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Economic Review

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REVIEW OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

OVERVIEW

The domestic economy's growth momentum was sustained during the fourth quarter, although at a moderated pace, with economic indicators returning closer to the expected medium-term potential. Tourism earnings remained buoyant, supported by robust growth in both the high value-added air component and sea passengers, underpinned by aggressive promotion of the destination and the persistent demand for travel in key source markets. Further, a number of small to medium-scale foreign investment projects continued to provide stimulus to the construction sector. In price developments, domestic inflation moderated over the review quarter, reflective of the pass-through effects of lower global oil prices.

Preliminary estimates revealed that during the first quarter of FY2023/2024, the Government's overall deficit widened marginally, vis-à-vis the comparative quarter of FY2022/2023. Contributing to this outturn, the rise in aggregate expenditure outstripped the growth in total revenue. Budgetary financing was obtained largely from internal sources and included a combination of long and short-term debt.

Monetary developments featured a contraction in bank liquidity, as the buildup in the deposit base trailed the growth in domestic credit. Further, external reserves decreased, amid the seasonal increase in demand for foreign currency during the latter half of the year. In addition, banks' core credit quality indicators improved during the review quarter, given reduced non-performing loans, reflective of the sustained strengthening in the domestic economy and ongoing loan write-offs. Meanwhile, the latest available data for the third quarter, indicated a marginal decline in banks' overall net income, led by a rise in provisioning for bad debt.

On the external side, the estimated current account deficit narrowed during the fourth quarter, as the services account surplus strengthened, undergirded by ongoing gains in tourism earnings. Further, the financial account inflow increased considerably, attributed to debt-financed inflows to the Government and heightened private sector activities. Meanwhile, the capital account transfers reported nil transactions, similar to a year earlier.

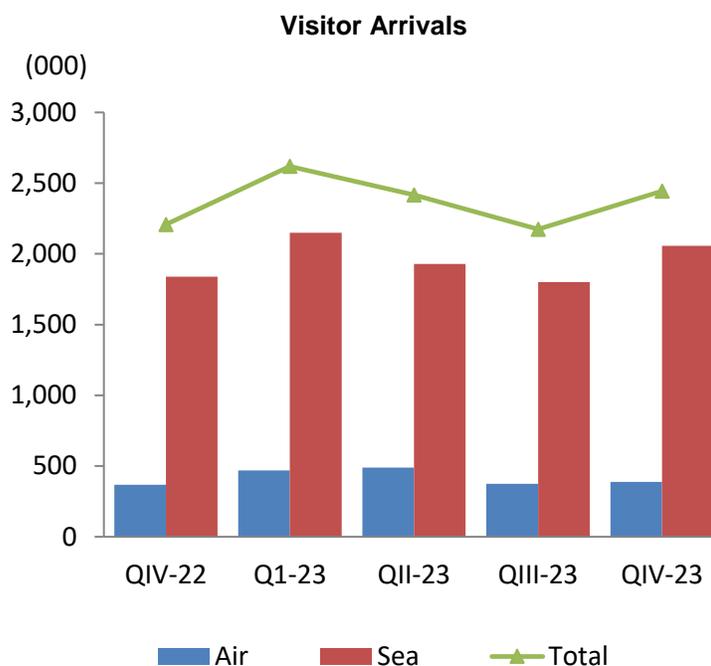
REAL SECTOR

TOURISM

Preliminary evidence suggest that tourism earning inflows remained buoyant during the fourth quarter of 2023, supported by ongoing gains in both the high-valued air segment and sea traffic, as the demand for travel in key source markets continued. Further, robust promotional initiatives of the destination positively contributed to increased demand for travel in main source markets.

Information from the Ministry of Tourism revealed that during the review quarter, total foreign arrivals grew by 10.8% to 2.4 million, extending the 2.2 million increase in visitors in the comparable 2022 period. Underlying this outturn, sea passengers rose by 11.9% to 2.1 million, surpassing the 1.8 million visitors in the same period last year. Likewise, the high-value added air component increased by 5.3% to 0.39 million arrivals, vis-à-vis the 0.37 million passengers registered in the prior year.

Disaggregated by major ports of entry, visitors to New Providence expanded by 17.2% to 1.2 million, from 1.0 million arrivals in 2022, bolstered by gains in sea passengers, by 21.4% to 0.9 million and air traffic, by 6.9% to 0.3 million in the review quarter. Further, arrivals to the Family Islands, advanced by 5.8% to 1.14 million, compared to 1.07 million visitors in the fourth quarter a year earlier. This was attributed to a rise in sea tourists by 6.2% to 1.1 million, which outstripped the 0.9% contraction in the air segment to 0.07 million. Similarly, in Grand Bahama, arrivals improved by 3.3% to 137,643 passengers, from 133,244 visitors, relative to the same period in the prior year, supported by increases in air arrivals, by 3.9% to 12,234, and the sea component, by 3.2% to 125,409.



The private vacation rental market registered mixed performance during the final quarter of 2023, as indicated by the most recent statistics provided by AirDNA. In particular, total room nights booked firmed by 6.4% to 0.4 million, underpinned by gains in entire place listings, by 6.1% to 379,390 and hotel comparable listings, by 9.1% to 51,534. Conversely, an analysis by rental category showed that average occupancy levels for entire place listings decreased by 4.1 percentage points to 49.7%, while the associated average daily rate (ADR) fell by 0.6% to \$535.88. Further, hotel comparable listings average occupancy rate reduced by 3.3 percentage points to 49.2%; however, the ADR rose by 1.9% to \$192.76.

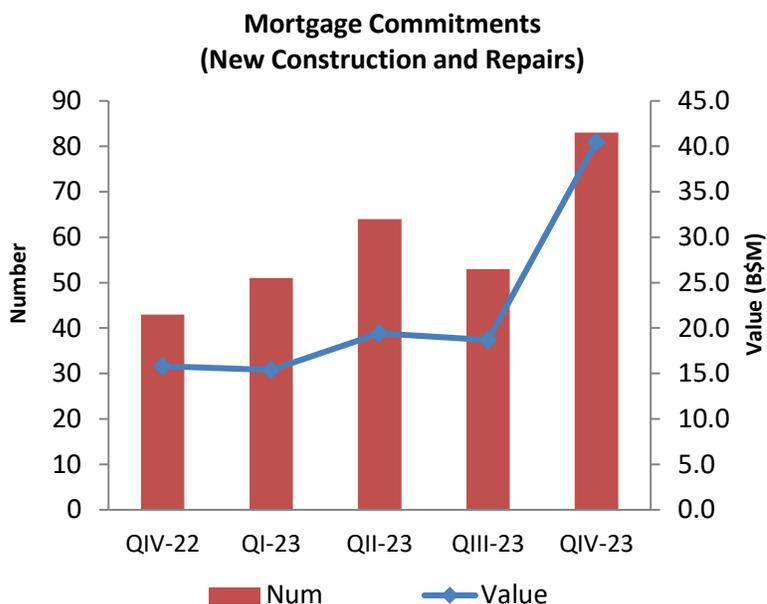
Fourth quarter data provided by the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD) revealed that quarterly total departures—net of domestic passengers—expanded by 14.2% to 0.4 million, relative to the same period in the prior year. Undergirding this development, US departures grew by 14.5%—representative of approximately 85.0% of all passengers—while international departures advanced by 12.4%.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction sector activity during the final quarter continued to be dominated by varied-scale foreign investment projects. Nonetheless, bank-financed 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 15.4% (\$3.6 million) to \$20.0 million, a reversal of a 7.1% (\$1.5 million) increase in the same period of 2022. The outturn was largely attributed to a 24.5% (\$5.8 million) reduction in residential disbursements to \$17.8 million, a turnaround from an 11.7% expansion a year earlier. In contrast, commercial disbursements totaled \$2.2 million, following a flat outturn in the year prior.

Relative to the same period in 2022, total mortgage commitments for new buildings and repairs—a forward-looking indicator of domestic activity—rose by 40 to 83, while the corresponding value more than doubled to \$40.5 million from \$15.8 million in the previous year. Disaggregated by loan category, the number of undisbursed approvals for residential commitments increased by 32 to 75, with the associated value higher by \$2.4 million (15.2%), at \$18.2 million. Likewise, commercial commitments for new construction and repairs totaled 8, while the accompanying value amounted to \$22.3 million, following no approvals in the same period in 2022.



With regard to interest rates, the average financing rates for residential mortgages moved higher by 9 basis points to 5.99%. Similarly, fourth quarter average interest rates for commercial disbursements rose to 6.73%.

PRICES

Domestic consumer price inflation—as measured by changes in the average Retail Price Index for The Bahamas—mirrored the pass-through effects of lower international oil prices. During the fourth quarter, average consumer price inflation moderated to 2.0%, from 6.0% in the same period of 2022. Contributing, average prices for communication decreased by 7.4% and for transport, by 7.1%, after posting respective gains of 3.8% and 9.1% in the previous year. Similarly, average costs declines were also recorded for recreation and culture, by 3.8% and clothing & footwear, by 0.6%, vis-à-vis increases of 18.1% and 2.4%, a year earlier. Further, the inflation rate moderated for restaurant & hotels (3.1%) and food & non-alcoholic beverages (0.2%). Providing some offset, average prices rose for furnishing, household equipment, & routine household maintenance (6.8%), following

Retail Price Index (Annual % Changes; December)						
Items	Weight	2022		2023		
		Index	%	Index	%	
Food & Non-Alcoholic	102.4	135.13	16.0	134.28	-0.6	
Alcohol, Tobacco & Clothing & Footwear	5.9	130.32	-0.1	137.84	5.8	
Housing, Water, Gas, Furn. & Household, Health	45.0	117.44	2.9	115.12	-2.0	
Transportation	321.7	111.78	5.5	116.59	4.3	
Communication	45.7	117.21	-1.3	125.41	7.0	
Rec., & Culture	44.0	146.58	6.4	160.25	9.3	
Education	125.0	125.18	0.3	122.11	-2.5	
Restaurant & Hotels	40.9	117.37	3.8	108.66	-7.4	
Misc. Goods & Svcs.	24.6	136.21	20.6	128.17	-5.9	
ALL ITEMS	42.4	105.51	1.8	109.54	3.8	
	56.8	142.62	12.7	147.16	3.2	
	145.6	109.87	2.7	112.74	2.6	
	1000.0	119.44	5.5	121.71	1.9	

a decrease in 2022. In addition, average inflation quickened for health (9.3%), alcoholic beverages, tobacco & narcotics (5.5%), housing, water, gas, electricity & other fuels (5.2%), education (4.7%), and miscellaneous goods & services (3.8%).

Data on domestic energy showed mixed movements in prices during the final quarter of 2023. In particular, the average price for diesel rose by 10.3% to \$5.71 per gallon, but reduced by 8.5% in comparison to the same period in 2022. Further, gasoline costs rose by 0.8% to \$5.91 per gallon over the quarter, and moved higher by 1.7% on an annual basis. Meanwhile, during the review period, Bahamas Power and Light’s (BPL) fuel surcharge, average tiered prices for the generation of less than 800kwh fell by 2.7% to 18.0 cents, while the cost for the generation of more than 800kwh reduced by 15.2% to 22.7 cents.

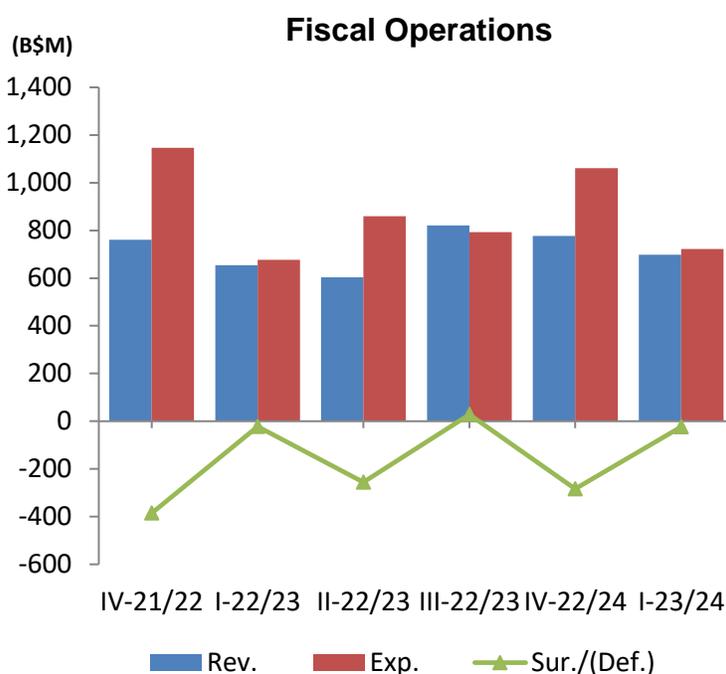
FISCAL OPERATIONS

OVERVIEW

Preliminary data on the Government’s budgetary operations for the first quarter of FY2023/24 revealed a marginal widening in the overall deficit by \$1.3 million (6.0%) to \$23.2 million, in comparison to the same period of FY2022/23. Underlying this outturn was a \$45.1 million (6.7%) rise in aggregate expenditure to \$721.7 million, which eclipsed the \$43.8 million (6.7%) growth in total revenue to \$698.5 million.

EXPENDITURE

The growth in total expenditure was reflective of a \$36.4 million (5.9%) expansion in current spending to \$657.7 million, along with an \$8.7 million (15.8%) rise in capital outlays to \$64.0 million.



By economic classification, the increase in current expenditure was led by a \$15.6 million (8.1%) growth in outlays for employee compensation to \$208.4 million. Disbursements for ‘other miscellaneous’ payments also expanded by \$15.0 million (30.2%) to \$64.9 million, owing to a rise in spending for current transfers, by \$8.7 million (20.7%), and insurance premiums, by \$6.3 million (84.0%). Likewise, interest payments on the public debt moved higher by \$11.5 million (11.2%) to \$114.1 million, explained by growth in both external and internal debt obligations. Further, allocations for social benefits rose by \$8.7 million (17.2%) to \$59.2 million. Conversely, spending for subsidies reduced by \$9.1 million (9.1%) to \$91.4 million, attributed to a decrease in disbursements to both public and private entities. In addition, grants fell by \$3.2 million (84.0%) to \$0.6 million, while outlays for the use of goods & services declined by \$2.1 million (1.8%) to \$119.0 million.

In terms of capital expenditure, the \$8.7 million (15.8%) expansion in capital spending was led by a \$5.3 million (86.2%) rise in capital transfers. Further, acquisition of non-financial assets grew by \$3.4 million (7.0%) to \$52.6 million (7.0%), mainly attributed to higher outlays for other structures and other assets.

REVENUE

Tax revenue—which constituted 86.4% of total receipts—increased by \$29.0 million (5.0%) to \$603.7 million. Specifically, under general collections, VAT proceeds—at a dominant 56.0% of total tax receipts—rose by \$6.9 million (2.1%) to \$337.9 million. Further, proceeds from stamp taxes on financial and realty transactions gained incrementally by \$0.2 million (0.6%) to \$28.7 million vis-à-vis the prior year. In addition, revenue from excise taxes expanded to \$13.8 million from \$0.4 million a year earlier.

In terms of the other components, taxes on the use or supply of goods grew by \$3.7 million (24.8%) to \$18.8 million, largely owing to a \$3.4 million expansion in collections from business license fees to \$8.9 million (63.3%). Further, receipts from motor vehicle taxes increased by \$0.4 million (5.7%) to \$7.4 million, while proceeds from marine license taxes edged up by \$0.1 million (20.8%) to \$0.8 million. In a modest offset, company taxes fell by \$0.3 million to \$1.7 million (13.1%).

Government Revenue By Source (Jul-Sep)				
	FY21/22		FY22/23	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Property Tax	20.9	3.2	21.4	3.1
Value Added Tax	331.0	50.6	337.9	48.4
Stamp Taxes (Financial & Realty)	28.5	4.4	28.7	4.1
Excise Tax	0.4	0.1	13.8	2.0
Specific Taxes (Gaming Tax)	12.8	2.0	9.6	1.4
Motor Vehicle Taxes	7.0	1.1	7.4	1.1
Company Taxes	2.0	0.3	1.7	0.2
License to Conduct Specific Bus. Act.	5.4	0.8	8.9	1.3
Marine License Activities	0.7	0.1	0.8	0.1
Customs & Other Import Duties	61.2	9.3	61.2	8.8
Taxes on Exports*	65.4	10.0	61.0	8.7
Departure Taxes	37.5	5.7	49.5	7.1
Other Taxes on Transactions	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0
General Stamp Taxes	1.8	0.3	1.5	0.2
Property Income	14.8	2.3	1.5	0.2
Sales of Goods & Services	48.7	7.4	54.9	7.9
Fines, Penalties & Forfeits	1.1	0.2	1.4	0.2
Reimbursements & Repayments	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1
Misc. & Unidentified Revenue	15.2	2.3	35.9	5.1
Sales of Other Non-Financial Assets	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital Revenue	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	654.7	100.0	698.5	100.0

* Taxes on exports Includes excise duties, effective FY19/20

With regard to the remaining categories, taxes on international trade expanded by \$7.7 million (4.7%) to \$172.0 million, reflective of the ongoing strengthening in economic activities. Underlying this outturn, departure taxes increased by \$12.1 million (32.2%) to \$49.5 million, supported by healthy gains in tourism output. Meanwhile, receipts from customs & other import duties stabilized at \$61.2 million and other taxes on transactions at \$0.3 million; however, exports duties declined by \$4.4 million (6.7%) to \$61.0 million. In addition, revenue from property taxes increased by \$0.5 million (2.4%) to \$21.4 million. In contrast, collections from other specific taxes—mainly gaming—reduced by \$3.1 million (24.5%) to \$9.6 million; and proceeds from general stamp taxes fell by \$0.2 million (13.5%) to \$1.5 million.

Non-tax receipts—which represented 13.6% of total revenue—rose by \$14.8 million (18.5%) to \$94.8 million. Specifically, revenue from “miscellaneous” & categorized taxes more than doubled to \$35.9 million from \$15.2 million a year earlier. Further, collections from sales of goods & services grew by \$6.3 million (12.9%) to \$54.9 million, on account of notable gains in receipts from fees & charges—mainly customs and port & harbor fees—and ‘other’ miscellaneous fees. In addition, proceeds from fines, penalties and forfeitures increased by \$0.3 million (27.8%) to \$1.4 million, while income from reimbursements and repayments amounted to \$0.6 million, following negligible levels a year earlier. Similarly, proceeds from the sale of other non-financial assets firmed to \$0.4 million, from muted gains in the comparative period a year earlier. Conversely, property income reduced by \$13.3 million (89.6%), explained by a notable timing-related decline in interest & dividends and a falloff in Government property revenue.

FINANCING AND THE NATIONAL DEBT

Budgetary financing for the first quarter of FY2023/24, was obtained largely from domestic sources. In particular, internal borrowings totaled \$617.8 million and comprised of loans & advances (\$351.5 million), net Treasury bills/notes (\$145.3 million) and Government bonds (\$120.9 million). Further, drawdowns on existing external facilities were negligible. Debt repayments for the period amounted to \$651.5 million, with the largest portion (75.4%) being absorbed by Bahamian dollar debt obligations.

As a result of these developments, the Direct Charge on the Government declined by \$45.6 million (0.4%) over the fiscal quarter, but rose by \$437.8 million (4.1%) on an annual basis, to \$11,214.5 million at end-September, 2023.

For the quarter ended-December 2023 the Direct Charge on Government grew by \$213.5 million (1.9%) over the September quarter, and by \$391.5 million (3.5%), on an annual basis to \$11,428.0 million. The end-December breakdown by currency, revealed that Bahamian dollar debt represented 53.3% of the total, while foreign currency liabilities accounted for the remaining 46.7%.

A further disaggregation by creditor, revealed that private (non-financial) and institutional investors held the majority of the local currency debt (40.8%), followed by banks (39.3%), the Central Bank (11.6%) and public corporations (8.3%). An analysis by instrument type, indicated that Government bonds comprised the largest portion of the domestic currency debt—at 72.3%—and featured an average maturity of 9.3 years, vis-à-vis 10.0 years in 2022. In addition, Treasury bills & notes and loans & advances accounted for smaller shares of 19.7% and 8.0%, respectively.

The Government’s contingent liabilities reduced by \$7.5 million (2.1%) over the quarter, and by \$39.3 million (10.1%), year-on-year, to \$350.9 million. As a result, the National Debt—which includes contingent liabilities—grew by \$206.0 million (1.8%) over the three-month period, and by \$352.2 million (3.1%) on an annual basis, to \$11,778.9 million at end-2023.

As a ratio to GDP, the Direct Charge decreased by an estimated 3.9 percentage points on a yearly

Estimates of the Debt-to-GDP Ratios			
December (%) ¹			
	2021 _p	2022 _p	2023 _p
Direct Charge	89.5	85.6	81.7
National Debt	93.0	88.6	84.2
Total Public Sector Debt*	96.1	91.5	86.4
Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas and Bahamas National Statistical Institute			
<i>GDP growth estimate for 2023 is partially derived from IMF projections.</i>			
<i>¹ In the absence of actual quarterly GDP data for 2023, the ratios presented should be taken as broad estimates of the relevant debt ratios and are therefore</i>			
<i>*Presented partially net of inter-public sector credit.</i>			

basis, to 81.7% at end-December. In addition, the National Debt-to-GDP decreased to an estimated 84.2%, compared to 88.6% in 2022.

PUBLIC SECTOR FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT

Public sector foreign currency debt expanded by \$175.0 million (3.1%) to \$5,773.1 million during the fourth quarter, and by \$120.6 million (2.1%) vis-à-vis the same period in the previous year. Specifically, new drawings of \$496.4 million, outweighed amortization payments of \$344.2 million. In terms of the components, the Government's outstanding liabilities—which accounted for 92.5% of the total—grew by \$187.6 million (3.6%) to \$5,339.2 million on a quarterly basis. In contrast, the public corporations' debt stock decreased by \$12.6 million (2.8%) to \$433.9 million.

In comparison to the same quarter of 2022, total foreign currency debt service payments rose by \$138.9 million (40.8%) to \$479.3 million. Underlying this outturn, Government's debt service payments increased by \$137.6 million (43.0%) to \$457.6 million, as amortization payments expanded by \$129.6 million (64.2%) to \$331.6 million, while interest payments grew, by \$8.0 million (6.8%) to \$126.0 million. Similarly, the public corporations' segment advanced by \$1.3 million (6.4%) to \$21.7 million, with amortization payments higher by \$1.3 million (11.1%) at \$12.6 million, while interest charges steadied at \$9.1 million. As a result, the debt service ratio, against exports of goods and services, firmed to 34.7% from 27.0% in 2022.

By creditor profile, the dominant share of foreign currency debt was held by capital market investors (49.4%), followed by multilateral institutions (23.9%), other institutions (19.2%), Central Bank (4.1%), domestic banks (2.6%) and bilateral agencies (0.8%). A disaggregation by currency type showed that, United States dollars (82.0%) represented the majority of the debt stock, with smaller portions in euro (8.4%), IMF SDRs (7.2%), the Swiss franc (1.6%) and the Chinese yuan (0.8%). At end-December, the average maturity of the outstanding foreign currency debt stood at 7.7 years, lower than the 7.9 years recorded in 2022.

MONEY, CREDIT AND INTEREST RATES

OVERVIEW

Monetary developments during the fourth quarter were marked by a reduction in banking sector liquidity, as the expansion in the deposit base trailed the growth in domestic credit. Further, in line with the seasonal demand for foreign currency, external reserves declined over the review period, albeit a moderation vis-à-vis the same period last year. Although banks' short-term credit arrears rose during the review quarter, long-term delinquencies continued to contract, supporting improved credit quality measures in comparison to the previous year, amid the sustained strengthening in the domestic economy and ongoing loan write-offs. In addition, profitability indicators for the third quarter—the latest available data—showed a marginal decrease in banks' overall net income, led by an increase in provisioning for bad debt. In interest rate developments, the weighted average interest rate spread narrowed over the review quarter, reflective of a decline in the mean lending rate, along with a softening in the average deposit rate.

LIQUIDITY

During the review quarter, banks' net free cash reserves declined by \$36.2 million (1.9%) to \$1,832.6 million, albeit a slowdown from the prior year's \$268.6 million (12.2%) contraction. Consequently, the ratio of net free cash reserves to Bahamian dollar deposit liabilities moved lower to 22.3% at end-December, from 26.9% in the

year prior. Reflective of an expansion in cash holdings, broader surplus liquid assets rose by only \$8.8 million (0.3%), contrasting with a \$135.6 million (4.6%) falloff in the preceding year. At end-December 2023, the surplus liquid assets exceeded the statutory minimum by approximately 193.9%, compared to 191.0% in December 2022.

DEPOSITS AND MONEY

Overall money supply (M3) expanded by \$26.9 million (0.3%) in the fourth quarter, a reversal from the \$56.9 million (0.6%) reduction recorded in the comparative 2022 period, placing the total stock at \$9,103.6 million. A

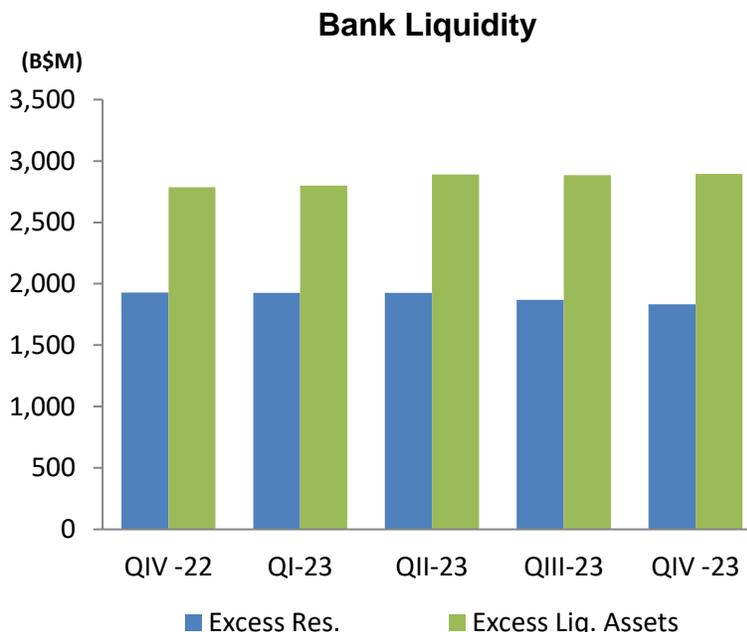
breakdown by components showed that narrow money (M1) growth almost steadied at \$28.1 million (0.7%). Contributing to this outcome, the rise in demand deposits accelerated to \$25.2 million (0.7%), from \$4.9 million (0.1%), underpinned by gains in private placements. However, currency in active circulation gains tapered to \$2.9 million (0.7%) from \$24.4 million (6.0%) in 2022. Further, broad money increased by \$33.6 million (0.4%), trailing the \$36.8 million (0.4%) accumulation in the same period last year. In particular, savings deposits grew by \$28.0 million (1.3%), lower than the \$38.6 million (1.9%) gain in the prior year; albeit the reduction in fixed balances moderated to \$22.4 million (1.1%), from \$31.2 million (1.5%) in the previous year. Also, the decline in residents' foreign currency deposits waned to just \$6.7 million (1.3%), from \$93.6 million (15.2%) in 2022.

An analysis by category showed that Bahamian dollar demand balances constituted the bulk of the money stock at 42.7%, followed by savings (24.8%) and fixed (22.2%) deposits. Further, residents' foreign currency deposits and currency in active circulation accounted for significantly smaller shares of the money stock, at 5.5% and 4.7%, respectively.

DOMESTIC CREDIT

During the fourth quarter, total domestic credit expanded by \$61.5 million (0.6%). This represented a sharp slowdown from the \$535.9 million (6.2%) buildup in 2022, which had included the Government's usage of IMF Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) allocations. The outcome was also lower than the average quarterly growth of 1.1% over the past five years. In particular, outstanding Bahamian dollar credit—constituting 92.5% of the total—rose by \$52.9 million (0.6%), notably lower than the year earlier accumulation of \$272.7 million (3.3%). Similarly, foreign currency credit accretions moderated considerably to \$8.6 million (1.2%), from \$263.0 million (72.2%) in 2022.

A disaggregation by sector showed that net credit to the Government grew by \$42.3 million (1.3%), although lower than the \$514.2 million (19.1%) buildup last year, and relative to a 4.5% average quarterly gain over the preceding five-year period. Further, private sector credit strengthened by \$28.5 million (0.5%), exceeding the

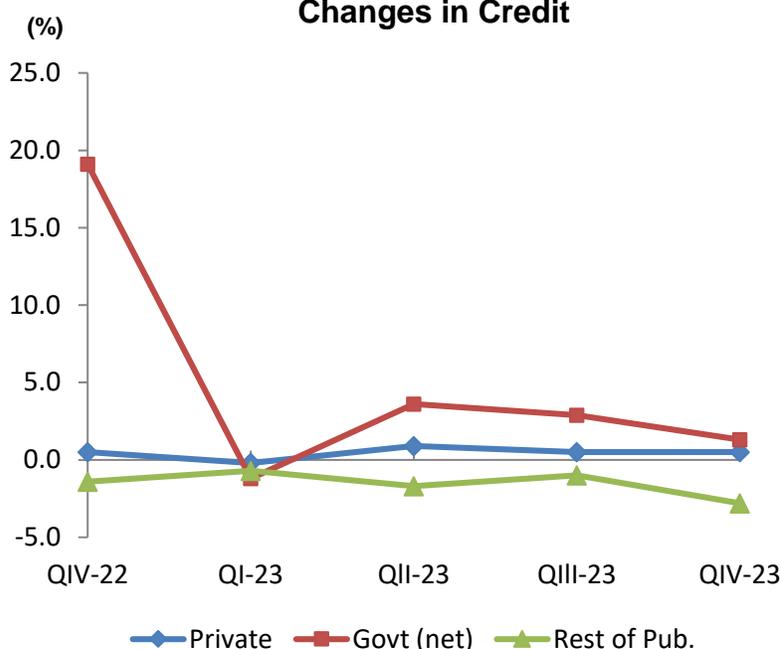


\$26.8 million (0.5%) advancement in the previous year. However, the decline in credit to the rest of the public sector extended to \$9.3 million (2.8%) from \$5.0 million (1.0%).

A decomposition of the various private sector components revealed that personal loans—which comprised the bulk of private sector credit at 72.6%—grew by \$28.3 million (0.6%). Although this trailed the \$81.5 million (1.8%) rise noted in the preceding year, it outpaced the 0.3% average quarterly gain estimated over the last five years. In the underlying transactions, residential mortgages rose by \$8.5 million (0.3%), albeit lower than the \$78.6 million (3.0%) accretion in the comparable period the previous year. Meanwhile, the growth in overdrafts expanded to \$4.4 million (13.0%) from \$0.6 million (1.2%) a year earlier; while consumer loans strengthened further by \$15.4 million (0.8%), as compared to the prior year’s growth of \$2.3 million (0.1%).

A breakdown of Bahamian dollar consumer credit indicated that outstanding balances rose for private cars (\$11.0 million), credit cards (\$6.7 million), “miscellaneous” purposes (\$6.6 million), and land purchases (\$1.5 million); with increases of less than \$1.0 million recorded for furnishings & domestic appliances, medical and commercial vehicles. In contrast, net repayments were posted for debt consolidation (\$9.4 million), education (\$1.1 million), home improvements (\$0.7 million), travel (\$0.5 million), and taxis & rented cars (\$0.2 million).

Changes in Credit



Distribution of Bank Credit By Sector (End-Dec.)				
	2023		2022	
	B\$M	%	B\$M	%
Agriculture	0.8	0.0	0.9	0.0
Fisheries	4.2	0.1	4.7	0.1
Mining & Quarrying	2.1	0.0	2.5	0.0
Manufacturing	49.9	0.8	35.4	0.5
Distribution	329.0	5.0	283.3	4.3
Tourism	53.4	0.8	52.0	0.8
Enter. & Catering	30.0	0.5	26.9	0.4
Transport	64.0	1.0	76.4	1.2
Construction	284.3	4.3	320.1	4.9
Government	650.1	9.9	710.9	10.9
Public Corps.	105.0	1.6	110.6	1.7
Private Financial	44.6	0.7	16.3	0.3
Prof. & Other Ser.	82.4	1.3	70.3	1.1
Personal	4,754.4	72.6	4,721.7	72.5
Miscellaneous	91.1	1.4	84.8	1.3
TOTAL	6,545.4	100.0	6,517.0	100.0

In the remaining private sector categories, the largest credit balances increased were for professional and ‘other’ services (\$16.8 million) and manufacturing (\$4.1 million), with a gain of less than \$0.1 million registered for agriculture. Contrastingly, balances declined notably for distribution (\$7.8 million), construction (\$3.4 million),

fisheries (\$2.1 million), entertainment and catering (\$1.9 million), transport (\$1.7 million), other miscellaneous purposes (\$1.6 million), and tourism (\$1.5 million).

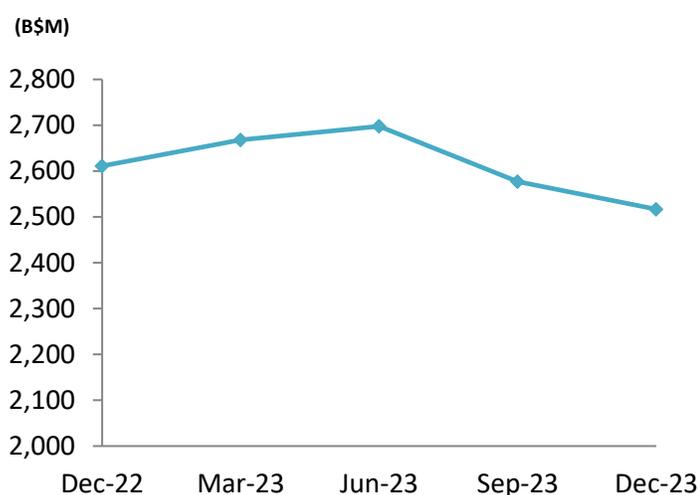
MORTGAGES

According to data obtained from domestic banks, insurance companies and the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation, the total value of mortgages outstanding rose marginally by \$2.7 million (0.1%) to \$2,868.6 million over the fourth quarter, albeit lower than the \$6.7 million (0.2%) growth registered in the previous year. A breakdown by component revealed that gains in residential mortgages were more than halved to \$5.2 million (0.2%), for an outstanding stock of \$2,692.0 million (93.8% of the total). Conversely, the commercial component decreased further by \$2.5 million (1.4%), a moderation from the \$4.3 million (4.6%) falloff in the comparable 2022 period. At end-December, the majority of mortgages were held by domestic banks at 86.4%, followed by the Bahamas Mortgage Corporation (7.1%), and insurance companies (6.5%).

THE CENTRAL BANK

During the fourth quarter, the Central Bank's net claims on the Government expanded by \$85.8 million (10.7%) to \$887.5 million, at a notably slower pace than the \$356.0 million (81.9%) accumulation in the same period of the prior year, as the growth in debt securities holdings overshadowed the falloff in loans and advances. This outcome compares with an average quarterly increase of \$106.4 million (31.6%) over the last five years. Similarly, the Bank's demand liabilities to domestic banks grew by \$7.5 million (0.3%) to \$2,245.6 million, a switch from a \$325.4 million (12.6%) contraction a year earlier, as the expansion in institutions' holdings of notes and coins outstripped the falloff in deposits placed with the Central Bank. Further, the Central Bank's net liabilities to the rest of the public sector held steady at \$7.0 million vis-à-vis both the prior quarter and a year earlier.

External Reserves



The seasonal reduction in external reserves moderated to \$60.0 million (2.3%) from \$588.6 million (18.4%) in 2022. In the underlying developments, the Central Bank's net foreign currency sales decreased to \$80.6 million, from \$376.1 million in 2022. In particular, the net purchases from the Government advanced to \$184.7 million from \$3.7 million a year earlier. Further, the net foreign currency sales to the commercial banks reduced to \$100.4 million from \$266.2 million in the previous year. However, the net sales to public corporations—mainly for fuel purchases—extended to \$164.9 million from \$113.6 million in the preceding year.

At end-December, the stock of external reserves stood at \$2,516.8 million, equivalent to an estimated 30.0 weeks of the current year's total merchandise imports (inclusive of oil purchases), relative to 33.9 weeks during the comparable 2022 period. After adjusting for the 50.0% statutory requirement on the Bank's demand liabilities,

“useable” reserves declined by \$38.3 million (3.3%) to \$1,135.8 million, relative to the comparative quarter in 2022.

DOMESTIC BANKS

Total net foreign liabilities of the domestic banking system stood at \$187.3 million at end-December, registering a \$16.3 million (8.0%) decrease over the previous quarter, and relative to a net liability of \$137.8 million in the corresponding period last year.

During the fourth quarter, domestic banks’ credit declined by \$24.3 million (0.3%), in contrast to a \$179.8 million (2.2%) accumulation in the prior year. Net claims on the Government contracted by \$43.5 million (1.7%), a reversal from the year earlier \$158.2 million (7.0%) expansion, reflecting a reduction in loans and advances. Likewise, credit to the rest of the public sector decreased further at a heightened pace of \$9.3 million (2.8%). In contrast, private sector credit expansion firmed slightly to \$28.5 million (0.5%) from \$26.8 million (0.5%) in 2022.

Banks’ total deposit liabilities—inclusive of Government balances—grew by \$66.9 million (0.8%) to \$8,881.2 million, a switch from a \$137.2 million (1.6%) retrenchment in the previous year. In the underlying transactions, total private sector deposits rose by \$101.7 million (1.2%) to \$8,430.3 million, as opposed to an \$83.6 million (1.0%) contraction in the year prior. Further, the reduction in deposits held by public corporations moderated to \$31.6 million (14.3%) from \$48.6 million (17.7%). In addition, Government balances declined by \$3.2 million (1.4%), although abated from a \$5.3 million (2.2%) falloff in the comparative period of 2022.

At end-December, the majority of deposit liabilities were denominated in Bahamian dollars (94.3%), with US dollars representing the bulk of the remainder. An analysis by holder showed that private individuals held 53.4% of total local currency accounts, followed by business firms (31.5%), private financial institutions (6.0%), the public sector (5.1%), and other entities (4.0%).

A disaggregation by deposit category showed that demand balances constituted the largest share of deposit accounts (48.2%), followed by savings (27.0%), and fixed accounts (24.8%). By range of value and number, Bahamian dollar balances of \$10,000 or less represented the bulk of accounts (87.5%), but only 5.2% of the total liabilities. Accounts with balances between \$10,000 and \$50,000 comprised 8.2% of total accounts, and 10.2% of the overall value, while accounts with balances over \$50,000 represented 4.4% of total accounts, but 84.6% of the aggregate liabilities.

CREDIT QUALITY

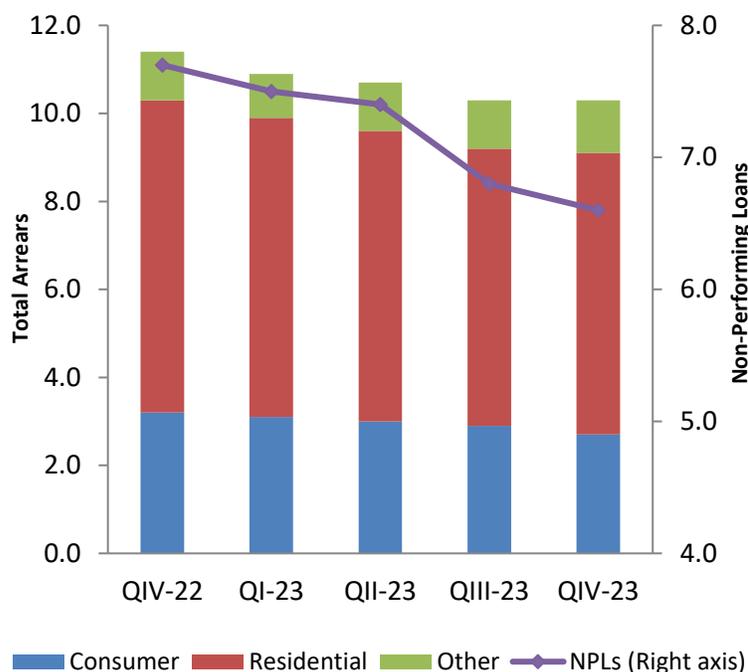
The reduction in non-performing loans, underscored improved credit quality indicators during the review quarter, with more notable improvement over the same period last year, amid the sustained strengthening in the domestic economy and ongoing loan write-offs. Private sector arrears were almost unchanged, over the quarter, but on an annual basis, reduced by \$48.5 million (7.9%) to \$561.7 million. The associated ratio of arrears to total private sector loans was also relatively stable on a quarterly basis at 10.3%, but declined by a 1.0 percentage point annually.

A disaggregation by age of delinquencies showed that short-term arrears grew by \$10.4 million (5.5%) to \$200.2 million, with the attendant ratio higher by 18 basis points at 3.7% of total private sector loans. Providing some offset, non-performing loans (NPLs)—loans in excess of 90 days and on which banks have stopped accruing

interest—reduced by \$9.5 million (2.6%) to \$361.5 million, with the relevant ratio declining by 20 basis points at 6.6% of total private sector loans.

The quarterly increase in total private sector loan arrears was led by a \$5.1 million (1.5%) rise in mortgage arrears, with the corresponding ratio increasing by 19 basis points to 14.0%. Likewise, the commercial component moved higher by \$3.0 million (5.0%), as the attendant ratio firmed by 32 basis points to 6.4%. In contrast, consumer delinquencies declined by \$7.2 million (4.6%), contributing a 44 basis point reduction in the relevant ratio to 7.6% of total private sector loans. Meanwhile, the NPL rate for mortgages fell to 8.8% from 10.2% a year earlier and for commercial credit, to 4.7% from 5.0%. Further, the rate for consumer loans lowered to 4.9% from 5.8% in the previous year.

Loan Arrears as % of Total Private Sector Loans



CAPITAL ADEQUACY AND PROVISIONS

Banks reduced their total provisions for loan losses by \$5.4 million (1.6%) to \$330.0 million over the quarter. Correspondingly, the ratio of total provisions to total arrears narrowed by 1.1 percentage points to 58.8%. However, the ratio of total provisions to NPLs firmed by 88 basis points to 91.3%. Meanwhile, banks wrote-off approximately \$21.6 million in bad loans and recovered an estimated \$12.3 million during the review quarter.

Banks maintained robust capital levels during the last quarter. Specifically, the average ratio of capital to risk-weighted assets remained unchanged at 32.7%. The ratio remained well in excess of the minimum regulatory prescribed ratio of 17.0%.

BANK PROFITABILITY

During the third quarter of 2023—the latest period for which data is available—banks’ net income decreased by \$6.2 million (5.3%) to \$109.6 million, vis-à-vis the corresponding 2022 period, mainly attributed to a rise in provisioning for bad debt. In terms of profitability components, the net interest margin widened by \$14.4 million (10.6%) to \$150.7 million, as interest income grew by \$14.7 million (10.1%) to \$160.1 million, overshadowing the \$0.3 million (3.4%) uptick in interest expenses to \$9.4 million. Further, income from commission and foreign exchange fees rose by \$3.0 million (22.0%), contributing to a \$17.4 million (11.6%) increase in the gross earnings margin to \$167.5 million.

As it pertains to non-interest expense, banks’ operating outlays expanded by \$12.3 million (11.7%) to \$116.9 million. Underpinning this outcome, non-staff related operating costs—inclusive of professional and rental

expenses—moved higher by \$13.2 million (21.8%) to \$73.7 million. In an offset, staff costs fell by \$0.8 million (1.9%) to \$40.8 million and occupancy costs edged down by \$0.1 million (5.7%) to \$2.4 million. Further, banks’ other net earnings on their “non-core” activities reduced by \$11.4 million (16.2%) to \$58.9 million, as provisions for bad debt expanded by \$34.8 million to \$13.8 million and depreciation costs moved higher by \$0.2 million (2.8%) to \$6.1 million. Providing some offset, other non-interest earnings grew by \$7.9 million (14.4%) to \$63.3 million.

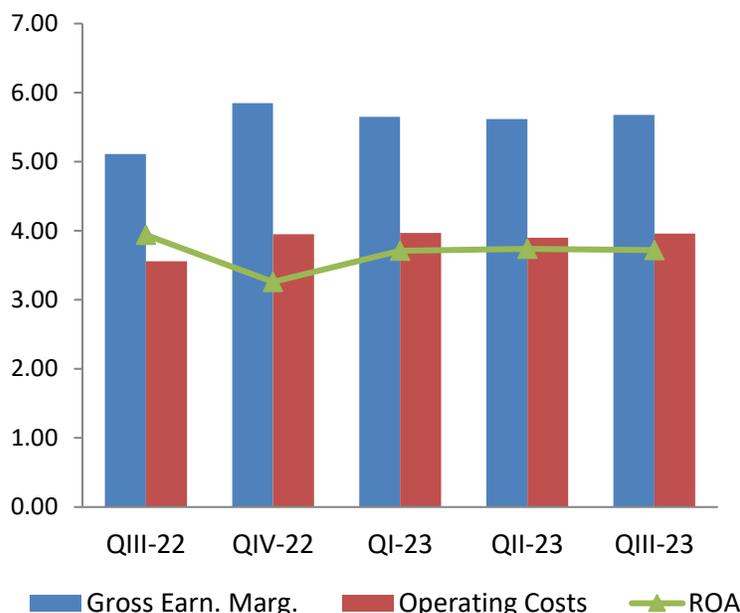
An analysis of profitability ratios, relative to average assets, showed that the majority of ratios trended upward during the review quarter. As a percentage of average assets, the gross earnings margin rose by 57 basis points to 5.68%, as the interest margin ratio increased by 47 basis points to 5.11% and the commission and foreign exchange income ratio moved higher by 10 basis points to 0.57%. Further, banks’ net earnings margin ratio firmed by 17 basis points to 1.72%, although the operating costs ratio rose by 40 basis points to 3.96%. Meanwhile, after allowing decreased contribution from other income sources, net of depreciation and bad debt expenses, the net income ratio reduced by 22 basis points to 3.72%.

INTEREST RATES

During the fourth quarter, the weighted average interest rate spread narrowed by 7 basis points to 10.51 percentage points. Contributing to this outcome, the weighted average lending rate decreased by 8 basis points to 11.02%, while the weighted average deposit rate edged down by 1 basis point to 0.51%.

As for lending rates, declines were recorded in the majority of the categories. The lending rate for overdrafts fell by 20 basis points to 10.47%, while the rate for consumer loans moved lower by 17 basis points to 12.98%. The

Domestic Banks' Profitability
(% of Avg. Assets)



Banking Sector Interest Rates			
Period Average (%)			
	Qtr. IV 2022	Qtr. III 2023	Qtr. IV 2023
Deposit Rates			
Demand Deposits	0.25	0.50	0.25
Savings Deposits	0.29	0.28	0.28
Fixed Deposits			
Up to 3 months	0.26	0.26	0.25
Up to 6 months	0.26	0.35	0.30
Up to 12 months	0.49	0.57	0.49
Over 12 months	1.19	0.91	0.96
Weighted Avg. Dep. Rate	0.52	0.52	0.51
Lending Rates			
Residential mortgages	5.16	5.23	5.14
Commercial mortgages	7.08	6.17	6.67
Consumer loans	12.87	13.15	12.98
Other Local Loans	6.84	5.36	7.00
Overdrafts	11.28	10.67	10.47
Weighted Avg. Loan Rate	11.20	11.10	11.02

rate for residential mortgages also narrowed by 9 basis points to 5.14%. Conversely, the mean rate on commercial mortgages rose by 50 basis points to 6.67%.

With regard to deposits, the average rate on demand deposits declined by 25 basis points to 0.25%, while the rate on savings deposits held steady at 0.28%. Meanwhile, the average range of interest offered on fixed balances shifted to 0.25%-0.96% from 0.26%-0.91% in the prior quarter.

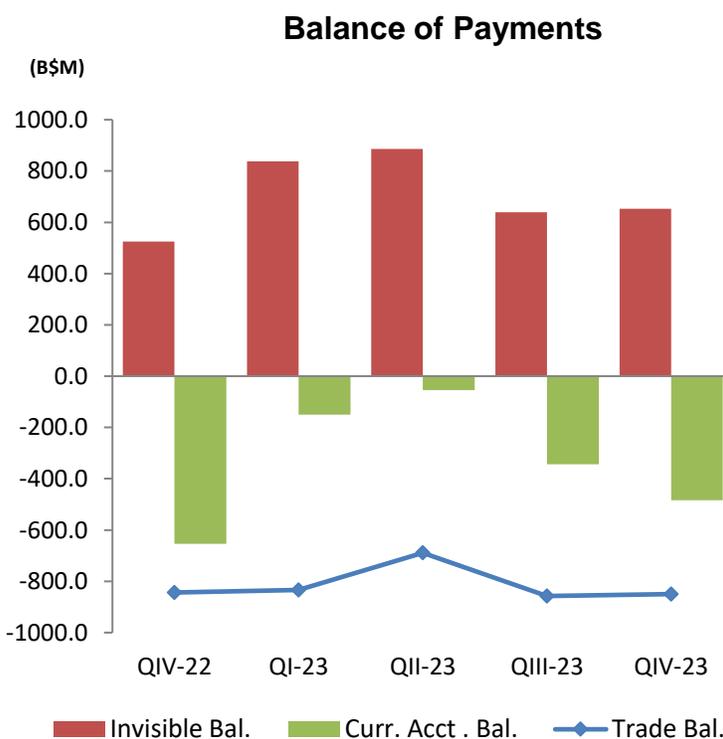
In other interest rate developments, the average Treasury bill rate held steady at 2.91%. Further, the Central Bank’s Discount rate and the commercial banks’ Prime rate remained unchanged at 4.00% and 4.25%, respectively.

CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENTS

Capital market developments were subdued during the fourth quarter, slightly improved relative to the comparable period last year. Specifically, the value of the BISX All Shares price index appreciated by 6.1% to 2,851.6 points. However, the total number of trades on the Bahamas International Stock Exchange (BISX) contracted by 38 (12.4%) to 268, although a moderation from the year earlier falloff of 19.8%. Correspondingly, the total volume of trades decreased by 17.2% to 1.0 million, lower than the 42.8% reduction in the prior year; however, the associated value declined by 62.8% to \$9.1 million, nearly doubling the 33.9% retrenchment in the previous year.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS

Preliminary estimates for the fourth quarter of 2023 indicated that the estimated current account deficit narrowed to \$483.7 million from \$653.3 million in the corresponding period of 2022. Underlying this outturn, the services account surplus expanded to \$652.4 million from \$525.2 million in the previous year, supported by buoyant travel receipts. Further, the financial account inflows—excluding reserve assets—increased considerably to \$254.0 million, from \$37.8 million in the preceding year, on account of debt-financed inflows to the Government and increased private sector activity. Meanwhile, capital account transfers recorded nil transactions during the review period, similar to the prior year.



The estimated merchandise trade deficit grew by \$7.4 million (0.9%) to \$850.4 million in the fourth quarter, largely attributed to a \$28.5 million (15.0%) contraction in exports to \$161.7 million, which overshadowed the \$21.0 million (2.0%) falloff in imports to \$1,012.2 million. A further breakdown of trade flows revealed that fuel import payments reduced by \$14.0 million (5.3%) to \$249.5 million. In terms of the fuel sub-categories, the average per

barrel costs for aviation gas declined by 22.8% to \$164.38 and Bunker-C fuel, by 9.8% to \$68.08. In addition, the average per barrel price for gas oil fell by 4.2% to \$115.36; motor gas, by 2.6% to \$118.93; and propane, by 1.7% to \$59.32. In a slight offset, the average per barrel cost for refined kerosene oil (jet-fuel) was higher by 15.2% at \$156.91.

The estimated surplus on the services account increased by \$127.3 million (24.2%) to \$652.4 million in the fourth quarter. This was supported by a rise in net travel receipts—the largest component of the services account—by \$134.1 million (14.4%) to \$1,066.5 million, bolstered by healthy gains in tourism output. Further, net payments for Government goods and services fell by \$27.9 million (33.1%) to \$56.5 million. Providing some offset, net outflows for “other” business services expanded by \$16.6 million (15.0%) to \$127.2 million, and for telecommunications, computer and information services, by \$12.7 million (90.7%) to \$26.7 million. Likewise, net payments for insurance services rose by \$2.9 million (3.9%) to \$77.2 million and charges for the use of intellectual property, by \$1.4 million (77.3%) to \$3.2 million. In addition, net outflows from construction services, grew by \$0.6 million (2.0%) to \$32.7 million and transportation, by \$0.5 million (0.5%) to \$90.5 million.

The primary income account deficit (against wages and investment income), reduced by \$61.4 million (18.5%) to \$270.5 million during the review quarter. Contributing to this outturn, net investment income outflows declined by \$71.5 million (23.1%) to \$237.7 million, as net outflows for direct investment—inclusive of reinvested earnings by banks—decreased significantly to \$45.1 million from \$150.1 million in the prior year. In a partial offset, ‘other’ net investment income outflows—inclusive of interest by banks, other companies and the Government—increased by \$27.5 million (50.1%) to \$82.4 million, while net remittances against portfolio investments outflows (Government external bond holdings) grew by \$5.9 million (5.1%) to \$121.2 million. Further, remittances of employees’ compensation rose by \$10.0 million (43.9%) to \$32.8 million.

The secondary income account deficit, which predominantly reflects net transfers, advanced to \$15.3 million from just \$3.5 million in the comparative 2022 period, as various non-financial corporations and households net payments more than doubled to \$42.5 million from \$19.3 million, a year earlier. In contrast, ‘other’ net current private transfers’ outflows reduced notably to \$6.5 million from \$21.6 million in 2022. In addition, general Government net inflows fell by \$3.6 million (9.6%) to \$33.7 million.

During the review quarter, similar to the preceding year, there were no estimated transfers, to the capital account—which comprised financial corporations, non-financial corporations, households, and non-financial institutions serving households (NPISHs).

The net financial inflows—denoting investments—increased sharply to an estimated \$254.0 million from \$37.8 million in the previous year. Contributing to this development, “other investments” transactions (mainly associated with institutional activities on public debt instruments) reversed to a net inflow of \$440.4 million from an outflow of \$0.6 million in the same period last year, reflective of a rise in private sector external deposits and external loan exposures. Underlying this outturn, loan transactions switched to a net inflow of \$124.6 million from a net outflow of \$61.4 million a year earlier, on account of net receipts by the Government. Further, net inflows from currency and deposits grew significantly to \$242.5 million from \$16.5 million in the preceding year, due to private sector inflows. In addition, net inflows from “other” private sector related accounts receivable/payable rose by \$38.1 million to \$65.4 million. By contrast, estimated net inflows under IMF SDRs allocations decreased by \$9.1 million (53.4%) to \$8.0 million, explained by valuation adjustments. In other financial account components, net direct investment inflows reduced considerably to \$11.4 million from \$227.3 million, as net receipts from equity and investment fund shares fell sharply to \$39.3 million from \$275.8 million in the prior year, which overshadowed the reduction in payments related to debt securities, to \$27.9 million from \$48.5 million in

2022. In addition, net portfolio investments outflows increased by \$8.9 million (4.7%) to \$197.8 million, led by a rise in net holdings of external Governments' debt securities, by \$60.9 million (26.8%) to \$288.1 million, which outstripped the reduced net holdings in equity and investment fund shares, to \$90.3 million from \$38.4 million last year.

In line with these developments, and after adjusting for net errors and omissions, the deficit in reserve assets, which corresponds to the change in the Central Bank's external reserves, reduced considerably to \$63.9 million from \$587.4 million in fourth quarter of 2022.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

During the final quarter of 2023, the global economy sustained its positive growth momentum, despite the ongoing geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Against this backdrop, labour market conditions continued to improve, while inflationary pressures moderated. In this environment, the major central banks retained their monetary policy tightening stances, in an attempt to reduce inflation and support economic growth.

Real economic growth slowed for most of the major economies during the review quarter. Specifically, in the United States, the expansion in real GDP moderated to an annualized rate of 3.3% during the fourth quarter, from the 4.9% in the previous quarter, underpinned by a tapering in the gains in private inventory investment, Federal Government spending, residential fixed investment, consumer spending and imports. Further, in the United Kingdom, real output contracted by 0.3%, extending the 0.1% falloff in the prior quarter. Similarly, Japan's real GDP fell by 0.1%, albeit a moderation from the 0.8% falloff in the preceding quarter, reflective of decreases in private demand and private residential investment. Conversely, China's real output growth strengthened to an annualized rate of 5.2% from 4.9% in the third quarter, largely reflecting gains in the industrial and services sectors. Meanwhile, in the euro area, real GDP registered a flat outturn, following a 0.1% decline in the prior quarter.

Labour market conditions improved for the major economies during the fourth quarter. In particular, in the United States, non-farm payroll increased by 216,000, attributed to gains in Government, health care, social assistance and construction; while, the unemployment rate stabilized at an average rate of 3.7% during the review quarter. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, the jobless rate decreased to 3.8% from 4.2% in the previous quarter. Likewise, in the euro area, the unemployment rate narrowed by 10 basis points to 6.4%. In Asian countries, China's unemployment rate declined by 10 basis points to 5.1% in the fourth quarter, while Japan's jobless rate narrowed by 30 basis points to 2.4%.

Inflationary pressures moderated for the major economies. Specifically, in the United States, the annualized inflation rate slowed to 3.4% in December, from 3.7% in the previous quarter, led by lower food and shelter costs. In the United Kingdom, the annual inflation rate also declined to 4.2% in the review quarter, from 6.3% in the third quarter, on account of decreases in the costs for food and non-alcoholic beverages. Similarly, the euro area's annualized inflation rate narrowed to 2.9% from 4.3% in the prior quarter, attributed to reductions in food, services and energy prices. In Asia, Japan's consumer prices eased to an annualized rate of 2.6% in December, from the 3.0% recorded in the third quarter. Further, China's year-on-year inflation rate fell to 0.3% in the review quarter, after a flat outturn in the preceding quarter.

In foreign market developments, the United States' dollar depreciated against all of the major currencies, amid the recovery in the economy and lower inflation. Specifically, the dollar weakened against the Swiss Franc, by

8.1% to CHF0.84; the Japanese yen, by 5.6% to ¥141.04; and the British pound by 4.2% to £0.79. Further, the dollar decreased vis-à-vis the Canadian dollar, by 2.5% to CAD\$1.32; the euro, by 4.2% to €0.91; and the Chinese Renminbi, by 2.7% to CNY7.10.

The major equity markets recorded mostly positive developments during the review quarter. In particular, in the United States, the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average increased by 11.2% and by 12.5%, respectively. Further, in Germany, the DAX strengthened by 8.9%, while Japan's Nikkei rose by 5.0%. The United Kingdom's FTSE also moved higher by 1.7%. In an offset, France's CAC 40 and China's SE composite decreased by 7.9% and by 4.4%, respectively.

In the commodities market, reflective of lower global oil prices, the cost of crude oil reduced by 9.7% to \$78.42 per barrel during the fourth quarter. In contrast, in the precious metals market, the average price of gold grew by 11.6% to \$2,062.98 per troy ounce, and silver, by 7.3% to \$23.80 per troy ounce over the three-month period.

Movements in the major economies' external balances varied during the fourth quarter. Specifically, in the United States, the trade deficit narrowed by \$17.4 billion (8.4%) to \$189.7 billion, relative to the previous quarter, on account of 1.6% increase in exports, combined with a 0.6% falloff in imports. Further, in the euro area, the trade surplus expanded by \$1.2 billion (2.6%) to \$48.2 billion, as the 16.6% reduction in imports outpaced the 5.0% falloff in exports. Conversely, the United Kingdom's trade deficit widened by £6.2 billion to £14.9 billion, explained by a 5.6% decrease in exports, along with a 0.6% rise in imports. In addition, in Asia, China's trade surplus contracted by \$26.4 billion (11.6%) to \$200.2 billion, in comparison to the prior quarter, explained by a 4.8% growth in imports, which overshadowed the 0.5% increase in exports. Further, the trade deficit in Japan advanced to ¥1,383.4 billion from ¥943.8 billion, in the prior quarter, owing to a 10.5% expansion in imports, which outweighed the 3.7% gain in exports.

In an effort to reduce inflation and encourage economic growth, all of the major central banks sustained their monetary policy tightening stances during the fourth quarter. Specifically, the United States' Federal Reserve maintained its target range for the Federal funds rate at 5.25%-5.50%, vis-à-vis the prior quarter. Further, the Federal Reserve continued with the reduction in the holding of Treasury securities and agency debt, as well as mortgage-backed securities. Likewise, the Bank of England left its main policy rate at 5.25%, while reducing the Government bond purchase programme by £100 billion. Similarly, the European Central bank retained its key interest rates on main refinancing operations at 4.50%, the marginal lending facility at 4.75%, and the deposit facility at 4.00%. The Bank's asset purchase programme (APP) also continued to decline, due to the discontinuation of reinvestments of principle payments for maturing securities. Meanwhile, in Asia, the Bank of Japan left its policy rate at -0.1%, while the People's Bank of China kept its reverse repo rate at 1.8%, and conducted reverse repo operations during the review quarter, in an attempt to stabilize banking system liquidity levels.

STATISTICAL APPENDIX (TABLES I-I6)

**TABLE 1
FINANCIAL SURVEY**

Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
(B\$ Millions)											
Net foreign assets	1,790.7	2,141.9	2,337.5	2,984.7	3,269.5	3,258.0	2,473.2	2,536.6	2,623.8	2,373.1	2,329.4
Central Bank	1,758.1	2,382.2	2,432.8	3,001.6	3,235.8	3,199.7	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,516.8
Domestic Banks	32.6	(240.2)	(95.2)	(16.9)	33.6	58.4	(137.8)	(131.5)	(73.9)	(203.7)	(187.3)
Net domestic assets	5,497.7	5,209.0	5,641.9	5,353.2	5,461.4	5,531.5	6,501.4	6,473.8	6,626.6	6,716.5	6,791.1
Domestic credit	8,957.1	8,614.4	8,929.0	8,640.4	8,646.5	8,682.8	9,312.5	9,264.3	9,423.9	9,547.9	9,609.4
Public sector	3,065.5	2,848.3	3,248.3	3,000.9	3,037.5	3,047.8	3,557.0	3,515.5	3,624.1	3,717.3	3,750.3
Government (net)	2,620.9	2,524.4	2,933.1	2,686.2	2,685.0	2,695.4	3,209.6	3,170.7	3,285.2	3,381.8	3,424.1
Rest of public sector	444.6	323.8	315.2	314.7	352.5	352.4	347.4	344.8	339.0	335.6	326.2
Private sector	5,891.6	5,766.1	5,680.7	5,639.5	5,609.0	5,634.9	5,755.5	5,748.8	5,799.8	5,830.6	5,859.1
Other items (net)	(3,459.4)	(3,405.4)	(3,287.1)	(3,287.2)	(3,185.1)	(3,151.3)	(2,811.2)	(2,790.4)	(2,797.2)	(2,831.4)	(2,818.4)
Monetary liabilities	7,892.8	7,864.2	8,220.3	8,586.0	8,982.1	9,046.5	8,983.3	9,014.5	9,245.7	9,076.7	9,103.6
Money	3,248.4	3,472.1	3,715.5	4,017.8	4,288.6	4,274.2	4,296.8	4,257.2	4,363.4	4,290.7	4,318.8
Currency	336.8	373.0	385.9	382.6	393.4	405.1	422.8	425.7	430.3	428.0	430.9
Demand deposits	2,911.6	3,099.1	3,329.6	3,635.2	3,895.2	3,869.1	3,874.0	3,831.5	3,933.1	3,862.7	3,887.9
Quasi-money	4,644.4	4,392.1	4,504.8	4,568.2	4,693.4	4,772.3	4,686.5	4,757.2	4,882.3	4,785.9	4,784.8
Fixed deposits	2,419.6	2,245.2	2,172.2	2,160.4	2,132.2	2,104.7	2,073.9	2,078.7	2,055.2	2,045.0	2,022.6
Savings deposits	1,637.0	1,788.4	1,885.0	1,947.4	2,030.8	2,050.4	2,089.0	2,172.3	2,234.9	2,233.7	2,261.7
Foreign currency	587.9	358.5	447.7	460.4	530.4	617.2	523.6	506.2	592.3	507.3	500.5
(percentage changes)											
Total domestic credit	0.5	(3.8)	3.7	(3.2)	0.1	0.4	7.3	(0.5)	1.7	1.3	0.6
Public sector	1.3	(7.1)	14.0	(7.6)	1.2	0.3	16.7	(1.2)	3.1	2.6	0.9
Government (net)	3.2	(3.7)	16.2	(8.4)	(0.0)	0.4	19.1	(1.2)	3.6	2.9	1.3
Rest of public sector	(8.5)	(27.2)	(2.7)	(0.2)	12.0	(0.0)	(1.4)	(0.7)	(1.7)	(1.0)	(2.8)
Private sector	0.1	(2.1)	(1.5)	(0.7)	(0.5)	0.5	2.1	(0.1)	0.9	0.5	0.5
Monetary liabilities	11.0	(0.4)	4.6	4.4	4.6	0.7	(0.7)	0.3	2.6	(1.8)	0.3
Money	19.1	6.9	7.2	8.1	6.7	(0.3)	0.5	(0.9)	2.5	(1.7)	0.7
Currency	8.5	10.8	5.3	(0.8)	2.8	2.9	4.3	0.7	1.1	(0.5)	0.7
Demand deposits	20.4	6.4	7.4	9.2	7.2	(0.7)	0.1	(1.1)	2.7	(1.8)	0.7
Quasi-money	6.0	(5.4)	2.6	1.4	2.7	1.7	(1.8)	1.5	2.6	(2.0)	(0.0)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 2
MONETARY SURVEY

Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
(B\$ Millions)											
Net foreign assets	2,133.1	2,520.0	2,680.0	3,340.7	3,641.4	3,649.2	2,869.3	2,919.2	3,028.8	2,783.0	2,745.5
Central Bank	1,758.1	2,382.2	2,432.8	3,001.6	3,235.8	3,199.7	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,516.8
Commercial banks	375.0	137.9	247.2	339.2	405.6	449.5	258.3	251.0	331.0	206.3	228.8
Net domestic assets	5,682.1	5,235.6	5,539.8	5,247.5	5,338.9	5,398.3	6,349.2	6,319.3	6,449.8	6,529.1	6,592.1
Domestic credit	8,898.8	8,546.6	8,884.5	8,597.9	8,592.7	8,600.4	9,209.0	9,173.8	9,320.9	9,431.6	9,482.3
Public sector	3,050.1	2,835.1	3,248.2	3,000.7	3,037.4	3,047.5	3,557.0	3,515.5	3,624.0	3,717.2	3,750.2
Government (net)	2,605.5	2,511.2	2,933.1	2,686.2	2,685.0	2,695.2	3,209.6	3,170.7	3,285.1	3,381.7	3,424.0
Rest of public sector	444.6	323.8	315.1	314.5	352.4	352.3	347.3	344.8	339.0	335.5	326.2
Private sector	5,848.6	5,711.6	5,636.3	5,597.1	5,555.3	5,552.8	5,652.0	5,658.3	5,696.9	5,714.4	5,732.0
Other items (net)	(3,216.7)	(3,311.0)	(3,344.7)	(3,350.3)	(3,253.8)	(3,202.1)	(2,859.9)	(2,854.5)	(2,871.1)	(2,902.5)	(2,890.2)
Monetary liabilities	7,814.3	7,754.6	8,211.9	8,580.7	8,972.6	9,040.2	8,977.8	9,007.9	9,238.0	9,071.5	9,096.9
Money	3,186.5	3,377.5	3,707.8	4,013.0	4,279.6	4,268.7	4,292.0	4,251.1	4,356.1	4,286.0	4,312.6
Currency	336.9	373.1	385.9	382.6	393.4	405.1	422.8	425.7	430.3	428.0	430.9
Demand deposits	2,849.6	3,004.4	3,321.9	3,630.4	3,886.2	3,863.6	3,869.2	3,825.4	3,925.8	3,858.0	3,881.7
Quasi-money	4,627.8	4,377.1	4,504.1	4,567.7	4,693.0	4,771.6	4,685.9	4,756.8	4,881.9	4,785.5	4,784.3
Savings deposits	1,637.0	1,788.4	1,885.0	1,947.4	2,030.8	2,050.4	2,089.0	2,172.3	2,234.9	2,233.7	2,261.7
Fixed deposits	2,408.3	2,230.8	2,172.2	2,160.4	2,132.2	2,104.7	2,073.9	2,078.7	2,055.2	2,045.0	2,022.6
Foreign currency deposits	582.5	357.9	446.9	459.9	529.9	616.5	522.9	505.8	591.8	506.9	500.1
(percentage change)											
Total domestic credit	0.4	(4.0)	4.0	(3.2)	(0.1)	0.1	7.1	(0.4)	1.6	1.2	0.5
Public sector	1.4	(7.1)	14.6	(7.6)	1.2	0.3	16.7	(1.2)	3.1	2.6	0.9
Government (net)	3.2	(3.6)	16.8	(8.4)	(0.0)	0.4	19.1	(1.2)	3.6	2.9	1.3
Rest of public sector	(8.4)	(27.2)	(2.7)	(0.2)	12.0	(0.0)	(1.4)	(0.7)	(1.7)	(1.0)	(2.8)
Private sector	(0.1)	(2.3)	(1.3)	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.0)	1.8	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.3
Monetary liabilities	11.0	(0.8)	6.0	4.5	4.6	0.8	(0.7)	0.3	2.6	(1.8)	0.3
Money	19.3	6.0	10.0	8.2	6.6	(0.3)	0.5	(0.9)	2.5	(1.6)	0.6
Currency	8.5	10.7	5.3	(0.9)	2.8	2.9	4.3	0.7	1.1	(0.5)	0.7
Demand deposits	20.7	5.4	10.6	9.3	7.0	(0.6)	0.1	(1.1)	2.6	(1.7)	0.6
Quasi-money	6.0	(5.4)	2.9	1.4	2.7	1.7	(1.8)	1.5	2.6	(2.0)	(0.0)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 3
CENTRAL BANK BALANCE SHEET

(BS Millions)

Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Net foreign assets	1,758.1	2,382.2	2,432.8	3,001.6	3,235.8	3,199.7	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,516.8
Balances with banks abroad	794.5	307.6	323.8	662.7	813.1	693.5	622.8	715.0	747.8	631.2	624.9
Foreign securities	779.8	1,867.6	1,663.1	1,887.2	1,998.4	2,093.6	1,795.2	1,759.7	1,760.1	1,759.9	1,704.8
Reserve position in the Fund	26.7	27.8	27.0	27.3	26.5	27.4	25.7	25.2	25.7	25.4	25.9
SDR holdings	157.1	179.2	418.9	424.3	397.9	385.2	167.3	168.2	164.2	160.3	161.2
Net domestic assets	145.4	(85.4)	192.7	(36.1)	66.6	184.1	481.0	462.2	443.4	493.2	571.7
Net claims on Government	395.9	172.8	457.9	280.1	365.9	434.6	790.6	772.6	805.0	801.7	887.5
Claims	460.4	252.5	620.9	532.7	512.5	505.2	882.9	871.4	869.3	876.7	948.5
Treasury bills	135.3	13.8	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	1.3	16.8	1.7	45.8
Bahamas registered stock	249.9	232.9	340.9	326.6	306.6	299.3	301.7	303.1	294.9	303.0	476.2
Loans and advances	75.2	5.8	266.1	206.0	205.9	205.9	569.5	566.9	557.6	572.0	426.5
Deposits	(64.4)	(79.7)	(163.0)	(252.5)	(146.6)	(70.6)	(92.3)	(98.8)	(64.4)	(75.0)	(61.0)
In local currency	(64.4)	(79.7)	(163.0)	(252.5)	(146.6)	(70.6)	(92.3)	(98.8)	(64.4)	(75.0)	(61.0)
In foreign currency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deposits of rest of public sector	(49.6)	(52.1)	(69.4)	(117.2)	(92.8)	(43.9)	(94.9)	(88.0)	(105.2)	(66.9)	(20.8)
Credit to commercial banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Official capital and surplus	(226.8)	(239.4)	(241.0)	(241.3)	(240.4)	(241.4)	(239.2)	(236.7)	(239.5)	(241.8)	(237.5)
Net unclassified assets	18.9	26.6	38.1	35.2	27.1	27.9	17.6	7.2	(23.6)	(6.7)	(64.5)
Loans to rest of public sector	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Public Corp Bonds/Securities	4.8	4.7	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3
Liabilities To Domestic Banks	(1,394.4)	(1,744.5)	(1,814.0)	(2,151.9)	(2,504.5)	(2,587.8)	(2,262.4)	(2,293.2)	(2,303.6)	(2,239.1)	(2,246.6)
Notes and coins	(151.5)	(173.3)	(170.9)	(138.2)	(136.7)	(134.0)	(177.8)	(121.2)	(121.2)	(134.0)	(177.8)
Deposits	(1,242.9)	(1,571.2)	(1,643.1)	(2,013.7)	(2,367.8)	(2,453.9)	(2,084.6)	(2,171.9)	(2,182.4)	(2,105.0)	(2,068.8)
SDR allocation	(172.3)	(179.2)	(418.9)	(424.3)	(397.8)	(384.1)	(400.1)	(404.8)	(400.6)	(396.2)	(404.2)
Currency held by the private sector	(336.8)	(373.0)	(385.9)	(382.6)	(393.4)	(405.1)	(422.8)	(425.7)	(430.3)	(428.0)	(430.9)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 4
DOMESTIC BANKS BALANCE SHEET

(BS Millions)

Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Net foreign assets	32.6	(240.2)	(95.2)	(16.9)	33.6	58.4	(137.8)	(131.5)	(73.9)	(203.7)	(187.3)
Net claims on Central Bank	1,395.3	1,745.5	1,815.0	2,152.8	2,505.4	2,571.1	2,263.3	2,286.6	2,301.6	2,228.4	2,247.5
Notes and Coins	151.5	173.3	170.9	138.2	136.7	134.0	177.8	121.2	121.2	134.0	177.8
Balances	1,243.8	1,572.1	1,644.1	2,014.6	2,368.6	2,437.1	2,085.5	2,165.3	2,180.4	2,094.3	2,069.7
Less Central Bank credit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net domestic assets	5,672.6	5,689.0	5,841.0	5,728.9	5,704.4	5,693.8	6,114.6	6,093.2	6,245.9	6,303.9	6,370.2
Net claims on Government	2,225.0	2,351.6	2,475.2	2,406.1	2,319.1	2,260.9	2,419.0	2,398.1	2,480.2	2,580.1	2,536.6
Treasury bills	771.9	830.2	939.8	956.8	755.2	752.9	849.1	843.5	860.1	935.3	965.2
Other securities	985.4	907.5	926.5	935.7	1,063.0	1,021.2	1,091.4	1,098.6	1,171.1	1,180.5	1,150.7
Loans and advances	688.8	906.5	820.8	734.3	725.8	724.4	710.9	696.3	676.2	696.8	650.1
Less: deposits	221.1	292.5	211.9	220.7	224.9	237.7	232.3	240.3	227.2	232.5	229.4
Net claims on rest of public sector	31.7	72.2	103.8	86.2	93.2	71.3	114.9	85.2	95.5	75.5	97.8
Securities	230.9	226.1	230.6	230.7	231.0	229.9	229.8	229.6	229.3	218.7	214.2
Loans and advances	206.6	91.0	77.4	76.9	114.7	115.7	110.6	108.3	102.7	109.9	105.0
Less: deposits	405.8	244.9	204.3	221.4	252.5	274.2	225.6	252.6	236.6	253.1	221.5
Other net claims	18.8	2.7	(0.7)	16.9	(0.1)	(4.4)	(0.0)	(3.4)	0.8	(0.0)	1.1
Credit to the private sector	5,891.6	5,766.1	5,680.7	5,639.5	5,609.0	5,634.9	5,755.5	5,748.8	5,799.8	5,830.6	5,859.1
Securities	26.0	21.1	52.9	53.0	61.5	58.7	60.0	60.1	69.2	69.0	68.8
Mortgages	2,912.2	2,886.8	2,838.9	2,844.3	2,835.1	2,866.7	2,956.6	2,934.5	2,935.4	2,926.4	2,933.5
Loans and advances	2,953.4	2,858.2	2,788.9	2,742.2	2,712.4	2,709.5	2,738.9	2,754.1	2,795.2	2,835.1	2,856.7
Private capital and surplus	(2,394.7)	(2,438.5)	(2,342.1)	(2,399.3)	(2,320.6)	(2,324.2)	(2,218.7)	(2,162.9)	(2,187.8)	(2,185.7)	(2,241.3)
Net unclassified assets	(99.8)	(65.2)	(75.9)	(20.5)	3.8	55.3	43.9	27.4	57.4	3.5	117.1
Liabilities to private sector	7,100.6	7,194.2	7,560.7	7,864.8	8,243.4	8,323.3	8,240.1	8,248.2	8,473.6	8,328.7	8,430.3
Demand deposits	3,116.5	3,199.1	3,509.2	3,760.4	4,082.5	4,158.1	4,057.0	3,971.1	4,131.8	3,999.8	4,088.1
Savings deposits	1,667.3	1,822.3	1,924.2	1,987.2	2,068.5	2,092.7	2,125.6	2,211.2	2,267.9	2,267.8	2,294.4
Fixed deposits	2,316.7	2,172.8	2,127.3	2,117.2	2,092.3	2,072.5	2,057.5	2,065.9	2,073.9	2,061.1	2,047.9

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

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

(B\$'000s)

Period	2020	2021	2022	2021	2022				2023		
				Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III
1. Interest Income	577,338	573,084	578,588	133,920	136,517	133,923	145,369	162,779	157,648	156,848	160,077
2. Interest Expense	38,512	40,060	36,870	10,062	9,368	9,388	9,066	9,048	9,121	9,143	9,377
3. Interest Margin (1-2)	538,826	533,024	541,718	123,858	127,149	124,535	136,303	153,731	148,527	147,705	150,700
4. Commission & Forex Income	41,209	50,545	58,154	14,338	13,417	15,306	13,785	15,646	15,552	16,492	16,821
5. Gross Earnings Margin (3+4)	580,035	583,569	599,872	138,196	140,566	139,841	150,088	169,377	164,079	164,197	167,521
6. Staff Costs	158,064	164,500	158,488	44,377	38,919	37,147	41,615	40,807	39,339	42,131	40,815
7. Occupancy Costs	15,834	15,191	13,138	3,897	3,024	3,229	2,525	4,360	3,419	2,402	2,380
8. Other Operating Costs	292,272	231,605	248,967	61,322	60,932	58,581	60,470	68,984	72,586	69,445	73,675
9. Operating Costs (6+7+8)	466,170	411,296	420,593	109,596	102,875	98,957	104,610	114,151	115,344	113,978	116,870
10. Net Earnings Margin (5-9)	113,865	172,273	179,279	28,600	37,691	40,884	45,478	55,226	48,735	50,219	50,651
11. Depreciation Costs	17,223	20,776	19,815	5,176	5,321	5,835	5,954	2,705	5,006	5,581	6,123
12. Provisions for Bad Debt	254,847	92,788	(15,807)	19,292	(17,791)	4,779	(20,935)	18,140	(3,759)	7,693	13,818
13. Other Income	150,436	196,008	221,701	62,938	52,932	53,638	55,310	59,821	60,194	61,967	63,254
14. Other Income (Net) (13-11-12)	(121,634)	82,444	217,693	38,470	65,402	43,024	70,291	38,976	58,947	58,934	58,934
15. Net Income (10+14)	(7,769)	254,717	396,972	67,070	103,093	83,908	115,769	94,202	107,682	109,153	109,585
16. Effective Interest Rate Spread (%)	6.95	6.89	6.86	6.52	6.48	6.68	7.16	7.12	7.60	7.48	7.36
(Ratios To Average Assets)											
Interest Margin	4.78	4.60	4.68	4.28	4.49	4.26	4.64	5.31	5.12	5.06	5.11
Commission & Forex Income	0.37	0.44	0.50	0.50	0.47	0.52	0.47	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.57
Gross Earnings Margin	5.15	5.04	5.18	4.77	4.96	4.79	5.11	5.85	5.65	5.62	5.68
Operating Costs	4.13	3.55	3.63	3.78	3.63	3.39	3.56	3.95	3.97	3.90	3.96
Net Earnings Margin	1.02	1.49	1.55	0.99	1.33	1.40	1.55	1.91	1.68	1.72	1.72
Net Income/Loss	(0.05)	2.20	3.43	2.32	3.64	2.87	3.94	3.26	3.71	3.74	3.72

*Commercial Banks and OLFIs with domestic operations

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 6
MONEY SUPPLY**

(B\$ Millions)

End of Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Money Supply (M1)	3,248.4	3,472.1	3,722.2	4,024.5	4,295.3	4,280.8	4,303.5	4,263.9	4,370.1	4,297.4	4,325.5
1) Currency in active circulation	336.8	373.0	392.6	389.3	400.1	411.8	429.5	432.4	437.0	434.7	437.6
2) Demand deposits	2,911.6	3,099.1	3,329.6	3,635.2	3,895.2	3,869.1	3,874.0	3,831.5	3,933.1	3,862.7	3,887.9
Central Bank	49.6	52.1	69.4	117.2	92.8	43.9	94.9	88.0	105.2	66.9	20.8
Domestic Banks	2,861.9	3,047.0	3,260.1	3,518.0	3,802.5	3,825.2	3,779.1	3,743.6	3,827.9	3,795.8	3,867.1
Factors affecting money (M1)											
1) Net credit to Government	2,620.9	2,524.4	2,933.1	2,686.2	2,685.0	2,695.4	3,209.6	3,170.7	3,285.2	3,381.8	3,424.1
Central Bank	395.9	172.8	457.9	280.1	365.9	434.6	790.6	772.6	805.0	801.7	887.5
Domestic banks	2,225.0	2,351.6	2,475.2	2,406.1	2,319.1	2,260.9	2,419.0	2,398.1	2,480.2	2,580.1	2,536.6
2) Other credit	6,336.2	6,090.0	5,995.9	5,954.2	5,961.5	5,987.3	6,102.9	6,093.6	6,138.7	6,166.1	6,185.3
Rest of public sector	444.6	323.8	315.2	314.7	352.5	352.4	347.4	344.8	339.0	335.6	326.2
Private sector	5,891.6	5,766.1	5,680.7	5,639.5	5,609.0	5,634.9	5,755.5	5,748.8	5,799.8	5,830.6	5,859.1
3) External reserves	1,758.1	2,382.2	2,432.8	3,001.6	3,235.8	3,199.7	2,611.0	2,668.2	2,697.7	2,576.8	2,516.8
4) Other external liabilities (net)	32.6	(240.2)	(95.2)	(16.9)	33.6	58.4	(137.8)	(131.5)	(73.9)	(203.7)	(187.3)
5) Quasi money	4,644.4	4,392.1	4,504.8	4,568.2	4,693.4	4,772.3	4,686.5	4,757.2	4,882.3	4,785.9	4,784.8
6) Other items (net)	(3,459.4)	(3,405.4)	(3,287.1)	(3,287.2)	(3,185.1)	(3,151.3)	(2,811.2)	(2,790.4)	(2,797.2)	(2,831.4)	(2,818.4)

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

TABLE 7
CONSUMER INSTALMENT CREDIT

(B\$' 000)

End of Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
CREDIT OUTSTANDING											
Private cars	135,786	129,299	118,391	116,969	115,835	116,325	120,196	127,489	134,800	142,204	153,231
Taxis & rented cars	1,028	892	660	733	777	819	932	910	840	1,075	855
Commercial vehicles	1,156	1,024	987	1,016	932	814	872	956	891	859	903
Furnishings & domestic appliances	9,246	8,911	9,831	10,176	10,685	11,369	12,509	13,387	13,757	13,918	14,714
Travel	65,037	63,654	57,203	57,040	56,754	54,614	52,997	51,394	49,561	48,681	48,175
Education	39,976	37,150	35,702	34,775	34,556	33,565	31,476	30,504	28,723	28,699	27,626
Medical	11,873	11,384	12,038	11,963	12,222	11,532	11,131	11,526	11,353	11,371	11,526
Home Improvements	101,255	98,358	100,202	96,622	94,884	92,436	92,212	92,348	92,659	90,743	90,023
Land Purchases	131,400	127,176	134,991	131,163	130,128	127,981	127,593	124,780	124,406	125,539	127,073
Consolidation of debt	908,422	902,968	857,664	834,995	822,676	803,336	786,721	779,094	767,232	756,164	746,805
Miscellaneous	530,172	528,391	489,727	480,712	483,945	478,735	479,450	483,100	499,802	504,498	511,140
Credit Cards	272,999	245,397	217,121	215,366	217,032	215,553	221,336	221,883	222,508	229,689	236,395
TOTAL	2,208,350	2,154,604	2,034,517	1,991,530	1,980,426	1,947,079	1,937,425	1,937,371	1,946,532	1,953,440	1,968,466
NET CREDIT EXTENDED											
Private cars	(10,500)	(6,487)	(10,908)	(1,422)	(1,134)	490	3,871	7,293	7,311	7,404	11,027
Taxis & rented cars	80	(136)	(232)	73	44	42	113	(22)	(70)	235	(220)
Commercial vehicles	120	(132)	(37)	29	(84)	(118)	58	84	(65)	(32)	44
Furnishings & domestic appliances	1,041	(335)	920	345	509	684	1,140	878	370	161	796
Travel	14,165	(1,383)	(6,451)	(163)	(286)	(2,140)	(1,617)	(1,603)	(1,833)	(880)	(506)
Education	(3,091)	(2,826)	(1,448)	(927)	(219)	(991)	(2,089)	(972)	(1,781)	(24)	(1,073)
Medical	(900)	(489)	654	(75)	259	(690)	(401)	395	(173)	18	155
Home Improvements	(767)	(2,897)	1,844	(3,580)	(1,738)	(2,448)	(224)	136	311	(1,916)	(720)
Land Purchases	(7,693)	(4,224)	7,815	(3,828)	(1,035)	(2,147)	(388)	(2,813)	(374)	1,133	1,534
Consolidation of debt	(13,716)	(5,454)	(45,304)	(22,669)	(12,319)	(19,340)	(16,615)	(7,627)	(11,862)	(11,068)	(9,359)
Miscellaneous	(11,547)	(1,781)	(38,664)	(9,015)	3,233	(5,210)	715	3,650	16,702	4,696	6,642
Credit Cards	23,930	(27,602)	(28,276)	(1,755)	1,666	(1,479)	5,783	547	625	7,181	6,706
TOTAL	(8,878)	(53,746)	(120,087)	(42,987)	(11,104)	(33,347)	(9,654)	(54)	9,161	6,908	15,026

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

**TABLE 8
SELECTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATES**

Period	(%)										
	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
DOMESTIC BANKS											
Deposit rates											
Demand deposits	0.36	0.59	0.66	0.46	0.69	0.36	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.25
Savings deposits	0.38	0.44	0.40	0.47	0.50	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28
Fixed deposits											
Up to 3 months	0.35	0.28	0.27	0.26	0.31	0.28	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.25
Up to 6 months	0.56	0.41	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.39	0.26	0.33	0.32	0.35	0.30
Up to 12 months	0.68	0.66	0.75	0.56	0.45	0.51	0.49	0.55	0.54	0.57	0.49
Over 12 months	0.90	0.86	1.21	1.05	1.03	0.72	1.19	1.25	1.06	0.91	0.96
Weighted average rate	0.57	0.45	0.52	0.52	0.48	0.47	0.52	0.63	0.49	0.52	0.51
Lending rates											
Residential mortgages	4.91	5.26	5.14	5.24	5.29	5.21	5.16	5.14	5.19	5.23	5.14
Commercial mortgages	6.52	7.22	6.03	7.33	5.25	7.08	7.08	6.38	6.32	6.17	6.67
Consumer loans	12.86	12.52	12.34	12.94	12.95	13.08	12.87	12.69	12.78	13.15	12.98
Overdrafts	10.43	9.84	10.21	11.07	10.78	10.68	11.28	10.77	10.60	10.67	10.47
Weighted average rate	10.46	10.39	10.02	10.63	11.21	11.01	11.20	10.88	11.08	11.10	11.02
Other rates											
Prime rate*	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25
Avg. Treasury bill	1.61	1.78	2.51	2.87	2.89	2.89	2.88	2.89	2.91	2.91	2.91
Avg. Treasury bill re-discount rate	2.14	2.26	3.14	3.36	3.39	3.39	3.38	3.39	3.41	3.41	3.41
Bank rate (discount rate)*	4.00	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	(%)										
	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
Loan Portfolio											
Current Loans (as a % of total private sector loans)	87.9	86.2	85.8	86.4	87.3	88.2	88.6	89.1	89.3	89.7	89.7
Arrears (% by loan type)											
Consumer	3.5	4.1	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7
Mortgage	7.5	8.7	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.3	7.1	6.8	6.6	6.3	6.4
Commercial	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2
Total Arrears	<u>12.1</u>	<u>13.8</u>	<u>14.2</u>	<u>13.6</u>	<u>12.7</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>11.4</u>	<u>10.9</u>	<u>10.7</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>10.3</u>
Total B\$ Loan Portfolio	<u>100.0</u>										
Loan Portfolio											
Current Loans (as a % of total private sector loans)	87.9	86.2	85.8	86.4	87.3	88.2	88.6	89.1	89.3	89.7	89.7
Arrears (% by days outstanding)											
30 - 60 days	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.3
61 - 90 days	1.5	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
90 - 179 days	1.1	1.9	2.8	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.9
over 180 days	6.9	6.6	6.8	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.7
Total Arrears	<u>12.1</u>	<u>13.8</u>	<u>14.2</u>	<u>13.6</u>	<u>12.8</u>	<u>11.8</u>	<u>11.4</u>	<u>10.9</u>	<u>10.7</u>	<u>10.3</u>	<u>10.3</u>
Total B\$ Loan Portfolio	<u>100.0</u>										
Non Accrual Loans (% by loan type)											
Consumer	25.5	30.7	38.7	36.1	33.8	30.4	27.3	28.1	27.5	26.3	26.5
Mortgage	63.5	60.7	52.1	54.6	54.7	58.6	61.7	61.2	60.1	60.2	60.9
Other Private	11.0	8.6	9.2	9.3	11.6	11.0	11.0	10.7	12.4	13.5	12.7
Total Non Accrual Loans	<u>100.0</u>										
Provisions to Loan Portfolio											
Consumer	7.0	10.5	10.7	9.8	9.3	8.2	7.9	6.8	6.6	6.5	3.3
Mortgage	8.1	10.0	9.2	9.2	9.0	8.5	7.9	8.0	7.9	7.4	3.4
Other Private	7.1	10.5	6.8	7.2	6.1	6.0	3.8	3.7	3.3	2.2	1.3
Total Provisions to Total Private Sector Loans	7.5	10.3	9.4	9.1	8.6	8.0	7.2	6.8	6.6	6.2	6.1
Total Provisions to Non-performing Loans	93.8	121.2	97.1	97.9	95.6	98.4	93.2	91.3	89.4	90.4	91.3
Total Non-performing Loans to Total Private Sector Loans	8.0	8.5	9.6	9.3	9.0	8.1	7.7	7.5	7.4	6.8	6.6

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

TABLE 10
SUMMARY OF BANK LIQUIDITY

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2019	2020	2021	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
I. Statutory Reserves											
Required reserves	349.6	371.3	372.8	378.2	403.1	405.9	411.8	403.1	407.8	412.6	405.2
Average Till Cash	129.8	146.4	149.5	132.3	138.5	139.9	160.5	128.3	127.5	141.5	163.5
Average balance with central bank	1,181.3	1,579.0	1,683.1	1,898.8	2,304.1	2,463.1	2,179.8	2,200.6	2,205.7	2,139.9	2,074.3
Free cash reserves (period ended)	961.5	1,354.2	1,387.9	1,652.8	2,039.5	2,197.0	1,928.4	1,925.7	1,925.3	1,868.8	1,832.6
II. Liquid Assets (period)											
A. Minimum Required Liquid Assets	1,247.1	1,301.1	1,344.3	1,396.2	1,452.9	1,461.4	1,458.3	1,466.3	1,481.2	1,486.6	1,493.2
B. Net Eligible Liquid Assets	3,214.5	3,531.6	3,722.9	4,103.4	4,365.4	4,383.1	4,244.3	4,264.4	4,371.8	4,372.7	4,388.2
i) Balance with Central Bank	1,243.8	1,572.1	1,644.1	2,014.6	2,368.6	2,437.1	2,085.5	2,165.3	2,180.4	2,094.3	2,069.7
ii) Notes and Coins	152.0	173.8	171.4	138.7	137.2	134.5	178.3	121.7	121.7	134.5	178.3
iii) Treasury Bills	771.9	830.2	939.8	956.8	755.2	752.9	849.1	843.5	860.1	935.3	965.2
iv) Government registered stocks	985.4	907.5	926.5	935.7	1,063.0	1,021.2	1,091.4	1,098.6	1,171.1	1,180.5	1,150.7
v) Specified assets	49.7	49.6	40.5	40.5	40.5	40.4	40.3	39.2	38.7	28.0	23.5
vi) Net Inter-bank dem/call deposits	11.7	(1.5)	0.8	17.1	0.9	(3.1)	(0.3)	(3.9)	(0.2)	(0.0)	0.9
vii) Less: borrowings from central bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. Surplus/(Deficit)	1,967.5	2,230.5	2,378.6	2,707.3	2,912.5	2,921.6	2,786.0	2,798.1	2,890.6	2,886.1	2,894.9

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.

**TABLE 11
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND FINANCING**

Period	(B\$ Millions)										
	2021/22p	2022/23p	Budget		2021/22p		2022/23p				2023/24p
			2022/23	2023/24	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I
Total Revenue & Grants	2,605.7	2,855.8	2,804.3	3,319.0	711.7	760.3	654.7	603.6	820.7	776.8	698.5
Current expenditure	3,043.6	3,061.8	2,997.2	3,085.5	710.2	1,022.1	621.3	797.0	716.5	927.0	657.7
Capital expenditure	283.8	327.4	371.1	364.6	56.4	123.7	55.3	62.5	76.1	133.5	64.0
Overall balance	(721.7)	(533.4)	(564.0)	(131.1)	(54.9)	(385.5)	(21.9)	(255.9)	28.1	(283.7)	(23.2)
FINANCING (I+II-III+IV+V)	721.7	533.4	564.0	131.1	54.9	385.5	21.9	255.9	(28.1)	283.7	23.2
I. Foreign currency borrowing (+)	1,020.7	687.3	124.8	85.9	606.7	390.3	47.7	257.8	117.1	264.6	0.0
External	953.9	455.0	124.8	85.9	539.8	390.3	47.7	25.5	117.1	264.6	0.05
Domestic	66.8	232.3	-	-	66.8	-	-	232.3	-	-	-
II. Bahamian dollar borrowing (+)	2,016.2	2,301.7	1,716.0	2,112.8	415.2	526.5	353.8	762.8	611.3	573.9	617.8
i) Treasury bills	308.8	114.3	-	-	0.6	35.5	30.6	41.5	32.4	9.8	145.3
ii) Long-term securities	712.4	822.9	-	-	149.6	286.0	118.2	344.2	128.8	231.6	120.9
iii) Loans and Advances	995.0	1,364.5	-	-	265.0	205.0	205.0	377.0	450.0	332.5	351.5
III. Debt repayment(-)	2,145.0	2,537.1	1,276.7	2,067.6	805.7	628.4	387.8	798.1	673.7	677.4	651.5
Domestic	1,854.4	2,074.8	790.7	1,195.0	656.0	530.3	348.2	603.8	548.8	573.9	495.0
Bahamian dollars	1,715.6	2,052.3	782.4	937.1	525.6	526.1	344.7	596.1	545.3	566.2	491.5
Foreign currency	138.8	22.4	8.3	257.9	130.4	4.2	3.5	7.7	3.5	7.7	3.5
External	290.7	462.3	486.0	872.6	149.7	98.1	39.6	194.3	124.9	103.5	156.5
IV. Net acquisition financial assets (-)	(66.3)	(226.5)	(46.5)	(59.8)	(13.3)	(26.4)	(10.0)	(40.0)	(90.0)	(86.5)	(8.9)
V. Cash balance change & other financing	(103.8)	308.0	46.5	59.8	(148.0)	123.5	18.2	73.4	7.3	209.1	65.8

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

**TABLE 12
NATIONAL DEBT**

(BS '000s)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2022				2023			
				Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
TOTAL EXTERNAL DEBT	4,344,312	4,843,469	5,029,777	4,732,828	4,997,059	4,975,350	4,843,469	4,846,426	5,004,837	4,839,164	5,029,777
By Instrument											
Government Securities	2,475,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,475,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000
Loans	1,869,312	1,983,469	2,169,777	2,257,828	2,137,059	2,115,350	1,983,469	1,986,426	2,144,837	1,979,164	2,169,777
By Holder											
Commercial Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	1,121,304	1,124,313	1,324,067	1,115,982	1,104,616	1,096,264	1,124,313	1,133,607	1,383,577	1,345,762	1,324,067
Bilateral Institutions	66,099	54,742	47,205	62,916	59,541	53,085	54,742	51,850	49,133	45,924	47,205
Private Capital Markets	2,475,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,475,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000	2,860,000
Other Financial Institutions	681,909	804,414	798,506	1,078,930	972,902	966,001	804,414	800,969	712,127	587,478	798,506
TOTAL INTERNAL DEBT	5,973,545	6,192,962	6,398,188	5,799,571	5,795,748	5,801,346	6,192,962	6,257,898	6,255,226	6,375,321	6,398,188
By Instrument											
Foreign Currency	176,273	329,934	309,408	112,648	108,482	104,961	329,934	328,928	318,590	312,430	309,408
Government Securities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans	176,273	329,934	309,408	112,648	108,482	104,961	329,934	328,928	318,590	312,430	309,408
Bahamian Dollars	5,797,272	5,863,028	6,088,780	5,686,923	5,687,266	5,696,385	5,863,028	5,928,970	5,936,636	6,062,891	6,088,780
Advances	265,000	335,000	192,046	205,000	205,000	205,000	335,000	332,500	323,146	337,546	192,046
Treasury Bills	1,122,465	1,005,965	1,200,751	1,086,405	933,864	964,447	1,005,965	996,542	1,006,364	1,130,710	1,200,751
Government Securities	3,924,682	4,169,631	4,399,684	3,939,588	4,124,588	4,137,325	4,169,631	4,198,567	4,238,503	4,260,838	4,399,684
Loans	485,125	352,432	296,299	455,930	423,814	389,613	352,432	401,361	368,623	333,797	296,299
By Holder											
Foreign Currency	176,273	97,273	74,855	112,648	108,482	104,961	97,273	93,752	86,064	82,543	74,855
Commercial Banks	176,273	97,273	74,855	112,648	108,482	104,961	97,273	93,752	86,064	82,543	74,855
Other Local Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahamian Dollars	5,797,272	5,863,028	6,088,780	5,686,923	5,687,266	5,696,385	5,863,028	5,928,970	5,936,635	6,062,890	6,088,780
The Central Bank	617,057	646,161	708,377	529,683	508,758	502,914	646,161	635,160	615,103	640,021	708,377
Commercial Banks	2,336,603	2,283,278	2,393,530	2,332,523	2,225,448	2,150,373	2,283,278	2,336,593	2,394,635	2,427,338	2,393,530
Other Local Financial Institutions	1,085	-	-	1,085	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Corporations	518,866	507,942	505,522	521,664	593,881	588,888	507,942	513,603	469,056	498,395	505,522
Other	2,323,661	2,425,647	2,481,351	2,301,968	2,359,179	2,454,210	2,425,647	2,443,614	2,457,841	2,497,136	2,481,351
TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT	4,520,585	4,940,742	5,104,632	4,845,476	5,105,541	5,080,311	4,940,742	4,940,178	5,090,901	4,921,707	5,104,632
TOTAL DIRECT CHARGE	10,317,857	11,036,431	11,427,965	10,532,399	10,792,807	10,776,696	11,036,431	11,104,324	11,260,063	11,214,485	11,427,965
TOTAL CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	399,116	390,203	350,904	397,384	394,862	392,005	390,203	390,618	389,648	358,380	350,904
TOTAL NATIONAL DEBT	10,716,973	11,426,634	11,778,869	10,929,783	11,187,669	11,168,701	11,426,634	11,494,942	11,649,711	11,572,865	11,778,869

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	2021	2022	2023	2022				2023			
				Mar.*	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.	Mar.	Jun.	Sept.	Dec.
Outstanding Debt at Beginning of Period	4,784,042	5,032,833	5,652,483	5,032,833	5,351,089	5,602,735	5,569,712	5,652,483	5,644,933	5,780,675	5,598,084
Government	4,211,800	4,520,585	5,173,402	4,520,585	4,845,476	5,105,541	5,080,310	5,173,402	5,175,354	5,323,427	5,151,594
Public Corporations	572,242	512,248	479,081	512,248	505,613	497,194	489,402	479,081	469,579	457,248	446,490
Plus: New Drawings	409,730	1,306,322	878,160	607,588	391,267	48,684	258,783	117,116	264,643	47	496,354
Government	406,201	1,302,519	878,160	606,663	390,325	47,725	257,806	117,116	264,643	47	496,354
Public corporations	3,529	3,803	-	925	942	959	977	-	-	-	-
Less: Amortization	154,364	664,487	776,420	287,705	111,631	51,832	213,319	137,944	123,511	170,788	344,177
Government	90,841	627,516	731,273	280,145	102,270	43,080	202,021	128,442	111,180	160,030	331,621
Public corporations	63,523	36,971	45,147	7,560	9,361	8,752	11,298	9,502	12,331	10,758	12,556
Other Changes in Debt Stock	(6,575)	(22,186)	18,896	(1,627)	(27,989)	(29,877)	37,307	13,278	(5,389)	(11,851)	22,858
Government	(6,575)	(22,186)	18,896	(1,627)	(27,989)	(29,877)	37,307	13,278	(5,389)	(11,851)	22,858
Public corporations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding Debt at End of Period	5,032,833	5,652,482	5,773,119	5,351,089	5,602,736	5,569,710	5,652,483	5,644,933	5,780,676	5,598,083	5,773,119
Government	4,520,585	5,173,402	5,339,185	4,845,476	5,105,542	5,080,309	5,173,402	5,175,354	5,323,428	5,151,593	5,339,185
Public corporations	512,248	479,080	433,934	505,613	497,194	489,401	479,081	469,579	457,248	446,490	433,934
Interest Charges	271,496	374,941	370,937	33,955	168,847	45,045	127,094	51,876	129,567	54,383	135,111
Government	237,267	341,180	336,165	26,177	160,270	36,713	118,020	43,373	120,627	46,175	125,990
Public corporations	34,229	33,761	34,772	7,778	8,577	8,332	9,074	8,503	8,940	8,208	9,121
Debt Service	425,860	1,039,428	1,147,357	321,660	280,478	96,877	340,413	189,820	253,078	225,171	479,288
Government	328,108	968,696	1,067,438	306,322	262,540	79,793	320,041	171,815	231,807	206,205	457,611
Public corporations	97,752	70,732	79,919	15,338	17,938	17,084	20,372	18,005	21,271	18,966	21,677
Debt Service ratio	12.8	19.1	19.2	12.7	16.9	7.2	27.0	12.8	15.0	16.0	34.7
Government Debt Service/ Government Revenue (%)	13.9	35.5	n.a.	18.9	34.5	12.2	53.0	20.9	29.8	29.5	n.a.
MEMORANDUM											
Holder distribution (B\$ Mil):											
Commercial Banks	279.1	188.5	147.6	213.4	207.1	200.2	188.5	180.9	168.4	160.1	147.6
The Central Bank	-	232.7	234.6	-	-	-	232.7	235.2	232.5	229.9	234.6
Offshore Financial Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Multilateral Institutions	1,184.1	1,182.5	1,377.6	1,178.5	1,165.1	1,156.5	1,182.5	1,191.5	1,439.4	1,401.4	1,337.6
Bilateral Institutions	66.1	54.7	47.2	62.9	59.5	53.1	54.7	51.9	49.1	45.9	47.2
Other	1,028.6	1,134.1	1,106.1	1,421.3	1,311.1	1,299.9	1,134.1	1,125.5	1,031.2	900.8	1,106.1
Private Capital Markets	2,475.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,475.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0	2,860.0

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

*Debt servicing during the 1st quarter of 2022 includes the refinancing of \$171.8 million in Government's foreign currency debt (\$171.8M of a \$246.0M facility refinanced). The Debt Service and Government Debt Service/Revenue Ratios are presented net of this transaction.

**TABLE 14
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUMMARY***

(B\$ Millions)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2022				2023			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
A. Current Account Balance (I+II+III+IV)	(2,434.0)	(1,056.0)	(1,031.1)	(200.1)	(54.9)	(147.7)	(653.3)	(150.0)	(54.0)	(343.4)	(483.7)
I. Goods (Net)	(2,625.6)	(2,909.8)	(3,231.1)	(678.1)	(705.5)	(683.1)	(843.0)	(834.2)	(689.1)	(857.4)	(850.4)
Exports	638.6	837.7	819.8	171.6	246.6	229.4	190.2	175.3	303.9	178.8	161.7
Imports	3,264.2	3,747.5	4,050.8	849.7	952.1	912.5	1033.2	1009.5	993.0	1036.2	1012.2
II. Services (Net)	1,008.3	2,669.2	3,015.1	592.0	973.8	578.2	525.2	837.6	885.8	639.2	652.4
Transportation	(275.9)	(309.5)	(387.4)	(76.9)	(59.4)	(83.2)	(90.0)	(124.8)	(81.9)	(90.2)	(90.5)
Travel	2,173.1	4,052.2	4,541.0	881.6	1,260.5	977.6	932.4	1,157.7	1,242.2	1,074.6	1,066.5
Construction	(103.5)	(116.8)	(102.7)	(25.6)	(26.9)	(32.2)	(32.1)	(20.6)	(17.1)	(32.2)	(32.7)
Insurance services	(276.5)	(269.0)	(269.6)	(56.3)	(59.7)	(78.7)	(74.3)	(47.9)	(63.8)	(80.6)	(77.2)
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	(7.5)	(14.8)	(11.7)	(1.7)	(9.3)	(2.0)	(1.8)	(2.8)	(2.9)	(2.8)	(3.2)
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	(52.0)	(54.0)	(71.8)	(11.1)	(13.2)	(15.7)	(14.0)	(14.7)	(14.3)	(16.0)	(26.7)
Other business services	(372.8)	(424.2)	(516.2)	(77.9)	(80.8)	(155.0)	(110.6)	(85.7)	(146.8)	(156.5)	(127.2)
Government goods and services n.i.e.	(76.7)	(194.7)	(166.6)	(40.1)	(37.4)	(32.8)	(84.4)	(23.6)	(29.6)	(57.0)	(56.5)
III. Primary Income (Net)	(734.2)	(883.2)	(858.2)	(121.1)	(349.3)	(80.8)	(332.0)	(186.7)	(267.1)	(133.9)	(270.5)
Compensation of employees	(91.5)	(86.0)	(113.7)	(19.2)	(21.2)	(22.8)	(22.8)	(25.7)	(25.9)	(29.3)	(32.8)
Investment income	(642.7)	(797.2)	(744.5)	(101.9)	(328.1)	(58.0)	(309.1)	(161.0)	(241.1)	(104.7)	(237.7)
IV. Secondary Income (Net)	(82.4)	67.8	43.1	7.2	26.2	38.0	(3.5)	33.3	16.4	8.7	(15.3)
General government	31.5	132.7	179.8	22.9	35.0	37.6	37.3	54.2	46.1	45.8	33.7
Financial corporations, nonfinancial corporations, households, and NPISHs	(101.6)	(72.6)	(119.1)	(19.9)	(18.4)	(15.0)	(19.3)	(17.6)	(28.9)	(30.0)	(42.5)
<i>of which: Workers remittances</i>	<i>(111.6)</i>	<i>(95.7)</i>	<i>(105.0)</i>	<i>(24.6)</i>	<i>(23.8)</i>	<i>(23.1)</i>	<i>(24.2)</i>	<i>(24.1)</i>	<i>(24.9)</i>	<i>(26.1)</i>	<i>(29.9)</i>
Other current transfers	(12.3)	7.7	(17.6)	4.2	9.6	15.5	(21.6)	(3.3)	(0.8)	(7.0)	(6.5)
B. Capital Account	53.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital transfers	53.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C. Financial Account (excluding Reserve Assets)	(1,493.8)	(1,401.5)	(1,146.7)	(563.2)	(543.1)	(257.4)	(37.8)	(317.9)	(388.5)	(186.2)	(254.0)
Direct Investment	(298.4)	(316.4)	(97.1)	(65.0)	(96.3)	72.2	(227.3)	(1.2)	(69.4)	(15.1)	(11.4)
Portfolio Investment	447.1	(99.8)	330.2	70.6	(323.9)	(35.5)	188.9	(170.0)	155.1	147.2	197.8
Other Investments	(1,642.5)	(985.2)	(1,379.8)	(568.8)	(122.8)	(294.1)	0.6	(146.8)	(474.2)	(318.3)	(440.4)
Currency and deposits	(624.0)	(595.3)	(1,136.3)	(106.9)	(259.5)	(212.4)	(16.5)	(97.7)	(232.8)	(563.3)	(242.5)
Loans	(762.8)	(358.7)	(143.3)	(357.2)	27.1	(90.0)	61.4	(63.6)	(209.8)	254.7	(124.6)
Other accounts receivable/payable and trade credit advances	(16.2)	(50.0)	(98.9)	(99.5)	82.8	(6.1)	(27.2)	16.9	(36.2)	(14.3)	(65.4)
Special drawing rights allocation	(239.6)	18.7	(1.4)	(5.3)	26.76	14.3	(17.1)	(2.4)	4.5	4.5	(8.0)
D. Net Acquisition of Reserve Assets	50.6	178.3	(99.3)	568.6	233.9	(36.8)	(587.4)	56.4	29.1	(121.0)	(63.9)
Special drawing rights	239.6	(251.5)	(7.4)	5.3	(26.8)	(13.4)	(216.6)	(0.6)	(3.7)	(4.0)	0.9
Reserve position in the IMF	(0.8)	(1.3)	0.2	0.3	(0.9)	0.9	(1.7)	0.3	(0.3)	(0.3)	0.5
Other reserve assets	(188.3)	431.1	(92.2)	563.0	261.6	(24.4)	(369.1)	56.7	33.1	(116.8)	(65.3)
E. Net Errors & Omissions	936.8	(167.3)	(214.9)	205.5	(254.3)	(146.5)	28.0	(111.5)	(305.4)	36.2	165.9

Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

* Figures may not sum to total due to rounding

**TABLE 15
EXTERNAL TRADE**

(B\$ '000s)

Period	2021	2022	2023	2022				2023			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
I. OIL TRADE											
i) Exports	184,570	161,075	172,604	43,435	35,147	37,452	45,040	48,917	30,765	42,906	50,016
ii) Imports	657,788	604,439	625,125	136,685	111,023	166,921	189,811	150,786	225,319	115,353	133,667
II. OTHER MERCHANDISE											
Domestic Exports											
Crawfish	91,055	79,169	60,590	26,993	14,166	10,529	27,481	16,496	9,440	13,717	20,937
Fish Conch & other Crustacea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other cordials & Similar Materials/Sponge	1,409	187	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	74	113	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Fruits & Veggies.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aragonite	2,188	2,712	2,312	665	616	615	815	539	670	632	471
Other Natural Sands	221	197	152	51	48	56	42	32	46	50	24
Rum/Beverages/Spirits & Vinegar	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Crude Salt	6,922	11,583	16,613	3,603	835	2,506	4,639	5,240	4,256	3,898	3,219
Polystrene Products	56,419	27,548	38,697	n.a.	5,929	17,301	4,318	7,626	3,637	11,562	15,873
Other	110,964	58,213	45,810	16,489	10,091	12,847	18,786	10,398	8,322	20,182	6,908
i) Total Domestic Exports	269,177	179,610	164,174	47,802	31,685	43,929	56,194	40,330	26,371	50,041	47,432
ii) Re-Exports	89,676	268,960	371,359	39,017	85,971	90,004	53,967	78,708	190,026	57,355	45,270
iii) Total Exports (i+ii)	358,854	448,570	535,533	86,819	117,656	133,933	110,161	119,039	216,397	107,395	92,702
iv) Imports	2,824,819	3,153,455	3,562,394	702,103	698,741	868,775	883,837	876,446	868,863	905,360	911,725
v) Retained Imports (iv-ii)	2,735,143	2,884,495	3,191,035	663,086	612,770	778,771	829,870	797,738	678,838	848,005	866,454
vi) Trade Balance (i-v)	(2,465,965)	(2,704,886)	(3,026,861)	(615,284)	(581,085)	(734,842)	(773,676)	(757,408)	(652,466)	(797,965)	(819,022)

Source: Bahamas National Statistical Institute Quarterly Statistical Summaries

Figures may not sum due to rounding.

TABLE 16
SELECTED TOURISM STATISTICS

Period	2021	2022	2023	2022				2023			
				Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV	Qtr. I	Qtr. II	Qtr. III	Qtr. IV
Visitor Arrivals	2,100,618	7,000,706	9,654,097	1,360,108	1,662,722	1,770,621	2,207,255	2,618,488	2,416,595	2,174,082	2,444,932
Air	886,629	1,470,244	1,719,980	329,671	421,674	351,115	367,784	469,988	488,217	374,547	387,228
Sea	1,213,989	5,530,462	7,934,117	1,030,437	1,241,048	1,419,506	1,839,471	2,148,500	1,928,378	1,799,535	2,057,704
Visitor Type											
Stopover	892,442	1,452,520	1,801,999	309,370	421,413	365,412	356,325	487,400	531,951	395,898	386,750
Cruise	1,115,181	5,390,016	7,773,253	1,003,441	1,195,955	1,375,106	1,815,514	2,115,700	1,872,617	1,751,820	2,033,116
Day/Transit	92,995	158,170	78,845	47,297	45,354	30,103	35,416	15,388	12,027	26,364	25,066
Tourist Expenditure(BS 000's)	2,321,707	4,221,819	n.a.	913,297	1,297,487	1,027,420	983,614	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Stopover	2,266,919	3,838,087	n.a.	855,055	1,176,533	946,591	859,907	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Cruise	53,784	380,732	n.a.	57,481	120,145	80,017	123,089	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Day	1,003	3,000	n.a.	761	808	812	619	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Hotel Occupancy Rates (%)											
New Providence*	40.7	65.3	74.4	56.5	79.1	63.1	62.3	81.1	80.6	67.8	68.1
Grand Bahama	22.8	31.8	n.a.	22.9	34.8	37.6	31.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	34.7	44.0	n.a.	42.8	48.5	40.8	27.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average Nightly Room Rates (\$)											
New Providence*	338.72	377.87	411.09	426.01	375.91	326.89	398.06	453.42	427.28	349.30	414.35
Grand Bahama	73.05	86.26	n.a.	78.53	98.03	82.22	70.59	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other Family Islands	307.80	352.07	n.a.	362.99	368.81	324.41	248.39	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.

* Select Large Hotels Performance for 2023