

LEBANON THIS WEEK

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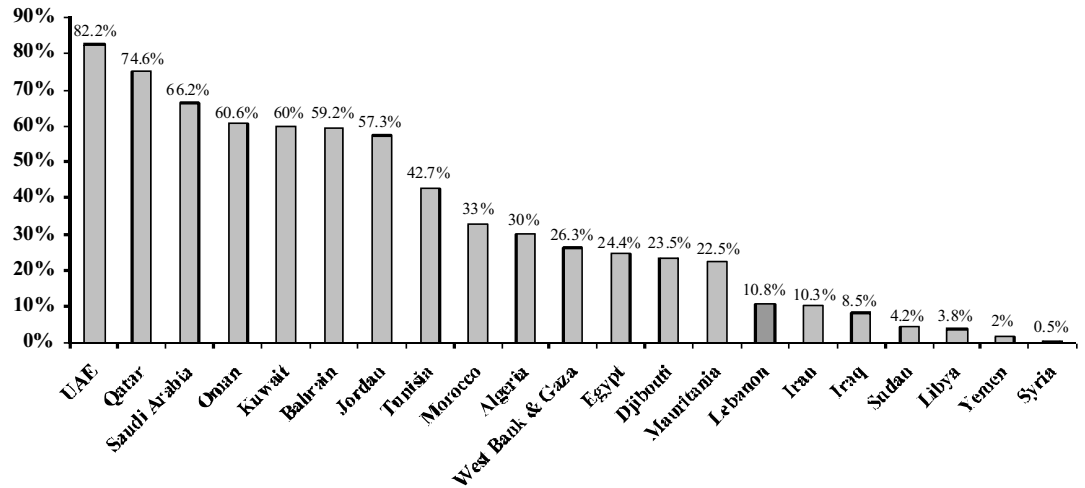
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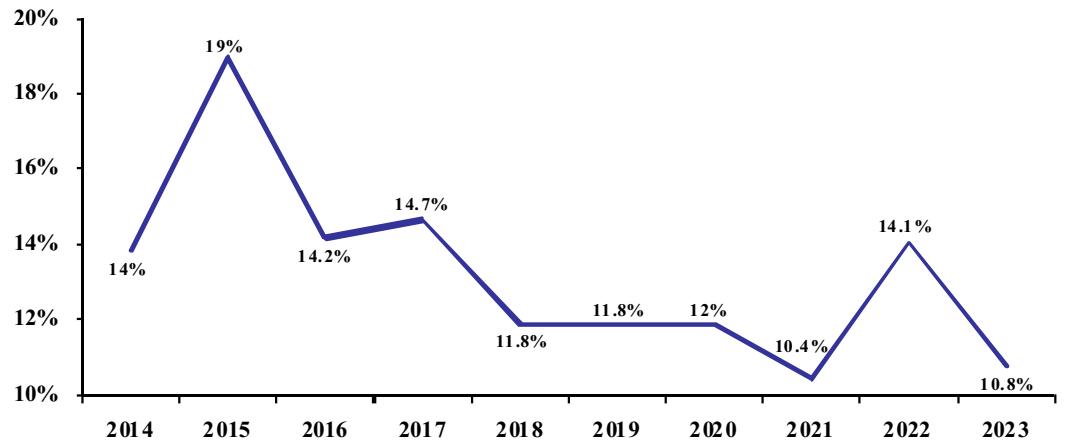
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Charts of the Week

Percentile Rankings of Middle East and North Africa Countries on the Control of Corruption Indicator for 2023 (%)



Percentile Rankings of Lebanon on the Control of Corruption Indicator (%)



Source: World Bank World Governance Indicators for 2023, Byblos Bank

Quote to Note

"Structural reforms, especially in the justice, banking, energy and anti-corruption areas, are essential."

French President Emmanuel Macron, on the willingness on France to support reforms in Lebanon

Number of the Week

77%: Percentage of the members of Parliament who voted to elect General Joseph Aoun as President of the Republic

Lebanon in the News

\$m (unless otherwise mentioned)	2021	2022	2023	% Change*	Dec-22	Nov-23	Dec-23
Exports	3,887	3,492	2,995	-14.2%	272	290	240
Imports	13,641	19,053	17,524	-8.0%	1,251	1,253	1,303
Trade Balance	(9,754)	(15,562)	(14,529)	-6.6%	(979)	(963)	(1,063)
Balance of Payments	(1,960)	(3,197)	2,237	-170.0%	17	186	591
Checks Cleared in LBP**	18,639	27,146	4,396	-83.8%	3,686	359	404
Checks Cleared in FC**	17,779	10,288	3,109	-69.8%	577	106	183
Total Checks Cleared**	36,418	37,434	7,505	-80.0%	4,263	465	587
Fiscal Deficit/Surplus	2,197	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary Balance	5,009	-	-	-	-	-	-
Airport Passengers	4,334,231	6,360,564	7,103,349	11.7%	551,632	323,523	481,470
Consumer Price Index	154.8	171.2	221.3	5,014bps	122.0	211.9	192.3

\$bn (unless otherwise mentioned)	Dec-22	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	% Change*
BdL FX Reserves	10.40	8.82	8.91	9.14	9.37	9.64	-7.3%
In months of Imports	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Debt	101.81	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bank Assets	169.06	113.72	112.69	112.25	112.58	115.25	-31.8%
Bank Deposits (Private Sector)	125.72	95.59	95.17	94.64	94.97	94.75	-24.6%
Bank Loans to Private Sector	20.05	8.92	8.69	8.58	8.53	8.32	-58.5%
Money Supply M2	77.34	6.64	6.77	6.48	6.78	6.72	-91.3%
Money Supply M3	152.29	78.38	78.10	77.42	77.74	77.75	-48.9%
LBP Lending Rate (%)	4.56	3.77	4.36	3.34	3.29	3.97	20
LBP Deposit Rate (%)	0.60	0.41	0.49	1.02	1.41	0.55	14
USD Lending Rate (%)	4.16	2.40	3.15	3.70	3.08	1.95	(45)
USD Deposit Rate (%)	0.06	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.03	0

*year-on-year

**checks figures do not include compensated checks in fresh currencies

Source: Association of Banks in Lebanon, Banque du Liban, Ministry of Finance, Central Administration of Statistics, Byblos Research

Capital Markets

Most Traded Stocks on BSE*	Last Price (\$)	% Change*	Total Volume	Weight in Market Capitalization	Sovereign Eurobonds	Coupon %	Mid Price \$	Mid Yield %
Audi Listed	2.80	9.8	158,895	6.3%	Feb 2025	6.20	16.63	5,310.04
Byblos Common	1.17	(6.4)	85,820	2.5%	Jun 2025	6.25	16.63	1,289.58
Solidere "A"	112.10	(11.0)	74,286	43.0%	Nov 2026	6.60	16.63	125.05
Audi GDR	2.50	6.4	40,000	1.1%	Mar 2027	6.85	16.63	102.43
BLOM GDR	5.40	1.9	20,600	1.5%	Nov 2028	6.65	16.63	53.56
Solidere "B"	118.90	(4.9)	11,302	29.7%	Feb 2030	6.65	16.63	38.51
HOLCIM	70.10	0.0	-	5.2%	Apr 2031	7.00	16.63	30.87
BLOM Listed	5.00	0.0	-	4.1%	May 2033	8.20	16.63	22.76
Byblos Pref. 09	29.99	0.0	-	0.2%	Nov 2035	7.05	16.63	17.36
Byblos Pref. 08	25.00	0.0	-	0.2%	Mar 2037	7.25	16.63	15.30

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

Source: Refinitiv

	Jan 13-17	Jan 7-10	% Change	December 2024	December 2023	% Change
Total shares traded	392,163	180,149	117.7	1,636,678	1,944,115	(15.8)
Total value traded	\$10,893,819	\$6,898,397	57.9	\$71,132,605	\$141,539,181	(49.7)
Market capitalization	\$26.06bn	\$27.72bn	(6.0)	\$26.95bn	\$20.48bn	31.6

Source: Beirut Stock Exchange (BSE)



Election of new president paves way for external support and debt restructuring

Moody's Ratings indicated that the election of the Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) General Joseph Aoun as President of the Lebanese Republic paves the way for the formation of a new government with full authorities, which will replace the current government that has been operating in a caretaker capacity with limited powers since May 2022. It added that the election of President Aoun, who has the backing of the international donor community, underscores the LAF's prominent role in securing the implementation of the 60-day ceasefire agreement between Hezbollah and Israel. It expected the country's return to fully-functioning state institutions to trigger access to international financing for military support and for the reconstruction efforts of the areas affected by the war.

Further, it estimated that Lebanon's real GDP contracted by 10% in 2024 as a result of the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, but it anticipated economic activity to recover later in 2025 in case of a permanent cessation of hostilities. Also, it expected the disbursement of international donor funds to be contingent on a new program with the International Monetary Fund, which will track the implementation of agreed reforms and necessitate a comprehensive restructuring of the public debt, as well as of Banque du Liban and of commercial banks. However, it considered that only a substantial reduction in the public debt level, which it estimates at about 150% of GDP at the end of 2024, would ensure the sustainability of the public debt in the future and durably reduce the likelihood of renewed default, given the government's sharply limited revenue generation and debt servicing capacity.

In addition, the agency said that Lebanon's sovereign 'C' rating reflects its expectation that holders of Lebanese Eurobonds will recover less than 35% of the bonds' par value following the restructuring of the Eurobonds. It noted that Banque du Liban has managed to maintain the stability of the exchange rate since mid-2023, but it considered the stability relies on significant cuts to fiscal spending and investments, which would undermine the economy's long-term growth prospects and reduces the supply of public goods and services. It added that tourism receipts and remittance inflows from the Lebanese Diaspora are the main sources of foreign currency flows to the country.

Moody's Ratings affirmed on December 13, 2023 Lebanon's issuer rating at 'C', the lowest rating on the agency's rating scale, and revised the outlook from 'no outlook' to 'stable'. It indicated that the rating reflects the previous government's decision to default on Lebanon's foreign currency debt obligations in March 2020, and that Eurobond holders are likely to incur losses that could exceed 65%, as a result of the default.

Presidential election signals period of reforms

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) indicated that the completion of the political roadmap in Lebanon remains essential, following the election of the Commander of the Lebanese Armed Forces General Joseph Aoun as President of the Lebanese Republic and the designation of Judge Nawaf Salam as Prime Minister. It noted that the next obstacle to overcome will be sustaining the prevailing momentum through the rapid formation of a government. It estimated that the incoming Cabinet is likely to include technocrats that political parties designate, and noted that the forthcoming government will be a transitional one, given that the next parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place in May 2026. In addition, it considered that the president's commitment to establishing a fully-functioning Cabinet of technocrats before seeking external funding for post-war reconstruction will be crucial to reduce external vulnerabilities, given the ongoing progress on fiscal rebalancing.

It indicated that recent positive developments have exceeded market expectations, even though the pricing of Lebanese Eurobonds has already reflected the anticipated likelihood of improved prospects for reforms and the potential for pledges of external funding. It pointed out that Banque du Liban (BdL) continues to closely manage the stability of the exchange rate, which has helped the inflation rate to stabilize at 15% year-on-year in October and November 2024, following a three-year period of hyperinflation. But it noted that the low level of foreign currency reserves underscores the need to urgently attract foreign currency inflows to support BdL's reserves.

Further, it considered that Lebanon's relations with Arab countries have started to improve following the presidential election, as the UAE has announced the re-opening of its embassy and as the president will make his first trip abroad to Saudi Arabia. As such, it expected the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to lift their travel bans to Lebanon once security in the country improves. Also, it estimated that a reforms-driven atmosphere will likely double foreign tourist arrivals by mid-2026 from the number of arrivals in 2023, leading to tourism revenues of \$5bn in the near- to medium term.

In parallel, SCB indicated that it has changed its recommendation on Lebanon's Eurobonds from "Under Weight" to "Market Weight", given that risks have become more balanced than before. It attributed its decision to the resolution of the presidential deadlock after a 26-months stalemate and to the designation of a Prime Minister, which should support investor sentiment. It considered that the market expects the government's formation to accelerate development aid, trigger Lebanon's re-engagement with the International Monetary Fund, and allow creditors to start the public debt's restructuring process. But it anticipated the Eurobonds' restructuring to be protracted and to face delays in the next one to two years, while it noted that investors do not have details yet on the burden-sharing of financial losses.



Banque du Liban's liquid foreign reserves at \$10.3bn, gold reserves at \$24.8bn at mid-January 2025

Banque du Liban's (BdL) interim balance sheet shows that its total assets reached LBP8,343 trillion (tn) on January 15, 2025, relative to LBP8,318.7tn at end-2024 and to LBP8,390.8tn at mid-December 2024. BdL indicated that it revised its balance sheet figures starting on October 15, 2024 in accordance with international standards. It said that it changed the classification of "Foreign Assets" to "Foreign Reserve Assets" in order to present non-resident and liquid foreign assets only, while it reclassified the "other resident and/or illiquid items" to its "Securities Portfolio" or to the "Loans to the Local Financial Sector" entries.

BdL noted that its decision is in accordance with the Central Council's Decision 13588 dated October 25, 2023, in order to ensure the alignment of the balance sheet entries with international standards and with the implementation of international best practices.

As such, BdL's Foreign Reserve Assets stood at \$10.34bn at mid-January 2025, compared to \$10.13bn at end-2024 and \$10.18bn at mid-December 2024. Also, they increased by \$210.5m in the first half of January 2025; while they contracted by \$15.2m in December 2024, as well as by \$113m in November 2024 and by \$402.1m in October 2024. As such, they increased by \$1.77bn between the end of July 2023 and mid-January 2025. The dollar figures are based on the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound of LBP89,500 per US dollar starting on February 15, 2024, according to the BdL Central Council's Decision No. 48/4/24 dated February 15, 2024.

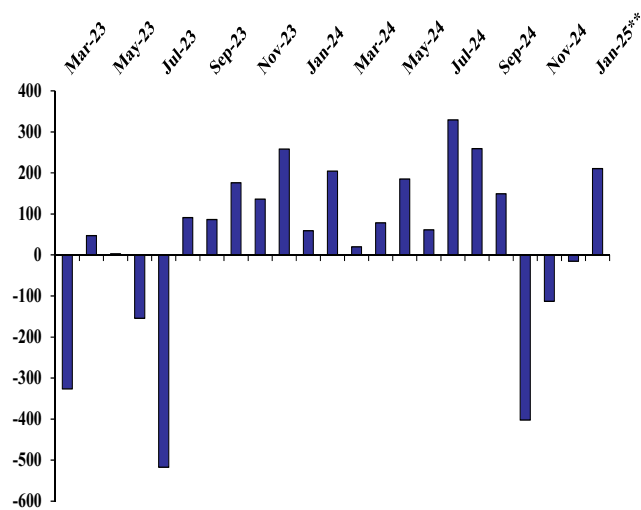
Further, the value of BdL's gold reserves stood at \$24.8bn at mid-January 2025, relative to \$24.1bn at end-2024. The value of gold reserves reached a peak of \$25.6bn at end-October 2024. Also, BdL's securities portfolio totaled LBP555,151bn at mid-January 2025 relative to LBP555,935bn at end-2024. BdL noted that the securities portfolio includes Lebanese Eurobonds that have a market value of \$893.6m as at mid-January 2025 relative to \$671.2m at end-2024 and to \$657.9m at mid-December 2024. Prior to the modifications, BdL included the nominal value of its Lebanese Eurobonds portfolio in the foreign assets item. In addition, loans to the local financial sector stood at LBP42,906.7bn at mid-January 2025 compared to LBP39,639.6bn at end-2024.

Moreover, Deferred Open-Market Operations totaled LBP139,041bn at mid-January 2025 relative to LBP136,633bn at end-2024. BdL said that, based on the Central Council's decision 23/36/45 of December 20, 2023, it has started to present all deferred interest costs originating from open-market operations under this new line item. As a result, it transferred all deferred interest costs included in the "Other Assets" and "Assets from Exchange Operations" entries to the new item. Therefore, the item "Other Assets" stood at LBP15,265.4bn at mid-January 2025 relative to LBP13,937.4bn two weeks earlier.

Also, the Revaluation Adjustments item on the asset side reached LBP2,958,992.1bn at mid-January 2025 relative to LBP3,020,901.4bn at end-2024. It consists of a special account called the "Exchange Rate Stabilization Fund", in which BdL recorded all the transactions related to foreign exchange interventions to stabilize the exchange rate starting in 2020 and that had a balance of LBP163.65tn at mid-January 2025 relative to LBP163.35tn at end-2024. It also consists of a special account in the name of the Treasury that stood at LBP2,795.3tn at mid-January 2025 compared to LBP2,857.6tn at end-2024. The account includes the differences between the counter-value at the official exchange rate of BdL's gold and currency holdings and the value of these holdings at the market exchange rate, as well as the profits or losses on BdL's gold and currency holdings from the modification of the official exchange rate of the Lebanese pound or of a foreign currency exchange rate. Further, the balance sheet shows that BdL's loans to the public sector totaled LBP1,486,957bn at mid-January 2025 relative to LBP1,486,943bn two weeks earlier.

On the liabilities side, BdL's balance sheet shows that currency in circulation outside BdL stood at LBP84,028bn at mid-January 2025 compared to LBP65,564bn at end-2024, and represented an increase of 47% from LBP57,201.8bn at mid-January 2024. Further, the deposits of the financial sector reached LBP7,627.6tn or the equivalent of \$85.2bn at mid-January 2025, relative to LBP7,636.2tn, or \$85.3bn, at end-2024; while public sector deposits at BdL totaled LBP545,625.3bn at mid-January 2025 compared to LBP533,826.5bn at end-2024.

Change in Foreign Reserve Assets* (US\$m)



*month-on-month change

**as at mid-January 2025, change from end-2024

Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

Banque du Liban limits bank lending to fresh funds

Banque du Liban (BdL) issued Intermediate Circular 723/13686 dated January 13, 2025 addressed to banks and financial institutions that modifies Basic Circular 81/7776 of February 21, 2001 about Operations related to Credit, Investment, Shareholding, and Participation.

The circular prohibits banks and financial institutions operating in Lebanon from extending to their clients loans or new facilities of any kind in US dollars, other than from "fresh funds" as defined in Basic Circular 165/13548 dated April 19, 2023, which authorized the settlement operations for "fresh funds" through its national payment system.

Basic Circular 81/7776 defines retail loans as all consumer loans, including car loans, student loans, education loans, and other consumer loans; housing loans; and evolving credits such as credit cards; as well as loans granted only for consumption or personal purposes and not for professional or commercial reasons.

BdL issued on April 19, 2023 Basic Circular 165/13548 addressed to banks and financial institutions about electronic settlement operations for "Fresh Funds". Article 1 of the circular stipulates that BdL defines "fresh funds" as money transferred from abroad and/or funds received in foreign currency banknotes after November 17, 2019, as well as the amounts that have been or will be deposited in cash in "fresh" Lebanese pounds accounts and that meet the conditions of Basic Circular 150/13217 dated April 9, 2020. Article 2 asks banks and financial institutions that are enrolled in the BdL's national payment system (NPS) to comply with the provisions and rules of this circular.

Article 4 asked all participating institutions in the BdL-NPS system to open new accounts at BdL in Lebanese pounds and in US dollars by the end of April 2023 to be used exclusively for the clearing of checks and for the electronic transfers of "fresh funds", in addition to Direct Debits and Credit Transfers files in the BdL-CLEAR system that are in "fresh funds". It added that participants have to deposit the banknotes in the new accounts in order to ensure there are enough "fresh funds" to implement the settlement operations through the BdL-NPS system, and that each bank has to determine the amounts it wants to deposit in the accounts as long as there are enough funds to execute the settlement operations. Article 5 stipulates that BdL will link the new accounts to an additional SWIFT code in order to identify the bank as a "fresh funds" participant. Article 6 indicates that BdL will execute daily clearing operations for checks in "fresh funds". Article 10 prohibits participating banks to make transfers from or to "fresh funds" accounts to and from other accounts at BdL.

Banque du Liban modifies methodology for reserve requirements on Lebanese pound deposits

Banque du Liban (BdL) issued Basic Circular 722/13685 dated January 13, 2025 addressed to banks that modifies Basic Circular 84/7835 of June 2, 2021 about reserve requirements.

First, the circular stipulates that banks are required to provide the Statistics and Economic Research Department at BdL with a weekly statement of their average liabilities that are subject to reserve requirements in Lebanese pounds for the week that starts on Thursday and ends on Wednesday inclusive, within a maximum period that does not exceed the following Monday to Wednesday.

Second, it amends the calculation of the mandatory cash reserves in Lebanese pounds. It asked banks to calculate the average liabilities that are subject to reserve requirements in Lebanese pounds based on a five-day period starting from Thursday and ending the following Wednesday of each week, excluding Saturdays and Sundays. It added that banks have to calculate the reserve requirements as the average of a single period of five days starting from Monday to Friday. It noted that the calculation is based on the total daily cash balances at banks. Also, it said that the balances on official holidays are considered equal to the closing balance of the previous working day, except for the balance of Thursday, where the closing balance of the previous working day is adopted and is adjusted by adding or deducting Treasury bond subscriptions and maturities. It said that the adjustment procedure does not apply to the maturities of Certificates of Deposits that BdL issued. It added that, in case of a sudden public holiday, the banks have to adopt the balance of the first working day following the date of the holiday. It indicated that, in the event that the entire calculation period consists of an official holiday, banks have to use the average balances from the preceding period, even if Thursday falls within the holiday period.

In addition, it stipulates that, in order to calculate the reserve requirement ratio, banks have to include in the daily cash balances of their accounts in Lebanese pounds at BdL the balance of Lebanese pound accounts opened prior to April 19, 2023 and the balances in Lebanese pounds-denominated "fresh accounts" as per Basic Circular 165/13548 of April 19, 2023. It excluded from the daily cash balances of the banks' accounts at BdL the funds in accounts earmarked to conduct foreign exchange transactions in US dollars for clients, as well as term deposit accounts and blocked accounts for capital increases. It said that the reserve requirement ratio is based on the average liabilities in Lebanese pounds subject to the required reserve for a single period of five days, starting from Monday to Friday.

Third, it noted that, in order to calculate the deductions from the liabilities for the period subject to a portion of the mandatory reserve, the banks must declare it on a weekly basis to the Financing Unit at BdL within a maximum period of the following Monday to Wednesday instead of Saturday. It said that the required reserve is calculated on Monday following Wednesday, which is the end of the period on which the average of liabilities is calculated. BdL stated that the new circular goes into effect on January 29, 2025.

Internally displaced population nears 113,600, Lebanon raises \$245m in pledges from Flash Appeal

Figures compiled by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) show that 113,578 individuals are still internally displaced (IDPs) as at January 15, 2025 due to the hostilities that erupted along Lebanon's border with Israel on October 8, 2023 that escalated last September, and that largely ceased on November 27, 2024. The number of IDPs constituted decreases of 47,322 persons, or of 29.4% from December 25, 2024, of 88,242 individuals, or 43.7% from December 4, 2024, of 782,737 persons (87.3%) from November 20, 2024, of 761,602 individuals (-87%) from November 6, 2024, of 666,035 persons (-85.4%) from October 23, 2024, of 695,465 individuals (-86%) from October 20, 2024, and of 719,813 persons (-86.4%) from October 16, 2024. It noted that 53% of IDPs are females and 47% of them are males. The number of IDPs reached a peak of 896,315 on November 20, 2024, but the agreement for the cessation of hostilities that went into effect on November 27 encouraged the majority of IDPs to return to their towns and villages.

In parallel, it stated that 72,324 of the remaining IDPs originated from the Nabatieh governorate and accounted for 63.7% of the total as at January 15, 2025, followed by 31,614 IDPs (27.8%) from the governorate of the South, 7,006 IDPs (6.2%) from Mount Lebanon, 1,914 IDPs (1.7%) from the Baalbek-Hermel governorate, 473 (0.4%) from Beirut, and 247 IDPs (0.2%) from the Bekaa. It added that 90% of the IDPs are from the Bint Jbeil, Tyre, Nabatieh, Marjaayoun, and Baabda districts as at January 15, 2025.

Further, it said that 44,062 IDPs, or 38.8% of the total, came from the Bint Jbeil district, followed by 25,844 IDPs from the Tyre district (22.8%); 13,066 IDPs from the Nabatieh district (11.5%); 11,311 IDPs from the Marjaayoun district (10%); 6,820 IDPs from the Baabda district (6%); 5,765 IDPs from the Saida district (5.1%); 3,885 IDPs from the Hasbaya district (3.4%); 1,738 IDPs from Baalbeck (1.5%); 473 IDPs from Beirut (0.4%); 197 IDPs from the West Bekaa, and 186 from Aley and 176 from the Hermel districts (0.2% each).

Also, it indicated that the South is hosting 44,032 IDPs of 38.8% of the total as at January 15, 2025, followed by Mount Lebanon governorate with 31,453 IDPs (27.7%), as well as the governorates of Nabatieh with 27,202 IDPs (24%), Beirut with 7,264 IDPs (6.4%), the North with 1,501 IDPs (1.3%), the Bekaa with 1,145 IDPs (1%), Akkar with 844 IDPs (0.7%), and Baalbeck-Hermel with 137 IDPs (0.1%).

It added that 82,625 IDPs, or 72.7% of the total, are mainly located in the Saida, El Nabatieh, Tyre, Aley, and Metn districts. It said that the Saida district is the host of 25.6% of the IDPs, followed by Nabatieh (17.2%), Tyre (12.9%), Aley (10.6%), and Metn (6.4%), while other districts host the remaining 27.3% of the IDPs.

Further, it pointed out that 332,810 IDPs, or 38.2% of the number of the displaced population, have returned to the Nabatieh governorate as at January 15, 2025, followed by 321,532 IDPs who came back to the South (37%); 166,551 IDPs who returned to the Baalbek-Hermel governorate (19%); 28,373 IDPs who came back to Mount Lebanon (3.3%); and 22,593 IDPs who returned to the Bekaa (2.6%).

In addition, it indicated that 63,604 IDPs, or 56% of the total, are renting houses; 44,295 IDPs (39%) are currently living with host families; 3,407 IDPs (3%) reside in 41 collective shelters; 2,727 IDPs (2%) have relocated to secondary residences; while less than 1% are living in unfinished buildings, tents, parks, in self-settled sites, or on the streets.

Also, it pointed out that 54% of the IDPs are between 19 and 57 years old, 16% of them are in the 6 to 12 years-old bracket, 13% of IDPs are between 13 and 18 years of age, 11% of them are more than 58 years old, 4% of IDPs are between three and five years old, and 2% of IDPs are less than two years old.

The IOM collected the data nationwide through a combination of face-to-face and remote data collection methods, an utilized a network of over 50 enumerators and 1,500 key informants. The latter consist of government officials, mayors, community representatives, and neighborhood focal points.

In parallel, the United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) stated that 41 shelters across Lebanon are providing accommodation for 3,833 IDPs as at January 16, 2025, while other shelters have closed following the return of IDPs to their original residence.

Further, the IOM indicated that it has assisted 11,397 individuals through multi-sectoral support in the first 12 days of 2025. It noted that 1,570 persons received protection services, 1,213 accessed healthcare services, and 8,874 received core relief items, while it has delivered 4,250 liters of fuel to the Ministry of Public Health since September 23, 2024, and assisted 757 migrants to return to their countries.

Moreover, it said that the Flash Appeal, which the Lebanese government and the United Nations launched on October 1 and that calls for \$426m in immediate humanitarian support, is currently underfunded, with only \$244.9m, or 57.5% of the appealed funds, received as at December 16, 2024, according to the Lebanon Aid Tracking system.

Currency in circulation down 8% in 12 months ending November 2024

Figures released by Banque du Liban (BdL) show that money supply M1, which includes currency in circulation and demand deposits in Lebanese pounds, reached LBP86,646bn at the end of November 2024, constituting an increase of 1.4% from LBP85,449.6bn at the end of 2023 and was nearly unchanged from LBP86,578.3bn at end-November 2023. Currency in circulation stood at LBP43,685bn at the end of November 2024, as it decreased by 13.7% from LBP50,599.7bn at end-2023 and contracted by 8% from LBP47,459.6bn at end-November 2023.

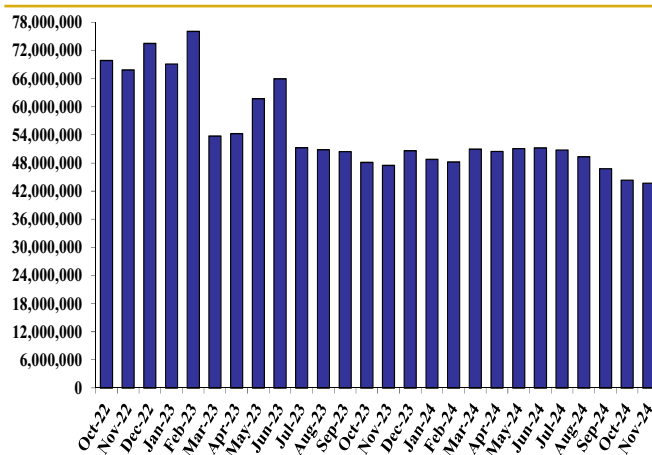
Also, demand deposits in Lebanese pounds stood at LBP42,961bn at the end of November 2024, and rose by 23.3% in the first 11 months of 2024 and by 9.8% from end-November 2023. Money supply M1 improved by 0.1% in November from LBP86,581.2bn at end-October 2024, with currency in circulation decreasing by 1.5% and demand deposits in local currency increasing by 1.7% month-on-month.

In addition, money supply M2, which includes M1 and term deposits in Lebanese pounds, reached LBP109,309.8bn at the end of November 2024, constituting increases of 8.5% from LBP100,787.3bn at end-2023 and of 7.4% from LBP101,757bn a year earlier. Term deposits in Lebanese pounds stood at LBP22,664bn at the end of November 2024 and surged by 47.8% from LBP15,337.7bn at end-2023 and by 49.3% from LBP15,178.7bn at end-November 2023. Also, money supply M2 improved by 0.3% in November from LBP109,028.5bn at end-October 2024, while term deposits in local currency increased by 1% month-on-month.

Further, broad money supply M3, which includes M2, deposits in foreign currency and debt securities issued by the banking sector, stood at LBP6,210.7 trillion (tn) at the end of November 2024, with deposits in foreign currency totaling LBP6,068.4tn and debt securities of the banking sector amounting to LBP33,031bn at end-November 2024. In parallel, M3 increased by LBP5,044.5tn in the first 11 months of 2024 due to a jump of LBP3,793.6tn in claims on the public sector, a rise of LBP1,444.4tn in the net foreign assets of deposit-taking institutions, and a growth of LBP422,020.2bn in claims on the private sector, which were offset by a decline of LBP615,529.3bn in other items. The surge in M3 is due to the impact of the new exchange rate of the Lebanese pound that went into effect on January 31, 2024. BdL indicated that the change in its net foreign assets during the covered period includes the net flow of the internationally traded net Lebanese Government's sovereign bonds in foreign currencies that BdL bought during the same year only.

BdL issued Basic Circular 167/13612 dated February 2, 2024 that asked banks and financial institutions to convert their assets and liabilities in foreign currencies to Lebanese pounds at the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per US dollar when preparing their financial positions. BdL requested banks and financial institutions, in line with the provisions of International Accounting Standard 21, to convert their foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities and non-monetary assets classified by fair value or by equity method at the exchange rate published on BdL's electronic platform at the date of the preparation of the financial statements. It added that the decision is applicable as of January 31, 2024. BdL had modified on February 1, 2023 the official exchange rate of the Lebanese pound against the US dollar from LBP1,507.5 per dollar to LBP15,000 per dollar, as part of the measures to unify the multiple exchange rates of the dollar that prevail in the Lebanese economy.

Currency in Circulation (LBP millions)



Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

Net foreign assets of financial sector up \$7.2bn in first 11 months of 2024

Figures issued by Banque du Liban (BdL) show that the net foreign assets of the financial sector, which are a proxy for Lebanon's balance of payments, increased by \$7.2bn in the first 11 months of 2024. BdL indicated that it revised the series starting with the figures for January 2024 in compliance with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) recommendation to align the components of BdL's foreign assets with international norms. As such, it is no longer possible to compare BdL's net foreign assets in 2024, as well as the net foreign assets of the financial sector, with the figures from previous periods.

According to the new methodology, the cumulative surplus in the first 11 months of 2024 was caused by an increase of \$6.2bn in the net foreign assets of BdL and a rise of \$1bn in those of banks and financial institutions. Further, the net foreign assets of the financial sector decreased by \$984.4m in November 2024 compared to an increase of \$1.75bn in October 2024 and to a surge of \$1.63bn in March 2024. The November decrease was caused by a decline of \$1.17bn in the net foreign assets of BdL, which was partly offset by an uptick of \$182.6m of those of banks and financial institutions. The increase in the banks' foreign assets was driven mainly by a dip of \$58.5m in non-resident customer deposits and a decline of \$6.5m in liabilities to the non-resident financial sector.

The cumulative increase in BdL's net foreign assets is due mainly to the increase in BdL's gold and foreign currency reserves during the covered period. The increase in the banks' net foreign assets in the first 11 months of 2024 is mostly due to a decline in their foreign liabilities. The decrease in the banks' foreign liabilities was driven mainly by a decline of \$367.3m in liabilities to the non-resident financial sector and a dip of \$216.5m in non-resident customer deposits.

BdL said that it started to include monetary gold, the non-resident foreign securities held by BdL, and the foreign currencies & deposits with correspondent banks and international organizations as part of its foreign assets; while it excluded the Lebanese government's sovereign bonds and its loans in foreign currency to resident banks and financial institutions from the entry. It attributed the modifications to its adoption of the IMF's methodology as stipulated in the latter's Sixth Edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual and in the Monetary & Financial Statistics Manual & Compilation Guide. It added that the changes are in line with the BdL Central Council's Decision Number 37/20/24 on September 13, 2024.

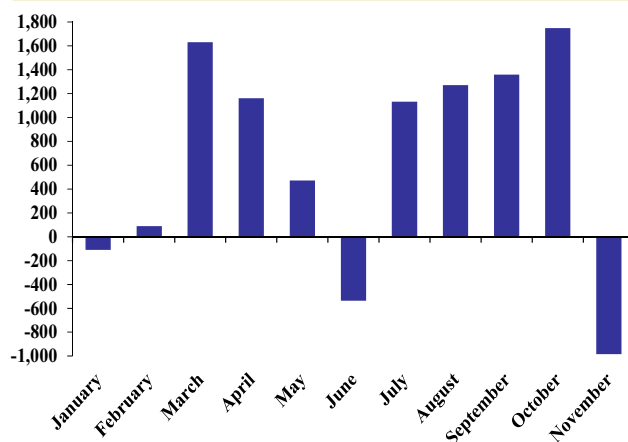
Ministry of Finance extends deadlines for tax declarations and payments

The Ministry of Finance issued a decision that extended until January 31, 2025 inclusive the deadline for companies to submit the declarations for the first, second, third and fourth quarters of 2024 for the tax on wages and salaries and the payment of the due tax, as well as to submit the declarations for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2024 for the taxable amounts subject to the non-resident tax as stipulated in articles 41 and 42 of the Income Tax Law 144. Also, it extended until January 31, 2025 inclusive the deadline to submit the fiscal stamp declarations for institutions subject to periodic payments that consist of public institutions, municipalities and the federations of municipalities, public utility water projects, insurance firms, and franchise companies for the fourth quarter of 2024.

Further, the ministry reminded taxpayers that pay the income tax on a lump sum basis or on an estimated profit basis, and that wish to change their tax method to a real profit basis, and those that pay the income tax on a real profit basis and that wish to revalue their inventory in accordance with Law No. 330/2024, of the need to submit a written request to the relevant department, stating their intention to carry out a revaluation process by February 5, 2025 for the revaluation of their inventory for 2023 and by January 31, 2025 for the revaluation their inventory for 2024.

It added that if companies do not plan to carry out an inventory revaluation for the year 2022 and if they choose the business year 2024 as the first year for the revaluation, then they will have to revalue the inventory that they acquired during the 2023 business year.

Change in Net Foreign Assets of Financial Sector (US\$m)



Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

World Bank approves \$258m loan for water project

The World Bank's Board of Executives approved on January 14, 2025 a loan of \$257.8m to finance the Second Greater Beirut Water Supply Project (SGBWSP). It said that the loan aims to complete the construction of vital water infrastructure, improve the quality of water, reduce the reliance of households on expensive private water sources, and help Lebanon make its water system more efficient and more sustainable in the long term.

The distribution of the loan indicates that \$148m will be earmarked for completing bulk water infrastructure, \$56m for strengthening treatment processes to improve the quality of water, \$34m for improving utility operations, \$15m in compensations for land acquisition and resettlement, and \$5m for project management and capacity building. Also, the bank expects to disburse \$7.54m in 2025, \$30m in 2026, \$40m in 2027, \$50m in 2028, \$55m in 2029, \$40m in 2030, \$20m in 2031, \$10m in 2032, and \$4m in 2033.

It indicated that the project aims to increase water supply coverage for the 1.8 million persons residing in the Greater Beirut and Mount Lebanon area, and that it will finance necessary add-ons to the Wardanieh Water Treatment Plant to improve the quality of water. It considered that the investment in water infrastructure will boost surface water supply to meet, on average, 70% of the demand during the dry season, up from 24% currently. It added that the residents of the Beirut Southern Suburbs, Damour-Kfashima, and Tallet El Khayat service areas will receive an additional 250,000 cubic meters of water per day.

Further, the bank said that the new loan will support and expand the work that started under the first Greater Beirut Water Supply Project that it approved in 2010 and that was implemented in 2012, and will repair water infrastructure that may have been damaged by the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel. It added that it approved in June 2018 an additional loan of \$90m to cover the financing gap under the GBWSP and to help finance the costs associated with the scaling up of investments.

In parallel, it pointed out that the SGBWSP will help advance the reforms agenda of the water sector, which is aligned with the National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS) 2024-2035. It stated that the Ministry of Energy & Water has recently finalized the NWSS, issued six water decrees to improve the regulation of groundwater extraction, licensing, and enforcement; and has adjusted tariffs given the depreciation of the local currency. It noted that the project will support the implementation of critical efficiency measures within the Beirut and Mount Lebanon Water Establishment (BMLWE), including the reduction of water losses, the digitalization of processes, as well as enhancing billing and collection systems and improving operational management practices.

The bank indicated that the total commitments to the first and second projects will amount to \$717.8m following the approval of the additional \$257.8m funding package, and noted that its aggregate financial commitment to the projects stands at \$547.8m, followed by \$140m from the BMLWE, and \$30m from the Lebanese government. But it added that the lack of funds from the government created a financing gap under the GBWSP that impeded the completion of several measures, as the financial crisis in Lebanon since 2019, along with the overall surge in prices of goods and services, has hindered the government's capacity to provide its share of co-financing for the project.

EBRD financial support to Lebanon at €20m in 2024

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) indicated that it has financed more than €20m in imports and exports of critical commodities to Lebanon, and has provided more than 91 advisory projects to small businesses and start-ups in the country in 2024. It said that it has extended the trade financing through its Trade Facilitation Program (TFP) and has provided the consultancy work under the Advice for Small Businesses (ASB).

The TFP, which the bank set up in 1999 and includes over 100 partner banks in 26 countries, provides guarantees to international commercial banks to cover the political and commercial payment risks of transactions that partner banks carry out in the EBRD regions. Further, the bank launched in October 2018 the ASB program in Lebanon, which aims to support small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the country, increase their access to funding, create jobs, and promote competitiveness and innovation in Lebanon. Also, the advisory program seeks to link SMEs with local and international consultants that would provide them with business advice on decision-making, cost-cutting, marketing, quality management, energy efficiency and financial management, among other services. It said that it has supported more than 425 advisory projects to date.

Further, the EBRD noted that it invested over €2.4bn in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region in 2024, which includes Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, and the West Bank & Gaza, across 50 projects in 2024. The distribution of the funds shows that it invested €1.5bn in Egypt, €530m in Morocco, €247m in Tunisia, €169m in Jordan, and €67m in the West Bank & Gaza. It said that the financial sector accounted for 55% of total investment across the six economies of the SEMED region last year, followed by the green economy (49%), the corporate sector (25%) and sustainable infrastructure (21%).

Established in 1991, the EBRD aims to support economies and promote the private sector in 40 economies across three continents, from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED), to Central and Eastern Europe, and to Central Asia. The bank's countries in the SEMED region consist of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and the West Bank & Gaza. The bank has currently 76 shareholders that include 74 countries as well as the European Union and the European Investment Bank, and has invested in excess of €190bn in more than 6,800 projects. It said that it has invested more than €2.4bn in 50 projects in SEMED countries in 2024, with 85% of the funds targeting the private sector. The bank has €905m in cumulative pledges in Lebanon that include €253m in disbursements for 10 projects as at end-November 2024.

Lebanon suspends until 2028 right to assert defenses to legal actions related to Eurobonds

The Council of Ministers issued Decision No. 30 dated January 7, 2025 that approved the Ministry of Finance's request to suspend until March 9, 2028 the Lebanese State's right to assert defenses to any legal actions in respect of maturing Lebanese Eurobonds that it has issued under the Global Medium Term Note Program (GMTNP) since 1992. It added that this decision is based on the expiration of the statute of limitations under the General Obligations Law of the State of New York and any other prescription or contractual period.

Second, it stipulated that the Lebanese government retains other rights to assert defenses in case it is subject to lawsuits that aim to force it to disburse obligations on Eurobond maturities that it issued under the GMTNP, or for any other reason related to the bonds. Third, it affirmed the government's intention to develop, finalize and plan for an orderly restructuring of the Eurobonds when the circumstances allow.

Fourth, it mandated the Minister of Finance to implement the provisions of Decision No. 30 on behalf the Lebanese State and to sign the agreements, addendums and documents pertaining to this decision, especially one or more addendum to the Agency Agreement of the GMTNP, and to amend the terms of issuance for each Eurobond, as well as to take the measures the ministry deems necessary for the implementation of the decision.

The Council of Ministers attributed Decision No. 30 to the decision that the previous government took on March 7, 2020 to suspend payments of the interest and principal on the Eurobond that matures on March 9, 2020 and to its subsequent decision on March 23, 2020 to suspend payments of the interest and principal on all outstanding Eurobonds. It considered that it was not possible until now to finalize a plan to restructure the Eurobonds due to the financial, economic, political, and security circumstances that prevailed in the country.

It added that the Ministry of Finance indicated that the statute of limitation for Eurobond holders is six years according the law of the State of New York, and goes into effect from the maturity payment date of each Eurobond, in addition to the fact that the terms on the statute of limitation on the issuance terms of the Eurobonds have raised the concern of the bond holders as well as of the relevant financial institutions.

Further, it stipulated that, in order to limit the risks that the Lebanese State may face in case Eurobond holders file lawsuits to preserve their right to claim their dues, and given that such legal proceedings would hinder an orderly restructuring of the public debt and might impose additional risks on the sovereign, it is in the interest of the Lebanese State to suspend until March 9, 2028 the statute of limitations on the right of the Lebanese State to assert defenses to the deadline for payments of maturing Lebanese Eurobonds.

It added that, despite these measures, it appears that this resolution may not prevent Eurobond holders from filing lawsuits against the Lebanese State. As such, and based on the advice and recommendation of the government's legal advisor Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP and of its financial advisor Lazard, Inc., it decided to take the above decision.

The government headed by Mr. Hassan Diab announced on March 7, 2020 its decision to default on its obligations on the \$1.2bn sovereign Eurobond that was scheduled to mature on March 9, 2020 and declared on March 23 of the same year that it will suspend payments of the interest and principal on all outstanding Eurobonds, which amounted to \$31bn in total. The decision led to about \$9bn in interest arrears on the bonds so far, as the government has yet to start negotiations with Eurobond holders on an orderly restructuring.



Commercial activity regresses in first quarter of 2024

Banque du Liban's quarterly business survey about the opinion of business managers shows that the balance of opinions for the volume of commercial sales was -11 in the first quarter of 2024, relative to -2 in the preceding quarter and to -22 in the first quarter of 2023. The balance of opinions for the first quarter of 2024 relative to the fourth quarter of 2023 reflects the disruptions to economic activity following the eruption of war in the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023 and to the flare up of tensions along Lebanon's southern border with Israel that led to a decline in market sentiment. However, the balance of opinions for the first quarter of 2024 compared to the first quarter of 2023 takes into account the relative adjustment of the private sector to the ongoing economic and financial crisis in the country.

The survey covers the opinions of enterprise managers about their business activity in order to depict the evolution of a number of key economic variables. The balance of opinions is the difference between the proportion of surveyed managers who consider that there was an improvement in an indicator and the proportion of those who reported a decline in the same indicator. The balance of opinions in the first quarter of last year was the highest in Beirut and Mount Lebanon at +3, followed by the Bekaa region at (+2), the North (-22), and the South (-47).

The survey shows that the balance of opinions about the sales of food items was +31 in the first quarter of 2024, compared to +40 in the previous quarter and to +6 in the first quarter of 2023.

Also, the balance of opinions about the sales of non-food products was -27 in the covered quarter, relative to -17 in the preceding quarter and to -35 in the first quarter of 2023; while it was -33 for inter-industrial goods, compared to -22 in the fourth quarter of 2023 and to -30 in the first quarter of 2023.

Further, the balance of opinions for inventory levels of finished goods in all commercial sub-sectors was -10 in the first quarter of 2024, compared to -17 in the previous quarter and to -27 in the first quarter of 2023. The balance of opinions about the level of inventories was +2 in Beirut & Mount Lebanon and in the Bekaa region, followed by the North (-12), and the South (-49).

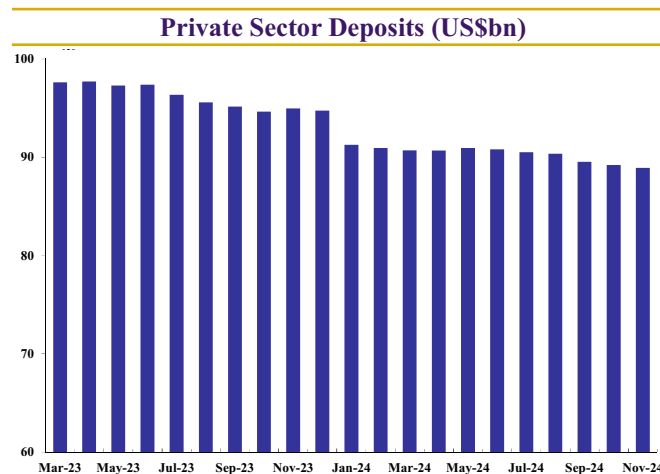
Also, the balance of opinions about the number of employees in the sector was -9 in the first quarter of 2024 compared to -14 in the preceding quarter and to -14 in the first quarter of 2023. It was +8 in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, followed by the Bekaa area (zero), the North (-23), and the South (-39).

Commercial Activity: Year-on-Year Evolution of Opinions				
Aggregate results	Q1-21	Q1-22	Q1-23	Q1-24
Sales volume	-71	-52	-22	-11
Number of employees	-46	-23	-14	-9
Inventories of finished goods	-57	-43	-27	-10
Q1-24 Regional results	Beirut / Mount Lebanon	North	South	Bekaa
Sales volume	+3	-22	-47	+2
Inventories of finished goods	+2	-12	-49	+2

Source: Banque du Liban business survey for first quarter of 2024

Private sector deposits at \$89bn at end-November 2024

The consolidated balance sheet of commercial banks operating in Lebanon shows that total assets stood at LBP9,220.3 trillion (tn), or the equivalent of \$103bn, at the end of November 2024 compared to LBP9,254tn (\$103.4bn) at end-October 2024. Loans extended to the private sector totaled LBP536.5tn at the end of November 2024, with loans to the resident private sector reaching LBP455.9tn and credit to the non-resident private sector amounting to LBP80.6tn at the end of the month. Loans extended to the private sector in Lebanese pounds reached LBP11.9tn, as they increased by 4.8% from LBP11.4tn at the end of 2023 and regressed by 1.5% from LBP12.2tn at end-November 2023; while loans in foreign currency totaled \$5.86bn at the end of November 2024, and contracted by 22.5% from \$7.56bn at the end of 2023 and by 24% from \$7.72bn at end-November 2023. The figures reflect Banque du Liban's (BdL's) Basic Circular 167/13612 dated February 2, 2024 that asked banks and financial institutions to convert their assets and liabilities in foreign currencies to Lebanese pounds at the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per US dollar when preparing their financial positions starting on January 31, 2024.



Source: Banque du Liban, Byblos Research

In nominal terms, credit to the private sector in Lebanese pounds increased by LBP545.7bn in the first 11 months of 2024 and declined by LBP183.4bn from a year earlier, while lending to the private sector in foreign currency dipped by \$1.7bn in the first 11 months of 2024 and by \$1.86bn from end-November 2023. Further, loans extended to the private sector in Lebanese pounds contracted by LBP15.6tn (-56.7%) and loans denominated in foreign currency dropped by \$35.24bn (-85.7%) since the start of 2019. The dollarization rate of private sector loans increased from 90.5% at the end of November 2023 to 97.8% at end-November 2024 due to the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per dollar that went into effect on January 31, 2024. The average lending rate in Lebanese pounds was 6.78% in November 2024 compared to 3.29% a year earlier, while the same rate in US dollars was 4.41% relative to 3.08% in November 2023.

In addition, claims on non-resident financial institutions stood at \$4.35bn at the end of November 2024, constituting a decrease of \$107.3m (-2.4%) from the end of 2023 and an increase of \$40m (1%) from a year earlier. Also, claims on non-resident financial institutions dropped by \$4.78bn (-52.3%) from the end of August 2019 and by \$7.64bn (-63.7%) since the start of 2019. Further, deposits at foreign central banks totaled \$851.7m, constituting increases of \$114.6m (+15.6%) in the first 11 months of 2024 and of \$14.6m (+1.7%) from a year earlier. Also, cash in vault totaled LBP5,793.3bn, or \$64.7m, compared to LBP8,827bn (\$98.6m) at end-March 2024. In addition, the banks' claims on the public sector amounted to LBP220.3tn at end-November 2024, representing an increase of 1.1% from LBP217.8tn end-October 2024. Also, the banks' holdings of Lebanese Treasury bills stood at LBP9.13tn, while their holdings of Lebanese Eurobonds reached \$2.3bn net of provisions at end-November 2024, relative to \$2.41bn a year earlier. Further, the deposits of commercial banks at BdL reached LBP7,178.9tn at the end of November 2024, or \$80.2bn, based on the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per dollar.

In parallel, private sector deposits totaled LBP7,959.05tn at the end of November 2024, or \$88.9bn based on the exchange rate of LBP89,500 per US dollar. Deposits in Lebanese pounds reached LBP62.5tn at end-November 2024, as they increased by 20.2% from the end of 2023 and by 13% from a year earlier; while deposits in foreign currency stood at \$88.2bn, and regressed by 3.3% in the first 11 months of the year and by 3.3% from the end of November 2023. Resident deposits accounted for 74.4% and non-resident deposits represented 25.6% of total deposits at end-November 2024.

In addition, private sector deposits in Lebanese pounds increased by LBP10,498bn and foreign currency deposits declined by \$3.1bn in the first 11 months of 2024, while private sector deposits in Lebanese pounds rose by LBP958.7bn (1.6%) and foreign currency deposits regressed by \$293.8m (-0.3%) in November from a month earlier. Also, aggregate private sector deposits in Lebanese pounds decreased by LBP10.3tn (-14%) and foreign currency deposits declined by \$36bn (-29%) from end-August 2019, while total private sector deposits in Lebanese pounds shrank by LBP14.6tn (-19%) and foreign currency deposits dropped by \$34.8bn (-28.3%) since the start of 2019. The dollarization rate of private sector deposits changed from 96.1% at the end of November 2023 to 99.2% at the end of November 2024 due to the effect of the exchange rate on the Lebanese pound component of the balance sheet.

Further, the liabilities of non-resident financial institutions reached \$2.52bn at the end of November 2024 and decreased by 12.7% from \$2.9bn at end-2023. Also, the average deposit rate in Lebanese pounds was 1.17% in November 2024 compared to 1.41% a year earlier, while the same rate in US dollars was 0.03% relative to 0.05% in November 2023. In addition, the banks' aggregate capital base stood at LBP409tn at the end of November 2024, compared to LBP76.4tn at the end of 2023 and to LBP77.9tn at end-November 2023. In dollar terms, the banks' capital was \$4.6bn at the end of November 2024 relative to \$5.1bn at end-2023 and to \$5.2bn at the end of November 2023.



Ratio Highlights

(in % unless specified)	2021	2022	2023	Change*
Nominal GDP (\$bn)	19.8	24.5	24.0	(0.5)
Public Debt in Foreign Currency / GDP	-	-	-	-
Public Debt in Local Currency / GDP	-	-	-	-
Gross Public Debt / GDP	357.7	255.2	195.2	(60.0)
Trade Balance / GDP	(51.9)	(63.5)	(60.5)	3.0
Exports / Imports	24.8	18.3	17.1	(1.2)
Fiscal Revenues / GDP	8.3	5.7	12.9	7.2
Fiscal Expenditures / GDP	10.9	12.2	13.3	1.0
Fiscal Balance / GDP	(2.7)	(6.6)	(0.4)	6.2
Primary Balance / GDP	(1.6)	(6.0)	0.4	-
Gross Foreign Currency Reserves / M2	26.0	13.4	143.5	130.1
M3 / GDP	81.9	35.0	55.8	20.7
Commercial Banks Assets / GDP	107.3	38.9	82.7	43.8
Private Sector Deposits / GDP	79.5	28.9	68.0	39.1
Private Sector Loans / GDP	17.0	4.6	6.0	1.4
Private Sector Deposits Dollarization Rate	79.4	76.1	96.3	20.2
Private Sector Lending Dollarization Rate	56.3	50.7	90.9	40.2

*change in percentage points 23/22;

Source: Banque du Liban, Ministry of Finance, Central Administration of Statistics, International Monetary Fund, Byblos Research Estimates & Calculations

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

National Accounts, Prices and Exchange Rates

	2021	2022e	2023f
Nominal GDP (LBP trillion)	245.6	655.2	2,090.7
Nominal GDP (US\$ bn)	19.8	24.5	24.0
Real GDP growth, % change	2.0	1.0	-0.7
Private consumption	123.5	-	1.5
Public consumption	-92.2	-	-9.8
Gross fixed capital	63.8	-	21.8
Exports of goods and services	3.4	3.5	3.0
Imports of goods and services	13.6	19.1	17.5
Consumer prices, %, average	154.8	171.2	221.3
Official exchange rate, average, LBP/US\$	1,507.5	1,507.5	15,000
Parallel exchange rate, average, LBP/US\$	16,821	30,313	86,362
Weighted average exchange rate LBP/US\$	12,006	25,604	76,363

Source: International Monetary Fund, Lebanese customs

Ratings & Outlook

Sovereign Ratings	Foreign Currency			Local Currency		
	LT	ST	Outlook	LT	ST	Outlook
Moody's Ratings	C	NP	Stable	C		Stable
Fitch Ratings*	RD	C	-	RD	RD	-
S&P Global Ratings	SD	SD	-	CC	C	Negative

*Fitch withdrew the ratings on July 23, 2024

Source: Rating agencies

Banking Sector Ratings

	Outlook
Moody's Ratings	Negative

Source: Moody's Ratings



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