

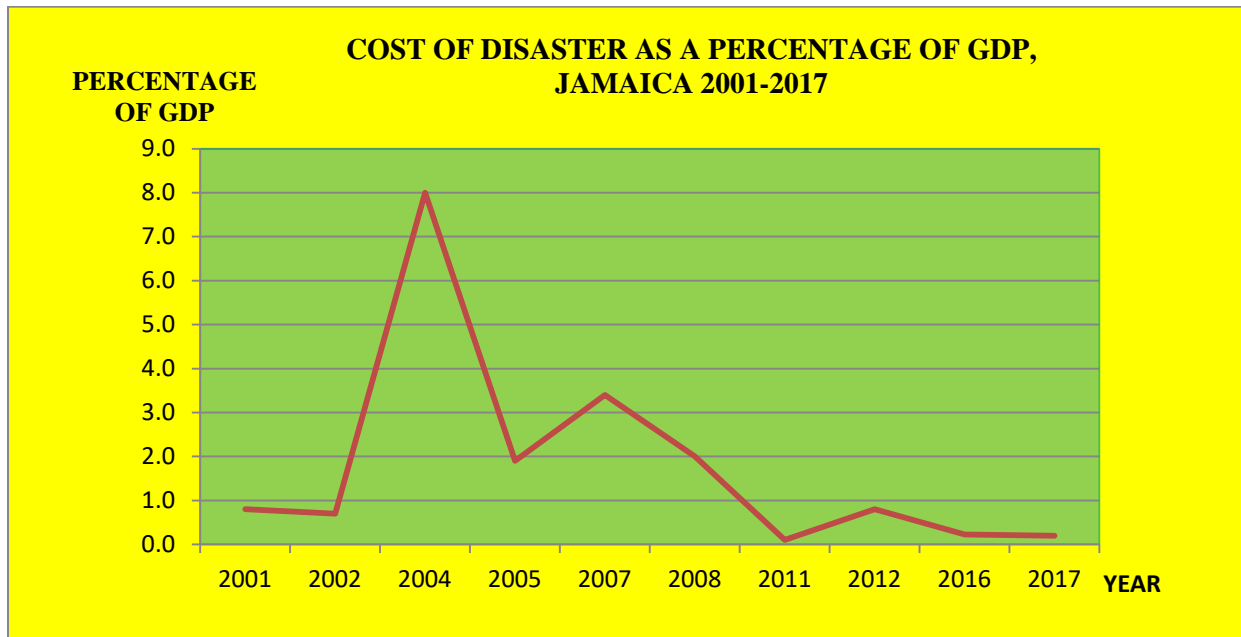
## COST OF DISASTER IN JAMAICA 2001-2017

The aggregate cost of disasters in Jamaica is on the decline when measured as a percentage of the country's Gross Domestic Product. This is true for the period 2001 through 2017.

**Definition:** A disaster is the occurrence of an event that disrupts normal activities and causes suffering and dislocation beyond the capacity of the region to satisfactorily deal with using its resources. Disasters can be caused by natural or man-made hazards such as hurricanes and oil spills respectively.

The figure below shows the aggregate cost of disasters as the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in a specific year. It should be noted that a particular year may have more than one catastrophic event. For example in the year 2004, there were two hurricanes and in 2005 three hurricanes. The years for which there are no data does not mean there were no events or hazards in that year but could be that the event and its effect on the community do pass the threshold to be classified as a disaster.

A downward trend is observed in the cost of disaster as a percentage of GDP for the period 2001 to 2017. The pattern of this cost is cyclic with corresponding peaks and troughs. The cost of such a disaster peaked at a value of 8.0 per cent in 2004 and the lowest value recorded was 0.1 per cent in 2011.



COST OF DISASTER AS A PERCENTAGE OF GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)									
0.8	0.7	8.0	1.9	3.4	2.0	0.1	0.8	0.23	0.2
<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>20012</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>