



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

JUNE 2024

QUARTERLY REVIEW

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Correspondence and enquiries regarding the Review should be addressed to:

Manager, Research and Economic Analysis Department
Central Bank of Belize
P.O. Box 852
Belize City, Belize
Central America

Telephone: 501.223.6194 Fax: 501.223.6219

Email: research@centralbank.org.bz
Website: www.centralbank.org.bz

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms:

BSI	Belize Sugar Industries Limited
BSSB	Belize Social Security Board
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
BTL	Belize Telemedia Limited
BWSL	Belize Water Services Limited
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBB	Central Bank of Belize
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CFZ	Commercial Free Zone
CGA	Citrus Growers Association
CIF	Cost, Insurance, and Freight
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPBL	Citrus Products of Belize Limited
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DFC	Development Finance Corporation
DOD	Disbursed Outstanding Debt
EU	European Union
FOB	Free On Board
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MOF	Ministry of Finance
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
T-bills	Treasury bills
T-notes	Treasury notes
US	United States
UK	United Kingdom
VPCA	Venezuelan Petrocaribe Agreement
WAY	Weighted Average Yield

Abbreviations and Conventions:

\$	Belize dollar unless otherwise stated
bn	billion
bps	basis points
mn	million
ps	pound solids
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 2024 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2023 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 2024 are based on the Central Bank's forecast.

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SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Money Supply

Broad Money Supply June 2024 +5.4% YTD change on December 2023	Net Foreign Assets June 2024 +25.7% YTD change on December 2023	Net Domestic Credit June 2024 -4.4% YTD change on December 2023
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Liquidity and Interest Rates

Excess Cash June 2024 \$423.6mn -16.9% change on December 2023	New Deposit Rates June 2024 1.84% -31 bps change on June 2023	New Lending Rates June 2024 8.84% +27 bps change on June 2023
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Real and External Sectors

GDP January - June 2024 9.5% Y-o-Y change on same period of the previous year	CPI January - June 2024 +3.9% YTD change on the same period of the previous year	Unemployment Rate April 2024 3.0% Persons in the labour force classified as unemployed
Current Account Surplus January - June 2024 \$2.1mn -98.7% YTD change on same period of the previous year	Stayover Arrivals January - June 2024 +25.7% YTD change on the same period of the previous year	Reserve Import Coverage June 2024 4.2 months equivalent of merchandise imports

Central Government Operations and Public Debt

Primary Surplus April - June 2024 \$148.2mn 2.2% of GDP	Domestic Debt January - June 2024 -\$17.1mn \$1,490.8mn at June-end, 21.8% of GDP	External Debt January - June 2024 +\$65.8mn \$2,924.1mn at June-end, 42.8% of GDP
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Overview

International Overview

Throughout the first half of 2024, the global economy showed resilience, supported by sustained private consumption and international trade. However, there were variations in growth outcomes across regions. While major advanced economies experienced some expansion in the first half of the year, it was slower than expected. In the euro area, the economic momentum was weighted down by the lingering price effects from the Russia-Ukraine war and elevated interest costs. Conversely, certain emerging economies, such as China and India, experienced accelerated growth driven by a rebound in private consumption and robust export activity. Caribbean economies also grew, boosted by strong inbound tourism from major source markets. Furthermore, global disinflation trends persisted amid higher-than-average policy rates to combat inflation.

Advanced Economies

GDP growth across most advanced economies showed signs of a soft landing but remained below the expected level.

However, the United States' real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annualised rate of 3.0% in the second quarter of 2024, up from a 1.6% expansion in the first quarter. This growth was driven by increased consumer spending, private inventory investment, and non-residential fixed investment. Despite the positive performance, labour conditions eased, as heightened labour supply led to a rise in the unemployment rate from 3.9% in April to 4.1% in June. At 3.0%, the 12-month consumer price index remained above the Federal Reserve's 2.0% target, primarily due to increased costs for shelter services. As a result, the target range for the federal funds rate was kept at 5.25% to 5.50% over the review period.

In the United Kingdom (UK), economic activity expanded by 0.9% in the second quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Growth was stimulated by increases in the service sector, particularly in travel, telecommunications, and computer and information services, offsetting declines in the production and construction sectors. On

Chart 1.1: GDP Growth Rates:
Select Advanced Economies

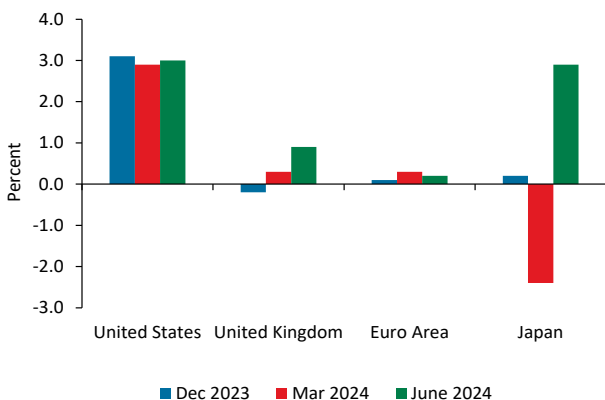
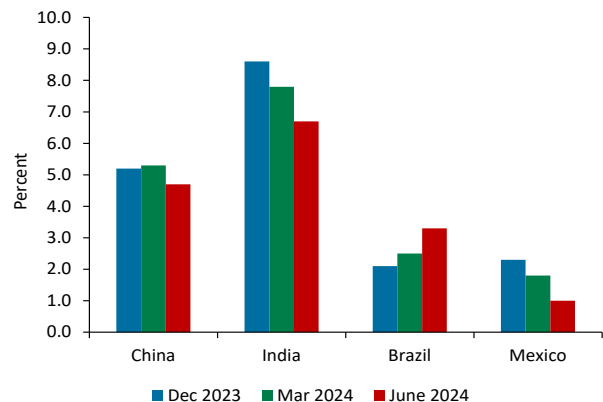


Chart 1.2: GDP Growth Rates:
Select Emerging Economies



the expenditure side, consumer spending boosted growth amid a 5.4% wage growth. However, these developments slowed the pace of disinflation, as the CPI settled at 2.9%, 0.9 percentage points above the Bank of England's 2.0% target.

In the euro area, output grew by a modest 0.2% quarter on quarter, supported primarily by increased government spending and exports. Growth outcomes varied among the 20 member states, with Germany, the largest member state, contracting by 0.1% due to strains in the industrial sector caused by high energy and interest costs. In contrast, Poland (1.5%) and Greece (1.1%) recorded the highest growth rates, driven mainly by increased household consumption. In Japan, economic activity expanded by 2.9% in the second quarter of 2024 after declining in the previous quarter. The growth was attributed to a pick-up in private consumption, which accounted for more than half of the outturn, backed by real wage growth and increased tourism-related activities.

Emerging Economies

In the second quarter of 2024, major emerging market economies grew faster than advanced economies. India's GDP increased by 6.7% year on year in this period after rising by 8.2% in the previous quarter but remained the fastest-growing economy globally. Growth benefited from gains in manufacturing, construction, and agricultural activities, which outweighed cutbacks in government spending and consumer spending. Meanwhile, China's economy expanded by 4.7% during the

quarter, fuelled by increased exports and overseas investments. However, weak domestic demand, the ongoing property sector crisis, and reduced consumer spending continued to weigh on its economic performance. Brazil's GDP expanded by 3.3%, bolstered by growth in industrial and service-oriented activities and, to a lesser extent, household consumption. In contrast, Mexico's economy slowed to 1.0% compared to the same period in 2023, with marginal value-added gains in the goods-producing and service-providing sectors.

Caribbean Economies

In the first half of the year, tourism in Caribbean countries grew robustly, bolstered by an increase in international visitors. Barbados' economy expanded by 4.5% during this period, propelled by strong tourism and construction activities. The country's stay-over arrivals increased by 17.9% over the review period, attributed mainly to the Men's Cricket World event in June and, to a lesser extent, additional direct flights from key source markets. Jamaica's GDP increased marginally by 0.1% in the second quarter of 2024 compared to the same period of 2023, owing to heightened domestic demand for goods and services and tight labour market conditions. The Bahamas also experienced solid economic growth in the second quarter, supported by increased tourism activities and a rise in foreign direct investments.

Domestic Overview

GDP and Consumer Prices

In the second quarter of 2024, Belize's real GDP grew by 10.5% compared to the same

period in 2023. As a result, the growth for the first half of 2024 reached 9.5%, driven by an 11.0% increase in the tertiary sector, with contributions from tourism, wholesale and retail distribution activities, and professional services. Output in the secondary sector grew by 5.6%, boosted by higher electricity, water, and construction activities. However, the primary sector contracted by 2.4% due to declining mining, marine, and livestock output, slowing the overall growth momentum.

For the first half of the year, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 3.9%, which was 1.1 percentage points lower than the 5.0% recorded in the same period of 2023 but still well above the ten-year (2014-2023) average of 1.7%. This increase was attributed to heightened food prices, particularly for vegetables, dairy products, and meats, along with elevated restaurant and rental prices. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate rose to 3.0% in April, slightly up from April 2023's record low of 2.8%.

Money and Credit

For the first half of the year, broad money supply (M2) rose by 5.4%, compared to a 5.0% increase in the first half of 2023. This growth was driven by a substantial accumulation of foreign assets in the banking system, which rose by 25.7% (\$410.6mn) to \$2.0bn. Domestic banks were responsible for 79.4% of this increase, mainly due to heightened tourism revenues and a one-time sale of a sizeable loan facility to a foreign entity.

At the same time, net domestic credit decreased by 4.4% (\$160.5mn), with

reductions in credit to the Central Government (\$110.9mn), the private sector (\$38.5mn), and other public sector entities (\$11.1mn).

Domestic banks' excess liquid asset holdings increased by \$133.6mn to \$877.7mn, surpassing the statutory reserve requirement by 99.7%. However, excess cash reserves fell by \$86.1mn to \$423.7mn but remained high at 155.5% above the primary reserve requirement.

The 12-month (rolling) weighted average lending rate on new loans increased by 27 basis points (bps) to 8.84% during the review period. In contrast, the corresponding rate on new deposits decreased by 31 bps to 1.84%. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 59 bps to 7.0%.

International Trade and Payments

Belize recorded a current account surplus of \$2.2mn (0.03% of GDP) in the first half of 2024, which was \$163.0mn lower than the \$165.1mn surplus (2.7% of GDP) posted in the first half of 2023. The reduced surplus was mainly driven by a \$220.3mn increase in the trade deficit in goods to \$940.2mn. However, higher net service receipts from tourism partially offset this imbalance. Meanwhile, the capital account surplus narrowed to \$9.8mn, reflecting a falloff in official grants over the review period. Furthermore, the overall balance on the financial account totalled \$27.7mn in net lending to the rest of the world, as a surge in domestic banks' foreign balances outweighed higher net direct investments

and net borrowings from the private and public sectors. Consequently, the gross international reserves grew by \$84.3mn to \$1,030.8mn, equivalent to 4.2 months of import coverage.

Government Operations and Public Debt

From April to June 2024, the Central Government's operations resulted in a primary surplus of \$148.2mn (2.2% of GDP), up from a surplus of \$39.6mn (0.6% of GDP) generated in the first quarter of the previous fiscal year (FY). Concurrently, the overall balance swung to a surplus of \$92.9mn (1.4% of GDP) from a deficit of \$6.3mn

(0.1% of GDP). The improved performance was primarily due to a 25.6% increase in revenue and grants, while expenditure dipped by 1.6%, following a reduction in capital spending.

In the first half of 2024, total public sector debt increased by \$48.7mn (1.1%) to \$4,414.9mn (64.6% of GDP). This modest rise in debt stock was driven by a \$65.8mn (2.3%) increase in the public sector's external debt to \$2,924.1mn (42.8% of GDP), as Central Government's domestic debt fell by \$17.1mn (1.1%) to \$1,490.8mn (21.8% of GDP).

Domestic Production and Prices

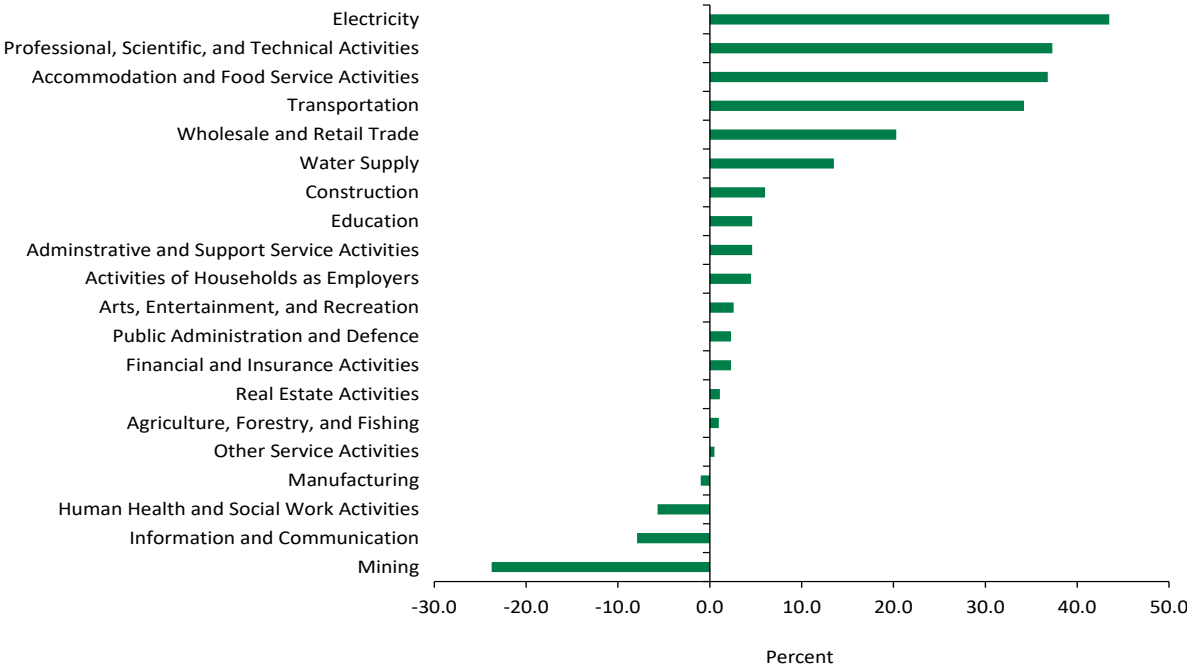
Real GDP

Belize’s real GDP grew by 10.5% in the second quarter of 2024 relative to the same quarter of 2023. This robust performance raised the growth rate for the first half to 2024 to 9.5%, significantly exceeding the 1.9% increase recorded for the same period in 2023. The favourable economic performance was driven by expansions in the tertiary (service) and secondary sectors despite a decline in primary sector activities. Robust growth in wholesale and retail trade and a surge in tourist activities boosted output in the service sector. Meanwhile, heightened demand for locally generated electricity and a rise in construction bolstered growth in the secondary sector. However, a contraction in mining activities within the primary sector slowed the growth momentum.

In the first half of the year, primary sector output contracted by 2.4%, as a 23.8% nosedive in “Mining” outweighed a 1.0% uptick in “Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing”. A reduction in crude oil extraction contributed to the former. Meanwhile, in the latter, a rebound in banana, citrus, and sugarcane yields outweighed sharp declines in shrimp and lobster production and lesser downturns in cattle and pig output.

Output in the secondary sector grew by 5.6%, driven by value-added gains in the electricity, water, and construction industries, which overshadowed a reduction in manufacturing activities. Forced cutbacks in imported electricity stimulated a boost in domestic generation in the second quarter, raising output in

Chart 2.1: Real GDP Growth Rates for the First Half of 2024 Compared with the Same Half of the Previous Year



the “*Electricity*” industry by 43.5% at the half-year mark. Additionally, increased water usage and construction activities led to a 13.5% and 6.0% uptick in “*Water Supply*” and “*Construction*,” respectively. Conversely, reductions in beverage production (1.3%) and flour milling (5.4%) pulled down “*Manufacturing*” output by 1.0% despite higher production of sugar and citrus juices.

Tertiary sector output expanded by 11.0%, fuelled by a surge in tourist-centric service industries and various private sector activities. The bump-up in stay-over arrivals to historic levels pushed both “*Accommodation and Food Service Activities*” and “*Transportation*” up by 36.8% and 34.2%, respectively. While higher volumes of imported goods resulted in a 20.3% increase in “*Wholesale and Retail Trade*.” Growth in professional services and business process outsourcing activities propelled “*Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities*” and “*Administrative and Support Service Activities*” by 37.3% and 4.6%, respectively.

Sugarcane and Sugar

For the 2023/2024 crop year to date (December 2023-June 2024), total sugarcane deliveries rose by 8.5% to 1,611,087 long tons. Increased deliveries to the western mill drove this rebound, as a marginal decline was recorded in the north. Total sugar output grew by a disproportionately lower rate of 4.0%, reaching 149,891 long tons, due to a deterioration in cane purity in deliveries to the northern mill. However, cumulative

molasses production increased at faster pace of 12.8% to 60,801 long tons.

In the west, the 2024 season ended on 31 May. Compared to the previous year’s harvest, sugarcane deliveries to the western mill rose by 25.6% to 631,831 long tons following two consecutive years of contractions. Correspondingly, sugar production rose by 23.9% to 50,636 long tons, with the long-tons cane to long-ton sugar (TC/TS) ratio remaining consistent with the previous cycle at 12.5. Molasses output rose by a similar 22.4% to 23,182 long tons.

In the north, the harvest contracted by 0.3% to 979,255 long tons relative to the same months in the previous harvest period from December 2023 to June 2024. The lower yield was partially due to the extended dry weather and a shortage of cane cutters. These factors contributed to a deterioration in cane purity, which reduced sugar production by a larger margin of 3.9% to 99,213 long tons. Consequently, the TC/TS ratio worsened by 3.7% to 9.9. Molasses production increased by 7.5% to 37,610 long tons.

Citrus

Citrus deliveries for the crop year to date (October 2023 to June 2024) rose marginally by 0.3% to 341,993 boxes of fruit compared to the same period of the previous crop year. However, this output was less than 25.0% of the 1,391,179 boxes delivered during the 2021/2022 season, underscoring the adverse impacts of the pervasive citrus greening disease and, to a lesser extent,

chronic farm labour shortages. For the crop year, orange deliveries rose by 9.8% to 306,534 90-pound boxes, while grapefruit deliveries contracted by 42.4% to 35,459 80-pound boxes.

Alongside the slight increase in deliveries, fruit quality improved, boosting juice production. Total citrus juice production rose by 7.8% to 1.8mn pound solids (ps), with the average juice output rising by 7.4% to 5.2ps. When broken down by product, orange juice production rose by 16.2% to 1.6mn ps, buoyed by a 5.9% increase in juice yields. Conversely, grapefruit juice production declined by 41.7% to 0.1mn ps, with a marginal 1.2% increase in juice yields. Outturns of citrus by-products recorded mixed results, with pulp production plummeting by 87.0% to only 10,176 pounds, while citrus oil output grew by 38.5% to 140,667 pounds.

Banana

In the first six months of the year, banana production surged by 66.8%, reaching 2.3mn 40-pound boxes. This impressive rebound was driven by a more-than-doubling of output in the first quarter, followed by a moderated expansion of 38.5% in the second quarter. The performance was bolstered by effective management of the Black Sigatoka disease outbreak and favourable weather conditions. Despite these marked gains, the recovery is still ongoing. Compared to 2022, the last disruption-free year, production for this period was still 4.2% lower than the comparable period of that year.

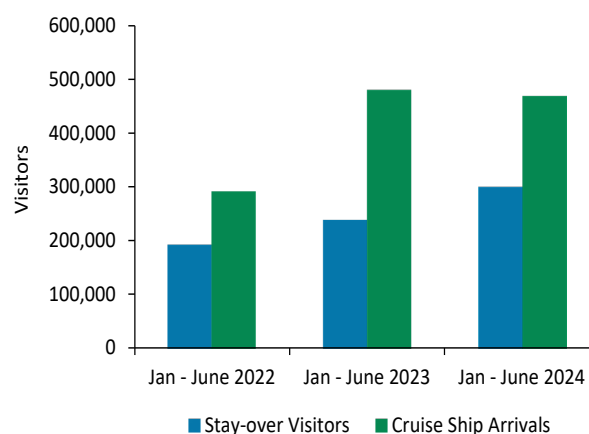
Tourism

The World Tourism Organisation estimates an 11.0% increase in international tourists for the year to date compared to the same period of 2023. Despite rising economic and geopolitical risks, international travel remained strong across regions, with the overall growth in arrivals only 4.0% below 2019. The Middle East region recorded the largest increase over the first half of 2019, improving by 25.9%, owing to increased air connectivity and higher visa facilitation. In the Americas, the region recovered up to 96.8% of total arrivals, with the Caribbean outperforming all other subregions, expanding by 18.6%.

In Belize, stay-over arrivals for the first six months of the year rose by 25.7% to 300,175 persons compared to the same period of 2023. The robust performance was driven by increased inbound flights and heightened strategic marketing efforts. Overall, stay-over arrivals outperformed the comparable period of 2019 by 14.2%.

Arrivals by air remained the dominant mode of transport to Belize, growing by 29.7%

Chart 2.2: Tourist Arrivals



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

and accounting for 84.7% of total stay-over visitors. Land and sea arrivals rose at a more modest, albeit strong pace of 7.3% and 7.7%, respectively.

Turning to major source markets, visitors from the US continued to dominate, with the share of American visitors increasing by 2.3 percentage points to 75.1%. The portion of Canadian visitors expanded by 1.4 percentage points to 7.5%. Increased air connectivity to North American cities supported growth in inbound visitors from these two primary source markets. Conversely, the share of European visitors shrank by 2.6 percentage points to 7.7%, and visitors from all other locations edged down by 1.2 percentage points to 9.7%.

Cruise ship disembarkations contracted by 1.6% to 468,051 persons in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Port calls decreased by 8 to 177 ships, with

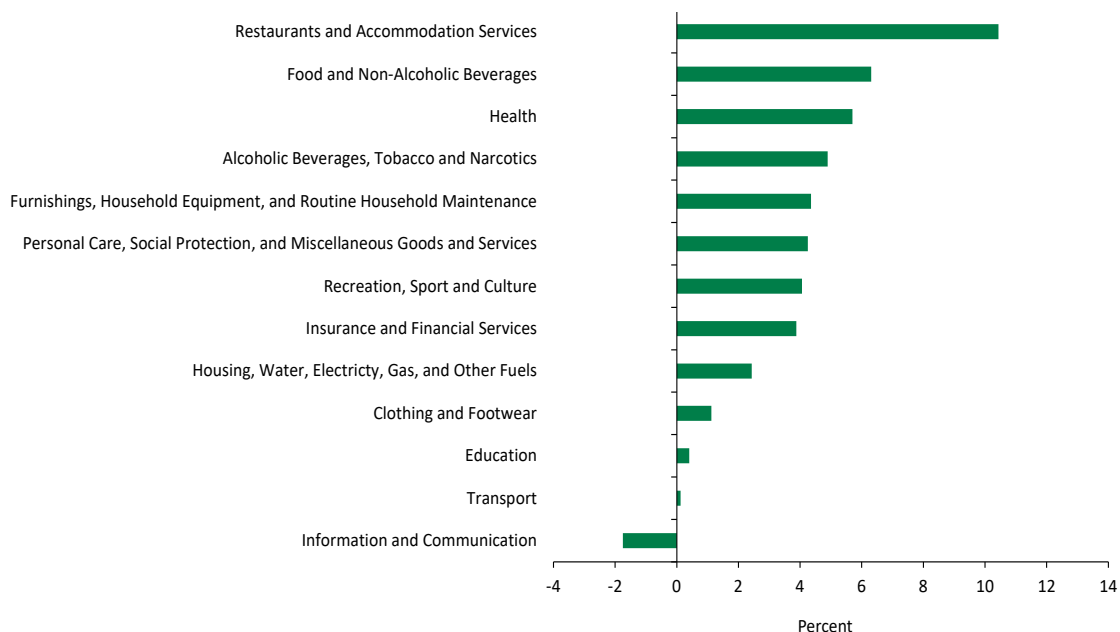
the downturn concentrated at the Fort Street Cruise port, which recorded a 15-ship reduction, lowering its total to 123. Partially offsetting this decline was an additional seven port calls at the Harvest Caye port, raising its total to 54.

Consumer Price Index

The CPI for the first half of 2024 increased by an average of 3.9%, decelerating from the 5.0% growth recorded in the same period of 2023. Despite this slowdown, the rise in price level more than doubled the 1.7% annualised long-term trend (2014-2023), indicating that price pressures remained higher than usual. Higher food costs, restaurant service prices, and, to a lesser extent, home rental prices primarily drove the current inflationary pressure.

The “*Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages*” subindex, which accounted for more than two-fifths of the weighted change in CPI, rose

Chart 2.3: Consumer Price Index



by 6.3% due to price hikes for vegetables, dairy products, and meats. Higher restaurant service prices led to a 10.4% increase in the “*Restaurants and Accommodation Services*” subindex, making it the second largest contributor to inflation. Smaller price increases were observed in the “*Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels*” (2.4%) and “*Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services*” (4.9%) subindices, owing to rising house rental costs and personal care product prices, respectively. Average prices trended upwards across all other subindices, except for “*Information and Communication,*” which contracted by 1.7% due to reduced prices for cell phones and television sets.

Labour Force

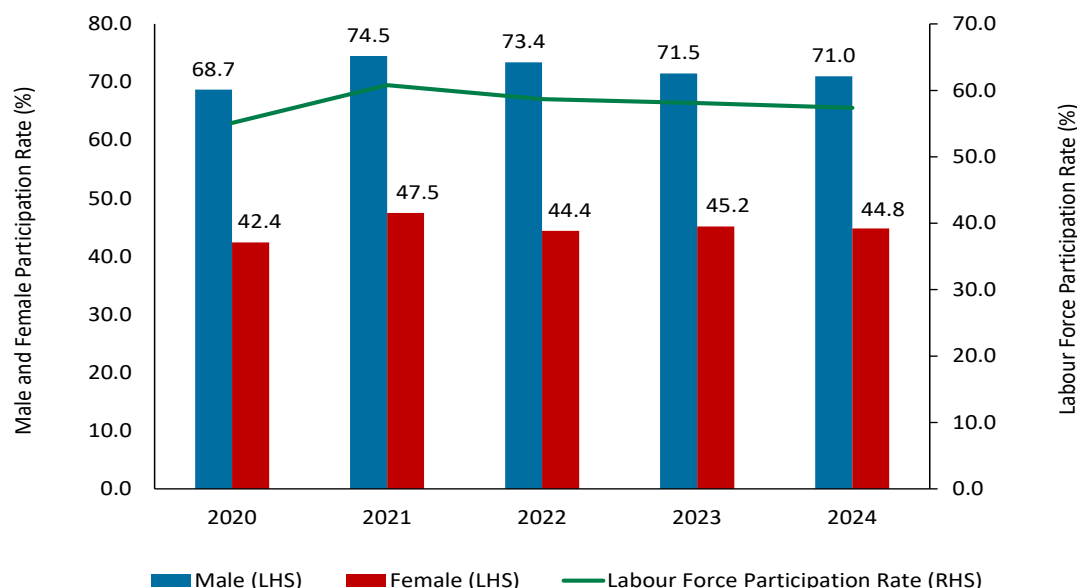
Belize’s unemployment rate stood at 3.0% in April 2024, edging up slightly from the record low of 2.8% in April 2023. This increase was

due to a 2,923 drop in employed persons, as the labour force shrank by 2,683.

The labour force participation rate fell to 57.2% from the 58.1% recorded in April 2023, with declines observed in both male and female labour force participation rates. Employment by industrial groupings revealed that 67.8% of the employed population worked in the services sector, with the majority concentrated in jobs relating to “*Wholesale and Retail Trade*” (17.4%), “*Tourism*” (14.6%), and “*Community, Social, and Personal Services*” (12.1%). Meanwhile, 14.2% were employed within the primary sector, while 16.3% found work in the secondary sector.

Interestingly, the average monthly income for employed persons rose by 5.6% or \$76.00 to \$1,427 in April 2024, outpacing the 3.8% inflation rate for the same year, spanning from April 2023 to April 2024.

Chart 2.4: Labour Force Participation Rate



Sources: SIB

Money and Credit

Money Supply

Broad money supply (M2) grew by \$240.3mn (5.4%) to \$4.7bn during the first half of 2024, marginally outpacing the \$208.5mn (5.0%) growth achieved during the same period of 2023.

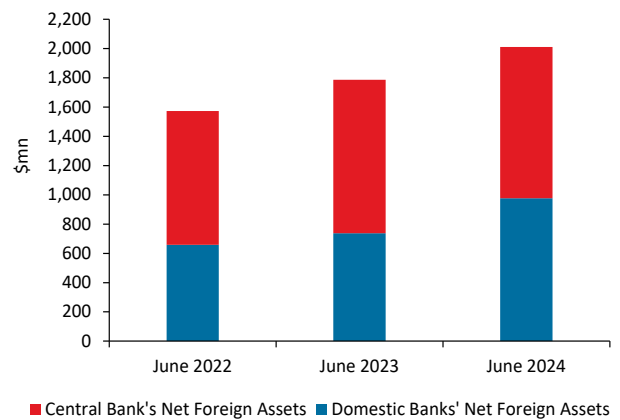
From a liabilities perspective, the growth in money supply reflected increases in both narrow money (M1) and quasi-money by \$154.3mn (5.8%) and \$86.0mn (4.8%), respectively. The expansion in M1—the more liquid subcomponent of M2—was driven by a \$130.5mn (6.3%) surge in demand deposits and, to a lesser extent, increases in currency with the public (\$23.2mn) and savings/chequing deposits (\$0.5mn). The upturn in demand deposits was attributable to heightened local and foreign currency holdings by business enterprises and non-bank financial institutions. Meanwhile, the expansion in quasi-money—the less liquid subcomponent of M2—reflected upswings in savings and time deposits of \$71.0mn (6.7%) and \$15.0mn (2.1%), respectively.

From an assets perspective, this marked expansion in money supply was underpinned by a significant increase in the domestic banking system's foreign asset holdings while net domestic credit contracted.

Net Foreign Assets

The net foreign assets of the domestic banking system strengthened by \$410.6mn (25.7%) over the first half of 2024, reaching \$2,010.6mn. This record-breaking expansion outstripped the \$267.8mn (17.6%) increase

Chart 3.1: Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System



registered during the first two quarters of 2023. Of the \$410.6mn increase, domestic banks accounted for 79.4%, while the remaining 20.6% was attributed to the Central Bank.

Domestic banks' net foreign assets grew at an unprecedented pace, increasing by \$326.1mn (50.1%) to \$977.2mn in the first half of the year. This outcome dwarfed the \$185.1mn (33.5%) growth in the first half of 2023. The stellar performance was primarily driven by a surge in foreign exchange earnings from the services sector, particularly the tourism industry, which accounted for 43.8% of gross inflows. Additionally, aggregate foreign exchange holdings were boosted by the one-off sale of a sizeable loan facility to a foreign entity.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank's net foreign balances climbed by \$84.6mn (8.9%) over the six months to \$1,033.4mn, marginally outstripping the \$82.6mn growth registered during the comparative period of 2023. Gross foreign currency inflows totalled

Chart 3.2: Domestic Banks' Private Sector Credit

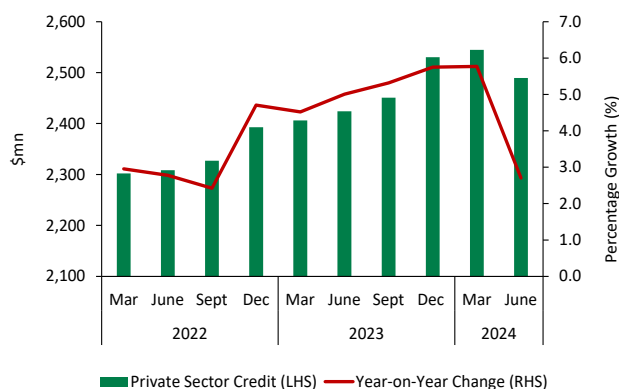
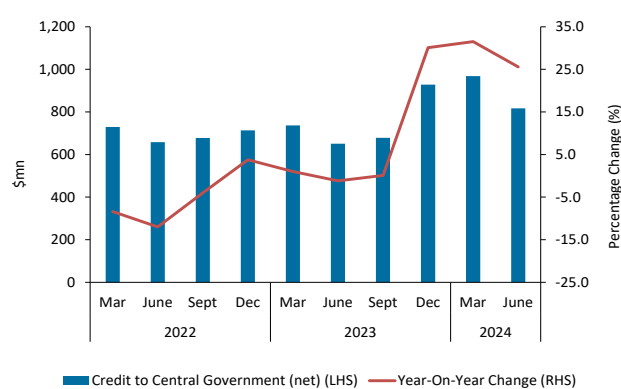


Chart 3.3: Net Credit to Central Government



\$233.2mn, stemming mainly from external loan disbursements (\$90.7mn), sugar export receipts (\$51.0mn), and foreign exchange purchases from domestic banks (\$44.4mn). Other miscellaneous sources included interest received on overseas investments and foreign currency purchases from statutory bodies. Gross foreign currency outflows amounted to \$148.4mn, with 81.1% allocated to the Central Government, primarily for covering its external debt service obligations and, to a lesser degree, paying for foreign goods and services. As a result, the gross official international reserves strengthened to 4.2 months of merchandise imports at the end of June.

Net Domestic Credit

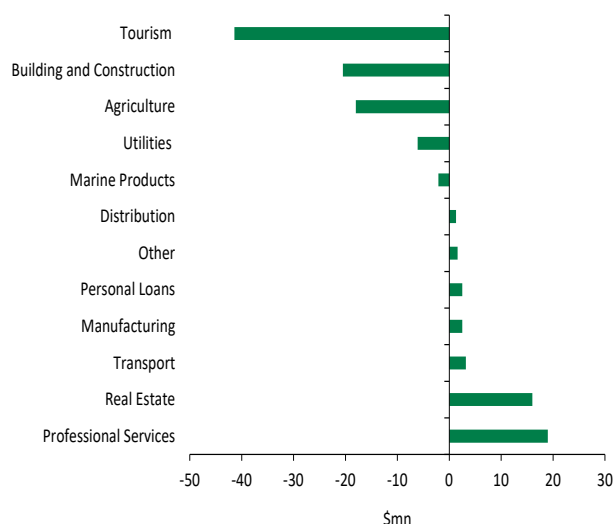
Net domestic credit from the banking system fell by \$160.5mn (4.4%) in the first half of 2024 to \$3,449.8mn, resulting from reduced borrowings across the three major institutional categories.

Net credit to the Central Government contracted by \$110.9mn (12.0%) to \$816.8mn, owing to a \$96.2mn increase in the Government’s deposits along with a

\$14.7mn decrease in the banking system’s holdings of Treasury securities. Similarly, credit to quasi-government entities fell by \$11.1mn (9.4%) to \$107.2mn, primarily reflecting the maturity of a public utility’s debentures held by commercial banks.

Meanwhile, credit to the private sector fell by \$38.5mn (1.5%) to \$2,525.7mn, as loan repayments and write-offs overshadowed new disbursements. The largest declines were observed in loans for “Tourism” (\$41.4mn), “Building and Construction” (\$20.5mn), and

Chart 3.4: Change in Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances, Jan - June 2024



“Agriculture” (\$18.0mn). However, this overall reduction was tempered by fresh credit for “Professional Services” (\$19.0mn), “Real Estate” (\$16.0mn), and “Transport” (\$3.2mn) activities. Non-performing loan (NPL) write-offs totalled \$13.7mn, mainly comprising impaired “Personal Loans” as well as “Building and Construction” and “Distribution” facilities.

Highlighting the robust health of the banking system, domestic banks’ NPL (net of specific provisions) to total gross loans ratio (NPL ratio) improved to 2.2% from 2.5% at the end of December. Additionally, domestic banks’ return on assets (ROA)—a measure of profitability—remained stable at 1.5% over the review period.

Bank Liquidity

The record accumulation in foreign balances led to a \$133.6mn (18.0%) increase in domestic banks’ excess statutory liquid assets, raising the total to \$877.7mn—99.7% above the statutory reserve requirement. In contrast, excess cash reserves fell by \$86.1mn (16.9%) to \$423.7mn. At this level, excess cash reserves still stood at 155.5% above

the primary (cash) reserve requirement. This decline was due to domestic banks’ successful purchases of Treasury bills (T-bills) at various auctions throughout the first half of the year.

Interest Rates

At 8.84%, the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rates on new loans increased by 27 bps compared to the June 2023 position. The year-on-year uptick was attributable to higher rates in three of the four loan categories. Lending rose in the

Chart 3.6: Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans

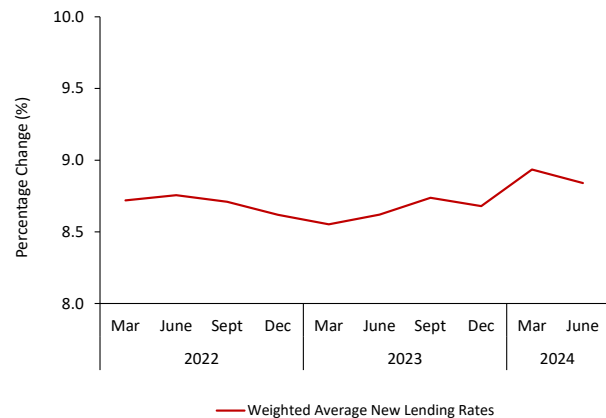


Chart 3.7: Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Deposits

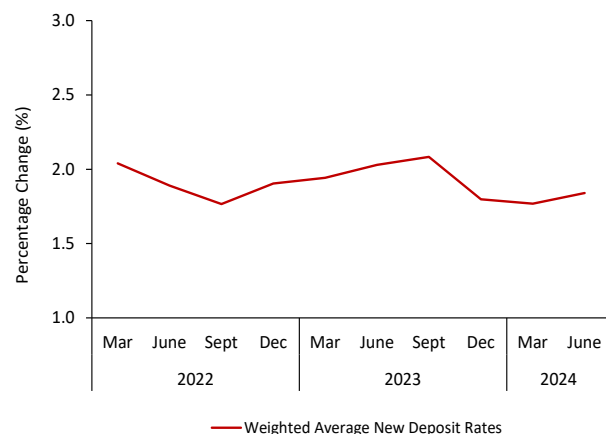
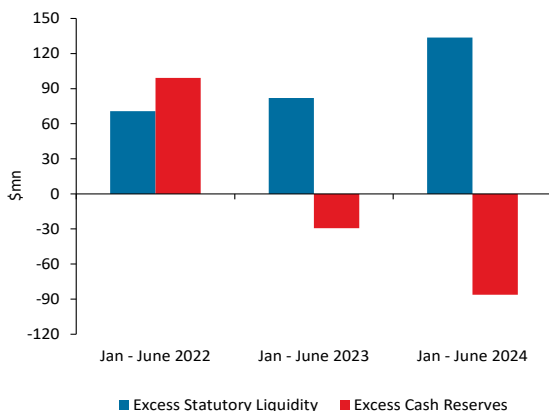


Chart 3.5: Changes in Bank Liquidity



“Residential Construction,” “Personal Loans,” and “Other” categories by 139, 48, and 23 bps, respectively. These rate increases were partly offset by a 14-basis-point decline in “Commercial” loans.

Conversely, the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new deposits contracted by 31 bps to 1.84% over the same period. This decrease was due to reductions of 30 bps and 24 bps in rates paid on “Savings/Chequing” and “Time” deposits, respectively, which outweighed a six-basis-point increase in “Savings” deposit rates. The rate paid on “Demand” deposits remained unchanged at 0.0%.

The higher interest rates on loans and lower rates on deposits led to a widening of the weighted average interest rate spread by 59 bps to 7.0%.

Credit Union Lending

Over the review period, aggregate credit union lending grew by \$21.7mn (3.1%) to \$714.5mn, marking a significant turnaround

from the \$1.9mn (0.3%) decrease recorded in the same period of 2023. Notably, this was only the second time since 2016 that credit union lending rose in the first half of the year, with 2024’s half-year credit growth rate being the highest since 2013. Driving this increase was a sizeable disbursement to “Utilities” (\$39.3mn) and, to a lesser extent, smaller loans issued for “Distribution” (\$6.4mn) and “Other” (\$3.3mn) activities, which outweighed contractions in facilities for “Real Estate” (\$12.7mn), “Building and Construction” (\$6.8mn), “Agriculture” (\$4.7mn), and “Personal Loans” (\$2.2mn). Meanwhile, NPL write-offs totalled \$7.4mn since the start of the year, up from \$5.4mn in the same period of last year. These write-offs helped stabilise the industry’s asset quality metrics, as the NPL ratio remained low at 1.1%, while its ROA increased by 0.1 percentage point to 3.3%.

Development Bank Lending

Over the first two quarters, the Development Finance Corporation’s loan portfolio grew by \$3.5mn (2.3%) to \$152.8mn, slowing from the \$5.6mn (4.2%) increase

Chart 3.8: Change in Credit Unions’ Loans and Advances, Jan - June 2024

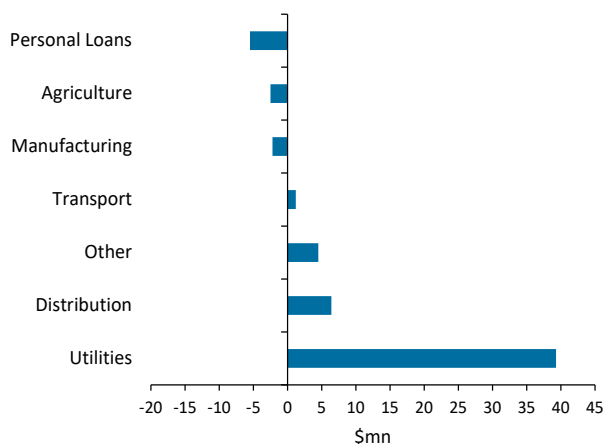
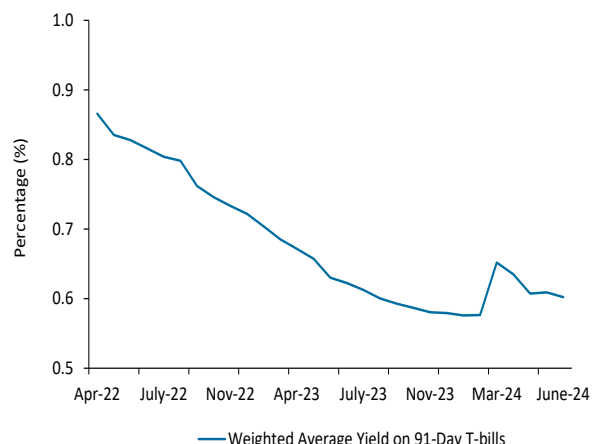


Chart 3.9: Treasury Bill Yields



observed in the first half of 2023. Loan growth was concentrated in the primary sector, particularly “*Agriculture*” (\$2.1mn) and “*Marine Products*” (\$1.6mn), while a reduction in “*Tourism*” (\$0.7mn) loans tempered the overall increase.

Open Market Operations

In the first half of 2024, the Central Bank holdings of T-bills contracted by \$95.9mn (43.9%) to \$122.8mn, representing 36.7% of total T-bill issuances. Meanwhile, domestic banks’ strong demand for T-bills led to a \$79.3mn (74.1%) increase in their

holdings to \$186.3mn. As a result, domestic banks supplanted the Central Bank as the majority holder of the Government’s T-bills, now holding 55.7% of the total. The remaining T-bills were held by non-bank entities, whose collective holdings climbed by \$16.6mn to \$25.7mn, increasing their market share to 7.7%.

Furthermore, competitive bidding in T-bill auctions pushed the weighted average yield down to 0.60211%, three bps below the 0.62999% recorded at the same stage last year.

International Trade and Payments

Belize’s external current account surplus contracted sharply to \$2.2mn (0.03% of GDP) for the first half of 2024, down from \$165.1mn (2.7% of GDP) in the same period of 2023. The surplus was squeezed by a sizeable increase in the trade deficit in goods, partially offset by a surge in tourism revenue. At the same time, net capital inflows declined sharply to \$9.8mn as investment grants in cash from multilateral institutions for infrastructural projects and high-value capital goods in kind from foreign governments waned.

The modest surplus generated \$27.7mn in net lending in the financial account. This outcome was due to a substantial foreign asset accumulation, arising mainly from the boom in tourism revenue, partly offset by a rise in net liabilities. The latter reflected increases in net direct investments and net private and public borrowings. Consequently, the gross international reserves grew by \$84.3mn to \$1,030.8mn, equivalent to 4.2 months of merchandise import coverage.

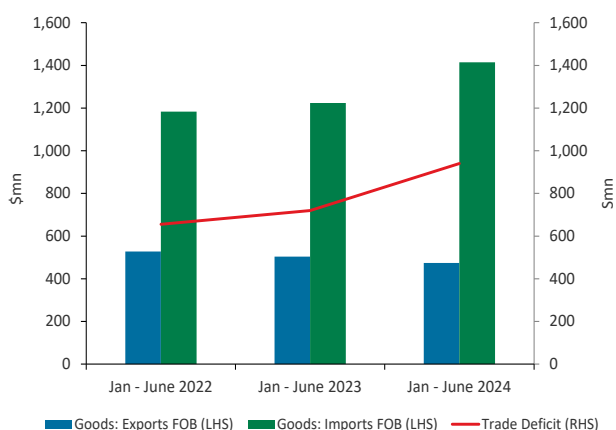
Merchandise Trade

The merchandise trade deficit expanded by 30.6% (\$220.3mn) to \$940.2mn over the six months, as imports rose sharply while exports fell. Imports FOB increased by 15.6% (\$191.2mn) to \$1,414.8mn, driven by a 17.9% (\$190.8mn) growth in imports into the Customs area and, to a lesser degree, a marginal 0.3% (\$0.4mn) increase in imports into the Commercial Free Zone (CFZ). Concurrently, exports FOB declined by 5.8% (\$29.0mn) to \$474.6mn due to a 9.5% (\$23.6mn) drop in domestic exports and an 8.6% (\$19.1mn) fall in CFZ gross sales, which were partly offset by a 38.6% (\$13.6mn) upswing in other re-exports.

Gross Imports

Imports FOB expanded by 15.6% (\$191.2mn) to \$1,414.8mn for the first half of the year. This surge was driven by a \$106.2mn growth in the “*Machinery and Transport Equipment*” subcategory, lifted by the acquisition of electricity-generating equipment earlier in the year and four-cylinder vehicles over the period. Additionally, the “*Mineral Fuels and Lubricants*” subcategory grew by \$62.2mn, boosted by heightened imports of fuels and electricity. “*Other Manufactures*” also rose by \$13.8mn, owing to higher purchases of galvanised steel structural panels, storage cabinets, and plastic crates. Furthermore, “*Food and Live Animals*” grew by \$12.0mn due to more significant outlays on malt, flour, and processed cheese. The other subcategories recorded smaller increases, except for “*Designated Processing Areas,*” which fell by \$5.5mn, owing to reduced purchases of steel drums and shrimp feed.

Chart 4.1: Trade Deficit in Goods



Domestic Exports

Domestic export earnings declined by 9.5% (\$23.6mn) to \$223.8mn between January and June relative to the same period last year. This decrease was mainly attributable to lower receipts from sugar (\$22.0mn), other domestic goods (\$11.9mn), marine goods (\$4.4mn), and citrus products (\$4.1mn). However, increased revenues from bananas (\$15.8mn) and molasses (\$2.9mn) softened the decline.

Sugar and Molasses

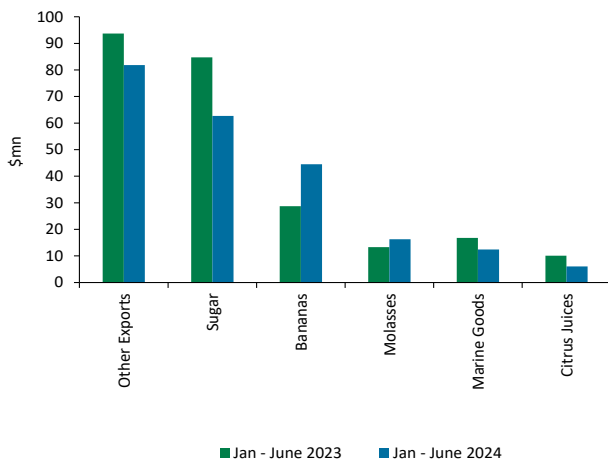
Over the six months, sugar export receipts plunged 26.0% (\$22.0mn) to \$62.7mn. This outcome resulted from a 31.3% decline in export volume to 47,294 long tons, partly offset by a 7.7% uptick in the average unit price. The marked decline in export volume was due to a change in the larger miller’s strategy, in which it planned to make all its large, raw bulked sugar shipments in the second half of the year while distributing only direct consumption sugar in the first. In a positive development, sugar prices strengthened across international

markets due to reduced exports from major sugar producers such as Brazil, India, and Thailand, owing to factors like adverse weather amid record-high global consumption. Export receipts from Europe, where 82.7% of the total export volume was sold, plunged by 35.2% to \$47.9mn. This outcome occurred as a 3.9% price increase slightly cushioned a 37.6% decline in export volume to 39,130 long tons. In contrast, sugar exports to CARICOM, which comprised only direct consumption sugar, rose by 36.2% to \$14.6mn, boosted by a 34.1% upswing in export volume and a 1.5% price uptick. Sugar exports to other markets were valued at \$0.2mn. Turning to molasses, its export receipts rose by 21.8% to \$16.3mn, driven by a 7.8% increase in export volume, amplified by a strong price rally.

Citrus Juices and Pulp

Between January and June, earnings from the export of citrus products plummeted 41.2% (\$4.2mn) to \$6.0mn, as higher international prices for juices helped offset a 68.2% decline in export volume to 0.7mn ps. All orange and grapefruit concentrates sold during this period went to CARICOM. Orange concentrate earnings declined by 42.2% (\$3.7mn) to \$5.0mn, reflecting the combined effect of a 69.4% drop in export volume and a favourable 88.9% surge in the average unit price. International prices for orange concentrate have skyrocketed, as both Brazil and the US, the leading producers of this product, experienced sharp harvest declines due to the adverse effects of citrus greening disease and unfavourable weather conditions, while the demand for

Chart 4.2: Domestic Exports



Sources: SIB and CBB

orange juice remained high. Concurrently, grapefruit concentrate receipts fell by 33.0% (\$0.5mn) to \$1.0mn, as a 36.7% decline in sale volume was tempered by a 5.7% increase in the average unit price. Meanwhile, not-from-concentrate sales were negligible, and no pulp was exported.

Marine Exports

Revenue from the export of marine goods plunged by 26.1% (\$4.4mn) to \$12.4mn over the review period. Lobster earnings fell significantly, down \$3.0mn (35.5%) to \$5.4mn. This outcome reflected the impact of a 23.3% downturn in the export volume, compounded by a 15.9% drop in the average unit price. Then, farmed shrimp earnings fell by \$1.0mn (67.5%) to \$0.5mn, following marked declines of 58.1% and 22.3% in both export volume and average unit price, respectively. Next, conch earnings declined by 6.6% (\$0.5mn) to \$6.5mn, as a 9.0% reduction in the average unit price outweighed the effect of a 2.7% uptick in export volume. Finally, exports of other fish were minuscule.

Banana

Banana export receipts surged by 55.0% (\$15.8mn) to \$44.5mn for the first six months of 2024. The industry's export volume grew by 66.8% to 42,505 metric tons, rebounding strongly from a severe outbreak of Black Sigatoka disease, which had constrained production.

Other Domestic Exports

Earnings from the export of all other domestic goods contracted by 12.7% (\$11.9mn) to \$81.8mn. Most of this decline

was attributed to a \$16.7mn reduction in animal feed receipts, whose export volume fell sharply because of heightened local demand. However, increased revenue from crude soybean oil (\$1.6mn), pepper sauce (\$0.8mn), cacao beans (\$0.8mn), and rum (\$0.7mn) softened the overall decline.

Services

Net inflows from the services account rose by 7.2% (\$61.8mn) to \$916.4mn between January and June, driven by a significant growth in tourism receipts. Net travel inflows grew by 13.1% (\$97.8mn) to \$842.8mn, owing to a substantial increase in inbound visitors, supported by a boost in international flights and sustained marketing efforts. However, the surplus for all other services narrowed by 32.8% (\$35.9mn) to \$73.6mn, despite a \$25.8mn increase in net inflows for other miscellaneous services. The smaller surplus was mainly attributable to a falloff in inward transfers to a regional organisation, which, in turn, caused net inflows for government services to decline by \$45.2mn. Additionally, net outflows for insurance and pension services rose by \$20.6mn due to increased outlays on reinsurance premiums. Furthermore, net outflows for transportation services rose by \$0.9mn, as a pickup in revenues from auxiliary services provided to foreign airlines countered a rise in international freight payments linked mainly to the growth in imports.

Primary and Secondary Income

Net outflows on the primary income account rose by \$2.7mn to \$128.7mn for the first half of the year due to increased interest payments on the outstanding public sector

Chart 4.3: Sub-components of Services

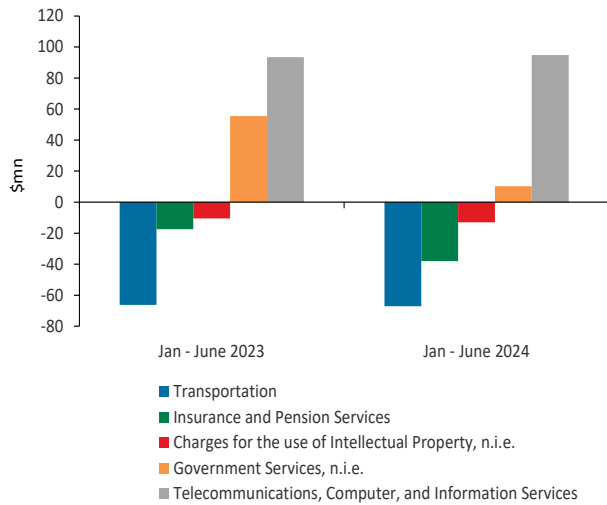
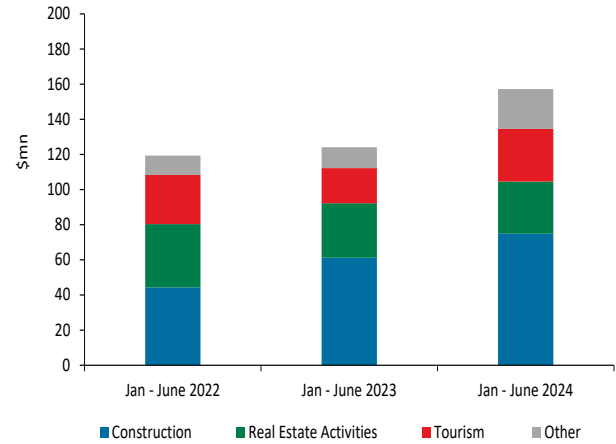


Chart 4.4: FDI Breakdown by Sector



debt stock. At the same time, the repatriation of profits to foreign shareholders and the reinvestment of earnings into foreign direct investment enterprises both declined. Over the period, interest payments on the public sector’s external debt rose by \$13.4mn to \$59.4mn due to heightened global interest rates that affected variable-rate loans and a step-up in the interest rate on the “Blue Loan.” However, this setback was partly offset by other positive developments. Profit repatriation declined by \$5.7mn to \$46.8mn, with lower profit withdrawals from the energy, insurance, and airline industries outweighing higher profit distributions from tourism and beverage manufacturing entities. Additionally, domestic banks’ reinvested earnings dipped by \$1.1mn to \$37.4mn, and the Central Bank’s investment income rose by \$0.7mn to \$18.1mn.

In the first half of 2024, the surplus in the secondary income account decreased by 1.2% (\$1.9mn) to \$154.6mn. The reduced

surplus was linked to a \$3.5mn decline in net remittances to \$108.9mn. Inward remittance transfers fell, with a reduction in funds from high-income migrant-housing countries such as the US and UK, partly due to changing economic conditions. However, a \$3.5mn increase in transfers to religious and non-profit organisations helped offset the overall decline in inflows.

Capital and Financial Account

The capital account surplus contracted by 74.0% (\$27.9mn) to \$9.8mn over the six months. A reduction in the donation of high-value military equipment and funding for major road rehabilitation projects both contributed to the falloff in inward capital transfers. Smaller investment grants in this period covered several initiatives, including funding for technical assistance tied to larger capital projects, support to boost agricultural production, part financing of the remaining major road rehabilitation projects, and the transfer of medical equipment in kind.

The overall balance on the financial account reflected a \$27.7mn outturn in net lending to the rest of the world, as the acquisition of net financial assets outweighed the incurrance of net liabilities. The surge in tourism revenue led to a rapid accumulation in the net foreign assets of domestic banks, which rose by \$326.1mn over the period. This amount exceeded changes in liabilities from increases in net direct investments and net borrowings. Net foreign direct investments grew by \$44.6mn to \$147.1mn compared to the previous period, as inflows surged 19.6% to \$194.7mn and outflows fell by 21.1% to \$47.6mn. Inward foreign direct investments were channelled mainly to construction (\$74.9mn), tourism (\$30.0mn), and real estate (\$29.7mn) activities, while outward foreign direct investments were primarily comprised of land or property sales (\$47.1mn). Additionally, net borrowings by

private and public sector entities rose by \$76.1mn and \$74.9mn, respectively, with the former tied mainly to funding of tourism-related investments.

International Investment Position

Belize’s international investment position improved by \$112.0mn to a deficit of \$6,468.0mn during the first half of 2024. The deficit fell because the growth in residents’ net financial assets exceeded the expansion in net financial liabilities with non-residents. The net foreign asset position grew by \$390.0mn to \$2,320.3mn, driven by increases in the domestic banks’ and the Central Bank’s foreign holdings. At the same time, the net foreign liabilities grew by \$278.0mn to \$8,788.3mn due to more modest increases in both net foreign direct investments and net private and public sector borrowings.

Chart 4.5: Central Government Net External Loan Disbursements

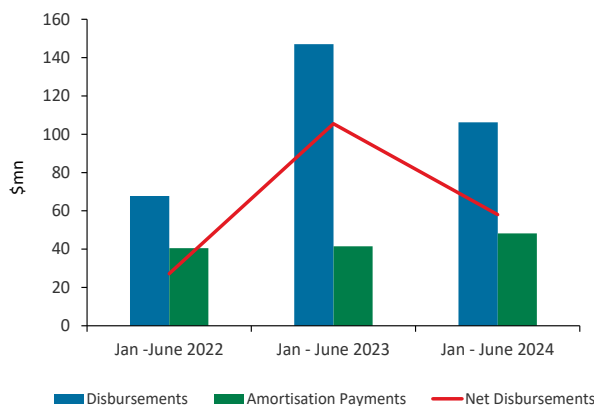
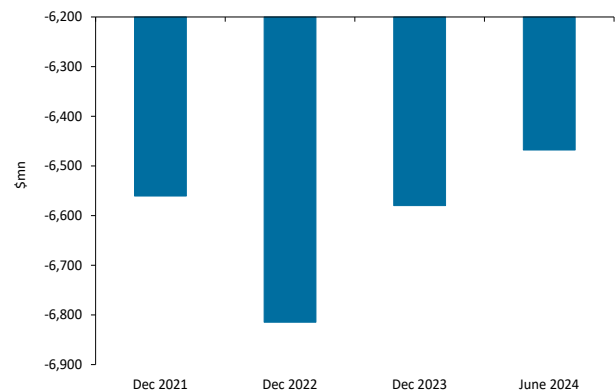


Chart 4.6: Net International Investment Position

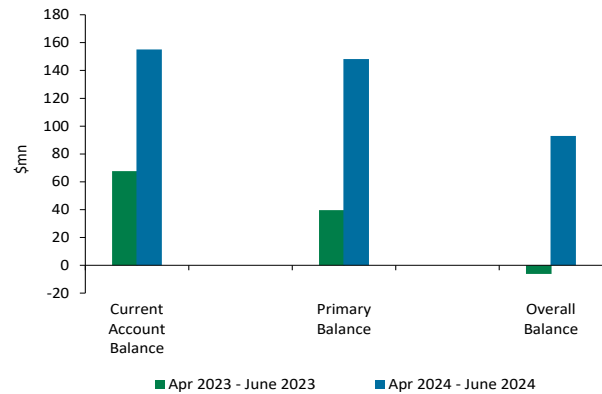


Government Operations and Public Debt

Central Government Operations

Between **January and June**, the Central Government’s fiscal position strengthened significantly, as a robust increase in revenue outpaced the rise in expenditure. Total revenue and grants grew by \$127.8mn, while total spending increased by a lesser \$75.1mn compared to the same period of 2023. Higher collections of business tax, general sales tax (GST), and property income boosted receipts. Meanwhile, the growth in total expenditure was driven by higher current and capital spending, though reductions in compensation payments slightly moderated it. Consequently, the overall balance swung to a surplus of \$46.1mn (0.7% of GDP) from a deficit of \$6.6mn (0.1% of GDP) in the previous period. Concurrently, the primary balance registered a surplus of \$124.6mn (1.8% of GDP) compared to a smaller surplus of

Chart 5.1: Central Government’s Operations

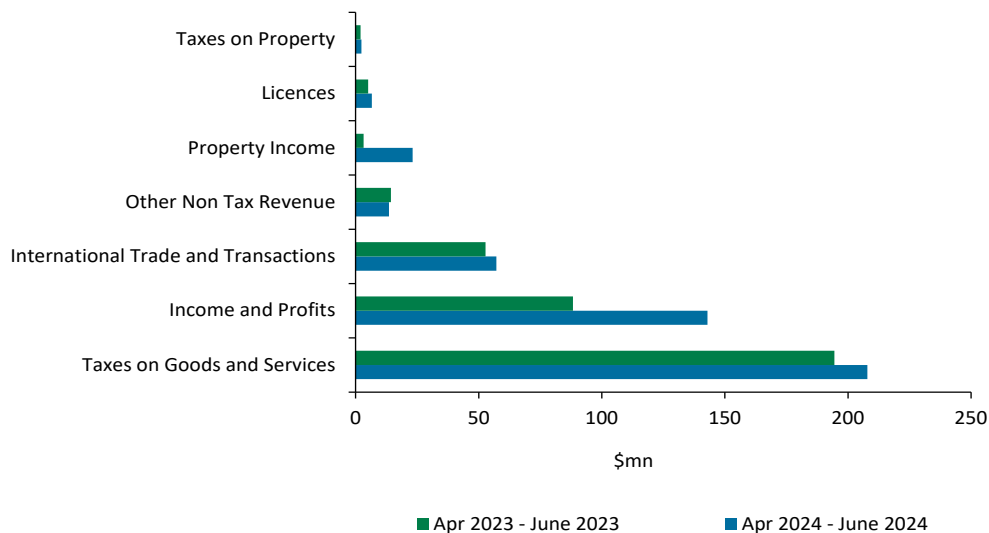


Sources: MOF and CBB

\$58.9mn (1.0% of GDP) in the same period of 2023.

In **the first quarter of FY 2024/2025**, which spanned from April to June, the Government’s operations resulted in an overall surplus of \$92.9mn (1.4% of GDP) compared to a deficit of \$6.3mn (0.1% of GDP) in the previous fiscal period. Likewise,

Chart 5.2: Central Government’s Revenue



Source: MOF

the primary balance, which excludes interest payments from the overall deficit, improved both in nominal terms and as a percentage of GDP. Accordingly, the primary surplus widened to 2.2% of GDP (\$148.2mn) from 0.6% of GDP (\$39.6mn) in the same period of 2023, mainly reflecting the Government’s continued efforts to manage its debt.

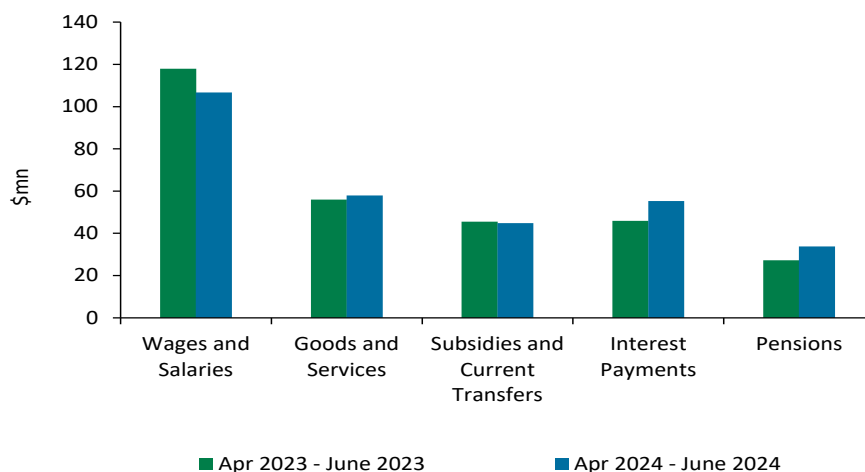
Between April and June, revenue and grants increased by \$93.3mn or 25.6% to \$458.1mn, representing 30.2% of the budget target. More than three-fourths of this increase was due to higher tax revenue, which rose by \$72.8mn or 21.6% to \$410.3mn. Inflows from “*Taxes on Income and Profits*” accounted for 75.1% (\$54.7mn) of the growth in tax revenue, reflecting mainly higher business tax receipts. Moreover, intakes from “*Taxes on Goods and Services*” rose by \$13.4mn, primarily driven by inflows from GST and, to a lesser extent, excise duties. “*Taxes on International Trade and Transactions*” also grew modestly, up

\$4.4mn to \$57.2mn, with upticks in import duties and environmental tax receipts.

Meanwhile, non-tax revenue also performed well compared to a year earlier, almost doubling to \$43.3mn on stronger-than-expected inflows from quasi-government entities. In contrast, grants recorded a marginal shortfall of \$0.9mn over the previous period, totalling \$2.0mn.

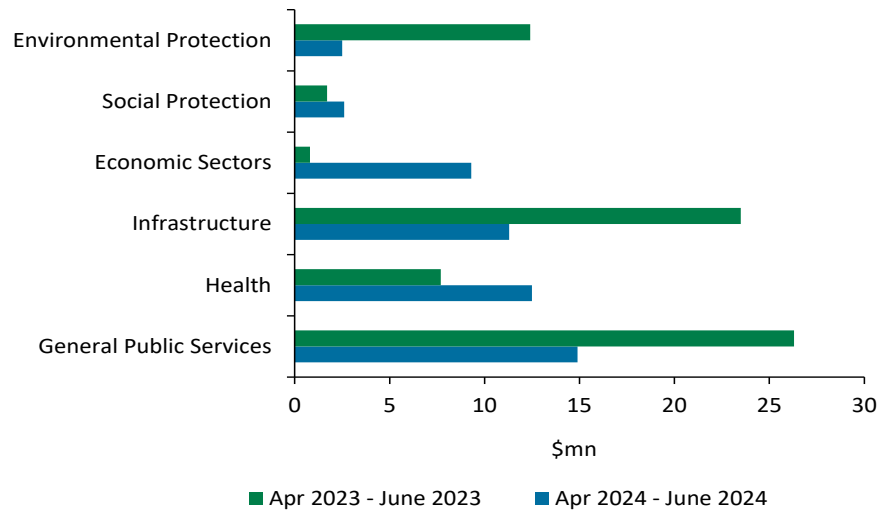
Total expenditure over the three months fell by \$5.9mn (1.6%) to \$365.2mn, reflecting 22.8% of targeted spending. This decline was due to lower capital outlays as recurrent spending rose. Current expenditure increased by \$5.9mn to \$298.5mn, as higher spending on interest payments, pensions, and goods and services outweighed declines in salaries and transfers. “*Interest Payments*” on Central Government’s debt rose by \$9.4mn (20.4%) to \$55.3mn, as rising global interest rates and the step-up in the Blue Loan rate from 3.55% in

Chart 5.3: Central Government’s Current Expenditures



Source: MOF

Chart 5.4: Central Government’s Development Expenditure



Source: MOF

October 2023 to 5.15% in April 2024 lifted debt service costs. Spending on “Pensions” increased by \$6.6mn to \$33.8mn, reflecting a timing-related spike in gratuity payouts. Meanwhile, outlays on “Goods and Services” increased by a modest \$2.0mn to \$57.9mn, as lower payouts to contractors partially offset higher operating and maintenance costs. In contrast, the upward momentum in overall recurrent expenses were tempered by reductions in “Wages and Salaries,” which fell by \$11.3mn to \$106.7mn, reflecting the normalisation of this line item after the restoration of increments for teachers and public officers last April. Additionally, “Subsidies and Current Transfers” dipped by \$0.7mn to \$44.9mn due to delayed execution of approved budget allotments at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Capital spending declined by \$11.8mn to \$66.7mn, as a \$16.8mn falloff in capital expenditure eclipsed a \$5.0mn increase in capital transfers. The rise in capital transfers reflected the Government’s allocation

of funds into its contingency reserve. Meanwhile, the Central Government’s development expenditure fell by \$16.8mn to \$61.5mn. Of this, 24.2% was spent on public affairs, 20.3% on health programmes, 18.4% on infrastructural projects, and 15.1% on economic sectors.

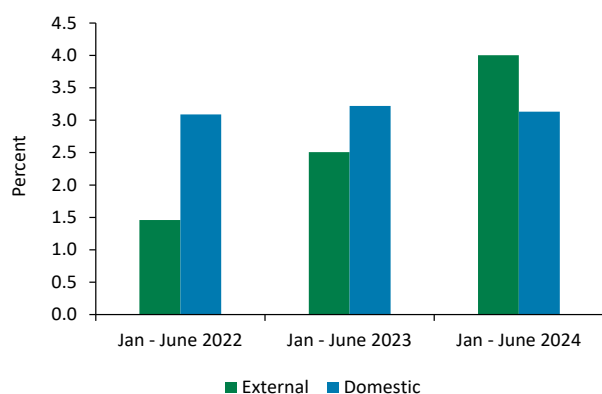
Total Public Sector Debt

For the first six months of 2024, the total public sector debt edged up 1.1% or \$48.7mn to \$4,414.9mn, equivalent to 64.6% of GDP. Debt accumulation slowed, as a moderate rise in external public sector debt was partially offset by a dip in Central Government’s domestic debt. The increase in the public external debt was mainly due to continued drawdowns from ongoing project loans.

Government Domestic Debt

Between January and June, the Central Government’s outstanding domestic debt fell by \$17.1mn to \$1,490.8mn or 21.8% of GDP. The fall in outstanding borrowings

Chart 5.5: Average Interest Rate on Central Government Domestic Debt and Public Sector External Debt



reflected the reclassification of \$17.0mn in T-bills from domestic to external debt because a non-resident organisation purchased it in April. Additionally, Central Government made a principal payment of \$0.1mn towards a debt-for-nature swap facility. As a result, Central Government's domestic debt as a share of the total public sector debt slid 0.8 percentage points to 33.8% at June end.

At the end of June, the outstanding value of T-bills amounted to \$318.0mn, reflecting a \$17.0mn decline from its December 2023 position. This decrease was due to the reclassification of this portion as external debt. Meanwhile, the stock of Treasury notes (T-notes) remained unchanged from December at \$1,081.1mn. All remaining developments in Treasury securities (T-bills and T-notes) reflected shifts in their distribution among creditors in line with outcomes of rollover auctions and modest secondary market trades.

Domestic banks' aggregate T-bill holdings rose by \$79.3mn to \$186.3mn for the year

to date. In turn, the amounts held by the Central Bank and non-bank entities fell by \$96.2mn to \$122.6mn and \$0.1mn to \$9.1mn, respectively. Furthermore, the Central Bank's holdings of T-notes increased by \$17.1mn to \$581.6mn. This outcome reflected marginal secondary market sales and the take-up of 7-year Floating Rate Notes, which were redeemed and replaced in May with a nominal fixed-rate T-note of the same principal value but at a lower rate.

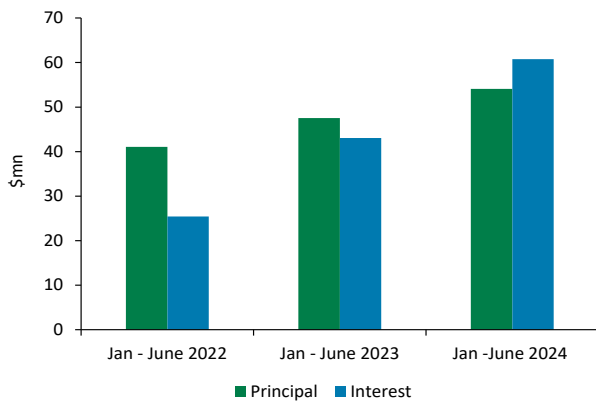
For the six months, interest payments totalled \$22.2mn, up \$0.5mn relative to the same period last year. Notwithstanding, the annual effective interest rate (from July 2023 to June 2024) inched down nine basis points to 3.13%. The Central Bank was paid \$8.2mn on its investments in Government securities, followed by other non-bank entities with \$8.5mn, and domestic banks with \$5.5mn on their respective portfolios of Treasury securities.

The Central Bank remained the principal holder of the Central Government's domestic debt, even though its share decreased by 4.7 percentage points to 47.2% relative to the end of December 2023. Meanwhile, non-bank entities' share of the Central Government's domestic debt edged up by 0.1 percentage point to 19.2%, while domestic banks' portion rose by 4.6 percentage points to 33.6%.

Public Sector External Debt

Over the six-month period, the public sector's external debt rose modestly by 2.3% or \$65.8mn to \$2,924.1mn, equivalent to

Chart 5.6: External Debt Service



42.8% of GDP. This increase resulted as loan disbursements of \$121.8mn exceeded repayments of \$54.1mn and downward valuation adjustments of \$1.9mn.

The Central Government received \$106.3mn in fresh disbursements, accounting for 87.2% of the total. Bilateral and multilateral lenders disbursed \$53.4mn and \$52.9mn, respectively. The Republic of China/Taiwan (ROC/Taiwan), Belize’s second-largest bilateral creditor, disbursed \$51.0mn for budget support and the Sarteneja infrastructure project. Additionally, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development paid out \$2.6mn for the Caracol Road Project. Meanwhile, multilateral funding mainly came from the Caribbean Development Bank (\$16.6mn), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (\$8.4mn), and the Inter-American Development Bank (\$8.2mn) to finance several projects and programmes, including:

- the Philip Goldson Highway and Remate Bypass Upgrading Project (\$12.8mn),
- the Integral Security Programme (\$8.4mn),

- the Sarteneja Road Upgrade and Construction of Laguna Seca Bridge Project (\$7.0mn),
- the Strengthening of Tax Administration Project (\$3.0mn),
- the Belize Social Investment Fund III Programme (\$2.7mn), and
- the Caracol Road Project (\$2.6mn).

The Central Government also received disbursements from a regional agency’s purchase of \$17.0mn of Treasury securities. Furthermore, the Development Finance Corporation, a public financial sector entity, got \$15.6mn from multilateral agencies to bolster its consolidated lines of credit and support the productive sector.

Loan amortisation payments summed to \$54.1mn. Central Government paid off \$46.5mn in outstanding loans or 86.0% of the public sector’s total principal repayments. This amount was split between bilateral and multilateral creditors, who received \$13.8mn and \$32.7mn, respectively. Bilateral repayments jumped \$12.6mn over the comparative review period as Belize resumed making principal payments on nine loan facilities to ROC/Taiwan. Notably, the principal moratorium, extended in April 2021 as part of a COVID-19 debt service relief initiative, expired at the end of 2023. Meanwhile, the public non-financial and financial sectors repaid \$5.4mn and \$2.2mn on their outstanding loans, respectively.

Interest and other payments totalled \$60.8mn, \$16.5mn or 37.2% higher than the comparable period, as the year-to-

date effective interest rate rose to 4.00% from 2.51% in the comparable period. The Central Government accounted for \$57.1mn or 94.0% of the total interest costs, paying multilateral creditors \$22.9mn, bilateral lenders \$15.4mn, and Blue Loan creditors \$18.7mn. The financial and non-financial public sectors also paid \$3.7mn combined to cover interest expenses.

At the end of the review period, the Central Government held 90.9% of the public sector's external debt. Meanwhile, the portions obtained by the financial and non-financial public sectors were comparatively lower at 7.1% and 1.9%, respectively.

ANNEX I

Table A.1: Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates of Selected Countries

			Percent
	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	June 2024
Advanced Economies			
US	3.1	1.6	3.0
UK	-0.2	0.3	0.9
Euro Area	0.1	0.3	0.2
Japan	0.2	-2.4	2.9
Emerging Economies			
China	5.2	5.3	4.7
India ⁽¹⁾	8.6	8.2	6.7
Brazil	2.1	2.5	3.3
Mexico	2.3	1.8	1.0
Caribbean Economies			
Barbados	4.4	4.1	4.5
Jamaica	1.7	1.4	0.1

Sources: Respective Statistical Bureaus and Central Banks.

⁽¹⁾ Quarter-on-Quarter percentage change.

Table A.2: Real Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates

	Year-on-Year Growth (%)	
	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
	over Jan - June 2022 ^R	over Jan - June 2023 ^R
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	-10.7	1.0
Mining	6.9	-23.8
Manufacturing	1.9	-1.0
Electricity	-11.5	43.5
Water Supply	1.7	13.5
Construction	8.9	6.0
Wholesale and Retail Trade	-1.3	20.3
Transportation	-3.0	34.2
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	19.1	36.8
Information and Communication	-0.5	-7.9
Financial and Insurance Activities	5.9	2.3
Real Estate Activities	1.8	1.1
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities	-16.0	37.3
Administrative and Support Service Activities	31.4	4.6
Public Administration and Defence	0.3	2.3
Education	-2.0	4.6
Human Health and Social Work Activities	8.1	-5.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4.3	2.6
Other Service Activities	13.1	0.5
Activities of Households as Employers	1.3	4.5
Taxes and Subsidies	-0.5	15.4
GDP at Constant 2014 Prices	1.9	9.5

Source: SIB

^R - Revised

Table A.3: Gross Domestic Product by Activity at Constant 2014 Prices

	\$mn	
	Jan - June 2023 ^R	Jan - June 2024 ^R
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	214.7	216.8
Mining	34.1	26.0
Manufacturing	214.1	212.0
Electricity	32.4	46.5
Water Supply	17.8	20.2
Construction	130.4	138.2
Wholesale and Retail Trade	347.4	417.8
Transportation	107.4	144.1
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	138.1	188.9
Information and Communication	93.5	86.1
Financial and Insurance Activities	226.2	231.3
Real Estate Activities	123.5	124.8
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities	20.4	28.0
Administrative and Support Service Activities	140.6	147.1
Public Administration and Defence	176.5	180.6
Education	140.6	147.1
Human Health and Social Work Activities	40.0	37.7
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	34.3	35.2
Other Service Activities	39.8	40.0
Activities of Households as Employers	15.4	16.1
Taxes and Subsidies	347.5	401.0
GDP at Constant 2014 Prices	2,634.6	2,885.6

Source: SIB

^R - Revised

Table A.4: Deliveries of Sugarcane and Production of Sugar and Molasses

	Dec - June 2022/2023	Dec - June 2023/2024
Deliveries of Sugarcane to BSI and Santander (long tons)	1,485,129	1,611,087
Sugar Processed by BSI and Santander (long tons)	144,090	149,891
Molasses processed by BSI and Santander (long tons)	53,922	60,801
Performance		
Cane/Sugar	10.3	10.7

Sources: BSI and Santander

Table A.5: Output of Citrus Products

	Oct - June 2022/2023	Oct - June 2023/2024
Deliveries (boxes)		
Orange	279,280	306,534
Grapefruit	<u>61,553</u>	<u>35,459</u>
Total	340,833	341,993
Concentrate Produced (ps)		
Orange	1,338,022	1,604,795
Grapefruit	<u>232,510</u>	<u>118,275</u>
Total	1,570,532	1,723,070
Not from Concentrate (ps)		
Orange	66,403	27,491
Grapefruit	<u>7,914</u>	<u>21,912</u>
Total	74,317	49,403
Pulp (pounds)		
Orange	78,016	10,176
Grapefruit	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	78,016	10,176
Oil Produced (pounds)		
Orange	92,507	134,862
Grapefruit	<u>9,055</u>	<u>5,805</u>
Total	101,562	140,667

Source: CPBL

Table A.6: Banana Production

	40-pound boxes	
	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
Quarter 1	484,582	1,068,300
Quarter 2	<u>920,332</u>	<u>1,274,476</u>
Total	1,404,914	2,342,776

Source: BGA

Table A.7: Bona Fide Tourist Arrivals

	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
Stay-Over Arrivals		
Air	196,153	254,394
Land	35,103	37,674
Sea	<u>7,527</u>	<u>8,107</u>
Total	238,783	300,175
Cruise Ship Disembarkations	475,671	468,051

Sources: BTB, CBB, and Immigration Department

Table A.8: Consumer Price Index Commodity Group

Major Commodity	Weights	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	June 2024 YTD-2024 over May 2024	YTD-2024 over YTD-2023
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	258	129.9	130.8	131.6	0.6	6.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, and Narcotics	35	107.3	108.4	108.4	0.0	4.9
Clothing and Footwear	44	101.9	103.5	103.5	0.0	1.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	195	106.6	106.4	105.9	-0.5	2.4
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance	51	112.2	113.0	113.0	0.0	4.4
Health	26	111.7	112.2	112.2	0.0	5.7
Transport	153	131.1	131.7	130.5	-0.9	0.1
Information and Communication	46	95.7	95.1	95.1	0.0	-1.7
Recreation and Culture	43	115.6	115.5	115.5	0.0	4.1
Education Services	25	100.6	100.6	100.6	0.0	0.4
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	65	130.6	130.4	130.4	0.0	10.4
Insurance and Financial Services	8	105.8	104.9	104.9	0.0	3.9
Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	51	108.7	109.1	109.1	0.0	4.9
All Items	1,000	118.1	118.5	118.4	-0.1	3.9

Source: SIB

Table A.9: Factors Responsible for Money Supply Movements⁽¹⁾

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at June 2024	Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
Net Foreign Assets	2,010.6	410.6	267.8
Central Bank	1,033.4	84.6	82.6
Domestic Banks	977.2	326.1	185.1
Net Domestic Credit	3,449.7	-160.6	-27.1
Central Government (Net)	816.8	-110.9	-63.0
Other Public Sector	107.2	-11.1	-1.2
Private Sector	2,525.7	-38.5	37.1
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long-term)	114.4	-2.3	0.0
Other Items (Net)	659.1	12.1	32.1
Money Supply (M2)	4,686.8	240.2	208.5

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

Table A.10: Money Supply

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at June 2024	Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
Money Supply (M2)	4,686.8	240.3	208.5
Narrow Money (M1)	2,821.9	154.3	183.9
Currency with the Public	610.9	23.2	25.4
Demand Deposits	2,209.9	130.5	158.4
Savings/Chequing Deposits	1.1	0.5	0.1
Quasi-Money	1,864.9	86.0	24.6
Savings Deposits	1,125.5	71.0	72.2
Time Deposits	739.4	15.0	-47.6

Table A.11: Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

		\$mn	
	Position as at June 2024	Changes During Dec 2023 to June 2024 Dec 2022 to June 2023	
Net Foreign Assets of Banking System	2,010.6	410.6	267.8
Net Foreign Assets of Central Bank	1,033.4	84.6	82.6
Central Banks Foreign Assets	1,036.3	84.8	81.6
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand)	2.9	0.2	-1.1
Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks	977.2	326.1	185.1
Domestic Banks' Foreign Assets	1,035.4	325.3	183.8
Domestic Banks' Foreign Liabilities (Short-term)	58.2	-0.8	-1.3

Table A.12: Central Bank's Foreign Asset Flows

	\$mn	
	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
Total Inflows	240.5	233.2
Loan Disbursements	130.5	90.7
Grants	21.4	3.9
Sugar Exports Receipts	53.0	51.0
Banks	0.0	44.4
Other	35.6	43.2
Total Outflows	143.5	148.4
Central Government	125.3	120.3
Statutory Bodies	19.5	21.9
Other	-1.3	6.1

Table A.13: Net Domestic Credit

		\$mn	
	Position as at June 2024	Changes During	
		Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
Total Credit to Central Government	1,113.8	-14.7	0.2
From Central Bank	703.9	-79.0	24.4
Loans and Advances	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government Securities ⁽¹⁾	703.9	-79.0	24.4
From Domestic Banks	409.9	64.3	-24.2
Loans and Advances	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government Securities	409.9	64.3	-24.2
Of which: Treasury Bills	186.3	79.3	-16.2
Treasury Notes	223.5	-15.0	-8.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less Central Government Deposits	296.9	96.2	63.2
With Central Bank	176.5	36.2	55.6
With Domestic Banks	120.4	60.0	7.6
Net Credit to Central Government	816.8	-110.9	-63.0
Credit to Other Public Sector	107.2	-11.1	-1.3
From Central Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0
From Domestic Banks	107.2	-11.1	-1.2
Of which: Local Government	16.8	0.8	0.9
Public Financial Institutions	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Utilities	22.0	-3.0	-3.0
Other Statutory Bodies	1.9	1.1	0.4
Securities	66.5	-10.0	0.4
Plus Credit to the Private Sector	2,525.7	-38.5	37.1
From Central Bank	9.3	0.9	0.8
Loans and Advances	9.3	0.9	0.8
From Domestic Banks	2,516.5	-39.5	36.3
Loans and Advances	2,489.5	-40.8	31.2
Securities	26.9	1.4	5.1
Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System ⁽²⁾	3,449.8	-160.5	-27.3

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

⁽²⁾ Treasury bill holdings reported by domestic banks reflect a mix of par and market values.

Table A.14: Sectoral Composition of Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at June 2024	Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
PRIMARY SECTOR	243.8	-20.3	-0.8
Agriculture	219.9	-18.0	2.0
Sugar	78.7	-15.5	-1.8
Citrus	9.3	-2.6	-2.8
Bananas	55.6	-1.1	2.9
Other	76.3	1.2	3.7
Marine Products	18.9	-2.1	-3.0
Forestry	1.5	0.1	0.3
Mining and Exploration	3.5	-0.3	-0.1
SECONDARY SECTOR	824.3	-24.1	5.7
Manufacturing	77.7	2.5	11.7
Building and Construction	715.0	-20.5	2.5
Utilities	31.6	-6.1	-8.5
TERTIARY SECTOR	1,029.3	-0.1	25.8
Transport	71.1	3.2	15.8
Tourism	257.1	-41.4	-19.7
Distribution	203.4	1.3	1.5
Real Estate	388.5	16.0	27.9
Professional Services	87.9	19.0	-1.0
Other ⁽¹⁾	21.3	1.8	1.3
Personal Loans	432.8	2.5	-1.2
TOTAL	2,530.2	-42.0	29.5

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

Table A.15: Sectoral Composition of Credit Unions’
Loans and Advances

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at June 2024	Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
PRIMARY SECTOR	69.8	-4.4	4.5
Agriculture	61.6	-4.7	4.7
Sugar	4.4	-0.8	-0.8
Citrus	1.1	-0.1	-0.1
Bananas	1.9	-0.1	1.4
Other	54.2	-3.7	4.2
Marine Products	7.8	0.1	-0.1
Forestry	0.3	0.2	-0.1
Mining and Exploration	0.1	0.0	0.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	270.3	30.3	4.8
Manufacturing	33.3	-2.2	-0.4
Building and Construction	190.1	-6.8	5.3
Residential	103.3	-6.4	3.9
Home Improvement	73.3	0.9	0.7
Commercial	10.7	-1.2	-0.4
Infrastructure	2.8	-0.1	0.9
Utilities	46.9	39.3	-0.1
TERTIARY SECTOR	130.6	-1.9	6.0
Transport	6.0	1.2	0.1
Tourism	3.6	-0.1	0.3
Distribution	26.9	6.4	-3.0
Real Estate	73.5	-12.7	4.5
Residential	2.1	-0.4	-0.3
Commercial	29.0	-12.7	-1.5
Land Acquisition	42.5	0.6	6.4
Other ⁽¹⁾	20.6	3.3	4.1
Personal Loans	243.8	-2.2	-17.0
TOTAL	714.5	21.7	-1.9

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

Table A.16: Sectoral Composition of Development Finance Corporation
Loans and Advances

		\$mn	
	Position as at June 2024	Changes During Dec 2023 to June 2024 Dec 2022 to June 2023	
PRIMARY SECTOR	46.9	3.7	4.6
Agriculture	34.4	2.1	4.4
Marine Products	12.2	1.6	0.2
Other ⁽¹⁾	0.3	0.0	0.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	46.2	-0.2	-2.2
Manufacturing	5.6	-0.1	-3.5
Building and Construction	40.6	-0.1	1.3
TERTIARY SECTOR	43.0	-0.1	3.1
Tourism	17.6	-0.7	-0.1
Professional Services	19.3	0.4	1.0
Other ⁽²⁾	6.1	0.3	2.4
Student Loans	16.1	0.0	-0.3
Personal Loans	0.6	0.1	0.1
TOTAL	152.8	3.5	5.6

⁽¹⁾ Includes Mining and Forestry.

⁽²⁾ Includes Distribution, Financial Institutions, Real Estate, Transport, and Entertainment.

Table A.17: Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at June 2024	Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets	1,757.9	201.7	134.8
Notes and Coins	118.8	-0.7	20.7
Balances with Central Bank	693.4	-72.3	-21.3
Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due in 90 days) ⁽¹⁾	669.8	215.5	141.7
Treasury Bills maturing in not more than 90 days	191.3	65.7	-27.5
Other Approved Assets	84.5	-6.5	21.1
Required Liquid Assets ⁽²⁾	880.1	68.0	52.8
Excess/ (Deficiency) Liquid Assets	877.7	133.6	82.0
Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves	695.1	-65.0	-13.0
Required Cash Reserves ⁽³⁾	272.4	21.1	16.3
Excess/ (Deficiency) Cash Reserves	423.7	-86.1	-29.4
Actual Securities Balances ⁽⁴⁾	186.5	79.4	-16.2
Excess/ (Deficiency) Securities	186.5	79.4	-16.2

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

⁽²⁾ Domestic Banks' secondary reserve requirement is 21.0% of average deposit liabilities.

⁽³⁾ Domestic Banks' primary (cash) reserve requirement is 6.5% of average deposit liabilities.

⁽⁴⁾ Face value of domestic banks' Treasury bill holdings at the end of the month.

Table A.18: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates

		Percent	
		Changes During	
	Position as at June 2024	Dec 2023 to June 2024	Dec 2022 to June 2023
Weighted Lending Rates			
Personal Loans	11.32	-0.14	0.07
Commercial Loans	7.83	-0.06	-0.06
Residential Construction	7.21	0.14	0.13
Other	7.26	0.09	0.03
Weighted Average	8.41	-0.01	0.02
Weighted Deposit Rates			
Demand	0.14	0.01	-0.01
Savings/Chequing	2.57	-0.05	0.00
Savings	2.65	-0.01	-0.01
Time	2.07	-0.03	-0.14
Weighted Average	1.16	-0.02	-0.06
Weighted Average Spread	7.25	0.01	0.09

Table A.19: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

	Percent				
	Twelve Month Rolling Averages At			Changes	
	June 2024	Dec 2023	June 2023	June 2024 over Dec 2023	June 2024 over June 2023
Weighted Lending Rates					
Personal Loans	10.43	10.00	9.96	0.43	0.48
Commercial Loans	7.98	8.14	8.12	-0.16	-0.14
Residential Construction	9.98	9.07	8.60	0.91	1.39
Other	6.29	5.89	6.06	0.40	0.23
Weighted Average	8.84	8.68	8.57	0.16	0.27
Weighted Deposit Rates					
Demand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Savings/Chequing	1.16	1.54	1.46	-0.38	-0.30
Savings	2.48	2.48	2.42	0.00	0.06
Time	2.27	2.17	2.51	0.09	-0.24
Weighted Average	1.84	1.80	2.15	0.04	-0.31
Weighted Average Spread	7.00	6.88	6.42	0.12	0.59

Table A.20: Balance of Payments Summary

	\$mn	
	Jan - June 2023 ^R	Jan - June 2024 ^P
A. CURRENT ACCOUNT (I+II+III+IV)	165.1	2.2
I. Goods (Trade Balance)	-719.9	-940.2
Exports, Free on Board (FOB)	503.7	474.6
Domestic Exports	247.4	223.8
CFZ Gross sales	221.0	201.9
Other Re-exports	35.3	49.0
Imports, FOB	1,223.6	1,414.8
Domestic Imports	1,068.9	1,259.7
CFZ Imports	154.7	155.1
II. Services	854.6	916.4
Transportation	-66.2	-67.1
Travel	745.0	842.8
Other Services	175.8	140.7
III. Primary Income	-126.0	-128.7
Compensation of Employees	-2.5	-0.5
Investment Income	-123.5	-128.2
IV. Secondary Income	156.5	154.6
Government	-4.3	-5.1
Private	160.7	159.7
B. Capital Account	37.7	9.8
C. Financial Account	-8.8	27.7
D. NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-130.7	100.1
E. RESERVE ASSETS	80.8	84.3

^R - Revised^P - Provisional

Table A.21: Capital and Financial Accounts

		\$mn	
		Jan - June 2023 ^R	Jan - June 2024 ^P
A.	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	37.7	9.8
B.	FINANCIAL ACCOUNT (1+2+3+4)	-8.8	27.7
	1. Direct Investment in Belize	-102.4	-147.1
	2. Portfolio Investment	0.0	0.0
	Monetary Authorities	0.0	0.0
	General Government	0.0	0.0
	Banks	0.0	0.0
	Other Sectors	0.0	0.0
	3. Financial Derivatives	0.0	0.0
	4. Other Investments	93.6	174.8
	Monetary Authorities	1.1	-0.2
	General Government	-101.0	-74.9
	Banks	185.1	326.1
	Other Sectors	8.4	-76.1
	Special Drawing Rights	0.0	0.0
C.	NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-130.7	100.1
D.	OVERALL BALANCE	80.8	84.3
E.	RESERVE ASSETS	80.8	84.3

^R - Revised^P - Provisional

Table A.22: Balance of Payments

	\$mn	
	Jan - June 2023 ^R	Jan - June 2024 ^P
CURRENT ACCOUNT	165.1	2.2
Goods: Exports FOB	503.7	474.6
Goods: Imports FOB	1,223.6	1,414.8
Trade Balance	-719.9	-940.2
Services: Credit	1,131.2	1,266.0
Transportation	40.2	54.3
Travel	805.0	915.0
Other Goods and Services	208.0	249.7
Government Goods and Services	78.0	46.9
Services: Debit	276.6	349.6
Transportation	106.4	121.4
Travel	60.0	72.2
Other Goods and Services	87.6	119.3
Government Goods and Services	22.6	36.7
Balance on Goods and Services	134.7	-23.8
Primary Income: Credit	19.8	20.5
Compensation of Employees	2.4	2.4
Investment Income	17.4	18.1
Primary Income: Debit	145.7	149.2
Compensation of Employees	4.9	2.8
Investment Income	140.9	146.3
Balance on Goods, Services and Primary Income	8.7	-152.4
Secondary Income: Credit	198.0	198.1
Secondary Income: Debit	41.5	43.5
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	37.7	9.8
Capital Account: Credit	37.7	9.8
Capital Account: Debit	0.0	0.0
FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	-8.8	27.7
Direct Investment Abroad	60.4	47.6
Direct Investment in Reporting Economy	162.8	194.7
Portfolio Investment Assets	0.0	0.0
Portfolio Investment Liabilities	0.0	0.0
Financial Derivatives	0.0	0.0
Other Investment Assets	182.7	305.7
Other Investment Liabilities	89.1	130.9
NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-130.7	100.1
OVERALL BALANCE	80.8	84.3
RESERVE ASSETS	80.8	84.3

Source: CBB

^R - Revised

^P - Provisional

Table A.23: Gross Imports at Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

SITC Section	\$'000			
	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024	\$ Change	% Change
0. Food and Live Animals	153,457	165,408	11,951	7.8
1. Beverages and Tobacco	27,331	27,697	366	1.3
2. Crude Materials	23,285	27,967	4,682	20.1
3. Mineral Fuels and Lubricants	231,418	293,609	62,191	26.9
of which Electricity	43,164	62,141	18,977	44.0
4. Oils and Fats	15,874	19,287	3,413	21.5
5. Chemical Products	131,917	134,610	2,693	2.0
6. Manufactured Goods	186,830	191,621	4,791	2.6
7. Machinery and Transport Equipment	275,072	381,230	106,158	38.6
8. Other Manufactures	97,713	111,489	13,776	14.1
9. Commodities not elsewhere specified	0	4	4	
10. Designated Processing Areas	22,721	17,250	-5,471	-24.1
11. Commercial Free Zone	168,672	168,899	228	0.1
12. Personal Goods	1,346	1,942	596	44.3
Total	1,335,635	1,541,013	205,378	15.4

Sources: CBB and SIB

Table A.24: Exports of Sugar and Molasses

	Jan - June 2023		Jan - June 2024	
	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)
Sugar	68,798	84,708	47,294	62,692
Europe	62,750	73,969	39,130	47,922
US	20	25	0	0
CARICOM	6,028	10,714	8,086	14,590
Other	0	0	78	180
Molasses	33,252	13,346	35,836	16,254

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.25: Citrus Product Exports

	Jan - June 2023		Jan - June 2024	
	Pound Solid (‘000)	Value (\$‘000)	Pound Solid (‘000)	Value (\$‘000)
Citrus Concentrates				
US				
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0
CARICOM				
Orange	1,977.1	8,532	612.4	4,991
Grapefruit	168.0	1,195	125.6	951
Europe				
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0
Other				
Orange	25.4	110	0.0	0
Grapefruit	30.2	225	0.0	0
Sub-Total ⁽¹⁾	2,200.8	10,062	738.0	5,942
Orange	2,002.5	8,642	612.4	4,991
Grapefruit	198.3	1,420	125.6	951
Not-From-Concentrate				
Sub-Total	6.4	37.1	10.0	81.9
Orange	5.1	27	0.0	0
Grapefruit	1.3	10	10.0	82
Total Citrus Juices	2,207.2	10,099	748.0	6,024
Pulp (pounds ‘000)				
Total ⁽¹⁾	142.9	143	0.0	0
Orange	142.9	143	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0

Source: CPBL

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

Table A.26: Marine Product Exports

	Jan - June 2023		Jan - June 2024	
	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)
Lobster	266	8,391	204	5,414
Shrimp	264	1,445	110	470
Conch	463	6,968	476	6,509
Other Fish	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>29</u>
Total	994	16,812	791	12,423

Source: SIB

Table A.27: Banana Exports

	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
Volume (metric tons)	25,489	42,505
Value (\$'000)	28,730	44,539

Source: BGA

Table A.28: Other Miscellaneous Exports

	Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
Other Miscellaneous Exports (\$'000)	93,693	81,834
of which:		
Animal Feed	24,998	8,301
Pepper Sauce	4,259	5,086
Crude Soybean Oil	3,015	4,662
Red Kidney Beans	4,772	3,744
Rum	3,022	3,735
Pre-Fabricated Houses	2,167	1,484
Cacao Beans	654	1,441

Source: SIB

Table A.29: Long-Term Private Sector External Debt by Economic Sector^(1,2)

Economic Sectors	DOD as at 31/12/2023	Transactions (Jan - June 2024)			DOD as at 30/06/2024
		Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	
Agriculture	35,411	0	0	0	35,411
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	1,051	0	0	0	1,051
Economic Diversification	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0
Electricity and Gas	13,037	0	577	810	12,460
Financial and Insurance Activities	111	0	0	0	111
Fishing	9,355	0	0	0	9,355
Information and Communication	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism Activities	91,939	0	76	380	91,863
Transportation	31,182	0	2,961	1,013	28,221
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2,153	0	289	71	1,864
Other	1,500	0	0	61	1,500
Total	185,740	0	3,903	2,335	181,836

⁽¹⁾ The loans only cover that portion of the private sector debt that is reported to the Central Bank.

⁽²⁾ At the time of reporting, not all companies have submitted their balance sheets to the Central Bank.

Table A.30: Extended Balance of Payment Services Classifications (EBOPS)

		\$mn	
		Jan - June 2023	Jan - June 2024
Total Services	Net	854.6	916.4
	Credits	1,131.2	1,266.0
	Debits	276.6	349.6
Manufacturing Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Maintenance and Repair Services	Net	0.2	0.0
	Credits	0.2	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Transportation	Net	-66.2	-67.1
	Credits	40.2	54.3
	Debits	106.4	121.4
Travel	Net	745.0	842.8
	Credits	805.0	915.0
	Debits	60.0	72.2
Telecommunications, Computer, and Information Services	Net	93.5	94.8
	Credits	104.1	109.5
	Debits	10.6	14.8
Construction Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Insurance and Pension Services	Net	-17.4	-38.1
	Credits	0.5	0.5
	Debits	17.9	38.5
Financial Services	Net	1.7	8.0
	Credits	7.3	16.0
	Debits	5.6	8.0
Charges for the use of Intellectual Property, n.i.e.	Net	-10.6	-13.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	10.6	13.0
Other Business Services	Net	50.0	75.8
	Credits	91.8	119.5
	Debits	41.9	43.7
Personal, Cultural, and Recreational Services	Net	3.1	3.0
	Credits	4.1	4.2
	Debits	1.0	1.2
Government Services, n.i.e.	Net	55.4	10.2
	Credits	78.0	46.9
	Debits	22.6	36.7

Table A.31: International Investment Position

\$mn

	Position as at Dec 2023	Financial Account Transactions Jan - June 2024	Position as at June 2024	Quarterly Change
Net position	-6,580.0	112.0	-6,468.0	112.0
A. Assets	1,930.3	390.0	2,320.3	390.0
1. Direct Investment Abroad	156.3	0.0	156.3	0.0
2. Portfolio Investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.1 Equity Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.2 Debt Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. Other Investment	827.4	305.7	1,133.1	305.7
3.1 Trade Credits	-2.2	-0.4	-2.5	-0.4
3.2 Loans	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3.3 Currency and Deposits	829.6	306.1	1,135.6	306.1
3.4 Other Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4. Reserve Assets	946.5	84.3	1,030.8	84.3
4.1 Monetary Gold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.2 Special Drawing Rights	100.2	-2.0	98.1	-2.0
4.3 Reserve Position in the Fund	17.4	-0.4	17.1	-0.4
4.4 Foreign Exchange	810.12	86.8	896.9	86.8
4.5 Other Claims	18.9	-0.1	18.8	-0.1
B. Liabilities	8,510.3	278.0	8,788.3	278.0
1. Direct Investment	5,389.9	147.1	5,537.0	147.1
2. Portfolio Investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.1 Equity Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.2 Debt Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. Other Investment	3,120.3	130.9	3,251.3	130.9
3.1 Trade Credits	36.8	31.6	68.4	31.6
3.2 Loans	3,004.2	114.2	3,118.4	114.2
3.3 Currency and Deposits	78.3	-5.6	72.7	-5.6
3.4 Other Liabilities	1.1	-9.3	-8.3	-9.3

Table A.32: Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure

	Approved Budget 2024/2025	Jan 2023 to June 2023	Jan 2024 to June 2024 ^P	Apr 2023 to June 2023	Apr 2024 to June 2024 ^P	Fiscal YTD as % of Budget
						\$'000
TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3)	1,519,113	691,752	819,529	364,845	458,119	30.2%
1). Current Revenue	1,483,088	683,793	804,548	360,227	453,646	30.6%
Tax Revenue	1,387,798	644,744	741,935	337,510	410,330	29.6%
Taxes on Income and Profits	365,431	188,952	234,620	88,269	142,933	39.1%
Taxes on Property	7,174	4,492	4,145	1,979	2,332	32.5%
Taxes on Goods and Services	791,664	360,293	393,267	194,468	207,853	26.3%
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	223,529	91,007	109,903	52,794	57,211	25.6%
Non-Tax Revenue	95,290	39,049	62,614	22,716	43,316	45.5%
Property Income	16,167	4,998	24,391	3,233	23,142	143.1%
Licences	26,973	9,064	14,920	5,124	6,598	24.5%
Other	52,149	24,987	23,303	14,359	13,575	26.0%
2). Capital Revenue	6,025	3,139	3,206	1,630	2,427	40.3%
3). Grants	30,000	4,819	11,774	2,988	2,047	6.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2)	1,604,955	698,309	773,453	371,109	365,218	22.8%
1). Current Expenditure	1,174,225	530,444	581,724	292,564	298,496	25.4%
Wages and Salaries	476,796	233,429	229,156	117,977	106,683	22.4%
Pensions	110,060	50,679	64,415	27,217	33,795	30.7%
Goods and Services	294,349	107,066	123,245	55,921	57,875	19.7%
Interest Payments on Public Debt	112,900	65,431	78,499	45,904	55,281	49.0%
Subsidies and Current Transfers	180,121	73,839	86,409	45,546	44,863	24.9%
2). Capital Expenditure	430,730	167,865	191,728	78,545	66,722	15.5%
Capital II (Local Sources)	276,848	123,188	165,162	60,480	54,867	19.8%
Capital III (Foreign Sources)	146,582	44,285	21,182	17,869	6,664	4.5%
Capital Transfer and Net Lending	7,299	392	5,384	195	5,191	71.1%
CURRENT BALANCE	308,862	153,349	222,824	67,662	155,150	50.2%
PRIMARY BALANCE	27,058	58,874	124,575	39,640	148,182	547.6%
OVERALL BALANCE	-85,842	-6,558	46,076	-6,264	92,901	-108.2%
Primary Balance less grants	-2,942	54,054	112,801	36,651	146,135	329.4%
Overall Balance less grants	-115,842	-11,377	34,302	-9,253	90,854	143.4%
FINANCING	85,842	6,558	-46,076	6,264	-92,901	
Domestic Financing		-65,602	-96,276	-90,408	-133,991	
Central Bank		-30,888	-115,327	-65,078	-116,373	
Net Borrowing		24,392	-79,044	39,353	-30,890	
Change in Deposits		-55,280	-36,283	-104,431	-85,483	
Commercial Banks		-31,804	4,309	-20,752	-35,103	
Net Borrowing		-24,196	64,303	-37,278	13,406	
Change in Deposits		-7,608	-59,994	16,526	-48,509	
Other Domestic Financing		-2,910	14,742	-4,577	17,485	
Extraordinary Financing			18,746		18,746	
Financing Abroad		82,351	42,765	73,459	34,299	
Disbursements		131,016	89,262	111,467	64,784	
Amortisation		-48,664	-46,500	-38,008	-30,488	
Other		-10,192	-11,311	23,213	-11,955	

Sources: CBB and MOF

^P - Provisional

Table A.33: Central Government's Domestic Debt by Creditor

	\$'000					
	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/23 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH JUNE 2024			Disbursed Outstanding Debt 30/06/24 ^P	
		Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities	Amortisation/ Reduction in Securities	Interest	Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities	
Overdraft/Loans ⁽¹⁾	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Bills	335,000	0	0	1,077	-17,000	318,000
Central Bank	218,764	0	0	469	-96,175	122,588
Domestic Banks	107,015	0	0	577	79,291	186,306
Other	9,221	0	0	32	-116	9,106
Treasury Notes	1,081,146	0	0	21,084	0	1,081,146
Central Bank	564,504	0	0	7,701	17,100	581,604
Domestic Banks	238,552	0	0	4,954	-15,003	223,549
Other	278,090	0	0	8,428	-2,097	275,993
Belize Bank Limited ⁽²⁾	91,000	0	0	0	0	91,000
Debt for Nature Swap	789	0	108	11	0	682
Total	1,507,936	0	108	22,173	-17,000	1,490,828

^R - Revised^P - Provisional

⁽¹⁾ The Central Bank may make direct advances to the Government by way of an overdraft facility. The total outstanding amount of such direct advances shall not exceed 12.0% of the current revenues of the Government collected during the preceding financial year.

⁽²⁾ 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 June 2024-end, the Belize Bank set-off approximately \$90.4mn in taxes against the debt, split between principal payments (\$63.5mn) and interest payments (\$26.9mn). Therefore, total outstanding domestic debt amounts to \$1,427.3mn at June 2024 when the amortisation payments related to the tax set-offs are accounted for.

Table A.34: Public Sector External Debt by Creditor

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/23 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH JUNE 2024				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 30/06/24 ^P
		Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest & Other Payments	Parity Change	
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	2,599,532	106,262	46,500	57,109	-407	2,658,888
Government of Venezuela ⁽¹⁾	429,692	0	0	0	0	429,692
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	36,037	2,362	618	394	-561	37,220
Mega International Commercial Bank Company Ltd.	45,714	0	0	1,908	0	45,714
Republic of China/Taiwan	397,725	50,990	13,161	13,148	0	435,554
Caribbean Development Bank	356,214	16,602	11,298	6,339	0	361,519
CARICOM Development Fund	5,708	0	298	84	0	5,410
European Economic Community	3,562	0	249	14	171	3,485
Inter-American Development Bank	284,501	8,165	8,592	9,792	0	284,074
International Fund for Agriculture Development	6,832	0	686	210	-17	6,129
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	72,837	2,559	2,309	2,242	0	73,087
OPEC Fund for International Development	186,930	225	7,892	3,395	0	179,262
Central American Bank for Economic Integration	21,014	8,359	1,397	839	0	27,976
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	1,700	17,000	0	0	0	18,700
Belize Blue Investment Company LLC	728,000	0	0	18,746	0	728,000
US\$30.0mn Fixed-Rate Notes	23,067	0	0	0	0	23,067
NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	61,630	0	5,403	1,735	752	56,978
Caribbean Development Bank	36,352	0	3,459	1,028	752	33,645
International Cooperation and Development Fund	25,278	0	1,944	707	0	23,333
FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	197,128	15,560	2,165	1,922	-2,289	208,234
Caribbean Development Bank	61,075	2,310	1,831	1,211	0	61,554
European Investment Bank	1,668	0	334	22	0	1,334
Inter-American Development Bank	15,600	9,750	0	659	0	25,350
International Cooperation and Development Bank	2,100	3,500	0	29	0	5,600
International Monetary Fund	116,685	0	0	0	-2,289	114,396
GRAND TOTAL	2,858,290	121,822	54,068	60,766	-1,944	2,924,100

^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 June 2024 amounted to principal of \$121.5mn and interest of \$24.8mn.