



CIBC Caribbean delivers US\$ 159.7 million profit



Mark St Hill, chief executive officer of CIBC Caribbean. (FP)

CIBC Caribbean Bank Limited says strong loan growth and steady core business helped it remain profitable in 2025, even after taking a major loss on a non-core investment.

The bank reported net income of US\$159.7 million for the financial year ended October 31, down from US\$277.5 million the year before.

Chief executive officer, Mark St Hill said the lower result reflected higher credit costs, new tax rules, and a one-time investment loss.

He explained that the headline figure was affected by unusual items.

"Results for 2025 include a US\$56.2 million fair value loss on a non-core investment, and a US\$2.4 million net gain related to the previously announced divestitures," St. Hill stated.

When those items were removed, St. Hill said the bank's underlying performance was stronger.

"Excluding these items of note, adjusted net income was US\$213.5 million," he said, when compared with US\$285.2 million in 2024.

According to the CEO, higher costs weighed on earnings.

"The decline in adjusted earnings was primarily due to higher provision for credit losses and increased income taxes, following the adoption of the Global Minimum Tax Framework in the Bahamas," St. Hill said.

Despite these challenges, the CIBC top executive said the bank continued to expand its lending business across the region.

"Our client focused strategy across our regional footprint supported by a strong capital position, allowed us to build the largest performing loan book in our history."

"This resulted in the bank delivering a solid underlying core performance while we navigated select credit and operational

pressures," St Hill added.

Looking at the wider economy, St. Hill said growth continued but at a slower pace.

"Caribbean economic activity continued to expand moderately in 2025, though momentum softened as tourism growth eased in several markets," he said, while acknowledging that price pressures eased in many countries.

"Inflation generally declined alongside lower commodity prices, while fiscal positions improved in some territories."

However, St Hill said risks remain heading into the new year.

"Risks from shifting global trade policies, geopolitical tensions and weather-related disruptions persist," he said, adding that "the regional outlook is broadly stable heading into 2026".

On the revenue side, St Hill said loan growth helped offset lower interest rates. "While net interest income was negatively impacted by a lower US interest rate environment, this was largely offset by the earnings impact from strong loan portfolio expansion," he said.

Operating expenses increased by six per cent, or US\$26 million, due to "higher employee related costs" and continued spending on technology and strategic projects.

The bank also increased its provision for credit losses, mainly due to impaired securities and updated risk models, though St. Hill stressed that "our underlying credit quality remains strong".

He said CIBC Caribbean remained well capitalised. "At fiscal year end, the tier one and total capital ratios stood at 18.3 per cent and 20.8 per cent," he noted.

Reflecting that strength, the board approved a quarterly dividend of US\$0.0125 per share, payable on January 15, 2026. (IMC)

Goddard Enterprises records profits following cocoa business turnaround

Goddard Enterprises Limited (GEL) reported a major increase in profits last year, helped by a strong recovery at its cocoa processing business in Ecuador after heavy losses the year before.

The Barbados-based conglomerate earned \$76.8 million in profit for the year ended September 30, up \$24.3 million from the previous year. Earnings per share rose to 27.9 cents, and shareholders will receive a final dividend of three cents per share at the end of February.

Chairman Charles Herbert and managing director Anthony Ali said the improved results were driven mainly by better performance in manufacturing.

"Goddard Enterprises Limited recorded net income of \$76.8 million, compared to \$52.5 million in the previous year," they said.

The biggest change came from Ecuador Kakao Processing Procuakao S.A. (Ecuakao), which moved from a large loss to a healthy profit.

The cocoa processor earned \$16.7 million after losing \$21.2 million the year before.

"This turnaround in Ecuakao's performance was the main reason the manufacturing division returned to profit," Herbert and Ali said.

They explained that higher cocoa production and sales, along with better prices for raw cocoa beans, helped boost margins.

"The company benefitted from increased production and sales volume, along with a higher gross margin," they said.

Still, the recovery came with costs. The company spent \$8.5 million on financial protection related to cocoa futures and set aside \$4.1 million for money owed by a customer that may not be recovered.

Another strong contributor was Acado Limited, the group's consumer products joint venture with Trinidad and Tobago's Agostini Limited.

"Acado had a solid year and once again stood out as one of the top contributors to our group's performance," the



Anthony Ali, CEO of Goddard Enterprises. (File photo)

The Goddard Catering Group recorded good revenues, but profits were reduced by losses at associate companies in Costa Rica, the directors explained.

"GCG recorded ECL provisions totalling \$10.8 million for amounts due from two of its associates," Herbert and Ali said.

The group also wrote down \$5.4 million in goodwill tied to its Panama catering business, which has been struggling with increased competition at the country's main international airport.



Charles Herbert, chairman of Goddards. (File photo)

profit from that segment.

However, the automotive division had a difficult year, with weak vehicle sales in Barbados and Jamaica.

"The automotive division faced a challenging year," the directors said, pointing to lower sales, efforts to reduce excess inventory, higher financing costs linked to the launch of the GAC brand, and a \$1.3 million loss from the revaluation of property in Barbados.

Shipping and services, the group's smaller division,