



CHRONOLOGY OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN CENTRAL BANK

- 2010 - On 15 December, the member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) simultaneously launched their rebased National Accounts and Consumer Price Index (CPI) across the region via videoconference from the ECCB Headquarters and Agency Offices.
- On 7 December, the Bank collaborated with the World Bank to launch two projects geared towards strengthening the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean (ICAEC) and the accountability of the non-bank financial sector. These projects form part of ECCB's commitment to regional advancement for sustainable growth and development.
 - Over the period 12 – 13 November, the Bank hosted the 89th Meeting of the Committee on International Monetary Law of the International Law Association (MOCOMILA) over the period 12 – 13 November 2010. Participants of the meeting included Committee Members from the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and Central Banks across the globe, and eminent scholars from the Americas, Europe, and Asia. The Attorney General of St Kitts and Nevis, President of the OECS Bar Association, Executive members of the St Kitts and Nevis Bar Association also attended the meeting.
 - In October 2010, the Bank played an integral role in the transition of the Bank of Antigua Ltd to a new entity, the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank Ltd (ECAB), which commenced operations on 18 October.
 - Over the period May 2010 – February 2011, the Entrepreneurship module of the ECCB Savings and Investment Course was successfully piloted in St Kitts and Nevis. The course is intended to inspire more persons to consider entrepreneurship as a possible goal and promote best business practices among small business owners. The course covers four broad areas (i) Business (ii) Marketing (iii) Finance and (iv) Management. It is anticipated that the course will be rolled out in the other ECCB member countries commencing the 2011/2012 financial year.
- 2009 - On 29 December the New OECS Economic Union Treaty was initialled by the Heads of Government of the ECCU countries at the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Headquarters.
- The ECCU Eight Point Stabilisation and Growth Programme was signed by the Heads of Government of the ECCU at a working session on 29 December at the Bank's Headquarters.
 - A two-week Boot Camp was held at the Bank from 7 – 18 September to develop a coherent and consistent strategy for the implementation of the ECCU Eight Point Stabilisation and Growth Programme to address the effects of the global financial and economic crisis on the ECCU member countries. The collaborating agencies were: Government of Spain, CIDA, CDB, CARTAC, CARICOM/CARIFORUM, DFID, EU, IMF, OECS, UNDP and World Bank.
 - On 23 July the first regional interactive discussion with ECCU Heads of Government, ECCB Monetary Council and the OECS Economic Union Task Force took place via videoconference, on the OECS



- Economic Union and ECCU Eight Point Stabilisation and Growth Programme, in order to update the public on the efforts that were being made to respond to the global economic and financial crisis facing the region.
- The Integrated Currency Management Solution was approved on 29 May on delivery of the working product to the Bank from the De La Rue.
 - On 20 February, the ECCB exercised its emergency powers under Part IIA of the ECCB Agreement 1983 (as amended), to assume control of the Bank of Antigua Ltd (BoA) where stability had come under serious threat. The Monetary Council approved the establishment of a new management company – the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Financial Company Limited – to carry on the operations of the BoA on 23 February.
 - On 26 January, Straight Through Processing (STP) was successfully implemented into the payment system. This banking application electronically captures, transfers and processes payment instructions, significantly reducing the processing time and settlement risk in the large value payment system.
- 2008 - Effective 15 December the Bank's organisational structure was changed from three Divisions of four Departments each, to two Divisions, namely :
- Systems and Administration
 - Monetary Policy and Operations with six Departments each.
- On 1 October the Bank celebrated 25 years of its existence. The occasion was subsequently marked with a church service, a cultural evening and islands' night, an anniversary dinner, a commemorative coin and an anniversary magazine.
 - On 3 August, the ECCU mourned the passing of the Bank's first Governor, Sir Cecil Albert Jacobs, MBE, CBE. Sir Cecil was appointed Managing Director of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority in 1973, first Governor of the ECCB in 1983 and retired from that position in 1989.
- 2007 -
- On 7 September, the ECCU mourned the passing of the Council Member for Saint Lucia, the late Sir John Compton. Sir John was one of seven signatories to the Agreement establishing the ECCB in 1983. He served as a Council Member from 1984 -1996, and from January 2007 until his death.
 - On 4 August, the Bank upgraded its banking system from Globus to T24, in preparation for the implementation of Straight Through Processing (STP).
 - In July, the Bank published a booklet entitled *Transparency Practices for Monetary Policy at the ECCB*, adopting the approach recommended by the International Monetary Fund in its Code of Good Practices on Transparency in Monetary and Financial Policies.
 - On 10 July, the ECCB launched a compilation of 60 selected speeches by Governor Venner, entitled *A Development Agenda for the Caribbean: Financial and Economic Approaches*. The book provides readers with insights on the ECCB's internal policymaking and institutional



development initiatives; the economic and social situation in the ECCU with prospects and required actions for advancement; and a situational analysis and prospects for Caribbean economies.

2006 - On 13 November, the ECCB launched the book *Economic Theory and Development Options for the Caribbean – The Sir Arthur Lewis Memorial Lectures 1996-2005*. The lecture series was started in 1996 to honour the Nobel Laureate, a pioneer of Development Economics, whose picture appears on the EC\$100.00 note.

- The Bank published a Handbook for Bank Directors to provide directors of boards of banks with easily accessible and practical guidance in performing their duties, in line with good corporate governance practices.

- In April, the ECCB Governor was appointed a member of the Commission on Growth and Development established by the World Bank. The independent high level commission comprises leading practitioners from government, businesses and the policymaking arena. Its purpose is to deepen the understanding of economic growth for development and poverty reduction.

- On 1 April, Mr Trevor Brathwaite assumed office as the ECCB's second Deputy Governor.

- On 16 February, the ECCB opened the OECS/ECCU Exhibition Centre at the Bank's Headquarters. The objective of the exhibition centre is to give tangible expression to the concept of an ECCU domain. A photographic display depicting the region's unsung heroes in their daily lives is the focal point.

2005 - The Bank completed a major restructuring exercise aimed at improving the efficiency of the organisation. A new Statistics Department was established.

- Effective 31 March, the first Deputy Governor of the Bank, Mr Errol N Allen retired after thirty-one (31) years of distinguished service to the Bank and its predecessor institution, the East Caribbean Currency Authority. The Monetary Council agreed to name the building housing the Executive Dining Room and Staff Cafeteria and Facilities at the Bank's Headquarters in honour of Mr Allen, in recognition of his long and yeoman service to the Bank.

- The Bank and the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE) took the lead in promoting good corporate governance standards within the region. In March, the Bank and the ECSE hosted the 2nd Caribbean Corporate Governance Forum.

- In January, the Governor, for the first time, presented and led an interactive discussion across the Bank's member countries on the performance of the ECCU economy in 2004.

2004 - The Bank celebrated its 21st Anniversary on 1 October. The staff members attended a special church service and staged a concert to commemorate the event.

- On 22 July, the Board of Directors agreed to the removal of the guarantee on daily foreign exchange rates for the pound sterling and the Canadian dollar, but directed the Bank to provide indicative rates to the commercial banks for buying



- and selling these currencies, and to monitor the situation. The Board also agreed to mandate that the commercial banks publish their foreign exchange rates.
- In March, the final instalment was repaid on the special deposit liability facility extended by the ECCB to participating governments in 1984. Under the facility, the ECCB assumed the member governments' special deposit liabilities to commercial banks in an arrangement through which the amounts would be repaid over a 15-year period following a 5-year grace period.
- 2003 - On 18 July, the Monetary Council announced a 50 basis point cut to 6.5 per cent in the discount rate as a means of signalling to the commercial banks the central bank's desire for interest rates to fall.
- The Monetary Council approved the establishment of a Private Sector Consultative Group (PSCG), to allow for the inclusion of a private sector perspective in economic policy formulation, at the regional level. The inaugural meeting of the PSCG took place on 10-11 July at the ECCB Headquarters in St Kitts.
- 2002 - The Bank completed a major restructuring exercise intended to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations. The restructuring resulted in an adjustment in the Bank's organisational structure to reflect the main functional activities, namely Governance, Policy and Operations, and Administration.
- The Regional Government Securities Market (RGSM) was launched on 20 November. The RGSM is a fully integrated regional primary and secondary market for government securities.
- Effective 1 September, the ECCB reduced the administered minimum rate on savings deposits from 4 per cent to 3 per cent.
 - In July the ECCB Auditorium was renamed the Sir Cecil Jacobs Auditorium in honour of the Bank's first Governor.
- 2001 - On 26 October, the Monetary Council announced a 100 basis point cut to 7 per cent in the discount rate. The move was aimed at stimulating economic activity in the aftermath of 11 September.
- The Eastern Caribbean Securities Market (ECSM) was launched on 19 October. The ECSM comprises the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange, the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Depository and the Eastern Caribbean Central Securities Registry. The ECSM is the first fully electronic regional securities market in the western hemisphere.
 - Effective 15 October, the Bank established a bulletin board service through which commercial banks could trade funds on the interbank market. The new arrangement replaced the brokerage service provided by the ECCB since 1985.
- 2000 - The Monetary Council approved the draft Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission Agreement, and sanctioned ECCB share-ownership of 30 per cent of the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange at EC\$3.0 million.
- 1999 - The official Opening Ceremony of the ECCB Auditorium and Conference Centre was held on 8 October. The auditorium seats 500 persons and is used as a national and regional centre for conferences, seminars and cultural performances.



- The Monetary Council approved the Guidelines for the Regulation of the Offshore Financial Services Sector on 30 July, in accordance with Article 41 of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Agreement 1983.
- 1998 - The Banking and Operations Department was split into two - the Banking and Monetary Operations Department and the Accounting and Currency Department.
- 1997 - The ground breaking ceremony for phase II of the ECCB Headquarters building project, which involved the construction of new office buildings, an auditorium and a cafeteria/staff facility, was held on 16 September.
- 1996 - In October, the Bank commissioned the World Bank and the Commonwealth Secretariat to undertake a study of the payments system with a view to identifying and creating a framework for an effective payments system.
- In September, the Bank commissioned the World Bank to undertake a review of the OECS financial sector. This involved assessing the institutional infrastructure and scope of financial institutions, and determining the measures required for developing and deepening money and capital markets and creating a single financial space.
- The Eastern Caribbean Institute of Banking was launched on 7 July, in Grenada.
- In August, the Bank lowered its official discount rate from 9 per cent to 8 per cent, as a means of stimulating investment activity.
- The Bank established the Financial and Enterprise Development Unit by merging the Export Credit Unit and the Money and Capital Market Development Unit.
- The first Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of ECHMB was held at the ECCB Headquarters on 16 March.
- 1995 - The Bank entered into negotiations with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for funding via the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) for technical assistance in establishing the Over-The-Counter Call Exchange, and developing uniform securities legislation and a central securities depository.
- The Bank surveyed the government securities market and facilitated an IMF mission to review the market and prepare proposals for the further development of the primary and secondary markets for government securities.
- The Bloomberg System was installed at the ECCB on 16 October to provide economic, financial and political information on all market sectors on a 24-hour basis.
- On 25 June, Mr K Dwight Venner, Governor of the ECCB, was appointed Chairman of the first Board of Directors of the ECHMB.
- 1994 - The ECCB issued prudential guidelines governing large credit exposures and money laundering to all supervised banks during the year. These guidelines were based on the principles enunciated by the Basle Committee on International Banking Supervision.



- The Bank moved into its new headquarters building in August. The headquarters was officially opened on 29 October.
- In September the Eastern Caribbean Home Mortgage Bank (ECHMB) was formally established as a legal entity, following ratification of the ECHMB Agreement by seven of the eight territories.
- ECCB spearheaded the implementation of the Eastern Caribbean Economic Management Project (ECEMP) sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). There were two components to the project: (i) the restructuring and computerisation of the inland revenue departments in member territories, and (ii) enhancing the financial management functions of the accountant general departments.
- The Bank established a Monetary Policy Unit, a Money and Capital Market Development Unit and an administrative, Policy Co-ordination and Evaluation Unit in January.
- 1993 - A new series of notes was put into circulation in October to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the Bank.
- In June, under the Special Emergency Powers, the ECCB came to the assistance of the Bank of Montserrat which ran into difficulties. Certain non-performing loans and advances were bought by the Caribbean Assets and Liabilities Management Services (CALMS) Ltd, a private company established by the ECCB. The purchase was effected by CALMS issuance of a 20-year interest bearing promissory note.
- In early April the Central Bank reduced its discount rate from 10 per cent to 9 per cent. This was done in an effort to encourage banks to reduce their lending rates following the emergence of a large spread between their lending and deposit rates.
- 1992 - A ground-breaking ceremony for the new ECCB Headquarters building at Bird Rock took place on 21 November.
- 1991 - A uniform Banking Act to provide for the regulation of banking business was passed by the legislative assembly of the eight member territories. This Act gives the Central Bank direct authority to examine financial institutions.
- ECCB Agency Offices were established in Montserrat on 4 March, in Anguilla on 23 May and in Antigua and Barbuda on 15 June.
- 1990 - An ECCB Agency Office was established in St Vincent and the Grenadines on 1 April.
- 1989 - Mr K Dwight Venner succeeded Mr Jacobs as Governor of the ECCB from 1 December.
- An ECCB Agency Office was established in the Commonwealth of Dominica on 1 November.
- The first Governor of the ECCB, Mr Cecil Jacobs, OBE, retired in September after many years of service to the Bank and its predecessor, the East Caribbean Currency Authority.



- Work commenced on the development of a Computer Enhanced Balance of Payments Estimation System (CEBOPS), with assistance from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).
- ECCB ceased to issue the \$1.00 note which was replaced by the \$1.00 coin.
- 1988 - A revised Pre-Shipment Finance Guarantee (PSFG) scheme and a new Post-Shipment Discounting Guarantee (PSDG) scheme became operational in September.
- ECCB spearheaded the installation of the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording and Management System (CS-DRMS) in some of the member countries.
- In January, ECCB established a market for discounting and rediscounting treasury bills. An initial amount of \$20 million at face value was made available from the Bank's portfolio.
- 1987 - An ECCB Agency Office was established in Saint Lucia on 1 October.
- The coded \$5.00 and \$20.00 notes were introduced on 8 April.
- The Government of Anguilla became a full member of the ECCB on 1 April.
- 1986 - The coded \$1.00 note was introduced on 1 August, and the \$100.00 note on 5 December.
- An official interbank market was established in March. It provided an opportunity for banks to invest funds held in current account balances as well as to recycle liquidity among the territories.
- 1985 - Commercial banks were required to pay a minimum rate of 4 per cent interest on savings deposits, effective January. Prior to this, the rate on savings deposits in some member countries was as low as 2.5 per cent.
- 1984 - An ECCB Agency Office, the first to be established, was opened in Grenada on 1 November.
- The \$10.00 bill, the first in a series of coded notes to replace the series issued under the ECCA, was introduced on 15 November. Country codes were assigned to the new series of notes.
- An Infrastructure for Productive Investment Project (IPIP) was established in August. The Bank entered into an agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide commercial banks with access to long-term funds to finance commercial loans to private sector developers of industrial properties. The Bank was responsible for co-ordinating the project and monitoring the use of project funds to ensure that developers adhered to acceptable construction standards and practices.
- An Export Credit and Guarantee Department was established on 1 July, with the purpose of promoting exports from the Eastern Caribbean. An Export Finance Guarantee Scheme was introduced to provide preshipment insurance for exporters.
- All commercial banks were required to disclose to their customers and the ECCB, the effective rates of interest charged on loans given by them.



- All banks operating in more than one territory were required to maintain separate accounts at the ECCB for their respective territorial operations, effective 30 April.
 - The ECCB assumed the member governments' special deposit liabilities to commercial banks under an arrangement whereby the amounts would be repaid by the member governments over a 15-year period following a 5-year grace period.
 - ECCB required all commercial banks operating in the currency union to hold with it minimum reserves at the level of 6 per cent of their deposit liabilities, effective 30 April. Prior to this, commercial banks operating in most of the territories were required to hold special deposits at the treasury of their respective government.
 - The first meeting of the Monetary Council, established in accordance with Article 7 of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Agreement, was held on 20 January.
- 1983
- The Bank Supervision Department was established in late 1983. The Department's operations were centred on the powers granted to the Bank under Article 3(2) of the Central Bank Agreement to regulate banking business on behalf of and in collaboration with participating governments; and also Article 35(1) which specifically gives the Bank the right to require financial institutions to open their books for inspection to verify compliance with the directives issued.
 - The first meeting of the ECCB Board of Directors was held on 5 October.
- The ECCB came into being on 1 October as successor to the East Caribbean Currency Authority, following the enactment of enabling legislation by the respective governments.
 - The Agreement to establish the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) was signed on 5 July by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, The Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.