



## Banking Activity Report

August 2023

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## Executive Summary

As of the end of August 2023, the operations of the International Banking Center (CBI) continued to demonstrate positive performance. The profitability of credit institutions, as well as the performance of the credit portfolio, have continued to show signs of improvement in recent months, along with liquidity and solvency ratios that, taken together, comply with regulatory limits.

The assets of the CBI totaled USD 142.60 billion, representing an increase of USD 5.22 billion or a year-on-year growth of 3.8% compared to August 2022. This growth primarily responds to an increase in the net credit portfolio and the securities portfolio (5.9% and 4.5%, respectively). However, there was a year-on-year decrease of 7.8% in liquid assets. This performance displays the acceleration in the expansion of bank assets, with productive assets as the main growth drivers.

As of the end of August 2023, the corporate banking credit portfolio grew by 5.0%, or a year-on-year comparison, reaching USD 60.05 billion. It is noteworthy that, in addition to record growth in all its segments, it is the first time ever that the credit portfolio exceeds the USD 60 billion mark. The foregoing suggests that corporate banking maintains a pace of recovery in credit granting, despite interest rate hikes, whose increase is still focused on the corporate segment. This progress is based on the improvement in economic recovery expectations, which have recently been revised upwards, moving the growth projection from 5.0% to 6.0% during the year. Data suggests widespread growth in several economic sectors, highlighting the corporate, household, and government sectors.

The portfolio quality of CBI as of August shows a default ratio of 4.1%, with 1.6% representing loans with arrears of 30+ days and loans with arrears of 90+ days recording 2.5%. This performance indicates a higher percentage of defaults when compared to pre-pandemic periods. As for provisions for delinquent or past-due loans, they were strengthened during the pandemic, increasing the banks' capacity to absorb losses for future loan impairment. This segment has been dramatically reduced. Therefore, and given the context of external interest rate hikes and other risks, some impairment is foreseeable in the portfolio quality indicator for 2023, given a less favorable operating environment and the expiration of consumer loans. It is essential to consider that, although current provisions and collaterals provide some degree of mitigation for risks related to loan impairment, their evolution requires oversight and, from a prudential point of view, demands close monitoring by the SBP.

By August, the cumulative profits of CBI banks totaled USD 1.89 billion. This figure represents a 49.7% increase in earnings compared to the same period 12 months ago. This outcome was driven by the evolution of the financial margin and commissions resulting from the continuous growth of the credit portfolio, asset quality management, and expenditure control, as well as a decrease in provisions to the preventive estimate of credit risks. The profitability of assets responded significantly to the increase in net interest income (27.2%). By segments, interest income increased by 45.6% compared to the same period a year ago. On the other hand, operating expenses grew by 64.3%

on a year-on-year basis. Particularly, loan interest income increased by 33.1% (a total difference of USD 982 million), while interest paid primarily for term deposits rose by 68.9% (a difference of USD 1.093 billion). The foregoing suggests that deposit interest rates could be more sensitive to changes, potentially exerting greater pressure on interest margin. The accounts that impacted the growth of net income responded to changes in deposit income and securities.

As of August 2023, the balance of CBI bank deposits amounted to USD 100.93 billion, indicating a USD 1.074 billion increase (3.8%). Domestic deposits experienced a 1.2% increase (USD 713.7 million) compared to the same period a year ago. External deposits grew by 8.4% (USD 3.012 billion) annually, reaching a total of USD 39.046 billion. These deposits represent 27.6% of the total balance of the International Banking Center. Colombia stands out as the main country of origin of deposits, allocating 22% of the total. Other countries also have a significant share, such as Costa Rica (5.9%), Venezuela (5.7%), the Dominican Republic, and the United States of America (5.3%). Notably, as of the end of August, term deposits have accelerated their expansion, propelled by higher interest rates, which, in turn, have increased the appeal of this type of savings instrument. Within customer deposits, the performance of term deposits has played a pivotal role in driving deposit expansion, resulting in a year-on-year increase of 4.1% for domestic deposits and 17.4% for external deposits.

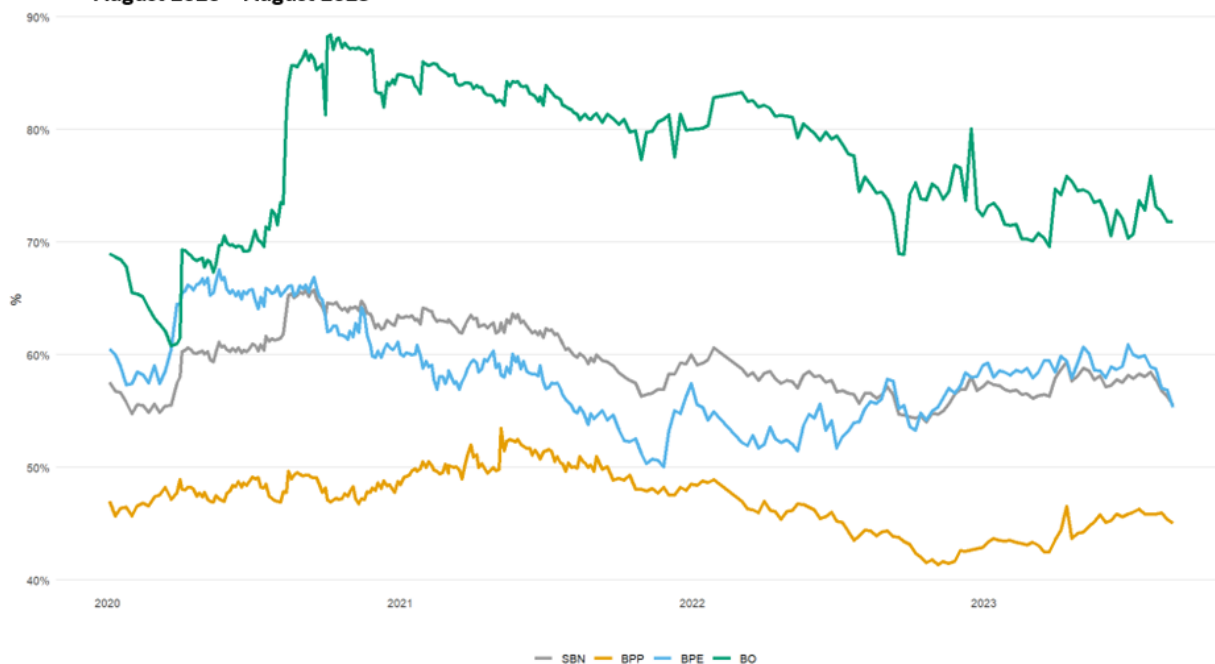
At the beginning of September 2023, FATF representatives made an onsite visit to Panama to double-check the progress made by our country and to determine whether the institutional infrastructure established to guarantee total compliance is sustainable overall. It is important to highlight that Panama has demonstrated great progress in fighting money laundering and terrorism financing, largely complying with 15 actions established in the Action Plan, currently rated as "Largely Compliant." This performance confirms the country's continuous commitment to this matter, emphasizing its conviction to maintain an effective anti-money laundering and terrorism financing system, which is essential to safeguard the country's financial and economic system. With the outcomes of this visit, a report will be presented at the October Plenary Meeting, to be held in Paris, where the Financial Action Task Force will rule on Panama and, consequently, the decision will be made to remain on the list or be delisted. After a great joint effort by all national actors who have been highly committed, we will be waiting for the assessment of Panama's status to be concluded at the October meeting.

In conclusion, the Panamanian financial system has consistently demonstrated resilience and a solid overall position. Nonetheless, considering the external macro-financial environment and the stringent financial conditions resulting from the tightening of monetary policy frameworks, close monitoring will be required. Therefore, the SBP will continue to closely monitor the impact of these events on market liquidity and solvency to continue ensuring the stability of the financial system considering the present circumstances.

## A. Liquidity

At the end of August 2023, the liquidity of the Banking System reached 56.6%, with the increase in deposits contributing to improving its liquidity position. Compared to July 2023, a decrease of 1.6 percentage points in the liquidity ratio was recorded. This decrease is attributed to the disbursement of funds to meet various financial obligations, a common occurrence in the financial management of banks. This scenario of meeting financing obligations suggest that banks maintain an appropriate level of liquid assets that enables them to face their short-term commitments without risking their liquidity management nor the system's financial stability. Presently, local banks are in a robust regulatory position with respect to regulatory requirements, which empowers them to navigate market volatility. Banks within the National Banking System have consistently maintained strong liquidity buffers and dependable access to structural and wholesale deposits, constituting a critical part of their funding. It is important to note that all banks operating within the Panamanian CBI are required to adhere to Basel III requirements as stipulated by regulatory provisions. The Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) gauges the ability to secure emergency or survival funding over a 30-day period. The latest figures indicate that the ratio of deposits and liabilities compared to high-quality liquid assets comfortably surpasses the minimum regulatory requirement, and its term structure is appropriate.

**Graph 1: Weekly average liquidity ratio  
August 2020 – August 2023**



Source: General License Banks.

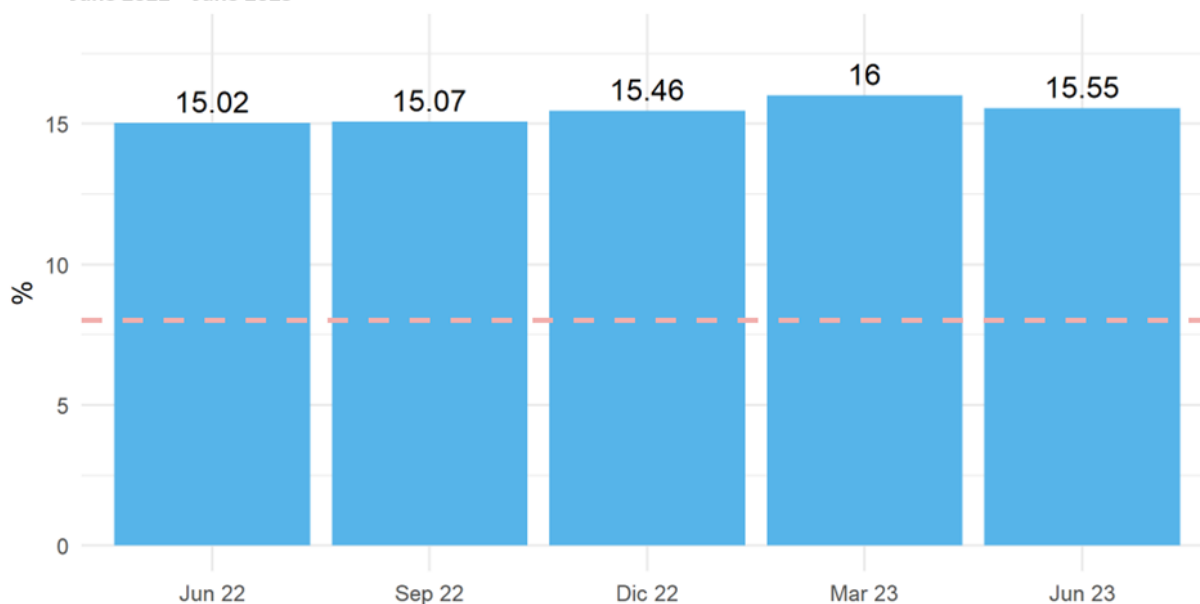
## B. Solvency

The latest Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) indicates that the combined solvency ratios of CBI have remained in a robust position. The CAR on risk-weighted assets (RWA) stood at 15.55%

(see **Graph 2**), surpassing the regulatory minimum of 8%. There were no significant changes in the capital of the group of banks compared to the previous quarter.

Profitability is anticipated to remain steady. This, combined with a more cautious growth in RWAs, will bolster capital adequacy metrics across most CBI banks. Presently, all banks operating within the CBI are in satisfactory compliance with the new bank capital regulatory standards.

**Graph 2: Capital Adequacy Ratio**  
June 2022 – June 2023



Source: General and International License Banks.

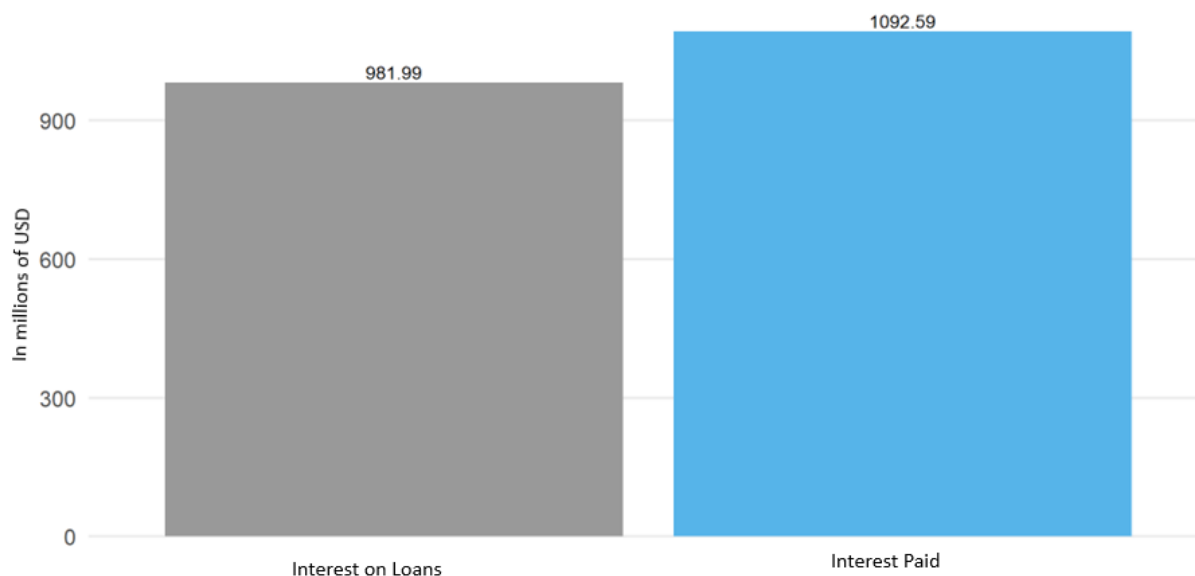
## C. Income Statement

As of August 2023, the cumulative profit for CBI banks totaled USD 1.89 billion. This figure represents a 49.7% increase in profit compared to the same period 12 months ago. This growth is attributed to the development of the financial margin and commissions, stemming from the continuous expansion of the credit portfolio, effective asset management, expense control, and a reduction in provisions in response to a preventive assessment of credit risk. Additionally, profitability was enhanced by profits generated by other entities within the banking groups.

The profitability of assets responded significantly to the rise in net interest income (27.2%). By segments, interest income increased by 45.6% compared to a year earlier, while operating expense grew by 64.3% annually.

Particularly, loan interest income rose by 33.1% (a total difference of USD 982 million). Meanwhile, term deposits interest paid increased by 68.9% (a difference of USD 1.093 billion). The foregoing suggests that deposit interest rates could be more sensitive to changes, potentially exerting greater pressure on interest margins (see **Graph 3**). The segments that contributed to the increase in net income responded to changes in deposits income (388.4%) and securities management (230.7%), among others.

**Graph 3: Changes in Interest Paid and Interest on Loans  
August 2023 vs. August 2022**



Source: General and International License Banks.

General expenses totaled USD 2.039 billion, representing a 5.2% increase (or USD 100.5 million), where increases in operating expenses are highlighted in times such as: salaries and labor liabilities.

Provisioning expenses decreased from USD 411.6 million in 2022 to USD 337.8 million in 2023, marking a 17.9% decrease. However, this performance is rooted in the coverage levels of provisions established during the pandemic, which, combined with specific regulatory requirements, served as an effective buffer during challenging periods at that time. As of early 2023, identified and monitored risks continue to persist both domestically and externally. Therefore, from a prudential perspective, it would be wise to take actions to bolster potential provisions and mitigate potential events arising from an anticipated slower growth environment and a more complex international landscape.

In summary, the Income Statement reflects a robust performance for the CBI based on the data as of August 2023. It is anticipated that profitability will further benefit from the expansion of the credit portfolio in an environment of elevated interest rates, consistent commission income, and the operational efficiency achieved through the digitization processes implemented by banks.

**Table 1: International Banking Center  
Accumulated Income Statement  
(In millions of USD)**

International Banking Center	Jan.-Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Difference	
	2022	2023	%	USD
Net interest income	1,790.0	2,276.1	27.2%	486.1
Other income	1,822.1	1,989.7	9.2%	167.6

International Banking Center	Jan.-Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Difference	
	2022	2023	%	USD
<i>Operating income</i>	3,612.1	4,265.8	18.1%	653.7
<i>General expenses</i>	1,938.4	2,038.9	5.2%	100.5
Profit before provisions	1,673.8	2,227.0	33.0%	553.2
Provisioning expenses	411.6	337.8	-17.9%	(73.8)
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>1,262.2</b>	<b>1,889.1</b>	<b>49.7%</b>	<b>627.0</b>

Source: General and International License banks.

The National Banking System recorded accumulated net profits of USD 1.50 billion as of August 2023, signifying a 47.1% increase compared to August 2022. Like the CBI, increased credit activity and reduced provisioning positively influenced the sector's profits. It is anticipated that SBN banks will continue to implement strategies for cost control and operational efficiency. Presently, the efficiency level of the CBI is approximately 48%.

**Table 2:** National Banking System  
Accumulated Income Statement  
(In millions of USD)

National Banking System	Jan.-Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Difference	
	2022	2023	%	USD
Net interest income	1,658.2	2,014.6	21.5%	356.4
Other income	1,523.0	1,695.9	11.4%	173.0
<i>Operating income</i>	<i>3,181.1</i>	<i>3,710.5</i>	<i>16.6%</i>	<i>529.4</i>
<i>General expenses</i>	<i>1,762.1</i>	<i>1,875.9</i>	<i>6.5%</i>	<i>113.8</i>
Profit before provisions	1,419.0	1,834.6	29.3%	415.6
Provisioning expenses	399.6	334.8	-16.2%	64.8
<b>Profit for the period</b>	<b>1,019.4</b>	<b>1,499.8</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>480.4</b>

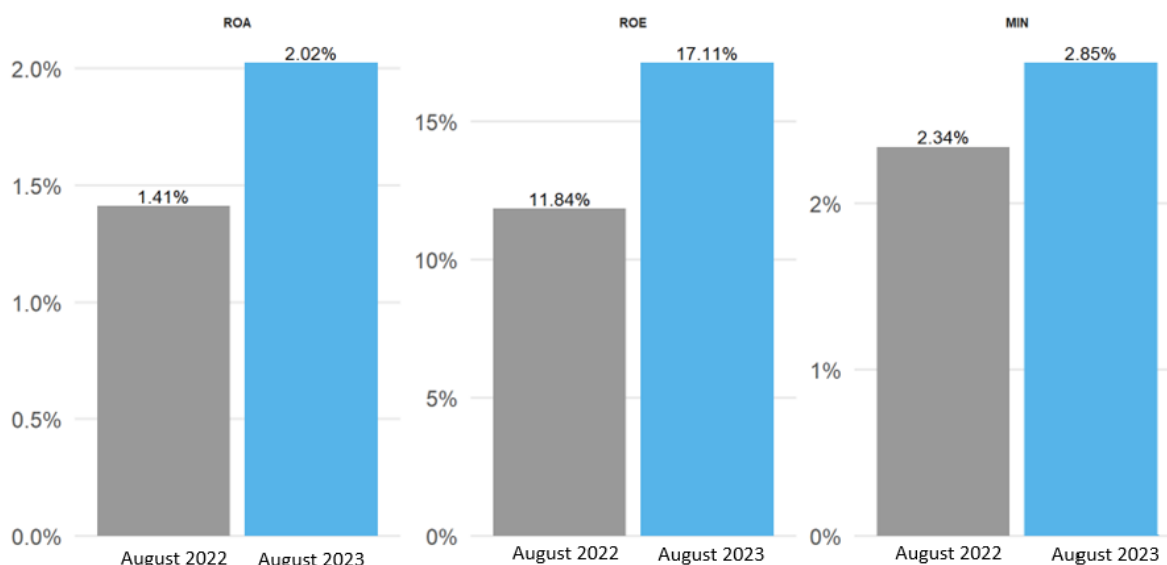
Source: General License banks.

## D. Profitability indicators

The indicators suggest that banks in the market are currently experiencing a positive cycle, attributed to the expansion of placements. As a result, interest margins and profitability metrics have strengthened. The Return on Equity (ROE) stood at 17.11%, signifying an increase of 527 basis points compared to the performance until August 2022 when it stood at 11.48%. The Return on Assets (ROA) reached 2.02% by the end of August, reflecting a sixty-one (61) basis points increase from the previous year. These increases occurred in the context of improvements in credit placements and a reduction in provisions for asset impairment. Although these results are positive, they do vary among different credit entities.



**Graph 4: Changes in Interest Paid and Interest on Loans**  
August 2023 vs. August 2022



Source: General and International License banks.

## E. Balance Sheet

The assets of the CBI totaled USD 142.60 billion, representing an increase of USD 5.22 billion compared to August 2022, or a year-on-year growth of 3.8%. The banks' assets accelerated their expansion rate due to a growing net credit portfolio (5.9%) and the securities account (4.5%). Liquid assets shrank by 7.8% year-on-year.

It is important to note that CBI assets consist of the credit portfolio, which reported a balance of USD 86.02 billion according to the financial statements submitted by banks to the SBP. Regarding the performance of the net credit portfolio's external segment, it increased by 6.5%.

This suggests that corporate banking lending to the private sector continues to experience positive expansion, despite recent interest rate hikes primarily targeting the commercial segment.

On the deposits side, they constitute a substantial portion of the CBI's funding and support its credit operations, resulting in a reduced dependence on wholesale funding through market debt issuances, which can typically be more volatile. CBI deposits as of August 2023 totaled USD 101.45 billion. These data demonstrate the banks' ability to maintain depositors' confidence. Notably, a sizable portion of these new deposits arises from the growth of term deposits, primarily held by individuals (which exhibit high renewal rates), thereby enhancing the banks' funding and liquidity profiles. In terms of customer liabilities by maturity, term deposits continue to be the most prominent savings instrument and were the primary driver for traditional bank deposits in August 2023. This positive performance is linked to the ongoing interest rate hike cycle, which has heightened the relative attractiveness of this type of savings instrument.

Obligations increased by 0.8% and other liabilities rose by 9.85% compared to August 2022. Concerning bonds, these instruments also encompass the financing segment through issuances. Despite the increase in borrowing costs, current market conditions could stimulate an interest in such strategies to mitigate future liquidity risks and reduce uncertainty regarding potentially higher rates that might affect new investment decisions. This situation represents an opportunity to capitalize on the flattening yield curve between short- and medium-term rates.

**Table 3:** International Banking Center  
Balance Sheet  
(In millions of USD)

Breakdown	2022	2023	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Difference	
	August	August	Total	%
Liquid assets	19,452.0	17,942.1	-1,509.9	-7.76%
Net credit portfolio	81,257.3	86,017.9	4,760.6	5.86%
<i>Domestic</i>	54,888.9	57,931.1	3,042.2	5.54%
<i>External</i>	26,368.4	28,086.8	1,718.4	6.52%
Securities	29,500.0	30,823.3	1,323.3	4.49%
Other assets	7,165.7	7,808.6	642.9	8.97%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>137,375.0</b>	<b>142,591.9</b>	<b>5,216.9</b>	<b>3.80%</b>
Deposits	97,720.7	101,445.5	3,724.8	3.81%
<i>Domestic</i>	61,685.4	62,399.1	713.7	1.16%
<i>External</i>	36,035.3	39,046.4	3,011.1	8.36%
Obligations	19,998.1	19,837.4	-160.7	-0.80%
Other liabilities	3,736.3	4,104.5	368.2	9.85%
Capital	15,919.8	17,204.4	1,284.6	8.07%

Source: General and International License banks

As for the assets of the National Banking System, they amounted to USD 126.22 billion, indicating an increase of USD 5.83 billion or 4.8%, compared to August 2022. The SBN's net credit portfolio showed a USD 5.23 billion (7.1%) increase, reaching USD 78.88 billion. Net external credits grew by 11.7%, while the net domestic portfolio performed at 5.5%. On the other hand, the total deposits held within the SBN amounted to USD 88.92 billion, representing a 4.7% rise.

**Table 4:** National Banking System  
Balance Sheet  
(In millions of USD)

Breakdown	2022	2023	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Difference	
	August	August	Total	August
Liquid assets	15,427.3	13,768.2	-1,659.1	-10.8%
Net credit portfolio	73,635.7	78,873.7	5,238.0	7.1%
<i>Domestic</i>	54,891.5	57,931.0	3,039.6	5.5%
<i>External</i>	18,744.3	20,942.7	2,198.4	11.7%

Breakdown	2022	2023	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Difference	
	August	August	Total	August
Securities	24,561.8	26,109.5	1,547.7	6.3%
Other assets	6,770.3	7,466.0	695.7	10.3%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>120,395.2</b>	<b>126,217.5</b>	<b>5,822.3</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
Deposits	84,928.5	88,916.3	3,987.8	4.7%
<i>Domestic</i>	61,475.0	62,320.2	845.1	1.4%
<i>External</i>	23,453.5	26,596.1	3,142.6	13.4%
Obligations	19,595.1	19,744.5	149.4	0.8%
Other liabilities	3,554.6	3,890.4	335.8	9.4%
Capital	12,316.9	13,666.3	1,349.4	11.0%

Source: General License banks

## F. Credit

As of the end of August 2023, the corporate banking credit portfolio grew by 5.0%, on a year-on-year comparison, reaching USD 60.05 billion (see **Graph 5**). It is noteworthy that in addition to record growth in all its segments, it is the first time ever that the credit portfolio exceeds the USD 60 billion mark. The foregoing suggests that corporate banking maintains a pace of recovery in credit granting, despite interest rate hikes, whose increases are still focused on the corporate segment. This progress is based on the improvement in economic recovery expectations, which have recently been revised upwards, moving the growth projection from 5.0% to 6.0% during the year.

Data suggests widespread growth in several economic sectors, highlighting the corporate, household, and loans for the government sectors. The credit granted to households by corporate banking highlighted as the segment with greatest dynamism in total terms, driving the total portfolio's growth.

The personal loan credit portfolio experienced a 3.3% increase, while residential mortgage loans grew by 6.6%, both measured in year-on-year terms. This boost is largely due to a notable improvement in the economic outlook, which has stimulated demand for personal consumption credit. However, specifically in the consumption segment, granular data indicates that credit demand is tilted towards financing short-term household needs. Although this growth has been supported by the improvement in the performance of the labor market, a possible slowdown in this sector would have an adverse impact on the performance of these portfolios, which suggests greater monitoring of such, to anticipate and mitigate possible risks in credit management.

In the corporate segment, a notable increase is observed in financial and insurance activities (10.6%), as well as in industry (7.4%), and commerce (1.9%). Although the remaining sectors contribute positively, their part in total terms is lower.

**Table 5: National Banking System**  
Balance of domestic credit portfolio by economic sectors  
(In millions of USD)

Sector	August 2022	August 2023	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Difference	
			Total	%
<b>TOTAL</b>	57,164.9	60,047.3	2,882.5	5.0%
Public sector	1,326.7	2,091.4	764.7	57.6%
Private sector	55,838.2	57,955.9	2,117.7	3.8%
Financial & insurance activities	1,551.0	1,715.8	164.8	10.6%
Agriculture	467.1	494.9	27.9	6.0%
Livestock	1,311.5	1,317.2	5.7	0.4%
Fishing	111.6	116.5	4.9	4.4%
Mining & Quarrying	50.4	58.5	8.1	16.1%
Commerce	11,726.0	11,949.4	223.4	1.9%
Industry	3,222.0	3,459.2	237.1	7.4%
Mortgages	19,374.9	20,347.4	972.6	5.0%
Construction	5,040.5	5,082.0	41.5	0.8%
Personal consumption	12,983.1	13,414.9	431.7	3.3%

Source: General License banks

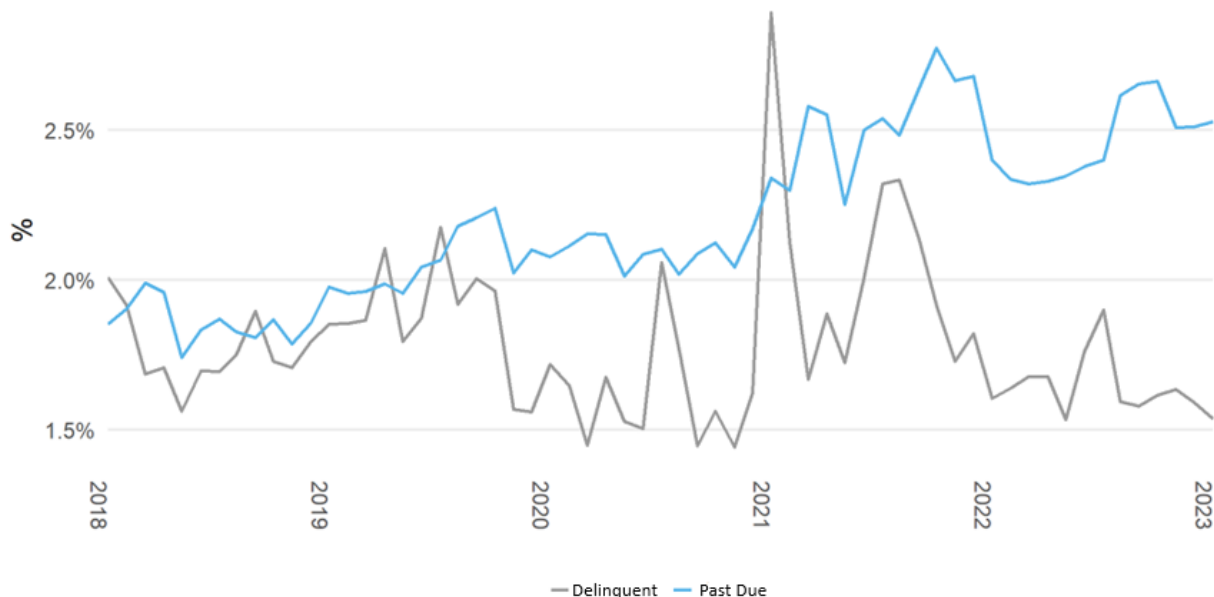
The portfolio quality of CBI as of August 2023 shows a default ratio of 4.1%, with 1.6% representing loans with arrears of 30+ days and loans with arrears of 90+ days recording 2.5%. This performance indicates a higher percentage of defaults when compared to pre-pandemic periods.

Provisions for delinquent or past-due loans, although strengthened during the pandemic, have recently been decreasing.

Accounting provisions for impaired loans stood at 106.4%, showing a 146.9% decrease compared to a year earlier, resulting in a stage 3 provision lower than that of the previous year. It is essential to consider that, although current provisions and collaterals provide some degree of mitigation for risks related to loan impairment, their evolution requires oversight and, from a prudential point of view, it demands close monitoring by the SBP.

**Graph 5: Portfolio Quality: Delinquent and Past Due**

August 2018 – August 2023



Source: General and International License Banks

## G. Deposits

CBI bank deposits, as of August 2023, amounted to USD 101.45 billion, indicating a USD 3.73 billion increase (3.8%). Domestic deposits experienced an increase during the surveyed period of USD 713.7 million, representing a 1.2% growth compared to August 2022.

On the other hand, domestic deposits exhibited an 8.4% year-on-year increase (USD 3.011 billion), reaching a total of USD 39.047 billion. Domestic deposits account for 27.6% of the International Banking Center. Colombia stands out as the main country of origin of deposits, allocating 22% of the total. Other countries also have a significant share, such as Costa Rica (5.9%), Venezuela (5.7%), the Dominican Republic, and the United States of America (5.3%). The distribution of these deposits shows differences in terms of each country's economic performance and financial policies, factors that impact the foreign depositors' decision when placing their funds in the local market.

**Table 6:** International Banking Center  
Total Deposits  
(In millions of USD)

Accounts	2022 August	2023 August	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Difference	
			Total	%
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>97,720.7</b>	<b>101,445.5</b>	<b>3,724.8</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>61,685.4</b>	<b>62,399.1</b>	<b>713.7</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<i>Government</i>	10,932.7	12,006.0	1,073.3	9.8%
<i>Customer</i>	47,441.3	47,285.5	-155.8	-0.3%
Banks	3,311.4	3,107.6	-203.8	-6.2%
<b>External</b>	<b>36,035.3</b>	<b>39,046.5</b>	<b>3,011.1</b>	<b>8.4%</b>
<i>Government</i>	365.4	270.0	-95.4	-26.1%
<i>Customer</i>	28,031.6	30,393.0	2,361.4	8.4%
Banks	7,638.3	8,383.4	745.1	9.8%

Source: General and International License banks.

In the case of the SBN banks, there is a trend like that of the CBI, with a total balance of USD 88.92 billion, representing a 4.7% increase compared to August 2022. This increase is reflected both in domestic and external segments (1.4% and 13.4%, respectively) (see **Table 7**).

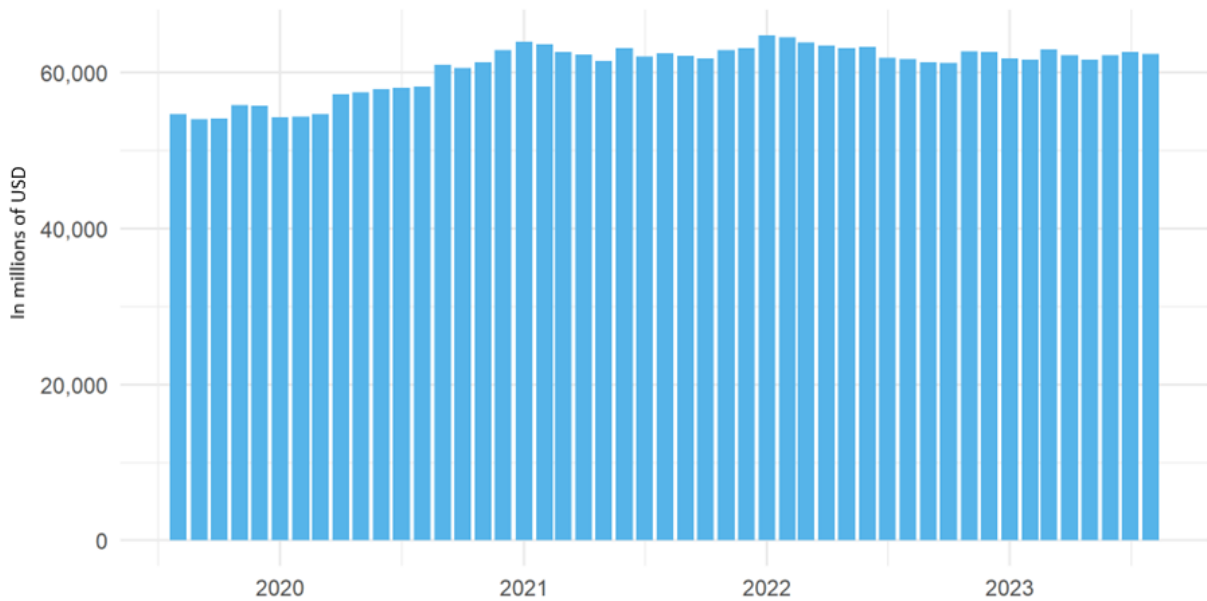
**Table 7:** National Banking System  
Total Deposits  
(In millions of USD)

Accounts	2022 August	2023 August	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Difference	
			Total	%
<b>Deposits</b>	<b>84,928.5</b>	<b>88,916.3</b>	<b>3,987.8</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>Domestic</b>	<b>61,475.0</b>	<b>62,320.2</b>	<b>845.1</b>	<b>1.4%</b>
<i>Government</i>	10,932.7	12,006.0	1,073.3	9.8%
<i>Customer</i>	47,441.3	47,285.5	-155.8	-0.3%
Banks	3,101.1	3,028.7	-72.4	-2.3%
<b>External</b>	<b>23,453.5</b>	<b>26,596.1</b>	<b>3,142.6</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
<i>Government</i>	356.8	210.2	-146.5	-41.1%
<i>Customer</i>	15,939.3	18,585.9	2,646.6	16.6%
Banks	7,157.4	7,800.0	642.5	9.0%

Source: General License banks.

It is important to note that domestic deposits account for 70.1% of the total SBN deposits, with 75.9% of these being customer deposits. While domestic deposits decreased, they are still higher than pre-pandemic levels. **Graph 5** (sic) illustrates the evolution of the domestic deposit balance.

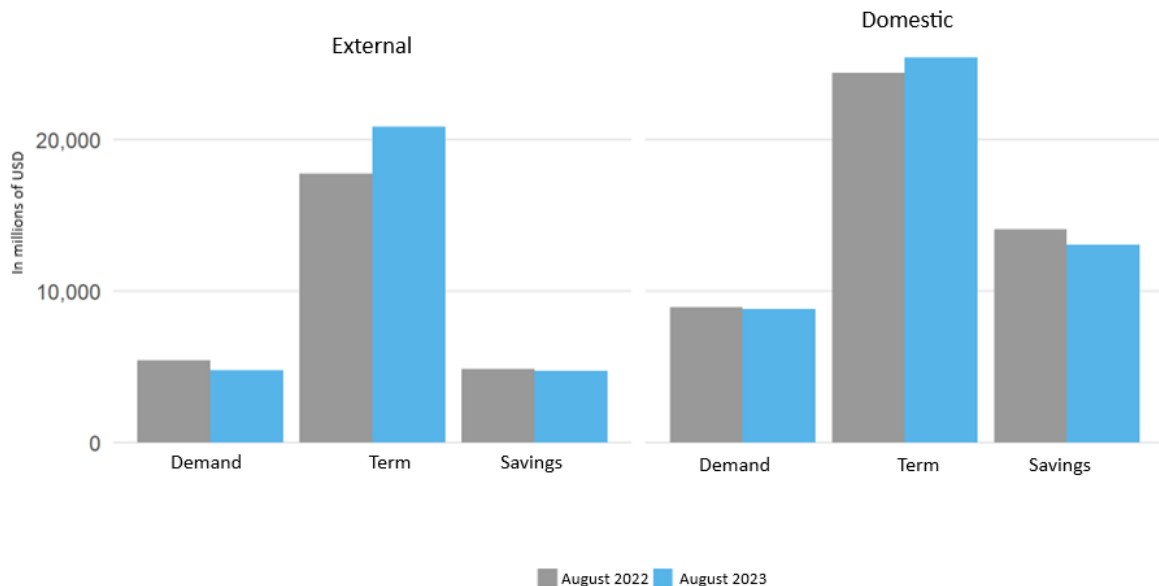
**Graph 6: Total Domestic Deposits**  
August 2019 – August 2023



Source: General license banks.

Regarding the structure of customer liabilities by maturity, term deposits continue to be the most prominent savings instrument. As of the end of August 2023, customer domestic term deposits totaled USD 25.43 billion; followed by savings deposits at USD 13.06 billion, and demand deposits at USD 8.81 billion.

**Graph 7: Customer Deposits**  
August 2022 – August 2023



Source: General and International license banks.

## H. Box: New Loans

In relation to new credit applications and granting so far this year, growth is observed, with state-owned banking being the main driver of this performance. Until August 2023, accumulated loans reached USD 14.79 billion, representing an increase of 11.8%, compared to the same period a year ago. However, when analyzing August specifically, it recorded a 2% growth.

**Box R.1: New SBN Loans**  
**Accumulated August – January 2023**

Sector	Accumulated Jan. – Aug. 2022	Accumulated Jan. – Aug. 2023	Aug. 23/Aug. 22 Accumulated Difference	
			Total	%
Public sector	120	1,039	919	764.6%
Finance companies	989	802	-187	-18.9%
Agriculture (inc. Forestry)	168	144	-24	-14.5%
Livestock	408	423	15	3.6%
Fishing	15	32	17	113.3%
Mining & Quarrying	11	5	-5	-51.0%
Commerce (inc. Services)	6,232	6,214	-18	-0.3%
Industry	1,375	1,428	53	3.8%
Mortgages	1,381	1,473	91	6.6%
Construction	1,020	1,445	425	41.7%
Personal consumption	1,503	1,780	277	18.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,222</b>	<b>14,785</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

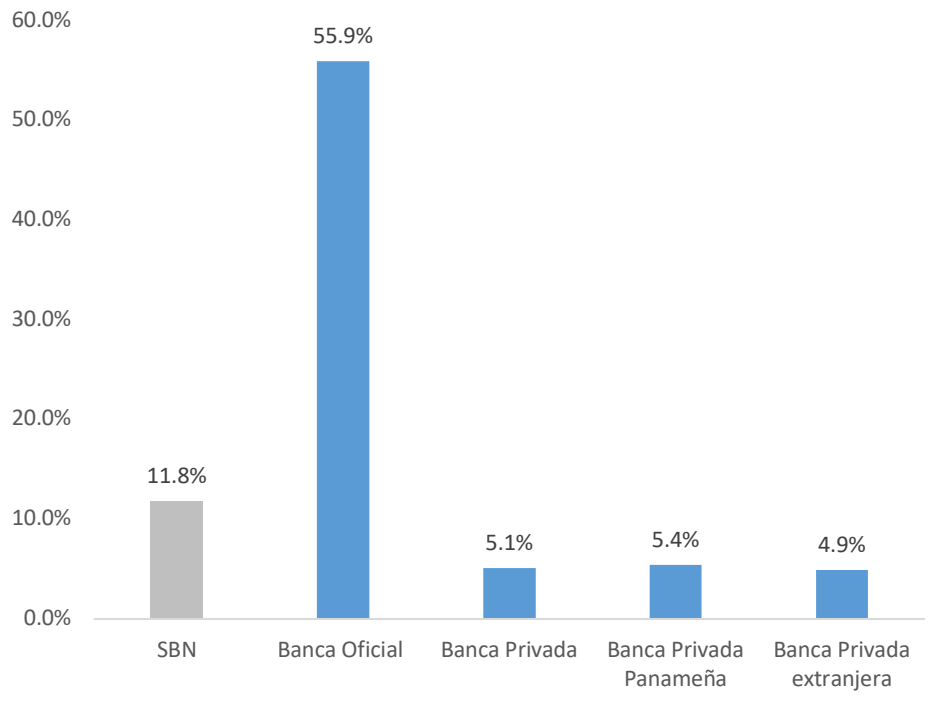
Source: SBP with General License banks data.

By type of banking, state-owned banking has the greatest share in granting new loans, followed by private banking, although Panamanian and foreign private banking represent a lower share in this specific scenario. The remarkable increase in new loan percentages displays an evident and increasing appetite for placements in various economic sectors. This phenomenon could be attributed to a combination of macroeconomic and microeconomic factors.

Within the state-banking financing segment, notable growth stands out in the portion destined for the construction sector. This considerable increase in financing by state banks suggests that individuals could be taking advantage of credit facilities to purchase homes, cars, or other high-value assets.



**Graph R.1: Growth of New Loans by Type of Banking**  
January - August 2023 vs 2022





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