



CENTRAL BANK  
*of* BELIZE

# MARCH 2021 QUARTERLY REVIEW

A low-angle photograph of the Central Bank of Belize building, a modern structure with a light-colored, textured facade and several windows. The building is set against a clear blue sky. The name 'CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE' is visible in large, raised letters on the lower part of the building.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

### **Acronyms:**

BEL	Belize Electricity Limited
BGA	Banana Growers Association
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	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
T-bills	Treasury bills
T-notes	Treasury notes
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States
VPCA	Venezuelan Petrocaribe Agreement
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization

### **Abbreviations and Conventions:**

\$	Belize dollar unless otherwise stated
bn	billion
mn	million
ps	pound solids

### **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 2021 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2020 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 2021 are based on the Central Bank's forecast.



# Table of Contents

<b>Summary of Economic Indicators</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Overview</b>	<b>1</b>
International Overview	1
Domestic Overview	2
Real Sector Developments	2
Central Government Operations	3
Balance of Payments	3
Money and Credit	3
<b>2 Money and Credit</b>	<b>4</b>
Money Supply	4
Net Domestic Credit	4
Net Foreign Assets	5
Bank Liquidity	6
Interest Rates	6
Credit Union Lending	6
Open Market Operations	7
<b>3 Domestic Production and Prices</b>	<b>8</b>
Real Gross Domestic Product	8
Sugarcane and Sugar	8
Citrus	9
Banana	9
Petroleum	10
Tourism	10
Consumer Price Index	10
<b>4 International Trade and Payments</b>	<b>12</b>
Merchandise Trade	12
Services	13
Primary and Secondary Income	14
Capital and Financial Account	14
<b>5 Government Operations and Public Debt</b>	<b>15</b>
Central Government Operations	15
Total Public Sector Debt	17
Domestic Debt	17
Public Sector External Debt	17
<b>Annex 1</b>	<b>19</b>

# List of Charts and Tables

## Charts

---

1.1	Quarterly GDP Growth Rates Over the Same Quarter of the Previous Year for Selected Advance Economies	1
1.2	Quarterly GDP Growth Rates Over the Same Quarter of the Previous Year for Selected Emerging Economies	1
2.1	Domestic Banks' Private Sector Credit	4
2.2	Net Credit to Central Government	4
2.3	Change in Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances, Dec 2020 - Mar 2021	5
2.4	Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System	5
2.5	Change in Domestic Banks' Weighted (Rolling) Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits	6
2.6	Change in Credit Unions' Loans and Advances, Dec 2020 - Mar 2021	6
2.7	Distribution and Number of Entities Holding Treasury Bills	7
3.1	Stay-Over Arrivals	10
3.2	Shares of Stay-Over Arrivals by Source Markets Jan - Mar 2021	10
3.3	Average Percentage Change in Consumer Price Index Jan - Mar 2021 over Jan - Mar 2020	11
4.1	Trade Deficit in Goods	12
4.2	Domestic Exports	13
4.3	Tourist Arrivals and Expenditure	13
4.4	Sub-components of Other Services	14
4.5	FDI Breakdown by Sector	14
5.1	Central Government's Operations	15
5.2	Central Government's Development Expenditure	16
5.3	Gross Financing Needs	16
5.4	Average Interest Rate on Central Government Domestic Debt and Public Sector External Debt	17
5.5	External Debt Service	18

## Tables

---

A.1	Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates of Selected Countries	20
A.2	Factors Responsible for Money Supply Movements	20
A.3	Money Supply	21
A.4	Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System	21
A.5	Net Domestic Credit	22
A.6	Sectoral Composition of Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances	23
A.7	Sectoral Composition of Credit Unions' Loans and Advances	24
A.8	Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves	25
A.9	Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates	25
A.10	Domestic Banks' (Rolling) Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits	26
A.11	Deliveries of Sugarcane and Production of Sugar and Molasses	26



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A.12	Output of Citrus Products	27
A.13	Banana Production	27
A.14	Real Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates	28
A.15	Gross Domestic Product by Activity at Constant 2000 Prices	28
A.16	Consumer Price Index Commodity Group	29
A.17	Balance of Payments Summary	30
A.18	Capital and Financial Accounts	31
A.19	Balance of Payments	32
A.20	Exports of Sugar and Molasses	33
A.21	Export Sales of Citrus Products	33
A.22	Exports of Marine Exports	34
A.23	Banana Exports	34
A.24	Petroleum Exports	34
A.25	Gross Imports at Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)	35
A.26	Extended Balance of Payments Services Classifications (EBOPS)	36
A.27	Bona Fide Tourist Arrivals	37
A.28	Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure	37
A.29	Summary of Central Government's Revenue	38
A.30	Summary of Central Government's Expenditure	38
A.31	Central Government's Domestic Debt	39
A.32	Long-term Private Sector External Debt by Economic Sector	39
A.33	International Investment Position	40
A.34	Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure	41
A.35	Central Government's Domestic Debt by Creditor	42
A.36	Public Sector External Debt by Creditor	43

## SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC INDICATORS

### Money Supply

#### Broad Money Supply

March 2021

**2.7%**

YTD change on December 2020

#### Net Foreign Assets

March 2021

**3.7%**

YTD change on December 2020

#### Net Domestic Credit

March 2021

**2.3%**

YTD change on December 2020

### Liquidity and Interest Rates

#### Excess Cash

March 2021

**\$417.9mn**

**6.7%** change on December 2020

#### New Deposit Rates

March 2021

**1.98%**

**-11 bps** change on September 2020

#### New Lending Rates

March 2021

**8.54%**

**-1 bp** change on September 2020

### Real Sector and Reserve Import Coverage

#### GDP

January - March 2021

**-8.4%**

Y-o-Y change on same quarter in the previous year

#### CPI

January - March 2021

**1.3%**

YTD change on the same period in the previous year

#### Bona Fide Stay-Over Visitors

January - March 2021

**29,715**

**-73.8%** YTD change on same period of the previous year

#### Domestic Exports

January - March 2021

**\$95.1mn**

**23.4%** YTD change on the same period of the previous year

#### Gross Imports

January- March 2021

**\$454.9mn**

**-8.7%** YTD change on the same period of the previous year

#### Reserve Import Coverage

March 2021

**5.4**

months equivalent of merchandise imports

### Central Government Operations

#### Primary Deficit

April to March 2021

**-\$290.6mn,  
-8.4% of GDP**

#### Domestic Debt

March 2021

**\$1,377.4mn,  
40.4% of GDP**

#### External Debt

March 2021

**\$2,913.7mn,  
85.4% of GDP**



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## Overview

### International Overview

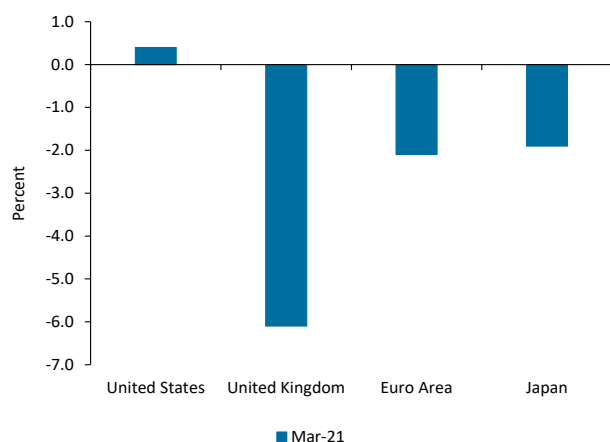
The economic performance of countries across the globe differed widely during the first quarter of 2021. The divergence in growth outcomes was shaped largely by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) factors, including, the path of the pandemic, restrictions on mobility, progress with vaccinations, and policy responses to the crisis. Key economic indicators began to point to a strong global rebound, supported by unprecedented fiscal stimulus packages and a successful vaccination drive. Underscoring this optimism, the International Monetary Fund projected that the global economy would rebound by 6.0% in 2021 after contracting by 3.3% in 2020.

Among advanced economies, the United States (US) was the only country that recorded positive year-on-year growth for the first quarter of 2021. Between January and March, US real gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 0.4% relative to the same period last year but had not

returned to its pre-pandemic level. This marginal expansion reflected increases in personal consumption spending on durable goods, residential investments, and nondefense federal expenditure. These developments were partly offset by a reduction in exports of goods and services, as global demand ran below pre-pandemic levels and international travel remained suppressed. US labour market conditions had improved markedly through March, while its measure of core inflation remained below the 2.0% threshold. In contrast, the United Kingdom's (UK's) output fell by 6.1% compared to the same period last year. The country's output shrank as a wave of new COVID-19 mutations forced the country to reinstate lockdown measures that weakened household spending and private investments. Similarly, euro area's GDP tumbled by 2.1% in the first quarter, whilst most member states remained in recession. Output in euro area economies shrank in line with reductions in retail spending and business activities amid the re-imposition of

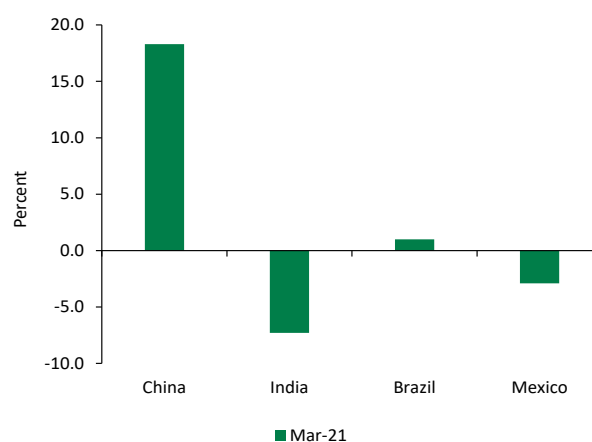
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**Chart 1.1:** Quarterly GDP Growth Rates Over the Same Quarter of the Previous Year for Selected Advanced Economies



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



mobility restrictions to control the spread of new COVID-19 variants. Japan's economy contracted by 1.9% due to reductions in private consumption, export sales, and capital expenditure.

Growth outcomes among major emerging market and developing economies were also diverse amid a new wave of COVID-19 infections in several countries in Latin America and South Asia. The Chinese economy recorded a first quarter growth rate of 18.3% compared to the same period a year ago when economic losses from the pandemic had peaked. In Brazil, economic activity inched up by 1.0%, lifted by improvements in agriculture, manufacturing, and personal investments that overshadowed downturns in services, extractive industries, and private consumption. Meanwhile, India's GDP shrunk by 7.3% due to declines in private consumption, investment, and net exports, despite the latter being tempered by falling import demand. Finally, Mexico's GDP slipped by 2.9%, reflecting deteriorations in manufacturing and service-based activities stemming from increased infections within major tourist hubs.

The divergence in economic performance was also visible in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Stark differences in GDP outturns were linked, inter alia, to structural factors. Small-island-developing states dependent on tourism continued to be disproportionately affected by the pandemic. International arrivals in Barbados, The Bahamas, and Jamaica declined by 96.0%, 93.2%, and 71.9%, respectively, in the first quarter of 2021 relative to the same period

last year. Sizeable tourism losses led to sharp output contractions, particularly for those nations with limited fiscal space to implement counteracting economic measures. In contrast, a surge in oil production boosted Guyana's output amid an upturn in commodity prices.

### **Domestic Overview**

#### Real Sector Developments

Belize's GDP contracted by 8.4% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period last year. The economic downturn mostly reflected COVID-19-related output losses, particularly in the services sector. Tertiary sector output declined by 12.3%, as the economic losses associated with the collapse in international travel and measures undertaken to control the spread of COVID-19 spread across service-based activities. Primary output also declined, down 2.0% as a strong rebound in sugar production was outweighed by other crop and aquacultural production losses arising from disease and climatic factors. However, secondary sector output grew by 4.3%, boosted by marked increases in hydroelectricity production and construction activities, which eclipsed a downturn in manufacturing activities.

Inflation remained mild with the consumer price index (CPI) increasing by an average of 1.3% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2021. Upward price pressure stemmed mainly from increased prices of food stuff (fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products), butane, and home rentals. Prices increases among these and other items were partially offset by marginal declines in other items.



### Central Government Operations

During the first quarter of 2021, Central Government's revenue and grants contracted by 23.8% to \$221.9mn, owing to COVID-19-related revenue losses. To rein in its deficit, Central Government's expenditure fell by 19.2% to \$303.5mn. Nevertheless, Central Government's operations resulted in sizeable primary and overall deficits of \$67.1mn (2.0% of GDP) and \$81.6mn (2.4% of GDP), respectively. The overall deficit was financed primarily from domestic sources, thereby increasing Central Government's domestic debt by 4.9% to \$1,377.4mn (40.4% of GDP). Meanwhile, the public sector's external debt inched up by 0.7% to \$2,914.3mn (85.4% of GDP).

### Balance of Payments

The external current account deficit worsened by 3.2% of GDP in the first quarter of 2021 to \$93.9mn when compared to the \$18.1mn surplus recorded for the same period in 2020. This deterioration in external balance was largely attributable to the pandemic-induced falloff in tourism earnings. The deep drop in tourism receipts was partially offset by a reduction in the trade deficit in goods; a decline in profit, dividend, and interest payments; and a modest rise in inward remittances. The external deficit was financed from net financial inflows of \$26.5mn, supported by net foreign direct investments of \$31.9mn and net government borrowings of \$27.7mn. However, domestic banks' strong foreign asset build-up and, to a lesser extent, the private sector's loan amortization payments moderated the growth in net financial inflows. Additionally, \$7.0mn was drawn

down from the gross official international reserves to fill the remaining gap. At March-end, the gross international reserves stood at \$704.9mn, the equivalent of 5.4 months of merchandise imports.

### Money and Credit

Broad money supply (M2) expanded by 2.7% in the first quarter of 2021, slowing from a 3.3% expansion in the first quarter of 2020. The modest growth in M2 was driven by increases in both net foreign assets and net domestic credit of the banking system. While the expansion in the former reflected a build-up in the Central Bank and domestic banks' foreign balances, the latter was solely attributable to increased credit to Central Government.

The resulting downturn in private sector credit alongside the rise in foreign assets contributed to a sizeable accumulation in domestic bank liquidity. Over the quarter, domestic banks' excess statutory liquid assets and excess cash holding grew by \$86.5mn to \$506.8mn and by \$66.0mn to \$417.9mn, respectively.

The rise in bank liquidity contributed to a three-basis-point fall in the 12-month weighted average interest rate on new deposits to 1.98%. Conversely, loan supply conditions tightened somewhat, as the corresponding rate on new loans rose by four basis points to 8.54% with rate increases on commercial, residential construction, and other miscellaneous loans. Hence, the 12-month weighted average interest rates spread widened to 6.56% at March end.

## Money and Credit

### Money Supply

Stymied by the adverse effects of the pandemic, M2 growth decelerated in the first quarter of 2021 relative to the same period last year. For the first quarter of 2021, the broad money aggregate expanded by 2.7% (\$94.6mn), down from 3.3% (\$104.3mn) in the first quarter of 2020. The modest quarterly growth in M2 was driven by Central Government's borrowings and, to a lesser extent, domestic banks' accumulation of foreign assets.

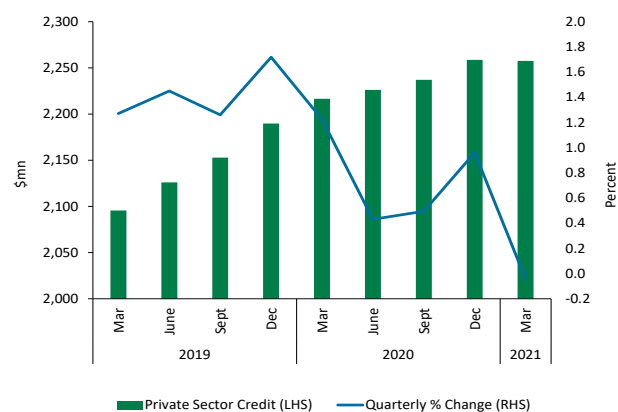
Narrow money, the more liquid component of M2, increased by 3.9% (\$77.6mn) between January and March, underpinned by an \$89.0mn increase in demand deposits, as currency in circulation contracted by \$13.4mn. The strong growth in demand deposits reflected increased holdings mainly by business enterprises, credit unions, and insurance companies. Meanwhile, the modest reduction in currency with the public reflected the seasonal downturn in consumer transactions after the end-of-year holidays.

The contribution from quasi-money growth was more moderate. The less liquid component of M2 expanded by only 1.1% (\$17.0mn) in the first quarter of 2021, as a \$21.7mn increase in time deposits outstripped a \$4.8mn decline in savings deposits.

### Net Domestic Credit

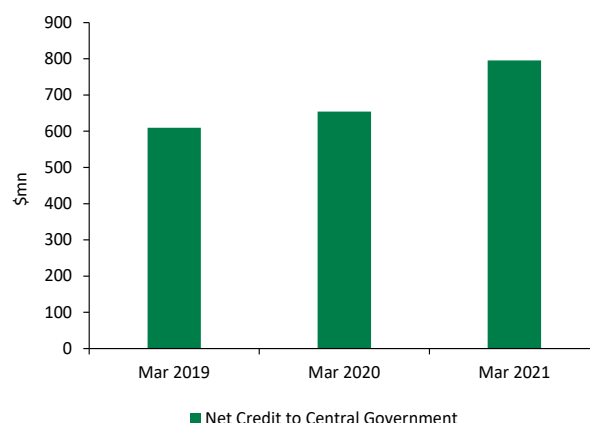
Net domestic credit grew by 2.3% or \$70.6mn over the review period to \$3,110.4mn. The modest growth was driven by a \$73.1mn increase in net credit to Central Government

**Chart 2.1:** Domestic Banks' Private Sector Credit



that was sourced entirely from the Central Bank. Net financing from the Central Bank amounted to \$76.3mn and outweighed a \$3.2mn reduction in net lending from domestic banks. Over the quarter, the Central Bank purchased \$50.3mn in Government securities and advanced \$18.2mn in overdraft credit as Central Government drew down \$7.8mn in deposits. Notably, at March end, the additional borrowings pushed Government's overdraft facility to 82.4% of the legal threshold. Conversely, domestic banks' net financing fell slightly as their acquisition of \$5.9mn worth of Treasury bills

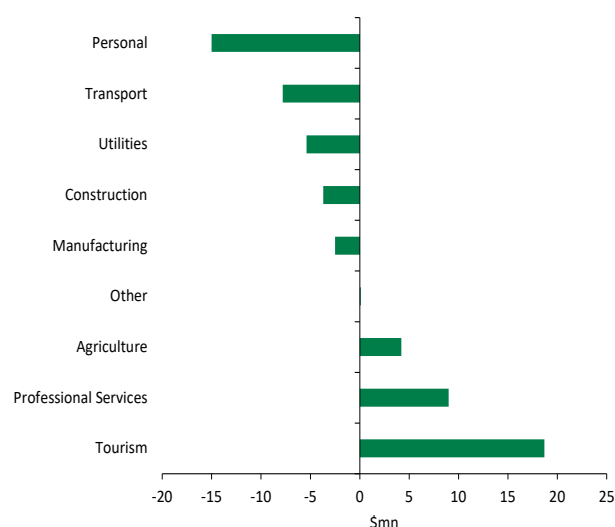
**Chart 2.2:** Net Credit to Central Government



(T-bills) was negated by a \$9.1mn increase in Central Government's commercial bank deposits. Meanwhile, credit to other public sector entities contracted by \$1.5mn, owing to loan repayments by public utilities.

Private sector credit contracted by \$1.0mn for the first three months of the year. Notable declines in outstanding balances were recorded in the personal (\$15.0mn), construction (\$3.7mn), and manufacturing (\$2.5mn) loan categories. The reduction in these categories were almost neutralised by increased disbursements to tourism (\$18.7mn) and agricultural (\$4.2mn) enterprises. The outstanding value of loans deferred because of COVID-19 summed to \$114.5mn during the quarter, raising the total to \$821.9mn, representing 36.1% of domestic banks' outstanding loan portfolio. Loan write-offs nearly doubled to \$10.1mn, up from \$5.9mn in the first quarter of 2020. Write-offs in this period were applied mainly to personal (\$7.3mn), construction (\$2.3mn), and distribution (\$0.3mn) loans.

**Chart 2.3:** Change in Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances, Dec 2020 - Mar 2021



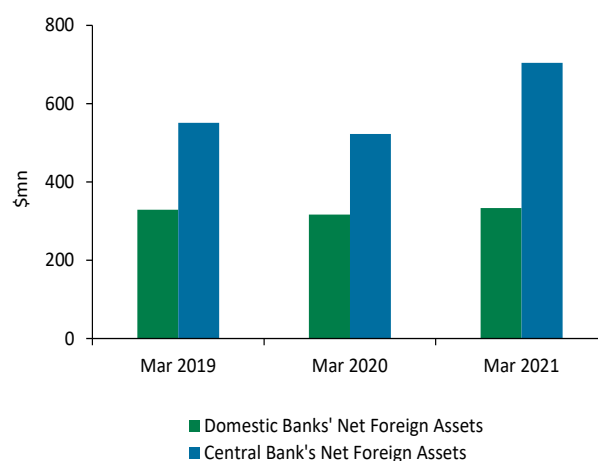
Nevertheless, the ratio of non-performing loans (net of specific provisions) to total loans increased slightly to 2.4% at the end of March 2021 compared to 2.0% at the end of March 2020.

### Net Foreign Assets

The net foreign assets of the banking system expanded by 3.7% or \$37.4mn in the first quarter of 2021 to \$1,037.5mn, which was stronger than the outturn in the same period last year. This improvement was driven by an upturn in the Central Bank's net foreign asset position, which more than compensated for a moderation in domestic banks' foreign asset accumulation. Domestic banks' net foreign assets increased by \$32.5mn in the first quarter of the year to \$333.3mn, which was less than half the \$65.9mn increase recorded in the same period a year ago. Foreign currency inflows into domestic banks had diminished largely on account of the pandemic impact on tourism revenues.

In contrast, the Central Bank's net foreign asset positioned strengthened, inching up

**Chart 2.4:** Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System





by \$4.9mn (0.7%) in Q1-2021 to \$704.2mn, reversing the \$36.5mn contraction recorded during the same period last year. This outcome reflected the impact of increased foreign currency inflows from external loan disbursements and sugar export receipts, alongside a reduction in the public sector's external debt service payments, owing to debt-service deferrals from foreign creditors.

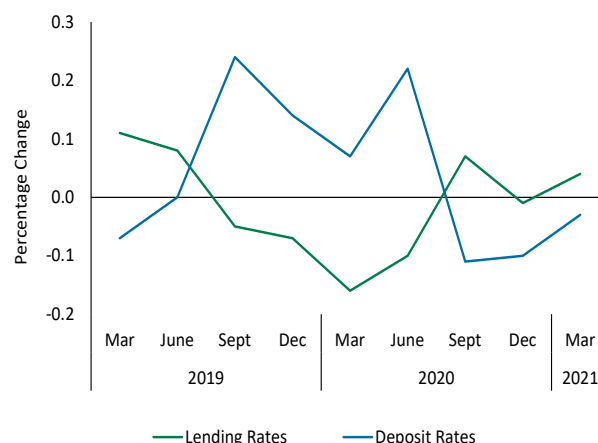
### Bank Liquidity

Domestic bank liquidity further expanded, buoyed by the modest increase in domestic banks' foreign assets, the downturn in private sector credit, and direct financing of the fiscal deficit. For the first three months of 2021, domestic banks' excess liquid assets expanded by \$86.5mn to \$506.8mn (75.6% above the secondary reserve requirement), and excess cash reserves rose by \$66.0mn to \$417.9mn (201.4% above the primary requirement).

### Interest Rates

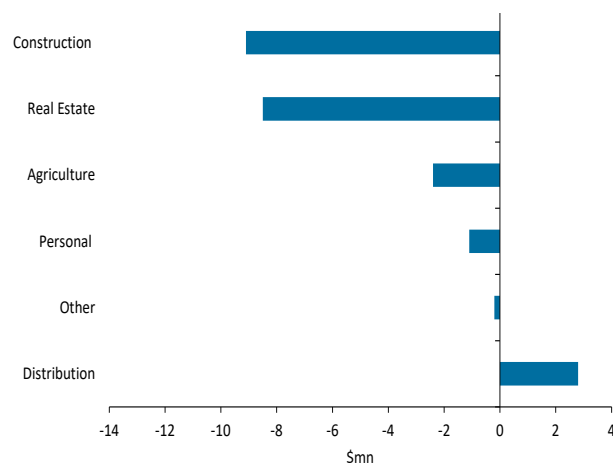
Weighted average lending rates inched up as credit conditions weakened amid the pandemic, while deposit rates fell against the backdrop of a steady liquidity build-up in the banking system. At 8.54% in March, the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate (WAIR) on new loans climbed by four basis points for the first three months of 2021 but remained unchanged since March 2020. The quarterly rise stemmed from rate increases of three, 17, and 17 basis points on commercial, residential construction, and other miscellaneous loans. These upward rate increases easily outweighed an eight-basis-point reduction in personal loan rates.

**Chart 2.5:** Change in Domestic Banks' Weighted (Rolling) Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits



The 12-month (rolling) WAIR on new deposits registered a three-basis-point decline over the first quarter and moved by the same magnitude over the last 12 months to 1.98% in March. The marginal decline over the quarter was attributable to rate reductions of four and three basis points on savings and time deposits, respectively, against a five-basis-point rate increase on savings/chequing deposits. Demand deposit rates remained unchanged. Consequently, the WAIR spread between new loans and deposits widened by

**Chart 2.6:** Change in Credit Unions' Loans and Advances, Dec 2020 - Mar 2021



seven basis points over the quarter to 6.56% at March end.

### Credit Union Lending

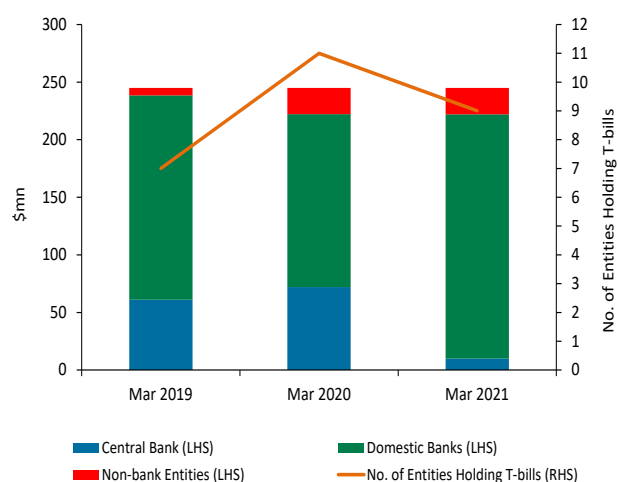
Aggregate credit union lending contracted by \$18.5mn in the first quarter of 2021, a reversal of the \$10.3mn expansion recorded in the first quarter of 2020. Outstanding loan balances fell on construction (\$9.1mn), commercial real estate (\$5.8mn), land acquisition (\$2.8mn), and agricultural (\$2.4mn) loans, as net disbursements for merchandise trade rose by \$2.8mn. COVID-19 loan forbearances totaled \$149.9mn, equivalent to 24.1% of their aggregate loan portfolio. Loan write-offs amounted to \$12.8mn during this quarter, up significantly from write-offs of \$1.7mn in the first quarter of 2020. Hence, the ratio of non-performing loans to total loans (net of specific provisions) improved from 1.1% at March end compared to 2.3% for the corresponding period a year ago.

by \$6.0mn to \$212.0mn, as lending conditions tightened. In turn, domestic banks' share of total outstanding T-bills climbed 2.4 percentage points to 86.5%. Meanwhile, the Central Bank's uptake inched up by \$0.5mn to \$10.0mn, lifting its share by 0.2 percentage points to 4.1%. In contrast, non-bank entities reduced their T-bill holdings by \$6.5mn to \$23.0mn, narrowing their share by 2.7 percentage points to 9.4%. Increased competition among market participants led to a one-basis-point decline in the weighted average yield to 1.24501%.

### Open Market Operations

Over the review period, domestic banks increased their Treasury bill (T-bill) holdings

**Chart 2.7:** Distribution and Number of Entities Holding Treasury Bills



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## Domestic Production and Prices

### Real Gross Domestic Product

Belize's GDP contracted by 8.4% for the first quarter of 2021 relative to the same period of 2020 when the effects of the pandemic outbreak just began. Nevertheless, this marked the sixth consecutive quarterly decline following the aftereffects of the 2019 record drought on crop, livestock, and hydroelectricity production. The downturn in this quarter reflected COVID-19-related losses in service industries and, to a lesser extent, modest declines in agricultural and fishing output owing to unfavourable weather and diseases. Increases in hydroelectricity generation and construction output, however, softened the overall downturn.

Measures implemented to control the spread of COVID-19 were chiefly responsible for a 12.3% contraction in the services (tertiary) sector. International travel restrictions caused tourist arrivals to nosedive and, in turn, activities in *"Hotels and Restaurants"* and *"Transport and Communication"* to collapse by 81.7% and 14.3%, respectively. Meanwhile, the pandemic-induced falloff in domestic demand contributed to a 7.3% drop in *"Wholesale and Retail Trade,"* while a curb in the public sector's wage bill resulted in a 4.6% reduction in *"Producers of Government Services."*

Meanwhile, adverse climatic and disease challenges contributed to a 2.1% reduction in primary output. *"Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry"* dipped by 0.8%, as a strong rebound in sugarcane deliveries was

outweighed by downturns in citrus and banana harvests. While favourable weather supported a strong recovery in cane harvests from drought damages, citrus greening stunted citrus deliveries, and Hurricane Nana's wind damages subdued banana yields. In addition, *"Fishing"* fell by 18.3%, weakened by declines in farmed shrimp production mostly because of bacterial disease problems, and in wild lobster catches owing to cyclical reproductive factors. Conch was the only major marine product that recorded a strong production increase.

These sectoral declines were moderated by a 4.3% improvement in secondary output, driven by positive outturns in two of the three major subsectors. Increased rainfall underpinned a rally in hydroelectric generation, which led to a 24.5% growth in *"Electricity and Water."* Furthermore, a rise in imported construction material helped push *"Construction"* up by 15.7% over the period. The upward momentum was tempered by a 9.8% fall in *"Manufacturing"* with downturns in citrus juice, petroleum, and beverage production against a strong sugar outturn.

### Sugarcane and Sugar

Total sugarcane deliveries for the 2020/2021 crop year to date expanded by 28.5% to 762,500 long tons. This performance reflected a strong rebound from adverse weather in the north combined with additional yields from new productive acreages out west.

The 2020/2021 harvest in the northern region commenced on 28 December. This start was 19 days earlier than the year before when commencement of the previous harvest was delayed due to the aftereffects of 2019's drought. Sugarcane deliveries through March increased by 27.3% year-on-year to 504,185 long tons and was on track to meet the projected outturn of 1,035,000 long tons for this crop year. Having started on 25 January, harvesting out west began 28 days earlier than a year ago. Yields from new acreages boosted deliveries by 30.9% to 258,315 long tons, which was significantly ahead of the 17.3% year-on-year increase projected for this crop cycle at 742,636 long tons.

The strong sugarcane outturn raised total sugar production by 29.5% to 70,535 long tons. In the north, sugar production grew by 34.9% to 50,430 long tons. Sugar outturn grew faster than cane deliveries on account of cane quality improvements. In contrast, sugar production out west increased by a lesser 17.9% to 20,106 long tons, as intense rainfall early in the year inundated fields, which weakened the sucrose content of cane that were partially submerged in water. Notwithstanding, gains in factory time efficiency and cane purity led to a 0.8% improvement in the overall long tons cane to long ton sugar ratio to 10.8. Concurrently, molasses production rose by 11.0% to 23,438 long tons.

The first estimated average price set by the Belize Sugar Industries is \$43.86 per ton of cane for the 2020/2021 crop. This amount reflects a 5.5% increase over last season's

first price of \$41.59, buoyed by the boost in sugar yield.

### **Citrus**

The 2020/2021 citrus crop year began on 19 October. Despite a 19-day head start, total citrus deliveries fell by 38.4% to 0.9mn boxes compared to the previous harvest. The weakened performance was due primarily to the deleterious effects of citrus greening and, in part, to sporadic fruit maturity due to climatic factors. Orange and grapefruit deliveries contracted, down 40.0% to 0.8mn boxes and 19.6% to 0.1mn boxes, respectively.

Reductions in both fruit quantity and quality led to a 41.6% decline in total citrus juice output to 5.2mn pound solids (ps). Orange juice production contracted by 42.5% to 4.8mn ps, reflecting a 3.5% dip in the average orange juice outturn to 5.8 ps. Meanwhile, grapefruit juice production plunged 27.1% to 0.3mn ps, with the average juice yield down 9.3% to 3.6 ps.

Production of citrus by-products also fell markedly. Pulp and citrus oil production plummeted by 51.9% to 0.6mn pounds and by 39.5% to 0.3mn pounds, respectively.

### **Banana**

Damages from Hurricane Nana in September 2020 led to a 17.0% contraction in banana production for the first quarter of 2021 at 1.0mn boxes. Notwithstanding, total banana acreage increased by 3.0% (225.7 acres) to 7,788.0 acres in January 2021 relative to the same month a year earlier. Acreage under production rose by

258.1 acres (3.6%) to 7,518.0 acres, while 112.7 acres were under rehabilitation for restoration from storm damages.

### Petroleum

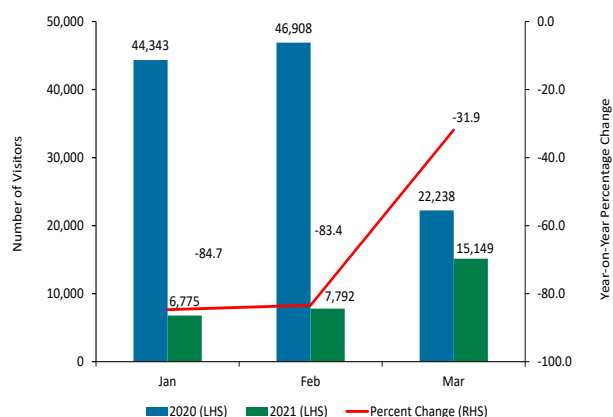
Crude oil production contracted by 32.9% to 40,630 barrels over the first quarter of the year. All oil extracted originated from the Spanish Lookout field at an average rate of 214 barrels per day.

### Tourism

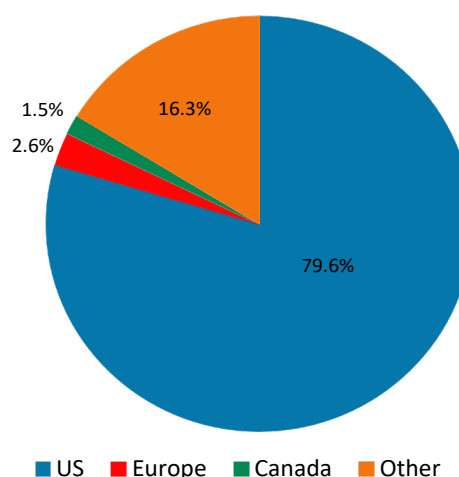
Travel restrictions implemented to control COVID-19 continued to limit international travel worldwide. The number of international tourist arrivals for first quarter of 2021 fell by 83.0% relative to the same quarter of 2020. Asian countries, which currently have the highest level of travel restrictions in place, continued to be the region hardest hit by the pandemic. International arrivals to Asia fell by 94.0% followed by Europe and the Americas at 83.0% and 71.0%, respectively.

The COVID-19 impact on international travel to Belize was also devastating. Stay-over arrivals for the first quarter fell by 73.8%

**Chart 3.1:** Stay-Over Arrivals



**Chart 3.2:** Shares of Stay-Over Arrivals by Source Markets Jan - Mar 2021



Sources: BTB and CBB

at 29,715 persons. Approximately 79.6% of total visitors originated from the US, which was 13.5 percentage points higher than the same period the year before. Meanwhile, the share of visitors from Europe and Canada, with relatively tighter restrictions in place, contracted by 8.7 and 10.5 percentage points to 2.6% and 1.5%, respectively.

Cruise ship port calls ceased on 13 March 2020 and remained suspended throughout the first quarter of 2021.

### Consumer Price Index

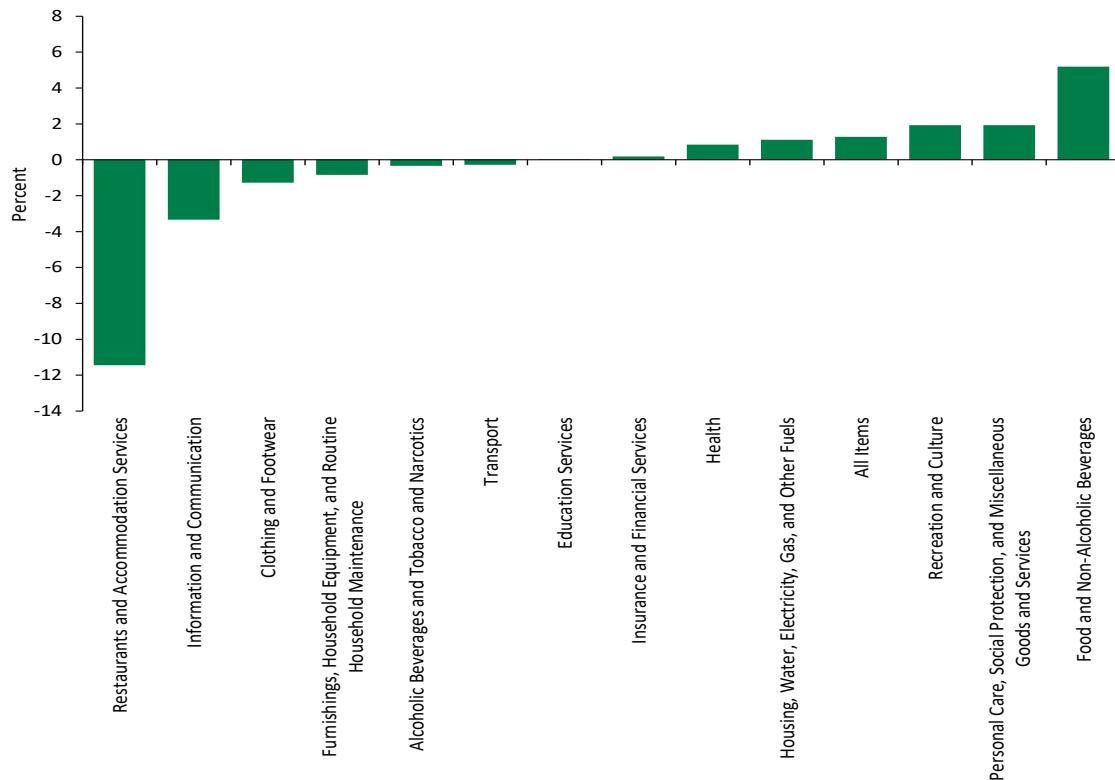
CPI rose by an average of 1.3% for the first three months of 2021 when compared to the same period of 2020. The “*Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages*” subindex recorded the largest increase, up 5.2%, owing to price increases for fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. “*Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels*”, the subindex with the largest weight, inched up 1.1% on account of price hikes for butane and home rentals. The upward momentum in these



and other categories was partially offset by price declines in several subindexes, including “*Information and Communication*”

(3.3%), “*Clothing and Footwear*” (1.3%), and “*Restaurants and Accommodations*” (11.4%).

**Chart 3.3:** Average Percentage Change in Consumer Price Index  
Jan - Mar 2021 over Jan - Mar 2020



Source: SIB

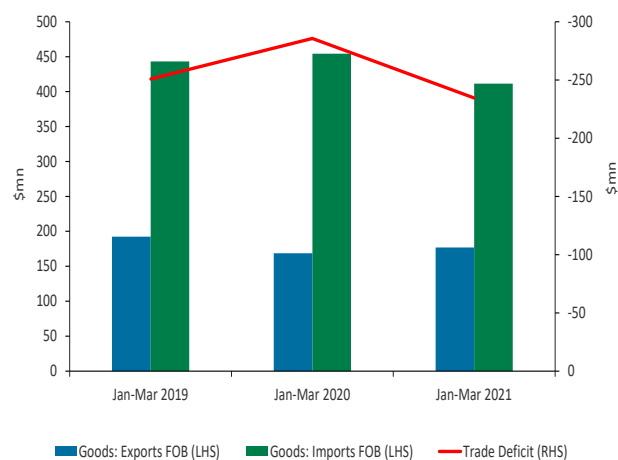
## International Trade and Payments

Transactions between residents and non-residents in the first quarter of 2021 resulted in an external current account deficit of \$93.9mn, equivalent to 2.8% of GDP. The external position weakened significantly when compared to the \$18.1mn surplus attained in the same quarter of the previous year. This outcome primarily reflected the reduction in tourism receipts as a consequence of the secondary effects of COVID-19. The plunge in tourism revenue was partly ameliorated by improved balances on the goods, primary income, and secondary accounts, all shaped by the pandemic effects as well. The deficit was covered in part by net inflows of \$26.5mn on the financial account, stemming mainly from foreign direct investments and net Central Government borrowings. In addition, \$7.0mn was drawn down from the gross international reserves, which stood at \$704.9mn at the end of March, the equivalent of 5.4 months of merchandise imports.

### Merchandise Trade

The deficit on goods shrank by \$51.2mn or 17.9% to \$234.5mn during the first quarter of the year, as exports grew and imports fell. On the one hand, total exports, f.o.b., rose by \$8.6mn (4.9%) to \$176.9mn, driven by increased domestic exports, as re-exports contracted. Domestic exports grew by \$19.2mn to \$83.2mn, supported by increased sales of sugar, molasses, and petroleum. In contrast, revenues from citrus, banana, and marine exports contracted over the period. Re-exports slid by 7.5% to \$93.7mn on account of

**Chart 4.1:** Trade Deficit in Goods



the slump in commercial free zone sales. Notably, commercial free zone businesses in the north were restricted from providing retail distributive services because of public health concerns until the end of January 2021. On the other hand, gross imports, f.o.b., fell by \$43.0mn to \$411.4mn, mainly reflecting reduced purchase of fuel and electricity in “*Minerals, Fuels and Lubricants (Including electricity)*”; aviation equipment and pumps in “*Machinery and Transport Equipment*”; and bags and clothing in “*Commercial Free Zones.*”

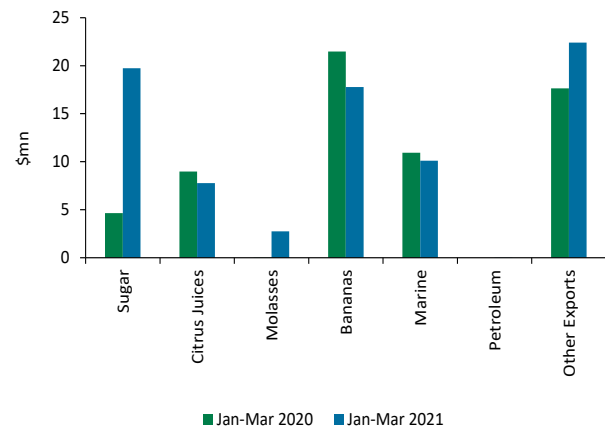
Sugar exports soared from 4,077 long tons in the first quarter of 2020 to 19,249 long tons in the first quarter of 2021. The sharp rise in sale volume was underpinned by a strong rebound in sugar production and timing differences in shipping schedules. Approximately, 91.8% of the sugar sold (14,892 long tons) went to the Europe in the form of bulk sugar. The remaining 8.2% (1,781 long tons) was shipped to CARICOM as direct consumption sugar. Sugar revenue totalled \$16.7mn, with \$14.9mn from the

former and \$1.8mn from the latter. Molasses exports to the US amounted to \$2.7mn.

Citrus juice export receipts increased by 1.4% to \$7.7mn. This outcome resulted as improvements in international juice prices more than compensated for an 8.9% decline in citrus juice export volume to 2.5mn ps. Upward price movements for citrus juices was influenced by increased demand for vitamin C food in the US amid the pandemic outbreak. Orange concentrate sales, which constitute majority of juice sales, totalled 2.3mn ps valued at \$6.7mn. CARICOM remained the leading destination for this product, accounting for 50.2% (1.2mn ps) of aggregate sale volume that garnered \$4.1mn. The US and Europe received 25.4% (0.6 mn ps) and 24.4% (0.6mn ps), respectively, yielding receipts of \$1.2mn and \$1.4mn, respectively. Grapefruit concentrate sales grew by 60.7% to \$0.9mn, following a 51.5% expansion in sale volume to 0.2mn ps. Not-from-concentrate sales were miniscule at \$0.1mn.

Revenue from the export of marine products tumbled by 7.7% to \$6.4mn, precipitated by a 14.9% decline in export volume. Lobster receipts dipped by 1.4% to \$6.4mn, as international supply shortages drove up prices and ameliorated a 13.1% reduction in export volume, which amounted to 0.2mn pounds. Shrimp receipts nosedived to only \$0.3mn, as production was depressed by legacy disease problems, while prices weakened owing to suppressed demand amid the pandemic. Conch was the only marine commodity that had a favourable outturn. Its revenue grew by 21.6% to

**Chart 4.2: Domestic Exports**



Sources: SIB and CBB

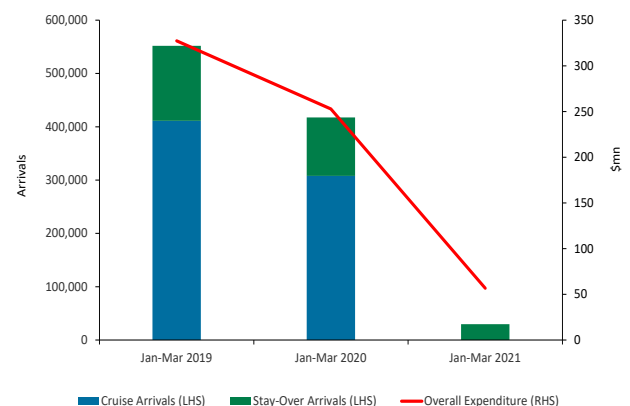
\$10.1mn, driven by a 14.1% increase in sale volume coupled with a 6.6% price improvement. There were no farmed fish exports during the quarter.

Banana exports receipts contracted by 17.3% to \$20.3mn with harvests down by 17.0%, reeling from the aftereffects of storm damages that occurred in late 2020.

### Services

Net inflows on the services account more than halved to \$113.5mn, largely on account of the falloff in tourism receipts. Net travel receipts plunged by 58.5% in

**Chart 4.3: Tourist Arrivals and Expenditure**

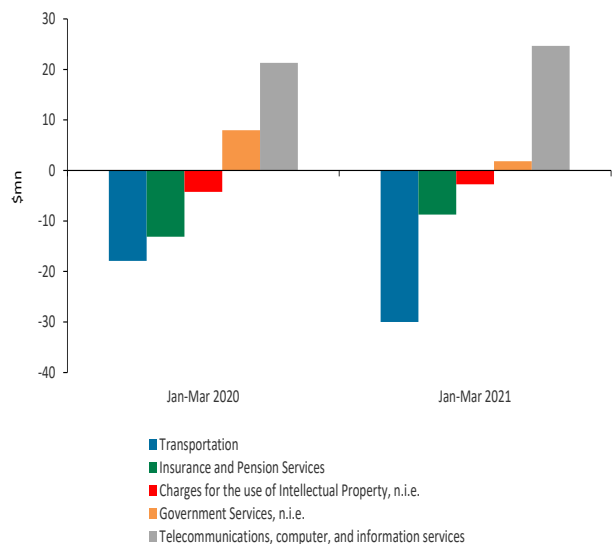


the first quarter of the year to \$123.2mn relative to the same period of 2020 when the pandemic impact on international travel in North America was less severe. Further weakening the overall outturn, net outflows for transportation services increased by \$8.0mn to \$29.9mn because of rising freight costs. In addition, the net surplus on all other services combined was muted, dipping by \$0.3mn to \$20.3mn, as outflows from regional organisations grew, while inflows for miscellaneous business services fell.

**Primary and Secondary Income**

Net outflows on the primary income account contracted by 44.8% to \$27.3mn. Reduced profit repatriation and interest payments on the US dollar 2034 bond explained the sharp contraction in outflows. Conversely, net inflows on the secondary income account, which captures current transfers, inched up by \$1.0mn (1.9%) to \$54.4mn, lifted by heightened remittance inflows.

**Chart 4.4:** Sub-components of Other Services

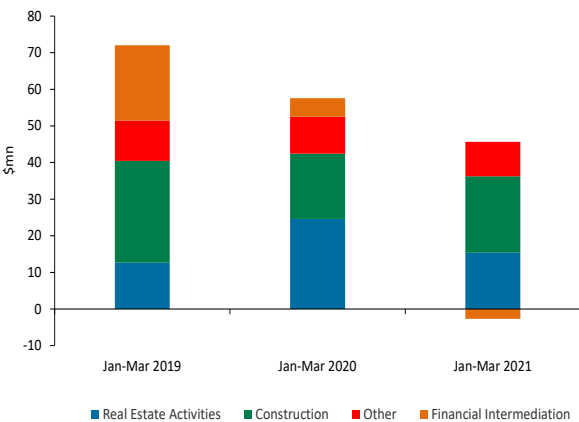


**Capital and Financial Account**

Additionally, the capital account surplus increased by \$0.8mn to \$4.1mn, supported by capital grants from Europe and the Republic of China/Taiwan.

Net financial inflows amounted to \$26.5mn in the first quarter of 2021, a turnaround from net outflows of \$5.8mn in the comparative period of 2020. The rise in net liabilities reflected inward net foreign direct investments of \$31.9mn and net government borrowings of \$27.7mn, both of which dipped relative to the same period a year ago. These liabilities were partly offset by a \$32.5mn expansion in the net foreign asset holdings of domestic banks and \$0.5mn in net loan repayments by the private sector.

**Chart 4.5:** FDI Breakdown by Sector



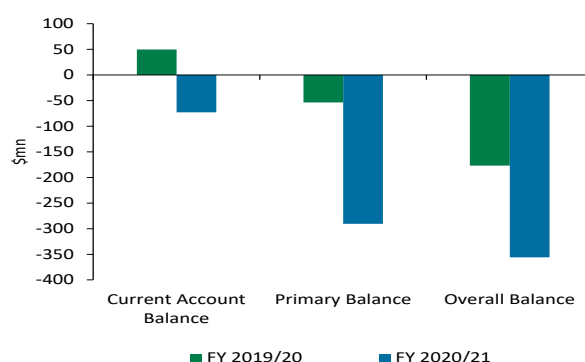
## Government Operations and Public Debt

### Central Government Operations

The economic hardship propagated by COVID-19 led to a further weakening in Central Government's fiscal position during the last quarter of 2020/2021 fiscal year (FY). Between January and March, Central Government's total revenue and grants declined year-on-year by 23.8% or by \$69.3mn to \$221.9mn. Tax and non-tax revenues contracted by 23.2% and 36.4%, respectively, owing to the economic fallout from the pandemic. In response, Central Government tightened its spending to mitigate deficit financing pressures. Accordingly, total expenditure fell by 19.2% or \$74.2mn to \$303.5mn relative to the same quarter in the previous FY. Deep spending cuts were predominantly on external interests, goods and services, and externally-funded capital projects. Hence, the overall deficit narrowed by \$4.8mn to \$81.6mn, while the primary deficit widened by \$23.5mn to \$67.1mn compared to the same period of the 2019/2020 FY.

For 2020/2021 FY (April-March), Central Government's revenue and grants contracted by 27.3% or \$250.6mn to \$917.3mn, settling at 26.0% below budgeted revenues. Total spending was down \$71.7mn to \$1,273.1mn, which was 8.2% below budgeted outlays. The disproportionate falloff in expenditure was due to the upsurge in emergency COVID-19-related spending, especially in the first three quarters of the FY, that were partially offset by the implementation of fiscal consolidation measures. Against this backdrop, Central Government's operations

Chart 5.1: Central Government's Operations



Sources: MOF and CBB

generated a primary deficit of 8.4% of GDP (\$290.6mn) in the 2020/21 FY compared to a deficit of 1.4% of GDP (\$53.6mn) in the 2019/20 FY. Furthermore, the overall deficit more than doubled, increasing to 10.3% of GDP at \$355.8mn in the 2020/21 FY from 4.6% of GDP at \$176.9mn in the 2019/2020 FY.

Total revenue and grants contracted by 27.3% year-on-year for the 2020/2021 FY, as the severe drop in current revenue was softened by moderate increases in capital revenue and grants. Current revenue fell by 30.6% to \$874.6mn with marked declines in both tax and non-tax revenues. Tax collections contracted by 32.5% (\$256.7mn) to \$789.1mn because of reduced collections across all major tax headings. About 56.8% (\$145.7mn) of the tax decline stemmed from lower indirect taxes on consumer purchases, specifically general sales tax and excise duties, captured in "*Taxes on Goods and Services*." Additionally, reduced intakes from income and business taxes led to a \$75.7mn downturn in "*Income and Profits*." Concurrently, steep



declines in import duties, social fees, and environmental tax receipts caused “*International Trade Transactions*” to fall by \$35.2mn. Non-tax revenue contracted by 12.5% or \$10.7mn to \$85.4mn, as revenue declines from property income and licenses easily outweighed a sizeable rise in receipts from the international ship registry. On the upside, capital revenue grew by more than threefold to \$16.3mn on account of increased land sales. Furthermore, grants registered a \$5.7mn expansion to \$26.4mn thanks to intergovernmental aid to help the country’s COVID-19 emergency response.

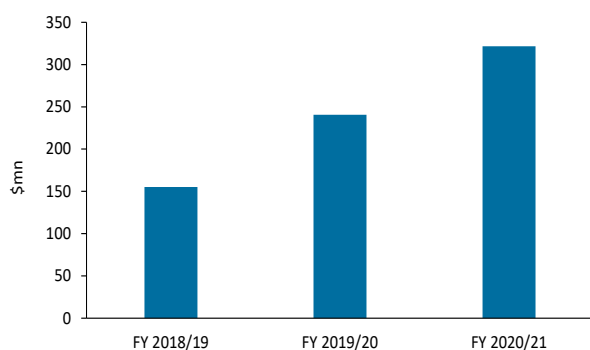
Total expenditure for the 2020/21 FY contracted by 5.6% to \$1,273.1mn as a consequence of cutbacks in current spending amid immense pressure to fund COVID-19 expenses. Current expenditure decreased by 15.3% to \$947.7mn, driven by cuts across all recurrent expenditure subcategories. Over the period, outlays on “*Goods and Services*,” “*Subsidies and Current Transfers*,” “*Wages and Salaries*,” and “*Pensions*” contracted by \$52.1mn, \$27.0mn, \$4.2mn, and \$3.4mn, respectively. Furthermore, interest payments fell by \$58.1mn mainly because

of the interest expense deferred on the US dollar 2034 bond.

Conversely, capital expenditure and net lending grew by 22.4%, up \$73.0mn to \$325.4mn. This increase was wholly attributable to COVID-19-emergency outlays on health services and social transfers. Central Government spent \$145.7mn on COVID-19 measures, which accounted for 45.3% of total capital expenditure—split between Capital II (\$106.9mn) and Capital III (\$38.8mn) line items. The remaining \$175.9mn in capital outlays was expended on various public projects, including \$72.6mn on infrastructural works, \$17.5mn on solid waste and land management, and \$15.9mn on education.

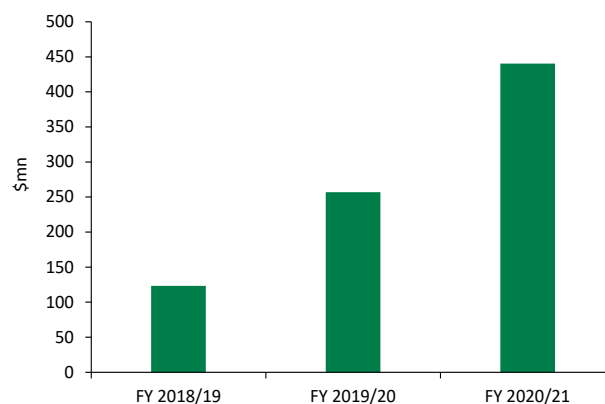
Central Government’s gross financing needs (the sum of the overall deficit and principal loan repayments) for the 2020/21 FY was \$440.5mn. This amount exceeded last period’s outturn by 72.3%. It also resulted in a new record high, surpassing the previous one of \$428.2mn observed in 2004/05 FY. Money borrowed to cover

**Chart 5.2:** Central Government’s Development Expenditure



Source: MOF

**Chart 5.3:** Gross Financing Needs



Sources: MOF and CBB

this gap originated from domestic (38.9%) sources and, to a greater extent, external creditors (61.6%).

### Total Public Sector Debt

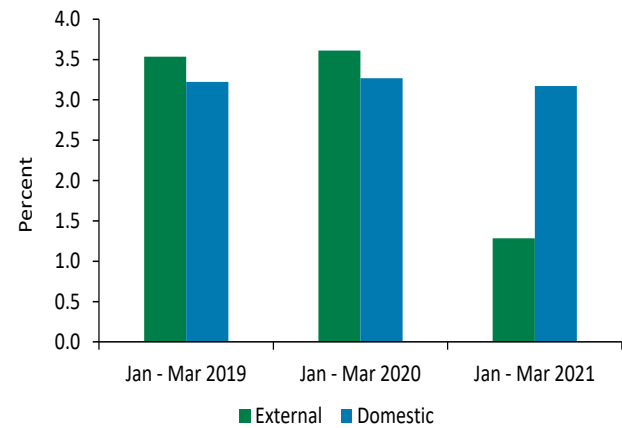
The total public sector debt increased by 2.0% (\$85.2mn) during the first quarter of 2021 to \$4,291.1mn. New borrowings raised the outstanding public sector debt stock by 2.5 percentage points of GDP during the three-month period to 125.7% of GDP, with the external public sector debt at 85.4% of GDP and the domestic debt at 40.4% of GDP at March end. More specifically, the stock of outstanding domestic debt and public sector external debt expanded by \$64.2mn and \$21.0mn, respectively.

### Domestic Debt

Central Government's domestic debt rose by 4.9% during the quarter to \$1,377.4mn. Central Government's domestic financing was sourced entirely from the Central Bank. The monetary authority provided \$18.2mn in overdraft advances, while purchasing \$40.0mn in Treasury notes (T-notes) in March, comprising two allotments—\$30.0mn for budgetary support and \$10.0mn to establish a COVID-19 emergency programme. Consequently, the share of domestic debt in total public sector debt increased by 0.9 percentage points to 32.1% at March end.

Debt service payments amounted to \$10.7mn, consisting almost entirely of interest costs. Quarterly interest payments summed to \$10.6mn. Despite the steady rise in debt stock, interest payments contracted by 2.5% year-on-year, owing to a dip in the

**Chart 5.4:** Average Interest Rate on Central Government Domestic Debt and Public Sector External Debt



effective annual interest rate from 3.3% in March 2020 to 3.2% in March 2021. As the main domestic creditor, the Central Bank received 57.0% of the total, having earned \$6.1mn in interest income on Central Government's overdraft advances and on its Treasury security holdings. Concurrently, non-bank entities earned a lesser \$2.9mn and domestic banks, \$1.6mn.

In securities trading, domestic banks increased their T-bill holdings by \$6.0mn, while the Central Bank purchased \$9.9mn in T-notes from an insurance company on the secondary market. As a result, the Central Bank's share of the total outstanding domestic debt increased by 2.9 percentage points for the first three months of 2021 to 45.8%. In contrast, the shares held by domestic banks and non-bank entities fell marginally by 1.2 and 1.8 percentage points to 33.5% and 20.7%, respectively.

### Public Sector External Debt

The outstanding public sector external debt rose by 0.7% during the first quarter of

2021 to \$2,913.7mn, as new disbursements exceeded principal repayments and downward valuation adjustments.

External disbursements amounted to \$48.4mn. Central Government received 99.1% of the total, equalling \$48.0mn to fund COVID-19-relief programmes and several capital projects. COVID-19-related borrowings totalled \$27.8mn and entailed:

- \$6.8mn to finance the Food Assistance Programme from Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries,
- \$7.4mn to finance debt service payments from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and
- \$13.5mn in deferred interest on the 2034 US dollar bond.

The remaining \$20.2mn was sourced from multilateral creditors to finance capital investment projects countrywide, including:

- \$10.3mn for the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project,
- \$3.4mn for the Caracol Road Upgrade Project,
- \$2.8mn for the Coastal Highway Project, and

- \$2.8mn for the Education Sector Reform Project.

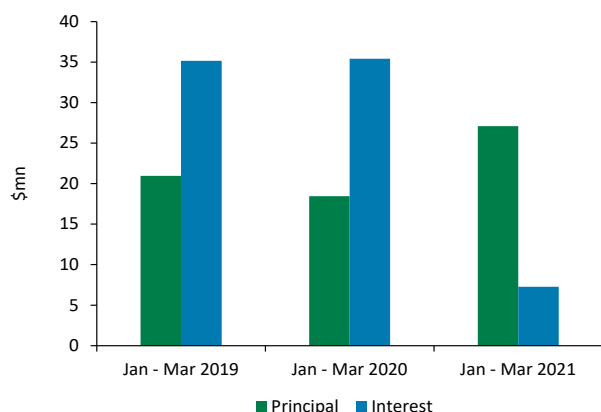
The Belize Electricity Limited was the only other public sector unit to receive new external disbursements. It obtained \$0.4mn from CDB to finance its Electricity System Upgrade and Expansion Project.

Loan amortization payments summed to \$27.1mn. Central Government made \$25.7mn in principal repayments, with multilateral and bilateral creditors receiving \$15.9mn and \$9.8mn, respectively. Furthermore, a regional organization surrendered \$6.0mn in T-bills, while the financial and non-financial public sectors repaid \$0.4mn and \$1.0mn, respectively, to CDB.

Interest and other payments totalled \$7.3mn. Central Government's interest costs amounted to \$5.6mn, of which multilateral and bilateral creditors were paid \$3.3mn and \$2.2mn, respectively. Notably, Central Government deferred \$13.5mn in interest that fell due in February on the 2034 US dollar bond, reducing its cash payments over the short-term. Meanwhile, the financial and non-financial public sectors paid \$0.4mn and \$1.3mn on their outstanding external liabilities.

The distribution of the total public sector debt among institutional sectors hardly changed over the review period, with Central Government holding 94.9%; the financial public sector, 3.1%; and non-financial public sector, 1.9% at March end.

**Chart 5.5:** External Debt Service



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# ANNEX I

**Table A.1:** Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates of Selected Countries<sup>(1)</sup>

	Percent		
	Sept 2020	Dec 2020 <sup>(1)</sup>	Mar 2021 <sup>(2)</sup>
Advanced Economies			
US	-2.9	-3.5	0.4
UK	-9.6	-9.9	-6.1
Euro area	-4.3	-6.6	-2.1
Japan	-5.7	-4.8	-1.9
Emerging Economies			
China	5.0	2.3	18.3
India	-7.5	-8.0	-7.3
Brazil	-3.4	-4.1	1.0
Mexico	-8.6	-8.3	-2.9
Caribbean Economies			
Jamaica	-10.7	-9.9	-6.7
Barbados <sup>(3)</sup>	-18.0	-17.6	-19.8

Sources: Respective Statistical Bureaus and Central Banks.

<sup>(1)</sup> Figures for Dec 2020 are annualised figures.

<sup>(2)</sup> Percentage change in first quarter of 2021 compared to the first quarter of 2020.

<sup>(3)</sup> Quarter-on-Quarter percentage change.

**Table A.2:** Factors Responsible for Money Supply Movements<sup>(1)</sup>

	\$mn		
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
Net Foreign Assets	1,037.5	37.4	29.4
Central Bank	704.2	4.9	-36.5
Domestic Bank	333.3	32.5	65.9
Net Domestic Credit	3,110.4	70.6	76.2
Central Government (Net)	795.4	73.1	46.3
Other Public Sector	57.4	-1.5	3.1
Private Sector	2,257.7	-1.0	26.8
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long-term)	50.7	-0.8	-0.7
Other Items (Net)	468.9	14.4	2.0
Money Supply (M2)	3,628.4	94.6	104.3

<sup>(1)</sup> Transactions associated with the Universal Health Services loan with the Belize Bank Limited are not included in this table.



**Table A.3:** Money Supply

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
Money Supply (M2)	3,628.4	94.6	104.3
Money Supply (M1)	2,043.1	77.6	88.6
Currency with the Public	418.9	-13.4	15.6
Demand Deposits	1,602.6	89.0	72.4
Savings/Chequing Deposits	21.6	2.1	0.7
Quasi-Money	1,585.3	17.0	15.7
Savings Deposits	878.2	-4.8	25.4
Time Deposits	707.1	21.7	-9.7

**Table A.4:** Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
Net Foreign Assets of Banking System	1,037.5	37.4	29.4
Net Foreign Assets of Central Bank	704.2	4.9	-36.5
Central Bank Foreign Assets	707.2	4.9	-33.6
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand)	3.0	0.0	2.9
Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks	333.3	32.5	65.9
Domestic Bank Foreign Assets	365.1	43.4	76.6
Domestic Bank Foreign Liabilities (Short-term)	31.8	10.9	10.7

**Table A.5:** Net Domestic Credit

		\$mn	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Changes During Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
Total Credit to Central Government	1,001.5	74.4	43.6
From Central Bank	631.4	68.5	59.9
Loans and Advances	80.0	18.2	19.6
Government Securities <sup>(1)</sup>	551.4	50.3	40.3
From Domestic Banks	370.1	5.9	-16.3
Loans and Advances	0.0	0.0	-3.8
Government Securities	370.1	5.9	-12.5
Of which: Treasury Bills	211.8	5.9	-12.5
Treasury Notes	158.3	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less Central Government Deposits	206.1	1.3	-2.7
With Central Bank	151.1	-7.8	-8.6
With Domestic Banks	55.0	9.1	5.9
Net Credit to Central Government	795.4	73.1	46.3
Credit to Other Public Sector	57.4	-1.5	3.1
From Central Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0
From Domestic Banks	57.4	-1.5	3.1
Of which: Local Government	11.8	4.1	4.0
Public Financial Institutions	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Utilities	26.3	-5.5	-1.8
Other Statutory Bodies	1.8	0.0	-0.3
Securities	17.6	0.0	1.0
Plus Credit to the Private Sector	2,257.7	-1.0	26.8
Loans and Advances	2,240.3	-1.0	26.8
Securities	17.4	0.0	0.0
Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System <sup>(2)</sup>	3,110.4	70.6	76.2

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes the Central Bank's holdings of Government Treasury bills and Treasury notes.

<sup>(2)</sup> Treasury bill holdings reported by domestic banks reflect a mix of par and market values.

**Table A.6:** Sectoral Composition of Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
PRIMARY SECTOR	245.4	4.1	2.5
Agriculture	214.7	4.2	3.9
Sugar	94.2	0.2	0.3
Citrus	17.2	-0.3	0.0
Bananas	43.2	2.2	0.3
Other	60.1	2.1	3.3
Marine Products	24.3	0.0	-1.3
Forestry	1.2	0.1	0.0
Mining and Exploration	5.2	-0.2	-0.1
SECONDARY SECTOR	611.1	-11.6	12.2
Manufacturing	70.7	-2.5	-2.1
Building and Construction	494.7	-3.7	16.3
Utilities	45.7	-5.4	-2.0
TERTIARY SECTOR	880.9	20.1	38.4
Transport <sup>(1)</sup>	37.7	-7.8	-0.7
Tourism	258.9	18.7	26.7
Distribution	166.5	-0.7	-3.3
Real Estate	327.1	1.2	13.1
Professional Services <sup>(1)</sup>	78.3	9.0	2.9
Other <sup>(2)</sup>	12.4	-0.3	-0.3
PERSONAL LOANS	538.3	-15.0	-28.1
TOTAL	2,275.7	-2.4	25.0

<sup>(1)</sup> A loan facility was reclassified from Transport to Professional Services.

<sup>(2)</sup> Includes Government Services, Financial Institutions, and Entertainment.

**Table A.7:** Sectoral Composition of Credit Unions’  
Loans and Advances

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
PRIMARY SECTOR	52.4	-2.6	-0.4
Agriculture	42.9	-2.4	-0.3
Sugar	5.8	-0.4	-0.3
Citrus	1.4	0.0	0.0
Bananas	1.9	0.0	-0.2
Other	33.8	-2.0	0.2
Marine Products	9.0	-0.1	-0.1
Forestry	0.1	0.0	0.0
Mining and Exploration	0.4	-0.1	0.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	209.2	-9.0	-2.3
Manufacturing	15.7	0.1	-0.1
Building and Construction	190.2	-9.1	-2.2
Utilities	3.3	0.0	0.0
TERTIARY SECTOR	132.8	-5.7	16.3
Transport	1.5	-0.1	0.1
Tourism	0.9	0.0	0.1
Distribution	24.5	2.8	1.2
Real Estate	90.7	-8.5	14.4
Residential	3.7	0.1	-0.1
Commercial	56.2	-5.8	13.8
Land Acquisition	30.8	-2.8	0.7
Other <sup>(1)</sup>	15.2	0.1	0.5
PERSONAL LOANS	227.0	-1.1	-3.2
TOTAL	621.4	-18.5	10.3

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes Government Services, Financial Institutions, Professional Services, and Entertainment.

**Table A.8:** Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves

		\$mn	
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets	1,176.9	104.1	50.6
Notes and Coins	80.8	-20.3	-5.7
Balances with Central Bank	623.5	75.5	13.2
Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due in 90 days)	253.5	72.0	76.0
Treasury Bills maturing in not more than 90 days	199.2	-30.6	-49.7
Other Approved Assets	20.0	7.6	16.8
Required Liquid Assets	670.1	17.6	17.2
Excess/(Deficiency) Liquid Assets	506.8	86.5	33.4
Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves	625.3	71.4	12.8
Required Cash Reserves	207.4	5.4	6.4
Excess/(Deficiency) Cash Reserves	417.9	66.0	6.4
Actual Securities Balances	192.0	-14.0	-12.4
Excess/(Deficiency) Securities	192.0	-14.0	-12.4

**Table A.9:** Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates

		Percent	
		Changes During	
	Position as at Mar 2021	Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Dec 2019 to Mar 2020
Weighted Lending Rates			
Personal Loans	10.15	-0.14	0.00
Commercial Loans	8.23	-0.13	0.28
Residential Construction	6.77	0.00	0.13
Other	6.54	0.00	-0.15
Weighted Average	8.42	-0.11	0.16
Weighted Deposit Rates			
Demand	0.08	0.05	-0.01
Savings/Chequing	0.49	-0.01	0.00
Savings	2.66	0.00	0.00
Time	2.30	0.05	0.22
Weighted Average	1.27	0.00	0.10
Weighted Average Spread	7.16	-0.11	0.06



**Table A.10:** Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

	Percent				
	Twelve Month Rolling Averages At			Changes	
	Mar 2021	Dec 2020	Mar 2020	Mar 2021 over Dec 2020	Mar 2021 over Mar 2020
Weighted Lending Rates					
Personal Loans	9.73	9.81	9.81	-0.08	-0.08
Commercial Loans	8.27	8.24	8.21	0.03	0.06
Residential Construction	7.85	7.68	7.85	0.17	0.00
Other	6.44	6.27	6.04	0.17	0.40
Weighted Average	8.54	8.50	8.54	0.04	0.00
Weighted Deposit Rates					
Demand	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.01
Savings/Chequing	0.79	0.74	0.64	0.05	0.15
Savings	2.61	2.64	2.60	-0.04	0.01
Time	2.45	2.48	2.48	-0.03	-0.04
Weighted Average	1.98	2.01	2.00	-0.03	-0.03
Weighted Average Spread	6.56	6.49	6.54	0.07	0.02

**Table A.11:** Deliveries of Sugarcane and Production of Sugar and Molasses

	Dec - Mar 2019/2020	Dec - Mar 2020/2021
Deliveries of Sugarcane to BSI and Santander (long tons)	593,414	762,500
Sugar Processed by BSI and Santander (long tons)	54,453	70,535
Molasses processed by BSI and Santander (long tons)	21,122	23,438
Performance		
Factory Time Efficiency (%)	89.38	97.31
Cane Purity (%)	84.10	84.16
Cane/Sugar	10.90	10.81

Sources: BSI and Santander

**Table A.12:** Output of Citrus Products

	Oct - Mar 2019/2020	Oct - Mar 2020/2021
Deliveries (boxes)		
Orange	1,413,884	847,891
Grapefruit	<u>120,966</u>	<u>97,204</u>
Total	1,534,850	945,095
Concentrate Produced (ps)		
Orange	8,249,716	4,847,969
Grapefruit	<u>466,490</u>	<u>314,224</u>
Total	8,716,206	5,162,193
Not from Concentrate (ps)		
Orange	176,881	0
Grapefruit	<u>12,550</u>	<u>34,782</u>
Total	189,431	34,782
Pulp (pounds)		
Orange	1,241,896	577,064
Grapefruit	<u>50,456</u>	<u>44,096</u>
Total	1,292,352	621,160
Oil Produced (pounds)		
Orange	454,000	273,500
Grapefruit	<u>18,300</u>	<u>12,200</u>
Total	472,300	285,700

Source: CPBL

**Table A.13:** Banana Production

	40 pound boxes	
	Jan - Mar 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
January	333,320	320,713
February	377,213	308,598
March	<u>539,347</u>	<u>408,583</u>
Total	1,249,880	1,037,895

Source: BGA

**Table A.14:** Real Gross Domestic Product Growth Rates<sup>(1)</sup>

	Year-on-Year Growth (%)	
	Jan - Mar 2020 <sup>(1)</sup>	Jan - Mar 2021 <sup>(1)</sup>
	over Jan - Mar 2019 <sup>R</sup>	over Jan - Mar 2020 <sup>P</sup>
Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	-6.6	-0.8
Fishing	-18.8	-18.3
Manufacturing (including Mining and Quarrying)	-6.7	-9.8
Electricity and Water	-22.2	24.5
Construction	-5.0	15.7
Wholesale and Retail	-7.8	-7.3
Hotels and Restaurants	-22.2	-81.7
Transport and Communication	-5.6	-14.3
Other Private Services, excluding Financial Services Indirectly Measured	-5.3	-3.1
Producers of Government Services	4.0	-4.6
All Industries at Basic Prices	-6.9	-8.3
Taxes on Products	-3.3	-8.6
GDP at Constant 2000 Prices	-6.4	-8.4

Source: SIB

<sup>(1)</sup> Constant 2000 prices<sup>R</sup> - Revised<sup>P</sup> - Provisional**Table A.15:** Gross Domestic Product by Activity at Constant 2000 Prices

	\$mn	
	Quarter 1 2020 <sup>R</sup>	Quarter 1 2021 <sup>P</sup>
Agriculture, Hunting, and Forestry	72.8	72.2
Fishing	5.6	4.6
Manufacturing (including Mining and Quarrying)	52.1	47.0
Electricity and Water	22.4	27.9
Construction	24.9	28.8
Wholesale and Retail	135.2	125.4
Hotels and Restaurants	34.0	6.2
Transport and Communication	63.4	54.3
Other Private services excluding Financial Services Indirectly Measured	122.0	118.2
Producers of Government Services	90.4	86.3
All Industries at Basic Prices	622.8	570.8
Taxes on Products	97.6	89.2
GDP at Constant 2000 Prices	720.4	660.0

Source: SIB

<sup>R</sup> - Revised<sup>P</sup> - Provisional

**Table A.16:** Consumer Price Index Commodity Group

Major Commodity	Weights	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Mar 2021 over Feb 2021	YTD-2021 over YTD-2020
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	195	102.8	102.8	101.2	-1.6	5.2
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco And Narcotics	17	100.1	100.7	100.7	0.0	-0.3
Clothing and Footwear	83	100.2	99.5	99.5	0.0	-1.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	265	101.2	101.6	101.8	0.2	1.1
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance	69	100.1	99.8	99.8	0.0	-0.8
Health	41	100.5	101.8	101.8	0.0	0.8
Transport	136	101.8	105.3	107.9	2.4	-0.3
Information And Communication	33	100.1	100.1	100.1	0.0	-3.3
Recreation and Culture	69	100.2	100.6	100.6	0.0	1.9
Education Services	32	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	7	100.3	101.2	101.2	0.0	-11.4
Insurance and Financial Services	21	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.2
Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	31	100.1	100.2	100.2	0.0	1.9
All Items	1,000	101.3	102.0	102.0	0.0	1.3

Source: SIB

**Table A.17:** Balance of Payments Summary

	\$mn	
	Jan - Mar 2020 <sup>R</sup>	Jan - Mar 2021 <sup>P</sup>
A. CURRENT ACCOUNT		
(I+II+III+IV)	18.1	-93.9
I. Goods (Trade Balance)	-285.7	-234.5
Exports, Free on Board (FOB)	165.3	176.9
Domestic Exports	64.0	83.2
CFZ Gross sales	88.7	69.6
Re-exports	12.6	24.1
Imports, FOB	454.4	411.4
Domestic Imports	383.2	356.4
CFZ Imports	71.2	55.0
II. Services	299.9	113.5
Transportation	-17.9	-30.0
Travel	297.2	123.2
Other Services	20.6	20.3
III. Primary Income	-49.5	-27.3
Compensation of Employees	-2.6	-2.2
Investment Income	-47.0	-25.1
IV. Secondary Income	53.4	54.4
Government	-1.7	-2.5
Private	55.1	56.9
B. Capital Account	3.3	4.1
C. Financial Account	5.8	-26.5
D. NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-50.4	56.3
E. RESERVE ASSETS	-34.8	-7.0

<sup>R</sup> - Revised<sup>P</sup> - Provisional



**Table A.18:** Capital and Financial Accounts

		\$mn	
		Jan - Mar 2020 <sup>R</sup>	Jan - Mar 2021 <sup>P</sup>
A.	CAPITAL ACCOUNT	3.3	4.1
B.	FINANCIAL ACCOUNT (1+2+3+4)	5.8	-26.5
	1. Direct Investment in Belize	-39.2	-31.9
	2. Portfolio Investment	2.9	0.0
	Monetary Authorities	0.0	0.0
	General Government	2.9	0.0
	Banks	0.0	0.0
	Other Sectors	0.0	0.0
	3. Financial Derivatives	0.0	0.0
	4. Other Investments	42.0	5.4
	Monetary Authorities	-1.2	0.0
	General Government	-29.3	-27.7
	Banks	65.9	32.5
	Other Sectors	6.7	0.5
C.	NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-50.4	56.3
D.	OVERALL BALANCE	-34.8	-7.0
E.	RESERVE ASSETS	-34.8	-7.0

<sup>R</sup> - Revised<sup>P</sup> - Provisional

**Table A.19:** Balance of Payments

	\$mn	
	Jan - Mar 2020 <sup>R</sup>	Jan - Mar 2021 <sup>P</sup>
CURRENT ACCOUNT	18.1	-93.9
Goods: Exports FOB	168.7	176.9
Goods: Imports FOB	454.4	411.4
Trade Balance	-285.7	-234.5
Services: Credit	412.3	215.1
Transportation	21.7	10.6
Travel	315.1	130.7
Other Goods and Services	60.2	56.6
Government Goods and Services	15.2	17.2
Services: Debit	112.4	101.6
Transportation	39.6	40.6
Travel	17.9	7.5
Other Goods and Services	47.6	38.2
Government Goods and Services	7.3	15.3
Balance on Goods and Services	14.2	-121.0
Primary Income: Credit	4.4	2.8
Compensation of Employees	1.2	1.2
Investment Income	3.2	1.6
Primary Income: Debit	53.9	30.1
Compensation of Employees	3.7	3.4
Investment Income	50.2	26.8
Balance on Goods, Services and Primary Income	-35.3	-148.3
Secondary Income: Credit	74.2	77.7
Secondary Income: Debit	20.9	23.3
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	3.3	4.1
Capital Account: Credit	3.3	4.1
Capital Account: Debit	0.0	0.0
FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	5.8	-26.5
Direct Investment Abroad	3.8	0.1
Direct Investment in Reporting Economy	43.0	32.0
Portfolio Investment Assets	0.0	0.0
Portfolio Investment Liabilities	-2.9	0.0
Financial Derivatives	0.0	0.0
Other Investment Assets	77.5	42.7
Other Investment Liabilities	35.5	37.3
NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	-50.4	56.3
OVERALL BALANCE	-34.8	-7.0
RESERVE ASSETS	-34.8	-7.0

Source: CBB

<sup>R</sup> - Revised<sup>P</sup> - Provisional

**Table A.20:** Exports of Sugar and Molasses

	Jan - Mar 2020		Jan - Mar 2021	
	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)
Sugar	4,077	4,072	19,249	16,673
Europe	1,822	1,975	17,675	14,892
US	0	0	0	0
CARICOM	2,235	2,067	1,574	1,781
Other	20	30	0	0
Molasses	0	0	10,675	2,665

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

**Table A.21:** Export Sales of Citrus Products

	Jan - Mar 2020		Jan - Mar 2021	
	Pound Solid ('000)	Value (\$'000)	Pound Solid ('000)	Value (\$'000)
Citrus Concentrates				
US				
Orange	1,039.1	1,646	593.1	1,205
Grapefruit	0.0	0	62.5	413
CARICOM				
Orange	1,483.2	5,110	1,172.0	4,084
Grapefruit	75.8	396	64.3	334
Europe				
Orange	106.3	329	568.8	1,367
Grapefruit	31.1	184	35.2	186
Other				
Orange	0.0	0	1.2	5
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0
Sub-Total <sup>(1)</sup>	2,735.5	7,664	2,497.0	7,593
Orange	2,628.6	7,084	2,335.1	6,661
Grapefruit	106.9	580	161.9	932
Not-From-Concentrate				
Sub-Total	19.7	98.8	13.2	62.3
Orange	16.9	82	12.2	57
Grapefruit	2.8	17	1.0	5
Total Citrus Juices	2,755.2	7,763	2,510.2	7,655
Pulp (pounds '000)				
Total <sup>(1)</sup>	406.1	306	923.6	109
Orange	353.0	263	870.6	66
Grapefruit	53.0	43	53.0	43

Source: CPBL

<sup>(1)</sup> Values may not be equal to total due to rounding.

**Table A.22:** Exports of Marine Products

	Jan - Mar 2020		Jan - Mar 2021	
	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)
Lobster	257	7,279	223	6411
Shrimp	151	858	63	284
Conch	210	2800	240	3405
Other Fish	0	0	0	0
Total	617	10,938	525	10,101

Source: SIB

**Table A.23:** Banana Exports

	Jan - Mar 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
Volume (metric tons)	22,676	18,830
Value (\$'000)	24,482	20,255

Source: BGA

**Table A.24:** Petroleum Exports

	Jan - Mar 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
Volume (barrels)	0	184
Value (\$'000)	0	23

Source: SIB

**Table A.25:** Gross Imports at Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) by  
Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)

	\$'000			
SITC Section	Jan - Mar 2020	Jan - Mar 2021	\$ Change	% Change
0. Food and Live Animals	53,821	55,421	1,599	3.0
1. Beverages and Tobacco	12,748	21,925	9,177	72.0
2. Crude Materials	7,208	5,850	-1,358	-18.8
3. Minerals, Fuels, and Lubricants	81,469	60,255	-21,214	-26.0
of which Electricity	12,992	8,450	-4,542	-35.0
4. Oils and Fats	6,630	5,205	-1,424	-21.5
5. Chemical Products	40,817	46,420	5,602	13.7
6. Manufactured Goods	68,134	73,764	5,630	8.3
7. Machinery and Transport Equipment	107,104	80,371	-26,733	-25.0
8. Other Manufactures	33,848	36,349	2,501	7.4
9. Commodities not elsewhere specified	0	235	235	0.0
10. Designated Processing Areas*	8,707	7,730	-977	-11.2
11. Commercial Free Zone	77,552	60,553	-16,999	-21.9
12. Personal Goods	285	833	548	192.1
Total	498,324	454,912	-43,412	-8.7

Sources: CBB and SIB

\* Formerly Export Processing Zones

**Table A.26:** Extended Balance of Payment Services Classifications (EBOPS)

		\$mn	
		Jan - Mar 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
Total Services	Net	299.9	113.5
	Credits	412.3	215.1
	Debits	112.4	101.6
Manufacturing Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Maintenance and Repair Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Transportation	Net	-17.9	-30.0
	Credits	21.7	10.6
	Debits	39.6	40.6
Travel	Net	297.2	123.2
	Credits	315.1	130.7
	Debits	17.9	7.5
Telecommunications, Computer, and Information Services	Net	21.5	26.0
	Credits	27.0	28.9
	Debits	5.5	2.9
Construction Services	Net	0.0	0.0
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	0.0	0.0
Insurance and Pension Services	Net	-13.1	-8.7
	Credits	0.2	0.3
	Debits	13.3	9.0
Financial Services	Net	-2.1	0.2
	Credits	2.2	2.0
	Debits	4.3	1.9
Charges for the use of Intellectual Property, n.i.e.	Net	-4.2	-2.7
	Credits	0.0	0.0
	Debits	4.2	2.7
Other Business Services	Net	8.8	0.8
	Credits	28.2	22.4
	Debits	19.4	21.5
Personal, Cultural, and Recreational Services	Net	1.8	2.9
	Credits	2.6	3.0
	Debits	0.8	0.2
Government Services, n.i.e.	Net	8.0	1.8
	Credits	15.2	17.2
	Debits	7.3	15.3



**Table A.27:** Bona Fide Tourist Arrivals

	Jan - Mar 2020	Jan - Mar 2021
Stay-Over Arrivals		
Air	92,361	26,256
Land	16,313	2,432
Sea	<u>4,816</u>	<u>1,027</u>
Total	113,489	29,715
Cruise Ship	308,003	0

Sources: BTB, CBB, and Immigration Department

**Table A.28:** Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure

	\$mn			
	Jan 2020 to Mar 2020	Jan 2021 to Mar 2021	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021
Total Revenue and Grants	291.2	221.9	1,167.9	917.3
Of which: Current Revenue	286.9	217.2	1,141.9	874.6
Of which: Grants	2.8	4.1	20.7	26.4
Total Expenditure	375.8	303.5	1,344.8	1273.1
Current Expenditure	297.2	244.6	1,092.4	947.7
Capital Expenditure	78.5	58.8	252.4	325.4
Current Balance	-10.4	-27.4	49.6	-73.1
Primary Balance	-41.7	-67.1	-53.6	-290.6
Overall Balance	-84.5	-81.6	-176.9	-355.8

Source: MOF

**Table A.29:** Summary of Central Government's Revenue

	\$mn			
	Jan 2020 to Mar 2020	Jan 2021 to Mar 2021	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021
Current Revenue	286.9	217.2	1,141.9	874.6
Tax Revenue	263.5	202.4	1,045.8	789.1
Income and Profits	73.7	49.5	292.5	216.8
Taxes on Property	2.5	2.4	6.8	6.8
Taxes on Goods and Services	149.5	115.4	585.1	439.3
International Trade and Transactions	37.8	35.1	161.4	126.2
Non-Tax Revenue	23.4	14.9	96.1	85.4
Property Income	1.9	2.1	10.8	8.2
Licenses	8.5	4.3	28.2	13.2
Other	13.0	8.5	57.1	64.1
Capital Revenue	1.5	0.6	5.2	16.3
Grants	2.8	4.1	20.7	26.4

Source: MOF

**Table A.30:** Summary of Central Government's Expenditure

	\$mn			
	Jan 2020 to Mar 2020	Jan 2021 to Mar 2021	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021
Current Expenditure	297.2	244.6	1,092.4	947.7
Wages and Salaries	116.4	111.7	456.8	452.7
Pensions	22.3	22.9	92.1	88.7
Goods and Services	69.9	55.0	239.7	187.6
Interest Payments	42.8	14.5	123.3	65.2
of which: External	33.4	5.2	88.1	30.5
Subsidies and Current Transfers	45.8	40.6	180.5	153.5
Capital Expenditure	78.5	58.8	252.4	325.4
Capital II	26.1	35.9	94.8	195.4
Capital III	52.2	22.7	145.7	126.2
Net Lending	0.2	0.2	11.9	3.8

Source: MOF

**Table A.31:** Central Government's Domestic Debt

			\$mn
	Dec 2020	Mar 2021	Changes in Stock
Overdraft	61.8	80.0	18.2
Loans	92.6	92.5	0.0
Treasury Bills	221.0	227.0	6.0
Treasury Notes	937.8	977.8	40.0
Total	1,313.2	1,377.4	64.2

**Table A.32:** Long-Term Private Sector External Debt by Economic Sector<sup>(1,2)</sup>

Economic Sectors	Transactions (Jan - Mar 2021)				DOD as at 31/03/2021
	DOD as at 31/12/2020	Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest Payments	
Agriculture	30,068	0	0	0	30,068
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	0	0	0	0	0
Construction	25,600	0	2,059	407	23,541
Economic Diversification	2	0	0	0	2
Education	0	0	0	0	0
Electricity and Gas	15,119	0	13	607	15,106
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	43,025	0	0	0	43,025
Transportation	38,119	0	0	0	38,119
Wholesale and Retail Trade	1,896	0	0	0	1,896
Other	1,554	0	0	0	1,554
Total	164,849	0	2,072	1,014	162,777

<sup>(1)</sup> The loans only cover that portion of the private sector debt that is reported to the Central Bank.

<sup>(2)</sup> At the time of reporting, not all companies have submitted their balance sheets to the Central Bank.

**Table A.33:** International Investment Position

	Position as at Dec 2020	Financial Account Transactions Jan - Mar 2021	Position as at Mar 2021
	\$mn		
Net position	-6,885.5	-26.5	-6,912.0
A. Assets	1,146.9	53.4	1,200.4
1. Direct Investment Abroad	146.3	0.1	146.4
2. Portfolio Investment	43.8	-1.1	42.7
2.1 Equity Securities	34.7	-0.4	34.3
2.2 Debt Securities	9.1	-0.7	8.4
3. Other Investment	258.9	47.4	306.4
3.1 Trade Credits	-0.7	0.0	-0.7
3.2 Loans	3.5	-0.2	3.3
3.3 Currency and Deposits	256.1	47.6	303.7
3.4 Other Assets	0.0	0.0	0.0
4. Reserve Assets	697.9	7.0	704.9
4.1 Monetary Gold	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.2 Special Drawing Rights	58.3	-0.9	57.3
4.3 Reserve Position in the Fund	17.9	-0.3	17.6
4.4 Foreign Exchange	601.1	8.4	609.6
4.5 Other Claims	20.6	-0.2	20.4
B. Liabilities	8,032.4	79.9	8,112.4
1. Direct Investment	4,815.0	40.2	4,855.3
2. Portfolio Investment	1,116.6	13.8	1,130.4
2.1 Equity Securities	0.0	0.0	0.0
2.2 Debt Securities	1,116.6	13.8	1,130.4
3. Other Investment	2,100.8	25.9	2,126.7
3.1 Trade Credits	20.6	1.9	22.5
3.2 Loans	2,001.3	13.3	2,014.6
3.3 Currency and Deposits	77.7	10.7	88.4
3.4 Other Liabilities	1.2	0.0	1.3

**Table A.34:** Central Government's Revenue and Expenditure

	\$'000					
	Approved Budget 2020/2021	Jan 2020 to Mar 2020	Jan 2021 to Mar 2021	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021 <sup>P</sup>	Fiscal YTD as % of Budget
TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3)	1,239,367	291,204	221,876	1,167,897	917,257	74.0%
1). Current Revenue	1,205,987	286,861	217,233	1,141,949	874,594	72.5%
Tax Revenue	1,106,710	263,463	202,363	1,045,812	789,144	71.3%
Income and Profits	308,060	73,678	49,518	292,480	216,813	70.4%
Taxes on Property	8,045	2,500	2,352	6,817	6,773	84.2%
Taxes on Goods and Services	624,938	149,495	115,351	585,065	439,345	70.3%
International Trade and Transactions	167,668	37,790	35,141	161,449	126,213	75.3%
Non-Tax Revenue	99,277	23,398	14,871	96,137	85,449	86.1%
Property Income	14,030	1,867	2,072	10,794	8,187	58.4%
Licences	25,711	8,499	4,264	28,195	13,178	51.3%
Other	35,048	13,031	8,534	57,149	64,084	182.8%
2). Capital Revenue	2,556	1,496	591	5,250	16,250	635.7%
3). Grants	30,824	2,847	4,052	20,698	26,414	85.7%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2)	1,387,101	375,752	303,455	1,344,828	1,273,083	91.8%
1). Current Expenditure	1,108,324	297,224	244,642	1,092,394	947,664	85.5%
Wages and Salaries	453,801	116,440	111,670	456,837	452,662	99.7%
Pensions	95,867	22,256	22,894	92,084	88,703	92.5%
Goods and Services	253,061	69,916	54,987	239,692	187,638	74.1%
Interest Payments on Public Debt	121,455	42,843	14,508	123,311	65,189	53.7%
Subsidies and Current Transfers	184,141	45,769	40,584	180,470	153,473	83.3%
2). Capital Expenditure	278,777	78,528	58,813	252,433	325,419	116.7%
Capital II (Local Sources)	138,770	26,114	35,906	94,837	195,438	140.8%
Capital III (Foreign Sources)	137,708	52,199	22,703	145,737	126,188	91.6%
Capital Transfer and Net Lending	2,299	214	204	11,859	3,793	165.0%
CURRENT BALANCE	97,658	-10,363	-27,409	49,555	-73,071	-74.8%
PRIMARY BALANCE	-26,284	-41,704	-67,070	-53,620	-290,637	1105.7%
OVERALL BALANCE	-147,739	-84,548	-81,579	-176,931	-355,826	240.8%
Primary Balance less grants	-57,108	-44,551	-71,123	-74,318	-317,051	555.2%
Overall Balance less grants	-178,563	-87,395	-85,631	-197,629	-382,240	214.1%
FINANCING	147,739	84,548	81,579	176,931	355,826	
Domestic Financing		47,601	56,796	72,064	171,394	
Central Bank		68,957	76,352	95,067	65,510	
Net Borrowing		59,992	68,577	79,562	131,930	
Change in Deposits		8,965	7,775	15,506	-66,420	
Commercial Banks		-18,365	-3,219	-46,225	75,439	
Net Borrowing		-12,482	5,938	-33,617	74,333	
Change in Deposits		-5,883	-9,157	-12,608	1,106	
International Banks		0	0	738	0	
Other Domestic Financing		-2,991	-16,337	22,483	30,445	
Financing Abroad		29,813	14,792	74,222	186,646	
Disbursements		47,659	34,515	152,197	271,285	
Amortisation		-17,847	-19,723	-77,976	-84,640	
Other		7,134	9,991	30,646	-2,214	

Sources: CBB and MOF

<sup>P</sup> - Provisional

**Table A.35:** Central Government's Domestic Debt by Creditor

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/20 <sup>R</sup>	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH MARCH 2021				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/03/21 <sup>P</sup>
		Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities	Amortization/ Reduction in Securities	Interest	Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities	
Overdraft/Loans	61,844	0	0	1,379	18,188	80,032
Central Bank	61,844	0	0	1,379	18,188	80,032
Domestic Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Bills	221,000	0	0	814	6,000	227,000
Central Bank	9,436	0	0	63	501	9,937
Domestic Banks	205,726	0	0	735	6,031	211,757
Other	5,838	0	0	16	-532	5,306
Treasury Notes	937,800	40,000	0	8,452	0	977,800
Central Bank	491,471	40,000	0	4,706	9,885	541,356
Domestic Banks	158,435	0	0	884	0	158,435
Other	287,894	0	0	2,863	-9,885	278,009
Belize Bank Limited <sup>(1)</sup>	91,000	0	0	0	0	91,000
Belize Social Security Board <sup>(2)</sup>	158	0	14	3	0	144
Fort Street Tourism Village	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt for Nature Swap	1,405	0	0	0	0	1,405
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,313,207</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10,649</b>	<b>24,188</b>	<b>1,377,380</b>

<sup>R</sup> - Revised<sup>P</sup> - Provisional<sup>(1)</sup> Caribbean Court of Justice award in November 2017 against the Government of Belize in favour of Belize Bank relating to the loan guarantee.<sup>(2)</sup> Government has outstanding loan with BSSB for Hopeville Housing Project.



**Table A.36: Public Sector External Debt by Creditor**

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/20 <sup>R</sup>	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH MARCH 2021				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/03/21 <sup>P</sup>
		Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest & Other Payments	Parity Change	
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	2,743,302	47,998	25,723	5,570	356	2,765,934
Government of Venezuela <sup>(1)</sup>	429,720	0	0	0	0	429,720
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	34,482	0	657	296	195	34,020
Mega International Commercial Bank Company Ltd.	47,143	0	1,429	695	0	45,714
Republic of China/Taiwan	285,584	0	7,735	1,201	0	277,850
Caribbean Development Bank	282,189	13,734	5,984	2,275	0	289,939
CARICOM Development Fund	3,000	0	0	22	0	3,000
European Economic Community	4,311	0	83	5	193	4,421
Inter-American Development Bank	289,002	0	2,475	433	0	286,527
International Fund for Agriculture Development	6,287	0	0	0	-32	6,255
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	56,090	10,332	0	0	0	66,421
OPEC Fund for International Development	131,501	10,449	1,182	489	0	140,768
Central American Bank for Economic Integration	23,073	0	179	37	0	22,895
Bank of New York <sup>(2)</sup>	1,092,319	13,483	0	0	0	1,105,802
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	24,000	0	6,000	57	0	18,000
US\$30mn Fixed-Rate Notes	34,600	0	0	59	0	34,600
NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	56,987	445	978	1,343	0	56,455
Caribbean Development Bank	21,987	445	978	359	0	21,455
International Cooperation and Development Fund	35,000	0	0	984	0	35,000
FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	92,472	0	385	358	-732	91,356
Caribbean Development Bank	38,889	0	385	358	0	38,505
European Investment Bank	2,038	0	0	0	93	2,131
International Monetary Fund	51,545	0	0	0	-825	50,720
GRAND TOTAL	2,892,761	48,443	27,085	7,270	-376	2,913,744

<sup>R</sup> - Revised

<sup>P</sup> - Provisional

<sup>(1)</sup> 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 2021 amounted to principal of \$59.5mn and interest of \$13.2mn.

<sup>(2)</sup> In accordance with the agreed amendments set forth in the Consent Solicitation Statement dated August 2020, disbursement of \$13.5mn represents the capitalised interest for quarter one, 2021.