# Performing Macro-prudential Scenario Analyses of Jamaica Commercial Banking Sector within a Financial Programming and Policies Framework 

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#### Abstract

${ }^{1}$ This paper proposes the use of an accounting framework to assess the consistency between Jamaica's macroeconomic programme framework and the solvency of the commercial banking sector. Specifically, medium-term projections of the commercial banking sector's profit and loss account and capital adequacy ratio are obtained based on changes in the projections of the real, fiscal, external and monetary sectors. A key supplement to the accounting framework is use of dynamic panel econometrics to incorporate the sensitivity of bank-level NPLs to projected macroeconomic conditions. The proposed framework is then used to conduct scenario analyses of the aggregated banking sector in order to examine bank solvency risks related to large changes in interest rates and credit quality.


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### 1.0 Introduction

In light of the recent global financial crisis, the development of specialized financial sector surveillance tools are of high importance. This paper proposes the use of a financial sector projections framework to assess the consistency between Jamaica's macroeconomic programme, which includes medium term projections of the real, fiscal, external and monetary sectors, and the solvency of the banking sector. Additionally, the framework will be useful in evaluating the tradeoffs among the several different macro-economic objectives such as exchange rate and price stability, together with government debt sustainability and financial sector stability. This particular projections approach focuses on the viability of the commercial banking sector and the results include medium-term projections of the commercial banking sector's profit and loss (P\&L) accounts and capital adequacy ratios. ${ }^{2}$ Of note, commercial banks' P\&L accounts broadly consist of interest and non-interest related elements, where projections of the interest related elements are largely dependent on medium-term macroeconomic predictions. ${ }^{3}$

In this paper, $\mathrm{P} \& \mathrm{~L}$ account projections over the medium term generate a path for profits which, net of dividends, translates into a path for capital buildup. Capital adequacy is then measured using the projected paths of capital and risk-weighted assets. If the generated paths of profitability and capital adequacy show a declining trend or fall below specified thresholds, this suggests that the assumptions of the macroeconomic framework, are likely unsuitable for the solvency of the financial sector and should be re-examined. ${ }^{4}$

In particular, the framework combines historical data from the financial sector with historical stocks, flows and projections from the fiscal, monetary and banking sectors to formulate assumptions and derive P\&L projections. The projection of commercial banks' P\&L relies on forward-looking assumptions related to interest rates, the fiscal and monetary sectors as well as the historical P\&L and balance sheets of the commercial banks. Data from commercial banks historical P\&L's are used to calculate parameters which are used to determine the path of variables for the P\&L projections. Balance sheet items, more specifically total assets and total capital, are

[^1]involved in the projection of capital adequacy, while figures on non-performing loans are used to determine the projection of loan-loss provisions.

Provisions against credit risk are a key element in the projections of commercial banks' P\&L accounts. The path of these provisions relies heavily on the projected path of NPLs. In the literature, NPLs are generally forecasted using equations which estimate the growth of the ratio of NPLs to total loans as a function of a set of macroeconomic variables such as real GDP growth, inflation, interest rate and exchange rate change. For example, Greenidge and Grovesnor (2010) forecasted NPL ratios for Barbados using a multivariate model, which incorporated both macroeconomic and bank-specific variables. In their study, Autoregressive Distributed Lag models were used to determine an aggregated NPL ratio as well as individual NPL ratios. Their results supported the view that macroeconomic variables such as real GDP growth, inflation rate and the weighted average loan rate are important drivers of credit quality. In another study which yielded somewhat divergent results, Yoshino et al. (2015) used cointegration analysis to forecast NPLs for banks in Iran. This study used macroeconomic variables such as GDP, CPI, M1 as well as an additional variable to capture the financial profile of banks. Their results suggested that macroeconomic variables are not adequate in an NPL forecasting model for different types of banks, and that the model needs to also be able to capture idiosyncratic shocks to the banking sector.

This paper will first present the model that will be used to specify a projected path for commercial banks' NPLs. The results of this model will be used in the development of the path for loan-loss provisions - a key element of the financial sector projections framework.

### 2.0 Forecasting Commercial Banks' Non-performing Loans

## Data and Methodology

In this analysis, we analyze the NPL ratios of the commercial banking sector which is calculated by dividing NPLs by total gross loans. A NPL is defined as the total outstanding balance on all loans past due for ninety days or more. As at end-June 2015, Jamaica's commercial banking sector consists of six banks commercial banks and the NPL ratio for the sector was 4.4 per cent. The data used was of quarterly frequency, covering March 2000 to June 2015. However, the sample is
unbalanced because of the entry point of some banks. The sample included data from six commercial banks.

The model outlined used dynamic panel econometrics to analyze the sensitivity of bank-level NPLs to macroeconomic conditions. The specification was selected after exploring the relationship of NPLs with macroeconomic variables such as GDP, exchange rate, credit growth, interest rates, unemployment rate and the average wage. The final model was selected based on the precision of the parameter estimates and the robustness of the results.

The model applied in this paper closely follows the methodology used by Vazquez et al. (2012), which suggests that the logit-transformed NPLs of each bank $i$ follows an $\operatorname{AR}(1)$ process and is influenced by past GDP growth, with up to $S$ lags:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\ln \left(\frac{N P L_{i, t}}{1-N P L_{i, t}}\right)=\mu_{i}+\alpha \ln \left(\frac{N P L_{i, t-1}}{1-N P L_{i, t-1}}\right)+\sum_{s=0}^{S} \beta_{t-s} \Delta \ln (G D P)_{t-s}+\varepsilon_{i, t} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $N P L_{i, t}$ represents the ratio of NPLs to total gross loans of bank $i$ in period $t$, and $G D P_{t}$ represents GDP in quarter $t$. The lagged dependent variable was included in order to reflect the persistence of NPLs. The term $\mu_{i}$ represents the bank-level fixed effects, which are treated as stochastic. The idiosyncratic disturbances $\varepsilon_{i, t}$ are assumed to be independent across banks and serially uncorrelated. The coefficient $\alpha$ is expected to be positive but less than one, and the $\beta$ coefficients are expected to be negative.

Using this model, the short-term effect of a change in quarter-on-quarter GDP growth on the logit of NPLs is given by the sum of the estimated $\beta$ coefficients. By the chain rule, the effect of a shock to a GDP growth on the untransformed NPL ratios, evaluated at the sample mean of NPLs is given by equations (2) and (3):

Short term effect: $\frac{\Delta N P L}{\Delta \ln (G D P)}=\overline{N P L} *(1-\overline{N P L}) * \sum_{s} \beta_{t-s,}$
Long term effect: $\frac{\Delta N P L}{\Delta \ln (G D P)}=\frac{1}{1-\alpha} * \overline{N P L} *(1-\overline{N P L}) * \sum_{s} \beta_{t-s}$,

## Results

The model was estimated using the generalized method of moments (GMM) technique and the result was consistent with expectations. The model was subjected to robustness checks for dynamic
panel models and the Sargan test showed no evidence of over-identifying restrictions indicating that the instruments used in the model are valid. The coefficient of the lagged dependent variable was 0.9 reflecting the strong persistence of NPLs. In addition, the coefficients of GDP growth are negative as expected, and significant for the current period and the second lag. The results of the model are presented in Table A.1.

## Forecast Assessment

The results of the GMM estimation technique was used to forecast NPLs based on the projections of GDP growth. Both in-sample and out of sample forecasts for the dependent variable were generated using the estimated equations. The in-sample estimates were generated over the entire sample period, that is, March 2000 to June 2015. Summary statistics for these estimations are reported in Table A. 1 and Table A. 2

The criteria used to measure the forecast performance of both the in-sample and out-of-sample forecasts were the root mean square error (RMSE), the mean absolute error (MAE) and the TheilU Statistic. Figure 1 shows that the model provided a relatively good in-sample fit. The model had a RMSE of 1.23 , MAE of 0.7 , and a Theil- U statistic of 0.17 , with the sum of the squared residuals being lowest for the in-sample forecast of the two largest banks.

The period June 2012 to June 2015 was used to generate out-of-sample forecasts. The performance criteria for the forecasts showed that the out-of-sample forecast outperformed the in-sample estimates (see Figure 2 and Table 1).

The model relied on GDP projections to forecast NPLs for each individual bank up to March 2018. The forecast showed a general decline in commercial banks' NPLs, reflecting projected improvements in GDP (see Figure 3). Given the NPL ratio forecasts for each individual bank, a forecasted weighted NPL ratio was calculated for the commercial banking sector using the share of total loans for each commercial banks as at the most recent period (June 2015) as the weight.

Figure 1


Figure 2


Table 1

| GMM Model |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | In-Sample Forecast | Out-of-Sample Forecast |
| RMSE | 1.23 | 0.65 |
| MAE | 0.70 | 0.44 |
| Theil-U | 0.17 | 0.10 |

Figure 3 NPL Forecast ${ }^{5}$


[^2]
### 3.0 Financial Sector Projections

This section of the paper develops the accounting framework which forecasts the profitability and capital adequacy paths of the commercial banking sector largely utilizing historical data and projections for the fiscal and monetary sectors.

## Data

## Fiscal Sector

The net financing needs of the government is an important source of interest income for commercial banks. Income to commercial banks from interest payments on government securities was projected using the following data:

- Investment details submitted to the Bank's Financial Institutions Supervisory Division (FISD) by individual commercial banks which include holdings of both Government of Jamaica (GOJ) domestic and global bonds.
- The GOJ's bond prospectuses which includes data on coupon rates, variable rate margins, interest payment dates and maturity of the bonds.
- Treasury Bill (T-Bill) rates were also used to calculate the coupon payments on variable rate Certificates of Deposit (CD).

In addition, projections regarding GOJ bond interest payments were based on assumptions made in the GOJ's medium term debt management strategy which suggests that external borrowing is currently the government's preferred source of funding. Further, the projection as it relates to TBill rates is that these rates remain constant as at the end of the most recent period. This method is consistent with the methodology used in the Bank's macro-economic projections. These rates were utilized in projecting Interest earned on government securities by held by commercial banks.

## Monetary Survey

Several key assumptions of the commercial banking sector's P\&L and balance sheet projections depend on the money stocks obtained via the calculation of the monetary survey (see Table 2). The monetary survey is an aggregation of the balance sheet of the Central Bank and depository corporations; the commercial banking sector, in this case. The monetary survey is compiled according to IMF's Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual, and aggregation entails the summation of assets and liabilities within each relevant category.

The balance sheet of the Central Bank has three main categories covering net foreign assets (NFA), net domestic assets (NDA) and reserve money, where NFA plus NDA equals reserve money. For the purposes of calculating the monetary survey, the commercial banking sector's balance sheet is decomposed in a similar manner, where NFA plus NDA equals liabilities to the private sector. The aggregation of both balance sheets result in a monetary survey that includes the three major sections: NFA, NDA and Broad Money, where NFA plus NDA equals Broad Money.

The monetary survey also includes projections of monetary stocks which are based on the aggregation of the Central Bank and commercial banks' balance sheet projections and were obtained from the Financial Programme and Policies framework (MAPFPP).

Table 2. Integration of monetary stocks into the projection of the commercial banking sector's P\&L

| INPUT - Monetary Stock | OUTPUT - Projections |
| :--- | :--- |
| Commercial banks' foreign liabilities, Liabilities to <br> private sector, Public sector deposits at banks | Commercial banks' liabilities |
| Commercial banks, claims on private sector, o/w <br> in LC | Interest earned on LC loans and advance, Net <br> Commissions Earned, Other Income, Problem <br> loans |
| Commercial banks' claims on private sector, o/w <br> in FC | Interest earned on US dollar loans and advance, <br> Net Commissions Earned, Other Income, <br> Problem loans |
| Commercial banks' LC sight deposits and term <br> deposits, Non-residents deposits at banks in LC, <br> Public sector deposits at banks (LC) | Interest paid on deposits, Interest paid on debt, <br> Other income, Net commissions earned |
| Commercial banks' FC deposits and term deposits, <br> Non-residents deposits at banks in FC | Interest paid on deposits, Interest paid on debt, <br> Other income, Net commissions earned |
| Commercial banks' foreign assets | Interest earned on foreign assets |
| Commercial banks' foreign liabilities | Interest paid on foreign liabilities (foreign banks <br> and NIR dep) |
| Exchange rate | Interest earned on US dollar loans and advances, <br> Interest paid on FC deposits, FC deposits |

## Interest Rates

Interest rate projections are necessary to determine the path of interest related elements of the P\&L. More specifically, projected monetary stocks are multiplied by projected interest rates to determine projected interest related elements of the P\&L. The key agents in the money and bond markets are commercial banks, the government and the Central Bank. As it relates to interest rate projections,
this entails specifying the benchmark rates for each interest rate involved, as well as the margins associated with each benchmark rate (see Table 3).

Table 3. Integration of interest rates into the projection of the commercial banking sector's P\&L

| INPUT - Interest Rates | OUTPUT - Projections |
| :--- | :--- |
| Benchmark | Interest earned on foreign assets |
| 6 month USD LIBOR | Interest earned on Government Securities:- Treasury Bills <br> and Bonds |
| Government | Interest earned on Government Securities:- Eurobonds |
| Treasury Bill Rate | Interest paid on LC deposits |
| FC Eurobond | Interest paid on FC deposits |
| Commercial Bank | Interest earned on other loans and advances |
| LC deposit rate | Interest earned on other loans and advances |
| FC deposit rate |  |
| LC lending rate | Interest earned on deposits at the Central Bank |
| FC lending rate | Interest earned on Central Bank CDs |
| Central Bank | LC deposit ${ }^{3}$ | | Certificate of deposit (CD) rate |
| :--- |
| Special CD rate (overnight instrument) |
| Interest earned on Central Bank CDs |

## Methodology

## Projection of Interest Related Components of the P\&L

The projection of the interest related components of the $\mathrm{P} \& \mathrm{~L}$ relies on the projections of monetary stocks, interest rates and other macroeconomic variables. Projections of monetary stocks and other macroeconomic variables form part of the standard IMF financial programming exercise. Therefore, the projections for these variables are direct inputs from the MAPFPP. However, interest rate projections do not form part of a standard IMF financial programming framework and must be projected for the purposes of this application.

## Interest rate projections

Interest rate projections are very important to the results of the macro-financial forecast due to the large share of interest income related components in commercial bank's P\&L. The following assumptions are made with respect to the projection of interest rates:

- There is a transmission mechanism of international reference rates to domestic rates. That is, there is a direct link from US dollar interest rates (6-month LIBOR rate and the 5-year T-Bill rate) to interest rates on government debt.
- A link also exists between international rates and rates on Central Bank instruments.
- Commercial banks link interest rates offered on private sector deposits and loans to the rates of return on government paper (see Table 4).

Table 4. Interest rate projections

| Interest Rate | Projected Interest Rate |
| :--- | :--- |
| Benchmark | Short term projection: Intl Dept <br> Medium term projection: LIBOR = LIBOR(t-1) |
| 6 month USD LIBOR | 5-year U.S. note(t-1) |
| 5-year U.S. note, interest rate |  |
| Government | Tbill(t-1) + change in LIBOR |
| Treasury Bill Rate | US 5year note + 350bp spread |
| FC Eurobond | Tbill - (spread of Tbill - LC deposit rate) |
| Commercial Bank | Eurobond - (spread Eurobond-FC deposit rate) - term <br> structure (proxied by 5yr US note-LIBOR) |
| LC deposit rate | LC deposit + (spread LC lending - LC deposit) |
| FC deposit rate | FC deposit + (spread FC Lending - FC Deposit) |
| LC lending rate | LC deposit(t-1) |
| FC lending rate | LIBOR + current spread |
| Central Bank | Special CD rate(t-1) |
| LC deposit rate |  |
| Certificate of deposit (CD) rate |  |
| Special CD rate(overnight instrument) |  |

## Projections of non-interest related components of the $P \& L$

The non-interest income and expenditure related components of the $\mathrm{P} \& \mathrm{~L}$ include net commissions earned, other income, general \& administrative expenses, and provisions. Table 5 illustrates the formulas used to project the non-interest related components of commercial banks' P\&L.

[^3]Table 5. Parameters used to derive projections for non-interest related components of commercial banks' P\&L

| Non-Interest Related Components | Parameters |
| :--- | :--- |
| Revenue | Net commission earned(t-1)/(loans and deposits(t-1)) |
| Net commission earned | Other income/(loans and deposits) [averaged over 5 <br> years] |
| Other income | General \& administrative expenses*Average CPI <br> inflation rate |
| Expenditure | Ratio of provisions to problem loans |
| General \& administrative expenses |  |
| Provisions |  |

## Other Parameters in P\&L Projections

Parameters which also affect the output and are based on 5-year averages of historical data include the implied tax rate on profits which is used to determine corporate tax and net profit.

Parameters based on ratios as at the most recent period include:
i. the ratio of gross problem loans to total loans which is used to project loan loss provisions
ii. share of after-tax profits as a share of capital which is used to determine the share of profit that is re-invested
iii. the ratio of risk-weighted assets to total assets which is used to project risk weighted assets

## Results - Baseline Scenario

Profitability
The results of the medium-term projections show a gradual increase in commercial banks' net profits largely due to:

- A projected increase in interest income largely related to a projected increase in Interest earned on other loans and advances, more specifically, LC loans \& advance.
- Projected increases in Net commissions earned and Other income which is largely due to the projected increase in loans.


## Capital Adequacy

The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of the commercial banking sector gradually declined throughout the projection period. The projected capital base increased, however, there was faster growth in projected risk weighted assets (RWA) which resulted in the CAR's steady decline. However, the CAR remained above the prudential minimum benchmark of 10 per cent (see Appendix).

## Scenario 1

The assumption for this scenario is a narrowing of interest rate spread between domestic loans and advances and domestic currency deposits. The impact of narrower spreads on commercial banks' profitability is explored given the current monetary policy objective of stimulating credit growth. After analyzing data on the average weighted saving and lending rate for the period June 1996 and June 2015, it was noted that interest rate spreads steadily narrowed starting at around January 2000 to one of its narrowest point at January 2003. This scenario was replicated in our forecast which was a narrowing of interest rate spreads of 1.4 percentage points (pps), 4.0 pps and 4.8 pps for FY 2015/16, FY 2016/17 and FY 2017/18, respectively, relative to baseline. The scenario resulted in a significant reduction in bank profitability, by more than 50 per cent at the end of each fiscal year. However, this reduction in profitability had no significant impact on capital adequacy, given that only a small portion of profit is appropriated to the capital base.

### 4.0 Conclusion and Policy Implications

The results of the NPL forecast estimation provide evidence that there is a robust inverse relationship between GDP growth and NPLs, and as such predicted a general decline in banking sector NPL over the next three fiscal years. In addition to being a key element of the overall financial sector projections framework, this NPL forecast can be used to guide the formulation of regulations governing the levels of loan-loss provisions throughout different business cycles as well as in the further development of credit risk models.

This paper further shows that the current macroeconomic framework encourages profitability and solvency in the commercial banking sector, even with a significant narrowing of the spread between average lending and deposit rates, reflecting that there is consistency between economic policy and financial stability.

## Appendix

## Main Results

## Table A. 1

Dependent Variable: LNPLR
Method: Panel Generalized Method of Moments
Date: 10/30/15 Time: 16:21
Sample (adjusted): 2002Q1 2015Q2
Periods included: 54
Cross-sections included: 6
Total panel (unbalanced) observations: 271
2SLS instrument weighting matrix
Instrument specification: C NPL_2 NPL_3 NPL_4 GDP_4 GDP_5 GDP_6 GDP_7 GDP_8
Constant added to instrument list

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| C | -0.274795 | 0.144795 | -1.897819 | 0.0588 |
| LNPLR_1 | 0.922015 | 0.041186 | 22.38685 | 0.0000 |
| DLGDP | -6.730984 | 3.019905 | -2.228873 | 0.0267 |
| DLGDP_2 | -6.050731 | 2.981890 | -2.029160 | 0.0435 |

Effects Specification
Cross-section fixed (dummy variables)

| R-squared | 0.882661 | Mean dependent var | -3.506493 |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.879078 | S.D. dependent var | 1.139890 |
| S.E. of regression | 0.396384 | Sum squared resid | 41.16549 |
| Durbin-Watson stat | 2.159655 | J-statistic | 8.559604 |
| Instrument rank | 14 | Prob(J-statistic) | 0.127973 |

## Table A. 2

Dependent Variable: LNPLR
Method: Panel Generalized Method of Moments
Date: 11/02/15 Time: 15:10
Sample (adjusted): 2002Q1 2012Q4
Periods included: 44
Cross-sections included: 6
Total panel (unbalanced) observations: 211
2SLS instrument weighting matrix
Instrument specification: C NPL_2 NPL_3 NPL_4 GDP_4 GDP_5 GDP_6 GDP_7 GDP_8
Constant added to instrument list

| Variable | Coefficient | Std. Error | t-Statistic | Prob. |
| :--- | ---: | :--- | ---: | :--- |
| C | -0.282446 | 0.144197 | -1.958749 | 0.0515 |
| LNPLR(-1) | 0.916570 | 0.040197 | 22.80221 | 0.0000 |
| DLGDP | -8.732595 | 3.567197 | -2.448027 | 0.0152 |
| DLGDP(-2) | -9.252395 | 3.637021 | -2.543949 | 0.0117 |
| Effects Specification |  |  |  |  |
| Cross-section fixed (dummy variables) |  |  |  |  |
| R-squared | 0.910972 | Mean dependent var | -3.576752 |  |
| Adjusted R-squared | 0.907446 | S.D. dependent var | 1.199313 |  |
| S.E. of regression | 0.364863 | Sum squared resid | 26.89129 |  |
| Durbin-Watson stat | 2.120188 | J-statistic | 6.887906 |  |
| Instrument rank | 14 | Prob(J-statistic) | 0.229111 |  |

Table A. 4 Commercial Banking Sector Historical Assets and Liabilities


Table A. 3 Baseline Scenario

## Summary Operations of the Banks

(in billions of LC, unless otherwise indicated)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table A. 4 Scenario 1

Summary Operations of the Banks

|  | (in billions of LC, unless otherwise indicated) |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Bank of Jamaica.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ The Financial Programming and Policies framework developed in the context of IMF surveillance focuses largely on the commercial banking sector.
    ${ }^{3}$ Interest-related elements and non-interest related elements figure on both the income and expenditure side of the P\&L accounts.
    ${ }^{4}$ The assumptions of the macroeconomic framework also rely on projections of private sector credit from the commercial banking sector.

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ Bank B offers banking services mainly to corporate clients, which has resulted in periods of zero NPLs.

[^3]:    ${ }^{6}$ Spreads used in projections are 5-year averages of historical spreads.

