



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments February 2024

In an effort to provide the public with more frequent information on its economic surveillance activities, the Central Bank has decided to release monthly reports on economic and financial sector developments in The Bahamas. The Bank monitors these conditions as part of its monetary policy mandate, to assess whether money and credit trends are sustainable relative to levels of external reserves required to protect the value of the Bahamian dollar and, if not, the degree to which credit policies ought to be adjusted. The main data source for this surveillance is financial institutions' daily reports on foreign exchange transactions and weekly balance sheet statements. Therefore, monthly approximations may not coincide with calendar estimates reported in the Central Bank's quarterly reports. The Central Bank will release its "Monthly Economic and Financial Developments" report on the Monday following its monthly Monetary Policy Committee Meeting.

Future Release Dates:

2024: 29th April, 3rd June, 1st July, 29th July, 2nd September, 30th September, 4th November, 4th December, 27th December



FEBRUARY 2024 SUMMARY
MONTHLY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Overall Economic Activity

During the month of February, preliminary indications are that the domestic economy expanded at a moderated, but healthy pace, with growth continuing to converge closer to its expected medium-term potential. Tourism sector maintained buoyancy, supported by robust gains in both the high-value air traffic and the sea segment, reflective of sustained demand for travel in key source markets.

Monetary Sector

Monetary developments in February were marked by a moderated build-up in banking sector liquidity, with the growth in the deposit base, contrasted with the reduction in domestic credit. Likewise, external reserves increased, supported largely by net foreign currency inflows through the private sector.

International Economies

During the month of February, global economic conditions revealed mixed outcomes, owing to ongoing geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, combined with elevated inflation levels. In this environment, major central banks maintained their monetary policy tightening posture, in an effort to lower inflation and foster economic growth.



Monthly Economic and Financial Developments (MEFD) February 2024

1. Domestic Economic Developments

Overview

During February, preliminary indications are that the domestic economy’s momentum, though healthy, was moderated in comparison to the previous year, as the pace of growth continued to converge closer to its expected medium-term trajectory. Tourism sector activity maintained buoyancy, supported by robust gains in both the high-value air traffic and sea segment, reflective of sustained demand for travel in key source markets. Monetary sector developments in February were marked by a moderated build-up in banking sector liquidity, with growth in the deposit base, contrasting with the reduction in domestic credit. Likewise, external reserves increased, supported largely by net foreign currency inflows through the private sector.

Real Sector

Tourism

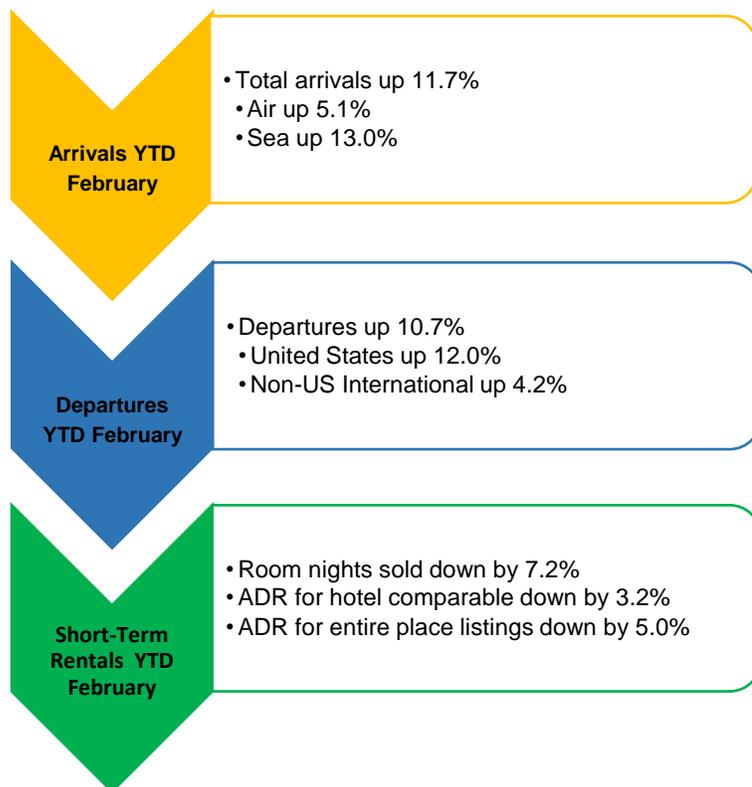
Initial data revealed that the tourism sector continued to register healthy gains during the review month, reflected in both the high-value air segment and the sea component, owing to the sustained demand for travel in key source markets and marketing efforts. Nevertheless, performance in the vacation rental market was contracted, after this segment outperformed hotel resort in the immediate period surrounding the pandemic.

Official data provided by the Ministry of Tourism showed that total visitor arrivals rose to 0.9 million in February 2024, from 0.8 million in the comparative period of 2023. Specifically, the sea segment increased by 11.4% to 0.8 million visitors, while the high value-added air component grew by 4.0% to 0.16 million visitors.

A breakdown by major port of entry revealed that total arrivals to New Providence advanced by 12.3% to 0.43 million visitors.

Supporting this outcome, sea passengers rose by 16.2% to 0.31 million, while air traffic steadied at 0.12 million visitors. Further, foreign arrivals to the Family Islands expanded by 5.2% to 0.42 million, as sea and air passengers measured 0.39 million and 0.03 million, respectively. In addition, total arrivals to Grand Bahama edged up to 0.05 million, from 0.04 million in the prior year, as sea visitors totaled 48,677 million and air travelers 5,405.

Chart 1: Tourism Indicators at a Glance



Sources: Ministry of Tourism, Nassau Airport Development Co. & AirDNA

On a year-to-date basis, total arrivals strengthened by 11.8% to 1.9 million. Underlying this outturn, air traffic grew by 5.1% to 0.30 million passengers, reflecting gains in all major source markets and, sea arrivals firmed by 13.0% to 1.5 million visitors (see Table 1).

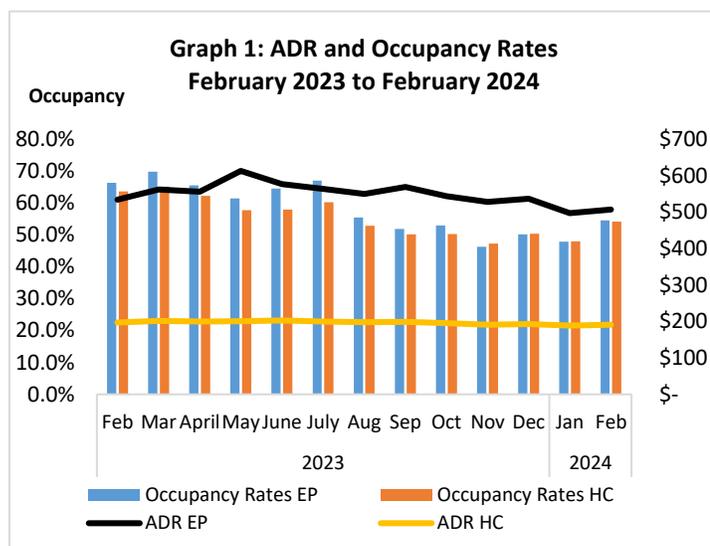
The most recent data provided by the Nassau Airport Development Company Limited (NAD), showed that total departures—net of domestic passengers—rose by 8.5% to 132,256 in February, relative to the corresponding period of 2023. Specifically, U.S. departures increased by 9.5% to 111,366, while non-U.S. departures grew by 3.3% to 20,890 relative to the comparative period last year. On a year-to-date basis, outward-bound traffic expanded by 10.7% to 276,934. In particular, U.S. departures moved higher by 12.0% to 234,047, compared to the previous year. Likewise, non-U.S. departures advanced by 4.2 % to 42,887 vis-à-vis the same period last year.

As it relates to the short-term vacation rental market, the latest data provided by AirDNA showed that in February, total room nights sold reduced by 7.2% to 138,015 from a year earlier. Correspondingly, the occupancy rates for both entire place and hotel comparable listings decreased to 54.5% and 54.1%, respectively, from 66.3% and 63.6% in the prior year. Further, as depicted in Graph 1, price indicators showed that year-over-year, the average daily room rate (ADR) for entire place listings and the ADR for hotel comparable listings declined by 5.0% to \$506.96 and by 3.2% to \$190.68, respectively.

Table 1: Total Visitor Arrivals January – February 2024

Arrivals	New Providence (% Change)		Grand Bahama (% Change)		Family Islands (% Change)	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
Air	61.8	5.6	131.8	8.4	40.5	2.8
Sea	144.8	14.4	299.9	21.0	143.9	11.1
Total	114.4	12.0	270.1	19.6	131.9	10.5

Source: Ministry of Tourism



Source: AirDNA

2. Monetary Trends

February 2024 vs. 2023

Liquidity

Monetary developments for February were marked by moderated gains in banking sector liquidity, with growth in the deposit base contrasting with the reduction in domestic credit. In particular, improvement in excess reserves—a narrow measure of liquidity—of \$40.1 million to \$2,147.4 million, was below the \$52.4 million increase estimated in the previous year. Likewise, excess liquid assets—a broad measure of liquidity—grew by \$32.2 million to \$3,125.5 million, trailing the \$56.5 million accumulation in the preceding year.

External Reserves

External reserves expanded by \$111.1 million to \$2,843.7 million during the review month, extending last year's \$105.4 million accretion. Contributing, the Central Bank's net foreign currency purchases from commercial banks widened to \$94.8 million, from \$25.4 million a year earlier. Further, commercial banks' net intake from their customers advanced to \$129.2 million, notably higher than the \$31.1 million gain last year. However, net inflows from the public sector moderated to \$16.8 million, from \$75.8 million in the comparable 2023 period.

Exchange Control Sales

Preliminary data on foreign currency sales for current account transactions revealed that monthly outflows decreased by \$0.7 million (0.1%), to \$559.4 million in February, relative to the same period in 2023. Leading this outcome, factor income remittances reduced by \$15.7 million, while outflows for oil and non-oil imports declined by \$13.0 million, and by \$10.9 million, respectively. Conversely, payments for "other" current items—mainly credit and debit card financed imports—grew by \$29.5 million. Further, outflows for travel related expenses, and transfer payments increased by \$6.6 million, and by \$2.7 million, respectively.

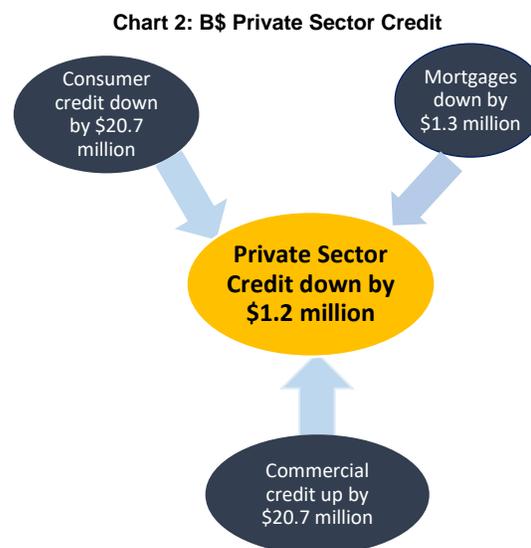
Domestic Credit

Bahamian Dollar Credit

The contraction in total Bahamian dollar credit slowed to \$80.2 million during the review month, from \$157.6 million in 2023. The reduction in net claims on the Government tapered to \$79.7 million, from a \$164.2 million in the prior year. Meanwhile, private sector credit decreased by \$1.2 million, a switch from a \$6.1 million increase in the preceding year. Specifically, the falloff in consumer credit extended to \$20.7 million, from \$4.0 million in the previous year. However, the reduction in mortgages tapered to \$1.3 million, from \$5.9 million last year. In addition, commercial and other loans grew by \$20.7 million, exceeding the \$15.9 million gain a year earlier. Further, credit to public corporations edged up by \$0.7 million, from \$0.6 million in 2023.

Foreign Currency Credit

Domestic foreign currency credit reduced by \$3.7 million during the review month, a shift from a \$14.6 million buildup in the comparative 2023 period. Particularly, private sector credit fell by \$7.4 million, a turnaround from a \$3.0 million uptick a year earlier, led by a \$6.3 million falloff in mortgages, a reversal from the previous year's \$5.8 million gain. In addition, commercial and other loans declined by \$1.1 million, albeit a slowdown from a \$2.8 million retrenchment in the preceding year. In contrast, net claims on the Government grew by \$3.7 million, although lower than the \$11.6 million expansion last year. Meanwhile, foreign currency credit to the rest of the public sector remained unchanged, when compared to the previous year.

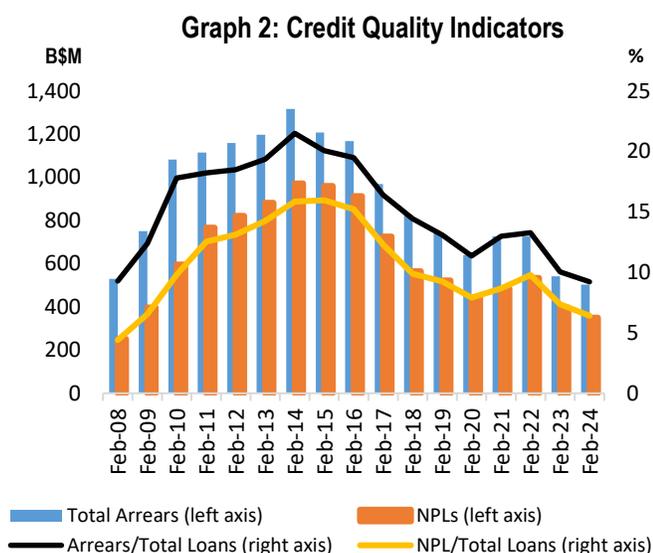


Source: Central Bank of The Bahamas

Credit Quality

During February, commercial bank's credit quality indicators showed improvement owing to declines in both short and long-term arrears. Specifically, total private sector arrears decreased by \$27.0 million (5.1%) to \$503.1 million, with the attendant ratio narrowing by 52 basis points to 9.2% of total private sector loans.

Disaggregated by average age of delinquency, short-term arrears (31-90 days) contracted by \$14.6 million (8.7%) to \$153.7 million, with the related ratio decreasing by 28 basis points to 2.8%. Similarly, non-performing loans (NPLs)—arrears in excess of 90 days and on which banks have stopped accruing interest—reduced by \$12.4 million (3.4%) to \$349.4 million, resulting in a decline in the corresponding ratio by 25 basis points to 6.4%. The NPL rate for commercial loans fell by 81 basis points to 3.9% and for consumer loans, by 18 basis points to 4.8%. Further, the NPL rate for mortgages declined by a muted 5 basis points to 8.7%.



An analysis by loan type showed that the reduction in total delinquencies was led by mortgage arrears, which reduced by \$14.4 million (4.3%) to \$320.5 million, as short-term arrears decreased by \$12.9 million (11.1%), and non-accrual loans by \$1.6 million (0.7%). Likewise, arrears in the consumer category fell by \$5.5 million (3.8%) to \$138.8 million, as both the long and short-term components declined by \$3.6 million (3.7%) and by \$1.9 million (4.0%), respectively. Further, commercial loans delinquencies contracted by \$7.1 million (13.9%) to \$43.9 million, as the \$7.2 million (15.6%) reduction in NPLs eclipsed the \$0.2 million (3.0%) rise in short-term arrears.

Against this backdrop, banks lowered their total provisions for loan losses by \$5.0 million (1.5%) to \$321.2 million during the review month. However, the ratio of total provisions to total arrears moved higher by 2.3 percentage points to 63.9% and the ratio of total provisions to non-performing loans, by 1.8 percentage points to 91.9%. During February, banks wrote-off an estimated \$7.3 million in overdue loans, and recovered approximately \$4.3 million.

In comparison to February 2023, the total private sector arrears rate narrowed by 80 basis points, as the 95 basis points reduction in the NPL rate outpaced the 15 basis points rise in the short-term component. In addition, by loan type, the arrears rate on consumer loans fell by 1.4 percentage points; commercial loans by 1.1 percentage points; and mortgages, by 9 basis points.

Deposits

Total Bahamian dollar deposits expanded by \$25.6 million in February, extending last year's gain of \$7.9 million. By category, the buildup in savings deposits extended to \$60.5 million, from \$8.3 million in the preceding year. Conversely, fixed deposits decreased by \$29.3 million, exceeding the \$28.1 million falloff a

year earlier. Further, demand deposits reduced by \$5.5 million, a reversal from a \$27.8 million growth in the comparative 2023 period. Meanwhile, resident's foreign currency deposits grew by \$84.1 million, extending the year earlier accumulation of \$68.3 million.

Interest Rates

In interest rate developments for February, banks' weighted average loan rate rose by 68 basis points to 11.12%. In addition, the weighted average deposit rate increased by 6 basis points to 0.49%, with the highest rate of 3.75% offered on fixed balances of over 12 months.

3. Domestic Outlook

The domestic economy is expected to expand at a more moderated pace in 2024, as it converges closer to its medium-term growth potential, undergirded by tourism sector activity and other areas of the real sector. Nonetheless, risks to tourism remains, related mainly to exogenous factors, such as geopolitical tensions and heightened global oil prices, which could impede travel sector activity. Meanwhile, any resumption in major central banks' counter-inflation policies could curtail the travel spending capacity of key source market consumers. However, new and ongoing foreign investment-led projects are anticipated to provide impetus to the construction sector, which would contribute to the growth matrix.

In the labour market, employment conditions are forecasted to improve, with additional job gains concentrated predominantly in the construction and tourism sectors. In price developments, inflation is anticipated to continue to trend downward, as improvements in global oil prices persist. Nonetheless, upside risks to inflation revolve around uncertainty in global oil prices and supply chain shortages, associated with geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

On the fiscal front, the Government's net financing gap is expected to trend downwards. Meanwhile, the expected revenue performance remains significantly connected to tourism-led improving trends in taxable economic activities. Meanwhile, the estimated budgetary gap is projected to require a mix of domestic and external borrowings, with the bulk of total funding from domestic sources.

In monetary sector developments, bank liquidity is anticipated to remain high, as institutions maintain their conservative lending stance. Nevertheless, the environment should encourage further strengthening in lending to the private sector. In addition, external reserves are forecasted to stay at robust levels, remaining above international benchmarks, although a reduction is likely, given the anticipated rise in domestic credit. Nonetheless, external balances should remain more than sufficient to sustain the Bahamian dollar currency peg. Specifically, foreign exchange market conditions are projected to stay at healthy levels, supported by inflows from tourism and other net private sector activities.

4. Monetary Policy and Financial Stability Implications

Based on the prevailing outlook, the Central Bank will maintain its accommodative policy stance for private sector credit and pursue policies that ensure a favourable outcome for external reserves and financial stability. Further, the Bank will continue to monitor developments within the foreign exchange market, and if necessary, adopt appropriate measures to support a positive outcome for the foreign reserves in 2024.

APPENDIX

International Developments

During the month of February, global economic conditions revealed mixed outcomes, owing to ongoing geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, combined with elevated inflation levels. In this environment, major central banks sustained their monetary policy tightening posture, in an effort to lower inflation and foster economic growth.

In the United States, economic indicators showed some variations during the month of February. In particular, industrial production edged up by 0.1% in February, a turnaround from the 0.5% falloff in the prior month. Similarly, retail sales rose by 0.6%, a reversal from a 1.1% reduction in the previous month. In the labour market, total non-farm payroll increased by 275,000 in February, on account of job gains mainly in health care, Government, food services, social assistance, transportation and warehousing; however, the unemployment rate rose by 20 basis points to 3.9% from a month earlier. Further, the consumer price index extended to 0.4% in February, from 0.3% in the previous month, attributed to a rise in the costs for shelter and gasoline indexes. In the external sector, the trade deficit widened by \$3.3 billion (5.1%) to \$67.4 billion in January, as the 1.1% growth in imports overshadowed the 0.1% increase in exports. Against this backdrop, the Federal Reserve retained its target range for the Federal funds rate at 5.25%-5.50%, in an effort to lower inflation.

Economic developments in Europe were mixed during the review period. In the United Kingdom, real GDP expanded by 0.2% in January, a reversal from the 0.1% contraction in December, due to an increase in services output. In contrast, industrial production declined by 0.2% in January, a switch from last month's 0.6% uptick, mainly attributed to the decrease in water supply and sewerage production output. On the labour front, the jobless rate held steady at 3.9% over the three months to January from the previous quarter. In the external sector, the trade in goods and services deficit rose by £2.2 billion to £13.8 billion in the three months to January, as the 3.0% falloff in exports overshadowed the 1.8% reduction in imports. In the euro area, retail sales rose by 10 basis points in January, a turnaround from the 60 basis points falloff in the previous month. However, industrial production reduced by 3.2%, a switch from the 1.6% increase in the previous month. In terms of prices, annual inflation moderated by 20 basis points to 2.6% in February from the month prior. In January, the unemployment rate moved lower by 10 basis points to 6.4%, compared to the preceding month. In external developments, the euro area recorded an €11.4 billion trade surplus in January, relative to a deficit of €32.6 billion in the same month last year, owing to a 16.1% contraction in imports combined with a 1.3% increase in exports. Given these developments, the Bank of England maintained its key policy rate at 5.25%. The European Central Bank also kept its interest rates on its main refinancing operations at 4.50%, marginal lending facility at 4.75% and the deposit facility at 4.00%.

Outcomes also varied in the Asian economies during the review month. In China, industrial production advanced by 7.0% during the first two months of the year, vis-à-vis the corresponding period of 2023. Further, retail sales grew by 5.5% over the first two months of the year compared to the same period in the prior year. With regard to inflation, the consumer price index increased by 1.0% in February, outpacing the 0.3% uptick last month, mainly due to a rise in the cost of food. In terms of the labour market, the jobless rate moved higher by 10 basis points to 5.3% in February from the previous month. In external sector developments, China's trade surplus widened by US\$8.2 billion (7.0%) to US\$125.1 billion during the first two months of the year, relative to the same period of 2023, as the 7.1% rise in exports outweighed the 3.5% growth in imports. In Japan, retail sales improved by 0.8% in January, a turnaround from the 2.6% falloff a month earlier. However, industrial production contracted by 7.5%, a reversal from a 1.8% rise in the previous month, underpinned by decreases in the production of motor vehicles, machinery and information and communication electronics equipment. Further, the annual inflation rate narrowed by 40 basis points to 2.2% in January from the prior month. On the labour front, the unemployment rate edged up by 10 basis points to 2.4% in January from the previous month. In the external sector, Japan's trade deficit reduced sharply to ¥1,760.3 billion in January, from ¥3,506.4 billion in the comparative period last year, owing to an 11.9% expansion in exports, combined with a 9.6% decline in imports. Given the current outlook, the People's Bank of China kept its reverse repo rate at 1.8%, while the Bank of Japan held its policy rate at -0.1%.

During the month of February, the major equity markets reported mixed movements. Specifically, in the United States, the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DIJA) increased by 5.2% and by 2.2%, respectively. In Europe, the French CAC 40 rose by 21.4% and the German DAX, by 4.6%; while the United Kingdom's FTSE 100 was relatively unchanged. In Asia, Japan's Nikkei and China's SE Composite grew by 8.0% and by 8.1%, respectively.

In currency market developments, the US dollar appreciated against all of the major currencies during the review month. Specifically, the US dollar strengthened vis-à-vis the Swiss Franc by 2.7% to CHF0.8845 and the Japanese Yen, by 2.1% to ¥149.980. Likewise, the US dollar increased relative to the Canadian dollar by 1.1% to CAD\$1.3579; the British Pound, by 0.5% to £0.7921; the Chinese Renminbi, by 0.3% to CNY7.1886 and the euro, by 0.1% to €0.9255.

Commodity price trends varied during the month of February. Specifically, the price of crude oil held steady at \$81.74 per barrel, as OPEC's crude oil production increased by 203,000 barrels per day, to average 26.6 million barrels per day. Meanwhile, the price of gold grew by 0.2% to \$2,044.30 per troy ounce. However, the cost of silver declined by 1.2% to \$22.65 per troy ounce.

Recent Monetary and Credit Statistics

(B\$ Millions)

February					
Value		Change		Change YTD	
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024

1.0 LIQUIDITY & FOREIGN ASSETS

1.1 Excess Reserves	2,005.06	2,147.43	52.36	40.08	76.94	280.36
1.2 Excess Liquid Assets	2,855.78	3,125.51	56.52	32.20	82.95	241.28
1.3 External Reserves	2,695.42	2,843.66	105.41	111.09	100.74	492.45
1.4 Bank's Net Foreign Assets	-47.69	1.82	56.74	85.07	50.09	92.16
1.5 Usable Reserves	1,218.29	1,307.99	56.89	75.32	67.28	440.05

2.0 DOMESTIC CREDIT

2.1 Private Sector	5,644.62	5,661.11	9.03	-8.61	30.52	-10.06
a. B\$ Credit	5,351.62	5,383.04	6.05	-1.20	18.63	-0.27
of which: Consumer Credit	1,892.75	1,920.32	-3.95	-20.66	-10.86	-2.43
Mortgages	2,697.62	2,658.16	-5.89	-1.26	-9.77	-3.97
Commercial and Other Loans B\$	761.25	804.56	15.89	20.72	39.26	6.13
b. F/C Credit	293.00	278.07	2.98	-7.41	11.89	-9.79
of which: Mortgages	165.56	147.25	5.82	-6.32	14.29	-6.93
Commercial and Other Loans F/C	127.44	130.82	-2.83	-1.09	-2.39	-2.86
2.2 Central Government (net)	3,005.19	3,192.11	-152.64	-75.99	-200.51	-155.42
a. B\$ Loans & Securities	3,095.99	3,271.46	-58.22	-55.43	-87.94	-276.86
Less Deposits	399.41	366.90	106.00	24.27	93.01	-128.37
b. F/C Loans & Securities	315.53	295.91	0.00	0.00	-17.83	-2.81
Less Deposits	6.92	8.36	-11.58	-3.71	1.74	4.11
2.3 Rest of Public Sector	349.10	328.71	0.57	0.70	0.44	-10.79
a. B\$ Credit	319.85	304.71	0.57	0.70	0.44	-10.79
b. F/C Credit	29.25	24.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.4 Total Domestic Credit	8,998.90	9,181.93	-143.04	-83.90	-169.55	-176.26
a. B\$ Domestic Credit	8,368.04	8,592.31	-157.61	-80.21	-161.87	-159.55
b. F/C Domestic Credit	630.86	589.63	14.57	-3.69	-7.67	-16.72

3.0 DEPOSIT BASE

3.1 Demand Deposits	3,869.14	3,958.41	27.79	-5.50	-5.20	58.43
a. Central Bank	74.45	11.94	-18.60	-16.01	-18.73	-16.07
b. Banks	3,794.68	3,946.48	46.40	10.51	13.53	74.50
3.2 Savings Deposits	2,118.94	2,320.85	8.29	60.45	15.87	53.00
3.3 Fixed Deposits	2,055.67	1,990.88	-28.17	-29.31	-18.49	-31.92
3.4 Total B\$ Deposits	8,043.75	8,270.14	7.92	25.63	-7.82	79.51
3.5 F/C Deposits of Residents	546.62	568.25	68.29	84.05	78.51	63.33
3.6 M2	8,461.84	8,708.36	14.55	26.28	-29.34	44.79
3.7 External Reserves/M2 (%)	31.85	32.65	1.19	1.18	1.30	5.52
3.8 External Reserves/Base Money (%)	99.67	97.20	3.44	2.16	3.75	9.07
3.9 External Reserves/Demand Liabilities (%)	91.24	92.59	0.59	1.50	1.37	13.33
	Value		Year To Date		Change	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	Month	YTD

4.0 FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS

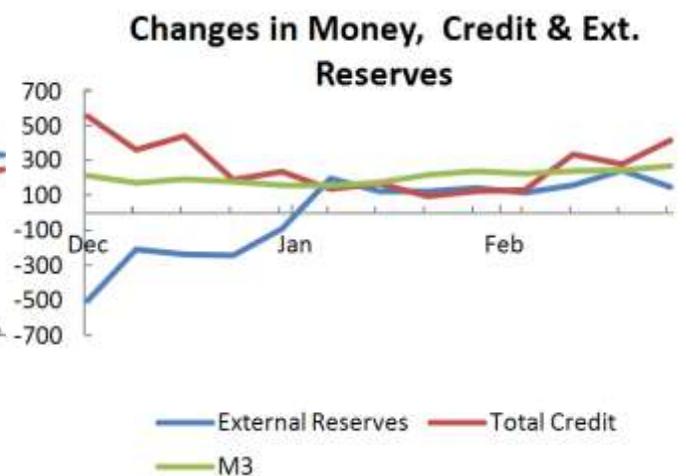
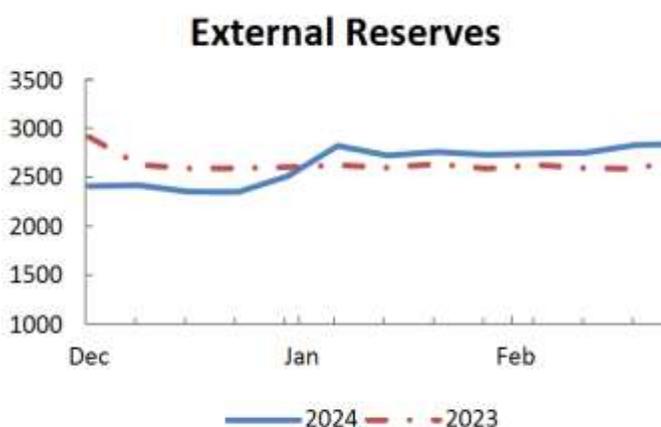
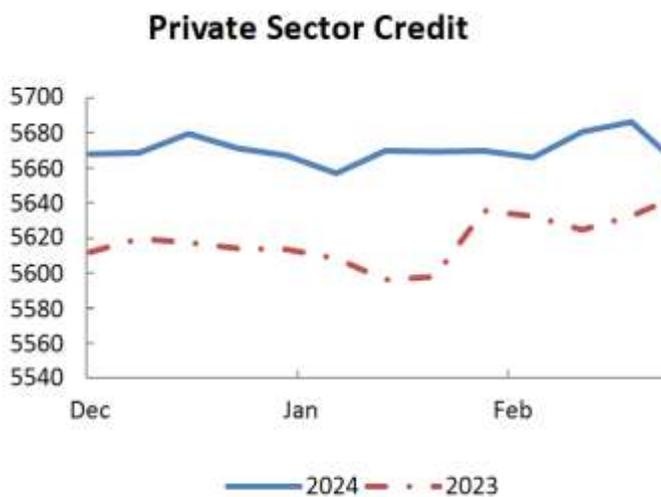
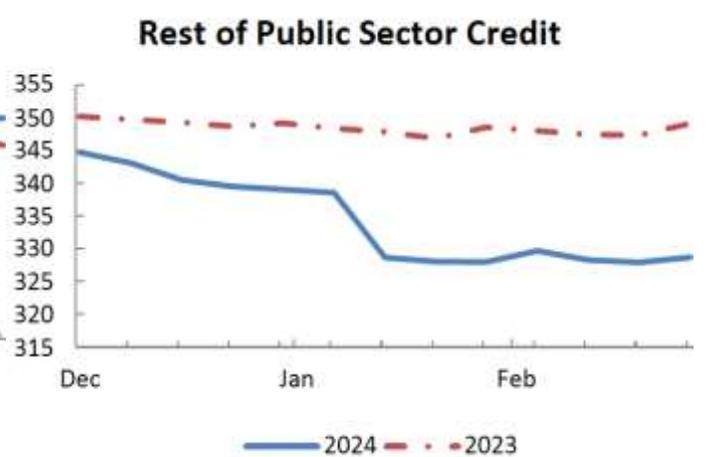
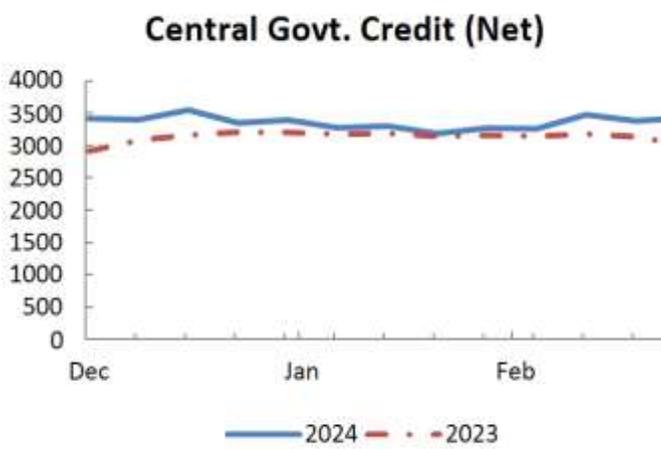
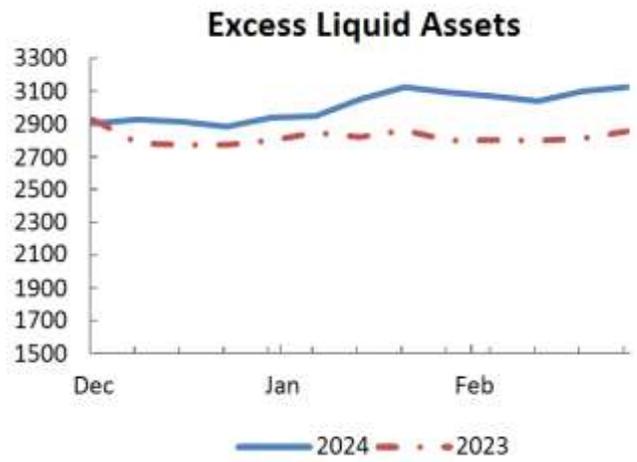
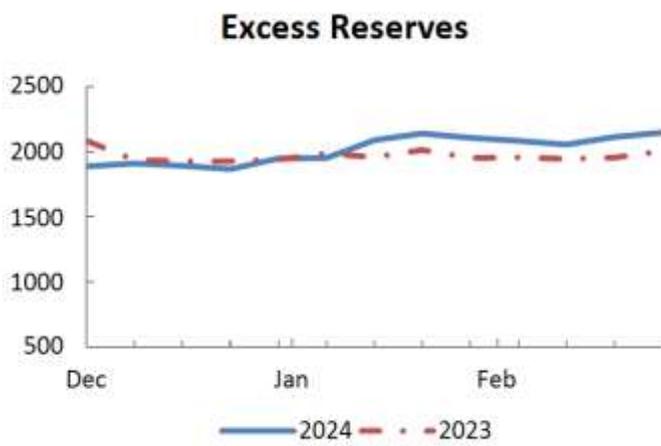
4.1 Central Bank Net Purchase/(Sale)	101.12	111.58	71.44	470.86	10.45	399.42
a. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Banks	25.37	94.80	33.65	181.74	69.43	148.09
i. Sales to Banks	31.90	24.28	129.57	46.58	-7.62	-82.99
ii. Purchase from Banks	57.27	119.09	163.22	228.32	61.81	65.10
b. Net Purchase/(Sale) from/to Others	75.75	16.77	37.78	289.11	-58.98	251.33
i. Sales to Others	86.96	86.80	175.94	727.09	-0.15	551.15
ii. Purchase from Others	162.71	103.57	213.72	1,016.20	-59.13	802.48
4.2 Banks Net Purchase/(Sale)	31.10	129.22	31.58	202.75	98.12	171.18
a. Sales to Customers	556.34	507.22	1,248.48	1,171.89	-49.12	-76.59
b. Purchase from Customers	587.45	636.45	1,280.06	1,374.64	49.00	94.59

5.0 EXCHANGE CONTROL SALES

5.1 Current Items	560.09	559.39	1,236.17	1,491.96	-0.70	255.79
of which Public Sector	68.30	75.07	139.43	389.67	6.77	250.24
a. Nonoil Imports	165.14	154.25	353.61	311.63	-10.89	-41.98
b. Oil Imports	64.36	51.36	135.78	148.19	-13.00	12.40
c. Travel	12.95	19.56	30.88	41.57	6.61	10.68
d. Factor Income	45.20	29.55	74.22	286.81	-15.65	212.60
e. Transfers	12.59	15.27	32.37	39.97	2.68	7.61
f. Other Current Items	259.85	289.40	609.31	663.79	29.54	54.47
5.2 Capital Items	51.87	32.79	130.48	371.34	-19.08	240.86
of which Public Sector	21.87	14.67	43.91	346.38	-7.20	302.47

SELECTED MONEY AND CREDIT INDICATORS

(B\$ Millions)



Selected International Statistics

A: Selected Macroeconomic Projections (Annual % Change and % of labor force)						
	Real GDP		Inflation Rate		Unemployment	
	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
Bahamas	14.4	4.3	5.6	3.9	12.3	8.8
United States	2.1	2.1	8.0	4.1	3.6	3.6
Euro-Area	3.3	0.7	8.4	5.6	6.7	6.6
Germany	1.8	-0.5	8.7	6.3	3.1	3.3
Japan	1.0	2.0	2.5	3.2	2.6	2.5
China	3.0	5.0	1.9	0.7	5.5	5.3
United Kingdom	4.1	0.5	9.1	7.7	3.7	4.2
Canada	3.4	1.3	6.8	3.6	5.3	5.5

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook October 2023

B: Official Interest Rates – Selected Countries (%)					
<i>With effect from</i>	CBOB	ECB (EU)	Federal Reserve (US)		Bank of England
	Bank Rate	Refinancing Rate	Primary Credit	Target Funds	Repo Rate
December 2021	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.25
January 2022	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.25
February 2022	4.00	0.00	0.25	0.00-0.25	0.50
March 2022	4.00	0.00	0.50	0.25-0.50	0.75
April 2022	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.75-1.00	1.00
May 2022	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.50-1.75	1.25
June 2022	4.00	0.00	1.75	1.50-1.75	1.25
July 2022	4.00	0.50	2.50	2.25-2.50	1.25
August 2022	4.00	1.25	2.50	2.25-2.50	1.75
September 2022	4.00	1.50	3.25	3.00-3.25	2.25
October 2022	4.00	2.00	4.00	3.75-4.00	2.25
November 2022	4.00	2.00	4.00	3.75-4.00	3.00
December 2022	4.00	2.50	4.50	4.25-4.50	3.50
January 2023	4.00	2.50	4.50	4.25-4.50	4.00
February 2023	4.00	3.00	4.75	4.50-4.75	4.00
March 2023	4.00	3.50	5.00	4.75-5.00	4.25
April 2023	4.00	3.50	5.00	4.75-5.00	4.25
May 2023	4.00	3.75	5.25	5.00-5.25	4.50
June 2023	4.00	4.00	5.25	5.00-5.25	5.00
July 2023	4.00	4.25	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.00
August 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
September 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
October 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
November 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
December 2023	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
January 2024	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25
February 2024	4.00	4.50	5.50	5.25-5.50	5.25

Selected International Statistics

C. Selected Currencies (Per United States Dollars)						
Currency	February-23	January-24	February-24	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change	12-Mth% Change
Euro	0.9455	0.92	0.93	0.12	2.17	-2.12
Yen	136.17	146.92	149.98	2.08	6.34	10.14
Pound	0.8318	0.79	0.79	0.50	0.84	-4.78
Canadian \$	1.3647	1.3435	1.36	1.07	2.54	-0.50
Swiss Franc	0.9422	0.8614	0.88	2.68	5.12	-6.12
Renminbi	6.9356	7.1689	7.19	0.27	1.25	3.65

Source: Bloomberg as of 29th February 2024

D. Selected Commodity Prices (\$)					
Commodity	February-23	January-24	February-24	Mthly % Change	YTD % Change
Gold / Ounce	1826.92	2039.52	2044.30	0.23437	-0.90548
Silver / Ounce	20.9114	22.958	22.675	-1.23269	-4.70807
Oil / Barrel	84.51	78.42	81.74	0.03672	4.233613

Source: Bloomberg as of 29th February 2024

E. Equity Market Valuations – February 31st, 2024 (% change)								
	BISX	DJIA	S&P 500	FTSE 100	CAC 40	DAX	Nikkei 225	SE
1 month	1.28	2.22	5.17	-0.01	21.36	4.58	7.94	8.13
3 month	3.45	8.47	11.57	2.36	8.43	9.02	16.96	-0.48
YTD	3.05	3.47	6.84	-1.33	20.58	5.53	17.04	1.35
12-month	12.93	19.41	28.36	-3.13	9.07	15.05	42.71	-8.06

Sources: Bloomberg and BISX

F: Short Term Deposit Rates in Selected Currencies (%)			
	USD	GBP	EUR
o/n	5.3775	5.2900	3.9250
1 Month	5.4400	5.2854	3.9350
3 Month	5.4935	5.3350	3.9898
6 Month	5.5125	5.3800	3.9300
9 Month	5.4650	5.3450	3.8375
1 year	5.4900	5.2939	3.7550

Source: Bloomberg as of 29th February 2024

**Summary Accounts of the Central Bank
(B\$ Millions)**

	VALUE									CHANGE								
	Jan. 03	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb. 07	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28	Jan. 03	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31	Feb. 07	Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28
I. External Reserves	2,513.11	2,823.73	2,724.30	2,760.59	2,732.57	2,743.36	2,753.96	2,831.79	2,843.66	161.90	310.63	(99.43)	36.29	(28.02)	10.79	10.60	77.83	11.86
II. Net Domestic Assets (A + B + C + D)	200.81	(112.82)	120.81	132.64	142.70	108.41	66.03	52.07	81.95	(115.93)	(313.63)	233.63	11.83	10.06	(34.28)	(42.38)	(13.96)	29.88
A. Net Credit to Gov't (I + ii + iii -iv)	853.93	734.77	911.72	809.68	830.23	822.10	826.52	739.41	752.87	69.74	(119.16)	176.95	(102.04)	20.54	(8.13)	4.42	(87.11)	13.46
i) Advances	427.52	527.52	427.52	427.52	427.52	427.52	457.52	427.52	427.52	(145.50)	100.00	(100.00)	-	-	-	30.00	(30.00)	-
ii) Registered Stock	458.58	558.67	555.86	456.06	456.16	456.47	456.71	462.09	457.18	(2.13)	100.09	(2.81)	(99.80)	0.11	0.30	0.24	5.38	(4.90)
iii) Treasury Bills	45.66	45.66	72.70	47.88	47.88	47.88	46.92	6.71	6.71	19.86	-	27.04	(24.82)	0.00	(0.00)	(0.96)	(40.20)	(0.00)
iv) Deposits	77.83	397.09	144.36	121.77	101.33	109.77	134.62	156.91	138.54	(197.51)	319.25	(252.72)	(22.59)	(20.44)	8.43	24.85	22.29	(18.37)
B. Rest of Public sector (Net) (i+ii-iii)	(14.87)	(6.62)	(12.77)	(16.24)	(21.18)	(42.18)	(39.38)	(22.38)	(5.17)	5.90	8.25	(6.14)	(3.48)	(4.94)	(20.99)	2.79	17.00	17.21
i) Loans	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	1.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ii) Bonds/Securities	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	5.14	-	-	-	0.00	-	-	-	-	-
iii) Deposits	21.64	13.39	19.53	23.01	27.95	48.94	46.15	29.15	11.94	(5.90)	(8.25)	6.14	3.48	4.94	20.99	(2.79)	(17.00)	(17.21)
C. Loans to/Deposits with Banks	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
D. Other Items (Net)*	(638.25)	(840.96)	(778.14)	(660.80)	(666.35)	(671.51)	(721.11)	(664.96)	(665.75)	(191.58)	(202.71)	62.82	117.34	(5.54)	(5.16)	(49.60)	56.15	(0.79)
III. Monetary Base	2,713.91	2,710.91	2,845.11	2,893.22	2,875.27	2,851.77	2,819.99	2,883.87	2,925.61	45.97	(3.00)	134.19	48.11	(17.95)	(23.49)	(31.78)	63.87	41.75
A. Currency in Circulation	608.03	598.80	573.54	567.18	587.23	585.60	583.65	581.17	576.78	(6.84)	(9.24)	(25.25)	(6.37)	20.05	(1.63)	(1.95)	(2.48)	(4.39)
B. Bank Balances with CBOB	2,105.88	2,112.12	2,271.56	2,326.04	2,288.04	2,266.17	2,236.34	2,302.69	2,348.83	52.81	6.24	159.45	54.48	(38.01)	(21.86)	(29.83)	66.35	46.14

FISCAL/REAL SECTOR INDICATORS

(BS MILLIONS)

(% change represents current period from previous period)

Fiscal Operations ^p	
1. Government Revenue & Grants	
% change: over previous quarter	
2. Value Added Tax	
% change: over previous quarter	
3. Import/Excise/Export Duties	
% change: over previous quarter	
4. Recurrent Expenditure	
% change: over previous quarter	
5. Capital Expenditure	
% change: over previous quarter	
6. Deficit/Surplus*	
% change: over previous quarter	

		JUL-SEP																			
		2022/2023	2023/2024																		
1. Government Revenue & Grants		654.7	663.5																		
% change: over previous quarter		-13.9%	-14.6%																		
2. Value Added Tax		331.0	337.9																		
% change: over previous quarter		10.1%	6.7%																		
3. Import/Excise/Export Duties		127.0	136.0																		
% change: over previous quarter		87.0%	113.1%																		
4. Recurrent Expenditure		621.3	660.4																		
% change: over previous quarter		-39.2%	-28.8%																		
5. Capital Expenditure		55.3	64.7																		
% change: over previous quarter		-55.3%	-51.6%																		
6. Deficit/Surplus*		-21.93	-61.54																		
% change: over previous quarter		-94.3%	-78.3%																		

YEAR TO DATE	
2022/2023	2023/2024
(Over previous year)	
654.7	663.5
9.8%	1.3%
330.99	337.87
12.1%	2.1%
127.0	136.0
-6.8%	7.1%
621.3	660.4
-7.1%	6.3%
55.3	64.7
-14.0%	16.9%
-21.93	-61.54
-83.9%	180.6%

Debt ^{p **}	
7. Total Direct Debt	
% change: over previous month	
8. External Debt	
% change: over previous month	
9. Internal F/C Debt	
% change: over previous month	
10. Bahamian Dollar Debt	
% change: over previous month	
11. Total Amortization	
% change: over previous month	
12. Total Public Sector F/C Debt	
% change: over previous month	

JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC	
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
11,039.9	11,602.1	11,125.1	11,637.1																				
0.0%	1.5%	0.8%	0.3%																				
4,839.8	5,205.3	4,912.2	5,234.4																				
-0.1%	3.5%	1.5%	0.6%																				
329.5	303.8	326.1	303.4																				
-0.1%	-1.8%	-1.1%	-0.1%																				
5,870.6	6,093.0	5,886.9	6,099.2																				
0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%																				
268.8	785.2	142.5	47.6																				
-15.6%	33.0%	-88.7%	-1549.4%																				
5,648.4	5,943.1	5,717.3	5,971.8																				
-0.1%	2.9%	1.2%	0.5%																				

YEAR TO DATE	
2023	2024
(Over previous year)	
846.6	959.088
165.94%	13.29%
132.526	141.072
78.92%	6.45%

Real Sector Indicators	
13. Retail Price Index	
% change: over previous month	
14. Tourist arrivals (000's)	
% change: over previous year	
15. Air arrivals (000's)	
% change: over previous year	
16. Res. Mortgage Commitments-Value of New Const. & Rehab. (BSMillions)	
% change: over previous qtr.	

JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC	
2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
846.594	959.088																						
165.94%	13.29%																						
132.526	141.072																						
78.92%	6.45%																						

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