JULY 2023

Barita 45TH ANNIVERSARY

EDITION #1

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

June 30th, 2023

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
WISYNCO Wisynco Group Limited	P/E: 14.18x P/B: 3.25x Price: $18.01 Div Yield: 2.22%	**OVERWEIGHT** Throughout the pandemic, Wisynco has managed to improve its operational efficiency but given the effects of COVID-19 on industries such as tourism and education, the Company was unable to deliver significant revenue growth. Now, with tourism rebounding and schools operating at a greater level, Wisynco has married its improved operational efficiency with stronger revenue growth, allowing for significant net profit growth. As tourism is expected to continue growing towards its pre-pandemic level of output, we expect Wisynco to continue to perform well. Wisynco Equity Report
JMMBGL JMMB Group Limited	P/E: 7.92x P/B: 1.27x Price: $31.11 Div Yield 0.80%	**OVERWEIGHT** Given its relatively low P/E ratio and considering the Group's consistently strong performance throughout the pandemic, the market has been underpricing JMMBGL significantly relative to its local counterparts. JMMBGL's price has declined by 5.8% YTD which provides investors with an opportunity to acquire JMMBGL shares at a more attractive price. The long-term outlook for the company and the stock remains favorable, buoyed by an expanding regional footprint. In July JMMBGL closed on its acquisition of a commercial bank in the Dominican Republic (DR) which now enables the company to offer a full range of financial services in the market. The DR operations currently contributes 17% of net operating revenue and we will be keen to watch the effect of the expansion to JMMBGL's performance over the next few quarters. JMMB Equity Report
MASSY Massy Holdings Limited	P/E: 10.42x P/B: 1.23x Price: $99.01 Div Yield 3.54%	**OVERWEIGHT** Massy Holdings Limited. (MHL, Massy), through its portfolio companies, engages in trading, manufacturing, distribution, and service industry businesses throughout the Caribbean region. The company operates through three portfolios: Integrated Retail, Gas Products, Motors, and Machine and two business lines: Financial Services, and Strategic and Other Investments. In financial year 2020, Massy transitioned from a Conglomerate to an Investment Holding Company. By so doing, Massy's strategy has changed, with the Group focusing mainly on its core portfolios. These core areas of the business represent Massy's competitive advantages, are well-positioned to scale, and are therefore expected to drive strategic growth going forward. Massy Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY
Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT
Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD
Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

SELL
Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
LASD Lasco Distributors	P/E: 9.08x P/B: 1.46x Price: $3.50 Div Yield 2.57%	**OVERWEIGHT** Lasco Distributors has continued its growth trajectory, displaying resilience throughout the pandemic, and we expect this to continue post-pandemic supported by the improving economic backdrop of the global economy. As continued domestic demand for goods and services remain strong, the company is also looking to strengthen its exports as well as continue to launch new product lines. However, this isn't without challenges as global supply shocks has affected LASD's gross margins. In response, management has prudently managed operational costs such that higher imported inflationary costs has not completely eroded the bottom line, resulting in continued growth. Lasco Distributors Equity Report
SCIJMD/SCIUSD Sygnus Credit Investments	P/E: 9.25x / 13.00x P/B: 0.71x / 1.0x Price: $12.66 / $0.12 Div Yield: 3.17% / 2.24%	**OVERWEIGHT** Sygnus' business model is built on providing capital and direction to the underbanked, targeting the middle market. To accomplish this, the Company has executed several capital raises involving equity, preference shares and debt raise. Sygnus has demonstrated their commitment to growth and being the market leader in the regional private credit space with their acquisition of a Puerto Rico-based, private credit firm, Acrecent Financial in Q3 of their financial year. This acquisition has significantly added to the group's income and overall profitability. The stock trades at significant discount relative to peers both from a P/E perspective and a P/B perspective. At present, given Sygnus' strong current and expected future growth, the market is pricing Sygnus at a steep discount to its book value per share. Sygnus Credit Investments Equity Report
TROPICAL Tropical Battery Limited	P/E: 12.83x P/B: 2.41x Price: $1.95 Div Yield 1.03%	**OVERWEIGHT** Tropical Battery has been aggressively pursuing revenue diversification strategies, to reduce its dependence on auto battery and accessory sales. This is evident by the company's recent launch of three new subsidiaries aimed at providing renewable energy solutions for commercial customers. In addition, the company recently implemented a new inventory management system that has yielded improved operational efficiencies in addition to targeted sales initiatives that have improved revenue growth. We believe that the Company will continue to grow as they build out new revenue lines, improve operational efficiencies and drive targeted sales initiatives. Tropical Battery Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
PROVENJMD/ PROVENUSD Proven Group Limited	P/E: 20.20x / 21.09x P/B: 0.82x / 0.81x Price: $23.03 / $0.16 Div Yield: 3.52% / 3.29%	**OVERWEIGHT** Proven has shown a decline in profitability throughout the current financial year, a performance driven by lower share of earnings of associates and higher operating expenses. The company continues to demonstrate its appetite for growth through acquisitions as evidenced by the recent 100% acquisition of Fidelity Bank (Cayman). The company has a history of acquiring companies with accretive value. We expect that profit margins will improve in the future as one-off spending related to recent acquisitions pass.
LUMBER Lumber Depot Limited	P/E: 10.48x P/B: 2.83x Price: $2.2 Div Yield 2.36%	**OVERWEIGHT** Lumber represents an option to gain exposure to the construction sector which has been a relatively resilient and fast-growing sector. With this sector tailwind, lumber has shown strong revenue growth since its 2019 listing and the financial year 2022 revenue and net profit are 10.1% and 26.8% higher than financial year 2021 revenue and earnings, respectively. We are still monitoring how the company progresses given the loosening of restrictions and continued growth in the construction sector. We also note that despite the growth it has shown over the last 2 years, the stock still trades at an attractive PE compared to Junior market peers. Lumber Depot Equity Report
LAB The Limners and Bards Limited	P/E: 52.75x P/B: 3.55x Price: $2.11 Div Yield 4.28%	**OVERWEIGHT** The LAB saw strong demand for its services throughout the pandemic, with revenue growth of 35% in FY2021. For the latest financial year revenue grew by approximately 10%, an indication of continued demand for the Company's services. However, net profit declined by 7% primarily due to higher administration costs, currency translation losses and losses on "SCOPE Caribbean". To date, SCOPE has not been profitable which has negatively impacted the Lab's net profit growth. This is not abnormal for a new business, and we expect this should turnaround as the business scales. The 2022 FY was the first full operational year for SCOPE, which saw take up of its services offered while it continues to explore additional revenue streams. With the LAB consistently positive operating cash flows and a current cash balance that is 1.64x larger than the Company's current liabilities, we believe the Lab is poised to invest its capital efficiently towards further growth. The LAB Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
JBG **Jamaica Broilers Group Limited**	P/E: 7.59x P/B: 1.71x Price: $35.01 Div Yield 1.91%	**OVERWEIGHT** JBG's financial performance has rebounded nicely from the lows seen in FY2020, driven by the recovery in the Jamaican economy and tourist arrivals, coupled with JBG's growing presence in the US market and the increasing production of the Best Dressed Chicken line of products. The loss making Haiti operation has been discontinued which should contribute to improved margins in the coming quarters. Positive results from expansion into the United States and recovery in Jamaican operations, along with stringent cost control have contributed to the surge in profitability in the first half of the 2023 financial year. Jamaica Broilers Group Equity Report
SEP **Seprod Limited**	P/E: 16.66x P/B: 1.94x Price: $75.96 Div Yield 1.97%	**OVERWEIGHT** Seprod saw its financial performance surge for the 2022 financial year, owing to the strategic acquisition of AS Bryden, with revenues and net profit growing by 82% and 93% respectively. Going into the 2023 financial year, we expect easing of supply chain pressures, stability in commodity prices, and further consolidation of profits from AS Bryden to further lift net profits. Along with new products, Seprod also plans to aggressively target growth in export markets and is currently in the process of making necessary investments to increase capacity of its margarine plant. Seprod Limited Equity Report
LASM **Lasco Manufacturing**	P/E: 9.11x P/B: 1.71x Price: $4.59 Div Yield 2.18%	**OVERWEIGHT** We expect that the Company's growth trajectory will be sustained, however, in the short term, the financial results have seen an impact from the overall macroeconomic conditions since the pandemic. Margins across the board have been compressed despite record profitability in 2022. Despite continued record tourism arrivals and growth in key sectors such as entertainment, steps need to be taken to restore margin progression. Against this backdrop it is notable that inflationary pressures and supply issues that plagued the company from 2022 to the first quarter of this year will likely begin to ease in the spring of 2023, suggesting a rebound in net profit growth for the company moving forward beyond FY 2023. Plans to further expand its geographical footprint by driving the contribution of export to its revenue will be value-added to the long-term sustainability of the Company's operations Lasco Manufacturing Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
GK GraceKennedy Limited	P/E: 10.56x P/B: 1.05x Price: $78.99 Div Yield 2.56%	**MARKETWEIGHT** For the year ended December 31, 2022, GK reported significant top-line growth, however, margin deterioration contributed to a decline in the bottom line. Revenues increased by 10.5% while profits saw a 15.1% decline of flat as operating expenses grew at a faster rate than revenues. The company cited challenges presented by high inflation globally, sustained supply chain issues, increasing interest rates, and foreign currency volatility as issues that have affected profit margins. GK continues to advance its merger & acquisition (M&A) strategy, after it increased its stake in Catherine's Peak Bottling Company Limited in the first quarter of 2023 to move its ownership stake from 35% to 70%, thus granting them a stronger position in the spring water market. The company continues to seek M&A transactions locally and internationally. These acquisitions stand to add more diversity and growth to the company's earnings. GraceKennedy Group Equity Report
MAILPAC Mailpac Group Limited	P/E: 15.83x P/B: 7.45x Price: $1.90 Div Yield 8.95%	**MARKETWEIGHT** During the peak periods of the pandemic, MAILPAC benefited immensely as online shopping became a larger share of shoppers' wallets. In large part, this period of heavy demand driven by pandemic restrictions has passed and while we anticipate online shopping will remain integral for the everyday consumer, the outsized growth we witnessed in FY2020 and FY2021 will not be repeated. Admittedly, the Company has a robust balance sheet with more cash than total liabilities which we believe places MAILPAC in a position to make growth-inducing investments. However, the current slowdown in demand and consequently revenue and profit growth underscores our MARKETWEIGHT recommendation Mailpac Group Equity Report
SGJ Scotia Group Jamaica Limited	P/E: 7.48x P/B: 0.95x Price: $33.44 Div Yield 4.19%	**MARKETWEIGHT** The greatest driver of profitability in FY2021 was the reduction of Expected Credit Losses (ECL) relative to the previous year as the economic backdrop improved. Scotia is not likely to have this benefit recur to the magnitude it did in FY2021. The group has made an accelerated effort to digitize its business in line with its digital strategy to drive efficiency and better service customer needs. SGJ is looking to further consolidate its operations and funnel investments in core operations through technology and talent, while also looking to enter new markets and launch new products. Scotia has two major positives. The first is that the current rising interest rate environment supports the Group's bank model, more so than other listed financial institutions. The second is that SGJ is a consistent source of relatively attractive dividends which makes the Company a good asset for investors with a clear preference for income. Scotia Group Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
FTNA Fontana Limited	P/E: 17.20x P/B: 5.05x Price: $10.49 Div Yield 1.91%	**MARKETWEIGHT** Fontana has been growing and expanding since listing on the junior exchange in 2019. The Company has plans to expand, which include a new outlet to bring its footprint to a total of seven locations. In its most recent quarter, Net Profit saw a 32.7% increase over the same quarter in the prior financial year. Further, the cost of sales has been impacted given the current inflationary environment and is likely to continue being affected in the near to medium term. However, the company continues to grow organically and is financially positioned to do so. Due to the current environment and increased finance costs, profitability could dampen in the near term but in the long term, the addition of its new outlet could support growth. On balance, the Company has both significant risks and the potential for upside, which underscores our recommendation. Fontana Equity Report
SVL **Supreme Ventures Limited**	P/E: 28.75x P/B: 12.67x Price: $29.97 Div Yield 3.10%	**MARKETWEIGHT** Supreme Ventures is the market leader in the lottery and gaming industry. The company has also in recent years embarked on an aggressive growth strategy through several acquisitions (Champion Gaming and Post To Post Betting). The company would have been impacted by the pandemic as the lockdown measures impacted its operations at Caymanas Park. With the easing of restrictions, the Company should benefit from an easing of lock down restrictions and a normalization of business. Despite this, in the medium term we note that the company now has competition in the lottery segment of the market which may negatively impact margins. The degree to which this might impede the pace of revenue growth will however depend on the take up of new games such as Scratchaz which, at present, seems popular amongst younger consumers as it is a new addition to the Company's product offerings. Supreme Ventures Equity Report
ECL Express Catering Limited	P/E: 21.39x P/B: 10.85x Price: $5.30 Div Yield 0%	**MARKETWEIGHT** ECL has seen improved performance as the tourism industry rebound, following the pandemic, has been robust. However, the Company is not currently operating at pre-covid efficiency levels, as price increases due to the current global supply chain challenges have driven higher costs across all product categories. While we do expect the tourism industry to continue to recover, driving ECL's revenues to grow and likely surpass pre-covid levels by FY2023/FY2024, the inflationary pressures can not be ignored. Longer-term we do expect the company to reap the benefits of their expanded footprint within the Sangsters International Airport as well as the return to trend growth in stopover arrivals. ECL Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Monitoring List

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
SOS Stationery & Office Supplies Limited	P/E: 22.49x P/B: 5.25x Price: $23.16 Div Yield 0.78%	Stationery and Office Supplies presents investors with another option to benefit from the reopening of the domestic economy. A core segment of their business would have suffered from the lockdown measures and work from home, namely the sale of furniture and its SEEK line of books. However, during that period stationary sales have done well to fill that revenue gap. With the resumption of economic activity, the return to office and the expansion in the BPO sector, SOS might be a large beneficiary in 2022.
SJ Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited	P/E: 10.29x P/B: 2.3x Price: $49.10 Div Yield 3.26%	Sagicor Group Jamaica Limited would have been adversely impacted by the pandemic even more so than the typical financial sector company due to their exposure to the tourism sector. This would have therefore led to sizeable impairment losses on their investment in associated companies (I.e., Playa Hotel and Resorts). For 2022 we therefore expect to see some amount of recovery as the group has disposed of their investments in Playa which will stem impairment losses while simultaneously still having direct exposure to travel through their US resort (The Hilton DoubleTree) while their banking services should benefit from a pickup in economic activity.

***The "Monitoring List" represents stocks that are on our radar as our initial expectation for these companies is positive. However, no official recommendation is presented as these stocks are still being evaluated.*

Monitoring List

Monitoring List

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at June 23, 2023)	Comments
VMIL Victoria Mutual Investments Limited	P/E: 7.42x P/B: 1.68x Price: $3.44 Div Yield: 0.00%	**OVERWEIGHT** Victoria Mutual has recently rebranded under the "VM Group". By association, there has been implications for VMIL. For example, the Company has been significantly more active in the capital markets through its investment banking arm. We expect continued growth in the investment banking space will add considerable value to the Company's bottom line which has already shown clear improvement throughout FY2021. VMIL Equity Report

Ratings Definitions

OVERWEIGHT/BUY

Exposure to this asset should be between 5% and 10% of your total portfolio

MARKETWEIGHT/HOLD

Exposure to the asset should be equal to 5% of your total portfolio

UNDERWEIGHT

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to less than 5% for this particular asset

SELL

Reduce exposure in your portfolio to zero

Unit Trust

Unit Trust Fund	6/30/2023	06/23/2023	Week/Week Return	Year-to-Date Return	1 Year Return	Yield
Capital Growth	78.3561	78.17	0.24%	-18.22%	-19.98%	-
Money Market	15.9224	15.9062	0.10%	2.49%	3.61%	4.80%
Income Portfolio	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	5.71%
FX Bond Portfolio (US$)	1.3768	1.3749	0.14%	2.67%	3.89%	4.96%
Real Estate Portfolio	12,257.49	12,266.73	-0.08%	54.44%	2149.63%	-
FX Growth Portfolio	0.8918	0.89	0.20%	5.45%	3.37%	
FX Income Accumulator	1.0085	1.01	-0.15%	0.72%	-	2.46%

“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”

Warren Buffett

LOCAL EQUITY MARKET

For the week ending June 30, 2023, the local stock market, measured by the Combined Index, advanced by 1.23%. The Main Market Index advanced by 1.24%, the Junior Market Index advanced by 1.06%, and the JSE USD Equities Index advanced by 15.6 3 %. During the week, Medical Disposables & Supplies Limited was the largest gainer, rising by approximately 44.09% to close at $5.85. The biggest decliner was Stationery and Office Supplies Limited which fell by 20.00% to close at $23.16.

Large-cap stocks, reflecting those listed on the Main Market Index are underperforming on a YTD basis, declining by 6.70%, relative to its Junior Market counterpart which has declined by 0.06%.

For the week ending June 30, 2023, overall market activity resulted from trading in 127 stocks of 71 advanced, 43 declined and 13 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 286,817,673 units valued at over $2,319,455,330.40. JFP Limited was the volume leader with 103,334,501 units (35.8%), followed by Transjamaican Highway Limited with 30,116,711 units (10.45%) and by Wigton Windfarm Limited Ordinary Shares with 25,705,373 units (8.92%).

Revisiting relevant news during the week:

Finsac sells Ciboney to Wayne Wray

The Financial Sector Adjustment Company, better known as Finsac, has sold Ciboney Group to Wiltshire Consulting and Advisory Limited after years of trying trying to offload its majority stake. The cost of the transaction was not disclosed.
Finsac sells Ciboney to Wayne Wray

Rate hike pause continues

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) said Thursday it was keeping its key interest rate at 7 per cent after its fifth-straight monetary policy committee (MPC) meeting since November, citing that even though inflation has declined significantly over the last few months, the fight to control consumer price increases is far from over.
Rate hike pause continues

NCB Financial Group issuing new bond

NCB Financial Group Limited (NCBFG) is seeking to raise between $2.8 billion – $4.2 billion in its latest unsecured corporate bond issuance.
NCB Financial Group issuing new bond

Strong performance for Key Insurance

Double-digit growth for Key Insurance in 2022 shines a positive light on GraceKennedy's acquisition.
Strong performance for Key Insurance

JMMB's Vertex buys into Guyanese restaurant company

JMMB Securities Limited (JMMBSL) through its Vertex private equity investment vehicle recently closed a deal through which it secured a minority stake in Corum Restaurant Group Inc — a quick service operator based in Guyana
JMMB's Vertex buys into Guyanese restaurant company

EduFocal targets Africa: Enters Nigerian market with long-term plans

EduFocal Limited CEO Gordon Swaby has revealed the company's strategic decision to enter the African market, a venture that he has been actively exploring for several years. This expansion aligns with EduFocal's broader vision of extending its presence across the continent.
EduFocal targets Africa: Enters Nigerian market with long-term plans

Index	30/06/2023	23/06/2023	31/12/2022	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
JSE Main Market	332,034.93	327,952.63	355,896.64	1.24%	-6.70%
JSE Junior Market	3,984.23	3,942.47	3,986.44	1.06%	-0.06%
JSE Combined Market	346,282.53	342,091.21	368,591.98	1.23%	-6.05%
JSE USD Equities Market	256.42	221.76	233.97	15.63%	9.60%
JSE Financial Index	72.95	72.93	85.88	0.03%	-15.06%
JSE M&D Idex	101.58	100.62	97.42	0.95%	4.27%

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

U.S.

Favorable macro backdrop helps end solid quarter on solid note

Positive growth and inflation surprises helped the major benchmarks round out a solid quarter on a high note, with the S&P 500 Index recording its best weekly gain since the end of March. The rally also broadened, with small-caps and value shares outperforming, and the equal-weighted S&P 500 Index handily outpacing its market-weighted counterpart. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite remained well ahead of the other benchmarks for the year-to-date, however, ending the week with a six-month gain of nearly 32%, its best start to the year since 1983.

Disinflation signs boost sentiment

Inflation data released Friday appeared to provide the biggest boost to sentiment. The Commerce Department reported that its personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index had increased by 0.1% in May, bringing its year-over-year increase down to 3.8%, its lowest level since April 2021. The core (excluding food and energy) PCE index, considered the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, fell back to 4.6% on a year-over-year basis, still well above the Fed's 2% target, but seemingly calmed fears of a reacceleration in price pressures after April's upside surprise.

Data push Treasury yields higher, while municipal bonds outperform despite Puerto Rico ruling

What was good news for equity investors was bad news for the Treasury market, as the data helped briefly push the yield on the benchmark 10-year note to 3.87 in intraday trading on Friday, its highest level since March 9. (Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.)

Sentiment around tax-exempt municipal bonds deteriorated early in the week after a judge in Puerto Rico delivered a ruling in a bankruptcy case involving utility bonds that were perceived as unfavorable to bondholders. (Munis issued by Puerto Rico are widely held because their income is tax exempt in most states.) However, municipal bonds outperformed Treasuries later in the week, and muni-Treasury ratios ultimately richened. The final sale of municipal bonds held by the FDIC after taking a few regional banks into receivership earlier this year reached the market on Thursday, which bolstered sentiment.

Europe

In local currency terms, the pan-European STOXX Europe 600 Index rallied 1.94% on hopes that China would do more to boost consumption and that lower-than-expected inflation data could mean that interest rates are near their peak. Major stock indexes also posted gains. France's CAC 40 Index advanced 3.30%, Italy's FTSE MIB climbed 3.75%, and Germany's DAX increased 2.01. The UK's FTSE 100 Index added 0.93%.

Eurozone inflation slows for third month; ECB hints at more interest rate hikes

Annual inflation in the eurozone slowed for a third month in June to 5.5% from 6.1% in May, according to an initial estimate from the European Union's statistics office. The result was lower than the 5.6% forecast by economists polled by FactSet. Core inflation—which excludes energy, food, alcohol, and tobacco prices—ticked up to 5.4% from 5.3%.

BoE Governor Bailey hints rates likely to stay higher for longer than markets think

Bank of England (BoE) Governor Andrew Bailey said at the ECB's annual Forum on Central Banking that UK interest rates are likely to stay higher for longer than financial markets expect. Derivative instruments indicate borrowing costs could rise from 5% now to 6.5% by the end of the year, before falling in late spring of 2024. "I've always been interested that markets think that the peak will be short-lived, in a world where we're dealing with more persistent inflation." Bailey said BoE rate decisions would be "evidence driven" and that the central bank was looking at both the peak level of rates and "how long (the peak) sustains beyond that."

Swedish central bank raises rates, says another hike is forecast

The Riksbank raised its key interest rate by a quarter percentage point to 3.75%, as expected. The central bank said that "the forecast is for the policy rate to be increased at least one more time this year." The bank also accelerated the pace of government bond sales.

Japan

Japan's stock markets gained over the week, with the Nikkei 225 Index rising 1.2% and the broader TOPIX Index up 1.1%. Halfway through 2023, Japanese equities were among the world's best performers in local currency terms, although yen weakness to a degree moderated returns in U.S. dollar terms.

T.RowePrice

Index	30/06/2023	23/06/2023	31/12/2022	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
Dow Jones	34,407.60	33,727.43	33,147.25	2.02%	3.80%
S&P 5000	4,450.38	4,348.33	3,839.50	2.35%	15.91%
NASDAQ 100	15,179.21	14,891.48	10,939.76	1.93%	38.75%
FTSE 100	7,531.53	7,461.87	7,451.74	0.93%	1.07%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,399.09	4,271.61	3,793.62	2.98%	15.96%

ABOUT US

> **Barita Investments Limited**, is a publicly-traded company on the JSE, 74.3% owned by Cornerstone Financial Holdings Limited ("Cornerstone").

The Barita Group is made up of Barita Investments Limited and its subsidiary, Barita Unit Trusts Management Company Limited (BUTM). Founded by Rita Humphries-Lewin in 1977, Barita has the distinction of being one of the oldest stock brokerages in Jamaica. The Company is regulated by the Financial Services Commission (FSC), is a member of the JSE and is licensed as a Primary Dealer and Cambio Dealer by the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ or the Central Bank). In August 2018, Cornerstone Financial Holdings Limited (Cornerstone or CFHL) acquired majority shares in Barita and has supported the Company's mission and vision to be a premier investment force in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean.

OUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Stock Market investments on any of the three regional exchanges
- Fixed Income Trading
- Investment Banking Services
- Unit Trust Investments
- Currency Trading
- Structured Products
- Retirement Planning
- Wealth Planning
- Market Research

BUTM currently offers six (6) unit trust products spanning fixed income, equities and real estate and is recognised as a strong player in the middle market retail segment and a leader in unit trust performance.

Barita serves its clients island-wide through its Head Office in Kingston and branches in Mandeville and Montego Bay with a team of 163 members across its operations island-wide.

Contact us
Tel: (876) 926-2681 or (888) 429-5333
Website: www.barita.com