



Ministry of Finance

PRESS RELEASE

Fiscal Operations Result in Moderate Surplus

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The Ministry of Finance is pleased to release its monthly report on Government's fiscal operations for the month of February 2024, as mandated by the Public Finance Management Act, 2023.

Based on preliminary data, the surplus on the Government's fiscal position for February 2024 of \$6.9 million was below the \$18.6 million surplus attained in the prior year. Underlying this outcome was a \$9.1 million reduction in total revenue to \$242.5 million, coincident with a \$2.5 million increase in total outlays to \$235.6 million.

Revenue performance resulted in a \$12.2 million year-on-year decline in tax receipts to \$211.4 million, primarily explained by lower yields from value-added taxes and international trade and transactions, and with moderate offset from gains in property tax collections. Non-tax revenues were higher by 3.2 million at \$31.1 million, with the bulk derived from fees and service charges.

Aggregate expenditure increased by \$2.5 million over the prior year to an estimated \$235.6 million, with a \$4.0 million gain in recurrent spending offset by the \$1.4 million reduction in capital outlays. Key areas of recurrent spending included personal emoluments (\$69.1 million), purchase of goods and services (\$54.2 million), interest payments (\$25.6 million), subsidies (\$23.5 million) and social assistance and other associated transfers (\$23.2 million). Approximately 65.3 percent of capital expenditure was used for the acquisition of non-financial assets.

Financing activities for February included a net increase in foreign liabilities of \$27.2 million, primarily explained by the US\$50 million policy-based loan obtained from the Caribbean Development Bank. Bahamian Dollar operations, which were mainly in government securities, culminated in a net repayment position of \$33.7 million. Based on these activities, the central Government's outstanding debt decreased, year-on-year, by an estimated \$6.5 million.

The Ministry of Finance is committed to the Government's mandate of full transparency and timely reporting. The public is encouraged to visit the national Budget Website (www.bahamasbudget.gov.bs) to view all fiscal reports.