BUREAU VOOR DE STAATSSCHULD

Suriname Debt Management Office (SDMO)

Quartly report **1st Report 2024**

An Overview of the Macro-economic Developments

May 31, 2024

Introduction

In 2022, The Suriname Debt Management office (SDMO) had decided to produce a quarterly report entitled: "An Overview of Macro-economic Developments". On a quarterly base, SDMO will present the relevant international and domestic economic developments of Suriname in this report. If you have any questions, please contact us at email address info@sdmo.org or by phone at (597) 552644 and 597 552645.

Summery

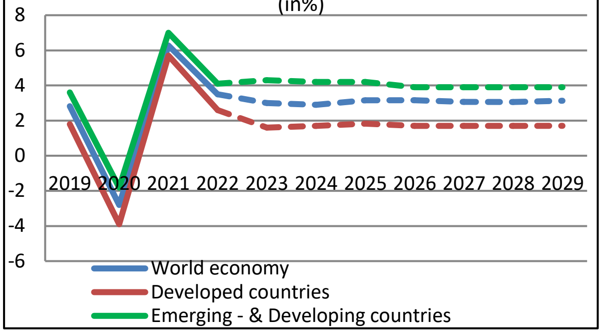
Based on the most recent available statistics and information, as well as the outlook until the end of May 2024, the analysis can be summarized as follows:

- According to the IMF, the global economy shows resilience, with an expected growth of 3.2 percent for the period 2024-2025. The growth forecast for the world economy for 2024 has been revised upward by 0.1 percent compared to previous projections this year. The expected growth rate of the Surinamese economy for 2024 remains at 3 percent.
- Due to the offshore oil industry, the Guyanese economy grew by a remarkable 62.3 percent in 2022 and is estimated to grow by 33.9 percent in 2024. In addition to oil production, the pursuit of economic diversification is crucial to counter-balance the risk of "Dutch disease". Suriname can learn some valuable lessons from our neighboring country.
- In 2023, gold production decreased by 10 percent, primarily due to reduced output from the multinational gold company Newmont and the small & medium sized mining companies.
- The decline in mineral exports caused the total exports to decrease by approximately 3 percent in 2023 to USD 2.5 billion. The current account of the balance of payments however, was positive due to a sharper decline in import. Capital inflows under the Extended Fund Facility also significantly contributed to the increase in international reserves in 2023, reaching a level of USD 1.3 billion.
- The sharp declined of the cash USD and Euro exchange rate in the third week of February and early May was a reaction to the reduced demand for foreign currency. In order to stimulate the demand for foreign currency, several cambio holders had engaged in competitive activities that had downward pressure on the exchange rates.
- Monthly inflation rate peaked at 4.4 percent in March this year, due to price adjustments for electricity, water and cooking gas. For example, in March 2024, the electricity tariffs were adjustment with a 40 percent increase.
- The government financing and primary balance at the end of 2023 were respectively 1.3 percent and -1.7 percent of GDP. The fiscal target, a primary surplus of 1.7 percent of GDP, was not achieved last year. Additionally, the primary surplus for the first quarter of 2024 of 0.1 percent of GDP is significantly below the target of 2.7 percent for 2024.
- As of March 2024, the total central government debt amounted to SRD 118.4 billion (USD 3.4 billion), a decrease of 6 percent compared with the end of 2023. The legal debt-to-GDP ratio was 131 percent and is based on the 2022 GDP figure from the ABS. If the ratio is calculated based on the estimated GDP figure for 2024, it amounts to approximately 69 percent.

Economic growth and investments

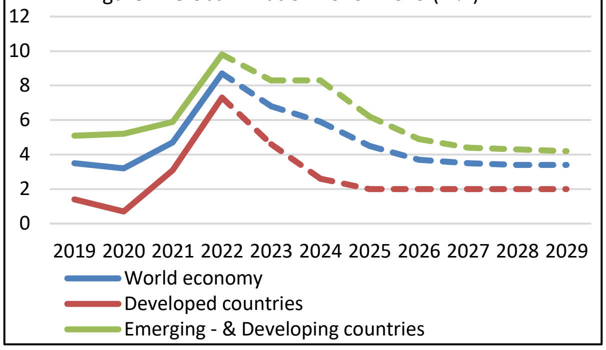
The global economy has shown a remarkable resilience despite supply chain turbulences following the pandemic and geopolitical tensions in Ukraine and the Middle East. This resilience can also be attributed to robust government spending worldwide, an unexpected increase in labor force participation in the global economy and household consumption expenditures, particularly in developed countries, from their significant savings during the pandemic period. These factors have contributed to stable economic growth and income growth, despite rising interest rates by central banks to curb inflation, which has dampened investments. Throughout the interest rate hikes, the international banking system remained resilient, which also helped to prevent a global recession after 2020.

Figure 1.Global economic grwoth 2019 -2029 (in%)



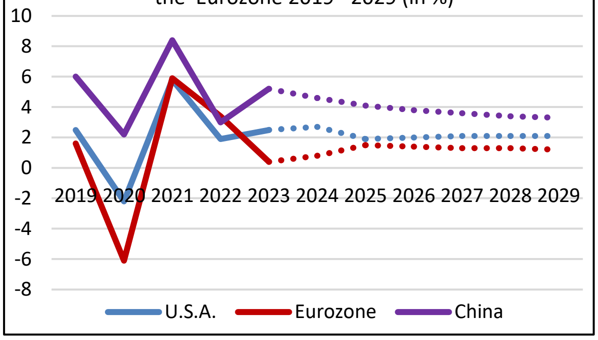
Source: IMF, WEO April 2024

Figure 2. Global inflation 2020 - 2029 (in%)



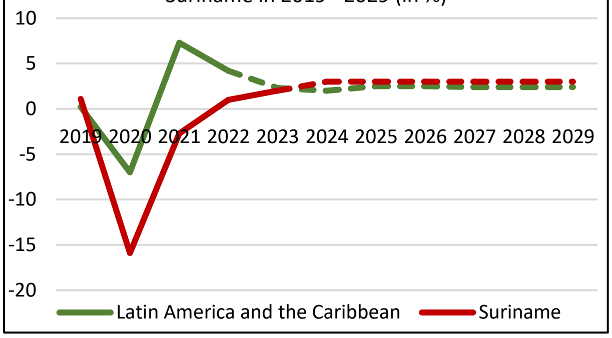
Source: IMF, WEO April 2024

Figure 3. Economic growth of the USA, China and the Eurozone 2019 - 2029 (in %)



Source: IMF, WEO April 2024

Figure 4. Economic growth within Latin America & Suriname in 2019 - 2029 (in %)



Source: IMF, WEO April 2024

As shown in figure 1, global growth is set at 3.2 percent in 2023 and is expected to remain at the same level in 2024 and 2025. The forecast for 2024 has even been revised upward by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous World Economic Outlook (WEO) projections of January 2024. Additionally, as noted in figure 2, global inflation is steadily decreasing, from 6.8 percent in 2023 to 5.9 percent in 2024 and 4.5 percent in 2025, with developed countries returning to their inflation targets faster than emerging market economies and developing countries

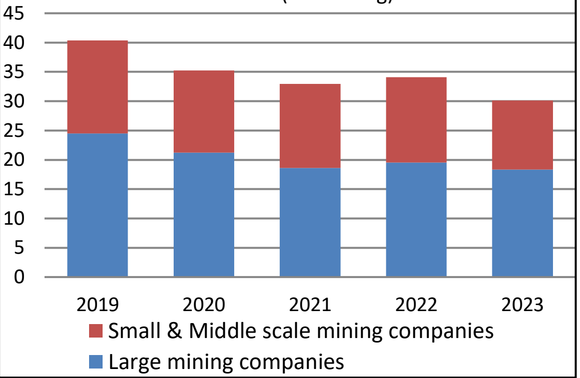
For advanced economies, modest growth is expected, increasing from 1.6 percent in 2023 to an anticipated range of 1.7 – 1.8 percent in 2024-2025. In emerging market economies and developing countries, growth is expected to decrease from 4.3 percent in 2023 to 4.2 percent in 2024 and 2025. The forecast for global growth over a five-year period is estimated at 3.1 percent, the lowest in decades.

Looking ahead, the U.S. has already surpassed its pre-pandemic level with a projected growth of 2.7 percent in 2024, while in the Eurozone growth is expected to increase from 0.4 percent in 2023 to 0.8 percent in 2024. On the other hand, the Chinese economy is dealing with a downturn in the real estate sector. Strict regulations within this sector have led to lower investments and a decline in domestic demand, which had a negative impact on the economic growth. Growth for China in 2024 is projected at 4.6 percent, with a medium-term outlook of 3 – 4 percent.

Despite some positive developments, the risks to global economic growth remain significant, particularly due to potential new price increases resulting from geopolitical tensions in Ukraine and the Middle East. Divergences in disinflation across economies and higher interest rates can still impact the investment climate. Additionally, geo-economic fragmentation, involving greater barriers to the flow of goods, capital, and labor, could again cause supply-side slowdowns.

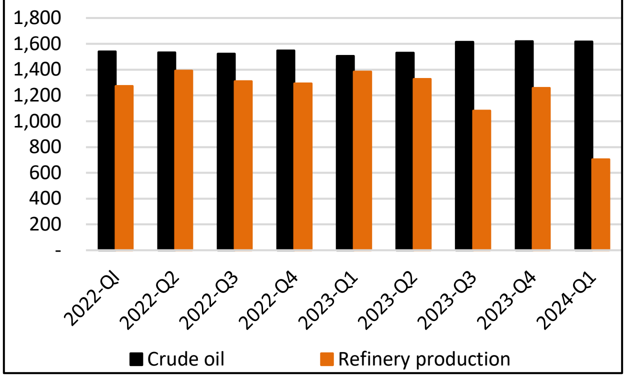
The Surinamese economy grew by 2.1 percent in 2023, according to the IMF (figure 4). Medium-term growth (2024-2029) is expected to be around 3 percent, primarily driven by accommodation and food services, transport, mining, the agricultural sector, and government spending.
The minerals sector, particularly gold and oil, remains crucial for the economic growth and development of our country. In the period 2019-2023, this sector accounted for an average of 19 percent of GDP. The average export revenues from this sector amounted to approximately USD 2 billion per year, representing approximately 85 percent of total export revenues, while its contribution to total government revenues was around 43 percent.
Given the above, it is important to closely monitor and follow this sector, especially with the prospects of developing the offshore oil industry in the near future.

Figure 5. Goldproduction on a yearly basis in 2019-2023 (in 1000 kg)



Source: CBvS

Figure 6. Crude and refined oil production on a quarterly basis in 2022-2024 (1000 bbl)



Source: State Oil Suriname Company N.V.

Figure 5 shows that total gold production at the end of 2023 was approximately 30,000 kg, a decrease of 10 percent compared to 2022. This decline was driven by reduced production at Newmont (13 percent) as well as among small and medium-sized mining companies (18 percent).
The decrease in production among small and medium-sized mining companies can be attributed to a combination of factors, including a poor performance in the first quarter of last year, financial issues at a major gold buyer, and uncertainty about government licensing policies.
The expectation for 2024 is that the gold multinational ZiJin, after completing their optimization program, the so-called concentrator debottlenecking, will increase its production capacity by 20 percent and thus accommodate increased production. For Newmont, production in 2024 is not expected to differ significantly from that in 2023, mainly due to challenges related to mining harder ore with lower quality gold.

Figure 6 shows a stable trend in crude oil production. In the first quarter of 2024, crude oil production was approximately 1.6 million barrels, an 8 percent increase compared to the same quarter in 2023, but a 1 percent decrease compared to the last quarter of 2023. In contrast to crude oil production, refined oil production shows a downward trend. In the first quarter of 2024, refined oil production decreased by about 44 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2023. This significant decline is attributed to the major maintenance shutdown of the refinery that occurs once every four years.

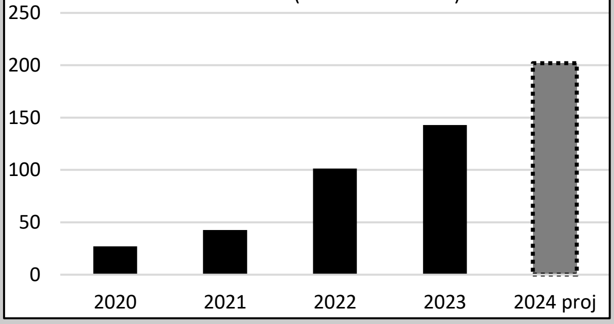
Regarding offshore oil exploration activities, the following can be said. On March 4, Staatsolie, Petronas, and ExxonMobil signed an agreement to further investigate a gas discovery in the so-called Block 52. This discovery was initially not considered commercially viable, but after discussions, Staatsolie and Petronas decided to further explore the possibilities. A 'Gas Addendum' to the Production

Sharing Contract (PSC) for Block 52 is being discussed, outlining procedures for the evaluation, development, and production of the gas field. Petronas will drill an appraisal well, named Sloanea-2, starting in April 2024 to determine the viability. If the project proves feasible, the first gas production could commence around 2031 through the Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) project, where the gas will be extracted, liquefied, and stored for transport by gas tankers.

The Guyanese economy with the offshore oil industry in 2024

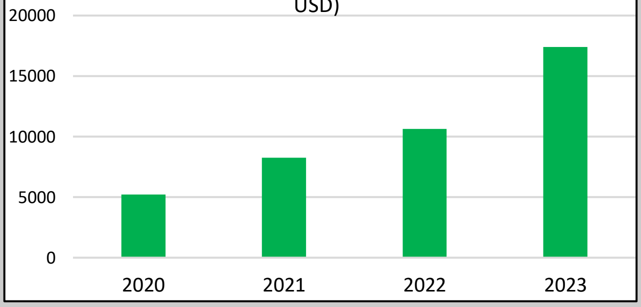
The Guyanese economy has experienced significant economic growth since the start of oil production in 2019, and even tripling in size. International oil companies, in collaboration with Hess Corporation (a global American energy company) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), have produced approximately 516 million barrels of oil since the first oil production in December 2019 in the so called Stabroek Block. Production continues to increase significantly each year, as shown in Figure 7.
The estimated daily production of the Guyana oil industry is over 550,000 barrels, which amounts to 202 million barrels per year. In the first quarter of 2024 alone, production reached approximately 18.4 million barrels.

Figure 7. Guyana offshore crude oil production 2020 - 2024 (in million barrels)



Source: Ministry of Natural Resources of Guyana

Figure 8. Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on an Annual Basis in Guyana in 2020 - 2023 (in million USD)

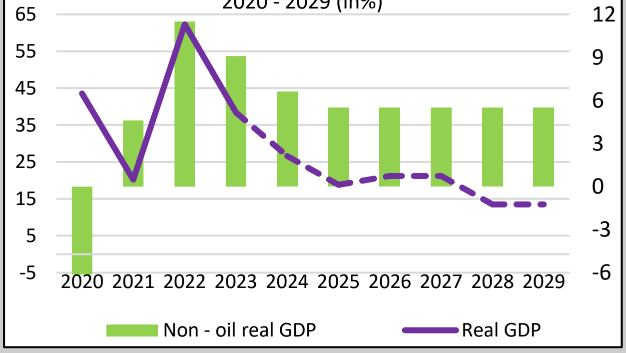


Source: Bank of Guyana Annual report of 2023

In 2023, Guyana's Natural Resource Fund (NRF), a sovereign wealth fund established to manage and preserve revenues from the oil and gas sector to ensure economic stability, received a substantial sum of US$1.6 billion in royalties and profit from oil revenues. These revenues are the result of oil production operations by ExxonMobil under a Production Sharing Agreement (PSC) for the Stabroek Oil Exploitation Block.

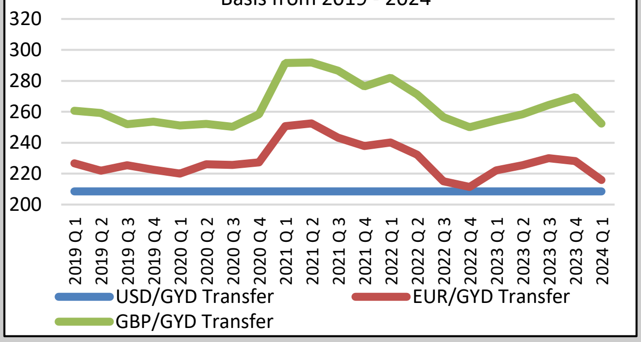
In 2023, total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Guyanese economy amounted to USD 17 billion (figure 8), approximately 117.6 percent of the GDP. Traditionally, the transportation, communication, and agriculture sectors attract the most FDI, but the energy sector has recently become more attractive due to significant investments in mining and hydropower projects.

Figure 9. Economic growth of Guyana in 2020 - 2029 (in%)



Source: IMF Guyana Article IV 2023

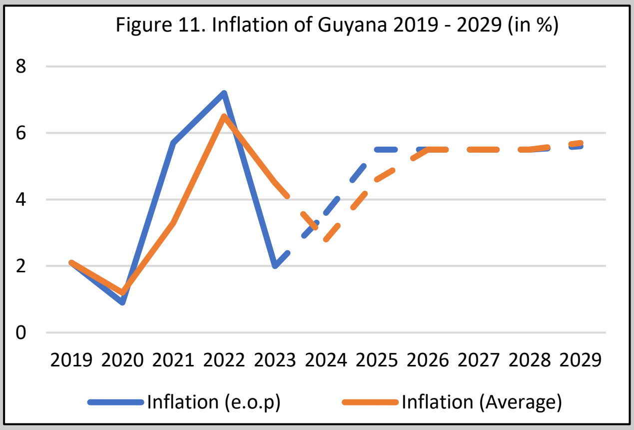
Figure 10. Average Exchange Rates on a Quarterly Basis from 2019 - 2024



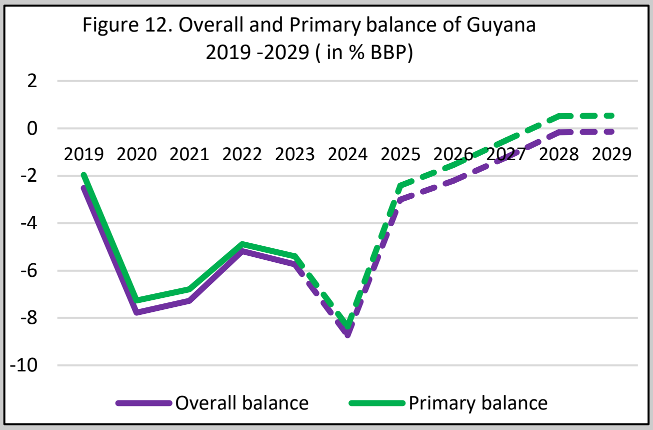
Source: Bank of Guyana

Due to the above-mentioned developments, Guyana's economic growth was 43.5 percent in 2020, which declined to 19.9 percent in 2021 due to floods in the middle of the year, affecting both agriculture and gold production. Economic growth peaked at 62.3 percent in 2022, driven by oil production (figure 9). In the medium term, the IMF predicts an average growth of 18-19 percent. The growth of the non-oil economy in Guyana is also significant, despite an estimated decline from 9.1 percent in 2023 to 6.6 percent in 2024 (figure 9, right y-axis). The projected medium-term growth here is approximately 5.5 percent.

Guyana has a flexible exchange rate system that is determined by supply and demand in the foreign exchange market. Monetary policy aims to stabilize the exchange rate arrangement by interventions and capital controls to address disorderly market conditions and temper short-term fluctuations. Since 2019, the USD exchange rate has been fixed at 208 GYD per USD, while the Euro and the British pound are fluctuating somewhat (figure 10). The stabilize USD exchange rate had a positive impact on Guyana's exports. The total export value of Guyana in 2023 was approximately USD 13.1 billion, an increase of about 17 percent compared to 2022. Crude oil and gas exports were by far the most significant items, accounting for 88 percent (USD 11.6 billion) of total exports. Other important sectors included gold, bauxite, and rice.



Source: Bank of Guyana, Min. of Finance Guyana



Source: IMF, WEO April 2024

Guyana is actively working to prevent "Dutch disease." This economic phenomenon occurs when sudden increases in revenue from natural resources negatively impact other sectors of the economy. The potential downsides include currency appreciation, a shift of resources towards the resource export sector, inflation from large inflows of foreign currency, and increased volatility due to dependency on commodity prices.
According to the Guyanese Budget Report of 2024 from the Ministry of Finance, inflation in our neighboring country has been reasonably under control, so far. Figure 11 indicates that inflation peaked at 7.2 percent in 2022 and then decreased to 2 percent in 2023. It is expected that inflation will slightly increase to 3.6 percent in 2024, with a further increase in the medium term to 5.5 percent.

Government finances in Guyana have also improved significantly in recent years. The overall balance as a percentage of non-oil GDP increased to -7.8 percent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that the deficit will again peak in 2024 at around -8.7 percent of GDP before resulting in a surplus in the medium term. Stimulating non-oil sectors in the economy will increase both GDP and government revenues.

Guyana is strongly focused on diversifying its economy by providing tax incentives to sectors such as education, healthcare, and tourism. Investments in agriculture and infrastructure are also being promoted to create a broader economic base. A crucial measure taken is the local content law, which requires oil companies to purchase locally. This policy has already resulted in $700 million in contracts for local businesses. Plans to expand the local content law could generate an additional $300-350 million annually. Through these measures, Guyana aims to make its economy less dependent on the oil industry, thereby promoting long-term stability.
The outlook for Guyana remains positive, with expected continued growth in the oil sector and economic diversification, but a balanced policy is needed to effectively address the challenges of growth and ensure sustainable long-term development.

International trade- and capital flows

International commodity prices remain high amidst a resilient global economy. This is partly due to geopolitical tensions, investments in clean energy, and high infrastructure spending in China. In China, there is a sharp growth in loans for infrastructure and industrial projects under the so-called Belt and Road Initiative, which is keeping demand for commodities, mainly metals, high. Risks for price fluctuations are mainly related to an escalation of the Middle East conflict, which could increase global inflation and further worsen food insecurity.

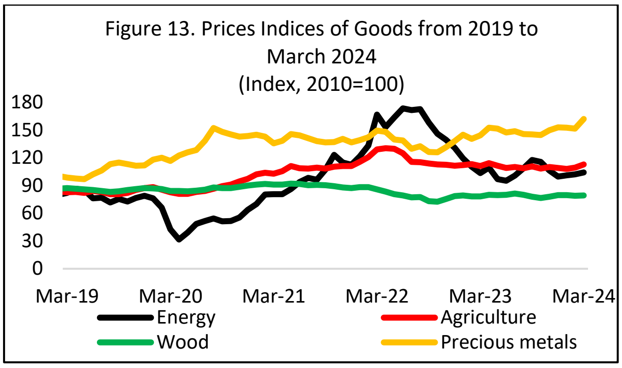


Figure 13. Prices Indices of Goods from 2019 to March 2024 (Index, 2010=100)

Source: World Bank, April 2024

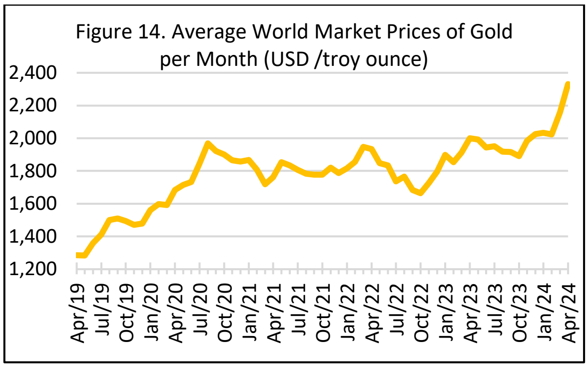


Figure 14. Average World Market Prices of Gold per Month (USD /troy ounce)

Source: World Bank, www.kitco.com

In March 2024, the prices of agricultural products rose due to an increase in beverage prices (figure 13). This increase was caused by supply constraints in Robusta coffee and cocoa, which could be attributed to adverse weather conditions associated with El Niño. Furthermore, escalating tensions in the Middle East further drove up oil and gold prices.

Gold prices, dominating the precious metals index, are expected to stabilize at their recent record highs for the remainder of the year. Gold holds a special status among financial assets, often rising in price during periods of heightened geopolitical and policy uncertainty, including international conflicts. Such demand for "safe havens" appears to strengthen in 2024. Elevated prices are also driven by strong demand for gold from central banks in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies, which still hold gold as part of their international reserves. Gold prices reached USD 2,331 per troy ounce by the end of April 2024, marking an increase of 15.1 percent compared to the end of December 2023 (Figure 14).

As of the end of April 2024, the price of Brent crude oil was USD 90.10, marking an increase of 15.7 percent compared to the end of December 2023 and 7.1 percent compared to the end of April 2023 (Figure 15). There are still many uncertainties regarding commodity price developments, especially with regard to oil prices. There is still a risk that oil prices will continue to rise this year, if the conflict in the Middle East further escalate. This could have significant implications for global inflation.

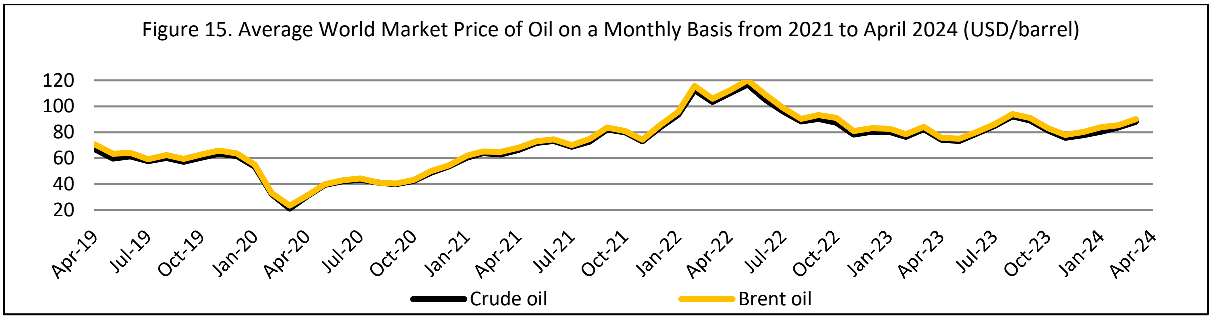


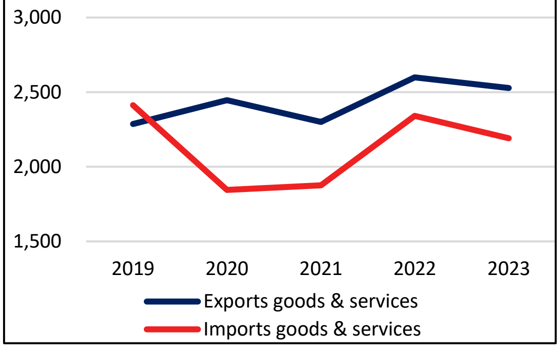
Figure 15. Average World Market Price of Oil on a Monthly Basis from 2021 to April 2024 (USD/barrel)

Source: World Bank

Oil production is expected to increase by 0.8 million barrels per day this year, primarily due to greater supply from the United States, while OPEC+ production will decrease. Consumption is predicted to increase by approximately 1.2 million barrels per day this year, which represents a significant slowdown compared to 2023, with all net demand growth occurring in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies.Lower oil prices are expected next year, according to the World Bank, with an average of USD 79 per barrel, as the supply situation improves.

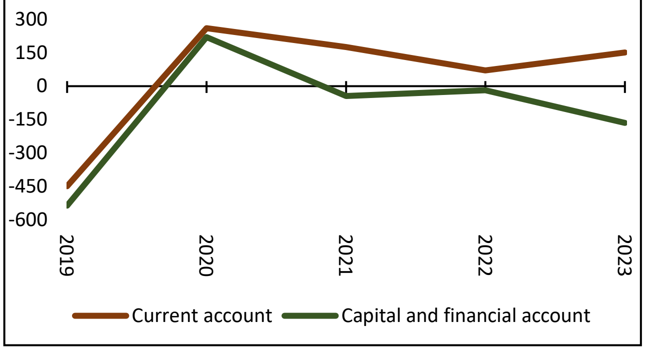
In 2023, the following developments regarding international trade and capital flows were observed for Suriname. Total exports of goods and services decreased by USD 65.7 million (approximately 2.6 percent) compared to 2022. Nevertheless, there was a surplus on the current account of USD 146.7 million in 2023 due to stronger declines in imports.

Figure 16. Exports & Imports of Goods & Services in USD million on Annual Basis from 2019 - 2023



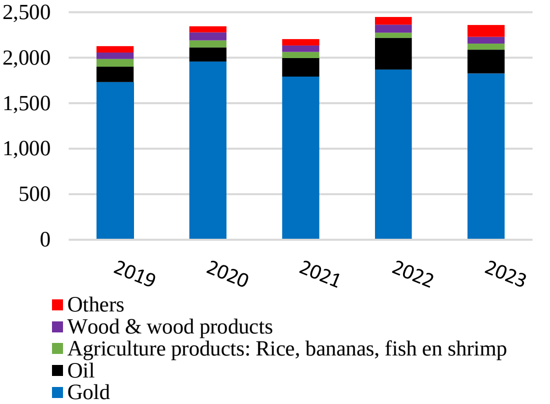
Source: CBvS

Figure 17. Current Account Balance and Capital & Financial Account in USD million on Annual Basis from 2019 - 2023



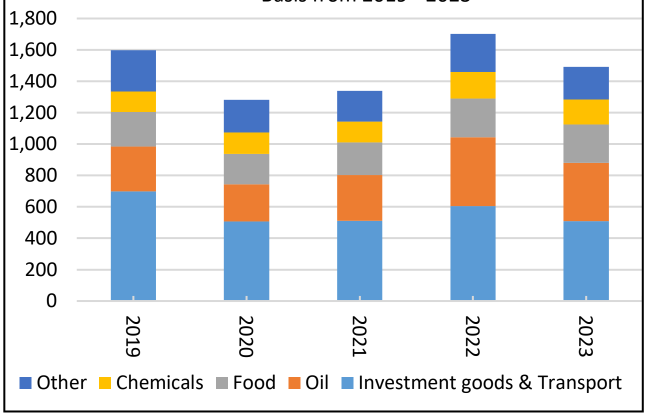
Source: CBvS

Figure 18. Export of Goods in USD million on Annual Basis from 2019 - 2023.



Source: CBvS

Figure 19. Import of Goods in USD million on Annual Basis from 2019 - 2023



Source: CBvS

In 2023, the total export value of goods and services was USD 2.5 billion, a decrease of 3 percent compared to 2022. The decline was attributed to a decrease in the export value of gold by USD 43.2 million compared to 2022 due to a decrease in export volume and a decrease in the export value of oil by USD 44.04 million due to a lower average international oil price of 16.8 percent compared to 2022 (figure 18). Nevertheless, exports of fish and re-exportation of machinery and electrical goods experienced an increase and contributed to the total export value in 2023.

Figure 19 illustrates that the total import of goods value decreased by USD 123.4 million in 2023 compared to 2022, representing approximately 5.3 percent. The total import value goods & services amounted to USD 2.2 billion in 2023. The decline was mainly because of decreasing international oil and food prices. The World Bank's food price index decreased by 9.1 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year.

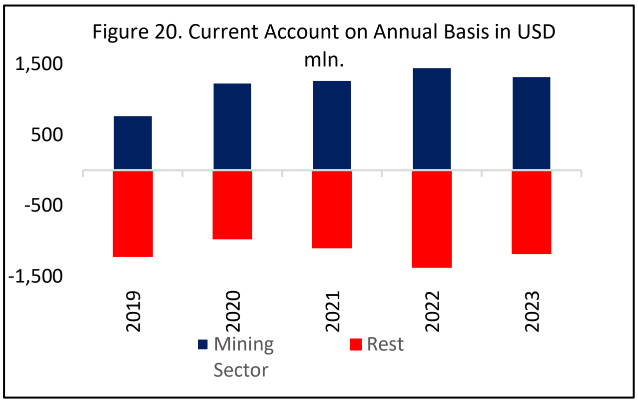


Figure 20. Current Account on Annual Basis in USD mln.

Source: CBvS

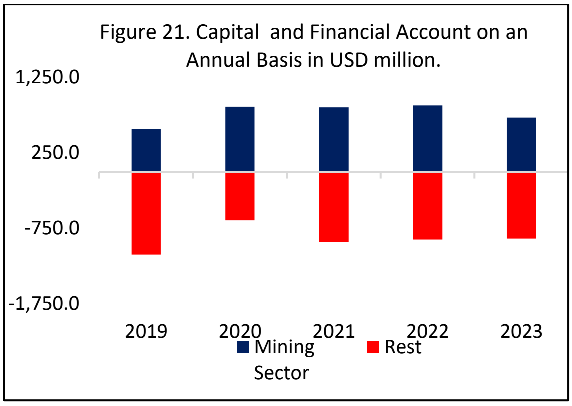


Figure 21. Capital and Financial Account on an Annual Basis in USD million.

Source: CBvS

Figure 20 indicates that the current account is structurally dependent on developments in the mining sector, with the gold industry currently playing a dominant role. In 2023, the mining sector transferred USD 230.7 million abroad as primary income, mainly from direct investments in the gold industry. This amount is the same as the previous year but 30.5 percent lower than in 2019.

Furthermore, the secondary income balance contributed positively to the current account for an amount of USD 138.9 million in 2023, representing an increase of 10.3 percent compared with 2022 and 54.8 percent in comparison with 2019. Personal transfers from abroad to Suriname remain an important source of economic support for the local community.
Regarding 2023, there is a deficit of USD 168.3 million in the financial account, indicating capital inflows from abroad to Suriname, particularly from the non-mining sector (Figure 21). Foreign companies in the gold industry and Sol Petroleum contributed less to equity capital and other direct investments, resulting in a surplus of USD 64.8 million in the direct investment balance in 2023.

In 2023, there was also an increase in the State's obligations due to the interest payable on the so-called Eurobond, amounting to USD 73.3 million. Furthermore, a local bank sold its bonds in the Eurobond for USD 13 million to a non-resident party.
As a result of both the Central Bank and the Central Government receiving financial resources, respectively, under the Extended Fund Facility and from withdrawals from multilateral creditors, the balance of other financial transactions increased negatively by USD 278.7 million in 2023.

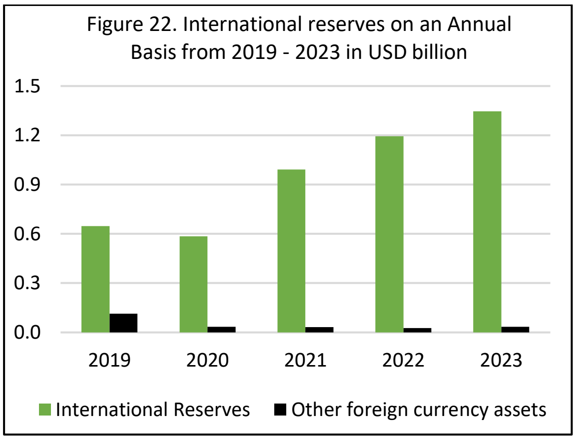
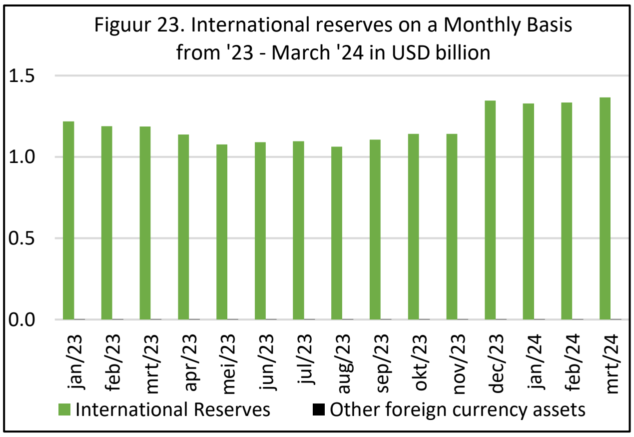


Figure 22. International reserves on an Annual Basis from 2019 - 2023 in USD billion

Source: CBvS



Figuur 23. International reserves on a Monthly Basis from '23 - March '24 in USD billion

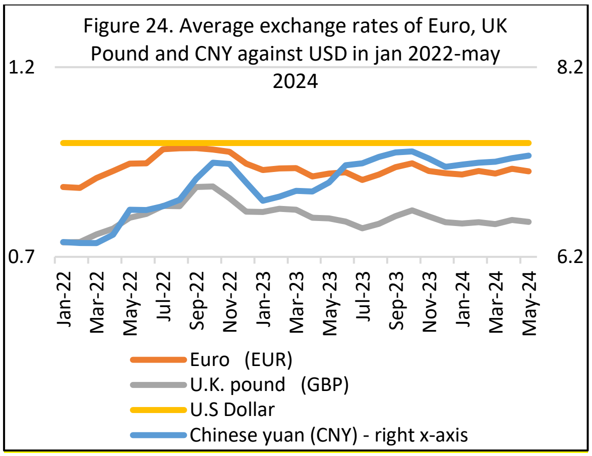
Source: CBvS

Capital inflows under the Extended Fund Facility contributed to the increase in the international reserves by the end of 2023, reaching a level of USD 1,346 million (Figure 22 and 23). As of the end of March 2024, the international reserves amounted to USD 1,365 million, representing a slight increase from the balance at the end of December 2023.

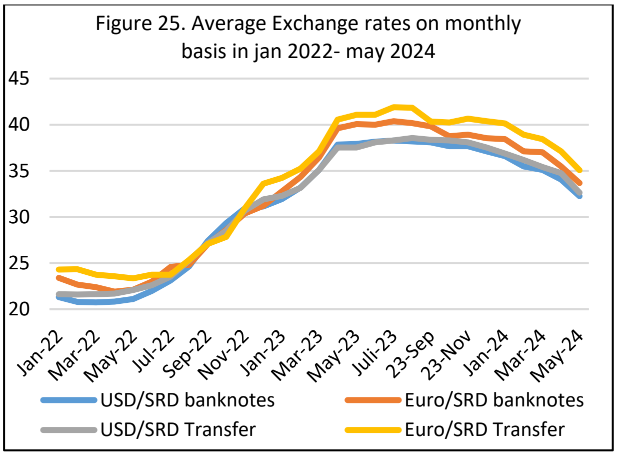
Monetary and the financial sector development

in the first quarter of 2024 international currency market were indicating an appreciation of the US-dollar against other currencies. This is reflected in figure 24 where selected exchange rates (EUR, CNY and the UK pound) are presented against the USD. Market participants in the international currency markets are strengthening their position in the US-dollar against the Euro, with the exception of the Chinese Yuan.

The EUR/USD exchange rate is strongly influenced by interest rate expectations and economic developments in both the US and Europe. The Federal Reserve Bank and the European Central Bank are expected to cut interest rates in the second half of 2024. The dynamics between the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank remain crucial for the movements of the EUR/USD exchange rate. While the Fed may deliver fewer rate cuts than previously predicted, this will make the dollar strengthen more. The ECB remains cautious and may ease its interest rate policy, which could put pressure on the Euro. These opposing approaches between the two central banks are likely to result in a stronger US-dollar against the euro in the short and medium term. The Bank of England is not expected to cut interest rates, as the labour market remains tight and wage increases remain high.



Source: IMF



Source: CBvS

The exchange rate of the USD and the EUR against the Surinamese dollar has been declining since January 2024. The SRD appreciated against the US dollar and the Euro. Figure 25 shows that the development of the USD/SRD is declining from this point on, while the EUR/SRD is still stable. At the end of May 2024, the SRD appreciated against the USD and the EUR by approximately 13 percent and 12 percent respectively compared to the end of 2023.

The depreciation of the cash exchange rate of the USD and Euro is the result of a reduced demand for foreign currency. There are a number of important factors that have contributed to this reduction. Demand for USD has decreased, mainly due to reduced demand from oil companies and importers. In the recent period, the oil companies have made up their arrears with their parent companies abroad, which has reduced the need for foreign currency. According to the CBvS, the request for currency from the oil companies has decreased by approximately USD 15 million. In addition, the currency position of banks has strengthened. To stimulate demand for foreign currency, several cambio holders are competing against each other to stimulate demand, which led to downward changes in the exchange rate of banknotes, especially in the third week of February and early May.

Although exchange rates fell sharply, this was not reflected in the prices of goods in supermarkets, among other things. This is also due to the fact that the customs rate is not adjusted simultaneously with the exchange rate, but is only updated every two weeks.

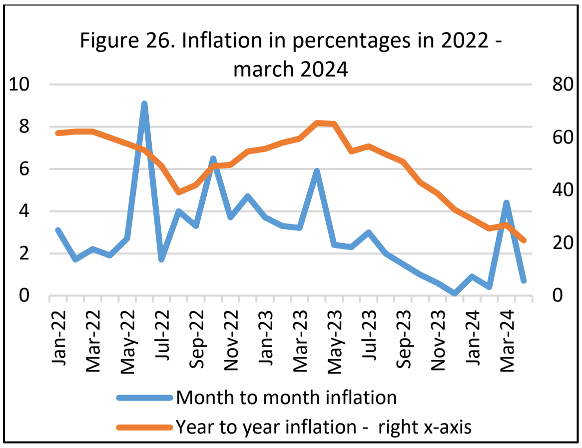


Figure 26. Inflation in percentages in 2022 - march 2024

Source: ABS

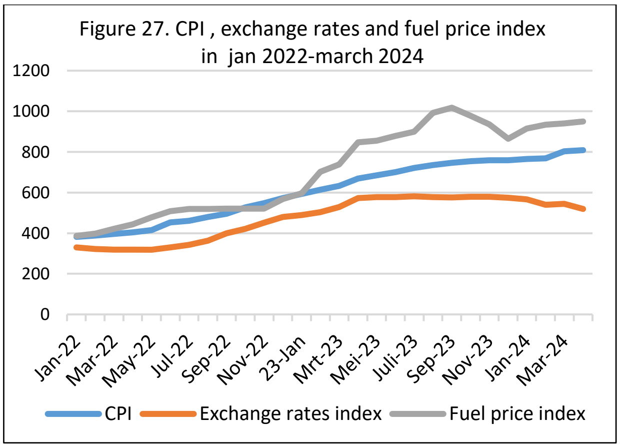


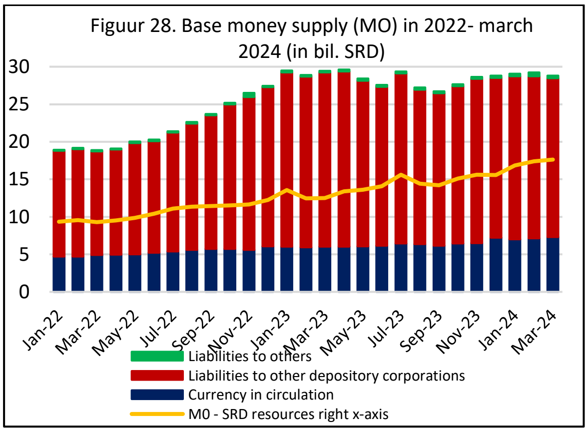
Figure 27. CPI , exchange rates and fuel price index in jan 2022-march 2024

Source: ABS

The monthly inflation, which has been declining since August 2023, has been rising again since January 2024 (figure 26). The monthly inflation rate in February decreased slightly by 0.4 percent, but rose again to 4.4 percent in March. The increase in March 2024 is mainly due to the tariff adjustments of utilities and the effect on the other sectors, including housing, residential maintenance and repair, and food. This is also reflected in the year-on-year inflation rate from January 2024.

An important part of the IMF program is to bring public finances back on track and this is also done through the gradual elimination of subsidies on utilities, mainly on electricity. In the month of March 2024, electricity tariff were increased by 40 percent on electricity tariffs. This will be followed by bi-monthly increases of 7 percent of the base rate in the months of May, July, September and November. In the period January 2024 to June 2024, there will be monthly tariff adjustments for water that will increase by approximately 6 percent each period. The price increase of cooking gas are set on a quarterly base in the months of March and June as well as, September and December 2024.

The increase in inflation in the month March had also been the result of price increases in the transport sector, due to a fuel price increase of around 8 percent in that month compared to December 2023.



Figuur 28. Base money supply (MO) in 2022- march 2024 (in bil. SRD)

Source: CBvS

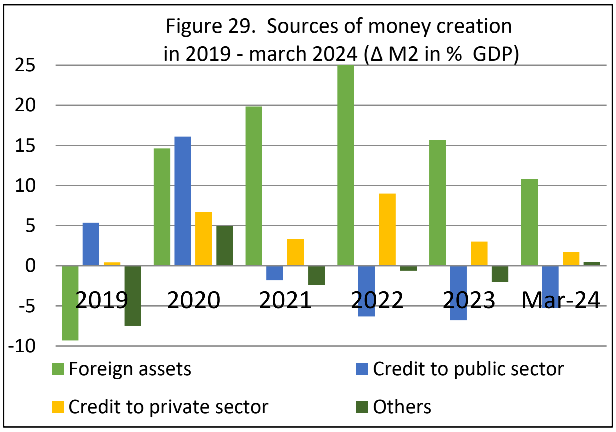


Figure 29. Sources of money creation in 2019 - march 2024 (Δ M2 in % GDP)

Source: CBvS

Due to the substantial depreciation of the local currency in recent years, it became necessary to introduce new banknotes with higher denominations. The introduction of the new banknotes with denominations of SRD 200 and SRD 500 in March 2024 by the Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS) is a monetary measure to improve the efficiency of domestic payment transactions and to reduce the pressure on local ATMs. It also has an effect on business, since one does not have to carry many cash to execute large transactions. The CBvS also indicates that the introduction of new denominations does not have inflationary consequences, because of the fact that the total money supply was not increased. Figure 28 shows the evolution of the SRD share in base money supply over the period of 2021-2024.

The total base money supply (M0) as of the end of March 2024 was SRD 28.8 billion of which the SRD share in the broad sense was SRD 17.6 billion. In the first quarter of 2024, there was a slight increase of SRD share in the base money supply in circulation of approximately 6.4 percent compared to the end of December 2023. This increase in M0-SRD was mainly due to the sale of foreign currency by the government to the CBvS in order to finance its expenditure in SRD and for the settlement of CBC instruments by the CBvS. Figure 29 indicates that money creation (Δ M2) is still predominantly due to the inflow of capital from abroad.

The stock of total credit provided by the banking sector was SRD 27.9 billion as of March 2024. This is a decrease in nominal and real terms of 8.9 percent and -22.3 percent respectively. The stock of nominal SRD credit in March decreased by 4.5 percent compared to year-end 2023. This decline is more related to lending to the private sector and was due to both to restrictions on broad money supply and the imposition of the individual bank credit ceiling.
The debit (lending interest rates) on SRD loans increased by 2 percent compared to February 2024. The USD and EUR debit (lending interest rates) are stable at the end of March 2024

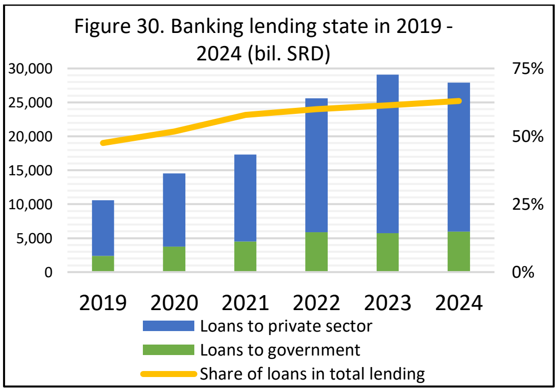


Figure 30. Banking lending state in 2019 - 2024 (bil. SRD)

Source: CBvS

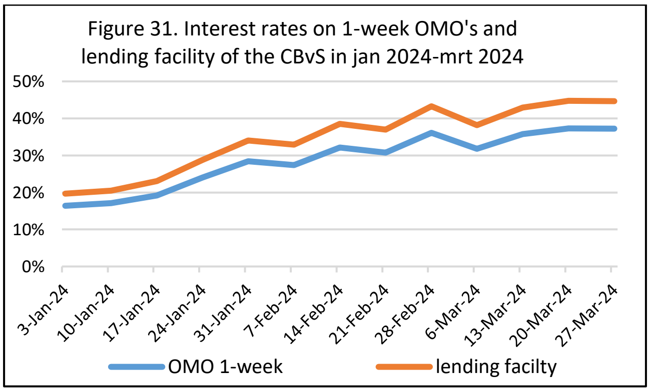


Figure 31. Interest rates on 1-week OMO's and lending facility of the CBvS in jan 2024-mrt 2024

Source: CBvS with calculations by SDMO

The Open Market Operations will be continued by the CBvS with the aim to skim off excess liquidity in the economy. In addition, in the month of March, the Central Bank of Suriname also made its first CBC Wholesale issuance with a maturity of nine (9) months. Figure 30 shows the evolution of interest rates on the lending facility (TDs) and on the Open Market Operational Instruments with a maturity of 1 week (CBCs). Interest rates on both instruments increased in the months of January to March 2023.

As shown in table 1, international interest rates indicate an increase compared to 2023. To combat rising inflation, central banks around the world have raised interest rates. On July 26, 2023, the Federal Reserve Bank decided to raise short-term interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point, to 5.25 – 5.50 percent. These interest rates have remained the same to this day.

Table 1. Average nominal international interest rates in 2021 – March 2024 (in %)

Variable interest rates	2021	2022	2023	March 2024
Euribor 6mnd	0.5	0.7	3.7	3.9
Libor 6 mnd	0.2	2.9	5.6	5.7
SOFR overnight rate	0.04	1.6	5.0	5.3
Federal Effective Fund rate	0.1	1.7	5.0	5.3

Source: www.globalrates.com, www.newyorkfed.com

The Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank are expected to cut interest rates in June 2024. Expectations of lower interest rates in advanced economies have increased demand for assets in emerging markets and developing countries. Accordingly, this year more governments, which previously faced severe financing deficits, will have access to international debt markets.

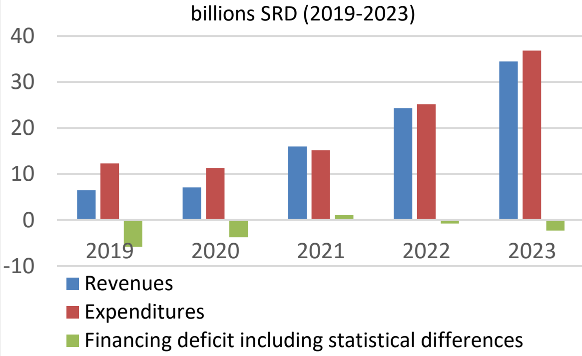
An important part of the IMF-EFF programme is to create and ensure an environment for the stability and resilience of our financial system. Within this framework, the Central Bank of Suriname (CBvS) must also be recapitalized. With the amendment of the Banking Act in 2023 and in accordance with international standards, it is necessary to preserve the capital of the CBvS.
According to the Banking Act of 2023, the capital of the CBvS must amount to SRD 1 billion. In addition, the law requires that the combined size of the capital and reserves may not be less than 6 percent of certain financial metrics. In 2024, the government will have to allocate financial resources to the CBvS to start its recapitalization. It is estimated that the recapitalization will amount to around 5 percent of GDP in 2024 and will be financed through the incurring of new debt.

Public Finance and Government Debt

At the end of 2023, the primary balance and the overall balance were respectively 1.3 percent and -1.7 percent of the estimated GDP. The target regarding public finances within the IMF-EFF program for that year was a primary surplus of 1.7 percent of GDP. However, this goal was not achieved in 2023.

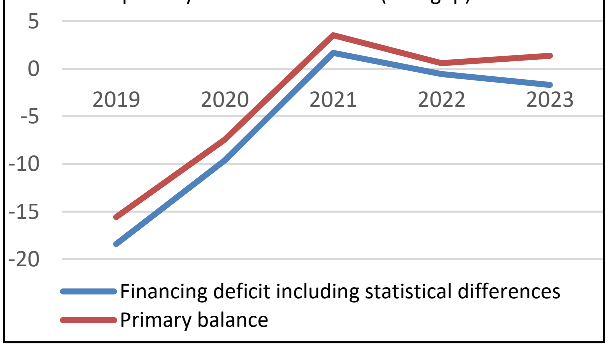
The package of revenue-enhancing and expenditure-reducing measures for public finances within this program are primarily aimed at reducing the significant government finance deficits of recent years, which have subsequently led to a substantial increase in central government debt. These measures are also intended to curb inflation and promote economic growth. Achieving a surplus on the primary balance is crucial within this program with the aim to repay the restructured debts during this period.
The fiscal target for the primary balance is set at 2.7 percent of GDP for 2024 and 3.5 percent of GDP for the subsequent years.

Figure 32. Government finances on annual basis billions SRD (2019-2023)



Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning

Figure 33. Government financing result and primary balance 2019-2023 (in % gdp)

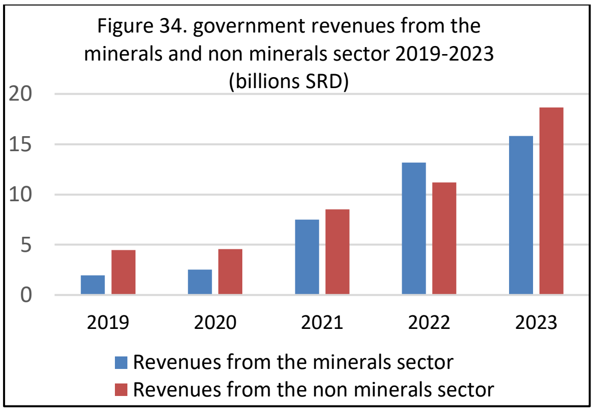


Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning

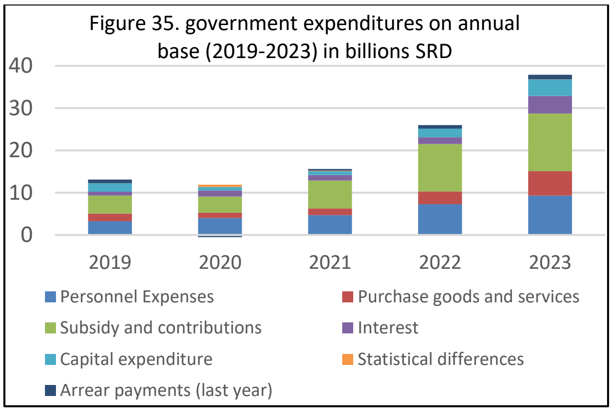
Since the implementation of the IMF EFF program in 2021, public finances in Suriname have gradually improved (figure 33). In 2023, total revenues amounted to approximately SRD 34.5 billion, while expenditures were about SRD 36.8 billion (figure 32).

In 2023, revenues increased by approximately 42 percent, mainly due to higher tax revenues from the non-mineral sector (figure 34). In 2023, the government has made a transition from sales tax to VAT. While sales tax amounted to SRD 2.5 billion in 2022, the newly introduced VAT generated SRD 4.4 billion in 2023, leading to an extra increase in revenues. Due to this change (among other factors) revenues from the non-mineral sector became higher than those from the mining sector.
Non-fiscal revenues, such as royalties and dividends from mining companies, also increased by 67 percent compared to 2022. The revenue increase in 2023 was also a result of the depreciation of the SRD against the USD by 17.4 percent in 2023, which particularly impacted the government's foreign currency revenues.
On the expenditure side, the following development was observed in 2023. Over the past year, the government has continued to phase out subsidies, in particular the reduction of fuel subsidies, leading to higher gasoline and diesel prices. The fuel subsidy was gradually reduced by SRD 10 per liter until

February 2023. Additionally, electricity and water tariffs were further increased in 2023. However, the category of subsidies and contributions did also increase by 22 percent. Nevertheless, its share in the total government expenditure decreased with 7 percent to approximately 36 percent.



Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning



Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning

Government expenditures on wages & salaries increased by 28 percent in the past year compared to 2022. In June 2023, civil servants received a purchasing power compensation for the first time, amounting to SRD 1800. A further purchasing power compensation of SRD 4200 was disbursed in December 2023. To alleviate the impact on vulnerable groups and once again strengthen citizens' purchasing power. The government approved additional measures in January 2024, to further raise the tax-free threshold from SRD 7500 to SRD 9000 on income taxes.

Expenditures on the purchase of goods and services increased by approximately 91 percent in the past year due to factors including high inflation, while capital expenditures also rose by 92 percent to SRD 3.9 million. Most capital expenditures were allocated to various infrastructure projects, as well as investments in the education sector, particularly in Technical and Vocational Education. Government capital expenditures are essential for stimulating economic activity.

The significant increase in interest payments in 2023 compared to 2022 with approximately 163 percent is attributed to the further settlement of the debt restructuring process, which involved restarting payments to various foreign creditors and addressing domestic arrears from the last quarter of the past year.

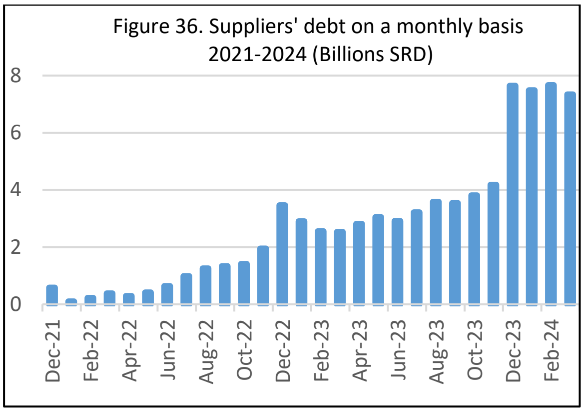
Tabel 2: Budget vs Actual 2023 (SRD billion)

	Budget 2023	Actual Q4-2023	Actual in % budget
Total revenues	35.3	34.5	97.6%
Total expenditures	37.3	36.8	98.6%
Primary balance	2.3	1.8	79.8%
Financing deficit	-2.0	-2.3	115%
Budget result	-11.2	4.8	240%

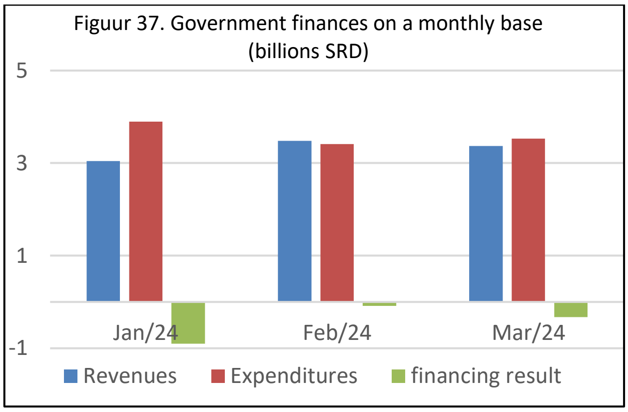
Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning

Table 2 indicates that in the fourth quarter of 2023, approximately 97.6 percent of revenues and about 98.6 percent of expenditures were realized. However, it must be noted that the so-called "suppliers' debt," representing unpaid invoices for goods and services delivered to the government, has significantly increased over the past year. The increase at the end of 2023 amounted to approximately 117 percent compared to 2022 (Figure 36). If these expenditures had been actually paid in the past year, the primary surplus as a percentage of GDP would have been much lower.
The supplier debt decreased by 4 percent to SRD 7.3 billion in March 2024. According to the fifth review program of the IMF, further accumulation of these debts must be prevented. Therefore, the

budget department of each ministry must establish and enforce spending ceilings on a quarterly base. Additionally, the supplier's debt must be completely eliminated by the end of 2025.



Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning



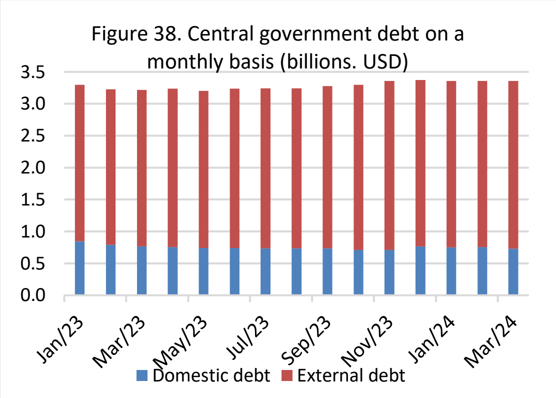
Source: Ministry of Finance & Planning

Until the end of March 2024, total government revenues amounted to approximately SRD 9.9 million, while total expenditures reached SRD 10.8 million. The financing deficit was SRD 1.3 million, which is approximately -0.8 percent of GDP (Figure 37). The result of the government's primary balance during this period was a surplus of 0.1 percent of the estimated GDP for 2024, while the target was set at 2.7 percent. This significantly lower result is mainly due to lower-than-expected government revenues, especially regarding non-tax revenues. If this trend continues, the government's primary result at the end of the year will fall far below the fiscal target.

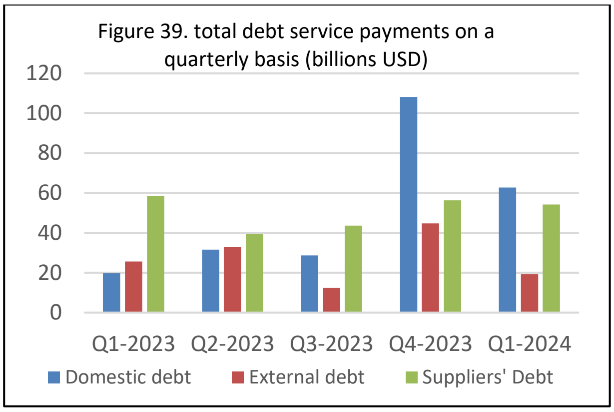
The total Surinamese central government debt amounted to SRD 118.4 billion (USD 3.4 billion) as of the end of March 2024 (Figure 38). Compared to the end of 2023, the debt in SRD decreased by 6 percent. The decrease in outstanding debt during this period is attributed to:

In the first quarter of 2024, the total disbursements minus principal payments on the total debt resulted in a decrease of USD 20 million.
During this period, there was a 5 percent appreciation of the Surinamese dollar against the US dollar. This increase in value contributed to the reduction of the debt since approximately 86 percent of the debts are denominated in foreign currency.
The arrears in interest payments decreased due to the restructuring of the debt with ABN-AMRO Bank, resulting in a debt reduction (haircut).
The supplier's debt decreased by 4 percent in the first quarter of 2024, amounting to a reduction of SRD 300 million. At the end of March 2024, this part of the central Government debt amounted to SRD 7.3 billion.

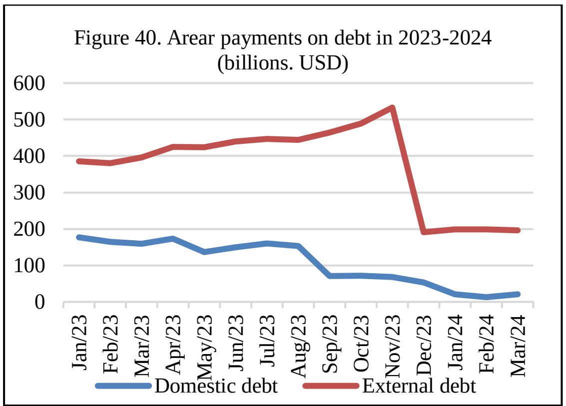
In March 2024, there was a restructuring of the debt with ABN-AMRO Bank. This involved a debt of EUR 21.3 million accrued until the end of December 2023, with accrued interest updated until that date. There was a 25 percent debt reduction, resulting in an outstanding debt of approximately EUR 16 million. The interest rate for the restructuring was set at 7.95 percent with a term of 6 years and a grace period of approximately 2 years.



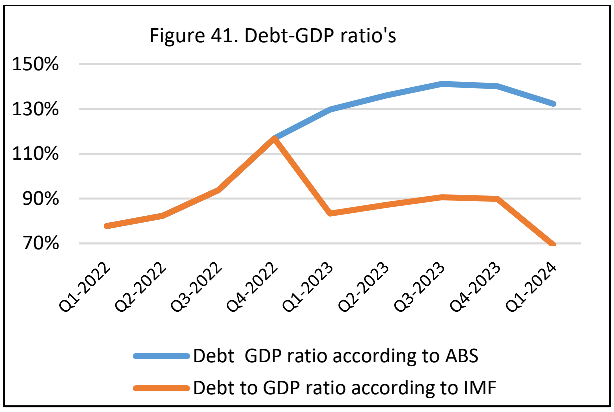
Source: SDMO



Source: SDMO



Source: SDMO



Source: SDMO

In January 2024, a restructuring occurred on the USD credit from DSB Bank. The original credit was taken on March 11, 2019, amounting to USD 33.6 million. This credit was extended to the government with the aim of clearing the government's payment arrears. On November 24, 2022, this loan had already been restructured, reducing the debt by USD 1.8 million, leaving the total debt at USD 30 million. The interest rate remained at 6 percent, and the term was set at 10 months. After the debt was reduced to USD 29.8 million in 2023, it was restructured again on January 9, 2024, extending the term to 17 months. This restructuring had to take place because the government was unable to meet its obligation based on the initial restructuring.

The total debt service burden increased significantly in the past quarter due to, among other things, restructurings during the years 2023 and 2024 (Figure 39). The total debt service burden, including payments on suppliers' debt, amounted to USD 172 million. This significant increase in the first quarter of 2024 is attributed to the settlement of the Gold Loan of 8,000 troy ounces of gold worth USD 17.8 million, the first interest payment to bondholders amounting to USD 5.9 million, and the clearance of arrears with various domestic creditors (Figure 40).

The legal debt-GDP ratio at the end of the first quarter of 2024 is approximately 132 percent according to the 2022 GDP figure from the Central Bureau of Statistics. This is a decrease of about 7 percentage points compared to the end of 2023 due to the reduction in debt (Figure 41). A better representation of the burden of the national debt on total income/production of the economy in 2024 is to base the ratio on the GDP estimate of the current year. The ratio for March 2024 is that case approximately 69 percent. This represents a decrease of about 20 percentage points compared to the end of 2023

Selected macro-economic indicators

Annual statistics 2017-2024									
Real Sector	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023** Est.	**2024** proj.	**Source**
Economic growth (%) *	1.6	4.9	1.1	-16.0	-2.4	2.4	2.1	3.0	ABS/IMF Est.+ proj.
Economic growth (%)	1.6	4.9	1.2	-16.0	-2.4	2.4	2.5	2.8	ABS/SPS Est.+ proj.
GDP nominal market pr, (mil, SRD)	26.893	29.822	31.732	38.719	60.704	89.472	139.490	170.864	ABS/IMF Est,+proj,
GDP per capita in USD	6.156	6.772	6.715	4.782	4.987	5.784	5.885	6.702	IMF
National Income per capita in USD	5.432	6.079	6.384	3.945	4.051	4.101	n.b.	n.b.	ABS/calcul, SDMO
Inflation rate – average (%)	22.0	6.9	4.4	34.9	59.1	52.4	51.6	20.7	ABS/IMF
Inflation rate – e.o.p. (%)	9.3	6.9	4.4	60.7	60.7	54.6	32.6	14.2	ABS/IMF
Economic growth (%)	7.0	9.0	8.8	11.1	11.2	10.9	10.6	10.3	IMF
Balance of Payments (combination cash- and accrual base) From 2017 the data presented are based on the Balance of Payment Manual 6									
Total export- G + S (mil. USD)	2,143.4	2,235.8	2,286.8	2,446.4	2,299.5	2,598.6	2,533.9		CBvS
• Gold	1,608.4	1,631.6	1,732.2	1,959.5	1,792.1	1,870.6	1,827,3		CBvS
• Alumina	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0,0		CBvS
• Oil	178.1	206.6	171.0	154.4	204.0	347.3	261.8		CBvS
• Rice and banana	51.0	52.6	45.6	43.5	34.5	25.9	28.6		CBvS
• Wood and wood products	59.5	69.1	71.4	89.1	72.3	85.9	74.7		CBvS
• Fish and shrimp	38.8	41.6	37.5	33.6	31.9	32.4	39.1		CBvS
• Other goods	56.1	68.6	68.7	65.1	69.0	86.7	129.9		CBvS
• **Net exports goods under merchanting**	**-6.9**	-5.0	2.8	-1.3	-0.2	7.9	-1.1		CBvS
• Services	158.3	170.7	157.4	102.6	95.9	143.0	173.5		CBvS
Total import- G + S (mil. USD)	1,779.9	2,069.8	2,412.7	1,845.1	1,876.4	2,341.6	2,218.2		CBvS
• Services	569.3	666.9	815.1	562.6	537.9	640.2	633.1		CBvS
Balance current account (mil. USD)	69.2	-118.7	-448.3	259.8	176.1	76.3	146.7		CBvS
Balance Cap. + Fin. Acc. (mil. USD) **	-112.6	-299.2	-535.1	219.9	-44.4	-19.4	-168.3		CBvS
Balance current account (% GDP)	1.9	-3.0	-11.2	9.0	5.8	2.2	3.9		CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Balance Cap. + Fin. Acc. (% GDP) **	-3.1	-7.5	-13.4	7.6	-1.5	-0.6	-4.4		CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Statistical discrepancies (% GDP)	-4.5	-0.8	-7.3	-4.3	4.1	3.7	2.0		CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Total imports (F.O.B. mil. USD)	1,210.5	1,402.9	1,597.6	1,282.5	1,338.5	1,701.4	1,585.1		CBvS
• Investment & transportation	485.7	570.7	698.4	507.8	510.3	604.5	592.6		CBvS
• Oil	217.0	264.6	286.3	235.3	293.3	438.9	369.8		CBvS
• Consumption goods	190.7	202.1	219.5	194.0	206.2	246.9	248.5		CBvS
• Chemical goods	120.2	129.4	131.5	137.3	132.8	168.4	164.8		CBvS
• Other goods	196.8	236.2	262.0	208.1	195.9	242.7	209.4		CBvS
Internationally Reserve (mil. USD)	424.4	580.7	647.5	585.0	992.2	1,194.6	1,346.1		CBvS
World market prices in USD									
Gold USD/troz	1,257.5	1,269.1	1,392.6	1,769.6	1,800	1,801	1,800	1,900	World bank proj.
Crude oil USD/bbl.	54.4	71.1	64.0	42.3	70.4	99.8	84.0	81.0	World bank proj.
Crude oil USD/bbl.	52.8	68.3	61.4	41.8	70.8	98.9	82.3	81.1	IMF proj.
Monetary and Financial sector									
Liquidity ratio (M2 in % GDP)	65.4	64.4	73.6	84.9	77.9	77.7	61.3	47.8	CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Balance of credit by banking sector to government (mil. SRD)	2,191.6	2,325.4	2,369.5	3,748	4,524	5,857	6,034	5,963	CBvS/calcul. SDMO

Monetary and Financial sector	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 Est.	2024 proj.	Source
Balance of credit by banking sector to private sector (mil. SRD)	8,164.1	8,094.6	8,218.8	10,787	12,805	19,762	24,267	24,048	CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Selling rate SRD/USD (e.o.p.)	7.5	7.5	7.5	14.3	21.3	31.9	36.4	34.8	CBvS
Selling rate SRD/USD average	7.6	7.5	7.5	9.4	18.5	24.6	36.7	35.1	CBvS
Selling rate SRD/Euro (e.o.p.)	8.9	8.6	8.4	17.6	23.0	33.9	37.8	36.5	CBvS
Selling rate SRD/Euro average	8.5	8.9	8.4	10.8	21.1	33.6	38.3	37	CBvS
Average SRD lending interest rate	14.3	14.4	15.2	14.8	14.9	14.7	14.9	15.2	CBvS
Interbank SRD interest rate	17.4	10.1	11.7	11.9	9.4	85.0	30.0	45.0	CBvS
Average USD lending interest rate	9.1	8.3	8.6	7.9	8.5	8.2	8.1	8.1	CBvS
Average Euro lending interest rate	8.8	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	7.5	7.4	7.4	CBvS
Government Finance and Debt (cash base)									
Primary balance	-5.8	-6.8	-15.6	-7.5	3.5	0.6	1.3		MoF/calcul. SDMO
Overall balance including statistical differences. (% GDP)	-8.7	-10.1	-18.4	-9.6	1.7	-0.5	-1.6		MoF/calcul. SDMO
Commitment balance including Statistical differences. (% GDP)	-7.8	-6.8	-15.8	-11.0	2.4	0.0	-0.9		MoF/calcul. SDMO
Primary non-mineral balance in % of non--mineral GDP	-18.3	-20.6	-31.0	-19.4	-12.3	-19.2	-14.7		MoF/calcul. SDMO
Fiscal impulse (%)	3.5	2.3	10.4	-11.6	-7.1	6.9	-4.5		MoF/calcul. SDMO
Govern. Debt (national def.) (bil. SRD)	18.1	18.7	22.5	46.8	67.2	103.5	124.5		SDMO
Effective Governm. Debt (bil. USD)	2.4	2.5	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.3		SDMO
External debt (mil. USD)	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.4	26		SDMO
Domestic debt (mil. USD)	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7		SDMO
Domestic debt to banking sector (mil. USD) ***	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.07		SDMO
Governm.Debt nat.def. GDP ratio (%)	47.1%	43.3%	43.3%	70.9%	110.7%	115.6%	139.2%		SDMO
Disbursements on external debt (mil. USD)	291.8	186.3	357.7	87.9	102.6	299.3	368.1		SDMO
Debt service payments (mil. USD)	212.7	357.5	263.8	79.1	152.4	162.0	244.1		SDMO

Quarterly statistics 2022-2023

Balance of Payments (cash base)	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	2023 Q1	2023 Q2	2023 Q3	2023 Q4	Source
Total export- G+S (mil. USD)	665.55	652.01	596.46	686.19	624.22	547.70	656.60	690.5	CBvS
• Gold	477.19	458.21	426.18	508.98	450.31	393.60	456.60	517.8	CBvS
• Oil	90.84	94.48	83.94	77.99	73.75	52.30	73.30	62.4	CBvS
• Rice and banana	5.93	7.69	6.93	5.43	4.76	6.60	7.90	8.9	CBvS
• Wood and wood products	29.85	19.65	12.97	23.39	22.28	20.60	14.90	16.1	CBvS
• Fish and shrimp	8.47	8.42	9.21	6.34	7.41	10.20	11.30	9.7	CBvS
• Other goods	20.63	26.97	19.49	19.60	27.35	24.00	48.40	29.0	CBvS
• Net export goods under merchanting	-0.27	2.77	2.20	3.18	-0.25	-0.30	-0.20	-0.3	CBvS
• Services	32.54	33.61	35.55	41.28	38.61	44.70	44.60	47.1	CBvS
Total import- G+S (mil. USD)	517.44	585.46	603.15	635.55	534.48	518.80	560.10	578.5	CBvS
• Services	155.32	161.57	158.35	164.93	146.32	147.70	168.10	171.1	CBvS
Balance current account (mil. USD)	102.26	-2.40	24.02	-52.57	32.32	-17.9	95.8	40.3	CBvS
Balance Cap. + Fin. account (mln. USD)**	192.74	-130.41	99.05	-179.65	81.40	-60.1	21.8	-208.3	CBvS
Balance Current account (% GDP)	2.48	-0.06	0.70	-1.85	0.86	-0.52	2.55	1.06	CBvS/calcul. SDMO

Balance of Payments (cash base)	**2022 Q1**	**2022 Q2**	**2022 Q3**	**2022 Q4**	**2023 Q1**	**2023 Q2**	**2023 Q3**	**2023 Q4**	**Source**
Balance Cap. + Fin. Acc. (% GDP)**	4.67	-3.21	2.87	-6.33	2.17	-1.73	0.60	-5.48	CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Statistical discrepancies (% GDP	-0.03	-0.61	4.13	0.64	1.22	-1.18	-1.43	-0.78	CBvS/calcul. SDMO
Total imports (F.O.B. value mil. USD)	**362.12**	**423.89**	**444.80**	**470.61**	**388.16**	**373.1**	**392.0**	**407.4**	CBvS
• Investment & transportation	135.87	141.59	158.93	168.14	150.38	114.60	104.30	107.4	CBvS
• Oil	81.04	114.75	112.32	130.79	86.92	70.80	111.30	100.1	CBvS
• Consumption goods	54.08	61.48	61.37	69.94	57.72	61.30	59.60	67.4	CBvS
• Chemical goods	35.61	45.39	46.95	40.49	39.70	45.10	34.00	40.5	CBvS
• Other goods	55.52	60.67	65.22	61.25	53.44	47.90	51.50	54.0	CBvS
Government Finance and debt (cash base)									
Primary balance (% GDP)	0.2	-0.4	-0.3	0.5	0.7	0,6	-0,2	0,2	MvF/calcul. SDMO
Overall balance including statistical differences. (% GDP)	0.1	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1	0.3	-0.1	-0.8	0.0	MvF/calcul. SDMO
Commitment balance including statistical differences. (% GDP)	0.3	0.1	-0.5	0.1	0.4	0.0	-0.5	0.0	MvF/calcul. SDMO

Monthly statistics May 2023 -April 2024

	May. 2023	**Jun. 2023**	**Jul. 2023**	**Aug. 2023**	**Sep. 2023**	**Oct. 2023**	**Nov. 2023**	**Dec. 2023**	**Jan. 2024**	**Feb. 2024**	**Mar. 2024**	**Apr. 2024**	**Source**
Inflation (%)													
Inflation – month to previous month	2.4	2.3	3.0	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.6	0.1	0.9	0.4	4.4		ABS
Inflation – month to. month of previous year	65.0	54.6	56.6	53.5	50.8	42.9	38.7	32.6	29.0	25.4	26.8		ABS
International Reserve in USD													
International Reserve	1,075.1	1,091.1	1,095.9	1,062.0	1,107.2	1,142.4	1,142.2	1,346.1	1,327.7	1,334.4	1,365.1		CBvS
World market prices in USD													
Gold USD/troz	1,992	1,942	1,951	1,918	1,915	1,916	1,984	2,026	2,034	2,023	2,158	2,331	World Bank
Crude oil USD/bbl.	74.1	73.2	78.9	84.7	92.2	89.0	81.3	75.7	77.67	80.55	83.55	88.01	World Bank
Liquidity ratio (M2 in % GDP) and balance of credit from the banking sector (mil, SRD)													
Liquidity ratio	59.7	59.4	60.7	59.9	60.0	60.1	60.9	61.3	48.9	47.9	47.8		CBvS/calcul, SDMO
M0 (broad definition)	28,448	27,589	29,377	27,224	26,720	27,660	28,646	28,816	29,073	29,226	28,809		CBvS
M2	80,861	80,509	82,254	81,105	81,248	81,457	82,508	83,115	83,560	81,856	81,622		CBvS
Balance of total credit	30,985	31,014	30,975	30,644	30,822	30,629	30,274	29,085	28,521	27,670	27,903		CBvS/calcul, SDMO
Balance of credit to government	6,439	6,409	6,426	6,433	6,371	6,357	6,098	6,034	6,098	6,002	5,963		CBvS/calcul, SDMO
Balance of credit to private sector	24,251	24,576	24,588	24,542	24,273	24,465	24,270	23,051	22,424	21,688	21,940		CBvS/calcul, SDMO
CBvS Exchange rates (selling rates banknotes) ****													
SRD/USD (e.o.p.)	37.04	37.68	38.03	37.72	37.46	37.35	37.13	35.77	36.45	35.22	34.79		CBvS
SRD/USD average	37.54	37.39	37.90	37.88	37.69	37.22	37.28	36.41	36.57	35.49	35.11		CBvS
SRD/Euro (e.o.p.)	39.01	39.58	39.83	38.62	38.61	38.49	38.58	37.74	38.44	36.74	37.01		CBvS
SRD/Euro average	39.58	39.60	39.98	39.71	38.34	38.28	38.52	38.11	38.44	37.11	37.01		CBvS

	May. 2023	**Jun. 2023**	**Jul. 2023**	**Aug. 2023**	**Sep. 2023**	**Oct. 2023**	**Nov. 2023**	**Dec. 2023**	**Jan. 2024**	**Feb. 2024**	**Mar. 2024**	**Apr. 2024**	**Source**
Average lending rates (%)													
SRD credit	13.6	14.0	14,1	14.3	14.4	14.7	14.9	14.8	15.1	14.9	15.2		CBvS
Interbanking SRD interest rate				50.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	35.0	30.0	30.0	45.0		CBvS
USD credit	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.1		CBvS

Average lending rates (%)	**May. 2023**	**Jun. 2023**	**Jul. 2023**	**Aug. 2023**	**Sep. 2023**	**Oct. 2023**	**Nov. 2023**	**Dec. 2023**	**Jan. 2024**	**Feb. 2024**	**Mar. 2024**	**Apr. 2024**	**Source**
Euro credit	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.2	7.3	7.4	7.4		CBvS
Government finance (mil, SRD) en debt (mil, USD)													
Tot. Revenues cash base	3,148	2,851	3,231	3,123	2,677	3,441	2,821	3,368	3,045	3,481	3,371		MoF
Tot. Expend. cash base	3,523	2,786	3,237	3,845	2,927	3,611	3,160	4,374	3,895	3,409	3,533		MoF
Primary balance	0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.3	-0.1	0.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.0		MoF
Overall balance	-0.3	0.1	0.0	-0.6	-0.2	-0.1	-0.2	-0.9	-0.5	-0.1	-		MoF
Government debt (national def.-mil. SRD)	121.1	121.7	125.2	124.8	126.4	126.3	101.0	124.5	122.3	118.1	118.0		SDMO
Debt to central bank (mil. SRD)	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.0	11.2	10.1	10.1	9.3	9.3	9.0	9.0		SDMO
Domestic debt to banking sector (bil. USD)***	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.0	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.5		SDMO
Effective debt (intern. Def. bil. USD)	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3		SDMO
External debt (bil. USD)	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6		SDMO
Domestic debt (bil. USD)	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7		SDMO
Government debt (National def,)-GDP ratio	135	136	140	139	141	141	113	139	137	132	132		SDMO
Disbursements on external debt (mil,USD))	1.8	40.7	8.6	7.5	39.6	22.7	17.5	214.5	1.8	0.1	8.2		SDMO
Tot. Debt service paym. (mil. USD)	36.4	18.4	18.3	13.6	9.2	52.1	35.8	64.8	32.9	20.5	26.9		SDMO

e.o.p. = end of period

ABS = General Bureau of Statistics, IMF- International Monetary Fund, CBvS = Central Bank of Suriname, MoF = Ministry of Finance & Planning, SDMO = Suriname Debt Management Office

* GDP figures of 2020-2022 are prelimenary figures.

** This is the balance of capital transfers and the financial account of the balance of payment.

*** Government domestic debt of the banking sector includes treasury paper and loans.

Explanation of certain terms:

1. Government overall balance is government income minus expenditures. If the balance is a deficit, then debt needs to be attracted to finance the deficit and thereby will lead to an increase of the government debt.
2. Primary government balance is the financing balance excluding interest payments on government debts. The primary balance indicates the extent to which policy contributes to the accumulation of new debts, without taking into account payments on old debts.
3. The difference between the effective and statutory national debt is the exchange rate used to convert foreign currency debts into SRD. In compiling the statutory debt, foreign currency debts must be converted into SRD at the year-end exchange rate of the last published GDP by the ABS. In the calculation of the effective debt, which is based on the international debt definition, the exchange rate at the time the debt is incurred is used. The National Debt Act was brought in line with international standards in its last amendment in March 2023.
4. The effective debt-GDP ratio is calculated based on the GDP (projection) of the respective year, while the total Central Government National debt-GDP ratio is based on the latest GDP figure from the ABS.