

## ASSOCIATION OF BANKS IN LEBANON

Research & Statistics Department



The Economic Letter

May 2021

## Summary:

In May 2021, real sector indicators were mixed in relation to the preceding month. The overall balance of payments had a mild deficit and the foreign currency reserves retreated. Deposits and loans at banks continued to shrink and interest rates were lower.

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#### I- REAL SECTOR

#### 1-Construction and Real Estate

Construction and real estate indicators retreated in May 2021 when compared to the preceding month but were mixed with reference to May 2020.

|   | May-21  | Apr-21    | May-20  | Change %<br>May 2021/May<br>2020 |
|---|---------|-----------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Construction permits                        | 542,649 | 1,332,663 | 169,736 | 219.7                            |
| Area (s.m)                                  |         |           |         |                                  |
| Number (permits)                            | 1,265   | 2,071     | 364     | 247.5                            |
| Cement deliveries (000 tons)                | 140     | 171       | 133     | 5.3                              |
| Collected real estate fees (LBP billion)    | 108.0   | 131.3     | 71.5    | 51.0                             |
| Real estate sales operations (number)       | 7,434   | 9,398     | 4,036   | 84.2                             |
| Value of Real estate sales<br>(LBP billion) | 1,483   | 1,879     | 1,692   | -12.4                            |
| Real estate transactions (number)           | 15,018  | 19,377    | 6,966   | 115.6                            |

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

### 2-Tourism

Indicators of tourism activity improved in May 2021 in respect of the past month and May 2020.

|                                       | May-21  | Apr-21  | May-20 | Change %<br>May 2021/May<br>2020 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Number of arriving passengers at BIA  | 153,371 | 107,356 | 16,586 | 824.7                            |
| Number of departing passengers at BIA | 128,742 | 106,125 | 3,291  | 3811.9                           |
| Inbound Aircrafts at BIA (flights)    | 1,407   | 1,210   | 362    | 288.7                            |
| Outbound Aircrafts at BIA (flights)   | 1,405   | 1,209   | 363    | 287.1                            |

Sources: Beirut International Airport, Ministry of Tourism.

## 3-Trade and Services

Trade and services indicators were mixed in May 2021 vis-à-vis the previous month and May 2020.

|  | May-21  | Apr-21  | May-20  | Change %<br>May 2021/May<br>2020 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Checks Cleared                         |         |         |         |                                  |
| Value (USD million)                    | 3,112   | 3,828   | 2,572   | 21.0                             |
| Number (000 checks)                    | 294     | 344     | 300     | -2.0                             |
| Checks Returned                        |         |         |         |                                  |
| Value (USD million)                    | 48      | 42      | 46      | 4.3                              |
| Number (checks)                        | 1,950   | 2,629   | 7,049   | -72.3                            |
| Ships at the port of Beirut (number)   | 107     | 107     | 116     | -7.8                             |
| Weight of unloaded goods at POB (tons) | 334,032 | 329,318 | 341,641 | -2.2                             |
| Weight of shipped goods at POB (tons)  | 66,730  | 61,633  | 55,554  | 20.1                             |
| Discharged containers at POB (number)  | 13,645  | 13,634  | 12,100  | 12.8                             |
| Revenues of POB (USD million)          | 7.7     | 7.6     | 8.0     | -3.8                             |
| Merchandise at BIA                     | •       | •       |         |                                  |
| Imports (tons)                         | 2,296   | 2,315   | 1,288   | 78.3                             |
| Exports (tons)                         | 2,691   | 5,758   | 2,229   | 20.7                             |

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

### 4-Industry and Agriculture

|                                   | May-21 | Apr-21 | May-20  | Change %<br>May 2021/May<br>2020 |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|----------------------------------|
| Electricity production (MKWH)     | n.a    | n.a    | 944     | -                                |
| Imports of gas oil                |        |        |         |                                  |
| Value (million USD)               | n.a    | n.a    | 89.4    | -                                |
| Volume (tons)                     | n.a    | n.a    | 364,742 | -                                |
| Agriculture imports (USD million) | n.a    | n.a    | 110.0   | -                                |
| Agriculture exports (USD million) | n.a    | n.a    | 14.5    | -                                |

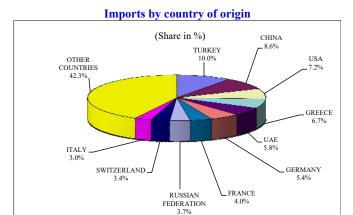
Source: BDL, Lebanese Customs.

#### II- EXTERNAL SECTOR

### In February 2021,

**Imports of goods** increased to USD 1,033 million from USD 916 million in January 2021 and USD 951 million in February 2020. Imports dropped, however, by 7.4 percent in the first two months of 2021 with reference to the same months of 2020.

In the first two months of 2021, mineral products lead imported goods with a 23.6 percent share of total imports, they were followed by products of the chemical (15.5 percent), then vegetable products which accounted for 8.7 percent and pearls, precious and semi - precious stones 8.2 percent. Turkey topped the list of imports by country of origin with a 10.0 percent share of total. China came next with a share of 8.6 percent followed by United States (7.2 percent) and Greece (6.7 percent).



Source: Lebanese Customs

|   |        |        |        | Change %             |
|---|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|
| LBP billion                                       | May-21 | Apr-21 | May-20 | May 2021/May<br>2020 |
| Documentary L/Cs for import (opened credits)      | 4.7    | 12.1   | 33.7   | -86.1                |
| Documentary L/Cs for import (utilized credits)    | 9.9    | 3.9    | 31.0   | -68.1                |
| Bills for collection for import:<br>Inward bills  | 26.0   | 38.0   | 36.4   | -28.6                |
| Documentary L/Cs for export (opened credits)      | 7.9    | 6.2    | 10.2   | -22.5                |
| Documentary L/Cs for export (utilized credits)    | 19.3   | 13.1   | 38.5   | -49.9                |
| Bills for collection for export:<br>Outward bills | 24.3   | 26.7   | 33.7   | -27.9                |

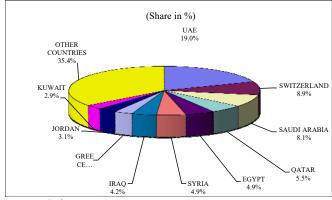
Source: BDL

#### In February 2021,

**Exports of goods** increased to USD 200 million compared to USD 184 million in January 2021 (USD 343 million in February 2020). Yet, exports retreated in the first two months of 2021 by 43.2 percent in respect of the same months of the preceding year.

In the first two months of 2021, pearls, precious and semi - precious stones were on top of the list with a share of 26.6 percent of total exports, followed by prepared foodstuffs (14.3 percent) and base metals & articles of base metals (14.1 percent). UAE outperformed all others in terms of exports by country of destination with 19.0 percent share of the total, trailed by Switzerland with a share of 8.9 percent, followed by Saudi Arabia (8.1 percent) and Qatar (5.5 percent).





Source: Lebanese Customs

The trade deficit broadened as such to USD 833 million from USD 732 million in January 2021 and USD 608 million in February 2020. It increased by 9.5 percent when compared to the first two months of 2020.

**External Sector Indicators** 

| USD million                     | May-20 | Apr-21 | May-21 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Imports                         | 674    | n.a.   | n.a.   |
| Exports                         | 251    | n.a.   | n.a.   |
| Trade deficit                   | -423   | n.a.   | n.a.   |
| Balance of payments             | -888   | -546   | -181   |
| Gross foreign currency reserves | 26,437 | 16,233 | 15,708 |

Source: Lebanese Customs, BDL.

The overall balance of payments reported a deficit of USD 181 million in May 2021 following a deficit of USD 546 million in April 2021 (USD 888 million deficit in May 2020). The USD 1,574 million negative balance recorded in the first five months of 2021 represented a decrease in net foreign assets of the central bank (USD -2,914 million) partly offset by an increase in net foreign assets of banks and financial institutions (USD 1,340 million).

Gross foreign currency reserves of the Central bank decreased to USD 15,708 million at the end of May 2021 compared to USD 16,233 million at the end of April 2021 and USD 26,437 million at end May 2020. BDL foreign assets securities decreased to USD 5,404 million in May 2021 from USD 5,419 million at the end of the previous month and USD 7,089 million at the end of May 2020.

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

#### 1. Commercial Banks

**Total consolidated assets of commercial banks operating in Lebanon** amounted to LBP 276,406 billion (USD 183.4 billion at the official exchange rate) at the end of May 2021, decreasing by 2.5 percent from end December 2020 (6.0 percent decrease in the first five months of 2020).

Total deposits at commercial banks, including resident and non-resident private sector deposits and public sector deposits decreased by 2.7 percent in the first five months of 2021 and constituted 76.7 percent of total assets with an equivalent value of LBP 212,093 billion (around USD 140.7 billion) at the end of the period.

**Commercial Banks Balance Sheet - Main items** 

| Commercial Danks Da                     | ance sheet | IVIAIII Itti | 113     |
|---|------------|--------------|---------|
| End of period-LBP billion               | May-20     | Apr-21       | May-21  |
| Total Assets                            | 307,293    | 278,176      | 276,406 |
| Total deposits                          | 227,860    | 213,842      | 212,093 |
| Resident customers' deposits            | 174,339    | 162,203      | 161,087 |
| Non-resident customers' deposits        | 43,829     | 40,441       | 40,253  |
| Resident financial sector liabilities   | 2,375      | 2,406        | 2,332   |
| Public sector deposits                  | 7,317      | 8,792        | 8,422   |
| Non deposit liabilities                 | 48,874     | 38,745       | 38,733  |
| Capital accounts                        | 30,559     | 25,589       | 25,580  |
| Total claims on customers               | 64,256     | 49,676       | 48,781  |
| Resident customers                      | 56,374     | 44,079       | 43,227  |
| Non-resident customers                  | 7,882      | 5,596        | 5,554   |
| Total claims on public sector           | 37,252     | 30,467       | 29,686  |
| in LBP                                  | 21,402     | 17,815       | 17,270  |
| in FC                                   | 15,850     | 12,651       | 12,416  |
| Claims on non resident Financial sector | 7,109      | 6,508        | 7,358   |
| Non-resident securities portfolio       | 776        | 736          | 647     |
| Other foreign assets*                   | 14,749     | 12,837       | 12,254  |
| Deposits at the central bank            | 174,458    | 165,376      | 164,723 |

Source: BDL.

The breakdown of total deposits shows that private sector deposits denominated in LBP decreased by 3.6 percent in the first five months of 2021 and those denominated in foreign currencies decreased by 2.7 percent, thus deposit dollarization rate remained almost unchanged at 80.5 percent at end May 2021 (80.4 percent at the end of December 2020). The itemization of total deposits reveals a decrease in non -resident private sector deposits (-2.4 percent) and in resident

private sector deposits (-3.0 percent) but an increase in public sector deposits (+1.9 percent) in the first five months of 2021. Subsequently, resident private sector deposits accounted for 77.0 percent of total deposits at end May 2021 (19.0 percent for non-resident private sector and 4.0 percent for public sector deposits).

Total capital accounts amounted to LBP 25,580 billion (USD 16,969 million) at the end of May 2021 and represented around 9.3 percent of total assets. Capital accounts decreased by 14.9 percent from end December 2020.

Total claims on the resident and non-resident customers declined by 9.9 percent in the first five months of 2021, reaching LBP 48,781 billion at the end of May 2021. The dollarization rate of these loans was 58.9 percent at the end of the stated month, and the ratio of total claims on resident and non-resident customers to total deposits attained 24.0 percent.

Total claims on the public sector were equivalent to LBP 29,686 billion at the end of May 2021, thus decreasing by 6.5 percent from end December 2020. Commercial banks held at the end of the stated month LBP 16,957 billion of Lebanese treasury bills (18.8 percent of the total portfolio in circulation) and USD 8,236 million of Eurobonds (nearly 27.5 percent of the total outstanding portfolio at end March 2021).

Deposits at the Central Bank (including CDs) amounted to LBP 164,723 billion at the end of May 2021 (-1.1 percent from end December 2020), whereas claims on non-resident financial sector increased to LBP 7,358 billion (USD 4.8 billion) that is by 3.5 percent from December 2020 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 6,714 billion (around USD 4.5 billion) at the end of May 2021, thus decreasing by 2.3 percent from end December 2020. Deposits, including those of resident and non—resident customers and resident financial sector decreased by 8.8 percent in the first five months of 2021 to reach LBP 2,155 billion at the end of the period.

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

#### 3. Financial Markets

The total number of shares traded on the Beirut Stock Exchange increased to 2,276 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 34.9 million in May 2021 compared to 1,917 thousand shares with a traded value of USD 32.2 million in the previous month (6,732 thousand shares with a value of USD 27.8 million in May 2020).

During May 2021, the traded value by economic sectors was as such: 92.0 percent for Development and Reconstruction, 7.9 percent for Banking and 0.1 percent for Industrial.

**Capital Markets** 

| Capital Wal Kets  |        |        |        |  |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--|
|   | May-20 | Apr-21 | May-21 |  |
| BSE   |        |        |        |  |
| Traded shares (000)   | 6,732  | 1,917  | 2,276  |  |
| Traded value (USD million)                                  | 27.8   | 32.2   | 34.9   |  |
| Market capitalization                                       | 5,978  | 9,413  | 9,177  |  |
| (USD million)   |        |        |        |  |
| Outstanding treasury bills (LBP billion)                    | 86,549 | 90,024 | 90,314 |  |
| Outstanding sovereign Eurobonds (USD million)               | 31,314 | 31,314 | 31,314 |  |
| Outstanding private sector (banks) securities (USD million) | 950    | 950    | 950    |  |
| g DDI DGE   |        |        |        |  |

Source: BDL, BSE

The market capitalization of listed shares decreased to USD 9,177 million at the end of May 2021, from USD 9,413 million at the end of the previous month (USD 5,978 million at the end of May 2020). Banking had 50.9 percent weight, whereas Development and Construction 44.8 percent.

The face value of the outstanding treasury bills portfolio denominated in the domestic currency amounted to LBP 90,314 billion at the end of May 2021 (LBP 90,024 billion at the end of April 2021) 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 950 million at the end of May 2021. The outstanding value of the certificates of deposits issued by BDL in the domestic currency stood unchanged at LBP 43,238 billion and the outstanding value of the certificates of deposits issued by BDL in USD remained unchanged at USD 22.5 billion.

#### IV- MONETARY DEVELOPMENTS

The stock of money and quasi money (M3) attained LBP 202,745 billion at the end of May 2021, of which 63.4 percent denominated in foreign currencies, thus increasing by 1.3 percent from end December 2020.

**Money Supply & Counterparts** 

| LBP billion                 | May-20  | Apr-21  | May-21  |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| M3                          | 195,473 | 202,511 | 202,745 |
| Net foreign assets          | 37,543  | 23,511  | 25,043  |
| Net claims on public sector | 80,892  | 75,132  | 73,646  |
| Valuation Adjustment        | -15,866 | -16,810 | -18,768 |
| Claims on private sector    | 60,965  | 47,966  | 47,060  |
| Other items-net             | 31,939  | 72,713  | 75,765  |
| CAS CPI (Dec 2013=100)      | 172.06  | 356.65  | 378.25  |
|                             |         |         |         |

Source: BDL, CAS.

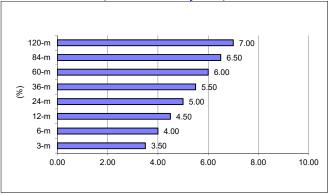
The LBP 2,693 billion increase in M3 in the first five months of 2021 resulted from an increase in net items other than foreign assets and claims on private and public sectors (+LBP 13,612 billion) against a drop in each of claims on the private sector (-LBP 4,904 billion), net claims on public sector (-LBP 2,644 billion), net foreign assets (-LBP 1,985 billion) and valuation adjustment (-LBP 1,385 billion).

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Beirut and Suburbs, published by the Consultation and Research Institute, increased by 6.36 percent in the month of May 2021 compared to the previous month and by 49.29 percent from December 2020.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Lebanon, published by the Central Administration of Statistics increased by 6.06 percent in May 2021 compared to the previous month and by 33.17 percent from December 2020.

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 May 2021. 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.

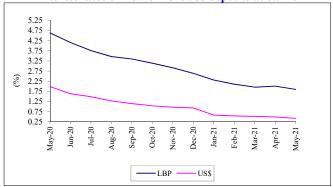
Yield on Lebanese treasury bills denominated in LBP (Last issue of May 2021)



Source: BDL

In May 2021, the average interest rate on new or renewed LBP and USD deposits at commercial banks decreased to 1.85 percent (2.01 percent a month ago) and 0.42 percent (0.49 percent in April 2021) respectively. The average 3-month USD LIBOR was 0.15 percent.

Interest rates on new or renewed deposits at banks



In May 2021, the average interest rate on new or renewed loans at commercial banks denominated in LBP and USD decreased to 7.86 percent (8.00 percent a month ago) and 6.61 percent (6.88 percent in April 2021) respectively.

#### V- PUBLIC FINANCES

Government revenues, including budget revenues and treasury receipts attained LBP 1,826 billion in December 2020 to sum LBP 15,342 billion in the year 2020 (LBP 16,680 billion in 2019). The LBP 15,342 billion revenues comprised LBP 10,474 billion tax revenues, LBP 3,212 billion non-tax revenues and LBP 1,656 billion treasury receipts.

| Fiscal Situation        |        |        |        |  |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| LBP billion             | Dec-19 | Nov-20 | Dec-20 |  |
| Government revenues     | 1,351  | 1,492  | 1,826  |  |
| Tax revenues            | 827    | 876    | 1,105  |  |
| Non-tax revenues        | 456    | 483    | 541    |  |
| Treasury receipts       | 68     | 133    | 180    |  |
| Government expenditures | 2,738  | 1,307  | 1,871  |  |
| Debt service            | 602    | 178    | 443    |  |
| Others                  | 2,136  | 1,129  | 1,428  |  |
| Overall balance         | -1,387 | 185    | -45    |  |
| Primary balance         | -786   | 363    | 398    |  |

Source: Ministry of Finance.

Government expenditures, consisting of budget and treasury spending, amounted to LBP 1,871 billion in December 2020 to sum LBP 19,425 billion in the year 2020 (LBP 25,477 billion in the year 2019). The LBP 19,425 billion expenditures included LBP 3,106 billion debt service and LBP 16,319 billion other general expenditures o/w LBP 2,390 billion related to budget expenditures for previous years and LBP 1,393 billion to EDL.

**Total Deficit** decreased as such to LBP 4,083 billion in the year 2020 from LBP 8,797 billion in the year 2019, and the primary balance reported an LBP 977 billion deficit compared to an LBP 431 billion deficit respectively.

Gross public debt amounted to LBP 146,624 billion (the equivalent of USD 97.3 billion) at the end of March 2021, thus increasing by 1.7 percent when compared to end December 2020 (1.0 percent growth in the first quarter 2020).

**Net public debt**, which subtracts public sector deposits at banks and the central bank from gross public debt, amounted to LBP 130,784 billion at the end of March 2021, therefore increasing by 1.4 percent from end of December 2020 (2.6 percent growth in the first quarter 2020).

| _ |   |    |    | _ |   |   |
|---|---|----|----|---|---|---|
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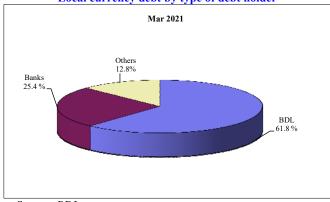
| Tubic Debt             |         |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| LBP billion            | Mar-20  | Feb-21  | Mar-21  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public Debt (Gross)    | 139,557 | 145,996 | 146,624 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Debt in LBP            | 87,935  | 91,014  | 91,327  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Debt in FC             | 51,622  | 54,982  | 55,297  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public Debt (Net)      | 125,671 | 130,741 | 130,784 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public sector deposits | 13,886  | 15,255  | 15,840  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Banks                  | 7,145   | 8,453   | 8,695   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| BDL                    | 6,741   | 6,802   | 7,145   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                        |         |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Source: BDL.

The shares of the local currency debt and foreign currency debt of the total gross were around 62.3 percent and 37.7 percent respectively at the end of March 2021. The distribution of local currency debt by type of holder was as follows: 25.4 percent for banks (25.5 percent end of February 2021), 61.8 percent for the Central bank (61.6 percent in the previous month) and 12.8 percent for the non-banking sector (12.9 percent one month earlier). The breakdown of the foreign currency debt was as such: Eurobonds (94.3 percent), Multilateral (4.0 percent), Bilateral (1.6 percent) and others (0.1 percent).

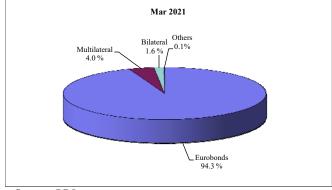
The average maturity of the Government debt securities denominated in the domestic currency is estimated at 1,605 days (4.41 years) as at end May 2021 with a weighted interest of 6.49 percent while the average maturity of the Government debt instruments denominated in foreign currencies is around 7.84 years with a weighted interest of 7.38 percent as at end February 2020 (latest available).

Local currency debt by type of debt holder



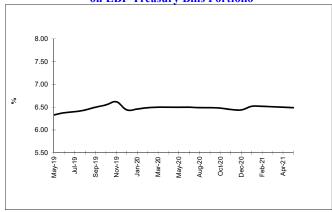
Source: BDL.

Foreign currency debt

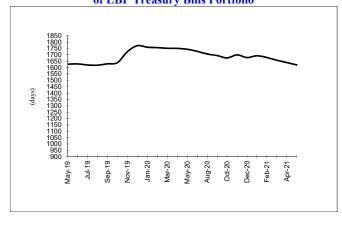


Source: BDL.

Weighted Average Interest Rate on LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



Weighted Average Life of LBP Treasury Bills Portfolio



## GENERAL INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

|   | Jan - May<br>2020 | Jan - May<br>2021 | May-20  | Apr-21  | May-21 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Imports of Industrial Equipment (000's US\$)                      | 38,728            | n.a.              | 3,895   | n.a.    | n.a.   |
| Building Permits (000's m2)                                       | 803               | 3,434             | 170     | 1,333   | 543    |
| Cement Delivery (000s' tons)                                      | 556               | n.a.              | 133     | 171     | n.a.   |
| Checks Cleared in LBP (billion LBP)                               | 11,680            | 11,278            | 1,666   | 2,592   | 2,429  |
| Checks Cleared in FC (million US\$)                               | 13,848            | 9,460             | 1,467   | 2,109   | 1,501  |
| Shipped Goods (tons)-Beirut Port                                  | 298,214           | n.a.              | 55,554  | 61,633  | n.a.   |
| Unloaded Goods (tons)-Beirut Port                                 | 1,573,032         | n.a.              | 341,641 | 329,318 | n.a.   |
| Passengers Arrivals (000's)-BIA                                   | 557               | 496               | 17      | 107     | 153    |
| Passengers Departures (000's)-BIA                                 | 621               | 536               | 3       | 106     | 129    |
| Total exports of goods (million USD)                              | 1,335             | n.a.              | 251     | n.a.    | n.a.   |
| Total imports of goods (million USD)                              | 4,350             | n.a.              | 674     | n.a.    | n.a.   |
| Balance of Trade (million USD)                                    | -3,015            | n.a.              | -423    | n.a.    | n.a.   |
| Changes of Net Foreign Assets in the banking system (million USD) | -2,190            | -1,574            | -888    | -546    | -181   |
| Gross Foreign Currency Reserves<br>(End of period-million USD)    | -                 | -                 | 26,437  | 16,233  | 15,708 |
| Consumer Price Index (End of period)                              | -                 | -                 | 172.06  | 356.65  | 378.25 |

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   | Exports   |         |           |           |
|--|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Goods  | Jan-Dec | Jan - Feb | Jan - Feb | Jan-Dec | Jan - Feb | Jan - Feb |
|  | 2020    | 2020      | 2021      | 2020    | 2020      | 2021      |
| 1- Live animals, animal products             | 619     | 101       | 91        | 41      | 2         | 8         |
| 2- Vegetable products                        | 797     | 147       | 169       | 233     | 34        | 36        |
| 3- Fats & edible fats & oils                 | 127     | 21        | 35        | 52      | 8         | 6         |
| 4- Prepared foodstuffs                       | 755     | 125       | 138       | 375     | 66        | 55        |
| 5- Mineral products                          | 3,244   | 750       | 459       | 22      | 4         | 2         |
| 6- Products of the chemical                  | 1,684   | 256       | 303       | 323     | 48        | 35        |
| 7- Plastics & articles thereof               | 345     | 44        | 72        | 104     | 17        | 15        |
| 8- Raw hides & skins, leather, furskins      | 20      | 5         | 2         | 11      | 3         | 1         |
| 9- Wood & articles of wood                   | 72      | 8         | 12        | 7       | 2         | 1         |
| 10- Paper & paperboard & articles thereof    | 182     | 21        | 30        | 92      | 17        | 9         |
| 11- Textiles & textile articles              | 261     | 55        | 34        | 44      | 10        | 5         |
| 12- Footwear, headgear, prepared feathers    | 43      | 10        | 5         | 8       | 4         | 1         |
| 13- Articles of stone, plaster, cement       | 157     | 17        | 28        | 18      | 4         | 2         |
| 14- Pearls, precious or semi-precious stones | 894     | 208       | 160       | 1410    | 316       | 102       |
| 15- Base metals & articles of base metal     | 382     | 61        | 84        | 306     | 60        | 54        |
| 16- Machinery & mechanical appliances        | 897     | 135       | 127       | 312     | 51        | 31        |
| 17-Transport equipment                       | 472     | 77        | 134       | 72      | 10        | 7         |
| 18- Optical instruments & apparatus          | 200     | 34        | 38        | 21      | 2         | 1         |
| 19- Arms & ammunition                        | 9       | 3         | 0         | 0       | 0         | 0         |
| 20- Miscellaneous manufactured articles      | 140     | 25        | 25        | 82      | 15        | 9         |
| 21- Works of art                             | 10      | 2         | 3         | 11      | 1         | 4         |
| Total  | 11,310  | 2,105     | 1,949     | 3,544   | 676       | 384       |

Source: Lebanese Customs.

## IMPORTS BY ORIGIN (Million US Dollars)

#### Jan - Feb Share Jan - Feb Share 2020 % 2021 % TURKEY 183 8.7 194 10.0 **CHINA** 167 120 5.7 8.6 USA 108 5.1 140 7.2 GREECE 199 9.5 131 6.7 132 UAE 6.3 113 5.8 **GERMANY** 91 4.3 105 5.4 FRANCE 60 2.9 77 4.0 RUSSIAN FEDERATION 92 4.4 72 3.7 SWITZERLAND 43 2.0 66 3.4 **ITALY** 178 8.5 59 3.0 OTHER COUNTRIES 42.3 899 42.7 825 TOTAL IMPORTS 2,105 100.0 1,949 100.0

Source: Lebanese Customs.

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

|                 | Jan - Feb | Share | Jan - Feb | Share |
|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|
|                 | 2019      | %     | 2020      | %     |
| UAE             | 114       | 16.9  | 73        | 19.0  |
| SWITZERLAND     | 221       | 32.7  | 34        | 8.9   |
| SAUDI ARABIA    | 43        | 6.4   | 31        | 8.1   |
| QATAR           | 19        | 2.8   | 21        | 5.5   |
| EGYPT           | 16        | 2.4   | 19        | 4.9   |
| SYRIA           | 21        | 3.1   | 19        | 4.9   |
| IRAQ            | 24        | 3.6   | 16        | 4.2   |
| GREECE          | 16        | 2.4   | 12        | 3.1   |
| JORDAN          | 17        | 2.5   | 12        | 3.1   |
| KUWAIT          | 10        | 1.5   | 11        | 2.9   |
| OTHER COUNTRIES | 175       | 25.9  | 136       | 35.4  |
| TOTAL EXPORTS   | 676       | 100.0 | 384       | 100.0 |

Source: Lebanese Customs.

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

|   | 20      | 20      |         | 2021    |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|   | May     | Dec     | Mar     | Apr     | May     |
| ASSETS  |         |         |         |         |         |
| Reserves  | 175,875 | 168,142 | 167,928 | 167,585 | 167,109 |
| -Cash   | 1,416   | 1,664   | 2,070   | 2,209   | 2,386   |
| -Deposits at the Central Bank                             | 174,458 | 166,477 | 165,858 | 165,376 | 164,723 |
| Claims on the Resident Private and Financial Sectors      | 56,801  | 48,288  | 45,831  | 44,321  | 43,483  |
| -Claims denominated in Lebanese Pound                     | 20,308  | 19,674  | 18,799  | 18,316  | 17,995  |
| -Claims denominated in Foreign Currencies                 | 36,493  | 28,614  | 27,031  | 26,005  | 25,488  |
| Claims on the Public Sector                               | 37,252  | 31,745  | 30,561  | 30,467  | 29,686  |
| o/w -Treasury Bills in Lebanese Pound                     | 21,110  | 17,266  | 17,507  | 17,505  | 16,957  |
| -Treasury Bills in Foreign Currencies                     | 15,850  | 14,157  | 12,726  | 12,651  | 12,416  |
| Foreign Assets  | 22,634  | 21,140  | 20,905  | 20,081  | 20,260  |
| -Claims on Non-Resident Private Sector                    | 7,882   | 6,235   | 5,731   | 5,596   | 5,554   |
| -Claims on Non-Resident Banks                             | 7,109   | 7,110   | 7,371   | 6,508   | 7,358   |
| -Currency and deposits with other central banks           | 764     | 871     | 975     | 1,086   | 1,201   |
| -Other Foreign Assets                                     | 6,103   | 6,190   | 6,119   | 6,154   | 5,499   |
| -Non Resident securities portfolio                        | 776     | 735     | 710     | 736     | 647     |
| Tangible and intangible assets                            | 7,849   | 7,594   | 7,501   | 7,528   | 7,473   |
| Resident Private securities portfolio                     | 2,235   | 2,445   | 2,684   | 2,739   | 2,757   |
| Unclassified Assets                                       | 4,648   | 4,120   | 5,380   | 5,455   | 5,639   |
| TOTAL ASSETS  | 307,293 | 283,474 | 280,790 | 278,176 | 276,406 |
| LIABILITIES   |         |         |         |         |         |
| Liabilities to the Resident Private and Financial Sectors | 176,714 | 168,519 | 165,912 | 164,609 | 163,418 |
| -Deposits in Lebanese Pound                               | 41,457  | 37,779  | 37,453  | 36,811  | 36,407  |
| -Deposits in Foreign Currencies                           | 135,256 | 130,740 | 128,459 | 127,799 | 127,011 |
| Liabilities to the Public Sector                          | 7,317   | 8,264   | 8,664   | 8,792   | 8,422   |
| Deposits of Non-Residents Customers                       | 43,829  | 41,233  | 40,537  | 40,441  | 40,253  |
| -Denominated in Lebanese Pound                            | 3,599   | 3,403   | 3,343   | 3,322   | 3,310   |
| -Denominated in Foreign Currencies                        | 40,229  | 37,830  | 37,194  | 37,119  | 36,943  |
| Liabilities to Non-Resident Banks                         | 11,784  | 9,924   | 8,972   | 8,111   | 7,949   |
| Bonds   | 895     | 813     | 562     | 616     | 610     |
| Capital Base  | 30,559  | 30,045  | 25,559  | 25,589  | 25,580  |
| -Core Capital   | 28,991  | 28,026  | 23,522  | 23,600  | 23,398  |
| -Supplementary Capital                                    | 1,568   | 2,019   | 2,037   | 1,988   | 2,182   |
| Unclassified Liabilities                                  | 36,194  | 24,675  | 30,583  | 30,017  | 30,174  |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES   | 307,293 | 283,474 | 280,790 | 278,176 | 276,406 |

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      | 20      |         | 2021    |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                     | May     | Dec     | Mar     | Apr     | May     |
| Money Supply                        |         |         |         |         |         |
| Currency in circulation             | 16,420  | 29,242  | 34,421  | 36,016  | 37,483  |
| + Demand Deposits in LBP            | 8,409   | 10,914  | 12,332  | 12,386  | 12,510  |
| = M1                                | 24,829  | 40,156  | 46,753  | 48,402  | 49,993  |
| + Other Deposits in LBP             | 33,638  | 27,354  | 25,547  | 24,846  | 24,319  |
| = M2                                | 58,467  | 67,510  | 72,300  | 73,248  | 74,312  |
| + Deposits in Foreign Currencies    | 136,457 | 132,022 | 129,555 | 128,909 | 128,094 |
| + Bonds                             | 549     | 519     | 320     | 354     | 339     |
| = M3                                | 195,473 | 200,052 | 202,175 | 202,511 | 202,745 |
| + Treasury Bills Held by the Public | 11,498  | 11,526  | 11,639  | 11,894  | 11,900  |
| = M4                                | 206,971 | 211,578 | 213,815 | 214,405 | 214,645 |
| Counterparts of the Money Supply    |         |         |         |         |         |
| Net Foreign Assets                  | 37,543  | 27,028  | 23,072  | 23,511  | 25,043  |
| o/w Gold                            | 23,993  | 26,116  | 23,431  | 24,689  | 26,498  |
| Net Claims on the Public Sector     | 80,892  | 76,290  | 75,556  | 75,132  | 73,646  |
| Valuation Adjustment                | -15,866 | -17,383 | -15,376 | -16,810 | -18,768 |
| Claims on the Private Sector        | 60,965  | 51,964  | 49,483  | 47,966  | 47,060  |
| Claims in LBP                       | 22,436  | 21,706  | 20,808  | 20,332  | 19,976  |
| Claims in FC                        | 38,529  | 30,258  | 28,675  | 27,634  | 27,084  |
| Other Items (Net)                   | 31,939  | 62,153  | 69,441  | 72,713  | 75,765  |
| TOTAL                               | 195,473 | 200,052 | 202,175 | 202,511 | 202,745 |

Source: BDL.

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

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

| Year<br>And |     | Total<br>Debt |                 | Local Currency<br>Debt |                       |        |       | Foreign Currency Debt |                   |                       |        |  |  |
|-------------|-----|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|--|
| Month       |     |               | Central<br>Bank | Banks                  | Others <sup>(1)</sup> | Total  | IDI** | FG+                   | Paris II<br>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        | Mar | 139,557       | 51,501          | 24,916                 | 11,518                | 87,935 | 2,123 | 939                   | 0                 | 48,560                | 51,622 |  |  |
|             | Apr | 140,022       | 51,818          | 24,665                 | 11,643                | 88,126 | 2,135 | 911                   | 0                 | 48,850                | 51,896 |  |  |
|             | May | 140,420       | 52,112          | 24,635                 | 11,499                | 88,246 | 2,138 | 892                   | 0                 | 49,144                | 52,174 |  |  |
|             | Jun | 140,828       | 52,301          | 24,525                 | 11,513                | 88,339 | 2,166 | 892                   | 0                 | 49,431                | 52,489 |  |  |
|             | Jul | 141,344       | 52,490          | 24,537                 | 11,505                | 88,532 | 2,165 | 911                   | 0                 | 49,736                | 52,812 |  |  |
|             | Aug | 142,136       | 52,996          | 24,594                 | 11,417                | 89,007 | 2,171 | 920                   | 0                 | 50,038                | 53,129 |  |  |
|             | Sep | 142,964       | 53,526          | 24,578                 | 11,438                | 89,542 | 2,175 | 906                   | 0                 | 50,341                | 53,422 |  |  |
|             | Oct | 143,297       | 54,478          | 23,627                 | 11,474                | 89,579 | 2,183 | 889                   | 0                 | 50,646                | 53,718 |  |  |
|             | Nov | 143,976       | 54,792          | 23,569                 | 11,593                | 89,954 | 2,198 | 871                   | 0                 | 50,953                | 54,022 |  |  |
|             | 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 | 145,996       | 56,033          | 23,222                 | 11,759                | 91,014 | 2,219 | 879                   | 0                 | 51,884                | 54,982 |  |  |
|             | Mar | 146,624       | 56,445          | 23,242                 | 11,639                | 91,326 | 2,219 | 879                   | 0                 | 52,199                | 55,297 |  |  |

Source :BDL.

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

| Year<br>And<br>Month |     | In<br>Circulation | Issue | Reimbursement | Weighted Average Life | Weighted<br>Average<br>Interest |  |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
|                      | D   | End of period     | 2.55  | 200           | (days)                | (%)                             |  |
| 2019                 | Dec | 85,700            | 3,556 | 399           | 1,772                 | 6.44                            |  |
| 2020                 | May | 86,549            | 711   | 595           | 1,744                 | 6.50                            |  |
|                      | Jun | 86,726            | 761   | 584           | 1,728                 | 6.50                            |  |
|                      | Jul | 86,934            | 770   | 562           | 1,707                 | 6.49                            |  |
|                      | Aug | 87,282            | 1,146 | 798           | 1,695                 | 6.49                            |  |
|                      | Sep | 87,757            | 1,000 | 525           | 1,676                 | 6.48                            |  |
|                      | Oct | 87,763            | 2,222 | 2,216         | 1,700                 | 6.45                            |  |
|                      | Nov | 88,161            | 719   | 321           | 1,679                 | 6.44                            |  |
|                      | Dec | 88,141            | 2,162 | 2,182         | 1,693                 | 6.52                            |  |
| 2021                 | Jan | 88,341            | 1,038 | 837           | 1,679                 | 6.52                            |  |
|                      | 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                            |  |

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**

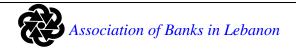
| Yea  | ır  | Average I | ending ** | Average | Deposit  | Inter  | 3m    | Interest rates on TBs (last issue) |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|-----|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 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 | 180-m |
| Mon  | th  | LBP       | US\$      | LBP     | US\$     | Rate * | \$    |                                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |
| 2019 | Dec | 9.09      | 10.84     | 7.36    | 4.62     | 23.64  | 1.91  | 5.23                               | 5.68 | 6.10 | 6.88 | 7.36 | 7.85 | 8.81 | 9.76  |       |
| 2020 | May | 8.45      | 7.90      | 4.63    | 1.99     | 3.38   | 0.40  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | Jun | 6.84      | 7.49      | 4.16    | 1.64     | 8.64   | 0.31  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | Jul | 7.15      | 7.42      | 3.76    | 1.49     | 3.36   | 0.27  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | Aug | 7.14      | 7.54      | 3.47    | 1.28     | 3.06   | 0.25  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | Sep | 7.89      | 7.54      | 3.35    | 1.15     | 3.00   | 0.24  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | Oct | 7.61      | 7.46      | 3.14    | 1.04     | 3.00   | 0.22  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | Nov | 7.92      | 6.63      | 2.91    | 0.97     | 3.00   | 0.22  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 9.76  |       |
|      | 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 | 9.76  |       |
| 2021 | Jan | 8.53      | 6.52      | 2.31    | 0.58     | -      | 0.22  | 3.47                               | 3.92 | 4.31 | 4.94 | 5.43 | 5.91 | 6.40 | 6.88  |       |
|      | 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  |       |

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

END OF PERIOD EXCHANGE RATES (LBP per other currencies)

| Year and |     | US       | Swiss    | British  | Japanese | Euro     |
|----------|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Month    |     | Dollar   | Franc    | Pound    | Yen      |          |
| 2019     | Dec | 1,507.50 | 1,551.09 | 1,977.99 | 13.81    | 1,686.89 |
| 2020     | May | 1,507.50 | 1,567.37 | 1,854.07 | 14.06    | 1,675.59 |
|          | Jun | 1,507.50 | 1,583.18 | 1,848.35 | 13.99    | 1,689.15 |
|          | Jul | 1,507.50 | 1,646.64 | 1,955.23 | 14.37    | 1,771.16 |
|          | Aug | 1,507.50 | 1,667.96 | 2,006.63 | 14.24    | 1,796.04 |
|          | Sep | 1,507.50 | 1,632.02 | 1,932.46 | 14.26    | 1,763.47 |
|          | Oct | 1,507.50 | 1,646.10 | 1,953.42 | 14.44    | 1,760.01 |
|          | Nov | 1,507.50 | 1,668.33 | 2,008.59 | 14.49    | 1,806.59 |
|          | Dec | 1,507.50 | 1,706.67 | 2,048.54 | 14.61    | 1,851.21 |
| 2021     | Jan | 1,507.50 | 1,694.01 | 2,058.94 | 14.37    | 1,825.28 |
|          | Feb | 1,507.50 | 1,666.67 | 2,101.61 | 14.17    | 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 |

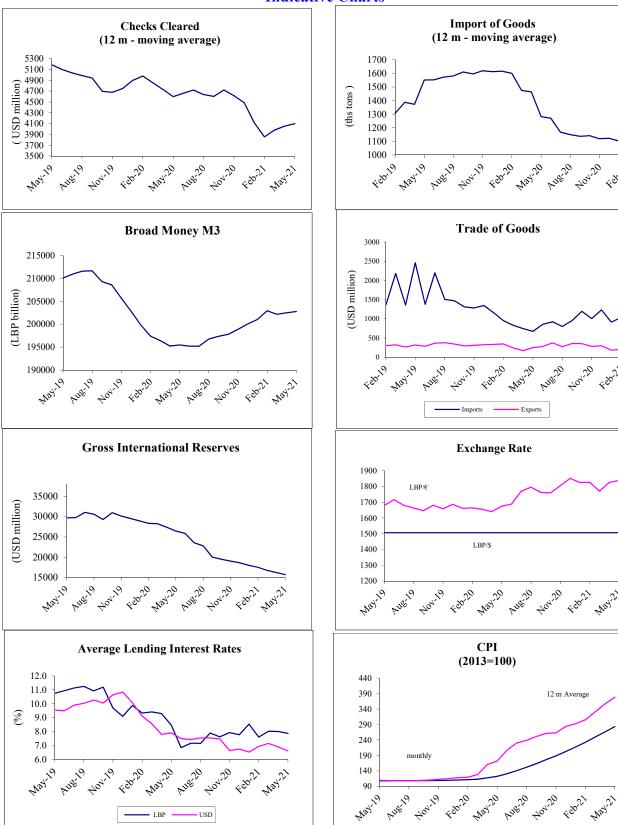
Source: BDL.



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

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

## **Indicative Charts**



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