



Republic of Palau

Fiscal Year 2023

A Financial Statement Analysis Using Indicators of the Financial Health and Success and a Status Report of Audit Findings, Timeliness and Exception Resolution (A.F.T.E.R.) of the Republic of Palau as of and for the Year Ended September 30, 2023



This presentation is available online at <http://www.pitiviti.org>

What Is The Performer®?

- An analysis that takes a government's financial statements and converts them into useful and understandable measures of financial performance
- Financial ratios and a copyrighted analysis methodology are used to arrive at an overall rating of 0-10
- The overall reading is a barometer of Palau's financial health and performance

How to Use The Performer®

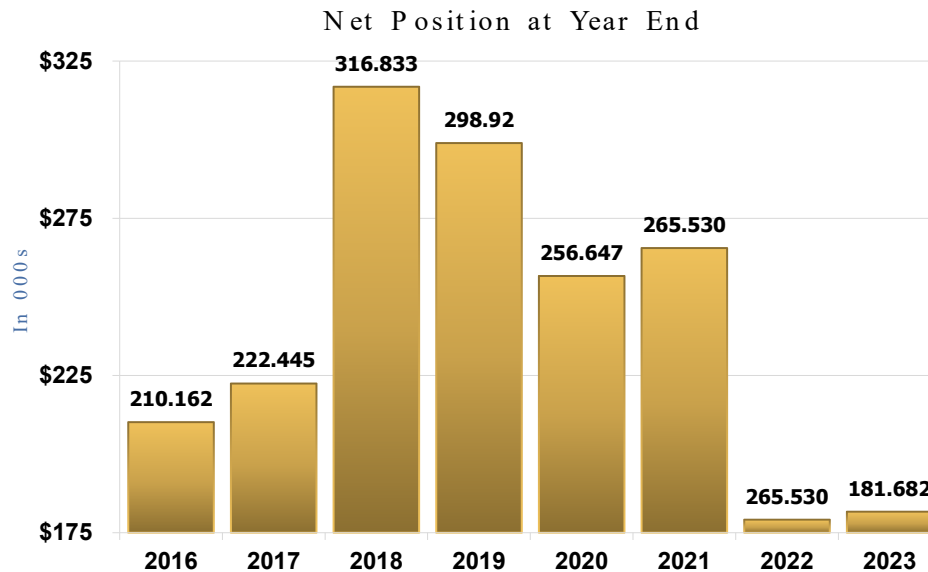
- Use the individual ratios to identify financial warning signals
- Use the overall rating as a collective benchmark of financial health and success of Palau as a whole
- Use the comparisons to prior years to monitor trends in financial indicators

Limitations of the Performer®

- The Performer® should not be used as the only source of financial information to evaluate Palau's performance and condition
- The analysis is an overall rating of Palau as a whole and not of specific activities, funds or units
- The Performer® is based on Crawford & Associates' professional judgment and is limited as to its intended use

Change in Net Position

Did our overall financial condition improve, decline or remain steady over the past year?



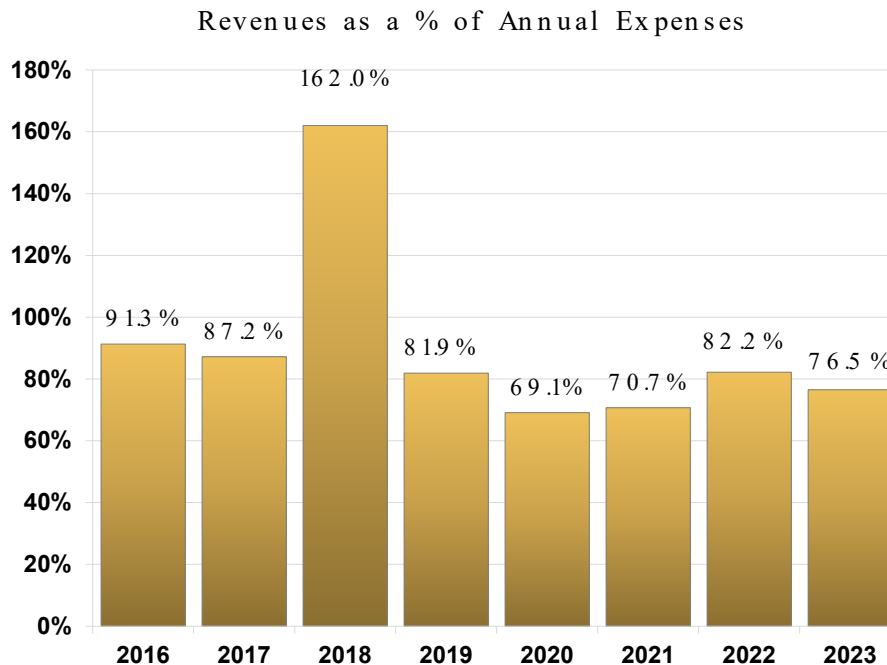
Net position includes all assets of Palau, except for fiduciary funds held for the benefit of others. It is measured as the difference between total assets, including capital assets, plus deferred outflows, netted against total liabilities, including long-term debt, and deferred inflows.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, total net position resulting from current year operations increased by \$2.5 million or 1.4% from the prior year. The increase was indicative of overall revenues earned for 2023 exceeding the expenses incurred for the year. The improvement in the net position was primarily due to the increase in the fair value of the Compact Trust Fund investments.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Performer® Rating
1.1%	-8.5%	3.2%	5.8%	42.4%	-5.7%	-14.1%	3.5%	-32.5%	1.4%	5.7

Intergenerational Equity

Who is paying for today's costs of services?



A measure of whether the government lived within its means in the measurement year, or was required to use prior year resources to fund a portion of current year costs, or shifted the funding of some of the current year costs to future periods.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, Palau funded 76.5% of their current year expenses with current year operational revenues. This indicates that Palau's current year costs were only partially funded with current year operational revenues thereby creating a larger operational deficit. It is considered a poor percentage and also represents a decline in the ratio when compared to the ratio of the prior year.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
89.8 %	92.6 %	91.3 %	87.2 %	162.0 %	81.9 %	69.1 %	70.7 %	82.2 %	76.5 %

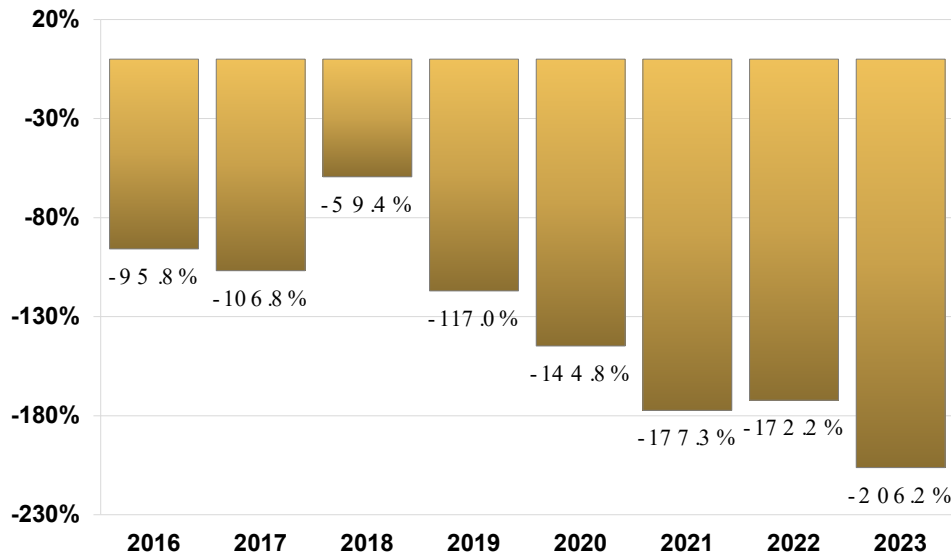
Performer[®]
Rating

0

Level of Unrestricted Net Position

How do our total rainy day funds look?

Unrestricted Net Position (Deficit) as a % of Annual Revenues



The level of total unrestricted net position is an indication of the amount of unexpended and available resources Palau has at a point in time to fund emergencies, shortfalls or other unexpected needs.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, Palau's total unrestricted net position was in a deficit position that approximated \$245 million, or 206.2% of annual total revenues. This represents an increase in the size of the deficit-to-revenue percentage ratio calculated in the prior year.

										Performer [®]
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Rating
-7.8%	-106.8%	-95.8%	-106.8%	-59.4%	-117%	-144.8%	-177.3%	-172.2%	-206.2%	

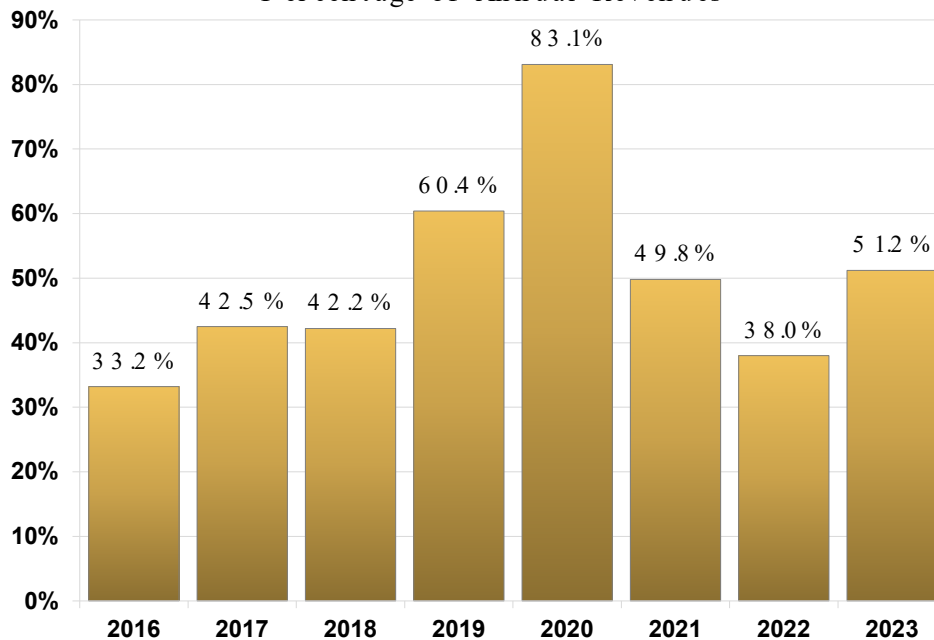
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Level of Unassigned Fund Balance

How does our carryover look?

Unassigned Fund Balance (DEFICIT) as a
Percentage of Annual Revenues



The level of unassigned fund balance is an indication of the amount of unexpended, unencumbered and available resources Palau has at a point in time to carryover into the next fiscal year to fund budgetary emergencies, shortfalls or other unexpected needs. In this analysis, only the General Fund is considered.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, Palau's unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was 51.2% of annual revenues. This remains a very healthy position for the General Fund to be in and also represents an improvement from the ratio of the prior period.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
13.3%	26.4%	33.2%	42.5%	42.2%	60.4%	83.1%	49.8%	38%	51.2%

Performer[®]
Rating

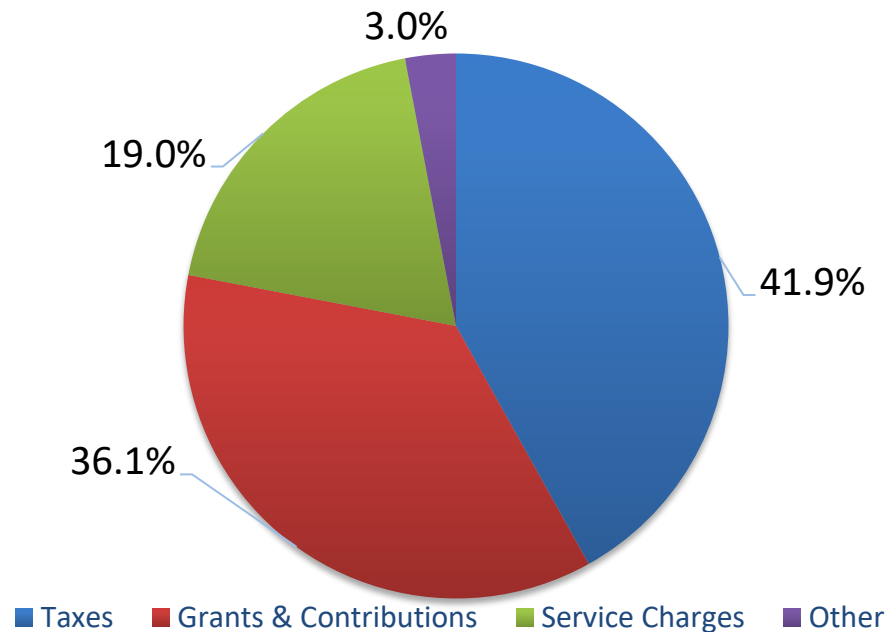
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Revenue Dispersion

How heavily are we relying on revenue sources we can't directly control?

2023 REVENUE PERCENTAGES BY SOURCE



The percentage dispersion of revenue by source indicates how dependent Palau is on certain types of revenue. The more dependent Palau is on revenue sources beyond its direct control, such as grants, the less favorable the dispersion.

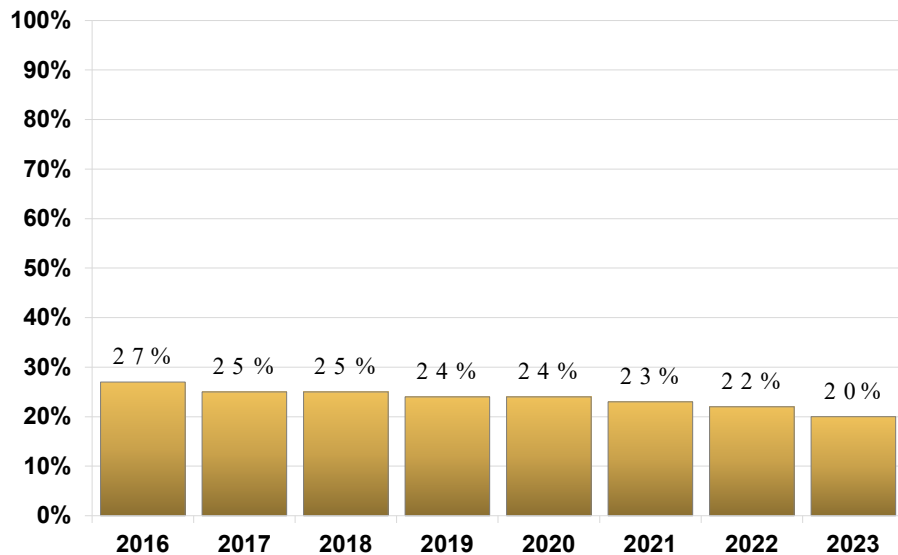
For the year ended September 30, 2023, Palau had direct control over approximately 60.9% of its revenues. This ratio indicates Palau has some exposure, as do most governments, to financial difficulties due to reliance on non-controlled revenue (39.1%). This ratio is an improvement when compared to ratios of prior periods, mainly due to an increase in tax revenue and decreases in grant revenues.

										Performer [®] Rating
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	6.4
55.8%	61.0%	58.3%	69.0%	38.1%	65.2%	52.5%	46.2%	44.7%	60.9%	

Capital Asset Condition

How much useful life do we have left in our capital assets?

Percentage of Capital Assets' Useful Life Remaining



The capital asset condition ratio compares capital assets cost to accumulated depreciation to determine the overall percentage of useful life remaining. A low percentage could indicate an upcoming need to replace a significant amount of capital assets.

At September 30, 2023, Palau's depreciable capital assets amounted to \$511 million while accumulated depreciation totaled \$410 million. This indicates that, on the average, Palau's capital assets have only 20% of their useful lives remaining. This represents a consistent ratio when compared to the prior period and remains very unfavorable.

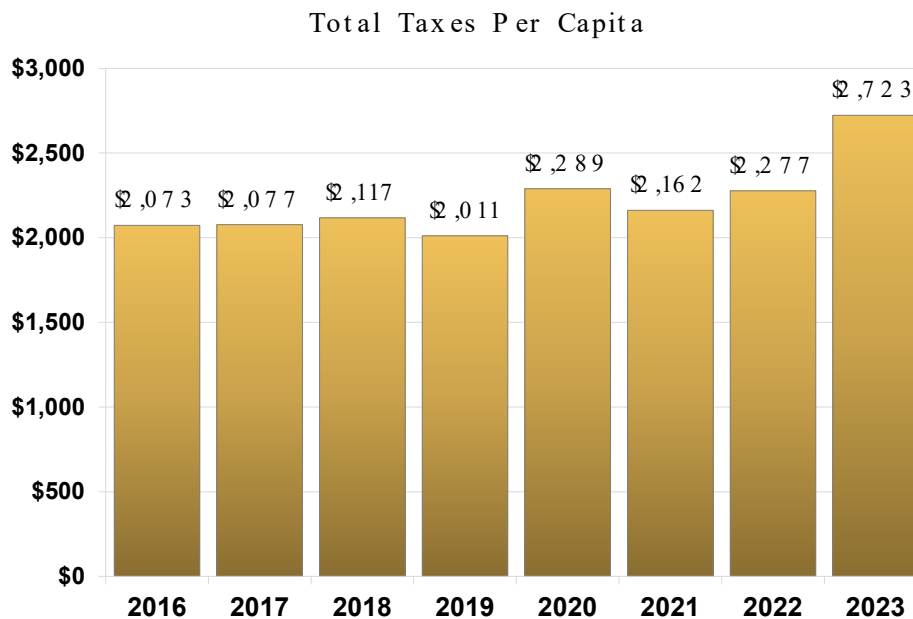
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
38%	32%	27%	25%	25%	24%	24%	23%	22%	20%

Performer®
Rating

0
10

Financing Margin - Taxes

Will our citizens be willing to pay increased taxes for operations or capital improvements, if needed?



The financial ratio of taxes per capita is an indication of Palau's tax burden on its citizens and other taxpayers. The ratio includes all taxes paid the local population including gross receipts tax, income taxes, and other taxes.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, total taxes amounted to \$48 million or \$2,723 per capita. This indicates a relatively moderate tax burden on the citizens when compared with other insular governments and represents an increase in the ratio when compared to the ratio from the prior period.

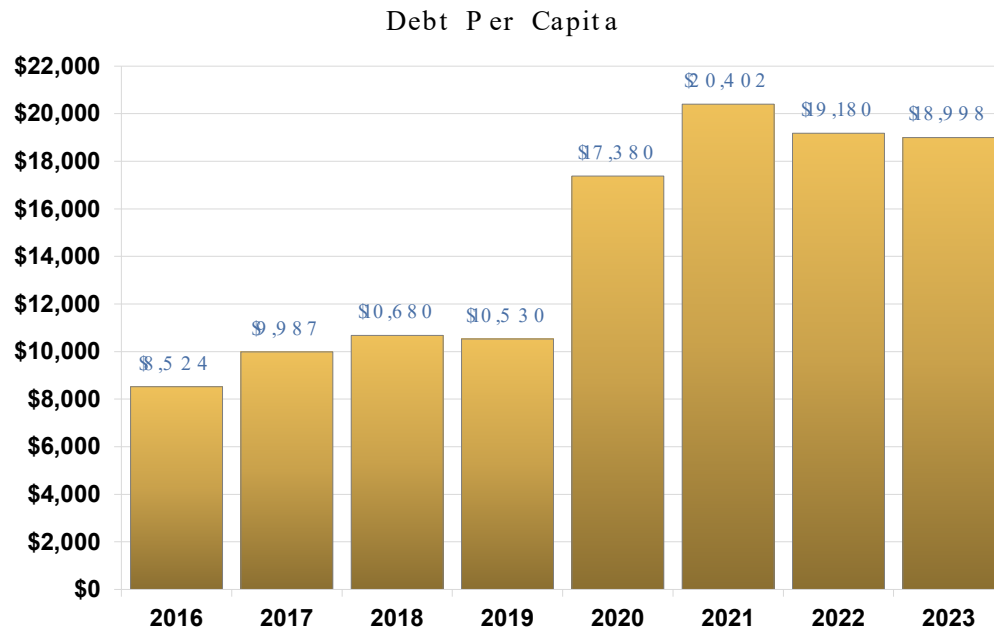
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
\$1,656	\$1,930	\$2,073	\$2,077	\$2,117	\$2,011	\$2,289	\$2,162	\$2,277	\$2,723

Performer[®]
Rating

3.8

Financing Margin - Debt

Will we be able to issue more debt, if needed?



The financial ratio of debt per capita is an indication of Palau's debt burden on its citizens and other taxpayers.

For the year ended September 30, 2023, Palau had \$335 million of long-term debt or \$18,998 per capita, which is a relatively high debt burden on its citizens when compared to other insular governments. It also represents a slight decrease in the ratio of debt per capita from prior years.

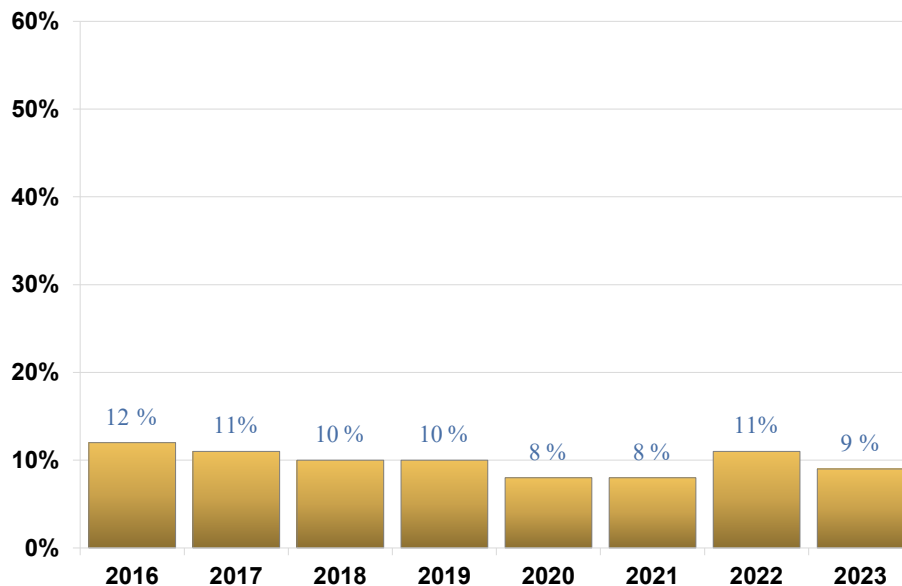
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Performer [®] Rating
\$1,317	\$7,446	\$5,240	\$9,870	\$10,680	\$10,530	\$17,380	\$20,402	\$19,180	\$18,998	

0
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Pension Plan Funding Ratio

Will we be able to pay our employees when they retire?

Plan Net Position as a Percentage of Net Pension Liability



The pension funding ratio compares the net position of the pension plan trust fund to the total pension liability for pension benefits. A percentage less than 100% indicates the plan is under-funded at the valuation date.

At September 30, 2023, Palau's pension plan trust fund net position was 9% of the accrued total pension liability. This is an unhealthy position for civil service pension fund to be in and is a decrease from the prior period ratio.

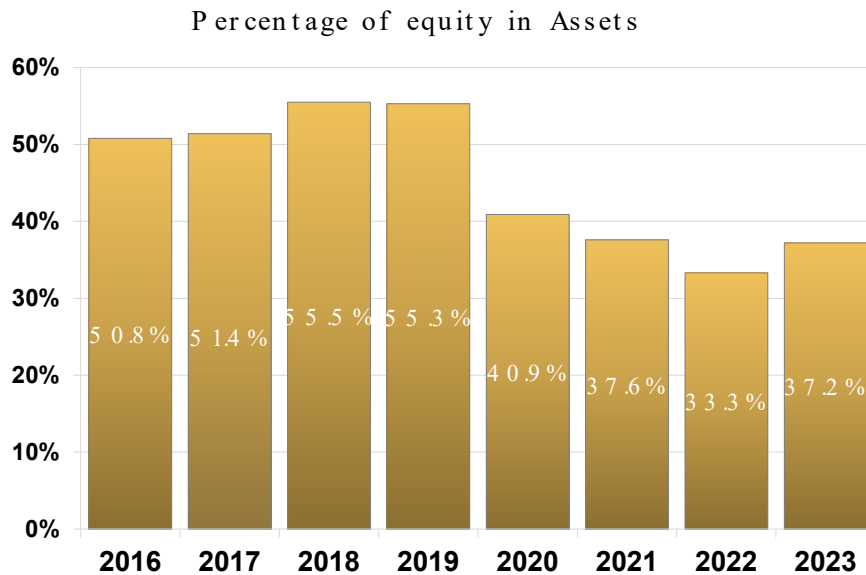
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
23%	14%	12%	11%	10%	10%	8%	8%	11%	9%

Performer®
Rating

0
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Debt to Assets

Who really owns Palau?



The debt to assets ratio measures the extent to which Palau had funded its assets with debt. The lower the debt percentage, the more equity Palau has in its assets.

At September 30, 2023, approximately 62.8% of Palau's \$583 million of total assets were funded with debt or other obligations, resulting in equity position of 37.2%. This is a slight increase from the ratio of the prior year and indicates that for each dollar of assets it owns, Palau owes 62.8 cents of that dollar to others.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
13.1%	46.5%	49.2%	48.6%	44.5%	44.7%	59.1%	62.4%	66.7%	62.8%

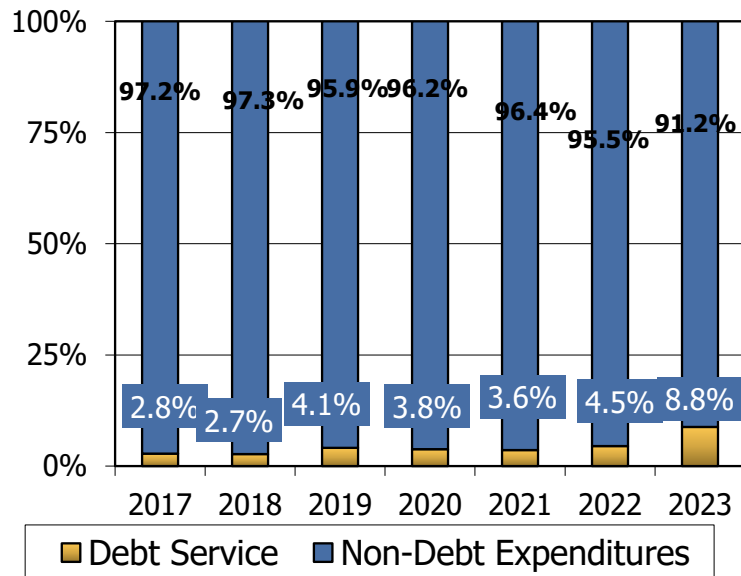
Performer®
Rating

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Debt Service Load

How much of our annual non-capital budget is loaded with disbursements to pay off long-term debt

Percentage of Debt Service to Non-Debt Expenditures



The debt service load ratio measures the extent to which Palau's non-capital expenditures were comprised of debt service payments on long-term debt.

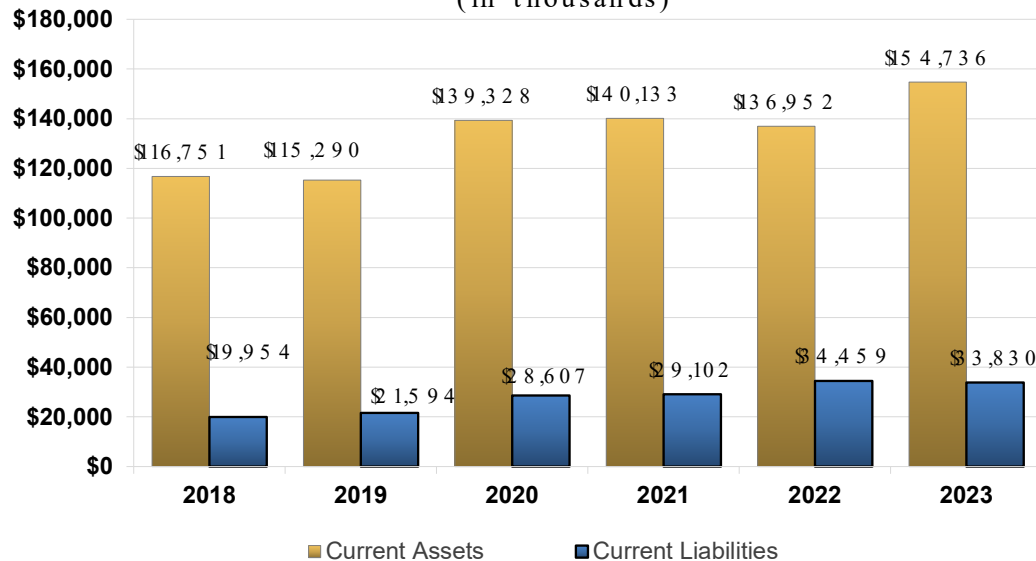
For the year ended September 30, 2023, Palau's total non-capital expenditures amounted to \$140 million, of which \$12.4 million (or 8.8%), were payments for principal and interest on long-term debt. In our model, this is considered an excellent ratio and indicates that for every dollar Palau spent on non-capital items, 8.8 cents of that dollar was used for debt service. Restatements for FY 2015 through FY 2017 have been made to this score and the overall score due to the impact of this ratio.

										Performer®
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Rating
n/a	3.3%	2.7%	2.8%	2.7%	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	4.5%	8.8%	8.7

Current Ratio

Will our vendors and employees be pleased with our ability to pay them on time?

Current Assets Compared to Current Liabilities
(in thousands)



The current ratio is one measure of Palau's ability to pay its short-term obligations. The current ratio compares total current assets and liabilities. A current ratio of 2.00 to 1 indicates good current liquidity and an ability to meet the short-term obligations. This ratio includes only Palau's General Fund, the main operating fund of the government.

At September 30, 2023, Palau had a General Fund ratio of current assets to current liabilities of 4.57 to 1. This indicates that for every dollar of current liabilities, Palau had \$4.57 to fund them. This is considered an excellent ratio, and represents an increase when compared to the ratio of the prior period.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.72	2.86	3.90	4.87	5.85	5.34	4.87	4.82	3.97	4.57

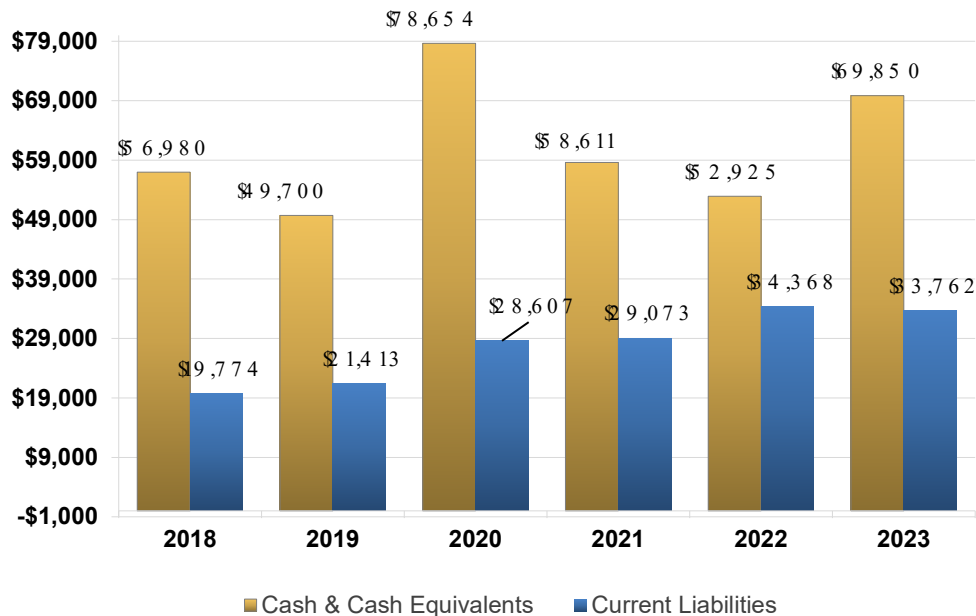
Performer[®]
Rating

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Quick Ratio

How is our short-term cash position?

Cash and Cash Equivalents Compared to Current Liabilities



The quick ratio is another, more conservative, measure of Palau's ability to pay its short-term obligations. The quick ratio compares total cash and short-term investments to current liabilities. A quick ratio of 1.00 to 1 indicates adequate current liquidity and an ability to meet the short-term obligations with cash. This ratio includes only the General Fund, Palau's main operating fund.

At September 30, 2023, Palau had a General Fund ratio of cash and cash equivalents to current liabilities of 2.07 to 1. This indicates that for every dollar of current liabilities, Palau had 2.07 dollars in cash and cash equivalents to fund them. This ratio is considered well above satisfactory, and represents an increase from the ratio of the prior period.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
0.93	1.87	1.99	2.54	2.88	2.32	2.75	2.02	1.54	2.07

Performer[®]
Rating

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Performer® Reading

How Was Our Overall Financial Performance?

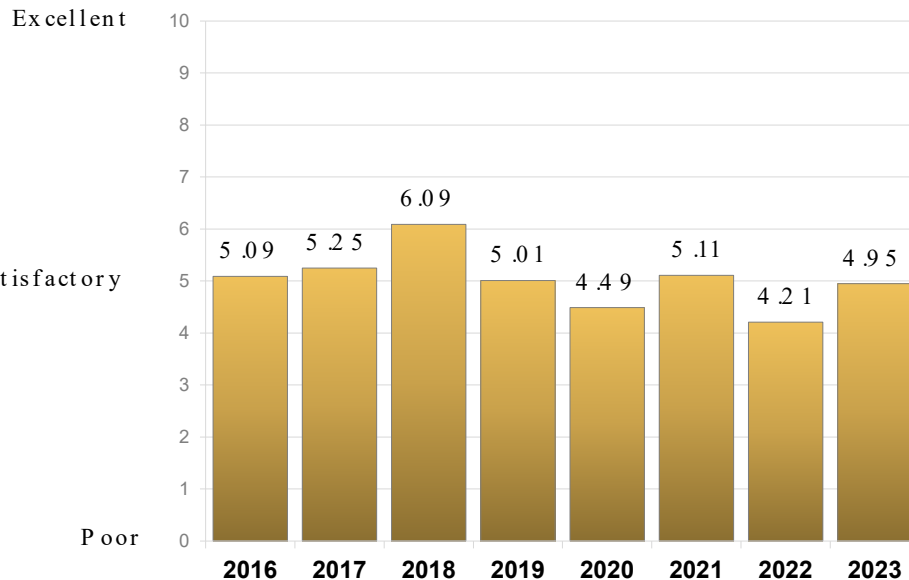
For the 2023 fiscal year, the readings by ratio category were as follows:

Financial Position	5.96
Financial Performance	3.43
Financial Capability	4.35

The 2023 reading of 4.95 indicates the evaluator's opinion that the Palau Government's overall financial health and performance improved during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2023, and is now a satisfactory reading.

Palau has maintained a relatively consistent level of scoring over the past 14 years. However, Palau's overall financial health did improve during the 2023 fiscal year. The primary reasons for the satisfactory overall reading are the sizeable increase in net position due to the increase in the fair value of the Compact Trust Fund investments, the increase in revenue dispersion, and the increase in cash flows related to the quick ratio.

Overall Reading



FY 23 Overall Performer® Reading: 4.95

Ratio	FY 2 0 1 8	FY 2 0 1 9	FY 2 0 2 0	FY 2 0 2 1	FY 2 0 2 2	FY 2 0 2 3
Change in Net Position	4 2 .4 %	-5 .7 %	-14 .1%	3 .5 %	-3 2 .5 %	1 4 %
Intergenerational Equity	16 2 %	8 1.9 %	6 9 .1%	7 0 .7 %	8 2 .2 %	7 6 .5 %
Level of Unrestricted Net Position	-5 9 .4 %	-117 %	-14 4 .8 %	-17 7 %	-17 2 .2 %	-2 0 6 .2 %
Level of Unassigned Fund Balance	4 2 .2 %	6 0 .4 %	8 3 .1%	4 9 .8 %	3 8 %	5 1 2 %
Revenue Dispersion	3 8 .1%	6 5 .2 %	5 2 .5 %	4 6 .2 %	4 4 .7 %	6 0 .9 %
Capital Asset Condition	2 5 %	2 4 %	2 4 %	2 3 %	2 2 %	2 0 %
Financing Margin – Taxes	\$ 2 ,117	\$ 2 ,0 11	\$ 2 ,2 8 9	\$ 2 ,16 2	\$ 2 ,2 7 7	\$ 2 ,7 2 3
Financing Margin – Debt/ Obligations	\$0 ,6 8 0	\$0 ,5 3 0	\$1 7 ,3 8 0	\$ 0 ,4 0 2	\$9 ,18 0	\$8 ,9 9 8
Pension Plan Funding	10 %	10 %	8 %	8 %	11%	9 %
Debt Service Load	2 .7 %	4 .1%	3 .8 %	3 .6 %	4 .5 %	8 .8 %
Debt to Assets	4 4 .5 %	4 4 .7 %	5 9 .1%	6 2 .4 %	6 6 .7 %	6 2 .8 %
Current Ratio	5 .8 5	5 .3 4	4 .8 7	4 .8 2	3 .9 7	4 .5 7
Quick Ratio	2 .8 8	2 .3 2	2 .7 5	2 .0 2	1 .5 4	2 .0 7
Overall Performer Reading	6 .0 9	5 .0 1	4 .4 9 *	5 .11*	4 .2 1	4 .9 5

*Notes years that the overall score has been restated for comparison purposes

Performer Individual Ratios - Summary and Comparison to Prior Years

What is the A.F.T.E.R. Analysis?

- The A.F.T.E.R. Analysis is very simply an analysis of the status of audit findings, the timeliness of the submission of the audit and the resolution of certain audit exceptions, this analysis can be used to track a government's progress towards eliminating its most significant findings and exceptions, along with tracking the timeliness of submission to the Federal Clearinghouse.

	2 0 1 6	2 0 1 7	2 0 1 8	2 0 1 9	2 0 2 0	2 0 2 1	2 0 2 2	2 0 2 3
Number of F.S. Opinion Qualifications/Exceptions	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Number of Major Federal Program Qualifications/Exceptions	5	3	1	2	2	2	3	1
Number of F.S. Findings								
A. Internal Control and Compliance	0	1	3	1	1	0	0	0
B. Internal Control Only	1	5	0	3	3	2	4	9
C. Compliance Only	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	2	6	3	4	4	2	4	9
Percentage of Findings Repeated	0%	33%	100%	75%	75%	0%	0%	22%
Number of Single Audit Findings								
A. Internal Control and Compliance	11	7	3	3	3	6	5	7
B. Internal Control Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C. Compliance Only	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	11	7	3	3	3	6	6	7
Percentage of S.A. Findings Repeated	73%	43%	67%	0%	0%	16.7%	50%	29%
Number of months after Y/E the F.S. were Released	9.5	9	9	16.5	16.5	31	36	32
Number of Qualifications/Exceptions Related to C.U.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$ of Questioned Costs-Current Year	\$97,206	\$0	\$174,130	\$44,448	\$44,448	\$250,000	\$1,409,382	\$1,184,965
\$ of Questioned Costs- Cumulative	\$319,767	\$314,686	\$488,816	\$359,134	\$359,134	\$512,429	\$1,921,811	\$3,106,776
\$ of Questioned Costs Resolved – Current Year	\$204,848	\$57,338	\$0	\$174,130	\$174,130	\$44,448	\$0	\$0

Thank You!

- We would like to commend and thank the Government of Palau's management, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Graduate School USA for allowing us to present this financial analysis. We hope it serves as a useful and understandable compliment to Palau's annual financial report.
- This report is available online at <http://www.pitiviti.org>.
- Visit our website at <http://www.crawfordcpas.com> for other useful tools for governments.