

# Barbados Market Review

- Barbados maintained its economic growth momentum in Q1 2025 with **estimated real GDP of 2.6%**. This was driven by strong performances in tourism, business services and construction.
- **Traded sector activity led economic growth** in Q1 2025, with its registered growth of 4.0% supported by strong cruise and long-stay visitor arrivals, while agricultural output declined due to adverse weather. Furthermore, real GDP increased by an estimated 2.6% driven by expansions in tourism, business services and construction.
- **Manufacturing output remained flat** with overall activity down by 1.0% as declines in furniture and other manufactured goods offset growth in food and beverage production.
- **Tourism continued to flourish** in Q1 2025, as long-stay arrivals increased by 2.4%, with the United States market recording a 13% increase. Event-driven demand from Crop Over and international sporting events is likely to sustain long-stay arrivals, while increased airlift and seven additional cruise calls should bolster overall activity.
- The **unemployment rate** stood at 7.1% as at Sept 2024, down from 8.3% in the prior year. Jobless claims declined by 6.9% in January and February compared to the same period last year, but temporary layoffs in March, linked to hotel renovations, led to a 3.1% rise in claims for the quarter overall.
- At the end of February 2025, the **12-month moving average inflation rate declined to 0.9%** from 3.1% recorded one year prior. This was mainly attributable to lower domestic prices for clothing, furnishings and recreational goods coupled with declines in international oil and food prices.

- **Gross international reserves** reached \$3.4billion at the end of March 2025. This represented 32.4 weeks of import cover. Although the current account deficit widened due to higher merchandise imports and income outflows, stronger private investment, particularly in tourism-related projects, more than offset those pressures.
- **The financial system remained stable** and continued to support credit growth. Capital buffers remained well above regulatory requirements, non-performing loans (NPLs) declined, and liquidity levels stayed elevated. Further, credit to businesses and households increased, supported by strong deposit growth, ample liquidity, and sustained profitability in the banking sector.

Gross International Reserves Trend



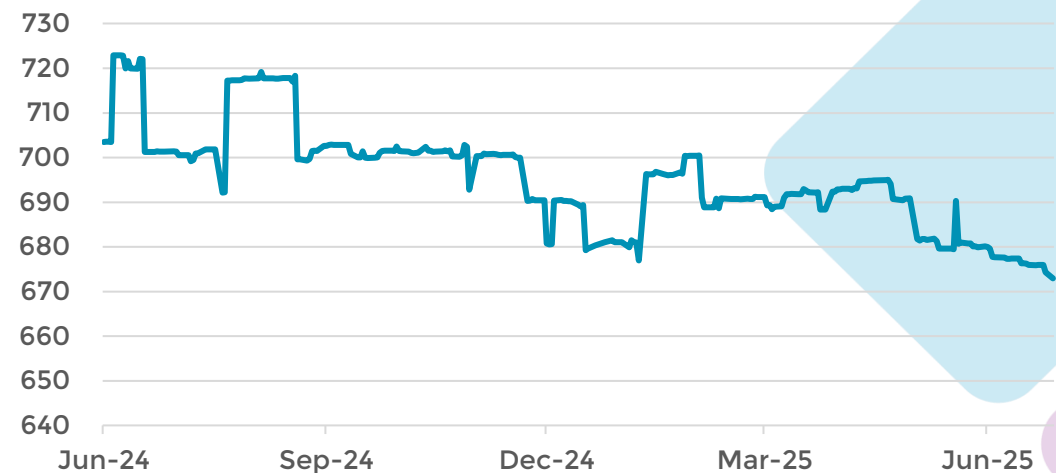
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## Equities

Barbados Stock Exchange Local Index



Barbados Stock Exchange Composite Index



TOP 3 OF BARBADOS STOCK EXCHANGE	WEIGHTS
CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited	57.72%
Sagikor Financial Corporation Limited	15.79%
Goddard Enterprises Limited	11.79%

BARBL  
Total Return Q2 2025

(2.85%)

Barbados Stock  
Exchange Local Index

BARBCOMP  
Total Return Q2 2025

(2.80%)

Barbados Stock  
Exchange Composite  
Index