



Quarterly Economic Review

Vol. 28, No. 4

December, 2019

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.centralbankbahamas.com

Email address: research@centralbankbahamas.com

Contents

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS.....	1
DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	1
<i>Overview</i>	1
<i>Real Sector</i>	2
Tourism	2
Construction.....	3
Prices	4
<i>Fiscal Operations</i>	4
Overview	4
Revenue.....	4
Expenditure	5
Financing and the National Debt.....	6
Public Sector Foreign Currency Debt.....	7
<i>Money, Credit and Interest Rates</i>	7
Overview	7
Liquidity.....	8
Deposits and Money.....	8
Domestic Credit.....	8
Mortgages	10
The Central Bank	10
Domestic Banks	11
Credit Quality	11
Capital Adequacy and Provisions.....	12
Bank Profitability	12
Interest Rates	13
<i>Capital Markets Developments</i>	14
<i>International Trade and Payments</i>	14
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	16
STATISTICAL APPENDIX (TABLES 1-16).....	19

REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

OVERVIEW

The domestic economy's modest pace of growth was sustained during the fourth quarter of 2019. Tourism output increased, supported largely by ongoing gains in the Family Islands unaffected by the passage of Hurricane Dorian. In addition, several varied-scale foreign investment projects, and to a lesser extent post-hurricane reconstruction work, provided stimulus to the construction sector. In price developments, domestic inflationary pressures remained contained, although the recent uptick in international oil prices contributed to a firming in the rate.

Preliminary estimates showed that the Government's overall deficit widened during the second quarter of FY2019/20, relative to the same period a year earlier, attributed mainly to a rise in unplanned hurricane recovery related spending, which outstripped the value added tax-led increase in aggregate revenue. Budgetary financing was primarily sourced from the domestic market, and comprised a combination of long and short-term debt.

In monetary developments, bolstered by the receipt of re-insurance proceeds, both bank liquidity and external reserves expanded, with the rise in the deposit base outstripping credit growth during the fourth quarter. Further, banks' credit quality indicators improved during the review quarter, underpinned by modest gains in economic conditions, alongside ongoing debt restructuring, hurricane relief measures and loan write-offs. However, the latest available data for the third quarter revealed a contraction in banks' overall profitability, mainly reflecting higher levels of provisioning for bad debt.

On the external side, the estimated current account position reversed to a surplus during the final quarter of 2019, from a deficit in the comparative 2018 period. Underlying this outturn was a marked increase in net current transfers, primarily associated with significant hurricane-related reinsurance inflows. In contrast, the surplus on the capital and financial account reduced considerably, largely attributed to a reversal in domestic banks' transactions to a net outflow, vis-à-vis a net receipt in 2018.

Given the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the near-term economic outlook for The Bahamas has become uncertain and contractionary. Tourism earnings are projected to decline sharply in 2020, becoming particularly acute over the second quarter; and moderately evident even before the end of the first quarter. This will lead to a large reduction in net foreign currency receipts and consequently a sizeable falloff in the Central Bank's external reserves. Foreign reserves are, nevertheless, sufficient to absorb essential domestic foreign currency needs. In particular, outflows associated with tourism sector inputs have abated with the lull in the industry; non-essential domestic overseas expenditures, such as travel, are projected to abate until public health confidence recovers; and the economy stands to benefit from a considerable softening in international oil prices. The Government's budgetary financing also includes anticipated foreign currency borrowing that should supplement foreign exchange needs. Meanwhile, the domestic banking system is mobilized, given healthy capital buffers,

to forbear, with likely increased debt servicing difficulties among businesses and households, and to prudently supply new credit when a recovery path opens up. The greater uncertainty for the economy though, is that the duration of the slowdown in tourism and the speed of the anticipated recovery are still unclear, and dependent on progress on the international public health front.

REAL SECTOR

TOURISM

Preliminary evidence suggest that during the final quarter of 2019, the tourism sector maintained its positive momentum. The outcome was bolstered largely by gains in the Family Islands unaffected by Hurricane Dorian, which experienced a rise in private vacation rental activity.

According to data from the Ministry of Tourism, total tourist arrivals grew by 6.3% during the review quarter, in line with the prior year's 6.4% increase. Underpinning this outturn, the dominant sea component rose by 10.6% to 1.5 million, extending the previous year's 3.9% gain. In contrast, the high value-added air segment contracted by 9.9% to 0.3 million, a reversal from a 17.1% growth in 2018, attributed to a reduction in airlift capacity due to the passage of Hurricane Dorian.



An analysis by major port of entry revealed that total arrivals to the Family Islands expanded by 41.0% to 0.7 million, overturning the 9.7% decrease last year, as the 50.5% rise in sea passengers outstripped the 26.7% falloff in air traffic. Conversely, total visitors to New Providence fell by 3.4% to 1.0 million, vis-à-vis a 15.9% gain in 2018, amid a falloff in both sea and air arrivals, of 4.1% and 1.4%, respectively. In addition, reflective of the extensive damages suffered during the passage of Hurricane Dorian, total arrivals to Grand Bahama contracted by 52.5%, as both air and sea arrivals registered reductions of 82.0% and 47.7%, respectively.

Most recent statistics from a sample of large hotels on New Providence—received from the Bahamas Hotel Association and the Ministry of Tourism— showed that the average daily rate (ADR) rose by 2.1% to \$263.07, albeit lower than the 11.4% gain recorded in the previous year. However, room revenues decreased by 3.3%, relative to a 40.0% increase in the prior period, as occupancy rate moderated by 3.8 percentage points 52.7%, contrasting with a 4.3 percentage points increase a year earlier.

Data provided by AirDNA revealed continued gains in off-resort business during the fourth quarter. Specifically, the total number of room nights sold rose by 35.2% over the comparable 2018 period. In terms of the

components, bookings for hotel comparable grew by 51.9% and by 33.3% for entire place listings. Further, the occupancy rate for hotel comparable listings firmed by 3.2% and for entire place listings by 2.8%. In a slight offset, the ADR for hotel comparable listings decreased by 2.2% to \$152.37, and by 0.9% to \$390.54 for entire place listings.

With regard to departures, information from the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) showed that during the fourth quarter total departures—net of domestic traffic—increased by 4.6%, but was a sharp slowdown from a 15.2% expansion in 2018, underpinned by a 5.1% gain in United States departures, following a 15.1% advance last year. Further, non-United States international departures edged up by 1.8%, vis-à-vis a 15.9% growth in 2018.

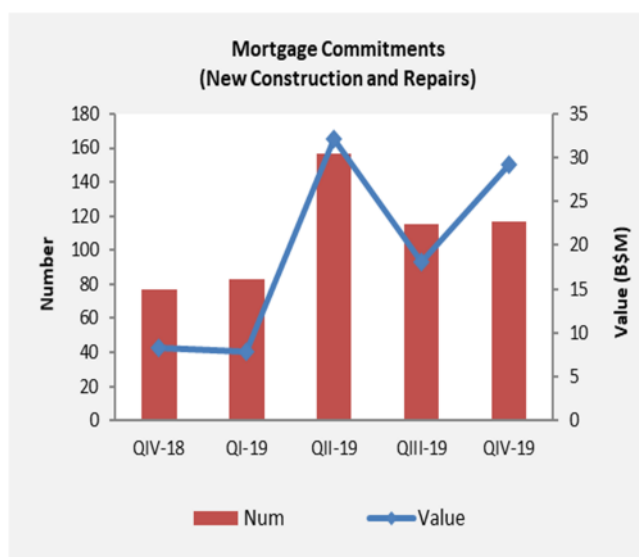
CONSTRUCTION

During the review quarter, output in the construction sector continued to be supported by ongoing small and medium scale foreign investment projects in the capital and Family Islands. However, domestic private sector activity remained subdued over the three-month period.

In terms of the domestic component, total mortgage disbursements for new construction and repairs,—as reported by banks, insurance companies, and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation—declined by 20.0% (\$7.0 million) to \$27.9 million, vis-à-vis the same period in 2018. Underlying this outturn, the dominant residential component contracted by 17.2% to \$24.3 million. Similarly, commercial disbursements reduced by 35.4% to \$3.5 million.

Indications are that the sector could record some improvement in the near-term, as mortgage commitment—a forward-looking indicator—rose in number by 40 to 117, while the corresponding value increased more than three-fold (\$20.9 million) to \$29.2 million, over the previous year. A breakdown by mortgage type revealed that un-disbursed residential commitments, which accounts for 98.3% of the aggregate, grew in number by 38 to 115, with the associated value more than doubled to \$16.8 million from \$8.3 million a year earlier. Further, 2 new commercial approvals were disclosed for the quarter, valued at \$12.4 million, following no activity in the prior year.

With regard to interest rates, the average financing costs for commercial mortgages rose by 24 basis points to 6.50%. However, the average rate for residential loans softened by 23 basis points to 6.81%.



PRICES

Reflecting the rise in global oil prices, domestic consumer price inflation—as measure by changes in the Retail Price Index (RPI) for The Bahamas—rose to 2.6% during the twelve months to October, from a 2.2% firming a year earlier. An analysis of components revealed that average costs for furnishings, household equipment & routine household maintenance and clothing & footwear advanced by 5.5% and 1.1%, vis-à-vis reductions of 0.4% and 2.1% in 2018. Further, the rise in average costs quickened for transportation (9.9%), restaurants & hotels (5.2%), alcohol beverages, tobacco & narcotics (4.4%), health (3.9%) and miscellaneous goods & services (2.5%), respectively. Providing some offset, average inflation rates moderated for housing, water, gas, electricity & other fuels to 1.5%, and food & non-alcoholic beverages to 0.4%, following respective gains of 2.5% and 2.6% in the previous year. In addition, average price declines were recorded for education (3.4%), and communication (2.1%), while average cost fell for recreation & culture (1.1%), after an increase of 3.9% in the previous year.

Retail Price Index (Annual % Changes; October)					
Items	Weight	2018		2019	
		Index	%	Index	%
Food & Non-Alcoholic	102.4	107.7	1.2	108.5	0.8
Alcohol, Tobacco & Narcotics	6.0	114.8	1.9	119.9	4.5
Clothing & Footwear	45.0	107.7	3.1	107.1	-0.5
Housing, Water, Gas,	321.7	103.5	3.6	102.3	-1.2
Furn. & Household,	45.7	109.4	6.1	110.2	0.8
Health	44.0	123.7	2.8	136.4	10.2
Transportation	125.0	102.5	6.3	114.4	11.6
Communication	40.9	109.3	-2.1	105.2	-3.8
Rec., & Culture	24.6	116.4	3.9	116.9	0.4
Education	42.4	107.8	-0.8	105.5	-2.1
Restaurant & Hotels	56.8	112.1	4.6	117.7	5.0
Misc. Goods & Svcs.	145.6	107.6	5.8	105.6	-1.8
ALL ITEMS	1000.0	106.9	3.7	108.3	1.3

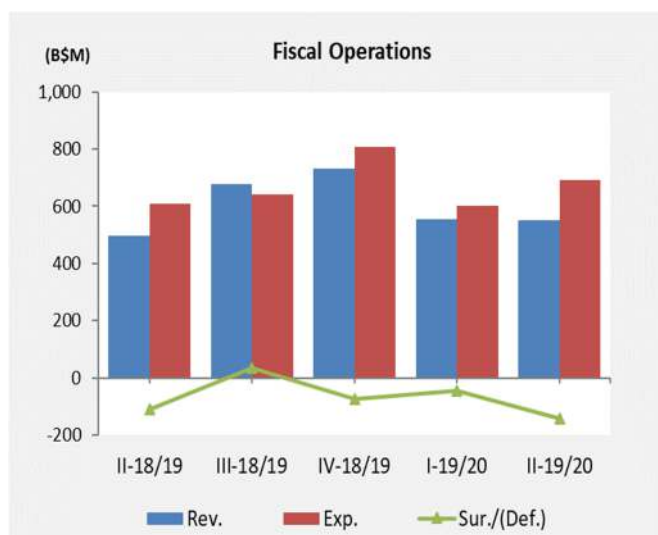
FISCAL OPERATIONS

OVERVIEW

Provisional data on the Government's budgetary operations for the second quarter of FY2019/20, showed that the deficit widened by \$33.1 million (30.2%) to \$142.7 million, relative to the comparative FY2018/19 period. Underpinning this outturn, was a hurricane-related hike in total expenditure, by \$84.5 million (13.9%) to \$692.0 million, which overshadowed the VAT-led \$51.4 million (10.3%) growth in aggregate revenue to \$549.3 million.

REVENUE

Tax revenue—which constituted 90.4% of total receipts—increased by \$68.4 million (16.0%) to \$496.4 million. Specifically, despite the disruption in economic activities from the hurricane, VAT collections—at a dominant 45.3% of the total receipts—grew by \$63.2 million



(34.0%) to \$249.1 million. In addition, timing-related factors led to proceeds from specific taxes—mainly gaming—advancing to \$11.0 million from \$3.6 million in the previous year, while, excise taxes rose by \$10.3 million (21.0%) to \$59.6 million. In contrast, stamp tax on financial and realty transaction fell sharply to \$10.7 million from \$53.3 million in the prior year.

In terms of other components, taxes on the use of goods contracted by \$2.3 million (12.2%) to \$16.3 million, due to a decline in collections from general business license fees, by \$2.6 million (33.8%) to \$5.1 million and a decrease in company taxes, by \$0.6 million (16.7%) to \$2.9 million. Conversely, motor vehicle taxes rose by \$0.7 million (10.0%) to \$7.9 million and marine license fees by \$0.2 million (88.6%) to \$0.4 million.

With regard to the remaining categories, taxes on international trade expanded by \$28.8 million (31.1%) to \$121.5 million, owing in large measure to a \$20.6 million growth in export taxes. In addition, receipts from customs & other import duties increased by \$8.3 million (12.7%) to \$73.4 million. However, collections from departure taxes held steady at \$24.6 million. Further, property taxes rose by \$2.8 million (12.0%) to \$25.6 million, while general stamp taxes edged up by \$0.7 million (35.6%) to \$2.6 million.

Non-tax receipts—at 9.3% of total revenue—decreased by \$18.4 million (26.4%) to \$51.4 million. Underpinning this outturn was a reduction in property income by \$11.6 million (73.5%) to \$4.2 million, owing mainly to a timing-related falloff in revenue from Government property. Similarly, collections from the sale of goods & services fell by \$2.5 million (5.0%) to \$46.5 million, largely reflecting a decline in immigration fee receipts. In addition, “miscellaneous” & unidentified revenue fell by \$1.2 million to a mere \$0.1 million, while proceeds from fines, penalties and forfeits, decreased by \$0.9 million (59.3%) to \$0.6 million. Further, revenue from the sale of “other” non-financial assets and reimbursements & repayments reduced to negligible levels.

Government Revenue By Source (Oct - Dec)				
	FY18/19		FY19/20	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Property Tax	22.9	4.6	25.6	4.7
Value Added Tax	185.9	37.4	249.1	45.4
Stamp Taxes (Financial & Realty)	53.3	10.7	10.7	2.0
Excise Tax	49.3	9.9	59.6	10.9
Specific Taxes (Gaming Tax)	3.6	0.7	11.0	2.0
Motor Vehicle Taxes	7.2	1.4	7.9	1.4
Company Taxes	3.5	0.7	2.9	0.5
License to Conduct Specific Bus. Act.	7.7	1.5	5.1	0.9
Marine License Activities	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.1
Bank & Trust Companies	--	--	--	--
Customs & Other Import Duties	65.1	13.1	73.4	13.4
Taxes on Exports	2.9	0.6	23.5	4.3
Departure Taxes	24.6	4.9	24.6	4.5
Other Taxes on Transactions	--	--	--	--
General Stamp Taxes	1.9	0.4	2.6	0.5
Property Income	15.8	3.2	4.2	0.8
Sales of Goods & Services	48.9	9.8	46.5	8.5
Fines, Penalties & Forfeits	1.5	0.3	0.6	0.1
Reimbursements & Repayments	--	--	--	--
Misc. & Unidentified Revenue	1.3	0.3	0.1	0.0
Sales of Other Non-Financial Assets	2.2	0.4	--	--
Grants	--	--	1.5	0.3
Capital Revenue	--	--	--	--
Total	497.8	100.0	549.2	100.0

EXPENDITURE

The growth in total expenditure was attributed to a \$65.3 million (11.5%) expansion in current spending to \$631.6 million, along with a \$19.2 million (46.6%) rise in capital outlays to \$60.4 million.

By economic categorization, the increase in current outlays was led by higher employee compensation payments, of \$25.2 million (14.1%) at \$203.7 million. In addition, outlays for the use of goods and services rose by \$17.9 million (16.7%) to \$125.5 million. Further, subsidies grew by \$17.3 million (18.7%) to \$110.0 million,

explained by a rise in allocations to the Water & Sewerage Corporation and Bahamasair. Interest payments also firmed by \$3.5 million (4.1%) to \$89.9 million, owing largely to an increase in internal payments, while grants rose notably by \$2.0 million to \$2.2 million. Disbursements for “other” miscellaneous payments edged up by \$0.5 million (1.0%) to \$55.4 million, as current transfers advanced by \$2.0 million (6.2%) to \$33.6 million, outstripping the \$1.4 million (6.2%) decline in insurance premiums to \$21.8 million. Providing some offset, social assistance benefits fell by \$1.3 million (2.7%) to \$44.9 million.

Reflective of unplanned hurricane-related spending, the increase in capital expenditure was due mainly to a surge in capital transfers to \$25.0 million, compared to \$6.3 million in the previous year. In addition, acquisition of non-financial assets edged up by \$0.4 million (1.3%) to \$35.4 million.

FINANCING AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

Budgetary financing for the second quarter of FY2019/20, was dominated by internal borrowings of \$359.4 million. This was comprised of \$192.9 million in Government bonds, \$95.0 million in Bahamian dollar loans & advances, \$50.0 million in foreign currency loans and \$21.5 million in net Treasury bills/note issues. Meanwhile, external financing amounted to \$8.7 million in policy-based loan drawdowns. Debt repayment for the period totaled \$227.4 million, of which a dominant 96.6% went towards retiring Bahamian dollar debt.

As a consequence of these developments, the Direct Charge on the Government grew by \$147.5 million (1.9%) over the previous three-month period, and by \$234.3 million (3.1%), year-on-year, to \$7,733.2 million. A breakdown by component showed that Bahamian dollar debt represented 66.2% of the total, while foreign currency liabilities accounted for the remaining 33.8%.

A further disaggregation by creditor revealed that banks held the largest portion of local currency debt (40.6%), followed by “other” private and institutional investors (38.7%), public corporations (11.8%) and the Central Bank (8.9%). A breakdown by instrument type showed that Government bonds comprised the largest share of domestic currency debt, at 72.8%, and featured an average maturity of 9.8 years, compared to 8.7 years in 2018. In addition, Treasury bills and loans & advances accounted for smaller shares of 19.1% and 8.1%, respectively.

The Government's contingent liabilities decreased by \$2.7 million (0.4%) over the previous quarter and by \$28.3 million (3.8%), year-on-year, to \$723.9 million.

As a result of these developments, the National Debt—inclusive of contingent liabilities—rose by \$144.8 million (1.7%) over the three-month period and by \$206.0 million (2.5%) on an annual basis, to \$8,457.2 million at end-2019.

As a ratio to GDP, the Direct Charge decreased by an estimated 48 basis points on a yearly basis, to 59.9% at end-December. In addition,

Estimates of the Debt-to-GDP Ratios			
	December (%) ¹		
	2017 _p	2018 _p	2019 _p [*]
Direct Charge	59.1	60.4	59.9
National Debt	64.9	66.4	65.5
Total Public Sector Debt	67.7	69.7	68.1

Source: The Central Bank of The Bahamas and the Department of Statistics
^{*}GDP estimate for 2019 is derived from IMF projections.
¹ In the absence of actual quarterly GDP data, the ratios presented should be taken as broad estimates of the relevant debt ratios and are therefore subject to revision.

the National Debt-to-GDP ratio narrowed to an estimated 65.5%, compared to 66.4% in the previous year.

PUBLIC SECTOR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT

During the fourth quarter, public sector foreign currency debt rose by \$50.4 million (1.5%) to \$3,476.0 million, as new drawings of \$58.7 million outstripped amortization payments of \$15.2 million. In contrast, on an annual basis, public sector foreign currency debt obligations contracted by \$34.1 million (1.0%). In terms of the components, the Government's outstanding liabilities—which accounted for 75.3% of the total—grew by \$57.9 million (2.3%) to \$2,617.7 million over the quarter; however, the public corporations' debt stock fell by \$7.5 million (0.9%) to \$858.3 million.

Total foreign currency debt service payments fell markedly by \$119.2 million (59.9%) to \$79.7 million, in comparison to the same period in 2018. It was largely attributed to a \$118.6 million (99.0%) contraction in the public corporation's segment to \$21.6 million, as amortization payments declined sharply to \$7.5 million from \$122.0 million a year earlier, when a public entity refinanced external obligations to internal, and interest charges decreased by \$4.1 million (22.4%) to \$14.1 million. Similarly, Government's debt service payments edged down by \$0.6 million (1.0%) to \$58.1 million. The associated interest expenses decreased by \$0.6 million (1.2%) to \$50.4 million, while amortization payments were relatively stable at \$7.7 million. As a result of these developments, the Government's debt service to revenue ratio stood at 10.6%, approximately 1.2 percentage points lower than in 2018, while the debt service ratio fell to 9.0% from 15.3% recorded a year earlier.

A breakdown by creditor profile revealed that the majority of the foreign currency debt was held by international capital market investors (47.5%), followed by non-resident financial institutions (31.6%), domestic banks (10.1%) multilateral institutions (8.7%) and bilateral companies (2.1%). A disaggregation by currency type showed that, the majority of the stock was denominated in United States dollars (86.7%), with the Swiss Franc, euro and the Chinese Yuan accounting for smaller portions of 6.0%, 5.2% and 2.1%, respectively. At end-December, the average age of outstanding foreign currency debt stood at 8.8 years, a decline from the 9.3 years in 2018.

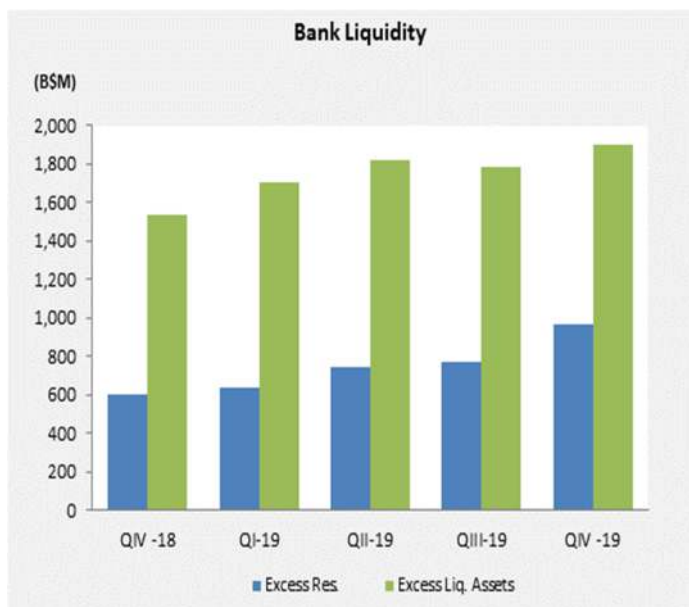
MONEY, CREDIT AND INTEREST RATES

OVERVIEW

Buoyed by the receipt of re-insurance proceeds, both bank liquidity and external reserves expanded during the fourth quarter, with the growth in the deposit base outpacing the rise in domestic credit. Meanwhile, banks' credit quality indicators improved over the three months, attributed to the modest gains in economic activity, combined with hurricane relief measures, ongoing debt restructuring and loan write-offs. However, the latest indicators for the third quarter of 2019 indicated a decline in overall bank profitability, largely reflecting a rise in bad debt provisioning. Further, the weighted average interest rate spread narrowed during the period, owing mainly to a decrease in average lending rates.

LIQUIDITY

During the review quarter, banks' net free cash reserves expanded by \$191.0 million (24.8%) to \$961.5 million, contrasting with the \$126.1 million (17.3%) reduction during the same period of the previous year. At end-December, the ratio of free cash reserves to Bahamian dollar deposit liabilities stood at 13.5%, down from the 9.4% a year earlier. Reflecting in large measure a rise in banks' balances at the Central Bank, the broader surplus liquid assets grew by \$154.5 million (8.7%) to \$1,936.9 million, a reversal from the prior year's \$195.6 million (11.3%) contraction. At end-December, the surplus liquid assets exceeded the statutory minimum by approximately 153.6%, vis-à-vis 137.4% in December 2018.



DEPOSITS AND MONEY

Attributed to a boost from hurricane-related re-insurance inflows, the overall money supply (M3) rose by \$351.9 million (4.7%) to \$7,892.8 million, a turnaround from a \$111.6 million (1.5%) decline in 2018. With regard to the components, narrow money (M1) advanced by \$188.0 million (6.1%), extending the \$16.9 million (0.6%) growth in the previous year. Contributing to this outturn was a private sector-led expansion in demand deposits, by \$166.3 million (6.1%), notably higher than the \$13.4 million (0.6%) increase in 2018. In addition, currency in active circulation rose by \$21.6 million (6.9%), exceeding the prior period's gain of \$3.5 million (1.1%). Similarly, broad money (M2) grew by \$276.8 million (3.9%), contrasting with a \$12.9 million (0.2%) decrease a year earlier, inclusive of a private sector-led increase in savings deposits to \$123.3 million (8.1%), vis-à-vis \$3.9 million (0.3%) in the preceding year. In contrast, fixed deposits declined by \$34.5 million (1.4%), extending the \$33.7 million (1.3%) falloff in 2018. Further, residents' foreign currency deposits expanded by \$75.2 million (14.7%), contrasting with a reduction of \$98.6 million (19.7%) a year earlier.

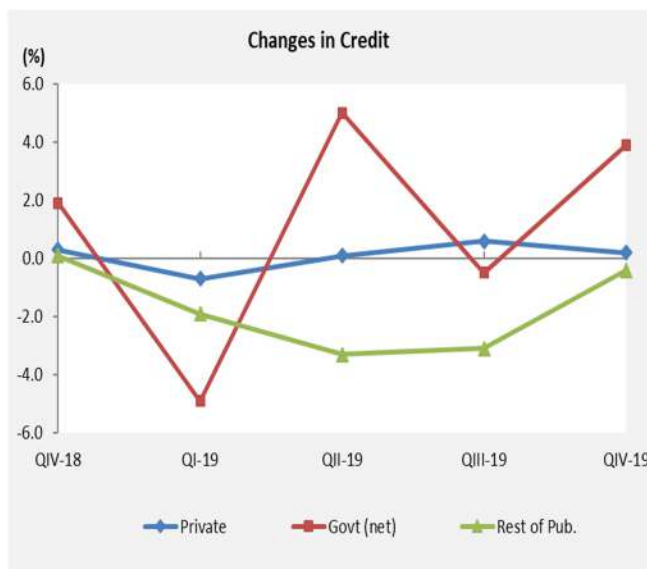
A breakdown by component showed that Bahamian dollar demand deposits accounted for the largest share of the aggregate money supply, at 36.9%, followed by fixed balances (30.7%) and savings deposits (20.7%). The remaining balances were divided between residents' foreign currency deposits (7.4%) and currency in active circulation (4.3%).

DOMESTIC CREDIT

During the fourth quarter, growth in total domestic credit accelerated to \$106.4 million (1.2%), from \$63.7 million (0.7%), in the corresponding period of 2018, contrasting with an average annual decrease of 0.1% over the past

five years. In particular, Bahamian dollar—at 95.4% of the total—grew by \$50.6 million (0.6%), aligned with the \$48.9 million (0.6%) growth in 2018. In addition, foreign currency credit rose by \$55.9 million (15.7%), higher than the \$14.8 million (3.9%) increase a year earlier.

A sectoral analysis revealed that the growth in net credit to the Government doubled to \$97.8 million (3.9%), contributing to an average increase of 1.2% over the past five years, underpinned by a rise in loans & advances and Treasury bill holdings. In addition, private sector credit grew by \$10.4 million (0.2%), albeit a slowdown from the \$14.7 million (0.3%) gain a year earlier. In contrast, credit to the rest of the public sector contracted by \$1.8 million (0.4%), following a \$0.6 million (0.1%) increase in the prior year.



An analysis of the various private sector categories indicated that personal loans—which accounted for the largest share (77.5%) of total Bahamian dollar credit—decreased by \$31.2 million (0.6%), following an \$18.7 million (0.4%) reduction in 2018, contributing to an average decline of 0.5% over the last five years. The outturn was explained by a \$24.0 million (0.9%) contraction in residential mortgages, combined with a \$9.7 million (0.4%) falloff in consumer loans, and a \$0.2 million (1.0%) retrenchment in overdrafts. A detailed breakdown of consumer credit showed notably net repayments for debt consolidation (\$9.3 million), land purchases (\$3.3 million), “miscellaneous” purposes (\$3.2 million), education (\$2.1 million) and private cars (\$1.0 million). More muted declines of less than \$1.0 million occurred for medical purposes and taxis & rented cars. In contrast, net lending

expanded for credit cards (\$5.1 million), home improvement (\$2.5 million) and travel (\$1.9 million); with more modest gains of less than \$1.0 million posted for furnishings & domestic appliances and commercial vehicles.

With regard to the remaining private sector loan categories, outstanding credit balances rose for professional and “other” services (\$14.0 million), construction (\$7.7 million), distribution (\$6.3 million), “miscellaneous”

Distribution of Bank Credit By Sector (End-Dec.)				
	2019		2018	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Agriculture	3.9	0.1	3.5	0.1
Fisheries	2.4	0.0	3.1	0.0
Mining & Quarrying	2.2	0.0	1.7	0.0
Manufacturing	39.6	0.6	36.6	0.5
Distribution	277.9	4.1	245.1	3.7
Tourism	13.8	0.2	10.6	0.2
Enter. & Catering	52.8	0.8	48.2	0.7
Transport	40.6	0.6	44.7	0.7
Construction	307.0	4.5	290.4	4.4
Government	688.8	10.2	564.4	8.5
Public Corps.	206.6	3.1	248.6	3.7
Private Financial	25.1	0.4	23.6	0.4
Prof. & Other Ser.	59.1	0.9	43.9	0.7
Personal	4,943.4	73.1	4,981.1	74.7
Miscellaneous	97.7	1.4	121.3	1.8
TOTAL	6,760.9	100.0	6,666.8	100.0

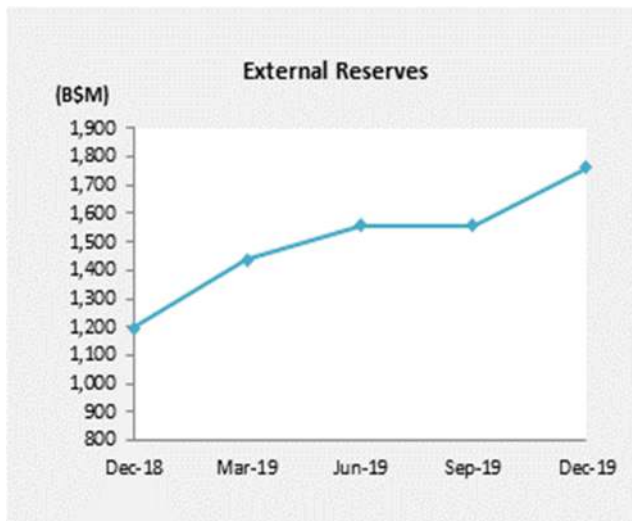
purposes (\$5.6 million) and entertainment & catering (\$3.6 million). Relatively smaller increases were recorded for mining & quarrying, tourism and agriculture. In contrast, net repayments for fisheries and transport measured \$4.5 million and \$3.4 million, respectively. More modest decreases were recorded for manufacturing and private financial institutions.

MORTGAGES

Data obtained from banks, insurance companies and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation revealed that the total value of outstanding mortgages declined by \$32.5 million (1.1%) to \$3,018.2 million, which contrasted with the prior year's growth of \$2.9 million (0.1%). Underlying this development, the residential component—which comprised 94.0% of the total—contracted by \$25.6 million (0.9%) to \$2,838.4 million, following a marginal increase of \$1.3 million in 2018. In addition, the commercial component reduced by \$6.9 million (3.7%) to \$179.8 million, after edging up by \$1.6 million (0.9%) a year earlier. At end-December, domestic banks held the majority of outstanding mortgages (87.9%), followed by insurance companies (6.5%) and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (5.6%).

THE CENTRAL BANK

The Central Bank's net claims on the Government grew by \$23.8 million (6.4%) to \$395.9 million during the fourth quarter, a marked slowdown from the \$100.6 million (25.0%) expansion recorded a year earlier. Growth in advances to Government overshadowed the reduction in the Bank's holdings of Treasury Bills. In addition, the growth in the Bank's net liabilities to the rest of the public sector moderated to \$0.8 million (1.9%), from \$37.4 million (126.4%) in 2018, owing to a sharp slowdown in public enterprises deposits. In contrast, attributed largely to a recovery in deposit balances, the Bank's net liabilities to commercial banks expanded by \$207.8 million (17.6%) to \$1,389.4 million, vis-à-vis the prior year's contraction of \$60.4 million (6.1%).



Bolstered mainly by re-insurance proceeds, external reserves balance rose significantly by \$201.6 million (12.9%) to \$1,760.3 million, a reversal from a decline of \$104.4 million (8.0%) in the previous year. In the underlying transaction, the Bank's position reverted to a net foreign currency purchase of \$175.1 million, from a net sale of \$112.7 million in 2018. Specifically, the net intake from commercial banks expanded to \$245.8 million, from just \$42.9 million a year earlier. In addition, the Bank recorded a net purchase of \$50.8 million from the Government, following a net sale of \$36.3 million in the prior year. In contrast, the net sale to the public corporations—primarily for fuel purchases—edged up by \$2.2 million to \$121.5 million.

At end-December, the stock of external reserves was equivalent to an estimated 28.7 weeks of the current year's merchandise imports (inclusive of oil purchases), relative to 17.4 weeks in the corresponding period of 2018. After adjusting for the 50% statutory requirement on the Central Bank's Bahamian dollar liabilities, "usable" reserves stood at \$837.5 million, representing a marked increase of \$315.1 million (60.3%) compared to the prior year.

DOMESTIC BANKS

Domestic banks recorded net foreign assets of \$32.6 million at end-December, contrasting with 2018's more than four-fold expansion in net liabilities, to \$124.2 million, led by an increase in credit and foreign securities.

Credit outstanding from banks grew by \$82.8 million (1.0%), a turnaround from a \$36.8 million (0.4%) decrease in 2018. In the underlying developments, largely attributed to a rise in loans & advances, net claims on the Government rose by \$74.1 million (3.4%), contrasting with a \$52.3 million (2.5%) reduction in the preceding year. In addition, private sector credit increased by \$10.4 million (0.2%), albeit a moderation from a \$14.7 million (0.3%) growth a year earlier. In contrast, credit to public corporations fell by \$1.7 million (0.4%), following a gain of \$0.7 million (0.2%) in 2018.

Banks' total deposit liabilities—inclusive of Government balances—expanded by \$326.7 million (4.4%) to \$7,727.5 million, reversing the decline of \$230.1 million (3.3%) in 2018. Specifically, private sector deposits advanced by \$331.2 million (4.9%), vis-à-vis a decrease of \$97.4 million (1.5%) in the prior year. In addition, the declined in deposits of public corporations slowed markedly to \$1.6 million (0.4%) from \$54.8 million (11.4%) in 2018. Further, Government deposit balances fell by \$2.9 million (1.3%), lower than the \$7.4 million (3.8%) contraction in 2018.

The majority of banks' deposit liabilities remained denominated in Bahamian dollars (92.4%), with the US dollars and other "miscellaneous" currencies representing smaller proportions of 7.5% and 0.1%, respectively. A disaggregation by holder, showed that private individuals held the largest share (49.9%) of the overall local currency accounts, followed by business firms (30.4%), the public sector (8.4%), private financial institutions (6.6%) and "other" miscellaneous entities (4.7%).

A disaggregation by deposit type revealed that demand deposits accounted for the largest share (42.5%) of accounts, followed by fixed (34.6%) and savings (22.9%) balances. Analyzed by range of value and number, the majority of accounts (87.5%), held Bahamian dollar balances of \$10,000 or less, and comprised only 5.8% of the total value. Accounts with balances between \$10,000 and \$50,000 comprised 8.2% of the total number and 10.9% of the overall value, while deposits in excess of \$50,000 represented only 4.2% of the total, but a dominant 83.3% of the aggregate value.

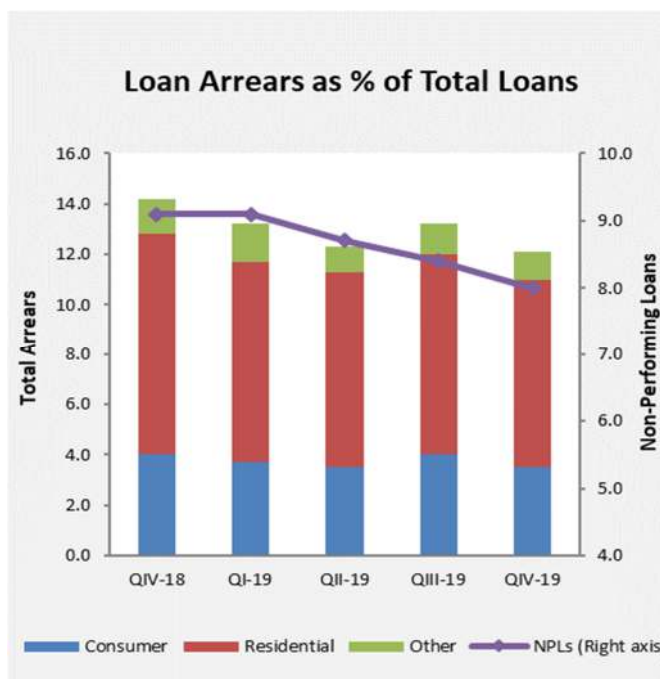
CREDIT QUALITY

Reflecting the modest improvement in the domestic economy, along with ongoing debt restructuring activities and loan write-offs, banks' credit quality indicators improved during the fourth quarter. Specifically, total private sector loan arrears decreased by \$63.4 million (8.5%) over the three-month period and by \$123.5 million (15.3%)

year-on-year, to \$686.3 million. As a result, the ratio of arrears to total private sector loans narrowed on both a quarterly and annual basis, by 1.1 and 2.2 percentage points, respectively, to 12.1%.

A breakdown by the average age of delinquencies, revealed that over the quarter, short-term (31-90 day) arrears contracted by \$38.8 million (14.3%) to \$232.3 million, lowering the corresponding ratio by 68 basis points, to 4.1% of total private sector loans. In addition, the non-performing segment—arrears in excess of 90 days and on which banks have ceased accruing interest—reduced by \$24.5 million (5.1%) to \$454.0 million, resulting in a 43 basis points decline in the relevant ratio to 8.0% of total private sector loans.

The quarterly reduction in total private sector loan arrears was led by the dominant mortgage component—at 61.7% of the total—which fell by \$33.5 million (7.3%) to \$423.2 million, for a 1.1 percentage points fall in the associated ratio to 16.1%. Similarly, consumer loan arrears reduced by \$28.8 million (12.7%) to \$198.5 million, resulting in a 1.2 percentage point decrease in the attendant ratio, to 9.0%. Further, the commercial segment moved lower by \$1.1 million (1.7%) to \$64.6 million, for a 45 basis points softening in the relevant ratio to 7.8%.



CAPITAL ADEQUACY AND PROVISIONS

Banks maintained robust capital levels during the fourth quarter, although the average ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets moved lower by 90 basis points, to 30.4%; remaining well in excess of the Bank's regulatory prescribed target and trigger ratios of 17.0% and 14.0%, respectively. In addition, banks increased their total provisions for loan losses by \$5.7 million (1.4%), to \$428.8 million during the review quarter. As a result, the ratios of provisions to both non-performing loans and total arrears, firmed by 6.0 percentage points each, to 94.4% and 62.5%, respectively. Further, banks also wrote-off an estimated \$29.3 million in delinquent loans and recovered approximately \$6.2 million, during the review quarter.

BANK PROFITABILITY

During the third quarter of 2019—the latest available data—banks' overall profitability fell by \$34.2 million (45.4%), to \$41.1 million, largely attributed to a nearly three-fold rise in provisions for bad debts and higher operating costs. With regard to the profitability components, the net interest margin edged up by \$0.9 million (0.7%) to \$134.6 million, as interest expenses fell by \$0.3 million (2.3%) to \$13.2 million, while interest income increased by \$0.6 million (0.4%) to \$147.8 million. In addition, income from commissions and foreign exchange fees rose by 6.8% to \$7.7 million, resulting in the gross earnings margin increasing by 1.0%, to \$142.3 million.

With regard to expenditure, banks' consolidated operating outlays grew by 7.1% to \$94.3 million, largely reflecting a 12.5% rise in "miscellaneous" operating costs—inclusive of professional and rental expenses—to \$48.5 million, while staff-related expenses rose by 3.6% to \$39.2 million. In a partial offset, occupancy costs decreased by 6.7%, to \$6.7 million. In addition, banks reported a net loss of \$6.9 million on their "non-core" activities, in contrast to a net profit of \$22.4 million a year earlier, owing to a nearly three-fold expansion in provisions for bad debt, to \$40.7 million from \$14.0 million, and an 8.2% decrease in other "non-interest" earnings, to \$36.3 million. In contrast, depreciation costs declined by 19.3%, to \$2.5 million.

As a result of these developments, banks' profitability ratios trended downwards. As a percentage of average assets, the gross earnings margin moved lower by 3 basis points to 5.47%, as the interest margin ratio softened by 4 basis points to 5.18%, overshadowing the 2 basis points firming in the commission and foreign exchange ratio, to 0.30%. In addition, the operating cost ratio rose by 19 basis points to 3.63%, contributing to a narrowing in the net earnings margin ratio, by 21 basis points to 1.85%. As a consequence of increased provisioning for bad debt, the net income ratio move lower by 1.4 percentage points, to 1.58%.

INTEREST RATES

During the review quarter, commercial banks' recorded a narrowing in the weighted average interest rate spread, by 79 basis points, to 9.91 percentage points. Underlying this development, the weighted mean lending rate decreased by 78 basis points to 10.44%, while the weighted average deposit rate softened by 1 basis point to 0.53%.

With regard to deposits, the average rate on savings deposits tapered by 1 basis point, to 0.33%. Conversely, the weighted average rate on demand balances firmed by 23 basis points to 0.50%. In addition, the average range of interest offered on fixed deposits increased to 0.29% - 0.91%, from 0.28% - 0.83% in the previous quarter.

In terms of lending, the average rate for consumer loans and overdrafts both declined by 45 basis points each, to 12.79% and 11.10%, respectively. In addition, the average residential mortgage rate reduced by 12 basis points, to 4.82%. However, the average rate for commercial mortgages grew by 1.3 percentage points to 7.25%.

Among other key interest rates, the average 90-day Treasury bill rate increased by 6 basis points to 1.68%. Meanwhile, the Central Bank's Discount rate and commercial banks' Prime rate were unchanged at 4.00% and 4.25%, respectively.

Banking Sector Interest Rates			
Period Average (%)			
	Qtr. IV 2018	Qtr. III 2019	Qtr. IV 2019
Deposit Rates			
Demand Deposits	0.29	0.27	0.50
Savings Deposits	0.50	0.34	0.33
Fixed Deposits			
Up to 3 months	0.58	0.28	0.29
Up to 6 months	0.75	0.49	0.49
Up to 12 months	0.79	0.77	0.55
Over 12 months	1.10	0.83	0.91
Weighted Avg. Dep. Rate	0.82	0.52	0.53
Lending Rates			
Residential mortgages	5.33	4.94	4.82
Commercial mortgages	7.38	5.91	7.25
Consumer loans	13.35	13.24	12.79
Other Local Loans	7.96	10.13	9.37
Overdrafts	9.65	11.55	11.10
Weighted Avg. Loan Rate	11.11	11.22	10.44

CAPITAL MARKETS DEVELOPMENTS

Activity on domestic capital market developments were generally positive over the review quarter. In particular, the volume of shares traded on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX) more than doubled to 2.9 million from 1.3 million, following a decline of 23.7% in 2018. In line with this outturn, the aggregate value of shares traded also expanded, to \$13.8 million from \$6.4 million in 2018, following a decrease of 22.1% in the prior year.

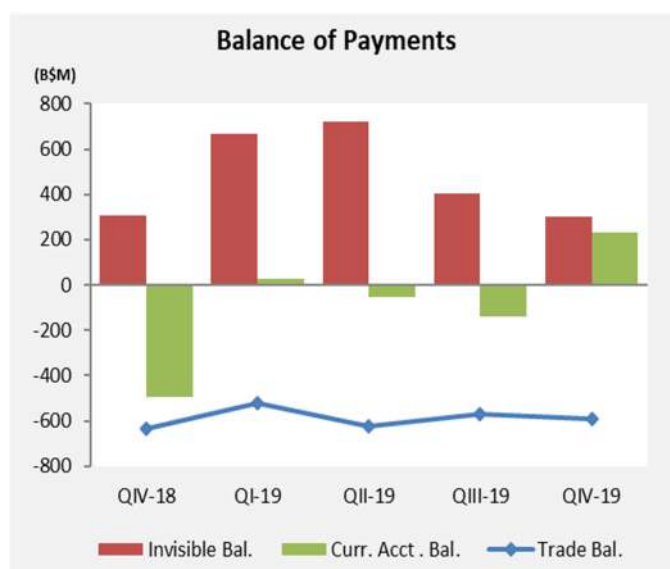
As it relates to other key market indicators, the BISX All Share Price Index increased by 2.8% to 2,231.60 points, albeit lower than the 7.4% gain recorded a year earlier. In addition, market capitalization rose by 4.4% to \$5.0 billion, after increasing by 1.0% in 2018.

During the fourth quarter, the number of publicly traded securities listed on the exchange declined by 2 to 38, and comprised 19 ordinary shares, 7 preference shares and 12 debt tranches.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS

Provisional estimates for the fourth quarter of 2019 revealed a reversal of the current account position to a surplus of \$231.6 million, from a deficit of \$494.4 million in the corresponding period of 2018. The outturn was attributed primarily to a marked expansion in net current transfers, driven largely by significant re-insurance inflows, following the passage of Hurricane Dorian, combined with a decrease in the merchandise trade deficit. In contrast, the surplus on the capital and financial account narrowed to \$51.3 million, from \$156.2 million in the previous year, owing in large measure to a reversal in domestic banks' transactions to a net outflow, vis-à-vis a net receipt in 2018.

The estimated merchandise trade deficit reduced by \$46.4 million (7.3%) to \$590.0 million, reflecting an \$84.0 million (10.7%) fall in imports to \$703.7 million, which overshadowed the \$37.6 million (24.9%) decline in exports to \$113.7 million. In terms of the composition, net non-oil imports fell by \$51.7 million (10.2%) to \$457.2 million. In contrast, payments for fuel imports grew by \$9.1 million (5.1%) to \$186.2 million, owing to a rise in volume. An analysis of the fuel component showed that the average cost per barrel for propane gas declined by 24.5% to \$45.67; jet fuel, by 4.3% to \$87.24 and gas oil, by 0.5% to \$75.46. Conversely, the average price of aviation gas and motor gas rose by 23.3% and 0.4% to \$159.57 and \$82.82 per barrel, respectively.



The estimated surplus on the services account contracted by \$13.0 million (4.2%) to \$296.7 million, as the passage of Hurricane Dorian disrupted tourism activity in Grand Bahama and Abaco, contributing to a \$72.1 million (10.7%) reduction in tourism receipts to \$604.2 million. In addition, net inflows related to offshore companies' local expenses fell by \$12.9 million (25.3%) to \$38.2 million while, payments for construction services increased by \$6.8 million (39.7%) to \$23.9 million. Further, net external payments for royalty & license fees, firmed by \$0.8 million (40.1%) to \$2.8 million. Providing some offset, net outflows for other "miscellaneous" services declined by \$35.4 million (15.8%) to \$188.9 million. Further, net payments for Government services reduced by more than half to \$13.8 million, from \$29.6 million in the prior year, owing primarily to lower disbursements for resident Government operations, combined with higher inflows from foreign Government operations. Insurance services net outflows also contracted sharply by \$21.8 million (48.6%) to \$23.1 million, attributed to a falloff in in both non-merchandise and freight insurance payments. In addition, net outflows for transportation services decreased by \$6.5 million (6.5%) to \$93.2 million, due mainly to a curtailment in port & airport charges (25.3%) and air & sea freight services (15.3%).

The estimated deficit on the income account widened by \$17.7 million (12.1%) to \$163.9 million. Underlying this outturn was a \$9.3 million (6.9%) increase in net investment income outflows to \$143.9 million, on account of a rise in other private interest and dividend payments, by \$9.1 million (10.3%) to \$97.5 million, due mainly to a more than two-fold rise in net profit repatriations by banks. Similarly, net outflows for official transactions edged up by \$0.2 million (0.4%) to \$46.3 million, largely attributed to a falloff in Central Bank investment income. Similarly, labour income remittances advanced to \$20.0 million from \$11.7 million in the previous year.

Current transfers reversed to a \$688.8 million net receipt from a \$21.6 million net payment in the prior year, owing in large measure to re-insurance inflows. The outturn was mostly reflected under net "miscellaneous" receipt of \$716.4 million, compared to a net outflow of \$8.1 million in 2018, while net outflows for workers remittances rose by \$2.8 million (6.6%) to \$44.6 million. In a slight offset, general Government's net transfer receipts declined by \$11.4 million (40.2%) to \$17.0 million.

The sharp reduction in the capital and financial account surplus was led by the predominantly debt related "other" financing inflows, which decreased markedly to \$4.5 million from \$117.2 million a year earlier. Underlying this outturn, domestic banks transactions reversed to a net payment of \$45.1 million from a net inflow of \$97.9 million in the prior year. In addition, other private sector "loan-based" financing reduced by \$20.1 million to \$56.5 million. In a slight offset, the public sector's net debt repayment was notably lower at \$6.9 million, vis-à-vis \$57.4 million in 2018.

In contrast, net direct investment inflows expanded by \$6.7 million (14.6%) to \$52.4 million, as equity financed activity reversed to a net inflow of \$13.5 million, from a net outflow of \$11.8 million in the previous year. Providing some offset, net receipts from real estate sales fell by \$18.6 million (32.3%) to \$38.9 million, while residents' net outward portfolio investments edged up by \$0.1 million (2.2%) to \$4.2 million. However, migrants' net transfers abroad declined by \$1.2 million (46.2%) to \$1.4 million.

In line with these developments, and after making the relevant adjustments for net errors and omissions, the overall balance, which corresponds to the change in Central Banks' external reserves, registered a surplus of \$201.6 million, a turnaround from a deficit of \$104.2 million in the comparable period of 2018.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The global economy sustained its modest growth trajectory during the fourth quarter, despite trade and geopolitical tensions, supported by expansions in the major markets. Against this backdrop, labour market conditions continued to improve, while inflationary pressures stayed relatively subdued over the review period, despite a rise in global oil prices. Given these developments, the major central banks either maintained or enhanced their accommodative monetary policy stance.

The major economies maintained their positive growth momentum over the review quarter, albeit at a moderated pace. In the United States, real GDP grew by an annualized rate of 2.1% in the fourth quarter, the same magnitude as the prior three-month period, underpinned by gains in personal consumption, Government spending, residential fixed investment and exports. Meanwhile, real output in the United Kingdom remained flat during the review quarter, following a 0.4% increase in the previous quarter, as the rise in the services and construction sectors were offset by a decline in the production sector. Further, real GDP growth in the euro area tapered to 0.1% in the fourth quarter, from a 0.3% strengthening in the third quarter. In Asia, China's quarterly real GDP expansion slowed to an annualized 6.1% in the three months to December—its lowest level in 30 years—from 6.4% in the prior quarter, amid the prolonged trade tensions with the United States and sluggish demand home and abroad. Further, Japan's real economic output rose by an annualized rate of 1.9% in the final quarter, following a growth of 1.8% in the third quarter, reflecting a rise in capital expenditure, as the economy recovers from a series of natural disasters.

Labour market conditions continued to improve over the review period, buoyed by sustained positive developments. Specifically, the jobless rate in the United States narrowed by 10 basis points to 3.5% over the third quarter, as non-farm payroll gains were recorded for retail trade and health care. Similarly, in the euro area, the unemployment rate decreased by 10 basis points to 7.4%, with the largest reductions reported in Greece, Bulgaria and Croatia. Further, in the United Kingdom the jobless rate steadied at 3.8% in the December quarter, as the number of employed persons edged up by an estimated 0.4%. In addition, the unemployment rate for Japan declined by 20 basis points to 2.2%, while China's jobless rate remained unchanged at 3.6% over the review quarter.

Inflation in the major markets remained relatively subdued during the fourth quarter of 2019. Specifically, in the United States, the annualized inflation rate firmed to 2.3% in December, from 1.7% in the September quarter, with the most significant price gains occurring for gasoline, shelter and medical care. The annual inflation rate in the euro area also rose by 50 basis points to 1.3% in December, reflecting higher costs for energy, food, alcohol & tobacco and services. In China, the growth in inflation quickened by 1.5 percentage points over the previous quarter, to an annualized rate of 4.5% in December, amid expansions in food, tobacco and liquor. Further, consumer price inflation for Japan increased to 0.8% in December, from an annualized 0.2% in September, underpinned by a rise in food, culture & recreation and furniture and household utensils prices. In contrast, the

decreases in sub-components housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, led to the United Kingdom's annualized inflation rate softening by 40 basis points to 1.4% over the prior quarter.

In foreign currency market developments, the dollar depreciated against most of the major currencies over the review quarter, partly owing to the Federal Reserve rate reduction. The dollar decreased relative to the British pound, by 7.3% to £0.7544 and the Swiss Franc, by 3.0% to CHF0.9676. Similarly, the dollar weakened vis-à-vis the euro, by 2.8% to €0.8917, the Chinese Yuan, by 2.6% to CNY6.9632 and the Canadian dollar, by 1.9%, to CAD\$1.30. In contrast, the dollar strengthened versus the Japanese Yuan, by 0.5% to ¥108.61.

Developments in the major equity markets were primarily positive during the fourth quarter. In the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DIJA) and the S&P 500 indices rose by 14.5% and 8.5%, respectively, with the latter reporting its best performance since 2013. Similarly trends were noted for the European bourses, with Germany's DAX index firming by 6.6%, while France's CAC40 and the United Kingdom's FTSE index increasing by 5.3% and 1.8%, respectively. The performance of the equity markets in Asia was similar, with Japan's Nikkei 225 rising by 8.4%, while China's SE improved by 5.0%.

Reflecting ongoing production adjustments by major OPEC and non-OPEC participants, and the interim trade deal between the US and China, crude oil prices grew by 13.2% to \$68.40 per barrel over the three-month period. In terms of precious metals, both silver and gold costs moved higher by 5.1 % and 3.1% to \$17.85 and \$1,517.27 per troy ounce, respectively.

External sector trade developments were mixed during the review quarter. In particular, in the United States, the trade deficit narrowed by \$7.2 million (13.3%) to \$46.6 billion over the prior quarter, as the 0.5% growth in exports of largely industrial supplies & material, crude oil and other goods, overshadowed the 2.3% rise in imports—of mainly census basis goods. Further, the United Kingdom's trade balance registered a surplus of £5.9 million in fourth quarter vis-à-vis a £3.4 billion deficit in the prior quarter, as exports grew by 2.9%, while imports fell by 2.3%. Similarly, the quarterly euro area's trade surplus expanded by €13.7 billion (23.6%) to €71.8 billion, supported by a 3.7% growth in exports, which overshadowed the 1.5% rise in imports. In addition, amid trade talks with the United States and a strengthening in global demand, China's trade surplus rose by 7.4% to US\$128.3 billion in the fourth quarter, with the 2.7% increase in exports outweighing the 1.6% growth in imports. Furthermore, Japan's trade deficit decreased by \$297.1 billion (56.4%) to \$229.2 billion over the previous quarter, as the 2.0% expansion in exports, outstripped the 0.4% uptick in imports.

Given the moderation in economic growth trends and persisting global uncertainty, the major Central Banks either maintained or enhanced their accommodative monetary stance over the review quarter. Specifically, in the United States, the Federal Reserve reduced the target range for the federal funds rate by 25 basis points to the 1.50%-1.75% range during the fourth quarter in an effort to encourage economic activity. Further, in the United Kingdom, the Bank of England left its key policy rate unchanged at 0.75% and its asset purchase programme at £435.0 billion. Similarly, the European Central Bank retained its main policy rate at a historic low of 0.00%. Moreover, in Asia, the People's Bank of China lowered its 7-day reverse repo rate by 5 basis points to 2.5% for the first time since October 2015, owing to trade tensions and weakening economic performance,

with the aim to encourage market confidence. In addition, the Bank of Japan sustained its highly accommodative monetary policy stance, leaving its benchmark interest rate at -0.1% in the review period.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX (TABLES I-I6)

TABLE 1
FINANCIAL SURVEY

Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
(B\$ Millions)											
Net foreign assets	280.2	678.5	1,152.5	1,376.7	1,412.9	1,274.4	1,072.1	1,389.1	1,466.3	1,546.3	1,793.0
Central Bank	811.9	904.0	1,417.4	1,596.9	1,572.1	1,300.7	1,196.3	1,436.9	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,760.3
Domestic Banks	(531.7)	(225.4)	(265.0)	(220.2)	(159.2)	(26.3)	(124.2)	(47.8)	(91.3)	(12.5)	32.6
Net domestic assets	6,093.7	6,251.4	5,884.6	5,766.5	5,846.0	5,945.5	6,037.1	5,827.8	5,964.7	5,996.8	6,103.1
Domestic credit	8,966.2	9,128.4	8,838.3	8,730.9	8,797.5	8,847.5	8,911.2	8,734.4	8,843.5	8,850.6	8,957.0
Public sector	2,666.4	2,957.6	2,855.5	2,767.6	2,875.7	2,976.1	3,025.0	2,891.8	2,997.1	2,969.4	3,065.4
Government (net)	2,198.0	2,551.4	2,383.0	2,318.6	2,391.9	2,490.9	2,539.3	2,415.1	2,536.3	2,523.0	2,620.9
Rest of public sector	468.4	406.3	472.5	449.1	483.9	485.2	485.8	476.6	460.8	446.4	444.6
Private sector	6,299.7	6,170.8	5,982.9	5,963.3	5,921.7	5,871.4	5,886.2	5,842.7	5,846.4	5,881.2	5,891.6
Other items (net)	(2,872.4)	(2,877.0)	(2,953.7)	(2,964.4)	(2,951.5)	(2,902.0)	(2,874.1)	(2,906.6)	(2,878.8)	(2,853.8)	(2,853.9)
Monetary liabilities	6,373.8	6,930.1	7,037.3	7,145.4	7,260.5	7,220.3	7,108.8	7,215.9	7,429.4	7,540.9	7,892.8
Money	2,071.2	2,460.6	2,654.0	2,753.6	2,773.3	2,711.2	2,728.2	2,757.1	3,003.6	3,060.4	3,248.4
Currency	246.6	280.5	292.6	302.0	312.1	306.9	310.4	316.0	321.7	315.2	336.8
Demand deposits	1,824.7	2,180.1	2,361.5	2,451.7	2,461.2	2,404.3	2,417.7	2,441.1	2,681.9	2,745.3	2,911.6
Quasi-money	4,302.6	4,469.5	4,383.3	4,391.8	4,487.2	4,509.1	4,380.7	4,458.9	4,425.8	4,480.5	4,644.4
Fixed deposits	2,966.5	2,866.3	2,737.9	2,710.3	2,647.8	2,585.7	2,552.0	2,526.9	2,486.8	2,454.1	2,419.6
Savings deposits	1,148.3	1,295.6	1,371.2	1,395.3	1,431.6	1,423.3	1,427.1	1,476.6	1,536.3	1,513.6	1,637.0
Foreign currency	187.8	307.6	274.1	286.1	407.8	500.1	401.5	455.3	402.7	512.7	587.9
(percentage changes)											
Total domestic credit	1.1	1.8	(3.2)	(1.2)	0.8	0.6	0.7	(2.0)	1.2	0.1	1.2
Public sector	6.5	10.9	(3.5)	(3.1)	3.9	3.5	1.6	(4.4)	3.6	(0.9)	3.2
Government (net)	8.6	16.1	(6.6)	(2.7)	3.2	4.1	1.9	(4.9)	5.0	(0.5)	3.9
Rest of public sector	(2.4)	(13.3)	16.3	(4.9)	7.7	0.3	0.1	(1.9)	(3.3)	(3.1)	(0.4)
Private sector	(1.1)	(2.0)	(3.0)	(0.3)	(0.7)	(0.8)	0.3	(0.7)	0.1	0.6	0.2
Monetary liabilities	(0.3)	8.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	(0.6)	(1.5)	1.5	3.0	1.5	4.7
Money	3.8	18.8	7.9	3.8	0.7	(2.2)	0.6	1.1	8.9	1.9	6.1
Currency	5.9	13.7	4.3	3.2	3.3	(1.6)	1.1	1.8	1.8	(2.0)	6.9
Demand deposits	3.5	19.5	8.3	3.8	0.4	(2.3)	0.6	1.0	9.9	2.4	6.1
Quasi-money	(2.1)	3.9	(1.9)	0.2	2.2	0.5	(2.8)	1.8	(0.7)	1.2	3.7

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 2
MONETARY SURVEY

Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
(B\$ Millions)											
Net foreign assets	360.1	730.5	1,218.0	1,450.2	1,511.4	1,335.3	1,128.2	1,465.0	1,543.8	1,615.8	1,853.7
Central Bank	811.9	904.0	1,417.4	1,596.9	1,572.1	1,300.7	1,196.3	1,436.9	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,760.3
Commercial banks	(451.8)	(173.5)	(199.5)	(146.7)	(60.7)	34.6	(68.1)	28.0	(13.8)	57.0	93.4
Net domestic assets	5,956.8	6,131.5	5,742.1	5,631.7	5,654.3	5,792.6	5,910.7	5,690.6	5,815.5	5,858.6	5,963.8
Domestic credit	8,926.2	9,097.0	8,808.7	8,697.6	8,767.2	8,816.7	8,866.4	8,684.1	8,785.9	8,795.5	8,898.7
Public sector	2,653.2	2,941.4	2,841.7	2,753.0	2,863.5	2,961.4	3,009.1	2,875.5	2,972.1	2,951.4	3,050.1
Government (net)	2,187.2	2,535.5	2,369.6	2,304.3	2,380.0	2,476.5	2,523.7	2,399.3	2,511.3	2,505.0	2,605.5
Rest of public sector	466.0	405.9	472.1	448.7	483.5	484.8	485.4	476.3	460.8	446.4	444.6
Private sector	6,273.0	6,155.6	5,967.0	5,944.6	5,903.7	5,855.3	5,857.2	5,808.5	5,813.9	5,844.1	5,848.6
Other items (net)	(2,969.4)	(2,965.5)	(3,066.6)	(3,065.9)	(3,112.9)	(3,024.1)	(2,955.7)	(2,993.5)	(2,970.4)	(2,936.9)	(2,934.9)
Monetary liabilities	6,316.8	6,862.1	6,960.3	7,084.1	7,167.3	7,128.3	7,038.4	7,154.5	7,357.7	7,472.2	7,814.3
Money	2,024.9	2,406.8	2,591.4	2,705.9	2,693.8	2,632.4	2,671.3	2,706.8	2,942.8	3,004.4	3,186.5
Currency	246.6	280.5	292.6	302.0	312.1	307.0	310.5	316.0	321.7	315.2	336.9
Demand deposits	1,778.3	2,126.4	2,298.8	2,403.9	2,381.7	2,325.4	2,360.8	2,390.8	2,621.1	2,689.2	2,849.6
Quasi-money	4,291.9	4,455.3	4,368.8	4,378.3	4,473.6	4,495.9	4,367.2	4,447.7	4,414.9	4,467.8	4,627.8
Savings deposits	1,148.3	1,295.0	1,371.2	1,395.3	1,431.6	1,423.3	1,427.1	1,476.6	1,536.3	1,513.6	1,637.0
Fixed deposits	2,955.9	2,854.8	2,725.8	2,699.1	2,636.5	2,574.6	2,540.6	2,516.3	2,476.4	2,442.5	2,408.3
Foreign currency deposits	187.8	305.5	271.9	283.8	405.5	498.0	399.4	454.8	402.2	511.7	582.5
(percentage change)											
Total domestic credit	1.0	1.9	(3.2)	(1.3)	0.8	0.6	0.6	(2.1)	1.2	0.1	1.2
Public sector	6.4	10.9	(3.4)	(3.1)	4.0	3.4	1.6	(4.4)	3.4	(0.7)	3.3
Government (net)	8.6	15.9	(6.5)	(2.8)	3.3	4.1	1.9	(4.9)	4.7	(0.2)	4.0
Rest of public sector	(2.8)	(12.9)	16.3	(4.9)	7.7	0.3	0.1	(1.9)	(3.3)	(3.1)	(0.4)
Private sector	(1.1)	(1.9)	(3.1)	(0.4)	(0.7)	(0.8)	0.0	(0.8)	0.1	0.5	0.1
Monetary liabilities	(0.3)	8.6	1.4	1.8	1.2	(0.5)	(1.3)	1.6	2.8	1.6	4.6
Money	3.6	18.9	7.7	4.4	(0.4)	(2.3)	1.5	1.3	8.7	2.1	6.1
Currency	5.9	13.7	4.3	3.2	3.3	(1.6)	1.1	1.8	1.8	(2.0)	6.9
Demand deposits	3.3	19.6	8.1	4.6	(0.9)	(2.4)	1.5	1.3	9.6	2.6	6.0
Quasi-money	(2.0)	3.8	(1.9)	0.2	2.2	0.5	(2.9)	1.8	(0.7)	1.2	3.6

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 3
CENTRAL BANK BALANCE SHEET

(B\$ Millions)											
Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Net foreign assets	811.9	904.0	1,417.4	1,596.9	1,572.1	1,300.7	1,196.3	1,436.9	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,760.3
Balances with banks abroad	206.6	254.8	698.5	783.9	740.0	422.7	375.8	612.2	722.8	688.9	794.4
Foreign securities	521.7	550.5	614.7	681.8	705.3	727.5	670.5	675.1	685.1	703.5	782.1
Reserve position in the Fund	8.7	25.9	27.5	28.0	27.1	26.9	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.3	26.7
SDR holdings	75.0	72.7	76.8	103.2	99.7	123.6	123.2	122.9	123.0	140.1	157.1
Net domestic assets	340.6	555.3	209.6	190.8	161.6	181.4	228.4	95.5	49.1	112.9	143.2
Net claims on Government	493.7	716.6	390.1	395.4	355.0	403.0	503.6	315.4	304.2	372.1	395.9
Claims	523.1	731.9	417.0	415.4	380.0	424.6	525.1	377.8	355.7	441.2	460.3
Treasury bills	126.6	223.9	7.2	-	-	54.9	155.7	68.3	77.5	170.3	135.3
Bahamas registered stock	261.1	372.6	274.5	279.8	244.3	248.7	249.0	239.7	263.1	255.8	249.8
Loans and advances	135.4	135.4	135.4	135.5	135.7	120.9	120.4	69.8	15.2	15.1	75.2
Deposits	(29.4)	(15.3)	(26.9)	(19.9)	(24.9)	(21.6)	(21.6)	(62.4)	(51.5)	(69.1)	(64.4)
In local currency	(29.4)	(15.3)	(26.9)	(19.9)	(24.9)	(21.6)	(21.6)	(62.4)	(51.5)	(69.1)	(64.4)
In foreign currency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deposits of rest of public sector	(17.3)	(12.6)	(17.2)	(27.5)	(25.2)	(37.4)	(74.6)	(31.9)	(41.7)	(48.9)	(49.6)
Credit to commercial banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Official capital and surplus	(163.7)	(173.1)	(185.1)	(183.7)	(185.3)	(185.7)	(208.0)	(208.1)	(208.0)	(208.2)	(208.1)
Net unclassified assets	19.0	15.4	13.8	(1.5)	9.3	(6.3)	(0.2)	12.8	(12.5)	(9.2)	(2.0)
Loans to rest of public sector	3.7	3.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3
Public Corp Bonds/Securities	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
Liabilities To Domestic Banks	(733.5)	(1,011.4)	(1,157.0)	(1,304.6)	(1,246.4)	(1,001.3)	(940.9)	(1,043.3)	(1,111.8)	(1,186.6)	(1,394.4)
Notes and coins	(142.4)	(145.1)	(145.8)	(101.2)	(95.7)	(99.9)	(149.3)	(101.0)	(111.1)	(114.1)	(151.5)
Deposits	(591.1)	(866.3)	(1,011.2)	(1,203.4)	(1,150.7)	(901.4)	(791.7)	(942.4)	(1,000.7)	(1,072.5)	(1,242.9)
SDR allocation	(172.4)	(167.3)	(177.4)	(181.1)	(175.3)	(173.9)	(173.3)	(173.0)	(173.3)	(169.9)	(172.3)
Currency held by the private sector	(246.6)	(280.5)	(292.6)	(302.0)	(312.1)	(306.9)	(310.4)	(316.0)	(321.7)	(315.2)	(336.8)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 4
DOMESTIC BANKS BALANCE SHEET

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Net foreign assets	(531.7)	(225.4)	(265.0)	(220.2)	(159.2)	(26.3)	(124.2)	(47.8)	(91.3)	(12.5)	32.6
Net claims on Central Bank	730.0	1,012.4	1,158.0	1,305.5	1,247.3	1,002.2	941.9	1,044.3	1,112.7	1,187.6	1,395.3
Notes and Coins	142.4	145.1	145.8	101.2	95.7	99.9	149.3	101.0	111.1	114.1	151.5
Balances	587.5	867.3	1,012.2	1,204.3	1,151.6	902.3	792.6	943.3	1,001.6	1,073.5	1,243.8
Less Central Bank credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net domestic assets	5,569.8	5,483.7	5,483.6	5,366.3	5,438.9	5,421.4	5,482.2	5,423.0	5,597.6	5,594.3	5,672.6
Net claims on Government	1,704.4	1,834.8	1,992.9	1,923.1	2,036.8	2,088.0	2,035.7	2,099.7	2,232.1	2,150.9	2,225.0
Treasury bills	662.6	531.9	611.4	620.0	720.5	736.9	669.8	773.1	822.3	741.4	771.9
Other securities	895.4	987.1	1,137.7	1,105.2	1,095.9	1,058.7	990.9	988.3	1,033.1	1,012.6	985.4
Loans and advances	416.8	502.7	442.2	417.1	428.6	489.2	564.4	573.0	609.7	620.9	688.8
Less: deposits	270.5	186.9	198.5	219.1	208.2	196.8	189.4	234.6	233.0	224.0	221.1
Net claims on rest of public sector	117.6	31.0	113.6	76.9	79.8	(1.4)	54.2	20.8	6.6	31.9	31.7
Securities	221.0	163.9	262.6	243.6	231.6	229.5	229.5	228.0	227.6	230.9	230.9
Loans and advances	238.4	233.5	201.9	197.6	244.5	247.8	248.6	241.4	226.0	208.3	206.6
Less: deposits	341.8	366.4	350.8	364.3	396.2	478.7	423.9	448.6	447.1	407.4	405.8
Other net claims	43.9	(2.9)	(2.6)	(5.0)	(1.8)	5.5	(1.0)	1.3	(0.2)	(3.2)	18.8
Credit to the private sector	6,299.7	6,170.8	5,982.9	5,963.3	5,921.7	5,871.4	5,886.2	5,842.7	5,846.4	5,881.2	5,891.6
Securities	24.4	19.6	19.1	23.0	21.5	21.5	32.3	30.5	30.5	26.9	26.0
Mortgages	3,164.7	3,035.5	2,949.5	2,946.6	2,942.8	2,927.5	2,935.3	2,936.2	2,928.1	2,934.3	2,912.2
Loans and advances	3,110.7	3,115.7	3,014.3	2,993.6	2,957.4	2,922.4	2,918.5	2,875.9	2,887.9	2,920.0	2,953.4
Private capital and surplus	(2,651.2)	(2,594.4)	(2,699.3)	(2,684.1)	(2,647.5)	(2,647.4)	(2,642.6)	(2,607.6)	(2,543.3)	(2,396.8)	(2,394.7)
Net unclassified assets	55.5	44.5	96.2	92.3	49.8	105.2	149.9	66.1	56.0	(69.7)	(99.8)
Liabilities to private sector	5,768.1	6,270.7	6,376.6	6,451.7	6,527.0	6,397.3	6,299.9	6,419.5	6,619.0	6,769.4	7,100.6
Demand deposits	1,868.3	2,287.4	2,420.1	2,495.1	2,580.4	2,521.8	2,503.6	2,570.8	2,731.6	2,918.4	3,116.5
Savings deposits	1,162.0	1,315.0	1,390.4	1,416.6	1,467.1	1,453.9	1,454.3	1,506.8	1,568.3	1,544.3	1,667.3
Fixed deposits	2,737.8	2,668.3	2,566.1	2,540.0	2,479.5	2,421.6	2,342.0	2,341.8	2,319.2	2,306.8	2,316.7

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

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

(B\$'000s)

Period	2016	2017	2018	2017				2018				2019		
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III
1. Interest Income	615,104	590,158	587,462	148,243	146,844	154,093	140,978	146,250	142,891	154,093	144,228	141,520	154,599	147,820
2. Interest Expense	78,359	66,322	55,517	18,688	16,236	16,146	15,252	14,159	15,693	13,537	12,128	12,698	12,549	13,229
3. Interest Margin (1-2)	536,745	523,836	525,052	129,555	130,608	137,947	125,726	132,091	127,198	133,663	132,100	128,822	142,050	134,591
4. Commission & Forex Income	24,842	28,537	29,445	7,417	6,993	6,854	7,273	7,192	7,499	7,193	7,561	7,160	9,221	7,682
5. Gross Earnings Margin (3+4)	561,587	552,373	554,497	136,972	137,601	144,801	132,999	139,283	134,697	140,856	139,661	135,982	151,271	142,273
6. Staff Costs	164,891	160,472	157,021	40,170	39,764	37,717	42,821	39,427	39,830	37,825	39,939	39,990	41,554	39,189
7. Occupancy Costs	28,502	26,068	27,725	6,549	6,756	6,824	5,939	7,174	6,810	7,146	6,595	6,365	6,711	6,670
8. Other Operating Costs	165,985	190,618	183,609	49,797	42,378	46,814	51,629	45,638	46,781	43,076	48,114	46,534	61,856	48,451
9. Operating Costs (6+7+8)	359,378	377,158	368,355	96,516	88,898	91,355	100,389	92,239	93,421	88,047	94,648	92,889	110,121	94,310
10. Net Earnings Margin (5-9)	202,209	175,215	186,142	40,456	48,703	53,446	32,610	47,044	41,276	52,809	45,013	43,093	41,150	47,963
11. Depreciation Costs	15,099	15,892	12,774	3,985	3,710	3,943	4,254	3,407	3,061	3,129	3,177	2,671	3,668	2,524
12. Provisions for Bad Debt	116,128	113,131	96,701	22,425	51,302	22,236	17,168	25,641	28,480	13,997	28,583	1,318	13,669	40,694
13. Other Income	133,175	136,036	152,789	30,470	37,649	30,781	37,136	35,567	37,566	35,379	44,277	44,785	45,153	36,312
14. Other Income (Net) (13-11-12)	1,948	7,013	47,490	4,060	(17,363)	4,602	15,714	6,519	6,025	22,429	12,517	40,796	27,816	(6,906)
15. Net Income (10+14)	204,157	182,228	233,632	44,516	31,340	58,048	48,324	53,563	47,301	75,238	57,530	83,889	68,966	41,057
16. Effective Interest Rate Spread (%)	7.23	7.11	7.10	6.96	7.04	7.20	7.24	7.12	7.28	7.20	6.80	6.68	7.12	6.60
(Ratios To Average Assets)														
Interest Margin	5.33	5.13	5.13	5.14	5.14	5.34	4.89	5.11	4.96	5.22	5.24	5.04	5.46	5.18
Commission & Forex Income	0.25	0.28	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.30	0.28	0.35	0.30
Gross Earnings Margin	5.57	5.41	5.42	5.43	5.42	5.60	5.18	5.39	5.26	5.50	5.54	5.32	5.82	5.47
Operating Costs	3.57	3.69	3.60	3.83	3.50	3.54	3.91	3.57	3.65	3.44	3.75	3.63	4.23	3.63
Net Earnings Margin	2.01	1.72	1.82	1.61	1.92	2.07	1.27	1.82	1.61	2.06	1.79	1.69	1.58	1.85
Net Income/Loss	2.03	1.78	2.28	1.77	1.23	2.25	1.88	2.07	1.85	2.94	2.28	3.28	2.65	1.58

*Commercial Banks and OLFIs with domestic operations

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 6
MONEY SUPPLY

(B\$ Millions)

End of Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Money Supply (M1)	2,071.2	2,460.6	2,654.0	2,753.6	2,773.3	2,711.2	2,728.2	2,757.1	3,003.6	3,060.4	3,248.4
1) Currency in active circulation	246.6	280.5	292.6	302.0	312.1	306.9	310.4	316.0	321.7	315.2	336.8
2) Demand deposits	1,824.7	2,180.1	2,361.5	2,451.7	2,461.2	2,404.3	2,417.7	2,441.1	2,681.9	2,745.3	2,911.6
Central Bank	17.3	12.6	17.2	27.5	25.2	37.4	74.6	31.9	41.7	48.9	49.6
Domestic Banks	1,807.3	2,167.6	2,344.2	2,424.2	2,436.0	2,366.9	2,343.1	2,409.2	2,640.2	2,696.3	2,861.9
Factors affecting money (M1)											
1) Net credit to Government	2,198.0	2,551.4	2,383.0	2,318.6	2,391.9	2,490.9	2,539.3	2,415.1	2,536.3	2,523.0	2,620.9
Central Bank	493.7	716.6	390.1	395.4	355.0	403.0	503.6	315.4	304.2	372.1	395.9
Domestic banks	1,704.4	1,834.8	1,992.9	1,923.1	2,036.8	2,088.0	2,035.7	2,099.7	2,232.1	2,150.9	2,225.0
2) Other credit	6,768.1	6,577.1	6,455.3	6,412.3	6,405.6	6,356.6	6,371.9	6,319.3	6,307.2	6,327.6	6,336.2
Rest of public sector	468.4	406.3	472.5	449.1	483.9	485.2	485.8	476.6	460.8	446.4	444.6
Private sector	6,299.7	6,170.8	5,982.9	5,963.3	5,921.7	5,871.4	5,886.2	5,842.7	5,846.4	5,881.2	5,891.6
3) External reserves	811.9	904.0	1,417.4	1,596.9	1,572.1	1,300.7	1,196.3	1,436.9	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,760.3
4) Other external liabilities (net)	(531.7)	(225.4)	(265.0)	(220.2)	(159.2)	(26.3)	(124.2)	(47.8)	(91.3)	(12.5)	32.6
5) Quasi money	4,302.6	4,469.5	4,383.3	4,391.8	4,487.2	4,509.1	4,380.7	4,458.9	4,425.8	4,480.5	4,644.4
6) Other items (net)	(2,872.4)	(2,877.0)	(2,953.7)	(2,964.4)	(2,951.5)	(2,902.0)	(2,874.1)	(2,906.6)	(2,878.8)	(2,853.8)	(2,853.9)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 7
CONSUMER INSTALMENT CREDIT

(B\$' 000)

End of Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	June	Sept	Dec.	Mar.	June	Sept	Dec.
CREDIT OUTSTANDING											
Private cars	181,447	176,178	163,974	159,105	153,708	148,441	146,286	142,918	140,123	136,824	135,786
Taxis & rented cars	1,026	777	796	855	803	897	948	1,015	1,037	1,094	1,028
Commercial vehicles	1,498	1,050	1,208	1,158	1,124	1,062	1,036	1,042	1,209	1,124	1,156
Furnishings & domestic appliances	8,081	8,302	8,493	8,238	7,863	8,346	8,205	8,321	8,619	8,999	9,246
Travel	36,836	41,197	45,457	43,318	45,909	50,530	50,872	50,660	56,648	63,167	65,037
Education	41,117	52,245	53,065	50,684	47,491	48,261	43,067	40,660	39,001	42,116	39,976
Medical	12,471	12,824	12,025	12,752	12,857	12,626	12,773	12,857	12,487	12,288	11,873
Home Improvements	114,265	121,959	113,898	110,992	107,081	103,136	102,022	99,853	98,696	98,724	101,255
Land Purchases	193,163	169,847	152,771	149,817	145,587	141,858	139,093	137,993	136,346	134,722	131,400
Consolidation of debt	802,034	984,569	951,071	950,187	955,742	939,570	922,138	914,635	918,987	917,749	908,422
Miscellaneous	640,154	546,313	564,703	558,803	537,638	538,144	541,719	533,124	532,740	533,325	530,172
Credit Cards	249,164	256,166	254,852	247,113	243,617	246,201	249,069	240,706	240,892	267,913	272,999
TOTAL	2,281,256	2,371,427	2,322,313	2,293,022	2,259,420	2,239,072	2,217,228	2,183,784	2,186,785	2,218,045	2,208,350
NET CREDIT EXTENDED											
Private cars	(5,284)	(5,269)	(12,204)	(4,869)	(5,397)	(5,267)	(2,155)	(3,368)	(2,795)	(6,094)	(4,337)
Taxis & rented cars	173	(249)	19	59	(52)	94	51	67	22	79	(9)
Commercial vehicles	(460)	(448)	158	(50)	(34)	(62)	(26)	6	167	82	(53)
Furnishings & domestic appliances	170	221	191	(255)	(375)	483	(141)	116	298	678	627
Travel	6,803	4,361	4,260	(2,139)	2,591	4,621	342	(212)	5,988	12,507	8,389
Education	4,546	11,128	820	(2,381)	(3,193)	770	(5,194)	(2,407)	(1,659)	1,456	975
Medical	727	353	(799)	727	105	(231)	147	84	(370)	(569)	(614)
Home Improvements	(17,458)	7,694	(8,061)	(2,906)	(3,911)	(3,945)	(1,114)	(2,169)	(1,157)	(1,129)	2,559
Land Purchases	(23,597)	(23,316)	(17,076)	(2,954)	(4,230)	(3,729)	(2,765)	(1,100)	(1,647)	(3,271)	(4,946)
Consolidation of debt	24,230	182,535	(33,498)	(884)	5,555	(16,172)	(17,432)	(7,503)	4,352	3,114	(10,565)
Miscellaneous	15,080	(93,841)	18,390	(5,900)	(21,165)	506	3,575	(8,595)	(384)	201	(2,568)
Credit Cards	3,910	7,002	(1,314)	(7,739)	(3,496)	2,584	2,868	(8,363)	186	27,207	32,107
TOTAL	8,840	90,171	(49,114)	(29,291)	(33,602)	(20,348)	(21,844)	(33,444)	3,001	34,261	21,565

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 8
SELECTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATES

(%)											
Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
DOMESTIC BANKS											
Deposit rates											
Demand deposits	0.30	0.28	0.27	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.29	0.27	0.40	0.27	0.50
Savings deposits	0.83	0.82	0.72	0.71	0.67	0.66	0.50	0.51	0.35	0.34	0.33
Fixed deposits											
Up to 3 months	1.14	0.97	0.78	0.67	0.56	0.59	0.58	0.49	0.33	0.28	0.29
Up to 6 months	1.09	0.99	0.64	0.62	0.58	0.53	0.74	0.71	0.56	0.49	0.49
Up to 12 months	1.71	1.58	1.21	0.94	1.07	1.06	0.79	0.72	0.67	0.77	0.55
Over 12 months	1.57	1.87	1.61	1.41	1.52	1.01	1.10	0.95	0.89	0.83	0.91
Weighted average rate	1.41	1.24	1.00	0.91	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.68	1.67	0.52	0.53
Lending rates											
Residential mortgages	6.48	6.22	5.76	5.50	5.46	5.35	5.33	4.90	4.96	4.94	4.82
Commercial mortgages	7.95	7.76	6.87	7.52	6.74	8.71	7.38	6.75	6.15	5.91	7.25
Consumer loans	14.26	14.03	13.61	13.58	13.49	13.53	13.35	12.38	13.03	13.24	12.79
Overdrafts	10.36	11.13	10.62	10.47	10.04	10.42	9.65	9.20	9.86	11.55	11.10
Weighted average rate	12.29	12.49	11.75	11.40	11.25	11.61	11.11	9.66	10.53	11.22	10.44
Other rates											
Prime rate	4.75	4.75	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Treasury bill (90 days)	0.68	1.64	1.83	1.78	1.70	1.59	1.53	1.52	1.56	1.62	1.68
Treasury bill re-discount rate	1.18	2.14	2.33	2.28	2.28	2.12	2.09	2.09	2.14	2.13	2.20
Bank rate (discount rate)*	4.50	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	2015R	2016R	2017R	2018R				2019			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. I	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
Loan Portfolio											
Current Loans (as a % of total loans)	79.7	82.2	85.1	84.9	85.6	85.7	85.7	86.8	87.8	86.8	87.9
Arrears (% by loan type)			0								
Consumer	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.5	4.0	3.5
Mortgage	11.6	9.0	8.8	9.0	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.5
Commercial	3.7	4.0	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.1
Total Arrears	20.3	17.8	14.9	15.1	14.4	14.3	14.3	13.2	12.2	13.2	12.1
Total B\$ Loan Portfolio	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Loan Portfolio			0								
Current Loans (as a % of total loans)	79.7	82.2	85.1	84.9	85.6	85.7	85.7	86.8	87.8	86.8	87.9
Arrears (% by days outstanding)			0								
30 - 60 days	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.3	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.6
61 - 90 days	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.5
90 - 179 days	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1
over 180 days	13.4	10.9	8.3	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.2	6.9
Total Arrears	20.3	17.8	14.9	15.1	14.4	14.3	14.3	13.2	12.2	13.2	12.1
Total B\$ Loan Portfolio	100.0	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)			0								
Consumer	22.2	23.6	27.8	28.0	28.3	27.4	25.8	26.7	25.5	25.8	25.5
Mortgage	57.4	50.3	60.8	60.2	60.5	61.7	65	63.2	64.6	63.8	63.5
Other Private	20.4	26.1	11.4	11.8	11.3	10.9	9.2	10.2	10.0	10.4	11.0
Total Non Accrual Loans	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Provisions to Loan Portfolio			0								
Consumer	7.1	7.8	6.1	6.8	7.3	6.7	5.5	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.9
Mortgage	9.9	9.0	8.3	7.8	7.5	7.9	7.6	8.8	8.7	8.3	8.3
Other Private	10.2	11.7	8.0	8.0	7.8	8.5	14.4	7.2	6.5	5.3	7.1
Total Provisions to Total Private Sector Loans	8.8	8.9	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.2	7.6
Total Provisions to Total Non-performing Loans	58.5	70.6	74.7	74.9	77.6	81.0	84.8	86.4	86.5	85.6	94.4
Total Non-performing Loans to Total Private Sector Loans	15.1	12.3	9.9	9.9	9.6	9.2	9.1	9.1	8.7	8.4	8.0

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

R = Revised table to capture lending activity to the private sector effective 31st March, 2019.

TABLE 10
SUMMARY OF BANK LIQUIDITY

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
I. Statutory Reserves											
Required reserves	316.9	325.1	336.9	338.6	342.9	340.8	331.1	331.9	345.3	348.5	349.6
Average Till Cash	123.0	130.4	125.8	106.7	97.1	102.6	124.9	108.5	107.8	115.6	129.8
Average balance with central bank	598.7	945.1	1,030.3	1,165.4	1,224.3	966.7	808.6	863.4	978.0	1,003.5	1,181.3
Free cash reserves (period ended)	404.9	750.5	819.2	933.5	978.5	728.6	602.5	639.9	740.6	770.5	961.5
II. Liquid Assets (period)											
A. Minimum Required Liquid Assets	1,044.6	1,098.6	1,128.9	1,143.7	1,152.2	1,122.6	1,115.6	1,148.4	1,196.1	1,206.4	1,261.1
B. Net Eligible Liquid Assets	2,361.6	2,579.9	2,956.2	3,074.9	3,112.3	2,851.6	2,649.0	2,852.0	3,014.7	2,988.7	3,198.0
i) Balance with Central Bank	587.5	867.3	1,012.2	1,204.3	1,150.7	902.3	792.6	943.3	1,001.6	1,073.5	1,239.8
ii) Notes and Coins	142.9	145.6	146.3	101.7	96.2	100.4	149.8	101.5	111.6	114.6	152.0
iii) Treasury Bills	662.6	531.9	611.4	620.0	720.5	736.9	669.8	773.1	822.3	741.4	771.9
iv) Government registered stocks	895.4	987.1	1,137.7	1,105.2	1,095.7	1,058.7	990.9	988.3	1,033.1	1,012.6	972.8
v) Specified assets	55.6	51.0	50.8	50.6	50.3	48.5	48.4	46.9	46.6	49.8	49.7
vi) Net Inter-bank dem/call deposits	17.4	(3.0)	(2.2)	(7.0)	(1.0)	4.7	(2.5)	(1.0)	(0.5)	(3.1)	11.7
vii) Less: borrowings from central bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Surplus/(Deficit)	1,316.9	1,481.3	1,827.3	1,931.2	1,960.1	1,729.0	1,533.4	1,703.6	1,818.6	1,782.4	1,936.9

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

TABLE 11
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND FINANCING

Period	2017/18p	2018/19p	(B\$ Millions)								
			Budget		2017/18p		2018/19p				2019/20p
			2018/19	2019/20	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I
Total Revenue & Grants	2,042.4	2,420.1	2,650.9	2,628.1	589.6	572.0	513.8	497.8	677.4	731.0	554.3
Current expenditure	2,188.6	2,418.0	2,589.2	2,530.0	548.5	638.4	539.9	566.3	594.9	717.0	544.1
Capital expenditure	268.7	217.2	299.3	235.0	52.5	85.2	38.8	41.2	48.1	89.1	56.2
Net lending	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overall balance	(414.9)	(215.1)	(237.6)	(136.9)	(11.3)	(151.6)	(64.9)	(109.6)	34.5	(75.1)	(45.9)
FINANCING (I+II-III+IV+V)	414.9	215.1	237.6	136.9	11.3	151.6	64.9	109.6	(34.5)	75.1	45.9
I. Foreign currency borrowing	1,369.3	9.2	50.4	64.5	59.2	0.1	1.2	4.9	0.2	3.0	31.9
External	1,369.3	9.2	50.4	64.5	59.2	0.1	1.2	4.9	0.2	3.0	31.9
Domestic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
II. Bahamian dollar borrowing	617.7	1,085.0	896.6	700.3	111.6	175.7	301.7	371.2	170.7	241.4	135.7
i)Treasury bills	111.7	231.3	-	-	1.6	100.7	91.7	62.2	1.7	75.7	29.7
ii)Long-term securities	492.0	619.7	-	-	110.0	75.0	110.0	204.0	140.0	165.7	103.0
iii)Loans and Advances	14.0	234.0	-	-	-	-	100.0	105.0	29.0	-	3.0
III. Debt repayment	1,302.6	801.1	709.4	628.0	155.4	121.5	162.9	253.1	190.2	195.0	98.3
Domestic	798.1	717.2	620.9	539.0	131.4	113.8	128.5	245.3	156.0	187.3	83.7
Bahamian dollars	798.1	717.2	620.9	539.0	131.4	113.8	128.5	245.3	156.0	187.3	83.7
Foreign currency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
External	504.4	83.9	88.5	88.9	24.1	7.7	34.4	7.7	34.1	7.7	14.6
IV.Net sale of shares & other equity	(20.0)	(94.4)	-	-	(3.8)	(2.4)	(44.6)	(17.5)	(12.5)	(19.9)	(11.7)
V.Cash balance change & other financing	(249.5)	16.5	-	-	(0.3)	99.7	(30.5)	4.1	(2.7)	45.6	(11.7)

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

**TABLE 12
NATIONAL DEBT**

(B\$ '000s)

Period	2017	2018	2019	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	2,616,225	2,593,818	2,567,662	2,661,198	2,637,108	2,599,118	2,593,818	2,557,139	2,553,176	2,559,787	2,567,662
By Instrument											
Government Securities	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000
Loans	966,225	943,818	917,662	1,011,198	987,108	949,118	943,818	907,139	903,176	909,787	917,662
By Holder											
Commercial Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	213,730	207,483	232,075	219,610	211,941	210,273	207,483	205,780	201,030	231,115	232,075
Bilateral Institutions	90,688	79,609	72,539	90,419	85,894	79,719	79,609	78,418	76,651	70,660	72,539
Private Capital Markets	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000
Other Financial Institutions	661,807	656,726	613,048	701,169	689,273	659,126	656,726	622,941	625,495	608,012	613,048
TOTAL INTERNAL DEBT	4,563,864	4,905,099	5,165,557	4,544,155	4,606,087	4,779,238	4,905,099	4,919,740	4,973,870	5,025,915	5,165,557
By Instrument											
Foreign Currency	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Government Securities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Bahamian Dollars	4,563,864	4,905,099	5,115,557	4,544,155	4,606,087	4,779,238	4,905,099	4,919,740	4,973,870	5,025,915	5,115,557
Advances	134,657	119,657	74,900	134,657	134,657	119,657	119,657	69,657	14,957	14,900	74,900
Treasury Bills	655,749	875,746	977,104	657,395	758,108	829,542	875,746	877,429	938,156	959,858	977,104
Government Securities	3,492,283	3,536,654	3,725,354	3,506,709	3,488,709	3,518,709	3,536,654	3,601,654	3,675,354	3,725,354	3,725,354
Loans	281,175	373,042	338,199	245,394	224,613	311,330	373,042	371,000	345,403	325,803	338,199
By Holder											
Foreign Currency	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Commercial Banks	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Other Local Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahamian Dollars	4,563,864	4,905,099	5,115,557	4,544,155	4,606,087	4,779,238	4,905,099	4,919,740	4,973,870	5,025,915	5,115,557
The Central Bank	413,570	518,721	455,725	408,966	374,086	417,080	518,721	372,250	350,203	436,667	455,725
Commercial Banks	1,975,909	1,983,549	2,053,618	1,915,333	1,990,281	2,055,874	1,983,549	2,083,906	2,145,017	2,040,377	2,053,618
Other Local Financial Institutions	27,162	11,085	21,671	28,037	25,461	27,984	11,085	22,638	31,850	32,230	21,671
Public Corporations	602,287	586,572	602,704	600,352	602,992	582,118	586,572	597,893	600,404	597,242	602,704
Other	1,544,936	1,805,172	1,981,839	1,591,467	1,613,267	1,696,182	1,805,172	1,843,053	1,846,396	1,919,399	1,981,839
TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT	2,616,225	2,593,818	2,617,662	2,661,198	2,637,108	2,599,118	2,593,818	2,557,139	2,553,176	2,559,787	2,617,662
TOTAL DIRECT CHARGE	7,180,089	7,498,917	7,733,219	7,205,353	7,243,195	7,378,356	7,498,917	7,476,879	7,527,046	7,585,702	7,733,219
TOTAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	704,191	752,251	723,942	703,229	700,619	772,680	752,251	738,970	736,370	726,647	723,942
TOTAL NATIONAL DEBT	7,884,280	8,251,168	8,457,161	7,908,582	7,943,814	8,151,036	8,251,168	8,215,849	8,263,416	8,312,349	8,457,161

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

(B\$ '000s)											
Period	2017*	2018**	2019	2018				2019			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Outstanding Debt at Beginning of Period	2,646,751	3,484,245	3,510,146	3,484,245	3,526,682	3,497,538	3,590,981	3,510,146	3,461,968	3,440,604	3,425,598
Government	1,745,483	2,616,225	2,593,818	2,616,225	2,661,198	2,637,108	2,599,118	2,593,818	2,557,139	2,553,176	2,559,787
Public Corporations	901,268	868,020	916,328	868,020	865,484	860,430	991,863	916,328	904,829	887,428	865,811
Plus: New Drawings	1,347,128	256,635	93,740	62,479	3,457	139,304	51,395	175	3,028	31,879	58,658
Government	1,327,674	65,330	93,665	59,191	64	1,152	4,923	175	2,953	31,879	58,658
Public corporations	19,454	191,305	75	3,288	3,393	138,152	46,472	-	75	-	-
Less: Amortization	545,717	216,894	122,225	29,906	16,153	41,125	129,710	45,624	25,184	36,233	15,184
Government	493,003	73,906	64,153	24,080	7,709	34,409	7,708	34,121	7,708	14,616	7,708
Public corporations	52,714	142,988	58,072	5,826	8,444	6,716	122,002	11,503	17,476	21,617	7,476
Other Changes in Debt Stock	36,083	(13,840)	(5,664)	9,864	(16,448)	(4,736)	(2,520)	(2,729)	792	(10,652)	6,925
Government	36,071	(13,831)	(5,668)	9,862	(16,445)	(4,733)	(2,515)	(2,733)	792	(10,652)	6,925
Public corporations	12	(9)	4	2	(3)	(3)	(5)	4	-	-	-
Outstanding Debt at End of Period	3,484,245	3,510,146	3,475,997	3,526,682	3,497,538	3,590,981	3,510,146	3,461,968	3,440,604	3,425,598	3,475,997
Government	2,616,225	2,593,818	2,617,662	2,661,198	2,637,108	2,599,118	2,593,818	2,557,139	2,553,176	2,559,787	2,617,662
Public corporations	868,020	916,328	858,335	865,484	860,430	991,863	916,328	904,829	887,428	865,811	858,335
Interest Charges	152,815	220,950	203,144	38,680	74,256	38,812	69,202	37,266	67,063	34,285	64,530
Government	92,969	154,701	144,039	23,850	57,842	22,030	50,979	22,000	51,208	20,445	50,386
Public corporations	59,846	66,249	59,105	14,830	16,414	16,782	18,223	15,266	15,855	13,840	14,144
Debt Service	698,532	437,844	325,369	68,586	90,409	79,937	198,912	82,890	92,247	70,518	79,714
Government	585,972	228,607	208,192	47,930	65,551	56,439	58,687	56,121	58,916	35,061	58,094
Public corporations	112,560	209,237	117,177	20,656	24,858	23,498	140,225	26,769	33,331	35,457	21,620
Debt Service ratio	6.5	10.0	6.8	6.1	7.5	7.8	15.3	6.3	6.5	7.5	8.9
Government Debt Service/ Government Revenue (%)	6.5	10.5	8.3	8.1	11.5	11.0	11.8	8.3	8.1	6.3	10.6
MEMORANDUM											
Holder distribution (B\$ Mil):											
Commercial banks	267.7	332.1	351.9	264.5	260.6	335.6	332.1	329.2	317.1	304.0	351.9
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	285.6	284.0	304.1	291.2	281.8	286.4	284.0	282.1	275.3	305.1	304.1
Bilateral Institutions	90.7	79.6	72.5	90.4	85.9	79.7	79.6	78.4	76.7	70.7	72.5
Other	1,190.2	1,164.4	1,097.5	1,230.5	1,219.3	1,239.2	1,164.4	1,122.3	1,121.6	1,095.7	1,097.5
Private Capital Markets	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0

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

*Debt servicing for 2017 includes the refinancing of \$450 million in Government External debt. Net of this transaction, the Debt Service Ratio and the Government Debt Service/Revenue Ratio were both 6.5%.

**Debt servicing for 2018 includes the refinancing of \$44.1 million in Public Corporation's debt. Net of these transactions, the Debt Service Ratio was 9.0%.

TABLE 14
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY*

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2017	2018	2019	2018				2019			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
A. Current Account Balance (I+II+III+IV)	(1,508.5)	(1,487.7)	69.4	(164.0)	(377.7)	(451.7)	(494.4)	26.9	(51.9)	(137.2)	231.6
I. Merchandise (Net)	(2,537.8)	(2,675.1)	(2,311.7)	(624.6)	(782.0)	(632.1)	(636.3)	(523.7)	(625.5)	(572.6)	(590.0)
Exports	570.6	641.7	654.6	122.5	214.6	153.3	151.3	154.3	277.8	108.8	113.7
Imports	3,108.4	3,316.8	2,966.3	747.1	996.6	785.4	787.7	678.0	903.3	681.4	703.7
II. Services (Net)	1,445.2	1,938.2	2,095.5	577.7	656.9	393.8	309.7	668.9	723.2	406.6	296.7
Transportation	(383.4)	(411.6)	(362.1)	(106.4)	(112.6)	(92.9)	(99.7)	(109.8)	(103.6)	(55.4)	(93.2)
Travel	2,625.2	3,023.4	3,244.3	845.5	848.5	653.2	676.3	1,000.5	976.5	663.1	604.2
Insurance Services	(114.0)	(154.0)	(143.5)	(35.9)	(37.9)	(35.2)	(44.9)	(36.8)	(34.9)	(48.6)	(23.1)
Offshore Companies Local Expenses	130.1	249.5	183.8	57.8	51.2	89.4	51.1	58.5	52.8	34.2	38.2
Other Government	(105.8)	(97.0)	(132.4)	(30.6)	(1.8)	(34.9)	(29.6)	(66.0)	(22.7)	(29.9)	(13.8)
Other Services	(706.8)	(672.1)	(694.6)	(152.7)	(90.3)	(185.7)	(243.4)	(177.4)	(144.8)	(156.8)	(215.6)
III. Income (Net)	(360.7)	(682.3)	(547.4)	(99.4)	(243.9)	(192.7)	(146.2)	(115.3)	(159.3)	(108.9)	(163.9)
1. Compensation of Employees	(38.7)	(28.9)	(62.8)	(6.6)	(2.8)	(7.9)	(11.7)	(11.7)	(14.3)	(16.8)	(20.0)
2. Investment Income	(321.9)	(653.3)	(484.6)	(92.8)	(241.2)	(184.8)	(134.6)	(103.5)	(145.1)	(92.1)	(143.9)
IV. Current Transfers (Net)	(55.2)	(68.6)	833.0	(17.7)	(8.7)	(20.6)	(21.6)	(3.1)	9.7	137.7	688.8
1. General Government	114.0	132.8	131.8	38.1	39.7	26.6	28.4	41.3	42.0	31.5	17.0
2. Private Sector	(169.2)	(201.4)	701.2	(55.8)	(48.5)	(47.2)	(50.0)	(44.4)	(32.3)	106.1	671.8
B. Capital and Financial Account (I+II)	1,572.0	609.1	256.5	142.3	308.9	1.7	156.2	11.5	167.8	26.0	51.3
(excl. Reserves)											
I. Capital Account (Net Transfers)	(26.1)	(20.7)	(20.2)	(3.3)	(2.3)	(12.4)	(2.6)	(2.4)	(6.6)	(9.8)	(1.4)
II. Financial Account (Net)	1,598.1	629.7	276.7	145.6	311.2	14.2	158.8	13.9	174.4	35.8	52.7
1. Direct Investment	304.6	491.4	290.3	64.5	295.2	86.0	45.7	71.9	89.0	77.0	52.4
2. Portfolio Investment	(16.7)	(11.7)	(10.2)	(3.5)	(1.8)	(2.3)	(4.1)	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.3)	(4.2)
3. Other Investments	1,310.2	150.0	(3.5)	84.6	17.8	(69.6)	117.2	(56.3)	87.3	(39.0)	4.5
Central Gov't Long Term Capital	834.7	(8.2)	(22.0)	35.1	(7.6)	(32.9)	(2.8)	(33.9)	(4.8)	17.3	(0.6)
Other Public Sector Capital	(9.8)	(39.7)	(22.6)	(1.0)	(2.7)	18.5	(54.6)	(4.5)	(6.3)	(5.5)	(6.3)
Banks	39.5	(140.8)	(156.8)	(44.8)	(61.0)	(132.9)	97.9	(76.4)	43.5	(78.8)	(45.1)
Other	445.8	338.7	198.0	95.2	89.2	77.7	76.6	58.6	54.8	28.0	56.5
C. Net Errors and Omissions	447.2	660.9	237.8	204.5	43.9	178.5	234.0	201.9	4.8	112.4	(81.3)
D. Overall Balance (A+B+C)	510.6	(217.7)	563.8	182.8	(24.9)	(271.4)	(104.2)	240.3	120.7	1.2	201.6
E. Financing (Net)	(509.4)	217.7	(563.8)	(182.8)	24.9	271.4	104.2	(240.3)	(120.7)	(1.2)	(201.6)
Change in SDR holdings	(3.3)	(46.5)	(33.7)	(26.3)	3.5	(23.9)	0.2	0.6	(0.1)	(17.2)	(17.1)
Change in Reserve Position with the IMF	(1.5)	0.6	0.2	(0.6)	0.9	0.2	0.1	-	-	0.5	(0.4)
Change in Ext. Foreign Assets () = Increase	(504.6)	263.6	(530.2)	(155.9)	20.5	295.1	103.9	(241.0)	(120.6)	15.5	(184.1)

Source: Central Bank of the Bahamas

* Figures may not sum to total due to rounding

TABLE 15
EXTERNAL TRADE

(B\$ '000s)									
Period	2017	2018	2019	2018				2019	
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II
I. OIL TRADE									
i) Exports	72,692	101,558	44,767	26,569	19,774	26,898	28,317	22,287	22,480
ii) Imports ^R	552,863	583,402	297,928	145,498	102,957	233,644	101,302	127,670	170,258
II. OTHER MERCHANDISE									
Domestic Exports									
Crawfish	34,435	46,025	58,684	17,502	6,922	6,254	28,006	15,984	22,008
Fish Conch & other Crustacea	33,783	2,653	2,770	367	1,435	618	350	1,045	1,437
Other cordials & Similar Materials/Sponge	884	496	450	123	9	141	177	190	271
Fruits & Veggies.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aragonite	2,040	1,828	2,816	535	735	849	697	607	873
Other Natural Sands	349	460	531	47	153	260	71	77	95
Rum/Beverages/Spirits & Vinegar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crude Salt	4,099	4,560	13,218	5,147	2,152	1,784	4,135	3,602	1,157
Polystrene Products	80,010	75,471	80,956	16,548	19,691	23,130	21,587	25,792	17,651
Other	46,589	36,337	78,016	7,628	24,880	24,250	21,258	10,283	24,048
i) Total Domestic Exports	202,190	224,783	237,441	47,897	55,977	57,286	76,281	57,580	67,540
ii) Re-Exports	155,016	171,827	172,859	34,664	87,606	30,263	20,326	40,906	145,357
iii) Total Exports (i+ii)	357,206	396,610	410,301	82,561	143,583	87,549	96,608	98,486	212,897
iv) Imports	2,529,125	2,874,959	2,938,015	705,378	875,255	657,741	699,641	581,257	811,272
v) Retained Imports (iv-ii)	2,374,109	2,703,132	2,765,156	670,714	787,649	627,478	679,315	540,351	665,915
vi) Trade Balance (i-v)	(2,171,919)	(2,478,349)	(2,527,715)	(622,817)	(731,672)	(570,192)	(603,034)	(482,771)	(598,375)

Source: Department of Statistics Quarterly Statistical Summaries

TABLE 16
SELECTED TOURISM STATISTICS

Period	2017	2018	2019	2018				2019			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
Visitor Arrivals	6,135,839	6,622,015	7,243,519	1,775,380	1,627,490	1,519,086	1,700,059	1,994,296	1,888,129	1,553,311	1,807,783
Air	1,335,613	1,558,086	1,662,410	411,308	435,037	356,427	355,314	482,626	498,300	361,194	320,290
Sea	4,800,226	5,063,929	5,581,109	1,364,072	1,192,453	1,162,659	1,344,745	1,511,670	1,389,829	1,192,117	1,487,493
Visitor Type											
Stopover	1,439,242	1,633,445	1,804,184	429,051	456,117	386,252	362,025	524,180	545,348	398,165	336,491
Cruise	4,626,259	4,877,596	5,429,474	1,326,394	1,130,596	1,104,573	1,316,033	1,474,573	1,330,506	1,156,420	1,467,975
Day/Transit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tourist Expenditure(B\$ 000's)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Stopover	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cruise	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Day	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of Hotel Nights	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Length of Stay	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Hotel Occupancy Rates (%)											
New Providence	61.0	61.7	67.1	64.0	68.0	59.0	56.0	78.0	75.0	62.7	52.7
Grand Bahama	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Nightly Room Rates (\$)											
New Providence	232.11	244.72	262.77	268.98	240.61	211.71	257.59	295.07	261.98	215.49	263.07
Grand Bahama	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	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