



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments August 2015

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:

2015: November 2, November 30, December 21.

Monthly Economic and Financial Developments

August 2015

1. Domestic Economic Developments

Preliminary performance indicators suggest that the economy maintained its mildly positive growth momentum during the review period, supported by the healthy performance of the long-stay segment of the tourist sector, alongside several varied-scale foreign direct investment projects which braced construction activity. On the prices front, although domestic inflation firmed over the past twelve months, the level remained mild, due, in part, to the pass-through effects of lower global oil prices. In the monetary sector, broad liquidity improved; however, external reserves fell slightly, due to the seasonal hike in foreign currency demand.

Initial data from the Ministry of Tourism for the seven months of 2015 showed total visitor arrivals contracting marginally, by 1.0% to 3.8 million, relative to 2014's 2.9% expansion. However, in a continuation of the strengthening observed since January, 2014, the high value-added air segment firmed by 5.0% to 0.9 million, outpacing the 2.8% gain recorded in the prior period. Meanwhile, last year's 2.9% upturn in the dominant sea component was reversed to a 2.7% decline, for a total of 2.9 million visitors.

Disaggregating arrivals by port of entry, those to New Providence decreased by 9.5% to 2.0 million, vis-à-vis a 1.8% advance in the corresponding period of 2014. This outturn reflected a sharp 13.9% reduction in sea passengers, which eclipsed the 1.2% gain in the air segment. In contrast, the number of visitors to Grand Bahama surged by 30.5% to 0.6 million, a rebound from the previous year's 8.2% falloff, as increases in both hotel and airlift capacity boosted air arrivals by 27.4%, and the dominant sea component improved by 31.1%. Buoyed by respective gains in air and sea passengers, of 9.5% and 1.3%, visitors to the Family Islands rose further, by 2.3% to 1.2 million, following the year-earlier 10.1% expansion—aided by the start-up of a new mid-sized resort operation.

Provisional hotel sector data from the Ministry of Tourism and the Bahamas Hotel and Tourism Association, for the January to July period, confirmed the sustained rebound in tourism output relative to the same period of 2014. Total room revenue rose by 4.0%, based on increases in the average occupancy rate, of 4.3 percentage points to 75.9%, and the average daily room rate (ADR), of 6.7% (\$16.82) to \$268.36.

Domestic inflation for the twelve months to June, as measured by the All Bahamas Retail Price Index, advanced to 1.41%, from 0.87% in the previous year. Underlying this outturn, average price gains quickened for recreation & culture and health (by 6.7 and 5.5 percentage points to 7.0% each), for education (by 2.2 percentage points to 4.2%), alcohol beverages, tobacco & narcotics (by 1.9 percentage points to 5.9%), communication (by 1.8 percentage points to 2.5%) and food & non-alcoholic beverages (by 1.6 percentage points to 3.0%). Similarly, average prices for furnishing, household equipment & maintenance, and housing, water, gas electricity & other fuels—the most heavily weighted component in the index—were higher by 4.6% and 0.2%, a reversal from respective year-earlier contractions of 0.6% and 0.7%. In contrast, inflation slowed for miscellaneous goods & services (by 3.8 percentage points to 0.2%), restaurant & hotels (by 0.2 percentage points to 2.8%) and clothing & footwear (by 0.2 percentage points to 3.20%), and fell for transportation, by 1.9%, vis-à-vis a 3.8% advance in 2014.

Amid the protracted decline in global oil prices over the last twelve months, average gasoline costs decreased by 2.0% in August, on a monthly basis, and by 26.5% relative to the prior year, to \$4.02 per gallon. The average cost of diesel also moved lower, by 2.7% to \$4.75 per gallon, over the month and by 6.3%, year-on-year. A similar outcome was observed for the domestic fuel charge, which decreased by 1.5% over July's rate and fell sharply by 36.4% vis-à-vis August 2014, to 15.49 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh).

2. International Developments

During the review period, the unfolding economic challenges in China—the world's second largest economy—continued to restrain global growth, particularly in commodity driven markets. This outcome occurred alongside the positive growth secured in the United States' economy and the ongoing tepid recovery in the euro area.

Economic indicators in the United States were positive, with gains in consumer spending and exports boosting real GDP growth, to 3.9% in the second quarter from 0.6% in the first three months of the year. Based on more recent economic indicators, a reduction in automobile demand led to retail sales growth slowing to 0.2% in August from 0.7% in the prior month, while industrial production fell by 0.4%, a reversal from a 0.9% expansion recorded in July. Conditions in the housing market were mixed over the review period; building starts fell by 3.0%, vis-à-vis a 4.1% decrease in the previous month; completions declined by 6.1%, a reversal from a 3.9% hike a month ago; and the number of permits issued—a forward looking indicator—firmed by 3.5%, compared to a 15.5% reduction in July. Amid the generally improving economic conditions, non-farm payrolls grew by an additional 173,000, aided by gains in the health care, social assistance and financial sectors, which negated declines in manufacturing and mining. As a result, the unemployment rate fell by 20 basis points to 5.1% in August—the lowest rate since April 2008. Benefitting from a decrease in gasoline costs, inflation declined marginally, by 0.1%, following a similar increase in the preceding month. In the monetary sector, the Federal Reserve kept its key policy rate within the 0-0.25% range, although indicating that it would consider raising rates if the improvement in economic conditions continued.

Economic activity in the European economies remained mildly positive over the review period. In the United Kingdom, increased purchases of housewares and other miscellaneous items secured a marginal rise in retail sales of 0.1% in July, vis-à-vis a 0.2% decline in the prior month. In contrast, the Index of Leading Economic Indicators (LEI) fell by 0.3%, extending the previous month's 0.2% falloff, reflecting a softening in consumer confidence and lower order book volume, while reduced output of basic metal products and transport equipment caused a further 0.4% monthly decrease in industrial production. On the external front, lower exports of chemicals and cars, combined with increased imports of machinery & transport equipment contributed to a widening in the trade deficit, by £2.6 billion to £3.4 billion in July, over the prior month. Despite the softness in the economy, the country's unemployment rate steadied at 5.5% in the three months ending July, as an additional 42,000 jobs were created, while average prices firmed by 0.2% during the review month, vis-à-vis a 0.2% contraction in June, due to higher costs for furniture, household equipment and maintenance. In the euro area, the Leading Economic Index (LEI) rose by 0.3%, extending the 0.4% gain recorded in the previous month, led by improvements in new manufacturing orders and the financial sector. In addition, increased production of energy, capital and durable consumer goods underpinned a 0.6% expansion in industrial output during July, a turnaround from a 0.3% contraction a month earlier. Given the modest improvement in economic conditions, the region's unemployment rate fell by 20 basis points to 10.9% in July—the lowest rate recorded since February, 2012. In the external sector,

the trade surplus was higher by 19.5% at £31.4 billion, mainly due to a decline in energy-related imports of 1.7% and a 1.4% rise in exports, while average consumer prices edged up by 0.1% in August, extending the prior month's 0.2% advance. Given the prevailing economic conditions, the Bank of England and the European Central Bank kept their highly accommodative monetary policy programmes in place.

In Asia, China's unfolding economic slowdown continued to negatively impact the region. The country's Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) declined by 0.3% in August over the prior month, primarily owing to reductions in the production and new orders indices, vis-à-vis a 0.4% contraction in the previous period. Nonetheless, buoyed by gains in manufacturing and mining and quarrying output, industrial production grew by 6.1% year-on-year, in line with July's expansion, while retail sales growth accelerated by 30 basis points to 10.8%, due in part to increased internet purchases. Reflecting higher food costs, the annualized rate of increase in consumer prices advanced to 2.0% in August, from 1.6% a month earlier. In Japan, the Leading Economic Index fell slightly by 0.1% in July, on account of a reduction in residential starts and new orders for machinery and construction, compared to a 0.4% expansion in the prior period. On the external side, the country's trade deficit surged by ¥301.2 billion to ¥569.7 billion in August, as reduced demand for chemicals and electrical machinery resulted in an 11.7% contraction in overall exports, which outpaced the fuel-led 6.9% decline in imports. Occasioned by decreases in clothes and footwear prices, together with reduced fuel, light and water charges, consumer prices fell by 0.1% during the month, while the unemployment rate softened by 10 basis points to 3.2% at end-July. Faced with a plunging stock market and lower growth prospects, the People's Bank of China cut its key interest rates, by 25 basis points each, and reduced financial institutions' reserve requirements by 50 basis points. However, Japan's central bank maintained its highly accommodative monetary policy stance.

Global equity market developments continued to be dominated by investors' reaction to weakening growth prospects in China and a depreciation of the yuan, which contributed to the country's stock market falling by 12.5% in August—despite the provision of US\$236 billion in liquidity support by the authorities. The negative sentiments spilled over into other major exchanges, including Japan's Nikkei 225, which lost 8.2% of its value over the month, while Germany's DAX, France's CAC 40 and the United Kingdom's FTSE 100 posted respective declines of 9.3%, 8.5%, and 6.7%. Similarly, in the United States, the Dow Jones Industrial Average and the S&P 500 indices narrowed by 7.0% and 6.3%, respectively.

In August, the United States dollar appreciated against most of the major currencies. Reflecting the effects of the Chinese authorities' attempts to widen the currency's trading band, the dollar gained by 2.7% relative to the Yuan, to CNY6.3759. The dollar also increased vis-à-vis the British pound, by 1.8% to £0.6517; the Canadian dollar, by 0.4% to CAD\$1.3140, and the Swiss Franc, by 0.1% to CHF0.9673. In contrast, the dollar weakened relative to the Japanese Yen (by 2.2% to ¥121.23) and the euro (by 2.0% to €0.8920).

Despite the stabilization in OPEC's production, to an average of 31.5 million barrels per day in August, relatively weak domestic demand caused crude oil prices to fall further, by 10.8% to \$47.75 per barrel. While the price of silver decreased by 1.1% to \$14.63 per troy ounce, the cost of gold rose by 3.6% to \$1,134.81 per troy ounce, as investors increased their demand for relatively "safe" assets.

3. Domestic Monetary Trends August 2015 vs. 2014

Monetary trends featured a decline in excess reserves—a narrow measure of liquidity—by \$15.3 million to \$533.8 million, vis-à-vis 2014's \$54.3 million expansion, as banks utilised cash balances to increase their holdings of Bahamas Government Treasury Notes (BGTNs). This development, along with a contraction in outstanding advances, however, contributed to the expansion in the broader excess liquid assets, by \$42.8 million to \$1,403.2 million, after a \$54.3 million gain a year earlier.

Reflecting the traditional rise in foreign currency demand during the latter half of the year, external reserves contracted by \$43.0 million to \$921.2 million, moderately below last year's \$50.6 million drop. In the underlying transactions, the Bank's net foreign currency sale to the public sector decreased by \$4.1 million to \$32.8 million, as lower prices contributed to a decline in fuel imports. In addition, the net sale to commercial banks fell by \$1.8 million at \$12.7 million.

Growth in Bahamian dollar credit was sharply lower at \$27.9 million from \$93.2 million last year. The improving fiscal outturn was evidenced in a reduction in accretions to net claims on the Government, to \$13.6 million from \$76.4 million in 2014. With private sector demand still mild, gains in private sector credit tapered to \$16.4 million from \$27.3 million; commercial loans decreased by \$2.0 million, to reverse the prior period's \$6.3 million rise; and the growth in consumer loans and mortgages eased to \$13.0 million and \$5.4 million, from the \$14.9 million and \$6.0 million in 2014. Further, the \$2.2 million reduction in claims on public corporations extended last year's \$10.5 million contraction.

Banks' credit quality indicators posted some deterioration during August, as private sector loan arrears rose by \$10.1 million (0.8%) to \$1,208.9 million and by 10 basis points to 20.1% of total loans. The increase in delinquencies was concentrated in the short-term, 31-90 day segment, which firmed by \$13.8 million (4.8%) to \$303.9 million, raising the corresponding loan ratio by 21 basis points to 5.1%. In contrast, non-performing loans fell by \$3.7 million (0.4%) to \$905.0 million and by 11 basis points to 15.0% of total private sector loans.

A breakdown by loan type showed that the rise in total delinquencies was led by the consumer and mortgage segments, which grew by \$11.6 million (3.9%) and by \$11.1 million (1.7%) to \$309.6 million and \$671.9 million, respectively. For consumer loans, the outcome reflected gains in both short-term and non-performing loans, of \$6.5 million (7.2%) and \$5.1 million (2.5%), respectively, while the mortgage component was associated with a \$9.4 million (6.1%) expansion in 31-90 day arrears, alongside a more muted \$1.7 million (0.3%) gain in the non-performing segment. In contrast, commercial delinquencies improved by \$12.7 million (5.3%) to \$227.4 million, due to respective declines in the non-accrual and short-term components, of \$10.6 million (5.4%) and \$2.1 million (4.7%).

In line with the growth in arrears, banks increased their total provisions for loan losses by \$6.5 million (1.3%) to \$524.0 million. Consequently, the ratio of provisions to arrears expanded by 18 basis points to 43.3% and the corresponding non-performing loan ratio was higher by 95 basis points at 57.9%. Total write-offs for the month approximated \$4.6 million, while recoveries amounted to \$2.0 million.

The \$6.3 million contraction in domestic foreign currency credit contrasted with a similar increase in the prior year. The decline in private sector credit, also at \$6.3 million, compared with a marginal rise of \$0.9 million in 2014, due to a reduction in commercial & other loans. Credit to public corporations decreased by

\$3.7 million, to reverse the prior year's \$6.8 million gain; however, net claims on the Government firmed by \$3.7 million, following a \$1.4 million decline in 2014.

After posting a \$20.6 million advance in 2014, total Bahamian dollar deposits contracted by \$50.6 million. Demand and savings balances, which fell by \$52.7 million and \$11.2 million, reversed respective year-earlier increases of \$24.8 million and \$9.9 million. Conversely, fixed deposits grew by \$13.3 million, a turnaround from the previous year's \$14.1 million reduction.

In interest rate developments, the weighted average deposit rate at banks declined by 30 basis points to 1.44%, with the highest rate of 5.00% offered on fixed balances of over 12 months. Similarly, the weighted average loan rate fell by 86 basis points to 12.41%.

4. Outlook and Policy Implications

Near-term estimates for economic growth and employment have been tempered by the extended delays relating to the completion of the multi-billion dollar Baha Mar development—which prompted a credit downgrade by one international agency. Nonetheless, expectations are that the mild growth noted during the first half of the year will continue to be supported over the remainder of 2015, by the ongoing strengthening in several key tourism markets and the impact of a number of varied-scale foreign investment projects. Domestic inflation is poised to remain relatively mild, as the initial impact of the VAT levels off and global oil prices remain close to historic lows.

In the fiscal sector, further improvements in the overall deficit and corresponding debt indicators are likely to be secured from the recent introduction of VAT, along with measures aimed at improving revenue administration and restraining expenditure growth.

Given the environment of subdued credit demand—as households continue to deleverage—and persistent high loan arrears, credit growth is set to be moderate and liquidity levels robust. Further, bank capital levels are expected to remain well above regulatory requirements, thereby mitigating any financial stability concerns.

In the external sector, the country's foreign currency reserves are likely to moderate further over the balance of the year, amid the traditional increase in consumption-related foreign currency import demand—although reserve indicators should remain above international benchmarks.

Against this backdrop, the Bank will continue to monitor both international and domestic economic conditions, to assess the need for any adjustment in monetary policy in the near-term.

Recent Monetary and Credit Statistics

(B\$ Millions)

AUGUST						
Value		Change		Change YTD		
2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	

1.0 LIQUIDITY & FOREIGN ASSETS

1.1 Excess Reserves	601.65	533.79	54.29	-15.30	199.94	40.52
1.2 Excess Liquid Assets	1,272.88	1,403.21	54.31	42.83	187.98	261.32
1.3 External Reserves	921.56	921.15	-50.57	-42.95	181.78	134.39
1.4 Bank's Net Foreign Assets	-545.26	-448.40	4.11	-11.03	141.75	-14.41
1.5 Usable Reserves	369.37	389.53	-15.70	-27.23	123.02	129.41

2.0 DOMESTIC CREDIT

2.1 Private Sector	6,503.41	6,294.20	28.14	10.14	-25.79	-58.76
a. B\$ Credit	6,144.57	6,002.43	27.27	16.44	-0.06	-27.42
of which: Consumer Credit	2,139.81	2,162.50	14.91	13.00	27.84	11.84
Mortgages	3,149.11	3,072.22	6.03	5.39	-1.81	-26.84
Commercial and Other Loans B\$	855.64	767.71	6.33	-1.95	-26.09	-12.42
b. F/C Credit	358.84	291.77	0.87	-6.30	-25.73	-31.34
of which: Mortgages	131.56	84.37	0.03	0.80	-10.68	-17.85
Commercial and Other Loans F/C	227.28	207.40	0.84	-7.10	-15.05	-13.49
2.2 Central Government (net)	2,011.08	2,104.98	75.01	17.25	49.63	73.72
a. B\$ Loans & Securities	2,111.91	2,349.42	-30.07	2.78	87.73	76.44
Less Deposits	164.65	255.87	-106.48	-10.81	-21.39	21.32
b. F/C Loans & Securities	66.00	12.37	0.00	0.88	-59.00	12.37
Less Deposits	2.17	0.93	1.40	-2.78	0.50	-6.23
2.3 Rest of Public Sector	368.50	333.30	-3.76	-5.85	-31.90	12.53
a. B\$ Credit	96.97	96.70	-10.51	-2.18	-29.61	-0.52
b. F/C Credit	271.53	236.60	6.75	-3.67	-2.28	13.06
2.4 Total Domestic Credit	8,883.02	8,732.50	99.35	21.53	-9.23	27.46
a. B\$ Domestic Credit	8,188.79	8,192.68	93.17	27.85	79.46	27.18
b. F/C Domestic Credit	694.23	539.82	6.19	-6.33	-88.68	0.28

3.0 DEPOSIT BASE

3.1 Demand Deposits	1,586.23	1,885.44	24.84	-52.74	151.51	106.57
a. Central Bank	7.60	17.87	-8.35	-11.16	-0.81	-5.69
b. Banks	1,578.62	1,867.57	33.19	-41.58	152.31	112.26
3.2 Savings Deposits	1,169.47	1,135.31	9.89	-11.18	58.18	67.49
3.3 Fixed Deposits	3,281.54	3,056.47	-14.13	13.28	-37.23	-82.62
3.4 Total B\$ Deposits	6,037.24	6,077.21	20.60	-50.64	172.46	91.45
3.5 F/C Deposits of Residents	301.74	246.09	6.47	-13.93	50.76	4.04
3.6 M2	6,246.90	6,302.42	18.41	-51.29	169.23	85.24
3.7 External Reserves/M2 (%)	14.75	14.62	-0.86	-0.56	2.58	1.96
3.8 Reserves/Base Money (%)	86.27	90.24	-9.25	-2.83	6.28	10.04
3.9 External Reserves/Demand Liabilities (%)	83.45	86.64	0.65	-1.43	8.48	11.94
	Value		Year to Date		Change	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	Month	YTD

4.0 FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

4.1 Central Bank Net Purchase/(Sale)	-51.37	-45.50	173.16	128.66	5.87	-44.50
a. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Banks	-14.48	-12.69	253.64	310.44	1.79	56.80
i. Sales to Banks	28.20	31.90	112.40	76.40	3.70	-36.00
ii. Purchases from Banks	13.72	19.22	366.04	386.84	5.49	20.80
b. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Others	-36.89	-32.81	-80.48	-181.78	4.08	-101.30
i. Sales to Others	60.32	56.30	585.22	456.92	-4.02	-128.30
ii. Purchases from Others	23.43	23.49	504.74	275.14	0.06	-229.60
4.2 Banks Net Purchase/(Sale)	-43.49	-19.47	223.12	283.17	24.02	60.05
a. Sales to Customers	345.27	315.68	2,444.28	2,670.25	-29.58	225.98
b. Purchases from Customers	301.77	296.21	2,667.39	2,953.42	-5.56	286.03
4.3 B\$ Position (change)	24.70	0.00				

5.0 EXCHANGE CONTROL SALES

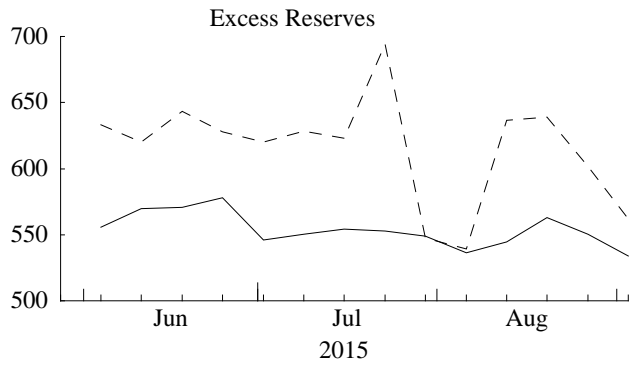
5.1 Current Items	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
of which Public Sector	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
a. Nonoil Imports	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
b. Oil Imports	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
c. Travel	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
d. Factor Income	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
e. Transfers	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
f. Other Current Items	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
5.2 Capital Items	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
of which Public Sector	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
5.3 Bank Remittances	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND

Sources: Research Department Weekly Brief Database and Banking Brief for the weeks ending: AUGUST 27, 2014 and SEPTEMBER 02, 2015

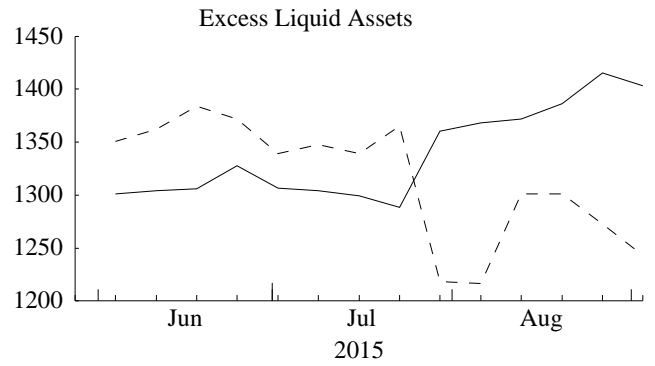
Exchange Control Sales figures are as at month end.

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.

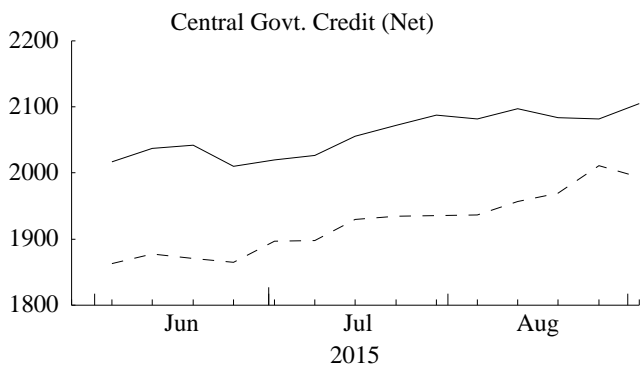
SELECTED MONEY AND CREDIT INDICATORS (B\$ Millions)



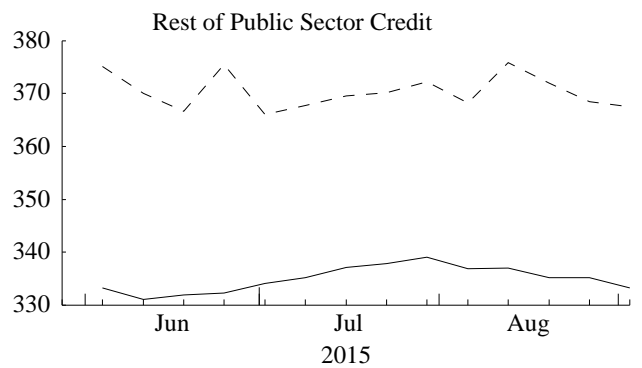
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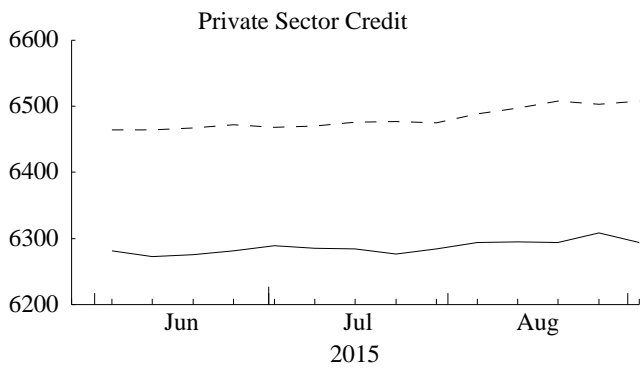
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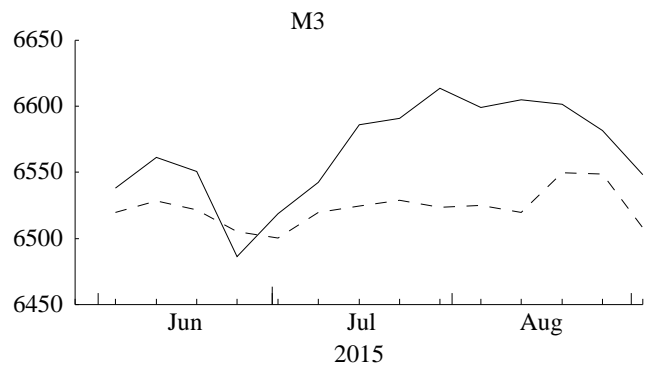
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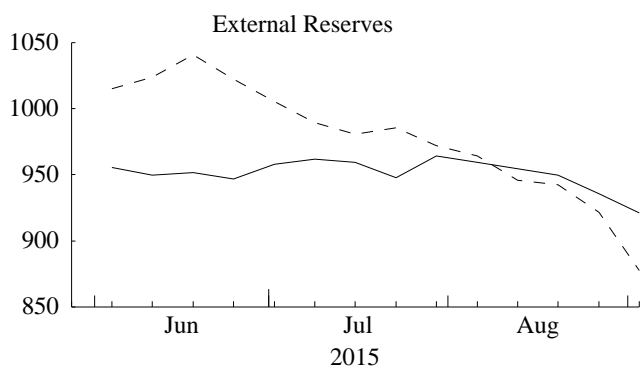
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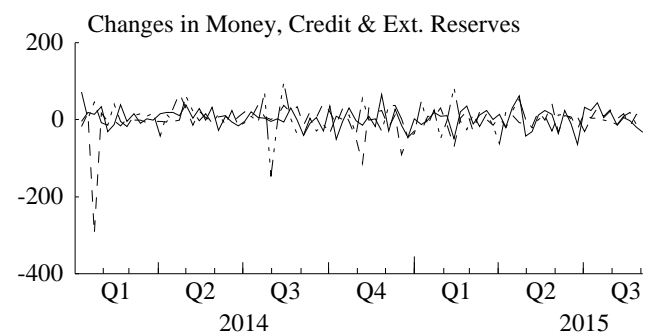
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— M3
- - - Domestic Credit
- · - External Reserves

Selected International Statistics

A: Selected Macroeconomic Projections (Annual % Change and % of labor force)						
	Real GDP		Inflation Rate		Unemployment	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Bahamas	1.3	2.3	1.2	2.3	15.7	12.0
United States	2.4	3.1	1.6	0.1	6.2	5.5
Euro-Area	0.9	1.5	0.4	0.1	11.6	11.1
<i>Germany</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>0.2</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>4.9</i>
Japan	-0.1	1.0	2.7	1.0	3.6	3.7
China	7.4	6.8	2.0	1.2	4.1	4.1
United Kingdom	2.6	2.7	1.5	0.1	6.2	5.4
Canada	2.5	2.2	1.9	0.9	6.9	7.0
<i>Source: IMF World Economic Outlook April 2015, 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
August 2013	4.50	0.50	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
September 2013	4.50	0.50	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
October 2013	4.50	0.50	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
November 2013	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
December 2013	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
January 2014	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
February 2014	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
March 2014	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
April 2014	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
May 2014	4.50	0.25	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
June 2014	4.50	0.15	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
July 2014	4.50	0.15	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
August 2014	4.50	0.15	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
September 2014	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
October 2014	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
November 2014	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
December 2014	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
January 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
February 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
March 2015	4.50	0.05	0.75	0-0.25	0.50
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

Selected International Statistics

C. Selected Currencies (Per United States Dollars)						
Currency	Aug-14	July-15	Aug-15	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change	12-Mth% Change
Euro	0.7615	0.9104	0.8920	-2.02	7.91	17.13
Yen	104.09	123.90	121.23	-2.15	1.30	16.47
Pound	0.6025	0.6400	0.6517	1.82	1.52	8.17
Canadian \$	1.0879	1.3091	1.3140	0.37	13.09	20.78
Swiss Franc	0.9185	0.9663	0.9673	0.10	-2.73	5.31
Renminbi	6.1448	6.2077	6.3759	2.71	2.75	3.76

Source: Bloomberg as of August 31, 2015

D. Selected Commodity Prices (\$)					
Commodity	August 2014	July 2015	August 2015	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change
Gold / Ounce	1287.81	1095.82	1134.81	3.56	-4.18
Silver / Ounce	19.47	14.78	14.63	-1.07	-6.91
Oil / Barrel	102.43	53.52	47.75	-10.78	-16.71

Source: Bloomberg as of August 31, 2015

E. Equity Market Valuations – July 31, 2015 (% chg)								
	BISX	DJIA	S&P 500	FTSE 100	CAC 40	DAX	Nikkei 225	SE
1 month	2.48	-6.57	-6.26	-6.70	-8.45	-9.28	-8.23	-12.49
3 month	4.81	-8.23	-6.42	-10.54	-7.09	-10.11	-8.13	-30.48
YTD	7.65	-7.27	-4.21	-4.85	8.90	4.63	8.25	-0.89
12-month	15.08	-3.34	-1.56	-8.38	6.21	8.33	22.47	44.60

Sources: Bloomberg and BISX

F: Short Term Deposit Rates in Selected Currencies (%)			
	USD	GBP	EUR
o/n	0.22	0.43	-0.14
1 Month	0.20	0.50	-0.09
3 Month	0.43	0.58	-0.08
6 Month	0.62	0.87	0.02
9 Month	0.77	0.90	0.05
1 year	0.96	1.06	0.12

Source: Bloomberg as of August 31, 2015

SUMMARY ACCOUNTS OF THE CENTRAL BANK

(B\$ Millions)

	VALUE												CHANGE					
	Jul. 01	Jul. 08	Jul. 15	Jul. 22	Jul. 29	Aug. 05	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 26	Jul. 01	Jul. 08	Jul. 15	Jul. 22	Jul. 29	Aug. 05	Aug. 12	Aug. 19	Aug. 26
I. External Reserves	958.09	961.92	959.50	947.60	964.11	959.25	954.32	949.59	935.64	11.08	3.84	-2.42	-11.90	16.50	-4.86	-4.92	-4.73	-13.95
II. Net Domestic Assets (A + B + C + D)	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
A. Net Credit to Gov¹(i + ii + iii - iv)	397.49	397.49	397.39	404.89	404.68	398.14	398.52	400.87	414.19	-10.29	0.00	-0.10	7.50	-0.21	-6.54	0.38	2.35	13.32
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	267.00	266.74	266.67	276.27	274.56	274.47	274.36	274.33	274.33	-0.40	-0.25	-0.07	9.60	-1.70	-0.10	-0.10	-0.04	0.00
iii) Treasury Bills	22.88	22.88	22.88	22.88	22.88	13.65	13.65	13.65	29.64	-8.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-9.24	0.00	0.00	16.00
iv) Deposits	27.05	26.79	26.82	28.92	27.42	24.63	24.15	21.76	24.44	1.61	-0.25	0.03	2.09	-1.49	-2.79	-0.48	-2.39	2.68
B. Rest of Public Sector (Net) (i + ii - iii)	-14.33	-22.04	-19.83	-17.42	-25.01	-27.44	-30.17	-5.76	-5.80	-4.18	-7.70	2.21	2.41	-7.59	-2.42	-2.74	24.41	-0.04
i) BDB Loans	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	4.03	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.13	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	18.36	26.06	23.86	21.44	29.04	31.34	34.07	9.66	9.70	4.18	7.70	-2.21	-2.41	7.59	2.30	2.74	-24.41	0.04
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)*	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
III. Monetary Base	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
A. Currency in Circulation	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
B. Bank Balances with CBOB	684.66	686.46	683.52	691.20	692.06	679.58	677.44	700.70	690.51	-13.22	1.81	-2.94	7.67	0.86	-12.48	-2.14	23.26	-10.20

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

