



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments April 2017

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:

2017: July 3, July 31, September 4, October 2, October 30, December 4, December 27.



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments (MEFD) April 2017

1. Domestic Economic Developments

Overview

Indications are that the domestic economy expanded mildly during April, supported by modest gains in the tourism sector, which benefitted from the hosting of a number of sporting and cultural events. Moreover, continued work on a number of varied-scale foreign investment projects, underpinned activity in the construction sector. Signs of increased domestic consumer demand, meanwhile, were evident from higher private sector spending on travel and imports, both for the month and on a year to date basis. This stronger internal demand paced moderately ahead of the improvement in the foreign exchange earnings sectors, influencing a more subdued seasonal accumulation in external reserves. Inflationary pressures remained well contained over the 12-month period ending March 2017, although short-term firming in international oil prices resulted in higher domestic fuel costs. In monetary developments, liquidity narrowed during the month; although external reserves expanded amid deposit base growth that contrasted with reduced Bahamian dollar credit.

Real Sector

Tourism

Buoyed by the hosting of several international sporting events, as well as Easter holiday-related tourists, data from the Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) showed that visitor traffic through the country's main airport—net of domestic departures—grew by 4.4% in April, year-on-year, a turnaround from a 2.1% decline in the same month of 2016. Underlying this increase, the dominant United States' (US) market grew by 2.3%, extending the 1.1% uptick noted in the prior period. Moreover, the number of the non-US international travellers improved by 17.9%, a reversal from the year earlier contraction of 18.7%.

Data available for the first four months of the year still reflected a subdued cumulative outcome for tourism. Specifically, the number of passenger departures contracted by 3.6%, in contrast to a 2.3% increase in the comparable period of 2016. The United States component was reversed to a 4.5% decline, vis-à-vis an increase of similar magnitude in the prior year. In a partial offset, non-US international departures firmed by 1.2%, compared to a 7.5% falloff a year ago.

Prices

Average consumer prices—as measured by the Bahamas Retail Price Index—firmed marginally by 0.5% during the 12 months to March, a slowdown from a 1.4% increase recorded in the prior period. Underlying this outturn, accretions to average costs for health and alcohol beverages, tobacco & narcotics, fell sharply by 15.1 and 7.8 percentage points to 1.5% and 0.8%, respectively. Similarly, the inflation rates for clothing & footwear, and furnishing, household equipment & routine household maintenance, were both 3.7 percentage points lower at 0.8% and 1.9%, respectively, while more muted declines were noted for communication and miscellaneous goods and services, to 2.1% and 0.6%, respectively. Moreover, prior period increases in the average costs for recreation & culture, restaurant & hotels, and food & non-alcoholic

beverages of 10.6%, 6.8% and 5.4%, were reversed to respective declines of 0.8%, 2.1%, and 1.8%. In a slight offset, the average price of housing, water, gas electricity and other fuels—which accounts for one third of the index—increased marginally by 0.9%, vis-à-vis a 2.7% contraction a year earlier, while the contraction in average transport costs slowed by 5.6 percentage points to a mere 0.7%, reflecting the pass-through effects of higher global oil prices.

Fiscal Sector

Data on the Government's budgetary operations for the eight months of FY2016/17, showed a \$54.5 million (21.9%) expansion in the fiscal deficit to \$302.9 million, when compared to the same period last year, as the \$85.1 million (5.9%) increase in expenditure to \$1,518.2 million, outstripped a \$30.6 million (2.6%) gain in aggregate revenue to \$1,215.3 million.

The growth in total expenditure was driven mainly by a \$44.1 million (3.4%) advance in current outlays to \$1,337.4 million. Specifically, transfer payments firmed by \$20.9 million (3.3%), led by a \$13.0 million (7.6%) expansion in interest payments. Further, subsidies and other transfers grew by \$7.9 million 1.7%—on account of the \$24.7 million (16.6%) growth in subsidies to the Public Hospital Authority for the rollout of National Health Insurance (NHI). Consumption expenditure rose by \$23.2 million (3.5%), reflecting an \$18.5 million (4.2%) rise in personal emoluments and a \$4.6 million (2.2%) gain in purchases of goods and services. In addition, a \$47.5 million (51.1%) increase in capital formation—mainly for hurricane repairs—underpinned a \$61.6 million (51.7%) rise in total capital expenditure, while asset acquisitions grew by \$14.1 million (53.9%). As reclassification of support to public enterprises also contributed to the estimated increase in subsidies, a corresponding reduction was registered in net lending to these entities, to \$0.01 million from \$20.7 million in the same months of FY2015/16.

The expansion in aggregate revenue was driven by a \$16.3 million (1.5%) broadening in tax receipts to \$1,082.2 million. In particular, gains in import and export taxes by \$11.3 million (6.5%) and \$7.3 million (4.9%), supported a \$17.9 million (5.4%) increase in taxes on international trade. Moreover, selective taxes on services firmed by \$8.0 million (78.0%) to \$18.3 million, owing largely to a \$7.2 million timing-related increase in gaming tax receipts, while revenues from business and professional fees rose by \$8.0 million (17.2%) to \$54.7 million. In addition, receipts from stamp and departure taxes both moved higher by \$6.8 million (10.3%) and \$5.0 million (6.4%), respectively. Providing a slight offset, value added tax (VAT) inflows receded by \$6.2 million (1.5%) to \$417.5 million. Similarly, other 'miscellaneous' taxes declined by \$26.2 million (88.0%), solely reflecting the reduction in the 'unclassified' taxes component. Further, non-tax revenue firmed by \$14.4 million (12.1%) to \$133.1 million, with fines, forfeits and administration fees increasing by \$10.6 million (12.7%), and income from 'other' sources expanding by \$3.8 million (12.0%).

2. Domestic Monetary Trends

April 2017 vs. 2016

Liquidity

Both measures of liquidity contracted during the review month. Specifically, excess liquid assets—a broad measure of liquidity—declined by \$7.9 million to \$1,477.8 million, following a \$25.9 million increase in the previous year. Similarly, excess reserves narrowed by \$13.2 million to \$721.4 million, vis-a-vis a \$32.7 million gain in 2016.

External Reserves

Buoyed mainly by net foreign currency receipts from real sector activities, external reserves grew by \$26.3 million to \$951.8 million during the review month, in line with the \$27.5 million expansion noted in the prior

year. In terms of the components, the Central Bank's net sale to the public sector narrowed by \$23.9 million to a mere \$4.0 million. In contrast, the Bank's net purchase from commercial banks was nearly halved to \$28.1 million, despite a modest \$7.4 million gain in their net receipts from clients to \$48.4 million.

Exchange Control Sales

An analysis of provisional exchange control data, revealed a \$13.9 million increase in foreign currency sales for current account transactions—as recorded by commercial banks and money transmission businesses—to \$388.0 million. At 8.0% and 37.3% of total estimated outflows, travel associated disbursements and non-oil imports, rose by \$15.1 million and \$8.2 million, respectively, while other services-related payments (39.4% of the total) and transfers (7.2% of the total) firmed by \$9.0 million and \$6.1 million, respectively. Providing a modest offset, oil imports, which account for 6.5% of the aggregate, narrowed by \$18.3 million and factor income remittances, which comprise only 1.6% of the total, decreased by \$6.2 million.

Bahamian Dollar Credit

Total Bahamian dollar credit contracted by \$20.2 million, a reversal from a \$39.8 million expansion recorded in the previous year. Specifically, claims on the private sector decreased by \$10.4 million, after a \$0.4 million softening a year ago, as the decline in commercial credit deepened to \$10.2 million, from \$4.4 million in 2016. In addition, residential mortgages fell by \$1.8 million, vis-a-vis a \$0.5 million uptick in the previous period, while growth in consumer credit was more than halved to \$1.5 million. In addition, net claims on the Government decreased by \$8.1 million, in contrast to a short-term credit led \$35.3 million broadening a year ago, while claims on the rest of the public sector contracted by \$1.7 million, a turnaround from a \$4.9 million expansion noted in 2016.

Foreign Currency Credit

In April, domestic foreign currency credit rose by \$4.2 million, compared to a \$10.1 million reduction in the previous year. Net claims on the Government firmed by \$4.8 million, following a \$3.6 million increase in 2016. Further, private sector credit grew marginally, by \$1.0 million, relative to a \$13.6 million falloff in the prior year, with the value of mortgages outstanding increasing by \$1.6 million, after an \$11.9 million reduction in 2016. Moreover, the decline in commercial and other loans eased to \$0.5 million, from \$1.7 million; however, net consumer lending slowed by \$2.0 million to \$1.5 million. In addition, credit to the rest of the public sector decreased further by \$0.8 million.

Credit Quality

Banks' credit quality indicators declined during the month of April. Private sector loan arrears expanded by \$19.9 million (2.0%) to \$1,004.4 million, and the ratio of arrears to total loans firmed by 34 basis points to 17.0%. This development was underpinned by gains in non-performing loans (NPLs), by \$11.8 million (1.7%) to \$728.4 million, and in short-term delinquencies (31-90 days), by \$8.1 million (3.0%) to \$276.0 million. As a result, the ratio of non-accruals to total private sector loans rose by 20 basis points to 12.3% and the corresponding short-term indicator increased by 14 basis points to 4.7% of total loans.

An analysis by loan type showed that the most significant increase occurred for commercial delinquencies, which advanced by \$12.3 million (5.7%) to \$229.7 million, amid rises in both the short and long-term categories by \$7.2 million (24.0%) and \$5.1 million (2.7%), respectively. Similarly, consumer loan arrears rose by \$5.5 million (2.1%) to \$264.7 million, almost all due to the \$5.6 million (3.3%) increase in the NPL category, given the mild \$0.02 million (0.02%) softening in the 31-90 day segment. In addition, mortgage delinquencies firmed by \$2.1 million (0.4%) to \$510.1 million, reflecting increases in both long-term and

short-term arrears of \$1.1 million (0.3%) and \$0.9 million (0.6%), respectively. On a year-on-year basis, the total arrears rate lessened by 2.3 percentage points, due solely to a similar fall in the non-accrual rate, while the short-term arrears rate was virtually unchanged. In terms of the components, declines were recorded for mortgages (by 3.5 percentage points to 19.0%), commercial loans (by 1.5 percentage points to 27.1%) and consumer loans (by 84 basis points to 11.1%).

Given the rise in loan delinquencies over the review month, banks increased their total provisions for loan losses marginally, by \$2.0 million (0.4%) to \$480.4 million. Nonetheless, the ratios of provisions to both arrears and NPLs tapered by 77 basis points and 81 basis points to 47.8% and 66.0%, respectively, at end-April. Banks also wrote-off a total of \$8.0 million in bad debts and recovered \$3.3 million of overdue loans.

Deposits

Total Bahamian dollar deposits expanded by \$39.6 million in April, following a similar gain in the prior year. In terms of the components, the growth in demand balances accelerated to \$41.7 million from \$0.5 million a year earlier. In contrast, accretions to savings balances slowed by \$8.6 million to \$19.2 million, while fixed deposits contracted by \$21.3 million, a reversal from an \$11.5 million increase in the previous year.

Interest Rates

In interest rate developments, the weighted average deposit rate lessened by 2 basis points to 0.95%, with the highest rate of 4.50% offered on fixed balances of over 12 months. Comparatively, the weighted average loan rate fell more sharply, by 23 basis points to 11.48%.

3. Domestic Outlook and Policy Implications

Expectations are that the domestic economy will maintain a mildly positive growth trajectory in 2017, supported by gains in the tourism and construction sectors, following the phase addition of significant new capacity in New Providence, as well as ongoing work on other smaller-scale foreign investment projects. As a consequence, employment conditions are projected to gradually improve, with the majority of the near-term gains accruing to the tourism and construction sectors. Further, domestic inflation is forecasted to remain mild, although pending crude oil supply reductions could lead to higher fuel costs.

As regard fiscal consolidation prospects, the outturn will continue to hinge on the success of measures to strengthen revenue administration and contain expenditure growth. Near-term spending still reflects some pressures from the ongoing cost of recovery from Hurricane Mathew.

Liquidity in the banking system is projected to remain at elevated levels, given banks maintained conservative lending posture. Moreover, banks' asset quality indicators are likely to be further reduced, supported by improving business and employment conditions, as well as the effect of the Government's Mortgage Relief Programme. In addition, banks' capital levels are expected to stay elevated and well in excess of domestic and international regulatory requirements.

The country's external reserves are forecasted to remain, on average, relatively stable over the near-term, with prospects for some strengthening in 2018, when the additional hotel capacity will be fully deployed. Nevertheless, reserve levels are expected to be maintained in line with international benchmarks.

APPENDIX

International Developments

Trends in the global economy were mostly positive over the review period, as the United States maintained its steady growth momentum, while European markets were relatively stable. However, Asian economies continued to show signs of weakness, particularly in the manufacturing sector. In this environment, most of the major central banks maintained their accommodative monetary policy stance.

Preliminary economic indicators for the United States economy showed that conditions continued to improve during the review month. Specifically, retail sales firmed by 0.4% during April, following a 0.1% gain a month earlier, while the unemployment rate narrowed on a monthly basis by 10 basis points and by 60 basis points relative to last year, to 4.4% at end-April, amid the addition of 211,000 nonfarm jobs during the month and 854,000 year-on-year. In a slight offset, the forward looking housing market indicator deteriorated during the month, as the number of building permits issued fell by 2.5%; although on a year-on-year basis, the number of permits firmed by 5.7%. In external developments, the trade deficit decreased marginally by \$0.1 billion to \$43.7 billion, as the fall in imports exceeded the decline in exports. Further, a rise in energy costs led to a 0.2% uptick in consumer prices, a turnaround from the prior month's 0.3% contraction. Against this backdrop, the Federal Reserve kept its policy rate unchanged, after a 25 basis point rise in rates in the prior period to a range of 0.75% - 1.00%.

European economies continued to expand at a mild pace over the review period, as output in the euro area grew by 0.5% in the first quarter of 2017, following an increase of the same magnitude in the previous three-month period. Further, the volume of retail trade in the euro area advanced by 0.3%, although lower than the month earlier 0.5% rise, led by hikes in non-food products and food, drinks and tobacco. On the external front, the trade deficit in the United Kingdom expanded by £2.3 billion to £4.9 billion, due mainly to a similar increase in imports. In this environment, employment conditions improved, as the United Kingdom's jobless rate fell to its lowest level in over 40 years to 4.6% during the first quarter of 2017. Similarly in the euro area, the number of unemployed persons decreased by 5,000 and the jobless rate stabilized at 9.5% in March. Reflecting modest gains in energy costs, the pace of inflation in the euro area quickened by 40 basis points to 1.9% in April, while UK inflation advanced by 30 basis points to 2.6% in May. Against this backdrop, both the European Central Bank and the Bank of England maintained their accommodative monetary policy stance.

Developments in Asian markets were relatively subdued over the review period, as China's Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) fell by 60 basis points to 51.2%, on account of declines in the new orders, production and employed person indices. Meanwhile, industrial production in Japan contracted by 2.1%, a turnaround from a 3.2% increase in the previous month, owing to declines in the production of general-purpose products, business oriented machinery, electronic parts and devices, and transport equipment. Labor market conditions were relatively unchanged, as the jobless rate in Japan stabilized at 2.8% in March. Inflationary pressures were well contained within the region, with consumer prices in Japan softening by 0.1% in March. In China, consumer prices edged-up by the same magnitude (0.1%) in April, a turnaround from a 0.3% reduction last month, due to higher food prices. Moreover, Japan's trade surplus decreased by 24.3% to ¥614.0 billion, as higher oil prices resulted in a 19.5% increase in imports, which outpaced the 13.9% expansion in exports. In monetary developments, neither the Bank of Japan nor the People's Bank of China introduced any new monetary measures during the period.

Despite a reduction in OPEC's oil production by 180,000 barrels per day (b/d), crude oil prices decreased by 5.2% to \$52.73 per barrel in April, due in part to weak gasoline demand and increased supply from the Middle East. Movements in the precious metals market were mixed, as the price of silver declined, by 5.8% to \$17.20 per troy ounce, while the cost of gold rose by 1.5%, to \$1,268.29 per troy ounce.

Developments in the major stock markets were primarily positive over the review month. In the United States, both the S&P500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) increased by 0.9% and 1.3%, respectively. Similarly, in Europe, gains were recorded for France's CAC40 (2.8%) and Germany's DAX (1.0%); however, the United Kingdom's FTSE 100 declined by 1.6%, partly on account of concerns over a potential early general election. The performances of Asian markets varied, as Japan's Nikkei 225 advanced by 1.5%; however, China's SE Composite fell by 2.1%, reflecting increased uncertainty in light of regulators' efforts to clamp down on shadow banking and speculative trading activity.

Currency market developments were mixed during the review month, as the U.S dollar appreciated against the Canadian dollar, by 4.1% to CAD\$1.3854, the Chinese Yuan, by 0.1% to CNY6.8877, and the Japanese Yen, by 0.1% to ¥111.54. In contrast, the dollar weakened against the euro, by 2.2% to €0.9177, the British pound by 3.1% to £0.7721, and the Swiss Franc, by 0.8% to CHF0.9949.

Recent Monetary and Credit Statistics

(B\$ Millions)

APRIL						
Value		Change		Change YTD		
2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	

1.0 LIQUIDITY & FOREIGN ASSETS

1.1 Excess Reserves	666.61	721.36	32.70	-13.19	177.24	-2.36
1.2 Excess Liquid Assets	1,496.30	1,477.81	25.93	-7.89	181.90	30.73
1.3 External Reserves	1,007.55	951.75	27.49	26.29	198.63	49.68
1.4 Bank's Net Foreign Assets	-412.23	-109.47	8.04	12.52	41.08	21.69
1.5 Usable Reserves	405.09	294.45	12.90	25.60	109.96	50.60

2.0 DOMESTIC CREDIT

2.1 Private Sector	6,234.61	6,143.49	-13.96	-9.39	-46.92	-9.27
a. B\$ Credit	5,985.77	5,905.48	-0.42	-10.42	-20.01	-7.88
of which: Consumer Credit	2,158.99	2,237.86	3.48	1.50	-9.85	-9.57
Mortgages	3,073.17	2,946.06	0.46	-1.77	0.43	-14.76
Commercial and Other Loans B\$	753.61	721.57	-4.36	-10.15	-10.59	16.45
b. F/C Credit	248.84	238.01	-13.55	1.04	-26.91	-1.38
of which: Mortgages	70.17	69.46	-11.88	1.55	-11.64	1.42
Commercial and Other Loans F/C	178.66	168.55	-1.67	-0.51	-15.27	-2.80
2.2 Central Government (net)	2,238.71	2,545.43	38.86	-3.37	24.16	7.25
a. B\$ Loans & Securities	2,494.17	2,749.81	18.39	-17.76	27.43	-1.35
Less Deposits	303.38	202.45	-16.88	-9.63	21.45	-6.34
b. F/C Loans & Securities	50.00	1.68	0.00	1.57	13.39	1.68
Less Deposits	2.08	3.61	-3.60	-3.19	-4.79	-0.58
2.3 Rest of Public Sector	306.97	294.81	4.84	-2.47	-0.15	-11.07
a. B\$ Credit	83.61	104.04	4.91	-1.67	5.61	-3.27
b. F/C Credit	223.35	190.77	-0.07	-0.80	-5.76	-7.80
2.4 Total Domestic Credit	8,780.31	8,982.97	29.63	-16.03	-22.90	-14.03
a. B\$ Domestic Credit	8,260.18	8,556.89	39.76	-20.23	-8.42	-6.17
b. F/C Domestic Credit	520.13	426.08	-10.13	4.20	-14.48	-7.86

3.0 DEPOSIT BASE

3.1 Demand Deposits	1,934.51	2,281.67	0.53	41.71	102.76	92.16
a. Central Bank	12.69	15.08	5.14	-0.73	-0.33	-0.69
b. Banks	1,921.83	2,266.59	-4.61	42.44	103.10	92.85
3.2 Savings Deposits	1,207.39	1,342.06	27.76	19.20	56.02	48.41
3.3 Fixed Deposits	3,013.44	2,825.41	11.53	-21.34	-2.59	-45.05
3.4 Total B\$ Deposits	6,155.34	6,449.14	39.82	39.57	156.20	95.52
3.5 F/C Deposits of Residents	262.40	376.10	2.14	9.51	26.81	-2.35
3.6 M2	6,392.42	6,728.36	31.36	49.35	156.75	80.98
3.7 External Reserves/M2 (%)	15.76	14.15	0.35	0.29	2.79	0.58
3.8 Reserves/Base Money (%)	86.32	74.62	0.50	2.15	4.27	4.48
3.9 External Reserves/Demand Liabilities (%)	83.62	72.40	0.26	1.93	4.90	3.88

Value		Year to Date		Change	
2016	2017	2016	2017	Month	YTD

4.0 FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

4.1 Central Bank Net Purchase/(Sale)	22.61	24.77	189.15	43.01	2.16	-146.14
a. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Banks	50.51	28.81	175.45	82.07	-21.70	-93.38
i. Sales to Banks	3.50	16.14	18.85	90.94	12.64	72.10
ii. Purchases from Banks	54.01	44.95	194.29	173.01	-9.06	-21.28
b. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Others	-27.90	-4.04	13.70	-39.06	23.86	-52.77
i. Sales to Others	51.76	38.11	224.36	203.61	-13.66	-20.76
ii. Purchases from Others	23.86	34.07	238.07	164.55	10.20	-73.52
4.2 Banks Net Purchase/(Sale)	41.06	48.41	190.25	120.49	7.35	-69.76
a. Sales to Customers	342.91	350.91	1,287.79	1,472.57	7.99	184.78
b. Purchases from Customers	383.98	399.32	1,478.04	1,593.06	15.34	115.01
4.3 B\$ Position (change)	-20.95	-26.87				

5.0 EXCHANGE CONTROL SALES

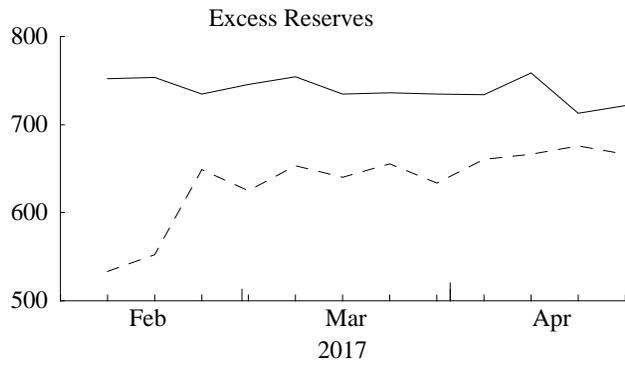
5.1 Current Items	374.11	388.00	1,432.60	1,604.50	13.89	171.89
of which Public Sector	37.96	18.53	216.56	130.13	-19.43	-86.43
a. Nonoil Imports	136.54	144.74	512.40	579.35	8.20	66.94
b. Oil Imports	43.36	25.11	131.87	126.23	-18.25	-5.64
c. Travel	15.93	31.05	65.06	99.56	15.11	34.50
d. Factor Income	12.50	6.33	60.12	55.30	-6.17	-4.82
e. Transfers	22.03	28.08	93.94	98.84	6.05	4.90
f. Other Current Items	143.75	152.70	569.22	645.22	8.95	76.00
5.2 Capital Items	13.99	4.11	68.42	33.56	-9.88	-34.86
of which Public Sector	9.04	0.23	39.84	16.19	-8.81	-23.66
5.3 Bank Remittances	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

Sources: Research Department Weekly Brief Database and Banking Brief for the weeks ending: APRIL 27, 2016 and APRIL 26, 2017

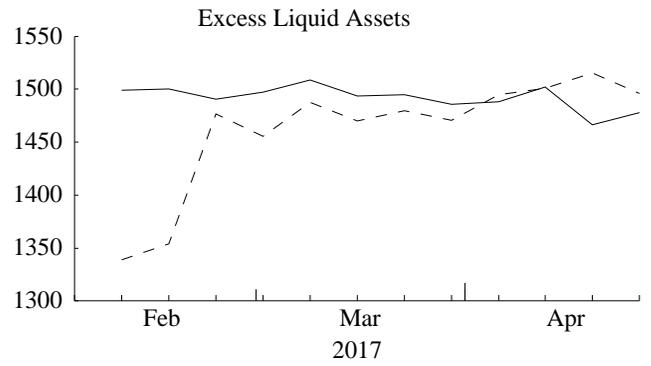
Exchange Control Sales figures are as at month end.

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.

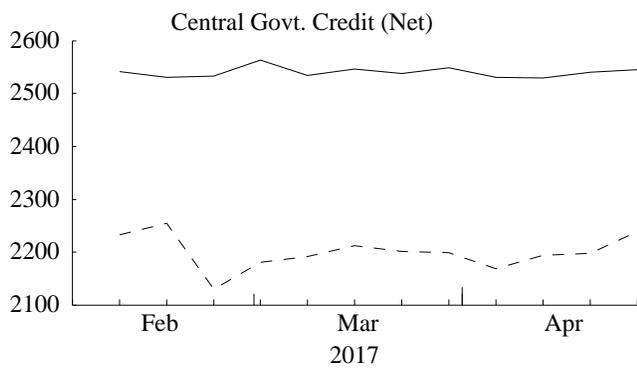
SELECTED MONEY AND CREDIT INDICATORS (B\$ Millions)



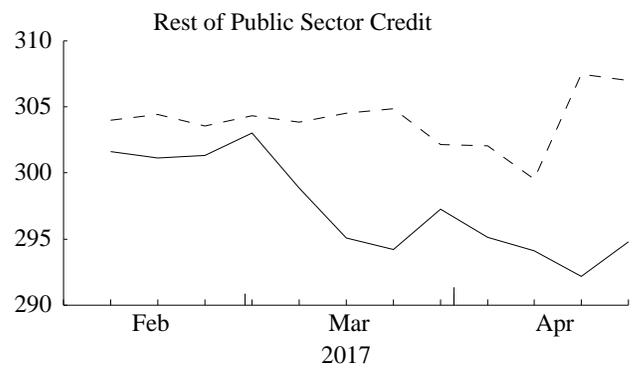
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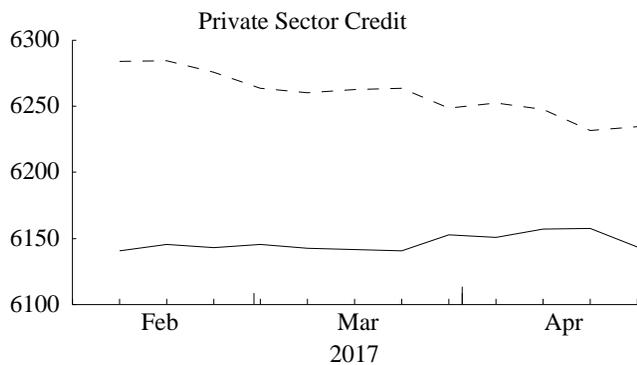
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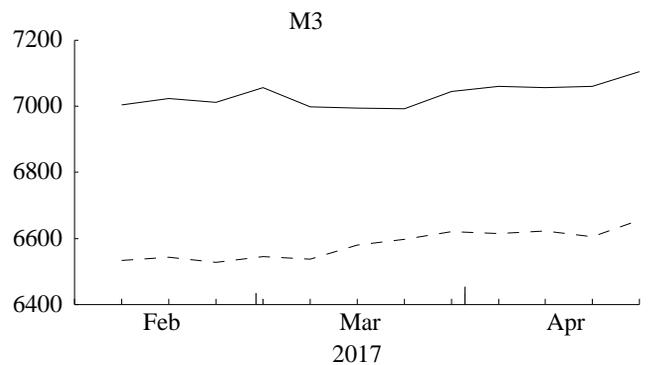
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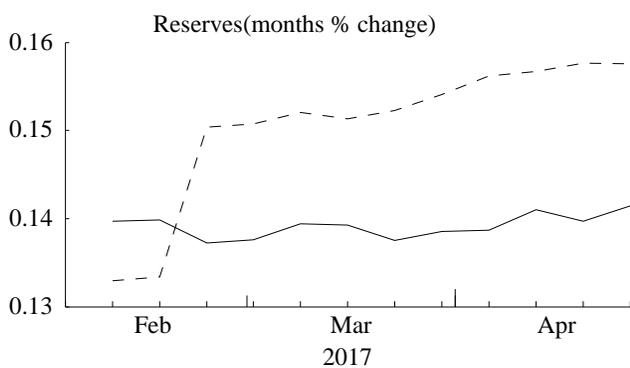
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Selected International Statistics

A: Selected Macroeconomic Projections (Annual % Change and % of labor force)						
	Real GDP		Inflation Rate		Unemployment	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Bahamas	0.0	1.4	0.8	N/A	11.6	N/A
United States	1.6	2.3	1.3	2.7	4.9	4.7
Euro-Area	1.7	1.7	0.2	1.7	10.0	9.4
<i>Germany</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>4.2</i>
Japan	1.0	1.2	-0.1	1.0	3.1	3.1
China	6.7	6.6	2.0	2.4	4.0	4.0
United Kingdom	1.8	2.0	0.6	2.5	4.9	4.9
Canada	1.4	1.9	1.4	2.0	7.0	6.9
<i>Source: IMF World Economic Outlook April 2017, Department of Statistics</i>						

B: Official Interest Rates – Selected Countries (%)					
<i>With effect</i>	CBOB	ECB (EU)	Federal Reserve (US)		Bank of England
	<i>from</i>	Bank Rate	Refinancing Rate	Primary Credit Rate	Target Funds Rate
April 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
May 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
June 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
July 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
August 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
September 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
October 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
November 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
December 2015	4.50	0.05	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
January 2016	4.50	0.05	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
February 2016	4.50	0.05	1.00	0.25-0.50	0.50
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

Selected International Statistics

C. Selected Currencies (Per United States Dollars)						
Currency	Apr-16	Mar-17	Apr-17	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change	12-Mth% Change
Euro	0.8737	0.9387	0.9177	-2.24	-3.46	5.04
Yen	106.43	111.39	111.54	0.13	-4.67	4.80
Pound	0.6853	0.7967	0.7721	-3.08	-4.59	12.68
Canadian \$	1.2555	1.3314	1.3854	4.06	3.07	10.35
Swiss Franc	0.9596	1.0032	0.9949	-0.83	-2.46	3.68
Renminbi	6.4765	6.8780	6.8877	0.14	-0.90	6.35

Source: Bloomberg as of April 30, 2017

D. Selected Commodity Prices (\$)					
Commodity	Apr 2016	Mar 2017	Apr 2017	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change
Gold / Ounce	1292.99	1249.35	1268.29	1.52	10.07
Silver / Ounce	17.84	18.27	17.20	-5.82	8.06
Oil / Barrel	47.57	55.60	52.73	-5.16	-7.20

Source: Bloomberg as of April 30, 2017

E. Equity Market Valuations – April 30, 2017 (% change)								
	BISX	DJIA	S&P 500	FTSE 100	CAC 40	DAX	Nikkei 225	SE
1 month	-0.88	1.34	0.91	-1.62	2.83	1.02	1.52	-2.11
3 month	-1.18	5.42	4.62	1.48	10.92	7.83	0.82	-0.14
YTD	-2.69	5.96	6.49	0.86	8.33	5.04	0.43	1.64
12-month	1.02	17.82	15.44	15.41	18.93	23.90	15.18	7.36

Sources: Bloomberg and BISX

F: Short Term Deposit Rates in Selected Currencies (%)			
	USD	GBP	EUR
o/n	1.10	0.25	-0.25
1 Month	1.32	0.31	-0.34
3 Month	1.51	0.42	-0.29
6 Month	1.66	0.54	-0.25
9 Month	1.81	0.67	-0.17
1 year	1.86	0.76	-0.08

Source: Bloomberg as of April 30, 2017

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS OF THE CENTRAL BANK
(B\$ Millions)

	VALUE												CHANGE					
	Mar. 01	Mar. 08	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	Apr. 05	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 26	Mar. 01	Mar. 08	Mar. 15	Mar. 22	Mar. 29	Apr. 05	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 26
I. External Reserves	921.97	929.29	926.94	914.02	925.46	930.40	945.75	935.09	951.75	8.04	7.32	-2.35	-12.92	11.44	4.94	15.35	-10.66	16.67
II. Net Domestic Assets (A + B + C + D)	360.66	354.84	339.79	350.58	351.52	344.97	356.77	332.08	323.69	12.82	-5.82	-15.05	10.78	0.94	-6.55	11.79	-24.68	-8.39
A. Net Credit to Gov^t(i + ii + iii - iv)	693.50	682.76	683.78	679.29	684.47	684.25	681.59	677.73	656.98	12.42	-10.73	1.02	-4.49	5.18	-0.22	-2.66	-3.86	-20.75
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	364.63	364.70	364.82	364.85	368.37	368.39	368.50	369.37	344.54	0.04	0.06	0.13	0.03	3.52	0.02	0.11	0.87	-24.83
iii) Treasury Bills	206.59	206.59	206.59	206.59	201.62	201.62	201.62	201.62	201.62	9.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
iv) Deposits	12.38	23.18	22.28	26.80	20.17	20.42	23.18	27.91	23.83	-2.41	10.80	-0.89	4.52	-6.63	0.24	2.77	4.73	-4.08
B. Rest of Public Sector (Net) (i + ii - iii)	-12.37	-8.20	-20.87	-10.77	-12.26	-19.38	-4.61	-5.38	-11.53	0.79	4.17	-12.66	10.09	-1.49	-7.12	14.77	-0.78	-6.14
i) BDB Loans	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	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	15.92	11.75	24.42	14.32	15.81	22.93	8.16	8.93	15.08	-0.79	-4.17	12.66	-10.09	1.49	7.12	-14.77	0.78	6.14
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)*	-320.47	-319.72	-323.13	-317.95	-320.70	-319.90	-320.22	-340.26	-321.77	-0.38	0.74	-3.40	5.18	-2.75	0.80	-0.32	-20.05	18.50
III. Monetary Base	1,282.63	1,284.12	1,266.73	1,264.60	1,276.98	1,275.37	1,302.51	1,267.17	1,275.44	20.86	1.49	-17.40	-2.13	12.38	-1.60	27.14	-35.35	8.27
A. Currency in Circulation	377.69	381.70	375.91	369.94	377.05	373.29	378.52	391.49	390.84	8.25	4.02	-5.80	-5.97	7.11	-3.77	5.24	12.96	-0.65
B. Bank Balances with CBOB	904.94	902.42	890.82	894.66	899.92	902.09	923.99	875.68	884.60	12.61	-2.52	-11.60	3.84	5.26	2.16	21.90	-48.31	8.92

* 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)

Fiscal Operations ^P	JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		YEAR TO DATE						
	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017	2016/2016	2016/2017			
1. Government Revenue & Grants % change: over previous month	176.9 5.3%	161.8 -7.9%	127.9 -27.7%	135.8 -16.0%	152.8 7.79%	132.8 -3.79%	161.1 21.32%	109.9 -28.1%	136.8 -15.17%	148.7 35.3%	142.8 -4.0%	160.7 17.52%	146.6 -8.77%	146.6 -8.77%	142.8 -4.0%	187.3 31.2%	141.8 -3.27%	176.2 -5.95%	176.2 -5.95%	141.8 -3.27%	187.3 31.2%	141.8 -3.27%	176.2 -5.95%	176.2 -5.95%	141.8 -3.27%	176.2 -5.95%	176.2 -5.95%	1,215 2.88%	1,185 20.15%	1,215 2.88%	
2. Value Added Tax % change: over previous month	76.7 109.3%	68.7 148.8%	44.3 -42.3%	49.9 -27.29%	44.6 0.78%	44.6 0.78%	64.0 43.39%	53.8 29.07%	41.9 -34.43%	45.6 -15.28%	42.5 -6.77%	46.1 10.06%	62.1 34.50%	62.1 34.50%	42.5 -6.77%	71.7 68.74%	44.0 -29.06%	43.7 -39.10%	43.7 -39.10%	44.0 -29.06%	71.7 68.74%	44.0 -29.06%	43.7 -39.10%	43.7 -39.10%	44.0 -29.06%	43.7 -39.10%	423.7 1064.66%	423.7 1064.66%	423.7 1064.66%	417.5 -1.45%	423.7 1064.66%
3. Import/Excise Duties % change: over previous month	39.7 -3.11%	42.9 73.9%	43.4 9.4%	44.9 0.0%	41.8 -3.64%	41.8 -3.64%	43.4 3.85%	28.1 0.0%	43.7 0.51%	45.5 61.9%	42.5 -2.57%	42.5 8.80%	34.8 -18.27%	34.8 -18.27%	42.5 8.80%	41.0 -17.08%	32.3 -7.06%	46.9 14.27%	46.9 14.27%	32.3 -7.06%	41.0 -17.08%	46.9 14.27%	46.9 14.27%	32.3 -7.06%	46.9 14.27%	32.3 -7.06%	340.2 -13.30%	321.7 -13.30%	340.2 -13.30%	340.2 -13.30%	340.2 -13.30%
4. Recurrent Expenditure % change: over previous month	146.0 -2.25%	163.5 -34.6%	137.9 -5.8%	149.1 -8.8%	163.7 18.72%	132.8 -18.72%	171.2 4.56%	170.0 8.2%	144.4 -15.66%	205.0 20.6%	152.7 -26.0%	157.7 3.75%	191.6 25.32%	191.6 25.32%	152.7 -26.0%	186.3 22.8%	167.0 -12.86%	238 33.93%	238 33.93%	167.0 -12.86%	186.3 22.8%	167.0 -12.86%	238 33.93%	238 33.93%	167.0 -12.86%	238 33.93%	1,324.5 3.93%	1,274.4 17.33%	1,324.5 3.93%	1,324.5 3.93%	1,324.5 3.93%
5. Capital Expenditure % change: over previous month	15.2 -84.0%	14.0 -93.5%	12.4 -18.8%	33.4 137.8%	12.1 -19.5%	12.1 -19.5%	15.9 31.07%	14.4 -18.8%	18.1 13.82%	30.3 110.8%	15.7 -12.96%	15.7 -12.96%	16.0 1.71%	16.0 1.71%	15.7 -12.96%	21.9 -13.0%	13.8 -13.92%	238 9.10%	238 9.10%	13.8 -13.92%	21.9 -13.0%	13.8 -13.92%	238 9.10%	238 9.10%	13.8 -13.92%	238 9.10%	119.1 -1.19%	119.1 -1.19%	119.1 -1.19%	180.7 51.72%	119.1 -1.19%
6. Deficit/Surplus* % change: over previous month	3.3 -102.6%	-15.8 -68.5%	-22.3 -780.1%	-46.7 196.0%	-43.9 96.79%	-43.9 96.79%	-26.9 -38.66%	-74.5 235.5%	-50.0 85.61%	-86.6 16.3%	-8.1 -83.88%	-8.1 -83.88%	-61.0 657.01%	-61.0 657.01%	-8.1 -83.88%	-20.9 -38.6%	-39.5 -55.21%	10.6 -150.72%	10.6 -150.72%	-39.5 -55.21%	-20.9 -38.6%	-39.5 -55.21%	10.6 -150.72%	10.6 -150.72%	-39.5 -55.21%	10.6 -150.72%	-248.4 -7.85%	-248.4 -7.85%	-248.4 -7.85%	-280.0 16.75%	-248.4 -7.85%

Debt, **	JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		YEAR TO DATE	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
7. Total Direct Debt % change: over previous month	5,914.3 -0.3%	6,327.2 0.2%	6,029.7 1.9%	6,325.8 0.0%	6,051.7 0.4%	6,321.0 -0.1%	6,043.0 -0.1%	6,318.8 0.0%	6,043.0 -0.1%	6,318.8 0.0%	6,043.0 -0.1%	6,318.8 0.0%	6,043.0 -0.1%	6,318.8 0.0%
8. External Debt % change: over previous month	1,651.0 -1.2%	1,756.4 0.7%	1,754.4 5.9%	1,744.4 -0.7%	1,762.8 0.5%	1,739.5 -0.3%	1,763.8 0.1%	1,739.5 0.0%	1,763.8 0.1%	1,739.5 0.0%	1,763.8 0.1%	1,739.5 0.0%	1,763.8 0.1%	1,739.5 0.0%
9. Internal F/C Debt % change: over previous month	36.6 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	36.6 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	50.0 36.6%	0.0 0.0%	50.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	50.0 36.6%	0.0 0.0%	50.0 0.0%	0.0 0.0%	50.0 36.6%	0.0 0.0%
10. Bahamian Dollar Debt % change: over previous month	4,226.7 0.1%	4,570.8 0.0%	4,236.6 0.3%	4,581.4 0.2%	4,236.9 0.0%	4,581.5 0.0%	4,229.1 -0.2%	4,579.3 0.0%	4,236.9 0.0%	4,581.5 0.0%	4,229.1 -0.2%	4,579.3 0.0%	4,236.9 0.0%	4,581.5 0.0%
11. Total Amortization % change: over previous month	0.6 -96.4%	3.1 -85.4%	16.2 96.1%	7.7 59.8%	17.6 8.6%	82.9 970.7%	14.7 -16.7%	5.5 -93.3%	14.7 -16.7%	5.5 -93.3%	14.7 -16.7%	5.5 -93.3%	14.7 -16.7%	5.5 -93.3%
12. Total Public Sector F/C Debt % change: over previous month	2,583.8 -0.8%	2,665.1 0.8%	2,687.2 3.9%	2,653.1 -0.5%	2,700.4 0.5%	2,640.8 -0.5%	2,786.4 3.6%	2,640.0 0.0%	2,700.4 0.5%	2,640.8 -0.5%	2,786.4 3.6%	2,640.0 0.0%	2,700.4 0.5%	2,640.8 -0.5%

Real Sector Indicators	JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		YEAR TO DATE	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
13. Retail Price Index % change: over previous month	101.3 -0.82%	102.1 -0.44%	100.8 -0.49%	103.8 1.74%	100.5 -0.24%	103.3 -0.54%	100.8 -0.49%	103.3 1.74%	100.5 -0.24%	103.3 -0.54%	100.8 -0.49%	103.3 1.74%	100.8 -0.49%	103.3 2.19%
14. Tourist arrivals (000's) % change: over previous year														
15. Air arrivals (000's) % change: over previous year														
16. Occupied Room Nights % change: over previous year														
17. Res. Mortgage Commitments-Value of New Const. & Rehab. (B\$Millions) % change: over previous qtr.														

* Includes Net Lending to Public Corporations
 ** Debt figures include Central Government only, unless otherwise indicated
 P- provisional