



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA

QUARTERLY DEBT BULLETIN

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DEBT AND INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT UNIT
Ministry of Finance,
Economic
Development &
Youth Economy

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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 third quarter (July - September) 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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1. PUBLIC DEBT

1.1 Public Debt Composition

Total public debt at the end of September 2024 stood at \$4,999.11 million (preliminary). The total amount outstanding comprised of \$1,971.31 million public domestic debt, representing 39.4 percent of the public debt portfolio and \$3,027.80 million public external debt, representing 60.6 percent of the public debt portfolio. Total public domestic debt increased by 0.7 percent and 0.8 percent from the last quarter and the last year respectively. Total public external debt increased 0.3 percent over June 2024 and 7.2 percent over September 2023. (Figures 1 & 2)

Figure 1: Public Debt

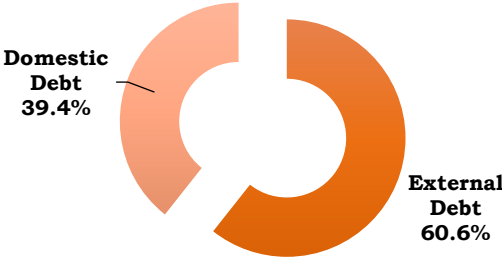
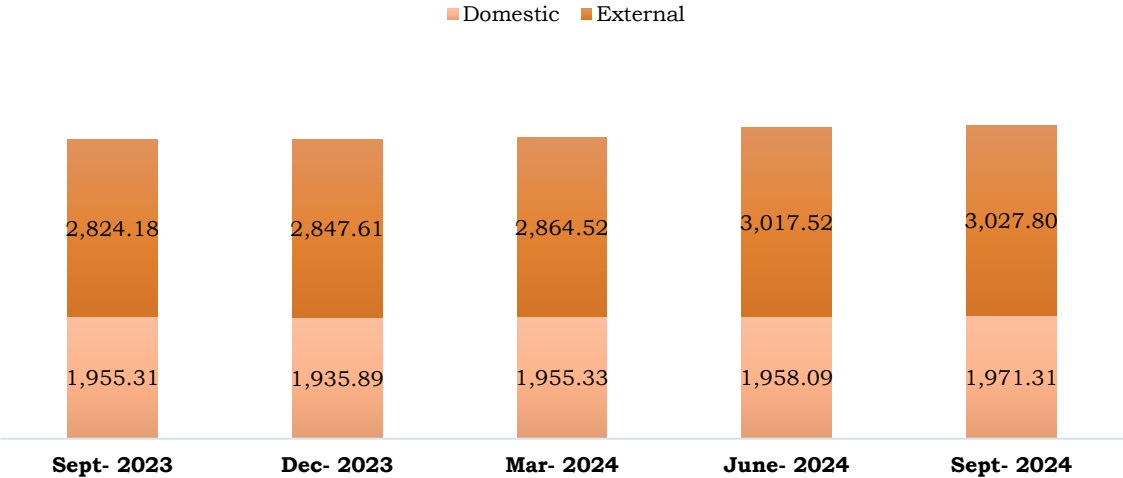


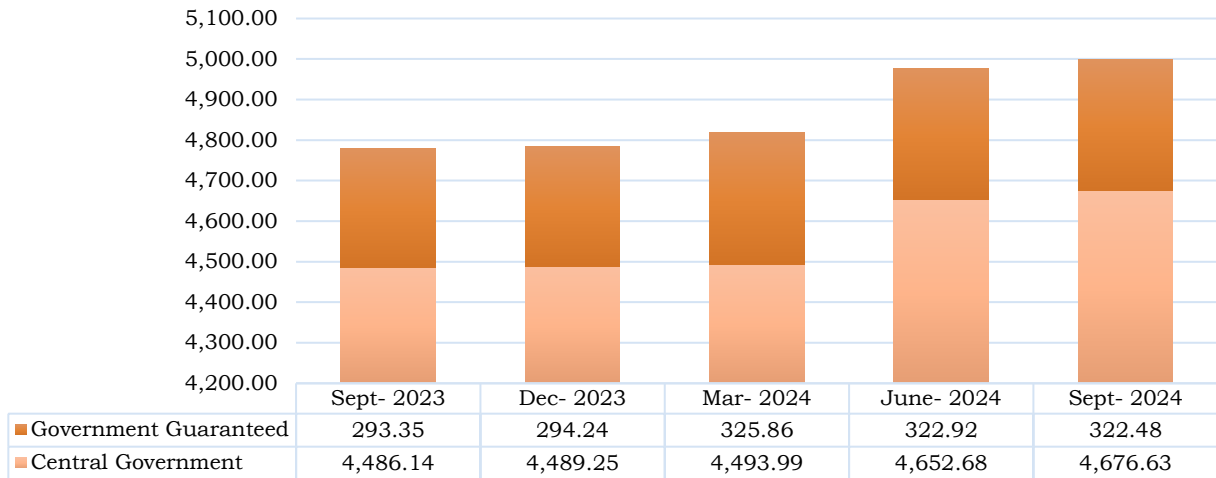
Figure 2: Total Public Debt Composition



1.2 Public Debt by Borrower Category

At the end of the third quarter (Q3) of 2024, public debt increased by 0.8 percent and 4.6 percent over June 2024 and the corresponding quarter September 2023 respectively. A \$23.95 million (0.5 percent) increase in central government debt over June 2024 accounts for the increase in the total public debt stock mainly due to disbursements on new and existing loans for the quarter. Central Government Debt accounted for \$4,676.63 million or 93.5 percent of Public debt. Government-Guaranteed Debt totalled \$322.48 million (pre.) or 6.5 percent of the Public debt stock. (Figure 3)

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

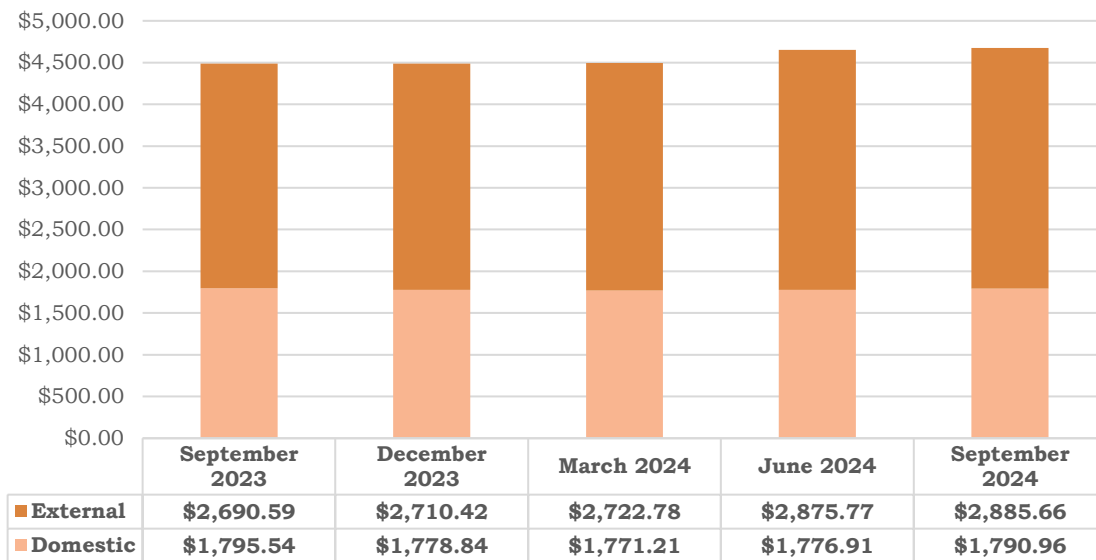


2 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT

2.1 Central Government Debt by Residency

At the end of the third quarter (Q3) of 2024, domestic central government debt accounted for 38.3 percent of total central government debt increasing by 0.8 percent (\$14.1 million) over June 2024 to \$1,790.96 million. External central government debt totalled \$2,885.66 million, an increase of \$9.9 million or 0.3 percent from the last quarter and represents 61.7 percent of total central government debt. This increase was mainly due to disbursements for existing loans. (Figure 4)

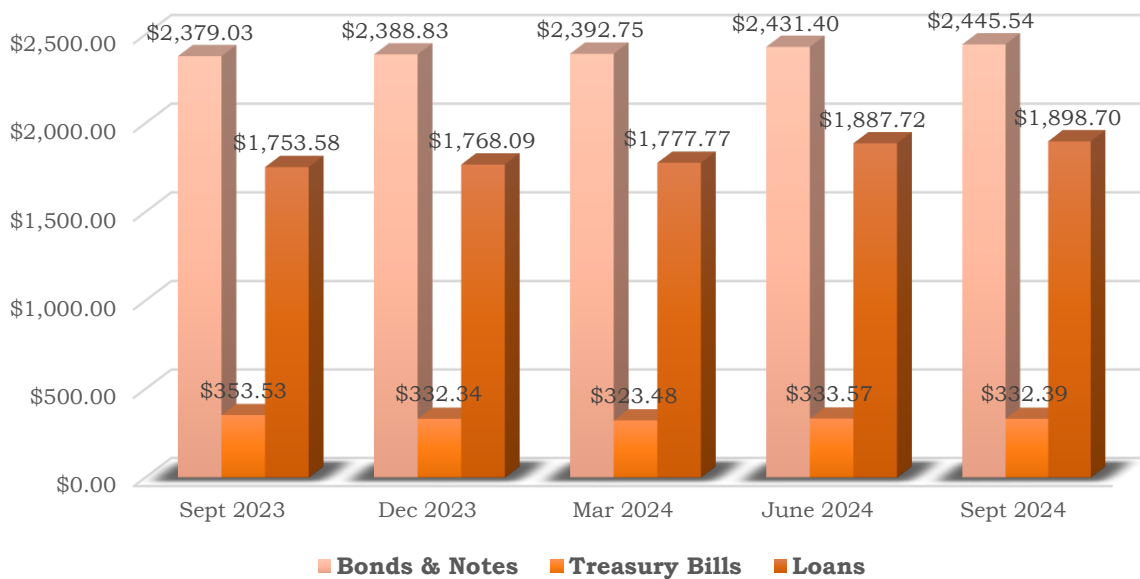
Figure 4: Central Government Debt by Residency Sept 2023 - Sept 2024



2.2 Central Government Debt by Instrument Type

Medium-term bonds & notes continue to dominate the central government debt portfolio with \$2,445.54 million at the end of September 2024, representing a 52.3 percent share. The stock of bonds & Notes increased by 0.6 percent and 2.8 percent over June 2024 and September 2023 respectively. Loans held the second largest share of the central government debt stock of 40.6 percent, an increase of 0.6 percent to \$1,898.70 million at the end of September 2024, and increased by 8.3 percent over September 2023. Short-term Treasury Bills amounted to \$332.39 million, a decrease of \$1.18 million or 0.4 percent from June 2024. (Figure 5)

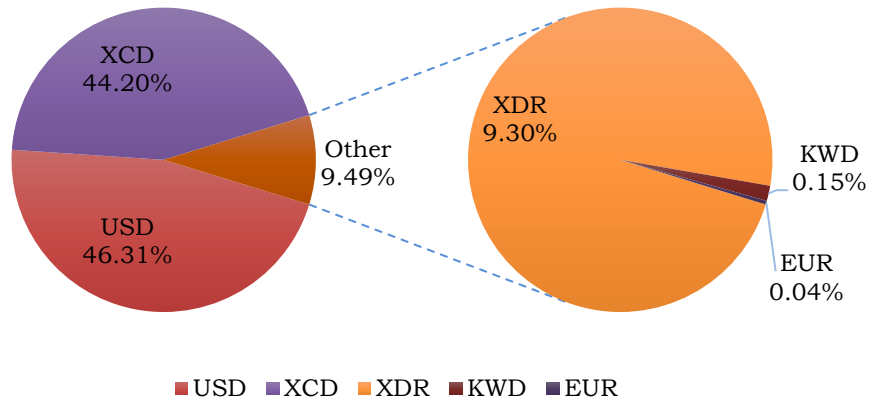
Figure 5: Central Government Debt by Instrument Type Sept 2023 - Sept 2024



2.3 Central Government Debt by Currency Composition

The currency composition of the Central Government Debt portfolio consists of five (5) currencies, namely: United States Dollar (USD), Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD), Special Drawings Rights (XDR), Kuwaiti Dinars (KWD) and Euros (EUR). Debt contracted in USD maintained the dominant share of the portfolio with \$2,165.56 million or 46.3% at the end of September 2024, whilst the Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) had the second-largest share with \$2,067.09 million or 44.2 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 shows a breakdown of central government debt instruments by currency.

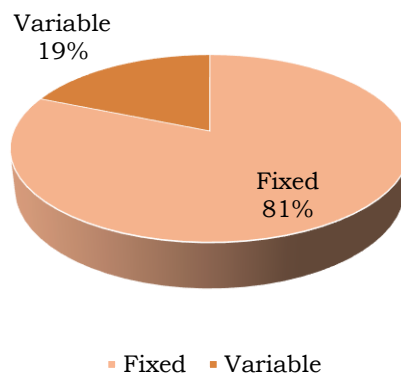
Figure 6: Central Government Debt by Currency Composition at September 2024



2.4 Central Government Debt by Interest Rate Type

Instruments contracted at fixed rates of interest continues to dominate the Central Government debt portfolio, with an average of 81.8 percent over the last year. At the end of September 2024, the share of fixed rate debt was 81.2 percent compared to 81.4 percent at June 2024. This insulates 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 at September 2024

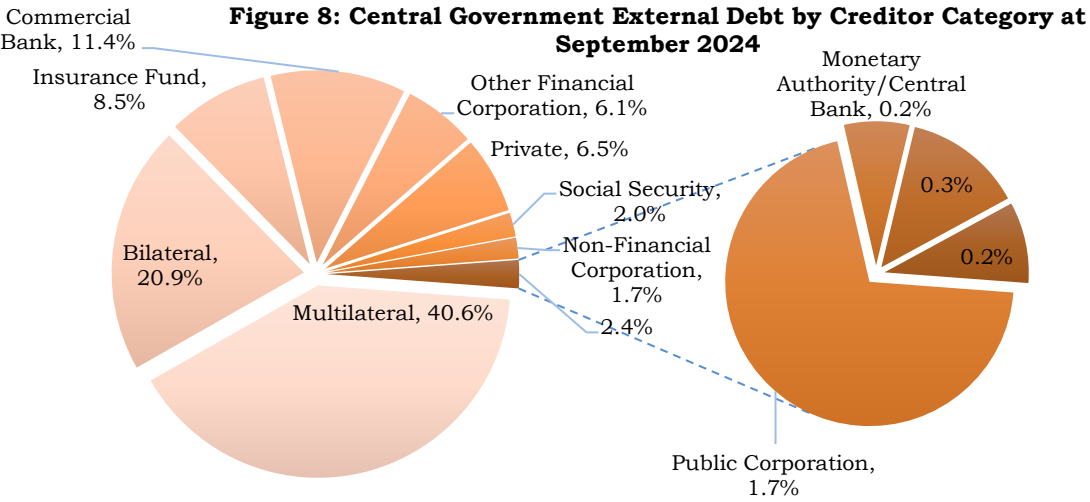


3 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EXTERNAL DEBT

3.1 External Debt by Creditor Category

The three main creditors in the external Central Government portfolio at the end of September 2024 were multilateral creditors, which held the largest share of 40.6 percent, bilateral creditors with 20.9 percent and Commercial Banks with

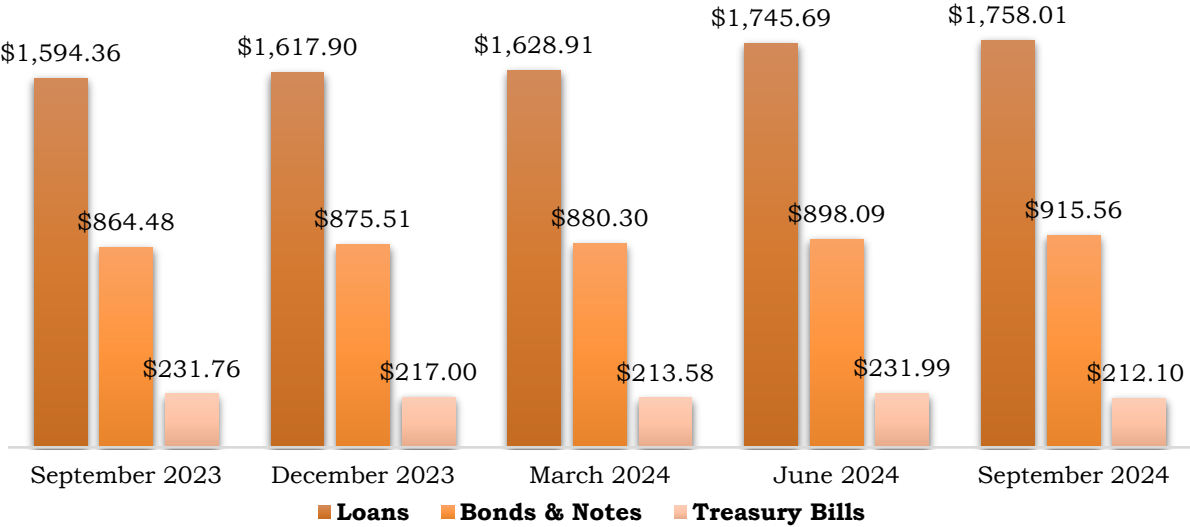
11.4 percent. Other creditors include Insurance Funds (8.5 percent), private individuals (6.5 percent) and other Financial Corporation with 6.1 percent (Figure 8)



3.2 External Debt by Instrument Type

The stock of loans (60.9 percent) continue to dominate the external central government portfolio with \$1,758.01 million at the end of September 2024. This was a 0.7 percent increase from the last quarter and 10.3 percent over September 2023. Bonds & Notes had the second largest share with \$915.56 million (31.7 percent) of the external debt stock, increasing by 1.9 percent from June 2024 and 5.9 percent over September 2023. Treasury bills accounted for \$212.10 million (7.4 percent) of the external debt stock, an 8.6 percent decrease from the last quarter and 8.5 percent decrease over September 2023. (Figure 9)

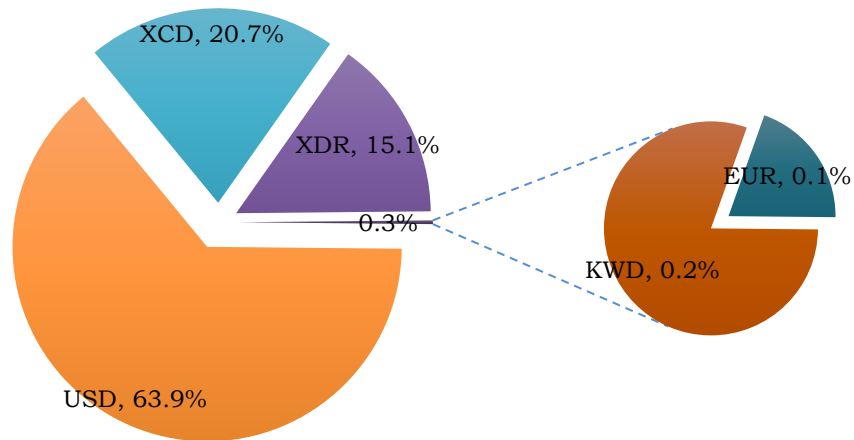
Figure 9: External Debt by Instrument Type Sept 2023 - Sept 2024



3.3 External Debt by Currency Composition

Instruments denominated in United States Dollars (USD) dominated the Central Government external debt portfolio with \$1,843.61 million or a 63.9 percent share. Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) debt held the second largest with \$598.08 million (20.7 percent). 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)

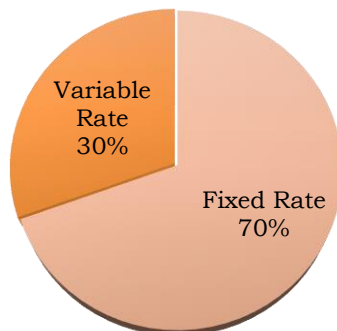
Figure 10: External Debt by Currency Composition at September 2024



3.4 External Debt by Interest Rate Type

At the end of September 2024, fixed-rate debt totalled \$2,077.28 million or 69.6 percent of the external portfolio. Variable-rate instruments amounted to \$878.38 million (30.4 percent). This interest rate composition minimizes refinancing risk within the external debt portfolio. (Figure 11)

Figure 11: External Debt by Interest Rate Type at September 2024

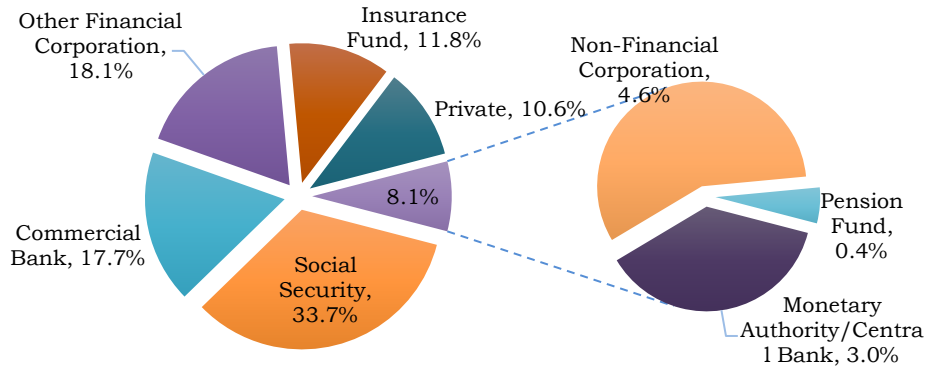


CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DOMESTIC DEBT

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 September 2024.

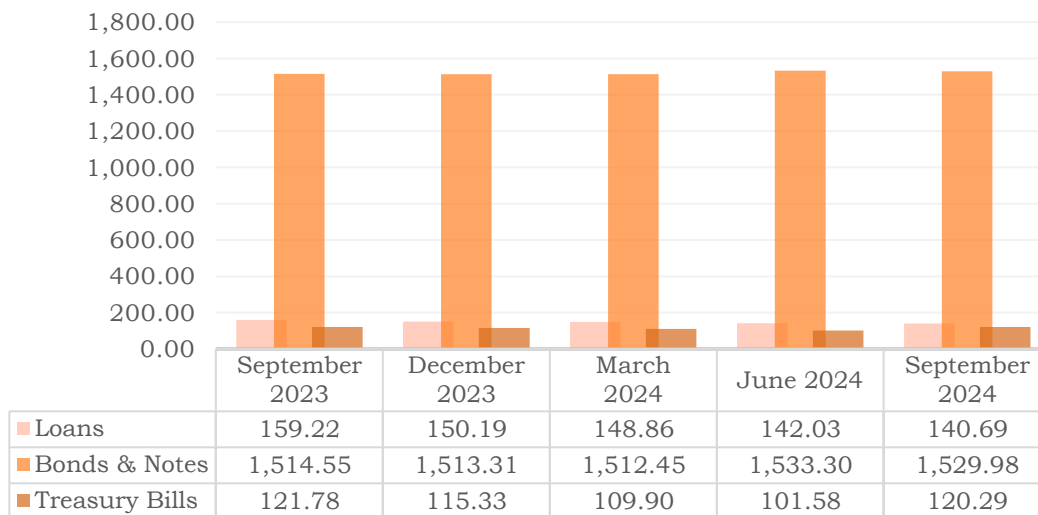
Figure 12: Domestic Debt by Creditor Category as at September 2024



3.6 Domestic Debt by Instrument Type

Bonds & Notes (85.4 percent) which is the dominant instrument type in the domestic Central Government debt portfolio, decreased by 0.2 percent over June 2024 to \$1,529.98 million and increased by 1.0 percent over September 2023. Loans contributed \$140.69 million (7.9 percent) to the domestic portfolio, decreasing by 0.9 percent from June 2024 and 11.6 percent over September 2023. Treasury bills increased by 18.4 percent to \$120.29 million at the end of September 2024, contributing 6.7 percent to the central government's domestic debt portfolio. (Figure 13)

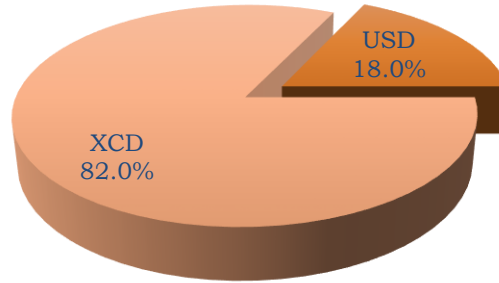
Figure 13: Domestic Debt by Instrument Type



3.7 Domestic Debt by Currency Composition

The Eastern Caribbean Dollar (XCD) continues to dominate the Central Government domestic debt portfolio with \$1,469.01 million (82.0 percent) and United States Dollar (USD) debt amounted to \$321.95 million (18.0 percent). 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 at September 2024

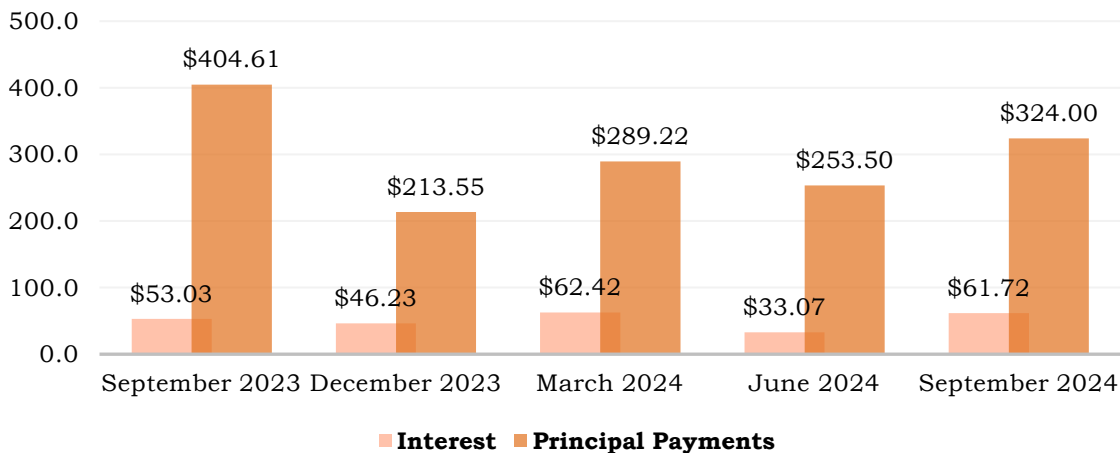


4 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEBT FLOWS

4.1 Central Government Debt Service

Total debt service payments for the third quarter (July – September 2024) totalled \$385.72 million, an increase of 34.6 percent from June 2024. Principal repayments amounted to \$324.0 million, of which \$203.88 million was external amortization and \$120.12 million was domestic amortization. Interest payments totalled \$61.72 million for the quarter, of which external interest payments amounted to \$32.74 million and domestic interest payments \$28.98 million. (Figure 15)

Figure 15: Central Government Debt Service for 3rd Quarter July - September 2024



4.2 Central Government External Loan Disbursements

Total external loan disbursements received for the quarter ending September 2024 was \$15.34 million. The World Bank - International Development Association (IDA) disbursed a total of \$11.36 million (74.0 percent) to the following loans:

- St. Lucia Renewable Energy Sector Development Project
- SLU Human Capital Resilience Project
- OECS Blue Economy Project

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) disbursed a total of \$3.98 million (26.0 percent) to the following loans:

- Sixth Water - Vieux-Fort Water Supply Redevelopment Project
- Millennium Highway & West Coast Road Reconstruction Project
- Youth Empowerment Project
- IDB LOC Building Capacity & Resilience in the Health Sector Project
- Building Capacity for Public Health System Resilience (COVID-19 Response) Project
- Eighth Water (Dennery North Water Supply Redevelopment) Project

Figure 16: Central Government External Loan Disbursements July 2024 - September 2024

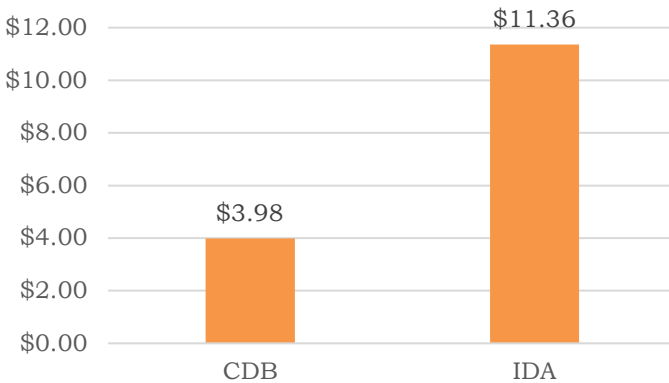
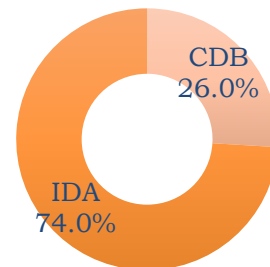


Figure 17: Central Government External Loan Disbursements July 2024 - September 2024



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 and shows the share of debt falling due within a specific period. At the end of September 2024, the weighted ATM of the portfolio increased by 7.9 percent from the last quarter to 7.0 years. This is in keeping with the current debt management strategy of the GOSL to lengthen the ATM, which will ease the cash flow pressure, thereby allowing the timely payments of short-term obligations.

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. At the end of September 2024, the ATR increased to 5.2 years from 4.96 years over June 2024. Interest rate risk is low given that 81.2 percent of the portfolio are of a fixed interest rate.

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 September 2024, the percentage of debt maturing in one year increased to 18.3 percent from 17.5 percent over June 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 September 2024, the WACD was 4.92 percent, the same as the last quarter and a 2.1 percent decrease from September 2023. This is in keeping with the government’s strategy of lowering the average interest rate of the portfolio.

Table 1: Central Government Risk Indicators

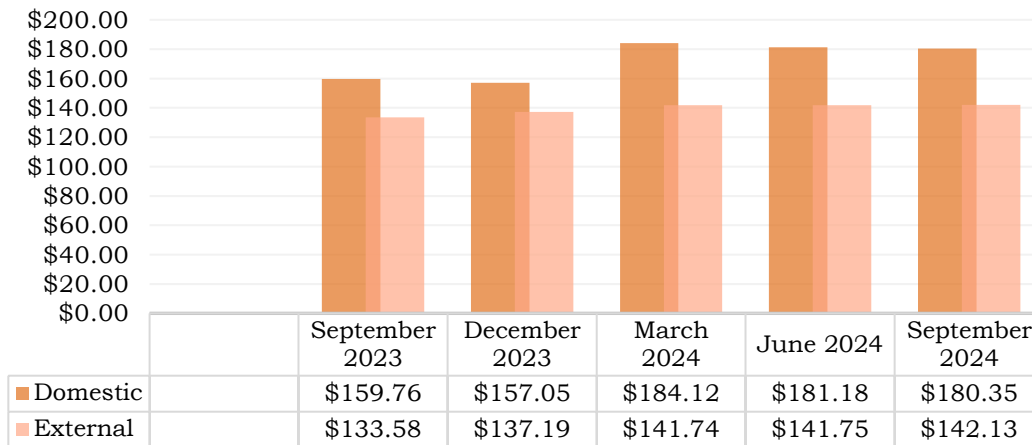
Cost and Risk Indicators	Sept-23	Dec-23	March-24	June-24	Sep-24
ATM (Years)	6.25	5.78	6.00	6.52	7.03
% Maturing in 1 year	14.24%	21.41%	18.31%	17.51%	18.28%
ATR (Years)	6.04	4.26	4.40	4.96	5.21
% of debt refixing in 1 year	14.03%	37.64%	37.11%	35.72%	36.59%
WACD (%)	5.03%	5.03%	5.03%	4.92%	4.92%

6 GOVERNMENT-GUARANTEED DEBT

6.1 Government-Guaranteed Debt by Residency

The government's guaranteed debt stock at the end of September 2024 amounted to \$322.48 million (pre.), representing a minuscule 6.5 percent of the Public debt. Domestic contingent liabilities amounted to \$180.35 million representing 55.9 percent of the guaranteed debt portfolio while external contingent liabilities totalled \$142.13 million, a share of 44.1 percent. (Figure 18)

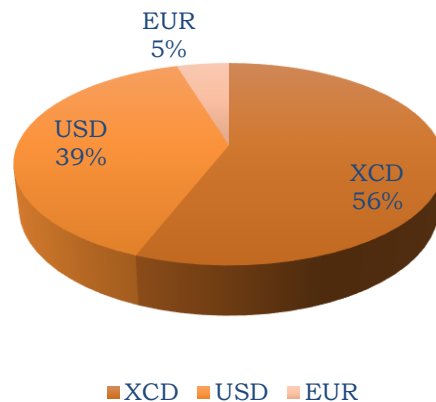
**Figure 18: Government Guaranteed Debt by Residency
September 2023 - September 2024**



6.2 Government-Guaranteed Debt by Currency

Domestic guaranteed debt comprises of Eastern Caribbean Dollars (XCD), representing 55.9 percent share of the Government-guaranteed debt portfolio. External-guaranteed debt is denominated in United States Dollar (USD) with 39.4 percent share and Euro with 4.7 percent share respectively, buffering the guaranteed debt portfolio against foreign exchange risk. (Figure 19)

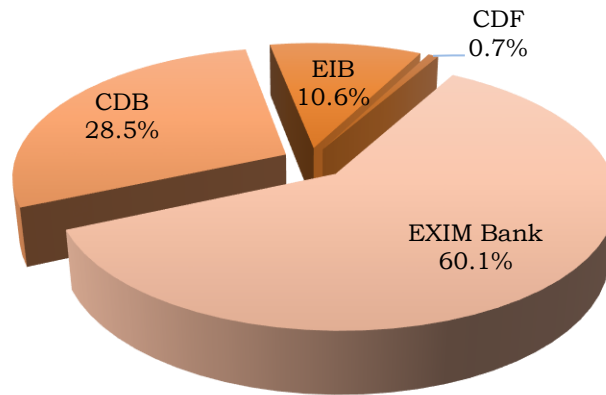
**Figure 19: Government-Guaranteed Debt by Currency
at September 2024**



6.3 External Government-Guaranteed Debt by Creditor

At the end of September 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 (60.1 percent share). The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) had the second largest share of \$40.52 million (28.5 percent). The European Investment Bank (EIB) contributed \$15.12 million (10.6 percent) and the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF) contributed \$1.03 million (0.7 percent) to the external guaranteed portfolio. (Figure 20)

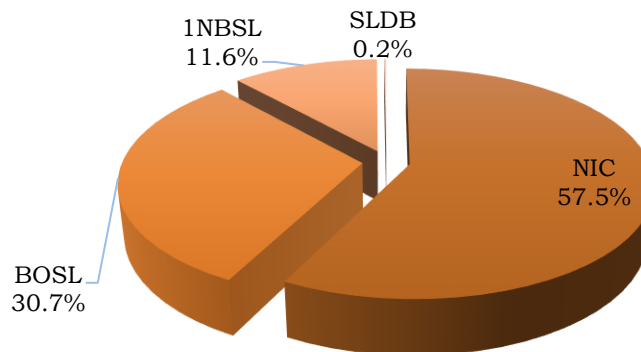
Figure 20: External Government-Guaranteed Debt by Creditor at September 2024



6.4 Domestic Government-Guaranteed Debt by Creditor

The National Insurance Corporation (NIC) continues to dominate the domestic government-guaranteed portfolio with \$103.74 million (57.5 percent). The Bank of Saint Lucia (BoSL) and the 1st National Bank of Saint Lucia (1NBSL) contributed \$55.46 million (30.7 percent) and \$20.86 million (11.6 percent) respectively. The Saint Lucia Development Bank (SLDB) also contributed \$0.29 million (0.2 percent). (Figure 21)

Figure 21: Domestic Government Guaranteed Debt by Creditor at September 2024



7 RGSM AND PRIVATE PLACEMENT SECURITIES

7.1 RGSM Securities

The Government of Saint Lucia auctioned four (4) Treasury Bills and two (2) Bonds on the Regional Governments' Securities Market (RGSM) platform as shown in table 2 for the third quarter, July – September 2024.

Table 2: RGSM Auction Results

Auction Date	Issue	Tenor	Issue Amount (XCD)	Value of Bids (XCD)	Amount Accepted (XCD)	Over/Under Subscription	Closing Rate (%)
July 17, 2024	LCB140125	180 days	25,000,000.00	29,605,000.00	25,000,000.00	4,605,000.00	4.00
August 7, 2024	LCB040225	180 days	30,000,000.00	38,205,000.00	30,000,000.00	8,205,000.00	3.00
August 21, 2024	LCB211124	91 days	16,000,000.00	28,051,000.00	16,000,000.00	12,051,000.00	2.80
August 27, 2024	LCB271124	91 days	16,000,000.00	21,983,000.00	16,000,000.00	5,983,000.00	2.00
August 30, 2024	LCG050929	5-years	20,225,000.00	14,858,000.00	14,858,000.00	(5,367,000.00)	5.75
September 6, 2024	LCG080932	8-years	21,000,000.00	24,838,000.00	21,000,000.00	3,838,000.00	7.00

7.2 Private Placement Securities

For the quarter July – September 2024, the Government of Saint Lucia issued three (3) new private bonds, rolled over eight (8) Treasury notes and four (4) Treasury bills via private placement.

Table 3: Private Placement Issuances

ISSUANCE Date	Issuance	Issue Amount	Coupon Rate
BONDS (New)			
July 30, 2024	CIP - 5-year Treasury Bond	US\$0.30M	0.00%
September 13, 2024	CIP - 5-year Treasury Bond	US\$0.30M	0.00%
September 13, 2024	RBL - GOSL130932 8-year Bond	EC\$7.80M	7.00%
NOTES (Rollovers)			
July 4, 2024	FCIS 1-year Note	EC\$10.0M	4.00%
July 7, 2024	GOSLPP070726 - 2-year Note	EC\$12.940M	4.50%
July 8, 2024	FCIS 2-year Note	EC\$5.0M	4.50%
July 18, 2024	GOSLPP180726 2-year Note	US\$5.115M	4.50%
July 19, 2024	GOSLPP190726 - 2-year Note	US\$11.343M	4.50%
August 26, 2024	GOSLPP260826 - 2-year Note	EC\$9.141M	4.50%
September 12, 2024	FCIS 2-year Note	US\$15.162M	4.50%

September 25, 2024	GOSLPP250926 2-year Note	EC\$5.170M	4.50%
TREASURY BILLS (Rollovers)			
July 3, 2024	GOSLPP030725 1-year Tbill	EC\$11.307M	4.00%
July 18, 2024	GOSLPP180725A 1-year Tbill	US\$3.641M	4.00%
August 26, 2024	GOSLPP260825 - 1-year Tbill	EC\$17.346M	4.00%
September 25, 2024	GOSLPP250925 1-year Tbill	EC\$15.199M	4.00%

8 ANNEX 1: DEBT STOCK SUMMARY

	Sept 2023	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	June 2024	Sept 2024	Qrt. Change %	Yrly. Change %
Total Public Debt (XCD millions)	4,779.48	4,783.50	4,819.86	4,975.61	4,999.11	0.47	4.60
Central Government Debt	4,486.14	4,489.25	4,493.99	4,652.68	4,676.63	0.51	4.25
Government Guaranteed Debt	293.35	294.24	325.86	322.92	322.48	-0.14	9.93
Central Government Debt (XCD million)	4,486.14	4,489.25	4,493.99	4,652.68	4,676.63	0.51	4.25
External Debt	2,690.59	2,710.42	2,722.78	2,875.77	2,885.66	0.34	7.25
Domestic Debt	1,795.54	1,778.84	1,771.21	1,776.91	1,790.96	0.79	-0.26
Central Government Debt by Instrument (XCD millions)	4,486.14	4,489.25	4,493.99	4,652.68	4,676.63	0.51	4.25
Loans	1,753.58	1,768.09	1,777.77	1,887.72	1,898.70	0.58	8.28
Treasury Bills	353.53	332.34	323.48	333.57	332.39	-0.35	-5.98
Bonds & Notes	2,379.03	2,388.83	2,392.75	2,431.40	2,445.54	0.58	2.80
External Debt by Instrument (XCD)							
Loans	1,594.36	1,617.90	1,628.91	1,745.69	1,758.01	0.71	10.26
Bonds & Notes	864.48	875.51	880.30	898.09	915.56	1.94	5.91
Treasury Bills	231.76	217.00	213.58	231.99	212.10	-8.58	-8.48
Domestic Debt by Instrument (XCD)							
Loans	159.22	150.19	148.86	142.03	140.69	-0.95	-11.64
Bonds & Notes	1,514.55	1,513.31	1,512.45	1,533.30	1,529.98	-0.22	1.02
Treasury Bills	121.78	115.33	109.90	101.58	120.29	18.42	-1.22
Government Guarantees (XCD)	293.35	294.24	325.86	322.92	322.48	0.83	9.93
Domestic Debt	159.76	157.05	184.12	181.18	180.35	0.56	12.89
External Debt	133.58	137.19	141.74	141.75	142.13	0.27	6.40

9 ANNEX 2: COST AND RISK INDICATOR SUMMARY

Table 5: Cost and Risk Indicators							
	Sept 2023	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	June 2024	Sept 2024	Qrt. Change %	Yrly. Change %
Foreign Currency Risk (%)							
% of debt in Local Currency XCD	45.97	45.67	45.25	44.18	44.20	0.04	-3.85
% of debt in USD	46.60	46.82	47.41	46.51	46.31	-0.44	-0.62
% of debt in EUR	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	10.46	-33.33
% of debt in KWD	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.15	0.15	-2.13	-28.57
% of debt in SDR	7.17	7.27	7.11	9.11	9.30	2.04	29.71
Total Debt Service (XCD)							
External	220.73	153.80	150.55	150.55	236.62	57.17	7.20
Domestic	236.91	105.98	136.02	136.02	149.10	9.62	-37.06
Interest	53.03	46.23	62.42	33.07	61.72	86.63	16.39
Principal	404.61	213.55	289.22	253.50	324.00	27.81	-19.92
Interest Rate Structure (%)							
Fixed Rate	82.87	82.97	83.16	81.36	81.22	-0.17	-1.99
Variable Rate	17.13	17.03	16.84	18.64	18.78	0.75	9.63
Risk Indicators							
Weighted ATM (Years)	6.25	5.78	6.00	6.52	7.03	7.88	12.48
Maturing in 1 year (%)	14.24%	21.41%	18.31%	17.51%	18.28%	4.37	28.37
Weighted ATR (Years)	6.04	4.26	4.40	4.96	5.21	5.01	-13.74
Debt Re-fixing in 1 year (%)	14.03%	37.64%	37.11%	35.72%	36.59%	2.44	160.80
WACD (%)	5.03%	5.03%	5.03%	4.92%	4.92%	0.00	-2.11