



Third Session of the 12th Parliament

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT

Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

HEAD 48: MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION: \$351,864,760.00

A Summary of the Ministry's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

Publication

An electronic copy of this Guide can be found on the Parliament website: www.ttparliament.org

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the period 2017-2023. It provides 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 Trade and Industry, and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023;
- the Estimates of Development Programme 2023;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme 2023; and
- the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2021.

Head 48: Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ministerial Overview¹

As one of the frontline Ministries within the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is leading the drive to position Trinidad and Tobago as a manufacturing base, and the business, trade, and financial hub of the Americas. The Ministry's core responsibility is to grow trade, business and investment, particularly through driving the non-energy sectors of the economy. As the pivotal agency for trade promotion and development, MTI manages and coordinates the trade process to ensure access to international markets for companies located here. This is closely tied to another critical mandate – the aggressive development of business and industry. In this regard, MTI is formulating more appropriate industrial and services policies, designed to enhance the capability of the local industrial sector to compete in the global marketplace.

Much of MTI's activities are geared towards creating a facilitatory and supportive environment for business, especially through developing the most appropriate legislative framework to support business and investment activities. MTI is also responsible for stimulating domestic and foreign investment and is working to upgrade the entire framework for attracting investment – the lifeblood of industrial activity. MTI conducts its affairs and provides required services with the highest regard and esteem for all clients and customers. The Ministry's stakeholders are located within Trinidad & Tobago, as well as regionally and internationally, and are drawn from government circles, the private sector, and civil society.

Vision

A dynamic, client oriented organisation delivering integrated, quality services for business growth, trade and investment expansion and consumer empowerment.²

Mission

To work as an innovative team, championing business growth, trade and investment for enhanced global competitiveness and promoting consumer interests for improved wellbeing.

¹ Ministry of Trade and Industry website, accessed on August 30, 2022: <https://tradeind.gov.tt/who-we-are/>

² Ministry of Trade and Industry website, accessed on August 28, 2022. <https://tradeind.gov.tt/vision-mission/>

Directorates

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has streamlined its operations into four key directorates which are summarised below:

1. The **Investment Directorate** of the Ministry is responsible for attracting inward investment especially in the non-energy sector and creating an enabling environment to retain such investment. The main objectives of the Directorate are to:
 - facilitate foreign direct and domestic investment for the growth of the non-energy sectors;
 - ensure a coordinated approach to investment promotion to attract further investments into the economy; and
 - ensure that Trinidad and Tobago is the premiere destination for investments.
2. The **Business Development Directorate** of the Ministry is to develop and grow business in Trinidad and Tobago. This objective can be further broken down into eight (8) processes which are captured in the Business Development Value Chain. The Business Development Directorate comprises two Units which are as follows:
 - The Business Support and Facilitation Unit which is responsible for addressing issues related to the business environment in order to make it more facilitating and transparent. It has oversight for the sectors identified by Government for development in its quest to diversify the economy of Trinidad and Tobago; and
 - The Alliances Unit which is responsible for managing stakeholder relationships and strengthening links with State Agencies which fall under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
3. The **Policy and Strategy Directorate** works closely with other directorates, Ministries, and Agencies, by providing policy advice and direction on domestic and international policy issues; leading national business reforms; project monitoring and evaluation; data analysis and business facilitation. The PSD also prepares and reviews strategic plans, policies, briefs, technical papers and presentations.
4. The **Trade Directorate** is responsible for identifying opportunities, negotiating trade agreements, developing policies, and growing and developing non-energy trade, particularly export-led trade in Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister: Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon

Permanent Secretary: Ms. Frances Signoret

Permanent Secretary (Ag.): Mrs. Ayleen Alleyne-Ovid

Deputy Permanent Secretary: Ms. Carlene Roach

Organisations, State Enterprises, Statutory Boards and Other Bodies

Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT)

The Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Ltd (CreativeTT) established by The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through the Ministry of Trade and Industry is a wholly owned State enterprise with the mandate 'to stimulate and facilitate the business development and export activities of the Creative Industries in Trinidad and Tobago to generate national wealth.' CreativeTT is responsible for the strategic and business development of the three (3) subsectors under its purview- Film, Fashion and Music.

- The Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company

The Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company Limited (FashionTT) was established in 2013 with the mandate to stimulate and facilitate the business development and export activity of the fashion industry in Trinidad and Tobago to generate national wealth. As a subsidiary of the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT), FashionTT provides service for local fashion industry stakeholders primarily fashion designers in the areas of fashion apparel, functional apparel and accessories.

- The Trinidad and Tobago Film Company Limited (FilmTT)

FilmTT is the state agency established in 2006 to facilitate the growth and development of the film and audio-visual sector in Trinidad & Tobago. As a subsidiary of the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited, FilmTT works on all aspects of film sector development, promotes Trinidad & Tobago as a film production location, and provides Film Commission services to local and incoming productions. FilmTT's mission is to maximise the economic and creative potential of Trinidad and Tobago's screen industries for the benefit of the country and its people.

- The Trinidad and Tobago Music Company Limited (MusicTT)

MusicTT was established in 2014 with the mandate to stimulate and facilitate the business development and export activity of the music industry in Trinidad and Tobago to generate national wealth. As a subsidiary of Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT), MusicTT provides industry-wide strategic direction and action plans toward the development of the music industry as well as guidance and access to music education and capacity development, especially in the business and monetization of local music and protection of the same.

Central Statistical Office

The CSO is a Division of the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development charged with the responsibility of taking censuses in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and collecting, compiling, analyzing and publishing statistical information relating to all social and economic activities of the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce

To be the champion of business towards the development of a strong and sustainable national economy.

The Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Service Industries

TTCSI is a national umbrella body that brings together all services sector organizations and associations. Basically it is an alliance of professional services associations and organizations. It will function as a focal point to lobby; channel and address trade in services issues and services development issues, which are critical for the sector to thrive in the competitive global environment.

Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)

The primary role of TTBS is to develop, promote and enforce standards in order to improve the quality and performance of goods produced or used in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. To ensure industrial efficiency and development; promote public and industrial welfare, health and safety; and protect the environment.

Trinidad and Tobago Fair Trading Commission

Trinidad and Tobago Fair Trading Commission is an independent statutory body established pursuant to the Fair Trading Act No. 13 of 2006 with responsibility for:

1. preventing anti-competitive conduct thereby ensuring competition and efficiency while at the same time complementing other policies that promote competition;
2. maintaining free and fair competition in business; and
3. taking action against abuse of dominance, restraint of trade and unfair or deceptive trade practices.

Essentially, the Commission is responsible for implementing and administering the Act. Its mandate is to promote and maintain effective competition throughout the economy and to ensure that competition is not distorted, restricted or prevented. Its objectives include:

- Ensuring that all legitimate business enterprises have an equal opportunity to participate in the economy;
- Preventing anti-competitive conduct while at the same time complementing policies that promote competition;
- Raising awareness of the benefits of competition; and
- Exhibiting a high level of integrity and intellect.

Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority

In 1976 however, Government took over the control of the regulatory aspects of the local horse racing industry with the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority. By Act of Parliament (No. 45 of 1976) and which accordingly replace the Trinidad Turf Club as the controlling arm of racing, however the club still maintain its status as a Promoter of racing. The TTRA's mission is to uphold the integrity of the Racing Industry in Trinidad and Tobago, so as to ensure fair play for all participants without fear or favor.

Evolving Tecknologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (e Teck)

Evolving Tecknologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (e Teck) reviewed and revised its strategic direction in October 2011 and launched a 15-year Strategic Plan (2012-2027) to better align to the Ministry of Trade and Industry's overall goal for diversification - "to drive the non-energy sectors for the sustainable long-term growth and development of diversified and knowledge-based economy that contributes to the creation of high quality jobs.

Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited

The Free Zones Programme has been designed to attract export-oriented businesses both Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and local investors; as part of the Government's diversification drive. The large energy projects have come to Trinidad and Tobago to access Trinidad and Tobago's energy resources and the special incentives offered by the Government. Such projects cannot access free zone incentive.

invesTT

As Trinidad and Tobago's Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) aligned to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, InvesTT is the first point of contact for investors seeking investment opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT)

The Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Ltd (CreativeTT) established by The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago through the Ministry of Trade and Industry is a wholly owned State enterprise with the mandate 'to stimulate and facilitate the business development and export activities of the Creative Industries in Trinidad and Tobago to generate national wealth.' CreativeTT is responsible for the strategic and business development of the three (3) subsectors under its purview- Film, Fashion and Music.

exporTT

exporTT Ltd. was designated by the Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to be the sole National Export Facilitation Organization of Trinidad and Tobago. exporTT Ltd's mandate is to:

- Generate export growth and diversification in the goods and services sectors
- Increase in the international competitiveness of exporters
- Develop new exporters across the various sectors of interest
- Expand to new markets, based on market research

Export Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (EXIMBANK)

The Export Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (EXIMBANK) remains the only official Export Credit Agency (ECA) in the country. It has emerged out of what was formerly the Trinidad and Tobago Export Credit Insurance Company Limited (EXCICO), which was established in 1973 by the Government to promote the export of goods and services. This allows regional buyers access to a wide range of manufactured goods on credit terms.

The Trinidad & Tobago Manufacturers' Association

The TTMA promotes, encourages and assists the growth and development of manufacturing industries in Trinidad and Tobago. The TTMA also acts as a representative for industries in dealing with Government and in the monitoring of legislation affecting manufacturers. The TTMA is also responsible for the generation of market expansion both regionally and internationally through the mounting of local, regional and international trade fairs, exhibitions and foreign trade missions.

National Flour Mills

National Flour Mills Limited (NFM) was established in 1972 as a public trading company and has since been recognised as the main leader in flour milling, rice packaging, feed milling and dry mix operations throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Key Statement from 2021 Standing Finance Committee Debate³

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2021, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for fiscal year 2022:

“The Ministry of Trade and Industry has its core responsibility which is leading and overseeing the implementation of government policy for trade, business, development, investment, and consumer empowerment. We are very focused on particular areas, deepening and expanding Trinidad and Tobago’s trading relationship by improving market access for our trading partners; building the competitiveness of the private sector; creating an enabling environment for economic diversification, including the growth and expansion of particular sectors, manufacturing, services, et cetera; creating jobs by facilitating increased local and foreign direct investment.”

**- Sen. the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon
Minister of Trade and Industry**

³ Standing Finance Committee Hansard of Ministry of Trade and Industry accessed August 14, 2022 [20211014, Standing Finance Committee - October 14, 2021 - 1:30 p.m. \(ttparliament.org\)](https://www.ttparliament.org/20211014/standing-finance-committee-october-14-2021-1-30-p.m)

Public Sector Investment Programme 2022 Achievements⁴

In fiscal 2022, the Government continued to focus its efforts on expanding trade, supporting the development of globally competitive businesses and stimulating domestic and foreign investment, particularly, through investments in the non-energy sectors aimed at restructuring and transforming the economy. To this end, the sum of \$132.1 million was allocated to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) to advance the diversification thrust and inculcate innovation in the export capacity of the local manufacturing sector.

Creative Industries

Development of the country's Creative Industry, which is a source of foreign exchange and revenue for economic diversification with great potential, continued with a sum of \$4.0 million provided towards supporting the growth of the sector. Of this amount, \$3.4 million was expended to explore business opportunities for the Music, Fashion and Film Industries as well as capacity building measures.

MusicTT

Utilising \$1.5 million, the Trinidad and Tobago Music Company Limited (MusicTT) showcased artistes and their music while building the capacity of practitioners to promote the music industry. Some of the initiatives included:

- *Live Music District* – the initiative entailed ongoing execution of subsidised artiste performances at various events. A total of 171 performers benefitted from the Programme and showcased their talents at twelve (12) different events;
- *Music Tech Platform* – a Digital Strategist was recruited and provision of services commenced for use of the music platform. Training for staff and users of the platform was completed and five (5) sessions were delivered which focused on: search engine optimisation, website optimisation, YouTube optimisation, Google Search optimisation, plugins and content strategies. The Marketing and Information Technology (I.T.) Departments of CreativeTT were in attendance at the sessions and as such, it is envisaged that the initiative will add value and build the capacity building of the entities under the purview of CreativeTT. Additionally, the promotion of MusicTT was pursued through the use of Google Ads which will commence during the fiscal year. However, in terms of expanding the music database, no songs were added as MusicTT was awaiting the assignment of additional staff through the On-the-Job Training Programme;

⁴ Public Sector Investment Programme 2022, pgs. 28-34, accessed on September 26, 2022: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-2023.pdf>

- *Spotlight* – as an artist portfolio development programme. In fiscal 2022, participants recorded original demos in the music studio for the album and training sessions were concluded. During cycle five (5) of Spotlight, artistes filmed ‘confessional videos’ on their Spotlight journey, which were posted to social media platforms as part of the marketing campaign; and
- *Therapy Island Wave* – MusicTT partnered with Therapy for the South West Conference and Festivals (SXSW) ‘The Island Stage.’ Artistes were sponsored to attend SXSW Island Wave stage event which was held in March, 2022 at Flamingo Cantina, Austin, Texas with attendees from Europe, Canada, Nigeria, Ghana, Namibia, the United States of America, Russia, Grenada, Dominica, Bahamas, St. Croix and Mexico.

FashionTT

In fiscal 2022, a sum of \$1.2 million was expended towards the development of the fashion sector through comprehensive and relevant capacity development programmes and promotional initiatives geared towards increasing the contribution of the fashion industry to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company Limited (FashionTT) executed projects as follows:

- *Value Chain Investment Programme (VCIP) Global* – the first Virtual Trade Mission for fiscal 2022 was launched in March 2022. The exhibition site at: Fashionevent.virtex.in showcased the fashion products of the Global Value Chain Designers. Each designer has their own virtual exhibition booth within the site;
- The University of the West Indies (UWI) was selected to provide mentorship to ten (10) designers within the VCIP (non-global) and seventy-five (75) designers within the VCIP (business advisory). The mentorship programme commenced in June 2022;
- *Mentorship* – the UWI was selected to provided mentorship to ten (10) designers within the VCIP (non-global) and seventy-five (75) designers within the VCIP (business advisory). The mentorship programme commenced in June 2022;
- *Value Chain Investment Programme (Entrepreneurial Proficiency Programme)* – webinar training sessions in the core fundamentals of the business of fashion were conducted by the UWI to seventy-eight (78) designers;
- *The Local Production Facility* – the Made868 Local Production Facility commenced operations in December 2021 with the hiring and training of contracted staff. The Facility was officially opened to the public at the beginning of 2022; and
- *Fashion LookBook* – the first Book for fiscal 2022 and fifth since the calendar year 2021 was launched on December 17, 2021 showcasing a total of twelve (12) designers. In total, 130 designers have been promoted via this platform to date. The fifth publication in Corporate Wear was unveiled in March 2022. The sixth LookBook, themed in commemoration of Trinidad and Tobago’s 60th Independence, will be launched in the 2nd week of August 2022.

FilmTT

Tasked with the responsibility of driving the development of the film and audio-visual sector locally, the Trinidad and Tobago Film Company Limited (FilmTT) utilised \$0.7 million in fiscal 2022 to undertake promotional activities, encourage investment and improve the knowledge and skills of practitioners in the sub-sector. The following initiatives were implemented:

- *Trinidad and Tobago Locations: Unseen, Unexpected* – the international advertising campaign in targeted industry publications, tradeshow and events continued and has seen a total of thirteen (13) international productions and has employed fifty-nine (59) persons to date;
- *Expansion of Trinidad and Tobago Film Friendly Network* – a request for quotations has been issued for proposals to print and create digital branding to promote the extended Production Expenditure Rebate Programme. A virtual networking session was conducted between the Nigeria – Trinidad and Tobago Producers in collaboration with Africa Film Trinidad and Tobago. A co-production partnership was signed to produce a Nigerian film in Trinidad and Tobago in fiscal 2022. Trinidad and Tobago filmmakers were also invited to visit Nigeria to learn and study their successful filmmaking format;
- *Film Content Creation and Marketing* – a new digital sponsorship application was made available via the www.filmtt.co.tt website. FilmTT also committed to funding four (4) local films to be released in the coming months and three (3) short films to be released on Independence Day; and *Digital model and Database Platform* – there has been a total of 706 views of the listing of 217 local professional and facilities over a period of eight (8) months in 2022. Thirteen (13) film productions have been facilitated for the period with one (1) currently in production; and
- *Digital model and Database Platform* – there has been a total of 706 views of the listing of 217 local professionals and facilities over a period of eight (8) months in 2022. Thirteen (13) film productions have been facilitated for the period with one (1) currently in production.

Export Initiatives

The National Export Facilitation Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago (ExporTT) sought to improve the export capability of business enterprises in the non-oil manufacturing and services sectors. The sum of \$1.1 million was utilised to provide opportunities to pursue investment in new, advanced technology and innovation as well as export related product modification, as a competitiveness enhancement tool. Through the Research and Development Facility, two (2) feasible study grants were awarded for applications that offer Software/ Business Solutions to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Central and Eastern Europe. Another grant was

awarded for a feasibility study on the State of Food and Organic Waste in Trinidad and Tobago. Other grants were awarded under this Facility to:

- Develop a new low-code functionality version of the QuickyWorks Product to make it a user-customisable enterprise management software product;
- Provide updates to online medical prescription platforms; and
- Pursue indoor agriculture through:
 - Installation of environment systems grow lights and prototypes housing;
 - Construction of hydroponic units for prototypes to grow strawberries, mushrooms and tomatoes; and
 - Installation of controls and sensors to monitor prototypes internal environment, nutrient delivery and light photoperiod.

A further \$2.0 million was expended for the continued implementation of the Export Capacity Building project. In fiscal 2022, the project supported on (1) company to attain full compliance with International Standards for Exporters, two (2) companies are at advanced stages of compliance and another two (2) new market entry for eighteen (18) companies to navigate non-tariff barriers.

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) continued the implementation of the Quality Infrastructure Enhancement Programme, which utilised a sum of \$8.0 million in support of establishing an enabling environment for the production of goods and services that meet quality standards geared towards diversifying and creating a competitive economy. Aimed at supporting many facets of the manufacturing and services sector, investments were made under the various projects as follows:

- *Public Laboratories Accreditation Programme* – TTLABS of the TTBS accredits laboratories to the International standards: ISO/IEC 17025: general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories and ISO 15189: Medical Laboratories – requirements for competence and quality. In fiscal 2022, the accreditation of public laboratories continued with assessments having been conducted remotely for two (2) laboratories, one (1) at the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and another at the Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited (NP). TTBS discussed the findings of the assessments and the way forward with both laboratories, which are working on corrective actions for non-conformities. Three (2) more State Agencies have signed contracts to join the Programme;
- *CALIDENA Value Chain Analysis* – The TTBS continued research into the cocoa sector to inform the feasibility study to be conducted for the value chain analysis using the CALIDENA methodology for achieving quality standards. Three (3) stakeholder interviews were conducted with the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the Cocoa Research Center and Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company. The TTBS also met with InvestTT to determine the future engagement related to the value chain analysis;

- *TTBS Organisational Transformation* – redundant network firewalls were procured during fiscal 2022. Upgrade works were also conducted on the network backbone and equipment was procured for the wireless infrastructure. Discussions are ongoing for the upgrade and expansion of the existing accounting software system;
- *National Standardisation Strategy operationalisation* – the TTBS met with the Arima Borough Corporation to discuss a public awareness programme and to explore potential application pathways related to the Driveway Gates Safety Standard and to determine how inspections of gates can be conducted. The TTBS executed a social media campaign related to driveway gates safety and a promotional campaign on driveway gate safety was also carried out through the publication of newspaper advertisements;
- *Promoting Quality Infrastructure for the Circular Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean* – the TTBS is participating in a regional project entitled “Capacity Building in Technical and Scientific Organisations Using Regional Experiences and Knowledge Promoting Quality Infrastructure for the Circular Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The project was approved in October 2020 by the German Cooperation, BMZ, to be executed by PTB (Physikalisch – Technische Bundesanstalt). The project was developed and implemented by PTB and the General Secretariat of Organisation of the American States, cooperation with Comision Panamericana de Normas Tecnicas, Inter- American Accreditation Cooperation and Ssistema Interamericano de Metrologia;
- Acquisition of Infrastructure and Equipment for the Legal Metrology Inspectorate and National Calibration Service – two (2) vacuum pumps and clamps were purchased for pressure calibration. Tint meter and standard reference materials for calibrating the tint meters were also purchased and commissioned and a micro-pipette balance was also procured. However, the procurement process for calibration software was cancelled as the tenders submissions received exceeded the estimates cost and budgeted allocation; this activity will now be done in house.

Additionally, Evolving Technologies (eTeck) utilised \$2.0 million to install the appropriate firefighting infrastructure which would allow for the mitigation of risks associated with fires at industrial sites. The projects entailed replacement of the existing fire hydrant pedestals and supply lines based on the new specifications of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services (TTFS). Installation works were completed at twelve (12) Industrial Estates in fiscal 2022 and the infrastructure is now compliant with the TTFS stipulations.

Industrial Development

In an attempt to optimize the economic contribution and competitiveness of the Yachting Industry towards the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago, Government invested a sum of \$10 million to support the following initiatives in fiscal 2022:

- Several Ministries engaged in a collaborative effort towards the development of National Maritime Policy and Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago aimed at reforming and strengthening the legal and regulatory framework of the maritime sector which includes yachting;
- An international yachting advertisement campaign was published in various internationally recognised magazines relevant to the industry; and
- Consideration was also given to the services aspects of the sub-sector and a grant facility for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in the yachting sector was approved for thirty (30) applications of which nineteen (19) received grants. The grants will give these suppliers a boost to purchases new machinery, equipment, tools, raw materials and payment of utilities and rent. The project will also contribute to the hosting of yachting regattas and events.

The Ministry's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2016 to 2022

Year ⁵	Total Allocation ⁶	National Budget ⁷	Percentage of National Budget
2016	\$120,562,597	\$56,573,913,053	0.2%
2017	\$102,079,943	\$54,883,153,410	0.2%
2018	\$125,654,003	\$54,211,726,813	0.2%
2019	\$123,688,515	\$54,581,467,181	0.2%
2020	\$121,133,926	\$57,388,076,726	0.2%
2021	\$128,187,007	\$56,498,472,820	0.23%
2022	\$167,452,680	\$59,190,331,126	0.28%
2023	\$245,673,760	\$67,944,048,911	0.36%

- Total allocation for the Ministry to the national budget illustrated a growth of 0.08% between the period 2022 and 2023.

⁵ For the Fiscal Years 2016-2021, actual figures were used to calculate total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

⁶ Total Allocation for the Ministry of Trade and Industry = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund Expenditure

⁷ The National Budget = Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund

Where the Ministry spends its money

2023 Estimate of Expenditure

The budget allocation of **\$351,864,760** for the Ministry of Trade and Industry is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$142,573,760⁸**; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of **\$209,291,000⁹** which includes:
 - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$103,100,000**; and
 - Infrastructure Development Fund¹⁰ in the sum of **\$106,191,000**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$25,795,960**

04 Current Transfers and Subsidies **\$72,785,000**

02 Goods and Services - **\$32,968,800**

06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards and Similar Bodies **\$9,200,000**

03 Minor Equipment Purchases **\$1,824,000**

Percentage Allocation of the Ministry of Trade and Industry is as follows:

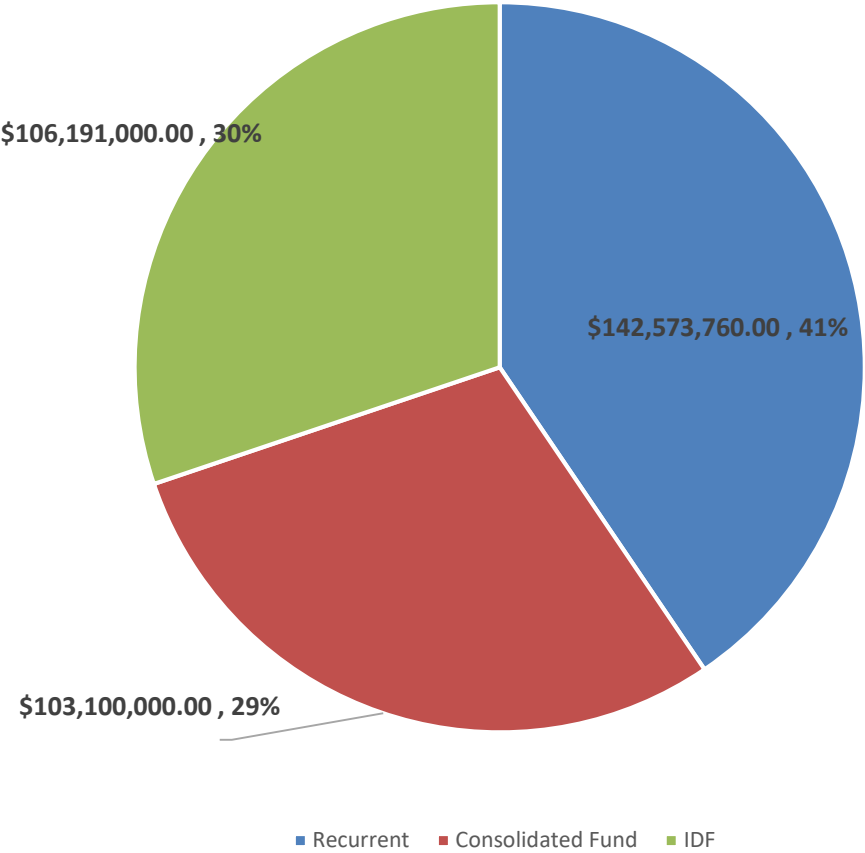
- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget is **0.36%**;
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of Total Recurrent Expenditure is **0.22%**;
- Consolidated Fund Expenditure as a percentage of total Consolidated Fund Expenditure is **3.24%**; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund Expenditure as a percentage of total Infrastructure Development Fund Expenditure is **3.56%**

⁸ Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

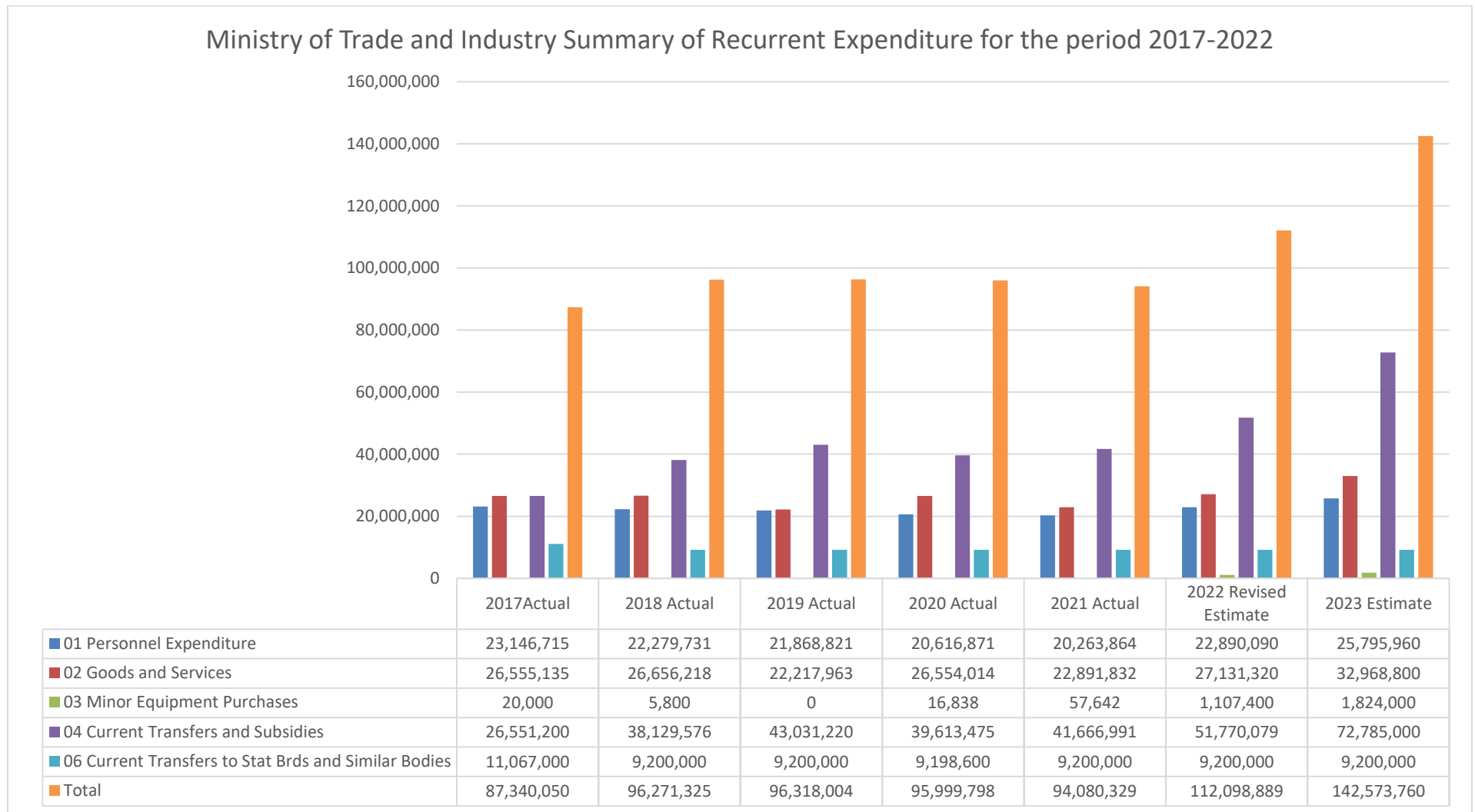
⁹ Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

¹⁰ Head 18 –Ministry of Finance, Sub-Head 04 – Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance allocation for the financial year. *Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Ministry of Trade and Industry does not include IDF funding.*

Ministry of Trade and Industry Total Allocation - \$351,864,760

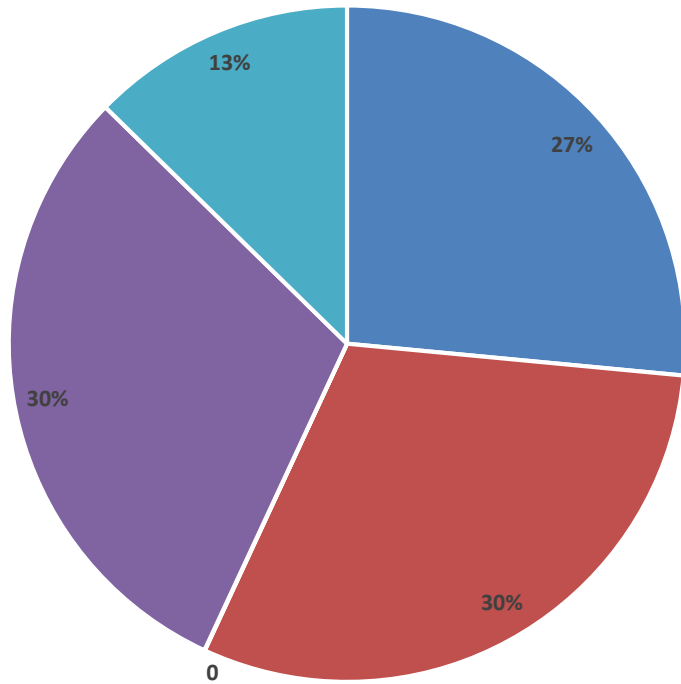


Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2017-2023¹¹



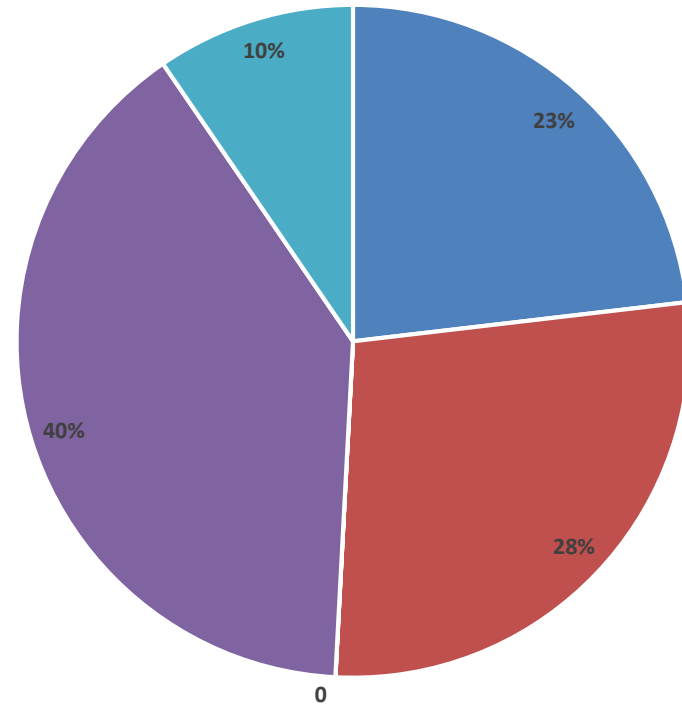
¹¹ Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

2017 Actual = \$87,340,050



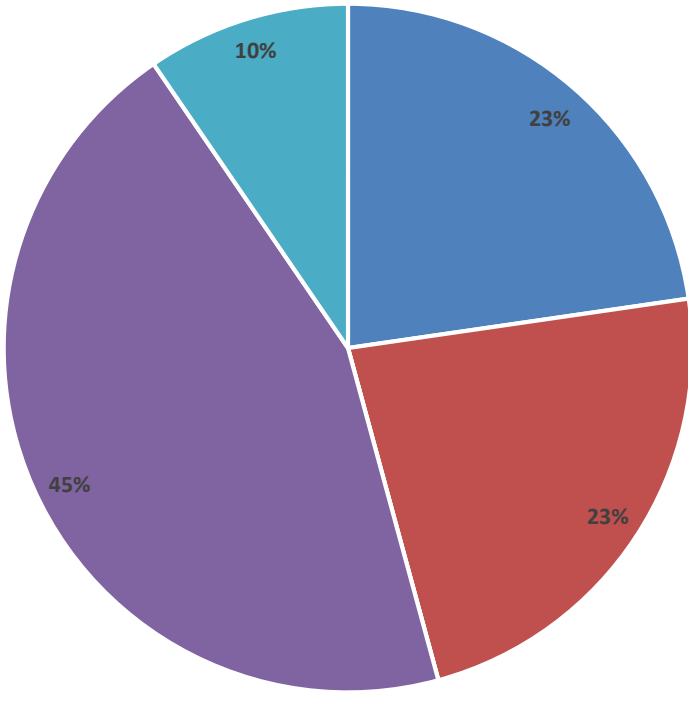
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat Brds and Similar Bodies

2018 Actual = \$96,271,325



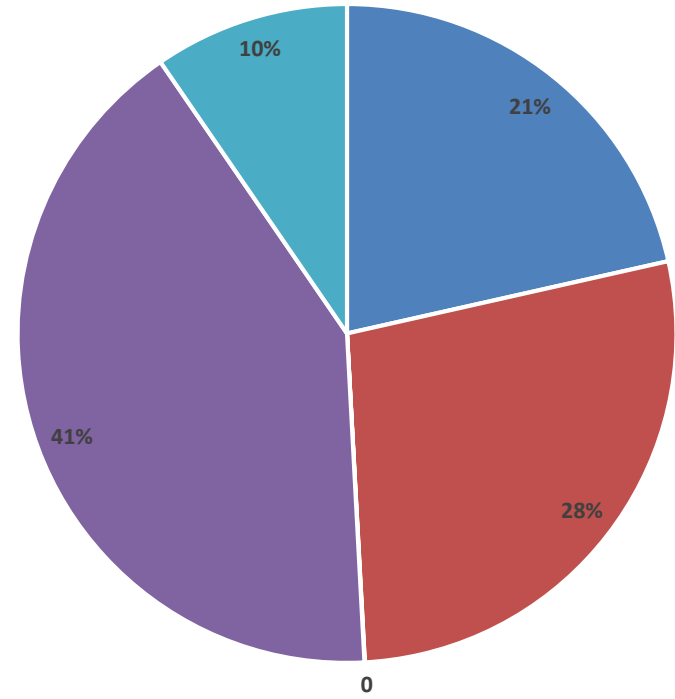
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2019 Actual = \$96,318,004



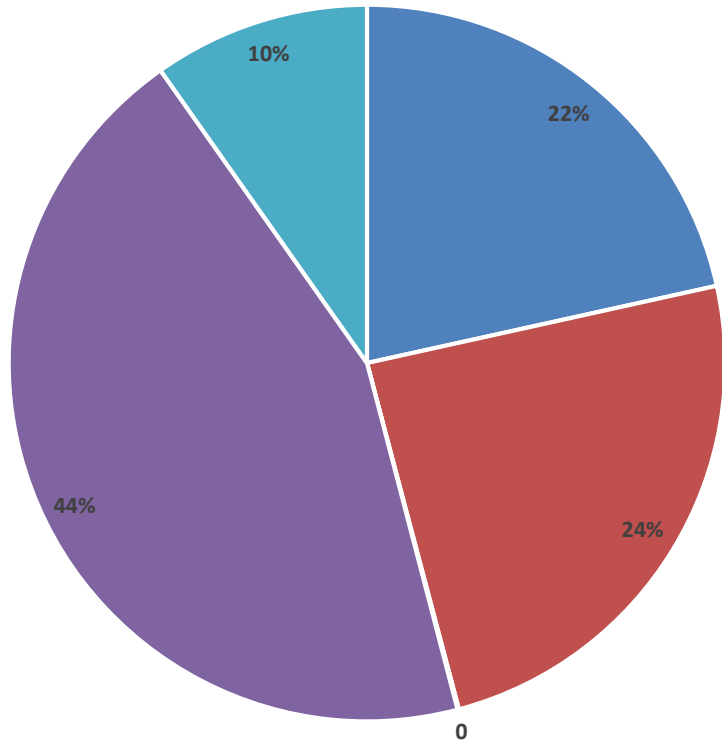
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat Brds and Similar Bodies

2020 Actual = \$95,999,798



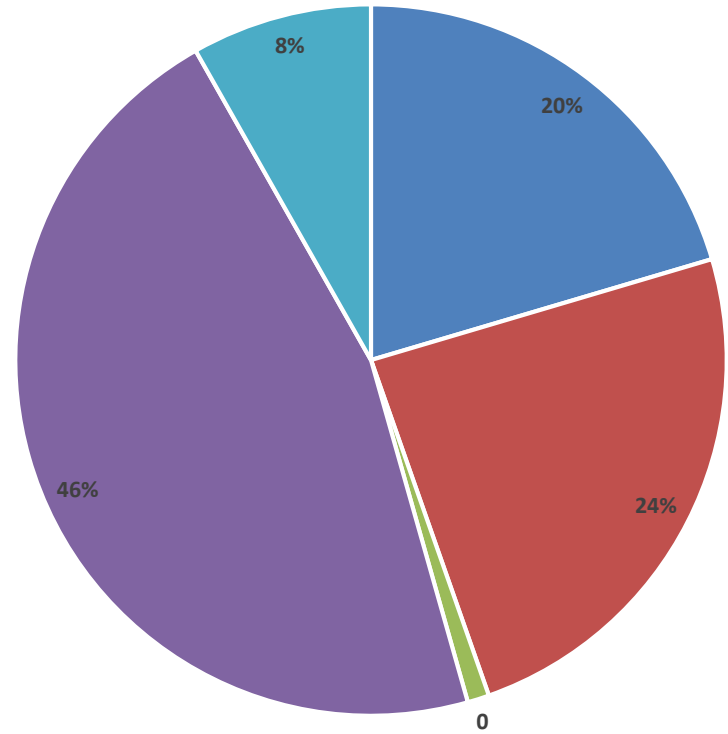
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat Brds and Similar Bodies

2021 Actual = \$94,080,329



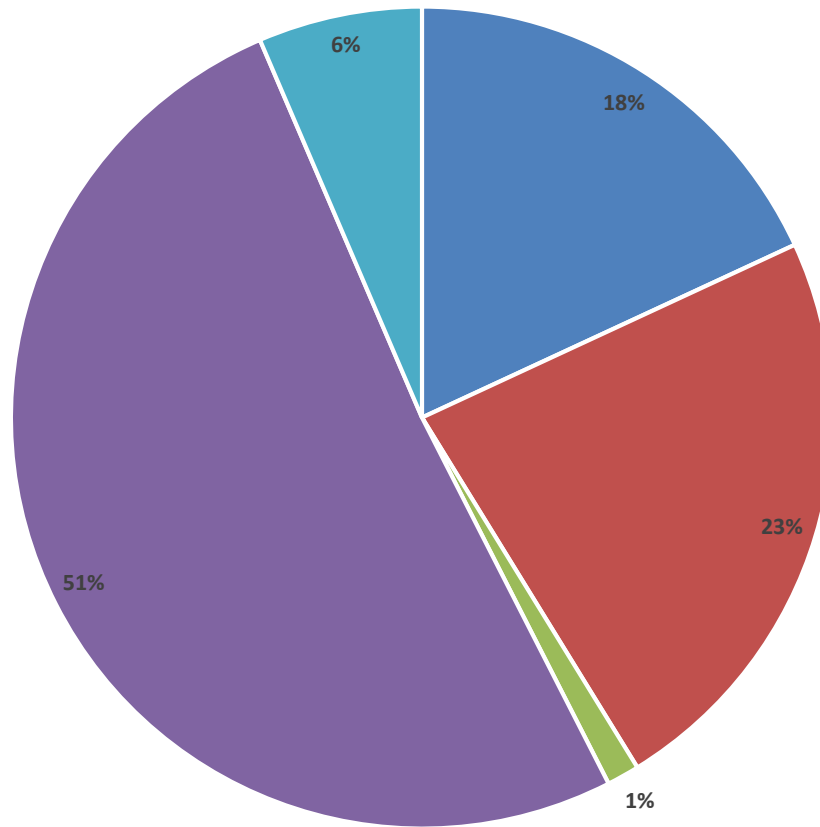
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat Brds and Similar Bodies

2022 Revised Estimate = \$112,098,889



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat Brds and Similar Bodies

2023 Estimate = \$142,573,760



■ 01 Personnel Expenditure

■ 02 Goods and Services

■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

■ 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

■ 06 Current Transfers to Stat Brds and Similar Bodies

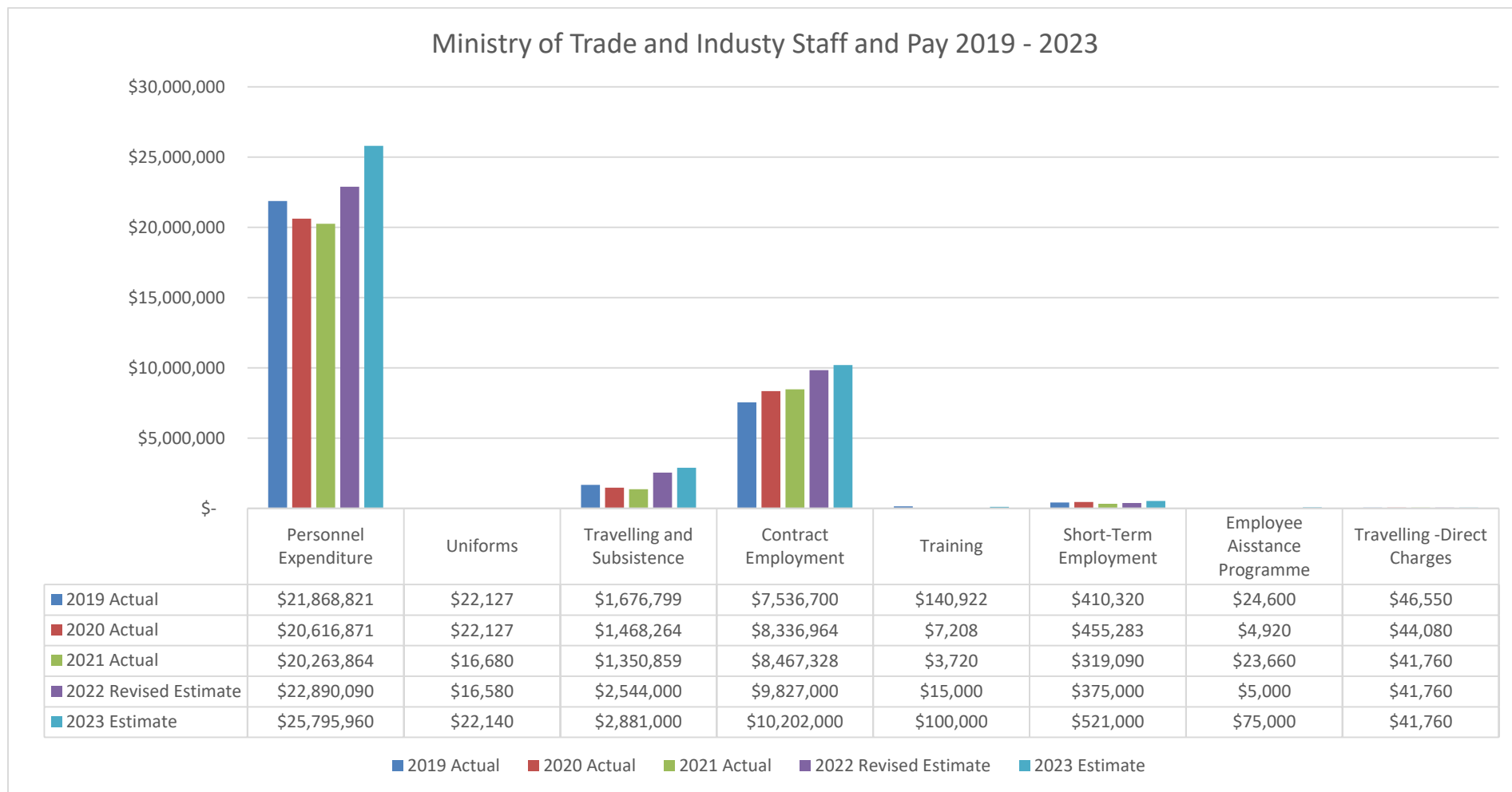
Analysis and Summary of Recurrent Expenditure

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, Current Transfers and Subsidies and Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2023 is **\$142,573,760**.
- The Revised Estimate for Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2022 was **\$112,098,889**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2022 Estimate, there was an increase of **\$31,859,111**.
- The **largest** portion of the allocation 2023 allocation is to Sub-Head **Current Transfers and Subsidies**. The allocation to this sub-head has consistently increased over the period 2017-2023, moving from approximately **30%** of the Ministry's Recurrent Expenditure in 2017 to **51%** in fiscal 2023.
- For the years 2017 to 2023, **Goods and Services** received the **second largest** of the total allocation to the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** received the **lowest** portion of the allocation for the period 2017 to 2023.
- In 2023 **Personnel Expenditure** accounts for **18%** of the Ministry's total recurrent allocation.
- **Current transfers to State Boards and Similar Bodies** represents approximately **6%** of the Ministry's total recurrent allocation for fiscal 2023.

Staff and Pay¹²

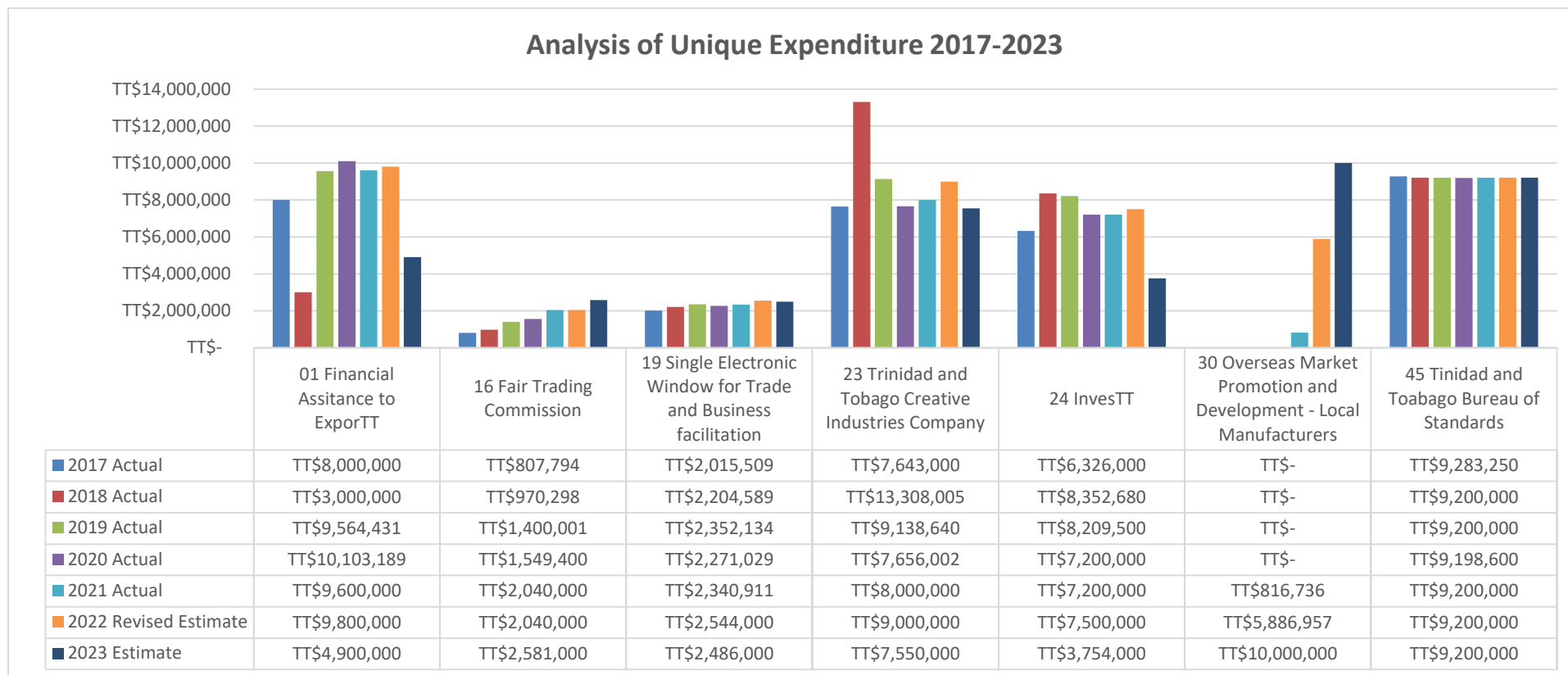
The allocation of staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2023 is **\$39,638,860** which represents an increase of approximately **11%** from the last fiscal year 2022. The following table provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2019-2023.



¹² Ministry of Finance website – Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

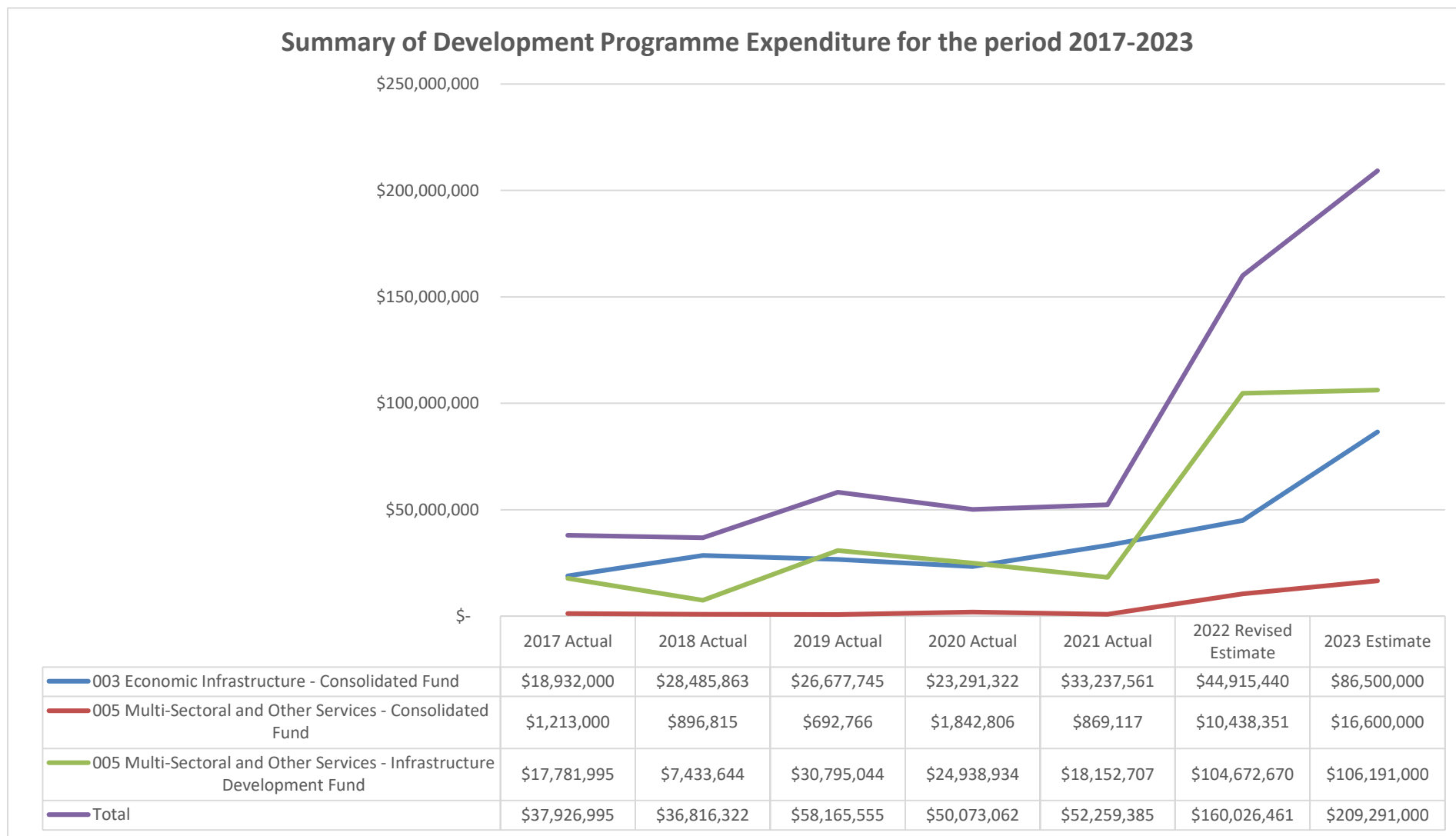
Analysis of Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Trade and Industry

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Ministry of Trade and Industry that may not feature in other ministries or departments.



Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2017-2023

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 allocation of **\$209,291,000** for development programmes are presented in two parts as follows:



Public Sector Investment Programme 2023 Expectations¹³

Creative Industries

The mandate of the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited is to stimulate and facilitate the business development and export activities of the Creative Industries, with a focus on the Film, Music and Fashion sub-sectors. In fiscal 2023, a total of \$4.8 million will be invested for the continued development of these sub-sectors towards realizing the full potential of the sub-sectors and increasing the contribution to GDP and foreign exchange earnings.

The Trinidad and Tobago Music Company Limited (MusicTT) will be provided with the sum of \$1.5 million to pursue the development of the Music Industry. MusicTT's programme comprises of projects that can bolster businesses and drive sustainability of operations, profitability and exportability of creative exports in music. Some of the projects include:

- Development of the Live Music District;
- Music Tech Platform;
- Spotlight: An Artist Portfolio Development Programme;
- Music Export Academy; and
- The Island Wave.

The fashion industry is a key driver of the creative sector and contributes positively towards Government's diversification thrust. In fiscal 2023, the Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company Limited will continue to provide structured and extensive capacity building support in training and export for local fashion industry stakeholders. An allocation of \$1.8 million will be provided to execute the following four (4) projects:

- The four-tiered Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme;
- Implementation of the Local Production Facility;
- The Fashion Industry Development Programme; and
- The Fashion LookBook.

¹³ Public Sector Investment Programme, 2023 Pages 34-37, 45-46 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-2023.pdf>

The film sector is recognised as possessing high potential for contributing to the country's foreign exchange earnings. To this end, the FilmTT will be allocated \$1.5 million for the Development of the Film Industry project to invest in the creative genius of the citizenry and the organic growth and evolution of the film sector to aid the diversifications of the economy. Some of the projects to be executed include:

- Trinidad and Tobago Locations: Unseen, Unexpected – to promote and market Trinidad and Tobago as a globally-attractive Caribbean production location;
- Trinidad and Tobago Film Friendly – to increase the country's attractiveness to international productions by improving the ease of doing business;
- Film content creation and marketing;
- Data model and digital platform;
- Association of Film Commissioners International Training; and
- Capacity development programmes for the film sector.

Investment Production

A provision of \$0.4 million will be allocated for the continuation of Investment Promotion and Facilitation initiatives by MTI. Government will continue to support investment promotion placing focus on increasing foreign and local direct investment through the following initiatives:

- Prioritizing of existing opportunities in targeting sectors and focusing lead generation in those areas;
- Continuing engagement of targeted investors generated through:
 - The use of an international lead generation consultant in those specified areas of focus;
 - The Trinidad and Tobago Investment Forum;
 - The execution of virtual campaigns; and
 - Social media campaign promotion to generate requests for information and investor leads.
- Tenanting a cluster of firms at Phoenix Park Industrial Estate and Moruga Agro-processing and Light Industrial park each focused on particular sectors and customer segments;
- Improving facilitation of investors through good practices;
- Maximizing the use of digital advertising platforms for raising investor awareness of Trinidad and Tobago; and
- Increasing utilization of ICT platforms for effective investor outreach.

Trade Facilitation

The Research and Development Facility is a grant fund to provide financial support to the non-energy manufacturing and services sector. In fiscal 2023, the sum of \$0.4 million will be allocated for grant funding to stimulate and support investment in new and advanced technology and innovation as a competitiveness enhancements tool for enterprises. Projects will be funded in three (3) phases with a maximum total grant of \$1.0 million per firm per year. During the first phase, the grant funding will not exceed 70 per cent of the total project cost to a maximum of \$100, 000 for technical and empirical market research to produce a technical and commercial feasibility report. The feasibility studies must indicate a high probability of success for companies with projects deemed feasible. The second phase provides funding to cover costs of product and service development and the funding will not exceed 50 percent of the total cost, to a maximum of \$0.8 million. A further \$0.2 million can be provided for commercialization of the product. Some of the areas of development that may receive grant funding include:

- Improvement to processes;
- New product development;
- Product modification for export markets (new/recommended);
- Adaptation of appropriate systems and technology;
- Innovation in technology management systems and industrial engineering in the areas of product processes, logistics, supply chain, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs);
- Experimental development, industrial research and process and system improvements;
- Commercialization of a research project (which would have passed through the two previous phases of the fund); and
- Any other areas as outlined by the MTI.

Furthermore, the sum of \$13.5 million will be allocated for the dissolution of existing trade promotion agencies and the *Establishment of a Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (TIPA)* project. TIPA will aim to increase efficiency and coordination in the execution of trade promotion activities in Trinidad and Tobago. Aligned to both the Vision 2030 and the Roadmap to Recovery Report, the project seeks to make Trinidad and Tobago a more attractive destination for investment and trade, and expand export growth to traditional and non-traditional market.

Illicit trade is an emerging problem which has become the focus of many governments, international organisations, companies and non-governmental organisations worldwide. It is noted that the effects of illicit trade are far-reaching, impacting on the revenues of government, local businesses and consumer. It deprives the government of revenue to fund vital public services such as health, security and education. In fiscal 2021, \$1.7 million will be invested towards the implementation of a National Action Plan to combat illicit trade

in consumer goods in Trinidad and Tobago through a holistic and coordinated approach which is expected to reverse the effects caused by the underground commerce.

Eco-Friendly Business

The Scrap Iron Industry has emerged as an important contributor to economic activity as it provides jobs, stimulates exports, generates income, earns foreign exchange and rids the environment of derelict items including scrap metal. The sum of \$0.6 million will be allocated towards the development of a policy to strengthen the existing regulatory framework governing the Scrap Metal Industry in Trinidad and Tobago taking into account international best practices and unique national circumstances. The project *Development of Eco-Friendly Business Sector* is designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Development of an appropriate and effective regulatory, incentive and export promotion framework for the Scrap Metal Industry;
- Improvement of the health and safety standards of the Scrap Metal Industry;
- Development of domestic, regional and international value chains for the Scrap Metal Industry; and
- Modernization of the legislative framework governing the Scrap Metal Industry.

Manufacturing

Government will continue to place emphasis on supporting the Manufacturing Sector so that it becomes more globally competitive, productive and innovative through utilisation of advanced technologies and environmentally friendly practices. To this end, an investment of \$118.2 million will be provided in fiscal 2023 towards the implementation of several key initiatives.

An allocation of \$8.0 million will be made to support the National Apprenticeship Programme which was developed by the MTI for the Non-energy Manufacturing Sector in collaboration with other key stakeholders including MIC Institute of Technology, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) and the National Training Agency (NTA). The project seeks to address the issue of current and future skill gaps within the manufacturing sector by providing training and development to a cadre of persons who will be available for employment within the sector upon completion of the programme.

The sum of \$5.0 million will be allocated towards the implementation of the *Apprenticeship Programme for the Wood and Wood-Products* project to boost the Manufacturing Sub-sector. Manufacturers have identified a shortage of human resource capacity as a challenge adversely impacting the productivity and competitiveness of the Sub-sector. As such, the project seeks to address this issue and has been designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Establish an apprenticeship training programme that is representative of the current and future human resource requirements of the Sub-sector;
- Ensure that the Sub-sector has the requisite skills to succeed in an increasingly competitive environment locally, regionally, and globally;
- Provide a cadre of skilled human resources to drive and promote research, innovation and competitiveness within the Sub-sector; and
- Facilitate greater collaboration between the public and private sectors to achieve sectoral and national objectives.

The MTI will also be provided with a sum of \$2.0 million for the *Implementation of Scale UpTT Business Accelerator Programme*. In collaboration with the Unit Trust Corporation (UTC), the programme is designed to give developing companies access to mentorship, investors and other support to help them become stable, self-sufficient businesses. It seeks to mitigate the challenges faced by SMEs including limited access to business know-how and knowledge of available resources and support; difficulties in accessing regional and international markets and meeting international standards; inadequate access to affordable technical and managerial consultancy and a low level of innovation.

The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards through the Standards Act, Act 18 of 1997 has been given the mandate for the development of the National Quality System (NQS). The NQS encompasses the overarching policy guiding national quality issues and the quality infrastructure (QI) to support it. Many developing countries suffer from a weak QI, which can be a major impediment into regional and global markets, thereby limiting the opportunities offered through trade arrangements and hindering the ability to improve public welfare in vital areas such as health, safety and environmental protection. In this regard, a provision of \$7.5 million will be allocated for the *National Quality Infrastructure Enhancement Program* in fiscal 2023 to further strengthen national and regional capacities in QI processes, institutions and support systems to improve trade, competitiveness and sustainable development by 2030.

Government will invest a further \$63.0 million for the Construction of Phoenix Park Industrial Estate. The park, situated on 144 acres of land in California, Couva, is ideally suited for businesses operating in the fields of: manufacturing and assembly, logistics and distribution and ICT industries. Tenants will have access to a modern industrial space with infrastructure for the provision of the required utility services for each of the lots. Once fully operational, the new park would provide space for approximately sixty (60) to eighty (80) factory shells and directly employ approximately 4,500 persons. The project is also the first of the Government's initiatives in support of the Belt and Road Initiative.

The *Construction of Tamana InTeck Park Transit Hub* project is required to serve the needs of the tenants of eTeck and residents of the surrounding communities. The lack of access to transport has been reported by many prospective tenants as an impediment, restricting access for their employees, and as such the project is necessary to attract industrial tenants. In fiscal 2023, an allocation of \$1.5 million will be provided to undertake the following activities:

- Construction of paved access road/s, tarmac, parking areas;
- Construction of an entry/exit guard booth with automatic barriers;
- Installation of high security fencing;
- Construction of covered areas for drop-off by public transportation;
- Mechanical, electrical, plumbing infrastructure and fixtures;
- Installation of security/perimeter lighting; and
- Construction of building/s for the provision of related amenities/services.

Industrial Development

Government will invest a total of \$4.0 million for the growth of industries within the economy through the use of new technologies and provision of accessible and affordable working spaces with the requisite systems to facilitate industrial expansion.

An allocation of \$4.0 million will be provided for the continued implementations of the Yachting Policy. The overarching goal of the policy is to optimize the economic contribution of the yachting industry towards the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago. The policy framework will also lay a foundation to improve the competitiveness of the industry with a view to establishing Trinidad and Tobago as the premier destination for yacht repair services.

Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2018-2023

The table below lists the projects that have experienced irregular variances in estimates for funding received under the Ministry of Trade and Industry:¹⁴

Item	Project	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF/003/11/R016	Enhancement of the Single Electronic Window (IDB Loan)	\$10,538,725	\$22,176,680	\$19,977,920	\$28,196,583	\$30,000,000	\$40,000,000
CF/003/11/R023	Development of Fashion Industry	-	\$1,966,060	\$1,941,390	\$2,645,954	\$1,200,000	\$1,800,000
CF/003/11/R030	Development of the Eco-friendly Business Sector (Scrap Iron)	-	-	-	-	-	\$600,000
CF/003/11/R38	Implementation of a National Apprenticeship Programme (Non-Energy Manufacturing Sector)	-	-	-	-	\$2,652,000	\$8,000,000
IDF/005/03/Q293	Wallerfield Industrial and Technology Park	-	\$1,319,908	\$1,500,000	\$10,636,165	\$1,414,119	\$1,114,000
IDF/005/03/Q303	Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation	\$7,433,644	\$7,870,640	\$7,438,970	\$6,792,300	\$5,950,000	\$3,500,000

¹⁴Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2018

The following new projects received funding in the 2018 financial year¹⁵:

Description	Project	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF/003/11/R019	Development of the Music Industry	\$1,000,000	\$815,225	\$481,103	\$405,926	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
CF/003/11/R021	Development of the Film Industry	\$1,826,000	\$757,564	\$696,707	-	\$700,000	\$1,500,000
CF/005/03/B220	Enhancing the Quality Infrastructure for Trinidad and Tobago (TTBS)	\$230,000	\$128,000	\$805,528	-	-	-
CF/005/06/A018	Feasibility Study of Export Financing Mechanism for Services Providers and Pilot Programmes	--	\$119,644	\$400,000	\$201,688	\$258,270	-

¹⁵Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2019

The following new projects that received funding in the 2019 financial year¹⁶:

Description	Project -Item	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF/005/06/A020	Implementation of the National e-Commerce Strategy	\$2,000	\$49,494	-	-	\$1,000,000
IDF/005/03/Q305	Construction of Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park	\$21,604,496	\$15,999,964	-	-	\$8,800,000

¹⁶Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2020

The following new projects that received funding in the 2020 financial year¹⁷:

Sub-Head Description	Project	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF/003/11/R024	National SheTrades Chapter	-	-	\$75,081	\$500,000

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2021

The following new projects that received funding in the 2021 financial year¹⁸:

Sub-Item Description	Project	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF/003/11/R26	Gateway to Trade	\$91,125	\$341,730	-
CF/005/03/B222	National Quality Infrastructure Enhancement Programme	\$500,882	\$8,000,000	\$7,500,000
IDF/005/03/Q308	Upgrade of Drainage and Fire Hydrants at Industrial Estates	\$724,242	\$2,025,349	\$2,000,000

¹⁷ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

¹⁸ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2022

The following new projects that received funding in the 2022 financial year¹⁹:

Sub-Item Description	Project	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimate
CF/003/11/R28	Establishment of the Trade and Investment Promoting Agency	-	\$13,500,000
CF/003/11/R30	Development of the Eco-Friendly Business Sector (Scrap Iron)	-	\$600,000
CF/003/11/R32	Development of the Steel Manufacturing Sector	-	\$2,000,000
CF/003/11/R34	Conduct of National Service Exporters Survey	\$395,000	-
CF/003/11/R36	Capacity Building for the T&T Fair Trade Commission	\$325,000	\$500,000
CF/003/11/R38	Implementation of a National Apprenticeship Programme (Non-Energy Manufacturing Sector)	\$2,652,000	\$8,000,000
CF/003/11/R42	Implementation of the N.A.P. to Combat Illicit Trade	\$500,000	\$1,700,000
CF/003/11/R44	Conduct of Technical Studies on International Trade	-	\$600,000
CF/003/11/R46	Implementation of ScaleUp TT Business Accelerator Programme	\$2,126,629	\$2,000,000
IDF/005/03/Q310	Construction of Tamana Intech Park Transit Hub	\$120,000	\$1,500,000
IDF/005/03/Q312	Upgrade to Factory Road Industrial Park Infrastructure	\$2,559,117	\$8,000,000
IDF/005/03/Q314	Renovation of Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort	\$4,535,881	\$3,000,000

¹⁹ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

New Projects for the Financial Year 2023

The following new projects that received funding in the 2023 financial year²⁰:

Sub-Item Description	Project	2023 Estimate
CF/003/11/R47	Establishment of a Special Economic Zones Authority	\$6,000,000
CF/003/11/R48	Implementation of a National Apprenticeship Programme (Wood and Wood Products)	\$5,000,000
CF/005/03/B224	TTBS Building Renovation Programme	\$3,000,000
IDF/005/03/Q318	Upgrade of Sangster's Hill Mall - Tobago	\$2,300,000
IDF/005/03/Q320	Maintenance and Upkeep of Golf Course at Magdalena	\$3,000,000
IDF/005/03/Q322	Industrial Parks Roads and Drainage Infrastructure Upgrades	\$10,000,000

²⁰ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023 accessed on September 26, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

Committee Inquires Related to the Ministry of Trade and Industry

Inquiry	Report Laid	Ministerial Response Presented
<p>1. <i>Twenty-First Report of the Public Accounts [Enterprises] Committee into the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited for the financial years 2012 to 2017</i></p>	<p>H.O.R: 09-09-2019</p>	<p>Received: http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s4-J-20190909-PAEC-R21-MR-MTI.pdf</p>
<p>2. <i>Twenty-Second Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and other Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT) for the financial years 2014 and 2015</i></p>	<p>H.O.R: 20.09.2019</p>	<p>Received : http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20191204-PAEC-R22-MR-MTI.pdf</p>
<p>3. <i>Twenty-Third Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an examination of the Audited Financial Statements of InvesTT Limited for the years 2014 to 2017</i></p>	<p>H.O.R: 20-09-2019</p>	<p>Received: http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20191126-PAEC-R23-MR-MTI.pdf</p>

*Reports can be found on the Parliament's website: http://www.ttparliament.org/committee_business.php?mid=19&id=231&pid=28

General Useful Information

- Department for International Trade, UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-trade-investment>
- Ministry of Trade and Enterprise, New Zealand: <https://www.nzte.govt.nz/>
- Department of Trade and Industry, Republic of South Africa: <http://www.thedti.gov.za/>
- Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia: <http://www.miti.gov.my/>