



CENTRAL BANK

of BELIZE



MONTHLY
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2015

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms:

BCB	British Caribbean Bank
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
BSWL	Belize Water Services Limited
CBB	Central Bank of Belize
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CGA	Citrus Growers Association
CPBL	Citrus Products of Belize Limited
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EU	European Union
FY	Fiscal Year
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
MOF	Ministry of Finance
SIB	Statistical Institute of Belize
UHS	Universal Health Services
US	United States
VPCA	Venezuelan Petrocaribe Agreement

Abbreviations and Conventions:

\$	refers to the Belize dollar unless otherwise stated
bn	denotes billion
mn	denotes million
ps	pound solids
TC/TS	Tons Cane to Tons Sugar

Notes:

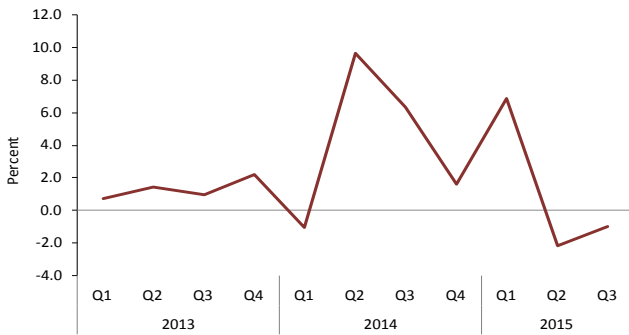
1. Since May of 1976, the Belize dollar has been fixed to the US dollar at the rate of US\$1.00 = BZ\$2.00.
2. The 2015 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2014 have been revised.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, the Central Bank of Belize is the source of all tables and charts.
4. Ratios to GDP for 2015 are based on Central Bank's forecast of annual GDP 2015.

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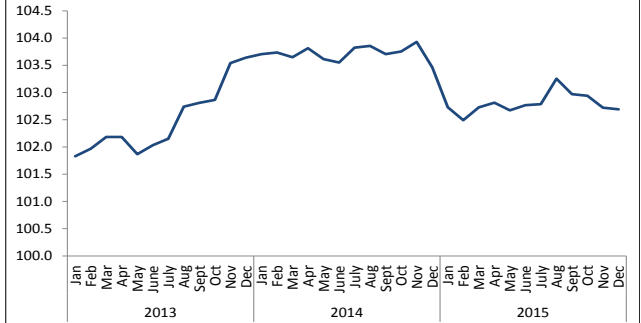
Summary of Economic Indicators

Chart I: Gross Domestic Product Growth Rate (Year-on-Year - Percentage Change)



Source: SIB

Chart II: Consumer Price Index (All Items)



Source: SIB

Chart III: Gross International Reserves and Import Cover

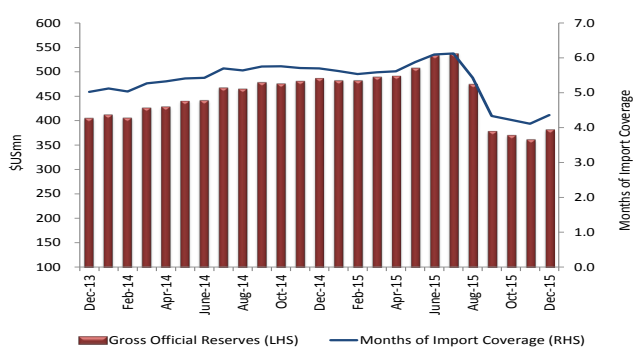


Chart IV: Current Account Balance to GDP

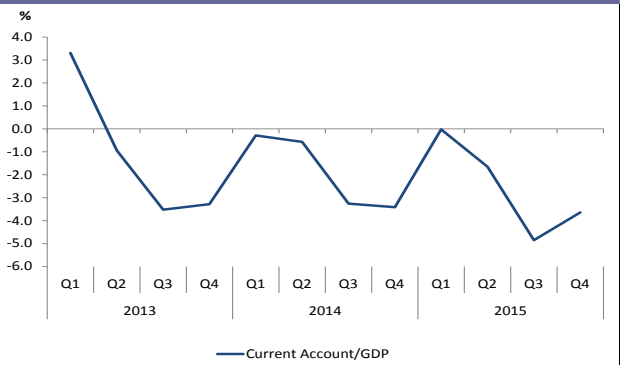


Chart V: Domestic Banks - Deposits and Loans and Advances

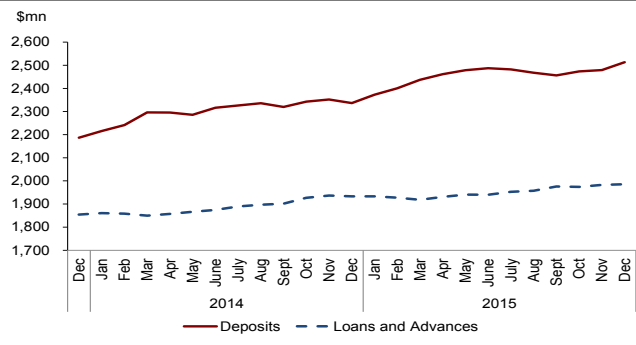


Chart VI: Excess Cash Balances

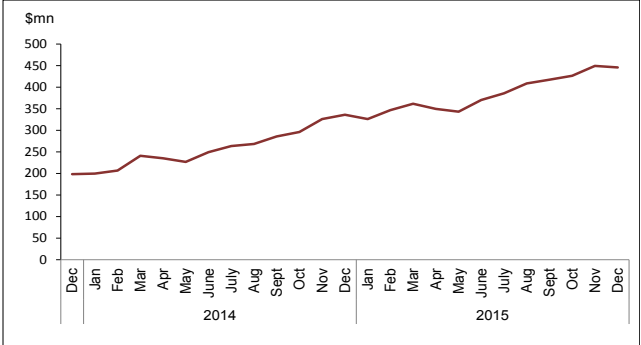
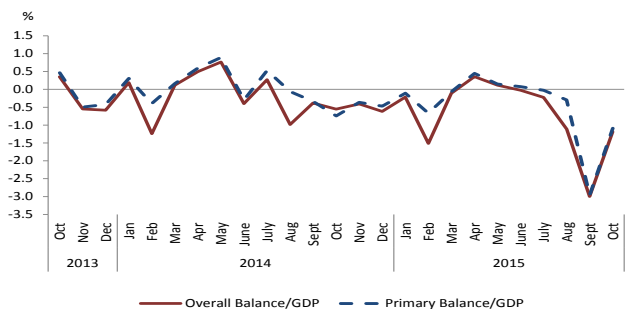
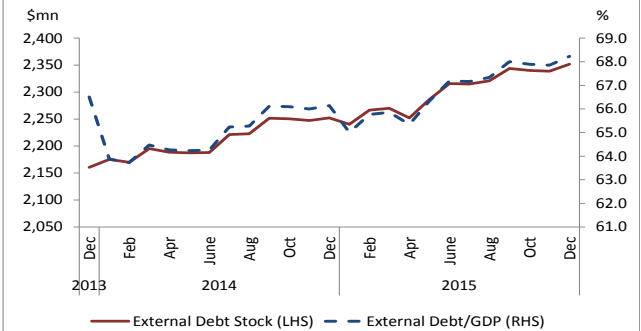


Chart VII: Primary and Overall Balances to GDP



Sources: MOF and CBB

Chart VIII: Public Sector External Debt



Overview

- During 2015, M2 (the broad measure of money supply) expanded by 7.6%, driven by a \$346.8mn increase in net domestic credit while the net foreign assets of the banking system contracted by \$81.0mn.
- The Central Bank's net foreign assets fell by \$107.2mn in 2015 due to Central Government's payments for the nationalization of the Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) and the Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL). The net foreign assets of domestic banks increased by \$26.2mn.
- Net domestic credit to Central Government expanded by \$293.3mn to cover salary increases, payments for the utility companies in September, election spending and other budgetary over-runs.
- Bank loans to the private sector grew by \$58.8mn over the year, dominated by lending for construction activities. Other areas that benefitted were manufacturing, real estate, transportation, sugar production and tourism related activities.
- Annual lending by credit unions grew by \$35.1mn, fuelled by lending for personal activities, commercial real estate, land acquisition, home construction and agricultural production and processing.
- Bank liquidity increased further in 2015 and at year end, holdings of approved liquid assets and cash were substantially in excess of legal requirements, 76.3% above in the case of the former and 203.1% above in the case of cash.
- Over the year, the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans fell by 29 basis points and the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new deposits was down by 25 basis points. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread contracted by three basis points to 7.76%.
- Central Government's domestic debt rose by 31.4% to \$494.3mn, and the public sector external debt rose by 4.4% to \$2,351.6mn. External debt disbursements amounted to \$279.9mn, \$85.0mn (including capitalised interest) of which was from the Venezuelan Petrocaribe Agreement (VPCA). Amortization payments totaled \$175.8mn.
- In 2015, prices deflated by an annual average rate of 0.7% compared to an increase of 1.2% in 2014.

Money and Credit

- In 2015, M2 expanded by 7.6% driven largely by a substantial increase in net domestic credit to Central Government that was partly offset by a decline in the net foreign assets of the banking system.
- The Central Bank's net foreign assets decreased by \$107.2mn, reflecting inflows of \$461.5mn and outflows of \$562.3mn over the year. The latter included payments of \$232.2mn for outstanding liabilities related to the Government's acquisition of BEL and BTL, and debt servicing, amongst which was the payment of \$52.7mn for interest incurred on the 2038 bond. External loan receipts accounted for just over one-third of the annual foreign inflows.
- Buttressed by the tourism sector, foreign exchange inflows were buoyant in December with domestic banks recording a \$15.2mn increase in net foreign assets. Over the year, an increase of \$26.2mn was recorded.
- Growth in net domestic credit was dominated by a \$293.3mn surge in net credit to Central Government, and it also reflected a moderate increase of \$58.8mn in lending to the private sector during the year. Government borrowing was inflated by the compensation payments for the utility companies in September, election spending and other budgetary over-runs. In addition to substantially drawing down its deposits and raising the balance on its Central Bank overdraft facility, the Government issued \$88.5mn in new Treasury notes and \$25.0mn in new Treasury bills during the year.

Chart 1.1: Net Foreign Assets and Net Domestic Credit

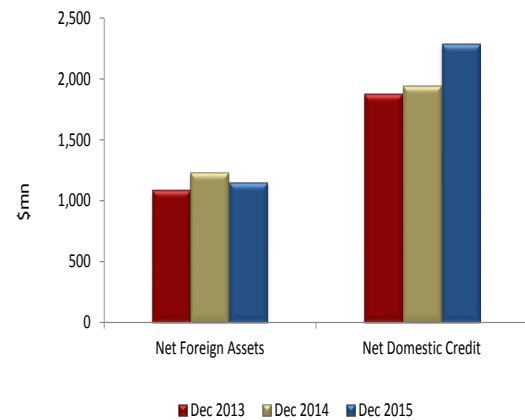
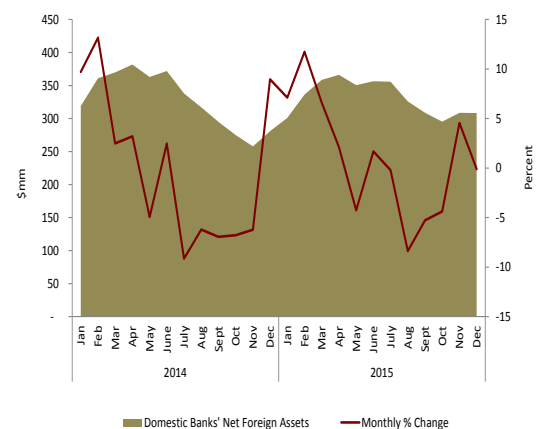


Table 1.1: Composition of Central Bank's Net Foreign Asset Flows

	\$mn	
	Jan-Dec 2014	Jan-Dec 2015
Total Inflows	398.1	461.5
Loan Disbursements	157.5	162.0
Sugar Receipts	68.5	74.6
Domestic Banks	43.3	125.6
Other	128.8	99.3
Total Outflows	236.7	562.3
Central Government	192.5	425.9
Other	44.1	136.4

Chart 1.2: Domestic Banks' Net Foreign Assets



- Loans to other public sector entities declined by \$5.3mn mainly due to net repayments by the Belize Tourism Board (BTB) and Belize Telemedia Limited (BTL).
- The pace of lending to the private sector decelerated in the fourth quarter with a \$3.7mn increase in December versus \$11.3mn for the quarter and \$58.8mn over the year. The increase was funneled mainly into construction (\$52.7mn), real estate (\$15.1mn), manufacturing (\$14.3mn) and, to a lesser extent, sugar production (\$4.7mn), transportation services (\$4.6mn) and professional services (\$4.6mn).
- Loan write-offs totalled \$32.5mn, of which \$10.5mn was in respect of personal loans.
- Loans by the five largest credit unions rose by \$37.8mn in 2015 as compared to an increase of \$35.3mn in 2014. Commercial real estate, personal loans activities and “other” agricultural production were the targets of lending.
- In December, excess holdings of statutory liquid assets grew by \$2.4mn while excess holdings of cash contracted by \$3.6mn. The latter reflected an increase in currency in circulation during the Christmas season. On an annual basis, holdings of approved liquid assets were \$147.7mn higher, and at \$1,050.7mn, stood 76.9% above the legal requirement. At \$665.2mn, the cash holdings of the banks were more than double the legal requirement.
- The 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans fell by nine basis

Chart 1.3: Credit Allocation of Domestic Banks
Jan to Dec 2015

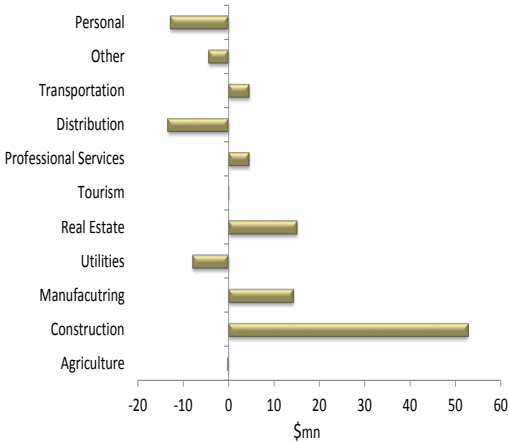
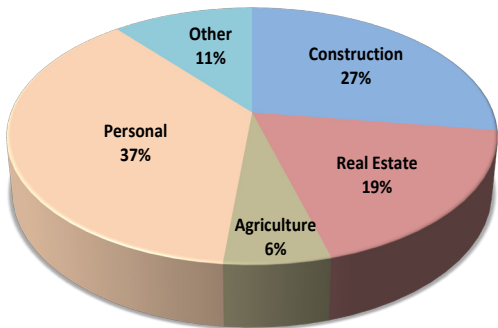


Chart 1.4: Credit Unions' Loans and Advances



points in December and by 29 basis points over the year to 9.60%. Lending rates were generally lower with the largest decline of 100 basis points on personal loans and decreases of 35 basis points on residential construction loans, 4 basis points on commercial loans and 97 basis points on other miscellaneous loans.

- The 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new deposits fell by four basis points over the month and by 25 basis points over the year to 1.84%. Year-on-year, except for a three basis point increase in the rate paid on savings deposits, rates paid on savings/chequing and time deposits fell by 26 and 17 basis points, respectively. As a result, the weighted average interest rate spread contracted by three basis points to 7.76% over the year.

Chart 1.5: Excess Statutory Liquidity

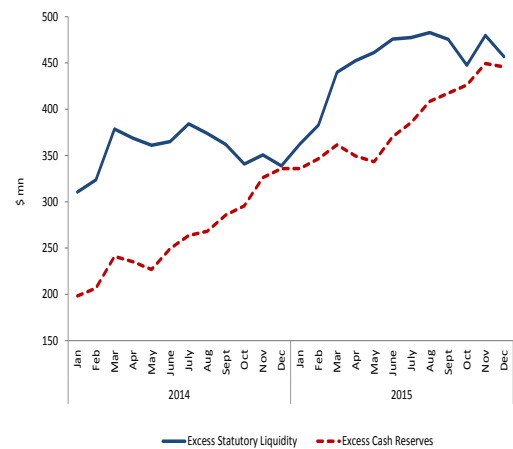


Chart 1.6: Domestic Banks' Weighted (Rolling) Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits



Real Sector Developments

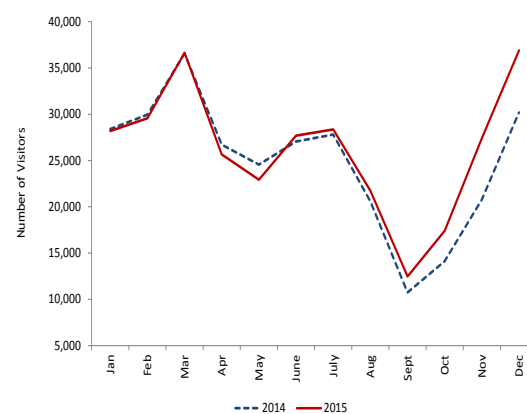
- In 2015, sugarcane deliveries rose, while production of banana, citrus and papaya declined. Exports of marine commodities contracted as a slump in shrimp production, caused by temporary farm closures, and a modest reduction in the conch catch overshadowed increases in lobster and whole fish production. Petroleum extraction declined, while upticks in sugar and citrus juice production were attributed to improved juice to sugar conversion rates and a higher juice outturn per box of fruit, respectively.
- Annual stay-over tourist visitors rose by 5.9% to 314,878, supported by an increase in airlift capacity, lower airfares in the fourth quarter, and stronger marketing efforts. In contrast, cruise ship disembarkations slid by 1.0% to 862,178 visitors, as port calls fell by twenty ships.
- The price level held steady in December, however, average prices in 2015 were 0.8% lower than in 2014. The deflation largely reflected reductions in fuel prices and international airfares, which underpinned a 7.5% decrease in “Transport” prices, while lower food prices, particularly for fresh vegetables and milk, contributed to a 0.4% slide in “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages”.
- Revenues from domestic exports contracted by 14.7% to \$516.2mn. While sugar receipts rose by 21.7% to \$134.1mn, marking the highest earnings on record for the industry, there were sizeable decreases in revenues from the sale of petroleum (64.7%), marine products (22.2%) and citrus juices (12.3%).

Table 2.1: Value of Domestic Exports

	\$mn	
	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Sugar	110.2	134.1
Molasses	8.2	7.1
Bananas	100.8	98.4
Citrus	79.0	69.3
Petroleum	102.0	36.1
Other Domestic Exports	91.9	83.2
Of which: Papaya	13.3	13.0
Marine Exports	113.1	88.0
Total	605.3	516.2

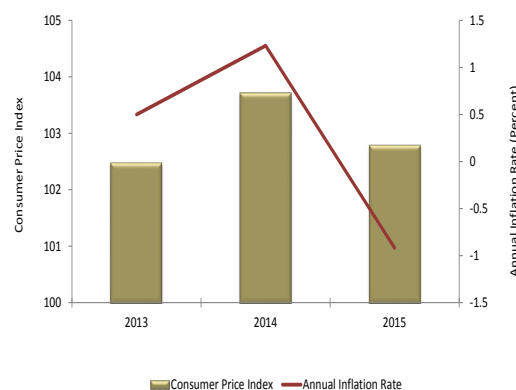
Sources: BSI, BGA, CPBL, SIB, Geology and Petroleum Department.

Chart 2.1: Stay-Over Tourist Arrivals



Sources: BTB and CBB

Chart 2.2: Average Annual Inflation Rate



Source: SIB

- Imports (including electricity) grew by 2.5% to \$2,101.6mn, as increased spending on goods for the “Commercial Free Zone” (\$94.2mn), “Machinery, Transport and Equipment” (\$79.0mn) and “Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures” (\$40.9mn) outweighed lower outlays on goods for “Export Processing Zones” (\$103.5mn) and “Fuels, Lubricants and Crude Materials” (\$73.3mn).

Sugarcane and Sugar

- After two years of late harvest starts, the 2015/2016 crop year returned to the customary harvest schedule. The factory opened for operations on 7 December, seven weeks earlier than it did for the 2014/2015 crop. Based on existing factory capacity and normal weather patterns, the Belize Sugar Industry Limited (BSI) expects to produce 129,000 long tons of sugar from 1.225mn long tons of sugarcane delivered during a twenty-seven week period that ends on 18 June 2016.
- With the anticipated downturn in preferential sugar prices on the EU sugar market, the price paid to farmers is expected to decline by 40.4% to \$45.25 per long ton, even with the 50.0% increase in the price of plantation white sugar on the local market.
- In December, sugarcane deliveries amounted to 133,230 long tons from which 11,744 long tons of sugar were produced. This outturn reflected an unfavourable cane to sugar ratio of 11.60 caused by high mud content and stand-over sugarcane in the deliveries. Concurrently, molasses production totalled 3,048 long tons.
- Annual exports of sugar rose by 18.9% to 125,391 long tons, while revenues increased

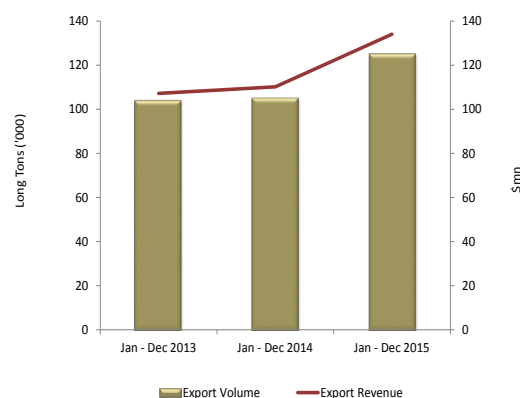
Table 2.2: Gross Imports by Standard International Trade Classification⁽¹⁾

	\$mn	
	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	280.4	277.7
Fuels, Lubricants and Crude Materials	374.3	301.0
Of which: Electricity	41.9	42.6
Oils, Fats and Chemicals	187.0	204.3
Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures	368.3	409.2
Machinery, Transport and Equipment	390.7	469.8
Other Goods	7.1	6.7
Export Processing Zones	219.3	115.8
Commercial Free Zone	223.0	317.1
Total	2,050.1	2,101.6

Source: SIB

⁽¹⁾ Imports are valued at cost, insurance and freight

Chart 2.3: Sugar Exports



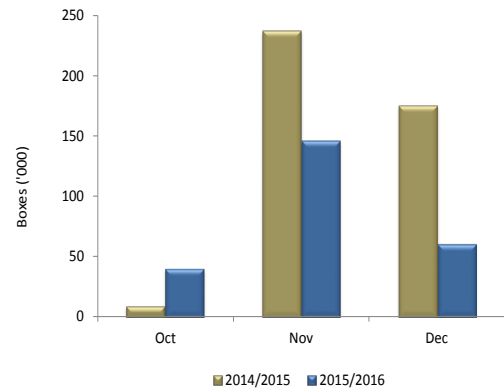
Source: BSI

by 21.7% to \$134.1mn. Earnings were larger than expected as the fall in freight costs more than compensated for exchange rate losses arising from the strengthening of the US dollar against the Euro. The bulk of the sugar (77.5%) was sold to the EU, while the US and CARICOM accounted for the remaining 19.6% and 2.9% of exports, respectively.

Citrus

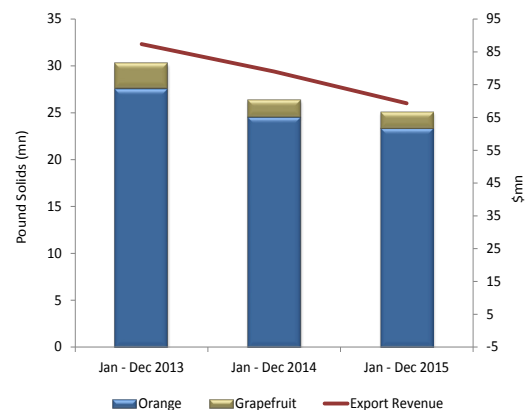
- Compared to the same period (October to December) of the previous crop year, citrus deliveries were down by 41.6% to 246,367 boxes as grapefruit deliveries plummeted by 54.9% to only 188,913 boxes, owing to the harmful effects of citrus greening. Orange deliveries rose from the 3,039 boxes to 57,454 boxes, as the delays in fruit maturity that plagued the previous crop did not recur this crop year.
- While citrus juice production expanded by 3.4% in the 2015 calendar year, since the commencement of the new crop year in October, output has contracted by 41.6% to 1.1mn pound solids (ps). The latter reflects lower deliveries and a 5.7% decline in the average juice outturn per box of grapefruit, as that of orange remained stable. Consequently, grapefruit concentrate production fell by 56.4% to 0.8mn ps, while orange concentrate production stood at 0.3mn ps.
- The annual volume of citrus juice exports decreased by 4.8% to 25.2mn ps, while export receipts fell by 12.3% to \$69.3mn. The slump in earnings resulted from a 19.0% drop in orange concentrate prices, which reflected a shift in US consumers' preferences to citrus juice substitutes.

Chart 2.4: Monthly Citrus Deliveries



Source: CPBL

Chart 2.5: Citrus Juice Export Volume and Revenue

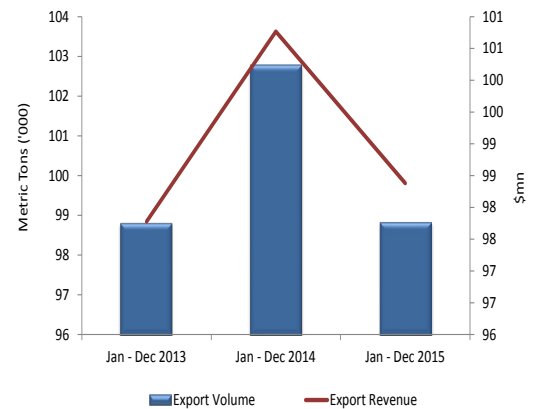


Source: CPBL

Banana

- Annual banana production fell by 3.8% to 98,842 metric tons, as a strong outturn between January and April was followed by drought, the cessation of production by the Meridian Group of farms (which accounted for 12.9% of output) in October and flooding in November. Export receipts contracted by 2.4% to \$98.4mn, as an increase of value-added packages in the export mix ameliorated the revenue loss.

Chart 2.6: Banana Exports

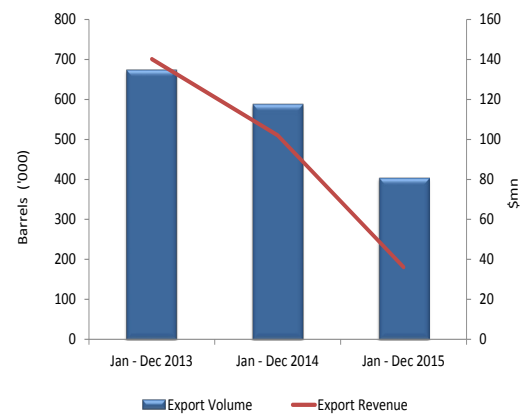


Source: BGA

Petroleum

- Petroleum extraction fell by 17.9% to 527,741 barrels with output from the Spanish Lookout and Never Delay Fields down by 17.6% and 82.2%. Operations at the Never Delay Field remained suspended through December, while the Spanish Lookout Field's daily extraction rate fell by 313 barrels to 1,465 barrels.
- There were no crude oil exports during December. The annual volume of crude oil exports plunged by 31.3% to 404,490 barrels, while receipts plummeted by 64.7% to \$36.1mn. The average export price fell by 48.5% to US\$44.58 per barrel, as the growth in global supply outstripped the increase in oil consumption and led to a further build-up in oil inventories world-wide.

Chart 2.7: Petroleum Exports

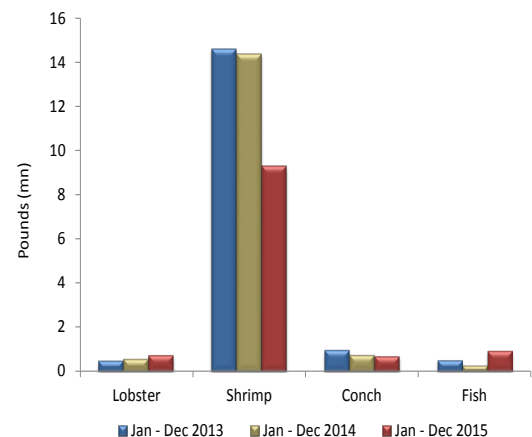


Source: Geology and Petroleum Department

Marine Exports

- Marine export volume decreased by 27.1% to 11.7mn pounds, while revenue fell by 22.2% to \$88.0mn. Shrimp output plunged by 35.5% due to disease losses, while the conch catch declined by 8.1%. In contrast, the volume of whole fish output more than doubled with the re-opening of a tilapia fish farm, and lobster sales rose by 29.1%.

Chart 2.8: Marine Export Volumes

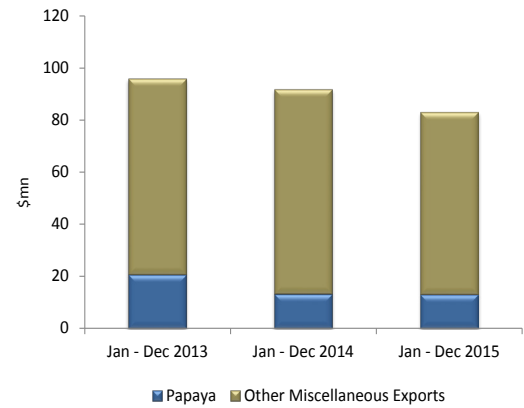


Sources: SIB

Other Domestic Products

- Annual revenue from other domestic exports fell by 9.5% to \$83.2mn, as increased sales of sawn wood, Red Kidney Beans, orange and grapefruit oils could not compensate for lower earnings from papaya, pepper sauces, fresh oranges, black-eyed peas, animal feed and corn meal.

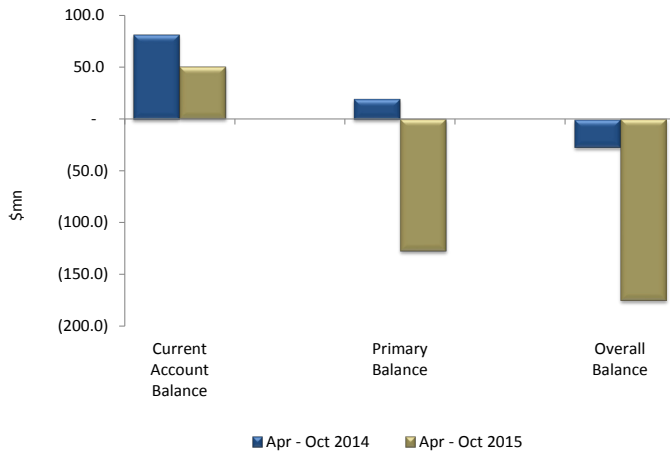
Chart 2.9: Revenue of Papaya and Other Miscellaneous Exports



Source: SIB

Central Government Operations

Chart 3.1: Central Government Operations



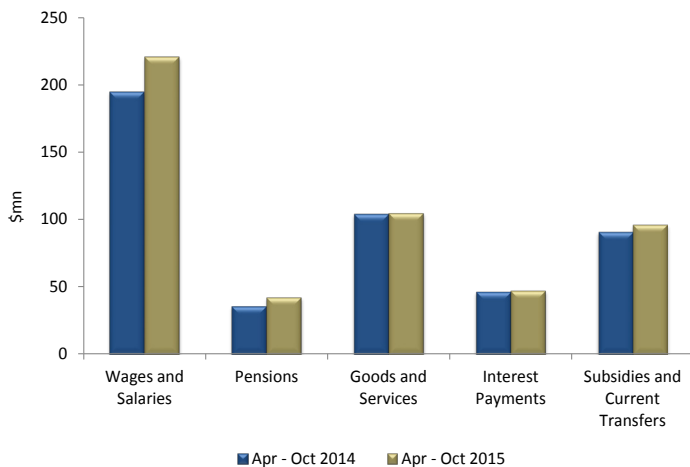
Sources: MOF and CBB estimates

Chart 3.2: Central Government Current Revenue



Sources: MOF and CBB estimates

Chart 3.3: Central Government Current Expenditure



Sources: MOF and CBB estimates

Central Government Domestic Debt

- Over the year, Central Government's domestic debt rose by \$118.2mn (31.4%) to \$494.3mn. The increase mostly reflected the issuance of \$113.5mn in Government securities, consisting of two issues of Treasury notes (\$40.0mn in February and \$48.5mn in September) and the issue of \$25.0mn in new Treasury bills in December. Of the total, Central Bank acquired \$95.4mn and the balance went to insurance companies and other entities. In addition, Central Government increased its overdraft facility with the Central Bank by \$16.2mn to \$63.8mn, in part to meet the retroactive 8.0% union wage increase in July and the second bi-annual interest payment on the 2038 bond in August. It also contracted a \$0.5mn loan from the Fort Street Tourism Village for dredging services.
- Amortization payments totalled \$11.9mn. Repayments to the Belize Social Security Board (BSSB), the Fort Street Tourism Village, Debt for Nature Swap and domestic banks totalled \$1.9mn, and the \$10.0mn Defence Bonds that matured in September was retired.
- Over the year, the share of domestic debt held by the Central Bank rose from 38.4% in 2014 to 49.7% due to its holdings of Government securities and the overdraft facility. The share held by domestic banks fell from 44.2% to 30.9%, while the share held by non-bank entities rose from 17.4% to 19.4% over the same period.
- Interest payments amounted to \$15.5mn with \$11.4mn paid to the Central Bank on the overdraft facility and on its holdings of Government securities. Non-bank entities

Chart 3.4: Central Government Domestic Debt

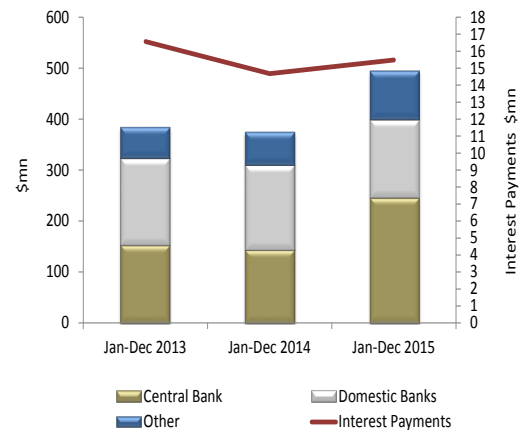
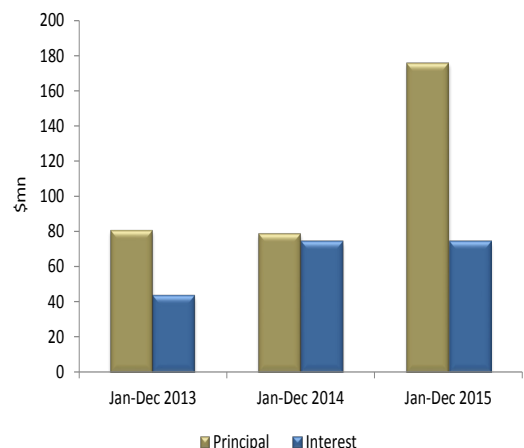


Chart 3.5: External Debt Service

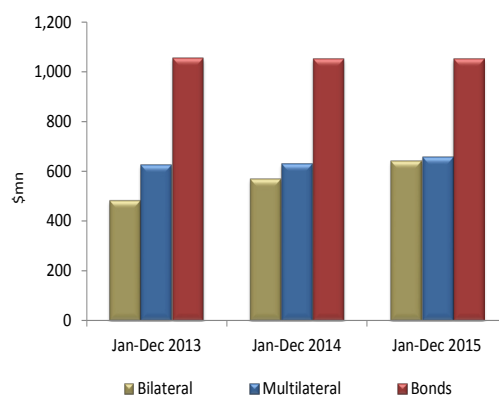


received \$3.7mn, while \$0.4mn was paid to the domestic banks.

Public Sector External Debt

- In 2015, the public sector external debt rose by 4.4% (\$99.8mn) to \$2,351.6mn.
- Disbursements to Central Government amounted to \$174.5mn, which included \$85.0mn from Venezuela, \$21.0mn from the Republic of China/Taiwan, \$17.8mn from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and \$29.0mn from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).
- Disbursements to the financial and non-financial public sectors totalled \$8.0mn and \$97.4mn, respectively. Of the \$97.4mn, \$97.1mn was due to the recognition of the British Caribbean Bank liability of BTL in September.
- Central Government amortized \$74.3mn, of which \$33.0mn was paid to bilateral creditors and \$41.3mn to multilateral lenders, mainly the CDB and IDB.
- Loan repayments by the financial sector amounted to \$0.8mn, while the non-financial public sector repaid \$100.7mn, of which \$97.1mn was for the settlement of the BTL loan in September.
- Interest and other payments totalled \$74.6mn and consisted of \$52.7mn paid to bondholders of the 2038 bond, \$15.0mn going to multilateral lenders and \$6.9mn paid to bilateral creditors.

Chart 3.6: Public Sector External Debt



Statistical Appendix

Table A.1: Factors Responsible for Money Supply Movements⁽¹⁾

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2015	Nov 2015 to Dec 2015	Dec 2014 to Dec 2015	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014
Net Foreign Assets	1,149.1	26.2	-81.0	142.4
Central Bank	874.8	11.0	-107.2	161.3
Domestic Banks	274.3	15.2	26.2	-18.9
Net Domestic Credit	2,286.3	14.3	346.8	67.2
Central Government (Net)	296.4	10.9	293.3	-13.5
Other Public Sector	10.7	-0.3	-5.3	-4.9
Private Sector	1,979.2	3.7	58.8	85.6
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long-term)	49.6	0.5	-2.3	-5.1
Other Items (Net)	511.7	-10.4	66.2	19.3
Money Supply (M2)	2,874.1	50.4	201.9	195.4

⁽¹⁾ Transactions associated with the Universal Health Services (UHS) loan with the Belize Bank Limited are not included in this table, as this matter is under litigation.

Table A.2: Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2015	Nov 2015 to Dec 2015	Dec 2014 to Dec 2015	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014
Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System	1,149.1	26.2	-81.0	142.4
Net Foreign Assets of the Central Bank	874.8	11.0	-107.2	161.3
Central Bank Foreign Assets	882.5	11.6	-100.8	161.2
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand)	7.7	0.6	6.4	-0.1
Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks	274.3	15.2	26.2	-18.9
Domestic Banks' Foreign Assets	308.4	-0.3	24.5	-10.5
Domestic Banks' Foreign Liabilities (Short-Term)	34.1	-15.5	-1.7	8.4

Table A.3: Net Domestic Credit

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2015	Nov 2015 to Dec 2015	Dec 2014 to Dec 2015	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014
Total Credit to Central Government	398.4	21.3	87.8	-13.0
From Central Bank	245.8	21.4	101.6	-9.3
Loans and Advances	63.8	-2.8	16.2	-7.5
Government Securities ⁽¹⁾	182.0	24.2	85.4	-1.8
From Domestic Banks	152.6	-0.1	-13.8	-3.7
Loans and Advances	2.6	-0.1	-0.9	-0.8
Government Securities	150.0	0.0	-12.9	-2.9
Of which: Treasury bills ⁽²⁾	150.0	0.0	-12.9	-2.9
Treasury notes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less Central Government Deposits	102.0	10.4	-205.5	0.5
With Central Bank	56.5	1.6	-209.5	-1.2
With Domestic Banks	45.5	8.8	4.0	1.7
Net Credit to Central Government	296.4	10.9	293.3	-13.5
Credit to Other Public Sector	10.7	-0.3	-5.3	-4.9
From Central Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
From Domestic Banks	10.7	-0.3	-5.3	-4.9
Of which: Local Government	0.8	0.1	-0.2	0.0
Public Financial Institutions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Utilities	4.1	-0.2	-3.7	-2.5
Other Statutory Bodies	3.9	-0.2	-1.4	-2.9
Securities	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Plus Credit to the Private Sector	1,979.2	3.7	58.8	85.6
Loans and Advances	1,978.8	3.7	58.8	85.2
Securities	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4
Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System ⁽³⁾	2,286.3	14.3	346.8	67.2

⁽¹⁾ Includes 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.

⁽³⁾ Values may not equal to total due to rounding.

Table A.4: Sectoral Composition of Domestic Banks' Loans and Advances

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2015	Nov 2015 to Dec 2015	Dec 2014 to Dec 2015	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014
PRIMARY SECTOR	251.8	-4.0	-0.2	53.6
Agriculture	202.7	-1.0	1.8	48.4
Sugar	72.0	0.2	4.7	51.9
Citrus	14.8	0.2	-0.9	-7.6
Bananas	70.9	-0.4	2.1	0.1
Other	45.0	-1.0	-4.1	4.0
Marine Products	30.6	-0.7	1.8	4.7
Forestry	0.7	-0.2	-1.2	0.3
Mining and Exploration	17.8	-2.1	-2.6	0.2
SECONDARY SECTOR	629.4	14.5	59.1	9.0
Manufacturing	36.1	-0.3	14.3	-1.8
Building and Construction	577.8	16.1	52.7	19.2
Utilities	15.5	-1.3	-7.9	-8.4
TERTIARY SECTOR	674.7	-8.9	6.6	13.4
Transport	48.5	0.0	4.6	4.1
Tourism	96.2	-4.1	0.1	2.7
Distribution	170.3	-8.7	-13.4	1.7
Real Estate	293.1	1.5	15.1	13.3
Professional Services	52.1	1.7	4.6	-3.2
Other	14.5	0.7	-4.4	-5.2
Personal Loans	429.8	1.6	-12.8	2.7
TOTAL	1,985.7	3.2	52.7	78.7

⁽¹⁾ Includes government services, financial institutions and entertainment.

Table A.5: Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves

		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2015	Nov 2015 to Dec 2015	Dec 2014 to Dec 2015	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014
Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets	1,047.2	7.1	144.2	87.7
Notes and Coins	77.0	2.7	5.6	-3.3
Balances with Central Bank	666.9	-2.6	124.5	141.4
Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due 90 days)	144.3	4.2	33.9	-48.8
Treasury bills maturing in not more than 90 days ⁽¹⁾	150.0	0.0	-12.9	-2.8
Other Approved Assets	9.0	2.8	-6.9	1.2
Of which: Treasury notes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Required Liquid Assets	594.0	4.7	29.8	42.5
Excess/(Deficiency) Liquid Assets	453.2	2.4	114.4	45.2
Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves	665.2	-1.9	120.9	153.2
Required Cash Reserves	219.5	1.7	11.0	15.7
Excess/(Deficiency) Cash Reserves	445.7	-3.6	109.9	137.5
Actual Securities Balances ⁽²⁾	150.0	0.0	-12.9	-3.1
Excess/(Deficiency) Securities	150.0	0.0	-12.9	-3.1

⁽¹⁾ Four week average of domestic banks' Treasury bill holdings.

⁽²⁾ Face value of domestic banks' Treasury bill holdings at the end of the month.

Table A.6: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates

		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2015	Nov 2015 to Dec 2015	Dec 2014 to Dec 2015	Dec 2013 to Dec 2014
Weighted Lending Rates				
Personal Loans	11.60	-0.24	-0.84	0.10
Commercial Loans	10.01	-0.08	-0.68	-0.53
Residential Construction	7.96	-0.06	-0.84	-0.89
Other	7.84	-0.02	-0.64	-0.72
Weighted Average	10.03	-0.10	-0.63	-0.46
Weighted Deposit Rates				
Demand	0.10	-0.03	-0.19	-0.09
Savings/Chequing	2.56	0.00	-0.01	0.02
Savings	2.39	-0.00	0.04	-0.21
Time	2.45	-0.04	-0.27	-0.63
Weighted Average	1.46	-0.05	-0.27	-0.44
Weighted Average Spread	8.57	-0.05	-0.36	-0.02

Table A.7: Domestic Banks' (Rolling) Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

	Percent				
	Twelve Month Rolling Averages at			Monthly Change	Annual Change
	Dec 2015	Nov 2015	Dec 2014	Dec 2015 over Nov 2015	Dec 2015 over Dec 2014
Weighted Lending Rates					
Personal Loans	10.54	10.66	11.54	-0.12	-1.00
Commercial Loans	9.87	9.96	9.91	-0.09	-0.04
Residential Construction	6.78	6.74	7.13	0.03	-0.35
Other	6.69	6.77	7.66	-0.08	-0.97
Weighted Average	9.60	9.69	9.89	-0.09	-0.29
Weighted Deposit Rates					
Demand	0.03	0.03	0.02	-0.00	0.00
Savings/Chequing	1.33	1.41	1.59	-0.08	-0.26
Savings	2.10	2.11	2.07	-0.01	0.03
Time	1.98	2.00	2.15	-0.01	-0.17
Weighted Average	1.84	1.89	2.10	-0.04	-0.25
Weighted Average Spread	7.76	7.81	7.79	-0.05	-0.03

Table A.8: Production of Main Exports

	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Sugarcane Deliveries (long tons)	1,194,932	1,300,657
Sugar (long tons)	121,137	151,795
Molasses (long tons)	42,839	40,615
Bananas (metric tons)	102,782	98,842
Citrus Deliveries (boxes)	4,622,931	4,510,065
Citrus Juices ('000 ps)	26,807	27,710
Papaya ('000 lbs)	34,175	30,741
Marine Exports ('000 lbs)	15,999	11,661
Petroleum (barrels)	642,432	527,741

Sources: BSI, BGA, CPBL, Geology & Petroleum Department

Table A.9: Tourist Arrivals

	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Air	239,683	255,748
Land	49,207	51,601
Sea	8,534	7,529
Stay-over Visitors	297,424	314,878
Cruise Ship Disembarkations	871,318	862,178

Sources: BTB and CBB

Table A.10: Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index Components by Major Commodity Group

Major Commodity	Weights	Nov 2015	Dec 2015	Monthly ⁽¹⁾ Change	Average ⁽²⁾ Annual Inflation
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	195	106.9	107.3	0.4	-0.4
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	17	100.0	100.2	0.2	-0.4
Clothing and Footware	83	96.7	96.7	0.0	-0.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	265	102.9	102.9	0.0	-0.1
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance	69	101.7	101.7	0.0	1.2
Health	41	112.0	112.0	0.0	2.4
Transport	136	96.6	96.0	-0.6	-7.5
Communication	33	96.9	96.9	0.0	-0.4
Recreation and Culture	69	106.7	106.7	0.0	0.8
Education	32	103.6	103.6	0.0	1.1
Restaurants and Hotels	7	109.7	109.7	0.0	0.6
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	52	106.3	106.4	0.0	2.0
All Items	1,000	102.9	102.9	0.0	-0.9

Source: SIB

⁽¹⁾ Percent change in CPI for Dec 2015 over Nov 2015.

⁽²⁾ Average CPI for January to December 2015 over January to December 2014.

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

	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Nov - Dec 2014/2015	Nov - Dec 2015/2016
Deliveries of Sugarcane (long tons)	0	133,230	0	133,230
Sugar Processed (long tons)	0	11,744	0	11,744
Molasses Processed (long tons)	0	3,048	0	3,048
Performance				
Factory Time Efficiency (%)	0.00	92.32	0.00	92.32
Cane Purity (%)	0.00	82.85	0.00	82.85
Cane/Sugar	0.00	11.60	0.00	11.60

Source: BSI

Table A.12: Exports of Sugar and Molasses

	Dec 2014		Dec 2015		Jan - Dec 2014		Jan - Dec 2015	
	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)
Sugar	25	27	367	356	105,420	110,190	125,391	134,098
E.U.	0	0	367	356	103,122	107,673	97,168	103,580
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	24,563	26,598
Caricom	25	27	0	0	2,125	2,262	3,592	3,817
Other	0	0	0	0	174	255	67	102
Molasses	0	0	0	0	33,790	8,237	28,588	7,125

Source: BSI

Table A.13: Citrus Deliveries and Production

	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Oct - Dec 2014/2015	Oct - Dec 2015/2016
Deliveries (boxes)				
Orange	0	8,332	3,039	57,454
Grapefruit	175,368	52,138	419,146	188,913
Total	175,368	60,470	422,185	246,367
Concentrate Produced (ps)				
Orange	0	78,348	15,632	296,004
Grapefruit	754,241	232,411	1,755,366	765,435
Total	754,241	310,759	1,770,998	1,061,439
Not from concentrate (ps)				
Orange	0	0	0	0
Grapefruit	0	0	45,720	0
Total	0	0	45,720	0
Pulp (pounds)				
Orange	0	0	0	0
Grapefruit	139,072	0	184,864	0
Total	139,072	0	184,864	0
Oil Produced (pounds)				
Orange	0	2,800	800	10,400
Grapefruit	24,800	4,800	64,000	18,400
Total	24,800	7,600	64,800	28,800

Source: CPBL

Table A.14: Export Sales of Citrus Products

	Dec 2014		Dec 2015		Jan - Dec 2014		Jan - Dec 2015	
	Pound Solids ('000)	Value (\$'000)	Pound Solids ('000)	Value (\$'000)	Pound Solids ('000)	Value (\$'000)	Pound Solids ('000)	Value (\$'000)
Citrus Concentrates								
U.S.A.								
Orange	0.0	0	592.6	1,642	11,469.6	31,147	12,212.8	26,852
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Caribbean								
Orange	202.6	533	669.0	2,162	5,099.7	16,037	7,725.4	25,355
Grapefruit	62.0	223	78.3	290	506.7	1,813	488.7	1,813
Europe								
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0	7,621.7	22,985	3,307.4	9,496
Grapefruit	117.4	535	116.0	391	1,071.0	4,765	1,068.5	4,329
Other								
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0	357.6	967	101.4	288
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	289.9	1,017	221.8	832
Sub-Total ⁽¹⁾	382.0	1,292	1,455.9	4,485	26,416.2	78,730	25,125.9	68,965
Orange	202.6	533	1,261.6	3,804.2	24,548.6	71,135	23,347.0	61,991
Grapefruit	179.5	758	194.3	680.7	1,867.6	7,595	1,779.0	6,974
Not-From-Concentrate								
Sub-Total	0.0	0	6.8	36	52.2	282	65.2	362
Orange	0.0	0	6.1	31	43.7	228	53.0	284
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.7	4	8.5	54	12.2	78
Total Citrus Juices	382.0	1,292	1,462.7	4,521	26,468.3	79,012	25,191.1	69,326
Pulp (pounds '000)								
Total ⁽¹⁾	167.1	130	0.0	0	2,052.7	1,587	3,086.3	2,348
Orange	167.1	130	0.0	0	1,954.8	1,508	2,980.3	2,267
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	97.9	79	106.0	81

Source: CPBL

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

Table A.15: Banana Exports

	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Volume (metric tons)	8,446	5,756	102,782	98,842
Value (\$'000)	7,219	4,961	100,767	98,380

Source: BGA

Table A.16: Marine Exports

	Jan - Dec 2014		Jan - Dec 2015	
	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)
Lobster	575	15,614	742	19,345
Shrimp	14,389	88,422	9,284	59,673
Conch	758	8,534	697	8,025
Other Fish	277	558	938	981
Total	15,999	113,128	11,661	88,024

Source: SIB

Table A.17: Other Domestic Exports

	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Other Miscellaneous Exports (\$'000)	91,916	83,191
Of which:		
<u>Papaya</u>		
Volume ('000 pounds)	34,175	30,741
Value (\$'000)	13,262	13,037

Source: SIB

Table A.18: Petroleum Production and Exports

	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Jan - Dec 2014	Jan - Dec 2015
Crude Oil Production				
Never Delay (Barrels)	0	0	2,624	468
Spanish Lookout (Barrels)	52,456	41,788	639,807	527,274
Crude Oil Export				
Volume (Barrels)	67,938	0	588,838	404,490
Value (\$'000)	6,636	0	102,040	36,066

Source: Petroleum and Geology Department

Table A.19: Central Government Revenue and Expenditure

	\$'000					
	Approved Budget 2015/2016	Jan 2014 to Oct 2014	Jan 2015 to Oct 2015	Apr 2014 to Oct 2014	Apr 2015 to Oct 2015 ^P	Fiscal YTD as % of Budget
TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3)	980,258	847,572	852,535	582,796	582,473	59.4%
1). Current Revenue	934,879	772,920	830,503	554,595	562,991	60.2%
Tax Revenue	818,116	676,146	728,400	485,658	487,167	59.5%
Income and Profits	261,861	222,569	223,088	159,190	147,871	56.5%
Taxes on Property	5,337	4,756	5,040	3,184	3,250	60.9%
Taxes on Goods and Services	339,106	278,365	292,376	199,497	198,183	58.4%
International Trade and Transactions	211,813	170,456	207,895	123,787	137,864	65.1%
Non-Tax Revenue	116,763	96,773	102,104	68,937	75,824	64.9%
Property Income	19,546	12,184	31,510	11,712	30,720	157.2%
Licences	12,279	10,404	11,958	6,454	7,852	64.0%
Other	84,938	74,186	58,635	50,771	37,251	43.9%
2). Capital Revenue	4,810	4,674	6,079	3,453	4,788	99.6%
3). Grants	40,569	69,979	15,953	24,747	14,693	36.2%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2)	1,068,266	906,361	1,090,473	609,715	757,186	70.9%
1). Current Expenditure	873,517	682,035	743,127	473,314	512,653	58.7%
Wages and Salaries	367,781	272,412	306,575	195,087	221,037	60.1%
Pensions	59,667	48,891	58,386	36,012	42,576	71.4%
Goods and Services	211,504	157,414	168,518	104,434	105,032	49.7%
Interest Payments on Public Debt	90,289	80,804	81,812	46,647	47,524	52.6%
Subsidies and Current Transfers	144,276	122,513	127,836	91,135	96,483	66.9%
2). Capital Expenditure	194,749	224,326	347,346	136,401	244,533	125.6%
Capital II (Local Sources)	97,785	98,966	98,343	62,638	62,086	63.5%
Capital III (Foreign Sources)	94,368	122,440	159,409	71,606	93,488	99.1%
Capital Transfer and Net Lending	2,596	2,920	89,594	2,157	88,959	3427.2%
CURRENT BALANCE	61,362	90,885	87,376	81,281	50,339	82.0%
Primary Balance	2,281	22,016	(156,126)	19,728	(127,188)	-5575.1%
OVERALL BALANCE	(88,008)	(58,789)	(237,938)	(26,919)	(174,713)	198.5%
Primary Balance less BCB award	(38,288)	22,016	(69,036)	19,728	(40,098)	104.7%
Overall Balance less BCB award	(128,577)	(58,789)	(150,848)	(26,919)	(87,623)	68.1%
FINANCING	88,008	58,789	237,938	26,919	174,713	
Domestic Financing		(37,924)	279,076	(41,284)	235,762	
Central Bank		(33,384)	271,326	(45,196)	239,396	
Net Borrowing		1,114	85,310	6,184	60,433	
Change in Deposits		(34,497)	186,016	(51,380)	178,964	
Commercial Banks		(9,150)	(21,147)	4,747	(11,130)	
Net Borrowing		(4,632)	(19,155)	(129)	(12,871)	
Change in Deposits		(4,518)	(1,992)	4,876	1,741	
Other Domestic Financing		4,610	28,897	(835)	7,496	
Financing Abroad		99,278	92,314	74,469	65,715	
Disbursements		157,843	152,096	116,209	108,268	
Amortization		(58,565)	(59,782)	(41,740)	(42,553)	
Nationalization of BEL			(70,221)		(70,221)	
Nationalization of BTL			(65,080)		(65,080)	
Other		(2,565)	1,857	(6,266)	8,544	

Sources: CBB and MOF

^P - Provisional

Table A.20: Central Government Domestic Debt 2015⁽¹⁾

	\$'000					
	<i>TRANSACTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2015</i>					
	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/14 ^R	<i>Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities</i>	<i>Amortization/ Reduction in Securities</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities</i>	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/15 ^P
Overdraft/Loans	47,605	0	0	4,383	16,154	63,759
Central Bank	47,605	0	0	4,383	16,154	63,759
Domestic Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Bills	175,000	25,000	0	163	0	200,000
Central Bank	0	25,000	0	8	(4)	24,996
Domestic Banks	162,844	0	0	142	(12,862)	149,982
Other	12,156	0	0	13	12,866	25,022
Treasury Notes	136,500	88,500	0	9,727	0	225,000
Central Bank	86,645	78,500	0	6,197	(8,119)	157,026
Domestic Banks	0	0	0	3	0	0
Other	49,855	10,000	0	3,527	8,119	67,974
Defence Bonds	10,000	0	10,000	800	0	0
Central Bank	10,000	0	10,000	800	0	0
Domestic Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atlantic Bank Limited	577	0	335	38	0	241
Heritage Bank Limited	2,958	0	584	269	0	2,374
Belize Social Security Board ⁽²⁾	623	0	228	40	0	395
Fort Street Tourism Village	364	503	619	0	0	247
Debt for Nature Swap	2,488	0	168	70	0	2,320
Total	376,115	114,003	11,934	15,489	16,154	494,337

^R - Revised^P - Provisional⁽¹⁾ Transactions associated with the Universal Health Services (UHS) loan with the Belize Bank Limited are not included in this table, as no action has been taken to enforce the claim.⁽²⁾ Government has outstanding loans with BSSB for Hopeville Housing Project.

Table A.21: Public Sector External Debt 2015

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/14 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2015				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/15 ^P
		Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest & Other Payments	Parity Change	
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	2,172,603	174,485	74,270	73,843	-1,919	2,270,899
Banco Nacional de Comercio Exterior	529	0	529	16	-0	0
Government of Venezuela	291,537	84,978	3,245	756	0	373,269
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	20,375	932	2,898	1,180	-699	17,710
Republic of China/Taiwan	254,441	21,000	26,291	4,933	-0	249,150
Caribbean Development Bank	213,242	29,003	15,014	6,671	-0	227,231
Caricom Development Fund	3,350	0	952	178	0	2,398
European Economic Community	10,772	0	789	73	-1,089	8,893
Inter-American Development Bank	238,867	17,752	17,594	3,583	0	239,026
International Fund for Agriculture Development	2,956	360	501	36	-131	2,685
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	25,098	2,997	2,804	692	0	25,290
Opec Fund for International Development	42,627	8,592	3,294	1,922	0	47,925
Central American Bank for Economic Integration	15,803	8,871	357	1,130	0	24,317
Bank of New York	1,053,004	0	0	52,650	0	1,053,004
NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	19,843	97,427	100,728	566	-43	16,499
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	1,365	0	664	42	-43	658
Caribbean Development Bank ^{(1) (2)}	18,478	337	2,974	524	0	15,841
British Caribbean Bank Limited ⁽⁴⁾	0	97,090	97,090	0	0	0
FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	59,319	8,000	833	167	-2,278	64,209
Caribbean Development Bank	7,267	8,000	800	165	0	14,466
European Economic Community	202	0	33	2	-20	149
International Monetary Fund ⁽³⁾	51,851	0	0	0	-2,258	49,593
GRAND TOTAL	2,251,765	279,912	175,831	74,575	-4,239	2,351,607

^R - Revised

^P - Provisional

⁽¹⁾ Effective 21 June 2011, the nationalization of Belize Electricity Limited caused an increase (\$23.1mn) in debt, which was matched by Government's acquisition of assets of equal value.

⁽²⁾ Effective 3 October 2005, loans to BWSL were reclassified as public sector debt as a result of Government of Belize's repurchase of the company.

⁽³⁾ International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights allocation is included as part of the financial public sector external debt obligation.

⁽⁴⁾ Compensation payment, by Government, for a loan extended to BTL by British Caribbean Bank Limited that was recognised and settled in September 2015.