

Head 65: Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

A summary of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Expenditure, Divisions
and Projects.

Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for the period 2012-2018. It provides the Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure, the Estimates of Development Programme, the Public Sector Investment Programme and the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2016.

Head 65: Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Ministry's Overview¹

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs strives to be a “service-driven, results-oriented organisation, which, through effective engagement at home and representation abroad, will act as a central channel by which the national interests and national development of Trinidad and Tobago are achieved.”

The Ministry prioritizes the following missions, namely:

- The Economic Mission which focuses on energy, trade, investment, tourism, science and technology, culture and agriculture;
- The Security Mission which focuses on ensuring national and human security;
- The Consular Mission which emphasises services to nationals at home and to the diaspora;
- The Political Mission which utilizes public and international diplomacy to ensure respect and leadership; and
- The Mission related to international law.

As the external arm of the Government, it directs the country's foreign relations with other states and international entities mainly through diplomatic initiatives and representation. The foreign policy of Trinidad and Tobago is pursued through the activities of the Ministry's Headquarters, its eighteen (18) Missions and its Honorary Consuls. The Ministry aims to expand and intensify the country's

¹ Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, website; Accessed on September 6 2017: <https://www.foreign.gov.tt/about/ministry/about-us/ministry/>

relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives by seeking environments that are conducive to trade, tourism and investment for Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry provides a myriad of services, which include protocol and consular activities, to its diverse clientele. Clients include the Offices of the President and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; Government Ministries and other Government Agencies; Foreign Governments; Diplomatic Missions accredited to and resident in Trinidad and Tobago; Members of the Local Diplomatic Corps; International Organisations; the Private Sector; Civil Society and Nationals and Non-nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, both at home and abroad.

Minister: Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses

Permanent Secretary: Mrs. Jennifer Daniel

Key Statement from 2016 Standing Finance Committee Debate

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2016, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for fiscal year 2016/2017²:

“... Beginning last fiscal year, efforts have been directed at realigning the Ministry’s operations to ensure consistency with Government’s policy objectives as highlighted in the official policy framework. These include:

- *address the interest of Trinidad and Tobago in respect of trade and investment policies of other countries;*
- *maintain strong contact with the West Indian diaspora and promote projects of mutual benefit to the diaspora communities;*
- *restructure the foreign service to reflect emphasis on economic diplomacy, energy diplomacy, security*
- *diplomacy, health, sport and culture, and human rights diplomacy;*
- *intensify relations with Latin American countries; and*
- *repair relationships with CARICOM member countries.*

The aforementioned objectives are intended to raise the profile of the country in the international fora.”

² Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Standing Finance Committee Hansard of Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs 18Sept16, Accessed September 8, 2017

Where the Ministry spends its money

2017-2018 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$260,872,000**;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of **\$9,100,000**:
 - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$7,100,000**; and
 - Infrastructure Development Fund in the sum of **\$2,000,000**

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

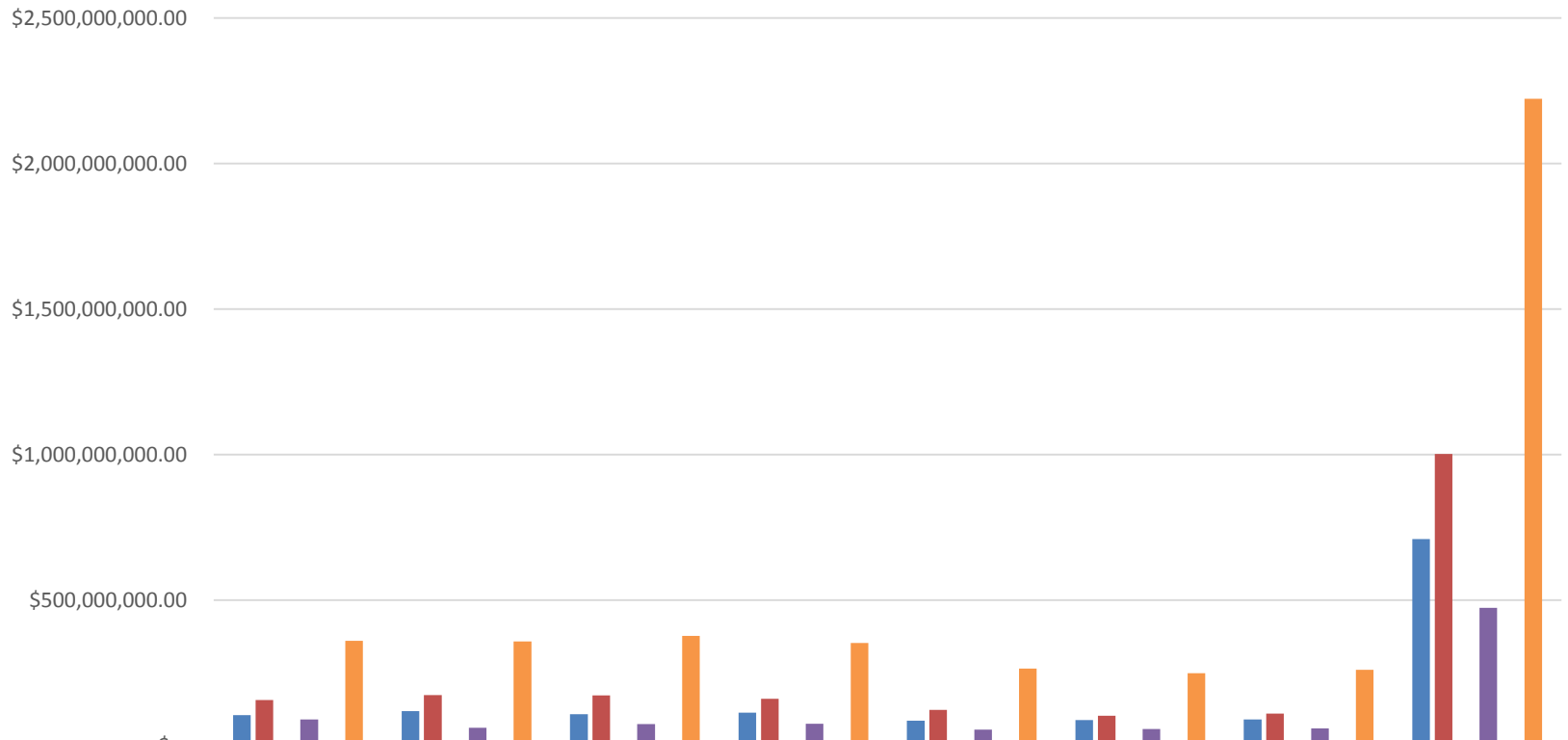
- 01 Personnel Expenditure – **\$90,743,000**;
- 02 Goods and Services – **\$110,410,000**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases – **\$372,000**; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies – **\$59,347,000**

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.5%**;
- Consolidated Fund as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.29%**; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is **0.07%**.

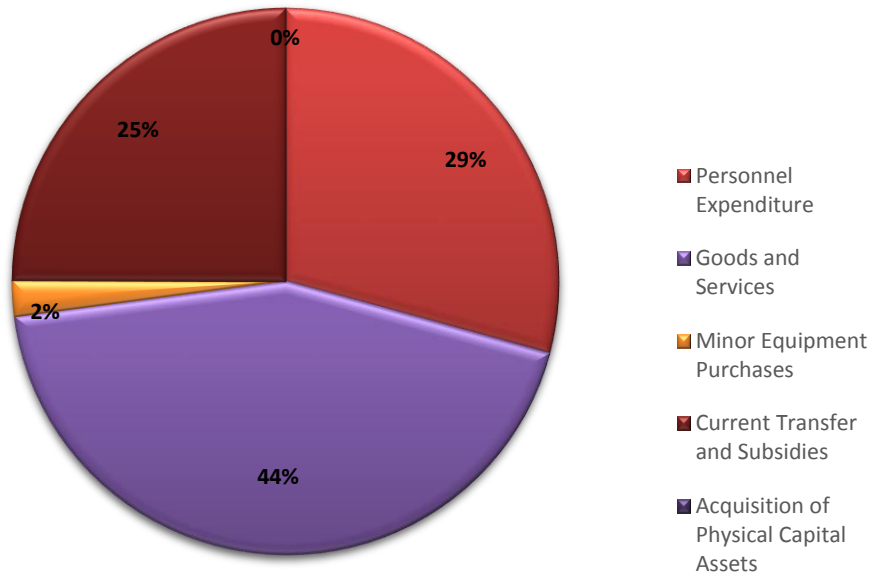
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

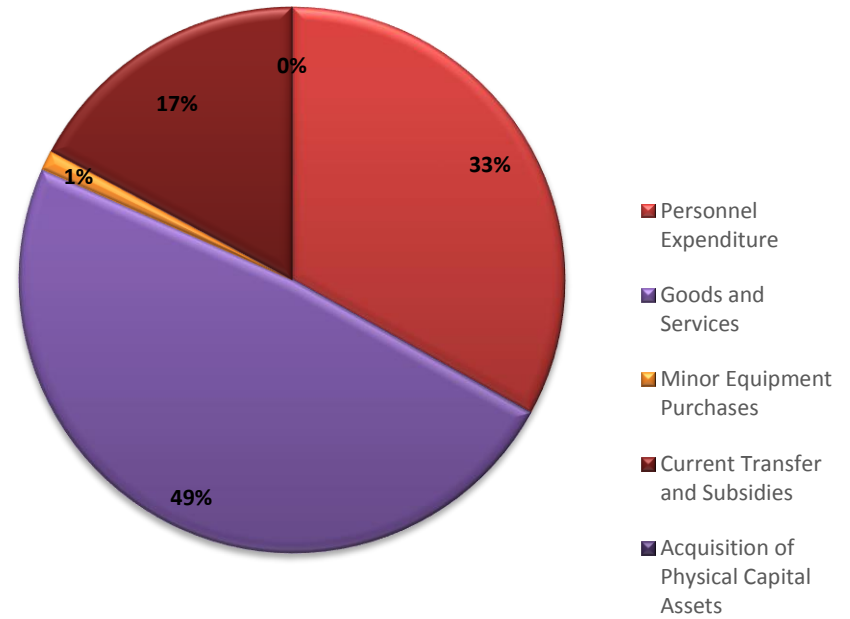


	Actual 2012	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Revised Estimates 2017	Estimates 2018	Totals
01 Personnel Expenditure	\$105,181,457.00	\$118,550,459.00	\$107,791,155.00	\$114,066,553.00	\$85,588,510.00	\$88,481,000.00	\$90,473,000.00	\$710,132,134.00
02 Goods and Services	\$157,405,250.00	\$173,724,507.00	\$173,401,742.00	\$161,123,660.00	\$123,488,353.00	\$102,828,104.00	\$110,410,000.00	\$1,002,381,616.00
03 Minor Equipment Purchases	\$7,592,048.00	\$4,282,327.00	\$3,319,335.00	\$2,250,160.00	\$724,363.00	\$500,302.00	\$372,000.00	\$19,040,535.00
04 Current Transfer and Subsidies	\$89,727,337.00	\$61,522,017.00	\$74,861,705.00	\$75,839,295.00	\$55,154,550.00	\$57,580,000.00	\$59,347,000.00	\$474,031,904.00
05 Acquisition of Physical Capital Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,484,617.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,484,617.00
Total Allocation	\$359,906,092.00	\$358,079,310.00	\$376,858,554.00	\$353,279,668.00	\$264,955,776.00	\$249,389,406.00	\$260,602,000.00	\$2,223,070,806.00

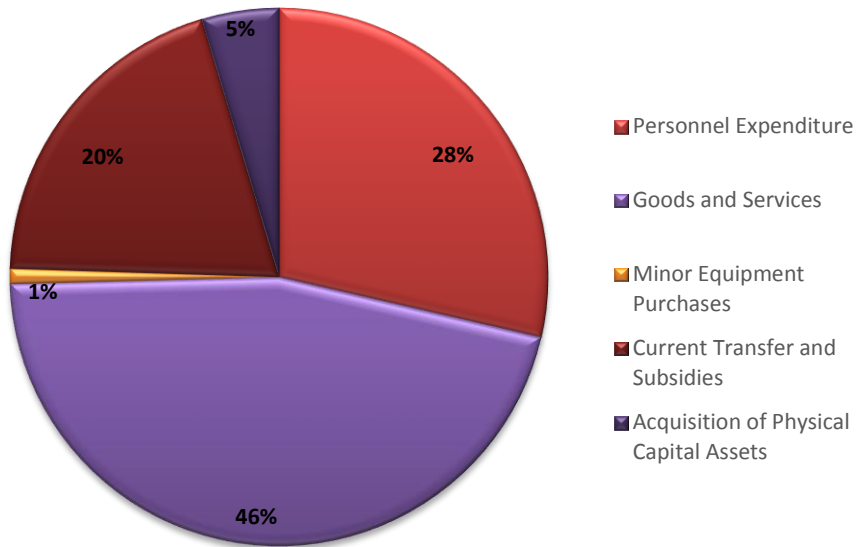
2012 Actual



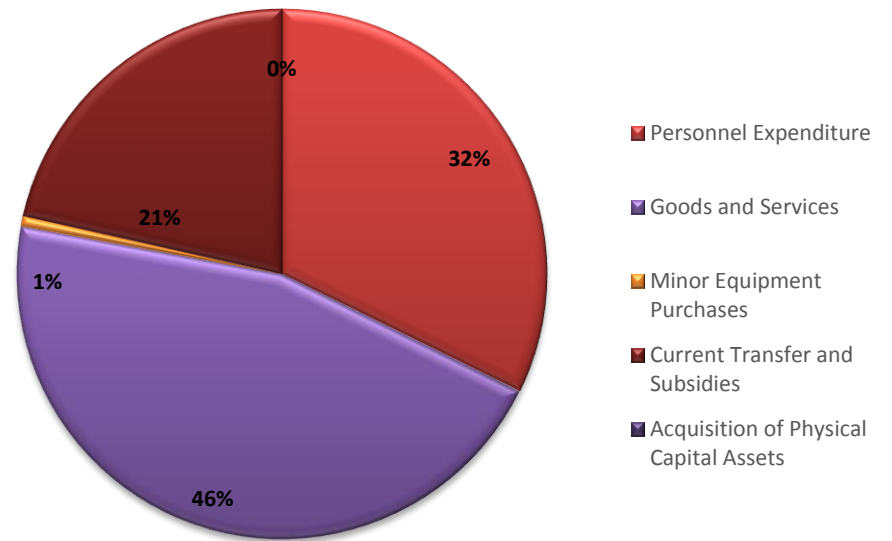
2013 Actual



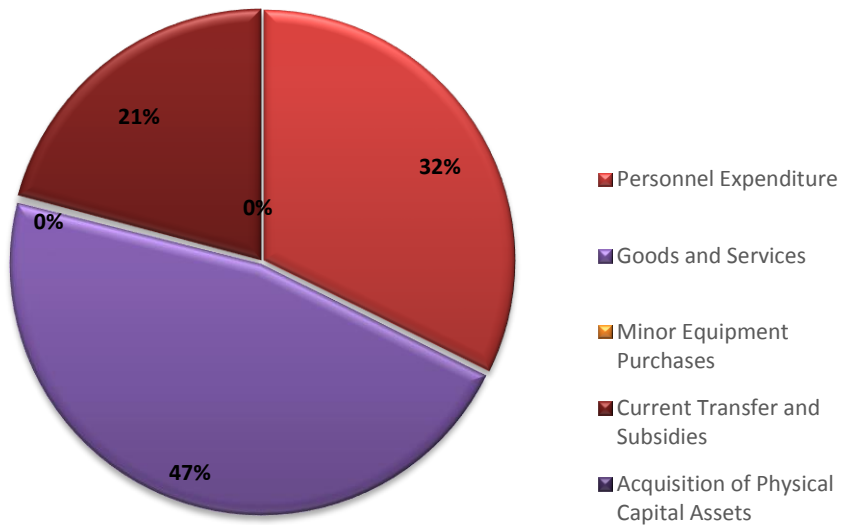
2014 Actual



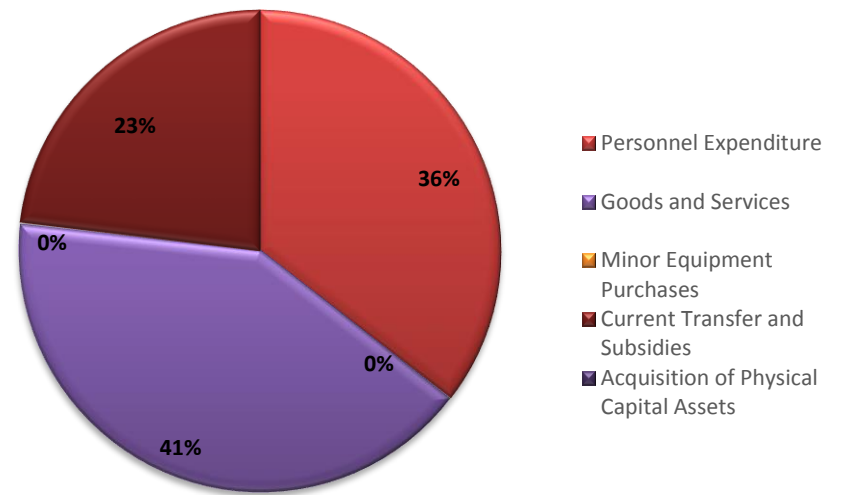
2015 Actual



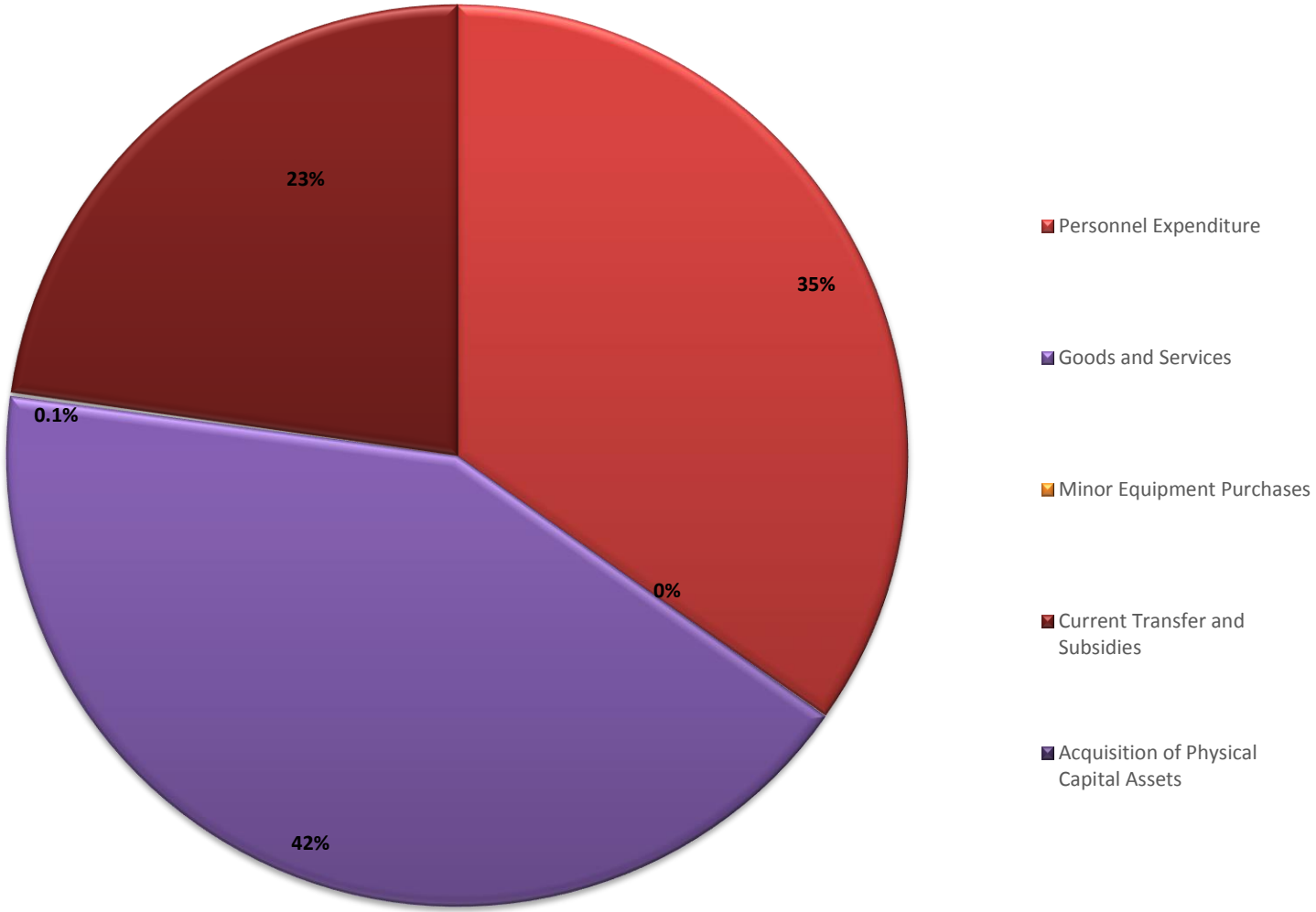
2016 Actual



2017 Revised Estimates

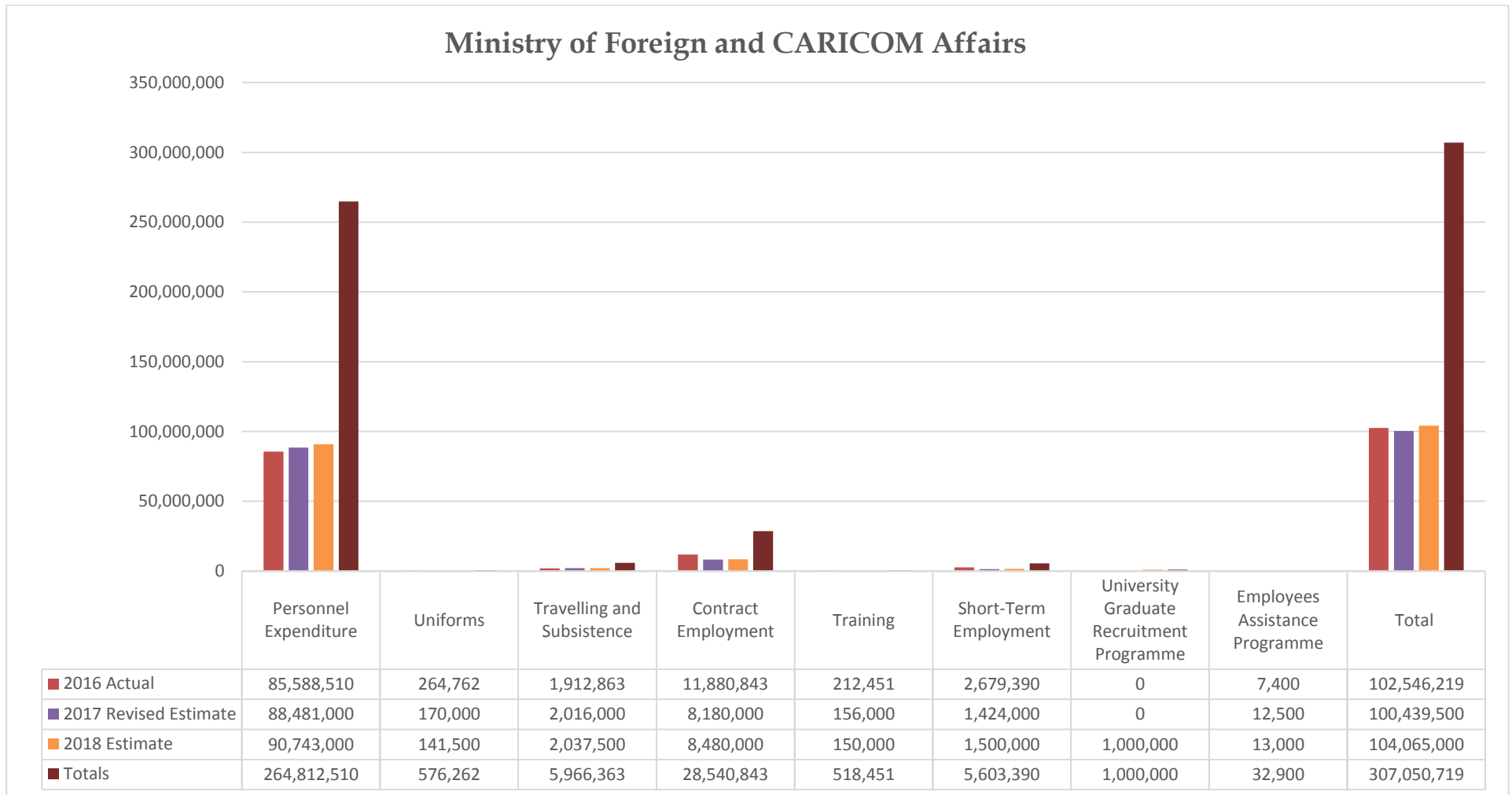


2018 Estimates



Staff and Pay³

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2018 was \$ **107,518,000**, which is an increase of approximately **3.6%** from the last fiscal year 2017. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2016-2018.



³ Draft Estimates for Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2018 <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Recurrent-Expenditure-2018.pdf>

Analysis of Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases and Current Transfers and Subsidies. Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 is **\$260,872,000**.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 was **\$249,389,406**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2017/2018, there is a decrease of **\$11,482,594** or **4.6%**.
- The largest portion of the allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services. This figure has been fluctuating over the period 2012-2018, accounting for approximately **42.4%** of total funding for the Ministry for fiscal year 2017/2018 for the day to day operations of the Ministry.
- Minor Equipment Purchases received the lowest portion of the total allocation for the Ministry over the period 2012 to 2018.
- Personnel Expenditure received the second largest portion of the allocation and has been fluctuating over the period 2012 – 2018. Comparing 2016/2017 to 2017/2018, there was an increase in the allocation by **2.3%**.
- The total allocation has been fluctuating over the seven (7) year period with a high of **\$ \$376,858,554**. in the fiscal year 2014 to and a low of **\$249,389,406** in fiscal year 2017.

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012 - 2018⁴

Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes; human resources, economic and social development.

The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government's overarching policy.

The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

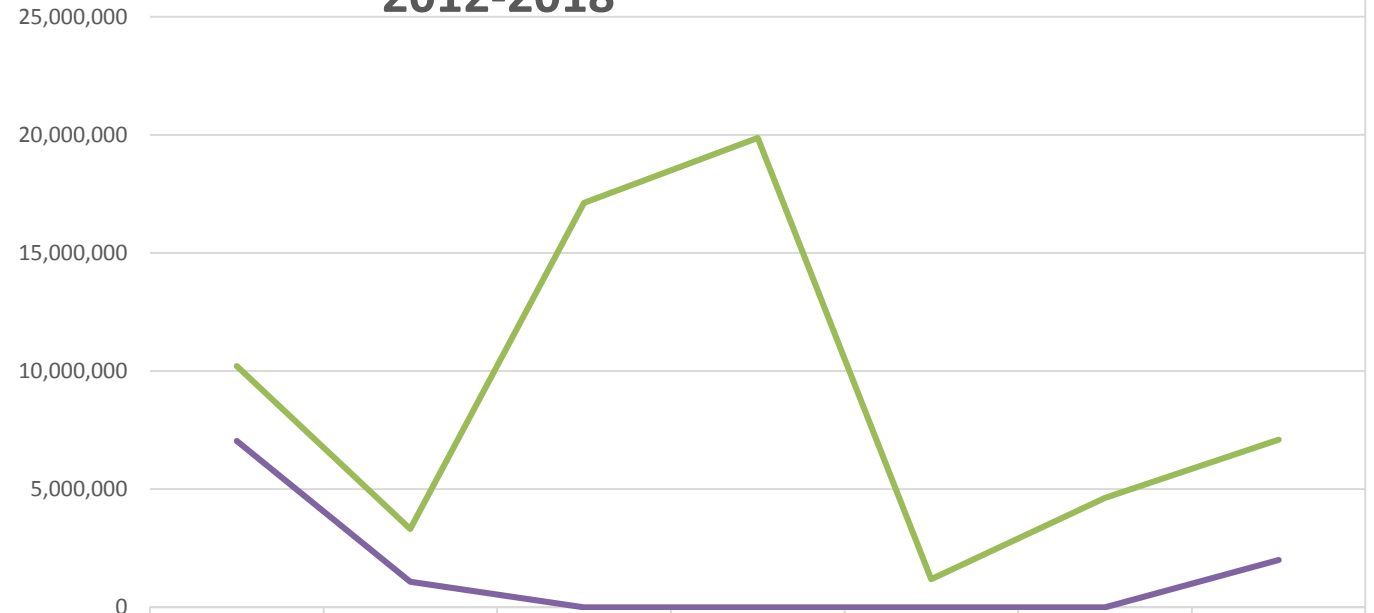
- The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:
 - the country's social and economic development goals; and
 - enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

The estimates for the development programme are presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds appropriated by Parliament and disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund.

⁴ Estimates of Development Programme 2018: <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2018.pdf>

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012-2018



	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Revised	2018 Estimates
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund	10,218,647	3,322,132	17,120,188	19,871,923	1,191,300	4,629,696	7,100,000
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund	7,042,876	1,074,813	0	0	0	0	2,000,000

The Ministry's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2012 to 2018

Year ^[1]	Total Allocation ^[2]	National Budget ^[3]	Percentage of National Budget
2012	\$ 366,948,968	\$ 55,718,271,573.00	0.66%
2013	\$ 361,401,442	\$ 59,174,226,196.00	0.61%
2014	\$ 393,978,742	\$ 65,020,886,424.00	0.60%
2015	\$ 373,151,591	\$ 61,966,922,675.00	0.60%
2016	\$ 266,147,076	\$ 56,573,913,053.00	0.50%
2017	\$ 254,019,102	\$ 55,598,436,912.00	0.45%
2018	\$ 267,972,000	\$ 54,955,041,591.00	0.51%

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs by **0.1%** between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

^[1] For the Fiscal Years 2012-2016, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry's total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Ministry's total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.

^[2] Total Allocation for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs= Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund

^[3] The National Budget= Total Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund + Infrastructure Development Fund

The Auditor General Report Finding for the Fiscal Year 2016

Ref: Auditor General's Report pg. 70⁵

PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS

Revenue Control

Monthly Returns of Revenue and the Revenue Register were not produced. The completeness of Revenue disclosed was therefore not ascertained.

AUDIT OF OVERSEAS MISSION- SOUTH AFRICA

Document not Produced

A signed contract outlining terms and conditions for the Senior International Relations Officer was not produced in contravention of Financial Regulation 8 (l) and Financial Instruction 43.

Inventory Control

Inventory items did not bear approved marks to identify them as Government property as guided by Financial Regulation (Stores) 55 which states: "Whenever possible, all Government stores must, on receipt, be stamped with the approved mark, to identify them as Government property".

⁵ Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended October 4, 2017 - http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%27s%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202016_0.pdf

Procurement Control

Audit noted the absence of a Tenders Committee with respect to decisions regarding the selection of a Contractor to carry out repairs and maintenance of the residences owned by the High Commission.

Further, selection of the said contractor was made solely by the Head of Chancery and ratified by the Permanent Secretary after written justification. Concerns were raised by the Financial Attaché that the company was not VAT registered, which is a mandatory requirement in South Africa for companies earning in excess of one million Rand annually.

A physical inspection of the residences in question in September 2016 revealed incomplete and substandard work by the selected contractor who was paid a total of 727,375 Rand between 2015 and 2016.

Unoccupied Property

A total of 2,520,540 Rand was expended on an unoccupied property at 580 Berea Street for taxes, utilities, maintenance and security costs for the period March 2009 to September 2016. Financial Regulation 34 places responsibility on the Accounting Officer to eliminate non-essential services and to use public funds to the best advantage.

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2016 - 2017

The following new projects that received funding in the 2016/2017 financial year⁶:

Project -Item	2017 Estimate	2017 Revised Estimate	2018 Estimate
CF-005-06-A-058 Establishment of a New Embassy and Trade Office in the United Arab Emirates	\$1,500,000	-	\$1,500,000
CF-005-06-A-060 Re-Establishment of a High Commission in Barbados	\$800,000	\$31,000	\$1,000,000

⁶ Estimates of Development Programme 2017, accessed on September 8, 2017: <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2017.pdf>

New Projects for the Financial Year 2017-2018

The following new projects that received funding in the 2017/2018 financial year⁷:

Description	Project/Programme	2018 Estimate
CF005-06-A-019	Establishment of a National Diaspora Unit	\$300,000

⁷ Estimates of Development Programme 2017, accessed on October 3, 2016: <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2017.pdf>

Committee Inquires Related to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Inquiry	Report Status	Ministerial Response	Key Recommendations ⁸
<p>1. <i>Third Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Second Session (2016/2017), Eleventh Parliament, on an Examination of the System of Inventory Control within the Public Service</i></p>	<p>Report Presented: 05.05.17</p>	<p>Presented: 04.07.17</p>	<p><i>Proper Maintenance of the Inventory Register:</i> <i>The Ministry did not have sufficient staff to maintain the Inventory Register.</i></p> <p><i>Recommendations:</i> <i>The Ministry should liaise with the Service Commissions Department and the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications to determine the most effective method to fill the vacancies throughout the Divisions and also to source the requisite training for staff. The Ministry shall provide a status update to the Committee on the progress made in this regard by July 31, 2017.</i></p>

⁸ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry

General Useful Information

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SINGAPORE: <https://www.mfa.gov.sg/content/mfa/index.html>
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, AUS: <http://dfat.gov.au/pages/default.aspx>
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>
- Ministry of External Affairs, INDIA: <http://www.mea.gov.in/>
- Global Affairs Canada, CANADA: <http://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/index.aspx?lang=eng>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NIGERIA: <http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.ng/>
- U.S. Department of State, USA: <http://www.state.gov/aboutstate/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, BRAZIL: <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/>
- Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, PANAMA: <http://www.mire.gob.pa/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, CHINA: http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/