

Eastern Caribbean Central Bank



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The ECCB welcomes your questions and comments on this publication.

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REGIONAL ECONOMY

Overview

Economic activity in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) strengthened in the first quarter of 2006 relative to the corresponding period of 2005. The expansion was largely driven by robust growth in construction as some countries prepare to host the Cricket World Cup (CWC) in 2007. Tourism activity also increased, while agricultural output declined. Consumer prices rose in most of the member countries during the first quarter of 2006, partly reflecting the impact of rising fuel prices. The consolidated fiscal accounts of the central governments indicate a narrowing in the overall deficit, attributed to an increase in current revenue. Monetary liabilities expanded, commercial bank liquidity was at a high level, and interest rates remained largely unchanged. In the external sector, the current account deficit widened as the value of imports increased, consistent with the expansion in economic activity and rising international oil prices.

The economic outlook for the rest of 2006 is positive. Growth in real GDP is projected, as the robustness in construction activity is expected to be sustained, particularly in those countries preparing for CWC 2007. Tourism activity is projected to increase, based on growth in stay-over arrivals and assuming favourable economic conditions in the major markets. The overall deficit of the central governments is likely to widen on account of increased capital expenditure associated with CWC

and infrastructural upgrading. An increase in the value of imports, rising oil prices and a likely fall in domestic exports are expected to result in a widening of the external current account deficit. The major risks to the projections for economic growth in the ECCU include rising oil prices and geopolitical tensions, as well as unfavourable weather.

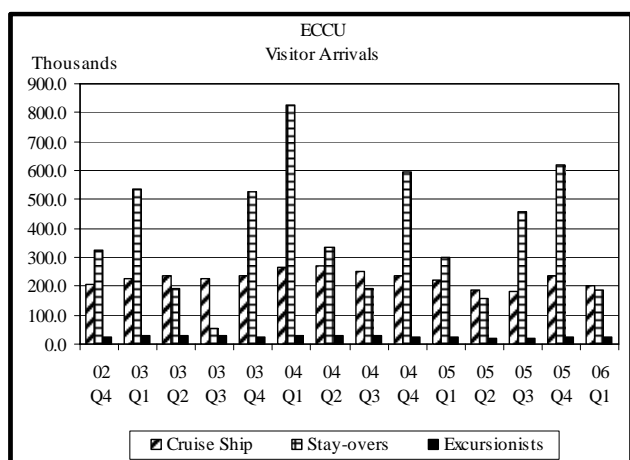
Output and Prices

The expansion in construction activity in the first quarter of 2006 was fuelled by both public and private sector projects. In the public sector, the main areas of activity were constructing stadia for CWC 2007, and upgrading roads, airports and other public infrastructure. Mirroring the higher level of public sector activity was a 14.3 per cent increase in capital expenditure by the central governments, much of which was on construction-related projects. Private sector activity focused on building and expanding hotels and villas. Private sector residential construction was also at a higher level, partly supported by commercial bank lending, as reflected in a 3.1 per cent increase in outstanding loans for home construction and renovation. Of the member countries, construction activity was vibrant in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Activity in Grenada contracted, as major work was completed on rehabilitating some buildings that were damaged by hurricane Ivan. Construction activity also fell in



Montserrat as a major project was completed in 2005.

Activity in the tourism industry is estimated to have increased in the first quarter of 2006, compared with the outturn in the corresponding period of 2005. The number of stay-over visitors rose by 2.4 per cent to 292,334. Increases were recorded in stay-over arrivals from the USA, the major market (7.7 per cent), and Canada 11.8 per cent). However, arrivals from the Caribbean fell by 3.0 per cent. The growth in the number of stay-over visitors was influenced by an increase in airlift, intensive marketing and promotional efforts by some member states, and the re-opening of accommodation establishments, particularly in Grenada. On a country basis, stay-over arrivals increased in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and St Kitts and Nevis. Growth in visitor arrivals was significant for Grenada, reflecting the re-opening of major hotels.



Of the other categories of visitors, cruise ship passenger arrivals rose by 0.2 per cent to 790,925 in the first quarter of 2005, despite a 19.4 per cent increase to 868 in the number of cruise ship calls.

The marginal growth in cruise passenger arrivals in the peak cruise season was attributed in part to increasing competition from other cruise destinations, including the US home ports, and the use of smaller capacity ships. Excursionists fell by 0.5 per cent, while yacht passenger arrivals increased by 0.6 per cent. Visitor arrivals to the ECCU in the quarter under review amounted to 1.17m, roughly 1.1 per cent above the total in the first quarter of 2005.

The available data on manufacturing activity indicate growth in output of that sector. Production of flour and animal feed in Grenada increased, as some manufacturers resumed their operations following recovery from hurricane damage. Increases were also recorded in output of electronic components in St Kitts and Nevis, galvanised sheets and PVC pipes in St Vincent and the Grenadines, and food and plastic products in Saint Lucia. However, production of soap and dental cream decreased in Dominica reflecting a fall in export demand; and in St Kitts and Nevis production of sugar was discontinued following the closure of the sugar industry in July 2005.

Agricultural production is estimated to have been below the level in the first quarter of 2005, partly as a result of the discontinuation of sugar-cane harvesting in St Kitts and Nevis, and a 3.1 per cent decrease to 14,300 tonnes in banana output. The fall in banana production reflected in part a loss of confidence in the industry by farmers, as well as the lagged effects of storm damage to banana trees in



Dominica in the latter half of 2005, and of leaf spot infestation in Saint Lucia in 2005. St Vincent and the Grenadines was the only one of the four banana producing countries in the ECCU to report an increase in output. Of the other agricultural crops, production of cocoa, nutmeg and mace increased in Grenada, reflecting some recovery from hurricane damage to trees in 2004.

Data on consumer price movements in the ECCU member countries indicate a mixed performance during the quarter under review. The consumer price index (CPI) increased in five of the member countries, with rates ranging from 0.1 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda to 1.3 per cent in Anguilla. Increases in prices of food and household furnishings particularly in Anguilla, as well as higher fuel prices and new tax measures were among the factors contributing to the rise in the CPI. Decreases in the CPI were recorded for Saint Lucia (2.5 per cent), Grenada (1.1 per cent) and Montserrat (0.5 per cent), largely reflecting a fall in food prices, mainly vegetables.

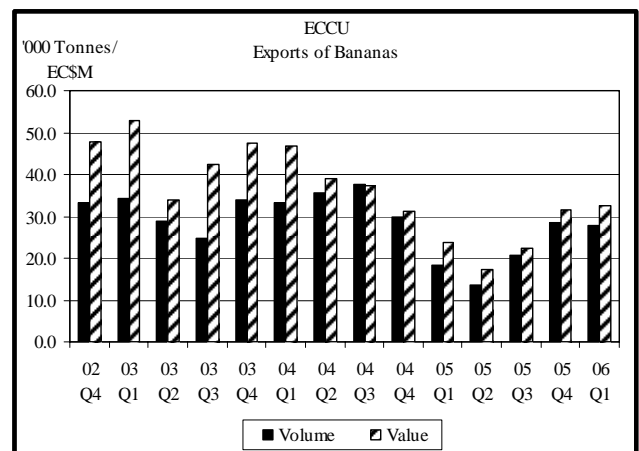
Trade and Payments

Complete trade data for the ECCU are unavailable for the quarter under review. With the rise in prices of oil and some other commodities on the international market, and the expansion in economic activity the value of imports is estimated to have been above the level in the first quarter of 2005. Domestic exports were estimated to have

decreased on account of reduced receipts from banana (1.6 per cent to \$19.6m) and the discontinuation of sugar processing and exports in St Kitts and Nevis. The increase in the value of imports combined with a fall in domestic export receipts would have resulted in a widening in the merchandise trade deficit for the ECCU in the quarter under review.

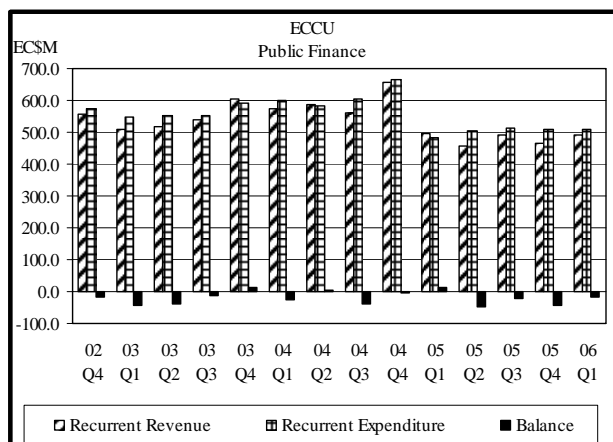
Gross travel receipts rose by 5.7 per cent to \$930.0m, reflecting growth in visitor arrivals. Increases were recorded in all member countries, except Saint Lucia, where receipts fell by 4.0 per cent attributed to a decrease in stay-over arrivals. External interest payments by the central governments rose by 8.6 per cent to \$60.5m.

Net external loan disbursements to the central governments increased by 22.1 per cent to \$16.1m. The transactions of commercial banks resulted in a net outflow of \$345.0m in short term capital compared with one of \$308.5m in the corresponding period of 2005.



Central Government Fiscal Operations

The consolidated fiscal accounts of the central governments indicate an overall deficit of \$82.5m, well below that of \$122.3m recorded in the first quarter of 2005. This outturn was influenced by strong growth in current revenue relative to the increase in current expenditure. The primary balance shifted to a surplus of \$20.1m from a deficit of \$31.1m in the first quarter of 2005.



A current account surplus of \$95.0m was recorded, representing a marked increase compared with the surplus of \$5.2m in the first quarter of 2005. Current revenue rose by 28.3 per cent to \$790.9m, partly as a result of new tax measures and the expansion in economic activity. Revenue from taxes on income and profits rose by 50.9 per cent to \$173.4m, the largest first quarter increase over the last ten years. Growth in receipts from that tax category was substantial in Antigua and Barbuda, reflecting the re-introduction of personal income tax in 2005. Of the other taxes, revenue from taxes on domestic goods and services rose by 44.2 per cent to

\$172.5m, largely reflecting an increase in stamp duties, representing one-off receipts from the sale of property particularly in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, and St Kitts and Nevis. The yield from taxes on international trade grew by 12.9 per cent to \$333.8m, attributable to larger collections from import duty, consumption tax and service charge on imports associated with a rise in the value of imports. Receipts from non-tax sources grew by 27.1 per cent to \$95.3m, as a result of increases in collections of user charges in some countries, particularly St Kitts and Nevis reflecting upward adjustments to the fuel surcharge.

Current expenditure rose by 13.9 per cent to \$695.9m, up from the 2.1 per cent growth in the first quarter of 2005. Growth stemmed partly from larger outlays on personal emoluments (12.1 per cent), largely reflecting salary increases in some countries, in particular Anguilla and Saint Lucia. Expenditure on transfers and subsidies increased by 23.0 per cent to \$142.2m, associated with the transfer of funds to an oil importing company in Antigua and Barbuda, and severance payments to former sugar workers in St Kitts and Nevis. Interest payments were 12.4 per cent above the level in the first quarter of 2005, partly reflecting the payment of arrears, particularly in Dominica. Increases in expenditure on marketing and promotion in Anguilla, and on fuel in St Kitts and Nevis contributed to growth of 10.4 per cent in outlays on goods and services.

Grant receipts amounted to \$50.4m, a decrease of 34.8 per cent compared with the total in the first



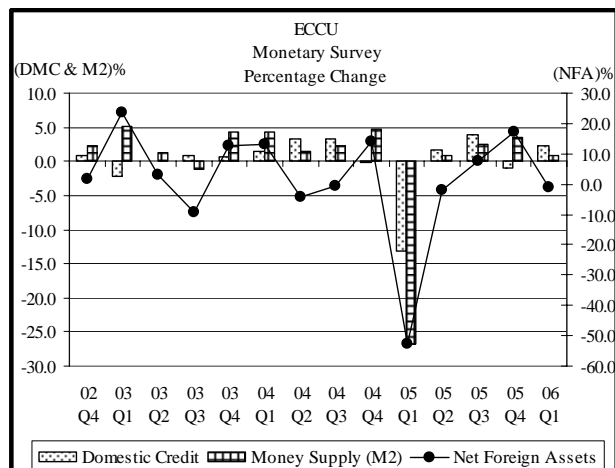
quarter of 2005. This outturn was on account of a reduction in grant receipts in Grenada; in the previous year grants rose substantially associated with hurricane relief to that country. Capital expenditure rose by 14.3 per cent to \$239.7m, with most of the increase channelled into infrastructural upgrading, including schools, roads, and bridges, as well as stadia in those countries hosting CWC 2007.

Money and Credit

Monetary liabilities (M2) grew by 4.5 per cent to \$9,463.8m during the quarter under review, partly driven by the expansion in economic activity. Narrow money (M1), which comprises private sector demand deposits and currency with the public rose by 3.9 per cent, reflecting growth in demand deposits. On a country basis, growth in demand deposits was significant for Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia, partly reflecting the higher level of economic activity. Quasi money rose by 4.7 per cent influenced by growth in all its components. Private sector foreign currency deposits grew by 11.4 per cent reflecting strong growth in Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, and St Kitts and Nevis, associated with inflows of foreign direct investment funds for hotel and other tourism-related developments.

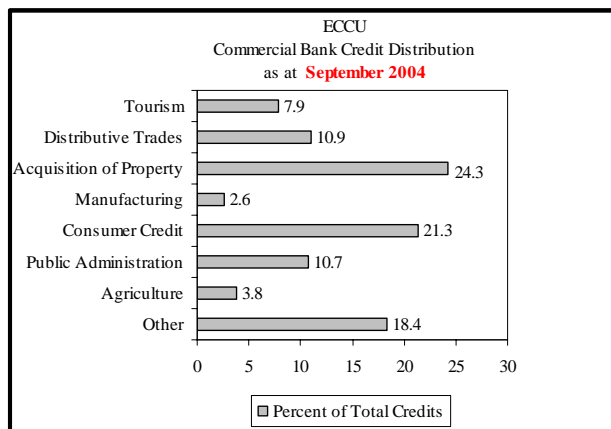
Domestic credit grew by 1.8 per cent, largely attributable to an increase in credit to the private sector. Private sector credit rose by 2.9 per cent, up from the 0.8 per cent increase recorded during the first quarter of 2005. This outturn reflected

increases in outstanding loans to both households and businesses, as business and consumer confidence rose. Net credit to the central governments declined by 12.3 per cent to \$553.5m, in contrast to a 0.7 per cent increase in the corresponding period of 2005. The decline reflected a temporary build-up in deposits (\$86.4m) associated with the issue of treasury bills, which outweighed an increase in credit (\$19.9m). Net credit to non-financial public enterprises fell by 1.5 per cent, as growth in deposits exceeded that of credit.



The distribution of credit by economic activity indicates that credit for personal use, which accounted for 47.0 per cent of the total, rose by 2.0 per cent during the quarter under review. Most of the increase in personal credit was channelled into the acquisition of property, mainly for home construction and renovation. Special mortgage rates offered to households would have contributed in part to the growth in credit for the acquisition of property. Increases were also recorded in credit for manufacturing (3.5 per cent), tourism (3.5 per cent),

and distributive trades (0.8 per cent), while outstanding loans for agriculture declined by 0.2 per cent.



The net foreign assets of the ECCU banking system rose by 10.9 per cent to \$3,343.9m. Growth in net foreign assets stemmed from a 24.6 per cent increase in commercial banks' net foreign assets, partly associated with the higher level of foreign direct investment activity in some of the member countries. The net foreign assets of the Central Bank fell by 1.1 per cent to \$1,594.3m.

Commercial bank liquidity increased during the quarter under review, as evidenced by a 0.8 percentage point rise to 37.4 per cent in the ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities. In addition, the ratio of loans and advances to deposits fell by 0.8 percentage point to 73.1 per cent.

Interest rates remained unchanged during the quarter under review. The rates on savings deposits ranged from 3.0 per cent to 5.5 per cent. Those on time deposits ranged from 1.0 per cent to 8.0 per

cent. Prime lending rates were in the range of 8.5 per cent to 12.0 per cent.

Prospects

The economic outlook for the ECCU for 2006 is positive. Strong growth in real GDP is projected, based on vibrant activity in construction as some countries prepare to host CWC 2007. In the public sector, work will continue on completing cricket stadia, as well as upgrading roads, airports, schools, and other infrastructure. Work will intensify on constructing hotels, villas and private residential accommodation. The expansion in construction is expected to have a positive impact on other sectors such as transportation, wholesale and retail trade, and water and electricity.

In the tourism industry, growth in stay-over arrivals is projected, based on increased airlift and intensive marketing, and assuming favourable conditions in the major markets. However, rising cost of fuel can result in higher air fares, and a slowdown in tourist traffic to the ECCU. In the case of cruise ship passengers, the ECCU countries are expected to face increased competition as some cruise lines divert to destinations in North America. In the agricultural sector, growth in output is contingent on developments in the banana industry.

The current fiscal operations of the central governments are projected to strengthen, as growth in revenue is expected to exceed that of expenditure. The increase in revenue is based on the economic



expansion and new revenue measures in some of the member countries. Capital expenditure is projected to increase as work intensifies on upgrading public infrastructure.

In the external sector the merchandise trade deficit is likely to widen, as the value of imports is projected to increase, fuelled by the economic expansion and rising fuel cost. An increase in gross inflows from travel is projected based on growth in stay-over arrivals. Reduced inflows of grants are

expected, largely on account of a decrease in current grants, particularly in Grenada. Those developments are likely to contribute to a widening of the current account deficit in 2006.

Monetary liabilities are projected to expand. Growth in domestic credit, particularly private sector credit, is expected based on an increase in business and consumer confidence. Interest rates on deposits are likely to be generally stable.



ANGUILLA

Overview

Economic activity in Anguilla is estimated to have increased in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the level in the corresponding period of 2005. The construction sector and tourism industry were the main engines of growth. Consumer prices increased by 1.3 per cent during the period under review. The merchandise trade deficit widened, as import payments increased and export receipts declined. The central government recorded an overall surplus in contrast to a deficit in the first quarter of 2005. Developments in the banking system were characterised by strong growth in net foreign assets and a high level of commercial bank liquidity.

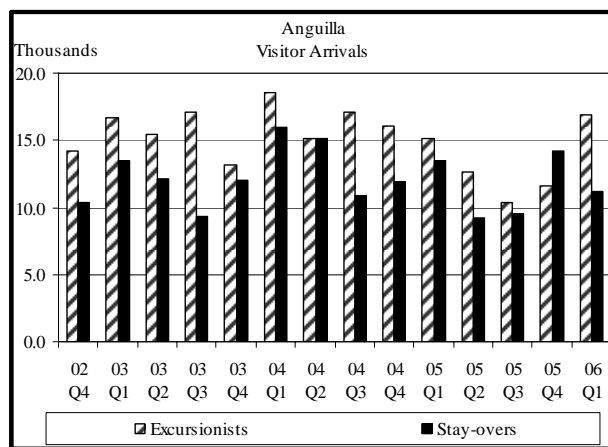
Economic activity is projected to expand in the remainder of 2006. Growth will continue to be led by construction and tourism. This projection is, however, subject to downside risks, including increasing international oil prices and interest rates, and unfavourable weather.

Output and Prices

Construction activity in the first quarter of 2006 was largely driven by increased private sector investment in developing hotel and other tourism-related facilities. Private sector residential construction also increased, as evidenced by growth of 8.3 per cent in commercial bank credit for home

construction and renovation. In the public sector, activity contracted as the Wallblake airport development – a major project – was completed in 2005. Public sector activity during the first quarter of 2006 focused on building and rehabilitating roads.

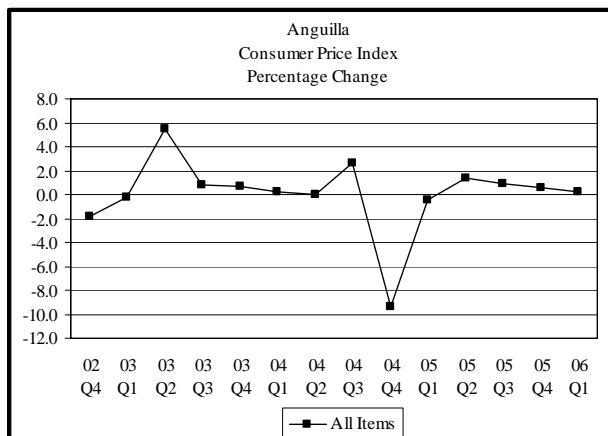
Performance in the tourism industry improved compared with the outcome in the first quarter of 2005. Total visitor arrivals to Anguilla increased by 10.1 per cent to 48, 885 partly attributed to intensive marketing coupled with the reopening in 2005 of Wallblake airport, with new capacity for executive jets. The number of stay-over visitors rose by 9.7 per cent, largely reflecting growth in arrivals particularly from the Caribbean and the USA - the major market. Stay-over arrivals from the UK declined by 3.1 per cent. The number of excursionists grew by 10.5 per cent to 28,444.



The consumer price index (CPI) rose by 1.3 per cent during the first quarter of 2006 compared with 0.1 per cent in the corresponding period of 2005.



The rise in the CPI was influenced in part by a 15.0 per cent increase in the household furnishings and supplies sub-index, reflecting higher prices for furniture, linens and other home furnishings. The food sub-index, which has the largest weight in the goods and services basket, increased by 0.7 per cent. Those increases were partly offset by decreases in the sub-indices transportation and communication (2.7 per cent), and clothing and footwear (2.1 per cent). The decline in the transportation and communication sub-index was attributed to a reduction in airfares by the regional carriers.



Trade and Payments

A merchandise trade deficit of \$106.1m was recorded in the first quarter of 2006, compared with one of \$71.1m in the corresponding period of 2005. The widening of the deficit was associated with a 44.4 per cent increase in import payments and a 7.6 per cent decline in the value of exports. The increase in import payments was partly attributed to growth in imports of machinery and transport equipment, partly associated with the expansion in

construction activity. Larger import payments were also recorded for mineral fuels and lubricants, attributed in part to the increase in international oil prices.

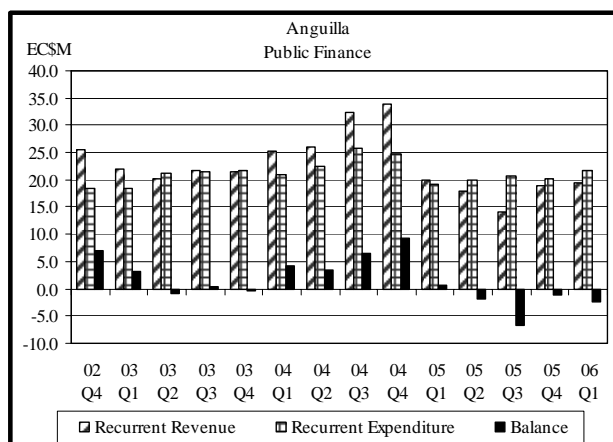
Gross travel receipts are estimated at \$76.3m, or 6.0 per cent above the total for the first quarter of 2005, on account of the increase in visitor arrivals. The transactions of commercial banks resulted in a net outflow of \$61.2m compared with one of \$130.4m in the corresponding period of 2005.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

The central government realised an overall surplus of \$12.3m in the first quarter of 2006, in contrast to a deficit of \$7.6m in the corresponding quarter of 2005. The improvement was attributed to strong growth in current revenue coupled with a decrease in capital expenditure.

Current revenue rose by 67.7 per cent to \$50.9m compared with the total in the first quarter of 2005, fuelled in part by the expansion in economic activity and larger collections from stamp duties. Receipts from stamp duties amounted to \$17.3m, substantially above the \$1.9m recorded in the first quarter of 2005, reflecting a windfall collection from the sale of property. This performance was linked to increased investments in land and other property by foreign direct investors. The yield from taxes on international trade and transactions rose by 24.0 per cent, in line with growth in the value of imports. Non-tax revenue grew by 28.6 per cent (\$1.5m).

Current expenditure expanded by 49.8 per cent to \$31.9m. This outturn was attributed in part to larger outlays on transfers and subsidies (80.4 per cent or \$4.3m), associated with increased subventions to the Tourist Board and the Health Authority. Increases were also recorded in expenditure on goods and services (67.6 per cent or \$4.1m), reflecting the rise in oil prices. Outlays on personal emoluments rose by 16.4 per cent, as a result of salary increases in the latter part of 2005. Interest payments more than doubled to \$1.2m, with the increase representing domestic payments on two new loans and the loan for the airport project. Growth in current expenditure was more than offset by the increase in current revenue. Consequently, a current account surplus of \$19.0m was realised, well above that of \$9.0m in the first three months of 2005.



Capital expenditure was estimated at \$6.7m in the first quarter of 2006, well below the total of \$16.6m in the first quarter of 2005. The contraction was associated with the completion of the Wallblake airport project and major road works in 2005.

Money and Credit

Monetary liabilities (M2) grew by 8.6 per cent to \$991.3m during the quarter under review, reflecting in part the expansion in economic activity. Growth in M2 was driven by a 10.2 per cent increase in private sector foreign currency deposits, partly attributed to the improved tourism activity and inflows of foreign direct investment associated with the expansion in construction. Increases were also recorded for private sector time deposits (4.8 per cent) and savings deposits (2.1 per cent). These increases were partly offset by a decline of 11.7 per cent in private sector demand deposits.

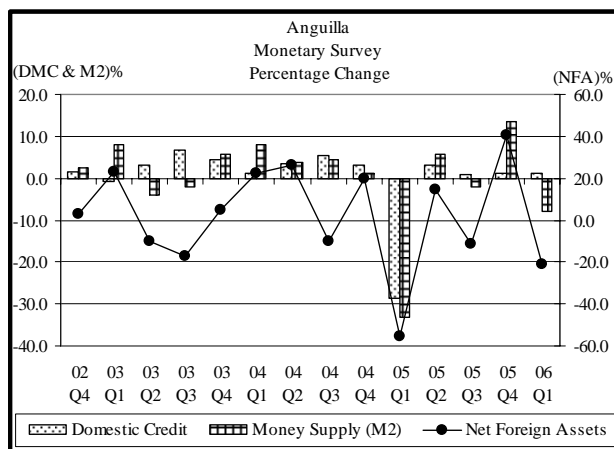
Domestic credit fell by 3.8 per cent to \$630.5m, in contrast to growth of 0.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2005. Outstanding loans to the private sector declined by 1.8 per cent, largely on account of a fall in credit to business entities as borrowing by households increased by 4.5 per cent. The central government’s net indebtedness to the banking system decreased by 25.5 per cent to \$39.7m. This performance reflected reduced borrowing from the commercial banks (2.8 per cent), coupled with an increase in central government’s deposits (50.9 per cent) with the banking system.

The distribution of credit by economic activity revealed that commercial bank lending declined by 2.2 per cent, reflecting decreases in credit for construction and tourism. Reductions were also observed in credit for agriculture and fisheries, manufacturing and distributive trades. By contrast,



credit for personal use grew by 5.2 per cent, with most of the increase channeled into home construction and renovation.

The net foreign assets of the banking system increased by 13.3 per cent to \$546.6m during the period under review, supported in part by foreign direct investment inflows for hotel development and other tourism-related projects. Commercial banks' net foreign assets rose by 16.3 per cent to \$436.4m, largely reflecting growth in net assets held with banks and other institutions within the rest of the currency union. Anguilla's imputed share of the reserves held at the Central Bank rose by 2.8 per cent to \$110.2m.



Liquidity in the commercial banking sector increased during the first three months of 2006. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities rose to 52.8 per cent at the end of March 2006 from 51.0 per cent at the end of December 2005. The ratio of loans and advances to total deposits fell by 6.9 percentage points to 61.6 per cent. Interest rates remained stable during the period

under review. The rates on time deposits ranged from 1.0 per cent to 8.0 per cent, and those on savings deposits ranged from 3.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent. Prime lending rates were in the range of 10.0 per cent to 12.0 per cent.

Prospects

The economy is projected to expand in 2006 on the strength of increased construction and tourism activity, although some slowdown in construction activity is likely in the latter part of the year as work on some hotels and roads nears completion. Visitor arrivals are expected to increase, influenced by intensive marketing and additional flights into Wallblake airport.

On the fiscal accounts, current revenue is projected to be above the 2005 level, based on the expansion in economic activity and windfall receipts from stamp duties. Current expenditure is likely to expand, associated with increases in salaries to civil servants.

On the external accounts, the merchandise trade deficit is projected to widen, based on the expansion in tourism and construction activity, as well as rising international oil prices. Growth in net inflows from travel is expected, attributed to the increase in visitor arrivals. The downside risks to these projections include higher international oil prices and unfavourable weather. These can adversely affect economic activity, consumer prices and the merchandise trade deficit.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Overview

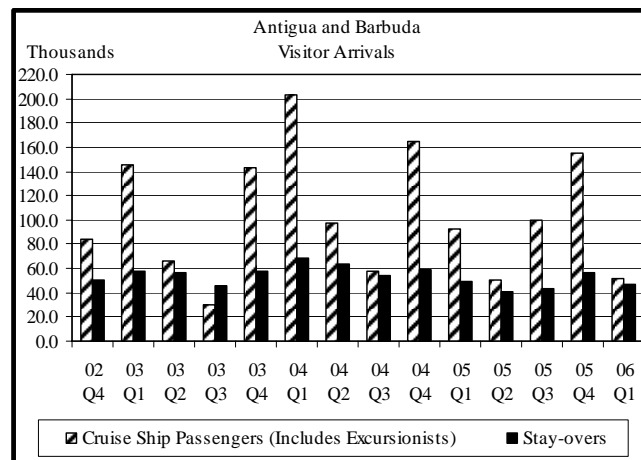
The economy of Antigua and Barbuda is estimated to have expanded in the first quarter of 2006 relative to the performance in the corresponding period of 2005, driven by vibrant activity in the construction sector. The consumer price index grew by 0.1 per cent during the period under review. The central government's fiscal operations resulted in a narrowing of the overall deficit. Interest rates were generally stable and commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level.

For the remainder of 2006 output is projected to increase, led by construction and supported by tourism. This outlook is contingent on favourable developments in the global economy, particularly as it relates to the international price of oil. Shortages of cement and skilled workers for construction could result in a slowdown in activity in the construction sector. On the central government's fiscal accounts, a larger overall deficit is expected as a result of increases in current and capital expenditure.

Output and Prices

Growth in construction in the first quarter of 2006 was driven by activity in the public and private sectors, primarily associated with Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007. In the private sector, work intensified on building and expanding a number of major hotels and condominiums. Work also began

on some small scale accommodation facilities and residential properties. Public sector activity focussed on a cricket stadium and on infrastructural development in the area around the cricket stadium and in Barbuda.

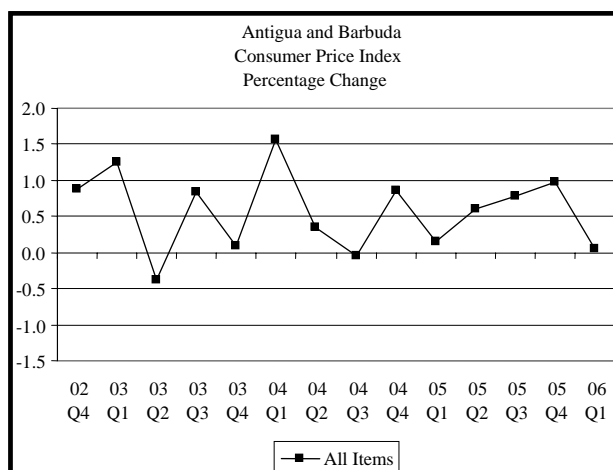


The performance of the tourism industry was mixed in the first quarter of 2006. Growth was recorded in stay-over arrivals, while the number of cruise ship passengers fell. Stay-over arrivals rose by 2.1 per cent to 73,500 compared with the total in the first quarter of 2005. The number of stay-over visitors from the USA, the major market, increased by 7.8 per cent, in contrast to a decline of 1.0 per cent in the first three months of 2005. This performance was attributed to increased marketing and additional airlift. Increases were also recorded in arrivals from Germany (8.2 per cent), primarily reflecting the introduction of weekly direct flights from that country in December 2005. Arrivals from the Caribbean rose by 5.5 per cent. Those increases were partly offset by declines in arrivals from Italy (18.2 per cent), Switzerland (7.2 per cent) and the



UK (4.2 per cent). Of the other categories of visitors, cruise ship passenger arrivals fell by 3.4 per cent to 199,369, despite a 1.9 per cent increase to 164 in the number of cruise ship calls. The decline in cruise ship visitor arrivals more than offset the increase in the number of stay-over visitors. Consequently total visitor arrivals decreased by 2.0 per cent to 272,869 in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the amount in the corresponding period of 2005.

The consumer price index rose by 0.1 per cent during the first quarter of 2006. The “fuel and light” sub-index increased by 1.2 per cent, reflecting the impact of higher oil prices on the international market. Increases were also recorded for the sub-indices “education” (0.9 per cent) and “alcoholic beverages and tobacco” (0.6 per cent). Those increases were partially offset by a 0.2 per cent decline in the “food” sub-index, which has the largest weight in the consumer goods and services basket. All other sub-indices remained unchanged.



Trade and Payments

Complete trade statistics are not available for the first quarter of 2006. Data on cargo throughput show that the volume of imports rose by 23.0 per cent compared with the total in the first quarter of 2005. The growth in the volume of imports was largely attributed to increases in imports of cement and general cargo. The volume of general cargo landed rose by 40.1 per cent and that of cement more than doubled, in line with developments in the construction sector. The volume of exports fell by 45.9 per cent, primarily reflecting a decline in re-exports of fuel.

Gross travel receipts were estimated to have increased by 1.8 per cent to \$248.3m, reflecting the growth in the number of stay-over visitors. Commercial bank transactions resulted in a net outflow of \$258.4m in contrast to a net inflow of \$91.7m in the first quarter of 2005. Inflows of grants, associated with central government’s projects, were estimated at \$21.0m.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

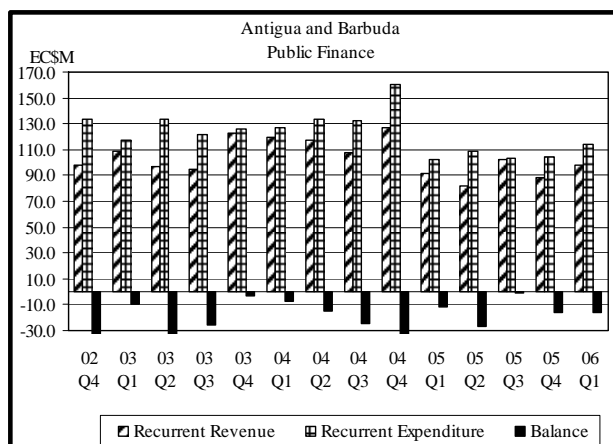
The fiscal operations of the central government resulted in an overall deficit of \$8.4m in the first quarter of 2006, well below the deficit of \$33.2m in the first quarter of 2005. The narrowing of the overall deficit resulted from an improvement in the current operations. A current account surplus of \$43.3m was recorded in contrast to a deficit of \$17.8m in the first quarter of 2005, reflecting faster

growth in current revenue relative to the increase in current expenditure. The overall deficit was largely financed by the current account surplus and the accumulation of external arrears.

Preliminary data show that current revenue rose by 65.8 per cent to \$199.4m. This increase stemmed in part from budgetary measures introduced in March 2005. The yield from taxes on income and profits totalled \$54.7m compared with \$11.6m at the end of March 2005, reflecting higher receipts from personal income tax and corporation tax. Collections from personal income tax, re-introduced in the second quarter of 2005, amounted to \$10.4m in the quarter under review. Revenue from the corporate income tax more than doubled to \$44.1m, as a result of the payment of arrears by a large company.

administration and a higher level of activity at the port in January 2006. Revenue from taxes on domestic goods and services rose by 19.5 per cent, largely reflecting increased receipts from stamp duties (39.1 per cent) associated with land sales.

Current expenditure rose by 13.0 per cent to \$156.0m, despite government’s efforts to improve expenditure management. The increase was driven by larger outlays on transfers and subsidies (33.5 per cent), mainly as a result of the transfer of funds to a company on behalf of a public corporation. Expenditure on personal emoluments rose by 9.9 per cent. This was attributed to an increase in technical staff at the Inland Revenue Department to administer the personal income tax and value added tax. Both external and domestic interest payments increased, reflecting a higher level of central government debt.



Receipts from taxes on international trade and transactions grew by 43.9 per cent to \$96.4m, reflecting increased collections from consumption tax (72.2 per cent), import duty (56.1 per cent) and the customs service charge (23.9 per cent). This outturn primarily reflected improvements in tax

Capital expenditure more than doubled to \$74.2m, primarily associated with the cricket stadium and infrastructural development in the area around the cricket stadium and in Barbuda.

Money and Credit

Monetary liabilities (M2) expanded by 5.7 per cent to \$2,307.8m during the first quarter of 2006, supported in part by the increase in economic activity. Growth in M2 largely reflected an increase of 32.6 per cent in private sector foreign currency deposits, primarily associated with inflows of foreign direct investment funds for major

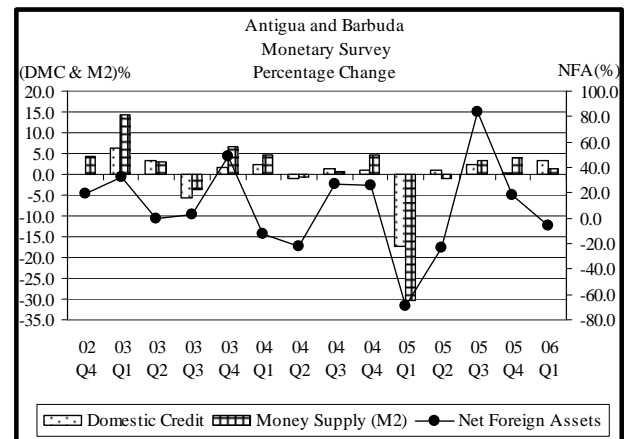


construction projects. Increases were also recorded for private sector demand deposits (8.1 per cent), savings deposits (4.8 per cent) and time deposits (1.5 per cent), while currency held by the public decreased by 0.8 per cent.

Domestic credit grew marginally, by 0.7 per cent to \$1,688.1m. Credit to the private sector was 5.3 per cent above the level at the end of 2005, reflecting increased borrowing by both business entities (7.4 per cent) and households (3.7 per cent). The growth in domestic credit was, however, tempered by an increase in central government's deposits. During the quarter under review the central government's deposits with commercial banks more than doubled, resulting in a 25.6 per cent decline in its net credit position with the banking system. The growth in deposits was primarily attributed to collections of corporation tax arrears and inflows from treasury bills issued in March 2006. The net deposits of non-financial public enterprises rose by 11.4 per cent, resulting from an increase in deposits (3.8 per cent) and a decline in credit (10.8 per cent).

The distribution of credit by economic activity shows relatively strong rates of increases in commercial bank credit for manufacturing (13.9 per cent) as well as construction (12.0 per cent), indicative of the rise in the level of activity in that sector. Increases were also recorded in outstanding loans for tourism (5.0 per cent), home construction and renovation (2.7 per cent), and distributive trades (1.9 per cent).

A 39.0 per cent increase in net foreign assets to \$963.9m was the counterpart to the rise in M2. Most of the growth in net foreign assets was attributed to commercial banks. Their net foreign assets increased by 73.8 per cent to \$608.3m, reflecting a build-up of assets and a decline in liabilities with banks and other financial institutions outside the ECCU. Antigua and Barbuda's imputed share of the Central Bank's reserves stood at \$355.6m at the end of March 2006, a 3.5 per cent increase on the level at the end of December 2005.



Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level during the first three months of 2006. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities, which measures commercial banks' ability to meet short term obligations, rose by 3.9 percentage points to 57.8 per cent. The loans and advances to total deposits ratio fell by 1.5 percentage points to 74.4 per cent. The cash reserve to deposits ratio stood at 8.7 per cent.

Interest rates remained stable during the period under review, except for the maximum rate on

savings deposits which increased from 4.25 per cent at the end of 2005 to 4.75 per cent at the end of March 2006. The rates on time deposits were in the range of 1.0 per cent to 5.75 per cent. Prime lending rates ranged from 10.0 per cent to 11.5 per cent.

Prospects

Growth in economic activity is projected in 2006, based primarily on developments in construction and tourism. Ongoing and new projects are expected to contribute to increased construction activity. Activity on the cricket stadium is expected to intensify, while work is likely to begin on other public sector projects, including the airport terminal and runway expansion and the transport board headquarters. In the private sector, work on constructing and upgrading hotels and condominiums is expected to intensify. Private homes and a number of medium and small scale accommodation establishments will contribute to the growth in construction. Performance in the tourism industry is projected to strengthen in 2006, based on increases in the number of hotel rooms and in airlift, and a new marketing thrust in North America.

A current account deficit is projected on the central government's fiscal accounts. This is based on a likely surge in current expenditure stemming from transfers associated with voluntary severance payments to workers, as government continues to reform the public sector. Growth in current revenue is projected, based partly on the expansion in economic activity. However, current expenditure growth is expected to outstrip the increase in current revenue. A larger capital outlay associated with preparations for CWC 2007 is projected, which coupled with the current account deficit, is likely to result in a widening of the overall deficit.

In the external sector, the merchandise trade deficit is projected to widen, based on an increase in import payments, consistent with the expansion in economic activity and rising international oil prices.

The downside risks to these projections include unfavourable developments in the global economy with respect to high oil prices and the supply of cement and skilled workers for construction. These could have an adverse impact on economic activity, the merchandise trade balance, consumer prices and the central government's fiscal operations.



DOMINICA

Overview

Economic performance in Dominica is estimated to have weakened in the period January to March 2006 relative to the outcome in the corresponding period of 2005. This development was attributed to a contraction in agricultural production, a lower level of construction activity and a fall in manufacturing output. Tourism performance was mixed. The consumer price index increased by 1.0 per cent. The central government's fiscal operations resulted in an overall deficit, in contrast to a surplus in the first quarter of 2005. In the banking sector, developments were marked by growth in broad money, domestic credit and net foreign assets. Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level and interest rates were unchanged. In the external sector, the merchandise trade deficit narrowed as a result of a decline in import payments.

Prospects for the remainder of 2006 are favourable compared with the outturn in the corresponding period of 2005. This projection is primarily based on an expansion in construction, a rebound in agricultural production and an increase in stay-over arrivals. High and rising international oil prices and the slow rate of grant disbursements for the public sector investment programme pose downside risks to the projections for economic growth.

Output and Prices

The decrease in agricultural output in the first quarter of 2006 was mainly the result of a decline in banana production, the major agricultural activity. Output of banana fell by 9.1 per cent to 2,546 tonnes, reflecting the lagged effect of a storm in the latter half of 2005. Data on non-banana agricultural production are not available. Output is estimated to have decreased due to adverse weather.

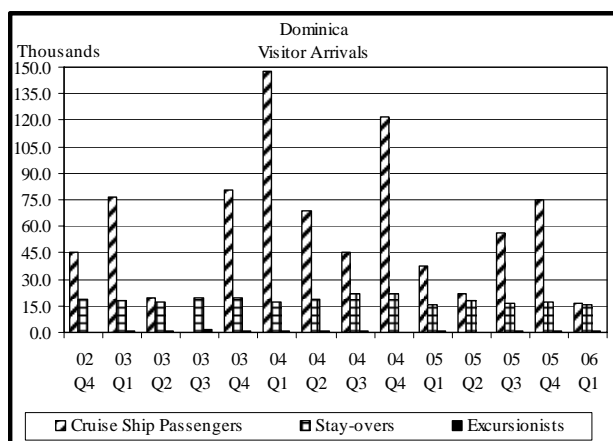
In the construction sector, the pace of public sector activity is estimated to have slowed in the period under review relative to the first quarter of 2005. Public sector activity focussed on improving and expanding the Melville Hall airport, building a sports stadium and constructing and expanding schools. In the private sector, construction activity is estimated to have expanded. This assessment is based on an 18.2 per cent increase in the number of construction starts, and growth of 5.7 per cent in commercial bank credit for home construction and renovation.

Output in the manufacturing sector was below the level in the first quarter of 2005, as production of all the major commodities contracted. Soap and dental cream production fell by 31.6 per cent and 34.1 per cent respectively, on account of lower demand on the regional market. Beverage



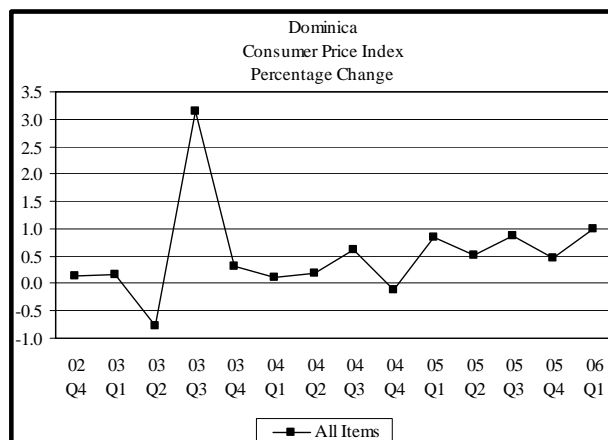
production also fell, by 3.3 per cent, reflecting a decrease in local demand.

Performance in the tourism industry was mixed in the first three months of 2006 compared with the outturn in the corresponding period of 2005. Stay-over visitors, the longest staying category, are estimated to have contracted by 8.3 per cent. By contrast, cruise ship passenger arrivals rose by 38.6 per cent, primarily as a result of growth in the number of cruise ship calls. Total visitor arrivals to Dominica rose by 31.2 per cent to 168,811, in contrast to a 22.2 per cent decline in the first quarter of 2005.



Consumer prices rose on average by 1.0 per cent during the first three months of 2006, partly influenced by the increase in international oil prices and the introduction of the value added tax on 1 March 2006. Increases were recorded in all the sub-indices with the exception of transport and communication, and clothing and footwear. The food sub-index, which has the highest weight, rose by 2.2 per cent. The fuel and light sub-index

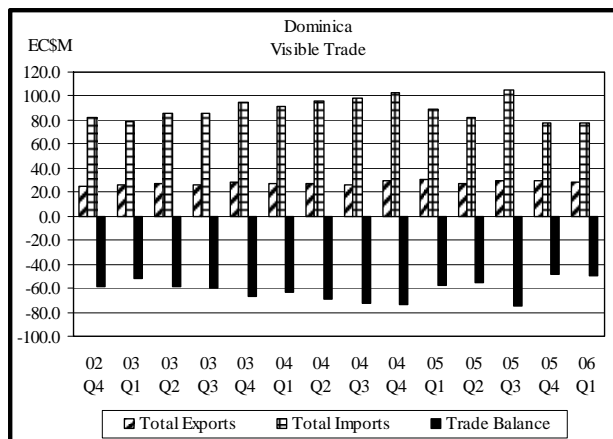
increased by 0.8 per cent, reflecting a rise in prices of petroleum products and electricity services. Prices in the alcohol and tobacco sub-index rose by 8.0 per cent. Declines were recorded for the sub-indices transport and communications (1.1 per cent), and clothing and footwear (0.8 per cent).



Trade and Payments

A merchandise trade deficit of \$74.1m was registered in the first three months of 2006 compared with one of \$82.1m in the corresponding period of 2005. The narrowing of the deficit was mainly the result of an 11.2 per cent decline in the value of imports, consistent with the decrease in economic activity. The value of exports fell by 15.6 per cent, due to a decrease in earnings from domestic exports. Of domestic exports, receipts from exports of dental cream and soap declined by 23.2 per cent and 15.8 per cent respectively, reflecting a fall in demand. Receipts from banana were down by 7.5 per cent, mirroring a fall in the volume exported. Earnings from non-banana agricultural exports also fell, by 23.8 per cent (\$0.9m).





Gross travel receipts are estimated to have increased by 6.6 per cent to \$44.5m, in contrast to a decline of 4.5 per cent in the first three months of 2005. This outturn was largely on account of growth in cruise ship passenger arrivals. Transactions of commercial banks resulted in a net inflow of \$3.2m in short-term capital, compared with a net inflow of \$1.5m in the first three months of 2005. Disbursements of external loans to the central government amounted to \$0.2m compared with \$9.3m in the first three months of 2005. Inflows of official grants rose by 16.9 per cent to \$15.4m, associated with the airport and stadium projects.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

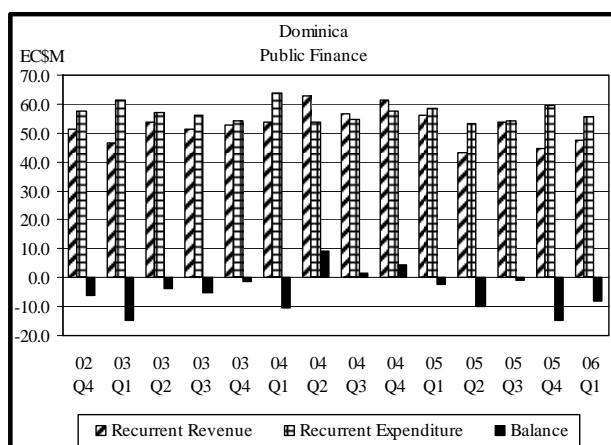
The central government’s fiscal operations resulted in an overall deficit of \$4.0m in the first quarter of 2006, in contrast to a surplus of \$1.1m in the corresponding period of 2005. This outcome was largely the result of an increase in current outlays. Current expenditure (on an accrual basis) grew by 23.1 per cent to \$66.5m, more than

offsetting an 8.5 per cent increase to \$64.0m in current revenue. As a result the current account balance shifted to a deficit of \$2.5m from a surplus of \$5.0m in the first quarter of 2005. A primary surplus (after grants) of \$12.1m was recorded compared with one of \$7.6m in the first quarter of 2005.

Growth in current expenditure stemmed from increases in interest payments, largely domestic, and outlays on transfers and subsidies. Domestic interest payments amounted to \$7.4m compared with \$1.3m in the first quarter of 2005, mainly reflecting payment to a local creditor following debt restructuring negotiations. Growth was also recorded in external interest payments, associated with a build-up of arrears. Spending related to transfers and subsidies rose by 28.5 per cent (\$3.1m), mainly reflecting grants and contributions to local institutions. Outlays on personal emoluments increased by 1.4 per cent (\$0.4m), while expenditure on goods and services contracted by 6.0 per cent (\$0.6m).

The increase in current revenue reflected larger receipts from tax sources, partly as a result of ongoing improvements in tax administration. Receipts from taxes on domestic goods and services rose by 41.4 per cent (\$6.0m), largely attributed to the introduction of the value added and excise taxes, collections from which amounted to \$4.1m. The value added tax (VAT) was introduced on 01 March 2006 to replace taxes on consumption, hotel occupancy, entertainment and sales. The VAT is levied at the rate of 15.0 per cent on taxable

activities; a reduced rate of 10.0 per cent is levied on hotel accommodation. Collections from taxes on international trade and transactions contracted by 9.5 per cent, mainly associated with the elimination of the consumption tax. Revenue from taxes on income and profit increased by 24.1 per cent, reflecting a larger intake from company tax (42.1 per cent) and personal income tax (17.2 per cent). The rise in receipts from company tax was primarily associated with increased profits by a major company. An increase in the number of employers paying the tax together with bonus payments during the quarter under review contributed to growth in receipts from personal income tax. Revenue from property tax rose by 29.7 per cent (\$0.4m), associated with increased receipts from land transfer taxes. Non-tax revenue fell by 23.2 per cent (\$1.5m), mainly reflecting declines in receipts from fees, fines and sales.



Capital expenditure was estimated to have declined by 2.3 per cent to \$17.8m in the first quarter of 2006 relative to the corresponding period of 2005, primarily due to a reduction in outlays on

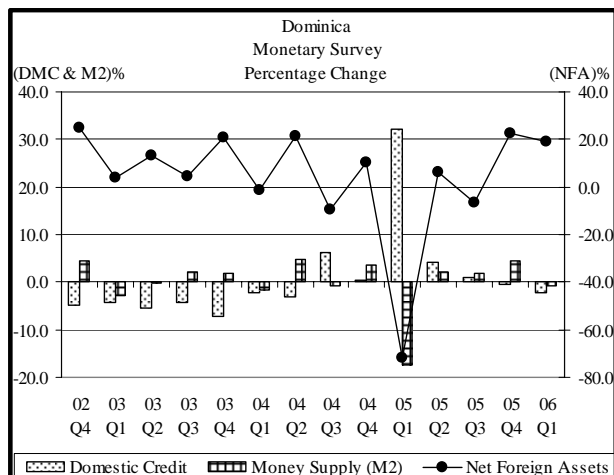
infrastructural projects. Capital grants amounted to \$15.4m, roughly 16.9 per cent above the total in the first three months of 2005, largely associated with the Windsor Park stadium project.

Money and Credit

Broad money (M2) increased by 4.3 per cent to \$654.1m during the period under review, mirroring growth in narrow money (M1) and quasi money. M1 rose by 6.9 per cent, influenced by an increase in private sector demand deposits, as currency with the public contracted. Quasi money expanded by 3.5 per cent, with increases recorded for all the components. Private sector time deposits and foreign currency deposits each increased by 5.2 per cent and savings deposits rose by 2.8 per cent.

Domestic credit grew by 4.0 per cent to \$405.9m, mainly reflecting increased borrowing by the private sector. Credit to the private sector rose by 7.2 per cent to \$512.2m, mirroring increases in outstanding loans to both businesses and households. The net indebtedness of the central government to the banking system fell by 62.7 per cent to \$6.6m, reflecting a reduction in credit coupled with an increase in deposits (13.1 per cent) associated with grant inflows. Credit to the central government contracted by 4.2 per cent, mainly reflecting a reduction in the Central Bank's holdings of debentures. In the rest of the public sector, the net deposits of the non-financial public enterprises rose by 26.2 per cent (\$10.4m), reflecting an expansion in deposits.





The distribution of credit by economic activity indicates relatively strong growth in outstanding loans for tourism (26.9 per cent), and manufacturing, mining and quarrying (17.1 per cent). Increases were also recorded in credit for distributive trades (6.8 per cent), and personal use (4.0 per cent), while outstanding loans for agriculture and fisheries, and construction fell by 3.0 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively.

The net foreign assets of the banking system increased by 4.4 per cent to \$332.1m at the end of March 2006 relative to the position at the end of December 2005. Dominica’s imputed share of the reserves held with the Central Bank rose by 8.3 per cent to \$143.7m. Growth of 1.7 per cent was recorded in the net foreign assets of commercial banks, primarily reflecting an increase in the net external assets held in financial institutions outside the currency union.

Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level during the period under review. The ratio of

liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities was 48.4 per cent at the end of March 2006, roughly 0.3 percentage point below the ratio at the beginning of the year. The loans and advances to deposits ratio rose by 1.5 percentage points to 59.5 per cent, as the increase in loans and advances (7.8 per cent) exceeded that in deposits (5.1 per cent).

Interest rates were unchanged during the period under review. The rates offered on savings deposits ranged from 3.0 per cent to 4.25 per cent, and those on time deposits ranged from 1.0 per cent to 6.0 per cent. Prime-lending rates ranged from 8.5 per cent to 10.0 per cent.

Prospects

The economic outlook for 2006 is positive, largely based on likely developments in construction and tourism. Work on the airport improvement project and the Windsor Park Stadium is expected to intensify and a road improvement and maintenance project is scheduled to start in the second half of 2006. Tourism activity is projected to expand based on ongoing promotional efforts. In addition, the start of operations of Caribbean Sun into Melville Hall airport from December 2005 and additional commercial flights into Canefield airport are likely to boost stay-over arrivals. Performance in the agricultural sector would be contingent on developments in the banana industry. Growth in the fisheries sub-sector is projected. Ongoing work to improve the operations at the Marigot Fisheries Complex is expected to result in an increase in fish

landed. In the manufacturing sector, growth in output of soap and dental cream is projected, based on an increase in demand for lower valued commodities.

The current account position of the central government is projected to improve in 2006. Current revenue is expected to increase, in line with the expansion in economic activity. The implementation of the value added tax (VAT) and excise tax in March 2006 is expected to be revenue neutral for the rest of the year. Current expenditure is projected to decline, partly based on lower interest payments as a result of the debt restructuring exercise. It is also likely that government will implement budgetary measures to further reduce the wage bill, in keeping with targets under the IMF's poverty reduction and growth facility arrangement. Capital expenditure is projected to increase as work intensifies on projects in the second half of 2006.

In the external sector the merchandise trade deficit is projected to widen, based on an increase in import payments associated with the expansion in construction, rising international fuel prices and the higher level of economic activity. Gross inflows from travel are expected to increase, associated with growth in visitor arrivals. Broad money and domestic credit are projected to expand, driven in part by increased private sector borrowing. Consumer prices are projected to increase, based on the prospects for international oil prices.

Risks to the projections include rising international oil prices and interest rates, unfavourable weather, the rate of grant disbursements, and the length of the adjustment period under the VAT regime and the associated new pricing mechanism.



GRENADA

Overview

Economic activity in the first quarter of 2006 was below the level in the corresponding period of 2005. This outturn stemmed largely from developments in the construction sector. Output in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors increased, while performance in the tourism industry was mixed. The consumer price index declined by 1.1 per cent on an end of period basis. The merchandise trade deficit widened reflecting an increase in import payments. The central government's fiscal operations yielded an overall surplus which was well above that in the first quarter of 2005. In the banking sector, monetary liabilities fell. Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level, while interest rates remained unchanged.

The economic outlook for the rest of 2006 is positive. Manufacturing and agricultural output is projected to be above the level of the corresponding period of 2005. Tourism activity is expected to increase, based on growth in cruise ship visitors, as well as stay-over arrivals as a result of the re-opening of major hotels. The pace of construction activity is likely to slow. Threats to the favourable projections for the domestic economy include rising oil prices and adverse weather.

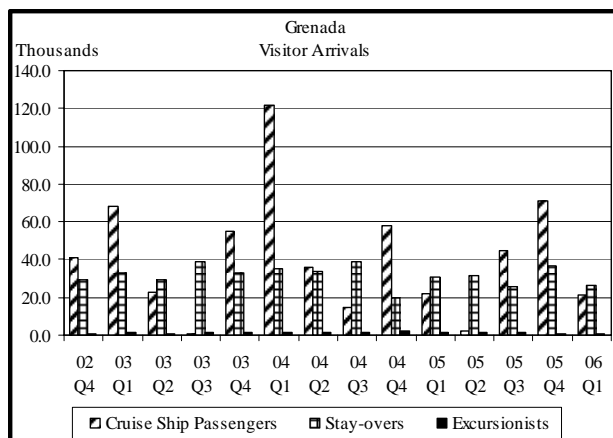
Output and Prices

Activity in the construction sector is estimated to have declined in the first quarter of 2006, in contrast to strong growth in the corresponding period of 2005. This outcome was attributed to the completion of major work on rehabilitating and reconstructing a number of buildings that were damaged by hurricane Ivan in September 2004. The decline in construction activity was evidenced in part by a fall in retail sales of building materials. Public sector activity in the period under review focussed on road and bridge maintenance, the second phase of the general hospital and constructing a stadium in preparation for Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007. Ongoing repairs to hotels, businesses and residential properties accounted for the bulk of private sector activity.

In the tourism industry the number of stay-over visitors increased by 37.5 per cent to 33,280, associated with the reopening of hotels that were closed in the first quarter of 2005. Increases were recorded in arrivals from the three major markets - Canada (92.5 per cent), Europe (85.7 per cent) and the USA (27.1 per cent). Of the other categories of visitors, the number of cruise ship passengers fell by 22.7 per cent to 114,491, reflecting in part a decrease in cruise ship calls and visits by smaller vessels.



The number of excursionists declined by 56.1 per cent to 930. Those declines contributed to a 14.4 per cent decrease to 151,056 in total visitors.

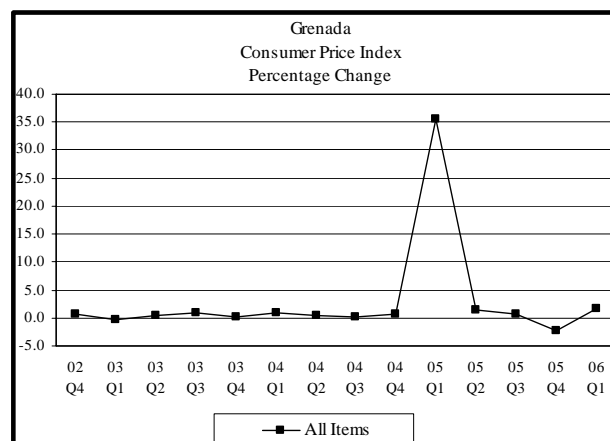


Agricultural performance improved in the first three months of 2006, reflecting a rebound in output of some traditional crops that sustained hurricane damage. Production of nutmeg, cocoa, and mace exceeded the outputs recorded in the first quarter of 2005. The increase in agricultural output was also influenced by a revitalisation programme implemented by the government.

Production in the manufacturing sector expanded in the first three months of 2006, as some enterprises resumed full operations following recovery from hurricane damage. Increases were recorded for prepared animal feed (43.8 per cent), and grain mill and bakery products (37.0 per cent) particularly flour. The overall increase in the sector's output was tempered by a 23.5 per cent reduction in chemical and paint production.

one of \$178.0m in the corresponding period of 2005. The widening of the deficit was attributed to an

The consumer price index declined by 1.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2006, reflecting a decrease in the sub-index fuel and light (11.2 per cent) as a result of a fall in prices of kerosene and liquid propane gas (LPG). Declines were also recorded for the sub-indices food (0.4 per cent), housing (0.8 per cent), and transport and communications (0.5 per cent), which together account for more than 62.0 per cent of the total weight in the basket of goods and services. The decrease in the food sub-index was attributed to the abundance of non-traditional crops on the domestic market as a result of the revitalisation programme. Prices in the housing sub-index fell as a result of a decrease in demand for construction materials, in line with the lower level of construction activity. The decrease in the transport and communications sub-index was associated with lower airfares.

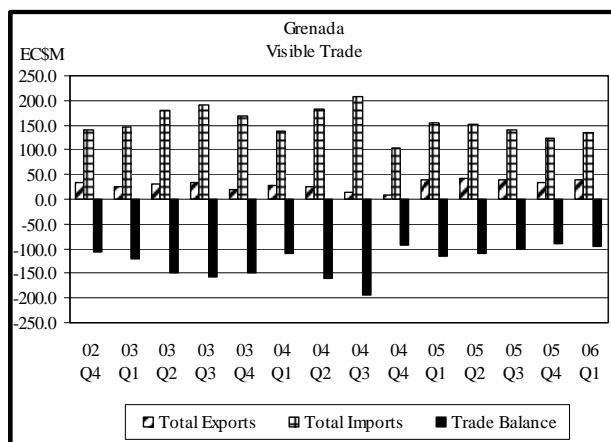


Trade and Payments

A merchandise trade deficit of \$197.0m was recorded in the first three months of 2006, up from increase in import payments and a decline in the value of exports. Payments for imports rose by 5.3



per cent to \$210.5m. The value of exports decreased by 38.6 per cent to \$13.5m primarily influenced by a decline in domestic export receipts. Earnings from nutmeg exports decreased by 74.3 per cent to \$2.2m due to a fall in the volume exported and in the average unit price per tonne. There were no exports of banana and cocoa. Gross receipts from travel are estimated to have increased by 75.5 per cent to \$96.0m, in line with growth in the number of stay-over visitors, the largest spending category.

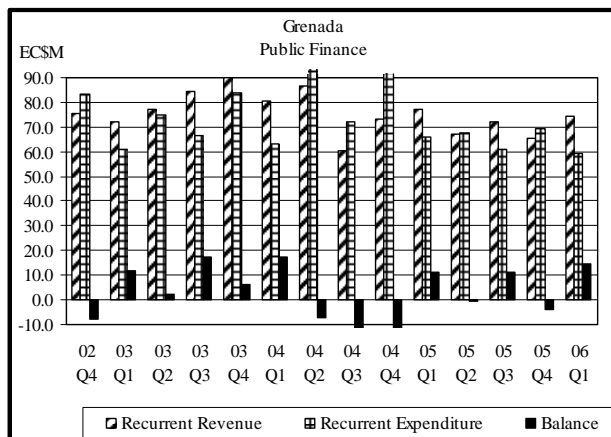


Commercial bank transactions resulted in a net inflow of \$16.7m during the first quarter of 2006 compared with one of \$18.9m in the corresponding period of 2005. External loan disbursements to the central government amounted to \$0.6m, well below that of \$11.4m in the first quarter of 2005. External principal repayments decreased by 19.4 per cent to \$2.9m, reflecting debt restructuring.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

The central government’s fiscal operations yielded a current account surplus of \$13.9m in the first quarter of 2006, exceeding the surplus of \$4.8m recorded in the corresponding period of 2005. This outturn was largely attributed to a 13.7 per cent increase to \$90.8m in current revenue, underpinned by larger collections from taxes on income and profit. Receipts from those taxes increased by 25.5 per cent, reflecting larger collections from both personal and company taxes as some businesses reopened. The yield from taxes on domestic goods and services grew by 35.7 per cent (\$5.3m), partly attributed to increases in receipts from consumption tax, as well as licenses associated with collection of arrears. Revenue from taxes on international trade and transactions decreased by 1.0 per cent, reflecting a fall in consumption tax receipts.

Current expenditure rose by 2.5 per cent to \$76.9m, with increases recorded in all sub-categories, except interest payments. Outlays on transfers and subsidies grew by 26.6 per cent associated with an increase in pension payments. Smaller rates of increases were recorded for expenditure on personal emoluments (7.8 per cent), and on goods and services (3.9 per cent). Interest payments declined by 45.5 per cent (\$4.9m) as a result of debt rescheduling.



Capital expenditure decreased by 29.6 per cent to \$21.6m mainly reflecting a lower level of public sector construction activity. Capital revenue amounted to \$7.8m well above the \$0.2m recorded in the first quarter of 2005, due in part to the sale of land. Total grants decreased by 95.9 per cent (\$49.1m); in the first quarter of 2005 grants rose substantially associated with hurricane relief and the reconstruction programme. The fall in grant receipts contributed to a smaller overall surplus - \$2.1m compared with \$25.5m in the first three months of 2005.

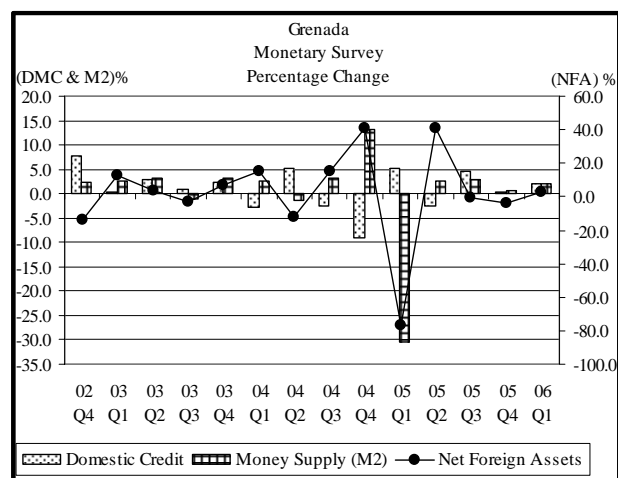
Money and Credit

Monetary liabilities (M2) fell by 1.1 per cent to \$1,453.3m in the first quarter of 2006 relative to the position at the end of December 2005. The decline in M2 was largely influenced by a 22.4 per cent (\$22.7m) fall in private sector foreign currency deposits, as some depositors drew down on their deposits to finance the rebuilding effort. Currency with the public also declined, by 4.6 per cent. Growth in M2 was tempered by increases in private

sector savings deposits (\$8.4m) and time deposits (\$2.5m).

Domestic credit grew by 0.9 per cent, reflecting in part increased borrowing by the private sector (2.0 per cent), mainly businesses. Net claims on the central government fell by 83.4 per cent (\$12.6m), mainly attributable to growth in deposits influenced in part by larger tax receipts. Credit to the central government grew by 1.3 per cent.

The distribution of credit by economic activity indicates relatively strong growth in credit for tourism (24.0 per cent). Increases were also recorded in credit for distributive trades, as well as for personal use largely for house and land purchase. Declines were recorded in credit for construction (20.5 per cent) reflecting the lower level of activity. Outstanding loans for agriculture and fisheries, and manufacturing decreased by 6.8 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively.



The counterpart to the fall in M2 was a 7.8 per cent reduction in the net foreign assets of the



banking system. Net foreign assets held by commercial banks declined by 20.8 per cent to \$63.7m, as banks decreased their external balances to meet increased demand for private sector credit. Grenada's imputed share of the reserves held by the ECCB fell by 3.6 per cent to \$245.2m.

Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level during the first three months of 2006. The loans and advances to total deposits ratio rose by 1.4 percentage points to 67.4 per cent, reflecting in part a 2.5 per cent increase in total loans and advances. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities fell by 2.2 percentage points to 28.8 per cent.

Interest rates were unchanged during the period under review. The rates on time deposits ranged from 1.0 per cent to 5.0 per cent, and those on savings deposits ranged from 3.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent. Prime lending rates were in the range of 8.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent.

Prospects

The economic outlook for 2006 is positive. Real GDP growth is projected at 1.1 per cent in 2006, based on expected developments in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors and the tourism industry. Growth in agricultural output is projected based on some recovery in the production of some crops, and assistance provided to farmers under the revitalisation programme implemented by government. In the tourism industry, growth in stay-

over arrivals are expected following the reopening of major hotels, and an increase in the number of hotel rooms. Cruise ship arrivals are expected to fall, as a number of the larger cruise liners will not be making calls to Grenada for the 2006 tourist season.

Post-Ivan reconstruction, work on the new stadium and construction of hotels and private residences will comprise the bulk of construction activity in 2006.

The current account operations of the central government are likely to improve. New tax measures, including the National Reconstruction Levy, are expected to have a positive impact on the current account balance. A decrease in interest payments is projected as a result of the restructuring of government debt. Capital expenditure is projected to increase associated with ongoing reconstruction activity and preparations for CWC 2007. Growth in capital expenditure, however, will likely contribute to an overall deficit.

The merchandise trade deficit is projected to widen based on an increase in import payments associated with rising oil prices. Gross inflows from travel are projected to rise in line with the anticipated growth in stay-over arrivals.

High oil prices are likely to contribute to a rise in consumer prices and the merchandise trade deficit. Unfavourable weather conditions also pose a risk to the positive outlook for the economy.



MONTSERRAT

Overview

The economy of Montserrat is estimated to have contracted in the first quarter of 2006 relative to the corresponding period in 2005, largely attributed to a downturn in construction activity. The consumer price index declined by 0.5 per cent. The merchandise trade deficit widened as a result of an increase in import payments. The overall fiscal deficit narrowed, reflecting reduced capital expenditure coupled with an increase in grant receipts. Consistent with the decline in economic activity monetary liabilities decreased and private sector credit fell.

The prospects for the economy for the remainder of 2006 largely depend on developments in the construction sector. Increased activity in that sector would be contingent on the level of grants and inflows of foreign direct investment. Continued volcanic eruptions may however dampen the prospects for any significant increase in investment activity required to provide a boost to the economy.

Output and Prices

The fall in construction activity in the first quarter of 2006 was attributed to the completion of major public sector projects in 2005. Activity in the quarter under review focused on private sector construction of residential and commercial properties, partly supported by commercial bank

lending. This was evidenced by an increase in commercial bank loans for home construction and renovation during the quarter under review.

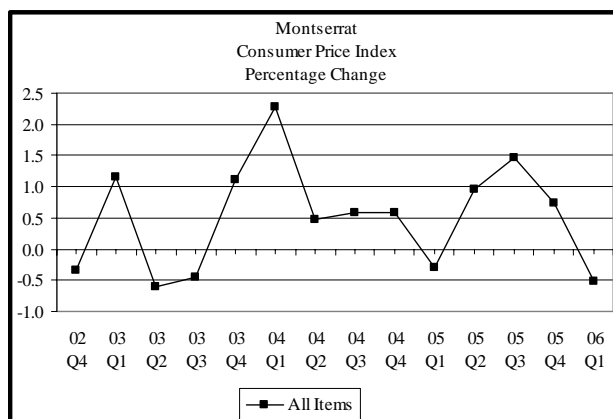
Tourism activity is estimated to have contracted in the period under review, as a result of the discontinuation of the ferry service between Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda, coupled with the ongoing threat of volcanic eruptions. Stay-over arrivals fell by 6.2 per cent to 2,136, reflecting decreases in the number of visitors from the UK and the Caribbean. The number of excursionists was 68.0 per cent below that in the first quarter of 2005. Those declines led to a 29.7 per cent decrease to 2,833 in total visitor arrivals to Montserrat.

Output in the agricultural sector expanded as production of vegetables and crops more than doubled to 46,365 pounds. Increases were recorded in output of banana, cabbage, christophene, carrot, onion and sweet potato. In the rest of the agricultural sector, the volume of fish caught rose by 8.4 per cent to 32,665 pounds.

Consumer prices fell by 0.5 per cent (on an end of period basis) during the first quarter of 2006, reflecting decreases in all the sub-indices. Notable declines were recorded for the sub-indices household goods (3.0 per cent) and gas, electricity and water (2.6 per cent). The fall in the household sub-index was largely attributed to a decrease in the price of pressure cookers. Reductions in the retail price of



fuel, on account of a fall in international oil prices during the first quarter of 2006, were largely responsible for the decrease in the sub-index gas, electricity and water. Montserrat uses the full pass-through oil pricing mechanism, in which increases/decreases in oil prices are passed on to the consumer.



Trade and Payments

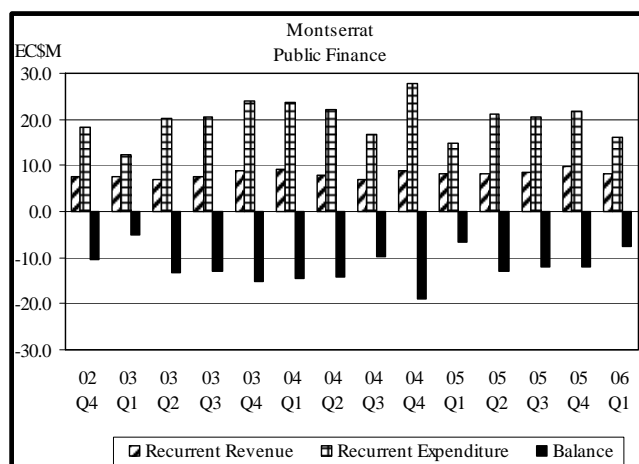
A merchandise trade deficit of \$18.9m was recorded in the first quarter of 2006, well above the deficit of \$15.8m in the corresponding period of 2005. The widening of the deficit stemmed from growth of 19.1 per cent (\$3.1m) in import payments, partly reflecting increases in the value of food and fuel imports. The value of exports grew by 17.0 per cent to \$0.6m. Gross travel receipts decreased by 41.3 per cent to \$6.6m, reflecting the downturn in visitor arrivals.

Total grant receipts amounted to \$4.7m, mainly reflecting budgetary support from the British government. The external transactions of the commercial banking sector led to a net inflow of

\$3.9m in short term capital compared with one of \$13.2m in the first quarter of 2005.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

The central government’s fiscal operations resulted in an overall deficit of \$6.7m in the first quarter of 2006, well below the deficit of \$9.6m in the first quarter of 2005. The narrowing of the deficit was on account of the receipt of current grants, which amounted to \$4.7m; in the first quarter of 2005 there was no receipt of grants.

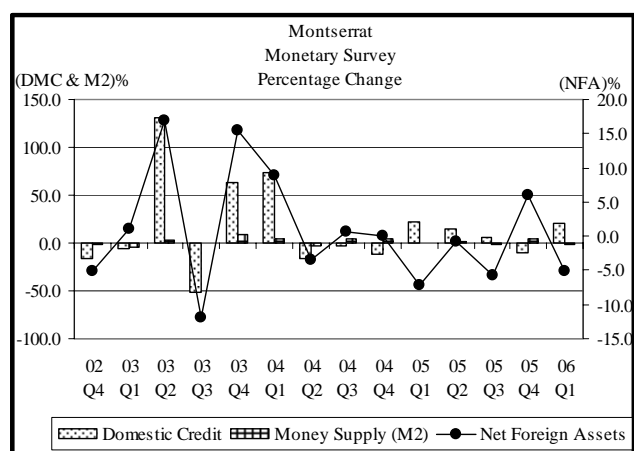


The current account deficit (before grants) was \$9.0m compared with \$6.5m in the first quarter of 2005. The larger deficit was the result of a contraction in current revenue coupled with increased current expenditure. Current revenue fell by 7.8 per cent to \$7.6m, reflecting the decline in economic activity. Receipts from all tax categories were smaller, except for those from taxes on income and profits which were virtually unchanged. Current expenditure grew by 12.3 per cent to \$16.6m, primarily reflecting larger outlays on personal

emoluments attributable to salary increases to civil servants in May 2005, at rates ranging from 8.0 per cent to 14.0 per cent. Capital expenditure fell by 23.7 per cent, reflecting the completion of major construction projects.

Money and Credit

Monetary liabilities declined by 1.4 per cent to \$122.0m at the end of March 2006 compared with the total at the end of December 2005, consistent with the lower level of economic activity. The stock of narrow money (comprising currency with the public and private sector demand deposits) contracted by 8.0 per cent, largely reflecting a decrease in private sector demand deposits. Quasi money rose by 0.9 per cent on account of increases in private sector savings and foreign currency deposits, as time deposits fell.



Commercial bank claims on the private sector declined by 0.7 per cent during the quarter under review. This outcome reflected a reduction in outstanding loans to businesses, in line with the

lower level of economic activity. Net deposits of the central government fell by 14.2 per cent, attributed to a fall in its deposits with commercial banks. In the rest of the public sector, net deposits of the non-financial public enterprises decreased by 4.3 per cent, reflecting a decline in deposits.

The distribution of credit by economic activity indicates very little changes in lending for most of the activities. However, credit for home construction and renovation rose by 2.2 per cent, in line with the increase in private sector residential construction activity. Outstanding loans for distributive trades fell by 2.6 per cent reflecting the decline in economic activity.

The net foreign assets of the banking system fell by 5.2 per cent to \$150.8m during the period under review. Montserrat's imputed share of the Central Bank's reserves fell by 9.3 per cent and commercial banks' net foreign assets were down by 3.9 per cent.

Liquidity in the commercial banking system declined, but remained at a high level during the period under review. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities fell by 1.8 percentage points to 105.6 per cent. The ratio of loans and advances to total deposits rose by 0.8 percentage point to 16.1 per cent. Interest rates remained unchanged, except for the maximum rates on 3 to 6 months time deposits and 1 to 2 years time deposits which increased to 4.0 per cent at the end of March 2006 from 2.0 per cent and 1.5 per cent respectively at the end of 2005.



Prospects

Economic activity in Montserrat is projected to decrease in 2006, based on first quarter performance and likely developments in the rest of the year. The construction sector, which drove economic activity in the recent past, is projected to contract in 2006. Despite plans to start a housing project in the second quarter it is unlikely that construction activity will be above the level in 2005. The resurgence in volcanic eruptions is likely to dampen prospects of any major private investment on the island. The discontinuation of the ferry service, coupled with the ongoing threat of volcanic eruptions, is likely to result in a decline in visitor arrivals. Although agricultural production increased in the first quarter, further increases in production in the rest of 2006

would depend on the impact of volcanic activity on vegetable and root crop cultivation.

On the central government's fiscal operations, growth in current expenditure is projected partly as a result of salary increases in 2006, and ash cleaning activities associated with the recent volcanic eruption. An increase in capital expenditure is likely, as some equipment used by the Montserrat Volcano Observatory sustained damage during the recent eruption and would need to be replaced. The rate of implementation of the public sector investment programme would be contingent on the level of grant receipts, particularly from the British government. Continued external support is required if further economic decline is to be averted.



ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Overview

Economic activity is estimated to have expanded in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the outturn in the corresponding period of 2005. This assessment is largely based on increased activity in the construction sector. Performance in the tourism industry was mixed, while output in the agricultural and manufacturing sectors declined as a result of the closure of the sugar industry. The consumer price index rose by 0.8 per cent. The overall fiscal deficit of the federal government increased, largely on account of higher capital expenditure. In the banking sector, monetary liabilities increased and commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level.

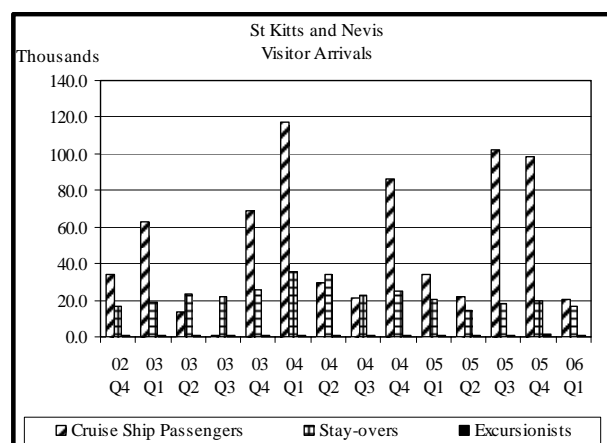
For the remainder of 2006, economic growth will continue to be underpinned by construction activity. In the tourism industry stay-over arrivals are projected to increase, while cruise ship passengers are expected to contract. The fiscal operations of the federal government are projected to result in a larger overall deficit. The risks to the projections include rising international oil prices and interest rates, and unfavourable weather.

Output and Prices

The increase in construction activity in the first quarter of 2006 was fuelled by both the public and private sectors. Activity in the public sector included the Warner Park stadium development,

airport expansion, construction of a fisheries complex, hospital upgrade and road development. The major private sector projects were construction of commercial properties at Port Zante, a racecourse, and villa and housing development. The expansion in construction was reflected in increases in the volume of imports of cement (12.1 per cent) and lumber (76.7 per cent).

Complete data on visitor arrivals to St Kitts and Nevis are not available for the period under review. Estimates of visitor arrivals indicate that the number of stay-over visitors rose by 2.6 per cent, while that of cruise ship passengers fell by 8.0 per cent. Consequently, total visitor arrivals are estimated to have decreased by 5.2 per cent to 151,598 in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the amount in the corresponding period of 2005.



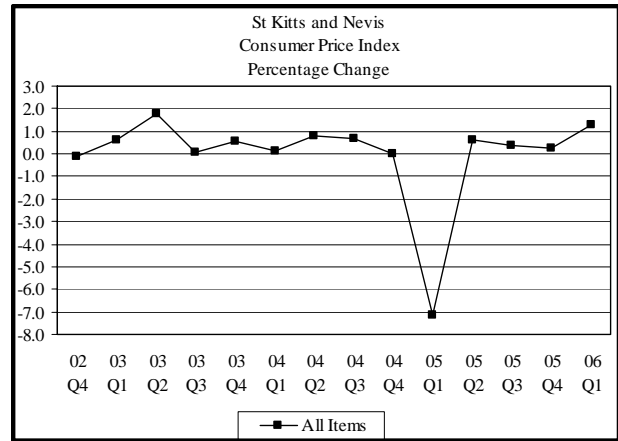
Agricultural output is estimated to have contracted, largely on account of the discontinuation of sugar cane harvesting following the closure of the

sugar industry in July 2005. Output of vegetables and root crops declined marginally. Production of beef, mutton and eggs also fell, while output of goat and pork increased as a result of a higher level of domestic demand.

In the manufacturing sector, output is estimated to have decreased primarily attributable to the discontinuation of sugar and molasses production. Data on USA imports of non-sugar manufactured goods from St Kitts and Nevis show a 0.5 per cent increase in import payments in the period under review, largely associated with growth in export of electronic components. The production of blocks and pre-mixed concrete is estimated to have increased, based on the larger volume of cement imported and the expansion in construction activity. Production of beverages also rose, reflecting an increase in export demand.

The consumer price index rose by 0.8 per cent on an end-of-period basis. The food sub-index, the largest weighted, rose by 2.9 per cent, largely reflecting an increase in the price of bakery products. An increase in house rent, attributed to a rise in demand for housing, was partly responsible for growth of 1.3 per cent in the housing sub-index. The alcohol and tobacco sub-index rose by 1.0 per cent as a result of new tariffs imposed on these products in January 2006. Those increases were partly offset by declines in the sub-indices

household furnishings and supplies, and miscellaneous items.



Trade and Payments

Complete trade statistics are not available for the period under review. Data on cargo throughput for St Kitts only, indicate that the volume of imports increased by 1.5 per cent, while the volume of exports fell by 64.3 per cent. The relatively large decline in the volume of exports was primarily attributed to a reduction in exports of molasses on account of the closure of the sugar industry. By contrast, the volume of beverages exported rose substantially, reflecting an increase in demand.

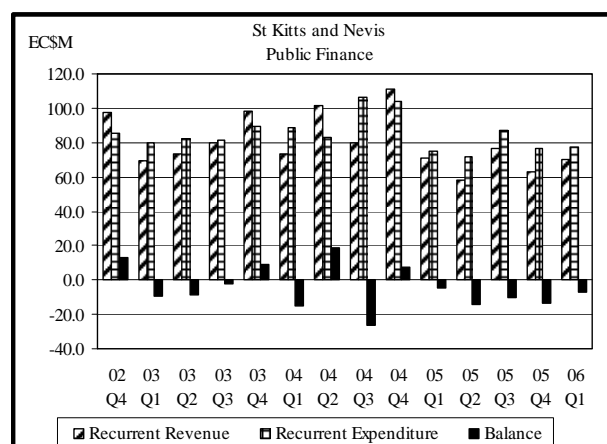
Gross travel receipts are estimated to have increased by 2.8 per cent to \$99.8m, mirroring the growth in stay-over arrivals. The federal government received \$2.0m in external loan financing while repaying \$21.1m. Commercial bank transactions resulted in a net inflow of \$40.0m in short-term capital.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

The fiscal operations of the federal government resulted in an overall deficit of \$6.4m in the first quarter of 2006, compared with one of \$4.4m in the corresponding period of 2005. The widening of the deficit resulted from increased capital expenditure. Capital outlays more than doubled to \$20.0m, associated with the Warner Park stadium development, a fisheries complex in Old Road, and upgrading of the hospital in Nevis. Capital expenditure was financed largely by domestic borrowing. Capital grants amounted to \$4.9m, largely for the stadium project. A primary surplus of \$18.4m was recorded, slightly above the surplus of \$17.9m in the first quarter of 2005.

Preliminary data reveal that the federal government realised a current account surplus of \$7.1m, well above that of \$0.3m in the first quarter of 2005. This improvement was influenced by strong growth in revenue relative to the increase in expenditure. Current revenue rose by 24.6 per cent to \$118.3m, reflecting increased receipts from both tax and non-tax sources. Of tax revenue, collections from taxes on domestic goods and services almost doubled. This performance was attributed to a more than four-fold increase in receipts from stamp duty, mainly associated with land sales for hotel and villa development. Proceeds from taxes on property almost tripled to \$3.8m, as a result of higher receipts from land tax. Revenue from taxes on international trade and transactions rose by 8.2 per cent (\$2.9m). This outturn was partly influenced by the expansion

in economic activity and ongoing improvements in tax administration. Collections from taxes on income and profits fell by 19.3 per cent (\$3.8m) on account of a decrease in revenue from corporate income tax. This development was attributed to adjustments made by the Inland Revenue Department to the taxable income of some companies in 2005. Non-tax revenue rose by 33.8 per cent (\$8.0m), partly reflecting increases in interest and dividends, and larger collections by the Electricity Department.



Current expenditure grew by 17.6 per cent to \$111.2m, largely attributable to increases in outlays on transfers and subsidies, goods and services, and interest payments. Outlays on transfers and subsidies rose by 87.8 per cent (\$8.7m), partly representing severance payments to former sugar workers in March 2006. Expenditure on goods and services was 17.7 per cent (\$4.0m) above the total in the first quarter of 2005. Growth was driven in part by an increase in operating and maintenance costs for electricity generation, as a result of the rise in fuel prices. Debt servicing on behalf of the St Kitts



Sugar Manufacturing Corporation (SSMC) was partly responsible for an 11.3 per cent (\$2.5m) increase in interest payments. Expenditure on personal emoluments rose by 3.5 per cent (\$1.4m).

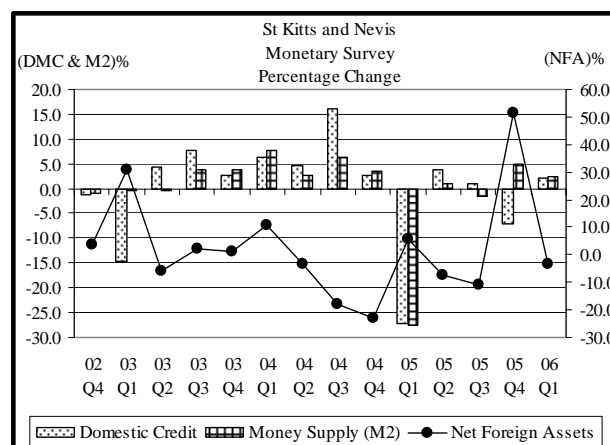
On the central government’s fiscal accounts, the overall deficit stood at \$5.3m in the first quarter of 2006, indicating a narrowing compared with the deficit of \$7.2m in the first quarter of 2005. This outturn was attributed to increased receipts of capital grants (\$1.6m) and an improvement in the current account operations. A current account surplus of \$2.4m was realised in contrast to a deficit in the first quarter of 2005. Current revenue rose by 27.9 per cent partly reflecting an increase in stamp duties. Current expenditure grew by 19.0 per cent largely on account of the rise in fuel prices, and severance payments to former sugar workers. Capital expenditure rose by \$7.3m to \$14.3m.

In the case of the Nevis Island Administration, the fiscal operations resulted in an overall deficit of \$1.1m in the first quarter of 2006, in contrast to a surplus of \$2.8m in the corresponding period of 2005. This outcome was attributed to a higher level of capital expenditure which increased more than fivefold to \$5.7m. A current account surplus of \$4.6m was recorded, as growth in current revenue (12.5 per cent) exceeded that of current expenditure (10.8 per cent). The higher rate of growth in revenue was largely on account of an increase in collections of stamp duties, associated with land sales.

Money and Credit

Monetary liabilities (M2) grew by 7.1 per cent to \$1,233.1m during the first quarter of 2006, compared with an 11.5 per cent increase in the corresponding period of 2005. Narrow money (M1) rose by 9.9 per cent, reflecting growth in private sector demand deposits (17.0 per cent) which was partly offset by a 6.4 per cent reduction in currency with the public. Quasi money rose by 6.7 per cent on account of increases in private sector foreign currency, time and savings deposits.

The counterpart to the growth in M2 was an increase in domestic credit, which was 4.3 per cent above the level at the end of December 2005. The net indebtedness of the federal government to the banking system grew by 11.0 per cent, largely as a result of increased borrowing by the central government, associated with severance payments to former sugar workers. Credit to the private sector also rose, by 3.5 per cent, reflecting increased credit to businesses (6.1 per cent) and households (2.1 per cent).



The distribution of credit by economic activity indicates a relatively strong increase in credit for manufacturing, mining and quarrying (19.3 per cent), largely representing borrowing by a manufacturing establishment. Outstanding loans for construction also rose, by 6.2 per cent, consistent with the expansion in activity in that sector. Credit for personal use was 2.2 per cent above the level at the end of December 2005, mainly reflecting growth in outstanding loans for the acquisition of property.

The net foreign assets of the banking system amounted to \$215.7m at the end of the quarter under review, representing an 11.9 per cent decline on the level at the end of the previous quarter. This outcome was largely as a result of developments in the commercial banking sector. The net foreign assets of commercial banks fell by 77.4 per cent, on account of an increase in liabilities to institutions in other ECCB territories. St Kitts and Nevis' imputed share of the Central Bank's reserves grew by 5.7 per cent to \$204.0m.

Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level during the first quarter of 2006. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities rose by 1.2 percentage points to 40.3 per cent. The loans and advances to deposits ratio increased by 0.3 percentage point to 80.7 per cent at the end of March 2006. Interest rates remained unchanged during the quarter under review. The rates on savings deposits ranged from 3.0 per cent to 5.5 per cent, and those on time deposits were in the range of 1.0 per cent to

6.5 per cent. Prime lending rates ranged from 8.5 per cent to 9.0 per cent.

Prospects

Economic activity is expected to increase in 2006, fuelled by growth in construction and tourism. In the public sector, construction activity will focus on completing the Warner Park stadium, expanding the airport, the Old Road fisheries complex and constructing and rehabilitating roads. Activity in the private sector will include ongoing construction of commercial buildings at Port Zante, hotel and villa development, the La Vallee Greens tourism facility project, a racecourse, and residential development.

In the tourism industry, stay-over arrivals are projected to increase as a result of the hosting of international cricket matches and a number of regional and international conferences. Agricultural output will decline, primarily due to the closure of the sugar industry.

In 2006 the fiscal operations of the federal government will likely result in an improvement in the current account balance, influenced by an increase in revenue. Current revenue growth will result from increased receipts from stamp duties associated with land sales for hotel and villa development. New taxes introduced in 2006, and increased collections from the Electricity Department with the implementation of the fuel surcharge in late 2005 will also contribute to growth



in revenue. Current expenditure is expected to increase but at a rate below that of current revenue. Rising oil prices are expected to lead to increases in outlays on goods and services and contribute to growth in expenditure. The overall deficit is expected to widen as a result of increased capital expenditure associated with infrastructural development projects.



SAINT LUCIA

Overview

Economic activity in Saint Lucia is estimated to have expanded in the first three months of 2006 compared with the corresponding period of 2005. This performance was influenced by developments in the construction sector. Activity in the tourism industry and agricultural sector declined. The consumer price index (CPI) decreased by 2.5 per cent during the period under review. The merchandise trade deficit narrowed, reflecting a decrease in the value of imports. The central government's fiscal operations resulted in a narrowing of the overall deficit. Monetary liabilities increased. However, liquidity in the commercial banking system remained tight, and interest rates were unchanged.

Sustained economic growth is projected for the remainder of 2006, based on ongoing and planned activities in the construction sector. Rising petroleum prices on the international market and unfavourable weather are among the factors that pose some downside risks to the prospects for economic growth in 2006.

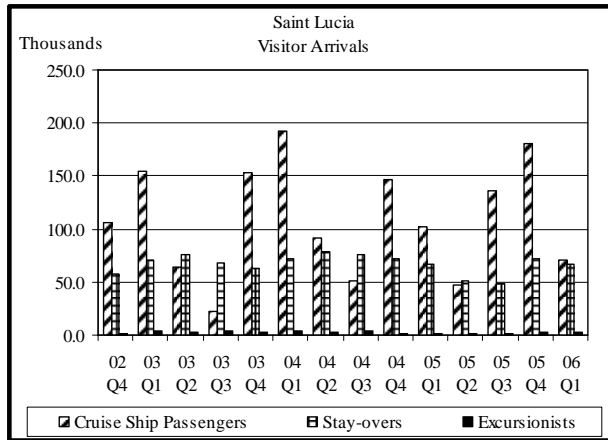
Output and Prices

Construction activity is estimated to have increased in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the corresponding period of 2005, largely driven by a number of new and ongoing public and private

sector projects. In the public sector, work focused on two new schools, as well as renovating and expanding schools in preparation for the introduction of the government's universal secondary education programme in the latter half of 2006. Other projects included a psychiatric hospital, the Castries drainage project, expanding the seating capacity in the stadium, and upgrading roads and bridges. Private sector activity concentrated on building and expanding a number of hotel properties, as well as apartments and villas. A major tourist attraction – the Rainforest Sky Rides - was completed in the period under review.

Activity in the tourism industry contracted, as evidenced by decreases in the major categories of visitors. The number of stay-over visitors fell by 2.3 per cent to 81,666 in the first three months of 2006 compared with the corresponding period of 2005. The decline primarily reflected a 12.4 per cent reduction to 21,548 in stay-over arrivals from the UK, a major market. Decreases were also recorded in the number of stay-over visitors from France (64.7 per cent) and Germany (41.1 per cent). Those decreases more than offset increases in stay-over arrivals from the USA (8.4 per cent), Canada (5.5 per cent), and the Caribbean (4.1 per cent). Hotel occupancy rates in Saint Lucia averaged 71.7 per cent in the quarter under review compared with 72.0 per cent in the corresponding period of 2005, partly reflecting the fall in stay-over arrivals.





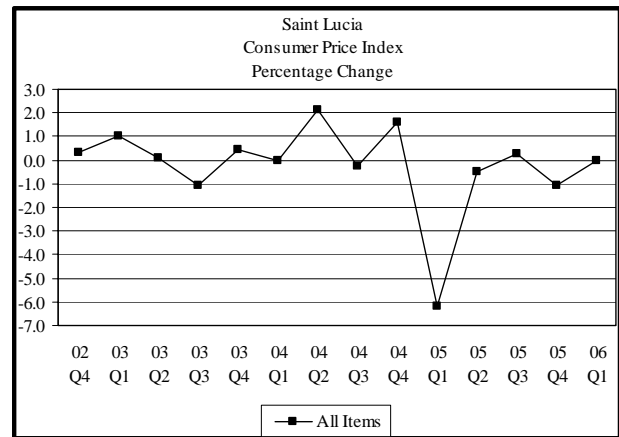
Cruise ship passenger arrivals declined by 8.0 per cent to 165,528, in spite of a 15.6 per cent increase to 141 in the number of cruise ship calls. This outturn was partly as a result of smaller size cruise vessels visiting Saint Lucia. The number of excursionists more than doubled, while yacht passenger arrivals fell by 13.7 per cent.

Output in the agricultural sector continued to decline in the quarter under review, attributed to developments in the banana industry. Banana production decreased by 5.5 per cent to 7,072 tonnes, the lowest recorded in the first quarter of the last five years. This outturn reflected in part the lagged effect of leaf spot infestation and the ongoing exit of some farmers from the industry, as a result of increases in the cost of inputs and adjustments to the banana trade regime by the World Trade Organisation. Data on other agricultural crops were unavailable.

Preliminary data on manufacturing activity indicated that production of manufactured goods was above the level in the first quarter of 2005. The

higher level of production was influenced by increases in output of food, beverages, and cardboard boxes.

The consumer price index fell by 2.5 per cent during the first quarter of 2006. This reduction was attributed to decreases in the sub-indices food (2.6 per cent), the highest weighted, fuel and light (0.9 per cent), and transportation and communication (0.5 per cent). The relatively large decline in the food sub-index reflected decreases in prices of vegetables, tubers and frozen meat. The fall in prices in those sub-indices was partly offset by increases in the sub-indices medical care and health (5.7 per cent), and alcoholic beverages and tobacco (1.7 per cent).



Trade and Payments

Complete trade data for the quarter under review are not available. The merchandise trade deficit is estimated to have widened as import payments would have increased as a result of the expansion in construction activity and increases in the value of fuel-related imports. In the case of domestic

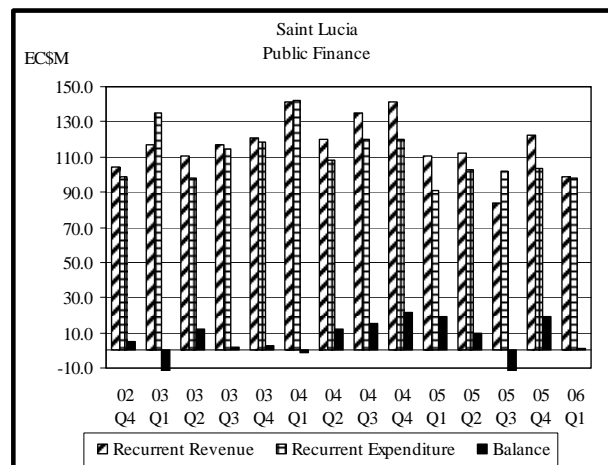
exports, receipts from bananas fell by 3.6 per cent to \$9.7m, reflecting a decrease in the volume exported. Gross travel receipts are estimated to have declined by 4.0 per cent to \$261.2m, attributable to the fall in visitor arrivals. The activities of commercial banks resulted in a net outflow of \$78.7m in short term capital during the first quarter of 2006. External loan disbursements to the central government amounted to \$53.8m, and amortisation payments totalled \$7.2m.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

The central government recorded an overall deficit of \$61.9m on its fiscal operations in the first three months of 2006, compared with one of \$72.1m in the corresponding period of 2005. An 8.8 per cent decline to \$86.1m in capital expenditure accounted for the narrowing of the overall deficit.

The current fiscal operations of the central government yielded a surplus of \$22.1m in the first three months of 2006, compared with one of \$22.3m in the corresponding period of 2005. Current revenue rose by 12.1 per cent to \$180.5m, partly influenced by the expansion in economic activity. Receipts from taxes, which accounted for 88.8 per cent of total revenue, grew by 9.7 per cent, reflecting increases in all categories of taxes. Growth in receipts from taxes on domestic goods and services was substantial, at 20.2 per cent, attributable to increases in collections from consumption duties and licences. The yield from taxes on income and profits rose by 14.8 per cent, reflecting an increase in

income tax receipts. Revenue from taxes on international trade and transactions grew by 2.5 per cent. Non-tax revenue was 35.8 per cent above the total in the first quarter of 2005, influenced by a threefold increase in collections from interest and dividends.



Current expenditure amounted to \$158.3m, representing a 14.1 per cent increase on the total in the first three months of 2005. The higher level of expenditure was largely attributed to a 29.3 per cent increase in outlays on personal emoluments, due in part to retroactive salary payments in January 2006. An 11.0 per cent increase in outlays on goods and services also contributed to growth in current expenditure. Interest payments rose marginally as an increase in external interest payments was almost offset by a decrease in domestic interest payments.

Money and Credit

Broad money (M2) grew by 6.2 per cent to \$1,817.2m during the first quarter of 2006, in line



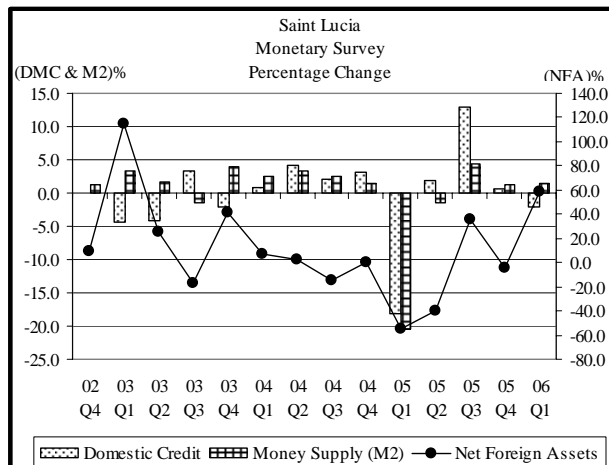
with the expansion in economic activity. The expansion in M2 was largely influenced by a 7.0 per cent increase in quasi money, reflecting growth in private sector savings deposits, time deposits and foreign currency deposits. Narrow money expanded by 4.1 per cent attributed to a rise in demand deposits, as currency with the public fell.

Domestic credit rose by 3.2 per cent to \$1,834.7m, partly influenced by an increase in outstanding loans to the private sector. Credit to the private sector rose by 2.1 per cent largely attributable to an increase in outstanding loans to private businesses. The net deposits of the non-financial public enterprises declined by 7.9 per cent, as credit increased while deposits fell. Credit to the central government decreased by 1.9 per cent, while its deposits with the banking system fell by 1.3 per cent. Consequently the net deposits of the central government increased by 0.8 per cent to \$85.5m.

(5.3 per cent). Outstanding loans for personal use declined by 0.4 per cent, reflecting a decline in credit for house and land purchases.

The net foreign assets of the banking system rose by 67.3 per cent to \$141.3m, influenced by developments in the commercial banking sector. A 17.1 per cent increase in commercial bank assets held with banks in the rest of the currency union and abroad resulted in a 36.1 per cent decrease to \$139.4m in their net liabilities. Saint Lucia's imputed share of the reserves of the Central Bank declined by 7.2 per cent to \$280.7m.

Commercial bank liquidity remained tight at the end of March 2006. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities remained virtually unchanged at 21.7 per cent during the period under review. The loans and advances to total deposits ratio fell 1.6 percentage points to 84.1 per cent at the end of the first quarter of 2006.



Interest rates remained unchanged during the first quarter of 2006. The rates on savings deposits ranged from 3.0 per cent to 4.8 per cent, and those on time deposits ranged from 1.0 per cent to 4.0 per cent. Prime lending rates ranged from 9.5 per cent to 10.0 per cent.

Prospects

The economy is projected to continue on a high growth path in 2006, based on ongoing and planned developments in the construction sector.

An analysis of the distribution of credit by economic activity indicates increases in outstanding loans for tourism (6.6 per cent) and manufacturing

Construction activity will intensify on at least two major hotels and various smaller properties, and two large hotels scheduled to be completed in the latter part of 2006. The tourism industry is expected to benefit from an increase in airlift and further penetration of the target markets particularly the US, the major market. However, visitor arrivals from the UK are projected to decrease, as potential tourists from that market are likely to postpone travel plans until the Cricket World Cup event in 2007. The outlook for the agricultural sector is contingent on developments in the banana industry for the rest of 2006.

On the central government's fiscal accounts, growth in current revenue is projected partly based on the expansion in economic activity. Increases in salaries, and outlays on goods and services partly associated with higher fuel cost, are likely to contribute to growth in current expenditure. The overall deficit is expected to widen, based on increased capital expenditure as work intensifies on

infrastructural projects in preparation for Cricket World Cup 2007 and the implementation of the universal secondary education programme. The fiscal gap will be financed from external sources, as well as from domestic sources, particularly through bond issues on the Regional Government Securities Market.

In the external sector, a widening of the merchandise trade deficit is projected, based on an increase in the value of imports partly associated with rising international oil prices and the higher level of economic activity.

A major risk to the projection for growth in economic activity in Saint Lucia is high and rising petroleum prices on the international market. Further increases in oil prices can have an adverse impact on tourist travel particularly from the major markets, on consumer prices, and the fiscal accounts of the central government.



ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Overview

Economic activity in St Vincent and the Grenadines expanded in the first quarter of 2006 relative to the performance in the corresponding period of 2005. The expansion was underpinned by favourable developments in the construction sector and a rebound in output in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. The consumer price index increased by 0.3 per cent. The fiscal operations of the central government resulted in a lower overall deficit compared with that in the first three months of 2005. The merchandise trade deficit widened, reflecting higher import payments. Commercial bank liquidity remained at a high level during the first quarter.

Economic prospects for the rest of 2006 are favourable compared with the outturn in the corresponding period of 2005. Real GDP is projected to expand based on expected developments in tourism and construction. Among the downside risks to the projection, however, are oil price volatility, adverse weather, and unfavourable international economic developments.

Output and Prices

Activity in the construction sector was buoyed by ongoing public sector projects, including a new headquarters for St Vincent and the Grenadines' National Insurance Services (NIS), a diesel plant, a

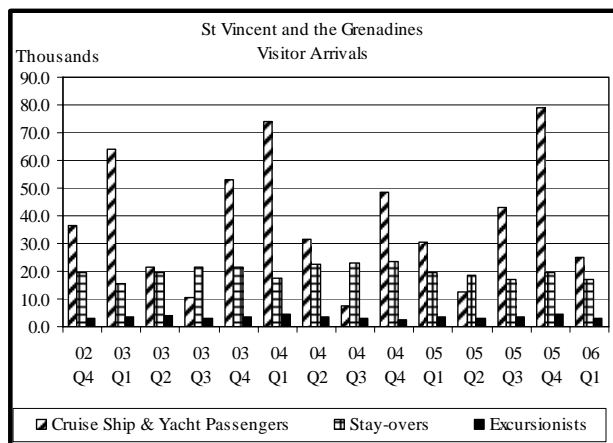
new prison, low-income houses and rehabilitation of the Windward Highway. Private sector activity was primarily driven by residential construction.

Performance in the manufacturing sector is estimated to have improved during the quarter under review, reflecting increases in production of building materials such as galvanised sheets (48.3 per cent) and PVC pipes (11.0 per cent), fuelled by the expansion in construction activity. Rice production grew by 45.5 per cent, in contrast to a 2.9 per cent decline in the first quarter of 2005. Aggressive marketing and the opening of a direct distribution operation in St Kitts and Nevis in November 2005 contributed to the turnaround. Increases were also recorded in output of animal feeds (10.4 per cent) and flour (10.2 per cent), attributable to a higher level of demand in the domestic and regional markets.

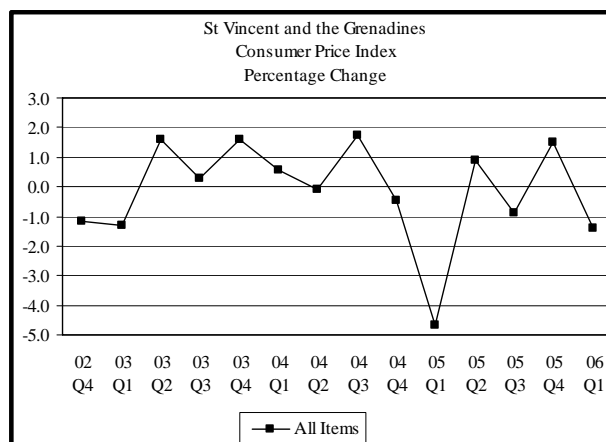
Agricultural output is estimated to have increased in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the total in the corresponding period of 2005, attributable to a rebound in banana production, the major activity in that sector. Banana output increased by 4.8 per cent to 4,682 tonnes. This performance contrasts with the outturn in the first three months of 2005 when production fell by 41.4 per cent, on account of a prolonged period of bad weather. Non-banana production also improved, due to favourable weather and diversification initiatives.



Performance in the tourism industry was mixed in the first quarter of 2006 compared with the outturn in the first quarter of 2005. The number of cruise ship passengers increased by 78.9 per cent to 53,932, in contrast to a 30.9 per cent fall in the corresponding period of 2005. Growth was influenced by an increase in cruise ship calls, which amounted to 135 in the period under review, more than double the total recorded in the first quarter of 2005. Yacht passenger arrivals increased by 16.1 per cent to 38,539, and the number of excursionists rose by 6.2 per cent. Stay-over arrivals are estimated to have decreased by 3.2 per cent to 24,443. This outturn contrasts with the performance in the first quarter of 2005 when arrivals increased by 43.4 per cent, associated with the reopening of two hotels in mid-2004 and the filming of a Disney movie by a 300-member crew in the first quarter of 2005. The fall in stay-over arrivals was more than offset by increases in the other categories of visitors. Consequently, total visitor arrivals rose by 31.0 per cent to a record 120,650.



The consumer price index rose by 0.3 per cent during the first quarter of 2006, largely attributable to increases in the food, and transport and communications sub-indices. A 0.4 per cent rise in the food sub-index, the highest weighted, was influenced by increases in the prices of fish, corned beef, orange juice and ground provisions. An upward adjustment to the retail price of gasoline at the pump in January 2006 contributed to a 3.8 per cent rise in the transport and communications sub-index. A decline in electricity generation costs, consequent upon a fall in the international price of crude oil during the period under review, led to a 1.3 per cent decrease in the fuel and light sub-index.



Trade and Payments

Estimated data on merchandise trade for the period January to March 2006 show a deficit of \$143.5m compared with one of \$115.1m in the corresponding period of 2005. The larger deficit resulted from a 21.7 per cent (\$30.2m) increase in import payments. The expansion in construction



and tourism activity was partly responsible for the upsurge in import payments, particularly for machinery and transport equipment (\$6.5m), manufactured goods (\$5.8m) and food and live animals (\$5.7m).

The value of exports rose by 7.7 per cent (\$1.8m), driven largely by increased receipts from domestic exports, particularly rice (40.3 per cent), flour (9.2 per cent) and bananas (5.3 per cent). A marketing campaign led to increases in exports of rice and flour. The rise in banana export earnings was attributed to an increase in the volume exported, consistent with the rebound in production.

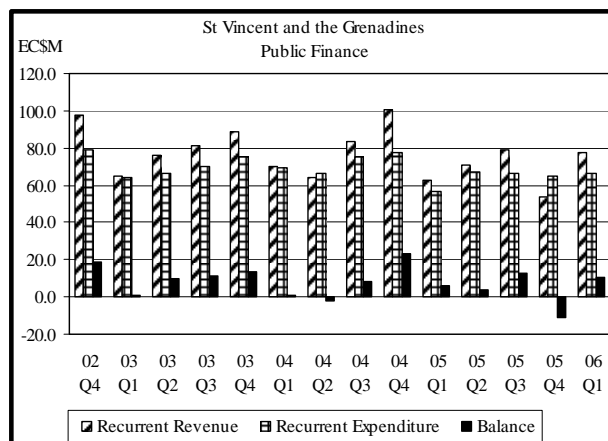
Gross travel receipts are estimated at \$97.4m, representing a 5.6 per cent increase on the amount in the corresponding period of 2005. This increase was mainly attributed to growth in the number of yacht passengers. There was a net outflow of \$14.1m in commercial bank short-term capital in the first quarter of 2006, in contrast to a net inflow of \$24.2m recorded in the corresponding period of 2005.

Central Government Fiscal Operations

The fiscal operations of the central government resulted in an overall deficit of \$9.8m in the first three months of 2006 compared with one of \$22.1m in the corresponding quarter of 2005. The deficit was financed from domestic sources. Developments on the current account were mainly responsible for the smaller overall deficit. The current account

balance shifted to a surplus of \$1.0m in the first quarter of 2006 from a deficit of \$11.9m in the corresponding quarter of 2005. The improvement in the current account was attributed to strong growth in current revenue, which outweighed an increase in current expenditure.

Current revenue grew by 26.5 per cent to \$79.5m, reflecting a 25.7 per cent increase in tax revenue on account of improvements in tax administration and compliance. Of tax revenue, collections from taxes on income and profits were 52.8 per cent (\$7.2m) above the level in the first quarter of 2005. Receipts from company tax more than doubled and those from personal income tax increased by 18.9 per cent. Revenue from taxes on international trade and transactions grew by 16.1 per cent (\$4.4m), reflecting larger collections from import-related taxes as a result of the increase in import payments. The intake from taxes on domestic goods and services rose by 16.0 per cent (\$1.8m), due largely to increases in receipts from consumption tax and stamp duty. Non-tax revenue was 30.5 per cent (\$3.2m) above the total in the first quarter of 2005.



Current expenditure grew by 5.0 per cent to \$78.5m, reflecting higher outlays for all categories of expenditure except transfers and subsidies. Outlays on personal emoluments rose by 8.6 per cent (\$3.3m), mainly as a result of a 4.5 per cent negotiated salary increase to police, teachers, nurses, and civil servants effective January 2006. Interest payments rose by 12.1 per cent (\$1.0m), primarily attributed to an increase in domestic obligations. Expenditure on goods and services remained virtually unchanged at \$13.6m, while spending associated with transfers and subsidies fell by 4.1 per cent.

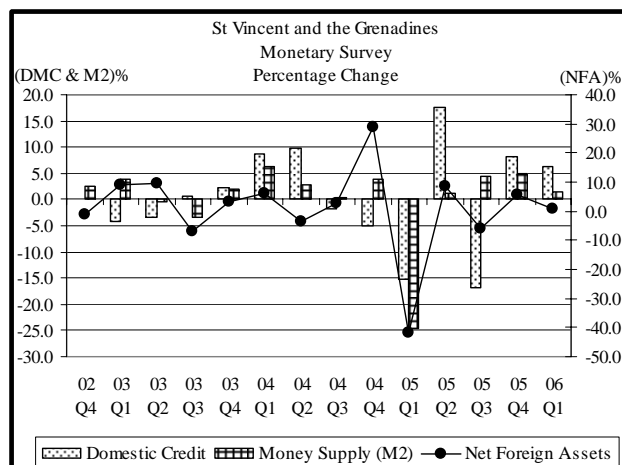
Capital expenditure, at \$12.2m, was marginally below the total in the first quarter of 2005. Capital revenue at \$0.4m was roughly 75.0 per cent above the level in 2005.

Money and Credit

Broad money (M2) increased by 1.0 per cent to \$882.7m during the quarter ending March 2006. The expansion in M2 reflected increases of 2.3 per cent and 0.2 per cent in narrow money (M1) and quasi money respectively. Of M1, private sector demand deposits increased by 4.9 per cent, consistent with the expansion in economic activity. The overall increase in M1 was tempered by a 6.4 per cent decrease in currency with the public. The growth in quasi money was influenced by an increase in private sector savings deposits, as declines were recorded for both private sector foreign currency deposits and time deposits.

Domestic credit increased by 1.2 per cent to \$661.7m, reflecting in part growth in credit to the private sector and a reduction in the net deposits of the non-financial public enterprises. Private sector credit grew by 1.5 per cent, mainly as a result of a 2.7 per cent increase in outstanding loans to households. Credit to businesses fell by 1.0 per cent. The net deposits of the non-financial public enterprises declined by 15.8 per cent as one enterprise drew down on its deposits to finance its building project. Net credit to the central government fell by 19.5 per cent, partly attributable to an increase in deposits coupled with reduced borrowing.

The distribution of credit by economic activity shows increases in outstanding loans for personal use (1.6 per cent), largely for the acquisition of property, and agriculture and fisheries (0.9 per cent). Outstanding loans for manufacturing, including mining and quarrying, fell by 10.1 per cent despite increased activity in that sector. Credit for tourism and construction decreased by 2.8 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively.



The net foreign assets of the banking system increased by 1.1 per cent to \$393.1m during the first quarter of 2006, in contrast to a marginal decline during the corresponding period of 2005. The expansion was driven by a 6.9 per cent increase in the net foreign assets of the commercial banks, largely reflecting growth in assets held with institutions outside the Eastern Caribbean currency union. This increase was partly offset by a decline of 5.3 per cent in St Vincent and the Grenadines' imputed share of Central Bank's reserves.

Liquidity in the commercial banking system remained at a high level during the period under review. The ratio of liquid assets to total deposits plus liquid liabilities was 41.1 per cent at the end of March 2006, roughly 0.2 percentage point above the level at the end of 2005. The ratio of loans and advances to total deposits rose by 1.1 percentage points to 74.0 per cent.

Commercial bank interest rates remained relatively stable during the first quarter of 2006. Interest rates on savings deposits were in the range of 3.0 per cent to 4.5 per cent. Prime lending rates ranged from 9.0 per cent to 11.0 per cent.

Prospects

Economic performance in St Vincent and the Grenadines is projected to improve in 2006, based on ongoing and likely developments in construction, agriculture and tourism. Activity in the construction sector is expected to increase as preparations to host

warm-up matches for Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007 intensify. Work is ongoing on upgrading the main venue at the Arnos Vale sporting complex and renovating two other practice sites. Other public sector activities include ongoing social infrastructural development projects, namely a national stadium, a correctional facility and a low-income housing project. Work is expected to begin on rehabilitating and extending the E T Joshua airport and building a jetport in Canouan. Agricultural production is forecast to increase, based on a rebound in activity in the banana industry and continued expansion in the non-banana sub-sector. In the tourism industry, growth in visitor arrivals is projected, based on an increase in cruise ship traffic and extensive marketing.

The central government's current account operations are likely to improve. Strong growth in revenue is projected based on the expansion in the economy, improved tax collections and reduced tax concessions. Current expenditure is likely to be above the level in 2005, based in part on larger outlays on personal emoluments as a result of increases in salaries, wages and allowances to public servants. Interest payments are projected to increase, on account of the larger stock of the central government's debt. Growth in capital expenditure is projected, based on ongoing and new projects.

In the external sector an overall surplus is projected, partly based on a likely increase in net inflows on the financial account which will more than offset a widening of the merchandise trade



account. In the banking sector increases are projected in broad money and domestic credit, based on the expansion in the economy.

Downside risks to the projections include unfavourable weather which can have an adverse

effect on agriculture and tourism. Increases in international oil prices also pose a risk to the domestic economy through the effects on consumer prices, central government's revenue and the external current account balance.



NOTES FOR STATISTICAL TABLES AND MONETARY SURVEY

STATISTICAL TABLES

All figures have been rounded to either the nearest whole number or the first decimal place (except in cases where values are small and need to be rounded off at two decimal places instead).

--	denotes 'nil'
0.0	denotes 'negligible'
n.a.	denotes 'not available'
**	denotes 'not applicable'
R	denotes 'revised'
P	denotes 'provisional'
E	denotes 'ECCB estimates'

Some figures may differ from those in previous publications because of subsequent revision based on more accurate data.

MONETARY SURVEY

1. Central government represents central and local government.
 - 1.1 Domestic Credit to Central Government (net)
 - Central Bank and commercial banks' total holdings of Treasury Bills and Debentures
 - plus Central Bank and commercial banks' loans and advances to central government
 - plus Central Bank interest due on Securities
 - minus Total central government deposits held with the Central Bank and commercial banks
 - minus Sinking Fund Call Account and Government Operating Account held with the Central Bank
2. Other Public Sector represents national insurance (social security scheme) and non-financial public enterprises.
3. Private Sector represents households and private businesses.
4. Currency = total currency liabilities of the Central Bank less commercial banks' holdings of local currency cash.
5. Demand Deposits = total private businesses and households residents' demand deposits.
6. Savings Deposits = total private businesses and households residents' savings deposits.
7. Time Deposits = total private businesses and households residents' time deposits.
8. Foreign Currency Deposits = total private businesses and households residents' foreign currency deposits.



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Table 1
ECCU
Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	616.39	662.26	645.26	669.49	790.92
Tax Revenue	541.43	592.95	582.97	602.97	695.67
Taxes on Income and Profits ¹	114.89	135.67	140.36	124.81	173.38
Of which:					
Personal Tax ²	44.19	44.32	44.85	46.71	54.13
Company Tax	62.14	75.18	79.70	60.19	99.53
Taxes on Property	11.33	15.41	11.23	8.26	15.96
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	119.62	123.89	114.73	105.41	172.50
Of which:					
Accommodation Tax	32.54	30.98	21.02	13.61	33.75
Licences ³	20.70	19.64	10.46	16.64	30.81
Sales Tax ⁴	9.19	9.67	9.37	9.46	10.26
Consumption Tax ⁵	10.54	11.02	12.26	12.49	14.41
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	295.59	317.98	316.65	364.49	333.83
Of which:					
Import Duty	79.64	87.60	88.54	111.06	97.34
Consumption Tax ⁶	126.36	135.71	129.41	154.44	133.77
Customs Service Charge ⁶	52.04	59.13	55.90	64.40	60.79
Non-Tax Revenue	74.96	69.31	62.29	66.52	95.25
Current Expenditure	611.23	601.65	674.93	675.97	695.91
Personal Emoluments	274.32	275.05	282.77	295.89	307.59
Goods and Services	130.10	121.35	161.86	149.61	143.58
Interest Payments	91.27	85.60	91.24	107.34	102.60
Domestic	35.58	33.99	38.96	45.42	42.12
External	55.69	51.62	52.27	61.93	60.48
Transfers and Subsidies	115.54	119.65	139.06	123.13	142.15
Of which: Pensions	39.45	39.25	59.52	46.40	49.89
Current Account Balance	5.16	60.61	(29.67)	(6.48)	95.01
Capital Revenue	2.27	18.73	18.56	8.69	11.26
Grants	77.34	97.72	78.51	614.14	50.41
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	207.10	135.61	163.39	193.44	239.14
Of which: Capital Expenditure	209.63	137.47	164.83	195.43	239.66
Primary Balance	(31.05)	127.05	(4.75)	530.26	20.14
Overall Balance	(122.32)	41.44	(95.99)	422.92	(82.45)
Financing	122.32	(41.44)	95.99	(422.92)	82.45
Domestic	69.85	(78.88)	13.44	20.35	30.11
ECCB (net)	(62.37)	47.88	6.87	13.77	(2.84)
Commercial Banks (net)	65.84	(19.84)	58.42	47.69	(75.08)
Other	66.38	(106.92)	(51.85)	(41.12)	108.03
External	9.83	11.69	69.76	(304.09)	16.52
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	13.15	16.11	74.73	(291.17)	16.05
Disbursements	55.78	58.32	126.39	246.86	61.17
Amortisation	(42.63)	(42.21)	(51.66)	(538.03)	(45.12)
Change in Govt. Foreign Assets	(3.32)	(4.42)	(4.97)	(12.92)	0.47
Arrears ³	42.65	25.75	12.79	(139.17)	35.82
Domestic	10.30	1.70	(10.64)	(0.86)	6.77
External	32.35	24.06	23.44	(138.31)	29.05

Source: Ministry of Finance and ECCB estimates

- ¹ Taxes on income and profits are not collected in Anguilla
² Includes a social services levy which is applied in St Kitts and Nevis.
³ Excludes St Vincent and the Grenadines

⁴ Dominica is the only territory with a sales tax

⁵ For all territories except Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat

⁶ For all territories except Anguilla

Data available at 10 July 2006



Table 2
ECCU
Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	3,189.50	3,336.21	3,136.03	3,016.39	3,343.92
Central Bank (net)	1,682.02	1,666.22	1,506.27	1,611.72	1,594.29
External Assets	1,688.11	1,672.15	1,515.08	1,622.20	1,601.22
External Liabilities	6.08	5.93	8.80	10.48	6.93
Commercial Banks (net)	1,507.48	1,669.99	1,629.76	1,404.68	1,749.63
External Assets	3,385.16	3,574.94	3,553.88	3,445.51	3,721.53
External Liabilities	1,877.68	1,904.96	1,924.13	2,040.84	1,971.90
Net Domestic Assets	5,628.94	5,334.65	5,654.02	6,039.25	6,119.87
Domestic Credit	6,419.88	6,540.81	6,968.38	7,265.95	7,398.14
Central Government (net)	476.59	504.62	569.91	631.37	553.45
Other Public Sector (net)	(618.93)	(689.62)	(645.59)	(663.03)	(673.00)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	(191.55)	(194.30)	(144.56)	(187.35)	(186.87)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	91.30	96.62	95.83	114.06	118.44
Private Sector	6,662.48	6,823.50	7,092.79	7,370.90	7,586.10
Other Items (net)	(790.94)	(1,206.16)	(1,314.36)	(1,226.70)	(1,278.26)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	8,818.44	8,670.86	8,790.05	9,055.64	9,463.79
Money Supply (M1)	2,010.80	1,907.17	1,923.92	2,086.69	2,167.11
Currency with the Public	466.99	456.76	472.18	521.40	502.27
Demand Deposits	1,543.81	1,450.41	1,451.74	1,565.29	1,664.84
Quasi Money	6,807.64	6,763.69	6,866.13	6,968.95	7,296.68
Savings Deposits	3,781.67	3,838.98	3,865.25	3,913.51	4,025.92
Time Deposits	1,699.06	1,657.98	1,655.67	1,647.51	1,702.04
Foreign Currency Deposits	1,326.90	1,266.73	1,345.21	1,407.93	1,568.72

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Data available at 10 July 2006

Table 3
ECCU
Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Visitor Arrivals	1,159,320	579,750	352,388	888,791	1,171,819
Of Which:					
Stay-Over Arrivals	285,613	257,929	232,391	246,872	292,334
USA	109,717	102,291	75,960	83,566	118,112
Canada	20,012	10,410	7,940	11,631	22,364
UK	66,034	55,251	47,118	57,351	66,268
Caribbean	58,746	68,628	81,549	70,726	57,001
Other Countries	31,104	21,349	19,824	23,598	28,589
Excursionists ¹	37,472	27,609	25,292	27,175	37,268
Cruise Ship Passengers ²	789,398	269,334	81,172	581,894	790,925
Yacht Passengers ⁴	46,837	24,878	13,533	32,850	51,292
Number of Cruise Ship Calls ³	727	214	47	529	868
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	880.24	705.01	584.50	718.27	930.04

Source: Central Statistics Offices, OECS and ECCB

¹ Includes Sea Arrivals for Saint Lucia and excludes Antigua and Barbuda² Excludes Anguilla but includes Excursionists for Antigua and Barbuda³ Excludes Anguilla and St Vincent and the Grenadines⁴ Yacht passengers includes St Kitts and Nevis and St Vincent and the Grenadines

Data available at 10 July 2006



Table 4
Liabilities of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	Demand Liabilities							General Reserve	Other Liabilities	Total Liabilities
	Currency in Circulation	Due to Banks			Foreign Liabilities	Other Demand Liabilities	Total			
		Bankers Reserves	Bankers Fixed Deposits	Other						
1987 Dec.	235,863	156,156	127,739	--	8,021	127,739	532,985	27,649	31,409	590,044
1988 Dec.	230,533	184,807	57,579	5,580	11,503	6,639	496,640	27,798	26,996	548,434
1989 Dec.	313,546	205,576	25,339	--	16,739	25,339	566,541	32,112	50,439	646,092
1990 Dec.	330,021	224,373	62,060	--	13,657	62,060	652,280	33,527	58,401	728,847
1991 Dec.	344,636	241,612	42,574	--	27,268	42,574	687,060	41,960	73,692	775,877
1992 Dec.	350,279	325,656	34,177	20,969	27,954	34,177	793,234	45,825	79,275	896,594
1993 Dec.	365,832	308,364	34,173	1,107	12,496	34,173	773,224	51,941	59,728	883,733
1994 Dec.	381,101	306,277	28,388	13,197	12,789	28,388	793,715	51,941	102,149	879,403
1995 Dec.	417,504	307,852	63,084	10,561	18,084	63,084	878,305	51,941	74,398	1,006,414
1996 Dec.	420,212	308,126	14,447	16,070	19,879	14,447	854,057	51,941	58,616	954,415
1997 Dec.	439,669	320,352	12,901	36,785	7,919	12,901	908,360	51,941	65,742	992,936
1998 Dec.	478,206	416,145	30,563	27,341	4,291	30,563	1,058,654	51,941	44,946	1,150,357
1999 Dec.	575,278	385,607	28,977	22,672	8,507	28,977	1,114,915	51,941	66,077	1,185,822
2000 Dec.	538,574	459,321	19,590	39,197	17,105	19,590	1,170,529	51,941	94,566	1,262,567
2001 Dec.	539,974	606,898	20,252	35,626	11,921	20,252	1,291,925	51,941	110,221	1,409,731
2002 Dec.	561,149	639,426	17,832	88,575	7,771	17,832	1,399,566	61,664	85,401	1,542,751
2003 Mar.	478,899	754,709	24,582	114,892	6,606	24,582	1,478,678	68,057	105,468	1,623,004
Jun.	483,357	765,866	23,176	120,790	6,975	23,176	1,502,089	68,057	100,020	1,640,968
Sep.	480,535	717,361	23,176	137,157	8,964	23,176	1,449,420	68,057	93,947	1,582,225
Dec.	608,200	742,222	17,464	68,785	8,503	17,464	1,526,754	68,057	85,401	1,651,013
2004 Mar.	532,925	853,384	17,464	144,865	8,962	17,464	1,612,622	73,083	96,004	1,763,317
Jun.	536,602	796,679	17,464	126,299	5,628	17,464	1,548,578	76,377	68,257	1,671,080
Sep.	537,646	773,766	17,464	110,178	4,920	17,464	1,566,095	80,748	68,826	1,680,731
Dec.	662,897	939,133	19,174	26,703	4,563	119,525	1,771,996	80,478	63,527	1,883,333
2005 Jan.	579,464	985,268	19,867	64,494	21,633	106,470	1,777,196	76,377	73,115	1,904,555
Feb.	574,560	993,381	19,867	58,236	6,037	164,002	1,816,083	80,478	58,969	1,922,861
Mar.	605,775	890,443	24,322	55,852	6,081	177,584	1,760,058	73,297	64,927	1,877,200
Apr.	590,233	903,761	24,322	30,176	6,918	170,264	1,725,674	77,523	70,103	1,852,217
May	591,261	1,056,920	25,641	22,420	5,646	119,248	1,821,134	77,523	74,943	1,952,519
Jun.	590,534	955,292	25,641	21,484	5,934	121,674	1,720,559	77,523	76,420	1,853,420
Jul.	598,008	878,230	25,641	18,246	7,868	128,472	1,656,466	77,523	68,317	1,781,224
Aug.	597,749	861,563	25,641	23,639	5,772	122,035	1,636,399	77,523	75,740	1,768,580
Sep.	589,049	810,152	25,641	23,915	8,801	118,497	1,576,055	77,523	68,748	1,701,244
Oct.	594,503	798,478	25,641	21,322	6,038	164,959	1,610,940	77,523	65,777	1,733,158
Nov.	610,425	805,854	26,106	22,856	12,418	148,529	1,626,188	77,523	67,769	1,750,398
Dec.	732,831	775,041	28,806	22,696	10,480	103,788	1,673,641	77,523	71,944	1,802,026
2006 Jan.	625,328	874,730	29,044	23,751	8,464	128,154	1,689,471	77,523	71,212	1,817,124
Feb.	620,076	890,564	29,044	29,759	9,218	105,217	1,683,879	77,523	68,931	1,809,251
Mar.	627,450	865,394	31,211	24,606	6,927	121,800	1,677,389	80,765	55,752	1,834,153

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
 Data available at July 2006



Table 5
Assets of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	External Assets ¹				Claims on Central Government				Other Assets	Total Assets
	Fixed and Call Deposits	Securities	Foreign Balances	Other External Assets	Local Government Debentures	Local Treasury Bills	Loans And Advances	Other Claims		
1987 Dec.	151,195	234,985	36,893	--	28,219	41,440	83,679	--	13,634	590,044
1988 Dec.	82,450	269,806	43,607	--	30,337	26,641	82,217	--	13,375	548,434
1989 Dec.	191,193	259,602	34,251	--	33,037	29,407	86,215	--	12,388	646,092
1990 Dec.	212,876	289,667	41,703	--	34,047	48,780	87,099	--	14,675	728,847
1991 Dec.	180,848	355,118	54,147	--	34,047	50,259	88,124	--	13,333	775,877
1992 Dec.	162,344	534,208	50,088	--	32,426	11,020	84,244	--	22,264	896,594
1993 Dec.	166,815	498,788	53,869	--	37,708	15,154	69,828	--	41,572	883,733
1994 Dec.	171,387	477,940	48,812	--	33,402	10,004	73,050	--	64,808	879,403
1995 Dec.	268,990	526,934	46,209	--	36,549	7,055	60,270	1,662	64,106	1,011,775
1996 Dec.	201,196	528,131	54,686	--	41,549	13,007	53,092	1,485	66,630	959,776
1997 Dec.	288,501	479,642	69,523	--	41,549	10,055	41,969	1,771	73,891	1,006,899
1998 Dec.	389,649	556,576	53,534	--	40,696	10,055	37,048	1,525	95,390	1,184,473
1999 Dec.	256,812	708,052	48,193	--	40,696	11,405	37,371	3,836	108,128	1,214,494
2000 Dec.	347,835	693,232	30,681	--	43,196	10,224	36,160	5,896	131,157	1,298,382
2001 Dec.	406,985	801,974	32,555	--	40,196	7,054	34,233	8,687	115,459	1,447,143
2002 Dec.	354,165	948,848	35,475	24,429	37,296	3,923	29,702	1,015	107,898	1,542,751
2003 Mar.	460,028	941,453	33,454	20,226	37,296	3,923	18,777	2,655	105,192	1,623,004
Jun.	388,938	1,026,526	32,864	18,785	37,296	3,923	21,113	3,082	108,443	1,640,968
Sep.	275,774	1,069,975	47,017	8,814	37,296	3,923	33,740	1,786	104,400	1,582,225
Dec.	320,741	1,084,908	50,185	1,819	36,148	3,923	46,065	2,454	104,771	1,651,013
2004 Mar.	407,627	1,088,805	78,713	1,823	36,148	3,923	14,024	2,656	129,598	1,763,317
Jun.	389,533	1,043,408	48,496	--	35,448	3,923	18,448	653	131,171	1,671,080
Sep.	383,264	1,052,320	70,969	--	35,448	4,415	17,226	574	132,040	1,696,256
Dec.	574,727	1,058,481	74,295	--	35,448	1,952	20,613	533	128,728	1,894,778
2005 Jan.	633,969	1,033,484	56,075	--	35,448	1,952	13,989	292	129,345	1,904,555
Feb.	628,151	1,033,883	96,298	--	35,448	1,952	11,441	--	115,688	1,922,861
Mar.	592,853	1,042,925	52,328	--	35,448	1,952	14,770	202	136,721	1,877,200
Apr.	576,817	1,032,660	57,011	--	35,448	5,200	12,250	419	132,413	1,852,217
May	546,490	1,143,554	78,175	--	35,448	1,952	14,800	38	132,062	1,952,519
Jun.	459,733	1,168,345	44,075	--	35,448	1,952	12,073	32	131,761	1,853,420
Jul.	407,206	1,164,987	27,108	--	35,448	1,952	13,812	38	130,674	1,781,244
Aug.	340,571	1,216,547	32,672	--	35,448	1,702	11,791	0	129,848	1,768,580
Sep.	293,925	1,184,097	37,054	--	35,448	1,702	18,509	0	130,509	1,701,244
Oct.	316,627	1,180,323	40,708	--	35,448	1,702	31,593	234	126,523	1,733,158
Nov.	321,514	1,185,364	49,270	--	35,448	1,702	30,057	157	126,885	1,750,398
Dec.	400,729	1,191,028	30,440	--	35,448	1,702	20,344	4	122,332	1,802,026
2006 Jan.	363,957	1,199,348	57,951	--	35,448	1,702	36,998	34	121,686	1,817,124
Feb.	420,956	1,180,967	20,446	--	32,301	1,702	28,806	0	124,073	1,809,251
Mar.	372,407	1,194,235	34,574	--	36,041	1,702	28,620	--	166,573	1,834,153

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

¹Includes Funds Under Management: Government of Grenada Bond Proceeds from July 2002.

Data available at July 2006



Table 6
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Net Issue of Notes in Each Territory
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Total
1987 Dec.	5,574	40,781	23,225	36,623	9,142	19,639	63,213	23,918	222,116
1988 Dec.	5,415	39,615	22,560	35,575	8,880	19,077	61,405	23,234	215,762
1989 Dec.	7,391	54,075	30,796	48,561	12,122	26,041	83,820	31,715	294,521
1990 Dec.	5,340	57,373	31,357	51,727	11,160	29,808	86,357	34,198	307,319
1991 Dec.	5,438	65,815	33,362	53,415	10,252	28,931	88,895	33,657	319,764
1992 Dec.	6,991	61,646	32,765	52,813	8,285	30,045	86,983	44,085	323,613
1993 Dec.	6,988	68,205	36,855	59,893	8,153	33,351	86,239	38,019	337,702
1994 Dec.	6,698	72,852	32,364	64,148	8,698	35,656	87,989	42,150	350,553
1995 Dec.	9,287	88,849	38,803	66,748	8,940	37,844	95,296	38,795	384,563
1996 Dec.	9,345	79,005	39,844	70,057	10,217	40,878	93,951	42,010	385,308
1997 Dec.	9,570	76,867	39,538	76,508	18,280	40,727	91,671	49,332	402,494
1998 Dec.	11,034	89,505	37,756	80,182	14,454	42,553	111,608	51,395	438,487
1999 Dec.	12,547	108,183	52,025	96,643	16,168	54,631	113,808	80,195	532,199
2000 Dec.	10,176	101,527	45,405	96,393	11,321	52,153	110,519	65,247	492,742
2001 Dec.	11,124	99,009	44,662	97,674	13,137	49,176	107,317	70,325	492,423
2002 Dec.	10,790	107,880	48,656	98,645	12,445	47,073	112,417	73,691	511,598
2003 Mar.	9,277	99,282	38,275	81,109	9,367	40,442	88,950	62,407	429,018
Jun.	9,894	99,839	37,496	82,385	10,599	42,097	89,585	60,916	432,810
Sep.	10,351	98,972	38,155	83,517	12,505	40,353	89,558	55,787	429,198
Dec.	11,788	123,160	47,223	109,692	14,368	50,916	119,509	78,666	555,321
2004 Mar.	10,818	113,154	41,501	85,747	14,295	43,132	102,505	68,440	479,592
Jun.	12,190	111,529	38,908	89,415	13,309	44,934	100,150	71,917	482,352
Sep.	10,770	108,467	40,466	94,037	13,490	45,248	101,498	68,546	482,522
Dec.	12,828	141,678	48,963	125,089	14,371	54,407	126,885	82,220	606,442
2005 Jan.	10,797	124,350	42,887	106,856	15,336	47,687	102,224	72,680	522,817
Feb.	10,910	119,249	45,391	104,866	14,754	48,725	102,268	71,449	517,613
Mar.	9,733	127,108	46,666	113,613	12,801	51,519	111,882	75,045	548,366
Apr.	9,960	124,851	49,590	111,281	12,634	50,009	102,129	72,020	532,473
May	10,629	123,476	50,570	110,849	12,381	49,556	105,747	69,999	533,207
Jun.	10,501	123,666	47,468	109,799	12,043	48,573	104,902	75,038	531,991
Jul.	11,154	127,355	44,362	110,259	12,684	52,680	108,298	72,216	539,009
Aug.	10,431	122,129	48,817	114,862	12,905	50,953	106,889	71,504	538,489
Sep.	10,751	125,691	44,890	110,721	12,679	50,682	103,241	70,813	529,468
Oct.	11,423	126,756	46,563	108,461	12,005	50,601	107,906	70,911	534,626
Nov.	10,655	130,751	45,360	111,817	13,996	51,834	113,531	72,095	550,040
Dec.	12,795	155,859	53,110	131,599	15,098	58,965	146,964	97,115	671,505
2006 Jan.	11,859	135,937	42,599	110,120	14,492	52,326	115,888	80,580	563,802
Feb.	11,661	139,073	43,304	109,260	13,949	51,810	114,887	74,496	558,439
Mar.	10,473	137,493	47,381	110,853	13,020	52,373	115,772	78,165	565,530

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at July 2006



Table 7
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Net Issue of Coins in Each Territory
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Grenada	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Sub-Total	Former ECCB/ECCA Members	Proof Sets	Net Total
1987 Dec.	32	2,931	814	1,825	423	1,277	2,408	1,463	11,161	2,585	112	13,858
1988 Dec.	60	3,200	905	1,931	494	1,385	2,640	1,569	12,185	2,585	113	14,883
1989 Dec.	108	3,920	1,376	2,175	567	2,056	4,132	2,105	16,439	2,585	114	19,139
1990 Dec.	139	4,627	1,827	2,872	831	2,339	4,786	2,694	20,116	2,585	115	22,816
1991 Dec.	188	5,126	1,927	3,262	892	2,524	6,035	2,858	22,287	2,585	115	24,987
1992 Dec.	322	5,612	1,933	3,439	894	2,727	6,035	3,112	24,072	2,593	117	26,782
1993 Dec.	380	5,997	1,973	3,619	854	2,940	6,603	3,172	25,538	2,593	117	28,248
1994 Dec.	448	6,695	2,064	3,970	870	3,221	7,398	3,289	27,956	2,593	117	30,666
1995 Dec.	527	7,339	2,211	4,269	945	3,466	7,996	3,616	30,369	2,573	117	33,058
1996 Dec.	616	7,814	2,340	4,636	852	3,742	8,520	3,831	32,353	2,551	117	35,021
1997 Dec.	665	8,316	2,564	5,144	890	4,088	8,954	4,009	34,629	2,546	117	37,292
1998 Dec.	775	8,938	2,744	5,596	849	4,236	9,693	4,347	37,180	2,540	117	39,837
1999 Dec.	917	9,590	2,944	6,209	885	4,597	10,605	4,799	40,547	2,532	117	43,196
2000 Dec.	1,019	10,172	3,060	6,786	913	4,914	11,364	5,063	43,290	2,542	117	45,939
2001 Dec.	1,062	10,569	3,144	7,155	916	5,243	11,775	5,213	45,076	2,472	117	47,735
2002 Dec.	1,122	11,103	3,365	7,648	927	5,468	11,975	5,444	47,052	2,475	117	49,645
2003 Mar.	1,152	11,244	3,373	7,669	927	5,516	11,983	5,519	47,383	2,466	117	49,966
Jun.	1,182	11,491	3,387	7,719	928	5,535	12,169	5,637	48,049	2,471	117	50,637
Sep.	1,187	11,656	3,449	7,873	928	5,572	12,430	5,744	48,839	2,498	117	51,455
Dec.	1,225	11,934	3,675	8,096	923	5,719	12,812	6,016	50,400	2,498	117	53,016
2004 Mar.	1,267	12,114	3,683	8,208	934	5,781	12,889	5,991	50,867	2,498	117	53,483
Jun.	1,306	12,454	3,703	8,402	937	5,876	13,067	6,039	51,785	2,498	117	54,400
Sep.	1,339	12,575	3,780	8,542	938	5,953	13,355	6,177	52,658	2,498	117	55,273
Dec.	1,372	12,784	3,853	8,824	945	6,198	13,585	6,426	53,988	2,478	117	56,583
2005 Jan.	1,392	12,869	3,854	8,879	954	6,181	13,622	6,431	54,181	2,478	117	56,776
Feb.	1,404	12,975	3,875	8,949	954	6,268	13,627	6,428	54,481	2,478	117	57,076
Mar.	1,413	13,080	3,895	9,064	954	6,345	13,768	6,422	54,943	2,466	117	57,526
Apr.	1,458	13,216	3,899	9,112	954	6,385	13,800	6,469	55,294	2,466	117	57,877
May	1,467	13,326	3,945	9,128	955	6,437	13,882	6,447	55,588	2,466	117	58,171
Jun.	1,513	13,438	3,981	9,248	955	6,511	13,946	6,485	56,077	2,466	117	58,660
Jul.	1,530	13,512	4,045	9,375	957	6,533	14,042	6,538	56,533	2,466	117	59,116
Aug.	1,530	13,601	3,961	9,437	957	6,614	14,113	6,580	56,793	2,466	117	59,376
Sep.	1,549	13,669	3,984	9,491	961	6,607	14,204	6,650	57,115	2,466	117	59,698
Oct.	1,583	13,741	4,016	9,527	961	6,620	14,296	6,666	57,410	2,498	117	60,025
Nov.	1,590	13,844	4,067	9,614	967	6,693	14,424	6,719	57,919	2,478	117	60,514
Dec.	1,614	13,974	4,147	9,720	970	6,814	14,755	6,866	58,859	2,478	117	61,455
2006 Jan.	1,635	14,027	4,169	9,770	970	6,866	14,757	6,867	59,060	2,478	117	61,656
Feb.	1,659	14,070	4,208	9,790	970	6,869	14,767	6,838	59,170	2,478	117	61,766
Mar.	1,682	14,191	4,219	9,825	970	6,941	14,787	6,840	59,455	2,466	117	62,038

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at July 2006



Table 8
ECCU
Commercial Banks' Liabilities
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	Deposits					Balances Due to			Foreign Liabilities	Other Liabilities	Total Liabilities
	Demand	Time	Savings	Foreign Currency	Total Deposits	ECCB	Other Local Banks	Other ECCB Area Banks			
1987 Dec.	358,090	804,098	789,661	147,225	2,099,074	6,276	15,622	66,122	136,790	382,083	2,705,966
1988 Dec.	441,115	943,706	968,992	151,861	2,505,674	7,163	22,930	78,430	102,831	427,528	3,144,556
1989 Dec.	517,511	1,034,168	1,133,595	181,679	2,866,953	9,212	29,447	67,061	118,135	460,171	3,550,979
1990 Dec.	541,383	1,229,472	1,209,788	204,214	3,184,857	3,509	29,403	48,100	147,097	513,071	3,926,037
1991 Dec.	477,383	1,413,736	1,308,981	257,801	3,457,901	4,647	15,408	54,401	138,282	528,229	4,198,868
1992 Dec.	615,289	1,441,961	1,492,213	268,296	3,817,759	1,425	17,142	98,132	221,343	545,014	4,700,815
1993 Dec.	658,841	1,484,685	1,727,798	322,671	4,193,995	22,881	22,637	133,493	216,855	593,921	5,183,782
1994 Dec.	713,348	1,520,847	1,960,821	368,712	4,563,728	15,129	42,610	132,848	258,852	577,486	5,590,653
1995 Dec.	837,357	1,707,660	2,170,099	468,891	5,184,007	6,925	38,992	131,564	233,999	636,609	6,232,096
1996 Dec.	836,811	1,861,007	2,293,815	504,741	5,469,374	11,868	21,857	199,797	353,531	670,955	6,754,382
1997 Dec.	929,221	2,026,049	2,446,297	630,815	6,032,382	10,826	29,064	268,924	397,511	731,942	7,470,649
1998 Dec.	1,072,583	2,325,523	2,726,487	732,452	6,857,045	33,273	65,467	269,738	360,872	862,081	8,448,476
1999 Dec.	1,139,743	2,659,850	2,827,501	1,074,748	7,701,842	22,960	54,808	324,615	453,435	967,969	9,525,629
2000 Dec.	1,136,246	2,996,261	2,949,685	1,315,030	8,397,222	48,382	47,458	427,559	481,029	1,084,879	10,486,529
2001 Dec.	1,254,204	3,264,232	3,129,019	1,352,390	8,999,845	43,754	69,002	335,708	537,625	1,273,800	11,260,484
2002 Dec.	1,376,894	3,391,905	3,434,458	1,530,443	9,733,700	16,915	103,828	448,337	587,684	1,365,156	12,256,370
2003 Mar.	1,482,360	3,538,469	3,554,609	1,589,815	10,165,253	20,941	97,380	408,905	587,880	1,435,374	12,714,733
Jun.	1,513,585	3,540,076	3,649,507	1,572,401	10,275,569	15,420	54,754	375,867	526,108	1,508,357	12,756,075
Sep.	1,477,566	3,533,215	3,697,117	1,577,814	10,285,712	21,263	50,005	408,969	575,394	1,514,586	12,855,929
Dec.	1,581,344	3,531,934	3,799,435	1,616,180	10,530,893	28,322	68,704	447,793	537,517	1,615,179	13,226,408
2004 Mar.	1,826,053	3,490,052	3,944,127	1,705,178	10,965,410	24,336	60,667	437,148	584,611	1,639,662	13,711,834
Jun.	1,937,524	3,413,820	4,042,093	1,751,103	11,144,540	23,654	54,397	475,249	781,923	1,834,227	14,313,990
Sep.	2,002,212	3,378,307	4,173,487	1,776,349	11,330,355	16,300	67,627	529,650	702,108	1,782,122	14,423,162
Dec.	2,110,878	3,451,160	4,407,015	1,809,902	11,778,955	10,838	29,937	619,312	701,558	2,029,870	15,170,470
2005 Jan.	2,200,597	3,448,344	4,463,847	1,895,976	12,008,764	13,693	41,687	587,717	686,143	2,031,291	15,369,295
Feb.	2,306,113	3,423,779	4,506,474	1,924,004	12,160,370	13,555	34,033	659,346	814,361	2,131,844	15,813,509
Mar.	2,244,687	3,438,802	4,575,441	1,993,484	12,252,414	10,141	39,625	734,685	720,160	2,005,325	15,762,350
Apr.	2,195,508	3,465,041	4,639,359	1,882,833	12,182,741	14,337	133,253	765,569	852,138	2,076,809	16,024,847
May	2,203,082	3,520,402	4,660,689	1,907,704	12,291,877	12,185	151,372	965,341	841,244	2,113,423	16,375,442
Jun.	2,152,819	3,563,005	4,676,743	1,946,901	12,339,468	4,649	58,302	1,336,037	807,148	2,278,762	16,824,366
Jul.	2,173,223	3,564,064	4,676,463	1,903,034	12,316,784	16,441	59,855	1,468,325	850,384	2,337,732	17,049,521
Aug.	2,182,565	3,563,159	4,679,750	1,912,396	12,337,870	6,790	33,823	1,434,910	863,417	2,437,008	17,113,818
Sep.	2,124,530	3,534,364	4,710,794	1,959,902	12,329,590	8,515	36,805	1,480,952	937,637	2,425,510	17,219,009
Oct.	2,162,271	3,524,705	4,747,775	2,038,546	12,473,297	11,733	36,240	908,198	818,707	2,650,793	16,898,968
Nov.	2,237,997	3,566,102	4,713,687	2,022,943	12,540,729	5,729	46,373	859,810	874,343	2,810,031	17,137,015
Dec.	2,256,712	3,535,176	4,785,500	2,013,499	12,590,887	11,169	42,463	829,373	901,090	2,858,365	17,233,347
2006 Jan.	2,302,905	3,531,687	4,857,872	2,108,596	12,801,060	6,925	38,095	780,434	914,499	2,876,096	17,417,109
Feb.	2,318,467	3,546,925	4,879,859	2,148,778	12,894,029	9,493	39,778	801,692	870,230	2,859,222	17,474,444
Mar.	2,374,923	3,575,583	4,935,718	2,217,212	13,103,436	9,519	37,499	916,493	852,609	2,984,777	17,904,333

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at July 2006



Table 9
ECCU
Commercial Banks' Assets
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	Claims On				Loans and Advances	Investments		Foreign Assets	Other Assets	Total Assets	
	ECCB		Other Local Banks	Other ECCB Area Banks		Treasury Bills	Securities				
	Cash	Deposits ¹									
1987	Dec.	47,746	278,037	51,803	59,377	1,495,309	28,523	44,687	425,318	151,949	2,582,749
1988	Dec.	37,684	242,643	52,085	66,120	1,800,157	29,869	50,284	580,524	171,774	3,031,140
1989	Dec.	64,769	233,447	49,319	52,824	2,314,801	40,882	58,763	504,916	231,348	3,550,979
1990	Dec.	82,221	274,478	52,747	54,467	2,629,932	33,586	62,356	472,194	264,056	3,926,037
1991	Dec.	88,198	285,741	51,322	56,435	2,550,547	22,893	43,955	520,894	114,408	3,734,393
1992	Dec.	75,000	375,802	44,087	97,799	3,180,644	81,762	75,105	553,825	216,791	4,700,815
1993	Dec.	93,098	352,074	45,772	106,283	3,544,569	94,380	76,853	588,803	281,950	5,183,782
1994	Dec.	95,556	334,734	47,149	167,795	3,766,254	97,476	80,094	631,488	370,107	5,590,653
1995	Dec.	105,925	363,339	36,811	151,869	4,232,406	100,852	78,321	724,952	437,621	6,232,096
1996	Dec.	121,851	329,480	24,207	210,991	4,760,786	114,565	79,321	700,801	412,380	6,754,382
1997	Dec.	124,360	376,564	41,088	284,504	5,343,260	125,598	81,721	715,947	377,607	7,470,649
1998	Dec.	131,183	484,983	72,001	255,744	5,898,557	119,603	80,986	914,795	490,624	8,448,476
1999	Dec.	183,813	447,743	71,337	341,251	6,452,778	139,517	136,962	1,183,025	569,203	9,525,629
2000	Dec.	149,101	513,979	46,275	456,613	7,094,459	207,631	207,935	1,140,134	670,402	10,486,529
2001	Dec.	164,057	681,876	77,586	367,919	7,297,589	308,733	184,217	1,480,303	698,204	11,260,484
2002	Dec.	165,426	753,976	92,451	489,697	7,570,138	334,632	252,867	1,824,625	772,558	12,256,370
2003	Mar.	104,560	907,993	82,308	394,112	7,516,493	342,339	261,554	2,201,264	904,110	12,714,733
	Jun.	101,423	957,589	60,095	353,358	7,515,652	357,358	266,697	2,291,451	922,632	12,826,255
	Sep.	110,588	865,706	48,012	436,185	7,549,981	374,367	292,425	2,265,616	986,888	12,929,768
	Dec.	178,586	798,603	69,184	606,996	7,600,182	379,680	300,691	2,402,119	969,968	13,306,009
2004	Mar.	124,538	953,702	60,239	444,721	7,644,404	384,030	318,296	2,674,168	1,226,673	13,830,771
	Jun.	128,251	948,079	42,413	466,875	7,829,924	382,947	328,596	2,980,497	1,302,821	14,410,403
	Sep.	136,353	842,538	103,532	458,618	8,072,043	403,527	378,575	2,435,132	1,694,606	14,524,924
	Dec.	176,755	981,971	31,129	637,433	8,206,060	393,100	397,643	2,961,403	1,502,710	15,288,204
2005	Jan.	119,961	1,073,437	34,356	605,206	8,256,963	395,027	390,093	2,986,087	1,508,165	15,369,295
	Feb.	111,651	1,071,837	33,022	658,749	8,294,587	414,969	393,409	3,217,203	1,618,082	15,813,509
	Mar.	138,782	951,418	34,475	697,434	8,347,561	418,913	392,263	3,174,745	1,606,759	15,762,350
	Apr.	110,157	958,113	29,409	747,630	8,412,586	401,162	384,923	3,371,272	1,609,595	16,024,847
	May	135,542	1,078,100	37,247	981,152	8,435,653	422,657	389,245	3,461,351	1,434,495	16,375,442
	Jun.	133,772	983,490	36,331	1,361,251	8,551,495	426,684	416,819	3,504,231	1,410,293	16,824,366
	Jul.	108,259	911,717	34,906	1,521,368	8,686,064	415,238	440,242	3,442,062	1,489,665	17,049,521
	Aug.	145,458	917,909	36,228	1,457,624	8,754,761	391,034	449,939	3,459,114	1,501,751	17,113,818
	Sep.	116,865	826,612	52,068	1,511,362	8,952,945	389,357	427,183	3,461,263	1,481,354	17,219,009
	Oct.	122,158	845,530	50,519	941,369	9,041,705	365,748	480,021	3,334,244	1,717,428	16,898,968
	Nov.	150,568	862,132	81,248	878,815	9,211,598	366,417	461,922	3,238,544	1,885,771	17,137,015
	Dec.	211,429	818,968	69,324	832,944	9,297,763	365,634	470,829	3,199,602	1,966,854	17,233,347
2006	Jan.	155,849	901,499	85,468	783,343	9,380,176	348,986	483,898	3,317,752	1,960,138	17,417,109
	Feb.	141,937	920,847	89,251	804,432	9,467,022	345,929	472,255	3,286,988	1,945,783	17,474,444
	Mar.	125,176	912,362	82,887	918,408	9,574,434	359,789	482,256	3,461,886	1,987,135	17,904,333

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

¹ Includes statutory reserve requirements

Data available at July 2006



Table 10
ECCU
Money Supply
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

Period Ended	ECCB Notes in Circulation	ECCB ¹ Coins in Circulation	Cash at Commercial Banks	Notes and Coins Held by the Public	Demand Deposits	Money Supply (M1)	Quasi ² Money	Money Supply (M2)
1987 Dec.	222,116	13,746	47,746	188,117	215,594	403,711	1,120,487	1,524,198
1988 Dec.	215,762	14,770	37,684	192,849	269,102	461,951	1,352,949	1,814,900
1989 Dec.	294,521	19,025	64,769	248,777	321,104	569,881	1,657,368	2,227,249
1990 Dec.	307,319	22,701	82,221	247,800	343,222	591,022	1,861,124	2,452,146
1991 Dec.	319,764	24,872	88,198	256,438	335,171	591,609	2,073,827	2,665,436
1992 Dec.	323,613	26,665	75,000	275,279	444,646	719,925	2,150,802	2,870,727
1993 Dec.	337,702	28,131	93,098	272,734	475,244	747,978	2,400,061	3,148,039
1994 Dec.	350,553	30,549	95,556	285,545	507,658	793,203	2,602,057	3,395,260
1995 Dec.	384,563	32,941	105,925	311,579	601,276	912,855	2,961,530	3,874,385
1996 Dec.	385,308	34,904	121,851	298,361	584,536	882,897	3,065,536	3,948,433
1997 Dec.	402,494	37,175	124,360	315,309	648,632	963,941	3,361,407	4,325,348
1998 Dec.	438,487	39,720	131,183	347,023	744,032	1,091,055	3,790,630	4,881,685
1999 Dec.	532,199	43,079	183,813	391,465	802,023	1,193,488	4,205,830	5,399,318
2000 Dec.	492,742	45,832	149,101	389,473	824,763	1,214,236	4,756,951	5,971,187
2001 Dec.	492,423	47,551	164,057	375,917	872,572	1,248,489	5,073,632	6,322,121
2002 Dec.	511,598	49,550	165,426	395,723	925,940	1,321,663	5,415,314	6,736,977
2003 Mar.	429,018	49,881	104,560	374,339	984,546	1,358,885	5,720,960	7,079,845
Jun.	432,810	50,547	101,423	381,934	983,921	1,365,855	5,797,008	7,162,863
Sep.	429,198	51,337	110,588	369,947	1,003,178	1,373,125	5,685,755	7,058,880
Dec.	555,321	52,879	178,586	429,614	1,078,516	1,508,130	5,871,194	7,379,324
2004 Mar.	479,592	53,333	124,538	408,387	1,223,325	1,631,712	6,085,224	7,716,936
Jun.	482,352	54,251	128,251	408,351	1,267,265	1,675,616	6,142,097	7,817,713
Sep.	482,522	55,124	136,353	401,293	1,317,595	1,718,888	6,270,383	7,989,271
Dec.	606,442	56,454	176,755	486,142	1,400,794	1,886,936	6,476,770	8,363,706
2005 Jan.	522,817	56,647	119,961	459,503	1,478,682	1,938,185	6,596,462	8,534,647
Feb.	517,613	56,947	111,178	462,909	1,585,791	2,048,700	6,642,964	8,691,664
Mar.	548,366	57,409	138,782	466,993	1,543,810	2,010,803	6,807,637	8,818,440
Apr.	532,473	57,760	110,157	480,076	1,508,840	1,988,916	6,759,252	8,748,168
May	533,207	58,054	135,542	455,719	1,527,006	1,982,725	6,831,920	8,814,645
Jun.	531,991	58,543	133,772	456,762	1,450,409	1,907,171	6,763,686	8,670,587
Jul.	539,009	58,999	108,259	489,749	1,462,811	1,952,560	6,732,834	8,685,394
Aug.	538,489	59,259	145,458	452,291	1,479,457	1,931,748	6,772,391	8,704,139
Sep.	529,468	59,581	116,865	472,184	1,451,737	1,923,921	6,866,133	8,790,054
Oct.	534,626	59,876	122,158	472,345	1,488,048	1,960,393	6,946,249	8,906,642
Nov.	550,040	60,385	150,568	459,857	1,548,135	2,007,992	6,929,807	8,937,799
Dec.	671,505	61,325	211,429	521,402	1,656,289	2,086,691	6,968,949	9,055,640
2006 Jan.	563,802	61,526	155,849	469,479	1,606,494	2,075,973	7,127,482	9,203,455
Feb.	558,439	61,636	141,937	478,139	1,630,720	2,108,859	7,165,451	9,274,310
Mar.	565,530	61,921	125,176	502,274	1,664,837	2,167,111	7,296,682	9,463,793

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

¹ Includes coins of the former British Caribbean Currency Board (BCCB) and the Eastern Caribbean Currency Authority (ECCA)

² Includes time, savings, and foreign currency deposits of the private sector

Data available at July 2006



Table 11
ECCU
Sectoral Distribution of Loans and Advances
(In thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Dec 01	Mar 02	Jun 02	Sep 02	Dec 02	Mar 03	Jun 03	Sep 03	Dec 03
Agriculture	265,424	282,162	282,937	293,051	298,454	296,990	298,190	301,941	300,448
Fisheries	15,808	15,902	16,625	16,859	14,945	15,199	14,281	13,943	13,345
Manufacturing	211,598	216,277	216,698	224,306	225,400	225,761	233,482	233,761	241,077
Food and Non-alcoholic Bev	43,270	45,301	44,839	39,955	46,622	45,530	45,699	41,919	45,998
Clothing and Accessories	18,212	18,950	18,742	18,666	17,902	18,066	17,715	17,222	15,842
Other Industries ¹	150,116	152,026	153,117	165,685	160,876	162,165	170,081	174,620	179,237
Distributive Trades	819,194	830,259	847,308	835,178	841,791	815,993	799,714	796,969	777,084
Tourism	547,963	538,385	540,468	604,242	597,505	573,281	568,525	595,406	570,712
Entertainment	88,719	82,708	83,592	85,553	84,959	80,774	75,910	83,858	87,765
Transport	230,512	216,301	207,126	209,171	202,512	192,393	191,782	191,026	153,237
Public Utilities	160,685	144,821	164,281	156,876	166,525	157,589	168,821	150,090	177,126
Construction	350,990	347,676	351,745	362,113	365,373	345,576	362,011	325,080	340,046
Government Services	657,987	671,591	768,545	817,924	727,544	659,509	650,024	640,754	619,044
Professional Services	457,519	460,084	455,491	468,546	449,796	489,994	491,167	493,937	491,835
Financial Institutions	88,403	86,372	78,007	79,875	80,352	115,367	141,190	143,926	148,595
Personal	3,402,787	3,432,044	3,464,475	3,479,297	3,514,982	3,548,067	3,520,555	3,579,290	3,679,868
Acquisition of Property ²	1,795,522	1,821,700	1,838,512	1,852,659	1,881,657	1,913,957	1,987,247	2,012,929	2,053,180
Durable Consumer Goods	327,570	306,183	300,117	274,287	260,205	252,425	281,882	275,487	287,542
Other Personal Loans	1,279,695	1,304,161	1,325,846	1,352,351	1,373,120	1,381,685	1,251,426	1,290,874	1,339,146
TOTAL	7,297,589	7,324,582	7,477,298	7,632,991	7,570,138	7,516,493	7,515,652	7,549,981	7,600,182
% Of Long Term Loans to Total Loans	58.05	58.61	58.67	60.13	60.87	62.01	62.19	64.35	64.45
	Mar 04	Jun 04	Sep 04	Dec 04	Mar 05	Jun 05	Sep 05	Dec 05	Mar 06
Agriculture	291,936	308,608	310,639	324,887	340,256	347,859	333,797	336,924	335,207
Fisheries	13,836	14,383	13,808	11,996	12,266	12,905	11,416	11,584	12,571
Manufacturing	228,771	231,202	225,219	225,387	219,535	218,315	229,821	232,683	240,931
Food and Non-alcoholic Bev	43,164	43,754	39,537	40,499	42,865	42,205	42,310	42,526	45,869
Clothing and Accessories	19,168	17,495	15,711	14,111	14,596	15,173	16,763	16,628	15,315
Other Industries ¹	166,439	169,953	169,971	170,777	162,075	160,937	170,748	173,529	179,747
Distributive Trades	777,588	784,936	806,501	797,393	810,764	845,528	863,663	864,059	871,195
Tourism	578,484	584,344	599,639	633,753	587,505	601,479	677,136	744,463	770,265
Entertainment	86,848	81,217	83,061	81,528	79,671	77,177	81,067	80,213	80,287
Transport	150,789	153,582	147,049	138,924	157,522	166,151	172,335	180,955	193,824
Public Utilities	187,550	199,767	209,558	204,956	203,399	196,261	153,720	195,035	265,297
Construction	360,108	450,785	465,960	461,324	470,897	495,351	498,307	512,904	507,625
Government Services	615,406	573,282	665,856	753,712	804,138	751,091	891,884	931,636	926,713
Professional Services	517,648	539,746	526,599	550,712	565,184	576,577	635,463	650,753	725,183
Financial Institutions	143,868	138,036	122,264	125,102	114,935	146,751	151,292	144,262	145,068
Personal	3,691,591	3,769,984	3,895,890	3,896,394	3,981,488	4,116,050	4,253,044	4,412,292	4,500,268
Acquisition of Property ²	2,056,237	2,137,222	2,166,316	2,209,624	2,235,275	2,342,258	2,377,000	2,523,855	2,602,237
Durable Consumer Goods	290,525	283,180	285,987	293,752	306,893	328,037	345,027	371,578	402,756
Other Personal Loans	1,344,829	1,349,582	1,443,587	1,393,018	1,439,320	1,445,755	1,531,017	1,516,859	1,495,275
TOTAL	7,644,429	7,829,872	8,072,043	8,206,068	8,347,561	8,551,495	8,952,945	9,297,763	9,574,434
% Of Long Term Loans to Total Loans	62.70	63.38	63.66	64.79	64.89	64.50	62.80	62.76	62.89

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

¹ Includes Mining and Quarrying² Includes House and Land Purchase and Home Construction

Data available at July 2006



Table 12
Comparative Treasury Bills Monthly Discount Rates

Period Ended	USA ¹	UK ¹	Barbados ²	Jamaica ³	Trinidad ²	Guyana ²
1987 Dec.	5.83	9.23	4.84	18.16	4.63	11.33
1988 Dec.	6.67	9.80	4.75	18.50	4.88	11.03
1989 Dec.	8.12	13.28	4.90	19.10	7.13	15.19
1990 Dec.	7.51	14.09	7.07	26.21	7.50	30.00
1991 Dec.	5.41	10.82	9.34	25.56	7.67	30.94
1992 Dec.	3.46	8.94	10.88	34.36	9.26	25.75
1993 Dec.	3.02	5.21	5.44	28.85	9.45	16.83
1994 Dec.	4.27	5.15	7.26	42.98	10.00	17.66
1995 Dec.	5.51	6.33	8.01	27.65	8.41	17.51
1996 Dec.	5.02	5.78	6.85	37.95	10.44	11.35
1997 Dec.	5.07	6.48	3.61	21.14	9.83	8.91
1998 Dec.	4.82	6.82	5.61	25.65	11.93	8.33
1999 Dec.	5.06	5.30	5.94	19.81	10.07	10.93
2000 Dec.	6.04	5.68	4.04	18.72	10.85	8.99
2001 Dec.	1.95	3.92	2.15	16.65	6.33	6.29
2002 Dec.	1.35	3.80	1.73	17.81	4.23	3.94
2003 Mar.	13.15	3.59	1.50	25.96	4.32	2.92
Jun.	1.05	3.45	2.13	30.13	4.96	2.99
Sep.	0.93	3.41	1.24	25.16	4.76	3.04
Dec.	0.92	3.76	0.77	22.51	4.81	3.20
2004 Jan.	0.89	3.90	0.44	17.15	4.80	3.47
Feb.	0.92	3.98	0.38	16.31	4.78	3.47
Mar.	0.94	4.10	0.28	15.23	4.82	3.47
Apr.	0.94	4.19	0.24	15.09	4.78	3.39
May	1.03	4.34	0.32	14.96	4.83	3.39
Jun.	1.28	4.58	0.35	14.98	4.78	3.52
Jul.	1.35	4.64	1.24	14.96	4.82	3.80
Aug.	1.50	4.72	2.00	16.36	4.73	3.80
Sep.	1.67	4.69	2.14	14.80	4.75	3.80
Oct.	1.75	4.68	2.15	14.78	4.76	3.77
Nov.	2.08	4.66	2.15	16.05	4.71	3.77
Dec.	2.20	4.68	2.76	14.94	4.70	3.79
2005 Jan.	2.35	4.66	2.85	14.40	4.70	3.83
Feb.	2.59	4.69	2.88	13.95	4.71	3.84
Mar.	2.76	4.77	3.28	13.46	4.80	3.84
Apr.	2.78	4.70	4.48	13.43	4.80	3.80
May	2.87	4.66	4.61	13.43	4.86	3.80
Jun.	3.00	4.62	4.75	12.88	4.83	3.80
Jul.	3.21	4.46	4.71	13.03	4.94	3.80
Aug.	3.46	4.41	4.88	13.03	4.94	3.76
Sep.	3.46	4.40	5.28	13.15	4.93	3.76
Oct.	3.74	4.40	5.67	13.16	4.93	3.76
Nov.	3.91	4.42	5.84	13.15	4.98	3.76
Dec.	3.89	4.43	6.22	13.55	4.95	3.74
2006 Jan.	4.23	4.39	5.69	13.30	5.01	3.88
Feb.	4.44	4.38	5.83	13.24	5.00	3.88
Mar.	4.51	4.40	NA()	13.18	5.43	3.85

Source: International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Quarterly and Annual data are period averages

¹ Arithmetic average of daily market yields

² Average tender rate for three months

³ Average yield of bills issued during the month with maturities closest to 180 days

Data available at 26 July 2006



Table 13
Anguilla – Central Government Fiscal Operations
(EC\$M)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	30.36	30.52	34.08	31.86	50.92
Tax Revenue	25.05	24.01	27.79	25.56	44.1
Taxes on Property	0.25	0.14	0.08	0.07	0.12
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	11.96	10.54	13.63	7.79	28.05
Of which:					
Accommodation Tax	5.31	4.71	1.57	1.04	6.06
Bank Deposit Levy	1.70	0.63	1.74	0.00	0.00
Licences	2.62	2.05	1.50	1.57	3.91
Stamp Duties	1.94	2.45	8.27	4.79	17.30
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	12.84	13.33	14.08	17.71	15.93
Of which:					
Import Duty	10.61	10.82	11.48	15.54	13.31
Block and Cement Import Licenses	0.36	0.27	0.39	0.24	0.40
Embarkation Tax	1.01	0.94	0.87	0.78	1.04
Non-Tax Revenue	5.31	6.51	6.28	6.30	6.83
Current Expenditure	21.32	24.65	28.93	30.96	31.93
Personal Emoluments	9.45	9.54	9.86	11.97	11.00
Goods and Services	6.03	6.99	11.80	10.45	10.11
Interest Payments	0.51	1.41	1.26	1.51	1.21
Domestic	0.51	1.06	1.14	1.34	1.21
External	--	0.35	0.13	0.17	0.00
Transfers and Subsidies	5.33	6.72	6.01	7.03	9.62
Of which: Pensions	0.34	0.51	0.55	0.64	0.61
Current Account Balance	9.04	5.87	5.14	0.90	18.99
Capital Revenue	--	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	--	4.42	--	0.00	0.00
Of which: Capital Grants	--	4.42	--	0.00	0.00
Capital Expenditure	16.63	8.76	8.22	7.32	6.72
Overall Balance	(7.58)	1.54	(3.07)	(6.41)	12.27
Financing	7.58	(1.54)	3.07	6.18	(12.27)
Domestic	7.65	(1.47)	3.24	6.27	(12.34)
ECCB (net)	(1.60)	1.09	0.62	(0.21)	0.22
Commercial Banks (net)	12.43	(2.11)	2.51	3.87	(13.79)
Other	(3.71)	0.44	0.11	2.61	1.23
External	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.17)	(0.09)	0.07
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	(0.07)	(0.07)	(0.17)	(0.09)	0.07
Disbursements	0.04	0.02	--	0.00	0.00
Amortisation	(0.11)	(0.09)	(0.17)	(0.09)	0.07
Change in Government. Foreign Assets	--	--	--	0.00	0.00

Source: Ministry of Finance
 Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 14
Anguilla - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Visitors	44,388	34,353	29,746	34,699	48,885
Stay-Over Visitors	18,635	16,471	12,078	14,900	20,441
USA	13,721	11,753	6,427	9,832	14,308
Canada	696	386	245	465	770
UK	1,074	868	905	987	1,041
Italy	277	205	495	222	311
Germany	120	99	54	137	127
Caribbean	1,683	2,103	2,586	2,157	2,623
Other Countries	1,064	1,057	1,366	1,100	1,261
Excursionists	25,753	17,882	17,668	19,799	28,444
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	71.98	55.28	47.76	57.27	76.28

Source: Ministry of Finance, Statistical Unit
 Data available at 26 May 2006

Table 15
Anguilla – Consumer Price Index
December 2000 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1000.0	119.16	0.09	1.31	0.26	1.52	1.27
Food	321.2	110.40	(0.52)	0.43	1.13	1.97	0.71
Alcohol and Tobacco	3.0	101.43	0.19	0.31	(0.39)	(0.59)	0.63
Housing	171.5	98.03	0.24	9.85	0.94	(0.50)	1.88
Fuel and Light	68.6	130.77	0.04	0.13	--	12.54	--
Clothing and Footwear	30.7	143.97	1.49	(7.31)	2.74	(1.94)	(2.12)
Household Furnishings and Supplies	97.3	126.98	(1.07)	1.69	(0.77)	(5.42)	15.04
Transport and Communications	235.3	131.11	0.05	0.26	(0.23)	2.30	(2.69)
Medical Care and Expenses	30.9	134.37	0.16	(0.01)	0.46	(0.06)	1.63
Education	9.9	186.91	(0.68)	(0.01)	(1.82)	0.03	2.05
Personal Services	16.4	130.23	2.46	0.22	6.09	0.06	6.68
Miscellaneous	15.3	121.16	2.81	(0.94)	(3.10)	6.32	1.39

Source: Ministry of Finance
 *at end of period
 Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 16
Anguilla - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 4 th Qr	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	334.03	463.12	690.38	748.27	482.41	546.63
Central Bank (net)	92.48	91.19	93.13	89.32	107.20	110.23
Commercial Banks (net)	241.55	371.93	597.26	658.95	375.21	436.40
External (net)	193.75	326.63	355.38	394.62	336.78	386.61
Assets	420.04	606.27	594.29	584.58	524.61	586.90
Liabilities	226.30	279.64	238.91	189.96	187.83	200.29
Other ECCB Territories	47.80	45.30	241.88	264.33	38.43	49.79
Assets	129.68	109.58	313.51	343.15	108.43	123.64
Liabilities	81.88	64.28	71.63	78.82	70.00	73.85
Net Domestic Assets	363.68	282.62	62.40	101.60	430.36	444.67
Domestic Credit	551.36	554.46	577.01	613.77	655.17	630.49
Central Government (net)	36.70	47.52	46.50	49.63	53.29	39.71
Other Public Sector (net)	(81.44)	(81.22)	(87.14)	(89.88)	(93.11)	(97.34)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	(7.19)	(8.07)	(4.99)	(13.76)	(26.19)	(21.22)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	13.40	5.05	5.72	5.72	10.06	10.64
Private Sector	589.89	591.17	616.91	662.06	711.12	698.69
Other Items (net)	(187.68)	(271.84)	(514.60)	(512.17)	(224.80)	(185.81)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	697.71	745.74	752.79	849.87	912.77	991.30
Money Supply (M1)	26.06	22.56	21.24	30.40	29.82	27.56
Currency with the Public	9.51	8.22	8.79	9.45	9.58	9.67
Demand Deposits	16.55	14.34	12.45	20.95	20.24	17.88
Quasi Money	671.65	723.18	731.54	819.47	882.95	963.75
Savings Deposits	60.11	61.77	65.20	65.59	69.57	71.04
Time Deposits	49.98	65.72	74.43	68.87	70.92	74.34
Foreign Currency Deposits	561.56	595.69	591.91	685.01	742.47	818.37

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
 Data available at 26 May 2006

Table 17
Anguilla - External Trade
(EC\$M)

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Exports	6.52	13.90	11.51	7.88	6.03
Total Imports	77.66	86.81	81.85	104.23	112.13
Trade Balance	(71.14)	(72.91)	(70.34)	(96.35)	(106.10)

Source: Statistical Department, Ministry of Finance
 Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 18
Antigua and Barbuda - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 ^R 4 th Qr	2006 ^P 1 st Qr
Total Visitors	278,327	134,627	78,440	214,261	272,869
Stay-Over Visitors	71,959	56,789	50,847	59,209	73,500
Of which :					
USA	22,194	16,840	12,867	14,743	23,928
Canada	4,590	1,643	1,142	2,196	4,599
Europe	33,638	25,337	19,937	26,823	32,123
UK	27,704	22,072	17,466	23,326	26,545
Germany	1,040	491	285	770	1,125
Switzerland	360	189	98	245	334
Italy	2,329	1,047	1,229	920	1,904
France	410	295	197	301	476
Other Europe	1,795	1,243	662	1,261	1,739
Caribbean	9,634	10,487	14,460	12,738	10,166
South America	203	239	173	255	240
Other Countries	1,700	2,243	2,268	2,454	2,444
Cruise Ship Passengers ¹	206,368	77,838	27,593	155,052	199,369
Number of Cruise Ship Calls	161	47	8	105	164
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	243.90	183.24	163.41	199.57	248.26

Source: Department of Tourism and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

¹ Includes excursionists

Data available at 26 May 2006

Table 19
Antigua and Barbuda - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 ^R 4 th Qr	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 ^R 4 th Qr	2006 ^P 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	729.82	841.65	739.31	571.99	693.66	963.89
Central Bank (net)	324.32	344.43	341.91	299.46	343.72	355.59
Commercial Banks (net)	409.46	497.19	397.40	272.54	349.95	608.30
External (net)	429.88	421.41	554.15	525.22	622.01	792.47
Assets	727.22	692.78	843.97	837.43	1,009.35	1,100.51
Liabilities	297.35	271.37	289.82	312.20	387.34	308.04
Other ECCB Territories	(24.42)	75.78	(156.75)	(252.68)	(272.07)	(184.17)
Assets	169.05	263.25	482.69	536.67	507.00	586.35
Liabilities	193.47	187.47	639.44	789.35	779.06	770.52
Net Domestic Assets	1,313.14	1,314.14	1,358.53	1,541.00	1,490.39	1,343.86
Domestic Credit	1,558.47	1,529.14	1,518.02	1,624.70	1,675.65	1,688.10
Central Government (net)	267.61	272.40	256.71	253.61	261.68	194.56
Other Public Sector (net)	(162.49)	(170.37)	(200.68)	(160.95)	(180.39)	(201.04)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	(14.23)	(24.72)	(37.68)	(21.25)	(35.50)	(35.50)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	(40.53)	(50.96)	(53.32)	(47.64)	(35.79)	(23.78)
Private Sector	1,508.11	1,502.80	1,553.00	1,600.90	1,665.65	1,753.86
Other Items (net)	(245.33)	(215.01)	(159.49)	(83.69)	(185.26)	(344.24)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	2,042.92	2,155.75	2,097.84	2,113.00	2,184.05	2,307.75
Money Supply (M1)	444.54	508.90	485.58	471.76	525.35	557.06
Currency with the Public	113.34	108.61	107.31	109.98	122.14	121.16
Demand Deposits	331.20	400.29	378.27	361.78	403.20	435.91
Quasi Money	1,598.38	1,646.86	1,612.25	1,641.24	1,658.70	1,750.69
Savings Deposits	683.45	727.42	724.07	728.80	741.72	777.10
Time Deposits	780.11	778.96	765.89	784.25	780.22	792.18
Foreign Currency Deposits	134.83	140.48	122.30	128.18	136.76	181.41

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 20
Antigua and Barbuda - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 ^P 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	120.25	129.66	112.83	130.94	199.37
Tax Revenue	109.96	119.31	104.00	121.78	189.11
Taxes on Income and Profits	11.62	16.03	17.78	18.36	54.65
Of which:					
Personal Income	--	5.07	9.02	9.28	10.41
Company	10.10	10.37	8.64	8.95	44.08
Taxes on Property	3.24	4.69	1.48	1.11	4.52
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	28.11	28.92	21.11	22.39	33.59
Of which:					
Stamp Duties	7.45	9.92	7.90	11.04	10.36
Hotel and Guest Tax	11.52	11.32	6.48	4.22	12.27
Telecommunications Tax	2.86	2.40	2.35	2.22	1.93
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	66.98	69.67	63.63	79.92	96.36
Of which:					
Import Duty	16.02	17.57	16.25	21.35	25.00
Consumption Tax	23.05	26.15	23.39	30.71	39.69
Customs Service Charge	15.72	15.47	15.37	19.10	19.47
Environment Tax	1.79	1.75	1.92	2.20	2.77
Passenger Facility Charge	2.69	3.46	1.75	1.27	2.56
Non-Tax Revenue	10.29	10.35	8.83	9.17	10.25
Current Expenditure	138.08	133.86	143.55	147.79	156.04
Personal Emoluments	60.38	60.90	65.82	65.72	66.35
Goods and Services	26.67	26.28	28.08	29.65	27.17
Interest Payments	22.69	18.76	22.40	25.41	24.68
Domestic	8.68	5.94	8.29	10.99	9.26
External	14.01	12.82	14.11	14.42	15.42
Transfers and Subsidies	28.34	27.91	27.25	26.72	37.84
Of which: Pensions	10.02	9.41	9.25	9.50	11.11
Current Account Balance	(17.83)	(4.19)	(30.72)	(16.85)	43.33
Capital Revenue	1.64	14.82	0.81	0.73	1.46
Grants	8.93	2.50	3.00	554.25	21.00
Of which: Capital Grants	8.93	2.50	3.00	7.00	21.00
Debt Forgiveness	--	--	--	547.25	--
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	25.90	21.42	12.46	34.44	74.18
Of which: Capital Expenditure	25.90	21.42	12.46	34.44	74.18
	(10.47)	10.47	(16.97)	529.11	16.29
Overall Balance	(33.16)	(8.29)	(39.36)	503.70	(8.39)
Financing	33.16	8.29	39.37	(503.70)	8.39
Domestic	8.87	(5.80)	15.08	25.66	(20.61)
ECCB (net)	1.06	(0.09)	0.05	0.20	(7.14)
Commercial Banks (net)	3.74	(15.60)	(3.15)	7.88	(59.98)
Other	4.08	9.89	18.18	17.58	46.52
External	(5.34)	(5.65)	3.28	(389.24)	(2.72)
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	(5.38)	(5.65)	3.21	(389.27)	(2.76)
Disbursements	--	--	7.88	14.52	0.99
Amortisation	(5.38)	(5.65)	(4.67)	(403.79)	(3.74)
Change in Government Foreign Assets	0.03	0.00	0.07	0.04	0.04
Arrears	29.63	19.75	21.01	(140.13)	31.72
Domestic	6.46	4.27	(0.45)	2.94	8.41
External	23.17	15.48	21.46	(143.06)	23.31

Source: Ministry of Finance, Treasury Department and ECCB Estimates.
 Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 21
Antigua and Barbuda - Consumer Price Index
January 1993 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 ^R 4 th Qr	2006 ^F 1 st Qr
All Items	1,000.00	110.95	0.15	0.60	0.79	0.98	0.06
Food	214.20	106.91	0.41	0.33	1.25	(0.53)	(0.18)
Alcohol and Tobacco	1.60	107.56	1.23	(0.02)	0.96	(0.12)	0.63
Housing	218.30	109.74	--	--	--	--	--
Fuel and Light	63.90	114.40	4.09	9.15	2.39	1.17	1.16
Clothing and Footwear	110.60	108.03	1.06	--	0.86	(0.58)	--
Household Furnishings and Supplies	126.00	114.37	(0.27)	(0.08)	0.60	4.54	--
Transport and Communication	153.50	109.71	(3.63)	--	1.37	3.50	--
Medical Care and Expenses	27.60	111.25	1.33	--	--	--	--
Education	23.40	116.77	10.99	--	--	--	0.93
Personal Services	43.00	131.87	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous	17.90	108.64	1.22	0.13	--	--	--

Sources: Central Statistical Office and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

*at end of period

Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 22
Dominica - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Visitors	128,668	75,420	48,531	127,972	168,811
Stay-Over Visitors	20,233	17,731	20,163	20,494	18,555
USA	5,251	4,807	4,280	3,365	5,016
Canada	680	381	370	308	631
UK	1,598	1,295	1,422	1,475	1,726
Caribbean	11,021	10,149	12,793	13,186	9,405
Other Countries	1,683	1,099	1,298	2,160	1,777
Excursionists	155	129	183	209	142
Cruise Ship Passengers	108,280	57,560	28,185	107,269	150,114
Number of Cruise Ship Calls	105	35	11	83	148
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	41.74	34.38	33.74	41.05	44.48

Source: Central Statistical Office

Data available at 26 May 2006

Table 23
Dominica - Selected Trade Statistics
 (Value - EC\$M; Volume - Tonnes)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Visible Trade Balance	(82.09)	(91.79)	(71.61)	(91.59)	(74.12)
Total Imports	110.11	116.96	102.29	117.33	97.78
Total Exports	28.02	25.16	30.68	25.74	23.66
Re-Exports	0.76	0.63	5.19	0.63	0.83
Domestic Exports	27.26	24.53	25.49	25.11	22.83
Of which:					
Bananas					
Value	3.74	3.83	3.06	3.82	3.46
Volume	2,799	2,856	2,267	2,761	2,546
Soap					
Value	6.84	6.91	5.84	7.07	5.76
Volume	2,157	2,090	1,691	1,913	1,752
Dental Cream					
Value	4.61	2.90	3.92	3.62	3.54
Volume	423	260	379	404	395

Source: Central Statistical Office, Dominica Coconut Products and WIBDECO

Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 24
Dominica - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	58.96	68.34	63.57	64.22	63.96
Tax Revenue	52.49	60.21	57.55	59.01	58.99
Taxes on Income and Profits	10.63	13.63	13.54	12.85	13.19
Of which:					
Personal Tax	7.63	7.99	7.29	7.38	8.94
Company Tax	3.15	5.89	6.53	5.88	4.47
Stabilisation Levy	0.09	0.12	0.13	0.06	0.09
Taxes on Property	1.38	1.76	2.33	1.42	1.79
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	14.48	17.65	13.61	13.52	20.47
Of which:					
Sales Tax	9.19	9.67	9.37	9.46	10.26
Licences	3.57	6.34	2.24	2.44	3.90
Consumption Tax	1.34	1.02	1.46	1.32	1.31
Hotel Occupancy Tax	0.19	0.29	0.14	0.12	0.27
Value Added Tax	--	--	--	--	3.33
Excise Tax	--	--	--	--	0.79
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	26.01	27.17	28.06	31.22	23.54
Of which:					
Consumption Tax	13.15	13.31	15.35	16.49	9.92
Import Duty	6.41	6.65	6.40	8.39	6.81
Customs Service Charge	2.71	3.51	3.02	3.27	3.00
Non-Tax Revenue	6.47	8.14	6.01	5.22	4.97
Current Expenditure	53.98	61.45	62.11	55.09	66.47
Personal Emoluments	27.26	25.80	27.04	28.44	27.63
Goods and Services	9.47	10.43	15.54	9.74	8.90
Interest Payments	6.48	7.70	6.04	5.63	16.11
Domestic	1.83	2.58	2.14	1.31	7.40
External	4.65	5.12	3.90	4.32	8.71
Transfers and Subsidies	10.76	17.52	13.49	11.28	13.83
Of which: Pensions	3.25	3.34	3.36	3.38	3.40
Current Account Balance	4.99	6.90	1.46	9.14	(2.51)
Capital Revenue	0.27	0.93	14.55	1.36	0.19
Grants	13.18	7.47	9.77	10.68	15.41
Of which: Capital Grants	13.18	7.47	9.77	10.68	15.41
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	17.33	11.75	11.67	13.72	17.06
Of which: Capital Expenditure	18.23	12.65	12.35	14.56	17.81
	7.60	11.25	20.15	13.08	12.14
Overall Balance	1.11	3.55	14.11	7.45	(3.97)
Financing	(1.11)	(3.55)	(14.11)	(7.45)	3.97
Domestic	(13.07)	(2.55)	1.57	2.39	2.01
ECCB (net)	(8.23)	(2.28)	(3.27)	0.84	(5.10)
Commercial Banks (net)	9.00	0.40	6.63	0.05	(5.96)
Other	(13.83)	(0.67)	(1.79)	1.50	13.07
External	3.08	0.70	(3.79)	(7.89)	(2.15)
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	6.86	2.73	(0.33)	3.20	(3.18)
Disbursements	9.29	3.78	2.42	5.19	0.21
Amortisation	(2.43)	(1.06)	(2.75)	(1.99)	(3.38)
Change in Government Foreign Assets	(3.78)	(2.03)	(3.46)	(11.09)	1.02
Arrears	8.88	(1.70)	(11.89)	(1.95)	4.11
Domestic	1.34	(5.38)	(10.19)	(3.80)	(1.64)
External	7.54	3.68	(1.70)	1.85	5.74

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Data available at 26 May 2006



Table 25
Dominica - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 4 th Qr	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	357.01	372.95	379.83	367.67	317.96	332.07
Central Bank (net)	114.09	128.57	133.20	146.55	132.70	143.66
Commercial Banks (net)	242.93	244.38	246.63	221.11	185.26	188.41
External (net)	88.88	115.95	109.70	102.86	27.45	32.88
Assets	227.64	252.43	259.43	243.82	173.96	182.59
Liabilities	138.76	136.48	149.73	140.95	146.51	149.71
Other ECCB Territories	154.05	128.44	136.93	118.25	157.81	155.53
Assets	175.08	156.34	159.90	139.44	176.65	185.16
Liabilities	21.03	27.90	22.97	21.19	18.84	29.63
Net Domestic Assets	230.35	235.89	244.54	250.99	309.02	322.01
Domestic Credit	362.90	347.24	366.98	392.63	390.18	405.85
Central Government (net)	14.50	15.26	13.38	16.74	17.64	6.58
Other Public Sector (net)	(21.67)	(32.55)	(36.48)	(39.54)	(39.77)	(50.17)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	(75.85)	(80.17)	(58.46)	(56.52)	(59.89)	(56.83)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	(4.73)	(5.08)	(5.31)	(5.50)	(5.63)	(5.94)
Private Sector	450.66	449.77	453.85	477.45	477.84	512.22
Other Items (net)	(132.55)	(111.35)	(122.44)	(141.65)	(81.16)	(83.84)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	587.37	608.84	624.37	618.65	626.98	654.08
Money Supply (M1)	111.20	114.89	122.13	135.21	143.04	152.98
Currency with the Public	37.60	41.51	37.80	37.52	38.96	39.73
Demand Deposits	73.60	73.38	84.32	97.69	104.08	113.25
Quasi Money	476.17	493.94	502.25	483.44	483.94	501.10
Savings Deposits	328.48	350.72	353.38	340.05	343.04	352.81
Time Deposits	134.28	132.14	137.36	132.31	130.60	137.45
Foreign Currency Deposits	13.41	11.08	11.51	11.08	10.30	10.84

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
 Data available at 17 May 2006

Table 26
Dominica - Consumer Price Index
January 2001 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1,000.00	108.61	0.84	0.52	0.87	0.45	0.99
Food	328.80	112.60	0.91	0.48	1.82	0.48	2.18
Alcohol and Tobacco	9.50	107.64	0.28	(0.16)	0.66	0.50	8.00
Housing	111.70	110.36	(0.13)	(0.42)	(0.27)	0.25	0.33
Fuel and Light	58.60	141.12	17.38	2.18	7.41	(3.90)	0.76
Clothing and Footwear	82.10	96.07	0.16	(0.05)	0.10	(0.09)	(0.84)
Household Furnishings and Supplies	93.50	97.84	(0.94)	(0.03)	0.72	(0.28)	0.32
Transport and Communication	194.30	100.51	(2.69)	1.55	(2.72)	3.31	(1.13)
Medical Care and Expenses	31.60	102.10	--	(0.19)	--	0.24	2.30
Education	29.00	113.71	1.53	(1.42)	0.72	0.06	1.18
Personal Services	42.50	114.62	--	--	2.79	0.00	5.52
Miscellaneous	18.40	109.29	(1.08)	1.01	1.50	0.06	(0.06)

Sources: Central Statistical Office and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
 *at end of period

Data available at 06 June 2006



Table 27
Grenada - Selected Agricultural Production

	Unit	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Bananas	(tonnes)	0	0	0	0	0
Cocoa	(tonnes)	3	22	15	7	20
Nutmeg	(tonnes)	1	29	47	65	64
Mace	(tonnes)	1	1	3	3	3

Source: Central Statistical Office
Data available at 13 June 2006

Table 28
Grenada - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Visitors	176,444	60,639	26,985	115,434	151,056
Of Which:					
Stay-over Visitors	24,209	20,295	25,249	23,880	33,280
USA	7,001	4,945	6,262	4,852	8,896
Canada	1,354	730	868	1,098	2,606
Europe	5,870	4,139	4,572	6,122	10,898
Of which					
Germany	1,186	478	141	641	1,189
UK	3,514	2,989	3,905	4,588	7,689
Caribbean	6,087	6,496	8,060	6,725	6,756
Other	3,897	3,985	5,487	5,083	4,124
Excursionists	2,118	1,759	923	1,029	930
Cruise Ship Passengers	148,041	37,274	311	89,456	114,491
No. of Cruise Ship Calls	123	42	7	85	121
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	54.70	40.49	46.81	50.90	96.01

Source: Grenada Board of Tourism
Data available at 13 June 2006



Table 29
Grenada - Selected Trade Statistics
 (Value - EC\$M; Volume - Tonnes)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^P 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Visible Trade Balance	(178.01)	(193.71)	(185.85)	(213.93)	(196.96)
Total Imports	200.03	214.67	216.97	228.34	210.49
Total Exports	22.02	20.96	31.12	14.41	13.53
Re-Exports	6.54	3.27	3.42	2.20	5.02
Domestic Exports	15.48	17.69	27.70	12.21	8.51
Of which:					
Bananas*					
Volume	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nutmeg					
Volume	554.32	491.73	243.22	161.00	151.70
Value	8.57	7.12	3.55	2.34	2.20
Mace					
Volume	0.18	20.09	0.00	1.20	8.53
Value	0.00	0.44	0.00	0.03	0.21
Cocoa					
Volume	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.00
Value	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.05	0.00
Manufactured Exports					
Volume	--	--	--	n/a	n/a
Value	5.08	6.08	7.31	7.05	6.05

Source: Central Statistical Office Office and WIBDECO

* Includes exports to the Caribbean countries

Data available at 13 June 2006

Table 30
Grenada – Consumer Price Index
 January 2001 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1,000.00	111.71	0.10	1.67	1.38	2.55	(1.12)
Food	367.50	111.53	0.11	1.96	2.84	1.83	(0.38)
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	8.60	107.98	0.62	0.04	0.79	0.69	0.06
Housing	102.00	115.51	1.59	5.56	1.52	0.91	(0.84)
Fuel and Light	55.00	123.01	(0.35)	2.55	2.47	23.46	(11.20)
Clothing and Footwear	97.70	98.50	(0.71)	0.19	0.09	--	--
Transport and Communication	156.50	119.22	0.03	1.52	(0.29)	2.62	(0.53)
Household Furnishings and Supplies	95.30	105.83	(0.30)	--	(0.06)	0.26	--
Medical Care and Expenses	46.50	115.24	0.01	(0.26)	0.09	0.36	0.16
Education	37.40	110.18	--	--	2.46	--	(2.20)
Personal Services	16.00	101.11	1.11	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous	17.50	102.99	(0.47)	0.02	(0.11)	0.33	0.39

Source: Statistical Department, Ministry of Finance

* at end of period

Data available at 13 June 2006



Table 31
Grenada - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	79.85	97.12	92.67	90.11	90.78
Tax Revenue	76.63	90.85	89.85	86.56	84.00
Taxes on Income and Profits	10.98	10.93	21.11	14.96	13.78
Of which:					
Personal	3.44	2.98	2.87	4.61	3.97
Company	7.34	7.53	18.06	9.38	8.39
Taxes on Property	3.91	5.41	3.64	2.41	3.67
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	14.80	17.76	13.27	14.12	20.08
Of which:					
Consumption Tax	6.48	6.32	7.15	7.37	8.16
Stamp Duties	1.89	2.02	1.61	2.01	1.22
Licenses	3.87	6.53	1.33	2.16	7.52
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	46.95	56.75	51.83	55.34	46.47
Of which:					
Import Duty	10.94	12.39	12.91	13.89	11.66
Consumption Tax	24.81	30.29	26.50	28.21	23.03
Customs Service Charge	9.98	12.37	10.82	11.36	10.43
Non-Tax Revenue	3.22	6.27	2.82	3.54	6.78
Current Expenditure	75.05	78.08	84.91	94.71	76.92
Personal Emoluments	35.86	38.96	38.27	37.75	38.65
Goods and Services	15.84	15.25	21.96	14.86	16.46
Interest Payments	10.74	12.72	9.51	26.43	5.85
Domestic	4.83	5.35	6.98	10.60	1.26
External	5.91	7.37	2.53	15.82	4.59
Transfers and Subsidies	12.61	11.14	15.17	15.67	15.96
Of which: Pensions	3.96	4.31	4.17	4.50	5.04
Current Account Balance	4.80	19.04	7.75	(4.60)	13.86
Capital Revenue	0.17	0.10	0.02	0.03	7.75
Grants	51.16	54.96	38.85	15.54	2.10
Of which: Capital Grants	5.89	17.32	29.98	12.44	2.10
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	30.65	37.70	52.36	42.93	21.58
Of which: Capital Expenditure	30.65	37.70	52.36	42.93	21.58
Primary Balance	36.21	49.12	3.78	(5.53)	7.97
Overall Balance	25.47	36.40	(5.73)	(31.96)	2.13
Financing	(25.47)	(36.40)	5.73	31.96	(2.13)
Domestic	(37.37)	(63.57)	(15.82)	(7.87)	(5.50)
ECCB (net)	(0.57)	(0.07)	(0.09)	(0.19)	0.11
Commercial Banks (net)	(37.69)	(5.92)	(13.19)	1.25	(12.69)
Other	0.90	(57.58)	(2.55)	(8.94)	7.09
External	7.76	19.47	17.88	36.92	3.37
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	7.81	19.52	17.94	36.97	3.42
Disbursements	11.44	24.05	36.77	43.39	0.56
Amortisation	(3.63)	(4.53)	(18.82)	(6.42)	(2.86)
Change in Government Foreign Assets	(0.04)	(0.05)	(0.06)	(0.05)	(0.05)
Arrears	4.13	7.70	3.67	2.91	--
Domestic	2.50	2.80	--	--	--
External	1.63	4.90	3.67	2.91	--

Source: Ministry of Finance
Data available at 13 June 2006



Table 32
Grenada - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 ^R 4 th Qr	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	648.60	604.44	577.64	546.15	334.84	308.90
Central Bank (net)	328.63	303.32	308.89	263.45	254.43	245.21
Commercial Banks (net)	319.97	301.12	268.75	282.71	80.41	63.70
External (net)	177.43	204.54	108.90	167.41	77.35	53.00
Assets	535.73	544.49	437.65	505.66	422.20	394.29
Liabilities	358.30	339.95	328.74	338.25	344.85	341.30
Other ECCB Territories	142.54	96.58	159.85	115.29	3.07	10.70
Assets	193.54	176.18	283.33	263.50	131.35	137.85
Liabilities	51.00	79.60	123.48	148.20	128.28	127.15
Net Domestic Assets	834.75	888.62	876.48	918.06	1,134.18	1,144.38
Domestic Credit	902.06	896.89	933.37	985.08	1,035.76	1,044.78
Central Government (net)	71.55	33.29	27.30	14.03	15.10	2.51
Other Public Sector (net)	(91.05)	(67.50)	(72.56)	(56.08)	(47.05)	(44.59)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	(90.00)	(58.86)	(34.14)	(19.72)	(28.80)	(30.40)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	14.97	5.65	5.52	5.04	8.19	7.23
Private Sector	996.59	984.31	1,007.26	1,041.81	1,088.32	1,110.02
Other Items (net)	(67.31)	(8.27)	(56.90)	(67.02)	98.43	99.60
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	1,483.35	1,493.06	1,454.12	1,464.21	1,469.02	1,453.28
Money Supply (M1)	340.25	337.53	303.95	305.61	315.34	311.42
Currency with the Public	102.10	97.73	96.19	100.85	105.26	100.47
Demand Deposits	238.15	239.79	207.75	204.76	210.07	210.95
Quasi Money	1,143.11	1,155.54	1,150.18	1,158.60	1,153.69	1,141.86
Savings Deposits	840.46	859.93	861.24	860.09	862.24	870.64
Time Deposits	213.46	205.17	197.58	197.18	189.84	192.33
Foreign Currency Deposits	89.19	90.43	91.36	101.33	101.62	78.89

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at 16 June 2006



Table 33
Montserrat - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	8.22	8.15	8.58	9.66	7.58
Tax Revenue	7.72	7.65	8.06	9.04	6.88
Taxes on Income and Profits	3.37	3.33	3.56	2.76	3.42
Of which:					
Personal Tax	2.73	2.86	2.84	2.58	2.61
Company Tax	0.61	0.38	0.69	0.09	0.71
Taxes on Property	0.23	0.16	0.14	0.85	0.17
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	1.19	0.71	0.73	0.72	0.99
Of which:					
Hotel Occupancy Tax	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.01
Insurance Company Tax	0.11	0.03	0.07	0.10	0.04
Licences and Stamp Duty	1.59	0.47	0.44	0.44	0.77
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	2.94	3.46	3.63	4.71	2.31
Of which:					
Import Duty	0.84	0.96	0.98	1.22	0.61
Consumption Tax	1.27	1.44	1.61	1.99	0.88
Customs Service Charge	0.62	0.75	0.87	1.07	0.61
Non-Tax Revenue	0.50	0.49	0.52	0.62	0.69
Current Expenditure	14.74	21.12	20.45	21.75	16.56
Personal Emoluments	6.73	7.87	7.80	7.90	8.10
Goods and Services	3.54	6.33	6.32	8.38	4.80
Interest Payments	0.06	0.05	0.01	0.05	0.23
Domestic	0.05	0.04	--	0.04	0.05
External	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.18
Transfers and Subsidies	4.41	6.88	6.32	5.41	3.43
Of which: Pensions	1.41	2.24	1.84	2.14	2.18
Current Account Balance	(6.52)	(12.97)	(11.86)	(12.09)	(8.99)
Capital Revenue	--	--	--	--	--
Grants	--	18.22	19.98	13.19	4.76
Of which: Capital Grants	--	13.19	0.80	0.02	0.04
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	3.07	8.04	7.64	6.61	2.34
Of which: Capital Expenditure	3.07	8.04	7.64	6.61	2.34
Primary Balance	(9.53)	(2.74)	0.49	(5.46)	(6.33)
Overall Balance	(9.59)	(2.79)	0.48	(5.51)	(6.56)
Financing	9.59	2.79	(0.48)	5.51	6.56
Domestic	9.63	2.86	(0.43)	5.57	6.60
ECCB (net)	(0.02)	(0.08)	0.02	(0.16)	(0.15)
Commercial Banks (net)	8.18	7.02	(1.33)	(3.61)	4.47
Other	(1.47)	(4.08)	0.88	9.34	2.29
External	(0.04)	(0.07)	(0.05)	(0.07)	(0.04)
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Disbursements	--	--	--	--	--
Amortisation	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Change in Govt Foreign Assets	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.02)	(0.04)	(0.01)

Source: Treasury Department, Ministry of Finance
Data available at 09 August 2006



Table 34
Montserrat – Consumer Price Index
1982 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1,000.00	214.40	(0.29)	0.96	1.47	0.75	(0.51)
Food	495.0	201.40	(1.64)	2.19	1.79	1.51	(0.35)
Alcohol and Tobacco	46.0	211.10	0.53	(0.19)	0.05	1.34	(0.24)
Household Goods	102.0	159.20	4.48	0.37	--	0.06	(2.99)
Gas, Electricity and Water	18.0	179.30	0.92	2.22	3.96	(1.23)	(2.61)
Rent	7.0	955.70	--	--	--	--	--
Clothing and Footwear	179.0	219.50	0.41	(0.50)	--	(0.05)	(0.14)
Services	153.0	260.00	(0.12)	0.08	3.37	--	(0.31)

Source: Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance

* at end of period

Data available at 09 August 2006

Table 35
Montserrat – Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 4 th Qr	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	173.12	160.55	159.13	150.00	159.00	150.75
Central Bank (net)	38.06	38.68	43.37	37.57	37.66	34.15
Commercial Banks (net)	135.06	121.88	115.76	112.42	121.34	116.60
External (net)	38.68	34.17	27.22	33.51	35.72	33.02
Assets	67.44	63.55	58.65	68.65	70.00	69.00
Liabilities	28.76	29.38	31.43	35.14	34.28	35.99
Other ECCB Territories (net)	96.38	87.71	88.54	78.92	85.62	83.58
Assets	99.29	90.30	89.73	80.50	87.74	85.12
Liabilities	2.91	2.60	1.19	1.59	2.12	1.53
Net Domestic Assets	(53.61)	(41.25)	(38.26)	(31.74)	(35.35)	(28.80)
Domestic Credit	(39.25)	(30.87)	(26.17)	(24.80)	(27.43)	(21.71)
Central Government (net)	(40.42)	(32.26)	(25.32)	(26.63)	(30.40)	(26.09)
Other Public Sector (net)	(16.97)	(16.80)	(17.46)	(17.52)	(17.16)	(16.42)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions	(5.57)	(7.40)	(9.44)	(7.10)	(7.94)	(7.08)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	--	--	--	--	--	--
Private Sector	23.71	25.60	26.06	26.46	28.07	27.88
Other Items	(14.36)	(10.38)	(12.10)	(6.93)	(7.91)	(7.10)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	119.51	119.30	120.86	118.26	123.65	121.95
Money Supply (M1)	36.05	31.36	31.19	30.12	31.96	29.41
Currency with the Public	12.96	11.30	11.17	11.41	12.29	11.50
Demand Deposits	23.09	20.06	20.02	18.71	19.67	17.91
Quasi Money	83.46	87.95	89.68	88.14	91.69	92.54
Savings Deposits	75.96	77.63	79.18	78.73	82.30	82.84
Time Deposits	4.31	4.63	4.74	5.24	5.37	4.85
Foreign Currency Deposits	3.18	5.69	5.76	4.17	4.03	4.85

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Data available at 09 August 2006



Table 36
Montserrat - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Visitors	4,028	3,729	2,799	3,741	2,833
Stay-Over Visitors	2,278	2,136	2,084	3,192	2,136
USA	532	394	435	673	678
Canada	137	64	44	159	196
UK	609	515	628	1,216	582
Caribbean	907	1,086	907	1,087	612
Other Countries	93	77	70	57	68
Excursionists	1,270	1,147	685	293	239
Cruise Ship Passengers	--	169	--	--	65
Number of Cruise Ships	--	2	--	--	1
Yacht Passengers	480	277	30	256	482
Number of Yacht	64	129	11	44	124
Gross Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	6.44	4.98	4.85	7.99	6.64

Source: Statistics Department and ECCB
 Data available at 09 August 2006

Table 37
Montserrat - Selected Trade Statistics
(EC\$M)

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Visible Trade Balance	(15.84)	(18.11)	(22.06)	(20.51)	(18.87)
Total Imports	16.37	19.03	23.55	21.47	19.50
Total Exports	0.53	0.92	1.49	0.96	0.62
Total Domestic Exports	--	--	0.19	0.10	0.30
Total Re-Exports	0.53	0.92	1.30	0.86	0.32

Source: Statistics Department
 Data available at 09 August 2006

Table 38
St Kitts and Nevis - Consumer Price Index⁺
January 2001 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1000.00	117.20	2.03	0.42	0.71	3.90	0.82
Food	280.50	117.39	0.15	0.66	1.42	2.95	2.88
Alcohol and Tobacco	7.10	105.41	0.05	0.42	(0.17)	0.39	0.99
Housing	129.90	109.37	--	--	0.64	0.23	1.25
Fuel and Light	43.70	133.87	1.44	--	--	31.74	--
Clothing and Footwear	92.90	112.80	0.92	0.50	1.15	1.33	0.82
Transport and Communication	21.40	127.84	8.01	0.90	0.42	5.59	0.30
Household Furnishings and Supplies	37.20	109.17	1.91	(0.16)	0.07	2.16	(2.17)
Medical Care and Expenses	140.50	135.23	--	0.18	0.77	1.77	0.47
Education	192.70	102.54	--	--	--	0.25	0.22
Personal Services	19.90	103.48	--	--	--	0.43	--
Miscellaneous	34.20	109.03	0.24	0.42	0.24	3.44	(0.12)

Source: Statistics – Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance

+ The categories and weights of the consumer price index were revised and the base year of the index was changed to January 2001.

*at end of period

Data available at 20 June 2006

Table 39
St Kitts and Nevis - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 ^R 4 th Qr	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	272.93	287.01	438.76	405.56	244.76	215.68
Central Bank (net)	211.52	192.67	213.75	193.07	193.03	203.97
Commercial Banks (net)	61.42	94.35	225.01	211.47	51.73	11.71
External (net)	228.90	284.01	387.11	269.32	216.00	320.09
Assets	534.43	590.12	749.28	647.99	592.01	698.59
Liabilities	305.53	306.11	362.17	378.67	376.01	378.50
Other ECCB Territories	(167.48)	(189.66)	(162.10)	(57.84)	(164.27)	(308.39)
Assets	101.71	120.72	211.30	284.62	112.94	78.04
Liabilities	269.19	310.38	373.40	342.46	277.22	386.43
Net Domestic Assets	825.76	938.10	709.90	738.49	906.08	1,017.38
Domestic Credit	987.94	1,023.63	1,017.15	1,091.91	1,132.10	1,180.41
Central Government (net)	262.97	283.08	265.03	336.56	351.66	390.29
Other Public Sector (net)	(50.19)	(17.95)	(13.92)	(25.92)	(33.69)	(34.50)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	48.83	40.42	33.18	28.30	41.00	36.08
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	(21.66)	(28.25)	(31.72)	(34.74)	(31.28)	(44.03)
Private Sector	747.99	746.33	764.57	787.71	804.41	832.56
Other Items (net)	(162.18)	(85.52)	(307.25)	(353.41)	(226.02)	(163.03)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	1,098.69	1,225.12	1,148.66	1,144.06	1,150.84	1,233.06
Money Supply (M1)	166.38	194.14	157.79	162.92	163.69	179.84
Currency with the Public	44.61	42.62	41.35	45.04	49.88	46.68
Demand Deposits	121.77	151.53	116.44	117.88	113.80	133.17
Quasi Money	932.31	1,030.98	990.87	981.14	987.15	1,053.22
Savings Deposits	418.08	444.08	455.21	467.81	468.12	481.18
Time Deposits	203.49	221.25	175.62	178.82	183.31	191.02
Foreign Currency Deposits	310.74	365.65	360.05	334.52	335.72	381.02

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Data available at 8 June 2006



Table 40
St Kitts and Nevis - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	94.94	98.91	107.42	121.80	118.28
Tax Revenue	71.18	78.91	85.56	97.82	86.49
Taxes on Income and Profits	19.78	21.51	30.55	29.75	15.97
Of which:					
Company	13.85	13.64	21.49	19.75	9.18
Social Services Levy	5.48	7.34	8.77	9.44	6.54
Taxes on Property	1.30	1.74	0.91	1.10	3.75
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	14.54	14.80	12.88	15.19	28.29
Of which:					
Hotel Room Tax	5.20	5.05	2.85	1.91	5.44
Stamp Duties	4.06	5.31	5.23	5.20	17.27
Gasoline Levy	--	--	--	0.05	0.18
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	35.57	40.87	41.23	51.79	38.48
Of which:					
Import Duty	10.44	11.32	11.80	15.57	11.34
Consumption Tax	16.87	19.33	19.42	24.83	17.72
Customs Service Charge	6.51	8.42	7.35	9.49	7.66
Non-Tax Revenue	23.76	20.00	21.87	23.98	31.79
Current Expenditure	94.59	93.12	129.16	115.64	111.21
Personal Emoluments	39.86	40.11	40.01	43.14	41.27
Goods and Services	22.60	22.26	33.95	36.30	26.60
Interest Payments	22.26	18.52	27.55	22.75	24.77
Domestic	7.09	11.67	10.71	14.24	10.54
External	15.16	6.85	16.84	8.51	14.23
Transfers and Subsidies	9.89	12.24	27.65	13.45	18.57
Of which: Pensions	4.99	5.20	22.33	8.27	10.57
Current Account Balance	0.34	5.79	(21.74)	6.16	7.07
Capital Revenue	--	2.74	--	1.29	1.52
Grants	3.29	8.14	3.93	16.87	5.07
Of which: Capital Grants	3.29	8.13	3.82	16.32	4.91
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	8.03	15.92	24.60	27.06	20.01
Of which: Capital Expenditure	8.03	15.95	24.60	27.06	18.76
Primary Balance	17.87	19.26	(14.86)	20.00	18.42
Overall Balance	(4.39)	(0.74)	(42.41)	(2.75)	(6.35)
Financing	4.39	0.74	42.41	2.75	6.35
Domestic	23.34	10.53	55.16	8.50	25.53
ECCB (net)	0.34	0.92	0.14	(1.18)	(1.74)
Commercial Banks (net)	19.77	(18.97)	71.39	16.29	40.37
Other	3.23	28.59	(16.37)	(6.61)	(13.10)
External	(18.95)	(11.28)	(12.74)	(5.75)	(19.18)
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	(18.95)	(11.28)	(12.74)	(5.75)	(19.18)
Disbursements	1.41	1.64	1.81	2.38	1.97
Amortisation	(20.37)	(12.92)	(14.56)	(8.13)	(21.14)
Change in Govt. Foreign Assets	--	--	--	--	--

Source: Ministry of Finance
Data available at 08 June 2006



Table 41
St Kitts and Nevis - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^E 3 rd Qr	2005 ^E 4 th Qr	2006 ^E 1 st Qr
Total Visitor Arrivals	159,920	62,241	27,735	100,884	151,598
Stay-Over Visitors	39,511	35,015	26,065	26,477	40,534
Excursionists	1,255	1,016	600	600	1,255
Yacht Passengers	2,430	1,859	646	1,088	2,383
Cruise Ship Passengers	116,724	24,351	424	72,719	107,426
No. of Cruise Ship Calls	150	25	4	83	158
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	97.12	78.97	49.03	64.50	99.80

Source: Ministry of Tourism, Immigration Department and ECCB Estimates
Data available at 19 June 2006



Table 42
Saint Lucia - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Total Visitor Arrivals	273,332	164,822	103,275	205,946	257,249
Stay-Over Visitors	83,546	88,123	71,329	74,941	81,666
Of which:					
USA	28,294	33,830	23,866	26,567	30,665
Canada	8,002	2,753	1,963	3,788	8,443
UK	24,590	21,869	17,798	20,468	21,548
France	3,067	2,084	1,106	984	1,084
Germany	1,443	716	384	775	850
Caribbean	15,357	24,264	24,811	20,297	15,980
Excursionists	1,117	1,542	2,653	2,229	2,431
Cruise Ship Passengers	179,840	67,860	24,349	122,382	165,528
No. of Cruise Ship Calls	122	38	9	89	141
Yacht Passengers	8,829	7,297	4,944	6,394	7,624
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	272.08	247.95	188.85	223.70	261.15

Source: Saint Lucia Tourist Board
Data available at 13 July 2006

Table 43
Saint Lucia - Consumer Price Index
April 1984 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1,000.00	190.80	0.60	1.63	(0.53)	4.93	(2.50)
Food	467.51	196.70	1.14	3.27	(1.97)	6.83	(2.58)
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	28.17	164.50	0.75	0.12	--	(0.12)	1.67
Clothing and Footwear	64.97	248.90	--	--	--	--	--
Housing	135.34	137.30	--	--	0.07	--	--
Fuel and Light	44.95	152.50	(0.62)	2.91	5.87	(2.04)	(0.85)
Furniture and Household Appliances	57.71	191.90	--	--	--	--	--
Medical Care and Health	22.78	263.60	0.28	--	(0.12)	(0.04)	5.65
Transportation and Communication	63.48	195.70	0.11	(0.22)	2.38	4.08	(0.46)
Recreation and Entertainment	32.36	307.00	0.13	--	0.53	0.13	0.46
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	82.73	159.50	--	0.57	--	--	0.57

Source: Central Statistical Office
*at end of period
Data available at 11 July 2006



Table 44
Saint Lucia - Banana Exports

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Volume (tonnes)	7,485	7,520	6,067	8,935	7,072
Value (EC\$M)	10.09	10.17	8.38	12.69	9.73
Unit Price (EC\$/tonne)	1,348.42	1,352.58	1,381.87	1,420.33	1,376.59

Source: WIBDECO
Data available at 11 July 2006

Table 45
Saint Lucia - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 ^R 4 th Qr	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	318.54	356.50	361.30	266.01	84.48	141.31
Central Bank (net)	351.52	327.93	298.85	249.55	302.57	280.66
Commercial Banks (net)	(32.98)	28.57	62.45	16.45	(218.09)	(139.35)
External (net)	(64.74)	(21.08)	8.91	(29.16)	(91.87)	(49.37)
Assets	300.31	352.44	377.81	358.27	333.07	390.88
Liabilities	365.05	373.52	368.90	387.42	424.94	440.25
Other ECCB Territories	31.76	49.65	53.54	45.61	(126.22)	(89.99)
Assets	144.06	194.01	253.11	258.17	141.31	164.73
Liabilities	112.31	144.36	199.58	212.57	267.53	254.71
Net Domestic Assets	1,190.50	1,263.47	1,277.92	1,385.59	1,627.29	1,675.88
Domestic Credit	1,465.18	1,528.67	1,557.36	1,690.70	1,777.86	1,834.71
Central Government (net)	(130.21)	(136.83)	(99.51)	(80.02)	(84.89)	(85.53)
Other Public Sector (net)	(193.99)	(175.76)	(197.52)	(190.47)	(185.24)	(170.65)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions (net)	(35.37)	(34.60)	(65.83)	(32.61)	(37.78)	(41.17)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	174.68	165.11	175.73	172.95	168.50	174.33
Private Sector	1,650.07	1,710.76	1,744.50	1,820.86	1,917.27	1,957.73
Other Items (net)	(274.68)	(265.20)	(279.44)	(305.10)	(150.57)	(158.83)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	1,509.04	1,619.97	1,639.21	1,651.60	(1,711.78)	1,817.19
Money Supply (M1)	481.19	493.92	492.34	499.36	547.32	571.06
Currency with the Public	99.16	91.04	86.67	92.81	106.38	100.91
Demand Deposits	382.03	402.87	405.67	406.55	440.94	470.15
Quasi Money	1,027.84	1,126.05	1,146.88	1,152.25	1,164.46	1,246.13
Savings Deposits	810.42	861.71	889.69	907.13	916.34	952.17
Time Deposits	178.70	166.74	190.08	185.59	185.88	214.30
Foreign Currency Deposits	38.73	97.61	67.11	59.53	62.24	79.67

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at 09 August 2006



Table 46
Saint Lucia - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	160.98	143.01	144.53	127.19	180.47
Tax Revenue	146.12	133.81	138.45	122.44	160.29
Taxes on Income and Profits	44.84	39.25	35.17	20.38	51.47
Of which:					
Personal Tax	15.00	12.78	12.82	12.48	20.28
Company Tax	24.04	17.99	16.69	1.64	24.28
Taxes on Property	0.80	1.21	1.29	0.71	1.64
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	23.51	21.32	24.22	20.46	28.25
Of which:					
Consumption Duties	1.54	1.96	1.83	1.66	2.88
Licences	5.14	1.17	1.79	2.85	9.19
Hotel Occupancy Tax	7.73	7.35	8.78	5.46	7.09
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions	76.98	72.02	77.77	80.89	78.93
Of which:					
Consumption Tax	31.56	25.79	23.91	28.04	24.72
Import Duty	18.38	20.12	20.88	24.58	21.63
Service Charge (Imports)	12.39	12.93	13.09	13.39	14.37
Non-Tax Revenue	14.86	9.19	6.08	4.75	20.18
Current Expenditure	138.73	110.51	123.85	123.66	158.34
Personal Emoluments	56.35	53.48	55.93	56.92	72.86
Goods and Services	32.35	16.22	22.27	20.18	35.90
Interest Payments	20.61	16.32	16.67	16.40	20.86
Domestic	8.37	3.48	5.44	3.80	7.16
External	12.24	12.84	11.23	12.60	13.70
Transfers and Subsidies	29.42	24.49	28.98	30.16	28.72
Of which: Pensions	9.87	8.98	11.07	12.50	9.36
Current Account Balance	22.25	32.50	20.68	3.54	23.89
Capital Revenue	--	--	--	--	--
Grants	--	--	1.26	2.94	2.06
Of which: Capital Grants	--	--	1.26	2.94	0.30
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	94.37	13.67	25.38	33.06	86.08
Of which: Capital Expenditure	94.37	13.67	25.38	33.06	86.08
Primary Balance	(51.51)	35.15	13.23	(10.18)	(41.03)
Overall Balance (before grants)	(72.12)	18.83	(4.70)	(29.52)	(63.95)
Overall Balance (after grants)	(72.12)	18.83	(3.44)	(26.58)	(61.89)
Financing	72.12	(18.83)	3.45	26.58	61.89
Domestic	43.89	(35.37)	(36.07)	9.27	14.88
ECCB (net)	(48.99)	51.35	7.92	(0.80)	(4.54)
Commercial Banks (net)	42.38	(14.03)	11.58	(4.07)	1.70
Other	50.51	(72.68)	(55.56)	14.14	17.72
External	28.23	16.54	39.51	17.31	47.01
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	27.66	16.68	38.74	16.79	46.58
Disbursements	32.26	25.70	44.78	27.32	53.79
Amortisation	(4.60)	(9.02)	(6.04)	(10.53)	(7.21)
Change in Government Foreign Assets	0.57	(0.15)	0.77	0.52	0.43

Source: Ministry of Finance and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at 11 July 2006



Table 47
St Vincent and the Grenadines - Selected Tourism Statistics

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 ^P 1 st Qr
Total Visitors	92,095	42,160	33,954	84,825	120,650
Stay-Over Visitors	25,242	21,369	24,576	23,779	24,443
USA	8,535	6,749	5,540	6,815	8,270
Canada	1,877	1,411	1,126	1,385	1,821
UK	4,262	3,055	2,960	3,133	4,128
Caribbean	7,769	8,528	13,129	9,939	7,507
Other Countries	2,799	1,626	1,821	2,507	2,717
Excursionists	3,518	2,238	1,512	1,987	3,736
Yacht Passengers	33,190	14,271	7,556	24,043	38,539
Cruise Ship Passengers	30,145	4,282	310	35,016	53,932
Number of Cruise Ship Calls	66	25	8	84	135
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	92.28	56.90	50.05	73.29	97.41

Source: Department of Tourism and ECCB Estimates
 Data available at 06 June 2006

Table 48
St Vincent and the Grenadines - Selected Trade Statistics
 (Value: EC\$M; Volume: 000 tonnes)

	2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 ^P 1 st Qr
Visible Trade Balance	(115.13)	(134.44)	(111.61)	(156.34)	(143.49)
Total Imports	138.88	167.70	134.13	181.05	169.08
Total Exports	23.75	33.26	22.52	24.71	25.59
Re-Exports	2.40	8.24	2.87	1.54	2.92
Domestic Exports	21.35	25.02	19.65	23.17	22.67
Of which:					
Bananas					
Volume	4.47	4.60	3.46	4.85	4.68
Value	6.05	6.00	4.75	6.94	6.37
Flour					
Volume	2.49	2.49	2.40	2.47	2.72
Value	3.47	3.52	3.36	3.49	3.79
Rice					
Volume	0.77	1.08	1.04	1.04	1.32
Value	1.44	2.16	2.00	2.03	2.02

Source: Statistical Office and ECCB Estimates
 Data available at 06 June 2006



Table 49
St Vincent and the Grenadines - Consumer Price Index⁺
January 2001 = 100

	Weight	Index Mar 2006	Percentage Change*				
			2005 1 st Qr	2005 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
All Items	1000.00	109.40	1.90	1.59	0.09	0.28	0.27
Food	536.1	112.50	2.74	2.94	(0.36)	0.54	0.36
Alcohol and Tobacco	9.5	110.50	2.94	0.28	(0.18)	1.20	0.64
Housing	97.9	102.90	0.78	--	--	0.10	(0.77)
Fuel and Light	29.8	124.40	13.74	0.57	4.55	(2.10)	(1.35)
Clothing and Footwear	88.7	97.90	--	--	0.82	(0.10)	--
Household Furnishings and Supplies	61.5	100.40	(2.73)	0.60	0.50	(1.29)	0.80
Transport and Communication	68.5	106.90	(2.18)	--	--	--	3.79
Medical Care and Expenses	10.1	107.70	--	--	--	1.32	--
Education	34.3	122.60	--	--	0.25	1.31	(0.89)
Personal Services	33.5	100.80	3.52	0.20	0.10	1.00	(0.49)
Miscellaneous	30.1	114.30	0.88	--	--	--	--

Source: Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance

+ The categories and weights of the consumer price index were revised and the base year of the index was changed to January 2001.

*at end of period

Data available at 06 June 2006

Table 50
St Vincent and the Grenadines - Monetary Survey
(EC\$M at end of period)

	2004 ^R 4 th Qr	2005 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Net Foreign Assets	426.84	426.66	387.66	428.11	388.89	393.10
Central Bank (net)	200.35	224.32	185.19	186.49	185.75	175.90
Commercial Banks (net)	226.49	202.34	201.75	241.63	203.14	217.20
External (net)	106.24	141.86	118.62	164.61	181.23	176.94
Assets	245.75	283.09	253.88	306.15	320.31	298.69
Liabilities	139.51	141.24	135.26	141.53	139.08	121.75
Other ECCB Territories	120.25	60.48	83.12	77.01	21.91	40.26
Assets	192.70	162.17	197.91	189.20	137.46	155.82
Liabilities	72.45	101.69	114.78	112.19	115.55	115.56
Net Domestic Assets	394.65	421.53	442.88	399.82	485.19	489.62
Domestic Credit	565.75	590.10	617.13	615.10	653.80	661.69
Central Government (net)	9.13	13.50	40.58	26.71	74.42	59.90
Other Public Sector (net)	(63.18)	(56.78)	(63.87)	(65.22)	(66.61)	(56.09)
Non-Bank Financial Institutions	(23.13)	(18.14)	(16.94)	(21.94)	(32.24)	(30.74)
Subsidiaries and Affiliates (net)	(0.22)	(0.21)	--	--	--	--
Private Sector	643.16	651.73	657.36	675.56	678.23	688.62
Other Items (net)	(171.10)	(168.57)	(174.25)	(215.28)	((168.61)	(172.08)
Monetary Liabilities (M2)	821.49	848.19	830.54	827.93	874.08	882.72
Money Supply (M1)	287.04	305.05	290.50	286.07	327.71	335.32
Currency with the Public	64.39	63.50	65.01	62.66	74.44	69.68
Demand Deposits	222.65	241.55	225.49	223.41	253.27	265.63
Quasi Money	534.46	543.14	540.04	541.87	546.37	547.40
Savings Deposits	383.91	398.42	411.01	417.06	430.19	438.16
Time Deposits	124.37	124.44	112.30	103.41	101.38	95.56
Foreign Currency Deposits	26.18	20.28	16.74	21.39	14.80	13.68

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank

Data available at 06 June 2006



Table 51
St Vincent and the Grenadines - Central Government Fiscal Operations
(In millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2005 ^R 1 st Qr	2005 ^R 2 nd Qr	2005 ^R 3 rd Qr	2005 4 th Qr	2006 1 st Qr
Current Revenue	62.83	86.55	81.59	93.70	79.49
Tax Revenue	52.27	78.19	71.71	80.77	65.72
Taxes on Income and Profits	13.68	30.99	18.66	26.02	20.90
Of which:					
Individual	9.91	10.38	10.26	10.22	11.78
Company Tax	2.98	19.32	7.55	14.49	8.41
Taxes on Property	0.23	0.30	1.37	0.60	0.30
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	11.03	12.20	15.28	11.23	12.79
Of which:					
Stamp Duties	4.45	5.65	5.91	4.80	5.00
Consumption Duties	0.97	1.50	1.61	1.82	1.83
Hotel Turnover Tax	2.58	2.24	1.19	0.84	2.62
Taxes on International Trade and	27.33	34.70	36.40	42.92	31.74
Of which:					
Import Duty	6.01	7.78	7.83	10.53	6.99
Consumption Tax	15.65	19.40	19.22	24.18	17.82
Customs Service Charge	4.11	5.68	5.39	6.71	5.25
Non-Tax Revenue	10.55	8.37	9.89	12.93	13.77
Current Expenditure	74.74	78.87	81.97	86.38	78.45
Personal Emoluments	38.44	38.40	38.05	44.05	41.74
Goods and Services	13.60	17.60	21.94	19.75	13.64
Interest Payments	7.92	10.13	7.78	9.17	8.88
Domestic	4.22	3.88	4.25	3.10	5.25
External	3.70	6.25	3.53	6.07	3.64
Transfers and Subsidies	14.78	12.75	14.19	13.41	14.18
Of which: Pensions	5.61	5.26	6.96	5.48	7.62
Current Account Balance	(11.91)	7.69	(0.37)	7.33	1.04
Capital Revenue	0.20	0.13	3.17	5.29	0.35
Grants	0.78	2.01	1.71	0.66	0.00
Of which: Capital Grants	0.78	2.01	1.71	0.66	0.00
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	11.12	18.36	21.07	28.30	11.16
Of which: Capital Expenditure	12.76	19.29	21.84	29.46	12.18
Primary Balance	(14.14)	1.59	(8.77)	(5.86)	(0.89)
Overall Balance (before grants)	(22.84)	(10.55)	(18.27)	(15.69)	(9.77)
Overall Balance (after grants)	(22.06)	(8.54)	(16.56)	(15.02)	(9.77)
Financing	22.06	8.54	16.56	15.02	9.77
Domestic	26.89	16.49	(9.26)	(29.68)	13.76
ECCB (net)	(3.67)	(2.30)	2.14	21.69	12.37
Commercial Banks (net)	8.04	29.39	(16.02)	26.02	(26.89)
Other	22.53	(10.60)	4.61	(77.40)	28.28
External	(4.84)	(7.95)	25.82	44.70	(3.99)
Net Disbursements/(Amortisation)	(4.75)	(5.79)	28.10	47.01	(3.02)
Disbursements	1.34	3.12	32.73	154.06	3.66
Amortisation	(6.09)	(8.91)	(4.63)	(107.05)	(6.68)
Change in Govt. Foreign Assets	(0.09)	(2.16)	(2.28)	(2.31)	(0.97)

Source: Ministry of Finance and Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
Data available at 06 June 2006



SURVEY OF COMMERCIAL BANK CREDIT CONDITIONS IN THE ECCU

Introduction

This report presents the results of the first half-yearly survey on bank credit conditions in the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), conducted by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) in January 2006. The survey was addressed to senior loan officers at commercial banks.

The information from the survey is expected to enhance the ECCB's knowledge of credit developments, and the terms and conditions of bank lending in the currency union. Those developments have important influences on household and business behaviour and consequently on overall economic activity and prospects in the ECCU. This information would complement data submitted by the commercial banks, thereby enabling the Monetary Council to make sound monetary policy decisions. Article 7(2) of the ECCB Agreement Act mandates that "the Council shall meet not less than twice each year to receive from the Governor the Bank's report on monetary and credit conditions and to provide directives and guidelines on matters of monetary and credit policy to the Bank and for such other purposes as are prescribed under this Agreement".

The questions for the survey focused on changes in the supply of, and demand for, bank credit during July to December 2005, and on expectations for the next six months. It also distinguishes between two categories of creditors - businesses and households. Open ended questions on bank lending behaviour were also included. All 38 commercial banks operating in the ECCU during July to December 2005 responded to the survey. The next survey will be conducted in July 2006. Similar surveys are conducted by the Bank of England, the European Central Bank, and the Federal Reserve Board.

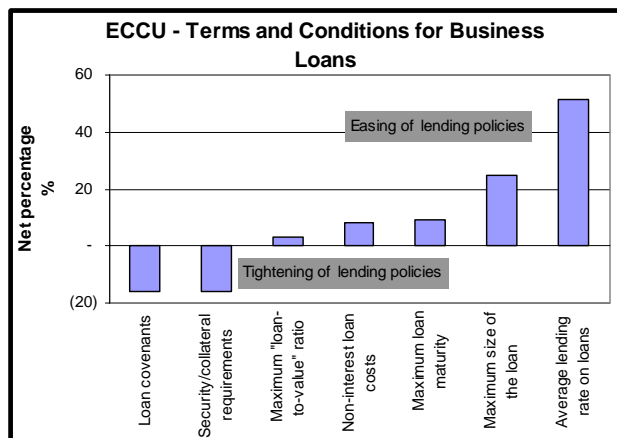
Results of the Survey

Lending to Businesses

Terms and Conditions: The majority of banks (over 76 per cent of asset-weighted banks) did not change their terms and conditions for lending to businesses during the second half of 2005. However, for those banks that changed their terms and conditions of lending to businesses, the net percentages for average lending rate, maximum size of the loan, maximum loan maturity, non-interest loan costs, and maximum loan-to-value ratio indicated an easing in these terms, and a tightening in loan covenants and security/collateral requirements (Chart 1).



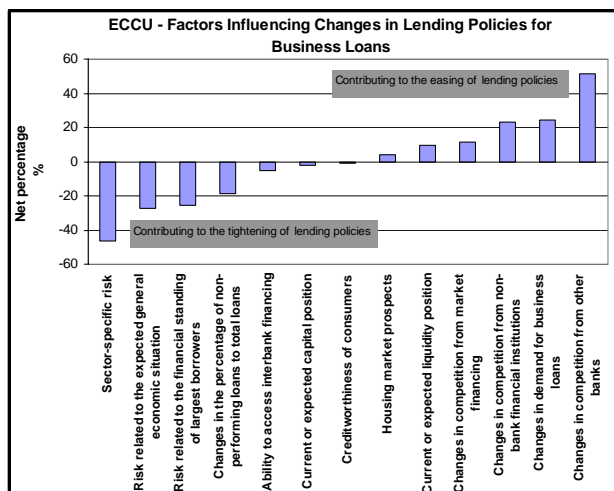
Chart 1



Note 1: The net percentage refers to the difference between the sum of the percentages for "tightened considerably" and "tightened somewhat" and the sum of the percentages for "eased considerably" and "eased somewhat".

The banks that eased their lending policies towards business loans cited as contributing factors the following: pressure from competition; changes in demand for business loans; improved housing market prospects; and increase in the bank's current or expected liquidity position. Those that tightened their lending policies cited deterioration in industry-specific problems; increased risk associated with anticipated economic situation; increased risk related to financial standing of

Chart 2



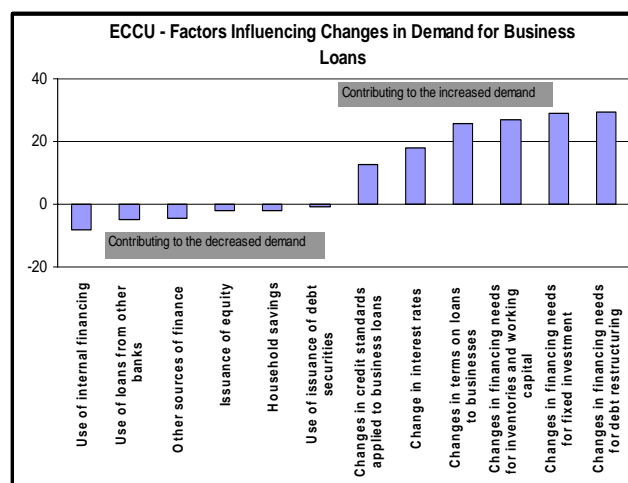
See Note in Chart 1.

bank's largest borrowers; increase in non-performing loans to total loans; deterioration in credit worthiness of customers; inability to access inter-bank financing; and deterioration in the bank's current and expected capital position (Chart 2).

Loan Demand: Positive net percentages for all business type loans indicated an increase in demand in those loans, with increased demand reported for long-term loans to businesses.

Among the banks that reported an increase in demand for credit to businesses, the following were cited as the main reasons for the increase: financing needed for inventories and working capital; financing needed for fixed investment; financing needed for debt restructuring; changes in the bank's terms on loans to businesses, changes in interest rates, and changes in the bank's credit standards applied to business loans. Where banks

Chart 3



Note 2: The net percentages for the questions on demand for loans are defined as the difference between the sum of the percentages for "increased considerably" and "increased somewhat" and the sum of the percentages for "decreased considerably" and "decreased somewhat".



reported a decline in demand for business loans, the primary reason cited was alternative sources of funding, mainly from other banks or institutions (Chart 3).

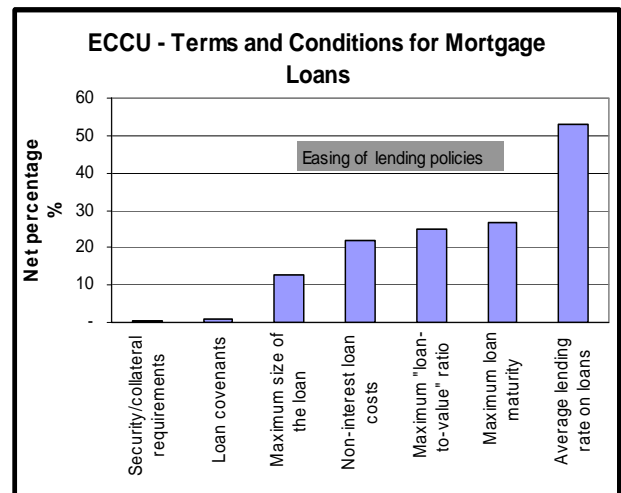
Over 240 business loan applications were rejected during July to December 2005. This was largely due to inadequate equity; inadequate collateral; projects not financially viable; inadequate cash flows; incomplete proposals; and poor credit history.

Expectations: Terms and conditions for all business type loans were expected to ease during the period January to June 2006, as indicated by the positive net percentages. Banks expected an increase in demand for all categories of business loans, with the largest increase expected for long-term loans to businesses.

Lending to Households

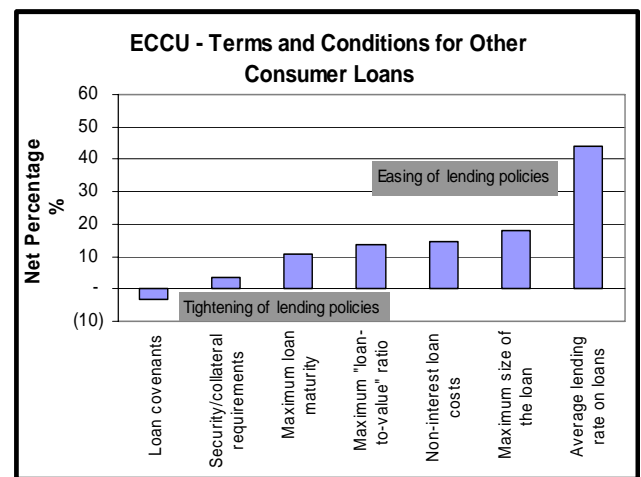
Terms and Conditions: The majority of banks (over 72 per cent of asset-weighted banks) did not change their terms and conditions of lending to households during the second half of 2005. Among those banks that changed their terms and conditions, the most significant change was an easing in the average lending rate on loans. The net percentage for all other factors indicated an easing (Chart 4). For consumer loans, the positive net percentage for all factors except loan covenants indicated an easing in these terms and conditions (Chart 5).

Chart 4



See Note in Chart 1.

Chart 5



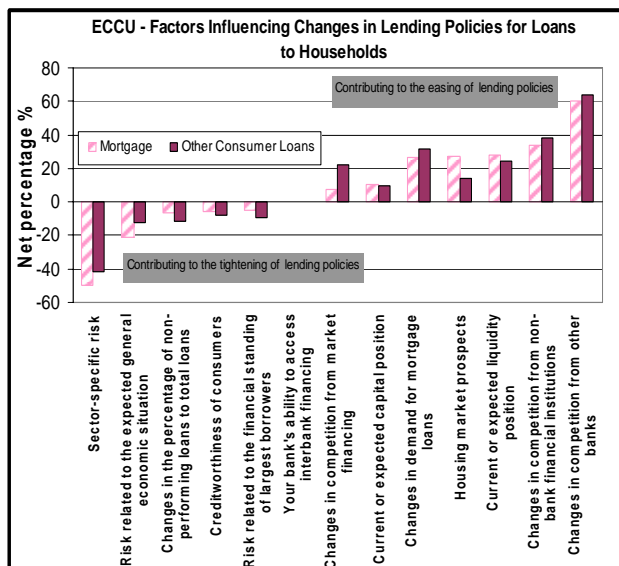
See Note in Chart 1.

The following factors contributed more to the easing than to tightening of banks' lending policies: pressure from competition; increase in the bank's current or expected liquidity position; change in demand for mortgage loans; improvements in housing market prospects; and



improvements in the bank’s current and expected capital position. The following contributed more to the tightening than to the easing of bank’s lending policies on mortgage and other consumer loans: increase in sector-specific risks; increased risk associated with general economic conditions; increase in the percentage of non-performing loans to total loans; deterioration in the creditworthiness of consumers; and increase in risk related to financial standing of the bank’s largest borrowers (Chart 6).

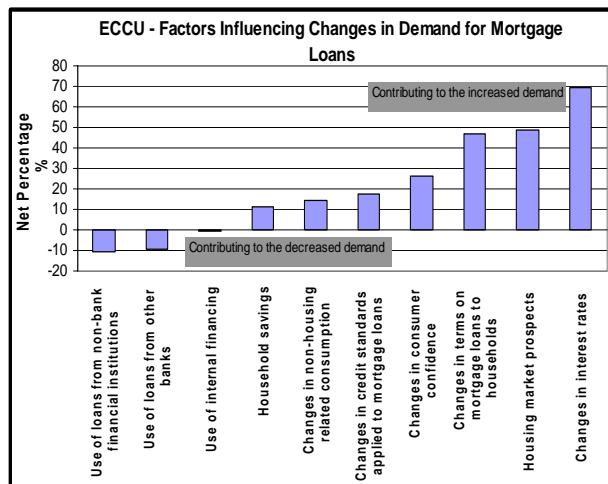
Chart 6



See Note in Chart 1.

Loan Demand: The demand for loans by households increased, indicated by positive net percentages for both mortgage and other consumer loans. Among the factors contributing to the increase in demand for mortgage loans were changes in interest rates; housing market prospects; changes in terms on loans and in credit standards applied to these loans; and consumer confidence (Chart 7).

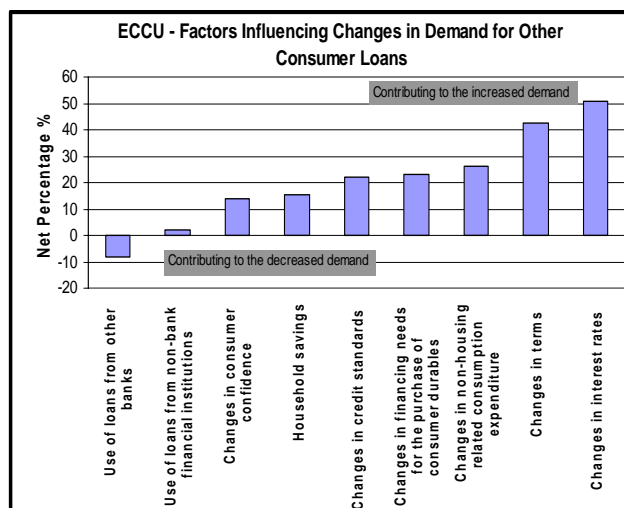
Chart 7



See Note in Chart 3.

The higher demand for consumer loans was influenced mainly by an increase in financing needed for consumer durables; changes in interest rates; changes in consumer confidence; and changes in non-housing related consumption expenditure (Chart 8).

Chart 8



See Note in Chart 3.

Over 244 applications for mortgage loans were rejected, mainly due to inadequate equity;



inadequate cash flow; inadequate collateral; poor credit history; and incomplete proposals. At least 812 applications were rejected for consumer loans, largely due to inadequate collateral; inadequate cash flow; poor credit history; and inadequate equity.

Expectations: Terms and conditions on mortgage and other consumer loans for households were expected to ease during January to June 2006. Positive net percentages indicate that banks expected an increase in demand for both types of loans during the first six months of 2006.

Responses to the Open-Ended Questions

These questions addressed issues such as average time span between decision to lend and the disbursement of loans; cash management assistance offered by banks; risks factors taken into account when lending to a particular sector; the amount available for lending; factors that inhibit security realisation; assessing credit applicants; and new products and/or promotional packages introduced, or expected to come on stream.

- Banks noted that the average span between the decision to lend and the disbursement of business and mortgage loans is one week to six weeks. For other consumer loans, the average time span is within one day to three days.
- Approximately three out of every four banks indicated that they provide cash

management services to their customers.

- Banks indicated that the following factors were considered when lending to a particular sector: type of business and nature of industry; history of similar businesses (performance etc) including maturity of sector; saturation/number of firms in industry; product availability; project feasibility; bank's exposure as a percentage of total loans; government policies; and environmental risk factors.
- Banks determine the amount available for lending based on their deposits base. The ratio varied from 70 per cent to 90 per cent. The portion available for lending is determined largely by ECCB guidelines; adequate cushioning of provisions and the reserves; and availability of funds. Some banks noted that the amount was monitored centrally and determined by their head offices.
- Most banks cited the legal processes or the law itself as factors that inhibit security realisation. Other factors included quality of security and false valuations, injunctions of third parties claiming to hold interest in securing property; general market conditions and economic downturn (affects speedy realisation of securities); limited demand for purchase of properties over a particular value; and the connection between the consumers and property owner. For instance, one bank stated:



“Consumers in small close-knit communities do not like to be associated with foreclosure purchase of neighbour’s properties”.

- In the absence of credit bureaus, banks collect information on their applicants mainly through credit references from other financial institutions and from the applicants’ employers. Banks also have a declaration form that gives them the power to examine an applicant’s credit-worthiness.
- Eighteen (18) banks launched new products during the latter half of 2005. These ranged from special packages on vehicles, mortgages, vacation loans, education loans, home equity loans; personal credit line and credit card to access; new types of credit card (American Advantage MasterCard, platinum credit card, and Visa Gold.
- Twelve (12) banks indicated they planned to introduce new credit products during

the first six months of 2006, while others were unable to reveal that information in the survey. Among the new products are car loan promotions with reduced rates and down payments, education loan packages, residential home mortgage packages, internet banking cash management, branded credit cards, and Visa credit cards.

- Other issues that loan officers believed were important for bank lending behaviour included Cricket World Cup events in 2007; the coming on stream of the CSME; increased competition in small markets forcing lending rates down; increased taxation resulting in less disposable income (borrowers finding it difficult to meet monthly commitments); debt refinancing; use by some banks of add-on rates; and deposit-taking and lending entities not supervised by the ECCB offering higher deposit rates and less stringent terms on loans.

