



MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE

# The Citizens' Guide to the 2024/25

# BUDGET

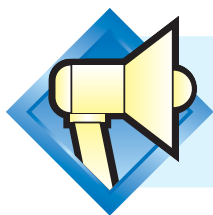
SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • PART I: NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS -FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024          | PAGE 3  |
| • PART II: THE BUDGET PROCESS                                | PAGE 4  |
| • PART III: WHAT GOES INTO THE PREPARATION OF THE BUDGET?    | PAGE 6  |
| • PART IV: HOW BIG IS THE NATIONAL BUDGET?                   | PAGE 8  |
| • PART V: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO FUND THE BUDGET? | PAGE 11 |
| • PART VI: WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?                          | PAGE 13 |
| • PART VII: 2024-25 INITIATIVES                              | PAGE 22 |
| • BUDGET WORD SEARCH   | PAGE 23 |



[mof.gov.jm](http://mof.gov.jm)



## MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE



**Nigel Clarke, DPhil, MP**  
**Minister of Finance and**  
**the Public Service**

**T**his **Citizens' Guide to the 2023/24 Central Government Budget (the "Citizens' Guide")** sets out, in a user-friendly format, a summary of the Central Government Budget (the "Budget") for the upcoming fiscal year, April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025 (the "Fiscal Year").

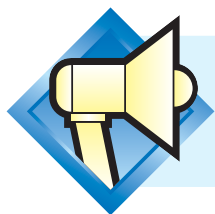
Jamaica has experienced a strong recovery from the COVID-19 crisis such that Jamaica's macro-economic fundamentals are stronger today than they have been for fifty (50) years. Unemployment is at a record low of 4.2%. Our foreign exchange reserves are at historical highs and Jamaica's debt ratio is on track to achieve the lowest levels in fifty (50) years at the end of the 2024/25 fiscal year.

This has ushered in a period of economic stability which we need to preserve, maintain and strengthen. At the same time, the GOJ intends to leverage this economic stability to the benefit of all the people of Jamaica. We will improve social security through the implementation of unemployment insurance, strengthen equity through the introduction of a reverse income tax credit, and enhance social protection through increases to PATH and social pension.

Over the medium term this economic stability will also allow for the greatest period of public investment expenditure in the last fifty (50) years that is designed to improve standards of living. Through central government financing, and public private partnerships, we will build, modernise and upgrade schools, hospitals, public parks, water systems, sewerage, irrigation systems, tax offices, court houses, roads, bridges and highways at a pace that defies our historical experience even as the GOJ acquires buses, garbage trucks and IT systems that improve the quality of public services.

The GOJ's policies are geared towards sustainably achieving social and economic development such that our collective ambition for Jamaica is met, whereby Jamaica becomes the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

The Citizens' Guide will be published on social media broadening its reach and accessibility, thereby contributing to fiscal transparency.



## MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

**T**he Central Government plans to spend \$1.3 trillion during fiscal year 2024/25 to provide public goods and services to the citizens of Jamaica. This expenditure will cover both recurrent and capital activities which contribute to maintaining and enhancing the levels of economic activity within the country and ensuring citizens' access to education, health and other public services.

**The Citizens' Guide to the 2024/25 Budget** seeks to provide an easy-to-understand breakdown of the \$1.3 trillion budget in terms of the allocation to particular activities that will be undertaken throughout the year. It provides information on the major projects and programmes that are scheduled to be implemented during the fiscal year.

**The Citizens' Guide to the 2024/25 Budget** also provides information on the sources of funding for the \$1.3 trillion expenditure budget and outlines the revenue measures that will take effect during the fiscal year.

Citizens are encouraged to use the Citizen's Guide to the 2024/25 Budget to inform themselves of the Government's plans for fiscal year 2024/25 and to identify how they can positively contribute to the actions being taken toward the country's achievement of its Vision 2030 goals and other targets.



**Darlene Morrison**  
**Financial Secretary**



## PART I: NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS - FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024

- The Jamaican economy grew in real terms by **2.2%**, for the first half of **Fiscal Year 2023/24, (April to September 2023)**, continuing the trend of positive economic growth since recovering from the impact of **COVID-19**.
- Unemployment, at end of **October 2023** was **4.2%**, the lowest on record;
- Jamaica's level of Foreign Exchange Reserves currently stands at **US\$4.7 billion**. Should there be a major disruption in the supply of foreign exchange to Jamaica, the Central Bank would still find foreign exchange to pay overseas suppliers of goods and service.
- Jamaica's creditworthiness was improved, with ratings upgrade from international credit agencies **Standard and Poor's** and **Moody's** and **Fitch** on **September 13, 2023, October 18, 2023** and **March 2024**, respectively.
- Jamaica met all the targets for the second **IMF Review (July to December 2023)** under the current **Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL)** and **Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)** arrangements.
- The government successfully implemented the second year of the three-year public sector compensation restructure.

### SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

	Unit	FY 2023/24 (Actual)	FY 2024/25 (Projection)
<b>Real GDP Growth Rate</b>	%	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Inflation (Annual Point to Point)</b>	%	<b>7.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate (July/October Labour Force Survey)</b>	%	<b>4.2</b>	<b>Not available</b>
<b>Foreign Exchange Reserves (Net International Reserves)</b>	US\$ millions	<b>4,731.3</b>	<b>4,781.1</b>
<b>Gross Reserves (Goods &amp; Services Imports)</b>	Weeks	<b>52.4</b>	<b>50.9</b>
<b>Debt Stock</b>	% GDP	<b>72.2</b>	<b>64.4</b>

Source: MOFPS





## PART II: THE BUDGET PROCESS

**The Budget Process**, also known as **The Budget Cycle**, refers to the life of a budget from creation to evaluation. The budgeting process is generally described in the following phases:

- **Budget Formulation:** During this phase, the Executive (Cabinet) formulates the short to medium-term strategic plans of the Government based on the established resource envelope as provided by the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service. New capital expenditure is introduced into the budget process through the Public Investment Management System which is described on page 5 (figure 2). Specific activities are defined at the programme and sector levels to achieve national goals. A budget circular is issued which provides guidance to **Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDAs)** on how to develop their budgets. Expenditure ceilings are provided to MDAs based on the macro-fiscal framework and defined national and sectoral strategies;
- **Budget Approval:** During this phase, the Legislature (Houses of Parliament) reviews and makes amendments where necessary to the budget and enacts it into law. The budget, when enacted is called the Appropriation Act;
- **Budget Execution:** Budget Execution is the process whereby MDAs collect revenue and make expenditures to implement the policies, programmes, and projects outlined in the enacted budget. Budgets are executed in order to achieve national goals;
- **Budget Oversight:** Budget oversight includes activities that aim to measure whether public resources have been used appropriately, effectively, and efficiently. MDAs' operations and related expenditure/ budget accounts are scrutinized and assessed through internal and external auditing. Audit findings are reviewed by the Legislature and may require MDAs to take corrective action;

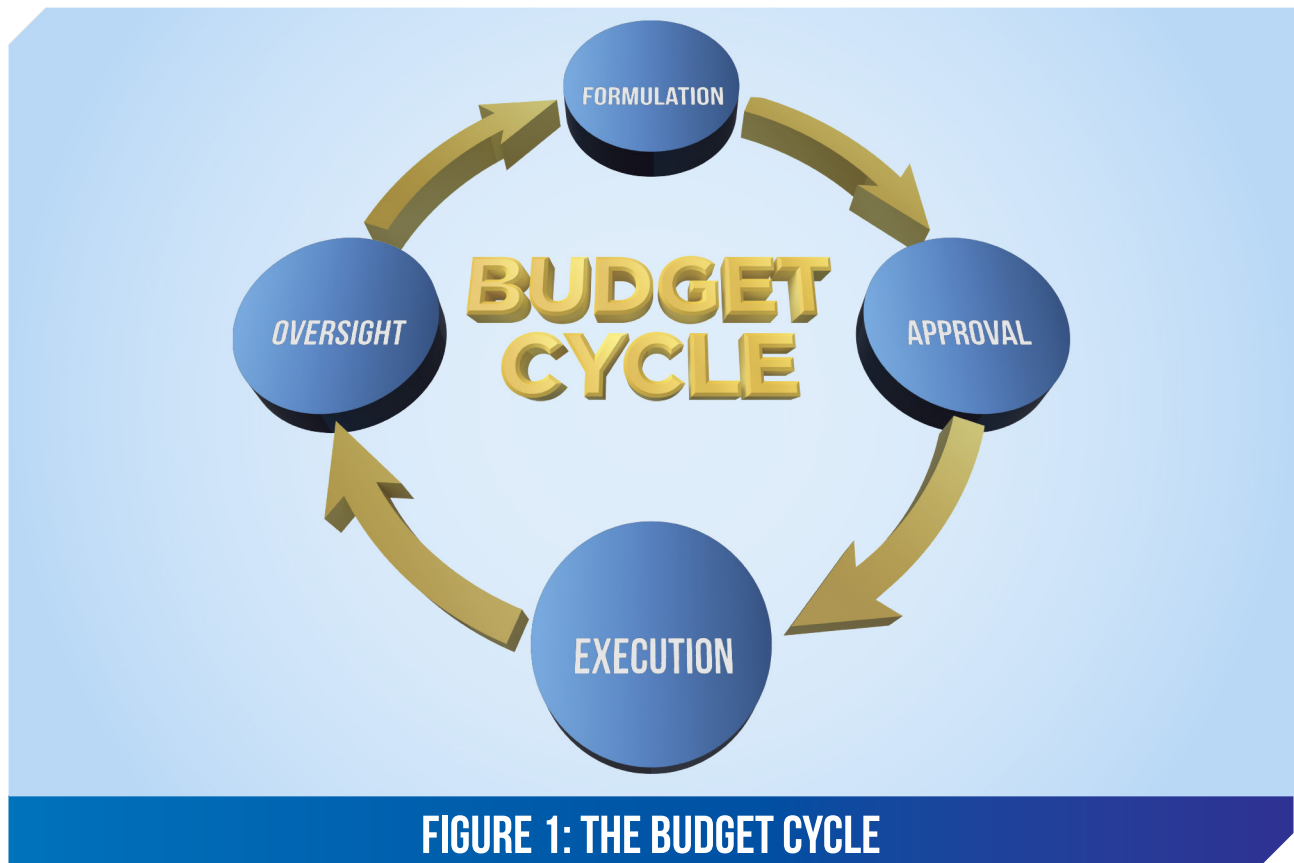


FIGURE 1: THE BUDGET CYCLE



## APPROVAL OF PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROJECTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

**The GOJ Public Investment Management System (PIMS)** – governs the preparation, approval and management of all **Public Investment Projects (PIPs)** within the Public Sector. A Public Investment project is non-recurrent expenditure aimed at creating new assets or substantially improving existing assets and is carried out as an integrated set of activities with specific cost and budget over a defined period of time.

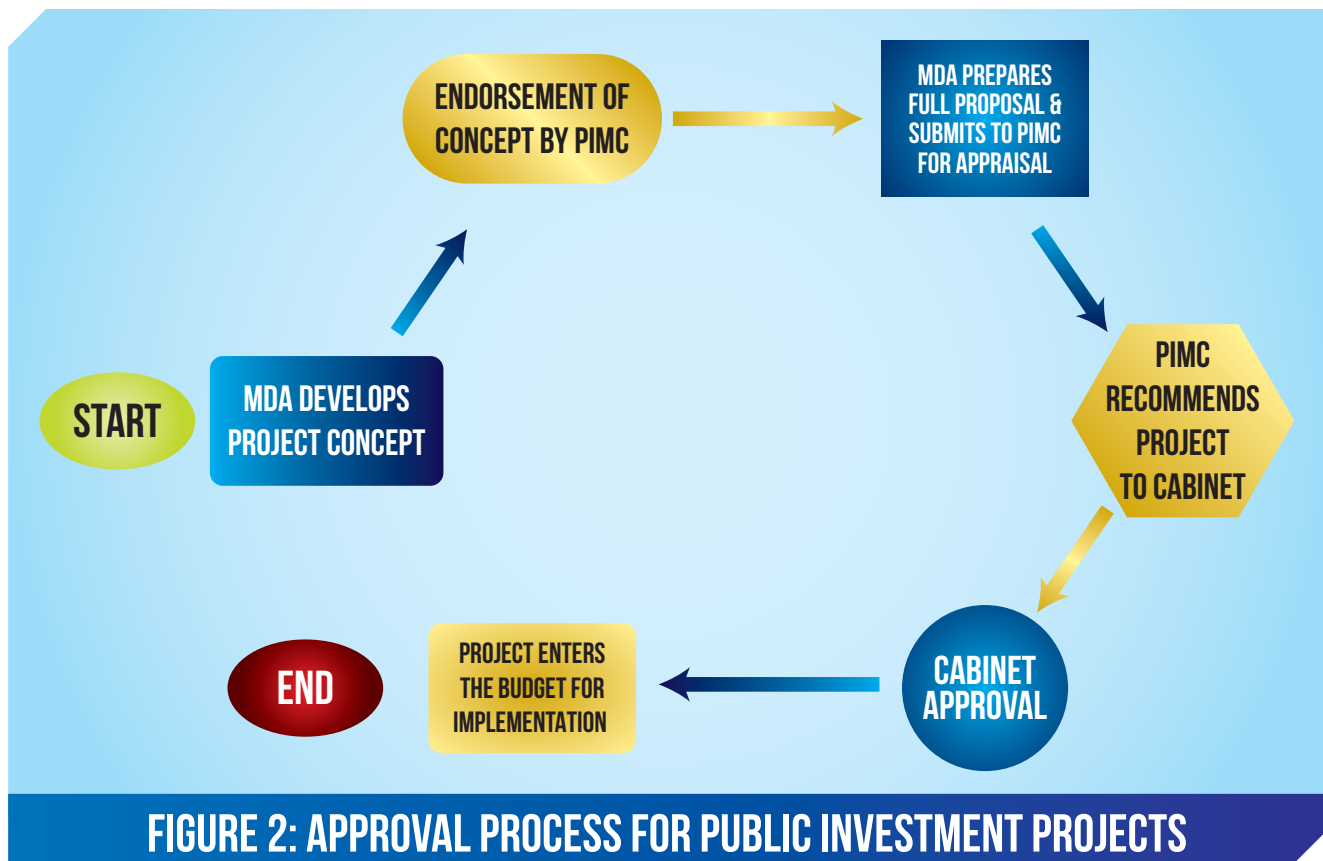
Before public investment projects can be implemented they must first be approved. The approval process involves:

- Screening of project concepts to ensure that the objectives and deliverables are in line with national development objectives and government's policy priorities; and
- Reviewing the subsequent project proposals for technical, economic, and environmental feasibility;

These functions are carried out by the **Public Investment Management Committee (PIMC)**, a committee appointed by Cabinet, chaired by the Minister of Finance and comprised of Cabinet Ministers and Senior Technocrats in the Public Sector.

Projects that are found to be feasible and are in line with national development objectives and current policy priorities, are endorsed by the PIMC to seek approval from the Cabinet to proceed to implementation and secure funding in the budget of the implementing MDAs.

All projects are required by law to go through this approval process, with the exception of those that are proposed by Self-Financed Public Bodies that are designated by the Auditor General as operating commercially.



**FIGURE 2: APPROVAL PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROJECTS**



## PART III: WHAT GOES INTO THE PREPARATION OF THE BUDGET?

**In planning the National Budget**, the current and past performances of the main macroeconomic indicators determine the fiscal policy direction for the new budget year and the projections made over the medium term.

### THE KEY MACROECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/25

#### Economic Growth Rate

The economy's growth rate is a measure of **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** which is the total annual value of the goods and services produced in the country. For **Fiscal Year 2024/25**, annual **GDP growth rate** is projected at **1.8%**.

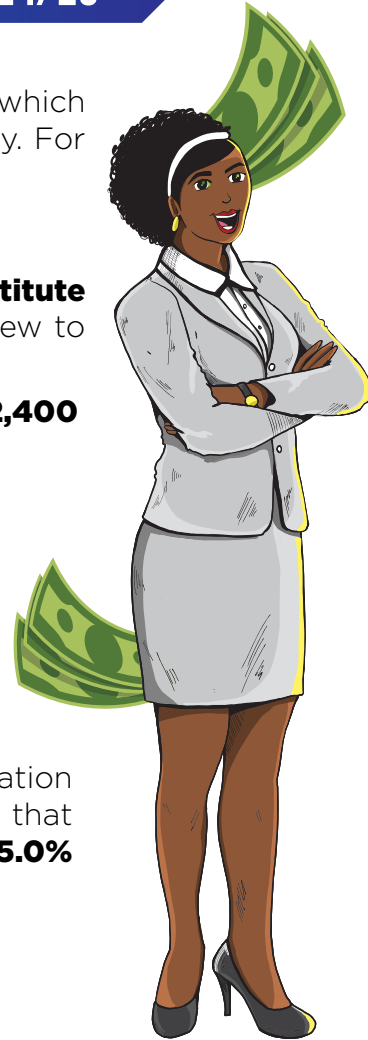
#### Unemployment and Job Creation

The **October 2023 Labour Force Survey** conducted by the **Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)** revealed that the employment to population ratio grew to **62.6%** in October **2023**.

- Compared to **July 2022**, the employed labour force increased by **52,400 persons** and the overall labour force increased by **19,900 persons**;
- The employment rate improved for both males (up **2.4%**) and females (up **2.8%**);
- Youth unemployment fell to **12.6%** from **16.7%** in **July 2022**.

#### Inflation Rate

Annual inflation at **December 2023** was **6.9%**. The central bank expects inflation to remain elevated until the **December 2024** quarter, where it is expected that inflation will return to the **4 - 6%** range. Inflation is projected to stabilize at **5.0%** over the medium term.

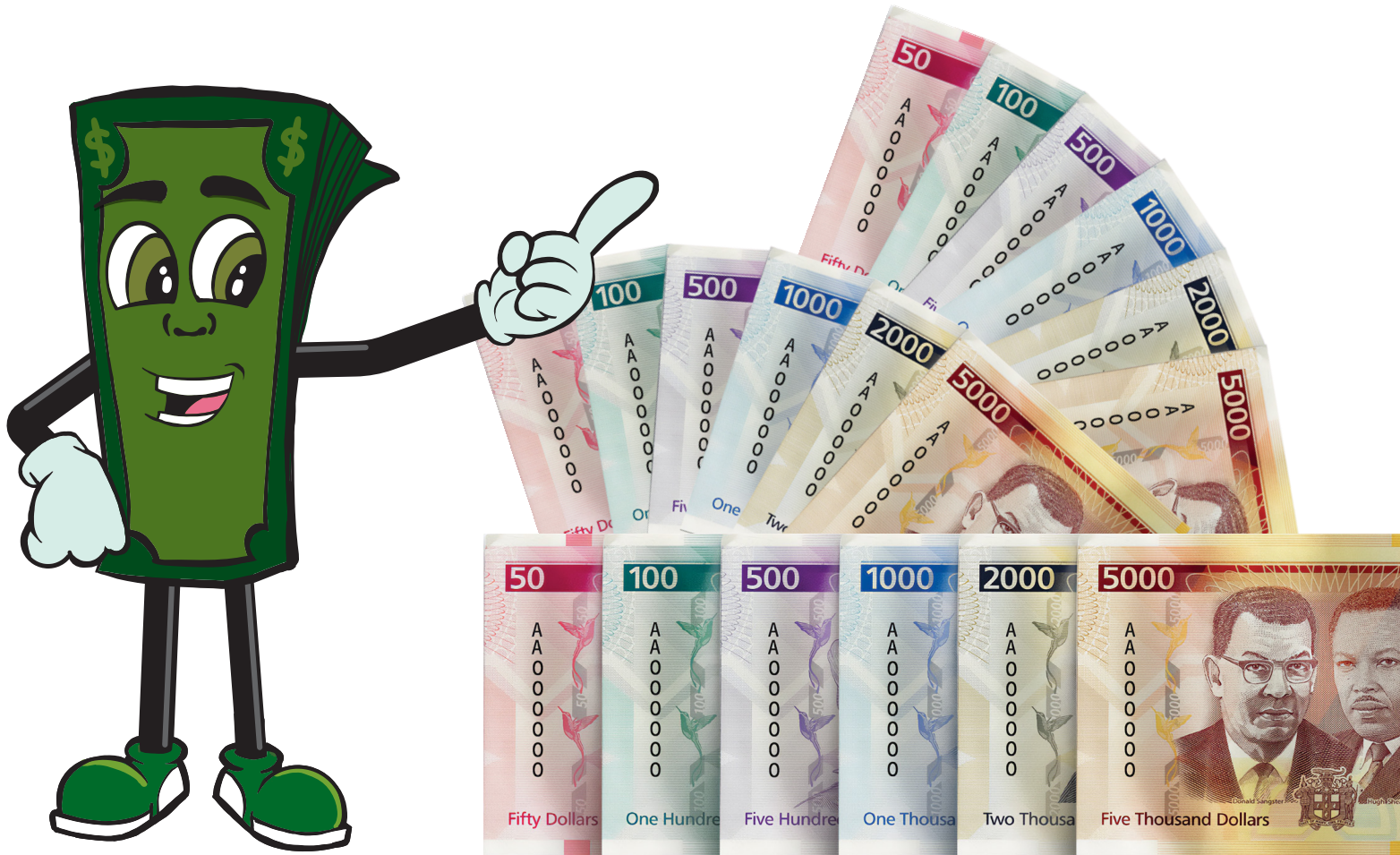


“For Fiscal Year 2024/25, annual GDP growth rate is projected at 1.8%.”



### Exchange Rate

The most common exchange rate utilised in Jamaica is the cost of one **United States Dollar (US\$)** in **Jamaican Dollars (J\$)**. The nominal exchange rate at end of **December 2023** reflected a depreciation of **1.91%**, compared to **December 2022**. The weighted average selling rate at end of **December 2023** was **US\$1.00 = J\$154.95**. This modest change reflects general stability in the foreign exchange market, as foreign currency demand was largely satisfied by adequate liquidity.



### Fiscal Policy for Fiscal Year 2024/25

Fiscal policy provides the overall framework within which the government must operate.

Jamaica's fiscal policy is largely governed by fiscal rules that facilitate management of the level of expenditure that can be undertaken by the government to provide citizens with public goods and services within the context of available revenue while ensuring fiscal responsibility and debt sustainability.

The fiscal policy framework for Fiscal Year **2024/25** is formulated to ensure achievement of the medium term Debt to GDP target. The framework facilitates non-debt expenditure of approximately **\$849.9 billion** and debt expenditure of **\$491.2 billion** while keeping the Government on track to attain a public debt stock that is no more than **60%** of Gross Domestic Product by **2027/2028**.



## PART IV: HOW BIG IS THE NATIONAL BUDGET?

The **Central Government Budget** is made up of estimates of **EXPENDITURE** and **REVENUE**.

Both estimates are tabled in the House of Representatives at the same time, by the Minister with responsibility for finance.

### THE EXPENDITURE BUDGET

For Fiscal Year **2024/25**, the government plans to spend **\$1,341 billion** or **\$1.3 trillion**. This includes:

- Non Debt Recurrent Expenditures of approximately **\$769.9 billion**;
- Capital Expenditures of **\$80.0 billion**,
- Public Debt Servicing of **\$491.2 billion**

See table below and Figure 3.

THE EXPENDITURE BUDGET	
	J\$ BILLIONS
<b>Recurrent Expenditure</b>	<b>769.9</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>80.0</b>
<b>Public Debt Servicing</b>	<b>491.2</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,341.1</b>

Source: MOFPS

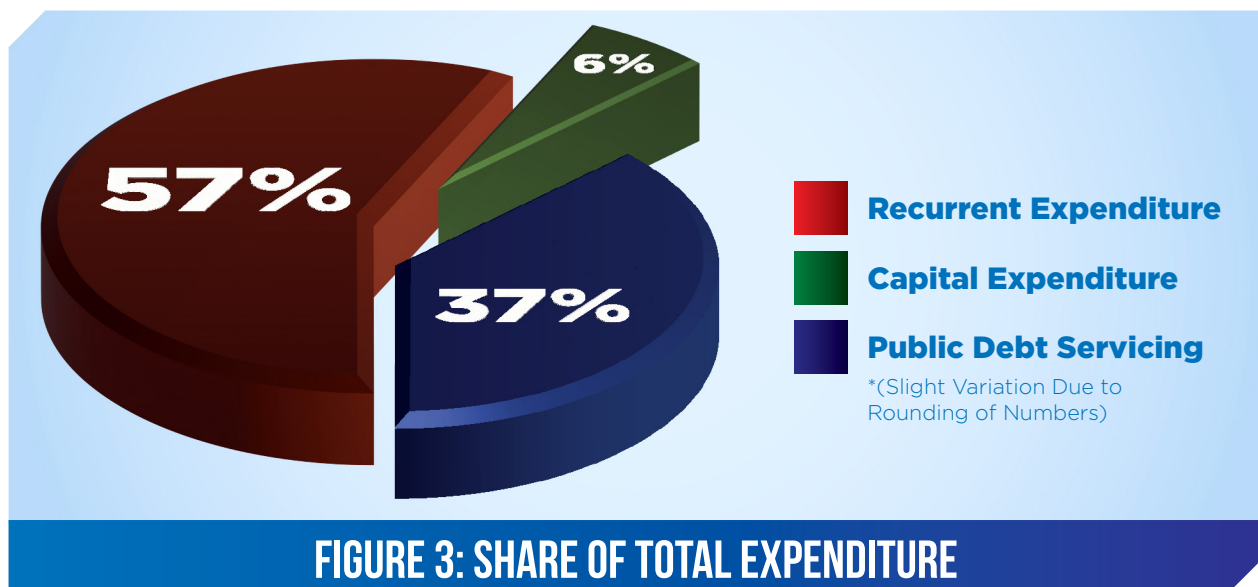


FIGURE 3: SHARE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE

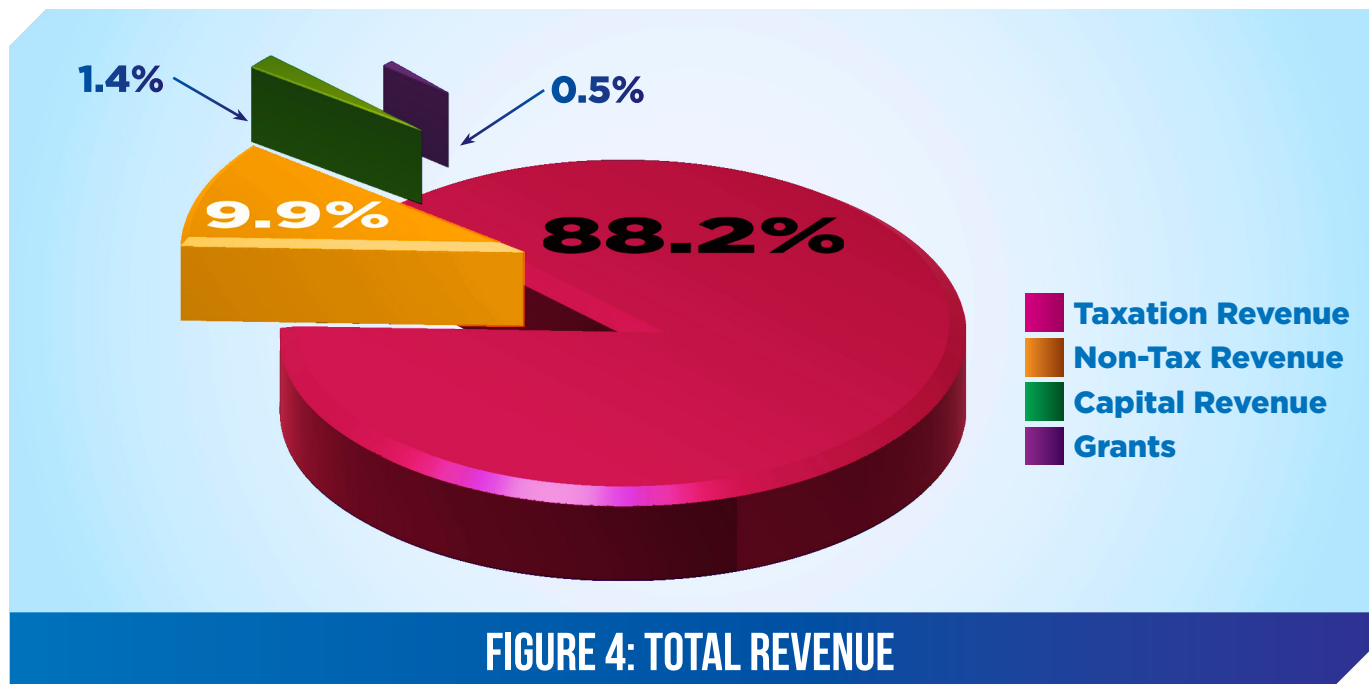
Source: MOFPS

## THE REVENUE ESTIMATES 2024/25

**REVENUE** represents the sum of non-borrowed resources that the Government receives during the financial year from various sources such as **Taxation, Duties, Fees** and **Grants**. These resources are used to finance the operations of government.

For **Fiscal Year 2024/25**, Total Revenue is projected at **\$1.0 trillion** with Taxation Revenue accounting for **\$924.4 billion**, Non-Tax Revenue **\$103.7 billion**, Capital Revenue **\$14.5 billion** and Grants of **\$5.5 billion**. See Figure 4 below.

Where total revenue does not cover the cost of total expenditure and payments, the government has the option to borrow loans to meet principal repayments and other below the line expenditure.



Source: MOFPS

“REVENUE represents the sum of non-borrowed resources that the Government receives during the financial year from various sources such as Taxation, Duties, Fees and Grants.”





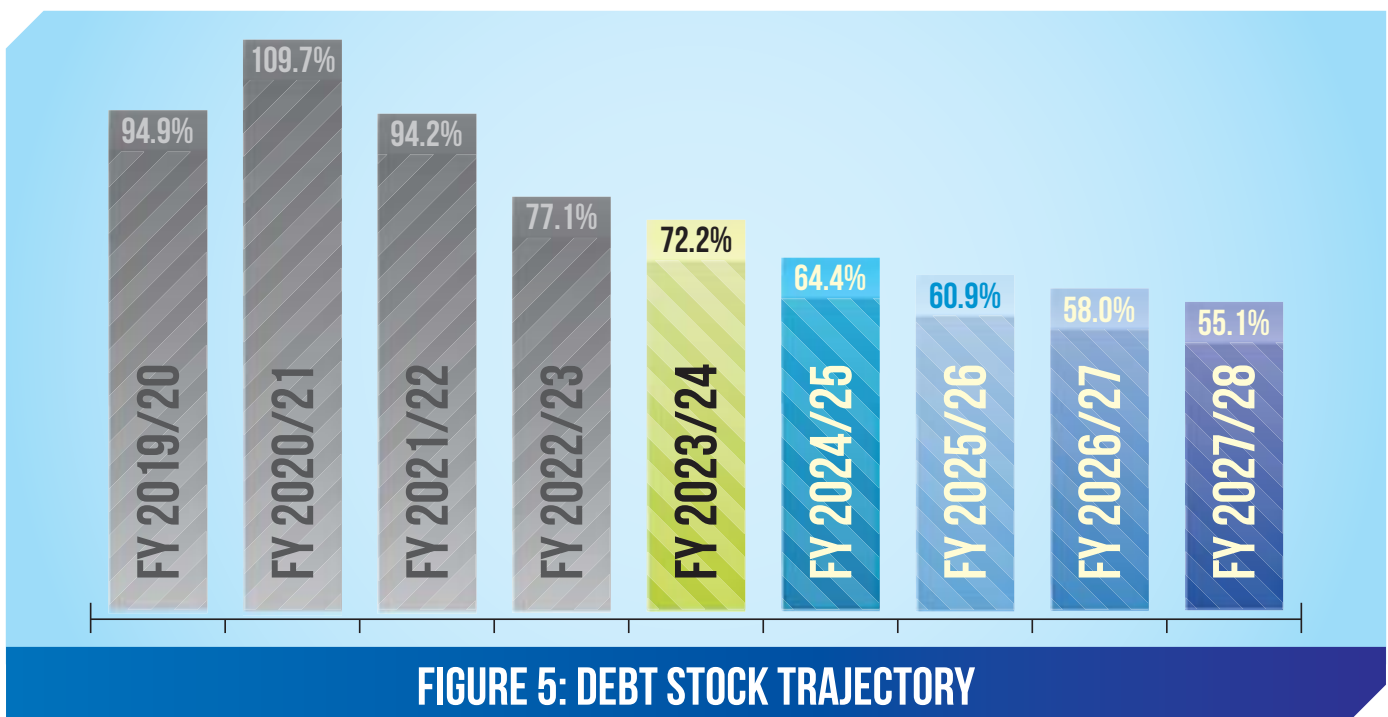
## HOW BIG IS THE PUBLIC DEBT?

At the end of **December 2023**, the stock of outstanding **Public Debt** was **\$2.2 trillion**.

At the end of **Fiscal Year 2023/24**, the **Debt-to-GDP ratio** is projected to be **72.2%**. This is a **4.9** percentage point reduction over the outturn at the end of **March 2023**.

A **Debt-to-GDP ratio** of **64.4%** is projected at the end of **Fiscal Year 2024/25** and the ratio is expected to continue to decline gradually throughout the medium term.

The **Debt-to-GDP ratio** is expected to continue on this downward path towards the target of **60.0%** by **Fiscal Year 2027/28** as required by the **Financial Administration and Audit (FAA) Act**.



Source: MOFPS



“The Debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to continue on this downward path towards the target of 60.0% by Fiscal Year 2027/28.”



## PART V: WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM TO FUND THE BUDGET?

In **Fiscal Year 2024/25**, the Government will use a mixture of revenue, loans and prior year cash balances to finance the Central Government Expenditure Estimates of **\$1.3 trillion**.

Of this sum

- **\$1.0 trillion** is projected to come from revenue and grants;
- **\$191.4 billion** will be raised from loans; and
- **\$101.5 billion** will be utilised from prior year cash balances;

### REVENUE

Revenue represents **78%** of the total resources that the government expects to receive during **Fiscal Year 2024/25**. This will finance **78%** of the total Central Government Expenditure.

Total Revenue is comprised of:

- Taxation revenue (such as GCT and Customs Duties);
- Non-tax revenue (miscellaneous receipts collected by various ministries, departments and agencies);
- Capital revenue such as receipts from the sale of assets and extra ordinary receipts

Taxation Revenue is projected at **\$924.4 billion** and provides the largest source of funds to the Government for **Fiscal Year 2024/25**. **Income Tax** of **\$321.7 billion**, **General Consumption Tax (GCT)** of **\$300.9 billion** and **Special Consumption Tax (SCT)** of **\$99.1 billion** together account for **\$721.6 billion** of total Taxation Revenue.

REVENUE - FY 2024/25	
	J\$ Billions
Taxation Revenue	924.4
Non-Tax Revenue	103.7
Capital Revenue	14.5
Grants	5.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,048.1</b>

Source: MOFPS

PROJECTED TAXATION REVENUE FLOWS - FISCAL YEAR 2024/25	
Sources	Estimates J\$ Billions
Income Tax	321.7
General Consumption Tax	300.9
Special Consumption Tax	99.1
Customs	66.5
Education Tax	53.6
Travel Tax	34.1
Stamp Duties	13.1
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries-Duties, Fees and Levies	11.3
Environmental Levy	6.7
Motor Vehicle Licences (Motor Vehicle Act)	5.5
Guest Accommodation Room Tax	4.0
Telephone Call Tax	3.2
Contractors Levy	3.1
Telecommunication Licences	0.6
Import Licenses - Trade Board	0.6
Other	0.4
Quarry Tax	0.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>924.4</b>

Source: MOFPS

## LOANS

In **Fiscal Year 2024/25**, projected loan funds of **\$191.4 billion** form the second major source of resources expected during the year and represent approximately **14%** of the total resources expected over the year.

## PRIOR YEAR CASH BALANCE

Prior year cash balance of **\$101.5 billion** which represent **8%** of the total resources.



## PART VI: WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The **\$1.3 trillion** that the Government proposes to spend during **Fiscal Year 2024/25**, is allocated across three broad areas:

1. Non-Debt Recurrent Expenditure - **\$769.9 billion**;
2. Debt Servicing - **\$491.2 billion**; and
3. Capital Expenditure - **\$80.0 billion**;

### NON DEBT RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

This area of expenditure excludes debt servicing and spending on capital projects and is made up of:

- i. **Compensation of Employees of \$442.0 billion** which covers the cost of gross wages and salaries including the estimated cost for implementing Year 3 of the new public sector compensation system.
- ii. **Recurrent Programmes - \$327.8 billion**, which covers the non-wage recurring spending by Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

Some key items, for which provisions are included in the **2024 /25** Non-Debt Recurrent Budget are listed below under the various Ministries and Departments:

### PENSIONS

**Total allocation for Pensions and Other Retirement Benefits - \$44.9 billion**, including **\$1.0 billion** towards the annual increase in pensions paid to some existing pensioners each year by **Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS)**;

### MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION (MEGJC)

- **Enhancement of Community Environs - \$580 million** to facilitate the beautification of targeted communities and support the Special Housing Response Programme.
- **The New Social Housing Programme (HOPE) - \$542 million** To upgrade housing infrastructure within targeted communities, provide housing to indigent persons, relocate vulnerable communities.
- **National Drought Mitigation Initiative - \$250 million** Approximately 10,000, 400 gallon Polyethylene water tanks (black tanks) will be provided to persons in need, schools and other public facilities to support rainwater harvesting.
- **Construction/rehabilitation/maintenance of Rural Water Supplies - \$266 million** in Riversdale - St. Catherine, Maroon Town/Tangle River among others; and for the management of an Artificial Recharge Facility.

- **Traffic Management and Control - \$943.2 million** to support routine maintenance, rehabilitation and installation of traffic signals and road marking island wide and implementing traffic management measures to improve traffic flow in urban areas.
- **Disaster Mitigation, Cleaning of Gullies and River Training - \$825 million**
- **Maintenance of Secondary Roads - \$4.3 billion**, to facilitate repairs to select roads within the network of main roads and critical bushing, drain cleaning and patching works along the island's road network.
- **Kingston Harbour Walk Project - \$157 million** to commence the process of transforming the Kingston Harbour into a social, commercial and recreational corridor.
- **Contribution to the Housing Fund - \$120 million** to provide a source of financing for housing development.

## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, ENERGY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT (MSETT)

- **Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) and Montego Bay Metro - \$9.6 billion**; to support the companies in meeting their operating expenses.
- **Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority - \$6.4 billion**; to support the Authority in carrying out its mandate.
- **Island Traffic Authority - \$1.1 billion**; to facilitate: the examination of vehicles to ascertain their road worthiness; the testing of applicants for drivers' licences to determine competence; and the issuing of certificates.
- **National Broadband Initiative - \$1.3 billion**; to continue roll out of the national broadband infrastructure island wide.

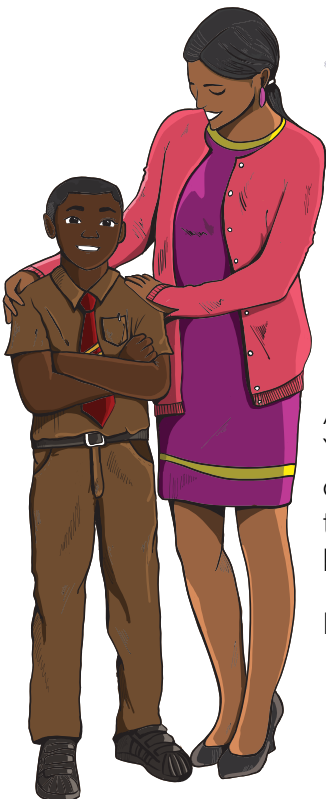


## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH (MOEY)

Approximately \$160 billion is provided to address the Ministry of Education & Youth's recurring operating expenses. This includes \$120 billion to cover the cost of wages and salaries for the Ministry's employees. The largest share of the budget of \$50.5 billion is allocated at the Secondary Education level, \$47.3 billion at the Primary level and \$26 billion at the Tertiary level.

Key areas of expenditure include:

- **School Feeding Programme** (PATH, Breakfast, Lunch Snacks) at the Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary levels of education - **\$8.9 billion**
- **PATH Beneficiaries School Transportation Support - \$380 million**
- **Broadband Expansion in Schools - \$800 million**





- **Tuition Grants to Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Schools - \$4.5 billion**
- **Development of Books and Educational Materials - \$1.0 billion**
- **Grants to Teachers Colleges and Community Colleges - \$8.6 billion**
- **HOPE/LEGS/LIFT - \$570 million**, programmes that provide avenues for development of individuals through a system of national service corps.

### MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY (MLSS)

- **Social Assistance to the Elderly - \$672 million**; To provide increased social pension cash grants to 11,746 current beneficiaries plus an additional projected 15,000 new beneficiaries.
- **PATH Cash Grants - \$10.4 billion**; To provide increased cash grants to approximately 301,000 registered PATH beneficiaries. The new rate is expected to come into effect in June 2024.
- **PATH Social Intervention Assistance - \$480 million**
- **Short Term Poverty Intervention Programmes - \$600 million**
- **Social Intervention (Youth Employment, Skills Training, Steps to work) - \$459 million**

### MINISTRY OF TOURISM (MOT)

- **Jamaica Tourist Board Administration and Overseas Marketing - \$6.0 billion**
- **Tourism Product Enhancement - \$2.9 billion**
- **Tourism Destination Assurance - \$2.7 billion**

### MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS (MOHW)

A total of \$133.6 billion is allocated to the Ministry to meet its ongoing operating expenses. Wages and Salaries account for \$77.1 billion of the total sum. Key areas of expenditure include:

- **Outsourcing of Diagnostic Services - \$1.4 billion**
- **Repairs to Public Health Facilities and Equipment - \$1.3 billion**
- **Pharmaceutical and Medical Supplies - \$19.7 billion**
- **Bellevue Hospital - \$2.8 billion**

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (MOAF)

- **Rehabilitation of Farm Roads - \$670 million**, to support the ongoing rehabilitation of rural farm roads.
- **Rehabilitation and Maintenance of irrigation infrastructure - \$479 million**
- **Production Incentives to Farmers - \$1.2 billion**, to support agricultural production and productivity.
- **Support to the Fisheries Sector - \$280 million** including monitoring of fish sanctuaries; the promotion and marketing of tilapia and aquaculture in general and the promotion of community-based climate resilience in the sector;

## MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY (MNS)



The Ministry and its departments and agencies will receive a total of \$133.8 billion to facilitate the delivery of national security services to our citizens. The allocation includes:

- **The Police Department - \$70 billion (52%);**
- **The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) - \$42 billion (32%);**
- **The Major Organized Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (MOCA) - \$11 billion (8%)**

Additional resources totalling \$5.3 billion Appropriations in Aid (AIA) are projected to be collected from user fees and fines to support expenditure in the following areas:

- **Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) - \$4 billion**
- **Jamaica Defence Force - \$252 million**
- **Maintenance and Repairs to Police Stations - \$450 million**
- **Private Security Regulation Authority - \$88 million**

## JUDICIARY

A total of \$9.3 billion to support the services provided by the judicial arm of the Government of Jamaica. Wages and Salaries account for \$4.3 billion.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE (MOFPS)

- **Government's contribution to the health scheme of employees of the central government - \$8 billion**
- **Payment of Street Lights on behalf of Municipal Corporations and the Portmore Municipality - \$3.2 billion**
- **Scholarships tenable at the Mico University College and the University of Technology (UTECH) in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) - \$1.0 billion**
- **Contingency Provision for the planning and development of public investment projects in the Central Government - \$2.0 billion**
- **Provision for catastrophic national natural disaster - \$4.0 billion**



## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - J\$80 BILLION

Major projects/activities to be carried out during Fiscal Year 2024/25 are listed below:

### I. NATIONAL SECURITY

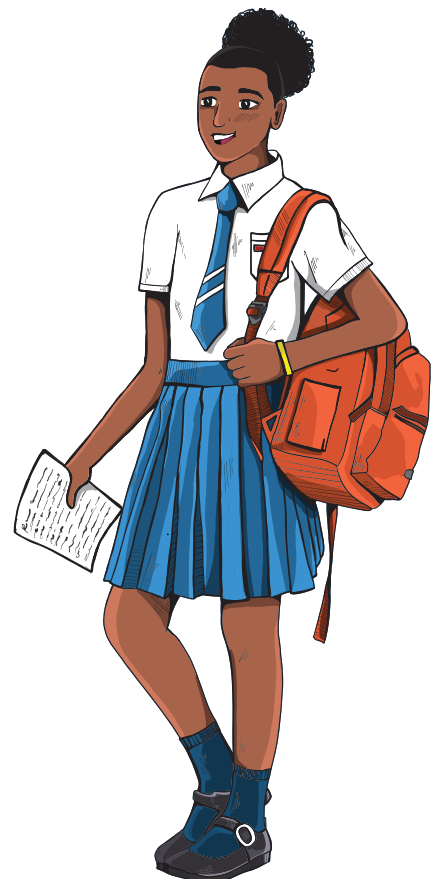
- **Security Strengthening Project - \$644.9 million**, to support ongoing capacity building activities to improve the investigative capacity of the police.
- **Construction of the Westmoreland Police Divisional Headquarters - \$882 million**, to commence construction works on the Westmoreland Police Divisional Headquarters.
- **Construction of the St. Catherine North Police Divisional Headquarters - \$990 million**, to commence construction of the divisional headquarters.
- **Purchase and Overhaul of Ships/Coastal Surveillance - \$1 billion**, to make final payment on the last of 4 marine patrol vessels being procured.

### II. OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

- **Integrated Community Development Project II - \$1 billion**, to continue integrated infrastructure works in the communities of Norwood, Salt Spring, August Town and Anchovy.
- **Rural Economic Development Initiative - \$1.3 billion**, to continue work to provide enhanced access to markets and to climate change -resilient approaches for targeted beneficiaries in the tourism and agricultural sectors.
- **Implementation of the National Identification System (NIDS) for Economic Growth - \$1.3 billion**, to continue the establishment of the infrastructural requirement to support implementation of the NIDS.

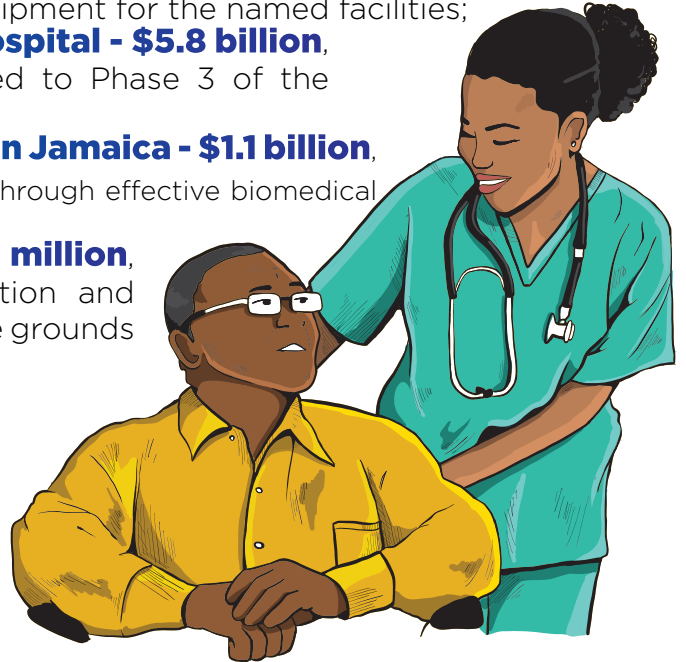
### III. EDUCATION

- **Education System Transformation Project II - \$300 million**, to support work towards the construction of five (5) STEM academies and one (1) visual and performing arts secondary level institution.
- **Primary and Secondary Infrastructure Programme (PSIP) - \$845.6 million**, to continue the construction of classrooms at seven (7) schools, electrical upgrading at 11 schools, installation of sewage treatment facilities at one school and installation of security fencing at 11 schools.
- **Education Transformation Programme (ETP) - \$514 million**, to support the construction of additional classrooms and sanitary facilities to alleviate the shift system and over-crowding.



## IV. HEALTH

- **Health System Strengthening for the Prevention & Care-Management of Non-Communicable Diseases - \$3.4 billion**, to support construction of the Spanish Town Hospital, commence civil works at the Greater Portmore, St. Jago and Old Harbour Health Centres and the procurement of furniture and equipment for the named facilities;
- **Redevelopment of the Cornwall Regional Hospital - \$5.8 billion**, to finalize design and construction works related to Phase 3 of the redevelopment and attain 30% completion;
- **Support to the National HIV/AIDS Response in Jamaica - \$1.1 billion**, to continue the activities aimed at reducing infections through effective biomedical and supporting interventions;
- **Western Adolescence Hospital - \$800 million**, to facilitate ongoing activities in the construction and equipping of an adolescent children hospital on the grounds of the Cornwall Regional Hospital;



## V. AGRICULTURE

- **Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project - \$1.6 billion**, to continue activities aimed at providing access to irrigation on lands formerly used for sugar cane production in South Clarendon and South St. Catherine to increase agricultural production and productivity;
- **Essex Valley Irrigation Infrastructure Development Programme - \$1.9 billion**, to continue activities that will enhance the production and productivity of farmers in Essex Valley, St Elizabeth by increasing the area under irrigation and yield of crops in Essex Valley by a minimum of 90% in a socially inclusive gender equitable and climate sensitive manner;

## VI. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION

- **Energy Management and Efficiency Project - \$713.3 million**, to continue the retrofitting of selected government buildings with energy efficient lighting and air conditioning systems; implementation of an Urban Traffic Management System in the Kingston Metropolitan Area;



## VII. INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project - \$6.3 billion**, to complete the construction of the Harbour View to Port Antonio section of the project and commence works on Phase 3 of the local roadworks construction packages;
- **Montego Bay Perimeter Road - \$10.2 billion**, to complete land acquisition activities, design for the 11km - 4 lane carriageway along the Long Hill Bypass corridor, and continuation of construction works on the 15km - 4 lane carriageway from Ironshore to Bogue;
- **Widening and Dualization of Grange Lane - \$600 million**, to continue and complete the widening and dualization of Grange Lane, along with the upgrading of water supply and telecommunication infrastructure;
- **Montego Bay Waterfront Protection Project - \$500 million**, to complete construction/rehabilitation works on the southern groynes including the shoreline areas in the vicinity of Harmony Beach Park;

## VIII. TRANSPORT

- **Acquisition of JUTC Buses - \$2.6 billion**, to facilitate the delivery of 100 buses for which procurement commenced during FY 2023/2024.

## IX. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- **Acquisition of Garbage (Compactor) Trucks - \$916 million**, to facilitate the procurement of 50 compactor trucks for which approval has already been received;





## PUBLIC DEBT SERVICE - J\$491.2 BILLION

These costs are comprised of amortization payments of **\$317.4 billion** and interest payments of **\$173.8 billion**.

PUBLIC DEBT SERVICING	
	J\$ Billions
Amortization	317.4
Interest	173.8
TOTAL	491.2

Source: MOFPS

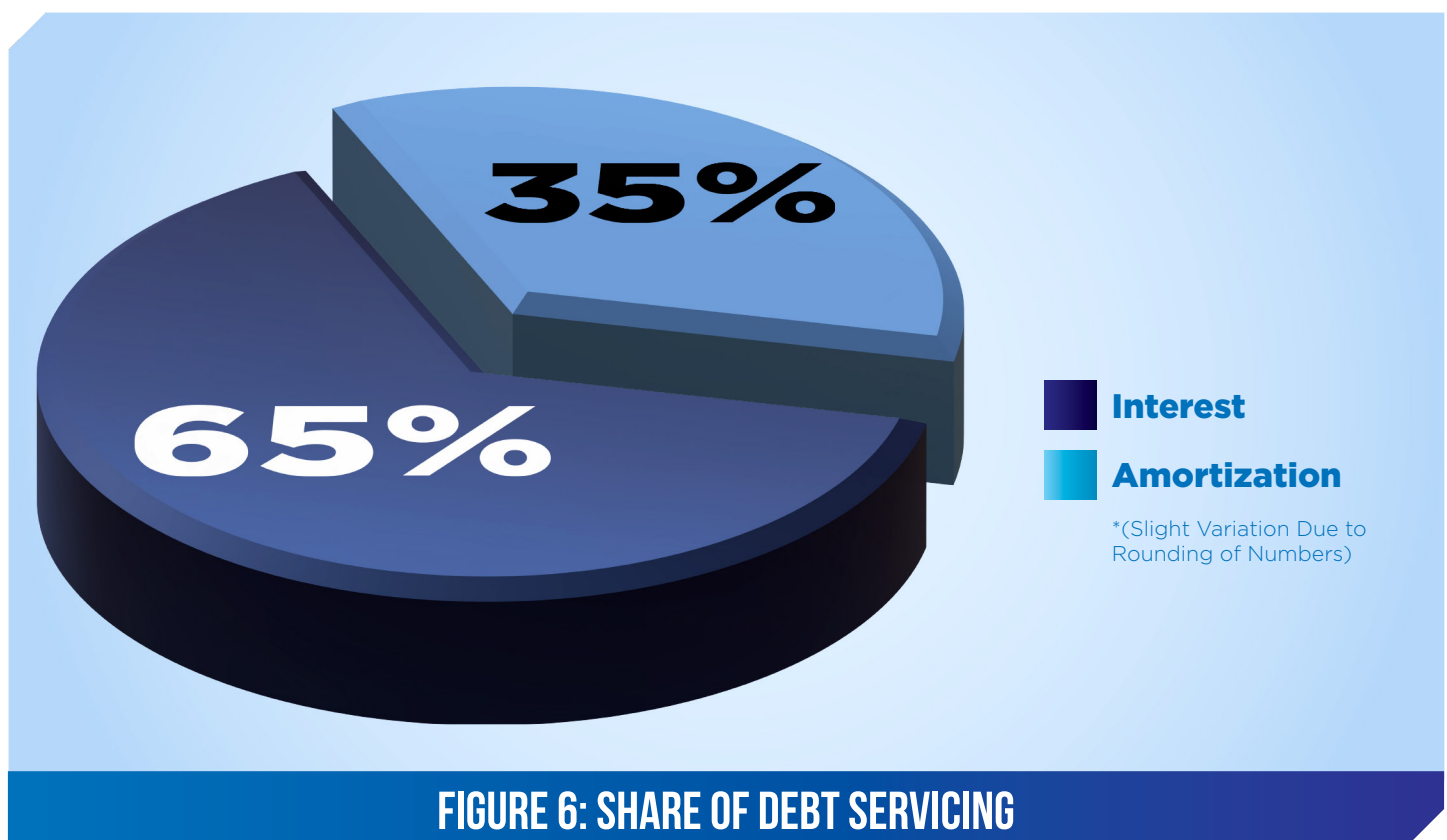


FIGURE 6: SHARE OF DEBT SERVICING

Source: MOFPS

## ALLOCATION OF BUDGET 2024/25 TO PORTFOLIO MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

MINISTRY/DEPARTMENT	COMP. OF EMP.*	REC. PROG.**	CAPITAL	TOTAL
	J\$ Billions	J\$ Billions	J\$ Billions	J\$ Billions
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining	7.6	6.5	3.9	18.0
Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport	3.2	2.7	-	5.9
Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation	7.1	11.5	20.9	39.5
Ministry of Education and Youth	122.2	42.3	1.9	166.4
Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	72.0	88.7	26.4	187.1
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade	2.5	4.1	-	6.7
Ministry of Health and Wellness	79.2	57.3	11.5	148.0
Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce	4.2	2.6	0.4	7.2
Ministry of Justice	9.5	6.5	0.2	16.3
Ministry of Labour and Social Security	3.7	16.3	0.1	20.1
Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs	0.4	0.9	-	1.4
Ministry of Local Government and Community Development	11.3	9.5	2.3	23.0
Ministry of National Security	98.1	35.6	3.6	137.4
Ministry of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport	3.1	20.7	3.6	27.1
Ministry of Tourism	2.8	11.0	-	13.8
Auditor General	1.1	0.2	-	1.4
His Excellency the Governor-General and Staff	0.2	0.3	-	0.5
Houses of Parliament	1.8	0.7	-	2.5
Independent Commission of Investigations	0.6	0.2	-	0.8
Independent Fiscal Commission	0.1	0.2	-	0.3
Integrity Commission	1.1	0.7	-	1.9
Office of the Cabinet	0.5	0.2	-	0.7
Office of the Children's Advocate	0.2	0.2	-	0.4
Office of the Prime Minister	8.8	8.4	5.5	22.7
Office of the Public Defender	0.2	0.2	-	0.4
Office of the Services Commissions	0.4	0.1	-	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>442.0</b>	<b>327.8</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>849.9</b>

\* - COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES

\*\* - RECURRENT PROGRAMMES



## PART VII: 2024-25 INITIATIVES

### **I. Reduction in the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Rate from 33⅓% to 25% for Independent Power Producers (IPPs)**

This is applicable to IPPs that are producing **75%** or more of their energy from renewable sources to promote the growth of the renewable energy sector, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance energy independence.

### **II. An increase in the de minimis value for imported goods from US\$50 to US\$100**

The de minimis value represents a minimum value and/or a minimum amount for which no duties and taxes will be collected.

### **III. Increase in the Passenger Duty-free Threshold from US\$500 to US\$1,000**

This relates to personal/household effects that are not imported for sale or commercial exchange.

### **IV. Increase in Pension Exemption and Age Relief Exemption**

- At present, individuals under 55 years of age receiving a pension from an approved statutory pension scheme or an approved superannuation scheme are entitled to a tax exemption of \$80,000 restricted to the pension income only. This is known as the Pension Exemption.
- In addition to Pension Exemption, individuals 65 years and over, who are in receipt of a pension, are entitled to an Age Relief Exemption of \$80,000.
- Currently, both Pension Exemption and the Age Relief Exemption allow persons 65 years and over to be entitled to a total of \$160,000 in exemptions.
- With effect from April 1, 2024, the Government will increase Pension Exemption and the Age Relief Exemption from \$80,000 to \$250,040, respectively.

### **V. Reverse Income Tax Credit**

This is a social policy tool to modestly address equity, by providing a cash rebate, in particular, to Jamaicans on minimum wage and on the lowest rungs of the income ladder, who are contributing to Jamaica through monthly statutory deductions.

- Individuals who earn below \$3,000,000 will receive a credit of \$20,000 if they complete their filing and payments in respect of Calendar Year 2023 by March 31, 2024. This applies for both self-financing individuals and PAYE individuals (which requires that companies file their returns by March 31, 2024);
- Payment of the reverse tax credit grant will be effected through an online system operationalized by Tax Administration Jamaica that will come in operation in the FY 2024/25. Individuals will apply through the online system and the grant will be made by way of a direct funds transfer facility;
- Implementation of the Reverse Tax Credit is estimated to cost \$11.4 billion;

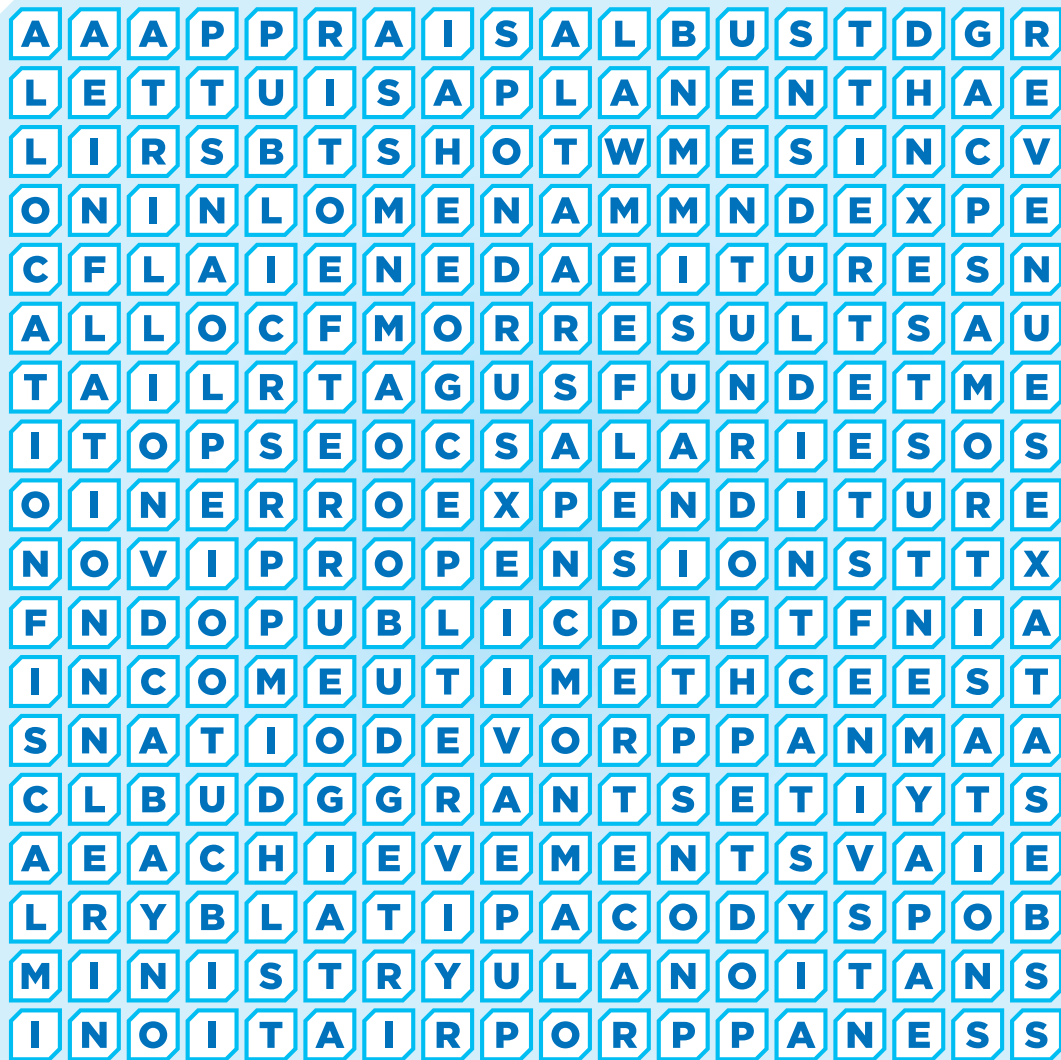
### **VI. Increase in the Annual General Personal Income Tax (PIT) Threshold**

- For the Fiscal Year 2024/25, effective April 1, 2024, the annual general PIT threshold amount will increase from \$1,500,096 to \$1,700,088 for all individuals, whether employed and subject to Pay As You Earn (P.A.Y.E) and/or self-employed;
- The proposed increase in the annual general PIT threshold will result in 24,702 additional PAYE taxpayers falling outside of the income tax roll. This subset of persons is part of a larger cohort of approximately 641,495 PAYE employees plus thousands of others who are self-employed;
- Implementation of the new PIT threshold will cost approximately \$8.9 billion for the Fiscal Year 2024/25;



## BUDGET WORD SEARCH

How quickly can you find these budget-related terms and see what the unused letters reveal?



ACHIEVEMENTS  
ACT  
ALLOCATION  
AMORTIZATION  
APPRAISAL  
APPROPRIATION  
APPROVED  
BUDGET  
CAPITAL  
EXPENDITURE

FISCAL  
FUND  
GRANTS  
INCOME  
INFLATION  
INVESTMENT  
LOANS  
MINISTRY  
NATIONAL  
PAYMENT

PENSIONS  
PROCUREMENT  
PROGRAMMES  
PUBLIC  
PUBLIC DEBT  
RESULTS  
REVENUE  
SALARIES  
TAXES  
TRILLION



# HOW TO ACCESS GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA'S BUDGET DOCUMENTS

Please visit the MOFPS website at [www.mof.gov.jm](http://www.mof.gov.jm) to access the following budget documents:

- Estimates of Expenditure 2024/25 (Central Government);
- Revenue Estimates 2024/25 (Central Government);
- Jamaica Public Bodies Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending March 2025;
- Public Sector Consolidated Estimates of Expenditure 2024/25;
- Fiscal Policy Paper FY 2024/25;
- Medium Term Debt Management Strategy FY 2024/25 - FY 2026/27; and
- Tax Expenditure Statement 2024;

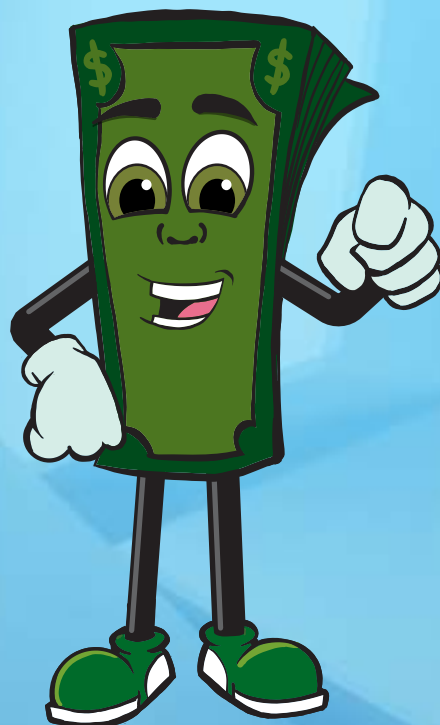
Questions on any aspect of the budget which require further explanation should be sent to the **Ministry of Finance and the Public Service Access to Information Unit:**

E-mail: [ati@mof.gov.jm](mailto:ati@mof.gov.jm); Telephone: **(876) 932-5043**;

Feedback on the **Citizens' Guide to the 2024/2025 Budget** may be sent to:  
[mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm](mailto:mofps.pr@mof.gov.jm)



Strategic Public Sector  
Transformation Project



30 NATIONAL HEROES CIRCLE  
KINGSTON • JAMAICA  
Telephone: (876) 922-8600-16  
Website: <http://www.mof.gov.jm>  
[Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) @mofjamaica