



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments January 2024

In an effort to provide the public with more frequent information on its economic surveillance activities, the Central Bank has decided to release monthly reports on economic and financial sector developments in The Bahamas. The Bank monitors these conditions as part of its monetary policy mandate, to assess whether money and credit trends are sustainable relative to levels of external reserves required to protect the value of the Bahamian dollar and, if not, the degree to which credit policies ought to be adjusted. The main data source for this surveillance is financial institutions' daily reports on foreign exchange transactions and weekly balance sheet statements. Therefore, monthly approximations may not coincide with calendar estimates reported in the Central Bank's quarterly reports. The Central Bank will release its "Monthly Economic and Financial Developments" report on the Monday following its monthly Monetary Policy Committee Meeting.

Future Release Dates:

2024: 2nd April, 29th April, 3rd June, 1st July, 29th July, 2nd September, 30th September, 4th November, 4th December, 27th December



JANUARY 2024 SUMMARY

MONTHLY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Overall Economic Activity

During the month of January, indications are that the domestic economy sustained its growth momentum, although at a more tempered pace, with economic indicators returning closer to their expected medium-term potential. Tourism output continued to register healthy growth, bolstered by gains in both the high value-added air segment and the sea component, as the demand for travel in key source markets persisted, amid aggressive promotion of the destination.

Inflation

In the latest data, average consumer price inflation—as measured by changes in the average Retail Price Index (RPI) for The Bahamas—slowed to 3.1% in 2023, from 5.6% in 2022, as the rise in international oil prices moderated, vis-à-vis the previous year.

Monetary Sector

Monetary sector developments featured an expansion in banking sector liquidity, on account of a buildup in the deposit base, which contrasted with the reduction in domestic credit. Similarly, during the review month, external reserves grew, largely attributed to the Government’s external borrowing activities.

International Economies

Global economic performance varied during the month of January, amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, along with elevated inflation. Against this backdrop, major central banks reaffirmed their monetary policy tightening stance, in an effort to curtail inflation and foster economic growth.



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments (MEFD)

January 2024

1. Domestic Economic Developments

Overview

Preliminary indications are that during the month of January, the domestic economy sustained its growth momentum, although at a more tempered pace, with economic indicators returning closer to their expected medium-term potential. Tourism output continued to register healthy growth, bolstered by gains in both the high value-added air segment and the sea component, as the demand for travel in key source markets persisted, amid aggressive marketing of the destination. In price developments, average consumer price inflation—as measured by changes in the average Retail Price Index (RPI) for The Bahamas—moderated in 2023, as the rise in international oil prices slowed, relative to the same period last year. Monetary trends for January were marked by an expansion in banking sector liquidity, on account of a buildup in the deposit base, which contrasted with the reduction in domestic credit. Similarly, external reserves grew, largely attributed to the Government’s external borrowing activities.

Real Sector

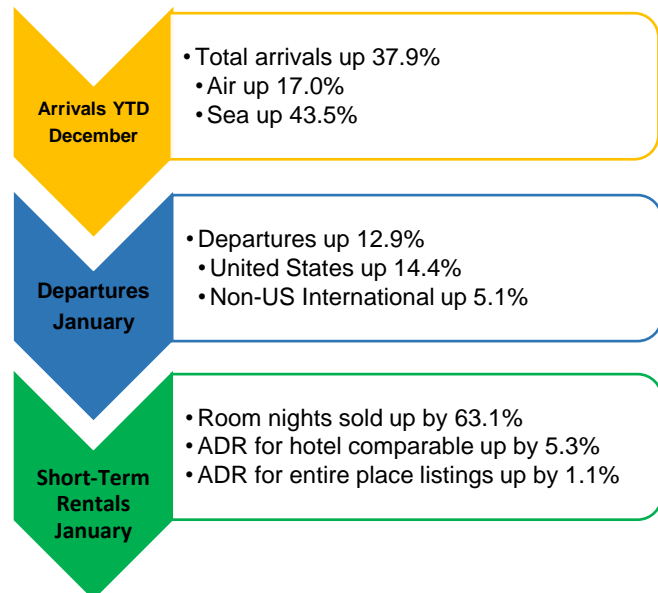
Tourism

Tourism metrics for the month of January suggest that the sector maintained its growth trajectory, undergirded by ongoing gains in both the high-value added air segment and sea passengers, as the demand for travel in key source markets persisted.

Official data provided by the Ministry of Tourism showed that total visitor arrivals rose to 1.0 million in December 2023, from 0.9 million in the comparative period of 2022. Specifically, the dominant sea segment increased to 0.85 million visitors, from 0.75 million passengers in the previous year. Further, the value-added air component grew to 0.16 million visitors, the same magnitude as the prior year.

A breakdown by major port of entry showed that total arrivals to New Providence rose to 0.49 million visitors, from 0.41 million in the year prior. Supporting this outcome, sea passengers advanced to 0.37 million from 0.30 million a year earlier, while air traffic firmed to 0.13 million visitors from 0.12 million in the previous year. Further, foreign arrivals to the Family Islands increased to 0.47 million, from 0.43 million in the preceding year, as sea and air passengers measured 0.43 million and 0.03 million, respectively.

Chart 1: Tourism Indicators at a Glance



Sources: Ministry of Tourism, Nassau Airport Development Co. & AirDNA

Providing a slight offset, total arrivals to Grand Bahamas amounted to 0.05 million, lower than the 0.06 million recorded in the prior year, as sea visitors totaled 0.05 million and air travelers 5,864.

On an annual basis, total arrivals strengthened to a historic 9.6 million visitors in 2023, vis-à-vis 7.0 million in the 2022 period. Contributing to this outcome, air arrivals advanced to 1.7 million passengers, from 1.5 million in the prior year, extending the 65.8% gain in the previous year, reflective of increases in all major markets. Likewise, sea arrivals accelerated to 7.9 million, from 5.5 million visitors in the preceding year (see Table 1).

Meanwhile, more recent data provided by the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) indicated that total departures in January—net of domestic passengers—rose by 12.9% to 0.14 million, vis-à-vis the comparative period last year. In particular, U.S. departures expanded by 14.4% to 0.12 million, while non-U.S. departures grew by 5.1% to 0.02 million, relative to the corresponding period in 2023.

Data provided by AirDNA on the short-term vacation rental market showed that in January, total room nights sold declined by 6.9% to 137,479 from a year earlier. Correspondingly, the occupancy rates for both entire place and hotel comparable listings decreased to 47.8% and 47.9%, respectively, compared to 56.6% and 55.7% in the prior year. Further, as depicted in Graph 1, price indicators showed that year-over-year, the average daily room rate (ADR) for entire place listings decreased by 5.3% to \$496.86. In contrast, the ADR for hotel comparable listings increased by 1.1% to \$188.59.

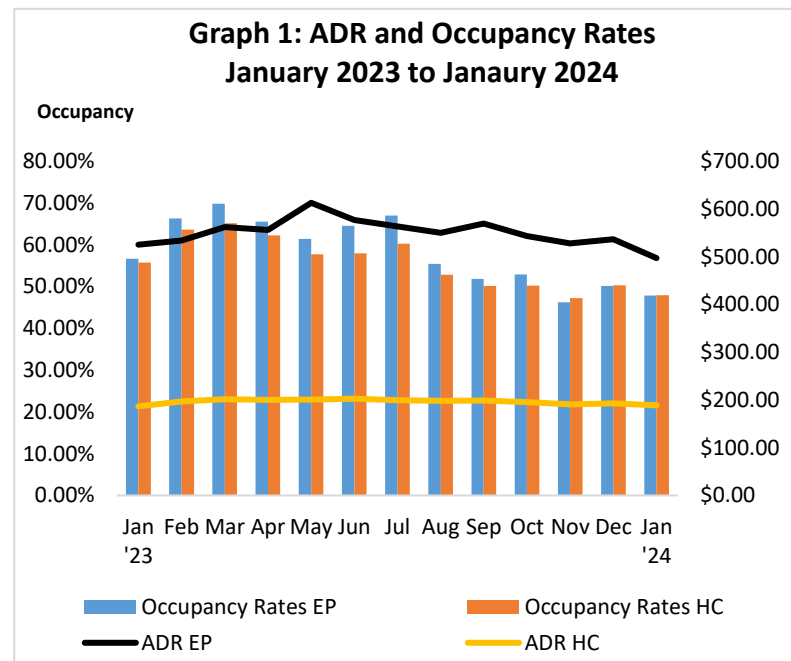
Prices

Average domestic consumer price inflation—as measured by the All Bahamas Retail Price Index—slowed to 3.1% in 2023, from 5.6% in 2022, as the rise in international oil prices moderated, vis-à-vis the previous year. Specifically, average costs for transport decreased notably to 4.1% and for communication, to 2.8%, after posting respective increases in the preceding year. Further, average inflation declined for recreation & culture (7.2%), food & non-alcoholic beverages (4.7%), restaurants & hotels (4.3%), and clothing & footwear (1.9%). Providing some offset, average costs rose sharply for alcohol beverages, tobacco & narcotics to 9.0% and

Table 1: Total Visitor Arrivals January – December 2023

Arrivals	New Providence (% Change)		Grand Bahama (% Change)		Family Islands (% Change)	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Air	74.6	16.7	100.1	31.8	36.2	16.1
Sea	360.5	45.8	433.6	45.1	344.7	41.6
Total	193.5	35.7	356.4	43.8	270.9	39.4

Sources: Ministry of Tourism



Sources: AirDNA

for miscellaneous goods & services, to 2.6%, following respective reductions in 2022. In addition, average inflation quickened for furnishing, household equipment & routine household maintenance (6.1%); housing, water, gas, electricity & other fuels (5.1%); health (6.9%) and education (2.3%).

2. Monetary Trends

January 2024 vs. 2023

Liquidity

During the month of January, monetary trends featured an expansion in banking sector liquidity, as the growth in the deposit base, contrasted with the reduction in domestic credit. Specifically, excess reserves—a narrow measure of liquidity—increased by \$240.1 million to \$2,107.2 million, extending the \$24.6 million gain a year earlier. Similarly, excess liquid assets—a broad measure of liquidity—rose by \$204.4 million to \$3,088.6 million, surpassing the \$26.4 million accumulation in the previous year.

External Reserves

During the review period, external reserves grew by \$380.0 million to \$2,731.2 million, a turnaround from last year’s \$4.7 million decline, owing largely to the receipt of proceeds from the Government’s external borrowing activity. Reflective of this development, the Central Bank’s net foreign transactions with the public sector switched to a net inflow of \$272.3 million, from a net outflow of \$38.0 million in the comparable 2023 period. In addition, the Central Bank’s net purchase from commercial banks widened to \$87.0 million, from \$8.3 million in the year prior. Further, commercial banks’ net purchases from their customers registered \$73.5 million from an almost flat position in the preceding year.

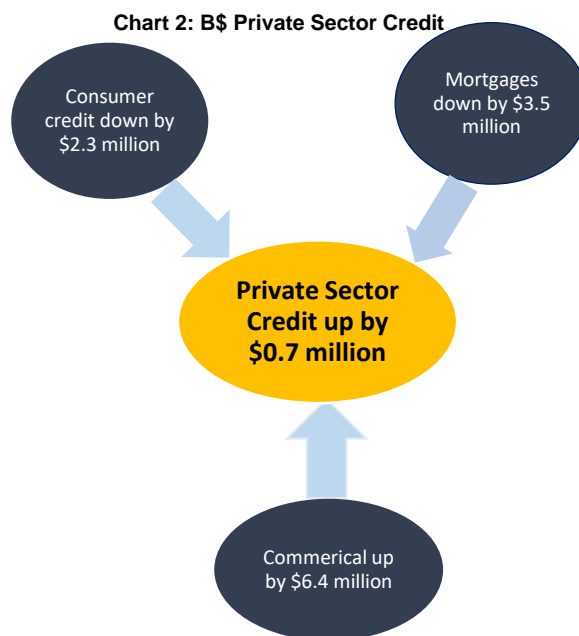
Exchange Control Sales

Provisional data on foreign currency sales for current account transactions showed that monthly outflows increased by \$256.5 million (37.9%), to \$932.6 million in January, in comparison to the same period last year. Underlying this outturn, outflows for factor income remittances rose to \$257.3 million, from \$29.0 million a year earlier. Further, payments for oil imports grew by \$25.4 million and for “other” current items—primarily credit and debit card financed imports—by \$24.9 million. In addition, transfer payments increased by \$4.9 million, and travel related expenses, by \$4.1 million. Conversely, outflows for non-oil imports fell by \$31.1 million.

Domestic Credit

Bahamian Dollar Credit

The reduction in total Bahamian dollar credit extended to \$85.7 million during the review month, from \$4.3 million in 2023. Contributing to this outturn, net claims on the Government contracted by \$76.5 million, widening the \$16.7 million decrease in the comparative



Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

period last year. In addition, credit to public corporations reduced by \$9.9 million, exceeding the muted \$0.1 million decline in the previous year.

Further, the growth in private sector credit moderated to \$0.7 million, from \$12.6 million a year earlier, as the rise in commercial loans slowed to \$6.4 million, from \$23.4 million in the preceding year. However, the falloff in consumer credit tapered to \$2.3 million, from \$6.9 million in the prior year, and for mortgages, to \$3.5 million from \$3.9 million last year.

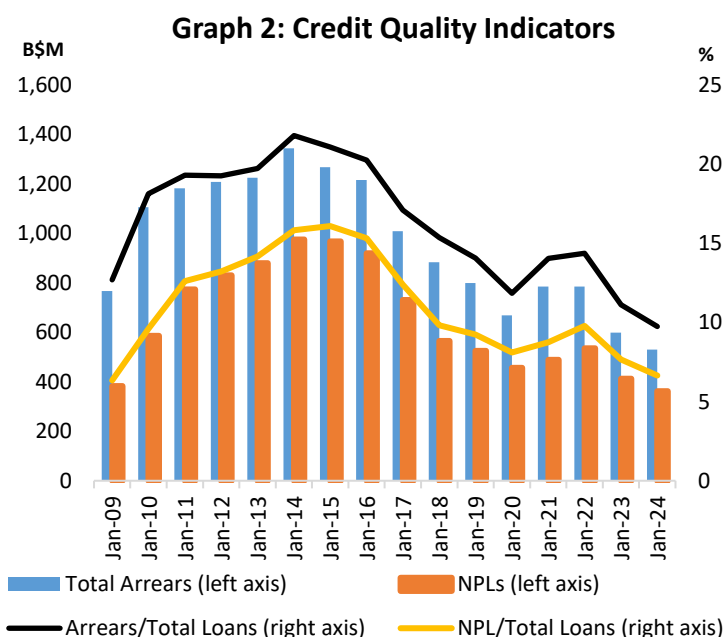
Foreign Currency Credit

During the review month, domestic foreign currency credit reduced by \$13.0 million, a slowdown from the previous year's \$22.2 million decline. Specifically, net claims on the Government contracted by \$10.6 million, lower than the \$31.2 million falloff last year. Further, private sector credit fell by \$2.3 million, a switch from an \$8.9 million accumulation a year earlier, as mortgages declined by \$0.6 million, a reversal from the prior year's \$8.5 million gain. Commercial and other loans also decreased by \$1.7 million, a shift from a \$0.4 million increase in the comparative 2023 period. Meanwhile, foreign currency credit to the rest of the public sector remained unchanged, similar to the prior year.

Credit Quality

Commercial banks' credit quality indicators improved during the month of January, underpinned by a decline in short-term arrears. Specifically, total private sector arrears reduced by \$31.6 million (5.6%) to \$530.1 million, lowering the attendant ratio by 57 basis points to 9.8%.

An analysis by average age of delinquency showed that short-term arrears (31-90 days) decreased by \$31.9 million (15.9%) to \$168.3 million, with the accompanying ratio narrowing by 58 basis points to 3.1%. However, non-performing loans (NPLs) edged up by \$0.4 million (0.1%) to \$361.8 million, with the relevant ratio firming by a one basis point to 6.7%. The NPL rate for consumer loans rose by 7 basis points to 4.9% and commercial loans, by 4 basis points to 4.7%. However, the rate for mortgages fell by 4 basis points to 8.8%.



Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

A disaggregation by loan type revealed that mortgage arrears contracted by \$15.1 million (4.3%) to \$334.9 million, as both the short and long-term components declined by \$13.9 million (10.7%) and by \$1.3 million (0.6%), respectively. In addition, commercial arrears fell by \$11.7 million (18.6%) to \$51.0 million, owing to an \$11.8 million (70.1%) decrease in short-term arrears, which overshadowed the \$0.2 million (0.3%) uptick in NPLs. Consumer loan arrears

also reduced by \$4.8 million (3.2%) to \$144.3 million, attributed to a \$6.2 million (11.7%) falloff in the short-term segment, which outweighed the \$1.5 million (1.5%) rise in the non-accruals category.

In terms of allowance for credit losses, banks decreased their total provisions for loan losses by \$3.9 million (1.2%) to \$326.2 million in January. As a result, the ratio of total provisions to non-performing loans narrowed by 1.2 percentage points to 90.2%. However, the ratio of total provisions to arrears grew by 2.8 percentage points to 61.5%. During the review month, banks wrote-off an estimated \$3.0 million in overdue loans, and recovered approximately \$4.5 million.

In comparison to January 2023, the total private sector arrears rate declined by 1.4 percentage points, reflective of a decrease in the NPL rate, by 1.0 percentage point and the short-term segment, by 0.4 percentage points. Further, by loan type, the arrears rate on consumer loans moved lower by 1.6 percentage points; mortgages, by 1.4 percentage points; and commercial credit, by 0.6 percentage points.

Deposits

Total Bahamian dollar deposits expanded by \$53.8 million in January, a turnaround from a \$15.7 million contraction in the corresponding 2023 period. Contributing to this outturn, demand deposit balances grew by \$63.8 million, a switch from a \$33.0 million reduction in the previous year. In contrast, savings deposits fell by \$7.4 million, a reversal from a \$7.6 million accumulation in the prior year. Similarly, fixed deposits decreased by \$2.6 million, a shift from a \$9.7 million buildup in the preceding year. Meanwhile, residents' foreign currency deposits declined by \$25.6 million, contrasting with the \$10.2 million growth in 2023.

Interest Rates

In interest rate developments for January, banks' weighted average loan rate fell by 24 basis points to 10.44%. In addition, the weighted average deposit rate narrowed by 12 basis points to 0.43%, with the highest rate of 3.75% offered on fixed balances of over 12 months.

3. Domestic Outlook

As the economy converges closer to its medium-term growth potential, the domestic economy is anticipated to expand at a moderated pace in 2024, supported by ongoing gains in the tourism industry and other areas of the real sector. However, the downside risks to tourism persist, related mainly to exogenous factors, such as geopolitical tensions and heightened global oil prices, which could disrupt travel sector activity. Moreover, the resumption in major central banks' counter-inflation policies could curtail the travel spending capacity of key source market consumers. Nevertheless, new and ongoing foreign investment-led projects are expected to provide stimuli to the construction sector, and by extension, contribute to economic growth.

In the labour market, employment conditions are forecasted to improve, with additional job gains concentrated largely in the construction and tourism sectors. In price developments, inflation is projected to continue to trend downward, as improvements in global oil prices persist. Nonetheless, upside risks to inflation revolves around uncertainty in global oil prices and supply chain shortages, related to geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

On the fiscal front, the Government's net financing gap is anticipated to trend further downwards. The expected recovery in revenue remains significantly linked to tourism-led improving trends in taxable economic

activities. As a consequence, the estimated budgetary gap is anticipated to require a combination of domestic and external borrowings, but with an increased proportion of the total funding from domestic sources.

Monetary sector developments will continue to include elevated levels of banking sector liquidity, as commercial banks maintain their conservative lending posture. However, the environment should encourage additional strengthening in lending to the private sector. Further, external reserves are forecasted to remain robust in 2024, remaining above international benchmarks, although a decline is likely, given the anticipated rise in domestic credit. Nevertheless, external balances should remain more than adequate to maintain the Bahamian dollar currency peg. Specifically, foreign exchange market conditions are projected to stay at healthy levels, underpinned by inflows from tourism and other net private sector activities.

4. Monetary Policy and Financial Stability Implications

Given the current outlook, the Central Bank will retain its accommodative policy stance for private sector credit and pursue policies that ensure a favourable outcome for external reserves and financial stability. Further, the Bank will continue to monitor developments within the foreign exchange market, and if necessary, in 2024, adopt appropriate measures to support a positive outcome for the foreign reserves.

APPENDIX

International Developments

Global economic performance varied during the month of January, amid ongoing geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, along with elevated inflation. Against this backdrop, major central banks reaffirmed their monetary policy tightening stance, in an effort to curtail inflation and foster economic growth.

In the United States, economic indicators revealed lacklustre performance during the month of January. Specifically, growth in real GDP moderated to an annualized rate of 3.3% in the fourth quarter of 2023, from 4.9% in the previous quarter, owing to a moderation in gains in private inventory investment, federal government spending, residential fixed investment and consumer spending. Meanwhile, retail sales fell by 0.8%, following a 0.3% uptick in the prior month. Similarly, industrial production moved lower by 0.1% in January, after a flat outturn a month earlier. In terms of prices, the consumer price index edged up by 0.3% in January, extending the 0.2% increase in the previous month, led by a rise in the cost of shelter. On the labour front, total non-farm employment grew by 353,000 in January, with gains registered in business services, health care, retail trade, and social assistance; however, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7%, relative to the month prior. In the external sector, the trade deficit widened by \$0.3 billion (0.5%) to \$62.2 billion in December, as the 1.3% growth in imports offset the 1.5% increase in exports. In this environment, the Federal Reserve retained its target range for the Federal funds rate at 5.25%-5.50%, in an effort to lower inflation.

Developments in the European economies were mixed during the review month. In the United Kingdom, real GDP contracted by 0.1% in December, a reversal from a 0.2% growth in the preceding month, due to a reduction in construction and services output. However, retail sales grew by 3.4% in January, a switch from a 3.3% falloff in the previous month. The consumer price index decreased by 0.6% in January, a turnaround from a 0.4% increase in the month prior, driven by decreases in the costs of furniture and household goods, and food and non-alcoholic beverages. Further, the jobless rate declined by 40 basis points, to 3.8% over the three months to December. In external developments, the trade in goods and services deficit grew by £1.9 billion (14.5%) to £15.0 billion in December, with the 2.3% retrenchment in exports, offsetting the 5.5% reduction in imports.

In the euro area, real GDP registered a flat outturn during the fourth quarter of 2023, following a 0.1% decline in the prior quarter. Further, retail sales decreased by 1.1% in December, contrasting with a 0.3% uptick in the prior month. Meanwhile, month-on-month industrial production rose by 0.5% in December, but was lower than the 0.9% gain in the preceding month. In terms of the labour market, the unemployment rate held steady at 6.4% in December from the month earlier. With regard to prices, annual inflation softened by 10 basis points to 2.8% in January, compared to the preceding month. In the external sector, the euro area recorded a trade surplus of €16.8 billion in December, vis-à-vis a deficit of €8.5 billion the same period last year, explained by an 18.7% decline in imports, which outstripped the 8.8% falloff in exports. Given developments, the Bank of England maintained its key policy rate at 5.25%. The European Central Bank also left its interest rates on its main refinancing operations at 4.50%, marginal lending facility at 4.75% and the deposit facility at 4.00%.

Within the Asian economies, economic indicators showed some variations over the review period. In China, industrial production edged up by 0.5% in December, compared to the preceding month. In terms of unemployment, the jobless rate moved higher by 10 basis points to 5.1% in December from the previous month. Further, consumer prices increased by 0.1% in December, following a 0.5% decline in the prior month, underpinned by a rise in the cost of food. In Japan, the contraction in real GDP slowed to an annualized rate of 0.4% during the last quarter of 2023, from 3.3% in the third quarter. In addition, industrial production grew by 1.8% in December, a reversal from a 0.9% falloff in the previous month. However, retail sales decreased by 2.9% in December, a turnaround from a 1.1% uptick a month earlier. Meanwhile, in labour market developments, the unemployment rate fell by 10 basis points to 2.3% in December from the preceding month. Further, the annual inflation rate moderated to 2.6% in December from 2.8% in the month prior. On the external front, Japan's trade balance reversed to a surplus of ¥68.9 billion in December, from a deficit of ¥1,497.9 billion in the same period a year earlier, due to a 9.7% expansion in exports, combined with a 6.9% decline in imports. Given the current outlook, the People's Bank of China kept its reverse repo rate at 1.8%, while the Bank of Japan maintained its policy rate at -0.1%.

During the month of January, the major stock market indices reported mixed movements. Specifically, in the United States, the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) increased by 1.6% and by 1.2%, respectively. In Europe, the German DAX rose by 0.9%; however, the United Kingdom's FTSE 100 decreased by 1.3%; and the French CAC 40, by 0.6%. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei grew by 8.5%; while China's SE Composite declined by 6.3%.

In foreign exchange market developments, the US dollar appreciated against all of the major currencies during the review month. Specifically, the US dollar strengthened against the Japanese Yen, by 4.2% to ¥146.92; the Swiss Franc, by 2.4% to CHF0.8614; and the euro, by 2.0% to €0.9200. Likewise, the US dollar increased relative to the Canadian dollar, by 1.5% to CAD\$1.3435; the Chinese Renminbi, by 1.0% to CNY7.1689 and the British Pound, by 0.3% to £0.790.

Outcomes varied among commodity markets during the month of January. Specifically, the price of crude oil rose by 4.2% to \$81.71 per barrel, as OPEC's crude oil production reduced by 350,000 barrels per day, to average 26.34 million barrels per day. In contrast, the cost of silver declined by 3.5% to \$23.00 per troy ounce, while the price of gold fell by 1.1% to \$2,039.98 per troy ounce.

Recent Monetary and Credit Statistics

(B\$ Millions)

January					
Value		Change		Change YTD	
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024

1.0 LIQUIDITY & FOREIGN ASSETS

1.1 Excess Reserves	1,952.70	2,107.17	24.58	240.09	24.58	240.09
1.2 Excess Liquid Assets	2,799.26	3,088.58	26.44	204.35	26.44	204.35
1.3 External Reserves	2,590.01	2,731.17	-4.66	379.97	-4.66	379.97
1.4 Bank's Net Foreign Assets	-104.43	-100.96	-6.65	-10.62	-6.65	-10.62
1.5 Usable Reserves	1,161.40	1,231.27	10.39	363.34	10.39	363.34

2.0 DOMESTIC CREDIT

2.1 Private Sector	5,635.59	5,669.53	21.49	-1.64	21.49	-1.64
a. B\$ Credit	5,345.58	5,384.00	12.59	0.69	12.59	0.69
of which: Consumer Credit	1,896.70	1,920.46	-6.91	-2.29	-6.91	-2.29
Mortgages	2,703.51	2,658.67	-3.88	-3.46	-3.88	-3.46
Commercial and Other Loans B\$	745.36	804.87	23.38	6.44	23.38	6.44
b. F/C Credit	290.01	285.53	8.91	-2.33	8.91	-2.33
of which: Mortgages	159.74	153.57	8.47	-0.61	8.47	-0.61
Commercial and Other Loans F/C	130.27	131.96	0.44	-1.72	0.44	-1.72
2.2 Central Government (net)	3,157.82	3,260.37	-47.87	-87.17	-47.87	-87.17
a. B\$ Loans & Securities	3,154.21	3,319.15	-29.71	-229.17	-29.71	-229.17
Less Deposits	293.41	342.63	-12.99	-152.64	-12.99	-152.64
b. F/C Loans & Securities	315.53	295.91	-17.83	-2.81	-17.83	-2.81
Less Deposits	18.51	12.07	13.32	7.83	13.32	7.83
2.3 Rest of Public Sector	348.53	329.65	-0.13	-9.85	-0.13	-9.85
a. B\$ Credit	319.28	305.65	-0.13	-9.85	-0.13	-9.85
b. F/C Credit	29.25	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.4 Total Domestic Credit	9,141.95	9,259.54	-26.50	-98.66	-26.50	-98.66
a. B\$ Domestic Credit	8,525.65	8,666.16	-4.26	-85.69	-4.26	-85.69
b. F/C Domestic Credit	616.29	593.38	-22.24	-12.97	-22.24	-12.97

3.0 DEPOSIT BASE

3.1 Demand Deposits	3,841.34	3,963.76	-32.99	63.78	-32.99	63.78
a. Central Bank	93.06	27.95	-0.12	-0.05	-0.12	-0.05
b. Banks	3,748.29	3,935.81	-32.87	63.83	-32.87	63.83
3.2 Savings Deposits	2,110.65	2,260.44	7.58	-7.41	7.58	-7.41
3.3 Fixed Deposits	2,083.83	2,020.19	9.67	-2.60	9.67	-2.60
3.4 Total B\$ Deposits	8,035.83	8,244.39	-15.74	53.77	-15.74	53.77
3.5 F/C Deposits of Residents	478.33	479.31	10.22	-25.62	10.22	-25.62
3.6 M2	8,447.29	8,682.15	-43.89	18.58	-43.89	18.58
3.7 External Reserves/M2 (%)	30.66	31.46	0.10	4.32	0.10	4.32
3.8 External Reserves/Base Money (%)	96.24	94.99	0.31	6.86	0.31	6.86
3.9 External Reserves/Demand Liabilities (%)	90.65	91.04	0.78	11.79	0.78	11.79
	Value		Year To Date		Change	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	Month	YTD

4.0 FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

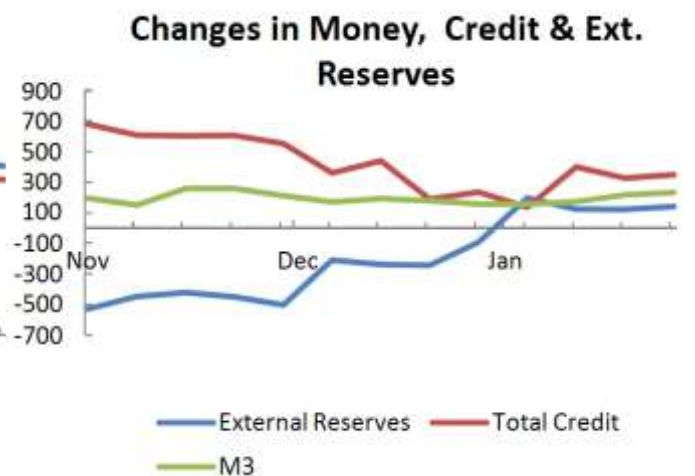
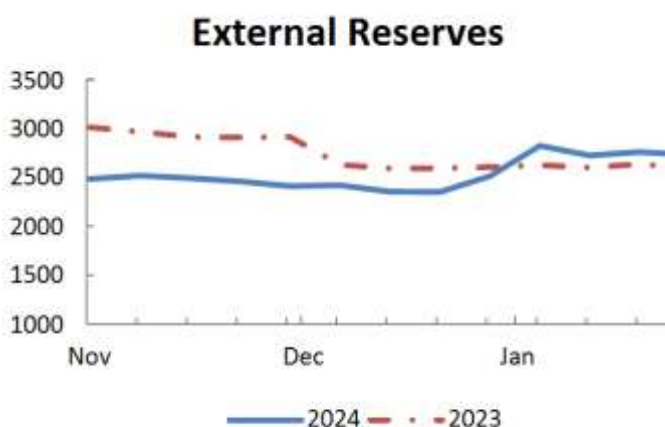
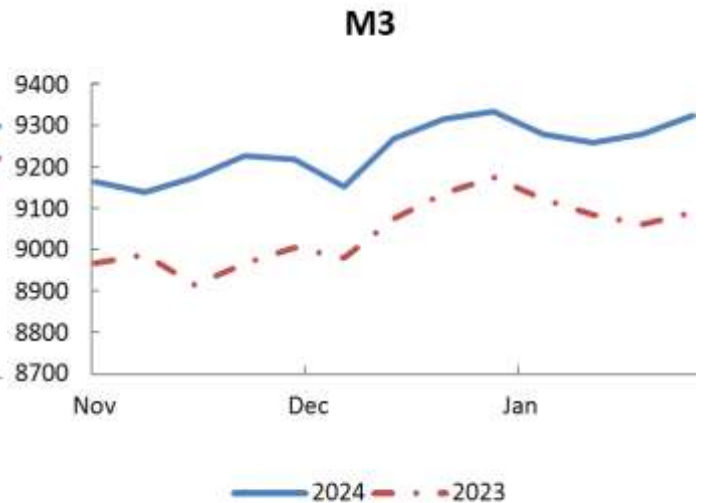
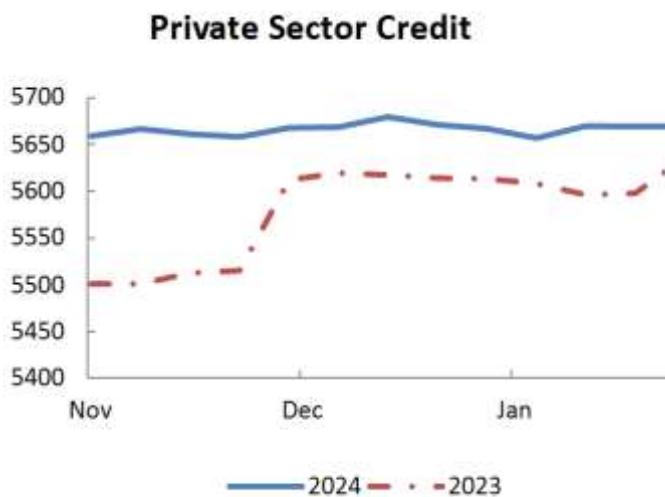
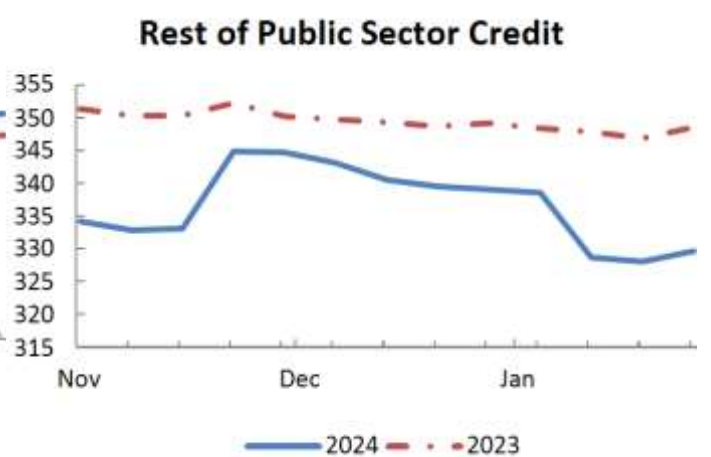
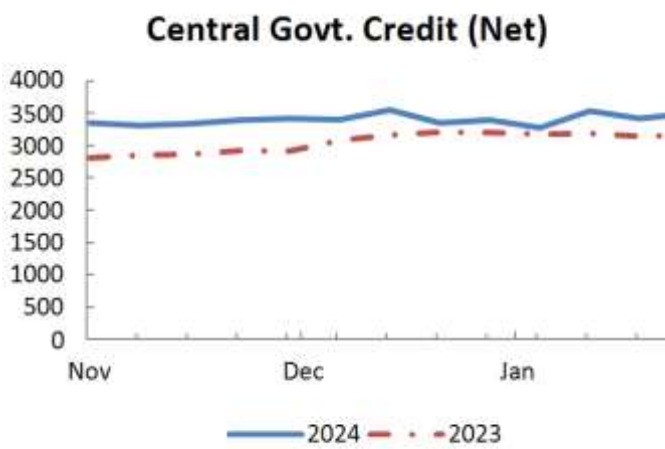
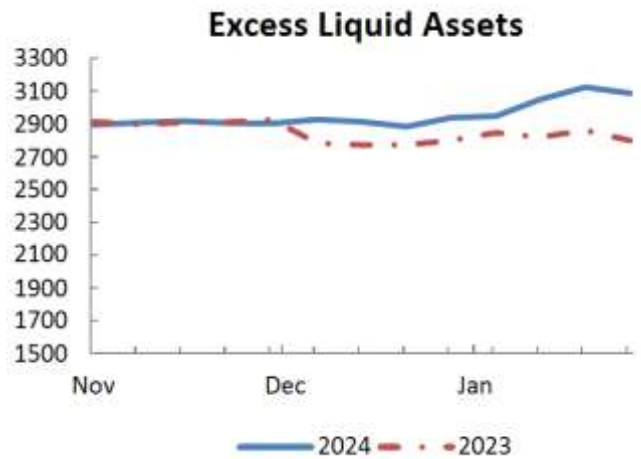
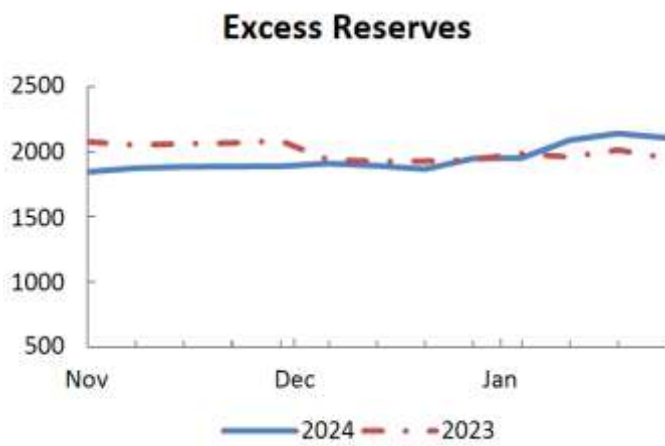
4.1 Central Bank Net Purchase/(Sale)	-29.69	359.28	-29.69	359.28	388.97	388.97
a. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Banks	8.28	86.94	8.28	86.94	78.66	78.66
i. Sales to Banks	97.67	22.30	97.67	22.30	-75.37	-75.37
ii. Purchase from Banks	105.95	109.24	105.95	109.24	3.29	3.29
b. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Others	-37.97	272.34	-37.97	272.34	310.31	310.31
i. Sales to Others	88.98	640.28	88.98	640.28	551.30	551.30
ii. Purchase from Others	51.02	912.62	51.02	912.62	861.61	861.61
4.2 Banks Net Purchase/(Sale)	0.47	73.53	0.47	73.53	73.06	73.06
a. Sales to Customers	692.14	664.67	692.14	664.67	-27.47	-27.47
b. Purchase from Customers	692.61	738.20	692.61	738.20	45.58	45.58

5.0 EXCHANGE CONTROL SALES

5.1 Current Items	676.08	932.57	676.08	932.57	256.49	256.49
of which Public Sector	71.13	314.60	71.13	314.60	243.47	243.47
a. Nonoil Imports	188.47	157.38	188.47	157.38	-31.09	-31.09
b. Oil Imports	71.42	96.83	71.42	96.83	25.40	25.40
c. Travel	17.93	22.00	17.93	22.00	4.07	4.07
d. Factor Income	29.02	257.27	29.02	257.27	228.25	228.25
e. Transfers	19.78	24.70	19.78	24.70	4.92	4.92
f. Other Current Items	349.46	374.39	349.46	374.39	24.93	24.93
5.2 Capital Items	78.61	338.55	78.61	338.55	259.94	259.94
of which Public Sector	22.04	331.72	22.04	331.72	309.67	309.67

SELECTED MONEY AND CREDIT INDICATORS

(B\$ Millions)



Selected International Statistics

A: Selected Macroeconomic Projections (Annual % Change and % of labor force)						
	Real GDP		Inflation Rate		Unemployment	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Bahamas	14.4	4.3	5.6	3.9	12.3	8.8
United States	2.1	2.1	8.0	4.1	3.6	3.6
Euro-Area	3.3	0.7	8.4	5.6	6.7	6.6
Germany	1.8	-0.5	8.7	6.3	3.1	3.3
Japan	1.0	2.0	2.5	3.2	2.6	2.5
China	3.0	5.0	1.9	0.7	5.5	5.3
United Kingdom	4.1	0.5	9.1	7.7	3.7	4.2
Canada	3.4	1.3	6.8	3.6	5.3	5.5

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook October 2023

B: Official Interest Rates – Selected Countries (%)					
<i>With effect from</i>	CBOB	ECB (EU)	Federal Reserve (US)		Bank of England
	Bank Rate	Refinancing Rate	Primary Credit	Target Funds	Repo Rate
November 2021	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.10
December 2021	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.25
January 2022	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.25
February 2022	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.50
March 2022	4.00	0.00	0.50	0.25-0.50	0.75
April 2022	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.75-1.00	1.00
May 2022	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.50-1.75	1.25
June 2022	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.50-1.75	1.25
July 2022	4.00	0.50	2.50	2.25-2.50	1.25
August 2022	4.00	1.25	2.50	2.25-2.50	1.75
September 2022	4.00	1.50	3.25	3.00-3.25	2.25
October 2022	4.00	2.00	4.00	3.75-4.00	2.25
November 2022	4.00	2.00	4.00	3.75-4.00	3.00
December 2022	4.00	2.50	4.50	4.25-4.50	3.50
January 2023	4.00	2.50	4.50	4.25-4.50	4.00
February 2023	4.00	3.00	4.75	4.50-4.75	4.00
March 2023	4.00	3.50	5.00	4.75-5.00	4.25
April 2023	4.00	3.50	5.00	4.75-5.00	4.25
May 2023	4.00	3.75	5.25	5.00-5.25	4.50
June 2023	4.00	4.00	5.25	5.00-5.25	5.00
July 2023	4.00	4.25	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.00
August 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
September 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
October 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
November 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
December 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
January 2024	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25

Selected International Statistics

C. Selected Currencies (Per United States Dollars)						
Currency	January-23	December-23	January-24	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change	12-Mth% Change
Euro	0.9206	0.9059	0.9200	2.04	2.04	0.42
Yen	130.09	141.04	146.92	4.17	4.17	12.94
Pound	0.8117	0.7855	0.7900	0.34	0.34	-2.90
Canadian \$	1.3306	1.3243	1.3435	1.45	1.45	0.97
Swiss Franc	0.9162	0.8414	0.8614	2.38	2.38	-5.98
Renminbi	6.7553	7.1000	7.1689	0.97	0.97	6.12

Source: Bloomberg as of 31st January 2024

D. Selected Commodity Prices (\$)					
Commodity	January-23	December-23	January-24	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change
Gold / Ounce	1928.36	2062.98	2039.52	-1.13719	-1.13719
Silver / Ounce	23.7305	23.7953	22.958	-3.51876	-3.518762
Oil / Barrel	84.49	78.42	81.71	4.19536	4.195358

Source: Bloomberg as of 31st January 2024

E. Equity Market Valuations – December 29, 2023 (% change)								
	BISX	DJIA	S&P 500	FTSE 100	CAC 40	DAX	Nikkei 225	SE
1 month	1.75	1.22	1.59	-1.33	-0.64	0.91	8.43	-6.27
3 month	3.79	15.42	15.54	4.22	-5.13	14.13	17.59	-7.63
YTD	1.75	1.22	1.59	-1.33	-0.64	0.91	8.43	-6.27
12-month	9.95	11.92	18.86	-1.82	-7.77	11.74	32.79	-14.35

Sources: Bloomberg and BISX

F: Short Term Deposit Rates in Selected Currencies (%)			
	USD	GBP	EUR
o/n	5.4750	5.2900	3.9200
1 Month	5.4643	5.2661	3.9700
3 Month	5.4725	5.3551	3.9500
6 Month	5.3800	5.3275	3.8300
9 Month	5.2350	5.2550	3.6675
1 year	5.1700	5.1850	3.5150

Source: Bloomberg as of 31st January 2024

Summary Accounts of the Central Bank
(B\$ Millions)

	VALUE								CHANGE							
	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 03	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Dec. 13	Dec. 20	Dec. 27	Jan. 03	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31
I. External Reserves	2,419.84	2,353.85	2,351.21	2,513.11	2,823.73	2,724.32	2,760.37	2,731.17	8.98	(65.99)	(2.64)	161.90	310.63	(99.41)	36.05	(29.19)
II. Net Domestic Assets (A + B + C + D)	241.95	323.80	316.74	200.81	(112.82)	120.79	132.86	144.10	5.48	81.85	(7.06)	(115.93)	(313.63)	233.61	12.07	11.24
A. Net Credit to Gov't (I + ii + iii -iv)	889.92	984.87	784.19	853.93	734.77	911.98	809.89	830.44	19.23	94.94	(200.68)	69.74	(119.16)	177.21	(102.09)	20.54
i) Advances	573.02	573.02	573.02	427.52	527.52	427.52	427.52	427.52	-	-	-	(145.50)	100.00	(100.00)	-	-
ii) Registered Stock	460.62	460.65	460.71	458.58	558.67	556.12	456.27	456.38	105.71	0.04	0.06	(2.13)	100.09	(2.55)	(99.85)	0.11
iii) Treasury Bills	32.79	32.79	25.81	45.66	45.66	72.70	47.88	47.88	-	0.00	(6.98)	19.86	(0.00)	27.04	(24.82)	(0.00)
iv) Deposits	176.50	81.59	275.34	77.83	397.09	144.36	121.77	101.33	86.48	(94.91)	193.75	(197.51)	319.25	(252.72)	(22.59)	(20.44)
B. Rest of Public sector (Net) (i+ii-iii)	(4.81)	(27.41)	(20.78)	(14.87)	(6.62)	(12.77)	(16.24)	(21.18)	(4.81)	(22.60)	6.63	5.90	8.25	(6.14)	(3.48)	(4.94)
i) Loans	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ii) Bonds/Securities	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.00	-
iii) Deposits	11.58	34.18	27.55	21.64	13.39	19.53	23.01	27.95	4.81	22.60	(6.63)	(5.90)	(8.25)	6.14	3.48	4.94
C. Loans to/Deposits with Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D. Other Items (Net)*	(643.16)	(633.66)	(446.68)	(638.25)	(840.96)	(778.43)	(660.79)	(665.16)	(8.94)	9.50	186.99	(191.57)	(202.71)	62.54	117.63	(4.37)
III. Monetary Base	2,661.78	2,677.65	2,667.94	2,713.91	2,710.91	2,845.11	2,893.22	2,875.27	14.47	15.86	(9.70)	45.97	(3.00)	134.19	48.11	(17.95)
A. Currency in Circulation	577.68	592.21	614.88	608.03	598.80	573.54	567.18	587.23	(10.51)	14.52	22.67	(6.84)	(9.24)	(25.25)	(6.37)	20.05
B. Bank Balances with CBOB	2,084.10	2,085.44	2,053.06	2,105.88	2,112.12	2,271.56	2,326.04	2,288.04	24.97	1.34	(32.37)	52.81	6.24	159.45	54.48	(38.01)

