



MAPPING: KEY FIGURES

NATIONAL REPORT: JAMAICA

ICA – EU PARTNERSHIP



Table of contents

I.	INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT	2
	<i>i. Historical background</i>	3
	<i>ii. Public national statistics</i>	4
	<i>iii. Research methodology</i>	5
II.	KEY FIGURES	6
	<i>iv. ICA member data</i>	7
	<i>v. General overview</i>	7
	<i>vi. Sector overview</i>	7
III.	GRAPHS	8
	<i>vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector</i>	8
IV.	ANNEXES	8

I. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This report is part of a Mapping exercise launched by the International Cooperative Alliance and its regional offices, within the framework of a partnership signed with the European Commission for the period 2016-2020. The programme aims to strengthen the cooperative movement and its capacity to promote international development. Other research projects led within this partnership include a worldwide Legal Frameworks Analysis, and several thematic researches on themes of significance for cooperatives.

Responding to challenges and existing knowledge gaps facing the cooperative movement, this research seeks to provide exhaustive information on cooperatives worldwide. This is achieved through a process jointly conducted by the ICA and its four regional offices – Cooperatives of the Americas, Cooperatives Europe, ICA Africa, and ICA Asia-Pacific – using a common methodology. Each office collected the input of ICA members present in the countries within its geographic area, by using the same questionnaire, and completing it with relevant national statistics, in order to obtain an accurate picture of the national situation.

Mapping out cooperatives in each country provides a more precise picture of the cooperative context at national and regional levels, enhances the movement's visibility, networking, partnerships opportunities, as well as advocacy, and empowers cooperators by providing them tools for positive change.

Within this framework, the present report showcases information about the cooperative landscape in Jamaica.

i. Historical background

The Jamaica Department of Cooperatives mentions on its website¹ that the Cooperative Movement in Jamaica, as in most developing countries, had its origins in the peasantry. Its growth and development dates back to the emancipation (1838) to the present, which covers a period of more than 160 years.

The informal cooperative efforts, which characterized the period 1840-1938, met with some success; roads, schools and churches were built. Farmers benefited from group action in their agricultural activities, and more importantly, a keen sense of brotherhood developed that boded well for future endeavors. This was the foundation on which the more formal cooperative development from the period 1938 to the present was built, and which saw the formation of cooperative organizations and the enactment of cooperative legislation.

In Jamaica there is a great need to improve the economic and social conditions of the masses through self-help. The Cooperative Movement, which generates trust and enhances the dignity of people, and therefore of the nation, is one of the vehicles used to achieve this improvement.

To date, although the movement has not achieved everything it hoped for, much has been done to bring about social and economic change within Jamaican society.

¹ Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies. (s.f.). Development of the Co-operative Movement in Jamaica. Available at: <https://dcfs.gov.jm/Developmentofco-op.html>

ii. Public national statistics

For a more comprehensive picture of the cooperative movement in Jamaica, the present section provides key data from the country's public registers as a useful background context to the ICA members' data showcased in Section II of the report.

The data presented here comes from the Jamaica Cooperatives Department and its 2017² report and the 2014 World Council of Credit Unions report³.

NUMBER OF COOPERATIVES:

The Jamaica Department of Cooperatives estimates a total of 121 cooperatives active in 2017.

EMPLOYMENT:

The World Council of Credit Unions estimates that financial cooperatives in Jamaica create 1 109 jobs.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP:

The World Council of Credit Unions lists a total of 988 719 Jamaicans associated with financial cooperatives.

PRODUCTION VALUE:

Data not available for any sector.

² Jamaica Cooperatives Department. (2017). The Cooperative Way. Digital version.

³ World Council of Credit Unions. (2015). Statistical Report 2014.

iii. Research methodology

The aim of the mapping research is to collect and make publicly available reliable and up-to-date data to understand what the cooperative movement represents in the targeted country. With this view, the data detailed in the present report has been collected using the methodology detailed below.

The methodological tools include a questionnaire used to collect the data, which was distributed online to the members, as well as a methodological note provided for further guidance. They were built jointly with all ICA regional offices with the support of external experts from the European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse) and are applied in a harmonised way in all the target countries.

The classifications used in the research are consistent with the internal system used within the ICA movement (e.g. on membership status and types of cooperative organisations) and with standards increasingly adopted in recent studies and by international organisations like the ILO – e.g. using international classifications of economic activities such as the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) rev. 4, which ensures the comparability of statistics both nationally and internationally, as well as with statistics on other forms of enterprises.

Regarding the target organisations, considering that a worldwide survey has very challenging goals, and while the value of directly collecting data from non-member cooperatives must be recognised, the present Mapping exercise targets cooperative organisations members of the ICA.

Furthermore, in order to complete the ICA members' data, the decision was taken to also look at external sources, to provide additional and more exhaustive cooperative statistics for the country. As a result, the data is collected following two strategies contemporaneously: 1) collecting statistics already available in the country; 2) carrying out a survey targeting ICA cooperative members.

In Jamaica, the mapping questionnaire was distributed and completed by 1 ICA member organization. After further follow-up of the surveyed members, the figures provided were compiled to be presented in the next section.

II. KEY FIGURES

This section presents the results of data collection conducted by ICA members.

Jamaica has 3 ICA member organizations (all as full members):

- **TIP Friendly Society.** Full member.

Founded in 1997, it is a non-profit insurance company for all persons employed in the field of education; in order to improve the economic, social and health status of members and staff while contributing to the development of the community at large. Sector: Finance.

- **EduCom Cooperative Credit Union Limited (EduCom).** Full member.

Founded in 2015, it is a member-centered, financially sound and technologically enhanced organization; and is Jamaica's leading credit union for value, compliance and member satisfaction. Sector: Finance.

- **Jamaica Co-operative Credit Union League (JCCUL).** Full member.

Founded in 1942, it is a central cooperative body that encompasses all credit unions on the island. The League is a voluntary association that is democratically controlled and funded by its member credit unions. Its main objective is to represent its members before the Government. Sector: National integration.

ICA member organizations are directly or indirectly active in the following sectors, in order of the largest number of cooperatives:

- Banking and insurance
- Commerce
- Industry
- Agriculture and food industry
- Others

iv. ICA member data

The data collected was provided for the year 2018, in order to present more relevant information due to the scarcity of data for 2017.

v. General overview

This section provides an overview of the ICA membership data for Jamaica. It is displayed in various categories and supported by tables and graphs, for clarity.

Category	Total
Number of cooperatives	5
Number of memberships	-
Number of employees	75

vi. Sector overview

The sectors used below correspond to the categories used in the ISIC rev. 4. to classify the economic activities carried out by the organisations concerned.

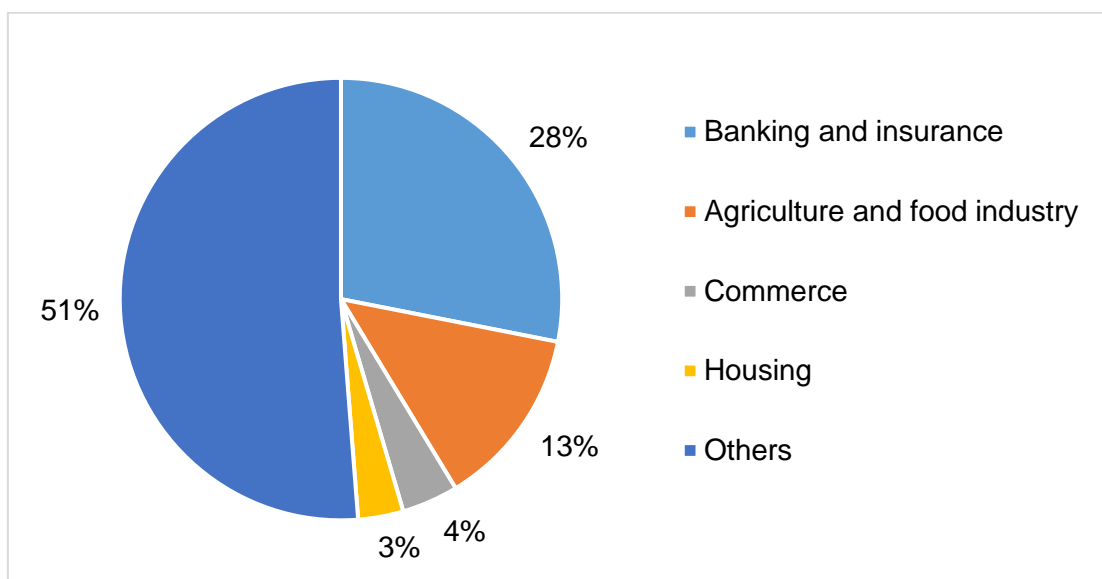
A general overview is provided in the chart below:

Sector	Cooperatives
Banking and insurance	34
Agriculture and food industry	16
Commerce	5
Housing	4
Transportation	1
Others	61
Total	121

III. GRAPHS

Specific variables are also detailed in the graphs below when sectorial data was available.

vii. Percentage of total cooperatives by sector



IV. ANNEXES

Sources:

Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies. (s.f.). Development of the Co-operative Movement in Jamaica. Available at: <https://dcfs.gov.jm/Developmentofcoop.html>

Jamaica Cooperatives Department. (2017). The Cooperative Way. Digital version.

World Council of Credit Unions. (2015). Statistical Report 2014.

Contacts

Further details on the Mapping research and other country reports are available on www.coops4dev.coop

The production of this report was overseen by staff from Cooperatives of the Americas and the International Cooperative Alliance. For any further information or clarification, please contact mappingresearch@ica.coop or with the Research Officer for Cooperatives of the Americas carlos.gonzalez@aciamericas.coop

Updated: October 2020

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