



MINISTRY OF **FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND INVESTMENT**

Barbados Economic & Social Report 2022

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALMP	Active Labour Market Policies
AMCECC	Adaptation Measures to Combat the Effects of Climate Change
BAC	Barbados Accreditation Council
BCC	Barbados Community College
BCH	Biosafety Clearing House
BCGTI	Barbados Construction Gateway Training Initiative
BERT	Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan
BEST	Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation Programme
BIDC	Barbados Investment Development Corporation
BIMAP	Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity
BMA	Barbados Manufacturing Association
BMCLA	Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority
BLC	Barbados Language Centre
BOP	Balance of Payment
BRA	Barbados Revenue Authority
BSE	Barbados Stock Exchange
BSTP	Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plan
BTFL	Barbados Trust Fund
BTMI	Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.
BVTB	Barbados Vocational Training Board
BWA	Barbados Water Authority
CAF	Corporacion Andina de Fomento (Development Bank of Latin America)
CAPE	Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBB	Central Bank of Barbados
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CED	Customs and Excise Department
CIF	Cost, Insurance and Freight
CITES	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species
COVID	Coronavirus SARS-CoV2 Disease
CLIA	Cruise Lines International Association
CRAFT	Clearance, Route, Altitude, Frequency, Transponder
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate
CXC	Caribbean Examinations Council

DCCA	Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
EFF	Extended Fund Facility
EGFL	Enterprise Growth Fund Limited
EPD	Environmental Protection Department
ESEP	Education Sector Enhancement Program
ETMU	Education Technical Management Unit
ETTC	Erdiston Teachers' Training College
EU	European Union
EV	Electronic Vehicle
FISIM	Financial Intermediation Services Indirectly Measured*
FTC	Fair Trading Commission
FY	Fiscal Year
GAIA	Grantley Adams International Airport
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IBP	Bridge Program
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISEE	Identification Stabilization, Enablement and Empowerment
ITAS	Integrated Tax Administration System
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas
METVT	Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training
MIS	Management Information Systems
MLSD	Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development
MSCD	Ministry of Social Care, Constituents Empower and Community Development
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NEB	National Employment Bureau
NTI	National Transformation Initiative
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PRC	People's Republic of China
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
QEH	Queen Elizabeth Hospital
RSF	Resilience Sustainability Facility
SBA	Small Business Association

SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SJPI	Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute
SOE	State Owned Enterprises
STAP	Special Technical Assistance Program
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UDC	Urban Development Commission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
US	United States
USA	United States of America
UWI	University of the West Indies
YES	Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Barbadian economy grew by 10.1 percent despite the challenges posed by the Global Economic and geopolitical headwinds characterised by decelerated Global real GDP to 3.2 percent, high global inflation reaching 8.9 percent, the Russian-Ukraine war and the lingering impact of COVID-19 coupled with its resurgence in China. Real GDP growth in the Barbadian economy was led by strong tourism sector performance while the unemployment rate fell to 8.4 percent from the post COVID level of 14.1 percent in 2021. Domestic inflation rose to 9.1 percent at the end of 2022 compared to 2.7 percent the previous year.

Per capita GDP increased by 12.42 percent to \$29.05 thousand compared to 2021, reflecting Barbados' post-pandemic economic resurgence.

International reserves fell by 9.41 percent to \$2,771.0 million due to surging global prices and higher demand for imports as economic activities expanded for seven consecutive quarters. Nevertheless, import cover, at 29.0 weeks, was well above the 12-week benchmark. The stock of gross public debt grew by 5.21 percent to \$14,054.70 million at the end of 2022 and the gross public debt to GDP ratio was 123.80 percent compared to 137.90 percent in 2021 as a result of the strong growth of real GDP by 10.0 percent.

Following a successful implementation of the ambitious targets outlined under the IMF-supported BERT (2018) Plan, which expired in May 2022, notwithstanding the economic upheaval generated by the pandemic and two natural disasters, a new four-year BERT Plan was subsequently formulated to continue on the path towards inclusive and sustainable growth while maintaining fiscal and debt sustainability. The Government of Barbados also pressed ahead with key fiscal strategies, continued to lay the groundwork for fiscal reform through the formulation of a new three-year Medium Term Fiscal Framework, public pension reform and modernisation of the public procurement system.

Government revenue climbed by 19.94 percent to \$2,393.0 million during the last three quarters of 2022, surpassing the corresponding period prior to the pandemic, with loosened pandemic-related restrictions and "revenge travel" helping to stimulate tourism, and, by extension, overall economic activities. Over the last three quarters of 2022, government expenditure swelled by 35.41 percent to \$2,992.90 million, largely because of higher outlays on debt service payments which increased by \$118.5 million to \$384.0 million.

The financial sector continued its resilience in 2022. Liquidity in the banking system improved with the excess cash ratio rising by three percent above the previous year's balance to 27.5 percent and the capital adequacy ratio also increasing slightly to 18 percent. Total deposit liabilities in commercial banks stood at \$11.7 billion at the end of 2022 increasing by six percent from 2021's total of \$11 billion. Total loans and advances in commercial banks increased to \$6.2 billion, up by 6.24 percent from 2021's \$5.9 billion which ended two years of declining balances. Mortgages continued to dominate with 45 percent or \$2.8 billion of total loans and advances mainly in real estate.

Total assets of credits unions increased by four percent to \$3.1 billion in 2022 up from \$2.9 billion in 2021 with transferable deposits, securities other than shares and shares and other equity all increasing by 13 percent. Loans increased by four percent from last year's total accounting for 64 percent of total assets.

Stayover arrivals were up significantly from all of Barbados' major markets during 2022 compared to 2021. The UK continued to be Barbados' largest source market, reaching 78.8 percent of the 2019 arrivals and accounting for 40.4 percent of long-stay arrivals. Some 178,886 persons visited the island compared to 53,639 arrivals year on year, a 233.5 percent increase. There was an uptick in cruise travel to Barbados with the industry registering 250,527 passengers in 2022, up significantly from 71,953 passengers in 2021 (an increase of 178,574 persons cruising), a 248.2 percent turnaround from 2021 levels.

Output for the manufacturing sector in 2022 as measured by the Index of Industrial Production, expanded to 52.8 points from 51.5 points in 2021. This performance was primarily driven by positive growth in categories such as "food," which increased from 81.6 points in 2021 to 89.2 points in 2022, and "beverage and tobacco" which increased from 47.8 points to 61.8 points.

The Small Business Association (SBA) continued to facilitate economic growth for small businesses in 2022. Several Business Support Organizations such as the Barbados Trust Fund Ltd (BTFL), Export Barbados (BIDC), Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) and FundAccess provided opportunities for businesses and persons alike as well as several types of training such as social media marketing, financial literacy, costing and pricing, personal budgeting and debt management.

During 2022, Government's Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) continued despite the current economic environment. The major investments in 2022 were concentrated in the areas of Infrastructure, Energy, Health, Roads, and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.

With respect to the environmental sector, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was revised and laid in Parliament, along with NBSAP Communication Strategy, the NBSAP Resource Mobilization Strategy and the Policy for National Biodiversity Management. The NBSAP and its supporting documents will guide Barbados in its work with respect to biodiversity conservation and management up to 2035 and identifies twelve (12) priority targets for the country.

The resident population was estimated at 267.8 thousand persons at the end of 2022. This included 129.4 thousand males and 138.4 thousand females, which accounted for 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent respectively of the overall population. In contrast to 2021, the population fell by 1,577 persons from an estimated 269.4 thousand persons, with decreases recorded in both the male (754 persons) and female (823 persons) populations, which were estimated at 130.1 thousand males and 139.2 thousand females. The population growth rate continued to decline at a rate 0.58 in 2022, consistent with the previous year.

A number of the public health measures that were adapted to the local COVID-19 context were relaxed during 2022, as more people became vaccinated and there was a reduction in transmission of the disease. As a result, the National COVID-19 Emergency Management Order and its Directives ended on December 22, 2022. Additionally, in relation to the health sector, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital worked during the year to reduce backlog in some surgeries and established a unit dedicated to ensuring that patients and their families have a positive experience while hospitalised and to assist clients in navigating the hospital system and its services.

In relation to the social sector, the Strengthening Human and Social Development Project was able to assist 139 individuals with counselling; provided forty-five (45) infants with access to public and private nursery and/or day-care so that their parents could access training or employment opportunities; provided school assistance to 220 children; 167 older children and adults were enrolled in post-secondary and/or tertiary level training; twenty-nine (29) persons received remedial training; and 377 persons benefitted from the Temporary Employment programme. In addition, the Welfare

Department recorded increases in both monetary assistance and expenditure related to Assistance-In-Kind to \$25.6 million and \$16.9 million respectively in 2022, when compared to 2021.

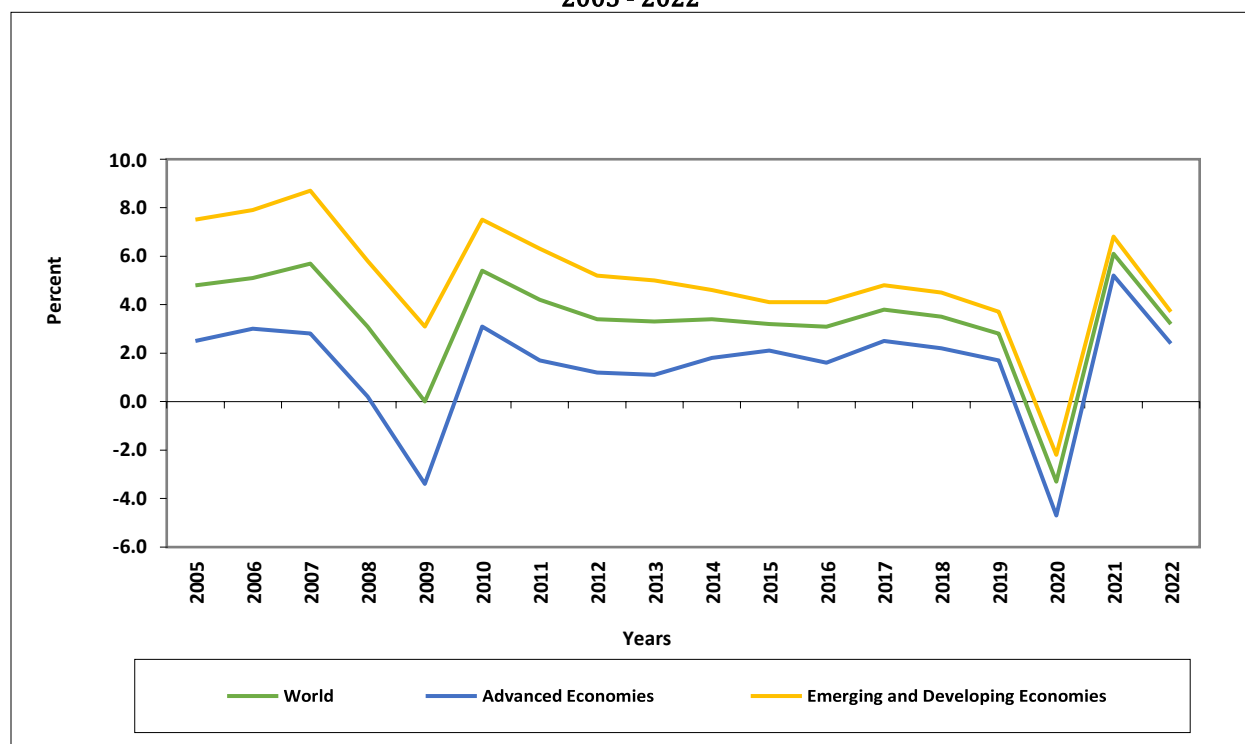
Barbados made tremendous progress in implementing its Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Programme. Its objectives and modalities under the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Resilience Sustainability Facility (RSF) have maintained and strengthened macroeconomic stability, and promoted the structural reform agenda to secure fiscal sustainability, build capacity for macroeconomic policy implementation, and create potential economic growth. The Government of Barbados engaged in implementing strategic measures to combat climate change with respect to the physical infrastructure, renewable energy transition, transport, agriculture and the Roofs to Reefs Programme.

I. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

The global economy continued to struggle in 2022 with a third of the world's economy recording two consecutive quarters of negative growth in October. High inflation rates, the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February and the lingering impact of COVID coupled with its resurgence in China, dampened the trajectory of growth projected back in 2021. The world real GDP growth rate fell by half to 3.2 percent from last year's total. Both advanced and emerging economies' growth rate fell to 2.4 and 3.7 percent, down 54 and 46 percent from last year respectively. Growth is expected to continue its decline due to the war in Ukraine and central banks raising interest rates to fight off inflation. Global inflation rose from 4.7 in 2021 to a staggering 8.8 percent in 2022 although monetary policy has somewhat stagnated it. The war in Ukraine caused food prices worldwide to rise placing economic strain on low income countries and households.

THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

Figure 1: Global GDP Growth: Actuals and Projections
2005 - 2022



SOURCE: IMF World Economic Outlook 2022

Advanced Economies

Economic activity in Europe has stagnated with the cost of living dramatically rising and gas prices up four times the level of 2021. Gas prices fell more than expected during this period but has slowed down since the economy reopened. Tourism and industrial production rebounded in Italy and

Spain which enhanced growth during the first six months of the year. High energy prices as well as austere fiscal and monetary policies in the United Kingdom have placed heavy constraints on household income.

Growth in the U.S. is stronger than previous projections had indicated as unemployment reached comparatively low levels and the labour market is inundated with job opportunities, However, other areas of the economy such as consumer confidence and business development suggest that slowdowns are imminent due to a drop in real disposable income and higher interest rates affecting consumer demand and investment.

Table 1: Indicators of Economic Performance in Advanced Economies 2021-2022

Country	Real GDP (% change)		Unemployment Rate (Annual Avg.) (% change)		Consumer Price Index (% change)	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
United States	5.9	2.1	5.4	3.6	4.7	8
Japan	2.1	1.1	2.8	2.6	-0.2	2.5
Germany	2.6	1.8	3.6	3.1	3.2	8.7
France	6.8	2.6	7.9	7.3	2.1	5.9
Italy	6.7	3.7	9.5	8.1	1.9	8.7
U.K	7.6	4.0	4.5	3.7	2.6	9.1
Canada	5	3.4	7.4	5.3	3.4	6.8
SOURCE: IMF World Economic Outlook 2022						

Emerging and Developing Economies

Emerging and developing countries are the most vulnerable to the economic challenges the world faces. As much as 60 percent of developing countries and 30 percent of the emerging countries are in severe debt predicaments. With these countries facing little growth while fighting inflation and debt repayments, an estimated \$379 billion of developing countries' reserves were spent propping up their currencies. Annual inflation in emerging markets and developing economies was 9.9 percent while low-income developing countries recorded 14.2 percent.

Due to a slowdown, China's real GDP growth in the last quarter of 2022 was the first time in 40 years that it fell below the global average. China's property sector, which contributes 20 percent of its economic activity, has weakened significantly and had a trickled down effect on China's supply chains. India's domestic demand remained resilient with GDP growth at 6.8 percent while in Europe, Russia's economy contracted less than expected as the war continues and trade has been redirected.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In tourism dependent nations, real GDP rose by 5.2 percent in 2022 slightly below 2021's increase of 7.8 percent. Of those nations, Barbados recorded the highest real GDP increase of 10 percent while St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia followed with 9.8 and 9.1 percent respectively. Likewise, real GDP in commodity exporting countries rose by 24.6 percent with Guyana experiencing 57.8 percent growth.

Tourism dependent nations' debt-to-GDP ratios slightly improved falling from 99.2 percent in 2021 to 90.8 percent in 2022 while commodity exporting countries improved significantly in the same time period falling from 62 to 49.6 percent. However, public debt in the Caribbean is still high with Suriname, Dominica and Barbados reporting debt-to-GDP ratios over 100 percent and Aruba and Antigua and Barbuda experiencing ratios above 90 percent. The levels of high indebtedness, high interest rates and currency depreciation present a challenging task for regional governments to access financing and manage their economies.

The annual percentage change of inflation at end of period consumer prices rose from 9.1 percent in 2021 to 15.4 percent at the end of 2022. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on prices due to supply shocks, affected the Caribbean especially in import dependent countries. Commodity exporting countries' inflation rate rose from 11.7 in 2021 to 20.2 percent in 2022 while tourism dependent countries' 2022 rate of 7.9 percent had risen from 5.4 percent in 2021. Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados had the highest inflation rates at the end of 2022 at 54.6, 12.3 and 9.2 percent respectively.

The relaxing of pandemic measures and the boost in economic activity initiated a drop in the unemployment rate throughout the Caribbean. Most countries reported decreases in the unemployment rate back to pre-pandemic levels as sectors such as tourism and services, which were severely affected by the pandemic, rebounded and consequently the demand for labour in these sectors rose.

II. THE BARBADOS ECONOMY

OVERVIEW

Barbados' economy rallied in 2022, led by the tourism sector, with real output recorded at 10.0 percent and unemployment declining to 8.4 percent from an unprecedented 14.1 percent in 2021. Soaring global inflation weighed heavily on domestic prices as elevated international commodity prices, military conflict in Ukraine, and pandemic-related restrictions imposed by the Chinese government disrupted international supply chains. Domestic inflation rose to 9.1 percent at the end of 2022 compared to 2.7 percent the previous year.

The Government implemented several measures to moderate prices, including capping the Value Added Tax (VAT) on fuel prices, limiting freight costs to pre-pandemic levels, and reducing the markups on 44 basic consumer items through an agreement with the private sector. These measures, coupled with declining international energy prices in the latter half of 2022, helped to temper domestic inflation.

Table 2: Select Economic Indicators

	2020	2021(p)	2022(e)
Gross International Reserves (\$ Million)	2,660.70	3,058.80	2,771.00
Gross International Reserves Cover (Weeks)	40.70	40.60	29.00
Gross Public Debt to GDP Ratio (%)	137.10	137.90	123.80
Gross Public Sector Debt (\$Million)	12,814.70	13,358.10	14,054.70
Inflation Rate	3.30	2.70	9.10
Nominal GDP (\$ Millions)	9,343.60	9,687.60	11,353.10
Real Growth (%)	-13.50	-0.30	10.00
Unemployment Rate	13.60	14.10	8.40

SOURCES: Central Bank of Barbados and Barbados Statistical Service

International reserves fell by 9.41 percent to \$2,771.0 million due to surging global prices and higher demand for imports as economic activities expanded for seven consecutive quarters. Nevertheless, import cover, at 29.0 weeks, was well above the 12-week benchmark.

The debt-to-GDP ratio fell to 123.8 percent as the economy improved. However, gross debt rose slightly to \$14,054.70 million.

A. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

REAL SECTOR

Barbados' post-pandemic economic upturn continued in 2022, led by the accommodation and food services sector which grew by 105.30 percent to \$1,062.06 million. The full restoration of international cruise travel, which had temporarily ceased the previous year, as well as the resumption of major tourism-related events, including the Crop Over Festival and the loosening of domestic travel restrictions in the latter half of the year, helped to propel growth. Tourist arrivals, which increased by 205.58 percent to 442,576, continued to have positive spillover effects on several sectors, including wholesale and retail trade, and transportation and storage, which expanded by 4.18 percent and 18.86 percent, respectively.

Real output in the construction sector declined by a modest 0.34 percent although several major infrastructural projects got off the ground, reflecting escalating global prices for construction materials due to high energy prices, logistical challenges, and a shortage of raw materials. Concurrently, output in the agriculture and fishing sector fell by 6.44 percent, notwithstanding higher demand from the tourism sector, as adverse weather conditions stymied production and input prices surged internationally due to ongoing fallout from the military conflict in Ukraine.

Notable performances were recorded for the manufacturing sector which climbed by 10.89 percent largely due to higher food, sugar, and mining and quarrying exports. The Government wound down many pandemic-related programmes, which led to a minimal 1.58 percent expansion in the public health sector.

PER CAPITA INCOME

Real GDP was recorded at \$8,946.03 million, while GDP per capita increased by 12.42 percent to \$29.05 thousand compared to 2021, reflecting Barbados' post-pandemic economic resurgence.

**Table 3: Real Gross Domestic Product by Industry of Origin
2018-2022*
(*2010 Market Prices)**

	\$M				
	2018 ^R	2019 ^R	2020 ^R	2021 ^R	2022 ^P
Agriculture and Fishing	146.66	146.26	147.85	132.41	123.89
Mining and Quarrying	42.22	49.45	56.61	39.48	43.23
Manufacturing	476.93	476.13	456.77	444.88	493.35
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	214.10	213.50	203.53	199.64	204.10
Construction	461.57	452.32	457.25	415.88	414.45
Wholesale & Retail Trade	753.87	767.82	727.51	750.75	782.13
Transportation and Storage	485.86	465.48	372.04	391.91	465.81
Accommodation and Food Services	1,342.74	1,415.94	590.24	518.01	1,062.06
Information & Communications	550.04	581.69	578.48	590.56	609.48
Finance & Insurance	813.58	786.16	722.76	705.49	697.10
Real Estate	893.12	902.94	912.87	922.91	933.07
Business Services	783.91	764.02	756.46	787.17	859.70
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	470.34	424.43	440.64	444.13	450.37
Public Education	273.70	273.32	271.94	274.53	286.94
Public Health	97.78	93.28	98.48	107.74	109.44
Personal & Other Services Incl. of Private Education & Health	344.73	354.83	349.88	347.79	339.22
FISIM Adjustment	87.03	86.54	106.57	99.96	92.62
Total Value Added at Basic Prices	8,064.11	8,081.03	7,036.74	6,973.33	7,781.72
Taxes less Subsidies on Products	1,192.41	1,199.92	1,061.99	1,061.99	1,164.31
Gross Domestic Product at Constant Prices	9,256.52	9,280.94	8,098.74	8,035.32	8,946.03
Real Gross Domestic Product per Capita	29.45	29.68	25.93	25.85	29.05

R-revised P-Provisional

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

B. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Surging global prices continued to take a heavy toll on the current account which expanded by 20.22 percent to \$1,271.20 million in 2022, slowing the pace of Barbados' economic revival. Imports rose by \$948.0 million, or 29.85 percent, led principally by higher demand for food and beverage for the revived tourism sector, surging international prices for fuel and construction materials. At the same time, travel, food and sugar receipts helped lift exports by 45.95 percent to \$995.30 million.

**Table 4: Balance of
Payments
2018-2022
(\$M)**

	2018	2019	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	2022 ^E
Current Account	-447.40	-293.60	-554.00	-1,057.40	-1,271.20
Of which:					
Total Exports (f.o.b)	895.90	888.20	690.40	682.00	995.30
Total Imports (c.i.f)	2,997.70	3,003.70	2,843.90	3,177.40	4,125.80
Travel	2,236.50	2,500.00	1,156.00	1,254.50	1,857.10
Capital and Financial Account	915.30	771.10	1,617.10	1,202.40	998.00
Overall Balance	589.90	481.40	-1,177.30	-442.80	101.90

P-Preliminary E-Estimated

SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

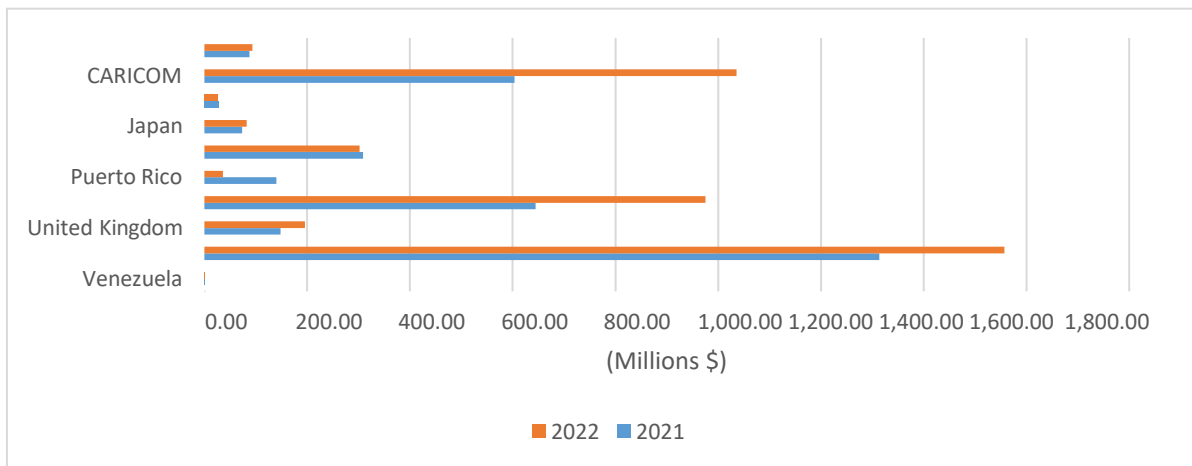
Receipts from the tourism sector alleviated the foreign reserve outflows occasioned by elevated global inflation. Furthermore, some of the inflationary pressures were eased in the latter part of 2022, as international fuel prices fell due to global economic uncertainty. Overall, the Balance of Payments stood at \$101.9 million, a decline of 123.01 percent over the previous year.

DIRECTION OF TRADE

In 2022, the trade deficit rose to \$3.3070 billion, an increase of 24.94 percent when compared to the previous year, driven mainly by astronomical global prices.

There were notable improvements in imports from Barbados' main trading partners, namely CARICOM, United Kingdom, United States and Canada which expanded by 71.73 percent to \$ 1,035.98 million; 32.01 percent to \$195.26 million; 18.55 percent to \$ 1,556.89 million; and 6.43 percent to \$ 93.12 million, respectively.

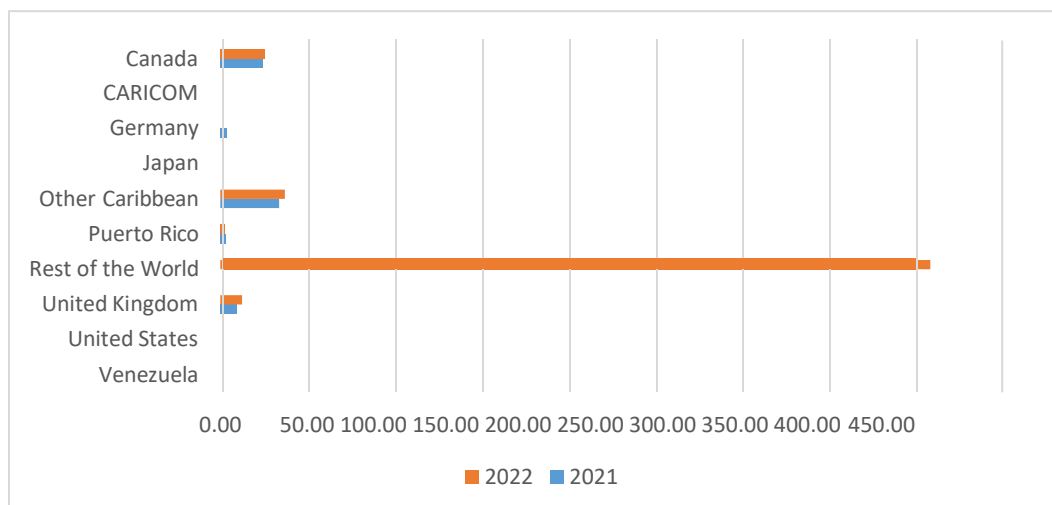
**Figure 2: Direction of Trade (Imports) (C.I.F)
2021 and 2022
\$M**



SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

Barbados' exports grew by 42.0 percent in 2022, led by sugar, other food and beverages and electrical components. CARICOM, the United Kingdom and United States and Canada were the main recipients, accounting for roughly 55.0 percent of total exports. Once again, CARICOM was the main export market, accounting for 34.70 percent of exports.

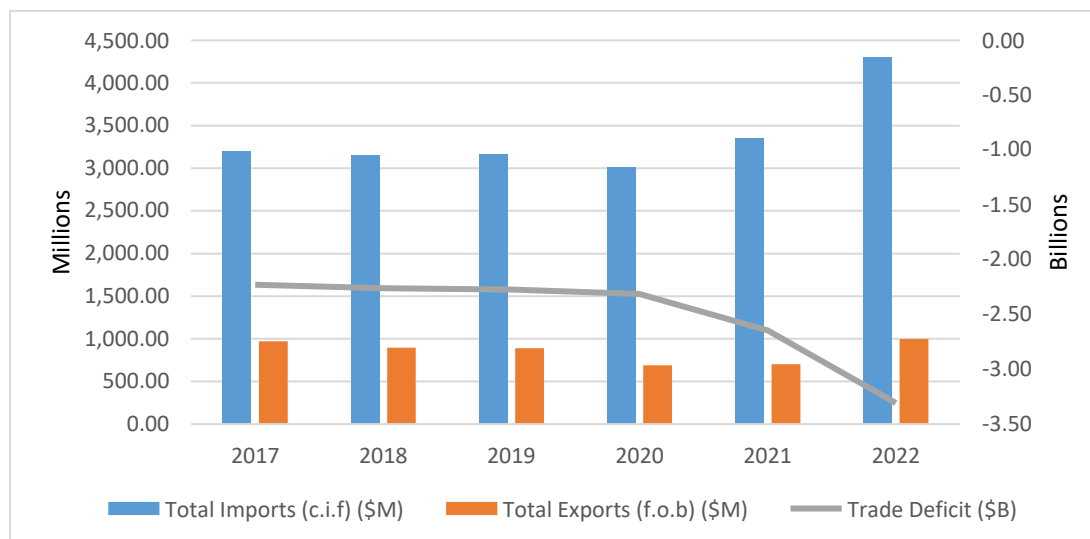
**Figure 3: Direction of Trade (Exports) (F.O.B)
\$M
2021 and 2022**



SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

Exports to the United Kingdom, United States, CARICOM and Canada grew by 30.01 percent, 28.61 percent, 20.87 percent and 3.38 percent, respectively.

**Figure 4: Visible Trade Balance
2017-2022**



SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES

The stock of gross international reserves declined by 9.41 percent to \$2,771 million or 29.0 weeks of import cover, but still well above the benchmark of 12.0 weeks, mainly due to increased demand for imports as economic activities expanded and skyrocketing global inflation. Higher tourism receipts helped to mitigate foreign exchange outflows and buffer the foreign reserves.

C. FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PUBLIC FINANCES

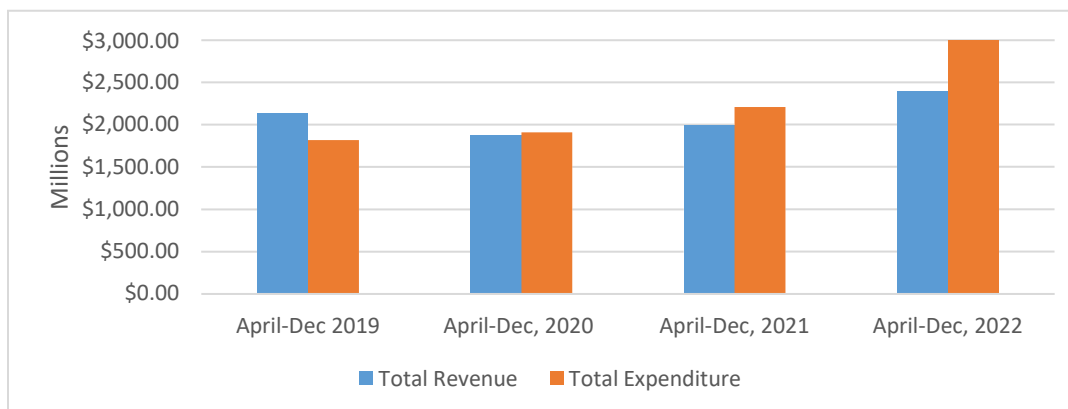
FISCAL DEVELOPMENTS

Many of the ambitious targets outlined under the IMF-supported BERT (2018) Plan, which expired in May, 2022, continued to be met, notwithstanding the economic upheaval generated by the pandemic and two natural disasters. A new four-year BERT Plan was subsequently formulated to continue on the path towards inclusive and sustainable growth while maintaining fiscal and debt sustainability.

The Government also pressed ahead with key fiscal strategies, continued to lay the groundwork for fiscal reform through the formulation of a new three-year Medium Term Fiscal Framework and turned its attention to public pension reform. Modernisation of the public procurement system featured prominently on the Government's agenda, underscoring its commitment to increasing efficiency savings and reducing large fiscal adjustments.

PUBLIC FINANCES

**Figure 5: Public Revenue and Expenditure
April-Dec 2019 to April-Dec, 2022**

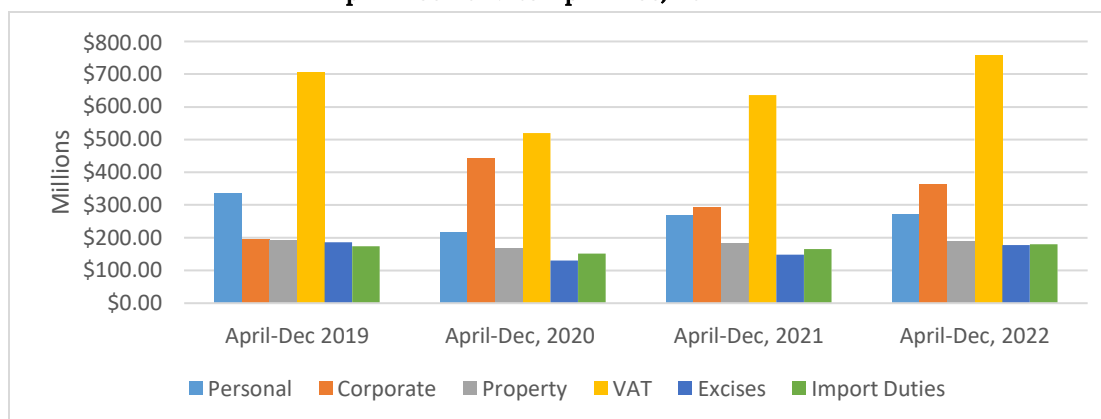


SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

CURRENT REVENUE

Public revenue climbed by 19.94 percent to \$2,393.0 million during the last three quarters of 2022, surpassing the corresponding period prior to the pandemic, with loosened pandemic-related restrictions and “revenge travel” helping to stimulate tourism, and, by extension, overall economic activities. Direct taxes rose by 21.37 percent, boosted by the imposition of a temporary pandemic levy on corporations and individuals, and higher receipts from corporate taxes and personal taxes, VAT and excise duties as business profitability improved and unemployment levels declined.

**Figure 6: Select Public Revenue Categories
April-Dec 2019 to April-Dec, 2022**



SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

Indirect taxes grew by 18.76 percent to \$1,272.80 million, with VAT receipts expanding by \$122.1 million, excise taxes by \$29.4 million, import duties by \$14.70 million, and room-rate accommodation by \$12.2 million when compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

Table 5: Revenue Generated from the Health Service Contribution Tax (BDS\$)¹

Months	FY2018/19	FY2019/20	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2022/23
April	-	4,739,491	3,697,374	3,960,768	4,189,271
May	-	4,931,873	3,862,041	4,093,921	5,377,226
June	-	5,789,361	4,367,817	5,516,298	6,306,613
July	-	5,027,530	3,687,796	3,801,994	6,302,479
August	-	5,339,280	4,335,352	4,149,629	6,282,526
September	-	4,972,996	4,632,167	4,245,059	7,003,408
October	41,491	4,853,965	4,130,864	4,836,775	8,030,400
November	2,090,977	4,874,435	4,066,705	3,472,287	9,484,242
December	3,626,361	5,038,765	4,254,428	4,054,188	7,008,057
January	3,888,509	5,479,154	4,100,474	3,584,833	9,241,910
February	5,318,714	5,534,486	3,004,950	6,200,382	9,671,483
March	4,542,442	5,676,740	4,718,337	8,442,027	9,885,600
TOTAL	\$ 19,508,495	\$ 62,258,076	\$ 48,858,306	\$ 56,358,161	\$88,783,214

SOURCE: National Insurance Scheme

Table 6: Revenue Generated from the Airline Travel and Tourism Development Tax (BDS\$ Millions)²

Months	FY2018/19	FY2019/20	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2022/23
April	0	7,165,340	96,040	495,250	7,781,550
May	0	6,942,880	473,410	943,530	5,253,290
June	0	7,454,720	758,800	1,480,850	5,186,370
July	0	7,677,460	349,440	2,398,340	5,901,630
August	0	8,099,350	852,390	3,733,310	6,405,280
September	0	8,173,270	794,710	3,297,210	4,912,600
October	1,510,632	6,870,220	981,400	3,568,110	5,382,510
November	3,276,766	10,029,390	965,090	5,218,010	8,343,510
December	3,893,182	11,316,550	1,398,320	7,068,670	9,973,670
January	5,195,960	12,127,360	1,810,060	7,777,910	11,854,430
February	6,420,400	11,704,420	675,430	7,046,270	11,117,190
March	6,958,980	8,709,260	573,930	9,274,230	12,206,180
TOTAL	\$27,255,920	\$106,270,220	\$9,729,020	\$52,301,690	\$94,318,210

SOURCE: Grantley Adams International Airport Inc.

¹ The Health Service Contribution came into effect on October 1, 2018.

² The Airline Travel and Tourism Development tax came into effect on October 1, 2018.

Table 7: Revenue Generated from the Garbage and Sewage Contribution -Garbage Contribution(BDS\$)³

Months	FY2018/19	FY2019/20	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2022/23
April	-	\$ 5,259,429.25	\$3,109,438.35	\$3,282,976.54	\$4,301,490.60
May	-	\$ 4,077,495.96	\$5,514,790.87	\$4,486,920.27	\$6,227,816.05
June	-	\$ 5,076,303.35	\$5,546,263.53	\$6,167,548.29	\$4,028,333.84
July	-	\$ 6,227,442.65	\$4,630,897.08	\$3,937,372.07	\$4,302,957.81
August	\$724,733.54	\$ 3,810,130.69	\$4,065,586.61	\$5,708,551.75	\$5,706,775.09
September	\$3,070,188.56	\$ 4,807,168.17	\$4,696,566.03	\$4,437,181.76	\$4,450,360.42
October	\$5,313,214.80	\$ 5,597,392.54	\$4,581,144.44	\$4,325,619.69	\$4,359,590.15
November	\$3,768,327.53	\$ 4,756,772.42	\$4,187,871.02	\$5,970,201.42	\$6,660,189.86
December	\$4,048,950.99	\$ 6,020,735.01	\$5,113,623.73	\$4,000,169.35	\$4,643,823.03
January	\$5,525,260.96	\$ 4,018,405.46	\$3,221,425.78	\$4,096,308.01	\$5,902,896.83
February	\$4,103,664.55	\$ 4,682,368.90	\$3,766,071.34	\$4,830,719.65	\$4,834,742.38
March	\$4,538,934.27	\$ 6,105,788.61	\$7,978,225.48	\$6,436,500.70	\$5,434,907.88
Total	\$31,093,275.20	\$ 60,439,433.01	\$56,411,904.26	\$57,680,069.50	\$60,853,883.94

SOURCE: *Barbados Water Authority -Please note that the figures reported herein are the actual payments received from customers and not the amounts charged/billed for GSC.

Table 8: Revenue Generated from the Garbage and Sewage Contribution -Sewage Contribution(BDS\$)

Months	FY2018/19	FY2019/20	FY2020/21	FY2021/22	FY2022/23
April	-	\$ 1,879,246.29	\$ 958,775.07	\$1,189,587.98	\$1,978,126.99
May	-	\$ 1,459,079.57	\$ 2,559,790.81	\$1,649,233.51	\$2,544,098.86
June	-	\$ 2,252,750.06	\$ 2,005,637.55	\$2,206,776.39	\$1,581,542.37
July	-	\$ 2,440,318.04	\$ 1,712,867.07	\$1,448,633.11	\$1,644,728.04
August	\$363,751.54	\$ 1,504,242.08	\$ 1,504,833.88	\$2,319,939.75	\$2,316,293.15
September	\$946,123.25	\$ 1,981,183.72	\$ 1,675,197.83	\$1,623,043.30	\$1,707,467.32
October	\$1,881,830.17	\$ 2,167,759.29	\$ 1,554,577.80	\$1,735,286.23	\$1,589,516.81
November	\$1,303,177.01	\$ 1,773,184.17	\$ 1,516,701.54	\$2,388,044.52	\$2,675,859.79
December	\$1,362,537.59	\$ 2,272,694.56	\$ 1,791,082.29	\$1,438,064.99	\$1,832,308.88
January	\$1,911,206.73	\$ 1,579,125.06	\$1,183,438.26	\$1,587,444.84	\$2,249,070.38
February	\$1,467,045.92	\$ 1,954,575.67	\$1,459,467.29	\$1,912,548.11	\$1,846,339.03
March	\$1,618,831.46	\$ 2,561,892.13	\$3,004,106.80	\$2,476,955.20	\$2,274,129.59
Total	\$10,854,503.67	\$ 23,826,050.64	\$ 20,926,476.19	\$21,975,557.93	\$24,239,481.21

SOURCE: *Barbados Water Authority -Please note that the figures reported herein are the actual payments received from customers and not the amounts charged/billed for GSC.

³ The Garbage and Sewage Contribution came into effect on August 1, 2018.

Additionally, increases in revenue generation were also observed for the select taxes introduced in 2018, as part of the Government's reform measures to improve the fiscal stability and ensure the continuity of key social services. This included the Health Service contribution, the Airline Travel and Tourism Development Tax and the Garbage and Sewage contribution.

With regard to the Health Service contribution, which accounts for a 2.5 per cent tax to be paid by employers (1.5 per cent tax on insurable earnings) and employees and self-employed persons (1.0 per cent tax on insurable earnings), this revenue measure continued to exceed the initial expectation of \$45 million in revenue gains within each fiscal year. In the FY 2022/23 an estimated \$88.8 million dollars in revenue was collected, which represented a 57.5 per cent increase from the \$56.4 million collected in FY 2021/22. This improvement in revenue collection was attributed to the uptick in economic activity as the country transitioned to a post- COVID-19 period.

The Airline Travel and Tourism Development Tax was introduced in October 2018 as a tiered tax on passengers (US\$70 per passenger flying outside of CARICOM and US\$ 35 per passenger traveling within the Caribbean), which was expected to raise \$95 million annually, to support in part the development, regulation and marketing of Barbados' Tourism product. However, over the period FY2018/19 to FY 2021/22, the performance of this initiative was negatively impacted by the slowdown in the global economy and international tourism, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In FY 2022/23, revenue generated through the Airline Travel and Tourism Development Tax stood at \$94.3 million, an expansion of 80.3 per cent when compared to the \$52.3 million observed in FY2021/22. The growth in revenue recorded was consistent with a rebound in tourist arrivals, as countries worldwide either lifted or relaxed their travel restrictions.

The Garbage and Sewage contribution was also introduced in August 2018, as a mean of offsetting the costs related to garbage collection and operational costs of the sewage systems, where households are required to pay an equivalent of \$1.50 per day; while commercial entities are required to contribute 50 per cent of their water bill, with 25 per cent going to the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) and the remainder 25 per cent to the Barbados Water Authority.

During the FY 2022/23, an estimated \$85.1 million in revenue was collected through the Garbage and Sewage contribution, representing a moderate increase of 6.8 per cent compared to the previous year, where an estimated \$79.7 million revenue was recorded. Of the total \$85.1 million in revenue collected, \$60.9 million was allocated to the Garbage contribution, while \$24.2 million was earmarked towards the Sewage contribution. This represented growth in the revenue generated for the Garbage contribution (5.5 per cent) and Sewage contribution (10.3 per cent) compared to the previous FY 2021/22. This growth was driven by the increase in water usage in 2022, as the economy began to recover and operations particularly in the tourism industry rebounded.

EXPENDITURE

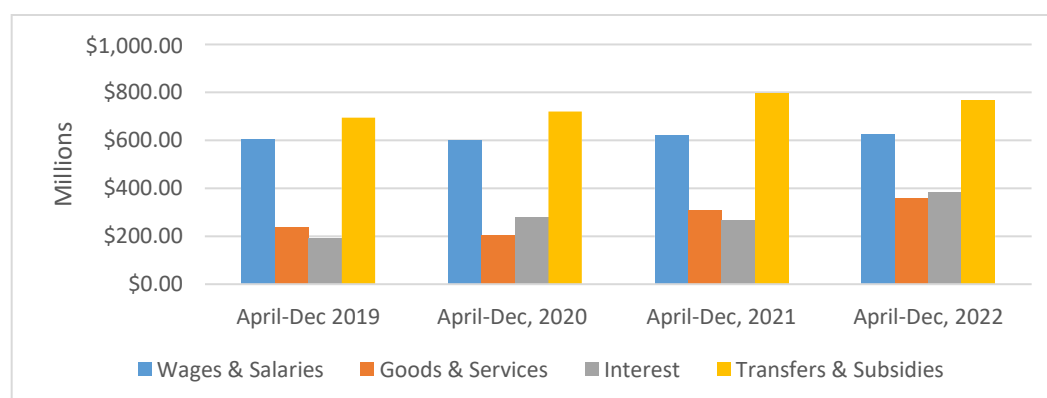
Over the last three quarters of 2022, public expenditure swelled by 35.41 percent to \$2,992.90 million, largely because of higher outlays on debt service payments which increased by \$118.5 million to \$384.0 million. Spending on good and services, which rose by \$51.8 million to meet pandemic-related programmes, and key public infrastructural projects, also helped to push up expenditure. There was a

modest increase in spending on wages and salaries. Conversely, transfers and subsidies declined by 3.68 percent due to reduced pandemic-related spending.

Major expenditure incurred during 2022 were for the following activities:

- Highway construction and maintenance services and the national clean-up programme
- National humanitarian awards to recognize those who played an invaluable role during the height of the pandemic.
- National summer nutrition programme.
- Cash transfers to support vulnerable families impacted by the pandemic under the Adopt-A-Family programme.
- Price stability support for the local animal feed sector.
- National COVID-19 management programme.
- Construction of housing solutions.
- National road rehabilitation and improvement projects.

Figure 7: Select Public Expenditure Categories
April-Dec, 2019 to April-Dec, 2022



SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

FINANCING

The deficit financing declined by 16.97 percent to \$869.30 million during FY 2021/2022. Once again, the Government continued to rely on support from international lending institutions, which accounted for 82.88 percent of total deficit financing, to offset the shortfalls created by lower revenues and higher expenditures during 2021/22. Domestic financing increased by 234.38 percent to \$148.80 million, signalling investors' confidence in Barbados' economy.

Table 9: Fiscal Deficit Financing
2017/18 - 2021/22

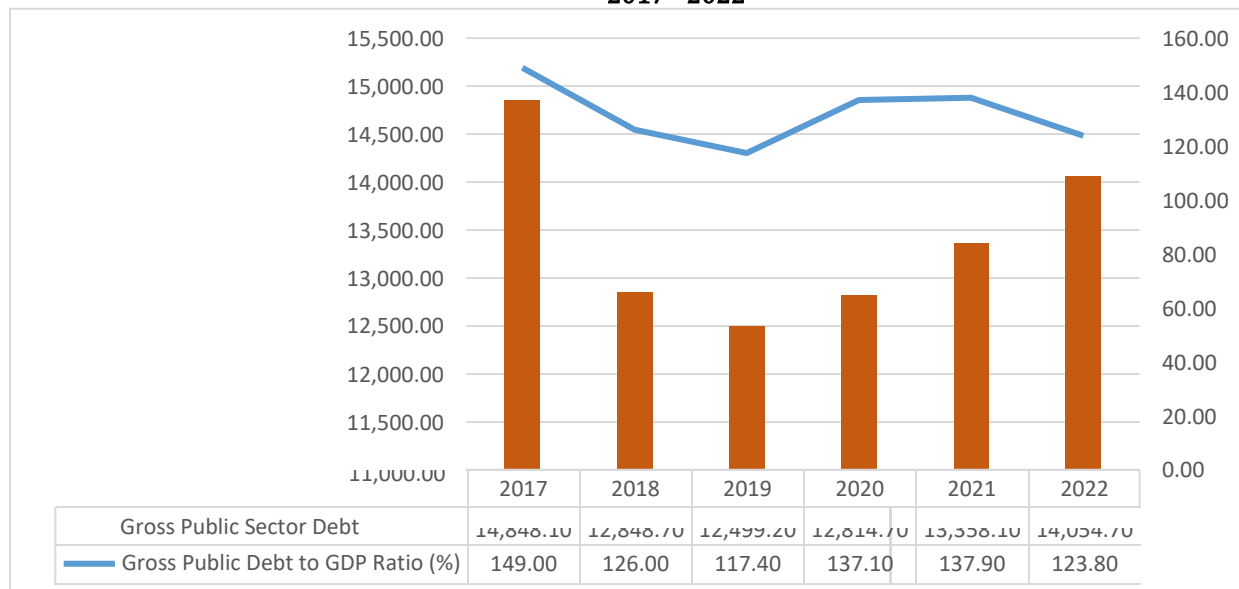
	\$M				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
International Institutions	110.40	439.00	233.00	1,002.50	720.50
Caribbean Development Bank	3.90	171.70	172.60	21.00	12.50
Corporación Andina de Formento (CAF)	0.00	10.90	3.60	208.10	25.80
European Investment Bank	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.00
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)	38.50	238.20	56.80	436.70	271.70
International Monetary Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	321.00	96.60
People's Republic of China	68.00	18.20	0.00	15.70	89.90
World Bank (IBRD)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Domestic Financing	1,306.10	0.00	-298.30	44.50	148.80
BOSS Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.80
Treasury Bills	616.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Treasury Notes, Debentures and Bonds	690.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	125.00
Other Domestic	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	-18.00
Arrears	0.00	0.00	-298.30	0.00	0
Total Financing	1,416.50	439.00	-65.30	1,047.00	869.30

SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

NATIONAL DEBT

The stock of gross public debt grew by 5.21 percent to \$14,054.70 million at the end of 2022. The gross public debt to GDP ratio declined to 123.80 percent compared to 137.90 percent the previous year as the economy continued to rally, with real growth at 10.0 percent.

Figure 8: Gross Public Debt
2017 - 2022



SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

Debt for Nature Swap

In September 2022, Barbados completed a landmark debt for nature conversion deal, the proceeds of which will fund a domestic conservation fund and an endowment trust supporting durable large-scale conservation of the country's fragile marine environment and promotion of the sustainable blue economy for generations. The Barbados debt conversion is the first of its kind to make use of private and non-profit sector capital under an innovative and efficient structure that maximises the savings generated for marine conservation purposes.

In executing the transaction, the Government repurchased USD\$77.6 million in aggregate principal amount of the Government of Barbados' 6.5% Notes due 2029 by means of a modified Dutch auction that was launched on 9 September 2022 and expired on 16 September 2022. The clearing price of the auction was set at USD\$92.25 per US\$D100 in principal amount of the Notes accepted for purchase. In parallel, the Government prepaid USD\$72.9 million equivalent of its Barbados dollar-denominated Series E 8% bonds due 2043.

The operation was funded through a dual currency USD\$146,518,800 equivalent term loan facility, or blue loan, that benefits from a 100% guarantee of up to USD\$150.0 million from the Inter-American Development Bank ("IDB") (75%) and The Nature Conservancy ("TNC") (25%), the non-profit's first such guarantee.

The interest rate savings from the differential between the repurchased debt and the blue loan are expected to be approximately USD\$50.0 million over a 15-year period. In executing the blue loan, the GOB extended its natural disaster clause to include pandemics, a first in international capital markets.

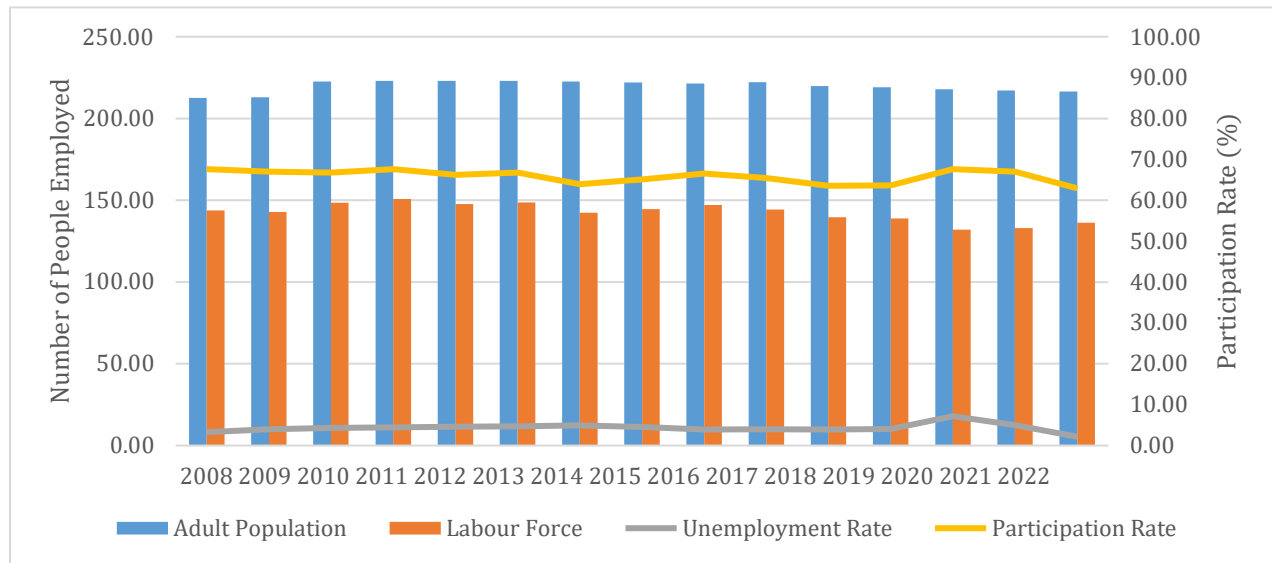
D. EMPLOYMENT, INFLATION AND LABOUR MARKET

UNEMPLOYMENT

During 2022, the unemployment rate was recorded at 8.4 percent, the lowest level in 14.0 years. Nevertheless, the number of people in the labour market declined by 9.19 percent, with 5.5 thousand women and 5.0 thousand men exiting the labour force. Employment in the Manufacturing sector registered a 12.5 percent decline, while Administrative and Support Services fell by 11.11 percent.

Notable increases in employment were recorded in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector (28.57 percent); Accommodation and Food Service (20.51 percent); Transportation and Storage (16.07 percent); and Wholesale and Retail Trade (12.73 percent) sectors, reflecting the spillover effects of the uptick in tourism. Employment in the Construction, Mining and Quarrying rose by 13.00 percent, boosted by the resumption and commencement of key infrastructural projects, including the national road rehabilitation and connectivity project.

**Figure 9: Domestic Labour Force Trends
2008 – 2022**

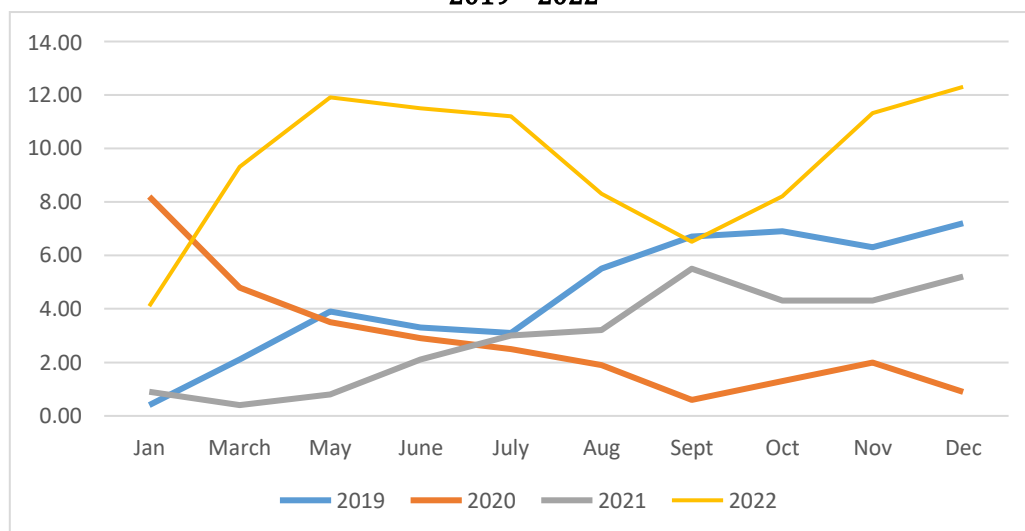


SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

INFLATION

Annual global inflation for 2022 was 8.9 percent, a rate not seen in more than 40 years. International supply chain disruptions, high employment rates and soaring consumer demand in advanced economies following COVID-19 relaxations fuelled global inflation and seeped into the domestic economy. As a result, annual domestic inflation was a staggering 9.1 percent as sharp increases in international commodity prices and freight costs continued to wreak havoc on domestic prices.

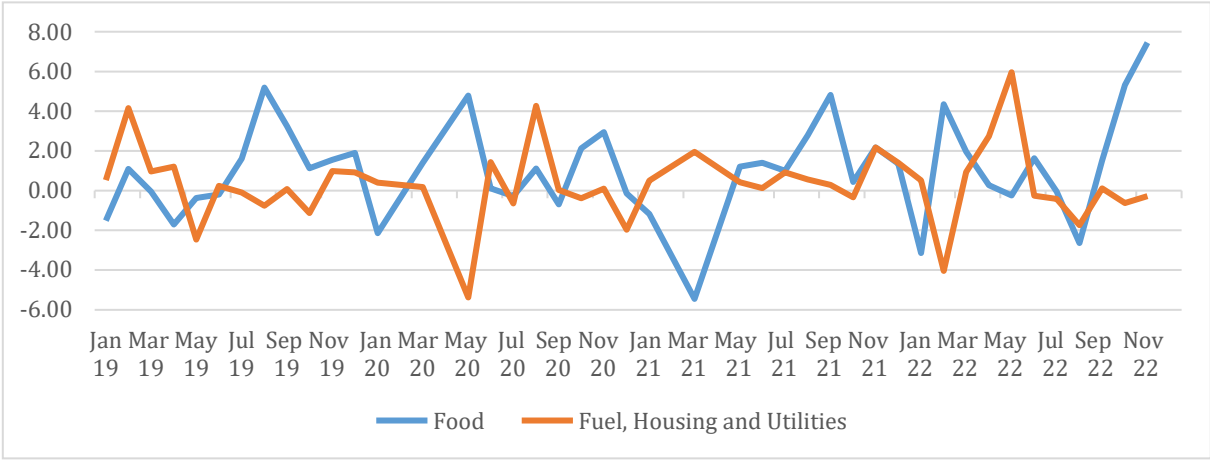
**Figure 10: Point-to-Point Inflation
2019 – 2022**



SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

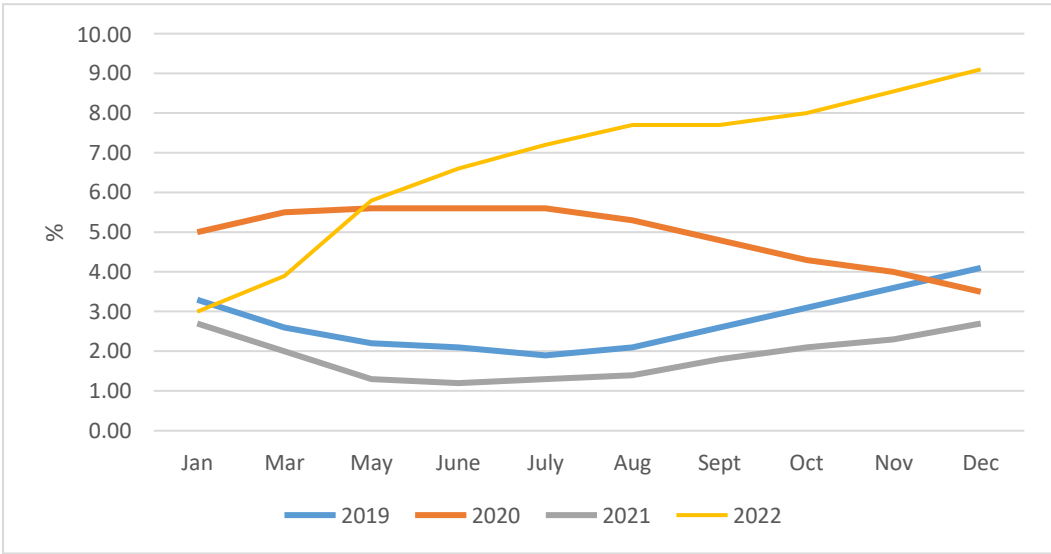
Fuels and food bore the brunt of the inflationary pressures as it did in the preceding year. However, these effects were somewhat diminished during the latter half of the year as international energy prices fell in the face of global economic uncertainty and several measures were implemented to cushion the effects of high domestic energy and consumer prices.

Figure 11: Month-to Month Percentage Price Changes (Food and Fuel, Housing and Utilities) 2019 – 2022



SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

Figure 12: Moving Average Annual Inflation 2019 – 2022



SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

E. SECTORAL PERFORMANCE AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

I. TOURISM (ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICE INDUSTRY)

GLOBAL SITUATION

During the period of review, the tourism industry continued to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, as several countries either lifted or relaxed their travel restrictions and visitors increasingly took the opportunity to travel. Statistics from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) showed a strong rebound in travel with some 917 million people travelling during 2022, compared to 455 million who had travelled in 2021; indicating, that the industry had recovered up to 63 percent of 2019 pre-pandemic levels.

Recovery in the industry continued apace during the year despite the emergence of the Omicron variant of the Coronavirus, the war between Russia and Ukraine, which resulted in global supply chain shortages and high fuel prices. International tourism receipts also grew as travellers stayed longer in destinations and spent more per trip. Inflation also contributed to higher tourism spend during 2022.

A slight rebound was also experienced in the global cruise industry, which had been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; noting that some 29.7 million persons cruised in 2019, which fell to 5.8 million and 4.8 million in 2020 and 2021 respectively. The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), in its State of the Cruise Industry 2023 Report, estimates that a total of 20.4 million persons would have taken cruises by the end of 2022; representing a 68.7 percent recovery in the global cruise industry.

LOCAL SITUATION

In 2022, the Barbados' tourism industry also demonstrated a gradual recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years, mirroring the recovery seen globally and in the region. Arrivals to the country during 2022 also benefitted from the pent-up demand from restricted travelling and the lifting or relaxation of travel restrictions in a large number of countries. Barbados also lifted its pandemic restrictions in September 2022.

Arrivals from the country's main source markets were recorded at 442,576 in 2022, compared to 692,658 arrivals in 2019; indicating that Barbados' recovery level was at 63.9 percent of pre-COVID-19 levels in 2022, lagging some 36.1 percent below 2019 levels. The recovery process in the local tourism industry started during the middle of 2021 with arrivals increasing every month for the remainder of that year.

In addition to the factors playing out in the global economy, recovery in the tourism industry in Barbados was also fuelled by work done by the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI) in Barbados' main source markets including consumer and trade shows, the formation of various strategic partnerships and public relations campaigns inter alia.

There was an increase in seating capacity in 2022 from Barbados' major markets as the BTMI worked with its airline partners in order to ramp up service into the destination. Seating capacity returned to 60.2 percent of 2019 levels in 2022. Additionally, the Governments of Barbados and Qatar

signed a Memorandum of Understanding and an Air Services Agreement during the year under review which facilitates direct air linkages between the two States and thus the creation of more choice in destinations and ease of travel. An Air Service Agreement between Barbados and the Republic of Rwanda was also concluded in during the period of review.

Table 10: Stay-Over Arrivals by Month, 2019, 2021 and 2022

MONTH	2019	2021	2022	2019 vs. 2022		2021 vs. 2022	
				Absolute Change	Percentage Change	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
January	69,496	3,547	32,175	(37,321)	(53.7)	28,628	807.1
February	68,609	1,880	37,033	(31,576)	(46.0)	35,153	1,869.8
March	70,669	1,769	45,249	(25,420)	(36.0)	43,480	2,457.9
April	63,364	1,865	37,998	(25,366)	(40.0)	36,133	1,937.4
May	50,717	3,362	28,829	(21,888)	(43.2)	25,467	757.5
June	50,160	6,448	27,528	(22,632)	(45.1)	21,080	326.9
July	60,248	11,524	33,798	(26,450)	(43.9)	22,274	193.3
August	50,757	15,620	33,205	(17,552)	(34.6)	17,585	112.6
September	36,861	17,209	27,579	(9,282)	(25.2)	10,370	60.3
October	48,876	18,504	33,750	(15,126)	(30.9)	15,246	82.4
November	66,277	23,749	46,216	(20,061)	(30.3)	22,467	94.6
December	56,624	39,356	59,216	2,592	4.6	19,860	50.5
TOTAL	692,658	144,833	442,576	(250,082)	(36.1)	297,743	205.6

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Table 11: Estimated Total Seats By Markets, 2018 to 2022

MAJOR MARKETS	2018	2019	2020	2021 ^(P)	2022	2022/2019
United States	330,533	351,311	112,395	160,049	230,742	-34.3
Canada	120,158	129,704	51,928	28,237	95,044	-26.7
United Kingdom	292,242	313,676	124,696	256,010	282,552	-9.9
Europe	11,931	21,990	17,792	23,467	25,260	14.9
Caribbean	518,914	528,240	170,109	102,973	173,994	-67.1
Central & South America	6,528	11,232	2,466	-	9,280	-17.4
TOTAL	1,280,306	1,356,153	479,386	570,736	816,872	-39.8

Source: Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.

Similar to the global situation, there was a noticeable in the length of stay of travellers to the island. The average length of stay at the end of 2022 moved from 13.8 days to 14.7days, according to data received from the Barbados Statistical Service, with increases in the length of stay recorded in every category. Persons staying on island in the 4 to 7-day category moved from 4,147 persons to 158,925 persons, while persons staying in the eight days to two-week category moved from 55,146 persons to 152,250 persons.

In 2022, there were 155 registered tourism establishments, an increase of 18 establishments compared to one year earlier; of these 155 establishments, 63 were hotels, 74 were apartments and 18 were guesthouses showing an increase of registered properties of three (3) hotels, 11 apartments and four (4) guesthouses. There was no significant movement in the increase of registered tourism accommodation from 2019. In 2022, there were 6,564 registered bedrooms within the tourism industry, an increase from the 6,052 recorded in 2021.

Employment levels in the industry were also up during the year with 14.1 thousand persons working in the Food and Accommodation subsector compared to 11.7 thousand persons in 2021. This however was slightly below the 15.6 thousand persons working in the industry in 2019. The tourism industry has been struggling with shortage of labour both on a global scale and locally as thousands of persons were laid off and others gave up their jobs for various reasons related to the Pandemic and otherwise.

Stay-Over Arrivals

Arrivals were up significantly from all of Barbados' major markets during 2022 compared to one year earlier. The UK continued to be Barbados' largest source market, reaching 78.8 percent of the 2019 arrivals and accounting for 40.4 percent of long-stay arrivals. Some 178,886 persons visited the island compared to 53, 639 arrivals year on year, a 233.5 percent increase.

Table 12: Stay-Over Arrivals by Market, 2019, 2021 and 2022

Market	2019	2021	2022	2019 vs. 2022		2021 vs. 2022	
				Absolute Change	Percentage Change	Absolute Change	Percentage Change
UK	226,992	53,639	178,886	(48,106)	(21.2)	125,247	233.5
Canada	81,577	17,316	49,197	(32,380)	(39.7)	31,881	184.1
USA	219,770	44,804	128,989	(90,781)	(41.3)	84,185	187.9
<i>Germany</i>	<i>12,271</i>	<i>2,062</i>	<i>4,115</i>	<i>(8,156)</i>	<i>(66.5)</i>	2,053	99.6
<i>Other Europe</i>	<i>25,488</i>	<i>6,897</i>	<i>16,427</i>	<i>(9,061)</i>	<i>(35.6)</i>	9,530	138.2
Other Europe	37,759	8,959	20,542	(17,217)	(45.6)	11,583	129.3
<i>Trinidad & Tobago</i>	<i>31,570</i>	<i>4,908</i>	<i>17,090</i>	<i>(14,480)</i>	<i>(45.9)</i>	<i>12,182</i>	<i>248.2</i>
<i>Other CARICOM</i>	<i>68,682</i>	<i>9,000</i>	<i>34,946</i>	<i>(33,736)</i>	<i>(49.1)</i>	<i>25,946</i>	<i>288.3</i>
CARICOM	100,252	13,908	52,036	(48,216)	(48.1)	38,128	274.1
Rest of the World	26,308	6,207	12,926	(13,382)	(50.9)	6,719	108.2
TOTAL	692,658	144,833	442,576	(250,082)	(36.1)	297,743	205.6

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

Visitor arrivals from the USA, the second largest market, were recorded at 128,989 persons, an increase of 84,185 visitors for 2022, or 187.9 percent from those who had visited the island one year earlier. This means that this market had recovered to 58.7 percent of its 2019 levels.

CARICOM showed the largest percentage increase in visitors (274.1 percent) during the year under review when arrivals from that source market stood at 52,036 persons, up from 13,908 in 2021. Nearly double the amount of arrivals for 2022 had visited the island in 2019 (100,252 arrivals), thus showing that CARICOM had recovered to just over half of its 2019 levels (51.9 percent).

In 2022, Canadian arrivals (49,197) were up by 184.1 percent year-on-year, with recovery from pre-pandemic levels registering at 60.3 percent. Europe recovered by 54.4 percent (20,542 visitors in 2022) while visitors from the Rest of the World were recorded at 12,926, a 49.1 percent recovery.

Hotel Performance

In 2022, the accommodation sub-sector saw improvements in all significant performance indicators according to the STR Global Report. Hotel occupancy had dipped to 36.6 percent in 2020 rising slightly to 38.4 percent in 2021 as a result of the fall-out caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, with the uptick in arrivals, average hotel occupancy rates were recorded at 62.6 percent for 2022 which were still some 6.4 percentage points below 2019 levels.

The Average Daily Rate (ADR) which measures the average rate paid for rooms sold, was \$542.15 in 2022 up from BDS\$ 481.65 in 2021 and just below the \$560.38 recorded in 2019. Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) moved to \$254.09 up from \$122.62 in 2022 but was still below 2019 levels of \$386.66.

Table 13: Hotel Performance by Year, 2018 to 2022

YEAR	ADR		RevPAR	
	BDS\$	Percentage Change	BDS\$	Percentage Change
2018	559.28	2.7	370.21	0.4
2019	560.38	0.2	386.66	4.4
2020	534.63	-4.6	359.7	-7.0
2021	481.65	-9.9	122.6	-65.9
2022	542.15	12.6	254.1	107.2

Source: STR Global Ltd.

Cruise Passenger Arrivals

The cruise industry is one of the main segments of the tourism industry. After cruising was suspended in mid-2020, the momentum which had started with the recovery of the industry continued into 2022, as persons returned to cruising after the cancellations or delays caused by the Pandemic.

There was an uptick in cruise travel to Barbados with the industry registering 250,527 passengers in 2022, up significantly from 71,953 passengers in 2021 (an increase of 178,574 persons cruising), a 248.2 percent turnaround from 2021 levels. After a bumper year of arrivals in 2019 (686,813 cruise passengers) the industry has only recovered 36.5 percent of pre-pandemic levels. There was no cruising during the months of May to August 2022, the summer period when cruise lines reposition their ships to the Mediterranean. While it is customary for Barbados to welcome one or two vessels during the summer, all ships repositioned their vessels during 2022 in order to capture market demand.

During the year under review 319 vessels called at the Bridgetown Port, an increase from 147 vessels in 2021 but below the 422 which had arrived in Barbados in 2019. There were 26 vessels homeporting in Barbados which carried 138,838 passengers.

POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

12-Month Barbados Welcome Stamp Initiative

During the period, June, 2020 to January 2023, The Barbados Welcome Stamp (12-month visa) Programme made significant contributions to:

- Increased visitor arrivals among the long stay visitors and loyal visitors;
- Improved perception of Barbados' key brand attributes; and
- Increased spend on island.

To date, applications were received from 4,211 individuals, applying for themselves and or their spouses and dependents, for a total of 7,170 persons. Of the 4,211 applications received, 2,655 of these applications, equivalent to 4,732 persons, were approved for the visas. Forty percent, or 1,057 of these applications were from family units while 60 percent or 1,598 were single applicants.

Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) Programme

The BEST programme was established by the Government of Barbados to stimulate the transformation of the tourism and direct tourism related service sectors and to protect employment in the sectors as a result of the devastation caused by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic globally. Given that tourism is the country's main source of foreign exchange and generator of employment, the Government of Barbados therefore pledged BDS \$300 million to assist in supporting the tourism sector, by investing in companies through grants and preferential shares, to fund the re- engagement of workers and to enable companies to survive. The programme has two (2) major components:

Employee Re-engagement Component:

During the period October 2020 – December 2022, sixty-four (64) applications were received by the Approvals Committee. These applications consisted of hotels, attractions, travel agencies, car rentals, restaurants, watersports, general, retail, destination management, nightclubs and sports businesses. Fifty-eight of these applications were approved; with 50 of these approvals being disbursed. As a result of this programme, approximately 2,481 employees were re-engaged in the tourism sector.

Transformational Investment Component:

During the period October 2020 – December 2022, 39 applications were received. Twenty-eight of these applications were approved with 18 of these approvals being disbursed

II. INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing sector experienced a positive upturn during the period under review, as the players' sector adjusted to operate in the post-pandemic environment. Output for the manufacturing sector in 2022 as measured by the Index of Industrial Production, expanded to 52.8 points from 51.5 points in 2021. This performance was primarily driven by positive growth in categories such as "food," which increased from 81.6 points in 2021 to 89.2 points in 2022, and "beverage and tobacco" which increased from 47.8 points to 61.8 points. Conversely, there was a significant decline in "chemicals", which fell from 165.7 points in 2021 to 141.6 points in 2022.

Domestic exports for the period under review increased by 12.96 percent to BDS\$501.9 million when compared to the BDS\$ 444.3 million reported in 2021 according to the Central Bank of Barbados. This was driven by increases in exports of "food" (21.7 percent), construction materials (6.7 percent), and rum (1.8 percent).

SPECIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) disbursed BDS \$1.6 million under its Special Technical Assistance Programme (STAP) in 2022, a decrease of 44.5 percent below the BDS \$2,806,777 disbursed in 2021. Similar to 2021, 28 businesses benefited from the programme in 2022.

The category of Equipment, Systems, and Process Upgrades received the largest sum of assistance, with BDS\$1.7 million, disbursed in 2022, under the STAP, a decrease of 46.2 percent in comparison to the BDS\$2.3 million provided in 2021. Additional information on the areas of assistance is outlined in the table below.

In an effort to develop a Life Science Industry, Export Barbados (BIDC) has embarked on a transformative mission during 2022, focusing on key areas which can provide lucrative returns in the short, medium and long term such as Wellness, Agribusiness and the Blue Economy, and Biopharma and Medical Technology.

BIDC also continued its commitment to assist with job creation through the provision of several initiatives including the establishment of a new Mechanics Bay, International Food Science Centre/ Shared Use Facility. It will also seek to locate new markets, facilitate medical cannabis and networking opportunities and establish a ferry trade within the Caribbean in the near future.

Table 14: STAP Disbursements BDS\$ for 2021 and 2022

Assistance	2021	2022	% Change
Training Productivity Enhancement	39,326	52,401	33.2
Marketing	476,387	277,443	-41.8
Equipment, Systems & Process Upgrades	2,003,011	1,078,218	-46.2
Enhancement Programme BMA/CRAFT	15,215		-100.0
Product Design	54,873		-100.0
Market Research	30,108	16,373	-45.6
Professional Services	137,563	133,309	-3.1
Intellectual Property	50,194		-100.0
Total	2,806,677	1,557,745	-44.5

Source: Export Barbados (BIDC)

III. AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

During 2022, the Real Gross Domestic Product for the Agriculture and Fishing Industry was estimated at \$132.4 million. This represented a decline of 6.4 percent in the industry, when compared to the output \$123.9 million recorded in the previous period. This contraction in real value output, largely reflected the fall in overall fish landings (2.5 percent) and the reductions in production registered for all subindustries of the agricultural sector, with the exception of the Livestock and Dairy subindustry which registered a slight increase of 1.4 percent.

Table 15: Local Agricultural Production (million kgs) 2018- 2022

Year	2018 (R)	2019 (R)	2020 (R)	2021 (R)	2022 (P)	% Change over 2020
Sugar ('000 tonnes)	11.66	7.86	7.92	5.25	4.44	-15.48%
Root Crop Production	4.71	6.58	7.1	6.82	5.88	-13.86%
Vegetable Production	10.97	10.67	12.28	7.50	7.41	-1.15%
Livestock and Dairy Production	27.94	28.14	22.75	23.29	23.62	1.40%
Cotton Lint ('000 kgs)	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	
	1.66	2.19	5.45	3.63	NA	NA

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

P- Provisional Estimates

R- Revised Estimates

SUGAR PRODUCTION

In 2022 the sugar crop yielded 95,955 tonnes of canes from a total area of 6,303.88 acres harvested. This was a modest increase of 4.2 percent (or approximately 3,826 tonnes) in the canes harvested compared to the 2021 crop.

During the period under review, a total of 4,439 tonnes of sugar was produced, which represented a decline of 15.5 percent or 812.86 tonnes of sugar from the previous year. However, there was a significant increase of approximately 14 percent in the production of molasses or 890.40 tonnes more than in 2021.

COTTON PRODUCTION

During 2021/2022 cotton season a total of 78.91 hectares of cotton was planted, representing a 2.5 percent compared to the 80.94 hectares planted for the 2020/2021 crop. The 2021/2022 cotton crop yielded 8,144.84 kilograms of seed cotton, which was delivered to the ginnery; representing, a decline of 35.5 (or 4,481.44 kilograms less than) from the previous season. This fall in cotton production may be attributed to the very high rainfall levels recorded from September to December 2022, which resulted in the crop being replanted due to the fields being inundated with standing water for long periods. There were 10 running bales were produced in the review period, compared to the 16 running bales recorded from the previous year's harvest.

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

**Table 16: Livestock and Dairy Production ('000kgs)
2018-2022**

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021(R)	2022(P)	% Change over 2021
Pork	2,771.7	2,840.3	2,869.2	2,634.0	2,539.4	-3.6%
Beef	175.0	172.5	182.3	161.2	201.2	24.8%
Veal	0.6	0.4	43.6	0.6	0.3	-43.3%
Mutton	107.0	92.2	98.7	65.4	84.6	29.3%
Chicken	16,465.6	16,232.0	11,964.9	13,183.4	13,516.6	2.5%
Turkey	180.8	397.6	141.5	298.1	134.7	-54.8%
Eggs	3,440.1	3,749.9	3,471.5	2,605.7	3,099.4	18.9%
Milk	4,799.4	4,657.4	3,978.0	4,340.7	4,039.4	-6.9%
Total	27,940.11	28,142.10	22,749.55	23,289.10	23,615.60	1.4%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

P- Provisional Estimates

R- Revised Estimates

Overall livestock production increased by 1.4 percent during the year 2022 to stand at 23,615.6 thousand kilogrammes. This growth was bolstered by significant increases in the production of mutton (29.36 percent), beef (24.8 percent), eggs (18.9 percent), and chicken (2.5 percent),

The poultry sector encountered some challenges during the final quarter of 2022 with some farmers losing a significant number of birds for varying reasons. This, however, did not have any adverse impact on the supply of fresh chicken to consumers.

Turkey meat production fell by 54.8 percent during the year under review, which may reflect a general fall in demand. This commodity is usually produced according to the demand by growers for poults (turkey chicks), where placement is dictated strictly by what is being demanded by their customers.

The decline of 43.3 percent in veal production was also recorded. However, performance in this area is negligible, as supply of this commodity is usually dependent on the need of farms to cull calves from their herd.

VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

There a modest reduction recorded in the overall vegetable crop production; which fell from 7,498.26 thousand kilogrammes in 2021 to 7,412.06 thousand kilogrammes in 2022. The performance in vegetable crop subsector was a mixed one; however, the supply of fresh vegetables remained adequate throughout the year.

Carrots, pumpkins, and melon recorded significant increases in production of 32.0 percent, 28.7 percent and 18.0 percent respectively. Moderate increases were also recorded for cucumber (7.6 percent), cabbage (7.3 percent), beet (6.0 percent) and sweet peppers (3.0 percent).

In contrast, hot peppers and okras declined by 41.0 percent and 24.5 percent respectively, while other substantial decreases were recorded for tomato, string beans and lettuce, which declined by 14.8 percent, 10.9 percent and 7.6 percent respectively.

**Table 17: Vegetable Production ('000 kgs)
2018-2022**

Year	2018(R)	2019(R)	2020(R)	2021(R)	2022(P)	% Change over 2021
Beans (String)	370.05	441.85	591.95	188.70	168.12	-10.9%
Beets	86.97	78.30	331.63	115.70	122.61	6.0%
Cabbage	877.37	607.41	594.25	290.56	311.85	7.3%
Carrot	528.08	485.81	313.98	257.89	340.43	32.0%
Cucumber	1,326.38	1,772.90	1,904.52	1,157.83	1,245.56	7.6%
Lettuce	1,237.40	1,225.92	1,857.18	1,059.83	979.70	-7.6%
Melons	1,899.37	1,534.53	1,330.14	1,235.88	1,457.94	18.0%
Okras	1,328.28	1,231.49	1,219.56	891.79	673.57	-24.5%
Peppers (Hot)	437.21	830.91	896.63	383.27	226.13	-41.0%
Peppers (Sweet)	581.93	659.61	657.94	460.46	474.46	3.0%
Pumpkins	744.48	478.38	905.71	392.78	505.67	28.7%
Tomato	1,552.11	1,327.13	1,684.88	1,063.57	906.02	-14.8%
Total	10,969.63	10,674.24	12,288.37	7,498.26	7,412.06	-1.1%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Nutritional Security

P- Provisional Estimates

R- Revised Estimates

**Table 18: Root Crop Production ('000 kgs)
2018-2022**

Year	2018 (R)	2019 (R)	2020(R)	2021(R)	2022 (R)	% Change over 2021
Cassava	1,038.6	675.7	1,551.0	1,213.9	560.4	-53.8%
Eddoes	352.7	193.7	263.1	201.1	287.6	43.1%
Sweet Potato	2,347.8	4,159.6	3,544.3	3,413.9	2,543.5	-25.5%
Yam	433.1	241.7	395.6	580.6	989.0	70.3%
Onion	528.6	1,309.5	1,327.7	1,402.0	1,486.5	6.0%
Peanut	6.2	3.0	15.7	8.9	8.3	-7.1%
Total	4,706.87	6,583.13	7,097.41	6,820.40	5,875.18	-13.9%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

P- Provisional Estimates

R- Revised Estimates

ROOT CROP PRODUCTION

Root crop production is estimated to have declined by an overall 13.9 percent in 2022, with an output of 5,875.18 thousand kilogrammes registered compared to 6,820.14 thousand kilogramme recorded in 2021. This fall in output was driven by the significant declines recorded in production of the two major root crops produced on the island, with cassava and sweet potato, falling by 53.8 percent and 25.5 percent respectively.

Yam production continued on its upward trend since 2019 with estimated output of 988,970 kilograms recorded in 2022; representing, an increase of 70.3 percent over the previous year. Eddoe production also recorded a significant increase of 43.1 percent, while a moderate increase in production of 6% was estimated for peanut production.

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY IMPORTS

Meat imports during 2022 recorded a significant overall increase of 12.1 percent. Poultry, beef and mutton imports increased by 66.7 percent, 29.6 percent and 17.2 percent respectively. The volume of poultry imports returned to the levels of previous years 2018 and 2019, following the dampening impact of Covid-19 and the presence of bird flu in some source markets for chicken wings.

Fresh and other table egg imports declined by a significant margin of 17.7 percent during the year under review, while moderate declines of approximately 4 percent were recorded for pork and milk imports.

**Table 19: Livestock and Dairy Product Imports ('000 kgs)
2019-2022**

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change over 2021
Pork	2,740.71	2,152.33	2,783.03	2,676.94	-3.8%
Beef & Veal	2,221.18	1,993.20	1,921.84	2,490.41	29.6%
Mutton	1,085.99	1,007.71	1,002.50	1,175.35	17.2%
Poultry	1,766.03	1,581.66	1,057.58	1,762.94	66.7%
Table Eggs	22.53	0.00	19.13	15.75	-17.7%
All Milk	2,830.91	2,874.35	3,211.97	3,085.83	-3.9%
Total	10,667.35	9,609.25	9,996.06	11,207.22	12.1%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

VEGETABLE IMPORTS

Selected vegetable imports increased overall by 14.9 percent overall during the year under review. Bean imports recorded the largest percentage increase, however, the actual volume imported of 2,380 kgs can be considered negligible.

Several commodities recorded significant increases in imports despite recording estimated increases in production. Beet (34.0%), watermelon (32.9percent), cabbage (21.6percent), lettuce (20.0percent) and pumpkins (15.3percent), reflecting the general increase in demand for such commodities.

Okras, cucumber and carrot imports declined by 78.8 percent, 13.6 percent and 8.7 percent respectively. While import quantities of okras and cucumber are usually insignificant, carrot imports declined by 48,000 kilogrammes during the period under review.

**Table 20: Vegetable Imports
(‘000kgs)
2019-2022**

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change over 2021
Beans (String)	0.19	0.67	0.36	2.38	561.1%
Beets	48.68	69.31	72.58	97.26	34.0%
Cabbage	448.35	473.08	477.48	580.82	21.6%
Carrot	624.69	553.77	554.78	506.73	-8.7%
Cucumber	3.18	14.51	3.69	3.19	-13.6%
Lettuce	640.30	465.91	424.15	508.94	20.0%
Melons	394.76	380.88	223.77	297.40	32.9%
Okras	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.17	-78.8%
Peppers (Hot)	2.86	6.04	0.00	19.32	NA
Peppers (Sweet)	300.34	273.22	252.34	252.55	0.1%
Pumpkins	197.28	199.84	122.86	141.69	15.3%
Tomato	107.21	271.74	213.73	286.74	34.2%
Total	2,767.83	2,708.96	2,346.54	2,697.19	14.9%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security

ROOT CROP IMPORTS

**Table 21: Root Crop Imports (‘000
kgs)
2019-2022**

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change over 2021
Cassava	4.77	3.98	0.77	2.23	189.6%
Eddoes	150.67	176.03	147.70	195.28	32.2%
Sweet Potato	23.37	30.72	4.35	5.43	24.8%
Yam	56.11	128.16	74.09	111.00	49.8%
Onion	1,696.31	1,780.36	1,540.23	1,664.64	8.1%
Peanut	384.33	395.53	370.22	340.78	-8.0%
Total	2,315.56	2,514.78	2,137.36	2,319.36	8.5%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

Root crop imports recorded an overall increase of 8.5 percent during 2022. Significant increases in imports were recorded for yam, eddoe and onions of 49.8 percent, 32.2 percent and 8.1 percent respectively. Increases were also recorded for cassava and sweet potato, however, these imported volumes can be considered as negligible.

Peanut imports decreased by 8.0 percent during the period under review.

FARMER'S EMPOWERMENT AND ENFRANCHISEMENT DRIVE (FEED PROGRAMME)

In 2022, the Farmer's Empowerment and Enfranchisement Drive (FEED Programme) aimed at providing opportunities for employment, agricultural training and the development of new farmers in response to the burgeoning global food crisis which had begun to impact the island. The Barbados Agricultural Development & Marketing Corporation (BADMC) shifted its focus in relation to FEED to the escalation of production of primary produce on island and sought to engage first with those recently placed farmers to rapidly bring them to the point of full production of a core group of vegetables. This was to address economic and logistical factors which have been triggered by the conflict in the Ukraine and the continuing lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This refocus has therefore seen the BADMC working across several farming districts to provide access to planting materials, assistance in the redress or amelioration of limited access to water and provision of technical, logistical and marketing support to achieve optimum production levels.

FEED farmers received greater support through the provision of inputs ranging from planting materials (seeds, seedlings and cuttings), chemicals and fertilizers, to irrigation fittings, water storage tanks and support bases to improve farming activities.

In 2022, four hundred and fifty-six (456) persons applied to the FEED programme and three hundred and seventy-three (373) completed training (Cohort 4). The training element consists of a 12-week online training course which caters to those who have no formal educational background or training in agriculture and its related sciences. This training is focused on various topics ranging from sound farming and agronomic practices, land preparation services, pest and disease management and agri-marketing. Crop and fruit tree production, livestock production and apiculture are the main production systems taught during the course. The digital registration process for the FEED programme commenced in July 2022 via BADMC's website (www.badmc.org) which is an online application process received in real time to the FEED Office once successfully completed.

As at December 2022, two hundred and sixty (260) farmers were placed on lands across the island and have established their agricultural enterprises in crop production, apiculture and hydroponics to varying degrees at locations such as Mount Poyer, St. Lucy, Spencer's, Christ Church and Wakefield, St. John. One hundred and thirteen (113) water tanks were provided to farmers who were allocated where there is no irrigation water nor network. To accommodate the weight of the storage tanks, 147 concrete bases were constructed. Such efforts were critical to facilitate sustainable development of the agricultural sector through the provision of infrastructure for water storage in the absence of an irrigation system.

FISHERIES

OVERVIEW

The presence of Sargassum continued to negatively impact the flying-fish fishery in 2022 as its presence prevented setting the nets and reduced the ability of screealers to aggregate fish within the fishing range of the boat. While these effects reduced the size of the catch, the anticipated low catches also deterred fishers from investing time and resources in pursuing this fishery. This is particularly true in the case of the “dayboat” fleet which has traditionally contributed significantly to the island’s catches of flying-fish.

The low catches of flying-fish and dolphinfish recorded over the past few years (since 2011) have impacted fisher-folk in terms of income and livelihood security. The Sargassum mats have continued to bring the carangid species known locally as Amberfish and the increased landings of these has somewhat reduced losses, both to fishers and to the island’s supply of fish, from diminished catches of flying-fish and dolphinfish.

In 2022 an estimated total of 887tons (t) of finfish was landed in Barbados, 2.5 percent less than the total fish catch for Barbados in 2021 (910 t).

**Table 22: Fish Landings by Type
(Tonnes)
2019-2022**

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change over 2021
Flying Fish	124	246	233	140	-39.9%
Dolphin	186	158	121	137	13.2%
Kingfish	11	8	4	11	175.0%
Shark	5	5	5	8	60.0%
Tunas	114	163	200	172	-14.0%
Billfish	33	42	35	31	-11.4%
Swordfish	8	9	8	7	-12.5%
Snapper	41	34	24	27	12.5%
Reef Fish (Carangids)	82	82	129	149	15.5%
Small Tunas	1	1	1	1	0.0%
Potfish	99	107	75	69	-8.0%
Turpits	102	45	52	92	76.9%
Lobster	2	1	2	3	50.0%
Conch	<1	<.5	0.5	0.1	-80.0%
Any Other Variety	41	35	23	43	87.0%
Total Fish Landings	847	936	910	887	-2.5%

SOURCE: Fisheries Division, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy

P- Provisional Estimates

FLYING-FISH

The estimated total landings of flying-fish in 2022 was only 140 t, a decline of 39.9 percent from the catch reported in 2021(233 t). This represents the second lowest catch ever recorded for the island since nylon gillnets were used and fish catches routinely collected in the early 1950’s. The lowest catch was 124 t reported for 2019.

DOLPHINFISH AND KINGFISH

The total catch of dolphinfish increased slightly in 2022 (137 t) over the record low catch reported this species (121 t) reported for 2021. Although this improvement breaks the declining pattern observed for the catches of this species over the last five years, the 2022 catches for this species ranks as the second lowest reported in the history of fish catch record keeping in Barbados.

Similarly, the 2022 catch of kingfish (11 t) was more than double that reported for 2021 (4 t) but is still less than half the mean annual landings of this species group for the period 1997 through 2021 (26 t) and now ranks as only the fifth lowest catch of this species group since records of the island's fish catches have been kept.

HIGHLY MIGRATORY LARGE PELAGICS

The annual landings of tunas in 2022 (172 t) was lower than the landings of this species group in 2021 (200 t) and slightly less than the average landings of this group for the period 1997 through 2021 (175 t). Landings of billfish (31 t) and swordfish (7 t) were slightly less than the landings for these respective groups in 2021 (35 t, and 8 t, respectively). The total landings of sharks increased in 2022 (8 t) over the levels reported from 2019 through 2021 (5 t, in each year). The 2022 shark landings were however still below the average for the period 1997 through 2021 (10 t).

REEF FISH

Landings of snappers in 2022 (27 t) increased slightly from the 24 t landed in 2021 and higher than the mean landings for this group for the period 1997 through 2021 (20 t) although still much less than the maximum catch of this group reported in 2019 (41 t). In 2022 total landings of Carangids (the aggregate grouping of species of jacks and johns including the popular almaco jack, commonly referred to as amberfish) was the highest reported (149 t) surpassing the previous maximum catch reported in 2021 (129 t). In 2022 the almaco jack contributed around 74 percent of the total carangid landings.

SEA EGG FISHERY

In 2022, the Fisheries Division continued its collaboration with fisher divers to assess the status of local sea-egg stocks. The fishery was again not opened due to low stock abundance.

LIONFISH

A small fishery for lionfish exists in Barbados but accurate disaggregated records of landings of this species are not routinely collected at the markets and the other landing sites. However, in 2022, 0.8 t of lionfish was reportedly landed at Barbados which represents slightly less than the mean annual total landings for this species in 2019-2021 (1.1 t). Please note that in the following table lionfish landings are reported in the aggregate any other variety (A.O.V.) category.

FISHING FLEET

The numbers of fishing vessels by type passing inspection and registered are presented in the table below.

**Table 23: Fishing Fleet by
Type
2022**

Year	2022(P)
Moses	734
Day-boats	189
Ice boats	183
Long-liners	50
Total	1,156

SOURCE: Fisheries Division, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy

POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

Moored Fish Aggregating Devices (MFADs) Pilot Programme

A programme involving the installation of moored FADs to enhance the catchability of pelagic fish for coastal fishers around the island commenced in late 2021. To date 13 of the 17 proposed FADs have been installed at various points around island including one on the East Coast. The FADs were fitted with satellite buoys to monitor key oceanographic parameters and fish assemblages at the FADs. The satellite buoys will be used to track the FADs to facilitate their recovery if they break away from the mooring. The deployment of two private FADs were also reported to the Fisheries Division.

Technical expertise and support will be required, and experience will be gleaned from the CRFM (2015) Draft Sub-Regional Management Plan for FAD Fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean.

DigiFish Initiative

Promoting the use of Digital technologies and innovative data analytical methods to support the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) in Barbados.

The Fisheries Division is collaborating with the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations in the implementation of the DigiFish initiative. The project has piloted the installation of 30 Pelagic Data Systems vessel tracking devices in 2022 on small-scale boats in Barbados to illustrate how fishing effort changes through space and time. The pilot seeks to demonstrate how vessel tracking systems can be used to make informed decisions about how fisheries can be best managed to balance diverse societal and environmental objectives while improving livelihoods. The project also aims to foster productive partnerships between BARNUFO, the Fisheries Division, the Coastal Zone Management Unit and Barbados Coast Guard in applying integrated data solutions to support Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), blue economy development and fisheries management.

International Programmes

Barbados has been a contracting party to the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) since 2000. To the extent possible Barbados complies with the management recommendations of ICCAT. The 2021 draft fisheries management regulations of Barbados include regulations directly pertaining to species managed by ICCAT as well as the protection and conservation of other recognized species of concern. It should be noted that the aforementioned studies under the longline fishery C-FIP pertaining to the utility of circle hooks in the fishery and the provision of training in the use of equipment to release protected species from fishing gear are both important practical conservation activities.

IV. INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS

SERVICES OVERVIEW

During 2022, based on the implementation of measures to improve transparency, Barbados was removed from the EU Annex II Listing of Non-Cooperative Tax jurisdictions. This action followed Barbados receiving an upgrade to Largely Compliant from the Partially Compliant in the 2020 Report during 42nd OECD Global Forum Peer Review Group. This report was subsequently approved at the Peer Review Group of the Global Forum and was adopted by the Global Forum.

LEGAL AND REGULATORY REFORM

The key pieces of legislation that continued to be developed, implemented/augmented over the review period included the following:

- A Trust Review Committee was established to review Barbados' existing legislative framework for trusts and recommend enhancements to its existing framework to ensure competitiveness within the global business environment.
- Amendment of Economic Substance Guidelines to incorporate the guidelines issued by the FHTP on pure equity holding and entities claiming tax residency in another jurisdiction.

BILATERAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS/TREATIES AND RESEARCH

The Barbados Model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) drafted by the Barbados Treaty Negotiation Team to ensure both investor attraction and arbitration safeguards was successfully reviewed and amended.

Additionally, negotiations with the United Arab Emirates in Dubai concluded with an initialled Agreement to be approved by Cabinet.

NEW COMPANY FORMATION AND ENTITIES LICENSED

There were five (5) new Corporate and Trust Service Providers (CTSP) licensed in 2022 remaining constant with the same amount licensed for 2021. Renewals for CTSP showed moderate growth of 109 in 2022, compared to 107 in 2021 and 94 in 2020 considering three (3) of them from the year 2021 did not renew. This steady growth resulted from changes that were made to the Companies Act Cap.308 requiring Companies incorporated under the Companies Act Cap. 308 with an annual revenue in excess of BBD \$1 million, Limited Partnerships as described in Section 4A (1) of the Financial Services Commission (FSC) or under the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) legislation to engage the services of a CTSP.

In 2022, 197 new Foreign Currency Permits (FCP) were issued in comparison with 1,892^R in 2021. In addition, 1,948 FCPs were renewed compared to 585^R in 2021. Also, seventeen (17) new Trusts were registered under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2018-49 in 2022, representing a significant

increase from six (8) in 2021 and six (6) in 2020. One (1) Private Trust Company (PTC) was renewed in 2022, remaining constant with the previous year, while no new PTCs were recorded.

V. ENERGY AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION

During the year 2022, the production of crude oil amounted to 140,285 barrels, which represented a decrease of 7.8 percent when compared to 2021 (152,272 barrels (bbls)). The decline in production was because of an aging field and no new wells being brought online.

The output of natural gas was also negatively impacted by the continued natural and mechanical decline of the fields. In 2022 natural gas production stood at 327,720 mcf a decrease of 12.0 percent when compared to 372,946 mcf produced in 2021.

The products extracted during the year came from existing wells including those drilled in 2005, commissioned in 2006 and brought on stream in 2009. Of the wells drilled in 2012, three (3) have been commercialized to help boost production as well as sand control operations. No new wells were drilled or brought online in 2022.

As reported by Barbados National Oil Company Limited (BNOCL) the reserves at December 31st, 2022 consisted of 1.80 million barrels (bbls) of crude oil and 3,868,454 thousand cubic feet (mcf) of gas. The above figures for reserves represent increases from 2022 reserves of 6.0 percent in the case of crude oil which stood at 1.70 million barrels and 4.0 percent in the case of natural gas which stood at 3,712,874 mcf.

OIL AND GAS SALES AND CONSUMPTION

Oil sales for the year decreased by 14.0 percent, from 163,709 bbls in 2021 to 141,434 bbls in 2022. Similarly, natural gas sales from BNOCL decreased by 0.002 percent from 576,180 mcf in 2021 as compared to 2022 which stood at 574,939 mcf, which was made up of local production of natural gas (217,574) and imported (357,365), liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The value of the sales by the National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) increased by 55 percent to \$26,153,989 for 2022 when compared to \$16,874,210 for 2021. The volume of natural gas sold in 2022 stood at 13,314,175 m³, which represented an increase of 22 percent above the amount sold in 2021 of 10,909,186 m³. This slight increase in value was as a result of the continued recovery in travel & tourism post the COVID 19 pandemic.

The expansion programme of the NPC continued in 2022 through its addition of 1.31 miles to its distribution network and an additional 203 new customers for the year under review.

ELECTRICITY

The sales of electricity for the year 2022 were 937 million kWh, representing a marginal increase of 4 percent when compared to 2021 which stood at 905 million kWh. Of the total sales of electricity for 2022 it was estimated that 108 million kWh or 12 percent of electricity were sales from renewable energy sources. The largest category of users continues to be the domestic sector. This sector accounted for 37 percent of total sales or 349 million kWh.

The increase in electricity consumption was due in large measure to increased electricity consumption within the tourism sector which rose by 19 percent or 22 GWh in 2022 to 136 GWh from 114 GWh in 2021.

The average tariff for electricity stood at 62.00 cents/kWh in 2022 which represented an increase of 25 percent when compared with an average tariff of 49.52 cents/kWh for 2021. The Fuel Clause Adjustment, which is the fuel cost element of the electricity tariff, was recorded at 40.98 cents/kWh for 2022 indicating an increase of 37 percent when compared with 2021. The Fuel Clause Adjustment for 2020 stood at 29.81 cents/kWh.

The Barbados Light and Power Company (BL&PC) expanded its services by investing approximately \$72 million to upgrade its capital infrastructure in 2022. This figure represents a decrease in investment over that of 2021 by 19 percent which stood at \$89 million. The decline in investment during 2022 has occurred as the BLPC reached the end of its project to develop the energy bridge.

Table 24: Electricity Consumption and Fuel Clause 2012-2022

Year	Electricity Total Sales (Kwh)	Average Fuel Clause Adjustment (Cents/kWh)
2012	925,580,159	\$0.44
2013	911,982,180	\$0.41
2014	900,302,652	\$0.40
2015	933,231,854	\$0.23
2016	943,706,921	\$0.20
2017	944,109,176	\$0.25
2018	938,251,065	\$0.31
2019	1,013,745,508	\$0.29
2020	893,869,709	\$0.24
2021	904,959,735	\$0.30
2022	937,235,382	\$0.41

Source: Ministry of Energy and Business

FUEL IMPORTS

For 2022, the fuel import bill was estimated at \$771,495,000 which represented an increase of 43 percent when compared with the figure of \$539,691,000 for 2021. The estimated increase in the import bill can be attributed to a significant degree to increases in petroleum prices and volume consumed for electricity generation as a consequence of the lifting of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

With respect to the major fuels, gasoline imported during 2022 stood at 725,106 barrels, representing an increase in imported volume of 14 percent when compared with gasoline imports for the 2021 which were 636,754 barrels.

Similarly, the imports of diesel for 2022 recorded 471,252 barrels registering an increase of 3 percent as compared with diesel imports of 459,344 barrels during 2021. The increase in diesel imports was largely due to the increase of diesel plants that were in operation in 2022.

Imports of fuel oil showed a decrease of 22.0 percent where 1,141,989 barrels were imported for 2022, as compared to 933,830 barrels for 2021. This was due to businesses opening after an ease from the COVID 19 pandemic.

The imports of kerosene in 2022 stood at 1,228,138 barrels which represented a decrease of 25 percent when compared with the imports of kerosene for 2021 which was recorded at 981,434. These imports were used in the airline industry and locally, in the generation of electricity as well as in the industrial sector.

Table 25: Imports of Petroleum Products 2014-2022(BBLs)

Year	Gasoline	Diesel	Fuel Oil	LPG
2014	694,315	550,282	1,314,154	NA
2015	NA	NA	NA	86,719
2016	794,168	472,078	1,252,559	79,929
2017	764,449	536,840	1,217,417	94,600
2018	736,172	469,851	1,289,069	94,600
2019	770,563	498,895	996,653	91,570
2020	646,522	512,379	966,356	94,580
2021	636,754	459,344	933,830	93,873
2022	725,106	471,252	1,141,989	96,078

Source: Ministry of Energy and Business

CONSUMPTION OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

The volume of gasoline consumed during 2022 was 710,078 barrels, representing an increase of 15 percent when compared with gasoline consumed for 2021 of 614,865 barrels. The consumption of diesel for 2022 was 472,590 barrels as compared to 446,441 barrels for 2021. This was an increase of 6 percent. Fuel oil also showed an increase of 10 percent with consumed volumes of the commodity registered at 1,065,389 barrels for 2022, as compared to 972,772 for 2021. The consumption of kerosene for 2022 was estimated at 392,305 bbls as compared to 566,799 bbls in 2021 representing a 31 percent decrease in kerosene consumption. Similarly, the consumption of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for 2022 was estimated at 95,296 bbls as compared to 95,739 bbls in 2021 representing a 0.004 percent decrease in LPG consumption.

Overall, there was a 1 percent increase in the consumption of refined petroleum products which was a direct result of the loosening of the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions.

LOCAL RETAIL PRICES

The policy of monthly price adjustment for the major fuels; gasoline, diesel, kerosene and LPG continued during 2022. This meant that the retail prices of the products were more reflective of their imported prices. In the case of gasoline, the average retail price for 2022 was \$4.24 per litre or 12 percent above the average retail price for 2021, which was \$3.79 per litre. With respect to diesel prices, the average retail price for 2022 was \$3.77 per litre which was 24 percent above the average retail price for the same period in 2021 of \$3.04 per litre. The average retail price for kerosene during 2022 was \$2.16 per litre or 69 percent above the average retail price for 2021 of \$1.28 per litre. The adjustments seen in the retail prices were from increasing CIF prices.

The retail prices for LPG were adjusted in a similar fashion. During 2022, the average retail price of the 100lb cylinder was recorded at \$167.69 which was 10 percent above the average retail price for the year 2021 of \$152.43. Regarding the 25lb cylinder, the average retail price was \$47.02 for 2022, an increase of 9 percent when compared with 2021 of \$43.21. The average retail price for the 22lb cylinder for 2022 was \$41.54, representing an increase of 9 percent when compared to that of 2021 which was \$38.19. The average retail price for the 20lb cylinder during 2022 was \$37.77 showing an increase of eight 8 percent when compared to the average price for 2021 which was recorded at \$34.87.

During 2022, the elements in the price structure of refined petroleum products experienced changes throughout the year.

Table 26: Average Retail Prices for Fuel 2012-2022 in BDS cent per Litre

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gasoline</u>	<u>Kerosene</u>	<u>Diesel</u>
2012	332.83	188.33	282.08
2013	327.25	185.33	280.50
2014	342.89	177.80	280.12
2015	299.42	117.52	220.66
2016	279.25	92.92	195.92
2017	308.83	116.17	231.17
2018	363.09	144.91	288.27
2019	371.92	137.83	295.00
2020	328.33	97.50	263.33
2021	378.67	128.08	303.82
2022	424.83	216.42	377.42

Source: Ministry of Energy and Business

VI. TRANSPORTATION

OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Transport, Works and Water Resources continued to provide efficient road network services, proper maintenance of government vehicles, special electrical services, public transportation and the supply of water resources in 2022.

The MTWW was privileged to host the 10th IRF Caribbean Regional Congress during 7th-10th June 2022 at the Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Complex. This regional and international conference had a successful gathering of more than 250 professionals from 32 countries, including 11 Ministers of Transport, addressing the regional challenges of road safety and climate-resilient infrastructure.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Barbados Transport Board

During 2022, the Barbados Transport Board provided transportation for an average of 700,000 passengers per month. The bus fare charge remained at BDS \$3.50 for the travelling public over the period.

The total passenger ridership recorded on the Barbados Transport Board Public Bus Fleet in 2022 stood at 8,556,041 persons, representing an increase of 41.2 percent over the ridership of 6,060,047 passengers observed in 2021. General Passenger ridership (manual tickets) accounted for the majority (or 55.6 percent) of total ridership, with 4,756,170 passengers recorded, which represented an increase of 29 percent from the previous year. Significant increases were also observed from 2021 in the categories of General Passenger Travel Card Rides (587.5 percent) and Student Ridership (323.4 percent), with 2,702 passengers and 1,551,928 passengers recorded respectively in 2022.

**Table 27: Barbados Transport Board Ridership
2019- 2022**

YEAR	2019	2020	2021	2022
General Passenger Rides (Manual Tickets)	3,864,091	3,566,898	3,690,954	4,756,170
General Passenger Travel Card rides	41,989	13,375	393	2,702
Student Ridership	1,583,066	1,101,024	366,490	1,551,928
Pensioner Ridership	1,373,059	1,584,883	1,965,995	2,205,801
Employee	2,709	5,246	7,145	8,698
Police	21,277	20,393	24,327	22,195
Disabled passengers	22,727	5,489	4,743	8,547
Total Passenger Ridership	6,908,918	6,297,308	6,060,047	8,556,041
Budgeted Ridership	10,424,966	5,647,897	5,816,144	7,429,867

Source: Barbados Transport Board

In 2022 the Barbados Transport Board maintained a Bus Fleet of 144 buses; which was slight decline from the previous year with retirement of two 1997 CAIO buses. The composition of the Barbados Transport Board Bus Fleet is detailed in the following table.

**Table 28: Barbados Transport Board Bus
Fleet 2019 – 2022**

YEAR	MAKE	2019	2020	2021	2022
1997	CAIO	28	6	2	-
1997	HINO	19	8	8	8
1997	MARCOPOLO	30	10	3	3
2000	HINO	14	6	6	6
2000	MARCOPOLO	43	18	19	19
2000	BUSCCAR	44	9	7	7
2004	MARCOPOLO	25	18	15	15
2004	MARCOPOLO SENIOR	5	1	1	1
2006	MARCOPOLO	60	53	35	35
2006	MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER	3	1	1	1
2020	ELECTRIC BYD	-	33	49	49
TOTAL FLEET		271	163	146	144

Source: Barbados Transport Board

Barbados Transport Authority (TA)

In 2022, the BTA continued to execute their functions of planning of a transport system, regulating the number of buses and route taxis, issue, cancel, suspend and revoke licenses and permits and supervise the business of the terminals. The Authority has full facility management at the Constitution River Terminal (CRT), the Cheapside Terminal (CT) and the western side of the Speightstown Terminal (ST). The three terminals identified facilitates the management of the following operatives as shown in the table below.

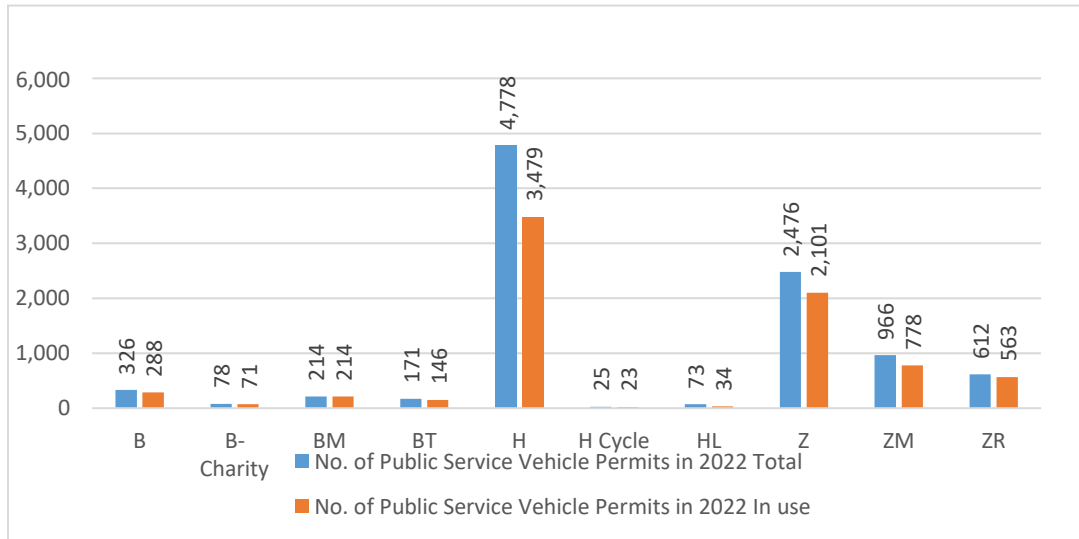
Table 29: Operations at the Bus Terminals in 2022

Operations	Constitution River	Cheapside	Speightstown	TOTAL
Routes	46	48	27	121
Public Service Vehicles	155	106	123	384

Source: Barbados Revenue Authority

As at the end of December 2022, a total of 9,719 permits were issued to Public Service Vehicles, of which a total of 7,697 were in use. The category of “H” Vehicle accounted for the majority of the permits issued, with a total of 4,778 permits issued and 3,479 permits were in use. This was followed by the categories of “Z” and “ZM” vehicles for which a total of 2,476 and 966 permits were issued respectively by the end of 2022, although only 2,101 permits issued to “Z” vehicles and 778 issued to permits to “ZM” vehicles were in use.

Figure 13: No. of Public Service Vehicle Permits in 2022



Source: Barbados Revenue Authority

Driving Tests

In 2022, 7,555 driving tests were conducted, with 630 tests conducted on average each month. When compared to the previous year, an additional 520 driving tests were completed, which represented an increase of 7.3 percent. The pass rate stood at 71.2 percent in 2022, while the fail rate was 28.8 percent. The number of test failures in 2022 accounted to 2,179 compared to 2,215 in 2021.

Vehicle Accident Claims

Table 30: Vehicle Accident Claims in 2022

Parish	Payments	Claims #
St. George	\$145.00	1
Christ Church	\$3,584.79	10
St. James	\$0.00	2
St. Michael	\$4,219.14	14
St. Philip	\$1,224.34	3
St. Joseph	\$0.00	0
St. Thomas	\$0.00	1
St. Peter	\$506.76	2
St. Lucy	\$0.00	0
St. John	\$633.99	1
St. Andrew	\$0.00	0
TOTAL	\$11,579.73	34

Source: MTWW Legal Unit

During January to December 2022, the MTWW continued to provide compensation to owners whose vehicles were damaged due to negligence caused by the Ministry's roads. In the year under review, 34 accident claims were processed and paid at a total value of \$11,579.73. The parishes of Christ Church and St. Michael accounted for 24 claims, or 70.5 percent of all claims. The claims occurring in these parishes totaled \$7,803.93 or 85 percent of the paid claims. No claims were recorded for accidents occurring in three parishes.

VII. CONSTRUCTION

During the period of review, the performance of the construction industry recorded a modest decline, with real value output falling from BDS\$ 415.9 million in 2021 to BDS\$414.5 million. Despite the decline, there were noticeable improvements observed as it related to the construction of private dwellings and the refurbishment/construction of commercial enterprises.

In 2022, an estimated 1, 975 private dwellings were completed, which represented an increase of 24.1 per cent, over the previous period, where an estimated 1,736 private dwellings were recorded. The majority of the construction of private dwellings in 2022 occurred in the parishes of Christ Church (518), St. Michael (414), St. Philip (274) and St. James (206).

Additionally, there was a noticeable increase in the refurbishment or construction of commercial enterprises, which stood at 2,068 properties in 2022 compared to 1,736 properties observed in 2021. Over 67 per cent of the developments recorded in this category occurred in the parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church, where an estimated 798 and 589 properties were completed or refurbished respectively.

Table 31: No. of Private Dwelling Units Completions and Commercial Property Completions /Refurbishments by parish in 2021 and 2022

Year	2021		2022	
Parish	No. of Private Dwelling Completions ¹	No. of Commercial Property Completions or Refurbishments ²	No. of Private Dwelling Completions ¹	No. of Commercial Property Completions or Refurbishments ²
Christ Church	384	261	518	589
St. Andrew	19	5	31	14
St. George	128	77	171	148
St. James	134	127	206	176
St. John	53	35	85	32
St. Joseph	33	24	35	31
St. Lucy	70	19	67	17
St. Michael	426	917	414	798
St. Peter	59	39	75	79
St. Philip	227	161	274	121
St. Thomas	59	71	99	63
Total	1,592	1,736	1,975	2,068

SOURCE: Government Electrical Engineering Department, Ministry of Transport, Works and Water Resources

NB: 1- Estimates are based on no. of residential inspections conducted by Government Electrical Engineering Department

2- Estimates are based on no. of Commercial inspections conducted by Government Electrical Engineering Department

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMME

Tenancies Programme

The Tenancies Programme was created in 1980. The programme was instituted to give legal title to lots rented by long standing tenants; to provide essential services in tenancies lacking water, electricity and proper access to lots; and to contribute to the general improvement of houses and their surroundings.

For the reporting period, a total of 85 lots were surveyed for qualified tenants. Additionally, an estimated 14 individuals initiated the process to purchase their lots.

The Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance processed approximately \$778,856.00 in subsidies for 17 qualified tenants who paid their share of the purchase price for the lot. The rise in lot valuations in recent years has significantly increased the costs being paid by Government to assist qualified tenants in purchasing their lot.

Housing Relocation

Airport Relocation Project

The Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport and the National Housing Corporation (NHC) have continued efforts to coordinate the relocation of residents impacted by the Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) Expansion Project. This project includes the relocation of 75 households to land developed at Fairy Valley, Lead Vale and Pilgrim Place B, all in Christ Church.

Previously, 64 houses were constructed and are occupied and six (6) property owners opted to receive compensation. To date, three (3) households are still to be relocated due to legal issues which are still in the process of being resolved.

White Hill to Farmers Phase II, St. Thomas

The “White Hill to Famers Phase II, St. Thomas” project involves the relocation of residents in White Hill, St. Andrew whose property have been severely impacted suffered from soil erosion. In 2020, contracts were awarded via public tender to two contractors for the construction of five (5) houses at Farmers Phase II, with three (3) houses to be completed in Package 1 and two houses (2) to be completed under Package 2.

During the period under review, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance terminated the contract of one of the private contractors due to unsatisfactory work performance. Consequently, the Ministry transferred \$396,250.00 to the National Housing Corporation (NHC) to complete the construction of the three (3) houses in Package 1 and to build an additional two (2) houses. The houses in Package 2 assigned to the other private contractor were completed and handed over to the Ministry. The two householders relocated during August 2022.

As at December 31, 2022, the NHC spent \$317,096.13 on this project. A balance of \$79,153.87 remains. The National Housing Corporation continued work on the three houses in Package 1. Internal works has commenced on two, while the third house is 90 per cent completed.

Rock Hall, St. Philip (Illegal Settlement)

In 2022, work also continued on the “Rock Hal, St. Philip” project, which involves the relocation of occupants from the unsafe, illegal settlement at Rock Hall, St. Philip to Parish Land, Christ Church (40 lots), Lower Burney, St. Michael (30 lots) and Parish Land Extension, St. Philip (22 lots).

During the review period, twenty-two houses at Parish Land Extension were at various stages of completion and four houses at Lead Vale were completed.

East West

The East West Emergency Housing Project consists of the construction of 150 housing units using a light gauge steel frame. The project has two components: (1) Thirty-seven houses being provided as part of the Hurricane Elsa Relief Project; and (2) One hundred and thirteen houses for sale to assist with the housing market demand.

East West Building Solutions Inc. is responsible for the installation of the housing units. However, foundation and ancillary works associated with the houses will be carried out by the Government of Barbados through the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance. A total of 103 foundations will be constructed for the 150 housing units.

As at the end of the review period, of the 150 units to be constructed, eight (8) single unit houses have been completed and the keys collected with one (1) house already inhabited by the clients. Additionally 14 single units were at various stages of completion, while seven (7) quads and one (1) duplex were at various stages of completion. The total accounted for expenditure was estimated at \$29,325,019.99.

HOPE Inc

During the review period, the Government of Barbados continued to expand efforts to provide low-income housing options for persons through the Home Ownership Providing Energy Inc. (HOPE Inc.), which was launched in November 2020. The Home Ownership Providing Energy Inc will advance efforts by facilitating the following: (a) the provision of land to the persons to be used as collateral to obtain a mortgage from a financial institution; and (b) a project which is intended for persons who under normal circumstances would not be able to obtain a mortgage.

The Programme involves three (3) components as outlined below:

- larger developers to be provided with land by the Government to finance and construct the housing based on guidelines provided by the Government;
- the National Housing Corporation to construct resilient housing based on designs which were chosen after a tendering process; and
- a project to be executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the provision of housing.

Table 32: Dwelling Starts & Completions under HOPE

Inc. 2020 to 2022		
Year	No. of Dwelling Starts	No. of Dwelling Completions
2020	0	0
2021	44	0
2022	6	0

SOURCE: Ministry of Housing, Lands and Maintenance

In 2022, HOPE continued construction works on the Lancaster development and Infrastructure works commenced at in March 2022 at the Pool St. John location. A total of six (6) dwelling starts were reported over the period.

Joint Venture Programme

West Terrace/Durants, St. James

The “West Terrace/Durants, St. James “project commenced in April 2013 and consist of the construction of 72 two- and three-bedroom houses. As at the end of December 2022, a total of 35 house starts are in place at the development with 28 houses completed.

The paving of West Plain Avenue the major artery within the development has been completed, which represents approximately 80% of total roadworks. Additionally, the water mains have been completed and tested.

Atlantic Breeze, Chancery Lane Christ Church

Under the Atlantic Breeze development, the National Housing Corporation entered a new joint venture with Preconco Ltd for the construction of two hundred and sixty-seven (267) middle income houses at Atlantic Breeze, Chancery Lane Christ Church. The construction of a total of twenty-two houses were completed during the review period.

National Housing Corporation Housing Programme,

Within the reporting period, the National Housing Corporation continued to advance its housing programme through the implementation of various initiatives. Overall by the end of 2022, the Corporation facilitated the completion of 30 dwellings in parishes of St. Michael (2), St. George (16), St. Philips (6) and Christ Church (6). This represented an increase from previous year, where nine (9) dwellings were completed in the parish of St. Philip. In contrast, there was decline in the number of dwellings starts, with only three (3) recorded compared to the 73 starts reported in the 2021. The facilitate the sale of three commercial properties in 2022 with a realization of \$7.9 million.

PUBLIC CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

In 2022, the Ministry of Transport, Works and Water Resources (MTWW) continued to facilitate a number of road rehabilitation initiatives. This included the completion of 29 roads (or 20.78 km of road) during January to December 2022, under the Highway Construction and Maintenance programme at an estimated cost of BDS \$9,004,967.32.

Under the Sector Wide Approach Programme (SWAP) to support the Land Transportation Sector in Barbados - CAF programme, four (4) roads were completed in the review period, while one (1) road is remained under construction. This programme aims to rehabilitate sections of the road network with expected results of lowering logistic costs. The expenditure to date on the five roads under this programme stood at BDS \$1,669,158.16.

During the period under review, the Inter- American Development funded programme entitled “Road Rehabilitation and Improving Connectivity of Road Infrastructure” assisted with the rehabilitation of approximately 1.7 km of the 31km of key segments of the primary road network, inclusive of drainage, construction of sidewalks, bridges and culverts and safety features. This programme is projected to be completed by August 2023. Presently, one (1) road was completed but seven (7) roads are in an advance stage of completion. As at the end of December 2022, expenditure for this initiative equated to BDS \$9,322,731.34

Additionally, the Ministry pursued the implementation of the Scotland District Road and Bridge Rehabilitation – COMPLANT initiative. This \$230,000,000 COMPLANT funded project aims to improve the road infrastructure mainly in the Scotland district through major repairs to the road network, constructing new culverts and bridges, improving the drainage and introducing road safety measures. During the period of review two (2) roads were chosen as pilots, one (1) road was completed and the other is due to start shortly. The expenditure to date for under this initiative is BDS \$1,400,000.00.

Asphalt Reinforcement/Patching Programme

From January to December 2022, the Ministry of Transport, Works and Water Resources continued the Asphalt patching programme which facilitates the filling of potholes through the thirteen depots located across the island. By the end of December 2022, a total of 1,376 roads were patched. The number of roads patched in 2022 increased by 337 roads or a 32 percent when compared to 2021, where 1,039 roads were patched. In 2022, the depots across the island utilized a total of 3,519.4 tons of hot mix to patch potholes across the island.

Table 33: Roads completed by the end of December 2022

No.	Road	Description
Highway Construction and Maintenance		
1	Sherbourne St. John	Mill & Pave a 1.08 km long x 6.0 m wide road
2	Welchman Hall, St. Thomas	Mill & Pave a 1.10 km long x 5.0 m wide road
3	White Hall Main Road and White Hall #2, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 2.35 km long x 5.0 m wide road
4	Providence Church to ABC Highway (Balls Road) Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 180m long x 5.0 m wide road
5	Pilgrim Road to ABC Highway, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 245m long x 6.0 m wide road
6	Eggabout to Windmill, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 1 km. long x 6.0 m wide road
7	Pilgrim Road to Gibbons Ridge, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 1.1 km. long x 6.0 m wide road
8	Ealing Grove to Spiritual Baptist & side roads, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 1.1 km. long x 5.0 m wide road
9	Sayers Court to Gibbons stage 1, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 988 m long x 5.0 m wide road
10	Hythe Gardens, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 925 m long x 5.0 m wide road
11	Amity lodge Extension, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 1.36 km long x 4.8 m wide road
12	Harringay Drive, Christ Church	Mill & Pave a 125m long x 5.0 m wide road
13	Regency Park, Christ Church	Mill & Pave 2.09 km x 4.8 m wide road
14	Dairy Meadows Road, St. James	Mill & Pave a 366 m long x 5.0 m wide road
15	Olive Lodge Road, St. James	Mill & Pave a 375 m long x 4.0 m wide road
16	Carters Road, St. John	Mill & Pave a 380 m long x 5.0 m wide road
17	Bridge Gap Main Road, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 561 m long x 5.0 m wide road
18	Downey Road, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 610 m long x 4.0 m wide road
19	Apple Grove, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 486 m long x 5.0 m wide road
20	Bellview gap, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 380 m long x 4.3 m wide road
21	Pillersdorf #5, St. Michael	Reconstruct a 138 m long x 4.3 m wide road
22	Hothersal Terrace, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 673 m long x 4.8 m wide road
23	Odessa McClean Ave. St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 300 m long x 5.0 m wide road
24	Odessa McClean Drive. St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 450 m long x 5.0 m wide road
25	Odessa McClean Road. Michael	Mill & Pave a 150 m long x 5.0 m wide road
26	Chapman Lane, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 330 m long x 4.0 m wide road
27	Risk Road, St. James	Mill & Pave a 1.4 km long x 5.0 m wide road
28	Pounders Gap, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 274 m long x 4.0 m wide road
29	Dash Gap, St. Michael	Mill & pave a 264 m long x 5.0 m wide road
Sector Wide Approach Programme (SWAP) to support the Land Transportation Sector in Barbados - CAF		
30	Salters Tenantry Road, St Michael	Rehabilitation a 650 m long x 4.8 m wide road
31	Gemswick #4 St. Philip	Construct a 335 m long x 4.8 m wide road
32	Roberts Road, Haggatt Hall, St. Michael	Mill & Pave a 713 m long x 4.8 m wide road
33	Bush Hall Yard Gap, St Michael	Mill & Pave a 785 m long x 4.8 m wide road
Road in progress		
34	Fustic Village, St. Lucy	Mill & Pave a 580 m long x 4.8 m wide road
Road Rehabilitation and Improving Connectivity of Road Infrastructure - IDB		
35	Highway 3- Hothersal, Clyde Walcott Roundabout to Lears Roundabout	Mill and pave a 1.7 km highway in road length and 6.0 m in road width
Roads in progress		
36	Carmichael Road (Boarded Hall Roundabout to Turnpike Junction),	Reconstruct a 1.6 km highway in road length and 6.0 m in road width.
37	Long Bay/ Bel Air Road (Sam Lord's Castle to Crane Roundabout)	Mill and Pave a 2.2 km highway in road length and 6.0 m in road width
38	Highway 6 Searles (Henry Forde Roundabout to Searles Roundabout)	Mill and pave a 1.4 km highway in road length and 5.0 m in road width.
39	Highway 6 (Searles to Six Roads)	Mill and pave a 6.0 km. long highway
40	Belle Road (Lears Roundabout to ABC Highway)	Reconstruct a 1.85 km road in length and 5.4 m in road width
41	Lears Road (Canewood to Lears Roundabout)	Reconstruct a 1.60 km road in length and 5.4 m in road width
42	Ernie Bourne Highway Phase 2 (Barclays Park to Belleplaine)	Mill and pave a 2.9 km highway in road length and 6.0 m in road width.
Scotland District Road and Bridge Rehabilitation - COMPLANT		
43	Shorey Village, St. Andrew	Rehabilitation of a 1 km. road in length and 4.87m in road width
Roads to start soon		
44	Vaughn Road #2, St. Joseph	Rehabilitation of a 400 m. road in length and 4.5m in road width
45	White Hill Road, St. Andrew	Rehabilitation of a 3.0 km. road in length and 4.87m in road width

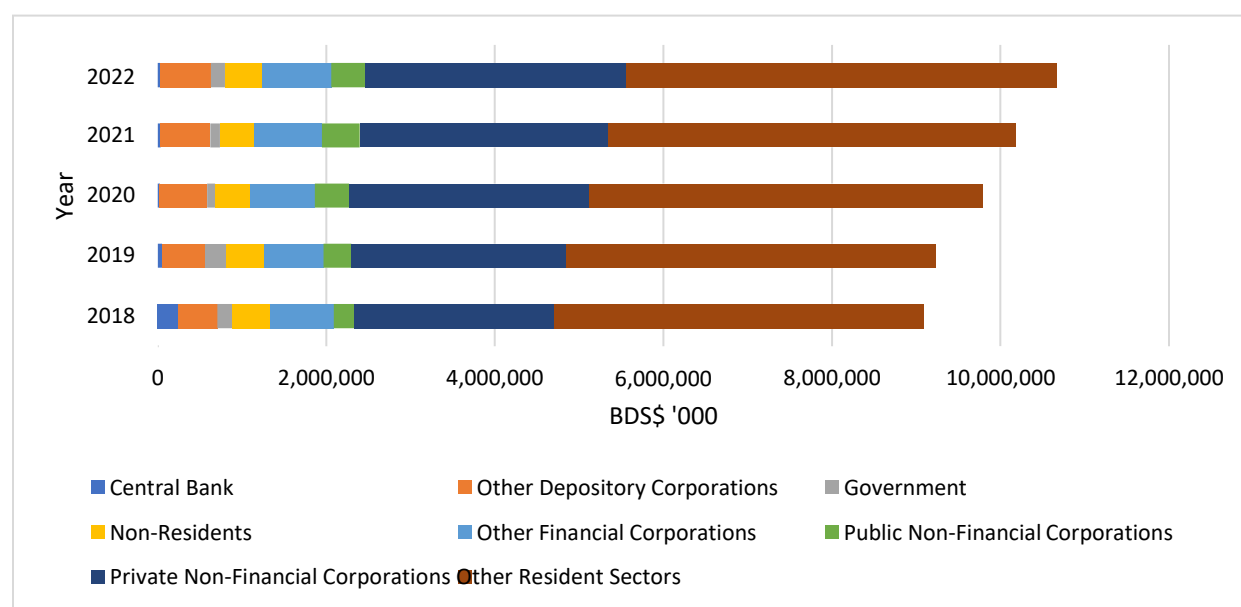
SOURCE: Ministry of Transport, Works and Water Resources

F. MONEY, BANKING AND CAPITAL MARKETS

COMMERCIAL BANKS

The financial sector continued its resilience in 2022. Liquidity in the banking system improved with the excess cash ratio rising by three percent above last year's balance to 27.5 percent and the capital adequacy ratio also increasing slightly to 18 percent. Non-performing loans fell to six percent in 2022 primarily in the real estate and personal sectors at commercial banks while the loan moratoria programmes which came to an end in October, helped the delinquency rate among banks and other financial institutions fall to 6.9 percent which was below its peak of 9.2 percent in the post-COVID era.

Figure 14: Commercial Banks' Total Liabilities 2018-2022



SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

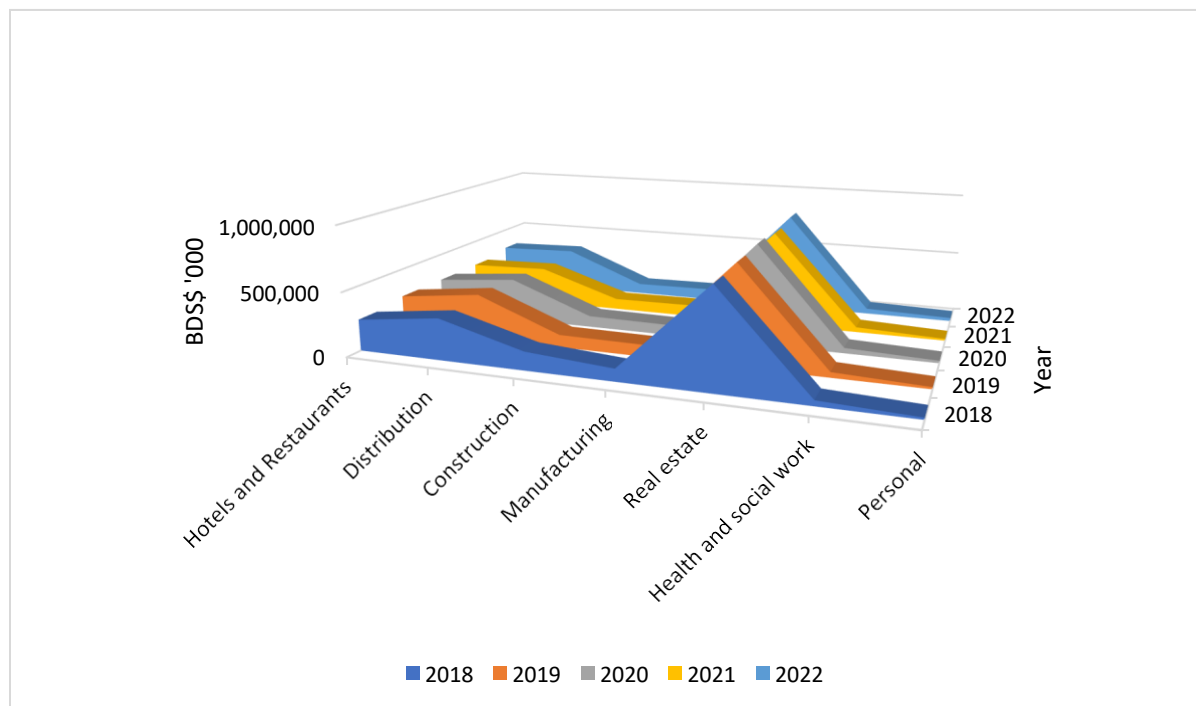
Total deposit liabilities in commercial banks stood at \$11.7 billion at the end of 2022 increasing by six percent from 2021's total of \$11 billion. Foreign currency deposits were up 21 percent while national currency deposits rose by five percent. The increase in deposits was mostly made up of government deposits which increased by 51 percent of last year's totals while deposits by residents, private non-financial corporations and financial corporations also increased. Central bank deposits and public non-financial corporations fell by 15 percent and nine percent from last year's level of deposits respectively. Foreign currency deposits as a percentage of total deposits, rose to nine percent as both real estate and tourism activity increased in 2022.

Total loans and advances in commercial banks increased to \$6.2 billion, up by 6.24 percent from 2021's \$5.9 billion which ended two years of declining balances. Mortgages continued to dominate with 45 percent or \$2.8 billion of total loans and advances mainly in real estate, despite overall decreasing slightly from its 2021 balance while other loans and advances totalled \$2.1 billion taking up 34 percent.

Demand loans and other loans and advances increased by 27 and 13 percent from last year respectively while credit cards and overdrafts slightly increased at four and three percent respectively.

LOANS AND ADVANCES TO PRIVATE NON-FINANCIAL CORPORATIONS

Figure 15: Commercial Banks' Loans & Advances To Private Non-Financial Corporations By Sector 2018-2022



SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

Loans and advances to private non-financial corporations rose from \$1.9 billion in 2021 to \$2.08 billion in 2022. Recovery in the economy increased lending to the real estate sector by 38 percent, distribution by 17 percent and hotels and restaurants by 16 percent. The opening up of travel boosted credit card activity by almost 50 percent of last year's totals while improved economic conditions resulted in the growth of new mortgages as consumers' labour market conditions also improved. Loans in the utility, transport and mining and quarrying sectors also increased but fishing, education and other sectors were on the decline.

NON-BANK FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

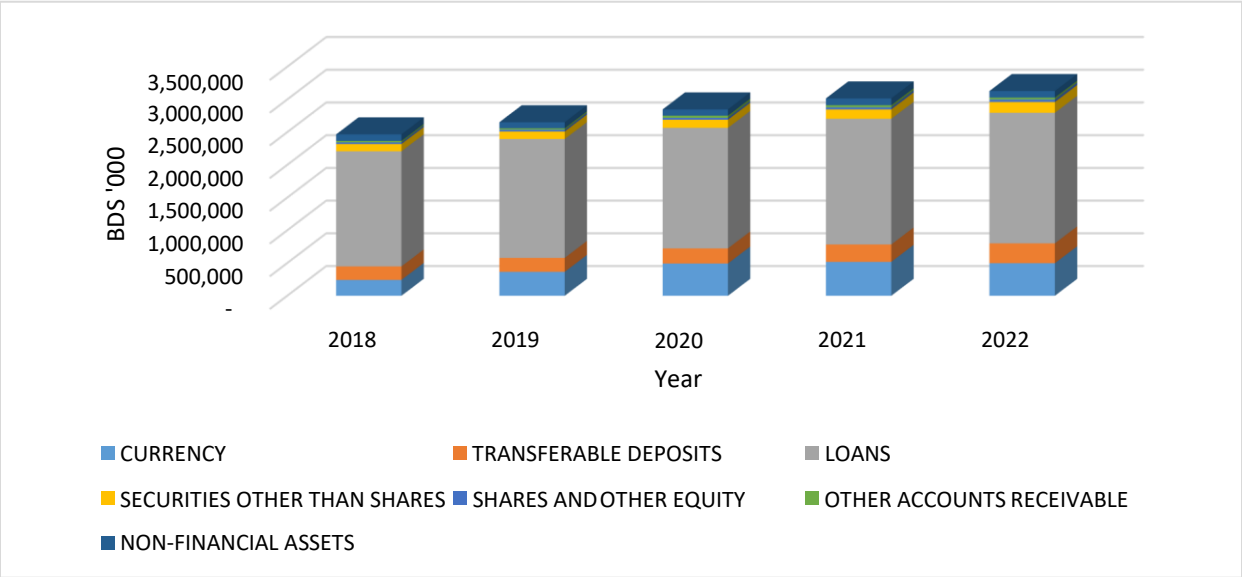
THE CREDIT UNION

MOVEMENT

The percentage of membership to total population as well as credit union membership, which reached 235,000 despite the number of credit unions falling from 31 to 29, both rose by 3.3 percent in 2022. Total assets increased by four percent to \$3.1 billion up from \$2.9 billion in 2021 with

transferable deposits, securities other than shares and shares and other equity all increasing by 13 percent. Loans increased by four percent from last year’s total accounting for 64 percent of total assets.

Figure 16: Credit Union Assets 2018-2022

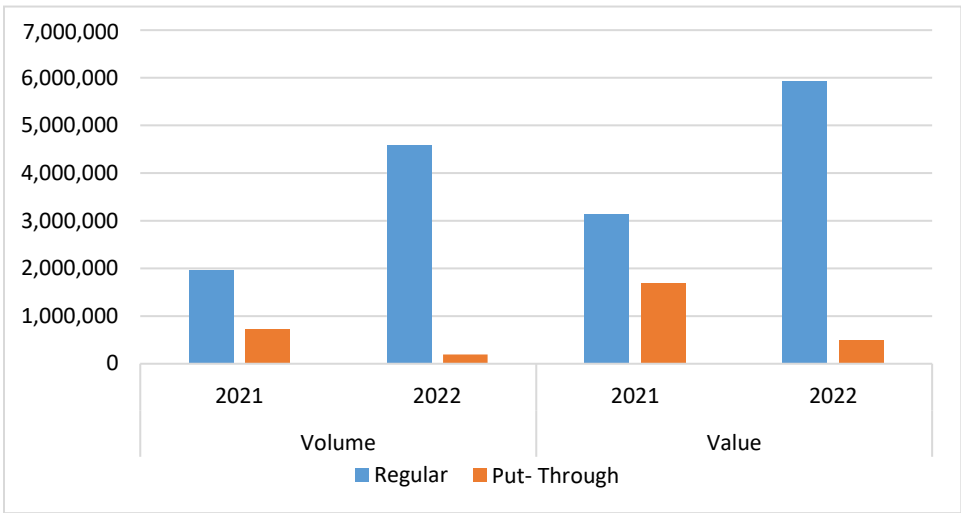


SOURCE: Financial Services Commission

Credit union liabilities totalled \$3,129 million at the end of 2022. Transferable deposits made up 60 percent of this while other deposits made up 25 percent. Shares and equity, other accounts payable and loans made up the remainder of liabilities. The capital to asset ratio marginally declined by 0.4 percent as the asset growth rate overtook the growth of capital and finished the year at 10.7 percent.

BARBADOS STOCK EXCHANGE

Figure 17: Trading Activity By Market 2021-2022



SOURCE: Barbados Stock Exchange

Securities listed and traded on the Barbados Stock Exchange (BSE) improved by the end of 2022. Overall, the volume of trading stock increased by 78 percent while the value increased by 33 percent. There was an increase of 135 and 90 percent in the Regular market in terms of volume moving from 1,957,522 in 2021 to 4,592,276 and value moving from \$3,126,224 in 2021 to \$5,924,297 respectively. However, the Put-through market recorded decreases of 73 and 71 percent in both volume and value respectively. The volume of trade fell from 727,438 to 193,350 in 2022 while the value fell from \$1,687,001 in 2021 to \$487,192 in 2022. Index capitalization recorded increases of 6.59 and 5.48 percent in local and composite indices while cross listed indices fell by 29.55 percent. Market capitalization also recorded small increases of 2.73 and 1.77 percent in the local and composite indices respectively while the cross listed index also fell by 29.55 percent.

Table 34: Index and Market Capitalization Year on Year 2021-2022

Index	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	%Change
Local	2,359.82	2,515.44	6.59%
Cross Listed	1,140.86	803.79	-29.55%
Composite	578.56	610.28	0.00%
Market Capitalization	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-22	%Change
Local	4,743,415,518	4,873,144,661	2.73%
Cross Listed	145,674,503	102,634,309	-29.55%
Composite	4,889,090,021	4,975,778,970	1.77%

SOURCE: Barbados Stock Exchange

G. COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) processed 9,387 applications for the importation of commodities under the Miscellaneous Controls Act but there were no applications for export licences. Under the new Liquor Licences Act, CAP. 2022, the administrative responsibility for liquor licences was transferred to the DCCA and it provided multi-year licences with a five percent discount on fees for applications for renewal of licences for two years and 10 percent discount on fees for applications for renewal of licences for three years. Applications from April to December 2022 which were approved by the Liquor Licence Authority totalled 1,520. The liquor licence portal went live on April 1st, 2022 which facilitated entrepreneurship opportunities through digitization as the use of the platform and data collected will allow government to better formulate policies by analysing information based on demographics and sorting commercial activity by gender and parish.

The DCCA enforced the Recall Section of the Consumer Protection Act Cap 326D by perusing websites to ensure that no recalled products would be in the marketplace. In 2022, there were 12 recalls and those products were either removed and disposed of by the department or barred entry into the country. Under the Consumer Guarantees Act Cap 326E, 11 sittings were held and 35 cases were heard by the Consumer Claims Tribunal. The Tribunal resolved nine cases with five cases dismissed and four consumers were awarded \$4,550. The Consumer Protection Division received 1,312 queries and complaints of which 97 percent of them were actioned and \$25,461.56 in refunds reimbursed.

To assist consumers, in July 2022 the Public/Private Sector Social Compact Programme was signed where a basket of 47 essential household items had reductions in the mark-up applied to them by supermarkets, retailers and distributors, bakeries and farmers. During this period, several surveys were conducted on the performance of the programme and six reports were submitted to Cabinet. The Consumer Protection framework still needs to be improved to manage and anticipate current and emerging consumer protection issues. A National Consumer Agenda will be designed in 2023 to ensure that consumers and businesses are informed, to protect the rights of consumers especially the vulnerable and encourage the use of Standards and or Codes of Practice to strengthen consumer protection.

H. PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (PSIP)

During 2022, Government's Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) continued despite the current economic environment, reflected by the increase in oil prices, and global inflation which resulted in the high cost of living. The major investments in 2022 were concentrated in the areas of Infrastructure, Energy, Health, Roads, and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.

Strengthening Human and Social Development

The Strengthening Human and Social Development Project objective contributed to the reduction of extreme poverty and unemployment in Barbados. The programme comprised three components, with the following specific objectives:

- reduce extreme poverty through the expansion and consolidation of the Identification, Stabilization, Enablement, and Empowerment (ISEE) Bridge Program (IBP);
- (ii) reduce unemployment through improved employment services and demand-driven technical training; and
- (iii) create an efficient Management Information System (MIS) that connects programs executed by the Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empower and Community Development (MSCD), the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Human Resource Development (MLSD) and related institutions.

The programme aimed to promote the social inclusion and the accumulation of human capital among the extreme poor and vulnerable with the aim of achieving their productive labour market insertion. The program had three (3) components namely:

- *Component 1. Expansion of (ISEE) Bridge Program (IBP).* This component financed an expansion of the original pilot for IBP to cover 250 additional households in a period of four years, and focused on the following pillars: personal identification, education and human resources development, family dynamics and health promotion.
- *Component 2. Strengthening of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMP).* This component aimed to increase employability and employment of the unemployed, including adults participating in IBP, retrenched public servants, and youth. Accordingly, the role of NEB was enhanced based on a strengthening plan already prepared by MLSD.

- *Component 3: Enhancing Institutional Capacity through a Management Information System (MIS).* The objective of this component was to strengthen public institutions involved in the program in terms of their coordination, monitoring and accountability capacities, through the installation of a Management Information System (MIS). At the end of the program on December 18, 2022, approximately US\$ 10,000,000 was disbursed by the IDB.

Tax Administration Infrastructure Reform Programme

The Tax Administration Infrastructure Reform Programme's main objective was to improve tax administration processes. It included the technological integration of administration systems, modernization of control equipment in customs, and the development of studies in order to support the tax reform process and the fiscal adjustment Programme.

The programme was structured with the following three (3) components:

- *Component 1: Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS) for the BRA.* This component was intended to acquire and customize an off the shelf system for the administration of the various enactments under the responsibility of the Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA). It also included various complementary activities, such as the transfer of technical and business application knowledge; ICT for the Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA); training for BRA personnel, officials and final users; and business intelligence etc.
- *Component 2: Customs Scanners*

This component involved the acquisition of scanning equipment for the Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) and for the Barbados Port Inc. (BPI). Since Barbados depends heavily on the tourism industry, it is critical that both ports of entry (air and sea) are adequately equipped. Slow processing due to manual operations by the Customs and Excise Department (CED) has had a negative impact on the country's image. Furthermore, this component provided for: (a) investments in infrastructure adaptation in the passenger's arrival terminals at the GAIA and BPI to accommodate new scanners and facilitate processing and passenger flow; (b) the training of customs, port and airport personnel; and (c) the development and implementation of a reporting solution for the Customs and Excise Department (CED).
- *Component 3: Support for the Consolidation of the Tax Reform in Barbados*

This component had an analysis of the tax reform process to determine the main challenges and achievements and the propose next steps needed to complete the reform. These include but are not limited to the following: a study that will; (a) enhance overall revenue collection; (b) use business intelligence and risk principles to improve identification of revenue leakages; and (c) shorten the tax gap. Approximately US\$15,000,000 was disbursed by CAF at the end of the program on November 20, 2022.

New Agreements Signed in 2022

In 2022, the Government of Barbados signed one (1) new Loan Agreement with the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) for CYN¥815,500,000 Chinese Yuan (approximately US\$ 118 million). The Barbados Water Authority (BWA) on behalf of the Government of Barbados also signed one (1) Subsidiary Agreement with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) to be a beneficiary of a Grant from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) totalling US\$40,000,000. These projects included the Scotland District Road Rehabilitation Project and the R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados (3R-CReWS).

Scotland District Road Rehabilitation Project

The Government of Barbados and the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) signed a Loan Agreement for CYN¥815,500,000 Chinese Yuan (approximately US\$118 million) on August 4, 2022 to finance the Scotland District Road Rehabilitation Project. The project will be implemented over a period of four (4) years.

The project focuses on the rehabilitation of selected highways, culverts, bridges, and major roads with improved drainage and road safety measures; milling and paving of selected roads; construction and erection of gabions; and the design and construction of selected bridges and roads in the Scotland District. This programme should rehabilitate approximately 35 km of key segments of the primary road network including drainage, construction of sidewalks, bridges and culverts.

The R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados (3R-CReWS) Project

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) as financier and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) as the Accredited Entity signed a Funded Activity Agreement (Grant Agreement) for US\$40,000,000 on October 20, 2022 to finance “*The R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) for Climate Resilience Wastewater Systems in Barbados (3R-CReWS)*” project for the Barbados Water Authority (BWA) as beneficiary. Subsequently, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) as the Accredited Entity and the BWA as beneficiary signed a Subsidiary Agreement in November 2022. The Subsidiary Agreement outlined the implementation arrangements for the project and constitutes a requirement of the associated Funded Activity Agreement (Grant Agreement) between the GCF and CCCCC. The CCCCC and Barbados Water Authority are working towards the implementation of this full project over a period of five (5) years. The project was structured with the following four (4) components:

- *Component 1:* involves installing centralized and decentralized cluster wastewater collection and treatment systems to achieve a tertiary water-quality for multiple non-potable water reuse applications that will increase water availability and the water sector's resilience to climate change. The outputs include: (i) The Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant (BSTP) which was upgraded to treat wastewater to a tertiary water-quality standard. (ii) Tertiary wastewater is available to supplement non-potable use. (iii) Decision-support tools and infrastructure implemented to mitigate potential climate change risks to the wastewater collection and treatment systems. (iv) Decentralized treatment systems or cluster treatment systems installed.
- *Component 2:* focuses on enhancing the climate resiliency and low carbon operations of the BSTP wastewater treatment system through the installation of additional renewable photovoltaic

energy, energy conservation and improved efficiency measures. The outputs of this component include (i) energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies which were implemented.

- *Component 3:* is focused on enhancing options for scaling-up wastewater reuse as well as the capabilities of technical personnel at BWA to promote sustainability. The outputs include (i) Improved capabilities of wastewater technical personnel to operate, maintain and monitor and implement climate change adaptation planning strategies for wastewater management (ii) A strategic plan is developed to guide the replication of water treatment facilities along the west coast corridor.
- *Component 4:* is focused on enhancing the enabling environment for wastewater management by advancing stakeholders' (government, public, tourists, teachers, students, private sector/businesses, civil society) buy-in, leadership and ownership; (i) Governance and planning roadmaps enhanced to enable use of reclaimed water in a controlled and regulated manner (ii) mechanisms developed/expanded to encourage the adoption of wastewater treatment and reuse applications by private individuals and businesses (iii) Gender Sensitive Public Education and Awareness Campaign was implemented.

III. THE EMERGING ECONOMY

A. THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT SECTION

In 2022, efforts towards the effective conservation, management, and sustainable utilization of Barbados' biodiversity resources, continued, through the implementation of programmes, projects and public awareness activities.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is the principal instrument for national implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It formally identifies and seeks to address the threats to Barbados' biodiversity, and through this process serves as the national policy document for biodiversity conservation and management. Barbados finalized its first NBSAP in 2002 and it was laid in Parliament.

Through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project 'Support to Barbados for the Revision of the NBSAPs and Development of Fifth National Report to the CBD', Barbados prepared the first revision of its NBSAP, which sets the targets for Biodiversity Conservation and Management up to 2035.

The NBSAP was approved by Cabinet along with the NBSAP Communication Strategy, the NBSAP Resource Mobilization Strategy and the Policy for National Biodiversity Management. The NBSAP and its supporting documents were laid in Parliament in November 2022.

The NBSAP identifies twelve (12) priority targets for the country. These targets were identified through a stakeholder consultation process of workshops and focus group meetings. The priority strategies for biodiversity conservation in Barbados to 2035 are aimed at improving the wellbeing of all Barbadians. These priority targets are as follows:

- TARGET 1: By 2030, at the latest, Barbadians are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- TARGET 2: By 2030, at the latest, the Barbados Government, businesses and stakeholders at all levels will have taken steps to achieve, or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
- TARGET 3: By 2035, the rate of loss of all of Barbados' natural habitats, including forests, will be decreased.
- TARGET 4: By 2030, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
- TARGET 5: By 2030, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
- TARGET 6: By 2030, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority established species are managed and measures are in place to prevent the introduction and establishment of new invasive alien species.
- TARGET 7: By 2030, sources of endogenous anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs (e.g. excess nutrients, anchor damage, overfishing inter alia) are identified and effects minimized to maintain the integrity and functioning of coral reefs.
- TARGET 8: By 2030, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are designated within connected systems of protected areas, and plans for effective area-based conservation measures are being developed.
- TARGET 9: By 2030, pressures on known threatened species have been identified and mitigated, and conservation status has been improved.
- TARGET 10: By 2030, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
- TARGET 11: By 2030, document all traditional and scientific knowledge and technology relating to biodiversity so that it is improved, widely and equitably shared, transferred and applied.
- TARGET 12: By 2025, at the latest, financial resources to conduct projects and research in the area of biodiversity should increase substantially.

Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species Project

In 2022, the Biodiversity Section continued implementation of the Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species Project of the Convention on Biological Diversity, assisted by finances from the GEF.

The goal of the Invasive Alien Species Project is the prevention, early detection, control and management of frameworks for invasive alien species (IAS) that emphasize a risk management approach by focusing on the highest risk invasion pathways of Barbados and OECS countries.

Through this project, the Biodiversity Section commenced a review of the legal frameworks related to biosecurity and protection of against invasive alien species which may harm local biological resources and human health. Through this process it has commenced the development of the National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plan, along with the National Invasive Species Policy, which would inform the strengthening of biosecurity legislation nationally.

Engagement in the Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species Project further seeks to protect our biodiversity resources, namely the critically endangered Barbados Leaf-Toed Gecko and the endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtle from invasive species, through the implementation of habitat enhancement, predator exclusion and predator eradication in key habitats for the species. This project also lays the groundwork for ground-breaking captive breeding programs, a first of this nature for the Caribbean region.

The project further contributes to enhanced management of the lionfish through assessment of existing strategies and testing of new strategies for eradication or control. Through this component, the project contributes to the management of reef fish stocks and preservation of the ecology of coral reefs. This component also identified invasive coral species on local reefs.

Under this project, the Cabinet of Barbados agreed to the use of lands at Paragon for the establishment of a bio-secure area for the conservation of the gecko during the year. This project includes the construction of pest-proof fencing at the site, as well as the fabrication of artificial rocky substrate as part of the habitat augmentation process.

Table 35: CITES Permits Issued by Category for 2022

Imports	Exports	Re-exports
8	37	2

SOURCE: Ministry of Environment and National Beautification

The Wetlands for the Future Project

The Wetlands for the Future Fund supports the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. The US administered fund is giving priority to projects in the Caribbean and Central American countries. The fund is available to support activities in the area of training and capacity building, documentation, wetlands management and tools and research.

The Ministry of Environment and National Beautification received funding of US\$20,000 to prepare Barbados' Wetland's Inventory as required under the Convention and to identify the preliminary elements of a management plan for the Long Pond Site.

Biodiversity Enabling Activities Project

Barbados continued implementation of the GEF funded Biodiversity Enabling Activities project. The project was approved by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which is the implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project has three (3) objectives of: the assessment of the capacity required to implement an efficient access and benefit sharing system; the assessment of the capacity required to implement an efficient system to mitigate against the establishment of alien invasive biological diversity; and the development of a Clearing House Mechanism which is an internet based information repository.

Under this project the Section has commenced development of conservation and recreational area plans, including garbage management strategy, as well as broader ecosystems conservation and restoration plans for Turner's Hall Woods and key Gully Ecosystems. During the year, the Section

commenced the process of identifying methods of strengthening the biosecurity of Plant Quarantine and Veterinary Services offices at the Ports of Entry.

Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

The International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Act, CAP 262 was passed in Parliament on February 7, 2006 and provides for the implementation of the provisions of CITES in Barbados.

The Act provides for the issuance of permits and in 2022, a total of forty-seven (47) permits for international trade of endangered species were issued, and of this total, thirty-seven (37) were export permits, eight (8) were import permits and two (2) were re-exporting permits. The international trade of endangered species as it relates to income generation is an important economic activity for a number of persons and companies in Barbados. However, trade is regulated in order to ensure that it does not negatively impact global populations.

Inspections of breeding and housing facilities were also conducted.

CITES Scientific Authority

The Fourth Schedule of the Act (121/1) provides for the constitution of a Scientific Authority of not less than 5 or more than 12 members appointed by the Minister by instrument in writing.

Quarterly meetings of the CITES Scientific Authority were convened during 2022, to discuss issues important to the convention. It should be noted that this group undertakes a significant portion of its work by electronic mail.

The preparation of the CITES Annual Report for 2021 and CITES Implementation Report was undertaken and the reports were submitted to the CITES Secretariat. The report focused on imports, exports and re-exports of CITES listed plants and animals.

Biosafety Clearing House (BCH)

The Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety (CPB) is the only clearing house of its kind where effective participation is a regulatory requirement for compliance in the parent convention. As Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Government of Barbados is obligated to ensure the effective participation in the BCH.

As National Focal Point to the CPB, the Section hosted a Technical and Regulatory Training Workshop to enhance Barbados' capacity to effectively update, utilise and maintain its records on the BCH.

Education, Communication and Public Demonstration Initiatives

Unlike in previous years, the focus of the section's public education programme was the building out of its website "Biodiversity Barbados" – biodiversity.gov.bb. Focus was shifted towards digital awareness raising, with a focus on increased production of articles and resources on the website.

Additionally, a redesign of the layout and the introduction of photographic and informational resources were undertaken.

The shift in public awareness medium saw an increase in the number of persons engaged through the Public Awareness and Education programme by seven-fold. Efforts for the further development of the website continued.

Website

- The Section continued to administer the “Biodiversity Barbados” website through 2022.
- The website recorded an average of 1,500 monthly active users, contributing towards 50,000 unique visits to the website in 2022, with users performing over 1.25 million page views.
- Forty-nine (49) Articles and features were prepared for the website during the period.
- The development of a high-resolution photographic database of Barbados’ biodiversity and ecosystems was continued.
- The public was engaged through website comments.

Virtual Art Exhibition

With the advent of Covid-19, the Biodiversity Conservation and Management Section was forced to look for innovative ways to share its messages on the importance of Biodiversity utilizing the website.

Noting the success of the previous virtual art exhibition, the Ministry once again worked with artists in Barbados to highlight biodiversity and the environment. In 2022, the theme for the exhibition was “Building a Shared Future for All Life”. The exhibition can be viewed at <https://biodiversity.gov.bb>.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international environmental treaty that has as its objectives, the conservation of biodiversity or all living organisms; the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of biodiversity.

Barbados ratified the CBD in December 1993. The country is therefore bound by the provisions of the Convention and has the responsibility for ensuring that the provisions of the Convention are met, in accordance with the particular conditions within and with the country and with the available financial, technical and other resources.

The Fifteenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP15), along with its associated Meetings of the Parties, was convened in Montreal Canada from December 3 – 19, 2022. The Section also participated in the preparatory meetings leading up to CBD-COP15, as well as the COP.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD)

The Convention is the principle international instrument addressing the global problem of land degradation and drought. Parties to the Convention are currently working on setting Land Degradation Neutrality Targets. Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) has been defined as a state whereby the amount

and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.

In 2022, the Section continued to participate in a project to develop Barbados' Land Degradation Neutrality Targets. The Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Program (LDN-TSP) is one of the aforementioned requirements for Barbados under the UNCCD. This exercise allows Barbados to formalize its commitment to sustainable land management, through integrated spatial planning and will complement existing documents, such as the revised Physical Development Plan and the Roofs to Reefs Programme of the Government of Barbados. The LDN-TSP is through external funding from the Global Mechanism.

No monies were disbursed to Barbados. The process was managed entirely by the UNCCD Secretariat, however, US \$30,000 was made available to Barbados to convene workshops and to support communication and public awareness in support of the project.

Conserving Barbados' Endangered Reptiles (CBER)

Work commenced in January 2022 to commit funds remaining under Barbados' GEF-7 STAR allocation. Discussions were initiated with CABI and UNEP on the development of a project concept to continue the work being done under the 'Preventing the Costs of Invasive Alien Species' project to preserve the critically endangered Barbados leaf-toed gecko. The Section was successful in committing the residual US \$1 million from Barbados' GEF-7 STAR and preventing the loss of access to those funds. In 2022, the following was achieved:

- Development of Project Identification Form (PIF) for submission to the GEF
- Approval of the PIF by the GEF CEO
- Awarding of the Project Preparation Grant of US \$50,000 for the development of the full project document
- Contracting of Reptile Specialist, Business Specialist and Gender Specialist under PPG phase
- Convening of Inception Workshop on CBER project

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Air Quality Monitoring

In 2022, continuous monitoring of the ambient air quality continued at the Treasury Building in Bridgetown; the D'Arcy Scott Roundabout in Warrens, St. Michael; the Caribbean Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology in Husbands, St. James and the Environmental Protection Department in Dalkeith Rd., St. Michael. From January to December 2022, one hundred and fifteen thousand, three hundred and twenty-three (115,323) data points were collected from the three sites.

Additionally, the Department facilitated the installation of weather monitoring equipment by the Barbados Meteorological Services at Reservoir Road, which is near the D'Arcy Scott Roundabout.

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) continued to assist the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) with the implementation of a short term, ambient air quality monitoring project in Barbados to gauge the level of certain pollutants- particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide - in the air due to the recent volcanic emissions from La Soufrière, St. Vincent.

Noise Monitoring

The following activities were conducted to facilitate the ongoing noise monitoring project conducted at the semi-permanent noise monitoring station at the Treasury Building in Bridgetown: From January to November 2022, twenty-five thousand seven hundred and five (25,705) measurements of sound levels were recorded. Also, the EPD prepared a report entitled, “Barbados Noise Monitoring 2020” on the sound level data collected in 2021.

Groundwater Monitoring

Water quality monitoring of groundwater supply wells and springs was conducted on a monthly basis at twenty-one (21) drinking water supply wells; nine (9) agricultural supply wells; and six (6) springs.

From January to the December 2022, three hundred and thirty-six (336) groundwater samples were collected as part of the EPD/Barbados Water Authority sampling. The results of the laboratory analysis for the drinking water supply sources for the parameters chlorides, nitrates, total dissolved solids and faecal coliform were compared to the World Health Organization (WHO) Drinking Water Quality Guidelines (“WHO guidelines”). The following were noted:

- Individual chloride results above the guideline value of 250 mg/L were reported for Alleyndale PS, Ashton Hall PS, Carlton PS, Haymans PS, Villa Maria PS and The Whim PS. Average chloride levels at Alleyndale PS and Villa Maria PS, for the period also exceeded the guideline value. It should be noted that this guideline is for taste and acceptability to the consumer.
- Six (6) public supply wells: Alleyndale PS, Ashton Hall P.S, Carlton P.S, Haymans P.S, Villa Maria and Whim P.S, exceeded the WHO guideline value for total dissolved solids of 600 mg/L.
- The nitrate guideline of 11.3 mg/l [Nitrate-N] was exceeded on two occasions: Hampton PS [12.3 mg/L] and Constant PS [14.4 mg/L]. However, the average nitrate levels for January to December 2022 did not exceed the guideline.
- The faecal coliform guideline value of 0 CFU/100ml was exceeded at Ashton Hall Pumping Station (PS) [1], Bowmanston [1], Constant PS [1] and Waterford PS [1]. It was also exceeded at College PS [9] and Molyneux PS [2]. It should be noted that the sampling locations at College ‘Spring’ PS and Molyneux PS are before the point of chlorination (disinfection).

Beach Water Monitoring

Monitoring of eighteen (18) west and south coast beaches was conducted on a weekly basis during 2022. Sampling commenced on January 03, 2022 and was completed on December 13, 2022. During that time, one thousand nine hundred and eighty (1,980) samples were collected.

The results of analysis were compared to the List of Prohibited Concentrations proposed for faecal coliform and enterococci under the Marine Pollution Control Act 392A. For the period January to December, during the months when the minimum number of samples was collected, there were zero (0) failures of the USEPA geometric mean criteria for enterococci. There were zero (0) failures of the USEPA geometric mean criteria for faecal coliform.

Widescreen Analysis

Widescreen groundwater sampling was conducted on March 29, 2022 (Belle, Hampton, Whim, Alleynedale, Applewhaites Well Field and College), May 31, 2022 (Haymans P.S, Villa Maria P.S, Molyneux

Table 36: Building Development Applications Processed in 2022

Type of Application	Decision					Total
	Approved	Refused	Approved with conditions	Withdrawn	Acknowledged	
Residential	839	231	247	0	158	1,475
Commercial	20	47	36	4	161	268
Residential/Commercial	12	12	13	0	6	43
Agricultural	0	1	3	0	4	8
Commercial/Industrial	0	0	0	0	1	1
Commercial/Agricultural	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total	871	291	299	4	332	1,797

SOURCE: Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification

P.S, Applewhaite's P.S, Bowmanston P.S and Constant P.S), August 31, 2022 (Newmarket, Carrington, Carlton, Ashton Hall, Waterford and Benn Spring) and November 8, 2022 (Belle P.S, Hampton P.S, Bowmanston P.S, Alleynedale P.S, Whim P.S and Villa Maria P.S).

There were issues with shipping in 2021 that impacted the ability of the laboratory to analyse the 2021 samples. As a result, four (4) rounds of widescreen sampling, instead of the usual two (2), were conducted in 2022. Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHsX) and perfluorooctanoic sulfonic acid (PFOA) were added to the list of parameters. A draft of 2007 to 2019 compilation widescreen report was prepared in 2022.

Regulatory Monitoring and Enforcement

Building Development Applications

The EPD received one thousand six hundred and ninety-one (1,691) building development applications in 2022. It processed one-thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven (1,797) applications, which included those received during and prior to 2022. Table 22 shows the distribution of processed applications by the decision made.

Complaints and Investigation

A total of thirty-five (35) complaints were received by the Department during 2022. The classification of these complaints is shown in Table 23. Fifteen (15) complaints were investigated; thirteen (13) were related to marine pollution complaints and one (1) related to water quality and one

(1) related to Solid and Hazardous waste. Air or noise pollution complaint investigations were suspended due to human resource limitations.

Applications – Asbestos and Fibreglass

Forty-four (44) applications were processed and approval granted for the removal of asbestos and twenty-two (22) applications for fiberglass containing materials. The asbestos and fiberglass waste were disposed at the government approved disposal facility at Rock Hall, St. Philip.

Derelict Structures and Vehicles Removed

Fifty-five (55) derelict structures were demolished during the year 2022. Three hundred and thirty-five (335) vehicles were removed during the same time period.

Expenditure

For 2022, the Department spent two hundred and thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars (\$237,880.00) to demolish fifty-five (55) derelict buildings and forty-three thousand one hundred dollars (\$43,100.00) was spent in the removal of three hundred and fifty-five (355) vehicles as part of the Derelict Buildings and Vehicles programme.

National Governance Processes, Partnerships and Cooperation Arrangements

Consultation Files

In 2022, the EPD received one hundred and eighty-nine (189) consultation files from the Town and Country Developing Planning Office and the Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Office. At the end of the reporting period, comments on one hundred and thirty-nine (139) consultation files had been prepared and submitted.

Pesticide Import Applications

During 2022, the EPD received sixteen (16) applications from the Pesticides Control Board (PCB) for the importation of pesticides. All of the applications received were vetted and recommendations were submitted to the PCB.

Radioactive Materials Import Applications

There were thirty (30) applications submitted for the importation of radioactive materials and all were approved in 2022.

Extra-National Governance Processes, Partnerships and Cooperation Arrangements

Cartagena Convention

Through the Environmental Protection Department, Barbados participated in the Case Studies on Nutrient Management Valuation in Jamaica and Barbados. This was part of an Economic Valuation Pilot Project financed by the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) established under the UNEP's Global Programme of Action (GPA) for development of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.

International Atomic Energy Agency

To meet Barbados' obligations under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the following activities completed in 2022 included:

- Completion of the physical installation of the Regulatory Authority Information System (RAIS) Server and training of personnel along with activities to facilitate the submission of applications online.
- Investigated reports on the discovery of a Caesium-137 source at one of the waste brokers that collect and prepare recyclable material for export. The source was confirmed, and secured through the application of IAEA methodologies to bring orphan sources back into regulatory control.
- Barbados signed and deposited its Political Commitment to the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its Supplementary Guidance, the Guidance on Import and Export of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on the Management of Disused Radioactive Sources.
- The Director of EPD was designated as the National Focal Point on matters related to the IAEA.
- Updated Barbados' Radiation Safety Information Management System (RASIMS) Country Summary.

Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management

To strengthen the management of chemicals in Barbados following the tenet of the Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management (SAICM), the EPD undertook activities which included:

- Finalized and signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EPD and UWI Cave Hill Faculty of Science and Technology.
- Completed a proposal for the preliminary assessment of endocrine disrupting chemicals in Barbados and submitted a Cabinet Paper.
- Prepared a draft of strategies to manage Cadmium, Lead and Mercury in Barbados.

CRew+

Activities under the GEF funded CRew+: An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region continued in 2022. The Department conducted the following activities:

- The firm PRMR was contracted to develop the National Communications Strategy (and Associated Implementation Plan) for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) in Barbados. The inception report was received and approved. The draft knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) survey was received and reviewed.
- AKWATIX was contracted to conduct a study on a Sustainable Financing Mechanism for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) in Barbados. Two workshops were held on 06 and 28 July, 2022. The first workshop aimed to determine demand in Barbados for IWWM finance mechanisms and the second workshop aimed to determine interest in the financial sector for funding an IWWM finance mechanism. Surveys were administered as follow up to these workshops.

The following documents were submitted by AKWATIX, reviewed and comments prepared and submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of American States (OAS) by the EPD:

- Diagnostic Analysis of the Governance Framework;
- Feasibility Assessment to Determine the Financial Opportunities for Establishing a Sustainable Environmental Protection Revolving Fund (SEPREF)/Alternative Funding Mechanism (AFM) and;
- Recommendations for the Barbados Special Environmental Protection Revolving Fund/Alternative Funding Mechanism (SEPREF/AFM) and technical, financial, and legal requirements.

The Development of an International Legally Binding Instrument for Plastic Pollution

The Environmental Protection Department took part in several activities related to the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastics:

- Attended Informal Technical First Meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-1) Potential elements, structure, glossary of key terms and final provisions, November 3, 9, 11 and 15, 2022.
- Conducted a National Stakeholder Consultation on Plastics to inform local stakeholders on the upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) Multi-stakeholder forum meeting on November 16, 2022.
- Attended the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee Regional Meetings, to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution, Including in the Marine Environment (INC-1), November 28 to December 2, 2022 in Uruguay.
- Microplastics in the Caribbean: ACS-AEC CSC Seminar: Microplastic in the Caribbean, October 31- November 4, 2022.
- Plastic Pollution & the Small Island Developing States; the role of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution, November 23, 2022.

POLICY RESEARCH, PLANNING AND INFORMATION UNIT

Education, Communication and Public Demonstration

The Policy Research, Planning and Information Unit (PRPIU) continued its activism on environmental matters at the community level, through undertakings such as Environment Day/Month celebrations to enhance citizen awareness and involvement in environmental stewardship. With the support of the Communications Consultant to the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification (MENB), as well as the Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS), the PRPIU, via its Environment Education Officer executed a week of activities which were designed around the World Environment Day (WED) 2022 theme “Living Sustainably...Our Island...One Earth”. The Ministry observed the occasion through the following activities:

- Delivery of a statement by the Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy, which was circulated in the print media.
- Launched the Community Empowerment & Environmental Partnership. The programme is intended to promote inclusive and sustainable development at the community level. Key partners United Nations Development Programme – Small Grants Programme (UNDP GEF-SGP) and Ministry of Youth, Sports & Community Empowerment.
- Engaged in the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Kick-Off Information Session. That event was a follow-on from the validation of the MSP Design Document. A broad overview of the elements associated with the programme to develop a MSP for Barbados’ Exclusive Economic Zone were presented.
- An activity called Meet the Expert was organized to provide the opportunity for participants to learn more from the experts on renewable energy and permaculture, as well as the SGP grant application process and funding opportunities available under the Community Empowerment and Environmental Partnership Call for Proposals.
- Launched the Barbados Youth Climate Action Summit & Expo (BYCASE) by the Ashley Lashley Foundation. That event featured messages from key partners, which involved national and regional Youth organisations; the UN System; the Private Sector – particularly in the Wildey Business District; the BCCI; and the MENB.
- Held an Expo in July 2022, which took forward the recommendations of the Stockholm +50 process, to involve the Youth, as a Major Group in Environmental Activism towards in the next 50 years.

Extra-National Governance Processes, Partnerships and Cooperation Arrangements

For the period under review, the PRPIU continued to participate in relevant, coordinated follow-up activities to support national interest of the global sustainable development agenda.

By virtue of being the outgoing Chair of the 22nd Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Barbados is a member of the Bureau of the 23rd Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC. Barbados also leads the Working Group on Caribbean SIDS and serves on the Executive Committee on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Also, for the period under review, the Ministry participated in a Videoconference of the One Hundred and Third Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Environment and Sustainable Development. That meeting addressed matters of national importance to Barbados in the areas of:

- Advancing Environmental and Natural Resource Governance in CARICOM
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Ocean Matters
- CARICOM Engagement in other International Environmental Governance Processes

Moreover, the Ministry commenced a technical assistance project led by UNEP on Environmental Governance Analysis for Environmental Management in Barbados. The project will be undertaken in two phases, specifically:

- Phase 1 - an analysis of the environmental management regulatory and institutional framework in Barbados; and
- Phase 2 - the review and updating of the draft national Environmental Protection Management Act to provide for sustainable environmental protection and management, and to establish effective allocation of administrative responsibilities for environment management including the following:
 - The integration of Green Economy and Sustainable Consumption and Production principles;
 - The inclusion of specific measures to encourage private sector commitment to its Corporate Responsibility to environmental management;
 - Access to information, public participation, and access to justice in environmental matters, including strengthening the role of civil society in environmental management, particularly the youth;
 - Undertaking and coordinating environmental management at the national and local levels and related activities.
 - The incorporation of international treaty obligations with respect to the environment into national law.

The project will give reconsideration to the relevant sections of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, Establishing the Caribbean Single Market Economy, taking into consideration the Decision of the Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) mandating the Caribbean Community Secretariat to formulate an Environmental Policy Framework to facilitate the implementation of the Environmental and Sustainable Development Dimensions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, Establishing the Caribbean Single Market Economy.

The PRPIU furthermore, actively participated in the following meetings related to environmental law and climate change:

- The Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) First global meeting of national focal points. Of note, this intergovernmental program has been conducted by UNEP since 1982, its vision is to promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen the related capacities in countries, and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a 10-year programme and in March 2019, the UN Environment Assembly adopted the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V), which commenced in January 2020.
- The EUROCLIMA+2022 Annual Meeting. EUROCLIMA is the European Union's flagship climate-related programme that has been operating in Latin America for almost 10 years. Under the new approach of the EU Partnership for a Caribbean Green Deal, and upon requests raised at the XXI and XXII Fora of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and

the Caribbean, in Buenos Aires and Bridgetown respectively, EUROCLIMA Caribbean will become the flagship programme of the EU in the region. The specific objective of the programme is the improvement of frameworks and available opportunities for a transition to a full risk informed, sustainable, carbon-neutral, circular economies in the Caribbean.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT COORDINATION UNIT

Policy Development

The Project Management Coordination Unit (PMCU) reviewed and updated the Solid Waste Management Policy for Barbados, which focuses mainly on waste minimization through the implementation of the 5Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle and Recover as well as the implementation of a system of licensing and permitting solid waste management facilities.

The PMCU also prepared a Draft Framework for a National Recycling Programme for Barbados and a paper on the use of HDPE and tyre crumb for consideration.

Education, Communication and Public Demonstration Initiatives

The PMCU, as part of the Education and Outreach Component of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Programme, has been working with the Sanitation Service Authority (SSA) to assist with the implementation of the curbside recycling programme. The PMCU continues to work with schools, community groups and other publics to raise awareness and hopefully change behaviours with regard to proper solid waste management.

Infrastructure Development and other Projects

The PMCU has recently completed the Adaptation Measures to Counter the Effects of Climate Change project which resulted in a significant reduction in the impact of flooding in Holetown and Sunset Crest, St. James, by improving conveyance of flood waters downstream, and detention and infiltration of flood waters upstream.

The PMCU also procured and managed the consultant conducting the Feasibility Study to Determine the Most Appropriate Waste to Energy Technology for Barbados, on behalf of the Economic Affairs and Investment Division, Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment.

B. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

During the period of review, the Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology (MIST) continued to pursue initiative to advance the development of Science and Innovation Sector, inclusive of:

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUMMER CAMP

As technology continues to rapidly progress, it is becoming increasingly important for young children to become well-versed in science and technology (S&T). A six-week S&T summer camp for kids aged 6 to 11 years old was executed. The purpose of this camp was to provide a fun and engaging way for children to learn about S&T, while also developing important skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration.

During the camp, children had the opportunity to explore various scientific concepts and practice using technology. The goal is to inspire young minds and cultivate a lifelong interest in S&T. Specially trained demonstrators guided the children through a variety of hands-on activities and experiments, including, coding, Biology, Physics and Engineering. Within the 2022 version of the camp engaged an average of sixty students during the six-week period.

DIGIRISE – DIGITAL TRAINING COLLABORATION

In 2022, the Ministry continued to engage in a program of collaboration with DigiLearning, a non-profit UK based Digital Training Organisation. This initiative is a six weeks, digital career, and mentoring program, with digital leaders from across the world. The program allows participants to explore they passion, gain work experience placements, and meet aspiring role models.

Graduates from this programme have had work placements and sessions with industry experts in some of the most iconic spaces such as the BBC, The Financial Times, TikTok, Google, to list a few. One Barbadian graduate received a work placement with one of the leading advertising firms in the UK as a Data Scientist.

Forty Barbadian students participated in the 2022 program, amongst others from across the world.

S & T FESTIVAL

In 2022, the third edition of the Science and Technology Festival was held as a partnership between the Ministry of Industry, Innovation Science and Technology, and the Faculty of Science and Technology, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus and various private sector and non-governmental organizations and included several interactive and fun-filled Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) exhibits, sixty-five in number. At its core, the 3-day event sought to:

- To showcase to the Barbadian society, especially the youth, awe-inspiring displays and spectacular scientific wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- Identify some of the strategies and actions required to further the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) agenda
- Build the national consensus necessary for the critical role that STEM must play in socio-economic develop.

The S&T Festival also included 1) Technology-based demonstrations, discussions, and presentations; 2) Science and Technology Competition for secondary school students; and 3) Other hands-on STEM activities and experiments

INNOVATION

MIST has collaborated with Export Barbados, an SOE under the Ministry to execute innovation challenges in several areas. Specifically, during 2022, the year under review two challenges were executed. One targeting the beauty sector and the other the ocean. Submissions for these competitions were assessed and winners selected and awarded.

CREATIVE THINKERS INNOVATION CAMP

Twenty-four (24) aged 13-19 participated in the third hosting of this specialised camp for teens in 2022. The Creative Thinkers Innovation camp focused on creative thinking skills and borderless collaboration. The focus of the programme was on emphasising the importance of mindset changes in fostering creative thinking that can lead to innovation.

GAME DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

MIST hosted a virtual six-week gaming development workshop, which was facilitated by a local gaming tutor, coder, and innovator during the review period. This initiative was in the form of an after-school program which took place three evenings per week and placed students in working teams. The teams worked to develop games as an end of project exercise. Three teams produced three demo games on completion of the project.

C. THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

Over the reporting period, an additional 17.26MW of RE capacity was added to the grid. On December 31, 2022, the cumulative RE capacity on the grid stood at 83.90MW when compared to December 31, 2021, when the cumulative RE capacity on the grid stood at 66.64MW. Of this total capacity as of December 31, 2022, 73.91MW was connected at the distributive level. Over the reporting period a total of 937 licenses were received under the Electric Light and Power Act 2013. These represent a cumulative capacity of 352MW of renewable energy.

The total electricity sold to the grid in 2022 from renewable energy stood at 108.45 GWh, representing an increase of 29 percent when compared with 84.56 GWh sold to the grid in 2021. The average energy generated by distributed systems in 2022 was 1263 kWh per kW, representing an increase of 3 percent when compared to system output of 1229 kWh per kW in 2021. This represents a capacity factor of 14 percent during 2022.

Most of the capacity licensed was from photovoltaic systems in the 250kW - 500kW size range and domestic systems under 10kW in size. Additionally, the Ministry of Energy and Business has also begun to licence several large renewable energy projects over 1MW now that rates for these sizes are available.

In the context of the Barbados National Energy Policy (BNEP), based on current projections and applications in hand, Barbados will meet its 2030 capacity targets for distributed solar installations ahead of schedule. However, forecasts for the uptake of the other renewable energy technologies suggest that a faster uptake is required to the targets. The BNEP prescribes a mix of technologies for resilience in the electricity sector and more vigorous promotion of the other technologies may be necessary.

KEY POLICIES AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Development of a Standard Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)

The Ministry of Energy and Business in collaboration with the Fair Trading Commission (FTC) committed to the development of standard form Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) for renewable energy systems under 10MW and those over 10MW. The standard PPA will form the contract between

the Independent Power Producer (IPP) and the Barbados Light and Power Company Ltd. where the IPP is the generator/seller, and the utility is the buyer of electricity. The PPAs will define the terms and conditions for the sale of electricity between the IPP and utility. These terms and conditions will include such things as start of operation, penalties, payment terms, termination clauses etc.

During 2022, the Ministry leveraged financing to develop standard power purchase agreements (PPA) for systems of 1MW to 10MW and for over 10 MW. To date several consultations between the stakeholders and the FTC were held while the Division awaited the final approval of the PPA from FTC.

Project Monitoring and Coordination Team (Pmct)

The Project Monitoring and Coordination Team (PMCT) continued to oversee the execution of the Barbados National Energy Policy (BNEP) 2019-2030, with specific responsibility for project management; monitoring and evaluation; procurement; administrative support; technical support; financial management; public education and communication.

Control of Inefficient Lighting Act 2021

During 2022 the PMCT continued to sensitize the public to the enactment of the Control of Inefficient Lighting Act and to the commencement of a phased prohibition on inefficient lighting from January 01, 2022, in Barbados. The phase out plan is geared to reducing the cost of energy in Barbados while increasing energy security and mitigating the negative effects of energy consumption on the local and global environments. Energy efficient lighting will play a significant role in achieving Barbados' energy efficiency potential as energy efficient lighting technologies are among the most viable energy efficiency interventions available with the shortest payback periods.

The phase-out plan commenced on January 01, 2022, with a prohibition on the importation of any electrical lamp that emits less than 15 lumens per watt. The second phase commenced on July 01, 2022, with a prohibition on the manufacture, sale and distribution of any electrical lamp that emits less than 15 lumens per watt and a prohibition on the importation of any electrical lamp that emits less than 25 lumens per watt.

Consultancies

During 2022 the PMCT concluded the consultancy to "Undertake a Baseline Study to Guide the Energy Transition of the Non-Electricity Sectors"- the final report contained analysis on fuel and gas consumption, equipment used, special considerations (business ownership, mobility of solutions and business dependencies), transition strategy and a monitoring and evaluation framework for the non-electricity sectors.

Stakeholder engagement continued throughout 2022 to enhance communication and collaboration and to track progress with BNEP's implementation. Additionally, the PMCT in its mission to move the country from a fossil fuel-based economy to one completely based on renewable energy sources by 2030, commissioned a consultancy to "Implement a Change Management Strategy for the Barbados National Energy Policy 2019 - 2030".

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FRAMEWORK (SEFB)

Public Sector Smart Energy Program (PSSEP)

The objective of the Public Sector Smart Energy Programme (PSSEP) is to support the promotion and implementation of renewable energy generation and energy efficiency technologies in the public sector in an effort to reduce Barbados' fossil fuel dependency; promote sustainable energy and therefore contribute to the country's competitiveness.

The Programme consist of three (3) components, namely:

Component I: Retrofit of Government buildings with renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, and public lights with energy efficient technologies, including: (i) the retrofit of approximately eighty five percent (85percent) of Barbados' public lights with energy efficient technologies; (ii) the retrofit of twelve (12) government buildings with energy efficient technologies, and (iii) the installation of solar phot-voltaic (PV) systems on thirteen (13) government buildings with a target of 1.14 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy electricity produced.

Component II: A pilot project and studies for encouraging the use of renewable energy which will finance (i) a fleet of government electric vehicles powered by renewable energy sources; and (ii) studies culminating in the preparation of a business prospectus to facilitate the construction and operation of an ocean power plant.

Component III: Capacity building, institutional strengthening and public awareness to: (i) upgrade professional and technical skills; (ii) upgrade capacity within the GOB in all sectors related to sustainable energy; (iii) implement public awareness campaigns at all levels to promote sustainable energy; and (v) finance the monitoring and evaluation of the Programme.

The overall Programme is 95percent completed. A review of the components highlighted below.

Of the estimated 29,000 streetlights installed across the island, the Barbados Light and Power Company Ltd (BLPC) own approximately 25,000 on minor and major roads while approximately 3,000 on highways are owned by the Government Electrical Engineering Department (GEED). The objective of the Street Lighting Retrofit sub-component is to retrofit the high-pressure sodium streetlights (HPS) with light emitting diodes (LEDs).

In January 2019, the contract between the Government of Barbados and Caribbean LED Lighting Inc. for the supply of 24,250 LED streetlights to the BLPC and 3,000 LED streetlights to the GEED was signed. The streetlights retrofit was completed in July 2021 with the installation of 25,750 fixtures, which represent 88percent of all streetlights and exceeded the project target of 85percent. Of these 24,250 fixtures installed on minor and major roads by the BLPC and 1,500 on major highways and public carparks of the fixtures by GEED. The benefit to be derived is a reduction in electricity consumption of 4.3 MWh per year totalling 64.5 MWh over a period of 15 years, which will see average savings in electricity bills of approximately US\$1.7 million annually. As at July 2021, there was an estimated savings of \$1,054,680 because of the conversion from the HPS bulbs to LED based on the interim rate provided by the Fair Trading Commission (FTC).

Under the Renewable Energy Project, as of December 2022, solar installations were completed at Oistins Post Office and Police Station, Crab Hill Police Station, Cane Garden Complex while meter connections were delayed at District 'A' Police Station, Arch Hall Fire Station and the Blackman and Gollop Primary School. The PV installations at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital were delayed due to the execution of a geotechnical study, which was imperative to inform of the type of geological characteristics located at the QEH site. The carport structure was imported in October 2022.

With respect to the Energy Efficiency Project, lighting installations were completed on fourteen (14) public buildings in 2022. Of the fifteen (15) buildings earmarked for AC installations, eight (8) of these buildings were completed as at December 31, 2022.

Public Education and Professional Strengthening Consultancy was completed in January 2022, the aim of this Consultancy was to improve the framework for Training, Certification and Licensing as it relates to energy services in Barbados. The Consultancy also sought to develop educational and professional strengthening initiatives for the educational institutions, the Ministry, and its stakeholders in technical, energy management and behavioural training to enhance the energy sector as Barbados moves towards a sustainable energy future.

Sustainable Energy Investment Programme (Energy Smart Fund II)

The Sustainable Energy Investment Programme (Smart Fund II) was conceptualized to encompass the activities and lessons learnt from the Energy Smart Fund I Programme which was implemented over the period February 7, 2011, to June 7, 2017.

The general objective of the programme is to further reduce Barbados' dependency on imported fossil fuels through the increased use of Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) technologies. Specifically, the Programme will engage a three-pronged approach targeted at the residential, business/private and public sector that encourages the use of alternative sources of renewable energy; promotes energy conservation, reduces the oil import bill and preserves the environment. The BBD \$90,926,284.00 project is financed by a BBD loan from the Inter-American Development Bank of \$60,750,000.00 and grant resources from the European Union to the tune of BBD \$30,176,284.00, the programme is expected to be implemented over six years.

The specific objective of the Sustainable Energy Investment Programme II is to: (i) reduce electricity consumption by implementing RE and EE measures; (ii) reduce Green House Gases (GHG) emissions from liquid fossil fuels used for power generation and transport; and (iii) increase institutional capacity for the management of RE and EE programs. The program is structured as follows:

Component I: Technical Assistance and Loan Facility for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the form of a package of financing instruments aimed at providing funding and capacity building for energy users to design and develop renewable energy and efficiency projects. This will also include a pilot project for SMEs and small hoteliers;

Component II: Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Investment Programme within the public sector with the retrofit of approximately one hundred (100) buildings; and

Component III: Capacity Building and Institutional Support aimed at enabling the successful implementation of the programme.

Although the Loan Agreement was signed in February 2020, the Non-Reimbursable Agreement was only signed on February 18, 2021, for the grant funds from the European Union. The overall Programme is 16 percent completed as it is in the initialising phase.

In 2022, the Energy Smart Fund was formally launched to the public on May 24. This included a series of three webinars geared towards businesses, tourism and related services, agro-processing, and manufacturing during May to June 2022. The Project Execution Unit also made presentations to the members of the Small Business Association of Barbados, Barbados Coalition of Service Industries and FundAccess to inform and synthesize them on the Fund during the second half of the year.

Under the Pre-investment studies for SMEs (Technical Assistance), the objective is to provide grants to finance the required pre-investment studies and pilots for EE and RE projects under the Programme. The aim is to support the development, funding, and execution of projects. As of December 31, 2022, twenty (20) applications were received under the Fund with thirteen (13) applications approved totalling BBD\$217,750.00. It is anticipated that these applications will all transition to pilot projects or loans under the renewable energy and energy efficiency facility.

With respect to the EE and RE subsidised loans to businesses, the businesses may apply to Fund Access for funding up to BBD\$150,000.00 whilst for larger loans they may apply to the EGFL for loans up to BBD\$2,000,000.00. During the review period, two (2) applications totalling BBD\$2,380,000.00 were reviewed and approved. This brings the total number of approved loans to five (5) for a total of BBD\$2,962,693.22. No loan applications have been received from Fund Access to date.

Under Component 2, a Structural Integrity Engineering Services Firm was contracted in November 2022. Preliminary work for the procurement process for the Consultancy Services for the Supervision of Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Retrofits of Public Buildings was completed in 2022. The initial work for three (3) renewable energy priority projects was prepared and is to be undertaken during the year 2023.

Work to execute the expansion of electric mobility under Sub-component 2.3 of the programme benefited from expansion of an existing contract to allow for the procurement of an additional ten (10) electric buses. The PEU continued negotiations during the year 2022 and the contract was signed in June 2022. Delays were encountered and the production of the buses is now scheduled to be completed in May 2023.

As part of the activities under Component 3, Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening, the first draft of the concept for the Youth Apprentice Programme was prepared in October 2022. The PEU continues to structure and conceptualize this program. A meeting with the tertiary institutions and the Technical Working Group is scheduled for January 2023.

D. CREATIVE ECONOMY AND CULTURE

Culture and the Cultural Industries play a critical role in the efforts to transform, strengthen, grow and diversify Barbados' economy and promote social cohesion. For Barbados, the cultural industries and heritage economy present for us a unique and strong global competitive advantage.

Throughout the year 2022 the agencies responsible for cultural policy, planning, programming and development executed a series of projects and programmes that were geared towards laying the foundation for a heritage economy and to strengthen Barbados' cultural industries. These programmes, which are outlined below, focused on preservation and conservation of Barbados' tangible and intangible cultural heritage, intellectual property rights, creating opportunities for penetration into external markets through increased trade in cultural goods and services via cultural cooperation agreements, safeguarding cultural heritage through disaster risk management and mitigation planning and generating employment opportunities within the cultural industries.

In 2022, in keeping with the theme for the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage 1972 Convention: Heritage The Next 50: World Heritage as a Source of Resilience, Humanity and Innovation. the Division of Culture, Prime Minister's Office chose the theme for Heritage Month as Heritage- The Next 50 Years. The UNESCO theme was chosen within the context of the impact of climate change and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that revealed the vulnerability of the heritage eco-system. The calendar for Heritage Month also celebrated Barbados' tangible and intangible heritage and commemorated the inscription of Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison. The month of activities offered a varied and packed programme that included competitions, lectures, webinars and panel discussions, tours, audio visual content, exhibitions. It provided a platform for stakeholders to engage in discussion on issues impacting the Property and heritage development in general.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

There was increased audience engagement with the youth demographic through Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram due in part to contracting the services of a social media team and the participation of students in the National Give Back Programme from UWI. The ten students in the Give Back Programme were exposed to critical training and skills ranging from report writing, event planning, research, conducting evaluations of activities, creating content and exhibition management. They took the lead in conceptualizing the topic for the youth webinar, that was hosted by Sen. John King, "Youth have their say: Heritage and Sustainable Development." In the online seminar they recommended ways to use heritage as tool for building national pride and for sustainable businesses.

The Heritage Month 24-hour Art challenge

The Heritage Month 24-hour Art challenge provided a good medium for introducing youth between the ages of 17 and 21 to tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The online competition required persons to produce and submit a piece of artwork based on three heritage related mystery items associated with Barbados, within a 24-hour timeline. The competition was well supported by sponsors who provided vouchers for art supplies and tours of heritage sites. The winner also received studio time with President of the Barbados Arts Council.

The Bridgetown Antiques Market

The Bridgetown Antiques Market in Golden Square was a resounding success in terms of the number of attendees and antique dealers participating. The event attracted over four hundred attendees during the course of the day. All the vendors recorded sales on the day and were in agreement that the market was well organized and was an excellent initiative to bring life back into the city and to educate the public about the value of Barbadian antiques. A survey of the attendees revealed that they too thought it was an innovation initiative and spoke as to how it heightened their understanding and appreciating of Barbados' heritage. Patrons were able to witness demonstrations of French polishing and caning – two traditional techniques that are on the decline in Barbados.

Tour of Rock Hall Freedom Village

The tour of the Freedom Village highlighted the significance of the first free Village established after Emancipation. The forty attendees lead by two heritage volunteers traversed the village through Fire Hill where the original lots of the first settlers remain and some of their descendants still reside. They were regaled with the stories of the bequeath from the former Slave Owner and his death, that furnished the former enslaved with the means to become landowners, of the socio-economic situation in the 1840's, of significant sites in the village and the significance of the Park.

Lectures

- The Barbados Museum and Historical Society (BMHS) and University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill hosted the weekly online series entitled "Road to Republic -Exploring 400 years of a Political Experiment. in association with the Embassy of Argentina.
- The National Library Service' lecture panel discussion focused on another element of heritage - Black business in Barbados. The panel discussion highlighted the struggles, successes, and future of black run businesses in Barbados and was well attended by the public in a face-to-face format and via YouTube.

BARBADOS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Barbados National Register of Historic Places seeks to document buildings, sites, objects, structures that are of cultural and historical significance to communities. The development of the Register is based on the premise that local communities would be involved in the process and encouraged to identify places that they consider to be of Heritage significance. It encourages the use of best practices in the marketing of heritage places, so that where practicable, the country can take steps to develop them for economic benefits.

As of December 08, 2022, the Register contained eleven (11) sites with forty-four (44) entries comprising maps, bibliographies, photos, maps, links to videos, information on persons affiliated with site which is as follows:

Table 37: Register of Historic Sites at December 2022

Site	Location	Category	Description
Rihanna 's Childhood Home	Rihanna Drive Westbury Road, St. Michael	A Historic House	Home of National Hero
Farley Hill National Park	Benn Hill St. Peter	A Historic house	A social space
The Chase Vault	Christ Church Anglican Church	A Historic structure	Folklore
Barbados Railway	Bathsheba to Carrington Village	Historic structures	A social space
Newton Burial Ground	Newton Christ church	A Historic site	A sacred/ funerary space
Westbury Cemetery	Westbury	A Historic site	Burial space
East Point Lighthouse	St Philip	A Historic structure	Lighthouse
The Careenage	Historic Bridgetown	A commercial space	A commercial space
Codrington College	St. John	A Historic building	A religious site
Tyrol Cot	Spooners Hill	A Historic house	Home of a national hero
The Screw Dock	Historic Bridgetown	A Historic structure	A Seafaring space

SOURCE: Division of Culture, Prime Minister's Office

There are an additional 30 sites recommended by the public, and by Parish Independence Communities (PICs) in some level of research or awaiting research and site assessments.

NATIONAL INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

The National Intangible Cultural Heritage successfully implemented the project entitled, “ICH in Motion” with funding from UNESCO. The project was aimed at promoting the country’s intangible cultural heritage to its younger generation, while documenting information through the transmission of knowledge from the older generations. ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage in Motion’, utilized technology to facilitate and intensify knowledge sharing and exchange in order to connect the past to the present, and for the benefit of future generations.

The project envisaged utilizing a series of digital imaging technologies and strategies along with video production, and transmitting ICH through online forums via radio and virtual platforms. The digital images, videos and online video discussions (utilising zoom, google meet, etc.) highlighted key aspects of Barbados’ ICH captured through the voices of knowledge bearers and key images depicting Barbados’ intangible cultural heritage (ICH). The content examined contemporary changes of past practices within the five ICH domains. The project culminated with a live launch utilizing sounds, songs and images of Barbadian ICH.

The project also included a radio and television series. The radio series titled, “De True True Voice of Barbados”: ICH in Motion, presented the Barbadian public, who are perceived as the nation’s ICH stakeholders, with information from key Barbadian ICH knowledge bearers. The series, which primarily focused on public awareness and engagement as well as documenting ICH from incoming callers/participants, comprised of five online forums. Each online session addressed a particular ICH domain commencing with the performing arts and concluding with traditional craftsmanship.

Additionally, knowledge bearers were identified and interviewed for the 12 Part TV Series, “Unearthing our Intangible Cultural Heritage”. Each completed episode was aired November 2021, continuing to January 2022, on successive Mondays at 6pm (prime time) on the local television channel The Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). Plans are in place for the entire series to be distributed to a number of cultural entities to ensure their accessibility and visibility to all researchers and stakeholders.:

The National Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee also collaborated with the Barbados Museum & Historical Society to engage participants aged 16-30 to register for a free Intensive in 3D photogrammetry. 3D photogrammetry involved photographing objects and mapping the images to re-create the object in a 3D animated form.

This free Intensive aimed to share the skills in 3D photogramming through training with participants across four weeks in June 2022. The workshop had the two-fold benefit of adding to the body of digitally accessible knowledge of our intangible cultural heritage through its artefacts as well as capacity building for the future and continuing documentation of our intangible cultural heritage.

E. MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE SECTOR

The Small Business Association (SBA) continued to facilitate economic growth for small businesses in 2022. Several Business Support Organizations such as the Barbados Trust Fund Ltd (BTFL), Export Barbados (BIDC), Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) and Fund Access provided

opportunities for businesses and persons alike as well as several types of training such as social media marketing, financial literacy, costing and pricing, personal budgeting and debt management.

BTFL recorded 103 business start-ups predominately in the services and retail and distribution sectors which created 121 jobs, 100 grants valued at \$155,152.26 were provided and 480 loans were disbursed with a value of \$2,361,928.92.

Table 38: Small Loans Disbursed by BTFL in 2022

Sector	Loans	Value (\$)	Employed Persons	Loan %
Agriculture	75	379,470.65	96	15.6
Cultural & Creative Industries	9	40,188.22	13	1.9
Manufacturing	44	207,529.12	53	9.2
Retail & Distribution	165	824,209.29	213	34.4
Services	183	890,578.03	286	38.1
Tourism	4	19,953.61	4	0.8
Total	480	2,361,928.92	665	

SOURCE: The Barbados Trust Fund Ltd

There were also 22 business start-ups by Fund Access which created 63 jobs, provided 24 grants valued at \$175,000 and 29 loans valued at \$1.9 million were disbursed. Export Barbados has purposed itself to develop the Life Sciences industry with investment focused in Wellness, Agribusiness and the Blue Economy, and Biopharma and Medical Technology. \$1.6 million was disbursed in 2022 which was 44.5 percent less than the previous year and at least 69 percent of the disbursements were to expedite Equipment, Systems and Process upgrades. The Enterprise Growth Fund created 10 jobs and provided three grants valued at \$1.1 million. 23 loans were also distributed totalling \$5.35 million. The YES implemented nine training events, with 215 participants, and provided technical assistance of \$29,102.85. 30 businesses were started up and 30 jobs were created by the Scheme.

The SBA was responsible for 44 start-ups (inclusive of Cooperatives and Clusters formed) of which 119 jobs were created as well as retained. There were 12 business formalizations and increased sales directly related to SBA's intervention and support totalled \$3.2 million. In terms of Cooperatives, the SBA continued its cooperation with Barbados Medicinal Cannabis Licensing Authority (BMCLA) to assist those who wish to enter the industry but are not eligible on their own by using the co-operative business model. With the Trust Loan Fund, training commenced with business clusters, comprising of wine and spirit, beauty products and consumables, to have them operating like cooperatives to gain benefits that cooperatives receive. Five cooperatives were formed in 2022 which more than doubled the department's target of creating two cooperatives annually.

IV. POST COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND DOMESTIC RECOVERY

International Covid-19 Recovery progress

The post Covid-19 recovery for countries around the world requires a cohesive human centred recovery plan to build a more inclusive and sustainable future. In dealing with the post traumatic effects of the covid-19 crisis, new challenges have emerged along with more crystalized ones that relate to inequality and poverty.

The global post Covid-19 recovery has been gridlocked by persistent high rising inflationary pressures, labour market challenges, food supply and distribution supply chain challenges that have widened the inequality and poverty gaps for the poor and most vulnerable groups.

Many low-and middle-income developing countries are facing unsustainable external debt burdens, and increasing debt servicing costs amidst sharp and rising interest rates which have further compounded the clutches of their repayment capacity as growth levels remain weak.

Supply chain shortages have caused disruption in essential foods, nutrition supplements and life preservative medications. Such shortages have caused inflationary pressures on the prices of basic food, medical and other health medication, and supplementary prescriptions.

Regional and Domestic, specific to Barbados' COVID-19 Recovery Progress

Despite major challenges created by the COVID-19 Pandemic, natural disasters and external shocks economies in the region have struggled to survive. Barbados has made steady progress in implementing the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (BERT). A comprehensive sovereign debt restructuring and structural reforms strategy, developed amidst fiscal difficulties has opened up avenues for potential economic growth.

Barbados' stock of foreign reserves improved, public debt declined and new tax measures were introduced. A recovery and development policy loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IRBD)/World Bank in the amount of US\$100 million, supported the response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and ignited an economic recovery. This development policy loan complemented the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) Programme, and laid the foundation for the strategies/processes required for the growth and development that is desired.

The Covid-19 Pandemic directly and extensively impacted the domestic labour markets across the region, particularly in Barbados where many persons lost their means of livelihoods and incomes as businesses closed their doors. It slowed considerably the entire concept of productivity across sectors, and hence the whole notion of growth was severely reduced or non-existent in some instances.

The Government's commitment to investments in the national immunization programme and the protection of citizens was tenacious, even though it was faced with supply chain shortages and financial challenges in accessing critical medical and other health accessories. However, there is still a lot to be done to address and erase the level of vaccine hesitancy that exist among health workers and the general population.

Nevertheless, Government and the health and emergency services workers continued working tirelessly to provide appropriate policy direction, health care services and prescription medication for persons to have access to quality health service systems. All this within the context of knowing that healthy people transcend to a healthy productive society and nation.

V. SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS

A. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Executive Summary

Over the past year, the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training (METVT) has dedicated significant efforts in creating strategic and transformative ideas that will chart pathways in shaping and guiding the future development thrust of the education and training sector. The aim of this transformative thrust is to position the country to transition its social and economic development to meet world class standards by 2030. At the centre of this thrust is the continued investment in the development of our human resources while maximizing emerging digital technologies to educate, train, retrain, reskill, and upskill the products of the education and training sector who will be called on to fulfil a diverse local, regional, and global labour market.

A major guiding instrument in this transformative effort was the development of a Strategic Plan 2022-2027. This was built on, and driven by, a stakeholder consensus for the Ministry to be the principal agent and model of educational change, transformation and leadership grounded in world-class standards. The Plan articulates five (5) strategic pillars:

- To enhance overall student learning and achievement outcomes across the national education system;
- To strengthen the overall standards and practices for improving teachers' quality of instruction and professional development as well as for enhancing overall school leadership;
- To enhance the overall physical infrastructure and the technological, digital and innovative profile of the education system;
- To strengthen the institutional profile, operational functioning, and performance of the Ministry; and
- To strengthen and enhance the regulatory framework and environment governing the wider educational sector.

Education Budget

A comparative review of expenditure levels for financial years 2018/19 to 2022/23 reveals a general consistency across all education programmes and levels. Tertiary Education accounted for the largest percentage (32.05 percent on average) of Education Expenditure for the 2019/20 to 2022/23 financial years. While the percentage expenditure allocations to Primary and Secondary Education both fluctuated over the years, these fluctuations are typically contained within 1 to 3 percentage points year-on-year and reflect the Government's budgetary commitment to these mandatory educational levels.

With respect to the financial year 2022/2023 specifically, approved expenditure for the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training for the financial year 2021/2022 was \$570.1 million. This represented approximately 15.0 percent of total government expenditure. In

addition, approved expenditure for financial year 2022/2023 was \$36.9 million more, representing an increase of 7.6 percent when compared to the previous financial year's approved expenditure of \$533.2 million. Notably, there was a significant increase in the allocation for the Education Sector Enhancement Programme (ESEP) when compared with the previous year. This increased allocation is likely due, inter alia, to the purchasing of computer software as well as the acquisition of servers, printers and tablets for use in schools.

Economic Cost of Educating a Student

For the pre-primary and primary; secondary and post-secondary, non-tertiary; post-secondary, non-tertiary (Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology - SJPI); Erdiston Teachers' Training College (ETTC); and Barbados Community College (BCC) education levels, the economic cost of educating a student generally remained consistent over the five-year period.

Table 39: Approved Education Expenditure 2018/2019 to 2022/2023

Programme	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
Central Administration	20,619,512	14,311,625	15,727,208	16,217,958	15,256,853
Teacher Training	6,445,673	4,859,404	4,979,458	5,527,864	6,065,841
Primary Education	149,796,821	144,470,161	143,577,328	143,014,320	159,705,158
Nursery Education	279,857	313,250	131,498	61,498	61,498
Education Sector Enhancement Programme (ESEP)	7,480,019	4,831,291	9,375,597	2,707,276	6,843,893
Secondary Education	134,907,198	139,288,300	141,419,999	140,031,516	151,541,487
Tertiary Education	138,808,454	167,155,744	170,199,488	175,586,773	180,946,301
Special Services	36,305,534	33,280,352	31,460,599	27,861,375	29,842,601
Occupational Training	16,780,510	17,956,776	18,533,434	18,951,685	19,888,585
Total	511,423,578	526,466,903	535,404,609	533,283,665	570,152,217

SOURCE: Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training

In the case of the University of the West Indies (UWI) for the year 2017-2018, while that was the last year in which students who attended UWI Cave Hill were required to meet the cost of their tuition fees, the high per capita cost was reflective of the significant decline in student enrolment, when compared to Government's commitment to the economic cost. However, on the government's change on policy for the academic year 2018-2019, there was an observable increase in student enrolment and concomitant decrease in the per capita cost for students at UWI.

While the subsequent years show a decrease below the 2018-2019 period, this can be attributed to a fluctuation in student enrolments for the academic years, though not as significant a decline as in 2017-2018.

Table 40: Economic Cost of Educating a Student - Academic Years 2017-2018 to 2021-2022

	Expenditure per student by academic year (Bds\$)				
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Pre-primary and primary	5,017.74	5,400.77	5,550.65	5,852.14	7,678.53
Secondary and post-secondary; non-tertiary	5,857.00	6,299.88	6,480.00	6,367.93	3,494.21
Post-secondary; non-tertiary (SJPI)	7,517.82	8,042.39	10,137.06	8,544.61	7,967.97
Tertiary - ETTC	12,878.27	9,265.18	7,634.43	10,959.91	11,766.45
Tertiary - BCC	7,746.31	7,050.63	6,043.86	6,616.92	6,876.89
Tertiary - UWI	22,979.61	20,777.30	18,040.18	16,012.39	19,638.74

SOURCE: Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training

Note: Actual public expenditure and student enrolments as reported by institutions for the academic years were used.

SJPI – Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology

ETTC – Erdiston Teachers' Training College

BCC – Barbados Community College

Education Technical Management Unit

The Education Technical Management Unit (ETMU) has direct responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of eighty-five (85) public primary, nursery, and special schools, as well as the provision of guidance and oversight for maintenance and other capital works projects for public secondary schools as necessary. The ETMU also coordinates and implements capital projects which fall under the ambit of the METVT, and which are funded by Local, Regional and International Funding Agencies. The Unit performs pertinent procurement and administrative services and maintains the accounting systems for relevant projects and programmes.

General Maintenance Programme

The Unit continued the coordination and implementation of general maintenance at public primary and nursery schools during 2022. As at November 2022, a total of \$898,871.40 was committed for general repairs at public nursery and primary schools. Some of the works were of an urgent nature and were executed to address critical structural and environmental issues ahead of the new school year. The urgent works included roof leaks, mould remediation, and plumbing and electrical repairs. The Unit also facilitated termite treatments to fifteen (15) schools during the summer holiday at a cost of \$68,505.00.

Domestic Summer (Primary Schools Maintenance) Programme

Twenty-Five (25) projects were awarded under the Domestic Summer Programme (DSP) 2022. Twenty (20) projects have been completed. Outstanding activities (installation of island blade

louvre windows) from the scope of works specified for two (2) schools were to be completed by December 2022. The works at two (2) schools, namely Grantley Prescod Primary and St. Matthew's Primary, were deferred until the Christmas break. One (1) project did not commence due to the contractor's illness. The schools under the DSP 2022 received major repairs which included: replacement of roof sheets, guttering and ceiling as required; upgrades to prefabricated units, bathrooms, timber floors and nutrition rooms; and the provision of additional classroom space. The awarded contracts totalled \$2,330,598.04. There was an increase in expenditure (\$5,769.36) resulting from approved variations for additional work required to address the structural concerns at three (3) schools.

The Disaster Preparedness Initiative

Work undertaken under this initiative for the period under review included:

- The installation of water tanks: During Financial Year 2022/2023, the installation of 1,000-gallon potable water tanks at private shelters, consisting of thirteen (13) churches located in the parishes of St. Philip, Christ Church, St. Michael, and St. Lucy, was completed at an overall cost of \$291,162.10.
- Acquisition of generators: The procurement of Emergency Generator Sets is a priority component of the Hurricane Preparedness Initiative. This project commenced in 2019 with a budgetary allocation of \$1.9 Million for the supply and installation of back-up generators for Category 1 Public and Private Shelters. To comprehensively service the primary schools and allow for future expansion, the 36 KVA diesel generator set was selected. To date, twenty-one (21) generators have been installed. The sum of \$3,453,353 has been expended on this activity.

Nursery and Primary Section

Education Officers of the Nursery and Primary section continued their supervision of the managerial and administrative practices of public nursery, primary, and special needs schools, thus ensuring the effective functioning of the institutions.

Regular visits to schools resumed with the reopening of face-to-face school in February 2022. These visits were primarily focused on school readiness, such as the introduction of new principals and senior teachers, school organization and timetables, as well as the allocation of new temporary teachers.

The re-registration of private nursery, primary, secondary, and special needs schools was also undertaken, with one (1) new application being processed during the period under review. Activities that were completed during the period under review included the following:

- Procured and distributed furniture to forty-three (43) nursery and primary schools, according to needs. This contributed to improvements in the teaching and learning environment in schools.
- Processed requests submitted under the Primary Schools Textbook Scheme. Books were purchased for students at twenty-eight (28) primary schools.

- Thirteen (13) new applications were processed and approved for registration of Home-Schools. Twenty-five (25) applicants were granted permission to continue to home-school.

Erdiston Teachers' Training College

The Erdiston Teachers' Training College (ETTC) is the leading teacher education institution in Barbados, providing teacher education for practising teachers and persons who want to become teachers, as well as current leaders and persons aspiring to become leaders in our schools.

Throughout the review period, twenty-two (22) students completed the Bachelor's in Education Primary; thirty-nine (39) students completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Education Secondary; twenty-seven (27) students completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Special Education; forty-two (42) students completed the Postgraduate Diploma in Educational Leadership; thirty-eight (38) students completed the Diploma in Education Primary; three (3) students completed the Certificate in Art; four (4) students completed the Certificate in Physical Education; six (6) students completed the Technical and Vocational Teacher Training Programme in Adult Education and four (4) students were assessed in Literacy Diagnostic Assessment And Early Intervention Centre.

Barbados Community College

The overarching objective of the Barbados Community College (BCC) is to provide education and training in Barbados so that graduates would be able to contribute to the economic and social development of their country. In this age of information explosion, the educational and training programmes at the College must be relevant and systems must therefore be in place to allow for efficient programme implementation, review, and revision.

During the period under review, activities included the following:

- The BCC participated in the Barbados Construction Gateway Training Initiative (BCGTI), where the College offered the following nine (9) courses for the initiative: Boxing (Formwork); Bricklaying and Plastering; Tiling; Drywall Installation; Photovoltaic Installation (Electrical Technician); Basic Carpentry; Foundation Laying; Joinery and Cupboard Construction.
- The BCC launched the Coding and Robotics programme.
- The Barbados Language Centre (BLC) trained a contingent of Nurses (69) from Cuba in English as a Foreign Language (EFL) and hosted a Summer Blast, where EFL was taught to a group (22 persons) from Martinique/Guadeloupe.

Barbados Accreditation Council

During the year, four (4) tertiary educational providers were registered with the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC). The BAC issued 119 Certificates of Recognition of CARICOM Skills Qualification to eligible CARICOM Nationals and twelve (12) Statements of Recognition of Institutions and or Programmes; verified forty-two (42) Certificates of Recognition issued by other CARICOM Member States; evaluated twenty (20) foreign qualifications to local awards; and completed eight (8) Recognition and Verification of qualifications.

Barbados Vocational Training Board

For the review period, some of the work undertaken by the Barbados Vocational Training Board (BVTB) included:

- Signature of a MOU with Parkinson Memorial Secondary School which will provide increased opportunities in vocational training and certification for students.
- Participation in collaborative discussions with the Fisheries Division for the development of training content in boat building and repairs.
- Delivering training to 279 enrolled persons over two (2) Cohorts of the Barbados Construction Gateway Training Initiative.
- Developing new course content in the areas of Well Digging, Well-Cleaning and Maintenance; Gabion Building, Painting, Taping and Pasting, and Textured Wall Coating.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council

During the review period, the work of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council included:

- The awarding of 295 National/Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (N/CVQs), comprising 186 full awards and 109 unit Statements of Competence;
- Certifying eleven (11) candidates through Prior Learning Assessment and Recognitions (PLAR);
- Developing nine (9) NVQs and validated and approving three (3) CVQs for local use;
- Participation in WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition, which was held in Lucerne Switzerland, and established the inaugural WorldSkills Barbados Champions Committee (WSBCC) which was launched in April 2022;
- Convening the WSB Juniors Future Skills Camp (WSBJ FSC) online, in collaboration with WorldSkills Dominican Republic/National Institute for Professional and Technical Training (INFOTEP) for forty-three (43) campers; and
- Training of 590 persons under Cohorts 1 and 2 of the Barbados Construction Gateway Training Initiative (BCGTI).

Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology

For the period under review, the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI) delivered training to 1,495 students. 850 students were enrolled in full-time programmes, of which 738 were first years, 238 were second years and twenty-six (26) were third years. Included in this data were twelve (12) international students, of which six (6) were new students and six (6) were returning

students. The SJPI also delivered training to thirty (30) Day Release and seventy-nine (79) trainees for the Next Step Initiative programme for the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Community Empowerment.

Additionally, 653 students were enrolled in Continuing Education courses and programmes, of which 310 were males and 343 were females.

In addition, during the year, the SJPI:

- opened the newly renovated library to students as the Media Resource Centre in February 2022;
- Participated in the launching of the Barbados Construction Gateway Training Initiative and the commencement of training in eight (8) disciplines;
- Five (5) students from the Electrical Division were awarded the National Beautification Ozone Depleting Scholarship worth \$1,100.00 each; and
- The CVQ Office partnered with the Barbados Accreditation Council (BAC) to conduct skills verification for CSME applicants. A total of forty-three (43) persons were assessed and recommended for certification.

Examinations of the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC)

Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC)

During the examination period of June 2022, forty-six (46) of the 20,158 original subject entries were deferred and 1,503 were not administered due to absence. 61 percent of the CSEC examinations taken by students of public and private schools resulted in passes at grade I, II or III, representing a reduction from 68 percent in 2021. Of the 4,706 students (2,107 males and 2,599 females), 84 percent gained passes in at least one (1) subject, whilst 46 percent passed five or more subjects in the year's sittings. These proportions marked a decrease compared to 88 percent and 52 percent in 2021, respectively.

Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)

The CAPE examinations taken by students of public and private schools resulted in 92 percent passes, at grades I through V, for each of the Unit 1 and Unit 2 proficiency levels. 99.6 percent of the 1,330 public and private school students (544 males and 786 females) received at least one (1) pass at either unit level.

Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP)

The Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity (BIMAP) continued to offer a number of certificate courses, diplomas, seminars and short courses during 2022. A total of 2,251 students were enrolled in 2022. This was 621 persons more than the previous year's total enrolment of 1,630 persons. The overall student enrolment for 2022 consisted of 32.0 percent males and 68.0 percent females.

For 2022, the number of 45-hour certificate courses offered by BIMAP declined from 140 courses to 108 courses. The number of seminars and short courses offered also declined from twenty-three (23) to eighteen (18). In addition, there was an increase in new students enrolling in the Bachelor of Business Administration programme and the Professional Development Programme; while there were declines recorded in the number of new students enrolling in the Diploma in Management Studies; Certificate in Management Studies; Information Technology Professional Certification (ACCA); Youth Empowerment; and Advanced Certificate programmes; as well as in the partnership programme with the Barbados Youth Advanced Corps.

National Transformation Initiative

Since its inception in 2020, the National Transformation Initiative (NTI) has developed a dossier of content in various forms aimed at embracing the multiple intelligences and varying ways in which we learn and communicating our message nationally. A central strategic priority for the NTI in 2022 was transforming our citizens, ensuring their free access to the licenses acquired from Coursera, with thousands of learning opportunities. Meaningful outreach, sharing the success stories and aligning our messaging and our learning opportunities remain important.

During 2022, the NTI trained 1,955 persons under their bespoke training interventions. To date, 22,939 students have enrolled in courses offered under the NTI's Learning Management System; while 34,238 persons enrolled in courses under the partnership between the NTI and Coursera. Learning Management System

Under the NTI's Learning Management System, the most popular online courses to date have been: Citizenship, with 21,305 students (22.8 percent of the total); followed by Online Safety, with 13,260 students (14.2 percent of the total); Entrepreneurship, with 11,221 students (13.1 percent of the total); Occupational Health and Safety, with 11,497 students (12.3 percent of the total); Beginners Sign Language, with 11,455 students (12.3 percent of the total); Core Skills, with 11,410 students (12.1 percent of the total); Introduction to Coding with JAVA, with 11,116 students (11.9 percent of the total); and Personal Financial Management, with 1,179 students (1.3 percent of the total).

NTI's Partnership with Coursera

In relation to NTI's partnership with Coursera, the following training tracks were added during 2022, bringing the total number available to sixteen (16):

- Agriculture
- Building and Construction
- Climate Change and Environmental Management
- Financial Advisors
- Health and Wellness
- Legal Practitioners and Governance
- Media Academy
- Manufacturing and Retail
- Sports Academy
- Leadership Academy

The main areas of skills development during 2022 continued to be business, data science and computer science. However, the proportion of these three (3) areas changed when compared with the previous year. The area of business remained the top area but its share was reduced from 60.0 percent in 2021 to 45.0 in 2022. However, the proportion of data science courses increased from 20.1 percent in 2021 to 27.7 percent in 2022; while the proportion of computer science courses increased from 19.9 percent in 2021 to 27.4 percent in 2022.

Other Partnerships and Bespoke Training

During the period under review, the NTI continued to facilitate and negotiate partnerships to complement the existing work being done by other institutions and to open new opportunities to expand NTI's reach as well as to create opportunities for access to courses offered by both NTI and Coursera. Institutions with which the NTI has negotiated new partnerships during 2022 included the University of the West Indies; the Barbados Entrepreneurship Foundation; the Guyana Tourism Association and the Guyana Tourism Authority; and the Youth Development Programme and Youth Development Fund, both of Kenya.

The NTI, in partnership with various institutions, facilitated fifteen (15) courses and trained 533 participants (of which 429 persons, representing approximately 80.5 percent, completed the courses) from twenty-one (21) properties under the Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) Tourism Training Programme during 2022. Overall, the NTI trained a total of 3,083 workers from fifty-seven (57) properties under the BEST programme during the period 2020 to 2022, when the programme concluded.

The NTI also designed bespoke training for various agencies during 2022, including the following:

- Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, which resulted in 120 persons being trained under their Pathways programme;
- Barbados Youth Advance Corps, which resulted in thirty-one (31) persons being trained under their Technical Vocational Transitional Literacy Programme;
- Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership Relations – sixty (60) persons were trained under their Job Start Plus programme.

B. YOUTH, SPORTS AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP SCHEME

During the period April 2022 to January 2023, work undertaken by the Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) to contribute to their strategic objective of creating economic impact included:

- Stimulated youth employment and new venture creation through the expansion of twenty-two (22) existing businesses and the formalisation of thirteen (13) businesses;
- The generation of thirty (30) new jobs;
- The provision of business counselling to seventy-three (73) new clients to provide guidance on the development of ideas for business development, enterprise operational enhancement, internal structural development and general product and service diversification;

- The delivery of approximately 219 business solutions for better management to young entrepreneurs;
- The delivery of 252 hours of Entrepreneurial Development Training to 119 participants;
- The facilitation of entrepreneurship workshops within communities, schools and third-sector agencies to two hundred and twenty-nine (229) participants on topics ranging from entrepreneurship, money management, costing and pricing, marketing, Business Model Canvas and Idea Creation; and
- The provision of technical assistance to nine (9) businesses, valued at \$16,591.85.

BARBADOS YOUTH ADVANCE CORPS

The Barbados Youth Advance Corps (BYAC) engaged a fifth Cohort of trainees during the year. This intake commenced with a pre-residential programme during September 2022, which lasted for six (6) weeks. The residential programme for this cohort commenced during November 2022 with 183 trainees, consisting of 122 males and sixty-one (61) females and is scheduled to conclude during January 2023.

Additionally, 104 trainees participated in the 2022 National Independence Parade at Kensington Oval. The BYAC was allocated three (3) detachments for this parade. For the first time, the BYAC fielded an all-female detachment. In total, over 300 trainees from the five (5) cohorts participated in the march from Kensington Oval to Queens Park.

TRAINING ACHIEVEMENTS – BYAC

Some of the training undertaken by trainees in the BYAC included:

- Eleven (11) male trainees received training in the installation of Fabric Shutters through the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training. This training was completed during August 2022 and was undertaken to support the efforts of that Ministry in having a cadre of personnel to be able to install the fabric shutters at Category 1 Hurricane Shelters across Barbados;
- A total of seventy-four trainees (74) trainees from Cohort 4 were on-boarded to participate in the Online Financial Literacy Programme facilitated by the Barbados Cooperative & Credit Union League Limited (BCCUL) in September 2022; and
- During the reporting period, 231 trainees from Cohorts 1 to 4, comprising of 154 males and seventy-seven (77) females, were actively employed in various employment exercises in both the public and private sector, covering areas including construction, hospitality, security, administration and retail.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment engaged employers throughout various sectors to facilitate employability programmes such as the Pathways Employability Programme, and the “Get Into” and “Get Hired” Employability Initiatives. The latter two (2) initiatives are facilitated in collaboration with the Prince’s Trust International UK.

Over the financial year 2022-2023, 401 young persons, consisting of 160 males and 241 females, have benefitted from these employability programmes.

SPORTS

During the year, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment initiated a programme to assist Barbadian athletes who were unable to access SAT tutoring and examinations for admission to colleges in the United States due to their inability to meet the cost. The inaugural cohort comprised of twenty-two (22) students, all of whom completed the training.

Also, during the year, the Government of Barbados, through the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, signed a Bilateral Agreement in the area of Sports, with the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.

The Ministry facilitated several road tennis exhibitions and initiatives during the year, including a road tennis exhibition in Rwanda to operationalise the Bilateral Agreement between Barbados and Rwanda.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

During the financial year under review, the Community Arts Programme (CAP), under the Community Development Department, focused on product development, providing the tutors in the CAP the opportunity to produce art pieces for sale. This was seen as an important initiative to reduce their dependency on facilitating classes.

Twelve (12) students from the workshops are now members of Impacts Art Club, an art club which serves as a platform for the continued development of former outstanding students from the CAP.

During the last two (2) years, improvements were made to the CAP for greater relevance, efficiency and effectiveness. Courses offered in Airbrushing, Drawing and Illustration, Animation and Computer Graphics, were expanded to include: Caricature and Character Creation; Body Art; Automotive Art and Spray Painting; Costume Design and Wire Bending; Ceramics; Sign Painting; and Screen Printing.

C. POPULATION

The resident population was estimated at 267.8 thousand persons at the end of 2022. This included 129.4 thousand males and 138.4 thousand females, which accounted for 48.3 percent and 51.7 percent respectively of the overall population. In contrast to 2021, the population fell by 1,577 persons from an estimated 269.4 thousand persons, with decreases recorded in both the male (754 persons) and female (823 persons) populations, which were estimated at 130.1 thousand males and 139.2 thousand females.

The population growth rate continued to decline at a rate 0.58 in 2022, consistent with the previous year. Despite this, the birth rate increased to 8.5 per thousand in 2022 compared from 8.2 per thousand in 2021. There was a total of 2,274 live births recorded in 2022, representing an increase of 3.0 percent (67 births) from the 2,207 live births registered in 2021. A total of 1,139 male births and 1,139 female live births were recorded in 2022, in comparison to the 1,137 males and 1,070 females registered in the previous year.

The death rate also increased from 10.7 per thousand in 2021 to 12.5 per thousand in 2022. A total number of 3,354 deaths were recorded in 2022, which comprised of 1,726 males and 1,628 females. This represented an increase of 457 total deaths registered, compared to 1,478 male deaths and 1,419 female deaths recorded for 2021. Infant mortality improved in 2022 to a rate of 10.1 per thousand births, compared to the rate of 12.7 per thousand births in the previous year.

Table 41: Population Indicators 2000-2022

Year	Registered Births	Registered Deaths	Mid - Year Population ('000 persons)
2000	3,642	2,444	268.8
2001	4,052	2,408	269.9
2002	3,828	2,300	270.8
2003	3,768	2,283	271.6
2004	3,474	2,435	272.4
2005	3,511	2,169	273
2006	3,415	2,296	273.4
2007	3,536	2,213	274.2
2008	3,546	2,475	274.8
2009	3,554	2,433	275.4
2010	3,443	2,198	277.8
2011	3,110	2,300	277.8
2012	3,175	2,321	277.7
2013	3,271	2,456	277.5
2014	2,907	2,590	277.1
2015	2,877	2,570	276.6
2016	2,546	2,584	275.9
2017	2,945	2,634	274.9
2018	2,416	2,388	273.8
2019	2,591	2,896	272.9
2020	3,985	4,751	271.4
2021	3,771	4,893	270.2
2022	2,279	3,354	268.7

Source: Barbados Statistical Service

D. HEALTH

OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MHW) made significant progress in developing plans and strategies to strengthen Barbados' health system in 2022. The Ministry's focus has been on creating policies and programmes to address challenges such as Non-Communicable Diseases, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and the emergence of new and re-emerging communicable diseases such as COVID-19. To achieve this, the MHW has explored cost-effective and sustainable approaches as well as examined new ways to finance healthcare to ensure Universal Health Coverage for the population of Barbados.

The MHW remained committed to achieving Universal Health Coverage, as articulated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 – "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages".

During the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the MHW implemented a comprehensive set of public health measures adapted to the local context and epidemiology of the disease. However, during 2022, a number of these measures were relaxed, as more people were being vaccinated and transmissions generally declined. It was against this prevailing epidemiological landscape and supported by regional and international evidence accumulated, that the National COVID-19 Emergency Management Order and its Directives ended on December 22, 2022. However, persons were still required to adhere to the local policy outlined, particularly in health care institutions, in order to access services. COVID-19 prevention and control protocols were amended to guide daily operations for primary healthcare and elderly care facilities of the MHW and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Also, due to the low levels of COVID-19 spread with respect to schools and other educational institutions, optional mask wearing for students and staff was supported, and the same option was offered for those persons travelling on public service vehicles. The MHW continued to promote personal responsibility as a means of reducing spread and infection but actively monitors emerging trends and case rates to inform policy decisions.

A Rapid Assessment undertaken by the WHO on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, revealed that the disruption of health services was particularly problematic for those living with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and in need of regular care. For Barbados, this also proved a challenge which necessitated the Ministry's intensification of efforts to address continuity of care for these vulnerable persons.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, efforts to combat NCDs continued, with the MHW utilising the Strategic Plan for NCDs to support its initiatives. This Plan for NCDs aims to provide direction for NCD policy and programmes by urging government agencies, civil society, and the private sector to take the lead in preventing and controlling NCDs at the national level.

In summary, the preservation of our healthcare system as robust, effective and efficient still remains of paramount significance to the MHW. In the year under review, the emphasis was placed on the development of policies and programmes aimed at promoting wellness, while at the same time ensuring the provision of quality health services to the public of Barbados.

HEALTH BUDGET

For the Financial Year 2022-2023, the Ministry was allocated the sum of \$343.4 million to meet the cost of operations in the provision of healthcare to Barbadians and permanent residents. This represents an increase of \$65.7 million or 23.7 percent when compared to \$277.6 million for the Financial Year 2021-2022. The majority of funds were allocated to Hospital Services, mainly the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and the Psychiatric Hospital; and the Primary Health Care Programme. The Ministry also placed importance on the Pharmaceutical Programme and activities related to Covid-19 Prevention & Control. For the Ministry, Health Promotion remained a critical strategy, with emphasis placed on strengthening the Elderly Care Programme, Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention and Management, and Nutrition Programme.

Table 42: Health Expenditure by Programme 2021/2022 and 2022/2023

Programme	2021/2022	2022/2023
Direction and Policy Formulation Services	15,715,936	21,847,731
Primary Health Care Services	44,916,433	54,743,173
Hospital Services	146,898,162	164,276,268
Care of the Disabled	3,332,635	3,432,650
Pharmaceutical Programme	22,972,862	24,210,852
Care of the Elderly	33,542,981	38,787,414
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project	6,621,843	5,917,519
COVID-19 Prevention and Control	0	26,343,082
Environmental Health Services	3,634,369	3,794,963
Total	277,635,221	343,353,652

SOURCE: Planning and Research Unit, Ministry of Health and Wellness (Based on approved estimates of expenditure.)

HEALTHCARE FINANCING

The Ministry of Health and Wellness is committed to the development of a new sustainable health-financing framework. The framework will be underpinned by a health system approach that considers alternative models of accumulating funds, paying hospitals and health care providers, and establishing a system of accountability that enhances the performance of the health care system.

In 2022, the Ministry collaborated with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) to conduct an International Review of Health Financing Reform Options in Barbados. Various stakeholders were invited to participate, including government agencies, academic institutions, professional organisations, insurance companies, and non-governmental organisations. The Mission Consultants provided a report with recommendations for the consideration of the Barbadian government.

DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

In 2022, the Ministry of Health and Wellness conducted a maturity assessment, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, to analyse the country's maturity on Information Systems for Health (IS4H) and Digital Transformation. The key points from the discussion include developing a data analysis mechanism for MedData application, study tours to three (3) potential countries, establishing an interoperability framework to govern data exchange, and establishing a governance structure for IS4H. The assessment has enabled the Ministry to determine the priority areas for action with the understanding that some activities will be implemented over the long-term.

Another supporting mechanism for the strengthening of the Health Information System is the partnership between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The European Union (EU) has made a grant of 4.6 million Euros available to the Government of Barbados.

This grant, which is being administered by the IDB, will support the modernisation of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital's delivery of public health services by strengthening the capacity of its current IT department, providing client devices and other necessary IT infrastructure to support digital transformation, facilitating the design and implementation of a change management programme, and facilitating the design of the policy framework and strategies to guide the digital transformation process.

BARBADOS DRUG SERVICE

The mandate of the Barbados Drug Service is to provide quality pharmaceuticals for Barbadians, permanent residents, and qualifying nationals from CARICOM countries.

In the calendar year 2022, private sector pharmacies dispensed a total of 749,163 prescriptions on behalf for the Special Benefits Service, at a cost of \$7,505,212.16; while public sector pharmacies dispensed 1,069,826 prescriptions at a cost of \$15,191,287.70.

Pharmacovigilance Department

The World Health Organization (WHO) established its Programme for International Drug Monitoring and promoted pharmacovigilance at the country level. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pharmacovigilance Department took a very active part in vaccine monitoring and side effects reporting and follow-up.

The aim of the ongoing pharmacovigilance monitoring is to enhance patient care and patient safety in relation to the use of medicines; and to support public health programmes by providing reliable, balanced information for the effective assessment of the risk-benefit profile of medicines.

The Pharmacovigilance Centre assisted the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) with collecting and collating the adverse reactions reported with respect to the vaccines during the COVID-19 immunisation programme. During the year 2022, the Drug Service received ninety (90) reports when compared to 2020-2021, when one hundred and twenty-nine (129) reports were received.

Drug Information Centre

The Drug Information Centre provides required drug reviews and information for the Barbadian Health Care Sector and the public. It oversees the provision of some drugs to the public, which may not be on the Barbados drug formulary, but which are required for the proper management of certain illnesses.

There were 4,243 requests for reviews during the reporting period. The Drug Service spent a total of \$1,612,509.79 to satisfy these requests for 2022, compared to \$1,871,750.66 in the 2020-2021 financial year.

BEST-DOS SANTOS PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

In 2022, the Laboratory processed over 500,000 tests and became the main resource for COVID-19 PCR testing, conducting over 300,000 tests. Despite a decrease in demand for routine services during the 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, demand and programmes for routine tests gradually increased in 2022, with an additional emphasis on enhancing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance.

Internationally, the Laboratory collaborated with organisations such as the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), PAHO/WHO, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and hosted a regional training on molecular detection of COVID-19 and Influenza in December 2022.

ELDERLY CARE

At the beginning of 2022, the island's four (4) geriatric hospitals had a total capacity of 512 beds. However, with the closure of the Gordon Cummins District Hospital in June 2022, total capacity was reduced to 466 beds.

St. Michael District Hospital

During 2022, the St. Michael District Hospital continued to provide quarantine/isolation services to its clients and to those from the St. Philip and Gordon Cummins District Hospitals. As a result of re-designating two (2) of its wards for quarantine/isolation, capacity was reduced to 247 beds.

This Hospital received 195 referrals, consisting of ninety-three (93) males and 102 females, during 2022. This represented an increase of thirty-two (32) referrals when compared with 2021.

A total of thirty-nine (39) persons were admitted to the St. Michael District Hospital, with the majority transferred on discharge from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. It is anticipated that the levels of admissions will continue to rise with the continued decrease in COVID-19 cases in the community, and the completion of major repairs on wards 9B and 10B.

The need for geriatric health care services is expected to surpass current capacity. However, the hospital's capacity will increase with the completion of a new facility at Waterford, St. Michael. Construction has commenced and is scheduled to be completed in October 2024.

St. Philip District Hospital

During 2022, extensive repairs continued at the St. Philip District Hospital. This impacted Ward A2, Ward B2 and the Evalina Smith Ward. To date, the repairs on Ward A2 have been completed.

Fifteen (15) female clients from the Gordon Cummins District Hospital have been relocated to that ward. In addition, seven (7) male clients from the Gordon Cummins District Hospital were absorbed on other wards.

Gordon Cummins District Hospital

This hospital, which housed forty-eight (48) clients, was closed in June 2022. As a result, the clients were absorbed into the St. Michael District Hospital and St. Philip District Hospital.

St. Lucy District Hospital

In July 2022, the bed capacity at this hospital increased from twenty-two (22) to thirty-six (36) after a second ward was added to accommodate elderly clients who remained at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) after receiving acute health care services. After admission, these clients are rehabilitated by QEH clinical personnel and discharged.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE PROGRAMME

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacted healthcare systems, altering patient behaviour and disrupting the management of chronic non-communicable diseases. Many specialty and auxiliary services, like podiatry, were temporarily suspended, as were community outreach programmes and home visits. This period of disruption significantly influenced the delivery and accessibility of core services in polyclinics. Dental Health services were notably affected, an indication of the wide-ranging effects of the pandemic on healthcare activities.

However, despite significant challenges, several auxiliary and specialty clinics, including podiatry, nutrition, dermatology, and mental health, have resumed operations. Particularly noteworthy is the reopening of the geriatric clinic at the Branford Taitt Polyclinic. Interestingly, during the early stages of recovery, there was an increase in patients seeking Community Mental Health Services, Speech Therapy, and Physiotherapy services, reflecting the psychological impact of the pandemic on individuals. Child health attendance, however, experienced a sharp decline, resulting in lower immunisation coverage. Thankfully, 2022 saw a reversal in this trend, setting a positive trajectory for the future.

Despite these improvements, the pandemic underscored challenges within current healthcare delivery methods, highlighting the need for more diversity and resilience in service provision. Additionally, these challenges necessitate intense efforts to adjust health-seeking behaviours of the public, marking a complex path toward recovery and the reinvention of healthcare in a post-pandemic era.

HEALTH PROMOTION

Throughout the year 2022, the Health Promotion Unit (HPU) dedicated its efforts towards fostering an environment that supports physical, social, and mental well-being.

As part of the COVID-19 response, the HPU, along with the Ministry, teamed up with the Barbados Government Information Service (BGIS) and other stakeholders to emphasise the importance of protecting the elderly and promoting the uptake of booster vaccines. The HPU also collaborated with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to launch a campaign aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 during the Crop-Over season. A key component of this initiative was the engagement of influencers in society to spread essential messages about COVID-19, culminating in the launch of the 'We Ting' campaign.

Simultaneously, the HPU coordinated various wellness initiatives in collaboration with the National Task Force on Wellness. Celebrating World Health Day 2022, the HPU, in partnership with the Barbados Defence Force (BDF), held the 'Moving for Our Health' event, which included three (3) hours of physical activity. Additionally, the weekly 'Sneaker Friday' initiative was launched to encourage health staff to incorporate more physical activity into their daily routines. The year also saw the launch of the 'Barbados Get Up and Move' social media campaign, featuring a series of videos promoting various sports and physical activities prevalent in Barbados.

In addition to these initiatives, the HPU participated in the Caribbean Wellness Day celebration in September 2022, hosted by the National Task Force on Wellness. The Health Fair offered opportunities for health screening, physical activity, health education, and sampling of healthy recipes, with support from corporate entities, civil society organisations, and other Government Ministries.

Also, the HPU coordinated a Chronic Disease Self-Management workshop, focusing on education sessions covering nutrition, physical activity, stress management, medication management, and rest and relaxation techniques. The workshop, facilitated by the Eunice Gibson Polyclinic and the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, targeted unemployed individuals from lower socio-economic brackets.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) is the country's primary acute care medical facility, providing 94 percent of all hospital beds in the island. The QEH is also an accredited teaching hospital affiliated with the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus; as well as nursing and allied health care programmes offered by the Barbados Community College (BCC) and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI). During the reporting period, the hospital continued to deliver a wide range of clinical services, focused on compassionate, professional and effective patient-centred care with minimal disruption, as the institution continued its post-COVID service recovery and response to the COVID-19 impact on delivery of tertiary healthcare.

In-Patient Services

The leading in-patient services for admissions were Medicine, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Surgery and Paediatrics. The average length of stay for the year 2022 (including Intensive Care Units) was 7.8 days while the total number of admissions for the same period was 14,643. During this period, there were 109,936 out-patient visits and the leading out-patient services activity continued to be concentrated on Medicine, Obstetrics, Ophthalmology, Surgery, and Radiotherapy. Patient visits recorded for this period showed an 11.0 percent increase over pre-pandemic figures. This was attributed

to the phased return to on-site outpatient utilisation previously reduced during the height of the pandemic across all specialties. Minimising waiting times, maximising productivity and improving the patient experience remained a critical priority for the QEH.

Table 43: Average Bed Utilization Rates at QEH 2015-2022

Year	Admissions	Patient Days	Average Length of Stay (days)	Bed Occupancy Rate (%)
2015	18,245	111,056	6.2	54.5
2016	18,546	122,451	6.5	61.7
2017	17,155	110,966	6.0	58.2
2018	18,091	124,975	6.7	68.8
2019	18,088	123,448	6.6	70.5
2020	15,771	117,747	7.4	61.5
2021	13,931	108,606	7.8	52.9
2022P	14,643	115,249	7.8	62.7

SOURCE: Medical Records Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital
P - Provisional

The Accident and Emergency Department (AED) recorded 26,330 patient visits for the period under review, with 6,728 patients admitted, accounting for 50.4 percent of total hospital admissions. Observation of patient visits to the AED during this period showed no significant changes in department utilisation and patient acuity, when compared with 26,110 patient visits and 6,918 patients admitted in 2021. The stabilisation in patient visits continued to demonstrate the impact of initiatives implemented to improve the delivery of emergency care, including ongoing public education on accessing care in the AED; the recommended use of the QEH Help Desk for general queries; and public use of the 24-hour polyclinic service at the Winston Scott Polyclinic.

Patients seen at the AED were triaged and categorised by the severity of illness as follows:

- Patients with life-threatening conditions (1.5 percent);
- Patients with urgent, but not life-threatening conditions (9.0 percent);
- Patients with non-urgent medical conditions but require treatment at the hospital (61.8 percent);
- Patients with non-urgent conditions who can be seen elsewhere (23.9 percent); and
- Patients seen previously and have scheduled reviews (3.8 percent).

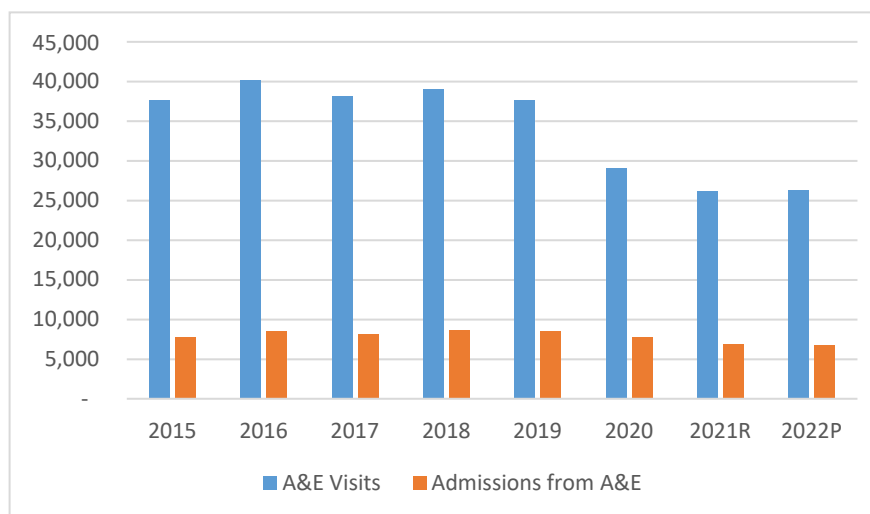
Reduction in Surgery Backlog

During the period under review, a targeted approach was taken to the reduction of the backlog in surgical procedures. In the case of Orthopaedics, after a protracted period of no activity, a pilot

programme for hip replacement was successfully completed in December 2022. With respect to ophthalmology, a six (6) month project to address the backlog in cataract procedures was also completed in December, with 90.0 percent of the backlog being cleared. A proposal for addressing the long wait-time for non-urgent paediatric cases was also conceptualised.

Transitional Community Care Programme

Figure 18: Accident & Emergency Department Visits and Admissions 2015-2022



SOURCE: Medical Records Department, Queen Elizabeth Hospital

R – Revised

P - Provisional

The Transitional Community Care Programme, formerly called the Community Outreach Programme, was launched on October 14, 2020 with the aim of engaging persons in the community who have high-risk NCD profiles and are dependent on QEH outpatient services, namely, Cardiovascular and Diabetes clinics. The programme has made significant progress and is fully interfacing with clients in the community. These higher risk profile clients have a significant burden on healthcare services and enhancing their care is of paramount importance.

September 2022 saw the refocusing of attention to the referral process and the programme's structure. The programme successfully expanded its reach across the hospital to encompass multiple specialty areas with the help of a bed management and discharge planning committee. This has allowed the QEH to realise the goal of coordinating care from the time of admission to hospital by reviewing referrals for possible admission to the programme and taking appropriate action.

Patient Relations

The QEH Patient Relations Department was officially inaugurated in August 2022. This department is dedicated to ensuring that patients and their families have a positive experience while in

the hospital's care. The department also provides assistance to all hospital clients in navigating the hospital system and its services.

Through the work of three (3) sub-departments: Patient Relations Representatives (PRRs); Patient Advice & Liaison Service; and Receptionists, the department acts as a liaison between the patients and the hospital, pre-emptively providing valuable information while also receiving and acting upon queries, complaints, comments and compliments. The PRRs have a physical presence in the Accident & Emergency Department (AED), as well as seven (7) high traffic wards, while the Receptionists are present at the Main and Private Entrances. The Patient Advice & Liaison Service is a telephone service for all in and out-patients. The department focuses overall on the patient experience and aims to be the hub for patient information at the hospital.

HIV/STI PROGRAMME

The Ladymeade Reference Unit (LRU) clinic remains the main provider of HIV treatment and care services in Barbados. It offers various services, including the dispensation of antiretroviral drugs, prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections, and management of acute and chronic diseases for persons living with HIV (PLHIV). To enhance accessibility, a Shared Care model is employed that extends services to other sites, such as the Barbados Family Planning Association and Equals Barbados. As at December 2022, 2,685 persons have registered at LRU. There were sixty-eight (68) new registrations and 1,440 people on antiretroviral therapy.

On the other hand, STI screening and clinical services, following an 18-month hiatus, resumed at the STI clinic, located at the Winston Scott Polyclinic, in April 2022. Alongside these, health promotion and educational efforts, based on the 2020 HIV/STI communication strategy, continued to be implemented in order to curb the spread of HIV, STIs and Viral Hepatitis. Also, HIV prevention activities such as HIV testing services, condom programming, prevention of mother to child HIV transmission, and pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis services were ongoing at the LRU and other clinics. In particular, the provision of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a preventive measure for non-infected individuals, was extended to the St Philip Polyclinic and the Barbados Family Planning Association during August 2022.

SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

Dengue Fever

Dengue Fever is considered endemic to Barbados and sporadic cases are expected to occur throughout the year, with higher numbers often observed in the first three months of the year, or the last three months of the year in a non-outbreak year. In 2021, 448 cases were suspected and 133 were confirmed to be dengue fever, while in 2022, there were 335 suspected cases, but there were no confirmed cases.

Chikungunya

Chikungunya virus disease was introduced to Barbados in 2014, and a sporadic number of cases have been recorded since then. In 2022, there were no confirmed cases, despite the testing of 167 suspected cases.

Respiratory Diseases

In March 2020, the first two (2) cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in Barbados, and weekly numbers showed a first peak four (4) weeks later with twenty-three (23) cases. Since then, and up to December 2022, five (5) distinct waves of infection were experienced in-country, likely fuelled by changes in the circulating variants of the COVID-19 virus. Up to December 11th, 2022, 104,510 cases had been diagnosed and there had been 568 deaths, giving a crude case fatality ratio of 0.54 percent. Older age was a significant risk factor for serious illness and death with COVID-19, with death occurring predominantly among persons aged seventy (70) years or older, with multiple co-morbidities, especially hypertension, diabetes or previous stroke.

Syndromic surveillance also continued for respiratory diseases, syndromes, indicating other vector-borne diseases and injuries during the year. Levels of respiratory infection continued to remain low from June 2020 and through to 2022, most likely attributable to the infection prevention measures instituted for COVID-19 as well as decreased use of health-care facilities on island.

Laboratory testing for influenza and other respiratory diseases effectively ceased from June 2020, as resources were concentrated on testing for the COVID-19 virus and there were no results for any other viruses than COVID-19 in 2021. Influenza was the second most common respiratory virus isolated in 2022, as an assay that could test for both COVID-19 and Influenza was utilised on most samples and a few cases of co-infection were recorded. From 1,031 samples tested, 256 of these were noted to be Influenza A, of which one (1) was sub-typed AH1N1 and eleven (11) were subtyped AH3N2.

Three (3) cases of tuberculosis (TB) were confirmed by laboratory testing in 2020 and 2021. Two (2) cases of TB were confirmed in 2022. All these cases had infection in the lungs only, they were domiciled in Barbados, and none were drug resistant.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a vector-borne disease of rodents, which most often occurs in the rainy seasons and may present as fever with jaundice. There were fifteen (15) cases and one (1) death in 2019, and twelve (12) cases without any deaths in 2020. Five (5) cases were recorded in 2021 and eight (8) were recorded in 2022.

Public education was focused on helping persons to discourage rodent proliferation by decreasing breeding sites and food sources as well as reducing exposure to rodent droppings by using appropriate personal protective equipment while gardening or cleaning animal houses.

Gastroenteritis

Gastroenteritis outbreaks in Barbados, tend to be viral or may be related to contamination of foodstuffs. Salmonella or Campylobacter bacteria were the main organisms identified. Viruses causing gastroenteritis were infrequently identified and consisted mostly of rotavirus or norovirus. In 2022, one (1) rotavirus sample was identified; whereas in 2020 and 2021, zero cases of rotavirus and norovirus were diagnosed for the entire year. In 2019, five (5) cases of rotavirus and six (6) cases of norovirus

were diagnosed. The number of gastroenteritis cases remained low from mid-March 2020 (Epi-week 12) until the end of 2022, despite an initial increase in cases earlier in the year (2020) that was concurrent with a spike in respiratory disease cases.

In a broader developmental context, the MHW has key roles to fulfil in ensuring the sustained development of Barbados' tourism industry. It continues to support the thrust of a regional CARPHA Tourism and Health project that encourages local hotels to report the numbers of clients displaying syndromes representing gastrointestinal and respiratory illness.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

Animal Control Unit

In 2022, a comprehensive report highlighted the following achievements: 1,161 new dogs, representing 58.0 percent of the targeted number, were successfully registered. The renewal of dog licenses saw 735 applications approved, accounting for 44.8 percent of the projected renewals. A total of 227 complaints were thoroughly investigated and addressed. Furthermore, the diligent efforts of the team led to the successful completion of 550 dog collection requests, which accounted for an impressive 92.0 percent of the total requests.

Environmental Sanitation Unit

In 2022, significant progress was made in improving sanitation facilities, as twenty-seven (27) pit latrines were successfully provided. Additionally, twelve (12) superstructures were completed and delivered, ensuring safe and functional structures. The completion of one hundred and twenty-eight (128) slabs and thirty-four (34) risers further enhanced the quality and accessibility of the facilities. Efforts were also made to maintain hygiene standards, with the cleaning of sixty-four (64) pits. Moreover, seventy-three (73) Bait Stations were successfully completed, contributing to a comprehensive sanitation infrastructure.

Water Quality and Climate Change

In the course of 2022, significant progress was made in water management and public health initiatives. As part of this work, sanitary audits were conducted on 60.0 percent of the water supply, and 1,339 potable water samples were collected and analysed by the Best-Dos Santos Public Health Laboratory to ensure water safety. Remarkably, the sample regimen exceeded the WHO recommendation of 792 for a population of 300,000 by 547 samples.

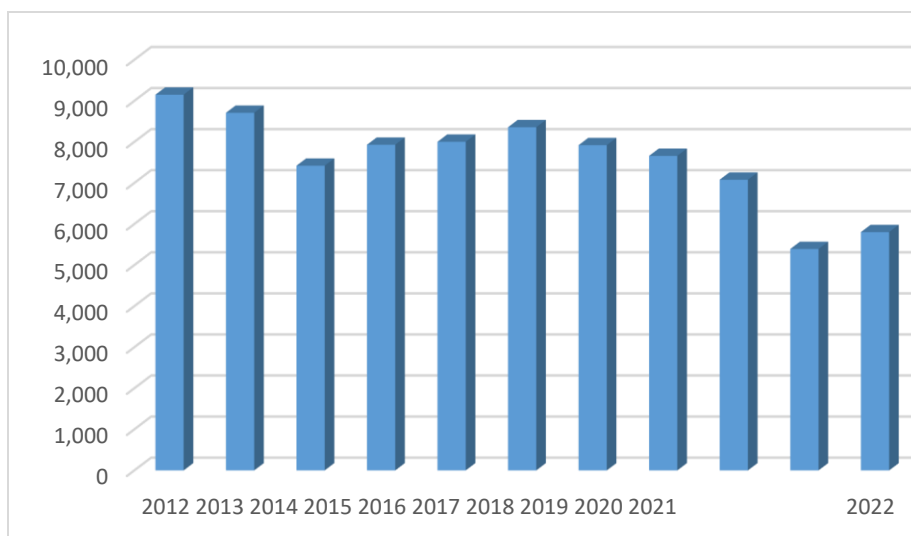
Efforts to combat climate change primarily focused on enhancing resilience in the health sector and the development of a comprehensive National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Collaborating with PAHO under the Biennial Work Programme (BWP) arrangement, the Ministry initiated the Health chapter of the NAP with the assistance of a consultant, aiming to complete the plan by September 2023.

E. LAW AND ORDER

TOTAL REPORTED CRIMES

In 2022, there were 5,803 crimes reported in Barbados. This represents a 7.6 percent increase in crime for the period under review when compared to 5,392 crimes reported in 2021.

Figure 19: Total Reported Crimes 2012 to 2022



Source: The Barbados Police Service

MAJOR OFFENCES

Over the period 2019 to 2022, the highest number of major crimes were recorded in the categories of residential burglary, commercial burglary, robbery and serious bodily harm.

During 2022, there were declines in the number of reported cases of commercial burglary, rape, and aggravated burglary. No cases of manslaughter were recorded during the year. However, for 2022, increases were recorded in the number of reported cases of murder, robbery, assault with intent to rob, residential burglary, endangering life, kidnapping and serious bodily harm.

Table 44: Major Categories of Criminal Activity 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Murder	48	41	32	43
Manslaughter	0	0	1	0
Endangering Life	52	62	41	42
Robbery	202	193	102	123
Kidnapping	8	8	4	6
Aggravated Burglary	66	77	77	59
Assault with intent to Rob	14	7	7	13
Rape	58	39	51	41
Serious Bodily Harm	165	167	133	140
Commercial Burglary	280	246	182	118
Residential Burglary	916	570	428	518
	1,809	1,410	1,058	1,103

Source: The Barbados Police Service

FIREARM ENABLED CRIMES

The acquisition and use of firearms continues to be a challenge for The Barbados Police Service. The major categories of firearm enabled crimes continued to be (excluding the category of other crimes committed with use of firearms) robbery, endangering life, aggravated burglary and murder.

During 2022, there were 250 reports of firearm enabled crime. This number represents a slight increase of 0.4 percent when compared with the previous year, when 248 reports were recorded.

DRUG RELATED ACTIVITY

A total of 1,202 drug offences were recorded during 2022. This represented an increase of 240 offences or 24.9 percent when compared with 2021, when 962 offences were recorded.

Cannabis remained the drug of choice within Barbados, as most drug offences recorded involve the possession, cultivation, importation, trafficking or supply of this illegal drug. During 2022, 1,091 cannabis related offences were recorded, an increase of 28.7 percent when compared with 2021, when 848 cannabis related offences were recorded.

Meanwhile, 106 cocaine related offences were recorded in 2022. This represented a slight increase of 1.9 percent when compared with 2021, when 104 cases were recorded.

CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES

During the year, the Barbados Police Service continued its various crime prevention strategies and initiatives. One of the new initiatives that the Barbados Police Service carried out during the year in their efforts to keep the crime rate in Barbados under control was "Operation Restore Order", which saw police officers working in collaboration with soldiers from the Barbados Defence Force to combat crime, especially in troubled areas.

F. SOCIAL SERVICES

MINISTRY OF PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT AND ELDER AFFAIRS

TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Amalgamation of Social Service Agencies

The amalgamation of the four leading social service agencies of the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs (MPEA) – the Child Care Board; the Welfare Department; the National Disabilities Unit; and the National Assistance Board – is the most transformative initiative being undertaken by the Ministry. Overall, the amalgamation aims to:

- decentralize social service delivery, to bring the services closer to the people;
- offer services that are designed to meet people's needs;
- deliver social services that support families in their community; and
- institute a client-centred approach to the operations of the amalgamated department.

The MPEA has conducted a number of stakeholder meetings to identify the services to be delivered and the related process flows. Furthermore, the MPEA has contracted the Sagcor UWI Cave Hill School of Management and Business, to conduct a Job Analysis. A Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee, which comprises Government and civil society organisations, was instituted to oversee the process of the amalgamation.

PULSE Management Information System

The transformation of the MPEA's social protection system is further bolstered by the commencement of activities for the design and implementation of the Poverty Reduction Utilizing Labour and Social Empowerment (PULSE) Management Information System (MIS). PULSE MIS provides a platform for information sharing on programmes, facilitates the case management of clients, while also capturing data on programme utilization. In 2022, this project was well advanced, with several meetings taking place with the Consultants; the Ministry of Industry, Innovation, Science and Technology; mobile carriers; other government agencies; and members of staff of the Ministry. There has also been training for members of staff using and getting acquainted with the new system. There is a phased approach in the utilisation of the system, with its full roll-out is expected by 2023.

Support of and to Non-Governmental Organizations

The MPEA continued to partner with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which complement the work of the Ministry, through providing vital financial support to assist them in more effectively servicing the needs of the people of Barbados. During 2022, the Ministry disbursed \$744,318.50 to NGOs. This represents a reduction of \$78,189.50 when compared with 2021. Some of the NGOs supported included: the Prison Fellowship of Barbados; the Soroptomist Village and Activity Centre; Men's Education Support Association; the Barbados Alliance to End Homelessness; and the Barbados National Organization for the Disabled.

THE ELDERLY

During 2022, the National Assistance Board (NAB) continued to execute its mandate and to develop and implement a cadre of programmes and strategies aimed at maintaining the quality of life of

older persons in Barbados and to keep elderly persons in their community, in preference to institutional care, at a total annual cost of BDS \$8.4 million.

The Home Care Programme

This programme seeks to reduce the cost of care for the elderly and the need for institutional care. Workers are assigned to the homes of elderly persons, to assist with daily living activities. At least 40.0 percent of beneficiaries live alone. For the reporting period, there was a steady increase in demand for the service, with the number of beneficiaries ranging from 1,039 in January, to 1,267 persons in December. On average:

- There were nineteen (19) new beneficiaries per month for a total increase of December over January of 18.0 percent.
- More females (64.0 percent) than males (36.0 percent) requested and received the service.
- The ratio of home care workers to recipients is 1:9.
- There are still two hundred and fifty (250) persons awaiting the service.

Jorris Dunner Elderly Day Care Centre

During January to December 2022, the Day Care Centre was re-designated to accommodate five (5) persons who were displaced by Hurricane Elsa. Three (3) of these persons were subsequently relocated to the Vauxhall Senior Citizens' Village. At the end of 2022, two (2) elderly persons were still being temporarily sheltered at the Centre. The use of the Centre for day care activities is expected to resume in 2023.

Lancaster House

Lancaster House provides temporary accommodation at no cost, primarily for elderly individuals and their families, who are homeless as a result of fire, evictions and natural disasters. The facility can accommodate a minimum of three (3) families, based on the number of members in each family. Occupants are responsible for providing their own food and items for personal use.

Between January and December 2022, one (1) male and two (2) female adults, between the ages of thirty (30) years to seventy-nine (79) years, were accommodated. Given the deterioration of the physical structure, the pending capital works to be undertaken, and the need to relocate current occupants, further admissions were deferred until the capital works have been completed.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The National Disabilities Unit (NDU) continue to offer a range of services to integrate Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in all aspects of social and economic life, while ensuring that their rights are not violated and that they function as equal members of the society.

Activities were undertaken to ensure that PWDs can exercise mobility in their homes and social environment and resume some level of normalcy and independence in their daily functions. These included:

- Ramps - Sixteen (16) persons received infrastructural adjustments where ramps were constructed, at a cost of \$95,230.78.
- Mobility Aids - Forty-five (45) persons received various mobility aids as required such as wheelchairs and prosthesis, at a cost of \$180,320.00.
- Adjustment to Blindness - Twenty-five (25) persons who recently became visually impaired benefitted from adjustment to blindness training.
- Transportation – The Call-A-Ride programmes provided eight hundred and fifty-nine (859) students and PWDs to school and to medical appointments. Also sixty-eight (68) wheelchair users were provided with transport to medical and health care facilities. \$8,321.50.
- Designated Parking - In May 2022, the NDU in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport, Works and Water Resources designated four (4) vehicle parking bays in Bridgetown for use by PWDs.
- Facilitating Employment – In order to address the high incidence of unemployment among PWD, the following initiatives were introduced: an entrepreneurial market, an entrepreneurial symposium and a course in flower arranging. The ten (10) week programme in flower arranging provided training for ten (10) intellectually challenged persons in flower arranging, personal development and entrepreneurship.
- Summer Camp - During July to August 2022, Camp Reach took place at the NDU for sixteen (16) children with disabilities. This camp was affiliated with the National Summer Camps Programme, coordinated by the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment.

VULNERABLE LOW-INCOME CITIZENS

Strengthening Human and Social Development Project

The implementation of the Inter-American Development (IDB)-funded Strengthening Human and Social Development (SHSD) Project has reinforced the need for the adoption of a transformational approach to social protection policy and programmes, in an effort to empower vulnerable persons.

This programme sought to reduce inter-generational poverty and unemployment among two hundred and fifty (250) poorest households. During the period under review, the SHSD project continued its efforts to contribute to the reduction of extreme household poverty and unemployment in Barbados through a holistic approach. It includes a range of social safety net services inclusive of personal identification needs, educational support, health and wellness, psychosocial support (counselling), education and skills training and social benefits.

One hundred and thirty-nine (139) individuals received either one-on-one, family, or specialized counselling (abuse, depression, anger, etc.). Beneficiaries reported improved coping skills and relief from depression and grief. Counselling was also paired with tailored family dynamics sessions.

With the focus also on education and human resource development, there was an aim to provide education and skills training opportunities for all household members. Two hundred and twenty (220) children enrolled in pre-primary, primary or secondary education benefited from the school assistance programmes, where assistance was provided with educational needs such as the payment of petty fees and book waivers. One hundred and sixty-seven (167) older children and adults enrolled in the programme received technical training through the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI), Barbados Community College (BCC), Career Development Institute (CDI) and Barbados Vocational Training Board (BVTB) to address the need for professional development. It was observed that more females (150) than males (17) accessed these training opportunities. Twenty-nine (29) persons also received remedial training.

Infants in households were also supported in this initiative. Forty-five (45) infants were enrolled in private and public nursery or day-care centres. It must be noted that this enrolment of the infants through the programme also allowed parents to access training or employment opportunities.

Under the employment pillar, the Temporary Employment programme was initiated in April 2022. The Programme aimed to engage unemployed job seekers in temporary employment and to provide on-the-job training for a period of six (6) months. It enabled job seekers to adapt to new work environments, enhance their income security and acquire essential job-specific skills, with a view to securing stable employment including entrepreneurship. Three hundred and seventy-seven (377) persons benefitted. The programme also provided future pathways to employment through fostering work readiness, provision of work experience and enhancing soft skills.

Welfare Department – Monetary Assistance

With respect to monetary assistance, the number of recipients increased by 690 persons, from 6,349 in 2021 to 7,039 in 2022. This represented an increase of 10.9 percent during 2022 when compared to 2021. As a result, there was a commensurate increase of 15.3 percent in expenditure (benefits) from BDS\$22.2 million to BDS\$25.6 million. This also resulted in an increase in average beneficiary disbursement of \$140.27 or 4.0 percent.

Table 45: Monetary Assistance 2016-2022

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of Recipients	3,942	3,665	4,902	4,383	5,800	6,349	7,039
Expenditure (\$M)	11.8	10.9	9.9	14.3	22.5	22.2	25.6
Average Beneficiary Spend (\$)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,262.60	3,879.31	3,496.61	3,636.88

SOURCE: Welfare Department, Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs

Welfare Department - Assistance-In-Kind

Assistance-In-Kind refers to assistance granted with respect to items such as food, clothing, purchase of spectacles, hearing aids, and dentures, and education support. It also includes the payment of utility bills and arrears (electricity and water), the payment of rent and the cost of burial of destitute persons. There was a decrease by 7,939 persons applying for assistance-in-kind between 2021 (15,690) and 2022 (7,751). The decrease in applications can be explained by the relaxing of COVID-19 stipulations and a resumption of employment.

Assistance-In-Kind expenditure rose in 2022 and was \$16,919,566.25 compared to \$15,213,976.50 in 2021, an increase of approximately \$1.7 million. The removal of a ceiling on electricity and water payments may account for the expenditure increase. Food continued to be the highest category of Assistance-In-Kind granted. It should be pointed out that this data includes repeated requests from the same households.

Expenditure for the educational assistance component of Assistance-In-Kind totalled \$815,710.00 at December 31st, 2022. School clothing requests continued to be processed, as the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the completion of this programme. Expenditure for 2021 was approximately \$650,280.00. The department assisted 1,929 families, compared to the previous year, when 2,713 families were assisted. It should be noted that the grant per child was increased.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

The Child Care Board

The Child Care Board continued to deliver its social protection services via four (4) main programmatic areas, namely; Residential Care; Day Care; Foster Care and Adoption; and Child Abuse. The total cost of programme implementation was \$25,057,894.88.

Table 46: Programme Costs January to December 2022

PROGRAMME	COST
Residential Care	12,198,172.25
Government Day Care	7,492,721.03
Private Day Care	138,164.67
Foster Care and Adoption	374,136.29
Intake	4,414,897.41
Child Abuse	360,556.19
Psychological	79,247.04
TOTAL	25,057,894.88

SOURCE: Child Care Board, Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs

Residential Care

The Residential programme continues to offer children who have been abandoned, abused, and neglected, the opportunity to be cared for in a setting as near as possible to being in a home with a family and psychosocial treatment is also provided. The Board operates six (6) Children's Homes, including the Nightingale Children's Village mainly provided housing for children under eleven (11) years of age; the Marina Brewster Centre at Farris as the single adolescent home which the Board operates; and the Violet Gittens Centre which caters to children with special needs and houses individuals who are over eighteen (18) years of age.

On average, there were 100 residents in the Board's Homes during the period under review. Of these, sixty (60) were males and forty (40) were females.

During the year, there were twenty (20) new admissions into care facilities. Twenty-three (23) children were discharged during the same period. For the period under review, eighteen (18) children were reunited with their families. One (1) child reached the age of maturity (eighteen (18) years) during the period under review. Also, two (2) children were placed in foster care, and two (2) were adopted.

Government Day Care

During 2022, there was a decrease in attendance of children in Government day nurseries when compared to the previous year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. An average of 434 children attended the fifteen (15) day nurseries, as the nurseries continued to be impacted by the protocols relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 capacities, given to Government Nurseries by the COVID-19 Monitoring Unit, remained in effect during the period under review. During the year, 364 children were discharged from the government nurseries as a result of age.

Private Day Care

Forty-six (46) Private Day Care Centres were issued Certificates of Registration during the year 2022. Due to the COVID-19 environment, a limited number of Day Care Centres were registered. Eighty (80) visits were conducted during the period. One hundred and five (105) Private Day Care Centres are currently known to the Child Care Board. This is an increase of over ninety-three (93) known for the corresponding previous period. There were no new applications for registration during this period. In addition, a few centres previously closed during 2020-2021, due to COVID-19 constraints, reopened. Five (5) legal centres were closed during this period.

A total of thirty-two (32) cases, twenty-four (24) complaints and eight (8) requests for information were recorded on Intake regarding Private Day Care Centres. There were concerns expressed relating to the tardiness of securing the relevant documentation from the Barbados Fire Service and the Ministry of Health and Wellness, so that applications for registration can be completed. Some operators continued to have difficulties receiving permission in a timely manner from the Planning and Development Department after submitting their plans to that Department. There is also a concern of the number of Private Day Care Centres currently in operation illegally.

Foster Care and Adoption

The Foster Care and Adoption Programmes ensures that those children who are in need of family experiences, whether in the short-term or long-term, are afforded those opportunities through placements with approved foster parents. The Child Care Board received a total of sixty-nine (69) enquiries relating to adoption and foster care. Of this total, fifty-four (54) were adoption enquiries and fifteen (15) were for foster care.

Three (3) children, comprising one (1) male and two (2) females, were placed with prospective adoptive parents for adoption, while two (2) children, one (1) female and one (1) male, were placed in foster homes.

Child Abuse

For 2022, the Child Abuse section received a total of 557 child abuse cases, when compared with 489 child abuse cases for 2021. This showed an increase of sixty-eight (68) reported cases. These referrals impacted 671 children, as compared to 614 children in 2021; representing an increase of fifty-seven (57) children. More females were reported as being abused than males. In addition, the statistics for 2022 showed a continuous increase of reported cases affecting the vulnerable age groups of zero to four (0-4) years and five to eleven (5-11) years. The parishes of St. Michael and Christ Church had the most reported cases.

Family Services

The Welfare Department's Family Services section continued to offer professional interventions in responding to a range of individual and family problems such as child maintenance, marital dysfunction, domestic violence, custody, access and conciliation. During the period January to December 2022, sixty-nine (69) Supreme Court Cases, seven (7) Magistrate Court cases and twenty-seven (27) counselling cases were referred for investigation by the Family Services Section and the subsequent provision of psychosocial reports, which are critical to the Courts' deliberation. Due to the complexities of some cases, the section forwarded thirteen (13) referrals to the consultant Psychologist, for in-depth counselling for clients.

One hundred and twenty-four (124) cases were received by the section, inclusive of family problems, child access and maintenance, with Court reports accounting for the heaviest in case load. Child support by non-custodial fathers, by way of cash payments, continued to be facilitated through the Accounts Section of the department.

Partnership for Peace

The Partnership for Peace (PFP) Programme is an intervention which targets male perpetrators of domestic violence, who are referred from the courts. PFP consists of a sixteen (16) session curriculum, designed for men, to encourage and support them in achieving a violence-free lifestyle. The long-term objective of the programme is "To reduce Gender-Based Violence in the Caribbean by increasing perpetrator accountability and effectively protect women's human rights". The Ministry has recently completed fourteen (14) cycles. In 2022, the Bureau of Gender Affairs was given the responsibility to manage the programme and commenced the planning for cycle fifteen (15) in 2023.

PROVISION FOR SOCIALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Hurricane Elsa Victims

During this year, the Poverty Alleviation and Reduction Programme (PARP) was charged with the logistics of housing accommodation for the Hurricane Elsa Accommodation Programme (HEAP), in addition to conducting social assessments. During the period under review, the PARP conducted 114 social assessments, resulting in eighty (80) households receiving food vouchers donated to the Unit.

Due to Hurricane Elsa, 155 persons lost their homes and 296 had major damages. As a result, these households required immediate temporary accommodation. At the start of January 2022, there were 316 persons in accommodation. This equated to 103 households. Households were placed at the Frank Walcott Labour College (10), the Nazarene Camp Centre (9); the Sons of God Apartments (13) and Private homes and Apartments (71).

The main items of expenditure within this programme during 2022 were: security, catering, food provisions and transportation to facilitate relocation of residents, totalling \$600,666.50; and rent and food vouchers, totalling \$1,291,169.72. The greater portion of the latter expenditure is attributed to rent, which consists of approximately 95.0 percent of this expenditure. This points to the need for greater alacrity by the housing agencies in expediting the construction and repair of the houses for persons in temporary accommodation.

The National Housing Corporation (NHC), the Urban Development Commission (UDC) and the Rural Development Commission (RDC) have the responsibility of rebuilding or repairing the homes of the socially displaced persons in accommodation. In 2022, a total of eighteen homes were repaired or rebuilt. This resulted in fifty-six (56) persons returning home. Ten (10) homes were completed by NHC, six (6) homes by UDC and two (2) homes by RDC.

Some of the challenges which have been experienced in the implementation of the HEAP have been: delay in rental payments; lack of compliance of household members to rules; lack of care of accommodation facilities by residents; securing accommodation for households having five (5) or more members; insufficient accommodation facilities; lack of storage facilities for household appliances and furniture; and housing agencies not following the procedures for accommodations.

Homeless Men

The Clyde Gollop Shelter for Homeless Men operates on a 24-hour basis and provides temporary accommodation for men who have been displaced due to factors including eviction, deportation, unemployment, poor family relations, incarceration, mental health and substance abuse issues.

The Shelter has a maximum capacity of thirty-four (34) beds. After COVID-19 protocols were relaxed, the Shelter returned to full capacity. At the end of the year, there were twenty-two (22) men being accommodated, ranging in age from forty-one (41) to eighty (80) years. Occupants are responsible

for meeting their daily basic needs, while in-kind donations from individuals and faith-based organisations assist in meeting these needs.

PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

During 2022, many of the National HIV/AIDS Commission's clients continued to be impacted by the residual impact of COVID-19 on the economy and local housing situations. The department therefore concentrated its efforts in mitigating this impact on the clients, with assistance from its strategic partners in the public, private and civil society sectors. The Commission provided social assistance to thirteen (13) clients, (8 females and 5 males), offering services such as the provision of housing solutions (i.e. rentals, repairs and relocation), employment support i.e. job referrals/attachment and job preparation/application support, nutrition support, provision of food and clothing, referral and linkage to social services, facilitated access to medical support/services and the provision of/linkage to psychosocial support services.

The NHAC also provided additional supplemental support directly via its own efforts (e.g. food donation drives) and indirectly through strategic partnerships including its Civil Society Grant Scheme. More specifically, it managed the:

- Receipt of food donations via its Man Aware interventions, Crop Over intervention and 2022 World AIDS Day Celebrity Football Match.
- Receipt of BDS \$3,250 in financial donations from partner agencies.
- Provision of psychosocial support totalling BDS \$7,500 to at least twenty (20) vulnerable persons, via the Civil Society Grant projects.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Urban Development Commission (UDC) remained steadfast in its mandate to provide the services that would assist in the alleviation of poverty, to enhance sustainable quality of life and high standards of living within the urban population.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME

During 2022, the UDC undertook 138 housing projects within its House Repair and Replacement, Maintenance, Pit Eradication and Roof Retrofitting Programmes. The total project expenditure for the period was \$2,988,934.81. Several projects that were identified for assistance under the Roof Retrofit Programme were transferred to the Hurricane Elsa Programme, as the roofs to these structures were further affected during the passing of Hurricane Elsa.

Table 47: Capital Works Programmes and Associated Expenditure 2021-2022

	Projects 2021	Projects 2022	Funds Disbursed 2021	Funds Disbursed 2022
Suck Wells	22	8	\$86,600.00	\$38,380.00
Septic Tanks	3	2	\$16,100.00	\$14,200.00
Ancillary Works	61	77	\$108,185.81	\$186,359.30
Repairs and Renovations	18	21	\$175,873.25	\$462,473.24
Replacement Houses	16	20	\$1,538,296.00	\$1,798,661.22
Roof Retrofitting	10	0	\$396,535.90	\$0.00
Waterborne Facilities	18	7	\$1,593,721.00	\$266,502.92
Completion of Houses	4	3	\$106,575.82	\$222,358.13
	152	138	\$4,021,887.78	\$2,988,934.81

Source: The Urban Development Commission

HURRICANE ELSA PROGRAMME

The UDC was a part of the national response to provide structural intervention to those citizens impacted by Hurricane Elsa's passing in 2021. The total cost allocated to this programme was \$13,475,825.87. A total of 198 projects were undertaken under this programme and \$10,914,745.22 was disbursed at December 31, 2022.

SPECIAL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT – REVITALISATION OF BRIDGETOWN: FAIRCHILD STREET MARKET

The Fairchild Street Market Redevelopment Project advanced during the review period. Phase 1 of the project, which consisted of the construction of forty-four (44) food stalls, three (3) cobbler's stalls and three (3) bathroom blocks, was 100.0 percent completed and handed over to the Markets Division. Site services infrastructure, including the sewage, surface water drainage, a garbage enclosure, electrical and water distribution were also completed and handed over as part of this phase.

Phase 2 of the project stood at 90.0 percent completed. Additionally, forty-nine (49) stalls, comprising fruit and vegetable, general purpose and cosmetology stalls, were handed over to the Markets Division during the review period. The electrical and water distribution were also completed. However, the completion of the carpark, drainage, and the installation of solar security lighting remain outstanding.

Furthermore, Phase 3 was mobilized, and site hoarding commenced during the period. The expenditure for this period was \$2,511,913.00.

TRANSFER OF TITLE PROGRAMME

The Transfer of Title Programme, facilitated by the Tenancies Freehold Purchase Act, Cap 239B, aims to assist qualified tenants to obtain security of tenure through land ownership. The Act provides the legal framework for the transfer of title of lots to qualified tenants residing on tenancies and 'areas

of land' across Barbados. This assistance is provided through government subsidies to aid in the purchase of lots. In many instances, land ownership improves the standard of living for many tenants.

During the period under review, the UDC's Board approved and paid one (1) subsidy for a total of \$27,435.00. An additional subsidy for the sum of \$21,985.47 was approved but was not paid.

The outstanding commitments in the Transfer of Title Programme at the start of the period stood at \$2,763,311.88. However, by the end of the period, demands for subsidies were an additional \$143,773.09. As a result, the total outstanding commitments under the Programme at the end of 2022 was \$2,907,084.97.

VI. FOREIGN POLICY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND AID

A. RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Global Resilience

On reflection of the numerous climate change events that occurred in 2022 across the world, there is clear evidence that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in grave jeopardy of not being fulfilled due to crises surrounding the emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic, food supply chain shortages caused by the continued escalating war in Ukraine, and the ever-intensifying occurrences of the effects of climate change impacts. These compounding impacts have created challenges in food and nutrition, health, education, the environment, and the peace, security and stability of economies, societies and nations globally.

Additionally, the COVID-19 Pandemic has been the most pronounced detrimental aspect of development progress within decades, as it has erased years of progress on poverty eradication, and expanded the number of persons that fall within the poverty circle across the world. Essential health services were disrupted placing large groups of persons at severe health risks. In association with this, there was the existential threat of climate change as increasing heat waves, droughts, wildfires and floods posed serious problems for people around the world. Continuing ocean acidification and rising water temperatures have endangered marine species and coral reefs. To avoid the worst effects of climate change, global greenhouse gas emissions must decline by 43% by 2030 as opposed to rising by nearly 14percent.

Accordingly, the geopolitical environment across the world has become more charged and conflict oriented. The war in Ukraine has caused food, fuel and fertilizer prices to rise exponentially, disrupting food supply chains and global trade, and disturbing financial markets to the extent that it has created a major threat of a global food crisis. All this has evolved in the context of rising inflationary prices that have led to the high cost of living and high interest rates, alongside looming debt burdens and limited fiscal space for development.

Persons across the globe, especially women and children have suffered the most due to their displacement from jobs, livelihoods, and their derailed schooling. These circumstances have led to anxiety, depression and domestic violence that threatens to destabilize the social fabric of societies globally. The severity and magnitude of the challenges that face us requires significant investments to allow us to adopt low-carbon resilient and inclusive pathways of development to reduce carbon

emissions, conserve the natural resources, transform food systems, create more and better jobs, and advance the transition to a greener just society. These actions will help us to strengthen social protection systems, improve public services, and invest in cleaner energy to suppress inequality, degradation, injustice, poverty and climate change.

Domestic Resilience

Barbados has made tremendous progress in implementing its Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Programme. Its objectives and modalities under the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Resilience Sustainability Facility (RSF) has maintained and strengthened macroeconomic stability, and promoted the structural reform agenda to secure fiscal sustainability, build capacity for macroeconomic policy implementation, and create potential economic growth.

Critical elements of the programme included the gradual and sustained increases in the primary surpluses, ambitious structural reforms such as strengthening the tax and customs administration and the Public Financial Management (PFM) system, the adoption and implementation of pension reform, the rationalization and consolidation of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), refinements to the monetary policy toolkit, and growth enhancing measures including additional steps to improve the business climate and the way we conduct business in Barbados.

The arrangement under the RSF provide financing to meet additional Balance of Payment (BOP) needs created by resilience-enhancement infrastructure building and an ambitious goal of transitioning to a fully renewable energy-based economy by 2030. Reform measures under the RSF included the mainstreaming of climate change in the budget, the introduction of “green PFM,” and measures to incentivize investment into renewable projects.

Additionally, the Government of Barbados engaged in implementing strategic measures to combat climate change with respect to the physical infrastructure. The Adaptation Measures to Combat the Effects of Climate Change (AMCECC) project was designed to improve the storm-water infrastructure which caters to rainfall run-off from a storm period of 1:50 years as opposed to a storm period of 1:25 years. This project was developed to address flooding as well as cater to climate change resilience. This physical infrastructure can now effectively convey run-off to an outfall or to be retained on land for aquifer recharge. The AMCECC project also comprised the installation of dams and increased the size of drains, particularly in the Hometown water-shed area.

New levels of training through the National Transformation Initiative (NTI)

The National Training Initiative was established to address one of the pillars of the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Programme. It is desirous in its objective to equip every Barbadian citizen with the knowledge, skills and values to be of good character and competence in a global digital environment. Accordingly, a three-year partnership was officially signed with Coursera, one of the world’s leading online learning digital platforms, making learning and career opportunities available to some 5,600 Barbadian workers through access to some 19,000 courses. As part of this initiative, Coursera and Google are providing 20,000 scholarships to Barbadian women. Barbadians can now improve their skills and prepare for careers in tourism and hospitality, the blue and green economies and the creative economy.

Building resilience from a personal and an institutional capacity perspective while maintaining sustainable development infrastructure, processes, and mechanisms are necessary to allow people, communities and countries to be better able to protect against losses from natural disasters, to create an environment that bolsters economic growth through the creation of employment opportunities to

improve livelihoods, and to ensure that vulnerable persons or groups are not left behind in the quest for development and a better way of life.

B. INTERNATIONAL TRADE POLICY AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In 2022, the Foreign Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade continued to pursue its mandate to seek out opportunities, regionally and internationally, bilaterally and within multilateral fora, to promote harmonious relations, to highlight the profile of Barbados as a democratic nation which respects the rule of law and adherence to human rights principles, and to facilitate the economic and social development of the country. Important engagements were held with partners in CARICOM, Cuba, at the United Nations, United States of America, Kenya, Ghana, China and Japan.

The Ministry engaged in strategic conversations and worked towards the negotiation and signing of agreements with the goal of positively impacting critical areas of national development including health, education, business development, security, public sector modernization, capacity building, technical and economic cooperation, culture, sports, trade and investment, and people-to-people exchanges.

SURINAME

The Formation Agreement for the Strategic Dialogue on Cooperation Platform - July 4, 2022, specified the manner that cooperation programmes and projects, as well as their goals, objectives, financial and technical resources and working schedules will be executed.

GUYANA

The Saint Barnabas Accord for Cooperation - July 5, 2022, identified the sectors for immediate joint working programmes in the areas of energy (oil and gas), agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, housing, trade and investment, and mining and quarrying.

CUBA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Export Barbados and BioCubaFarma - December 2022. This agreement paved the way for collaboration in the areas of health and pharmaceuticals.

Eighth CARICOM-Cuba Summit

The Ministry coordinated the hosting of the Eighth CARICOM-Cuba Summit on December 6, 2022, which also commemorated the 50th Anniversary of CARICOM-Cuba relations. The Summit served to further deepen collaboration and economic cooperation among CARICOM Member States and Cuba, and to promote resilience and solidarity, in the face of mounting economic and environmental challenges.

UNITED NATIONS (UN) COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (CRC)

In June 2022, the Ministry successfully campaigned for the re-election of Barbadian child rights advocate Mrs. Faith Marshall-Harris to a second four-year term on the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Mrs. Marshall-Harris will continue to use her considerable experience and acumen in child rights matters addressed in Article 27 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to advocate for a standard of living adequate for the physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development of all children regardless of colour, race, gender, ethnic origin, ability, creed or class.

27TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC COP27)

One of the key outcomes for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at the meeting, which was held in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022, was the agreement reached to establish a Loss and Damage Fund. This dedicated fund, once operationalized, will assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to loss and damage. In December 2022, Barbados successfully nominated Professor Avinash Persaud to sit on the Transitional Committee on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage and the associated fund under the UNFCCC.

UN TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (TPNW)

On September 22, 2022 Barbados signed on to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Joining the TPNW was in complete consonance with a major premise of Barbados' foreign policy, i.e. the promotion of peace and security, including with respect to nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, LOS ANGELES DECLARATION ON MIGRATION AND PROTECTION

Barbados supported the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection (2022), a hemispheric agreement launched during the Ninth Summit of the Americas in June 2022, with a view to create conditions for safe, orderly, humane and regular migration, and strengthening frameworks for international protection and cooperation.

U.S.-CARICOM RELATIONS

A U.S. congressional team, led by Congresswoman Maxine Waters, co-hosted along with Prime Minister Mottley, a roundtable discussion from April 18 to 21, 2022. Other CARICOM Heads of Government and representatives of banking and financial institutions from the U.S. and CARICOM participated in these discussions. The main items of discussion were de-risking and correspondent banking.

A second congressional team, led by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, met with bipartisan CARICOM legislators from April 22 to 25, 2022. Delegates discussed ways in which legislatures dealt with pressing regional challenges since the beginning of the pandemic, as well as how to strengthen cooperation on legislative priorities to chart a path to recovery.

U.S.-CARICOM-DOMINICAN REPUBLIC LEADERS MEETING AT THE NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The key outcomes that arose from the joint meeting of the leadership of the U.S., CARICOM and Dominican Republic held on June 9, 2022 were:

- A U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030 (PACC 2030) to facilitate renewable energy infrastructure development (including the increase access to financing) to bolster the region's resilience to climate-related natural disasters;
- A Caribbean Zero Hunger Plan and the U.S. announcement of 28 million USD in new food security assistance to the Caribbean;
- Reaffirmation of commitment to Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI); and
- The Establishment of high-level committees on food security, energy security, and finance (co-chaired by Lead Head of Government, the Hon. Mia A. Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, Professor Avinash Persaud, and Mr. Brian Nelson, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, U.S. Department of Treasury).

KENYA

During September 1 to 3, 2022, the Hon. Betty C. Maina, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development of the Republic of Kenya, visited Barbados to attend and participate in the Afri-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum 2022. The Cabinet Secretary met with the Hon. Ms. C. Sandra V. Husbands, Minister of State in Foreign Trade and Business Development, and her visit reflected the continued efforts to strengthen bilateral ties between Barbados and Kenya. Matters of mutual interest to deepen cooperation between the two countries were discussed and included trade and investment opportunities, people-to-people exchanges, manufacturing, tourism, air and marine transportation and sports.

GHANA

Ghana's 65th Anniversary of Independence

On March 6, 2022, Prime Minister Mottley visited Ghana to commemorate Ghana's 65th Anniversary of Independence and delivered remarks at a service in Cape Coast Ghana. She addressed the existing worldwide inequalities, emphasizing that there were no first and second-class nations, and advocated for the restructuring of the international financial order. The Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of convening the inaugural CARICOM/Africa Summit and noted that September 7th would be observed annually as Africa-CARICOM Day.

Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT)

A successful first round of negotiations between Barbados and Ghana on the conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty was held in Barbados in the last week of November 2022.

Confidential Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services (CMOU)

Barbados and Ghana signed (virtually) a Confidential Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services in April 2022.

AFREXIMBANK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

During the inaugural Africa-Caribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF) held in Barbados on September 1, 2022, Barbados, along with eight other CARICOM Member States, signed the Afreximbank Partnership Agreement. The Partnership Agreement established a framework for cooperation between Afreximbank and CARICOM to strengthen trade and investment links between the two regions (Africa and the Caribbean), and also consolidated the Bank's efforts to promote and develop South-South cooperation in line with its Diaspora Strategy for the Caribbean. Ratified by Barbados, and in the process of being ratified by the other eight signatories, the Partnership Agreement also remains open for signature by the six CARICOM Members States which are yet to sign. Barbados has unlocked the potential for commencement of Afreximbank's operations in the region by its ratification of the Partnership Agreement, thereby paving the way for the establishment of Afreximbank's Caribbean Office in Barbados.

The Partnership Agreement is also a concrete demonstration of one of the primary pillars of the country's foreign policy, which centres strategically on trade and commercial diplomacy to build new bridges that will increase prosperity for Barbadian citizens, wherever they might be.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Letters of agreement between the Government of Barbados and China to facilitate the National Stadium redevelopment project were signed and exchanged on October 7, 2022.

In November 2022, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China presented the Ministry with US\$200,000 in medical supplies and US\$40,000 for disaster prevention for dissemination to various Government Ministries.

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Barbados also presented a donation of fifty (50) laptops to the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training (METVT) to assist students, following the challenges of COVID-19.

JAPAN

Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean

The Japanese Government and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean pledged support in the form of BDS\$12.3 million towards the Project for Improving National Sargassum Management Capacities in the Caribbean. The agreement was signed at UN House on February 19, 2022. The three-year grant-aid project is being financed by the Japanese Government and implemented by UNDP. Barbados is one of five (5) Caribbean nations to benefit from the project, which is intended to find solutions to the growing problem of Sargassum seaweed. Equipment and technical assistance to aid in the collection, removal, transportation, and disposal of Sargassum seaweed, will be provided by Japan.

FOREIGN TRADE

CARICOM

Council for Trade and Economic Development

The Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) held its Fifty-Fifth (55th) meeting in November 2022.

Barbados made interventions on a number of areas which it considered to be of great importance to the country. The first area of intervention focused on the implementation of the CARICOM Integration Marketplace and Suspension Procedure (CIMSuPro). Barbados sees the implementation of the CIMSuPro as having the potential to enhance regional trade through industrial and agricultural production. Barbados is actively seeking to have the CIMSuPro populated with goods and manufacturers' contact information.

The issue of a 10.0 percent tariff imposition on Trinidad and Tobago's supply of chlorine gas was submitted. This product would also be placed on the List of Products Ineligible for Conditional Duty Exceptions. Barbados indicated that it can support the tariff of 10.0 percent being implemented on extra-regional chlorine gas, as a CARICOM assessment of the plant indicated that Trinidad and Tobago can supply in excess of 75.0 percent of regional demand, and the quality of the product is within the CARICOM limit.

With respect to the imposition of a 30.0 percent tariff on condensed milk, Member States agreed to impose a tariff of 30.0 percent on extra-regional milk, since Jamaica was now producing this product. Barbados indicated that it is yet to levy the 30.0 percent duty on extra-regional milk and was working with the Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs and Investment, to have the rates implemented.

Common External Tariff (CET)

CARICOM held its fourth (4th) meeting of the CET in October 2022, where Barbados put forward sentiments in its preparation to generate positions for the areas under review. These areas pertained to Lists A, C and D. Barbadian stakeholders indicated that they did not see a need for the wholesale reconstruction of these lists, and indicated that the CET in its current form was working well both in the areas of intra-regional and extra-regional trade.

CARICOM Rules of Origin

With regard to the revision of the CARICOM Rules of Origin, the Sixth (6th) meeting was held in October 2022. Progress continued to be made in these negotiations, as Member States made proposals to the Product Specific Rules in the Revised Treaty.

Barbados worked diligently on the completion of its Product Specific Rules of Origin (PSRO) for submission to the CARICOM Secretariat. The Foreign Trade Division will be holding a series of

meetings with Ministries, Departments and Business Support Organisations to determine the rules which would be in the best interest of their stakeholders for the export of their products throughout the region.

CARICOM-Colombia Negotiations

CARICOM signed a non-reciprocal trade agreement with Colombia in July 1994 and reciprocal trade occurred in June 1998.

Barbados indicated at a number of Senior Officials meetings that it was currently in no position to effect an offer with Colombia at that point in time. Barbados also indicated that an offer would be made when it was in a more favourable economic situation. The COVID-19 pandemic, and other natural disasters, such as the eruption of La Soufriere volcano in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, were putting undue stress on Barbados' economy. The debt arising from these disasters could, if allowed to go unchecked, create difficulties for Barbados' balance of payments.

Barbados has since decided to explore the possibility of seeking to produce an offer for Colombia during the current negotiations.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

During the 2022 period, the Second Review of the CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) was ongoing.

Barbados had indicated at these meetings that there were some areas of discussion which were proving problematic for its manufacturers. Barbados indicated that one such area revolved around the matter of the Octroi De Mer or Dock Dues. CARIFORUM countries, inclusive of Barbados, are required to pay duties on certain goods exported to the French Caribbean Outermost Regions (FCORs). Within the FCORs, "like" products pay a lower or no duty. Barbados indicated to the meeting that some of its exporters had left those markets due to the lack of competitiveness of their products on account of these taxes.

Barbados also indicated that the issue of private standards in certain establishments in the EU was also a matter of concern to some exporters. These standards are usually found in large recognized entities such as supermarkets or department stores.

POST-COTONOU RELATIONS

The Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)/Global Europe is the financial arm of the post-Cotonou Agreement. It replaced the European Development Fund (EDF), which was the funding arm under the Cotonou Agreement.

The NDICI Regulation stipulates that a sum of approximately 3.39 billion Euros was made available for Latin America and the Caribbean, of which 800 million Euros was made available for the Caribbean alone.

It should be noted that of the 800 million Euros approved for the Caribbean by the EU, a Caribbean window of 208 million Euros was approved for the following Caribbean EU partnerships:

- Green deals;
- Economic Resilience and Trade;
- Governance, Security and Human Development; and
- Cooperation Facilities.

Barbados is seeking to benefit from the funding provided by the EU through the use of the multi-country approach, given that Barbados is not eligible for the Multi-Annual National Indicative Programme. This multi-country approach could see Barbados joining with other countries of the hemisphere, such as those in Latin America, to implement projects in which there is a common interest.

During 2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade held discussions with various Ministries to determine the types of projects which they had budgeted for and those that would require financing. The Foreign Trade Division worked closely with the Economic Affairs and Investment Division on this measure and forwarded any information retrieved from Ministries to the Economic Affairs and Investment Division.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

Fisheries Subsidies

During 2022, the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, adopted an amendment Protocol to insert the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies into the WTO Agreement. The Protocol was opened for the acceptance of the WTO Membership and would be entered into force when two-thirds of the WTO Membership accepted it.

The Foreign Trade Division set up meetings with the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification to determine whether that Division or its members had any concerns with the Agreement. During the review period, the Fisheries Division examined the Agreement, pending acceptance of the Protocol.

Joint Statement Initiative on Investment Facilitation

The Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) was launched by a small group of WTO Members in 2017. Barbados became a sponsor of the joint initiative in November 2019, and IFD negotiations were formally launched in September 2020. The other CARICOM sponsors are Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname, Grenada and Dominica.

During the on-going discussions, Barbados agreed that the IFD should not cover controversial areas such as market access, investment protection and investor-state dispute settlement.

C. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE- UNDP

UNDP's Caribbean Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

The new Caribbean Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022 - 2026) serves as a blueprint for sustainable development in the region. Considerable progress has been made with limited resources to combat the impacts of the global COVID-19 Pandemic, rising unemployment, rising debt to GDP ratios, supply chain shortages, climate change, and the paucity and convenience of financial access.

The UN Team in Barbados, and the Eastern Caribbean through joint action, innovative partnerships and leveraging regional cooperation has redoubled its efforts to leave no one behind. It has scaled up social protection, extended its footprint in the region, and expanded finance mechanisms to improve the future of Caribbean people.

A consortium of UN entities, international financial institutions, and other partners have offered concrete solutions and policy responses for strengthening food systems, and boosting transition to renewable energy was established. Additionally, partnerships with Governments and other key stakeholders were established to advance the human rights agenda in support of the development of legislation and policies on women, persons with disabilities, children, the youth, and other persons at risk of being marginalized.

In 2022, UNDP provided the opportunity for youth to play a more meaningful role in the sustainable development of the sub-region through the establishment of the Youth Advisory Group. This group, comprised youth leaders from across the region who served as sounding boards for the UN Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Multi-Country Offices, working in close partnership with the UN Sub-regional team.

The UNDP's main cooperation and programmatic interventions were to:

- Strengthen and coordinate data systems support to improve data use for the acceleration of the SDGs implementation. These interventions strengthened institutional capacities to enable better collection, analysis and reporting of agricultural and fisheries data, strengthen capacity for collecting and using citizen security data, facilitate increased access, availability and completeness of disaggregated spatial and demographic data and gender analysis for evidence-based policies and programmes, and increased capacity for interception of suspicious passengers, cargo and mail at international airports.
- Strengthen and integrate policy support for climate change and disaster risk reduction with enhanced links to climate financing options.
- Support for transition to a digital, knowledge-based economy and development of innovation eco-system.
- Improve access to sustainable financing for a green economy.
- Support a comprehensive COVID-19 socio-economic recovery which ensured that no one is left behind, and
- A deepened economic resilience framework.

The contribution of the UNDP has certainly made Barbados and the OECS countries of the Caribbean to which it is aligned more resilient in fulfilling their development mandates and achieving their international obligations.

VII. ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR 2023

Global growth is expected to continue its decline due to the war in Ukraine and central banks raising interest rates to fight off inflation. According to the Central Bank of Barbados first quarter 2023 report, the Barbadian economy is projected to register strong growth for 2023 in the region of 4 to 5 percent. Continued expansion in tourism and private sector investments are key to driving this performance while the Government's ongoing public investment programme should provide further impetus to the economy.

Downside risks to the outlook include a possible slowing of the global economy should policymakers fail to get the right balance between containing inflation and impeding global demand. An intensifying of geopolitical tensions with possible adverse effects on supply chains also pose a risk to the growth projection. On the upside, improvements in the cost of air travel will strengthen the performance in tourism, further accelerating growth.

Inflation is expected to moderate over the remainder of the year as improvements in international commodity and oil markets filter into the domestic market. The latest World Economic Outlook report (WEO, April 2023), projects a decline in fuel prices in the region of 24 percent in 2023. The continuation of the social compact should serve to further contain price increases. Nevertheless, upward inflationary pressures are likely to come from the increased local demand for services as the economy continues to expand. Additionally, significant headwinds remain with the recent OPEC+ announcement to cut oil production.

The Government of Barbados recently concluded its budget for FY2023/24 that projects a primary surplus of 3.5 percent of GDP, consistent with the target under the BERT-2022 IMF-supported programme. The administration did not impose any new taxes but instead focused on growing the economy through structural reforms. The budgetary measures, in tandem with the initiatives to mitigate inflation that have been extended by Government (the extension of the VAT free basket and the reduction in VAT on electricity), and the parliamentary estimates for FY2023/24 should aid in achieving the desired primary surplus. This outturn is in line with the primary balance path that underpins the long-term debt anchor of 60 percent of GDP.

The achievement of the 3.5 percent primary surplus is predicated on continued growth for the remainder of the year, tempered inflationary pressures, and ongoing structural reforms. In this polycrisis world, a shock such as a natural disaster or the like could derail the growth prospects, resulting in lower revenues and the need to adjust expenditures. Continued emphasis on public sector reform is also essential in mitigating Government's exposure to contingent liabilities while freeing up revenues for necessary investment. The planned transformation of a number of SOEs that pose financial risk reflects Government's commitment to restrain unplanned spending on transfers.

Government's overall fiscal position for FY2023/24 is projected to be a deficit of 1.6 percent of GDP, which is to be funded mainly by inflows from multilateral development institutions.

At the same time, there is a renewed effort to revitalise the domestic capital market with a second issuance of the BOSS+ bonds and the introduction of innovative instruments such as reverse options.

The external position is expected to remain buoyant with international reserves maintaining a more than adequate import cover and providing a buffer against external shocks. On the outflows side, lower prices for imports, particularly in the food & beverages and fuel categories should temper the reserve losses, although such savings are likely to be offset by a pick-up in domestic demand given the acceleration in economic activity. At the same time, the continued revival of the tourism industry should boost travel receipts, which, along with multilateral financing and tourism-related projects, should bolster reserve accumulation.

Over the medium term, strengthening our external position would necessitate mitigating external vulnerabilities, which hinges on boosting competitiveness, ensuring food security and building resilience to climatic events and other shocks. The path toward renewable energy is necessary to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels, while at the same time redirecting foreign exchange outlays from fuel purchases towards the green-transition of the economy. Additionally, the focus on renewable energy and climate resilience creates the impetus for further domestic credit expansion as households and firms access green financing.

With the continued expansion in the economy, non-performing loans should maintain a downward trajectory. Capital and liquidity levels should remain well above prudential benchmarks, providing adequate buffers to safeguard against shocks stemming from global events, which is particularly important following the failures of Credit Suisse and Silicon Valley Bank in March of this year.

Our ability to achieve the projected economic growth and continue to lower the debt-to-GDP ratio is in part dependent on the aforementioned external factors. However, as individuals, businesses, and collectively as a nation, we have a significant role to play. We must increase productivity and improve the ease of doing business to enhance our international competitiveness. We must convert the recovery we have achieved into sustained and inclusive growth that will lead to general economic development, which will redound to the benefit of us all.

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APPENDIX 1

REAL AND NOMINAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY INDUSTRY

2017 – 2022
(Millions \$'000)

REAL GDP BY INDUSTRY	2017R	2018R	2019R	2020R	2021R	2022P
Accommodation and Food Services	1,314.86	1,342.74	1,415.94	590.24	518.01	1,062.06
Agriculture and Fishing	127.07	146.66	146.26	147.85	132.41	123.89
Business Services	794.93	783.91	764.02	756.46	787.17	859.70
Construction	492.90	461.57	452.32	457.25	415.88	414.45
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	214.85	214.10	213.50	203.53	199.64	204.10
Financial & Insurance	850.94	813.58	786.16	722.76	705.49	697.10
Information & Communications	549.69	550.04	581.69	578.48	590.56	609.48
Manufacturing	487.81	476.93	476.13	456.77	444.88	493.35
Mining and Quarrying	40.75	42.22	49.45	56.61	39.48	43.23
Personal & Other Services Incl. of Private						
Edu. & Health	345.53	344.73	354.83	349.88	347.79	339.22
Public Administration, Defense & Social Security	481.03	470.34	424.43	440.64	444.13	450.37
Public Education	275.39	273.70	273.32	271.94	274.53	286.94
Public Health	99.14	97.78	93.28	98.48	107.74	109.44
Real Estate	883.40	893.12	902.94	912.87	922.91	933.07
Transportation and Storage	496.98	485.86	465.48	372.04	391.91	465.81
Wholesale & Retail Trade	765.47	753.87	767.82	727.51	750.75	782.13
Less: FISM Adjustment	91.00	87.03	86.54	106.57	99.96	92.62
Total Value Added at Basic Prices	8,129.74	8,064.11	8,081.03	7,036.74	6,973.33	7,781.72
Taxes less Subsidies on Products	1,208.18	1,192.41	1,199.92	1,061.99	1,061.99	1,164.31
Gross Domestic Product at Constant Prices	9,337.92	9,256.52	9,280.94	8,098.74	8,035.32	8,946.03
Real Gross Domestic Product per Capita (\$'000)						
NOMINAL GDP BY INDUSTRY	2017R	2018R	2019R	2020R	2021R	2022P
Accommodation and Food Services	1,231.56	1,354.25	1,518.87	770.11	643.68	1,273.88
Agriculture and Fishing	150.91	171.55	170.08	183.12	164.89	165.82
Business Services	746.08	790.87	802.87	773.01	877.11	1,046.00
Construction	511.17	501.70	515.49	510.17	523.30	640.72
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	229.75	231.33	233.27	201.01	208.62	225.50
Financial & Insurance	862.10	856.38	883.39	859.36	809.08	808.23
Information & Communications	463.60	439.89	435.65	447.74	465.78	487.39
Manufacturing	510.08	498.31	498.21	484.10	488.22	535.81
Mining and Quarrying	21.05	26.17	26.53	29.47	24.29	20.61
Personal & Other Services Incl. of Private						
Edu. & Health	559.26	559.25	551.89	561.02	567.38	554.40
Public Administration, Defense & Social Security	481.03	487.83	445.65	462.67	466.34	472.89
Public Education	275.39	283.96	286.98	285.54	288.25	301.29
Public Health	99.14	101.43	97.94	103.41	113.13	114.91
Real Estate	972.75	936.55	1,086.68	1,126.78	1,182.74	1,216.41
Transportation and Storage	650.97	678.55	802.12	693.43	746.89	936.39
Wholesale & Retail Trade	894.47	890.50	889.40	836.06	916.68	1,111.41
Less: FISM Adjustment	170.99	170.35	184.22	189.58	176.42	177.93
Total Value Added at Basic Prices	8,488.32	8,638.17	9,060.81	8,137.42	8,309.96	9,733.71
Taxes less Subsidies on Products	1,496.24	1,582.30	1,621.35	1,340.16	1,536.22	1,666.21
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	9,984.56	10,220.47	10,682.16	9,477.58	9,846.18	11,399.93
Real Gross Domestic Product per Capita (\$'000)						

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 2

DIRECTION OF TRADE – EXPORTS 2000 – 2022

(\$ M)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Canada</u>	<u>CARICOM</u>	<u>Japan</u>	<u>Germany</u>	<u>United Kingdom</u>	<u>United States Of America</u>	<u>Venezuela</u>	<u>All Other Countries</u>	<u>Total Exports</u>
2000	11.1	236.9	0.6	1.2	71.9	83.3	1.9	138.8	545.7
2001	14.3	216.2	0.4	1.2	60.6	73.5	2.4	150.1	518.7
2002	9.0	210.2	0.3	2.3	52.2	63.3	1.7	144.7	483.7
2003	7.8	201.5	0.2	2.3	55.0	67.3	0.0	165.4	499.5
2004	10.5	211.7	0.1	2.0	60.4	81.3	0.1	190.4	556.5
2005	13.0	268.3	0.1	2.9	60.5	91.9	0.4	275.6	712.7
2006	15.6	304.1	0.5	8.3	66.0	171.2	0.1	316.6	882.4
2007	17.9	326.9	0.1	6.5	94.4	170.2	0.4	333.4	949.8
2008	20.7	315.1	0.1	4.5	82.3	187.4	1.1	297.4	908.6
2009	20.1	282.5	0.2	4.7	65.6	169.7	0.9	268.4	812.1
2010	16.2	291.9	0.3	4.1	105.3	148.5	0.9	294.2	861.4
2011	15.1	389.9	0.0	4.8	110.1	137.0	0.7	359.3	1,016.9
2012	20.3	327.4	0.1	2.4	62.5	293.4	0.6	443.6	1,150.3
2013	23.8	330.8	0.3	4.5	17.3	165.5	0.5	392.5	935.2
2014	23.3	336.0	0.1	5.8	33.5	157.0	0.4	392.7	948.8
2015	17.4	311.1	0.6	2.2	28.1	310.3	0.1	296.0	965.8
2016	18.3	349.8	0.1	4.2	32.5	349.4	0.3	331.8	1086.4
2017	17.3	323.5	0.1	2.9	28.2	246.1	0.4	348.6	970.8
2018	25.3	338.9	0.0	1.4	16.9	202.8	0.3	329.9	915.5
2019	30.6	339.8	0.0	0.8	17.9	180.3	0.1	318.6	888.2
2020	30.1	292.2	0.0	1.5	17.3	87.1	0.2	262.1	690.4
2021	24.5	285.9	0.0	3.7	9.6	127.3	0.1	249.4	700.3
2022	25.34	345.51	0.02	0.26	12.44	163.68	0.04	448.43	995.71

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 3

DIRECTION OF TRADE – IMPORTS 2000 – 2022

(\$M)

Year	Canada	CARICOM	Japan	Germany	United Kingdom	United States of America	Venezuela	Other Countries	Total Imports
2000	96.5	459.1	120.1	36.6	186.7	943.9	13.8	455.4	2,312.1
2001	80.3	436.4	89.1	36.5	171.9	877.0	8.8	437.3	2,137.3
2002	74.8	463.2	90.1	35.6	157.4	850.7	9.0	460.7	2,141.5
2003	84.8	570.5	106.9	39.5	148.9	891.2	6.1	542.7	2,390.6
2004	107.8	698.7	128.1	41.8	166.5	1,027.7	8.2	647.1	2,825.9
2005	114.4	627.9	165.5	52.2	176.9	1,172.0	11.1	702.9	3,022.9
2006	120.2	857.9	119.7	44.7	189.9	1,205.0	8.4	712.3	3,258.1
2007	118.6	845.6	118.8	61.6	213.9	1,205.9	2.6	798.1	3,365.1
2008	121.4	885.5	126.4	56.3	185.0	1,274.4	2.3	841.7	3,493.0
2009	103.0	752.6	82.8	34.3	134.4	1,054.5	0.9	683.6	2,846.1
2010	106.4	1,046.9	85.8	45.3	128.4	1,036.8	0.3	727.7	3,177.6
2011	112.5	1,200.7	82.6	72.3	143.3	1,115.8	0.6	825.0	3,552.8
2012	96.7	1,306.2	71.7	37.7	132.8	1,083.6	0.3	793.4	3,522.4
2013	99.9	1,185.0	69.3	45.7	143.2	1,153.3	0.2	841.9	3,538.6
2014	81.8	988.9	65.1	48.4	139.1	1,124.2	0.1	1,030.8	3,478.4
2015	76.5	682.2	69.1	53.9	136.5	1,148.5	1.1	1,070.4	3,237.2
2016	73.5	585.3	86.7	66.8	157.8	1,181.8	0.0	1,095.5	3,247.3
2017	76.2	642.5	90.8	43.7	129.6	1,148.9	0.1	1,072.4	3,204.0
2018	67.9	661.0	82.1	38.5	132.2	1,071.3	0.1	1,147.26	3,200.2
2019	74.0	578.6	79.1	44.5	132.2	1,061.3	0.1	1,191.0	3,160.7
2020	73.4	517.0	92.9	29.0	145.5	1,173.1	0.0	972.6	3,003.5
2021	87.5	603.3	73.6	28.4	147.9	1,313.3	0.0	1,093.3	3,347.2
2022	93.1	1,035.98	82.4	25.7	195.3	1,556.8	0.0	1,313.33	4,302.70

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 4
SELECTED DOMESTIC
EXPORTS 2000 – 2022
(\$M)

Year	Sugar	Molasses	Rum	Lard & Margarine	Other Food & Beverages	Electrical Components	Clothing	Chemicals	Other Domestic Exports	Total Domestic Exports
2000	53.3	0.0	24.5	9.0	51.2	42.9	5.8	47.6	146.0	380.3
2001	44.0	0.0	36.0	9.4	55.6	37.8	3.4	43.4	123.1	352.7
2002	37.7	0.0	35.5	9.3	52.7	28.7	1.4	42.1	126.5	333.9
2003	41.0	0.0	33.6	8.9	36.8	29.4	1.8	41.9	136.0	329.4
2004	44.9	0.0	44.6	10.0	39.0	29.6	1.2	42.4	135.2	346.9
2005	44.4	0.0	50.7	10.9	47.7	56.3	2.6	56.1	158.3	427.0
2006	39.2	0.2	44.3	14.4	42.2	47.3	2.3	60.2	241.6	491.7
2007	37.3	0.0	67.5	15.4	52.8	31.0	1.6	74.6	318.6	598.8
2008	45.0	0.0	66.0	19.8	59.1	27.4	0.9	66.8	241.3	526.3
2009	36.2	0.0	57.2	18.7	48.2	18.1	0.6	58.2	202.4	439.6
2010	19.3	0.0	66.8	18.8	44.5	22.2	0.5	124.0	212.1	508.2
2011	21.2	0.0	70.9	19.1	49.4	22.7	0.6	140.7	209.5	534.1
2012	22.3	0.2	82.4	20.2	53.6	20.4	0.5	128.3	265.0	592.9
2013	15.9	0.2	86.1	20.2	58.1	15.2	0.6	82.9	255.4	534.6
2014	18.1	0.0	78.7	20.0	64.5	18.9	0.4	88.9	265.1	554.6
2015	7.2	0.0	76.3	18.6	58.6	17.0	0.4	93.6	234.3	506.0
2016	7.1	0.0	77.6	18.5	71.0	24.7	0.3	91.7	233.3	524.1
2017	13.5	0.0	83.9	19.7	67.6	19.9	0.0	72.7	232.4	509.8
2018	0.4	0.0	79.8	20.2	69.5	20.3	0.0	80.3	240.2	510.7
2019	0.6	0.0	76.8	20.1	67.0	18.6	0.0	77.8	250.5	511.4
2020	0.9	0.0	75.9	21.1	64.7	16.1	0.0	84.7	186.0	449.5
2021*	1.8	0.0	84.5	23.4	76.7	16.1	0.1	68.6	175.9	447.0
2022	1.9	0.0	85.9	24.6	96.1	19.4	0.0	67.5	206.4	502.2

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 5
VISIBLE TRADE BALANCE – IMPORTS AND
EXPORTS 2000 – 2022
(\$M)

Year	Imports (CIF)	Domestic Exports	Re-Exports	Total Exports	Balance on Visible Trade
2000	2,312.1	380.3	165.4	545.7	-1,766.4
2001	2,137.3	352.7	166.0	518.7	-1,618.6
2002	2,141.5	333.9	149.9	483.0	-1,658.5
2003	2,390.6	329.4	170.1	499.5	-1,891.1
2004	2,825.9	346.9	209.6	551.3	-2,274.6
2005	3,022.9	427.0	285.7	712.7	-2,310.2
2006	3,258.1	491.7	390.8	882.4	-2,375.7
2007	3,365.1	513.5	436.4	949.8	-2,415.3
2008	3,493.0	526.3	382.3	908.6	-2,584.4
2009	2,846.1	439.6	372.6	812.1	-2,034.0
2010	3,177.6	508.2	353.2	861.4	-2,316.2
2011	3,552.8	534.1	482.8	1016.9	-2,535.9
2012	3,522.4	592.9	557.4	1150.3	-2,372.1
2013	3,538.6	534.6	400.7	935.2	-2,603.4
2014	3,478.4	554.6	394.2	948.8	-2,529.6
2015	3,236.2	506.0	459.8	965.8	-2,270.3
2016	3,247.3	524.1	509.6	1033.7	-2,213.6
2017	3,204.0	509.8	460.9	970.8	-2,233.3
2018	3,200.2	510.7	404.8	915.5	-2,284.8
2019	3,160.7	511.4	376.7	888.2	-2,272.5
2020	3,003.4	449.5	241.0	690.4	-2,313.0
2021	3,347.2	447.0	253.3	700.3	-2,646.9
2022	4,302.7	502.2	493.4	995.7	-3,306.9

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 6
EMPLOYMENT BY
INDUSTRY
2014-2022
(\$000)

Industry	2014	2015	2016R	2017	2018	2019	2020*	2021	2022
Accommodation & Food Services	15.4	15.8	15.2	15.0	16.6	15.6	9.2	11.7	14.1
Activities of Households as Employers	5.0	5.1	5.8	4.8	4.4	4.7	3.8	3.9	4.9
Administrative & Support Service	7.2	7.1	8.7	7.4	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.2
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	3.4	3.7	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.6
Construction, Mining & Quarrying	12.0	12.1	14.6	13.3	12.3	11.4	11.1	10	11.3
Education	7.2	7.3	5.7	7.6	6.0	6.7	6.9	7	7.2
Elec. Gas, Steam, Water & Air Conditioning Supply	2.4	2.9	2.0	2.9	3.1	2.3	1.7	2.1	2.6
Finance & Insurance	5.7	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.8	5.3	5.7	5.2	5.6
Human Health & Social Work	6.6	6.8	7.2	6.6	6.0	6.3	5.8	6.1	6.9
Manufacturing	9.5	9.8	8.6	8.9	8.0	7.4	7.3	7.2	6.3
Other Services	3.5	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.8	3.3	3.9	0.3
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.2	4.6	4.7	5.5	4.9	6.5
Public Administration & Defense	8.7	9.6	11.4	9.6	8.7	7.4	9.9	11.6	4.7
Transportation & Storage	5.7	6.3	5.9	6.9	7.1	6.4	5.5	5.6	4.9
Wholesale & Retail Trade	21.2	20.2	23.9	20.3	19.3	19.1	16.9	16.5	13.6
Not Stated	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.6	2	0.9	1.1	6.5
Other Groups ⁴	7.0	7.6	7.0	8.1	8.6	8.9	6.8	6.6	18.6
TOTAL	124.8	128.2	132.9	129.9	126.2	124.8	111.3	133.0	124.8

*Average for the third and fourth quarter of 2020. Information was not collected for the first and second quarters due to national restrictions on movement.

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

⁴ Other Groups includes the following industries: Information and Communications, Activities of Extraterritorial organizations & Bodies, Real Estate & Arts, Entertainment and Recreation.

APPENDIX 7
DIRECTION OF TRADE WITH CARICOM
COUNTRIES
DOMESTIC EXPORTS
2014 - 2022
(\$000)

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Antigua	17,699	16,305	16,608	16,143	29,076	18,594	14,822	13,181	12,806
Belize	2,505	3,146	3,116	3,389	2,033	2,407	2,689	2,678	4,000
Dominica	6,394	6,791	6,793	6,902	15,016	15,465	9,201	7,926	7,811
Grenada	18,477	14,975	16,885	16,507	18,180	18,392	13,092	12,415	16,707
Guyana	48,441	50,399	45,881	45,055	52,613	59,222	49,453	51,043	55,994
Haiti	1,575	588	473	867	1,044	638	1,311	1,303	1,518
Jamaica	29,223	35,839	34,214	36,517	39,223	59,650	54,780	51,106	69,652
St. Kitts & Nevis	10,509	11,656	12,365	13,452	15,575	15,897	8,932	8,810	10,967
St. Lucia	29,652	28,320	29,803	29,055	32,263	26,957	23,149	24,887	31,279
Montserrat	363	424	747	779	678	824	942	584	277
Suriname	4,844	5,805	7,527	8,532	9,677	11,221	5,755	4,300	5,194
Trinidad & Tobago	96,590	66,536	60,952	67,072	61,511	55,297	44,429	50,235	64,858
St. Vincent	19,459	19,294	21,730	18,852	18,912	20,510	18,018	13,156	13,175
Total	285,731	260,078	257,096	263,120	295,800	305,076	246,572	241,624	294,239

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 8
CONTRIBUTION BY INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN TO GROSS DOMESTIC
PRODUCT 2014-2022
(MARKET PRICES (%))

	<u>2014R</u>	<u>2015R</u>	<u>2016R</u>	<u>2017R</u>	<u>2018R</u>	<u>2019R</u>	<u>2020R</u>	<u>2021R</u>	<u>2022P</u>
Accommodation and Food Services	6.41	6.24	6.16	6.01	5.77	5.50	5.95	5.88	5.50
Agriculture and Fishing	13.05	12.86	13.60	14.51	15.68	16.76	9.46	7.75	13.09
Business Services	3.44	3.36	3.28	3.24	3.29	3.17	3.51	3.47	3.10
Construction	2.69	2.72	2.64	2.71	2.68	2.57	2.47	2.51	2.32
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	6.55	6.46	6.10	6.02	5.81	5.69	6.27	6.30	6.58
Finance & Insurance	6.11	6.34	6.66	6.59	6.47	6.09	6.89	6.83	5.70
Information & Communications	0.27	0.22	0.19	0.25	0.30	0.29	0.36	0.29	0.21
Manufacturing	7.87	8.29	8.55	8.79	9.16	8.86	9.50	10.55	10.75
Mining and Quarrying	1.83	1.72	1.75	1.78	1.99	1.88	2.25	1.98	1.70
Personal & Other Services Incl. of Private Edu. & Health	11.18	10.97	10.92	10.54	10.31	9.82	10.27	11.03	11.42
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	1.27	1.21	1.18	1.17	1.17	1.08	1.27	1.36	1.18
Public Education	12.98	12.64	11.81	11.46	10.84	11.99	13.85	14.23	12.50
Public Health	6.01	6.55	7.53	7.67	7.86	8.85	8.52	8.99	9.62
Real Estate	6.23	5.92	5.81	5.67	5.65	4.92	5.69	5.61	4.86
Transportation and Storage	6.37	6.17	5.92	5.46	5.09	4.81	5.50	5.61	5.01
Wholesale & Retail Trade	9.43	10.11	9.88	10.16	9.91	9.75	10.56	9.74	8.30
FISIM Adjustment	1.70	1.79	1.99	2.01	1.97	2.03	2.33	2.12	1.83
Total Value Added at Basic Prices	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

APPENDIX 9
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY INDUSTRY OF
ORIGIN 2014 - 2022
% CHANGE (CURRENT MARKET PRICES)

	<u>2014R</u>	<u>2015R</u>	<u>2016R</u>	<u>2017R</u>	<u>2018R</u>	<u>2019R</u>	<u>2020R</u>	<u>2021R</u>	<u>2022P</u>
Accommodation and Food Services	-2.68	-0.61	6.81	8.80	9.96	12.16	-49.30	-16.42	97.90
Agriculture and Fishing	0.09	-5.19	2.80	3.43	13.68	-0.86	7.66	-9.95	0.56
Business Services	-2.38	6.24	4.25	4.80	6.00	1.52	-3.72	13.47	19.26
Construction	0.54	-0.63	-4.54	0.66	-1.85	2.75	-1.03	2.57	22.44
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	3.13	2.00	-2.21	4.73	0.69	0.84	-13.83	3.78	8.09
Finance & Insurance	0.80	8.13	-1.31	4.81	-0.66	3.15	-2.72	-5.85	-0.10
Information & Communications	-6.46	-2.26	-3.11	-5.96	-5.12	-0.96	2.78	4.03	4.64
Manufacturing	-4.51	-1.83	-0.34	-0.46	-2.31	-0.02	-2.83	0.85	9.75
Mining and Quarrying	-7.77	-17.54	-10.18	30.93	24.32	1.36	11.11	-17.58	-15.17
Personal & Other Services Incl. of Private Edu. & Health	9.44	4.64	5.97	0.96	0.00	-1.32	1.66	1.13	-2.29
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	-9.77	-4.14	-0.96	-0.47	1.41	-8.65	3.82	0.79	1.41
Public Education	-1.93	-1.55	-1.35	0.82	3.11	1.06	-0.50	0.95	4.52
Public Health	-4.34	-3.72	-1.53	0.85	2.31	-3.44	5.58	9.40	1.58
Real Estate	2.96	-1.78	-5.60	-1.07	-3.72	16.03	3.69	4.97	2.85
Transportation and Storage	13.68	9.90	16.03	3.91	4.24	18.21	-13.55	7.71	25.37
Wholesale & Retail Trade	-1.10	-1.04	0.57	-1.57	-0.44	-0.12	-6.00	9.64	21.24
FISIM Adjustment	-11.76	6.38	11.85	3.48	-0.38	8.14	2.91	-6.94	0.86
Total Value Added at Basic Prices	-0.20	0.85	1.01	1.99	1.77	4.89	-10.19	2.12	17.13
Taxes less Subsidies on Products	5.09	-1.35	11.05	9.72	5.75	2.47	-17.34	14.63	8.46
Gross Domestic Product at Market Prices	0.47	0.56	2.31	3.08	2.36	4.52	-11.28	3.89	15.78

APPENDIX 10
REAL GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY INDUSTRY OF ORIGIN
ANALYSIS - % CHANGE
2007-2022
(CONSTANT 2010 MARKET PRICES)

	2014R	2015R	2016R	2017R	2018R	2019R	2020R	2021R	2022P
Accommodation and Food Services	1.89	7.82	9.77	4.63	2.12	5.45	-58.31	-12.24	105.03
Agriculture and Fishing	2.35	-1.64	-0.41	-2.30	15.41	-0.27	1.09	-10.44	-6.44
Business Services	3.64	6.43	0.97	-2.28	-1.39	-2.54	-0.99	4.06	9.21
Construction	1.35	-1.20	-2.60	2.09	-6.36	-2.00	1.09	-9.05	-0.34
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	0.15	-1.78	0.72	-1.89	-0.35	-0.28	-4.67	-1.91	2.23
Finance & Insurance	0.10	3.45	2.69	3.70	-4.39	-3.37	-8.06	-2.39	-1.19
Information & Communications	0.81	-2.04	6.17	-3.72	0.06	5.75	-0.55	2.09	3.20
Manufacturing	-4.33	4.79	-1.26	0.55	-2.23	-0.17	-4.07	-2.60	10.89
Mining and Quarrying	39.06	29.89	-13.23	25.59	3.62	17.11	14.48	-30.26	9.52
Personal & Other Services Incl. of Private Edu. & Health	-1.51	-2.04	-2.47	-0.44	-0.23	2.93	-1.39	-0.60	-2.46
Public Administration, Defence & Social Security	-9.77	-4.14	-0.96	-0.47	-2.22	-9.76	3.82	0.79	1.41
Public Education	-1.93	-1.55	-1.35	0.82	-0.61	-0.14	-0.50	0.95	4.52
Public Health	-4.34	-3.72	-1.53	0.85	-1.37	-4.60	5.58	9.40	1.58
Real Estate	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Transportation and Storage	7.26	4.02	13.67	0.53	-2.24	-4.19	-20.07	5.34	18.86
Wholesale & Retail Trade	-3.24	3.54	-0.62	-3.60	-1.51	1.85	-5.25	3.19	4.18
FISIM Adjustment	-16.83	-2.33	-11.91	-2.90	-4.36	-0.56	23.15	-6.21	-7.34
Total Value Added at Basic Prices	0.15	2.41	2.66	0.60	-0.81	0.21	-12.92	-0.90	11.59
Taxes less Subsidies on Products	-0.96	2.51	1.71	-0.44	-1.31	0.63	-11.49	0.00	9.63
Gross Domestic Product at Constant Prices	0.00	2.43	2.53	0.46	-0.87	0.26	-12.74	-0.78	11.33

APPENDIX 11
SELECTED INTEREST
RATES
1990 - 2022

(PERCENTAGES PER ANNUM)

Period Ended	Treasury Bills	Deposits - Minimum Rates				Prime Lending Rate(1)	Barbados Bank Rate	U.S.A. Bank Rate
		Three Months	Six Months	Twelve Months	Savings			
1990	8.06	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	10.25	13.50	6.50
1991	11.30	7.00	7.25	7.50	7.00	14.50	18.00	3.50
1992	6.60	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.00	10.75	12.00	3.00
1993	7.23	1.25	1.25	1.25	5.00	8.75	8.00	3.00
1994	7.77	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	9.75	9.50	4.75
1995	8.27	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	9.75	12.50	5.25
1996	5.61	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	8.75	12.50	5.00
1997	4.91	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	8.75	9.00	5.00
1998	5.70	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	8.75	9.00	4.50
1999	6.05	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	5.00
2000	3.85	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	9.50	10.00	6.00
2001	1.97	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	7.25	7.50	1.25
2002	1.51	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	6.75	7.50	0.75
2003	0.64	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	6.75	7.50	2.00
2004	2.76	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	6.50	7.50	3.15
2005	6.26	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	9.15	10.00	5.15
2006	6.56	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	10.15	12.00	6.25
2007	4.90	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	9.65	12.00	4.83
2008	4.81	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	9.00	10.00	0.86
2009	3.44	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	7.65	7.00	0.50
2010	3.35	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	7.65	7.00	0.50
2011	3.43	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	7.65	7.00	0.50
2012	3.61	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	7.65	7.00	0.50
2013	3.24	1.25	1.50	1.60	2.50	7.65	7.00	0.50
2014	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.75	0.00	7.65	7.00	0.50
2015	1.76	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	7.65	7.00	0.50
2016	3.10	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.20	7.65	7.00	0.50
2017	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	4.0	7.00	0.50
2018	3.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	4.0	7.00	0.50
2019	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.65	4.0	7.00	0.50
2020	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.65	4.0	2.00	0.50
2021	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.05	4.0	2.00	0.50
2022	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.05	4.0	2.00	0.50

SOURCE: Central Bank of Barbados

APPENDIX 12
Selected Indicators in the Tourism Industry
2007-2022

Year	Accommodation & Food Services			Arrivals		
	Share in GDP (%)	Employment ('000 persons)	Stay-Over Expenditure (\$M)	Stay-Over Visitors	Average Intended Length of Stay (days)	Cruise Passengers
2007	21.9	n.a	1,761.40	562,541	n.a	539,092
2008	15.1	n.a.	1,711.60	567,667	n.a.	597,523
2009	14.4	n.a.	1,516.50	518,564	n.a.	635,212
2010	14.2	12.7	1,474.40	532,180	15.04	664,747
2011	12.8	13.2	1,314.10	567,724	12.18	609,844
2012	12.4	12.7	1,235.2	536,303	12.51	517,436
2013	13.4	13.3	1,406.20	508,520	11.82	570,263
2014	13.1	15.4	1,358.70	519,635	11.97	563,030
2015	12.9	15.8	1,344.30	591,872	11.19	586,615
2016	13.6	16.4	1,442.50	631,513	11.01	594,096
2017R	14.1	15	1,580.50	661,160	10.63	681,211
2018R	14.6	17.6	1,764.60	678,537	10.51	614,993
2019R	15.1	15.6	2,035.30	692,658	n.a.	686,813
2020R	7.4	9.2	n.a.	195,102	13.3	250,542
2021R	6.1	11.7	n.a.	144,833	14.5	71,953
2022	11.9	14.1	n.a.	442,576	14.7	250,527

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service, Caribbean Tourism Organization, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.

APPENDIX 13

Tourism Arrivals by Country of Residence

2004 – 2022

Year	U.S.A.	Canada	United Kingdom	Germany	Other Europe	Trinidad & Tobago	Other CARICOM	Other Countries	TOTAL
2004	129,664	50,032	213,947	6,970	23,060	26,492	77,845	23,492	551,502
2005	131,005	47,690	202,765	6,995	19,857	30,889	83,886	24,447	547,534
2006	130,757	49,197	211,520	7,478	21,922	34,480	82,496	24,691	562,541
2007	133,519	52,981	223,575	5,549	21,509	30,404	68,979	36,421	572,937
2008	131,795	57,335	219,953	6,098	25,727	28,385	72,254	26,120	567,667
2009	122,306	63,751	190,632	7,020	23,052	26,289	62,482	23,032	518,564
2010	134,969	72,351	181,054	7,260	23,962	27,259	58,923	26,402	532,180
2011	142,414	71,953	189,150	8,401	27,458	36,825	64,149	27,374	567,724
2012	130,762	72,020	173,519	9,182	27,937	38,005	58,482	26,396	536,303
2013	120,584	67,295	168,733	10,300	30,765	31,614	55,681	23,548	508,520
2014	118,510	65,813	186,858	11,992	32,744	27,915	50,815	24,988	519,635
2015	148,067	74,494	214,175	12,338	28,514	29,659	58,321	26,304	591,872
2016	168,945	78,903	218,638	11,492	28,278	34,000	65,679	25,578	631,513
2017	188,460	85,047	217,441	11,243	28,959	35,822	67,208	26,980	661,160
2018	204,249	86,499	220,695	10,621	27,883	32,636	70,201	25,753	678,537
2019	219,770	81,577	226,992	12,271	25,488	31,570	68,682	26,308	692,659
2020R	43,222	32,932	63,923	1,280	16,742	6,819	15,571	14,613	195,102
2021P	44,804	17,316	53,639	2,062	6,897	4,908	9,000	6,207	144,833
2022	128,989	49,197	178,886	4,115	16,427	17,090	34,946	12,926	442,576

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc.

APPENDIX 14

Index Of Industrial Production

1997- 2022

Year	All Industries	Mining & Quarrying	Electricity, Water & Gas	Manufacturing	Food	Beverages & Tobacco	Wearing Apparel	Wooden Furniture	Chemicals	Petroleum Products	Non-metallic Mineral Products	Electronic Components	Other Manufacturing
(Average 1994=100)													
Weights	1000	26	177	797	148	113	21	16	35	214	35	44	170
1997	117.0	121.5	114.5	117.4	114.4	82.8	125.1	134.0	148.3	120.2	181.0	111.4	119.1
1998	100.3	160.1	117.8	94.5	120.1	101.8	95.5	101.1	135.7	13.2'	251.8	93.2	128.2
1999	97.8	188.2	120.6	89.8	117.8	110.5	88.3	41.5	134.9	0.0'	257.6	87.0	126.0
2000	96.1	179.8	122.2	87.6	109.5	102.8	84.2	35.7	110.0	0.0	265.1	81.7	133.9
2001	89.6	160.7	127.6	78.8	113.0	92.4	43.0	34.1	96.1	0.0	248.3	55.9	115.2
2002	91.4	171.4	132.1	79.7	120.3	79.6	28.8	134.3	96.7	0.0	270.8	54.4	109.3
2003	90.3	144.2	136.1	78.3	117.6	84.9	25.1	136.0	103.0	0.0	285.5	46.0	100.1
2004	92.6	158.0	138.6	80.2	115.0	87.1	25.7	192.9	115.7	0.0	294.1	53.5	97.7
2005	94.1	170.8	137.8	81.9	116.6	84.8	25.2	193.9	121.9	0.0	305.7	41.7	105.1
2006	95.3	165.5	149.2	81.1	116.4	73.9	22.2	169.1	118.4	0.0	320.6	45.0	108.6
2007	95.0	155.7	152.9	80.1	117.8	76.9	22.1	158.4	118.2	0.0	313.0	33.6	106.1
2008	93.2	143.5	152.2	78.5	115.3	84.3	12.0	166.7	118.8	0.0	290.4	32.2	101.2
2009	84.1	90.0	153.3	68.6	103.8	74.8	14.3	133.4	90.4	0.0	236.6	21.8	93.5
2010	82.8	99.4	156.5	65.9	99.1	84.9	8.0	119.6	90.2	0.0	204.5	27.0	85.7
2011	79.7	85.9	154.2	63.0	95.1	78.1	11.0	111.0	812	0.0	207.3	24.8	82.5
2012	75.8	79.1	154.9	58.1	94.9	73.9	12.2	107.7	78.9	0.0	164.7	15.6	74.6
2013	76.9	77.3	158.5	58.8	94.8	70.3	6.7	124.6	73.5	0.0	181.8	17.6	76.2
2014	77.6	70.1	158.3	59.9	117.3	66.2	7.8	112.4	126.3	0.0	147.1	9.5	64.0
2015	77.9	61.3	155.5	61.2	120.8	54.3	4.7	126.7	148.2	0.0	177.5	5.5	64.2
2016	77.5	83.4	160.6	58.9	116.1	61.7	5.0	120.6	135.0	0.0	151.7	10.5	59.8
2017	75.0	90.4	153.2	56.5	92.7	56.4	5.0	121.3	149.7	0.0	171.4	14.1	64.7
2018	75.1	97.8	155.4	56.5	8.5	69.0	5.0	131.0	130.1	0.0	180.1	13.6	61.3
2019	73.0	83.6	154.0	54.7	84.2	66.3	5.0	122.4	128.4	0.0	188.2	16.4	57.0
2020	68.8	99.1	154.5	48.8	84.4	57.2	5.0	127.1	129.3	0.0	106.5	11.8	53.0
2021	68.6	69.8	147.2	51.2	81.6	47.5	5.0	121.8	165.7	0.0	178.5	8.5	51.4
2022	71.4	95.3	151.7	52.8	89.2	61.8	5.0	122.3	141.5	0.0	172.4	0.0	51.7

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service

APPENDIX 15
Importation of Select Commodities
2017 - 2022

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (R)	2022	% Change over 2021
Root Crop Imports ('000 kgs)							
Cassava	0.03	0.11	4.77	3.98	0.77	2.23	190%
Eddoes	135.63	100.44	150.67	176.03	147.70	195.28	32%
Sweet Potato	34.57	5.87	23.37	30.72	4.35	5.43	25%
Yam	63.40	85.19	56.11	128.16	74.09	111.00	50%
Onion	1954.16	1745.92	1696.31	1780.36	1540.23	1664.64	8%
Peanut	402.05	424.53	384.33	395.53	370.22	340.78	-8%
Vegetable Imports ('000 kgs)							
Beans (String)	0.32	0.50	0.19	0.67	0.36	2.38	561%
Beets	54.45	50.09	48.68	69.31	72.58	97.26	34%
Cabbage	566.82	573.05	448.35	473.08	477.48	580.82	22%
Carrot	807.60	761.22	624.69	553.77	554.78	506.73	-9%
Cucumber	8.08	3.65	3.18	14.51	3.69	3.19	-14%
Lettuce	781.68	705.14	640.30	465.91	424.15	508.94	20%
Melons	523.53	390.48	394.76	380.88	223.77	297.40	33%
Okras	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	0.17	-79%
Peppers (Hot)	1.50	2.92	2.86	6.04	0.00	19.32	#DIV/0!
Peppers (Sweet)	278.83	246.08	300.34	273.22	252.34	252.55	0%
Pumpkins	301.50	295.65	197.28	199.84	122.86	141.69	15%
Tomato	338.69	218.23	107.21	271.74	213.73	286.74	34%
Livestock and Dairy Product Imports ('000 kgs)							
Pork	2676.57	2272.78	2740.71	2152.33	2783.03	2676.94	-4%
Beef & Veal	2226.01	1985.69	2221.18	1993.20	1921.84	2490.41	30%
Mutton	1335.96	1233.51	1085.99	1007.71	1002.50	1175.35	17%
Poultry	1378.92	1715.98	1766.03	1581.66	1057.58	1762.94	67%
Table Eggs	50.48	83.75	22.53	0.00	19.13	15.75	-18%
All Milk	2127.67	3070.18	2830.91	2874.35	3211.97	3085.83	-4%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

APPENDIX 16
Production of Selected Agricultural Commodities
2015 - 2022

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018 (R)	2019	2020(R)	2021 (R)	2022	% Change over 2021
Sugar Production									
Cane Harvested (tonnes)	116,105.70	83,369.20	131,194.40	146,831.13	84,588.57	90,177.61	92,129.07	95,955.00	4%
Area Harvested(acres)	7,670.20	10,582.90	6,809.60	7,128.96	7,294.75	n.a.	4,444.25	6,303.88	42%
Sugar ('000 tonnes)	10.8	7	10.1	11.7	7.9	7.9	5.3	4.4	-17%
Cotton Production	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2020/2022	
Cotton Received	48,386.40	34,645.40	18,415.20	5,527.07	6,640.55	14,866.09	12,626.28	8,144.84	-35%
lint ('000 kgs)	17.7	13.7	5.8	1.7	2.2	5.5	3.6		-100%
Running bales	78	57	26	7	10	24	16	10	-38%
Hectares planted	167.10	171.70	89.60	95.91	34.20	124.64	80.94	78.91	-3%
Root Crop Production ('000 kgs)									
Cassava	379.10	490.50	478.80	1038.56	675.66	1551.01	1213.88	560.36	-54%
Eddoes	156.60	250.30	161.00	352.67	193.72	263.12	201.05	287.63	43%
Sweet Potato	1334.60	2897.50	1167.30	2347.75	4159.59	3544.26	3413.90	2543.46	-25%
Yam	578.10	378.40	181.40	433.13	241.68	395.59	580.64	988.97	70%
Onion	757.80	428.70	410.70	528.58	1309.49	1327.73	1402.02	1486.48	6%
Peanut	7.90	11.20	21.10	6.18	2.99	15.70	8.91	8.28	-7%
Vegetable Production ('000 kgs)									
Beans (String)	149.90	137.00	264.60	370.05	441.85	591.95	188.70	168.12	-11%
Beets	43.40	83.60	13.20	86.97	78.30	331.63	115.70	122.61	6%
Cabbage	360.60	337.50	470.80	877.37	607.41	594.25	290.56	311.85	7%
Carrot	271.00	134.60	158.20	528.08	485.81	313.98	257.89	340.43	32%
Cucumber	810.90	250.30	714.50	1326.38	1772.90	1904.52	1157.83	1245.56	8%
Lettuce	459.90	439.70	586.50	1237.40	1225.92	1857.18	1059.83	979.70	-8%
Melons	401.20	197.60	226.20	1899.37	1534.53	1330.14	1235.88	1457.94	18%
Okras	290.00	261.00	340.80	1328.28	1231.49	1219.56	891.79	673.57	-24%
Peppers (Hot)	88.50	37.50	148.30	437.21	830.91	896.63	383.27	226.13	-41%
Peppers (Sweet)	329.90	137.20	304.50	581.93	659.61	657.94	460.46	474.46	3%
Pumpkins	308.20	249.30	169.20	744.48	478.38	905.71	392.78	505.67	29%
Tomato	733.60	336.90	332.40	1552.11	1327.13	1684.88	1063.57	906.02	-15%
Livestock and Dairy Production ('000 kgs)									
Pork	2846.70	2663.80	2518.50	2771.74	2840.32	2869.19	2634.03	2539.35	-4%
Beef	170.60	176.20	156.90	174.97	172.47	182.25	161.24	201.18	25%
Veal	2.00	1.20	6.20	0.60	0.43	43.61	0.60	0.34	-43%
Mutton	101.80	110.50	95.80	107.01	92.17	98.68	65.41	84.58	29%
Chicken	16134.10	14896.80	15805.30	16465.56	16231.95	11964.86	13183.42	13516.60	3%
Turkey	190.30	261.80	127.00	180.78	397.55	141.48	298.08	134.73	-55%
Eggs	2395.20	4260.60	3366.90	3440.07	3749.85	3471.54	2605.66	3099.41	19%
Milk	5227.40	4549.40	4862.20	4799.38	4657.37	3977.95	4340.66	4039.41	-7%

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

APPENDIX 17
Food Import Bill (BDS\$)
2018- 2022

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Beef	\$22,041,143	\$25,205,865	\$22,157,976	\$23,355,910	\$38,136,039
Pork	\$12,107,969	\$15,540,153	\$12,702,504	\$19,755,574	\$20,071,668
Lamb	\$14,377,770	\$13,608,139	\$12,390,033	\$13,921,916	\$18,186,604
Poultry	\$7,407,475	\$7,999,657	\$7,667,737	\$6,669,879	\$13,286,420
Fish	\$35,686,688	\$37,775,769	\$27,011,496	\$30,824,645	\$46,903,830
Dairy, Eggs and Honey	\$60,806,381	\$64,180,167	\$60,203,452	\$64,594,756	\$85,089,432
Vegetables Fresh and Chilled	\$26,931,181	\$30,721,768	\$26,264,046	\$28,035,560	\$35,300,159
Vegetables Frozen and Dried	\$3,890,276	\$3,753,048	\$3,805,567	\$3,803,801	\$5,076,984
Root Crops	\$252,530	\$325,554	\$380,999	\$240,890	\$237,018
Nuts	\$2,001,546	\$1,977,592	\$1,646,451	\$1,745,600	\$1,995,645
Fruits	\$33,494,069	\$36,332,806	\$35,682,334	\$41,020,056	\$45,621,255
Coffee, Tea and Spices	\$9,352,295	\$7,726,429	\$7,865,022	\$9,285,691	\$10,044,630
Grain and Cereals	\$70,032,802	\$74,879,901	\$71,669,297	\$82,416,645	\$109,026,693
Oils and Fats	\$23,824,949	\$19,721,058	\$23,778,481	\$20,818,905	\$35,726,190
Processed Goods	\$175,677,436	\$173,562,327	\$179,958,404	\$184,841,063	\$206,054,165
Juices and Concentrates	\$11,512,393	\$13,091,676	\$10,273,439	\$9,846,405	\$14,010,272
Other Food Preparations	\$78,375,587	\$81,196,132	\$81,241,463	\$88,589,258	\$93,911,599
Non- Alcoholic Beverages	\$37,054,006	\$38,795,483	\$33,600,984	\$31,525,005	\$40,806,169
Alcoholic Beverages	\$58,917,375	\$53,712,519	\$46,414,766	\$47,828,609	\$68,097,516
TOTAL	\$683,743,871	\$700,106,043	\$664,714,451	\$709,120,168	\$887,582,288

SOURCE: Agricultural Planning Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security

APPENDIX 18
Special Technical Assistance Programme
Disbursements and Beneficiaries by Calendar Year
2016-2022

Type of Assistance	2016R	2017R	2018R	2019R	2020R	2021R	2022P
Initial Diagnostic Process	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Training Productivity Enhancement	15,865	132,092	219,985	254,293	176,807	39,326	52,401
Marketing	372,168	468,946	508,609	562,098	347,804	476,271	277,443
Equipment, Systems & Process Upgrades	0	222,084	83,714	526,430	346,088	2,003,011	1,078,218
International Standards Certification	38,815	51,723	0	0	92,092	0	0
Enhancement Programme BMA/CRAFT	49,874	211,141	178,925	26,119	558	15,215	0
Product Design	49,578	4,720	0	0	3,000	54,873	0
Market Research	0	0	28,068	22,892	48,783	30,108	16,373
Professional Services	182,350	233,974	126,491	38,725	53,314	125,795	133,309
Promotion - Pelican Craft Centre	31,103	34,075	28,357	21,863	0	0	0
Craft Supply Project	0	2,608	0	0	2,681	0	0
Intellectual Property	0	0	12,255	51,290	25,738	50,194	0
Total (\$)	739,754	1,361,363	1,186,404	1,503,710	1,096,864	2,794,793	1,557,745

SOURCE: Barbados Investment and Development Corporation

R - Revised

P – Provisional

APPENDIX 19
Oil, Gas & Utility Production & Consumption
2018-2022

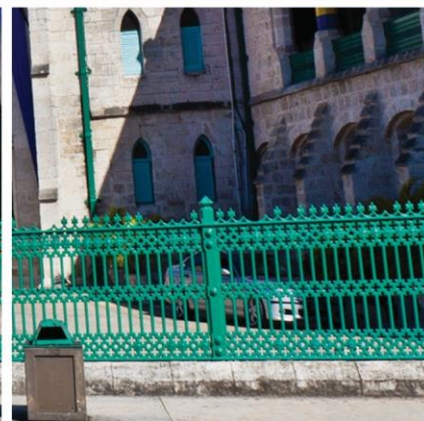
Oil Gas & Utility Production & Consumption (values)	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Production					
Domestic Crude Oil (Bbls)	220,432	209,350	172,944	152,272	140,285
Domestic Natural Gas (Mcf)	510,323	500,867	392,730	372,946	327,720
Domestic LPG (Bbls)	-	-	-	-	-
Imported LNG (Mcf)	580,843	226,831	226,597	301,159	382,642
No. of wells drilled	-	-	-	-	-
Sales					
Oil sales	218,000	209,655	171,021	163,709	141,434
Gas Sales (Mcf)	359,113	374,778	261,812	254,430	217,574
Gas Sales (Mcf) (Imported)	580,843	226,831	281,687	321,750	357,365
Natural Gas Sales	Value \$	Value \$	Value \$	Value \$	Value \$
Residential	4,416,268	4,553,602	4,702,847	4,704,089	4,473,284
Commercial	17,064,775	17,814,689	11,154,121	11,704,727	20,833,898
Industrial	538,082	440,962	468,667	465,394	846,807
Special Industrial	-	-	-	-	-
Total	22,019,125	22,809,253	16,325,635	16,874,210	261,539,898
New Gas Connections					
Residential	287	199	187	168	176
Commercial	10	13	14	10	27
Total Natural Gas Connections	297	212	201	178	203
Mileage of Gas Mains Network	0.22	1.23	1.95	4.87	1.31
Total To Date	340.35	341.58	344	348.37	349.68
Electricity (Kwh)					
Gross Generation	1,014,908,553	1,013,128,822	930,902,870	923,645,149	941,724,008
Net Generation	996,154,600	1,013,745,508	922,806,170	927,756,277	1,001,159,031
Total Sales	938,251,065	946,786,471	893,869,709	904,959,735	937235382

SOURCE: Ministry of Energy and Business

APPENDIX 20
Population, Rates of Birth, Death and Infant Mortality
1984 – 2022

Year	Resident Population at December 31	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Rate of Natural Increase	Infant Mortality	Rate of Population Growth
	('000persons)	(Per 1000 pop.)	(Per 1000 pop.)	(Per 1000 pop.)	(Per 1000 births)	(%)
1984	255.8	16.7	7.8	8.9	18.4	0.3
1985	257	16.7	8.3	8.4	17.8	0.4
1986	258	15.7	8.4	7.3	19	0.4
1987	258.8	14.8	8.5	6.3	22.3	0.3
1988	259.4	14.5	8.6	5.9	19.5	0.2
1989	260.3	15.5	8.8	6.7	18.2	0.2
1995	264.4	13.1	9.4	3.7	13.2	0.4
1996	264.6	13.3	9.1	4.2	14.2	0.1
1997	266.1	14.3	8.7	5.6	13.2	0.6
1998	266.8	13.6	9.3	4.3	7.8	0.4
1999	267.4	14.5	9	5.5	10	0.2
2000	269.1	14	9.1	5	17	0.6
2001	270.4	15	8.9	6.1	15.8	0.6
2002	271.3	14.1	8.5	5.6	14.4	0.3
2003	272.2	13.8	8.4	5.4	9.9	0.3
2004	272.7	12.7	8.9	3.8	18.4	0.2
2005	273.4	12.6	7.9	4.9	8.3	0.3
2006	274	12.4	8.5	3.9	11.1	0.2
2007	274.7	12.9	8.1	4.8	13	0.3
2008	275.3	12.9	9	3.9	18.3	0.2
2009	275.7	12.9	8.8	4.1	8.7	0.1
2010	276.3	12.2	8	4.2	10.1	0.2
2011	276.8	11.8	8.8	3	13.7	0.2
2012	277	11.5	8.7	2.8	11	0.1
2013	277.5	10.9	8.2	2.7	7.3	0.2
2014	276.9	10.5	9.3	1.2	10	-0.2
2015	276.3	10.4	9.2	1.2	8	-0.2
2016	275.4	9.1	9.3	-0.2	13.5	-0.4
2017	274.4	9.4	9.6	-0.2	8.9	-0.4
2018	273.5	8.8	9.3	-0.5	9.1	-0.4
2019	272.3	9.5	10.6	-1.1	7.4	-0.4
2020R	270.9	8.7	10	-1.3	6.4	-0.5
2021R	269.8	8.2	10.7	-2.5	12.7	-0.6
2022	267.8	8.5	12.5	-4.0	10.1	-0.6

SOURCE: Barbados Statistical Service



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