

## ➤ Regional Market Review

### BARBADOS

- The Barbados economy experienced estimated GDP growth of 10% which was recorded between the period of January to December 2022. This growth stemmed mainly from increased activity in tourism which in turn led to improved domestic spending and manufacturing.
- The unemployment rate is predicted to decline and is estimated to be at 7.1% at the end of September 2022, when compared to the 10.9% in the prior year
- Inflation is estimated to be 8.5% at the end of November 2022 compared to 2.3% in the prior year.
- International reserves stood at \$2,771 million at the end of 2022 covering 29 weeks of import. This was down from \$3,059 Million at the end of 2021.
- S&P affirmed their ratings of B-/B for long- and short-term sovereign credit ratings with a stable outlook as of January 2020

### GUYANA

- The Guyanese economy continues to exhibit strong growth with an estimated GDP growth of 59.0% for 2022 attributable to higher oil output and positive performance in all other sectors. Oil production increased considerably to 380,700 barrels per day and is expected to increase in 2023 to 475,000 barrels per day.
- Inflation was estimated to have decreased to 6.6% at the end of Q4 2022 when compared to the 7.6% at end of previous quarter. However, it increased compared to 2021 where it was at 5.0%
- The overall balance of payments declined in 2022 to US\$128.3 million compared to US\$130.2 million in 2021. This decrease is largely owed to a capital account deficit due to outflows from private enterprises in the oil & gas sector as well from the NRF\*.

### JAMAICA

- The Jamaican economy grew by an estimated 3.0%-5.0% for quarter ended December 2022, a slower pace relative to the expansion of 5.9% recorded for the previous quarter. There was estimated growth in all industries for December 2022, except for Construction
- Real GDP growth for FY2022/23 is projected to fall within the range of 4.0% to 5.5%, down from 8.2% for FY2021/22.
- Inflation was recorded at 9.4% at December 2022, down from 10.3% as at November 2022. This downward trend continued into February 2023, with inflation recorded at 7.8%. This was mainly influenced by Information and Communication which declined by 2.7%
- The current account is estimated to record a surplus ranging between 0.0% to 1.0% of GDP for December 2022.
- On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Central Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) decided to maintain its policy interest rate at 7.00%.

### EASTERN CARIBBEAN

- According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), 2023 GDP is likely to weaken due to a global economic slowdown before picking back again in 2024.
- EIU also expects that governments will come under strain due to a weak economic backdrop and inflationary pressure.
- OECS countries may experience narrower fiscal deficits as governments withdraw support measures. Revenues are expected to increase as tourism picks up. However, should inflationary pressures persist, governments may be inclined to support vulnerable households using public finances.
- Being heavily dependent on imports, the OECS countries' external balances may become pressured by high commodity prices. Tourism would only contribute a little to ease this strain for the 2023-24 forecasted period.