

Economy

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As the temporary humanitarian truce between Israel and Hamas reached an end Friday morning, and on concerns that a cross-border fire would be resumed in Southern Lebanon, while the cabinet has delayed discussions of the draft law on banking reform till next week, and amid continuous international efforts to find a breakthrough in the Presidential gridlock, the country's capital markets continued to witness this week stability in the LP/US\$ parallel market rate, while the equity market slid into red, and Eurobond prices fell further without finding a floor. In details, the LP/US\$ black market rate continued to hover around LP/US\$ 89,000 this week despite a multifaceted crisis and amid calls to avert a leadership vacuum in the military. At the level of the equity market, the BSE price index contracted by 1.7% week-on-week amid low trading volumes. On the Eurobond market, prices of Lebanese sovereigns plunged deeper into the red, ranging between 5.500 and 5.625 cents per US dollar on Friday, mainly on renewed domestic security concerns and amid a protracted institutional void and lingering reform uncertainties.

LEBANON MARKETS: NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 3, 2023

Money Market	↑	BSE Equity Market	↓
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LP Exchange Market	↔	CDS Market	↔

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ECONOMY

YEARLY CPI INFLATION AT 229% IN OCTOBER 2023

This October, the year-on-year Consultation & Research Institute's index of consumer prices has surged by 228.6% compared to results of October 2022.

All nine main indices registered increases this October. The highest increase was registered by the "Housing" category (1,181.0%), followed by the "Other Goods and Services" category (475.5%), then by the "Healthcare" category (420.9%), the "Recreation" category (358.2%) and the "Education" category (219.9%).

The October 2023 year-on-year "Food and Beverages" index has significantly increased by 181.3% since October 2022. All of the four main indices registered increases this month, as follows: the "Alcoholic Beverages" category (204.6%), the "Tobacco Products" category (201.32 percent), the "Food" category (180.4%) and the "Nonalcoholic Beverages" category (173.0%). The index for "Food" increased by 180.4% compared to its level last year, as all of the twelve food group indices have witnessed increases this October. The most significant increase was registered in the "Food Away from Home" category (327.0%), followed by the "Fruits" category (287.8%), the "Chocolate and Candy" category (210.8%), the "Vegetables" category (201.1%), and the "Other Food Products" category (174.6%).

Apparel year-on-year prices registered 208.6% increase in October 2023. This was the result of the increase in the "Footwear" category (218.8%), and in the "Clothing and Sewing Materials" category (204.7%) this month.

The index for "Housing" has surged by 1,181.0% in October 2023 from its level last year. This was mainly due to the increase in the "Public Water Subscription" category (2,201.3%), followed by the "Household Energy" category (1,591.2%) and the "Household Maintenance" category (193.5%). The "Municipal Fees" category remained stable this month.

The "Durable Consumer Goods" index has increased by 195.8% since October 2022. All eight indices witnessed increases this October, most significantly those of the "Housekeeping Services" category (324.1%), followed by the "Miscellaneous Household Products" category (251.8%), the "Cleaning Products and Services" category (204.1%) and the "Glassware" category (158.4%).

The healthcare index has increased by 420.9% since October 2022. This is due to the increases registered in the "Health Insurance" category (9,603.3%), followed by the "Inpatient Services" category (1,221.5%), then by the "Medications and Medical Accessories" category (322.6%) and the "Outpatient Services" category (214.5%) in October 2023.

The CPI component for "Transportation and Telecommunications" has increased by 141.9% (year-on-year) in October 2023, due to the increase in the "Telephone Services" category (200.1%) and the "Transportation" category (140.7%).

The index for education has increased by 219.9% from the previous year, due to the significant increase in the "Tuition Fees" category (302.5%), followed by the "School Transportation" category (162.2%) and the "Educational Books and Supplies" category (117.2%).

The index for recreation has increased by 358.2% compared to its results in October 2022, due to the surge in the "Reading Materials and Photography" category (2,138.2%) and the "Movies and Restaurants" category (250.4%).

The index of "Other Goods and Services" has highly increased by 475.5% since October 2022. This was basically due to the increases registered in all of its four main indices, as follows: the "Jewelry" category (6,586.8%), the "Travel" category (1,900.0%), the "Financial Services" category (296.9%) and the "Personal Care" category (169.4%).

QUANTITY OF GOODS AT PORT OF BEIRUT INCREASED BY 3% IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2023

The latest statistics released by the Port of Beirut (POB) revealed that the quantity of goods reported a slight increase of 2.8% year-on-year, registering 3,949 thousand tons in the first nine months of 2023, up from 3,843 thousand tons in the same period of 2022.

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Additionally, the number of ships witnessed an increase over this period reaching 1,016 ships in the first nine months of 2023 against 877 ships in the same period of 2022, showing an increase of 15.8% year-on-year.

On the other hand, the number of containers registered a yearly decreased of 6.5% to reach 403,132 containers in the first nine months of 2023, against 431,122 containers in the same period of the previous year.

It is worth noting that transshipments increased drastically by 112.2% year-on-year in the first nine months of 2023, following a decrease of 4.6% between the first nine months of 2022 and the first nine months of 2021.

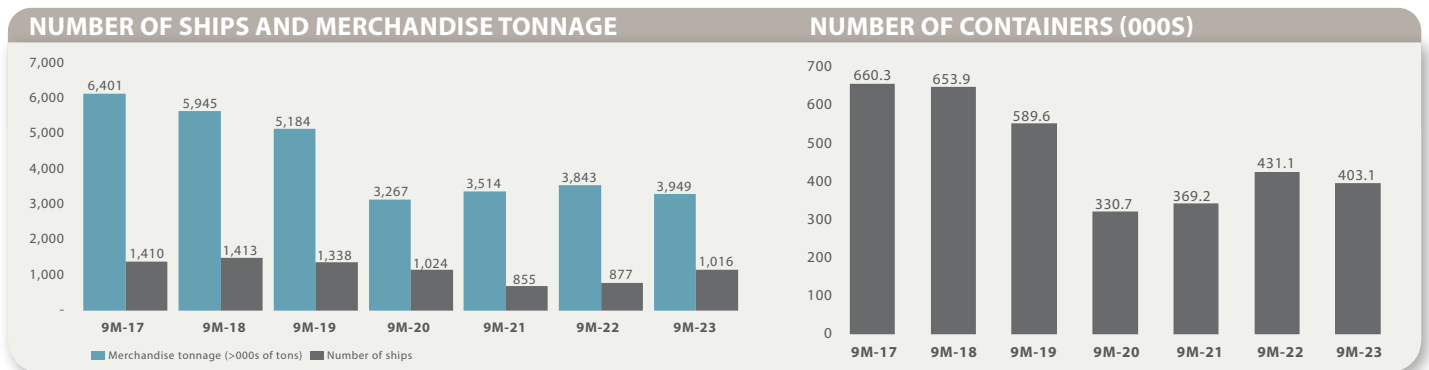
Looking at the Port of Beirut's performance during September 2023 the quantity of goods reported an improvement of 2.1% year-on-year, registering 466.3 thousand tons in September 2023, up from 456.8 thousand tons in the same month of 2022.

On the other hand, the number of containers registered a yearly decreased of 17.1% to reach 42,968 containers in September 2023, against 51,845 containers in the same month of the previous year.

The number of ships witnessed an increase over this period reaching 122 ships in September 2023 against 101 ships in the same month of 2022, showing an increase of 20.8% year-on-year.

Transshipments at the Port of Beirut increased drastically between September 2023 and September 2022 to reach 15,993 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) in the former, up from 11,971 TEUs in the latter, as per data from Port of Beirut.

It is worth mentioning that POB has recently released figures of its revenues for 2022. Total revenue at the port reached US\$ 113.1 million during 2022, up from US\$ 93.6 million in 2021 registering an increase of 20.8% during the period. Additionally, this increase is the first of its kind since 2015 with minor increases in 2016 and 2017 followed by a continuous trend of decreases after 2018.



Source: BDL, Bank Audi Group Research Department

VALUE OF CLEARED CHECKS IN LP HIKES BY 77% IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 2023

Value of cleared checks in Lebanese Pounds hiked by 76.7% year-on-year in the first 10 months of 2023 mirroring an increase in spending in LP during the above-mentioned period. Checks cleared in LP recorded LP 54,497 billion in in the first 10 months of 2023 up from LP 30,840 billion in the same period of 2022.

On the other hand, total value of cleared checks in foreign currency (US\$), reported a 66.4% drop year-on-year, as many businesses are cashing fresh dollars only. Cleared checks in US\$ for in the first 10 months of 2023 were recorded at US\$ 3,003 million down from US\$ 8,944 million in the first 10 months of the year prior.

The total value of cleared checks, an indicator of consumption and investment spending in the Lebanese economy, reached US\$ 10,707 million in the first 10 months of 2023 down by 63.6% from US\$ 29,402 million in the first 10 months of the previous year.

It is worth noting that, effective February 1st 2023, the Lebanese Pound noticed a re-peg and was set at LP 15,000/US\$ (up from LP 1,507.5/US\$ prior). In turn, this change in exchange rates has affected the total valuation of cleared checks as checks cleared in LP have to be turned into US\$ for a total valuation.

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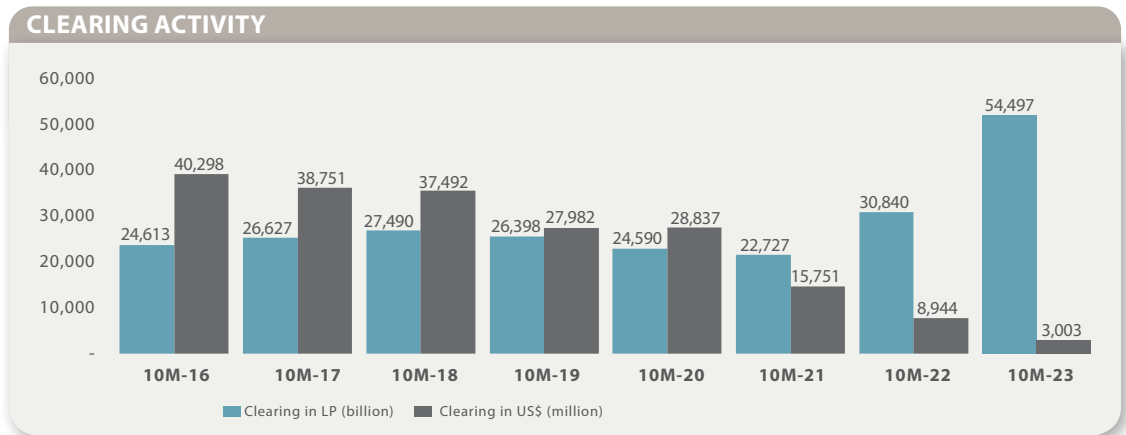
Moreover, the number of cleared checks registered 384,251 in the first 10 months of 2023, down by 72.5% from 1,399,559 checks in the same period of 2022.

During the first 10 months of 2023, 77.3% of cleared checks were in LP while 22.7% were in US\$.

On the other hand, during the same period of the year prior, 54.1% of all cleared checks were in LP while 45.9% were in US\$ which reflects a decline in the number of cleared checks in US\$.

The average value per check reached US\$ 27,865 in the first 10 months of 2023, up by 32.6% from US\$ 21,008 in the same period of 2022.

It is worth noting that the value of returned checks registered US\$ 328 million in the first 10 months of 2023 up from US\$ 273 million in the first 10 months of 2022, showing an increase of 20.5% year-on-year. The number of returned checks stood at 3,105 in the first 10 months of 2023 (58.4% of which are in LP) noting a year-on-year drop of 68.0% down from 9,693 in the first 10 months of 2022 (59.0% of which are in US\$).



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

EDL ISSUES FIRST INVOICES FOR ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN SYRIAN REFUGEE CAMPS

The Lebanese Électricité du Liban (EDL) has announced the issuance of the first invoices for electricity consumption within Syrian refugee camps in the country. The electricity bills were issued based on the readings of circa 900 electricity meters, which started to be installed in the area around a year prior.

It is worth noting that EDL vowed to install additional meters throughout Lebanon.

According to EDL, the procedures initiated to collect the aforementioned invoices are part of the implementation of the electricity sector's National Emergency Plan. These actions came following the exchange of several letters with the competent authorities concerning the mechanism necessary for this purpose and based on the decisions of the board of directors of EDL, the decisions of the ministerial commission for the electricity sector as well as after a series of meetings with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR allocates a percentage for electricity consumption, included in the financial aid it pays to Syrian refugees. The UNHCR also published a press release in August in which it announced that Syrian refugees had been informed of the obligation to pay the costs of their electricity consumption to EDL. They have also been warned that illegal connections and non-payment of bills will result in power cuts and fines. In turn, EDL asked Syrian refugees to cooperate with its teams and fulfill their financial obligations under penalty of power cut.

According to the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water, it is logical for refugees to pay for electricity consumption in order to maintain the financial balance of EDL and to guarantee electric current access for camps.

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SURVEYS/REPORTS

LEBANON RANKED 127TH GLOBALLY AND 5TH REGIONALLY IN THE 2023 TRACE BRIBERY RISK MATRIX

The 2023 Trace bribery risk matrix has been issued this week. It shows the country risk scores and rankings of 194 countries around the globe.

Lebanon ranked 127th in the 2023 ranking with a country risk score of 57.

Regionally, Lebanon ranked fifth, directly surpassed by Tunisia and Kuwait (country risk scores of 49 and 42 respectively), while it was followed by Saudi Arabia and Oman (country risk scores of 58 respectively). Jordan ranked first in the Arab MENA region with a country risk score of 43, while Syria ranked last with a country risk score of 88.

The detailed analysis of Lebanon's country risk score over the four domains, namely Opportunity, Deterrence, Transparency and Oversight suggests the following: Lebanon got a score of 55 on Domain 1 (Interaction with Government), a score of 78 on Domain 2 (Anti Bribery Deterrence and Enforcement), a score of 64 on Domain 3 (Governmental and Civil Service Transparency) and a score of 38 on Domain 4 (Capacity for Civil Oversight).

ARAB MENA COUNTRIES' BRIBERY RISK MATRIX FOR 2023 RANKINGS AND SCORES

Countries	Global Rank	Risk Score	Domain1: Interactions with Government	Domain2: Anti-Bribery Deterrence and Enforcement	Domain3: Governmental and Civil Service Transparency	Domain4: Capacity for Civil Oversight
Jordan	69	43	27	55	50	57
UAE	79	46	24	54	50	74
Tunisia	86	47	49	57	50	35
Kuwait	91	49	42	59	56	47
Lebanon	127	57	55	78	64	38
Saudi Arabia	132	58	38	71	64	78
Oman	133	58	46	72	59	70
Morocco	144	61	60	70	64	53
Sudan	155	64	52	88	74	60
Qatar	156	65	62	73	56	72
Djibouti	160	65	55	75	72	69
Egypt	161	67	57	69	72	78
Bahrain	162	67	62	81	60	74
Algeria	163	67	77	58	66	58
Iraq	166	68	76	76	70	48
Comoros	175	73	84	66	79	50
Mauritania	177	73	78	80	81	53
Libya	179	74	83	73	80	54
Somalia	182	75	72	92	86	58
South Sudan	189	81	77	90	93	72
Yemen	190	83	74	97	100	72
Syria	192	88	94	100	77	82

Sources: Trace International, Bank Audi's Group Research Dept

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GOAL PARTNERS WITH LEBANESE NGO, AMEL ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL, TO FUND IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN AID AND HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CITIZENS OF SOUTH LEBANON

Since the start of the now seven-week-old and appalling Gaza – Israel conflict, there have been severe clashes at the South border of Lebanon with Israel, between the warring factions.

According to the UN, this has led to the displacement of up to 30,000 people across 119 locations in Lebanon, especially of people who were residing in border areas like Kfar Chouba, Chebaa, Kfarkila, Aadayse Marjayoun, and Aita El Chaeb. People now displaced in South Lebanon urgently need health services and hygiene supplies, amongst other necessities of survival, and these needs are especially critical for children, the elderly and pregnant and lactating women.

In response, GOAL has recently signed a partnership agreement with an NGO, set up in 1979 with access throughout Lebanon called Amel Association Limited. With a team of 1,200 staff and volunteers, Amel works through twenty-eight centres, six mobile medical units, two mobile education units and one protection unit for the most marginalized regions of Lebanon, from Beirut and its Southern Suburbs to Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and South Lebanon. As part of this agreement, GOAL, in partnership with Amel and supported by Irish Aid, will deliver healthcare services for up to 1,200 men and women (with a focus on boys and younger girls and the elderly) and will provide hygiene kits for women. Amel will also ensure that the prevention of GBV (Gender Based Violence) and protection are key elements of this emergency response.

The healthcare services that Amel, in partnership with GOAL, will deliver, to displaced people in South Lebanon will include:

- Health consultations and hygiene assessments.
- Access to and provision of prescription medications.
- Referrals to Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) and other health and social facilities.
- Antenatal care and referral for ultrasound for pregnant women with cardiac conditions.
- Provision of hygiene kits

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CORPORATE NEWS

MOA AND FAO SIGN PROJECT AGREEMENT FUNDED BY CANADA

The Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) signed a project agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which will be funded by the Canadian government. The aim of the project is to increase the adoption of gender-responsive, nutrition-sensitive good and climate smart agricultural practices. Additionally, the project will work on improving the performance of fruits and vegetables value chains as well as the enabling environment in which value chain actors operate.

It is worth noting that the value of the funding for the project is CAD\$ 20 million (US\$ 14.8 million). Two sectoral actors will be supported through the project:

- Small-scale fruit and vegetables farmers (with an emphasis on women) with their organizations will receive support in order to increase their technical and organizational skills. This will be done in order to increase efficiency in selected value chains and increase their income.
- Input producers, processors and traders will receive support in order to adopt innovative and modern technologies at the production/marketing and processing levels. Additionally, the project aims to increase their competitiveness, inclusivity, sustainability and responsiveness to farmers' needs.

The project will also empower farmers, their associations and cooperatives to coordinate their strategies and activities. In turn, this will lead to safer, healthier and more affordable food to become available contributing to a more resilient food system.

This project allows the fostering of strategic partnership between the Canadian government, the Lebanese MoA and the FAO in order to support sustainability of the agricultural sector within Lebanon.

EU PROVIDES US\$ 16 MILLION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEE SUPPORT TO LEBANON

The European Union (EU) has pledged to provide Lebanon with EUR 15.0 million (circa US\$ 16.5 million) to support vulnerable communities within the country. The targeted communities include both Lebanese citizens and displaced Syrians, as per the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants (MoFAE).

The humanitarian aid package designates EUR 3.5 million (circa US\$ 3.9 million) for vulnerable Lebanese individuals and EUR 11.5 million (US\$ 12.6 million) for Syrians seeking asylum in Lebanon and those that are internally displaced.

These funds are expected to enhance the provision of essential services (i.e. food, water, sanitation and hygiene support) for those in dire need. Additionally, the assistance will be delivered via NGOs, UN agencies as well as international organizations and are distributed based on needs.

It is worth noting that this package comes as Lebanon suffers from high levels of food insecurity, poor condition of the health system and a failing education system. Inflation and lack of access to basic services have deteriorated the situation and impacted the resilience of refugees and Lebanese people. This new allocation brings the total of humanitarian assistance for Syria in 2023 to EUR 186.5 million (US\$ 204.9 million) and circa EUR 67.0 million (US\$ 73.6 million) for people in need in Lebanon.

LEBANESE PAVILION OPENED AT EXPO QATAR

The Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Economy and Trade has officially opened the Lebanese pavilion at Expo Qatar in the Qatari capital, Doha. The Qatari Minister of Municipality, the Qatari General Commissioner for Expo Doha 2023, Lebanon's Ambassador to Qatar and the General Commissioner of the Lebanese Pavilion attended the opening ceremony.

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Following the inauguration, the Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Economy and Trade along with officials from the pavilion and a delegation of business leaders, welcomed visitors from various nationalities attending the exhibition.

This event provided an opportunity for exchanges and discussions with Lebanese expatriates and foreign businesspeople while focusing on topics and issues relevant to Lebanon and its citizens.

AUBMC SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMS FIRST-OF-A-KIND IN THE REGION MICROSURGERY

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) has successfully performed a rare replantation surgery. This presents a medical achievement in the field of microsurgery in the region.

This achievement highlights the capabilities of AUBMC's medical professional and their commitment to push the boundaries of medical science and the rigidity of Lebanon's healthcare sector.

AUBMC's team of surgeons were tasked with replanting the severed fingers of a patient that suffered a work-related injury severing four of his fingers. The surgery was divided into two sections. The first section lasted 10 hours and aimed to ensure optimal alignment and re-attachment of all the vital structures of the fingers. The second part, lasting three hours and conducted the following day, saw a further refinement of the replantation and aimed to ensure the patient's long-term recovery. The result of the surgery was the successful replantation of all four fingers, which regained normal blood circulation. The patient was later dispatched from the hospital after six days indicating a successful outcome and proper recovery.

LEBANON'S SECURITE ASSURANCE HOSTED AN EVENT ON BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF RISK

The Lebanese insurance company "Securite Assurance" hosted an event at the Yacht Club Beirut, bringing together various experts and influential business leaders. The event centered around sharing insights and strategies on how companies can build resilience in the face of risk.

The event featured three sessions. The first session featured the CEO of Securite Assurance, which tackled various risks faced by Lebanese companies currently. Additionally, the psychology of building resilience was tackled along with solutions and best practices that can help mitigate key risks and potentially taking advantage of them.

The second session featured the Former CEO of Majid Al Futtaim Group, which tackled managing risks amidst geopolitical uncertainties, expanding into new markets and geographies, maintaining resilient balance sheets and operations, fostering a digitized operation while addressing cyber threats as well as building cultures that retain and grow talent.

The third session featured a multidisciplinary panel with speakers from various sectors including the CEO of HOLDAL Group, Former Managing Director of FFA Bank, CEO of Beirut Digital District and the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Network Lebanon.

This summit provided a platform for businesspeople to connect and network while offering valuable insights and opportunities for growth and to build stronger more resilient organizations.

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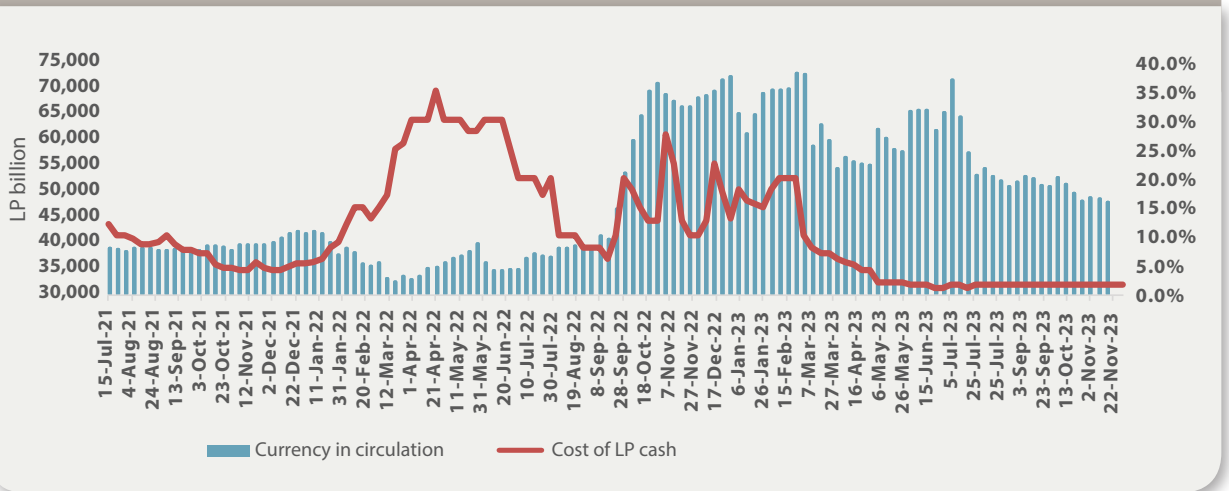
CAPITAL MARKETS

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

The overnight rate, which is a non-cash rate on the money market, fell from 40% at the end of last week to 15% on Friday, mainly for technical reasons related to CNS time deposits that have reached their maturity, while the cost of LP cash remained quoted at 1%-2%.

In parallel, the latest monetary aggregates released by the Central Bank of Lebanon for the week ending 16th of November 2023 showed that total resident banking deposits expanded by LP 1,601 billion following four consecutive weeks of contractions. This is mainly attributed to a LP 1,882 billion increase in total LP resident deposits amid a LP 1,949 billion rise in LP demand deposits and a shy retreat in LP saving deposits of LP 67 billion, while foreign currency resident deposits contracted by LP 281 billion (the equivalent of US\$ 19 million as per the official rate of LP 15,000). Within this context, the money supply in its broadest sense (M4) expanded by LP 939 billion over the covered week amid a LP 677 billion drop in the currency in circulation and a shy rise in the non-banking sector Treasury bills portfolio of LP 14 billion.

MONEY MARKET ACTIVITY



TREASURY BILLS MARKET: WEEKLY NOMINAL SURPLUS OF LP 333 BILLION

The latest Treasury bills auction results for value date 30th of November 2023 showed that the Central Bank of Lebanon allowed banks to subscribe in full to the six-month category (offering a yield of 4.00%), the three-year category (offering a coupon of 5.50%) and the seven-year category (offering a coupon of 6.50%).

The Treasury bills auction results for value date 23rd of November 2023 showed subscriptions of LP 506 billion, fully allocated to the Central Bank of Lebanon and distributed as follows: LP 32 billion in the three-month category (offering a yield of 3.50%) and LP 474 billion in the one-year category (offering a yield of 4.50%). These compare to maturities of LP 173 billion, which resulted into a weekly nominal surplus of LP 333 billion.

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TREASURY BILLS

	01/12/2023	24/11/2023	30/12/2022	
3-month	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	↔
6-month	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	↔
1-year	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%	↔
2-year	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	↔
3-year	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	↔
5-year	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	↔
7-year	6.50%	-	6.50%	
Nom. Subs. (LP billion)		506	1	
Short-term (3&6 mths)		32	-	
Medium-term (1&2 yrs)		474	-	
Long-term (3 yrs)		-	1	
Long-term (5 yrs)		-	-	
Maturities		173	193	
Nom. Surplus/Deficit		333	-192	

Sources: Central Bank of Lebanon, Ministry of Finance

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: CONTINUOUS STABILITY IN LP/US\$ BLACK MARKET RATE

While the war in Gaza Strip resumed after a week-long humanitarian truce reached its end Friday morning, which has sparked concerns about renewed military confrontations in the southern Lebanese border, while the country is plunging into a multifaceted crisis and facing an unprecedented institutional void, the Lebanese pound remained stable against the US dollar on the parallel FX market this week, ranging between LP/US\$ 89,400 and LP/US\$ 89,700. This took place amid a LP 6.6 trillion contraction in the currency into circulation outside BDL since last July, while the Central Bank of Lebanon's foreign reserve assets pursued their upward trajectory to reach US\$ 9.0 billion mid-November 2023, as per latest available figures.

EXCHANGE RATES

	01/12/2023	24/11/2023	30/12/2022	
LP/US\$	15,000.00	15,000.00	1,507.50	↔
LP/£	19,000.50	18,825.00	1,813.97	↓
LP/¥	101.44	100.24	11.27	↓
LP/SF	17,164.44	16,962.57	1,628.67	↓
LP/Can\$	11,095.50	10,953.70	1,108.21	↓
LP/Euro	16,345.50	16,356.00	1,603.83	↑

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

STOCK MARKET: BSE RESUMES ITS FALL THIS WEEK

The Beirut Stock Exchange resumed its fall this week, as reflected by a 1.7% contraction in the price index. A closer look at individual stocks shows that Solidere "A" share price shed 3.4% to US\$ 67.05. Solidere "B" share price edged up by 0.8% to US\$ 67.55. Byblos Bank's "listed" share price stood unchanged at US\$ 0.70.

As to trading volumes, the BSE total trading value contracted by 42.0% week-on-week, moving from US\$ 3.1 million last week to US\$ 1.8 million, noting that Solidere shares captured almost all activity. On a cumulative basis, the BSE total trading value expanded by 21.6% year-on-year during the first eleven months of 2023 to

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reach US\$ 440 million. In parallel, the BSE market capitalization grew by 24.0% between end-November 2022 and end-November 2023. Accordingly, the total turnover ratio, measured by the annualized trading value to market capitalization, reached 2.8% during the first eleven months of 2023 compared to 2.9% a year earlier.

AUDI INDICES FOR BSE

	01/12/2023	24/11/2023	30/12/2022	
Market Cap. Index	708.69	721.27	614.50	↓
Trading Vol. Index	16.16	34.83	96.84	↓
Price Index	148.78	151.42	129.00	↓
Change %	-1.74%	1.82%	1.30%	↓
	01/12/2023	24/11/2023	30/12/2022	
Market Cap. \$m	16,813	17,111	14,578	↓
No. of shares traded (Exc. BT)	30,935	322,820	187,711	↓
Value Traded \$000 (Exc. BT)	1,779	3,069	6,415	↓
o.w. : Solidere	1,775	2,250	6,349	↓
Banks	4	819	66	↓
Others	0	0	0	↔

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

BOND MARKET: LEBANESE BOND PRICES PLUNGING DEEPER INTO THE RED

Lebanese Eurobond prices plunged deeper into the red this week, ranging between 5.500 and 5.625 cents per US dollar on Friday, amid renewed domestic security concerns, a long-simmering institutional void and a lack of political will to implement long-awaited reforms to pull the country out of a myriad of crises and secure much-needed international financial support. This kept bets about recovery rates very low. On a cumulative basis, Lebanese bonds accumulated price contractions of 0.13 pt since the beginning of the year 2023.

EUROBONDS INDICATORS

	01/12/2023	24/11/2023	30/12/2022	
Total tradable size \$m	31,793	31,793	31,793	↔
o.w.: Sovereign bonds	31,314	31,314	31,314	↔
Bid price (cents per US dollar)	5.500-5.625	5.625	5.50-5.88	↓
Yield on US 5-year note	4.28%	4.49%	3.94%	↓

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

Bank Audi

INTERNATIONAL MARKET INDICATORS

	01-Dec-23	24-Nov-23	31-Dec-22	Weekly change	Year-to-date change
EXCHANGE RATES					
YEN/\$	146.82	149.45	131.11	-1.8%	12.0%
\$/£	1.271	1.260	1.208	0.8%	5.2%
\$/Euro	1.088	1.094	1.071	-0.5%	1.7%
STOCK INDICES					
DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE	36,245.50	35,390.15	33,147.25	2.4%	9.3%
S&P 500	4,594.63	4,559.34	3,839.50	0.8%	19.7%
NASDAQ	14,305.03	14,250.85	10,466.48	0.4%	36.7%
CAC 40	7,346.15	7,292.80	6,473.76	0.7%	13.5%
Xetra Dax	16,397.52	16,029.49	13,923.59	2.3%	17.8%
FT-SE 100	7,529.35	7,488.20	7,451.74	0.5%	1.0%
NIKKEI 225	33,431.51	33,625.53	26,094.50	-0.6%	28.1%
COMMODITIES (in US\$)					
GOLD OUNCE	2,072.22	2,000.82	1,824.02	3.6%	13.6%
SILVER OUNCE	25.49	24.33	23.95	4.8%	6.4%
BRENT CRUDE (per barrel)	78.88	80.58	83.10	-2.1%	-5.1%
LEADING INTEREST RATES (%)					
Term SOFR 1-month	5.35	5.35	4.36	0.00	0.99
US Prime Rate	8.50	8.50	7.50	0.00	1.00
US Discount Rate	5.50	5.50	4.50	0.00	1.00
US 10-year Bond	4.20	4.47	3.87	-0.27	0.33

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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