**Introduction**

Jamaica is an island country located in the Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba and west of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Jamaica has a strategic location between the Cayman Trench and the Jamaica Channel, the main sea lanes for the Panama Canal. The government system is a constitutional parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm. The chief of state is the Queen of the United Kingdom, and the head of government is the Prime Minister of Jamaica. Jamaica has a mixed economic system which includes a variety of private freedom, combined with centralized economic planning and government regulation. Jamaica is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

**Key Economic Facts**


**GDP Composition %**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Manufacturing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.*

**Rankings**

- **Corruption Perceptions Index:** 69 / 178
- **Global Competitiveness Index:** 78 / 141
- **Global Enabling Trade Index:** 89 / 136
- **Index of Economic Freedom:** 39 / 176
- **International Logistics Performance Index (LPI):** 113 / 160
- **Inward FDI Potential Index:** 91 / 139
- **KOF Index of Globalization:** 85 / 185
- **Networked Readiness Index (NRI):** 83 / 139
- **Open Budget Index:** 45 / 114

**Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)**

Country rating: C - A very uncertain political and economic outlook and a business environment with many troublesome weaknesses can have a significant impact on corporate payment behavior. Corporate default probability is high.

**Business Climate rating:** A4 - The business environment is acceptable. Corporate financial information is sometimes neither readily available nor sufficiently reliable. Debt collection is not always efficient and the institutional framework has shortcomings. Intercorporate transactions may thus run into appreciable difficulties in the acceptable but occasionally unstable environments rated A4.

**Strengths**

- Natural resources (bauxite, sugar, bananas, coffee) and tourism
- Financial support from multilateral institutions
- Strategic geographical location
- Substantial remittances from the diaspora
- Stable democratic framework

**Weaknesses**

- Poorly diversified economy and heavy reliance on tourism
- Vulnerable to external shocks (climate, U.S. economic cycle, commodities)
- Very high public debt and debt service inhibiting growth
- High rates of corruption, crime and largely unskilled labor force could dampen investor sentiment

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