTION TO INFLATION
April 2007

	Weight in the CPI	Monthly Inflation (%)	Weighted Inflation	% Contribution to Inflation
FOOD & DRINK	0.5563	0.3	0.1822	31.4
Meals Away From Home	0.0741	0.2	0.0177	3.1
Meat, Poultry & Fish	0.1613	1.3	0.2111	36.4
Dairy Products Oils & Fats	0.0668	1.0	0.0691	11.9
Baked Products, Cereals & Breakfast Drink	0.0864	1.0	0.0832	14.3
Starchy Foods	0.0525	-2.1	-0.1090	-18.8
Vegetables & Fruits	0.0650	-1.6	-0.1024	-17.7
Other Food & Beverages	0.0502	0.2	0.0125	2.1
FUELS & OTHER HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES	0.0735	0.3	0.0301	5.2
Household Supplies	0.0482	0.6	0.0265	4.6
Fuels	0.0253	0.1	0.0036	0.6
HOUSING & OTHER HOUSING EXPENSES	0.0786	-1.4	-0.0996	-17.2
Rental	0.0209	0.0	0.0000	0.0
Other Housing Expenses	0.0577	-1.7	-0.0996	-17.2
HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS & FURNITURE	0.0283	0.2	0.0020	0.4
Furniture	0.0068	1.0	0.0068	1.2
Furnishings	0.0215	-0.2	-0.0048	-0.8
HEALTHCARE & PERSONAL EXPENSES	0.0697	0.8	0.0541	9.3
PERSONAL CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES	0.0507	0.7	0.0307	5.3
Clothing Materials	0.0055	0.3	0.0014	0.2
Readymade Clothing & Accessories	0.0242	0.4	0.0092	1.6
Footwear	0.0159	0.5	0.0080	1.4
Making & Repairs	0.0051	2.4	0.0121	2.1
TRANSPORTATION	0.0644	0.8	0.0531	9.2
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	0.0785	4.2	0.3275	56.5
ALL GROUPS	1.0000	0.7	0.5801	100.0

Table 3
REGIONAL INFLATION
April 2007

	KMA (%)	Other Towns (%)	Rural (%)
FOOD & DRINK	0.9	-0.5	0.0
Meals away from home	0.1	0.4	0.3
Meat Poultry & Fish	2.0	1.0	0.8
Dairy Products Oils & Fats	1.1	0.7	1.2
Baked Products Cereals & Breakfast Drink	0.8	1.4	0.9
Starchy Foods	2.4	-9.0	-1.7
Vegetables & Fruits	-1.6	-1.6	-1.5
Other Food & Beverages	0.8	0.6	-0.5
FUELS & OTHER HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES	0.3	0.6	0.1
Household Supplies	0.7	1.0	0.1
Fuels	0.1	0.4	0.0
HOUSING & OTHER HOUSING EXPENSES	-1.5	-1.4	-1.0
Rental	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Housing Expenses	-2.1	-1.6	-1.1
HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS & FURNITURE	0.6	0.0	0.0
Furniture	1.4	0.9	0.6
Furnishings	0.0	-0.5	-0.3
HEALTHCARE & PERSONAL EXPENSES	0.7	1.3	0.5
PERSONAL CLOTHING FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES	0.9	0.7	0.4
Clothing Materials	0.0	1.6	0.0
Readymade Clothing & Accessories	0.4	0.4	0.3
Footwear	0.2	0.7	0.6
Making & Repairs	4.8	1.1	0.0
TRANSPORTATION	0.9	0.8	0.7
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	3.5	4.0	5.6
ALL GROUPS	0.9	0.3	0.6

Table 4
INFLATION: ACTUAL & CORE

	Monthly		Fiscal Year to Date		12-Mth Core	
	Actual	Core	Actual	Core	Pt to Pt	Average
2003/04						
Apr	1.57	0.65	1.57	0.65	4.54	3.35
May	1.86	0.73	3.46	1.38	5.09	3.51
June	2.46	0.91	6.00	2.30	5.64	3.72
July	1.53	0.94	7.62	3.27	6.31	3.99
Aug	1.41	0.79	9.14	4.08	6.90	4.33
Sept	1.55	0.52	10.83	4.62	7.22	4.70
Oct	1.64	0.79	12.65	5.45	7.77	5.12
Nov	0.93	0.66	13.69	6.14	7.89	5.51
Dec	0.78	0.53	14.58	6.70	8.09	5.90
Jan	0.84	0.50	15.54	7.23	8.22	6.30
Feb	0.56	0.32	16.18	7.57	8.15	6.68
Mar	0.49	0.32	16.76	7.91	7.91	6.99
2004/05						
Apr	0.41	0.32	0.41	0.32	7.55	7.24
May	0.64	0.39	1.05	0.71	7.20	7.41
June	0.81	0.36	1.87	1.08	6.62	7.48
July	0.97	0.36	2.86	1.44	6.00	7.45
Aug	1.31	0.46	4.20	1.91	5.66	7.34
Sept	0.63	0.34	4.86	2.25	5.46	7.19
Oct	3.30	0.66	8.32	2.93	5.33	6.98
Nov	2.42	0.60	10.94	3.54	5.26	6.76
Dec	0.60	0.47	11.60	4.03	5.20	6.52
Jan	0.03	0.36	11.64	4.41	5.07	6.26
Feb	0.44	0.28	12.13	4.70	5.03	6.00
Mar	0.97	0.45	13.22	5.17	5.17	5.78
2005/06						
Apr	1.88	0.50	1.88	0.50	5.37	5.60
May	2.23	0.56	4.16	1.07	5.55	5.47
June	1.48	0.58	5.69	1.66	5.78	5.40
July	1.58	0.58	7.36	2.25	6.01	5.41
Aug	0.06	0.44	7.43	2.71	6.00	5.44
Sept	2.61	0.40	10.23	3.12	6.06	5.49
Oct	0.59	0.37	10.87	3.49	5.75	5.52
Nov	0.29	0.34	11.19	3.85	5.48	5.54
Dec	0.07	0.24	11.27	4.10	5.24	5.54
Jan	0.08	0.27	11.36	4.37	5.14	5.55
Feb	-0.02	0.29	11.34	4.68	5.15	5.56
Mar	0.08	0.26	11.43	4.95	4.95	5.54
2006/07						
Apr	1.14	0.31	1.14	0.31	4.75	5.48
May	0.40	0.29	1.55	0.60	4.46	5.39
June	1.27	0.28	2.84	0.87	4.14	5.25
July	1.36	0.33	4.24	1.21	3.88	5.07
Aug	0.31	0.22	4.56	1.43	3.65	4.88
Sept	0.75	0.52	5.34	1.96	3.78	4.69
Oct	-0.08	0.12	5.26	2.08	3.52	4.50
Nov	-0.18	0.15	5.07	2.23	3.32	4.32
Dec	0.51	0.28	5.61	2.52	3.36	4.16
Jan	0.29	0.15	5.91	2.67	3.24	4.01
Feb	0.18	0.23	6.10	2.90	3.17	3.84
Mar	0.50	0.38	6.63	3.29	3.29	3.71
2007/08						
Apr	0.68	0.25	0.68	0.25	3.23	3.58

**JAMAICA:
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEVELOPMENTS
MARCH 2007**

March 2007

Provisional data indicate that the current account deficit widened by US\$39.9 million in March 2007, relative to the deficit in March 2006 (see **Table**). This deterioration emanated primarily from an expansion in the merchandise trade deficit, as well as a fall in the surplus on the services account. Within the merchandise trade account, imports rose by US\$37.4 million influenced mainly by respective increases of US\$50.5 million and US\$14.7 million in expenditure on machinery & transport equipment and food. The growth in expenditure on machinery & transport equipment was partly influenced by exceptional imports by the telecommunication sector. Receipts from exports fell during the month, reflecting lower earnings from alumina, sugar and chemicals. The fall in earnings from alumina exports reflected an 8.1 per cent reduction in export volumes.

The decline in the surplus on the services account in the review month stemmed from increased transportation payments as well as a reduction in earnings from travel. The travel sub-account was affected by respective declines of 6.0 per cent and 1.7 per cent in cruise and stopover visitor arrivals.

Partly offsetting the deterioration in the merchandise and services accounts was a higher surplus on the current transfers account, attributed to an increase of US\$19.0 million in net inflows to the private sector.

Within the capital and financial accounts, net official inflows expanded by US\$102.7 million in March 2007, relative to March 2006, and reflected the Government's debt raising activities on the international capital market. Net official and private investment inflows were more than sufficient to finance the deficits on the current and capital accounts. As a result, the NIR of the Bank of Jamaica increased by US\$143.8 million for the month.

January – March 2007

The current account deficit was estimated at US\$305.5 million for the period January to March 2007, which was US\$50.1 million higher than the deficit for the comparable period in 2006. With the exception of the current transfers account, all the sub-accounts deteriorated in the review period.

With respect to the merchandise trade account, there was an increase in the value of imports, stemming from higher spending on machinery & transport equipment and miscellaneous manufactured goods. There was however, a (19.4 per cent) US\$96.5 million reduction in expenditure on fuel imports, relative to the similar period of 2006. The expansion in expenditure on imports was partly offset mainly by increased earnings from exports of crude materials, mineral fuels, manufactured goods and chemicals.

The income account deteriorated by US\$22.5 million, principally related to higher imputed profit remittances of direct investment companies, as well as increased interest payments on official external debt. An expansion of US\$24.7 million in the deficit on the transportation sub-account, in conjunction with a decline of US\$9.3 million in the surplus on the travel sub-account accounted for the lower surplus on the services account. The higher deficit on the transportation sub-account was influenced by higher charges related to imports, while the travel sub-account reflected increased expenditure by Jamaicans travelling abroad.

Within the capital and financial account, net private and official investment inflows were more than sufficient to finance the deficits on the current and capital accounts. As a result, there was an increase of US\$11.8 million in the NIR during the review period. At end-March 2007, the gross reserves of the Bank of Jamaica stood at US\$2 613.6 million, representing 19.1 weeks of projected imports of goods and services.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY (US\$M)

	Mar	Mar ^{2/}		Jan-Mar	Jan-Mar ^{2/}	
	2006	2007	Change	2006	2007	Change
1. CURRENT ACCOUNT	-15.6	-55.4	-39.9	-255.4	-305.5	-50.1
A. GOODS and SERVICES	-114.6	-178.2	-63.6	-492.4	-554.8	-62.4
a. GOODS BALANCE	-212.3	-261.6	-49.3	-735.9	-763.7	-27.9
Exports (f.o.b.)	206.3	194.5	-11.8	525.5	563.9	38.4
Imports (f.o.b.)	418.6	456.1	37.4	1,261.4	1,327.6	66.2
b. SERVICES BALANCE	97.8	83.4	-14.3	243.4	208.9	-34.5
Transportation	-17.6	-27.6	-10.1	-62.1	-86.9	24.7
Travel	158.5	154.2	-4.3	428.2	418.9	-9.3
Other Services	-43.1	-43.1	0.0	-122.7	-123.1	-0.5
B. INCOME	-44.3	-39.3	4.9	-169.8	-192.2	-22.5
Compensation of employees	2.5	0.9	-1.7	9.1	3.3	-5.8
Investment Income	-46.8	-40.2	6.6	-178.9	-195.5	-16.6
C. CURRENT TRANSFER	143.3	162.1	18.8	406.9	441.6	34.7
Official	12.0	11.9	-0.2	35.7	34.4	-1.4
Private	131.2	150.2	19.0	371.2	407.2	36.1
2. CAPITAL & FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	15.6	55.4	39.9	255.4	305.5	50.1
A. CAPITAL ACCOUNT	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	-1.8	-1.4	0.4
a. Capital Transfer	-0.4	-0.4	0.0	-1.8	-1.4	0.4
Official	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2
Private	-0.4	-0.5	-0.1	-1.8	-1.5	0.2
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	15.9	55.8	39.9	257.1	306.8	49.7
Other official investment	-2.5	100.2	102.7	-17.0	187.2	204.1
Other private investment ^{3/}	72.3	99.5	27.1	264.8	131.4	-133.4
Change in Reserves (minus = increase)	-53.9	-143.8		9.3	-11.8	

2/ Provisional

3/ Includes errors & omissions

