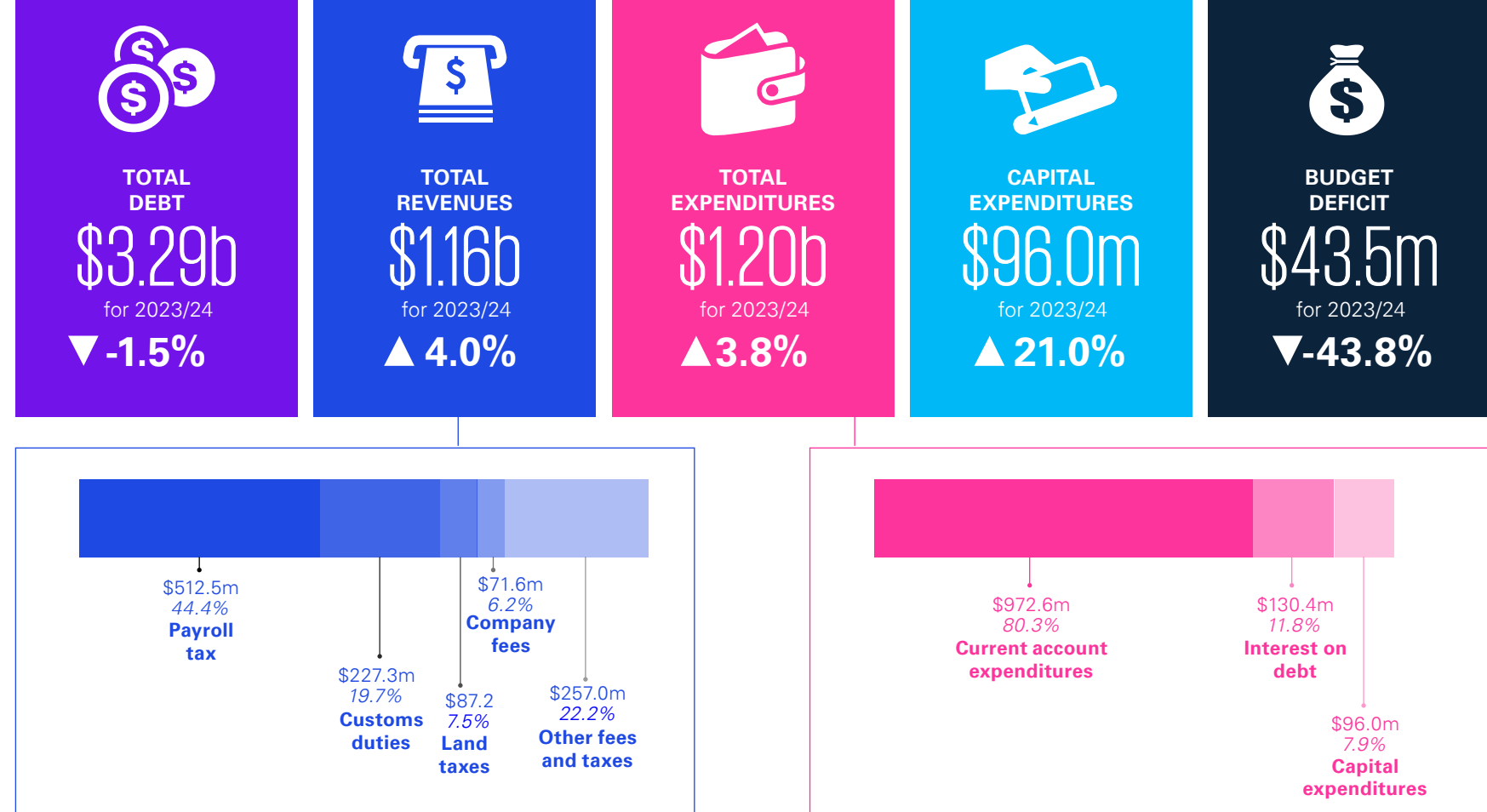


2023/24 Bermuda Budget Snapshot

"A sustainable economic recovery"

The 2023/24 budget highlights the Government's goal of achieving balanced and sustainable economic growth, which projects a balanced budget in 2024/25 and a \$29.0m surplus in 2025/26. Growth is anticipated to come from increasing our workforce in Bermuda and increased investment in capital expenditure for critical infrastructure such as education, housing and our tourism sector, including bold plans to repurpose the Morgan's Point development.

The Government's budgeted increase in revenues is heavily reliant on increased payroll taxes, much of which will be borne by those earning higher incomes over \$132,000. Concern has been expressed over the impact this may have on international business, many of which pay this tax on behalf of employees. Our national debt combined with the rising costs of doing business and increasing pension liability also require significant consideration. Macroeconomic factors such as inflation, international conflicts and global minimum tax will also have implications which are not yet fully known. The longer-term picture is likely to be one of significant change including climate change which the budget did not address as a potential enabler of sustainable economic growth. In this snapshot, we share the key points from the budget and our perspectives on the impact of this budget.



Bermuda's 2022/23 results at a glance



The implications: KPMG's perspective

- Tax reforms and cost of doing business:** While most international and local businesses are pleased to see that the increases in payroll tax are not as significant as originally proposed in the Pre-Budget report, there will still be a significant impact on international businesses, particularly those that pay both the employer and the employee portions of this tax.
 - The 2023/24 budget includes a series of changes to the payroll tax marginal rates. While the decrease in employer payroll tax should act as a stimulus for economic activity, it is noted that exempt companies will not see a reduction in employer payroll tax, while the majority of employee payroll tax in the international business sector will increase under the new marginal bands.
 - Other reforms such as the 5.0% fees on a range of business activities, the introduction of a regulatory fee for corporate compliance, as well as the upcoming 5.0% increase in immigration costs and the ending of COVID-19 payroll tax concessions will all increase the cost of doing business in Bermuda.
- Economic Recovery Plan and Economic Development Strategy:** KPMG is pleased to see that the Government has included metrics of implementation rate regarding the Economic Recovery Plan (80.0%). Now that two years have passed since the original launch of the Plan, KPMG believes a holistic review of the performance of all of the underlying initiatives in this Plan could help assess the extent to which they are contributing to Bermuda's continued economic growth. We also look forward to the unveiling of the Economic Development Strategy and an update on the ongoing work regarding pension reform as these are intrinsically linked.
- Climate change and sustainability:** The impact and opportunities associated with climate change were not addressed in this year's budget. We believe the Government should position climate change and sustainability at the center of its economic growth strategy for the following reasons:
 - Governments all over the world, in particular in island jurisdictions, are investing and prioritising climate change adaptation and mitigation, rooting their economic recovery strategies in strong commitments towards environmental and social sustainability, as they represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create growth and employment while shifting to a more resilient and cleaner future.
 - Small island states are most affected by climate change, with economic impacts estimated at average annual losses of 5.0% of GDP by 2025, escalating to 20.0% by 2100 (compared to -0.5% globally)¹.
 - There is a real economic growth opportunity: The World Bank has identified climate finance and impact finance as fundamental tools in the fight against climate change. As stated in our Net Zero Readiness Report – The Rise of Small Island Economies², the gross value added by the sustainable blue economy amounted to \$1.5tr in 2010, a figure that is likely to double by 2030. As a global financial sector leader looking to diversify and innovate, Bermuda is uniquely positioned to benefit from the ongoing global asset reallocation towards sustainable products. Moreover, mitigating the risks of climate change holds opportunities for Bermuda's reinsurance industry with experience in climate related catastrophe risk.
- Global minimum tax:** The OECD global minimum tax provisions represent a fundamental shift in how large multinationals are taxed, particularly with respect to income earned in jurisdictions with low (or no) headline corporate tax rates. KPMG is supportive of the Government's efforts to analyse potential jurisdictional responses to these evolving provisions in order to maintain Bermuda's competitive position on the global stage.

¹ Climate Analytics, Thomas, A. and al. <https://bit.ly/2kthryb>
² Net Zero Readiness Spotlight: Islands – The rise of small island economies – beyond net zero, attracting private capital. For full report: <https://bit.ly/3kr5Dun>

FY 2023/24 Budget Estimates

	ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2022/23 \$000	REVISED ESTIMATE 2022/23 \$000	BUDGET ESTIMATE 2023/24 \$000
Revenue and Expenditure Estimates			
Revenue	1,077,802	1,111,036	1,155,525
Current Account Expenditure (excluding debt service)	945,065	932,625	972,632
Economic Relief/Additional Expenditures	-	8,000	-
Emergency BHB Grant	-	15,000	-
COVID-19	-	10,026	-
Current Account Balance (excluding debt service)	132,737	145,385	182,893
Interest on Debt/Guarantee Management	129,750	143,411	130,400
Surplus (Deficit) Available for Capital Expenditure	2,987	1,974	52,493
Capital Expenditure	72,987	79,338	96,007
Budget Surplus (Deficit)	(70,000)	(77,364)	(43,514)

Revenues

Total revenues

- Total revenues forecast for 2022/23 are \$1.1b which is 3.1% higher than the original forecast, driven by increased in tourism revenues, payroll taxes and stamp duty. These increases have offset the loss of revenue from the aircraft register owing to the Russia/Ukraine conflict, the freeze of fuel prices and the elimination of duty on essential goods.
- The revenue budgeted for 2023/24 is \$1.16b, an increase of 4.0% from the revised estimate for 2022/23. This increase is due to payroll tax changes, increases in certain government fees and passenger fees from tourism growth.

Key changes in revenues

- Employer payroll taxes will either stay the same or decrease compared with last year, depending on tax band size and sector. The temporary payroll tax concessions introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic will also end in March 2024.

Business Tax Bands	Previous Rate	New rate	Change %
Annual payroll < \$200,000	1.75%	1.00%	-0.75%
\$200,000 ≤ Annual payroll ≤ \$350,000	3.50%	2.50%	-1.00%
\$350,000 ≤ Annual payroll ≤ \$500,000	6.50%	5.25%	-1.25%
\$500,000 < Annual payroll ≤ \$1,000,000	9.00%	7.50%	-1.50%
Annual payroll > \$1,000,000	10.25%	10.00%	-0.25%
Exempt Undertakings	10.25%	10.25%	0.00%
Self Employed Farm, Fish	1.75%	0.00%	-1.75%
Education, Sport, and Science Institute	1.75%	1.00%	-0.75%
Qualifying Retail	7.00%	6.00%	-1.00%
Hotels & Rest. with annual payroll ≥ \$350,000	6.00%	5.00%	-1.00%

Employee payroll taxes

- Employee payroll taxes will be lower for those earning less than \$132,000 which is 86.0% of Bermuda's workforce. The Government has introduced a fifth tax bracket and allowed employers to be exempt from paying employer payroll tax for employees on maternity and paternity leave.

Previous Income Bands	FY2022/23 Marginal rates	New income bands	FY23/24 Marginal rates
\$0 - \$48,000	1.5%	\$0 - \$48,000	0.50%
\$48,000 - \$96,000	9.0%	\$48,000 - \$96,000	9.25%
\$96,000 - \$235,000	9.0%	\$96,000 - \$200,000	10.00%
\$235,000 - \$900,000	9.5%	\$200,000 - \$500,000	11.50%
		\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	12.50%

Expenditures

2022/23:

- Current expenditure:** Total current account expenditure (excluding debt service and guarantee management) is expected to reach \$965.7m and be 2.2% higher than originally budgeted for in 2022/23. This is due to an unbudgeted emergency grant of \$15.0m to Bermuda Hospitals Board, \$10.0m in COVID-19 related expenses and the Government's \$8.0m economic relief package (support to families and additional funding to the Bermuda Police Service, Fire and Rescue Service, as well as mental health services).
- Interest on debt:** Debt servicing costs associated with government debt refinancing, owing to a rise in interest rates, is projected to be \$143.4m or 10.5% higher than initially budgeted.
- Capital Expenditure:** Capital expenditure is projected to be \$79.3m or 9.0% more than initially budgeted for 2022/23 (due to additional funding approved to Tynes Bay and funding for additional affordable housing).

2023/24:

- Total expenditure is projected to reach \$1.2b, which is 3.8% higher than in 2022/23 and driven by an increase in capital expenditure to \$96.0m (highest budgeted capital spending in 13 years) to revitalise Bermuda's infrastructure including the Hamilton floating dock, Tynes Bay and Parish primary school education facilities.








Other taxes

- Extension of customs duty exemption for investments in plant and equipment to the personal care and personal fitness sectors (currently only for restaurants and retailers).
- Revisions to the Sugar Tax (this will now only apply to high sugar consumables).
- Elimination of taxes on aggregate imports used to manufacture concrete and concrete blocks.
- 5.0% increase fees for: stamp duty, trademark fees, fines, solid waste dumping fees, immigration fees (with the exception of passport fees), planning fees, seaborne shipping fees.
- 5.0% increase in the top two bands of Land Tax.
- Introduction of a regulatory fee for corporate compliance by the Registrar of Companies.
- Introduction of a fee to register properties as vacation rentals (based on the ARV of the property).
- Introduction of fees to access government information through the Public Access to Information Regime (PATI).
- Increase in court fees.

Future changes

- Phase 2 of the Mortgage Guarantee Programme, which removes the age restriction so that any Bermudian applying for a new mortgage is eligible and allows for public officers to apply.
- Amendments to the Tourism Investment Act to allow the Government greater discretion in the granting of relief under the act to developers and investors in the tourism economy.
- \$15.0m committed over three years to build more affordable housing units.
- Measures to be implemented to increase tax compliance (no announced policy or programme yet).
- Payroll tax relief for new hires will come to an end in March 2024 but the Government expects to be able to reduce employer payroll tax rates further next year to compensate for this.
- Government reforms to the public sector to complete reviews and establish cost savings opportunities (no announced policy or programme yet).

Contact us

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