



# THE SCOUT

Wealth Management & Financial Services

## MONTHLY INVESTMENT NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

**4**

Issues

**\$72.18M**

Raised

**2**

Issues  
Oversubscribed

**6**

Equity Issuers with  
Trading Activity

**144.19**

ECSE  
Share Index



FROM THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF  
GRENADA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED



**Issue No: 12/2023 ■ Period: December 2023 ■ Issue Date: January 4, 2024**

## ISSUER ACTIVITIES:

### 1. DEBT SECURITIES

#### a. Securities Issued:

1. The Debt Market featured four issues originating from four Governments of the eight ECCU territories, compared to:
  - a. Five issues during the same period in 2022 by four issuers.
  - b. Seven issues last month.
2. ECCU Governments raised a total of ECD \$72.18M.  
  
Two issues were oversubscribed with \$10.37M in unsatisfied bids.
3. Two of the four issues closed below the maximum rate offered. The widest margin was a 2.5-percentage point variance between the offered and closing rate.
4. The securities offered were short term instruments, ranging from 91 days to 365-days.

**Table 1: Debt Instruments Issued During December 2023**

DATE	SYMBOL	ISSUER	INSTRUMENT	AUCTION VALUE	MATURITY	CLOSING RATE	MAX RATE	SUBSCRIPTION
08/12/2023	AGB080624	Government of Antigua & Barbuda	180-Day T-Bill	\$15,000,000	08/06/2024	2.75%	4.00%	Oversubscribed
11/12/2023	VCB120324	Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines	91-Day T-Bill	\$27,176,000	12/03/2024	3.50%	3.50%	Undersubscribed
14/12/2023	GDB141224	Government of Grenada	365-Day T-Bill	\$10,000,000	14/12/2024	2.50%	5.00%	Oversubscribed
27/12/2023	LCB250624	Government of St. Lucia	180-Day T-Bill	\$20,007,000	25/06/2024	4.00%	4.00%	Undersubscribed

#### b. Payments during the month:

Issuers made (through the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange) 51 scheduled payments, as per the agreed terms and conditions for instruments, issued both publicly and privately, which comprised of:

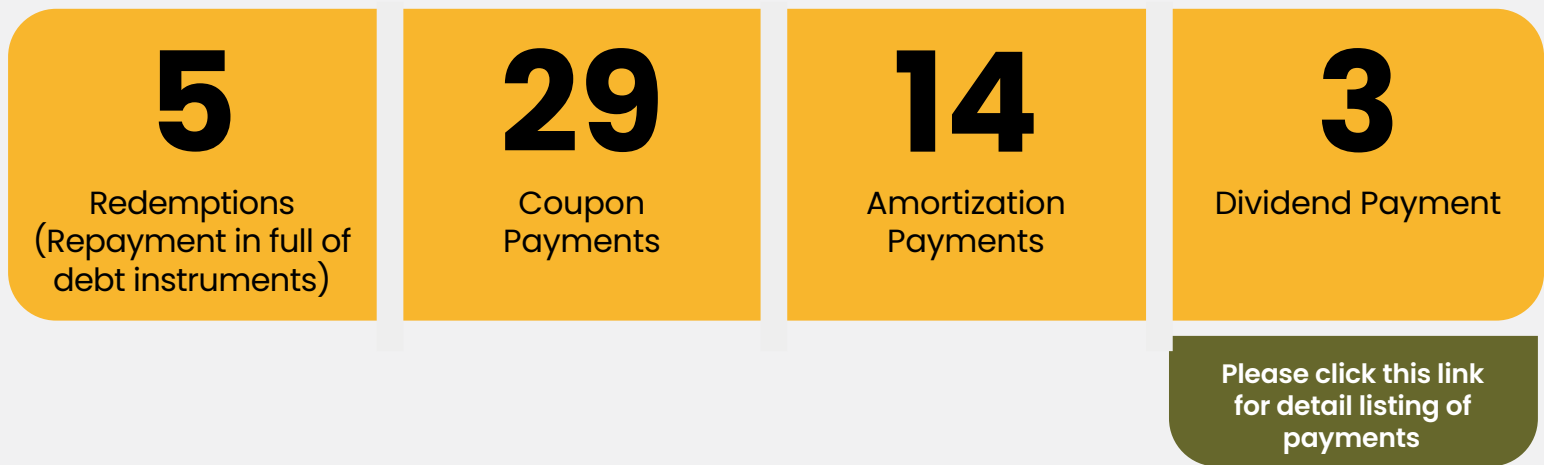
#### c. Default reports:

There were no reports of default by Issuers during the period.

## 2. EQUITY SECURITIES

**a. The Equities Market continues to host 14 issuers of securities.**

i. There were trades from six (6) equity issuers in the market during the month of December.



**Table 2: Issuers with Trading Activity During the Month**

SYMBOL	TRADE VOLUME	HIGH PRICE	LOW PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE IN CLOSING PRICE (COMPARED TO NOVEMBER, 2023)
ECFH	543	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$3.75	\$0.00
GCBL	133	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$0.00
GESL	114	\$10.50	\$10.50	\$10.50	\$0.00
RBGL	80	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.00
SKNB	5,214	\$2.80	\$2.80	\$2.80	\$0.00
SLES	500	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
WIOC	110	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
TDC	450	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$1.30	\$0.00

**Table 3: Closing Prices of Equities as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	CLOSING PRICE	
BON	The Bank of Nevis Ltd.	\$ 3.75	3.75
BOSV	Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ltd.	\$ 9.00	9.00
CWKN	Cable and Wireless St. Kitts & Nevis Ltd.	\$ 3.83	3.83
DES	Dominica Electricity Services Ltd.	\$ 3.75	3.75
ECFH	Eastern Caribbean Financial Holdings Company Ltd.	\$ 3.75	3.75
GCBL	Grenada Co-operative Bank Limited	\$ 9.00	9.00
GESL	Grenada Electricity Services Ltd.	\$ 10.50	10.50
GPCL	Grenreal Property Corporation Limited	\$ 5.40	5.40
RBGL	Republic Bank (Grenada) Limited	\$ 45.00	45.00
SKNB	St. Kitts Nevis Anguilla National Bank Ltd.	\$ 2.80	2.80
SLES	St. Lucia Electricity Services Ltd.	\$ 20.00	20.10
SLH	S. L. Horsford & Co Ltd.	\$ 1.95	1.95
TDC	St. Kitts Nevis Anguilla Trading & Development Company Ltd.	\$ 1.30	1.30
WIOC	The West Indies Oil Company Limited	\$ 60.00	60.00

**b. Equity Issuers with Financial Year-Ends during the period:**

- i. There were eight (8) equity issuers with a financial year-end in December.

**c. Material Change Disclosures:**

- i. Material Change disclosures are filed by Issuers as changes occur within their entities. For access to these disclosures refer to the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission. <https://www.ecsin.com/cms/Cmspages/details/198/category/ecsin-home-page>

**d. Dividend Payments:**

- i. One company made dividend payments to its shareholders in the month of December:
- (a) At the 50th Annual General Shareholder's Meeting of St Kitts Nevis Anguilla Trading & Development Co Ltd (TDC) which was held on 2 December 2023, a dividend of 0.05 cents per share was approved for shareholders on record at 27 October 2023. The dividend was paid on December 6th, 2023.

## ISSUER HIGHLIGHTS:

### 1. DEBT ISSUERS

#### a. Grenada experiences Economic growth of 5% in 2023

The Grenadian government has reported an estimated 5.50% expansion in the island's economy for 2023, with a projected growth of 3.6% for the upcoming year.

Finance Minister Dennis Cornwall attributes this growth to robust economic management and highlights the role of public and private sector construction, along with a strong recovery in tourism, in fueling the economy.

Despite the positive trends, he acknowledges that inflation remains a challenge.

#### b. St Kitts and Nevis: Christmas bonus, no new Taxes in 2024 Budget

Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew presented the 2024 budget for St Kitts and Nevis, focusing on a sustainable island state.

Key highlights include a 50% Christmas bonus for civil servants, pensioners, and others on December 21, 2023, an EC\$500 bonus for non-civil servants in December 2023, no new taxes, a 25% corporate income tax rate effective January 1, 2024, and a National Minimum Wage increase from EC\$9 to EC\$10.75 per hour (rising to EC\$12.50 on July 1, 2024).

Other measures include a new contributory pension plan for Government Auxiliary Employees, an 8% salary increase for civil servants and pensioners from January 1, 2024, and a Financial Education and Savings

Programme launching in 2024. Social Security pension increases, a higher funeral grant benefit, and various initiatives for youth are also part of the budget.

#### c. Government of Taiwan & St. Lucia collaborate for Socioeconomic Development

Taiwan's Ambassador to Saint Lucia, H.E. Peter Chia-Yen Chen, participated in the launch of several key facilities in Soufriere, including the Palmiste Vending Facility, Soufriere Market Vending Booths at Old Trafford, and Bouton Community Centre. These projects are sponsored by the OECs Regional Tourism Competitiveness Project with funding from the World Bank and are part of the Community Tourism Development Project.

Ambassador Chen highlighted the rapid growth in Saint Lucia's tourism industry post-COVID-19 and commended the collective efforts of the government, private sector, and local communities. He emphasized Taiwan's commitment to working with Saint Lucia for sustainable development and announced new projects, including the ICT in Digital Capacity Building Project and Community Business Revitalization Project in Soufriere/Fond St Jacques.

Prime Minister Hon. Philip J Pierre expressed the government's appreciation for community tourism as a crucial element of socioeconomic development, and Minister Emma Hippolyte encouraged community collaboration for positive outcomes. All officials expressed gratitude to Taiwan for its support in developing Saint Lucia's socioeconomic infrastructure.



## 2. EQUITY ISSUERS

**Table 4: Financial Statistics of Equity Issuers for the 2022 Financial Year.**

COMPANY SYMBOL	NET INCOME (LOSS) ('000)	SHARE-HOLDERS EQUITY ('000)	NO. OF SHARES OUT-STANDING ('000)	CLOSING MARKET PRICE	BOOK VALUE PER SHARE	EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE	DIVIDEND PER SHARE	PRICE EARNINGS RATIO	DIVIDEND YIELD
BOSV	\$2,297	141,075	14,999	\$9.00	\$9.41	\$0.19	\$0.10	46.44	1.11%
GCBL	\$2,106	\$99,159	7,596	\$8.88	\$13.05	\$0.28	\$0.00	32.03	0.00%
RBGL	\$10,391	\$230,729	3,774	\$45.00	\$61.14	\$2.75	\$0.30	16.34	0.67%
SKNB	\$(296,213)	\$475,194	141,750	\$2.80	\$3.35	\$(2.14)	\$0.00	(1.31)	0.00%
\$39,601	396,327	22,920	\$20.00	\$17.29	\$1.73	\$1.73	\$0.45 (Interim)	11.58	2.25%
\$4,427	\$193,860	52,000	\$1.30	\$3.73	\$0.09	\$0.09	\$0.05	15.27	3.85%

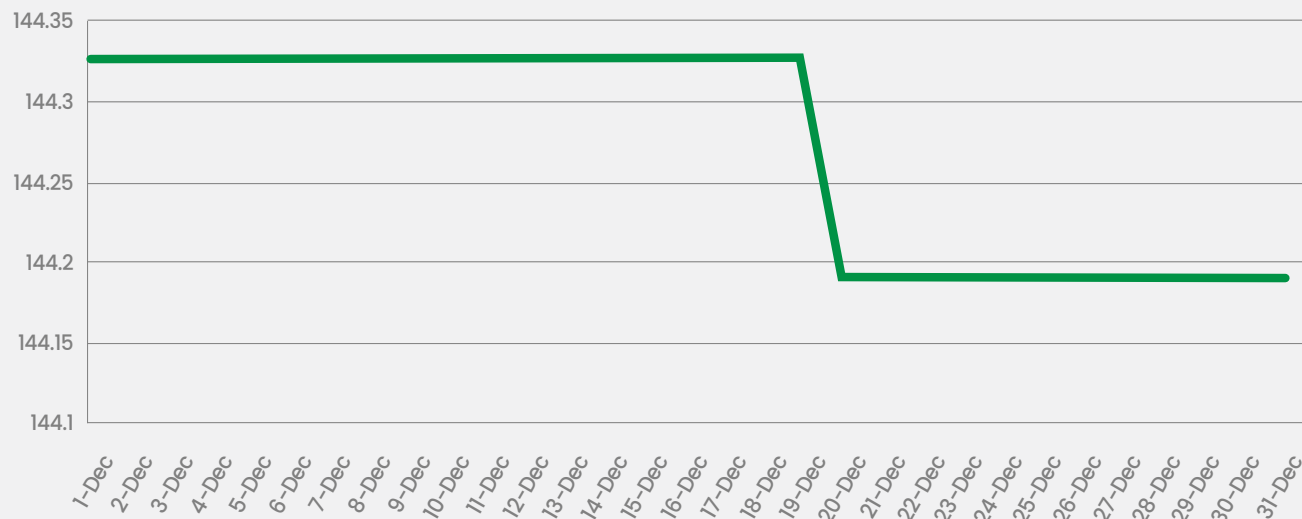
**Please be reminded that a company's past performance does not signal future behavior.**

*Note that the statistics will be updated as Issuer information becomes available for the period.*

## EASTERN CARIBBEAN SECURITIES MARKET REVIEW:

### a. ECSE Share Price Index

**Graph 1: ECSE Share Price Index December 01, 2023 – December 31, 2023.**



The ECSE Share Index, which stood at 144.33 at the end of November, decreased by 0.14 points or 0.10% to close the month at 144.19.

## UPCOMING OFFERS:

**Table 5: Upcoming Offers**

DATE	SYMBOL	ISSUER	INSTRUMENT	AUCTION VALUE	MATURITY	MAX RATE
04/01/2024	DMB050424	Gov't of the Commonwealth of Dominica	91-Day Treasury Bill	\$20.0M	05/04/2024	3.50%
04/01/2024	VCB050424	Gov't of St. Vincent & the Grenadines	91-Day Treasury Bill	\$28.0M	05/04/2024	3.50%
17/01/2024	LCB160724	Gov't Saint Lucia	180-Day Treasury Bill	\$15.0M (\$10M Oversubscription)	16/06/2024	4.00%

Please note that upcoming offers may be updated during the period as instruments become available or amended.

## **INVESTMENT EDUCATION CORNER:**

### **A UNLOCKING INVESTMENT SUCCESS: KEY RATIOS EVERY INVESTOR SHOULD KNOW**

#### **1. Price-to-Earnings (P/E) Ratio**

The P/E ratio is a fundamental metric that compares a company's stock price to its earnings per share. It gives investors insights into the valuation of a stock, helping them determine whether it's overvalued or undervalued. A higher P/E ratio may indicate a higher growth expectation but could also mean a higher level of risk.

#### **2. Debt-to-Equity Ratio:**

The debt-to-equity ratio assesses a company's financial leverage by comparing its total debt to shareholders' equity. A lower ratio suggests a more conservative capital structure, while a higher ratio may indicate higher financial risk. Understanding a company's debt position is crucial for evaluating its financial health and stability.

#### **3. Return on Equity (ROE):**

ROE measures a company's profitability by assessing how well it generates returns from shareholders' equity. A higher ROE indicates effective utilization of equity capital, signaling a potentially well-performing company. Investors often use ROE to evaluate management's ability to generate profits from shareholders' investments.

#### **4. Dividend Yield:**

Dividend yield is the annual dividend income as a percentage of the stock's current market price. It's a key ratio for income-focused investors, helping them identify stocks that provide a steady stream of dividends. However, it's essential to consider the sustainability of dividends and the company's overall financial health.

#### **Disclaimer**

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#### **Disclosure**

We, Grenada Co-operative Bank Limited, hereby declare that we are an issuer of securities on the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange.

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