



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE



MONTHLY
ECONOMIC
HIGHLIGHTS | **DECEMBER**
2023

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms:

| | |
|----------|---|
| BGA | Banana Growers' Association |
| BSI | Belize Sugar Industries Limited |
| BTB | Belize Tourism Board |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community |
| CBB | Central Bank of Belize |
| CCCCC | Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre |
| CDB | Caribbean Development Bank |
| CGA | Citrus Growers' Association |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease 2019 |
| CPBL | Citrus Products of Belize Limited |
| CPI | Consumer Price Index |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| IBRD | International Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| IDB | Inter-American Development Bank |
| MOF | Ministry of Finance |
| SIB | Statistical Institute of Belize |
| UHS | Universal Health Services |
| US | United States |

Abbreviations and Conventions:

| | |
|-------|---|
| \$ | the Belize dollar unless otherwise stated |
| bn | billion |
| bp | basis point |
| mn | million |
| ps | pound solids |
| TC/TS | long tons cane to long ton sugar |
| Y-o-Y | year-on-year |
| YTD | year-to-date |

Notes:

1. Since May of 1976, the Belize dollar has been fixed to the US dollar at the rate of US\$1.00 = BZ\$2.00.
2. The 2023 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2022 have been revised.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, the Central Bank of Belize is the source of all tables and charts.
4. Ratios to GDP for 2023 are based on GDP estimates from the Central Bank of Belize.

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Summary of Economic Indicators

Money Supply

Money Supply

December 2023

+7.1%

YTD change on December 2022

Net Foreign Assets

December 2023

+5.3%

YTD change on December 2022

Net Domestic Credit

December 2023

+12.1%

YTD change on December 2022

Liquidity and Interest Rates

Excess Cash

December 2023

\$509.8mn

+2.1% change on December 2022

New Deposit Rates

December 2023

1.80%

-22 bps change on December 2022

New Lending Rates

December 2023

8.68%

+14 bps change on December 2022

Real Sector and Reserve Import Coverage

GDP

January - September 2023

+5.6%

Y-o-Y change on the same period of the previous year

CPI

December 2023

+4.4%

YTD change on the same period of the previous year

Stay-Over Visitors

December 2023

429,541

+24.2% YTD change on the same period of the previous year

Domestic Exports

December 2023

\$408.8mn

-12.5% YTD change on the same period of the previous year

Gross Imports

December 2023

\$2,760.6mn

-2.2% YTD change on the same period of the previous year

Reserve Import Coverage

December 2023

4.1

months equivalent of merchandise imports

Central Government Operations and Public Debt

Primary Surplus

April 2023 - Dec 2023

\$9.3mn

0.2% of GDP

Domestic Debt

December 2023

+\$192.3mn

\$1,507.9mn at December-end,
24.5% of GDP

External Debt

December 2023

+\$103.7mn

\$2,831.0mn at December-end,
46.0% of GDP

Overview

Money and Credit

- Money supply rose by 7.1% in 2023 due to a marked increase in domestic banks' net foreign assets and a surge in credit to Central Government and the private sector.
- The net foreign assets of the banking system grew by \$80.4mn (5.3%) over the 12-month period to \$1,599.9mn. This outcome was attributable to a \$98.3mn (17.8%) increase in domestic banks' net foreign assets to \$651.1mn, driven mainly by heightened tourism receipts during the high season. In contrast, the Central Bank's net foreign assets declined by \$17.9mn (1.9%) to \$948.8mn after the Government's substantial \$90.0mn payment towards the acquisition of the Belize City Port and settlement of outstanding arbitral awards in December.
- Credit growth skyrocketed, with net domestic credit of the banking system rising by 12.1% to \$3,610.4mn in 2023. This substantial expansion reflected heightened borrowings by the Central Government, the private sector, and public sector corporations. Central Government's borrowings grew by \$214.6mn to \$927.8mn, following the issuance of \$197.3mn in Treasury securities to fund the nationalisation of the Belize City Port and settlement of the outstanding arbitral awards. Concurrently, credit to the private sector grew by \$143.9mn to \$2,564.3mn, with increased lending for real estate, personal, transportation, construction, and professional service activities. In addition, domestic bank lending to other public sector entities grew by \$31.0mn to \$118.3mn with the purchase of \$15.2mn in securities and advancement of \$13.7mn in loans.
- Liquidity conditions remained buoyant. The robust foreign asset accumulation, alongside a marked increase in vault cash and balances with the Central Bank, helped lift domestic banks' holdings of excess liquid assets by \$41.2mn to \$744.1mn in 2023, which was 91.6% above the secondary reserve requirement. Meanwhile, excess cash reserves grew by \$10.5mn to \$509.8mn, 202.8% above the primary (cash) reserve requirement.
- Interest rates diverged in 2023, as the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans increased by 14 basis points to 8.68%, while the corresponding rate on new deposits decreased by 22 basis points to 1.80%. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 36 basis points to 6.88% for the year.

Real Sector Developments

- The trade deficit in goods widened slightly in 2023, as the decline in exports outweighed the contraction in imports. Domestic export earnings decreased by \$58.4mn (12.5%) to \$408.8mn due to lower revenues from citrus juices, bananas, marine products, and non-traditional goods. At the same time, the value of gross imports dipped by \$60.1mn (2.2%)

to \$2,760.6mn, owing to reduced purchases in the “*Commercial Free Zone*,” “*Oils, Fats, and Chemicals*,” and “*Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures*” subcategories.

- Tourism rebounded strongly in 2023 as the number of stay-over arrivals grew by 24.2% to 429,541 visitors, while cruise disembarkations increased by 46.9% to 809,788 passengers. As a result, the shares of stay-over visitors and cruise ship disembarkations recovered to 92.6% and 76.9% of 2019’s pre-pandemic level, respectively.
- The inflationary momentum slowed as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in December dipped by 0.6% relative to the previous month. Notwithstanding, the all-items index remained above trend, rising by 4.4% on average for 2023, mainly on account of soaring food prices.

Central Government Operations and Public Debt

- For the first nine months of 2023/24 the fiscal year (FY), Central Government’s spending rose faster than its revenues. As a result, Central Government operations yielded a primary surplus of \$9.3mn (0.2% of GDP), down from \$50.2mn (0.9% of GDP) in the same period of FY 2022/23. Additionally, Central Government’s overall deficit widened to \$109.2mn (1.8% of GDP) from \$32.1mn (0.6% of GDP) in the corresponding period of 2022.
- In 2023, the total public sector debt increased by \$296.1mn (7.3%) to \$4,338.9mn or 70.5% of GDP. This outcome reflected a \$103.7mn (3.8%) rise in the public sector’s external debt to \$2,831.0mn (46.0% of GDP) together with a 14.6% surge in Central Government’s domestic debt to \$1,507.9mn (24.5% of GDP). Most of the increase in domestic debt was incurred in December and was associated with the acquisition of Belize City’s Port and settlement of the outstanding arbitral awards.

1 Money and Credit

Money Supply

Money supply growth accelerated by 7.1% in 2023 after growing by 4.7% in 2022. This rapid money growth was fueled by substantial increases in credit to Central Government to fund the nationalisation of the Belize City Port and the private sector to cover personal expenses and investments in tertiary and secondary activities. Additionally, domestic banks recorded an upsurge in foreign assets arising mainly from heightened tourism activities.

Net Foreign Assets

In 2023, the net foreign assets of the banking system rose by 5.3% or \$80.4mn to a record year-end high of \$1,599.9mn. This performance was due to a 17.8% expansion in domestic banks' net foreign assets, as the Central Bank's holdings contracted slightly. Domestic banks' net foreign assets expanded by \$98.3mn to \$651.1mn, following a \$39.3mn boost in December, owing primarily to heightened export receipts from goods and services as well as a

pick up in inward foreign direct investments. For the year, foreign exchange inflows were dominated by a surge in tourism earnings as well as increased inward transfers from international and regional organisations, earnings from business process outsourcing activities, and foreign direct investments.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank's net foreign assets fell by \$17.9mn to \$948.8mn in 2023, following an \$84.6mn decline in December. The latter was attributable to the Government's \$90.0mn cash payment towards the acquisition of the Belize City Port (\$76.0mn) and settlement of longstanding judgment debts (\$14.0mn). As a result, the Central Bank's gross foreign currency outflows increased significantly, up 43.5% to \$412.8mn relative to the previous year. Central Government accounted for 88.1% of total outflows, which were mainly used to cover its debt service and nationalisation payments. Meanwhile, gross inflows into the Central Bank contracted by 3.3% to \$394.7mn, as international grant receipts more than halved, foreign currency purchases from domestic banks were almost negligible, and other miscellaneous receipts plunged. Increased inflows from external loan disbursements and sugar export receipts partly offset the falloff in these three categories. With outflows outpacing inflows, the gross international reserves dipped to \$946.5mn, the equivalent of 4.1 months of goods imports.

Net Domestic Credit

Net domestic credit of the banking system expanded by 12.1% or \$389.6mn to

Chart 1.1: Change in Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

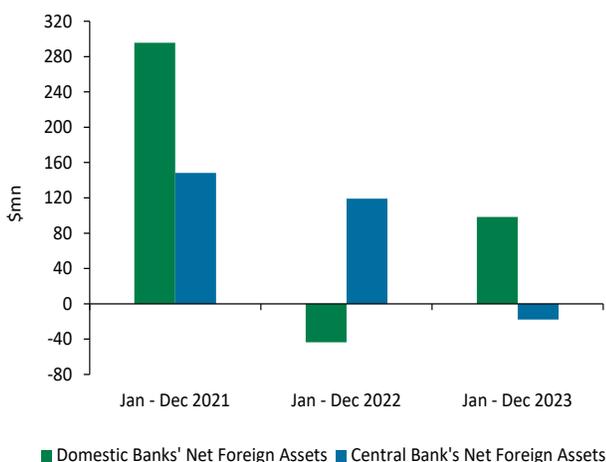
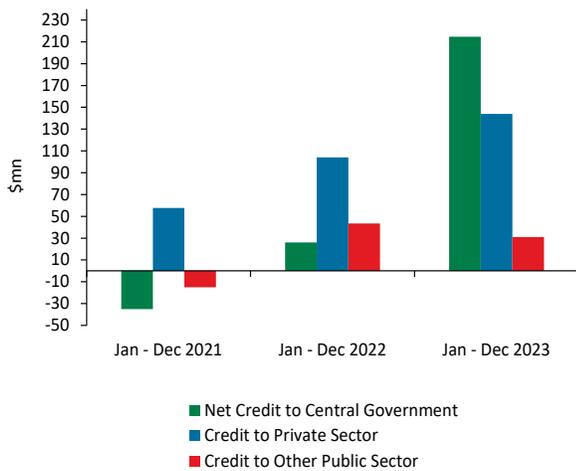


Chart 1.2: Change in Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System

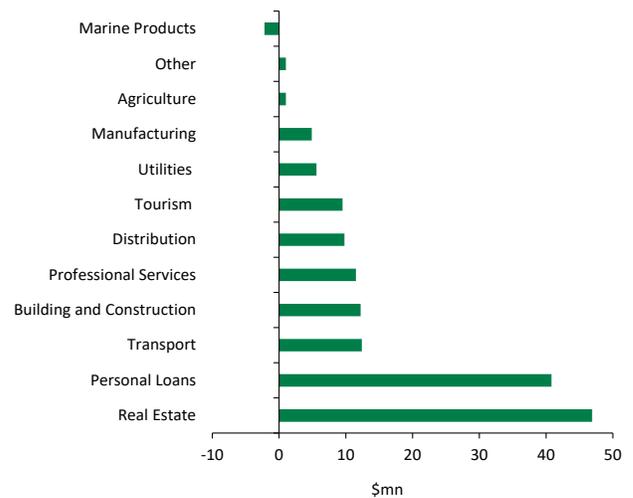


\$3,610.4mn in 2023, easily doubling the \$173.4mn increase in 2022. Around half of this amount was due to Central Government’s issuance of several tranches of Treasury securities to cover the acquisition of the Belize City Port and settlement of the judgment claims in December. As a result, net credit to Central Government amounted to \$188.9mn in December, accounting for the majority of the \$214.6mn in financing received from the banking system this year.

Credit expansion to the private sector was also robust, expanding by \$143.9mn or 5.9% in 2023, the fastest growth rate observed since 2008. Disbursements were channelled primarily towards real estate (\$46.9mn), household consumption (\$40.8mn), transportation (\$12.4mn), construction (\$12.2mn) and professional services (\$11.5mn). Write-offs totalled \$25.1mn, up from \$17.1mn the year before, and were applied against tourism (\$12.7mn), personal (\$5.1mn), and construction (\$4.6mn) loans.

In addition, credit to other public entities rose by \$31.0mn to \$118.3mn. This

Chart 1.3: Change in Domestic Banks' Loans

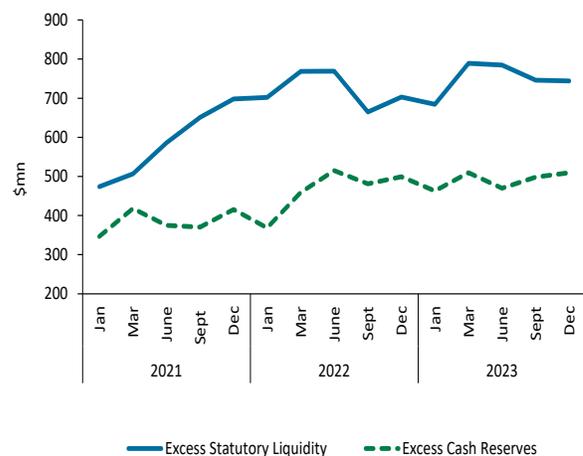


marked expansion reflected the acquisition of \$15.2mn in securities from the Belize Electricity Limited (\$15.0mn) and the Belize City Council (\$0.2mn) and \$16.7mn in advances split between a private utility (\$13.0mn) and local governments (\$3.7mn).

Bank Liquidity

Liquidity conditions remained buoyant in 2023, as domestic banks’ holdings of excess liquid assets grew by \$41.2mn to \$744.1mn, which was 91.6% above the secondary reserve requirement. The aggregate holdings

Chart 1.4: Excess Statutory Liquidity



of liquid assets were driven by increases in foreign short-term securities (other approved assets) and, to a lesser extent, heightened vault cash and balances with the Central Bank. As a result, domestic banks' excess cash reserves grew by \$10.5mn to \$509.8mn, which was 202.8% above the primary (cash) reserve requirement.

Interest Rates

At 8.68%, the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans declined by five basis points in December relative to November, moderating the 14-basis-point increase since December 2022. The increase over the year was due to 65- and 13-basis-point hikes in residential construction and commercial loan rates, respectively. These increases were tempered by rate declines of 21 and 17 basis points on "other" and personal loans.

At 1.80%, the corresponding rate on new deposits slid by 11 basis points over the review month, widening the overall decline for 2023 to 22 basis points. Over the year,

this downward momentum was attributable to a 29-basis-point reduction in time deposit rates, which was partly offset by a 69- and six-basis-point increase in savings/chequing and savings deposit rates, respectively. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 36 basis points in 2023 to 6.88%.

Credit Union Lending

Credit union lending rose by \$33.3mn over the calendar year to \$692.7mn, following an \$8.1mn increase in December. New loans were extended mainly for agriculture (\$12.2mn), building and construction (\$9.6mn), real estate (\$6.9mn), and manufacturing (\$5.7mn). Write-offs amounted to \$6.0mn and were applied against personal and construction loans.

Chart 1.5: Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

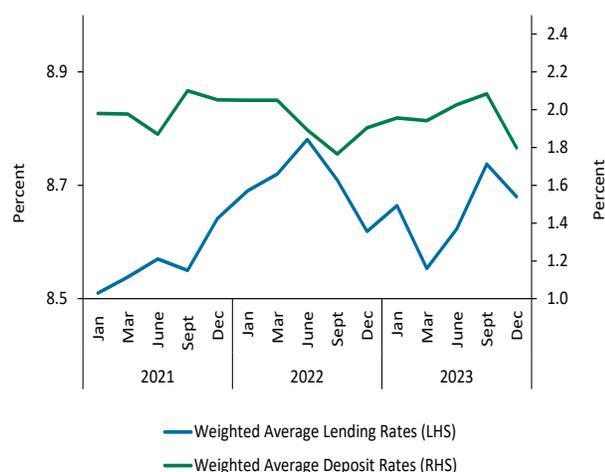
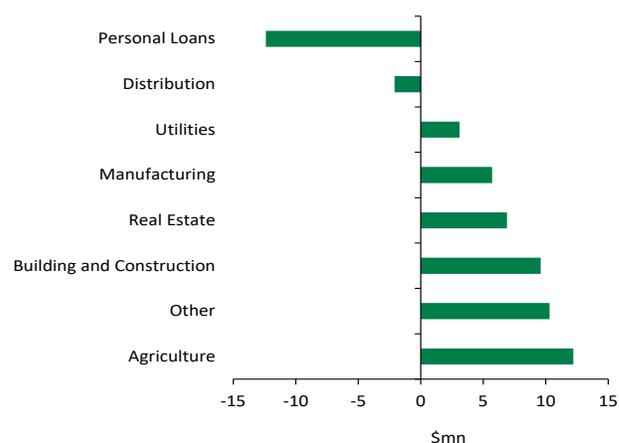


Chart 1.6: Change in Credit Unions' Loans



2 Real Sector Developments

Commodity Production

The production of the major agricultural commodities slumped in 2023, owing to several supply-side constraints, including crop diseases, heightened input costs, and farmhand shortages.

Domestic Exports

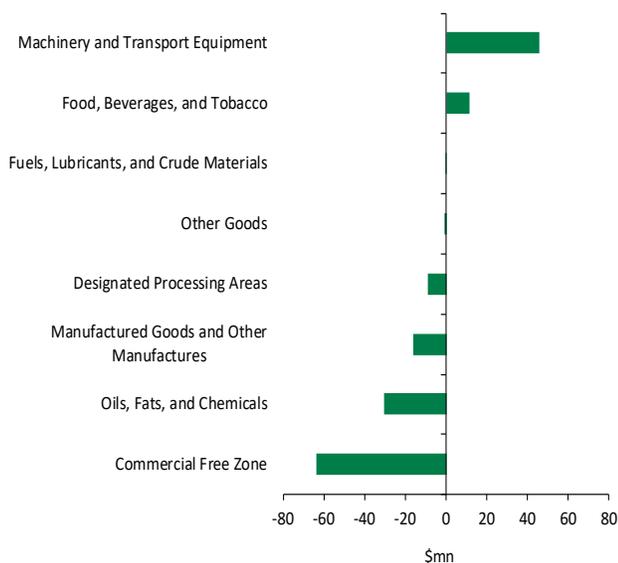
Domestic export earnings declined by 12.5% or \$58.4mn to \$408.8mn in 2023, with lower revenues from citrus juices, bananas, marine products, and “other” non-traditional goods. However, the overall decline was tempered by increased earnings from sugar and molasses exports due to price improvements in key source markets.

Gross Imports

The value of gross imports declined by 2.2% or \$63.3mn to \$2,760.6mn in 2023. The most significant reduction across import subcategories was recorded in the

“Commercial Free Zone,” which contracted by \$63.8mn (14.7%) due to reduced purchases of cigarettes, clothing, and footwear for re-export. “Oils, Fats, and Chemicals” decreased by \$30.3mn (9.2%) with cutbacks on diagnostic testing kits, vaccines, and fertiliser purchases. “Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures” fell by \$16.2mn (2.7%), with smaller outlays of carton boxes, steel pipes, and various metal items. Furthermore, “Designated Processing Areas” declined by \$8.9mn (18.6%), owing to fewer purchases of bottling machines, European oak, and computers, while “Other Goods” and “Fuels, Lubricants, and Crude Materials” slid by \$0.8mn and \$0.1mn, respectively. However, the overall decline was moderated by a \$45.6mn (8.4%) increase in “Machinery and Transport Equipment,” reflecting donations of aviation and radar equipment alongside additional purchases of electric cables; an \$11.6mn (3.4%) increase in “Food, Beverages, and Tobacco” due to increased spending on orange concentrate, instant noodles, and margarine.

Chart 2.1: Change in Gross Imports

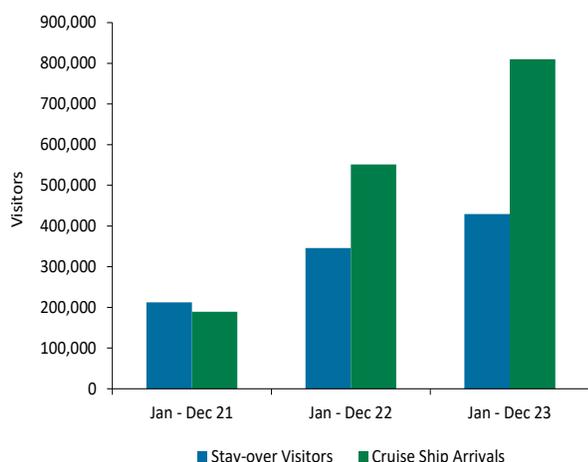


Source: SIB

Tourist Arrivals

The post-pandemic rebound in tourism continued into 2023, as airlift capacity rose and international marketing efforts intensified. In December, stay-over arrivals increased by 49.7% year on year, owing to a surge in air, land, and sea arrivals. For the year, stay-over arrivals rose by 24.2% to 429,541 and climbed to 92.6% of 2019’s level.

Cruise ship disembarkations increased by 46.9% to 809,788 passengers, reaching

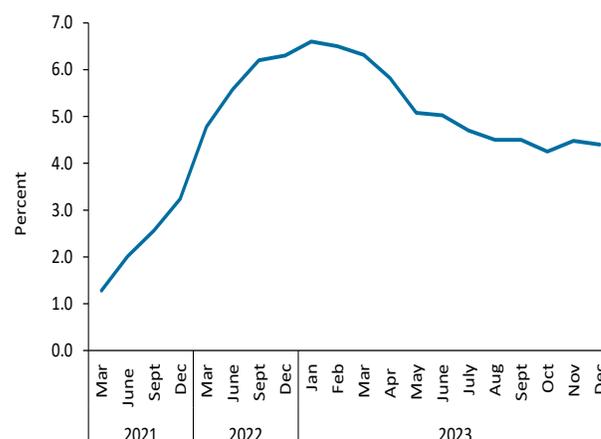
Chart 2.2: Tourist Arrivals

Sources: BTB, CBB, and Immigration and Nationality Department.

76.9% of 2019's level. The number of port calls increased by 45 to 308, with 31 additional ships anchoring near the Fort Street Tourism Village and 14 dockings at Harvest Caye.

Consumer Price Index

In December, the CPI declined by 0.6% relative to the previous month, resulting in a 4.4% increase in the all-items index for 2023. While the annual change in the price index was below the 6.3% increase recorded in 2022, it was more than double the pre-pandemic long-term 10-year average (2010-2019) of 0.7%. The above-average price level was primarily attributable to soaring food prices. The “*Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages*” subindex rose by 12.4%, accounting for 72.7% of the weighted change in the overall index. The “*Restaurants and Accommodation Services*” subindex was the second largest contributor to the upward price momentum, having increased by 12.2% due to rising costs of restaurant services. Other notable price increases were recorded in the “*Recreation, Sport,*

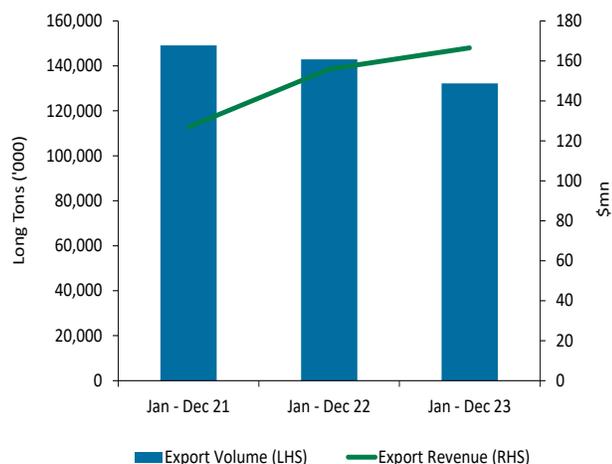
Chart 2.3: Average Year-on-Year Change in Consumer Price Index

and Culture” (6.6%) and “*Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance*” (5.0%) subindices, reflecting higher costs of pet food and household cleaning products, respectively. Notwithstanding, the inflationary momentum was dampened by a 2.4% reduction in “*Transport,*” as gasoline, diesel, and butane prices eased. The “*Information and Communication*” and “*Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels*” also declined, down 2.0% and 0.2%, respectively.

Sugarcane and Sugar

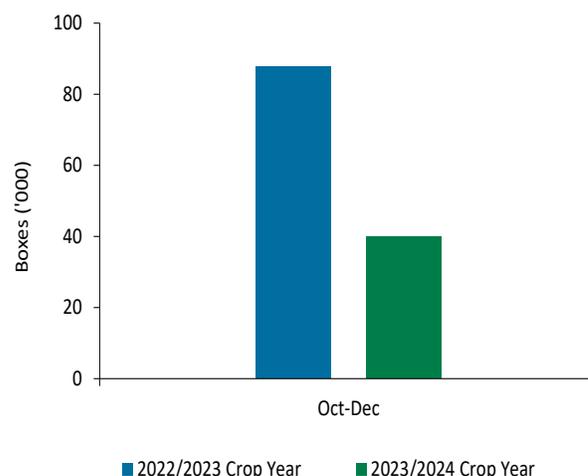
The new 2023/2024 crop season commenced on 28 December 2023 at the northern mill, one day later than the start of the previous crop on 27 December 2022. While the crop year was expected to commence on 19 December 2023, intense negotiations between the mill and farmers again delayed the season's start. For the new crop year, sugar cane deliveries to the northern mill are projected to decline by 0.7% to 975,000 long tons, from which 100,000 long tons of sugar would be yielded.

Chart 2.4: Sugar Exports



Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Chart 2.5: Citrus Deliveries



Source: CPBL

For the first few days in December, sugar cane deliveries totalled 5,935 long tons, reflecting a 68.7% decline compared to the same month of 2022. Consequently, sugar production contracted by 63.7% to 298 long tons.

In 2023, sugar exports declined by 7.5% in volume to 132,199 long tons. However, an upswing in sugar prices on the European and CARICOM markets led to a 6.8% growth in export revenues to \$166.5mn. Europe, the primary export market for sugar, purchased 75.4% (99,679 long tons) of total shipments, generating \$116.3mn. The remaining sugar shipments were sold to the US (16,552 long tons) and CARICOM (15,969 long tons), valued at \$21.0mn and \$29.3mn, respectively.

Citrus

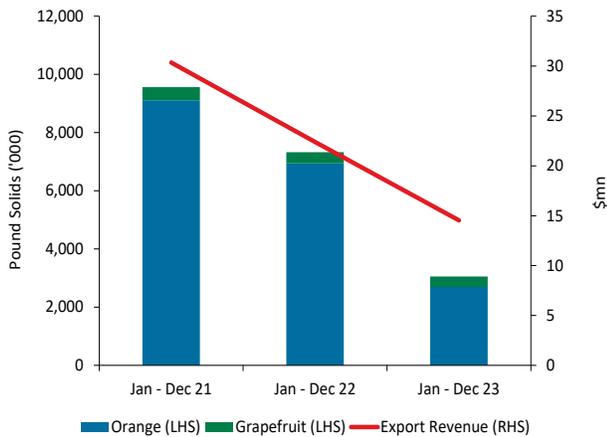
Between October and December, citrus deliveries to the fruit processor plunged by 74.8% to 387,452 boxes compared to the same period of the previous year. The volume of deliveries was constrained by the

harmful effects of citrus greening disease, rising fertiliser costs, and chronic labour shortages. Orange and grapefruit deliveries contracted 77.1% to 307,281 80-pound boxes and 58.8% to 80,171 90-pound boxes, respectively.

Citrus juice production decreased by 77.9% to 1.9mn pound solids (ps), weakened further by poor fruit quality. As a result, orange juice output nosedived by 79.8% to 1.6mn ps, as the average fruit output per box dropped markedly by 11.5% to 5.1 ps per box. Meanwhile, grapefruit juice output contracted by 59.4% to 0.3mn ps, with the average outturn per box decreasing marginally by 1.3% to 3.9 ps.

In 2023, the export volume of citrus juices contracted by 58.4% to 3.0mn ps. However, export earnings declined by a smaller margin of 35.1% to \$14.5mn in response to a 54.0% price increase in the CARICOM market. CARICOM purchased 98.6% or 2.6mn ps of total orange juice concentrate, generating \$11.7mn. CARICOM also bought 0.3mn ps

Chart 2.6: Citrus Juice Exports



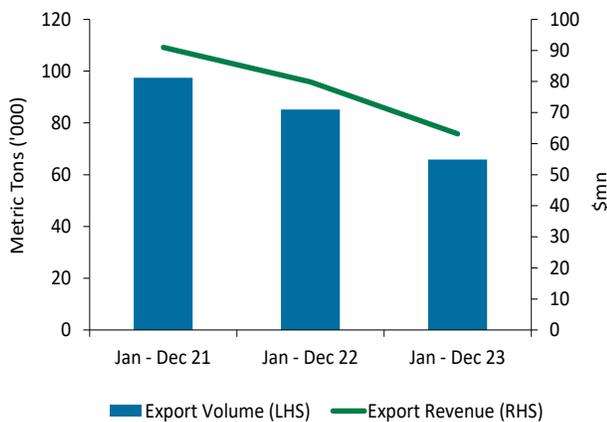
Source: CPBL

of grapefruit concentrate, valued at \$2.3mn. The remaining 1.4% of citrus juice exports were purchased by “other” destinations, netting \$0.2mn. No citrus juices were sold to the United States and Europe.

Banana

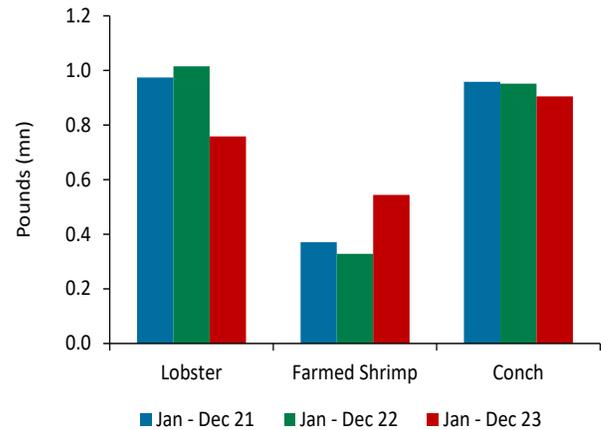
Banana exports contracted by 22.7% to 65,841 metric tons over the 12-month period. This outcome resulted in a 20.9%

Chart 2.7: Banana Exports



Source: BGA

Chart 2.8: Marine Export Volume



Source: SIB and CBB

decrease in earnings to \$63.1mn. Banana output plummeted due to an outbreak of the Sigatoka disease, exacerbated by labour shortages and rising fertiliser costs.

Marine Exports

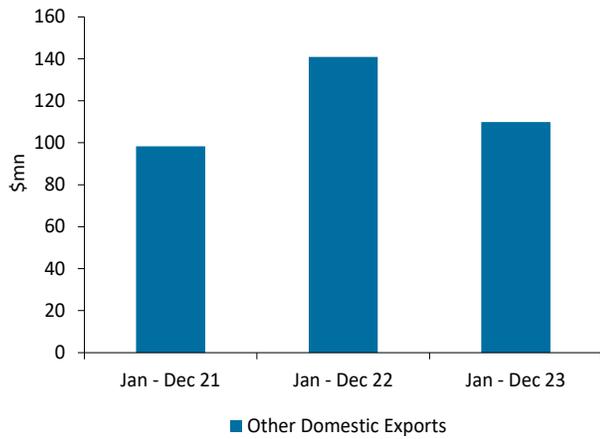
In 2023, marine exports declined by 4.7% to 2.2mn pounds. However, a sharp reduction in conch and lobster prices led to a 26.3% plunge in earnings to \$39.4mn. Although lobster export volume fell by 25.3% to 0.8mn pounds, the price squeeze caused lobster receipts to decline by 32.0% to \$23.4mn. Similarly, a 4.9% drop in conch export volume to 0.9mn pounds resulted in a sharp 25.2% contraction in earnings to \$13.1mn as prices weakened. On the bright side, farmed shrimp exports grew by 65.9% to 0.5mn pounds, generating \$2.9mn.

Other Domestic Exports

Other domestic exports contracted by 22.1% in 2023 to \$109.8mn. Decreased revenues from animal feed (\$31.3mn), red-

kidney beans (\$6.5mn), orange oil (\$2.9mn), sorghum (\$2.1mn), and petroleum (\$0.7mn) contributed to the overall downturn. However, increased earnings from crude soybean oil (\$2.6mn) and rum (\$0.2mn) moderated the overall decline.

Chart 2.9: Other Domestic Exports



Source: SIB

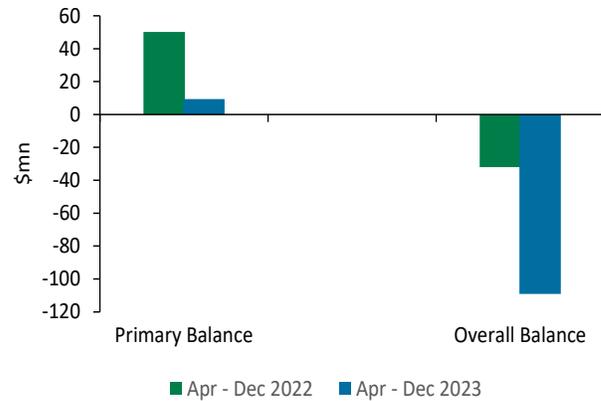
3 Central Government Operations and Public Debt

Central Government Operations

Central Government's fiscal stance loosened further from **January through December**, resulting in a deeper overall deficit in its operations. Revenue and grants rose by 3.9% (\$52.6mn) for the year, mainly due to higher general sales tax, excise duties, and personal income tax receipts. Total expenditure increased at a faster rate of 8.5% or \$118.1mn due to higher recurrent and capital spending. Consequently, the primary surplus narrowed to \$28.6mn (0.5% of GDP) from \$53.4mn (0.9% of GDP) the year before. Meanwhile, the overall deficit widened to \$109.4mn or 1.8% of GDP, \$65.5mn higher than the \$43.9mn (0.7% of GDP) deficit recorded in 2022.

Spending continued to outpace revenues from **April to December of FY 2023/24**, the first nine months of the new fiscal period. Consequently, Central Government operations yielded a smaller primary surplus of \$9.3mn (0.2% of GDP) in this period compared to \$50.2mn (0.9% of GDP) in the first nine months of FY 2022/23. Furthermore, Central Government recorded an overall deficit of \$109.2mn (1.8% of GDP), up significantly from an overall deficit of \$32.1mn (0.6% of GDP) for the corresponding period of 2022. Notably, the nationalisation of the Belize City Port was appropriately recorded as an acquisition of an asset by Central Government instead of an expenditure item. As a result, the transaction had no impact on the overall balance of Central Government's operations.

Chart 3.1: Central Government Operations



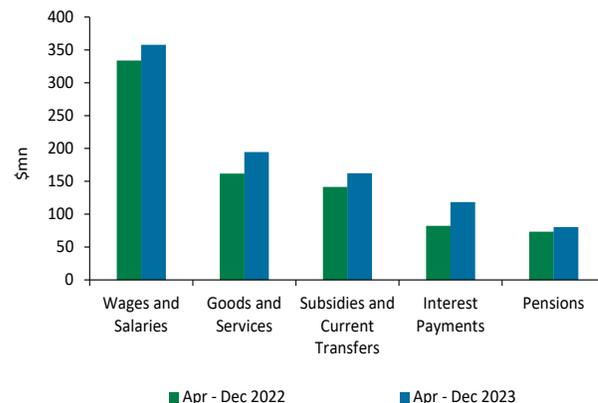
Source: MOF

Chart 3.2: Major Categories of Current Revenue



Source: MOF

Chart 3.3: Major Categories of Current Expenditure



Source: MOF

Revenue

Over the nine months, total revenue and grants increased by 4.8% or \$49.3mn to \$1,067.3mn as robust tax intakes outweighed reductions in non-tax revenue and grants. Tax revenue summed to \$993.9mn, representing 78.9% of budgeted inflows. Slightly ahead of the budget target, tax revenue was \$85.4mn above the previous period’s collections. This solid performance was due to heightened tax intakes on goods and services and, to a much lesser extent, on income arising from heightened economic activity. “*Taxes on Goods and Services*” increased substantially, up \$84.7mn to \$563.3mn, spurred by increased collections of excise duties (\$47.0mn), general sales tax receipts (\$23.1mn), and stamp duties (\$14.2mn). “*Taxes on Income and Profits*” also rose by \$6.0mn to \$263.8mn, driven by a \$7.8mn increase in income tax receipts. Conversely, taxes on “*International Trade and Transactions*” dipped by \$5.0mn to \$162.0mn, with slight declines in import duties, social fees, and environmental receipts as the value of imported goods declined.

Non-tax revenue fell by \$19.1mn to \$59.5mn over the review period. The significant falloff was due to a \$23.0mn decrease in property income, arising from a cutback in dividend withdrawal from Digi, the public telecommunication service provider. Furthermore, grants amounted to \$9.6mn to fund various projects, but was \$16.6mn less than the previous fiscal period as a major grant-funded infrastructural project was completed.

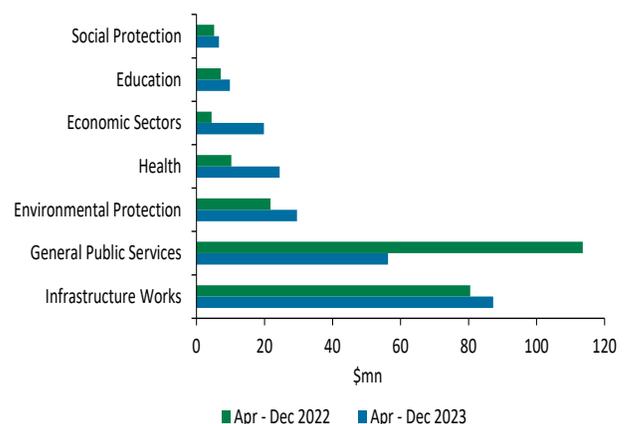
Expenditure

From April through December, Central Government spent \$1,176.5mn, 78.6% of the budget estimate. This amount was \$126.4mn above total outlays in the same period a year earlier.

Recurrent spending grew by 15.3% to \$913.5mn, with higher spending across all major categories. “*Wages and Salaries*,” the largest expenditure category, rose by \$23.8mn to \$357.7mn after the full reinstatement of public officers’ emoluments on 1 July 2022. “*Goods and Services*” increased by \$32.7mn to \$194.5mn, driven by higher outlays on medical supplies and food. “*Interest payments on Public Debt*” grew by \$36.2mn, as external debt servicing costs rose in line with foreign interest rates. Meanwhile, “*Subsidies and Current Transfers*” increased by \$21.1mn to \$162.4mn, following the payment of an outstanding judgment award.

Capital expenditure rose by \$5.5mn to \$263.0mn over the three quarters as

Chart 3.4: Major Categories of Development Expenditure



Source: MOF

additional expenditures in local (Capital II) and foreign (Capital III) sourced projects inched up. Central Government’s spending on locally sourced projects rose by \$0.8mn to \$196.2mn, accounting for 74.6% of total capital expenditure. Meanwhile, spending on externally funded projects rose by \$4.7mn to \$66.3mn. Outlays on infrastructural works accounted for 33.2% of total capital outlays. Other significant spending shares were allocated to general public services (21.4%), environmental protection and land management (11.3%), and health (9.3%).

Central Government Domestic Debt

Central Government’s domestic debt increased by 14.6% or \$192.3mn to \$1,507.9mn (24.5% of GDP) in 2023. Most of Central Government’s new borrowings occurred in December when \$197.3mn in Treasury securities was issued to fund the nationalisation of the Belize City Port and to settle outstanding judgment awards. This amount comprised \$90.0mn in T-bills and \$107.3mn in T-notes. In addition, Central Government issued \$14.0mn in T-notes in June to finance the first of three annual principal repayments on the five-year, US dollar-denominated \$30.0mn T-note. Altogether, Central Government issued \$211.3mn in Treasuries in 2023, comprised of various tenors and distributed between the Central Bank (\$104.0mn) and a domestic bank (\$107.3mn).

Amortisation payments totalled \$17.3mn, comprising \$1.0mn in principal repayments on three outstanding loans

Chart 3.5: Distribution of Central Government's Domestic Debt

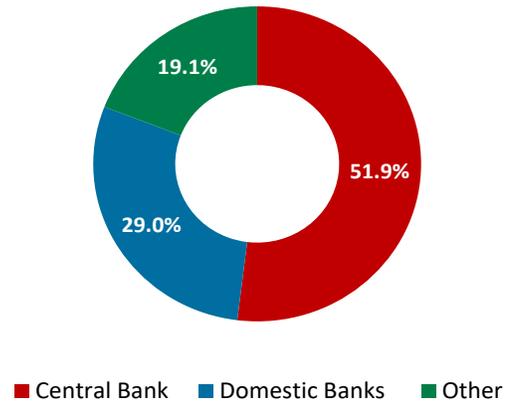
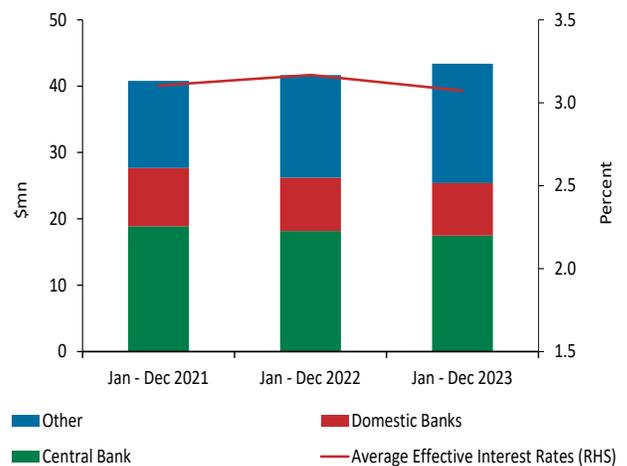


Chart 3.6: Distribution of Interest Payments on Central Government's Domestic Debt



and the redemption of \$16.3mn in T-notes combined in May and June.

Interest payments summed to \$43.4mn. Central Government paid \$1.8mn and \$41.5mn in interest to T-bill and T-note holders, respectively. The Central Bank received \$17.5mn in interest income, while the balance was shared between non-bank entities (\$18.0mn) and domestic banks (\$7.9mn).

The Central Bank’s share of Central Government’s domestic debt increased by 0.4 percentage points for the year to 51.9%, remaining Central Government’s largest domestic creditor. Furthermore, domestic banks’ share increased by 2.8 percentage points to 29.0%, while non-bank entities’ portions fell by 3.2 percentage points to 19.1%.

Public Sector External Debt

In 2023, the public sector external debt increased by 3.8% or \$103.7mn to \$2,831.0mn, as disbursements of \$216.6mn exceeded amortisation payments of \$113.7mn. Central Government accounted for a majority of the outstanding debt (90.9%), while the public financial (6.9%) and non-financial (2.2%) sectors accounted for the balance.

Central Government received \$185.0mn in new disbursements, equivalent to 85.4% of the total. Bilateral creditors provided \$90.3mn. The majority stemmed from the Republic of China/Taiwan, which disbursed \$86.3mn to finance budgeted expenses (\$84.0mn) and the Sarteneja Road Project

Chart 3.7: External Disbursements to Central Government by Creditor Type

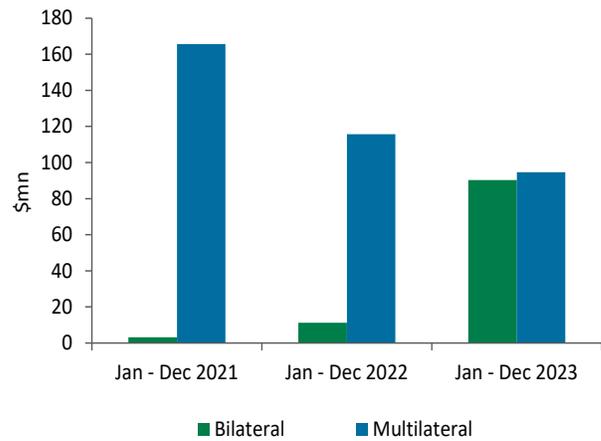
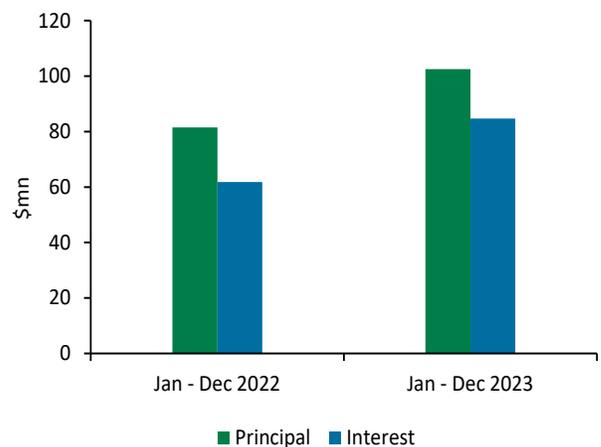


Chart 3.8: External Debt Service Payments



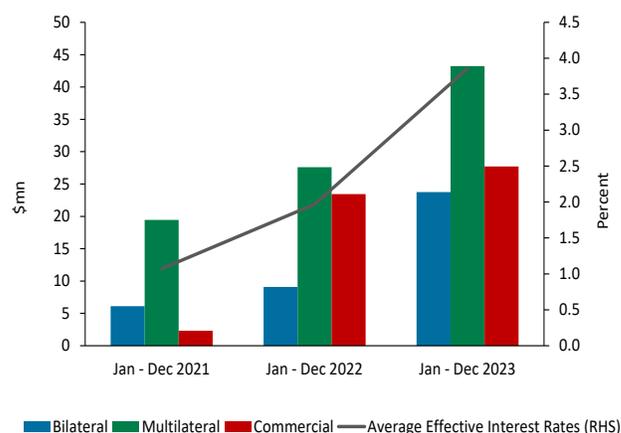
(\$2.3mn). In addition, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development advanced \$4.0mn for the Caracol Road Project. Concurrently, multilateral institutions disbursed \$94.6mn to fund several major projects, including:

- the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Project (\$29.4mn),
- the Caracol Road Project (\$17.4mn),
- the Coastal Road Project (\$10.2mn),
- the Haulover Bridge Replacement Project (\$6.7mn),
- the Education Quality Improvement Project (\$6.5mn),
- the Integral Security Programme (\$4.6mn),
- the COVID-19 Response Project (\$4.2mn), and
- the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (\$3.6mn).

New disbursements also included the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center's (CCCCC's) purchase of \$2.4mn of Treasury securities to shore up their portfolio investments. Furthermore, the Belize Electricity Limited, a public non-financial corporation, received \$8.6mn from the Caribbean Development Bank to fund its Seventh Power Project. Additionally, the Development Finance Corporation, a public financial entity, obtained \$23.0mn to strengthen its consolidated lines of credit and to support the productive sector.

Central Government made \$100.7mn in principal repayments on loans and T-notes combined. Multilateral and bilateral creditors received \$85.5mn and

Chart 3.9: External Debt Interest Payments



\$3.6mn on their outstanding claims, respectively. Meanwhile, \$11.5mn went to US-dollar T-note holders for matured notes. Furthermore, the public financial and non-financial sectors repaid \$4.2mn and \$8.8mn, respectively, to multilateral creditors.

Interest and other payments totalled \$101.1mn. Central Government accounted for \$94.7mn or 93.7% of the total costs. Multilateral institutions received the largest sum of interest payments from Central Government (\$43.2mn), followed by Blue Loan creditors (\$25.8mn), bilateral partners (\$23.8mn), and US dollar T-note holders (\$1.9mn). The public non-financial and financial sectors also paid \$3.2mn and \$3.1mn, respectively, in interest expense.

Statistical Appendix

Table A.1: Factors Responsible for Money Supply Movements⁽¹⁾

| | | \$mn | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Changes During | | |
| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 |
| Net Foreign Assets | 1,599.9 | -45.3 | 80.4 | 75.4 |
| Central Bank | 948.8 | -84.6 | -17.9 | 119.2 |
| Domestic Banks | 651.1 | 39.3 | 98.3 | -43.7 |
| Net Domestic Credit | 3,610.4 | 219.9 | 389.6 | 173.4 |
| Central Government (Net) | 927.8 | 188.9 | 214.6 | 26.0 |
| Other Public Sector | 118.3 | 15.7 | 31.0 | 43.3 |
| Private Sector | 2,564.3 | 15.4 | 143.9 | 104.0 |
| Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long Term) | 116.7 | 0.7 | 1.0 | -6.0 |
| Other Items (Net) | 646.0 | 110.3 | 176.1 | 68.7 |
| Money Supply | 4,447.6 | 63.6 | 293.0 | 186.1 |

⁽¹⁾ Transactions associated with the Universal Health Services (UHS) loan with the Belize Bank Limited are not included in this table.

Table A.2: Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

| | | \$mn | | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | Changes During | | |
| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 |
| Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System | 1,599.9 | -45.3 | 80.4 | 75.4 |
| Net Foreign Assets of the Central Bank | 948.8 | -84.6 | -17.9 | 119.2 |
| Central Bank Foreign Assets | 951.5 | -84.5 | -17.9 | 119.1 |
| Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand) | 2.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks | 651.1 | 39.3 | 98.3 | -43.7 |
| Domestic Banks' Foreign Assets | 710.1 | 76.9 | 133.3 | -67.0 |
| Domestic Banks' Foreign Liabilities (Short Term) | 59.0 | 37.6 | 34.9 | -23.3 |

Table A.3: Central Bank's Foreign Asset Flows

| | \$mn | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
| Total Inflows | 408.2 | 394.7 |
| Loan Disbursements | 105.5 | 188.7 |
| Grants | 57.6 | 26.1 |
| Sugar Receipts | 99.8 | 105.7 |
| Banks | 40.0 | 0.7 |
| Other | 105.4 | 73.5 |
| Total Outflows | 287.7 | 412.8 |
| Central Government | 251.7 | 363.8 |
| Statutory Bodies | 16.4 | 38.4 |
| Other | 19.5 | 10.7 |

Table A.4: Net Domestic Credit

| | | | \$mn | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-------|
| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Changes During Dec 2022 to Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 | |
| Total Credit to Central Government | 1,128.5 | 197.6 | 197.4 | -6.0 |
| From Central Bank | 782.9 | 90.2 | 105.4 | 66.3 |
| Loans and Advances | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Government Securities ⁽¹⁾ | 782.9 | 90.2 | 105.4 | 66.3 |
| From Domestic Banks | 345.6 | 107.4 | 91.9 | -72.2 |
| Loans and Advances | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Government Securities | 345.6 | 107.4 | 91.9 | -72.2 |
| Of which: Treasury bills ⁽²⁾ | 107.1 | 0.1 | -7.4 | -53.2 |
| Treasury notes | 238.5 | 107.3 | 99.3 | -19.0 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Less Central Government Deposits | 200.6 | 8.7 | -17.3 | -32.0 |
| With Central Bank | 140.2 | 6.4 | -26.8 | -6.0 |
| With Domestic Banks | 60.4 | 2.3 | 9.5 | -26.0 |
| Net Credit to Central Government | 927.8 | 188.9 | 214.6 | 26.0 |
| Credit to Other Public Sector | 118.3 | 15.7 | 31.0 | 43.3 |
| From Central Bank | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| From Domestic Banks | 118.3 | 15.7 | 31.0 | 43.3 |
| Of which: Local Government | 16.0 | -0.3 | 3.7 | 4.1 |
| Public Financial Institutions | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Public Utilities | 25.0 | 16.0 | 13.0 | -6.0 |
| Other Statutory Bodies | 0.8 | -0.1 | -0.9 | 0.1 |
| Securities | 76.5 | 0.0 | 15.2 | 45.2 |
| Plus Credit to the Private Sector | 2,564.3 | 15.4 | 143.9 | 104.0 |
| From Central Bank | 8.3 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| Loans and Advances | 8.3 | 0.0 | 1.4 | 2.2 |
| From Domestic Banks | 2,555.9 | 15.4 | 142.6 | 101.8 |
| Loans and Advances | 2,530.4 | 15.4 | 137.6 | 107.6 |
| Securities | 25.6 | 0.0 | 5.0 | -5.8 |
| Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System ⁽²⁾ | 3,610.4 | 219.9 | 389.6 | 173.4 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes Central Bank's holdings of Government Treasury bills and Treasury notes.

⁽²⁾ Values may not equal to total due to rounding.

Table A.5: Sectoral Composition of Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances

| | | \$mn | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Changes During | |
| | | | Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 |
| PRIMARY SECTOR | 264.1 | -4.0 | -1.6 | 13.9 |
| Agriculture | 237.9 | -2.8 | 1.0 | 15.7 |
| Sugar | 94.2 | -0.1 | -0.4 | -0.1 |
| Citrus | 11.9 | -1.8 | -4.9 | -0.2 |
| Bananas | 56.7 | -0.4 | 1.1 | 6.9 |
| Other | 75.1 | -0.5 | 5.2 | 9.1 |
| Marine Products | 21.0 | -1.2 | -2.2 | -1.3 |
| Forestry | 1.4 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Mining and Exploration | 3.8 | -0.1 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| SECONDARY SECTOR | 848.4 | 17.6 | 22.7 | 197.5 |
| Manufacturing | 75.2 | -1.9 | 4.9 | 5.3 |
| Building and Construction | 735.5 | 3.9 | 12.2 | 199.9 |
| Utilities | 37.7 | 15.6 | 5.6 | -7.7 |
| TERTIARY SECTOR | 1,029.4 | 6.7 | 91.5 | 22.9 |
| Transport | 67.9 | 0.0 | 12.4 | 6.6 |
| Tourism | 298.5 | 0.9 | 9.5 | 2.3 |
| Distribution | 202.1 | -3.6 | 9.8 | 21.1 |
| Real Estate | 372.5 | 0.3 | 46.9 | -1.6 |
| Professional Services | 68.9 | 9.5 | 11.5 | -8.8 |
| Other ⁽¹⁾ | 19.5 | -0.4 | 1.4 | 3.3 |
| PERSONAL LOANS | 430.3 | 10.8 | 40.8 | -128.5 |
| TOTAL | 2,572.2 | 31.1 | 153.4 | 105.8 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes Government Services, Financial Institutions, and Entertainment.

Table A.6: Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves

| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Changes During | |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 |
| | | | | \$mn |
| Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets | 1,556.2 | 18.9 | 88.6 | 25.5 |
| Notes and Coins | 119.6 | 2.0 | 20.8 | 1.0 |
| Balances with Central Bank | 765.7 | -0.7 | 24.7 | 96.4 |
| Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due 90 days) | 454.3 | -1.9 | -13.4 | -19.3 |
| Central Government Securities maturing within 90 days ⁽¹⁾ | 125.6 | 31.1 | -10.1 | -50.6 |
| Other Approved Assets | 91.0 | -11.8 | 66.6 | -2.0 |
| Required Liquid Assets | 812.1 | -1.5 | 47.5 | 20.9 |
| Excess Liquid Assets | 744.1 | 20.4 | 41.2 | 4.6 |
| Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves | 761.2 | -8.1 | 25.2 | 90.1 |
| Required Cash Reserves | 251.4 | -0.5 | 14.7 | 6.5 |
| Excess Cash Reserves | 509.8 | -7.6 | 10.5 | 83.7 |
| Actual Securities Balances ⁽²⁾ | 107.1 | 0.0 | -7.4 | -53.3 |
| Excess Securities | 107.1 | 0.0 | -7.4 | -53.3 |

⁽¹⁾ Four week average of domestic banks' Treasury bill holdings.

⁽²⁾ Face value of domestic banks' Treasury bill holdings at the end of the month.

Table A.7: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates

| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Changes During | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 |
| | | | | Percent |
| Weighted Lending Rates | | | | |
| Personal Loans | 11.45 | -0.08 | -0.08 | 1.43 |
| Commercial Loans | 7.89 | -0.04 | -0.36 | -0.16 |
| Residential Construction | 7.06 | 0.04 | -0.13 | -0.56 |
| Other | 7.18 | 0.02 | 0.11 | 0.52 |
| Weighted Average | 8.42 | -0.03 | -0.30 | 0.04 |
| Weighted Deposit Rates | | | | |
| Demand | 0.13 | -0.01 | 0.00 | 0.03 |
| Savings/Chequing | 2.62 | 0.00 | -0.01 | 2.14 |
| Savings | 2.66 | -0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Time | 2.11 | 0.00 | -0.05 | -0.09 |
| Weighted Average | 1.18 | -0.01 | -0.04 | -0.04 |
| Weighted Average Spread | 7.24 | -0.02 | -0.27 | 0.08 |

Table A.8: Domestic Banks' (Rolling) Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

| | Percent | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Twelve Month Rolling Averages at | | | Monthly Change | Annual Change |
| | Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 | Dec 2022 | Dec 2023 over Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 over Dec 2022 |
| Weighted Lending Rates | | | | | |
| Personal Loans | 10.00 | 10.01 | 10.17 | 0.00 | -0.17 |
| Commercial Loans | 8.14 | 8.21 | 8.01 | -0.07 | 0.13 |
| Residential Construction | 9.07 | 9.05 | 8.42 | 0.02 | 0.65 |
| Other | 5.89 | 6.45 | 6.10 | -0.56 | -0.21 |
| Weighted Average | 8.68 | 8.73 | 8.54 | -0.05 | 0.14 |
| Weighted Deposit Rates | | | | | |
| Demand | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Savings/Chequing | 1.54 | 1.54 | 0.85 | 0.00 | 0.69 |
| Savings | 2.48 | 2.46 | 2.42 | 0.02 | 0.06 |
| Time | 2.14 | 2.21 | 2.42 | -0.08 | -0.29 |
| Weighted Average | 1.80 | 1.91 | 2.02 | -0.11 | -0.22 |
| Weighted Average Spread | 6.88 | 6.81 | 6.52 | 0.07 | 0.36 |

Table A.9: Sectoral Composition of Credit Unions' Loans and Advances

| | | \$mn | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Position as at Dec 2023 | Nov 2023 to Dec 2023 | Changes During | |
| | | | Dec 2022 to Dec 2023 | Dec 2021 to Dec 2022 |
| PRIMARY SECTOR | 74.2 | 3.5 | 12.1 | -1.8 |
| Agriculture | 66.3 | 3.5 | 12.2 | -0.3 |
| Sugar | 5.2 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -0.5 |
| Citrus | 1.2 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| Bananas | 2.0 | 0.7 | 2.0 | -0.7 |
| Other | 57.9 | 2.8 | 10.8 | 1.0 |
| Marine Products | 7.7 | -0.1 | 0.0 | -1.4 |
| Forestry | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Mining and Exploration | 0.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| SECONDARY SECTOR | 240.0 | 1.1 | 18.4 | 5.6 |
| Manufacturing | 35.5 | 1.1 | 5.7 | 4.4 |
| Building and Construction | 196.9 | -0.1 | 9.6 | 0 |
| Residential | 109.7 | 0.8 | 9.5 | 6.1 |
| Home Improvement | 72.4 | -0.4 | -0.1 | -3.7 |
| Commercial | 11.9 | -0.5 | -0.2 | -2.1 |
| Infrastructure | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.3 | -0.2 |
| Utilities | 7.6 | 0.1 | 3.1 | 1.2 |
| TERTIARY SECTOR | 132.5 | 0.8 | 15.3 | 9.4 |
| Transport | 4.8 | 0.4 | 3.8 | -0.2 |
| Tourism | 3.7 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0 |
| Distribution | 20.5 | -0.3 | -2.1 | 0.9 |
| Real Estate | 86.2 | 0.9 | 6.9 | 8.9 |
| Residential | 2.5 | -0.1 | -0.7 | -0.3 |
| Commercial | 41.7 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 3.4 |
| Land Acquisition | 41.9 | 0.5 | 7.0 | 5.7 |
| Other ⁽¹⁾ | 17.3 | -0.2 | 3.8 | -0.2 |
| PERSONAL LOANS | 246.0 | 2.6 | -12.4 | 8.5 |
| TOTAL | 692.7 | 8.1 | 33.3 | 21.9 |

⁽¹⁾ Includes Government Services, Financial Institutions, Professional Services, and Entertainment.

Table A.10: Production of Main Domestic Exports

| | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sugarcane Deliveries (long tons) | 1,803,298 | 1,472,103 |
| Sugar (long tons) | 176,714 | 143,568 |
| Molasses (long tons) | 63,536 | 53,922 |
| Banana (metric tons) | 85,202 | 65,841 |
| Citrus Deliveries (boxes) | 1,396,790 | 299,742 |
| Citrus Juices ('000 ps) | 7,887 | 1,486 |
| Marine Exports ('000 lbs) | 2,318 | 2,209 |

Sources: BSI, Santander Group, BGA, CPBL, Geology, and SIB

Table A.11: Domestic Exports

| | \$mn | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
| Sugar | 155.9 | 166.5 |
| Molasses | 14.6 | 15.4 |
| Banana | 79.9 | 63.1 |
| Citrus Juices | 22.4 | 14.5 |
| Other Domestic Exports | 140.9 | 109.8 |
| Marine Exports | 53.5 | 39.4 |
| Total | 467.2 | 408.8 |

Sources: BSI, Santander Group, BGA, CPBL, and SIB

Table A.12: Gross Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)⁽¹⁾

| | \$mn | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Jan - Dec 2021 | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
| Food, Beverages, and Tobacco | 312.6 | 341.7 | 353.3 |
| Fuels, Lubricants, and Crude Materials | 359.0 | 524.0 | 523.6 |
| Of which: Electricity | 56.6 | 61.2 | 79.4 |
| Oils, Fats, and Chemicals | 248.5 | 329.3 | 299.0 |
| Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures | 504.8 | 598.7 | 582.5 |
| Machinery and Transport Equipment | 411.8 | 544.5 | 590.1 |
| Other Goods | 4.1 | 4.2 | 3.4 |
| Designated Processing Areas | 34.8 | 48.0 | 39.0 |
| Commercial Free Zone | 302.3 | 433.4 | 369.6 |
| Total | 2,177.8 | 2,823.9 | 2,760.6 |

Sources: SIB and BEL

⁽¹⁾ Imports are valued at cost, insurance, and freight.

Table A.13: Tourist Arrivals

| | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Air | 293,412 | 347,674 |
| Land | 43,769 | 67,611 |
| Sea | <u>8,547</u> | <u>14,256</u> |
| Stay-over Visitors | 345,728 | 429,541 |
| Cruise Ship Disembarkations | 551,280 | 809,788 |

Sources: BTB and CBB

Table A.14: Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index Components by Major Commodity Group

| Major Commodity | Weights | Nov 2023 | Dec 2023 | % Change | |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | | Dec 2023 over Nov 2023 | YTD 2023 over YTD 2022 |
| Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages | 258 | 131.3 | 129.4 | -1.4 | 12.4 |
| Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics | 35 | 106.8 | 106.8 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| Clothing and Footwear | 44 | 100.9 | 100.9 | 0.0 | -0.3 |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels | 195 | 104.9 | 104.7 | -0.2 | -0.2 |
| Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance | 51 | 111.4 | 111.4 | 0.0 | 5.0 |
| Health | 26 | 110.7 | 110.7 | 0.0 | 4.8 |
| Transport | 153 | 130.4 | 129.3 | -0.8 | -2.4 |
| Information and Communication | 46 | 96.1 | 96.1 | 0.0 | -2.0 |
| Recreation, Sport, and Culture | 43 | 114.7 | 114.7 | 0.0 | 6.6 |
| Education Services | 25 | 100.6 | 100.6 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Restaurants and Accommodation Services | 65 | 129.1 | 129.1 | 0.0 | 12.2 |
| Insurance and Financial Services | 8 | 105.8 | 105.8 | 0.0 | 3.7 |
| Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services | 51 | 108.1 | 108.1 | 0.0 | 3.7 |
| All Items | 1,000 | 117.7 | 117.0 | -0.6 | 4.4 |

Source: SIB

Table A.15: Sugarcane Deliveries and Production of Sugar and Molasses

| | Dec 2022 | Dec 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deliveries of Sugarcane (long tons) | 18,960 | 5,935 |
| Sugar Processed (long tons) | 820 | 298 |
| Molasses Processed (long tons) | - | - |
| Performance | | |
| Cane/Sugar | 23.0 | 19.9 |

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.16: Sugar and Molasses Exports

| | Dec 2022 | | Dec 2023 | | Jan - Dec 2022 | | Jan - Dec 2023 | |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Volume (long tons) | Value (\$'000) |
| Sugar | 2,677 | 4,225 | 2,490 | 4,505 | 142,864 | 155,916 | 132,199 | 166,524 |
| Europe | 2,638 | 4,152 | 915 | 1,397 | 108,036 | 108,478 | 99,679 | 116,267 |
| US | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 12,989 | 16,938 | 16,552 | 20,994 |
| CARICOM | 39 | 73 | 1575 | 3,108 | 21,741 | 30,322 | 15,969 | 29,264 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98 | 178 | 0 | 0 |
| Molasses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 45,500 | 14,642 | 37,576 | 15,366 |

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.17: Citrus Deliveries and Production

| | Dec 2022 | Dec 2023 | Oct - Dec 2022 | Oct - Dec 2023 |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Deliveries (boxes) | | | | |
| Orange | 16,164 | 11,840 | 1,344,274 | 307,281 |
| Grapefruit | <u>9,333</u> | <u>1,991</u> | <u>194,691</u> | <u>80,171</u> |
| Total | 25,497 | 13,831 | 1,538,965 | 387,452 |
| Concentrate Produced (ps) | | | | |
| Orange | 89,135 | 84,702 | 7,571,078 | 1,498,622 |
| Grapefruit | 53,936 | <u>25,090</u> | <u>744,459</u> | <u>303,825</u> |
| Total | 143,071 | 109,792 | 8,315,537 | 1,802,447 |
| Not from concentrate (ps) | | | | |
| Orange | 0 | 0 | 164,432 | 66,403 |
| Grapefruit | <u>7,914</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>22,767</u> | <u>7,914</u> |
| Total | 7,914 | 0 | 187,199 | 74,317 |
| Pulp (pounds) | | | | |
| Orange | 0 | 0 | 928,560 | 81,408 |
| Grapefruit | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>219,632</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 1,148,192 | 81,408 |
| Oil Produced (pounds) | | | | |
| Orange | 6,077 | 7,133 | 467,386 | 104,304 |
| Grapefruit | <u>2,500</u> | <u>987</u> | <u>30,300</u> | <u>11,589</u> |
| Total | 8,577 | 8,120 | 497,686 | 115,893 |

Source: CPBL

Table A.18: Citrus Product Exports

| | Dec 2022 | | Dec 2023 | | Jan - Dec 2022 | | Jan - Dec 2023 | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | Pound Solids ('000) | Value (\$'000) |
| Citrus Concentrates | | | | | | | | |
| US | | | | | | | | |
| Orange | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 885.8 | 2,242 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Grapefruit | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 93.8 | 619 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Caribbean | | | | | | | | |
| Orange | 174.2 | 622 | 7.7 | 33.4 | 5,454.0 | 16,278 | 2,647.2 | 11,736 |
| Grapefruit | 9.3 | 62 | 35.4 | 266.7 | 213.9 | 1,146 | 323.4 | 2,331 |
| Europe | | | | | | | | |
| Orange | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 428.5 | 1,205 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Grapefruit | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 31.1 | 172 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Other | | | | | | | | |
| Orange | 35.7 | 132.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 138.9 | 259 | 36.4 | 158 |
| Grapefruit | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 30.0 | 164 | 30.2 | 225 |
| Sub-Total ⁽¹⁾ | 219.2 | 816 | 43.1 | 300 | 7,276.0 | 22,086 | 3,037.3 | 14,451 |
| Orange | 209.9 | 754 | 7.7 | 33.4 | 6,907.2 | 19,984 | 2,683.6 | 11,894 |
| Grapefruit | 9.3 | 62 | 35.4 | 266.7 | 368.8 | 2,102 | 353.7 | 2,557 |
| Not-From-Concentrate | | | | | | | | |
| Sub-Total | 0.8 | 5 | 1.0 | 8.3 | 49.9 | 294 | 13.7 | 79 |
| Orange | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 33.9 | 171 | 11.0 | 58 |
| Grapefruit | 0.8 | 5 | 1.0 | 8.3 | 16.0 | 123 | 2.7 | 21 |
| Total Citrus Juices | 219.9 | 822 | 44.0 | 308.4 | 7,325.9 | 22,380 | 3,051.0 | 14,530 |
| Pulp (pounds '000) | | | | | | | | |
| Total ⁽¹⁾ | 48.4 | 5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,314.5 | 228 | 144.6 | 15 |
| Orange | 48.4 | 5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,158.9 | 91 | 144.6 | 15 |
| Grapefruit | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 155.7 | 137 | 0.0 | 0 |

Source: CPBL

⁽¹⁾ Values may not be equal to total due to rounding.

Table A.19: Banana Exports

| | Dec 2022 | Dec 2023 | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Volume (metric tons) | 4,410 | 7,732 | 85,202 | 65,841 |
| Value (\$'000) | 3,533 | 6,496 | 79,856 | 63,143 |

Source: BGA

Table A.20: Marine Exports

| | Jan - Dec 2022 | | Jan - Dec 2023 | |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | Volume (‘000 pounds) | Value (\$'000) | Volume (‘000 pounds) | Value (\$'000) |
| Lobster | 1,015 | 34,361 | 758 | 23,357 |
| Shrimp | 328 | 1,511 | 544 | 2,885 |
| Conch | 951 | 17,526 | 905 | 13,118 |
| Other Fish | <u>23</u> | <u>98</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>62</u> |
| Total | 2,318 | 53,496 | 2,209 | 39,422 |

Source: SIB

Table A.21: Other Domestic Exports

| | Jan - Dec 2022 | Jan - Dec 2023 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Other Domestic Exports (\$'000) | 140,917 | 109,838 |
| Of which: | | |
| Animal Feed | 43,204 | 31,272 |
| Red Kidney Beans | 10,437 | 6,529 |
| Orange Oil | 5,346 | 2,874 |
| Petroleum | 3,037 | 669 |

Source: SIB

Table A.22: Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure

| | Approved Budget 2023/2024 | Jan 2022 to Dec 2022 | Jan 2023 to Dec 2023 ^P | Apr 2022 to Dec 2022 | Apr 2023 to Dec 2023 ^P | \$'000 Fiscal YTD as % of Budget |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3) | 1,408,268 | 1,341,636 | 1,394,246 | 1,018,007 | 1,067,339 | 75.8% |
| 1). Current Revenue | 1,372,743 | 1,287,383 | 1,376,895 | 987,094 | 1,053,328 | 76.7% |
| Tax Revenue | 1,260,400 | 1,194,401 | 1,301,084 | 908,493 | 993,850 | 78.9% |
| Income and Profits | 360,756 | 343,118 | 364,455 | 257,796 | 263,772 | 73.1% |
| Taxes on Property | 6,764 | 7,882 | 7,364 | 5,240 | 4,851 | 71.7% |
| Taxes on Goods and Services | 667,492 | 628,551 | 729,076 | 478,530 | 563,252 | 84.4% |
| International Trade and Transactions | 225,388 | 214,850 | 200,189 | 166,927 | 161,976 | 71.9% |
| Non-Tax Revenue | 112,344 | 92,982 | 75,811 | 78,601 | 59,478 | 52.9% |
| Property Income | 51,263 | 36,177 | 13,182 | 34,464 | 11,416 | 22.3% |
| Licences | 17,652 | 18,756 | 17,743 | 13,340 | 13,803 | 78.2% |
| Other | 43,429 | 38,049 | 44,452 | 30,797 | 33,824 | 77.9% |
| 2). Capital Revenue | 5,525 | 5,476 | 5,942 | 4,737 | 4,433 | 80.2% |
| 3). Grants | 30,000 | 48,777 | 11,409 | 26,176 | 9,578 | 31.9% |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2) | 1,496,282 | 1,385,576 | 1,503,654 | 1,050,075 | 1,176,498 | 78.6% |
| 1). Current Expenditure | 1,112,855 | 1,052,499 | 1,151,379 | 792,598 | 913,544 | 82.1% |
| Wages and Salaries | 466,547 | 436,632 | 473,176 | 333,903 | 357,724 | 76.7% |
| Pensions | 100,000 | 97,458 | 103,860 | 73,297 | 80,398 | 80.4% |
| Goods and Services | 230,743 | 236,720 | 245,646 | 161,784 | 194,500 | 84.3% |
| Interest Payments on Public Debt | 109,195 | 97,300 | 137,961 | 82,232 | 118,479 | 108.5% |
| Subsidies and Current Transfers | 206,370 | 184,389 | 190,736 | 141,383 | 162,443 | 78.7% |
| 2). Capital Expenditure | 383,427 | 333,077 | 313,399 | 257,477 | 262,955 | 68.6% |
| Capital II (Local Sources) | 218,125 | 249,202 | 258,931 | 195,466 | 196,222 | 90.0% |
| Capital III (Foreign Sources) | 158,004 | 83,479 | 92,755 | 61,615 | 66,340 | 42.0% |
| Capital Transfer and Net Lending | 7,299 | 396 | 589 | 396 | 393 | 5.4% |
| CURRENT BALANCE | 259,888 | 234,884 | 225,516 | 194,496 | 139,785 | 53.8% |
| PRIMARY BALANCE | 21,181 | 53,360 | 28,554 | 50,163 | 9,320 | 44.0% |
| OVERALL BALANCE | -88,013 | -43,940 | -109,407 | -32,068 | -109,159 | 124.0% |
| Primary Balance less grants | -8,819 | 4,583 | 17,145 | 23,987 | -258 | 2.9% |
| Overall Balance less grants | -118,013 | -92,717 | -120,816 | -58,244 | -118,737 | 100.6% |
| FINANCING | 88,013 | 43,940 | 109,407 | 32,068 | 109,159 | |
| Nationalisation | | | -166,740 | | -166,740 | |
| Domestic Financing | | 31,820 | 211,464 | -5,235 | 186,658 | |
| Central Bank | | 72,183 | 132,267 | -2,210 | 98,077 | |
| Net Borrowing | | 66,215 | 105,472 | 35,186 | 120,434 | |
| Change in Deposits | | 5,968 | 26,794 | -37,396 | -22,357 | |
| Commercial Banks | | -51,917 | 82,372 | -18,372 | 93,424 | |
| Net Borrowing | | -77,769 | 91,944 | -50,327 | 78,862 | |
| Change in Deposits | | 25,852 | -9,572 | 31,955 | 14,562 | |
| Other Domestic Financing | | 11,553 | -8,742 | 15,347 | -4,842 | |
| Financing Abroad | | 54,914 | 79,219 | 45,453 | 72,208 | |
| Disbursements | | 126,162 | 178,715 | 105,233 | 161,048 | |
| Amortisation | | -71,248 | -99,496 | -59,780 | -88,840 | |
| Other | | -42,794 | -14,536 | -8,149 | 17,033 | |

Source: MOF

^P - Provisional

Table A.23: Central Government's Domestic Debt

\$'000

| | Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/22 ^R | TRANSACTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2023 | | | | Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/23 ^P |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------|---|---|
| | | Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities | Amortisation/ Reduction in Securities | Interest | Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities | |
| Overdraft/Loans | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Central Bank | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Domestic Banks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Treasury Bills | 245,000 | 90,000 | 0 | 1,840 | 0 | 335,000 |
| Central Bank | 123,017 | 90,000 | 0 | 1,014 | 5,746 | 218,764 |
| Domestic Banks | 114,468 | 0 | 0 | 777 | -7,453 | 107,015 |
| Other | 7,515 | 0 | 0 | 49 | 1,707 | 9,221 |
| Treasury Notes | 977,800 | 121,340 | 16,294 | 41,512 | -1,700 | 1,081,146 |
| Central Bank | 554,755 | 14,000 | 6,000 | 16,458 | 1,749 | 564,504 |
| Domestic Banks | 139,212 | 107,340 | 8,000 | 7,139 | 0 | 238,552 |
| Other | 283,833 | 0 | 2,294 | 17,915 | -3,449 | 278,090 |
| Belize Bank Limited ⁽¹⁾ | 91,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91,000 |
| Social Security Board ⁽²⁾ | 35 | 0 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fort Street Tourism Village | 765 | 0 | 765 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Debt for Nature Swap | 1,000 | 0 | 211 | 27 | 0 | 789 |
| Total | 1,315,601 | 211,340 | 17,306 | 43,381 | -1,700 | 1,507,936 |

^R - Revised^P - Provisional

⁽¹⁾ Caribbean Court of Justice award in November 2017 against the Government of Belize in favour of Belize Bank relating to the loan guarantee. Since the first quarter of 2018, the Belize Bank has been offsetting its business tax against the Universal Health Services (UHS) debt. At December-end 2023, the Belize Bank set-off approximately \$79.0mn in taxes against the debt, split between principal payments (\$53.1mn) and interest payments (\$25.9mn).

⁽²⁾ Government has outstanding loan with Social Security Board for Hopeville Housing Project.

Table A.24: Public Sector External Debt

| | Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/22 ^R | TRANSACTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2023 | | | | Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/23 ^P |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---|
| | | Disbursements | Principal Payments | Interest & Other Payments | Parity Change | |
| CENTRAL GOVERNMENT | 2,489,254 | 184,990 | 100,686 | 94,720 | -32 | 2,573,526 |
| Government of Venezuela ⁽¹⁾ | 429,692 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 429,692 |
| Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development | 32,771 | 4,017 | 2,487 | 944 | -10 | 34,292 |
| Mega International Commercial Bank Company Ltd. | 45,714 | 0 | 0 | 3,145 | 0 | 45,714 |
| Republic of China/Taiwan | 286,754 | 86,330 | 1,121 | 19,675 | 0 | 371,963 |
| Caribbean Development Bank | 336,440 | 42,132 | 22,359 | 12,704 | 0 | 356,214 |
| CARICOM Development Fund | 6,000 | 0 | 292 | 179 | 0 | 5,708 |
| European Economic Community | 4,029 | 0 | 437 | 26 | -29 | 3,562 |
| Inter-American Development Bank | 303,652 | 17,859 | 37,011 | 18,350 | 0 | 284,501 |
| International Fund for Agriculture Development | 8,198 | 0 | 1,373 | 399 | 7 | 6,832 |
| International Bank for Reconstruction and Development | 71,825 | 5,629 | 4,618 | 3,917 | 0 | 72,837 |
| OPEC Fund for International Development | 182,632 | 20,032 | 16,181 | 6,215 | 0 | 186,483 |
| Central American Bank for Economic Integration | 18,947 | 6,590 | 2,574 | 1,445 | 0 | 22,963 |
| Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre | 0 | 2,400 | 700 | 3 | 0 | 1,700 |
| Belize Blue Investment Company LLC | 728,000 | 0 | 0 | 25,844 | 0 | 728,000 |
| US \$30mn Fixed Rate Notes | 34,600 | 0 | 11,533 | 1,875 | 0 | 23,067 |
| NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR | 61,822 | 8,589 | 8,782 | 3,217 | 0 | 61,630 |
| Caribbean Development Bank | 32,656 | 8,589 | 4,893 | 1,635 | 0 | 36,352 |
| International Cooperation and Development Fund | 29,167 | 0 | 3,889 | 1,582 | 0 | 25,278 |
| FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR | 176,155 | 23,000 | 4,237 | 3,146 | 900 | 195,818 |
| Caribbean Development Bank | 48,735 | 15,000 | 3,601 | 2,360 | 0 | 60,134 |
| European Investment Bank | 1,976 | 0 | 636 | 61 | -42 | 1,299 |
| Inter-American Development Bank | 9,700 | 5,900 | 0 | 725 | 0 | 15,600 |
| International Cooperation and Development Fund | 0 | 2,100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,100 |
| International Monetary Fund | 115,744 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 941 | 116,685 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2,727,232 | 216,579 | 113,705 | 101,084 | 868 | 2,830,974 |

^R - Revised^P - Provisional

⁽¹⁾ Since September 2017, debt service payments for oil imports have been suspended due to U.S. sanctions on Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. Unpaid debt service payments up to the end of December 2023 amounted to principal of \$108.9mn and interest of \$22.6mn.