

Foreign Exchange Summary

as at June 25, 2021

Member State	USD	CAD	GBP	Euro
Bahamas (BSD)	1.00	0.81	1.40	1.20
Barbados (BBD)	2.03	1.65	2.84	2.44
Belize (BZD)	2.02	1.65	2.83	2.43
Guyana (GYD)	218.00	174.12	292.95	251.39
Haiti (HTG)	94.39	76.20	128.79	112.34
Jamaica * (JMD)	151.33	123.48	210.05	182.03
OECS (XCD)	2.71	2.23	3.82	3.28
Suriname (SRD)	20.93	17.00	29.42	23.60
T&T (TTD)	6.76	5.86	9.99	8.62

*Rates applicable for Customs & GCT purposes

Business News In Brief

CAL to slash its workforce by 25%

Caribbean Airlines Limited, (CAL) has reported a first-quarter loss of TT\$172.7 million (US\$25.7 million) and will be terminating 450 jobs or 25% of its workforce. The airline said the action was a necessary response to a 90% falloff in business, 75% decline in revenue, and as part of a continued reining in of costs, which it said had been contained to 52% of first-quarter 2020 levels. The reported loss is just below its average TT\$184.5-million (US\$27.3 million) quarterly loss last year that ended with a year-end fallout of TT\$738 million (US\$109.2 million). [\(JG\)](#)

MSMEs to benefit from new 4.75% loan facility

Members of the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Jamaica are set to benefit from increased access to finance following the recent launch of a programme by Government, which will see the sector benefiting from loans at a concessionary interest rate of 4.75% per annum. The \$675-million loan programme, managed by the National Export-Import Bank of Jamaica (EXIM Bank) is geared towards MSMEs operating businesses in manufacturing and agro-processing, tourism and agriculture, among other selected sectors. Eligible enterprises may borrow up to \$25 million with a repayment period of up to 5 years. The local MSME sector, comprises approximately 500,000 operators contributes close to 60 % of GDP. [\(JO\)](#)

St Lucia's new tax law for IBC's effective July 1

Effective July 1, St Lucia will be introducing a new territorial tax system under which non-resident companies are taxed on Saint Lucia-source income only, representing a substantial change for international business companies (IBCs) registered there. This includes but is not limited to income derived from royalties, management charges, commissions and fees. The new tax system. The gross amount of such income is liable to 25% withholding tax (WHT), while WHT of 15% applies to interest. Associations of underwriters are taxed at 30% on 10% of the gross premium arising in Saint Lucia, and life insurance companies are taxed at 30% on 10% of the gross investment income arising in St Lucia. Any dividend paid by an IBC, which does no business in Saint Lucia, to another IBC, or to persons, trusts or other entities which are not residents, shall be exempt from any tax. Double tax agreements will apply. IBCs themselves are exempt from withholding tax. Benefits under the Eastern Caribbean country's IBC law previously included tax-free status, including no payment of corporate, income, or capital gains taxes. IBC's electing to be tax free were not required to file accounting records or financial statements. No audits were also required. [\(JO\)](#)

Corporate Movements

⇒ Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago Ltd has appointed Sameer Mohammed as Chief Accountant & Comptroller (Banking), effective June 16, 2021.

Jamaica tourism sector rebounds

Jamaica's tourism sector continues to lead the recovery efforts for the island's economy, earning US\$1.31 billion, of which US\$97.58 million has been accrued directly by the Government. According to Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett, "Based on our run rate forecast of visitor arrivals for June 2021, Jamaica would have received an estimated total of 816,632 visitors since reopening in June 2020. Of the total visitor arrivals, 510,359 or 62%, came to Jamaica since January 2021." Ninety per cent of the business is being generated by the US market. The estimated earnings see the Tourism Enhancement Fund bringing in US\$16.3 million for the period; departure taxes, US\$28.5 million; and visitor expenditure a whopping US\$1.2 billion. Airport improvement fee, airline passenger levy, passenger fees and charges, all combined, reflect a total of over US\$51 million. [\(JG\)](#)

Stock Market Summary

as at June 25, 2021

Jamaica Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 48 stocks of which 24 advanced, 18 declined and 6 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 19,122,031 units valued at over J\$179,348,158.29. Wigton Windfarm Limited Ordinary Shares was volume leader with 12,633,418 units. Index declined by 623.96 points to close at 431,109.83.

Jamaica Junior Stock Exchange

Overall market activity resulted from trading in 32 stocks of which 11 advanced, 17 declined and 4 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 6,426,251 units valued at over J\$23,089,467.75. Index closed at 3,338.17.

Barbados Stock Exchange

1 security traded firm as 16,126 shares traded on the Regular Market, with a total value of \$65,310.30. Cave Shepherd and Company Limited was the sole security trading. Index closed at 2,450.96 .

Trinidad & Tobago Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 14 securities of which 4 advanced, 3 declined and 7 traded firm. Trading activity on the First Tier Market registered a volume of 120,073 shares crossing the floor of the Exchange valued at TT\$5,625,542.32. Guardian Holdings Limited was volume leader with 36,186 shares changing hands for a value of TT\$1,213,311.88. The All T&T Index declined by 0.63 points to close at 1,900.95 and the Composite Index declined by 0.74 points to close at 1,389.63.

Guyana Stock Exchange

1 stocks advanced and 3 traded firm as 719,635 units crossed the floor. Banks DIH (DIH) was volume leader with 714,159 shares traded, followed by Demerara Tobacco Company (DTC) with 4,485 units The LSI closed at 766.06.

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE)

No trading information for this week ending June 25, 2021

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Business News In Brief

Bahamas : \$30m needed to bridge digital connectivity gap

The Bahamas needs to spend about \$30 million to close the digital connectivity gap relative to the digital penetration in OECD countries, a new IDB report reveals. Specifically, the report suggested that the Bahamas has to invest more than \$13.6 million in the mobile space and more than \$17 million in the fixed space in order to close the connectivity gap with OECD countries. According to the Bank, this investment in mobile and fixed infrastructure could create almost 10,000 new jobs. The report found that the Latin America and Caribbean region has “major broadband penetration and 4G technology coverage gaps compared with OECD countries” and that the average citizens in those countries “spend more than 20% of their income to access broadband services”, a level far above the International Telecommunication Union’s recommended 3% mark. [\(NG\)](#)



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IMF increases access limits to large natural disaster funding

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), on June 21, approved temporary modifications to access limits under the large natural disaster (LND) windows of the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) and of the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI). The LND windows were introduced in 2017 to increase available emergency financing for member countries experiencing urgent balance of payments needs arising from large natural disasters where economic damage is equivalent to or exceeds 20% of a country’s GDP. The temporary modifications increased the annual and cumulative access limits under the LND windows of the RCF and RFI by 50% of quota. The modifications to access limits under the LND windows of the RCF and RFI will be in effect through end-2021. [\(IMF\)](#)

International Oil Prices as at June 25, 2021

Futures	Price	US\$ Change	Change %
WTI Crude	US\$74.00	+0.67	+0.91
Brent Crude	US\$76.01	+0.41	+0.54
OPEC Basket	US\$74.09	+0.08	+0.11
Natural Gas	US\$3.51	+0.09	+2.63