



LOCAL STOCK MARKET: (JS) ⁺

Stock Symbol	LASD	SML	WIG	VMIL	GK
Current Price (\$)	3.04	5.03	0.76	5.85	57.74
Trailing EPS (\$)	0.23	0.34	0.05	0.34	5.25
P/E (times)	13.01	14.77	14.00	17.00	11.00
Projected P/E	10.70	14.12	13.13	19.51	9.83
Projected EPS (\$) [*]	0.28	0.36	0.06	0.30	5.88
Book Value per share (\$)	1.65	5.47	0.34	2.81	55.19
Price/Book Value (times)	1.84	0.92	2.22	2.09	1.05
Dividend Yield (2019 %)	1.11%	4.50%	N/A	5.05%	2.44%
Volumes	45,412	30,000	565,696	92,309	16,512
Recommendation	BUY	HOLD	BUY	SELL	HOLD

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET TRADING SUMMARY

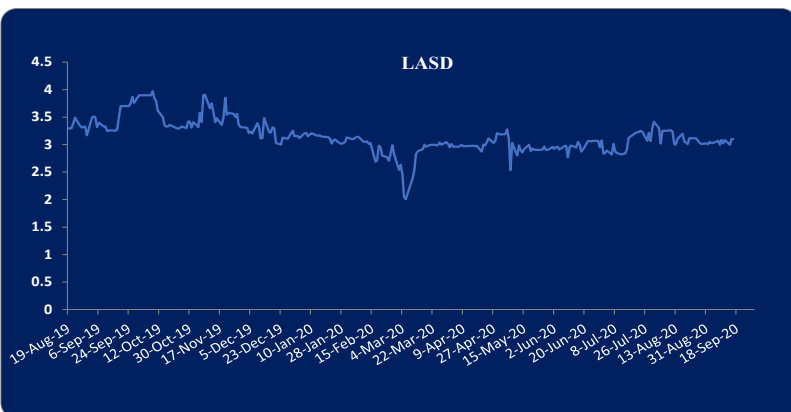
Currency	PURCHASE RATE			SALES RATE		
	Highest	Lowest	Weighted Average Rate	Highest	Lowest	Weighted Average Rate
	USD	149.200	112.995	142.9955	151.200	127.000
CAN	107.600	94.690	104.3775	113.184	102.500	109.3403
GBP	190.000	134.000	183.0402	193.232	179.000	188.5881
EURO	167.900	134.480	163.5856	176.320	163.700	172.7552

*Rates as at October 07, 2020

MONEY MARKET

The Jamaican dollar fixed income market was liquid in today's (October 8, 2020) trading session. The over night rate stood at 0.30% to 0.50%, while the 30-day rate was 1.10% to 1.30%.

The US dollar fixed income market was also liquid during today's (October 8, 2020) trading session; The overnight market rates were quoted at 1.50% while the 30-day market rates stood at 1.70% to 1.90%.



STOCK OF THE DAY: Lasco Distributors Limited (LASD)

For the three months ended June 30, 2020:

Lasco Distributors Limited (LASD), for the three months ended June 30, 2020, posted an 8% increase in revenue to \$4.70 billion, up from \$4.34 billion booked in the corresponding period in 2019.

Cost of sales amounted to \$3.81 billion, up 10% on the \$3.47 billion reported in the prior comparable period. Consequently, gross profit recorded 4% increase year over year, closing at \$896.24 million compared to the \$864.70 million generated for the same period in the prior year.

Other operating income rose by 39% to end the three months closing at \$73.14 million relative to \$52.66 million in the corresponding period last year.

Operating expenses of \$650.84 million were booked for the period, 10% decline from \$724.63 million recorded for the comparable period of 2019.

Operating profit increased by 65% to close at \$318.53 million for the period under review (2019: \$192.76 million) while Finance cost totalled \$1.50 million (2019: \$5.66 million)

Pre-tax profit amounted to \$317.03 million, a 69% increase from the \$187.07 million reported in the previous year.

Net profit for the period closed at \$258.02 million (2019: \$163.91 million), a 57% increase year over year following taxation of \$59.01 million (2019: \$23.16 million). Additionally, total comprehensive income for the period amounted to \$271.36 million relative to \$171.01 million booked last year same time.

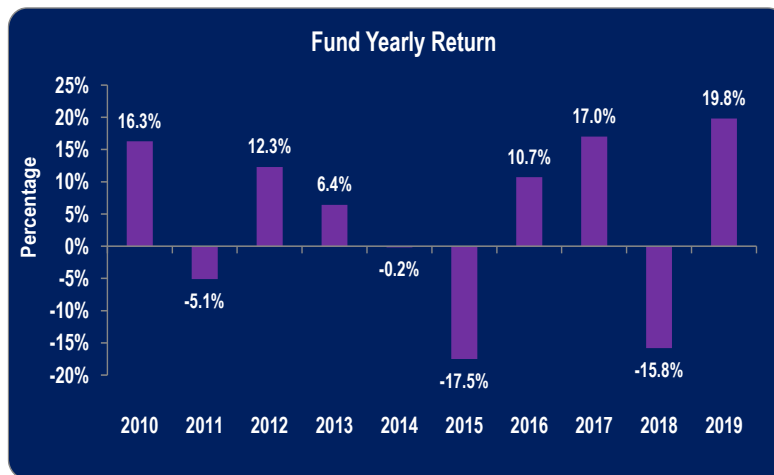
Earnings per share for the three months ended June 2020, totalled \$0.07 versus \$0.05 for the corresponding period in 2019. The trailing twelve months EPS is \$0.23. The total amount of shares outstanding used for this calculation was 3,508,293,292 units.

Over The Counter Funds (CI FUNDS)

Signature Income & Growth Corporate Class

This fund invests mainly in equity, equity-related and fixed income securities of Canadian issuers. It is currently expected that investments in foreign securities will generally be no more than 49% of the fund's assets.

The fund has a 3 year return of 1.6% and a 5 year return of 3.7%. The Fund also has a 10 year return of 3.5%. Rates are as at August 31, 2020



U.S.: U.S. Jobless Claims Show Scant Improvement at 840,000 Last Week

“The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell for a second week while remaining elevated, as the labor market makes scant progress amid risks of further weakness without additional federal stimulus. Initial jobless claims in regular state programs decreased by 9,000 to 840,000 in the week ended Oct. 3, with the prior week’s figure revised higher by 12,000, Labor Department figures showed Thursday. Continuing claims, the total number of Americans on state benefit rolls, fell to 11 million in the week ended Sept. 26, a bigger-than-expected drop.”

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-08/u-s-jobless-claims-declined-last-week-while-remaining-elevated?smd=economics-vp>

Europe: Boris Johnson Plans Extra Help for U.K. Businesses Hit by Covid Rules

“Boris Johnson’s government has drawn up rescue measures for U.K. businesses struggling to cope in areas forced into local Covid lockdowns, as ministers prepare to impose tighter rules within days. No firm date has been set for rolling out the package, which is dependent on changes to the restrictions as the pandemic unfolds, according to people familiar with the matter. But an assistance package may be needed imminently as Johnson’s team considers tightening restrictions further, with changes likely on Monday.”

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-07/johnson-plans-extra-help-for-u-k-businesses-hit-by-covid-rules?smd=economics-vp>

PLATINUM PORTFOLIO

Platinum Portfolio Yield Measures as at October 5, 2020

	Percentage (%)
Yield to Maturity	4.35
Weighted Average Coupon	4.917
Current Yield	5.05

The platinum portfolio has an effective maturity of 13.095 years and duration of 4.68 years.

STRUCTURED PRODUCT

Mayberry Gold

This portfolio is ideal for investors, both retail and corporate, seeking a conservative, short-term investment. The securities in the Gold are directly owned by the client and provide them with a safe investment option. Our Gold portfolio can also provide investors with coupon payments that can generate a positive income stream.

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MIL Ratings System:

BUY: We believe the stock is attractively valued. The company has sound or improving fundamentals that should allow it to outperform the broader market. We anticipate the stock will outperform the market over the next 12 months. The risk factors to achieving price targets are minimal.

HOLD: We believe the stock is fairly valued at the current price. The company may have issues affecting fundamentals that could take some time to resolve. Alternatively, company fundamentals may be sound, but this is fully reflected in the current stock price. The risk factors to achieving price targets are moderate. Some volatility is expected. In addition, technically it may be difficult to attain additional volume of the stock(s) at current price.

SELL: We believe the stock is overpriced relative to the soundness of the company’s fundamentals and long-term prospects.

SPECULATIVE BUY: We believe the prospects for capital appreciation exist, however there is some level of uncertainty in revenue growth.

Source: www.jamstockex.com, www.bloomberg.com, www.investopedia.com, www.tradewire.com



OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE + CUTTING EDGE MARKET RESEARCH

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