Balance of Payments Update

March 2026

- The current account of the balance of payments for the March 2026 quarter recorded a surplus of US$15.97 million, a deterioration of US$212.7 million relative to the surplus recorded in the March 2025 quarter. This decline largely reflected developments, post Hurricane Melissa, which resulted in deteriorations in the Goods and Services sub-accounts, partly offset by improvements in the Primary Income & Secondary Income sub-accounts relative to the March 2025 quarter.

- The deficit on the Goods sub-account widened by US$73.2 million, which reflected a decline of US$107.2 million in exports which was partly offset by a decline in imports of US$34.0 million (see Table 1). The decline in exports was mainly driven by a decrease in crude material exports of US$109.1 million in the context of the passage of Hurricane Melissa. Lower imports were largely driven by lower imports of Mineral Fuels (US$55.9 million), Manufactured Goods (US$29.5 million) while there was an increase in Machinery & Transportation (US$43.7 million). This decline in mineral fuel imports reflected the impact of a reduction in import volumes which outweighed an increase in prices.

- The Services sub-account deteriorated by US$250.3 million relative to the corresponding period of the previous year, largely due to lower travel inflows and increased payments for transportation services. The travel services sub-account contracted by US$291.4 million, primarily reflecting lower personal travel inflows associated with declines in both cruise passenger arrivals and foreign national stopover visits. The increased payments for transportation services was as a result of an increase in freight payments amid the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

- The improvement in the Primary Income sub-account relative to the March 2025 quarter was driven by lower investment income outflows. The decline in these outflows reflected losses recorded in the mining sector compared to the surplus recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year.

- The improvement in the surplus in the Secondary Income sub-account largely reflected an increase of US$54.3 million in personal transfer inflows (primarily remittance inflows). There was also a notable increase in donations in kind following the passage of Hurricane Melissa, in comparison to the previous corresponding period in 2025.

- The Financial Account reflected net outflows of US$399.41 million for the March 2026 quarter relative to net outflows of US$111.25 million in the March 2025 quarter. The net outflows for the review quarter were primarily reflected by a build-up of US$612.50 million in Reserve Assets held by Bank of Jamaica and net outflows via Portfolio Investments of US$170.4 million. This was partly offset by net inflows of US$303.2 million and US$80.3 million in Other Investments and Direct Investments, respectively. The Net Portfolio Investment outflows were driven by a buildup in long-term debt securities assets held abroad by residents. The impact of these outflows was moderated by a reduction in residents' holding of short-term debt securities abroad. The Net Other Investments inflows were primarily related to a buildup in long-term loan liabilities by GOJ, particularly the Rapid Financing Instrument's (RFI) arrangement with the IMF to assist with the rebuilding of infrastructure post Hurricane Melissa. Net Direct Investment inflows decreased by US$21.3 million relative to the corresponding period in 2025.

- For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26, the current account balance recorded a surplus of US$124.4 million (0.6% of GDP), compared to US$677.1 million (3.1% of GDP) in the previous fiscal year. The lower surplus was primarily driven by deteriorations in the Goods and the Services sub-accounts, reflecting increased imports as well as reduced exports and lower earnings from the travel sector. However, the deterioration was partially offset by improvements registered on the Secondary and Primary Income sub-accounts. The Financial Account for the FY 2025/26 reflected a Net Lending position, recording net outflows of US$697.6million, when compared to the net outflow of US$476.4 million in the previous fiscal period.

Background

The Balance of Payments (BOP) is compiled using the 6th edition of the BOP Manual. It comprises the Current Account, Capital Account, and Financial Account. The Current Account includes net trade in goods and services, net earnings on cross border investments (Primary Income) as well as net transfer payments (Secondary Income). The Financial Account records changes in Jamaica's external assets and liabilities. These assets and liabilities include foreign Direct Investments, Portfolio Investments such as stocks and bonds, Financial Derivatives, Other Investments, and Reserve Assets. Net changes in assets or liabilities arise when gross increases in assets or liabilities differ from gross reductions in assets or liabilities and vice versa.

Table 1: Jamaica's Balance of Payments (US$MN)

Expanded Dataset

	JAN-MAR		
	2025	2026	Change
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE	228.6	15.97	-212.7
CAB/GDP (%)*	1.0	0.1	-1.0
GOODS	-1098.0	-1171.2	-73.2
EXPORTS	484.6	377.5	-107.2
IMPORTS	1582.7	1548.7	-34.0
SERVICES	606.3	355.9	-250.3
CREDITS	1506.1	1203.4	-302.7
DEBITS	899.9	847.5	-52.4
PRIMARY INCOME	-120.4	-63.8	56.6
CREDITS	139.8	194.6	54.8
DEBITS	260.2	258.4	-1.8
SECONDARY INCOME	840.8	895.1	54.3
CREDITS	900.4	955.0	54.6
DEBITS	59.6	60.0	0.4
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	-9.1	-8.9	0.2
CREDITS	3.1	3.3	0.2
DEBITS	12.2	12.2	0.0
NET LENDING (+)/NET BORROWING (-) (BALANCE FROM CURRENT AND CAPITAL ACCOUNT)	219.5	7.0	-212.5
FINANCIAL ACCOUNT			
NET LENDING (+)/NET BORROWING (-) (BALANCE FROM FINANCIAL ACCOUNT)	111.3	399.4	288.2
DIRECT INVESTMENT	-101.6	-80.3	21.3
NET ACQUISITION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	-0.6	-0.3	0.3
NET INCURRENCE OF LIABILITIES	101.0	80.0	-21.0
PORTFOLIO INVESTMENTS	-80.5	170.4	250.9
NET ACQUISITION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	-57.7	177.4	235.0
NET INCURRENCE OF LIABILITIES	22.9	7.0	-15.9
FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES	0.0	0.0	0.0
NET ACQUISITION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	0.0	0.0	0.0
NET INCURRENCE OF LIABILITIES	0.0	0.0	0.0
OTHER INVESTMENTS	100.1	-303.2	-403.3
NET ACQUISITION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS	197.6	36.4	-161.2
NET INCURRENCE OF LIABILITIES	97.5	339.6	242.1
RESERVES ASSETS	193.3	612.5	419.2
NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-108.3	392.4	500.7

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

March 2026 Quarter

KEY
- ↑ Improved by
- ↓ Deterioriated by

Current Account Balance

Surplus: US$16.0 million

A decrease of US$212.7 million when compared with the surplus for the March 2025 quarter.

US$73.2M ↓
Goods Balance

- **US$34.0M ↓** Imports
- **US$107.2M ↓** Exports

US$250.3M ↓
Services Balance

US$56.6M ↑
Primary Income Balance

US$54.3M ↑
Secondary Income Balance

Financial Account

Net Lending Balance: US$399.4 million

Increase of US$288.2 million relative to March 2025 quarter.

Direct Investment
Net Inflow
US$80.3M

Financial Derivatives
Net Inflow
US$0.0M

US$612.5M ↑
Reserve Assets

Portfolio Investment
Net Outflow
US$170.4M

Other Investment
Net Inflow
US$303.2M

Expanded Dataset: *https://boj.org.jm/statistics/external-sector/balance-of-payments/*