



Promoting Integrity in Jamaica's Financial Sector

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) was established in August 2001 as an integrated financial services regulator for the insurance, securities and pensions sectors in Jamaica.

Now over a decade later, the FSC continues to play a significant role in achieving the broader vision of building a strong, vibrant and sound financial services sector.

In keeping with its Mission Statement: **'To regulate and supervise the securities, insurance and pensions industries for the protection of their users thereby enhancing public confidence through the efforts of a competent workforce'**, the FSC undertakes a number of key activities. The FSC continuously carries out reviews of legislation administered to ensure a regulatory and supervisory framework that meets best practices while being the best fit for Jamaica; employs risk-based capital tests; conducts risk-based supervision, including on-site assessments for all three sectors; and promotes proper market conduct and integrity in the financial sector.

The FSC strives to attain its vision: **'To be an impartial, credible and relevant regulator, effectively engaging stakeholders to support a robust financial services sector'**. A number of public education strategies are employed to educate customers and empower regulated entities to engender awareness and compliance. The FSC plays an active role in various international standard setting bodies and facilitates cooperation among local, regional and international supervisors. Cross border collaborations have also led to successful prosecutions.

The FSC's organisational culture and character are shaped by its core values:

- Fairness
- Accountability
- Confidentiality
- Communication
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Teamwork

The FSC presided over significant growth in our financial services industry in terms of assets under management and market participants. Further, the supervisory framework developed served to protect the local financial services sector from meltdown during the 2008 financial crisis. As a result, Jamaica's financial services sector is rated among the best in the Caribbean.

For the period 2013-2016, the corporate strategic objectives will allow the FSC to more effectively perform its mandated duties.

The five main strategic objectives are to:

- Propose legislative amendments applicable to FSC's mandate;
- Educate stakeholders;
- Develop, enhance and implement operating policies and procedures for all business processes including service standards;
- Improve organisational capacity; and
- Maintain financial self-reliance.

Janice P. Holness
Executive Director
Financial Services
Commission



CONTACT

Financial Services Commission
39-43 Barbados Avenue, Kingston 5,
Jamaica • Tel: +1 876 906 3010 •
Fax: +1 876 906 3018

www.fscjamaica.org



Jamaica

KEY FACTS

Joined Commonwealth:	1962
Population:	2,751,000 (2011)
GDP p.c.:	US\$5,330 (2011)
UN HDI 2011:	world ranking 79

Geography

Area:	10,991 sq km
Coastline:	1,020 km
Capital:	Kingston

Jamaica, whose name comes from the Arawak *Xaymaca*, meaning 'Land of Wood and Water', lies south of Cuba and west of Haiti.

Constitution

Status:	Monarchy under Queen Elizabeth II
Legislature:	Parliament
Independence:	6 August 1962

Jamaica is a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. She is represented by a Governor-General appointed on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The country is a parliamentary democracy with a bicameral legislature and party system, based on universal adult suffrage.

The 21 senators are appointed by the Governor-General, 13 of them on the advice of the Prime Minister, and eight on the advice of the leader of the opposition. The House of Representatives has 63 directly elected members. The Governor-General appoints the Prime Minister (the MP best able to lead the majority of the House) and leader of the opposition. The cabinet (Prime Minister and at least 11 ministers) has executive responsibility. Elections are held at intervals not exceeding five years.

The constitution may be amended by a simple majority of both houses except for the entrenched provisions (that can be amended only by two-thirds majority of both houses) and specially entrenched clauses (as above, plus ratification through referendum).



Judicial system

Supreme court:	Supreme Court of Jamaica
Ministry:	Justice

The justice system is based on English common law, and comprises the Supreme Court (including the Commercial Court, Gun Court and Revenue Court); the Court of Appeal; the magistrates' courts (including traffic courts); the family courts and courts of petty sessions.

The Privy Council in the UK is the final court of appeal, though in May 2012 the government announced its intention during 2012 to bring legislation before Parliament to replace the Privy Council with the Caribbean Court of Justice, which was established in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in 2005. In July 2013 no such legislation had been brought before Parliament.

Government and politics

Last elections:	December 2011
Next elections:	2016
Head of State:	Queen Elizabeth II, represented by Governor-General, Sir Patrick Linton Allen (2009–)
Head of Government:	Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller
Ruling party:	People's National Party

After a violent campaign, the general election in October 2002 was largely free of violence. In a closer-fought contest than in 1997, the People's National Party (PNP) won an unprecedented fourth successive victory with 34 seats and 52 per cent of the votes and P. J. Patterson was returned as Prime Minister. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) took the remaining 26 seats.

Following his return to the JLP in 2002 (he had left the JLP in 1995 to found and lead the National Democratic Movement), in 2005 Bruce Golding succeeded the party's veteran leader Edward Seaga as party leader; Seaga had been leader in government and opposition for 31 years.

Professor Kenneth Hall succeeded Sir Howard Felix Cooke as Governor-General in February 2006 and Portia Simpson-Miller succeeded Patterson as Prime Minister when he retired after 14 consecutive years in office in March 2006.

In the September 2007 general election, the opposition JLP, led by Golding, won a narrow victory with 33 seats and 50.1 per cent of votes, while PNP took 27 seats and 49.8 per cent. There was a 60 per cent turnout.

Dr Patrick Allen succeeded Sir Kenneth Hall as Governor-General on his retirement in February 2009.

On 25 September 2011 Bruce Golding announced his retirement as JLP leader and Prime Minister. In early October 2011 the JLP chose education minister Andrew Holness as

its new leader and Holness was sworn in as Prime Minister on 23 October. At 39 he was the country's youngest ever Prime Minister.

The PNP won the early general election of December 2011, securing 42 of the 63 elective seats (increased from 60 since the 2007 election) and 53 per cent of the vote; the JLP took the balance of 21 seats and 46.3 per cent. Only some 53 per cent of the registered voters cast their vote. PNP leader Portia Simpson-Miller was sworn in as Prime Minister for a second time.

Local government

Ministry:	Local Government and Community Development
Association:	Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers

Local government is provided for by the Parish Councils Act 1887, the Kingston City Corporation Act 1923 and the Municipalities Act 2003, and not by the constitution. The Ministry of Local Government and Community Development is responsible for local government. There are 14 local authorities, comprising 12 parish councils (11 of which are single-tier) and the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation (single-tier). The Portmore Municipal Council within the parish of St Catherine is the only second-tier authority. Local elections are held every four years.

The local authorities have the power to raise revenue, for example from property taxes, licences, fees and fines; and they receive transfers from national government from time to time for specific purposes. Local authorities are responsible for local infrastructure and poor alleviation, and share responsibility with national government for other services such as environmental health; supply of water; and management of development projects.

National development plan

Vision 2030 Jamaica is the country's first long-term national development plan; it aims to put Jamaica in a position to achieve developed country status by 2030. It expresses the aspiration for Jamaica to become a country where its citizens enjoy a high quality of life and world-class standards in education, health care and nutrition.

Policy

Vision 2030 introduces a new paradigm which redefines the strategic direction for Jamaica and aims to put the country on the path to sustainable prosperity. The new paradigm will move the country from dependence on tourism, minerals and agricultural commodities to development of cultural, human, knowledge and institutional capital.

The Vision is based on seven guiding principles, aimed at putting people at the centre of the country's development:

Governance institutions

Electoral Commission of Jamaica: www.eoj.com.jm

Parliament: www.japarliament.gov.jm

Supreme Court of Jamaica: supremecourt.gov.jm

Vision 2030 Jamaica: www.vision2030.gov.jm

Office of the Contractor-General: www.ocg.gov.jm

Office of the Prime Minister: www.opm.gov.jm

Ministry of Justice: www.moj.gov.jm

Ministry of Local Government and Community Development: www.localgovjamaica.gov.jm

Ministry of Finance: www.mof.gov.jm

Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce: www.miic.gov.jm

Jamaica Association of Local Government Officers: www.jalgo.org

Bank of Jamaica: www.boj.org.jm

Jamaica Stock Exchange: www.jamstockex.com

Bureau of Standards: www.bsj.org.jm

Financial Services Commission: www.fscjamaica.org

Private Security Regulation Authority: www.psra.gov.jm

Office of Utilities Regulation: www.our.org.jm

Civil Aviation Authority: www.jcaa.gov.jm

Port Authority: www.portjam.com

- Transformational leadership
- Partnership
- Transparency and accountability
- Social cohesion
- Equity
- Sustainability
- Urban and rural development.

The Vision is built on four strategic goals that are seen as mutually reinforcing. These four goals are mapped onto 15 national outcomes, which in turn are to be pursued through national strategies. The national outcomes provide the roadmap for achievement of the Vision.

The four goals are:

- Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential
- Jamaican society is safe, cohesive and just
- Jamaica's economy is prosperous
- Jamaica has a healthy natural environment.

Governance

The Vision will be implemented through a series of three-year medium-term socio-economic policy frameworks which are underpinned by a results-based monitoring and evaluation mechanism that establishes specific indicators and targets to measure and track performance.

Further information

Jamaica Information Service: www.jis.gov.jm

Commonwealth Secretariat: www.thecommonwealth.org

Commonwealth Governance:
www.commonwealthgovernance.org