August 4th, 2025

Investment Playbook

EQUITIES

Stock Ticker	Stock Information (as at July 31st, 2025)	Comments
WISYNCO Wisynco Group Limited	P/E: 16.47x P/B: 2.82x Price: $20.59 Div Yield 2.24%	**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: 11.12x P/B: 0.7x Price: $20.01 Div Yield 1.25%	**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: 9.12x P/B: 0.83x Price: $77.13 Div Yield 4.72%	**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 July 31st, 2025)	Comments
LASD Lasco Distributors	P/E: 9.68x P/B: 1.17x Price: $3.58 Div Yield 3.09%	**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: 5.24x / 4.72x P/B: 0.65x / 0.59x Price: $13.33 / $0.08 Div Yield: 5.46% / 6.07%	**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
LASM Lasco Manufacturing	P/E: 10.9x P/B: 1.74x Price: $6.55 Div Yield 2.29%	**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 July 31st, 2025)	Comments
PROVENJMD/ PROVENUSD Proven Group Limited	P/E: 33.71x / 32.44x P/B: 0.76x / 0.66x Price: $17.14 / $0.1 Div Yield: 2.94% / 3.05%	**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: 15.26x P/B: 2.74x Price: $2.9 Div Yield 2.41%	**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: 8.98x P/B: 4.54x Price: $3.71 Div Yield 5.14%	**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

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 July 31st, 2025)	Comments
JBG Jamaica Broilers Group Limited	P/E: 7.76x P/B: 0.98x Price: $25.83 Div Yield 2.88%	**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: 27.67x P/B: 2.02x Price: $83.28 Div Yield 2.6%	**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

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 July 31st, 2025)	Comments
GK GraceKennedy Limited	P/E: 8.49x P/B: 0.73x Price: $69.94 Div Yield 3.38%	**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: 22.55x P/B: 7.69x Price: $2.48 Div Yield 0%	**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: 7.83x P/B: 1.05x Price: $52.43 Div Yield 2.96%	**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 July 31st, 2025)	Comments
FTNA Fontana Limited	P/E: 19.57x P/B: 3.65x Price: $9 Div Yield 2.78%	**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: 29.14x P/B: 8.63x Price: $19.53 Div Yield 3.33%	**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: 10.03x P/B: 2.72x Price: $2.55 Div Yield 3.81%	**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 July 31st, 2025)	Comments
SOS Stationery & Office Supplies Limited	P/E: 18.89x P/B: 2.35x Price: $1.7 Div Yield 0%	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: 13.27x P/B: 1.52x Price: $41.53 Div Yield 3.3%	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

Fixed Income

Bond & Issuer	Bond Information (as at July 31st 2025)	Comments
HLT 3.75% 2029 Hilton Domestic Operating	Price (Bid/Ask): $95.30/ $95.55 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 5.14%/5.08% Maturity: May 1st, 2029 Modified Duration: 3.40 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 Sagicor Financial Corporation	Price (Bid/Ask): $99.80/$100.15 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 5.38%/5.24% Maturity: May 13th, 2028 Modified Duration: 2.51 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 Ivari 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): $100.41/$100.50 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 5.03%/4.59% Maturity: October 15th, 2025 Modified Duration: 0.19 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): $96.07/$96.25 Yield to Maturity (Bid/Ask): 4.94%/4.88% Maturity: April 1st, 2029 Modified Duration: 3.32 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.

***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.*

Unit Trust

Unit Trust Fund	31/07/2025	10/07/2025	Week/Week Return	Year-to-Date Return	1 Year Return	Yield
Capital Growth	73.63	73.69	-0.09%	-9.83%	-3.30%	-
Money Market	17.76	17.57	1.07%	3.68%	5.99%	5.32%
Income Portfolio	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	4.61%
FX Bond Portfolio (US$)	1.53	1.53	0.05%	3.18%	4.36%	4.48%
Real Estate Portfolio	17,612.70	17,648.45	-0.20%	1.28%	8.65%	-
FX Growth Portfolio	1.32	1.31	0.56%	20.67%	20.67%	-
FX Income Accumulator Portfolio	1.04	1.04	0.06%	0.89%	1.55%	2.90%

“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 July 31, 2025, the local stock market, measured by the Combined Index, improved by 1.94%. The Main Market Index improvedby 1.85%, the Junior Market Index improved by 3.00%, and the JSE USD Equities Index improved by 3.29%. During the week Sygnus Real Estate Finance Limited (USD)was the largest gainer, rising by approximately 24.20% to close at $0.06. Sygnus Real Estate Financial Limited (JMD) was the biggest decliner, which fell by 13.10% to close at $7.30.

Small-cap stocks, reflecting those listed on the Junior Market Index are outperforming on a YTD basis, declining by 6.00%, relative to its Main Market counterpart which has declined by 8.10%.

For the week ending July 31, 2025, overall market activity resulted from 121 stocks of which 64 advanced, 38 declined and 19 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 208,874,422 units valued at over $1,804,821,122.91. Key contributors to trading volume are Wigton Energy Limited with 31,390,263 units (14.58%), followed by Sagicor Select Funds Limited - Financial with 18,423,746 units (8.56%) and One on One Educational Services Limited with 16,591,906 units (7.71%).

Revisiting relevant news during the week:

JSE slump deepens as profit weakness, election jitters stall recovery

Trading activity on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) partially recovered in the first half of 2025, with the main market's turnover reaching $50.7 billion — more than double 2024's slump and now above the 2019 pre-pandemic peak of $41.6 billion.
JSE slump deepens as profit weakness, election jitters stall recovery

IronRock posts strong revenue growth amid profitability headwinds in Q2 2025

Iron Rock Insurance Company Limited achieved robust top-line expansion in the second quarter of 2025, driven by strategic underwriting and portfolio diversification. However, increased motor claims and reinsurance costs pressured profitability, resulting in a quarterly loss.
IronRock posts strong revenue growth amid profitability headwinds in Q2 2025

Digicel Group upsizes refinancing to nearly $3 billion

Jamaica-based telecom company Digicel Group has upsized its senior secured notes offering to approximately US$1.99 billion, an increase of US$440 million from the originally planned US$1.55 billion.
Digicel Group upsizes refinancing to nearly $3 billion

Sygnus Credit seeks preference share extension

SYGNUS Credit Investments Limited (SCI) will approach preference shareholders within the coming weeks to seek a three-year extension on two classes of preference shares which are set to mature on December 22.
Sygnus Credit seeks preference share extension

SEPROD DOUBLES DOWN ON CARIBBEAN

Seprod Limited is accelerating its regional expansion as newly imposed US tariffs begin to weigh on product performance, particularly in its biscuit category
SEPROD DOUBLES DOWN ON CARIBBEAN

VM Group posts profit, expands services

VM Group has announced the development of three new credit card products, including a Jamaican-dollar Classic Visa, a USD business card, and a USD platinum card to be launched in 2026, as part of its continued focus on expanding payment solutions and improving customer access to financial services.
VM Group posts profit, expands services

Index	31/07/2025	25/07/2025	31/12/2024	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
JSE Main Market	308,603.07	302,985.08	335,794.94	1.85%	-8.10%
JSE Junior Market	3,511.03	3,408.87	3,735.05	3.00%	-6.00%
JSE Combined Market	320,253.81	314,147.58	347,896.22	1.94%	-7.95%
JSE USD Equities Market	210.27	203.58	251.88	3.29%	-16.52%
JSE Financial Index	62.53	61.42	68.41	1.81%	-8.60%
JSE M&D Index	104.71	102.57	110.44	2.09%	-5.19%

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

U.S.

Stocks decline on renewed tariffs, trade policy uncertainty, and weak economic data.

U.S. stock indexes posted losses in what ended as the worst week for some indexes since the tariff-driven sell-off in early April. Smaller-cap indexes fared worst as the Russell 2000 and S&P MidCap 400 indexes fell 4.17% and 3.53%, respectively, followed by the Dow Jones Industrial Average (down 2.92%) and S&P 500 Index (down 2.36%). The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite held up best (down 2.17%) and maintained its year-to-date lead over the other major indexes.

Trade deals and tariffs were a major driver of sentiment throughout the week leading up to President Donald Trump's arbitrary August 1 deadline for new deals. On Thursday, President Trump signed an executive order to raise tariffs on the vast majority of U.S. trading partners, effective August 7, which appeared to weigh heavily on stock indexes Friday morning. Other announcements during the week included new deals with several trading partners, including the European Union (EU) and South Korea, as well as another 90-day negotiation period extension for Mexico.

Fed holds rates steady for fifth consecutive meeting; inflation accelerates

The Federal Reserve concluded its July monetary policy meeting on Wednesday and, as was widely expected, maintained its target policy rate at a range of 4.25% to 4.50%. Notably, two Fed governors dissented, preferring to immediately lower rates by a quarter point, and the central bank's post-meeting statement noted that "economic activity moderated in the first half of the year," which some market participants viewed as dovish developments.

However, in a press conference following the meeting, Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted that inflation remained above the Fed's target and reiterated the central bank's willingness to wait for data to determine monetary policy decisions, which appeared to shift market sentiment and sent expectations for a September rate cut lower on Wednesday afternoon.

Europe

In local currency terms, the pan-European STOXX Europe 600 Index ended 2.57% lower amid disappointment with the framework trade deal between the U.S. and the EU. Major stock indexes fell. France's CAC 40 Index declined 3.68%, Germany's DAX lost 3.27%, and Italy's FTSE MIB dipped 1.92%. The UK's FTSE 100 Index eased 0.57%, partly supported by the depreciation of the UK pound against the U.S. dollar. A weaker pound lends support to the index because many of its companies are multinationals that generate meaningful overseas revenue.

Eurozone data point to steady but still stagnant economy

Resilient eurozone data for GDP, inflation, and economic sentiment appeared to reduce pressure on the European Central Bank to lower interest rates again. Headline inflation held steady at 2.0% in July, matching the European Central Bank's target but coming in slightly higher than the 1.9% predicted by analysts. Core inflation, excluding volatile energy, food, and tobacco prices, held at 2.3%. Meanwhile, GDP expanded 0.1% in the second quarter compared with the previous three months. While the growth rate was less than the 0.6% registered in the first quarter—when exports surged ahead of a change in U.S. tariff policy—it exceeded the no-growth outcome forecast by analysts in a FactSet survey.

EU and U.S. strike trade deal

The European Union and the U.S. reached a framework deal on trade, although many key details remain unresolved. The agreement includes a 15% tariff on most European exports to the U.S., half the rate initially mooted. The U.S. will keep a 50% tariff on steel and aluminum for the time being.

Japan

Japan's stock markets fell over the week, with the Nikkei 225 Index losing 1.58% and the broader TOPIX Index down 0.11%. The Japanese technology segment was weak amid some unfavorable earnings developments, and renewed global trade tensions weighed on sentiment. The yield on the 10-year Japanese government bond fell to 1.55% from 1.59% at the end of the previous week.

T. Rowe Price

Index	01/08/2025	25/07/2025	31/12/2024	Week/Week	Year-to-Date
Dow Jones	43,588.58	44,901.92	42,544.22	-2.92%	2.45%
S&P 500	6,238.01	6,388.64	5,881.63	-2.36%	6.06%
NASDAQ 100	22,763.31	23,272.25	21,012.17	-2.19%	8.33%
FTSE 100	9,068.58	9,120.31	8,173.02	-0.57%	10.96%
Euro Stoxx 50	5,165.60	5,352.16	4,869.28	-3.49%	6.09%

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 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