# ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN LEBANON

Research & Statistics Department



# The Economic Letter

February 2022

#### Summary:

In February 2022, real sector indicators progressed in general in respect of the past month. The overall balance of payments had a considerable deficit and foreign currency reserves retreated. Deposits and loans at banks regressed at a slow pace and lending interest rates dropped. The consumer price index temporary recoiled.

# In this issue:

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

# Tables:

General indicators of economic activities	<i>p</i> 8
Total imports & exports by product	p9
Imports by origin	p9
Exports by destination	p9
Consolidated balance sheet of banks	p10
Money supply and Counterparts	p11
Outstanding public debt	p12
Treasury bills portfolio	p12
Interest rates	p13
Exchange rates	p13
-	_

# Charts:

Indicative charts

p14

#### I- REAL SECTOR

#### **1-Construction and Real Estate**

Construction and real estate indicators improved in February 2022 when compared to the preceding month and February 2021.

	Feb-22	Jan-22	Feb-21	Change % Feb 2022/Feb 2021
Construction permits	1,127,218	724,629	278,199	305.2
Area (s.m)				
Number (permits)	2,018	1,652	526	283.7
Cement deliveries (000 tons)	n.a	108	93	-
Collected real estate fees (LBP billion)	170.3	101.2	11.9	1,331.1
Real estate sales operations (number)	10,665	7,332	589	1,710.7
Value of Real estate sales (LBP billion)	2,115	1,951	102	1,973.5
Real estate transactions (number)	18,421	12,447	2,862	543.6

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

#### 2-Tourism

Indicators of tourism activity weakened on average in February 2022 in respect of the past month but progressed in respect of February 2021.

	Feb-22	Jan-22	Feb-21	Change % Feb 2022/Feb 2021
Number of arriving passengers at BIA	159,970	153,230	67,395	137.4
Number of departing passengers at BIA	165,664	208,594	69,806	137.3
Inbound Aircrafts at BIA (flights)	1,534	1,836	880	74.3
Outbound Aircrafts at BIA (flights)	1,538	1,835	873	76.2

Sources: Beirut International Airport, Ministry of Tourism.

#### **3-Trade and Services**

Trade and services indicators advanced in general in February 2022 vis-à-vis the previous month but regressed in relation to February 2021.

				Change %	
	Feb-22	Jan-22	Feb-21	Feb 2022/Feb	
				2021	
Checks Cleared					
Value (USD million)	2,875	2,635	2,692	6.8	
Number (000 checks)	184	174	247	-25.5	
Checks Returned					
Value (USD million)	25	26	33	-24.2	
Number (checks)	1,344	1,432	2,331	-42.3	
Ships at the port of Beirut	95	89	99	-4.0	
(number)	)5	07		1.0	
Weight of unloaded goods at	343,088	319,721	390,143	-12.1	
POB (tons)	0.0,000	517,721	570,115	1211	
Weight of shipped goods at	101,236	54,429	66,480	52.3	
POB (tons)	101,200	51,125	00,100	52.5	
Discharged containers at POB	13,558	12,835	15,267	-11.2	
(number)	15,550	12,000	15,207	-11.2	
Revenues of POB (USD	n.a	n.a	9.3		
million)	ii.a	in.u	7.5	-	
Merchandise at BIA					
Imports (tons)	1,838	2,058	2,263	-18.8	
Exports (tons)	2,106	2,148	2,770	-24.0	

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

#### 4-Industry and Agriculture

	Nov-21	Oct-21	Nov-20	Change % Nov 2021/Nov 2020
Electricity production (MKWH)	357	349	1,129	-68.4
Imports of gas oil	Dec-21	Nov-21	Dec-20	Change % Dec 2021/Dec 2020
Value (million USD)	130.1	204.0	190.4	-31.7
Volume (tons)	185,924	268,691	444,882	-58.2
Agriculture imports (USD million)	126.0	86.6	166.9	-24.5
Agriculture exports (USD million)	35.8	84.4	30.4	17.8

Source: BDL, Lebanese Customs.

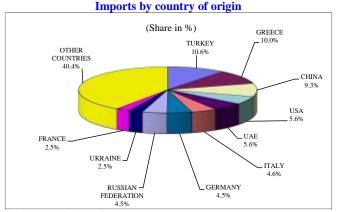
#### **II- EXTERNAL SECTOR**

#### In December 2021,

**Imports of goods** amounted to USD 1,269 million compared to USD 1,179 million in November 2021 and USD 1,232 million in December 2020. Imports augmented by 20.6 percent in the year 2021 driven by higher prices and not larger quantities following a 41.2 percent decrease in the year 2020.

In the year 2021, mineral products lead imported goods with a 28.4 percent share of total imports, they were followed by products of the chemical (10.7 percent), then pearls, precious and semi - precious stones which accounted for 9.1 percent. Turkey topped the list of imports by country of origin with a 10.6 percent share of total. Greece came next with a share of 10.0 percent followed by China (9.3 percent) and United States (5.6 percent).





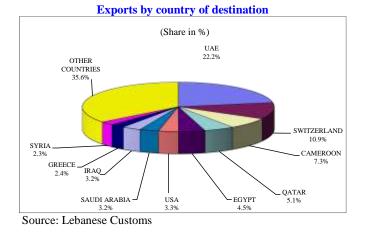
Source: Lebanese Customs

LBP billion	Feb-22	Jan-22	Feb-21	Change % Feb 2022/Feb 2021
Documentary L/Cs for import (opened credits)	32.8	36.4	2.4	1266.7
Documentary L/Cs for import (utilized credits)	18.1	8.5	9.4	92.6
Bills for collection for import: Inward bills	21.0	27.6	26.9	-21.9
Documentary L/Cs for export (opened credits)	14.2	5.8	15.4	-7.8
Documentary L/Cs for export (utilized credits)	9.2	15.8	6.4	43.8
Bills for collection for export: Outward bills	29.6	31.0	17.4	70.1
Source: BDL				

#### In December 2021,

**Exports of goods** increased to USD 616 million compared to USD 391 million in the previous month and USD 295 million in December 2020. Exports increased in 2021 by 9.6 percent (-5.0 percent in 2020).

In the year 2021, pearls, precious and semi - precious stones were on top of the list with a share of 26.2 percent of total exports, followed by vegetable products (12.8 percent) and base metals & articles of base metals (11.9 percent) and prepared foodstuffs (10.4 percent). UAE outperformed all others in terms of exports by country of destination with 22.2 percent share of the total, trailed by Switzerland with a share of 10.9 percent, followed by Cameroon (7.3 percent) and Qatar (5.1 percent).



The trade deficit decreased as such to USD 653 million from USD 788 million in November 2021 and USD 937 million in December 2020. It increased, however, by 25.6 percent in the year 2021 (-49.9 percent in 2020).

External Sector Indicators				
USD million	Dec-21	Nov-21	Dec-20	
Imports	1,269	1,179	1,232	
Exports	616	391	295	
Trade deficit	-653	-788	-937	
Balance of payments	-384	160	-348	
Gross foreign currency reserves	13,646	14,052	18,604	
Source: Lebanese Customs, BDL.				

USD million	Feb-22	Jan-22	Feb-21
Balance of payments	-602	-353	-341
Gross foreign currency reserves	12,748	13,134	17,494
Source: BDL			

**The overall balance of payments** reported a deficit of USD 602 million in February 2022 following a deficit of USD 353 million in January 2022 (USD 341 million deficit in February 2021). The USD 955 million negative balance recorded in the first two months of 2022 represented a decrease in net foreign assets of the central bank (USD -1,028 million) partly offset by an increase in net foreign assets of banks and financial institutions (USD 73 million).



**Gross foreign currency reserves** of the Central bank decreased to USD 12,748 million at the end of February 2022 compared to USD 13,134 million at the end of the previous month and USD 17,494 million at end February 2021. BDL foreign assets securities stood almost unchanged at USD 4,197 million in February 2022 compared to USD 4,195 million at the end of January 2022 (USD 5,406 million at the end of February 2021).

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

#### 1. Commercial Banks

**Total consolidated assets of commercial banks operating in Lebanon** amounted to LBP 261,895 billion (USD 173.7 billion at the official exchange rate) at the end of February 2022, decreasing by 0.6 percent from end December 2021 (0.04 percent increase in the first two months of 2021).

Total deposits at commercial banks, including resident and non-resident private sector deposits and public sector deposits decreased by 0.9 percent in the first two months of 2022 and constituted 76.7 percent of total assets with an equivalent value of LBP 200,813 billion (around USD 133.2 billion at the official exchange rate) at the end of the period.

Commercial Banks Bal	ance Sheet	t -Main iter	ns
End of period-LBP billion	Feb-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Total Assets	283,609	262,684	261,895
Total deposits	217,742	201,860	200,813
Resident customers' deposits	165,931	155,444	155,202
Non-resident customers' deposits	41,059	36,605	36,513
Resident financial sector liabilities	2,329	2,319	2,170
Public sector deposits	8,424	7,492	6,927
Non deposit liabilities	39,908	36,784	36,921
Capital accounts	25,959	24,041	24,161
Total claims on customers	53,193	40,424	39,992
Resident customers	47,318	36,245	35,881
Non-resident customers	5,875	4,179	4,111
Total claims on public sector	31,846	23,137	23,057
in LBP	17,583	16,489	16,421
in FC	14,264	6,648	6,636
Claims on non resident Financial sector	7,423	6,876	6,837
Non-resident securities portfolio	720	808	800
Other foreign assets*	13,123	10,522	10,109
Deposits at the central bank	166,413	166,490	165,432

Source: BDL.

\*Including currency and deposits with other central banks-NR.



The breakdown of total deposits shows that private sector deposits denominated in LBP increased by 1.1 percent in the first two months of 2022 while those denominated in foreign currencies decreased by 1.1 percent, thus deposit dollarization rate slightly decreased to 79.1 percent at end February 2022 (79.4 percent at the end of December 2021).

The itemization of total deposits reveals a decrease in public sector deposits (-8.1 percent), non-resident private sector deposits (-1.3 percent) and resident private sector deposits (-0.5 percent) in the first two months of 2022. Subsequently, resident private sector deposits accounted for 78.4 percent of total deposits at end February 2022 (18.2 percent for non-resident private sector and 3.4 percent for public sector deposits).

Total capital accounts amounted to LBP 24,161 billion (USD 16,027 million) at the end of February 2022 and represented around 9.2 percent of total assets. Capital accounts decreased by 9.9 percent from end December 2021.

Total claims on the resident and non-resident customers declined by 3.6 percent in the first two months of 2022, reaching LBP 39,992 billion at the end of February 2022. The dollarization rate of these loans was 55.5 percent at the end of the stated month, and the ratio of total claims on resident and non-resident customers to total deposits attained 20.6 percent.

Total claims on the public sector were equivalent to LBP 23,057 billion at the end of February 2022, thus decreasing by 8.6 percent from end December 2021. Commercial banks held at the end of the stated month LBP 16,122 billion in Lebanese Treasury bills (17.9 percent of the total portfolio in circulation) and USD 4,402 million of Eurobonds (nearly 12.0 percent of the total outstanding portfolio at end January 2022).

Deposits at the Central Bank (including CDs) amounted to LBP 165,432 billion at the end of February 2022 (+ 0.7 percent from end December 2021), whereas claims on non-resident financial sector decreased to LBP 6,837 billion (USD 4.5 billion) that is by 1.2 percent from end December 2021 to represent 4.5 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 6,048 billion (around USD 4.0 billion) at the end of February 2022, thus remaining unchanged from end December 2021. Deposits, including those of resident and non –resident customers and resident financial sector decreased by 0.5 percent in the first two months of 2022 to reach LBP 1,673 billion at the end of the period.

### 3. Financial Markets

The total number of shares traded on the Beirut Stock Exchange increased to 1,217 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 15.3 million in February 2022 compared to 729 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 14.1 million in January 2022 (8,584 thousand shares with a value of USD 24.1 million in February 2021).

During February 2022, the traded value by economic sectors was as such: 93.3 percent for Development and Reconstruction, 6.2 percent for Banking and 0.5 percent for Industrial.

Capital Markets				
	Feb-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	
BSE				
Traded shares (000)	8,584	729	1,217	
Traded value (USD million)	24.1	14.1	15.3	
Market capitalization	7,095	10,046	9,806	
(USD million)				
Outstanding treasury bills (LBP billion)	89,279	89,577	90,013	
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 9,806 million at the end of February 2022, from USD 10,046 million at the end of January 2022 (USD 7,095 million at the end of February 2021). Banking had 44.7 percent weight, whereas Development and Construction 50.6 percent.

The face value of the outstanding treasury bills portfolio denominated in the domestic currency amounted to LBP 90,013 billion at the end of February 2022 (LBP 89,577 billion at the end of January 2022) and the value of the outstanding sovereign bonds portfolio denominated in foreign currencies



Association of Banks in Lebanon

(**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 February 2022. The outstanding value of the certificates of deposits issued by BDL in the domestic currency and in USD remained almost unchanged at LBP 43,167 billion and USD 22.5 billion respectively.

### **IV- MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS**

The stock of money and quasi money (M3) attained LBP 194,332 billion at the end of February 2022, of which 62.1 percent denominated in foreign currencies, thus decreasing by 3.4 percent from end December 2021.

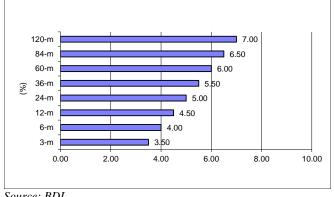
Money Supply & Counterparts				
LBP billion	Feb-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	
M3	202,917	196,995	194,332	
Net foreign assets	24,286	22,295	22,941	
Net claims on public sector	77,214	66,962	65,445	
Valuation Adjustment	-16,198	-17,820	-19,356	
Claims on private sector	51,318	39,638	39,261	
Other items-net	66,295	85,920	86,040	
CAS CPI (Dec 2013=100)	305.53	992.24	961.15	
Source: BDL, CAS.				

The LBP 6,738 billion decrease in M3 in the first two months of 2022 resulted from a decrease in each of net claims on public sector (-LBP 2,060 billion), net items other than foreign assets and claims on private and public sectors (-LBP 1,777 billion), valuation adjustment (-LBP 1,484 billion), claims on the private sector (-LBP 1,408 billion) and net foreign assets (-LBP 9 billion).

**The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Beirut and Suburbs**, published by the Consultation and Research Institute, decreased by 4.1 percent in the month of February 2022 compared to the previous month but increased by 4.89 percent from December 2021.

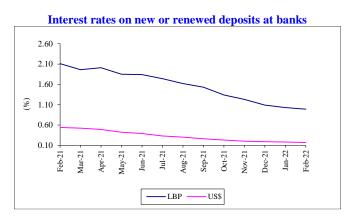
**The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Lebanon**, published by the Central Administration of Statistics decreased by 3.1 percent in February 2022 compared to January 2022 but increased by 4.3 percent from December 2021. The interest rates on LBP monetary instruments on 45 and 60- day certificates of deposits issued by BDL were 2.90 percent and 3.08 percent respectively at the end of February 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, 6.50 percent for seven-year bills and 7.0 percent for ten-year bills.





Source: BDL

In February 2022, the average interest rate on new or renewed LBP deposits at commercial banks decreased to 0.99 percent (1.03 percent a month ago) while the average interest rate on new or renewed USD deposits stood almost unchanged at 0.17 percent (0.18 percent in January 2022). The average 3-month USD LIBOR was 0.43 percent.



In February 2022, the average interest rate on new or renewed loans at commercial banks denominated in LBP and USD decreased to 5.69 percent (6.40 percent a month ago) and 5.50 percent (6.15 percent in January 2022) respectively.



Government revenues, including budget revenues and treasury receipts attained LBP 1,542 billion in September 2021 to sum to LBP 13,901 billion in the first nine months of 2021 (LBP 10,564 billion in the first nine months of 2020). The LBP 13,901 billion revenues comprised LBP 10,429 billion tax revenues, LBP 2,439 billion non-tax revenues and LBP 1,033 billion treasury receipts.

Fisca	d Situation		
LBP billion	Sep-20	Aug-21	Sep-21
Government revenues	1,302	1,376	1,542
Tax revenues	759	896	1,070
Non-tax revenues	434	367	307
Treasury receipts	109	113	165
Government expenditures	1,424	1,305	1,722
Debt service	122	144	246
Others	1,302	1,161	1,476
Overall balance	-123	72	-180
Primary balance	-1	216	66

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Government expenditures, consisting of budget and treasury spending, amounted to LBP 1,722 billion in September 2021 to sum LBP 13,446 billion in the first nine months of 2021 (LBP 14,508 billion in the first nine months of 2020). The LBP 13,446 billion expenditures included LBP 2.116 billion debt service and LBP 11,330 billion other general expenditures o/w LBP 1,026 billion related to budget expenditures for previous years and LBP 698 billion to EDL.

Total public balance registered as such a LBP 455 billion surplus in the first three quarters of 2021 compared to a LBP 3,944 billion deficit in the first three quarters of 2020, and the primary balance reported an LBP 2,571 billion surplus compared to an LBP 1,713 billion deficit respectively.

Gross public debt amounted to LBP 149,658 billion (the equivalent of USD 99.3 billion) at the end of January 2022, thus decreasing by 1.1 percent when compared to end December 2021 (0.4 percent growth in the first month of 2021).

Net public debt, which subtracts public sector deposits at banks and the central bank from gross public debt, amounted to LBP 131.714 billion at the end of January 2022, therefore decreasing by 0.3 percent from end of December 2021 (0.9 percent growth in the first month of 2021).

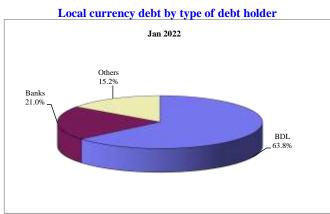


LBP billion	Jan-21	Dec-21	Jan-22
Public Debt (Gross)	144,627	151,318	149,658
Debt in LBP	89,987	93,256	91,278
Debt in FC	54,640	58,062	58,380
Public Debt (Net)	130,133	132,080	131,714
Public sector deposits	14,494	19,238	17,944
Banks	8,376	7,546	7,500
BDL	6,118	11,692	10,444

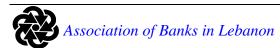
Source: BDL.

The shares of the local currency debt and foreign currency debt of the total gross were around 61.0 percent and 39.0 percent respectively at the end of January 2022. The distribution of local currency debt by type of holder was as follows: 21.0 percent for banks (22.7 percent end of December 2021), 63.8 percent for the Central bank (62.2 percent in the previous month) and 15.2 percent for the non-banking sector (15.1 percent one month earlier). The breakdown of the foreign currency debt was as such: Eurobonds (94.9 percent), Multilateral (3.7 percent), Bilateral (1.3 percent) and others (0.1 percent).

The average maturity of the Government debt securities denominated in the domestic currency is estimated at 1,513 days (4.16 years) as at end February 2022 with a weighted interest of 6.55 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).



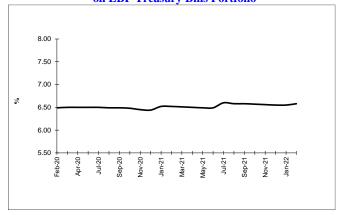
Source: BDL.



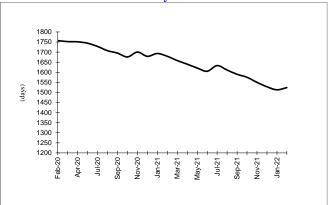


Source: BDL.

Weighted Average Interest Rate on LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



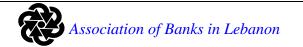
Weighted Average Life of LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



	Jan - Feb 2021	Jan - Feb 2022	Feb-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Imports of Industrial Equipment (000's US\$)	12,833	n.a.	6,913	n.a.	n.a.
Building Permits (000's m2)	343	1,852	278	725	1,127
Cement Delivery (000s' tons)	135	n.a.	93	108	n.a.
Checks Cleared in LBP (billion LBP)	3,176	5,311	1,970	2,486	2,825
Checks Cleared in FC (million US\$)	2,835	1,987	1,385	986	1,001
Shipped Goods (tons)-Beirut Port	114,801	155,665	66,480	54,429	101,236
Unloaded Goods (tons)-Beirut Port	716,923	662,809	390,143	319,721	343,088
Passengers Arrivals (000's)-BIA	134	313	67	153	160
Passengers Departures (000's)-BIA	205	374	70	209	166
Total exports of goods (million USD)	384	n.a.	201	n.a.	n.a.
Total imports of goods (million USD)	1,949	n.a.	1,033	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of Trade (million USD)	-1,565	n.a.	-832	n.a.	n.a.
Changes of Net Foreign Assets in the banking system (million USD)	-751	-955	-341	-353	-602
Gross Foreign Currency Reserves (End of period-million USD)	-	-	17,494	13,134	12,748
Consumer Price Index (End of period)	-	-	305.53	992.24	961.15

# **GENERAL INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

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



		Imports			Exports	
Goods	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec	Jan -Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan - Dec	Jan -Dec
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
1- Live animals, animal products	841	619	499	23	41	40
2- Vegetable products	932	797	836	175	233	498
3- Fats & edible fats & oils	125	127	197	58	52	32
4- Prepared foodstuffs	1,214	755	814	371	375	404
5- Mineral products	6,609	3,244	3,877	58	22	11
6- Products of the chemical	1,991	1,684	1,460	369	323	343
7- Plastics & articles thereof	643	345	491	153	104	117
8- Raw hides & skins, leather, furskins	56	20	23	13	11	9
9- Wood & articles of wood	175	72	121	13	7	15
10- Paper & paperboard & articles thereof	279	182	194	144	92	95
11- Textiles & textile articles	607	261	336	49	44	46
12- Footwear, headgear, prepared feathers	115	43	56	10	8	5
13- Articles of stone, plaster, cement	307	157	221	19	18	25
14- Pearls, precious or semi-precious stones	931	894	1,238	1455	1410	1018
15- Base metals & articles of base metal	850	382	565	297	306	464
16- Machinery & mechanical appliances	1,665	897	1,181	382	312	302
17-Transport equipment	1,175	472	1,122	28	72	67
18- Optical instruments & apparatus	337	200	187	15	21	12
19- Arms & ammunition	11	9	7	2	0	2
20- Miscellaneous manufactured articles	355	140	182	89	82	367
21- Works of art	20	10	34	8	11	14
Total	19,239	11,310	13,641	3,731	3,544	3,887

#### **TOTAL IMPORTS & EXPORTS BY PRODUCT** (Million US Dollars)

Source: Lebanese Customs.

#### **IMPORTS BY ORIGIN** (Million US Dollars)

Jan -Dec	Share	Jan -Dec	Share
2020	%	2021	%
811	7.2	1,441	10.6
858	7.6	1,361	10.0
748	6.6	1,263	9.3
936	8.3	767	5.6
632	5.6	767	5.6
679	6.0	625	4.6
571	5.0	613	4.5
520	4.6	608	4.5
272	2.4	345	2.5
380	3.4	342	2.5
4,903	43.4	5,509	40.4
11,310	100.0	13,641	100.0
	2020 811 858 748 936 632 679 571 520 272 380 <b>4,903</b>	2020 %   811 7.2   858 7.6   748 6.6   936 8.3   632 5.6   679 6.0   571 5.0   520 4.6   272 2.4   380 3.4 <b>4,903 43.4</b>	2020 % 2021   811 7.2 1,441   858 7.6 1,361   748 6.6 1,263   936 8.3 767   632 5.6 767   679 6.0 625   571 5.0 613   520 4.6 608   272 2.4 345   380 3.4 342   4,903 43.4 5,509

Source: Lebanese Customs.

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

	Jan -Dec	Share	Jan -Dec	Share	
	2020	%	2021	%	
UAE	460	13.0	864	22.2	
SWITZERLAND	1,054	29.7	425	10.9	
CAMEROON	9	0.3	283	7.3	
QATAR	142	4.0	197	5.1	
EGYPT	98	2.8	173	4.5	
USA	99	2.8	130	3.3	
SAUDI ARABIA	218	6.2	124	3.2	
IRAQ	133	3.8	123	3.2	
GREECE	77	2.2	95	2.4	
SYRIA	107	3.0	91	2.3	
OTHER COUNTRIES	1,156	32.6	1,382	35.6	
TOTAL EXPORTS	3,544	100.0	3,887	100.0	

Source: Lebanese Customs.



	2020	202	21	20	22
	Dec	Feb	Dec	Jan	Feb
ASSETS					
Reserves	168,142	168,175	168,501	170,780	170,218
-Cash	1,664	1,762	4,224	4,290	4,786
-Deposits at the Central Bank	166,477	166,413	164,277	166,490	165,432
Claims on the Resident Private and Financial Sectors	48,288	47,627	37,506	36,519	36,125
-Claims denominated in Lebanese Pound	19,674	19,385	16,455	16,117	16,072
-Claims denominated in Foreign Currencies	28,614	28,242	21,051	20,402	20,053
Claims on the Public Sector	31,745	31,846	25,215	23,137	23,057
o/w -Treasury Bills in Lebanese Pound	17,266	17,260	18,258	16,189	16,122
-Treasury Bills in Foreign Currencies	14,157	14,264	6,661	6,648	6,636
Foreign Assets	21,140	21,266	18,253	18,206	17,745
-Claims on Non-Resident Private Sector	6,235	5,875	4,275	4,179	4,111
-Claims on Non-Resident Banks	7,110	7,423	6,919	6,876	6,837
-Currency and deposits with other central banks	871	1,083	1,563	1,652	1,613
-Other Foreign Assets	6,190	6,165	4,691	4,385	
-Non Resident securities portfolio	735	720	788	808	800
Tangible and intangible assets	7,594	7,466	7,356	7,282	7,886
Resident Private securities portfolio	2,445	2,485	2,954	2,852	2,776
Unclassified Assets	4,120	4,744	3,763	3,907	4,089
TOTAL ASSETS	283,474	283,609	263,547	262,684	261,895
LIABILITIES					
Liabilities to the Resident Private and Financial Sectors	168,519	168,260	158,178	157,762	157,373
-Deposits in Lebanese Pound	37,779	38,417	37,099	37,271	37,621
-Deposits in Foreign Currencies	130,740	129,843	121,079	120,491	119,752
Liabilities to the Public Sector	8,264	8,424	7,538	7,492	6,927
Deposits of Non-Residents Customers	41,233	41,059	36,996	36,605	36,513
-Denominated in Lebanese Pound	3,403	3,353	3,072	2,981	2,995
-Denominated in Foreign Currencies	37,830	37,706	33,924	33,625	33,518
Liabilities to Non-Resident Banks	9,924	9,733	7,343	7,324	7,246
Bonds	813	610	595	568	562
Capital Base	30,045	25,959	26,811	24,041	24,161
-Core Capital	28,026	23,723	25,321	22,541	22,663
-Supplementary Capital	2,019	2,236	1,490	1,500	1,498
Unclassified Liabilities	24,675	29,565	26,085	28,892	29,113
TOTAL LIABILITIES	283,474	283,609	263,547	262,684	261,895

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

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)

	2020	20	21	20	22
	Dec	Feb	Dec	Jan	Feb
Money Supply					
Currency in circulation	29,242	32,715	41,515	37,843	35,548
+ Demand Deposits in LBP	10,914	12,583	16,422	17,087	17,966
= M1	40,156	45,298	57,937	54,931	53,513
+ Other Deposits in LBP	27,354	26,304	21,070	20,583	20,105
= M2	67,510	71,602	79,007	75,513	73,618
+ Deposits in Foreign Currencies	132,022	131,007	121,729	121,139	120,383
+ Bonds	519	308	334	344	331
= M3	200,052	202,917	201,070	196,995	194,332
+ Treasury Bills Held by the Public	11,526	11,759	14,045	13,868	14,206
= M4	211,578	214,676	215,115	210,863	208,538
Counterparts of the Money Supply					
Net Foreign Assets	27,028	24,286	22,950	22,295	22,941
o/w Gold	26,116	24,505	25,019	24,890	26,452
Net Claims on the Public Sector	76,290	77,214	67,506	66,962	65,445
Valuation Adjustment	-17,383	-16,198	-17,872	-17,820	-19,356
Claims on the Private Sector	51,964	51,318	40,669	39,638	39,261
Claims in LBP	21,706	21,430	18,281	17,906	17,849
Claims in FC	30,258	29,889	22,389	21,732	21,412
Other Items (Net)	62,153	66,295	87,817	85,920	86,040
TOTAL	200,052	202,917	201,070	196,995	194,332

Source: BDL.



#### OUTSTANDING PUBLIC DEBT BY TYPE OF HOLDER (End of Period - Billion LBP) (Actual Value\*)

Year And		Total Debt		Local C De	•			ency			
Month			Central Bank	Banks	Others <sup>(1)</sup>	Total	IDI**	FG+	Paris II loans	Others <sup>(2)</sup>	Total
2019	Dec	138,150	50,717	25,316	11,246	87,279	2,074	950	0	47,847	50,871
2020	Dec	144,108	55,079	23,157	11,526	89,762	2,203	880	0	51,263	54,346
2021	Jan	144,627	55,284	23,179	11,524	89,987	2,193	881	0	51,566	54,640
	Feb	146,001	56,033	23,222	11,759	91,014	2,224	879	0	51,884	54,987
	Mar	146,598	56,445	23,242	11,639	91,326	2,210	862	0	52,199	55,271
	Apr	147,395	56,749	23,175	11,893	91,817	2,210	855	0	52,513	55,578
	May	147,979	57,079	23,130	11,900	92,109	2,216	826	0	52,828	55,870
	Jun	147,373	56,154	22,864	12,151	91,169	2,239	816	0	53,149	56,204
	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	151,318	58,002	21,209	14,045	93,256	2,215	743	0	55,104	58,062
2022	Jan	149,658	58,255	19,155	13,868	91,278	2,201	742	0	55,437	58,380

Source :BDL.

\* 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).

#### TREASURY BILLS PORTFOLIO IN LBP

(Face value, Billion LBP)

Year And Month		In Circulation End of period	Issue	Reimbursement	Weighted Average Life (days)	Weighted Average Interest (%)	
2020	Dec	88,141	2,162	2,182	1,693	6.52	
2021	Feb	89,279	1,234	297	1,658	6.51	
	Mar	89,511	849	617	1,640	6.50	
	Apr	90,024	1,163	650	1,621	6.49	
	May	90,314	922	632	1,605	6.49	
	Jun	89,532	2,198	2,980	1,633	6.60	
	Jul	89,895	1,146	783	1,611	6.58	
	Aug	90,245	879	529	1,590	6.58	
	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	

Source:BDL.



Yea	r	Average L	ending **	Average	Deposit	Inter	3m	Inte	rest rates	s on TBs	(last iss	ue)				
And	ł	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	180-n
Mon	th	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	Feb	7.59	6.92	2.11	0.54	3.00	0.19	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	Mar	8.02	7.14	1.96	0.52	-	0.19	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	Apr	8.00	6.88	2.01	0.49	-	0.19	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	May	7.86	6.61	1.85	0.42	3.00	0.15	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	Jun	7.32	6.46	1.84	0.39	-	0.13	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	Jul	7.26	5.99	1.74	0.33	3.00	0.13	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	Aug	7.52	5.87	1.62	0.30	3.00	0.13	3.47	3.92	4.31	4.94	5.43	5.91	6.40	6.88	
	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	

#### **AVERAGE INTEREST RATES**

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

\* On Funds in LBP, weighted by daily volume.

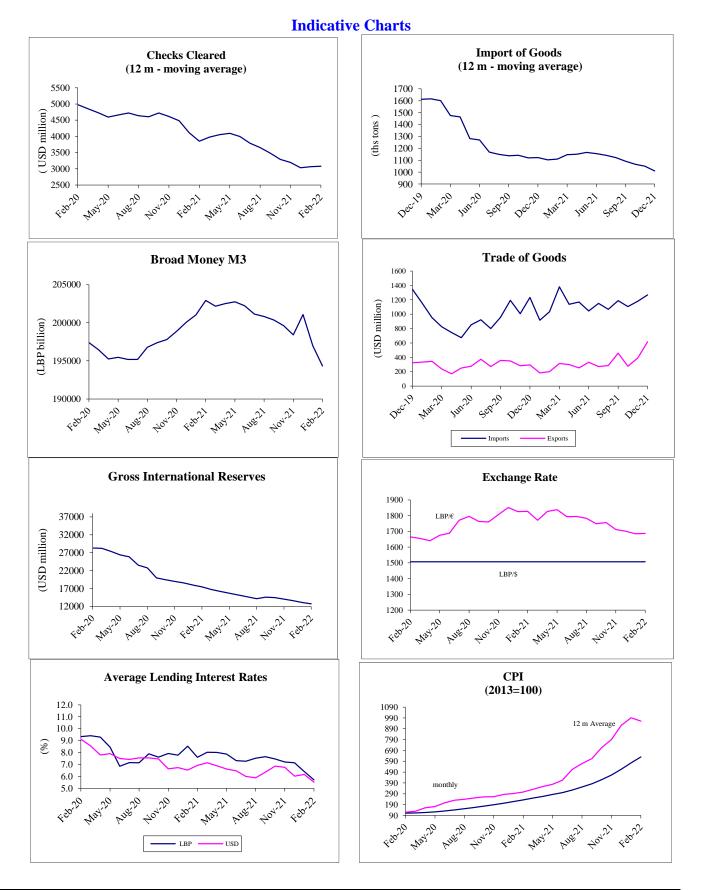
\*\* Starting January 2016, lending rates are calculated according to intermediary circular No 389.

#### Year and US British Swiss Euro Japanese Month Dollar Franc Pound Yen 2020 Dec 1,507.50 1,706.67 2,048.54 14.61 1,851.21 Feb 2021 14.17 1,507.50 1,666.67 2,101.61 1,827.84 Mar 1,507.50 1,600.32 2,078.54 13.63 1,770.56 Apr 1,507.50 1,656.41 2,104.17 13.82 1,826.34 May 1,507.50 1,678.54 2,140.65 13.72 1,838.55 Jun 1,507.50 1,634.50 2,086.23 13.65 1,793.62 Jul 1,507.50 1,665.75 2,106.73 13.76 1,794.68 Aug 1,507.50 2,076.43 1,649.70 13.71 1,783.07 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 2,022.91 1,507.50 1,639.48 13.11 1,701.52 2022 1,507.50 13.05 Jan 1,617.66 2,026.23 1,684.78 Feb 1,507.50 1,634.15 2,018.69 13.04 1,687.19

END OF PERIOD EXCHANGE RATES (LBP per other currencies)

Source: BDL.







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.

