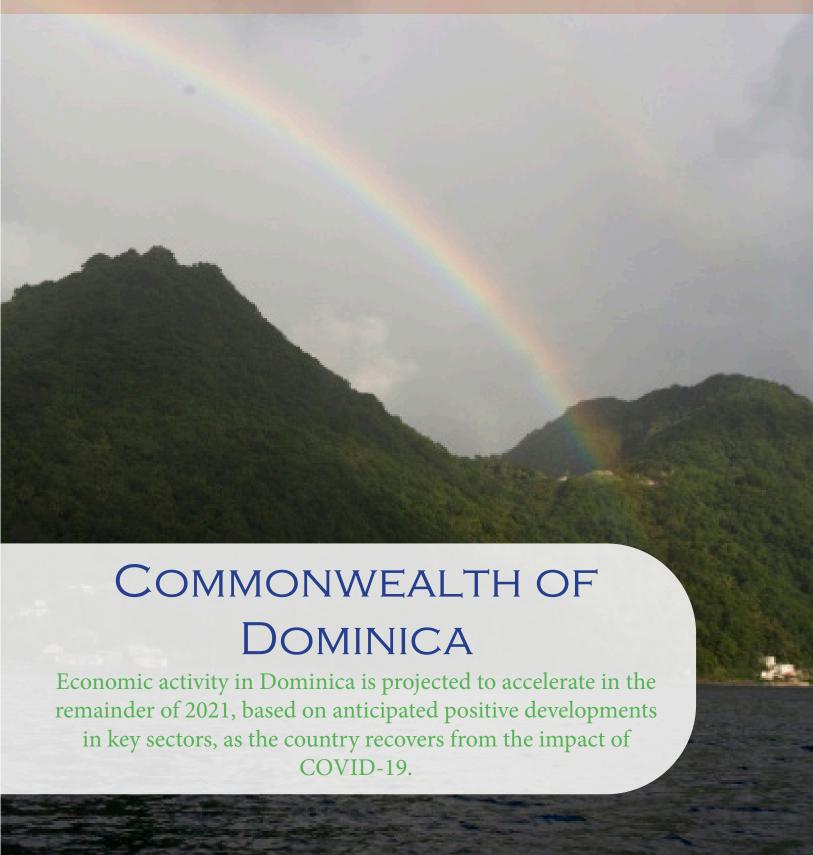
# ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REVIEW - JUNE 2021



### OVERVIEW



ECCB's estimates suggest that economic activity in the Commonwealth of Dominica marginally increased in the first half of 2021, as the country began to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The ecomomy's recovery will be partly dependent on the pace of recovery of major trading partners coupled with the demand for international travel.



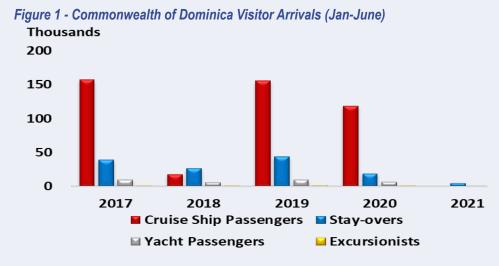
Downside risks include a slowdown in revenue from CBI.

#### THE ECONOMY (REAL SECTOR)

Economic activity in the Commonwealth of Dominica increased slightly in the first half of 2021, in contrast to a large decline in the first six months of the previous year. This development is largely attributable to the expansion of Government's investment in the construction and agricultural sectors.

The construction sector expanded, as both public and private sector projects continued at full pace. Coupled with an 8.6 per cent increase in residential starts, the continuation of the construction of the Tranquility Bay Beach Hotel (Hilton), Sanctuary Rainforest Eco Resort and Spa and the Anichi Resort and Spa (Marriott) contributed positively to construction activity. In the public sector, there was growth in capital expenditure, as capital projects including the Marigot Hospital, the second and third phase of the Dominica China Friendship Hospital, the Edward Oliver Leblanc Highway Rehabilitation and the Roseau Enhancement Project continued.

In the manufacturing sector, production was mixed during the first six months of 2021. The production of soap and beverages declined by 55.4 per cent and 1.3 per cent respectively. However, the production of paint and varnishes increased by 4.1 per cent.



Activity in the tourism industry drastically declined during the first six months of 2021. The total number of visitor arrivals is estimated to have decreased from 142,573 to 4,972, the lowest number recorded in the past five years. This fall largely reflected a reduction of 74.7 per cent in stay-over arrivals, and the absence of cruise ship passengers. Declines in the number of yacht passengers (94.8 per cent) and excursionists (88.2 per cent) also contributed to the overall reduction in the number of visitor arrivals (see figure 1).

Inflationary pressures were observed in the first half of 2021. The consumer price index rose by 0.5 per cent on a period average basis (see figure 2), associated with increases in the prices of housing, utilities, gas, and fuels (1.9 per cent), communication (0.2 per cent), and food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.2 per cent).

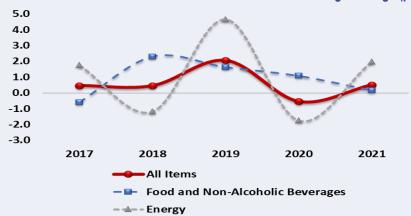


Figure 2 - Commonwealth of Dominica Consumer Price Index Percentage Change (period average)

#### GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (FISCAL AND DEBT)

The fiscal operations of the central government resulted in an overall deficit of \$231.5m in the first half of 2021, a significant deterioration from a surplus of \$27.2m recorded in the corresponding period of 2020 (see figure 3). Similarly, a primary deficit of \$215.7m was realized. The deterioration in the fiscal balances, which were the lowest observed in the past five years, was mainly driven by a reduction in revenue, coupled with a significant increase in expenditure related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the capital account, expenditure more than tripled to \$276.1m, as the government used capital projects to jump start the recovery of the economy.



Figure 3 - Commonwealth of Dominica Public Finance (June)

On the current account, a surplus of \$6.1m was achieved, as current expenditure decreased by 30.6 per cent to \$249.9m. The decline in current expenditure was largely influenced by a 54.3 per cent contraction in spending on good and services (see figure 5). Current revenue declined, by 17.0 per cent to \$256.0m, mainly associated with lower intakes from non-tax sources. Non-tax revenue fell by 44.1 per cent to \$83.4m, as receipts from the Economic Citizenship Programme, the largest proportion on non-tax revenue, declined (see figure 4). Simultaneously, tempering the decline in current revenue, there was an increase in tax revenue of 8.4 per cent to \$172.6m, mainly fuelled by higher collections of taxes on domestic goods and services (9.2 per cent).

Figure 4 - Government Revenue, Jan-Jun 2021 (EC\$M)

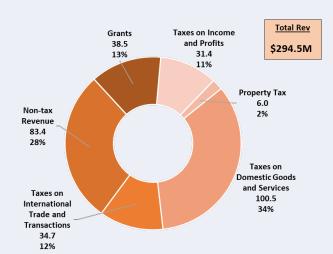
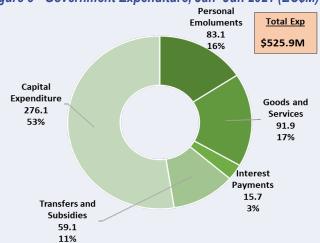


Figure 5 - Government Expenditure, Jan -Jun 2021 (EC\$M)



The total disbursed outstanding public sector debt increased by 5.3 per cent to \$1,563.7m at the end of June 2021, as the government borrowed to meet its obligations and to continue to provide support for citizens during the pandemic (see figure 6). The higher debt level reflected an increase in central government debt, public corporation debt declined.



#### BANKING DEVELOPMENTS (MONETARY)

Domestic claims (credit) grew by 2.9 per cent to \$806.0m, as the claims on the private sector, which constitutes the largest proportion of credit, increased by 5.1 per cent to \$746.4m. The expansion in private sector claims (credit) reflected an increase in credit to business sector (6.0 per cent) and to households (4.5 per cent) (see figure 7).

%
40.0
30.0
20.0
10.0
0.0
-10.0
-20.0
-30.0

Total Domestic Credit Households Businesses

Figure 7 - Commonwealth of Dominica Domestic Credit Percentage Change (June)

Even as the pandemic adversely affected the economy of Dominica, the banking sector remained liquid. The ratio of net liquid assets to total deposits declined by 4.1 percentage points to 45.8 per cent, well above the ECCB's minimum benchmark of 20.0 per cent. The ratio of nonperforming loans to gross loans stood at 14.7 per cent, 9.7 percentage points above the ECCB's prudential limit.

#### EXTERNAL TRADE

The merchandise trade deficit expanded by 2.0 per cent to \$265.3m in the first half of 2021. This outcome was driven by an increase in import payments, which more than offset growth in export receipts. The increase was mainly related to higher importation of mineral fuels and related materials. Receipts from exports increased, as the export of food and live animals rebounded to pre-COVID numbers. In line with the decline in visitor arrivals, gross travel receipts are estimated to have decreased by 76.2 per cent to \$16.0m.



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#### OUTLOOK

conomic activity in the Commonwealth of Dominica is projected to accelerate over the remainder of 2021, based on anticipated positive developments in key sectors, as the country recovers from the impact of COVID-19.

- The construction sector is expected to expand with the continuation of projects in the public sector and the advancement of private sector projects, such as the Citizenship by Investment funded Anichi Resorts, Sanctuary Rainforest Eco Resort and Spa and the Tranquility Beach Hotel.
- Growth in the agricultural sector is expected to continue and positively contribute to the country's economy.
- Tourism is expected to rebound partially in the latter half of the year, as source countries have commenced robust vaccination programmes.
- The risks are tilted to the downside and include a deceleration in revenue from the Citizenship by Investment Programme, an increase in the rate of COVID-19 infections, and the emergence of new variants. Additionally, the country remains vulnerable to external shocks such as adverse weather.
- On the upside, with the robust vaccination programme taking place and more testing methods becoming available, the global economy could recover faster than expected, which would have a positive impact on the economy of the Commonwealth of Dominica.

## **TABLES**

The five-year formatted tables for the Commonwealth of Dominica's main economic sectors

- Table D1 Central Government Fiscal Operations
- Table D2 Monetary Survey
- Table D3 Selected Trade Statistics
- Table D4 Consumer Price Index
- Table D5 Selected Tourism Statistics

Table D1 **Dominica - Central Government Fiscal Operations** (In millions of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	January to June								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average 2015 to 2019 2	Average 2016 to 2020		
Current Revenue	356.20	401.53	385.45	308.21	255.97	314.57	341.55		
Tax Revenue	191.39	193.45	225.30	159.12	172.55	189.77	189.27		
Taxes on Income and Profits Of which:	38.28	23.59	42.83	30.54	31.42	35.45	34.87		
Personal	18.39	15.89	15.31	14.32	15.38	17.18	16.34		
Company/Corporation	21.41	9.89	39.87	18.32	18.29	21.96	22.45		
Taxes on Property	6.13	3.33	4.98	3.09	5.97	4.51	4.22		
Taxes on Domestic Goods and Services	106.89	124.16	124.79	91.99	100.47	109.82	109.63		
Of which: Licences	13.50	11.71	10.56	10.04	12.23	11.60	11.65		
Value Added Tax	69.21	85.08	85.47	59.99	68.18	73.46	72.78		
Excise Tax	23.32	25.26	26.39	20.19	19.39	23.33	23.59		
	23.32	23.20	20.57	20.17		25.55	23.37		
Taxes on International Trade and Transactions Of which:	40.09	42.37	52.69	33.50	34.70	39.98	40.55		
Import Duty	19.40	18.38	24.98	16.91	19.83	19.67	19.62		
Customs Service Charge	10.09	15.90	15.36	8.48	10.18	11.14	11.45		
Environmental Levy	5.21	7.34	7.85	4.69	4.45	5.96	6.00		
Non-Tax Revenue	164.81	208.08	160.15	149.09	83.42	124.81	152.28		
of which: Economic Citizenship Programme	157.94	194.12	141.41	142.62	67.67	111.72	140.15		
Current Expenditure	227.18	242.27	375.97	359.75	249.85	245.59	280.29		
Personal Emoluments	77.52	79.60	78.04	80.54	83.10	79.75	78.41		
Goods and Services 1/	78.20	93.11	189.60	201.12	91.94	93.74	124.26		
Interest Payments	12.47	16.83	17.75	20.06	15.73	14.72	16.40		
Domestic	4.06	6.69	8.71	10.26	11.80	5.32	6.65		
External	8.41	10.13	9.03	9.80	3.93	9.39	9.74		
Transfers and Subsidies	59.00	52.73	90.58	58.04	59.08	57.39	61.22		
Of which: Pensions	10.21	10.65	11.13	11.48	11.55	10.21	10.64		
Current Account Balance	129.02	159.26	9.48	(51.54)	6.11	-	-		
Capital Revenue	0.05	-	0.00	0.05	-	0.03	0.04		
Grants	44.37	15.16	16.95	166.08	38.50	22.95	52.46		
Of which: Capital Grants	44.37	15.16	16.95	166.08	38.50	22.95	52.46		
Capital Expenditure and Net Lending	166.75	232.41	238.16	87.38	276.06	154.63	160.92		
Of which: Capital Expenditure	167.03	232.43	238.35	88.07	276.20	154.81	161.19		
Primary Balance after grants	19.17	(41.16)	(193.99)	47.27	(215.72)	-	-		
Overall Balance after grants	6.70	(57.99)	(211.73)	27.21	(231.45)	-	-		
Financing	(6.70)	57.99	211.73	(27.21)	231.45	-	-		
Domestic	10.21	74.52	194.46	(82.36)	120.66	-	-		
ECCB (net)	(13.77)	(6.66)	12.19	(19.19)	(35.32)	-	_		
Commercial Banks (net) Other	38.92 (14.94)	153.50 (72.32)	87.20 95.07	(3.43) (59.74)	8.40 147.57				
External	(18.01)	(19.58)	1.85	36.55	72.72	_	_		
Net Disbursements (Amortisation)	(17.42)	(15.83)	2.51	37.69	73.27	-	_		
Disbursements	4.17	9.57	29.65	68.85	90.30	-	-		
Amortisation	21.58	25.40	27.14	31.16	17.03	-	-		
Change in Government Foreign Assets	(0.60)	(3.75)	(0.66)	(1.13)	(0.54)	-	-		
Arrears	1.10	3.05	15.42	18.59	38.07	-	-		
Domestic	1.10	3.05	15.42	18.59	38.07	-	-		
External	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Other Financing Source: Ministry of Finance, Dominica and ECCB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Source: Ministry of Finance, Dominica and ECCB

1/ Adjustments to goods and services made by the ECCB to account for unprocessed and pending claims. Corresponding adjustments are also made to domestic arrears Data as at 23 August 2021

Table D2 Dominica - Monetary Survey (EC\$M at end of period)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 E	June Movin	g Averages
	Love			t	Love	2015 - 2019	2016 - 202
	June	June	June	June	June		
Net Foreign Assets	1,165.73	1,404.74	1,056.85	973.75	1,059.71	1,031.40	1,098.9
Claims On Non-Residents	1,555.02	1,811.22	1,460.03	1,241.64	1,254.84	1,418.51	1,469.4
Central Bank	549.96	610.11	464.58	492.04	542.58	473.78	508.2
Other Depository Corporations (Commercial Banks)	1,005.07	1,201.11	995.45	749.60	712.27	944.74	961.2
Liabilities To Non-Residents	389.30	406.47	403.18	267.89	195.14	387.11	370.4
Central Bank	0.78	0.80	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.62	0.5
Other Depository Corporations (Commercial Banks)	388.51	405.68	403.15	267.83	195.07	386.49	369.9
Net Domestic Assets	306.55	369.86	580.65	387.28	334.57	480.08	423.1
Domestic Claims	429.49	530.15	718.64	783.49	806.01	603.47	608.9
Net Claims On General Government	(373.24)	(272.10)	(35.64)	14.93	3.15	(191.84)	(183.4
Claims On General Government	110.25	169.97	289.60	342.11	341.36	170.41	210.5
From Central Bank	-	0.00	-	_	-	0.00	0.0
From Other Depository Corporations	110.25	169.97	289.60	342.11	341.36	170.41	210.5
Liabilities To General Government	483.49	442.06	325.25	327.18	338.20	362.25	394.0
Claims On Other Sectors	802.73	802.25	754.28	768.56	802.86	795.31	792.4
Claims On Other Financial Corporations (Non-Bank Financial Institutions)	65.87	67.30	64.53	58.27	56.51	54.24	62.0
Claims On Public Non-Financial Corporations	21.85	20.60	19.19	-	-	20.83	16.7
Claims On Private Sector	715.01	714.35	670.56	710.29	746.35	720.24	713.
Claims On Other Non-Financial Corporations (Business Credit)	268.75	286.96	260.12	282.53	299.33	280.00	279.8
Claims On Other Resident Sectors (Households and Non-profit institution	446.26	427.39	410.44	427.75	447.01	440.24	433.7
Other Items (Net)	(122.94)	(160.29)	(137.99)	(396.20)	(471.44)	(123.39)	(185.8
Broad Money Liabilities (M2)	1,472.28	1,774.61	1,637.50	1,361.03	1,394.27	1,511.48	1,522.0
Narrow Money (M1)	348.21	518.61	438.20	339.51	341.72	370.87	389.1
Currency Outside Depository Corporations	56.05	85.62	92.39	80.41	74.89	64.81	72.4
Currency Issued By Central Bank (Currency In Circulation)	70.17	101.75	110.86	102.52	100.20	81.36	90.2
Less Holdings Of National Currency By Odc (Commercial Banks)	14.12	16.13	18.47	22.11	25.31	16.55	17.7
Transferable Deposits, In National Currency	292.17	432.98	345.81	259.10	266.83	306.06	316.6
Quasi Money	1,124.07	1,256.00	1,199.30	1,021.53	1,052.55	1,140.61	1,132.9
Other Deposits, In National Currency	1,091.69	1,228.54	1,164.52	976.89	1,009.56	1,110.90	1,100.1
Foreign Currency Deposits	32.38	27.46	34.77	44.64	42.99	29.71	32.7
Memo Items							
Liquidity Ratios							
Liquid assets to total assets	56.88	59.53	51.39	49.87	45.81	52.05	52.7
Liquid assets to short-term liabilities	65.57	68.86	58.87	56.92	53.64	59.91	60.7
Customer deposits to total (noninterbank) loans	197.00	208.37	175.00	158.94	154.00	181.72	178.6
Weighted Average Interest Rate							
Total Deposits Rate	1.67	1.58	1.75	1.73	1.72	1.87	1.6
Lending Rate	8.06	7.75	7.54	6.76	6.47	8.04	7.3
Spread between reference lending and deposit rates (basis points)	6.39	6.17	5.79	5.02	4.75	6.17	5.6
Nonperforming loans to gross loans	13.89	18.51	11.81	15.86	14.74	14.68	14.9

Source: Eastern Caribbean Central Bank Data as at 06 August 2021

Table D3

Dominica - Selected Trade Statistics
(Value: EC\$M; Volume: tonnes)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average 2015 to 2019	Average 2016 to 2020
V. 11 T. 1 D.1							
Visible Trade Balance	(278.18)	(371.07)	(410.28)	(259.98)	(265.28)	(313.13)	(313.19)
Total Imports	298.79	381.29	432.68	277.93	288.53	335.78	332.18
Total Exports	20.61	10.22	22.40	17.95	23.26	22.65	18.99
Re-Exports	3.27	4.68	5.27	4.53	7.03	3.97	4.12
Domestic Exports	17.34	5.55	17.13	13.42	16.22	18.68	14.88
Of which:							
Bananas							
Value	1.53	0.06	0.52	0.46	0.53	1.36	1.01
Volume	384	7	175	136	166	334.75	252.19

Source: Central Statistical Office, WINFRESH and ECCB Estimates

Data as at 23 August 2021

Table D4

Dominica - Consumer Price Index

June 2010 = 100

				January to June						
		Period A	Average		Percentage Change					
		January to 1	December						<u>Jun-20</u>	<u>Jun-21</u>
	Weight	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	<u>Dec-19</u>	<u>Dec-20</u>
		,								
All Items	100.00	105.27	104.50	102.30	102.76	104.87	104.29	104.82	(0.93)	0.30
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	18.08	115.29	115.96	110.24	112.78	114.63	115.87	116.06	0.50	0.09
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.77	117.19	116.66	112.49	114.30	117.22	116.71	115.71	(0.41)	(0.82)
Clothing and Footwear	5.08	110.25	110.50	109.58	109.90	110.25	110.42	110.76	0.16	0.23
Housing, Utilities, Gas and Fuels	30.62	98.73	97.03	94.75	93.64	98.00	96.29	98.18	(2.48)	1.18
Household Furnishings, Supplies and Maintenance	5.23	108.32	108.58	106.38	106.74	108.09	108.55	108.60	0.21	0.01
Health	3.36	111.32	111.85	111.19	111.31	111.31	111.60	112.09	0.25	0.22
Transport	20.11	103.13	101.18	102.05	102.86	103.04	101.39	99.89	(1.69)	(1.27)
Communication	3.95	100.71	100.60	100.71	100.71	100.71	100.71	100.90	-	0.30
Recreation and Culture	3.74	98.61	98.69	97.74	97.74	98.45	98.85	98.23	0.24	(0.47)
Education	1.33	103.83	103.83	103.83	103.83	103.83	103.83	103.83		
Hotels and Restaurants	2.88	121.44	121.98	108.63	112.72	121.30	121.91	122.65	0.39	0.55
Miscellaneous	4.85	105.67	106.53	103.86	105.06	105.35	106.47	106.82	0.75	0.27

Sources: Central Statistical Office, Dominica and ECCB Estimates

<sup>\*</sup>January to June average index / January to December Average index of the previous year  $\,$ 

Table D5

Dominica - Selected Tourism Statistics

	January to June						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average 2015 to 2019	Average 2016 to 2020
Total Visitors	205,246	49,529	209,248	142,573	4,972	179,676	163,488
Stay-Over Visitors	38,393	26,061	43,303	18,368	4,643	35,284	31,727
USA	8,811	4,707	5,978	3,503	1,783	7,035	6,176
Canada	1,660	868	1,092	823	72	1,291	1,155
UK	2,764	1,634	2,602	1,250	282	2,326	2,089
Caribbean	16,728	14,588	25,725	8,813	1,953	17,973	16,164
Other Countries	8,430	4,264	7,906	3,979	553	6,658	6,144
Excursionists	333	348	1,424	110	13	614	512
Yacht Passengers	9,561	5,061	9,289	6,116	316	8,421	7,793
Cruise Ship Passengers	156,959	18,059	155,232	117,979	-	135,357	123,457
Number of Cruise Ship Calls	106	27	117	95	-	97	90
Total Visitor Expenditure (EC\$M)	117.31	87.02	141.60	66.97	15.95	133.22	110.49

Sources: Discover Dominica Authority and ECCB Estimates

Data as at 23 August 2021



Eastern Caribbean Central Bank P O Box 89 Bird Rock Saint Christopher (St Kitts) and Nevis **Tel No:** 1 869 465 2537

Email: info@eccb-centralbank.org Website: https://www.eccb-centralbank.org Visit us on social media: ECCB Connects





