



ECONOMIC STATISTICS

VOLUME 19 - NO. 11

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SELECTED ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Figure 1

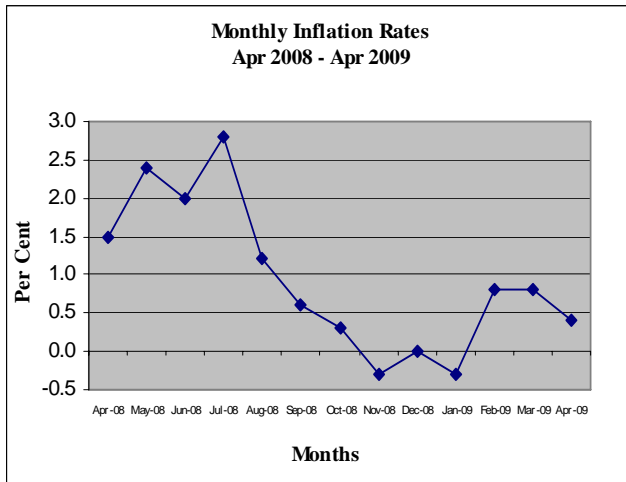


Figure 2

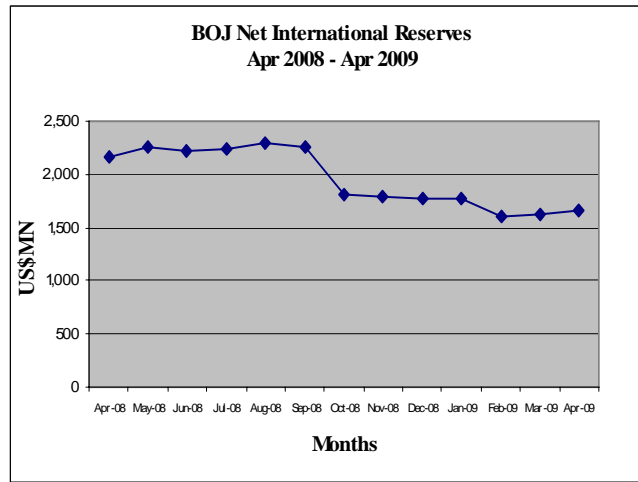


Figure 3

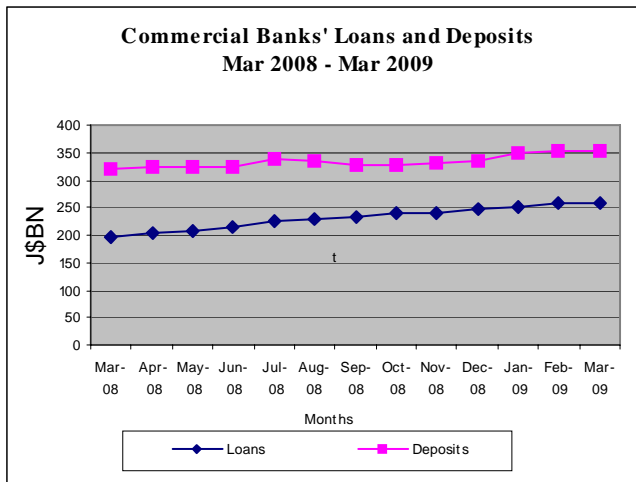


Figure 4

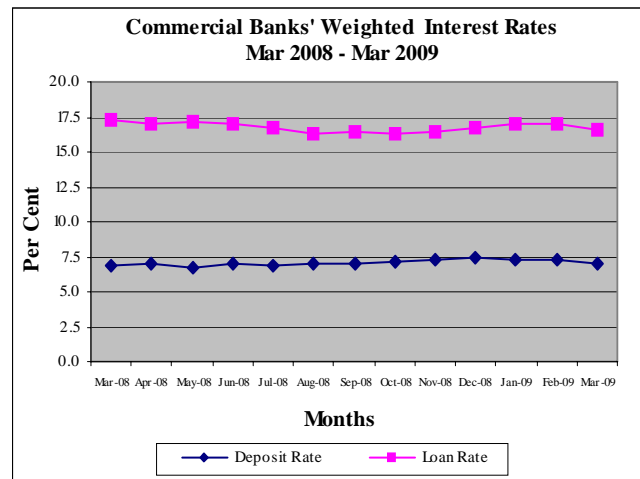


Figure 5

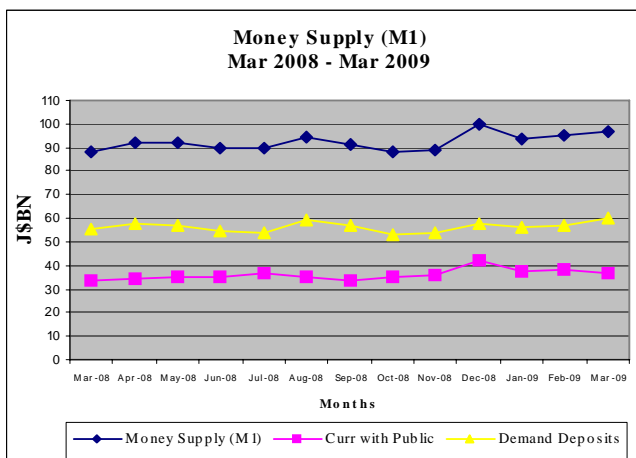
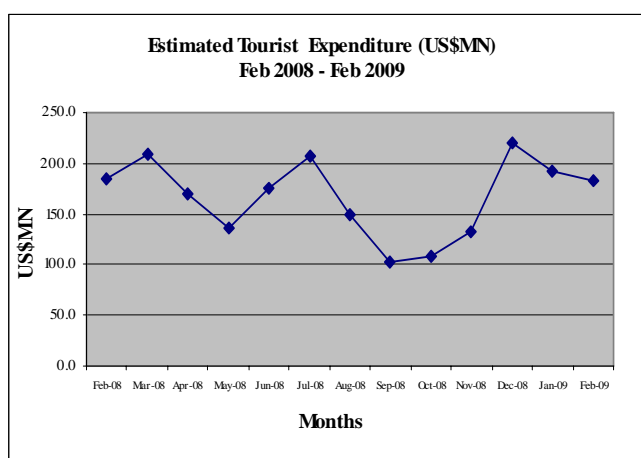


Figure 6



1. MONETARY AGGREGATES (J\$mn.)				%
Local and Foreign Currency	Oct 2008	Sept 2009+	Oct 2009	Change p.a.
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>88,067.50</u>	<u>97,378.97</u>	<u>100,385.20</u>	<u>13.99</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	34,936.01	37,432.99	38,660.94	10.66
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	53,131.49	59,945.98	61,724.26	16.17
Quasi-Money.....	<u>207,468.04</u>	<u>219,455.75</u>	<u>221,648.91</u>	<u>6.84</u>
(a) Time.....	53,347.24	54,931.06	55,369.87	3.79
(b) Savings.....	154,120.80	164,524.69	166,279.04	7.89
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>295,535.54</u>	<u>316,834.72</u>	<u>322,034.11</u>	<u>8.97</u>
Domestic Credit	<u>320,888.85</u>	<u>351,973.06</u>	<u>353,946.21</u>	<u>10.30</u>
Local Currency	Oct 2008	Sept 2009+	Oct 2009	
Money Supply (M1).....	<u>79,403.66</u>	<u>87,911.63</u>	<u>90,453.27</u>	<u>13.92</u>
(a) Currency with the Public.....	34,936.02	37,432.99	38,660.94	10.66
(b) Demand Deposits (adj.)***.....	44,467.64	50,478.64	51,792.33	16.47
Quasi-Money.....	<u>118,452.23</u>	<u>118,917.08</u>	<u>119,906.42</u>	<u>1.23</u>
(a) Time.....	29,589.71	26,883.37	26,756.25	-9.58
(b) Savings.....	88,862.52	92,033.71	93,150.17	4.83
Money Supply (M2).....	<u>197,855.89</u>	<u>206,828.71</u>	<u>210,359.69</u>	<u>6.32</u>
Domestic Credit	<u>234,043.72</u>	<u>244,926.57</u>	<u>252,434.50</u>	<u>7.86</u>
	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Base Money.....	<u>59,577.40</u>	<u>72,953.59</u>	<u>73,508.22</u>	<u>23.38</u>
II. COMMERCIAL BANKS (J\$mn.) *	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Assets & Liabilities (J\$mn.)**.....	<u>533,311.30</u>	<u>571,869.41</u>	<u>566,382.50</u>	<u>6.20</u>
Loans**.....	<u>239,410.81</u>	<u>257,227.40</u>	<u>255,489.12</u>	<u>6.72</u>
Agriculture.....	3,635.60	4,219.40	4,217.16	16.00
Manufacturing.....	9,920.45	8,687.13	8,642.23	-12.88
Construction & Land Development.....	13,028.70	19,375.80	20,554.24	57.76
Mining.....	620.60	826.26	781.50	25.93
Tourism.....	37,741.02	40,717.50	40,194.99	6.50
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	11,055.13	12,080.75	11,816.17	6.88
Consumer-Oriented.....	127,188.98	131,315.08	131,220.66	3.17
Government Services.....	31,493.58	34,333.89	32,689.26	3.80
Other.....	4,726.75	5,671.59	5,372.91	13.67
DEPOSITS.....	<u>326,111.18</u>	<u>351,676.21</u>	<u>351,040.70</u>	<u>7.64</u>
Private Sector (including overseas residents).....	<u>281,101.46</u>	<u>303,161.40</u>	<u>307,506.95</u>	<u>9.39</u>
Time.....	66,983.41	70,505.96	71,709.34	7.06
Savings.....	162,402.45	174,279.67	175,762.57	8.23
Demand.....	51,715.60	58,375.77	60,035.04	16.09
Government.....	<u>19,364.55</u>	<u>22,249.81</u>	<u>18,097.89</u>	<u>-6.54</u>
Time.....	1,409.04	1,444.46	1,444.47	2.51
Savings.....	2,629.10	2,683.83	2,462.62	-6.33
Demand.....	15,326.41	18,121.52	14,190.80	-7.41
Public Entities.....	<u>9,696.58</u>	<u>15,393.67</u>	<u>11,686.19</u>	<u>20.52</u>
Time.....	3,437.99	8,924.88	6,254.66	81.93
Savings.....	3,581.39	3,424.03	2,389.32	-33.29
Demand.....	2,677.20	3,044.76	3,042.21	13.63

* 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)	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	Change p.a.
Spec. & O. F. Insts.....	<u>15,948.59</u>	<u>10,871.33</u>	<u>13,749.67</u>	<u>-13.79</u>
Time.....	5,126.61	1,930.01	2,775.67	-45.86
Savings.....	1,243.44	1,412.48	2,080.61	67.33
Demand.....	9,578.54	7,528.84	8,893.39	-7.15
	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Current Account Balances with BOJ (J\$mn).....	<u>149.31</u>	<u>305.86</u>	<u>588.11</u>	
LIQUIDITY (Average) %	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Actual Liquid Assets Ratio.....	<u>37.63</u>	<u>36.08</u>	<u>35.86</u>	
Cash.....	2.53	2.56	2.53	
Deposits with B.O.J.....	9.19	14.25	14.30	
Treasury Bills.....	0.68	0.23	0.24	
Local Registered Stocks.....	0.92	1.58	1.67	
Other.....	24.31	17.46	17.12	
Statutory Requirement.....	<u>23.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>	<u>28.00</u>	
III. SELECTED INTEREST RATES (%)				
COMMERCIAL BANKS (Domestic Currency)	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Fixed Deposits (J\$100,000 & over)				
3-6 months.....	7.30-12.85	7.30-15.49	7.65-15.49	
9-12 months.....	7.00-13.35	7.00-15.75	7.55-15.75	
Call Deposits.....	7.00-36.00	3.00-9.00	5.00-13.50	
Average Savings Deposits	5.54	5.60	5.35	
Average Loan Rate.....	23.17	21.98	21.91	
Average Inter-bank Rate	15.54	6.93	8.61	
	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Weighted Fixed Deposits Rate.....	7.25	6.48	6.39	
Weighted Loan Rate.....	16.39	16.29	16.25	
G.O.J. Treasury Bills (Weighted Average) Yield	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
2 Months:.....	-	-	-	
3 Months:.....	16.92	16.21	15.99	
6 Months:.....	19.26	17.04	15.94	
9 Months:.....	-	-	-	
12 Months:.....	-	-	-	
BOJ Open Market Rates (%)	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
30-Day	14.65	12.50	12.50	
60-Day	14.85	13.00	13.00	
90-Day	15.05	15.50	15.50	
120-Days	15.15	15.70	15.70	
180-Days	15.35	17.00	17.00	
365-Days	16.70	22.67	22.67	
COMMERCIAL BANKS (Foreign Currency)	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Fixed Deposits (Under US\$100,000)				
1-3 months.....	2.25-4.85	1.00-3.70	1.00-3.70	
3-6 months.....	2.00-5.35	1.00-4.29	1.00-4.29	
6-12 months.....	2.00-5.85	1.00-4.56	1.00-4.56	
Fixed Deposits (US\$100,000 & Over)				
1-3 months.....	2.70-5.60	1.00-4.85	1.00-4.85	
3-6 months.....	2.45-6.10	1.00-5.15	1.00-5.15	
6-12 months.....	2.45-6.60	1.00-5.65	1.00-5.65	
Average Loan Rates	11.46	10.39	10.39	
Average Savings	2.06	1.97	1.97	

+ Revised

				% Change p.a.
IV. SECURITIES (J\$m.) (outstanding balances)	Sept 2008	Aug 2009	Sept 2009	
GOJ Local Registered Stock.....	213,295.18	187,816.29	185,922.39	-12.83
	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
GOJ Treasury Bills.....	4,194.50	4,055.41	3,806.03	-9.26
BOJ Open Market Operations 1/.....	142,315.40	114,270.14	112,621.90	-20.87
V. INSTALMENT CREDIT (J\$m.) (Banks & Near-Banks)	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Total Credit Outstanding.....	30,631.15	29,834.78	29,476.82	-3.77
New Business.....	1,089.62	981.82	683.37	-37.28
VI. NEAR-BANKS (J\$m.)**** (Merchant Banks, Trust Com. & Finance Houses)	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Assets/Liabilities.....	31,375.08	32,651.20	32,755.74	4.40
Loans Outstanding.....	10,858.15	10,114.83	10,120.11	-6.80
Total Deposits.....	14,336.98	13,149.63	13,081.14	-8.76
Loans.....	<u>10,858.15</u>	<u>10,114.83</u>	<u>10,120.11</u>	<u>-6.80</u>
Agriculture.....	30.19	40.58	30.07	-0.40
Manufacturing.....	345.24	344.32	114.60	-66.81
Construction & Land Development.....	2,653.09	2,760.70	2,768.47	4.35
Mining, Quarrying & Processing.....	46.98	35.92	275.04	485.44
Tourism.....	279.67	481.61	472.21	68.85
Transport, Storage & Communication.....	432.93	303.58	284.54	-34.28
Consumer Oriented.....	5,959.52	5,449.63	5,482.27	-8.01
Government Services.....	349.15	144.02	155.60	-55.43
Other.....	761.40	554.47	537.31	-29.43
	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Liquid Assets Ratio (average) %.....	22.09	28.10	28.38	
Statutory Requirement.....	23.00	28.00	28.00	
VII. BUILDING SOCIETIES (J\$m.) (members & associate members)	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Assets/Liabilities.....	136,505.24	155,990.23	158,439.11	16.07
Loan Balances.....	73,059.43	83,097.28	83,934.75	14.89
Savings Funds.....	91,064.39	107,054.32	108,404.78	19.04
VIII. INFLATION	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Consumer Price Index (Dec. 2006 = 100).....	136.4	147.5	148.7	9.02
Monthly Rate (%).....	-0.3	0.8	0.8	
Calendar Year to Date (%).....	16.8	8.1	9.0	
Fiscal Year to Date (%).....	11.0	6.7	7.6	
IX. ACTUAL PRODUCTION ('000)	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Crude Bauxite (tonnes).....	280.28	295.81	363.52	29.70
Alumina (tonnes).....	331.50	118.49	114.60	-65.43
Sugar (tonnes).....	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Banana Exports (tonnes).....	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Index**.....	86,864.24	80,567.52	83,322.40	-4.08
Volume Traded (mn.)***.....	74.89	36.57	319.28	326.33
Ordinary Shares.....	74.89	36.57	319.28	326.33
Block Transactions.....	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

	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	% Change
X. STOCK MARKET ACTIVITIES (cont'd) Mar 2008				
Value of Stocks Traded (J\$mn.)***	854.96	240.68	3,326.29	289.06
Ordinary Shares	854.96	240.68	3,326.29	289.06
Block Transactions	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Advance/Decline Ratio***	10/32	15/18	25/13	
XI. EXTERNAL TRADE (US\$mn.)				
1. EXPORTS	Jan-Aug 2008	Jan-Aug 2009	Change	
(a) Major Traditional Exports	<u>1,043.92</u>	<u>385.19</u>	<u>-658.73</u>	
Bauxite	76.72	50.20	-26.52	
Alumina	862.91	262.66	-600.25	
Sugar	104.25	72.33	-31.92	
Bananas	0.04	0.00	-0.04	
(b) Other Traditional Exports	62.41	65.08	2.67	
(c) Non-Traditional Exports	727.28	331.61	-395.67	
(d) Re-exports	41.21	52.23	11.02	
General Merchandise Exports	<u>1,874.82</u>	<u>834.11</u>	<u>-1,040.71</u>	
(e) Freezone Exports	39.29	37.90	-1.39	
(f) Goods Procured in Ports	116.05	67.03	-49.02	
Total Goods Exports	<u>2,030.16</u>	<u>939.04</u>	<u>-1,091.12</u>	
2. IMPORTS (by S.I.T.C.)				
(a) Food	560.43	538.49	-21.94	
(b) Beverage & Tobacco	60.97	51.18	-9.79	
(c) Crude Material	55.06	35.10	-19.96	
(d) Mineral Fuel	2,690.49	895.94	-1,794.55	
(e) Animal & Vegetable Oil	38.37	24.49	-13.88	
(f) Chemicals	618.97	459.07	-159.90	
(g) Manufactured Goods	607.81	350.99	-256.82	
(h) Machinery & Transportation	882.27	535.73	-346.54	
(i) Miscellaneous Manufactured Goods	486.02	276.11	-209.91	
(j) Miscellaneous Commodities	71.76	100.42	28.66	
General Merchandise Imports	<u>6,072.15</u>	<u>3,267.52</u>	<u>-2,804.64</u>	
Freezone Imports	13.42	8.70	-4.72	
Goods Procured in Ports	115.25	56.12	-59.13	
Total Goods Imports	<u>6,200.82</u>	<u>3,332.34</u>	<u>-2,868.50</u>	
Trade Balance	<u>-4,170.66</u>	<u>-2,393.30</u>	<u>1,777.36</u>	
XII. TOURISM	Aug 2008	Aug 2009	% Change	
Tourist Arrivals ('000)	<u>197.12</u>	<u>204.02</u>	<u>3.50</u>	
Stop Overs	142.46	152.57	7.10	
Foreign Nationals	129.78	138.83	6.97	
Non-Resident Jamaicans	12.68	13.74	8.36	
Cruise	54.66	51.45	-5.87	
XIII. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (US\$mn.)				
Balance of Payments (Calendar)	Jan-Aug 2008	Jan-Aug 2009	Change	
1. Current Account	<u>-2,068.7</u>	<u>-421.4</u>	<u>1,647.3</u>	
A. Goods balance	<u>-3,487.2</u>	<u>-1,963.7</u>	<u>1,523.5</u>	
Exports (f.o.b.)	2,030.2	938.5	-1,091.6	
Imports (f.o.b.)	5,517.2	2,902.2	-2,615.1	
B. Service Balance	<u>351.1</u>	<u>616.4</u>	<u>265.3</u>	
Transportation	-443.9	-224.2	219.7	
Travel	1,242.7	1,253.4	10.7	
Other Services	-447.7	-412.8	34.9	

*** Monthly values
1/ Provisional
+ Revised

<i>Balance of Payments (Calendar) (Cont'd)</i>		Jan-Aug 2008	Jan-Aug 2009	Change
C. Income		<u>-370.4</u>	<u>-395.4</u>	<u>-25.0</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		35.6	19.0	-16.6
Investment Income.....		-406.0	-414.4	-8.5
D. Current Transfers		<u>1,437.8</u>	<u>1,321.4</u>	<u>-116.4</u>
Official.....		68.5	87.4	18.9
Private.....		1,369.3	1,234.0	-135.4
2. Capital and Financial Account		<u>2,068.7</u>	<u>421.4</u>	<u>-1,647.3</u>
A. Capital Account		<u>21.4</u>	<u>20.8</u>	<u>-0.6</u>
Capital Transfers.....		<u>21.4</u>	<u>20.8</u>	<u>-0.6</u>
Official.....		41.6	44.7	3.1
Private.....		-20.2	-23.9	-3.7
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets....		0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Financial Account		<u>2,047.3</u>	<u>400.6</u>	<u>-1,646.7</u>
Other Official Investment.....		530.6	168.9	-361.6
Other Private Investment.....		1,926.8	393.0	-1,533.8
<i>(incl. errors & omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		<u>-410.1</u>	<u>-161.3</u>	
		Apr-Aug	Apr-Aug	
<i>Balance of Payments (Fiscal)</i>		2008/2009	2009/2010	
1. Current Account		<u>-1,556.5</u>	<u>-265.0</u>	<u>1,291.5</u>
A. Goods balance		<u>-2,414.8</u>	<u>-1,214.6</u>	<u>1,200.2</u>
Exports (f.o.b.).....		1,251.3	589.4	-661.9
Imports (f.o.b.).....		3,666.1	1,804.0	-1,862.2
B. Service Balance		<u>134.2</u>	<u>356.6</u>	<u>222.3</u>
Transportation.....		-310.2	-141.2	169.0
Travel.....		720.7	752.6	31.9
Other Services.....		-276.3	-254.8	21.5
C. Income		<u>-196.7</u>	<u>-254.3</u>	<u>-57.6</u>
Compensation of Employees.....		29.6	17.3	-12.3
Investment Income.....		-226.3	-271.6	-45.3
D. Current Transfers		<u>920.8</u>	<u>847.3</u>	<u>-73.5</u>
Official.....		42.2	55.4	13.3
Private.....		878.6	791.9	-86.7
2. Capital and Financial Account		<u>1,556.5</u>	<u>265.0</u>	<u>-1,291.5</u>
A. Capital Account		<u>0.7</u>	<u>-11.3</u>	<u>-12.0</u>
Capital Transfers.....		<u>0.7</u>	<u>-11.3</u>	<u>-12.0</u>
Official.....		12.1	2.8	-9.3
Private.....		-11.4	-14.1	-2.7
Acq./Disp. of non-produced non-fin. assets		0.0	0.0	0.0
B. Financial Account		<u>1,555.8</u>	<u>276.2</u>	<u>-1,279.6</u>
Other Official Investment.....		525.9	318.6	-207.3
Other Private Investment.....		1,234.3	263.4	-970.9
<i>(incl. errors & omissions)</i>				
Reserves.....		<u>-204.5</u>	<u>-305.7</u>	

	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	% Change p.a.
XIV. BOJ NET INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (US\$mn.)				
BOJ Net International Reserves (US\$mn.).....	<u>1,794.03</u>	<u>1,909.36</u>	<u>1,805.17</u>	<u>0.62</u>
Gross Foreign Assets.....	1,816.53	1,931.86	1,827.67	0.61
Gross Foreign Liabilities.....	22.50	22.50	22.50	0.00
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods				
Imports.....	<u>14.55</u>	<u>21.02</u>	<u>19.92</u>	
Estimated Gross Reserves in Weeks of Goods and Services Imports.....	<u>10.76</u>	<u>14.82</u>	<u>13.98</u>	
XV. FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEVELOPMENTS (US\$mn.) *	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009	
Combined Foreign Exchange Trading				
Foreign Exchange Purchases (spot).....	842.42	592.56	694.20	-17.59
Foreign Exchange Sales (spot).....	853.12	590.34	682.95	-19.95
Foreign Currency Deposit Balances of Authorised Dealers (US\$mn.)	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009	
Commercial Banks Balances.....	<u>1,700.88</u>	<u>1,700.28</u>	<u>1,648.49</u>	<u>-3.08</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	161.73	260.05	155.25	-4.01
"B" Accounts	0.00	0.15	0.15	-
Other.....	1,539.15	1,440.08	1,493.09	-2.99
F.I.As Balance.....	<u>147.19</u>	<u>109.80</u>	<u>108.68</u>	<u>-26.16</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	80.51	54.76	51.61	-35.90
"B" Accounts	0.28	0.16	0.16	-42.86
Other.....	66.40	54.88	56.91	-14.29
Building Societies Balances.....	<u>461.87</u>	<u>489.36</u>	<u>495.70</u>	<u>7.32</u>
"A" Accounts 1/.....	207.35	221.05	224.39	8.22
"B" Accounts	64.58	56.80	56.88	-11.92
Other	189.94	211.51	214.43	12.89
Total Foreign Currency Deposits (US\$mn.).....	<u>2,309.94</u>	<u>2,299.44</u>	<u>2,252.87</u>	<u>-2.47</u>
Total Foreign Currency Loans (US\$mn.).....	<u>1,577.20</u>	<u>1,583.13</u>	<u>1,549.92</u>	<u>-1.73</u>
Commercial Banks.....	1,443.83	1,444.98	1,411.50	-2.24
F.I.As	71.64	56.81	56.18	-21.58
Building Societies.....	61.73	81.34	82.24	33.23

* 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 (%)	Oct 2008	Sept 2009	Oct 2009
3 months.....	4.77	0.71	0.67
6 months.....	4.81	1.01	0.99
U.S. Prime Rate (end of period) (%).....	4.56	3.25	3.25
Selling Exchange Rates (end period)	Nov 2008	Oct 2009	Nov 2009
US\$1.00 = J\$.....	77.76	89.24	89.59
Can. \$1.00 = J\$.....	62.59	82.91	84.38
U.K. Pound = J\$.....	118.28	146.97	147.04
Euro = J\$**.....	99.26	132.27	134.26
Caricom Selling Exchange Rates**			
T.T. \$1 = J\$.....	12.40	14.10	14.13
Bdos. \$1 = J\$.....	38.69	44.63	44.82
Guy. \$1 = J\$.....	0.39	0.45	0.45
E.C. \$1 = J\$.....	28.66	33.06	33.20

*** Indicative Rates*

JAMAICA:
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEVELOPMENTS
AUGUST 2009

AUGUST 2009

Provisional data indicate that the current account deficit narrowed by US\$195.8 million in August 2009, relative to the deficit in August 2008 (see Table). This improvement largely stemmed from a decline of US\$205.7 million (60.1 per cent) in spending on fuel imports, primarily reflecting the impact of a 39.0 per cent decrease in the average price of oil on the international market in August 2009, relative to August 2008. With the exception of *food*, and *beverages & tobacco*, 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\$53.6 million (56.5 per cent), and US\$10.7 million (46.9 per cent) in earnings from alumina and mineral fuel exports, respectively.

There were also improvements in the services and current transfers sub-accounts. With regard to the services sub-account the improvement was principally due to the continued decline in net transportation payments, associated with the lower level of imports, as well as an increase in net travel receipts for the month. For current transfers, higher official grant inflows of US\$10.0 million were received from the European Union.

The main offsetting influence to the improvement of the above noted sub-accounts was an increase in the deficit on the income account. The expansion in the deficit was mainly attributed to higher interest payments on official external debt.

With regard to financing, net inflows from official and private investment transactions were more than sufficient to offset the deficits on the current and capital accounts. As a result, the NIR of the Bank of Jamaica increased by US\$285.3 million for the month.

January – August 2009

There was a US\$1 647.3 million reduction in the current account deficit for the period January to August 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\$1 794.5 million (66.7 per cent) in the value of mineral fuel imports. All the other categories of imports, with the exception of 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, mainly ethanol.

For the review period, there was also an improvement in the 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. Earnings from travel also increased, albeit marginally.

The impact of the improvement in the merchandise trade and services sub-accounts on the current account deficit was, however, partly offset by an increase in the deficit on the income sub-account, as well as lower net current transfers. The deterioration in the income account was principally related to a contraction in inflows associated with compensation to employees. The decline in current transfers reflected a contraction of 14.6 per cent in gross remittance inflows.

In relation to financing, net official and private investment inflows were more than sufficient to finance the current account deficit. As a result, there was an increase of US\$161.3 million in the NIR during the review period.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY (US\$M)

	August 2008	August 2009	Change	Jan-Aug 2008	Jan-Aug ^{1/} 2009	Change
1. CURRENT ACCOUNT	-265.1	-69.3	195.8	-2,068.7	-421.4	1,647.3
A. GOODS BALANCE	-438.9	-253.3	185.6	-3,487.2	-1,963.7	1,523.5
Exports (f.o.b.)	208.3	111.0	-97.2	2,030.2	938.5	-1,091.6
Imports (f.o.b.)	647.2	364.4	-282.8	5,517.3	2,902.2	-2,615.1
B. SERVICES BALANCE	12.2	46.9	34.7	351.1	616.4	265.3
Transportation	-52.3	-28.8	23.4	-443.9	-224.2	219.7
Travel	114.3	122.6	8.4	1,242.7	1,253.4	10.7
Other Services	-49.8	-46.9	2.9	-447.7	421.8	34.9
C. INCOME	-11.0	-46.3	-35.4	-370.4	-395.4	-25.1
Compensation of employees	10.9	5.4	-5.5	35.6	19.0	-16.6
Investment Income	21.9	-51.7	-29.9	-406.0	-414.4	-8.5
D. CURRENT TRANSFERS	172.6	183.5	10.9	1,437.8	1,321.4	-116.4
Official	8.1	20.9	12.7	68.5	87.4	18.9
Private	164.5	162.7	-1.8	1,369.3	1,234.0	-135.4
2. CAPITAL & FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	265.1	69.3	-195.8	2,068.7	421.4	-1,647.3
A. CAPITAL ACCOUNT	-2.6	-2.4	0.1	21.4	20.8	-0.6
a. Capital Transfers	-2.6	-2.4	0.1	21.4	20.8	-0.6
Official	0.0	0.1	0.1	41.6	44.7	3.1
Private	-2.6	-2.5	0.0	-20.2	-23.9	-3.7
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	267.7	71.7	-196.0	2,047.3	400.6	-1,646.7
Other official investment	135.6	314.8	179.2	530.6	168.9	-361.6
Other private investment 2/	175.1	42.2	-132.9	1,926.8	393.0	-1,533.8
Reserves	-43.0	285.3		-410.1	-161.3	

1/ Provisional

2/ Includes errors & omissions

