

Quarterly

Economic Review

SEPTEMBER 2024



VOLUME 33 | No. 3

www.centralbankbahamas.com

The Quarterly Economic Review (QER) is a publication of the Central Bank of The Bahamas, prepared by the Research Department, for issue in March, June, September and December. All correspondence pertaining to the QER should be addressed to:

The Manager
Research Department
Central Bank of The Bahamas
P.O. Box N-4868
Nassau, Bahamas

www.centralbankbahams.com

Email address: research@centralbankbahamas.com



Contents

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS	4
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	4
<i>Overview</i>	4
<i>Real Sector</i>	5
Tourism	5
Construction.....	6
Employment.....	6
Prices.....	7
<i>Fiscal Operations</i>	7
Overview	7
Revenue	8
Expenditure.....	9
Financing and the National Debt.....	9
Public Sector Foreign Currency Debt	10
<i>Money, Credit and Interest Rates</i>	11
Overview	11
Liquidity	11
Deposits and Money	12
Domestic Credit	12
Mortgages.....	13
The Central Bank.....	14
Domestic Banks.....	14
Credit Quality	15
Provisions and Capital Adequacy	16
Bank Profitability.....	16
Interest Rates.....	17
<i>Capital Market Developments</i>	18
<i>International Trade and Payments</i>	18
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	20
STATISTICAL APPENDIX (TABLES 1-16)	22

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

OVERVIEW

Preliminary indications are that the domestic economy sustained its growth momentum during the third quarter of 2024, albeit at a slower pace in comparison to 2023, as economic indicators continued to converge closer to their expected medium-term potential. Tourism output record healthy gains, but was more tempered, even though demand for travel in key source markets persisted. In particular, amid capacity constraints, performance in the high value-added air segment performance tapered off, while sea traffic remained buoyant. In addition, several small to medium-scale foreign direct investment-related projects, provided ongoing support to the construction sector. Labour market conditions showed improvement over the second quarter of 2024, reflective of the ongoing strengthening in economic activity. In price developments, inflationary pressures eased during the twelve-months to August, underpinned by tempered costs increases on imported goods and services, owing to a decline global oil prices.

Provisional estimates revealed that during the fourth quarter of FY2023/2024, the Government's fiscal position reversed to a surplus, from a deficit in the comparative quarter of FY2022/23. Contributing to this outcome was a reduction in aggregate expenditure, combined with a value added tax (VAT)-led growth in total revenue. Financing for debt rollovers and financial assets acquisition during the fourth quarter of FY2023/24 was obtained largely from domestic sources, consisting of a mix of long and short-term debt.

During the third quarter, monetary developments were marked by a contraction in bank liquidity, as the expansion in domestic credit outweighed the rise in the deposit base. Similarly, accumulation in the banking system's net foreign assets moderated when compared to the same quarter last year, attributed to the seasonal fluctuations in net foreign currency inflows from real sector activity. Meanwhile, undergirded by the sustained improvement in the domestic economy and ongoing loan write-offs, banks' credit quality indicators improved over the review quarter. In addition, the latest available data for the second quarter showed an increase in banks' overall net income, on account of a rise in other non-interest income and a decrease in bad debt expenses.

In the external sector, the estimated current account deficit widened during the third quarter, explained by an increase in the merchandise trade deficit, along with a reduction in the services account surplus, reflecting the tapering in tourism output. In contrast, the financial account inflows expanded, largely attributed to a switch in portfolio investment transactions, to a net inflow, from a net outflow in the previous year. Meanwhile, similar to the comparative 2023 period, the capital account transfers registered nil transactions during the third quarter.

REAL SECTOR

TOURISM

During the third quarter of 2024, tourism output continued to register healthy gains, although at a more tempered pace vis-à-vis the same period last year, as the demand for travel from key source markets persisted. The growth in total arrivals was led by robust sea traffic. However overall earnings were more weighted by stopover-linked high-valued air traffic, which tapered, given constrained hotel sector capacity.

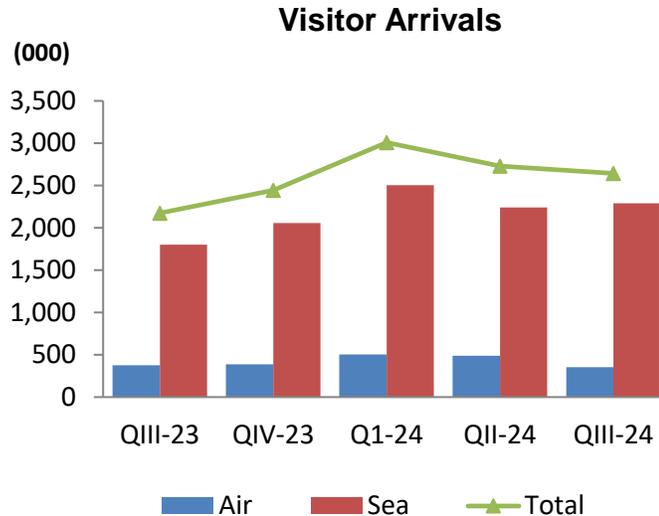
For the three-months to September, information from the Ministry of Tourism revealed that total foreign arrivals grew by 21.6% to 2.6 million,

exceeding the 2.2 million visitors in the same quarter of the previous year. Sea traffic expanded by 27.3% to 2.3 million arrivals, vis-à-vis the comparative period of the year prior. In contrast, the high-value added air-traffic decreased by 5.9% to 0.35 million passengers.

A breakdown by major ports of entry showed that tourist arrivals to New Providence increased by 27.1% to 1.2 million, largely attributed to a 42.3% strengthening in sea traffic, while air passengers fell by 5.8%. Similarly, in the Family Islands, visitor arrivals rose by 21.1% to 1.3 million, as the volume of sea tourist grew by 23.0%, contrasting with an 8.2% reduction in the year prior. Conversely, arrivals to Grand Bahama declined by 10.9% to 0.13 million visitors, as the 12.3% falloff in sea arrivals, overshadowed the 7.7% gain in air arrivals.

A subset of stopover activity, mixed trends were observed in the short-term vacation rental market, as increased bookings contrasted with lower average pricing. According to the most recent data provided by AirDNA, total room nights booked firmed by 8.8% to 11,146, relative to the same quarter in 2023, attributed to gains in entire place listings, by 9.5% to 7,460 and hotel comparable listings, by 7.4% to 3,686, as compared to the corresponding period the previous year. However, by rental category, the average occupancy rate for entire place listings, narrowed by 3.7 percentage points to 29.0%, while the average daily rate (ADR) reduced by 5.1% to \$588.54. Similarly, hotel comparable listings occupancy rate decreased by 2.0 percentage point to 34.0%, while the ADR contracted by 9.2% to \$157.17.

Data provided by the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) revealed that for the third quarter, total departures—net of domestic passengers—held steady at 0.4 million, vis-à-vis the comparable period of the previous year. Reflective of this development, US departures stabilized at 0.4 million, whereas international departures fell by 1.5%.

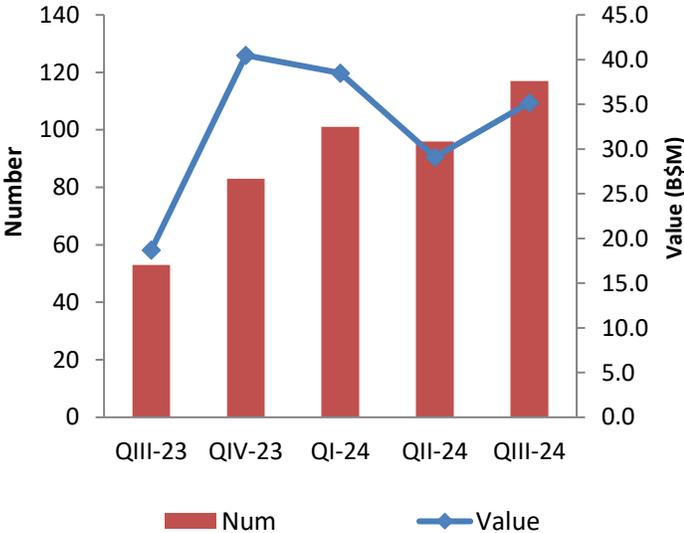


CONSTRUCTION

During the third quarter, construction sector developments were undergirded by ongoing varied-scale foreign investment projects. Further, bank-financed domestic private sector activity strengthened relative to the same quarter in 2023.

As it pertains to the domestic component, total mortgage disbursements for new construction and repairs—as reported by banks, insurance companies and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation—almost doubled to \$43.1 million, relative to last year’s 3.3% uptick. Contributing to this development, residential disbursements grew further by 20.0% (\$4.1 million) to \$24.8 million, exceeding the 6.3% growth in the previous year. Moreover, commercial disbursements expanded \$18.2 million, from just \$1.3 million in the year prior, a reversal from the 29.0% reduction in 2023.

**Mortgage Commitments
(New Construction and Repairs)**



Compared to the same period last year, total mortgage commitments for new buildings and repairs—a forward-looking indicator of domestic activity—expanded by 64 to 117, while the associated value rose by 88.7% to \$35.1 million. Disaggregated by loan category, the number of undisbursed approvals for residential commitments grew by 63 to 113, with a \$13.4 million (99.0%) rise in the corresponding value, to \$27.0 million. Further, the number of approvals for commercial commitments for new construction and repairs firmed to 4 from 3, with the accompanying value higher by \$3.1 million (61.0%) at \$8.2 million, relative to the preceding year.

In terms of interest rates, the average financing costs for residential mortgages edged up by 10 basis points to 6.0%, vis-à-vis the same quarter in the previous year. Meanwhile, the average interest costs for commercial disbursements stood at 6.5%.

EMPLOYMENT

According to quarterly estimates provided by the Bahamas National Statistical Institute, labour market conditions improved, with the All-Bahamas unemployment rate measured at 8.7% in the second quarter of 2024, same as the prior quarter. However, the number of employed persons edged down to 213,210 in the June quarter from 213,585 in the first quarter. Further, the labour force participation rate, indicative of employment headcount, was estimated at 73.4%, slightly lower than the 73.8% recorded in the previous quarter.

Owing to the new methodology being used, direct comparisons with earlier data was not possible. However, a disaggregation by major markets showed that the jobless rate in New Providence—

the most populated island—stood at 8.6%, while Grand Bahama averaged 9.8% in the second quarter.

PRICES

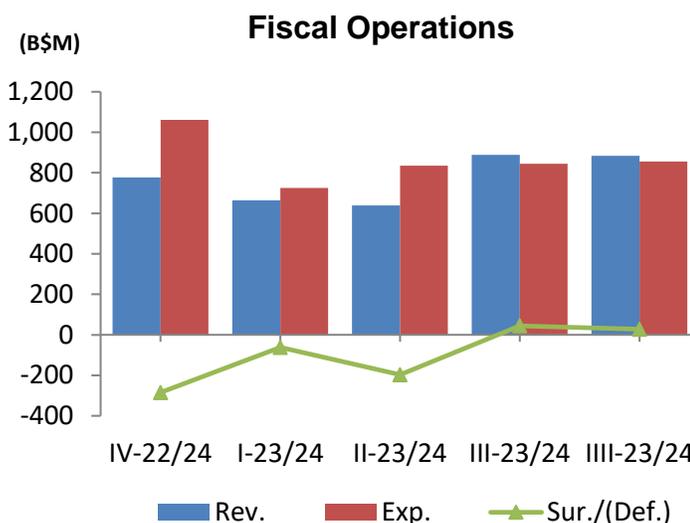
Indications are that domestic consumer price inflation—as measured by changes in the average Retail Price Index for The Bahamas—slowed during the third quarter, attributed to a reduction in price pressures for imported fuel and other goods and services. Specifically, average consumer price inflation moderated to 1.3% during the twelve months to August, from 4.4% in the comparative 2023 period. Reflective of this development, average costs declined for communication by 7.3% and transport by 4.6%, after registering gains of 0.4% and 2.3%, respectively, in the previous year. In addition, average prices fell for clothing & footwear, by 2.4% and recreation & culture, by 2.2%, vis-à-vis respective increases of 2.7% and 14.1% in the year prior. Further, average inflation slowed for health (5.3%), housing, water, gas, electricity & other fuels (2.8%), food & non-alcoholic beverages (2.5%), alcohol beverages, tobacco & narcotics (2.3%), restaurant & hotels (2.2%) and furnishing, household equipment & routine household maintenance (1.5%). Providing some offset, average inflation quickened for, education (4.5%), and miscellaneous goods & services (3.6%).

In line with the decrease in global oil prices, domestic energy costs reduced during the twelve months to July 2024. Specifically, the average price of gasoline fell by 0.5% to \$5.74 per gallon. Similarly, diesel cost moved lower by 8.7%, to \$5.36 per gallon over the twelve months to July. Further, during the third quarter, Bahamas Power and Light’s (BPL) fuel surcharge, average tiered prices for the generation of less than 800kwh fell by 15.4% to 16.8 cents, partially reflecting the new exemption for zero to less than 200kwh usage. However, the cost for the usage of more than 800kwh grew by 4.8% to 20.8 cents vis-à-vis the prior quarter.

FISCAL OPERATIONS

OVERVIEW

Provisional data on the Government’s budgetary operations for the fourth quarter of FY2023/24 revealed that the fiscal position registered an overall surplus of \$27.8 million, a reversal from a \$284.9 million deficit in the comparative FY2022/23 period. Underlying this outturn, was a \$204.9 million (19.3%) reduction in total expenditure to \$856.3 million, combined with a VAT-led \$107.7 million (13.9%) growth in aggregate revenue to \$884.1 million.



REVENUE

Tax receipts—which represented 89.0% of aggregate inflows—rose by \$132.6 million (20.3%) to \$787.0 million. In particular, general taxes increased by \$41.8 million (12.1%), as VAT collections—at 45.7% of tax revenue—grew by \$42.8 million (13.5%) to \$359.4 million, outstripping the incrementally decreased proceeds from stamp taxes on financial and realty transactions of \$1.0 million (3.7%) to \$26.3 million, relative to the preceding year. Further, revenue from excise taxes almost doubled to \$2.1 million from \$1.1 million a year earlier. Meanwhile, collections from specific taxes—largely gaming—declined by \$6.2 million (40.3%) to \$9.2 million.

Government Revenue By Source (Apr-June)				
	FY22/23p		FY23/24p	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Property Tax	34.3	4.4	57.6	6.5
Value Added Tax	316.6	40.8	359.4	40.7
Stamp Taxes (Financial & Realty)	27.3	3.5	26.3	3.0
Excise Tax	1.1	0.1	2.1	0.2
Specific Taxes (Gaming Tax)	15.4	2.0	9.2	1.0
Motor Vehicle Taxes	9.0	1.2	8.1	0.9
Company Taxes	2.6	0.3	4.0	0.5
License to Conduct Specific Bus. Act.	61.5	7.9	93.4	10.6
Marine License Activities	1.1	0.1	2.4	0.3
Customs & Other Import Duties	62.7	8.1	67.9	7.7
Taxes on Exports*	75.7	9.8	69.3	7.8
Departure Taxes	45.4	5.9	85.3	9.7
Other Taxes on Transactions	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0
General Stamp Taxes	1.3	0.2	1.7	0.2
Property Income	25.7	3.3	13.9	1.6
Sales of Goods & Services	55.8	7.2	62.2	7.0
Fines, Penalties & Forfeits	1.7	0.2	1.7	0.2
Reimbursements & Repayments	10.6	1.4	15.4	1.7
Misc. & Unidentified Revenue	28.2	3.6	3.3	0.4
Sales of Other Non-Financial Assets	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.1
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Revenue	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	776.4	100.0	884.1	100.0

* Taxes on exports Includes excise duties, effective FY19/20

With regard to the other tax components, taxes on the use or supply of goods grew by \$33.7 million (45.4%) to \$107.9 million. Contributing to this development, proceeds from business license fees advanced by \$31.9 million (51.9%) to \$93.4 million. In addition, taxes from marine licenses more than doubled to \$2.4 million from \$1.1 million, while company taxes, increased by \$1.3 million (50.7%) to \$4.0 million. In a modest offset, motor vehicle taxes fell by \$1.0 million (10.6%) to \$8.1 million.

In terms of the remaining categories, taxes on international trade expanded by \$38.7 million (21.0%) to \$222.9 million, reflective of the ongoing strengthening in economic activities. Underlying this outturn, departure taxes increased to \$85.3 million from \$45.4 million a year earlier, buoyed by increased visitor volumes. Receipts from customs & other import taxes rose by \$5.2 million (8.2%) to \$67.9 million. Providing some offset, export duties fell by \$6.4 million (8.5%) to \$69.3 million, while other “miscellaneous” tax receipts were almost unchanged at \$0.3 million (4.8%) from \$0.4 million in the preceding year. Meanwhile, collections from property taxes moved higher by \$23.2 million (67.7%) to \$57.6 million, while revenue from general stamp taxes grew by \$0.4 million (30.8%) to \$1.7 million.

Non-tax receipts, at 11.0% of total revenue, reduced by \$24.8 million (20.4%) to \$97.1 million. Underpinning this outturn, property income contracted by \$11.7 million (45.8%) to \$13.9 million, explained by a falloff in interest & dividends and Government property receipts. In addition, income from “miscellaneous” and unidentified revenue declined sharply to \$3.3 million from \$28.2 million the prior year. Providing some offset, revenue from the sale of goods and services rose by \$6.4 million (11.4%) to \$62.2 million, largely due to an increase in collections from immigration and customs fees. Further, receipts from reimbursements & repayments grew by \$4.8 million (45.6%) to \$15.4 million, while receipts from the sale of non-financial assets edged up by

\$0.5 million to \$0.6 million from a year earlier. Proceeds from fines, penalties and forfeitures held steady at \$1.7 million.

EXPENDITURE

The decrease in total expenditure was led by a \$137.8 million (14.9%) reduction in current spending to \$789.9 million. In addition, capital outlays declined by \$67.1 million (50.3%) to \$66.4 million.

An analysis by economic category revealed that the reduction in current outlays was underpinned by decreased spending for the use of goods & services, by \$111.5 million (46.4%) to \$128.9 million. Similarly, subsidies fell by \$34.5 million (25.7%) to \$99.8 million, explained by a falloff in disbursements to public corporations. Further, outlays for various miscellaneous payments reduced by \$22.5 million (22.0%) to \$79.7 million, on account of a decline in other current transfers, by \$29.5 million (43.0%), which overshadowed the \$7.0 million (20.7%) rise in insurance premiums. Grants also edged down by \$0.1 million (12.6%) to \$0.9 million. Providing some offset, disbursements for interest payments on public debt rose by \$22.7 million (12.5%) to \$204.0 million, reflective of a \$17.3 million (14.7%) rise in spending on external debt interest, as well as a \$5.4 million (8.5%) increase in internal debt obligations. In addition, expenses for social benefits grew by \$5.0 million (8.7%) to \$62.2 million. Likewise, employee compensation outlays moved higher by \$3.1 million (1.5%) to \$214.3 million.

The decline in capital expenditure was largely associated with a \$58.9 million (51.4%) reduction in the acquisition of non-financial assets to \$55.8 million, explained by broad-based reductions in all fixed assets categories, other than dwellings. Similarly, capital transfers fell by \$8.3 million (43.6%) to \$10.7 million.

FINANCING AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

Budgetary financing during the fourth quarter of FY2023/24 was obtained largely from domestic sources. Specifically, internal borrowings amounted to \$517.1 million, and consisted of bonds (\$304.9 million), loans and advances (\$212.0 million), and net Treasury bills/notes (\$0.2 million). Further, external borrowings totaled \$4.3 million, and comprised mainly of drawdowns on multilateral facilities. Debt repayment for the period amounted to \$716.7 million, of which the largest portion (86.6%) went toward retiring Bahamian dollar obligations.

As a result of these developments, the Direct Charge on the Government fell by \$200.7 million (1.7%) over the quarter, but rose by \$54.2 million (0.5%), year-on-year, to \$11,313.8 million at end-June 2024. The Government's contingent liabilities reduced by \$4.0 million (1.2%) over the June quarter and by \$50.6 million (13.0%), on an annual basis, to \$339.0 million. This resulted in the National Debt—inclusive of contingent liabilities—falling by \$204.7 million (1.7%) over the three-month period, although rising marginally by \$3.6 million (0.03%) year-on-year, to \$11,652.9 million, as at end-June 2024.

For the year reported outcome for the fiscal quarter ended-September 2024, the Direct Charge on the Government rose by \$342.5 million (3.0%) over the June quarter and by \$442.3 million (3.9%), year-on-year, to \$11,656.3 million. A breakdown by currency for end-September revealed that,

Bahamian dollar debt represented 52.9% of the total, while foreign currency liabilities accounted for the remaining 47.1%.

A further disaggregation by creditor revealed that private (non-financial) and institutional investors held the largest share of local currency debt (41.6%), followed by banks (39.7%), the Central Bank (12.2%) and public corporations (6.5%). An analysis by instrument type showed that, Government bonds constituted the majority of the domestic currency liabilities (71.4%) and featured an average maturity of 9.0 years, down from 9.6 years in 2023. In addition, Treasury bills & notes and loans & advances represented smaller shares of 18.5% and 10.1%, respectively.

The Government’s contingent liabilities reduced by \$3.7 million (1.1%) over the September quarter and by \$23.4 million (6.5%), on an annual basis, to \$335.3 million. Given these developments, the national debt—inclusive of contingent liabilities—rose by \$338.8 million (2.9%) over the three-month period, and by \$418.9 million (3.6%) year-on-year, to \$11,991.6 million, as at end-September 2024.

As a ratio to GDP, the Direct Charge increased by an estimated 30 basis points on a yearly basis, to 79.1% at end-September. Meanwhile, the national debt-to-GDP ratio held steady at an estimated 81.4%, vis-à-vis the same quarter in 2023.

Estimates of the Debt-to-GDP Ratios			
September (%) ¹			
	2022 _p	2023 _p	2024 _p
Direct Charge	84.9	78.8	79.1
National Debt	88.0	81.3	81.4
Total Public Sector Debt*	82.4	76.0	76.8

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas and Bahamas National Statistical Institute

GDP growth estimate for 2024 is partially derived from IMF projections.

¹ *In the absence of actual quarterly GDP data for 2024, the ratios presented should be taken as broad estimates of the relevant debt ratios and are therefore subject to revision.*

**Presented partially net of inter-public sector credit.*

PUBLIC SECTOR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT

During the third quarter, the public sector foreign currency debt rose by \$124.8 million (2.2%) to \$5,850.1 million, and by \$252.0 million (4.5%) relative to the same quarter the year prior. In particular, new drawings of \$216.2 million, outstripped amortization payments of \$128.6 million. A breakdown by components showed that the Government’s outstanding liabilities—accounting for 93.9% of the total—grew by \$132.0 million (2.5%) to \$5,490.8 million on a quarterly basis. Conversely, the public corporations’ debt fell by \$7.2 million (2.0%), to \$359.3 million vis-à-vis the previous quarter.

Total foreign currency debt service payments contracted by \$45.1 million (20.0%) to \$180.1 million, in comparison to the same quarter of 2023. Contributing to this outcome, the Government’s debt service payments declined by \$39.0 million (18.9%) to \$167.2 million, as amortization payments reduced by \$38.6 million (24.1%) to \$121.4 million, while interest charges edged down by \$0.4 million (0.8%) to \$45.8 million. In addition, the public corporations’ debt service payments decreased by \$6.1 million (32.0%) to \$12.9 million, underpinned by a \$2.5 million (30.6%) reduction in interest charges to \$5.7 million, and amortization payments, by \$3.6 million (33.1%) to \$7.2 million. As a result of these developments, the debt service ratio, against exports of goods and services, fell to 12.7% in September, from 15.9% in 2023.

A disaggregation by creditor profile indicated that capital market investors held the largest share of the foreign currency debt (43.8%), followed by financial institutions (27.6%), multilateral institutions (22.6%), Central Bank (4.0%), domestic banks (1.3%) and bilateral agencies (0.7%). A breakdown by currency type showed that the majority of the debt stock was denominated in United States dollars (83.0%), with smaller portions in euro (9.8%), IMF SDRs (5.6%), the Swiss franc (0.9%), and the Chinese yuan (0.7%). At end-September, the average maturity of the outstanding foreign currency debt stood at 7.8 years, slightly lower than the 7.9 years in the comparative 2023 period.

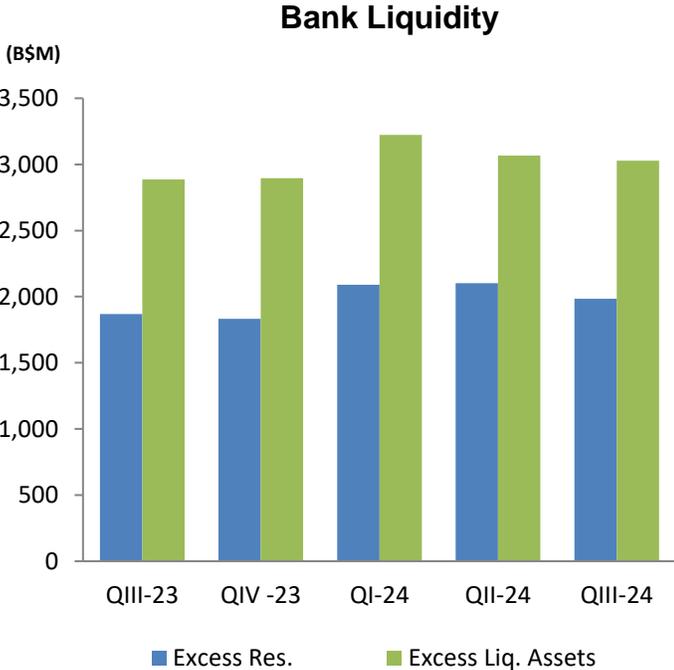
MONEY, CREDIT AND INTEREST RATES

OVERVIEW

Monetary developments featured a reduction in banking sector liquidity during the third quarter of 2024, as expansion in domestic credit outweighed the rise in the deposit base. In addition, the accumulation in the banking system’s net foreign assets moderated when compared to the same quarter last year, attributed to the seasonal fluctuations in net foreign currency inflows from real sector activity. Further, against the backdrop of the continued improvement in economic activity and continued loan write-offs, banks’ credit quality indicators strengthened over the review period. Indicators for the second quarter of 2024—the latest period for which data is available—also showed an increase in banks’ net income, mainly reflecting a rise in other, non-interest income and a reduction in bad debt expenses. Meanwhile, the weighted average interest rate spread widened, as the average lending rate increased, while the mean deposit rate declined.

LIQUIDITY

Net free cash reserves of the banking sector contracted by \$118.6 million (5.6%) to \$1,984.7 million in the third quarter of 2024, surpassing the \$56.5 million (2.9%) falloff in the comparative period of the preceding year. However, the ratio of net free cash reserves to Bahamian dollar deposit liabilities rose to 23.3% at end-September, from 22.5% a year earlier. Further, the reduction in broader surplus liquid assets extended to \$18.3 million (0.6%), from \$4.5 million (0.2%) in the previous year, underpinned by a decrease in banks’ holdings of Government securities. At end-September 2024, surplus liquid assets exceeded the statutory minimum by 200.6%, compared to 194.1% in the same quarter of 2023.



DEPOSITS AND MONEY

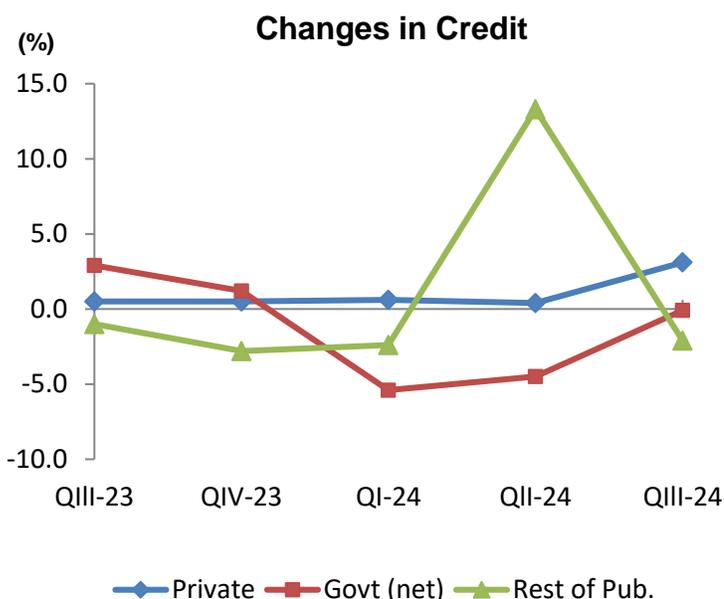
The overall money supply (M3) grew by \$21.9 million (0.2%) during the third quarter, a reversal from a \$169.5 million (1.8%) contraction in the prior year, placing the total stock at \$9,283.0 million. In terms of components, narrow money (M1) rose by \$34.1 million (0.8%), a switch from a \$72.7 million (1.7%) decline last year. Demand deposits expanded by \$31.6 million (0.8%), a shift from a \$70.4 million (1.8%) decrease in the previous year, on account of upticks in both private and public placements. In addition, currency in active circulation increased by \$2.5 million (0.6%), a turnaround from a \$2.3 million (0.5%) downturn a year earlier. Broad money (M2) also grew by \$21.6 million (0.2%), as opposed to an \$84.1 million (1.0%) reduction in the prior year. In particular, savings deposits moved higher by \$8.4 million (0.4%), after a \$1.2 million (0.1%) falloff the year prior. Conversely, the decline in fixed deposits extended to \$20.9 million (1.1%) from \$10.2 million (0.5%). Further, residents' foreign currency deposits edged up by \$0.2 million vis-à-vis an \$85.5 million (14.4%) contraction in the previous year.

An analysis by category indicated that Bahamian dollar demand deposits constituted the largest share of the money stock at 43.0%, followed by savings (25.8%), and fixed (20.8%) balances. Further, residents' foreign currency deposits and currency in active circulation accounted for smaller shares of the total stock at 5.4% and 4.9%, respectively.

DOMESTIC CREDIT

The growth in total domestic credit widened to \$429.5 million (4.6%) during the third quarter, from \$124.0 million (1.3%) in the same period of the previous year. This followed an average quarterly uptick of 0.6% over the preceding five-year period. Specifically, outstanding Bahamian dollar credit—at 92.1% of the total—expanded by \$353.6 million (4.1%), surpassing the \$125.0 million (1.4%) buildup a year earlier. Similarly, foreign currency credit increased by \$75.8 million (10.8%), contrasting with the \$0.9 million (0.1%) decrease last year.

A sectoral breakdown showed that net credit to the Government advanced by \$254.1 million (8.2%), extending the \$96.6 million (2.9%) accretion, in the prior year. This also compared to an average quarterly gain of 1.8% over the past five years. Further, the expansion in private sector credit accelerated to \$182.7 million (3.1%) from \$30.8 million (0.5%) a year earlier. In contrast, credit to the rest of the public sector reduced by \$7.3 million (2.0%), exceeding the \$3.4 million (1.0%) falloff last year.



A disaggregation of the various private sector components revealed that personal loans—which represented the majority of private sector credit at 72.4%—increased by \$87.1 million (1.8%), surpassing the \$20.3 million (0.4%) growth in the previous year, but contrasted with the 0.2% average quarterly decline over the past five years. This reflected broad-based gains across the underlying categories. Specifically, residential mortgages advanced by \$151.1 million (5.9%), outpacing last year’s \$7.1 million (0.3%) increase. Similarly, the accumulation in consumer loans extended to \$33.5 million (1.7%) from \$9.3 million (0.5%) in the previous year; and overdraft gains extended to \$5.1 million (13.0%) from \$3.9 million (13.4%) in 2023.

Distribution of Bank Credit By Sector (End-Sep.)				
	2024		2023	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Agriculture	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.0
Fisheries	2.4	0.0	6.3	0.1
Mining & Quarrying	1.8	0.0	2.2	0.0
Manufacturing	53.4	0.8	45.8	0.7
Distribution	329.0	4.9	336.7	5.1
Tourism	90.6	1.3	54.9	0.8
Enter. & Catering	42.9	0.6	31.9	0.5
Transport	66.6	1.0	65.7	1.0
Construction	333.0	4.9	287.6	4.4
Government	589.2	8.7	696.8	10.6
Public Corps.	135.0	2.0	109.9	1.7
Private Financial	43.5	0.6	45.2	0.7
Prof. & Other Ser.	87.4	1.3	65.6	1.0
Personal	4,876.9	72.4	4,726.1	72.0
Miscellaneous	85.8	1.3	92.6	1.4
TOTAL	6,738.1	100.0	6,568.2	100.0

A breakdown of Bahamian dollar consumer credit indicated that balances increased for “miscellaneous” purposes (\$15.4 million), debt consolidation (\$10.8 million), private cars (\$9.0 million) and credit cards (\$8.1 million). Further, gains of less than \$1.0 million were registered for furnishings & domestic appliances, medical and taxis and rented cars. Conversely, net repayments were recorded for land purchases (\$1.3 million), home improvements (\$0.9 million), travel (\$0.7 million) and education (\$0.3 million). A decrease of less than \$0.1 million was posted for commercial vehicles.

In the remaining private sector categories, claims expanded for tourism (\$34.2 million), construction (\$21.1 million), entertainment & catering (\$14.3 million), distribution (\$11.7 million), manufacturing (\$2.9 million) and professional & ‘other’ services (\$2.0 million). More muted increases of less than \$1.0 million were recorded for fisheries and agriculture. In contrast, net repayments were posted for “miscellaneous” purposes (\$4.8 million), transport (\$0.8 million) and mining and quarrying (\$0.1 million).

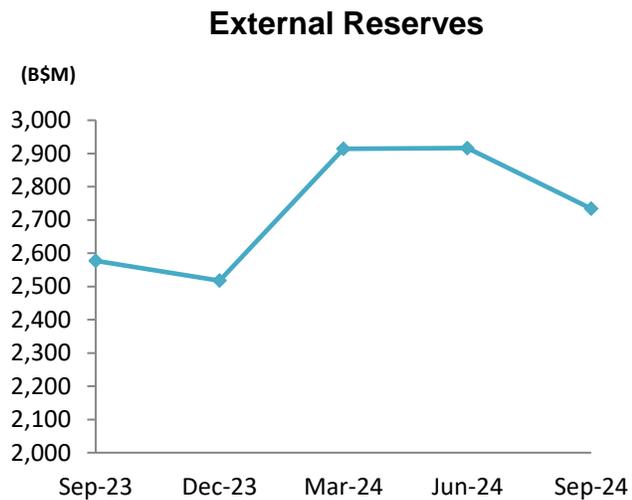
MORTGAGES

Data obtained from domestic banks, insurance companies, and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation showed that the total value of outstanding mortgages rose by \$22.0 million (0.8%) to \$2,899.1 million during the third quarter, a reversal from the \$16.8 million (0.6%) decline in the comparable quarter of 2023. An analysis by component indicated that residential lending—comprising 92.8% of the total—grew by \$5.0 million (0.2%), as opposed to the year earlier \$1.2 million falloff. Similarly, the commercial component increased by \$17.0 million (9.3%), following a \$15.6 million (7.8%) decline in the previous year. The majority of mortgages remained held by domestic banks (86.6%), followed by the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (7.0%), and insurance companies (6.4%).

THE CENTRAL BANK

The Central Bank's net claims on the Government expanded by \$256.8 million (39.8%) during the third quarter, a switch from the \$3.3 million (0.4%) falloff in the same period of 2023, owing mostly to a rise in loans and advances. This outturn is relative to an average quarterly increase of \$25.9 million (8.5%) over the last five years. In addition, the Bank's net liabilities to commercial banks grew by \$31.5 million (1.3%), in contrast to the year earlier \$64.5 million (2.8%) decline, mainly attributed to a buildup in deposits. However, the Bank's net liabilities to the rest of the public sector held steady at \$6.4 million.

Reflective of the seasonal patterns, external reserves declined by \$182.1 million (6.2%) to \$2,734.4 million during the third quarter, exceeding the \$121.0 million (4.5%) reduction in the corresponding period of 2023. In the underlying developments, the Bank's net foreign currency sales rose to \$220.6 million from \$97.8 million a year earlier. Specifically, the net outflows to commercial banks widened to \$162.6 million from \$32.3 million in the preceding year. Further, the net foreign currency sales to public corporations—mainly for fuel purchases—extended to \$131.0 million from \$78.4 million in the year prior. In contrast, the net purchases from the Government advanced to \$73.1 million from \$12.8 million in the previous year.



At end-September, the stock of external reserves stood at an estimated 29.6 weeks of the current year's total merchandise imports (including oil purchases), vis-à-vis 30.6 weeks in the comparable period in 2023. After adjusting for the 50.0% statutory requirement on the Bank's demand liabilities, "useable" reserves contracted by \$124.8 million (9.1%) to \$1,242.9 million, relative to the same period last year.

DOMESTIC BANKS

At end-September, total net foreign liabilities of the domestic banking system rose to \$232.5 million from \$148.9 million in the previous quarter, and \$203.7 million in the same quarter of 2023.

Over the review period, domestic banks' credit grew by \$172.7 million (2.0%), extending the \$127.2 million (1.5%) buildup in the comparable period last year. In particular, the growth in private sector credit accelerated to 3.1% from 0.5% in the year prior. However, net claims on the Government decreased by \$2.6 million (0.1%), a switch from a \$99.9 million (3.9%) accumulation

in the preceding year. Similarly, credit to the rest of the public sector declined by \$7.4 million (2.1%), extending the \$3.5 million (1.1%) falloff in the same period a year earlier.

Banks’ total deposit liabilities—including Government balances—increased by \$19.3 million (0.2%) to \$9,039.8 million. This contrasted with a \$123.1 million (1.4%) reduction in the corresponding period last year. In the underlying developments, total private sector deposits grew by \$8.5 million (0.1%), a reversal from the year-earlier \$144.9 million (1.7%) decline. In addition, public enterprises’ deposits rose by \$12.0 million (6.0%), a turnaround from a \$21.9 million (6.4%) decrease last year. Meanwhile, Government deposit balances edged down by \$1.1 million (0.4%), a switch from the \$5.3 million (2.3%) gain in the previous year.

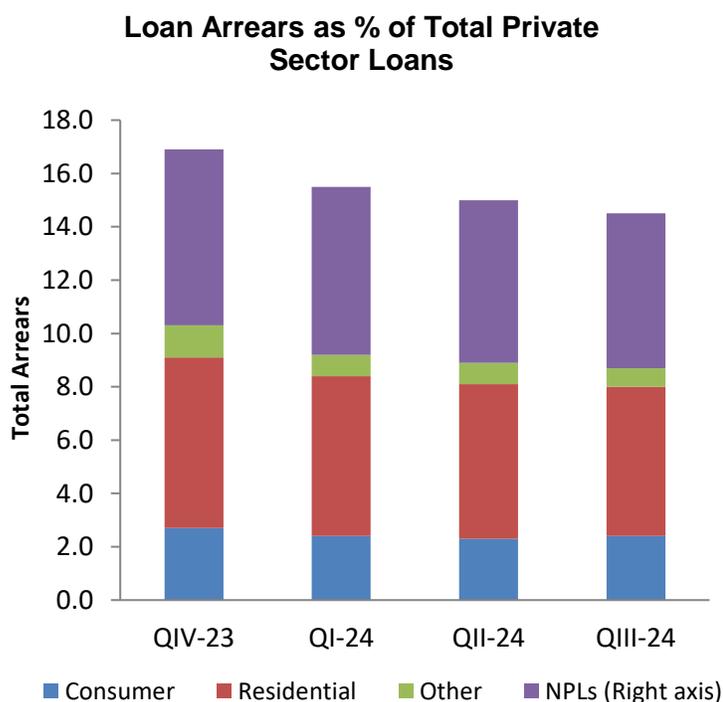
At end-September, the bulk of banks’ deposit liabilities were denominated in Bahamian dollars (94.3%), with US dollars foreign currency deposits representing the majority of the remainder. A breakdown by holder revealed that private individuals held the principal share of total local currency accounts at 50.1%, followed by business firms (34.0%), private financial institutions (6.7%), the public sector (4.4%) and “other” miscellaneous entities (4.0%).

A disaggregation by deposit categories showed that demand balances represented the majority of deposit accounts (48.6%), followed by savings (28.1%), and fixed deposits (23.3%). By range of value and number, Bahamian dollar balances of \$10,000 or less constituted the bulk of accounts (87.4%), but only 5.3% of the total value. Accounts with balances between \$10,000 and \$50,000 comprised 8.2% of the total number of accounts, and 10.4% of the overall value. Meanwhile, accounts with balances of over \$50,000 represented 4.4% of total accounts, and 84.3% of the total value.

CREDIT QUALITY

During the third quarter, banks’ credit quality indicators improved, against the backdrop of strengthened economic activity and ongoing loan write-offs. Total private sector credit loan arrears declined by \$7.7 million (1.6%) during the third quarter, and by \$76.7 million (13.7%) year-on-year, to \$484.1 million. The associated ratio of arrears to total private sector loans fell by 25 basis points over the quarter, and 1.7 percentage points annually, to 8.6%.

An analysis by age of delinquency showed that non-performing loans (NPLs)—arrears in excess of 90 days and on which banks have stopped accruing interest—reduced by \$8.5 million (2.5%) to \$327.2 million, with the relevant arrears to



loans ratio narrowing by 23 basis points to 5.8%. However, short-term arrears (31-90 days) grew by \$0.8 million (0.5%) to \$156.9 million, with the attendant arrears to loan ratio relatively unchanged at 2.8%.

Underpinning the quarterly reduction in total private sector loan arrears, mortgage delinquencies decreased by \$5.2 million (1.6%), while the associated ratio softened by 24 basis points to 12.6% of total corresponding loans. Similarly, commercial arrears fell by \$4.9 million (11.2%), with the relevant ratio declining by 58 basis points to 3.6% of related claims. Providing a slight offset, consumer delinquencies rose by \$2.4 million (1.8%), as the associated ratio edged up by 1 basis point to 6.5% of corresponding sector loans. Meanwhile, the NPL rate for mortgages decreased to 8.3% from 9.0% in the year prior. Further, the rate for consumer loans narrowed to 4.2% from 5.0% and for commercial credits, to 3.3% from 5.1% in 2023.

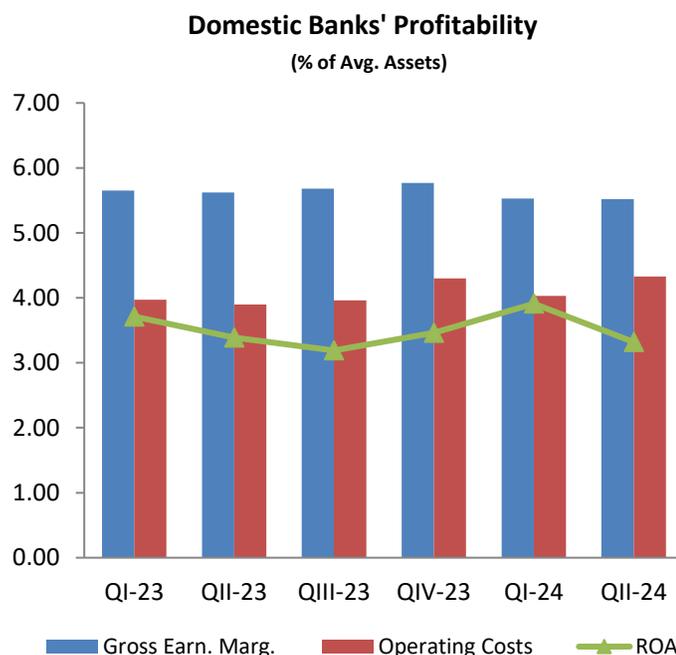
PROVISIONS AND CAPITAL ADEQUACY

Against the backdrop of the improvement in credit quality indicators, banks lowered their provisions for loan losses by \$3.5 million (1.1%) to \$311.6 million over the review quarter. However, the ratio of total provisions to total arrears rose by 29 basis points to 64.4%, while the ratio of total provisions to NPLs increased by 1.4 percentage points to 95.2%. Meanwhile, banks wrote-off approximately \$4.5 million in bad loans, and recovered an estimated \$4.1 million.

Banks maintained robust capital levels during the third quarter, although the ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets decreased by 1.0 percentage point to 31.2%. The ratio remained well in excess of the minimum regulatory prescribed target of 17.0%.

BANK PROFITABILITY

During the second quarter of 2024—the latest period for which data is available—banks’ net income moved higher by \$2.0 million (2.1%) to \$100.9 million, as compared to the same period of 2023, owing mostly to gains in other, non-interest income, and a reduction in bad debt expenses. The net interest margin rose by \$2.8 million (1.9%) to \$150.5 million, underpinned by a \$3.0 million (1.9%) uptick in interest income, which outweighed the \$0.2 million (2.7%) rise in interest expense. Further, interest from commission and foreign exchange fees increased by \$0.8 million (5.1%) to \$17.3 million, contributing to a \$3.6 million (2.2%) growth in the gross earnings margin to \$167.8 million.



As it relates to non-interest expenses, banks' operating outlays grew by \$17.6 million (15.5%) to \$131.6 million. Specifically, non-staff related operating costs—including professional and rental expenses—moved higher by \$15.8 million (22.8%) to \$85.3 million. Similarly, staff costs rose by \$1.8 million (4.3%) to \$43.9 million. However, occupancy costs declined by 0.6% to \$2.4 million. Further, banks' other net earnings on their “non-core” activities increased by \$16.0 million (32.9%) to \$64.7 million, as provisions for bad debt declined to \$0.5 million from \$7.7 million in the corresponding period last year. Meanwhile, other “non-interest” income grew by \$8.8 million (14.2%) to \$70.8 million. In a slight offset, depreciation costs edged up by \$1.0 million (17.9%) to \$6.6 million.

Banks' overall profitability ratio stabilised over the review quarter. As a percentage of average assets, the gross earnings margin stayed at 5.61%, as the interest margin was approximately unchanged at 5.03%, while the commission and foreign exchange income ratio edged up by 1 basis point to 0.58%. However, the net earnings margin fell by 51 basis points to 1.21%, as the operating costs ratio rose by 50 basis points to 4.40%. Meanwhile, owing to increase contribution from other income sources and a decrease in bad debt expenses, the net income ratio was relatively stable at 3.37%.

INTEREST RATES

During the third quarter, the weighted average interest rate spread narrowed by 1.5 percentage points to 11.58%. Underlying this outcome, the weighted average lending rate rose by 1.4 percentage points to 12.15%, while the weighted average deposit rate fell by 4 basis points to 0.57%.

The rise in the average loan rate reflected gains across all major components. Specifically, the lending rate for overdrafts moved higher by 2.3 percentage points to 11.73%, while the rate for commercial mortgages rose by 77 basis points to 7.8%. Similarly, rates for consumer loans, and residential mortgages increased by, 48 and 18 basis points, respectively, to 13.50% and 5.29%.

As it relates to deposits, the average rate on demand balances remained at 0.25%; and on savings deposits, at 0.26%. However, the average range of interest offered on fixed balances shifted upwards to 0.26%-1.72% from 0.28%-1.58%.

In other interest rates developments, the average Treasury bill rate stabilized at 2.93%. Meanwhile, the Central Bank's Discount rate and the commercial banks' Prime rate held steady at 4.00% and 4.25%, respectively.

Banking Sector Interest Rates			
Period Average (%)			
	Qtr. III 2023	Qtr. II 2024	Qtr. III 2024
Deposit Rates			
Demand Deposits	0.50	0.25	0.25
Savings Deposits	0.28	0.26	0.26
Fixed Deposits			
Up to 3 months	0.26	0.28	0.26
Up to 6 months	0.35	0.30	0.30
Up to 12 months	0.57	0.43	0.40
Over 12 months	0.91	1.58	1.72
Weighted Avg. Dep. Rate	0.52	0.61	0.57
Lending Rates			
Residential mortgages	5.23	5.11	5.29
Commercial mortgages	6.17	7.01	7.78
Consumer loans	13.15	13.02	13.50
Other Local Loans	5.36	6.60	9.49
Overdrafts	10.67	9.39	11.73
Weighted Avg. Loan Rate	11.10	10.74	12.15

CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

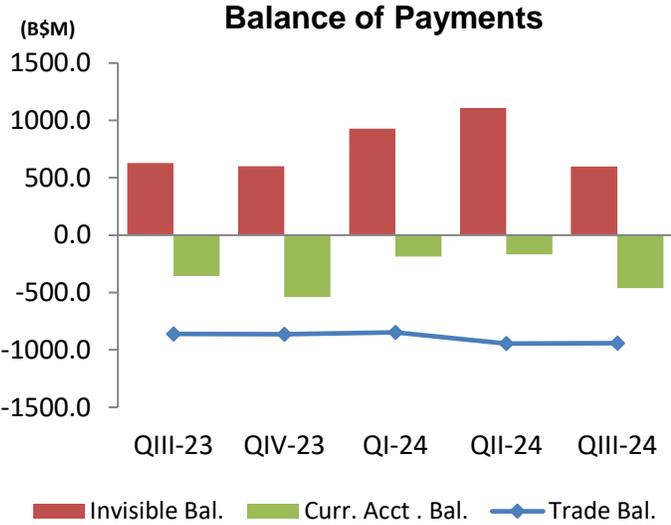
Despite pricing appreciation, capital market developments were subdued over the third quarter. According to data from the Bahamas International Stock Exchange (BISX), the All Shares Price Index increased by 1.4% in the review quarter to 2,986.07, and by 11.1% when compared to the same period of last year. However, the volume of shares traded on the stock exchange contracted to 1.8 million, from 11.0 million in the previous quarter, with the corresponding value of trades decreasing to just \$0.03 million from \$67.0 million at end-June. A year-on-year analysis showed that the total volume of trades rose by 42.7% in the third quarter, while the value of trades fell by 99.9%.

In the Government debt securities market, the Central Bank facilitated offerings—including Treasury bills and Bahamas Registered Stock (BRS)—totaled \$1.1 billion in the third quarter of 2024, with a subscription rate of 97.0%. This was slightly lower than the \$1.2 billion in offerings registered in the previous quarter, which was oversubscribed by 11.0%. A breakdown by instrument showed that there were four Treasury bill offerings during the quarter, with an average absorption rate of 96.0% for the 91-day bills and 122.0% for the 182-day bills, vis-à-vis 112.0% and 90.0%, respectively, in the previous quarter. Meanwhile, there were three BRS offerings, which carried an average absorption rate of 50.0%, a decline of in excess of 60 percentage points when compared to the second quarter.

With regard to market preference, the short-term market continued to be dominated by institutional investors, while individual investors were more prominent in BRS offerings.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS

Preliminary estimates for the third quarter of 2024 showed that the current account deficit expanded to \$459.8 million from \$356.5 million in the corresponding period of 2023. Reflective of this development, the merchandise trade deficit widened, while the services account surplus declined during the review quarter. In contrast, the financial account inflows, excluding reserve assets, increased to \$451.3 million from \$231.2 million the year prior, largely attributed to a reversal in portfolio investment position to a net inflow, vis-à-vis a net outflow in the previous year.



The estimated merchandise trade deficit grew by \$80.0 million (9.3%) to \$939.5 million in the third quarter, on account of a \$98.1 (9.4%) million rise in imports, which outpaced the \$18.1 million (9.7%) growth in exports. However, a breakdown of trade flows indicated that fuel import payments declined by \$11.8 million (4.5%) to \$259.3 million. In terms of the fuel sub-components, the average per barrel prices fell most notably for Bunker-C, by 29.2% to \$105.32 and lubricants and others by 20.2% to \$1,237.59. Further, average per barrel costs declines were noted for motor

gas, by 10.8% to \$155.75; refined kerosene oil (jet fuel), by 8.7% to \$145.23; and gas oil, by 7.1% to \$105.32. In a slight offset, the average per barrel prices increased for aviation gas, by 13.4% to \$352.60 and propane, by 1.0% to \$46.93.

During the third quarter, the estimated surplus on the services account reduced by \$30.8 million (4.9%) to \$598.0 million. Net travel receipts—the largest component of the services account—declined by \$33.1 million (3.1%) to \$1,041.5 million, explained by a tapering in tourism gains. In addition, net outflows for ‘other’ business services increased by \$13.5 million (8.6%) to \$170.0 million, while net payments for transport moved higher by \$6.4 million (6.3%) to \$106.9 million, owing mainly to a rise in maritime related outflows. Further, net payments for the use of intellectual property grew by \$1.7 million (59.1%) to \$4.5 million. Meanwhile, net outflows for telecommunications, computer, and information services, stabilized at \$16.1 million. Providing some offset, net outflows for construction services were nearly halved to \$16.2 million from \$32.2 million, while net payments for insurance services fell by \$4.1 million (5.1%) to \$76.7 million. Likewise, net outflows for Government goods and services decreased by \$3.9 million (6.8%) to \$53.1 million.

The primary income account deficit (against wages and investment income) contracted by \$28.0 million (20.9%) to \$106.2 million. Underpinning this development, net investment income outflows tapered by \$34.6 million (32.9%) to \$70.4 million. Specifically, direct investment—inclusive of dividends by banks—switched to a net inflow of \$16.3 million from a net outflow of \$9.3 million a year earlier, and ‘other’ net investment income outflows—including interest by banks, other companies and the Government—fell by \$4.9 million (7.7%) to \$58.5 million. In a slight reprieve, remittances for employees’ compensation grew by \$6.5 million (22.4%) to \$35.8 million. Similarly, net remittances against portfolio investment outflows, rose by \$2.2 million (5.2%) to \$44.6 million.

Predominantly reflecting net transfers, the secondary income account position shifted to a deficit of \$12.0 million, from a surplus of \$8.5 million in the year prior. Specifically, general Government net inflows reduced by \$15.4 million (33.7%) to \$30.2 million, while ‘other’ net current private transfer outflows rose by \$5.4 million (76.7%) to \$12.4 million. However, net payments for various private financial and non-financials edged down by \$0.2 million (0.7%) to \$29.8 million.

During the third quarter, similar to the preceding year, there were no estimated transfers to the capital account—which comprised financial corporations, non-financial corporations, households and non-financial institutions serving households (NPISHs).

The net financial inflows—representing investments—increased significantly to \$451.3 million during the third quarter, from \$231.2 million in the year prior. Supporting this outturn, the net portfolio investment position reversed to an inflow of \$591.2 million from an outflow of \$147.2 million in the comparative period last year. The outcome was owing primarily to net inflows related mainly to short-term external debt securities of \$628.3 million, following net payments of \$254.4 million a year earlier. This overshadowed the reversal in the equity and investment fund shares transactions to a \$37.2 million net outflow from a \$107.2 million net inflow in the preceding year. Providing some offset, “other investments” transactions switched to a net outflow of \$66.4 million, from last year’s net inflow of \$363.3 million, reflective of a sharp reduction in currency and deposits inflows to \$127.5 million from \$563.3 million in the corresponding 2023 period. In addition, transactions from “other” private sector related accounts receivables/payables shifted to

a net outflow of \$11.9 million from a net inflow of \$14.3 million in the same period last year. In an offset, net outflows from loan transactions fell by \$15.3 million (7.3%) to \$194.3 million, due mainly to net repayments by the Government. Further, explained by valuation changes, allocations for IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) shifted to a net inflow of \$12.3 million from a net outflow of \$4.5 million in the prior year. Meanwhile, net private direct investments registered a net outflow of \$73.5 million, vis-à-vis a net inflow of \$15.1 million in the prior year, largely attributed to a turnaround in equity and investment fund shares to net outflows of \$52.0 million from net receipts of \$11.9 million in the preceding year. Further, debt instrument transactions recorded a net repayment of \$21.5 million, from net inflows of \$3.2 million last year.

As a result of these developments, and after adjusting for net errors and omissions, the deficit in reserve assets, which corresponds to the decrease in the Central Bank's external reserves, expanded to \$182.0 million from \$121.0 million in the third quarter of 2023.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The global economy upheld its growth momentum during the third quarter of 2024, despite remaining heavily influenced by the protracted geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. In this environment, some of the major central banks relaxed their monetary policy stances, while signaling future interest rate cuts, given that inflation expectations continued to moderate, and priorities shifted more toward preserving growth prospects.

Real economic growth moderated across most of the major economies during the third quarter. Specifically, in the United States, the expansion in real GDP slowed to an annualized rate of 2.8%, from 3.0% in the previous quarter, attributed to a tapering in Federal Government spending, consumer spending and exports. Further, China's output eased to 4.6%, slightly lower than the preceding quarter's 4.7% growth. Likewise, in the United Kingdom, real GDP firmed by 0.1%, below the 0.5% growth in the previous quarter, reflective of a decrease in services and construction output. In addition, Japan's real economic output grew at an annualized rate of 0.9%, down from a 2.9% increase in the preceding quarter. In an offset, the euro area's real output rose by 0.4%, extending the 0.2% uptick in the prior quarter.

During the review quarter, labour market conditions improved for almost all of the major economies. Specifically, in the euro area, the unemployment rate narrowed to 6.3% from 6.4% in the prior quarter. Similarly, Japan's jobless rate fell by 10 basis points to 2.4%, relative to the preceding quarter. Further, in the United States, non-farm payroll increased by 254,000, underpinned by job gains in health care, food and drinking places, Government, social assistance and construction; however, the unemployment rate held steady at 4.1% during the review quarter. In addition, China's jobless rate was unchanged at 5.1% in the third quarter. Conversely, in the United Kingdom, the unemployment rate moved higher by 10 basis points to 4.3% vis-à-vis the previous quarter.

Inflationary pressures slowed for almost all of the major economies during the third quarter. In particular, in the United States, the annualized inflation rate decreased to 2.4% in September, from 3.0% in the prior quarter, explained by a reduction in energy costs. The United Kingdom's annual inflation rate also fell to 2.6% in the review quarter, from 2.8% in the second quarter, owing to a falloff in transport prices. Further, the euro area's annualized inflation rate declined to 1.7% from 2.5% in the previous quarter, on account of lower energy costs. In addition, Japan's consumer

prices reduced to 2.5%, from 2.8% in the preceding quarter. In contrast, China's year-on-year inflation rate edged up to 0.4%, from 0.2% in the prior quarter.

In foreign currency market developments, the United States' dollar depreciated against all of the major currencies, attributed to the expected Federal Reserve reduction in interest rates. Specifically, the dollar weakened relative to the Japanese yen by 10.7% to ¥143.63; the Swiss Franc, by 5.9% to CHF0.85; and the British pound, by 5.5% to £0.75. Further, the dollar decreased vis-à-vis the euro, by 3.8% to €0.90; the Chinese Renminbi, by 3.4% CNY7.02; and the Canadian dollar, by 1.1% to CAD\$1.35.

Most major equity markets reported positive movements during the review quarter. In the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DIJA) and the S&P 500 increased by 8.2% and by 5.5%, respectively. Further, broad-based gains were also noted in the European bourses, as Germany's DAX moved higher by 6.0%, France's CAC 40, by 2.1% and the United Kingdom's FTSE 100, by 0.9%. In the Asian markets, China's SE Composite grew by 12.4%. However, Japan's Nikkei reduced by 4.2%.

During the third quarter, attributed to lower global oil prices, average crude oil prices fell by 4.2% to \$78.99 per barrel over the three-month period. In contrast, in the precious metals market, the average price of gold rose by 31.8% to \$2,528.52 per troy ounce, and silver, by 24.8% to \$29.68 per troy ounce during the review quarter.

Movements in the major economies' external balances varied during the third quarter. Specifically, in the United States, the trade deficit widened by \$10.8 billion (4.8%) to \$233.6 billion, relative to the previous quarter, as the 2.6% rise in imports, outstripped the 1.9% growth in exports. Further, Japan's trade deficit advanced to ¥1,637.5 billion from ¥1,474.9 billion in the previous quarter, owing to a 6.9% rise in imports, which outweighed the 4.5% gain in exports. Likewise, the United Kingdom's trade deficit expanded by £1.5 billion to £11.4 billion, explained by a 2.4% contraction in exports, which outpaced the 1.6% falloff in imports. Further, the euro area's trade surplus declined to €12.5 billion, from €48.2 billion in the previous quarter, reflective of 0.8% decrease in exports, along with a 0.4% increase in imports. Conversely, China's trade surplus grew by \$3.3 billion (1.3%) to \$257.4 billion, compared to the prior quarter, as the 1.1% increase in exports negated the uptick in imports of the same magnitude.

As inflation continued to moderate, most major central banks relaxed their monetary policy stances during the third quarter, in an effort to further lower inflation and stimulate economic growth. Specifically, the United States' Federal Reserve reduced its target range for the Federal funds rate to 4.75%-5.00% from 5.25%-5.50% in the second quarter. The Federal Reserve also continued to decrease its holdings of Treasury securities and agency debt, as well as mortgage-backed securities. Similarly, the European Central Bank decreased its key interest rates on main refinancing operations to 3.65% from 4.25%, the marginal lending facility, to 3.90% from 4.50%, and the deposit facility to 3.50% from 3.75%. In addition, the Bank's asset purchase programme (APP) continued to decline, due to the discontinuation of reinvestments of principle payments for maturing securities. Meanwhile, the Bank of England kept its main policy rate at 5.00%, while reducing the Government's bond purchase programme to £558.0 billion. In Asia, the People's Bank of China maintained its reverse repo rate at 1.5%, and conducted reverse repo operations during the third quarter, in an effort to stabilize banking system liquidity levels. The Bank of Japan retained its policy rate at 0.25%.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX (TABLES I-16)

TABLE 1
FINANCIAL SURVEY

Period	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
(B\$ Millions)										
Net foreign assets	2,141.9	2,337.5	2,473.2	2,536.6	2,623.8	2,373.1	2,330.1	2,783.9	2,767.6	2,501.9
Central Bank	2,382.2	2,432.8	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,517.4	2,914.0	2,916.5	2,734.4
Domestic Banks	(240.2)	(95.2)	(137.8)	(131.5)	(73.9)	(203.7)	(187.3)	(130.1)	(148.9)	(232.5)
Net domestic assets	5,722.3	5,889.5	6,516.8	6,484.6	6,628.6	6,710.3	6,780.1	6,584.9	6,493.6	6,781.1
Domestic credit	8,614.4	8,929.0	9,312.5	9,264.4	9,423.9	9,547.9	9,608.6	9,453.5	9,374.5	9,804.0
Public sector	2,848.3	3,248.3	3,557.0	3,515.6	3,624.1	3,717.3	3,749.5	3,557.7	3,454.4	3,701.2
Government (net)	2,524.4	2,933.1	3,209.6	3,170.8	3,285.2	3,381.8	3,423.4	3,239.3	3,093.7	3,347.8
Rest of public sector	323.8	315.2	347.4	344.8	339.0	335.6	326.1	318.3	360.6	353.3
Private sector	5,766.1	5,680.7	5,755.5	5,748.8	5,799.8	5,830.6	5,859.1	5,895.8	5,920.2	6,102.8
Other items (net)	(2,892.2)	(3,039.5)	(2,795.7)	(2,779.8)	(2,795.3)	(2,837.6)	(2,828.5)	(2,868.6)	(2,880.9)	(3,022.9)
Monetary liabilities	7,864.2	8,220.3	8,983.3	9,014.5	9,245.7	9,076.7	9,103.4	9,362.1	9,254.4	9,276.3
Money	3,472.1	3,715.5	4,296.8	4,257.2	4,363.4	4,290.7	4,318.7	4,474.0	4,417.9	4,452.0
Currency	373.0	385.9	422.8	425.7	430.3	428.0	430.9	452.0	455.2	457.8
Demand deposits	3,099.1	3,329.6	3,874.0	3,831.5	3,933.1	3,862.7	3,887.8	4,022.0	3,962.6	3,994.2
Quasi-money	4,392.1	4,504.8	4,686.5	4,757.2	4,882.3	4,785.9	4,784.8	4,888.1	4,836.6	4,824.3
Fixed deposits	2,245.2	2,172.2	2,073.9	2,078.7	2,055.2	2,045.0	2,022.6	1,982.6	1,952.9	1,932.0
Savings deposits	1,788.4	1,885.0	2,089.0	2,172.3	2,234.9	2,233.7	2,261.7	2,367.5	2,385.8	2,394.3
Foreign currency	358.5	447.7	523.6	506.2	592.3	507.3	500.5	538.0	497.9	498.1
(percentage changes)										
Total domestic credit	(3.8)	3.7	4.3	(0.5)	1.7	1.3	0.6	(1.6)	(0.8)	4.6
Public sector	(7.1)	14.0	9.5	(1.2)	3.1	2.6	0.9	(5.1)	(2.9)	7.1
Government (net)	(3.7)	16.2	9.4	(1.2)	3.6	2.9	1.2	(5.4)	(4.5)	8.2
Rest of public sector	(27.2)	(2.7)	10.2	(0.7)	(1.7)	(1.0)	(2.8)	(2.4)	13.3	(2.0)
Private sector	(2.1)	(1.5)	1.3	(0.1)	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.4	3.1
Monetary liabilities	(0.4)	4.5	9.3	(0.9)	2.6	(1.8)	0.3	2.8	(1.1)	0.2
Money	6.9	7.0	15.6	0.7	2.5	(1.7)	0.7	3.6	(1.3)	0.8
Currency	10.8	3.5	9.5	(1.1)	1.1	(0.5)	0.7	4.9	0.7	0.6
Demand deposits	6.4	7.4	16.4	1.5	2.7	(1.8)	0.6	3.5	(1.5)	0.8
Quasi-money	(5.4)	2.6	4.0	(0.1)	2.6	(2.0)	(0.0)	2.2	(1.1)	(0.3)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 2
MONETARY SURVEY

Period	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
(B\$ Millions)										
Net foreign assets	2,520.0	2,680.0	2,869.3	2,919.2	3,028.8	2,783.0	2,746.2	3,033.2	2,992.3	2,754.5
Central Bank	2,382.2	2,432.8	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,517.4	2,914.0	2,916.5	2,734.4
Commercial banks	137.9	247.2	258.3	251.0	331.0	206.3	228.8	119.2	75.9	20.1
Net domestic assets	5,234.5	5,538.7	6,115.2	6,095.4	6,215.9	6,295.2	6,357.3	6,330.6	6,260.7	6,521.5
Domestic credit	8,546.6	8,884.5	9,209.0	9,173.8	9,320.9	9,431.6	9,481.4	9,331.0	9,264.2	9,660.0
Public sector	2,835.1	3,248.2	3,557.0	3,515.5	3,624.0	3,717.2	3,749.4	3,557.6	3,454.3	3,701.0
Government (net)	2,511.2	2,933.1	3,209.6	3,170.7	3,285.1	3,381.7	3,423.3	3,239.3	3,093.7	3,347.7
Rest of public sector	323.8	315.1	347.3	344.8	339.0	335.5	326.1	318.3	360.6	353.3
Private sector	5,711.6	5,636.3	5,652.0	5,658.3	5,696.9	5,714.4	5,732.0	5,773.3	5,809.8	5,959.0
Other items (net)	(3,312.1)	(3,345.8)	(3,093.8)	(3,078.3)	(3,105.0)	(3,136.4)	(3,124.1)	(3,000.3)	(3,003.5)	(3,138.6)
Monetary liabilities	7,754.6	8,212.0	8,977.8	9,007.9	9,238.0	9,071.5	9,096.8	9,357.1	9,246.3	9,269.2
Money	3,377.5	3,707.9	4,291.9	4,251.1	4,356.1	4,286.0	4,312.4	4,469.4	4,410.5	4,445.6
Currency	373.1	386.0	422.8	425.7	430.3	428.0	430.9	452.0	455.2	457.8
Demand deposits	3,004.4	3,321.9	3,869.2	3,825.4	3,925.8	3,858.0	3,881.5	4,017.4	3,955.2	3,987.8
Quasi-money	4,377.1	4,504.1	4,685.9	4,756.8	4,881.9	4,785.5	4,784.3	4,887.7	4,835.8	4,823.7
Savings deposits	1,788.4	1,885.0	2,089.0	2,172.3	2,234.9	2,233.7	2,261.7	2,367.5	2,385.8	2,394.3
Fixed deposits	2,230.8	2,172.2	2,073.9	2,078.7	2,055.2	2,045.0	2,022.6	1,982.6	1,952.9	1,932.0
Foreign currency deposits	357.9	446.9	522.9	505.8	591.8	506.9	500.1	537.6	497.2	497.5
(percentage change)										
Total domestic credit	(4.0)	4.0	3.7	(0.4)	1.6	1.2	0.5	(1.6)	(0.7)	4.3
Public sector	(7.1)	14.6	9.5	(1.2)	3.1	2.6	0.9	(5.1)	(2.9)	7.1
Government (net)	(3.6)	16.8	9.4	(1.2)	3.6	2.9	1.2	(5.4)	(4.5)	8.2
Rest of public sector	(27.2)	(2.7)	10.2	(0.7)	(1.7)	(1.0)	(2.8)	(2.4)	13.3	(2.0)
Private sector	(2.3)	(1.3)	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	2.6
Monetary liabilities	(0.8)	5.9	9.3	0.3	2.6	(1.8)	0.3	2.9	(1.2)	0.2
Money	6.0	9.8	15.8	(1.0)	2.5	(1.6)	0.6	3.6	(1.3)	0.8
Currency	10.7	3.5	9.5	0.7	1.1	(0.5)	0.7	4.9	0.7	0.6
Demand deposits	5.4	10.6	16.5	(1.1)	2.6	(1.7)	0.6	3.5	(1.5)	0.8
Quasi-money	(5.4)	2.9	4.0	1.5	2.6	(2.0)	(0.0)	2.2	(1.1)	(0.3)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 3
CENTRAL BANK BALANCE SHEET

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
Net foreign assets	2,382.2	2,432.8	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,517.4	2,914.0	2,916.5	2,734.4
Balances with banks abroad	307.6	323.8	622.8	715.0	747.8	631.2	610.2	755.2	732.7	444.4
Foreign securities	1,867.6	1,663.1	1,795.2	1,759.7	1,760.1	1,759.9	1,720.1	1,976.5	2,005.0	2,108.1
Reserve position in the Fund	27.8	27.0	25.7	25.2	25.7	25.4	25.9	25.5	25.4	26.2
SDR holdings	179.2	418.9	167.3	168.2	164.2	160.3	161.2	156.7	153.5	155.8
Net domestic assets	(85.4)	192.7	481.0	462.2	443.4	493.2	571.0	459.0	318.4	546.6
Net claims on Government	172.8	457.9	790.6	772.6	805.0	801.7	886.8	755.9	645.0	901.8
Claims	252.5	620.9	882.9	871.4	869.3	876.7	947.8	925.4	878.7	988.4
Treasury bills	13.8	14.0	11.7	1.3	16.8	1.7	45.8	20.0	0.7	0.3
Bahamas registered stock	232.9	340.9	301.7	303.1	294.9	303.0	476.2	479.5	482.7	433.5
Loans and advances	5.8	266.1	569.5	566.9	557.6	572.0	425.8	426.0	395.3	554.6
Deposits	(79.7)	(163.0)	(92.3)	(98.8)	(64.4)	(75.0)	(61.0)	(169.5)	(233.7)	(86.6)
In local currency	(79.7)	(163.0)	(92.3)	(98.8)	(64.4)	(75.0)	(61.0)	(169.5)	(233.7)	(86.6)
In foreign currency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deposits of rest of public sector	(52.1)	(69.4)	(94.9)	(88.0)	(105.2)	(66.9)	(20.7)	(39.3)	(29.2)	(28.1)
Credit to commercial banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Official capital and surplus	(239.4)	(241.0)	(241.5)	(239.0)	(241.8)	(244.1)	(243.0)	(243.3)	(238.7)	(239.0)
Net unclassified assets	26.6	38.1	19.9	9.5	(21.3)	(4.4)	(58.9)	(20.8)	(65.2)	(94.5)
Loans to rest of public sector	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Public Corp Bonds/Securities	4.7	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.9	4.9	4.9
Liabilities To Domestic Banks	(1,744.5)	(1,814.0)	(2,262.4)	(2,293.2)	(2,303.6)	(2,239.1)	(2,246.6)	(2,515.4)	(2,376.6)	(2,408.1)
Notes and coins	(173.3)	(170.9)	(177.8)	(121.2)	(121.2)	(134.0)	(177.8)	(140.2)	(135.7)	(130.2)
Deposits	(1,571.2)	(1,643.1)	(2,084.6)	(2,171.9)	(2,182.4)	(2,105.0)	(2,068.8)	(2,375.2)	(2,240.9)	(2,277.9)
SDR allocation	(179.2)	(418.9)	(400.1)	(404.8)	(400.6)	(396.2)	(404.2)	(398.9)	(396.3)	(408.4)
Currency held by the private sector	(373.0)	(385.9)	(422.8)	(425.7)	(430.3)	(428.0)	(430.9)	(452.0)	(455.2)	(457.8)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 4
DOMESTIC BANKS BALANCE SHEET

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
Net foreign assets	(240.2)	(95.2)	(137.8)	(131.5)	(73.9)	(203.7)	(187.3)	(130.1)	(148.9)	(232.5)
Net claims on Central Bank	1,745.5	1,815.0	2,263.3	2,286.6	2,301.6	2,228.4	2,247.5	2,516.6	2,377.5	2,409.0
Notes and Coins	173.3	170.9	177.8	121.2	121.2	134.0	177.8	140.2	135.7	130.2
Balances	1,572.1	1,644.1	2,085.5	2,165.3	2,180.4	2,094.3	2,069.7	2,376.5	2,241.8	2,278.8
Less Central Bank credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net domestic assets	5,689.0	5,841.0	6,114.6	6,093.2	6,245.9	6,303.9	6,370.2	6,258.6	6,340.7	6,401.2
Net claims on Government	2,351.6	2,475.2	2,419.0	2,398.2	2,480.2	2,580.1	2,536.6	2,483.4	2,448.7	2,446.1
Treasury bills	830.2	939.8	849.1	843.6	860.1	935.3	965.2	1,011.1	939.0	969.4
Other securities	907.5	926.5	1,091.4	1,098.6	1,171.1	1,180.5	1,150.7	1,186.6	1,242.2	1,136.8
Loans and advances	906.5	820.8	710.9	696.3	676.2	696.8	650.1	555.3	517.9	589.2
Less: deposits	292.5	211.9	232.3	240.3	227.2	232.5	229.4	269.6	250.5	249.4
Net claims on rest of public sector	72.2	103.8	114.9	85.2	95.5	75.5	97.8	86.3	153.5	134.2
Securities	226.1	230.6	229.8	229.6	229.3	218.7	214.2	212.8	211.7	211.9
Loans and advances	91.0	77.4	110.6	108.3	102.7	109.9	105.0	99.0	142.5	135.0
Less: deposits	244.9	204.3	225.6	252.6	236.6	253.1	221.5	225.6	200.7	212.7
Other net claims	2.7	(0.7)	(0.0)	(3.5)	0.8	(0.0)	1.1	20.4	1.3	2.2
Credit to the private sector	5,766.1	5,680.7	5,755.5	5,748.8	5,799.8	5,830.6	5,859.1	5,895.8	5,920.2	6,102.8
Securities	21.1	52.9	60.0	60.1	69.2	69.0	68.8	68.9	72.2	88.9
Mortgages	2,886.8	2,838.9	2,956.6	2,934.5	2,935.4	2,926.4	2,933.5	2,947.1	2,953.5	3,016.1
Loans and advances	2,858.2	2,788.9	2,738.9	2,754.1	2,795.2	2,835.1	2,856.7	2,879.8	2,894.5	2,997.8
Private capital and surplus	(2,438.5)	(2,342.1)	(2,218.7)	(2,162.9)	(2,187.8)	(2,185.7)	(2,241.3)	(2,232.0)	(2,231.5)	(2,204.5)
Net unclassified assets	(65.2)	(75.9)	43.9	27.4	57.4	3.5	117.1	4.8	48.6	(79.6)
Liabilities to private sector	7,194.2	7,560.7	8,240.1	8,248.2	8,473.6	8,328.7	8,430.3	8,645.2	8,569.3	8,577.7
Demand deposits	3,199.1	3,509.2	4,057.0	3,971.1	4,131.8	3,999.8	4,088.1	4,222.0	4,158.6	4,181.4
Savings deposits	1,822.3	1,924.2	2,125.6	2,211.2	2,267.9	2,267.8	2,294.4	2,401.6	2,422.6	2,429.5
Fixed deposits	2,172.8	2,127.3	2,057.5	2,065.9	2,073.9	2,061.1	2,047.9	2,021.6	1,988.1	1,966.9

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 5
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTS OF BANKS* IN THE BAHAMAS

(B\$'000s)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2022				2023				2024	
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II
1. Interest Income	573,084	578,588	637,320	136,517	133,923	145,369	162,779	157,648	156,848	160,077	162,747	158,624	159,897
2. Interest Expense	40,060	36,870	37,156	9,368	9,388	9,066	9,048	9,121	9,143	9,377	9,515	9,554	9,388
3. Interest Margin (1-2)	533,024	541,718	600,164	127,149	124,535	136,303	153,731	148,527	147,705	150,700	153,232	149,070	150,509
4. Commission & Forex Income	50,545	58,154	65,290	13,417	15,306	13,785	15,646	15,552	16,492	16,821	16,425	16,178	17,325
5. Gross Earnings Margin (3+4)	583,569	599,872	665,454	140,566	139,841	150,088	169,377	164,079	164,197	167,521	169,657	165,248	167,834
6. Staff Costs	164,500	158,488	161,213	38,919	37,147	41,615	40,807	39,339	42,131	40,815	38,928	41,130	43,930
7. Occupancy Costs	15,191	13,138	11,271	3,024	3,229	2,525	4,360	3,419	2,402	2,380	3,070	2,037	2,387
8. Other Operating Costs	231,605	248,967	300,105	60,932	58,581	60,470	68,984	72,586	69,445	73,675	84,399	77,198	85,290
9. Operating Costs (6+7+8)	411,296	420,593	472,589	102,875	98,957	104,610	114,151	115,344	113,978	116,870	126,397	120,365	131,607
10. Net Earnings Margin (5-9)	172,273	179,279	192,865	37,691	40,884	45,478	55,226	48,735	50,219	50,651	43,260	44,883	36,227
11. Depreciation Costs	20,776	19,815	23,024	5,321	5,835	5,954	2,705	5,006	5,581	6,123	6,314	6,245	6,579
12. Provisions for Bad Debt	92,788	(15,807)	19,608	-17,791	4,779	-20,935	18,140	-3,759	7,693	13,818	1,856	-9,341	-510
13. Other Income	196,008	221,701	252,142	52,932	53,638	55,310	59,821	60,194	61,967	63,254	66,727	68,861	70,783
14. Other Income (Net) (13-11-12)	82,444	217,693	209,510	65,402	43,024	70,291	38,976	58,947	48,693	43,313	58,557	71,957	64,714
15. Net Income (10+14)	254,717	396,972	402,375	103,093	83,908	115,769	94,202	107,682	98,912	93,964	101,817	116,840	100,941
16. Effective Interest Rate Spread (%)	6.89	6.86	7.41	6.48	6.68	7.16	7.12	7.60	7.48	7.36	7.20	7.28	7.32
(Ratios To Average Assets)													
Interest Margin	4.60	4.60	5.12	4.49	4.26	4.64	5.31	5.12	5.06	5.11	5.21	4.99	5.03
Commission & Forex Income	0.44	0.44	0.56	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.54	0.58
Gross Earnings Margin	5.04	5.04	5.68	4.96	4.79	5.11	5.85	5.65	5.62	5.68	5.77	5.53	5.61
Operating Costs	3.55	3.55	4.03	3.63	3.39	3.56	3.95	3.97	3.90	3.96	4.30	4.03	4.40
Net Earnings Margin	1.49	1.49	1.65	1.33	1.40	1.55	1.91	1.68	1.72	1.72	1.47	1.50	1.21
Net Income/Loss	2.20	2.20	3.44	3.64	2.87	3.94	3.26	3.71	3.39	3.19	3.46	3.91	3.37

*Commercial Banks and OLFIs with domestic operations

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 6
MONEY SUPPLY**

End of Period	(B\$ Millions)									
	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
Money Supply (M1)	3,472.1	3,715.5	4,296.8	4,257.2	4,363.4	4,290.7	4,318.7	4,474.0	4,417.9	4,452.0
1) Currency in active circulation	373.0	385.9	422.8	425.7	430.3	428.0	430.9	452.0	455.2	457.8
2) Demand deposits	3,099.1	3,329.6	3,874.0	3,831.5	3,933.1	3,862.7	3,887.8	4,022.0	3,962.6	3,994.2
Central Bank	52.1	69.4	94.9	88.0	105.2	66.9	20.7	39.3	29.2	28.1
Domestic Banks	3,047.0	3,260.1	3,779.1	3,743.6	3,827.9	3,795.8	3,867.1	3,982.7	3,933.4	3,966.1
Factors affecting money (M1)										
1) Net credit to Government	2,524.4	2,933.1	3,209.6	3,170.8	3,285.2	3,381.8	3,423.4	3,239.3	3,093.7	3,347.8
Central Bank	172.8	457.9	790.6	772.6	805.0	801.7	886.8	755.9	645.0	901.8
Domestic banks	2,351.6	2,475.2	2,419.0	2,398.2	2,480.2	2,580.1	2,536.6	2,483.4	2,448.7	2,446.1
2) Other credit	6,090.0	5,995.9	6,102.9	6,093.6	6,138.7	6,166.1	6,185.2	6,214.1	6,280.8	6,456.1
Rest of public sector	323.8	315.2	347.4	344.8	339.0	335.6	326.1	318.3	360.6	353.3
Private sector	5,766.1	5,680.7	5,755.5	5,748.8	5,799.8	5,830.6	5,859.1	5,895.8	5,920.2	6,102.8
3) External reserves	2,382.2	2,432.8	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,517.4	2,914.0	2,916.5	2,734.4
4) Other external liabilities (net)	(240.2)	(95.2)	(137.8)	(131.5)	(73.9)	(203.7)	(187.3)	(130.1)	(148.9)	(232.5)
5) Quasi money	4,392.1	4,504.8	4,686.5	4,757.2	4,882.3	4,785.9	4,784.8	4,888.1	4,836.6	4,824.3
6) Other items (net)	(2,892.2)	(3,039.5)	(2,795.7)	(2,779.8)	(2,795.3)	(2,837.6)	(2,828.5)	(2,868.6)	(2,880.9)	(3,022.9)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 7
CONSUMER INSTALLMENT CREDIT**

(B\$' 000)

End of Period	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
CREDIT OUTSTANDING										
Private cars	129,299	118,391	120,196	127,489	134,801	142,204	153,231	161,112	173,832	182,852
Taxis & rented cars	892	660	932	910	840	1,075	855	818	781	798
Commercial vehicles	1,024	987	872	956	891	859	903	1,047	876	875
Furnishings & domestic appliances	8,911	9,831	12,509	13,387	13,757	13,918	14,714	15,085	15,347	16,002
Travel	63,654	57,203	52,997	51,394	49,561	48,681	48,175	46,167	45,472	44,819
Education	37,150	35,702	31,476	30,504	28,723	28,699	27,626	26,525	25,856	25,598
Medical	11,384	12,038	11,131	11,526	11,353	11,371	11,526	11,658	11,616	11,829
Home Improvements	98,358	100,202	92,212	92,348	92,658	90,743	90,023	86,952	86,027	85,130
Land Purchases	127,176	134,991	127,593	124,780	124,406	125,539	127,073	126,490	130,191	128,916
Consolidation of debt	902,968	857,664	786,721	779,094	767,232	756,164	746,805	753,950	763,953	774,708
Miscellaneous	528,391	489,727	479,450	483,100	499,802	504,498	511,140	512,852	513,997	529,375
Credit Cards	245,397	217,121	221,336	221,883	222,508	229,689	236,395	237,295	238,720	246,792
TOTAL	2,154,604	2,034,517	1,937,425	1,937,371	1,946,532	1,953,440	1,968,466	1,979,951	2,006,668	2,047,694
NET CREDIT EXTENDED										
Private cars	(6,487)	(10,908)	1,805	7,293	7,312	7,403	11,027	7,881	12,720	9,020
Taxis & rented cars	(136)	(232)	272	(22)	(70)	235	(220)	(37)	(37)	17
Commercial vehicles	(132)	(37)	(115)	84	(65)	(32)	44	144	(171)	(1)
Furnishings & domestic appliances	(335)	920	2,678	878	370	161	796	371	262	655
Travel	(1,383)	(6,451)	(4,206)	(1,603)	(1,833)	(880)	(506)	(2,008)	(695)	(653)
Education	(2,826)	(1,448)	(4,226)	(972)	(1,781)	(24)	(1,073)	(1,101)	(669)	(258)
Medical	(489)	654	(907)	395	(173)	18	155	132	(42)	213
Home Improvements	(2,897)	1,844	(7,990)	136	310	(1,915)	(720)	(3,071)	(925)	(897)
Land Purchases	(4,224)	7,815	(7,398)	(2,813)	(374)	1,133	1,534	(583)	3,701	(1,275)
Consolidation of debt	(5,454)	(45,304)	(70,943)	(7,627)	(11,862)	(11,068)	(9,359)	7,145	10,003	10,755
Miscellaneous	(1,781)	(38,664)	(10,277)	3,650	16,702	4,696	6,642	1,712	1,145	15,378
Credit Cards	(27,602)	(28,276)	4,215	547	625	7,181	6,706	900	1,425	8,072
TOTAL	(53,746)	(120,087)	(97,092)	(54)	9,161	6,908	15,026	11,485	26,717	41,026

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

* Includes both demand and add-on loans

**TABLE 8
SELECTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATES**

Period	(%)									
	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III
DOMESTIC BANKS										
Deposit rates										
Demand deposits	0.59	0.66	0.44	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Savings deposits	0.44	0.40	0.40	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26
Fixed deposits										
Up to 3 months	0.28	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.28	0.26
Up to 6 months	0.41	0.36	0.36	0.33	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.29	0.30	0.30
Up to 12 months	0.66	0.74	0.50	0.55	0.54	0.57	0.49	0.48	0.43	0.40
Over 12 months	0.86	1.21	1.00	1.25	1.06	0.91	0.96	0.92	1.58	1.72
Weighted average rate	0.45	0.52	0.50	0.63	0.49	0.52	0.51	0.47	0.61	0.57
Lending rates										
Residential mortgages	5.26	5.14	5.23	5.14	5.19	5.23	5.14	5.17	5.11	5.29
Commercial mortgages	6.96	5.99	6.76	6.38	6.32	6.17	6.67	6.61	7.01	7.78
Consumer loans	12.52	12.34	12.96	12.69	12.78	13.15	12.98	12.69	13.02	13.50
Overdrafts	9.84	10.21	10.95	10.77	10.60	10.67	10.47	10.32	9.39	11.73
Weighted average rate	10.39	10.02	11.01	10.88	11.08	11.10	11.02	10.59	10.74	12.15
Other rates										
Prime rate*	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Avg. Treasury bill	1.78	2.51	2.88	2.89	2.91	2.91	2.91	2.86	2.93	2.93
Avg. Treasury bill re-discount rate	2.26	3.14	3.38	3.39	3.41	3.41	3.41	3.36	3.43	3.43
Bank rate (discount rate)*	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

*Reflects end of period rates.

TABLE 9
SELECTED CREDIT QUALITY INDICATORS OF DOMESTIC BANKS

Period	(%)									
	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III
Loan Portfolio										
Current Loans (as a % of total private sector loans)	86.2	85.8	88.6	89.1	89.3	89.7	89.7	90.7	91.1	91.4
Arrears (% by loan type)										
Consumer	4.1	5.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.4
Mortgage	8.7	7.9	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.0	5.8	5.6
Commercial	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.7
Total Arrears	13.8	14.2	11.4	10.9	10.7	10.3	10.3	9.3	8.9	8.6
Total B\$ Loan Portfolio	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Loan Portfolio										
Current Loans (as a % of total private sector loans)	86.2	85.8	88.6	89.1	89.3	89.7	89.7	90.7	91.1	91.4
Arrears (% by days outstanding)										
30 - 60 days	2.9	2.7	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.3	1.8	1.7	1.7
61 - 90 days	2.4	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1
90 - 179 days	1.9	2.8	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8
over 180 days	6.6	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.3	5.1
Total Arrears	13.8	14.2	11.4	10.9	10.7	10.3	10.3	9.3	8.9	8.6
Total B\$ Loan Portfolio	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Non Accrual Loans (% by loan type)										
Consumer	30.7	38.7	27.3	28.1	27.5	26.3	26.5	26.7	25.4	26.0
Mortgage	60.7	52.1	61.7	61.2	60.1	60.2	60.9	62.1	63.1	63.3
Other Private	8.6	9.2	11.0	10.7	12.4	13.5	12.7	11.2	11.5	10.7
Total Non Accrual Loans	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Provisions to Loan Portfolio										
Consumer	10.5	10.7	7.9	6.8	6.6	6.5	3.3	5.5	5.6	5.5
Mortgage	10.0	9.2	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.4	3.4	5.9	7.2	7.1
Other Private	10.5	6.8	3.8	3.7	3.3	2.2	1.3	2.9	2.0	1.8
Total Provisions to Total Private Sector Loans	10.3	9.4	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.6
Total Provisions to Non-performing Loans	121.2	97.1	93.2	91.3	89.4	90.4	91.3	92.8	93.9	95.2
Total Non-performing Loans to Total Private Sector Loans	8.5	9.6	7.7	7.5	7.4	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.1	5.8

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

TABLE 10
SUMMARY OF BANK LIQUIDITY

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2020	2021	2022	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
I. Statutory Reserves										
Required reserves	371.3	372.8	411.8	403.1	407.8	412.6	405.2	414.4	423.0	427.2
Average Till Cash	146.4	149.5	160.5	128.3	127.5	141.5	163.5	139.6	136.0	132.9
Average balance with central bank	1,579.0	1,683.1	2,179.8	2,200.6	2,205.7	2,139.9	2,074.3	2,364.8	2,389.9	2,279.0
Free cash reserves (period ended)	1,354.2	1,387.9	1,928.4	1,925.7	1,925.3	1,868.8	1,832.6	2,090.0	2,103.4	1,984.7
II. Liquid Assets (period)										
A. Minimum Required Liquid Assets	1,301.1	1,344.3	1,458.3	1,466.3	1,481.2	1,486.6	1,493.2	1,534.0	1,516.3	1,509.6
B. Net Eligible Liquid Assets	3,531.6	3,722.9	4,244.3	4,264.4	4,371.8	4,372.7	4,388.2	4,757.8	4,582.6	4,538.4
i) Balance with Central Bank	1,572.1	1,644.1	2,085.5	2,165.3	2,180.4	2,094.3	2,069.7	2,376.5	2,241.8	2,278.8
ii) Notes and Coins	173.8	171.4	178.3	121.7	121.7	134.5	178.3	140.7	136.2	130.7
iii) Treasury Bills	830.2	939.8	849.1	843.5	860.1	935.3	965.2	1,018.9	958.2	969.4
iv) Government registered stocks	907.5	926.5	1,091.4	1,098.6	1,171.1	1,180.5	1,150.7	1,178.8	1,223.1	1,136.8
v) Specified assets	49.6	40.5	40.3	39.2	38.7	28.0	23.5	22.8	22.3	22.4
vi) Net Inter-bank dem/call deposits	(1.5)	0.8	(0.3)	(3.9)	(0.2)	(0.0)	0.9	20.2	1.0	0.3
vii) Less: borrowings from central bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Surplus/(Deficit)	2,230.5	2,378.6	2,786.0	2,798.1	2,890.6	2,886.1	2,894.9	3,223.9	3,066.3	3,028.9

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

TABLE 11
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND FINANCING

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2020/21p	2021/22p	2022/23p	Budget		2022/23p		2023/24p			
				2023/24	2024/25	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
Total revenue & grants	1,908.8	2,605.7	2,855.4	2,804.3	3,319.0	820.7	776.4	663.5	638.6	889.4	884.1
Current expenditure	2,872.5	3,043.6	3,062.5	2,997.2	3,085.5	716.5	927.7	660.4	766.3	744.1	789.9
Capital expenditure	371.1	283.8	327.5	371.1	364.6	76.1	133.6	64.7	69.4	101.0	66.4
Overall balance	(1,334.8)	(721.7)	(534.6)	(564.0)	(131.1)	28.1	(284.9)	(61.5)	(197.2)	44.3	27.8
FINANCING (I+II-III+IV+V)	1,334.8	721.7	534.6	564.0	131.1	(28.1)	284.9	61.5	197.2	(44.3)	(27.8)
I. Foreign currency borrowing (+)	1,972.3	1,020.7	683.4	124.8	85.9	117.1	260.8	--	496.4	550.0	4.3
External	1,841.9	953.9	451.2	124.8	85.9	117.1	260.8	--	261.8	550.0	4.3
Domestic	130.4	66.8	232.3	--	--	--	--	--	234.6	--	--
II. Bahamian dollar borrowing (+)	1,103.5	2,016.2	2,301.7	1,716.0	2,112.8	611.3	573.9	617.8	833.4	608.7	517.1
i) Treasury bills	49.1	308.8	114.3	--	--	32.4	9.8	145.3	98.1	42.8	0.2
ii) Long-term securities	559.5	712.4	822.9	--	--	128.8	231.6	120.9	397.7	243.9	304.9
iii) Loans and advances	494.9	995.0	1,364.5	--	--	450.0	332.5	351.5	337.5	322.0	212.0
III. Debt repayment(-)	1,357.8	2,145.0	2,533.2	1,276.7	2,067.6	673.7	673.6	651.5	1,139.1	1,058.5	716.7
Domestic	956.8	1,854.4	2,074.8	790.7	1,195.0	548.8	573.9	495.0	1,049.7	641.9	628.4
Bahamian dollars	956.8	1,715.6	2,052.3	782.4	937.1	545.3	566.2	491.5	807.5	638.4	620.7
Foreign currency	-	138.8	22.4	8.3	257.9	3.5	7.7	3.5	242.2	3.5	7.7
External	401.0	290.7	458.5	486.0	872.6	124.9	99.6	156.5	89.4	416.6	88.3
IV. Net acquisition financial assets (-)	(31.7)	(140.5)	(226.5)	(46.5)	(59.8)	(90.0)	(86.5)	(4.4)	(113.3)	(128.3)	(41.4)
V. Cash balance change & other financing	(351.6)	(29.7)	309.1	46.5	59.8	7.3	210.2	99.7	119.9	(16.2)	209.0

Source: Treasury Monthly Reports. Data compiled according to the International Monetary Fund's Government Finance Statistics format.

**TABLE 12
NATIONAL DEBT**

(BS '000s)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	4,344,312	4,843,469	5,029,777	4,846,426	5,004,837	4,839,164	5,029,777	5,153,104	5,065,189	5,193,516
By Instrument										
Government Securities	2,475,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,560,000	2,560,000	2,560,000
Loans	1,869,312	1,983,469	2,169,777	1,986,426	2,144,837	1,979,164	2,169,777	2,593,104	2,505,189	2,633,516
By Holder										
Commercial Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	1,121,304	1,124,313	1,324,067	1,133,607	1,383,577	1,345,762	1,324,067	1,336,361	1,300,962	1,268,604
Bilateral Institutions	66,099	54,742	47,205	51,850	49,133	45,924	47,205	43,464	43,195	41,698
Private Capital Markets	2,475,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,560,000	2,560,000	2,560,000
Other Financial Institutions	681,909	804,414	798,506	800,969	712,127	587,478	798,506	1,213,279	1,161,033	1,323,214
TOTAL INTERNAL DEBT	5,973,060	6,192,477	6,397,703	6,257,413	6,254,741	6,374,837	6,397,703	6,361,416	6,248,585	6,462,803
By Instrument										
Foreign Currency	176,273	329,934	309,408	328,928	318,590	312,430	309,408	302,813	293,611	297,269
Government Securities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	176,273	329,934	309,408	328,928	318,590	312,430	309,408	302,813	293,611	297,269
Bahamian Dollars	5,796,787	5,862,543	6,088,295	5,928,485	5,936,151	6,062,407	6,088,295	6,058,603	5,954,974	6,165,534
Advances	265,000	335,000	192,046	332,500	323,146	337,546	192,046	192,046	162,046	321,046
Treasury Bills	1,121,980	1,005,480	1,200,266	996,057	1,005,879	1,130,226	1,200,266	1,212,715	1,137,499	1,141,769
Government Securities	3,924,682	4,169,631	4,399,684	4,198,567	4,238,503	4,260,838	4,399,684	4,387,638	4,421,994	4,399,141
Loans	485,125	352,432	296,299	401,361	368,623	333,797	296,299	266,204	233,435	303,578
By Holder										
Foreign Currency	176,273	329,934	309,409	328,928	318,590	312,430	309,409	302,813	293,610	297,269
Commercial Banks	176,273	97,273	74,855	93,752	86,064	82,543	74,855	71,340	63,659	60,145
Other Local Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Bank	-	232,661	234,554	235,176	232,526	229,887	234,554	231,473	229,951	237,124
Bahamian Dollars	5,796,787	5,862,543	6,088,295	5,928,485	5,936,150	6,062,405	6,088,295	6,058,603	5,954,974	6,165,534
Central Bank	617,057	646,161	708,377	635,160	615,103	640,021	708,377	686,869	639,268	750,677
Commercial Banks	2,336,603	2,283,278	2,393,510	2,336,593	2,394,635	2,427,336	2,393,510	2,363,323	2,385,247	2,449,670
Other Local Financial Institutions	1,085	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	518,866	507,942	505,522	513,603	469,056	498,395	505,522	449,558	411,744	403,473
Other	2,323,176	2,425,162	2,480,886	2,443,129	2,457,356	2,496,653	2,480,886	2,558,853	2,518,715	2,561,714
TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT	4,520,585	5,173,403	5,339,186	5,175,354	5,323,427	5,151,594	5,339,186	5,455,917	5,358,799	5,490,785
TOTAL DIRECT CHARGE	10,317,372	11,035,946	11,427,480	11,103,839	11,259,578	11,214,001	11,427,480	11,514,520	11,313,774	11,656,319
TOTAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	399,116	390,203	351,242	390,618	389,648	358,718	351,242	343,032	339,035	335,313
TOTAL NATIONAL DEBT	10,716,488	11,426,149	11,778,722	11,494,457	11,649,226	11,572,719	11,778,722	11,857,552	11,652,809	11,991,632

Source: Treasury Accounts & Treasury Statistical Summary Printouts

Public Corporation Reports

Creditor Statements, Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 13
PUBLIC SECTOR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT OPERATIONS**

Period	(BS '000s)									
	2021	2022	2023*	2023				2024		
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.*	Mar.**	Jun.	Sept.
Outstanding Debt at Beginning of Period	4,784,042	5,032,833	5,652,483	5,652,483	5,644,933	5,780,676	5,598,083	5,773,119	5,879,091	5,725,276
Government	4,211,800	4,520,585	5,173,402	5,173,402	5,175,354	5,323,428	5,151,593	5,339,185	5,455,917	5,358,800
Public Corporations	572,242	512,248	479,081	479,081	469,579	457,248	446,490	433,934	423,174	366,476
Plus: New Drawings	409,730	1,306,322	878,160	117,116	264,643	47	496,354	550,037	4,266	216,205
Government	406,201	1,302,519	878,160	117,116	264,643	47	496,354	550,037	4,266	216,205
Public corporations	3,529	3,803	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Less: Amortization	154,364	664,487	776,420	137,944	123,511	170,788	344,177	430,834	152,690	128,598
Government	90,841	627,516	731,273	128,442	111,180	160,030	331,621	420,075	95,992	121,398
Public corporations	63,523	36,971	45,147	9,502	12,331	10,758	12,556	10,759	56,698	7,200
Other Changes in Debt Stock	(6,575)	(22,186)	18,896	13,278	(5,389)	(11,851)	22,858	(13,230)	(5,391)	37,178
Government	(6,575)	(22,186)	18,896	13,278	(5,389)	(11,851)	22,858	(13,230)	(5,391)	37,178
Public corporations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding Debt at End of Period	5,032,833	5,652,482	5,773,119	5,644,933	5,780,676	5,598,083	5,773,119	5,879,091	5,725,276	5,850,061
Government	4,520,585	5,173,402	5,339,185	5,175,354	5,323,428	5,151,593	5,339,185	5,455,917	5,358,800	5,490,785
Public corporations	512,248	479,080	433,934	469,579	457,248	446,490	433,934	423,174	366,476	359,276
Interest Charges	271,496	374,941	370,937	51,876	129,567	54,383	135,111	46,154	144,370	51,501
Government	237,267	341,180	336,165	43,373	120,627	46,175	125,990	38,468	136,876	45,808
Public corporations	34,229	33,761	34,772	8,503	8,940	8,208	9,121	7,686	7,494	5,693
Debt Service	425,860	1,039,428	1,147,357	189,820	253,078	225,171	479,288	476,988	297,060	180,099
Government	328,108	968,696	1,067,438	171,815	231,807	206,205	457,611	458,543	232,868	167,206
Public corporations	97,752	70,732	79,919	18,005	21,271	18,966	21,677	18,445	64,192	12,893
Debt Service ratio	12.8	19.2	15.2	12.7	14.9	15.9	17.5	28.7	15.1	12.7
Government debt Service/ Government revenue (%)	13.9	35.5	28.7	20.9	29.8	31.1	34.9	51.6	26.3	n.a.
MEMORANDUM										
Holder distribution (BS Mil):										
Commercial Banks	279.1	188.5	147.6	180.9	168.4	160.1	147.6	139.3	84.7	79.6
The Central Bank	-	232.7	234.6	235.2	232.5	229.9	234.6	231.5	230.0	237.1
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	1,184.1	1,182.5	1,377.6	1,191.5	1,439.4	1,401.4	1,377.6	1,389.7	1,352.2	1,319.8
Bilateral Institutions	66.1	54.7	47.2	51.9	49.1	45.9	47.2	43.5	43.2	41.7
Other	1,028.6	1,134.1	1,106.1	1,125.5	1,031.2	900.8	1,106.1	1,515.2	1,455.3	1,611.7
Private Capital Markets	2,475.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,560.0	2,560.0	2,560.0

Source: Treasury Accounts, Treasury Statistical Printouts and Quarterly Reports from Public Corporations, Central Bank of The Bahamas

*The Debt Service and Government Debt Service/Revenue ratios for Q4 2023 are presented net of a SDR174.8 million (approximately US\$234.6 million) refinancing in Government's internal foreign currency debt.

**Debt servicing during the Q1 2024 includes the repayment of a \$300 million Government external bond. Net of this transaction, the Debt Service Ratio was 10.6 and the Government Debt Service/Revenue ratio was 17.8.

TABLE 14
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY*

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2023				2024		
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III
A. Current Account Balance (I+II+III+IV)	(2,434.0)	(1,232.6)	(1,073.5)	(81.8)	(97.5)	(356.5)	(537.8)	(187.6)	(166.6)	(459.8)
I. Goods (Net)	(2,625.6)	(3,064.8)	(3,212.6)	(771.1)	(718.7)	(859.5)	(863.2)	(847.3)	(944.8)	(939.5)
Exports	638.6	814.4	862.2	190.1	305.4	186.6	180.0	139.6	285.3	204.7
Imports	3,264.2	3,879.2	4,074.8	961.2	1,024.2	1,046.2	1,043.2	986.9	1,230.0	1,144.3
II. Services (Net)	1,008.3	2,647.6	2,945.9	842.9	872.3	628.8	601.9	929.4	1,107.0	598.0
Transportation	(275.9)	(329.8)	(423.8)	(120.4)	(95.1)	(100.6)	(107.8)	(122.1)	(105.7)	(106.9)
Travel	2,173.1	4,052.2	4,541.2	1,158.2	1,242.2	1,074.6	1,066.3	1,374.2	1,529.9	1,041.5
Construction	(103.5)	(116.8)	(102.7)	(20.6)	(17.1)	(32.2)	(32.7)	(18.9)	(17.3)	(16.2)
Insurance services	(276.5)	(270.3)	(269.8)	(47.4)	(64.1)	(80.8)	(77.5)	(52.0)	(61.8)	(76.7)
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	(7.5)	(14.8)	(11.7)	(2.8)	(2.9)	(2.8)	(3.2)	(4.3)	(4.1)	(4.5)
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	(52.0)	(54.0)	(71.8)	(14.7)	(14.3)	(16.0)	(26.7)	(21.0)	(22.8)	(16.1)
Other business services	(372.8)	(424.2)	(549.5)	(85.7)	(146.8)	(156.5)	(160.6)	(157.4)	(185.8)	(170.0)
Government goods and services n.i.e.	(76.7)	(194.7)	(166.0)	(23.6)	(29.6)	(57.0)	(55.9)	(69.2)	(25.4)	(53.1)
III. Primary Income (Net)	(734.2)	(883.2)	(859.2)	(186.8)	(267.5)	(134.2)	(270.6)	(252.0)	(296.3)	(106.2)
Compensation of employees	(91.5)	(86.0)	(113.8)	(25.7)	(25.9)	(29.3)	(32.9)	(29.2)	(28.3)	(35.8)
Investment income	(642.7)	(797.2)	(745.4)	(161.2)	(241.5)	(105.0)	(237.7)	(222.8)	(268.1)	(70.4)
IV. Secondary Income (Net)	(82.4)	67.8	52.3	33.3	16.4	8.5	(5.9)	(17.7)	(32.5)	(12.0)
General government	31.5	132.7	189.1	54.2	46.1	45.6	43.3	16.6	7.6	30.2
Financial corporations, nonfinancial corporations, households, and NPISHs	(101.6)	(72.6)	(119.2)	(17.6)	(28.9)	(30.0)	(42.7)	(32.1)	(33.0)	(29.8)
<i>of which: Workers remittances</i>	<i>(111.6)</i>	<i>(95.7)</i>	<i>(105.1)</i>	<i>(24.1)</i>	<i>(24.9)</i>	<i>(26.1)</i>	<i>(30.0)</i>	<i>(22.5)</i>	<i>(26.8)</i>	<i>(23.1)</i>
Other current transfers	(12.3)	7.7	(17.6)	(3.3)	(0.8)	(7.0)	(6.5)	(2.2)	(7.0)	(12.4)
B. Capital Account	53.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital transfers	53.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C. Financial Account (excluding Reserve Assets)	(1,493.8)	(1,401.5)	(1,151.9)	(317.9)	(372.5)	(231.2)	(230.2)	(300.5)	(122.0)	(451.3)
Direct Investment	(298.4)	(316.4)	(97.1)	(1.2)	(69.4)	(15.1)	(11.4)	(120.9)	5.3	73.5
Portfolio Investment	447.1	(99.8)	330.2	(170.0)	155.1	147.2	197.8	1,022.4	(445.3)	(591.2)
Other Investments	(1,642.5)	(985.2)	(1,385.0)	(146.8)	(458.2)	(363.3)	(416.6)	(1,201.9)	318.0	66.4
Currency and deposits	(624.0)	(595.3)	(1,136.3)	(97.7)	(232.8)	(563.3)	(242.5)	(1,240.6)	269.0	(127.5)
Loans	(762.8)	(358.7)	(148.5)	(63.6)	(193.8)	209.7	(100.7)	(161.1)	169.0	194.3
Other accounts receivable/payable and trade credit advance	(16.2)	(50.0)	(98.9)	16.9	(36.2)	(14.3)	(65.4)	194.4	(122.6)	11.9
Special drawing rights allocation	(239.6)	18.7	(1.4)	(2.4)	4.5	4.5	(8.0)	5.3	2.6	(12.3)
D. Net Acquisition of Reserve Assets	50.6	178.3	(93.6)	56.4	29.1	(121.0)	(58.1)	396.6	1.3	(182.0)
Special drawing rights	239.6	(251.5)	(6.1)	(0.6)	(3.7)	(4.0)	2.1	(4.5)	(4.4)	2.4
Reserve position in the IMF	(0.8)	(1.3)	0.2	0.3	(0.3)	(0.3)	0.5	(0.3)	(0.2)	0.8
Other reserve assets	(188.3)	431.1	(87.7)	56.7	33.1	(116.8)	(60.8)	401.4	5.9	(185.2)
E. Net Errors & Omissions	936.8	9.4	(172.0)	(179.8)	(245.9)	4.3	249.5	283.7	46.0	(173.4)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

* Figures may not sum to total due to rounding

**TABLE 15
EXTERNAL TRADE**

(BS '000s)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023				2024	
				Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II
I. OIL TRADE										
i) Exports	184,573	161,073	172,604	45,040	48,917	30,765	42,906	50,016	22,705	19,341
ii) Imports	657,787	686,205	625,125	189,811	150,786	225,319	115,353	133,667	113,570	299,422
II. OTHER MERCHANDISE										
Domestic Exports										
Crawfish	91,055	79,169	93,592	27,481	25,924	16,814	19,029	31,826	21,709	16,760
Fish Conch & other Crustacea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other cordials & Similar Materials/Sponge	1,409	579	715	113	186	224	184	121	n.a.	n.a.
Fruits & Vegs.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aragonite	2,188	2,712	2,312	815	539	670	632	471	330	n.a.
Other Natural Sands	221	197	152	42	32	46	50	24	11	n.a.
Rum/Beverages/Spirits & Vinegar	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Crude Salt	6,922	11,583	16,613	4,639	5,240	4,256	3,898	3,219	4,965	4,229
Polystrene Products	56,419	27,548	38,697	4,318	7,626	3,637	11,562	15,873	12,770	14,109
Other	110,964	58,213	47,555	18,786	11,050	8,698	20,234	7,574	9,364	1,593
i) Total Domestic Exports	269,177	180,001	199,637	56,194	50,596	34,345	55,589	59,108	49,148	36,691
ii) Re-Exports	89,676	244,830	363,925	53,967	71,274	190,026	57,355	45,270	23,124	165,199
iii) Total Exports (i+ii)	358,854	424,831	563,562	110,161	121,869	224,370	112,944	104,379	72,272	201,890
iv) Imports	2,824,819	3,153,455	3,562,394	883,837	876,446	868,863	905,360	911,725	913,838	1,066,523
v) Retained Imports (iv-ii)	2,735,143	2,908,625	3,198,469	829,870	805,172	678,838	848,005	866,454	890,713	901,324
vi) Trade Balance (i-v)	(2,465,965)	(2,728,624)	(2,998,832)	(773,676)	(754,577)	(644,493)	(792,416)	(807,346)	(841,566)	(864,633)

Source: Bahamas National Statistical Institute Quarterly Statistical Summaries

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

TABLE 16
SELECTED TOURISM STATISTICS

Period	2021	2022	2023	2023				2024		
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III
Visitor Arrivals	2,100,618	7,000,706	9,654,097	2,618,488	2,416,595	2,174,823	2,444,932	3,008,159	2,730,673	2,644,063
Air	886,629	1,470,244	1,719,980	469,988	488,217	374,547	387,228	504,075	487,981	352,502
Sea	1,213,989	5,530,462	7,934,117	2,148,500	1,928,378	1,800,276	2,057,704	2,504,084	2,242,692	2,291,561
Visitor Type										
Stopover	892,442	1,452,520	1,802,039	487,440	531,951	395,898	386,750	491,633	497,619	n.a
Cruise	1,115,181	5,390,016	7,773,253	2,115,700	1,872,617	1,751,820	2,033,116	2,474,557	2,190,296	2,247,885
Day/Transit	92,995	158,170	78,805	15,348	12,027	27,105	25,066	41,969	42,758	n.a
Tourist Expenditure (B\$ 000's)										
Stopover	2,321,707	4,221,819	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cruise	2,266,919	3,838,087	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Day	53,784	380,732	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Hotel Occupancy Rates (%)										
New Providence*	40.7	65.3	74.4	81.1	80.6	67.8	68.1	80.9	78.3	n.a.
Grand Bahama	22.8	31.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	34.7	44.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Nightly Room Rates (\$)										
New Providence*	338.72	377.87	411.09	453.42	427.28	349.30	414.35	495.22	410.90	n.a.
Grand Bahama	73.05	86.26	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	307.80	352.07	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: The Ministry of Tourism, The Bahamas Hotel & Tourism Association

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

*Select Large Hotels Performance in New Providence (and Paradise Island) only.