



Research & Statistics Department

The Economic Letter

May 2017

Summary:

In May 2017, the majority of real sector indicators improved in relation to the previous month. Imports and exports of goods also increased resulting in a broader trade deficit. The overall balance of payments was negative and the gross foreign currency reserves retreated a little. The growth in banks' loans and deposits remained favorable.

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I- REAL SECTOR

In May 2017,

The total value of checks cleared in the domestic and foreign currencies increased to USD 5,673 million from USD 5,337 million in the previous month and USD 5,609 million in May 2016. Yet, cleared checks o/w 68.7 percent denominated in FC slightly decreased in the first five months of 2017 by 0.1 percent when compared to the first five months of 2016.

The total value of returned checks in the domestic and foreign currencies retreated to USD 122 million from USD 151 million one month back and USD 125 million in May 2016. Returned checks increased a little, however, in the first five months of 2017 by 0.3 percent with reference to the identical period of the past year.

Collected real estate fees slightly diminished to LBP 77.2 billion against LBP 79.0 billion in the preceding month (LBP 60.1 billion twelve months back). Still, collected fees multiplied in the first five months of 2017 by 20.2 percent with regard to the first five months of 2016.

Construction permits rose to 1,293 thousand square meters compared to 973 thousand square meters in the previous month and 997 thousand square meters in May 2016. In the first five months of 2017, construction permits increased by 2.0 percent in respect of the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The total number of passengers arriving to and departing from Beirut International Airport fell to 308,696 and 291,868 respectively to total 600,564 persons. In the first five months of 2017, arrivals and departures increased, however, by 5.1 percent and 5.8 percent respectively in comparison with those recorded in the alike time interval of 2016.

Agricultural exports advanced to USD 13 million from USD 11 million one month back but were in the first five months of 2017 below those reported in the matching months of the preceding year by USD 4 million (-5.7 percent).

In April 2017,

Cement deliveries improved to 442 thousand tons from 418 thousand tons a month earlier (497 thousand tons in April 2016). Cement deliveries declined, however, by 4.1 percent in the first four months of 2017 in comparison with the same time frame of 2016.

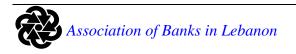
In March 2017,

Industrial exports (excluding gold ingots) increased to USD 224 million from USD 197 million in the previous month and USD 212 million in March 2016. Yet, industrial exports contracted in the first quarter 2017 by 6.0 percent with regard to the first quarter 2016.

Imports of Industrial Equipment rose to USD 20.2 million from USD 10.7 million one month earlier (USD 25.1 million in March 2016). Imports of industrial equipment deteriorated, however, by 23.4 percent in the first three months of 2017 when compared to the correspondent time frame of the previous year.

| Real Sector | Indicator | S | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| | May-16 | Apr-17 | May-17 |
| Checks cleared (total) | | | |
| Number (000) | 1,049 | 957 | 1,086 |
| Value (USD million) | 5,609 | 5,337 | 5,673 |
| Checks cleared in LBP | | | |
| Number (000) | 363 | 351 | 414 |
| Value (LBP billion) | 2,398 | 2,478 | 2,667 |
| Checks cleared in FX | | | |
| Number (000) | 686 | 606 | 672 |
| Value (USD million) | 4,018 | 3,693 | 3,904 |
| Returned checks | | | |
| Number (000) | 20.2 | 18.3 | 20.7 |
| Value (USD million) | 125 | 151 | 122 |
| Construction permits (000 square meters) | 997 | 973 | 1,293 |
| Cement deliveries (000 tons) | 487 | 442 | n.a. |
| Collected property taxes (LBP billion) | 60.1 | 79.0 | 77.2 |
| Passengers arrivals (000) | 324 | 352 | 309 |
| Passengers departures (000) | 295 | 368 | 292 |
| Agricultural exports (USD million) | 17 | 11 | 13 |
| Industrial exports (USD million) | 211 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Imports of industrial machinery (USD million) | 20.5 | n.a. | n.a. |

Source: BDL, OEA, BIA, CLR, ministry of Industry, Lebanese Customs

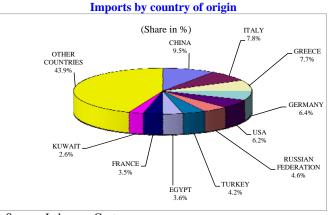


II- EXTERNAL SECTOR

In May 2017,

Imports of goods went up to USD 1,559 million from USD 1,414 million in the previous month (USD 1,629 million in May 2016). Imports improved in the first five months of 2017 by 0.8 percent with reference to the first five months of the previous year.

In the first five months of 2017, mineral products lead imported goods with a 20.5 percent share of total imports. They were followed by products of the chemical and machinery and mechanical appliances which accounted for 11.0 percent and 9.9 percent respectively. China topped the list of imports by country of origin with a 9.5 percent share of total. Italy came next with a share of 7.8 percent followed by Greece (7.7 percent) and Germany (6.4 percent).

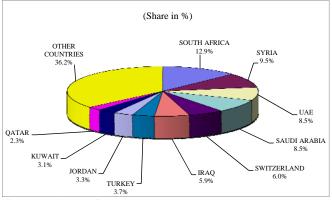


Source: Lebanese Customs

Exports of goods increased to USD 240 million compared to USD 235 million one month back and USD 237 million in May 2016. Exports climbed in the first five months of 2017 by 8.9 percent in respect of the same period of the preceding year.

In the first five months of 2017, pearls, precious and semi - precious stones were on top of the list with a share of 23.2 percent of total exports, followed by prepared foodstuffs (16.8 percent), and base metals (11.1 percent). South Africa outperformed all others in terms of exports by country of destination with 12.9 percent share of the total, trailed by Syria (9.5 percent) followed by UAE and Saudi Arabia (8.5 percent for each) and Switzerland (6.0 percent).





Source: Lebanese Customs

The trade deficit broadened to USD 1,319 million from USD 1,179 million a month earlier (USD 1,392 million in May 2016). Nevertheless, the trade deficit narrowed in the first five months of 2017 by 0.5 percent vis-à-vis the corresponding time interval of 2016.

| External | Sector 1 | Indicators |
|----------|----------|------------|
| | | |

| USD million | May-16 | Apr-17 | May-17 | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|--|
| Imports | 1,629 1,414 | | 1,559 | |
| Exports | 237 | 235 | 240 | |
| Trade deficit | -1,392 | -1,179 | -1,319 | |
| Balance of payments | -862 | -321 | -592 | |
| Gross foreign currency reserves | 32,026 | 33,525 | 32,750 | |

Source: Lebanese Customs, BDL.

The overall balance of payments reported a deficit of USD 592 million following a deficit of USD 321 million in April 2017 (USD 862 million deficit in May 2016). Subsequently, a cumulative USD 358 million negative balance was recorded in the first five months of 2017 and represented a decrease in net foreign assets of the central bank (USD -2,112 million) partly offset by an increase in net foreign assets of banks and financial institutions (USD +1,754 million).

Gross foreign currency reserves of the Central bank diminished to USD 32,750 million compared to USD 33,525 million at the end of the previous month (USD 32,026 million end May 2016). The U.S. dollar average rate remained stable at LBP 1,507.5 with the Central bank maintaining its foreign exchange intervention rates at LBP 1,501 per one USD for bid and LBP 1,514 per one USD for ask.

III-FINANCIAL SECTOR

1. Commercial Banks

Total consolidated assets of commercial banks operating in Lebanon amounted to LBP 311,883 billion (USD 206.9 billion) at the end of May 2017, thus increasing by 1.3 percent from end December 2016 (1.4 percent increase in the first five months of 2016).

Total deposits at commercial banks, including resident and non-resident private sector deposits and public sector deposits grew by 2.4 percent in the first five months of 2017 and constituted 82.4 percent of total assets with an equivalent value of LBP 256,889 billion (around USD 170.4 billion) at the end of the period.

Commercial Banks Balance Sheet -Main items

| End of period-LBP billion | May-16 | Apr-17 | May-17 |
|------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|
| Total Assets | 284,356 | 284,356 310,739 | |
| Total deposits | 237,590 | 255,765 | 256,889 |
| Resident private sector | 183,706 | 197,378 | 198,694 |
| Non-resident private sector | 48,279 | 52,090 | 51,765 |
| Public sector deposits | 5,605 | 6,297 | 6,430 |
| Capital accounts | 25,948 | 28,255 | 28,159 |
| Total claims on the private sector | 83,699 | 86,810 | 87,244 |
| Resident private sector | 73,969 | 77,687 | 78,478 |
| Non-resident private sector | 9,731 | 9,123 | 8,767 |
| Total claims on public sector | 56,622 | 56,372 | 56,432 |
| Bills & Bonds in LBP | 28,913 | 31,450 | 31,582 |
| Bonds in FC | 27,555 | 24,729 | 24,654 |
| Claims on non resident banks | 15,698 | 20,929 | 21,139 |
| Other foreign assets | 9,360 | 8,528 | 8,629 |
| Deposits at the central bank | 110,018 | 128,747 | 128,828 |

Source: BDL.

The breakdown of total deposits shows that private sector deposits denominated in LBP stood almost unchanged from end December 2016, but those denominated in foreign currencies increased by 3.4 percent, thus deposit dollarization rate rose to 66.6 percent at end May 2017 (65.8 percent end December 2016). The itemization of total deposits reveals also a growth in public sector deposits (+8.0 percent), in resident private sector deposits (+2.5 percent) and in non-resident private sector deposits (+1.1 percent) in the first five months of 2017.

resident private Subsequently, sector deposits accounted for 77.3 percent of total deposits at end May 2017 (20.2 percent for non-resident private sector and 2.5 percent for public sector deposits).

Total capital accounts amounted to LBP 28,159 billion (USD 18,679 million) at the end of May 2017 and represented around 9.0 percent of total assets. Capital accounts increased by 2.4 percent form end December 2016.

Total claims on the resident and non-resident private sector increased by 1.2 percent in the first five months of the year 2017, reaching LBP 87,244 billion at the end of May 2017. The dollarization rate of these loans was 71.2 percent at the end of the stated month, and the ratio of total loans to total deposits attained 34.8 percent.

Total claims on the public sector were equivalent to LBP 56,432 billion at the end of May 2017, thus increasing by 7.8 percent from end December 2016. Commercial banks held at the end of the stated month LBP 31,582 billion of Lebanese treasury bills (44.7 percent of the total portfolio in circulation) and USD 16,354 million of Eurobonds (nearly 59.6 percent of the total outstanding portfolio).

Deposits at the Central Bank decreased in the first five months of 2017 by 4.3 percent to total LBP 128,828 billion at the end of May 2017, meanwhile claims on non- resident banks rose by 24.8 percent to LBP 21,139 billion (USD 14.0 billion) to represent 12.7 percent of private sector deposits in foreign currencies.

2. Investment Banks

Total consolidated assets of investment banks operating in Lebanon (including medium and long term credit banks) amounted to LBP 7,378 billion (around USD 4.9 billion) at the end of May 2017, thus increasing by 4.0 percent from end December 2016 (1.3 percent decrease in the first five months of 2016).

In the first five months of 2017, capital accounts rose by 12.3 percent and private sector deposits (resident & non-resident) by 1.2 percent. Cash and banks decreased by 0.6 percent while claims on public sector increased by 18.7 percent and claims on the private sector by 1.4 percent.

3. Financial Markets

The total number of shares traded on the Beirut Stock Exchange jumped to 18,565 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 157.3 million in May 2017 compared to 5,417 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 35.8 million in the previous month and 4,412 thousand shares with a value of USD 32.6 million in May 2016.

During May 2017, the traded value by economic sectors was as such: 96.4 percent for Banking, 3.3 percent for Development and Reconstruction and 0.3 percent for Industrial.

| Capital Markets |
|------------------------|
| May-16 |

| | May-16 Apr-17 | | May-17 | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|--|
| BSE | | | | |
| Traded shares (000) | 4,412 | 5,417 | 18,565 | |
| Traded value (USD million) | 32.6 | 35.8 | 157.3 | |
| Market capitalization | 11,056 | 11,767 | 11,725 | |
| (USD million) | | | | |
| Outstanding treasury bills (LBP billion) | 62,930 | 69,605 | 69,498 | |
| Outstanding sovereign Eurobonds (USD million) | 26,577 | 27,190 | 27,194 | |
| Outstanding private sector (banks) securities (USD million) | 850 | 850 | 850 | |

Source: BDL, BSE

The market capitalization of listed shares decreased to USD 11,725 million at the end of May 2017, compared to USD 11,767 million at the end of the previous month (USD 11,056 million at the end of May 2016). Banking had a 84.8 percent weight, whereas Development and Construction 12.6 percent.

The face value of the outstanding treasury bills portfolio denominated in the domestic currency and the value of the outstanding sovereign bonds portfolio denominated in foreign currencies (Eurobonds) amounted to LBP 69,498 billion and USD 27,194 million respectively at the end of May 2017.

The outstanding value of bank-issued certificates of deposits, Euro-CDs, and subordinated debt stood almost unchanged at USD 850 million at the end of May 2017. The outstanding value of the certificates of deposits issued by BDL in the domestic currency slightly decreased to LBP 32,389 billion while the value of those issued in foreign currencies increased a little to USD 21.8 billion.

IV- MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

The stock of money and quasi money (M3) attained LBP 205,187 billion at the end of May 2017, of which 59.8 percent denominated in foreign currencies, thus increasing by 2.5 percent from end December 2016 (1.6 percent increase in the first five months 2016).

Money Supply & Counterparts

| LBP billion | May-16 | Apr-17 | May-17 |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| M3 | 189,424 | 203,869 | 205,187 |
| Net foreign assets | 45,918 | 51,931 | 51,268 |
| Net claims on public sector | 73,801 | 76,290 | 76,601 |
| Valuation Adjustment | -8,527 | -9,353 | -9,442 |
| Claims on private sector | 77,212 | 80,996 | 81,789 |
| Other items-net | 1,019 | 4,004 | 4,970 |
| CAS CPI (Dec 2013=100) | 95.62 | 99.77 | 99.72 |
| <u></u> | | | |

Source: BDL,CRI.

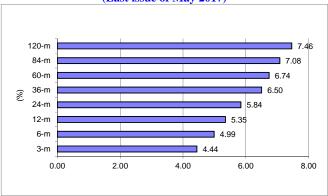
The LBP 4,994 billion increase in M3 in the first five months of 2017 resulted from an increase in each of net other items (+LBP 3,748 billion), claims on the private sector (+LBP 1,601 billion) and net foreign assets (+LBP 1,556 billion) against a drop in valuation adjustment (-LBP 1,735 billion) and net claims on public sector (-LBP 177 billion).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Beirut and Suburbs, published by the Consultation and Research Institute, decreased by 1.08 percent in May 2017 compared to the previous month but increased by 1.5 percent from December 2016.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Lebanon, published by the Central Administration of Statistics, stood almost unchanged in the month of May 2017 but increased by 0.8 percent from December 2016.

The interest rates on LBP monetary instruments were stable at the end of May 2017 on 45 and 60- day certificates of deposits issued by BDL reading 3.57 percent and 3.85 percent respectively. The yields on the issued Lebanese Treasury bills also remained steady and read at the end of the stated month: 4.44 percent for three-month bills, 4.99 percent for sixmonth bills, 5.35 percent for one-year bills, 5.84 percent for two-year bills, 6.50 percent for three-year bills, 6.74 percent for five-year bills, 7.08 percent for seven-year bills and 7.46 percent for ten-year bills.

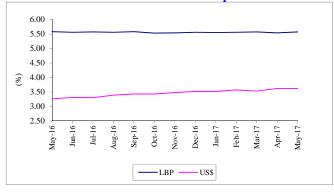
Yield on Lebanese treasury bills denominated in LBP (Last issue of May 2017)



Source: BDL

In May 2017, the average interest rate on new or renewed LBP deposits at commercial banks increased to 5.57 percent (5.54 percent a month ago) while the average interest rate on new or renewed USD deposits stood almost unchanged at 3.62 percent. The average 3-month USD LIBOR was 1.19 percent.

Interest rates on new or renewed deposits at banks



In May 2017, the average interest rate on new or renewed loans at commercial banks denominated in **LBP and USD** increased to 8.48 percent (8.33 percent a month ago) and 7.36 percent (7.22 percent in April 2017) respectively.

V- PUBLIC FINANCES

Government revenues, including budget revenues and treasury receipts attained LBP 1,215 billion in December 2016 to sum LBP 14,959 billion in the year 2016 (LBP 14,435 billion in 2015). The LBP 14,959 billion revenues comprised LBP 13,989 billion budget revenues and LBP 970 billion treasury receipts.

Government expenditures, consisting of budget and treasury spending, amounted to LBP 2,029 billion in December 2016 to total LBP 22,412 billion in 2016 (LBP 20,393 billion in 2015). The LBP 22,412 billion expenditures included LBP 7,484 billion debt service and LBP 14,928 billion other general expenditures o/w LBP 1,397 billion to EDL and LBP 1,765 billion related to budget expenditures for previous years.

| Fiscal Situation | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| LBP billion | Dec-15 | Dec-15 Nov-16 De | | | | |
| Government revenues | 1,055 | 993 | 1,215 | | | |
| Tax revenues | 656 | 615 | 683 | | | |
| Non-tax revenues | 306 | 306 315 | | | | |
| Treasury receipts | 93 | 93 63 | | | | |
| Government expenditures | 2,127 | 2,618 | 2,029 | | | |
| Debt service | 562 | 1,003 | 606 | | | |
| Others | 1,565 | 1,615 | 1,423 | | | |
| Overall balance | -1,072 | -1,625 | -814 | | | |
| Primary balance | -510 | -622 | -208 | | | |
| Timmery cummers | | | | | | |

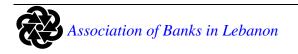
Source: Ministry of Finance.

Total Deficit increased as such to LBP 7,453 billion in 2016 from LBP 5,958 billion in 2015, while the primary balance surplus decreased to LBP 31 billion compared to LBP 1,092 billion respectively.

Gross public debt amounted to LBP 115,652 billion (the equivalent of USD 76.7 billion) at the end of May 2017, thus increasing by 2.4 percent when compared to end December 2016 (1.6 percent growth in the first five months of 2016).

Net public debt, which subtracts public sector deposits at commercial banks and the central bank from gross public debt, amounted to LBP 100,288 billion at the end of May 2017, increasing by 1.7 percent form end of December 2016 (1.9 percent growth in the first five months of 2016).

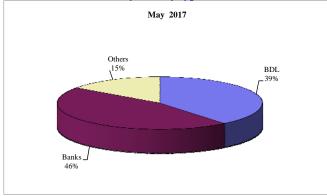
| Public Debt | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|--|--|--|
| LBP billion | May-16 Apr-17 M | | | | | |
| Public Debt (Gross) | 107,776 | 115,976 | 115,652 | | | |
| Debt in LBP | 64,041 | 64,041 70,923 | | | | |
| Debt in FC | 43,735 | 43,735 45,053 | | | | |
| Public Debt (Net) | 94,551 | 100,022 | 100,288 | | | |
| Public sector deposits | 13,225 | 15,954 | 15,364 | | | |
| Commercial Banks | 5,605 | 6,297 | 6,430 | | | |
| BDL | 7,620 | 9,657 | 8,934 | | | |



The shares of the local currency debt and foreign currency debt of the total gross were around 61.3 percent and 38.7 percent respectively at the end of May 2017. The distribution of local currency debt by type of holder was as follows: 45.7 percent for banks (45.4 percent end of April 2017), 39.2 percent for the Central bank (39.4 percent in the previous month) and 15.1 percent for the non-banking sector (15.2 percent one month earlier). The breakdown of the foreign currency debt was as such: Eurobonds (92.5 percent), Multilateral (4.2 percent), Bilateral (3.0 percent), Paris II loans (0.1 percent) and others (0.2 percent).

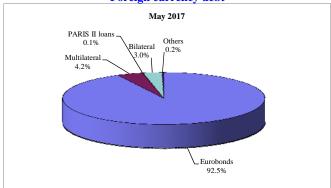
The average maturity of the Government debt securities denominated in the domestic currency was estimated at 1,332 days (3.66 years) as at end May 2017 with a weighted interest of 6.90 percent, while the average maturity of the Government debt instruments denominated in foreign currencies was around 7.02 years with a weighted interest of 6.38 percent.

Local currency debt by type of debt holder



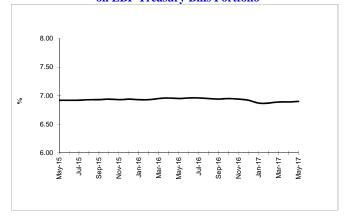
Source: BDL.

Foreign currency debt

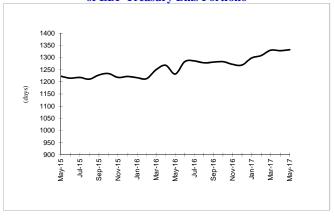


Source: BDL.

Weighted Average Interest Rate on LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



Weighted Average Life of LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



GENERAL INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

| | 2016 | Jan - May 2016 | Jan - May 2017 | May-16 | Apr-17 | May-17 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Imports of Industrial Equipment (000's US\$) | 235,513 | 111,012 | n.a. | 20,542 | n.a. | n.a |
| Building Permits (000's m2) | 12,234 | 5,331 | 5,435 | 997 | 973 | 1,293 |
| Cement Delivery (000s' tons) | 5,247 | 2,062 | n.a. | 487 | 442 | n.a. |
| Checks Cleared in LBP (billion LBP) | 29,986 | 12,276 | 13,270 | 2,398 | 2,478 | 2,667 |
| Checks Cleared in FC (million US\$) | 48,160 | 20,013 | 19,315 | 4,018 | 3,693 | 3,904 |
| Shipped Goods (tons)-Beirut Port | 1,035,992 | 396,733 | 404,598 | 88,465 | 79,825 | 88,603 |
| Unloaded Goods (tons)-Beirut Port | 7,700,609 | 3,259,640 | 3,195,273 | 685,595 | 600,202 | 651,987 |
| Passengers Arrivals (000's)-BIA | 3,780 | 1,330 | 1,398 | 324 | 352 | 309 |
| Passengers Departures (000's)-BIA | 3,822 | 1,364 | 1,442 | 295 | 368 | 292 |
| Total exports of goods (million USD) | 2,977 | 1,107 | 1,205 | 237 | 235 | 240 |
| Total imports of goods (million USD) | 18,705 | 7,861 | 7,923 | 1,629 | 1,414 | 1,559 |
| Balance of Trade (million USD) | -15,728 | -6,754 | -6,718 | -1,392 | -1,179 | -1,319 |
| Changes of Net Foreign Assets in the banking system (million USD) | 1,238 | -1,761 | -358 | -862 | -321 | -592 |
| Gross Foreign Currency Reserves (End of period-million USD) | 34,028 | - | - | 32,026 | 33,525 | 32,750 |
| Consumer Price Index (End of period) | 98.93 | - | - | 95.62 | 99.77 | 99.72 |

Sources: BDL ,Lebanese Customs, Consultation & Research Institute, Order of engineers, Beirut International Airport, Port of Beirut, Ministry of Industry.



TOTAL IMPORTS & EXPORTS BY PRODUCT

(Million US Dollars)

| | | Imp | orts | | Exp | orts |
|----------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Goods | | Jan - May | Jan - May | | Jan - May | Jan - May |
| | 2016 | 2016 | 2017 | 2016 | 2016 | 2017 |
| 1- Live animals, animal products | 837 | 309 | 339 | 14 | 6 | 5 |
| 2- Vegetable products | 869 | 384 | 442 | 189 | 64 | 60 |
| 3- Fats & edible fats & oils | 158 | 72 | 71 | 39 | 18 | 16 |
| 4- Prepared foodstuffs | 1,408 | 549 | 604 | 446 | 194 | 203 |
| 5- Mineral products | 3,745 | 1,921 | 1,621 | 19 | 8 | 33 |
| 6- Products of the chemical | 2,030 | 867 | 870 | 304 | 122 | 126 |
| 7- Plastics & articles thereof | 730 | 303 | 302 | 133 | 54 | 55 |
| 8- Raw hides & skins, leather, furskins | 74 | 29 | 26 | 12 | 6 | 5 |
| 9- Wood & articles of wood | 229 | 92 | 85 | 13 | 5 | 5 |
| 10- Paper & paperboard & articles thereof | 317 | 131 | 117 | 133 | 52 | 56 |
| 11- Textiles & textile articles | 791 | 332 | 316 | 85 | 35 | 30 |
| 12- Footwear, headgear, prepared feathers | 153 | 69 | 63 | 12 | 5 | 5 |
| 13- Articles of stone, plaster, cement | 467 | 186 | 192 | 22 | 10 | 9 |
| 14- Pearls, precious or semi-precious stones | 1,255 | 380 | 472 | 828 | 209 | 280 |
| 15- Base metals & articles of base metal | 1,174 | 466 | 531 | 253 | 111 | 134 |
| 16- Machinery & mechanical appliances | 1,879 | 755 | 785 | 334 | 150 | 133 |
| 17-Transport equipment | 1,773 | 687 | 752 | 18 | 7 | 7 |
| 18- Optical instruments & apparatus | 331 | 135 | 144 | 19 | 7 | 7 |
| 19- Arms & ammunition | 16 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 20- Miscellaneous manufactured articles | 450 | 181 | 181 | 93 | 43 | 33 |
| 21- Works of art | 19 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| Total | 18,705 | 7,861 | 7,923 | 2,977 | 1,107 | 1,205 |

Source: Lebanese Customs.

IMPORTS BY ORIGIN (Million US Dollars)

Jan - May Share Jan - May Share 2016 2017 % CHINA 840 10.7 755 9.5 **ITALY** 599 7.6 617 7.8 **GREECE** 358 4.6 610 7.7 **GERMANY** 456 5.8 507 6.4 USA 584 7.4 491 6.2 RUSSIAN FEDERATION 315 4.0 362 4.6 279 330 TURKEY 3.5 4.2 **EGYPT** 199 2.5 288 3.6 **FRANCE** 301 3.8 280 3.5 **KUWAIT** 398 5.1 208 2.6 OTHER COUNTRIES 3,532 44.9 3,475 43.9 TOTAL IMPORTS 7,861 100.0 7,923 100.0

Source: Lebanese Customs.

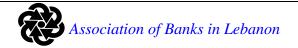
EXPORTS BY DESTINATION (Million US Dollars)

| | Jan - May | Share | Jan - May | Share |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| | 2016 | % | 2017 | % |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 139 | 12.6 | 156 | 12.9 |
| SYRIA | 71 | 6.4 | 114 | 9.5 |
| UAE | 105 | 9.5 | 103 | 8.5 |
| SAUDI ARABIA | 124 | 11.2 | 103 | 8.5 |
| SWITZERLAND | 22 | 2.0 | 72 | 6.0 |
| IRAQ | 68 | 6.1 | 71 | 5.9 |
| TURKEY | 29 | 2.6 | 45 | 3.7 |
| JORDAN | 43 | 3.9 | 40 | 3.3 |
| KUWAIT | 26 | 2.3 | 37 | 3.1 |
| QATAR | 30 | 2.7 | 28 | 2.3 |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 450 | 40.7 | 436 | 36.2 |
| TOTAL EXPORTS | 1.107 | 100.0 | 1,205 | 100.0 |

Source: Lebanese Customs.

THE CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET OF COMMERCIAL BANKS OPERATING IN LEBANON (End of Period - Billion LBP)

| | 20 |)16 | | 2017 | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | May | Dec | Mar | Apr | May |
| ASSETS | | | | | |
| Reserves | 110,787 | 135,305 | 130,178 | 129,510 | 129,632 |
| -Cash | 769 | 693 | 740 | 763 | 804 |
| -Deposits at the Central Bank | 110,018 | 134,612 | 129,438 | 128,747 | 128,828 |
| Claims on the Private Sector | 73,969 | 76,943 | 77,180 | 77,687 | 78,478 |
| -Claims denominated in Lebanese Pound | 21,300 | 23,607 | 24,393 | 24,713 | 25,142 |
| -Claims denominated in Foreign Currencies | 52,669 | 53,335 | 52,787 | 52,974 | 53,336 |
| Claims on the Public Sector | 56,622 | 52,344 | 56,902 | 56,372 | 56,432 |
| o/w -Treasury Bills in Lebanese Pound | 28,913 | 28,936 | 31,727 | 31,450 | 31,582 |
| -Treasury Bills in Foreign Currencies | 27,555 | 23,191 | 24,981 | 24,729 | 24,654 |
| Foreign Assets | 34,788 | 34,824 | 37,352 | 38,580 | 38,535 |
| -Claims on Non-Resident Private Sector | 9,731 | 9,256 | 9,021 | 9,123 | 8,767 |
| -Claims on Non-Resident Banks | 15,698 | 16,945 | 19,697 | 20,929 | 21,139 |
| -Other Foreign Assets | 9,360 | 8,623 | 8,634 | 8,528 | 8,629 |
| Fixed Assets | 7,410 | 7,857 | 7,770 | 7,798 | 7,831 |
| Unclassified Assets | 782 | 726 | 793 | 792 | 975 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 284,356 | 307,999 | 310,176 | 310,739 | 311,883 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Liabilities to the Private Sector | 183,706 | 193,765 | 196,188 | 197,378 | 198,694 |
| -Demand Deposits in Lebanese Pound | 4,942 | 5,437 | 5,286 | 5,445 | 5,587 |
| -Other Deposits in Lebanese Pound | 70,057 | 71,467 | 71,916 | 71,728 | 71,526 |
| -Deposits in Foreign Currencies | 108,708 | 116,861 | 118,986 | 120,206 | 121,580 |
| Liabilities to the Public Sector | 5,605 | 5,956 | 6,412 | 6,297 | 6,430 |
| Deposits of Non-Residents | 48,279 | 51,196 | 51,572 | 52,090 | 51,765 |
| -Denominated in Lebanese Pound | 6,680 | 6,827 | 6,706 | 6,710 | 6,589 |
| -Denominated in Foreign Currencies | 41,598 | 44,369 | 44,866 | 45,380 | 45,175 |
| Liabilities to Non-Resident Banks | 9,293 | 9,467 | 9,674 | 9,610 | 9,804 |
| Bonds | 417 | 408 | 443 | 437 | 454 |
| Capital Base | 25,948 | 27,497 | 27,829 | 28,255 | 28,159 |
| -Core Capital | 24,119 | 25,660 | 26,003 | 26,429 | 26,332 |
| -Supplementary Capital | 1,829 | 1,838 | 1,825 | 1,826 | 1,826 |
| Unclassified Liabilities | 11,109 | 19,708 | 18,058 | 16,672 | 16,578 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 284,356 | 307,999 | 310,176 | 310,739 | 311,883 |



MONEY SUPPLY AND COUNTERPARTS (End of Period - Billion LBP)

| | 20 | 16 | 2017 | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | May | Dec | Mar | Apr | May |
| Money Supply | | | | | |
| Currency in circulation | 4,034 | 4,592 | 4,273 | 4,370 | 4,376 |
| + Demand Deposits in LBP | 5,022 | 5,567 | 5,379 | 5,530 | 5,655 |
| = M1 | 9,056 | 10,159 | 9,652 | 9,900 | 10,031 |
| + Other Deposits in LBP | 70,814 | 72,269 | 72,884 | 72,700 | 72,478 |
| = M2 | 79,871 | 82,428 | 82,536 | 82,599 | 82,509 |
| + Deposits in Foreign Currencies | 109,278 | 117,499 | 119,603 | 120,992 | 122,393 |
| + Bonds | 275 | 266 | 279 | 277 | 284 |
| = M3 | 189,424 | 200,192 | 202,418 | 203,869 | 205,187 |
| + Treasury Bills Held by the Public | 10,864 | 10,797 | 10,964 | 10,756 | 10,732 |
| = M4 | 200,288 | 210,989 | 213,382 | 214,625 | 215,919 |
| Counterparts of the Money Supply | | | | | |
| Net Foreign Assets | 45,918 | 49,712 | 52,033 | 51,931 | 51,268 |
| o/w Gold | 16,838 | 16,138 | 17,284 | 17,616 | 17,581 |
| Net Claims on the Public Sector | 73,801 | 76,778 | 76,390 | 76,290 | 76,601 |
| Valuation Adjustment | -8,527 | -7,707 | -8,929 | -9,353 | -9,442 |
| Claims on the Private Sector | 77,212 | 80,188 | 80,461 | 80,996 | 81,789 |
| Claims in LBP | 22,435 | 24,918 | 25,736 | 26,081 | 26,511 |
| Claims in FC | 54,777 | 55,270 | 54,725 | 54,915 | 55,278 |
| Other Items (Net) | 1,019 | 1,222 | 2,464 | 4,004 | 4,970 |
| TOTAL | 189,424 | 200,192 | 202,418 | 203,869 | 205,187 |

OUTSTANDING PUBLIC DEBT BY TYPE OF HOLDER

(End of Period - Billion LBP) (Actual Value*)

| Year And | | Total Debt | | | urrency ebt | | | Fo | reign Curro Debt | ency | |
|-------------|-----|---------------|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|--------|-------|-------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Month | | | Central Bank | Banks | Others ⁽¹⁾ | Total | IDI** | FG+ | Paris II loans | Others ⁽²⁾ | Total |
| 2015 | Dec | 106,031 | 24,308 | 29,878 | 11,009 | 65,195 | 1,515 | 1,585 | 83 | 37,653 | 40,836 |
| 2016 | May | 107,776 | 24,432 | 28,745 | 10,864 | 64,041 | 1,601 | 1,513 | 67 | 40,554 | 43,735 |
| | Jun | 109,893 | 28,560 | 26,749 | 10,967 | 66,276 | 1,603 | 1,514 | 67 | 40,433 | 43,617 |
| | Jul | 110,631 | 30,023 | 25,831 | 11,040 | 66,894 | 1,590 | 1,508 | 67 | 40,572 | 43,737 |
| | Aug | 111,632 | 30,442 | 26,154 | 11,175 | 67,771 | 1,595 | 1,519 | 50 | 40,697 | 43,861 |
| | Sep | 112,663 | 30,183 | 27,724 | 10,885 | 68,792 | 1,596 | 1,519 | 51 | 40,705 | 43,871 |
| | Oct | 112,338 | 30,215 | 27,540 | 10,831 | 68,586 | 1,590 | 1,472 | 50 | 40,640 | 43,752 |
| | Nov | 112,379 | 30,436 | 28,591 | 10,863 | 69,890 | 1,577 | 1,386 | 48 | 39,478 | 42,489 |
| | Dec | 112,910 | 30,150 | 29,581 | 10,797 | 70,528 | 1,577 | 1,395 | 48 | 39,362 | 42,382 |
| 2017 | Jan | 114,846 | 30,038 | 31,704 | 10,590 | 72,332 | 1,571 | 1,412 | 49 | 39,482 | 42,514 |
| | Feb | 114,799 | 28,915 | 32,202 | 10,919 | 72,036 | 1,750 | 1,408 | 32 | 39,573 | 42,763 |
| | Mar | 116,356 | 27,942 | 32,393 | 10,964 | 71,299 | 1,774 | 1,412 | 32 | 41,839 | 45,057 |
| | Apr | 115,976 | 27,984 | 32,183 | 10,756 | 70,923 | 1,820 | 1,397 | 33 | 41,803 | 45,053 |
| | May | 115,652 | 27,767 | 32,420 | 10,732 | 70,919 | 1,863 | 1,353 | 33 | 41,484 | 44,733 |

Source :BDL.

TREASURY BILLS PORTFOLIO IN LBP (Face value, Billion LBP)

| Year And | | In | | | Weighted Average | Weighted Average |
|-------------|-----|---------------|-------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Month | | Circulation | Issue | Reimbursement | Life | Interest |
| | | End of period | | | (days) | (%) |
| 2015 | Dec | 64,112 | 905 | 958 | 1,222 | 6.94 |
| 2016 | May | 62,930 | 2,172 | 4,504 | 1,232 | 6.95 |
| | Jun | 65,280 | 3,403 | 1,053 | 1,283 | 6.96 |
| | Jul | 65,765 | 1,748 | 1,263 | 1,286 | 6.96 |
| | Aug | 66,535 | 1,652 | 885 | 1,278 | 6.95 |
| | Sep | 67,627 | 2,630 | 1,538 | 1,281 | 6.94 |
| | Oct | 67,346 | 1,092 | 1,373 | 1,283 | 6.95 |
| | Nov | 68,498 | 1,732 | 580 | 1,272 | 6.94 |
| | Dec | 69,347 | 1,900 | 1,051 | 1,269 | 6.92 |
| 2017 | Jan | 71,034 | 3,109 | 1,422 | 1,298 | 6.87 |
| | Feb | 70,716 | 1,670 | 1,988 | 1,308 | 6.87 |
| | Mar | 70,067 | 1,964 | 2,613 | 1,330 | 6.89 |
| | Apr | 69,605 | 916 | 1,378 | 1,328 | 6.89 |
| | May | 69,498 | 1,318 | 1,425 | 1,332 | 6.90 |



^{*} The figures are equal to the principal paid plus the interests due.

^{**} IDI : International Development Institutions.

⁺ FG: Foreign Governments.

⁽¹⁾ Include: public TB's, public entities TB's and financial institutions TB's.

⁽²⁾ Include: Eurobonds holders (banks, non banks, residents and non residents), foreign private sector loans and special TB's in FC (expropriation bonds).

AVERAGE INTEREST RATES

| Yea | ır | Average I | Lending ** | Average | Deposit | Inter | 3m | Inte | rest rate | es on TB | s (last is | sue) | | | | | | |
|------|-----|-----------|------------|---------|----------|--------|-------|------|-----------|----------|------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| And | d | Rate on | Funds in | Rate on | Funds in | Bank | Libor | 3-m | 6-m | 12-m | 24-m | 36-m | 60-m | 84-m | 96-m | 120-m | 144-m | 180-m |
| Mon | th | LBP | US\$ | LBP | US\$ | Rate * | \$ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2015 | Dec | 7.45 | 7.06 | 5.56 | 3.17 | 3.03 | 0.54 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | | | 7.33 | | |
| 2016 | May | 8.53 | 7.29 | 5.58 | 3.26 | 3.01 | 0.65 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Jun | 8.31 | 7.20 | 5.56 | 3.31 | 3.80 | 0.65 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Jul | 8.32 | 7.25 | 5.57 | 3.30 | 3.04 | 0.70 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Aug | 8.29 | 7.28 | 5.56 | 3.39 | 3.02 | 0.81 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Sep | 8.44 | 7.20 | 5.58 | 3.43 | 3.00 | 0.85 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Oct | 8.35 | 7.06 | 5.53 | 3.43 | 3.03 | 0.88 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Nov | 8.26 | 7.16 | 5.54 | 3.48 | 3.00 | 0.91 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Dec | 8.23 | 7.35 | 5.56 | 3.52 | 3.00 | 0.98 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 4.94 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| 2017 | Jan | 8.47 | 7.26 | 5.55 | 3.52 | 3.03 | 1.03 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 4.94 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Feb | 8.37 | 7.14 | 5.56 | 3.57 | 3.00 | 1.05 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Mar | 8.43 | 7.32 | 5.57 | 3.53 | 3.00 | 1.14 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | Apr | 8.33 | 7.22 | 5.54 | 3.62 | 3.13 | 1.16 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |
| | May | 8.48 | 7.36 | 5.57 | 3.62 | 3.00 | 1.19 | 4.39 | 4.87 | 5.08 | 5.76 | 6.40 | 6.63 | 6.96 | | 7.33 | | |

Sources: BDL, Société Financière du Liban s.a.l.

END OF PERIOD EXCHANGE RATES

(LBP per other currencies)

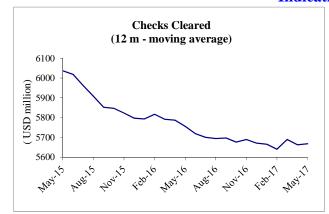
| Year and | | US | S Swiss I | | Japanese | Euro |
|----------|-----|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Month | | Dollar | Franc | Pound | Yen | |
| 2015 | Dec | 1,507.50 | 1,520.88 | 2,232.46 | 12.51 | 1,646.64 |
| 2016 | May | 1,507.50 | 1,522.57 | 2,202.91 | 13.57 | 1,681.31 |
| | Jun | 1,507.50 | 1,544.89 | 2,033.47 | 14.66 | 1,680.11 |
| | Jul | 1,507.50 | 1,542.20 | 1,983.87 | 14.53 | 1,673.48 |
| | Aug | 1,507.50 | 1,531.70 | 1,980.55 | 14.60 | 1,679.66 |
| | Sep | 1,507.50 | 1,556.37 | 1,954.93 | 14.92 | 1,685.84 |
| | Oct | 1,507.50 | 1,524.58 | 1,834.63 | 14.35 | 1,650.86 |
| | Nov | 1,507.50 | 1,485.81 | 1,877.74 | 13.31 | 1,605.19 |
| | Dec | 1,507.50 | 1,485.81 | 1,856.03 | 12.90 | 1,596.29 |
| 2017 | Jan | 1,507.50 | 1,518.43 | 1,878.80 | 13.28 | 1,620.41 |
| | Feb | 1,507.50 | 1,500.75 | 1,875.33 | 13.43 | 1,598.55 |
| | Mar | 1,507.50 | 1,507.20 | 1,878.50 | 13.48 | 1,612.12 |
| | Apr | 1,507.50 | 1,518.13 | 1,949.80 | 13.55 | 1,643.78 |
| | May | 1.507.50 | 1,552.36 | 1,935.33 | 13.60 | 1,690.51 |

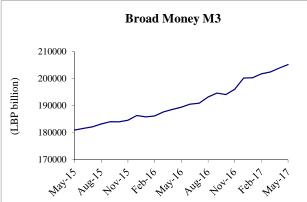


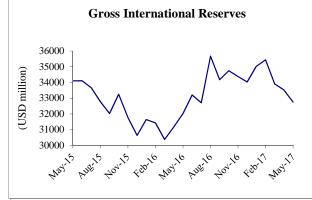
^{*} On Funds in LBP, weighted by daily volume.

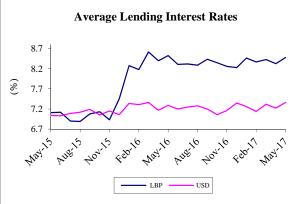
^{**} Starting January 2016, lending rates are calculated according to intermediary circular No 389.

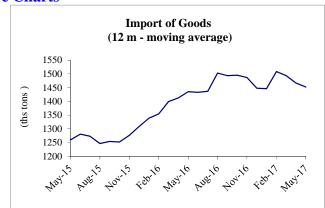
Indicative Charts

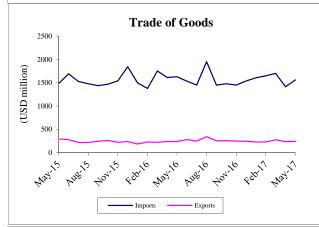


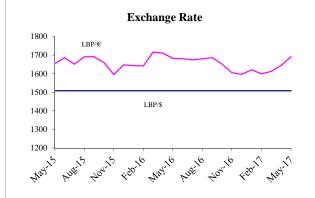


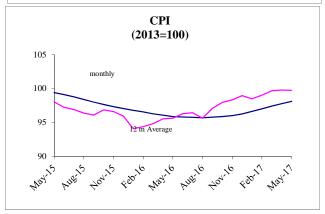












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