



CENTRAL BANK

of BELIZE



MONTHLY
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2020

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronyms:

BGA	Banana Growers' Association
BSI	Belize Sugar Industries Limited
BTB	Belize Tourism Board
BTL	Belize Telemedia Limited
CBB	Central Bank of Belize
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CGA	Citrus Growers' Association
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPBL	Citrus Products of Belize Limited
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EU	European Union
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

Abbreviations and Conventions:

\$	the Belize dollar unless otherwise stated
bn	billion
mn	million
ps	pound solids
TC/TS	long tons cane to long ton sugar

Notes:

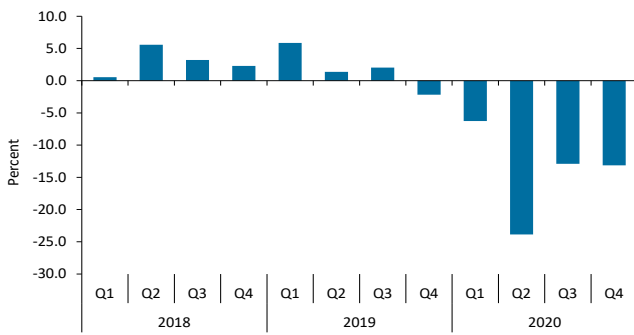
1. Since May of 1976, the Belize dollar has been fixed to the US dollar at the rate of US\$1.00 = BZ\$2.00.
2. The 2020 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2019 have been revised.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, the Central Bank of Belize is the source of all tables and charts.
4. Ratios to GDP for 2020 are based on estimates from the Statistical Institute of Belize.

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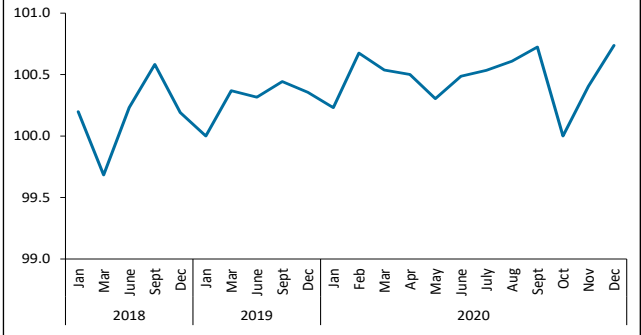
Summary of Economic Indicators

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

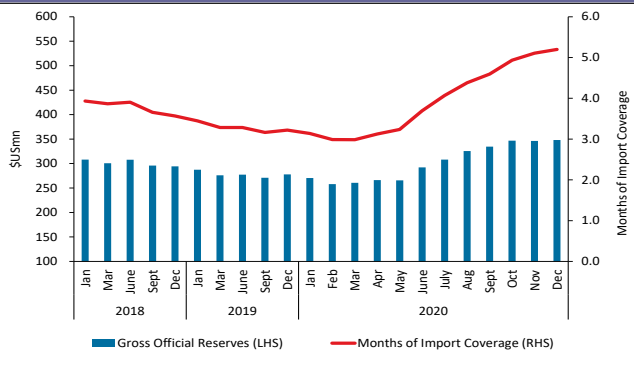


Chart IV: Current Account Balance to GDP

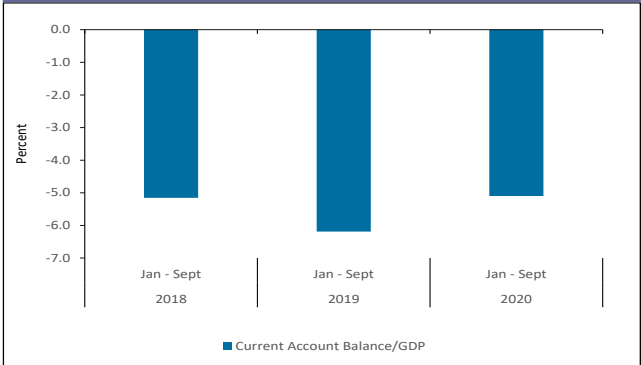


Chart V: Domestic Banks - Deposits and Loans and Advances

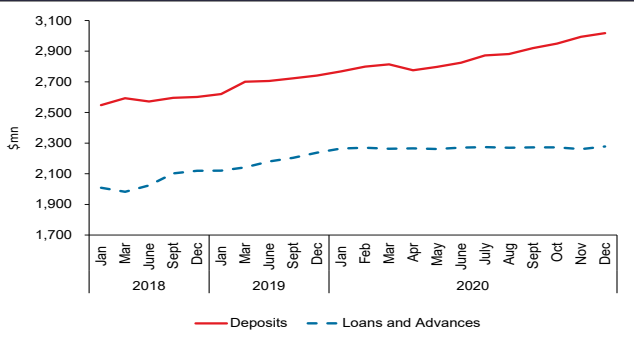


Chart VI: Primary and Overall Balances to GDP

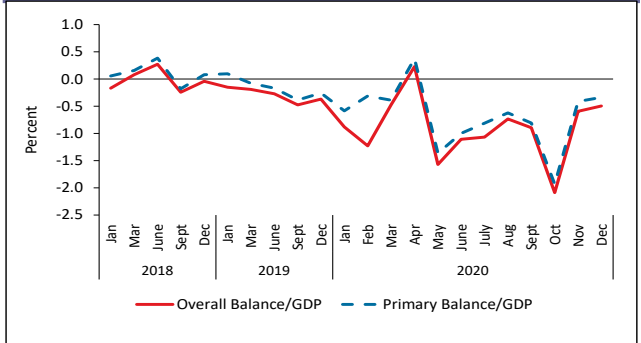


Chart VII: Public Sector External Debt

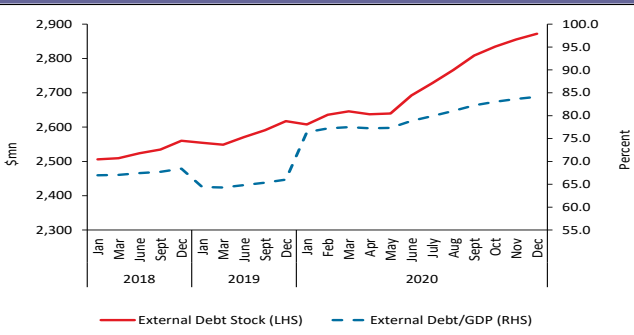
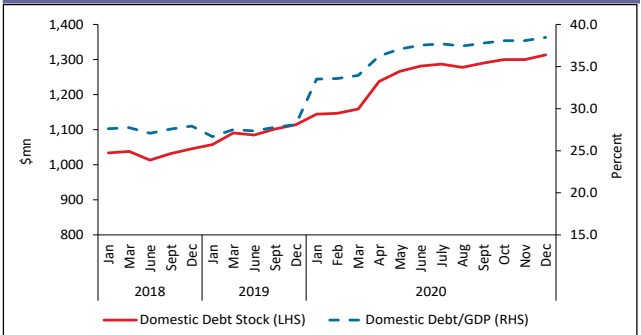


Chart VIII: Central Government Domestic Debt



Overview

- Broad money supply (M2) expanded rapidly in 2020, up 10.7% relative to 2019 on account of an extraordinary rise in net foreign assets, whilst the growth pace of net domestic credit slowed marginally.
- The net foreign assets of the banking system grew by \$181.4mn in 2020 to \$991.0mn. Accounting for 72.4% of this expansion, the Central Bank's net foreign asset position increased by \$131.4mn to \$690.2mn. Gross foreign currency inflows increased by 53.7% to \$373.2mn, bolstered by external loan disbursement receipts linked mainly to Central Government's COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) borrowings to combat the pandemic. In contrast, gross foreign currency outflows declined by 16.5% to \$231.3mn, owing to interest forbearances on the US dollar 2034 bond and curtailments in overseas public expenditures. Despite the falloff in foreign currency earnings stemming mainly from the collapse in tourism revenue, domestic banks' net foreign assets increased by \$50.0mn to \$300.8mn on account of tighter foreign currency management and prudential measures.
- Led by a sharp rise in Central Government borrowings to fund its response to the pandemic and related budgetary shortfall owing to the drop in revenues, net domestic credit increased by 6.0% or \$170.7mn in 2020. During the same period, domestic banks' lending to the private sector slowed, particularly after the pandemic outbreak, while other public sector entities' borrowings contracted.
- Bank liquidity expanded over the year, buoyed by the two-percentage-point drop in reserve requirements on 1 April, the sizeable upturn in domestic banks' foreign assets, and the moderation in private sector credit growth. As a result, domestic banks' holdings of excess liquid assets grew by \$219.5mn to 64.4% above requirements, while excess cash reserves increased by \$158.0mn to 174.2% above requirements.
- Over the last six months of 2020, the 12-month rolling weighted average interest rate on new loans increased by six basis points to 8.50%, while the corresponding rate for new deposits fell by 21 basis points to 2.01% at year end.
- Aggregate credit union lending fell by \$38.6mn over the 12-month period to \$639.9mn. Notable declines in outstanding principal balances were recorded in the personal (\$16.2mn), construction (\$8.8mn), agriculture (\$5.9mn), and entertainment (\$3.1mn) loan categories.
- Belize's real gross domestic product (GDP) reportedly declined by 13.1% in the fourth quarter of 2020 over the same quarter of the previous year. For the year, output

contracted by 14.0% vis-à-vis 2019 to \$2,475.1mn, owing principally to the COVID-19 economic shock.

- The performance of goods producing industries varied in 2020. While the production of citrus juices, molasses, and banana increased on the one hand, outturns of sugar, marine products, and petroleum declined on the other hand.
- In merchandise trade, domestic export receipts fell by \$49.9mn (12.2%) to \$359.3mn over the 12-month period, as revenues from all major commodities declined, except for molasses and banana. However, the economic fallout from the pandemic caused gross imports to contract by an even steeper margin of \$464.7mn (22.4%) to \$1,606.5mn.
- As for tourism, bona fide stay-over arrivals plunged by 71.2% to 133,583 in 2020. All border points remained closed since late March, except for the Philip S. W. Goldson International Airport (PGIA), which reopened on 1 October. Similarly, cruise ship disembarkations plummeted by 70.8% to 308,003 over the calendar year with port calls suspended since 13 March.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.1% on average in 2020. The uptick in general price level was primarily due to modest price hikes for fresh vegetables, house rentals and international airfares, tempered by reduced costs for fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, and hotel accommodations.
- Central Government's fiscal indicators continued to be weakened by the pandemic. From April to December, Central Government's primary deficit widened to \$224.7mn (6.5% of GDP) from \$11.9mn (0.4% of GDP), and the overall deficit increased to \$270.7mn (7.8% of GDP) from \$92.4mn (2.8% of GDP) when compared to the same nine-month period of the previous fiscal year.
- The sharp rise in Central Government's gross financing needs led to a 12.1% growth in the outstanding public sector debt to \$4,185.2mn in 2020. In turn, the debt-to-GDP ratio increased by 28.4 percentage points to 122.6% at year end. Over the 12-month period, Central Government's domestic debt grew by 19.0% to \$1,313.2mn (38.5% of GDP), while the public sector's external debt increased by 9.2% to \$2,872.0mn (84.1% of GDP).

Money and Credit

- M2 expanded by 10.7% in 2020, almost double the 5.8% growth rate achieved one year ago. The acceleration in money growth was fuelled by extraordinary COVID-19-related Government borrowings, which, in turn, drove up the net foreign assets and net domestic credit of the banking system.
- The net foreign assets of the banking system increased by 22.4% in 2020, up \$181.4mn to \$991.0mn. This extraordinary growth in foreign balances represents the largest calendar year increase since 2012. Accounting for majority of the overall increase, the Central Bank's net foreign assets expanded by 23.5%, rising by \$131.4mn to \$690.2mn. For the year, the Central Bank's gross foreign currency purchases grew by 53.7% relative to 2019, or by \$130.4mn to \$373.2mn. Gross inflows stemmed mainly from external loan disbursement receipts, which amounted to \$207.9mn, tied mainly to COVID-19-related borrowings. Other notable inflows included earnings from sugar exports of \$45.4mn and grants from development partners of \$40.6mn. Conversely, gross foreign currency sales fell by 16.5% (\$45.6mn) to \$231.3mn. The reduction in gross outflows largely reflected Central Government debt-service relief that was attained by way of the interest payment deferrals on the US dollar 2034 bond and, to a lesser extent, cutbacks in public overseas expenses. Still, more than four-fifths (81.9%) of total foreign currency sales were to Central Government. Nevertheless, the gross official international reserves increased by 25.3% to the equivalent of 5.2 months of merchandise imports at year end.

Chart 1.1: Change in Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System

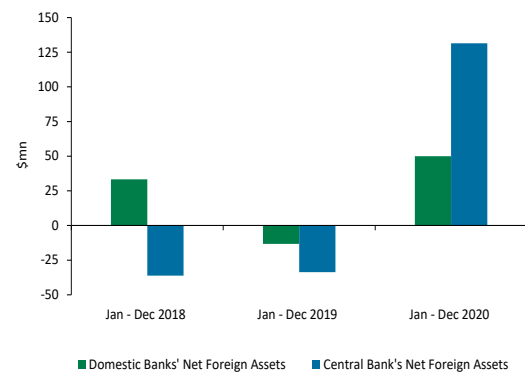


Table 1.1: Central Bank's Foreign Asset Flows

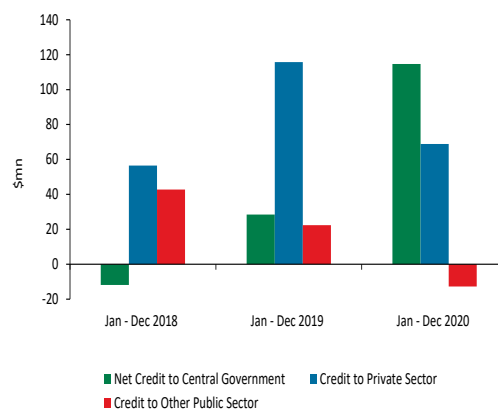
	\$mn	
	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Total Inflows	242.9	373.2
Loan Disbursements	86.1	207.9
Of which: USD T-notes	0.0	42.4
Grants	9.8	40.6
Sugar Receipts	53.8	45.4
Banks	14.4	4.7
Other	78.7	74.7
Total Outflows	277.0	231.3
Central Government	229.8	189.5
Banks	0.0	0.4
Other	47.2	41.4

- Domestic banks' net foreign assets grew by 19.9% during the year, rising by \$50.0mn to \$300.8mn. Gross foreign currency inflows into domestic banks contracted by 31.2% to \$1,954.9mn, as the pandemic effects depressed tourism earnings, commercial free zone sales, and foreign direct investments. However, gross outflows declined by a larger margin of 33.8% to \$1,885.1mn. This outcome was attributable to the reduction in demand associated with the collapse in economic activity, as well as the implementation of stricter foreign currency and prudential management measures to safeguard the financial system.
- For the year, net domestic credit rose by 6.0% (\$170.7mn) to \$3,039.9mn. This expansion was led by a stark increase in Central Government borrowings, which accounted for 67.2% of total credit growth over the review period. Concurrently, domestic banks' credit to the private sector credit slowed, while lending to other public sector entities contracted. Net credit to Central Government from the banking system grew by \$114.7mn, the bulk of which was funded through the issuance of Treasury notes to cover immediate COVID-19 expenses and unexpected budgetary shortfalls. Direct financing from the Central Bank netted to \$58.1mn, as a \$65.2mn rise in Government's deposits was set against a \$117.7mn increase in Government security purchases and \$5.6mn in overdraft advances. Notably, at \$61.8mn, the overdraft account ended the year at 63.7% of its regulatory ceiling. Meanwhile, net credit from domestic banks amounted to \$56.6mn. This outcome reflected domestic banks' purchase of \$56.0mn in Treasury securities, while Central Government drew down \$4.4mn from its domestic bank deposits and made \$3.8mn in loan repayments.

Table 1.2: Major Sources of Foreign Exchange Inflows into Domestic Banks

	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020	Change
Goods	501.9	327.1	-174.8
Of which: Commercial Free Zone	263.8	104.1	-159.7
Services	1,490.8	933.2	-557.5
Of which: Tourism	1,054.6	485.4	-569.3
Current Transfers	144.7	182.4	37.8
Financial Inflows	698.6	512.2	-186.4
Of which: Foreign Direct Investments	149.0	103.9	-45.1

Chart 1.2: Change in Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System



- Domestic bank lending to other public sector entities reversed last year's trend, contracting by \$12.8mn in 2020. This resulted as loan repayments by public utilities and other statutory bodies amounting to \$16.9mn and \$0.2mn, respectively, outstripped new disbursements of \$4.1mn to local government.
- Hindered by the pandemic, the growth pace of private sector credit decelerated to 3.1% in 2020 compared to the 5.6% expansion recorded in 2019. Of the \$68.9mn increase in domestic bank lending to households and firms this year, \$26.8mn was extended in the first quarter, while the balance of \$42.1mn was disbursed over the next three periods. Altogether, net disbursements were recorded for tourism (\$76.2mn), agriculture (\$18.8mn), and professional services (\$10.1mn). These amounts were partially offset by a combination of net repayments and write-offs of \$26.7mn on personal loans and, to a lesser extent, on real estate (\$14.1mn) and construction (\$5.5mn) loans.
- Loan write-offs virtually halved to \$18.2mn in 2020 relative to the same period last year. Write-offs were mainly applied against personal (\$13.4mn), construction (\$2.3mn), real estate (\$0.8mn), and tourism (\$0.6mn) loans. Furthermore, COVID-19 loan forbearances increased by \$35.1mn in December to \$723.6mn, which represented 31.8% of domestic banks' aggregate loan portfolio.
- Bank liquidity trended upward over the year supported by the two-percentage-point reduction in reserve requirements on 1 April, the sharp growth in domestic banks' foreign assets, and the moderation in private sector

Chart 1.3: Change in Domestic Banks' Loans

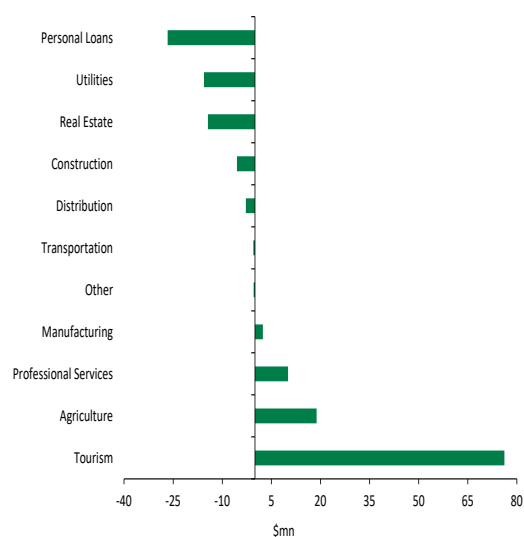
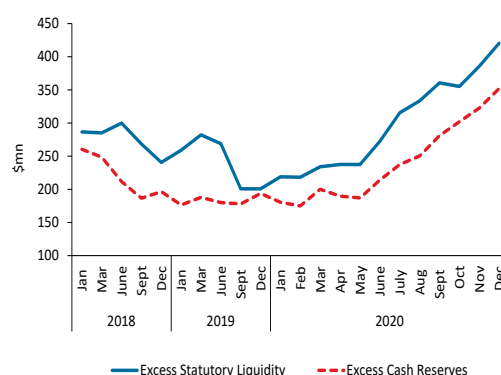


Chart 1.4: Excess Statutory Liquidity



credit. Consequently, domestic banks' holdings of excess liquid assets grew by \$219.5mn to \$420.3mn (64.4% above requirements). Furthermore, excess cash reserves increased by \$158.0mn to \$351.9mn (174.2% above requirements). The lesser growth in excess cash reserves reflected domestic banks' purchases of additional Government securities to optimise their returns on excess balances.

- At 8.50% in December, the 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans fell by five basis points relative to November but increased by six basis points since June. The rising trend in average lending rates over the six-month period was due to rate increases on personal, commercial, and other miscellaneous loans of 12, eight, and 18 basis points, respectively. However, residential construction rates fell by 24 basis points since the half-year mark.
- At 2.01% in December, the corresponding rate on new deposits increased by six basis points compared to November but fell by 21 basis points relative to June. The downward shift in average deposit rates during the second semester stemmed from reduced rates on demand, savings, and time deposits of one, seven, and 17 basis points, respectively. These rate reductions easily outweighed a 10-basis-point hike in savings/chequing deposits. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread, a key determinant of domestic banks' profit margin, widened by 28 basis points over the last six months of the year to 6.49%.
- In other credit developments, aggregate credit union lending declined for the tenth

Chart 1.5: Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

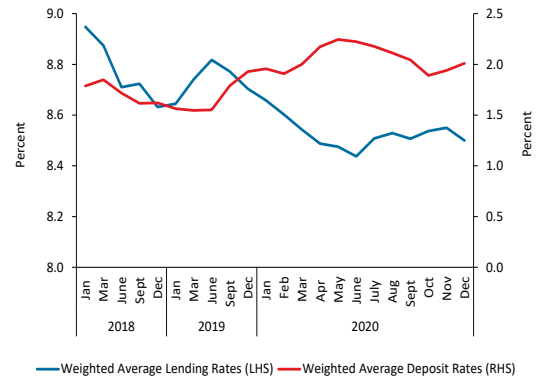
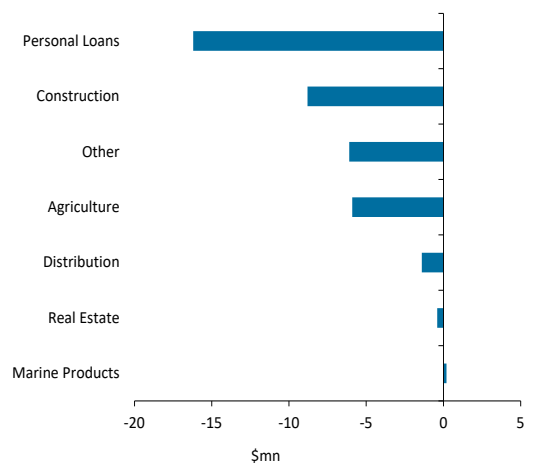


Chart 1.6: Change in Credit Unions' Loans



consecutive month, down \$2.4mn in December and \$38.6mn over the calendar year to \$639.9mn. Outstanding loan balances on personal (\$16.2mn), construction (\$8.8mn), agriculture (\$5.9mn), and entertainment (\$3.1mn) loans recorded the steepest declines. Write-offs by credit unions summed to \$3.9mn, which was far less than the \$12.0mn recorded in 2019. Loan forbearances were extended on loans with accumulated balances of \$1.9mn in December, raising the total through December to \$150.6mn, equivalent to 23.5% of credit unions' loan portfolio.

Real Sector Developments

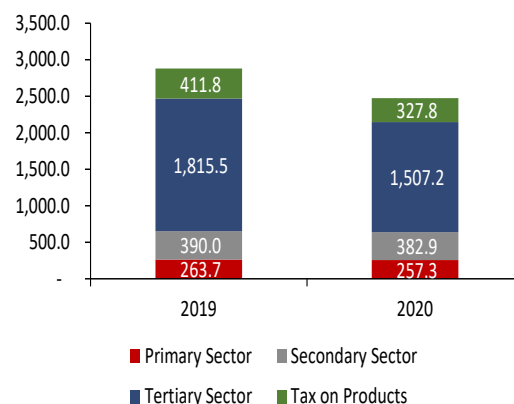
- Suppressed by the effects of COVID-19, Belize's GDP is estimated to have contracted by 13.1% to \$596.2mn in the fourth quarter of 2020 over the same quarter in 2019. When compared to the previous year, the economy contracted by 14.0% in 2020 to \$2,475.1mn, marking the sharpest annual contraction in Belize's post-independence history dating back to 1981. The direct effects of COVID-19 and the measures imposed to slow the spread of the virus had severely constrained output, particularly in consumer-facing service activities. Service industries that contributed most significantly to the overall collapse were "*Retail Trade and Wholesale*", "*Hotels and Restaurants*", and "*Other Private Services, excluding FISIM*". Altogether, these service industries accounted for 77.3% of the overall downturn, owing largely to the shock to tourism. To a lesser extent, manufacturing activities—particularly of goods for domestic consumption, such as flour and beer—and construction services in the secondary sector were also weakened by the economic shock. Taken together, these two industries were responsible for 6.3% of the annual decline. However, the slide in secondary output was lessened by a sharp upswing in electricity production, boosted by heavy rains in the second half of the year. Furthermore, the recovery in primary activities from 2019's drought effects was set back by sizeable downturns in fishing activities, resulting from deep production declines in farmed shrimp and wild catch of lobster and conch. The marginal decline in fisheries outweighed the marginal expansion in agriculture that was driven by increased banana and citrus yields, as sugarcane deliveries and livestock production fell.

Table 2.1: Contribution to Annual Percentage Change in GDP by Industry

	2019	2020
Primary Sector		
Agriculture and Forestry	-0.4	0.0
Fishing	0.0	-0.3
Secondary Sector		
Manufacturing (Including Mining and Quarrying)	0.3	-0.9
Electricity and Water Supply	-1.3	0.7
Construction	0.4	0.0
Tertiary Sector		
Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair	-0.2	-5.2
Hotels and Restaurants	0.0	-3.4
Transport and Communication	0.0	-1.7
Other Private Services (Excluding FISIM)	1.6	-2.3
Producers of Government Services	0.5	0.1
Taxes Less Subsidies on Products	0.9	-3.4
Constant GDP Growth	1.8	-14.0

Source: SIB

Chart 2.1: Sectoral Composition of Real GDP



- Outturns of major export commodities varied in 2020, owing to a mix of supply-side factors. On the upside, citrus production rebounded from weather and disease problems, while the recovery in banana output was supported by increased production acreage. On the downside, unfavourable weather suppressed sugar production, while marine exports were hindered by disease and weather constraints as well. Petroleum extraction dwindled, as the main producing oil wells approached the end of their life cycle.

Table 2.2: Production of Main Domestic Exports

	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Sugarcane Deliveries (long tons)	1,676,102	1,528,313
Sugar (long tons)	189,295	142,447
Molasses (long tons)	60,765	62,483
Banana (metric tons)	83,794	92,190
Citrus Deliveries (boxes)	2,178,209	2,580,250
Citrus Juices ('000 ps)	12,744	14,656
Marine Exports ('000 lbs)	3,082	2,296
Petroleum (barrels)	263,313	194,435

Sources: BSI, Santander Group, BGA, CPBL, SIB, Geology and Petroleum Department

- The trade deficit in goods narrowed, as imports fell faster than exports. In 2020, domestic export receipts fell by 12.2% (\$49.9mn) compared to the previous year to \$359.3mn. The plunge in export earnings was due to lower revenues from sugar, citrus, marine products, and petroleum. Banana and molasses were the only major export commodities that recorded higher receipts. Concurrently, gross imports were down by 22.4% (\$464.7mn) relative to the year before at \$1,606.5mn, owing to the economic collapse stemming from the pandemic. Energy imports more than halved to \$213.4mn with reduced purchase of refined fuel products and electricity in “*Fuels, Lubricants, and Crude Materials (including electricity)*.” Outlays on goods destined for commercial free zones were down 39.3% to \$200.2mn with the closure of the northern border since 21 March. Furthermore, reduced purchases of vehicles and telecommunication equipment led to a 20.1% (\$80.1mn) collapse in “*Machinery and Transport Equipment*,” while lower imports of construction materials resulted in a 16.7% (\$68.8mn) decline in “*Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures*.” In contrast, “*Food, Beverages, and Tobacco*” expanded

Table 2.3: Main Domestic Exports

	\$mn	
	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Sugar	136.3	108.0
Molasses	10.9	12.4
Banana	79.5	87.0
Citrus Juices	43.3	37.6
Petroleum	20.1	4.8
Other Domestic Exports	70.4	70.3
Marine Exports	48.8	39.2
Total	409.3	359.3

Sources: BSI, Santander Group, BGA, CPBL, SIB, Geology and Petroleum Department

Table 2.4: Gross Imports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC)⁽¹⁾

	\$mn		
	Jan - Dec 2018	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Food, Beverages, and Tobacco	257.6	270.1	280.1
Fuels, Lubricants, and Crude Materials	377.2	431.1	213.4
Of which: Electricity	64.2	99.4	32.3
Oils, Fats, and Chemicals	191.9	195.3	201.9
Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures	395.3	412.1	343.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	390.9	397.6	317.6
Other Goods	4.1	3.2	2.2
Designated Processing Areas	38.8	31.9	47.9
Commercial Free Zone	324.0	329.9	200.2
Total	1,979.8	2,071.2	1,606.5

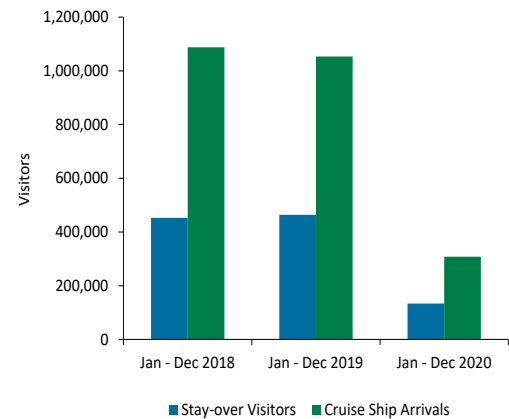
Sources: SIB and BEL

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

by \$10.0mn, and “Oils, Fats, and Chemicals” grew by \$6.6mn with increased purchases of disinfectants, pesticides, and testing kits.

- Turning to tourism, the number of stay-over arrivals totalled 9,020 visitors in December after the 1 October reopening of the PGIA because of the pandemic. This outcome resulted in an 89.4% increase compared to November, but registered a sharp 82.4% decline relative to December 2019. Stay-over arrivals nosedived over the 12-month period, as the COVID-19 outbreak in our main tourist markets and eventual implementation of lockdown measures dragged down tourism by 71.2% to 133,583 visitors. Similarly, the cessation of cruise-ship port calls since 13 March caused cruise ship disembarkations to plummet by 70.8% to 308,003.
- The rise in general price level, as measured by the CPI, remained mild, rising by 0.3% month-on-month in December and by 0.1% on average for 2020. Inflationary pressure stemmed mainly from price hikes for fresh vegetables—such as cabbages, lettuce, tomatoes, and onions—that were responsible for the 1.1% hike in “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages”. Higher house rentals costs, which were partially offset by reduced LPG prices, also contributed to a 0.6% increase in “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels”. Upward price movements were dampened by slight price declines particularly for fuels and lubricants in “Transport” (1.1%). Furthermore, “Restaurants and Accommodation Services” contracted by 6.9%, dragged down by the slash in hotel accommodation rates following the pandemic outbreak.

Chart 2.2: Tourist Arrivals^{(1), (2)}

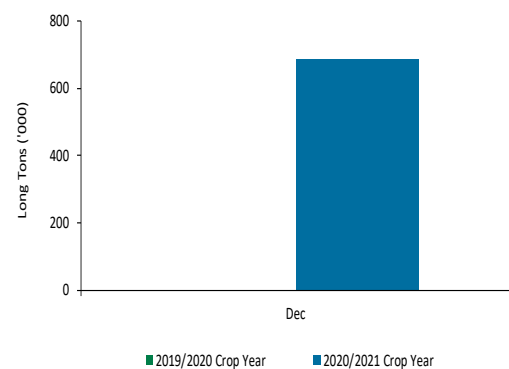


Sources: BTB, CBB, and Immigration and Nationality Department.

⁽¹⁾ In April, all points of entry were closed.

⁽²⁾ The Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport reopened on 1 October 2020.

Chart 2.3: Monthly Sugar Production

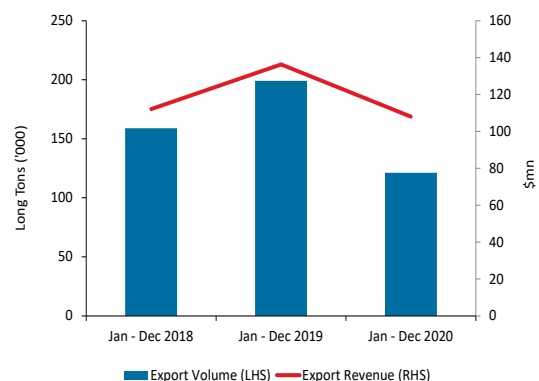


Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Sugarcane and Sugar

- The northern 2020/2021 crop year began on 28 December, 19 days earlier than the 15 January start in the previous crop year, which was hindered by drought effects.
- Sugarcane yields and sugar production are both expected to rebound from weather damages suffered in the previous harvest season. Accordingly, the northern processor estimated that sugarcane deliveries will increase by 17.8% to 1,035,000 long tons, while sugar production will expand by 19.8% to 103,500 long tons, augmented by cane quality improvements. The first estimate of the average price per long ton of delivered sugar cane to the northern mill for the 2020/2021 crop was \$43.86. This amount represents a 20.6% decline over the average price of \$55.24 that was paid for deliveries in the 2019/2020 harvest period.
- Over the last three days of December, the mill received 16,445 long tons of cane and produced 687 long tons of raw sugar. Unfavourable weather conditions led to a marked deterioration in cane quality, resulting in a weak long tons cane to long ton sugar (TC/TS) ratio of 23.3.
- For 2020, the volume of sugar exports contracted by 39.1% to 121,218 long tons, while earnings fell by 20.8% to \$108.0mn. The European Union (EU) remained the principal destination for sugar exports and was largely responsible for the disproportionate falloff in earnings, as sugar prices strengthened favourably on that market. Over the 12-month period, 94,078 long tons of sugar, representing 77.6% of total export volume, was sold to the EU, garnering \$79.6mn. In addition, sales to

Chart 2.4: Sugar Exports



Sources: BSI and Santander Group

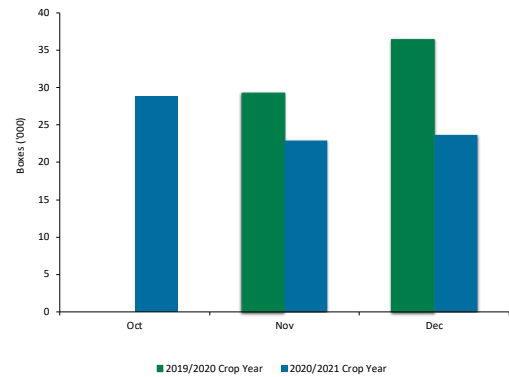
the US and CARICOM amounted to 16,240 long tons and 10,610 long tons valued at \$16.8mn and \$11.2mn, respectively. The remainder consisted of 290 long tons of bagged sugar that was sold to Canada for \$0.3mn.

- Molasses export volume fell by 18.3% in 2020 to 43,839 long tons valued at \$12.4mn.

Citrus

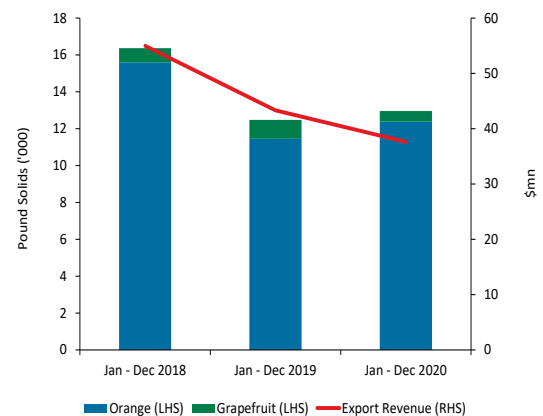
- The 2020/2021 citrus crop year commenced on 19 October 2020, which was coincidentally 19 days earlier than the 6 November 2019 start in the previous crop year. Changing climatic conditions prompted an earlier start, as wetter weather conditions stimulated sporadic tree blossoming and early fruit maturation. Citrus deliveries through December grew by 26.0% relative to the same period a year ago to 82,838 boxes of fruit, comprising 51,965 boxes of grapefruit and 30,873 boxes of orange.
- Citrus juice production expanded by 20.4% to 340,357 pound solids (ps), consisting of 183,144 ps of grapefruit concentrates and 157,213 ps of orange concentrates. However, reduced fruit quality caused the average juice yield to decline by 9.9% to 5.1 ps for orange and by 8.8% to 3.5 ps for grapefruit. No not-from-concentrate juices were manufactured. Pulp and oil production amounted to 25,440 pounds and 16,000 pounds, respectively.
- Despite a 3.7% increase in sale volume to 13.0mn ps, citrus juice export earnings declined by 13.1% to \$37.6mn in 2020. The revenue slump reflected a 16.2% downturn in average unit prices, owing to reduced orange and grapefruit juice prices across most major

Chart 2.5: Citrus Deliveries



Source: CPBL

Chart 2.6: Citrus Juice Export Volume and Revenue



Source: CPBL

markets. In this regard, a higher average price was received for orange concentrate sales to the US. Thus, orange concentrate receipts contracted by 7.8% to \$34.1mn in tandem with an 8.1% reduction in export volume. However, earnings from grapefruit concentrate exports shrank by 46.3% to \$3.2mn, underpinned by a 44.1% reduction in export volume to 0.6mn ps. Not-from-concentrate exports were miniscule, totalling 0.1mn ps valued at \$0.3mn.

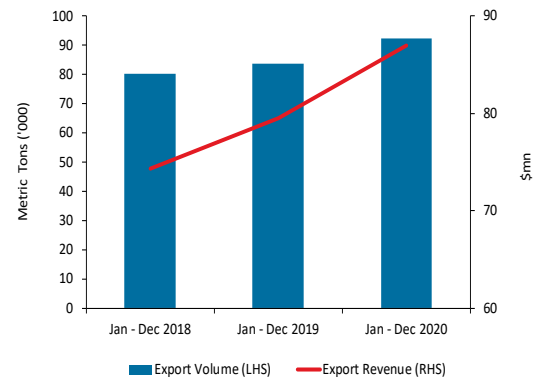
Banana

- Banana exports rose for the second consecutive year, up 10.0% to 92,190 long tons. This amount was the largest annual export volume since 2015. The strong performance was supported by increased harvests from new production acreages coupled with a full recovery from adverse drought conditions in 2019. Concurrently, export receipts grew by 9.3% to \$86.9mn, owing to a modest reduction in the number of custom packages prepared for export markets.

Petroleum

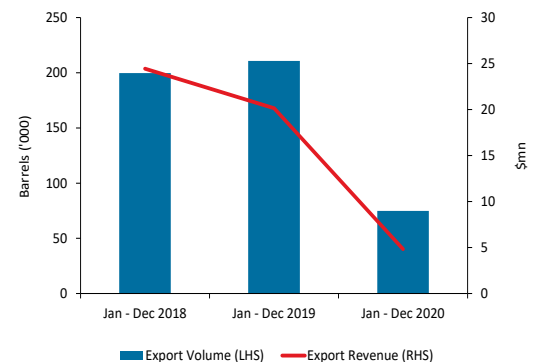
- Crude oil production contracted by 26.2% in 2020 relative to 2019 to 194,435 barrels, marking the 11th consecutive year of reduced output. The average daily extraction rate fell by 190 barrels to 531 barrels per day. Oil extracted from wells at Spanish Lookout accounted for 99.8% of the total. Notwithstanding, production from that site declined by 25.5% to 193,987 barrels. The remaining 447 barrels were extracted from wells at Never Delay, where production was halted in March following the pandemic-induced plunge in global crude oil prices.

Chart 2.7: Banana Exports



Source: BGA

Chart 2.8: Petroleum Exports



Source: Geology and Petroleum Department

- With only one shipment in 2020, crude oil exports nosedived, down 64.4% in volume to 74,920 barrels. Crude oil export receipts shrank by 76.0% to \$4.8mn, exacerbated by a 32.5% collapse in the average unit price to US\$32.26 from US\$47.80 per barrel.

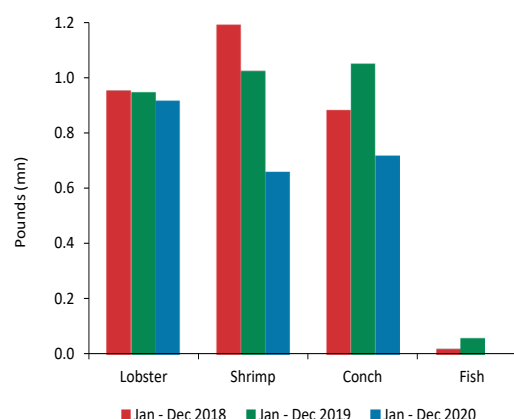
Marine Exports

- In 2020, marine export receipts fell by 19.7% to \$39.2mn, owing to a 25.5% plunge in export volume to 2.3mn pounds. All four marine commodity groupings recorded price and volume declines over the reporting period. Lobster receipts, which accounted for almost two-thirds of total marine export revenues, fell by 4.7% to \$25.8mn with its sale volume down by 3.2% to 0.9mn pounds. Conch revenues contracted by 37.2% to \$9.7mn, as a 31.6% decline in sale volume to 0.7mn pounds was worsened by an 8.3% price drop. With the industry still battling with the deleterious effects of the early mortality syndrome disease, shrimp receipts further contracted by 40.6% to \$3.7mn.

Other Domestic Exports

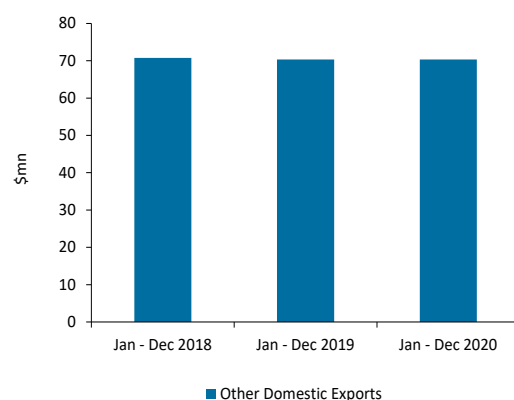
- Receipts from other domestic exports dipped slightly to \$70.3mn over the 12-month period. This outcome resulted as increased earnings from animal feed (\$3.8mn), black-eyed peas (\$0.9mn), and pepper sauce (\$0.8mn) were neutralised by lower revenues from red kidney beans (\$2.3mn), sawn wood (\$0.9mn), orange oil (\$0.5mn), and other miscellaneous domestic exports (\$1.4mn).

Chart 2.9: Marine Export Volume



Source: SIB

Chart 2.10: Other Domestic Exports



Source: SIB

Central Government Operations

- The fiscal outturn continued to be severely impacted by the looming health and economic crises caused by COVID-19. Preliminary data showed that from April to December, Central Government’s primary deficit widened to \$224.7mn (6.5% of GDP) from \$11.9mn (0.4% of GDP), and the overall deficit increased to \$270.7mn (7.8% of GDP) from \$92.4mn (2.8% of GDP) compared to the same nine-month period of the previous fiscal year (FY 2019/2020).
- Total revenue and grants plunged by 21.0% over the first three quarters of the FY 2020/2021, down \$184.0mn to \$692.7mn. Thus, revenues fell well short of expected inflows at 55.9% of budgeted income through the first nine months of the current fiscal year. Notably, both tax and non-tax revenues steeply contracted, while grants rose. Tax collections contracted by 25.7%, falling by \$201.0mn to \$581.4mn with reductions in three of four major tax categories. “*Taxes on Goods and Services*” fell by the largest margin, down \$113.1mn, precipitated by sizeable declines in excise duties and general sales tax (GST) collections. Intakes on “*Income and Profits*” and “*International Trade Transactions*” contracted by \$55.3mn to \$163.5mn and \$32.7mn to \$91.0mn, respectively, as well. However, “*Taxes on Property*” increased slightly by \$0.1mn to \$4.4mn. Meanwhile, non-tax revenue amounted to \$58.0mn, reflecting a 20.3% (\$14.7mn) slide over the comparative period of the previous fiscal year. This downturn was largely on account of a \$10.8mn reduction in license fees, followed by lesser declines in income transfers from quasi-public corporations and government departments. Grants more than doubled to

Chart 3.1: Central Government Operations

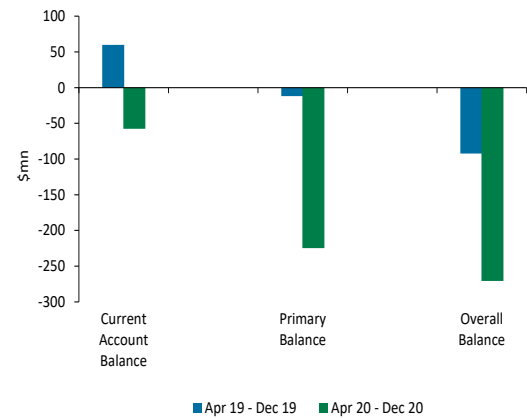


Chart 3.2: Central Government Current Revenue

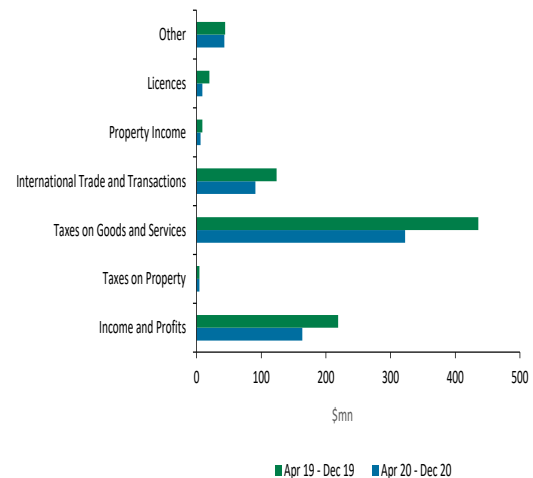
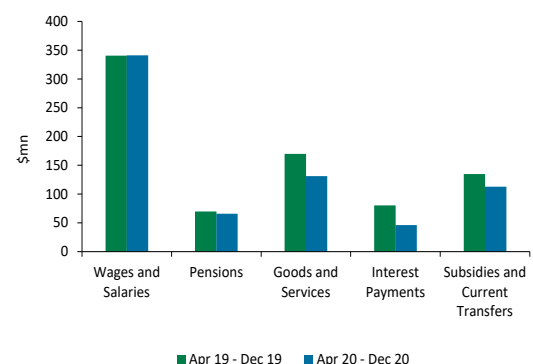


Chart 3.3: Central Government Current Expenditure



\$37.7mn, boosted by intergovernmental aid to assist Government in its response to COVID-19.

- In response to the revenue shortfall, Central Government implemented several cost-saving measures, amid rising emergency costs to contain the spread of the virus and mitigate the adverse social effects of the pandemic. As a result, total expenditure and net lending fell marginally by 0.6% (\$5.6mn) to \$963.4mn over the nine-month period, accounting for 69.5% of budgeted outlays. Current expenditure contracted by 12.4% or \$98.3mn to \$696.8mn, reflecting cuts in discretionary spending and interest payment deferrals on the US dollar 2034 bond. Accordingly, outlays on “Goods and Services”, “Interest”, and “Subsidies and Current Transfers” all fell, down \$38.7mn to \$131.1mn, \$34.4mn to \$46.0mn, and \$21.8mn to \$112.9mn, respectively. Despite efforts to contain emoluments, “Wages and Salaries” nudged up by 0.2% to \$341.0mn.
- Almost offsetting the reduction in current outlays, capital expenditure increased by \$92.7mn to \$266.6mn, driven by COVID-19-emergency spending on health services as well as on food and unemployment assistance programmes. COVID-19-related outlays amounted to \$141.2mn and accounted for 53.4% of total capital expenditure. Of this amount, \$99.8mn was recorded under Capital II expenditure heading and \$41.4mn under Capital III. The balance of \$121.8mn was spent on various capital projects, including \$53.3mn on infrastructural works, \$15.9mn on solid waste and land management, and \$8.9mn on building construction and renovations.

Chart 3.4: Main Development Expenditure Categories

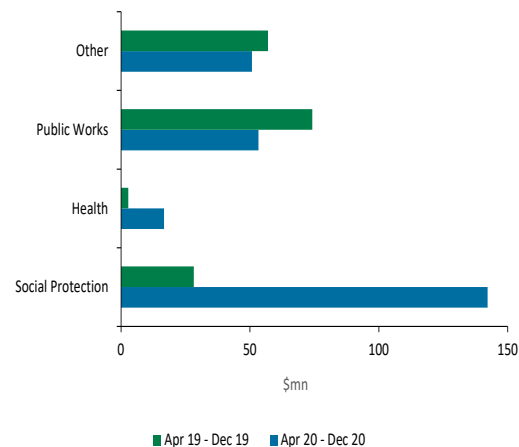
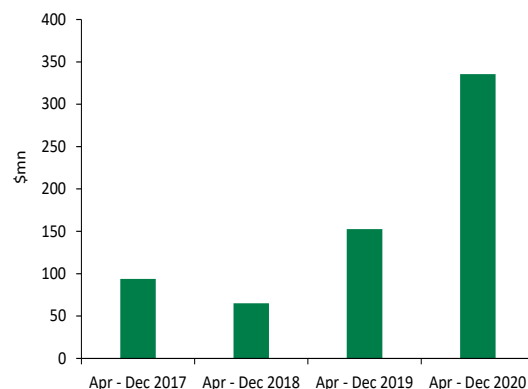


Chart 3.5: Gross Financing Needs



- Central Government's gross financing needs for the first three quarters of 2020/2021 FY amounted to \$335.6mn, equivalent to 10.3% of GDP.

Total Public Sector Debt

- The outstanding public sector debt increased by 12.1% (\$452.3mn) in 2020, expanding from \$3,732.9mn at the end of December 2019 to \$4,185.2mn at the end of December 2020. Consequently, the total public sector debt-to-GDP ratio increased by 28.4 percentage points to 122.6% of GDP at year end. This outcome resulted as the rise in debt-creating flows to finance Government's response measures to the pandemic were exacerbated by the collapse in economic growth. Over the 12-month period, Central Government's domestic debt and the public sector's external debt increased by \$209.9mn and \$242.5mn, respectively.

Central Government Domestic Debt

- Central Government's outstanding domestic debt expanded by 19.0% (\$209.9mn) to \$1,313.2mn, representing 38.5% of GDP. Central Government's borrowings from domestic sources stemmed from the issuance of \$217.8mn in T-notes and, to a lesser extent, overdraft advances of \$5.7mn from the Central Bank. During 2020, Central Government made seven T-notes issuances. For budget support, \$25.0mn T-note issues were made in March, April, and June alongside \$30.0mn one-year issuances in October and December. Additionally, a \$75.0mn multi-year T-note was issued in April to supplement the COVID-19-emergency fund. Lastly, residents took up \$7.8mn of the US \$30.0mn T-note issued in June for balance of payments purposes.

Chart 3.6: Distribution of Central Government's Domestic Debt

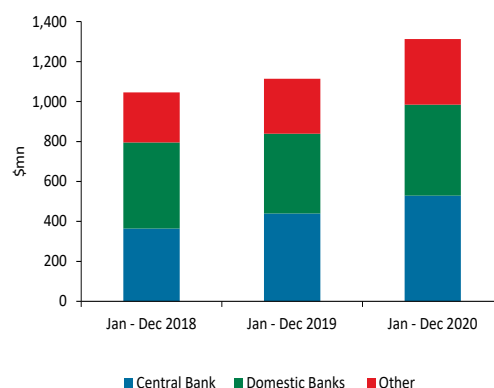
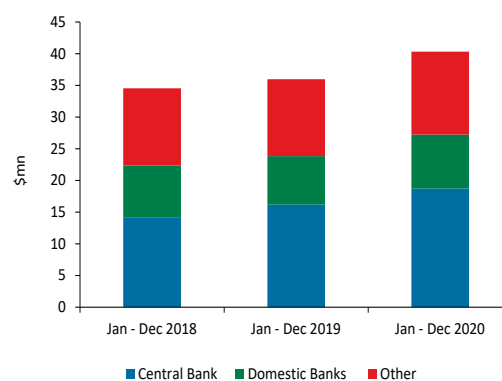


Chart 3.7: Distribution of Interest Payments on Central Government's Domestic Debt



- Central Government's domestic debt service payments (interest and principal) amounted to \$40.9mn in 2020, reflecting an 11.8% increase over the same period of 2019.
- Interest payments totalled \$40.3mn for the year. Of this amount, the Central Bank received \$18.7mn in interest income on its debt securities holdings and on credit advances to Central Government by way of the overdraft facility. Non-bank entities and domestic banks earned lesser amounts of \$13.1mn and \$8.5mn, respectively, on their investments.
- Amortization payments totalled \$0.6mn with repayments to the Belize Social Security Board, the Debt for Nature Swap initiative, and Fort Street Tourism Village.
- In the T-bills market, domestic banks increased their aggregate holdings by \$43.4mn, while the Central Bank and non-bank entities reduced theirs, in turn, by \$47.1mn and \$9.4mn, respectively. With regards to T-notes, the Central Bank and a domestic bank purchased \$2.9mn of varying maturities on the secondary market from non-bank entities.
- For the year, the share of Central Government's outstanding domestic debt held by the Central Bank grew by 3.0 percentage points to 42.9%. Meanwhile, the portions held by domestic banks and non-bank entities fell by 1.5 percentage points each to 34.7% and 22.5%, respectively.

Public Sector External Debt

- During 2020, the outstanding public sector external debt rose by 9.2% (\$242.5mn) to \$2,872.0mn or 84.1% of GDP.

Chart 3.8: Distribution of Central Government's Domestic Securities

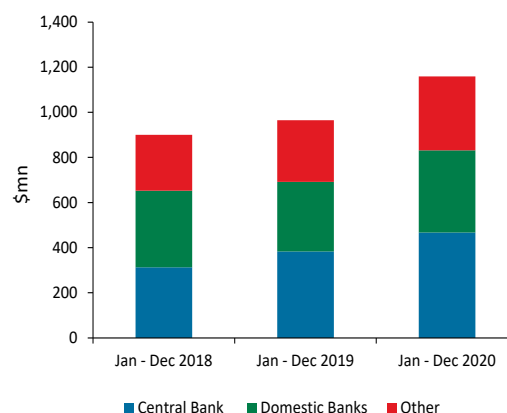


Table 3.1: COVID-19-Related External Disbursements, January to December 2020

Creditor	Description	Amount
CDB	COVID-19 Disease Emergency Response Support	\$13.9mn
IBRD	COVID-19 Emergency Response Support	\$19.1mn
IDB	COVID-19 Immediate Response	\$12.4mn
IDB	COVID-19 Safety Net for Vulnerable Population	\$24.0mn
OFID	COVID-19 Assistance Food Programme	\$6.6mn
BOND	Interest Deferral on 2034 Bond	\$39.0mn

- New disbursements amounted to \$338.2mn in 2020. Of this amount, Central Government received \$327.4mn to finance its COVID-19-counter measures and capital development projects. COVID-19 related inflows totalled \$150.6mn, accounting for 46.0% of total disbursements to Central Government. This amount comprised \$77.0mn to cover immediate emergency expenses; \$39.0mn in capitalised interest on the 2034 US dollar bond to provide fiscal space for emergency spending; and \$34.6mn from the US \$30.0mn T-note issue for balance of payments support. In addition, Central Government received \$152.8mn from bilateral and multilateral creditors to finance its public investment programme. Outlays on capital projects were mainly linked to infrastructural upgrades and, to a lesser extent, buildings and structures development. Finally, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC) purchased \$24.0mn in T-bills for portfolio investment purposes. Disbursements to the financial and non-financial public sector were more modest at \$6.5mn and \$4.3mn, respectively.

Table 3.2: External Disbursements for Capital Investment Projects and Budget Support, January to December 2020

Description	Amount
Corozal Sarteneja Road Project	\$28.0mn
Budget Support	\$20.0mn
House of Culture Rejuvenation Project	\$3.9mn
Rehabilitation of the Hummingbird Highway	\$5.1mn
Coastal Highway Upgrade Project	\$3.5mn
Education Quality Improvement Project	\$5.4mn
George Price Highway Rehabilitation	\$10.0mn
Solid Waste Management Project	\$2.0mn
Caracol Road Project	\$20.8mn
Social Investment Fund	\$6.2mn
John Smith Road Project	\$4.2mn

- Debt service payments summed to \$162.3mn, 10.5% less than the amount paid in 2019. Nevertheless, the debt service-to-exports ratio, which indicates how much of a country's export revenue will be used up in servicing its debt, increased to approximately 13.4% from 10.5% in 2019, owing to the pandemic-induced collapse in export earnings.
- Amortisation payments totalled \$97.4mn. Central Government amortized \$93.8mn on its outstanding debt, repaying multilateral and bilateral creditors \$66.8mn and \$26.9mn, respectively, on outstanding loans.

Chart 3.9: Public Sector External Debt Stock by Creditor Type

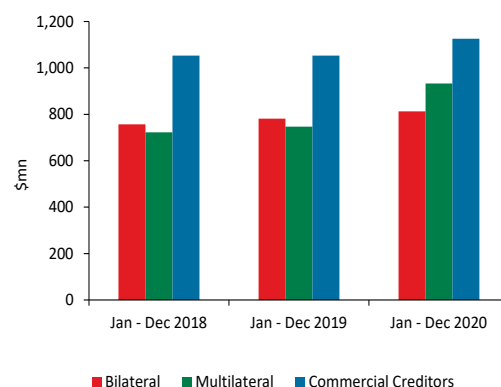
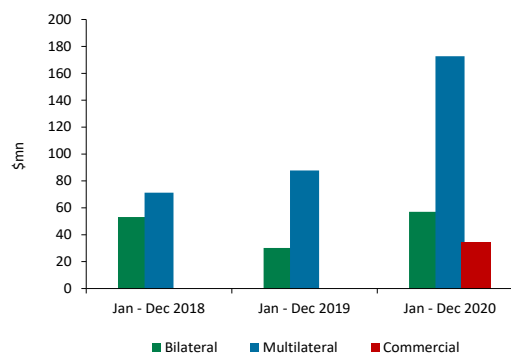


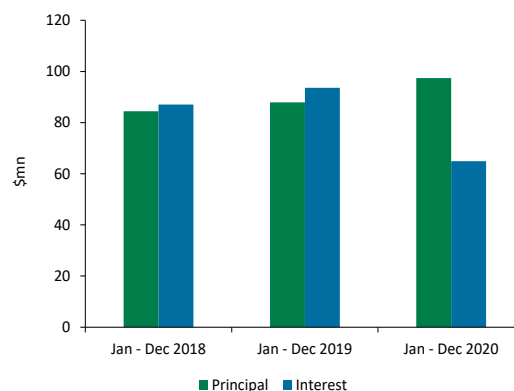
Chart 3.10: External Disbursements to Central Government by Creditor Type



Furthermore, the CCCCC redeemed \$11.0mn in T-bills, while the non-financial and financial public sectors repaid \$2.4mn and \$1.3mn, respectively, on their loans.

- Interest and other payments totalled \$64.9mn. Central Government accounted for \$60.3mn or 92.9% of the total expense. Central Government paid \$26.0mn in interest on the 2034 US dollar bond in February before deferring \$39.0mn in interest costs that fell due in August and November. Multilateral and bilateral creditors also received \$23.1mn and \$10.2mn in interest income, respectively, on their loans. Finally, the financial and non-financial public sectors paid \$1.6mn and \$3.0mn, respectively, on their outstanding liabilities.

Chart 3.11: External Debt Service Payments



Statistical Appendix

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

	\$mn			
	Position as at Dec 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
Net Foreign Assets	991.0	39.5	181.4	-46.9
Central Bank	690.2	2.7	131.4	-33.6
Domestic Banks	300.8	36.8	50.0	-13.3
Net Domestic Credit	3,039.9	46.2	170.7	166.4
Central Government (Net)	722.3	16.5	114.7	28.5
Other Public Sector	58.9	-0.8	-12.8	22.2
Private Sector	2,258.7	30.5	68.9	115.7
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long-term)	51.5	0.3	2.0	-0.3
Other Items (Net)	445.6	33.1	8.7	-55.2
Money Supply (M2)	3,533.8	52.3	341.5	175.0

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

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

	\$mn			
	Position as at Dec 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System	991.0	39.5	181.4	-46.9
Net Foreign Assets of the Central Bank	690.2	2.7	131.4	-33.6
Central Bank Foreign Assets	700.4	3.9	140.1	-34.7
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand)	10.2	1.2	8.7	-1.1
Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks	300.8	36.8	50.0	-13.3
Domestic Banks' Foreign Assets	321.7	21.9	63.6	-13.0
Domestic Banks' Foreign Liabilities (Short-term)	21.0	-14.8	13.6	0.3

Table A.3: Net Domestic Credit

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
Total Credit to Central Government	927.1	17.9	175.5	43.6
From Central Bank	562.9	17.7	123.3	75.0
Loans and Advances	61.8	-16.3	5.6	4.1
Government Securities ⁽¹⁾	501.1	34.0	117.7	70.9
From Domestic Banks	364.2	0.2	52.2	-31.4
Loans and Advances	0.0	0.0	-3.8	0.1
Government Securities	364.2	0.2	56.0	-31.5
Of which: Treasury bills ⁽²⁾	205.9	0.2	43.6	-25.3
Treasury notes	158.3	0.0	12.4	-6.2
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less Central Government Deposits	204.8	1.4	60.8	15.1
With Central Bank	158.9	1.9	65.2	-8.2
With Domestic Banks	45.9	-0.5	-4.4	23.3
Net Credit to Central Government	722.3	16.5	114.7	28.5
Credit to Other Public Sector	58.9	-0.8	-12.8	22.2
From Central Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
From Domestic Banks	58.9	-0.8	-12.8	22.2
Of which: Local Government	7.7	-0.3	4.1	0.8
Public Financial Institutions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Utilities	31.8	-0.7	-16.9	6.6
Other Statutory Bodies	1.8	0.0	-0.2	0.0
Securities	17.6	0.0	0.0	15.0
Plus Credit to the Private Sector	2,258.7	30.5	68.9	115.7
Loans and Advances	2,241.3	18.5	56.9	110.7
Securities	17.4	12.0	12.0	5.0
Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System ⁽³⁾	3,039.9	46.2	170.7	166.4

⁽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 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
PRIMARY SECTOR	241.3	4.7	20.6	19.9
Agriculture	210.5	5.2	18.8	20.3
Sugar	94.0	0.0	-1.4	9.8
Citrus	17.5	0.3	-2.9	5.9
Bananas	41.0	3.8	18.0	0.2
Other	58.0	1.1	5.1	4.4
Marine Products	24.3	-0.5	-0.3	-0.5
Forestry	1.1	0.0	-0.1	0.4
Mining and Exploration	5.4	0.0	2.2	-0.3
SECONDARY SECTOR	622.7	6.1	5.7	-114.8
Manufacturing	73.2	-0.9	2.4	-6.6
Building and Construction ⁽¹⁾	498.4	7.6	18.9	-116.0
Utilities	51.1	-0.6	-15.6	7.8
TERTIARY SECTOR	860.8	0.8	74.7	49.9
Transport	45.5	0.3	-0.5	-13.5
Tourism	240.2	6.7	76.2	21.4
Distribution	167.2	-7.8	-7.8	-2.7
Real Estate	325.9	2.8	-1.4	33.1
Professional Services	69.3	-0.7	10.1	9.5
Other ⁽²⁾	12.7	-0.5	-1.9	2.1
PERSONAL LOANS ⁽³⁾	553.3	6.0	-60.9	163.1
TOTAL	2,278.1	17.6	40.1	118.1

⁽¹⁾ In 2020, Personal (\$34.2mn) and Distribution (\$5.0mn) loans were reclassified as Building & Construction (\$24.4mn) and Real Estate (\$12.7mn).

⁽²⁾ Includes Government Services, Financial Institutions, and Entertainment.

⁽³⁾ In 2019, loans for Building and Construction (\$128.4mn) and Transport (\$24.4mn) were reclassified as Real Estate (\$14.3mn) and Personal Loans (\$126.2mn).

Table A.5: Sectoral Composition of Credit Unions' Loans and Advances

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
PRIMARY SECTOR	55.0	0.4	-5.3	3.2
Agriculture	45.3	0.1	-5.9	2.3
Sugar	6.2	-0.1	0.1	-0.7
Citrus	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
Bananas	1.9	0.0	-2.0	3.9
Other	35.8	0.2	-4.0	-2.3
Marine Products	9.1	0.3	0.1	0.8
Forestry	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Mining and Exploration	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	218.2	-0.6	-8.6	10.3
Manufacturing	15.6	0.4	0.4	-2.3
Building and Construction	199.3	-1.0	-8.8	9.1
Residential	93.2	0.9	9.7	-22.0
Home Improvement	88.3	-1.5	-12.5	12.1
Commercial	14.8	-0.3	-4.5	14.5
Infrastructure	3.0	-0.2	-1.4	4.4
Utilities	3.3	0.0	-0.2	3.5
TERTIARY SECTOR	138.5	-1.5	-8.6	-1.7
Transport	1.6	-1.1	-1.0	0.6
Tourism	0.9	-0.1	0.2	0.5
Distribution	21.7	-0.5	-1.4	5.9
Real Estate	99.2	1.5	-0.4	-8.7
Residential	3.6	0.0	-1.1	3.1
Commercial	62.0	1.7	-2.2	-10.6
Land Acquisition	33.6	-0.2	2.9	-1.2
Other ⁽¹⁾	15.1	-1.3	-6.0	0.0
PERSONAL LOANS	228.1	-0.9	-16.2	-6.7
TOTAL	639.9	-2.4	-38.6	5.3

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

Table A.6: Domestic Banks' Liquidity Position and Cash Reserves

	\$mn			
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets	1,072.8	40.6	218.8	-9.4
Notes and Coins	101.1	-9.9	4.7	9.9
Balances with Central Bank	548.0	29.5	110.1	11.5
Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due 90 days)	181.5	7.1	47.2	-8.4
Central Government Securities maturing within 90 days ⁽¹⁾	229.9	11.8	50.2	-29.3
Other Approved Assets	12.4	2.1	6.5	7.0
Required Liquid Assets	652.5	5.9	-0.8	30.5
Excess Liquid Assets	420.3	34.7	219.5	-39.9
Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves	553.8	31.3	118.6	8.5
Required Cash Reserves	202.0	1.8	-39.5	11.3
Excess Cash Reserves	351.9	29.5	158.0	-2.8
Actual Securities Balances ⁽²⁾	206.0	0.0	43.6	-25.3
Excess Securities	206.0	0.0	43.6	-25.3

⁽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.7: Domestic Banks' Weighted Average Interest Rates

	Percent			
		Changes During		
	Position as at Dec 2020	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020	Dec 2018 to Dec 2019
Weighted Lending Rates				
Personal Loans	10.28	0.71	-0.28	-0.23
Commercial Loans	8.36	0.08	-0.25	-0.08
Residential Construction	6.77	0.42	0.06	-0.31
Other	6.54	0.01	-0.06	-0.07
Weighted Average	8.53	0.30	-0.23	-0.22
Weighted Deposit Rates				
Demand	0.04	0.00	0.03	0.00
Savings/Chequing	0.50	0.00	0.01	0.01
Savings	2.66	0.00	0.02	-0.08
Time	2.25	0.00	0.35	-0.05
Weighted Average	1.26	-0.01	0.12	-0.10
Weighted Average Spread	7.27	0.31	-0.35	-0.12

Table A.8: Domestic Banks' (Rolling) Weighted Average Interest Rates on New Loans and Deposits

	Percent						
	Twelve Month Rolling Averages at				Changes during		
	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	June 2020	Dec 2019	Nov 2020 to Dec 2020	June 2020 to Dec 2020	Dec 2019 to Dec 2020
Weighted Lending Rates							
Personal Loans	9.81	9.80	9.70	9.83	0.02	0.12	-0.02
Commercial Loans	8.24	8.28	8.16	8.30	-0.04	0.08	-0.06
Residential Construction	7.68	7.73	7.92	8.08	-0.05	-0.24	-0.40
Other	6.27	6.16	6.09	6.05	0.11	0.18	0.22
Weighted Average	8.50	8.55	8.44	8.70	-0.05	0.06	-0.20
Weighted Deposit Rates							
Demand	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Savings/Chequing	0.74	0.93	0.64	0.65	-0.20	0.10	0.09
Savings	2.64	2.64	2.71	2.57	0.00	-0.07	0.07
Time	2.48	2.39	2.65	2.42	0.09	-0.17	0.06
Weighted Average	2.01	1.94	2.22	1.93	0.06	-0.21	0.08
Weighted Average Spread	6.49	6.60	6.21	6.78	-0.11	0.28	-0.28

Table A.9: Tourist Arrivals^{(1), (2)}

	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Air	374,759	107,561
Land	67,084	20,144
Sea	22,243	5,879
Stay-over Visitors	464,086	133,583
Cruise Ship Disembarkations	1,053,502	308,003

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

⁽¹⁾ In April, all points of entry were closed.

⁽²⁾ The Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport was reopened on 1 October.

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

Major Commodity	Weights	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	% Change	
				Dec 2020 over Nov 2020	YTD-2020 over YTD-2019
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	195	100.9	101.7	0.7	1.1
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco, and Narcotics	17	100.1	100.1	0.0	-0.4
Clothing and Footwear	83	100.2	100.2	0.0	-0.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	265	100.2	100.6	0.3	0.6
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance	69	100.1	100.1	0.0	-0.5
Health	41	100.5	100.5	0.0	0.5
Transport	136	100.3	100.8	0.5	-1.1
Information and Communication	33	100.1	100.1	0.0	-0.1
Recreation, Sport, and Culture	69	100.2	100.2	0.0	0.2
Education Services	32	100.0	100.0	0.0	2.0
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	7	100.3	100.3	0.0	-6.9
Insurance and Financial Services	21	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.6
Personal Care, Social Protection, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	31	100.1	100.1	0.0	0.0
All Items	1,000	100.4	100.7	0.3	0.1

Source: SIB

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

	Dec 2019	Dec 2020
Deliveries of Sugarcane (long tons)	0	16,445
Sugar Processed (long tons)	0	687
Molasses Processed (long tons)	0	0
Performance		
Factory Time Efficiency (%)	0	88.4
Cane Purity (%)	0	82.7
Cane/Sugar	0	23.3

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.12: Exports of Sugar and Molasses

	Dec 2019		Dec 2020		Jan - Dec 2019		Jan - Dec 2020	
	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)
Sugar	2,105	2,054	1,649	1,983	199,059	136,316	121,218	108,012
E.U.	1,408	1,484	965	1,154	174,059	113,142	94,078	79,635
USA	0	0	0	0	12,401	12,434	16,240	16,829
Caricom	697	570	684	829	12,520	10,637	10,610	11,215
Other	0	0	0	0	79	102	290	333
Molasses	0	0	0	0	53,645	10,911	43,839	12,371

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.13: Citrus Deliveries and Production

	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Oct - Dec 2019	Oct - Dec 2020
Deliveries (boxes)				
Orange	16,080	18,716	16,080	30,873
Grapefruit	20,405	4,954	49,651	51,965
Total	36,485	23,670	65,731	82,838
Concentrate Produced (ps)				
Orange	90,843	96,564	90,843	157,213
Grapefruit	75,604	19,654	191,879	183,144
Total	166,447	116,218	282,722	340,357
Not from concentrate (ps)				
Orange	0	0	0	0
Grapefruit	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Pulp (pounds)				
Orange	0	0	0	0
Grapefruit	0	1,696	0	25,440
Total	0	1,696	0	25,440
Oil Produced (pounds)				
Orange	4,400	6,600	4,400	9,500
Grapefruit	3,200	900	7,200	6,500
Total	7,600	7,500	11,600	16,000

Source: CPBL

Table A.14: Export Sales of Citrus Products

	Dec 2019		Dec 2020		Jan - Dec 2019		Jan - Dec 2020	
	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	0.0	69	2,411.2	4,636	4,894.4	9,869
Grapefruit	30.7	203	0.0	0	155.3	1,015	31.5	208
Caribbean								
Orange	339.3	1,266	488.3	1,712	7,140.8	26,511	6,049.4	20,729
Grapefruit	31.2	171	4.1	21	380.5	2,024	312.0	1,626
Europe								
Orange	71.3	225	106.8	247	1,802.0	5,547	1,329.6	3,277
Grapefruit	31.3	180	0.0	0	454.9	2,705	229.8	1,360
Other								
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0	102.0	337	106.3	269
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	34.4	204	0.0	0
Sub-Total ⁽¹⁾	503.8	2,045	599.2	2,049	12,481.1	42,979	12,953.1	37,339
Orange	410.6	1,492	595.1	2,028	11,456.0	37,031	12,379.7	34,144
Grapefruit	93.2	554	4.1	21	1,025.0	5,949	573.3	3,195
Not-From-Concentrate								
Sub-Total	6.2	31	0.0	0	63.9	324	52.5	275
Orange	5.3	26	0.0	0	53.1	263	41.5	199
Grapefruit	0.9	5	0.0	0	10.8	61	10.9	76
Total Citrus Juices	510.0	2,077	599.2	2,049	12,545.0	43,303	13,005.5	37,614
Pulp (pounds '000)								
Total ⁽¹⁾	202.9	159	46.7	36	1,335.6	1,038	1,111.5	839
Orange	202.9	159	46.7	36	1,123.5	866	952.8	710
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	212.1	172	158.6	129

Source: CPBL

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

Table A.15: Banana Exports

	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Volume (metric tons)	7,281	7,265	83,794	92,190
Value (\$'000)	5,805	5,773	79,463	86,992

Source: BGA

Table A.16: Marine Exports

	Jan - Dec 2019		Jan - Dec 2020	
	Volume (‘000 pounds)	Value (\$’000)	Volume (‘000 pounds)	Value (\$’000)
Lobster	947	27,117	917	25,830
Shrimp	1,024	6,144	660	3,652
Conch	1,050	15,443	719	9,693
Other Fish	61	68	0	0
Total	3,082	48,772	2,296	39,175

Source: SIB

Table A.17: Other Domestic Exports

	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Other Domestic Exports (\$’000)	70,354	70,322
Of which:		
Pepper Sauce	5,378	6,134
Red Kidney Beans	12,579	10,240
Orange Oil	3,526	3,026
Grapefruit Oil	1,681	1,332
Animal Feed	11,387	15,216

Source: SIB

Table A.18: Petroleum Production and Exports

	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Crude Oil Production				
Spanish Lookout (Barrels)	21,860	14,787	260,361	193,987
Never Delay (Barrels)	81	0	2,952	447
Crude Oil Export				
Volume (Barrels)	75,199	0	210,741	74,920
Value (\$’000)	7,319	0	20,149	4,833

Source: Petroleum and Geology Department

Table A.19: Central Government Revenue and Expenditure

\$'000

	Approved Budget 2020/2021	Jan 2019 to Dec 2019	Jan 2020 to Dec 2020	Apr 2019 to Dec 2019	Apr 2020 to Dec 2020 ^P	Fiscal YTD as % of Budget
TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3)	1,239,367	1,176,344	983,942	876,693	692,738	55.9%
1). Current Revenue	1,205,987	1,147,700	926,223	855,088	639,362	53.0%
Tax Revenue	1,106,710	1,049,455	844,828	782,348	581,365	52.5%
Income and Profits	308,060	294,482	237,154	218,802	163,476	53.1%
Taxes on Property	8,045	6,438	6,922	4,316	4,422	55.0%
Taxes on Goods and Services	624,938	586,214	471,962	435,570	322,466	51.6%
International Trade and Transactions	167,668	162,320	128,791	123,660	91,001	54.3%
Non-Tax Revenue	99,277	98,245	81,395	72,740	57,997	58.4%
Property Income	14,030	9,516	7,982	8,927	6,115	43.6%
Licences	25,711	28,723	17,411	19,695	8,912	34.7%
Other	35,048	60,006	56,001	44,118	42,970	122.6%
2). Capital Revenue	2,556	6,992	17,156	3,753	15,660	612.6%
3). Grants	30,824	21,652	40,563	17,851	37,716	122.4%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2)	1,387,101	1,306,670	1,338,531	969,076	963,432	69.5%
1). Current Expenditure	1,108,324	1,084,504	993,421	795,170	696,849	62.9%
Wages and Salaries	453,801	451,165	457,457	340,396	341,017	75.1%
Pensions	95,867	93,610	88,065	69,829	65,810	68.6%
Goods and Services	253,061	238,442	201,020	169,776	131,104	51.8%
Interest Payments on Public Debt	121,455	124,638	88,221	80,468	46,030	37.9%
Subsidies and Current Transfers	184,141	176,648	158,658	134,701	112,889	61.3%
2). Capital Expenditure & Net Lending	278,777	222,166	345,110	173,906	266,583	95.6%
Capital II (Local Sources)	138,770	90,872	185,635	68,723	159,520	115.0%
Capital III (Foreign Sources)	137,708	119,079	155,672	93,539	103,473	75.1%
Capital Transfer and Net Lending	2,299	12,215	3,803	11,644	3,589	156.1%
CURRENT BALANCE	97,658	63,196	-67,199	59,918	-57,487	-58.9%
PRIMARY BALANCE	-26,284	-5,688	-266,369	-11,915	-224,664	854.7%
OVERALL BALANCE	-147,739	-130,326	-354,590	-92,383	-270,694	183.2%
Primary Balance less grants	-57,108	-27,340	-306,932	-29,766	-262,381	459.4%
Overall Balance less grants	-178,563	-151,978	-395,153	-110,234	-308,410	172.7%
FINANCING	147,739	130,326	354,590	92,383	270,694	
Domestic Financing		54,297	132,307	24,462	84,707	
Central Bank		83,110	58,904	26,110	-10,052	
Net Borrowing		74,959	124,430	19,570	64,438	
Change in Deposits		8,151	-65,526	6,541	-74,490	
Commercial Banks		-54,949	59,612	-27,860	77,977	
Net Borrowing		-31,687	55,913	-21,135	68,395	
Change in Deposits		-23,262	3,699	-6,725	9,582	
International Banks		218	0	738	0	
Other Domestic Financing		25,918	13,791	25,474	16,782	
Financing Abroad		37,196	181,624	44,409	152,378	
Disbursements		117,345	264,388	104,538	217,295	
Amortisation		-80,149	-82,764	-60,129	-64,917	
Other		38,833	40,658	23,512	33,609	

Sources: CBB and MOF

^P - Provisional

Table A.20: Central Government Domestic Debt

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/19 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2020				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/20 ^P
		Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities	Amortisation/ Reduction in Securities	Interest	Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities	
Overdraft/Loans	56,161	0	0	5,410	5,683	61,844
Central Bank	56,161	0	0	5,410	5,683	61,844
Domestic Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Bills	234,000	0	0	2,842	-13,000	221,000
Central Bank	56,507	0	0	538	-47,071	9,436
Domestic Banks	162,280	0	0	2,105	43,446	205,726
Other	15,213	0	0	200	-9,375	5,838
Treasury Notes	720,000	217,800	0	32,006	0	937,800
Central Bank	326,889	163,153	0	12,788	1,429	491,471
Domestic Banks	145,941	11,000	0	6,393	1,494	158,425
Other	247,170	43,647	0	12,824	-2,923	287,894
Belize Bank Limited ⁽¹⁾	91,000	0	0	0	0	91,000
Belize Social Security Board ⁽²⁾	213	0	55	15	0	158
Fort Street Tourism Village	379	0	379	0	0	0
Debt for Nature Swap	1,598	0	194	44	0	1,405
Total	1,103,351	217,800	627	40,318	-7,317	1,313,207

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

Table A.21: Public Sector External Debt

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/19 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2020				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/20 ^P
		Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest & Other Payments	Parity Change	
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	2,489,172	327,382	93,764	60,326	-239	2,722,551
Government of Venezuela ⁽¹⁾	429,697	23	0	23	0	429,720
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	33,239	5,149	2,572	957	-33	35,783
Mega International Commercial Bank Company Ltd.	50,000	0	2,857	2,202	0	47,143
Republic of China/Taiwan	234,676	51,894	21,507	7,046	0	265,063
Caribbean Development Bank	264,204	40,191	22,255	10,195	0	282,140
CARICOM Development Fund	873	3,000	873	46	0	3,000
European Economic Community	5,075	0	477	35	-287	4,311
Inter-American Development Bank	245,323	62,776	19,861	6,013	0	288,238
International Fund for Agriculture Development	5,031	1,495	320	113	81	6,287
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	38,523	20,418	2,851	1,255	0	56,090
OPEC Fund for International Development	93,679	44,841	7,416	3,969	0	131,105
Central American Bank for Economic Integration	24,847	0	1,774	1,351	0	23,073
Bank of New York ⁽²⁾	1,053,004	38,994	0	25,996	0	1,091,998
Caribbean Community Climate Change Center	11,000	24,000	11,000	75	0	24,000
US \$30mn Fixed-Rate Notes	0	34,600	0	1,049	0	34,600
NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	55,010	4,333	2,356	2,988	0	56,987
Caribbean Development Bank	20,010	4,333	2,356	1,029	0	21,987
International Cooperation & Development Fund	35,000	0	0	1,959	0	35,000
FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	85,360	6,524	1,282	1,627	1,870	92,472
Caribbean Development Bank	33,630	6,524	1,265	1,475	0	38,889
European Economic Community	14	0	17	0	3	0
European Investment Bank	2,227	0	0	152	-189	2,038
International Monetary Fund	49,489	0	0	0	2,056	51,545
GRAND TOTAL	2,629,542	338,238	97,401	64,941	1,632	2,872,010

^R - Revised^P - Provisional

⁽¹⁾ Since September 2017, debt service payments for oil imports have been suspended due to U.S. sanctions on Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. Unpaid debt service payments up to the end of December 2020 amounted to principal of \$54.1mn and interest of \$12.1mn.

⁽²⁾ In accordance with the agreed amendments set forth in the Consent Solicitation Statement dated August 2020, disbursement of \$38.9mn represents the capitalised interest up to November 2020.