



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

May 2026

2026 ARTICLE IV CONSULTATION; PRESS RELEASE; STAFF REPORT; AND STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. In the context of the 2026 Article IV Consultation, the following documents have been released and are included in this package:

- A **Press Release** summarizing the views of the Executive Board as expressed during its May 4, 2026, consideration of the staff report that concluded the Article IV consultation with Antigua and Barbuda.
- The **Staff Report** prepared by a staff team of the IMF for the Executive Board's consideration on May 4, 2026, following discussions that ended on January 30, 2026, with the officials of Antigua and Barbuda on economic developments and policies. Based on information available at the time of these discussions, the staff report was completed on March 18, 2026.
- A **Staff Supplement** updating information on recent developments.
- An **Informational Annex** prepared by the IMF staff.
- A **Statement by the Executive Director** for Antigua and Barbuda.

The IMF's transparency policy allows for the deletion of market-sensitive information and premature disclosure of the authorities' policy intentions in published staff reports and other documents.

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International Monetary Fund
Washington, D.C.



IMF Executive Board Concludes 2026 Article IV Consultation with Antigua and Barbuda

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington, DC – May 7, 2026: On May 4, 2026, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV consultation¹ with Antigua and Barbuda. The authorities have consented to the publication of the Staff Report prepared for this consultation.²

Antigua and Barbuda's economic expansion continues. Real GDP grew by an estimated 3 percent in 2025, supported by a pick-up in construction despite slowing tourism activity. Employment has gradually recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Inflation moderated from over 6 percent (year-average) in 2024 to 1.4 percent in 2025.

Public debt as a share of GDP declined from 101 percent of GDP in 2020 to an estimated 68 percent in 2025, aided by an improved fiscal position. However, arrears to Paris Club creditors and domestic suppliers are significant and gross financing needs are elevated. The fiscal position strengthened in 2024–25, reflecting both improved tax collection and one-off factors. The 2025 primary balance is estimated at nearly 5 percent of GDP, underpinned by higher tax revenues, stronger inflows under the Citizenship-by-Investment Program (CIP), restraint in current spending, and a modest increase in capital spending.

Following a sharp narrowing in 2024, the current account deficit in 2025 returned to trend and is estimated around 11½ percent of GDP. The deficit was predominantly financed by foreign direct investment (FDI), and partly by CIP-related inflows. The overall financial system remains stable and liquid.

A steady economic expansion is projected to continue, but risks are tilted to the downside amid heightened global uncertainty. Downside risks stem externally from commodity price

¹ Under Article IV of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, the IMF holds bilateral discussions with members, usually every year. A staff team visits the country, collects economic and financial information, and discusses with officials the country's economic developments and policies. On return to headquarters, the staff prepares a report, which forms the basis for discussion by the Executive Board.

² Under the IMF's Articles of Agreement, publication of documents that pertain to member countries is voluntary and requires the member consent. The staff report will be shortly published on the <https://www.imf.org/en/countries/atg> page.

volatility and a slowdown in major trading partners and, domestically, from capacity constraints weighing on growth. Upside potential could materialize from stronger tourism demand, improved connectivity, and productivity-enhancing reforms.

Executive Board Assessment³

Executive Directors welcomed Antigua and Barbuda's continued economic expansion, supported by construction activity and resilient tourism, alongside a welcome moderation of inflation. Noting the downside risks from the war in the Middle East and the country's long-standing debt challenges, Directors called for additional reforms to restore debt sustainability and to strengthen potential growth and climate resilience. Tailored and well-sequenced capacity development by the Fund remains important given the country's capacity constraints.

Directors welcomed the decline in public debt as a share of GDP. Noting that persistent arrears and elevated gross financing needs are constraining access to longer-term financing and undermining debt sustainability, Directors urged the authorities to develop and implement a credible and comprehensive strategy for addressing all arrears, broadening financing options, and making space for resilience-building investments. Directors also noted the need to continue strengthening cash and debt management to prevent future arrears.

Directors underscored the need for further revenue mobilization to rebuild fiscal buffers and meet the authorities' fiscal objectives. To build on recent gains, Directors recommended broadening the tax base, curtailing exemptions, restraining current expenditures, and strengthening the targeting of social assistance. Directors also encouraged the authorities to continue efforts to strengthen fiscal institutions and enhance fiscal oversight, transparency, and reporting of fiscal and public enterprise data.

Directors recognized the regional and national efforts to strengthen financial sector oversight, resilience, and intermediation. For credit unions, they encouraged a shift to risk-based supervision and efforts to bolster provisioning and capital positions. Continued efforts to strengthen financial deepening, and the AML/CFT and Citizenship by Investment (CIP) frameworks, remain important.

Directors encouraged further efforts to enhance connectivity to support trade, tourism, and competitiveness. They also recommended streamlining port and customs procedures, carefully prioritizing and sequencing infrastructure projects, and addressing skills shortages. Directors also underscored the need for improved data to support evidence-based policymaking.

³ At the conclusion of the discussion, the Managing Director, as Chairman of the Board, summarizes the views of Executive Directors, and this summary is transmitted to the country's authorities. An explanation of any qualifiers used in summings up can be found here:

<http://www.IMF.org/external/np/sec/misc/qualifiers.htm>.

Antigua and Barbuda: Selected Economic and Financial Indicators

Population (2025)	104,993	Adult literacy rate (2015)	99
GDP per capita (US\$, 2025)	21,650	Mean years of schooling (2022)	10.5
Life expectancy at birth (years, 2022)	79.2	Human Development Index rank	53
Mortality rate (under 5, per 1,000 live births, 2022)	10	(2024, of 193 economies)	

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Est. 2025	Projections					
						2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
National Income and Prices											
Real GDP	8.2	8.5	3.9	2.5	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Nominal GDP	13.5	15.9	10.6	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Consumer prices (end of period)	1.2	9.2	3.3	5.4	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Consumer prices (period average)	1.6	7.5	5.1	6.2	1.4	2.6	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Money and Credit											
Net foreign assets 1/	18.2	3.3	0.2	3.7	6.7	1.5	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.3
Net domestic assets 1/	-4.4	1.3	3.2	0.9	-0.7	4.9	3.4	2.6	3.1	3.1	3.2
Broad money (M2)	13.9	4.6	3.3	4.6	5.9	6.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Credit to private sector	-4.1	-2.1	7.0	11.6	2.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Central Government											
Primary balance	-2.3	-0.3	0.5	4.0	4.9	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Overall balance	-4.5	-2.9	-1.7	1.6	3.1	-0.6	-1.1	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9
Total revenue and grants	18.9	18.0	16.7	21.9	22.4	21.6	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.7	20.6
<i>Of which: Tax revenue</i>	15.4	14.9	14.6	16.8	18.2	17.8	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.2	17.2
Total expenditure	23.4	20.8	18.4	20.2	19.3	22.3	22.2	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.5
External Sector											
Current account balance	-17.6	-15.1	-12.9	-7.5	-11.6	-11.8	-11.3	-10.8	-10.4	-9.9	-9.4
Trade balance	-29.6	-34.6	-32.4	-29.7	-31.8	-32.3	-31.9	-31.8	-31.6	-31.1	-30.9
Nonfactor service balance	19.5	29.0	28.7	31.3	27.9	27.7	28.0	28.5	28.8	28.8	29.2
<i>Of which: Gross tourism receipts</i>	30.5	44.6	44.3	47.9	45.0	44.7	45.1	46.1	46.6	46.7	47.2
Overall balance	3.5	-0.1	-2.4	-0.9	2.2	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-1.3
External public sector debt	45.5	39.6	35.2	31.7	31.3	34.2	36.1	37.5	36.8	38.7	38.9
Savings-Investment Balance											
Savings	28.4	25.2	23.8	25.9	24.4	24.5	24.6	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4
Investment	46.0	40.2	36.7	33.4	36.1	36.2	35.9	35.2	34.7	34.3	33.8
Memorandum Items											
Net imputed international reserves (US\$ million)	324	346	319	318	352	378	399	436	465	496	526
(Months of prospective imports)	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
GDP at market prices (EC\$ million)	4,326	5,014	5,546	5,838	6,137	6,439	6,728	7,031	7,347	7,679	8,026
Public debt stock (EC\$ million) 2/, 3/	4,021	4,134	4,134	4,043	4,190	4,280	4,387	4,493	4,575	4,640	4,688
(Percent of GDP)	93.0	82.4	74.5	69.3	68.3	66.5	65.2	63.9	62.3	60.4	58.4

Sources: Country authorities, ECCB, UN Human Development Report, World Bank, and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ NDA and NFA are shown as changes in percent of M2 at beginning of period.

2/ Includes stock of principal and interest arrears, unpaid vouchers, and suppliers' credits.

3/ Includes central government guarantees of state enterprises' and statutory bodies' debt.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

STAFF REPORT FOR THE 2026 ARTICLE IV CONSULTATION

March 18, 2026

KEY ISSUES

Recent developments. The economy continues to expand amid heightened external risks and moderating tourism activity. Inflation has eased from its 2024 peak and is converging to partner country levels. The public debt-to-GDP ratio eased from 101 percent in 2020 to an estimated 68 percent in 2025, aided by an improved fiscal position reflecting both improved tax collections and one-off factors. But arrears to domestic and Paris Club creditors are significant and gross financing needs (GFNs) are elevated. The overall financial system is stable and liquid.

Outlook and risks. Real growth is projected at 2.8 percent in 2026, converging to 2½ percent over the medium term. Inflation is expected to stabilize at 2 percent by end-2026. Public debt is projected to decline gradually in the medium term, consistent with meeting the regional debt target (60 percent of GDP before 2035), but unresolved arrears and high GFNs continue to pose challenges. Risks are tilted to the downside amid heightened global uncertainty. Downside risks stem externally from commodity price volatility associated with the conflict in the Middle East—especially oil prices—and a slowdown in major trading partners, and domestic capacity constraints weighing on growth. Upside potential could materialize from stronger tourism demand, improved connectivity, and productivity-enhancing reforms.

Policy priorities. Discussions centered on policies to restore debt sustainability and address fiscal and external imbalances, maintain financial stability, and enhance resilience and medium-term growth.

- **Debt and fiscal policy.** Developing a comprehensive strategy to clear arrears with all creditors and further improve cash and debt management would ease financing constraints. Further revenue-led consolidation would bring the authorities within reach of their medium-term fiscal targets.
- **Financial sector.** Regional and national-level steps can help bolster financial sector oversight and resilience. Improving financial intermediation, while safeguarding financial stability, would address an important barrier to inclusive growth.
- **Structural policies.** Policies to improve connectivity and competitiveness could boost trade, strengthen resilience, and support sustainable growth. Reforms should prioritize business productivity and address skills gaps by incentivizing employer-aligned training, with emphasis on on-the-job programs.

Approved By
Daniel Leigh (WHD)
and Niamh Sheridan
(SPR)

Discussions took place in St. John's during January 19–30, 2026. The mission team comprised David Moore (head), Yibin Mu, Hou Wang, Natasha Gimpelson, and Josefine Quast (all WHD), and was accompanied by Kevin Woods (Eastern Caribbean Central Bank) and Justin Carter (Caribbean Development Bank). The team met with Prime Minister and Finance Minister Gaston Browne, Financial Secretary Rasona Davis-Crump and other senior government officials, the Financial Services Regulatory Commission, representatives of the private sector, labor unions, and the opposition party. Ann Marie Wickham (OED) attended some meetings. Qingyu Tao and Eliana Porras Herrera (all WHD) assisted in the preparation of the report.

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CONTEXT

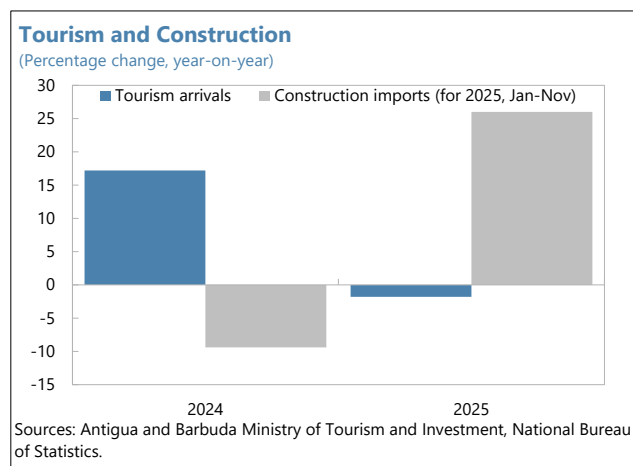
1. Following a rapid post-pandemic recovery, Antigua and Barbuda's economic expansion continues, but longstanding debt challenges persist and external risks have risen.

Following the rapid post-pandemic recovery, economic growth has continued at a more moderate pace, and policymakers have embarked on revenue-led fiscal adjustment and selective structural reforms. However, policy space for responding to shocks remains constrained amid unresolved arrears to domestic and Paris Club creditors. Heightened global uncertainties pose risks to tourism and trade. Against this backdrop, policy priorities include restoring debt sustainability, building fiscal buffers, safeguarding financial stability, and structural efforts to address connectivity and skills mismatches—which in turn can foster economic resilience and support sustainable growth.

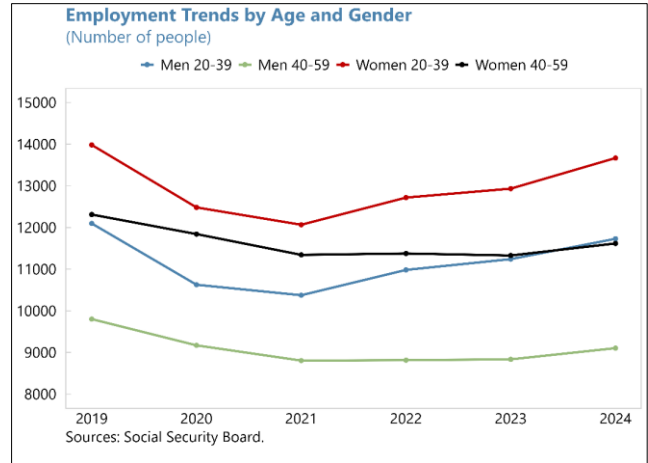
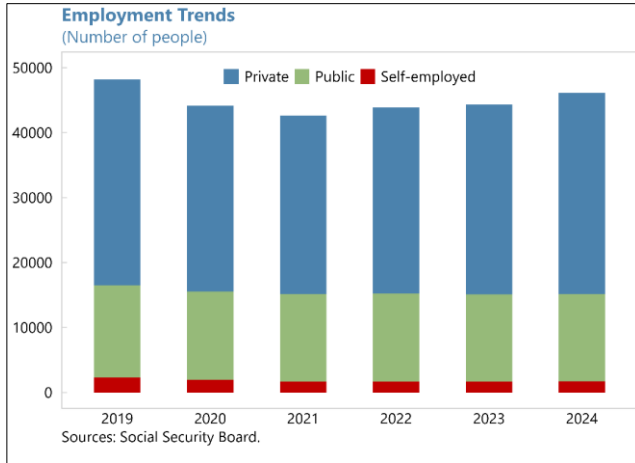
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

2. The economic expansion continued through 2025 (Table 1, Figure 1).

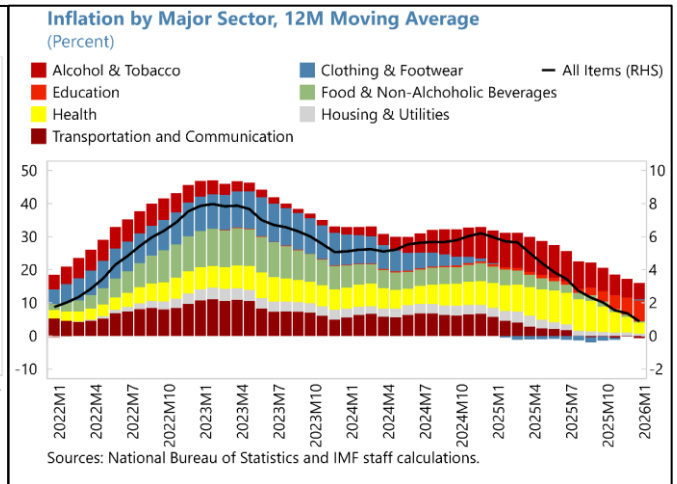
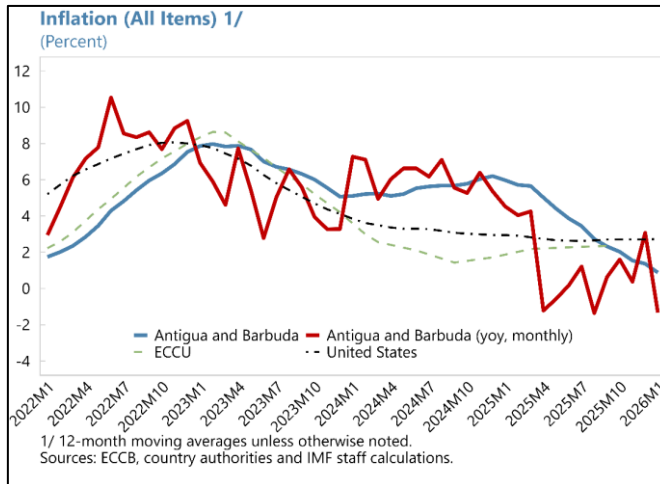
National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) data indicate an upwardly revised 2023 growth rate of 3.9 percent, following a reassessment of construction imports, and 2024 real GDP growth of 2.5 percent, with exceptionally strong tourism offsetting faltering construction activity. For 2025, staff estimates real GDP growth of 3 percent: tourism slowed for stayovers (text chart) and for cruises amid the global slowdown and geopolitical uncertainty, but stronger construction supported growth.



3. Employment has gradually recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Social security contribution data indicates that employment increased in 2024, for all types of employment. A breakdown by gender and age indicates similar trends across different demographic groups (text charts, overleaf).



4. Inflation moderated in 2025. With the effects of indirect taxation increases in 2024 tapering off, average inflation eased from over 6 percent in 2024 to 1.4 percent in 2025. The 12-month inflation rate turned negative in mid-2025, owing to sharply lower transportation and housing equipment prices. Despite recent volatility, inflation appears to be converging to levels in ECCU peers and the U.S.



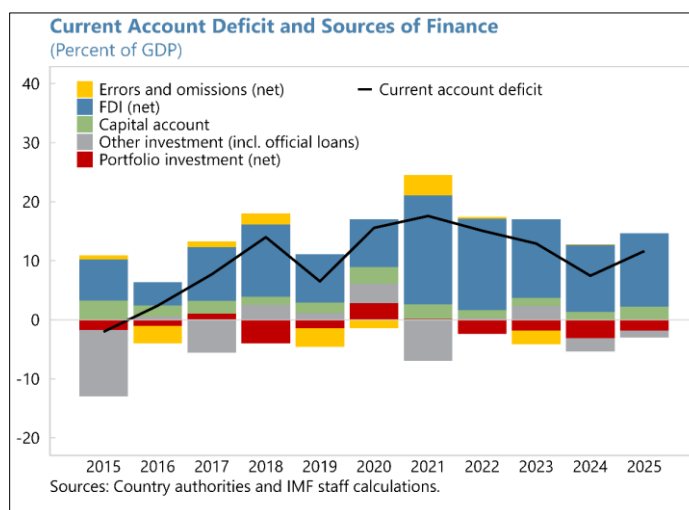
5. The debt position has improved, but significant arrears persist and gross financing needs (GFNs) remain large. Debt as a share of GDP eased from 101 percent in 2020 to an estimated 68 percent in 2025, with the nominal debt stock staying broadly flat over the past few years (Table 2). However, persistent significant external and domestic arrears (Annex I) are constraining new financing opportunities, and GFNs are high (despite a respite in 2024–25; Table 3). The authorities are preparing a liability management operation (LMO) to refinance domestic debt, ease the high GFN burden, reduce arrears, and fund resilience-building projects.

6. The fiscal position strengthened in 2024–25, reflecting both improved tax collection and one-off effects (Table 4, Figure 2). The 2024 primary balance (4 percent of GDP) improved by about 3½ percentage points of GDP compared with 2023, driven by a range of indirect tax increases broadly in line with past Fund staff advice (over 2 percentage points of GDP) and one-off receipts

from an asset forfeiture (nearly 2 percent of GDP) offset by higher current spending. The 2025 primary balance is estimated at 4.9 percent of GDP, underpinned by higher tax revenues, stronger inflows under the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP), restraint in current spending, and a modest (albeit less than budgeted) increase in capital spending. Estimated tax revenues reached around just over 18 percent of GDP—some 1½ percentage points above their 2024 level—reflecting a mix of a one-off impact of collection of tax arrears¹ (around 1 percent of GDP) and the permanent impact of the 2024 indirect tax increases.

7. Following a sharp narrowing in 2024, the current account deficit returned to trend in 2025

(Table 5, Figure 3). In 2024, the current account deficit narrowed by more than 5 percentage points of GDP, to 7½ percent of GDP, reflecting a record year for tourism and a contraction in imports, including for construction. In 2025, with tourism inflows normalizing and construction activity rebounding, the estimated current account deficit reached around 11½ percent of GDP. The deficit



was predominantly financed by foreign direct investment (FDI), and partly by Citizenship-by-Investment Program (CIP) capital transfers, with a relatively small role for portfolio and other investment flows. The external position is assessed as moderately weaker than implied by medium-term fundamentals and desirable policies. The assessment is subject to considerable data-related uncertainties (Annex II).

8. The overall financial system remains stable and liquid (Tables 6–8, Figure 4). Bank lending to the private sector slowed from 12½ percent in the year to end-2024 to under 3 percent in the year to end-2025. Credit union lending growth (year-on-year) moderated from 6 percent in 2024Q4 to 5¼ percent in 2025Q3. Banks' non-performing loan (NPL) ratios fell below the 5 percent prudential threshold by end-2024, though credit union NPLs are higher (9.6 percent in 2025Q3). One international bank registered in Antigua and Barbuda—regulated by the national supervisor (FSRC) rather than the central bank (ECCB) as it does not take deposits in Antigua and Barbuda—was placed in administration in November 2025. The ECCU regional credit bureau has been launched in Antigua and Barbuda for banks and two credit unions, with plans to expand it to other credit unions.

¹ These operations are fiscally neutral over time, as government arrears to suppliers were counted in spending in previous years.

OUTLOOK AND RISKS

9. Staff projects a steady economic expansion to continue. Staff projects real GDP growth of 2.8 percent in 2026, reflecting a mix of stronger tourism and moderating construction activity compared to 2025, with a boost from hosting the November 2026 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). Growth is projected to converge to 2½ percent in the medium term, in line with estimated potential growth. The authorities continue to envisage higher growth rates, arguing past data understate growth and construction activity. The inflation rate is projected to stabilize around 2 percent by end-2026, converging to rates in peers and trading partners. Staff's baseline envisages a gradual decline in the public debt-to-GDP ratio, consistent with meeting the ECCU regional debt target (60 percent of GDP by 2035), but with external and domestic arrears persisting. The debt stock could increase further once arrears to domestic suppliers are validated and included in debt statistics. Central government GFNs are projected to remain around 10 percent of GDP, reflecting heavy reliance on short-term financing instruments.

10. As a small developing state (SDS), Antigua and Barbuda faces important risks, which currently remain tilted to the downside amid global headwinds. Still-unsustainable public debt (and currency union membership) constrains fiscal space for contingent policy responses (Annex III) if shocks materialize—adding to the importance of preemptive efforts to restore buffers:

- **Externally**, prolonged global uncertainty contributes to elevated risks around the outlook. Given its modest goods exports and reliance on tourism, Antigua and Barbuda has limited direct exposure to U.S. tariff policies. But if international trade tensions escalate and trade barriers rise, shipping disruptions could increase import costs. U.S. travel restrictions on Antigua and Barbuda citizens pose a downside risk to travel flows. Financial market volatility amid heightened global uncertainty could weaken bank balance sheets and disrupt FDI inflows and capital transfers, including through the CIP. Rising global long-term interest rates could reduce access to financing and increase borrowing costs, while commodity price volatility could reduce real incomes and widen fiscal and external imbalances. In particular, if sustained, recent oil price increases associated with the Middle East conflict could weaken the external current account deficit and induce inflationary pressure through a higher import bill and increases in transport and energy costs. Extreme weather events could damage infrastructure and the existing housing stock, and reduce activity in the tourism sector—with rebuilding costs adding to the fiscal burden.
- **Domestically**, fiscal underperformance could elevate financing costs, worsen arrears, and compromise growth prospects. Faster customs reforms could also temporarily raise price pressures—but would raise revenue. Capacity constraints could slow implementation of planned investments and broader economic growth.
- **Upside risks** stem from stronger-than-expected tourism demand, supported by increasing air connectivity, new cruise port terminal facilities, and/or the hosting of special events such as CHOGM 2026. Efforts to diversify import sources and tourism origin markets could help reduce

vulnerabilities. An intensification of productivity-enhancing reforms could support higher medium- and long-term growth.

Authorities' Views

11. The authorities envisaged faster economic growth than projected by staff, but broadly agreed with staff's risk assessment. The authorities argued that recent revenue performance, strong tourism prospects—including from hosting CHOGM 2026—and ongoing investment projects could support a higher growth outlook. They acknowledged risks arising from geopolitical tensions and prolonged uncertainty, as well as the incomplete arrears stocktake and statistical gaps. The authorities saw limited economic impact so far from U.S. travel policy changes and viewed recent labor inflows as supporting domestic economic activity.

POLICY PRIORITIES

A. Addressing Persistent Debt and Fiscal Challenges

12. Public debt remains unsustainable due to outstanding arrears and elevated financing needs (Annex I). Staff's baseline projects Antigua and Barbuda as on track to meet the regional target for public debt (60 percent of GDP by 2035), but arrears to Paris Club and domestic creditors remain significant. The debt stock does not include arrears to domestic suppliers that are still being validated by the authorities. Clearing arrears, given the already high GFNs (projected at nearly 10 percent of GDP annually) and limited new financing opportunities, is likely to remain challenging. As an SDS vulnerable to natural disasters, Antigua and Barbuda faces adaptation, infrastructure investment, and resilience-building needs that could put additional pressures on GFNs and debt dynamics over the longer term.

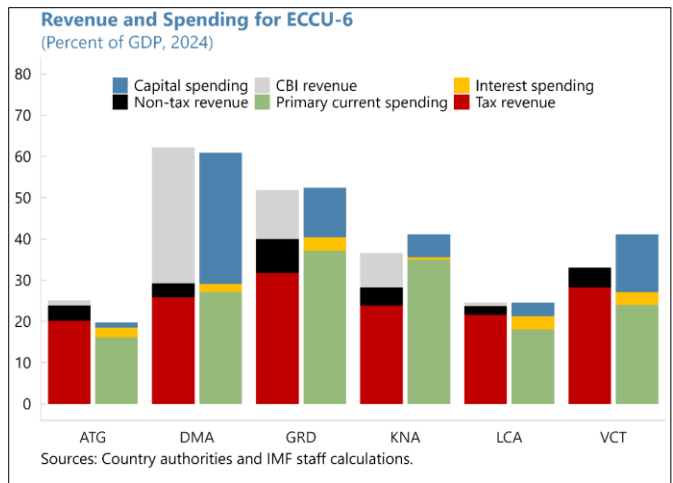
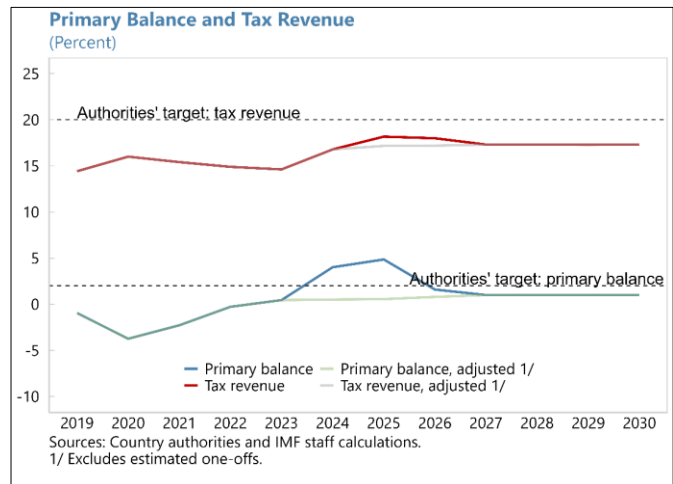
13. Staff encouraged the authorities to develop a comprehensive strategy for addressing persistent arrears and elevated financing needs. To restore debt sustainability, the strategy should include: (i) completing the validation of potential domestic arrears; (ii) developing a comprehensive arrears clearance strategy covering all creditors, including Paris Club and domestic creditors; (iii) continuing to build fiscal buffers, consistent with the authorities' medium-term fiscal framework, to alleviate pressures from still-high financing needs; (iv) strengthening cash management and expenditure controls, to reduce risks of accumulating new arrears; and (v) continuing exploring options to extend the maturity of domestic debt, which could also help ease the financing burden.

14. The authorities' 2026 Budget envisages improved revenue performance and higher investment, underpinned by robust economic growth. The 2026 Budget Statement projects strong gains from the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST), property tax, and import duties, based on projected real GDP growth of 5 percent. The Budget also envisages further collection of tax arrears, additional efforts to strengthen tax compliance, and continued robust CIP inflows. On the spending side, the Budget anticipates capital spending to increase to around 3½ percent of GDP, up

some 2 percentage points from the 2025 outturn. Using staff’s baseline macroeconomic assumptions, implementation of the 2026 Budget is estimated to imply a primary surplus of 1.6 percent of GDP, within the target range under the fiscal resilience guidelines (1½–2 percent of GDP).²

15. To build on recent fiscal improvements, staff advocated for stronger fiscal buffers to place debt on a firmer downward trajectory, ease financing needs, and help the authorities reach their medium-term fiscal targets. Despite welcome recent progress, staff assessed the underlying fiscal position—excluding one-off factors—as yet to fully align with the authorities’ own objectives of a tax revenue-to-GDP ratio of 20 percent and a primary surplus of 1½–2 percent of GDP.

- Revenue mobilization remains a pressing need.** Tax collections remain well below those of regional peers (text chart). In this context, as the announced temporary reduction in the ABST rate will reduce revenue collection, staff urged promptly restoring ABST rate to support progress towards the authorities’ revenue objective. Staff encouraged continued efforts to broaden the tax base, accelerate the implementation of HS 2022 and property tax reforms, and reduce tax exemptions.³
- Continue tax administration reforms.** Priorities to enhance revenue collection and operational efficiency include implementing a new IT system; introducing an e-filing and e-payment system and a single-window system at customs to enhance compliance and efficiency; and establishing a large taxpayer unit.
- Balance room for capital spending with restraint in current spending.** Overall spending is already low as a share of GDP relative to peers (text chart). Staff saw merit



² The estimate is before potential revenue losses from the temporary reduction in the ABST rate from 17 to 7 percent announced in January 2026, as the timing and duration of this measure are not yet set.

³ See Staff Report for the 2025 Article IV consultation. Annex V quantifies two reform options—a mix of raising corporate income taxes, reducing discretionary exemptions, and reforming property taxes—that could yield around 1½ percent of GDP.

in growth-enhancing capital spending consistent with implementation capacity and fiscal sustainability, accompanied by restraint in current spending to preserve fiscal space, reduce financing needs, and enable rebuilding of fiscal buffers.

16. Staff reiterated the need to reform the social assistance framework. Social programs remain fragmented—currently spread across some five ministries—and a centralized beneficiary database is still needed. Despite a need to improve targeting, reduce administrative duplication, and strengthen service delivery—as recommended in the 2025 Article IV consultation (Annex IV)—reforms have yet to move ahead.

17. The forthcoming actuarial review of the Social Security Fund (SSF) will assess the pension system’s financial sustainability. Pending the review, to be completed in early 2026, staff encouraged keeping policy options open for addressing potential future financing gaps, safeguarding the SSF’s solvency, mitigating associated risks, and preserving the SSF’s capacity to adjust to changing demographic and economic conditions. In this context, clarifying the legal status of government’s obligations to the SSF would also be important for the SSF’s long-term viability.

18. Staff saw scope to further strengthen fiscal institutions and oversight to reinforce accountability, transparency, and policy credibility. Staff welcomed the operationalization of the Fiscal Responsibility Oversight Committee (FROC) and the authorities’ tabling of the first FROC report in Parliament in December 2025, as well as the addition of the oversight function for state-owned enterprises (SOEs) within the MOF. However, the SOE oversight function remains understaffed, and capacity at the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) also appeared strained. To further bolster fiscal transparency, staff recommended the regular publication of FROC reports, the timely completion and reporting of audited fiscal accounts, and adequate resourcing of both the SOE oversight function and the SAI. Staff also recommended the periodic disclosure of key SOE financial data once capacity improves.

Authorities’ Views

19. The authorities are taking steps to address persistent arrears and elevated financing needs. They underscored the recent decline in nominal debt levels, progress in addressing external arrears to non-Paris Club creditors, and their ongoing work on validating arrears with domestic suppliers. They looked forward to completing the LMO and lowering the high financing burden by extending debt maturities and lowering interest rates. They saw the Treasury’s recently introduced expenditure controls as effective in limiting the accumulation of new arrears. They envisaged further modernizing the Treasury in line with CARTAC technical assistance recommendations, building on the recent re-organization of the Treasury and efforts to strengthen staff training and recruitment.

20. The authorities saw a more favorable fiscal outlook than staff, while emphasizing their commitment to meeting their fiscal targets. They expected higher growth to support higher revenues and a higher primary surplus than staff projected. They also recognized the importance of bringing tax revenues as a share of GDP closer to the fiscal framework targets and to ECCU peers. They planned to expand capital investment relative to the 2025 outturn, but were prepared to adjust

spending should revenues fall short of expectations. They expected the temporary reduction in ABST to be brief and narrowly targeted.

21. The authorities acknowledged the need for further work to streamline social assistance and address social security sustainability. Some counterparts noted the importance of establishing a centralized beneficiary database to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and enhance targeting—though implementation will depend on greater coordination among relevant stakeholders. The authorities looked forward to the findings of the SSF actuarial review.

22. The authorities agreed on the importance of enhancing fiscal oversight while seeing their current fiscal guidelines as appropriate. They highlighted progress in improving fiscal transparency and institutional arrangements, including operationalizing the FROC, tabling the first FROC report in Parliament, and strengthening SOE monitoring. They committed to regularly publishing FROC reports, and saw their existing fiscal resilience guidelines as sufficiently strong but also flexible. They acknowledged the case for strengthening resources for the Supreme Audit Institution and SOE oversight function to further bolster transparency.

B. Strengthening Financial System Resilience and Intermediation

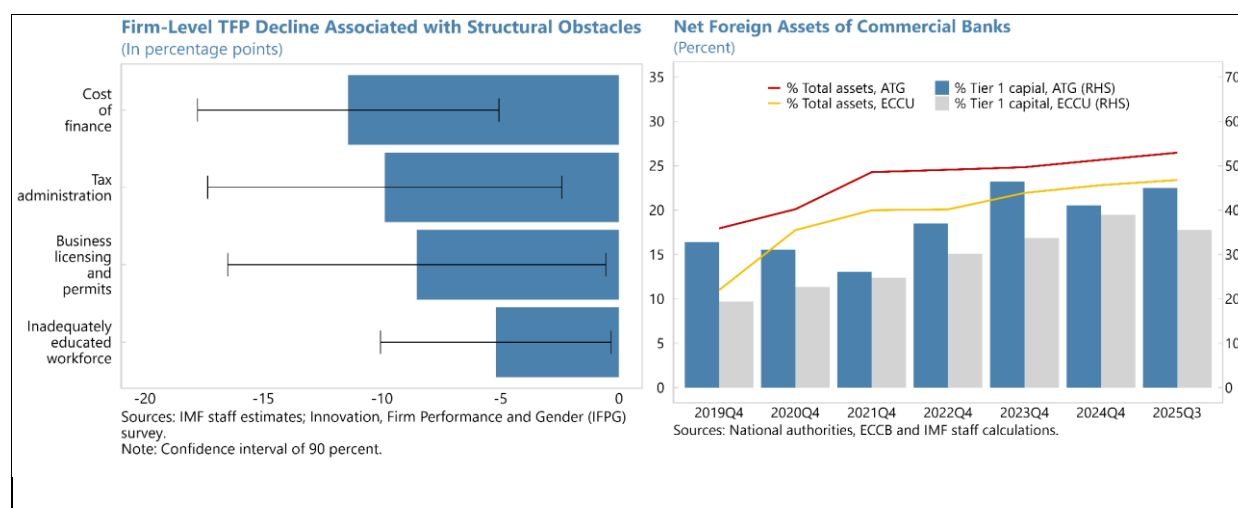
23. Strengthening financial sector oversight and resilience would require both regional and national efforts. At the regional level, the ECCB is transitioning to Basel II/III standards, developing a deposit insurance scheme, and advancing harmonization of prudential standards for insurers and private pension funds.⁴ At the national level, a shift towards more risk-based supervision of credit unions was under consideration. Staff also encouraged the efforts by the national regulator to strengthen provisioning and capital of credit unions, which should be supported by legislative reforms to strengthen the regulator’s mandates and enhance its supervisory and resolution powers.

24. Staff saw scope to strengthen financial intermediation, while safeguarding financial stability, to help foster inclusive growth. Businesses have reported limited access to finance as a key obstacle.⁵ Bank credit to the private sector has declined substantially as a share of GDP since the 2008–09 global financial crisis (GFC). But banks cite a lack of bankable projects and invest a large share of their assets abroad (text charts; Annex V). Staff saw the launch in Antigua and Barbuda of the regional credit bureau for banks—and the planned inclusion of credit unions—as a welcome step towards bridging this gap, by reducing informational asymmetries between lenders and borrowers and facilitating broader access to credit, for example by enabling lenders’ use of entrepreneur-individuals’ credit scores as proxies for their business creditworthiness. Staff noted that addressing government arrears to domestic suppliers could help improve firms’ financial positions and creditworthiness. Raising the awareness of the regional partial credit guarantee

⁴ See Staff Report for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union: 2026 Discussion on Common Policies of Member Countries (forthcoming).

⁵ See Staff Report for the 2025 Article IV consultation, Annex VI.

scheme in Antigua and Barbuda could help increase the uptake of the scheme. Staff also welcomed ongoing initiatives to improve access to credit by enhancing financial literacy among micro, small, and medium enterprises.



25. Efforts are underway to further strengthen the AML/CFT and CIP frameworks. The National Oversight Committee on Financial Action—now including the ECCB—has proactively coordinated workshops and working groups to support implementation and capacity building. A National Risk Assessment was launched in early 2025 and is expected to conclude in coming months. Preparations are also underway to further strengthen the AML/CFT framework, in line with the 2025 updates to the FATF standards, with a view to the next regional mutual assessment. To enhance governance of CIPs across the region, an agreement establishing an independent regulator for the industry has been enacted into law in Antigua and Barbuda and other ECCU countries with CIPs.

26. The ECCB has taken steps to address most of the recommendations from the previous safeguards assessment. The remaining recommendation concerns further strengthening the ECCB's operational autonomy and aligning its Agreement Act with leading practices. The next periodic safeguards assessment of the ECCB is scheduled for early 2027.

Authorities' Views

27. The authorities highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen financial supervision and regulations. The FSRC has drafted amendments to the national framework for credit unions and consulted with the sector on a more risk-based approach to supervision and regulation. The draft legislation will be subject to further review by the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Even without full regional harmonization of credit union supervision and regulation in the near term, the FSRC saw scope for national supervisory practices to converge. The authorities indicated support for regional initiatives to establish a deposit insurance scheme and to harmonize insurance sector regulations.

28. The authorities saw greater scope for deepening financial intermediation, which could support growth. They saw the decline in bank intermediation since the GFC as a sign of high risk aversion, noting banks' reliance on fee-based services and safe assets. The authorities highlighted the launch of the regional credit bureau in Antigua and Barbuda, which will cover all credit institutions. Additionally, the Regional Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme is now operational in Antigua and Barbuda, further supporting access to credit.

29. The authorities highlighted their ongoing efforts to further strengthen AML/CFT framework in line with the 2025 updates to the FATF standards to prepare for the next regional mutual assessment. They noted that work is ongoing to complete the National Risk Assessment and reiterated their commitment to addressing the identified gaps. They emphasized the strength of their CIP due diligence framework and expected the new regional CIP regulator to help ensure appropriate safeguards.

C. Addressing Structural Bottlenecks to Boost Resilient Growth

30. Policies that aim at improving connectivity and competitiveness can enhance trade performance, promote economic resilience, and support sustainable growth.

- Staff analysis of trade patterns in the Caribbean suggests that shipping and air connectivity represent binding constraints to expanding goods exports and boosting tourism flows (Annex VI). These constraints are estimated to have amplified the negative distance effect on merchandise trade, resulting in under-trading with countries outside the region compared to what fundamentals would suggest.
- At the national level, staff encouraged efforts to alleviate connectivity constraints focusing on cutting red tape on port and customs procedures, improving and modernizing port and digital infrastructure—building on the efforts already taken in this area—to further increase port capacity and to reduce shipping costs and external imbalances while enhancing competitiveness. Efforts at the regional level to align customs regulations within the currency union could also lead to competitiveness gains.
- Staff noted that planning for infrastructure investments to improve connectivity should also weigh the fiscal and debt implications. Improving connectivity could then, over time, mitigate risks associated with concentrated sources of imports and tourism, build resilience against shocks in key external markets, and create new opportunities.

31. Staff encouraged further reforms to enhance business sector productivity. Staff analysis suggests that targeting key areas such as customs and trade regulations and access to finance can yield significant gains. Implementing a single electronic window system would facilitate trade processing, improve transparency, and reduce administrative costs. These efforts should be accompanied by efforts to promote financial inclusion (¶24).

32. Addressing persistent skills shortages would require incentivizing take-up of skills training attuned to employers' needs, with special attention to on-the-job training (Annex VII). Despite recent progress in developing skills training institutes, persistent skills shortages remain a major obstacle to firm productivity and economic growth. Stakeholders continue reporting difficulties finding adequately trained labor across various sectors, including hospitality, construction, and manufacturing. Analysis of labor force survey data finds that skills training is linked to higher productivity, proxied by wages. While both on-the-job and institutional skills training types are important for boosting productivity, on-the-job training has an especially strong association with higher income. Staff emphasized the need for both firms and workers to continue investing in skills training. Greater training take-up would need to be accompanied by sufficient capacity in the training institutions for hands-on training, especially in courses that require special facilities. Data improvements—developing a skills-in-demand survey and more regular and timely labor force surveys—would facilitate monitoring progress in addressing skills shortages and designing better targeted, evidence-based policies, as well as monitoring outflows of locally educated labor.

Authorities' Views

33. The authorities agreed on the importance of improving connectivity to expand trade and boost tourism. They highlighted progress in expanding both cargo and cruise port capacity in St. John's. Recent upgrades to cargo port equipment had helped improve processing times and operational efficiency. For the cruise port, dredging and the construction of the "fifth berth" had enabled more frequent cruise arrivals; the authorities planned further dredging. They agreed with the criticality of flight connection in driving stayover arrivals, noting ongoing work to upgrade the V.C. Bird International Airport terminal. Efforts are also underway to expand open skies partnerships and attract more direct flights, particularly from new regions. The authorities noted that the Eastern Caribbean's loss of FAA Category 1 aviation status was a constraint on flight connectivity to the U.S., and looked forward to steps in the region to restore the status.

34. The authorities agreed that skills shortages remain an obstacle to business operations across the economy. They noted the continued expansion of the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus, as well the amalgamation of several training institutes into the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies (ABCAS), which they expected to make institutional training more efficient. They also highlighted the ongoing cooperation between the institutions and the corporate sector to ensure the availability of internship opportunities and enable the design of course programs better suiting employers' needs. They acknowledged that closing labor demand data gaps would facilitate understanding and narrowing of the skills gap.

D. Data Issues and Capacity Development

35. Despite recent improvements in data collection, capacity constraints remain an obstacle to data availability (Annex VIII). Data provision has shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance, with timeliness and reliability of some statistics still a concern. The previously postponed Population and Housing Census is underway, with the results expected to be finalized by end-2026. However, publication of the revised 2023 and first-release 2024 national accounts data

was delayed (2024 GDP was published in November 2025). The publication of 2023 labor force survey results and the implementation of the skills-in-demand survey have been postponed due to capacity constraints. Statistical discrepancies remain between the fiscal accounts and debt stock. External data statistics are published with significant delay and remain subject to sizeable revisions. More positively, the timeliness of reporting consumer price statistics has improved, albeit with the weights still outdated, and the electronic immigration card system was successfully implemented. The transition of the Statistics Division to the National Bureau of Statistics is progressing and should increase statistical capacity in the medium term.

36. Capacity development (CD) remains an integral part of the Fund’s engagement strategy with Antigua and Barbuda, along with bilateral and regional surveillance. The authorities’ recent policy efforts have drawn heavily on past FAD and CARTAC advice on tax policy and administration, debt management and SOE oversight, and statistics. Looking forward, key CD priorities include strengthening statistical capacity, debt management, and tax administration and fiscal reporting. Use of AI could facilitate data processing and government operations but would require enhancements in digital infrastructure and investment in human capital to help Antigua and Barbuda match its Latin American and Caribbean peers in terms of AI preparedness (Figure 5).

Authorities’ Views

37. The authorities concurred with the importance of addressing data challenges and improving data quality. They emphasized their active work on the Housing and Population Census, and expected to publish the 2023 Labor Force Survey later in 2026. They acknowledged persistent capacity constraints, and gaps including GDP by expenditure and labor market data, and requested further CD support. They noted that a lack of survey responses from businesses and households also contributed to data gaps.

STAFF APPRAISAL

38. Antigua and Barbuda’s economic expansion continues, amid long-standing debt challenges and heightened external risks. Following the rapid post-pandemic recovery, real GDP grew by an estimated 3 percent in 2025, supported by strong construction activity despite flat tourist arrivals. Staff projects growth to moderate to 2.8 percent in 2026 and to converge to 2½ percent over the medium term. Inflation moderated substantially in 2025 and is projected to stabilize at levels comparable to ECCU peers and the United States. The external position in 2025 is assessed as moderately weaker than implied by medium-term fundamentals and desirable policies. While revenue-enhancing measures and efforts to address debt challenges strengthened the fiscal position through 2025, further actions are needed to restore debt sustainability, address outstanding arrears, and reduce gross financing needs. Risks to the outlook remain tilted to the downside, reflecting prolonged global uncertainty and trade tensions; heightened financial and commodity market volatility—especially if higher oil prices are sustained; climate-related vulnerabilities; and potential fiscal underperformance amid capacity constraints. But improved sea

and air connectivity, the hosting of special events, and faster implementation of productivity-enhancing structural reforms are sources of upside potential.

39. Addressing arrears comprehensively is critical to restoring debt sustainability and broadening financing options. The decline in the public debt-to-GDP ratio since the pandemic is welcome. But outstanding arrears to the Paris Club and to domestic creditors remain obstacles to debt sustainability, and constrain Antigua and Barbuda's financing options. Gross financing needs are projected to remain elevated, reflecting reliance on shorter-term financing instruments pending completion of the LMO. Resolving existing debt challenges and broadening financing options is all the more important given the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and substantial adaptation and resilience-building investment needs.

40. Further revenue mobilization will be critical to strengthen fiscal buffers, which in turn would reduce debt and financing pressures, and help the authorities meet their fiscal framework targets. The improvements in the fiscal position in 2024–25 are welcome. That said, excluding one-off effects, core fiscal metrics have yet to fully align with the government's objectives of a tax-to-GDP ratio of 20 percent and primary surplus of 1½ to 2 percent to GDP. Despite recent progress, tax collections lag regional peers, and further revenue mobilization will be needed through continued efforts to broaden the tax base, improve ABST collection efficiency, accelerate reforms in customs and property taxes, and curtail exemptions. The recently announced temporary reduction of the ABST rate will reduce revenues, and promptly restoring the ABST rate is needed for progress towards the authorities' revenue objective. To improve tax administration, advancing IT system upgrades and implementing the planned large taxpayer unit can enhance compliance and operational efficiency. On the spending side, preserving fiscal space for growth-enhancing capital spending consistent with implementation capacity should be accompanied by restraint in current expenditures to preserve fiscal discipline, limit financing needs, and rebuild buffers.

41. Reforms to better target social assistance programs are a pressing need, while options for pension system reform should be kept open. Streamlining the fragmented social assistance programs and establishing a centralized beneficiary database are essential steps to improve targeting, reduce administrative duplication, and strengthen service delivery. Advancing these reforms will require stronger cooperation among relevant stakeholders. For the Social Security Fund, based on the findings of the forthcoming actuarial review, policy options should be kept open for addressing potential funding gaps, and safeguarding the system's solvency and resilience to evolving demographics.

42. The authorities should build on their recent efforts to strengthen fiscal institutions. Stronger fiscal institutions and oversight are vital to boost accountability, transparency, and policy credibility, while mitigating fiscal risks. The tabling in Parliament of the first FROC report and the MOF's restored SOE oversight function are welcome steps. Looking forward, staff encourages the regular publication of FROC reports, timely publication of audited fiscal accounts, sufficient resourcing of oversight bodies—including the SAI and SOE oversight function—and disclosure of key SOE financial data as capacity improves.

43. Strengthening the financial sector’s oversight, resilience, and intermediation requires both regional and national actions to promote inclusive growth while safeguarding stability.

At the regional level, the ECCB’s advances in prudential regulation and supervision, progress toward a deposit insurance scheme, and efforts to harmonize insurance regulation are welcome. Nationally, the shift to risk-based supervision of credit unions and efforts to bolster their provisioning and capital position should continue. To ease access to finance—a key concern for businesses—the launch of a regional credit bureau in Antigua and Barbuda will help reduce information asymmetries and expand credit access. Resolving government arrears to domestic suppliers could further improve firms’ financial health and creditworthiness. Greater awareness and use of the regional partial credit guarantee scheme and ongoing financial literacy initiatives can reduce perceived credit risk and improve borrower readiness—thereby unlocking credit to underserved sectors.

44. Improving connectivity is critical to expanding trade, boosting tourism, and enhancing competitiveness.

In the near term, priorities should be given to efficiency-enhancing measures, including cutting red tape on port and customs procedures, streamlining clearance processes, and strengthening digital systems. Over the medium term, targeted investments to modernize port and aviation infrastructure and expand capacity, would help address structural connectivity bottlenecks. Such investments should be carefully prioritized and sequenced to safeguard fiscal and debt sustainability. Over time, improved connectivity could help mitigate risks associated with highly concentrated sources of imports and tourism, build resilience against shocks in key external markets, and create new economic opportunities.

45. Addressing skills shortages remains important for boosting business activity and relaxing capacity constraints.

Continued cooperation between training institutions and businesses is critical for aligning the design of training courses with employers’ needs. Fostering individuals’ awareness of career prospects and training opportunities could help increase take-up of skills training, while educating businesses on the value of offering on-the-job training could increase the availability of internship opportunities. Regular labor force surveys and skills-in-demand survey are key to designing a more systematic approach to addressing skills shortages.

46. Improving data quality remains a pressing need to support evidence-based policymaking.

Critical gaps include unavailable GDP by expenditure data, long lags in publishing national accounts, outdated CPI weights, delayed labor force surveys, and lack of skills-in-demand survey. These shortcomings somewhat hamper surveillance, and domestic policymaking. Addressing capacity constraints, including staffing, and encouraging the public and business sector to raise survey participation, could help close these gaps.

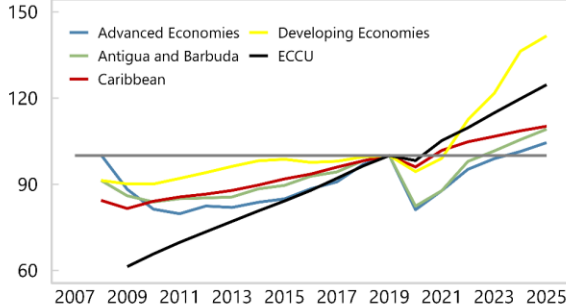
47. It is recommended that the next Article IV consultation with Antigua and Barbuda take place on the standard 12-month cycle.

Figure 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Economic Developments 1/

Antigua and Barbuda's economy has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, in line with regional trends...

Real GDP

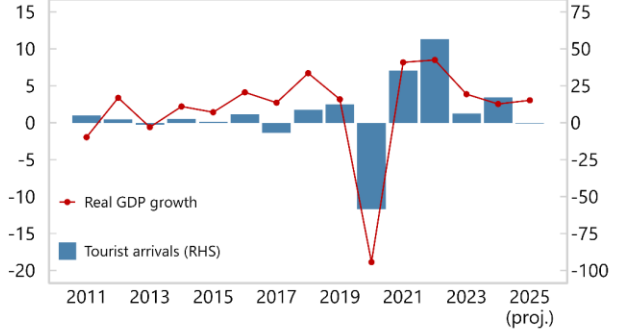
(Index, 2019 = 100)



...though growth in real GDP and tourism arrivals has moderated as capacity constraints become binding.

Tourist Arrivals and Real GDP Growth

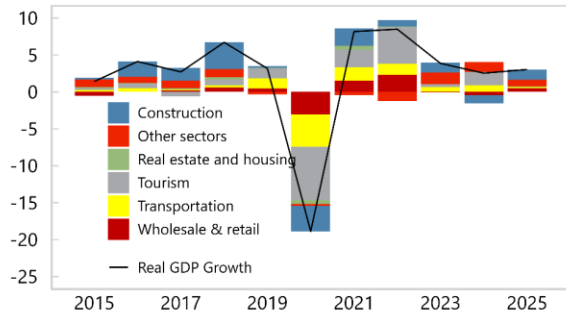
(Annual percentage change)



While the recent expansion has been broadly based, construction data have been volatile.

Contribution to Growth

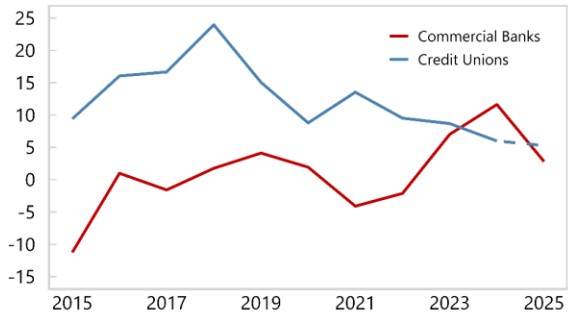
(Percentage Points)



The pace of credit expansion by banks and credit unions moderated in 2025.

Private Credit Growth

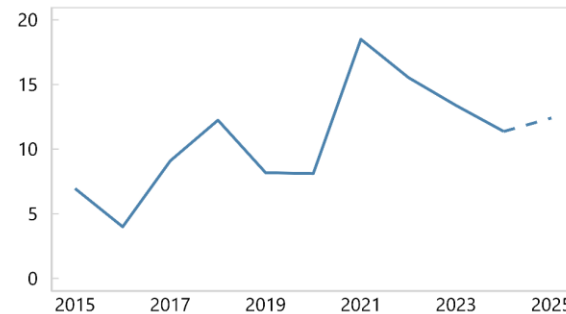
(Y-o-Y Percent Change)



FDI inflows remain above pre-pandemic levels.

Foreign Direct Investment

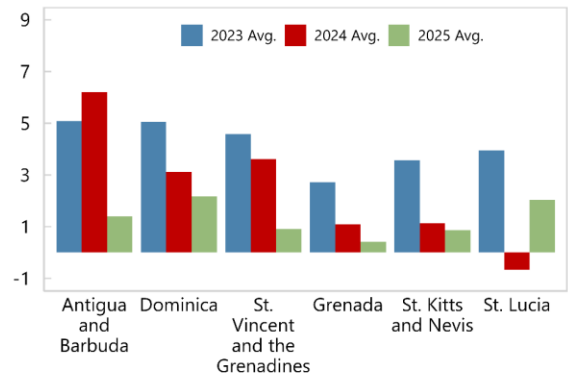
(Percent of GDP)



Inflation in Antigua and Barbuda jumped in 2024 but has since converged back to peer country levels.

Inflation Across ECCU-6

(Y-o-Y Percent Change)

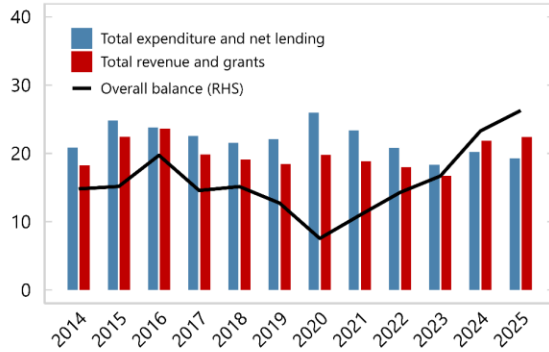


Sources: Country authorities, ECCB and IMF staff calculations.
1/ Estimates for 2025.

Figure 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Fiscal Sector Developments

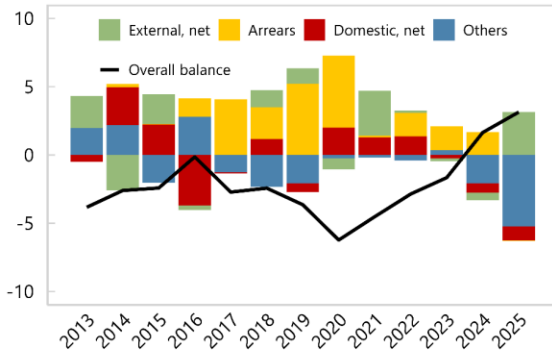
The fiscal deficit has been reined in since 2020, reflecting a mix of consolidation, and one-offs in 2024–25...

Fiscal Performance
(Percent of GDP)



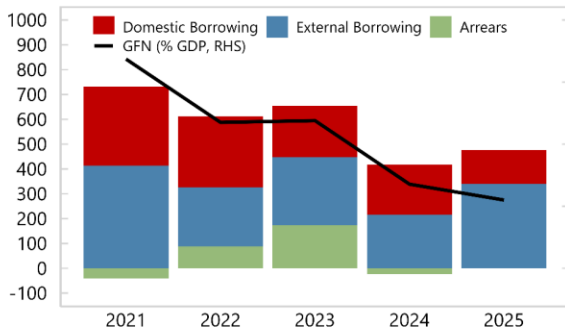
The overall fiscal surplus finances both domestic and external debt payments in 2024 and domestic debt payments in 2025.

Financing and Overall Balance
(Percent of GDP)



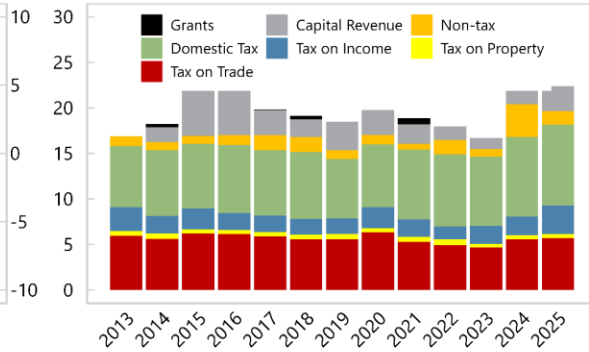
Gross financing needs have fallen from their peak but remain substantial.

Gross Financing Needs
(Million EC\$, Percent of GDP)



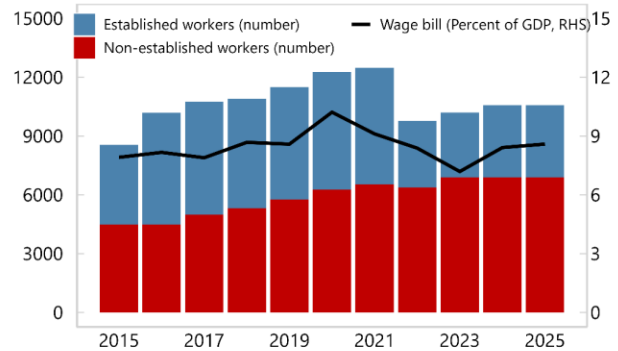
Revenues have been supported by the 2024 measures and one-off factors in both 2024 and 2025.

Revenue and Grants
(Percent of GDP)



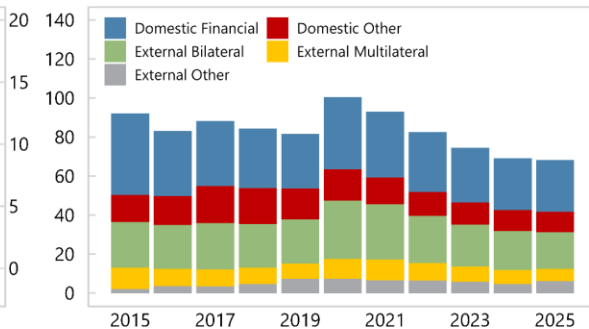
The wage bill in percent of GDP remains stable.

Public Employment and Wage Bill



The public debt burden has eased, reflecting both fiscal consolidation and limited new borrowing, but arrears persist.

Public Debt
(Percent of GDP)

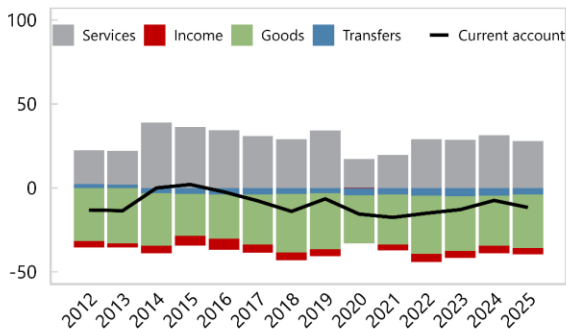


Sources: Country authorities, ECCB and IMF staff calculations.

Figure 3. Antigua and Barbuda: External Sector Developments 1/

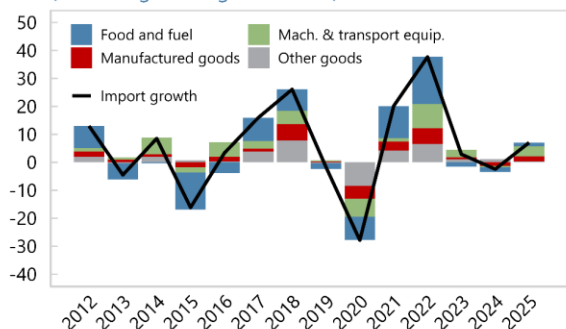
The current account deficit widened in 2025, coming from its lowest level since the pandemic...

Current Account Balance
(Percent of GDP)



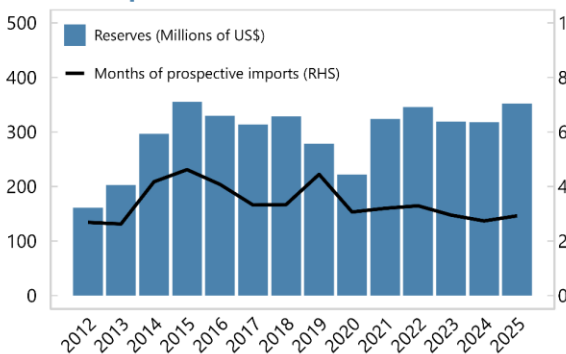
Goods imports recovered moderately over the course of 2025, along all major categories.

Contribution to Import Growth 2/
(Percentage Change of Values)



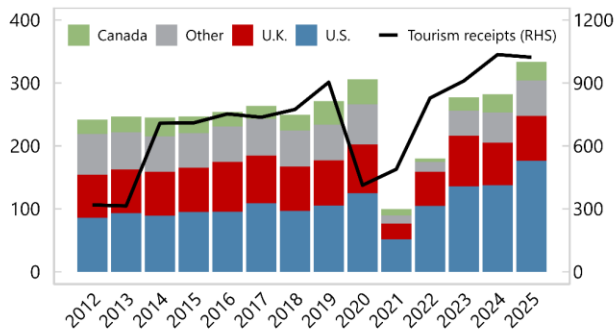
Reserve coverage as a share of prospective imports recovered slightly in 2025.

Net Imputed Reserves



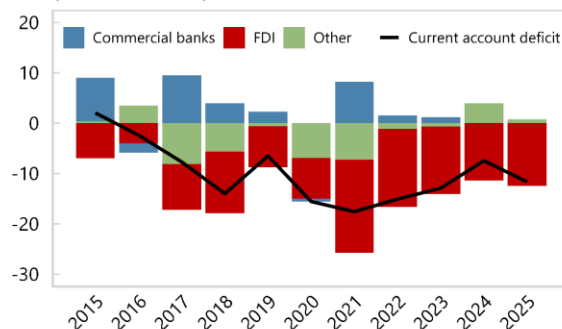
...as growth in tourism receipts slowed down.

Stayover Arrivals by Market and Tourism Receipts
(Thousands of Persons; Millions of US Dollars)



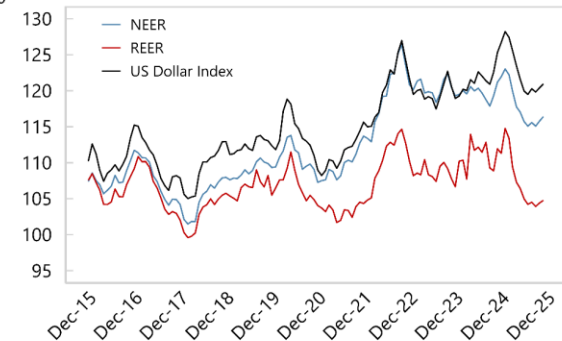
FDI continues to be the predominant source of financing the current account.

Current Account Financing
(Percent of GDP)



The real effective exchange rate depreciated during 2025, broadly reflecting movements in the US dollar.

Effective Exchange Rate
(Index, Dec 2014 = 100)

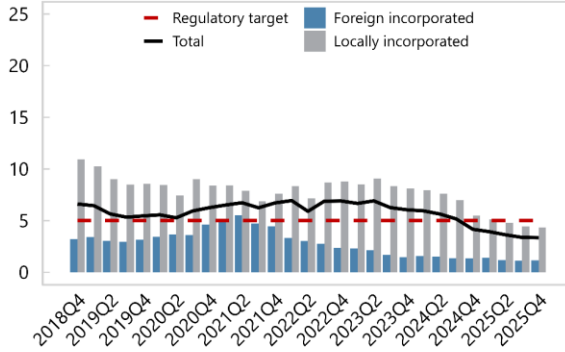


Sources: Country authorities, ECCB and IMF staff calculations.
1/ Estimates for 2025.
2/ Data rescaled to the full year for 2025.

Figure 4. Antigua and Barbuda: Banking System Performance

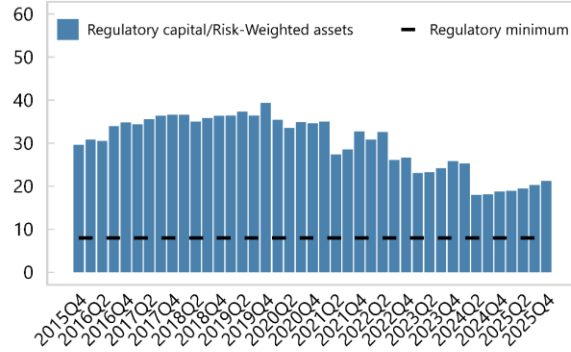
Banks' non-performing loans have declined, recently easing below the regulatory target of 5 percent...

Non-Performing Loans
(Commercial Banks; Percent of Total Loans)



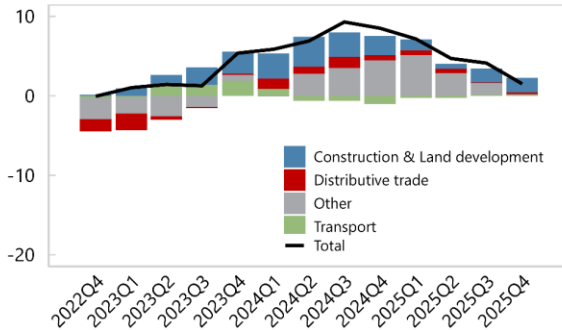
... and banks remain well capitalized.

Commercial Banks' Capital Adequacy
(Regulatory Capital/Risk Weighted Assets; Percent)



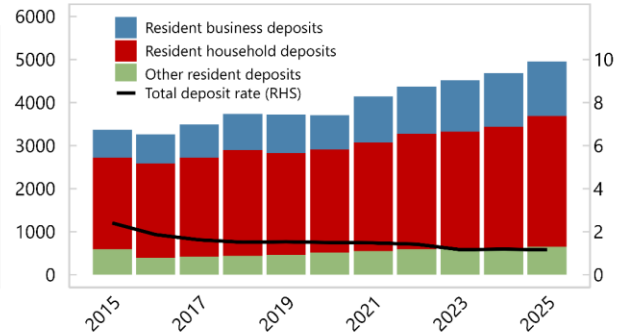
Growth in credit to the private sector has moderated following a pickup in 2024.

Commercial Bank Private Credit by Economic Activity
(Percent, contribution to growth)



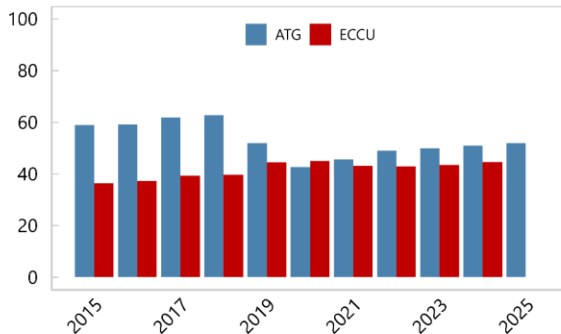
Household and business deposits have continued to grow steadily despite low deposit rates.

Commercial Banks Resident Deposits
(Millions of EC\$)



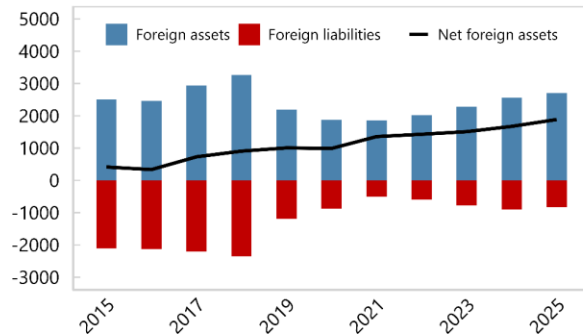
Liquidity ratios have gradually recovered since the pandemic, remaining above the ECCU average recently.

Liquid Assets to Liquid Liabilities
(Percent)



...while net foreign assets have also increased steadily.

Net Foreign Assets of Commercial Banks
(Millions of EC\$)



Sources: Country authorities, ECCB and IMF staff calculations.

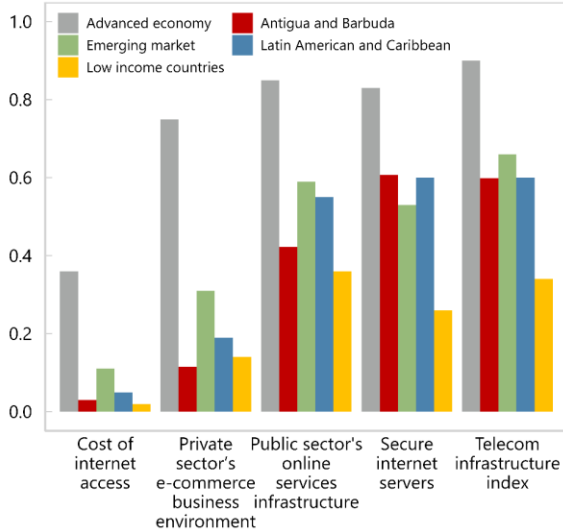
Figure 5. Antigua and Barbuda: Artificial Intelligence Preparedness

Antigua and Barbuda's AI infrastructure is lagging behind its peers due to expensive internet access and weaknesses in the private sector e-commerce business environment.

Antigua and Barbuda's AI-ready human capital is strong by peer country standards, but constrained by low public education expenditure.

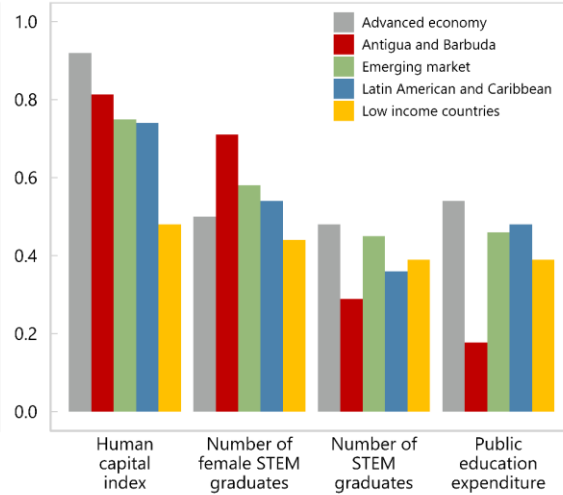
Digital Infrastructure

(Index)



Human Capital

(Index)

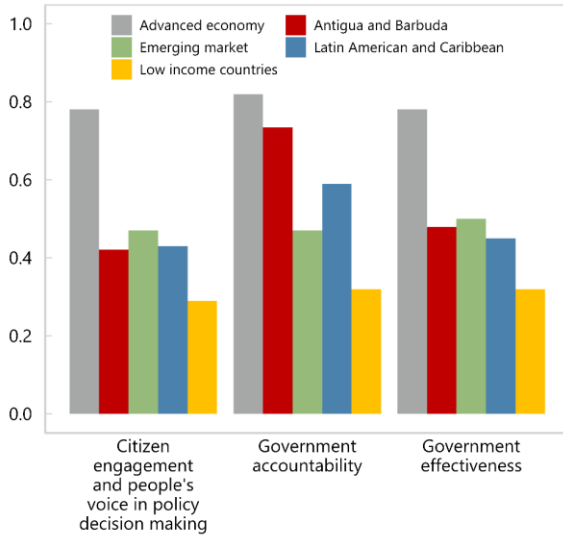


Antigua and Barbuda's Regulation and Ethics indicators are comparable with those of other Latin American and Caribbean countries; it has stronger indicators for government accountability.

Some but not all indicators used in the IMF's AI Preparedness Index are available for Antigua and Barbuda, with gaps mainly in the categories of Human Capital and Innovation and Economic Integration.

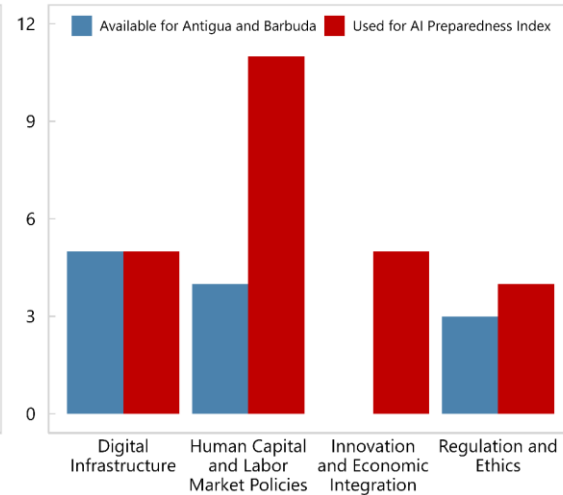
Regulation and Ethics

(Index)



Subindex Availability

(Number)



Sources: IMF.

Table 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Selected Economic and Financial Indicators

Population (2025)	104,993	Adult literacy rate (2015)	99								
GDP per capita (US\$, 2025)	21,650	Mean years of schooling (2022)	10.5								
Life expectancy at birth (years, 2022)	79.2	Human Development Index rank (2024, of 193 economies)	53								
Mortality rate (under 5, per 1,000 live births, 2022)	10										
	2021	2022	2023	2024	Est. 2025	Projections					
						2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
National Income and Prices	(Annual percentage change)										
Real GDP	8.2	8.5	3.9	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Nominal GDP	13.5	15.9	10.6	5.3	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Consumer prices (end of period)	1.2	9.2	3.3	5.4	3.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Consumer prices (period average)	1.6	7.5	5.1	6.2	1.4	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Money and Credit											
Net foreign assets 1/	18.2	3.3	0.2	3.7	6.7	2.5	2.3	3.2	2.6	2.3	1.9
Net domestic assets 1/	-4.4	1.3	3.2	0.9	-0.7	3.7	2.2	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.6
Broad money (M2)	13.9	4.6	3.3	4.6	5.9	6.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Credit to private sector	-4.1	-2.1	7.0	11.6	2.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Central Government	(Percent of GDP)										
Primary balance	-2.3	-0.3	0.5	4.0	4.9	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Overall balance	-4.5	-2.9	-1.7	1.6	3.1	-0.5	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Total revenue and grants	18.9	18.0	16.7	21.9	22.4	21.8	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8	20.7
Of which: Tax revenue	15.4	14.9	14.6	16.8	18.2	18.0	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.3
Total expenditure	23.4	20.8	18.4	20.2	19.3	22.3	22.1	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.6
External Sector											
Current account balance	-17.6	-15.1	-12.9	-7.5	-11.6	-10.9	-10.3	-9.8	-9.5	-9.2	-9.0
Trade balance	-29.6	-34.6	-32.4	-29.7	-31.8	-31.4	-30.9	-30.9	-30.7	-30.4	-30.5
Nonfactor service balance	19.5	29.0	28.7	31.3	27.9	27.7	28.0	28.5	28.8	28.8	29.2
Of which: Gross tourism receipts	30.5	44.6	44.3	47.9	45.0	44.7	45.1	46.1	46.6	46.7	47.2
Overall balance	3.5	-0.1	-2.4	-0.9	2.2	0.7	0.6	1.1	0.6	0.1	-0.8
External public sector debt	45.5	39.6	35.2	31.7	31.3	34.1	35.9	37.2	36.5	38.4	38.6
Savings-Investment Balance											
Savings	-17.6	-15.1	-12.9	-7.5	-11.6	-10.9	-10.3	-9.8	-9.5	-9.2	-9.0
Investment	28.4	25.2	23.8	25.9	24.4	25.3	25.5	25.4	25.3	25.1	24.9
Memorandum Items											
Net imputed international reserves (US\$ million)	324	346	319	318	352	397	441	456	463	497	540
(Months of prospective imports)	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.4
GDP at market prices (EC\$ million)	4,326	5,014	5,546	5,838	6,137	6,432	6,725	7,028	7,345	7,677	8,024
Public debt stock (EC\$ million) 2/, 3/	4,021	4,134	4,134	4,043	4,190	4,270	4,367	4,471	4,552	4,616	4,662
(Percent of GDP)	93.0	82.4	74.5	69.3	68.3	66.4	64.9	63.6	62.0	60.1	58.1

Sources: Country authorities, ECCB, UN Human Development Report, World Bank, and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ NDA and NFA are shown as changes in percent of M2 at beginning of period.

2/ Includes stock of principal and interest arrears, unpaid vouchers, and suppliers' credits.

3/ Includes central government guarantees of state enterprises' and statutory bodies' debt.

Table 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Central Government Debt

	2023			2024			2025		
	Stock	Percent of		Stock	Percent of		Stock	Percent of	
		Total Debt	GDP		Total Debt	GDP		Total Debt	GDP
(Outstanding debt including arrears; Millions of U.S. dollars, unless noted)									
Total Central Government Debt 1/	1,312.7	85.7	63.9	1,325.4	88.5	61.3	1,373.2	88.5	60.4
Central Government Domestic Debt	704.2	46.0	34.3	725.8	48.5	33.6	747.6	48.2	32.9
ECCB	45.5	3.0	2.2	40.7	2.7	1.9	26.5	1.7	1.2
Bank loans	143.1	9.3	7.0	166.8	11.1	7.7	205.3	13.2	9.0
<i>Of which: Overdraft</i>	11.6	0.8	0.6	15.5	1.0	0.7	11.2	0.7	0.5
Debt to statutory bodies	146.6	9.6	7.1	155.4	10.4	7.2	157.9	10.2	6.9
Medical Benefits Scheme	55.6	3.6	2.7	55.6	3.7	2.6	55.6	3.6	2.4
Social Security	91.0	5.9	4.4	99.9	6.7	4.6	102.3	6.6	4.5
Government securities	280.7	18.3	13.7	284.1	19.0	13.1	278.3	17.9	12.2
Suppliers' credits and others 2/	88.3	5.8	4.3	78.7	5.3	3.6	79.6	5.1	3.5
Central Government External Debt	608.4	39.7	29.6	599.6	40.0	27.7	625.7	40.3	27.5
Multilateral	160.5	10.5	7.8	149.9	10.0	6.9	142.6	9.2	6.3
Caribbean Development Bank	153.1	10.0	7.5	141.7	9.5	6.6	133.8	8.6	5.9
EIB	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0
World Bank	4.0	0.3	0.2	4.0	0.3	0.2	3.9	0.2	0.2
Bilateral	352.3	23.0	17.2	346.4	23.1	16.0	343.3	22.1	15.1
Paris Club	152.8	10.0	7.4	154.4	10.3	7.1	154.5	10.0	6.8
Non-Paris Club	199.5	13.0	9.7	192.0	12.8	8.9	188.8	12.2	8.3
Government securities	95.7	6.2	4.7	103.3	6.9	4.8	139.8	9.0	6.1
Government Guaranteed Domestic Debt	104.6	6.8	5.1	85.3	5.7	3.9	92.3	5.9	4.1
Government Guaranteed External Debt	113.8	7.4	5.5	86.8	5.8	4.0	86.4	5.6	3.8
Total Public Sector Debt	1,531.0	100.0	74.5	1,497.4	100.0	69.3	1,552.0	100.0	68.3

Sources: Country authorities and IMF staff calculations.

1/ Includes principal and interest arrears and reflects reconciliation of outstanding debt from statutory bodies.

2/ Includes vouchers for capital as well as for goods and services, and floating debt.

Table 3. Antigua and Barbuda: Central Government Gross Financing Needs

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Projections					
						2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
	(Millions of Eastern Caribbean dollars)										
Total Gross Financing Needs	729	589	660	396	337	614	666	748	775	784	962
(in percent of GDP)	16.9	11.8	11.9	6.8	5.5	9.6	9.9	10.6	10.5	10.2	12.0
Deficit Financing	196	143	92	-96	-193	31	68	68	69	72	75
Central Government External Amortization	272	228	286	250	290	300	395	419	489	539	663
Multilateral	34	35	39	53	43	51	56	54	55	49	46
Bilateral Paris Club	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bilateral non-Paris Club	7	23	19	25	23	29	39	46	35	38	40
Securities	231	171	227	172	225	220	261	236	257	237	280
Additional securities to close financing gap	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	83	142	215	297
Central Government Domestic Amortization	262	218	282	242	240	283	204	261	216	172	225
Commercial Banks	23	16	25	12	44	66	22	23	24	26	28
ECCB	78	44	77	88	63	42	17	8	4	0	0
Securities	144	158	179	126	124	159	161	214	172	130	181
Financing Sources	786	501	487	378	477	425	439	452	411	375	443
External	414	237	275	216	340	304	313	270	278	259	301
IMF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caribbean Development Bank	101	23	21	21	20	44	33	17	0	0	0
World Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abu Dhabi Fund for Development	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0
Securities	238	214	247	192	321	210	254	232	257	237	280
ALBA Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CARICOM/IDB	1	0	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SDR	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Other bilateral	0	0	0	0	0	44	21	21	21	21	21
Domestic	317	286	206	202	137	121	126	182	133	117	142
Commercial banks	44	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECCB	46	61	0	75	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
Securities	227	205	206	127	112	121	126	182	133	117	142
Change in Deposits	39	-22	6	-40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central Government Sale/Purchase of Domestic Assets 1/	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financing Discrepancy/Gaps 2/	-56	88	173	0	0	190	226	296	364	409	519
Valuation adjustment, write off, and debt relief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
Financing gap 2/	-56	88	173	17	-140	190	226	296	364	409	519

Sources: Country authorities and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ In 2021, reflects the government's sale of 10 percent of its equity stake in the state oil company (WIOC).

2/ Financing gaps for 2026 and beyond. Discrepancy for 2025 and before. Financing gaps are assumed to be filled by unidentified long-term financing sources.

Table 4a. Antigua and Barbuda: Central Government Operations
(Millions of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Est. 2025	Projections					
						2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Total Revenue and Grants	816	900	926	1,277	1,375	1,404	1,415	1,472	1,531	1,594	1,660
Current revenue	694	827	859	1,190	1,207	1,254	1,264	1,321	1,379	1,443	1,508
Tax Revenue	667	747	811	980	1,115	1,158	1,164	1,216	1,270	1,329	1,389
o/w Income	83	71	108	119	191	186	140	146	153	160	167
o/w Domestic Production and Consumption	331	397	421	510	547	594	627	655	684	715	748
o/w AB Sales Tax	242	242	330	418	441	483	511	534	558	583	609
o/w Stamp duties	69	64	59	54	66	70	73	76	79	83	87
o/w International Transactions	229	248	259	324	348	346	363	379	395	414	433
o/w Import duties	93	110	113	124	127	136	145	151	158	166	174
o/w Revenue Recovery Charge (RRC)	74	91	99	109	115	119	124	129	135	139	146
o/w Consumption duties	48	35	34	60	70	74	77	81	84	89	93
o/w Taxes on Property	24	31	22	27	29	33	34	36	37	39	41
Non-Tax Revenue	28	79	49	210	91	96	100	105	109	114	119
Capital revenue	93	74	67	87	168	150	151	152	152	152	152
o/w CIP revenue	91	68	62	74	158	120	120	120	120	120	120
Total grants	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current grants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital grants 1/	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	1,012	1,043	1,018	1,181	1,182	1,435	1,483	1,540	1,600	1,667	1,735
Total primary expenditure	915	914	901	1,043	1,077	1,301	1,348	1,402	1,457	1,518	1,580
Current expenditure	912	922	920	1,103	1,073	1,205	1,247	1,301	1,358	1,419	1,482
Primary current expenditure	816	793	803	965	976	1,070	1,112	1,162	1,215	1,270	1,327
Wages and salaries	394	420	399	491	527	505	521	544	569	595	622
Employment contributions 2/	38	35	38	70	50	52	55	57	60	63	65
Goods and services, incl. utilities	130	134	145	158	145	231	242	253	264	276	288
Pensions	70	73	63	70	79	83	87	91	95	99	104
Other transfers	183	130	158	175	174	199	208	217	227	237	248
Capital expenditure and net lending	99	121	98	78	101	231	236	240	243	248	253
Interest payments	97	129	117	138	97	135	135	138	143	149	155
External	47	54	51	57	40	38	45	53	62	72	81
Domestic	50	75	67	81	57	97	89	85	81	77	74
Primary Balance	-99	-14	25	234	298	104	67	70	73	77	80
Overall Balance	-196	-143	-92	96	193	-31	-68	-68	-69	-72	-75
Financing	196	143	92	-96	-193	31	68	68	69	72	75
External (net)	142	9	-11	-33	194	4	-81	-150	-211	128	157
Disbursement	414	237	275	216	494	304	313	270	278	667	820
Amortization 3/	-272	-228	-286	-250	-300	-300	-395	-419	-489	-539	-663
Domestic (net)	110	46	-7	-83	-83	-163	-77	-79	-83	-55	-83
Banks	22	4	-25	-12	-44	-66	-22	-23	-24	-26	-28
Government securities	83	47	28	1	-12	-38	-34	-32	-39	-13	-38
Changes in deposits (increase -)	39	-22	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	-34	16	-17	-72	-26	-58	-21	-24	-20	-16	-16
Sales of assets 4/	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statistical discrepancy	-78	2	13	-77	-301	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financing Gap	0	0	0	0	0	190	226	296	364	409	519
Central government debt stock	3,433	3,529	3,544	3,579	3,708	3,746	3,827	3,908	3,991	4,072	4,157
Central government debt (incl. guarantees)	4,021	4,134	4,134	4,043	4,190	4,270	4,367	4,471	4,552	4,616	4,662
Change in arrears 5/	6	86	98	98	-2	-2	13	1	2	-3	10
GDP at market prices	4,326	5,014	5,546	5,838	6,137	6,432	6,725	7,028	7,345	7,677	8,024

Sources: Country authorities and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ For 2021, reflects EC\$29 million in arrears write-off by Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (RBTT).

2/ Includes contributions to social security, medical benefits, and education.

3/ Projection reflects amortization due (accrual basis).

4/ In 2021, reflects the government's sale of 10 percent of its equity stake in WIOC.

5/ Includes interest and amortization arrears, unpaid vouchers to domestic creditors, personnel payables, and unpaid contributions. For 2021, reflects EC\$29 million in arrears write-off by RBTT.

Table 4b. Antigua and Barbuda: Central Government Operations
(In percent of GDP)

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Prel. 2025	Projections					
						2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Total Revenue and Grants	18.9	18.0	16.7	21.9	22.4	21.8	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8	20.7
Current revenue	16.1	16.5	15.5	20.4	19.7	19.5	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.8
Tax Revenue	15.4	14.9	14.6	16.8	18.2	18.0	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.3
o/w Income	1.9	1.4	2.0	2.0	3.1	2.9	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
o/w Domestic Production and Consumption	7.6	7.9	7.6	8.7	8.9	9.2	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3	9.3
o/w AB Sales Tax	5.6	4.8	5.9	7.2	7.2	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6
o/w Stamp duties	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
o/w International Transactions	5.3	4.9	4.7	5.6	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4
o/w Import duties	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2
o/w Revenue Recovery Charge (RRC)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
o/w Consumption duties	1.1	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
o/w Taxes on Property	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Non-Tax Revenue	0.6	1.6	0.9	3.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Capital revenue	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.5	2.7	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9
o/w CIP revenue	2.1	1.4	1.1	1.3	2.6	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.5
Total grants	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Current grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Capital grants 1/	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Expenditure	23.4	20.8	18.4	20.2	19.3	22.3	22.1	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.6
Total primary expenditure	21.1	18.2	16.2	17.9	17.5	20.2	20.0	20.0	19.8	19.8	19.7
Current expenditure	21.1	18.4	16.6	18.9	17.5	18.7	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5
Primary current expenditure	18.9	15.8	14.5	16.5	15.9	16.6	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5
Wages and salaries	9.1	8.4	7.2	8.4	8.6	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.7
Employment contributions 2/	0.9	0.7	0.7	1.2	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Goods and services, incl. utilities	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.4	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
Pensions	1.6	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Other transfers	4.2	2.6	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1
Capital expenditure and net lending	2.3	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1
Interest payments	2.2	2.6	2.1	2.4	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9
External	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.0
Domestic	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
Primary Balance	-2.3	-0.3	0.5	4.0	4.9	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Overall Balance	-4.5	-2.9	-1.7	1.6	3.1	-0.5	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-0.9
Financing	4.5	2.9	1.7	-1.6	-3.1	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
External (net)	3.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.6	3.2	0.1	-1.2	-2.1	-2.9	1.7	2.0
Disbursement	9.6	4.7	5.0	3.7	8.0	4.7	4.7	3.8	3.8	8.7	10.2
Amortization 3/	-6.3	-4.5	-5.2	-4.3	-4.9	-4.7	-5.9	-6.0	-6.7	-7.0	-8.3
Domestic (net)	2.5	0.9	-0.1	-1.4	-1.3	-2.5	-1.1	-1.1	-1.1	-0.7	-1.0
Banks	0.5	0.1	-0.4	-0.2	-0.7	-1.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4
Government securities	1.9	0.9	0.5	0.0	-0.2	-0.6	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.2	-0.5
Changes in deposits (increase -)	0.9	-0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Others	-0.8	0.3	-0.3	-1.2	-0.4	-0.9	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.2	-0.2
Sale of assets 4/	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Statistical discrepancy	-1.8	0.0	0.2	-1.3	-4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financing Gap	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	3.4	4.2	5.0	5.3	6.5
Memorandum Items:											
Central government debt stock	79.4	70.4	63.9	61.3	60.4	58.2	56.9	55.6	54.3	53.0	51.8
Central government debt (incl. guarantees)	93.0	82.4	74.5	69.3	68.3	66.4	64.9	63.6	62.0	60.1	58.1
Change in arrears 5/	0.1	1.7	1.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
GDP market prices	4,325.7	5,014.2	5,546.1	5,838.4	6,137.4	6,432.0	6,724.9	7,027.9	7,345.0	7,676.9	8,024.2

Sources: Country authorities and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ For 2021, it reflects EC\$29 million (equal to 0.7 percent of GDP) in arrears write-off by Republic Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (RBTT).

2/ Includes contributions to social security, medical benefits, and education.

3/ Projection reflects amortization due (accrual basis).

4/ In 2021, it reflects the government's sale of 10 percent of its equity stake in WIOC.

5/ Includes interest and amortization arrears, unpaid vouchers to domestic creditors, personnel payables, and unpaid contributions. For 2021, reflects EC\$29 million (equal to 0.7 percent of GDP) in arrears write-off by RBTT.

Table 5. Antigua and Barbuda: Balance of Payments

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Est.	Projections					
					2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
	(Million of US Dollars)										
Current Account	-281.6	-280.1	-265.1	-161.2	-264.7	-260.6	-256.4	-255.7	-257.2	-261.9	-266.5
Trade balance	-474.7	-642.3	-666.0	-643.2	-722.3	-748.8	-769.5	-803.7	-836.1	-865.2	-905.1
Exports (f.o.b.)	50.6	82.7	84.4	93.4	98.7	96.2	100.6	105.1	109.9	114.8	120.0
Imports (f.o.b.)	525.2	725.0	750.5	736.6	821.0	845.0	870.1	908.8	945.9	980.1	1,025.2
Non-factor services balance	312.5	539.4	589.0	677.2	633.4	660.3	696.3	741.9	784.1	820.1	866.8
<i>Of which</i> : Gross tourist receipts	488.9	828.3	910.0	1,035.5	1,022.6	1,065.8	1,124.3	1,199.5	1,268.4	1,326.8	1,403.2
Income (net)	-54.0	-91.7	-85.5	-96.1	-84.4	-62.8	-68.9	-74.5	-80.5	-86.4	-91.8
<i>Of which</i> : Interest on public sector debt	-15.7	-13.6	-16.9	-38.5	-15.2	-15.5	-20.3	-24.6	-29.1	-33.5	-37.0
Current transfers (net)	-65.4	-85.5	-102.5	-99.2	-91.4	-109.3	-114.2	-119.4	-124.8	-130.4	-136.3
Capital and Financial Account	225.7	274.2	312.5	159.7	264.7	260.6	256.4	255.7	257.2	261.9	266.5
Capital Account	38.3	25.4	27.0	29.4	50.6	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.4
Capital transfers	38.3	25.4	27.0	29.4	50.6	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.4	44.4
Financial Account	-187.4	-248.7	-285.4	-130.3	-214.1	-216.1	-211.9	-211.3	-212.8	-217.4	-222.0
a. Official flows	-55.3	-32.7	-4.1	21.3	-50.2	-59.3	-45.0	-38.2	-37.6	-24.8	-21.4
Portfolio liabilities	-2.4	-15.3	-9.6	-3.0	-26.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Public sector loans	-52.9	-17.5	5.5	24.3	-23.9	-59.3	-45.0	-38.2	-37.6	-24.8	-21.4
<i>Of which</i> : Central government	-27.7	-7.6	-2.4	0.8	-26.5	-33.9	-22.0	-22.6	-29.4	-24.0	-28.0
<i>Of which</i> : Public sector corporations	-141.2	-93.4	-93.7	-72.8	-118.7	-133.4	-140.9	-130.7	-140.0	0.0	0.0
Disbursements	141.2	93.4	93.7	72.8	118.7	163.7	176.9	177.8	198.0	197.9	231.1
Amortization (-)	88.4	75.9	99.2	97.1	94.8	104.4	131.9	139.6	160.3	173.1	209.7
b. Non-official flows 1/	-187.7	-214.2	-231.8	-133.9	-206.2	-204.1	-219.0	-248.6	-248.6	-228.6	-230.1
Foreign direct investment (net)	-296.4	-288.5	-274.7	-245.8	-282.0	-230.1	-230.1	-230.1	-230.1	-230.1	-230.1
Portfolio investment (net)	-0.4	59.3	47.2	69.5	75.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other private (net)	109.1	15.0	-4.2	42.4	0.0	25.9	11.1	-18.5	-18.5	1.5	0.0
<i>Of which</i> : Commercial banks	131.2	29.1	23.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
c. Overall Balance 2/	55.6	-1.9	-49.6	-18.5	50.5	47.3	52.1	75.6	73.5	67.1	59.1
Financing	-55.6	1.9	49.6	18.5	-50.5	-47.3	-52.1	-75.6	-73.5	-67.1	-59.1
Change in imputed international reserves (increase -) 3/	-102.1	-22.3	27.1	0.9	-42.5	-45.0	-44.0	-62.3	-53.8	-49.6	-42.5
Net use of IMF resources	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Caribbean Development Bank financing (net)	25.0	-4.2	-6.6	-11.5	-7.9	-2.1	-7.9	-13.0	-19.4	-17.3	-16.4
World Bank financing (net)	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2
Other IFIs (net)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special Drawing Rights	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
External Financing Gap 4/	...	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.2	36.0	47.2	58.0	65.1	82.7
Errors and Omissions	55.9	5.9	-47.4	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	(Percent of GDP, unless otherwise indicated)										
Memorandum items:											
Current account	-17.6	-15.1	-12.9	-7.5	-11.6	-10.9	-10.3	-9.8	-9.5	-9.2	-9.0
<i>Of which</i> :											
Exports, goods	3.2	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Imports, goods	32.8	39.0	36.5	34.1	36.1	35.5	34.9	34.9	34.8	34.5	34.5
Export, services	40.9	55.4	53.5	57.2	53.1	52.8	53.2	54.3	54.9	54.9	55.6
<i>Of which</i> :											
Gross tourist receipts	30.5	44.6	44.3	47.9	45.0	44.7	45.1	46.1	46.6	46.7	47.2
Imports, services	21.4	26.4	24.9	25.9	25.2	25.1	25.3	25.8	26.1	26.1	26.4
Export growth (annual percent change)	36.1	63.5	2.1	10.6	5.7	-2.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Import growth (annual percent change)	19.3	38.0	3.5	-1.8	11.5	2.9	3.0	4.5	4.1	3.6	4.6
Foreign direct investment (net, percent of GDP)	18.5	15.5	13.4	11.4	12.4	9.7	9.2	8.8	8.5	8.1	7.7
Net imputed international reserves (percent of GDP) 2/	20.2	18.7	15.6	14.7	15.5	16.7	17.7	17.5	17.0	17.5	18.2
Net imputed international reserves (US\$ million) 3/	323.8	346.1	319.0	318.1	351.6	396.6	440.6	456.2	463.3	497.3	539.8
Net imputed international reserves (in months of prospective imports)	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.4
GDP at market prices (US\$ million)	1,602	1,857	2,054	2,162	2,273	2,382	2,491	2,603	2,720	2,843	2,972

Sources: Country authorities, ECCB, and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ Net acquisition of assets. A positive sign means an outflow of funds.

2/ Overall balance includes financing sources from changes in reserves, and net borrowings from IFIs.

3/ Assumes external financing gap is filled.

4/ The part of the synthetic instrument that will be financed by external investors.

Table 6. Antigua and Barbuda: Monetary Survey

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Projections					
						2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
(Million of Eastern Caribbean Dollars)											
Net Foreign Assets	2,231	2,363	2,371	2,531	2,834	2,956	3,075	3,117	3,136	3,228	3,343
Antigua and Barbuda, imputed reserves	874	935	861	859	949	1,071	1,190	1,232	1,251	1,343	1,457
Commercial banks' net foreign assets	1,356	1,429	1,509	1,673	1,885	1,885	1,885	1,885	1,885	1,885	1,885
Net Domestic Assets	1,783	1,835	1,968	2,007	1,974	2,154	2,268	2,340	2,447	2,576	2,738
Net credit to public sector	638	635	677	696	758	696	675	654	632	608	582
Claims on central government (net) 1/	481	502	486	521	583	521	501	480	457	433	407
ECCB net credit to central government	114	130	120	95	58	59	60	60	61	61	62
Commercial banks' net credit to government	367	373	366	426	524	462	441	420	397	372	345
Net credit to other public sector	156	133	191	175	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
Credit to private sector	1,965	1,924	2,059	2,298	2,362	2,492	2,617	2,748	2,885	3,029	3,181
Other items (net)	-820	-724	-767	-986	-1,146	-1,034	-1,024	-1,062	-1,070	-1,061	-1,025
Monetary Liabilities (M2) 1/	4,014	4,198	4,338	4,539	4,808	5,110	5,343	5,583	5,835	6,099	6,375
Money (M1)	1,217	1,227	1,516	1,641	1,770	1,855	1,940	2,027	2,119	2,214	2,314
Quasi-money	2,796	2,971	2,823	2,898	3,038	3,255	3,403	3,556	3,717	3,885	4,060
(Change in percent of M2 at beginning of period)											
Net Foreign Assets	18.2	3.3	0.2	3.7	6.7	2.5	2.3	3.2	2.6	2.3	1.9
Antigua and Barbuda, imputed reserves	7.8	1.5	-1.7	-0.1	2.0	2.5	2.3	3.2	2.6	2.3	1.9
Commercial banks' net foreign assets	10.4	1.8	1.9	3.8	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Domestic Assets	-4.4	1.3	3.2	0.9	-0.7	3.7	2.2	1.4	1.9	2.2	2.6
Credit to public sector (net)	2.1	-0.1	1.0	0.4	1.4	-1.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Claims on central government	-0.3	0.5	-0.4	0.8	1.4	-1.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Credit to rest of the public sector	2.4	-0.6	1.4	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Credit to private sector	-2.4	-1.0	3.2	5.5	1.4	2.7	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5
Other items (net)	-4.3	2.4	-1.0	-5.0	-3.5	2.3	0.2	-0.7	-0.1	0.2	0.6
(12-month percentage change)											
Broad Money	13.9	4.6	3.3	4.6	5.9	6.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Money (M1)	13.8	0.8	23.5	8.2	7.9	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Quasi-money	13.9	6.2	-5.0	2.7	4.8	7.1	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Memorandum Items:											
Income velocity of M2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Credit to private sector (net)	-4.1	-2.1	7.0	11.6	2.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
(Percent of GDP)											
Credit to private sector	45.4	38.4	37.1	39.4	38.5	38.7	38.9	39.1	39.3	39.5	39.6
GDP at market prices (EC\$ million)	4,326	5,014	5,546	5,838	6,137	6,432	6,725	7,028	7,345	7,677	8,024

Sources: Country authorities, ECCB, and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank revised the methodology used in the compilation of monetary and financial Statistics in 2020 by sectoring the National Insurance Scheme and Public Nonfinancial Corporations (Group 1) within general government, resulting in changes to some aggregates including central government deposits and broad money.

Table 7. Antigua and Barbuda: Financial Soundness Indicators (Banks)

	Dec 2019	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Mar 2024	Jun 2024	Sep 2024	Dec 2024	Mar 2025	Jun 2025	Sep 2025	Dec 2025
Capital adequacy													
Capital adequacy ratio (CAR) 1/	39.4	34.6	32.8	26.7	25.8	25.3	18.1	18.1	18.7	18.9	19.5	20.3	21.2
Tier-1 CAR 2/	31.9	28.6	27.9	21.3	19.9	18.9	12.1	12.0	14.7	13.7	13.4	15.0	16.8
Asset quality													
Nonperforming loans (NPLs) to total gross loans	5.3	7.4	7.8	6.9	6.1	6.0	4.5	4.1	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.4
Total provisions to NPLs	58.7	90.0	84.3	88.8	87.7	87.9	92.5	98.9	119.8	118.9	130.6	132.7	0.0
Net NPLs to capital 3/	17.3	18.4	17.6	7.2	5.0	4.5	-1.6	-3.3	-2.3	-1.9	-3.2	-3.4	-3.7
Resident Loans/Total Loans	88.8	91.4	91.1	90.1	91.0	90.6	91.3	90.1	90.6	90.5	91.4	91.3	92.9
Liquid asset to total assets	46.4	36.9	40.5	43.6	44.1	45.9	45.4	44.9	44.2	44.8	45.5	44.8	44.4
Return on assets (ROA)	1.4	0.4	0.7	0.8	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4

Sources: Country authorities and IMF staff calculations.

1/ Regulatory capital to risk-weighted assets

2/ Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets

3/ Net NPLs = NPLs - provisions

Table 8. Antigua and Barbuda: Financial Soundness Indicators (Credit Unions)

	Dec 2020	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	Mar 2025	Jun 2025	Sep 2025
Capital adequacy								
Institutional Capital/Total Assets	11.2	10.3	10.4	10.5	10.4	10.2	10.2	10.5
Asset Quality								
Provision for Loan Loss/Non performing loans	26.3	74.9	79.7	68.2	82.2	89.6	55.5	54.6
Non performing loans/Total Loans	8.5	5.6	6.7	7.2	6.9	6.4	10.2	9.6
Liquid asset to total assets 1/	16.8	17.2	22.0	18.2	20.5	22.0	23.6	23.2
Net interest income/total assets	4.3	5.3	1.5	4.7	4.7	1.2	2.2	3.4

Sources: Country authorities and IMF staff calculations.

1/ Liquid assets refer to the sum of liquid investments and credit union savings, checking or current accounts at commercial banks

Annex I. Sovereign Risk and Debt Sustainability Analysis

Antigua and Barbuda's public debt-to-GDP ratio has continued its downward trend since the pandemic, driven by economic recovery, improvements in the primary balance, and upward revisions to GDP. While public debt is projected to decline in staff's baseline consistent with meeting the regional debt target (60 percent by 2035), the debt stock is likely to be revised upward once the authorities complete their validation of domestic arrears to suppliers. Public debt remains unsustainable due to the large stock of outstanding arrears—which are not projected to be cleared under the baseline within the current projection horizon—and high gross financing needs. If these financing needs are not fully met, new arrears are likely to accumulate over the medium term. Debt dynamics could deteriorate if economic growth slows below potential, fiscal performance falters, financing conditions worsen, or if natural disaster risks materialize. Restoring debt sustainability will require a mix of fiscal measures, a comprehensive arrears clearance plan in the context of improved cash and debt management, and structural fiscal reforms.

- 1. Debt dynamics have improved, but gross financing needs remain high.** The public debt-to-GDP ratio has steadily declined from its recent peak of 101 percent in 2020, helped by the strong post-pandemic economic recovery, improved fiscal balances, and the upward revision of historical GDP data owing to a rebasing of nominal GDP. The debt ratio is estimated to have eased to around 68 percent in 2025 and is projected to continue decreasing based on primary fiscal surpluses and a favorable GDP growth-interest rate differential. In staff's baseline scenario, the debt ratio is projected to fall below 60 percent by 2031, consistent with the ECCU regional debt target (below 60 percent by 2035). However, amortization obligations keep gross financing needs high (over 10 percent of GDP), and medium-term financing gaps remain sizable.
- 2. Domestic and external arrears are significant.** As of end-2025, data from the authorities indicate domestic arrears amounting to approximately 6 percent of GDP and external arrears to Paris Club creditors totaling around 7 percent of GDP.
- 3. The baseline debt level likely underestimates the true debt burden due to unaccounted domestic arrears to suppliers.** The authorities are continuing to validate potential domestic arrears to suppliers, based on transactions identified during a May 2024 CARTAC technical assistance mission. The debt stock is expected to be revised upward to reflect the total amount of those arrears once they are determined (the contingent liability shock in Annex I Figure 2 illustrates a plausible magnitude). The authorities are also developing a strategy for arrears clearance, which for domestic arrears may include offsetting arrears with creditors' unpaid tax obligations. However, while the authorities have engaged with Paris Club creditors, they have not so far elaborated a strategy for addressing Paris Club arrears.
- 4. The baseline scenario and debt sustainability assessment reflect several assumptions.** Pending the authorities' further engagement with Paris Club creditors, the scenario assumes arrears to the Paris Club remain unpaid and continue to accumulate. All arrears to Paris Club creditors and other unresolved domestic and external arrears are included in the debt stock throughout the

projection horizon. The stock of arrears to the Paris Club is assumed to grow by 3 percent per year after 2025, which is when the entire restructured amounts fall due as per the country's 2010 agreement with Paris Club creditors.

5. It is also assumed that a synthetic instrument covers the financing gap throughout the projection horizon. The baseline scenario assumes that this instrument has a 5.5 percent interest rate and a 5-year maturity, maintaining the assumption from recent staff reports that also showed financing gaps during the projection period. Banks are not assumed to absorb the financing gap fully: while they may have sufficient liquidity, doing so would further increase their already sizable sovereign exposure relative to Tier 1 Capital (see Annex V).

- Over the previous four years for which outturns are available (2022–25), staff projected *ex ante* financing gaps averaging close to EC\$230 million annually, or roughly 4 percent of GDP. Specifically, projected gaps were EC\$220 million for 2022 (2022 Article IV Staff Report, Table 2), EC\$227 million for 2023, EC\$309 million for 2024 (2023 Article IV Staff Report, Table 2), EC\$228 million for 2025 (2025 Article IV Staff Report, Table 3).
- *Ex post*, in 2022–23, the financing gaps were closed but not all financing was fully identified, consistent with increases in documented arrears in those years. Undocumented arrears to domestic suppliers may have also increased, although their exact amount is not yet known as those arrears are still being validated by the authorities. Identifying the exact amount of those arrears would help to better account for the historical financing discrepancies.
- *Ex post*, in 2024–25, the financing gaps were closed by a combination of improved fiscal outturns (including a one-off receipt from a large asset forfeiture in 2024), and higher than projected issuance of securities including from the regional debt market (RGSM)—which enabled the government to continue financing its activities in those years despite limited external financing options.

6. Staff assesses adaptation and resilience building costs to be high over the long term. The estimated costs of adaptation and resilience building investments amount to around 1.6 percent of GDP annually, including 1.5 percent of GDP in coastal protection.¹ Although there is considerable uncertainty surrounding these estimates, the country's vulnerability to natural disasters suggests that the actual needs for adaptation and resilience building could be even greater.

¹ These estimates are based on the 2019 ECCU SIP (Building Ex-Ante Resilience to Natural Disasters: Eastern Caribbean Currency Union: Selected Issues Paper) and are in line with staff estimates of approximately 1.8 percent of GDP annually for adaptation costs related to sea-level rise in the 2025 Article IV consultation (Annex VII. Adaptation and Resilience Building in Antigua and Barbuda).

Annex I. Table 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Risk of Sovereign Stress

Horizon	Mechanical signal	Final assessment	Comments
Overall	...	High	The overall risk is assessed to be high, reflecting vulnerabilities in the near-, medium-, and long-term horizons.
Near term 1/	n.a.	n.a.	The near-term risk assessment was not undertaken because of the presence of arrears.
Medium term	Moderate	High	Mechanical signals suggest moderate risk based on the Fanchart and GFN methodologies. The actual risks are likely underestimated for the following reasons: (i) the gross financing needs do not capture the full financing implications of arrears; and (ii) synthetic instrument, for which no source is identified, is used as a financing instrument to close the financing gaps.
Fanchart	Moderate	...	
GFN	Moderate	...	
Stress test	...	...
Long term	...	High	In the long term, standardized scenario with staff adjusted estimate for adaptation coastal protection costs suggests significant impact on GFN and debt dynamics. Long-term risks are high as the country has high exposure to natural disasters and contingent liabilities.
Sustainability assessment 2/		Unsustainable	The mechanical signals downplay the risks because gross financing needs do not fully capture the potential financing implications associated with repayment of arrears and low share of identified financing among financing sources.
Debt stabilization in the baseline			Yes
DSA Summary Assessment			
<p>While debt is expected to decline over the medium term, the mechanical signals downplay the risks because gross financing needs do not fully capture the potential financing implications associated with the repayment of external and domestic arrears. Public debt is deemed to be unsustainable due to the large outstanding stock of arrears—which are not projected to be cleared under the baseline within the current projection horizon—and high gross financing needs. If these financing needs are not fully met, new arrears are likely to accumulate over the medium term. Debt dynamics could deteriorate if economic growth slows below potential, fiscal performance falters, financing conditions worsen, or if natural disaster risks materialize.</p>			
Source: Fund staff.			
<p>Note: The risk of sovereign stress is a broader concept than debt sustainability. Unsustainable debt can only be resolved through exceptional measures (such as debt restructuring). In contrast, a sovereign can face stress without its debt necessarily being unsustainable, and there can be various measures—that do not involve a debt restructuring—to remedy such a situation, such as fiscal adjustment and new financing.</p>			
<p>1/ The near-term assessment is not applicable in cases where there is a disbursing IMF arrangement. In surveillance-only cases or in cases with precautionary IMF arrangements, the near-term assessment is performed but not published.</p>			
<p>2/ A debt sustainability assessment is optional for surveillance-only cases and mandatory in cases where there is a Fund arrangement. The mechanical signal of the debt sustainability assessment is deleted before publication. In surveillance-only cases or cases with IMF arrangements with normal access, the qualifier indicating probability of sustainable debt ("with high probability" or "but not with high probability") is deleted before publication.</p>			

Annex I. Table 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Debt Coverage and Disclosures

						Comments
1. Debt coverage in the DSA: 1/						
	CG	GG	NFPS	CPS	Other	
1a. If central government, are non-central government entities insignificant?						0
2. Subsectors included in the chosen coverage in (1) above:						
Subsectors captured in the baseline						Inclusion
CPS	NFPS	GG: expected	CG	1	Budgetary central government	Yes
				2	Extra budgetary funds (EBFs)	No
				3	Social security funds (SSFs)	Yes
				4	State governments	NO
				5	Local governments	NO
				6	Public nonfinancial corporations	Yes
				7	Central bank	NO
				8	Other public financial corporations	no
3. Instrument coverage:						
	Currency & deposits	Loans	Debt securities	Oth acct. payable 2/	IPSGSs 3/	
4. Accounting principles:						
Basis of recording			Valuation of debt stock			
	Non-cash basis 4/	Cash basis	Nominal value 5/	Face value 6/	Market value 7/	
5. Debt consolidation across sectors:						
	Consolidated	Non-consolidated				

Legend: ■ chosen coverage ■ Missing from recommended coverage ■ Not applicable

Reporting on Intra-government Debt Holdings

Holder		Budget. central govt	Extra-budget. funds	Social security funds	State govt.	Local govt.	Nonfin. pub. corp.	Central bank	Oth. pub. fin corp	Total		
CPS	NFPS	GG: expected	CG	1	Budget. central govt						0	
				2	Extra-budget. funds							0
				3	Social security funds							0
				4	State govt.							0
				5	Local govt.							0
				6	Nonfin pub. corp.							0
				7	Central bank							0
				8	Oth. pub. fin. corp							0
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

1/ CG=Central government; GG=General government; NFPS=Nonfinancial public sector; PS=Public sector.

2/ Stock of arrears could be used as a proxy in the absence of accrual data on other accounts payable.

3/ Insurance, Pension, and Standardized Guarantee Schemes, typically including government employee pension liabilities.

4/ Includes accrual recording, commitment basis, due for payment, etc.

5/ Nominal value at any moment in time is the amount the debtor owes to the creditor. It reflects the value of the instrument at creation and subsequent economic flows (such as transactions, exchange rate, and other valuation changes other than market price changes, and other volume changes).

6/ The face value of a debt instrument is the undiscounted amount of principal to be paid at (or before) maturity.

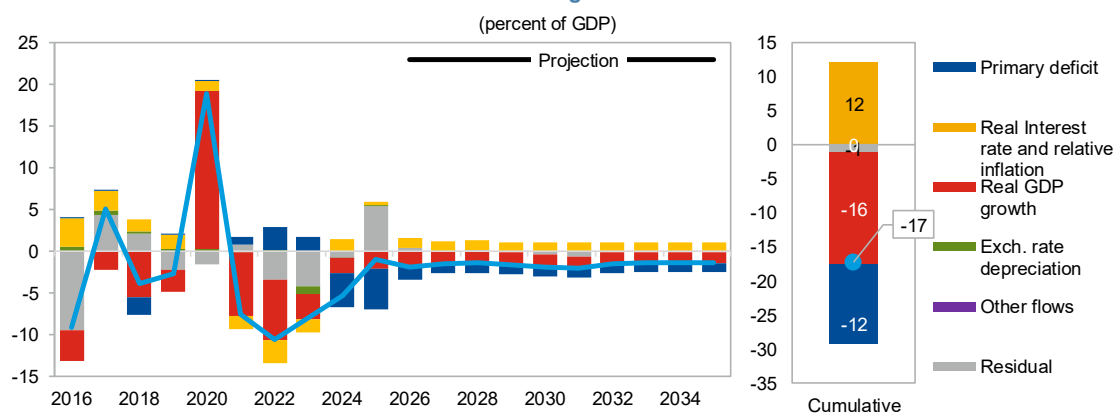
7/ Market value of debt instruments is the value as if they were acquired in market transactions on the balance sheet reporting date (reference date). Only traded debt securities have observed market values.

Commentary: Debt covers the central government as well as central government guaranteed debt of state-owned enterprises and statutory bodies. Gross financing needs only cover the central government due to the lack of information on state-owned enterprise primary balances.

Annex I. Table 3. Antigua and Barbuda: Baseline Scenario
(Percent of GDP unless otherwise indicated)

	Actual	Medium-term projection						Extended projection			
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Public debt	68.3	66.4	64.9	63.6	62.0	60.1	58.1	56.6	55.2	53.8	52.4
Change in public debt	-1.0	-1.9	-1.4	-1.3	-1.6	-1.8	-2.0	-1.5	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4
Contribution of identified flows	-6.4	-2.3	-1.5	-1.5	-1.5	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3
Primary deficit	-4.9	-1.6	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
Noninterest revenues	22.4	21.8	21.0	21.0	20.8	20.8	20.7	20.6	20.5	20.3	20.3
Noninterest expenditures	17.5	20.2	20.0	20.0	19.8	19.8	19.7	19.6	19.5	19.3	19.3
Automatic debt dynamics	-1.6	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Real interest rate and relative inflation	0.4	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Real interest rate	0.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Relative inflation	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Real growth rate	-2.0	-1.9	-1.7	-1.6	-1.6	-1.5	-1.5	-1.4	-1.4	-1.4	-1.3
Real exchange rate	0.1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other identified flows	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contingent liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
(minus) Interest Revenues	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other transactions	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contribution of residual	5.4	0.4	0.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.4	-0.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Gross financing needs	5.9	10.7	11.5	12.1	12.3	12.1	14.0	12.8	12.6	12.5	12.4
of which: debt service	10.8	12.3	12.5	13.1	13.3	13.1	15.0	13.8	13.6	13.5	13.4
Local currency	9.1	10.2	10.1	10.4	10.6	10.3	12.1	11.6	11.8	11.8	11.8
Foreign currency	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6
Memo:											
Real GDP growth (percent)	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Inflation (GDP deflator; percent)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Nominal GDP growth (percent)	5.1	4.8	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Effective interest rate (percent)	2.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0

Contribution to Change in Public Debt

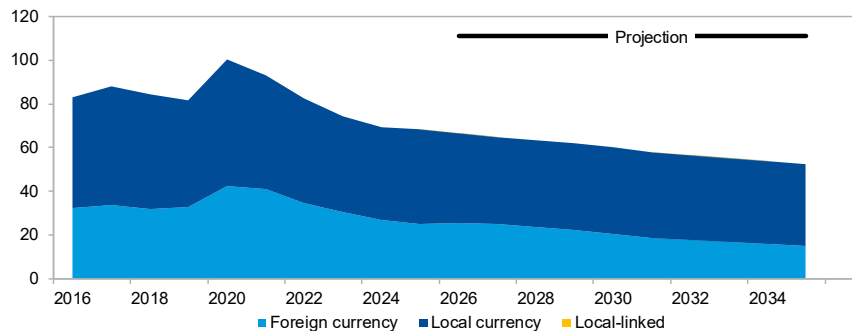


Staff Commentary: Debt stock is expected to decline as a share of GDP due to a favorable real interest-growth differential as well as fiscal effort. Gross financing needs are underestimated because they do not fully capture the potential financing implications associated with repayment of arrears.

Annex I. Figure 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Public Debt Structure Indicators (Percent of GDP)

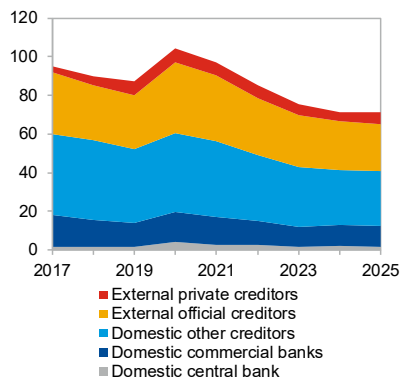
Public debt structure indicators

Debt by currency (percent of GDP)



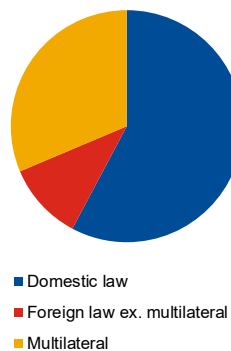
Note: The perimeter shown is central government.

Public debt by holder (percent of GDP)



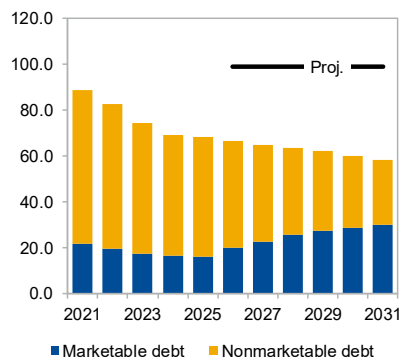
Note: The perimeter shown is general government.

Public debt by governing law, 2025 (percent)



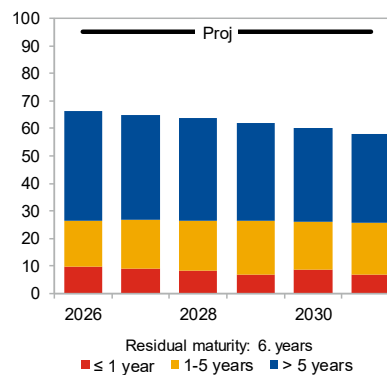
Note: The perimeter shown is general government.

Debt by instruments (percent of GDP)



Note: The perimeter shown is general government.

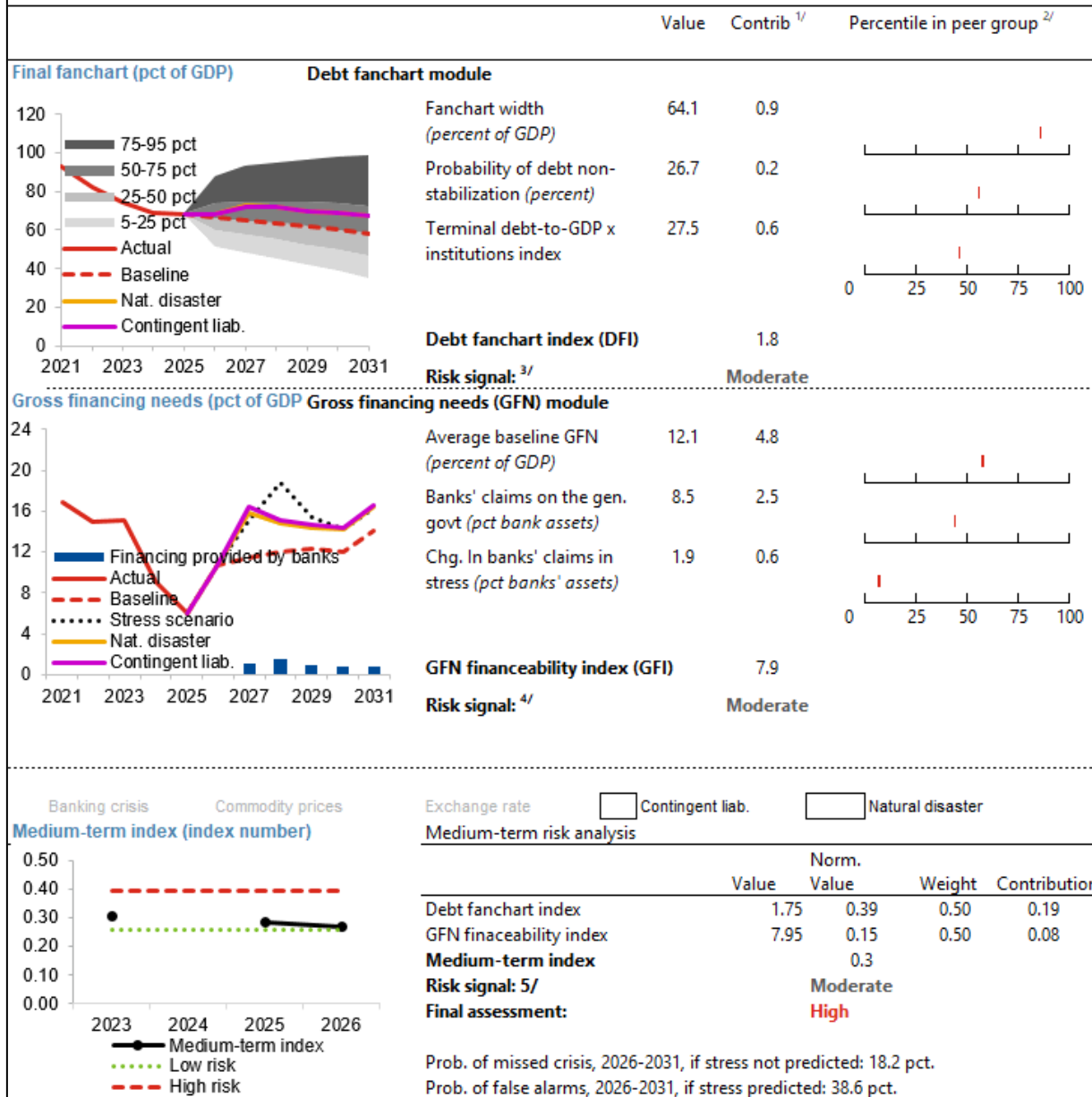
Public debt by maturity (percent of GDP)



Note: The perimeter shown is general government.

Annex I. Figure 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Medium-Term Risk Analysis: Debt Fan Chart and GFN Financeability Indexes

(Percent of GDP unless otherwise indicated)



Staff Commentary: Mechanical signals from Debt Fanchart Module and GFN Financeability Model point to moderate levels of risk. Final medium-term risk assessment is high considering large stock of arrears and limited access to financing.

Source: IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ See Annex IV of IMF, 2022, Staff Guidance Note on the Sovereign Risk and Debt Sustainability Framework for details on index calculation.

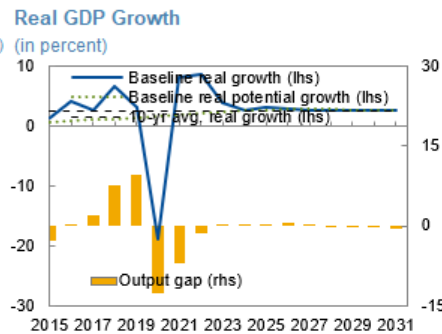
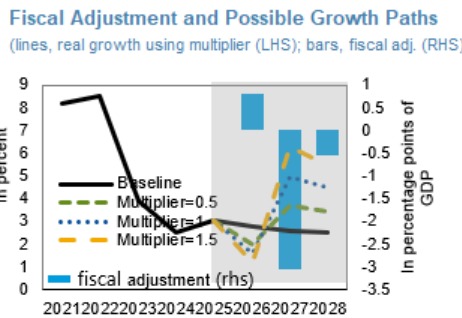
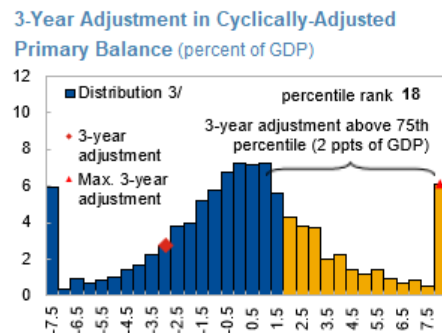
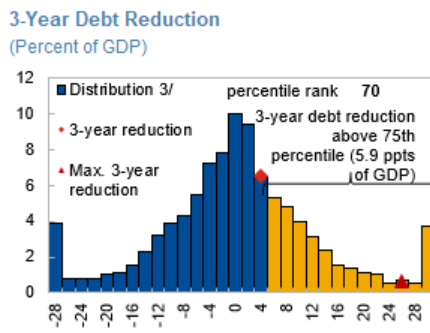
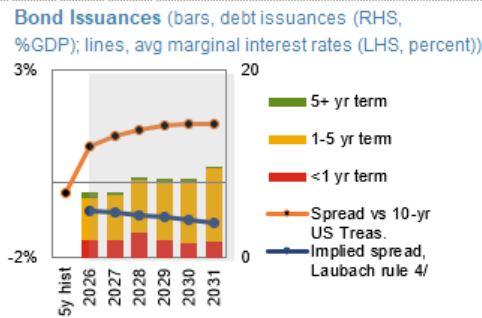
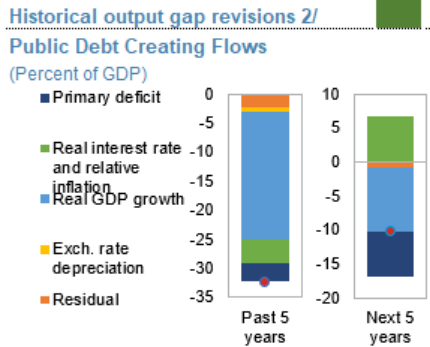
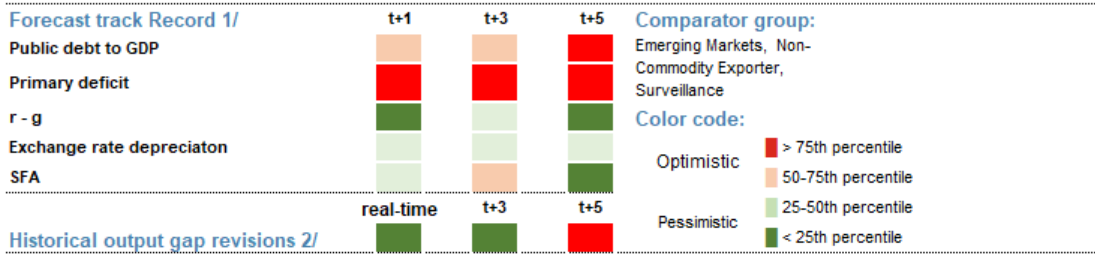
2/ The comparison group is emerging markets, non-commodity exporter, surveillance.

3/ The signal is low risk if the DFI is below 1.13; high risk if the DFI is above 2.08; and otherwise, it is moderate risk.

4/ The signal is low risk if the GFI is below 7.6; high risk if the DFI is above 17.9; and otherwise, it is moderate risk.

5/ The signal is low risk if the GFI is below 0.26; high risk if the DFI is above 0.40; and otherwise, it is moderate risk.

Annex I. Figure 3. Antigua and Barbuda: Realism of Baseline Assumptions



Commentary: As a tourism dependent country, Antigua and Barbuda's economic contraction during the COVID-19 pandemic far exceeded those experienced historically or by its comparator group (non-commodity exporting emerging markets). As the economy has been recovering strongly, projected reduction in debt-to-GDP is larger than the historical averages and those of the comparator group.

Source : IMF Staff.

1/ Projections made in the October and April WEO vintage.

2/ Calculated as the percentile rank of the country's output gap revisions (defined as the difference between real time/period ahead estimates and final estimates in the latest October WEO) in the total distribution of revisions across the data sample.

3/ Data cover annual observations from 1990 to 2019 for MAC advanced and emerging economies. Percent of sample on vertical axis.

4/ The Laubach (2009) rule is a linear rule assuming bond spreads increase by about 4 bps in response to a 1 ppt increase in the projected debt-to-GDP ratio.

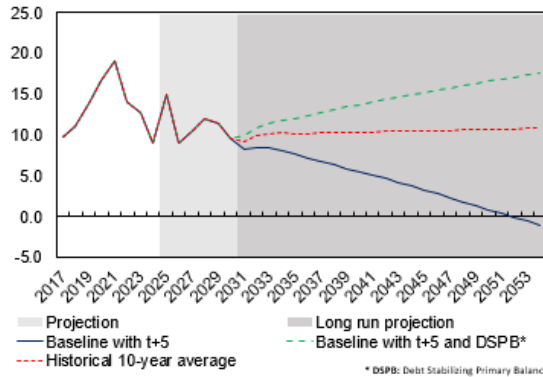
Annex I. Figure 4. Antigua and Barbuda: Long-Term Risk Modules

Large Amortization Trigger

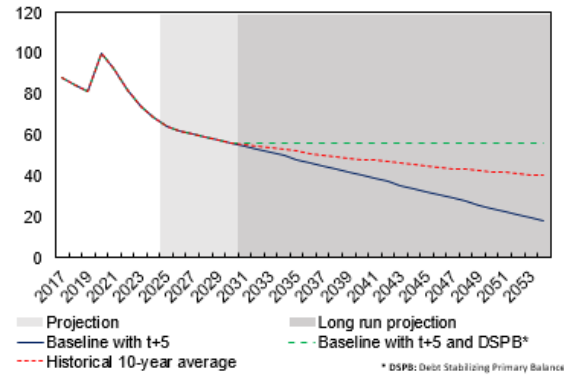
Projection	Variable	Risk Indication
Medium-term extrapolation	GFN-to-GDP ratio	Green
	Amortization-to-GDP ratio	
	Amortization	
Medium-term extrapolation with debt stabilizing	GFN-to-GDP ratio	Red
	Amortization-to-GDP ratio	
	Amortization	
Historical average assumptions	GFN-to-GDP ratio	Green
	Amortization-to-GDP ratio	
	Amortization	
Overall Risk Indication		Green

Alternative Baseline Long-term Projections

GFN-to-GDP ratio



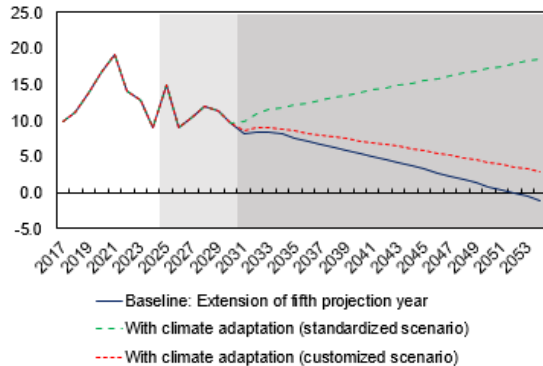
Total public debt-to-GDP ratio



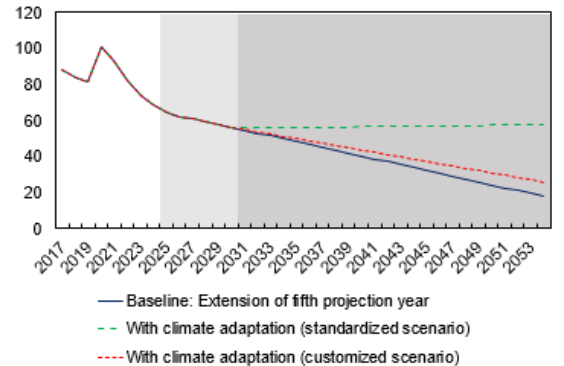
Commentary: Alternative baseline long-term scenarios assuming a primary balance in line with historical averages or with the debt stabilizing primary balance will result in an increasing GFN path and a stable debt-to-GDP ratio.

Climate Change: Adaptation

GFN-to-GDP ratio



Total public debt-to-GDP ratio



Commentary: In the long term, standardized scenario with staff adjusted estimate for adaptation coastal protection costs suggests significant impact on GFN and debt dynamics. The estimates inputted to the module related to costs of climate adaptation investments add up to around 1.6 percent of GDP, which includes 1.5 percent of GDP of coastal protection cost estimate based on 2019 SIP (Building Ex-Ante Resilience to Natural Disasters (Eastern Caribbean Currency Union: Selected Issues Paper (imf.org))) as staff believes that the default estimate on this may be too low relative to the country's needs for resilience building (though uncertainty around the climate adaptation cost estimates is substantial). This estimate is also consistent with staff estimates of approximately 1.8 percent of GDP annually for adaptation costs related to sea-level rise, using the CIAM model from the 2025 Article IV Consultation.

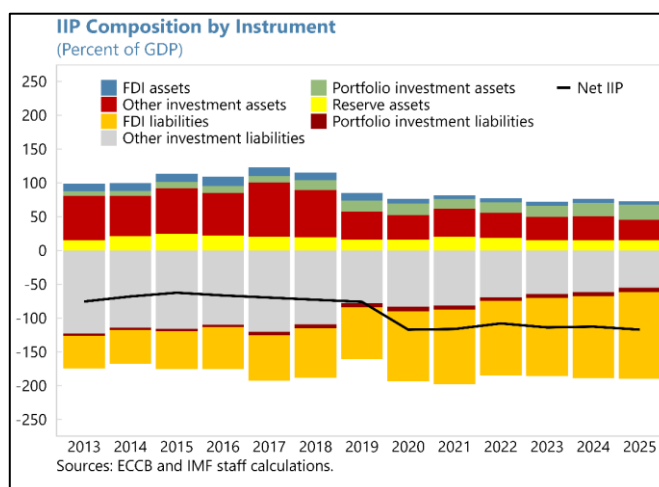
Annex II. External Sector Assessment

Overall Assessment: Based on preliminary data and EBA-lite model results, the external position of Antigua and Barbuda in 2025 is assessed as moderately weaker than implied by fundamentals and desirable policies. The assessment is subject to considerable data-related uncertainties, including sizable errors and omissions and historical revisions.¹

Potential Policy Responses: To help reduce external imbalances, near-term policies should facilitate further fiscal adjustment and rebuilding buffers. Since Antigua and Barbuda is part of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU),² further revenue-side fiscal consolidation will be key to the broader strategy to restore debt sustainability, and to raise the saving-investment balance. External sustainability is underpinned by FDI inflows. Structural reforms that enhance flight and shipping connectivity, reduce energy and freight costs, mitigate labor force skills mismatches and retention, and strengthen natural disaster resilience, can help improve competitiveness, the external position, and long-term growth prospects.

Foreign Assets and Liabilities: Position and Trajectory

Background. Pre-pandemic (2013-19), the net IIP averaged around -70 percent of GDP. It fell sharply in 2020 and has since recovered slowly, remaining below pre-pandemic levels. For 2025, the net IIP is estimated at -117 percent of GDP. The asset side comprises mainly other investment assets and reserve assets; the liability side comprises mainly FDI and other investment liabilities. FDI inflows have remained resilient in recent years, partly driven by a large mega resort project.



Assessment. The net IIP has been financed by FDI (mainly hotel and resort projects), without giving rise to external stability concerns despite tighter global financial conditions and higher global uncertainty in the past year. However, public debt remains unsustainable due to the large stock of outstanding arrears, to Paris Club as well as domestic creditors (Annex I).

2025 (% GDP)	NIIP:	Gross Assets:	Debt Assets:	Gross Liabilities:	Debt Liabilities:
	-117.1	72.6	51.4	-189.7	-69.5

¹ Data gaps include tourist expenditure surveys for cruise and yacht tourist, discrepancies between fuel imports for the domestic economy versus those for re-export, and FDI inflows stemming from citizenship-by-investment (CIP).

² Antigua and Barbuda is an ECCU member country. Imputed reserves are calculated for each member country as the difference between the country's reserve money (currency issued in the country) and net domestic assets (net claims of the ECCB on the government and the country's commercial banks). The forthcoming Staff Report for the ECCU consultation will include the currency-union external assessment, which is not expected to affect the assessment of potential policy responses for Antigua and Barbuda.

Current Account

Background. The current account (CA) balance deteriorated sharply during the pandemic—from -6½ percent of GDP in 2019 to -18 percent in 2021—and has since improved as tourism has recovered. Preliminary data for 2024 indicate a CA balance of around -7.5 percent of GDP—a narrowing of more than 5 percentage points of GDP from 2023—owing to a contraction in fuel imports as well as strong tourism. The CA balance is estimated to widen to around -11.6 percent of GDP in 2025—corresponding to a cyclically adjusted CA balance of -10.1 percent of GDP after accounting for cyclical contributions—reflecting the ongoing if temporary impacts from resilient and higher-than-expected FDI inflows and a rebound in imports. The service trade balance is projected to align more closely with historical averages over the short and medium term.

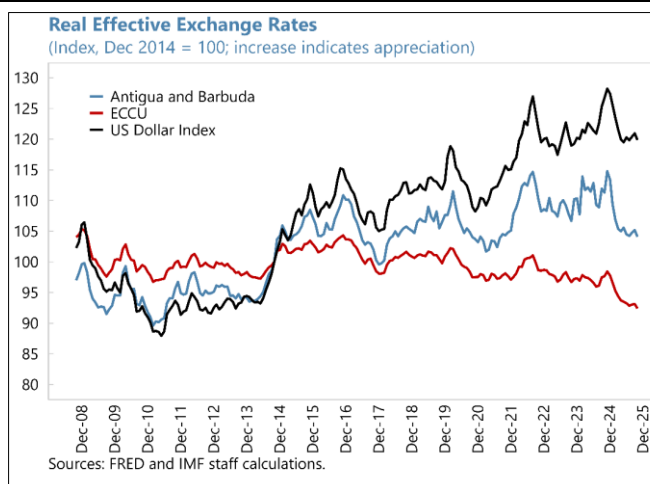
Assessment. The EBA-lite CA model—which is generally preferred over the REER model for Antigua and Barbuda given its superior historical performance—estimates a multilaterally consistent cyclically adjusted CA norm of -8.5 percent of GDP and a CA gap of -1.7 percent of GDP in 2025. Staff expects the CA balance to improve gradually over the medium term as FDI inflows normalize and import growth tapers. In this context, staff assesses the external position to be moderately weaker than implied by fundamentals and desirable policies.

EBA-lite Model Results, 2025		
	CA model 1/	REER model 1/
	(in percent of GDP)	
CA-Actual	-11.6	
Cyclical contributions (from model) (-)	-0.3	
Additional temporary/statistical factors (-) 2/	-1.2	
Adjusted CA	-10.1	
CA Norm (from model) 3/	-8.5	
Adjusted CA Norm	-8.5	
CA Gap	-1.7	-5.9
o/w Relative policy gap	2.8	
Elasticity	-0.4	
REER Gap (in percent)	3.9	13.9

1/ Based on the EBA-lite 3.0 methodology.
 2/ FDI in 2025 exceeded pre-pandemic projections by 3.3 of GDP on the back of multi-year FDI projects. This is estimated to increase the CA deficit by 1.2 percent.
 3/ Cyclically adjusted, including multilateral consistency adjustments.

Real Exchange Rate

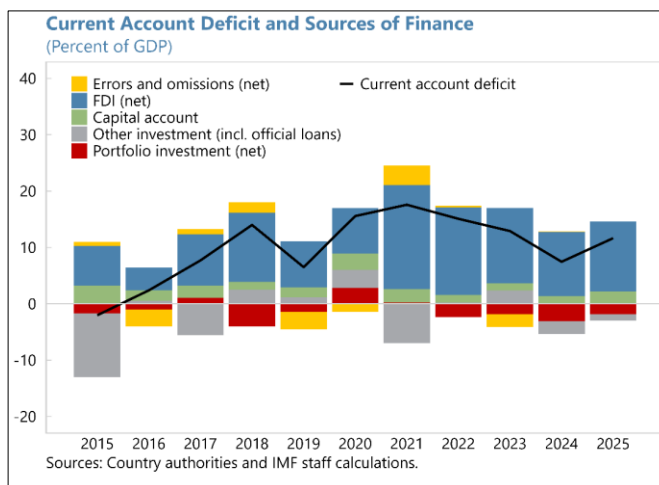
Background. Historically, the real effective exchange rate (REER) has largely tracked movements in the U.S. dollar index, given the currency peg. Following an appreciation trend post-pandemic—reflecting higher inflation in Antigua and Barbuda compared to its trading partners—the REER depreciated during 2025, mirroring the depreciation of the USD. The gap between Antigua and Barbuda and its ECCU peers’ REERs remains, partially driven by the inflation differential. Persistently higher prices, especially in hotels/restaurants, may lead to some deterioration in price competitiveness in the tourism sector compared to ECCU peers. Reducing input costs—particularly energy and freight costs (¶30 and Annex VI)—through efforts to cut red tape and advance digitalization would improve competitiveness.



Assessment. The EBA-Lite Index-REER model suggests an overvaluation of 14 percent. However, it does not have sufficient granularity to capture the determinants of Antigua and Barbuda’s currency fluctuations. The exchange rate gap is, hence, evaluated based on the CA model. Based on the staff-estimated elasticity of CA to REER of -0.4, the REER is assessed to be overvalued by 3.9 percent.

Capital and Financial Accounts

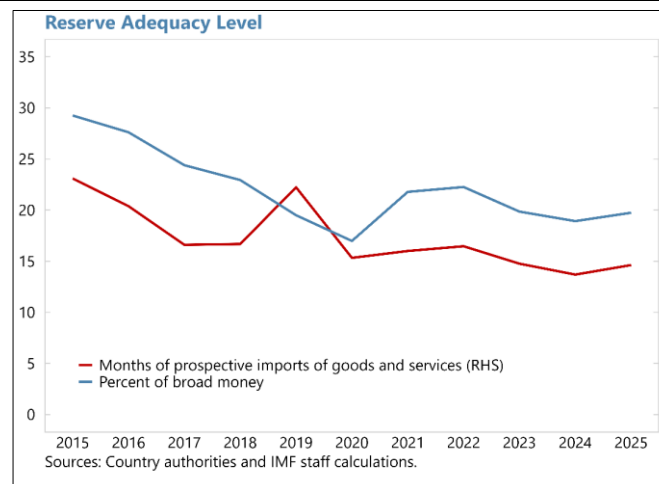
Background. Antigua and Barbuda has attracted large FDI inflows in supporting the development of its tourism sector. Measured as a share of GDP, the average inward FDI between 2021 and 2025 averaged an estimated 14 percent, partly reflecting a multi-year mega project in Barbuda. Among non-FDI flows, portfolio investment and other investment have mostly seen net outflows over the last decade, which have been partly offset by capital account inflows largely driven by CIP inflows.



Assessment. Financial account inflows of Antigua and Barbuda comprise mainly equity financing, especially FDI. Households lack direct access to U.S. securities markets. These factors limit the impact of global financial conditions on net capital inflows to Antigua and Barbuda. A deepening in geoeconomic fragmentation and regional conflicts in the rest of the world could, however, result in lower FDI inflows. CIP inflows, which have been on the rise but remain relatively small compared to other ECCU countries, are potentially volatile and subject to downside risks.

Reserves Level

Background. Net imputed international reserves (NIIR) have been broadly stable since the pandemic. NIIR in 2024 was flat in dollar terms but declined marginally as a share of imports, as the continued tourism recovery and resilient FDI inflows led to increased imports.³ NIIR is estimated to have increased modestly in 2025.



Assessment. The estimated NIIR in 2025 corresponds to 2.9 months of prospective imports and 21 percent of broad money, broadly in line with ECCB benchmarks of 3 months of imports and 20 percent of broad money.⁴

³ BOP data for 2024 was released in January 2026, including noticeable historical revisions back to 2021.

⁴ Data gaps for short-term debt and other liabilities preclude reserve adequacy assessments based on the IMF’s ARA EM metric.

Annex III. Risk Assessment Matrix¹

Risks	Relative Likelihood	Impact	Policy Response
Global Conjunctural Risks			
Geopolitical tensions. Intensification of conflicts, coupled with the weakening of multilateralism, may trigger commodity price volatility, increase migration pressures, reignite inflation, and weigh on growth by undermining confidence, investment, tourism, trade, and supply chains.	High	Medium. ST/MT. Higher inflation though more volatile energy and food prices, lower real incomes, dampening demand, and slower economic growth.	Strengthen the social safety net and provide targeted transfers to the vulnerable. Monitor financial risks closely, including risks to FDI, particularly to the citizenship-by-investment program (CIP). Gradually increase value-added from the tourism sector and diversify source markets over time. Vigilantly monitor the financial sector development in coordination with ECCB.
Escalating trade measures and prolonged uncertainty. Rising trade barriers and prolonged policy uncertainty could reduce trade, investment, and growth. Inflationary pressures may re-emerge—especially in countries imposing tariffs. These effects can be amplified by strategic complementarities or bottlenecks in global value chains or inventory overhang.	High	Medium. ST. Higher inflation, eroding income, and widening trade deficits from potentially higher import prices. Goods and (tourism) services exports remain prone to adverse effects from higher tariffs and weaker global growth.	Provide targeted support to the vulnerable. Explore cost-effective opportunities to diversify among trading partners both across source markets for tourism and import markets, while reducing local port and administrative frictions to trade-costs.
Commodity price volatility. Shifts in supply and demand—driven by geopolitical tensions and conflicts, OPEC+ actions, or the green transition—may fuel commodity price swings, intensifying external and fiscal pressures, social unrest, and macroeconomic instability.	High	Medium. ST/MT. Markets for energy, food, tourism, and financial markets might see unexpected volatility, yielding renewed inflationary pressures, eroding income, dampening demand, and widening fiscal and external imbalances.	Strengthen the social safety and provide targeted support to the vulnerable, allow pass-through of international prices to domestic prices, and avoid broad-based measures. Accelerate transition to renewable energy.
Financial market volatility and correction. Stretched asset valuations, easy financial conditions, and subdued volatility in key markets could be significantly affected by a sudden and disruptive shift in investor sentiment or policy stance, triggering market corrections, exchange rate turbulence, spikes in sovereign bond yields, and capital flow volatility. Elevated leverage among Non-Bank Financial Intermediaries further amplifies these risks, as forced	High	Medium. ST/MT. Adverse financial conditions may weaken bank balance sheets through overseas investment exposures and weigh on investment through indirect impact on local financing conditions and/or disruptions to FDI inflows.	Monitor financial risks closely and ensure continued adequacy of loss-absorbing financial system buffers in conjunction with continued enhancement of financial system supervision in coordination with the ECCB. Intensify domestic supervision of financial institutions and tighten regulations. Coordinate country supervision between ECCU members. Support creation of

¹ The Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM) shows events that could materially alter the baseline path. The relative likelihood is the staff's subjective assessment of the risks surrounding the baseline ("low" is meant to indicate a probability below 10 percent, "medium" a probability between 10 and 30 percent, and "high" a probability between 30 and 50 percent). The RAM reflects staff views on the source of risks and overall level of concern as of the time of discussions with the authorities. Non-mutually exclusive risks may interact and materialize jointly. The conjunctural shocks and scenarios highlight risks that may materialize over a shorter horizon (between 12 to 18 months) given the current baseline. Structural risks are those that are likely to remain salient over a longer horizon.

Risks	Relative Likelihood	Impact	Policy Response
deleveraging during periods of stress could exacerbate asset price swings and propagate shocks. Rapid growth of unregulated crypto markets could add to these vulnerabilities by increasing the risk of redemption runs and market dislocations.			local investment opportunities to reduce the economy's investment-reliance on external FDI.
Fiscal vulnerabilities and higher long-term interest rates. Rising public debt and deficit levels may put upward pressure on long-term interest rates and increase the risk of sovereign bond market disruptions. These developments could amplify capital flow volatility, tighten financial conditions, threaten sovereign debt sustainability, and trigger global spillovers. To the extent that major economies are affected, market imbalances (such as reduced investor capacity to absorb sovereign debt) could emerge, exacerbating risks from a close sovereign-financial nexus.	High	Medium. ST/MT. Reduced access to financing and slowing economic growth.	Monitor financial risks closely, in coordination with the ECCB. Intensify domestic supervision of financial institutions and tighten regulations. Coordinate country supervision between ECCU members.
Decline in international aid. A further sharp reduction in international financial assistance, including development aid and humanitarian support, could severely affect low-income and fragile countries. Such an additional aid withdrawal would strain public finances, worsen current accounts, increase debt vulnerabilities, and lead to a further deterioration in living conditions and food security.	High	Low. ST. Worsening fiscal and external positions. Despite limited dependence on international aid flows, reduced availability could heighten fiscal and external financing risks in the event of natural disasters.	Continue providing targeted support to the vulnerable. Continue implementing the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy and Strategy, improve infrastructure and post-disaster response, and maintain fiscal and external buffers.
Rising social discontent. High living costs, weak growth, and inequality may fuel social unrest, hinder necessary reforms, and weaken countries' capacity to address domestic and external shocks.	Medium	Medium. ST/MT. Exacerbate imbalances, slow growth, and trigger market repricing.	Continue providing targeted support to the most vulnerable population.
New trade agreements. A breakthrough in trade talks could reduce uncertainty and protectionism, boost investment and productivity, and support broader reforms to lift medium-term growth.	Low	Low. MT/LT. Decreasing barriers to trade would reduce price pressures especially in context of high import dependence.	Continue regional cooperation to reduce barriers to trade.
Global Structural Risks			
Climate change. Extreme climate events and rising temperatures could cause loss of life, damage to infrastructure, food insecurity, supply disruptions, and heighten economic and financial instability.	Medium	High. ST. Reduce capital stock, create scarring effects, and diminish financial sector's capital base.	Continue implementing the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy and Strategy, improve infrastructure and post-disaster response, maintain adequate fiscal buffers and strengthen oversight and data collection to support assessment of systemic financial implications from the insurance sector.

Risks	Relative Likelihood	Impact	Policy Response
Cyberthreats. Cyberattacks on physical or digital infrastructure, technical failures, or misuse of AI technologies could trigger financial and economic instability.	High	Low. ST/MT. Disruption of payment and financial systems with adverse spillovers to economic activity.	Enhance digital security of payment and financial system, improve public awareness, and prepare a contingency plan.
Labor supply gaps. Tighter restrictions to migration could worsen labor shortages in aging economies, reducing potential output, fueling inflation, and straining fiscal balances through lower revenues.	Medium	Medium. ST/MT. Existing labor supply shortages In Antigua and Barbuda due to the small scale of the economy could be further tighten if the brain drain into aging economies intensifies.	Modernizing the education system to address growing demands of the labor force. Address skills mismatches through training and upscaling and optimize matching between job seekers and employers.
Domestic Risks			
Fiscal underperformance. Lower than anticipated yields of revenue measures, delays in reforms, a decline in CIP revenues due to increased scrutiny by the EU and the U.S, and arrears to and fiscal risks from SOEs could compromise growth prospects and exacerbate debt vulnerabilities.	Medium	High. ST/MT. Lower investor confidence and growth prospects, larger fiscal imbalances, elevated financing costs, and higher public debt.	Strengthen fiscal institutions and public financial management. Improve oversight of SOEs. Review options for broadening the revenue base and increasing compliance. Improve the AML/CFT framework. Engage closely with EU and U.S. regulators on CIP regulations. Improve CIP management framework to minimize the impact from uncertain CIP revenues on budget planning. Rationalize spending and broaden the revenue base from non-CIP sources. Strengthen governance frameworks to enhance the transparency and integrity of the program.
Capacity constraints. Logistical bottlenecks constrain project implementation in the construction sector. Capacity constraints have contributed to delays in data availability across multiple domains.	High	Medium. ST/MT. Slower implementation of investment projects and lower economic growth.	Continue structural reform efforts targeted to address bottlenecks. Provide adequate resources to address capacity constraints in the National Bureau of Statistics.
Tourism and travel-related sectors. Upside risk: stronger than expected outturns from continued high tourism demand, increasing air connectivity, new cruise port terminal facilities, or hosting of special events.	Medium	High. ST/MT. Higher economic growth.	Continue productivity-enhancing reforms to support economic growth and support efforts to leverage spillovers from the tourism sector to non-tourism sectors of the economy.

Annex IV. Implementation of the Fund's Past Policy Advice

Recommendations from 2025 Article IV	Authorities' Actions
Fiscal Sustainability	
Broaden the ABST base, tighten control of tax exemptions, transition to HS2022 classification in customs, and modernize the framework for property taxation.	Partially implemented. Tax rates on high-end properties have been raised, but revenue collection remains limited due to data gaps on property owners and compliance challenges. The authorities announced a cap on discretionary tax exemptions and plan to introduce HS 2022, but progress has been limited to date. In January 2026, the government announced a temporary ABST rate reduction from 17 to 7 percent, to take place later in 2026; the timing and duration have not yet been announced.
Further strengthen tax administration through additional auditing capacity, introducing a large taxpayer unit, modernizing IT systems.	Ongoing. The authorities are pursuing compliance and tax administration improvements to achieve medium-term targets, and engaging with FAD on further technical assistance. Efforts are underway to establish a large taxpayer unit and introduce a new IT system.
Put in place e-filing, e-registration, and e-payment of taxes.	Partial. The e-filing, e-registration, and e-payment system remains to be fully operationalized.
Operationalize the single window system at customs.	Partial. Operationalizing the single electronic window system at customs has been delayed despite plans to implement it in 2025.
Fiscal Structural	
The MTFS and Fiscal Resilience Guidelines should be endorsed by Parliament.	Not implemented. The authorities regard Cabinet approval as sufficient and do not plan to seek parliamentary approval of the MTFS or the Fiscal Resilience Guidelines.
Publish the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee (FROC) Reports.	Ongoing. The first FROC report was tabled in Parliament in December 2025. Publication online is pending.
The Finance Administration Act and the Customs Act should be amended to codify the planned restraint on discretionary tax exemptions.	Ongoing. The Finance Administration Act and Procurement Administration Act remain under review (Cabinet approval, previously planned for 2025, is still pending.) The Revenue Miscellaneous Provisions Act was enacted in

Recommendations from 2025 Article IV	Authorities' Actions
	March 2024 to limit waivers of taxes and reduce discretionary exemptions, but results on reduction of exemptions have been limited to date.
Establish an SOE oversight unit to enhance SOE oversight.	Ongoing. The SOE oversight function has been added within the MOF but is not yet fully resourced.
Statutory exemptions should be consistent with the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority Act and the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority should monitor the approved projects.	Ongoing. Progress has been slow. A Concessions Oversight and Monitoring Committee has been established to aid in this effort.
Address the shortcomings in the transparency and exchange of information frameworks for tax purposes as identified in the Global Forum's 2023 Peer Review.	Ongoing. Antigua and Barbuda enhanced access to beneficial ownership data under information exchanges, and strengthened the legal and operational processes for effective cooperation with tax authorities globally. Legislation to establish a new regional CIP regulator was approved by Antigua and Barbuda (and other ECCU countries with CIPs) in late 2025.
Social Protection	
Establish a centralized beneficiary database to avoid duplication and gaps in coverage.	Ongoing. The work with UNICEF support to develop a centralized beneficiary system is ongoing but progress has been slow.
Consolidate the numerous social protection programs to ease their coordination and administration.	Ongoing. Progress in consolidating programs has been limited.
Shift from generalized subsidies and support to more targeted programs with benefits periodically adjusted to reflect cost of living changes.	Not implemented.
Debt and Arrears	
Maintain efforts to lower interest burden and extend maturity profile of public debt in the domestic and external markets.	Ongoing. The authorities are actively pursuing a Liability Management Operation (LMO) aiming at lower interest rates and extending maturities on existing domestic debt.

Recommendations from 2025 Article IV	Authorities' Actions
Closely engage with creditors to put in place feasible strategies for clearing remaining arrears and to avoid new arrears.	Ongoing. The authorities are currently conducting a validation exercise of potential arrears to domestic suppliers identified by recent CARTAC technical assistance (see Annex I). They have engaged with the Paris Club creditors. Efforts are also being made to strengthen cash management and expenditure controls at the Treasury to help prevent new arrears.
Explore avenues for increasing climate financing and disaster insurance and undertake contingency planning.	Ongoing. A new National Adaptation Plan, published in late 2025, includes a discussion of financing strategies, including potential sources, different streams of finance, and key stakeholders.
Financial Sector	
Adopt a more risk-based supervisory framework for credit unions, with planned regional regulatory standards to strengthen oversight of asset quality and credit forbearance and help put credit unions and banks on a more level playing field.	Ongoing. The FSRC is advancing a risk-based supervisory framework for credit unions, including drafting legislation and consulting with the sector. Submission of the draft legislation to the government is pending.
Continue to enhance the AML/CFT and CIP frameworks including by improving risk-based AML/CFT supervision and mitigating risks to the integrity and sustainability of CIP.	Ongoing. The National Oversight Committee on Financial Action is reviewing the AML/CFT framework in light of the 2025 FATF updates, ahead of the next CFATF mutual evaluation. A National Risk Assessment is in progress. Legislation to establish a new regional CIP regulator was approved by Antigua and Barbuda (and other ECCU countries with CIPs) in late 2025.
Operationalize the regional credit bureau to accelerate access to finance while preserving lending standards. Advancing ECCB-led climate risk initiatives and implementing regional partial credit guarantee scheme would further support financial intermediation.	Partial. The ECCU regional credit bureau was launched for banks and two credit unions, with expansion to the other credit unions planned. Progress on climate risk initiative and partial credit guarantee scheme remains limited.
Structural Policies, Climate Change and Resilience Building	
Efforts should continue to increase flight connectivity and cruise ship homeporting to facilitate tourism.	Ongoing. Air connections increased over the course of 2025 from multiple international origins. VC Bird International Airport has

Recommendations from 2025 Article IV	Authorities' Actions
	started a major runway overhaul in 2025. A new homeporting terminal is underway, which is expected to increase cruise ship calls.
Active labor market policies could be strengthened, and opportunities could be further enhanced for vocational education.	Ongoing. Amalgamation of the training institutes is in progress. The Skills Demand Survey continues to be postponed. No progress in improving The New Work Experience Programme and the One Stop Employment Centre.
Donor support should be mobilized to finance improvements in climate resilience and the transition to renewable energy.	Ongoing. Significant funding through the Green Climate Fund has been secured to improve early warning systems.

Annex V. Macro-Financial Linkages in Antigua and Barbuda: A Preliminary Assessment¹

This annex analyzes Antigua and Barbuda’s evolving macro-financial vulnerabilities, focusing on links between the financial, fiscal, and external sectors. Balance sheets of deposit-taking institutions overall are sound. But the extent of past deleveraging signals structural inefficiencies constraining domestic financial intermediation. Balance sheet and scenario analyses suggest increased post-pandemic financial interconnectedness and rising external exposure as banks increasingly channeled liquidity abroad. The analysis is limited by data gaps in the government (arrears) and financial (nonbank and offshore banking) sectors.

Macro-Financial Landscape

1. The financial sector in Antigua and Barbuda is liquid and stable, but has shrunk as a share of the economy. Banks dominate the sector (assets: 110 percent of GDP), with credit unions (CUs) also active (assets: 11 percent of GDP). Banks are well capitalized and liquid. Nonperforming loans (NPLs) rose above the 5 percent regulatory threshold during the pandemic, easing back below it in 2024. NPLs for credit unions remain moderately elevated at 6.4 percent in Q12025. Since the 2008-09 global financial crisis, banks have maintained a de-risking stance: bank credit to the private sector declined from over 70 percent of GDP in 2011 to around 38 percent in 2022–24, reducing banks’ role in financial intermediation (Figure 1).

2. Banks in Antigua and Barbuda retain significant sovereign exposure and have built up large assets abroad. Lending to the government comprises 9.2 percent of assets or 153 percent of Tier 1 capital—significantly above the ECCU averages (excluding Antigua and Barbuda) of 7.3 percent and 118 percent, respectively. Banks’ net foreign assets rose 150 percentage points (pps) from end-2021 to end-2024, reaching 410 percent of Tier 1 capital, above the ECCU average of 388 percent. These developments indicate growing financial interconnectedness and potential risks from concentrated exposures.

3. A balance sheet analysis (BSA) shows an increased external sector concentration of macro-financial exposures and a decline in domestic financial intermediation. The analysis is based on an IMF STA and MCM BSA tool² (BSA, IMF2015, Armas and Dehmej (2024)). Figure 2 presents a “from-whom-to-whom” network map illustrating financial net exposures across key economic sectors for 2024 and the pre-pandemic period. Arrow sizes represent net bilateral exposures as a percentage of GDP and numbers in circles show each sector’s total net exposure to all other sectors as a percentage of GDP. The analysis shows key sectoral linkages: non-financial

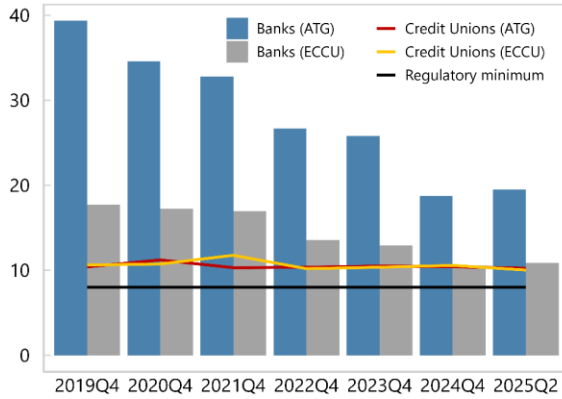
¹ Prepared by Yibin Mu.

² The BSA tool is a visualization instrument tool that displays the sectoral interlinkages of a country at a specific point in time. The institutional sectors covered include the general government (GG), the central bank (namely ECCB), other depository corporations (ODCs) or deposit-taking institutions (including banks and credit unions), other financial corporations (OFCs) or non-banks, households (HH), and the rest of the world (ROW). Data sources include IMF STA database, supplemented by credit union data from the authorities.

Annex V. Figure 1. Antigua and Barbuda: The Landscape of Deposit-taking Institutions*

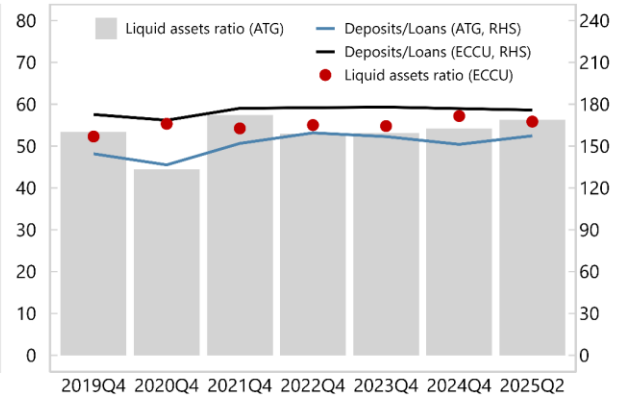
Capital Adequacy

(Regulatory Capital/Risk Weighted Assets; Percent)



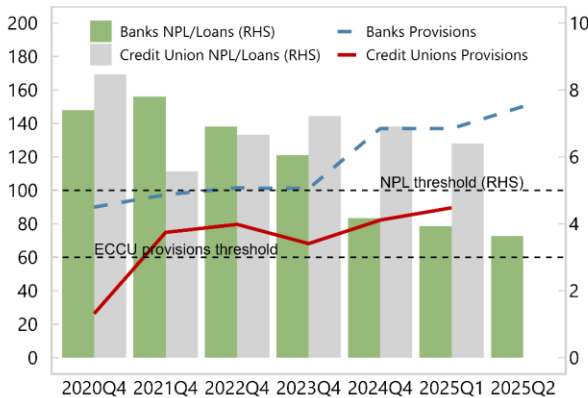
Liquid Assets and Deposit-to-Loans

(Percent of short-term liabilities+deposits; percent of credit)



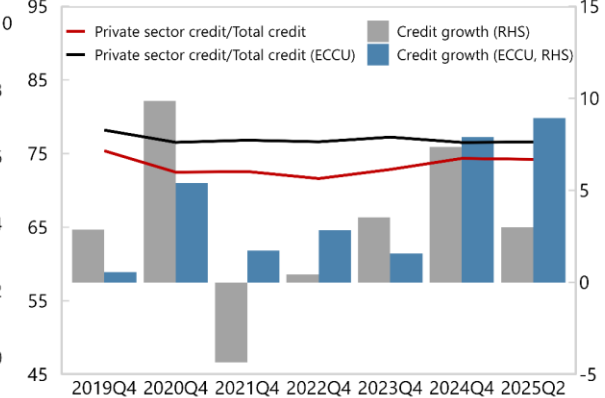
NPL Ratios and Provisions 1/

(Percent; Percent of NPLs)



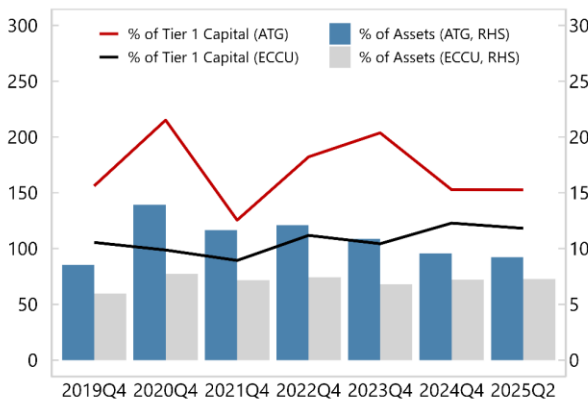
Credit Developments: Total and Private Sector

(In Percent)



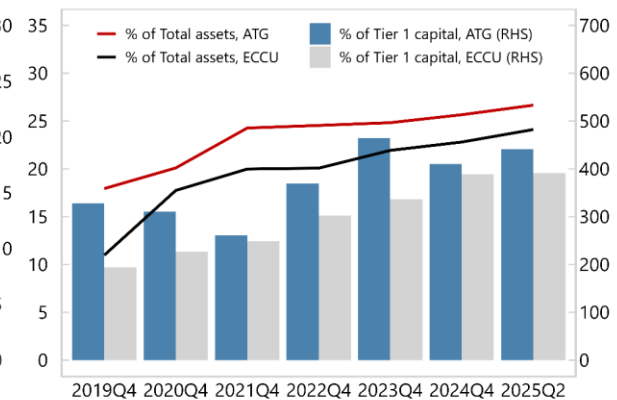
Credit to General Government

(Percent)



Net Foreign Assets of Commercial Banks

(Percent)



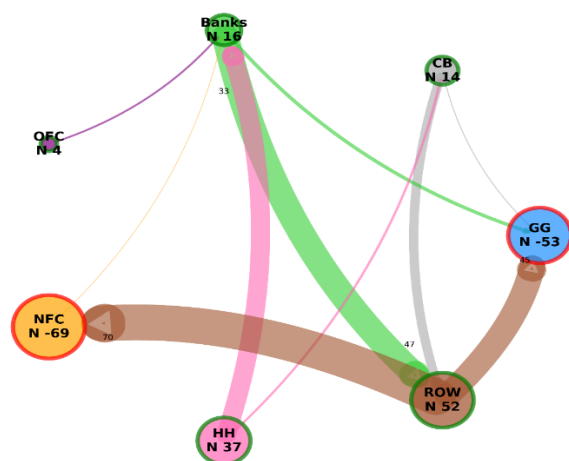
Sources: Country authorities, ECCB and IMF staff calculations.

* Includes banks and credit unions.

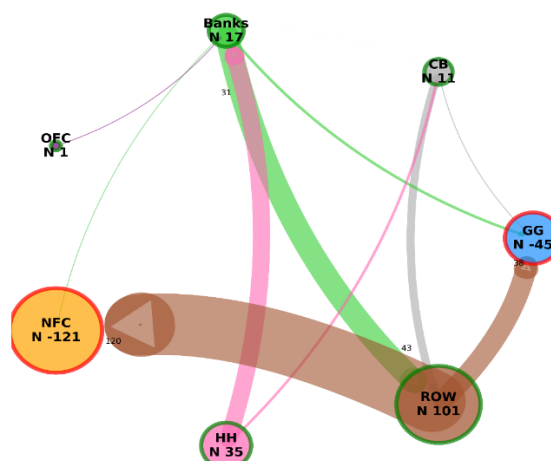
1/ NPLs are calculated using a 3-month threshold; Provisions include regulatory loan loss reserves. 2025 Q2 data for credit unions are not shown because of likely errors.

Annex V. Figure 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Net Exposures across Key Economic Sectors

Network map of sectoral linkages in Antigua and Barbuda
(2019, percent of GDP, net exposure in total currency)



Network map of sectoral linkages in Antigua and Barbuda
(2024, percent of GDP, net exposure in total currency)



Source: IMF BSA Matrix Tool and IMF staff estimates.

Legend: OFC = Other Financial Corporations; CB = Central Bank; GG = General Government; NFC = Non-Financial Corporates; HH = Households; ROW = Rest of the World. N = Net position.

Note: In the network map, each node reflects a sector's aggregate net financial position, with node size indicating the magnitude of the position and color distinguishing the net creditors (green) from the net debtors (red). Arrows depict bilateral financial exposures, with arrow thickness indicating the size of exposure and arrowheads pointing to the recipient of the funds (debtor) from the source (creditor).

corporations (NFCs) and the general government (GG) are the primary holders of liabilities. NFCs held net liabilities equivalent to 121 percent of GDP, while GG net debt stood at around 45 percent of GDP. These liabilities were primarily financed by the rest of the world (ROW, 101 percent of GDP), households (HH, 35 percent of GDP) and banks (17 percent of GDP). Compared with 2019, government net liabilities declined from 53 to 45 percent of GDP—amid unsustainable debt and constrained external financing (Annex I). NFCs' net liabilities almost doubled from 69 to 121 percent of GDP, though this largely reflects FDI inflows (mainly equity).

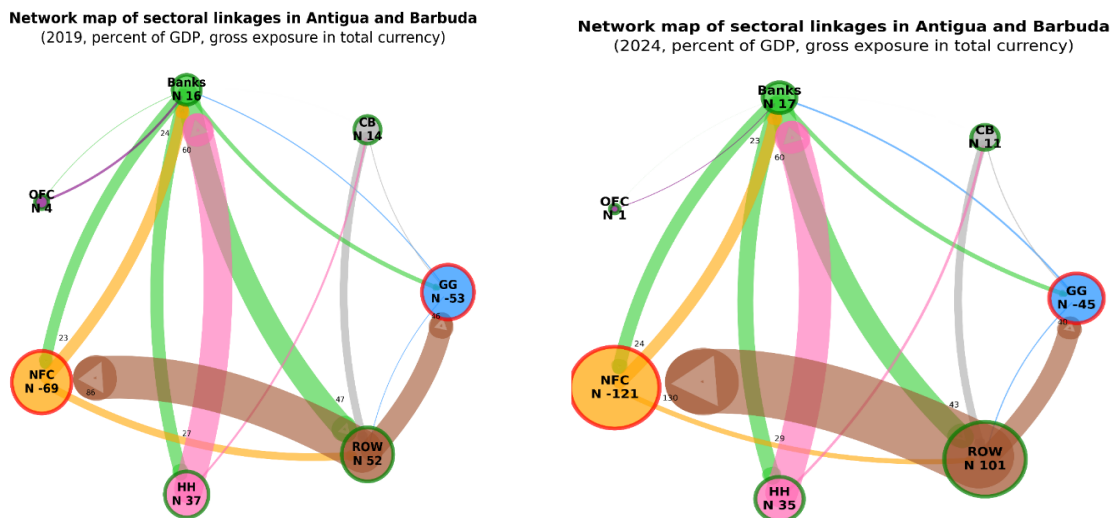
4. The economy's exposure to the rest of the world increased significantly between 2019 and 2024. Figure 3 shows financial *gross* exposures across key economic sectors for 2019 and 2024, using another "from-whom-to-whom" network map. Arrow sizes represent gross *bilateral* exposures. Tables 1 and 2 provide supporting data. Key findings include:

- The economy's external exposure nearly doubled from 52 percent of GDP in 2019 to 101 percent in 2024. The corporate sector drove this increase, with NFCs' gross liabilities to the ROW rising 44 pps to 130 percent of GDP. Government gross liabilities to the ROW declined modestly, by 6 pps, to 40 percent of GDP.
- Banks maintain a significant share of assets abroad, citing limited viable domestic lending opportunities. Though banks' foreign assets fell by 4 pps to 43 percent of GDP in 2024—reflecting GDP expansion and rebasing—the share of banks' foreign assets in total assets rose

by 10 pps, to 30 percent; or relative to Tier-1 capital, jumped by 150 pps to 478 percent. This shift has coincided with lower bank credit to the domestic economy.

- The 2024 IIP data indicate that most NFC foreign liabilities—around 110 percent of GDP—are equity FDI; NFCs’ debt liabilities comprise about 20 percent of GDP. This suggests that direct risks from NFCs’ external exposures remain manageable. But NFCs’ debt liabilities of this size are significant relative to banks’ overseas assets (43 percent of GDP).
- These trends highlight a financial landscape increasingly interconnected with the ROW, but also indicating scope to strengthen domestic financial intermediation.

Annex V. Figure 3. Antigua and Barbuda: Gross Asset and Liability Exposures across Key Economic Sectors



Source: IMF BSA Matrix Tool and IMF staff estimates.

Legend: OFC = Other Financial Corporations; CB = Central Bank; GG = General Government; NFC = Non-Financial Corporates; HH = Households; ROW = Rest of the World. N = Net position.

Annex V. Table 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Balance Sheet Matrix, 2019
(Percent of GDP)

	Government		Central Bank		Other Depository Corporations		Other Financial Corporations		Nonfinancial Corporations		Households		External		Total		
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	
Government			Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		(GFS/MFS estimation)		(GFS/MFS estimation)		Source: IIP				
Total			1.61	...	8.67	2.12	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	46.34	1.50	56.63	3.62
In domestic currency			1.61	...	8.67	1.71	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.28	1.71
In foreign currency			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.34	1.50	46.34	1.91
Central Bank	Source: CB				Source: CB		Source: CB		Source: CB		Source: CB		Source: CB				
Total	...	1.61			...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	4.20	0.00	...	16.16	4.21	17.77
In domestic currency	...	1.61			...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	4.20	0.00	...	0.00	4.20	1.61
In foreign currency	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.16	0.00	16.16
Oth. Dep.	Source: ODCs		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		
Total	2.12	8.67	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	4.75	1.18	24.18	23.20	60.21	27.00	...	46.98	95.02	107.04	
In domestic currency	1.71	8.67	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	3.47	1.18	18.39	20.52	56.11	26.31	...	15.12	79.69	71.80	
In foreign currency	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.28	0.00	5.79	2.68	4.10	0.69	3.75	31.86	15.33	35.23	
Oth. Fin Corporations	Source: OFCs		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		
Total	...	...	0.00	...	1.18	4.75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.18	4.75
In domestic currency	...	...	0.00	...	1.18	3.47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.18	3.47
In foreign currency	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	1.28
Nonfinancial Corporations	(GFS/MFS estimation)		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs				(No sectoral data)		Source: IIP				
Total	...	...	0.00	0.00	23.20	24.18	...	...	...	...	...	...	85.55	15.24	108.75	39.41
In domestic currency	...	...	0.00	0.00	20.52	18.39	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	20.52	18.39
In foreign currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.68	5.79	...	...	...	...	...	...	85.55	15.24	88.24	21.02
Households	(GFS/MFS estimation)		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		(No sectoral data)				Source: IIP				
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.20	27.00	60.21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27.00	64.41
In domestic currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.20	26.31	56.11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.31	60.32
In foreign currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	4.10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.69	4.10
External	Source: IIP		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		Source: IIP		Source: IIP						
Total	1.50	46.34	16.16	...	46.98	...	...	...	15.24	85.55	...	...	...	...	79.87	135.65
In domestic currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	...	15.12	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	...	...	...	...	15.12	0.00
In foreign currency	1.50	46.34	16.16	0.00	31.86	3.75	...	...	15.24	85.55	...	...	...	64.76	135.65	
Total	3.62	56.63	17.77	4.20	107.04	91.26	4.75	1.18	39.41	108.75	64.41	27.00	131.90	79.87	CHECK	CHECK	
In domestic currency	1.71	10.28	1.61	4.20	71.80	79.69	3.47	1.18	18.39	20.52	60.32	26.31	0.00	15.12	157.30	157.30	
In foreign currency	1.91	46.34	16.16	0.00	35.23	15.33	1.28	0.00	21.02	88.24	4.10	0.69	135.65	64.76	215.36	215.36	

Annex V. Table 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Balance Sheet Matrix, 2024
(Percent of GDP)

	Government		Central Bank		Other Depository Corporations		Other Financial Corporations		Nonfinancial Corporations		Households		External		Total		
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	
Government			Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		(GFS/MFS estimation)		(GFS/MFS estimation)		Source: IIP				
Total	1.79	...	...	...	8.57	3.52	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	39.95	2.12	50.32	5.64
In domestic currency	1.79	...	...	...	7.54	3.14	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.33	3.14
In foreign currency	...	...	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.38	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.95	2.12	40.99	2.50
Central Bank	Source: CB				Source: CB		Source: CB		Source: CB		Source: CB		Source: CB				
Total	...	1.79			...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	4.86	0.00	...	14.30	4.86	16.09
In domestic currency	...	1.79			...	0.00	...	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	4.86	0.00	...	0.00	4.86	1.79
In foreign currency	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.30	0.00	14.30
Oth. Dep.	Source: ODCs		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		Source: ODCs		
Total	3.52	8.57	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	1.46	0.07	22.76	24.08	59.68	29.11	...	42.70	92.72	104.53	
In domestic currency	3.14	7.54	0.00	...	0.00	0.00	1.24	0.07	15.90	23.64	57.00	28.82	...	6.52	77.28	66.60	
In foreign currency	0.38	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	6.85	0.44	2.68	0.29	5.31	36.17	15.44	37.93	
Oth. Fin Corporations	Source: OFCs		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		Source: OFCs		
Total	...	...	0.00	...	0.07	1.46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.07	1.46
In domestic currency	...	...	0.00	...	0.07	1.24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.07	1.24
In foreign currency	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.22
Nonfinancial Corporations	(GFS/MFS estimation)		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs				(No sectoral data)		Source: IIP				
Total	...	...	0.00	0.00	24.08	22.76	...	...	...	...	...	...	129.75	10.07	153.83	32.83
In domestic currency	...	...	0.00	0.00	23.64	15.90	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	23.64	15.90
In foreign currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.44	6.85	...	...	...	...	...	...	129.75	10.07	130.19	16.92
Households	(GFS/MFS estimation)		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		(No sectoral data)				Source: IIP				
Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.86	29.11	59.68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.11	64.54
In domestic currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.86	28.82	57.00	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28.82	61.86
In foreign currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	2.68	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.29	2.68
External	Source: IIP		Source: CB		Source: ODCs		Source: OFCs		Source: IIP		Source: IIP						
Total	2.12	39.95	14.30	...	42.70	...	...	...	10.07	129.75	...	...	...	...	69.18	175.02
In domestic currency	0.00	0.00	0.00	...	6.52	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	...	...	...	...	6.52	0.00
In foreign currency	2.12	39.95	14.30	0.00	36.17	5.31	...	...	10.07	129.75	...	...	...	...	62.66	175.02
Total	5.64	50.32	16.09	4.86	104.53	87.41	1.46	0.07	32.83	153.83	64.54	29.11	169.71	69.18	CHECK	CHECK	
In domestic currency	3.14	9.33	1.79	4.86	66.60	77.28	1.24	0.07	15.90	23.64	61.86	28.82	0.00	6.52	150.54	150.54	
In foreign currency	2.50	40.99	14.30	0.00	37.93	15.44	0.22	0.00	16.92	130.19	2.68	0.29	175.02	62.66	249.57	249.57	

Drivers of Financial Linkages

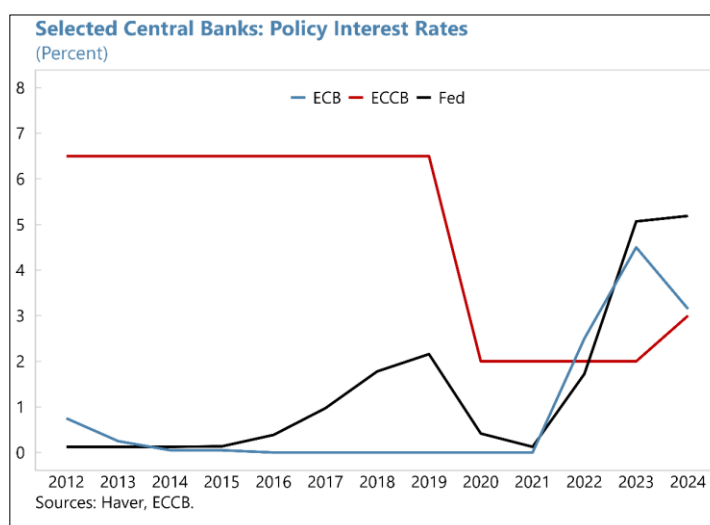
5. Antigua and Barbuda’s macro-financial exposures reflect historical shocks and persistent structural rigidities. Successive crises—including the 2017 Hurricane Irma and the COVID-19 pandemic—sharply increased public financing needs, raising sovereign exposure. Meanwhile, banks have adopted a de-risking stance, channeling excess liquidity into foreign assets. This is a rational response to limited low-risk opportunities and high funding costs at home, but introduces vulnerability to shifts in global financial conditions, as declines in external returns could weaken bank profitability. Meanwhile, NFCs’ recourse to external debt financing—while limited—could signal structural weaknesses in domestic financial intermediation.

6. The BSA findings are subject to data limitations. The May 2024 CARTAC TA mission identified previously unrecognized government arrears to domestic suppliers, currently being validated by the authorities. As these arrears remain uncertain and are not included in the DSA, they are also excluded from this analysis. Additionally, data on offshore banks—i.e. international banks registered in Antigua and Barbuda but not taking domestic deposits or lending—are missing from both ECCB and IMF STA databases. Any exposures of these international banks to residents are also excluded from this analysis.

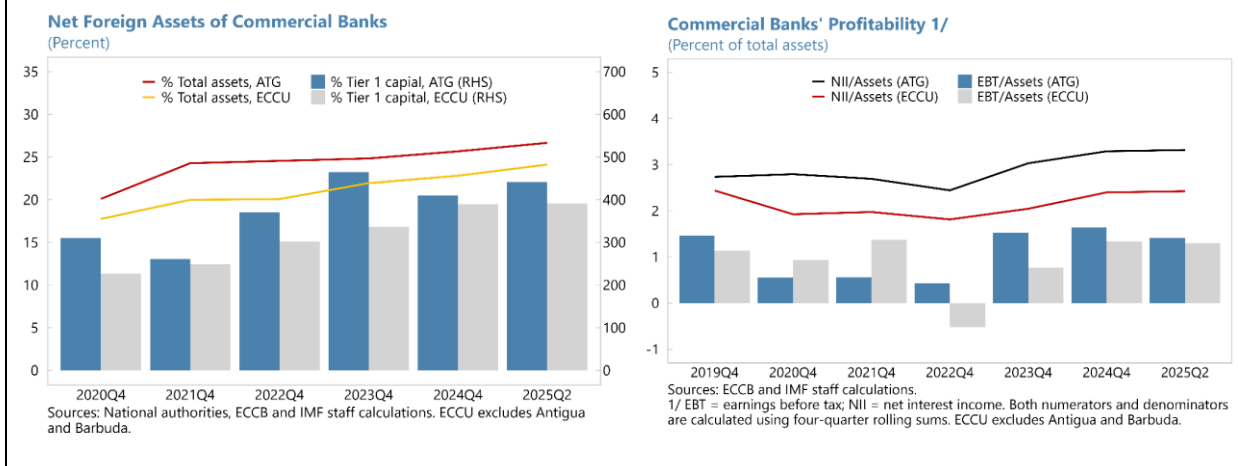
Risk Assessment: Scenario Analysis

7. This section explores financial sector resilience under tailored adverse scenarios. Given banks’ substantial overseas exposures and sovereign holdings, the BSA findings highlight potential impacts from external asset shocks and fiscal-financial stress feedback loops. The scenarios illustrate the banking system’s shock absorption capacity and key transmission channels.

- *Monetary Policy Loosening.* Banks’ net foreign assets make up roughly one-third of total assets and have driven earnings amid high U.S. interest rates (text chart, Figure 4). This reliance also increases sensitivity to global monetary shifts. Each 100-basis point decline in the U.S. Fed funds rate is estimated to reduce banks’ pre-tax income by about EC\$20 million, or about 5 percent of their 2024 net earnings, posing a risk of a material impact on profitability. This illustrates the need to closely monitor interest rate risk and foreign asset exposure when assessing financial sector resilience.



Annex V. Figure 4. Antigua and Barbuda and ECCU: Banks' Foreign Assets and Profitability



- Increased sovereign borrowing costs.* If banks face rising profitability pressures (and competition from CUs on private sector lending), banks could seek to charge more for sovereign lending (CUs cannot lend to the government). Each 100-basis point increase in government borrowing costs from domestic banks—which hold about 10 percent of total public debt in 2024—is estimated to widen the fiscal deficit by approximately 0.11 pp of GDP. The impact would be larger if higher bank rates were transmitted to the regional government securities market (accounting for 19 percent of total public debt).

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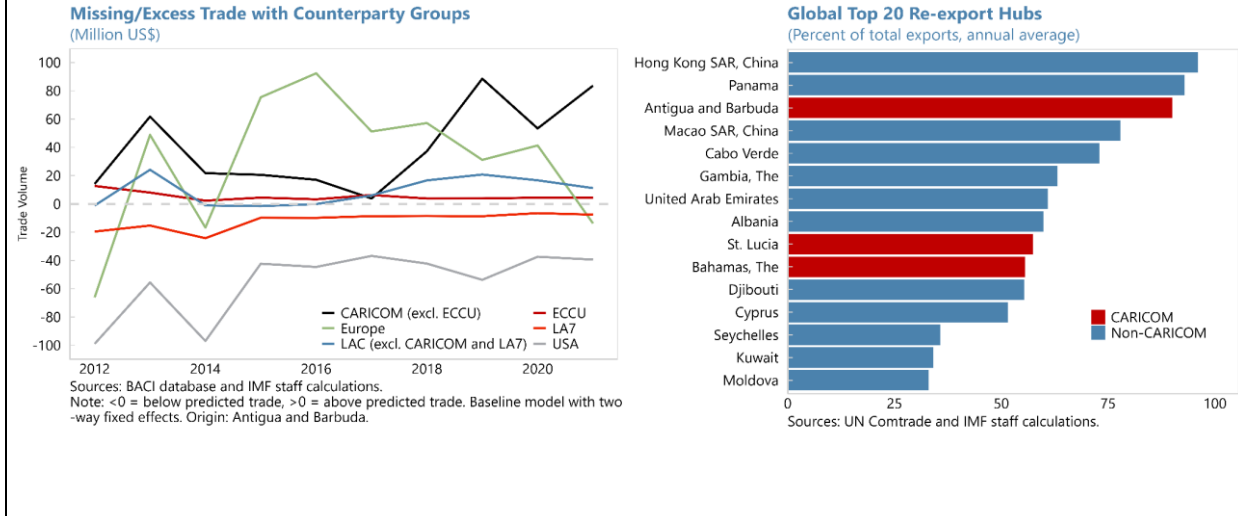
Annex VI. Trade, Tourism, and Financial Linkages in Antigua and Barbuda: Connectivity Challenges as Structural Constraints¹

Antigua and Barbuda faces heightened exposure to external shocks affecting both goods and services trade amid intensifying geoeconomic fragmentation. Understanding how connectivity constraints shape trade patterns and tourism flows is critical for identifying opportunities, diversifying concentrated import sources and tourism export markets, expanding exports, and enhancing resilience. This annex examines three dimensions of connectivity—shipping, air transport, and financial networks—to assess their implications for growth and resilience, and to identify priorities for alleviating structural connectivity constraints.

1. **Caribbean economies—including Antigua and Barbuda—face heightened exposure to external shocks that threaten traditional growth drivers such as trade.** Amid intensifying geoeconomic fragmentation and rising geopolitical tensions, understanding how trade patterns shape growth and resilience is critical to identify opportunities to expand exports and reduce high reliance on concentrated import sources. Given the dominance of tourism in service exports, this annex also focuses on connectivity in air transport and how it helps shape tourism flows, affects diversification, and influences vulnerability to shocks from concentrated origin markets.
2. **A gravity-model based analysis of global goods trade shows a strong effect of distance on trade for Caribbean countries.** The methodology is based on the well-established gravity model framework widely applied in the trade literature (see e.g. Silva and Tenreyro, 2006). We estimate a gravity-type model on global bilateral goods trade data from the BACI (CEPII) database (Gaulier and Zignago, 2010), with the aim of explaining relative trade patterns and identifying the underlying fundamental drivers, and predicting trade levels based on those drivers. The framework also allows for comparing trade patterns across countries and regions.
3. **Antigua and Barbuda’s goods exports to regions outside the Caribbean are below model predictions (Figure 1).** The results suggest that ‘missing’ exports from Antigua and Barbuda to countries outside of the region amounted to nearly \$US 84 million in recent years, equivalent to 5 percent of GDP. This gap reflects structural barriers rather than fundamental economic factors and suggests room for trade expansion if connectivity constraints were addressed. Trade with non-ECCU CARICOM countries significantly exceeded predictions after 2017, reflecting Antigua and Barbuda’s re-export activities. Trade flows with Europe, on the other hand, have seen a noticeable swing from above- to below-prediction volumes. Trade with Latin America has been slightly above predictions, though trading volumes with the largest Latin American economies (LA7) remain slightly below expected levels. Trade with the US has increased but stayed significantly below predicted levels, constrained by structural barriers such as the limited number of shipping routes.

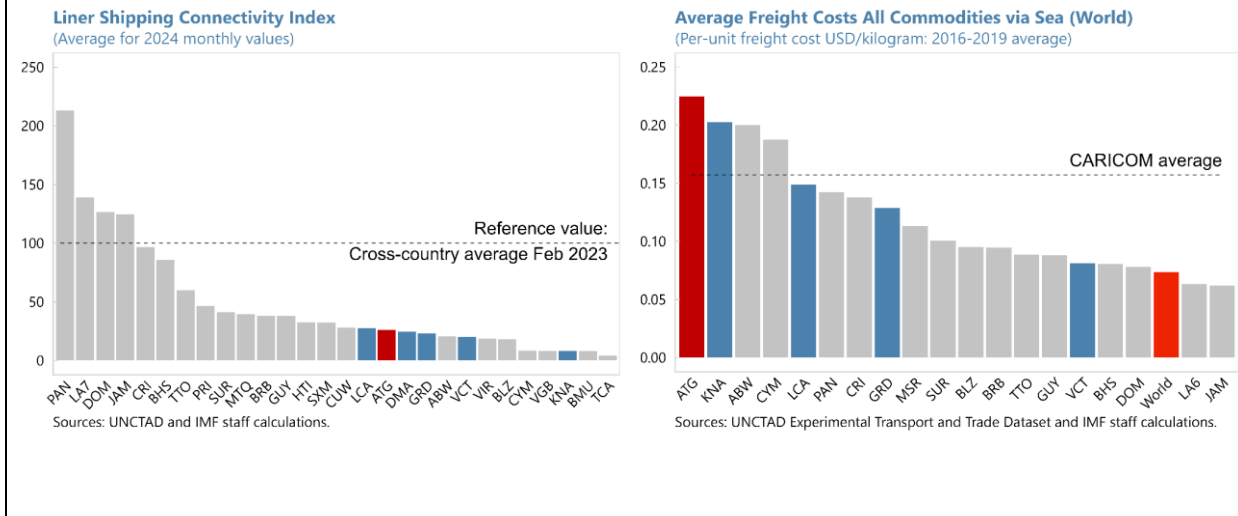
¹ Prepared by Josefine Quast, Qingyu Tao, and Hou Wang.

Annex VI. Figure 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Goods Trade Patterns

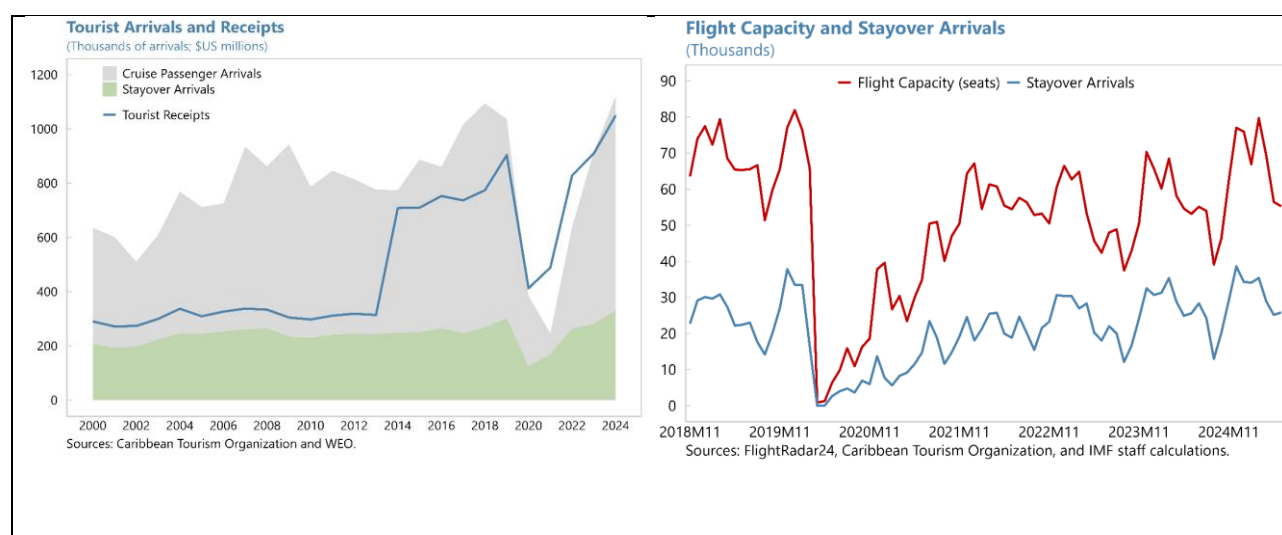


4. Weak shipping connectivity appears to explain the lower-than-predicted trade with countries outside of the Caribbean (Figure 2). Antigua and Barbuda, like many other SDSs, has been weakly connected to global maritime trade networks, resulting in shipping costs roughly three times the global average. Even compared with ECCU peers, Antigua and Barbuda stands out with comparatively high shipping costs, impeding competitiveness of goods exports and raising the cost of imports. Recent and ongoing investment projects including the expansions of the Cruise Port terminal and cargo port capacity, the refurbishment of the old V.C. Bird International Airport terminal and runway overhaul, and the new Barbuda airport can help alleviate these barriers.

Annex VI. Figure 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Shipping Connectivity and Freight Costs in Comparison



5. Air connectivity is a key determinant of bilateral tourist arrivals in the Caribbean, many of whose economies are highly dependent on tourism. While tourist arrivals are often viewed as largely driven by ‘pull’ factors from destination markets (such as attractiveness), ‘push’ factors from source countries (such as flight decisions) are also important. Using a similar gravity-type model (Cevik, 2020, Rosselló-Nadal and Santana-Gallego, 2022, 2024), we estimate the impact of flight capacity—a key measure of air connectivity—on tourist arrivals (text charts).² The results show a highly significant effect of flight capacity, after controlling for multiple bilateral and macro variables. The estimated elasticity is approximately 0.6 using annual data, and slightly lower, around 0.2, using monthly data. In other words, a 10 percent increase in flight capacity is associated with roughly a 2 percent increase in tourist arrivals in the short term, which can become a 6 percent increase over the course of a year as adjustments take place.



6. Improving air connectivity is just as crucial as investing in destination marketing. Antigua and Barbuda’s air connectivity serves as a strategic regional public good. V.C. Bird International Airport—one of the best connected airports in the Eastern Caribbean—already acts as a key gateway linking the Caribbean with North America and Europe. Strengthening its position as a regional hub could also facilitate more efficient intra-Caribbean travel. Continued efforts to broaden open skies agreements would be beneficial. Improved connectivity could also support homeporting initiatives to benefit the cruise sector.

7. Financial connectivity appears to be a less binding constraint on trade than physical connectivity. In light of the post-GFC curtailment of Caribbean correspondent banking relationships (World Bank 2015; Erbenova et al. 2016; Alleyne et al. 2017), we examine the role of financial

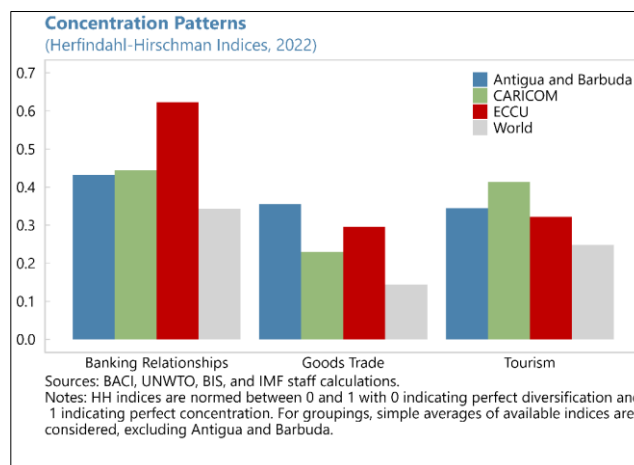
² Estimating this relationship is econometrically challenging because flight capacity and tourist arrivals typically move together: airlines increase flights when demand rises, and greater capacity in turn enables more visitors to travel. To address this issue, we use a shift-share (Bartik-style) instrumental variable approach to isolate ‘push’ factors from ‘pull’ factors. The instrument is constructed based on variations in flight capacity at the origin market level that are unrelated to destination-specific factors. These variations may reflect shocks such as airline fleet reallocations, airport disruptions, or common fuel cost changes.

connectivity in affecting trade. Consistent with Caballero et al. (2018), our global estimates find bilateral banking relationships positively affecting trade flows, with an elasticity of around 0.5 for both goods trade and tourism. Estimated elasticities are, however, notably smaller for the Caribbean, reflecting that a large share of tourism expenditures is pre-paid through partner-country intermediaries before reaching destination economies (UNCTAD 2010). Increasing financial connectivity could enhance access to formal trade finance for exporters, reduce transaction costs for tourism-related payments, and improve payment efficiency.³

8. Beyond its impact on growth, improving connectivity to global networks could

potentially enhance Antigua and Barbuda's

resilience to external shocks. Like for many regional peers, the economy relies on heavily concentrated sources for goods trade, tourism income, and banking relationships (text chart). High import reliance reflects structural characteristics of the economy, but its concentration increases vulnerability to external shocks. Connectivity improvements could help support diversification of source markets and mitigate concentration-related risks.



³ Our gravity-based analysis complements the balance sheet approach analysis (Annex V) by identifying structural gaps in financial linkages of the wider region that can help explain the composition and vulnerability of Antigua and Barbuda's financial accounts.

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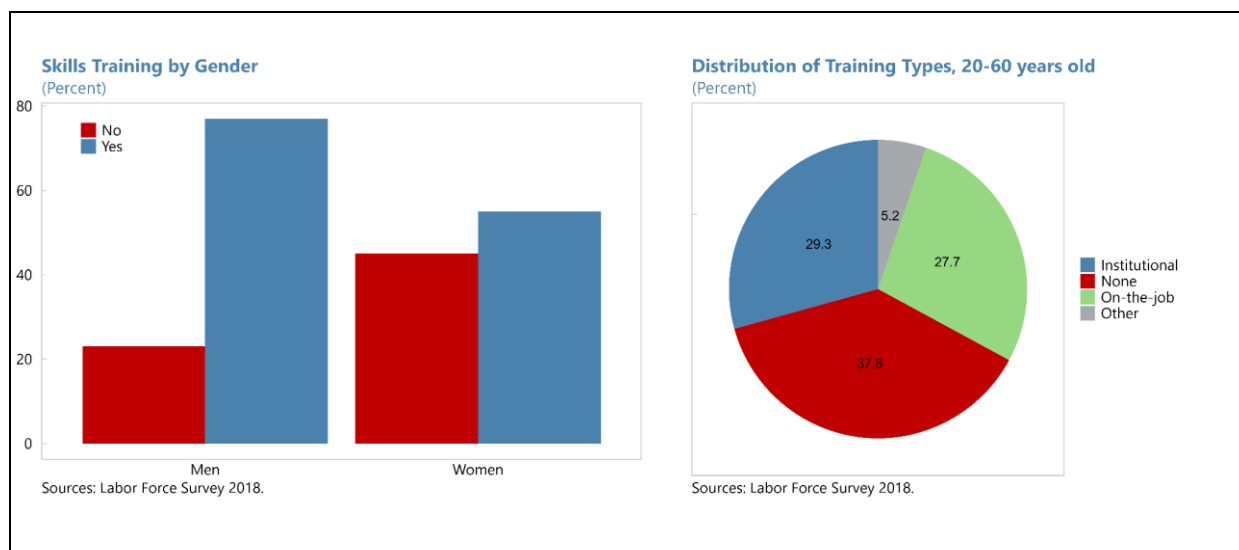
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Annex VII. Skills Training and Productivity¹

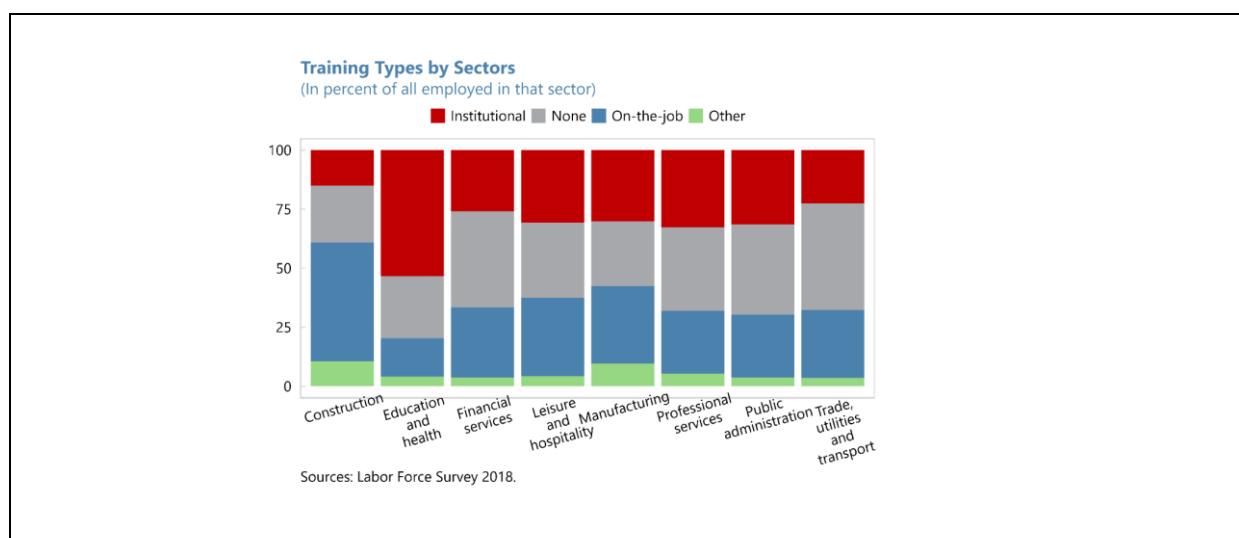
Skills shortages have persisted in Antigua and Barbuda in both the private and public sectors, limiting productivity across industries. This annex uses the 2018 Labor Force Survey to study the take-up of skills training and to analyze the relationship between different types of skills training and productivity. Skills training take-up is found to be heterogeneous across different sectors and formal education levels, with significant scope for increasing take-up. The analysis finds a positive relationship between skills training and wages, with on-the-job training associated with higher income increases. These findings suggest a case for more efforts to incentivize on-the-job training.

- 1. Skills shortages remain a major obstacle to firm productivity, limiting aggregate productivity and economic growth.** About half of businesses surveyed in the “Innovation, Firm Performance, and Gender Survey” of 2020 reported workforce skills as a major obstacle to their operations (2025 Article IV, Annex VI). The authorities and private stakeholders continue to view skills shortages as a major concern.
- 2. Initiatives to address skills shortages include the development of training courses across a range of specialties.** In recent years, expanded training opportunities have targeted various specialties, through both public training institutes and private sector internships. Even so, private stakeholders continue to report shortages of skilled labor. However, there is limited data-based knowledge of how skills training translates into productivity in Antigua and Barbuda.
- 3. This annex studies the take-up of skills training courses across different sectors and their effects on wages, using the 2018 Labor Force Survey (LFS).** The LFS contains information about whether an individual previously took skills training; and, if so, what type. It also documents the demographic characteristics, incomes, occupations and sectors of almost 2,000 working adults, which enables analysis of the relationship between skills training take-up and productivity, proxied by income.
- 4. The take-up of skills training is widespread but not universal.** More than 60 percent of working-age adults surveyed in the LFS report having previously taken skills training courses, with an almost equal split between institutional and on-the-job training. Men are relatively more likely to take skills training than women, which reflects (i) higher labor force participation among men, as well as (ii) a higher probability of working in sectors that are more dependent on skills training, such as construction.

¹ Prepared by Natasha Gimpelson.

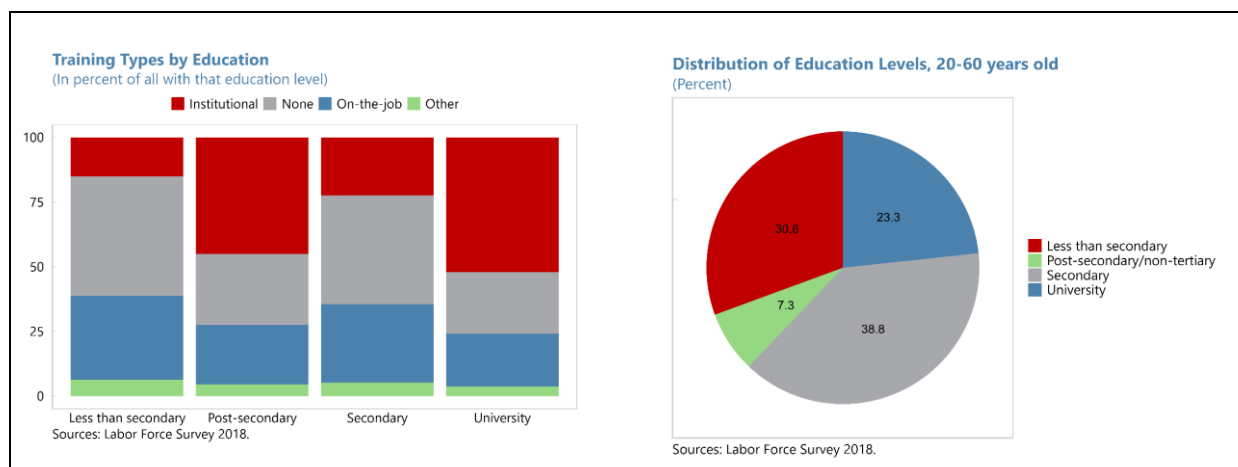


5. Training take-up across sectors is heterogeneous, with construction the most dependent on skills training. Among individuals reporting working in construction, almost 80 percent report having done some type of skills training. Education and health, and manufacturing have similar shares of workers with skills training, while less than 60 percent of respondents working in trade, utilities and transport report having skills training in addition to formal education. Sectoral differences are also in the distribution of training types. Construction is most reliant on the on-the-job training, which reflects the role of manual labor. Education and health, on the other hand, are more skewed towards institutional training, which effectively extends required formal training. For the other sectors, workers report skills training split equally between institutional and on-the-job training.



6. Training take-up is also correlated with formal education. Those with higher education levels are more likely to continue with further skills training, particularly institutional training. Those with at most secondary education are less likely to have any type of skills training, and—among

those who have it—on-the-job training is the most prevalent. This association is closely related with sectoral heterogeneity, since those with university education are more likely to work in sectors requiring higher educational levels (e.g. education and health) and at the same time more likely to require further institutional upskilling.



7. Cross-sectional regression analysis indicates that skills training is associated with higher incomes, with a particularly strong correlation between on-the-job training and income (Table 1). Heterogeneity in training take-up allows an evaluation of any association between skills training and income. This in turn provides suggestive evidence² on whether existing skills training is linked to higher productivity and whether employers pay a premium on the skills obtained through skills training. The first step is an OLS regression of monthly income on a skills training dummy variable, while controlling for major demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, education, and sector. This regression is then repeated, replacing the skills training variable with a variable that captures different types of skills training. The results indicate that having skills training is associated with 10 percent higher income, which cannot be explained by any of the controls. With the median monthly income of EC\$2,400 in 2018, this represents additional income of about EC\$240 per month. Looking at training types in more detail reveals that on-the-job training is associated with a higher increase in income (15 percent) than institutional training (9 percent).

8. These results suggest that skills training, especially on-the-job training, is positively linked to productivity, as captured by higher pay. This finding implies a role for policies to target take-up of skills training, especially among individuals with low formal education. While sector-specific settings could make one type of training more appropriate than another, special attention should be paid to on-the-job training as it is more strongly correlated with higher incomes. Policies could target employees' incentives to invest time and resources in training, and firms' incentives to provide on-the-job training. Closer cooperation between businesses and training institutions could help better align institutional training with the needs of the private sector. Improving statistical

² Since data limitations do not allow for resolving endogeneity concerns, the evidence is suggestive rather than causal.

data—including a skills-in-demand survey, and more regular and timely labor force surveys—could support the design of evidence-based policies to target skills shortages.

Annex VII. Table 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Skills Training and Monthly Income

	Log monthly income		Log monthly income	
Skills training				
Yes	0.095 **			
	(0.039)			
Type of training				
Other			-0.085	
			(0.088)	
On the job			0.137 ***	
			(0.049)	
Institutional			0.088 *	
			(0.045)	
Education				
Secondary	0.132 ***		0.133 ***	
	(0.046)		(0.046)	
Post-secondary/non-tertiary	0.219 ***		0.219 ***	
	(0.080)		(0.081)	
University	0.472 ***		0.478 ***	
	(0.056)		(0.057)	
Monthly hours worked	0.005 ***		0.005 ***	
	(0.001)		(0.001)	
Gender	0.177 ***		0.178 ***	
	(0.041)		(0.041)	
Age				
30 to 39 years	0.175 ***		0.174 ***	
	(0.049)		(0.049)	
40 to 49 years	0.223 ***		0.225 ***	
	(0.055)		(0.055)	
50 to 59 years	0.264 ***		0.258 ***	
	(0.055)		(0.055)	
Number of observations	688		688	

*** p<.01, ** p<.05, * p<.1

Sector is included in the regression but omitted from the output.

Annex VIII. Data Issues

Annex VIII. Table 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Data Adequacy Assessment for Surveillance

Data Adequacy Assessment Rating 1/							
C							
Questionnaire Results 2/							
Assessment	National Accounts	Prices	Government Finance Statistics	External Sector Statistics	Monetary and Financial Statistics	Inter-sectoral Consistency	Median Rating
	C	C	C	C	B	B	C
Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Data Quality Characteristics							
Coverage	B	C	C	C	B		
Granularity 3/	C		B	C	B		
Consistency			B	C		B	
Frequency and Timeliness	D	B	C	C	B		
<p>Note: When the questionnaire does not include a question on a specific dimension of data quality for a sector, the corresponding cell is blank.</p> <p>1/ The overall data adequacy assessment is based on staff's assessment of the country's data for conducting analysis and formulating policy advice, and takes into consideration country-specific characteristics.</p> <p>2/ The overall questionnaire assessment and the assessments for individual sectors reported in the heatmap are based on a standardized questionnaire and scoring system [see IMF <i>Review of the Framework for Data Adequacy Assessment for Surveillance</i>, January 2024, Appendix I].</p> <p>3/ The top cell for "Granularity" of Government Finance Statistics shows staff's assessment of the granularity of the reported government operations data, while the bottom cell shows that of public debt statistics. The top cell for "Granularity" of Monetary and Financial Statistics shows staff's assessment of the granularity of the reported Monetary and Financial Statistics data, while the bottom cell shows that of the Financial Soundness indicators.</p>							
A	The data provided to the Fund are adequate for surveillance.						
B	The data provided to the Fund have some shortcomings but are broadly adequate for surveillance.						
C	The data provided to the Fund have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance.						
D	The data provided to the Fund have serious shortcomings that significantly hamper surveillance.						
<p>Rationale for staff assessment. The data provided to the Fund have some shortcomings that somewhat hamper surveillance. Weaknesses remain in: i) the frequency and timeliness of reporting for the National Accounts, Fiscal, and External Sector statistics; ii) the lack of expenditure-based GDP and Supply and Use Tables; and iii) the outdated weights of the Consumer Price Index as well its excessive sensitivity to transportation prices. Limitations to the external sector statistics somewhat hamper surveillance. Data are available only on an annual basis with a one-year delay and are often characterized by large Errors and Omissions. Interim estimates based on administrative information are often subject to substantial revisions. Large discrepancies and lack of identification between destination and re-export in the reported fuel import figures importantly impact current account estimates. Gaps remain for reconciling FDI inflows with CIP investment data. Surveys for service exports remain limited for important subsectors such as yachting. The government debt statistics are missing some arrears to domestic suppliers that are still being validated by the authorities, and the debt stock data are not fully consistent with debt levels implied by fiscal balance data. The authorities are committed to improving data provision, but capacity constraints continue to limit data availability.</p>							
<p>Changes since the last Article IV consultation. Ratings for Prices and Government Finance Statistics (GFS) have been reassessed as 'C'. The authorities have published revised 2023 GDP numbers as well as 2024 GDP, although some inconsistencies remain. The previously delayed Population and Housing Census is underway. The 2023 Labour Force Survey has been conducted, but processing of the results has been postponed to free resources for the Census completion. The Household Budget Survey and the Skills Demand Survey have also been delayed due to operational and capacity issues. The Statistics Division has completed its first phase of transitioning into the National Bureau of Statistics. BOP data has seen large revisions and discrepancies for fuel imports that contributed significantly to sizable revisions for 2023 and 2024, affecting overall current account estimates. The timeliness of the Consumer Price Index publication has improved, although the latest numbers appear excessively volatile and unduly sensitive to transportation prices. Regarding the GFS, debt stock data do not yet fully reflect those domestic arrears still being validated by the authorities.</p>							
<p>Corrective actions and capacity development priorities. The authorities are encouraged to continue making improvements. Top priorities (in no specific order) include: i) addressing the frequency and timeliness of the National Accounts, as the 2023 and 2024 GDP statistics were delayed, and the development of a quarterly GDP series; ii) providing expenditure-based GDP and Supply and Use Tables; iii) completing the Population and Housing Census; iv) the timely submission of fiscal data; and v) improving timeliness and consistency of the compilation and dissemination of BOP/IIP data in line with TA recommendations from CARTAC and in close coordination with ECCB. Other areas for improvement include updating the weights and re-surveying rent for the Consumer Price Index, completing the Skills Demand Survey and Household Budget Survey, and continuing with digitization efforts to move away from paper-based surveys. To make progress on these priorities, the authorities are encouraged to complete the transition to the National Bureau of Statistics, which should increase capacity. The authorities plan to release a producer price index in 2025 having had TA support from CARTAC, and plan to release a number of products once the Population and Housing Census is completed. The authorities are exploring the development of a Tourism Satellite Account. The Fund stands ready to continue supporting the authorities' efforts in improving the quality and reporting of their data.</p>							
<p>Use of data and/or estimates in Article IV consultations in lieu of official statistics available to staff. Staff does not use any data and/or estimates in the staff report in lieu of official statistics.</p>							
<p>Other data gaps. A more frequent release of the Labour Force Survey would contribute to analytical work on employment dynamics. The availability of climate change-related investment data would support analytical work on climate adaptation and resilience.</p>							

Annex VIII. Table 2. Antigua and Barbuda: Data Standards Initiatives

Antigua and Barbuda participates in the Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS) and first posted its metadata in October 2000 but is yet to disseminate the data recommended under the e-GDDS.

Annex VIII. Table 3. Antigua and Barbuda: Table of Common Indicators Required for Surveillance As of March 6, 2026

	Data Provision to the Fund				Publication under the Data Standards Initiatives through the National Summary Data Page			
	Date of Latest Observation	Date Received	Frequency of Data ⁶	Frequency of Reporting ⁶	Expected Frequency ^{6,7}	Antigua and Barbuda ⁸	Expected Timeliness ^{6,7}	Antigua and Barbuda ⁸
Exchange Rates	Fixed rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	D	D	...	1D
International Reserve Assets and Reserve Liabilities of the Monetary Authorities ¹	2025	Jan-26	A	A	M	...	1M	...
Reserve/Base Money	Dec-25	Mar-26	M	M	M	M	2M	6W
Broad Money	Dec-25	Mar-26	M	M	M	M	1Q	6W
Central Bank Balance Sheet	Dec-25	Mar-26	M	M	M	M	2M	6W
Consolidated Balance Sheet of the Banking System	Dec-25	Mar-26	M	M	M	M	1Q	6W
Interest Rates ²	Dec-25	Mar-26	M	M	M	M	...	6W
Consumer Price Index	Dec-25	Feb-26	M	M	M	M	2M	3W
Revenue, Expenditure, Balance and Composition of Financing ³ ?General Government ⁴	Dec-25	Jan-26	6M	6M	A	...	3Q	...
Revenue, Expenditure, Balance and Composition of Financing ³ ?Central Government	Dec-25	Jan-26	6M	6M	Q	Q,M	1Q	1Q
Stocks of Central Government and Central Government-Guaranteed Debt ⁵	2025	Jan-26	A	A	Q	A	2Q	3M
External Current Account Balance	2025	Jan-26	A	A	Q	A	1Q	11M
Exports and Imports of Goods and Services	2025	Jan-26	A	A	M	Q	12W	1Q
GDP/GNP	2024	Nov-25	A	A	Q	A	1Q	6M
Gross External Debt	2025	Jan-26	A	A	Q	Q	2Q	1Y
International Investment Position	2025	Jan-26	A	A	A	...	3Q	...

¹ Includes net market value of derivative positions.

² Both market-based and officially determined, including discount rates, money market rates, rates on treasury bills, notes and bonds.

³ Foreign, domestic bank, and domestic nonbank financing.

⁴ The general government consists of the central government (budgetary funds, extra budgetary funds, and social security funds) and state and local governments.

⁵ Including currency and maturity composition.

⁶ Frequency and timeliness: ("D") daily; ("W") weekly or with a lag of no more than one week after the reference date; ("M") monthly or with lag of no more than one month after the reference date; ("Q") quarterly or with lag of no more than one quarter after the reference date; ("A") annual; ("SA") semiannual; ("I") irregular; ("NA") not available or not applicable; and ("NLT") not later than.

⁷ Encouraged frequency of data and timeliness of reporting under the e-GDDS and required frequency of data and timeliness of reporting under the SDDS and SDDS Plus. Any flexibility options or transition plans used under the SDDS or SDDS Plus are not reflected. For those countries that do not participate in the IMF Data Standards Initiatives, the required frequency and timeliness under the SDDS are shown for New Zealand, and the encouraged frequency and timeliness under the e-GDDS are shown for Eritrea, Nauru, South Sudan, and Turkmenistan.

⁸ Based on the information from the Summary of Observance for SDDS and SDDS Plus participants, and the Summary of Dissemination Practices for e-GDDS participants, available from the IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board (<https://dsbb.imf.org/>). For those countries that do not participate in the Data Standards Initiatives, as well as those that do have a National Data Summary Page, the entries are shown as "...".



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

April 23, 2026

STAFF REPORT FOR THE 2026 ARTICLE IV CONSULTATION—SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Approved By
Daniel Leigh (WHD)
and **Niamh Sheridan**
(SPR)

Prepared by the Western Hemisphere Department in consultation with the Strategy, Policy, and Review Department.

This supplement provides information on developments since the issuance of the staff report, including potential implications of the war in the Middle East. These developments do not alter the thrust of the staff appraisal.

- 1. General elections will be held in late April.** Parliament was dissolved on April 1. Parliamentary elections have been scheduled for April 30.
- 2. The war in the Middle East is expected to have negative spillovers for Antigua and Barbuda.** Despite its geographical distance from the conflict, Antigua and Barbuda faces potential spillovers from higher global energy and food prices, weaker external demand, and disruptions to global value chains.
- 3. Staff has revised the baseline macroeconomic projections for Antigua and Barbuda in line with the global assumptions for the April 2026 *World Economic Outlook (WEO)* (text table, Table 1).** In particular, the WEO reference forecasts assume that energy and food prices rise in 2026, but also that the war is relatively short-lived and production and exports from the Middle East normalize by mid-2026.¹ On this basis, for Antigua and Barbuda, real GDP growth for 2026 and 2027 has been revised slightly downward compared with the staff report baseline. Higher global energy prices are projected to contribute to imported inflation, although retail fuel price increases have been mitigated by automatic adjustments to fuel consumption taxes (see below). Accordingly, projected inflation is revised modestly upward in the near term, before converging to its medium-term path. Given Antigua and Barbuda's reliance on imported energy and food, the revised baseline also envisages higher import costs leading to a widening in the current account deficit, by about 1 percentage point of GDP in 2026 and 2027. The fiscal impact in the revised baseline is limited, with lower consumption tax receipts broadly offset by higher import duties.

¹ See *World Economic Outlook*, April 2026, chapter 1.

Antigua and Barbuda: Selected Economic Indicators, 2026–27

(Annual percentage change, unless otherwise indicated)

	2026		2027	
	Latest 1/	Change 2/	Latest 1/	Change 2/
Real GDP	2.6	-0.2	2.4	-0.1
Consumer prices (period average)	2.6	+0.3	2.1	+0.1
Current account balance (percent of GDP)	-11.8	-0.9	-11.3	-1.0
Primary fiscal balance (percent of GDP)	1.4	-0.2	0.9	-0.1

Source: IMF staff projections.

1/ April 2026 *World Economic Outlook* projection.

2/ Difference in percentage points compared with staff report projections

4. However, risks to the outlook are now tilted further to the downside, reflecting the possibility that the war becomes more protracted than assumed. As noted in the staff report, if higher oil and commodity prices are sustained as a result of the conflict, higher costs of imported fuel, food, and transportation could further weaken the external current account balance and intensify inflationary pressures. Weaker global growth and heightened uncertainty could also dampen tourism demand, adversely affecting Antigua and Barbuda’s near-term growth prospects, especially if higher costs also slow construction activity. Weaker economic activity could erode fiscal performance (even if higher inflation helps to mitigate the impact on revenues) and add to public debt vulnerabilities and financing pressures.

5. The authorities have implemented temporary tax reductions seeking to alleviate near-term cost-of-living pressures. Following the January announcement of a temporary reduction in the Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) rate to be implemented in 2026, the ABST rate was reduced to zero on food and school supplies for two days in April. A second two-day reduction has also been announced for August. In addition, gasoline prices have been stabilized through reductions in fuel consumption taxes, which are set automatically under a price-stabilization formula in response to higher prices for imported fuel.

6. Overall, these developments do not change the thrust of the staff appraisal. Heightened external risks warrant continued close monitoring and the implementation of prudent and agile policies in line with appraisal recommendations, in a context of constrained fiscal space. If the impact of the oil price shock worsens, policy responses should be temporary and, to the extent feasible, targeted to vulnerable households, as administrative capacity and social registries are strengthened consistent with the recommendations in the staff report.

Table 1. Antigua and Barbuda: Selected Economic and Financial Indicators

Population (2025)	104,993				Adult literacy rate (2015)					99	
GDP per capita (US\$, 2025)	21,650				Mean years of schooling (2022)					10.5	
Life expectancy at birth (years, 2022)	79.2				Human Development Index rank					53	
Mortality rate (under 5, per 1,000 live births, 2022)	10				(2024, of 193 economies)						
					Est.	Projections					
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
National Income and Prices	(Annual percentage change)										
Real GDP	8.2	8.5	3.9	2.5	3.0	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Nominal GDP	13.5	15.9	10.6	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Consumer prices (end of period)	1.2	9.2	3.3	5.4	3.1	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Consumer prices (period average)	1.6	7.5	5.1	6.2	1.4	2.6	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Money and Credit											
Net foreign assets 1/	18.2	3.3	0.2	3.7	6.7	1.5	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.4	1.3
Net domestic assets 1/	-4.4	1.3	3.2	0.9	-0.7	4.9	3.4	2.6	3.1	3.1	3.2
Broad money (M2)	13.9	4.6	3.3	4.6	5.9	6.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Credit to private sector	-4.1	-2.1	7.0	11.6	2.8	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Central Government	(Percent of GDP)										
Primary balance	-2.3	-0.3	0.5	4.0	4.9	1.4	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Overall balance	-4.5	-2.9	-1.7	1.6	3.1	-0.6	-1.1	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0	-0.9
Total revenue and grants	18.9	18.0	16.7	21.9	22.4	21.6	21.0	20.9	20.8	20.7	20.6
<i>Of which:</i> Tax revenue	15.4	14.9	14.6	16.8	18.2	17.8	17.3	17.3	17.3	17.2	17.2
Total expenditure	23.4	20.8	18.4	20.2	19.3	22.3	22.2	21.9	21.8	21.7	21.5
External Sector											
Current account balance	-17.6	-15.1	-12.9	-7.5	-11.6	-11.8	-11.3	-10.8	-10.4	-9.9	-9.4
Trade balance	-29.6	-34.6	-32.4	-29.7	-31.8	-32.3	-31.9	-31.8	-31.6	-31.1	-30.9
Nonfactor service balance	19.5	29.0	28.7	31.3	27.9	27.7	28.0	28.5	28.8	28.8	29.2
<i>Of which:</i> Gross tourism receipts	30.5	44.6	44.3	47.9	45.0	44.7	45.1	46.1	46.6	46.7	47.2
Overall balance	3.5	-0.1	-2.4	-0.9	2.2	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	-0.4	-0.7	-1.3
External public sector debt	45.5	39.6	35.2	31.7	31.3	34.2	36.1	37.5	36.8	38.7	38.9
Savings-Investment Balance	-17.6	-15.1	-12.9	-7.5	-11.6	-11.8	-11.3	-10.8	-10.4	-9.9	-9.4
Savings	28.4	25.2	23.8	25.9	24.4	24.5	24.6	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4
Investment	46.0	40.2	36.7	33.4	36.1	36.2	35.9	35.2	34.7	34.3	33.8
Memorandum Items											
Net imputed international reserves (US\$ million)	324	346	319	318	352	378	399	436	465	496	526
(Months of prospective imports)	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.3
GDP at market prices (EC\$ million)	4,326	5,014	5,546	5,838	6,137	6,439	6,728	7,031	7,347	7,679	8,026
Public debt stock (EC\$ million) 2/, 3/	4,021	4,134	4,134	4,043	4,190	4,280	4,387	4,493	4,575	4,640	4,688
(Percent of GDP)	93.0	82.4	74.5	69.3	68.3	66.5	65.2	63.9	62.3	60.4	58.4

Sources: Country authorities, ECCB, UN Human Development Report, World Bank, and IMF staff estimates and projections.

1/ NDA and NFA are shown as changes in percent of M2 at beginning of period.

2/ Includes stock of principal and interest arrears, unpaid vouchers, and suppliers' credits.

3/ Includes central government guarantees of state enterprises' and statutory bodies' debt.



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

March 18, 2026

STAFF REPORT FOR THE 2026 ARTICLE IV CONSULTATION— INFORMATIONAL ANNEX

Prepared By

Western Hemisphere Department (in consultation with other departments)

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FUND RELATIONS

(As of February 28, 2026)

Membership Status: Joined February 25, 1982; Article VIII

General Resources Account:	SDR Million	Percent of Quota
Quota	20.00	100.00
IMF's Holdings of Currency (Holdings Rate)	19.96	99.79
Reserve Tranche Position	0.05	0.26

SDR Department:	SDR Million	Percent of Allocation
Net cumulative allocation	31.67	100.00
Holdings	0.04	0.11

Outstanding Purchases and Loans: None

Latest Financial Arrangements:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Date of Arrangement</u>	<u>Expiration Date</u>	<u>Amount Approved (SDR Million)</u>	<u>Amount Drawn (SDR Million)</u>
Stand-By	June 7, 2010	June 6, 2013	67.50	67.50

Overdue Obligations and Projected Payments to Fund^{1/}

(SDR Million; based on existing use of resources and present holdings of SDRs):

	<u>Forthcoming</u>				
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>2030</u>
Principal					
Charges/Interest	<u>0.63</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>
Total	<u>0.63</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>	<u>0.85</u>

1/ When a member has overdue financial obligations outstanding for more than three months, the amount of such arrears will be shown in this section.

Implementation of HIPC Initiative: Not Applicable

Implementation of Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI): Not Applicable

Implementation of Catastrophe Containment and Relief (CCR): Not Applicable

Article IV Consultation: The 2025 Article IV Consultation was concluded by the IMF Executive Board on March 13, 2025. The staff report was published on April 14, 2025.

Exchange Arrangements: The exchange rate arrangement is a currency board. Antigua and Barbuda participates in a currency union with seven other members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union and has no separate legal tender. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) manages monetary policy and the exchange system for its eight members. The common currency, the Eastern Caribbean dollar, has been pegged to the U.S. dollar at the rate of EC\$2.70 per U.S. dollar since July 1976. Antigua and Barbuda has accepted the obligations of Article VIII, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the IMF's Articles of Agreement, and maintains an exchange system that is free of restrictions on the making of payments and transfers for current international transactions and multiple currency practices.

Safeguards Assessment: Under the Fund's safeguards policy, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) is subject to periodic safeguards assessments. An update assessment was completed in August 2021 and found that the ECCB has maintained strong external audit and financial reporting practices that continue to be aligned with international standards. The ECCB has taken steps to address most of the 2021 assessment's recommendations. The pending recommendation is on further strengthening the ECCB's operational autonomy and aligning its Agreement Act with leading practices. The next periodic safeguards assessment of the ECCB is scheduled for early 2027.

Technical Assistance: Several missions from FAD, MCM, and STA, supported by the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), have visited the country. The table below is the compilation of technical assistance delivered during 2019–26.

Antigua and Barbuda: Fund Technical Assistance, 2019–26	
Date	Mission Description
February 2019	Tax Administration – TADAT Assessment
June 2019	Macroeconomic Program – Assisting with medium-term macroeconomic forecasting
July 2019	External Sector Statistics – Data sources and backcasting
July 2020	External Sector Statistics – Collection and compilation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
July 2021	Customs Administration – Strengthening performance management (creating an action plan to develop performance targets and key performance indicators)
August 2021	External Sector Statistics – Data sources and estimation techniques
September 2021	Tax Administration – Strengthening audit capacity
September 2021	Tax Administration – Implementation of a performance management system for the Internal Revenue Department
October 2021	Tax Administration – Enhancing compliance risk management for large and medium taxpayers
November 2021	Real Sector Statistics – Development of services producer price indices
July 2022	Real Sector Statistics – Review of rental component of the consumer price index
September 2022	External Sector Statistics – Provisional 2021 balance of payments
February 2023	Real Sector Statistics – Development of producer price indices for services
February 2023	Real Sector Statistics – Compiling supply and use tables, rebasing national accounts
February 2023	Tax Policy – Rationalization of VAT exemptions, zero-ratings and concessions plus property tax diagnostic
August 2023	External Sector Statistics – BOP/IIP – source data
November 2023	Public Financial Management – Debt Recording and Reconciliation
March 2024	Public Financial Management – Transitioning to a More Modern Treasury
May 2024	Public Financial Management – Arrears: Stocktaking and Next Steps
June 2024	Macroeconomic Programming – Assisting with medium-term macroeconomic forecasting
June 2024	Real Sector Statistics – Updating the Producer Price Index
September 2024	External Sector Statistics – Addressing compilation issues for BOP/IIP
September 2024	Public Financial Management – Strengthening Oversight and Management of Statutory Bodies, including State-owned Enterprises
February 2025	Macroeconomic Programming – Strengthen Macro-fiscal Forecasting Capacity
March 2025	Tax Administration – Inland Revenue Department governance
June 2025	Macroeconomic Programming – Strengthen Macro-fiscal Forecasting Capacity

June 2025 – July 2025	Real Sector Statistics - Developing new producer price indices
July 2025	Real Sector Statistics – National accounts: reviewing sources of production-based GDP
August 2025	External Sector Statistics – BOP/IIP – source data
October 2025	Tax Administration – Addressing data integrity issues in the Standard Integrated Government Tax Administration System
October 2025	Tax Administration – Training auditors to analyze taxpayer data
November 2025	Customs – Strengthening risk management and compliance
November 2025 – December 2025	Tax Administration – Data cleansing initiatives and supporting the development and acquisition of a new IT system
February 2026	Macroeconomic Programming – Building capacity in medium-term macro-fiscal frameworks

FSAP Participation: Antigua and Barbuda participated in the regional Eastern Caribbean Currency Union FSAP conducted in September and October 2003. The Financial System Stability Assessment is IMF Country Report No. 04/293.

RELATIONS WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

(As of March 18, 2026)

- World Bank

[WBG Finances - Country Details - Antigua and Barbuda \(worldbank.org\)](https://www.worldbank.org/country/antigua-and-barbuda)

- Caribbean Development Bank

[Antigua and Barbuda | Caribbean Development Bank \(caribank.org\)](https://www.caribank.org/antigua-and-barbuda)

**Statement by Mr. Brad Recker, Ms. Gina Fitzgerald, and Ms. Ann Marie Wickham on
Antigua and Barbuda
May 4, 2026**

Our Antigua and Barbuda authorities extend their gratitude to Mr. Moore and the mission team for the constructive discussions during the 2026 Article IV consultation, as well as the sound analysis and policy recommendations provided in the staff report. Our authorities broadly share staff's assessment of the economic outlook, risks, and policy priorities for the period ahead.

I. Introduction

Following a strong post-pandemic recovery, Antigua and Barbuda's economy continues to expand, supported by the authorities' efforts to sustain growth, strengthen public finances, and advance reforms. The 2026 Budget reinforces this commitment by prioritizing stronger revenue performance, improved tax compliance, and higher growth-enhancing capital investment, while preserving expenditure discipline and remaining anchored in the country's fiscal objectives. With general elections scheduled for April 30, 2026, our authorities remain focused on policy continuity, supporting the recovery, and strengthening economic resilience.

Since the Article IV discussions were completed in January, external conditions have become more challenging. Spillovers from the war in the Middle East have increased risks from higher energy and food prices, weaker external demand, and disruptions to global value chains. These risks are particularly relevant for Antigua and Barbuda, given its reliance on imported fuel and food, and the importance of tourism, transportation costs, and external connectivity.

Looking ahead, the hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) later this year will provide an important opportunity to showcase Antigua and Barbuda's recovery, tourism offering, investment potential, and leadership as a small island developing state. It will also help reinforce the country's international visibility, deepen partnerships, and draw attention to the resilience challenges facing small states and the importance of sustained international support.

II. Strong Economic Performance, Resilience, and Managing External Shocks

Antigua and Barbuda's economic performance remains strong and encouraging, demonstrating resilience in the face of repeated shocks. Real GDP growth reached 3 percent in 2025 and, despite the expected impact of the oil price shock, growth is projected to remain positive at 2.6 percent in 2026. Inflation eased to 3.1 percent in 2025 and is expected to stabilize around 2 percent over the medium term. These gains reflect the recovery in tourism, renewed construction activity, and the authorities' continued policy efforts to support confidence and investment.

Antigua and Barbuda's performance is particularly notable given the country's exposure as a small, open, tourism-dependent economy to higher energy and food prices, weaker external demand, disruptions to trade and travel, and climate-related events. In response to near-term price pressures, the authorities introduced temporary measures to ease the cost of living, including a brief reduction in ABST on selected food and school supplies and fuel price stabilization through

automatic adjustments to fuel consumption taxes. The ABST measure was narrowly targeted, limited to two days, and is expected to have only a small fiscal impact, particularly as many of the affected items were already zero-rated. These steps reflect the authorities' efforts to protect vulnerable households while maintaining their commitment to fiscal responsibility.

III. Fiscal Improvement, Debt Reduction, and Strengthening Public Finances

Our authorities have made important progress in strengthening the fiscal position and reducing public debt. The primary balance has improved significantly since the pandemic and is expected to remain within the authorities' medium-term fiscal target range in 2026, supported by improved tax collections, expenditure restraint, stronger Citizenship by Investment Program inflows, and earlier revenue measures. The 2026 Budget reinforces these efforts by prioritizing stronger revenue performance, improved tax compliance, and higher growth-enhancing capital investment, while remaining anchored in the authorities' fiscal objectives.

Public debt has declined sharply from its pandemic peak, easing from around 101 percent of GDP in 2020 to an estimated 68 percent in 2025, and is projected to fall below 60 percent by 2031, consistent with the ECCU regional debt target of 60 percent of GDP by 2035. This progress reflects the authorities' continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, even as they manage the demands of supporting the recovery, protecting households, and investing in resilience.

Our authorities are also addressing arrears and elevated financing needs in a structured manner. Work is underway on a liability management operation to refinance domestic debt, extend maturities, ease the gross financing burden, reduce arrears, and support resilience-building projects. Progress has also been made in addressing arrears to non-Paris Club creditors, while validation of domestic supplier arrears continues. In addition, the authorities intend to step up efforts to address Paris Club arrears, including with the support of a global debt advisory firm.

These efforts are reinforced by stronger expenditure controls, improved cash management, Treasury modernization, and tax administration reforms to strengthen compliance, modernize tax systems, improve customs processes, and limit new arrears. The authorities are also strengthening fiscal institutions and transparency through the Fiscal Resilience Oversight Committee, the tabling of its first report in Parliament, and the establishment of an SOE oversight function within the Ministry of Finance. Continued capacity development support will remain important to ensure reforms remain practical, well-sequenced, and sustainable.

IV. Financial Sector Resilience and Access to Finance

The financial system remains stable and liquid, and work continues at both the national and regional levels to strengthen oversight and resilience. At the national level, the authorities are advancing work toward more risk-based supervision of credit unions and strengthening the regulatory framework. At the regional level, they support initiatives to establish deposit insurance and harmonize financial sector standards.

The launch of the regional credit bureau in Antigua and Barbuda and the operationalization of the Regional Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme are important steps to improve access to finance. These initiatives can help reduce information gaps, strengthen creditworthiness assessments, and support

lending to businesses, including micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises. Improved access to finance will be important for private sector development, productivity, and inclusive growth.

V. Strengthening AML/CFT and CIP Safeguards

Our authorities continue to strengthen the AML/CFT and Citizenship by Investment (CIP) frameworks. The National Risk Assessment is underway, and preparations are advancing to align the AML/CFT framework with the 2025 updates to FATF standards ahead of the next regional mutual assessment. The authorities have also enacted legislation establishing an independent regional regulator for the CIP industry.

These reforms are important for safeguarding financial integrity, preserving confidence, and strengthening the credibility of an important source of external financing. The authorities remain committed to strong due diligence standards and to addressing any identified gaps in the AML/CFT framework.

VI. Connectivity, Competitiveness, and Skills Development

Our authorities are pursuing important reforms to improve connectivity, competitiveness, and medium-term growth. They have expanded cargo and cruise port capacity in St. John's, upgraded cargo port equipment to improve processing times and operational efficiency, and advanced further dredging and cruise port investments to support more frequent cruise arrivals. They are also resurfacing and expanding the runway, working to upgrade the V.C. Bird International Airport terminal, expanding open-skies partnerships, and seeking to attract more direct flights, including from new markets.

These efforts are central to Antigua and Barbuda's growth strategy. For a tourism-dependent island economy, better air and sea connectivity can support tourism, trade, investment, and resilience. Stronger connectivity also helps reduce external bottlenecks, improve competitiveness, and create opportunities for diversification over time.

Our authorities are also working to address skills shortages. The continued expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus and the consolidation of training institutions into the Antigua and Barbuda College of Advanced Studies are important steps to strengthen human capital. The authorities are also encouraging closer cooperation between training institutions and the private sector, including through internships and programs better aligned with employers' needs.

VII. Building Resilience to Climate Change

Antigua and Barbuda is highly vulnerable to climate change and remains fully committed to building resilience against natural disasters. A key milestone is the publication of the new National Adaptation Plan in late 2025, prepared with support from the Green Climate Fund. The plan outlines priorities across key sectors, identifies financing options, and supports implementation.

The authorities' focus is on practical adaptation measures, including stronger early warning systems, better climate data, climate-smart infrastructure, sustainable land use, ecosystem protection, and stronger institutional capacity to prepare for and respond to climate shocks.

VIII. Capacity Development and Data Improvements

Our authorities continue to work to strengthen data quality and institutional capacity. The population and housing census is underway, and efforts are advancing to improve labor market data and strengthen statistical systems. The transition of the Statistics Division to the National Bureau of Statistics should also help increase statistical capacity over the medium term.

Capacity development remains central to Antigua and Barbuda's engagement with the Fund. Continued support from the Fund and CARTAC will be important in debt management, tax administration, fiscal reporting, SOE oversight, and statistics. For small states, capacity constraints can slow reform implementation even where there is strong political commitment. Tailored and practical technical assistance will therefore remain essential.

IX. Concluding Remarks

Our Antigua and Barbuda authorities appreciate and value the collaborative relationship with the Fund. The consistent engagement and policy advice have been important in helping the authorities navigate a challenging external environment.

Looking ahead, the authorities will continue to draw on the Fund's capacity development and technical assistance to address remaining challenges, strengthen fiscal and debt management, and build institutional capacity. Continued engagement will be important to support practical, well-sequenced reforms that reflect Antigua and Barbuda's small-state constraints and help balance fiscal consolidation with growth, social protection, and resilience investment.