

Organisation of Jamaica and commercial banks can offer an opinion on the creditworthiness of their members and customers. The Commercial Division of the High Commission also maintains files on many firms and can advise on their track record.

Banking Services

The Bank of Nova Scotia and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce maintain extensive branch networks in Jamaica. Locally owned banks include the National Commercial Bank and Mutual Security Bank. The only American-owned bank operating in Jamaica is Citibank.

Transportation, Utilities and Communications

Ports. Kingston and Montego Bay are Jamaica's largest ports-of-call. Direct service from Montreal, Saint John and Halifax is provided by several shipping lines, including Zim, Saguenay and Kent lines. In addition, there are numerous sailings to Jamaica from east coast U.S. ports, particularly those in southern Florida.

Air. Both Air Canada and Air Jamaica provide air cargo services from Toronto as part of their regular passenger service. These can be badly congested depending on the time of year.

Telecommunications. The Jamaica Telephone Company provides internal communications services, and Jamaica International Telecommunications (JAMINTEL) connects Jamaica with the rest of the world. The Jamaican telephone system operates as part of the North American network. Local numbers can be dialled from Canada in the same way you dial area codes outside your own city. All Jamaican telephone numbers use the 809 area code.

Telex, fax and telephone connections with Jamaica are normally good although lines can be crowded.

Utilities. The government-owned Jamaica Public Service Company and National Water Commission provide electricity and water supplies throughout the country. Services are generally good although short-duration power black-outs occur more often in Jamaica than in North America.