



LEBANON THIS WEEK

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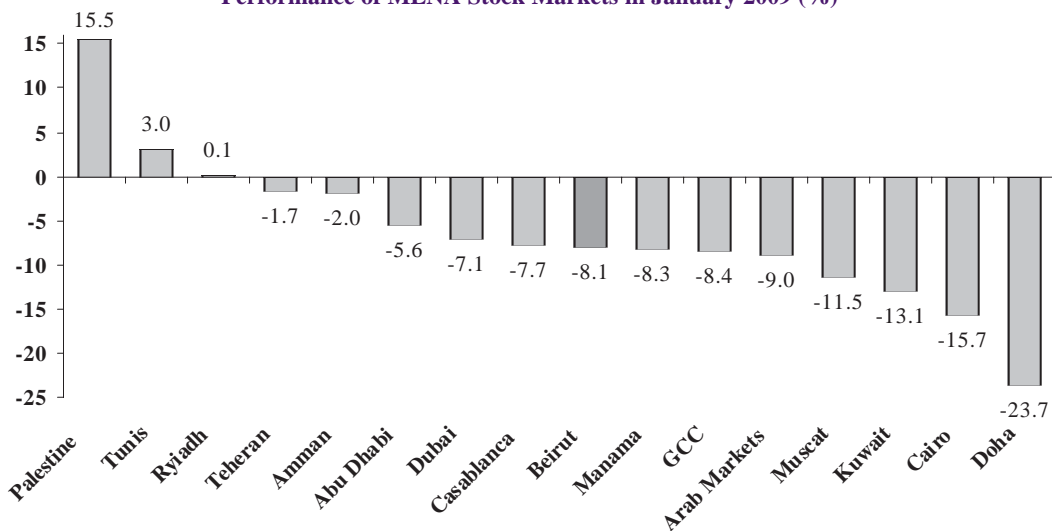
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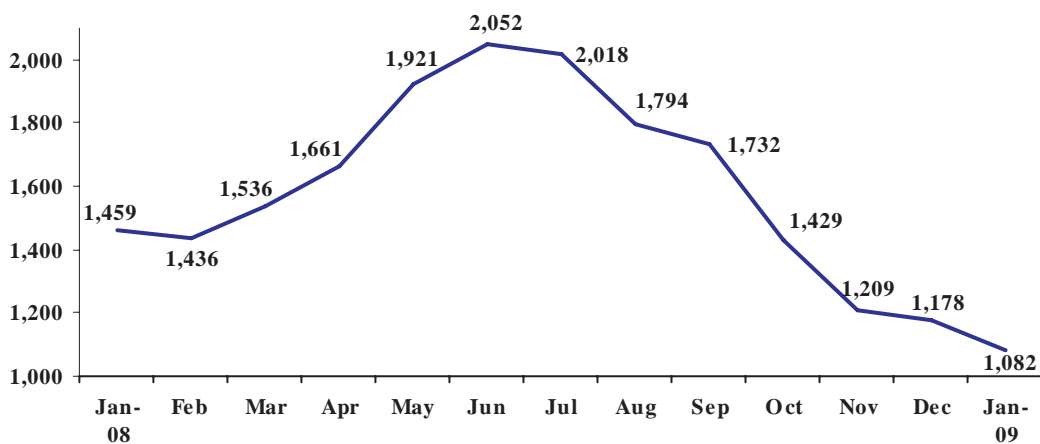
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Charts of the Week

Performance of MENA Stock Markets in January 2009 (%)



Performance of Beirut Stock Market*



*BLOM Stock Index

Source: Local stock markets

Quote to Note

“Such resilience is the result of Lebanon's credible financial system, which provides support to the exchange rate peg, and also of the policies implemented by the authorities in the last few years.”

Murilo Portugal, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, on the reasons behind the general insulation of the Lebanese economy from the effects of the global financial crisis

Number of the Week

\$567m: Increase in the foreign currency assets of the Central Bank of Lebanon in January, leading to a record total of \$20.3bn as at January 31, 2009

Economic Indicators

\$m (unless otherwise mentioned)	Nov. 2007	Jan-Nov. 07	2007	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	Jan-Nov. 08	% Change*
Exports	293	2,575	2,816	254	330	3,228	25.36
Imports	1,054	10,751	11,815	1,490	1,664	14,998	39.50
Trade Balance	(761)	(8,176)	(8,999)	(1,236)	(1,334)	(11,770)	43.96
Balance of Payments	547	1,172	2,036	231	303	2,747	134.38
Checks Cleared in LBP	778	7,727	8,409	847	782	8,536	10.46
Checks Cleared in FC	2,902	27,124	29,883	3,938	3,519	39,964	47.34
Total Checks Cleared	3,680	34,851	38,292	4,785	4,301	49,500	42.03
Budget Deficit/Surplus	314	(2,391)	(2,546)	(68)	(511)	(2,589)	8.28
Primary Balance	(30)	639	731	297	(246)	646	1.09
Airport Passengers	225,571	3,074,348	3,408,834	351,753	299,175	3,666,005	19.24

\$bn (unless otherwise mentioned)	Dec. 2006	Nov. 2007	Dec. 2007	Sep. 2008	Oct. 2008	Nov. 2008	% Change*
BdL FX Reserves	10.21	9.75	9.78	15.32	16.17	16.42	68.41
<i>In months of Imports</i>	<i>11.30</i>	<i>9.25</i>	<i>9.19</i>	<i>10.42</i>	<i>10.85</i>	<i>9.87</i>	<i>6.70</i>
Public Debt	40.37	41.61	42.03	45.68	46.19	46.86	12.61
Net Public Debt	37.42	38.71	39.03	40.89	40.85	41.18	6.38
Bank Assets	74.27	80.11	82.26	91.73	90.43	91.76	14.54
Bank Deposits (Private Sector)	60.69	65.93	67.29	75.13	74.80	75.65	14.74
Bank Loans to Private Sector	17.02	17.65	20.42	24.80	24.61	24.69	39.88
Money Supply M2	15.57	16.27	16.47	22.13	23.10	23.87	46.71
Money Supply M3	53.23	58.75	59.83	66.44	66.38	67.08	14.18
LBP Lending Rate (%)	10.37	10.24	10.10	9.98	9.90	10.08	(16b.p.)
LBP Deposit Rate (%)	7.49	7.42	7.40	7.18	7.28	7.27	(15b.p.)
USD Lending Rate (%)	8.55	8.22	8.02	7.37	7.53	7.54	(68b.p.)
USD Deposit Rate (%)	4.76	4.84	4.69	3.57	3.54	3.47	(137b.p.)
%* Change in CPI**	7.04	5.07	5.92	11.76	11.13	9.78	(471b.p.)

* Year-on-Year; ** Consumer Price Index

Note: b.p. i.e. basis point

Sources: ABL, BdL

Capital Markets

Most Traded Stocks on BSE	Last Price (\$)	% Change*	Total Volume	Weight in Market Capitalization
Solidere "A"	16.07	9.25	301,157	18.27%
Solidere "B"	16.04	9.41	181,687	11.85%
Byblos Common	1.79	11.88	10,500	4.42%
Byblos Priority	1.65	0.00	6,000	3.86%
BLOM GDR	66.85	(0.45)	8,120	5.62%
BLOM Listed	66.00	0.00	0	16.13%
Audi GDR	42.81	(14.21)	50,280	4.78%
Audi Listed	42.20	(10.02)	7,365	16.40%
HOLCIM	12.96	0.00	0	2.88%

Source: Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE); *Week-on-week

Sovereign Eurobonds	Coupon %	Mid Price \$	Mid Yield %
Oct.2009	10.250	102.50	6.66
Dec.2009	7.000	100.25	6.71
Mar.2010	7.125	99.88	7.23
May 2011	7.875	99.13	8.29
Sep.2012	7.750	96.50	8.89
June 2013	8.625	97.75	9.25
Apr.2015	10.000	102.75	9.41
Jan.2016	8.500	94.50	9.60
May 2016	11.625	108.50	9.96
Apr.2021	8.250	90.50	9.39

Source: Byblos Capital Markets

	This Week	Last Week	% Change	Jan. 2009	Jan. 2008	% Change
Total Shares Traded	615,991	815,867	(24.50)	2,561,252	4,272,183	(40.05)
Total Value Traded	\$10,862,936	\$11,907,805	(8.77)	\$40,944,751	\$77,621,174	(47.25)
Market Capitalization	\$8.79bn	\$8.76bn	0.38	\$8.76bn	\$10.70bn	(18.11)

Source: Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE)



Lebanon ranks 57th globally, 3rd in MENA region in budget transparency

The International Budget Partnership's Open Budget Index for 2008 ranked Lebanon in 57th place among 85 countries globally and 3rd among 7 MENA countries included in the survey. Lebanon also ranked in last place among the 13 Upper Middle Income countries (UMICs) included in the survey. The index evaluates the level of governments' commitment to give public access to budget information and provide opportunities to participate in the budget process at the national level. The survey scores countries on a scale from zero to 100, with zero representing the lowest level of transparency and 100 the highest. Each country is classified as a provider of 'extensive' information, 'significant' information, 'some' information, 'minimal' information or 'scant' or 'no' information. A country's placement within a performance category was determined by averaging responses to 91 questions related to information contained in 8 key budget documents that all countries should make available to the public such as a pre-budget statement, executive's budget proposal, enacted budget, citizens' budget, in-year reports, mid-year review, year-end report and an audit report.

MENA Countries' Scores & Rankings			
Country	Transparency Level	MENA Rank	Global Rank
Jordan	52%	1	31
Egypt	43%	2	41
Lebanon	32%	3	57
Morocco	27%	4	59
Yemen	9%	5	69
Algeria	1%	6	79
Saudi Arabia	1%	6	79

Source: International Budget Partnership

Globally, Lebanon ranked ahead Malawi, China and Vietnam and came behind Malaysia, Albania and El Salvador. It also came behind Turkey, Venezuela and Trinidad & Tobago among UMICs. Lebanon's level of budgetary information reached 32%, placing it in the category of governments that provide 'minimal' budgetary information, with 16 countries falling in this category. Its level of budget transparency came below the global average of 39% and the UMICs average of 52%, but above the MENA and Arab levels of 24% each.

The survey indicated that Lebanon provides some but incomplete information to the public, meaning that citizens do not have a comprehensive picture of the government's plans for taxing and spending for the upcoming year. It noted that it is somewhat difficult to track spending, revenue collection and borrowing during the year. It said that Lebanon publishes fairly detailed in-year reports but does not produce a mid-year review, adding that publishing such document could strengthen public accountability by providing a more comprehensive update on how the budget is being implemented during the year. The survey considered that it is difficult to assess budget performance in Lebanon once the year is over, as a year-end report is produced allowing comparisons between what was budgeted and what was actually collected and spent, but some important details are missing. Also, authorities publish the audit report but there is no information on whether the report's recommendations are successfully implemented. The survey noted that Lebanon can make the budget process more open beyond improving access to key budget documents, such as increasing opportunities for citizens to participate in budget debates, increasing the independence of the country's Supreme Audit Institution and holding parliamentary hearings in which the public can participate.

About 28% of Lebanese are poor and 8% live under conditions of extreme poverty

The Ministry of Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Program released two reports on poverty and living conditions in Lebanon showing that nearly 28% of the Lebanese population qualifies as poor, while 8% live under conditions of extreme poverty, which means that 300,000 individuals are unable to meet their basic food and non-food needs. The reports indicate that the bulk of poverty is concentrated in the city of Tripoli, the Akkar & Minieh-Dennieh areas in the North, the Southern towns of Jezzine & Saida, and the Bekaa's Hermel & Baalbeck regions. The surveys noted that these regions are home to two thirds of the extremely poor and to 50% of the total poor population despite the fact they include less than one third of the Lebanese population. Moreover, substantial disparities have been found across regions. The North comprises 20.7% of Lebanon's population but includes 38% of the entire poor population, while extremely poor households are over-represented in the South and Bekaa regions compared to their population shares.

Distribution of Poverty Groups across Governorates 2004-05 (%)				
Governorate	Extremely Poor (1)	Moderately Poor (2)	Entire Poor Population (1)+(2)	Proportion of Total Population
Beirut	0.9	2.6	2.1	10.4
Mount Lebanon	18.9	30.5	27.3	39.9
North	46.0	34.9	38.0	20.7
Bekaa	17.2	11.4	13.0	12.7
South	15.4	15.6	15.6	10.5
Nabatieh	1.6	4.9	4.0	5.9
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: United Nations Development Program, Ministry of Social Affairs

In parallel, the report found that unemployment rates in Lebanon are high among the poor and that the majority of the employed poor are unskilled workers. It estimated the cost of eliminating extreme poverty at \$12 per person per year. Finally, the report outlined five major pillars needed to stimulate growth and reduce poverty, including expanding educational opportunities, promoting balanced regional development, refocusing resources on poor households, and achieving sustained growth and monitoring outcomes.

Governor Salameh is Best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East

The Banker magazine awarded Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh the 2008 prize of best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East. The magazine said it selected Governor Salameh in appreciation of his excellent financial and monetary performance that helped the country overcome major financial and regional crisis. Prior to this award, Governor Salameh received the best Central Bank Governor in the World Award in 2006 and, for three consecutive years, received the best Central Bank Governor in the Middle East Award from *Euromoney* magazine.

Credit and debit cards reach 1.56 million cards, resident purchases total \$927m in 2008

Figures released by the Central Bank of Lebanon show that the number of credit and debit cards issued in Lebanon reached 1.56 million cards at the end of 2008, constituting a 1.5% increase from end-September 2008 and a 9.6% rise on a yearly basis. Resident cardholders accounted for 97% of total cards issued in Lebanon. The distribution of payment cards by type shows that debit cards with residents accounted for 62.8% of the total, followed by credit cards with residents (22.1%), charge cards with residents (9.9%), non-resident debit cards (2.2%), resident prepaid cards (2.3%), non-resident charge cards (0.5%), and non-resident credit cards (0.2%).

The average monthly domestic payment by residents totaled \$88.4m in the fourth quarter of 2008, rising by 6.7% quarter-to-quarter and by 26.8% from the fourth quarter of 2007, while the average monthly payment abroad by residents decreased by 2.9% to \$54.3m on a quarterly basis but increased by 16.8% on a yearly basis. In parallel, domestic payments by residents rose by 29.3%, while payments abroad by residents increased by 20.2% in 2008 compared to the previous year. Further, the average monthly value of cash withdrawals by residents using ATMs increased quarterly by 5.4% to \$367m and rose annually by 18.4%, while average monthly withdrawals by non-residents decreased by 18.6% to \$5.4m quarter-to-quarter but increased by 21.6% year-on-year. Also, the average monthly purchases in Lebanon by non-residents decreased by 4.7% quarter-to-quarter but increased by 44.5% annually to \$1.8m. Domestic card payments in Lebanese pounds accounted for 10.3% of aggregate payments in all currencies, while local currency withdrawals represented 70.3% of the total.

Number and Usage of Payment Cards Issued in Lebanon			
	2008	2007	Change
Cards			
with residents	1,519,298	1,375,281	10.47%
with non-residents	44,660	51,209	(12.79%)
Total	1,563,958	1,426,490	9.64%
Purchases (in US\$m):			
by residents in Lebanon	\$926.5	\$716.8	29.3%
<i>% in Lebanese pounds</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>10.7%</i>	
by non-residents in Lebanon	\$18.6	\$13.1	42.2%
by residents outside Lebanon	\$613.2	\$510.2	20.2%
Cash withdrawal US(\$m)			
by residents in Lebanon	\$3,872	\$3,310	17.0%
<i>% in Lebanese pounds</i>	<i>70.3%</i>	<i>69.5%</i>	
by non-residents in Lebanon	\$60.9	\$49.7	22.5%

Source: Central Bank of Lebanon, Byblos Research

Telecom Ministry to lower cellular rates

The Telecommunication Ministry announced plans to lower the rates on mobile phone communications starting April 2009. The monthly subscriptions for postpaid cellular cards will fall by 40% from the current \$25 to reach \$15. The rate per minute for the postpaid cards will also fall by 16% from the current \$0.13 per minute to reach \$0.11. In addition, the price of a prepaid card with one month duration will decrease from the current \$45 to \$25, while the cost of one minute will drop to \$0.36 from the current \$0.5. The ministry stressed that the drop in rates will not lead to a steep decline in the government's telecommunication revenues because the number of subscribers is expected to increase by 53.8% to 2 million, which will offset the lower rates effect.

In parallel, the ministry said it received 43,570 new subscription demands for fixed phone lines after the lowering of the rates last December. It added that it aims to ban the sale of mobile phone handsets that enter the Lebanese territory illegally and claimed they represent 85% of the total cellular phone market, which is leading to \$55m in annual losses for the Treasury.

Balance of payments posts surplus of \$3.5bn in 2008

Central Bank figures show that Lebanon's balance of payments posted a cumulative surplus of \$3.5bn in 2008 compared to a surplus of \$2.04bn a year earlier. The cumulative surplus resulted from an increase of \$7.3bn in the Central Bank's net foreign assets combined with a decrease of \$3.8bn in those of banks and financial institutions. The balance of payments posted a surplus of \$714m in December 2008 following a surplus of \$303m in November 2008 and compared to a surplus of \$864m in December 2007. The December 2008 surplus was caused by an increase of \$497m in the Central Bank's net foreign assets and an increase of \$217m in those of banks and financial institutions. The balance of payments posted a surplus of \$2.8bn in 2006.

Fiscal deficit up 14.7% at \$2.92bn in 2008

Figures released by the Finance Ministry show that the fiscal deficit reached \$2.92bn in 2008, up 14.7% from 2007. The deficit was equivalent to 29.3% of total budget and Treasury expenditures compared to 30.5% in the previous year. Overall government expenditures reached \$9.95bn, up 19.2% year-on-year, while total revenues increased by 21.2% to \$7.03bn over the covered period. Tax revenues improved by 28.6% year-on-year to \$4.76bn, of which 36%, or \$1.71bn, were in VAT receipts that posted a 29% annual rise. Tax revenues accounted for 73.3% of budgetary revenues and for 67.7% of total Treasury and budget receipts. The fiscal deficit reached 32.1% of expenditures in December 2008 compared to 52.9% in November 2008 and a fiscal deficit of 24.5% in December 2007.

Debt servicing increased by 5.6% year-on-year to \$3.3bn, accounting for 44.9% of total expenditures and for 33% of budgetary spending. It absorbed 50.6% of overall revenues and 46.8% of budgetary receipts. Excluding debt servicing, the primary surplus reached \$2.7bn, or 36.8% of budget expenditures compared to a surplus of \$1.97bn, or 29.4% a year earlier. The overall primary surplus reached \$597m, or 6% of total spending compared to a surplus of \$731m, or 8.8% of total expenditures, a year earlier.

Commercial banks' assets reach \$94.25bn at end of 2008

The Association of Banks in Lebanon released the consolidated balance sheet of commercial banks showing that total assets reached \$94.25bn at the end of 2008, constituting a 14.6% rise from the end of 2007. Private sector deposits totaled \$77.8bn, up 15.6% from \$67.3bn at the end of the previous year. Private sector deposits increased by \$1.8bn in the first quarter, \$3bn in the second quarter, \$3.04bn in the third quarter and \$2.65bn in the fourth quarter of the year.

Deposits in Lebanese pounds rose by 55.2% to \$23.7bn, while deposits in foreign currencies increased by 4% year-on-year to \$54.1bn. Non-resident foreign currency deposits reached \$10.6bn at end-2008, increasing by 16.2% from end-2007. In parallel, deposits of non-resident banks reached \$4.3bn, up by 6.2% from the end of the previous year. The dollarization rate of deposits reached 69.6%, down from 77.3% a year earlier.

Loans to the private sector amounted to \$25bn, constituting an increase of 22.6% from end-2007. The dollarization rate in private sector lending reached 86.6% compared to 86.4% a year earlier. Claims on the public sector stood at \$25.4bn, up 18.2% year-on-year, and accounted for 50.4% of the banking sector's total loans. The ratio of private sector loans to deposits in foreign currencies stood at 40.1%, well below the Central Bank's limit of 70%, and up from 33.9% a year earlier. In parallel, the same ratio in Lebanese pounds was 14.2% compared to 18.2% a year earlier. The ratio of total private sector loans to deposits stood at 32.2%, up from 30.4% at end-2007. The banks' aggregate capital base stood at \$7.1bn, up 13.4% from \$6.3bn at the end of 2007. Core capital totaled \$6.75bn compared to \$5.9bn a year earlier.

AFESD extends \$20.3m loan to finance Lebanese highway

The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) extended to Lebanon a \$20.3m loan to finance the construction of a highway that connects the Northern town of Sir El Deniyé in the North to the Hermel region in the Bekaa. The project will be implemented by the Council of Development and Reconstruction. The loan has a settlement period of 22 years and will carry a preferential interest rate of 3%.

Corporate Highlights

Aggregate profits of listed banks rise 23.4% in 2008, Byblos Bank posts highest growth rate in profits and assets among top 3 banks

Financial results issued by five banks listed on the Beirut Stock Exchange show that their aggregate net profits reached \$823.3m in 2008, constituting an increase of 23.4% from \$667.1m in 2007. The average net profits of the five banks increased by 22.6% in 2008, constituting a slowdown from the average net profit growth of 34.5% in the first three quarters of 2008 and from the average net profit growth of 43% posted in the first half of 2008. The 5 banks posted an average net income of \$34.56m in the fourth quarter, down 10% from \$31.34m realized in the fourth quarter of 2007 and an increase of 26% from the \$31.34m achieved in the third quarter of 2008. Byblos Bank's profits rose by 11% in the fourth quarter of 2008 relative the same quarter of the previous year, posting the only increase in profits quarter-to-quarter among the 5 banks. BLOM Bank's profits regressed by 2% quarter-to-quarter, Bank Audi's income dropped by 3%, Banque Bemo's profits declined by 19% and Bank of Beirut's net income fell by 36% during the covered period.

In parallel, BLOM's net trading income reached \$11.14m in the second half of 2008, up 28% from the first half of the year, while Bank of Beirut's net trading income rose by 152% to \$4.65m during the same period. Bank Audi's net trading income fell by 101% in the second half of the year to a loss of \$0.44m compared to a profit of \$50.32m in the first half of 2008, and Banque Bemo posted the steepest decline in this category, as its net trading income dropped by 236% on a semi-annual basis to a loss of \$1.36m.

The aggregate assets of the 5 banks rose by 13.7% to \$56.3bn at end-2008, while their total loans increased by 28.8% to \$14bn. Also, the banks' deposits reached \$45.1bn at the end of 2008, an increase of 15.5% from end-2007. BLOM Bank posted the lowest loans-to-deposit ratio at 23.1% compared to 20.3% in 2007, followed by Byblos Bank with a ratio of 33.5% relative to 30.8% in 2007, Audi with 34.9% from 32.3% in 2007, Bank of Beirut with 35.1% from 28.8% in 2007, and Bemo with a 49.9% ratio, unchanged from 2007. The average growth of loans-to-deposit ratio of the five listed bank reached 10.6% in 2008. In addition, Bank Audi's credit loss expenses, or provisions taken for doubtful loans, jumped by 631% year-on-year to \$7.4m, followed by BLOM with a 561% rise to \$8.4m, Bank of Beirut with a 361% increase to \$3.3m and Byblos Bank with a 29% rise to \$4.1m, while Bemo posted an 11% decline in its credit loss expenses.

BLOM Bank had the lowest cost-to-income ratio at 41%, up from 38% in 2007. It was followed by Byblos Bank with 47.3% compared to 51.8% in 2007, Bank of Beirut with a 50.2% ratio relative 57.2% in 2007, Bank Audi with a 56% ratio unchanged from the previous year, and Banque Bemo with a 69.1% ratio relative to 69.8% in 2007.

Results of Listed Banks for 2008

	Byblos	BLOM	Audi	BoB	BEMO
Net Profits	\$122m	\$251.6m	\$238.5m	\$66.4m	\$7.5m
% Change*	23.0%	22.9%	19.1%	50.7%	-2.7%
Total Assets	\$11.24bn	\$17.9bn	\$20.4bn	\$5.8bn	\$0.91bn
% Change*	18.5%	7.4%	17.9%	10.6%	15.1%
Loans (1)	\$2.78bn	\$3.48bn	\$5.97bn	\$1.4bn	\$0.36bn
% Change*	25.3%	25.7%	31.7%	35.8%	15.2%
Deposits (1)	\$8.3bn	\$15.1bn	\$17.1bn	\$3.9bn	\$0.71bn
% Change*	15.2%	10.1%	21.9%	11.4%	15.1%

*Year-on-year

(1) Customer Loans and Deposits

MEA expands its fleet with one new Airbus

National flag carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA) announced it will purchase a new Airbus A330-200 to expand its fleet to 17 aircraft and increase capacity on existing routes. MEA's total fleet will consist of five A330-200, six A321-200 and six A320-200 by the end of February 2009. The company underwent a restructuring program in 2001 that witnessed the layoff of more than 1,500 employees, or 40% of its staff, in addition to the cancellation of unnecessary flights and routes. Subsequently, the company managed to reverse 26 years of losses and returned to profitability in 2002. The national carrier also modernized its fleet, as it completed in 2003 its first fleet upgrade since 1975. It purchased six Airbus A321 medium haul planes and leased three A330-200 long haul planes. Financing of the new plane will total \$65m and will be extended by Banque Libano-Française. The company's income turned from losses of \$87m in 1997 to a net profit of \$60m in 2007.

Ratio Highlights

(in % unless specified)	2006	2007	Change*	Q3-2008
Nominal GDP ⁽¹⁾ (\$bn)	22.7	24.6		27.75
External Debt / GDP	89.9	86.4	(350)	77.4
Local Debt / GDP	88.1	84.6	(350)	87.3
Total Debt / GDP	178.4	171.0	(740)	164.7
Trade Balance / GDP	(31.3)	(36.6)	(530)	(33.2)
Exports / Imports	24.3	23.8	(50)	22.3
Budget Revenues / GDP	19.4	23.6	420	18.2
Budget Expenditures / GDP	30.8	33.9	310	25.4
Budget Balance / GDP	(11.5)	(10.3)	120	(7.2)
Primary Balance / GDP	0.4	2.9	250	2.1
BdL FX Reserves / M2	65.6	59.6	(600)	69.3
M3 / GDP	234.4	243.2	880	239.4
Bank Assets / GDP	327.2	334.4	720	330.6
Bank Deposits / GDP	267.4	273.5	610	270.7
Private Sector Loans / GDP	67.4	72.2	480	89.4
Dollarization of Deposits	76.2	77.3	110	72.0
Dollarization of Loans	84.0	84.3	30	87.2

* Change in basis points 06/07

(1) Based on Ministry of Finance Estimations and the International Monetary Fund

Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon, Byblos Research Calculations

Note: M2 includes money in circulation and deposits in LBP, M3 includes M2 plus Deposits in FC and bonds

Risk Outlook

Lebanon	Dec 2007	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Change*	Risk Level
Political Risk Rating	56.5	57.5	57.5	▲	High
Financial Risk Rating	31.5	28.0	28.0	▼	High
Economic Risk Rating	29.0	30.0	30.0	▲	Moderate
Composite Risk Rating	58.5	57.7	57.7	▼	High

Regional Average	Dec 2007	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Change*	Risk Level
Political Risk Rating	65.6	65.6	65.6	↔	Moderate
Financial Risk Rating	41.3	41.5	41.8	▲	Very Low
Economic Risk Rating	40.0	39.0	39.5	▼	Low
Composite Risk Rating	73.5	73.0	73.4	▼	Low

*year-on-year

Source: The PRS Group, Byblos Research

Note: Political & Composite Risk Ratings range from 0 to 100 (where 100 indicates the lowest risk)

Financial & Economic Risk ratings range from 0 to 50 (where 50 indicates the lowest risk)

Ratings & Outlook

Sovereign Ratings	Foreign Currency			Local Currency		
	LT	ST	Outlook	LT	ST	Outlook
Moody's	B3	NP	Positive			
Fitch	B-	B	Stable	B-		
S&P	B-	C	Stable	B-	C	Stable
Capital Intelligence	B-	B	Stable	B-	B	Stable

Source: Rating agencies

Banking Ratings	Banks' Financial Strength	Banking Sector Risk	Outlook
Moody's	D-		Stable
EIU		B	Stable

Source: Rating agencies



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