



CENTRAL BANK

of BELIZE



MONTHLY
ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2019

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
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:

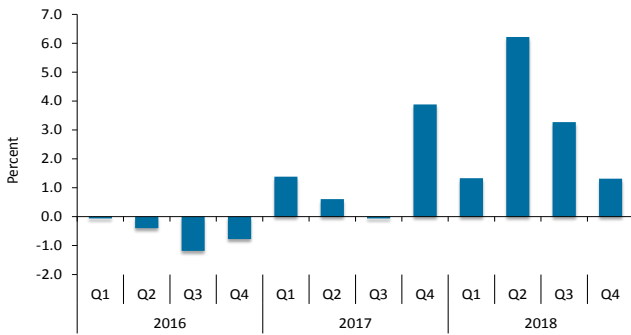
1. Since May of 1976, the Belize dollar has been fixed to the US dollar at the rate of US\$1.00 = BZ\$2.00.
2. The 2019 figures in this report are provisional and the figures for 2018 have been revised.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, the Central Bank of Belize is the source of all tables and charts.
4. Ratios to GDP for 2019 are based on Central Bank's forecast.

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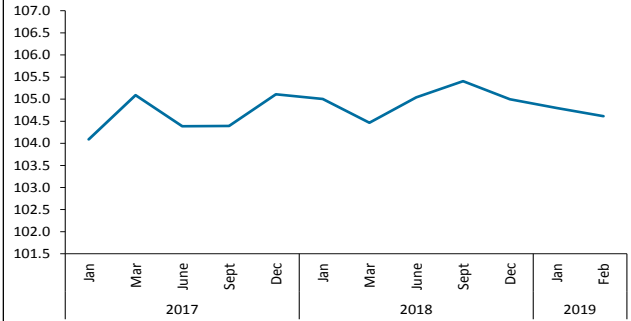
Summary of Economic Indicators

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

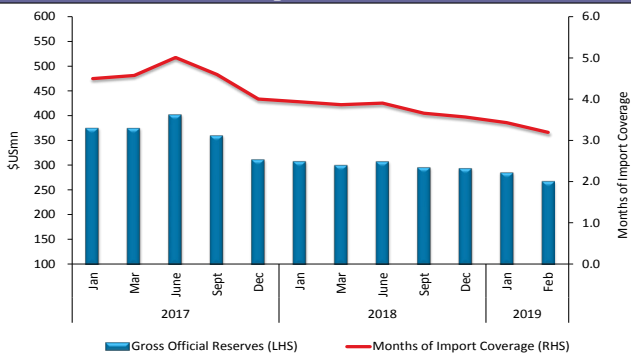


Chart IV: Current Account Balance to GDP

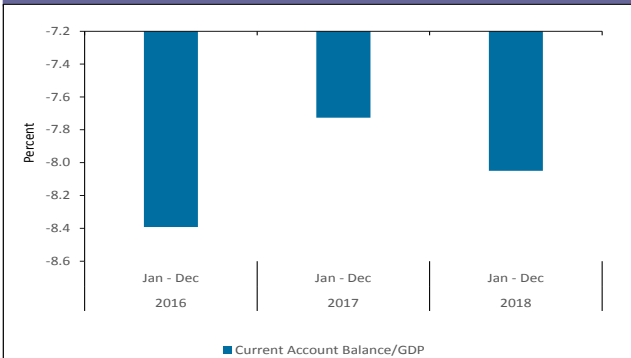


Chart V: Domestic Banks - Deposits and Loans and Advances

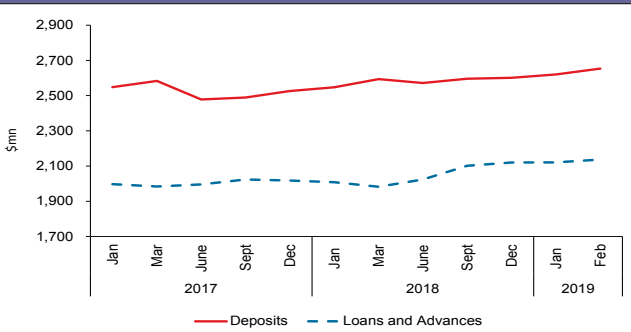
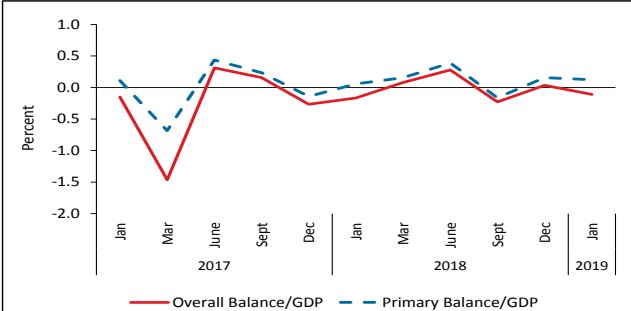


Chart VI: Primary and Overall Balances to GDP



Sources: MOF and CBB

Chart VII: Public Sector External Debt

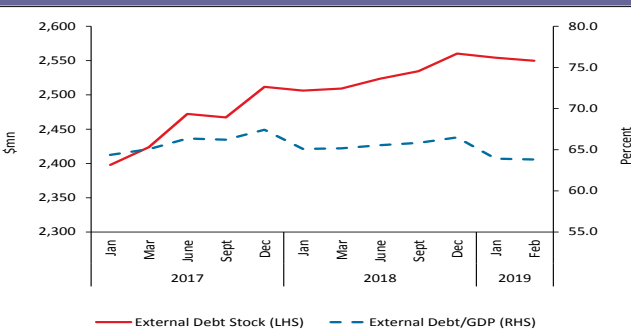
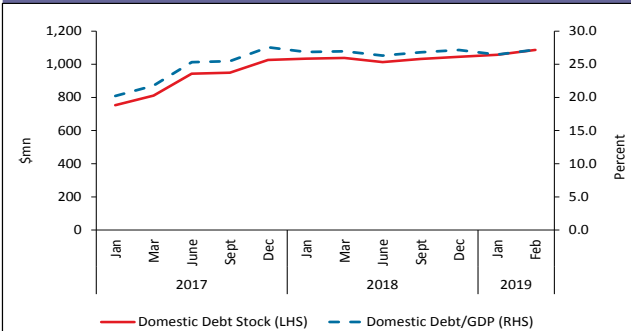


Chart VIII: Central Government Domestic Debt



Overview

- During the first two months of 2019, broad money (M2) supply rose by 1.3% as a result of expansions in both net foreign assets (\$13.3mn) and net domestic credit (\$36.9mn) of the banking system.
- The modest rise in net foreign assets was solely attributable to the \$46.8mn upturn in domestic banks' holdings, resulting largely from the seasonal growth in tourism revenue. This increase was partly offset by the \$33.5mn reduction in Central Bank's holdings, as gross foreign currency outflows of \$71.5mn, which included the first semi-annual interest payment on the 2034 bond, exceeded gross inflows of \$38.1mn.
- The strong expansion in net domestic credit was supported by increases in net credit to Central Government (\$19.9mn), the private sector (\$16.9mn), and, to a much lesser extent, public sector entities (\$0.1mn). In contrast, lending by the five largest credit unions contracted by \$7.3mn.
- Buoyed by the increase in their foreign asset holdings, domestic banks' excess statutory liquidity rose by \$23.8mn to 42.2% above statutory requirements. However, excess cash reserves fell by \$14.8mn, settling at 78.9% above the required level at the end of February.
- The 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans and deposits declined by 21 basis points to 8.69% and by 36 basis points to 1.39%, respectively, when compared to February 2018. As a result, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 16 basis points to 7.31% year-on-year.
- Merchandise exports grew by 35.2% to \$70.8mn on account of higher receipts from all major commodities, except for petroleum and citrus. Concurrently, merchandise imports (including electricity) increased by 12.5% to \$320.9mn, driven by higher outlays on all categories of goods, except "*Export Processing Zones*" and "*Food, Beverages and Tobacco*".
- Tourism activities were robust with stay-over arrivals expanding by 5.1% to 87,964 and cruise ship disembarkations rising by 25.4% to 282,430 during the first two months of 2019.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) declined by 0.2% in February relative to the previous month and was down by 0.1% on average for the first two months of the year. This deflationary year-on-year trend reflected marginal reductions in the sub-indexes for

“Transport”, “Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance”, and “Clothing and Footwear”.

- During the first 10 months of the 2018/2019 fiscal year (FY), Central Government’s revenue and grants grew by 6.5% to \$971.9mn, while expenditure rose at a slower pace of 3.6% to \$980.4mn. Consequently, the primary surplus improved to 2.0% of GDP from 1.2% of GDP, while the overall deficit narrowed to 0.2% of GDP from 0.9% of GDP when compared to the corresponding 10-month period of the FY 2017/2018. The overall shortfall was funded solely from external sources.
- For the year to date, the total public sector debt inched up by 0.8% to \$3,636.4mn (95.0% of GDP), as the 3.9% increase in Central Government’s domestic debt to \$1,086.6mn outweighed the 0.5% decline in the public sector's external debt to \$2,549.8mn.

Money and Credit

- For the first two months of 2019, broad money supply grew by \$39.5mn (1.3%), owing to a \$36.9mn expansion in net domestic credit and a \$13.3mn growth in the net foreign assets of the banking system.
- Domestic banks' net foreign assets grew by \$46.8mn, driven largely by the seasonal upturn in tourism earnings.
- However, the Central Bank's net foreign asset position declined by \$33.5mn to \$558.9mn, moderating the overall accumulation of net foreign assets in the banking system. During the two-month period, gross foreign currency inflows of \$38.1mn, stemming largely from sugar export receipts (\$10.4mn), loan disbursements (\$7.6mn), and the international ship registry (\$5.4mn), were exceeded by gross outflows of \$71.5mn. Of total outflows, 83.2% was sold to Central Government, majority of which was used for external debt servicing, inclusive of the \$26.0mn semi-annual interest payment on the 2034 bond in February. Consequently, the gross official international reserves declined from the equivalent of 3.6 months of merchandise imports in December to 3.2 months of merchandise imports in February.
- Net domestic credit rose by \$36.9mn to \$2,739.8mn over the first two months of the year, buttressed by robust growth in net lending to the private sector and Central Government. Net credit to the private sector rose by \$16.9mn, with net disbursements primarily for distribution (\$12.8mn), professional services (\$4.9mn), utilities (\$1.3mn), and other

Chart 1.1: Net Foreign Assets and Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System

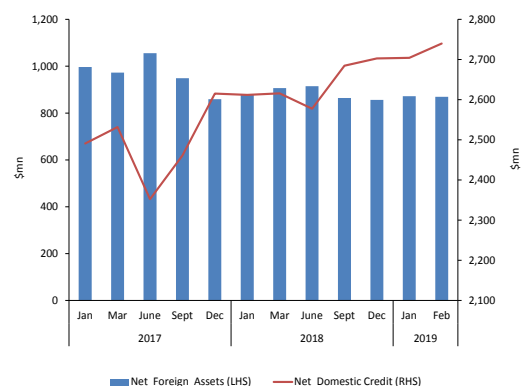
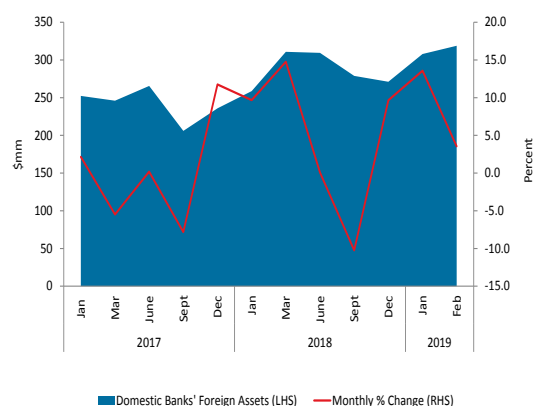


Table 1.1: Central Bank's Foreign Asset Flows

	\$mn	
	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Total Inflows	27.1	38.1
Loan Disbursements	4.1	7.6
Sugar Receipts	11.9	10.4
Banks	0.0	0.0
Other	11.2	20.2
Total Outflows	61.3	71.5
Central Government	57.8	59.5
Banks	0.0	0.0
Other	3.4	12.0

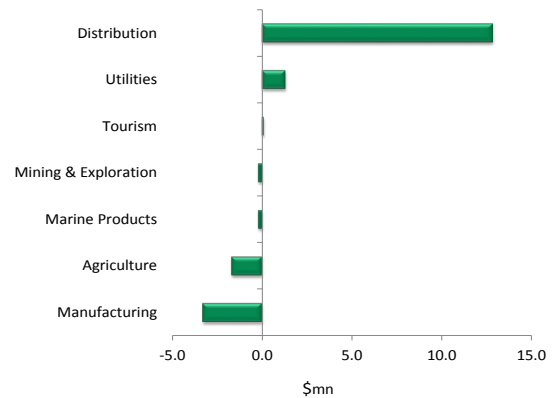
Chart 1.2: Domestic Banks' Foreign Assets



agricultural production (\$1.3mn). However, these expansions were partly offset by net repayments in other loan categories and loan write-offs of \$5.2mn, of which 73.1% was applied against construction loans (\$3.8mn).

- Net credit to Central Government rose by \$19.9mn to \$599.1mn, as the \$21.3mn deposit buildup at banks was overshadowed by Central Government’s issuance of \$20.0mn one-year Treasury notes and a \$21.4mn overdraft balance increase at the Central Bank. Notably, the overdraft balance rose to \$73.5mn, representing 80.2% of the legal threshold. Meanwhile, net credit to other public sector entities rose by a marginal \$0.1mn.
- In contrast, lending by the five largest credit unions declined by \$7.3mn in the first two months of the year, which was slightly less than the \$7.4mn reduction recorded in the same period of 2018. This decline resulted as net repayments on real estate (\$3.3mn), personal (\$2.8mn), and sugar (\$0.7mn) loans exceeded the \$0.6mn uptick in credit for grain production.
- Driven by the foreign asset expansion, domestic banks’ excess statutory liquidity rose by \$23.8mn to \$264.4mn, 42.2% above statutory requirements. However, excess cash reserves fell by \$14.8mn to \$182.5mn, but remained 78.9% above required levels.
- The 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new loans rose by five basis points to 8.69% during the month but declined by 21 basis points relative to February 2018. The year-on-year decline reflected 43 and 19 basis-point reductions on commercial and

Chart 1.3: Change in Domestic Banks' Loans Feb 2019⁽¹⁾



⁽¹⁾ For analytical purposes, loans for Building and Construction (\$128.4mn) and Transport (\$24.4mn) that were reclassified as Real Estate (\$14.3mn) and Personal Loans (\$126.2mn) in January 2019 were excluded from the text and chart.

Chart 1.4: Loans for Top Five Credit Unions

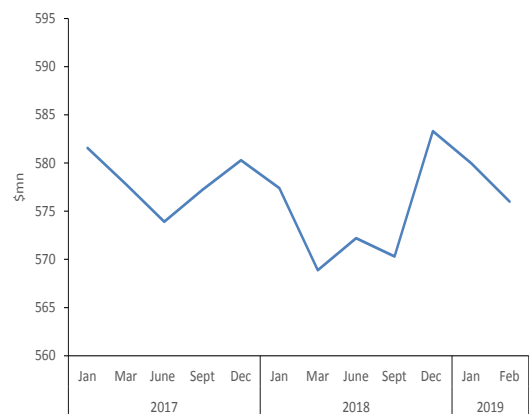
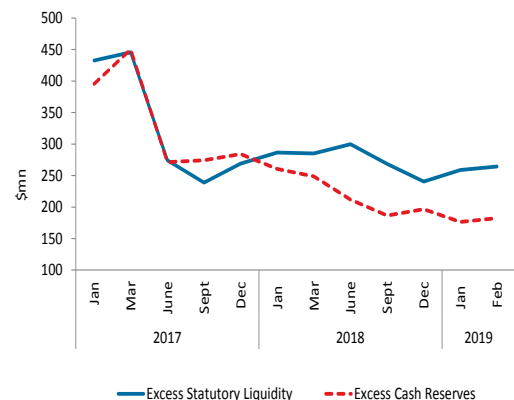


Chart 1.5: Excess Statutory Liquidity



other miscellaneous loans, respectively, which outweighed a 39 basis-points increase in residential construction rates.

- The corresponding 12-month (rolling) weighted average interest rate on new deposits fell by one basis point to 1.39% relative to January 2019 and by 36 basis points compared to February 2018. The decline over the 12-month period was due to reduced rates on savings/chequing and time deposits of 49 and 24 basis points, respectively, as savings deposit rates rose by 38 basis points. Consequently, the weighted average interest rate spread widened by 16 basis points to 7.31%.

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

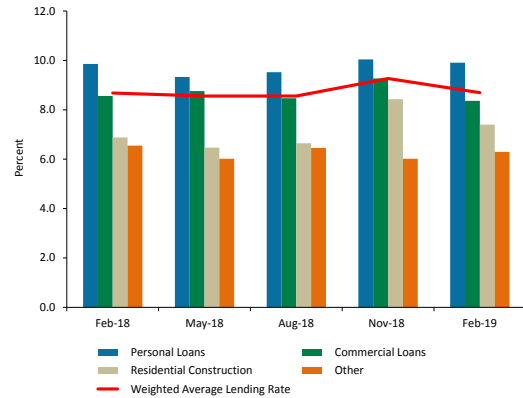
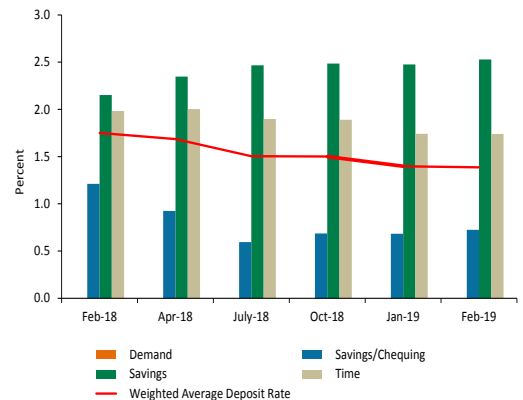


Chart 1.7: Domestic Banks' Weighted (Rolling) Average Interest Rates on Deposits



Real Sector Developments

- For the first two months of 2019, the production of all major commodities increased, except for petroleum and citrus juices. While crude oil extraction continued to decline as the major oil field nears the end of its life cycle, the adverse impact of citrus diseases was responsible for the downturns in citrus deliveries and citrus juice production.
- Over the two-month period, export receipts increased by 35.2% to \$70.8mn. Higher export earnings were reported for all major commodities, except for petroleum and citrus juices.
- Gross imports (including electricity) expanded by 12.5% to \$320.9mn, driven by increases in most categories, including “*Fuels, Lubricants, and Crude Materials*” (\$15.7mn), “*Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures*” (\$8.8mn), and “*Oils, Fats, and Chemicals*” (\$8.2mn). Notably, only the “*Export Processing Zones*” (\$2.4mn) and “*Food, Beverages, and Tobacco*” (\$2.0mn) categories recorded declines.
- Stay-over arrivals for the year to date increased by 5.1% to 87,964 tourists, as the growth in winter season arrivals was supported by increased airlift capacity, sustained marketing efforts, and economic growth in key source markets. In addition, cruise ship disembarkations rose by 25.4% to 282,430 visitors, buoyed by 11 additional calls totalling 108 ships. Of this increase, 10 additional ships made calls to the Belize City port, while only one more went to the Harvest Caye port.

Table 2.1: Production of Main Domestic Exports

	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Sugarcane Deliveries (long tons)	369,546	416,341
Sugar (long tons)	40,680	45,318
Molasses (long tons)	9,448	10,911
Banana (metric tons)	10,522	13,286
Citrus Deliveries (boxes)	1,130,902	1,083,117
Citrus Juices ('000 ps)	6,326	6,291
Marine Exports ('000 lbs)	354	570
Petroleum (barrels)	52,504	44,403

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

Table 2.2: Main Domestic Exports

	\$mn	
	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Sugar	10.1	26.5
Molasses	0.0	0.0
Citrus	7.5	6.3
Banana	11.5	14.0
Petroleum	7.6	6.0
Marine Exports	5.2	7.4
Other Domestic Exports	10.5	10.6
Total	52.4	70.8

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

Table 2.3: Gross Imports by Standard International Trade Classification⁽¹⁾

	\$mn		
	Jan - Feb 2017	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Food, Beverages, and Tobacco	40.1	42.5	40.5
Fuels, Lubricants, and Crude Materials	45.6	46.7	62.4
Of which: Electricity	5.7	4.4	13.1
Oils, Fats and Chemicals	27.2	24.7	32.9
Manufactured Goods and Other Manufactures	62.6	57.1	65.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	57.6	63.3	66.0
Other Goods	1.1	0.4	0.5
Export Processing Zones	4.0	7.9	5.4
Commercial Free Zone	44.1	42.8	47.3
Total	282.3	285.3	320.9

Sources: SIB and BEL

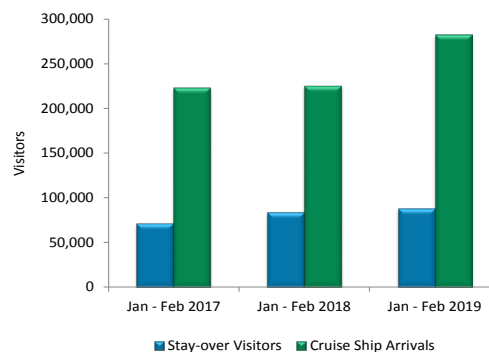
⁽¹⁾ Imports are valued at cost, insurance and freight

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) edged down by 0.2% in February and averaged a 0.1% contraction for the year to date. This weak deflationary pressure over the two-month period reflected price reductions in “*Transport*” (3.8%), owing to lower international airfares, as well as falloffs in other categories, specifically “*Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance*” (1.2%) and “*Clothing and Footwear*” (0.2%). Price declines in these categories were partly offset by increased costs for liquefied petroleum gas and house rent, which supported a 0.8% rise in “*Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels*”. Costs for outpatient services also rose, underpinning a 2.7% uptick in “*Health*”.

Sugarcane and Sugar

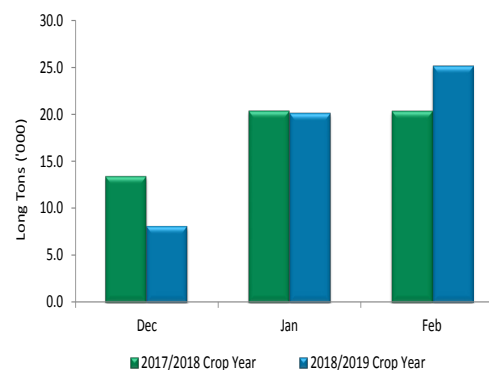
- Sugarcane deliveries in the North declined by 8.6% to 473,045 long tons for the crop year to date, resulting from a later harvest start. This crop year sugarcane harvest commenced on 13 December verses 6 December in the previous crop year. Sugar production fell by a smaller margin of 5.3% to 51,239 long tons, reflecting a 4.6% improvement in the long tons cane-to-long ton sugar (TC/TS) ratio to 9.0.
- Sugarcane harvest out West began on 21 February, which was earlier than the 7 March start in 2018 that was delayed by rain. Deliveries amounted to 32,888 long tons, of which 2,232 long tons of sugar were produced, resulting in a significant 21.4% drop in the TC/TS ratio to 14.7.
- Total sugar deliveries declined by 2.2% to 505,934 long tons, while total sugar production was down by 1.2% to 53,471 long tons relative to the same period of the previous crop

Chart 2.1: Tourist Arrivals



Sources: BTB and CBB

Chart 2.2: Monthly Sugar Production



Sources: BSI

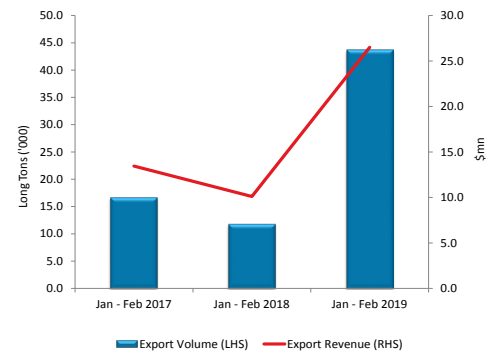
year. The difficulties out West led to a 0.2% reduction in the industry's overall TC/TS ratio to 9.5. Total molasses output also contracted, falling by 2.0% to 12,710 long tons.

- Sugar export volume amounted to 43,654 long tons in the first two months of 2019, reflecting a sharp increase in raw sugar exports early this year on account of changes in the marketer's shipping schedule. Of total exports, 93.7% was sold to the European Union (EU), while CARICOM purchased the remaining 6.3%. At \$26.5mn, sugar earnings were eroded by a 28.8% reduction in the average unit price to US\$0.14 per pound for the first two months of 2019 compared to an average of US\$0.19 per pound in the same period last year.

Citrus

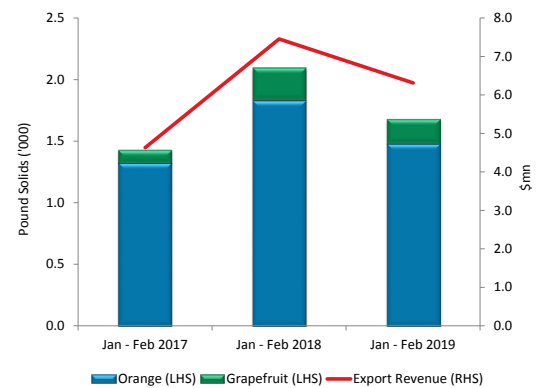
- Citrus deliveries for the 2018/2019 crop year to date increased by 3.7% to 1,319,603 boxes, comprising 1,137,230 boxes of orange and 182,373 boxes of grapefruit. A sharp upturn in harvest due to favourable agronomic conditions early in the crop year lifted orange and grapefruit deliveries by 0.4% and 29.9%, respectively, compared to the period before.
- Helped by improved fruit quality, citrus juice production rose by 5.9% to 7.4mn pound solids (ps). Consequently, orange juice production increased by 2.5% to 6.6mn ps, reflecting a 2.0% uptick in the average outturn per box of orange. Likewise grapefruit juice output almost doubled to 0.8mn ps, benefiting from a 13.1% expansion in the average yield per box of grapefruit.
- However, citrus juice exports contracted by 19.6% to 1.7mn ps for the year to date with lower orange concentrate sales to the US and EU. Export receipts fell by a smaller margin of 15.3% to \$6.3mn, owing to better prices for

Chart 2.3: Sugar Exports



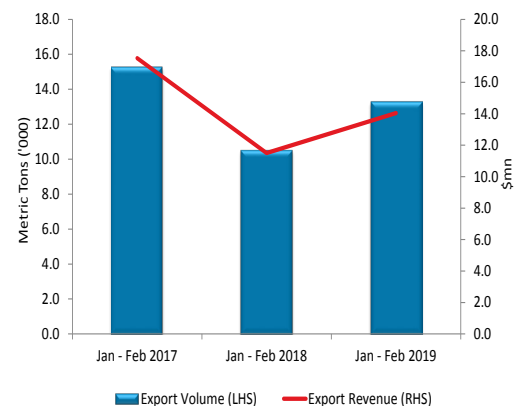
Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Chart 2.4: Citrus Juice Export Volume and Revenue



Source: CPBL

Chart 2.5: Banana Exports



Source: BGA

orange concentrates in the Caribbean and for grapefruit concentrates in the EU.

Banana

- Recovering from weather damages suffered in late 2017 into early 2018, banana exports rose by 26.3% to 13,286 metric tons. Meanwhile, banana export receipts increased by 22.1% to \$14.0mn, dampened by a 3.3% decline in the average unit price.

Petroleum

- For the year to date, crude oil production decreased by 15.4% to 44,403 barrels, reflecting a 137-barrel reduction in the daily extraction rate to 753 barrels per day. When disaggregated, production from the Spanish Lookout and Never Delay oilfields declined by 15.3% to 43,772 barrels and by 26.2% to 631 barrels, respectively.
- Despite a 0.7% uptick in crude oil export volume to 67,522 barrels, earnings contracted by 21.6% to \$6.0mn on account of a 22.1% plunge in the average price per barrel from US\$56.78 to US\$44.22.

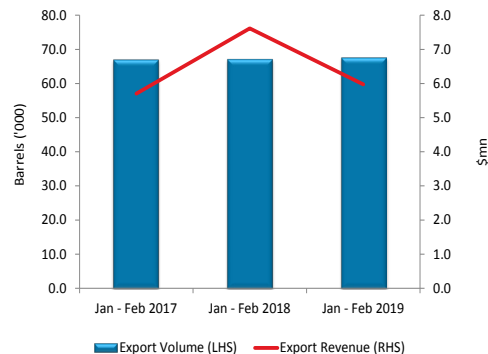
Marine Exports

- Marine export volume increased by 61.2% to 0.6mn pounds with increased sales of shrimp, conch, fish, and lobster. Export receipts grew by a lesser margin of 41.6% to \$7.4mn, as shrimp and lobster prices weakened by 4.9% and 0.3%, respectively.

Other Domestic Products

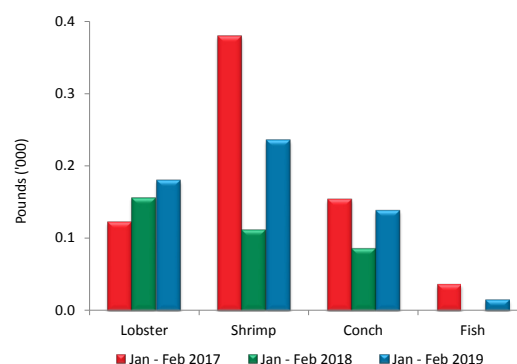
- Earnings from other domestic exports edged up by 1.2% to \$10.6mn, underpinned by increased earnings from grapefruit oil, corn meal, and black-eyed pea, which outweighed reduced sales of red kidney bean, orange oil, and animal feed.

Chart 2.6: Petroleum Exports



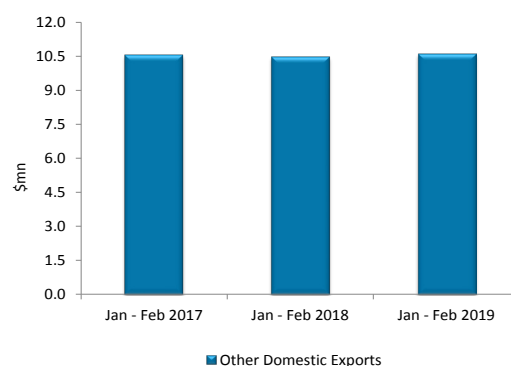
Source: Geology and Petroleum Department

Chart 2.7: Marine Export Volumes



Sources: SIB and CBB

Chart 2.8: Other Domestic Exports

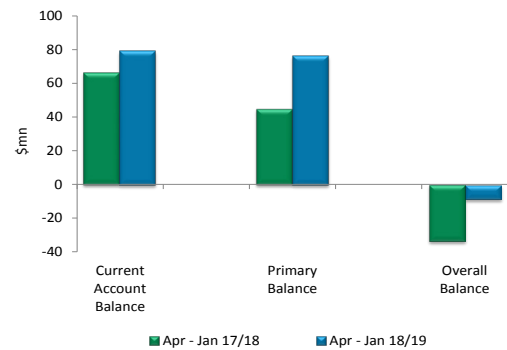


Source: SIB

Central Government Operations

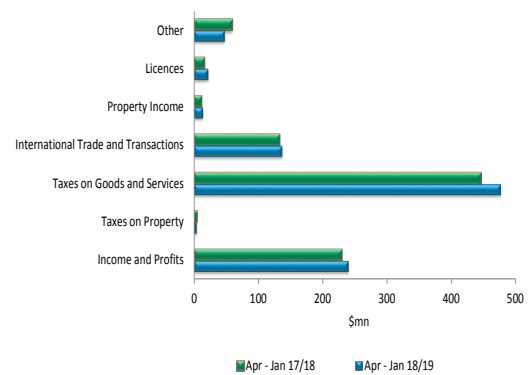
- During the first 10 months of the 2018/2019 fiscal year (FY), Central Government's revenue and grants rose by 6.5% to \$971.9mn, while expenditure rose by 3.6% to \$980.4mn. Reflecting a tighter fiscal stance, the primary surplus improved to 2.0% of GDP from 1.2% of GDP, while the overall deficit narrowed to 0.2% of GDP from 0.9% of GDP when compared to the same period of the 2017/2018 FY.
- The \$59.5mn increase in revenue was driven mainly by higher tax collections and grants, as non-tax revenue declined by \$4.1mn to \$83.3mn on account of lower income from the ship registry. Buoyed by tax enhancements implemented at the start of the current FY (April 2018), tax revenue rose by 5.4% to \$855.7mn, arising from higher collections of General Sales Tax (GST), stamp duties, social fees, and income tax. Grants almost tripled to \$30.1mn, most of which were donated by the EU to fund banana and sugar support programmes, as well as rehabilitation of the George Price Highway.
- Total expenditure was up by \$34.5mn, underpinned by increases in current and capital spending. Current spending rose by 3.2% to \$859.6mn because of higher outlays on wages and salaries, interest payments, and goods and services. Meanwhile, capital expenditure increased by 6.7% to \$120.8mn on account of a \$12.1mn upturn in capital transfer and net lending to \$13.3mn, while development expenditure dipped by \$4.5mn to \$107.5mn. The expansion in capital transfers reflected outlays of \$6.0mn towards the NEWCO Belize Ltd. arbitration award settlement in October and \$5.0mn to settle the GDG Acquisitions Ltd.

Chart 3.1: Central Government Operations



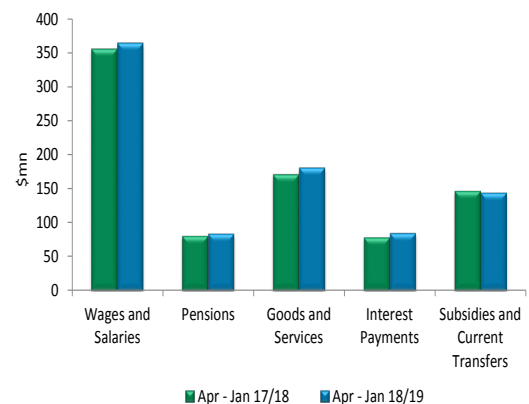
Sources: MOF and CBB

Chart 3.2: Central Government Current Revenue



Sources: MOF and CBB

Chart 3.3: Central Government Current Expenditure



Sources: MOF and CBB

claim in December. Meanwhile, 41.7% of total development expenditure was channelled into infrastructural projects, such as rehabilitation of the Philip Goldson and George Price Highways.

- Central Government's operations recorded an overall deficit of \$8.5mn, which was financed solely from external sources.

Central Government Domestic Debt

- During the first two months of 2019, Central Government's domestic debt rose by 3.9% to \$1,086.6mn, as a result of a \$21.4mn increase in its Central Bank overdraft facility and the issuance of \$20.0mn one-year Treasury notes.
- Amortisation payments amounted to \$0.2mn and were shared between the Belize Social Security Board and one domestic bank.
- In securities trading, the Central Bank and non-bank entities increased their Treasury bill holdings by \$9.8mn and \$0.7mn, respectively, while domestic banks reduced their holdings by \$10.4mn. Furthermore, Central Bank's Treasury note holdings rose by \$20.0mn because it held onto the entire amount of the new issuance.
- Domestic banks remained the largest domestic creditor to Central Government despite a marginal dip in their share from 41.2% at the end of December 2018 to 38.7% at the end of February. During the same period, Central Bank's portion rose from 34.9% to 38.3%, and non-bank entities' amount narrowed marginally from 23.9% to 23.0%.

Chart 3.4: Distribution of Central Government's Domestic Debt

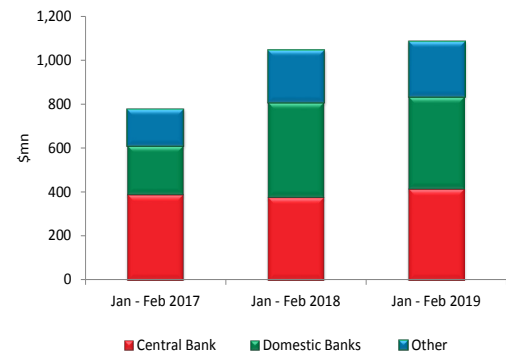


Chart 3.5: Distribution of Interest Payments on Central Government's Domestic Debt

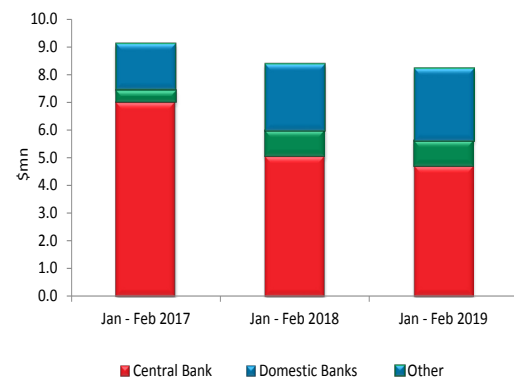
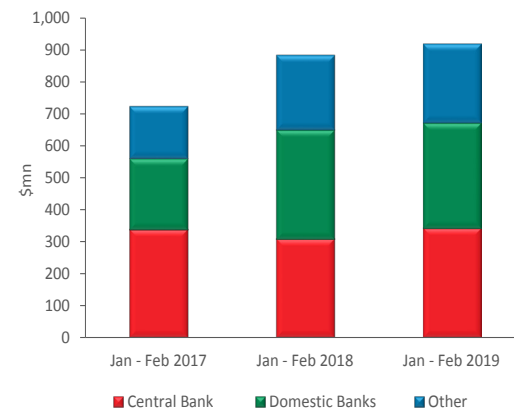


Chart 3.6: Distribution of Central Government's Domestic Securities



- Interest payments totalled \$8.2mn. Of this amount, Central Bank received \$4.7mn on its overdraft facility and securities holdings, while domestic banks and non-bank entities earned \$0.9mn and \$2.6mn, respectively.

Public Sector External Debt

- With amortisation payments exceeding new disbursements, the public sector external debt fell by 0.5% (\$12.1mn) during the first two months of the year to \$2,549.8mn.
- Disbursements totalled \$5.7mn. Central Government received \$5.6mn, comprising \$4.7mn from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and \$0.9mn from the Republic of China (ROC)/Taiwan for the downtown rejuvenation project. In the non-financial public sector, Belize Water Services Limited obtained \$0.1mn from CDB for the Placencia Peninsula Waste Water Project.
- Loan repayments amounted to \$18.1mn. Central Government made \$17.1mn in principal payments, consisting of \$9.6mn to ROC/Taiwan and \$7.5mn to multilateral creditors. In addition, the non-financial and financial public sectors repaid \$0.9mn to the CDB.
- Interest and other payments summed to \$34.0mn with \$4.5mn paid to bilateral lenders, \$3.5mn to multilateral creditors, and \$26.0mn to the 2034 bond holders.

Chart 3.7: Distribution of Public Sector External Debt

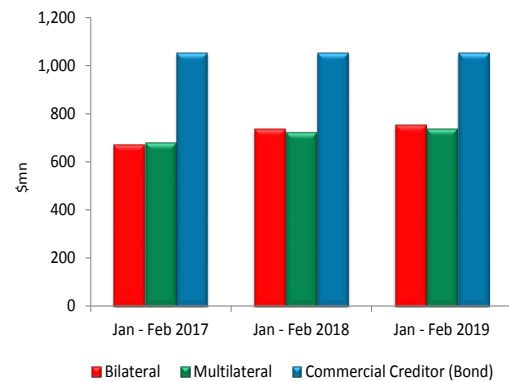


Chart 3.8: Disbursement of Central Government's External Debt

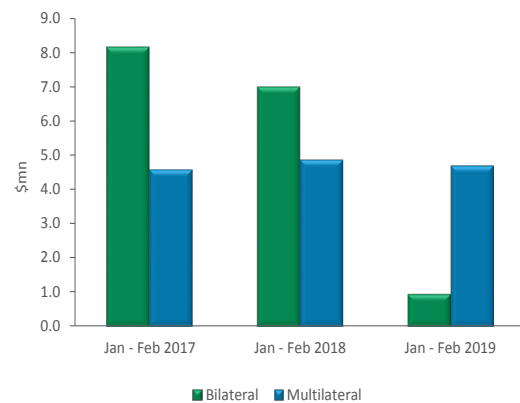
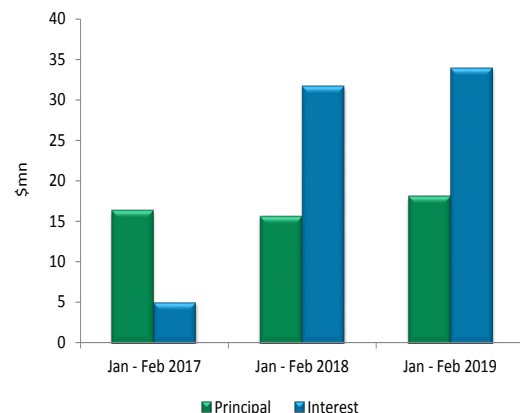


Chart 3.9: External Debt Service Payments



Statistical Appendix

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

	\$mn			
		Changes During		
	Position as at Feb 2019	Jan 2019 to Feb 2019	Dec 2018 to Feb 2019	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018
Net Foreign Assets	869.8	-2.4	13.3	0.6
Central Bank	558.9	-16.8	-33.5	-33.5
Domestic Banks	310.9	14.4	46.8	34.1
Net Domestic Credit	2,739.8	35.5	36.9	34.3
Central Government (Net)	599.1	19.2	19.9	27.9
Other Public Sector	49.7	0.2	0.1	9.8
Private Sector	2,091.0	16.1	16.9	-3.4
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Long-term)	50.0	-0.1	0.3	0.8
Other Items (Net)	502.9	15.3	10.6	8.4
Money Supply (M2)	3,056.7	17.9	39.5	25.7

⁽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			
		Changes During		
	Position as at Feb 2019	Jan 2019 to Feb 2019	Dec 2018 to Feb 2019	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018
Net Foreign Assets of the Banking System	869.8	-2.4	13.3	0.6
Net Foreign Assets of the Central Bank	558.9	-16.8	-33.5	-33.5
Central Bank Foreign Assets	561.6	-16.7	-33.4	-33.9
Central Bank Foreign Liabilities (Demand)	2.7	0.1	0.1	-0.4
Net Foreign Assets of Domestic Banks	310.9	14.4	46.8	34.1
Domestic Banks' Foreign Assets	318.9	11.0	47.7	34.9
Domestic Banks' Foreign Liabilities (Short-Term)	8.0	-3.4	0.9	0.8

Table A.3: Net Domestic Credit

		\$mn		
		Changes During		
	Position as at Feb 2019	Jan 2019 to Feb 2019	Dec 2018 to Feb 2019	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018
Total Credit to Central Government	749.2	29.7	41.3	22.3
From Central Bank	415.9	29.3	51.3	-10.9
Loans and Advances	73.5	9.2	21.4	21.2
Government Securities ⁽¹⁾	342.4	20.1	29.9	-32.1
From Domestic Banks	333.3	0.4	-10.0	33.2
Loans and Advances	4.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
Government Securities	329.2	0.0	-10.4	32.8
Of which: Treasury bills ⁽²⁾	177.1	0.0	-10.4	32.8
Treasury notes	152.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Less Central Government Deposits	150.1	10.5	21.3	-5.6
With Central Bank	109.4	3.0	7.6	-8.9
With Domestic Banks	40.7	7.5	13.7	3.3
Net Credit to Central Government	599.1	19.2	19.9	27.9
Credit to Other Public Sector	49.7	0.2	0.1	9.8
From Central Bank	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
From Domestic Banks	49.7	0.1	0.1	9.8
Of which: Local Government	2.5	0.1	-0.3	0.5
Public Financial Institutions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public Utilities	42.5	0.1	0.4	8.9
Other Statutory Bodies	2.1	0.0	0.1	0.4
Securities	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Plus Credit to the Private Sector	2,091.0	16.1	16.9	-3.4
Loans and Advances	2,090.6	16.1	16.9	-3.4
Securities	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Domestic Credit of the Banking System ⁽³⁾	2,739.8	35.5	36.9	34.3

⁽¹⁾ Includes Central Bank's holdings of 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 Feb 2019	Jan 2019 to Feb 2019	Dec 2018 to Feb 2019	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018
PRIMARY SECTOR	198.7	-2.3	-2.0	-1.6
Agriculture	169.6	-1.9	-1.7	-2.9
Sugar	83.9	-0.4	-1.7	-0.3
Citrus	14.5	0.0	0.0	-0.1
Bananas	21.5	-0.7	-1.3	-0.2
Other	49.7	-0.8	1.3	-2.3
Marine Products	24.9	-0.2	-0.2	0.4
Forestry	0.9	-0.1	0.1	-0.1
Mining and Exploration	3.3	-0.1	-0.2	1.0
SECONDARY SECTOR	602.3	6.0	-129.6	17.2
Manufacturing	74.2	-1.5	-3.3	9.3
Building and Construction	467.9	7.0	-127.6	-1.1
Utilities	60.2	0.5	1.3	9.0
TERTIARY SECTOR	751.4	11.0	15.2	-4.7
Transport	43.5	-0.2	-16.0	1.2
Tourism	142.7	-1.4	0.1	0.0
Distribution	190.5	13.8	12.8	-0.3
Real Estate	307.5	-0.9	13.3	-4.8
Professional Services	54.6	-0.7	4.9	-2.1
Other ⁽¹⁾	12.6	0.4	0.1	1.3
PERSONAL LOANS ⁽²⁾	585.1	2.0	134.0	-4.1
TOTAL	2,137.5	16.7	17.6	6.8

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

⁽²⁾ Loans for Building and Construction (\$128.4mn) and Transport (\$24.4mn) were reclassified as Real Estate (\$14.3 mn) and Personal Loans (\$126.2mn) in January 2019.

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

		Changes During		
	Position as at Feb 2019	Jan 2019 to Feb 2019	Dec 2018 to Feb 2019	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018
Holdings of Approved Liquid Assets	890.7	9.7	27.3	32.0
Notes and Coins	89.0	-4.8	2.5	4.2
Balances with Central Bank	413.6	7.1	-12.8	-35.7
Money at Call and Foreign Balances (due 90 days)	199.2	24.2	56.5	42.7
Central Government Securities maturing within 90 days ⁽¹⁾	182.9	-19.7	-26.0	20.7
Other Approved Assets	6.0	2.9	7.1	0.0
Required Liquid Assets	626.3	4.2	3.5	11.7
Excess/(Deficiency) Liquid Assets	264.4	5.4	23.8	20.3
Daily Average Holdings of Cash Reserves	413.9	6.9	-13.5	-33.3
Required Cash Reserves	231.4	1.6	1.3	4.3
Excess/(Deficiency) Cash Reserves	182.5	5.3	-14.8	-37.6
Actual Securities Balances ⁽²⁾	177.4	0.0	-10.3	22.9
Excess/(Deficiency) Securities	177.4	0.0	-10.3	22.9

⁽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 Feb 2019	Jan 2019 to Feb 2019	Dec 2018 to Feb 2019	Dec 2017 to Feb 2018
Weighted Lending Rates				
Personal Loans	10.36	0.04	-0.95	-0.42
Commercial Loans	9.24	0.68	0.12	-0.12
Residential Construction	7.27	0.00	0.10	0.11
Other	6.65	-0.01	-0.08	-0.08
Weighted Average	9.24	0.35	-0.10	-0.11
Weighted Deposit Rates				
Demand	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Savings/Chequing	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00
Savings	2.68	-0.04	0.18	-0.03
Time	1.95	0.01	-0.13	-0.04
Weighted Average	1.22	-0.01	0.01	-0.03
Weighted Average Spread	8.02	0.36	-0.11	-0.08

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
	Feb 2019	Jan 2019	Feb 2018	Feb 2019 over Jan 2018	Feb 2019 over Feb 2018
Weighted Lending Rates					
Personal Loans	9.91	9.88	9.89	0.03	0.01
Commercial Loans	8.36	8.31	8.80	0.06	-0.43
Residential Construction	7.40	7.27	7.01	0.13	0.39
Other	6.30	6.35	6.49	-0.05	-0.19
Weighted Average	8.69	8.64	8.90	0.05	-0.21
Weighted Deposit Rates					
Demand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Savings/Chequing	0.72	0.68	1.21	0.04	-0.49
Savings	2.53	2.48	2.15	0.05	0.38
Time	1.74	1.74	1.98	0.00	-0.24
Weighted Average	1.39	1.40	1.75	-0.01	-0.36
Weighted Average Spread	7.31	7.24	7.15	0.06	0.16

Table A.8: Tourist Arrivals

	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Air	68,747	73,306
Land	13,608	13,409
Sea	1,355	1,249
Stay-over Visitors	83,710	87,964
Cruise Ship Disembarkations	225,277	282,430

Sources: BTB and CBB

Table A.9: Percentage Change in the Consumer Price Index Components
by Major Commodity Group

Major Commodity	Weights	Jan 2019	Feb 2019	Percentage Change	
				Feb 2019 over Jan 2019	YTD 2019 over YTD 2018
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	195	105.0	105.0	0.0	0.1
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	17	107.5	106.7	-0.8	-0.3
Clothing and Footwear	83	97.5	97.8	0.3	-0.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	265	105.8	103.4	-2.2	0.8
Furnishing, Household Equipment, and Household Maintenance	69	100.1	100.1	0.0	-1.2
Health	41	118.8	117.7	-0.9	2.7
Transport	136	105.1	107.5	2.3	-3.8
Communication	33	100.9	101.0	0.1	-0.5
Recreation and Culture	69	105.3	106.6	1.2	1.7
Education	32	105.1	106.4	1.2	2.3
Restaurants and Hotels	7	116.1	116.4	0.3	3.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	52	105.5	106.3	0.8	1.3
All Items	1,000	104.8	104.6	-0.2	-0.1

Source: SIB

Table A.10: Sugarcane Deliveries and Production of Sugar and Molasses

	February 2018	February 2019	Dec - Feb 2017/2018	Dec - Feb 2018/2019
Deliveries of Sugarcane (long tons)	183,178	230,154	517,381	505,934
Sugar Processed (long tons)	20,336	25,173	54,094	53,471
Molasses Processed (long tons)	4,439	5,449	12,962	12,710
Performance				
Factory Time Efficiency (%)	98.2	96.9	96.8	95.0
Cane Purity (%)	88.7	87.3	87.4	86.6
Cane/Sugar	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.5

Source: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.11: Exports of Sugar and Molasses

	Feb 2018		Feb 2019		Jan - Feb 2018		Jan - Feb 2019	
	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)	Volume (long tons)	Value (\$'000)
Sugar	9,746	7,523	14,500	9,107	11,848	10,108	43,654	26,502
E.U.	9,575	7,333	13,098	8,255	11,602	9,827	40,923	24,570
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caricom	172	189	1403	852	245	280	2,731	1,932
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Molasses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: BSI and Santander Group

Table A.12: Citrus Deliveries and Production

	Feb 2018	Feb 2019	Oct - Feb 2017/2018	Oct - Feb 2018/2019
Deliveries (boxes)				
Orange	703,162	672,159	1,132,469	1,137,230
Grapefruit	0	0	140,416	182,373
Total	703,162	672,159	1,272,885	1,319,603
Concentrate Produced (ps)				
Orange	4,051,395	3,964,903	6,446,597	6,604,874
Grapefruit	0	0	537,250	788,973
Total	4,051,395	3,964,903	6,983,847	7,393,847
Not from concentrate (ps)				
Orange	0	0	0	0
Grapefruit	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0
Pulp (pounds)				
Orange	429,088	730,976	798,816	932,800
Grapefruit	0	0	78,440	227,264
Total	429,088	730,976	877,256	1,160,064
Oil Produced (pounds)				
Orange	204,000	182,400	329,600	320,000
Grapefruit	0	0	15,600	28,400
Total	204,000	182,400	345,200	348,400

Source: CPBL

Table A.13: Export Sales of Citrus Products

	February 2018		February 2019		Jan - Feb 2018		Jan - Feb 2019	
	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	445.6	1,193	148.5	261	445.6	1,193	148.5	261
Grapefruit	0.0	0	62.1	404	0.0	0	62.1	404
Caribbean								
Orange	708.7	2,645	431.8	1,603	1,145.7	4,250	1,008.2	3,787
Grapefruit	33.3	178	3.4	19	68.0	361	3.4	19
Europe								
Orange	91.4	311	177.0	552	233.2	757	319.4	982
Grapefruit	88.3	401	35.9	211	163.6	673	129.2	794
Other								
Orange	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	30.1	188	4.5	28
Sub-Total ⁽¹⁾	1,367.2	4,727	858.7	3,050	2,086.1	7,422	1,675.2	6,275
Orange	1,245.6	4,149	757.3	2,416	1,824.5	6,200	1,476.0	5,031
Grapefruit	121.6	579	101.4	634	261.6	1,222	199.2	1,245
Not-From-Concentrate								
Sub-Total	0.0	0	7.4	40	6.4	32	7.4	40
Orange	0.0	0	5.1	26	5.5	27	5.1	26
Grapefruit	0.0	0	2.3	14	0.9	5	2.3	14
Total Citrus Juices	1,367.2	4,727	866.1	3,090	2,092.6	7,454	1,682.6	6,315
Pulp (pounds '000)								
Total ⁽¹⁾	50.1	39	45.8	37	946.4	714	75.0	82
Orange	50.1	39	45.8	37	893.4	674	75.0	82
Grapefruit	0.0	0	0.0	0	53.0	41	0.0	0

Source: CPBL

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

Table A.14: Banana Exports

	Feb 2018	Feb 2019	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Volume (metric tons)	5,288	6,987	10,522	13,286
Value (\$'000)	5,703	7,294	11,505	14,048

Source: BGA

Table A.15: Marine Exports

	Jan - Feb 2018		Jan - Feb 2019	
	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)	Volume ('000 pounds)	Value (\$'000)
Lobster	156	3,595	180	4,149
Shrimp	112	541	236	1,084
Conch	86	1,091	139	2,139
Other Fish	0	0	16	31
Total	354	5,227	570	7,403

Source: SIB

Table A.16: Other Domestic Exports

	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Other Domestic Exports (\$'000)	10,472	10,603
Of which:		
Pepper Sauce	741	790
Red Kidney Beans	1,307	706
Orange Oil	744	160
Grapefruit Oil	331	1,235
Animal Feed	3,433	3,237

Source: SIB

Table A.17: Petroleum Production and Exports

	Feb 2018	Feb 2019	Jan - Feb 2018	Jan - Feb 2019
Crude Oil Production				
Never Delay (Barrels)	294	293	856	631
Spanish Lookout (Barrels)	24,188	20,092	51,649	43,772
Crude Oil Export				
Volume (Barrels)	0	0	67,075	67,552
Value (\$'000)	0	0	7,617	5,974

Source: Petroleum and Geology Department

Table A.18: Central Government Revenue and Expenditure

	Approved Budget 2018/2019	Jan 2018	Jan 2019	Apr 2017 to Jan 2018	Apr 2018 to Jan 2019 ^P	Fiscal YTD as % of Budget
						\$'000
TOTAL REVENUE & GRANTS (1+2+3)	1,183,327	99,331	99,446	912,411	971,890	82.1%
1). Current Revenue	1,134,915	98,974	98,720	899,095	938,938	82.7%
Tax Revenue	1,022,580	91,875	90,991	811,777	855,681	83.7%
Income and Profits	277,322	30,653	28,550	229,214	239,549	86.4%
Taxes on Property	6,421	226	422	4,603	3,826	59.6%
Taxes on Goods and Services	568,542	48,541	50,024	445,200	475,700	83.7%
International Trade and Transac- tions	170,296	12,455	11,994	132,760	136,606	80.2%
Non-Tax Revenue	112,335	7,099	7,729	87,318	83,256	74.1%
Property Income	30,021	337	302	11,645	13,733	45.7%
Licences	16,947	2,391	3,442	16,170	21,990	129.8%
Other	65,367	4,371	3,985	59,503	47,534	72.7%
2). Capital Revenue	3,301	147	383	1,500	2,835	85.9%
3). Grants	45,111	211	343	11,816	30,118	66.8%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (1+2)	1,208,717	105,724	103,828	945,909	980,426	81.1%
1). Current Expenditure	1,051,354	96,129	95,093	832,704	859,592	81.8%
Wages and Salaries	431,681	36,475	37,011	355,618	365,041	84.6%
Pensions	91,428	7,105	9,026	80,617	83,992	91.9%
Goods and Services	238,375	25,430	22,278	171,286	181,436	76.1%
Interest Payments on Public Debt	111,901	8,612	9,349	78,306	84,859	75.8%
Subsidies and Current Transfers	177,968	18,506	17,429	146,877	144,265	81.1%
2). Capital Expenditure	157,364	9,596	8,735	113,205	120,834	76.8%
Capital II (Local Sources)	61,921	4,923	5,596	46,877	49,513	80.0%
Capital III (Foreign Sources)	93,144	4,672	2,568	65,152	58,027	62.3%
Capital Transfer and Net Lending	2,299	0	571	1,177	13,294	578.4%
CURRENT BALANCE	83,561	2,845	3,627	66,391	79,346	95.0%
PRIMARY BALANCE	86,511	2,219	4,967	44,809	76,323	88.2%
OVERALL BALANCE	(25,390)	(6,393)	(4,382)	(33,497)	(8,536)	33.6%
Primary Balance less grants	41,400	2,008	4,624	32,992	46,205	111.6%
Overall Balance less grants	(70,502)	(6,604)	(4,725)	(45,314)	(38,654)	54.8%
FINANCING	25,390	6,393	4,382	33,497	8,536	
Domestic Financing		5,478	615	273,480	(36,010)	
Central Bank		(19,727)	16,948	(72,250)	(32,590)	
Net Borrowing		(19,836)	21,990	(57,244)	8,036	
Change in Deposits		110	(5,042)	(15,007)	(40,626)	
Commercial Banks		25,683	(16,675)	126,685	(17,636)	
Net Borrowing		27,758	(10,417)	113,030	(2,386)	
Change in Deposits		(2,075)	(6,258)	13,655	(15,250)	
Assumption of UHS Liability		0	0	91,000		
International Banks		217	(308)	2,396	(64)	
Other Domestic Financing		(695)	650	125,650	14,281	
Financing Abroad		(6,841)	(5,814)	57,211	14,227	
Disbursements		2,859	3,510	133,630	86,822	
Amortisation		(9,700)	(9,324)	(76,418)	(72,595)	
Nationalisation of BTL		0	0	(208,316)	0	
Other		7,756	9,580	(88,878)	30,318	

Sources: CBB and MOF

^P - Provisional

Table A.19: Central Government Domestic Debt 2019

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/18 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH FEBRUARY 2019				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 28/02/19 ^P
		Disbursement/ New Issue of Securities	Amortisation/ Reduction in Securities	Interest	Net Change in Overdraft/ Securities	
Overdraft/Loans	52,064	0	0	785	21,408	73,472
Central Bank	52,064	0	0	785	21,408	73,472
Domestic Banks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Bills	245,000	0	0	848	0	245,000
Central Bank	51,070	0	0	252	9,763	60,833
Domestic Banks	187,556	0	0	576	-10,425	177,131
Other	6,374	0	0	20	662	7,036
Treasury Notes	655,000	20,000	0	6,581	0	675,000
Central Bank	261,464	20,000	0	3,671	100	281,564
Domestic Banks	152,118	0	0	342	-32	152,086
Other	241,418	0	0	2,568	-68	241,350
Belize Bank Limited ⁽¹⁾	91,000	0	0	0	0	91,000
Heritage Bank Limited	234	0	139	3	0	95
Belize Social Security Board ⁽²⁾	264	0	12	5	0	252
Debt for Nature Swap	1,787	0	0	0	0	1,787
Total	1,045,349	20,000	151	8,222	21,408	1,086,605

^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.20: Public Sector External Debt 2019

\$'000

	Disbursed Outstanding Debt 31/12/18 ^R	TRANSACTIONS THROUGH FEBRUARY 2019				Disbursed Outstanding Debt 28/02/19 ^P
		Disbursements	Principal Payments	Interest & Other Payments	Parity Change	
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT	2,433,589	5,644	17,139	33,030	-18	2,422,075
Government of Venezuela ⁽¹⁾	429,450	90	0	90	0	429,540
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	25,264	0	0	181	8	25,272
Mega International Commercial Bank Company Ltd.	50,000	0	0	1,281	0	50,000
Republic of China/TAIWAN	236,143	866	9,598	2,524	0	227,411
Caribbean Development Bank	259,745	4,688	5,863	2,541	0	258,570
CARICOM Development Fund	1,735	0	0	0	0	1,735
European Economic Community	7,240	0	0	0	-39	7,201
Inter-American Development Bank	236,736	0	1,679	417	0	235,057
International Fund for Agriculture Development	2,475	0	0	0	13	2,488
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	35,282	0	0	0	0	35,282
OPEC Fund for International Development	69,894	0	0	0	0	69,894
Central American Bank for Economic Integration	26,621	0	0	0	0	26,621
Bank of New York	1,053,004	0	0	25,996	0	1,053,004
NON-FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	47,328	80	762	635	0	46,646
Caribbean Development Bank ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	20,766	80	762	193	0	20,084
Atlantic International Bank Limited	4,000	0	0	0	0	4,000
International Cooperation & Development Fund	22,562	0	0	442	0	22,562
FINANCIAL PUBLIC SECTOR	80,987	0	182	339	257	81,061
Caribbean Development Bank	31,160	0	182	339	0	30,978
European Economic Community	53	0	0	0	0	52
International Monetary Fund ⁽⁴⁾	49,774	0	0	0	257	50,031
GRAND TOTAL	2,561,903	5,724	18,084	34,005	239	2,549,782

^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 February 2019 amount to principal of \$22.6mn and interest of \$5.2mn.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ 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.

⁽⁴⁾ International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights allocation is included as part of the financial public sector external debt obligation.