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"Financial security and independence are like a three-legged stool resting on savings, insurance and investments." – Brian Tracy

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November 4, 2025

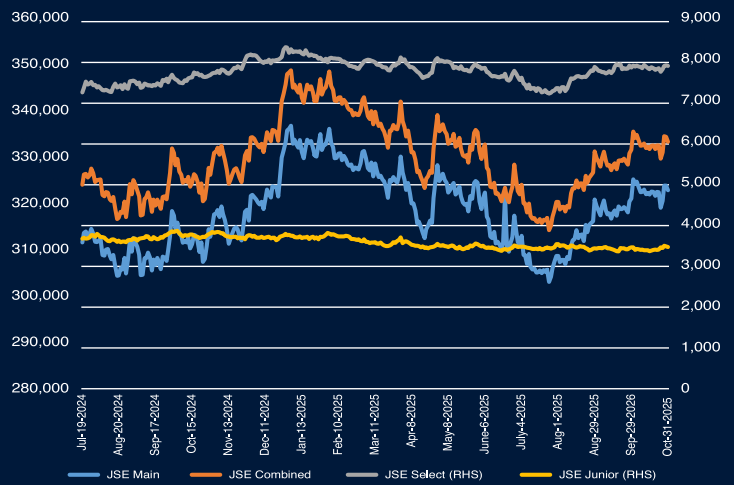
Blown Off Course? Hurricane Melissa Tests Jamaica's Resilience

In September 2025, after a series of rating upgrades, Jamaica was celebrating achieving its highest credit rating in its history, with some beginning to wonder whether a rise to investment grade could be in the country's future. However, just two months later, we now confront a stark new reality - the devastating effects of Hurricane Melissa, the first Category 5 storm to make landfall on the island. Years of rigorous fiscal discipline earned Jamaica a BB- rating with a positive outlook from both Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Fitch Ratings this year. However, Hurricane Melissa caused extensive damage to private property and critical infrastructure, including the electricity grid, roads, schools and hospitals, with entire towns lying in ruin. While the financial toll from the damages is still being assessed, it is clear that key economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture and utilities have suffered significant damage. The full economic cost remains uncertain, but with preliminary estimates between US\$6-7Bn, this catastrophe is serving as a major test of Jamaica's decade-long commitment to fiscal discipline and debt management. Yet, the country's multi-layered Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) framework, anchored by its Catastrophe Bond (Cat Bond), is designed to provide immediate liquidity for rapid recovery and to protect hard-won fiscal stability. With these innovative forms of insurance policies in place, the question is: Can Jamaica's framework of fiscal resilience withstand this climate catastrophe, or will the storm force a painful ratings setback?

The devastation unleashed by Hurricane Melissa constitutes a major structural shock to the Jamaican economy, which could threaten the macroeconomic and

fiscal trajectory. The magnitude of the loss dwarfs that of previous events, notably the approximately US\$580Mn caused by Hurricane Ivan in 2004¹ and Hurricane Beryl, J\$32Bn in 2024. According to the Prime Minister Dr. the Most Hon Andrew Holness, preliminary estimates suggest that physical damage to housing, commercial buildings, roads, electricity, water and telecommunication infrastructures is estimated between US\$6-7Bn, which is equivalent to approximately 28-32% of last fiscal year's GDP. Hurricane Melissa barreled through the island, rendering significant damage, which is expected to cause a contraction in gross output across sectors like agriculture, utilities and tourism. Considering the path of the storm through the western portion of the island, including the three most productive parishes - Trelawny, Manchester and St. Elizabeth, with St. Elizabeth alone contributing to 20.0% of the country's production according to Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining Floyd Green, there is scope for sizable contractions in agricultural output. Additionally, given the noticeable contraction in Jamaica's tourism industry following Hurricane Beryl, with stopover arrivals falling 6.8% y-o-y in Q3 2024, expectations are for a more severe impact following Hurricane Melissa. It made landfall near resort towns on Jamaica's south coast and passed close to Montego Bay, a key resort area home to a large cruise terminal and international airport that accounted for 80.9% of stopover arrivals in 2024². With agriculture contributing 8.3%³ and tourism contributing around 30% (directly and indirectly) to GDP, we anticipate a significant contraction in economic growth, possibly in the high single digits. The contraction in GDP is also expected to reduce fiscal revenues and could cause a

WEEKLY MOVEMENT IN INDICES



MOVEMENT IN INDICES

JSE Indices	Closing Levels	WoW % Change	YTD % Change
Combined Index	333,305.41	-0.35%	-4.19%
Main Market Index	322,820.75	-0.32%	-3.86%
Select Index	7,833.86	0.01%	-5.44%
Junior Market Index	3,434.88	-0.84%	-8.04%

WINNERS & LOSERS FOR THE WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2025

	\$ Change	% Change
FIRSTROCKJMD	\$1.54	15.10%
ISP	\$1.59	14.03%
LAB	-\$0.23	-19.01%
KLE	-\$0.15	-16.67%

MARKET OVERVIEW

Following the passage of Hurricane Melissa, which temporarily halted market activity, trading volume rebounded strongly for the week ended October 31, 2025, notwithstanding a decline in value. Total market volume climbed to 101.68Mn units valued at J\$271.21Mn, marking a 41.9% increase in volume but a 42.7% decline in value week-over-week (WoW). Market concentration also increased notably, as the top three volume leaders accounted for 57.2% of total trades, up from 28.3% in the prior week. This points to a narrower breadth of market participation last week, with trading activity concentrated in a few stocks, namely - Wigton Energy Ltd. with 32.49Mn units (31.94%), AMG Packing & Paper Company Ltd. with 16.25Mn units (15.98%) and TransJamaican Highway Ltd. (TJH) ordinary shares with 9.46Mn units (9.31%). Despite the pickup in trading volume, overall market sentiment remained low. The JSE Combined Index edged down 0.4%, a continuation of the previous trend and a likely reflection of modest softening in investor confidence after the hurricane-related disruption. Of the 117 stocks that traded, 41 advanced, 52 declined, and 24 were unchanged. The main laggards included A.S. Bryden & Sons Holdings Ltd. (ASBH: -14.95%) and Wisynco Group Ltd. (WISYNCO: -2.72%). Across the sub-indices, performance was mixed. Four of the remaining eight JSE indices declined, led by the JSE Manufacturing & Distribution (M&D) (-1.25%) and the USD Equities Indices (-1.17%). In the M&D space, share price declines for ASBH, WISYNCO, Carreras Ltd (CAR: -2.17%), and Jamaica Broilers Group Ltd. (JBG: -5.33%) collectively weighed down the index. Meanwhile, the USD Equities Index was pulled lower by TJHUSD (-3.28%) and FirstRock Real Estate Investments Ltd. (FIRSTROCKUSD: -6.25%). Despite the USD share price decline, TJH announced that its subsidiary, TransJam Highway Operators Limited (THO), executed a Concession Agreement with NROCC on October 23, 2025, for the operation of the Phase 1C (May Pen to Williamsfield) section of the highway. The agreement, effective December 1, 2025, through June 1, 2038, provides long-term operational visibility for the company and should improve shareholder value. The JSE Financial Index (+0.78%) was the standout performer for the week, buoyed by gains in key financials such as Sagcor Group Jamaica Ltd. (SJ: +3.04%), Proven Investments Ltd. (PROVEN: +4.31%), and Guardian Holdings Limited (GHL: +0.64%). The sector benefited from dividend news, with GHL declaring a quarterly dividend of TT\$0.23 per share.

1 The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)

2 Melissa Impact Could Lead to Inevitable Recession! BMI, A Fitch Solutions Company

3 Increased Support for Agriculture! Source: JIS, 2024

temporary rise in the debt-to-GDP ratio.

Against this background, even if there is a scenario in which the government does not take on additional debt, the debt-to-GDP ratio is likely to weaken, taking us off track temporarily owing to a significant reduction in growth. This could temporarily delay any progress for a rating upgrade from S&P, which noted that the credit rating could be upgraded if Jamaica's trend economic growth rate rose consistently and converged with that of peers at a similar level of economic development. This, along with continuity in fiscal policy, would increase the sovereign's economic resilience. Furthermore, expectations are for Jamaica's goods trade deficit to widen due to a temporary increase in food imports amid widespread crop destruction, further weighing on growth. That said, higher remittance inflows from the diaspora to support families and relatives could offset some lost inflows from declining services exports.

Given the anticipated adverse economic effects, the government of Jamaica's management of the financial fallout from Hurricane Melissa will be pivotal in determining the pace of recovery and the trajectory of public finances, with rating agencies expected to closely monitor the policy response. The country's post-disaster strategy will likely hinge on the efficient deployment of its pre-secured financial buffers to facilitate a rapid yet fiscally responsible rebound. In June, Finance Minister Fayval Williams disclosed that Jamaica had disaster financing coverage amounting to J\$130.6Bn (US\$820Mn), comprising insurance through the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), a US\$150Mn catastrophe bond and contingent credit lines (see Figure 1). The timely release of these funds should enable the government to restore key economic infrastructure, particularly major tourist corridors and utilities, providing essential liquidity to limit disruptions to growth and revenue. Most importantly, these resources have already been budgeted and funded – a tailwind for continued fiscal stability given the scale of the devastation. However, should recovery require substantially more funds than currently allocated, Jamaica's sustainable fiscal position gives it scope to increase relief spending without risk of destabilising the country's finances. In that regard, the government could reallocate proceeds from planned asset divestments, originally earmarked for debt reduction toward reconstruction without materially weakening fiscal discipline. Concurrently,

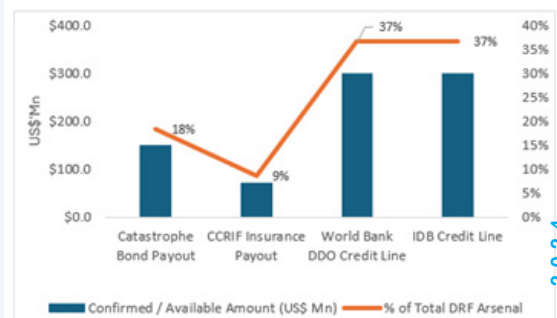
The country's robust disaster risk financing tools sustained fiscal prudence, and capacity to attract concessional support provides a strong foundation for recovery. If the government maintains its primary surplus and executes a credible, fiscally responsible rebuilding strategy, Jamaica could swiftly reassert its reform credentials, paving the way for a future restoration of the positive outlook once growth and revenue rebound.

Jamaica's track record of prudent macroeconomic management positions it to attract additional concessional financing from international partners, reducing the need for higher-cost market borrowing. This combination of targeted fiscal reallocation, concessional borrowing, and efficient fund deployment would help contain the rise in public debt and sustain investor confidence. Should the government maintain its primary surplus and demonstrate effective fiscal management throughout the recovery, it is likely to preserve its current credit rating, with rating agencies potentially revising the outlook to stable as confidence in the country's fiscal resilience is reinforced.

Jamaica faces a long road to recovery. Although the rains and strong winds have stopped, Hurricane Melissa has carved a path of immense destruction across the western part of the island, testing the country's economic resilience like never before. Yet, amidst this devastation, Jamaica's response will likely underscore the strength of its fiscal framework and the foresight of its disaster risk management strategy. The government's ability to swiftly deploy pre-financed buffers alongside its disciplined approach to reconstruction will not only determine the pace of recovery but also shape investor sentiment and the sovereign's near-term credit trajectory. In the short term, the scale of the economic fallout and temporary setback to growth could prompt rating agencies to revise Jamaica's outlook from positive to stable, reflecting the near-term risks to growth, fiscal performance and debt dynamics. However, if this materialises, this adjustment is not expected to signify a loss of confidence, but rather a pause to reassess Jamaica's resilience under extreme conditions. The country's robust disaster risk financing tools sustained fiscal prudence, and capacity to attract concessional support provides a strong

foundation for recovery. If the government maintains its primary surplus and executes a credible, fiscally responsible rebuilding strategy, Jamaica could swiftly reassert its reform credentials, paving the way for a future restoration of the positive outlook once growth and revenue rebound.

Figure 1. Jamaica's Rapid Liquidity Under DRF Strategy



Sources: World Bank, CCRIF, Inter-American Development Bank and NCBM

Foreign Exchange Market

The Jamaican dollar was relatively flat compared to the US dollar, week over week, with the USD selling rate moving from J\$161.38 on October 24, 2025, to J\$161.46 on October 31, 2025. The low volatility was influenced by muted business activity following the disruption caused by Hurricane Melissa.

Selling	Close: 10/24/25	Close: 10/31/25	Change
J\$/US\$1	\$161.38	\$161.46	\$0.08
J\$/CDN\$1	\$116.02	\$117.33	\$1.31
J\$/GBP£1	\$216.55	\$213.99	(\$2.56)

Global Bond Prices

Last week, markets responded to the Federal Reserve's Last week, financial markets responded to the Federal Reserve's (Fed's) decision to cut interest rates to the lowest level in three years, a move aimed at cushioning the U.S. economy amid rising uncertainty. Federal Reserve officials voted for another quarter-point rate cut last Wednesday, lowering the benchmark lending rate to a range between 3.75% and 4.00%, the lowest in three years, marking the second consecutive cut this year. The decision, while widely anticipated, was primarily intended to prevent further deterioration in the labour market and sustain momentum in consumer spending, even as economic visibility dims. What made this decision particularly notable was the absence of key economic indicators due to the ongoing government shutdown. The Fed's policy statement explicitly referenced this "data blackout," acknowledging that the lack of fresh information has made policymaking more complex. Against this backdrop, Chair Jerome Powell emphasised that the central bank could adopt a more cautious stance if the data outage continues, as the lack of official figures clouds their view of the economy's true health. In his post-meeting remarks, Powell underscored the growing policy divide within the central bank, revealing that officials are increasingly split on how much further rates should fall. Some policymakers advocate for maintaining flexibility in the face of weakening job growth and persistent disinflationary pressures, while others believe the committee should "at least wait a cycle" before cutting rates again. Given the uncertainty surrounding both data availability and the broader economic outlook, another rate cut before year-end appears less likely. Should the shutdown persist, the Fed may be compelled to delay further action until it regains a clearer picture of inflation dynamics and labour market trends. For now, the central bank's latest move underscores a delicate balancing act which seeks to support growth, without overstepping in the absence of reliable economic signals. As such, investors appear less confident that the Fed will execute another rate cut in December, with the CME FedWatch tool on October 31st indicating a 63.0% likelihood of a 25 basis points (bps) reduction, down from 94.4% on October 27th.

Amid the uncertainty, U.S. Treasury yields inched up last week to 4.093% from 4.003% on October 24, as traders scaled back expectations for a Fed rate cut in December. However, bonds from Latin American and Caribbean issuers had mixed price movements. KinAir, MoAir, TJH, the governments

of Jamaica, the Bahamas and the Dominican Republic experienced mostly higher yields as prices fell, likely owing to the expected impacts of Hurricane Melissa on the airports' operations and the economies of these countries. Conversely, bonds issued by the governments of Costa Rica, Panama and Trinidad saw lower yields as prices rose.

Bonds	Currency Rating	Indicative Price	Yield	Recommendation
BAHAMA (6.00%) 2028	BB-/Stable	103.25	4.83%	BUY
BAHAMA (6.63%) 2033	BB-/Stable	100.00	6.62%	BUY
BAHAMA (6.95%) 2029	BB-/Stable	104.75	5.62%	BUY
BAHAMA (8.25%) 2036	BB-/Stable	111.50	6.72%	BUY
BAHAMA (8.95%) 2032	BB-/Stable	113.75	6.46%	BUY
BAHAMA (9.00%) 2029	BB-/Stable	110.75	5.65%	BUY
BARBAD (8.00%) 2035	B+/Stable	107.75	6.88%	BUY
BCRED (6.00%) 2032	BBB-/Positive	104.75	5.10%	BUY
BEEFBZ (4.88%) 2031	BB/Stable	85.65	7.22%	BUY
BERMUD (4.75%) 2029	A2/Stable	104.00	3.44%	BUY
DOMREP (5.5%) 2029	Ba2/Stable	104.50	4.02%	BUY
DOMREP (6.95%) 2037	Ba2/Stable	109.75	5.77%	BUY
DOMREP (8.63%) 2027	Ba2/Stable	107.00	3.61%	BUY
GM (5.4%) 2029	Baa2/Stable	106.25	3.68%	BUY
JAMAN (6.75%) 2028	BB/Positive	106.25	4.06%	BUY
KINGAIR (6.75%) 2036	BB+/Stable	105.50	6.06%	BUY
LTMCI (7.625%) 2031	BB/Stable	106.00	6.24%	BUY
LTMCI (7.88%) 2030	BB/Stable	106.25	6.24%	BUY
MOAIR (6.60%) 2029	BB+ Stable	104.50	5.98%	BUY
NFLX (4.875%) 2030	A/Stable	105.00	3.68%	BUY

Bonds	Currency Rating	Indicative Price	Yield	Recommendation
NFLX (5.875%) 2028	A/Stable	107.75	3.16%	BUY
NRG (3.88%) 2032	BB+/Stable	95.50	4.71%	BUY
NRG (6%) 2033	BB+/Stable	104.75	5.20%	BUY
NRG (6.25%) 2034	BB+/Stable	105.50	5.47%	BUY
PRIOBZ (6.75%) 2030 (NEW ISSUE)⁴	BB-/Positive	101.00	6.51%	BUY
POSWDL (7.88%) 2040	BB/Stable	104.25	7.39%	BUY
PYPL (2.85%) 2029	A-/Stable	98.00	3.40%	BUY
SFC (5.3%) 2028	BBB/Stable	102.00	4.45%	BUY
TRAJAM (5.75%) 2036	BB/Positive	96.75	6.16%	BUY
BANORT (5.75%) 2031	Baa1/Negative	100.00	1.25%	SELL
NFE (6.5%) 2026	CCC-/Negative	35.25	166.37%	SELL
WBD (4.125%) 2029	BB+/RWN	95.25	5.61%	SELL

GOJ Globals

Ticker	Maturity	Bid	Offer Yield*
JAMAN	2028	102.90	4.68%
	2039	120.90	5.62%
	2045	120.90	6.05%

*NB: The rates quoted above are opening indicative levels on the international market and are subject to change as market conditions vary throughout the trading session. Additionally, the prices quoted to clients of NCB Capital Market Limited (NCB CML) are adjusted to reflect the costs associated with completing the transaction on the respective client's behalf.

Local Corporate Bonds

Name	Maturity	Coupon	Price	Yield
BDHR	2027	8.15%	100.35	8.02%
SJPC	2032	8.85%	103.75	8.18%

Money Market

Last week, liquidity in the JMD money market declined, as measured by the aggregated current balances held by Deposit-Taking Institutions (DTIs). As at October 31, 2025, the total aggregate current balance amounted to J\$66.40Bn, marking a 14.2% decline compared to the previous week.

After four (4) consecutive weeks of offering yields in the five (5) per cent range, yields rose in the weekly Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) 30-day Certificate of Deposit (CD) Auctions, the highest since January 15, 2025. The average yield on the 30-day CD auction rose to 6.38% from 5.94% the previous week. Total bids amounted to J\$27.67Bn relative to the J\$22.00Bn issue size, implying a bid-to-offer ratio of 1.26x. While the previous week's 1.22x bid-to-offer was lower, the bid and offer amounts were higher at J\$52.34Bn and J\$43.00Bn, respectively. The next auction date is set for November 5, 2025.

The BOJ also conducted a 14-day Repurchase Operation with deposit-taking institutions in the amount of J\$1.00Bn. The total value of bids received was \$1.00Bn. The weighted average yield was 6.28%, the same as the previous auction. Finally, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) announced an auction to offer a total of J\$2.2Bn in T-bills to the market. There are three (3) tenors up for auction, with an offer size of JMD \$700Mn for the 91-day and 182-day tenors, respectively, and a 273-day offering a volume of JMD\$800Mn. The subscription date for the auction is the 5th of November and will be settled on the 7th of November.

⁴ Issuer- PRIO Luxembourg S.a.r.l, Industry- Energy, Type- Senior Unsecured, Callable-Yes, Coupon Rate- 6.75%, Coupon Payment- Semi-annually, Maturity- October 15, 2030, Risk Profile - Moderate

NOVEMBER 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
03	04	05	06	07
EFRESH Annual General Meeting	SOS Annual General Meeting		CFF Dividend Payment Date (\$0.05 per share)	SEP Dividend Payment Date (\$0.605 per share)
			UK BoE Interest Rate Decision (Nov)	CAD Unemployment Rate (Oct)

Recommendations

Ticker	Closing Price (November 4, 2025)	P/E	Avg. Sector P/E	Current Recommendation
GK	\$71.41	8.7x	9.5x	BUY
SVL	\$17.59	23.8x	23.8x	BUY
TJH	\$4.02	9.1x	15.9x	BUY
TJHUSD	\$0.03	9.1x	14.2x	BUY

Regional News

Trinidad and Tobago: US Warship Arrives In Port of Spain As Tensions with Venezuela Rise

Trinidad and Tobago's (T&T) support for and cooperation with the United States (US) military operations in the Caribbean is straining relations with Caracas and raising the risk it could be drawn into a US–Venezuela conflict. After the USS Gravelly docked in Port of Spain on October 26, 2025, for joint training with the TTDF, Venezuela's foreign minister accused T&T of renouncing its sovereignty, "turning its territory into a US aircraft carrier," and warned of potential "false flag" provocations. As US–Venezuela tensions rise, speculation about regime change grows, and T&T–US military cooperation deepens, Fitch maintains that continued US–T&T cooperation will increase the risk of retaliatory measures by the Maduro regime against T&T in the event of a US–Venezuela war. The USS Gravelly's visit follows growing speculation about US-backed regime change and a recent US Embassy advisory warning of a "heightened state of alert" at US facilities in T&T. Ongoing tensions in the region – and continued uncertainty on oil and gas development – raise above-ground risks for investors and headwinds to near-term investment. T&T's relationship with both the US and Venezuela remains crucial, especially for its energy sector, which has been facing insufficient natural gas production to provide feedstock gas for its petrochemical and LNG industries. In April 2025, the US revoked two key licences that permitted T&T to collaborate with Venezuela on offshore natural gas projects – specifically the Dragon and Cocuina–Manakin fields – to put pressure on Maduro. However, this decision was reversed on October 17, 2025, as the US reissued an updated OFAC licence for the Dragon field – a major win for T&T following its support for US operations in the Caribbean. Despite the potential economic upside that would come from increased gas production from the Dragon gas field, the possibility of military confrontation near T&T creates strong headwinds for inbound investment. In response, Venezuela has moved to suspend all energy cooperation. Despite renewed US authorisation for the Dragon gas field development, Venezuela's suspension of its energy cooperation agreement with T&T could derail the important project, with drilling now cancelled. However, some upside exists. Should T&T–US cooperation help counter the persistent flow of drugs and weapons into the country, there is the possibility of reduced domestic crime, which could help improve Trinidad and Tobago's business and investment climate, all things equal.

Source ~ BMI, A Fitch Solutions Company

How Exxonmobil's Next Proposed Project Could Strengthen Guyana's Economy

Exxon Mobil's proposed Longtail Development is expected to stand apart from its earlier ventures as it is designed to focus mainly on gas and condensate production instead of crude oil. If approved, Longtail will mark the first time ExxonMobil develops a major non-associated gas field in the country, bringing a range of potential benefits for the Guyanese economy. The project will bring together the Longtail, Tripletail, and Turbot discoveries, which were made between 2017 and 2019. Together, they are projected to produce about one billion cubic feet of gas per day and around 250,000 barrels of condensate per day, based on the project's design rates. Condensate is a clear, water-like hydrocarbon that yields high-value fuels such as gasoline and jet fuel when refined. Because of its light composition, it can attract a market premium over heavier crude oils, depending on refining demand and global supply conditions. If this moves forward, the Longtail development will include a floating production, storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel with a storage capacity of two million barrels of condensate. This vessel will offload every three to five days. The offshore system is expected to feature between 24 and 60 wells, along with subsea manifolds and injection systems. Initially, the gas will be processed and reinjected into the reservoir to help maintain pressure and increase condensate recovery. Later, when re-injection is no longer needed, the gas will be exported.

The estimated cost of the project is about US\$12.5Bn. It will be located to the east of ExxonMobil's other developments in the Stabroek Block and designed to operate for about 30 years. This lifespan is longer than the company's oil projects, since gas production takes place more slowly and involves recycling gas to recover as much condensate as possible. If approved, Longtail will eventually connect to other offshore facilities and to the Gas-to-Energy pipeline. This will allow gas from the project to be supplied for domestic use as the local energy market grows. According to ExxonMobil Guyana President Alistair Routledge, this connection will help integrate Guyana's offshore resources into the country's wider development goals. Like previous projects, Longtail will bring economic benefits through job creation and business opportunities. It will employ workers in engineering, logistics, and other service areas, while further strengthening local supply chains that have developed under Guyana's Local Content Act. Increased activity will also mean higher government

revenues, which can be used to fund national development projects. These revenues will give the government greater flexibility to invest in areas such as education, renewable energy, and digital technology.

International News

Canada's GDP Contracts in August, Might Avoid a Recession in the Third Quarter

Canada's GDP contracted in August against a consensus estimate of flat growth, data showed on Friday, and an advance estimate suggested the economy might escape a recession in the third quarter. The economy shrank by 0.3% in August following upwardly revised growth of 0.3% in the prior month, Statistics Canada said, effectively nullifying any growth so far in the current quarter. An advance indicator suggested that the monthly GDP would likely expand by 0.1% in September, taking the total annualised growth of the third quarter to 0.4%. However, the advance estimate is not always accurate and could change. The annualised quarterly estimate is based on industrial output data, while StatsCan will publish the annualised quarterly GDP based on income and expenditure. A likely growth in GDP in the third quarter, which hinges on the economy boosting its output in September, means Canada could avoid slipping into recession. Two quarterly contractions in a row are considered to constitute a recession.

Canada's GDP had shrunk in the second quarter by 1.6% as the impact of tariffs and general trade uncertainty reduced exports and hurt growth. The manufacturing sector, which is the hardest hit due to U.S. tariffs and accounts for almost a tenth of the GDP, contracted by 0.5% in August, data showed. The biggest drop, however, was seen in mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction, which contracted by 0.7%, primarily due to a 1.2% drop in metal ore mining and a 5% drop in coal mining. Within the services sector, the main contractions were seen in transportation and warehousing, in part because of an airline strike, as well as wholesale trade. However, growth in retail trade and real estate and rental and leasing helped offset some of the drop in the sector.

Source ~ Reuters

Fed's Waller Calls for December Rate Cut, As Hawks Press for Policy Pause

A clutch of Federal Reserve bank presidents on Friday, October 31, 2025, aired their discomfort with the U.S. central bank's decision to cut interest rates last week, even as influential Fed Governor Christopher Waller made the case for more policy easing to shore up a weakening labour market. This yawning divide within the Fed's policymaking ranks poses a challenge for Jerome Powell in forging a consensus in his final six months as the chair. While it is not unusual for Fed policymakers to differ on policy, particularly when the economic data is mixed, the frank expression of that disagreement and the explicit focus on what the Fed ought to do at its next meeting, on December 9-10, was striking. "I did not see a need to cut rates this week," Dallas Fed President Lorie Logan told a banking conference. "I'd find it difficult to cut rates again in December unless there is clear evidence that inflation will fall faster than expected or that the labour market will cool more rapidly." Waller, who has a permanent vote and is among the candidates President Donald Trump is considering naming Fed chair when Powell's term is up in May, told the very opposite story. "The biggest concern we have right now is the labour market. We know inflation is going to come back down, so this is why I'm still advocating that we cut policy rates in December, because that's what all the data is telling me to do." Waller and Logan both said Trump's tariffs are unlikely to cause a jump in inflation, but while Waller felt that adds to the case for rate cuts, Logan said she was still worried about service prices. They also agreed that the lack of official economic data during the government shutdown does not create a fog of uncertainty, as Powell had signalled earlier this week, which could be a reason for pausing rate cuts. Logan said private-sector data, state-level unemployment claims and the Fed's own business and community surveys gave "visibility" into the state of the economy, and backed her view that the labour market is not cooling fast enough to need the Fed's support, particularly with inflation too high and taking too long to come down toward the Fed's 2% target.

Source ~ Reuters

NCB Capital Markets Ltd (formerly Edward Gayle and Co.) established in 1968 is Jamaica's oldest stockbrokerage. The company became a part of the National Commercial Bank (NCB) Group in 1994 and a fully owned subsidiary in October 2002. In December 2002, the then Edward Gayle and Co. was merged with another NCB subsidiary, NCB Investments. The products distributed by this combined subsidiary cover the traditional money market product offerings (J\$ and US\$ Repos), primary dealer services, stock brokerage and investment advisory services. Edward Gayle was renamed NCB Capital Markets Ltd. in October 2003.

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