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FTCNewsLine is an online quarterly newsletter of the **FAIR TRADING COMMISSION (FTC)** that contains information on competition matters dealt with by the Fair Trading Commission as well as other competition agencies from around the world. The aim is to provide readers with insights into some of the matters that are prosecuted in other jurisdictions and assist businesses and consumers in better identifying issues that may pose competition concerns.

Competition legislation is specific to each jurisdiction and activities prohibited in one jurisdiction are not necessarily prohibited in other jurisdictions. For information on the prohibitions under Jamaica's competition legislation, the **FAIR COMPETITION ACT (FCA)**, please visit our website at www.jftc.gov.jm.

In this Issue, we feature matters arising during the period April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025.

FTC issues its Assessment of the Credit Reporting Market in Jamaica



The Fair Trading Commission (FTC) has completed its study on the structure, performance, and regulatory framework of Jamaica's credit reporting sector. The study evaluates how effectively the current framework promotes competition, safeguards consumer interests, and supports financial inclusion. The findings highlight an urgent need for reform, revealing limited competition, consumer protection gaps, and financial exclusion, largely stemming from barriers to accessing reliable credit information.

Five key policy imperatives are recommended: universal data exchange, data reciprocity, enhanced dispute resolution, a standardized data exchange platform, and the expansion of credit information sources. These measures aim to foster a more consumer-friendly credit reporting ecosystem by promoting fairness, competition and financial inclusion. Collectively, they are expected to create a more equitable, competitive, and efficient system, potentially resulting in consumer savings of JMD 54 million and broader access to credit.

FTC engages the public through outreach and education



The FTC continues to actively fulfill its public education mandate by participating in several outreach events, bringing greater awareness to the importance of competition in the Jamaican marketplace.

FTC hits the road in Westmoreland

As part of the *MIIC/IDB MSME Roadshow*, the FTC visited Westmoreland to connect directly with current and prospective business owners. Throughout the day, FTC staff distributed information on how competitive markets support the growth of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Participants from sectors including food and beverage processing and distribution, industrial arts, recreation, and advertising engaged with the FTC on issues such as distribution challenges and market restrictions – two key competition concerns that the Commission will address through targeted follow-up initiatives.

FTC at the 2025 JIPO Mini Business Village Expo

At Emancipation Park in Kingston, the FTC participated in the *2025 JIPO Mini Business Village Expo* to share information and engage in discussions on its role in promoting and maintaining fair competition in the Jamaican economy.

As part of this effort, the FTC contributed a message in the JIPO's Intellectual Property Supplement, highlighting the interplay between competition policy and intellectual property rights.

Visibility boost at the 2025 JMEA Expo

At the *2025 JMEA Expo*, the FTC focused on strengthening its presence as Jamaica's competition authority. Staff engaged with visitors to the FTC booth from a wide cross-section of industries, including education, telecoms, sports, banking software, healthcare, and grocery retail, discussing the value of competitive markets across sectors.

Spreading the message of fair competition

Across these outreach activities, the FTC distributed flyers and brochures, particularly for MSMEs and consumers. The materials focused on: Benefits of competition for MSMEs; The FTC's role in the economy; The economic value of strong competition; Competition leads to more choices for consumers; How business agreements may breach the law; How anti-competitive practices block market entry; and Signs of abuse of dominance.



Videos that educate and engage

Visitors also viewed a selection of videos selected to appeal to students, academics, media, and industry professionals. These explained core competition law concepts, the provisions of the Fair Competition Act, and real-world impact of anti-competitive behaviour.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Hong Kong announces plans to introduce new regulations for ride-hailing services

The Hong Kong government announced plans to establish a licensing framework for online ride-hailing services to regulate platforms like Uber and address concerns from traditional taxis. The scheme requires companies, vehicles, and drivers to obtain licenses, with drivers needing at least one year of private car licensing, screening, training, and passing a government test. Vehicles must be under seven years old and undergo annual inspections. The government also considers vehicle caps, which Uber supports in principle, but worries could lead to higher costs and longer waits. Additionally, fees may be imposed on platforms to level the playing field, and efforts are underway to integrate licensed taxi drivers into digital platforms. Chief Executive John Lee emphasized the importance of establishing a balanced regulatory system to allow both sectors to coexist.