



Organization *for* Responsible Governance



Be Clear: Budget Dictionary

To advocate about the national budget, there are a few things you should know!

Understanding these key fiscal terms will help you participate in budget discussions and contribute to building stronger communities across The Bahamas.



Government Revenue Terms

- **Revenue:** money collected by the government
- **Tax revenue:** money raised by government through taxes and duties
- **VAT (Value Added Tax):** a consumption tax applied to most goods and services in The Bahamas
- **Customs duties:** taxes charged on imported goods
- **Fees and charges:** payments for government services, licenses, permits, and registrations
- **Crown land leases:** income generated from government-owned land

Budget Terms

- **National budget:** the government's annual plan outlining expected revenue and spending
- **Budget allocation:** the amount of money assigned to a ministry, department, or program
- **Budget deficit:** when government spending is greater than revenue
- **Budget surplus:** when revenue is greater than spending
- **Balanced budget:** when revenue equals spending
- **Fiscal year:** the government's financial year (July 1 to June 30 in The Bahamas)
- **Supplementary budget:** additional spending approved after the original budget

Government Spending Terms

- **Expenditure:** government spending
- **Recurrent expenditure:** day-to-day operating expenses, such as salaries, utilities, and supplies
- **Capital expenditure:** spending on long-term investments, such as roads, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure
- **Public investment:** government spending intended to create future economic or social benefits
- **Subsidy:** government financial support provided to individuals, businesses, or public corporations

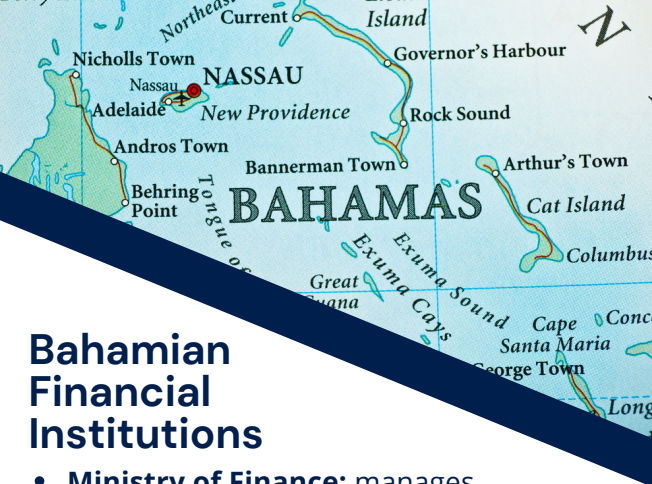


Economic Terms

- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** total value of goods and services produced in a country
- **Inflation:** an increase in prices over time
- **Economic growth:** an increase in the production of goods and services
- **Unemployment rate:** the percentage of people seeking work who cannot find it
- **Productivity:** how efficiently goods and services are produced

Citizen-Focused Terms

- **Taxpayer:** a person or business that pays taxes
- **Public goods & services:** resources provided for everyone's benefit, such as roads, parks, education, healthcare, and national security
- **Opportunity cost:** what must be given up when choosing one spending priority over another
- **Participatory budgeting:** allowing citizens to provide input on spending priorities



Bahamian Financial Institutions

- **Ministry of Finance:** manages government finances and prepares the national budget
- **Department of Inland Revenue:** administers VAT and other taxes
- **Central Bank of The Bahamas** – oversees monetary policy and financial stability
- **Auditor General's Department:** audits government accounts and spending

Good Governance Terms

- **Public finance:** how governments raise and spend money
- **Fiscal responsibility:** managing public finances sustainably and transparently
- **Public procurement:** process by which the government purchases goods and services
- **Audit:** an independent review of financial records
- **Transparency:** making government information publicly available
- **Accountability:** requiring public officials to explain and justify decisions
- **Public consultation:** engaging citizens in government decision-making

Be an Active Citizen!



An 'active citizen'
is anyone who is committed to
the best version of themselves
& playing their role in moving
their country forward.

Get Informed | Get Involved
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Lets Connect

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