

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



August 5th, 2024

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Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at August 2nd, 2024)	Comments
WISYNCO Wisynco Group Limited	P/E: 14.53x P/B: 3.10x Price: \$20.05 Div Yield 2.00%	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: 4.02x P/B: 0.88x Price: \$23.78 Div Yield 1.05%	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: 9.65x P/B: 0.90x Price: \$80.00 Div Yield 4.38%	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

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LASD Lasco Distributors	P/E: 13.01x P/B: 1.76x Price: \$4.95 Div Yield 2.02%	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: 9.26x / 8.65x P/B: 0.6x / 0.56x Price: \$11.09 / \$0.07 Div Yield: 6.07% / 6.61%	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: 20.87x P/B: 2.48x Price: \$2.17 Div Yield 1.84%	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

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PROVENJMD/ PROVENUSD Proven Group Limited	P/E: 9.72x / 9.17x P/B: 0.57x / 0.5x Price: \$18.14 / \$0.11 Div Yield: 4.70% / 5.00%	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: 14.4x P/B: 2.99x Price: \$2.88 Div Yield 2.50%	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
TJH TransJamaican Highway Limited	P/E: 9.43x P/B: 5.12x Price: \$3.08 Div Yield 6.06%	OVERWEIGHT The Group continues to experience stronger-than-projected traffic growth, as evidenced by the performance during the third quarter of the 2023 financial year, and this trend is expected to persist at least in the short term. Additionally, the JIO acquisition has improved operating efficiency, and it is expected that as the group continues to reduce debt, profitability and cash flow generation will continue to improve. TJH Equity Report

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JBG Jamaica Broilers Group Limited	P/E: 5.44x P/B: 1.29x Price: \$33.14 Div Yield 2.60%	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: 21.59x P/B: 2.15x Price: \$84.00 Div Yield 1.96%	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: 11.27x P/B: 2.09x Price: \$6.94 Div Yield 1.73%	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

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GK GraceKennedy Limited	P/E: 9.20x P/B: 0.89x Price: \$74.04 Div Yield 2.93%	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: 21.5x P/B: 9.99x Price: \$2.15 Div Yield 5.12%	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: 7.35x P/B: 1.06x Price: \$43.13 Div Yield 3.13%	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

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FTNA Fontana Limited	P/E: 17.26x P/B: 3.6x Price: \$8.11 Div Yield 2.47%	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: 27.13x P/B: 12.32x Price: \$21.09 Div Yield 4.45%	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: 12.2x P/B: 5.04x Price: \$3.89 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

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SOS Stationery & Office Supplies Limited	P/E: 14.33x P/B: 2.71x Price: \$1.72 Div Yield 1.29%	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 stationery 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 Sagikor Group Jamaica Limited	P/E: 12.05x P/B: 1.66x Price: \$40.62 Div Yield 3.02%	Sagikor 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.

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Fixed Income

Bond & Issuer	Bond Information (as at August 2nd, 2024)	Comments
HLT 3.75% 2029 Hilton Domestic Operating	Price (Bid/Ask): \$92.42/ \$92.89 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 5.59%/5.47% Maturity: May 1st, 2029 Modified Duration: 4.20 Credit Rating: BB+ (S&P)	The Hilton Hotels gives investors access to several global brands in the hospitality and travel sector. As of 2022, Hilton managed, franchised, or owned 7,165 hotels and resorts, totaling 1.1 million rooms in 123 countries. The industry also continues to represent a potential travel recovery play as the demand for business transient (short stay business travel) and group travel continues to gain momentum with trends through 2Q23 continuing to look strong.
SFCCN 5.3% 2028 Sagcor Financial Corporation	Price (Bid/Ask): \$96.49/\$96.49 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 6.36%/6.36% Maturity: May 13th, 2028 Modified Duration: 3.31 Credit Rating: BBB (S&P) / BB+ (Fitch)	OVERWEIGHT SFCCN 5.3% 2028 gives investors exposure a global life insurer with a growing footprint in the North American Market. While the credit has seen some spread compression, we believe that there might be more to come. This comes as it trades slightly cheap relative to peers with the major concern as it relates to macroeconomic exposure to Caribbean government debt is likely to be improved with the Iviri transaction. In this regard, the successful closure of the acquisition means that there is potential for more spread compression. In addition to this, approaching closer to the end of the Fed hiking cycle might also limit the potential downside tailwinds on price from even more restrictive monetary policy. SFCCN Fixed Income Report
BAC 7.25% 2025 Bank of America Corp	Price (Bid/Ask): \$102.44/\$102.64 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 5.11%/4.93% Maturity: October 15th, 2025 Modified Duration: 1.11 Credit Rating: BBB+ (S&P) / A (Fitch) / A3 (Moody's)	Bank of America is one of the largest financial institutions in the United States, with more than \$2.5 trillion in assets. The bank now has one of the most complete retail branch networks and overall retail franchises in the United States. BAC is also a Tier 1 investment bank, a top four U.S. credit card issuer, a top three U.S. acquirer, has a solid commercial banking franchise, and owns the Merrill Lynch franchise, which has become one of the leading U.S. brokerage and advisor firms.
MAT 3.75% 2029 Mattel Inc	Price (Bid/Ask): \$95.08/\$95.22 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 4.95%/4.91% Maturity: April 1st, 2029 Modified Duration: 4.13 Credit Rating: BBB (S&P) / BBB-(Fitch) / Baa3 (Moody's)	Mattel markets toy products that are sold to its wholesale customers and direct to retail consumers. The Company offers products for children and families, including toys for infants and preschoolers, girls and boys. A rebound in dolls, especially Barbie and Frozen, is the key to Mattel outperforming projections for 2023.

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Unit Trust

Unit Trust Fund	02/08/2024	24/07/2024	Week/Week Return	Year-to-Date Return	1 Year Return	Yield
Capital Growth	76.05	74.86	1.59%	-5.57%	1.42%	-
Money Market	16.7668	16.7689	-0.01%	2.92%	4.90%	5.64%
Income Portfolio	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	6.23%
FX Bond Portfolio (US\$)	1.4692	1.4674	0.12%	3.19%	6.58%	5.02%
Real Estate Portfolio	16,260.57	16,238.05	0.14%	29.17%	28.00%	-
FX Growth Portfolio	1.0649	1.0827	-1.64%	11.72%	19.37%	-
FX Income Accumulator Portfolio	1.0243	1.0226	0.17%	0.91%	2.08%	3.48%

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

Warren Buffett

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LOCAL EQUITY MARKET

For the week ending August 2, 2024, the local stock market, measured by the Combined Index, declined by 0.75%. The Main Market Index declined by 0.83%, the Junior Market Index advanced by 0.05%, and the JSE USD Equities Index advanced by 1.46%. During the week, Indies Pharma Jamaica Limited Company Limited was the largest gainer, rising by approximately 20.87% to close at \$2.78. t-Tech Limited was the biggest decliner, which fell by 26.32% to close at \$2.10.

Small-cap stocks, reflecting those listed on the Junior Market Index are overperforming on a YTD basis, decreasing by 2.92%, relative to its Main Market counterpart which has declined by 4.25%.

For the week ending August 2, 2024, overall market activity resulted from trading in 121 stocks of which 53 advanced, 59 declined and 9 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 166,163,190 units valued at over \$1,346,535,847.82. Radio Jamaica Limited was the volume leader with 55,751,869 units (33.42%), followed by Wigton Windfarm Limited with 18,682,248 units (11.20%), and by NCB Financial Group Limited 18,227,440 units (10.93%).

Revisiting relevant news during the week:

Dolla Financial plans capital raise ahead of festive season

CEO of Dolla Financial Group Kenroy Kerr is hopeful the microlending company will execute fund-raising plans before the close of its third quarter which ends in September 2024 — a move aimed at providing the company with a much-needed capital boost ahead of the busy Christmas season

Dolla Financial plans capital raise ahead of festive season

Proven Group expanding presence in Barbados

Proven Group Limited has deepened its presence in Barbados following a Bds\$13-million (US\$6.5-million) joint venture investment in One Barbados Place.

Proven Group expanding presence in Barbados

Equityline winding up business as JSE suspends trading

Equityline Mortgage Investment Corporation (ELMIC) will be winding up its business and distributing assets to satisfy investor claims, a bitter sight for the six-year old start-up company. This occurs at the same time the company's preference shares were suspended by Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) for a second time in two months.

Equityline winding up business as JSE suspends trading

Food sales continue to fatten GK's business

Food and financial services conglomerate GraceKennedy (GK) Limited reported \$84.4 billion in revenues during the first six months of its current financial year, with almost 80 per cent of that earned by its food division.

Food sales continue to fatten GK's business

One on One in high gear with One Academy, B2B expansions

E-learning company One on One Educational Services aims to add another 25 schools to its One Academy initiative — its online learning platform — by the start of the new school year so as to hit a milestone of having 100 schools enrolled under the programme.

One on One in high gear with One Academy, B2B expansions

The Lab doubles down on film industry with new investment vehicle

Advertising and production company The Limners and Bards Limited (The LAB) is now finalising plans to roll out a new investment vehicle to fund projects in the burgeoning local film industry.

The Lab doubles down on film industry with new investment vehicle

Index	02/08/2024	26/07/2024	29/12/2023	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
JSE Main Market	311,869.64	314,466.93	325,699.79	-0.83%	-4.25%
JSE Junior Market	3,735.93	3,733.95	3,848.33	0.05%	-2.92%
JSE Combined Market	325,016.89	327,489.18	339,158.12	-0.75%	-4.17%
JSE USD Equities Market	227.45	224.17	231.05	1.46%	-1.56%
JSE Financial Index	66.04	66.26	70.65	-0.33%	-6.53%
JSE M&D Idex	101.86	102.61	102.94	-0.73%	-1.05%

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INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

U.S.

Downside economic surprises send shares sharply lower

The major benchmarks closed lower, as investors reacted to the busiest week of the quarterly earnings reporting season and arguably the most important week of monthly economic data. The recent rotation toward value stocks and small-caps stalled, at least in part, as the small-cap Russell 2000 Index pulled back sharply at the end of the week. Notably, however, an equal-weighted version of the large-cap S&P 500 Index held up better than its more familiar, market-weighted counterpart, suggesting that the market's performance continued to broaden away from the so-called Magnificent Seven and other technology-oriented market giants. Relatedly, the Nasdaq Composite pulled back over 10% from its July high, putting it in a technical correction.

Private sector job growth slows to lowest level since October 2021

On the macro front, the main driver of sentiment appeared to be Friday's closely watched nonfarm payrolls report, which seemed to indicate more rapid cooling in the labor market than was widely expected. The Labor Department reported that the economy added only 114,000 jobs in July, well below expectations and the lowest number in three months—only 97,000 jobs came from the private sector, the least in 15 months. More surprising may have been a jump in the unemployment rate from 4.1% to 4.3%, its highest level since October 2021. Earlier in the week, the Labor Department reported that the number of Americans leaving jobs voluntarily declined to 3.82 million in June, the lowest number since November 2020. Many observers consider the so-called quits rate to be a more accurate indicator of labor market conditions than the number of job openings, which fell slightly to 8.18 million but remained above its April low of 7.92 million.

Yields tumble as expectations for rate cuts jump

Longer-term interest rates plummeted in the aftermath of both the ISM manufacturing print and the jobs data, sending the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note to its lowest intraday level (3.79%) since late December. While the Federal Reserve left short-term interest rates unchanged, as expected, following its midweek policy meeting, expectations for further cuts also jumped considerably. According to the CME FedWatch tool, futures markets ended the week pricing in a 73.5% chance of a 50 basis point (0.50 percentage point) rate cut at the next Fed meeting in September versus only an 11.5% chance the week before.

Europe

In local currency terms, the pan-European STOXX Europe 600 Index ended the week 2.92% lower as global markets were roiled by weak U.S. economic data that sparked worries about growth. Major stock indexes also fell. Germany's DAX tumbled 4.11%, France's CAC 40 Index dropped 3.54%, and Italy's FTSE MIB lost 5.30%. The UK's FTSE 100 Index declined 1.34%.

BoE cuts rates but cautious on more reductions

The BoE cut its key interest rate by a quarter point to 5.00%, its first reduction to borrowing costs since the start of the coronavirus pandemic in March 2020. It was a split decision, however, with the Monetary Policy Committee voting 5-4 in favor of the decision. Governor Andrew Bailey also signaled that policymakers were not about to embark on a rapid succession of cuts, stating, "We need to make sure that inflation stays low and be careful not to cut interest rates too quickly or by too much."

Eurozone inflation rate rises; economy expands in 2Q; jobless rate up

An initial estimate showed that annual inflation in the eurozone picked up to 2.6% in July from the 2.5% registered in June. A consensus estimate had called for inflation to decelerate to 2.4%. Nevertheless, services inflation eased for the first time in three months. Year-over-year changes in consumer prices varied across countries, with inflation easing in Spain but rising faster in Germany, France, and Italy. The region's economy in the second quarter expanded a faster-than-expected 0.3% sequentially (0.6% on a year-over-year basis), led by growth in France, Italy, and Spain. However, Germany's economy contracted, counter to expectations.

Japan

During a week that saw a hawkish turn from the Bank of Japan (BoJ), Japan's stock markets suffered heavy losses, with the Nikkei 225 Index falling 4.7% and the broader TOPIX Index down 6.0%. On the final day of the week, with disappointing U.S. macroeconomic data dampening investor risk appetite, the absolute drop in the Nikkei was among the biggest in the index's history, comparable to its one-day plunges in March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic struck and during the "Black Monday" global stock market crash in October 1987.

BoJ both raises key interest rate and details plans to taper bond purchases

At its July meeting, with Japan's economic activity and prices developing generally in line with the BoJ's outlook, the central bank raised its key short-term interest rate to around 0.25% from around 0% to 0.1%. This was the BoJ's second interest rate hike this year, after exiting its negative interest rate policy in March, and came earlier than had been anticipated by many investors.

T.RowePrice

Index	02/08/2024	26/07/2024	29/12/2023	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
Dow Jones	39,737.26	40,589.34	37,689.54	-2.10%	5.43%
S&P 500	5,346.56	5,459.10	4,769.83	-2.06%	12.09%
NASDAQ 100	18,440.85	19,023.66	16,825.93	-3.06%	9.60%
FTSE 100	8,174.71	8,285.71	7,733.24	-1.34%	5.71%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,638.70	4,862.50	4,521.65	-4.60%	2.59%

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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.

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- 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 seven (7) 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

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