

Foreign Exchange Summary

as at May 29, 2020

Member State	USD	CAD	GBP	Euro
Bahamas (BSD)	1.00	0.73	1.23	1.11
Barbados (BBD)	2.03	1.48	2.52	2.26
Belize (BZD)	2.02	1.47	2.51	2.26
Guyana (GYD)	218.00	153.15	259.72	234.47
Haiti (HTG)	106.56	77.39	131.53	118.33
Jamaica * (JMD)	143.49	104.96	179.08	161.12
OECS (XCD)	2.71	1.96	3.32	2.96
Suriname (SRD)	7.52	5.42	9.31	8.38
T&T (TTD)	6.76	5.20	8.76	7.91

*Rates applicable for Customs & GCT purposes

Business News In Brief

Grenada looks at June 30 to reopen borders

Grenadian Prime Minister, Dr Keith Mitchell, has identified 30 June 2020 as the possible date for re-opening the country's borders but the actual date, will depend on all the necessary protocols being in place. One such condition is ensuring that all hotels have appropriate sanitisation and other systems in place. "We cannot open the borders if only 1 or 2 hotels are ready. There must be uniformity of practices as we continue to safeguard public health and safety," said PM Mitchell. ([NOW Grenada](#))

Cayman Islands to contract 11.4 - 12.2 % in 2020

The Cayman Islands is facing a double-digit drop in Gross Domestic Product and an unemployment rate of almost 20% as a result of the coronavirus crisis, says Finance Minister Roy McTaggart. He is also projecting a loss in revenues of up to \$250 million in 2020. A series of measures is being planned to limit the damage, including taking out a \$500 million emergency credit line. In the best-case scenario, with the domestic economy reopening fully by July and some tourists returning by October, McTaggart said Cayman's GDP would contract by 11.4% and nearly 9,000 jobs would be displaced, based on data from the Economics and Statistics Office. If that doesn't happen, he said the analysis showed a GDP drop of 12.2%, with nearly 10,000 jobs lost, including nearly 3,000 Caymanian employees. ([CC](#))

Commercial flights to resume amidst 12% GDP decline - Ja

For the fiscal year ending March 2021, the Jamaica economy is projected to contract within a range of 4 – 6%. This Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica says would be "the weakest economic performance in almost four decades." This come on the heels of a projected fallout of 12 – 14% for the economy in the April – June 2020 quarter, with the tourism sector expected to record the most severe contraction in that quarter. Foreign exchange inflows for Jamaica from tourism activity is projected to fall to US\$995 million post-COVID, according to the country report on Jamaica released by the IMF, while remittances are expected to account for US\$1.9 billion of inflows. COVID-19 strictures including border closure, restricting on operating hours, remote-work measures and physical distancing protocols have all negatively impacted the key economic drivers of the economy says Henry. The remote-work measures will be lifted on June 1, with the US Embassy in Kingston announcing that commercial flight activity will resume from June 2 through June 8 with daily flights (in the main) to all major designations. ([JG](#)) ([US](#))

The Bahamas economy being primed for recovery

The Bahamas is projecting a fiscal deficit of \$1.3 billion, or 11.6% of GDP for the upcoming fiscal year which comes on the heels of a 12% decline in real GDP projected by the Central Bank of the Bahamas and a decline in total visitor arrivals of 14.7% in the first quarter of 2020. According to Finance Minister Peter Turnquest, government debt is projected to increase to \$9.5 billion or approximately 82.8% of GDP. The Finance Minister also announced a "back-to-school" VAT holiday and a extension of the Special Economic Recovery Zone (Relief Order) 2019, which allows for the tax-free importation of goods directly into the islands impacted by Hurricane Dorian from June 30 to December 31 - between January 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, these concessions will be extended to cover building materials only. Beginning July 1, the Government will also be introducing a raft of customs duty reductions on fishing equipment (from 45 to 20%), farming equipment for the use in backyard farming (25 to 10%) and all construction materials (20%). Turnquest also announced the expansion of tax-free transfers of land where there is no change in beneficial ownership, with the approval of the VAT controller. ([NG](#)) ([NG](#)) ([T242](#))

Stock Market Summary

as at May 29, 2020

Jamaica Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 45 stocks of which 26 advanced, 14 declined and 5 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 109,379,530 units valued at over \$203,610,322.24. Wigton Windfarm Ltd Ordinary Shares was the volume leader with 79,888,600 units (73.0%) Index advanced by 3,762.78 points (0.99%) to close at 383,649.98.

Jamaica Junior Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 31 stocks of which 12 advanced, 15 declined and 4 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 4,090,696 units valued at over J\$13,986,258.93 . Index closed at 2,632.97.

Barbados Stock Exchange

One security declined and one traded firm as 9,620 shares traded on the Regular Market, with a total value of \$38,658.00. Goddard Enterprises Limited was the volume leader trading 9,320 shares. Index closed at 3,036.02 .

Trinidad & Tobago Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 14 securities of which 7 advanced, 2 declined and 5 traded firm. Trading activity on the First Tier Market registered a volume of 1,388,005 shares crossing the floor of the Exchange valued at TT\$4,145,566.11. National Flour Mills Ltd was volume leader with 1,130,409 shares changing hands for a value of TT\$2,260,818.00. The All T&T Index advanced by 0.16 points (0.01%) to close at 1,736.11. The Composite Index advanced by 2.60 points (0.20%) to close at 1,289.18 and the Cross Listed Index advanced by 0.69 points (0.61%) to close at 113.85. The SME Index closed at 67.47.

Guyana Stock Exchange

No trading reported. The LSI remained at 614.06.

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE)

No trading information available for the week of May 29, 2020. Index closed at 157.69

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Business News In Brief

FCIB suffers 316 % hit in net income

First Caribbean International Bank (FCIB) has recorded a net loss of US\$110 million or \$743 million for the quarter ended April 30. This slide represents a 316% decrease in net income, as it recorded a US\$51 million or \$344 million profit for the comparable period ended April 30, 2019. Chief Executive Officer Colette Delaney in the Bank's financial report said: "The quarter's financial results were negatively affected by items of note including US\$100 million of provision for credit losses, a non-cash goodwill impairment charge of US \$51 million and income tax credits of US\$7.6 million." Delaney said that the incremental provision for credit losses and the reduction in the carrying value of goodwill reflects the bank's revised forward-looking views for probability of defaults, loss given defaults and macro-economic forecasts driven by the extent and timing of anticipated impact from COVID-19. She also noted that the Bank's performance was adversely affected by lower revenues due to significant declines in US interest rates and reduced transaction-related non-interest income. [\(TG\)](#)

World Bank provides US\$159 million for transport

Four Caribbean countries will receive a total of US\$159 million in loans from the World Bank to enhance their air transport connectivity and infrastructure. The loans include International Development Association (IDA) financing of US\$13 million for Dominica, US\$17 million for Grenada, US\$84 million for Haiti and US\$45 million for Saint Lucia. Haiti will receive a grant, and the three Eastern Caribbean islands will receive concessional financing with a maturity of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years. The World Bank said Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia and Haiti are reliant on the air transport sector and face common connectivity issues and the projects will enable them to better accommodate diverted flights, emergency landings, post-disaster relief flights and improve regional capacity and collaboration in the sector. [\(SLO\)](#)

International Oil Prices as at May 29, 2020

Futures	Price	US\$ Change	Change %
WTI Crude	US\$35.32	+1.66	+4.93
Brent Crude	US\$37.84	+1.81	+5.02
OPEC Basket	US\$29.03	+0.58	+2.04
Natural Gas	US\$1.84	+0.02	+0.93