

# Quarterly

## Economic Review

### DECEMBER 2020



VOLUME 29 | No. 4

[www.centralbankbahamas.com](http://www.centralbankbahamas.com)

The Quarterly Economic Review (QER) is a publication of the Central Bank of The Bahamas, prepared by the Research Department, for issue in March, June, September and December. All correspondence pertaining to the QER should be addressed to:

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# REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

## DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

### OVERVIEW

Preliminary indications are that the domestic economy contracted during the fourth quarter of 2020, adversely impacted by the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Tourism output reduced significantly, as internationally imposed travel restrictions dampened the high value-added air segment and the dominant sea component remained on pause. However, several varied-scale foreign investment projects, and to a lesser extent post-hurricane reconstruction works, provided positive impulses to the construction sector. In price developments, domestic inflationary pressures remained contained, despite a firming in the rate during the review quarter.

Preliminary estimates showed that the Government's overall deficit widened considerably during the second quarter of FY2020/21, relative to the same period a year earlier. Underlying this outturn, was a sharp reduction in revenue collections, combined with an increase in spending, mainly for health and welfare related to COVID-19, and ongoing hurricane recovery. A large portion of budgetary financing was sourced from the external market, and was dominated by an accumulated \$825.0 million in external bond issue.

In monetary developments, the contraction in domestic credit outpaced the reduction in the deposit base during the review quarter. Consequently, both bank liquidity and external reserves expanded, bolstered by the receipt of foreign currency inflows from the Government's external borrowings. However, banks' credit quality indicators deteriorated during the fourth quarter, attributed to the ongoing adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the latest available data for the third quarter revealed a reduction in banks' overall profitability, largely reflecting higher levels of provisioning for bad debt.

In the external sector, the estimated current account balance reversed to a deficit during the final quarter of 2020, from a surplus in the comparative 2019 period. Underpinning this outturn was a switch in the services account position to a deficit from a surplus in the prior year, as internationally imposed travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, led to a significant reduction in travel receipts. In contrast, the surplus on the capital and financial account increased considerably, owing primarily to an expansion in net debt-financed inflows to the Government.

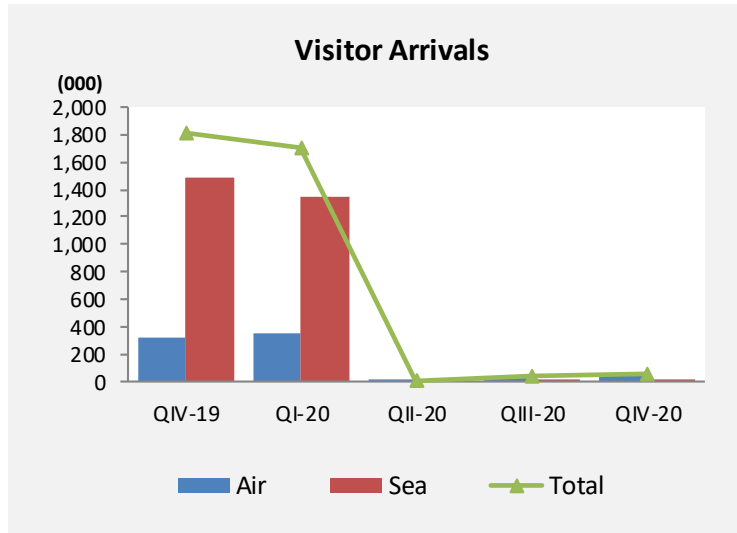
### REAL SECTOR

#### TOURISM

Tourism sector output remained contracted during the final quarter of 2020, reflective of the ongoing spread of COVID-19 and widespread containment measures.

According to data from the Ministry of Tourism, total visitors amounted to just 54,728, relative to a 6.6% growth in 2019 to 1.8 million, as globally imposed travel restrictions unfavourably affected both air and sea traffic. A breakdown by category showed that sea passengers totalled 7,945, vis-à-vis a 10.9% increase to 1.5 million in the previous year. Further, the air component amounted to 46,783, following a 9.9% decrease to 320,299 a year earlier that was induced by Hurricane Dorian.

An analysis by major ports of entry revealed that total arrivals to New Providence amounted to just 26,568, compared to a 3.4% decline to 1.0 million in the previous year. Air and sea traffic totalled only 24,341 and 2,227, respectively. Likewise, visitor arrivals to the Family Islands reached just 25,211, following a 41.0% expansion to 0.7 million in 2019, with air arrivals decreasing to 20,315 and sea passengers to 4,896. Further, arrivals to Grand Bahama declined to 2,949, deepening from the 49.4%, contraction to 63,234 in the preceding year, explained by a falloff in both air and sea visitors to 2,127 and 822, respectively.



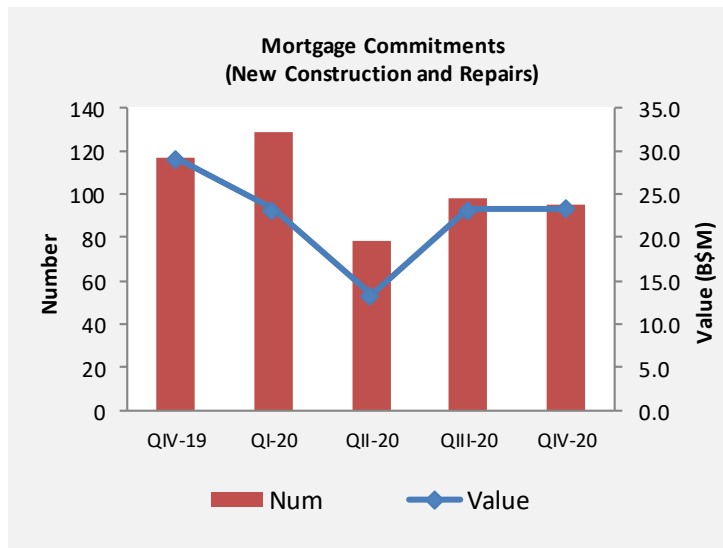
In the private vacation rental market similar trends were observed, as data provided by AirDNA showed a falloff in the demand for resort business during the final quarter of 2020. Specifically, total room nights booked reduced sharply by 48.3%, vis-à-vis the same period in 2019, owing to respective decreases of 50.2% and 48.0%, in hotel comparable and entire place listings. An analysis of listing category revealed that hotel comparable average occupancy levels fell by 12.6 percentage points to 31.1%, while the average daily rate (ADR) rose by 2.5% to \$156.52. In addition, average occupancy levels for entire place listings were lower by 8.9 percentage points at 30.8%, as the ADR firmed by 10.3 percentage points to \$431.50.

With the re-opening of the borders to international travel, data provided by the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) indicated that total departures—net of domestic passengers—amounted 35,611, following a 4.6% gain to 0.3 million in 2019. In particular, U.S. departures reduced to just 27,438, relative to a 5.1% growth last year to 0.3 million. Similarly, non-U.S. international departures only amounted to 8,173, vis-à-vis a 1.8% uptick to 51,476 a year earlier.

**CONSTRUCTION**

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

On the domestic side, total mortgage disbursements for new construction and repairs—as reported by banks, insurance companies and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation—contracted by 36.0% (\$10.0 million) to \$17.8 million, relative to the same period in 2019. Contributing to this development was a 29.1% (\$7.1 million)



decline in the dominant residential component to \$17.3 million, extending the 17.2% falloff to \$24.3 million last year. In addition, commercial disbursements decreased by 83.4% (\$2.9 million) to a mere \$0.6 million, following a 35.4% falloff to \$3.5 million a year earlier.

Total mortgage commitments for new buildings and repairs—a forward looking indicator of domestic activity—reduced by 22 to 95, while the corresponding value fell by 20.1% to \$23.3 million. Disaggregated by loan category, residential commitments declined by 27 to 88, while the accompanying value lessened by 4.1% to \$16.1 million. Conversely, commercial disbursements grew by 5 to 7, but the associated value contracted by 41.9% to \$7.2 million.

With regard to interest rates, average loan financing for residential mortgages narrowed by 44 basis points to 6.37%. However, the average rate for commercial financing rose by 1.1 percentage points to 7.64%.

## PRICES

During the fourth quarter, domestic consumer price inflation—as measured by changes in the average Retail Price Index (RPI) for The Bahamas—rose to 0.7%, a reversal from a 0.6% decline in the same period last year. Underlying this development was a firming in average prices for water, gas, electricity, & other fuels—the most dominant component—by 2.3%, clothing & footwear, by 1.9% and for non-alcoholic beverages, by 1.0%, vis-à-vis respective reductions in the prior year. Further, the rise in average cost accelerated for recreation & culture (1.2%), while average price declines moderated for restaurants & hotels (1.7%) and miscellaneous goods & services (0.1%). Providing some offset, average cost reductions were recorded for communications (0.8%), health (0.6%), household equipment & routine house maintenance (0.5%), education (0.2%), and beverages, tobacco & narcotics (0.2%), after respective gains in 2019. Further, the decrease in average price for transport extended to 5.3%.

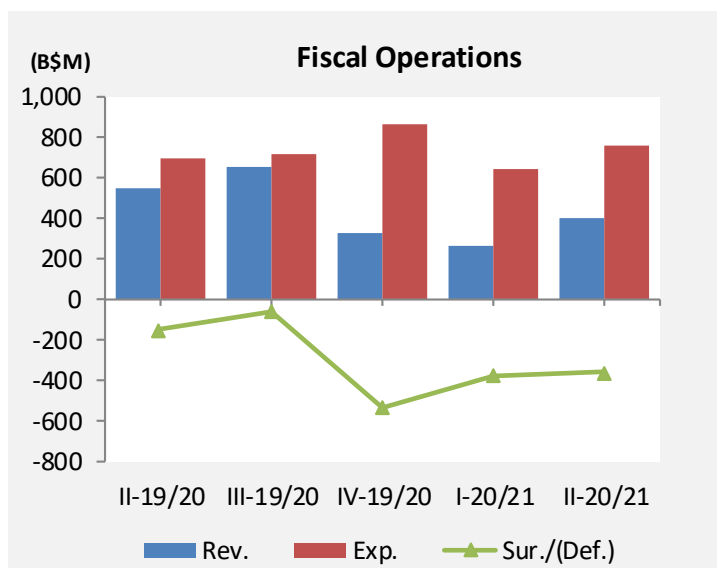
Retail Price Index (Annual % Changes; December)						
Items	Weight	2019		2020		
		Index	%	Index	%	
Food & Non-Alcoholic	102.4	106.69	-1.1	111.2	4.2	
Alcohol, Tobacco & Narcotics	6.0	119.52	4.1	121.4	1.6	
Clothing & Footwear	45.0	103.96	1.9	106.7	2.6	
Housing, Water, Gas,	321.7	102.26	-1.2	105.8	3.5	
Furn. & Household,	45.7	112.65	1.5	114.3	1.5	
Health	44.0	134.15	10.9	134.1	0.0	
Transportation	125.0	111.39	12.9	102.7	-7.8	
Communication	40.9	113.90	5.6	99.4	-12.7	
Rec., & Culture	24.6	117.74	6.2	116.0	-1.5	
Education	42.4	104.45	-3.8	100.1	-4.2	
Restaurant & Hotels	56.8	118.78	7.2	120.4	1.4	
Misc. Goods & Svcs.	145.6	102.09	-5.5	110.5	8.3	
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>1000.0</b>	<b>107.50</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	

On an annual basis, inflation slowed to a muted 0.04%, compared to 2.5% in 2019. An analysis of the components revealed that average prices for transport and clothing & footwear declined by 4.4% and 1.3%, respectively, vis-à-vis year earlier rises of 11.8% and 1.1%. Similarly, average costs for housing, water, gas, electricity & other fuels and recreation & culture declined by 0.7% each, following respective upticks of 0.9% and 0.1% in the prior year. Meanwhile, the reduction in average price for communications extended to 5.5% from 0.5% a year earlier. In addition, inflation slowed for furnishing, household equipment & routine household maintenance (1.9%), restaurant & hotels (4.1%), alcohol beverages, tobacco & narcotics (3.2%) and health (5.0%). In a slight offset, inflation rates quickened for miscellaneous goods & services (2.8%) and food & non-alcoholic beverages (1.6%), while the average cost decrease moderated for education (3.4%).

## FISCAL OPERATIONS

### OVERVIEW

Provisional data on the Government's budgetary operations for the second quarter of FY2020/21 revealed that the deficit rose considerably to \$359.0 million from \$147.4 million in the comparative FY2019/20 period. Contributing to this outturn, were a falloff in aggregate revenue and a rise in total expenditure, mainly for health and social welfare related to COVID-19, combined with spending still associated with post-hurricane reconstruction works. Specifically, total revenue decreased by \$144.6 million (26.4%) to \$402.6 million, while aggregate expenditure rose by \$67.0 million (9.6%) to \$761.6 million.



### REVENUE

Given reduced economic activity, tax revenue—which comprised 82.5% of total receipts—fell by \$163.8 million (33.0%) to \$332.0 million. Notably, VAT collections—at a dominant 45.7% of the total—reduced by \$97.5 million (39.1%) to \$151.6 million, underpinned largely by revenue losses related to COVID-19. Similarly, proceeds from stamp taxes on financial and realty transactions edged down by \$0.7 million (7.0%) to \$9.3 million. In addition, collections from specific taxes—mainly gaming—declined by \$5.3 million (48.7%) to \$5.6 million. In a partial offset, excise taxes grew by \$16.0 million (26.9%) to \$75.7 million.

In terms of the other components, taxes on the use or supply of goods and services, edged up by \$0.7 million (4.3%) to \$17.0 million. Notably, proceeds from general business licenses fees rose by \$1.2 million (23.3%) to \$6.3 million and company taxes, by \$0.6 million (19.3%) to \$3.5 million. However, motor vehicle taxes declined by \$0.9 million (11.4%) to \$7.0 million and marine license activities, by \$0.1 million (34.9%) to \$0.3 million.

With regard to the remaining categories, reflective of decreased economic activity and depressed international travel, taxes on international trade reduced sharply by \$65.4 million (53.9%) to \$56.0 million. The outturn was attributed to a notably falloff in receipts from

	FY19/20		FY20/21	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Property Tax	25.6	4.7	16.5	4.1
Value Added Tax	249.1	45.5	151.6	37.7
Stamp Taxes (Financial & Realty)	10.0	1.8	9.3	2.3
Excise Tax	59.6	10.9	75.7	18.8
Specific Taxes (Gaming Tax)	11.0	2.0	5.6	1.4
Motor Vehicle Taxes	7.9	1.4	7.0	1.7
Company Taxes	2.9	0.5	3.5	0.9
License to Conduct Specific Bus. Act.	5.1	0.9	6.3	1.6
Marine License Activities	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1
Bank & Trust Companies	--	--	--	--
Customs & Other Import Duties	73.4	13.4	43.4	10.8
Taxes on Exports	23.5	4.3	11.3	2.8
Departure Taxes	24.6	4.5	1.3	0.3
Other Taxes on Transactions	--	--	--	--
General Stamp Taxes	2.6	0.5	0.1	--
Property Income	4.2	0.8	16.0	4.0
Sales of Goods & Services	46.5	8.5	36.6	9.1
Fines, Penalties & Forfeits	0.6	0.1	1.1	0.3
Reimbursements & Repayments	--	--	--	--
Misc. & Unidentified Revenue	0.1	--	16.9	4.2
Sales of Other Non-Financial Assets	--	--	--	--
Grants	--	--	--	--
Capital Revenue	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>547.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>402.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

customs & import duties, by \$30.0 million (40.9%) to \$43.4 million and a significant reduction in departure taxes, by \$23.3 million (94.7%) to \$1.3 million. Further, export taxes were lower by \$12.2 million (51.9%) at \$11.3 million. Taxes on property also fell by \$9.1 million to \$16.5 million and general stamp taxes edged down to \$0.1 million from \$2.6 million in the prior year.

Non-tax receipts—at 17.5% of total revenue—rose by \$19.3 million (37.5%) to \$70.6 million. Underlying this outturn, “miscellaneous” & unidentified revenue expanded to \$16.9 million from a mere \$0.9 million in the previous year, reflecting a realised \$16.8 million premium on the recently issued \$225.0 million international bond, which was sold above par. In addition, property income advanced to \$16.0 million from \$4.2 million, due in large measure to a timing-related hike in revenue from Government property. Similarly, proceeds from fines, penalties and forfeits, grew by \$0.5 million (87.6%) to \$1.1 million. In contrast, receipts from the sales of goods and services fell by \$10.0 million (21.3%) to \$36.6 million, occasioned by the notable reduction in collections from customs and immigration fees.

#### **EXPENDITURE**

The growth in total expenditure was owed primarily to a \$78.6 million (12.4%) rise in current spending to \$712.6 million, which overshadowed the \$11.6 million (19.1%) reduction in capital outlays to \$49.0 million.

By economic categorization, the increase in current spending was led by elevated disbursements for social benefits to \$95.8 million from \$44.9 million in the previous year, associated with boosted subsistence support to displaced households. Further, interest payments on public debt advanced by \$12.7 million to \$102.6 million, attributed to higher interest payments for both internal and external debt. In addition, subsidies rose by \$10.5 million (9.6%) to \$120.5 million, reflecting increased support to public corporations and private entities. Providing some offset, other “miscellaneous” payments reduced by \$1.8 million, explained by a \$9.3 million (42.7%) decrease in insurance premium payments to \$12.5 million. In a partial offset, current transfers grew by \$7.5 million to \$41.1 million, as outlays for “other” miscellaneous current transfers increased more than two-fold to \$8.7 million from \$4.1 million a year earlier, while allocations to households rose by \$3.3 million to \$11.5 million and to non-profit institutions, by \$0.2 million to \$1.0 million. Meanwhile, transfers to financial public enterprises and non-financial enterprises declined by \$0.3 million (41.5%) to \$0.4 million, and by \$0.2 million (1.3%) to \$19.5 million, respectively.

The reduction in capital expenditure reflected in large measure, a significant falloff in capital transfers by \$18.8 million (75.3%) to \$6.2 million. However, acquisition of non-financial assets rose by \$7.3 million (20.4%) to \$42.8 million, underpinned by a notable rise in spending on non-residential buildings, by \$4.9 million (37.3%) to \$17.9 million. In addition, spending on other fixed assets advanced to \$2.5 million from \$0.5 million in the prior year, while outlays on “other” structures and transport equipment increased by \$0.5 million each, to \$17.6 million and \$0.8 million, respectively.

#### **FINANCING AND THE NATIONAL DEBT**

Budgetary financing for the second quarter of FY2020/21, was dominated by external borrowings, which totaled \$886.5 million, inclusive of issues of international bonds proceeds of \$825.0 million and \$61.5 million in project and policy-based loans. Further, \$307.6 million was obtained from domestic sources in the form of bonds (\$191.4 million), loans & advances (\$94.9 million) and net Treasury bills/notes (\$21.3 million). Debt repayment for the period totaled \$692.3 million, of which the largest share (63.3%) went towards retiring Bahamian dollar debt.

As a consequence of these developments, the Direct Charge on the Government grew by \$513.9 million (5.8%) over the previous quarter, and by \$1,684.7 million (21.8%), year-on-year, to \$9,417.9 million. A breakdown by component showed that Bahamian dollar obligations constituted 55.3% of the total, while foreign currency liabilities accounted for the remaining 44.7%. A further disaggregation by creditor revealed that private and institutional investors held the largest portion of local currency debt (41.6%), followed by banks (42.4%), public corporations (11.1%) and the Central Bank (4.9%). A breakdown by instrument type showed that Government bonds comprised the largest share of domestic currency debt, at 73.2%, and featured an average maturity of 10.5 years, compared to 9.8 years in 2019. In addition, Treasury bills and loans & advances accounted for smaller shares of 17.7% and 9.1%, respectively.

The Government's contingent liabilities decreased by \$3.5 million (0.8%) over the previous quarter and by \$285.3 million (39.4%), year-on-year, to \$438.7 million. As a result of these developments, the National Debt—inclusive of contingent liabilities—rose by \$510.4 million (5.5%) over the three-month period and by \$1,399.4 million (16.5%) on an annual basis, to \$9,856.7 million at end-2020.

As a ratio to GDP, the Direct Charge increased by an estimated 12.4 percentage points on a yearly basis, to 69.4% at end-December. The variation also reflected an estimated significant contraction in the denominator, the GDP, for 2020. In addition, the National Debt-to-GDP ratio increased to an estimated 72.6%, compared to 62.3% in 2019.

Estimates of the Debt-to-GDP Ratios			
December (%) <sup>1</sup>			
	2018 <sub>p</sub>	2019 <sub>p</sub>	2020 <sub>p</sub>
<b>Direct Charge</b>	57.6	57.0	69.4
<b>National Debt</b>	63.4	62.3	72.6
<b>Total Public Sector Debt</b>	58.9	57.6	68.0

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas and the Department of Statistics  
GDP estimate for 2020 is derived from IMF projections.  
<sup>1</sup> In the absence of actual quarterly GDP data, the ratios presented should be taken as broad estimates of the relevant debt ratios and are therefore subject to revision.

### PUBLIC SECTOR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT

During the fourth quarter, public sector foreign currency debt rose by \$635.2 million (15.3%) to \$4,783.8 million, as new drawings of \$887.4 million, outweighed amortization payments of \$264.3 million. In terms of the components, the Government's outstanding liabilities—which accounted for 88.0% of the total—increased by \$644.3 million (18.1%) to \$4,211.8 million on a quarterly basis. In contrast, the public corporations' debt stock declined by \$9.1 million (1.6%) to \$572.0 million.

In comparison to the same quarter of 2019, total foreign currency debt service payments rose sharply to \$340.5 million from \$79.7 million, attributed in large part to a \$248.0 million refinancing of Government's short-term external debt obligations. Net of the refinancing, the comparable serving was still expanded, at \$92.5 million. Underlying this outturn, the Government's debt service payment increased to \$321.5 million from \$58.1 million last year, as amortization payments advanced to \$254.3 million and interest charges moved higher by \$16.8 million to \$67.2 million. In contrast, the public corporations' segment decreased by \$2.6 million (11.8%) to \$19.1 million, with interest charges lessening by \$5.0 million (35.7%) to \$9.1 million, outstripping the \$2.5 million (33.3%) rise in amortization payments to \$10.0 million. Exclusive of refinancing activities, the Government's debt service to revenue ratio stood at 18.3% at end-December, an increase of 7.6 percentage points over the previous year, while the debt service ratio rose to 41.8% from 8.4% in 2019.

A disaggregation by creditor profile revealed that the majority of the foreign currency debt was held by capital market investors (51.7%), followed by non-resident financial institutions (21.1%), multilateral institutions (19.3%),

domestic banks (6.4%) and bilateral agencies (1.5%). A breakdown by currency type showed that, the majority of the stock was denominated in United States dollars (85.2%), with IMF SDRs, the Swiss franc, euro and the Chinese yuan accounting for smaller portions of 6.2%, 5.0%, 1.9% and 1.6%, respectively. At end-December, the average maturity of the outstanding foreign currency debt stood at 8.3 years, marginally lower than the 8.9 years in 2019.

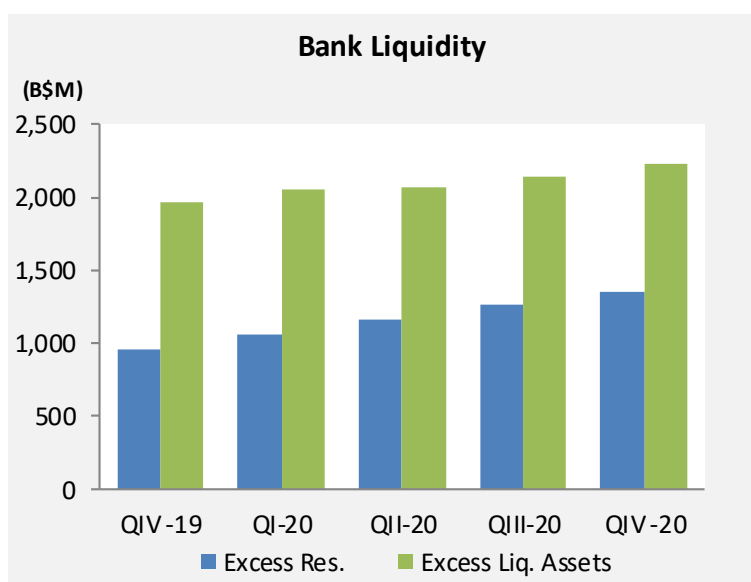
## MONEY, CREDIT AND INTEREST RATES

### OVERVIEW

During the fourth quarter, liquidity in the banking system rose, as the contraction in domestic credit outpaced the reduction in the deposit base. In addition, the buildup in external reserves persisted, bolstered by Government's external borrowing activities. Meanwhile, banks' credit quality indicators deteriorated over the review quarter, evidenced by an increase in delinquencies within both the short-term and non-performing loans segments, reflective of the ongoing adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, third quarter profitability indicators showed that banks' overall net income contracted, owing largely to a rise in outlays for bad debt provisioning. The weighted average interest rate spread narrowed over the fourth quarter, as the average loan rate declined, while the corresponding deposit rate increased.

### LIQUIDITY

Banks' net free cash reserves rose by \$92.0 million (7.3%) to \$1,354.2 million, a moderation from the 24.8% growth recorded in the corresponding period of 2019. At end-December, the ratio of free cash reserves to Bahamian dollar deposit liabilities stood at 18.4%, exceeding the 13.5% a year earlier. Largely reflecting a rise in banks' balances with the Central Bank, the broader surplus liquid assets grew by \$87.6 million (4.1%) to \$2,230.5 million, although lower than the \$185.1 million (10.4%) expansion in the previous year. At end-December, surplus liquid assets stood at 171.4% above the statutory minimum, relative to 157.8% in December, 2019.



### DEPOSITS AND MONEY

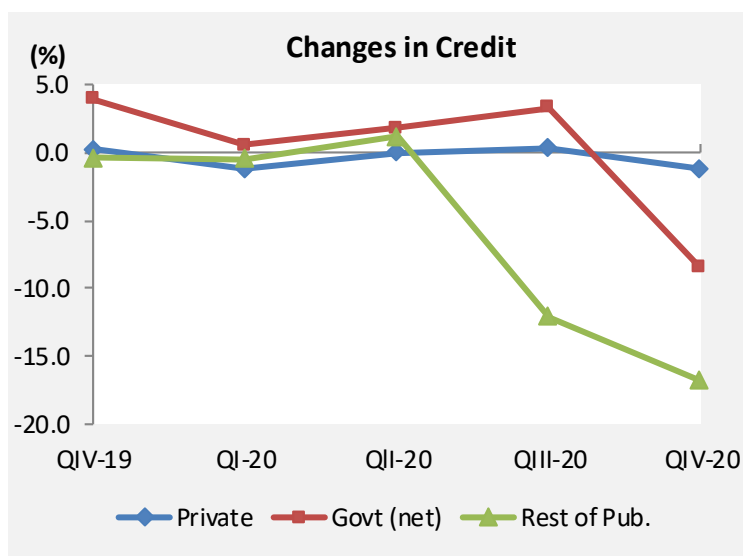
The overall moneysupply (M3) contracted by \$194.7 million (27.4%) to \$7,863.0 million, a reversal from a \$352.1 million (4.7%) accumulation in 2019, which had included hurricane-related re-insurance inflows. In particular, narrow money (M1) reduced by \$72.4 million (2.0%), following a growth of \$188.0 million (6.1%) in the preceding year. Contributing to this development, was a public sector-led decrease in demand deposits, by \$62.4 million (2.0%), following a buildup of \$166.4 million (6.1%) in the previous year. In addition, currency in active circulation fell by \$10.0 million (2.6%), a turnaround from the \$21.7 million (6.9%) rise in the prior year. Similarly, broad money (M2) declined by \$83.7 million (1.1%), after a \$276.8 million (3.9%) growth in 2019. Underlying this outcome, savings deposits reduced by \$12.6 million (0.7%), contrasting with an expansion of \$123.4 million

(8.2%) in the prior year. In a slight offset, fixed deposits moved higher by \$1.2 million (0.1%), after a \$34.5 million (1.4%) falloff a year earlier. Moreover, residents' foreign currency deposits contracted by \$110.9 million (23.6%), relative to a \$75.2 million (14.7%) gain in 2019.

An analysis by category showed that Bahamian dollar demand deposits comprised the largest share of the aggregate money stock, at 39.4%, followed by fixed balances, at 28.6% and savings deposits, at 22.7%. The remaining balances were divided between currency in active circulation (4.7%) and residents' foreign currency deposits (4.6%).

### DOMESTIC CREDIT

During the fourth quarter, largely attributed to the Government's use of external bond proceeds to repay outstanding debt obligations, total domestic credit contracted sharply by \$368.6 million (4.1%), reversing a \$106.4 million (1.2%) increase in 2019, and contributing to an average reduction of 0.1% over the past five-years. Specifically, the dominant Bahamian dollar component (99.3% of the total), fell by \$366.0 million (4.2%), vis-à-vis a \$43.6 million (0.5%) gain in the prior year. In addition, foreign currency credit declined by \$2.8 million (0.8%), following a \$62.8 million (17.7%) growth a year earlier.



A sectoral analysis revealed that net credit to the Government reduced by \$235.8 million (8.5%), after registering a gain of \$97.8 million (3.9%) in 2019, compared to an average increase of 1.2% over the past five-years. Similarly, private sector credit decreased by \$67.6 million (1.2%), contrasting with a \$10.4 million (0.2%) buildup a year earlier. Further, the falloff in credit to the rest of the public sector accelerated to \$65.3 million (16.8%), from \$1.8 million (0.4%) in the previous year.

As it relates to the various private sector categories, the decline in personal loans—which comprised the largest share (72.3%) of total credit—quickened to \$52.1 million (1.1%), from \$21.8 million (0.4%) in the preceding year, with an average decline of 0.5% over the last five years. The outturn was

	2020		2019	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Agriculture	9.3	0.1	3.9	0.1
Fisheries	1.1	0.0	2.4	0.0
Mining & Quarrying	2.1	0.0	2.2	0.0
Manufacturing	39.5	0.6	39.6	0.6
Distribution	266.4	4.0	277.9	4.1
Tourism	13.9	0.2	13.8	0.2
Enter. & Catering	21.0	0.3	52.7	0.8
Transport	36.1	0.5	40.6	0.6
Construction	91.0	1.4	307.0	4.5
Government	312.6	4.6	688.8	10.2
Public Corps.	906.5	13.4	206.6	3.1
Private Financial	19.9	0.3	25.1	0.4
Prof. & Other Ser.	55.0	0.8	59.1	0.9
Personal	4,872.4	72.3	4,943.4	73.1
Miscellaneous	95.9	1.4	97.7	1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,742.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6,761.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

explained by a \$26.1 million (1.2%) falloff in consumer loans, combined with a \$15.1 million (0.6%) decrease in residential mortgages and a \$10.9 million (18.7%) retrenchment in overdrafts.

A detail breakdown of consumer credit showed net repayments for “miscellaneous” purposes (\$10.9 million), debt consolidation (\$5.8 million) and credit cards (\$5.2 million). Other notable decreases were posted for home improvements (\$2.9 million), private cars (\$2.1 million), land purchases (\$2.0 million) and travel (\$2.0 million). More muted reductions of less than \$1.0 million were registered for education, medical services, commercial vehicles, furnishings & domestic appliances and taxis & rented cars.

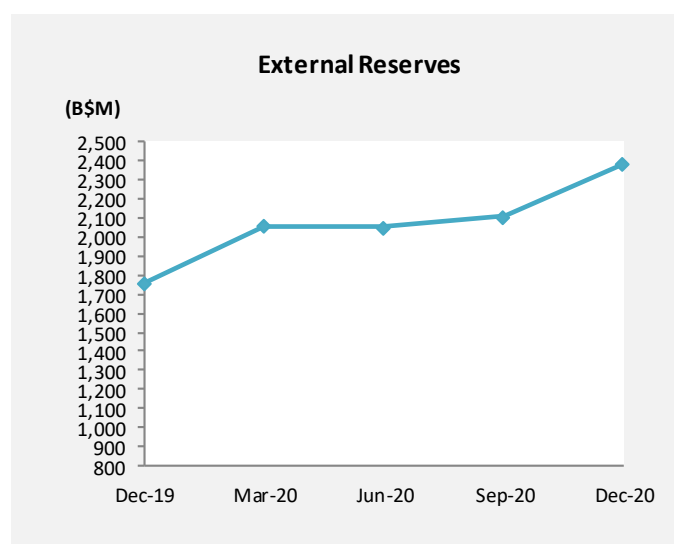
The remaining private sector loan categories featured net repayments for distribution (\$8.5 million), professional & “other” services (\$7.8 million), private financial institutions (\$6.9 million), manufacturing (\$5.2 million) and fisheries (\$3.9 million). Relatively smaller declines occurred for entertainment & catering, and mining & quarrying. In contrast, net lending expanded for construction (\$6.5 million), “miscellaneous” purposes (\$6.3 million), transport (\$4.5 million), tourism (\$2.9 million) and agriculture (\$0.8 million).

### MORTGAGES

During the fourth quarter, data provided by domestic banks, insurance companies and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation, revealed that the total value of outstanding mortgages reduced by \$16.0 million (0.5%) to \$2,971.1 million, albeit lower than the \$32.5 million (1.1%) falloff registered in 2019. Underlying this outcome, the dominant residential component—which comprised 94.4% of the total—decreased by \$13.5 million (0.5%), a moderation from the preceding year’s \$25.6 million (0.9%) decline, for an ending balance of \$2,803.6 million. In addition, the commercial component fell by \$2.5 million (1.5%) to \$167.5 million, following a \$6.9 million (3.7%) retrenchment the prior year. At end-December, domestic banks held the majority of outstanding mortgages (87.9%), followed by insurance companies (6.5%) and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (5.6%).

### THE CENTRAL BANK

The Central Bank’s net claims on the Government contracted by \$165.7 million (48.2%) to \$177.9 million during the fourth quarter, a turnaround from a \$23.8 million (6.4%) accumulation in 2019, and averaged a decline of \$28.6 million (0.6%) over the last five years. In addition, the buildup in the Bank’s net liabilities to commercial banks slowed to \$144.0 million (9.0%), from \$207.8 million (17.6%) in 2019, as the deceleration in deposit accumulation overshadowed the gains in notes and coins held. Meanwhile, the Bank’s net liabilities to the rest of the public sector edged down by \$0.1 million (1.0%), in-line with the preceding period’s \$0.1 million (1.3%) moderation.



Buoyed by the receipt of proceeds from the Government’s external borrowing activities, external reserves expanded by \$276.0 million (13.1%), to \$2,382.2 million, following a growth of \$199.3 million (12.8%) in 2019, which had included re-insurance proceeds. The Central Bank’s net foreign currency purchases grew to \$268.4 million, from \$175.1 million a year earlier. Contributing to this outcome, net purchases from the Government

surged to \$580.4 million, from \$50.8 million a year earlier. In addition, net foreign currency sales to the public corporations were nearly halved to \$62.8 million, from \$121.5 million in 2019, owing to the rise in net public debt inflows. In contrast, the Bank registered a net sale of \$249.2 million to the commercial banks, vis-a-vis a net receipt of \$245.8 million in the previous year.

At end-December, the stock of external reserves was equivalent to an estimated 43.7 weeks of the current year's merchandise imports (inclusive of oil purchases), compared with 27.7 weeks in 2019. After adjusting for the 50% statutory requirement on the Central Bank's Bahamian dollar demand liabilities, "usable" reserves grew by \$422.1 million (50.5%) to \$1,257.3 million, vis-à-vis the corresponding quarter of 2019.

### **DOMESTIC BANKS**

Total net foreign liabilities of domestic banks almost doubled to \$240.3 million during the fourth quarter, from \$121.0 million in the previous quarter, owing largely to a rise in non-resident deposits; contrasting with a reversal to net foreign liabilities of \$32.6 million in 2019.

Domestic banks' credit fell by \$202.9 million (2.3%), following an \$82.8 million (1.0%) increase in 2019. Specifically, attributed to a decrease in the holdings of Treasury bills and other securities, net claims on the Government reduced by \$70.1 million (2.9%), a reversal from the \$74.1 million (3.4%) gain in the preceding year. Similarly, private sector credit contracted by \$67.6 million (1.2%), after a growth of \$10.4 million (0.2%) a year earlier. Further, the falloff in credit to public corporations deepened to \$65.2 million (17.1%) from \$1.7 million (0.4%) last year, due to a reduction in foreign currency loans and advances.

Banks' total deposit liabilities—inclusive of Government balances—decreased by \$124.5 million (1.6%) to \$7,730.4 million, contrasting with an expansion of \$326.7 million (4.4%) in 2019, which was due to reinsurance activities from Hurricane Dorian. Contributing to this development, private sector deposits fell by \$102.7 million (1.4%), a turnaround from a \$331.2 million (4.9%) expansion in the prior year. In addition, the reduction in deposits of the rest of the public sector accelerated to \$62.9 million (20.4%), from \$1.6 million (0.4%) in the previous year. Meanwhile, Government deposit balances rose by \$41.1 million (16.4%), following a \$2.9 million (1.3%) falloff in 2019.

At end-December, the majority of banks' deposit liabilities were denominated in Bahamian dollars (95.3%), with the US dollar and other currencies representing smaller proportions of 4.6% and 0.1%, respectively. A disaggregation by holder showed that private individuals held the largest share (50.9%) of total local currency accounts, followed by business firms (32.8%), the public sector (7.1%), private financial institutions (5.7%) and others (3.5%).

Disaggregated by deposit category, demand balances comprised the largest share (44.0%) of accounts, followed by fixed (31.6%) and savings (24.4%) deposits. Analyzed by range of value and number, the majority of accounts (86.7%), held Bahamian dollar balances of \$10,000 or less, but comprised only 5.6% of the total value. Accounts with balances between \$10,000 and \$50,000 constituted 8.9% of the total number and 11.3% of the overall value, while deposits in excess of \$50,000 represented a mere 4.4% of the total, but a dominant 83.1% of the aggregate value.

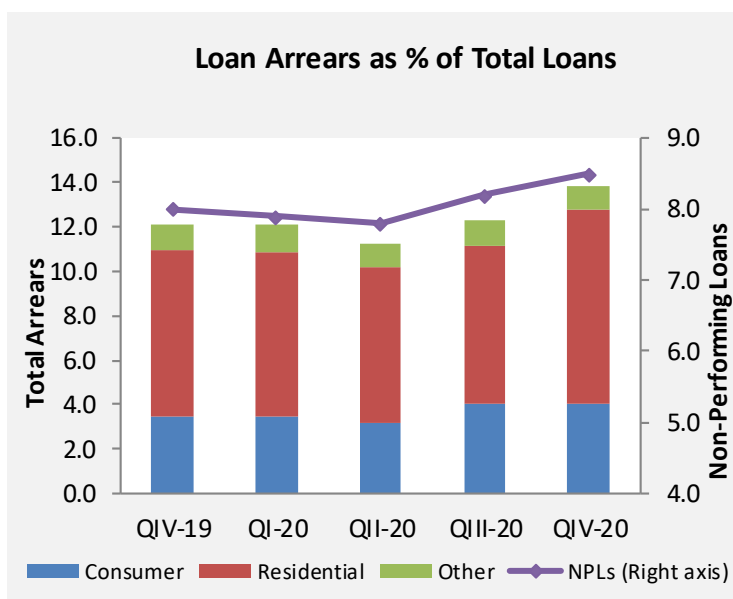
### **CREDIT QUALITY**

Banks' credit quality indicators deteriorated, during the fourth quarter, reflecting the ongoing slowdown in domestic economic activity, related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Total private sector loan arrears rose by \$75.8

million (10.9%) over the quarter, and by \$86.7 million (12.6%) on an annual basis, to \$773.1 million. Consequently, the ratio of arrears to total private sector loans firmed on a quarterly and year-on-year basis, by 1.5 and 1.7 percentage points, respectively, to 13.8%.

An analysis by the average age of delinquencies, revealed that short-term (31-90 day) arrears grew by \$66.4 million (28.6%) to \$298.5 million, with the associated ratio increasing by 1.2 percentage points, to 5.3% of total private sector loans. In addition, the non-performing segment—arrears in excess of 90 days and on which banks have ceased accruing interest—rose by \$9.4 million (2.0%) to \$474.6 million, contributing to a 25 basis point rise in the corresponding ratio, to 8.5% of total private sector loans.

The expansion in total private sector loan arrears was mainly due to an \$86.7 million (21.7%) growth in mortgage delinquencies, to \$486.2 million, resulting in a 3.4 percentage point increase in the attendant ratio, to 18.7%. Further, the consumer component edged up by \$0.7 million (0.3%) to \$228.6 million, as the relevant ratio firmed by 19 basis points, to 10.6%. In contrast, the commercial segment reduced by \$11.6 million (16.6%), to \$58.2 million, with the associated ratio narrowing by 1.3 percentage points, to 7.0%. Meanwhile, the NPL rate for consumer loans, stood at 6.8% versus 5.2% in the previous year and businesses, at 4.9% compared to 6.1% at end-2019; while mortgages was relatively unchanged at 11.1%.



As a result of these developments, banks increased their total provisions for loan losses by \$56.1 million (10.9%), to \$569.7 million over the quarter. Consequently, the ratio of provisions to non-performing loans and to total arrears grew by 9.6 percentage points to 120.0%, and by 4 basis points to 73.7%, respectively. Also, specific provisions relative to non-performing loans increased by 4.3 percentage points to 83.4%. Further, banks wrote-off an estimated \$40.8 million in delinquent loans and recovered approximately \$5.4 million, during the review period.

#### CAPITAL ADEQUACY

Banks capital levels remained elevated, during the fourth quarter, although the average ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets fell by 10 basis points to 30.9%. The ratio remained well in excess of the regulatory prescribed target and trigger ratios of 17.0% and 14.0%, respectively.

#### BANK PROFITABILITY

During the third quarter of 2020—the latest available data—banks' overall profitability contracted by \$15.1 million (36.8%), to \$25.9 million, relative to the same period of 2019, as institutions continued to increase their provisioning for bad debt to buffer against predicted losses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. With regard to profitability components, the net interest margin edged up by \$0.8 million (0.6%) to \$135.4 million, as interest expense declined by \$4.0 million (30.1%), to \$9.2 million, outstripping the \$3.2 million (2.2%) reduction in interest

income, to \$144.6 million. In addition, income from commission & foreign exchange fees rose by \$1.4 million (18.0%) to \$9.1 million, contributing to a \$2.2 million (1.5%) increase in the gross earnings margin, to \$144.4 million.

In terms of non-interest expense, banks' operating outlays grew by 7.9% to \$101.8 million. In particular, non-staff related operating costs—inclusive of professional and rental expenses—rose by 25.8%, to \$61.0 million, while staff-related expenses increased by 6.3%, to \$41.6 million. In contrast, occupancy costs reversed to -\$0.9 million, from \$6.7 million a year earlier. Further, banks' net loss on their "non-core" activities accelerated to \$16.7 million, compared to \$6.9 million in 2019. Contributing largely to this outturn was a \$14.3 million (35.2%) rise in provisions for bad debt, to \$55.0 million, explained by the expected increase in loan delinquencies, owing to the pandemic. Further, depreciation costs moved higher by \$1.5 million (61.1%), to \$4.1 million, while a partial offset occurred due to a \$6.0 million (16.7%) growth in other "non-interest" earnings, to \$42.4 million.

Reflecting these developments, most profitability ratios trended downward over the review quarter. As a percentage of average assets, the gross earnings margin narrowed by 24 basis points to 5.23%, as the interest margin fell by 27 basis points to 4.91%, while the commission & foreign exchange ratio edged up by 3 basis points, to 0.33%. Similarly, the net earnings margin ratio reduced by 30 basis points, to 1.55%, as the operating costs ratio increased by 6 basis points to 3.69%. As a consequence of the rise in bad debt provisioning, the net income ratio narrowed by 64 basis points to 0.94%.

## INTEREST RATES

During the review quarter, the weighted average interest rate spread at commercial banks decreased by 44 basis points, to 9.85 percentage points. Underlying this development, the weighted mean lending rate narrowed by 43 basis points to 10.37%, while the weighted average deposit rate edged up by 1 basis point, to 0.52%.

The reduction in the average loan rate was led by a 66 basis point decline in the commercial mortgage component, to 5.87%. In addition, the mean rate on consumer loans fell by 25 basis points, to 12.48%. Providing some offset, average rates for overdrafts firmed by 37 basis points, to 9.52%; while the average rate on residential mortgages edged up by 2 basis points, to 5.24%.

Disaggregated by deposit type, average rates moved higher for demand and savings deposits, by 4 and 3 basis points, to 0.65% and 0.48%, respectively. In contrast, the average range of interest offered on fixed balances widened to 0.30%-0.95%, from 0.29%-0.89% in the previous quarter.

Banking Sector Interest Rates			
Period Average (%)			
	Qtr. IV	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
	2019	2020	2020
<b>Deposit Rates</b>			
Demand Deposits	0.50	0.61	0.65
Savings Deposits	0.33	0.45	0.48
Fixed Deposits			
Up to 3 months	0.29	0.29	0.30
Up to 6 months	0.49	0.52	0.40
Up to 12 months	0.55	0.74	0.82
Over 12 months	0.91	0.89	0.95
<b>Weighted Avg. Dep. Rate</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.52</b>
<b>Lending Rates</b>			
Residential mortgages	4.82	5.22	5.24
Commercial mortgages	7.25	6.53	5.87
Consumer loans	12.79	12.73	12.48
Other Local Loans	9.37	8.31	6.96
Overdrafts	11.10	9.15	9.52
<b>Weighted Avg. Loan Rate</b>	<b>10.44</b>	<b>10.80</b>	<b>10.37</b>

As it relates to other key interest rates, the average Treasury bill rate increased by 8 basis points to 1.83%. Meanwhile, the Central Bank's Discount rate and commercial banks' Prime rate were unchanged, at 4.00% and 4.25%, respectively.

## CAPITAL MARKETS DEVELOPMENTS

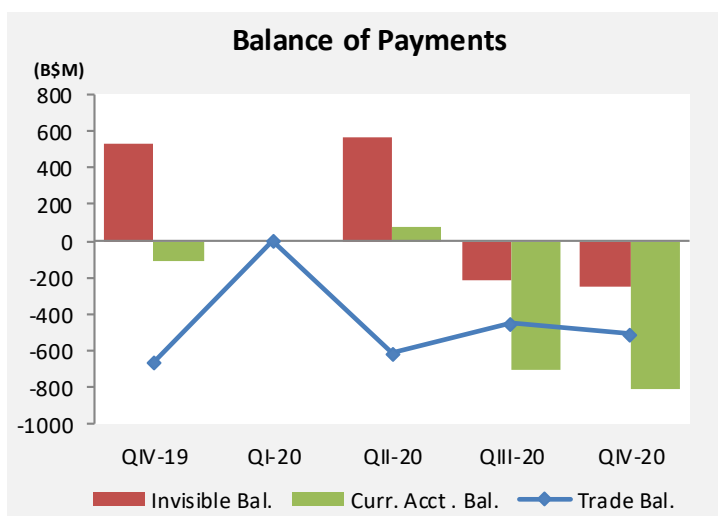
The domestic capital market registered some positive developments, during the review quarter, although trailing the same period last year. Specifically, relative to the fourth quarter the volume of shares traded on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX) rose by 70.6% to 1,850,180, but was lower than the nearly doubled 2,919,089 in 2019. Correspondingly, the aggregate value of shares traded rose by \$5.1 million to \$10.7 million, albeit below the \$6.9 million quarterly growth to \$13.8 million in the preceding year.

During the review quarter, the BISX All Share Price Index declined by 0.1% to 2,092.46 points, following an increase of 2.8% in 2019. In contrast, market capitalization almost doubled to \$8.8 billion, compared with the 2.6% increase a year earlier and was reflective of the listing of Bahamas Registered Stock (BRS) on the Exchange.

As it relates to market listings, the number of traded securities on the exchange, excluding public debt instruments, was unchanged at 37, at the quarter's end, and comprised 20 ordinary shares, 7 preference shares and 10 debt tranches. However, inclusive of the 210 BRS, the debt tranches totaled 220, bringing the number of publicly traded securities on the exchange to 247.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS

Based on provisional estimates for the fourth quarter of 2020, the current account balance reversed to a deficit of \$991.2 million, from a surplus of \$301.1 million in the corresponding period of 2019. Contributing, was a reversal in the services account position to a deficit from a surplus, as globally imposed travel restrictions negatively impacted travel receipts. In contrast, the capital and financial account surplus rose sharply to \$1,036.2 million, from \$51.3 million a year earlier, as the Government's external borrowing activities led to a considerable rise in net debt financing inflows.



The estimated merchandise trade deficit declined by \$20.2 million (3.4%) to \$572.3 million, largely reflecting a \$21.0 million (3.0%) fall in imports to \$686.6 million, which overshadowed the \$0.8 million (0.7%) decrease in exports to \$114.2 million. A further breakdown of trade flows showed that net non-oil merchandise imports rose by \$69.1 million (15.1%) to \$526.3 million, while net payments for fuel purchases reduced by \$116.6 million (61.1%) to \$74.4 million.

An analysis of the fuel components revealed that the average per barrel price for aviation gas oil fell by 83.3% to \$26.67, kerosene (jet) fuel, by 66.1% to \$29.59, and gas oil, by 41.1% to \$44.82. Further, the average per barrel cost for motor gas lessened by 28.7% to \$61.23. Conversely, average prices for propane and bunker 'c' fuel increased by 4.1% and by 18.7% to \$47.55 and \$80.97 per barrel, respectively.

The services account position reversed to an estimated deficit of \$262.9 million from a surplus of \$355.5 million in 2019. Net travel receipts—the largest segment of the services account—decreased to a mere \$11.3 million from \$662.9 million a year earlier, as tourism activity remained contracted. Further, net payments for insurance services almost doubled to \$45.0 million from \$23.1 million, owing largely to an increase in non-merchandise insurance outflows. In addition, net construction services payments grew by \$8.2 million (34.6%) to \$32.1 million. Net outflows for Government services rose by \$7.2 million (52.5%) to \$21.0 million, owing to a rise in disbursements for resident Government activities, along with a decline in inflows for foreign Government operations. Providing some notable offset, net payments for transportation services reduced by \$37.1 million (39.8%) to \$56.1 million, explained primarily by a significant decline in outflows for passenger services and inflows from port & airport charges; net payments for uncategorized services fell by \$28.8 million (15.3%) to \$160.1 million; and net receipts associated with offshore companies' local expenses increased by \$3.1 million (8.2%) to \$41.3 million.

Estimated income outflows contracted by \$23.5 million (14.3%) to \$140.3 million, on account of a \$26.5 million (18.4%) reduction in net investment income repatriation to \$117.3 million. Underlying this outturn, private companies' net interest and dividend payments decreased to \$59.8 million from \$97.5 million in the prior year, as non-bank entities net profit remittances moderated by \$0.8 million (1.3%) to \$62.8 million, while commercial banks recorded a net receipt of \$3.0 million, following a net outflow of \$33.9 million a year earlier. Conversely, net outflows for official transactions grew by \$11.2 million (24.3%) to \$57.5 million, due in large measure to a rise in Government's expenses on external debt. Similarly, net labour income remittances advanced by \$3.0 million (14.9%) to \$23.0 million.

Net current transfers reversed to a \$15.7 million outflow, from a \$701.9 million inflow in the corresponding period of 2019, which had included re-insurance settlements from Hurricane Dorian. In particular, private sector transactions recorded a net payment of \$14.9 million vis-à-vis a net receipt of \$671.8 million in the prior year. Specifically, transfers unrelated to income remittances reduced sharply to \$24.6 million from the 2019 claims settlement related \$716.4 million, while workers' outward net remittances decreased by \$5.1 million (11.5%) to \$39.5 million. Similarly, the Government's net transfers reversed to a net payment of \$0.8 million, from a net receipt of \$30.1 million in 2019.

The notable expansion in the surplus on the capital and financial account was primarily due to a significant increase in net debt-financed inflows to \$1,036.2 million from \$51.3 million in 2019. In particular, Government's external borrowings related to COVID-19 and the major storm, contributed to a switch in public sector transactions to a net receipt of \$623.8 million, from a net payment of \$6.9 million in the prior year. In addition, domestic banks' short-term transactions reversed to a net receipt of \$119.2 million, from a net outflow of \$45.1 million in the preceding year. Also, other private debt financing inflows nearly doubled to \$100.3 million.

With regard to the other capital and financial flows, net private direct investment inflows expanded to \$194.9 million from \$52.4 million in the prior year, as net equity financed activity surged to \$173.0 million from just \$13.5 million in 2019. In contrast, receipts from land sales declined by \$17.0 million (43.7%) to \$21.9 million, while portfolio investments, related to the Bahamas Depository Receipt (BDR), remained flat due to the imposed moratorium on outflows.

As a result of these developments, and after making the relevant adjustments for net errors and omissions, the surplus on the overall balance, which corresponds to the change in the Central Bank's external reserves, advanced to \$275.9 million, from \$199.5 million in the fourth quarter of 2019.

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Despite the ongoing spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the containment measures, positive growth was recorded for most of the major economies during the fourth quarter. In this environment, labour market conditions continued to improve, while inflation stayed relatively subdued. However as output levels remained below pre-pandemic levels, most of the major central banks maintained their accommodative monetary policy stances.

The major economies' growth trends still reflected some leveling off in momentum, after the bulk of the pandemic's initial setback was shrugged off in the third quarter. In the United States, the expansion in real GDP slowed to an annualized 4.0%, from 33.4% in the prior three-month period, as the decline in state, local and Federal Government spending, offset increases in exports, non-residential fixed investment, personal consumption expenditure, residential fixed investment and private inventory investment. Similar trends were noted for the United Kingdom, as real GDP rose by 1.0% in the fourth quarter, a moderation from a 16.1% increase in previous quarter, underpinned by a rise in services, production and construction output, albeit below pre-pandemic levels. In contrast, in the euro area, real GDP contracted by 0.7% in the fourth quarter, vis-à-vis a 12.7% gain in the third quarter. In Asia, China's quarterly GDP growth firmed to 6.5% during the final quarter of 2020, from 4.9%, in the previous quarter, attributed to a recovery in the export sector. However, Japan's economy recorded a 1.2% contraction in the three-month to December period, although lower than the 5.8% contraction during the prior period, as private consumption slowed.

Improved economic conditions also benefitted some major countries' labour markets. Specifically, in the United States, the number of employed persons edged up by 0.2% to 481,821 in the fourth quarter, resulting in the jobless rate declining by 2.0 percentage points to 6.8%, over the third quarter. Similar trends were recorded in Asia, as the jobless rate in Japan edged down by 10 basis points during the review period to 2.9%, while China's jobless rate narrowed by 20 basis points to an annualized 5.2% in the December quarter. Further, the jobless rate in the euro area remained stable at 8.3%. However, the United Kingdom's unemployment rate rose by 30 basis points over the previous quarter, to 5.1%, as the number of employed persons fell by 114,000.

Inflationary pressures remained relatively subdued during the fourth quarter, underpinned by lower energy prices. In the United States, the annualized inflation rate remained unchanged at 1.4% in December, compared to the September quarter, amid a rise in the costs of gasoline and food. Similarly, the annualized inflation rate in the euro area stabilized at 0.3% over the review quarter. Further, consumer price inflation in Japan slowed to an annual rate of 1.2% in the fourth quarter, vis-à-vis a flat outturn in prior quarter, attributed in large measure to decreases in fuel, light and water and culture & recreation costs. In addition, China's inflation rate moderated by 1.5 percentage points over the previous quarter, to an annualized rate of 1.9% in the fourth quarter. Conversely, increases in recreation and culture, led to the United Kingdom's annualized inflation rate quickening by 20 basis points, to 0.8% over the prior period.

In foreign market developments the dollar depreciated against all the major currencies during the fourth quarter. The dollar decreased relative to the British pound, by 5.5% to £0.7315 and the euro, by 4.1% to €0.8185. Similarly, the dollar weakened vis-à-vis the Canadian dollar, by 4.3%, to CAD\$1.27, while both the Swiss Franc and the Chinese Yuan declined by 3.9% each, to CHF0.8852 and CNY6.5272, respectively. Further, the dollar moved lower against the Japanese Yuan, by 2.1% to ¥108.61.

Global equity markets recorded broad-based gains during the fourth quarter. Specifically, in the United States, S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) index, grew by 11.7% and 10.2%, respectively. Similarly, trends were noted for the European bourses, with France's CAC 40 increasing by 15.6%, while the United

Kingdom's FTSE 100 and Germany's DAX index rose by 10.1% and by 7.5%, respectively. In the Asian markets, Japan's Nikkei 225 moved higher by 14.4%, while China's SE advanced by 7.9%.

Buoyed by the modest relaxation in COVID-19 related containment measures, global oil demand increased during the final quarter of 2020, with average crude oil prices rising by 25.2% over the three-month period to \$51.26 per barrel at end-December. In the precious metals market, both silver and gold costs rose by 13.6% to \$26.40 and by 0.7% to \$1,898.36 per troy ounces, respectively.

External sector developments were mixed during the review quarter. In the United States, the trade deficit widened by a modest \$3.4 billion (1.7%) to \$197.8 billion, as exports, of mainly industrial supplies and materials, rose by 7.7% to \$556.2 billion, while imports, of primarily industrial supplies and materials, automatic vehicle, parts and engines, grew by 6.1% to \$754.0 billion. In contrast, the euro area trade surplus expanded by €19.7 billion (30.2%) to €85.0 billion in the fourth quarter, supported by a 13.9% rise in exports, which contrasted with the 17.9% reduction in imports. In addition, the United Kingdom's trade deficit narrowed by £10.9 billion (43.3%) to £14.3 billion, over the prior quarter, with the £11.6 billion decline in imports, outstripping the £0.7 billion falloff in exports. Further, Japan's trade surplus surged to ¥1,981.2 billion from ¥935.2 billion in the previous quarter, as the 16.4% growth in exports, outweighed the 10.7% gain in imports. In addition, China's trade surplus moved higher by US\$78.2 billion to US\$535.0 billion in the fourth quarter.

As economies remained below pre-pandemic output levels, the major Central banks sustained their accommodative monetary policy stances during the review quarter. Specifically, in the United States, the Federal Reserve maintained the target range for the federal funds rate at 0.00%-0.25%. Further, in the United Kingdom, the Bank of England increased its asset purchase programme by £150.0 billion to £875.0 billion and left its key policy rate unchanged at 0.75%. Similarly, the European Central Bank retained its main policy rates on the refinancing operations, the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility, at 0.00%, 0.25% and -0.50%, respectively. Further, in Asia, the People's Bank of China upheld its 7-day reserve repo rate at 2.2%, while the Bank of Japan left its benchmark interest rate at -0.1%.

## **STATISTICAL APPENDIX (TABLES I-16)**

**TABLE 1  
FINANCIAL SURVEY**

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
<b>(B\$ Millions)</b>											
<b>Net foreign assets</b>	678.5	1,152.5	1,071.4	1,387.8	1,466.3	1,546.3	1,790.7	2,156.7	2,017.0	1,985.2	2,141.9
Central Bank	904.0	1,417.4	1,195.6	1,435.6	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,758.1	2,059.3	2,051.8	2,106.2	2,382.2
Domestic Banks	(225.4)	(265.0)	(124.2)	(47.8)	(91.3)	(12.5)	32.6	97.4	(34.9)	(121.0)	(240.3)
<b>Net domestic assets</b>	6,251.4	5,884.6	6,037.1	5,827.8	5,964.7	5,996.8	6,103.1	5,990.6	6,073.0	6,073.4	5,722.3
Domestic credit	9,128.4	8,838.3	8,911.2	8,734.4	8,843.5	8,850.6	8,957.1	8,894.7	8,939.8	8,988.3	8,619.7
Public sector	2,957.6	2,855.5	3,025.0	2,891.8	2,997.1	2,969.4	3,065.5	3,075.7	3,120.8	3,154.6	2,853.5
Government (net)	2,551.4	2,383.0	2,539.3	2,415.1	2,536.3	2,523.0	2,620.9	2,633.4	2,678.1	2,765.3	2,529.5
Rest of public sector	406.3	472.5	485.8	476.6	460.8	446.4	444.6	442.3	442.7	389.3	324.0
Private sector	6,170.8	5,982.9	5,886.2	5,842.7	5,846.4	5,881.2	5,891.6	5,819.0	5,819.0	5,833.7	5,766.1
Other items (net)	(2,877.0)	(2,953.7)	(2,874.1)	(2,906.6)	(2,878.8)	(2,853.8)	(2,854.0)	(2,904.1)	(2,866.8)	(2,914.9)	(2,897.4)
<b>Monetary liabilities</b>	6,930.1	7,037.3	7,108.8	7,215.9	7,429.4	7,540.9	7,892.8	8,146.2	8,088.8	8,057.7	7,863.0
Money	2,460.6	2,654.0	2,728.2	2,757.1	3,003.6	3,060.4	3,248.4	3,484.4	3,523.1	3,543.4	3,471.0
Currency	280.5	292.6	310.4	316.0	321.7	315.2	336.8	346.0	380.2	383.1	373.0
Demand deposits	2,180.1	2,361.5	2,417.7	2,441.1	2,681.9	2,745.3	2,911.6	3,138.4	3,142.9	3,160.3	3,097.9
Quasi-money	4,469.5	4,383.3	4,380.7	4,458.9	4,425.8	4,480.5	4,644.4	4,661.8	4,565.7	4,514.3	4,392.0
Fixed deposits	2,866.3	2,737.9	2,552.0	2,526.9	2,486.8	2,454.1	2,419.6	2,323.5	2,253.7	2,244.0	2,245.2
Savings deposits	1,295.6	1,371.2	1,427.1	1,476.6	1,536.3	1,513.6	1,637.0	1,731.3	1,779.5	1,800.9	1,788.4
Foreign currency	307.6	274.1	401.5	455.3	402.7	512.7	587.9	607.1	532.5	469.4	358.5
<b>(percentage changes)</b>											
<b>Total domestic credit</b>	1.8	(3.2)	0.8	(2.0)	1.2	0.1	1.2	(0.7)	0.5	0.5	(4.1)
Public sector	10.9	(3.5)	5.9	(4.4)	3.6	(0.9)	3.2	0.3	1.5	1.1	(9.5)
Government (net)	16.1	(6.6)	6.6	(4.9)	5.0	(0.5)	3.9	0.5	1.7	3.3	(8.5)
Rest of public sector	(13.3)	16.3	2.8	(1.9)	(3.3)	(3.1)	(0.4)	(0.5)	0.1	(12.1)	(16.8)
Private sector	(2.0)	(3.0)	(1.6)	(0.7)	0.1	0.6	0.2	(1.2)	(0.0)	0.3	(1.2)
<b>Monetary liabilities</b>	8.7	1.5	1.0	1.5	3.0	1.5	4.7	3.2	(0.7)	(0.4)	(2.4)
Money	18.8	7.9	2.8	1.1	8.9	1.9	6.1	7.3	1.1	0.6	(2.0)
Currency	13.7	4.3	6.1	1.8	1.8	(2.0)	6.9	2.7	9.9	0.7	(2.6)
Demand deposits	19.5	8.3	2.4	1.0	9.9	2.4	6.1	7.8	0.1	0.6	(2.0)
Quasi-money	3.9	(1.9)	(0.1)	1.8	(0.7)	1.2	3.7	0.4	(2.1)	(1.1)	(2.7)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 2**  
**MONETARY SURVEY**

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
<b>(B\$ Millions)</b>											
<b>Net foreign assets</b>	730.5	1,218.0	1,127.5	1,463.7	1,543.8	1,615.8	1,851.4	2,240.2	2,041.7	2,094.1	2,260.3
Central Bank	904.0	1,417.4	1,195.6	1,435.6	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,758.1	2,059.3	2,051.8	2,106.2	2,382.2
Commercial banks	(173.5)	(199.5)	(68.1)	28.0	(13.8)	57.0	93.4	180.9	(10.1)	(12.1)	(121.9)
<b>Net domestic assets</b>	6,131.5	5,742.1	5,910.7	5,690.6	5,815.5	5,858.6	5,963.7	5,827.8	5,901.1	5,865.9	5,494.2
Domestic credit	9,097.0	8,808.7	8,866.4	8,684.1	8,785.9	8,795.5	8,898.8	8,840.1	8,886.5	8,908.0	8,551.9
Public sector	2,941.4	2,841.7	3,009.1	2,875.5	2,972.1	2,951.4	3,050.1	3,061.8	3,106.9	3,141.2	2,840.3
Government (net)	2,535.5	2,369.6	2,523.7	2,399.3	2,511.3	2,505.0	2,605.5	2,619.5	2,664.2	2,751.9	2,516.3
Rest of public sector	405.9	472.1	485.4	476.3	460.8	446.4	444.6	442.3	442.7	389.3	324.0
Private sector	6,155.6	5,967.0	5,857.2	5,808.5	5,813.9	5,844.1	5,848.6	5,778.3	5,779.6	5,766.8	5,711.6
Other items (net)	(2,965.5)	(3,066.6)	(2,955.7)	(2,993.5)	(2,970.4)	(2,936.9)	(2,935.0)	(3,012.2)	(2,985.3)	(3,042.1)	(3,057.7)
<b>Monetary liabilities</b>	6,862.1	6,960.3	7,038.4	7,154.5	7,357.7	7,472.2	7,814.3	8,066.9	7,941.7	7,959.0	7,753.4
Money	2,406.8	2,591.4	2,671.3	2,706.8	2,942.8	3,004.4	3,186.5	3,421.0	3,450.3	3,460.1	3,376.4
Currency	280.5	292.6	310.5	316.0	321.7	315.2	336.9	346.1	380.2	383.1	373.1
Demand deposits	2,126.4	2,298.8	2,360.8	2,390.8	2,621.1	2,689.2	2,849.6	3,074.8	3,070.0	3,077.0	3,003.3
Quasi-money	4,455.3	4,368.8	4,367.2	4,447.7	4,414.9	4,467.8	4,627.8	4,646.0	4,491.4	4,499.0	4,377.1
Savings deposits	1,295.0	1,371.2	1,427.1	1,476.6	1,536.3	1,513.6	1,637.0	1,731.3	1,779.5	1,800.9	1,788.4
Fixed deposits	2,854.8	2,725.8	2,540.6	2,516.3	2,476.4	2,442.5	2,408.3	2,312.3	2,243.0	2,230.9	2,230.8
Foreign currency deposits	305.5	271.9	399.4	454.8	402.2	511.7	582.5	602.4	468.9	467.2	357.9
<b>(percentage change)</b>											
<b>Total domestic credit</b>	1.9	(3.2)	0.7	(2.1)	1.2	0.1	1.2	(0.7)	0.5	0.2	(4.0)
Public sector	10.9	(3.4)	5.9	(4.4)	3.4	(0.7)	3.3	0.4	1.5	1.1	(9.6)
Government (net)	15.9	(6.5)	6.5	(4.9)	4.7	(0.2)	4.0	0.5	1.7	3.3	(8.6)
Rest of public sector	(12.9)	16.3	2.8	(1.9)	(3.3)	(3.1)	(0.4)	(0.5)	0.1	(12.1)	(16.8)
Private sector	(1.9)	(3.1)	(1.8)	(0.8)	0.1	0.5	0.1	(1.2)	0.0	(0.2)	(1.0)
<b>Monetary liabilities</b>	8.6	1.4	1.1	1.6	2.8	1.6	4.6	3.2	(1.6)	0.2	(2.6)
Money	18.9	7.7	3.1	1.3	8.7	2.1	6.1	7.4	0.9	0.3	(2.4)
Currency	13.7	4.3	6.1	1.8	1.8	(2.0)	6.9	2.7	9.9	0.7	(2.6)
Demand deposits	19.6	8.1	2.7	1.3	9.6	2.6	6.0	7.9	(0.2)	0.2	(2.4)
Quasi-money	3.8	(1.9)	(0.0)	1.8	(0.7)	1.2	3.6	0.4	(3.3)	0.2	(2.7)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 3**  
**CENTRAL BANK BALANCE SHEET**

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
<b>Net foreign assets</b>	904.0	1,417.4	1,196.3	1,436.9	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,758.1	2,059.3	2,051.8	2,106.2	2,382.2
Balances with banks abroad	254.8	698.5	375.8	612.2	722.8	688.9	794.5	838.2	721.2	465.7	307.6
Foreign securities	550.5	614.7	670.5	675.1	685.1	703.5	779.8	1,025.7	1,134.1	1,438.2	1,867.6
Reserve position in the Fund	25.9	27.5	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.3	26.7	25.9	26.5	27.1	27.8
SDR holdings	72.7	76.8	123.2	122.9	123.0	140.1	157.1	169.4	169.9	175.2	179.2
<b>Net domestic assets</b>	555.3	209.6	228.4	95.5	49.1	112.9	145.4	(79.0)	52.8	52.6	(85.4)
Net claims on Government	716.6	390.1	503.6	315.4	304.2	372.1	395.9	217.3	332.0	343.6	177.9
Claims	731.9	417.0	525.1	377.8	355.7	441.2	460.4	294.5	366.9	376.6	257.6
Treasury bills	223.9	7.2	155.7	68.3	77.5	170.3	135.3	10.0	90.7	22.0	13.8
Bahamas registered stock	372.6	274.5	249.0	239.7	263.1	255.8	249.9	269.1	260.7	228.7	238.0
Loans and advances	135.4	135.4	120.4	69.8	15.2	15.1	75.2	15.5	15.4	125.9	5.8
Deposits	(15.3)	(26.9)	(21.6)	(62.4)	(51.5)	(69.1)	(64.4)	(77.2)	(34.8)	(33.0)	(79.7)
In local currency	(15.3)	(26.9)	(21.6)	(62.4)	(51.5)	(69.1)	(64.4)	(77.2)	(34.8)	(33.0)	(79.7)
In foreign currency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deposits of rest of public sector	(12.6)	(17.2)	(74.6)	(31.9)	(41.7)	(48.9)	(49.6)	(76.9)	(59.7)	(71.1)	(52.1)
Credit to commercial banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Official capital and surplus	(173.1)	(185.1)	(208.0)	(208.1)	(208.0)	(208.2)	(226.8)	(225.8)	(225.5)	(227.3)	(227.9)
Net unclassified assets	15.4	13.8	(0.2)	12.8	(12.5)	(9.2)	18.9	(0.6)	(1.1)	0.5	9.9
Loans to rest of public sector	3.6	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.2
Public Corp Bonds/Securities	5.3	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7
<b>Liabilities To Domestic Banks</b>	(1,011.4)	(1,157.0)	(940.9)	(1,043.3)	(1,111.8)	(1,186.6)	(1,394.4)	(1,464.5)	(1,553.2)	(1,600.6)	(1,744.5)
Notes and coins	(145.1)	(145.8)	(149.3)	(101.0)	(111.1)	(114.1)	(151.5)	(128.6)	(102.1)	(128.6)	(173.3)
Deposits	(866.3)	(1,011.2)	(791.7)	(942.4)	(1,000.7)	(1,072.5)	(1,242.9)	(1,335.9)	(1,451.1)	(1,471.9)	(1,571.2)
SDR allocation	(167.3)	(177.4)	(173.3)	(173.0)	(173.3)	(169.9)	(172.3)	(169.7)	(171.2)	(175.1)	(179.2)
Currency held by the private sector	(280.5)	(292.6)	(310.4)	(316.0)	(321.7)	(315.2)	(336.8)	(346.0)	(380.2)	(383.1)	(373.0)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 4**  
**DOMESTIC BANKS BALANCE SHEET**

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
<b>Net foreign assets</b>	(225.4)	(265.0)	(124.2)	(47.8)	(91.3)	(12.5)	32.6	97.4	(34.9)	(121.0)	(240.3)
<b>Net claims on Central Bank</b>	1,012.4	1,158.0	941.9	1,044.3	1,112.7	1,187.6	1,395.3	1,465.5	1,554.2	1,601.5	1,745.5
Notes and Coins	145.1	145.8	149.3	101.0	111.1	114.1	151.5	128.6	102.1	128.6	173.3
Balances	867.3	1,012.2	792.6	943.3	1,001.6	1,073.5	1,243.8	1,336.8	1,452.0	1,472.9	1,572.1
Less Central Bank credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net domestic assets</b>	5,483.7	5,483.6	5,482.2	5,423.0	5,597.6	5,594.3	5,672.6	5,765.8	5,792.3	5,814.3	5,686.8
Net claims on Government	1,834.8	1,992.9	2,035.7	2,099.7	2,232.1	2,150.9	2,225.0	2,416.1	2,346.1	2,421.8	2,351.6
Treasury bills	531.9	611.4	669.8	773.1	822.3	741.4	771.9	866.1	812.2	858.7	830.2
Other securities	987.1	1,137.7	990.9	988.3	1,033.1	1,012.6	985.4	962.5	949.9	942.2	907.5
Loans and advances	502.7	442.2	564.4	573.0	609.7	620.9	688.8	840.6	807.8	872.2	906.5
Less: deposits	186.9	198.5	189.4	234.6	233.0	224.0	221.1	253.2	223.8	251.4	292.5
Net claims on rest of public sector	31.0	113.6	54.2	20.8	6.6	31.9	31.7	40.6	98.4	73.6	71.2
Securities	163.9	262.6	229.5	228.0	227.6	230.9	230.9	230.9	226.1	226.1	226.1
Loans and advances	233.5	201.9	248.6	241.4	226.0	208.3	206.6	204.3	209.6	156.3	91.0
Less: deposits	366.4	350.8	423.9	448.6	447.1	407.4	405.8	394.6	337.3	308.8	245.9
Other net claims	(2.9)	(2.6)	(1.0)	1.3	(0.2)	(3.2)	18.8	0.2	(3.3)	(1.2)	2.7
Credit to the private sector	6,170.8	5,982.9	5,886.2	5,842.7	5,846.4	5,881.2	5,891.6	5,819.0	5,819.0	5,833.7	5,766.1
Securities	19.6	19.1	32.3	30.5	30.5	26.9	26.0	23.6	23.6	24.8	21.1
Mortgages	3,035.5	2,949.5	2,935.3	2,936.2	2,928.1	2,934.3	2,912.2	2,902.8	2,894.0	2,897.2	2,886.8
Loans and advances	3,115.7	3,014.3	2,918.5	2,875.9	2,887.9	2,920.0	2,953.4	2,892.6	2,901.4	2,911.7	2,858.2
Private capital and surplus	(2,594.4)	(2,699.3)	(2,642.6)	(2,607.6)	(2,543.3)	(2,396.8)	(2,394.7)	(2,414.9)	(2,424.3)	(2,466.6)	(2,443.5)
Net unclassified assets	44.5	96.2	149.9	66.1	56.0	(69.7)	(99.8)	(95.2)	(43.5)	(46.9)	(61.3)
<b>Liabilities to private sector</b>	6,270.7	6,376.6	6,299.9	6,419.5	6,619.0	6,769.4	7,100.6	7,328.7	7,311.6	7,294.7	7,192.0
Demand deposits	2,287.4	2,420.1	2,503.6	2,570.8	2,731.6	2,918.4	3,116.5	3,321.0	3,338.0	3,277.9	3,196.9
Savings deposits	1,315.0	1,390.4	1,454.3	1,506.8	1,568.3	1,544.3	1,667.3	1,765.0	1,814.9	1,836.2	1,822.3
Fixed deposits	2,668.3	2,566.1	2,342.0	2,341.8	2,319.2	2,306.8	2,316.7	2,242.7	2,158.7	2,180.6	2,172.8

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

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

(B\$'000s)

Period	2017	2018	2019	2018				2019				2020		
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. IIR	Qtr. III
1. Interest Income	590,158	580,569	593,233	146,250	142,891	147,200	144,228	141,520	154,599	147,820	149,294	148,956	141,906	144,605
2. Interest Expense	66,322	55,517	48,618	14,159	15,693	13,537	12,128	12,698	12,549	13,229	10,142	9,892	9,431	9,242
<b>3. Interest Margin (1-2)</b>	<b>523,836</b>	<b>525,052</b>	<b>544,615</b>	<b>132,091</b>	<b>127,198</b>	<b>133,663</b>	<b>132,100</b>	<b>128,822</b>	<b>142,050</b>	<b>134,591</b>	<b>139,152</b>	<b>139,064</b>	<b>132,475</b>	<b>135,363</b>
4. Commission & Forex Income	28,537	29,445	38,127	7,192	7,499	7,193	7,561	7,160	9,221	7,682	14,064	11,363	8,785	9,062
<b>5. Gross Earnings Margin (3+4)</b>	<b>552,373</b>	<b>554,497</b>	<b>582,742</b>	<b>139,283</b>	<b>134,697</b>	<b>140,856</b>	<b>139,661</b>	<b>135,982</b>	<b>151,271</b>	<b>142,273</b>	<b>153,216</b>	<b>150,427</b>	<b>141,260</b>	<b>144,425</b>
6. Staff Costs	160,472	157,021	159,361	39,427	39,830	37,825	39,939	39,990	41,554	39,189	38,628	40,040	38,907	41,645
7. Occupancy Costs	26,068	27,725	33,932	7,174	6,810	7,146	6,595	6,365	6,711	6,670	14,186	4,607	8,475	-854
8. Other Operating Costs	190,618	183,609	203,070	45,638	46,781	43,076	48,114	46,534	61,856	48,451	46,229	55,557	51,253	60,965
<b>9. Operating Costs (6+7+8)</b>	<b>377,158</b>	<b>368,355</b>	<b>396,363</b>	<b>92,239</b>	<b>93,421</b>	<b>88,047</b>	<b>94,648</b>	<b>92,889</b>	<b>110,121</b>	<b>94,310</b>	<b>99,043</b>	<b>100,204</b>	<b>97,940</b>	<b>101,756</b>
<b>10. Net Earnings Margin (5-9)</b>	<b>175,215</b>	<b>186,142</b>	<b>186,379</b>	<b>47,044</b>	<b>41,276</b>	<b>52,809</b>	<b>45,013</b>	<b>43,093</b>	<b>41,150</b>	<b>47,963</b>	<b>54,173</b>	<b>50,223</b>	<b>43,320</b>	<b>42,669</b>
11. Depreciation Costs	15,892	12,774	11,876	3,407	3,061	3,129	3,177	2,671	3,668	2,524	3,013	3,933	4,701	4,065
12. Provisions for Bad Debt	113,131	96,701	96,138	25,641	28,480	13,997	28,583	1,318	13,669	40,694	40,457	55,710	70,748	55,033
13. Other Income	136,036	156,965	177,136	35,567	37,566	39,555	44,277	44,785	45,153	36,312	50,886	34,027	37,423	42,359
<b>14. Other Income (Net) (13-11-12)</b>	<b>7,013</b>	<b>47,490</b>	<b>69,122</b>	<b>6,519</b>	<b>6,025</b>	<b>22,429</b>	<b>12,517</b>	<b>40,796</b>	<b>27,816</b>	<b>(6,906)</b>	<b>7,416</b>	<b>(25,616)</b>	<b>(38,026)</b>	<b>(16,739)</b>
<b>15. Net Income (10+14)</b>	<b>182,228</b>	<b>233,632</b>	<b>255,501</b>	<b>53,563</b>	<b>47,301</b>	<b>75,238</b>	<b>57,530</b>	<b>83,889</b>	<b>68,966</b>	<b>41,057</b>	<b>61,589</b>	<b>24,607</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>25,930</b>
<b>16. Effective Interest Rate Spread (%)</b>	<b>7.11</b>	<b>7.10</b>	<b>7.17</b>	<b>7.12</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>7.20</b>	<b>6.80</b>	<b>6.68</b>	<b>7.12</b>	<b>6.60</b>	<b>8.28</b>	<b>8.56</b>	<b>8.28</b>	<b>8.00</b>
<b>(Ratios To Average Assets)</b>														
Interest Margin	5.13	5.12	5.20	5.11	4.89	5.22	5.24	5.04	5.46	5.18	5.10	5.05	4.82	4.91
Commission & Forex Income	0.28	0.29	0.36	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.30	0.28	0.35	0.30	0.52	0.41	0.32	0.33
Gross Earnings Margin	5.41	5.40	5.56	5.39	5.18	5.50	5.54	5.32	5.82	5.47	5.62	5.46	5.14	5.23
Operating Costs	3.69	3.59	3.78	3.57	3.59	3.44	3.75	3.63	4.23	3.63	3.63	3.64	3.57	3.69
Net Earnings Margin	1.72	1.81	1.78	1.82	1.59	2.06	1.79	1.69	1.58	1.85	1.99	1.82	1.58	1.55
Net Income/Loss	1.78	2.28	2.44	2.07	1.82	2.94	2.28	3.28	2.65	1.58	2.26	0.89	0.19	0.94

\*Commercial Banks and OLFIs with domestic operations

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

R = Revised

**TABLE 6**  
**MONEY SUPPLY**

(B\$ Millions)

End of Period	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
				<b>Money Supply (M1)</b>	2,460.6	2,654.0	2,728.2	2,757.1	3,003.6	3,060.4	3,248.4
1) Currency in active circulation	280.5	292.6	310.4	316.0	321.7	315.2	336.8	346.0	380.2	383.1	373.0
2) Demand deposits	2,180.1	2,361.5	2,417.7	2,441.1	2,681.9	2,745.3	2,911.6	3,138.4	3,142.9	3,160.3	3,097.9
Central Bank	12.6	17.2	74.6	31.9	41.7	48.9	49.6	76.9	59.7	71.1	52.1
Domestic Banks	2,167.6	2,344.2	2,343.1	2,409.2	2,640.2	2,696.3	2,861.9	3,061.5	3,083.2	3,089.2	3,045.8
<b>Factors affecting money (M1)</b>											
1) Net credit to Government	2,551.4	2,383.0	2,539.3	2,415.1	2,536.3	2,523.0	2,620.9	2,633.4	2,678.1	2,765.3	2,529.5
Central Bank	716.6	390.1	503.6	315.4	304.2	372.1	395.9	217.3	332.0	343.6	177.9
Domestic banks	1,834.8	1,992.9	2,035.7	2,099.7	2,232.1	2,150.9	2,225.0	2,416.1	2,346.1	2,421.8	2,351.6
2) Other credit	6,577.1	6,455.3	6,371.9	6,319.3	6,307.2	6,327.6	6,336.2	6,261.3	6,261.7	6,223.0	6,090.1
Rest of public sector	406.3	472.5	485.8	476.6	460.8	446.4	444.6	442.3	442.7	389.3	324.0
Private sector	6,170.8	5,982.9	5,886.2	5,842.7	5,846.4	5,881.2	5,891.6	5,819.0	5,819.0	5,833.7	5,766.1
3) External reserves	904.0	1,417.4	1,195.6	1,435.6	1,557.6	1,558.8	1,758.1	2,059.3	2,051.8	2,106.2	2,382.2
4) Other external liabilities (net)	(225.4)	(265.0)	(124.2)	(47.8)	(91.3)	(12.5)	32.6	97.4	(34.9)	(121.0)	(240.3)
5) Quasi money	4,469.5	4,383.3	4,380.7	4,458.9	4,425.8	4,480.5	4,644.4	4,661.8	4,565.7	4,514.3	4,392.0
6) Other items (net)	(2,877.0)	(2,953.7)	(2,874.1)	(2,906.6)	(2,880.4)	(2,856.0)	(2,854.9)	(2,905.1)	(2,867.9)	(2,915.8)	(2,898.5)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 7**  
**CONSUMER INSTALMENT CREDIT**

(B\$' 000)

End of Period	2018	2019	2020	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
				<b>CREDIT OUTSTANDING</b>							
Private cars	146,286	135,786	129,294	142,918	140,123	136,824	135,786	138,711	135,294	131,356	129,294
Taxis & rented cars	948	1,028	892	1,015	1,037	1,094	1,028	1,028	1,045	952	892
Commercial vehicles	1,036	1,156	1,024	1,042	1,209	1,124	1,156	1,354	1,312	1,211	1,024
Furnishings & domestic appliances	8,205	9,246	8,911	8,321	8,619	8,999	9,246	9,539	9,338	8,990	8,911
Travel	50,872	65,037	63,654	50,660	56,648	63,167	65,037	68,914	67,108	65,688	63,654
Education	43,067	39,976	37,150	40,660	39,001	42,116	39,976	39,225	38,383	37,853	37,150
Medical	12,773	11,873	11,384	12,857	12,487	12,288	11,873	12,351	12,360	11,931	11,384
Home Improvements	102,022	101,255	98,177	99,853	98,696	98,724	101,255	104,264	103,079	101,063	98,177
Land Purchases	139,093	131,400	127,132	137,993	136,346	134,722	131,400	132,195	130,892	129,154	127,132
Consolidation of debt	922,138	908,422	903,673	914,635	918,987	917,749	908,422	910,656	908,770	909,441	903,673
Miscellaneous	541,719	530,172	528,392	533,124	532,740	533,325	530,172	548,160	543,149	539,339	528,392
Credit Cards	249,069	272,999	245,397	240,706	240,892	267,913	272,999	265,290	256,303	250,594	245,397
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,217,228</b>	<b>2,208,350</b>	<b>2,155,080</b>	<b>2,183,784</b>	<b>2,186,785</b>	<b>2,218,045</b>	<b>2,208,350</b>	<b>2,231,687</b>	<b>2,207,033</b>	<b>2,187,572</b>	<b>2,155,080</b>
<b>NET CREDIT EXTENDED</b>											
Private cars	(17,688)	(10,500)	(6,492)	(3,368)	(2,795)	(3,299)	(1,038)	2,925	(3,417)	(3,938)	(2,062)
Taxis & rented cars	152	80	(136)	67	22	57	(66)	-	17	(93)	(60)
Commercial vehicles	(172)	120	(132)	6	167	(85)	32	198	(42)	(101)	(187)
Furnishings & domestic appliances	(288)	1,041	(335)	116	298	380	247	293	(201)	(348)	(79)
Travel	5,415	14,165	(1,383)	(212)	5,988	6,519	1,870	3,877	(1,806)	(1,420)	(2,034)
Education	(9,998)	(3,091)	(2,826)	(2,407)	(1,659)	3,115	(2,140)	(751)	(842)	(530)	(703)
Medical	748	(900)	(489)	84	(370)	(199)	(415)	478	9	(429)	(547)
Home Improvements	(11,876)	(767)	(3,078)	(2,169)	(1,157)	28	2,531	3,009	(1,185)	(2,016)	(2,886)
Land Purchases	(13,678)	(7,693)	(4,268)	(1,100)	(1,647)	(1,624)	(3,322)	795	(1,303)	(1,738)	(2,022)
Consolidation of debt	(28,933)	(13,716)	(4,749)	(7,503)	4,352	(1,238)	(9,327)	2,234	(1,886)	671	(5,768)
Miscellaneous	(22,984)	(11,547)	(1,780)	(8,595)	(384)	585	(3,153)	17,988	(5,011)	(3,810)	(10,947)
Credit Cards	(5,783)	23,930	(27,602)	(8,363)	186	27,021	5,086	(7,709)	(8,987)	(5,709)	(5,197)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(105,085)</b>	<b>(8,878)</b>	<b>(53,270)</b>	<b>(33,444)</b>	<b>3,001</b>	<b>31,260</b>	<b>(9,695)</b>	<b>23,337</b>	<b>(24,654)</b>	<b>(19,461)</b>	<b>(32,492)</b>

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 8  
SELECTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATES**

Period	(%)										
	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
<b>DOMESTIC BANKS</b>											
<b>Deposit rates</b>											
Savings deposits	0.82	0.72	0.63	0.51	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.38	0.46	0.45	0.48
Fixed deposits											
Up to 3 months	0.97	0.78	0.60	0.49	0.33	0.28	0.29	0.26	0.26	0.29	0.30
Up to 6 months	0.99	0.64	0.62	0.71	0.56	0.49	0.49	0.34	0.38	0.52	0.40
Up to 12 months	1.58	1.21	0.96	0.72	0.67	0.77	0.55	0.59	0.47	0.74	0.82
Over 12 months	1.87	1.61	1.26	0.95	0.89	0.83	0.91	0.83	0.76	0.89	0.95
Weighted average rate	1.24	1.00	0.84	0.68	0.56	0.52	0.53	0.41	0.37	0.51	0.52
<b>Lending rates</b>											
Residential mortgages	6.22	5.76	5.41	4.90	4.96	4.94	4.82	5.28	5.29	5.22	5.24
Commercial mortgages	7.87	6.83	7.51	6.75	6.15	5.91	7.25	9.25	-	6.53	5.87
Consumer loans	14.03	13.60	13.49	12.38	13.03	13.24	12.79	12.94	11.94	12.72	12.48
Overdrafts	11.13	10.62	10.15	9.20	9.86	11.55	11.10	11.99	8.69	9.15	9.52
Weighted average rate	12.49	11.75	11.34	9.66	10.53	11.22	10.44	10.82	9.58	10.80	10.37
<b>Other rates</b>											
Prime rate*	4.75	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Treasury bill	1.64	1.83	1.69	1.52	1.59	1.63	1.69	1.72	1.73	1.75	1.92
Treasury bill re-discount rate	2.14	2.33	2.19	2.08	2.14	2.13	2.19	2.22	2.23	2.25	2.33
Bank rate (discount rate)*	4.46	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

\*Reflects end of period rates.

**TABLE 9**  
**SELECTED CREDIT QUALITY INDICATORS OF DOMESTIC BANKS**

Period	(%)										
	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
<b>Loan Portfolio</b>											
Current Loans (as a % of total loans)	<b>82.2</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>86.2</b>
Arrears (% by loan type)											
Consumer	4.7	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.5	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.1	4.0	4.1
Mortgage	9.0	8.8	8.8	8.0	7.8	8.0	7.5	7.4	7.0	7.1	8.7
Commercial	4.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.0	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.0
Total Arrears	<b>17.8</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Total B\$ Loan Portfolio</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Loan Portfolio</b>											
Current Loans (as a % of total loans)	<b>82.2</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>86.2</b>
Arrears (% by days outstanding)											
30 - 60 days	3.2	3.1	3.3	2.7	2.3	3.1	2.6	2.9	2.1	2.7	2.9
61 - 90 days	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.4
90 - 179 days	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.9
over 180 days	10.9	8.3	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.2	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.6
Total Arrears	<b>17.8</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Total B\$ Loan Portfolio</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Non Accrual Loans (% by loan type)											
Consumer	23.6	27.8	25.8	26.7	25.5	25.8	25.5	26.8	27.5	28.9	30.7
Mortgage	50.3	60.8	65.0	63.2	64.6	63.8	63.5	59.9	62.2	59.1	60.7
Other Private	26.1	11.4	9.2	10.2	10.0	10.4	11.0	13.3	10.3	11.9	8.6
Total Non Accrual Loans	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Provisions to Loan Portfolio</b>											
Consumer	7.8	6.1	5.5	6.8	6.5	6.6	7.0	7.2	9.0	10.0	10.5
Mortgage	9.0	8.3	7.6	8.8	8.7	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.5	8.4	9.9
Other Private	11.7	8.0	14.4	7.2	6.5	5.3	7.1	6.9	9.9	8.8	10.1
Total Provisions to Total Private Sector Loans	8.9	7.4	7.7	7.8	7.5	7.2	7.5	7.6	8.9	9.1	10.2
Total Provisions to Total Non-performing Loans	70.6	74.7	84.8	86.4	86.5	85.6	93.8	95.7	114.7	110.4	120.0
Total Non-performing Loans to Total Private Sector Loans	12.3	9.9	9.1	9.0	8.7	8.4	8.0	7.9	7.8	8.2	8.5

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

**TABLE 10**  
**SUMMARY OF BANK LIQUIDITY**

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2016	2017	2018	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
<b>I. Statutory Reserves</b>											
Required reserves	325.1	336.9	331.1	331.9	345.3	348.5	349.6	363.4	372.3	371.9	371.3
Average Till Cash	130.4	125.8	124.9	108.5	107.8	115.6	129.8	120.0	107.9	119.4	146.4
Average balance with central bank	945.1	1,030.3	808.6	863.4	978.0	1,003.5	1,181.3	1,303.2	1,425.5	1,514.8	1,579.0
Free cash reserves (period ended)	750.5	819.2	602.5	639.9	740.6	770.5	961.5	1,059.8	1,161.0	1,262.2	1,354.2
<b>II. Liquid Assets (period)</b>											
A. Minimum Required Liquid Assets	1,098.6	1,128.9	1,115.6	1,148.4	1,196.1	1,206.4	1,247.1	1,298.8	1,300.4	1,308.4	1,301.1
B. Net Eligible Liquid Assets	2,579.9	2,956.2	2,649.0	2,852.0	3,014.7	2,988.7	3,214.5	3,345.2	3,366.9	3,451.4	3,531.6
i) Balance with Central Bank	867.3	1,012.2	792.6	943.3	1,001.6	1,073.5	1,243.8	1,336.8	1,452.0	1,472.9	1,572.1
ii) Notes and Coins	145.6	146.3	149.8	101.5	111.6	114.6	152.0	129.1	102.6	129.1	173.8
iii) Treasury Bills	531.9	611.4	669.8	773.1	822.3	741.4	771.9	866.1	812.2	858.7	830.2
iv) Government registered stocks	987.1	1,137.7	990.9	988.3	1,033.1	1,012.6	985.4	962.5	949.9	942.2	907.5
v) Specified assets	51.0	50.8	48.4	46.9	46.6	49.8	49.7	49.8	54.5	49.6	49.6
vi) Net Inter-bank dem/call deposits	(3.0)	(2.2)	(2.5)	(1.0)	(0.5)	(3.1)	11.7	0.8	(4.4)	(1.1)	(1.5)
vii) Less: borrowings from central bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Surplus/(Deficit)	1,481.3	1,827.3	1,533.4	1,703.6	1,818.6	1,782.4	1,967.5	2,046.4	2,066.5	2,143.0	2,230.5

**Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas**

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

**TABLE 11**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND FINANCING**

Period	(B\$ Millions)										
	2018/19p	2019/20p	Budget		2018/19p	2019/20p				2020/21p	
			2019/20	2020/21	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II
Total Revenue & Grants	2,426.3	2,089.2	2,628.1	1,762.5	737.2	554.3	547.1	657.3	330.5	268.8	402.6
Current expenditure	2,422.2	2,508.6	2,530.0	2,574.1	721.1	544.8	634.0	635.3	694.5	585.6	712.6
Capital expenditure	223.4	368.8	235.0	515.5	95.3	56.3	60.5	82.1	169.9	60.4	49.0
<b>Overall balance</b>	<b>(219.3)</b>	<b>(788.2)</b>	<b>(136.9)</b>	<b>(1,327.1)</b>	<b>(79.3)</b>	<b>(46.7)</b>	<b>(147.4)</b>	<b>(60.1)</b>	<b>(534.0)</b>	<b>(377.1)</b>	<b>(359.0)</b>
<b>FINANCING (I+II-III+IV+V)</b>	219.3	788.2	136.9	1,327.1	79.3	46.7	147.4	60.1	534.0	377.1	359.0
<b>I. Foreign currency borrowing</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>445.7</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>300.1</b>	<b>703.3</b>	<b>886.5</b>
External	9.2	395.7	64.5	42.9	3.0	31.9	8.6	55.0	300.1	572.9	886.5
Domestic	-	50.0	-	-	-	-	50.0	-	-	130.4	-
<b>II. Bahamian dollar borrowing</b>	<b>1,085.0</b>	<b>1,101.1</b>	<b>700.3</b>	<b>2,030.8</b>	<b>241.4</b>	<b>135.7</b>	<b>309.4</b>	<b>368.8</b>	<b>287.2</b>	<b>222.7</b>	<b>307.6</b>
i) Treasury bills	231.3	233.6	-	-	75.7	29.7	21.5	26.2	156.1	1.2	21.3
ii) Long-term securities	619.7	562.6	-	-	165.7	103.0	192.9	135.6	131.1	81.5	191.4
iii) Loans and Advances	234.0	305.0	-	-	-	3.0	95.0	207.0	-	140.0	94.9
<b>III. Debt repayment</b>	<b>801.1</b>	<b>879.0</b>	<b>628.0</b>	<b>696.6</b>	<b>195.0</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>227.4</b>	<b>261.9</b>	<b>291.5</b>	<b>229.0</b>	<b>692.3</b>
Domestic	717.2	835.1	539.0	501.6	187.3	83.7	219.7	247.2	284.5	126.1	438.0
Bahamian dollars	717.2	835.1	539.0	497.4	187.3	83.7	219.7	247.2	284.5	126.1	438.0
Foreign currency	-	-	-	4.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
External	83.9	43.9	88.9	195.0	7.7	14.6	7.7	14.7	7.0	102.8	254.3
<b>IV. Net sale of shares &amp; other equity</b>	<b>(117.2)</b>	<b>(71.8)</b>	<b>(46.5)</b>	<b>(46.5)</b>	<b>(42.7)</b>	<b>(26.7)</b>	<b>(13.9)</b>	<b>(14.7)</b>	<b>(16.5)</b>	-	-
<b>V. Cash balance change &amp; other financing</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>192.2</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>(3.5)</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>(87.2)</b>	<b>254.6</b>	<b>(320.0)</b>	<b>(142.8)</b>

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

**TABLE 12  
NATIONAL DEBT**

(B\$ '000s)

Period	2018	2019	2020	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT</b>	2,593,818	2,567,662	4,031,360	2,557,139	2,553,188	2,559,811	2,567,662	2,604,078	2,901,322	3,387,057	4,031,360
By Instrument											
Government Securities	1,650,000	1,650,000	2,475,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	2,475,000
Loans	943,818	917,662	1,556,360	907,139	903,188	909,811	917,662	954,078	1,251,322	1,737,057	1,556,360
By Holder											
Commercial Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	207,483	232,075	853,864	205,780	201,042	231,139	232,075	285,320	579,330	792,678	853,864
Bilateral Institutions	79,609	72,539	70,875	78,418	76,651	70,660	72,539	68,320	68,483	68,122	70,875
Private Capital Markets	1,650,000	1,650,000	2,475,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	1,650,000	2,475,000
Other Financial Institutions	656,726	613,048	631,621	622,941	625,495	608,012	613,048	600,438	603,509	876,257	631,621
<b>TOTAL INTERNAL DEBT</b>	4,905,099	5,165,557	5,386,577	4,919,740	4,973,870	5,025,915	5,165,557	5,287,189	5,289,898	5,516,957	5,386,577
By Instrument											
Foreign Currency	-	50,000	180,440	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	180,440	180,440
Government Securities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	-	50,000	180,440	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	180,440	180,440
Bahamian Dollars	4,905,099	5,115,557	5,206,137	4,919,740	4,973,870	5,025,915	5,115,557	5,237,189	5,239,898	5,336,517	5,206,137
Advances	119,657	74,900	4,900	69,657	14,957	14,900	74,900	14,900	14,900	124,900	4,900
Treasury Bills	875,746	977,104	922,417	877,429	938,156	959,858	977,104	948,344	954,702	944,991	922,417
Government Securities	3,536,654	3,725,354	3,808,204	3,601,654	3,675,354	3,725,354	3,725,354	3,780,354	3,799,312	3,795,825	3,808,204
Loans	373,042	338,199	470,616	371,000	345,403	325,803	338,199	493,591	470,984	470,801	470,616
By Holder											
Foreign Currency	-	50,000	180,440	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	180,440	180,440
Commercial Banks	-	50,000	180,440	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	50,000	180,440	180,440
Other Local Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahamian Dollars	4,905,099	5,115,557	5,206,137	4,919,740	4,973,870	5,025,915	5,115,557	5,237,189	5,239,898	5,336,517	5,206,137
The Central Bank	518,721	455,725	253,375	372,250	350,203	436,667	455,725	286,900	362,122	372,177	253,375
Commercial Banks	1,983,549	2,053,618	2,174,010	2,083,906	2,145,017	2,040,377	2,053,618	2,286,884	2,241,071	2,237,207	2,174,010
Other Local Financial Institutions	11,085	21,671	34,723	22,638	31,850	32,230	21,671	20,508	20,429	19,959	34,723
Public Corporations	586,572	602,704	576,975	597,893	600,404	597,242	602,704	596,327	589,438	582,768	576,975
Other	1,805,172	1,981,839	2,167,054	1,843,053	1,846,396	1,919,399	1,981,839	2,046,570	2,026,838	2,124,406	2,167,054
<b>TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT</b>	2,593,818	2,617,662	4,211,800	2,557,139	2,553,188	2,559,811	2,617,662	2,654,078	2,951,322	3,567,497	4,211,800
<b>TOTAL DIRECT CHARGE</b>	7,498,917	7,733,219	9,417,937	7,476,879	7,527,058	7,585,726	7,733,219	7,891,267	8,191,220	8,904,014	9,417,937
<b>TOTAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES</b>	752,351	724,042	438,727	739,070	736,471	726,747	724,042	717,929	714,488	442,258	438,727
<b>TOTAL NATIONAL DEBT</b>	8,251,268	8,457,261	9,856,664	8,215,949	8,263,529	8,312,473	8,457,261	8,609,196	8,905,708	9,346,272	9,856,664

Source: Treasury Accounts & Treasury Statistical Summary Printouts

Public Corporation Reports

Creditor Statements, Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 13  
PUBLIC SECTOR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT OPERATIONS**

(B\$ '000s)

Period	2018*	2019	2020**	2019				2020			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.***	Dec.****
<b>Outstanding Debt at Beginning of Period</b>	<b>3,484,245</b>	<b>3,510,146</b>	<b>3,475,997</b>	<b>3,510,146</b>	<b>3,461,968</b>	<b>3,440,616</b>	<b>3,425,622</b>	<b>3,475,997</b>	<b>3,500,917</b>	<b>3,789,599</b>	<b>4,148,610</b>
Government	2,616,225	2,593,818	2,617,662	2,593,818	2,557,139	2,553,188	2,559,811	2,617,662	2,654,078	2,951,322	3,567,497
Public Corporations	868,020	916,328	858,335	916,328	904,829	887,428	865,811	858,335	846,839	838,277	581,113
<b>Plus: New Drawings</b>	<b>256,635</b>	<b>93,739</b>	<b>1,946,664</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>31,890</b>	<b>58,634</b>	<b>55,028</b>	<b>300,150</b>	<b>704,125</b>	<b>887,361</b>
Government	65,330	93,664	1,944,995	175	2,965	31,890	58,634	55,028	300,150	703,298	886,519
Public corporations	191,305	75	1,669	-	75	-	-	-	-	827	842
<b>Less: Amortization</b>	<b>216,894</b>	<b>122,225</b>	<b>666,790</b>	<b>45,624</b>	<b>25,184</b>	<b>36,233</b>	<b>15,184</b>	<b>26,156</b>	<b>15,520</b>	<b>360,837</b>	<b>264,277</b>
Government	73,906	64,153	378,775	34,121	7,708	14,616	7,708	14,660	6,958	102,846	254,311
Public corporations	142,988	58,072	288,015	11,503	17,476	21,617	7,476	11,496	8,562	257,991	9,966
<b>Other Changes in Debt Stock</b>	<b>(13,840)</b>	<b>(5,663)</b>	<b>27,918</b>	<b>(2,729)</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>(10,651)</b>	<b>6,925</b>	<b>(3,952)</b>	<b>4,052</b>	<b>15,723</b>	<b>12,095</b>
Government	(13,831)	(5,667)	27,918	(2,733)	792	(10,651)	6,925	(3,952)	4,052	15,723	12,095
Public corporations	(9)	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Outstanding Debt at End of Period</b>	<b>3,510,146</b>	<b>3,475,997</b>	<b>4,783,789</b>	<b>3,461,968</b>	<b>3,440,616</b>	<b>3,425,622</b>	<b>3,475,997</b>	<b>3,500,917</b>	<b>3,789,599</b>	<b>4,148,610</b>	<b>4,783,789</b>
Government	2,593,818	2,617,662	4,211,800	2,557,139	2,553,188	2,559,811	2,617,662	2,654,078	2,951,322	3,567,497	4,211,800
Public corporations	916,328	858,335	571,989	904,829	887,428	865,811	858,335	846,839	838,277	581,113	571,989
<b>Interest Charges</b>	<b>220,950</b>	<b>203,144</b>	<b>201,693</b>	<b>37,266</b>	<b>67,063</b>	<b>34,285</b>	<b>64,530</b>	<b>32,312</b>	<b>63,069</b>	<b>30,045</b>	<b>76,267</b>
Government	154,701	144,039	157,895	22,000	51,208	20,445	50,386	20,075	50,469	20,179	67,172
Public corporations	66,249	59,105	43,798	15,266	15,855	13,840	14,144	12,237	12,600	9,866	9,095
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>437,844</b>	<b>325,369</b>	<b>868,483</b>	<b>82,890</b>	<b>92,247</b>	<b>70,518</b>	<b>79,714</b>	<b>58,468</b>	<b>78,589</b>	<b>390,882</b>	<b>340,544</b>
Government	228,607	208,192	536,670	56,121	58,916	35,061	58,094	34,735	57,427	123,025	321,483
Public corporations	209,237	117,177	331,813	26,769	33,331	35,457	21,620	23,733	21,162	267,857	19,061
<b>Debt Service ratio</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>41.8</b>
<b>Government Debt Service/ Government Revenue (%)</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>17.4</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM</b>											
Holder distribution (B\$ Mil):											
Commercial banks	332.1	351.9	308.8	329.2	317.1	304.0	351.9	349.5	347.0	312.2	308.8
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	284.0	304.1	921.0	282.1	275.3	305.1	304.1	357.0	649.0	862.1	921.0
Bilateral Institutions	79.6	72.5	70.9	78.4	76.7	70.7	72.5	68.3	68.5	68.1	70.9
Other	1,164.4	1,097.5	1,008.1	1,122.3	1,121.6	1,095.7	1,097.5	1,076.1	1,075.1	1,256.2	1,008.1
Private Capital Markets	1,650.0	1,650.0	2,475.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	1,650.0	2,475.0

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

\*The Debt Service Ratio for 2018 is presented net of a \$44.1 million refinancing of Public Corporations' debt.

\*\*The Debt Service & Government Debt Service/Revenue Ratios for 2020 are presented net of public sector refinancing activities.

\*\*\*Debt servicing during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 includes public sector refinancing activities (transfer of \$246 million in Government Guaranteed debt from BEC's to Government's books). The Debt Service Ratio of 77.9% is presented net of these transactions.

\*\*\*\*Debt servicing during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 includes the refinancing of \$248.0 million in Government's external debt. The Government Debt Service/Revenue Ratio of 18.1% is presented net of this transaction.

**TABLE 14**  
**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY\***

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2018	2019	2020	2019				2020			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
<b>A. Current Account Balance (I+II+III+IV)</b>	<b>(1,115.3)</b>	<b>525.6</b>	<b>(2,428.0)</b>	<b>250.0</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>(107.9)</b>	<b>301.1</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>(707.3)</b>	<b>(805.7)</b>	<b>(991.2)</b>
<b>I. Merchandise (Net)</b>	<b>(2,675.1)</b>	<b>(2,404.1)</b>	<b>(2,148.5)</b>	<b>(523.7)</b>	<b>(625.5)</b>	<b>(662.4)</b>	<b>(592.5)</b>	<b>(617.1)</b>	<b>(450.4)</b>	<b>(508.7)</b>	<b>(572.3)</b>
Exports	641.7	669.2	465.3	154.3	277.8	122.0	115.0	186.5	61.8	102.8	114.2
Imports	3,316.8	3,073.2	2,613.8	678.0	903.3	784.4	707.6	803.5	512.2	611.5	686.6
<b>II. Services (Net)</b>	<b>2,310.7</b>	<b>2,630.7</b>	<b>(164.5)</b>	<b>892.0</b>	<b>857.6</b>	<b>525.7</b>	<b>355.5</b>	<b>561.4</b>	<b>(214.4)</b>	<b>(248.6)</b>	<b>(262.9)</b>
Transportation	(411.6)	(371.7)	(235.1)	(109.8)	(103.6)	(65.2)	(93.2)	(96.1)	(37.0)	(45.9)	(56.1)
Travel	3,395.8	3,790.2	891.7	1,223.5	1,110.8	793.0	662.9	883.0	(2.9)	0.2	11.3
Insurance Services	(154.0)	(144.5)	(160.1)	(36.8)	(34.9)	(49.7)	(23.1)	(32.3)	(40.3)	(42.5)	(45.0)
Offshore Companies Local Expenses	249.5	183.8	183.1	58.5	52.8	34.2	38.2	59.6	42.2	39.9	41.3
Other Government	(97.0)	(132.4)	(182.9)	(66.0)	(22.7)	(29.9)	(13.8)	(70.6)	(31.8)	(59.5)	(21.0)
Other Services	(672.1)	(694.6)	(661.2)	(177.4)	(144.8)	(156.8)	(215.6)	(182.2)	(144.6)	(140.9)	(193.5)
<b>III. Income (Net)</b>	<b>(682.3)</b>	<b>(547.3)</b>	<b>(488.4)</b>	<b>(115.3)</b>	<b>(159.3)</b>	<b>(108.9)</b>	<b>(163.8)</b>	<b>(122.5)</b>	<b>(146.3)</b>	<b>(79.3)</b>	<b>(140.3)</b>
1. Compensation of Employees	(28.9)	(62.8)	(95.6)	(11.7)	(14.3)	(16.8)	(20.0)	(26.9)	(21.6)	(24.1)	(23.0)
2. Investment Income	(653.3)	(484.5)	(392.9)	(103.5)	(145.1)	(92.1)	(143.8)	(95.6)	(124.8)	(55.2)	(117.3)
<b>IV. Current Transfers (Net)</b>	<b>(68.6)</b>	<b>846.2</b>	<b>373.5</b>	<b>(3.1)</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>137.7</b>	<b>701.9</b>	<b>254.3</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>(15.7)</b>
1. General Government	132.8	145.0	46.4	41.4	42.0	31.5	30.1	39.1	10.2	(2.1)	(0.8)
2. Private Sector	(201.4)	701.2	327.1	(44.4)	(32.3)	106.1	671.8	215.2	93.7	33.1	(14.9)
<b>B. Capital and Financial Account (I+II)</b> (excl. Reserves)	<b>609.1</b>	<b>230.8</b>	<b>2,417.3</b>	<b>(14.2)</b>	<b>167.8</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>115.9</b>	<b>535.6</b>	<b>729.6</b>	<b>1,036.2</b>
<b>I. Capital Account (Net Transfers)</b>	<b>(20.7)</b>	<b>(20.2)</b>	<b>(13.9)</b>	<b>(2.4)</b>	<b>(6.6)</b>	<b>(9.8)</b>	<b>(1.4)</b>	<b>(1.1)</b>	<b>(3.8)</b>	<b>(7.0)</b>	<b>(2.1)</b>
<b>II. Financial Account (Net)</b>	<b>629.7</b>	<b>250.9</b>	<b>2,431.2</b>	<b>(11.9)</b>	<b>174.4</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>539.4</b>	<b>736.5</b>	<b>1,038.2</b>
1. Direct Investment	491.4	264.6	359.3	46.1	89.0	77.0	52.4	64.7	40.3	59.4	194.9
2. Portfolio Investment	(11.7)	(10.2)	123.8	(1.8)	(2.0)	(2.3)	(4.2)	(1.8)	55.5	70.1	-
3. Other Investments	150.0	(3.5)	1,948.1	(56.3)	87.3	(39.0)	4.5	54.1	443.6	607.1	843.3
Central Gov't Long Term Capital	(8.2)	(22.0)	1,320.2	(33.9)	(4.8)	17.3	(0.6)	40.4	293.2	354.5	632.2
Other Public Sector Capital	(39.7)	(22.6)	(25.8)	(4.5)	(6.3)	(5.5)	(6.3)	(5.0)	(7.0)	(5.4)	(8.4)
Banks	(140.8)	(156.8)	272.9	(76.4)	43.5	(78.8)	(45.1)	(64.8)	132.3	86.2	119.2
Other	338.7	198.0	380.7	58.6	54.8	28.0	56.5	83.4	25.1	171.9	100.3
<b>C. Net Errors and Omissions</b>	<b>285.2</b>	<b>(194.6)</b>	<b>634.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>(129.5)</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>(152.8)</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>163.5</b>	<b>130.6</b>	<b>231.0</b>
<b>D. Overall Balance (A+B+C)</b>	<b>(221.0)</b>	<b>561.8</b>	<b>624.1</b>	<b>240.3</b>	<b>120.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>301.9</b>	<b>(8.2)</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>275.9</b>
<b>E. Financing (Net)</b>	<b>221.0</b>	<b>(561.8)</b>	<b>(624.1)</b>	<b>(240.3)</b>	<b>(120.7)</b>	<b>(1.2)</b>	<b>(199.5)</b>	<b>(301.9)</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>(54.4)</b>	<b>(275.9)</b>
Change in SDR holdings	(46.5)	(33.9)	(22.1)	0.6	(0.1)	(17.2)	(17.3)	(12.7)	(0.1)	(5.2)	(4.1)
Change in Reserve Position with the IMF	0.6	0.2	(1.1)	0.0	(0.0)	0.5	(0.4)	0.4	(0.3)	(0.6)	(0.6)
Change in Ext. Foreign Assets ( ) = Increase	266.9	(528.0)	(600.9)	(241.0)	(120.6)	15.5	(181.9)	(289.7)	8.6	(48.5)	(271.3)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

\* Figures may not sum to total due to rounding

**TABLE 15  
EXTERNAL TRADE**

Period	(B\$ '000s)										
	2017	2018	2019	2018				2019			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
<b>I. OIL TRADE</b>											
i) Exports	72,692	101,558	79,403	26,569	19,774	26,898	28,317	22,287	22,480	14,522	20,114
ii) Imports	552,863	583,402	768,782	145,498	102,957	233,644	101,302	127,670	221,691	256,987	162,434
<b>II. OTHER MERCHANDISE</b>											
<b>Domestic Exports</b>											
Crawfish	46,025	58,684	72,654	17,502	6,922	6,254	28,006	15,984	22,008	11,102	23,561
Fish Conch & other Crustacea	2,653	2,770	3,942	367	1,435	618	350	1,045	1,437	1,356	104
Coral & Similar Materials & Sponges	496	450	1,179	123	9	141	177	190	271	310	408
Fruits & Vegetables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aragonite	1,828	2,816	2,569	535	735	849	697	607	873	474	615
Other Natural Sands	460	531	347	47	153	260	71	77	95	59	116
Rum, Other Beverages & Vinegar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crude Salt	4,560	13,218	9,997	5,147	2,152	1,784	4,135	3,602	1,157	1,750	3,488
Polystrene Products	75,471	80,956	68,916	16,548	19,691	23,130	21,587	25,792	17,651	14,562	10,911
Other	36,337	78,016	43,009	7,628	24,880	24,250	21,258	10,283	24,048	7,945	734
<b>i) Total Domestic Exports</b>	<b>224,783</b>	<b>237,441</b>	<b>202,614</b>	<b>47,897</b>	<b>55,977</b>	<b>57,286</b>	<b>76,281</b>	<b>57,580</b>	<b>67,540</b>	<b>37,558</b>	<b>39,936</b>
<b>ii) Re-Exports</b>	<b>171,827</b>	<b>172,859</b>	<b>255,252</b>	<b>34,664</b>	<b>87,606</b>	<b>30,263</b>	<b>20,326</b>	<b>40,906</b>	<b>145,357</b>	<b>28,738</b>	<b>40,251</b>
<b>iii) Total Exports (i+ii)</b>	<b>396,610</b>	<b>410,301</b>	<b>457,865</b>	<b>82,561</b>	<b>143,583</b>	<b>87,549</b>	<b>96,608</b>	<b>98,486</b>	<b>212,897</b>	<b>66,295</b>	<b>80,187</b>
<b>iv) Imports</b>	<b>2,874,959</b>	<b>2,938,015</b>	<b>2,551,720</b>	<b>705,378</b>	<b>875,255</b>	<b>657,741</b>	<b>699,641</b>	<b>581,257</b>	<b>760,941</b>	<b>686,953</b>	<b>522,569</b>
<b>v) Retained Imports (iv-ii)</b>	<b>2,703,132</b>	<b>2,765,156</b>	<b>2,296,468</b>	<b>670,714</b>	<b>787,649</b>	<b>627,478</b>	<b>679,315</b>	<b>540,351</b>	<b>615,584</b>	<b>658,215</b>	<b>482,318</b>
<b>vi) Trade Balance (i-v)</b>	<b>(2,478,349)</b>	<b>(2,527,715)</b>	<b>(2,093,854)</b>	<b>(622,817)</b>	<b>(731,672)</b>	<b>(570,192)</b>	<b>(603,034)</b>	<b>(482,771)</b>	<b>(548,044)</b>	<b>(620,658)</b>	<b>(442,382)</b>

Source: Department of Statistics Quarterly Statistical Summaries

**TABLE 16**  
**SELECTED TOURISM STATISTICS**

Period	2017	2018	2019	2019				2020			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
<b>Visitor Arrivals</b>	6,135,839	6,622,015	7,249,529	1,994,296	1,888,129	1,555,388	1,811,716	1,701,575	3,998	34,221	54,728
Air	1,335,613	1,558,086	1,662,419	482,626	498,300	361,194	320,299	348,008	1,736	21,802	46,783
Sea	4,800,226	5,063,929	5,587,110	1,511,670	1,389,829	1,194,194	1,491,417	1,353,567	2,262	12,419	7,945
<b>Visitor Type</b>											
Stopover	1,451,831	1,632,252	1,806,303	524,127	546,269	400,373	335,534	372,588	3,935	33,404	25,449
Cruise	4,626,259	4,877,596	5,433,359	1,474,573	1,330,506	1,156,420	1,471,860	1,327,084	-	58	n.a.
Day/Transit	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Tourist Expenditure(B\$ 000's)</b>											
Stopover	2,930,207	3,727,564	4,125,457	1,295,080	1,182,262	887,203	760,911	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cruise	2,614,270	3,370,592	3,729,872	1,169,315	1,068,624	804,622	687,311	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Day	313,550	354,219	392,850	124,844	112,940	82,035	73,030	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Day	2,387	2,753	2,735	921	698	546	570	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Number of Hotel Nights</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Average Length of Stay</b>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Average Hotel Occupancy Rates (%)</b>											
New Providence	59.30	59.80	65.10	74.90	73.70	69.50	65.10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Grand Bahama	54.60	55.80	49.80	58.10	54.10	53.10	49.80	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	41.60	43.90	48.10	50.20	52.00	49.30	48.10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Average Nightly Room Rates (\$)</b>											
New Providence	240.38	251.17	265.70	300.94	281.65	264.61	265.70	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Grand Bahama	68.09	69.50	84.54	76.09	79.81	82.18	84.54	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	235.56	251.12	251.76	295.91	274.90	261.53	251.76	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: The Ministry of Tourism, The Bahamas Hotel & Tourism Association

Figures may not sum due to rounding.