



CENTRAL BANK OF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

SUMMARY

ECONOMIC INDICATORS



DECEMBER 2008

Summary Economic Indicators

Governor's Foreword

The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to introduce its new “**Summary Economic Indicators Bulletin (SEIB)**,” which will be published on a quarterly basis. The publication of the March and September issues of this bulletin will coincide with the release of the Bank’s semi-annual Monetary Policy Reports. The main objective of the SEIB is to provide decision-makers in the public and private sectors, as well as wider civil society, with the latest information on movements in key economic and financial variables. The bulletin covers the following information domains:

- Gross Domestic Product
- Prices
- Commodities
- Interest Rates
- Monetary and Banking Aggregates
- The Real Estate Market and Indicators of Construction Activity
- Retail Sales
- The Foreign Exchange Market
- The Insurance Sector
- Capital Markets and Payment Systems
- The Balance of Payments

The Bank is currently in the process of developing new data sets and, from time to time, additional economic indicators will be included in the bulletin as they become available.

The Bank looks forward to receiving suggestions from its major stakeholders on new economic indicators that may be included to enhance the usefulness of the bulletin.

Kindly address your suggestions and general feedback on the publication to the **Manager, Research Department, Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.**



Governor
Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

January 19, 2009

Summary Economic Indicators

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Summary of Economic Developments

Gross Domestic Product

Trinidad and Tobago

- **Real Gross Domestic Product** in the domestic economy grew by **4.4 per cent** in the twelve months to September 2008 from 1.1 per cent a year earlier.
- **Energy sector** output grew marginally by **1.1 per cent** in the twelve months to September 2008 after declining in the first and second quarters of 2008.
- The growth in **non-energy sector output** slowed to **5.8 per cent** on a year-on-year basis in the third quarter of 2008 from 8.0 per cent in the second quarter.

International

- Up to the third quarter 2008, the economies of **Brazil, India and China (BRICs)** were still experiencing fairly **robust growth (year-on-year)** with real GDP in Brazil growing by 6.8 per cent in India by 7.6 per cent and in China by 9.0 per cent.
- During the third quarter, growth remained relatively weak in the **major industrial countries**. Real GDP in the US, UK and EURO Area increased at rates between 0.3 and 0.7 per cent, while the Japanese economy declined by 0.5 per cent.

Domestic Prices

- On a year-on-year basis to November 2008, **headline inflation** rose by **14.3 per cent**.
- **Food prices** increased by **29.8 per cent** in the twelve months to November 2008.
- **Producer prices** rose by **10.5 per cent** in the twelve months to September 2008.

Commodities

Prices

- **Crude oil prices** (WTI) have come down from a July 2008 peak of US\$145.29 to an average of US\$41.45 during December, 2008.

- **Natural gas prices** which peaked at around **US\$13.31 per mmbtu** in July 2008 declined by 58 per cent to an average of **US\$5.84** in December 2008.

Production

- **Domestic crude oil production** fell by 4.6 per cent on a year-on-year basis to September.
- **Natural Gas production** remained relatively flat at around **36,516** cubic metres to September 2008, increasing by a mere 0.1 per cent from the corresponding period in 2007.
- **Methanol Production** reached almost **4.5 million tonnes**, increasing by 2.0 per cent on a year-on-year basis to September 2008.

Interest Rates

- The Central Bank increased the “repo” rate on three occasions by 25 basis points each during 2008. At the end of December 2008, the “**repo**” rate stood at **8.75 per cent** compared with **8.0 per cent** in December 2008.
- In response to the tighter monetary policy stance, the **basic prime lending rate** increased to **13 per cent** in December 2008 from **11.75 per cent** in December 2007.
- The **differential between US and TT dollar 90-day treasury bill rates** widened to **7.01 per cent** in December 2008 from 3.87 per cent a year ago.

Monetary and Banking Aggregates

- The growth in commercial bank credit slowed to **15.4 per cent** on a year-on-year basis to October 2008 from **16.2 per cent** in the previous month.
- **Consumer credit** slowed to **10.6 per cent** on a year-on-year basis to October 2008 from **11.5 per cent** in September.
- **Business credit** increased to **15.0 per cent** (year-on-year) in October 2008 from 13.4 per cent in September.

Real Estate Market and Indicators of Construction Activity

- **Residential Median House Prices fell to TT\$1,075,000** in September 2008, a decline of **37.5 per cent** from the same period a year earlier.
- In the twelve months to September 2008, **real estate mortgage loans outstanding** increased by almost **24 per cent**.
- **Mortgage loan disbursements, while typically sporadic, have increased by 3 per cent over the quarter ending June 2008 and by 9.9 per cent over the last year.**
- As construction activity remained relatively buoyant, the prices of **cement, gravel and sand** rose by **13.7 per cent, 9.5 per cent and 9 per cent** respectively in December 2008, relative to the previous year.

Credit Card Loans

- Credit card loans, which account for slightly less than 4 per cent of total commercial bank loans, increased on a year-on-year basis to October by 15.5 per cent.
- The number of credit card accounts increased by 13.9 per cent in September 2008 from a year ago.

Mutual Funds

- Aggregate Funds under Management increased by TT\$3 billion or 10 per cent on a year-on-year basis to September 2008.
- Money market funds increased by 13.9 per cent but equity funds decreased by 13.7 per cent in September 2008 compared to the previous year.

Capital Markets

Stock Market

- Global stock markets experienced significant declines in 2008. The S&P and FTSE indices fell by 38 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively in December 2008, compared to a year ago.

- The Trinidad and Tobago Composite Index fell by 14.2 per cent in December 2008, compared to a year earlier.

Payment Systems

- Debit cards were used to conduct almost 5 million transactions, split roughly evenly between point of sales and ATM transactions over the nine months ending September 2008.
- For the period January to September 2008, there were 2.4 million debit card point of sale transactions and 1.2 million credit card point of sales transactions.
- ATM debit card transactions amounted to \$1.3 billion during September. This represents an increase of 4.8 per cent over the previous quarter.

Labour Market

- Aggregate employment in all sectors increased by 2.3 per cent in June 2008 compared with June 2007.
- The number of persons employed in the Energy sector declined by 8.2 per cent in June 2008, compared with June 2007.
- Employment in the manufacturing sector also grew by 9.1 per cent in June 2008 compared with June 2007.
- Employment in the agricultural sector increased by 11.2 per cent in June 2008, compared with June 2007.

Summary Economic Indicators

Real GDP Growth Rates

1. REAL GDP	Year-on-Year Per cent Change						2007
	QIII-08	Q1I-08	Q1-08	QIV-07	QIII-07	QII-07	
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO							
Total	4.4	3.9	3.2	6.4	1.1	3.0	5.5
Energy GDP	1.1	-1.8	-0.7	5.9	1.2	0.6	1.7
Petrochemicals	0.4	-5.6	1.0	-6.7	5.2	4.0	-2.3
Other Petroleum	1.2	-1.3	-0.9	7.8	0.6	0.2	2.3
Non Energy GDP	5.2	8.0	3.9	6.8	2.4	2.3	7.7
Construction	3.4	9.7	7.7	7.4	8.7	6.7	6.6
Manufacturing	-3.0	0.8	7.2	10.1	13.2	5.2	14.9
Distribution	9.8	13.6	2.2	10.0	-5.6	2.3	3.3
OECD							
United States	0.7	2.1	2.5	2.3	2.8	1.8	2.0
United Kingdom	0.3	1.7	2.6	2.9	3.3	3.0	3.1
Euro Area	0.6	1.4	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.6	2.6
Japan	-0.5	0.7	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.8	2.0
BRICS							
Brazil	6.8	6.2	5.9	6.2	5.6	5.4	5.4
India	7.6	7.9	8.8	8.8	9.3	9.2	9.0
China	9.0	10.1	10.6	11.2	11.5	12.6	11.9
CARIBBEAN							
Barbados	0.8	-0.3	2.1	2.6	2.7	5.2	4.3
Jamaica	-0.3	-0.8	-0.0	-0.4	0.4	2.4	1.4

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, Statistical Institute of Jamaica and Bloomberg.
Annual figures are not equal to the average of the 4 quarters shown in this table.

Chart 1.1: Trinidad and Tobago: GDP Growth Rates

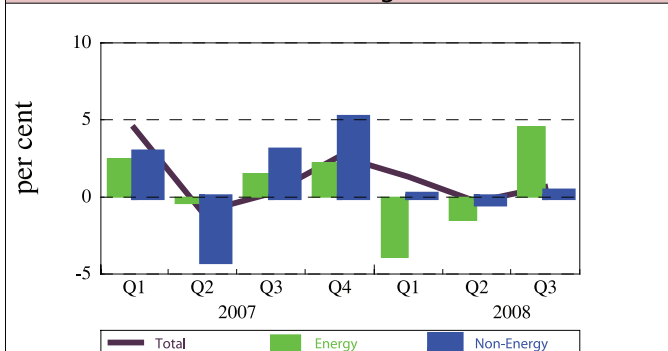


Chart 1.2 Selected CARICOM Countries: GDP Growth Rates

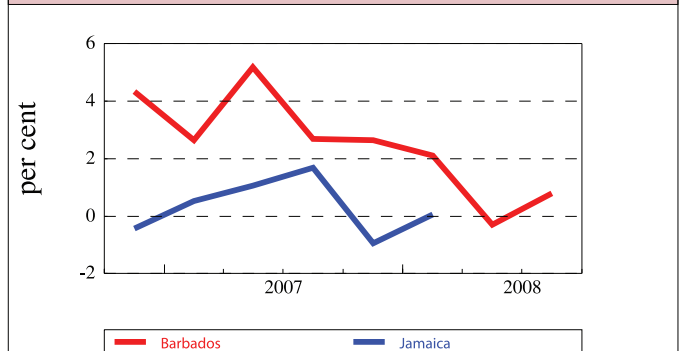


Chart 1.3 OECD Countries: GDP Growth Rates

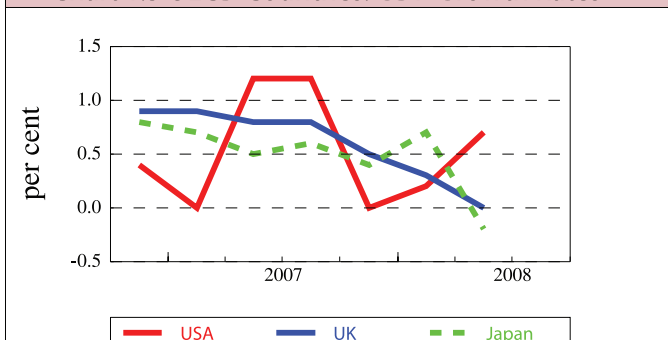
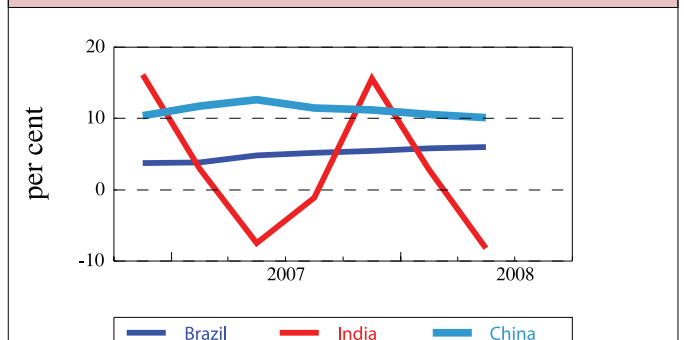


Chart 1.4 BRICS: GDP Growth Rates



Summary Economic Indicators

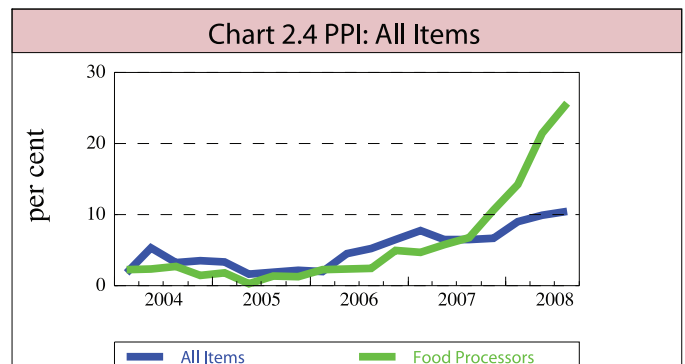
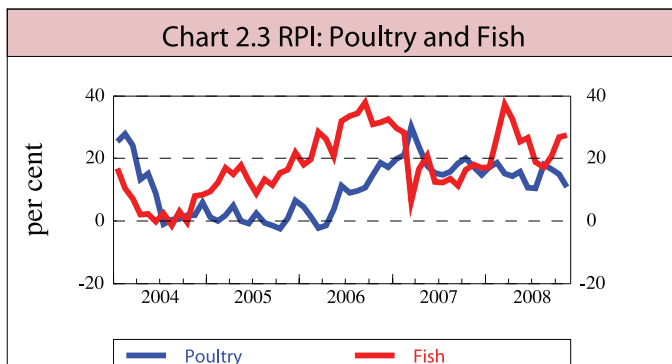
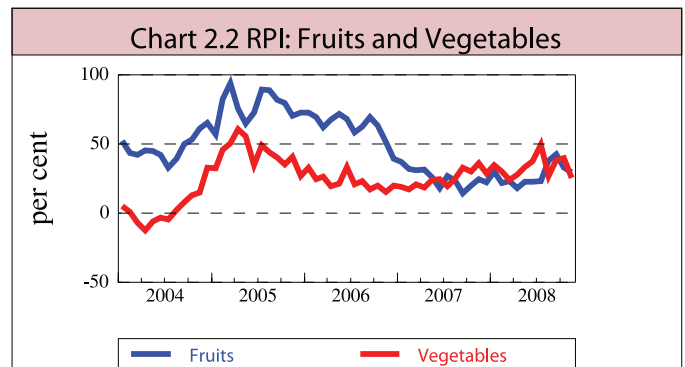
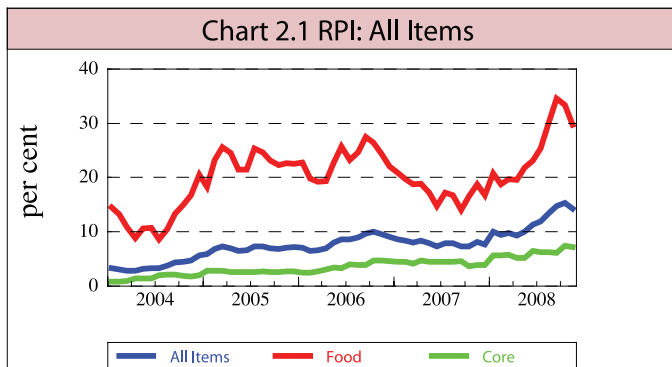
Prices

2. INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES (2003 = 100)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Month	Previous 3 months	Previous Year
All Items (Headline)	Nov-08	156.7	0.3	3.2	14.3
Food	Nov-08	309.4	0.6	6.7	29.8
Bread & Cereals	Nov-08	210.3	0.4	2.7	63.3
Vegetables	Nov-08	940.4	0.9	3.3	29.6
Meat	Nov-08	185.8	0.5	4.4	12.6
Milk, Cheese & Eggs	Nov-08	179.4	0.4	1.0	10.0
Fruits	Nov-08	374.1	-4.2	8.5	25.7
Core	Nov-08	123.2	0.1	1.4	7.2
Transport	Nov-08	120.0	0.0	1.9	3.6
Housing	Nov-08	124.1	0.0	1.3	8.0
Health	Nov-08	134.8	0.1	0.6	5.8
Education	Nov-08	164.0	0.0	5.3	9.2
Hotels, Cafes & Restaurants	Nov-08	166.7	0.0	4.8	21.8

3. INDEX OF PRODUCER PRICES (1978 = 100)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Quarter	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
All Industry Index	Sep-08	484.8	1.7	3.8	10.5
Food processors	Sep-08	632.8	5.1	13.0	25.7
Meat, Poultry & Fish Processors	Sep-08	405.3	0.1	2.8	4.0
Flour Mills	Sep-08	1,337.3	20.5	56.5	115.3
Textile, Garments & Footwear	Sep-08	298.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wood Products	Sep-08	333.1	1.1	1.1	1.0
Printing, Publishing & Paper Convertors	Sep-08	337.2	0.0	1.1	1.1
Chemical & Non Metallic Products	Sep-08	574.8	1.2	1.7	9.8
Cement	Sep-08	1,706.2	4.4	4.4	8.9
Bricks, Blocks & Tiles	Sep-08	636.1	0.1	0.0	18.2
Assembly Type & Related Products	Sep-08	339.0	0.3	1.0	0.5

Source: Central Statistical Office.

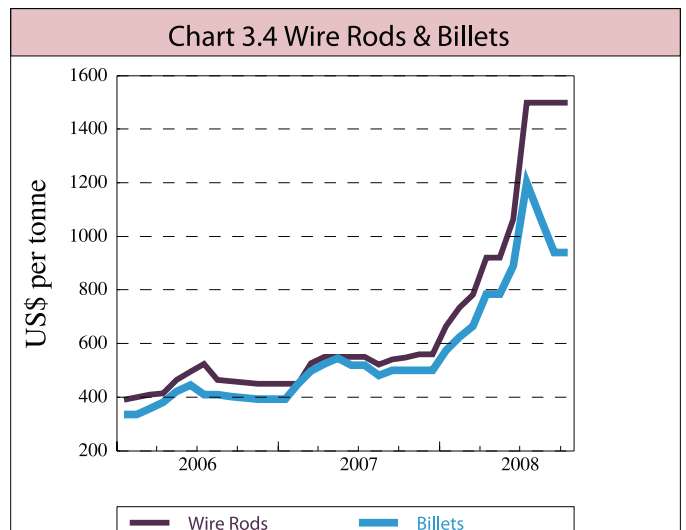
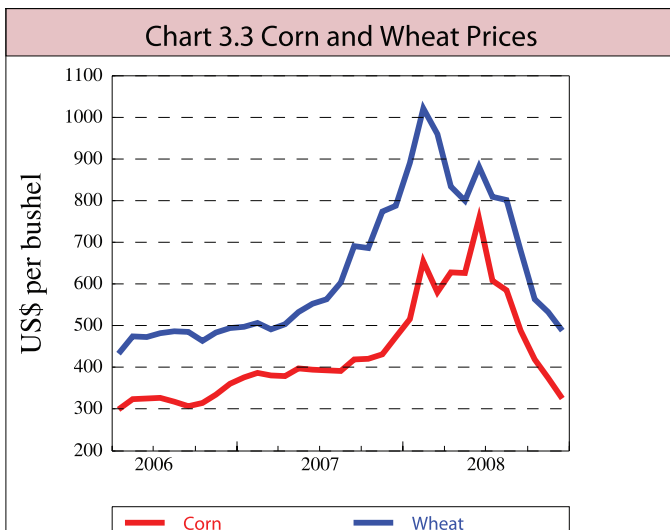
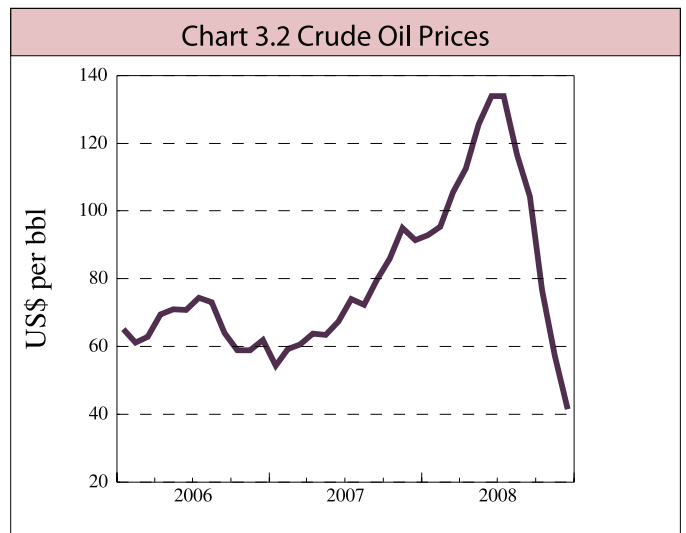
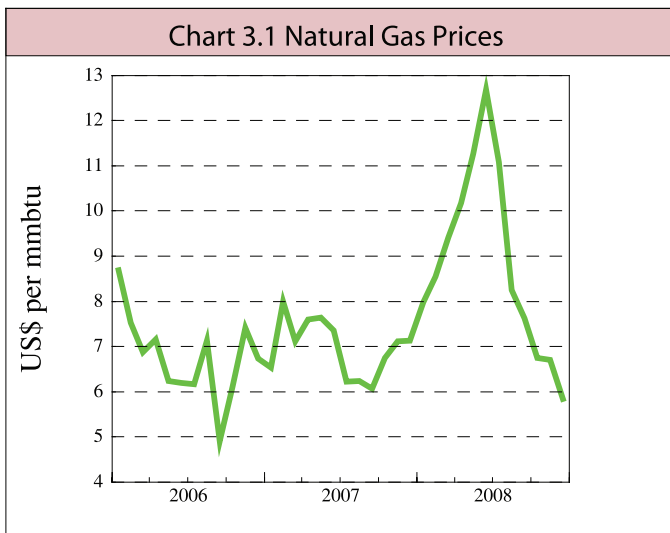
Year-on-Year Per cent Changes



Summary Economic Indicators

4. COMMODITIES	Latest Period	Value*	Peak**		Commodities
			Month	Value	Year-on-Year Per cent Change
PRICES					
Crude Oil (WTI)- US\$/bbl	Dec-08	41.45	Jul-08	145.29	-54.6
Natural Gas (Henry Hub) - US\$/mmbtu	Dec-08	5.84	Jul-08	13.31	-18.1
Ammonia - US\$/tonne	Dec-08	108.40	Sep-08	887.60	-67.3
Urea - US\$/tonne	Dec-08	425.00	Jul-08	825.00	2.4
Methanol - US\$/tonne	Dec-08	374.00	Mar-08	753.00	-32.9
Billets - US\$/tonne	Dec-08	940.00	Jul-08	1,200.00	88.0
Wire Rods - US\$/tonne	Dec-08	1,275.00	Jul-08	1,500.00	127.7
Gold - US\$/ounce	Dec-08	819.94	Mar-08	1,023.50	-2.0
Wheat - US\$/bushel	Dec-08	488.15	Jun-08	1,074.30	-38.1
Corn - US\$/bushel	Dec-08	325.98	Mar-08	757.00	-31.2
DOMESTIC PRODUCTION					
Crude Oil ('000s bbls)	Sep-08	31,703	-	-	-4.6
Natural Gas (cu m)	Sep-08	36,516	-	-	0.1
Liquefied Natural Gas ('000s cu m)	Sep-08	24,191	-	-	2.3
Ammonia ('000s tonnes)	Sep-08	3,783	-	-	-3.5
Urea ('000s tonnes)	Sep-08	476	-	-	-13.8
Methanol ('000s tonnes)	Sep-08	4,499	-	-	2.0

Source: Bloomberg, Middle East Economic Survey, Markets Fertilizer Week, Green Markets, Methanol Newsletter and Metal Bulletin.
 *Average price for the month. **Peak price during the last 12 months.



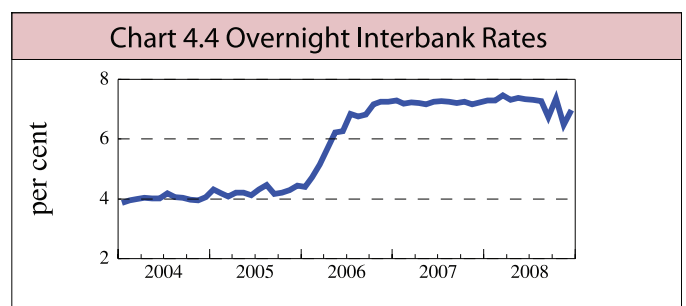
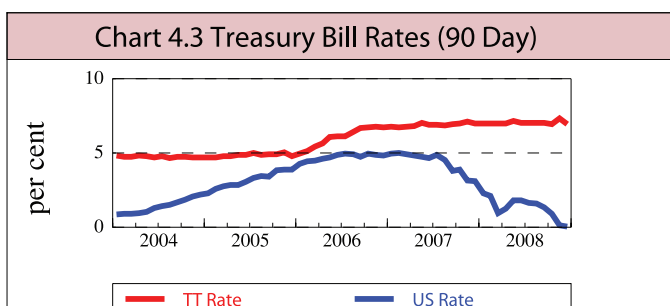
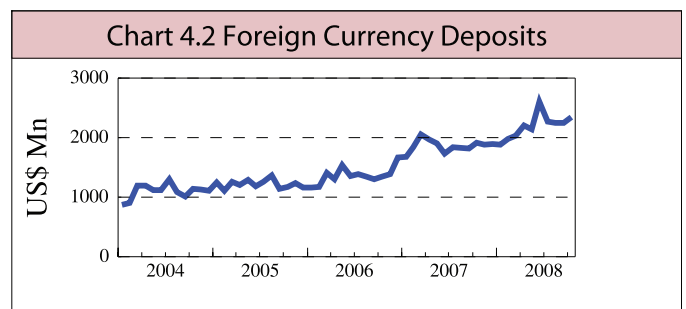
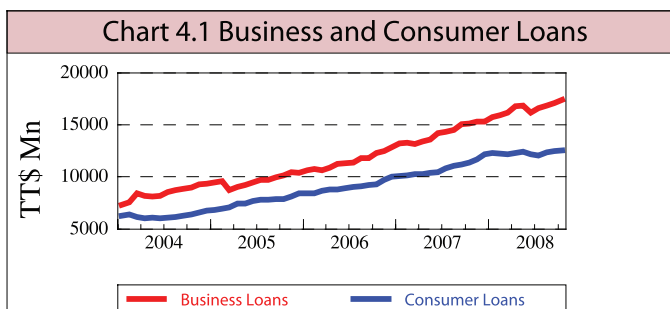
Summary Economic Indicators

Monetary & Banking Aggregates

5. INTEREST RATES (%)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Value as at		
			Previous Month	Previous 3 Months	Previous Year
Repo Rate	Dec-08	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.00
Overnight Interbank Rate	Dec-08	7.00	7.00	6.50	7.22
3mth TBill Rate	Dec-08	6.94	7.33	7.05	7.00
Basic Prime Lending Rate	Dec-08	13.00	13.00	12.75	11.75
TT/US 3mth TBill Rate Differential	Dec-08	6.90	7.18	5.70	3.87

6. MONETARY & BANKING AGGREGATES (TT\$Mn)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous 3 Months	Previous 6 Months	Previous Year
Currency in Active Circulation	Oct-08	3,347.0	1.2	5.6	15.2
Demand Deposits	Oct-08	11,455.9	7.0	10.0	14.1
Savings Deposits	Oct-08	13,971.8	0.7	2.4	9.7
Time Deposits	Oct-08	10,546.6	-5.6	1.5	12.8
Foreign Currency Deposits:					
Commercial Banks'	Oct-08	14,779.1	3.4	6.3	22.7
NFIs'	Oct-08	2,475.5	-28.8	-41.6	-33.4
Monetary Base	Oct-08	12,434.2	12.1	23.2	36.8
M1-A	Oct-08	14,803.0	5.6	9.0	14.3
M2	Oct-08	39,321.4	0.7	4.5	12.2
M2*	Oct-08	54,100.5	1.4	5.0	14.9
M3	Oct-08	43,823.9	2.5	8.3	17.6
M3*	Oct-08	61,078.5	0.9	4.3	15.3
Commercial Banks':					
Credit to Private Sector	Oct-08	39,590.2	3.9	3.6	15.4
Business Loans	Oct-08	17,384.0	4.8	3.8	15.0
Consumer Loans	Oct-08	12,550.1	4.3	2.2	10.6
Real Estate Mortgage Loans	Oct-08	7,692.2	2.8	7.7	22.2

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and US Treasury.



Summary Economic Indicators

Real Estate Market and Indicators of Construction Activity

7. REAL ESTATE MARKET	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From	
			Previous Quarter	Previous Year
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL PRICES (TT\$)				
Cement (price/bag)	Dec-08	52.4	0.6	13.7
Gravel (price/8cu yds)	Dec-08	2,575.2	-5.5	9.5
Plastering Sand (price/8cu yds).	Dec-08	1,188.8	1.1	9.0
Concrete Blocks (price/block)				
100mm (4'x8'x16')	Dec-08	8.5	5.6	13.7
150mm (6'x8'x16')	Dec-08	10.3	3.8	11.0
Steel (price/20ft)				
1/4'	Dec-08	13.4	-3.7	64.4
1/2'	Dec-08	56.4	-5.6	60.6
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE LOANS (TT\$Mn)				
Real Estate Mortgage Loans Approved	Sep-08	877.1	13.6	10.5
Real Estate Mortgage Loans Disbursed	Sep-08	791.3	3.0	9.9
Real Estate Mortgage Loans Outstanding	Sep-08	7,767.5	5.0	23.9
Median House Prices (TT\$000s)	Sep-08	1,075.00	7.5	-37.5

Source: Central Statistical Office and Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Chart 5.1 Prices of Selected Aggregates

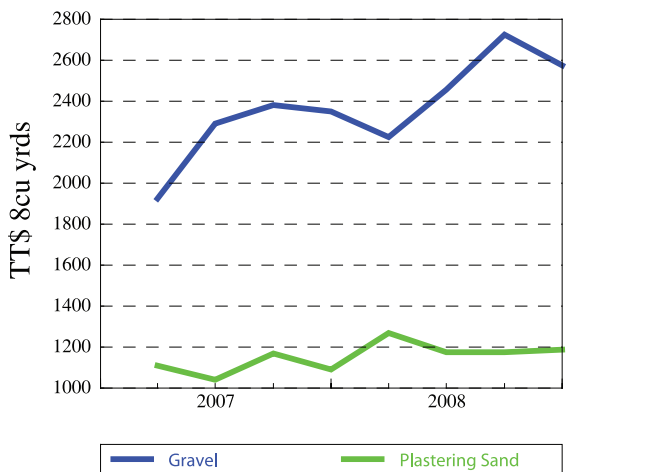


Chart 5.2 Prices of Cement and Steel

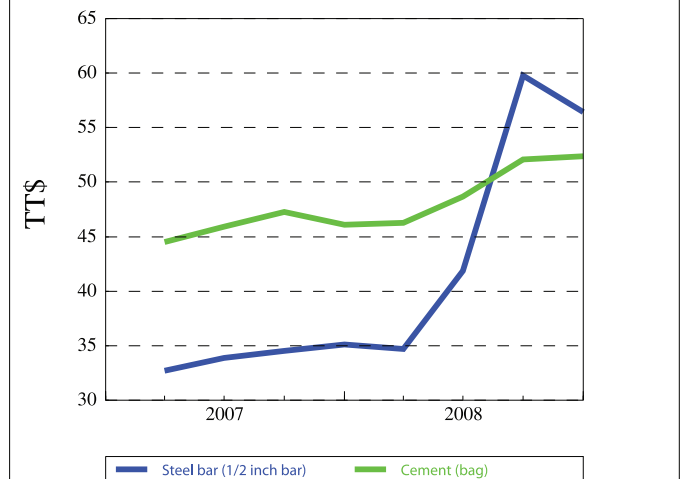


Chart 5.3 Median House Prices

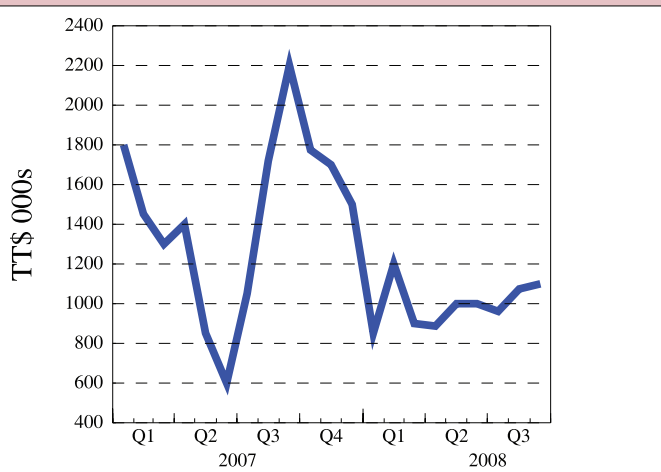
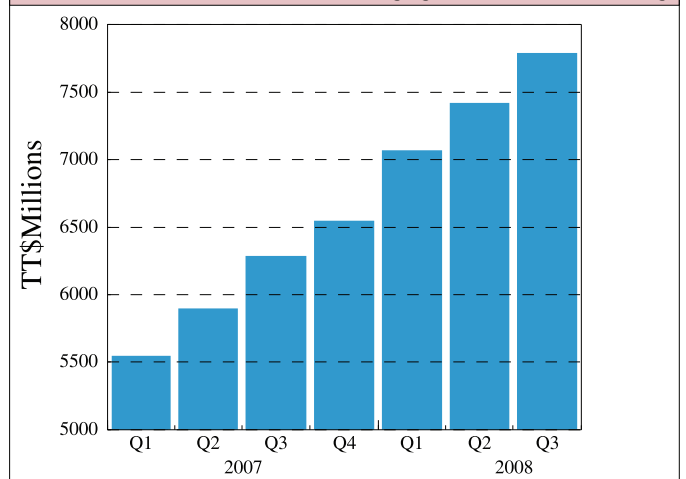


Chart 5.4 Commercial Bank Mortgage Loans Outstanding



Summary Economic Indicators

Retail Sales

8. RETAIL SALES	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous 3 months	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
INDEX OF RETAIL SALES (2000 = 100)					
All Sections	Sep-08	242.1	5.5	12.4	14.4
Dry Goods	Sep-08	482.6	12.7	29.7	56.6
Supermarket and Groceries	Sep-08	217.5	4.5	7.4	7.2
Construction Materials and Hardware	Sep-08	244.5	2.5	1.4	6.6
Household Appliances and Furnishings	Sep-08	159.8	6.3	31.3	6.0
Textile and Wearing Apparel	Sep-08	76.5	23.6	21.4	13.3
Motor Vehicle and Parts	Sep-08	308.1	-2.6	9.7	16.0
Petrol Filling Stations	Sep-08	166.9	-3.7	0.9	3.5
Other Retail Activities	Sep-08	225.2	27.4	24.7	9.0
MOTOR VEHICLE SALES					
New Motor Vehicle Sales	Nov-08	1,666	8.4	-5.6	6.9
Passanger Cars	Nov-08	958	0.4	-1.6	0.7
Commercial Vehicles	Nov-08	708	21.4	-10.4	16.6
CREDIT CARD LOANS					
Value Outstanding (TT\$m)	Oct-08	1,589	4.9	7.5	15.5
Number of Accounts	Sep-08	242,773	6.8	6.4	13.9

Source: Central Statistical Office and Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Chart 6.1 Year-on-Year Change in Consumer Spending

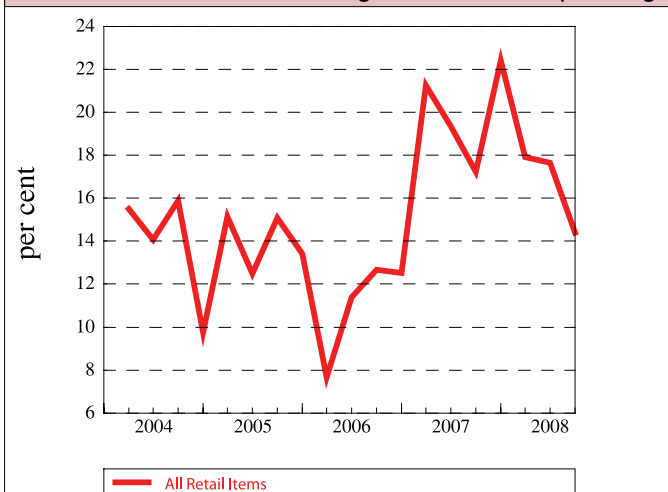


Chart 6.2 Year-on-Year Change in Consumer Spending

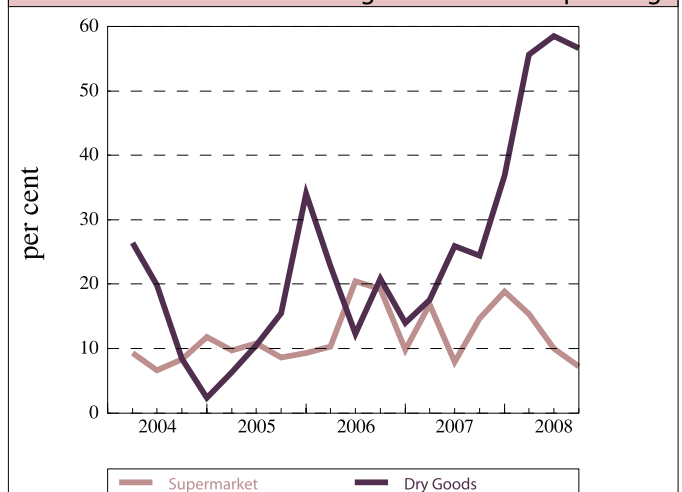


Chart 6.3 New Motor Vehicle Sales

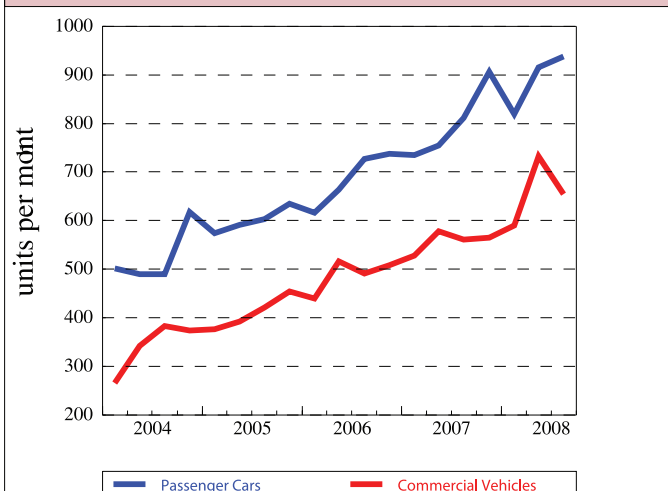
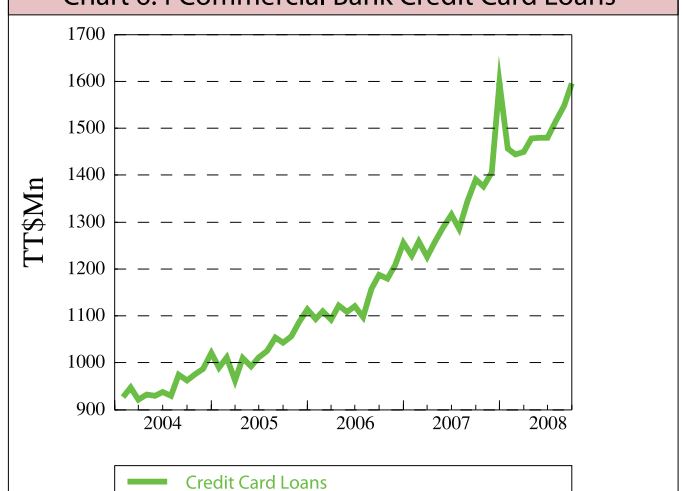


Chart 6.4 Commercial Bank Credit Card Loans



Summary Economic Indicators

Balance of Payments & the Foreign Exchange Market

9. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Quarter	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
US\$m					
Current Account Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)	Mar-08	864.3	-60.7	-24.0	-32.6
of which: Exports	Mar-08	3,314.3	-26.7	1.3	9.6
Imports	Mar-08	2,419.5	10.4	19.6	44.8
Capital Account Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)	Mar-08	-201.2	-89.4	-76.1	-78.6
Overall Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)	Mar-08	663.1	122.1	124.9	93.8
Net Official Reserves	Dec-08	9,813.9	6.1	7.8	39.4
COMPETITIVENESS INDICATORS					
Real Effective Exchange Rate	Mar-08	116.2	-0.8	-1.4	0.9
Unit Labour Cost	Jun-08	24.7	-16.3	-14.6	-9.7
Terms of Trade (TOT)	Jun-08	105.7	5.0	-0.8	1.8

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago; For the REER and the ULC, +ve changes reflect a loss of competitiveness whereas for the TOT they represent a gain in competitiveness.

10. FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Month	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
USD Buying Rate	31/Dec/08	6.2464	0.49	1.37	-0.80
USD Selling Rate	31/Dec/08	6.2993	0.32	0.67	-0.78
CAD Buying Rate	31/Dec/08	5.0541	3.53	-17.45	-18.95
CAD Selling Rate	31/Dec/08	5.2367	2.35	-17.88	-19.40
GBP Buying Rate	31/Dec/08	8.7924	-2.58	-27.80	-27.94
GBP Selling Rate	31/Dec/08	9.2973	-1.45	-26.84	-27.45
Euro Buying Rate	31/Dec/08	8.5570	11.84	-11.36	-5.31
Euro Selling Rate	31/Dec/08	9.0319	11.40	-10.94	-6.23
Commercial Banks': (year-to-date)					
Purchases of Foreign Currency (US\$m)	31/Dec/08	5,541.0	-	-	39.8
Sale of Foreign Currency (US\$m)	31/Dec/08	6,125.9	-	-	21.8
Net Purchase from Central Bank (US\$m)	31/Dec/08	781.5	-	-	-18.1

Chart 7.1 Exchange Rates: USD and CAD

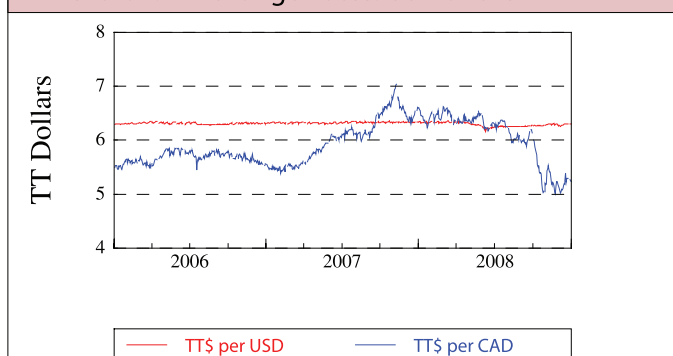


Chart 7.2 Exchange Rates: GBP and EURO

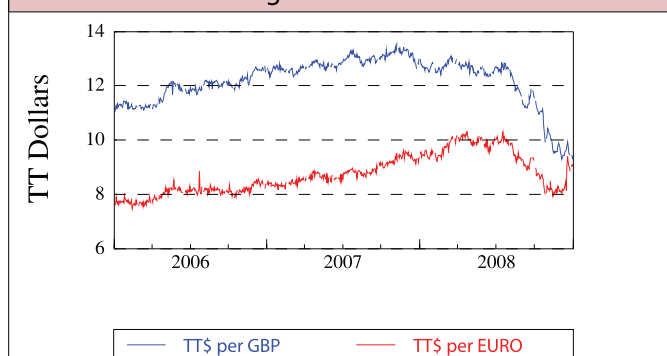


Chart 7.3 Net Official Reserves

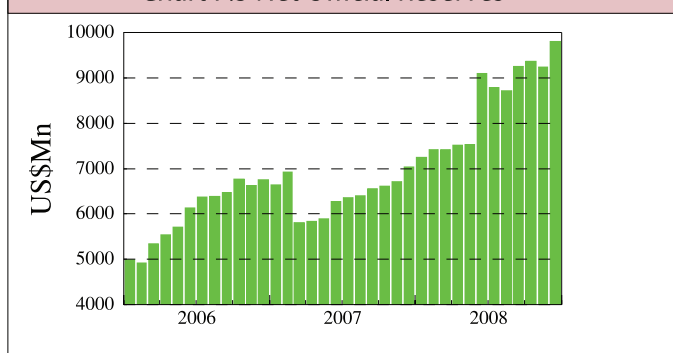
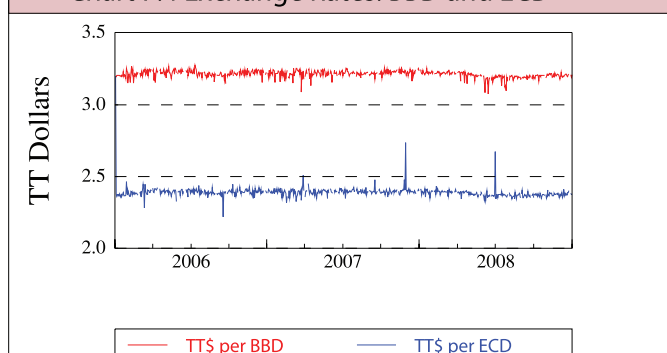


Chart 7.4 Exchange Rates: BBD and ECD



Summary Economic Indicators

Capital Market & Payment Systems

11. MUTUAL FUNDS Aggregate Fund Values (TT\$m)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Quarter	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
Money Market Funds	Sep-08	31,373.9	5.5	7.7	13.9
Equity Funds	Sep-08	4,941.9	4.2	-10.2	-13.7
TT\$ Funds	Sep-08	27,494.1	4.6	5.0	9.7
US\$ Funds	Sep-08	9,133.1	7.6	4.5	11.1
Aggregate Fund Value	Sep-08	36,627.2	5.3	4.8	10.0

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

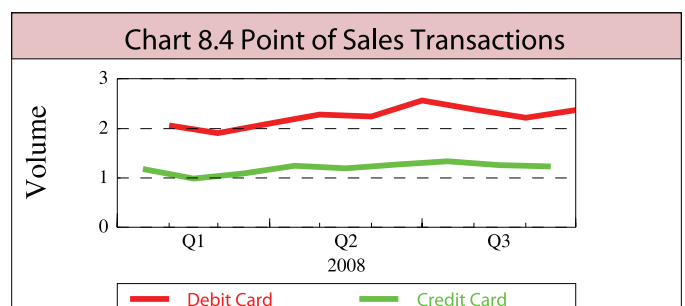
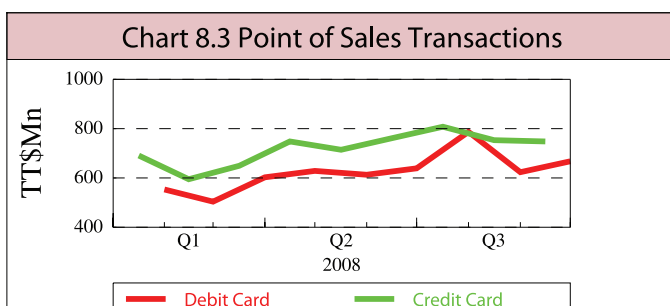
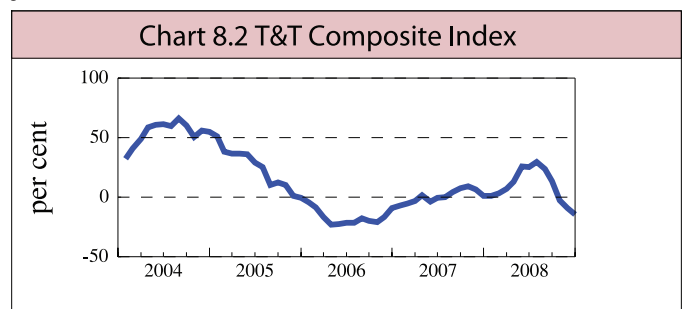
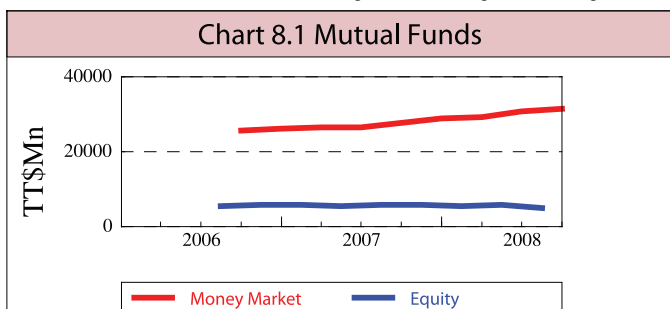
12. STOCK INDICES	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Month	Previous 3 months	Previous Year
T&T Composite Index	Dec-08	842.9	-3.3	-20.9	-14.2
All T&T Index	Dec-08	1,154.8	-2.3	-20.0	-3.8
Banking Sub-Index	Dec-08	620.7	-3.1	-19.5	-19.3
Conglomerate Sub-Index	Dec-08	2,253.7	-1.5	-14.7	-1.2
Manufacturing I Sub-Index	Dec-08	1,043.3	-3.3	-7.4	7.8
Manufacturing II Sub-Index	Dec-08	507.8	-13.8	-45.7	-26.3
NASDAQ	31/Dec/08	1,577.0	5.7	-9.4	-40.5
Dow Jones	31/Dec/08	8,776.4	2.1	-5.2	-33.8
S&P 500	31/Dec/08	903.3	3.7	-8.3	-38.5
FTSE	31/Dec/08	4,434.2	6.3	1.5	-31.3
NIKKEI	31/Dec/08	8,859.6	10.7	-3.7	-42.1

13. PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Point of Sale Transactions - Millions

Debit Card: Volume	Sep-08	2.4	6.8	-8.0	--
Debit Card: Value (TT\$)	Sep-08	666.7	7.0	4.5	--
Credit Card: Volume	Sep-08	1.2	-2.2	-3.2	--
Credit Card: Value (TT\$)	Sep-08	748.8	-0.7	-1.6	--
ATM Transactions - Millions					
Debit Card: Volume	Sep-08	2.5	3.5	4.0	--
Debit Card: Value (TT\$)	Sep-08	1,343.2	0.0	4.8	--
Credit Card: Volume	Sep-08	0.1	1.2	1.8	--
Credit Card: Value (TT\$)	Sep-08	101.3	-1.9	-0.8	--

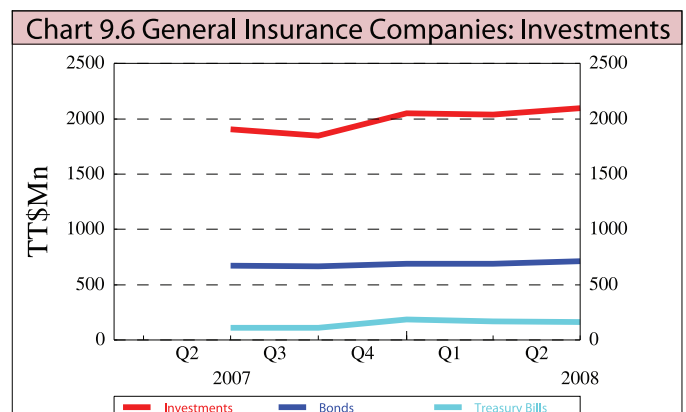
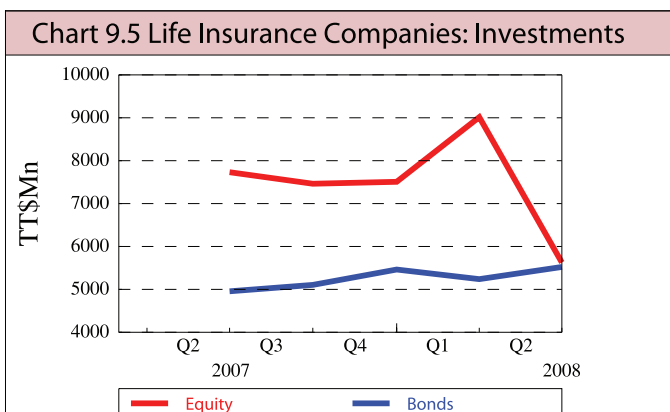
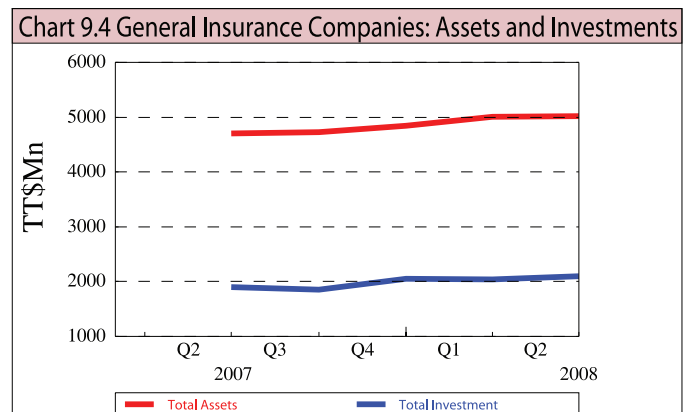
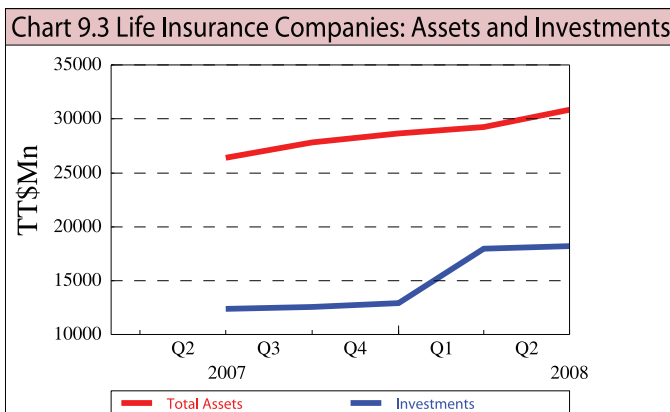
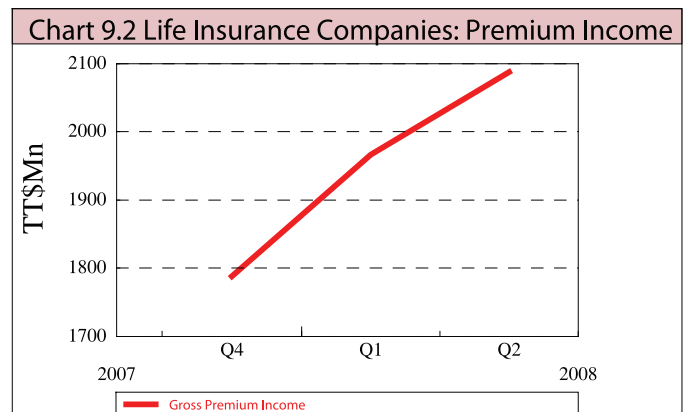
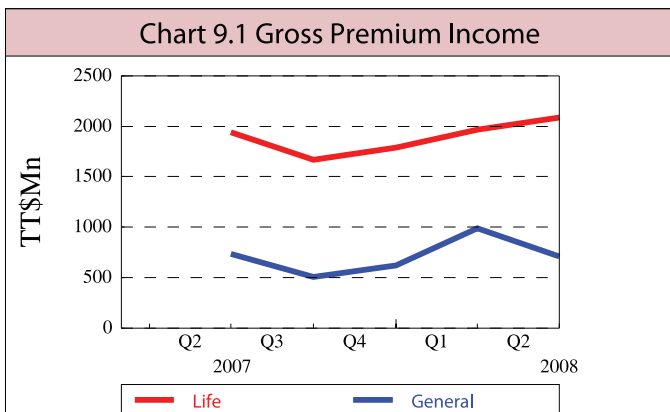
Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad & Tobago Stock Exchange and Bloomberg.



Summary Economic Indicators

Insurance Industry

14. INSURANCE (TT\$m)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Quarter	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
LIFE INSURANCE					
Policy Holder Liabilities	Jun-08	24,316.2	3.2	6.1	20.2
Life and Health	Jun-08	5,774.0	-2.3	1.9	8.3
Annuities	Jun-08	18,542.1	5.0	7.5	24.5
GENERAL INSURANCE					
Policy Holder Liabilities	Jun-08	1,639.7	2.0	4.0	13.4
Motor Vehicle	Jun-08	1,036.0	2.3	10.3	16.5
Property	Jun-08	229.8	-3.2	-23.0	-3.1
Other	Jun-08	373.9	4.7	10.5	17.0



Summary Economic Indicators

Financial System Assets

15. FINANCIAL SYSTEM TOTAL ASSETS (TT\$Bn)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From Previous Year
Central Bank	2007	47.5	12.4
Commercial Banks	2007	75.7	11.5
Non-Bank Financial Institutions	2007	28.1	12.5
Life Insurance	2007	27.8	10.1
Credit Unions	2007	6.6	5.2
Development Banks	2007	2.6	3.4
Home Mortgage Bank	2007	2.1	8.0
Deposit Insurance Corporation	2007	1.1	14.1
National Insurance Board	2007	15.3	6.5
Unit Trust Corporation	2007	19.0	8.5

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Chart 10.1 Central Bank Total Assets



Chart 10.2 Commercial Banks' Total Assets

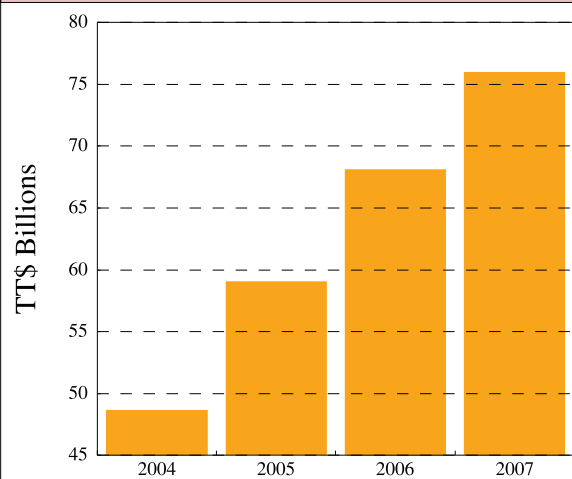


Chart 10.3 Non-Bank Financial Institutions' Total Assets

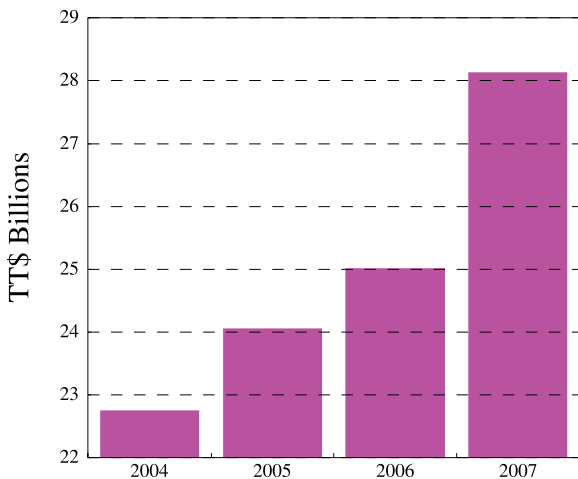
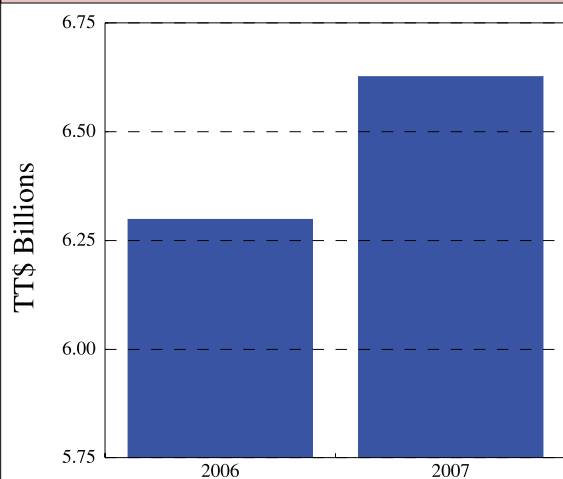


Chart 10.4 Credit Unions' Estimated Total Assets



Summary Economic Indicators

Labour Market

16. LABOUR FORCE ('000s of persons)	Latest Period	Latest Value	Per cent Change From		
			Previous Quarter	Previous 6 months	Previous Year
Non-Institutional Population	Jun-08	987.2	0.4	0.5	0.7
Labour Force	Jun-08	621.4	0.1	-1.6	0.8
Employment	Jun-08	592.8	0.7	-1.7	2.3
Petroleum	Jun-08	21.2	12.2	2.4	-8.2
Manufacturing	Jun-08	57.4	1.6	9.5	9.1
Agriculture	Jun-08	29.7	29.7	58.0	11.2
Construction	Jun-08	116.4	1.0	2.6	3.9
Services	Jun-08	367.5	-1.7	-7.5	0.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	Jun-08	4.6	-13.2	2.2	-23.3
Participation Rate (%)	Jun-08	62.9	-0.3	-2.0	0.1

Source: Central Statistical Office.

Chart 11.1 Unemployment Rate

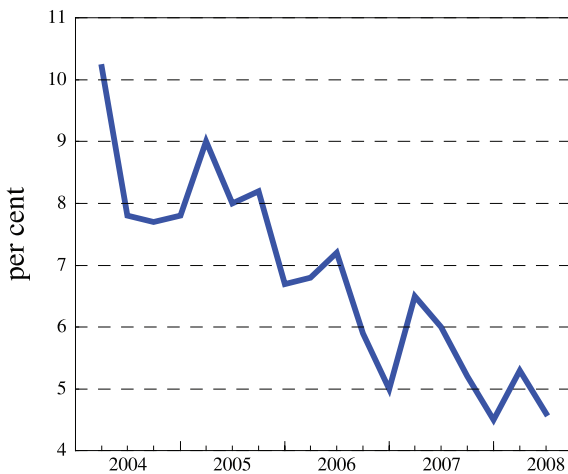


Chart 11.2 New Jobs Created

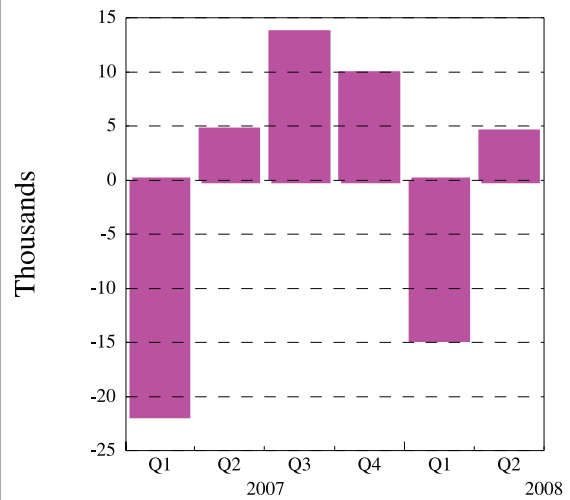


Chart 11.3 Employment in Manufacturing

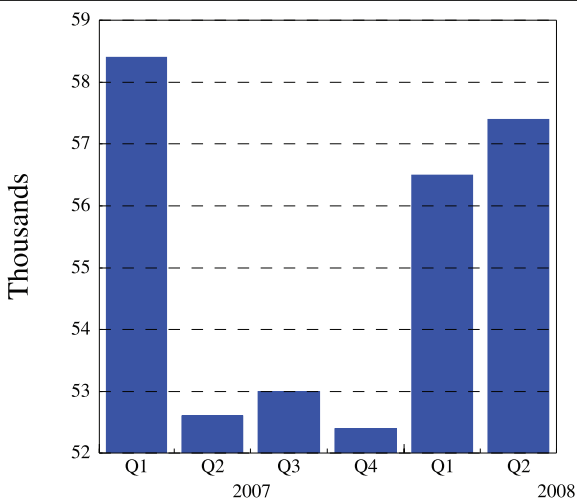
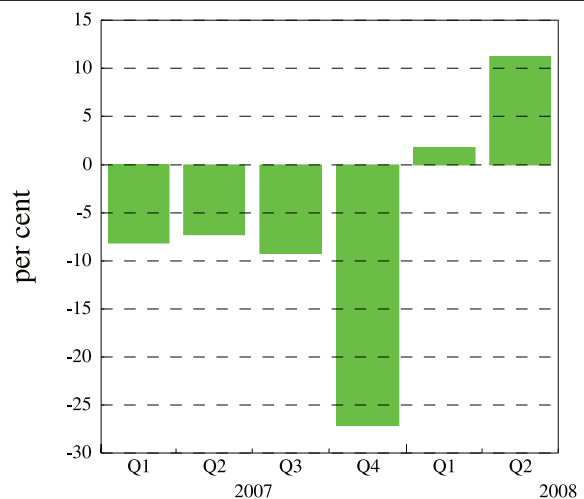


Chart 11.4 Employment in Agriculture





Summary Economic Indicators

APPENDIX TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS (2002-2007)

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
A	REAL SECTOR FUNDAMENTALS						
1	GDP at current market prices (TT\$m)	56,290	71,169	83,653	100,386	122,108	137,427
2	GDP at current market prices (US\$m)	9,063	11,363	13,339	16,021	19,441	21,813
3	Real GDP Growth (%)	7.9	14.4	7.9	5.4	13.3	5.5
4	GDP per capita (US\$m)	7,103	8,863	10,332	12,381	14,978	16,740
5	Inflation (%) (period average)	4.2	3.8	3.7	6.9	8.3	7.9
6	Inflation (%) (end-of-period)	4.3	3.0	5.6	7.2	9.1	7.6
7	Unemployment Rate (%)	10.4	10.5	8.6	6.7	6.2	5.5
8	Total Contingent Internal Debt (TT\$m)	12,157	14,030	14,868	15,571	17,271	16,069
9	Total Contingent Internal Debt/GDP(%)	21.6	19.7	17.8	15.5	14.1	11.7
10	Total Internal Debt /GDP (%)	40.9	34.4	31.4	26.5	22.9	21.2
11	Public Sector External Debt/GDP (%)	17.1	13.7	10.2	8.3	6.5	6.1
12	Exports (US \$Mn)*	3,920	5,205	6,403	9,672	12,100	13,496
13	Imports (US \$Mn)*	3,682	3,912	4,894	5,725	6,843	7,464
14	Private Foreign Direct Investment(FDI) (US \$M)	684	583	973	599	513	830
15	FDI/GDP (%)	7.6	5.1	7.3	4.1	3.8	4.0
16	Balance of Payments- Overall balance/ GDP (%)	0.5	2.2	4.0	9.7	5.8	7.4
17	Balance of Payments - Current a/c balance / GDP (%)	0.8	8.9	13.4	23.7	25.5	25.8
18	Gross Capital Formation/GDP (%)	22.6	25.2	16.8	15.5	12.9	13.4
19	Gross National Savings/GDP (%)	23.5	33.9	29.3	39.1	37.2	29.6
B	COMMODITY PRICES						
1	Petroleum (WTI \$US/bbl)	28.6	32.9	43.2	59.4	62.0	91.4
2	Natural Gas (Nymex Henry Hub \$US/mmbtu)	4.9	6.5	6.6	13.1	6.7	7.1
3	Ammonia (\$US/tonne)	147.6	263.6	299.0	372.1	283.4	331.1
4	Urea (\$US/tonne)	117.5	184.7	221.8	221.8	221.8	415.0
5	Methanol (\$US/tonne)	210.0	231.0	304.0	260.0	526.0	557.0
C	RESERVE ADEQUACY						
1	Gross Official Reserves (GOR), (US \$Mn) - CBTT	1,924	2,258	2,993	4,886	6,531	6,674
2	Gross International Reserves (GIR), (US \$Mn)	2,594	3,260	4,255	6,119	7,428	8,741
3	GOR in months of Imports - Import Cover	5.5	5.4	6.5	8.9	9.8	9.4
4	External Public Sector Debt Outstanding (US\$m)	1,549	1,553	1,364	1,329	1,260	1,278
5	GOR/External Debt (%)	120.5	145.3	221.3	367.7	518.3	522.1
6	External Public Sector Debt Service/Exports of GNFS (%)	4.4	3.5	4.6	1.8	2.8	1.1
D	FOREIGN CURRENCY LONG TERM SOVEREIGN CREDIT RATINGS						
1	Standard and Poor's	BBB-	BBB	BBB+	A-	A-	A-
2	Moody's	Baa3	Baa3	Baa3	Baa2	Baa1	Baa1
E	DIVERSIFICATION						
1	Petroleum sector/GDP (%)	26.2	36.0	38.7	46.0	49.2	45.8
	of which Petrochemicals/GDP (%)	3.1	4.6	6.2	7.0	6.9	7.2
2	Non-petroleum Sector/GDP (%)	73.4	64.2	61.2	54.0	50.6	53.7



APPENDIX
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS (2002-2007)

		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
F	FISCAL						
1	Benchmark Oil Price ¹ - WTI (US\$)	20.0	22.0	25.0	32.8	45.0	45.0
2	Government Revenues	13,873	16,761	20,630	29,648	38,911	40,064
3	Government Expenditures	14,227	15,803	19,120	24,641	31,198	37,766
4	Overall Fiscal Balance (-/+)	-354	958	1,510	5,007	7,713	2,298
5	Revenue/GDP (%)	24.6	23.6	24.7	29.5	31.9	29.2
6	Expenditure/GDP (%)	25.3	22.2	22.9	24.5	25.5	27.5
7	Overall Fiscal Balance/GDP (%)	-0.6	1.3	1.8	5.0	6.3	1.7
8	Non-Energy Fiscal Balance/GDP (%)	-6.5	-7.7	-8.7	-11.0	-14.0	-14.9
9	Income Tax/GDP (%)	13.8	16.2	16.7	22.0	24.0	21.1
10	of which: Companies Tax/GDP (%)	5.4	8.7	9.2	13.9	20.9	18.3
11	Individual Taxes/GDP (%)	5.3	3.9	3.9	4.2	2.6	2.4
12	Value Added Tax (VAT)/GDP (%)	4.4	2.9	3.6	3.0	3.4	3.5
G	MONETARY						
1	Private Sector Credit (Financial System)	20,837	22,451	25,397	30,866	34,593	40,210
2	Private Sector Credit (Financial System)/GDP (%)	37.0	31.5	30.4	30.7	28.7	30.4
3	Base Money	4,573	4,664	4,740	7,098	8,342	9,269
4	Currency in Active Circulation	1,502	1,709	1,957	2,425	2,654	3,183
5	Reserves of Commercial Banks	3,072	2,955	2,783	4,673	5,688	6,087
6	Reserve Requirement Ratio (%)						
7	Banks	18.0	14.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
8	Non-Banks	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
9	Central Bank Re-discount Rate (%)	7.3	7.0	7.0	8.0	10.0	10.0
10	Central Bank 'Repo' Rate (%)	5.25	5.00	5.00	6.00	8.00	8.00
11	Exchange Rates:(TT\$/US\$)						
	End of Period	6.2999	6.2999	6.2999	6.3103	6.3119	6.3412
	Period Average	6.2473	6.2952	6.2990	6.2996	6.3122	6.3282
H	BANKING SOUNDNESS						
1	Number of Banks	6	6	6	6	6	8
2	Number of Branches	120	120	120	120	123	125
3	Number of Non-Banks	16	17	17	17	17	17
4	Number of Non-Bank branches	47	52	52	25	27	28
5	Capital to risk-adjusted assets (%)	20.6	20.3	19.3	18.2	18.0	19.1
6	Non-performing loans/Total loans (%)	4.0	2.8	3.1	2.2	1.4	0.7
7	Loan loss provision/Total loans (%)	3.7	3.7	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.1
8	After tax profits/Average total assets (%)	2.4	2.1	3.7	2.5	2.8	2.7
9	After tax profits/Capital (%)	20.0	16.9	27.6	20.2	22.3	22.0
I	CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT						
1	Listed Companies	30	32	33	34	34	33
2	Market Capitalisation (TT\$Bn)	48	68	108	108	97	98
3	Market Capitalisation/GDP (%)	85.5	95.5	128.6	107.1	80.3	74.3
4	Composite Stock Price Index (1993=100)	545.6	694.1	1074.6	1067.3	969.2	982.0
5	Government Bonds Issued (TT\$Mn)	1,131	1,500	600	800	700	1,692
6	Mutual Funds: Aggregate Fund Values (TT\$Mn)	14,156	19,510	26,970	31,305	31,835	34,546

¹Benchmark Oil Price taken from budget speech.

^r Revised Data.

* Provisional.



Summary Economic Indicators

Glossary

GDP GROWTH

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) – This is an aggregate measure of production equal to the sum of gross values added of all resident institutional units engaged in production. It is the sum of final uses of goods and services measured in purchasers' prices, less the value of imports of goods and services, or the sum of primary incomes distributed by resident producer units.

Real GDP – Real GDP represents GDP adjusted for price movements.

Energy Sector – The energy sector in Trinidad and Tobago comprises the Petroleum and the Petrochemical (Methanol, Urea and Ammonia) Sectors.

Energy GDP - The energy sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product.

Non-Energy GDP – The non-energy sector's contribution to GDP, namely that of manufacturing, agriculture, construction, distribution and other services.

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES

Index of Retail Prices – An index of consumer prices which measures changes in the prices of goods and services bought for household consumption.

Headline Inflation – A measure of change in the overall Index of Retail Prices.

Core Inflation – The component of measured inflation that has no medium to long-run impact on real output. In Trinidad and Tobago, this measure excludes food prices.

INDEX OF PRODUCER PRICES

Index of Producers Prices – This index measures average changes in prices received by domestic producers for their output.

INTEREST RATES

Overnight Interbank Rate – The interest rate charged on overnight loans between commercial banks.

Basic Prime Lending Rate – This is the lowest rate on loans granted to customers. It does not include concessionary rates on certain categories of loans, for example, staff loans.

Repo Rate – The rate at which the Central Bank is willing to provide overnight credit to commercial banks that are temporarily unable to meet their liquidity requirements.



Summary Economic Indicators

Glossary

MONETARY AGGREGATES AND CREDIT

Currency in Active Circulation – Total currency in circulation less Central Bank's and commercial banks' currency holdings.

Monetary Base – The sum of currency in active circulation plus commercial banks' deposits at the Central Bank.

M1-A – Narrow money supply, M1-A, is defined as currency in active circulation plus demand deposits (adjusted) of commercial banks.

M1-C – M1-A plus savings deposits (adjusted) of commercial banks.

M2 – Broad money supply, M2, is defined as M1-C plus time deposits (adjusted).

M2* - M2 plus foreign currency deposits of residents in local commercial banks.

M3 – Broad money supply M2, plus savings deposits (adjusted) and Time Deposits (adjusted) of non-bank financial institutions.

M3* - M3 plus the foreign currency deposits of non-bank financial institutions.

CONSUMER SPENDING

Index of Retail Sales – A quarterly index of all goods and services sold by a sample of retailers. It tends to be interpreted as an indicator of consumer confidence.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET

Weighted Average Buying Rate – The weighted average buying rate is calculated as a weighted average of the buying rates that commercial banks pay during the specific period of time, where the weights are based on the shares of transactions conducted at various exchange rates.

Weighted Average Selling Rate – The weighted average selling rate is calculated as a weighted average of the selling rates that consumers pay during the specific period of time, where the weights are based on the shares of transactions conducted at various exchange rates.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Balance of Payments – The Balance of Payments measures the economic and financial transactions of residents of Trinidad and Tobago with the rest of the world.



Summary Economic Indicators

Glossary

Current Account Surplus (+)/ Deficit (-) – A surplus on the current account occurs when the nation's export of goods and services is greater than its import of goods and services. A deficit occurs when the imports of goods and services are greater than the exports.

Capital Account Surplus (+) / Deficit (-) – A surplus on the capital account of the Balance of Payments occurs when the international inflows of investment transactions of private sector enterprises (including capital movements of the public sector) is greater than the outflows of these payments. A deficit occurs when the outflows are greater than the inflows.

Overall Surplus (+) / Deficit (-) - A surplus on the Balance of Payments arises when inflows associated with economic transactions of an economy with the rest of the world are greater than outflows. A deficit is incurred when outflows exceed inflows.

Net Official Reserves - This is the sum of the current and capital account balances. A net decrease in official reserves occurs if the overall account is in deficit, while an increase occurs when the overall balance is in surplus.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Mutual Funds – This is a professionally managed type of collective investment scheme that pools money from shareholders and invests in a group of assets, in accordance with a stated set of objectives.

Equity Funds – This is a mutual fund which invests primarily in stocks, usually common stocks. The objective of an equity fund is long-term growth through capital appreciation. Dividends earned from stocks provide periodic income to investors.

Money Market Funds – This is a type of mutual fund which invests mainly in short-term securities such as Treasury bills, certificates of deposits and commercial paper. The term to maturity on money market securities is usually less than one year.

STOCK INDICES

DOMESTIC

All T&T Stock Index – This is an index of the closing prices of the stocks of resident Trinidad and Tobago companies traded on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange, with the weights based on the volume of the transaction.

Composite Stock Index – This is an index of the prices of all the stocks traded on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange, with the weights based on the volume of the transaction.

Manufacturing I – This is a sub-index of the Composite Stock Index that groups together companies engaged in the manufacturing of finished goods and packaging.

Manufacturing II – This is a sub-index of the Composite Stock Index that groups together companies primarily engaged in the processing of raw materials.



Summary Economic Indicators

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INTERNATIONAL

Dow Jones – The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted average of 30 significant stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ.

FTSE – The Financial Times Stock Exchange Index is a share index of the 100 most highly capitalized UK companies listed on the London Stock Exchange.

NASDAQ – The NASDAQ (acronym of National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations) is an index showing the closing prices of approximately 3,200 listed companies in the United States.

NIKKEI – This is an index showing the average closing prices of stocks on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

S&P 500 - The S&P 500 is a stock market index containing the stocks of 500 Large-Cap¹ corporations.

PAYMENTS SYSTEM

ATM Transaction – An ATM transaction occurs when a customer uses a debit or credit card to withdraw cash from an automated teller machine.

Point of Sales Transaction - A point of sale transaction occurs when payment is exchanged for a product, generally in a retail location, using either a debit or credit card.

INSURANCE

Policy Holder Liabilities – These include insurance and investment contracts. An insurance contract is one under which one party (the insurer) accepts insurance risk from another party (the policyholder), by agreeing to compensate the policyholder if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholder. An investment contract is one that transfers financial risk with no significant insurance risk.

LABOUR MARKET

Participation Rate – This rate is computed as the ratio of economically active population (between the ages of 15-64) to the total labour force.

Unemployment Rate – The proportion of the labor force that is able, willing and actively seeking, but unable to find paid employment.

¹ **Large-cap:** A term used by the investment community to refer to companies with a market capitalization value of more than \$10 billion.

APPENDIX: SECTION A

Foreign Direct Investment – This includes all capital transactions that are made to acquire a lasting interest (usually 10% or more of voting stock) in an enterprise operating in a country other than that of the investor.

Gross Capital Formation – The total value of the gross fixed capital formation, changes in inventories and acquisitions less disposals of valuables for a unit or sector.

Gross National Savings – The sum of gross domestic savings (the amount of gross domestic investment financed from domestic output) and net foreign savings.

Public Sector Debt – This comprises the debt of the Central Government, Public Utilities, State Enterprises wholly or majority owned by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

Total Contingent Internal Debt – This comprises government-guaranteed debt of local state enterprises and statutory bodies and letters of comfort of state enterprises and statutory bodies.

Total Internal Debt – This is the part of a country's debt that is owed to creditors who are citizens of that country.

APPENDIX: SECTION C

Gross Official Reserves – Assets denominated in foreign currency, held by a central bank.

Gross International Reserves – This is the total of a nation's holdings of tradable foreign currencies and special drawing rights.

APPENDIX: SECTION F

Overall Fiscal Balance – The difference between Government's total revenue and total expenditure.

APPENDIX: SECTION G

Central Bank Re-discount Rate – The interest rate at which the Central Bank lends to commercial banks.

Private Sector Credit – The total credit extended to the private sector by licensed deposit-taking financial institutions.



Summary Economic Indicators

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APPENDIX: SECTION H

Capital to Risk Adjusted Assets – The minimum ratio of regulatory capital to risk-weighted assets. It is set at 8% (4% for the core regulatory capital element) and is considered the minimum capital necessary to achieve the objective of securing consistent and soundly based capital ratios overtime.

Non-Performing Loans - A loan that is in default or close to being in default. Non-performing loans are usually those past due in excess of 3 months.

APPENDIX: SECTION I

Market Capitalization – This refers to the total market value of the outstanding shares of listed companies on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange. This figure is calculated by taking the stock price and multiplying it by the total number of shares outstanding.

Acronyms

ATM – Automated Teller Machine

BRICs – This acronym is used to describe the economies of Brazil, Russia, India and China

BBD – Barbados Dollar

CAD – Canadian Dollar

cu m – Cubic meters

CARICOM – Caribbean Community

ECD – Eastern Caribbean Dollar

FDI – Foreign Direct Investment

FTSE – Financial Times Stock Exchange Index

GBP – British Pound

GDP – Gross Domestic Product

GIR – Gross International Reserves

GNFS – Goods and Non-Factor Services

GOR – Gross Official Reserves

NASDAQ – National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations

NFI – Non-Bank Financial Institutions

OECD – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

PPI – Index of Producer Prices

RPI – Index of Retail Prices

USD – United States Dollar

VAT – Value Added Tax (a consumption tax levied on value added)

US\$/bbl – US dollar per barrel

US\$/mmbtu – US dollar per million British thermal unit¹

WTI – West Texas Intermediate (used as a benchmark in oil pricing)

¹ Btu – This is a unit used for measuring heat and as such the value of natural gas is calculated by its Btu content.



CENTRAL BANK OF
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Eric Williams Plaza, Independence Square
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Trinidad and Tobago, Postal Address: P.O. Box 1250
Telephone: 625-4835; 4921; 5028; Fax: 627-4696 Telex: 22532; 22386
E-Mail Address: info@central-bank.org.tt