

PRESS RELEASE

Debt Management Office Publishes its Fourth Quarter Statistical Report FY2022/23

Source: Central Communications Unit, Ministry of Finance, The Bahamas
Date: July 29, 2023
Contact: MOFcomms@bahamas.gov.bs

The Debt Management Office (the “DMO”) of the Ministry of Finance is mandated under Section 61 of the Public Debt Management Act, 2021 (the “Act”), passed by Parliament in March and enacted in July, to prepare and publish public debt statistical bulletins (“PDSB”), no later than thirty calendar days after the end of each quarter of the fiscal year.

In keeping with this mandate, the July 2023 PDSB represents the eighth centralized collection of and dedicated publication on public debt statistics in The Bahamas by the DMO.

As prescribed in the Act, the content of the report includes:

- the outstanding stock of all public sector debt;
- the size and currency composition of the public sector debt;
- the interest rate mix of the public sector debt and
- the maturity profile of the public sector debt.

Initial estimates position public sector debt outstanding at \$12,644.4 million at end-June 2023, for an annual gain of \$513.4 million (4.2%) since end-June 2022. This outcome was led by the central Government component, which grew by \$462.6 million (4.3%) to \$11,255.4 million, but corresponded to an improved 81.9% of estimated nominal GDP amid sustained recovery in the leading domestic economic indicators. Meanwhile, debt of the Agencies and GBEs was higher, year-over-year, by \$50.8 million (3.8%) at \$1,389.0 million.

Based on the currency composition, the share of public sector debt denominated in Bahamian Dollars increased by 0.5 percentage points, year-over year, to 54.3% at end-June 2023, with the USD proportion lower by 2.30 percentage points to 38.0%, and a gain in the share held in other foreign currencies to 7.7%.

The interest rate mix of the public sector debt posted sustained gains in the proportion of the fixed rate debt component, to 61.0% of the total portfolio at end-June 2023 compared with 60.1% a year earlier. The maturity profile of the public sector debt continued to be dominated by the central government’s external and domestic security issuances, which include the sizeable refinancing activities planned for FY2023/24, and with smoothing provided by the longer maturity and amortizing profile of the multilateral and bilateral credits.

Dissemination of timely, consistent, comprehensive, reliable and internationally comparable public debt statistics remains a key element of the Government’s commitment to promote accountability and transparency in debt management activities. It also contributes to informed decision making of domestic

policy makers for sustainable macroeconomic growth, and is an invaluable source of information for international organizations, investors and other stakeholders who have an interest in the management of public debt in The Bahamas.

The Ministry invites the public to visit the national Budget Website (www.bahamasbudget.gov.bs) to view the various statistical reports published.