

# **Quarterly Debt** Bulletin

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OUUIT 21 3.736M 24 n 1.014M 24 RD 798.795K 7.75M 33 4.76M 24 14.302M 13 6.977M

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Debt and Investment Management Unit (DIU) in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Youth Economy is the Government of Saint Lucia's primary agent responsible for managing Saint Lucia's public debt. The dissemination of timely, consistent, comprehensive, and reliable public debt statistics represents a vital element of the government's commitment to promoting accountability and transparency in debt management activities.

The main objective of publishing this bulletin is to provide the public with relevant information and data regarding the country's domestic and external debt position. The Commonwealth Secretariat Meridian Database System (Meridian) records loan agreements, produces aggregate data, reports on public sector debt and generates the data used in this report.

This public debt statistical bulletin issue provides a statistical overview of the public debt portfolio for the second quarter (April - June) of 2024, contrasting the current quarter with the previous four quarters. The scope of the public debt bulletin is central government debt and government-guaranteed debt.

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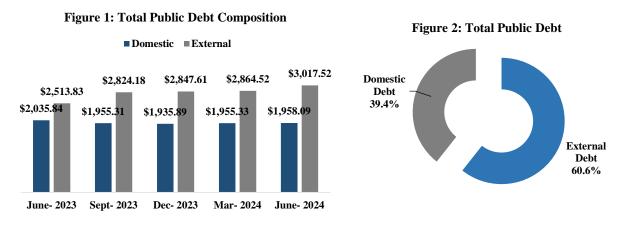
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# **1. TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT**

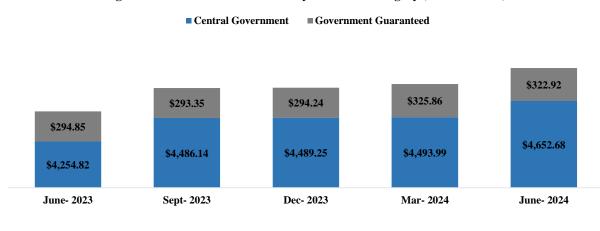
#### 1.1 Total Public Debt Composition

Total domestic public debt at the end of June 2024 totalled \$1,958.09 million, representing 39.4 percent of the total public debt portfolio while external public debt totalled \$3,017.52 million or a 60.6 percent share of the public debt as seen in Figure 2. Total domestic debt increased 0.1 percent over March 2024 but decreased 3.8 percent over June 2023. Total external debt increased 5.3 percent over March 2024 and 20.0 percent over June 2023. (Figure 1)



#### 1.2 Total Public Debt by Borrower Category

At the end of the second quarter (Q2) of 2024, Total Public Debt totalled \$4,975.6 million, a 3.2 percent increase over March 2024 and a 9.5 percent increase over the corresponding June 2023 as seen in Figure 3. A \$158.7M (3.2 percent) increase in central government debt over March 2024 accounts for the increase in the total debt stock mainly due to disbursements on new and existing loans for the quarter. Central Government Debt accounted for \$4,652.68 million or 93.5 percent of total public debt. Government-Guaranteed Debt totalled \$322.92 million or 6.5 percent of the total public debt stock.

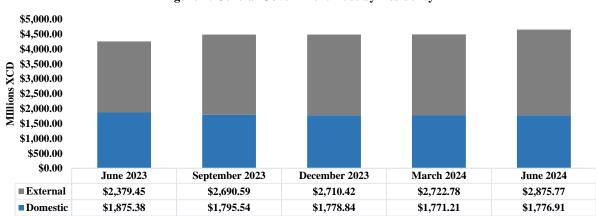


#### Figure 3: Total Public Sector Debt by Borrower Category (Millions XCD)

# 2 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT

#### 2.1 Central Government Debt by Residency

Domestic central government debt represents 38.2 percent of total central government debt increasing by 0.3 percent (\$5.7 million) over March 2024 to \$1,776.91 million at the end of June 2024. External central government debt is 61.8 percent of total debt and increased 5.6 percent (\$153.0 million) over March 2024 to \$2,875.77 million due to disbursements on new and existing loans. (Figure 4)



#### Figure 4: Central Government Debt by Residency

### 2.2 Central Government Debt by Instrument Type

Medium-Term bonds & notes continue to dominate the central government debt portfolio with \$2,431.40 million at the end of June 2024, representing a 52.3 percent share. Bonds & Notes increased by 1.6 percent and 3.9 percent over June 2023 and March 2024 respectively. Loans was the second largest share of the central government debt stock (40.6 percent) and increased by 6.2 percent to \$1,887.72 million at the end of June 2024, and increased by 28.3 percent over June 2023. Short-term Treasury Bills increased by \$10.10 million, a 3.1 percent increase to \$333.57 million over March 2024. (Figure 5)

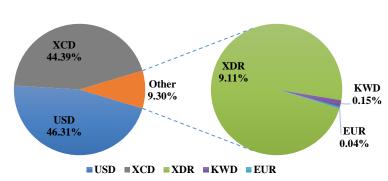


#### Figure 5: Central Government Debt by Instrument Type (Millions XCD)



#### 2.3 Central Government Debt by Currency Composition

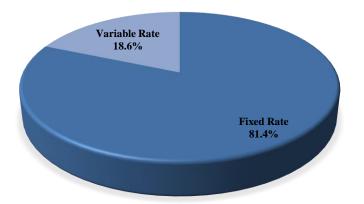
Figure 6 below shows the United States Dollar (USD) dominated the Central Government Debt portfolio with \$2,154.59 million or a 46.3 percent share, whilst the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) had the second-largest share with \$2,065.24 million or 44.4 percent. The currency composition of the debt portfolio reflects minimal exchange rate risk due to the peg between the XCD and USD and the small share of the fluctuating currencies.



#### Figure 6: Central Government Debt by Currency Composition

#### 2.4 Central Government Debt by Interest Rate Type

The central government debt portfolio comprises 81.4 percent fixed rate debt insulating the debt portfolio against refinancing risk which is the average time until all principal payments in the debt portfolio become subject to a new interest rate. Potential increases in the variable interest rates would mean an increase debt service payments and increased pressure on government cash flow. (Figure 7)

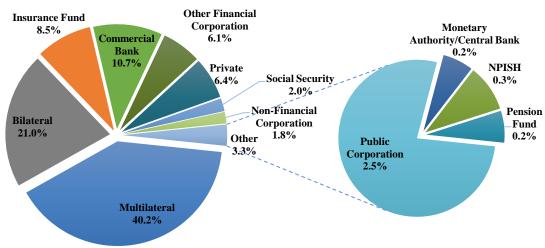


#### Figure 7: Central Government Debt by Interest Rate Type

# **3 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXTERNAL DEBT**

#### 3.1 External Debt by Creditor Category

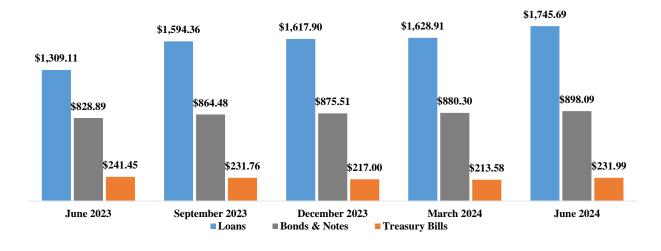
Multilateral creditors held the largest share of the external Central Government debt portfolio at June 2024, accounting for 40.2 percent. Bilateral creditors held the second largest share of 21.0 percent, followed by Commercial Banks at 10.7 percent, while Insurance Funds had 8.5 percent, private individuals' 6.4 percent and other Financial Corporation 6.1 percent. (Figure 8)



#### Figure 8: Central Government External Debt by Creditor Category

#### 3.2 External Debt by Instrument Type

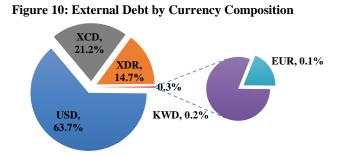
The loans portfolio (60.7 percent) increased by 7.2 percent over March 2024 to \$1,745.69 million at and 33.3 percent over June 2023. Bonds & Notes were second with \$898.09 million (31.2 percent) of the external debt stock, increasing by 2.0 percent from March 2024 and 8.3 percent over June 2023. Treasury bills accounted for \$231.99 million (8.1 percent) of the external debt stock, an 8.6 percent increase over March 2024 but a decrease of 3.9 percent over June 2023. (Figure 9)



#### Figure 9: External Debt by Instrument Type (Millions XCD)

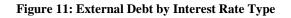
#### 3.3 External Debt by Currency Composition

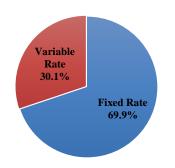
The USD dominated the Central Government external debt portfolio with \$1,832.98 million or a 63.7 percent share. Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) debt was second with \$609.94 million (21.2 per cent). The dominance of the XCD and USD mitigates the portfolio against exchange rate shocks due to the peg between the XCD and USD. (Figure 10)



#### 3.4 External Debt by Interest Rate Type

At the end of June 2024, fixed-rate debt totalled \$2,008.74 million or 69.9 percent of the external portfolio. Variable-rate instruments amounted to \$867.03 million (30.1 percent). This interest rate composition minimizes refinancing risk within the external debt portfolio. (Figure 11)

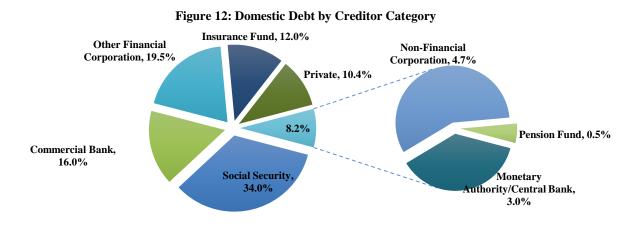




# **CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DOMESTIC DEBT**

#### 3.5 Domestic Debt by Creditor Category

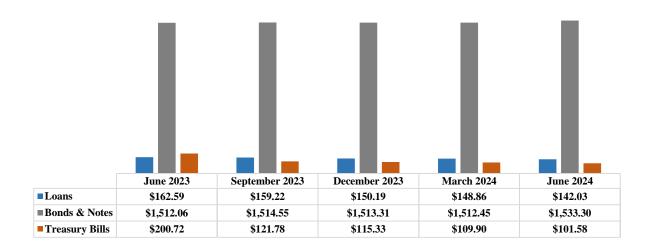
Figure 12 below shows that Social Security, Other Financial Corporations, Commercial Banks, and Insurance Funds were the dominant creditor categories in the Central Government domestic debt portfolio at the end of June 2024.



#### 3.6 Domestic Debt by Instrument Type

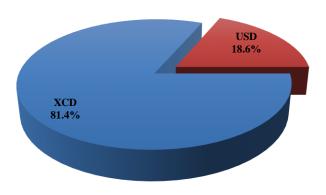
Bonds & Notes (86.3 percent) is the dominant instrument type in the domestic Central Government debt portfolio, increased by 1.4 percent over March 2024 to \$1,512.45 million and 1.4 percent over June 2023. Loans contributed \$142.03 million (8.0 percent) to the domestic portfolio, decreasing by 4.6 percent from March 2024 and 12.6 percent over June 2023. Treasury bills decreased by 7.6 percent to \$101.58 million at the end of June 2024, contributing 5.7 percent to the central government's domestic debt portfolio. (Figure 13)

#### Figure 13: Domestic Debt by Instrument Type (Millions XCD)



#### 3.7 Domestic Debt by Currency Composition

The Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) dominated the Central Government domestic debt portfolio with \$1,445.69 million and the United States Dollar (USD) debt amounted to \$331.2. The foreign exchange risk inherent in the domestic debt portfolio is low due to the peg between the USD and XCD. (Figure 14)



#### Figure 14: Domestic Debt by Currency Composition

# **4 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT FLOWS**

#### 4.1 Central Government Debt Service

For the June 2024 quarter, the total debt service payments were \$286.57 million, a decrease of 18.5 percent from March 2024. Principal repayments amounted to \$253.50 million, of which \$137.21 million was external amortization and \$116.29 million was domestic amortization. Interest payments totalled \$33.07 million for the quarter, of which external interest payments amounted to \$13.34 million and domestic interest payments \$19.73million. (Figure 15)

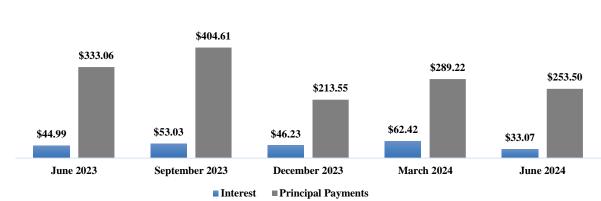


Figure 15: Central Government Debt Service (Millions XCD)

#### 4.2 Central Government External Loan Disbursements

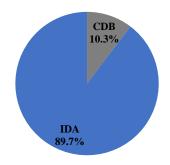
Figure 16 below shows the external loan disbursements for the quarter ending June 2024 totalling \$132.05 million. The World Bank - International Development Association (IDA) disbursed a total of \$118.39 million (89.7 percent) to the following loans:

- OECS MSME Guarantee Facility Project Loan
- SLU Sustainable Recovery DPC
- LC Health System Strengthening Loan
- OECS Blue Economy Loan

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) disbursed a total of \$13.66 million (10.3 percent) to the following loans:

- Sixth Water Vieux-Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project
- Saint Lucia Education Quality Improvement Project
- Millennium Highway & West Coast Road Reconstruction Project
- Youth Empowerment Project
- IDB LOC Building Capacity & Resilience in the Health Sector Project
- CDB Building Capacity for Public Health System Resilience (COVID-19 Response) Project
- CDB Saint Lucia MSME Loan-Grant Facility
- CDB Safety Nets for Populations affected by Coronavirus

#### Figure 16: Central Government External Loan Disbursements



# 5 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COST AND RISK INDICATORS

#### 5.1 Average Time to Maturity

The Average Time to Maturity (ATM) measures the timing of principal repayments showing the share of debt falling due within a specific period. The current debt management strategy of the GOSL is to lengthen the ATM, which will ease the cash flow pressure, thereby allowing the timely payments of short-term obligations. The weighted ATM of the portfolio increased to 6.5 years at the end of June 2024, an 8.6 percent increase over 6.0 years in March 2024. This increase is due to a considerable decrease in the percentage of debt maturing in one year from the previous quarter.

#### 5.2 Average Time to Re-Fixing

The Average Time to Re-Fixing (ATR) measures the weighted average time until all principal payments in the debt portfolio become subject to a new interest rate. Interest rate risk is low given that 81.4 percent of the portfolio are of a fixed interest rate. At the end of June 2024, the ATR increased to 4.96 years from 4.40 years at the end March 2024.

#### 5.3 Percentage of Debt Maturing in One Year

The percentage of debt maturing in one year as a percentage of the total debt measures the refinancing risk of the portfolio. At the end of June 2024, the percentage of debt maturing in one year decreased to 17.5 percent from 18.3 percent at the end of March 2024.

#### 5.4 Weighted Average Cost of Debt (WACD)

The Weighted Average Cost of Debt (WACD) is the average interest rate for government borrowings. At the end of June 2024, the WACD was 4.92 percent, a 2.1 percent decrease over March 2024, and a .03 percent increase from June 2024. This is in keeping with the government's strategy of lowering the average interest of the portfolio.

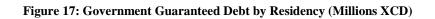
COST AND RISK INDICATORS	June-23	September-23	December-23	March-24	June-24
ATM (YEARS)	5.69	6.25	5.78	6.00	6.52
% MATURING IN 1 YEAR	19.67%	14.24%	21.41%	18.31%	17.51%
ATR (YEARS)	5.49	6.04	4.26	4.40	4.96
WACD (%)	4.91%	5.03%	5.03%	5.03%	4.92%

TABLE 1: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT RISK INDICATORS

# 6 GOVERNMENT-GUARANTEED DEBT

#### 6.1 Government-Guaranteed Debt by Residency

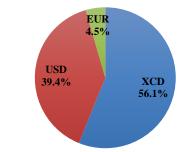
The government's guaranteed debt stock at the end of June 2024 amounted to \$322.92 million, representing only 6.5 percent of total public debt. Domestic contingent liabilities amounted to \$181.18 million representing 56.1 percent of the guaranteed debt portfolio while external contingent liabilities totalled \$141.75 million, a share of 43.9 percent. (Figure 17)





#### 6.2 Government-Guaranteed Debt by Currency

Domestic guaranteed debt comprises of Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD), representing 56.1 percent share of the Government-guaranteed debt portfolio. External guaranteed debt is dominated by the United States Dollar (USD) with 39.4 percent and Euro with 4.5 percent share respectively buffering the guaranteed debt portfolio against foreign exchange risk. (Figure 18)



#### Figure 18: Government-Guaranteed Debt by Currency

#### 6.3 External Government-Guaranteed Debt by Creditor

At the end of June 2024, the Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China (EXIM Bank) was the leading creditor category of the external government-guaranteed debt portfolio with \$85.47 million (60.3 percent share). The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) had the second largest share of \$40.54 million (28.6 percent). The European Investment Bank (EIB) contributed \$14.46 million (10.2 percent) and the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) contributed \$1.28 million (0.9 percent) to the external guaranteed portfolio. (Figure 19)



#### 6.4 Domestic Government-Guaranteed Debt by Creditor

The National Insurance Corporation (NIC) dominated the domestic government-guaranteed portfolio with \$104.57 million (57.7 percent). The Bank of Saint Lucia (BoSL) and the 1st National Bank of Saint Lucia (1NBSL) contributed \$55.46 million (30.6 percent) and \$20.86 million (11.5 percent) respectively. The Saint Lucia Development Bank (SLDB) also contributed \$0.29 million (0.2 percent). (Figure 20)

Figure 20: Domestic Government Guaranteed Debt by Creditor

# 1NBSL SLDB 11.5% 0.2% NIC 57.7% 80SL 30.6%

**RGSM AND PRIVATE PLACEMENT SECURITIES** 

# 7.1 RGSM Securities

7

The Government of Saint Lucia re-issued five (5) instruments on the RGSM platform for the second quarter, April – June 2024.

AUCTION DATE	Issue	Tenor	Issue Amount (XCD)	Value of Bids (XCD)	Amount Accepted (XCD)	Over/Under Subscription	Closing Rate (%)
APRIL 15, 2024	LCB131024	180 days	20,000,000.00	47,134,000.00	20,000,000.00	27,134,000.00	2.49
MAY 21, 2024	LCB210824	91 days	16,000,000.00	27,897,000.00	16,000,000.00	11,897,000.00	2.50
MAY 22, 2024	LCG100534	10-years	25,000,000.00	21,712,000.00	21,712,000.00	(3,288,000.00)	7.00
MAY 24, 2024	LCB260824	91 days	16,000,000.00	25,778,000.00	16,000,000.00	9,778,000.00	2.99
JUNE 26, 2024	LCB241224	180 days	25,000,000.00	27,275,000.00	25,000,000.00	2,275,000.00	3.00

### 7.2 Private Placement Securities

The Government of Saint Lucia issued four (4) new private bonds for the quarter April - June 2024 in addition to rolling over four (4) Treasury notes and six (6) Treasury bills via private placement for the quarter.

ISSUANCE DATE	Issuance	Issue Amount	Coupon Rate						
BONDS (NEW)									
APRIL 4, 2024	CIP 6-year Bond	US\$0.250M	0.00%						
MAY 21, 2024	GOSLPP210534 - 10-year Bond	EC\$15.00M	7.50%						
MAY 29, 2024	FCIS 10-year Bond	EC\$5.0M	7.00%						
JUNE 5, 2024	GOSLPP050634 - 10-year Bond	EC\$4.771M	7.50%						
1	NOTES (ROLLOVERS)								
MAY 2, 2024	GOSLPP020526 - 2-year Note	EC\$25.770M	4.50%						
MAY 13, 2024	FCIS USD 3-year Note	US\$6.251M	5.00%						
JUNE 4, 2024	GOSLPP040626 - 2-year Note	EC\$6.783M	4.50%						
JUNE 5, 2024	GOSLPP050624 - 2-year Note	EC\$17.183M	4.50%						
	TREASURY BILLS (ROLLOVER	<b>S</b> )							
MAY 2, 2024	GOSLPP020525 1-year T- Bill	EC\$25.486M	4.00%						
MAY 18, 2024	GOSLPP141124 - 180-day T-Bill	EC\$9.105M	3.00%						
JUNE 2, 2024	GOSLPP010924 - 91day T-Bill	EC\$5.00M	3.00%						
JUNE 4, 2024	GOSLPP040625 - 1-year T-Bill	EC\$14.096M	4.00%						
JUNE 5, 2024	GOSLPP050625 - 1-year T-Bill	EC\$7.601M	4.00%						
JUNE 21, 2024	FCIS 180-day T-Bill	EC\$30.0M	3.00%						

<b>TABLE 3: PRIVATE PLACEMENT</b>	ISSUANCES
TADLE 5. I KIVATET LACEMENT	ISSUANCES

# 8 ANNEX 1: DEBT STOCK SUMMARY

、	June 2023	Sept 2023	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	June 2024	Qrt. Change %	Yrly. Change %
TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT (XCD MILLIONS)	4,549.67	4,779.48	4,783.50	4,819.86	4,975.61	3.23	9.36
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT	4,254.82	4,486.14	4,489.25	4,493.99	4,652.68	3.53	9.35
GOVERNMENT GUARANTEED DEBT	294.85	293.35	294.24	325.86	322.92	-0.90	9.52
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT (XCD MILLION)	4,254.82	4,486.14	4,489.25	4,493.99	4,652.68	3.53	9.35
EXTERNAL DEBT	2,379.45	2,690.59	2,710.42	2,722.78	2,875.77	5.62	20.86
DOMESTIC DEBT	1,875.38	1,795.54	1,778.84	1,771.21	1,776.91	0.32	-5.25
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT BY INSTRUMENT (XCD MILLIONS)	4,254.82	4,486.14	4,489.25	4,493.99	4,652.68	3.53	9.35
LOANS	1,471.71	1,753.58	1,768.09	1,777.77	1,887.72	6.18	28.27
TREASURY BILLS	442.17	353.53	332.34	323.48	333.57	3.12	-24.56
BONDS & NOTES	2,340.95	2,379.03	2,388.83	2,392.75	2,431.40	1.62	3.86
EXTERNAL DEBT BY INSTRUMENT (XCD)							
LOANS	1,309.11	1,594.36	1,617.90	1,628.91	1,745.69	7.17	33.35
BONDS & NOTES	828.89	864.48	875.51	880.30	898.09	2.02	8.35
TREASURY BILLS	241.45	231.76	217.00	213.58	231.99	8.62	-3.92
DOMESTIC DEBT BY INSTRUMENT (XCD)							
LOANS	162.59	159.22	150.19	148.86	142.03	-4.59	-12.65
BONDS & NOTES	1,512.06	1,514.55	1,513.31	1,512.45	1,533.30	1.38	1.40
TREASURY BILLS	200.72	121.78	115.33	109.90	101.58	-7.57	-49.39
GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES (XCD)	294.85	293.35	294.24	325.86	322.92	-0.90	9.52
EXTERNAL DEBT DOMESTIC DEBT	134.38 160.47	133.58 159.76	137.19 157.05	141.74 184.12	141.75 181.18	0.00 -1.60	5.48 12.91

# 9 ANNEX 2: COST AND RISK INDICATOR SUMMARY

	June 2023	Sept 2023	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	June 2024	Qrt. Change %	Yrly. Change %
		FORE	IGN CURRE	NCY RISK (%	)		
% OF DEBT IN XCD	48.02	45.97	45.67	45.25	44.18	-2.36	-7.99
% OF DEBT IN USD	44.07	46.60	46.82	47.41	46.51	-1.89	5.55
% OF DEBT IN EUR	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	-27.57	-39.65
% OF DEBT IN KWD	0.22	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.15	-14.85	-30.33
% OF DEBT IN SDR	7.63	7.17	7.27	7.11	9.11	28.18	19.45
				RVICE (XCD)			
EXTERNAL	172.91	220.73	153.80	196.22	150.55	-23.27	-12.93
DOMESTIC	205.14	236.91	105.98	155.42	136.02	-12.48	-33.69
INTEREST	44.99	53.03	46.23	62.42	33.07	-47.02	-26.49
PRINCIPAL	333.06	404.61	213.55	289.22	253.50	-12.35	-23.89
	I	INTERI	EST RATE ST	<b>FRUCTURE (</b> 9	<b>/o</b> )		
FIXED RATE	88.19	82.87	82.97	83.16	81.36	-2.16	-7.74
VARIABLE RATE	11.81	17.13	17.03	16.84	18.64	10.69	57.83
			RISK INDIC	ATORS			
WEIGHTED ATM (YEARS)	5.69	6.25	5.78	6.00	6.52	8.61	14.53
MATURING IN 1 YEAR (%)	19.67	14.24	21.71	18.31	17.51	-4.37	-10.98
WEIGHTED ATR (YEARS)	5.49	6.04	4.35	4.40	4.96	12.76	-9.63
<b>WACD</b> (%)	4.91	5.03	4.22	5.03	4.92	-2.19	0.20