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THE MARKET

Dec 31 2008 - April 30 2009

JSE Index	79,742 points	▼ 410 points
Shares Traded	739.4 million	▼ 13.8%
Wealth traded	\$2.96B	▼ 74.8%
Market Capitalisation	\$593.7B	▼ \$3.6B
		▼ 0.6%

NOTE TO READERS

The data for Jamaica Producers Group is up to October 2008, the same as the last survey. The company was late filing its yearend earnings report. The JP results will be published May 11, 2009.

Since the last survey, Goodyear Jamaica has delisted from the stock exchange and was subsequently dropped from the **StockTrack** survey.

Lavern Clarke
Business Editor

FinancialGleaner

StockTrack

IN COLLABORATION WITH PAN CARIBBEAN FINANCIAL SERVICES

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TOP PERFORMERS ON THE STOCK

A review of the listed companies for the last four quarters ending Dec 08/Jan 09

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StockTrack methodology

ANALYSIS

The **Financial Gleaner** and Pan Caribbean Financial Services present the second quarterly issue of a ranking of companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange.

This analysis covers 36 of 38 companies with ordinary shares listed on the JSE.

Two companies, Carlton Savannah REIT and Ciboney, were not included in the analysis due to inactivity or insufficient data.

Two sets of rankings are presented with the first being an overall ranking of each company based on size, performance and value for shareholders. Secondly, the companies are separated into seven industry types and ranked within each sector. In addition, a detailed review and outlook are presented for each sector. The number-one company in each sector is also highlighted.

METHODOLOGY

Rankings will be done based on data garnered from financial results submitted to the Jamaica Stock Exchange. The analysis covers reported results for each company's four most recent quarters.

No adjustments will be made for extraordinary items, since these will vary in magnitude and across quarters.

Variables are selected based on relevance and availability of timely data.

Overall Rankings

Companies are ranked based on 10 traditional financial variables

The number-one ranked company under each variable will be the company with the best score

50 points will be awarded to the number-one ranked company under each variable, 49 points for second, and allocating points accordingly to the remaining companies.

The points awarded to each company will be tallied and companies ranked based on the total number of points garnered. The company with the highest number of points is assigned the number-one ranking.

OVERALL RANKINGS BASED ON 10 VARIABLES:

SIZE

- Market Capitalisation
- Asset Base
- Revenue
- Profits

PERFORMANCE

- Profit Margin
- Earnings Growth
- Return on Equity

VALUE FOR SHAREHOLDERS

- Price/Book Value
- Dividend Payout
- Price Change (YTD)

Sector Rankings

Companies are ranked based on the 10 most relevant variables for each sector. The variables chosen may differ from those used in the overall rankings.

The number one ranked company under each variable will be the company with the best score

20 points will be awarded to the num-

ber-one ranked company under each variable, 19 points for second, and allocating points accordingly to the remaining companies.

The points awarded to each company will be tallied and companies ranked based on the total number of points garnered. The company with the highest number of points is assigned the number-one ranking.

Tie Breaker

Where there is a tie for a particular position under a particular variable, the companies are separated using the score for that variable derived from each company's most recent financial year-end results.

TEN MOST RELEVANT VARIABLES FOR EACH SECTOR

Six standard variables will be used across sectors:

- Leverage (Capital/Assets or Total Liabilities/Equity)
- Earnings Growth
- Return on Equity
- Price/Book Value
- Dividend Payout
- Price Change (YTD)

Four other variables will be chosen based on relevance to the sector:

- Financial Services**
 - Net Interest Margin
 - Efficiency (Non-Interest Expenses/Net Interest Income & Other Revenue)
 - Asset Base
 - Return on Assets
- Manufacturing**
 - Current Ratio
 - Inventory Turnover
 - Dividend Yield
 - Profit Margin
- Communications**
 - Dividend Yield
 - Profit Margin
 - Current Ratio
 - Accounts Receivable Turnover
- Services**
 - Dividend Yield
 - Profit Margin
 - Current Ratio
 - Accounts Receivable Turnover
- Trading/Retail**
 - Inventory Turnover
 - Accounts Receivable Turnover
 - Current Ratio
 - Profit Margin
- Conglomerates**
 - Diversification Ratio (extent of reliance on a particular business line)
 - Accounts Receivable Turnover
 - Profit Margin
 - Dividend Yield
- Insurance**
 - Net Premium Growth
 - Net Premium/Net Benefit Expense
 - Accounts Receivable Turnover
 - Profit Margin

THE BIG THREE: RANKED

SHAREHOLDER VALUE

Guardian Holdings pays record dividend

In terms of its asset base, the Trinidad-based insurance conglomerate, Guardian Holdings, is the third largest company on the Jamaica Stock Exchange.

Ranked by market cap, it is also number three, but is number two, on revenue. It falls to number six when ranked by profit.

However, the latest **StockTrack** survey suggests that based on the results for the 12 months up to January, Guardian Holdings produced the best value to shareholders, ahead of its regional insurance, Sagcor Financial Corporation.

For the ranking in this category, the survey measures, for the preceding four quarters up to the time of the assessment, three variables: the price to book value of the company, its dividend payout and the change in market price over the 12 months.

When a company tops the table in any of the variables it receives 50 points, and loses a point for each position below the top performer in each variable. A firm can, therefore, earn a maximum of 150 points.



Arthur Lok Jack, chairman

Guardian Holdings, in this survey, which updates the analyses for the four quarters up to December 2008, scored 137 points, to move up nine places to number-one position.

It displaced the lottery and gaming company, Supreme Ventures, from the top slot. Sagcor, with 128 points, moved from fifth to second place.

In a year when the company disposed of its shareholdings in RBTT Financial Group under the Royal Bank of Canada acquisition, and gained TT\$309 million from the sale of its minority stake in Grup Mundial Tenedora SA, Guardian paid record dividends of US\$0.77 per

share for 2008, including a special dividend of TT\$0.25 per share.

"These transactions resulted in significant gains for our group," said chairman Arthur Lok Jack in a year-end statement to shareholders.

"This represents the group's highest dividend payout on record."

Guardian recorded a price to book value of 1.4 times, the same as its larger regional insurance competitor, Sagcor Financial Holdings. They tied for seventh position on this variable.

Guardian's dividend payout of 65 per cent was over the 12 months to January, the fifth largest among the firms listed on the JSE – and three times that of Sagcor.

Sagcor, with a positive stock price change of 51 per cent over the 12 months, far outstripped the seven per cent gain by Guardian Holdings. However, theirs were the only two gains over the four quarters over the period when when stock prices dropped on average by 31 per cent.

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SIZE

FCIB unrivalled in size

If size equates to beauty, then First Caribbean International Bank (FCIB) remains the most gorgeous listing on the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE).

As it was in the previous two quarterly **StockTrack** surveys.

It is the largest measured by asset base, market capitalisation and net profit, even if it lags behind two regional insurance groups, Guardian Holdings and Sagcor Financial Corporation in terms of revenue. And having led in three of the four categories used in these quarterly analyses to rank JSE listed-firms by size, FCIB held its number-one spot, scoring 198 points, of a possible 200 – the same as the last survey published in February.

Unlike in the previous survey, which covered the four



John Orr, CEO Michael Mansoor, chairman

PLEASE SEE FCIB, 3

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DISCLAIMER: The Pan Caribbean Financial Services analyst directly responsible for preparation of these analyses discloses that he has no interest in any listed equities and has interpreted information based on audited or unaudited financial statements released to the Jamaica Stock Exchange, which were deemed to be reasonably accurate. Any ranking expressed in these analyses is based on the outcome of the ranking basis disclosed herein or previously disclosed. These analyses should not be regarded by readers as recommendations or as a substitute for the exercise of their own judgement in making investment decisions. No representation or warranty, either expressed or implied, is provided by PCFS in relation to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information contained herein.

BY SIZE, PERFORMANCE AND VALUE

SIZE								
	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Market capi (J\$B)	Asset base (J\$B)	Revenue (J\$B)	Profits (J\$B)
FCIB	1	198	1	198	183.0	960.9	71.3	15.67
SFC	2	194	3	192	72.2	353.4	94.8	8.54
GHL	3	190	2	196	64.7	309.7	96.4	2.85
SGJ	4	188	4	186	43.9	292.5	40.8	9.69
NCBJ	5	186	5	186	30.3	288.6	41.2	9.23
SLJ	6	176	7	169	15.8	117.8	28.3	3.93
GK	7	173	6	175	13.2	94.1	55.2	2.29
TCL	8	168	8	168	20.0	56.5	29.4	1.94
LAS	9	165	9	166	28.8	31.2	23.8	2.50
JMMB	10	162	10	162	8.8	105.1	16.3	2.02
CAR	11	150	11	148	18.0	7.6	10.7	3.49
PCFS	12	147	14	142	6.7	63.8	7.3	1.38
SDBG	13	144	12	146	5.5	67.6	8.2	1.35
DG	14	144	13	144	11.0	11.8	13.2	1.37
JBG	15	139	15	135	4.2	13.7	27.9	0.94
FCIBJ	16	135	17	131	5.3	56.4	6.0	0.99
SEP	17	131	16	134	7.6	7.5	9.8	0.94
SVL	18	130	18	130	6.6	4.5	21.8	0.60
FJI	19	127	19	129	5.8	10.5	2.5	1.67
CCFG	20	122	20	127	3.7	47.1	5.8	0.39
CWJA	21	122	21	122	3.7	35.9	22.7	(3.99)
PJAM	22	120	22	119	4.3	11.1	2.4	1.14
MIL	23	116	23	119	2.3	24.0	3.0	0.47
CCC	24	116	24	114	3.1	8.6	8.8	0.42
JP	25	112	25	113	3.0	12.4	13.6	(1.28)
KW	26	110	26	112	3.3	12.2	2.8	0.16
PULS	27	92	29	91	1.5	1.8	1.5	0.47
GLNR	28	90	27	98	1.8	3.3	4.2	(0.45)
PEG	29	90	30	87	1.8	4.6	1.1	0.08
HL	30	89	28	94	0.4	3.4	6.8	(0.26)
RJR	31	83	32	79	1.1	1.5	1.6	0.01
MFP	32	80	31	80	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.35
SALF	33	79	34	75	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.08
BRG	34	78	33	76	0.4	1.0	1.5	0.02
PAL	35	69	36	63	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.00
MBICE	36	65	37	59	0.1	0.2	0.0	(0.02)
AVERAGE	130		130		16.2	84.0	18.9	1.92

PERFORMANCE							
	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Profit margin	Earnings growth	Return on Equity
MFP	1	144	2	136	92%	220%	23%
PULS	2	133	3	133	32%	24%	32%
NCBJ	3	133	4	127	22%	33%	30%
JMMB	4	130	8	122	12%	77%	31%
SGJ	5	127	5	125	24%	21%	25%
CAR	6	126	6	124	33%	-4%	60%
FJI	7	125	12	110	68%	24%	18%
SALF	8	123	11	115	18%	20%	25%
SLJ	9	121	19	97	14%	33%	20%
SDBG	10	118	10	115	17%	20%	22%
PCFS	11	114	16	103	19%	14%	19%
FCIBJ	12	113	18	98	16%	31%	16%
MIL	13	112	1	136	16%	26%	16%
PJAM	14	112	14	103	47%	15%	12%
JBG	15	110	21	94	3%	91%	19%
DG	16	106	25	90	10%	9%	20%
PEG	17	102	26	90	7%	170%	2%
CCFG	18	100	27	86	7%	66%	7%
SFC	19	99	17	99	9%	11%	16%
FCIB	20	99	22	91	22%	-26%	13%
SEP	21	97	7	122	10%	-7%	17%
GHL	22	94	9	117	3%	73%	6%
SVL	23	94	13	109	3%	9%	20%
LAS	24	91	20	96	10%	-9%	11%
RJR	25	90	29	79	1%	127%	1%
CCC	26	85	31	72	5%	-20%	13%
TCL	27	80	28	83	7%	-27%	10%
GK	28	77	15	103	4%	-33%	10%
KW	29	73	30	79	6%	-53%	3%
BRG	30	67	32	63	1%	-67%	4%
PAL	31	60	23	91	0%	-101%	0%
HL	32	54	33	62	-4%	-295%	-22%
JP	33	53	36	45	-9%	-597%	-16%
GLNR	34	52	34	57	-11%	-575%	-20%
MBICE	35	50	35	48	-67%	-1463%	-11%
CWJA	36	46	37	42	-18%	-1921%	-25%
AVERAGE	98		96		12%	-113%	12%

SHAREHOLDER VALUE							
	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Price/book value	Dividend payout	Stock price change (12 mth)
GHL	1	137	10	117	1.40	65%	7%
SFC	2	128	5	99	1.40	20%	51%
SVL	3	123	1	109	2.11	39%	-29%
SEP	4	123	2	122	1.30	25%	-5%
CAR	5	122	6	124	4.12	226%	-50%
BRG	6	119	7	63	0.95	289%	-43%
DG	7	119	11	90	1.55	62%	-46%
SGJ	8	118	3	125	1.08	53%	-37%
PAL	9	115	18	91	0.35	1331%	46%
FCIB	10	113	21	91	1.55	0%	-15%
SALF	11	112	9	115	3.19	0%	22%
PEG	12	110	12	90	0.54	63%	-6%
TCL	13	110	16	83	1.03	13%	-18%
MFP	14	108	13	136	0.62	170%	-28%
PCFS	15	108	20	103	0.94	48%	-44%
NCBJ	16	106	4	127	0.95	37%	-43%
SDBG	17	104	15	115	0.94	44%	-45%
RJR	18	100	26	79	0.96	0%	-5%
JMMB	19	98	14	122	1.48	9%	-49%
LAS	20	98	17	96	1.19	0%	-38%
JBG	21	97	19	94	0.76	10%	-17%
SLJ	22	96	8	97	0.80	42%	-47%
GLNR	23	91	24	57	0.89	19%	-48%
FCIBJ	24	91	27	98	0.79	0%	-13%
PULS	25	85	22	133	0.85	0%	-22%
MBICE	26	82	25	48	0.63	0%	-21%
MIL	27	79	29	136	0.94	0%	-56%
GK	28	78	31	103	0.60	17%	-51%
KW	29	76	23	79	0.45	33%	-60%
FJI	30	74	28	110	0.60	11%	-54%
PJAM	31	73	35	103	0.43	15%	-53%
CWJA	32	70	30	42	0.27	4%	-46%
CCC	33	70	32	72	0.91	0%	-64%
CCFG	34	64	34	86	0.70	0%	-60%
JP	35	62	33	45	0.40	4%	-60%
HL	36	51	36	62	0.37	0%	-68%
AVERAGE	98		96		1.06	74%	-31%

FCIB

CONTINUED FROM 2

quarters to October 2008, FCIB improved in all the variables in which it was measured.

For example, its asset base for the 12 months up to January, at \$960.5 billion, was up \$30.5 billion or a little over four per cent, compared to the preceding four quarters.

Similarly, the market capitalisation of the Barbados-based bank, at \$183 billion, represented an increase of \$30.5 billion, or 20 per cent over its market cap for the preceding four quarters, up to October 2008 when its market value was in fact down by \$53.4 billion, or 30 per cent.

Among the reason for the FCIB's improvement on these fronts, it seems, were its improvements, though modest, in revenue and profit in a turbulent market environment.

Its revenue of \$71.3 billion for the four quarters up to January showed a \$2.7 billion, or a four per cent increase over the preceding four quarters, while profit of \$15.67 billion was up 6.2 per cent.

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PERFORMANCE

Montego Freeport driven by financing income

Slung along primarily by a more than 200 per cent growth in earnings and a 92 per cent up-tick in its profit margin, Montego Freeport meowed its way to the head of the pack as the market's top performer in the latest **StockTrack** survey, based on its results for the four quarters to January.

Indeed, the property company was also the top of the heap in the services sector rankings, retaining position in this category

when the survey was previously published in February.

At the same time, Mayberry Investments, which held the number-one spot as the market's top position in the two previous surveys, tumbled 12 places to number 13. Like other investment houses faced with a skittish market for equities – and the without of windfall from the sale of Lascelles stocks that bumped up earnings last year –

PLEASE SEE MONTEGO, 5

TOP SERVICE

MOBAY FREEPORT	
Stock Symbol	MFP
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$0.35B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$0.62
Current Price	\$1.55
Price Change (YTD)	0.00%
P/E	2.49
P/BV	0.62
Projected EPS	\$0.26
Market Cap	\$0.87B
* March 31, 2009	

SERVICES														
	Current Rank	Current Score	Previous Rank	Previous Score	Current Ratio	Accounts Receivable Turnover	Profit Margin	Earnings Growth	Return on Equity	Dividend Payout	Dividend Yield	Price / Book Value	Price Change (12 mth)	Total Liabilities / Equity
MFP	1	188	1	183	5.77	1.84	92%	220%	23%	170%	08%	0.82	-28%	8%
PULS	2	183	2	182	14.88	48.81	32%	24%	32%	0%	0%	0.85	-22%	7%
PEG	3	175	5	172	1.81	14.47	7%	170%	2%	83%	3%	0.54	-8%	4%
SVL	4	174	3	178	1.25	78.98	3%	9%	20%	39%	4%	2.11	-29%	47%
PAL	5	170	4	172	1.91	27.92	0%	-101%	0%	1331%	3%	0.35	48%	37%
KW	6	162	8	165	2.12	8.52	0%	-53%	3%	33%	2%	0.45	-80%	80%
AVERAGE		175		175	4.59	30.19	23%	45%	13%	273%	13%	82%	-16%	36%

Pan Carib's outlook on Montego Freeport

As leader in the services/hospitality sector, Montego Freeport Limited's (MFP) ability to generate income from the sale of investment properties will be limited as potential investors face reduced access to capital. However, the recently announced reduction in stamp duty and transfer tax is likely to boost property prices resulting in the firm booking fair value gains.

With cash holdings of \$428 million (\$0.76 per share) as at December 2008, MFP should experience higher finance income given the high interest rate environment. PCFS is projecting earnings per share (EPS) of \$0.26 over the next 12 months.

MFP has minimal current liabilities and is debt free. MFP shareholders recently received capital distribution of \$1.06 per share evidencing the company's willingness to payout excess funds.

Given cash holdings of \$0.76 per share and investment properties estimated at \$1.74 per share, the company has a net asset value of \$2.50.

PCFS considers MFP a good medium-term value proposition if the shares can be acquired at \$1.75 and below.

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NO 1 COMMUNICATIONS: RADIO JAMAICA LIMITED

Positive returns in a difficult market

None of the listed media/communications companies, at least up to the quarter ending last December 31, could claim, insofar as having kinds of ratios and profit that excite stockholders, to be doing well.

It was more of which did worse than the other, in which case the RJR Group returned to the top of the fold among the three companies – The Gleaner Company and Cable & Wireless Jamaica are the others – categorised under communications by the Jamaica Stock Exchange.

RJR made a mere \$52 million in the period.

But then, The Gleaner Company, having written off the full value of the newspaper titles owned by its subsidiaries in Britain and North America (\$368 million) reversed its profit of \$92 million in 2007, to a loss of \$445 million in 2008.

LIME PROFIT AND LOSS

C&WJ, the big telecoms firm now trading as LIME Jamaica, for the third quarter returned profit of \$32.6 million or revenue of nearly \$6 billion. Over the nine months to last December, it reported a loss of \$493.2 million on revenue of \$17.1 billion.

Part of this had to do with C&WJ's decision to write down assets, the effect of exchange losses in servicing its debt and the cost of rebranding its operating name to LIME.

With such bloodletting all round, it didn't require too much for RJR to reverse the ranking of the previous **StockTrack** survey, published in February, and displace The Gleaner Company as the top firm in its group, judged by aggregate performance in num-



Gary Allen, managing director, RJR



Lester Spaulding, chairman, RJR

ber of specific variables over the four quarters up to the end of December 2008.

These variables are current ratio, account receivables as a proportion of turnover, earnings growth, profit margin, return on equity, dividend yield, market price to book value, the 12-month movement in market price and total liabilities to equity.

Top performance in any variable gives a company 20 points, so a firm could gain a maximum score of 200. In the current sur-

vey, RJR scored 195 points and The Gleaner company, an exact reversal of their past scores.

Cable & Wireless/LIME was constant on 184 points.

Over the 12 months up to the end of the December 2008 quarter, RJR recorded earnings growth of 127 per cent, against a 575 per cent decline by The Gleaner Company and 1,921 per cent by C&W/LIME.

POSITIVE MARGIN

While the latter companies had negative profit margins of 11 per cent and 18 per cent respectively, RJR had a positive margin of one per cent and return on equity of the same percentage. For The Gleaner and C&W/LIME, their return on equity for the review period was -20 per cent and -25 per cent, respectively.

Both The Gleaner and C&WJ made dividend payments during the period, but RJR made none. So, its dividend yield was zero against

five per cent each for the two other companies in the category.

Over the four quarters the share prices of all three companies, slipped, but RJR's five per cent decline was substantially less than the 48 per cent for The Gleaner Company and 46 per cent for C&WJ. In each case, though, these numbers are improvements on those of the previous survey, covering the four quarters up to October 2008.

In terms of liquidity, at the review period RJR had a current ratio of 1.92:1, slightly better than The Gleaner Company's 1.82 :1. For C&WJ, its current ratio was 1.09:1. RJR's liability to assets was 29 per cent, against The Gleaner Company's 35 per cent and C&W/LIME, 57 per cent.

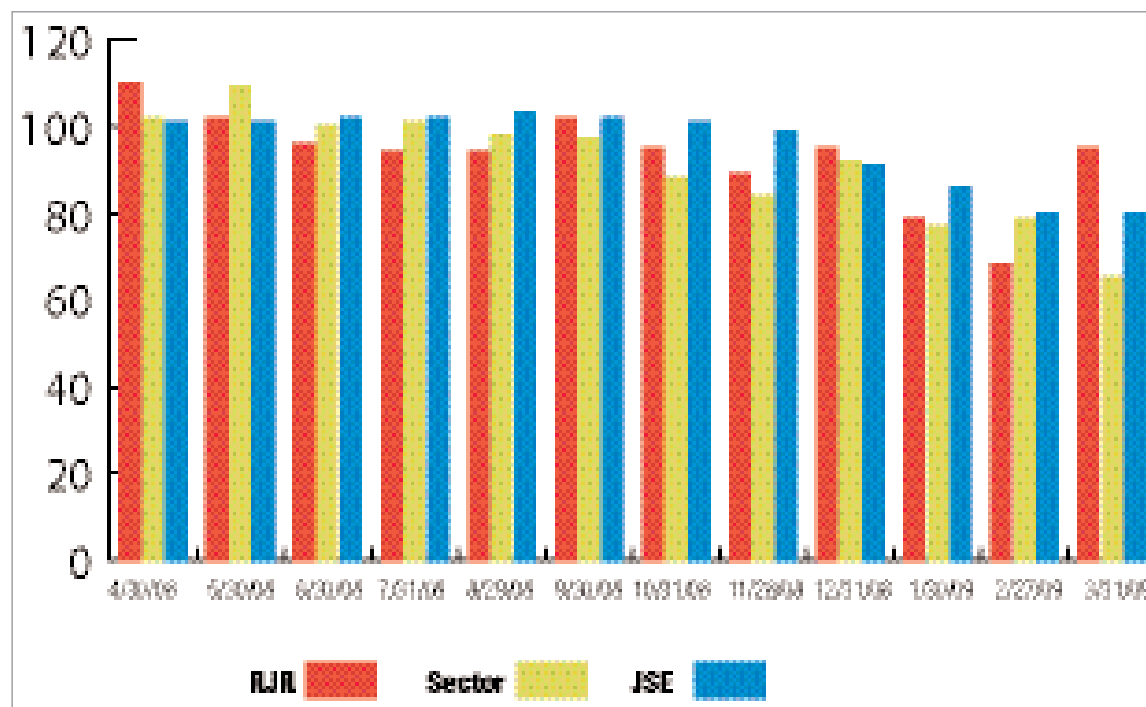
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TOP COMMUNICATION

RADIO JAMAICA LTD

	RJR
Stock Symbol	RJR
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$0.01B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$0.02
Current Price	\$3.00
Price Change (YTD)	0.00%
P/E	150.00
P/BV	0.96
Projected EPS	(\$0.05)
Market Cap	\$1.06B

* March 31, 2009



COMMUNICATIONS

	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Current ratio	Accounts rec turnover	Profit margin	Earnings growth	Return on equity	Dividend payout	Dividend yield	Price/book value	Price change (12 mt)	Total liabilities /equity
RJR	1	195	2	191	1.92	4.85	1%	127%	1%	0%	0%	0.96	-5%	29%
GLNR	2	191	1	195	1.32	6.25	-11%	-575%	-20%	19%	5%	0.89	-48%	35%
CWJA	3	184	3	184	1.09	4.81	-18%	-1921%	-25%	4%	5%	0.27	-46%	57%
AVERAGE		190		190	1.61	5.31	-9%	-790%	-15%	6%	3%	0.71	-33%	40%

Pan Caribbean's outlook on RJR

Radio Jamaica Limited (RJR) is likely to face a reduction in revenues as the economic downturn influences a fall-off in advertising income.

This decline will be partially offset by foreign exchange gains and higher interest income. In an effort to improve

operating margins, the company has embarked upon a restructuring exercise to reduce costs. A total of 32 posts have been made redundant including that of at least six senior managers.

The company has a 12-month trailing earnings per share of \$0.02, which is

projected to turn negative over the next 12 months.

Since the beginning of April, RJR's stock price has averaged 0.6x, its reported book value of \$3.11 per share as at December 31, 2008.

The current price to book value ratio

is below market and peer comparisons, suggesting that the weak earnings forecast is already factored.

As such, PCFS has a **HOLD** recommendation on the stock.

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MONTEGO

CONTINUED FROM 3

Mayberry has had to mark down assets and book lower profits.

“Brokerages and other financial services companies are having to adjust,” explained one analyst. “Mayberry is no exception.”

This, however, is not to suggest, that based on the results of the four quarters up to January, is in a precarious position.

It recorded earnings growth of 26 per cent, a profit margin of 16 per cent and a return on equity of 16 per cent.

It is performance in these ratios that the **StockTrack** survey uses to measure performance. With 50 points for top

place in each category, firms can earn a maximum 150 points.

Montego Freeport with two top position and a seventh place, recorded 144 points, to move one slot upwards.

Kingsley Cooper’s Pulse Investments (133 points) also moved up one notch to number three – the modelling agency had been number one in the first survey – while National Commercial Bank, though tied with Pulse on points, similarly moved up a place, to fourth.

The driver for Montego Freeport’s advance are apparent in its results for the quarter ended December 31, 2008.

The company, reported

an operating loss of nearly \$7.7 million, but financing income of \$27 million, pushed its pre-tax profit to the quarter to \$19.4 million and \$63 million for the nine months.

These compared to losses of \$6.34 million and \$3.16 million for the corresponding periods in 2007.

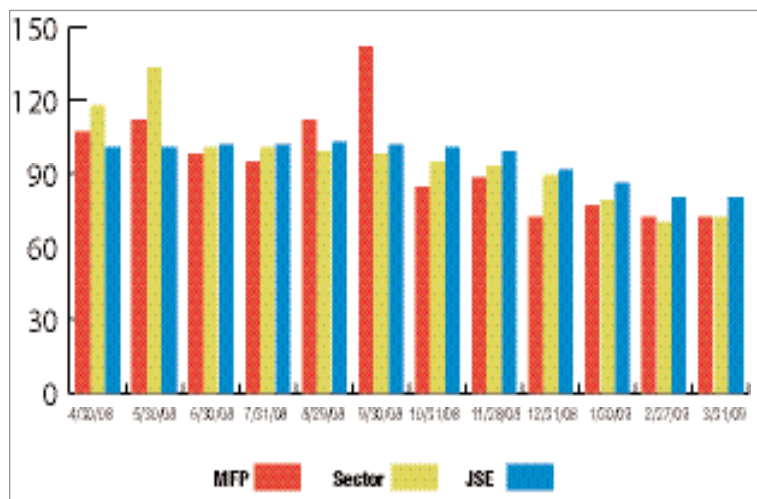
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John Gourzong, chairman



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NO 1 CONGLOMERATE: PAN JAMAICAN INVESTMENT TRUST

Pan Jam maintains lead with stronger results

An impressive earnings growth of 15 per cent in the face of sector declines as large as 597 per cent and mean earnings decline of 156 per cent among listed conglomerates; a 12 per cent return on equity, outstripping by far, a sector average of four per cent; coupled with a whopping sector-leading collection rate of 141.66 per cent, which defies a 40 per cent mean receivable turnover, are among the factors that have kept Pan Jamaican Investments at the top of its game and in the highest echelon of the latest *Stock Track* performance survey.

In the face of an economic downturn that has spared no business and sent some firms down the only open route of major cost cuts, Pan Jam has bettered its 188 score in the last ranking a few months ago, to post a sector-leading 193 points. In the process, it has opened up clear blue water between itself and closest contemporaries - GraceKennedy and Lascelles deMercado, with which it shared the 188 sector score, even as individual-performance differentials gave it the edge to secure first-place ranking last time round.

While the sector ranking for conglomerates remain unchanged, and the scores of all others but Pan Jam have marked time, the leading conglomerate has posted improved numbers in diversification ratio, debt collections - which continue to bedevil others in its class, profit, earnings and return on equity.

In the prevailing economic climate, the conglomerate's 47 per cent profit margin is, for example, light years ahead of Lascelles, the firm in its sector that comes closest in this regard with 10 per cent, and dwarfs the worst performer on this score, Jamaica Producers, which shrunk nine per cent.

Pan Jam ended 2008 with consolidated operating revenue of \$1.58 billion while net profits grew 17 per cent to \$1.6 billion on the back of a near \$900-million operating profit and \$846 million in earnings from associated companies such as Sagcor Life Jamaica and Hardware and Lumber, in which it has 24.5 per cent and 20 per cent stakes, respectively.

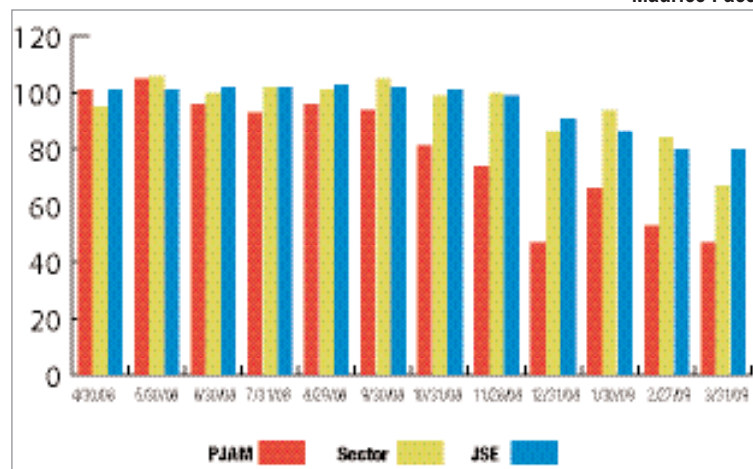
With this kind of income from stakeholdings, stretched across several industries, Pan Jam



Maurice Facey



Stephen Facey, CEO



appears to have struck an optimal diversification balance at 63 per cent and is posting stronger fundamentals than its contemporaries.

Pan Jam's strategic repositioning from controlling interests in banking, insurance and other ventures, to focus on its core competence of real estate, while benefiting from the strong performance of subsidiaries and businesses in which it retains minority stakes appears to be reaping dividends for the Maurice Facey-led conglomerate with its roots in property development in pre-independent Jamaica.

Unless an unending recession shakes out the bottom of the still profitable real estate business,

Pan Jam's over 700,000 square feet of high-priced real estate in the New Kingston business hub, will continue to rake in significant rental income - \$1.1 billion last year on occupancy of 98 per cent. At the same time, major new developments to be spearheaded by its property business, First Jamaica Investments, are likely to be placed in pause mode to ride out the global economic downturn.

The investment side of the Facey family-controlled business reported a 19 per cent contraction in operating profit to \$276 million. Soft local and international securities markets put a damper on its available-for-sale-investment portfolio and resulted in unrealised losses of \$201

million in equity, in contrast to gains in previous years.

With total assets of 10.1 billion and liabilities of 977.5 million, Pan Jam scores a 10 per cent total liabilities to equity ratio, creating a lesson in contrast when viewed against Grace Kennedy's 328 per cent and a sector average of 109 per cent.

A price-to-equity ratio of 0.43 suggests that Pan Jam shares could be undervalued at last traded price of \$28.50.

The number-one ranked conglomerate continues to put value into the pockets of shareholders, scoring a 15 per cent dividend payout in the December quarter of the *Stock Track* review - second only to GraceKennedy at 17 per cent. For the first quarter of 2009, Pan Jam made a dividend payment of 25 cents per stock.

business@gleanerjm.com

TOP CONGLOMERATE

PAN JA INVESTMENTS LTD	
Stock Symbol	PJAM
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$1.14B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$6.58
Current Price	\$25.00
Price Change(YTD)	0.00%
P/E	3.80
P/BV	0.43
Projected EPS	\$5.46
Market Cap	\$4.34B
* March 31, 2009	

Pan Caribbean's outlook on PJAM

Despite the economic downturn, PJAM's rental income is expected to remain relatively robust as the properties held are primarily commercial real estates located in prime commercial areas.

As such, PJAM reported that it maintained 98% occupancy of its properties throughout 2008 and that gross income from this segment of the business grew 17 per cent to \$1.22 billion.

Property values should also receive a boost from the recently announced reduction in stamp duty and transfer tax. PJAM's earnings are enhanced by its subsidiary's 25 per cent stake in Sagcor Life Jamaica (SLJ).

SLJ's earnings are expected to be propelled by the recent purchase of the Blue Cross health portfolio.

PJAM looks set to increase its stake in the resurgent agriculture sector by bringing the popular Walkerswood brand under its umbrella. The company has a 25 per cent interest in a consortium that is proposing to acquire 90 per cent of Walkerswood Partners Limited for approximately \$350 million in cash.

This investment is not expected to significantly affect PJAM's liquidity position, given cash holdings of \$298 million as at December 2008.

A US\$25-million line of credit from the International Financial Corporation is also available to PJAM to boost liquidity and make future acquisitions.

Based on net asset value, PJAM is deemed to have a fair value of \$44.89. This is significantly above current prices, therefore, PCFS has placed a BUY recommendation on the stock.

options@gopancaribbean.com

CONGLOMERATES

	Current Rank	Current Score	Previous Rank	Previous Score	Diversification Ratio	Accounts Receivable Turnover	Profit Margin	Earnings Growth	Return on Equity	Dividend Payout	Dividend Yield	Price / Book Value	Price Change (12 mth)	Total Liabilities / Equity
PJAM	1	193	1	188	83%	141.66	47%	15%	12%	15%	4%	0.43	-53%	10%
GK	2	187	2	188	42%	6.70	4%	-33%	10%	17%	3%	0.80	-51%	328%
LAS	3	188	3	188	58%	5.87	10%	-9%	11%	0%	0%	1.19	-38%	38%
JP	4	174	4	178	98%	5.89	-9%	-597%	-18%	4%	2%	0.40	-80%	81%
AVERAGE		185		185	65%	40.03	13%	-156%	4%	9%	2%	0.66	-51%	109%

COMPANY RANKINGS:

FOUR QUARTERS UP TO DEC 08/JAN 09

PULL OUT THIS SECTION

KEY		Revenue (J\$M)		Net Profit (J\$M)		Profit		Earnings/Share		Net Profit Margin		Operating Profit		Operating Profit		Operating Cash Flow (J\$M)		Total Assets (J\$M)		Return on Assets		Book Value/Share		Asset Turnover Ratio												
BRG	Berger Paints Jamaica Limited	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08	Sep-08	Dec-08										
CAR	Carreras Limited	GHL	89,944	96,388	FCIB	14,749	15,666	MFP	220%	SFC	27.55	30.76	MFP	90.9%	91.6%	FCIB	16,996	18,204	MFP	82.8%	77.3%	SFC	8,432	17,951	FCIB	920,586	960,876	CAR	39.3%	39.3%	LAS	267.66	251.46	SVL	5.20	4.86
CCC	Caribbean Cement Company Limited	SFC	79,760	94,821	SGJ	9,391	9,687	PEG	170%	LAS	31.41	25.99	FJI	61.8%	67.9%	SGJ	13,119	13,536	CAR	44.5%	42.4%	SGJ	(3,383)	14,483	SFC	329,512	353,426	PULS	31.6%	30.4%	GHL	260.54	228.56	JBG	2.30	2.38
CCFG	Capital and Credit Financial Group	FCIB	68,599	71,270	NCBJ	8,701	9,225	RJR	127%	GHL	50.39	14.10	PJAM	44.0%	47.0%	SFC	11,486	13,400	PJAM	37.3%	36.9%	SLJ	5,187	9,813	GHL	315,308	309,673	SALF	20.7%	21.5%	PAL	177.99	171.28	HL	2.21	2.01
CWJA	Cable & Wireless Jamaica/LIME Jamaica	GK	56,143	55,201	SFC	7,646	8,536	JBG	91%	FCIB	9.67	10.27	CAR	34.3%	32.7%	NCBJ	10,644	11,031	SGJ	33.5%	33.1%	JMMB	20,979	7,849	SGL	280,284	292,455	MFP	16.0%	20.2%	SFC	175.06	186.13	PAL	1.62	1.70
DG	Desnoes & Geddes Limited/Red Stripe	NCBJ	39,689	41,151	SLJ	3,003	3,928	JMMB	77%	TCL	9.51	7.78	PULS	31.6%	32.2%	GHL	14,679	8,613	FJI	36.7%	33.0%	NCBJ	8,653	6,809	NCBJ	291,153	288,626	FJI	13.9%	16.3%	TCL	74.93	77.74	BRG	2.10	1.59
FCIB	FirstCaribbean Bank International	SGJ	39,119	40,845	CAR	3,550	3,495	GHL	73%	CAR	7.31	7.20	SGJ	24.0%	23.7%	SLJ	4,353	5,582	PULS	31.9%	32.4%	CCFG	838	5,432	SLJ	98,677	117,791	SVL	15.8%	13.5%	FCIB	73.70	77.33	SEP	1.32	1.39
FCIBJ	FirstCaribbean Bank International Jamaica	TCL	28,190	29,354	GHL	10,180	2,849	CCFG	66%	GK	10.39	6.92	NCBJ	21.9%	22.4%	CAR	4,605	4,528	NCBJ	26.8%	26.8%	GK	6,567	4,625	JMMB	117,936	105,083	DG	11.6%	12.2%	GK	69.19	66.99	GLNR	1.28	1.22
FJI	First Jamaica Investment Limited	SLJ	19,082	28,259	LAS	3,015	2,495	NCBJ	33%	PJAM	5.84	6.58	FCIB	21.5%	22.0%	TCL	4,127	4,347	FCIB	24.8%	25.5%	TCL	4,398	4,234	GK	87,980	94,087	DG	9.8%	10.5%	PJAM	56.94	58.44	CAR	1.14	1.20
GHL	Guardian Holdings Limited	JBG	26,370	27,884	GK	3,437	2,292	SLJ	33%	FJI	4.56	5.49	PCFS	18.3%	19.0%	GK	5,250	3,484	PCFS	24.3%	25.2%	FCIBJ	4,598	3,701	SDBG	65,997	67,611	PJAM	9.8%	10.5%	JP	39.62	39.62	DG	1.22	1.18
GK	GraceKennedy Limited	LAS	23,548	23,824	JMMB	1,721	2,021	FCIBJ	31%	NCBJ	3.53	3.74	SALF	18.0%	18.1%	LAS	3,075	2,429	FCIBJ	22.4%	24.5%	SDBG	4,358	3,013	PCFS	57,731	63,773	JBG	5.9%	8.0%	FJI	30.70	31.81	SALF	1.15	1.18
GLNR	Gleaner Company Limited	CWJA	23,126	22,742	TCL	2,375	1,944	MIL	26%	FCIBJ	3.14	3.71	SDBG	16.3%	16.6%	DG	1,868	1,998	KW	21.1%	23.5%	CAR	1,423	2,282	TCL	51,225	56,526	LAS	9.2%	7.9%	PEG	28.04	27.91	CCC	1.12	1.13
HL	Hardware and Lumber Limited	SVL	21,289	21,751	FJI	1,385	1,666	FJI	24%	SDBG	2.93	3.19	FCIBJ	15.0%	16.5%	PCFS	1,605	1,833	SALF	22.2%	22.4%	CWJA	1,007	1,899	FCIBJ	49,626	56,436	CCC	4.7%	5.3%	MBICE	27.39	25.48	RJR	1.09	1.07
JBG	Jamaica Broilers Group	JMMB	14,774	16,344	PCFS	1,208	1,381	PULS	24%	SGJ	3.02	3.11	MIL	21.1%	15.8%	JMMB	865	1,829	SDBG	20.2%	20.2%	LAS	1,270	1,890	CCFG	49,833	47,051	SLJ	3.3%	3.8%	FCIBJ	24.26	25.33	JP	1.04	1.04
JMMB	Jamaica Money Market Brokers	JP	13,561	13,561	DG	1,211	1,368	SGJ	21%	PCFS	2.21	2.52	SLJ	15.7%	13.9%	SDBG	1,538	1,647	SLJ	22.8%	19.8%	CCC	1,601	864	CWJA	35,705	35,905	TCL	4.8%	3.6%	HL	15.05	13.84	PULS	1.00	0.95
JP	Jamaica Producers Group	DG	12,737	13,176	SDBG	1,239	1,349	SALF	20%	SEP	2.01	1.82	JMMB	11.7%	12.4%	JB	1,178	1,509	DG	14.7%	15.2%	JBG	2,104	863	LAS	34,388	31,186	SGJ	3.5%	3.4%	SDBG	13.64	13.83	LAS	0.72	0.75
KW	Kingston Wharves Limited	CAR	10,342	10,687	PJAM	1,014	1,142	SDBG	20%	PULS	1.67	1.73	LAS	12.8%	10.5%	FCIBJ	1,246	1,467	SEP	16.5%	15.0%	DG	1,005	838	MIL	27,252	24,041	NCBJ	3.2%	3.4%	PCFS	13.57	12.93	GK	0.67	0.63
LAS	Lascelles deMercado and Company	SEP	9,009	9,778	FCIBJ	835	986	PJAM	15%	JMMB	1.18	1.38	DG	9.5%	10.4%	SEP	1,483	1,464	TCL	14.6%	14.8%	MIL	196	790	JBG	13,041	13,661	GK	4.1%	2.6%	NCBJ	12.69	12.92	CWJA	0.60	0.59
MBICE	Montego Bay Ice Company Limited	CCC	8,960	8,805	SEP	1,037	938	PCFS	14%	SLJ	0.80	1.05	SEP	11.5%	9.6%	SVL	1,056	1,013	SFC	14.4%	14.1%	SVL	789	691	JP	12,407	12,407	SFC	2.4%	2.5%	SGJ	12.78	13.05	TCL	0.57	0.54
MFP	Montego Freeport Limited	SDBG	7,624	8,155	JBG	670	938	SFC	11%	JBG	0.56	0.78	SFC	9.6%	9.0%	CCC	622	949	PEG	11.2%	11.7%	KW	518	486	KW	9,285	12,234	PCFS	2.3%	2.4%	SEP	11.03	11.38	GHL	0.29	0.30
MIL	Mayberry Investment Limited	PCFS	6,608	7,267	SVL	646	604	DG	9%	SALF	0.73	0.78	PEG	6.7%	6.9%	PJAM	860	899	MIL	23.2%	11.4%	SEP	330	321	DG	10,674	11,786	SDBG	2.0%	2.1%	CAR	8.32	8.97	SFC	0.25	0.28
NCBJ	National Commercial Bank Jamaica Limited	HL	7,036	6,818	MIL	951	470	SVL	9%	PEG	0.58	0.63	CCFG	6.6%	6.7%	FJI	822	810	JMMB	5.9%	11.2%	PJAM	343	251	PJAM	10,733	11,119	JMMB	1.6%	2.0%	CCFG	6.42	5.63	SLJ	0.21	0.28
PAL	Palace Amusement Company	FCIBJ	5,572	5,981	PULS	454	469	CAR	-4%	MFP	0.58	0.62	TCL	8.4%	6.6%	KW	621	664	CCC	6.9%	10.8%	FJI	320	231	FJI	10,043	10,520	FCIBJ	1.8%	2.0%	PULS	6.04	6.41	KW	0.34	0.27
PCFS	Pan Caribbean Financial Services	CCFG	5,656	5,778	CCC	373	416	SEP	-7%	CCC	0.44	0.49	KW	11.2%	5.7%	CCFG	503	499	LAS	13.1%	10.2%	PEG	147	179	CCC	8,874	8,587	CCC	8.8%	8.5%	SLJ	5.00	5.22	PEG	0.25	0.26
PEG	Pegasus Hotels of Jamaica	GLNR	4,792	4,224	CCFG	375	388	LAS	-9%	DG	0.43	0.49	CCC	4.2%	4.7%	PULS	458	473	GHL	16.3%	8.9%	GLNR	(22)	159	CAR	6,934	7,625	CAR	6.9%	7.6%	KW	4.74	6.83	FJI	0.22	0.24
PJAM	Pan Jamaican Investment Trust	MIL	4,507	2,978	MFP	325	351	CCC	-20%	CCFG	0.40	0.42	GK	6.1%	4.2%	MIL	1,047	341	CCFG	8.9%	8.6%	RJR	40	93	SEP	7,178	7,508	BRG	3.9%	1.6%	JBG	4.02	4.60	MFP	0.18	0.22
PULS	Pulse Investments Limited	KW	2,945	2,826	KW	328	161	FCIB	-26%	MIL	0.79	0.39	JBG	2.5%	3.4%	MFP	296	296	GK	9.4%	6.3%	BRG	8	47	PEG	4,587	4,580	FCIB	1.5%	1.6%	JMMB	3.86	4.06	PJAM	0.22	0.22
RJR	Radio Jamaica Limited	FJI	2,241	2,453	SALF	75	81	TCL	-27%	SVL	0.24	0.23	GHL	11.3%	3.0%	PEG	118	130	JB	4.5%	5.4%	PULS	51	45	SVL	4,296	4,547	KW	3.8%	1.5%	CCC	3.74	3.98	JMMB	0.14	0.16
SALF	Salada Foods Jamaica Limited	PJAM	2,302	2,433	PEG	70	76	GK	-33%	KW	0.31	0.15	SVL	3.0%	2.8%	SVL	93	100	SVL	5.0%	4.7%	PAL	43	15	HL	3,277	3,447	GHL	3.3%	0.9%	MFP	3.53	2.50	MBICE	0.30	0.15
SDBG	Scotia DBG Investment Limited	RJR	1,587	1,637	BRG	29	16	KW	-53%	BRG	0.13	0.07	BRG	1.8%	1.0%	BRG	61	29	BRG	3.9%	1.9%	SALF	(8)	(11)	GLNR	3,705	3,267	CCFG	0.7%	0.8%	SALF	3.36	3.53	NCBJ	0.15	0.15
SEP	Seprod Limited	BRG	1,563	1,527	RJR	17	8	BRG	-67%	RJR	0.05	0.02	RJR	1.1%	0.5%	RJR	38	12	PAL	3.7%	1.8%	MBICE	(4)	(13)	PULS	1,725	1,847	RJR	1.2%	0.6%	RJR	2.96	3.11	SGJ	0.14	0.14
SFC	Sagcor Financial Corporation	PULS	1,436	1,459	PAL	10	(0.2)	PAL	-101%	PAL	6.98	(0.11)	PAL	1.9%	0.0%	PAL	20	10	RJR	2.4%	0.7%	HL	(74)	(29)	RJR	1,482	1,541	PAL	3.1%	-0.1%	MIL	2.55	2.04	PCFS	0.12	0.13
SGJ	Scotia Group Jamaica Limited	PEG	1,049	1,111	MBICE	(5)	(18)	HL	-295%	GLNR	0.07	(0.37)	HL	1.1%	-3.8%	MBICE	(4)	(0.1)	MBICE	-7.5%	-0.3%	MFP	(92)	(102)	MFP	2,104	1,525	HL	2.4%	-7.7%	DG	2.40	2.52	SDBG	0.12	0.13
SLJ	Sagcor Life Jamaica Limited	PAL	532	546	HL	78	(260)	GLNR	-575%	CWJA	(0.46)	(0.45)	GLNR	1.9%	-10.7%	GLNR	335	(104)	GLNR	7.0%	-2.5%	JP	(1,011)	(1,011)	BRG	795	980	GLNR	1.99	1.69	FCIBJ	0.12	0.12			
SVL	Supreme Ventures Limited	SALF	418	446	GLNR	89	(450)	JP	-597%	MBICE	(0.78)	(2.88)	JP	-9.5%	-9.5%	HL	218	(2																		

NO 1 FINANCIAL SERVICES: SCOTIA GROUP JAMAICA

Adjusting to loan-market shocks

In mid-December Bruce Bowen, then still new in the job of CEO of Scotia Group Jamaica, sat in his ninth-floor office to take stock of the year that was ending and to contemplate the one about to start.

"I wouldn't want to be one of the small banks out there in this environment," Bowen told this newspaper, looking across the deceptively calm and glistening water across the way in the Kingston Harbour.

"I would prefer to be us." The point he made was that while smallness sometimes gave the advantage of nimbleness, in tough times it is usually more important for banks to have the level of "capital and equity" to absorb the shocks, even as they innovate and create new products.

Bowen should have a clear idea about his assertion. After all, in the context of Jamaica, he runs not only a large bank – the biggest in loans and deposits – but the island's most profitable one.

And these are tough times. It is perhaps still too early to determine how Bowen's concept

of the market, and his strategy for Scotia, will finally play out.

However, he started with an institution that, judged on a range-performance criteria employed in this *StockTrack* survey, is the leader among listed financial services firms in Jamaica.

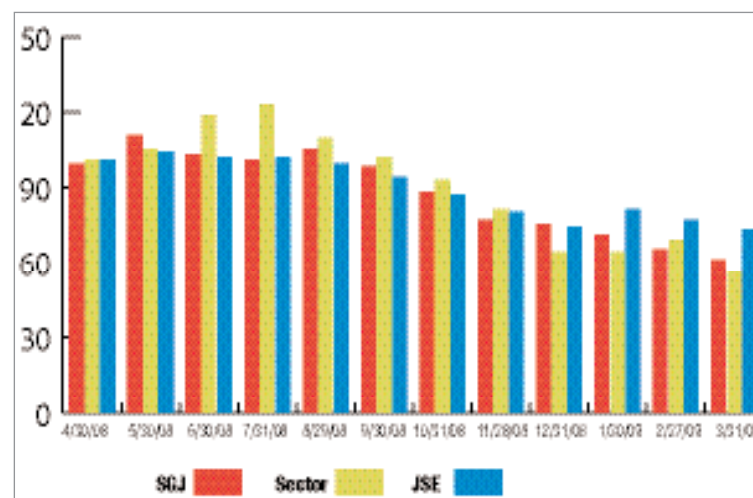
The review covers the bank's last four quarters, up to the end of January, which would include the first quarter of Scotia's new financial year.

For the first quarter, Scotia Group, a subsidiary of Canada's Bank of Nova Scotia, reported



Bruce Bowen, president and CEO
profit of \$2.5 billion – a growth of less than

PLEASE SEE SCOTIA, 15



FINANCIAL SERVICES

	Current Rank	Current Score	Previous Rank	Previous Score	Net Interest Margin	Efficiency	Asset Base (J\$B)	Return on Assets	Earnings Growth	Return on Equity	Dividend Payout	Price/Book Value	Price Change (12 mth)	Capital Assets
SGJ	1	175	2	174	8.33%	54.80%	292	3.40%	20.88%	24.75%	52.88%	1.08	-37%	13.08%
INCBJ	2	175	1	178	5.95%	56.29%	289	3.37%	32.57%	29.73%	37.44%	0.95	-43%	11.33%
JMIBB	3	167	3	163	1.54%	56.57%	105	2.00%	76.70%	30.54%	0.00%	1.46	-41%	6.55%
SDBG	4	162	4	162	3.39%	39.60%	68	2.13%	19.85%	22.38%	43.91%	0.94	-45%	9.52%
PCFS	5	158	6	153	3.41%	40.19%	64	2.43%	13.84%	18.90%	47.61%	0.94	-44%	12.87%
FCIB	6	151	7	147	4.24%	63.83%	951	1.60%	-25.60%	13.10%	0.00%	1.55	-35%	12.22%
FCIBJ	7	149	9	143	6.39%	63.63%	56	1.98%	31.36%	15.70%	0.00%	0.79	-13%	12.61%
FJI	8	146	8	144	2.48%	26.40%	11	16.25%	23.74%	17.80%	10.93%	0.60	-54%	31.47%
MIL	9	137	5	155	1.47%	62.81%	24	1.96%	26.00%	16.14%	0.00%	0.94	-56%	12.14%
CCFG	10	130	10	131	2.46%	72.73%	47	0.76%	65.98%	6.94%	0.00%	0.70	-60%	10.97%
AVERAGE		155		155	3.97%	53.67%	182	3.58%	28.53%	19.81%	20.13%	1.00	42%	18%

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NO 1 MANUFACTURER: D&G/RED STRIPE

Pan Carib's outlook on Desnoes & Geddes

The tough economic climate continues to squeeze DG's sale volumes, which dropped by 6.0 per cent across all markets for the 6-month period to December 2008.

Sale volumes in Jamaica fell 18 per cent as job cuts and falling remittance flows constrain consumer demand. In contrast, export volumes grew by 25 per cent. DG has taken steps to accelerate the growth of Red Stripe in the US by introducing canned beer.

Statistics indicate that currently, the small imported beer sector in the US is growing by 4.6 per cent with import cans growing 13 per cent.

The company is also seeking to contain expenditure. For the first half of the 2008/9 financial year, DG spent \$300 million less on export marketing costs compared to the same period last year.

The current restructuring exercise being carried out by its parent company, Diageo, is expected to yield further savings.

Marketing of beers is to be done from Jamaica while the spirits will be done from Diageo's Miami-based operations.

The reduction in expenditure is expected to offset the anticipated decline in revenues resulting in DG's earnings per share (EPS) remaining flat at \$0.49 over the next 12 months.

Using relative valuation and a justified price to earnings multiple (P/E) of 8.0x, the stock has a target price of \$3.92 per share. Given current prices, PCFS has placed a HOLD recommendation on the stock

options@gopan
caribbean.com

Resilient Red Stripe

Desnoes and Geddes Limited, trading as Red Stripe, has put a hold on discretionary capital spending, reshaped its marketing programme, refined its team and has taken its spot in the newly redrafted Diageo Caribbean/Northern Latin America grouping, not because the company is underperforming, but because it needs to cauterise plunging profits.

The company, citing the 'current global economic environment' has fallen

in line with parent

Diageo's plan for a synergistic surge by creating a more intimate working relationship among its country operations.

That Red Stripe –



Mark McKenzie, managing director
Left: Richard Byles, chairman

which is also the brand name of the company's internationally marketed beer – is a resilient company is manifested both in its history as a brewer and soft drink manufacturer in which controlling interest was snatched up by English company Guinness Plc back in 1993, but now also as the No 1 stock among listed manufacturing companies in the most recent **StockTrack** survey for the December quarter.

Red Stripe scored 160 points of a potential 200 in this most recent review, gaining eight points and shooting up two slots to

claim pole position among its seven manufacturing peers. The beer maker narrowly beat back Seprod Group, which had a similar score of 160 and had been on top since the survey was first published last September.

Red Stripe, under the 10 variables that manufacturers were assessed, was never the top performer in any category, but outranked all other seven companies enough times to claim pole position in our survey. Its dividend payout ratio at 62 per cent was well above the industry average of 50 per cent, but second to Berger Paint's 289 per cent; but its return on equity was 20 per cent compared to Berger's four per cent, but second to Salada Foods' 25 per cent.

OUTCLASSED SEPROD

This time, too, Red Stripe outclassed Seprod on profit growth, return on equity, shareholder returns, and book value. In the four quarters to December, the company grew profit by nine per cent, while food/industrial products manufacturer Seprod's net income contracted by seven per cent. Both had a profit margin of 10 per cent.

Though Red Stripe has created a tagline, 'Simply Red', its bottom line has been 'solidly black'.

The beer maker has consistently turned out high profits over the years – peaking at \$2.3 billion back in 2005 during the period when it was granted a tax holiday by Government to retool –

but has seen those earnings wane in the past two periods plunging to \$1 billion at year-end June 2008.

Then in December, a glimmer that the trajectory might change.

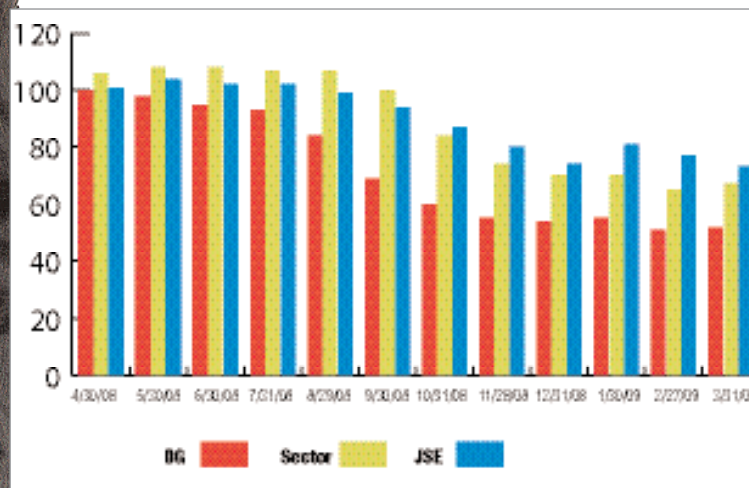
In the six-month period, the company's earnings report showed that net profit rose to \$934 million, a 54 per cent gain on the previous period's \$608 million, notwithstanding weak gains in revenue which grew only six per cent.

MARKETING FIGURES

A sign of Red Stripe's financial strategy was in the marketing figures – that budget was slashed, bringing spend down from \$918.6 million in the July-December 2007 period, to \$642 million in July-December 2008.

But to sustain its performance going forward, the company must revitalise sales volumes which are down 18 per cent already this year in its home market where the bulk of the product is consumed. Indeed a 25 per cent increase in exports still left the beer maker with a six per cent decline in overall volumes bought in the six-month period.

That a revitalised market is a difficult prospect within an economy still in contraction is apparently recognised by Red Stripe, which in the past two months has locked down a distribution plant at the western end of the island and has cut staff, effective June 30, including at least two management positions,



PLEASE SEE RED, 14

TOP MANUFACTURING

DESNOES & GEDDES

Stock Symbol	D&G
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$1.37B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$0.49
Current Price	\$3.90
Price Change (YTD)	-3.70%
P/E	8.01
P/BV	1.55
Projected EPS	\$0.40
Market Cap	\$10.96B
* March 31, 2009	

MANUFACTURING

	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Current ratio	Inventory turnover	Profit margin	Earnings growth	Return on equity	Dividend payout	Dividend yield	Price/book value	Price change (12 mth)	Total liabilities /capital
DG	1	160	3	152	1.12	3.8	10%	9%	20%	62%	8%	1.55	-4%	68%
SEP	2	160	1	162	3.88	6.7	10%	-7%	17%	25%	3%	1.30	-5%	29%
SALF	3	159	2	157	8.52	2.6	18%	20%	25%	0%	0%	3.19	22%	15%
JBG	4	147	4	145	1.47	8.9	3%	91%	19%	10%	2%	0.76	-17%	162%
BRG	5	139	5	140	1.43	2.6	1%	-67%	4%	289%	12%	0.95	-43%	138%
TCL	6	132	7	135	1.09	1.3	7%	-27%	10%	13%	1%	1.03	-13%	185%
MBICE	7	123	6	135	9.50	1.2	-67%	-1453%	-11%	0%	0%	0.63	-21%	6%
CCG	8	123	8	117	1.00	1.7	5%	-20%	13%	0%	0%	0.91	-64%	161%
AVERAGE		143			3.50	3.6	-2%	-103%	12%	50%	3%	1.29	-24%	96%

NO 1 INSURANCE: SAGICOR LIFE JAMAICA

Riding the economic downturn

In the maelstrom that hit global financial markets – including Jamaica’s – last year, Sagikor Life Jamaica (SLJ) absorbed with relative ease what might have been major shocks to others.

It sold more insurance than others in the market, kept its costs under fair control and therefore to take a substantial slice of its income to the bottom line. In the process, it outperformed its peers on most industry ratios.

Indeed, it is that performance that helped SLJ to dethrone its parent, the Barbados-based Sagikor Financial Corporation (SFC), as the best-performing among the insurance companies listed on the Jamaica Stock Exchange.

The Jamaica firm scored 194, of a maximum of 200 points, for leading in most of the 10 variables used by **StockTrack** to rate performance in the sector.

It was four points ahead of number-two ranked Guardian Holdings Limited, the Trinidadian insurance conglomerate, which has an unlisted subsidiary in Jamaica.

TOP INSURANCE

SAGICOR LIFE JAMAICA

Stock Symbol	SLJ
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$3.93B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$0.80
Current Price	\$4.20
Price Change(YTD)	-25.00%
P/E	5.24
P/BV	0.84
Projected EPS	\$0.83
Market Cap	\$15.75B
* March 31, 2009	

Perhaps the strongest gain by SLJ over the review period which coincided with the four quarters of the firm’s financial year, was the 83 per cent growth in net premium income, to \$20.26 billion or nearly 72 per cent of group revenue of \$28.25 billion.

The group had after-tax profit of \$4.542 billion.

Its acquisition of the \$2-billion health portfolio of Blue Cross of Jamaica, a deal which closed in December, will likely bump up earnings in the periods ahead, though hiccups remain in the

PLEASE SEE SAGICOR, 16

INSURANCE													
	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Net Premium growth	Net benefit/Accounts Net premium/coverage	Profit margin	Earnings growth	Returns on equity	Dividend payout	Price/book value	Price change (YTD)	Total liabilities/equity
SLJ	1	194	3	189	83%	34%	7.34	14%	33%	20%	42%	0.80	-47%
GHL	2	190	2	190	5%	74%	5.99	3%	73%	6%	65%	1.40	7%
SFC	3	186	1	191	66%	81%	5.53	9%	11%	16%	20%	1.40	51%
AVERAGE		190		190	51%	63%	6.20	9%	39%	14%	42%	1.20	3%

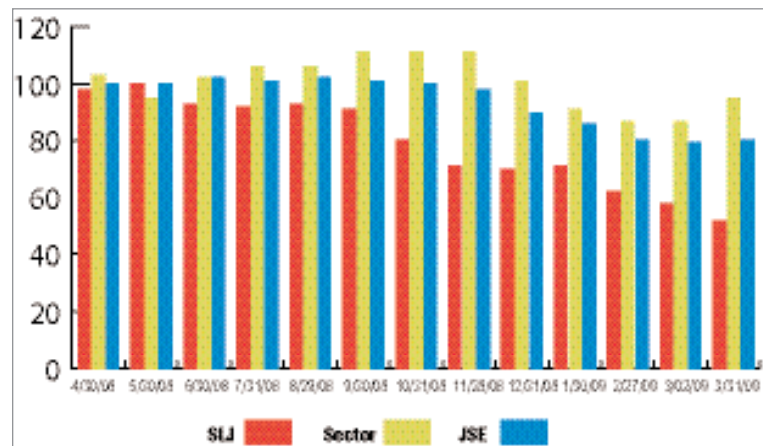
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Pan Caribbean's outlook on Sagikor Jamaica

The anticipated reduction in consumer disposable income could result in Sagikor Life Jamaica (SLJ) experiencing slower premium growth, increased benefits particularly withdrawals and surrenders.

The company's operating margins are also likely to be depressed by higher reinsurance rates.

However, higher net interest margins along with the acquisition of Blue Cross Health portfolio is expected to enhance SLJ's revenues.

SLJ now has command of approximately 80 per cent of the health insurance market.

The company recently implemented a new performance-based pay scheme, which is among a raft of measures SLJ is implementing to cut costs.

PCFS is projecting that SLJ's earnings per share (EPS) will remain flat at \$0.80 over the next 12 months (excluding one-off premiums earned in 2008).

Assuming a justified price to earnings multiple (P/E) of 7.0x, the stock has a target price of \$5.60.

Therefore, based on current prices, PCFS has a **HOLD** recommendation on the stock.

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NO 1 TRADING/RETAIL: CARRERAS LIMITED

Sin tax sinks smoking profits

Bombarded with warnings about the health hazards of smoking and with high taxes on their cigarettes, Jamaicans are not lighting up as often, it seems, with not-so-wonderful consequences for the bottom line of Carreras Limited.

But the company is still doing what it does better than anyone else in Jamaica, distributing cigarettes and distributing dividends.

But even as the company maintains its performance dominance over the other trading/retail firm on the Jamaica Stock Exchange, the latest **StockTrack** reports suggests that Carreras may be feeling the strain of the market.

With the delisting and liquidation of Goodyear Jamaica by its parent company, Carreras and Hardware & Lumber remain the only two firms in their category in the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE) – a development that made no difference to Carreras' dominance of the rankings in its sector, based on the performance criteria used by **StockTrack** for the ratings.

DECEMBER OUTTURN

In the December quarter, even though Carreras reported strong net profit of \$2.34 billion, that outturn was about an 18 per cent contraction of its bottom line.

But the cigarette company remained the No 1 trading/retail company in **StockTrack's** December quarter survey of listed companies – holding pole position since the survey was first published in October 2008 – in consistent demonstration of strength, profitability, and generous shareholder returns.

The Michael Bernard-led company has also polled consistently among the top six of 36 listed companies.

In the September/October 2008 quarter survey by **StockTrack**, Carreras scored 195 of a possible



Christopher Burton, chairman

200; that time, it had a perfect score of 200, indicating that in all 10 variables under which retail companies are assessed (see sector table on this page), Carreras topped them all.

H&L, which in the last survey had been third of three companies with a score of 184, this time scored 190. This, however, was a reflection of the narrowed field of rivals and not of an improved showing by the hardware company, whose performance actually worsened in the December quarter.

Additionally, in the survey covering the four quarters, Carreras made gains in a category where it is known to fight hard to be a top performer, value to shareholders.



Michael Bernard, managing director

CLAWED ITS WAY BACK

Having been knocked from the top position, to number 12 in the previous survey published in February, Carreras in this report clawed its way back to sixth place, standing out for its well-known generous dividend policy.

Its dividend payout ratio over the four review quarters was 226 per cent, exceeded only by the 289 per cent of Desnoes & Geddes/Red Stripe and the phenomenal 1,331 per cent payment by Palace Amusement which rewarded shareholders even though the company's earnings fell.

Although the 50 per cent decline in Carreras' stock value over the 12 months was in sync with the broad performance of a bearish market, its share price of 4.12 times book value was the best among listed firms.

H&L, the exchange's other listing in the trading/retail category, saw its price drop 60 per cent over the same period. Its price to book value was 0.37 times.

And having lost approximately \$260 million for the financial year to December 31, H&L paid no dividend.

Indeed, the company, which posted a profit of \$133.55 million in 2007, had negative growth of 295 per cent over 12 months, January to December.

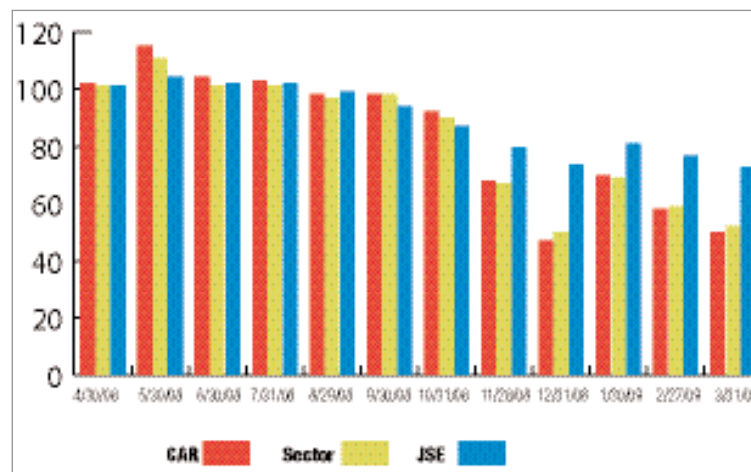
By that token, Carreras' four per cent retreat in profit was mild, but it came on the back of 13 per cent decline in volume sale of cigarettes during the first nine months of last year, when net profit slipped nearly 18 per cent.

Additionally, Carreras had also suffered a more than \$290 million, or 41 per cent drop in interest income. It can, perhaps, expect some recovery in interest income, given the upward movement in interest rates in recent months.

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TOP TRADING

CAREERAS LTD	
Stock Symbol	CAR
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$3.49B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$7.20
Current Price	\$37.00
Price Change (YTD)	5.71%
P/E	5.14
P/BV	4.12
Projected EPS	\$6.47
Market Cap	\$17.96B
* March 31, 2009	



TRADING/RETAIL

	Current rank	Current score	Previous rank	Previous score	Inventory turnover	Accounts rec turnover	Current ratio	Profit margin	Earnings growth	Return on equity	Dividend payout	Price/book value	Price change (12 mth)	Total Liabilities/Equity
CAR	1	200	1	195	21.88	41.68	1.87	33%	-4%	60%	226%	4.12	-50%	56%
H&L	2	190	3	184	3.14	16.37	1.34	-4%	-295%	-22%	0%	0.37	-68%	200%
AVERAGE		195		190	12.51	29.02	1.60	14%	-149%	19%	113%	2.25	-59%	120%

Pan Caribbean's outlook on Carreras

Carreras Limited has been speared the negative impact of a further increase in 'sin taxes'.

However, the company's performance is likely to be adversely impacted by lower consumer spending, competition from illegal cigarette imports and lower cash balances.

Pan Caribbean Financial Services projects

core earnings of \$5.56 per share for the 12-month period to March 2009.

Assuming a conservative P/E of 7.5x, Carreras core operations has an intrinsic value of \$41.71 per share. As at December 2008, the company has excess working capital of \$2.31 per share

(assuming a current ratio of 1.5x is needed

to finance core operations) bringing the intrinsic value to \$44.02 per share.

There is a tax-recoverable amount of \$3.57 per share, which if successfully recovered would push CAR value to \$47.59 per share. PCFS views the stock as a **HOLD** at current prices.

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RED

CONTINUED FROM 12

to slim down costs even further.

Red Stripe has been in the business of beer for 80 years, since 1928, but the company actually began two decades earlier as a manufacturer of soft drinks back in 1918 when the company was founded by Eugene Peter Desnoes and Thomas Geddes. The company went public back in 1970 when it floated eight per cent of its stock on the Jamaica exchange back then to raise \$3 million for expansion. Guinness paid US\$62 million for a 51 per cent stake in D&G in 1993. Now ultimate parent Diageo owns about 58 per cent through Udiama Holdings AB, a company registered in Sweden.

The company's soft drinks line which is marketed mainly under the D&G brand and the grapefruit drink Ting, continues to flourish, but it is Red Stripe beer that has given the company its international flavour.

AMONG TOP FIVE

Red Stripe lager, which has 4.7 per cent alcoholic content, became cemented in the UK back in the 1970s and is said to be among the top five beers there. Its foray into the United States market came a decade later in 1985 but, stacked against other well-known brands in a market that consumes some 500 brews, the beer failed to make a big splash.

But what a difference two decades make. Now, Red Stripe, which was first popularised by Ian Fleming's James Bond novels and now which pops up in the odd movie, says its lager has penetrated the market and is now even more popular outside the ethnic Caribbean populations overseas.

Indeed, while sales were down in Jamaica, Red Stripe's US market grew 27 per cent in the July-December period.

The company's main proprietary brands include Red Stripe, Red Stripe Light, Dragon Stout and D&G.

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SCOTIA

CONTINUED FROM 11

one per cent for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Over the four quarters specifically covered by the *StockTrack* analysis, Scotia lifted its earning growth by approximately 21 per cent, to be seventh in this variable among the 10 firms in the financial services category.

Nonetheless, Scotia's performance was sufficient to help Scotia to displace its big rival, National Commercial Bank (NCB), at the top of the financial services league table in the *StockTrack* survey.

Both companies, in fact, tied on a score of 175 out of a possible 200, but Scotia came out ahead when the scores for the variables derived from their yearend financials are applied.

Perhaps the most significant feature to emerge in the survey is its efficiency, compared to its financial sector peers, in squeezing returns out of the loans it makes. Its net interest margin of 8.33 per cent for two percentage points better than First Jamaica Investments and ahead of 5.95 per cent for NCB.

But Bowen is likely to be casting a wary eye on those outcomes, seeking to ensure not only cost efficiency as the banking group utilised 54.6 per cent of its revenue for expenses, plac-

ing fourth on the efficiency rankings, behind First Jamaica, its subsidiary Scotia DBG, and Pan Caribbean Financial Services, but also the quality of the bank's loan portfolio in the face of rising bad debts.

For instance, at the end of the first quarter, Scotia's non-performing loans, at \$3.551 billion, were 65 per cent higher than the \$2.155 billion a year earlier, or just under four per cent of total loans and 1.2 per cent of total assets.

For the corresponding quarter in 2007, bad loans represented 1.75 per cent of the loan portfolio and 0.65 per cent of assets. Scotia provisioned \$925 million for loan losses.

Scotia's return on equity over the reviewed four quarters, at 3.43 per cent, was best for the big institutions, being marginally ahead of the NCB's 3.37 per cent.

Only First Jamaica Investments with a 16.28 per cent outcome was better.

TOP FINANCIAL

SCOTIA GROUP JAMAICA

Stock Symbol	SGJ
Net Profits (last 4Qs)	\$9.67B
EPS (last 4Qs)	\$3.11
Current Price	\$14.10
Price Change(YTD)	-19.43%
P/E	4.53
P/BV	1.08
Projected EPS	\$3.40
Market Cap	\$43.87B

*March 31, 2009

Pan Caribbean's outlook on Scotia Group

Scotia Group Jamaica's (SGJ) net-interest income is projected to increase by 17 per cent over the next 12 months. This as the growth in interest income from loans and securities is expected to outpace the increase in interest expense, given the relatively low cost of funds on customer deposits.

SGJ's longstanding relationship with the Government augers well for continued access to low-cost deposits as well as investment opportunities evidenced by the signing of a US\$100-million loan facility in February.

The recently launched pension product, Scotia Bridge, should boost Scotia Insurance premium revenue.

SGJ may face higher non-performing loans and a slow-down in loan growth within the context of a weakening economy. A decline in loan

growth would also have an adverse impact on fee income.

However, clients are being offered flexible loan-payment plans, which involve extending loan tenors, thus lowering periodic loan payments. This is likely to temper the anticipated fallout from non-performing loans.

The growth in net-interest income along with FX translation gains due to the significant depreciation in the JMD is expected to offset declines in trading income and increased provision for bad loans.

As such, SGJ's earnings per share is projected to rise to \$3.40, compared to \$3.11 over the last four quarters. Assuming a justified P/E of 7.0x, SGJ is valued at \$23.80; hence PCFS places a **BUY** recommendation on the stock.

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However, on return on assets, its 24.75 per cent lagged behind Jamaica Money Market Brokers (30.54 per cent) and NCB (29.73 per cent).

Scotia, among its listed financial services peers, maintained the most generous divi-

dend policy, paying over the review period 52.68 per cent of net income, better than Pan Caribbean's 47.61 per cent and Scotia DBG's 43.91 per cent.

Yet, its share price over the 12 months slipped 37 per cent, which, perhaps in the context of the exchange's raging bear,

was a relatively mild decline, bettered only by two financial services firms, FirstCaribbean International Bank and its subsidiary, FirstCaribbean Jamaica.

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Operating Expenses (J\$M)		
	Sep-08	Dec-08
FCIB	29,331	32,127
GHL	28,983	30,986
SFC	27,295	30,495
GK	20,178	21,096
SGJ	15,441	16,276
TCL	14,902	14,739
NCBJ	14,076	14,393
CWJA	14,538	14,277
LAS	6,205	6,547
SLJ	4,334	4,940
CCC	5,239	4,589
JBG	2,590	2,895
JP	2,868	2,868
JMMB	2,560	2,593
FCIBJ	2,443	2,566
DG	2,523	2,361
SVL	1,942	2,017
GLNR	2,016	1,932
HL	1,600	1,695
CCFG	1,243	1,332
CAR	1,268	1,300
PCFS	1,068	1,233
SEP	1,034	1,155
SDBG	1,065	1,080
PULS	974	982
RJR	909	949
KW	727	676
BRG	705	669
PEG	616	640
FJI	638	636
MIL	603	602
PJAM	331	292
PAL	110	112
SALF	72	78
MFP	29	29
MBICE	31	24
Total	210,488	221,181

Capital Expenditure (J\$M)		
	Oct-08	Dec-08
TCL	6,056.24	6,353.62
CWJA	6,107.22	6,107.22
PULS	1,995.05	1,995.05
JBG	1,628.08	1,628.08
KW	1,222.95	1,222.95
CCC	1,152.12	1,152.12
DG	752.55	752.55
LAS	728.05	728.05
GK	526.51	526.51
SEP	420.49	420.49
JP	246.14	246.14
SVL	191.44	191.44
GHL	180.85	180.85
GLNR	164.86	164.86
HL	151.23	151.23
SLJ	150.70	150.70
PEG	133.29	133.29
RJR	104.02	104.02
BRG	49.15	49.15
PJAM	33.07	33.07
CAR	19.31	19.31
SALF	0.93	0.93
PAL	0.60	0.60
MFP	0.09	0.09
CCFG	—	—
FCIB	—	—
FCIBJ	—	—
FJI	—	—
JMMB	—	—
MIL	—	—
MBICE	—	—
NCBJ	—	—
PCFS	—	—
SFC	—	—
SDBG	—	—
SGJ	—	—
Total	22,014.93	22,312.31

Efficiency Ratio	
	Dec-08
MBICE	89.3%
PULS	67.3%
CWJA	62.8%
RJR	58.0%
PEG	57.6%
CCC	52.1%
TCL	50.2%
GLNR	45.7%
FCIB	45.1%
BRG	43.8%
FCIBJ	42.9%
SGJ	39.8%
GK	38.2%
NCBJ	35.0%
SFC	32.2%
GHL	32.1%
LAS	27.5%
FJI	25.9%
HL	24.9%
KW	23.9%
CCFG	23.1%
JP	21.1%
PAL	20.6%
MIL	20.2%
DG	17.9%
SLJ	17.5%
SALF	17.4%
PCFS	17.0%
JMMB	15.9%
SDBG	13.2%
CAR	12.2%
PJAM	12.0%
SEP	11.8%
JBG	10.4%
SVL	9.3%
MFP	7.5%
Average	31.7%

GLOSSARY

1. Net Interest Margin (NIM) - (Net Interest Income/Average Assets) - measures the net interest income generated by a financial institution as a percentage of its assets. It evaluates the effectiveness of investment/lending decisions relative to the company's debt situation. A higher NIM is favoured.
2. Efficiency Ratio (Non-Interest Expenses/Net Interest Income & Other Revenue) - assesses the effectiveness of management in containing costs while maximizing revenues. A lower efficiency ratio is favoured.
3. Asset Base - refers to the total assets of the company.
4. Return on Assets (ROA) - (Net Profits/Average Assets) - measures the profitability of a company relative to its assets. A higher ROA is favoured.
5. Current Ratio - (Current Assets/Current Liabilities) - measures the ability of a company to cover its short-term obligations. A high current ratio suggests that the company is solvent. A higher current ratio is favoured.
6. Inventory Turnover (IT) - (Cost of Goods Sold/Average Inventory) - indicates how quickly inventory is sold or replaced. A low IT may indicate a build up of unsold goods, which may lead to increased storage costs. A high IT is favoured.
7. Dividend Yield - (Annual Dividends per share/Share Price) - indicates the extent to which the stock is generating income outside any appreciation in price. A higher dividend yield is generally favoured.
8. Profit Margin (PM) - (Net Profit /Revenues) - measures the amount of profits that is earned from each dollar of revenues and is used to assess the company's ability to generate profits. A high PM is favoured.
9. Accounts Receivable Turnover (AR) - (Revenues/Average Accounts Receivable) - measures the ability of the company to collect outstanding debts as well as its willingness to extend credit. A high AR suggests timely collection of debt or a reluctance to extend credit. A higher AR is favoured.
10. Diversification Ratio (DR) - indicates the extent to which the company relies on a particular product or business line to generate profits. A company's DR is specified as the highest percentage of profits being derived from any one business line. For example, if a company derives 60% of profits before tax from the sale of insurance and 40% from property services then its DR will be noted as 60%. In the case of conglomerates, a low DR is favoured.
11. Net Premium Growth - measures the growth in net premium revenues over the company's four most recent quarters relative to the previous four quarters. It indicates the company's ability to pass on price increases to clients or generate new business. A high net premium growth is favoured.
12. Net Premium/Net Benefit Expense - measures the extent to which net premium income during a period covers insurance benefits paid out in that period (a ratio above 1 is desired).
13. Market Capitalization - The total dollar value of the company's shares outstanding based on the current share price.
14. Revenue - reflects the total income generated by the company over the four most recent quarters and includes disposal of assets, share of profits of associates and other income.
15. Earnings Growth - measures the growth in net profits over the company's four most recent quarters relative to the previous four quarters.
16. Return on Equity (ROE) - (Net Profits/Average Equity) - measures the return on the company's capital. A higher ROE is favoured.
17. Price/Book Value - measures the company's price per share relative to its book value (equity) per share. A price/book value above the industry norm may suggest that the company is overpriced. Conversely, a price/book value below the industry norm may suggest that the company is underpriced or that its assets are impaired.
18. Dividend Payout - indicates the percentage of profits that is distributed to shareholders. Shareholders usually prefer a high dividend payout. However, growth companies normally retain a significant portion of profits to facilitate business development.
19. Leverage (Capital/Assets or Total Liabilities/Equity) - measures the extent to which the company utilizes debt to purchase assets. Leverage is often used to boost the potential return of an investment. However, leverage may exacerbate losses. Lower leverage is favoured.

SAGICOR

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full transition of Blue Cross users to the Sagikor network.

With the acquisition, SLJ now commands 80 per cent of the health insurance market.

By contrast, overall growth in premium income by the parent firm Sagikor Financial, to which SLJ is its biggest contributor of profit, was 65 per cent.

That of Guardian Holdings increased by only five per cent.

Significantly, during the review period, Sagikor Financial paid out only 34 per cent of its net premium in benefits to policy-holders, compared to 81 per cent by its parent firm and 74 per cent by Guardian Holdings.

Guardian did grow its profit 73 per cent, 2.2 times the rate of SLJ (33 per cent) and nearly seven times that of Sagikor Financial Holdings.

However, the Jamaica-based insurer, at 14 per cent, boasted the profit margin of the three, five percentage points higher than its parent and nearly five times higher than the three per cent of Guardian Holdings.



Dodridge Miller, chairman



Patrick Byles, president and CEO

Sagikor Jamaica also used its equity more efficiently than the others, getting a 20 per cent return, where its parent managed 16 per cent and Guardian Holdings six per cent.

Sagikor Jamaica with a 42 per cent dividend payout over the period, was less willing than Guardian Holdings (65 per cent) to distribute profit to shareholders.

However, it was not as miserly, in this regard as its parent, whose dividend payout was 20 per cent.

The Jamaica-based firm did the best job of managing its liabilities against its equity, which is one measure of strength.

In SLJ's case, total liabilities was 497 per cent of equity, while it was 582 per cent for Sagikor Financial and 540 per cent for Guardian Holdings.

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