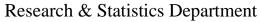


# ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN LEBANON





The Economic Letter

September 2022

# Summary:

In the first three quarters of 2022, real sector indicators were mixed in relation to the corresponding period of the previous year. The overall balance of payments deficit almost doubled and the gross foreign currency reserves continued to diminish despite some reversals in September. Deposits and loans at banks retreated further at a relatively slow pace and inflation remained high and close to 75 percent.

# In this issue:

| Real sector           | <i>p</i> 2 |
|-----------------------|------------|
| External sector       | <i>p</i> 2 |
| Financial sector      | p4         |
| Monetary developments | <i>p5</i>  |
| Public finances       | <i>p</i> 6 |
| Statistical appendix  | <i>p</i> 8 |

### Tables:

|   | _           |
|---|-------------|
| General indicators of economic activities | p8          |
| Total imports & exports by product        | <i>p</i> 9  |
| Imports by origin                         | <i>p</i> 9  |
| Exports by destination                    | <i>p</i> 9  |
| Consolidated balance sheet of banks       | p10         |
| Money supply and Counterparts             | p11         |
| Outstanding public debt                   | <i>p</i> 12 |
| Treasury bills portfolio                  | <i>p12</i>  |
| Interest rates                            | p13         |
| Exchange rates                            | p13         |
|   |             |

### Charts:

Indicative charts

p14

#### I- REAL SECTOR

#### 1-Construction and Real Estate

|   | Sep-22 | Aug-22 | Sep-21 | Change %<br>Sep 2022/Sep<br>2021 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Construction permits                        |        |        |        |                                  |
| Area (s.m)                                  | n.a    | n.a    | n.a    | -                                |
| Number (permits)                            | n.a    | n.a    | n.a    | -                                |
| Cement deliveries (000 tons)                | 224    | 208    | 138    | -                                |
| Collected real estate fees (LBP billion)    | 172.4  | 151.6  | 148.7  | 15.9                             |
| Real estate sales operations (number)       | 7,767  | 8,367  | 13,527 | -42.6                            |
| Value of Real estate sales<br>(LBP billion) | 2,315  | 2,736  | 2,969  | -22.0                            |
| Real estate transactions (number)           | 13,899 | 15,627 | 22,346 | -37.8                            |

Sources: BDL, Order of Engineers of Beirut and Tripoli, General Directorate of Land Registry & Cadastre.

#### 2-Tourism

Indicators of tourism activity retreated on average in September 2022 in respect of the past month but improved compared to September 2021.

|                                       | Sep-22  | Aug-22  | Sep-21  | Change %<br>Sep 2022/Sep<br>2021 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Number of arriving passengers at BIA  | 278,943 | 318,605 | 183,225 | 52.2                             |
| Number of departing passengers at BIA | 366,811 | 471,185 | 274,115 | 33.8                             |
| Inbound Aircrafts at BIA (flights)    | 2,538   | 2,964   | 1,993   | 27.3                             |
| Outbound Aircrafts at BIA (flights)   | 2,540   | 2,957   | 1,989   | 27.7                             |

Sources: Beirut International Airport, Ministry of Tourism.

# **3-Trade and Services**

Trade and services indicators weakened on average in September 2022 vis-à-vis the previous month but were mixed in relation to September 2021.

| Sep-22  | Aug-22   | Sep-21  | Change %<br>Sep 2022/Sep<br>2021   |
|---------|--|---|--|
|         |  |   |  |
| 2,436   | 3,257  | 2,514   | -3.1   |
| 81      | 102  | 205   | -60.5  |
|         |  |   |  |
| 21      | 23   | 76  | -72.4  |
| 536     | 724  | 1,950   | -72.5  |
| 101     | 105  | 95  | 6.3  |
| 456,851 | 441,100  | 292,954   | 55.9   |
| 103,733 | 75,093   | 102,358   | 1.3  |
| 13,433  | 15,436   | 10,919  | 23.0   |
| n.a     | n.a  | 7.6   | -  |
|         |  |   |  |
| 2,440   | 2,561  | 2,209   | 10.5   |
| 2,620   | 3,093  | 3,091   | -15.2  |
|         | 2,436<br>81<br>21<br>536<br>101<br>456,851<br>103,733<br>13,433<br>n.a | 2,436 3,257 81 102  21 23 536 724 101 105  456,851 441,100 103,733 75,093 13,433 15,436 n.a n.a | 2,436     3,257     2,514       81     102     205       21     23     76       536     724     1,950       101     105     95       456,851     441,100     292,954       103,733     75,093     102,358       13,433     15,436     10,919       n.a     n.a     7.6       2,440     2,561     2,209 |

Sources: BDL, Port of Beirut, Beirut International Airport.

#### 4-Industry and Agriculture

|                                   | May-22  | Apr-22  | May-21  | Change %<br>May<br>2022/May<br>2021 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Electricity production (MKWH)     | 280     | 316     | 759     | -63.1                               |
|                                   | Jul-22  | Jun-22  | Jul-21  | Change % Jul 2022/Jul               |
| Imports of gas oil                |         |         |         | 2021                                |
| Value (million USD)               | 153.8   | 323.3   | 127.7   | 20.4                                |
| Volume (tons)                     | 117,816 | 232,680 | 303,429 | -61.2                               |
| Agriculture imports (USD million) | 120.7   | 116.4   | 70.7    | 70.7                                |
| Agriculture exports (USD million) | 18.5    | 23.4    | 16.1    | 14.9                                |

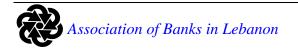
Source: BDL, Lebanese Customs.

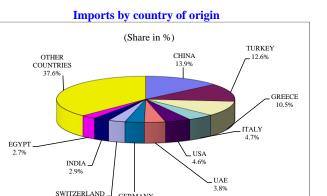
### II- EXTERNAL SECTOR

#### In July 2022,

**Imports of goods** decreased to USD 1,493 million compared to USD 1,760 million in the previous month (USD 1,150 million in July 2021). Yet, imports augmented by 34.1 percent in the first seven months of 2022 compared to the same months of 2021, driven by higher prices and not larger quantities.

In the first seven months of 2022, mineral products lead imported goods with a 28.9 percent share of total imports, they were followed by machinery and electrical instruments (12.6 percent), then transportation equipment which accounted for 10.8 percent. China topped the list of imports by country of origin with a 13.9 percent share of total. Turkey came next with a share of 12.6 percent followed by Greece (10.5 percent) and Italy (4.7 percent).





Source: Lebanese Customs

| LBP billion                                       | Sep-22 | Aug-22 | Sep-21 | Change % Sept 2022/Sept 2021 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------|
| Documentary L/Cs for import (opened credits)      | 23.4   | 24.8   | 3.5    | 568.6                        |
| Documentary L/Cs for import (utilized credits)    | 42.9   | 40.7   | 3.7    | 1059.5                       |
| Bills for collection for import:<br>Inward bills  | 21.4   | 22.1   | 14.5   | 47.6                         |
| Documentary L/Cs for export (opened credits)      | 4.0    | 16.2   | 12.2   | -67.2                        |
| Documentary L/Cs for export (utilized credits)    | 29.8   | 1.4    | 3.5    | 751.4                        |
| Bills for collection for export:<br>Outward bills | 12.3   | 18.1   | 29.1   | -57.7                        |

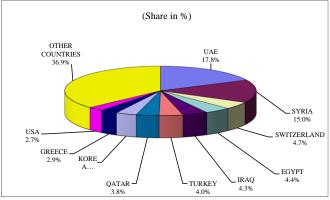
Source: BDL

#### In July 2022,

**Exports of goods** decreased to USD 192 million compared to USD 258 million in the previous month and USD 272 million in July 2021. Yet, exports increased in the first seven months of 2022 by 12.8 percent in relation to the same period of 2021.

On a cumulative basis, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones were on top of the list with a share of 19.4 percent of total exports, followed by plastics products (16.0 percent) and base metals & articles of base metals (15.2 percent). UAE outperformed all others in terms of exports by country of destination with 17.8 percent share of the total, trailed by Syria with a share of 15.0 percent, followed by Switzerland (4.7 percent) and Egypt (4.4 percent).





Source: Lebanese Customs

**The trade deficit** decreased as such to USD 1,301 million from USD 1,501 million in June 2021 (USD 878 million in July 2021). It increased, however, by 40.7 percent in the first seven months of 2022 in respect of the alike period of 2021.

#### **External Sector Indicators**

|                          | Jul-22  | Jun-22  | Jul-21  |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Imports                  |         |         |         |
| Value (million USD)      | 1,493   | 1,760   | 1,150   |
| Volume (tons)            | 736,226 | 889,122 | 982,736 |
| Exports                  |         |         |         |
| Value (million USD)      | 192     | 258     | 272     |
| Volume (tons)            | 92,764  | 118,132 | 115,554 |
| Source: Lebanese Customs |         |         |         |

| USD million                     | Sep-22 | Aug-22 | Sep-21 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Balance of payments             | 49     | -314   | 785    |
| Gross foreign currency reserves | 10,779 | 10,628 | 14,620 |

Source: BDL.

The overall balance of payments reported a surplus of USD 49 million in September 2022 following a deficit of USD 314 million in the previous month (USD 785 million surplus in September 2021). The USD 3,053 million negative balance recorded in the first nine months of 2022 represented a decrease in net foreign assets of the central bank (USD -3,322 million) partly offset by an increase in net foreign assets of banks and financial institutions (USD +269 million).

Gross foreign currency reserves of the Central bank increased to USD 10,779 million at the end of September 2022 compared to USD 10,628 million at the end of the previous month (USD 14,620 million at end September 2021). BDL foreign assets securities stood almost unchanged at USD 4,131 million in September 2022 compared to USD 4,129 million at the end of August 2022 (USD 4,184 million at the end of September 2021).

#### **III-FINANCIAL SECTOR**

#### 1. Commercial Banks

**Total consolidated assets of commercial banks operating in Lebanon** amounted to LBP 251,768 billion at the end of September 2022 (USD 167.0 billion at the official exchange rate), decreasing by 4.5 percent from end December 2021 (4.4 percent decrease in the first nine months of 2021).

**Commercial Banks Balance Sheet -Main items** 

| Commercial Dames Da                     | unce pheet | IVIUIII ICCI | 110     |
|---|------------|--------------|---------|
| End of period-LBP billion               | Sep-21     | Aug-22       | Sep-22  |
| Total Assets                            | 270,871    | 254,388      | 251,768 |
| Total deposits                          | 207,543    | 194,133      | 194,039 |
| Resident customers' deposits            | 158,190    | 150,905      | 150,620 |
| Non-resident customers' deposits        | 39,106     | 35,614       | 35,274  |
| Resident financial sector liabilities   | 2,430      | 1,950        | 2,479   |
| Public sector deposits                  | 7,817      | 5,665        | 5,666   |
| Non deposit liabilities                 | 37,840     | 34,804       | 32,538  |
| Capital accounts                        | 25,488     | 25,450       | 25,191  |
| Total claims on customers               | 44,930     | 34,124       | 33,285  |
| Resident customers                      | 39,474     | 30,533       | 29,736  |
| Non-resident customers                  | 5,456      | 3,591        | 3,549   |
| Total claims on public sector           | 28,239     | 21,343       | 19,929  |
| in LBP                                  | 16,750     | 15,455       | 14,293  |
| in FC                                   | 11,490     | 5,888        | 5,636   |
| Claims on non resident Financial sector | 7,122      | 6,017        | 6,018   |
| Non-resident securities portfolio       | 602        | 760          | 734     |
| Other foreign assets*                   | 11,924     | 9,596        | 9,104   |
| Deposits at the central bank            | 163,600    | 163,186      | 163,269 |

Source: BDL.

Total deposits at commercial banks, including resident and non-resident private sector deposits and public sector deposits decreased by 4.3 percent in the first nine months of 2022 and constituted 77.1 percent of

total assets with an equivalent value of LBP 194,039 billion (around USD 128.7 billion at the official exchange rate) at the end of the period.

The breakdown of total deposits shows that private sector deposits denominated in LBP increased by 4.7 percent in the first nine months of 2022 while those denominated in foreign currencies decreased by 5.6 percent, thus deposit dollarization rate decreased to 77.7 percent at end September 2022 (79.4 percent at the end of December 2021).

The itemization of total deposits reveals a decrease in public sector deposits (-24.8 percent), non-resident private sector deposits (-4.6 percent) and resident private sector deposits (-3.2 percent) in the first nine months of 2022. Subsequently, resident private sector deposits accounted for 78.9 percent of total deposits at end September 2022 (18.2 percent for non-resident private sector and 2.9 percent for public sector deposits).

Total capital accounts amounted to LBP 25,191 billion (USD 16,710 million) at the end of September 2022 and represented around 10.0 percent of total assets. Capital accounts decreased by 6.0 percent from end December 2021.

Total claims on the resident and non-resident customers declined by 19.8 percent in the first nine months of 2022, reaching LBP 33,285 billion at the end of September 2022. The dollarization rate of these loans was 52.5 percent at the end of the stated month, and the ratio of total claims on resident and non-resident customers to total deposits attained 17.7 percent.

Total claims on the public sector were equivalent to LBP 19,929 billion at the end of September 2022, thus decreasing by 21.0 percent from end December 2021. Commercial banks held at the end of the stated month LBP 14,044 billion in Lebanese Treasury bills (15.3 percent of the total portfolio in circulation) and USD 3,739 million of Eurobonds net of provisions.

Deposits at the Central Bank (including CDs) amounted to LBP 163,269 billion at the end of September 2022 (- 0.6 percent from end December 2021), whereas claims on non-resident financial sector amounted to LBP 6,018 billion (USD 4.0 billion) that is decreasing by 13.0 percent from end December 2021 to represent 4.1 percent of private sector deposits in foreign currencies.

<sup>\*</sup>Including currency and deposits with other central banks-NR.

#### 2. Investment Banks

**Total consolidated assets of investment banks operating in Lebanon** (including medium and long term credit banks) amounted to LBP 5,904 billion (around USD 3.9 billion at the official exchange rate) at the end of September 2022, thus decreasing by 2.3 percent from end December 2021. Deposits, including those of resident and non –resident customers and resident financial sector decreased by 8.0 percent in the first nine months of 2022 to reach LBP 1,546 billion at the end of the period.

#### 3. Financial Markets

The total number of shares traded on the Beirut Stock Exchange amounted to 4,716 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 34.0 million in September 2022 compared to 900 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 33.7 million in August 2022 (3,143 thousand shares with a value of USD 52.5 million in September 2021).

During September 2022, the traded value by economic sectors was as such: 88.6 percent for Development and Reconstruction, 8.4 percent for Banking and 3.0 percent for Industrial.

**Capital Markets** 

|   | Sep-21 | Aug-22 | Sep-22 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| BSE   |        |        |        |
| Traded shares (000)   | 3,143  | 900    | 4,716  |
| Traded value (USD million)                                  | 52.5   | 33.7   | 34.0   |
| Market capitalization                                       | 10,036 | 13,355 | 12,811 |
| (USD million)   |        |        |        |
| Outstanding treasury bills (LBP billion)                    | 90,616 | 93,672 | 91,985 |
| Outstanding sovereign Eurobonds (USD million)               | 31,314 | 31,314 | 31,314 |
| Outstanding private sector (banks) securities (USD million) | 950    | 650    | 650    |

Source: BDL, BSE

The market capitalization of listed shares decreased to USD 12,811 million at the end of September 2022, from USD 13,355 million at the end of August 2022 (USD 10,036 million at the end of September 2021). Banking had 29.0 percent weight, whereas Development and Construction 66.1 percent.

The face value of the outstanding treasury bills portfolio denominated in the domestic currency amounted to LBP 91,985 billion at the end of September 2022 (LBP 93,672 billion at the end of August 2022) and the value of the outstanding sovereign bonds portfolio denominated in foreign currencies (Eurobonds) amounted to USD 31,314 million (as at end February 2020).

The outstanding value of bank-issued certificates of deposits, notes and bonds amounted to USD 650 million at the end of September 2022. The outstanding value of the certificates of deposits issued by BDL in the domestic currency stood almost unchanged at LBP 43,159 billion but those issued in FC decreased to USD 19.8 billion at the end of September 2022.

#### IV- MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

The stock of money and quasi money (M3) attained LBP 208,725 billion at the end of September 2022, of which 55.1 percent denominated in foreign currencies, thus increasing by 3.8 percent from end December 2021.

**Money Supply & Counterparts** 

| LBP billion                 | Sep-21  | Aug-22   | Sep-22   |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| M3                          | 200,354 | 192,515  | 208,725  |
| Net foreign assets          | 22,578  | 17,351   | 16,566   |
| Net claims on public sector | 71,671  | 59,628   | 58,099   |
| Valuation Adjustment        | -16,956 | -17,640  | -17,019  |
| Claims on private sector    | 43,105  | 33,983   | 33,128   |
| Other items-net             | 79,956  | 99,193   | 117,951  |
| CAS CPI (Dec 2013=100)      | 613.96  | 1,486.59 | 1,611.43 |
|                             |         |          |          |

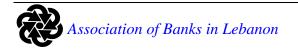
Source: BDL, CAS.

The LBP 7,656 billion increase in M3 in the first nine months of 2022 resulted from an increase in net items, other than foreign assets and claims on private and public sectors (+LBP 30,134 billion) and valuation adjustment (+LBP 853 billion) against a decrease in each of net claims on public sector (-LBP 9,406 billion), claims on the private sector (-LBP 7,541 billion) and net foreign assets (-LBP 6,384 billion).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Beirut and Suburbs, published by the Consultation and Research Institute, increased by 13.2 percent in the month of September 2022 compared to the previous month and by 72.6 percent from December 2021.

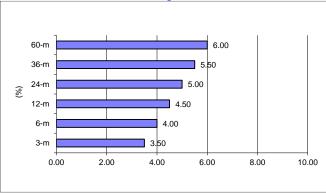
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Lebanon, published by the Central Administration of Statistics increased by 8.4 percent in September 2022 compared to August 2022 and by 74.9 percent from December 2021.

The interest rates on LBP monetary instruments on 45 and 60- day certificates of deposits issued by BDL were 2.90 percent and 3.08 percent respectively at the



end of September 2022. The yields on the issued Lebanese Treasury bills in LBP read at the end of the stated month: 3.50 percent for three-month bills, 4.0 percent for six-month bills, 4.50 percent for one-year bills, 5.0 percent for two-year bills, 5.50 percent for three-year bills, 6.0 percent for five-year bills. There were no issues for 7-year and 10-year bills during the stated month.

Yield on Lebanese treasury bills denominated in LBP (Last issue of September 2022)



Source: BDL

In September 2022, the average interest rate on new or renewed LBP deposits at commercial banks increased to 0.66 percent (0.60 percent a month ago) and stood almost unchanged on new or renewed USD deposits (0.09 percent compared to 0.10 percent in August 2022). The average 3-month USD LIBOR was 3.45 percent.

Interest rates on new or renewed deposits at banks



In September 2022, the average interest rate on new or renewed loans at commercial banks denominated in LBP increased to 5.09 percent (4.85 percent a month ago) but decreased on new or renewed loans in FC to 4.61 percent (5.51 percent in the previous month).

#### V- PUBLIC FINANCES

Government revenues, including budget revenues and treasury receipts attained LBP 2,298 billion in December 2021 to sum to LBP 20,263 billion in the year 2021 (LBP 15,342 billion in 2020). The LBP 20,263 billion revenues comprised LBP 15,237 billion tax revenues, LBP 3,565 billion non-tax revenues and LBP 1,461 billion treasury receipts.

| Fiscal | Situ | ation |
|--------|------|-------|

| LBP billion             | Dec-20 | Nov-21 | Dec-21 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Government revenues     | 1,826  | 1,826  | 2,298  |
| Tax revenues            | 1,105  | 1,252  | 1,740  |
| Non-tax revenues        | 541    | 446    | 379    |
| Treasury receipts       | 180    | 128    | 179    |
| Government expenditures | 1,871  | 1,658  | 1,687  |
| Debt service            | 443    | 172    | 318    |
| Others                  | 1,428  | 1,486  | 1,369  |
| Overall balance         | -45    | 168    | 611    |
| Primary balance         | 398    | 340    | 929    |

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Government expenditures, consisting of budget and treasury spending, amounted to LBP 1,687 billion in December 2021 to sum LBP 18,066 billion in the year 2021 (LBP 19,425 billion in 2020). The LBP 18,066 billion expenditures included LBP 2,813 billion debt service and LBP 15,253 billion other general expenditures o/w LBP 1,565 billion related to budget expenditures for previous years and LBP 810 billion to EDL.

**Total public balance** registered as such a LBP 2,197 billion surplus in 2021 compared to a LBP 4,083 billion deficit in 2020, and the primary balance reported an LBP 5,009 billion surplus compared to an LBP 977 billion deficit respectively.

Gross public debt amounted to LBP 153,224 billion (the equivalent of USD 101.6 billion at the official exchange rate) at the end of July 2022, thus increasing by 1.3 percent when compared to end December 2021 (2.7 percent growth in the first seven months of 2021).

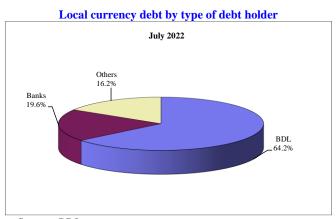
Net public debt, which subtracts public sector deposits at banks and the central bank from gross public debt, amounted to LBP 131,824 billion at the end of July 2022, therefore decreasing by 0.2 percent from end of December 2021 (1.1 percent growth in the first seven months of 2021).

| Public D               | Public Debt |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| LBP billion            | Jul-21      | Jun-22  | Jul-22  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public Debt (Gross)    | 148,037     | 153,348 | 153,224 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Debt in LBP            | 91,520      | 93,074  | 92,612  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Debt in FC             | 56,517      | 60,275  | 60,612  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public Debt (Net)      | 130,349     | 131,212 | 131,824 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public sector deposits | 17,688      | 22,136  | 21,400  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Banks                  | 8,027       | 5,157   | 4,968   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BDL                    | 9,661       | 16,979  | 16,432  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

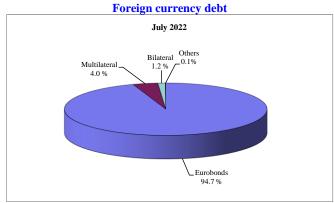
Source: BDL.

The shares of the local currency debt and foreign currency debt of the total gross were around 60.4 percent and 39.6 percent respectively at the end of July 2022. The distribution of local currency debt by type of holder was as follows: 19.6 percent for banks (19.6 percent end of June 2022), 64.2 percent for the Central bank (64.1 percent in the previous month) and 16.2 percent for the non-banking sector (16.3 percent one month earlier). The breakdown of the foreign currency debt was as such: Eurobonds (94.7 percent), Multilateral (4.0 percent), Bilateral (1.2 percent) and others (0.1 percent).

The average maturity of the Government debt securities denominated in the domestic currency is estimated at 1,328 days (3.65 years) as at end September 2022 with a weighted interest of 6.40 percent, while the average maturity of the Government debt instruments denominated in foreign currencies is around 7.84 years with a weighted interest of 7.38 percent as at end February 2020 (latest available).

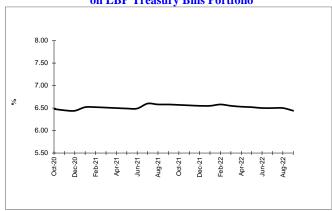


Source: BDL.

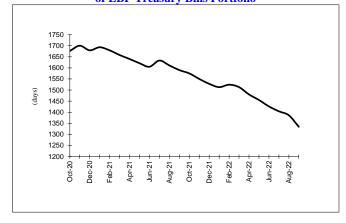


Source: BDL.

Weighted Average Interest Rate on LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



Weighted Average Life of LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



### GENERAL INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

|   | Jan - Sep<br>2021 | Jan - Sep<br>2022 | Sep-21  | Aug-22  | Sep-22  |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Imports of Industrial Equipment (000's US\$)                      | n.a.              | n.a.              | n.a.    | n.a.    | n.a.    |
| Building Permits (000's m2)                                       | 6,892             | n.a.              | 852     | n.a.    | n.a.    |
| Cement Delivery (000s' tons)                                      | 1,406             | 1,547             | 138     | 208     | 224     |
| Checks Cleared in LBP (billion LBP)                               | 20,772            | 25,684            | 2,166   | 3,723   | 2,817   |
| Checks Cleared in FC (million US\$)                               | 14,865            | 8,003             | 1,077   | 787     | 567     |
| Shipped Goods (tons)-Beirut Port                                  | 621,718           | 679,589           | 102,358 | 75,093  | 103,733 |
| <b>Unloaded Goods (tons)-Beirut Port</b>                          | 2,891,647         | 3,422,077         | 292,954 | 441,100 | 456,851 |
| Passengers Arrivals (000's)-BIA                                   | 1,478             | 2,362             | 183     | 319     | 279     |
| Passengers Departures (000's)-BIA                                 | 1,594             | 2,448             | 274     | 471     | 367     |
| Total exports of goods (million USD)                              | 2,602             | n.a.              | 459     | n.a.    | n.a.    |
| Total imports of goods (million USD)                              | 10,088            | n.a.              | 1,188   | n.a.    | n.a.    |
| Balance of Trade (million USD)                                    | -7,486            | n.a.              | -729    | n.a.    | n.a.    |
| Changes of Net Foreign Assets in the banking system (million USD) | -1,582            | -3,053            | 785     | -314    | 49      |
| Gross Foreign Currency Reserves<br>(End of period-million USD)    | -                 | -                 | 14,620  | 10,628  | 10,779  |
| Consumer Price Index (End of period)                              | -                 | -                 | 613.96  | 1486.59 | 1611.43 |

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)

|  |         | Imports   |          |         | <b>Exports</b> |          |
|--|---------|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|----------|
| Goods  | Jan-Dec | Jan - Jul | Jan -Jul | Jan-Dec | Jan - Jul      | Jan -Jul |
|  | 2021    | 2021      | 2022     | 2021    | 2021           | 2022     |
| 1- Live animals, animal products             | 499     | 338       | 330      | 40      | 35             | 6        |
| 2- Vegetable products                        | 836     | 524       | 591      | 498     | 118            | 145      |
| 3- Fats & edible fats & oils                 | 197     | 119       | 126      | 32      | 20             | 11       |
| 4- Prepared foodstuffs                       | 814     | 496       | 549      | 404     | 232            | 226      |
| 5- Mineral products                          | 3,877   | 2,165     | 3,032    | 11      | 5              | 10       |
| 6- Products of the chemical                  | 1,460   | 990       | 633      | 343     | 188            | 224      |
| 7- Plastics & articles thereof               | 491     | 282       | 375      | 117     | 68             | 336      |
| 8- Raw hides & skins, leather, furskins      | 23      | 11        | 17       | 9       | 6              | 7        |
| 9- Wood & articles of wood                   | 121     | 61        | 106      | 15      | 9              | 7        |
| 10- Paper & paperboard & articles thereof    | 194     | 111       | 165      | 95      | 51             | 68       |
| 11- Textiles & textile articles              | 336     | 174       | 246      | 46      | 24             | 24       |
| 12- Footwear, headgear, prepared feathers    | 56      | 32        | 49       | 5       | 3              | 4        |
| 13- Articles of stone, plaster, cement       | 221     | 120       | 173      | 25      | 12             | 18       |
| 14- Pearls, precious or semi-precious stones | 1,238   | 722       | 928      | 1018    | 582            | 407      |
| 15- Base metals & articles of base metal     | 565     | 311       | 467      | 464     | 242            | 319      |
| 16- Machinery & mechanical appliances        | 1,181   | 548       | 1,321    | 302     | 162            | 192      |
| 17-Transport equipment                       | 1,122   | 582       | 1,135    | 67      | 36             | 24       |
| 18- Optical instruments & apparatus          | 187     | 117       | 111      | 12      | 7              | 9        |
| 19- Arms & ammunition                        | 7       | 5         | 3        | 2       | 1              | 1        |
| 20- Miscellaneous manufactured articles      | 182     | 106       | 127      | 367     | 49             | 50       |
| 21- Works of art                             | 34      | 17        | 15       | 14      | 9              | 5        |
| Total  | 13,641  | 7,832     | 10,500   | 3,887   | 1857           | 2094     |

Source: Lebanese Customs.

## IMPORTS BY ORIGIN (Million US Dollars)

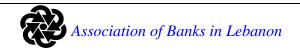
#### Jan -Jul Jan -Jul Share Share 2021 2022 % % 13.9 **CHINA** 616 7.9 1,457 735 TURKEY 9.4 1,327 12.6 **GREECE** 798 10.2 1,107 10.5 **ITALY** 290 3.7 498 4.7 USA 451 5.8 487 4.6 UAE 466 5.9 401 3.8 **GERMANY** 370 4.7 366 3.5 SWITZERLAND 206 2.6 322 3.1 307 2.9 **INDIA** 120 1.5 **EGYPT** 190 2.4 280 2.7 OTHER COUNTRIES 3,590 45.8 3,948 37.6 TOTAL IMPORTS 7,832 100.0 10,500 100.0

Source: Lebanese Customs.

# **EXPORTS BY DESTINATION** (Million US Dollars)

|                 | Jan -Jul | Share | Jan -Jul | Share |
|-----------------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
|                 | 2021     | %     | 2022     | %     |
| UAE             | 338      | 18.2  | 373      | 17.8  |
| SYRIA           | 48       | 2.6   | 315      | 15.0  |
| SWITZERLAND     | 269      | 14.5  | 99       | 4.7   |
| EGYPT           | 82       | 4.4   | 92       | 4.4   |
| IRAQ            | 66       | 3.6   | 89       | 4.3   |
| TURKEY          | 45       | 2.4   | 84       | 4.0   |
| QATAR           | 91       | 4.9   | 80       | 3.8   |
| KOREA           | 42       | 2.3   | 74       | 3.5   |
| GREECE          | 51       | 2.7   | 60       | 2.9   |
| USA             | 81       | 4.4   | 56       | 2.7   |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 744      | 40.1  | 772      | 36.9  |
| TOTAL EXPORTS   | 1,857    | 100.0 | 2,094    | 100.0 |

Source: Lebanese Customs.



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

|   |         | 21      |         | 2022    |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|   | Sep     | Dec     | Jul     | Aug     | Sep     |
| ASSETS  |         |         |         |         |         |
| Reserves  | 167,023 | 168,501 | 171,879 | 168,146 | 167,657 |
| -Cash   | 3,423   | 4,224   | 4,346   | 4,960   | 4,387   |
| -Deposits at the Central Bank                             | 163,600 | 164,277 | 167,533 | 163,186 | 163,269 |
| Claims on the Resident Private and Financial Sectors      | 39,768  | 37,506  | 31,433  | 30,813  | 30,043  |
| -Claims denominated in Lebanese Pound                     | 16,902  | 16,455  | 14,875  | 14,831  | 14,396  |
| -Claims denominated in Foreign Currencies                 | 22,866  | 21,051  | 16,558  | 15,982  | 15,647  |
| Claims on the Public Sector                               | 28,239  | 25,215  | 21,358  | 21,343  | 19,929  |
| o/w -Treasury Bills in Lebanese Pound                     | 16,459  | 18,258  | 15,172  | 15,204  | 14,044  |
| -Treasury Bills in Foreign Currencies                     | 11,490  | 6,661   | 5,943   | 5,888   | 5,636   |
| Foreign Assets  | 19,647  | 18,253  | 16,241  | 16,373  | 15,856  |
| -Claims on Non-Resident Private Sector                    | 5,456   | 4,275   | 3,647   | 3,591   | 3,549   |
| -Claims on Non-Resident Banks                             | 7,122   | 6,919   | 5,766   | 6,017   | 6,018   |
| -Currency and deposits with other central banks           | 1,490   | 1,563   | 1,767   | 1,653   | 1,578   |
| -Other Foreign Assets                                     | 4,978   | 4,708   | 4,299   | 4,352   | 3,977   |
| -Non Resident securities portfolio                        | 602     | 788     | 761     | 760     | 734     |
| Tangible and intangible assets                            | 7,309   | 7,356   | 8,059   | 8,144   | 8,405   |
| Resident Private securities portfolio                     | 3,059   | 2,954   | 4,101   | 3,896   | 3,876   |
| Unclassified Assets                                       | 5,825   | 3,763   | 5,091   | 5,672   | 6,002   |
| TOTAL ASSETS  | 270,871 | 263,547 | 258,162 | 254,388 | 251,768 |
| LIABILITIES   |         |         |         |         |         |
| Liabilities to the Resident Private and Financial Sectors | 160,620 | 158,178 | 156,976 | 152,854 | 153,099 |
| -Deposits in Lebanese Pound                               | 36,741  | 37,099  | 42,068  | 37,981  | 39,048  |
| -Deposits in Foreign Currencies                           | 123,879 | 121,079 | 114,908 | 114,874 | 114,051 |
| Liabilities to the Public Sector                          | 7,817   | 7,538   | 4,954   | 5,665   | 5,666   |
| Deposits of Non-Residents Customers                       | 39,106  | 36,996  | 35,704  | 35,614  | 35,274  |
| -Denominated in Lebanese Pound                            | 3,111   | 3,072   | 3,062   | 3,021   | 3,027   |
| -Denominated in Foreign Currencies                        | 35,994  | 33,924  | 32,642  | 32,592  | 32,247  |
| Liabilities to Non-Resident Banks                         | 7,451   | 7,343   | 6,572   | 6,613   | 6,630   |
| Bonds   | 608     | 595     | 549     | 531     | 531     |
| Capital Base  | 25,488  | 26,811  | 25,520  | 25,450  | 25,191  |
| -Core Capital   | 24,170  | 25,321  | 24,415  | 24,348  | 24,108  |
| -Supplementary Capital                                    | 1,318   | 1,490   | 1,105   | 1,103   | 1,083   |
| Unclassified Liabilities                                  | 29,781  | 26,085  | 27,887  | 27,660  | 25,377  |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES   | 270,871 | 263,547 | 258,162 | 254,388 | 251,768 |

Source: BDL.

N.B. Starting December 2019, and according to the offsetting criteria in IAS 32 "Financial Instruments: Presentation" and the disclosure on offsetting financial assets and financial liabilities in IFRS 7, banks have offset their loans taken from BDL in Lebanese pound with their corresponding placements at Banque du Liban in Lebanese pound carrying same maturities.



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

|                                     | 20      | 21      |         | 2022    |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     | Sep     | Dec     | Jul     | Aug     | Sep     |
| Money Supply                        |         |         |         |         |         |
| Currency in circulation             | 38,251  | 41,515  | 37,247  | 38,367  | 54,484  |
| + Demand Deposits in LBP            | 15,076  | 16,422  | 24,267  | 20,416  | 21,684  |
| = <b>M1</b>                         | 53,327  | 57,937  | 61,514  | 58,783  | 76,169  |
| + Other Deposits in LBP             | 21,973  | 21,070  | 18,173  | 17,898  | 17,516  |
| = <b>M</b> 2                        | 75,300  | 79,007  | 79,687  | 76,681  | 93,685  |
| + Deposits in Foreign Currencies    | 124,717 | 121,729 | 115,504 | 115,438 | 114,641 |
| + Bonds                             | 337     | 334     | 394     | 397     | 399     |
| = M3                                | 200,354 | 201,070 | 195,585 | 192,515 | 208,725 |
| + Treasury Bills Held by the Public | 12,888  | 14,045  | 15,023  | 17,776  | 18,253  |
| = <b>M4</b>                         | 213,242 | 215,115 | 210,608 | 210,291 | 226,978 |
| Counterparts of the Money Supply    |         |         |         |         |         |
| Net Foreign Assets                  | 22,578  | 22,950  | 18,241  | 17,351  | 16,566  |
| o/w Gold                            | 24,066  | 25,019  | 24,521  | 24,112  | 23,244  |
| Net Claims on the Public Sector     | 71,671  | 67,506  | 62,395  | 59,628  | 58,099  |
| Valuation Adjustment                | -16,956 | -17,872 | -17,670 | -17,640 | -17,019 |
| Claims on the Private Sector        | 43,105  | 40,669  | 34,651  | 33,983  | 33,128  |
| Claims in LBP                       | 18,832  | 18,281  | 16,753  | 16,679  | 16,173  |
| Claims in FC                        | 24,273  | 22,389  | 17,898  | 17,305  | 16,955  |
| Other Items (Net)                   | 79,956  | 87,817  | 97,969  | 99,193  | 117,951 |
| TOTAL                               | 200,354 | 201,070 | 195,585 | 192,515 | 208,725 |

Source: BDL.



#### **OUTSTANDING PUBLIC DEBT BY TYPE OF HOLDER**

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

| Year<br>And    |     | Total<br>Debt |         | Local C<br>De | •                     |        |       | Foreign Currency<br>Debt |          |                       |        |  |  |
|----------------|-----|---------------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--------|--|--|
| Month          |     |               | Central |               |                       |        |       |                          | Paris II |                       |        |  |  |
|                |     |               | Bank    | Banks         | Others <sup>(1)</sup> | Total  | IDI** | FG+                      | loans    | Others <sup>(2)</sup> | Total  |  |  |
| 2020           | Dec | 144,108       | 55,079  | 23,157        | 11,526                | 89,762 | 2,203 | 880                      | 0        | 51,263                | 54,346 |  |  |
| <b>2021</b> Ju | Jul | 148,037       | 56,388  | 22,765        | 12,367                | 91,520 | 2,228 | 819                      | 0        | 53,470                | 56,517 |  |  |
|                | Aug | 148,856       | 56,658  | 22,689        | 12,644                | 91,991 | 2,246 | 820                      | 0        | 53,799                | 56,865 |  |  |
|                | Sep | 149,567       | 57,092  | 22,433        | 12,888                | 92,413 | 2,227 | 805                      | 0        | 54,122                | 57,154 |  |  |
|                | Oct | 150,446       | 57,409  | 22,379        | 13,163                | 92,951 | 2,242 | 805                      | 0        | 54,448                | 57,495 |  |  |
|                | Nov | 151,348       | 57,726  | 22,308        | 13,562                | 93,596 | 2,231 | 746                      | 0        | 54,775                | 57,752 |  |  |
|                | Dec | 151,309       | 58,002  | 21,200        | 14,045                | 93,247 | 2,215 | 743                      | 0        | 55,104                | 58,062 |  |  |
| 2022           | Jan | 149,699       | 58,255  | 19,155        | 13,868                | 91,278 | 2,242 | 742                      | 0        | 55,437                | 58,421 |  |  |
|                | Feb | 150,719       | 58,507  | 19,037        | 14,207                | 91,751 | 2,459 | 745                      | 0        | 55,764                | 58,968 |  |  |
|                | Mar | 151,729       | 58,951  | 18,925        | 14,520                | 92,396 | 2,447 | 742                      | 0        | 56,141                | 59,330 |  |  |
|                | Apr | 152,336       | 59,435  | 18,533        | 14,742                | 92,710 | 2,423 | 728                      | 0        | 56,475                | 59,626 |  |  |
|                | May | 153,400       | 59,772  | 18,501        | 15,175                | 93,448 | 2,421 | 736                      | 0        | 56,795                | 59,952 |  |  |
|                | Jun | 153,348       | 59,673  | 18,264        | 15,137                | 93,074 | 2,414 | 727                      | 0        | 57,133                | 60,274 |  |  |
|                | Jul | 153,224       | 59,423  | 18,166        | 15,023                | 92,612 | 2,412 | 722                      | 0        | 57,478                | 60,612 |  |  |

Source :BDL.

# TREASURY BILLS PORTFOLIO IN LBP

(Face value, Billion LBP)

| Year<br>And |     | In            |       |               | Weighted<br>Average | Weighted<br>Average |  |
|-------------|-----|---------------|-------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| Month       |     | Circulation   | Issue | Reimbursement | Life                | Interest            |  |
|             |     | End of period |       |               | (days)              | (%)                 |  |
| 2020        | Dec | 88,141        | 2,162 | 2,182         | 1,693               | 6.52                |  |
| 2021        | Sep | 90,616        | 1,248 | 877           | 1,575               | 6.57                |  |
|             | Oct | 91,110        | 878   | 384           | 1,550               | 6.56                |  |
|             | Nov | 91,770        | 1,130 | 470           | 1,528               | 6.55                |  |
|             | Dec | 91,616        | 1,200 | 1,354         | 1,513               | 6.55                |  |
| 2022        | Jan | 89,577        | 763   | 2,802         | 1,524               | 6.58                |  |
|             | Feb | 90,013        | 1,477 | 1,041         | 1,513               | 6.55                |  |
|             | Mar | 90,660        | 1,331 | 684           | 1,480               | 6.53                |  |
|             | Apr | 90,971        | 981   | 670           | 1,455               | 6.52                |  |
|             | May | 91,736        | 1,260 | 495           | 1,426               | 6.50                |  |
|             | Jun | 91,695        | 716   | 757           | 1,404               | 6.50                |  |
|             | Jul | 90,999        | 492   | 1,188         | 1,386               | 6.50                |  |
|             | Aug | 93,672        | 3,223 | 550           | 1,334               | 6.44                |  |
|             | Sep | 91,985        | 820   | 2,507         | 1,328               | 6.40                |  |

Source: BDL.



<sup>\*</sup> The figures are equal to the principal paid plus the interests due.

<sup>\*\*</sup> IDI : International Development Institutions.

<sup>+</sup> FG: Foreign Governments.

<sup>(1)</sup> Include: public TB's, public entities TB's and financial institutions TB's.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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**

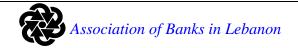
| Yea  | ar  | Average 1 | Lending * | Average | Deposit  | Inter   | 3m    | Inter | rest rates | on TBs | s (last iss | ue)  |      |           |           |
|------|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|-------|-------|------------|--------|-------------|------|------|-----------|-----------|
| An   | 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      | 120-m     |
| Mon  | nth | LBP       | US\$      | LBP     | US\$     | Rate ** | \$    |       |            |        |             |      |      |           |           |
| 2020 | Dec | 7.77      | 6.73      | 2.64    | 0.94     | 3.00    | 0.23  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40      | 6.88      |
| 2021 | Sep | 7.65      | 6.34      | 1.53    | 0.26     | -       | 0.12  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40      | 6.88      |
|      | Oct | 7.46      | 6.86      | 1.34    | 0.23     | 3.00    | 0.13  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40      | 6.88      |
|      | Nov | 7.20      | 6.75      | 1.23    | 0.20     | 3.00    | 0.16  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40      | 6.88      |
|      | Dec | 7.14      | 6.01      | 1.09    | 0.19     | -       | 0.21  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40      | no issues |
| 2022 | Jan | 6.40      | 6.15      | 1.03    | 0.18     | -       | 0.26  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | 6.88      |
|      | Feb | 5.69      | 5.50      | 0.99    | 0.17     | -       | 0.43  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | 6.88      |
|      | Mar | 5.58      | 5.72      | 0.87    | 0.16     | -       | 0.84  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | no issues |
|      | Apr | 6.01      | 6.11      | 0.88    | 0.15     | -       | 1.11  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | 6.88      |
|      | May | 5.13      | 5.06      | 0.78    | 0.13     | 3.00    | 1.48  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | 6.88      |
|      | Jun | 5.36      | 5.28      | 0.74    | 0.09     | 3.00    | 2.01  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | 6.88      |
|      | Jul | 5.09      | 4.74      | 0.54    | 0.12     | 3.00    | 2.61  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | no issues   | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | no issues |
|      | Aug | 4.85      | 5.51      | 0.60    | 0.10     | 3.00    | 2.95  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | no issues |
|      | Sep | 5.09      | 4.61      | 0.66    | 0.09     | 3.00    | 3.45  | 3.47  | 3.92       | 4.31   | 4.94        | 5.43 | 5.91 | no issues | no issues |

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

# END OF PERIOD EXCHANGE RATES (LBP per other currencies)

| Yea  | ar and | US       | Swiss    | British  | Japanese | Euro     |
|------|--------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| M    | onth   | Dollar   | Franc    | Pound    | Yen      |          |
| 2020 | Dec    | 1,507.50 | 1,706.67 | 2,048.54 | 14.61    | 1,851.21 |
| 2021 | Sep    | 1,507.50 | 1,613.16 | 2,027.44 | 13.47    | 1,749.00 |
|      | Oct    | 1,507.50 | 1,653.69 | 2,076.28 | 13.26    | 1,756.54 |
|      | Nov    | 1,507.50 | 1,642.16 | 2,014.62 | 13.36    | 1,712.52 |
|      | Dec    | 1,507.50 | 1,639.48 | 2,022.91 | 13.11    | 1,701.52 |
| 2022 | Jan    | 1,507.50 | 1,617.66 | 2,026.23 | 13.05    | 1,684.78 |
|      | Feb    | 1,507.50 | 1,634.15 | 2,018.69 | 13.04    | 1,687.19 |
|      | Mar    | 1,507.50 | 1,676.64 | 1,977.54 | 12.36    | 1,630.96 |
|      | Apr    | 1,507.50 | 1,593.13 | 1,892.36 | 11.58    | 1,556.37 |
|      | May    | 1,507.50 | 1,572.93 | 1,900.96 | 11.78    | 1,618.00 |
|      | Jun    | 1,507.50 | 1,575.07 | 1,829.20 | 11.06    | 1,572.17 |
|      | Jul    | 1,507.50 | 1,582.51 | 1,834.02 | 11.33    | 1,540.36 |
|      | Aug    | 1,507.50 | 1,541.10 | 1,753.52 | 10.86    | 1,505.54 |
|      | Sep    | 1,507.50 | 1,543.94 | 1,691.11 | 10.45    | 1,482.93 |

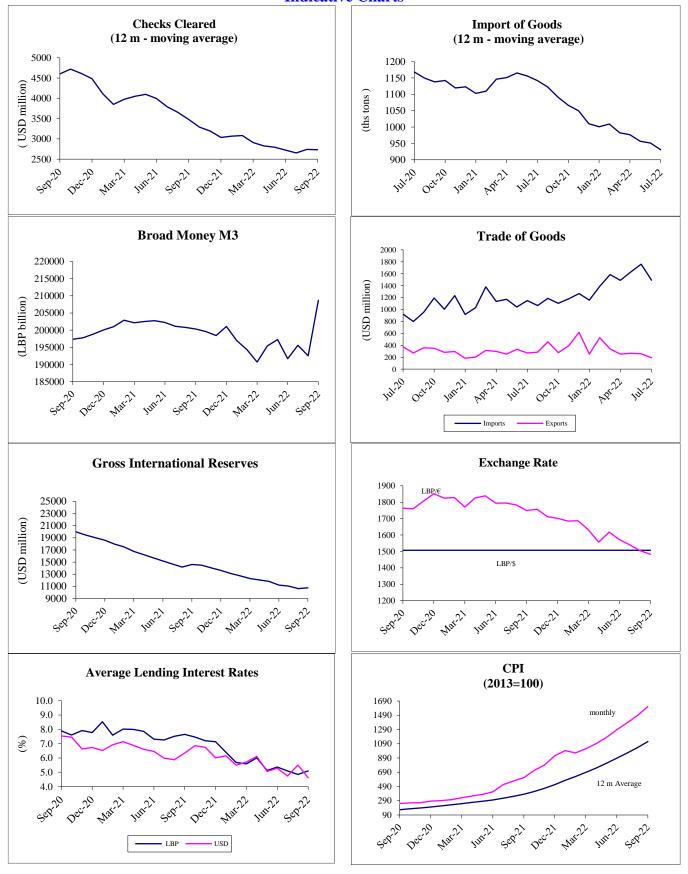
Source: BDL.



<sup>\*</sup> Starting January 2016, lending rates are calculated according to intermediary circular No 389.

<sup>\*\*</sup> On Funds in LBP, weighted by daily volume.

# **Indicative Charts**



Research and Statistics Department Association of Banks in Lebanon P.O. Box 976 Beirut-Lebanon Tel: (961) 970 500

Fax: (961) 970 501 E-mail: abl@abl.org.lb

The "Economic Letter" is designed as an internal publication of the Association of Banks in Lebanon, to make its in-house research and statistical information available to the observer of the Lebanese economy in general and the Lebanese banking sector in particular. Despite its value-adding analysis, this publication does not represent the Association's nor any of its member banks' official views on the economic policies, the financial market or the banking issues in Lebanon. This document is strictly for information purposes.

The "Economic Letter", published monthly by ABL, provides the reader with an overview of the most recent developments in the economic activities in Lebanon. The information contained in this document has been compiled in good faith from sources believed to be reliable but no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by ABL.

Reproduction, of the whole or a part of this document, is authorized subject to indication of "Economic Letter", Association of Banks in Lebanon.

