Issue 127
July 27-31, 2009

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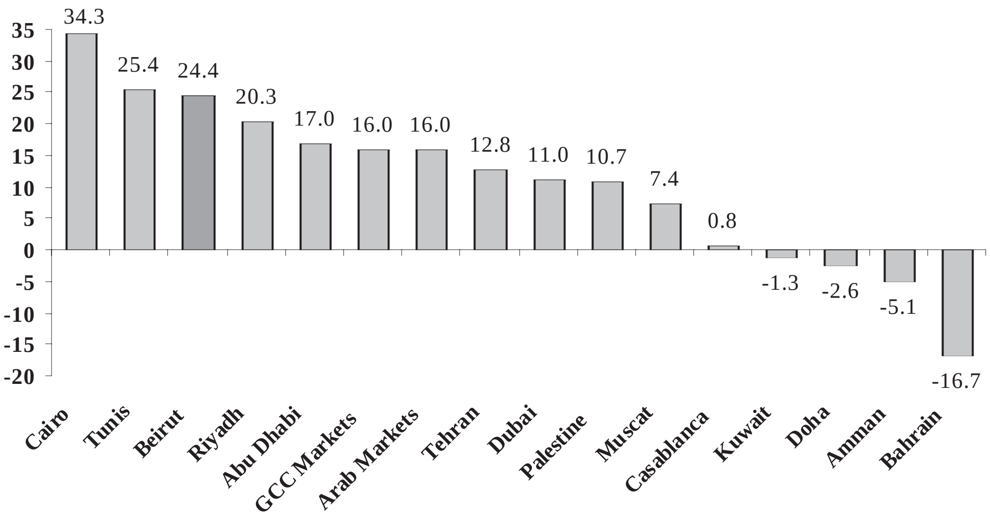
LEBANON THIS WEEK

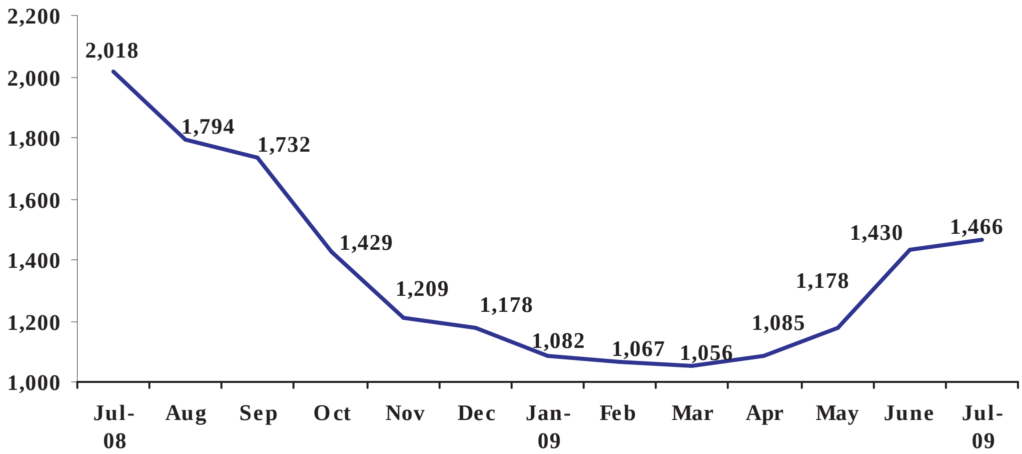
In This Issue

Charts of the Week

Performance of MENA Stock Markets in the First Seven Months of 2009 (%)



Performance of the Beirut Stock Market*



**BLOM Stock Index*
Source: Local Stock Markets

Quote to Note

"The new government should strive to quickly restore the fiscal consolidation agenda set out under Paris III."

The International Monetary Fund, on the expected economic and financial priority of the upcoming Lebanese Cabinet

Number of the Week

$5bn: Net Arab direct investments in Lebanon during the 1985-2008 period, according to the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation

Economic Indicators

$m *(unless otherwise mentioned)*	2007	May 08	2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009	May 09	% Change*
Exports	2,816	267	3,478	270	231	292	9.36
Imports	11,815	1,305	16,133	1,138	1,797	1,242	(4.83)
Trade Balance	(8,999)	(1,038)	(12,655)	(868)	(1,566)	(950)	(8.48)
Balance of Payments	2,036	(416)	3,462	(367)	839	521	225.2
Checks Cleared in LBP	8,409	749	9,350	899	804	928	23.89
Checks Cleared in FC	29,893	3,470	43,174	3,294	3,222	3,497	0.78
Total Checks Cleared	38,302	4,219	52,524	4,148	4,026	4,425	4.88
Budget Deficit/Surplus	(2,546)	(370)	(2,921)	(508)	(76)	(198)	(46.49)
Primary Balance	731	(78)	597	(110)	363	64	182.05
Airport Passengers	3,408,834	199,789	4,085,334	302,709	392,556	345,278	72.82

$bn *(unless otherwise mentioned)*	Dec. 2007	May 2008	Feb. 2009	Mar. 09	Apr. 09	May 09	% Change*
BdL FX Reserves	9.78	11.92	18.23	18.66	19.33	20.22	69.63
In months of Imports	*9.19*	*9.13*	*17.62*	*16.40*	*10.75*	*16.28*	*78.31*
Public Debt	42.03	43.56	47.20	47.85	47.77	47.73	9.57
Net Public Debt	39.03	40.12	41.88	42.34	42.69	42.77	6.61
Bank Assets	82.26	86.20	95.11	97.94	99.63	101.65	17.92
Bank Deposits (Private Sector)	67.29	70.55	78.88	80.50	82.62	84.35	19.56
Bank Loans to Private Sector	20.42	23.20	24.94	25.45	25.76	26.07	12.37
Money Supply M2	16.47	18.44	26.23	26.86	27.77	28.15	52.66
Money Supply M3	59.83	62.66	69.41	70.52	72.28	73.58	17.43
LBP Lending Rate (%)	10.10	9.72	10.03	10.10	9.83	9.79	7b.p.
LBP Deposit Rate (%)	7.40	7.27	7.13	7.10	7.08	7.06	(21b.p.)
USD Lending Rate (%)	8.02	7.43	7.28	7.32	7.21	7.28	(15b.p.)
USD Deposit Rate (%)	4.69	3.61	3.25	3.26	3.24	3.22	(39b.p.)
%* Change in CPI**	5.92	12.99	2.80	3.51	2.00	2.15	(1,084b.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"	25.99	4.76	1,035,187	22.49%
Solidere "B"	25.90	4.44	160,527	14.57%
Byblos Common	1.95	0.00	431,902	3.66%
Byblos Priority	1.98	2.06	126,580	3.53%
Byblos Pref. 08	97.90	0.00	0	1.69%
BLOM GDR	80.20	3.42	11,506	5.13%
BLOM Listed	74.00	0.00	0	13.77%
Audi GDR	67.10	1.67	2,369	5.71%
Audi Listed	61.05	0.08	147,055	18.06%
HOLCIM	12.36	(5.72)	4,197	2.09%

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

Sovereign Eurobonds	Coupon %	Mid Price $	Mid Yield %
Mar. 2010	7.125	102.50	2.85
May 2011	7.875	105.63	4.58
Mar. 2012	7.500	105.25	5.34
Sep. 2012	7.750	106.25	5.53
June 2013	8.625	108.00	6.27
Apr. 2015	10.000	112.88	7.21
Jan. 2016	8.500	106.50	7.32
May 2016	11.625	121.00	7.60
Mar. 2017	9.000	110.00	7.27
Apr. 2021	8.250	104.00	7.72

Source: Byblos Capital Markets

	This Week	Last Week	% Change	July 2009	July 2008	% Change
Total Shares Traded	1,942,718	1,227,718	58.24	6,492,987	5,686,000	14.19
Total Value Traded	$42,716,166	$29,871,193	43.00	$153,033,909	$171,614,296	(10.83)
Market Capitalization	$11.56bn	$11.34bn	1.91	$11.56bn	$15.94bn	(27.51)

Source: Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE)

EIU maintains growth forecast at 2.4% for 2009, warns of impact of political divisions on economic policy

In its first report about the Lebanese economy since the parliamentary elections, the Economist Intelligence Unit maintained its economic growth forecast at 2.4% for 2009 and 3.3% in 2010, adding that risks are weighted to the upside and that the forecast is above growth expectations for the Middle East & North Africa region. It said regional demand for Lebanese goods and services has slowed down, and that indicators so far this year have benefited from a low base effect in the same period of 2008 when a severe political crisis hurt economic activity. It noted that the vital tourism sector is performing strongly due to relative political calm, but real estate data suggests that growth in this important sector is slowing down, reflecting a soft downturn in the market. It expected private consumption to be subdued during the forecast period, constrained by a likely drop in remittances in 2009 and increased risk aversion by lenders and borrowers. It also predicted growth in government spending to be marginally below 2007-08 levels, with the authorities seeking to limit the fiscal deficit.

The EIU expected the upcoming Cabinet to face significant internal divisions over economic policy despite the likely absence of an opposition veto. It said both privatization and fiscal consolidation will remain deeply contentious due to politicians' entrenched vested interests. It noted that the lack of consensus will make it difficult to address the structural fiscal deficit and the massive public debt. It estimated that the privatization of state assets, notably the two mobile-phone operators and the money-losing Electricité du Liban (EdL), could be deferred beyond 2010 due to domestic opposition and because the world economic downturn could deter potential investors. It noted that EdL continues to post losses, require huge subsidies, and is unable to provide an adequate supply of electricity. Further, global liquidity constraints and lack of progress on the reforms sought by donors could delay disbursement of some of the $7.6bn in conditional aid pledged at the Paris III donor conference.

The EIU considered that the strong premium of Lebanese pound deposit rates over equivalent US dollar rates will continue to support the inflow of funds from the Lebanese Diaspora and encourage the de-dollarization of deposits. It added, however, that about two-thirds of bank deposits are still held in dollars and the US dollar will continue to be widely used in the economy. It noted that interest rates on Treasury bills and certificates of deposit have slightly declined since the start of the year and could ease further once the new government is formed, but cited the government's persistent and heavy borrowing requirements as a key obstacle to reduce rates substantially.

Country Forecast Summary

	2008e	2009f	2010f
Real GDP growth (%)	6.3	2.4	3.3
Consumer price inflation (end-of-period) (%)	5.5	2.0	3.4
Consumer prices (avge) (%)	10.0	2.8	3.2
Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	-10.6	-11.6	-11.2
Current-account balance ($bn)	-3.0	-3.2	-3.5
Current-account balance (% of GDP)	-10.9	-10.4	-10.7
External debt (% of GDP)	119	110	108
Public Debt (% of GDP)	160	155	152
Foreign Reserves ($bn)	20.2	18.8	18.1
Months of Import Cover	11.4	12.6	11.5
Exchange Rate LP:US$ (avge)	1,508	1,508	1,508
Exchange Rate LP:€ (avge)	2,216	2,047	2,088

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit, July 2009

Saudi Arabia extends $50m soft loan for international highway

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced that it will extend a soft loan of $50m earmarked to finance the construction of the Arab Highway linking Beirut to Damascus. The loan carries an interest rate of 2% and is payable over a 20-year period. Last May, the Lebanese government announced the start of construction work on the Arab Highway. The first section of the highway, linking Mdeirej to Taanayel, will cost $153m and has been financed by a $45m soft loan from the Saudi Fund for Development, a $15m sot loan from the OPEC Fund for International Development and, and a $40m soft loan from Saudi Arabia.

Lebanon in the News

Lebanon is seventh biggest recipient of net Arab investment in 2008, sixth largest recipient relative to GDP

Figures released by the Arab Investment & Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (AIECGC) show that net Arab investments in Lebanon totaled $364m in 2008 down from $2.88bn in 2007, and $1.77bn in 2006. Net investments reflect more accurately the movement of investment in a given economy and provide a more precise picture compared to just gross inflows. Lebanon was the seventh largest recipient of net ADI in nominal terms among 11 countries that released figures on inflows and outflows of Arab funds, down from second place in 2007. Further, net ADI in Lebanon accounted for 1.7% of aggregate net inter-Arab investments last year compared to 31% in 2007 and 22% in 2006. Net ADI in Lebanon totaled $8.6bn during the 2002-08 period and averaged $1.1bn annually.

Net Inter-Arab Investments in 2008

Country	$bn	Rank	% of GDP
Saudi Arabia	10.80	1	6.7
Algeria	5.66	2	3.6
Sudan	4.79	3	9.2
Libya	1.77	4	1.8
Syria	1.16	5	2.2
Morocco	0.48	6	0.6
Lebanon	**0.36**	**7**	**1.4**
Yemen	0.31	8	1.1
Tunisia	0.26	9	0.7
Jordan	-0.42	10	
Egypt	-1.22	11	

Source: AIECGC, Byblos Research

Gross Arab direct investments in Lebanon totaled $2.66bn while gross Lebanese direct investments in the Arab world reached $2.3bn in 2008. Sudan was the largest recipient of Lebanese direct investments, accounting for $1.88bn, or 82% of total. It was followed by Saud Arabia with $279m (12%), Yemen with $81m (3.5%), Egypt with $35.3m (1.5%), Syria with $7.4m (0.3%), Morocco with $6.6m, Djibouti with $1.5m and Tunisia with $0.8m. In parallel, the UAE was the biggest Arab investor in Lebanon with $1.12bn in 2008, followed by Kuwait with $649.3m, Saudi Arabia with $616.2m, Qatar with $117.3m, Bahrain with $100m, and Syria with $63.3m.

In parallel, Net ADI in Lebanon was equivalent to 1.4% of GDP in 2008, down from 11.7% of GDP in 2007 and 7.8% of GDP in 2006. Lebanon ranked in sixth place in the region in terms of net ADI as a percentage of GDP in 2008, down from first place in 2007. Net ADI relative to GDP was 0.7% in 2001, 2.6% in 2002, 3.6% in 2003, 4.6% in 2004 and 8.2% in 2005.

The methodology used to estimate inter-Arab investments by the AIECGC relies on 'declared' and 'licensed' investment, rather than achieved ones. This could significantly affect the effective figures for Arab recipients as many of the biggest Arab investment projects were announced prior to the financial turmoil that started in September 2008 and most of them have yet to materialize. Further, the rankings and market shares of countries tend to be distorted by the absence of figures from large sources or recipients of Arab investments such as the UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain.

Trade deficit down 10.3% to $6.1bn in first half of 2009

Imports increased by 7.1% to $7.83bn in the first half of 2009 and exports declined by 3.3% to $1.69bn in the same period, leading to a trade deficit of $6.1bn, up 10.3% year-on-year. In volume terms, imports increased by 14.9% to 7.07 million tons in the first half of 2009, and exports declined by 16.3% to 1.43 million tons in the same period, leading to a trade deficit of 5.6 million tons, up 26.9% year-on-year. The coverage ratio reached 21.6% in the first half of the year compared to 23.9% in the same period of 2008. The trade deficit reached $1.30bn in June 2009, up 48.9% from June 2008.

France was the main source of imports with $974m or 12% of the total, followed by the United States with $720m (9%), China with $692m (9%), Germany with $594m (8%), Italy with $559m (7%) and Japan with $323m (4%). Switzerland was the main export destination with $395m or 23 % of the total, followed by the UAE with $160m (9%), Iraq with $154m (9%), Saudi Arabia with $127m (8%) and Syria with $99m (6%). Lebanon's main export was jewelry at $522m or 31% of total exports, followed by machinery & mechanical appliances with $248m (15%), base metals with $139m (8%), prepared foodstuff with $136m (8%), paper and paperboard articles with $115m (7%) and chemical products with $104m (6%). Re-exports totaled $75m in the first six months of 2009, down 2.6% from $77m in the same period of 2008.

The Hariri International Airport was the main source of Lebanese exports accounting for 40% of total exported goods in the first half of 2009, followed by the Port of Beirut with 27%, the Masnaa crossing point with 19%, the Abbudieh crossing point with 8% and the Port of Tripoli with 4%. The Port of Beirut was the main source for imports, accounting for 65% of total imports, followed by the Hariri International Airport with 22%, the Port of Tripoli with 6% and the Masnaa crossing point with 5%.

Customs receipts up 96% to $880m in first half of 2009

Figures released by the Higher Customs Council show that customs revenues reached $880m in the first half of 2009, up 96% from the same period last year. Customs revenues reached $154m in June compared to $151m in May and to $86m in June 2008. The Port of Beirut continues to be the main point of customs receipts, accounting for 88.5% of the total, and was followed by the Hariri International Airport with 5.6%, the Port of Tripoli with 2.9%, and the Masnaa crossing point with 1.4%. Overall customs receipts reached $1.54bn year-to-June when including revenues from the value-added tax that totaled $664m over the covered period.

Corporate Highlights

Aggregate profits of listed banks rise 3% in the first half of 2009

Financial results issued by five banks listed on the Beirut Stock Exchange show that their aggregate net profits reached $368.1m in the first half of 2009, constituting an increase of 3% from $357.3m in the first half of 2008. The average growth of the net profits of the five banks reached 1.5% in the first half of 2009, constituting a slowdown from the average growth in net profits of 13.9% in the first quarter of 2009, and from the average growth in net profits of 42.7% in the first half of 2008. Byblos Bank's profits increased by 3% year-on-year, posting the second highest increase among Lebanon's top 3 banks, ahead of Bank Audi and behind BLOM Bank.

BLOM Bank's net trading income reached $14.2m in the first half of 2009, up 35.1% from the same period last year, while Bank of Beirut's net trading income rose by 81.9% to $3.4m and Banque Bemo's net trading income increased by 118% to $1.8m. In parallel, Bank Audi's net trading income fell by 41.7% in the first half of 2009 to $29.4m, while Bank Byblos' net trading income decreased by 9.3% to $11.8m.

The aggregate assets of the five banks rose by 9.2% from end-2008 and by 16.2% from end of June 2008 to $61.4bn, while their total loans increased by 2.8% from end-2008 and by 9.7% from end- June 2008 to $14.4bn. Also, the banks' deposits increased by 10.9% from end-2008 and by 17.8% from end-June 2008 to $50bn. BLOM Bank posted the lowest loans-to-deposit ratio at 21.7% compared to 22.7% at the end of June 2008, followed by Byblos Bank with a ratio of 30.9% relative to 32.9% at end-June 2008, Bank of Beirut with 31.3% from 35% a year earlier, Bank Audi with 32.4% from 35.8% at the end of the first half of 2008, and Banque Bemo with a 47.8% ratio compared to 48.5% at end-June 2008.

Results of Listed Banks for First Half of 2009

	Byblos	BLOM	Audi	BoB	BEMO
Net Profits	$62.7m	$138.3m	$132.9m	$29.4m	$4.9m
% Change*	3.0%	5.8%	1.9%	(3.3%)	0.3%
Total Assets	$12.30bn	$19.42bn	$22.43bn	$6.20bn	$1.05bn
% Change**	9.5%	8.5%	9.9%	6.9%	15.6%
Loans (1)	$2.85bn	$3.60bn	$6.16bn	$1.36bn	$0.39bn
% Change**	2.6%	3.7%	3.4%	(2.6%)	7.4%
Deposits (1)	$9.24bn	$16.57bn	$19.03bn	$4.36bn	$0.81bn
% Change**	11.3%	9.8%	11.3%	11.9%	13.9%

**Year-on-year*
***Change from end-2008*
(1) Customer Loans and Deposits

Fitch Affirms Byblos Bank at 'B-'; Outlook Stable

Fitch Ratings affirmed Byblos Bank's Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B-' with a 'stable' outlook. It also affirmed the Bank's Short-term IDR at 'B', Individual Rating at 'D', Support Rating at '5', and Support Rating Floor at 'CCC'. The agency said the Individual Rating reflects the Bank's strong franchise, competent management and resilient profitability, as well as Lebanon's ongoing political risks that have receded somewhat following the peaceful elections held in June 2009. It added that the Bank's ratings are constrained by the ongoing weaknesses of the Lebanese operating environment.

Fitch indicated that Byblos Bank has shown resilience to the impact of the economic slowdown in the MENA region, as the Bank's net profit increased by 23% in 2008 driven by rising net interest and fee income, an improvement in cost efficiency and a relatively minor increase in credit costs. It noted that increased revenues offset some impairment losses on the bank's investment portfolio last year. It added that first quarter net profits rose by 19% year-on-year, but profitability growth slowed on a quarterly basis. The agency said loan quality continued to improve in 2008, as the non-performing loan ratio reached 2.3% at end-2008 with satisfactory coverage of 110%. It added that Byblos has a strong funding franchise and non-equity funding consists almost entirely of customer deposits, largely domestic retail deposits. Also, the Bank strengthened its capital ratios following the issue of preferred shares in August 2008 as its Basel I capital ratio was 24.1% at end-2008. It said the Bank's foreign operations accounted for about a fifth of the bank's assets and net profits in 2008. One of Lebanon's leading banks, Byblos Bank has a direct presence in Belgium, France, the United Kingdom, Armenia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, the UAE, Cyprus and Nigeria.

Corporate Highlights

Fitch Affirms BLOM Bank's Support Rating at '5'

Fitch Ratings affirmed BLOM Bank's Support rating at '5'. It considered that the Lebanese authorities would have a very high propensity to support BLOM if necessary due to its systemic importance to the banking sector and to the economy as a whole. It added, however, that the Bank's Support Rating reflects the fact that the sovereign cannot be wholly relied on to provide support. The agency said BLOM's operating and net income posted strong growth of 31% and 23%, respectively, in 2008 although profitability growth slowed in the first quarter of this year. It added that the Bank's profitability ratios compare well with its peers, partly due to its greater cost efficiency. It noted that net interest income accounts for almost three quarters of the Bank's operating revenues, and is largely generated from its holding of government securities and inter-bank deposits. Fitch considered that BLOM's main risk, along with other Lebanese banks, is its significant exposure to the Lebanese government, as about half of the Bank's balance sheet consists of government securities and Central Bank placements, with the remainder consisting of loans which account for about 20% of the balance sheet and interbank deposits. It added that BLOM's foreign operations account for about a third of the bank's assets and 27% of its profits.

Stock market activity down 27% to $629m in first 7 months of 2009

Figures released by the Beirut Stock Exchange indicate that total trading volume reached 81.1 million shares in the first seven months of 2009, an increase of 124% year-on-year, while aggregate turnover amounted to $629m, down 27% from a turnover of $861m in the same period last year. Market capitalization decreased by 27.5% to $11.6bn year-on-year, of which 60% was in banking stocks and 37% in Solidere stocks. The market liquidity ratio was 5.4%, unchanged from the same period of 2008.

Bank stocks accounted for 73.7% of aggregate trading volume in the first seven months of 2009, followed by Solidere's stocks with 25.8%. In terms of value of shares traded, Solidere stocks accounted for 69.2% of aggregate value, followed by banking stocks with 30.6%. The average daily traded volume for the period was 579,543 shares for an average daily value of $4.5m. The figures reflect an increase of 125.4% in volume and a decrease of 26.4% in value year-on-year. The significant rise in volume is due to activity related to the GDR exchange program launched by Byblos Bank in February, which consisted of giving holders of common shares the option to exchange every 50 shares for one Global Depository Receipt.

RYMCO's profits down 42% to $2.4m in first half of 2009

Automobile dealer Rasamny Younis Motor Co. sal (RYMCO) declared net profits of $2.37m in the first half of 2009, down 41.7% from $7.07m in the same period last year. Sales revenues (net of discounts) totaled $95.6m, posting a 24.6% increase year-on-year; while net earnings from servicing and repairs, or 'garage income', increased by 71.3% to $2.05m. The firm's cost of goods sold rose by 27.7% to $85m. Also, general and administrative expenses increased by 30.4% to $2.2m, while advertising & selling expenses decreased by 10.6% to $0.66m, and overall operating charges rose by 17.6% to $6.4m.

RYMCO's total assets and total equity amounted to $135.7m and $54m at the end of June 2009 respectively, compared to $100.7m and $45.6m a year earlier. RYMCO's inventory of cars and spare parts increased 94.2% to $53.4m. Annualized earnings per share stood at 38 cents compared to 17 cents in 2007. RYMCO is the only car retailer listed on the Beirut bourse. It had a 23% market share in new cars registered in 2008, the highest among car dealerships in the country.

First National Bank's profits up 26% to $8.8m in 2008

First National Bank sal announced net profits of $8.8m in 2008, up 26% from the previous year. Net interest income rose by 21.2% to $24.6m while net fee & commission receipts increased by 64.1% to $3.9m and net interest gains on trading portfolio regressed by 79.7% to $0.25m in 2008 compared to $1.2m in 2007. Total operating costs increased by 12% to $21.2m and staff costs increased by 13% to $11.2m. Total assets reached $1.66bn at the end of 2008, constituting a 10.3% rise from end-2007, while loans & advances to customers increased by 15.5% to reach $354.6m. Customers' deposits rose by 14.8% year-on-year to $1.24bn. The bank's shareholders equity increased by 13.2% to $104.8m year-on-year.

Launch of $800m real estate project

Renaissance Holdings announced the launch of BeitMisk, an $800m residential project in the Northern Metn region. The project is spread over 655,000 square meters, can accommodate up to 15,000 residents, and is developed by Emaar Properties.

Ratio Highlights

(in % unless specified)	2006	2007	2008	Change*
Nominal GDP(1) ($bn)	22.7	24.6	28.8	
External Debt / GDP	89.9	86.4	73.4	(1,300)
Local Debt / GDP	88.1	84.6	89.8	520
Total Debt / GDP	178.4	171.0	163.2	(780)
Trade Balance / GDP	(31.3)	(36.6)	(43.9)	(730)
Exports / Imports	24.3	23.8	21.6	(220)
Budget Revenues / GDP	19.4	23.6	24.4	80
Budget Expenditures / GDP	30.8	33.9	34.5	60
Budget Balance / GDP	(11.5)	(10.3)	(10.1)	20
Primary Balance / GDP	0.4	2.9	2.1	(80)
BdL FX Reserves / M2	65.6	59.6	68.9	930
M3 / GDP	234.4	243.2	238.4	(480)
Bank Assets / GDP	327.2	334.4	327.3	(710)
Bank Deposits / GDP	267.4	273.5	270.1	(340)
Private Sector Loans / GDP	67.4	72.2	86.9	1,470
Dollarization of Deposits	76.2	77.3	69.6	(770)
Dollarization of Loans	84.0	84.3	86.6	230

** Change in basis points 07/08*
(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	Jun 2008	May 2009	Jun 2009	Change*	Risk Level
Political Risk Rating	57.0	57.0	57.0	↔	High
Financial Risk Rating	31.5	28.0	28.0	▼	High
Economic Risk Rating	28.5	30.0	30.0	▲	Moderate
Composite Risk Rating	58.5	57.5	57.5	▼	High

Regional Average	Jun 2008	May 2009	Jun 2009	Change*	Risk Level
Political Risk Rating	65.5	65.3	65.1	▼	Moderate
Financial Risk Rating	41.3	41.6	41.5	▲	Very Low
Economic Risk Rating	39.6	36.0	34.6	▼	Moderate
Composite Risk Rating	73.2	71.4	70.6	▼	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	B2	NP	Stable			
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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