



REVIEW OF
GUYANA BUDGET 2026

Jack A. Alli, Sons & Co. **JAS**

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Overview

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President, Honourable Dr. Ashni Singh, presented the 2026 Budget on 26 January 2026 under theme “**Putting People First**”.

Budget 2026 projects total expenditure of G\$1,558 billion (US\$7.5 billion), while total revenue is estimated at G\$1,398 billion (US\$6.7 billion) giving rise to a budget deficit for 2026 of G\$160 billion (US\$768 million).



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Author's Note

Budget Estimates 2026 were prepared in Guyana Dollars. For purposes of this article, United States Dollar equivalent amounts have been determined by applying an exchange rate of G\$208.5 to US\$1 and have been rounded to the nearest million in most cases. Figures in tables may not sum to the total due to rounding.

Performance of National Economy in 2025

Budget 2025 had projected that the national economy would have grown by 10.6 percent, with the non-oil sectors expected to have grown by 13.8 percent. Actual growth for 2025 was 19.3 percent, with the non-oil sectors growing by 14.3 percent.

National Output and Inflation

The gross domestic product at current prices was US\$25.5 billion in 2025 compared to US\$23.4 billion in 2024, while per capita GDP in 2025 was estimated at US\$26,554 compared to US\$25,554 in 2024.

The contributions of the major sectors to gross domestic product, as measured at 2012 prices, are shown in the table below.

	2025	2024	2023
Gross Domestic Product	US\$25.5 b	US\$23.4 b	US\$16.5 b
Sector Allocation	%	%	%
Petroleum	76	76	70
Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry	5	5	8
Mining and Quarrying	3	2	3
Manufacturing	2	1	2
Services:			
Real Estate	1	1	2
Construction	4	3	4
Wholesale and Retail Trade	2	1	3
Administrative and Support Services	2	1	2
Financial and Insurance Activities	1	1	2
Other	4	9	4

Source – Budget Speeches 2026, 2025, 2024

The petroleum sector continued to expand during 2025, producing 261.1 million barrels of crude oil in 2025 compared to 225.4 million barrels in 2024. The significant growth reflected the contribution of four FPSOs -- Liza Destiny, Liza Unity, Prosperity and One Guyana (from August 2025) -- in the Stabroek Offshore Block. The oil block is operated by ExxonMobil and jointly held with Hess Corporation (now Chevron Corporation) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation. Overall, the sector expanded by 21 percent in 2025.

During 2023, the Government auctioned fourteen additional offshore blocks in shallow and deep-water areas. From among eight shortlisted blocks, two PSAs were signed in 2025 for shallow blocks S4 and S7. The Government is also planning to conduct seismic surveys offshore to inform subsequent licensing rounds.

The gold industry recorded growth of 11.6 percent during 2025 with total gold declarations of 484,321 ounces compared to 434,067 ounces. The lone large-scale operation at the Aurora mine, grew by 15.5 percent to 167,005 ounces of gold. Another potential large-scale operator at Oko West secured its mining license in 2025 with projected recovery of 4.3 million ounces of gold over 12.3 years, or approximately 350,000 ounces annually.

The bauxite industry recorded growth of 53.4 percent in 2025 with estimated production of 3.9 million metric tonnes of bauxite. The larger producer, located in Linden, ramped up production of metallurgical grade bauxite (MAZ) in addition to refractory grade bauxite (RASC), thereby contributing to the increase. The sand extraction and stone production sectors continued to grow strongly in tandem with the continuing national surge in construction activity. The construction sector is estimated to have grown by 31 percent in 2025 reflecting continuing massive public investment in infrastructure as well as significant private sector projects.

The agriculture, fishing and forestry sector is estimated to have grown by 15 percent in 2025 due primarily to increases in the sugar, rice, livestock, fishing, forestry and other crops sub-sectors. The rice industry grew in 2025 with total production of 810,299 metric tonnes, as compared to 725,282 metric tonnes in 2024, reflecting better yields. The sugar industry is estimated to have expanded by 26.5 percent in 2025.

Inflation in 2025 was 2.5 percent, compared to 2.9 percent in 2024.

Balance of Payments

The balance of payments recorded a surplus of US\$338.2 million in 2025 compared to surplus of US\$113.8 million in 2024. The main contributors are highlighted below.

Account	2025 US\$mln	2024 US\$mln	2023 US\$mln
Current Account			
Merchandise			
Crude Oil	17,797.2	17,993.2	11,631.5
Gold	1,617.9	990.0	808.6
Rice	237.5	254.8	211.7
Bauxite	144.1	94.8	79.6
Sugar	18.1	19.4	24.9
Timber	16.1	20.0	20.5
Other and Re-exports	307.5	420.2	405.4
Fuel & Lubricants	(1,320.9)	(1,203.1)	(1,265.7)
Other Imports	(8,933.3)	(5,610.6)	(5,370.3)
Current – Services (Net)	(7,412.1)	(7,806.3)	(5,602.3)
Current – Transfers	1,019.8	893.2	1,036.9
Total Current Account Surplus	3,491.9	6,065.7	1,980.9
Total Capital Account (Deficit) / Surplus	(3,167.7)	(5,940.4)	(2,027.6)
Errors and Omissions	14	(11.5)	12.5
Overall Balance	338.2	113.8	(34.2)

Source – Budget Speeches 2026, 2025, 2024

The current account benefitted from increased earnings from gold and bauxite in 2025. Revenue from crude oil was marginally lower despite greater production, due to lower prices. Rice was similarly impacted. Imports of capital equipment grew significantly, partly reflecting the addition of the One Guyana FPSO during the year. The reduction in the capital account deficit is partly due to transfers from the Natural Resource Fund.

The balance of payments surplus resulted in an increase in net international reserves at the Bank of Guyana with a closing year-end balance of US\$1.3 billion compared to US\$1.0 billion as at 31 December 2024.

Public and Guaranteed Debt

Total public and publicly guaranteed debt amounted to US\$7.7 billion at the end of 2025 with external debt and domestic debt amounting to US\$2.9 billion and US\$4.8 billion, respectively, compared to US\$2.2 billion and US\$3.8 billion at the end of 2024.

The largest external debt lenders at the end of 2025 were the Inter-American Development Bank with US\$1,253 million and various China lenders with US\$434 million. Domestic debt comprises treasury bills of US\$3.9 billion and debentures issued by the Bank of Guyana of US\$842 million.

The debt (including guaranteed debt) to GDP ratio at 2025 year-end was 28.6 percent compared to 24.3 percent at the end of the prior year.

Natural Resource Fund (NRF)

The NRF amounted to US\$3.25 billion at the end of 2025, compared to US\$3.10 billion at the end of 2024. Inflows to the NRF during 2025 comprised of US\$2.12 billion from Guyana's share of profit oil, US\$331 million from royalties and US\$15 million from signing bonuses, along with interest of US\$142 million. An amount of US\$2.46 billion was transferred from the NRF during 2025 to the Consolidated Fund for use on national development priorities.

Budget Revenue Projections for 2026

Of the total projected revenue for 2025 of G\$1,398 billion (US\$6.7 billion) in Budget 2026, G\$1,067 billion (US\$5.1 billion) is from current sources, while G\$331 billion (US\$1.6 billion) is from capital sources.

The major sources of current revenue of G\$1,067 billion are summarized in the table below.

Form of Current Revenue	2026 Budget G\$bln	2025 Budget G\$bln	2024 Budget G\$bln
Tax Revenue:	486.2	434.5	408.5
- Corporation tax	133.8	136.5	82.2
- Value-added tax	94.7	88.0	81.3
- Personal income tax	71.0	78.9	77.1
- Import duty	53.2	37.5	34.6
- Withholding tax	56.6	37.3	82.5
- Excise tax	48.9	32.0	29.6
- Other tax revenue	28.0	24.3	21.2
Withdrawal from Natural Resource Fund	495.1	512.4	240.0
Carbon Credit Inflow	49.7	41.1	43.7
Other Current Revenue	35.6	36.5	25.6
	1,066.6	1,024.5	717.8

Source – Budget Estimates 2026, 2025, 2024

The current revenue for 2026 includes withdrawals from the Natural Resource Fund of G\$495.1 billion (US\$2.4 billion). It also reflects Carbon Credit Inflows of G\$49.7 billion (US\$238 million).

No new taxes were introduced in Budget 2026. However, certain fiscal measures were introduced or extended in Budget 2026, as highlighted below.

I. Excise Tax, Import Duty, VAT and Export Allowance

- » Continued application of zero percent excise tax on fuel.
- » Continued application of the freight cost adjustment which utilises pre-pandemic freight values in the determination of CIF values for tax and duty purposes, up to 31 December 2026.
- » Removal of VAT on: new vehicles below 1500 cc, hybrid vehicles below 2000 cc, locally made furniture and locally produced jewellery.
- » Removal of Import Duty and VAT on: all categories of ATVs, outboard engines up to 150 horsepower and security equipment.
- » Implementation of flat tax on importation of double-cab pick-ups of G\$2 million (less than 2000 cc) and G\$3 million (between 2000 cc and 2500 cc).
- » Inclusion of timber value-added products as eligible for export allowance.

II. Income, Income Tax and Property Tax

- » Increase in monthly income tax threshold from G\$130,000 to G\$140,000.
- » Cash grant of G\$100,000 to every adult Guyanese in 2026.
- » Increase in stipend for certain categories of community workers from G\$40,000 to G\$50,000 per month.
- » Removal of property tax on individuals.

III. Corporate Tax

- » Removal of corporation tax on companies providing child and elderly care services.
- » Removal of corporation tax on companies engaged in agriculture and agro-processing businesses.

IV. Public Assistance and Support

- » Increase in “Because We Care” grant from G\$50,000 to G\$60,000 per child.
- » Increase in Old Age Pension from G\$41,000 to G\$46,000 per month.
- » Increase in Public Assistance from G\$22,000 to G\$25,000 per month.
- » Introduction of a G\$20,000 transportation support grant per child.
- » Introduction of a G\$20,000 transportation support grant per pensioner.
- » Allocation of G\$9 billion to meet other cost of living interventions to be determined.

V. Other

- » Introduction of Special Development Zones to benefit from fiscal incentives.
- » Increase in low-income mortgage ceiling from \$20 million to \$30 million, and extension to insurance companies.
- » Allocation of G\$7.5 billion to support households to upgrade homes.
- » Co-investment in child and elderly care facilities with rate capping condition.
- » Continuation of policy to meet cost of eight CSEC and CAPE subjects per child.

Capital revenue of G\$331 billion (US\$1.6 billion) is expected to be received principally through external loans of G\$327 billion (US\$1.5 billion).

Budget Expenditure Projections for 2026

Budget 2026 projects total expenditure of G\$1,558 billion (US\$7.5 billion) compared to G\$1,382 billion (US\$6.6 billion) in

Responsible Authority	2026 Budget G\$bln	2025 Budget G\$bln	2024 Budget G\$bln
Ministry of Public Works	227	253	236
Office of Prime Minister	111	141	111
Ministry of Public Utilities and Aviation	140	0	0
Ministry of Housing (and Water in 2025 and 2024)	159	136	100
Ministry of Finance	126	131	111
Ministry of Health	135	121	110
Ministry of Education	100	100	74
Ministry of Agriculture	68	64	52
Ministry of Human Services and Social Security	78	58	48
Ministry of Home Affairs	52	50	45
Guyana Defence Force	42	50	42
Regional Authorities	109	93	80
Other Authorities	138	129	90
Public Debt	73	56	45
	1,558	1,382	1,145

Source - Budget Estimates 2026, 2025, 2024

2025. The table below analyses the allocation of total expenditure across responsible agencies, with comparative allocations from 2025 and 2024.

Some of the policy and expenditure priorities highlighted in the Budget 2026 Presentation are listed below.

- » Completion in 2026 of Phase I of the 300-megawatt gas power plant and integrated natural gas liquids plant, as part of the Gas to Energy Project (GtE) with a budgetary allocation of G\$10.7 billion (US\$51.5 million). Phase II of the GtE project with a 300-megawatt combined cycle power plant has commenced. A second GtE project is currently in the planning phase, targeted for Berbice.
- » Allocations for the following major transport links:
 - › Linden to Lethem Route – G\$18 billion (US\$86 million)
 - › Linden to Soesdyke Highway – G\$13 billion (US\$63 million)
 - › Railway Embankment from Sheriff Street to Mahaica River Bridge Highway – G\$6 billion (US\$29 million)
 - › Ogle to Diamond Highway – G\$13 billion (US\$62 million)

- › Highway to Land of Canaan – G\$28.6 billion (US\$137 million)
- › Good Success to Timehri Road – G\$8.4 billion (US\$40 million)
- › Palmyra to Moleson Creek Highway – G\$15 billion (US\$72 million)
- » Allocations totalling G\$24 billion (US\$115 million) for:
 - › Completion of a paediatric and maternal hospital in Ogle.
 - › Completion of six regional hospitals at Moruca, West Demerara, New Amsterdam, Bartica, Kato and Lethem.
- » Upgrading and expanding educational infrastructure with a budgetary allocation of G\$24.3 billion (US\$117 million).
- » Housing developments including new schemes, construction of homes, titling and allocation processes with a budgetary allocation of G\$159 billion (US\$762 million).
- » Construction of a new terminal at Cheddi Jagan International Airport with G\$3.2 billion (US\$15 million) allocated in Budget 2026 to advance works.
- » Establishment of the Guyana Development Bank with an allocation of US\$100 million.

Projected Performance of National Economy in 2026

It is projected that the national economy will grow by 16.2 percent in 2026, with the non-oil economy expected to grow by 10.8 percent.

Oil production is expected to continue in 2026 from four FPSOs – Liza Destiny, Liza Unity, Prosperity, One Guyana – producing almost 307 million barrels of crude oil, growing by 17.6 percent. A fifth FPSO Errea Wittu is expected to arrive during 2026 and start production in 2027. With preparations continuing for three additional projects – Whiptail, Hammerhead, Longtail – crude oil production is expected to exceed 1.7 million bpd.

Other key sectors of gold and bauxite are expected to grow in 2026 by 5.4 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively. Gold declarations are expected to increase in 2026 to approximately 510,450 ounces. The bauxite industry is expected to also grow with 4.8 million tonnes in 2026.

The rice sector is also expected to marginally grow by 1.8 percent while sugar is expected another year of growth estimated at 67.9 percent. Construction is expected to record growth of 25.4 percent with the continuation of the Government's public sector investment programme along with private sector investments.

The balance of payments position is expected to record a surplus of US\$151.3 million. Oil revenues are expected to increase by 0.9 percent reflective of projected market prices for 2026. Gold and bauxite earnings are expected to have positive growth in 2026.

The NRF is expected to receive US\$2.4 billion during 2026 and is expected to close 2026 at US\$3.7 billion.

Inflation is projected at 2.5 percent as efforts continue to support growth through the domestic economy.