CENTRAL BANK of BELIZE

MARCH 2025 QUARTERLY REVIEW

Correspondence and enquiries regarding the Review should be addressed to:

Manager, Research Department
Central Bank of Belize
P.O. Box 852
Belize City, Belize
Central America

Telephone: 501.223.6194 Fax: 501.223.6219

Email: research@centralbank.org.bz
Website: www.centralbank.org.bz

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms:

BSI	Belize Sugar Industries Limited
BSSB	Belize Social Security Board
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
BTL	Belize Telemedia Limited
BWSL	Belize Water Services Limited
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBB	Central Bank of Belize
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CFZ	Commercial Free Zone
CGA	Citrus Growers Association
CIF	Cost, Insurance, and Freight
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPBL	Citrus Products of Belize Limited
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DFC	Development Finance Corporation
DOD	Disbursed Outstanding Debt
EU	European Union
FOB	Free On Board
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
MOF	Ministry of Finance
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SDR	Special Drawing Rights
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
T-bills	Treasury bills
T-notes	Treasury notes
US	United States
UK	United Kingdom
VPCA	Venezuelan Petrocaribe Agreement
WAY	Weighted Average Yield

Abbreviations and Conventions:

$	Belize dollar unless otherwise stated
bn	billion
bps	basis points
mn	million
ps	pound solids
Y-o-Y	year on year
YTD	year to date

Notes:

1. Since May of 1976, the Belize dollar has been fixed to the US dollar at the rate of US$1.00 = BZ$2.00.
2. The 2025 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2024 have been revised.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, the Central Bank of Belize is the source of all tables and charts.
4. Ratios to GDP for 2025 are based on the Central Bank's forecast.

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Summary of Economic Indicators

Money Supply

Broad Money Supply	Net Foreign Assets	Net Domestic Credit
January - March 2025	January - March 2025	January - March 2025
+4.5%	**+11.5%**	**-0.9%**
YTD change on December 2024	YTD change on December 2024	YTD change on December 2024

Liquidity and Interest Rates

Excess Cash	New Deposit Rates	New Lending Rates
March 2025	March 2025	March 2025
$466.9mn	**1.48%**	**8.69%**
-1.1% change on December 2024	**-28** bps change on March 2024	**-24** bps change on March 2024

Real and External Sectors

GDP	CPI	Stay-over Arrivals
January - March 2025	January - March 2025	January - March 2025
+2.0%	**+1.7%**	**-0.3%**
Y-o-Y change on same period of the previous year	YTD change on the same period of the previous year	YTD change on the same period of the previous year

Current Account Balance	Financial Account Balance (Net Lending)	Reserve Import Coverage
January - March 2025	January - March 2025	March 2025
$82.2mn	**$60.6mn**	**4.3**
-11.6% YTD change on same period of the previous year	**-52.9%** YTD change on the same period of the previous year	months equivalent of merchandise imports

Central Government Operations and Public Debt

Primary Surplus	Domestic Debt	External Debt
April 2024 - March 2025	January - March 2025	January - March 2025
+$122.0mn	**$0.0mn**	**+$23.3mn**
1.8% of GDP	**$1,519.1mn** at March-end, 20.8% of GDP	**$2,933.6mn** at March-end, 40.2% of GDP

Overview

International Overview

In the first quarter of 2025, global economic growth remained uneven but resilient, with the International Monetary Fund predicting a 2.8% expansion for the year. Global inflation continued to ease towards central bank targets, supported by stable energy and food prices, a cooling of labour markets, and weakening demand. However, increasing uncertainty over potential tariff hikes is dampening business confidence and investment. As a result, heightened trade tensions pose a significant downside risk to global growth and an upside risk to inflation in 2025.

Advanced Economies

In early 2025, the US showed the strongest economic resilience among advanced nations. Its real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 2.0% year-over-year in the first quarter, with increased private and government consumption and investment. However, when viewed on an annualised basis, the US economy surprisingly shrank by 0.5%, mainly due to a surge in imports before the retaliatory tariffs went into effect and a decrease in government expenditure. Nevertheless, the labour market experienced a slight softening but remained robust, with unemployment increasing from 4.0% in January to 4.2% in March. Over the year ending March 2025, the 12-month US Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.4%, mainly driven by higher food prices in the first three months of the year. The Federal Reserve paused its rate cuts, which had begun in September of the previous year, maintaining the target range of the federal funds rate at 4.25% and 4.50% during the quarter. The central bank's decision to keep a restrictive monetary policy stance reflects the continued uncertainty about the US economic outlook and the path of future policy decisions.

The United Kingdom's (UK) economy grew by 1.3% between January and March

Chart 1.1: Quarterly GDP Growth Rates Over the Same Quarter of the Previous Year for Selected Advanced Economies

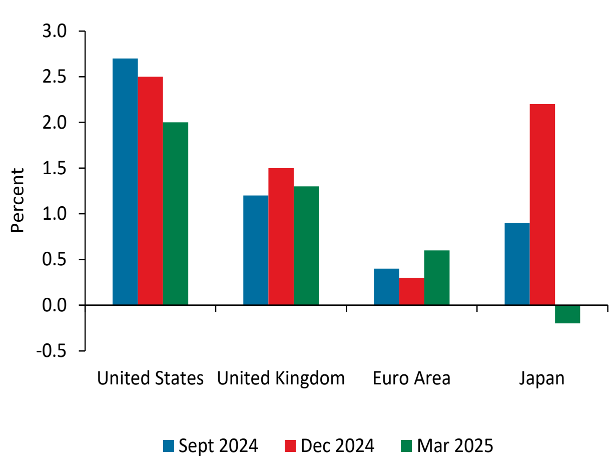
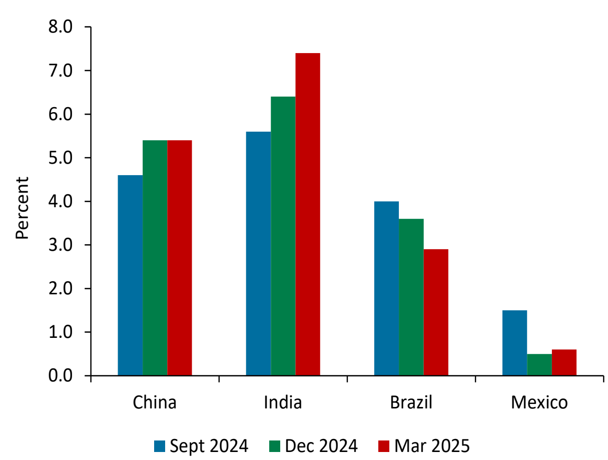


Chart 1.2: Quarterly GDP Growth Rates Over the Same Quarter of the Previous Year for Selected Emerging Economies



2025 compared to the same quarter a year earlier. The stronger-than-expected GDP growth was mainly driven by expansions in the construction and services sectors, while output in the production sector remained flat. The Bank of England kept its Bank Rate at 4.5% in March, recognising significant progress in disinflation over the past two years as the effects of previous external shocks diminished and the restrictive monetary policy stance helped curb inflation persistence and stabilise longer-term inflation expectations. The more gradual and cautious approach to maintaining restrictive monetary policy for a sufficient period was influenced by the potential impact of intensified global trade policy and heightened geopolitical tensions on the medium-term outlook for inflation and other macroeconomic conditions.

In the euro area (comprising 20 countries from 2023), output increased by 1.2% in the first quarter of 2025 compared with the first quarter of the previous year. Among member states, Ireland recorded the highest growth at 10.7%, while in Germany, the largest member state, the economy contracted slightly. Unlike other major central banks, the European Central Bank adopted a less restrictive monetary policy stance by lowering its key interest rates by 25 basis points. This included a reduction in the deposit facility rate—the primary tool for steering monetary policy—to 2.50%, reflecting the central bank's assessment that inflation would moderate over the medium term, against a backdrop of reduced and sluggish growth projections.

Japan's economic activity contracted by 0.2% in the first quarter of 2025, mainly due to a decline in exports—especially to the US—and a decrease in private consumption. Headline and core inflation remained above the Bank of Japan's 2.0% target, prompting the central bank to raise interest rates by 25 basis points to 0.5%, the highest since 2008. The anticipation of new US tariffs, particularly on automobiles, also heightened trade uncertainty.

<u>Emerging Economies</u>

In the first quarter of 2025, major emerging market economies continued to grow at a faster rate than advanced economies, despite the challenges posed by impending US tariffs and uncertainty in global demand. Among this group, India remained the fastest-growing with its GDP rising by 7.4% year-over-year. Growth in the world's fifth-largest economy was attributed to significant gains in the agriculture and construction sectors, while positioning itself as an alternative manufacturing location to China.

China's economy grew by 5.4% in the first quarter, maintaining the same growth rate as the previous quarter despite rising trade tensions with the US. This growth was primarily driven by a surge in exports, as businesses accelerated shipments ahead of US tariffs, and an increase in output from high-tech industries, including information services and equipment manufacturing. However, the property sector negatively affected GDP, with real estate declining by 9.9% during the same period.

In contrast, Brazil's GDP grew by 2.9%, driven by a boost in agricultural output—particularly soybean and cotton harvests—and growth in the service sector, while industrial production experienced a decline.

Closer to home, Mexico's GDP registered a slight increase of 0.6% in the first quarter of 2025, mainly supported by growth in agriculture and mining. However, there were minor contractions in the industrial and service sectors.

Caribbean Economies

In the first quarter of the year, tourism activities in the Caribbean continued their upward trend, supported by a rise in international visitors. Barbados' economy expanded by 2.6% during this period, driven by increased tourism services and construction activities. The country's stay-over arrivals increased by 2.4% over the review period, primarily due to the introduction of new routes from key source markets. In Jamaica, real GDP increased by 1.1% in 2025 compared to the same period last year. This rebound was primarily propelled by growth in manufacturing (1.7%), construction (1.4%), mining and quarrying (0.7%), and agriculture, forestry, and fishing (3.1%).

Domestic Overview

GDP and Consumer Prices

In the first quarter of 2025, Belize's real GDP grew by 2.0%, a slowdown from the 8.8% growth rate in the same period in 2024. The reduced growth was driven by a decline in the primary and secondary sectors, while the tertiary sector continued to expand, albeit at a more moderate pace. Output in the primary sector declined by 10.8%, primarily due to decreases in sugarcane and citrus fruit deliveries to processors, which were partially offset by increases in banana, marine goods, and non-traditional crop production. Output in the secondary sector decreased by 8.7%, primarily due to a contraction in manufacturing, particularly in the production of sugar, citrus juices, and beverages. In contrast, electricity generation and construction activities maintained their upward trend. The tertiary sector grew by 7.4%, with most service industries, including distributive trade, transport, and accommodation and food, recording positive but lower growth rates than in the previous period, as the number of stay-over arrivals dipped slightly.

Inflation slowed to an average of 1.7% in the first quarter of 2025, compared to 3.8% in the same period of 2024. The inflationary trend was stimulated by rising costs of food, housing rent, and liquefied petroleum gas.

Money and Credit

The broad money supply (M2) increased by $216.5mn (4.5%) to $5,080.3mn in the first quarter of 2025. Money growth was driven by a surge in the net foreign assets of the banking system, which rose by $223.4mn (11.5%) to $2,166.7mn. This expansion was supported by a strong, seasonal growth in foreign currency inflows emanating from tourism activities. Meanwhile, net domestic credit decreased by $31.7mn (0.9%) to $3,654.5mn, due to a contraction in net lending to the public and private sectors.

Domestic banks' excess liquidity increased by $304.7mn (40.8%) to $1,050.7mn during the first quarter of 2025, exceeding the legal requirements by 113.0%. This rise in liquid assets was due to growth in domestic banks' foreign assets. Meanwhile, their holdings of excess cash reserves contracted slightly by $5.4mn to $466.9mn, which was 162.2% above the cash reserve requirement.

The 12-month weighted average lending rate decreased by 12 basis points in the first quarter to 8.69%, due to a decline in commercial and other loan rates. During the same period, the 12-month weighted average deposit rate dropped by 26 basis points to 1.48%. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 14 basis points to 7.21%.

In the first quarter of 2025, open market operations remained stable with a weighted average yield for Treasury bills (T-bills) ranging from 0.60026% to 0.60058%. Strategic bidding by domestic banks led to a $22.8mn increase in their holdings, while the T-bill portfolios of the Central Bank and other institutional holders decreased by $27.8mn and $0.4mn, respectively.

International Trade and Payments

In the first quarter of 2025, the external current account recorded a surplus of $82.2mn, equivalent to 1.1% of GDP, marking a decline from the $92.9mn surplus posted in the same period in 2024. This reduction was primarily driven by a decrease in exports of goods and other miscellaneous services, as merchandise imports fell and tourism revenue rose. Meanwhile, net capital inflows rose to $33.6mn, reflecting increased public investment grants from both bilateral and multilateral creditors.

The overall balance on the financial account showed a $60.6mn increase in net outflows (net lending), driven by the strong accumulation of net foreign assets in domestic banks ($137.6mn), generated mainly from the surge in tourism revenue. Foreign asset acquisition in banks outpaced the net liabilities incurred, with the latter including net foreign direct investment ($57.8mn) and net public sector borrowings ($23.4mn). As a result, the gross international reserves rose by $87.0mn to $1,051.2mn, covering 4.3 months of merchandise imports.

Government Operations and Public Debt

In the 2024–2025 fiscal year (FY2024/2025), Central Government operations resulted in an overall deficit of $38.8mn, equivalent to 0.6% of GDP. This marked an improvement over the $140.0mn deficit (2.3% of GDP) in the previous fiscal year. Total revenue and grants rose by $ 194.4mn (13.3%), reaching $1,655.8mn, mainly due to a stronger-than-expected collection of tax revenues. Meanwhile, total expenditure increased by a smaller amount of $93.2mn (5.8%), totalling $1,694.6mn, reflecting higher recurrent expenses alongside moderate growth in capital outlays.

During the first three months of 2025, the total public sector debt rose by $23.3mn to $4,452.7mn, representing 61.0% of GDP. In this period, the external public sector debt increased to $2,933.6mn (40.2% of GDP), while the Central Government's domestic debt remained unchanged at $1,519.1mn (20.8% of GDP).

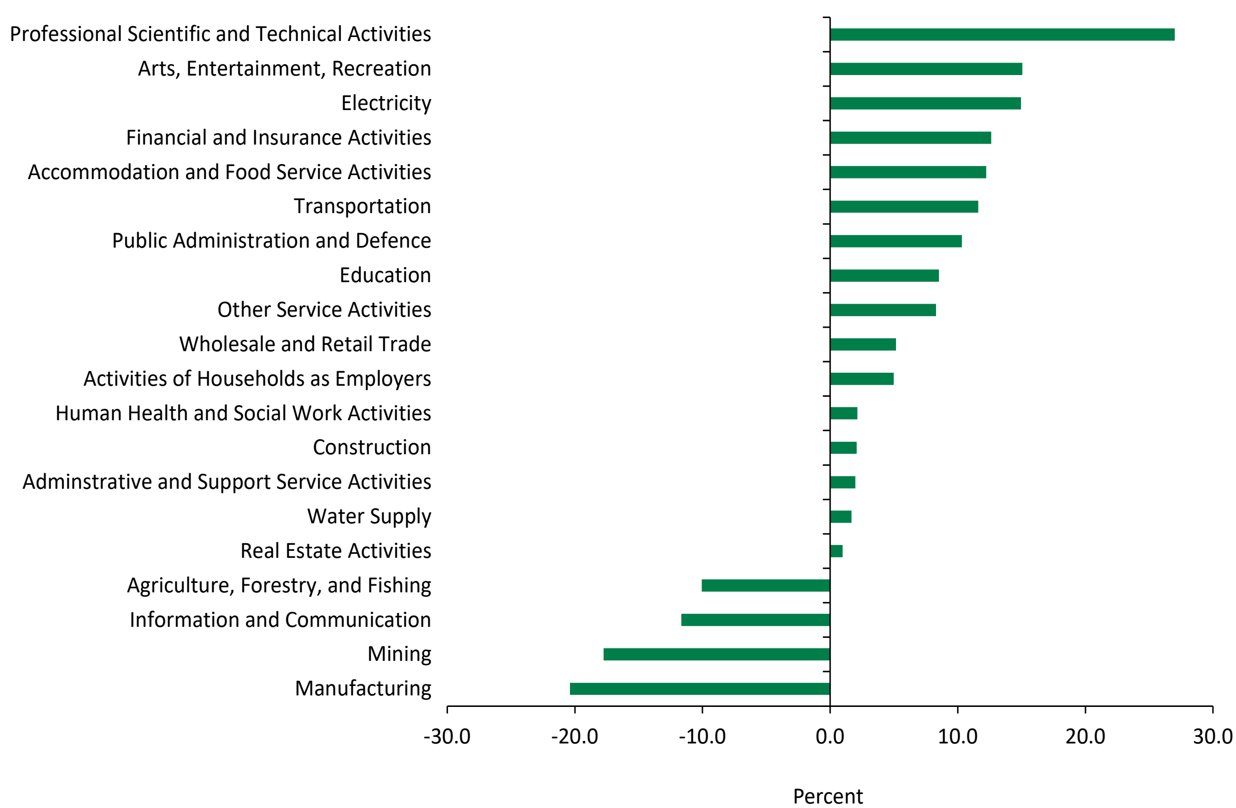
Domestic Production and Prices

Real GDP

Belize's real GDP grew by 2.0% in the first quarter of 2025, year on year, down from a robust 8.8% increase in the same period last year. This result marks the weakest first-quarter growth since 2021, amid the economic recovery from the pandemic. The slowdown was driven by declines in output from the primary and secondary sectors, as lower production of key cash crops caused a drop in food manufacturing. Nonetheless, the overall growth was supported by an expansion in the tertiary sector, with mixed performance across sub-sectors. Notably, the growth rate of larger-weighted service industries—such as trade, transport, and accommodation and food services—decreased due to reduced overnight arrivals, while growth in smaller-weighted industries—such as finance, government, and business process outsourcing—accelerated.

Output in the primary sector decreased by 10.8% in the first three months of 2025. Production in the "*Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing*" sub-sector fell by 10.1%, mainly due to declines in sugarcane and citrus fruit deliveries for processing. Notwithstanding, value-added gains from increased production of bananas, marine goods, and non-traditional crops helped

Chart 2.1: Real GDP Growth Rates by Category at the First Quarter



to partly offset this decline. Sugarcane deliveries dropped sharply by 28.1%, primarily because of the adverse impacts of the Fusarium outbreak and heavy rains, with the latter leading to the temporary closure of the northern mill to reduce the high mud content in deliveries. Similarly, citrus deliveries declined by 33.6%, hindered by rising fertiliser costs, labour shortages, and citrus greening. Conversely, banana production increased by 5.4% to 1.1mn 40-pound boxes, supported by favourable weather and effective management of the Black Sigatoka disease. Furthermore, marine exports rose by 63.8%, driven by higher catches of lobster, conch, and other fish. Additionally, the increased output of non-traditional crops, such as coconuts, corn, sorghum, and soybeans, also helped soften the downturn in agricultural production. Finally, the "*Mining*" industry declined by 17.7%, primarily due to decreases in mining and quarrying activities, as well as a decline in petroleum extraction.

Secondary sector output declined by 8.7%, mainly due to a decrease in the manufacturing of food and beverage products. The "*Manufacturing*" sub-sector contracted by 20.4%, with reduced production of sugar and citrus juices, which fell by 36.9% and 64.8%, respectively. Meanwhile, beverage production decreased by 9.9%, with beer and soft drink outturns down 15.4% and 13.2%, respectively, owing to supply-side factors. Conversely, output in the "*Electricity*" sub-sector grew by 15.0%, supported by increased hydroelectricity generation, following heavy rains early in the year. Activities in the "*Construction*" sub-sector expanded by 2.1%, aligned with higher imports of construction materials and increased loans for construction. "*Water Supply*" also rose by 1.7%, reflecting increased water usage.

In contrast, the tertiary sector grew by 7.4%, with mixed results across service industries. The uneven outcomes were mainly due to a slight decline in stay-over visitors, which led to a respectable but relatively lower value-added gains, when compared to the same period of the previous year, in tourism-related sectors, particularly "*Accommodation and Food Service Activities*," "*Transportation*," and "*Wholesale and Retail Trade*," which increased by 12.2%, 11.6%, and 5.2%, respectively. Additionally, increased government expenditure boosted the sub-sectors of "*Public Administration and Defence*" (10.3%), "*Education*" (8.5%), and "*Human Health and Social Work Activities*" (2.1%). Furthermore, notable increases in various non-government business services accounted for a 27.0% rise in "*Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*," while ongoing growth in business process outsourcing services contributed to a 2.0% increase in "*Administrative and Support Service Activities*".

Sugarcane and Sugar

National sugarcane deliveries for the 2024/2025 sugarcane crop season (December 2024-March 2025) contracted by 28.1% to 635,110 long tons, relative to the same period of the previous crop year. Exacerbated by poor cane quality, sugar production decreased by a larger margin of 36.3% to 49,257 long-tons, worsening the long-tons cane to long-ton sugar ratio from 11.4 to 12.9. Meanwhile, total molasses production declined by 28.5% to 20,122 long tons.

At the northern mill, harvesting for the 2024/2025 crop year began on 27 December 2024, a day before the 2023/2024 crop year had started. Despite this, sugarcane deliveries declined by 20.7% to 408,599 long tons due to a Fusarium outbreak, which caused severe damage to thousands of acres of sugarcane, and heavy rains, which temporarily halted milling due to the high-mud content in cane deliveries. Consequently, sugar production dropped significantly by 36.5% to 31,810 long tons, and the long-tons cane to long-ton sugar (TC/TS) ratio increased from 10.3 to 12.8, reflecting the falloff in cane quality. Additionally, molasses output decreased by 18.2% to 13,182 long tons.

The first price offered to farmers for delivering sugarcane to the northern mill was $53.62 per ton for the 2024/2025 crop year. This amount declined by 6.1% relative to the initial price announced in the previous crop year but was substantially lower than the record-high final price of $90.95 per ton paid for the 2023/2024 crop.

At the western mill, harvesting for the 2024/2025 crop started on 27 February 2025, which was 49 days later than the previous cycle. The delay was caused by heavy rains that prevented the mill from reopening. This postponement, combined with ongoing rains, resulted in a 38.5% decrease in deliveries over the abridged period, totalling 226,512 long tons. Consequently, sugar production dropped by 35.8% to 17,448 long tons, resulting in a slight improvement in the TC/TS ratio from 13.6 to 13.0. Furthermore, molasses output declined by 42.3% to 6,940 long tons.

Citrus

The 2024/2025 citrus harvest started on 7 October 2024, a month earlier than the beginning of the previous crop cycle. However, despite the early start, fruit deliveries plummeted by 33.6% to just 128,691 boxes. Growth was hampered by a significant 44.7% decline in orange deliveries, totalling 88,396 90-pound boxes over the crop year to date, mainly due to the industry’s ongoing fight against the citrus greening disease since 2005. Meanwhile, grapefruit deliveries increased by 18.2% to 40,295 80-pound boxes.

Total citrus juice production declined by 37.8% to 0.6mn pounds of solids (ps), as the average juice yield declined by 6.2% due to a relative drop in fruit quality. In line with deliveries, orange juice production fell by 45.9% to 0.4mn ps, while grapefruit production increased by 16.2% to 0.1mn ps. Meanwhile, the manufacturing of citrus by-products, particularly citrus oil, remained minimal, and there was no production of pulp.

The first price paid for orange and grapefruit deliveries for the new crop year remained unchanged at $18.00 per box of 90-pound oranges and 80-pound grapefruits. The record-high prices resulted from a new pricing structure introduced by the factory. Meanwhile, growers will be paid based on a maturity ratio of 13.1 for oranges and 9.1 for grapefruits.

Banana

Banana production rose by 5.4% to 1.1mn 40-pound boxes during the first quarter of 2025, compared to the same period in 2024. The modest growth was supported by favourable weather conditions and the industry's efforts to control the spread of the Black Sigatoka disease.

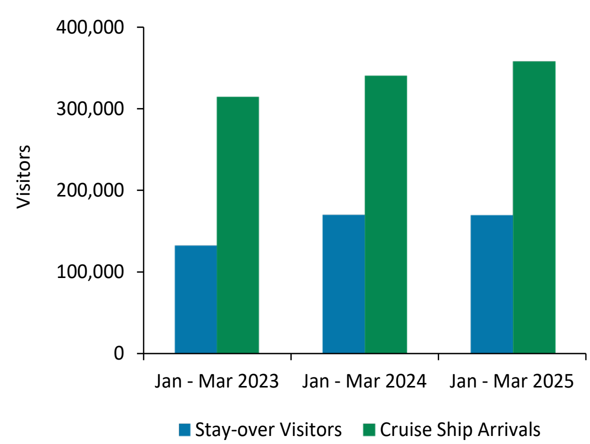
The total acreage of land used for commercial banana production increased by 1.6% to 7,283 acres in January 2025 compared with the same month in 2024. As a result, the total acreage under production rose by 1.1% to 6,897.2 acres, while the area of land ready to be planted was reduced by more than half, from 100.0 acres in 2024 to 44.0 acres in 2025. However, zero acres were scheduled for rehabilitation, compared to 105.0 acres in 2024, with the Black Sigatoka disease under control. Consequently, the acres under *Plantilla* more than doubled from 137.3 in 2024 to 342.2, indicating that the rehabilitated land was used for planting young trees.

Tourism

According to the World Tourism Organization, international arrivals rose by 5.0% in the first quarter of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. From January to March, approximately 300.0mn tourists travelled abroad, generating high levels of tourism expenditure and building on the momentum from late 2024. Growth rates differed by region: Africa led with 9.0%, while Europe and the Middle East rose by 2.0% and 1.0%, respectively. The Americas grew by 3.0%, but the Caribbean experienced a 9.7% decline. In the Americas, Paraguay (53.0%), Brazil (48.0%), Chile (48.0%), Ecuador (17.0%), and Mexico (6.0%) posted notable growth despite rising geopolitical and trade tensions earlier in the year.

Looking ahead, the World Tourism Organization forecasts a steady rise in international arrivals of 3.0% to 5.0% by the end of 2025 compared to 2024. While tourism is expected to remain strong in 2025, growth is anticipated to vary across different regions. Major markets such as the United States, China, and Germany are predicted to plateau. In contrast, other key markets, including

Chart 2.2: Tourist Arrivals



Sources: BTB, CBB, and Immigration and Nationality Department.

Saudi Arabia, France, and Spain, are likely to drive global tourism growth. Despite this optimistic outlook, the organisation remains cautiously hopeful due to ongoing economic and geopolitical challenges that affect tourists' confidence and perceptions of value for money.

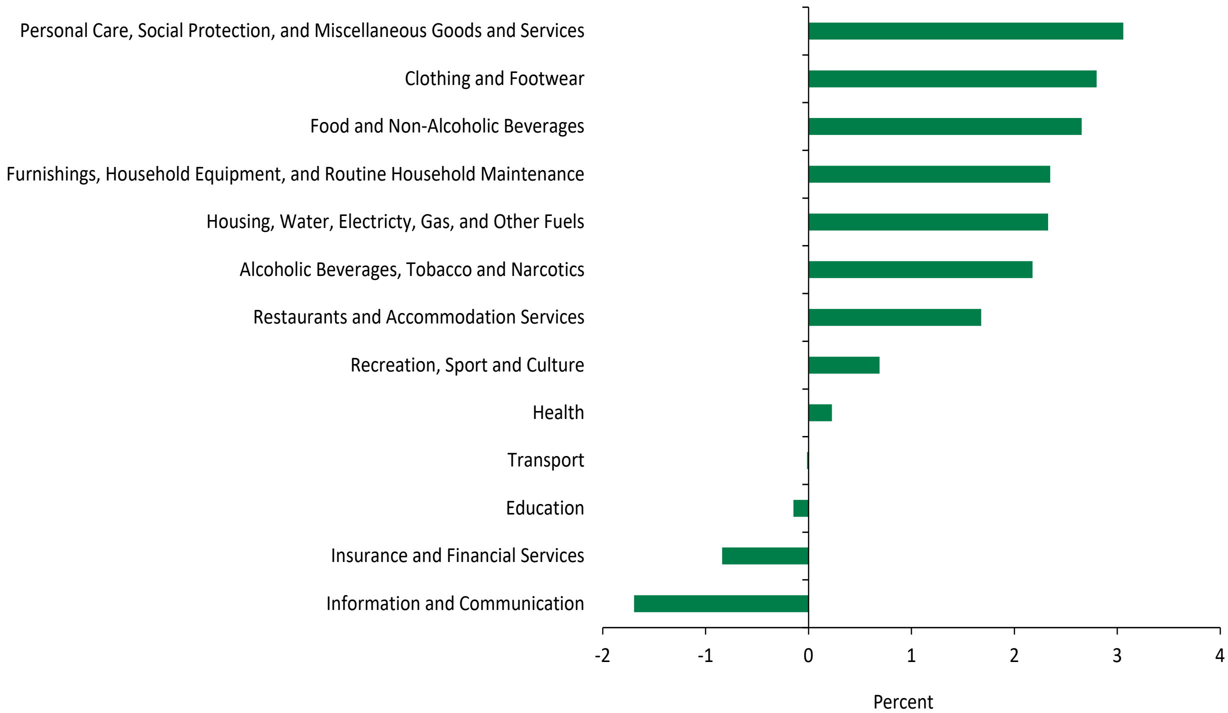
In Belize, international stay-over arrivals decreased slightly by 0.3% in the first quarter of 2025 to 169,388 visitors, sharply contrasting with the impressive 28.4% growth in the same period in 2024. This decline was mainly due to reductions in both air and land arrivals, which fell by 0.1% and 5.6%, respectively. When broken down by country of origin, the US remained Belize's primary source of international tourists, accounting for 72.9% of the total in the first quarter. However, the US share declined marginally by 0.2 percentage points from the same quarter in 2024. Canadian and "other" visitors also decreased by 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points to 9.7% and 8.5%, respectively. Meanwhile, European visitors increased their share by 1.1 percentage points to 8.7%, partially offsetting the overall decline.

Cruise arrivals grew by 5.2% in the first quarter of the year, reaching 358,457 passengers, although this outcome still lags 12.8% behind the same period in 2019. The number of port calls rose by 11 to 145 ships, with the most notable increase at the Fort Street Cruise port, which recorded a 26-ship increase to 111 calls. Conversely, port calls at Norwegian's Harvest Caye decreased by 15 to 34 compared to 2024.

Consumer Price Index

In the first quarter of 2025, the average inflation rate slowed to 1.7%, down from 3.8% during the same period in 2024. Inflationary pressures were mainly driven by rising prices for food, private dwellings, and liquefied petroleum gas. The "*Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages*" subindex increased by 2.7%, representing 39.3% of the total change in the all-items index, due to higher costs for a variety of foods, including bread, meat, juices, fresh fruit, purified water, and soft drinks. The "*Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels*" subindex also rose by 2.2%, primarily because of increased home rental and liquefied petroleum gas prices. Additionally, the "*Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services*" subcategory grew by 3.1%, lifted by higher prices for hygiene items such as deodorants, lotions, and perfumes. Several less-weighted subindices also recorded varying growth rates, except for "*Information and Communication*," which decreased by 1.7% due to lower cellular phone prices.

Chart 2.3: Consumer Price Index



Box 1.1: Belize's Energy Landscape in the First Quarter of 2025: A Shift Towards Greater Domestic Production

In the first quarter of 2025, Belize's overall electricity sold increased by 0.9%, reaching 185,872 megawatt hours (MWh). Of this total, 52.6% was imported from Mexico, while the remaining 47.4% was generated locally. However, domestic electricity production rose by 9.1% during these three months, while imported electricity registered a 5.5% decline compared to the same quarter in 2024.

In the first quarter of 2025, Belize's domestic electricity production increased both from renewable and non-renewable resources. Hydroelectric generation from dams—the Chalillo, Vaca, and Mollejon—jumped by 36.3%, reaching a total of 47,512 MWh, attributable to heightened rainfall early in the year. Nonetheless, the increase from this renewable resource was partly offset by a reduction from another source. The heavy rains adversely affected cane availability for sugar mills, causing a 24.1% and 44.4% decrease in bagasse-based electricity production from the northern and western mills, respectively. As a result, electricity generation from diesel generators soared, climbing 56.7% from 5,618 MWh in the first quarter of 2024 to 8,803 MWh in the same period of 2025, compensating for the decline in biomass electricity production. Importantly, the Belize Electricity Limited enhanced its capacity for non-renewable energy production thanks to the import of commercial-grade generators in early 2024, allowing for a more responsive posture in domestic electricity supply.

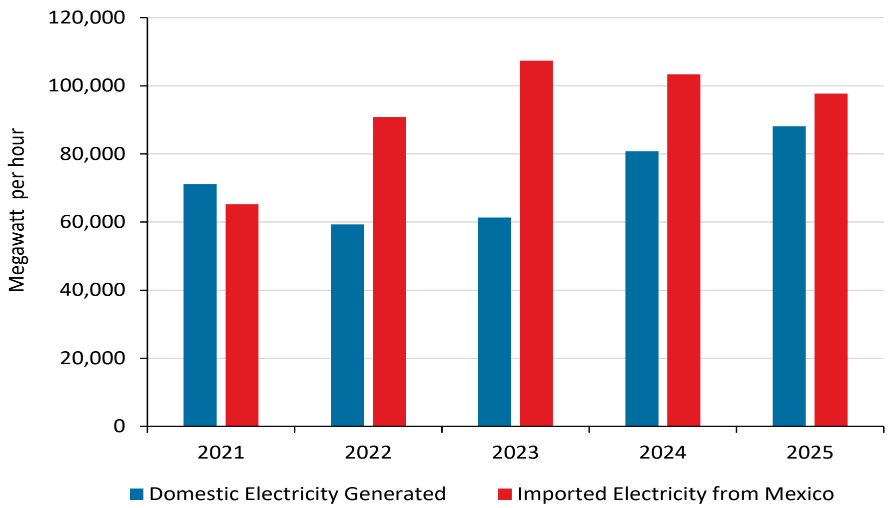
The reduction in imported electricity from Mexico was influenced by two factors. Firstly, energy consumption in Mexico's southern states rose due to unusually high temperatures. Secondly, the development of Mexico's Tren Maya inter-city railway project required increased energy to support tourism activities. The reduction of electricity supply from Mexico to Belize resulted in frequent load-shedding in 2024 and power rationing for major corporations, adversely impacting the production of goods and services.

Belize remains heavily reliant on Mexico's lower electricity prices, in comparison to local sources, to keep energy prices down. In the first quarter, the average price of imported electricity decreased by 9.4%, from $0.17[1] per KWh (kilowatt hour) in 2024 to $0.15 per KWh in 2025. In contrast, the average price of domestically produced electricity increased by 3.8%, from $0.27 per KWh in 2024 to $0.28 per KWh during the first quarter of 2025.

[1] *Source*: Belize Electricity Limited

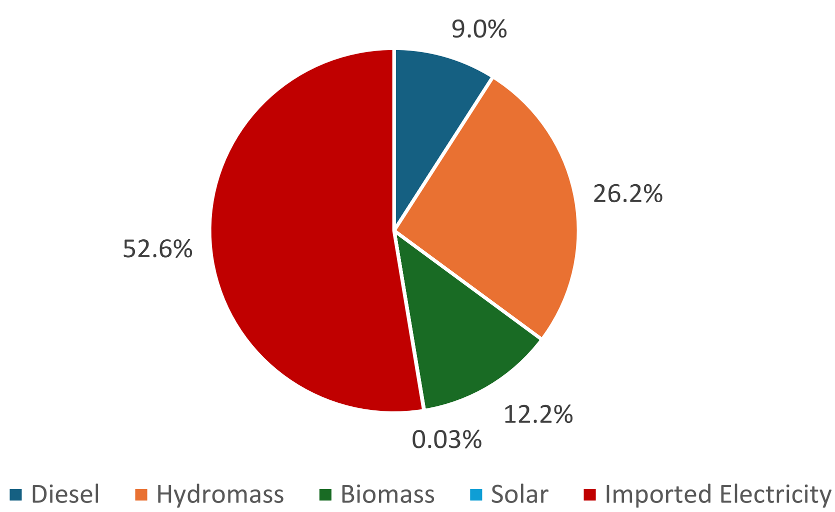
Box 1.1: Belize's Energy Landscape in the First Quarter of 2025: A Shift Towards Greater Domestic Production (*continued*)

Chart 2.4: Domestic versus Imported Electricity Sold in the First Quarters of 2021 to 2025



The majority of Belize's electricity is generated from domestic renewable energy sources, which are vulnerable to climate change. During the first quarter, 81.0% of electricity generated came from eight renewable energy suppliers, with the remaining 19.0% sourced from diesel generators. Approximately 68.2% of the renewable energy was derived from hydroelectric dams in western Belize, while 31.8% came from biomass electricity, and 0.1% from solar power. Nonetheless, climate change significantly threatens renewable energy output.

Chart 2.5: Composition of Electricity Sold in the First Quarter of 2025



Box 1.1: Belize's Energy Landscape in the First Quarter of 2025: A Shift Towards Greater Domestic Production (*continued*)

A large portion of electricity comes from hydropower, which is increasingly susceptible to droughts and erratic rainfall patterns—conditions that are becoming more common due to climate change. The high variability in weather prevents Belize's hydropower from consistently providing stable electricity year after year, further threatening national energy security.

In response, a utility-scale solar plant is planned to commence operations by 2027 through a public-private partnership between the Government of Belize and the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group. The solar plant is projected to generate power sufficient for approximately 20,000 households, aiming to enhance energy security and affordability. This project seeks to reduce dependence on imported electricity and improve the climate resilience of Belize's energy sector by achieving a substantial 75.0% increase in domestic renewable energy production by 2030. Additionally, the World Bank and the Government of Japan will finance a 40-megawatt battery energy storage system to facilitate the integration of green energy into the national grid. In the medium term, the solar plant is anticipated to lower foreign exchange outflows and the dependence for imported energy while reinforcing Belize's position as a clean energy producer in the region.

References

International Financial Corporation. (2025). IFC to advise Belize on solar PPP project to boost energy security and affordability. Retrieved from
https://www.ifc.org/en/pressroom/2025/ifc-to-advise-belize-on-solar-ppp-project

Money and Credit

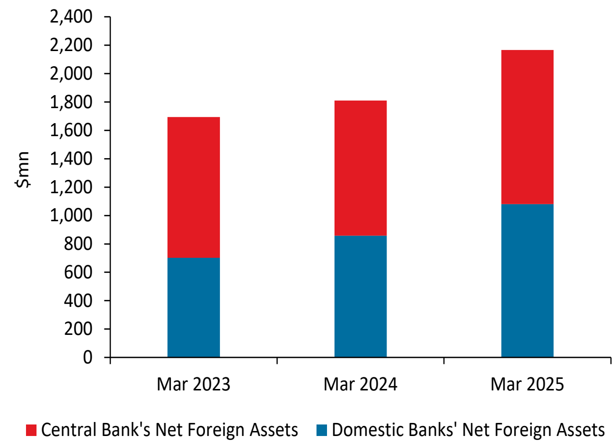
Money Supply

In the first quarter of 2025, the broad money supply (M2) rose by $216.5mn (4.5%) to $5,080.3mn. Money growth was mainly driven by a $185.1mn expansion in narrow money (M1), along with a smaller rise of $31.4mn in quasi-money. The increase in M1 was primarily supported by a $179.4mn (6.7%) surge in demand deposits, with smaller increases in currency held by the public and savings/chequing deposits of $5.5mn and $0.1mn, respectively. The increase in demand deposits was linked to higher holdings by business entities and credit unions. Meanwhile, the moderate 2.0% growth in quasi-money was due to a rise of $45.8mn in savings deposits, partly offset by a decrease of $14.4mn in time deposits. On the asset side of domestic banks' balance sheets, M2 growth was primarily driven by a substantial increase in foreign assets, as lending to the public and private sectors decreased.

Net Foreign Assets

The banking system's net foreign assets increased by $223.4mn (11.5%) to $2,166.6mn in the first three months of 2025, surpassing the $210.8mn (13.2%) rise recorded during the same period in 2024. Most of this growth was due to the rapid accumulation of foreign currency in domestic banks, which accounted for 61.6% of the total increase. Domestic banks' net foreign assets rose by $137.6mn (14.6%), reaching a new peak of $1,080.2mn, mainly because of a significant boost in tourism revenue during the high season. Meanwhile, the

Chart 3.1: Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System



Central Bank's net foreign assets increased by $85.8mn (8.6%) to $1,086.4mn, as foreign currency purchases exceeded foreign currency sales. On one hand, gross foreign currency inflows reached $148.3mn, more than double the $70.5mn realised during the same period in 2024. This increase was mainly due to a sharp rise in foreign currency purchases from domestic banks, along with increased proceeds from external loans, grants, and other miscellaneous sources, as proceeds from sugar exports dipped slightly. On the other hand, gross foreign currency outflows amounted to $62.1mn, reflecting a slight decrease of $5.7mn (8.5%) compared to $67.9mn in the same period in 2024. These outflows primarily consisted of sales to the Central Government and statutory bodies, amounting to $49.2mn and $10.2mn, respectively.

Net Domestic Credit

During the quarter, the net domestic credit of the banking system decreased by $31.7mn (0.9%) to $3,654.5mn, as net lending to the

Chart 3.2: Domestic Banks' Private Sector Credit

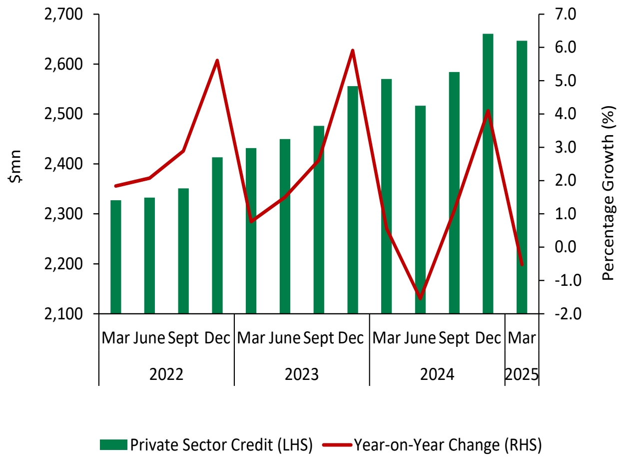
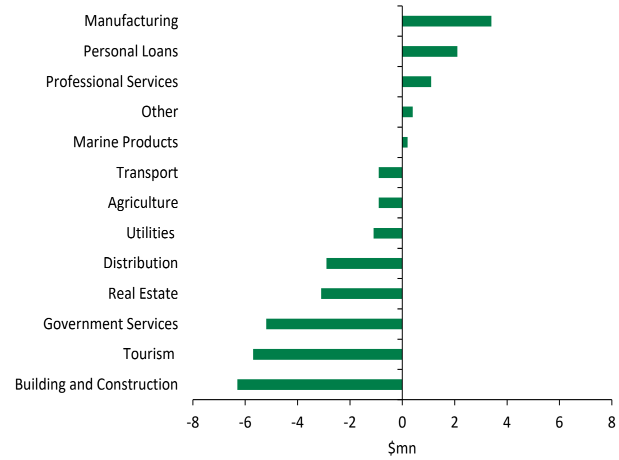
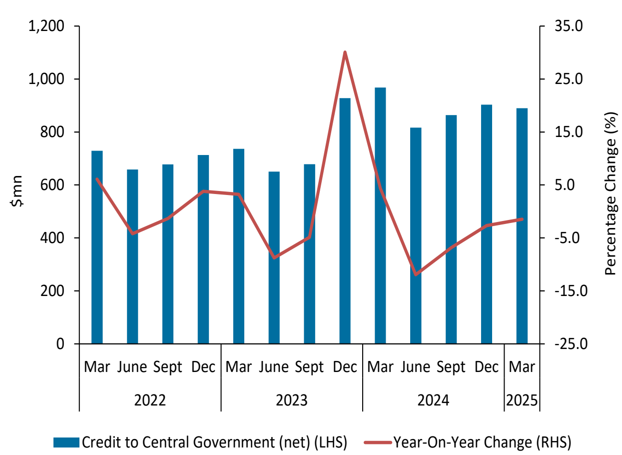


Chart 3.4: Change in Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances



Central Government, quasi-public entities, and the private sector declined. Net credit to the Central Government fell by $13.1mn (1.5%) to $889.9mn, contrasting with the $40.6mn growth recorded during the same period of 2024. Meanwhile, credit to the private sector declined by $13.3mn (0.5%) to $2,657.0mn, compared to a $14.8mn increase in the same quarter last year. The overall reduction in domestic banks' loan portfolios was driven by declines across various categories: building and construction ($6.3mn), tourism ($5.7mn), real estate ($3.1mn), distribution ($2.9mn), utilities ($1.1mn), and agriculture ($0.9mn). These decreases outweighed increases in the following categories: manufacturing ($3.4mn), personal loans ($2.1mn), professional services ($1.1mn), and marine products ($0.2mn). Additionally, credit to other public sector entities decreased by $5.3mn (4.7%) to $107.5mn.

Chart 3.3: Net Credit to Central Government



Key indicators of the banking system's health also improved. During the quarter, the non-performing loans (net of specific provisions) ratio (NPL ratio) for domestic banks fell by 0.3 percentage points to 1.7%, remaining well below the 5.0% prudential benchmark. Domestic banks reduced their stock of non-performing loans as write-offs increased to $14.0mn, which was $9.7mn more than in the same period of 2024. Write-offs were mainly applied to tourism loans ($11.5mn) and, to a lesser extent, personal ($2.1mn) and building and construction ($0.4mn) loans. Furthermore, the return on assets (ROA) ratio for domestic banks dipped slightly by 0.1 percentage point to 1.4%.

Chart 3.5: Changes in Bank Liquidity

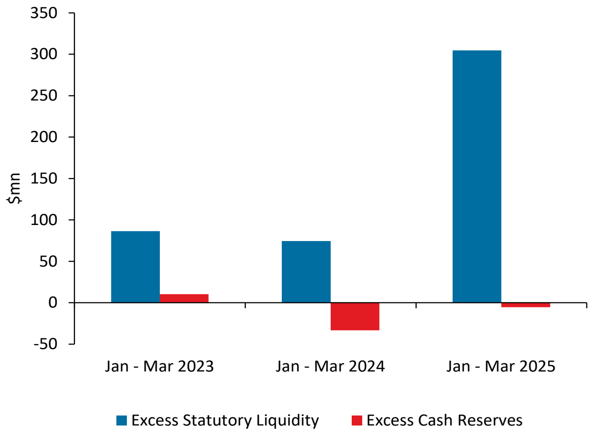
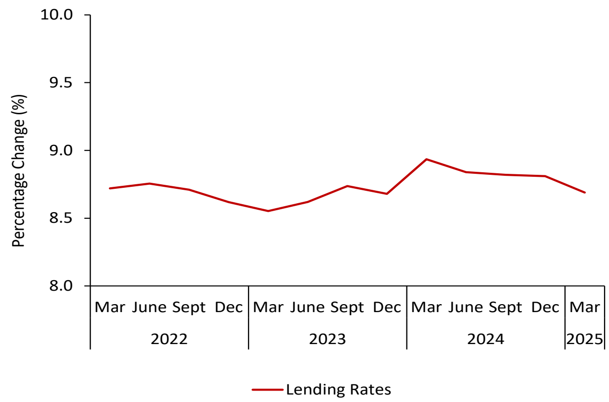


Chart 3.6: Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans



Bank Liquidity

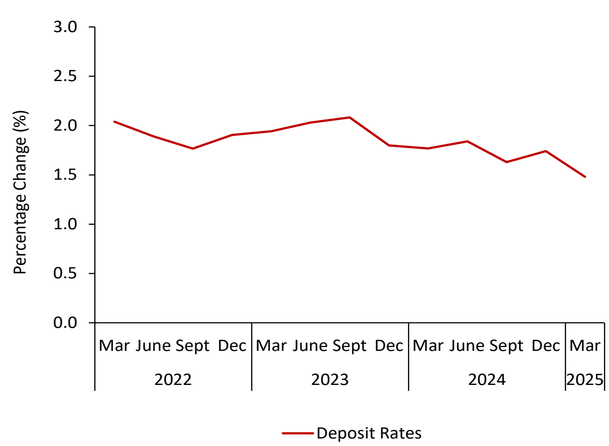
Over the quarter, domestic banks' excess liquidity grew by $304.7mn (40.8%) to $1,050.7mn, surpassing the secondary reserve requirement by 113.0%. A sharp increase in the foreign balances of domestic banks primarily drove this substantial rise in approved liquid assets. Meanwhile, domestic banks' excess cash reserves slightly fell by $5.4mn (1.1%) to $466.9mn. Despite this, their excess cash reserves remained 162.2% above the cash reserve requirement at the end of March.

Interest Rates

At 8.69%, the 12-month weighted (rolling) average rate on new loans decreased by 12 basis points in the first three months of 2025 and by 24 basis points over the previous 12 months ending in March 2025. The declining trend in interest rates throughout the year was driven by lower weighted lending rates for commercial and "Other" loans, which fell by 41 basis points and 111 basis points, respectively. However, these rate reductions were partly counterbalanced by increases in rates for personal and residential construction loans, which rose by 24 basis points and 57 basis points, respectively.

Similarly, the 12-month weighted (rolling) average interest rate on new deposits decreased by 26 basis points in the first quarter and by 28 basis points over the year ending March 2025, reaching 1.48%. This decline was primarily caused by a notable increase in non-interest-bearing demand deposits, mainly due to a portfolio reclassification that occurred last year. The sharp upturn in this deposit type more than

Chart 3.7: Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Deposits



offsets the impact of recent rate hikes on other interest-bearing deposits. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 14 basis points in the first quarter and by four basis points over the 12 months ending March 2025, enhancing the profit margins of domestic banks.

Credit Union Lending

The total loan portfolio for credit unions decreased slightly by $1.6mn (0.2%) to $749.6mn in the first quarter of 2025. This performance was primarily driven by reduced outstanding balances for building and construction ($2.7mn), real estate ($2.3mn), and distribution ($1.5mn) loans. These declines were partially offset by increases in outstanding balances for agricultural ($3.8mn) and personal loans ($1.3mn).

The credit unions' NPL ratio improved during the quarter, falling from 1.0% to 0.7%, remaining well below the industry's threshold. This was due to $14.0mn in loan write-offs in the first quarter of 2025, up from $4.3mn in the same three months of 2024. Meanwhile, the industry's ROA ratio rose from 2.4% to 3.0% over the quarter.

Development Bank Lending

Lending by the Development Finance Corporation rose by $1.0mn to $155.7mn in the first three months of 2025. The slight increase was primarily driven by growth in tourism ($1.9mn), professional services ($0.3mn), and student loans ($0.2mn). These gains were partly offset by declines in agriculture ($0.9mn), marine products ($0.3mn), and building and construction ($0.3mn) loans.

Open Market Operations

In the first quarter of 2025, following several rollover auctions, the Central Bank's holdings of the $335.0mn worth of outstanding T-bills declined by $27.8mn to $141.7mn, reducing its share of the total by 8.3 percentage points to 42.3%. Meanwhile, domestic banks increased their holdings by

Chart 3.8: Change in Credit Unions' Loans and Advances

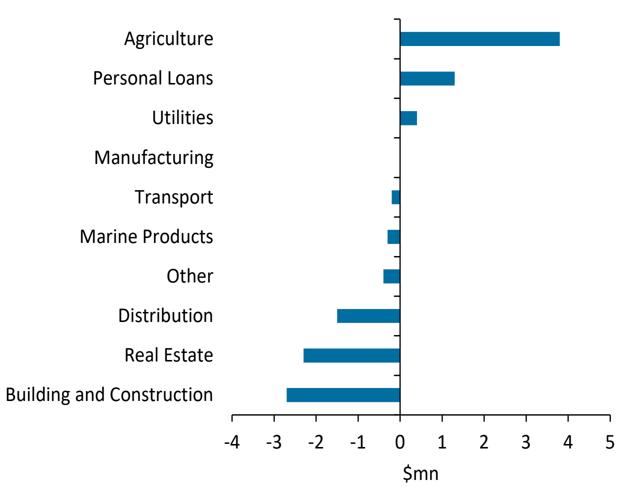
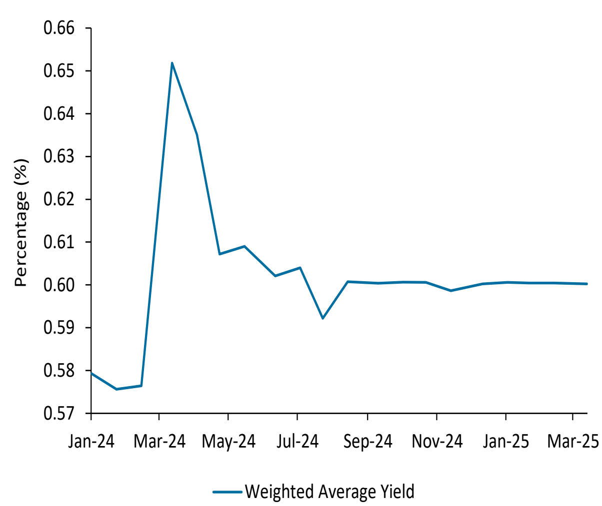


Chart 3.9: 91-Day Treasury Bill Yields

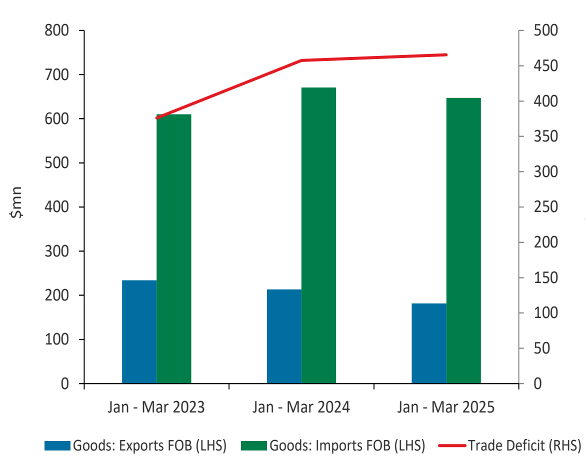


$22.8mn to $176.3mn, boosting their share by 6.8 percentage points to 52.6%. The non-bank sector's holdings grew modestly by $5.0mn to $17.0mn, expanding their share by 1.5 percentage points to 5.1%. Additionally, the weighted average yield at rollover auctions during the quarter remained nearly unchanged, fluctuating between 0.60026% and 0.60058%.

International Trade and Payments

In the first quarter of 2025, the external current account balance recorded a surplus of $82.2mn (1.1% of GDP), down from $92.9mn (1.4% of GDP) in the same period of 2024. The surplus narrowed due to a 1.7% increase in the trade deficit for goods, as export earnings decreased more sharply than import costs. Additionally, a 0.1% dip in net service inflows contributed to reducing the current account balance, primarily due to a decline in net receipts from all major service categories, except transportation and travel. These factors were partly offset by a $33.6mn increase in net capital inflows from higher receipts of public investment grants. The financial account recorded $60.6mn in net outflows (or net lending abroad), as an increase in domestic banks' net foreign assets surpassed net foreign direct investments and borrowings. As a result, gross international reserves rose by $87.0mn to $1,051.2mn, covering approximately 4.3 months of merchandise imports.

Chart 4.1: Trade Deficit in Goods



Merchandise Trade

In the first quarter of 2025, the merchandise trade deficit rose by 1.7% ($8.0mn) to $465.5mn. The deficit increased because a sharp drop in export revenue exceeded the reduction in spending on imports. Exports FOB fell by 14.8% ($31.6mn) to $181.7mn, with varied magnitudes of decline across different export subcategories. Specifically, domestic exports decreased by 1.8% ($1.5mn), while CFZ gross re-exports dropped by 23.8% ($23.5mn), and other re-exports declined by 22.5% ($6.6mn). Meanwhile, Imports FOB declined by 3.5% ($23.6mn) to $647.2mn, as a 4.4% ($26.5mn) decrease in domestic imports was greater than a 4.1% ($2.9mn) increase in imports into the commercial free zone area.

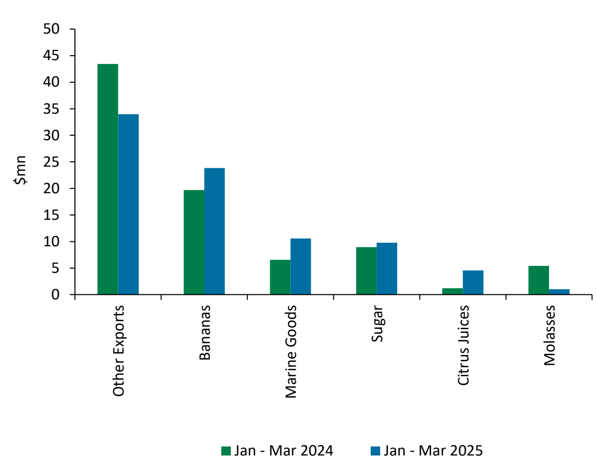
<u>Gross Imports</u>

Imports FOB declined by 3.5% ($23.6mn) to $647.2mn in the first three months of 2025. The decrease was mainly driven by a $42.3mn drop in "*Machinery and Transport Equipment*," with the exclusion of several high-value items, particularly the industrial generators and gas turbines purchased in the same period the previous year. Additionally, lower purchases across all major fuel types led to a $13.3mn reduction in "*Mineral Fuels and Lubricants*." Smaller declines included "*Crude Materials*" ($1.4mn), due to fewer imports of treated pine lumber, and "*Other Manufactures*" ($1.2mn), resulting from decreased imports of gaming machines, printed materials, and disposable gloves. These declines were partially offset by an $18.4mn increase in "*Food and Live Animals*," boosted by higher spending on orange concentrate, coffee, corn seeds, and evaporated milk. Meanwhile, "*Manufactured Goods*" increased by $3.9mn, driven by increased expenditure on glass bottles and corrugated steel rods. Imports into the "*Commercial Free Zone*" grew by $2.6mn, mainly due to higher expenditure on cigarettes, tennis shoes, and handbags. Lastly, "*Beverages and Tobacco*" rose by $2.3mn, owing to increased imports of beer, cigarettes, and cigars, while "*Chemical Products*" grew by $1.0mn, primarily driven by higher fertiliser imports.

Domestic Exports

Domestic export receipts declined slightly by 1.8% ($1.5mn) to $83.7mn in the first quarter of 2025. The decline was primarily due to a $5.0mn reduction in cattle exports, recorded under "*Other Miscellaneous Exports*," and a $4.4mn decrease in molasses. Nonetheless, the overall export performance was supported by higher earnings from bananas ($4.1mn), marine products ($4.0mn), citrus juices ($3.3mn), and cane sugar ($0.8mn).

Chart 4.2: Domestic Exports



Sources: SIB and CBB

Sugar and Molasses

Sugar export revenue rose by 9.4% ($0.8mn) to $9.8mn, following an 11.1% increase in volume to 5,891 long tons. Export earnings grew at a slower rate due to a 1.5% decline in average prices across international markets. This outcome was influenced by higher global sugar production in Brazil and India, which coincided with a decrease in export shipments from the European Union and Thailand.

Europe remained Belize's main export market, purchasing 59.1% of the total export volume, equivalent to 3,480 long tons, valued at $5.4mn. Compared to the same period in 2024, export receipts increased marginally by $0.1mn, corresponding to a 0.3% rise in sales volume, as average prices in Europe remained nearly unchanged. The remaining export shipment of 2,412 long tons was sold to CARICOM for $4.3mn. This represented a $0.9mn year-on-year increase, as a 34.2% jump in export volume was offset by a 6.0% decrease in the average unit price of bagged sugar. Meanwhile, molasses export receipts fell sharply by 81.1% ($4.4mn) to $1.0mn, reflecting a 34.9% fall in export volume alongside a 70.9% decline in the average unit price.

Citrus Juices and Pulp

Export earnings from citrus juices more than tripled to $4.6mn, following a 3.2-fold increase in export volume to 0.6mn ps. This positive outcome was driven by substantial growth in orange concentrate earnings, which easily offset the decline in grapefruit concentrate sales. As a result, receipts from orange concentrate increased by $3.6mn to $4.1mn, while export volume grew to 0.4mn ps, amidst a 36.2% rise in the average unit price. However, export revenue from grapefruit concentrates decreased by $0.2mn to $0.5mn, as export volume fell to 0.1mn ps and the average unit price declined by 0.4%. All orange and grapefruit concentrate exports were shipped to CARICOM during the review period. Lastly, exports of not-from-concentrate were minimal, and no pulp was exported.

Marine Exports

Marine export receipts increased by 61.4% ($4.0mn) to $10.6mn, driven by higher export volumes and prices for lobster and conch. Lobster earnings soared by 74.0% ($2.2mn) to $5.3mn, reflecting a 63.8% rise in export volume, augmented by a 6.2% increase in the average unit price. Conch revenue grew by 54.0% ($1.7mn) to $5.0mn, supported by a 46.9% increase in export volume and a 4.9% rise in the average price. Conversely, farmed shrimp exports declined by 7.3% ($0.02mn) to $0.3mn due to a 22.9% decrease in export volume, which was partly offset by a 20.2% rise in price. Exports of other fish were minimal.

Banana

Banana export earnings increased by 21.0% ($4.1mn) to $23.8mn, driven by a 5.4% rise in export volume. The disproportionate revenue increase was due to higher premiums received on customised fruit packages sold in supermarkets abroad.

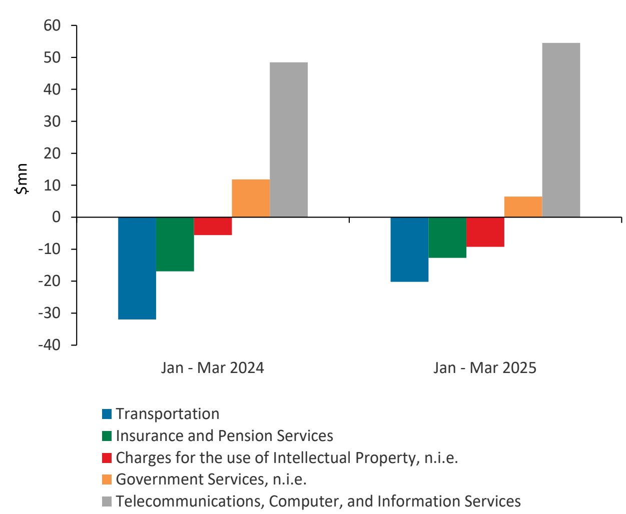
Other Miscellaneous Exports

Other miscellaneous export earnings fell by 21.8% ($9.5mn) to $34.0mn. This decline was mainly due to lower receipts from cattle ($5.0mn), animal feed ($1.5mn), and pepper sauce ($0.6mn). However, increased revenue from crude soybean oil ($0.3mn) and red kidney beans ($0.3mn) helped to offset the overall decrease.

Services

Net inflows on the services account decreased marginally by 0.1% ($0.5mn) to $523.8mn over the first three months of 2025. This outcome was impacted by a slowdown in net travel inflows, which inched up by only 0.1% ($0.7mn) to $479.7mn, due to a slight decline in overnight visitors over the same period. Notably, the decline in stay-over arrivals marked the first instance of a first-quarter contraction since 2021, when the Great Lockdown was in effect. The decline in net service inflows was also linked to a 47.5% ($15.4mn) decrease in other business services, with reduced earnings

Chart 4.3: Sub-components of Services



from professional and management consulting services. Additionally, net inflows for government services decreased by $5.4mn due to increased outward transfers to embassies abroad. These developments were tempered by an $11.8mn reduction in net outflows on the transportation subaccount, as the decrease in imports coincided with a decline in international freight rates. Lastly, reduced payments for insurance premiums contributed to a $4.2mn decrease in net outflows for insurance and pension services.

Primary and Secondary Income

Net outflows on the primary income account increased by $0.4mn to $50.9mn for the first quarter of the year. The deficit widened due to higher profit repatriation by foreign-owned entities, increased reinvested earnings by domestic banks, and a rise in interest payments on the public sector's external debt. Accordingly, profit repatriation rose by $1.3mn to $22.4mn, as higher outflows from the insurance and airline industries outweighed the decline in outflows from energy, tourism, and beverage manufacturing enterprises. Reinvested earnings by domestic banks increased by $0.4mn to $18.5mn, owing to improved bank profitability. Meanwhile, the public sector's interest payments on its external debt grew by $0.2mn to $16.2mn, as external borrowing costs rose with higher interest rates on variable-rate loans. Nevertheless, the rise in net outflows was partially offset by a $1.3mn increase in the Central Bank's investment income.

The surplus on the secondary income account decreased by $1.8mn to $74.9mn between January and March. A $4.7mn decline in non-life insurance claims from foreign reinsurers to $4.1mn reduced the surplus. However, a $2.6mn increase in net remittances to $55.3mn combined with a $2.7mn rise in transfers to religious and other non-profit organisations to $20.5mn helped moderate the narrowing of the sub-account.

Chart 4.4: FDI Breakdown by Sector

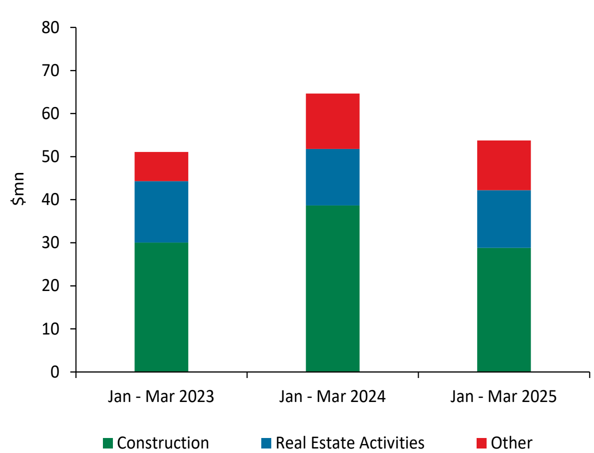
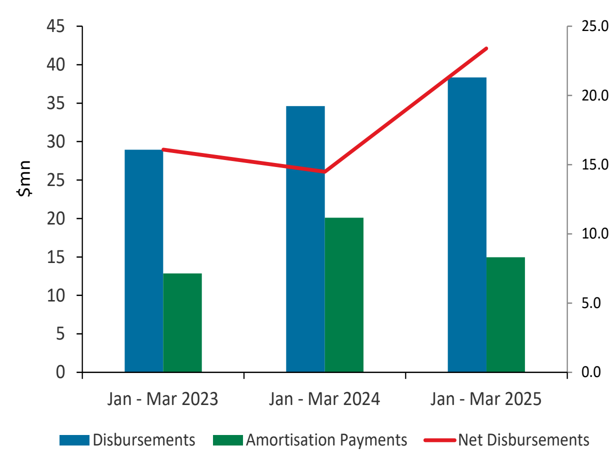


Chart 4.5: Central Government Net External Loan Disbursements



Capital Account

The capital account surplus grew by $29.7mn, reaching $33.6mn during the review period. This result was supported by several grants from various sources, allocated to different projects. These included $6.0mn from the Government of the Republic of China/Taiwan for the national school feeding programme and expanding Wi-Fi access in schools; $3.1mn from the Basic Needs Trust Fund Programme, administered by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), for multiple poverty alleviation initiatives; and $1.9mn from the Global Fund Cycle to strengthen the country's healthcare infrastructure.

Financial Account

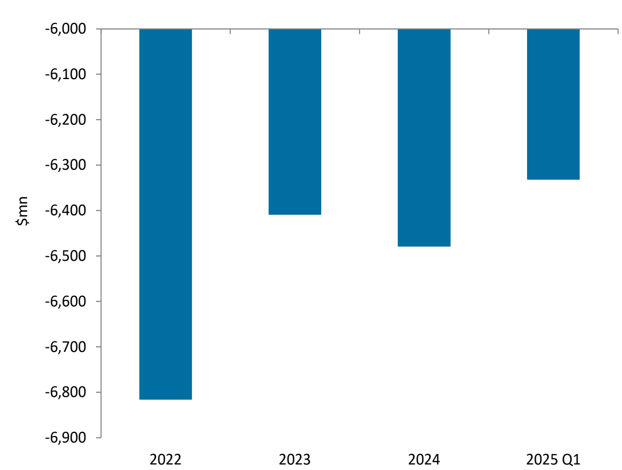
Over the first three months of 2025, the financial account recorded $60.6mn in net outflows, as the acquisition of net financial assets exceeded the incurrence of net financial liabilities. Notably, this outcome was less than half the $128.8mn netted during the corresponding quarter of 2024, as commercial banks sold more of their foreign currency inflows to the Central Bank. Nevertheless, domestic banks' net foreign asset position grew healthily, up by $137.6mn, with the seasonal growth in tourism revenue.

At the same time, the incurrence of net liabilities edged down due to reduced net foreign direct investments and higher private net repayments, as net public sector borrowings rose. Net direct investments decreased by $9.1mn to $57.8mn, as a $10.4mn drop in inflows to $84.7mn was partly offset by a $1.4mn decrease in outflows to $26.9mn. Inward foreign direct investments were mainly directed towards tourism-related construction ($28.8mn) and real estate activities ($13.4mn), while outward investments were concentrated on real estate sales ($26.9mn). Meanwhile, transactions in other investment liabilities mainly consisted of a $10.9mn increase in the public sector's net external borrowings, which eclipsed $5.3mn in net repayments by the private sector.

International Investment Position

In the first quarter of 2025, Belize's international investment position improved by $147.4mn, reducing the deficit to $6,183.4mn. This improvement was primarily driven by a seasonal increase in net financial assets, originating mainly from the seasonal boost in tourism earnings, which exceeded the growth of net financial liabilities. These net financial liabilities mainly stemmed from net foreign investments and, to a lesser extent, from net borrowing by the public sector. The net foreign asset position increased by $222.5mn to $2,535.5mn, while net foreign liabilities rose by $75.1mn to $8,866.3mn.

Chart 4.6: Net International Investment Position

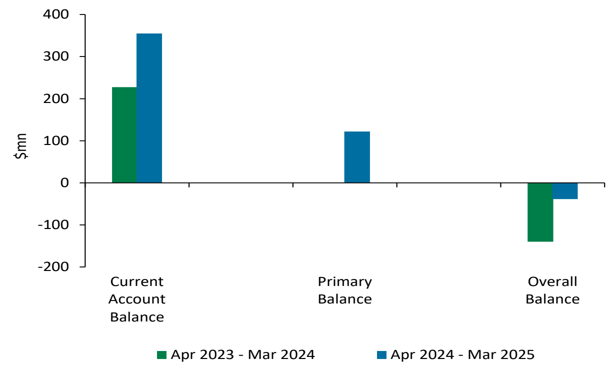


Government Operations and Public Debt

Central Government Operations

The Central Government's fiscal position improved significantly in FY2024/25, with the overall deficit narrowing to $38.8mn (0.6% of GDP) from $140.0mn (2.2% of GDP) in the previous year. This positive trend was also reflected in the primary surplus, which reached $122.0mn (1.8% of GDP), a sharp increase from the primary surplus of just $0.2mn in FY2023/24. Total revenue and grants rose to $1,655.8mn, up by $194.4mn (13.3%) from the previous period. Actual revenue exceeded budget estimates by $136.7mn, mainly due to stronger-than-anticipated tax and non-tax receipts. Meanwhile, total expenditure grew by $93.2mn (5.8%) to $1,694.6mn, surpassing the approved budget by $89.6mn. This rise was largely driven by higher recurrent expenses, with a modest increase in capital spending.

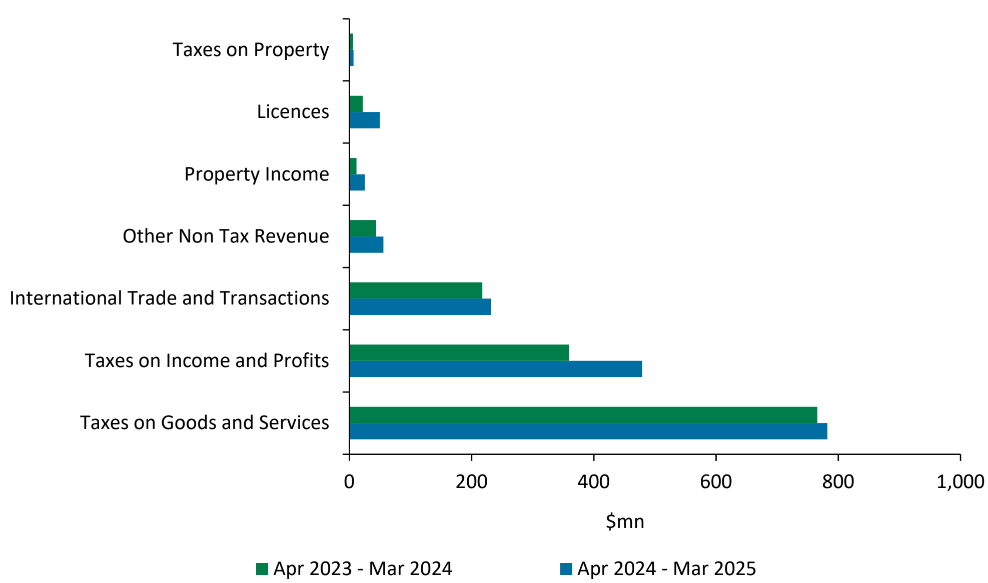
Chart 5.1: Central Government's Operations



Sources: MOF and CBB

Tax revenue, the main component of overall government income, increased by $151.0mn or 11.2% to $1,499.7mn, exceeding the budget target by $111.9mn. The largest gains were recorded in "*Income and Profits*," which rose by $120.0mn. This improvement was mainly driven by a $90.5mn increase in business tax collections, with PAYE also growing due

Chart 5.2: Central Government's Revenue



Source: MOF

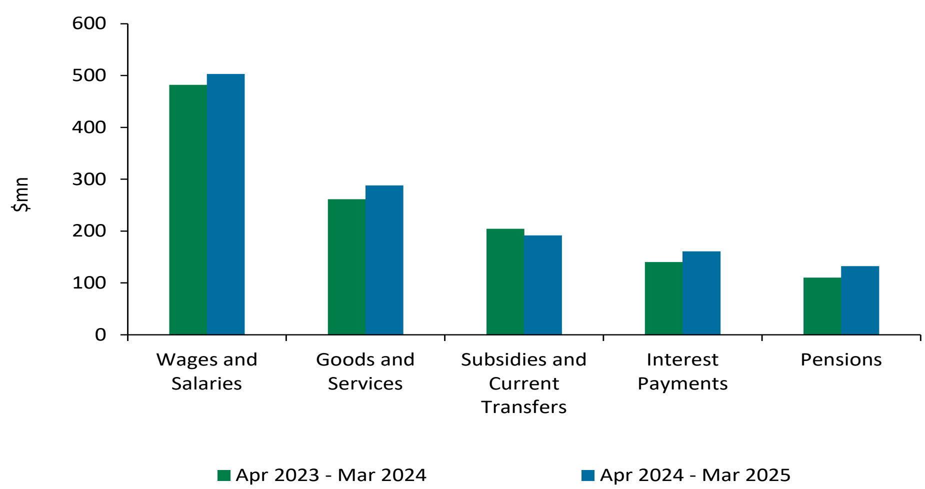
to ongoing economic expansion. "*Taxes on International Trade and Transactions*" increased by $14.1mn, supported by strong growth in import activity, which boosted Customs revenue. Additionally, "*Taxes on Goods and Services*" rose by $16.4mn, driven by modest increases in stamp duties, excise duties, and General Sales Tax collections.

Non-tax revenue reached $130.9mn, up by $53.7mn. This increase mainly stemmed from higher administrative collections for licences ($49.6mn) and substantial contributions from quasi-fiscal entities ($25.5mn). Capital revenue grew by $4.9mn, mainly due to the sale of crown land, while grant receipts fell by $15.2mn to $13.7mn, as several grant-funded public investment projects wound down.

On the expenditure front, current spending increased by $77.1mn to $1,275.5mn, exceeding the projected budget by 8.6%. Spending across all line items increased except for "*Subsidies and Current Transfers*," which declined by 6.4%, owing to the absence of the one-off arbitral award related to the Belize City Port acquisition in 2023. Outlays on goods and services accounted for 34.6% of the increase in recurrent spending, rising by $26.7mn, driven by higher operating costs, particularly for professional services, and increased expenditure on medical supplies, food, books, and insurance. "*Interest Payments*" rose by $20.6mn to $160.8mn, due to the interest rate step-up on the Blue Loan from 3.55% to 5.15%, alongside the modest growth in external debt. Personal emoluments increased by $21.1mn to $503.0mn, while "*Pensions*" grew by $21.9mn to $132.2mn, owing to higher gratuity payouts.

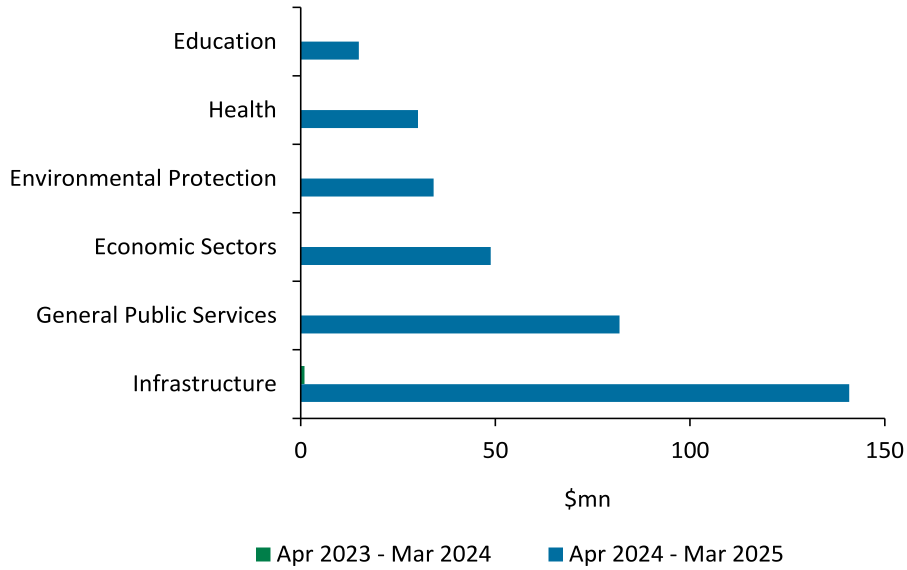
Capital expenditure and net lending amounted to $419.0mn, an increase of $16.1mn over the previous period. This rise was driven by locally financed initiatives, which increased by $24.2mn to $334.3mn,

Chart 5.3: Central Government's Current Expenditures



Source: MOF

Chart 5.4: Central Government's Development Expenditure



Source: MOF

surpassing the budget target by 20.7%. Spending on externally funded projects dipped by $8.1mn to $84.0mn, falling well short of the budget by $62.6mn. Capital II and III investments were primarily directed towards infrastructure projects, accounting for 33.7% of total capital expenditure, while general public services accounted for 19.6%. Other major allocations included economic sectors (11.7%), environmental protection and land management (8.2%), health (7.2%), and education (3.6%).

The fiscal deficit was financed through a mix of external concessional loans, central bank financing, deposit withdrawals, and unclaimed funds from the last bond buyback exercise.

Public Sector Debt

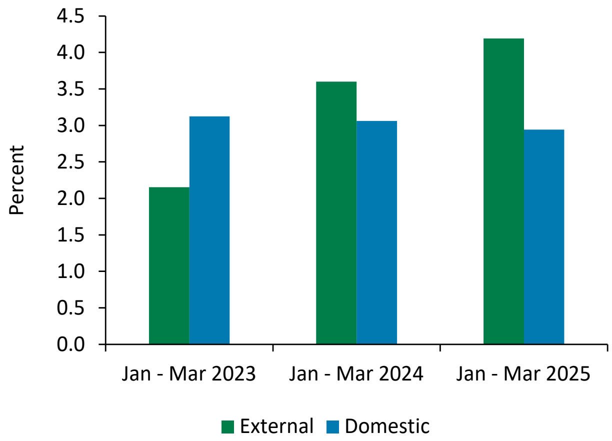
In the first quarter of 2025, the total public sector debt increased by $23.3mn to $4,452.7mn, accounting for 61.0% of GDP. This rise was solely due to higher external liabilities, as the Central Government's domestic debt remained unchanged since December 2024.

Government Domestic Debt

The Central Government's outstanding domestic debt in the first quarter stayed stable compared to the end of 2024, standing at $1,519.1mn or 20.8% of GDP, with no new borrowings or repayments during this period.

However, the debt distribution shifted due to the rollover of Treasury securities. The Central Bank reduced its T-bill holdings by $27.7mn to $141.5mn, while domestic banks increased their holdings by $22.7mn to $176.1mn. Other non-bank entities acquired the remaining $5.0mn, raising their holdings to $17.4mn.

Chart 5.5: Average Interest Rate on Central Government Domestic Debt and Public Sector External Debt



Interest payments totalled $8.8mn, with the Central Bank receiving $4.9mn, other non-bank entities $2.9mn, and domestic banks $1.0mn on their Treasury securities.

The Central Bank remained the Government's main creditor, though its share of domestic debt decreased by 1.8 percentage points to 46.8% as of December 2024. Meanwhile, domestic banks' portion grew by 1.5 percentage points to 32.8%, and non-bank entities' amount rose by 0.3 percentage points to 20.3%.

Public Sector External Debt

During the first three months of the year, the public sector's external debt increased by $23.3mn to $2,933.6mn, representing 40.2% of GDP. This slight expansion was driven by loan disbursements of $38.4mn, which exceeded amortisation payments of $16.9mn.

The Central Government received $30.0mn, or 78.3% of the new disbursed loans, with bilateral creditors contributing $22.6mn. Most of this came from the Republic of China/Taiwan, which disbursed $22.0mn for general financing. Simultaneously, multilateral institutions disbursed $7.5mn for several major projects, including:

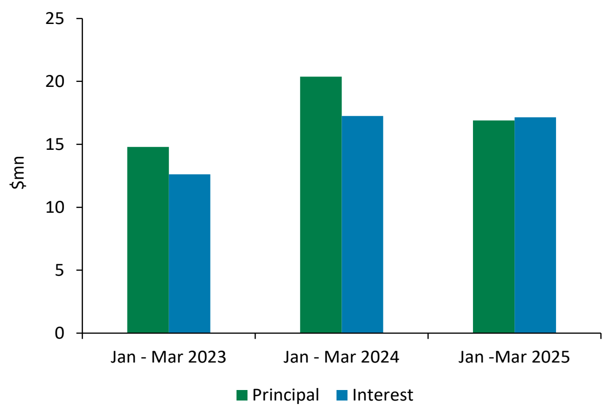
- Expansion of the Phillip Goldson Highway ($3.2mn),
- Upgrade of the Caracol Road ($1.2mn), and
- Investments by Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre ($1.0mn).

Additionally, multilateral creditors allocated $6.0mn to the Development Finance Corporation to bolster its lines of credit and support the productive sector.

The Central Government made amortisation payments totalling $12.4mn, representing 73.1% of the total principal repayments by the public sector. These payments were divided between multilateral and bilateral creditors, who received $11.3mn and $1.1mn, respectively. Furthermore, the non-financial and financial public sector entities repaid $3.4mn and $1.2mn, respectively, on their loans.

Interest and other payments amounted to $17.2mn, with the Central Government responsible for $14.6mn, or 84.5% of the total. It paid $8.0mn to bilateral lenders and $6.6mn to multilateral lenders. The financial and non-financial public sectors paid a combined $2.6mn in interest expenses.

Chart 5.6: External Debt Service



By the end of the first quarter, the Central Government held 90.5% of the public sector's external debt, with the financial and non-financial public sectors holding 7.5% and 1.9%, respectively.

ANNEX I

Table A.1: Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates of Selected Countries

Percent

	Sept 2024	Dec 2024	Mar 2025
Advanced Economies			
US	2.7	2.5	2.0
UK	1.2	1.5	1.3
Euro Area	1.0	1.2	1.2
Japan[1]	0.9	2.2	-0.2
Emerging Economies			
China	4.6	5.4	5.4
India	5.6	6.4	7.4
Brazil	4.0	3.6	2.9
Mexico	1.5	0.5	0.6
Caribbean Economies			
Barbados	3.9	4.0	2.6
Jamaica	-3.5	-0.8	1.1

Sources: Respective Statistical Bureaus and Central Banks.
[1] Quarter-on-Quarter percentage change.

Table A.2: Real Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates

	Year-on-Year Growth (%)	
	Jan - Mar 2024 over Jan - Mar 2023[R]	Jan - Mar 2025 over Jan - Mar 2024[R]
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	-1.2	-10.1
Mining	-20.9	-17.7
Manufacturing	-2.6	-20.4
Electricity	40.5	15.0
Water Supply	4.1	1.7
Construction	4.7	2.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	17.4	5.2
Transportation	38.7	11.6
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	35.7	12.2
Information and Communication	-8.3	-11.7
Financial and Insurance Activities	-8.0	12.6
Real Estate Activities	1.3	1.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities	45.3	27.0
Administrative and Support Service Activities	6.6	2.0
Public Administration and Defence	13.8	10.3
Education	1.7	8.5
Human Health and Social Work Activities	4.3	2.1
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6.0	15.1
Other Service Activities	-2.0	8.3
Activities of Households as Employers	4.4	5.0
Taxes and Subsidies	15.4	-2.5
GDP at Constant 2014 Prices	8.8	2.0

Source: SIB
[R] - Revised

Table A.3: Gross Domestic Product by Activity at Constant 2014 Prices

$mn

	Jan - Mar 2024[R]	Jan - Mar 2025[R]
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	128.5	115.5
Mining	12.7	10.5
Manufacturing	109.0	86.8
Electricity	18.1	20.8
Water Supply	9.5	9.7
Construction	69.4	70.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade	202.0	212.5
Transportation	76.1	84.9
Accommodation and Food Service Activities	105.8	118.7
Information and Communication	41.9	37.0
Financial and Insurance Activities	105.2	118.4
Real Estate Activities	62.3	63.0
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Activities	13.7	17.4
Administrative and Support Service Activities	68.8	70.2
Public Administration and Defence	96.8	106.8
Education	71.9	78.0
Human Health and Social Work Activities	20.6	21.0
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	18.1	20.8
Other Service Activities	18.9	20.5
Activities of Households as Employers	8.0	8.4
Taxes and Subsidies	199.5	194.6
GDP at Constant 2014 Prices	1,456.8	1,486.3

Source: SIB
[R] - Revised

Table A.4: Deliveries of Sugarcane and Production of Sugar and Molasses

	Dec - Mar 2023/2024	Dec - Mar 2024/2025
Deliveries of Sugarcane to BSI and Santander (long tons)	883,553	635,110
Sugar Processed by BSI and Santander (long tons)	77,308	49,257
Molasses processed by BSI and Santander (long tons)	28,135	20,122
Performance		
Factory Time Efficiency (%)	60.97	62.90
Cane Purity	51.96	51.20
Cane/Sugar	11.4	12.9

Sources: BSI and Santander

Table A.5: Output of Citrus Products

	Oct - Mar 2023/2024	Oct - Mar 2024/2025
Deliveries (boxes)		
Orange	159,876	88,396
Grapefruit	34,079	40,295
Total	**193,955**	**128,691**
Concentrate Produced (ps)		
Orange	810,611	438,732
Grapefruit	99,987	115,125
Total	**910,598**	**553,857**
Not from Concentrate (ps)		
Orange	0	0
Grapefruit	21,912	26,577
Total	**21,912**	**26,577**
Pulp (pounds)		
Orange	10,176	0
Grapefruit	0	0
Total	**10,176**	**0**
Oil Produced (pounds)		
Orange	64,409	33,266
Grapefruit	5,299	2,624
Total	**69,708**	**35,890**

Source: CPBL

Table A.6: Banana Production

40-pound boxes

	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
January	366,123	337,434
February	349,056	346,142
March	353,121	441,931
Total	1,068,300	1,125,507

Source: BGA

Table A.7: Bona Fide Tourist Arrivals

	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
Stay-Over Arrivals		
Air	142,019	141,849
Land	22,590	21,331
Sea	5,213	6,208
Total	169,822	169,388
Cruise Ship Disembarkations	340,808	358,457

Sources: BTB, CBB, and Immigration Department

Table A.8: Consumer Price Index Commodity Group

Major Commodity	Weights	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Mar 2025 over Feb 2025	YTD-2025 over YTD-2024
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	258	134.5	133.8	133.5	-0.2	2.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, and Narcotics	35	108.8	109.8	109.8	0.0	2.2
Clothing and Footwear	44	104.8	104.2	104.2	0.0	2.8
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	195	108.0	108.7	108.7	0.0	2.2
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance	51	114.3	114.7	114.7	0.0	2.3
Health	26	110.9	112.0	112.0	0.0	0.3
Transport	153	129.5	129.4	129.0	-0.3	0.0
Information and Communication	46	94.6	94.0	94.0	0.0	-1.7
Recreation and Culture	43	117.1	115.6	115.6	0.0	0.7
Education Services	25	100.8	100.3	100.3	0.0	-0.2
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	65	132.2	132.3	132.3	0.0	1.7
Insurance and Financial Services	8	104.9	104.9	104.9	0.0	-0.8
Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	51	110.9	112.3	112.3	0.0	3.1
All Items	1,000	119.8	119.8	119.7	-0.1	1.7

Source: SIB

Table A.9: Factors Responsible for Money Supply Movements[1]

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
Net Foreign Assets	2,166.6	223.4	210.8
Central Bank	1,086.4	85.8	3.1
Domestic Banks	1,080.2	137.6	207.7
Net Domestic Credit	3,654.5	-31.7	53.2
Central Government (Net)	889.9	-13.1	40.6
Other Public Sector	107.5	-5.3	-2.1
Private Sector	2,657.0	-13.3	14.8
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long-term)	115.6	2.2	-1.6
Other Items (Net)	625.2	-26.9	23.9
Money Supply (M2)	5,080.3	216.5	241.7

[1] Transactions associated with the Universal Health Services loan with the Belize Bank Limited are not included in this table.

Table A.10: Money Supply

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
Money Supply (M2)	5,080.3	216.5	241.7
Narrow Money (M1)	3,516.8	185.1	181.9
Currency with the Public	651.1	5.5	21.9
Demand Deposits	2,864.6	179.4	159.4
Savings/Chequing Deposits	1.1	0.1	0.6
Quasi-Money	1,563.5	31.4	59.8
Savings Deposits	827.8	45.8	45.5
Time Deposits	735.6	-14.4	14.3

Table A.11: Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
Net Foreign Assets of Banking System	2,166.7	223.5	210.8
Net Foreign Assets of Central Bank	1,086.4	85.8	3.1
Central Bank Foreign Assets	1,087.4	86.1	2.7
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand)	1.0	0.3	-0.4
Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks	1,080.2	137.6	207.7
Domestic Bank Foreign Assets	1,132.6	136.4	211.3
Domestic Bank Foreign Liabilities (Short-term)	52.4	-1.2	3.6

Table A.12: Central Bank's Foreign Asset Flows

$mn

	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
Total Inflows	70.5	148.3
Loan Disbursements	27.7	32.3
Grants	0.8	9.3
Purchases of Sugar Exports Receipts	27.9	26.6
Purchases from Domestic Banks	1.2	61.3
Other	13.0	18.8
Total Outflows	67.9	62.1
Central Government	50.4	49.2
Statutory Bodies	13.2	10.2
Other	4.2	2.7

Table A.13: Net Domestic Credit

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
Total Credit to Central Government	1,119.1	-4.7	2.8
From Central Bank	711.4	-27.5	-48.1
Loans and Advances	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government Securities[1]	711.4	-27.5	-48.1
From Domestic Banks	407.7	22.8	50.9
Loans and Advances	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government Securities	407.7	22.8	50.9
Of which: Treasury Bills	176.2	22.8	50.9
Treasury Notes	231.5	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less Central Government Deposits	229.2	8.4	-37.8
With Central Bank	95.9	-15.4	-49.3
With Domestic Banks	133.3	23.8	11.5
Net Credit to Central Government	889.9	-13.1	40.6
Credit to Other Public Sector	107.5	-5.3	-2.1
From Central Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0
From Domestic Banks	107.5	-5.3	-2.1
Of which: Local Government	15.4	-5.2	0.0
Public Financial Institutions	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Utilities	19.0	0.0	0.0
Other Statutory Bodies	1.7	-0.1	-0.1
Securities	71.4	0.0	-2.0
Plus Credit to the Private Sector	2,657.0	-13.3	14.8
From Central Bank	10.2	0.6	0.4
Loans and Advances	10.2	0.6	0.4
From Domestic Banks	2,646.8	-13.8	14.4
Loans and Advances	2,620.0	-13.7	14.5
Securities	26.9	-0.2	-0.1
Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System[2]	3,654.5	-31.7	53.2

(1) Includes the Central Bank's holdings of Government Treasury bills and Treasury notes.
(2) Treasury bill holdings reported by domestic banks reflect a mix of par and market values.

Table A.14: Sectoral Composition of Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
PRIMARY SECTOR	252.9	-0.5	1.8
Agriculture	233.1	-0.9	3.0
Sugar	90.7	-1.6	-1.0
Citrus	7.2	-0.1	-0.3
Bananas	57.0	-0.5	-0.1
Grains	6.4	-2.4	1.1
Poultry and Eggs	10.1	1.9	1.0
Cattle and Dairy	4.8	0.3	-0.4
Other	56.9	1.3	4.4
Marine Products	15.3	0.2	-1.0
Other(1)	4.5	0.2	-0.2
SECONDARY SECTOR	851.4	-4.0	7.0
Manufacturing	92.5	3.4	0.7
Building and Construction(1)	732.9	-6.3	6.8
Residential	445.7	-4	-5.0
Commercial	131.9	-7	5.1
Infrastructure	25.6	-3.9	0.3
Home Improvement	129.7	3.3	6.5
Utilities	26.0	-1.1	-0.5
Public Sector	19.0	0.0	0.0
Private Sector	7.0	-1.1	-0.6
TERTIARY SECTOR	1,078.7	-19.6	16.0
Transport	74.3	-0.9	-1.0
Tourism	277.4	-5.7	3.5
Distribution	205.5	-2.9	-5.8
Real Estate	404.4	-3.1	10.2
Residential	194.5	3.0	5.2
Commercial	109.7	-7.0	1.5
Land Acquisition	100.2	0.9	3.5
Professional Services	97.1	1.1	-1.2
Government Services	16.3	-5.2	-0.1
Other(2)	3.7	0.2	0.2
PERSONAL LOANS	473.1	2.1	-0.4
TOTAL	2,656.1	-18.9	14.3

(1) Includes forestry and mining & exploration.
(2) Includes financial institutions and entertainment.

Table A.15: Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets	1,980.7	330.3	107.1
Notes and Coins	117.8	1.2	4.9
Balances with Central Bank	757.4	9.4	-27.1
Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due in 90 days)	819.1	306.2	112.0
Treasury Bills maturing in not more than 90 days	169.0	0.6	27.0
Other Approved Assets	117.5	13.0	-9.7
Required Liquid Assets	930.0	25.6	32.6
Excess/(Deficiency) Liquid Assets	1,050.7	304.7	74.5
Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves	754.8	2.5	-23.2
Required Cash Reserves	287.9	7.9	10.1
Excess/(Deficiency) Cash Reserves	466.9	-5.4	-33.3
Actual Securities Balances	164.1	10.6	36.9
Excess/(Deficiency) Securities	164.1	10.6	36.9

Table A.16: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates

Percent

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
Weighted Lending Rates			
Personal Loans	11.52	0.13	-0.19
Commercial Loans	7.74	-0.02	-0.02
Residential Construction	7.45	0.07	0.08
Other	7.25	-0.25	0.01
Weighted Average	8.48	0.03	-0.03
Weighted Deposit Rates			
Demand	0.15	0.00	0.01
Savings/Chequing	2.61	0.02	-0.05
Savings	2.69	0.00	0.00
Time	2.03	-0.03	-0.05
Weighted Average	0.92	-0.03	-0.03
Weighted Average Spread	7.56	0.06	-0.01

Table A.17: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

Percent

	Twelve Month Rolling Averages At			Changes	
	Mar 2025	Dec 2024	Mar 2024	Mar 2025 over Dec 2024	Mar 2025 over Mar 2024
Weighted Lending Rates					
Personal Loans	10.59	10.44	10.35	0.15	0.24
Commercial Loans	7.83	7.98	8.24	-0.15	-0.41
Residential Construction	10.32	10.28	9.75	0.04	0.57
Other	5.18	5.93	6.29	-0.75	-1.11
Weighted Average	8.69	8.81	8.93	-0.12	-0.24
Weighted Deposit Rates					
Demand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Savings/Chequing	1.50	1.49	1.37	0.01	0.13
Savings	2.51	2.49	2.48	0.02	0.03
Time	2.40	2.46	2.19	-0.06	0.21
Weighted Average	1.48	1.74	1.77	-0.26	-0.28
Weighted Average Spread	7.21	7.07	7.17	0.14	0.04

Table A.18: Sectoral Composition of Credit Unions' Loans and Advances

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
PRIMARY SECTOR	83.2	3.7	-2.3
Agriculture	70.8	3.8	-2.5
Sugar	4.6	-0.3	-0.7
Citrus	1.1	0.0	0.0
Bananas	2.7	-0.1	0.0
Other	62.4	4.2	-1.8
Marine Products	12.0	-0.3	0.0
Forestry	0.4	0.2	0.2
Mining and Exploration)	0.0	0.0	0.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	247.8	-2.3	1.1
Manufacturing	34.3	0.0	1.0
Building and Construction(1)	166.6	-2.7	0.2
Residential	83.9	0.1	1.3
Home Imrpovment	71.7	-1.3	-0.8
Commercial	9.4	-0.5	-0.4
Infrastructure	1.6	-1.0	0.0
Utilities	46.9	0.4	-0.1
TERTIARY SECTOR	131.3	-4.5	3.9
Transport	4.9	-0.2	0.1
Tourism	1.0	-0.1	0.0
Distribution	30.1	-1.5	2.1
Real Estate	77.2	-2.3	0.1
Residential	2.3	-0.8	-0.2
Commercial	24.3	-1.3	0.1
Land Acquisition	50.5	-0.3	0.4
Other(1)	18.1	-0.4	1.6
PERSONAL LOANS	287.3	1.3	-7.3
TOTAL	749.6	-1.6	-4.7

(1) Includes Government Services, Financial Institutions, Professional Services, and Entertainment.

Table A.19: Sectoral Composition of Development Finance Corporation Loans and Advances

$mn

	Position as at Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2024 to Mar 2025	Changes During Dec 2023 to Mar 2024
PRIMARY SECTOR	47.8	-1.2	2.0
Agriculture	33.8	-0.9	2.1
Marine Products	13.8	-0.3	-0.1
Other[1]	0.2	0.0	0.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	46.2	-0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	5.6	0.1	0.0
Building and Construction	40.6	-0.3	0.3
TERTIARY SECTOR	43.8	2.3	-0.4
Tourism	15.9	1.9	-0.4
Professional Services	20.7	0.3	-0.1
Other[2]	7.2	-0.1	0.1
Student Loans	17.1	0.2	0.1
Personal Loans	0.8	0.1	0.1
TOTAL	155.7	1.0	2.0

[1] Includes Mining and Forestry.
[2] Includes Financial Institutions, Distributions, Real Estate, Transport, and Entertainment.

Table A.20: Balance of Payments Summary

$mn

	Jan - Mar 2024[R]	Jan - Mar 2025[P]
A. CURRENT ACCOUNT (I+II+III+IV)	92.9	82.2
I. Goods (Trade Balance)	-457.5	-465.5
Exports, Free on Board (FOB)	213.3	181.7
Domestic Exports	85.3	83.7
CFZ Gross sales	98.7	75.2
Other Re-exports	29.4	22.8
Imports, FOB	670.8	647.2
Domestic Imports	601.7	575.2
CFZ Imports	69.1	72.0
II. Services	524.3	523.8
Transportation	-32.0	-20.2
Travel	479.0	479.7
Other Services	77.3	64.3
III. Primary Income	-50.5	-50.9
Compensation of Employees	-2.1	-1.7
Investment Income	-48.4	-49.2
IV. Secondary Income	76.7	74.9
Government	-2.5	-4.8
Private	79.2	79.7
B. Capital Account	3.9	33.6
C. Financial Account	128.8	60.6
D. NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	34.9	54.2
E. RESERVE ASSETS	2.9	87.0

[R] - Revised
[P] - Provisional

Table A.21: Capital and Financial Accounts

		Jan - Mar 2024[R]	Jan - Mar 2025[P]
			$mn
A.	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	3.9	33.6
B.	FINANCIAL ACCOUNT (1+2+3+4)	128.8	60.6
	1. Direct Investment in Belize	-66.9	-57.8
	2. Portfolio Investment	0.0	0.0
	Monetary Authorities	0.0	0.0
	General Government	0.0	0.0
	Banks	0.0	0.0
	Other Sectors	0.0	0.0
	3. Financial Derivatives	0.0	0.0
	4. Other Investments	195.7	118.4
	Monetary Authorities	0.4	-0.6
	General Government	-12.5	-23.4
	Banks	207.7	137.1
	Other Sectors	0.1	5.3
	Special Drawing Rights	0.0	0.0
C.	NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	34.9	54.2
D.	OVERALL BALANCE	2.9	87.0
E.	RESERVE ASSETS	2.9	87.0

[R] - Revised
[P] - Provisional

Table A.22: Balance of Payments

		$mn
	Jan - Mar 2024R	Jan - Mar 2025P
CURRENT ACCOUNT	92.9	82.2
Goods: Exports FOB	213.3	181.7
Goods: Imports FOB	670.8	647.2
Trade Balance	-457.5	-465.5
Services: Credit	689.5	692.7
Transportation	32.4	37.6
Travel	516.6	517.6
Other Goods and Services	119.9	116.4
Government Goods and Services	20.7	21.1
Services: Debit	165.2	168.9
Transportation	64.3	57.8
Travel	37.6	37.9
Other Goods and Services	54.4	58.6
Government Goods and Services	8.8	14.6
Balance on Goods and Services	66.7	58.2
Primary Income: Credit	9.4	10.7
Compensation of Employees	1.2	1.2
Investment Income	8.2	9.5
Primary Income: Debit	59.9	61.6
Compensation of Employees	3.3	2.9
Investment Income	56.6	58.7
Balance on Goods, Services and Primary Income	16.2	7.3
Secondary Income: Credit	98.7	99.2
Secondary Income: Debit	22.0	24.3
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	3.9	33.6
Capital Account: Credit	3.9	11.2
Capital Account: Debit	0.0	0.0
FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	128.8	60.6
Direct Investment Abroad	0.0	0.0
Direct Investment in Reporting Economy	66.9	57.8
Portfolio Investment Assets	0.0	0.0
Portfolio Investment Liabilities	0.0	0.0
Financial Derivatives	0.0	0.0
Other Investment Assets	210.6	135.5
Other Investment Liabilities	14.9	17.1
NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	34.9	54.2
OVERALL BALANCE	2.9	87.0
RESERVE ASSETS	2.9	87.0

Source: CBB

R - Revised

P - Provisional

Table A.23: Gross Imports at Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

$'000

SITC Section	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025	$ Change	% Change
0. Food and Live Animals	74,189	92,627	18,439	24.9
1. Beverages and Tobacco	12,799	15,088	2,289	17.9
2. Crude Materials	13,528	12,177	-1,351	-10.0
3. Mineral Fuels and Lubricants	123,931	110,650	-13,281	-10.7
of which Electricity	17,768	15,106	-2,662	-15.0
4. Oils and Fats	8,841	8,607	-234	-2.7
5. Chemical Products	61,649	62,677	1,028	1.7
6. Manufactured Goods	93,761	97,656	3,895	4.2
7. Machinery and Transport Equipment	212,335	170,063	-42,272	-19.9
8. Other Manufactures	52,068	50,912	-1,156	-2.2
9. Commodities not elsewhere specified	0	0	0	-100.0
10. Designated Processing Areas	8,701	7,899	-802	-9.2
11. Commercial Free Zone	75,961	78,591	2,630	3.5
12. Personal Goods	448	932	484	108.1
Total	738,210	707,878	-30,333	-4.1

Sources: CBB and SIB

Table A.24: Exports of Sugar and Molasses

	Jan - Mar 2024		Jan - Mar 2025	
	Volume (long tons)	Value ($'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value ($'000)
Sugar	5,303	8,941	5,891	9,778
Europe	3,468	5,411	3,480	5,436
US	0	0	0	0
CARICOM	1,796	3,440	2,412	4,342
Other	39	90	0	0
Molasses	11,912	5,407	7,754	1,024

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.25: Citrus Product Exports

	Jan - Mar 2024		Jan - Mar 2025	
	Pound Solid ('000)	Value ($'000)	Pound Solid ('000)	Value ($'000)
Citrus Concentrates				
US				
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0
CARICOM				
Orange	70.9	433	489.0	4,063
Grapefruit	92.9	704	66.2	499
Europe				
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0
Other				
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0
Sub-Total(1)	163.9	1,137	555.2	4,563
Orange	70.9	433	489.0	4,063
Grapefruit	92.9	704	66.2	499
Not-From-Concentrate				
Sub-Total	10.0	81.9	0.6	5.2
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	10.0	82	0.6	5
Total Citrus Juices	173.9	1,219	555.8	4,568
Pulp (pounds '000)				
Total(1)	0.0	0	0.0	0
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0

Source: CPBL

(1) Values may not be equal to total due to rounding.

Table A.26: Marine Product Exports

	Jan - Mar 2024		Jan - Mar 2025	
	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value ($'000)	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value ($'000)
Lobster	115	3,022	188	5,259
Shrimp	64	275	50	255
Conch	234	3,221	344	4,962
Other Fish	1	29	11	91
Total	414	6,547	592	10,567

Source: SIB

Table A.27: Banana Exports

	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
Volume (metric tons)	19,382	20,420
Value ($'000)	19,699	23,835

Source: BGA

Table A.28: Other Miscellaneous Exports

	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
Other Miscellaneous Exports ($'000)	43,445	33,977
of which:		
Cattle	18,215	13,217
Red Kidney Beans	2,936	3,205
Crude Soybean Oil	2,490	2,790
Animal Feed	4,092	2,575
Pepper Sauce	2,567	1,979
Rum	2,097	155

Source: SIB

Table A.29: Long-Term Private Sector External Debt by Economic Sector[1,2]

Economic Sectors	DOD as at 31/12/2024	Transactions (Jan - Mar 2025) Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	DOD as at 31/03/2025
Agriculture	35,411	0	0	0	35,411
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	1,051	0	0	0	1,051
Economic Diversification	0	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0	0
Electricity and Gas	11,876	0	14	416	11,862
Financial and Insurance Activities	111	0	0	0	111
Fishing	9,355	0	0	0	9,355
Information and Communication	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate Activities	0	0	0	0	0
Tourism Activities	91,848	0	20	0	91,828
Transportation	27,607	0	959	485	26,648
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,575	0	131	30	1,444
Other	1,500	0	1,500	0	0
Total	180,334	0	2,624	931	177,711

(1) The loans only cover that portion of the private sector debt that is reported to the Central Bank.
(2) At the time of reporting, not all companies have submitted their balance sheets to the Central Bank.

Table A.30: Extended Balance of Payment Services Classifications (EBOPS)

		Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2025
			$mn
Total Services	Net	524.3	523.8
	Credits	689.5	692.7
	Debits	165.2	168.9
Manufacturing Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Maintenance and Repair Services	Net	0.0	0.1
	Credits	0.0	0.1
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Transportation	Net	-32.0	-20.2
	Credits	32.4	37.6
	Debits	64.3	57.8
Travel	Net	479.0	479.7
	Credits	516.6	517.6
	Debits	37.6	37.9
Telecommunications, Computer, and Information Services	Net	48.5	54.5
	Credits	54.8	62.1
	Debits	6.4	7.6
Construction Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Insurance and Pension Services	Net	-16.9	-12.7
	Credits	0.2	0.2
	Debits	17.1	12.9
Financial Services	Net	4.8	5.0
	Credits	7.3	9.9
	Debits	2.6	4.9
Charges for the use of Intellectual Property, n.i.e.	Net	-5.6	-9.3
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	5.6	9.3
Other Business Services	Net	32.4	17.0
	Credits	54.5	41.0
	Debits	22.0	23.9
Personal, Cultural, and Recreational Services	Net	2.3	3.0
	Credits	3.0	3.1
	Debits	0.7	0.1
Government Services, n.i.e.	Net	11.8	6.5
	Credits	20.7	21.1
	Debits	8.8	14.6

Table A.31: International Investment Position

$mn

	Position as at Dec 2024	Financial Account Transactions Jan - Mar 2025	Position as at Mar 2025	Quarterly Change
Net position	-6,478.2	147.4	-6,330.8	147.4
A. Assets	2,313.0	222.5	2,535.5	222.5
1. Direct Investment Abroad	161.5	0.0	161.5	0.0
2. Portfolio Investment	114.4	0.0	114.4	0.0
2.1 Equity Securities	40.4	0.0	40.4	0.0
2.2 Debt Securities	74.0	0.0	74.0	0.0
3. Other Investment	1,072.8	135.5	1,208.3	135.5
3.1 Trade Credits	-2.9	-0.2	-3.0	-0.2
3.2 Loans	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3.3 Currency and Deposits	1,075.6	135.7	1,211.4	135.7
3.4 Other Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4 . Reserve Assets	964.2	87.0	1,051.2	87.0
4.1 Monetary Gold	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.2 Special Drawing Rights	97.3	1.8	99.1	1.8
4.3 Reserve Position in the Fund	16.8	-0.3	16.5	-0.3
4.4 Foreign Exchange	831.43	85.5	916.9	85.5
4.5 Other Claims	18.8	0.0	18.8	0.0
B. Liabilities	8,791.2	75.1	8,866.3	75.1
1. Direct Investment	5,528.3	57.7	5,585.9	57.7
2. Portfolio Investment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.1 Equity Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.2 Debt Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3. Other Investment	3,262.9	17.4	3,280.4	17.4
3.1 Trade Credits	66.9	4.3	71.2	4.3
3.2 Loans	3,129.3	16.2	3,145.6	16.2
3.3 Currency and Deposits	65.6	-2.9	62.7	-2.9
3.4 Other Liabilities	1.1	-0.2	0.9	-0.2

Table A.32: Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure

$'000

	Approved Budget 2024/2025	Jan 2024 to Mar 2024	Jan 2025 to Mar 2025	Apr 2023 to Mar 2024	Apr 2024 to Mar 2025	Fiscal YTD as % of Budget
TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3)	1,519,113	396,288	425,701	1,461,353	1,655,766	109.0%
1). Current Revenue	1,483,088	374,641	415,136	1,425,852	1,630,566	109.9%
Tax Revenue	1,387,798	355,116	379,177	1,348,639	1,499,673	108.1%
Taxes on Income and Profits	365,431	98,082	126,473	359,177	479,136	131.1%
Taxes on Property	7,174	1,813	2,186	6,044	6,689	93.2%
Taxes on Goods and Services	791,664	199,981	193,456	765,759	782,133	98.8%
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	223,529	55,241	57,062	217,659	231,715	103.7%
Non-Tax Revenue	95,290	19,525	35,960	77,213	130,893	137.4%
Property Income	16,167	1,249	0	11,731	25,476	157.6%
Licences	26,973	8,322	13,727	21,775	49,643	184.0%
Other	52,149	9,954	22,233	43,708	55,774	107.0%
2). Capital Revenue	6,025	1,912	3,786	6,670	11,526	191.3%
3). Grants	30,000	19,735	6,778	28,830	13,674	45.6%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2)	1,604,955	432,481	437,644	1,601,388	1,694,570	105.6%
1). Current Expenditure	1,174,225	287,642	307,869	1,198,392	1,275,522	108.6%
Wages and Salaries	476,796	123,794	126,521	481,892	502,994	105.5%
Pensions	110,060	30,377	32,043	110,317	132,187	120.1%
Goods and Services	290,826	67,485	74,760	261,423	288,079	99.1%
Interest Payments on Public Debt	116,425	23,218	23,112	140,215	160,785	138.1%
Subsidies and Current Transfers	180,121	42,769	51,433	204,545	191,477	106.3%
2). Capital Expenditure	430,730	144,839	129,775	402,996	419,048	97.3%
Capital II (Local Sources)	276,848	112,845	109,657	310,124	334,276	120.7%
Capital III (Foreign Sources)	146,582	31,802	19,930	92,097	84,013	57.3%
Capital Transfer and Net Lending	7,299	192	188	775	760	10.4%
CURRENT BALANCE	308,862	86,999	107,268	227,460	355,044	115.0%
PRIMARY BALANCE	30,583	-12,976	11,169	180	121,981	398.9%
OVERALL BALANCE	-85,842	-36,194	-11,943	-140,035	-38,804	45.2%
Primary Balance less grants	583	-32,710	4,390	(28,650)	108,307	
Overall Balance less grants	-115,842	-55,929	-18,721	-168,866	-52,477	
FINANCING	85,842	36,194	11,943	140,035	38,804	
Nationalisation				-166,740		
Extraordinary Finance					37,492	
Domestic Financing		37,715	-16,528	224,450	-62,880	
Central Bank		1,046	-20,896	99,199	-37,024	
Net Borrowing		-48,154	-28,182	72,279	-24,099	
Change in Deposits		49,200	7,285	26,920	-12,924	
Commercial Banks		39,412	-1,088	132,836	-50,198	
Net Borrowing		50,897	22,728	129,759	11,161	
Change in Deposits		-11,485	-23,816	3,077	-61,359	
Other Domestic Financing		-2,743	5,457	-7,585	24,342	
Financing Abroad		8,481	18,392	89,404	48,351	
Disbursements		24,478	29,032	194,746	153,976	
Amortisation		-16,012	-10,655	-105,342	-105,641	
Other		-10,003	10,078	-7,079	15,841	

Source: MOF

Table A.33: Central Government's Domestic Debt by Creditor

$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/24R	*TRANSACTIONS THROUGH MARCH 2025* Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities	Amortisation/ Reduction in Securities	Interest	Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/03/25P
Overdraft/Loans	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Bills	335,000	0	0	605	0	335,000
Central Bank	169,189	0	0	288	-27,732	141,457
Domestic Banks	153,415	0	0	273	22,696	176,111
Other	12,396	0	0	43	5,036	17,432
Treasury Notes	1,092,547	0	0	8,222	0	1,092,547
Central Bank	569,968	0	0	4,617	250	570,218
Domestic Banks	231,549	0	0	760	0	231,549
Other	291,030	0	0	2,845	-250	290,780
Belize Bank Limited(1)	91,000	0	0	0	0	91,000
Debt for Nature Swap	572	0	0	0	0	572
Total	1,519,119	0	0	8,827	0	1,519,119

R - Revised

P - Provisional

(1) Caribbean Court of Justice award in November 2017 against the Government of Belize in favour of Belize Bank relating to the loan guarantee. Since the first quarter of 2018, the Belize Bank has been offsetting its business tax against the Universal Health Services (UHS) debt. At March-end 2025, the Belize Bank set-off approximately $84.6mn in taxes against the debt, split between principal payments ($58.2mn) and interest payments ($26.4mn).

Table A.34: Public Sector External Debt by Creditor

$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/24[R]	*TRANSACTIONS THROUGH MARCH 2025* Disbursements	*Principal Payments*	*Interest & Other Payments*	*Parity Change*	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/03/25[P]
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	2,638,172	30,032	12,355	14,553	-117	2,655,732
Government of Venezuela[(1)]	429,692	0	0	0	0	429,692
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	41,694	568	639	247	-57	41,566
Mega International Commercial Bank Company Ltd.	44,286	0	0	1,699	0	44,286
Republic of China/Taiwan	429,383	22,000	428	6,005	0	450,955
Caribbean Development Bank	353,504	749	7,312	3,441	0	346,941
CARICOM Development Fund	5,109	0	152	38	0	4,957
European Economic Community	3,207	0	0	0	-62	3,144
Inter-American Development Bank	291,988	764	1,338	2,474	0	291,414
International Fund for Agriculture Development	5,438	0	0	9	2	5,441
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	81,104	800	0	0	0	81,904
OPEC Fund for International Development	185,216	944	785	624	0	185,375
Central American Bank for Economic Integration	26,317	3,207	0	0	0	29,524
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	1,700	1,000	1,700	17	0	1,000
Belize Blue Investment Company LLC	728,000	0	0	0	0	728,000
US$30.0mn Fixed-Rate Notes	11,534	0	0	0	0	11,534
NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	57,807	2,322	3,393	1,021	0	56,736
Caribbean Development Bank	35,018	722	1,449	419	0	34,291
Inter-American Development Bank	1,400	1,600	0	0	0	3,000
International Cooperation and Development Fund	21,389	0	1,944	601	0	19,444
FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	214,134	6,000	1,153	1,579	2,136	221,116
Caribbean Development Bank	63,613	6,000	987	714	0	68,626
European Investment Bank	1,001	0	167	7	0	834
Inter-American Development Bank	27,560	0	0	772	0	27,560
International Cooperation and Development Bank	8,540	0	0	86	0	8,540
International Monetary Fund[(2)]	113,421	0	0	0	2,136	115,557
GRAND TOTAL	2,910,113	38,354	16,902	17,152	2,019	2,933,584

[R] - Revised
[P] - Provisional
[(1)] Since September 2017, debt service payments for oil imports have been suspended due to U.S. sanctions on Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. Unpaid debt service payments up to the end of March-end 2025 amounted to principal of $134.8mn and interest of $26.9mn.
[(2)] International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights allocation is included as part of financial public sector of external debt obligation.