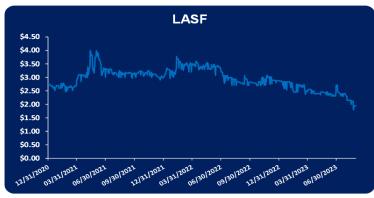
# DAILY MARKET SUMMARY

August 31, 2023

#### LOCAL STOCK MARKET: (JS)\*

Stock Symbol	LASF	HONBUN	GENAC	BPOW	ISP
Last Traded Price (\$)	1.94	6.20	4.94	2.50	36.17
Trailing EPS (\$)	0.12	0.57	0.67	0.14	0.42
P/E (times)	16.64	11.00	7.42	17.35	86.26
Projected P/E	10.49	9.33	5.80	15.65	61.33
Projected EPS (\$)	0.19	0.67	0.86	0.16	0.59
Book Value per share (\$)	1.66	2.73	3.02	2.65	5.06
Price/Book Value (times)	1.17	2.29	1.65	0.94	7.14
Dividend Yield (2022)	1.74%	0.35%	5.51%	N/A	N/A
Volumes	4,886	8,671	23,716	517	454
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	HOLD	HOLD	SELL



# STOCK OF THE DAY: LASCO Financial Services Limited (LASF)

#### Unaudited financials for the first quarter ended June 30, 2023:

LASCO Financial Services Limited (LASF) for the first quarter ended June 30, 2023, reported a negligible decline in trading income totalling \$539.18 million compared to \$539.99 million in the corresponding three months last year.

Other Income amounted to \$35.18 million (2022: \$24.50 million), this represents an increase of 44% year over year.

Administrative & other expenses rose by 22% to close at \$327.84 million (2022: \$268.03 million), while Selling and promotional costs increased by 10% from \$162.92 million in 2022 to \$178.68 million for the three months. As a result, Operating Expenses for the first quarter amounted to \$506.52 million, an 18% increase relative to \$430.96 million reported in 2022.

Profit from Operations for the three months amounted to \$67.83 million, a 49% decrease relative to the \$133.53 million reported in 2022. Finance Costs totalled \$24.76 million, a 7% decrease from the corresponding period last year (2022: \$26.77 million).

Profit Before Taxation for the first quarter ended June 30, 2023, amounted to \$43.07 million, a 60% decline relative to \$106.76 million reported in 2022.

Taxation for the three months had a marginal increase to reach \$24.25 million (2022: \$23.98 million). Net Profit for the three months amounted to \$18.82 million, a 77% fall from the \$82.78 million reported in 2022.

Consequently, Earnings Per Share for the three months amounted to \$0.015 (2022: EPS: \$0.065). The twelve-month trailing EPS was \$0.12, and the number of shares used in these calculations was 1,280,227,726.

# FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET TRADING SUMMARY

Q	PURCHASE RATE			SALES RATE		
Currency	Highest	Lowest	Weighted Average Rate	Highest	Lowest	Weighted Average Rate
USD	156.3688	122.0835	153.7276	169.1200	125.9872	155.6448
CAD	115.0000	92.7648	113.1192	121.5500	105.0600	114.9170
GBP	198.5000	155.8000	190.1382	211.6280	180.5100	198.1038
EURO	169.5000	136.1218	168.8504	174.6000	162.0000	172.2899

\*Rates as at August 30, 2023

#### MONEY MARKET

MAYBERRY

The Jamaican dollar fixed income market was not liquid in today's (August 31, 2023) trading session. The over night rate stood at 7.50% to 8.50%, while the 30-day rate was 8.00% to 9.00%.

The US dollar fixed income market was also not liquid during today's (August 31, 2023) trading session. The overnight market rates were quoted at 1.00% to 1.50%, while the 30-day market rates stood at 4.25% to 5.50%.

#### **OVER THE COUNTER FUNDS (CI FUNDS)**

# CI Synergy American Corporate Class (formerly Synergy American Corporate Class)

This fund invests primarily in equity and equity-related securities of companies which are located in countries that have signed the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) (or its successor).

The fund has a 3-year return of 7.44% and a 5-year return of 7.95%. The Fund also has a 10-year return of 8.42%. Rates are as at July 31, 2023.



\*Prices are as at August 31, 2023 \*Projections are made to the company's financial year end

#### Fed's Preferred Inflation Gauges Rise Modestly, Spending Jumps

The Federal Reserve's preferred measure of underlying inflation posted the smallest back-to-back increases since late 2020, encouraging a burst of consumer spending and feeding growing expectations that the economy can avert a recession.

The core personal consumption expenditures price index, which strips out the volatile food and energy components, rose 0.2% in July for a second month. The overall PCE price index also increased 0.2%, Bureau of Economic Analysis data showed Thursday.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-31/key-us-inflation-measures-post-modest-gains-while-spending-jumps

## Euro-Zone Inflation Gauges Hold Above 5% Before Key ECB Meeting

Euro-area inflation stopped slowing in August, presenting European Central Bank officials with a quandary as they weigh whether pressures are too persistent to risk a pause in interest-rate hiking.

Consumer prices rose 5.3% from a year earlier, stuck more than 2 1/2 times above the goal sought by policymakers, because of energy. Economists had anticipated weakening. An underlying measure stripping out volatile items slowed as expected to reach exactly the same level as the headline gauge.

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-31/euro-zoneinflation-stops-slowing-in-alarm-signal-for-the-ecb

### PLATINUM PORTFOLIO

Platinum Portfolio Yield Measures as at August 28, 2023					
	Percentage (%)				
Yield to Maturity	6.92				
Weighted Average Coupon	4.88				
Current Yield	6.22				

The platinum portfolio has an effective maturity of 19.19 years and duration of 11.34 years.

#### STRUCTURED PRODUCT

### **Mayberry Platinum**

The Mayberry Platinum portfolio is ideal for investors seeking a short to medium-term investment with returns denominated in hard currency. The portfolio comprises Investment Grade corporate and sovereign bonds, which provide strong yield and performance. The primary objective of this product is to provide our clients with income as well as capital appreciation. The Platinum portfolio enables the client to take full advantage of a diversified bond portfolio and is ideal for persons who do not have the time to actively manage their own portfolio.

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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





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