

Foreign Exchange Summary

as at January 21, 2022

Member State	USD	CAD	GBP	Euro
Bahamas (BSD)	1.00	0.80	1.33	1.14
Barbados (BBD)	2.03	1.63	2.78	2.32
Belize (BZD)	2.02	1.62	2.76	2.30
Guyana (GYD)	218.00	168.55	286.62	238.63
Haiti (HTG)	103.91	82.11	138.66	116.13
Jamaica * (JMD)	156.77	125.17	211.72	179.10
OECS (XCD)	2.71	2.15	3.66	3.06
Suriname (SRD)	21.28	16.77	29.07	23.36
T&T (TTD)	6.78	5.81	9.78	8.14

*Rates applicable for Customs & GCT purposes

Business News In Brief

Jamaica: Inflation closes the year at 7.3%

Largely affected by the rising price of commodities globally, coupled with prolonged supply chain disruptions, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) has reported a point-to-point inflation out-turn of 7.3% for December. Still in breach of the Bank of Jamaica's targeted range of 4 – 6%, the variable showed slight improvement moving down from the 7.8% previously reported in November and 8.5% in October. STATIN Director General Carol Coy, said inflation in December was 0.8%, mainly influenced by increases in the division housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels which went up by 11.7%, food and non-alcoholic beverages up 4.9% and transport, up 13.9%. [\(JO\)](#)

T&T: Parliament passes economic zones law

The newly approved T&T Special Economic Zones Bill, 2021 will result in the creation of a SEZ Authority. Entitled "An Act to provide for the designation, development, operation and management of Special Economic Zones," the new law will repeal the existing Free Zones Act. According to Trade Minister Paula Gopee-Scoon, the new SEZ regime "will ensure that not only are there targeted incentives (both fiscal and non-fiscal) that balance national developmental goals with investors' needs, but also that there is good governance & transparency in managing these incentives and the entities that benefit from them." [\(TE\)](#)

Cayman to feature on EU anti-money laundering list

The Cayman Islands is slated to be included on the EU's list of high-risk third countries for money laundering. The European Commission on January 7 adopted a regulation to update the bloc's anti-money laundering list in line with the changes to the Financial Action Task Force's grey list of jurisdictions whose AML practices are under increased monitoring. Cayman was listed by the FATF in February 2021 for deficiencies in its AML framework. Cayman committed to working with the international standard-setter on implementing an action plan to address any outstanding issues. The plan focuses on applying effective sanctions, penalties and enforcement actions to ensure that breaches are quickly remediated. To be removed from the FATF list, Cayman must also demonstrate that all types of money laundering are prosecuted and that such prosecutions result in proportionate penalties. The delegated directive, which does not need to be transposed into the national laws of EU member states, will come into effect, provided the EU Parliament and Council have no objections during a 30-day period. The list will then take effect 3 weeks after publication in the official gazettes. [\(CC\)](#)

Corporate Movements

⇒ The Trinidad and Tobago Unit Trust Corporation has appointed Deyson Scott, Vice President, Sales and Service (Ag.) effective March 1, 2022 for six (6) months.

Oil market volatility spurs projections of US\$100 per barrel

The International Energy Agency (IEA) raised its demand estimates by 200,000 barrel per day (b/d) for both 2021 and 2022, to reflect clear signs that impact on economic activity and oil demand from the omicron variant remained "relatively subdued." In its monthly oil market report, the IEA notes that world oil demand was seen rising by 5.5 million b/d in 2021 and by 3.3 million b/d in 2022, surpassing its pre-pandemic levels by 200,000 b/d to 99.7 million b/d. During the fourth quarter of 2021, the IEA said global demand "defied expectations" rising by 1.1 million b/d to 99 million b/d, an upward revision of 345,000 b/d compared to its previous report, also predicting that the oil market could face another volatile year. The IEA's latest report comes as oil prices hit fresh seven-year highs at over \$88/b, supported by a growing consensus that oil demand and supply balances are tightening this year, with some market watchers predicting Brent futures will hit \$100 per barrel later in 2022. [\(SPGlobal\)](#)

Stock Market Summary

as at January 21, 2022

Jamaica Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 53 stocks of which 28 advanced, 16 declined and 9 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 15,537,794 units valued at over J\$392,213,674.71. JMMB Group Limited was volume leader with 6,286,464 units. The JSE Index advanced by 1,269.54 points to close at 396,141.35.

Jamaica Junior Stock Exchange

Overall market activity resulted from trading in 40 stocks of which 20 advanced, 16 declined and 4 traded firm. Market volume amounted to 16,579,452 units valued at over J\$57,855,044.80. Index closed at 3,585.75.

Barbados Stock Exchange (as at January 19)

2 securities declined as 7,194 shares traded on the Regular Market, with a total value of \$1,559.40. Eppley Caribbean Property Fund SCC – Development Fund was the volume leader trading 5,194 shares. Index closed at 2,354.45.

Trinidad & Tobago Stock Exchange

Overall Market activity resulted from trading in 19 securities of which 9 advanced, 5 declined and 5 traded firm. Trading activity on the First Tier Market registered a volume of 280,387 shares crossing the floor of the Exchange valued at TT\$15,408,148.59. Massy Holdings Ltd was volume leader with 122,818 shares changing hands for a value of TT\$13,018,708.00. The All T&T Index advanced by 36.19 points to close at 2145.09 and the Composite Index advanced by 17.67 points to close at 1530.37.

Guyana Stock Exchange

2 stock advanced and 2 traded firm as 108,014 units crossed the floor. Demerara Bank Limited (DBL) was volume leader with 74,028 shares traded. Index closed at 1,140.68.

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE) (Jan. 19)

500 East Caribbean Financial Holding Company Ltd shares traded. Index closed at 145.16

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Editorial Manager: Joseph Cox ; Email: tei.info@caricom.org

Business News In Brief

Indicators point to slowing growth in major economies

The growth rebound since the economic crisis in 2020 prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic may soon moderate in several major economies, according to the latest OECD composite leading indicators (CLIs). These cyclical indicators combine relevant factors for each economy, such as order books, confidence indicators, building permits, long-term interest rates, new car registrations and others, to anticipate fluctuations in economic activity over the next 6 to 9 months. The moderation is mainly the result of persisting uncertainties around the impact of the Omicron COVID-19 variant on the economy. According to the OECD, the latest CLIs for Canada, Germany, Italy and the UK all point to a drop in economic activity, while USA, Japan and the Euro area may have passed the top level of activity, but the CLIs signal stable growth. [\(CC\)](#)



EU members push back against fast adoption of minimum tax

Several European Union Finance Ministers have cast doubt on the bloc's plans to be among the first to adopt rules for a global minimum corporate tax rate of 15%. Under the French presidency, the EU Council has given the matter high priority with plans for EU members to adopt a directive to ensure a minimum level of tax for EU multinationals at the EU Finance Minister's next meeting on 15 March. However, because the directive concerns tax matters, it has to be unanimously supported by all EU governments to come into effect. Presently, the Polish & Hungarian governments disagree with the timing of implementation, indicating that the presidency's intention to finalise the directive in the first quarter and start applying the rules from January 2023 was too ambitious. [\(CC\)](#)

International Oil Prices as at January 21, 2022

Futures	Price	US\$ Change	Change %
WTI Crude	US\$85.14	-0.41	-0.48
Brent Crude	US\$87.89	-0.49	-0.55
OPEC Basket	US\$88.55	+0.05	+0.06
Natural Gas	US\$3.999	+0.197	+5.18