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## The LEBANON WEEKLY MONITOR

## Economy

**p.2 BDL COINCIDENT INDICATOR DOWN BY 20% OVER THE FIRST QUARTER**

The BDL coincident indicator, a weighted average of a number of real sector indicators that coincide with real economic activity, reported an average of 239 over the first three months of 2020, as per BDL statistics released this week, contracting by 20.6% relative to the same period in 2019.

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## Markets In Brief

**p.9 FURTHER LP/US\$ RECOVERY IN BLACK MARKET AFTER BDL'S NEW CIRCULAR**

Amid resumed IMF talks to discuss Lebanon's problematic electricity file and while the government is seeking to reach an agreement on a unified figure of financial system's losses, the country's capital markets saw this week a further improvement in the LP/US\$ rate in the black market, extended price gains on the equity market, and price contractions on the Eurobond market. In details, the LP saw a gradual recovery against the US dollar, reaching below LP/US\$ 8,000 on Friday, after BDL issued a new circular aiming to inject foreign currencies into banks to meet import needs. At the level of the equity market, the BSE price index rose by 2.2% week-on-week, while the total turnover contracted by 23% to reach US\$ 9 million. On the Eurobond market, prices of shorter-term to medium-term sovereigns remained unchanged, while longer-term papers traced a downward trajectory. This came along a new report issued by Bank of America, saying that FX weakness increases risk of higher haircut should the Lebanese authorities maintain their c100% of GDP debt target, while signaling that this could push recovery values to the mid-teens.

## LEBANON MARKETS: WEEK OF JULY 06 - JULY 12, 2020

Money Market



LP Tbs Market



LP Exchange Market



BSE Equity Market



Eurobond Market



CDS Market



**ECONOMY**

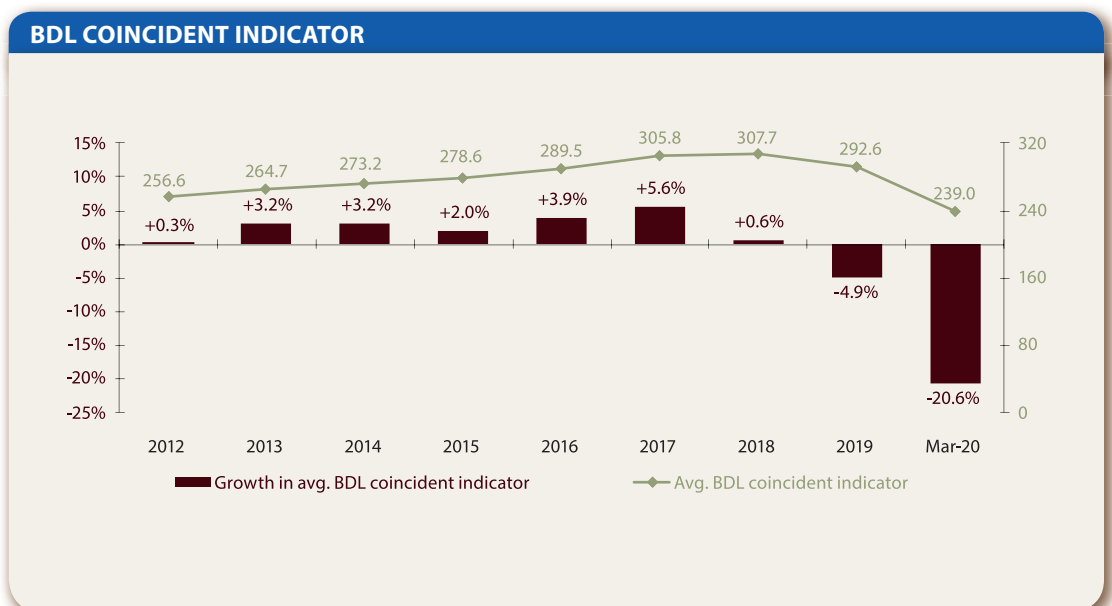
**BDL COINCIDENT INDICATOR DOWN BY 20% OVER THE FIRST QUARTER**

The BDL coincident indicator, a weighted average of a number of real sector indicators that coincide with real economic activity, reported an average of 239 over the first three months of 2020, as per BDL statistics released this week, contracting by 20.6% relative to the same period in 2019. Comparatively, the indicator had risen by an average of 1.3% over the past 3 years and by an average of 1.9% over the past 5 years.

Out of 11 real sector indicators, 10 were down and 1 was up over the first five months of 2020. Among indicators with negative growth, we mention construction permits with a fall of 74.0%, new car sales with a decline of 69.9%, the number of passengers at the Airport with a contraction of 62.2%, cement deliveries with a decrease of 55.7%, total imports with a drop of 50.4%, the number of tourists with a fall of 48.3%, merchandise at the Port with a contraction of 35.0%, electricity production with a decrease of 9.9%, cleared checks with a decline of 7.8% and total exports with a drop of 7.3% year-on-year. The only indicator with positive growth was value of property sales with an increase of 52.5% over the first five months of 2020 when compared to the previous year's corresponding period.

The Lebanese economy has indeed fallen in a recessionary trap in the first few months of 2020, with the real economy caught in a depression characterized by a significant contraction in real output. As a matter of fact, real GDP growth is projected at -12% in 2020 as per the IMF Global Economic Outlook released recently.

The contraction is tied to a contraction in private spending, as public spending has reported an uptick this year. In fact, private consumption has been adversely impacted by overall economic concerns and increased monetary fears, in addition to the adverse impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the consumption behavior at large. In parallel, private investment got a significant hit with most private investors refraining from making any investment decision amid increased economic uncertainties and growing concerns about the politico-economic outlook of the country at large.



Source: BDL

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS AT THE AIRPORT DOWN BY A YEARLY 69.8% IN FIRST HALF OF 2020

Figures released by the Rafic Hariri International Airport revealed that the total number of passengers recorded a yearly 69.8% decrease in the first half of 2020. The number of aircraft fell by 62.1% year-on-year in the aforementioned period.

Alongside, the total freight handled by the airport edged down by 43.5% year-on-year in the aforementioned period.

A detailed look at the activity shows that the number of incoming passengers fell by a yearly 72.0% and that of departing passengers by 67.6% to reach 563,930 and 627,697 respectively in the first half of 2020.

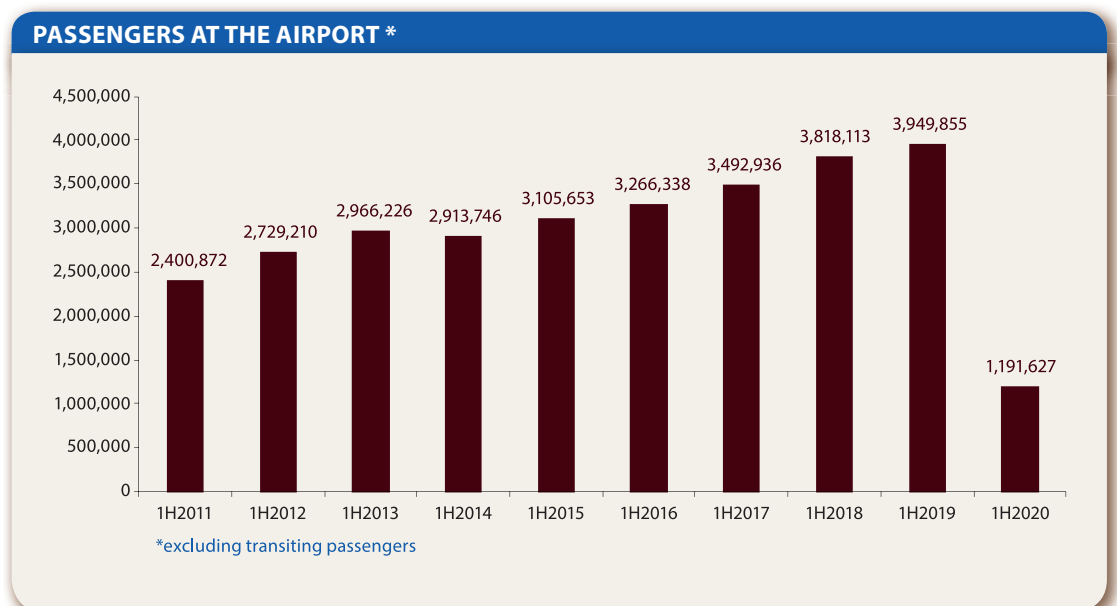
The number of transiting passengers fell from 25,675 passengers in the first half of 2019 to 15,044 passengers in the corresponding period of this year. When including the latter mentioned category, the total number of passengers using the airport attained 1,191,627, down by a yearly 69.6%.

Excluding transiting passengers, the total would be 1,191,627, i.e. 69.8% lower than the level seen in the first half of 2019.

Looking at the aircraft activity, landings and take-offs decreased by a yearly 62.1% and 62.2% respectively with the former amounting to 6,356 planes and the latter reporting 6,348 in the first half of 2020.

Regarding the freight movement within the airport, a total of 11,793 thousand tons were imported and unloaded during the first half of 2020 while 13,286 thousand tons were loaded and exported.

The first mentioned activity posted a decline of 54.7% and the latter posted a 27.8% fall on a yearly basis in the first half of 2020.



Sources: Rafic Hariri International Airport, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

**SLOWDOWN IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PORT OF BEIRUT IN FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF 2020**

The latest statistics released by the Port of Beirut revealed a yearly 46.7% decline in the Port’s revenues in the first five months of 2020 compared to the same period of the previous year. The Port’s revenues actually reached US\$ 45.8 million in the first five months of 2020.

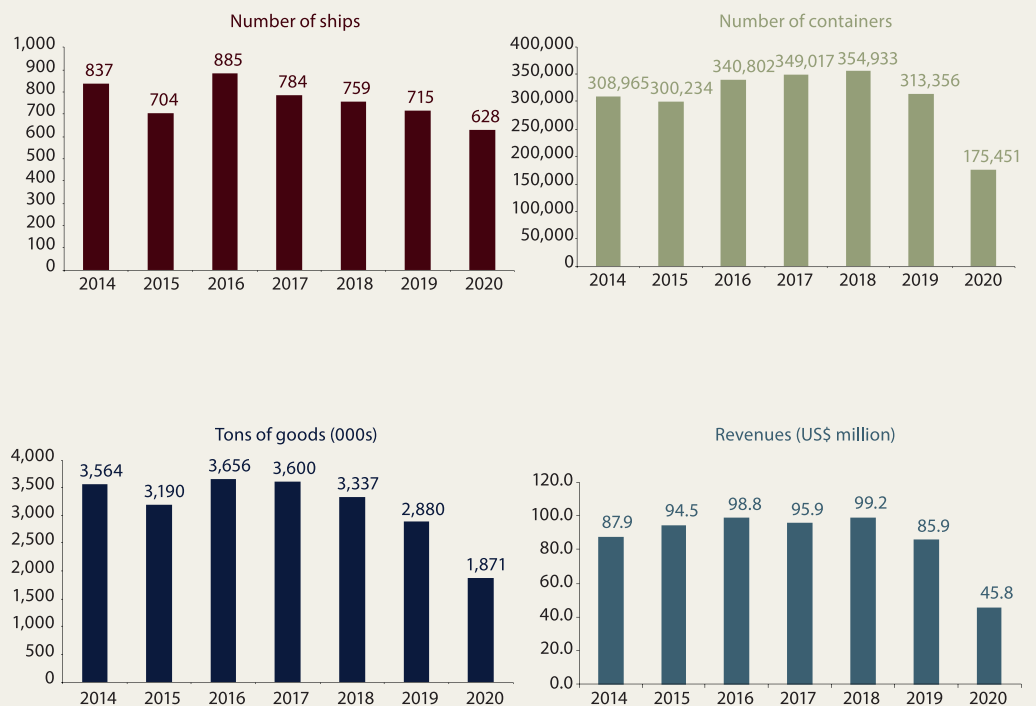
In parallel, the number of containers recorded an annual decrease of 44.0% to attain a total of 175,451 in the first five months of 2020. The number of ships posted a fall of 12.2% year-on-year to reach a total of 628 vessels in the first five months of 2020.

During the corresponding period of 2019, the former had registered a decrease of 11.7% year-on-year and the latter fell by 5.8%.

The quantity of goods fell by a yearly 35.0% to 1,871 thousand tons in the first five months of 2020, following a decline of 13.7% reported in the first five months of 2019.

Transshipments contracted by 2.5% year-on-year to attain 184,354 containers in the first five months of 2020, following a rise of 11.6% in the corresponding period of 2019.

**ACTIVITY OF THE PORT OF BEIRUT (FIRST FIVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR)**



Sources: Port of Beirut, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

## SURVEYS

### LEBANON'S HOSPITALITY SECTOR UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE IN 5M 2020, AS PER EY

Ernst & Young issued its latest Hotel Benchmark Survey on the Middle East in the first five months of 2020 (four and five star hotels), in which it showed that the performance of Lebanon's hospitality sector witnessed a notable deceleration in occupancy rates, average room rates and room yields.

As a matter of fact, the occupancy rate of four and five-star hotels within the capital reached only 14.0% in the first five months of 2020, against 68% in the same period of 2019.

The occupancy rate within Beirut was ranked last among 14 cities included in the survey. It was directly surpassed by Manama (31%) and Madinah (34%).

Beirut's room rate notably moved down from 5M 2019 to attain US\$ 129 in 5M 2020 from US\$ 192 in the same period of the past year. It is worth noting that the city's growth rate ranked last out of 14 surveyed cities, contracting by 32.8% year-on-year.

The rate of the capital's hotels was the seventh highest in the region. It exceeded that of Muscat (US\$ 122) and Amman (US\$ 121), while being surpassed by Manama (US\$ 133) and Riyadh (US\$ 152).

The rooms' yield contracted by 86.2% annually to reach US\$ 18 in 5M 2020 compared to US\$ 130 in the same period of the previous year.

Beirut ranked last in terms of variation in the region when assessing this indicator. The room yield in Beirut was last at US\$ 18, surpassed by Madinah (US\$ 39) and Manama (US\$ 41).

#### ERNST & YOUNG MIDDLE EAST HOTEL BENCHMARK SURVEY

	Occupancy %		Average Room Rate (US\$)		Room Yield (US\$)	
	5M 2020	5M 2019	5M 2020	5M 2019	5M 2020	5M 2019
Abu Dhabi	68	78	86	110	58	86
Riyadh	58	64	152	162	88	103
Doha	57	69	108	110	62	76
Kuwait City	55	61	177	170	98	103
Ras al Khaimah	51	75	157	160	80	120
Makkah	48	75	105	161	50	121
Dubai	45	79	214	264	95	208
Cairo	42	71	102	117	43	84
Jeddah	39	53	157	219	62	117
Muscat	37	65	122	143	45	93
Amman	36	58	121	148	44	86
Madinah	34	69	116	130	39	90
Manama	31	52	133	162	41	84
<b>Beirut</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>130</b>

Sources Ernst & Young, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

## POLICY HESITATION AND GROWING ECONOMIC PRESSURE INCREASES RISKS TO SOCIAL STABILITY IN LEBANON, SAYS BARCLAYS

Policy hesitation and growing economic pressure have considerably increased risks to social stability in Lebanon, as per a recent report by Barclays.

Rapid FX pressure has stoked domestic fear of spiraling inflation, which had already reached 56% year-on-year in May with clear upside risks after the fivefold FX depreciation. Heightened FX volatility in parallel markets has forced frequent upward revisions to retail prices and led to severe shortages in gasoline, medicine and bread, raising concerns about social stability.

De facto capital controls, measures to haircut deposits in the government's rescue plan, and the absence on any visibility about an IMF bailout should extend pressure on deposit outflows and deleveraging in the banking system in the coming years, as per the report. Historically, outflows have primarily affected resident local currency deposits with the biggest shocks during the 1992 currency crisis and the 2006 assassination of Rafic Hariri. Strict limits on deposits have limited the size of recent outflows compared to previous shocks. For example, cumulative resident LBP outflows since early October reached 5.3% of banks' total liabilities compared to 6.2% in the month of February 1992 alone. Further pressure on deposits will continue in the coming years, even after the finalization of a rescue plan as the experience of Cyprus suggests, as per Barclays.

Fast growing economic imbalances have exposed banks to FX risk well beyond what is assumed in the government's rescue plan as balance sheet adjustments continue to mark the current period. For instance, deposit dollarization accelerated to 79.1% (highest level since Cedar Revolution) while the dollarization of loans decreased by 4.8% to 65.5% since the beginning of social upheaval widening the gap to a new historical high, as per the report.

Moreover, banks have reduced their FX assets after their holding of sovereign Eurobonds decreased further to US\$ 10.6 billion in April (33.5% of outstanding), considerably complicating future negotiations with bondholders. Expectations about deposit losses and weaker confidence in the banking system have increasingly shifted deposits to alternative assets, such as real estate, arts, and Eurobonds, as per Barclays.

For example, the value of real estate transactions increased by 52.5% year-on-year in January-May while the number of transactions decreased by 0.8% year-on-year, pointing to rising real estate prices. Soaring demand, which is likely concentrated in the high-end segment of the market, reflects concerns about any potential bail-in of large depositors, said Barclays.

Balance sheet adjustments have drastically changed Eurobond ownership that should considerably hamper the government's ability to finalize a deal with bondholders. Domestic banks have reduced their holding of sovereign Eurobonds by US\$ 3.2 billion over the first four months of the year. The BdL has also reduced its Eurobond holdings by US\$ 670 million since end-December, suggesting domestic banks sold much more than US\$ 3.2 billion. While most of banks' selling of sovereign bonds was to international investors in January-February, domestic non-financial buying accounted for a growing share.

For example, foreign investors increased their Eurobond holding by US\$ 569 million since end-March suggesting shifts from deposits to Eurobonds would be in excess of US\$ 1 billion. The latter adds to the US\$ 3 billion already owned by High Net Worth Individuals pointing to considerable shifts in the composition of Eurobond holding. Out of the US\$ 31.69 billion of outstanding bonds, domestic banks owned 33.5% in April and the BdL 15.9%; Barclays estimates that HNWI hold 12.6%, with insurance companies holding 1.4%. So foreign investors (residual) have likely become the major holders with 36.5% of outstanding, of which 16.1%, as per Bloomberg.

## CORPORATE NEWS

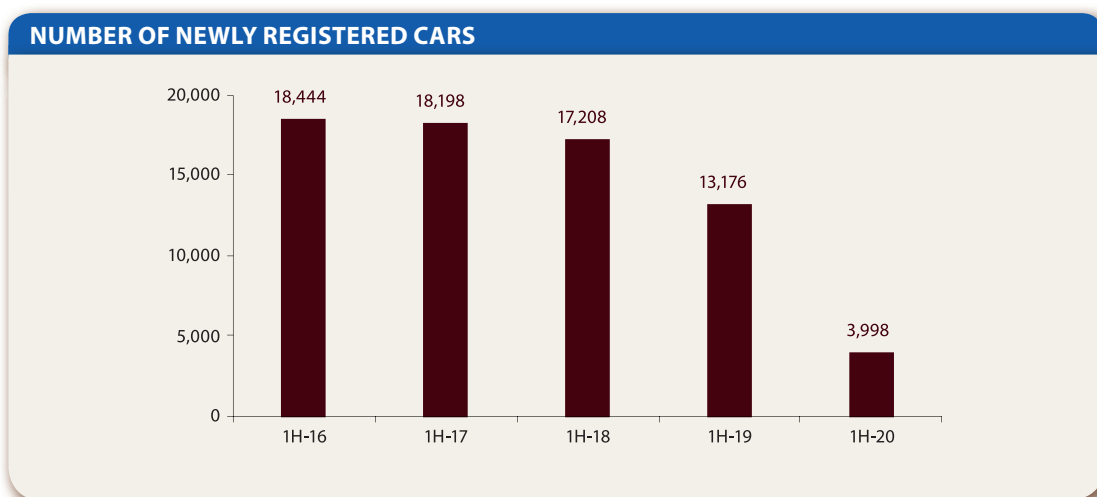
### NEWLY REGISTERED CARS AT 3,998 IN FIRST HALF OF 2020, DOWN BY A YEARLY 69.7%

According to data compiled by the Association of Car Importers in Lebanon, the number of newly registered passenger cars stood at 3,998 in the first six months of 2020, falling by 69.7% from a total of 13,176 in the same period of 2019.

In June 2020, the number of cars registered stood at 815, down by 68.8% from 2,616 cars registered in the same month of 2019.

The taxes paid by car importer companies to the State Treasury declined from US\$ 265 million in 2018 to US\$ 178 million in 2019. These are estimated by the Association of Car Importers in Lebanon to stand at US\$ 33 million in 2020.

According to a recent statement, the major reasons that have led to this drop in sales are the latest banking procedures which are the impossibility of opening Documentary Credits to import new cars and spare parts and the impossibility of converting cash collected in Lebanese pounds into US dollars in the banks to pay the suppliers.



Sources: Association of Car Importers in Lebanon, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

### THE NET GROUP OPENS E-COMMERCE AUTOMATED LOGISTICS CENTER

The NET Group, a logistics and freight solutions provider, recently opened an automated logistics center designed for e-commerce.

The center, located in Karantina, provides faster pick and pack as well as delivery services to e-commerce clients with real-time tracking and communication, according to the CEO of The NET Group.

The investment came in response to the increasing demand for e-commerce, and it is the first automated fulfillment center in the Levant, as per the same source.

Investment in the project totaled US\$ 6 million. The cost of equipment including conveyor belts and software and management systems reached US\$ 1.5 million.

The NET Group started operating the 2,000 square meters (sqm) center earlier this year. The center has the capacity to fulfil up to 6,000 domestic and international orders per day.

The new investment has transformed the business of the company and redefined the tasks of its 150 employees, as per the same source.

The systems and procedures at the center are designed to support business-to-client commerce and create a satisfactory customer experience, according to the CEO of The NET Group.

Merchants store products in the center and link their own platform to its system. Customers' orders are directly transferred to the fulfillment center where ordered products are packed and labeled and sent to the customer.

So far, ten merchants have linked their e-commerce to the NET automated logistics center, including HiCart, an online multi-product retail shopping platform.

Deliveries to home and business addresses are provided through a fleet of motorbikes, vans, and dry closed trucks, with 60 drivers.

The company has created "NET Point", a network of locations where customers can pay and pick up their orders around the clock. These points are available at the "Yala Stops" in 50 MEDCO gas stations.

NET Group has also introduced NET Locker, a contactless drop-off facility, with lockers at over 20 TOTAL gas stations all over the country. The logistics center ensures communication with customers via text messages and email. These same points can serve the returns of products from customers to the merchants, as per the same source.

The company is working on new projects for startups or small retailers and to help small merchants export their products at competitive shipping prices.

The coronavirus pandemic increased demand for e-commerce, but the infrastructure is not ready, according to the CEO of The NET Group.

The company's objective is to promote Lebanon as a logistics hub for the Levant, as per the same source.

The company also plans to create similar automated logistics centers in Iraq and Jordan in 2021.

The NET Group is a Levant-based company present in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, UAE, and Turkey. It was founded in 1994 as a local express courier company.

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## LEBANESE START-UPS SUFFER FROM A DRASTIC DROP IN INVESTMENTS

The semi-annual report of MAGNiTT, a research platform specializing in start-ups from the Middle East and North Africa, analyzes the impact of COVID-19 on ecosystem investments in 17 communities in the region.

With only seven investments concluded during the first half of 2020, compared to 32 in the first half of 2019 (a drop of 78%). Lebanon ranks 7th in the regional ranking, down three places, compared to 2019.

The same goes for the value of the investments made: their total amount decreased from US\$ 21 million in the first half of 2019 to US\$ 7 million this semester: a drop of 67%, which leads to the loss of three places in Lebanon, now eighth in the region.

Lebanon is no longer in the top five of the MAGNiTT ranking, both in terms of number of transactions and value.



## CAPITAL MARKETS

### MONEY MARKET: FIRST WEEKLY EXPANSION IN TOTAL RESIDENT DEPOSITS IN FIVE WEEKS

The overnight rate remained stable at 3% this week, as the local currency liquidity remained quite abundant on the money market, noting that its official rate is quoted at 1.90%.

In parallel, the latest monetary aggregates released by the Central Bank of Lebanon for the week ending 25th of June 2020 showed that total resident banking deposits registered their first expansion in five weeks of LP 317 billion. This is mainly driven by a LP 507 billion growth in foreign currency resident deposits, while total LP resident deposits contracted by LP 190 billion amid a LP 309 billion drop in LP saving deposits and a LP 119 billion increase in LP demand deposits. On a cumulative basis, total resident banking deposits contracted by LP 14,763 billion over the first half of the year 2020 amid a LP 12,741 billion fall in total LP resident deposits and a LP 2,022 billion decline in foreign currency resident deposits.

#### INTEREST RATES

	10/07/20	03/07/20	27/12/19	
Overnight rate (official)	1.90%	1.90%	3.90%	↔
7 days rate	2.00%	2.00%	4.00%	↔
1 month rate	2.75%	2.75%	4.75%	↔
45-day CDs	2.90%	2.90%	4.90%	↔
60-day CDs	3.08%	3.08%	5.08%	↔

Source: Bloomberg

### TREASURY BILLS MARKET: NOMINAL WEEKLY SURPLUS OF LP 17 BILLION

The latest Treasury bills auction results for value date 9th of July 2020 showed that the Central Bank of Lebanon has allowed banks to subscribe in full in the three-month category (offering a yield of 3.50%), the one-year category (offering a yield of 4.50%) and the five-year category (offering a coupon of 6.0%).

In parallel, the Treasury bills auction results for value date 2nd of July 2020 showed that total subscriptions amounted to LP 94 billion, distributed as follows: LP 7 billion in the six-month category (offering a yield of 4.0%), LP 25 billion in the two-year category (offering a coupon of 5.0%) and LP 62 billion in the ten-year category (offering a coupon of 7.0%). These compare to maturities of LP 77 billion, resulting into a nominal weekly surplus of LP 17 billion.

## TREASURY BILLS

	10/07/20	03/07/20	27/12/19	
3-month	3.50%	3.50%	5.30%	↔
6-month	4.00%	4.00%	5.85%	↔
1-year	4.50%	4.50%	6.50%	↔
2-year	5.00%	7.00%	7.00%	↔
3-year	5.50%	5.50%	7.50%	↔
5-year	6.00%	6.00%	8.00%	↔
10-year	-	7.00%	10.00%	
<b>Nom. Subs. (LP billion)</b>		<b>94</b>	<b>120</b>	
Short-term (3&6 mths)		7	-	
Medium-term (1&2 yrs)		25	20	
Long-term (3 yrs)		-	-	
Long-term (5 yrs)		-	100	
Long-term (10 yrs)		62	-	
<b>Maturities</b>		<b>77</b>	<b>61</b>	
<b>Nom. Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>59</b>	

Sources: Central Bank of Lebanon, Bloomberg

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: CONTINUOUS LP/US\$ RATE RECOVERY AFTER BDL'S NEW CIRCULAR

The Lebanese pound extended this week its recovery against the US dollar, which started at the end of last week. This followed BDL's pledge to inject foreign currencies into Lebanese banks to meet import needs. In fact, the Central Bank of Lebanon issued on July 8, 2020 a new intermediate circular No. 13245, allowing banks operating in Lebanon to ask the Central Bank to provide them with foreign currencies to meet the needs of importers and manufacturers of basic and primary materials used in the food industry based on the exchange rate as on the electronic platform, and provided that the imported goods would be exclusively used on the domestic market.

The new BDL circular helped lifting sentiment and allowed the Lebanese pound to gain some ground against the US dollar in the black foreign exchange market. The LP/US\$ exchange rate slid to below LP/US\$ 8,000 after hitting LP/US\$ 10,000 the week before. Meanwhile, the money changers syndicate kept the exchange rate stable at LP/US\$ 3,850-LP/US\$ 3,900 throughout this week.

## EXCHANGE RATES

	10/07/20	03/07/20	27/12/19	
LP/US\$	1,507.50	1,507.50	1,507.50	↔
LP/£	1,899.00	1,878.65	1,970.00	↓
LP/¥	14.12	14.03	13.77	↓
LP/SF	1,600.66	1,592.54	1,543.78	↓
LP/Can\$	1,107.40	1,111.32	1,150.59	↑
LP/Euro	1,701.36	1,693.53	1,679.20	↓

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

## STOCK MARKET: LEBANESE EQUITIES UP FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK

The BSE total turnover contracted by 23.3% week-on-week, moving from US\$ 11.5 million last week to US\$ 8.8 million. Five out of 26 listed stocks were traded this week. Solidere shares captured the bulk

of activity, as market players continued to shift from bank placements to realty stocks and given some favorable sales figures during the first half of the year 2020.

Solidere "B" shares topped the gainers' list this week, registering price gains of 7.1% to close at US\$ 15.0. Solidere "A" share price jumped by 5.6% to US\$ 14.95. As to banking stocks, Bank Audi's "listed" share price climbed by 6.8% week-on-week to reach US\$ 0.94. BLOM's "listed" share price shed 5.6% to US\$ 3.18. Byblos Bank's "listed" share price stood unchanged at US\$ 0.45. That being said, the BSE price index continued to follow an upward trajectory for the second consecutive week, moving up by 2.2%.

On a cumulative basis, the BSE total trading value amounted to US\$ 119 million during the first half of 2020, with Solidere shares capturing 66% of it. This compared to a total turnover of US\$ 103 million during the first half of 2019, up by 15.8%. Accordingly, the total turnover ratio, measured by the annualized trading value to market capitalization, reached 3.6% during the first half of 2020 versus 2.5% during the same period of 2019.

#### AUDI INDICES FOR BSE

22/1/96=100	10/07/20	03/07/20	27/12/19	
Market Cap. Index	288.95	282.84	316.37	↑
Trading Vol. Index	77.62	101.24	24.97	↓
Price Index	61.46	60.16	69.36	↑
Change %	2.16%	1.73%	2.37%	↑
	10/07/20	03/07/20	27/12/19	
Market Cap. \$m	6,855	6,710	7,506	↑
No. of shares traded (Exc. BT)	671,126	5,446,227	333,997	↓
Value Traded \$000 (Exc. BT)	8,812	11,496	2,294	↓
o.w. : Solidere	8,764	6,842	2,294	↑
Banks	48	4,596	0	↓
Others	0	58	0	↓

Sources: Beirut Stock Exchange, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

#### BOND MARKET: PRICE CONTRACTIONS OF LONGER-TERM SOVEREIGNS WEEK-ON-WEEK

Shorter-term to medium-term sovereigns saw no price change week-on-week, while longer-term papers maturing in 2028, 2029, 2031 and 2034 registered price contractions ranging between 0.25 pt and 0.75 pt. Within this context, prices of Lebanese sovereigns ranged between 15 cents per US dollar and 18.0 cents per US dollar at the end of this week. This came along a new report issued by Bank of America, which said that "Lebanon's high levels of foreign currency denominated debt mean the recent FX depreciation creates pressure for even higher reductions of principal and/or coupons, should authorities still aim to get down to 100% of GDP debt", adding that this "could push recovery values to mid-teens".

#### EUROBONDS INDICATORS

	10/07/20	03/07/20	27/12/19	
Total tradable size \$m	32,664	32,664	29,564	↔
o.w.: Sovereign bonds	31,314	31,314	28,314	↔
Average Yield	73%	71%	29.99%	↑
Average Life	7.48	7.50	7.50	↓
Yield on US 5-year note	0.27%	0.30%	1.71%	↓

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

## INTERNATIONAL MARKET INDICATORS

	10-July-20	03-July-20	31-Dec-19	Weekly change	Year-to-date change
<b>EXCHANGE RATES</b>					
YEN/\$	106.94	107.50	108.64	-0.5%	-1.6%
\$/£	1.258	1.248	1.326	0.8%	-5.1%
\$/Euro	1.127	1.125	1.121	0.2%	0.5%
<b>STOCK INDICES</b>					
Dow Jones Industrial Average	26,075.30	25,827.36	28,538.44	1.0%	-8.6%
S&P 500	3,185.04	3,130.01	3,230.78	1.8%	-1.4%
NASDAQ	10,617.44	10,207.63	8,972.60	4.0%	18.3%
CAC 40	4,970.48	5,007.14	5,978.06	-0.7%	-16.9%
Xetra Dax	12,633.71	12,528.18	13,249.01	0.8%	-4.6%
FT-SE 100	6,095.41	6,157.30	7,542.44	-1.0%	-19.2%
NIKKEI 225	22,290.81	22,700.02	23,656.62	-1.8%	-5.8%
<b>COMMODITIES (in US\$)</b>					
GOLD OUNCE	1,800.70	1,772.05	1,517.27	1.6%	18.7%
SILVER OUNCE	18.61	18.02	17.85	3.3%	4.2%
BRENT CRUDE (per barrel)	41.89	42.80	62.93	-2.1%	-33.4%
<b>LEADING INTEREST RATES (%)</b>					
1-month Libor	0.16	0.16	1.76	0.00	-1.60
US Prime Rate	3.25	3.25	4.75	0.00	-1.50
US Discount Rate	0.25	0.25	2.25	0.00	-2.00
US 10-year Bond	0.60	0.67	1.92	-0.07	-1.32

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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