

# ▶ Market Guide

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"Only buy something that you'd be perfectly happy to hold if the market shut down for 10 years." — Warren Buffet. "

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## When Global Conflict Hits Home: How the War in Iran Could Affect Jamaica's Economy

You'd be forgiven for thinking we had finally beaten the post Hurricane Melissa inflation surge, and more rate cuts were on the horizon. The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) cut its policy rates by 25 basis points on February 23 sighting faster-than-expected improvement in food price inflation. Added to that, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) confirmed, just this week, that consumer prices are down for the 2nd consecutive month, with point-to-point inflation at 3.9% for the month of February. But the war in Iran is showing that such notions may be premature. Higher energy and fertiliser prices threaten key inflation drivers and could change the BOJ's rate cut calculus. In today's article, we'll explore how the war in Iran could reignite inflationary pressures in Jamaica and what it may mean for interest rates.

The US-Israeli war on Iran is causing shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint through which nearly 20% of global oil, liquified natural gas (LNG), and a third of the world's fertiliser passes. Consequently, global oil, LNG and fertiliser prices have spiked, which could ignite local inflationary pressures on many fronts. Brent crude, a key benchmark for global oil prices, has surged by 39.3% to above US\$100 per barrel for the first time since the early stages of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022 (See Chart 1). Similarly, LNG benchmark prices, as measured by Henry Hub, have trended higher by 8.7%, while key nitrogen-based fertilisers, particularly Urea, have recorded sharp increases, with prices rising by approximately 35.0% since the strikes on Iran began on February 28. Prices pulled back temporarily, owing to the Trump administration's attempts to reassure markets that the conflict

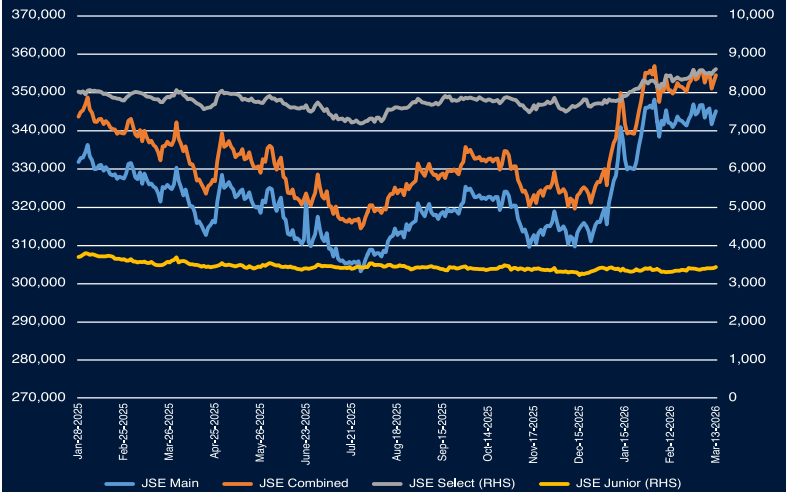
will last only a few weeks, the release of strategic oil reserves to ensure adequate supply<sup>1</sup> and measures to safeguard shipping routes. However, with prices remaining elevated, a protracted conflict could trigger a broad commodity shock that raises real risks to the inflation trajectory for Jamaica and its key import source markets.

With Jamaica importing nearly all its fuel needs, the oil and LNG price spikes will likely be felt at the pump, in electricity bills and in transportation costs – all major inflation drivers. Petrojam data as of March 12, 2026, is already showing the early impact of the war on fuel prices at the pump, with the average retail price of petroleum products rising by approximately 5.8% since February 28, 2026. This is the sharpest short-term increase since the Russia-Ukraine war in 2022 (See Chart 2) and reflects the rapid pass-through of higher global crude prices into Jamaica's domestic fuel market and ultimately transportation costs. Electricity costs, another key component of Jamaica's inflation basket, could also feel the burn. Given that local electricity generation relies heavily on imported petroleum-based fuels and LNG<sup>2</sup>, and fuel charges constitute over 50% of electricity bills, persistently high oil and LNG prices would likely translate into higher electricity bills for consumers and businesses alike and push inflation upward. During the early stages of the Russia-Ukraine war, Jamaica experienced notable upward pressure on electricity costs as international oil and natural gas price spikes were transmitted directly into local fuel rates for power generation. At the time, the BOJ highlighted in its March 2022 Summary of Monetary Policy Discussion and Decision that higher international oil prices

1 The International Energy Agency (IEA) agreed to a historic coordinated release of approximately 400 Mn barrels of oil from member countries' strategic reserves, the largest emergency stock drawdown in the agency's history, aimed at dampening one of the most severe oil market disruptions.

2 Approximately 60% of Jamaica's electricity is generated from LNG.

### WEEKLY MOVEMENT IN INDICES



### MOVEMENT IN INDICES

JSE Indices	Closing Levels	WoW % Change	YTD % Change
Combined Index	354,314.85	+0.56%	+7.88%
Main Market Index	344,907.90	+0.49%	+8.47%
Select Index	8,591.51	+1.17%	+11.93%
Junior Market Index	3,416.68	+1.55%	+0.45%

### WINNERS & LOSERS FOR THE WEEK ENDED MARCH 13, 2026

	\$ Change	% Change
FESCO	+\$0.96	+27.5%
PBSUSD	+\$0.24	+24.0%
FIRSTROCK	-\$1.88	-20.9%
138SLVR	-\$47.34	-19.6%

### MARKET OVERVIEW

Last week, trading activity on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) produced mixed outcomes, as market volumes declined for the second consecutive week, even as total market value traded increased. Market volume totalled 108.43Mn units, a 30.6% week-over-week (WoW) reduction; however, the value of units traded jumped by 52.5% to J\$985.87Mn. Of the 127 stocks that traded 50 stocks advanced, 68 declined, and 9 held firm. The volume leaders were Kintyre Holdings (JA) Limited (KNTYR) with 21.56Mn units (18.07%), TransJamaican Highway Ltd. (TJH) with 14.32Mn units (12.09%) and Future Energy Source Company Ltd with 10.25Mn (8.59%), which together account for 38.7% of volumes.

All sub-indices ended the week higher with the exception of the JSE Cross-Listed Index. Buoyed by an 8.9% increase in the share price of West Indies Petroleum, the Combined Index inched up 0.6%. Given the company's significant market capitalization within the index, the move materially influenced the index's overall performance. In the absence of company-specific financial releases, the rally likely reflected speculative momentum following recent government updates regarding offshore oil and gas exploration surveys in Jamaica's territorial waters. To a lesser extent, Sagicor Group Jamaica Ltd. (SJ) also contributed (+3.1%) as investors appeared to respond to a news release surrounding its final dividend payment for the 2025 financial year. That said, the strongest gains were recorded in the JSE USD Equities Index (+2.3%) and the Junior Market Index (+1.6%). The rise in the USD Equities Index was largely driven by a 24.0% increase in the share price of PBS Solutions Company Ltd. (PBS). There was no news to support this movement. Meanwhile, the Junior Market's performance was supported by a 27.5% surge in FESCO's share price as investors appear to be responding to the relative undervaluation of the stock compared to its energy sector peers. The sole laggard for the week was the JSE Cross-Listed Index with a 0.3% contraction. This was mainly driven by a 1.4% decline in Guardian Holdings Ltd. (GHL) ordinary shares which erased the 11.9% share price gain in Eppley Caribbean Property Fund Ltd. (CPFV). There were no news releases supporting these price movements.

during the Russia-Ukraine conflict were transmitted to domestic prices, contributing to inflationary pressures.

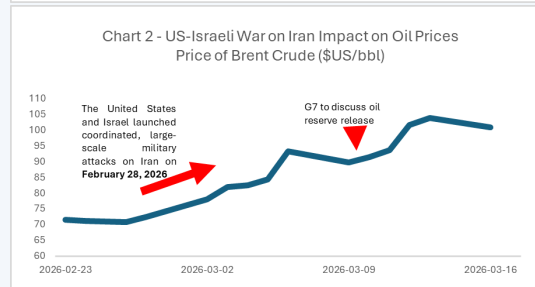
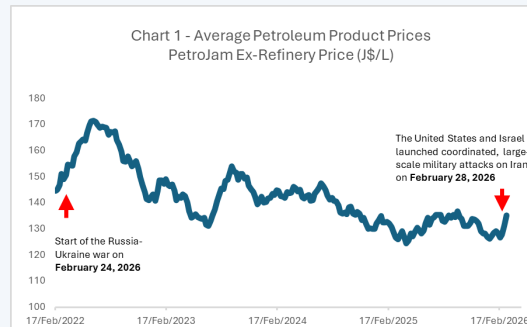
Fuel and electricity costs aside, if fertiliser prices stay elevated and trade disruptions persist, inflation risk from the war could also materialise in food prices, another key component of Jamaica's inflation basket. Higher fertiliser prices, supply chain disruptions and rising shipping insurance premiums could increase input costs and contribute to higher domestic food prices. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), roughly one-third of global fertiliser trade transits the Strait of Hormuz, including large volumes of nitrogen exports. With Jamaica importing most<sup>3</sup> of its fertiliser, this would directly affect agriculture and food prices. Moreover, disrupted trade lanes could reduce empty container availability, tightening export capacity in other markets, including North America. As a result, retailers face higher inbound logistics costs and potential inventory delays, often translating into higher shelf prices or tighter margins, similar to the early-stage impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war, when cargo delays and rising shipping costs affected domestic supply. For consumers, this could translate to elevated costs for agricultural produce as well as everyday items such as packaged foods.

With the war in Iran stoking the flames that could reignite inflationary pressures, the BOJ's policy stance has likely shifted from one of cautious optimism to increased vigilance. On February 23, 2026, the BOJ reduced its benchmark rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%, signalling a cautious shift toward monetary easing, following the earlier-than-expected deceleration in inflation post-Hurricane Melissa. This was further reinforced by data from STATIN that February 2026 CPI declined by 0.9% for the month, albeit moderated by a 0.2% increase in the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels index (HWEG), with annual point-to-point inflation holding firm at 3.9%. However, the sudden rise in global energy and fertiliser prices and the potential for supply chain disruptions add another layer of uncertainty, mere weeks ahead of the Bank's next policy rate decision scheduled for March 31, 2026. With the BOJ's precedent of choosing caution when the Russia-Ukraine war erupted, a policy rate hold is likely on the cards. That said, a rate hike is unlikely at this stage; however, if the war escalates,

**With the BOJ's precedent of choosing caution when the Russia-Ukraine war erupted, a policy rate hold is likely on the cards.**

causes a prolonged shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz, and pushes inflation to breach the upper limit of the BOJ's 4–6% target range, that could change.

Rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East may be unfolding thousands of miles away, but their economic ripple effects are already beginning to surface across global energy markets and supply chains. For Jamaica, where fuel imports play a central role in electricity generation, transportation, and production costs, sustained increases in oil prices could place renewed pressure on inflation and interest rate outlooks. While a policy rate pause is on the cards when the BOJ next decides, future decisions will depend on the length and scope of the conflict.



<sup>3</sup> Jamaica's imports of fertilisers was US\$ \$8.69Mn during 2024, according to the Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC).

## Foreign Exchange Market

The Jamaican dollar (JMD) depreciated slightly in trading last week. On March 13th, it took \$0.68 more JMD to purchase one United States dollar (US\$1) than at the close of trading on March 6th. This marginal softening reflects increased demand for foreign currency from key foreign exchange-earners including tourism, mining, and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO).

Selling	Close: 06/3/2026	Close: 13/3/2026	Change
J\$/US\$1	\$157.48	\$158.16	<b>\$0.68</b>
J\$/CDN\$1	\$116.31	\$116.99	<b>\$0.68</b>
J\$/GBP£1	\$210.75	\$211.95	<b>\$1.20</b>

## Global Bond Prices

Last week, global markets digested new economic data which offered a mixed view of the U.S. economy. Economic growth was much slower than expected in the final three months of 2025 while core inflation rose to start 2026, the Commerce Department reported Friday. Gross domestic product (GDP), a measure of all the goods and services produced across the sprawling U.S. economy, rose at a seasonally and inflation-adjusted annual rate of just 0.7% in the fourth quarter. The first revision of the GDP reading was a sharp step down from the previous estimate of 1.4% and well below the Dow Jones consensus forecast for 1.5%. It also marked a considerable slowdown from the 4.4% gain in the prior period, hampered by a record-long government shutdown that saw government spending tumble 16.7%. For the full year ended 2025, GDP posted a 2.1% increase, or one-tenth of a percentage point lower than the previous reading. January reading for inflation were mostly in line with estimates, though they showed price increases running well ahead of Federal Reserve (Fed) targeted level. The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, the Fed's primary forecasting tool for inflation, posted a seasonally adjusted gain of 0.3% for the month, putting the annual rate at 2.8%. Stripping out volatile food and energy costs, the core PCE inflation rose 0.4% in January and 3.1% on a 12-month basis. The core reading was 0.1 percentage point higher than December. Earlier in the week, the Bureau of Labour Statistics reported headline CPI rate of 2.4% and core at 2.5% for February, the latter being the lowest reading since March 2021 though still above the Fed's 2% target. Though the numbers are dated, they nonetheless provide a snapshot of inflation pressures and economic growth heading into the Supreme Court decision voiding many of President Donald Trump's tariffs that he exercised under provisions in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The report also predates the Feb. 28 attacks that the U.S. and Israel launched against Iran. Energy prices have surged in the nearly two weeks since the conflict began, with the Brent crude international benchmark touching \$100 a barrel Thursday. Of note, Iran's new supreme leader pledged to keep the Strait of Hormuz effectively closed while Tehran intensified attacks on regional oil and transport facilities, sending oil prices to their highest levels since 2022 and stoking fears of an energy-driven inflationary spiral. Overall, the inflation data "tells us that the inflation picture wasn't looking good even before the Middle East crisis,"

said Sonu Varghese, chief macro strategist for the Carson Group. "An already large headache for the Federal Reserve is going to turn into an even larger one, and it's likely the Fed will not cut rates in 2026 and may even start talking about rate hikes later this year." The central bank will issue its next rate decision Wednesday and markets are assigning a near 100% probability that the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee will remain on hold.

Markets were quick to react as U.S. Treasury yields remained elevated with the 10-year Treasury yield trading at 4.28% at the close of Friday, which indicates a 13-basis point gain as investors balanced signs of moderating inflation against slowing economic growth and geopolitical risks. Emerging market (EM) bonds also weakened broadly during the week, as rising U.S. yields and escalating geopolitical tensions fuelled risk-off sentiment and capital outflows from higher-risk assets.

Bonds	Currency Rating	Indicative Price	Yield	Recommendation
Amazon (4.65%) 2035 <b>(NEW)</b> <sup>4</sup>	AA-/Stable	\$101.50	4.46%	<b>BUY</b>
Bahamas (6.00%) 2028	BB-/Stable	\$103.00	4.78%	<b>BUY</b>
Bahamas (6.63%) 2033	BB-/Stable	\$104.50	5.84%	<b>BUY</b>
Bahamas (6.95%) 2029	BB-/Stable	\$104.75	5.50%	<b>BUY</b>
Bahamas (8.25%) 2036	BB-/Stable	\$111.75	6.65%	<b>BUY</b>
Bahamas (8.95%) 2032	BB-/Stable	\$114.75	6.18%	<b>BUY</b>
Bahamas (9.00%) 2029	BB-/Stable	\$110.75	5.33%	<b>BUY</b>
Barbados (8.00%) 2035	B+/Stable	\$107.50	6.89%	<b>BUY</b>
Blackstone (6.00%) 2032	BBB-/Positive	\$99.75	6.05%	<b>BUY</b>
Minerva (4.88%) 2031	BB/Stable	\$85.65	5.36%	<b>BUY</b>
DOMREP (5.75%) 2034 <b>(NEW ISSUE)</b> <sup>5</sup>	BB/Stable	\$100.00	5.75%	<b>BUY</b>
DOMREP (5.88%) 2035	BB/Stable	\$100.00	5.87%	<b>BUY</b>
DOMREP (6.15%) 2038 <b>(NEW ISSUE)</b> <sup>6</sup>	BB/Stable	\$99.75	6.18%	<b>BUY</b>
DOMREP (6.95%) 2037	BB/Stable	\$106.75	6.10%	<b>BUY</b>
DOMREP (8.63%) 2027	BB/Stable	\$105.50	3.37%	<b>BUY</b>

<sup>4</sup> Issuer- Amazon Inc Industry-Retailers, Type- Senior Unsecured, Callable-Yes, Coupon Rate- 4.65%, Coupon Payment- Semi-annually, Maturity - November 20, 2035, Risk Profile - Conservative

<sup>5</sup> Issuer- Government of the Dominican Republic, Type- Senior Unsecured, Callable-Yes, Coupon Rate- 5.75%, Coupon Payment- Semi-annually, Maturity - March 17, 2034, Risk Profile - Moderate

<sup>6</sup> Issuer- Government of the Dominican Republic, Type- Senior Unsecured, Callable-Yes, Coupon Rate- 6.15%, Coupon Payment- Semi-annually, Maturity - May 17, 2038, Risk Profile - Moderate

Bonds	Currency Rating	Indicative Price	Yield	Recommendation
Goldman Sachs Private Credit (5.875%) 2031	BBB-/ Stable	\$101.00	5.64%	BUY
Kingston Airport Revenue (6.75%) 2036	BB+/ Stable	\$104.75	6.14%	BUY
Marex (6.404%) 2029	BBB-/ Positive	\$106.00	4.58%	BUY
NCBFG (11.0%) 2030	B+/Stable	\$105.24	9.15%	
NRG (3.88%) 2032	BB+/ Stable	\$95.75	4.71%	BUY
NRG (6%) 2033	BB+/ Stable	\$104.00	5.30%	BUY
NRG (6.25%) 2034	BB+/ Stable	\$104.75	5.55%	BUY
Petro Rio (6.75%) 2030	BB-/ Positive	\$102.25	6.18%	BUY
TRANSJAM (5.75%) 2036	BB/ Positive	\$97.25	6.10%	BUY
Trinidad and Tobago (6.50%) 2036 <b>(NEW ISSUE)<sup>7</sup></b>	BBB-/ Negative	\$104.00	5.96%	BUY
XYZ (6.00%) 2033	BBB-/ Positive	\$101.75	5.71%	BUY
BANORTE(5.75%) 2031	Baa2/ Negative	\$103.00	5.12%	SELL
FRICON (7.7%) 2028	B/Stable	\$47.00	47.56%	SELL
NFE (6.5%) 2026	CCC-/RWN	\$19.50	791.51%	SELL

Prices and yields are indicative. For further information on the recommendations outlined in this publication, including suitability considerations and detailed investment insights, clients are encouraged to contact their NCB Capital Markets Wealth Advisor. Your Wealth Advisor can provide personalised guidance aligned with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and portfolio strategy. Additionally, see Disclaimer on page 9.

## GOJ Globals

Ticker	Maturity	Bid	Offer Yield*
JAMAN	2028	102.70	4.21%
	2036	116.00	6.31%
	2039	118.75	5.81%
	2045	118.50	6.22%

\*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 (NCBCLM) 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

Liquidity in the JMD money market increased, as measured by the aggregated current balances held by Deposit-Taking Institutions (DTIs). As at March 13, 2026, the total aggregate current balance amounted to J\$76.98Bn, marking a 21.3% decrease compared to the previous week.

Demand for money market instruments remained healthy, as shown by the oversubscription of the Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) weekly 30-day Certificate of Deposit (CD) auctions. Total bids amounted to J\$33.47Bn, 15.4% above the \$29.0Bn issue size, implying a bid-to-offer ratio of 1.2x, up from 1.1x previously. The average yield on the 30-day CD Auction was 5.74%, 1 basis point above the 5.73% recorded in the previous week. The next CD auction is scheduled for March 18th, 2026.

The Bank of Jamaica also conducted a 14-day repo auction last week on a smaller scale, offering J\$1.0Bn in liquidity. Total bids reached J\$2.0Bn, resulting in a bid-to-offer ratio of 2.0x, broadly in line with the previous repo auction on February 23. The average yield settled at 5.56%, representing a 14-basis point decline compared with the prior auction.

<sup>7</sup>Issuer - Government of Trinidad & Tobago, Type - Senior Unsecured, Callable - Yes, Coupon Rate - 6.50%, Coupon Payment - Semi-annually, Maturity - January 28, 2038, Risk Profile - Moderate

# Dates to watch this week

■ International ■ Local

March 2026				
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
16	17	18	19	20
NCBFG Dividend Payment Date (J\$0.50/share) CPI Release (February)		U.S. PPI (MoM) (Feb) U.S. Fed Rate Interest Rate Decision	BoE Interest Rate Decision U.S. Initial Jobless Claims	

MARCH 18, 2026

## Recommendations

JSE Ticker	Closing Price (March 17, 2026)	P/E	Avg. Sector P/E	Current Recommendation
CCC	\$102.72	14.8x	19.5x	BUY
SVL	\$17.11	24.4x	24.4x	BUY

Prices and yields are indicative. For further information on the recommendations outlined in this publication, including suitability considerations and detailed investment insights, clients are encouraged to contact their NCB Capital Markets Wealth Advisor. Your Wealth Advisor can provide personalised guidance aligned with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and portfolio strategy. Additionally, see Disclaimer on page 9.

Fund	Fund Composition	Price/NAV\$	12 Month Growth Rate	YTD Growth Rate	Yield (Estimated Yearly Income)
NCB Capital Markets Limited (NCB CAPFUNDS)			NAV *AS AT MARCH 13, 2026		
O Money Market Fund (M Fund)	F	16.4803	6.03%	1.35%	4.95%
O Income Optimizer Fund (iO Fund) ◇	F	15.5946	6.54%	1.23%	3.99%
Caribbean Equity Fund (E Fund) †	E	26.5875	-6.95%	0.23%	7.84%
◇ Real Estate Fund (rE Fund) †	R, F	17.5181	21.37%	3.36%	2.62%
O USD Money Market Fund (xM Fund)	F	1.2416	3.46%	0.56%	2.19%
O USD Bond Fund (xB Fund)	F	1.3474	2.99%	0.42%	3.03%

Key: O = Tax Free (special conditions apply) · □ = Tax Free · † = Sales commission/front end fee up to 2% · ◇ = Non-Diversified Unit Trust · F/E/R = Fixed Income, Equity, Real Estate

06

MARKET GUIDE

## Regional News

### Guyana Oil Fund got US\$253 Million in February

Guyana's Natural Resource Fund (NRF) received US\$253 million (GY\$53 billion) in February from the sale of the government's share of crude produced offshore, continuing the steady inflow of oil revenues into the country's sovereign wealth fund. The deposit represents proceeds from crude cargoes marketed on behalf of the government under the Stabroek Block production sharing agreement, through which Guyana receives a portion of profit oil along with a 2% royalty on production, with those barrels sold internationally and the proceeds transferred to the NRF. Although the government plans to withdraw US\$2.37 billion (GY\$495 billion) from the fund in tranches during 2026, no withdrawals were made in January or February, leaving the fund balance at US\$3.82 billion (GY\$796 billion) at the end of February, according to the Bank of Guyana. Oil revenues are expected to increase further this year as production expands and export volumes rise, with the government projecting 309 crude lifts in 2026, up from 260 cargoes in 2025, each averaging about one million barrels, resulting in an estimated US\$2.79 billion in oil revenues from sales and royalties. Production growth continues to underpin these inflows, as ExxonMobil averaged roughly 716,000 barrels per day (b/d) in 2025 and later expanded capacity to over 900,000 b/d following the stabilization of the Yellowtail project. Currently, four floating production vessels—Liza Destiny, Liza Unity, Prosperity, and ONE GUYANA—are operating in the Stabroek Block, with another vessel, Errea Wittu, expected to begin production later this year, further increasing output capacity.

Source ~ OIL Now

### NGC Signs Gas Supply Contract with PLNL to Secure Ammonia Production

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) has signed a new gas sales contract with Point Lisas Nitrogen Ltd (PLNL) to ensure the continued supply of natural gas to the company's ammonia plant, a move described by NGC as a significant milestone for both parties. Acting President Edmund Subryan noted that the agreement represents an "economically suitable outcome" and reinforces NGC's commitment to providing a reliable and competitively priced gas supply to downstream petrochemical customers. PLNL operates a globally competitive facility producing anhydrous ammonia for international markets, and the contract will support ongoing production, enabling the company to meet its contractual obligations while contributing to national revenue generation. Subryan added that balancing stakeholder interests requires continued dialogue and cooperation, emphasizing NGC's intention to strengthen its partnership with PLNL as part of broader efforts to sustain a resilient domestic downstream energy sector. NGC Chairman Gerald Ramdeen also highlighted that the agreement underscores the stability and long-term strength of Trinidad and Tobago's

petrochemical industry, noting that NGC remains mindful of its role as the country's aggregator and supplier of natural gas and as the state entity responsible for maximizing value from the nation's gas resources, with the contract serving as an indicator of the sector's resilience and permanence.

Source ~ Trinidad Express

## International News

### Hedge Funds 'Aggressively' Short Financial Stocks, Says Goldman

President Donald Trump on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, officially nominated Kevin Warsh to be the next chairman of the Federal Reserve (Fed). Warsh, if confirmed by the Senate, would succeed Fed Chairman Jerome Powell for a four-year term. Trump's nomination was transmitted to the Senate, the White House said in a statement posted online on Wednesday. That transmittal came more than a month after Trump first publicly announced he wanted Warsh as the Fed chairman. Powell's term as chair ends in May, but he has two more years as a Fed governor. Usually, chairs resign their governor terms after their chair term ends. But it's unknown if he will. Additionally, Senator Thom Tillis said he would block Warsh's nomination in the Senate until the investigation of Powell is dropped. His stance could block the nomination from consideration by the Senate. "Protecting the independence of the Federal Reserve from political interference or legal intimidation is non-negotiable," Tillis said on X right after Trump announced Warsh was his pick. "My position has not changed: I will oppose the confirmation of any Federal Reserve nominee, including for the position of Chairman, until the DOJ's inquiry into Chairman Powell is fully and transparently resolved. "Warsh served on the Fed's board for five years, beginning in 2006, named by President George W. Bush. He serves as the Shepard Family Distinguished Visiting Fellow in Economics at the Hoover Institution and is a lecturer at the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is also a Partner at Duquesne Family Office, a New York investment firm founded by Stanley Druckenmiller.

Source ~ Reuters

### U.S. Deficit Tops \$1 Trillion Through February but Runs Below Year-Ago Pace

The U.S. budget deficit exceeded US\$1.00Tn for the fiscal year through February, according to U.S. Department of the Treasury data released Wednesday, though it was about 12% lower than the same period in 2025 as government revenues grew faster than spending. In February, outlays exceeded receipts by US\$308.00Bn, roughly matching the deficit recorded in the same month a year earlier. A key factor in narrowing the deficit was a surge in tariff collections, with customs duties totaling US\$151.00Bn in the first five months of the fiscal year,

up US\$113.00Bn, or 294%, from a year earlier. The recent Supreme Court ruling striking down many of President Donald Trump's tariffs has not yet affected these figures, likely due to previously collected duties still being processed, a surge in imports ahead of the ruling, and potential questions over refunds on prior collections, while new tariffs imposed since the decision could further boost revenues. Corporate tax receipts fell sharply by US\$27.00Bn, or 17%, from a year ago, and for the fiscal year to date, tariff revenues have exceeded corporate tax collections, an unusual occurrence. Elevated interest rates also continue to strain the federal budget, with net interest payments on the nearly US\$39.00Tn national debt totaling US\$79.00Bn in February, ranking only behind Social Security, income security programs (such as unemployment insurance, housing assistance, and food aid), and health care expenditures.

Source ~ CNBC

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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#### Important Disclosures:

The views expressed in this report are the views of NCB Capital Markets Ltd at the date of this report.

In accordance with Section 39 (l) of the Securities Act of 1993, NCB Capital Markets Limited hereby states that it is a subsidiary of NCB Financial Group Limited and to that extent may be regarded as interested in the acquisition or disposal of the shares of NCB Financial Group Limited. However, the company acts in a proper and professional manner in making any recommendations regarding shares listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange. Share prices may fluctuate and past performance is not necessarily a guarantee of future returns.