



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments April 2018

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:

2018: July 2, July 30, September 3, October 1, October 29, December 3, December 17.



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments

(MEFD) April 2018

1. Domestic Economic Developments

Overview

Indications are that the modest growth in the Bahamian economy was sustained during the month of April, benefitting from an improvement in tourism output, while varied-scale foreign investment projects continued to support construction activity. Inflationary pressures were well contained over the review period; although domestic energy costs trended upwards, due to the ongoing supply-led gains in global oil prices. The fiscal deficit narrowed over the nine months of FY2017/18, mainly reflecting a decline in capital outlays and an increase in tax revenue. Monetary sector developments featured growth in deposits—fueled by net foreign currency inflows from real sector activities—in contrast to a reduction domestic credit, with both liquidity and external reserves correspondingly boosted.

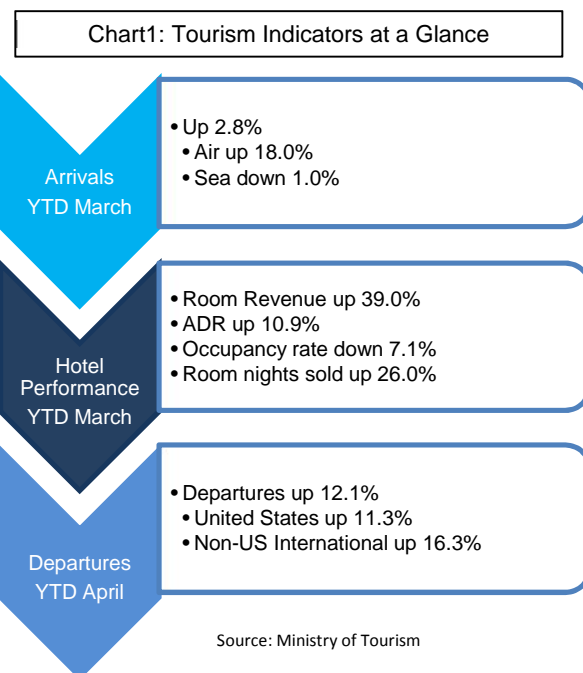
Real Sector

Tourism

Preliminary information suggests that tourism output rose during the first quarter, as the sector benefitted from a number of factors, including: the increase in high-end room capacity, intensified marketing campaigns, along with severe winter weather in several key source markets. Data from the Ministry of Tourism showed a 2.8% improvement in total arrivals, vis-à-vis a 2.2% decline in the prior period. This outturn reflected an 18.0% expansion in the high value-added air segment, a reversal from the previous year's 9.4% contraction. Meanwhile, sea arrivals decreased by 1.0%, following a 0.2% softening a year ago.

An analysis by first port of entry, revealed that air visitors to New Providence surged by 19.5%; however, a 9.1% falloff in the dominant sea component, led to a 1.8% decline in total tourist arrivals, vis-à-vis 2017's 7.3% gain. In contrast, the Grand Bahama market expanded by 5.1%, relative to a 16.6% contraction in the previous year, as the 6.3% increase in sea arrivals, outpaced the 4.9% contraction in air traffic. Gains in both air and sea visitors, by 19.4% and 9.0% respectively, occasioned the 10.4% increase in Family Island tourists, overturning the prior year's 11.0% contraction.

In line with the expansion in the high value-added air component, hotel performance indicators—based on a survey of large properties within New Providence—improved over the first quarter, as total room revenue grew by 39.0%. This outturn reflected a 26.0% increase in room nights sold and a 10.9% gain in the Average Daily Room Rate (ADR) to \$273.59.



Indications are that the positive tourism industry trends were sustained during the month of April, as partial data from the Nassau Airport Development Company Ltd. (NAD), showed a 7.9% expansion in total departures—excluding domestic passengers—outpacing the 4.4% gain in the prior year. In terms of the components, US passengers grew by 6.8%, surpassing 2017’s 2.3% advance; while non-U.S. international departures, rose further by 14.3% compared to 17.9% in the prior year.

Prices

Recent energy cost pressures continued to heighten inflation trends. During April, domestic fuel prices sustained their upward trajectory, as the cost of both diesel and gasoline rose by 3.8% and 0.7% to \$4.37 and \$4.52, per gallon, respectively. Similarly, on a year-on-year basis, both diesel and gasoline prices strengthened, by 13.8% and 7.4%, respectively.

Fiscal Sector

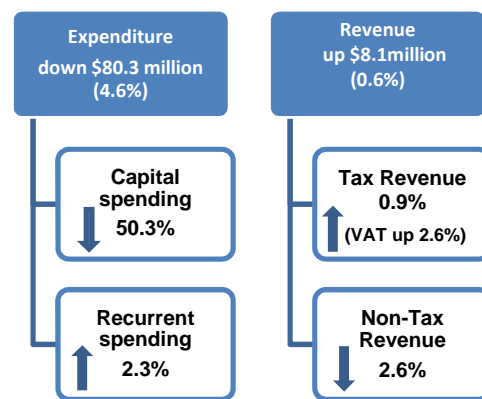
Data on the Government’s budgetary operations for the nine months of FY2017/18, revealed an \$88.4 million (31.6%) reduction in the deficit to \$191.6 million. This reflected an \$80.3 million (4.6%) decline in total expenditure to \$1,657.4 million, coupled with an \$8.1 million (0.6%) increase in total revenue to \$1,465.9 million.

The contraction in total expenditure was underpinned by a \$114.3 million (50.3%) decline in capital spending to \$113.1 million, as infrastructure outlays fell sharply, by \$85.4 million to \$95.9 million, following the hurricane rebuilding-related expansion in the prior year. Further, asset acquisitions decreased by \$28.9 million (62.6%) to \$17.3 million. In contrast, current expenditure grew by \$34.2 million (2.3%) to \$1,544.4 million, primarily backed by a \$40.3 million (5.2%) gain in consumption spending.

A breakdown of the components showed that both personal emoluments and purchases of goods and services firmed, by \$19.8 million (3.8%) and \$20.5 million (7.8%), respectively. In a slight offset, transfer payments fell by \$6.0 million (0.8%), as the \$16.3 million (3.1%) falloff in subsidies & other transfers, surpassed the \$10.2 million (5.0%) uptick in interest expenses.

With regard to revenue, the gain in aggregate receipts reflected an \$11.9 million (0.9%) increase in tax collections to \$1,320.1 million. Specifically, value added taxes (VAT) firmed by \$12.0 million (2.6%) and selective taxes on services rose by \$5.7 million (26.2%). Meanwhile, other “miscellaneous” tax receipts expanded by \$22.6 million (7.3%), inclusive of increases in the motor vehicle tax, departure tax and “other” stamp tax categories by \$7.0 million (39.7%), \$1.7 million (1.8%) and \$1.0 million (1.2%), respectively. In contrast, taxes on international trade contracted by \$22.3 million (5.6%), linked to a \$19.1 million (9.0%) fall in import taxes, while business & professional fees were reduced by \$6.6 million (5.9%). Further, non-tax revenue declined by \$3.9 million (2.6%), led by a timing-related decrease in income, by \$15.3 million (37.7%).

Chart 2: Budgetary Operations at a Glance



Source: Central Bank of the Bahamas

2. Domestic Monetary Trends

April 2018 vs. 2017

Liquidity

Amid a net deposit base expansion and a contraction in credit, bank liquidity strengthened during the month of April. Excess liquid assets—a broad measure of liquidity—grew by \$109.4 million to \$2,004.7 million, relative to a \$7.9 million contraction recorded in 2017. Similarly, the narrow excess reserves indicator surged by \$156.1 million to \$1,124.1 million, vis-à-vis a \$13.2 million reduction last year.

External Reserves

External reserves expanded by \$94.5 million to \$1,691.9 million, outpacing the \$26.3 million uptick in the prior year. Reflecting in part the improvement in tourism sector earnings, the Central Bank's net foreign currency purchase from commercial banks broadened by \$77.3 million to \$106.1 million, as banks' net purchase from their consumers more than doubled to \$98.5 million. In a partial offset, the Bank's net sale to the public sector rose by \$12.3 million to \$16.3 million, amid an increase in fuel imports.

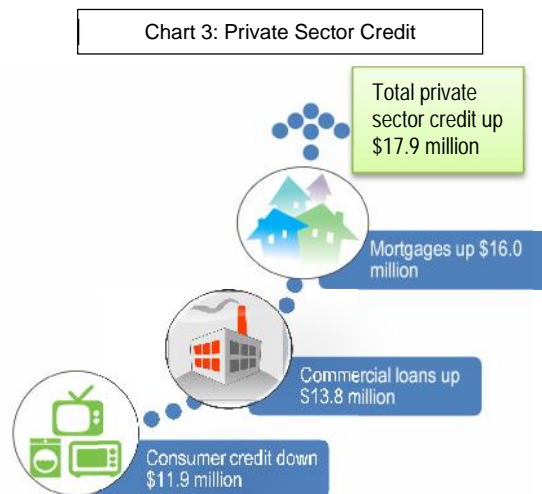
Exchange Control Sales

Provisional exchange control data for the month of April revealed a \$6.5 million uptick in foreign currency sales for current account transactions—by mainly commercial banks and money transmission businesses—to \$396.4 million, over the prior year. Reduced sales were recorded for oil import-related transactions (2.1% of the total), transfers (4.8% of the total), non-oil imports (35.3% of the total) and travel (4.3% of the total). However, other services payments current items (48.1% of the total) and factor income-related transactions (5.4% of the total) firmed in comparison to 2017.

Domestic Credit

Bahamian Dollar Credit

Bahamian dollar credit declined by \$47.1 million, extending the year-earlier contraction of \$20.2 million. The repayment of advances reduced net claims on the Government by \$64.2 million, after an \$8.1 million decline in 2017. Similarly, claims on the rest of the public sector softened by \$0.8 million, following a \$1.7 million decrease a year earlier. In a partial offset, private sector credit expanded by \$17.9 million, a reversal from a \$10.4 million decrease recorded last year, as mortgages and commercial loans firmed by \$16.0 million and \$13.8 million, a turnaround from declines of \$1.8 million and \$10.2 million in 2017. In contrast, consumer credit fell by \$11.9 million, vis-à-vis last year's \$1.5 million gain.



Source: Central Bank of the Bahamas

Foreign Currency Credit

Total domestic foreign currency credit softened by \$0.4 million, a reversal from a \$4.2 million expansion in the previous period. This outcome reflected a \$3.1 million decrease in claims on private sector credit, after an incremental growth of \$1.0 million last year; with both the mortgage and commercial credit portions lower. Similarly, claims on the rest of the public sector fell by \$1.6 million, relative to a \$0.8 million softening in the prior year. In contrast, net credit to the Government rose by \$4.5 million, in line with the previous year's \$4.8 million expansion.

Credit Quality

Supported by an increase in loan write-offs and banks' ongoing efforts to restructure delinquent loans, banks' credit quality indicators improved during the review month. Specifically, total private sector arrears decreased by \$8.3 million (1.0%) to \$854.9 million, corresponding with a 15 basis point decline in the arrears rate to 14.9%. An analysis by the average age of delinquencies, showed that non-performing loans (NPLs)—loans more than 90 days past due—fell by \$7.1 million (1.3%) to \$559.7 million, occasioning a 13 basis point decline in the NPL rate to 9.8%. Similarly, short term arrears (31-90 days), were lower by \$1.2 million (0.4%) at \$295.1 million, with the accompanying ratio to total loans falling by 2 basis points to 5.2%.

An analysis by loan type showed that the improvement in arrears was attributed mainly to the commercial segment, which fell by \$9.2 million (9.5%), as both short-term arrears and NPLs decreased by \$6.3 million (21.3%), and by \$2.9 million (4.3%), respectively. In addition, mortgage delinquencies softened by \$2.6 million (0.5%), due to a \$4.2 million (1.2%) decrease in NPLs, which overshadowed the \$1.6 million (1.0%) gain in the 31-90 day segment. In contrast, the consumer component rose by \$3.5 million (1.4%), solely attributed to a \$3.4 million (3.6%) gain in short-term delinquencies.

During April, banks increased their total provisions for loan losses by \$3.6 million (0.8%) to \$428.2 million. As a result, the ratio of total provisions to arrears rose by 89 basis points to 50.1%, while the provisions to non-performing loans ratio firmed by 158 basis points to 76.5%. During the month, banks also wrote-off an estimated \$13.2 million and recovered \$2.8 million.

On a year-on-year basis, the total private sector arrears rate fell by 2.0 percentage points, amid declines in the long and short-term arrears rates by 2.5 and 0.5 percentage points, respectively. By loan type, the commercial arrears rate fell by 15.4 percentage points, associated with asset sales by one entity to a Government Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), while the consumer arrears rate fell by 12 basis points. In contrast, the mortgage delinquency rate edged-up by 8 basis points.

Deposits

During the review month, accretions to total Bahamian dollar deposits expanded by \$24.4 million to \$64.0 million, led by a \$28.9 million acceleration in demand deposit growth to \$70.6 million. Further, the decline in fixed deposits eased by \$6.8 million to \$14.6 million; however, the growth in savings deposits narrowed by more than one-half, to \$8.0 million.

Interest Rates

In interest rate developments, the weighted average deposit rate at banks increased by 25 basis points to 1.0%, with the highest rate of 4.50% offered on fixed balances of over 12 months. In contrast, the weighted average loan rate contracted by 146 basis points to 10.33%.

3. Domestic Outlook

Expectations are that the modest pace of economic expansion should be maintained over the near-term, buoyed by sustained growth in the high value-added stopover segment of the tourism sector, while a number of foreign investment projects should continue to support construction sector activity. In this environment, conditions in the labour market are expected to improve gradually, while inflationary pressures are anticipated to remain subdued; although the upward trajectory in global oil prices will continue to adversely affect domestic fuel costs.

In the meantime, the successful execution of the Government's fiscal consolidation plan should moderate the increase in the national debt burden.

In the monetary sector, liquidity is anticipated to remain at robust levels, as banks maintain their conservative lending stance, and customers continue the process of deleveraging. In addition, banks' credit quality indicators should improve over the remainder of the year, due to institutions' ongoing loan restructuring initiatives, enhanced collection efforts and the potential for additional NPL sales. As a result, banks are poised to remain adequately capitalized, thereby mitigating any financial stability concerns.

Expectations are that external reserves will remain buoyant over the near-term, supported by sustained inflows from real sector activity. Nonetheless, increased private sector foreign currency demand in the latter half of 2018, combined with potentially higher fuel import costs, should result in a moderate drawdown in external balances towards the end of the year.

4. Monetary Policy Implications

Given the prevailing domestic and international economic conditions, the Central Bank's current monetary policy stance remains prudent, as net foreign currency demand continues to be sustainable. No near-term adjustment in interest rate or credit measures is therefore warranted. This decision reflects several important factors, namely: the record levels of external reserves needed to support the fixed exchange rate regime, increasing positive signs in the main stopover visitor segment of the tourism sector—due in part to the growth in high-end room capacity in the capital—and contained private sector credit demand. As the economy improves, capacity for credit accommodation will increase; however, tools to manage credit risk, such as the eventual startup of the credit bureau, will also have to provide accommodating support.

It is important to note that risks to the economy remain predominately to the downside and relate mainly to on-going geopolitical tensions, which could hinder global economic progress. Domestically, the threats of weather-related shocks to the economy will persist through the hurricane season.

In this regard, the Bank will sustain its ongoing monitoring of important economic developments and where prudent, vary its policy stance to maintain stability.

APPENDIX

International Developments

Economic conditions in the major economies improved over the review period, as the North American and European markets sustained their growth momentum, while Asian economies were mixed, as China's economic growth slowed. Against this backdrop, the major central banks sustained their respective monetary policy stances, while China relaxed its policies to encourage more economic expansion.

Economic indicators in the United States remained positive during the review period. Specifically, total nonfarm payrolls firmed by 164,000 persons in April, supported by job gains in the professional & business services, manufacturing, healthcare and mining industries, which led to a 20 basis point decrease in the unemployment rate to 3.9%. In addition, retail sales edged-up slightly by 0.3%, although less than the 0.8% gain in March, owing to a rise in gas prices, while industrial production advanced by 0.7%, in line with the gain in the previous period. Further, the consumer price index expanded by 0.2% in April, a reversal from a 0.1% decline recorded a month earlier. In external developments, the trade deficit contracted by \$9.0 billion to \$49.0 billion in March, reflecting a \$4.1 million (2.0%) expansion in exports, of mainly capital goods, and a \$4.6 million (1.8%) decrease in imports. In this environment, the Federal Reserve maintained its accommodative policy stance, following an increase in the main policy rate by 0.25 percentage points in the prior month.

Economic indicators in the UK and euro area were mixed during the review period. In the euro area, growth in both retail trade and industrial production decelerated to 0.1% and 0.5% in March, compared to gains of 0.3% and 0.9% in the previous month. Further, retail sales in the UK declined by 1.2%, owing mainly to a significant fall in purchases of petrol, while growth in industrial production was stable at 0.1%. Given the modest improvement in economic conditions, the unemployment rate in the UK steadied at 4.2% during the first quarter, while the rate in the euro area remained at 8.5% in March. In trade developments, the UK's trade deficit deteriorated by £1.9 billion (62.0%) to £3.1 billion in March over the prior month, as the £3.1 billion (5.5%) expansion in imports, surpassed the £1.1 billion (2.2%) growth in exports. In contrast, in the euro area's trade surplus improved by €8.0 billion (29.7%) to €26.9 billion, due to a €22.4 billion (11.2%) rise in exports, which outstripped the €14.4 billion (8.3%) increase in imports. Meanwhile, the inflation rates in both the euro area and the UK narrowed by 10 basis points to 1.2% and 2.2%, respectively in April, over the prior month, with the latter owing in part to reductions in airline ticket prices. In light of the positive economic conditions, both the European Central Bank and The Bank of England held their respective monetary policy positions unchanged.

Economic indicators in Asia varied over the review period, as China's purchasing managers index decreased marginally by 0.1% in April, while consumer prices fell by 0.2% during the month, linked mainly to declining food costs. Similarly, in March, Japan's consumer price index contracted by 0.4% over the previous month, while industrial production advanced by 1.2%, owing mainly to increases in the manufacture of electronic devices and transport equipment. In addition, the growth in China's industrial production quickened by 26 basis points to 0.6%; however, accretions to retail sales slowed by 5 basis points to 0.66% in April. Unemployment levels in Japan remained at a near historic low of 2.5% in March, while China's unemployment rate declined by 20 basis points to 4.9% at end-April. In an effort to stimulate consumer demand, the People's Bank of China reduced its reserve requirement ratios by one percentage point, to 17.0% for large institutions and 15.0% for smaller institutions. In contrast, the Bank of Japan left its key policy rates unchanged.

Crude oil prices in April rose by 7.0% to \$75.17 per barrel—the highest price since November 2014—reflecting in part the major producers' efforts to limit supply; at end-April, average OPEC production stood at 31.96 million barrels per day, a decline of 201 thousand barrels per day over the prior month. In contrast, silver and gold prices contracted by 0.23% and 0.73%, to \$16.33 and \$1,315.35 per ounce, respectively.

Amid the improvement in consumer confidence and the easing in the threat of geo-political tensions, the major stock market indices rebounded over the review period. The European equity markets recovered over the month, as France's CAC 40, the UK's FTSE and Germany's DAX strengthened by 6.84%, 6.42% and 4.26%, respectively. In the United States, the Dow Jones and S&P 500 indices showed slight improvements of 0.25% and 0.27%, respectively. However, outcomes on Asia's bourses were mixed, as Japan's Nikkei 225 expanded by 4.72%, while China's SE composite fell by 2.74%.

Reflecting in part an increase investors' risk appetite, the US dollar appreciated against most of the major currencies during the review period. Specifically, the dollar recorded gains against the Swiss Franc (by 3.87% to CHF0.991), the Japanese Yen (by 2.88% to ¥109.34), the euro (by 2.05% to €0.8280), the British Pound (by 1.85% to at £0.7266), and the Chinese Yuan (by 0.68% to CNY6.3340). In a slight offset, the US dollar fell slightly relative to the Canadian dollar by 0.51% to CAD1.2834.

Recent Monetary and Credit Statistics

(B\$ Millions)

APRIL						
Value		Change		Change YTD		
2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	

1.0 LIQUIDITY & FOREIGN ASSETS

1.1 Excess Reserves	721.36	1,124.12	-13.19	156.09	-2.36	266.57
1.2 Excess Liquid Assets	1,477.81	2,004.67	-7.90	109.40	30.72	206.39
1.3 External Reserves	951.75	1,691.93	26.29	94.54	49.68	283.64
1.4 Bank's Net Foreign Assets	-109.47	-118.49	12.52	-11.07	21.69	52.51
1.5 Usable Reserves	294.45	816.44	25.60	12.76	50.60	147.54

2.0 DOMESTIC CREDIT

2.1 Private Sector	6,143.49	5,939.25	-9.39	14.89	-9.27	-37.22
a. B\$ Credit	5,905.48	5,716.29	-10.42	17.94	-7.88	-35.77
of which: Consumer Credit	2,237.86	2,144.20	1.50	-11.90	-9.57	-53.33
Mortgages	2,946.06	2,885.73	-1.77	16.03	-14.76	3.72
Commercial and Other Loans B\$	721.57	686.37	-10.15	13.81	16.45	13.83
b. F/C Credit	238.01	222.96	1.04	-3.05	-1.38	-1.45
of which: Mortgages	69.46	66.45	1.55	-0.74	1.42	4.25
Commercial and Other Loans F/C	168.55	156.51	-0.51	-2.30	-2.80	-5.70
2.2 Central Government (net)	2,545.43	2,279.62	-3.37	-59.79	7.25	-98.39
a. B\$ Loans & Securities	2,749.81	2,514.32	-17.76	-48.18	-1.35	-94.64
Less Deposits	202.45	232.85	-9.63	16.05	-6.34	6.70
b. F/C Loans & Securities	1.68	0.21	1.57	0.21	1.68	0.21
Less Deposits	3.61	2.07	-3.19	-4.24	-0.58	-2.74
2.3 Rest of Public Sector	294.81	264.62	-2.47	-2.42	-11.07	-6.27
a. B\$ Credit	104.04	98.91	-1.67	-0.82	-3.27	-1.29
b. F/C Credit	190.77	165.71	-0.80	-1.61	-7.80	-4.99
2.4 Total Domestic Credit	8,982.97	8,483.49	-16.03	-47.54	-14.03	-141.89
a. B\$ Domestic Credit	8,556.89	8,096.68	-20.23	-47.11	-6.17	-138.41
b. F/C Domestic Credit	426.08	386.82	4.20	-0.42	-7.86	-3.48

3.0 DEPOSIT BASE

3.1 Demand Deposits	2,281.67	2,521.37	41.71	70.59	92.16	160.90
a. Central Bank	15.08	31.91	-0.73	4.41	-0.69	17.85
b. Banks	2,266.59	2,489.46	42.44	66.18	92.85	143.05
3.2 Savings Deposits	1,342.06	1,399.18	19.20	7.98	48.41	31.51
3.3 Fixed Deposits	2,825.41	2,697.55	-21.34	-14.57	-45.05	-45.10
3.4 Total B\$ Deposits	6,449.14	6,618.09	39.57	64.00	95.52	147.30
3.5 F/C Deposits of Residents	376.10	330.77	9.51	-2.95	-2.35	28.75
3.6 M2	6,728.36	6,907.41	49.35	63.51	80.98	129.61
3.7 External Reserves/M2 (%)	14.15	24.49	0.29	1.15	0.58	3.72
3.8 Reserves/Base Money (%)	74.62	99.73	2.15	-4.17	4.48	2.11
3.9 External Reserves/Demand Liabilities (%)	72.40	96.63	1.93	-4.00	3.88	1.39

Value		Year to Date		Change	
2017	2018	2017	2018	Month	YTD

4.0 FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

4.1 Central Bank Net Purchase/(Sale)	24.77	89.77	43.01	268.12	65.00	225.12
a. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Banks	28.81	106.07	82.07	284.73	77.26	202.67
i. Sales to Banks	16.14	0.10	90.94	49.21	-16.04	-41.74
ii. Purchases from Banks	44.95	106.17	173.01	333.94	61.22	160.93
b. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Others	-4.04	-16.30	-39.06	-16.61	-12.26	22.45
i. Sales to Others	38.11	55.06	203.61	236.37	16.96	32.76
ii. Purchases from Others	34.07	38.76	164.55	219.76	4.69	55.22
4.2 Banks Net Purchase/(Sale)	48.41	98.46	120.49	236.70	50.04	116.21
a. Sales to Customers	350.91	455.34	1,472.57	1,633.23	104.44	160.66
b. Purchases from Customers	399.32	553.80	1,593.06	1,869.93	154.48	276.87
4.3 B\$ Position (change)	-26.87	-25.24				

5.0 EXCHANGE CONTROL SALES

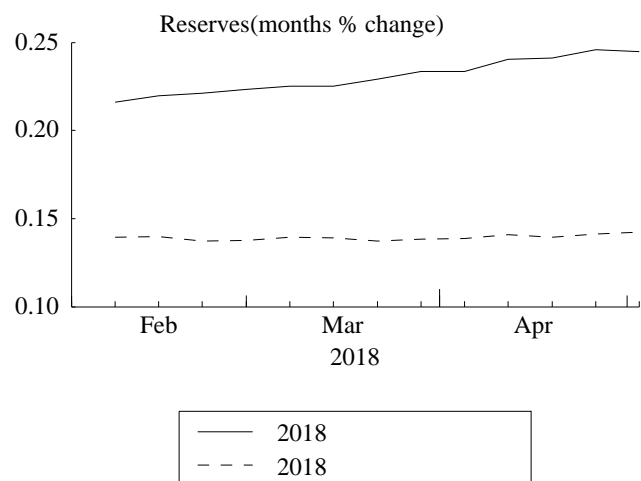
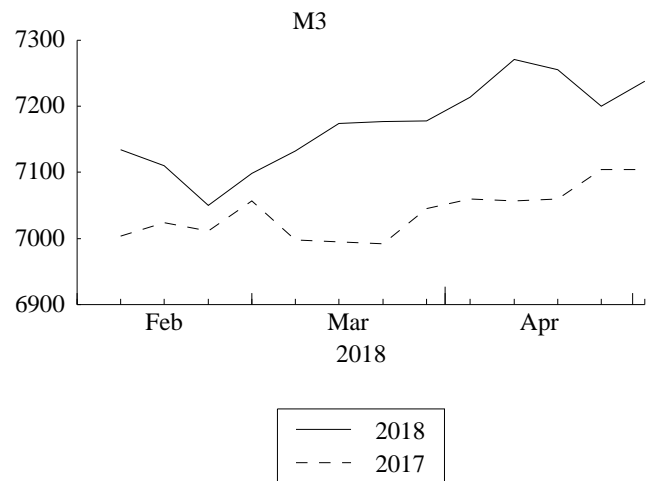
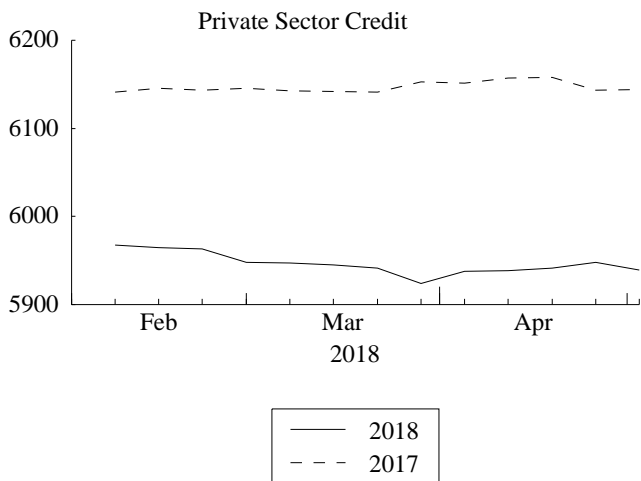
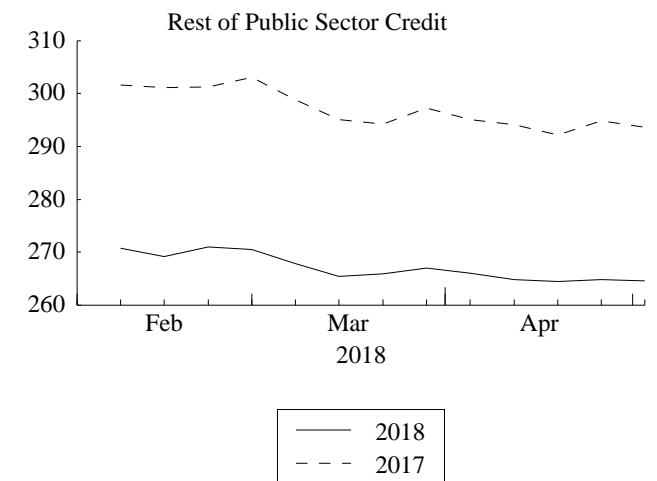
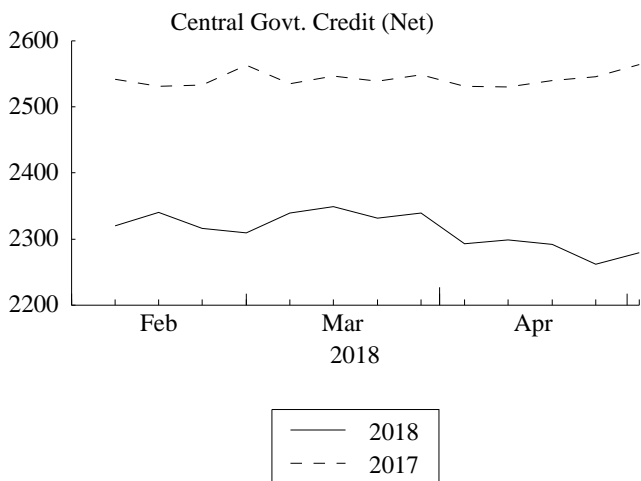
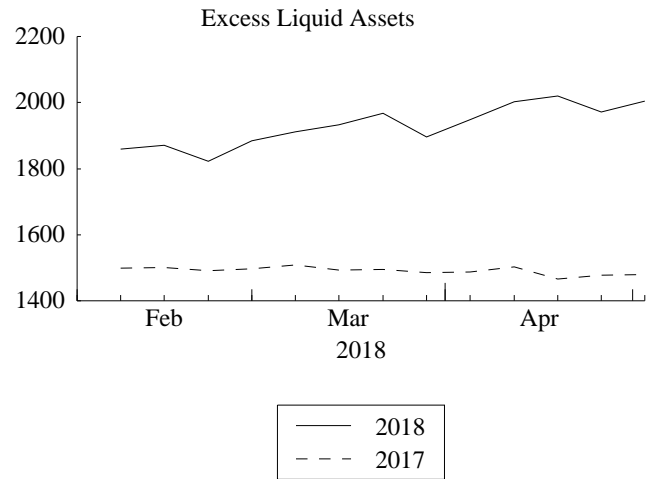
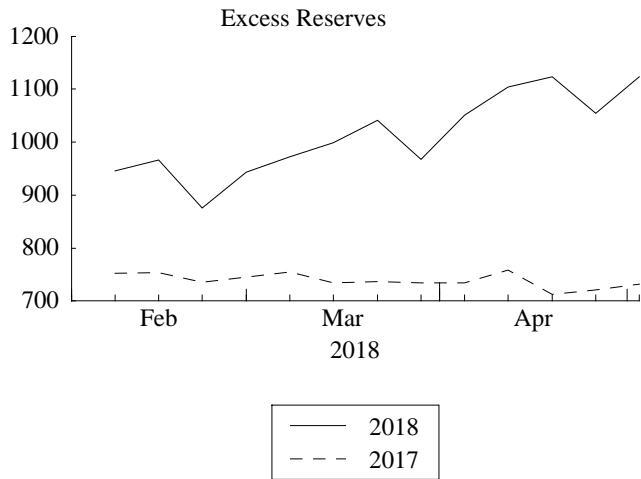
5.1 Current Items	389.94	396.44	1,740.27	1,628.19	6.50	-112.08
of which Public Sector	30.41	11.69	270.99	154.07	-18.72	-116.93
a. Nonoil Imports	144.98	139.84	584.47	528.07	-5.14	-56.40
b. Oil Imports	25.11	8.56	160.03	134.52	-16.55	-25.52
c. Travel	21.13	17.17	91.48	88.75	-3.96	-2.74
d. Factor Income	7.38	21.41	89.10	93.17	14.04	4.07
e. Transfers	28.17	18.88	100.09	89.31	-9.30	-10.78
f. Other Current Items	163.17	190.58	715.10	694.39	27.41	-20.71
5.2 Capital Items	10.22	10.54	69.42	71.36	0.32	1.94
of which Public Sector	5.88	4.91	48.83	40.04	-0.98	-8.79
5.3 Bank Remittances	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Sources: Research Department Weekly Brief Database and Banking Brief for the weeks ending: APRIL 26, 2017 and MAY 02, 2018

Exchange Control Sales figures are as at month end.

Notes: 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 YTD change reflects change of current month over previous year end; for 4.0 and 5.0 change is over corresponding period of previous year.

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	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Bahamas	1.8	2.5	2.4	2.2	10.1	N/A
United States	2.3	2.7	2.1	2.1	4.4	4.1
Euro-Area	2.4	2.2	1.5	1.4	9.2	8.7
<i>Germany</i>	2.5	2.3	1.6	1.5	3.8	3.7
Japan	1.8	1.2	0.4	0.5	2.9	2.9
China	6.8	6.6	1.8	2.4	4.0	4.0
United Kingdom	1.7	1.5	2.6	2.6	4.9	4.4
Canada	3.0	2.3	1.6	1.8	6.5	6.3

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook January 2018, Department of Statistics

B: Official Interest Rates – Selected Countries (%)					
<i>With effect</i> <i>from</i>	CBOB	ECB (EU)	Federal Reserve (US)		Bank of England
	Bank Rate	Refinancing Rate	Primary Credit Rate	Target Funds Rate	Repo Rate
March 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
April 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
May 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
June 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
July 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
August 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.25
September 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.25
October 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.25
November 2016	4.50	0.00	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.25
December 2016	4.00	0.00	1.25	0.50-0.75	0.25
January 2017	4.00	0.00	1.25	0.50-0.75	0.25
February 2017	4.00	0.00	1.25	0.50-0.75	0.25
March 2017	4.00	0.00	1.50	0.75-1.00	0.25
April 2017	4.00	0.00	1.50	0.75-1.00	0.25
May 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.25
June 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.25
July 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.25
August 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.25
September 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.25
October 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.25
November 2017	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.00-1.25	0.50
December 2017	4.00	0.00	2.00	1.25-1.50	0.50
January 2018	4.00	0.00	2.00	1.25-1.50	0.50
February 2018	4.00	0.00	2.00	1.25-1.50	0.50
March 2018	4.00	0.00	2.25	1.50-1.75	0.50
April 2018	4.00	0.00	2.25	1.50-1.75	0.50

Selected International Statistics

C. Selected Currencies (Per United States Dollars)						
Currency	Apr-17	Mar-18	Apr-18	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change	12-Mth% Change
Euro	0.9177	0.8114	0.8280	2.05	-0.60	-9.77
Yen	111.54	106.28	109.34	2.88	-2.97	-1.97
Pound	0.7721	0.7134	0.7266	1.85	-1.75	-5.89
Canadian \$	1.3854	1.2900	1.2834	-0.51	2.08	-7.36
Swiss Franc	0.9949	0.9541	0.991	3.87	1.72	-0.39
Renminbi	6.8877	6.2911	6.3340	0.68	-2.65	-8.04

Source: Bloomberg as of April 30, 2018

D. Selected Commodity Prices (\$)					
Commodity	April 2017	March 2018	April 2018	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change
Gold / Ounce	1268.29	1325.00	1315.35	-0.73	0.94
Silver / Ounce	17.20	16.37	16.33	-0.23	-3.59
Oil / Barrel	52.73	70.27	75.17	6.97	12.87

Source: Bloomberg as of April 30, 2018

E. Equity Market Valuations – April 30, 2018 (% change)								
	BISX	DJIA	S&P 500	FTSE 100	CAC 40	DAX	Nikkei 225	SE
1 month	0.49	0.25	0.27	6.42	6.84	4.26	4.72	-2.74
3 month	-3.34	-7.60	-6.22	-0.32	0.70	-4.38	-2.73	-11.45
YTD	-4.45	-2.25	-0.96	-2.32	3.91	-2.36	-1.30	-6.80
12-month	4.54	15.39	11.07	4.24	4.81	1.40	17.04	-2.30

Sources: Bloomberg and BISX

F: Short Term Deposit Rates in Selected Currencies (%)			
	USD	GBP	EUR
o/n	1.77	-0.52	-0.44
1 Month	1.93	0.53	-0.44
3 Month	2.36	0.70	-0.39
6 Month	2.52	0.80	-0.29
9 Month	2.63	0.90	-0.27
1 year	2.82	1.03	-0.24

Source: Bloomberg as of April 30, 2018

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS OF THE CENTRAL BANK

(B\$ Millions)

	VALUE												CHANGE					
	Feb. 28	Mar. 07	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28	Apr. 04	Apr. 11	Apr. 18	Apr. 25	Feb. 28	Mar. 07	Mar. 14	Mar. 21	Mar. 28	Apr. 04	Apr. 11	Apr. 18	Apr. 25
I. External Reserves	1,514.59	1,533.25	1,541.37	1,570.78	1,597.38	1,606.74	1,667.15	1,670.82	1,689.67	25.59	18.66	8.11	29.41	26.60	9.36	60.41	3.67	18.85
II. Net Domestic Assets (A + B + C + D)	-18.26	-7.17	7.32	25.87	-59.90	9.58	-6.37	10.78	-74.88	49.59	11.10	14.49	18.55	-85.78	69.49	-15.95	17.15	-85.65
A. Net Credit to Gov^t(i + ii + iii - iv)	341.83	370.37	381.84	386.57	386.83	387.66	367.90	371.68	370.52	-18.61	28.54	11.47	4.74	0.26	0.83	-19.77	3.79	-1.16
i) Advances	134.66	134.66	134.66	134.66	134.66	134.66	134.66	134.66	134.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ii) Registered Stock	276.14	276.15	274.20	274.19	274.33	274.38	257.39	259.39	259.41	-0.03	0.01	-1.95	-0.00	0.14	0.05	-16.99	2.00	0.02
iii) Treasury Bills	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
iv) Deposits	68.97	40.44	27.02	22.28	22.16	21.38	24.15	22.36	23.55	18.57	-28.53	-13.42	-4.74	-0.12	-0.78	2.78	-1.79	1.18
B. Rest of Public Sector (Net) (i + ii - iii)	-10.73	-24.45	-26.68	-11.07	-24.75	-28.56	-31.84	-16.38	-24.33	-0.53	-13.73	-2.23	15.60	-13.68	-3.81	-3.27	15.46	-7.95
i) BDB Loans	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ii) BMC Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
iii) Deposits	13.48	27.20	29.43	13.82	27.50	31.31	34.59	19.13	27.08	0.53	13.73	2.23	-15.60	13.68	3.81	3.27	-15.46	7.95
C. Loans to/Deposits with Banks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
D. Other Items (Net)*	-349.36	-353.08	-347.83	-349.63	-421.98	-349.52	-342.43	-344.53	-421.07	68.73	-3.72	5.24	-1.79	-72.35	72.47	7.09	-2.10	-76.54
III. Monetary Base	1,496.33	1,526.09	1,548.69	1,596.65	1,537.48	1,616.32	1,660.78	1,681.60	1,614.79	75.19	29.76	22.60	47.96	-59.17	78.85	44.45	20.82	-66.81
A. Currency in Circulation	387.40	398.80	388.25	387.61	396.66	404.79	412.63	398.08	399.47	3.05	11.40	-10.55	-0.65	9.06	8.13	7.84	-14.55	1.39
B. Bank Balances with CBOB	1,108.93	1,127.29	1,160.44	1,209.04	1,140.81	1,211.53	1,248.15	1,283.52	1,215.33	72.14	18.36	33.15	48.61	-68.23	70.71	36.62	35.37	-68.19

* Includes capital, provisions and surplus account, fixed and other assets, and other demand liabilities of Bank

FISCAL/REAL SECTOR INDICATORS

(B\$ MILLIONS)

(% change represents current month from previous month)

	JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		YEAR TO DATE		
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	
Fiscal Operations:																					
1. Government Revenue & Grants	161.8	171.6	135.8	152.7	152.8	127.9	109.9	161.2	148.7	124.6	142.8	140.6	187.3	181.6	176.2	188.5	242.4	237.2	1,466	1,466	
% change: over previous month	-7.9%	-28.9%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.6%	-16.3%	-28.0%	26.1%	33.2%	-22.7%	-3.9%	12.8%	31.7%	29.2%	-5.9%	-7.1%	37.6%	40.7%	4.3%	0.5%	
2. Value Added Tax	68.7	73.4	49.9	49.5	41.7	40.7	53.8	70.1	45.6	41.6	42.5	36.7	71.7	70.2	43.7	48.6	47.7	46.4	477.2	477.2	
% change: over previous month	148.8%	74.9%	-27.2%	-32.6%	-16.5%	-17.8%	29.0%	72.5%	-15.2%	-40.6%	-6.7%	-11.9%	68.7%	91.4%	-39.1%	-30.8%	9.2%	-4.3%	2.8%	2.8%	
3. Import/Excise Duties	42.9	44.0	44.9	47.0	35.5	28.1	28.1	44.5	45.5	42.4	49.5	38.6	41.0	37.6	46.9	42.2	52.2	36.9	366.7	366.7	
% change: over previous month	73.9%	-47.2%	4.7%	6.7%	-7.9%	-28.8%	-32.2%	33.0%	61.9%	-4.8%	8.9%	-8.8%	-17.0%	-2.7%	14.2%	12.5%	11.3%	-12.7%	6.8%	-6.5%	
4. Recurrent Expenditure	163.1	162.8	148.9	166.6	157.4	164.1	167.3	174.0	206.1	189.7	162.0	151.2	174.6	171.2	146.4	186.3	184.4	188.6	1,544.4	1,544.4	
% change: over previous month	-18.9%	-67.2%	-8.7%	-3.8%	3.6%	4.8%	6.2%	6.1%	23.2%	9.0%	-21.4%	-20.3%	7.7%	13.2%	-16.1%	8.8%	25.9%	1.2%	1.8%	2.2%	
5. Capital Expenditure	14.0	0.0	33.4	17.4	17.7	17.0	14.4	9.4	41.2	16.0	31.8	16.2	21.9	6.2	23.8	16.3	29.3	14.8	113.1	113.1	
% change: over previous month	-93.0%	-100.0%	137.8%	43.4%	-46.8%	-2.3%	-18.8%	-44.9%	185.8%	70.7%	-22.7%	1.3%	-31.2%	-61.7%	9.1%	163.2%	22.7%	-8.9%	64.3%	-50.2%	
6. Deficit/Suplus*	-15.4	8.8	-46.5	-21.2	-22.4	-53.2	-71.7	-22.2	-98.6	-81.0	-51.0	-26.8	-9.1	4.2	5.9	-34.1	28.8	33.8	-280.0	-191.6	
% change: over previous month	-54.9%	-102.4%	202.3%	-341.6%	-51.6%	150.2%	219.6%	-58.3%	-37.3%	265.3%	-46.2%	-67.0%	-82.0%	-115.8%	-164.7%	-905.9%	385.9%	-109.3%	7.2%	-31.8%	

	JAN		FEB		MAR	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Debt, **						
7. Total Direct Debt	6,320.1	7,212.2	6,323.9	7,201.2	6,321.5	7,202.7
% change: over previous month	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
8. External Debt	1,749.3	2,676.9	1,742.5	2,664.7	1,739.9	2,668.6
% change: over previous month	0.2%	2.4%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.2%
9. Internal F/C Debt	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
% change: over previous month						
10. Bahamian Dollar Debt	4,570.8	4,533.4	4,581.4	4,536.5	4,581.5	4,544.2
% change: over previous month	0.0%	-0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
11. Total Amortization	3.1	34.7	2.4	29.0	82.9	91.8
% change: over previous month	-85.6%	4.9%	-28.3%	-19.7%	3319.3%	217.1%

	2017		2018	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
12. Total Public Sector F/C Debt	2,650.0	3,546.1	2,642.7	3,531.1
% change: over previous month	1.4%	1.8%	-0.3%	-0.4%

	JAN		FEB		MAR	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
Real Sector Indicators						
13. Retail Price Index						
% change: over previous month						
14. Tourist arrivals (000's)	509.3	533.7	534.6	534.2	682.7	707.5
% change: over previous year	-4.6%	4.7%	-6.4%	-0.0%	3.5%	3.6%
15. Air arrivals (000's)	94.3	100.9	109.2	126.3	146.0	184.1
% change: over previous year	-1.6%	6.9%	-10.7%	16.3%	-13.1%	26.0%
16. Occupied Room Nights						
% change: over previous year						
17. Res. Mortgage Commitments-Value of New Const. & Rehab. (B\$Millions)						
% change: over previous year						

* Includes Net Leases to Public Corporations
 ** Debt figures include Central Government only unless otherwise indicated
 p - provisional