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## Economy

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After reaching a ceasefire deal, and amid calls to revive constitutional institutions by electing a consensus President and forming an efficient government that would pave the way for long-overdue reforms, and awaiting the preliminary estimate for the huge physical losses caused by the Israeli attacks across Lebanese territories over the past couple of months, the country's capital markets continued to witness this week stability in the Lebanese pound against the US dollar on the parallel FX market, while the Eurobond market registered a strong price rally, and equities bounced back. In details, the LP/US\$ parallel market rate remained stable at 89,600-89,700 this week amid bets that a ceasefire deal would help containing monetary pressures and halting FX reserves' burn that started at end-September 2024. At the level of the Eurobond market, prices of sovereigns hit 9.350-9.950 cents per US dollar on Friday against 8.500-9.200 cents per US dollar at the end of last week, as international investors are seeing a glimpse of hope of change in the domestic politico-economic landscape in the medium term. On the equity market, the BSE price index expanded by 2.8% following three consecutive weeks of contractions, and the total turnover more than doubled week-on-week to reach US\$ 11 million.

## LEBANON MARKETS: 25 NOVEMBER - 01 DECEMBER, 2024

Money Market	↓	BSE Equity Market	↑
LP Tbs Market	-	Eurobond Market	↑
LP Exchange Market	→	CDS Market	-

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## ECONOMY

### REAL BALANCE OF PAYMENT SURPLUS OF US\$ 1 BILLION OVER THE FIRST NINE MONTHS

The just released monetary and banking figures by the Central Bank of Lebanon for the month of September 2024 suggest a significant nominal balance of payments surplus over the first nine months of the year, mainly driven by the surpluses realized in summer months. Indeed, the balance of payments reported a surplus of US\$ 6,465 million in the first nine months, with the surpluses of July, August and September representing 57% of it. July reported a surplus of US\$ 1,132 million in the balance of payments, followed by a surplus of US\$ 1,271 million in August and a surplus of US\$ 1,358 million in September.

The year-to-date surplus in the balance of payment is driven by the rise in the net foreign assets of BDL by US\$ 6,658 million, while banks' net foreign assets dropped by US\$ 193 million. The significant increase in the change of BDL's NFA is mainly explained by the increase in the value of the Monetary Gold. The decrease in banks' NFA is mainly explained by the settlement of foreign currencies to customers under Circular 158. It is worth mentioning that the decline in net foreign assets of banks would have been relatively higher at constant exchange rate, as the change in the official exchange rate from 15,000 to 89,500 decreases the banks' LL non-resident liabilities when expressed in US\$ terms and ultimately increases the net foreign assets of banks.

It would be thus important to also mention that at a constant gold price, the balance of payment would have still reported a surplus of circa US\$ 1,165 million over the first nine months of the year. At a constant official exchange rate, the balance of payment would have reported a surplus of 6,307 million. Therefore, at a constant gold price and official exchange rate, the balance of payment would have reported a real surplus of US\$ 1,006 million, which measures the true value of net inflows to Lebanon (Inflows less outflows) over the period.

Lebanese banks liquidity in foreign banks declined from US\$ 4,460 million in December 2023 to US\$ 4,289 million in September 2024, a decline of US\$ 171 million. It is worth recalling that Lebanese banks liquidity in foreign banks used to stand at US\$ 8,389 million at the onset of the crisis back in October 2019. Adding to the Lebanese banks' liquidity in foreign banks the US\$ cash in vault domestically of US\$ 834 million as at September 2024, we reach a total fresh liquidity of US\$ 5,123 million held by Lebanese banks as at the same date.

It is worth mentioning as well that FX deposits amounted to US\$ 88,867 million as at September 2024, while LL deposits amounted to LL 60,413 billion, leading to a total deposit figure of US\$ 89,543 million, with a dollarization rate of 99.2%. The deposit dollarization rate actually used to be 73.4% on the onset of the crisis in October 2019. In parallel, FX loans amounted to US\$ 5,912 million as at September 2024, while LL loans amounted to LL 11,277 billion, leading to a total loan figure of US\$ 6,037 million, with a dollarization rate of 97.9%. The loan dollarization rate actually used to be 70.2% on the onset of the crisis in October 2019.

With respect to the evolution of interest rates, a net surge in LL deposit interest rates was observed year-to-date, while US\$ deposit interest rates are still close to nil. In fact, the average LL deposit interest rate rose from 0.55% in December 2023 to 0.93% in September 2024, bearing in mind that they had reached a high of 9.03% in October 2019, on the eve of the crisis onset. The average US\$ deposit interest rate slightly moved from 0.03% in December 2023 to 0.02% in September 2024, bearing in mind that they had reached a high of 6.61% in October 2019, on the eve of the crisis onset.

Finally, shareholders' equity reported US\$ 4,574 million as at end-September 2024, against US\$ 5,092 million at the beginning of the year, mainly reflecting the official devaluation effect. It is worth recalling that shareholders' equity had reached a record high of US\$ 20,602 million in October 2019, prior to the onset of the financial crisis. The noticeable decline in bank capitalization is tied to the significant crisis-related bank losses accumulated over the past five years.

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## CONSTRUCTION PERMITS FROM OEAB INCREASE BY 12% IN THE FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 2024

Construction permits in the first 10 months of 2024 increased by 12.4% against figures from the same period of the year prior, as per figures from the Order of Engineers and Architects of Beirut (OEAB).

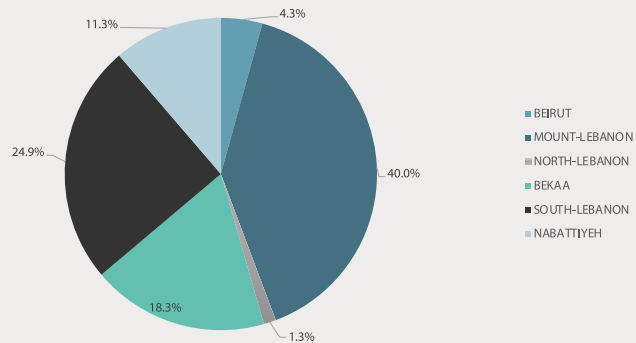
Construction permits for the first 10 months of 2024 amounted to 4,052,365 m<sup>2</sup>, up from 3,604,865 m<sup>2</sup> in the first 10 months of 2023. This shows a slight improvement of construction activity during the period following a stunting of activity between 2022 and 2023. However, activity levels in the first 10 months of 2022 still exceed levels recorded in the first 10 months of 2024 by 55.5%.

In details, looking at the regional distribution of construction permits in the first 10 months of 2024, Mount Lebanon took the lion's share with 40.0% of total reaching 1,620,588 m<sup>2</sup> during the period. South Lebanon and Bekaa followed with 24.9% of total (1,007,464 m<sup>2</sup>) and 18.3% of total (741,266 m<sup>2</sup>) in the first 10 months of 2024 respectively. The Nabattiye region came in fourth with 11.3% (457,522 m<sup>2</sup>) of total construction permits. The region of Beirut had a contribution of 4.3% (174,013 m<sup>2</sup>) of total followed by North Lebanon with a contribution of 1.3% (51,512 m<sup>2</sup>) of total.

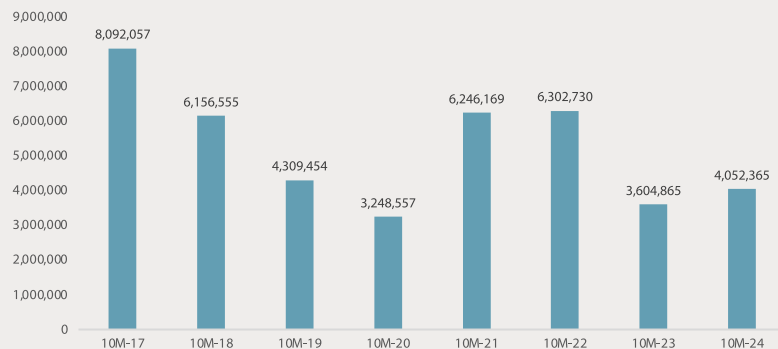
This increase in construction permits was mostly due to a 30.6% increase in construction permits for Mount Lebanon, a 75.9% increase in construction permits for Bekaa as well as increases of 73.1% and 78.8% respectively for the Beirut region and North Lebanon in the first 10 months of 2024 against the same period of 2023. These increases were partially offset by a 10.7% decrease in construction permits for the Southern Lebanon region and a 33.3% drop in construction permits for the Nabattiye region.

It is worth noting that this jump in activity is mostly due to land registries gradually reopening within the country following their closure in 2023.

### DISTRIBUTION OF CONSTRUCTION PERMITS BY REGION FOR 2024



### CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (IN SQM)



Source: Order of Engineers and Architects Beirut, Bank Audi Group Research Department

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## PROPERTY MARKET'S VALUE OF TRANSACTIONS DROPPED BY 50% YEAR-ON-YEAR IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 2024

During the first nine months of 2024, the number of sales shot up by 122.9% to register 26,430 operations, up from 11,857 operations in the first nine months of 2023. In parallel, the value of the transactions dropped significantly by 50.2% during the period to reach US\$ 1,859.3 million in the first nine months of 2024, up from US\$ 3,735.2 million in the same period of the year prior.

In parallel, the number of transactions jumped year-on-year to stand at 77,099 in the first nine months of 2024, up from 27,918 in the same period of the year prior. Also, the number of sales to foreigners have noted a 174.5% jump year-on-year reaching 593 sales in the first nine months of 2024, up from 216 in the first nine months of 2023, as per data from the DLRC.

It is worth noting that during 2023 the Lebanese property market noted a worsening in the downwards trend of activity. During the year, the number of sales registered 23,411 operations, down by 70.7% from 79,990 operations in 2022. Additionally, the value of the transactions also dropped by 50.2% during the period to reach US\$ 7.2 billion in 2023, as per data from the Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre (DLRC).

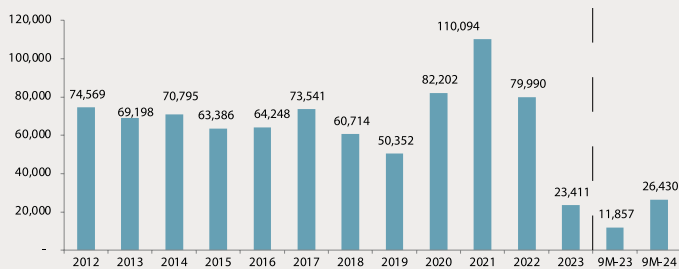
Property taxes collected during the first nine months of 2024 reached a value of LP 7.4 trillion (US\$ 82.3 million at the rate of LP 89,500/US\$). This valuation notes a 10.3% decrease from the same period of last year's property taxes collected with a valuation of LP 1.4 trillion (US\$ 91.8 million at the rate of LP 15,000/US\$).

It is worth noting that effective January 2024, the Lebanese Pound was re-pegged at the rate of LP 89,500/US\$ from a prior LP 15,000/US\$ in 2023. This in turn affects the total valuation of taxes collected as they are initially given in local currency.

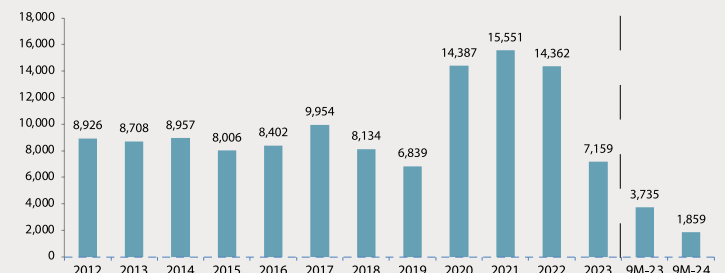
The average property sales value dropped from US\$ 315,020 in the first nine months of 2023 to US\$ 70,348 in the first nine months of 2024 showing a 77.7% decrease over the period, as per data from the DLRC.

In a look at the geographical breakdown of the value of property sales, Beirut captured the lion's share in the first nine months of 2024 with 43.2% of total sales value. The South followed with 16.7% of the total. Kesserouan and Bekaa were next with shares of 12.4% and 7.5% respectively during the period. North Two and North One had shares of 7.3% and 5.3% respectively followed by Nabattiyeh with 5.2%. Baabda had a contribution of 0.6% to the total and Metn had a minimal contribution to the total. Other regions had a contribution of 1.7% to the total.

NUMBER OF PROPERTY SALES OPERATIONS



VALUE OF PROPERTY SALES TRANSACTIONS (US\$ MILLION)



Sources: DLRC, Bank Audi's Group research Department

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## SURVEYS / REPORTS

### LEBANON RANKS 125TH GLOBALLY IN THE "2024 COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX"

The 2024 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index is the first detailed analysis published looking at governments' policies and actions to fight inequality. It reviews the spending, tax and labor policies and actions of 164 governments worldwide.

In details, Lebanon ranked 125th globally at the level of the Overall CRI Index score. At the level of public services, the country took over the 113th rank globally. At the level of tax, Lebanon scored ranked 154th and at the level of labor, the country had a rank of 83.

Lebanon ranks 10th in the MENA region on the overall CRI (out of 15 countries). Oman came before Lebanon with a global CRI ranking of 119, while Iraq followed Lebanon with a global ranking of 131. Jordan came first in the region with a global CRI ranking of 43, while South Sudan came last in the region with a global ranking of 164.

It is worth finally mentioning that, on a global scale, Norway ranks Number 1, while South Sudan comes at the last global rank of 161st.

In recent years, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, data availability on inequality at national level has worsened dramatically, from an already low level. For 28 countries, the most recent estimate of income inequality is over a decade old. For all countries, household surveys, which structurally underestimate the incomes of the richest, and therefore inequality, remain the main source of inequality data.

The CRI, with its focus on work, public spending and taxation, offers a unique way of compensating for this major gap in recent high-quality inequality data.

Looking across the three pillars, it shows that 84% of countries have reduced their spending on education, health and/or social protection. Progressive taxation, tax collection and their impact on inequality has regressed in 81% of countries. Labour rights, minimum wages, vulnerable employment and/or labour income inequality have worsened in 90% of countries. When combined, the report finds that this means nine out of ten countries are implementing policies and actions that are highly likely to increase economic inequality.

#### MENA COUNTRIES' COMMITMENT TO REDUCING INEQUALITY INDEX RANKINGS 2024

Country	Public services ranking	Tax ranking	Labour ranking	Overall CRI ranking
Jordan	100	14	44	43
Tunisia	93	26	73	59
Algeria	86	11	93	64
Morocco	90	21	97	73
Palestine	68	158	32	81
Egypt	107	101	74	90
Djibouti	124	30	133	114
Yemen	154	13	122	116
Oman	98	112	134	119
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>125</b>
Iraq	121	145	96	131
Mauritania	126	127	129	142
Bahrain	92	163	130	147
Somalia	163	125	119	153
South Sudan	164	162	163	164

Sources: OXFAM and DFI Research Report, Bank Audi's Group research Department

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## LEBANON RANKS 108TH GLOBALLY IN THE 2024 RULE OF LAW INDEX

The World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024 is the latest report in an annual series measuring the rule of law based on the experiences and perceptions of the general public and in-country legal practitioners and experts worldwide, in which Lebanon ranked 108th globally with a score of 0.44. Regionally, Lebanon ranked 7th out of 10 countries in the Arab MENA region. UAE, Kuwait and Jordan topped the regional list with scores of 0.64, 0.58 and 0.55 respectively (Global ranks of 39th, 52nd and 1st respectively).

The WJP Rule of Law Index 2024 presents a portrait of the rule of law in 142 countries and jurisdictions by providing scores and rankings based on eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

The scores and rankings of the eight factors and 44 sub-factors of the Index draw from two sources of data collected by the WJP: 1. A General Population Poll (GPP) conducted by leading local polling companies, using a representative sample of 1,0001 respondents in each country and jurisdiction. 2. Qualified Respondents' Questionnaires (QRQs) consisting of closed-ended questions completed by in-country legal practitioners, experts, and academics with expertise in civil and commercial law; constitutional law, civil liberties, and criminal law, labor law and public health.

Furthermore, Lebanon scored 0.48 on constraints on government powers factor with a global rank of 92. At the level of the absence of corruption factor, the country scored 0.36 and ranked 109th globally. Looking at open government, Lebanon scored 0.44 with a global rank of 99. As for fundamental rights, the country scored 0.46 and ranked 99th globally. At the level of order and security, the score was 0.65 and global rank of 101. Lebanon scored 0.44 in regulatory enforcement and ranked 104th globally. As for civil justice, the country scored 0.40 and ranked 126th globally. Regarding criminal justice, the country scored 0.31 and ranked 116h globally.

### ARAB MENA REGION'S RULE OF LAW INDEX 2024 RANKINGS

Countries	Global Ranking	Overall Score
UAE	39	0.64
Kuwait	52	0.58
Jordan	61	0.55
Tunisia	76	0.50
Algeria	84	0.49
Morocco	92	0.48
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>0.44</b>
Mauritania	132	0.36
Sudan	134	0.35
Egypt	135	0.35

Sources: World Justice Project, Bank Audi's Research Department

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## CORPORATE NEWS

### WB SEES LEBANESE BUSINESS SECTOR LOSSES AT US\$ 1.7 BILLION DUE TO THE CONFLICT

According to a recent report by the World Bank (WB), the Lebanese commercial sector incurred losses of US\$ 1.7 billion over 12 months of conflict. These losses came as Lebanon had already been reeling since 2019 from an intense economic crisis that pushed most of the population into poverty.

According to the report, circa 11% of establishments in the conflict zones have been damaged, particularly in the southern areas of Tyre, Sidon and Nabatiyeh. Additionally, the displacement of both employees and business owners from conflict-affected areas has led to a near-complete halt in business activity as well as disruptions to supply chains to and from conflict districts.

In parallel, business owners that shifted their stores to safer areas continue to encounter challenges of a different nature. Among these challenges are the rise in rent prices and fears of residents in certain areas when it comes to renting to displaced residents from conflict zones.

These issues have led some businesses to try to clear out their stocks instead of importing more products as future prospects remain unclear. Additionally, some businesses resorted to reducing their employee numbers and docking the pay of others.

### WFP REACHES CIRCA HALF A MILLION PEOPLE IN LEBANON AMID THE CONFLICT

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has recently delivered emergency assistance to over half a million people in Lebanon since the escalation of the conflict began. The program is drawing on contingency planning that included pre-positioning food supplies inside the country. This comes as WFP continues scaling up with the goal of reaching one million people with teams on the ground working to deliver urgent food assistance to affected communities across Lebanon.

According to the latest WFP operational report, the program is providing cash assistance in Lebanon in parallel to food supplies and is working with partners in collaboration with the Lebanese government. Additionally, since 23 September, WFP has distributed nearly 4 million hot and cold meals prepared in 19 kitchens across the country; 22,500 ready-to-eat (RTE) food rations; 27,500 family food rations with enough food for one month and more than a quarter of a million packs of bread.

The WFP has enough food stocks inside the country to support over 1.3 million people with varying levels of assistance. This includes food parcels for nearly 500,000 people for one-month, mixed food packages for more than 500,000 people for 15 days, and ready-to-eat rations that can provide emergency relief for over 340,000 people for five days. Additional supplies are ready to support WFP's school feeding programs, including 129 metric tons of food and 459,000 bottles of cooking oil to help schoolchildren and their families.

According to the report, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster has successfully dispatched 12 convoys to reach hard-to-access areas, delivering ready-to-eat meals and bread to 62,200 affected people in Tyre, Rmeich, Marjaayoun, Baalbek and Nabatieh. This includes aid to 7,400 individuals in the southern and Baalbek regions over the past week, where fighting has been most intense. In parallel, with needs surpassing available resources and winter approaching, the WFP urgently requires US\$ 82.5 million by the end of the year to maintain its emergency operations in Lebanon and support over one million displaced people.



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## CARITAS LEBANON SUPPORTING 130,000 IDPS

Between the 24th September and the 10th of November 2024, Caritas Lebanon supported 132,193 displaced people with comprehensive humanitarian services. This has included the delivery of 1,477,532 hot meals, assisted by the World Food Program, as well as 3,531 hygiene kits, 13,331 blankets, 12,722 health care services, 235 psychosocial support services, 782 pieces of equipment and games for babies.

According to the Humanitarian Emergencies Lead at Caritas Australia, the need in Lebanon is vast, with hundreds of thousands of people displaced in a country that already housed a sizeable refugee population. About 80% of the population were already living in poverty before this displacement. As a result, the necessities families might need when they forcibly relocate, especially with winter setting in, are largely out of their financial reach.

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## CCIA – TRIPOLI INVITES NORTHERN INDUSTRIALISTS TO MEETING FOR ECONOMIC STIMULATION IN THE REGION

The Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in Tripoli (CCIA – Tripoli) has recently issued an invitation to all industrialists in the northern region of Lebanon to attend a meeting with the Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Industry.

According to the chamber, this meeting comes as part of its efforts to stimulate economic activity in Northern Lebanon, particularly in the industrial sector, amid a significant increase in the establishment of factories in the region. This comes as the industrial sector is considered one of the main drivers of the economy in the north and Lebanon as a whole, serving as a cornerstone of the "Tripoli: Economic Capital of Lebanon" project.

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## IRAQ EXTENDS OIL SUPPLY TO LEBANON, OFFERS GRANT AS EDL STARTS PROVIDING FUEL TO IDP SHELTERS

Lebanon's Caretaker Minister Energy and Water recently announced that confirmation was received from the Iraqi Cabinet approving the extension of Iraq's fuel oil supply agreement with Lebanon through the end of January 2025.

Additionally, according to the Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Energy and Water, Iraqi authorities informed Lebanon through the Iraqi Oil Company (SOMO) of a donation ready for Lebanon consisting of 15 million liters of gas oil, valued at US\$ 10 million with necessary arrangements to be made for its delivery.

These announcements came in parallel to a decision by the Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Energy and Water to distribute diesel fuel to refugee shelters according to the needs-based plan approved by the ministry. This plan covers diesel for heating or powering private generators used by some shelters. This comes as the ministry received updated needs data from these centers recently.

The decision came following meetings with oil companies to discuss the mechanism for acquiring the diesel. In parallel, discussions also took place with oil companies about transporting and distributing the fuel from the oil facilities to the shelters using their tankers. The companies will receive US\$ 13.6/1,000 liters for this service instead of the US\$ 17.0 cost of this amount, as a contribution from these companies to absorb part of the expenses.

According to the Lebanese Caretaker Minister of Energy and Water, 10 companies will oversee the distribution, chosen for their extensive fleet of tankers and capacity to operate across all Lebanese regions. The cabinet previously approved an advance of US\$ 11 million ensuring approximately 16 million liters of diesel, allowing distribution to continue at a rate of 1 million liters per week for 16 weeks. Additionally, Électricité du Liban (EDL) is making efforts to provide additional electricity supply to areas housing shelters, where demand on the grid has increased. The organization is also addressing technical issues hindering the use of transmission and distribution networks damaged by the conflict.



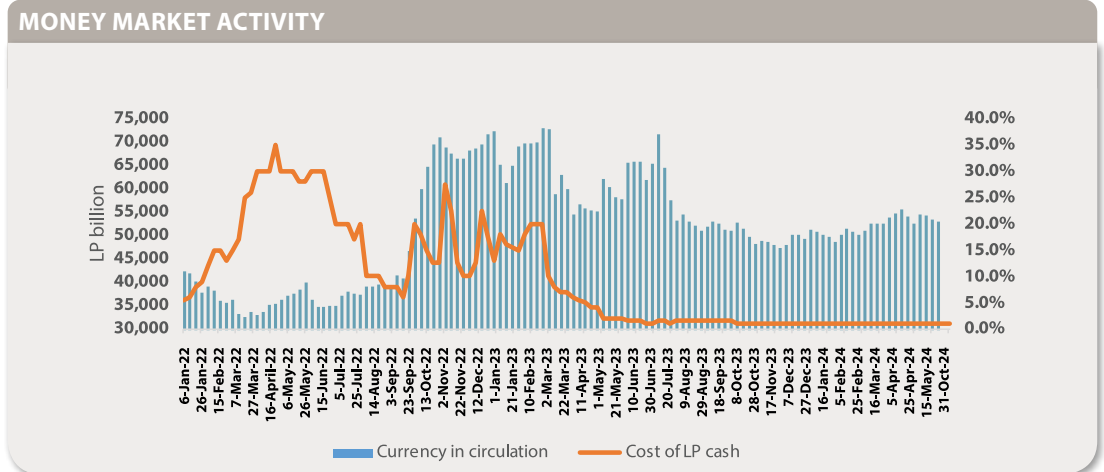
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## CAPITAL MARKETS

### MONEY MARKET: FURTHER WEEKLY CONTRACTION IN TOTAL RESIDENT BANKING DEPOSITS

The overnight rate, which is a non-cash rate, fell from 140% at the end of last week to 80% on Friday, as the local currency liquidity has relatively returned to the money market, while the cost of LP cash remained close to nil.

In parallel, the latest monetary aggregates released by the Central Bank of Lebanon for the week ending 14th of November 2024 showed that total resident banking deposits contracted further by LP 8,938 billion. This is mainly attributed to a LP 9,338 billion fall in foreign currency resident deposits (the equivalent of US\$ 104.3 million as per the official rate of LP 89,500), while total LP resident deposits increased by LP 400 billion amid a LP 583 billion drop in LP demand deposits and a LP 983 billion rise in LP saving deposits. Within this context, the money supply in its broadest sense (M4) contracted by LP 10,078 billion over the covered week amid a decrease in the currency in circulation of LP 736 billion and a retreat in the non-banking sector Treasury bills portfolio of LP 404 billion.



### FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: CURRENCY STABILITY REMAINING IN PLACE

The LP/US\$ parallel market rate, which stood firm over the two-month war period, remained quoted at 89,600-89,700 after reaching a ceasefire deal this week. This came amid bets that the end of fighting would curb FX reserves burning, after BDL's liquid foreign reserve assets contracted by US\$ 468 million between end-September 2024 and mid-November 2024 due to the Central Bank's exceptional measures related to withdrawals on circulars No. 158 and 166 during the months of October and November, and BDL's intervention on the parallel FX market to meet demand for the greenback.

Within this context, it is worth mentioning that the Lebanese Pound's exchange rate outlook depends on that the ceasefire persists in the coming period, with the launch of a widespread reconstruction effort, an end to the political deadlock, the election of a unifying President, the formation of an efficient government and the launch of long awaited reforms.

### EXCHANGE RATES

	29/11/2024	21/11/2024	29/12/2023	
LP/US\$	89,500.00	89,500.00	15,000.00	→
LP/£	113,602.00	113,012.00	19,207.50	↓
LP/¥	596.47	580.00	106.60	↓
LP/SF	101,647.00	101,244.00	17,942.58	↓
LP/Can\$	63,938.00	64,043.00	11,347.30	↑
LP/Euro	94,619.00	94,118.00	16,695.00	↓

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## STOCK MARKET: LEBANESE EQUITIES BOUNCE BACK FOLLOWING THREE CONSECUTIVE WEEKS OF PRICE CONTRACTIONS

The Beirut Stock Exchange shifted into a positive territory after three consecutive weeks of price contractions, as reflected by a 2.8% weekly rise in the price index. Six out of nine traded stocks registered price gains, while three stocks posted price falls.

A closer look at individual stocks shows that Bank Audi's GDR price climbed by 19.8% to reach US\$ 2.06, followed by BLOM Bank's GDR price with +9.9% to US\$ 4.01, Solidere "B" shares with +4.8% to US\$ 94.10, Byblos Bank's "listed" shares with +4.3% to US\$ 0.98, Solidere "A" shares with +3.8% to US\$ 93.35 and Ciments Blancs Nominal's shares with +2.9% to US\$ 36.02. In contrast, BLOM Bank's "listed" share price shed 10.0% to US\$ 6.30, followed by Bank Audi's "listed" shares with -9.6% to US\$ 1.97 and Holcim Liban's shares with -0.1% to US\$ 67.50.

As to trading volumes, the BSE total turnover more than doubled week-on-week, moving from US\$ 5.2 million last week to US\$ 10.8 million, noting that Solidere captured 91% of activity.

### AUDI INDICES FOR BSE

22/1/96=100	29/11/2024	21/11/2024	29/12/2023	
Market Cap. Index	920.63	895.59	868.20	↑
Trading Vol. Index	97.99	58.90	73.00	↑
Price Index	193.27	188.01	182.26	↑
Change %	2.80%	-0.83%	2.34%	↑

	29/11/2024	21/11/2024	29/12/2023	
Market Cap. \$m	21,841	21,247	20,597	↑
No. of shares traded (Exc. BT)	328,378	758,579	54,721	↓
Value Traded \$000 (Exc. BT)	10,836	5,211	4,855	↑
<b>o.w. : Solidere</b>	<b>9,862</b>	<b>3,589</b>	<b>4,855</b>	<b>↑</b>
Banks	436	1,566	0	↓
Others	538	56	0	↑

## BOND MARKET: LEBANESE BOND PRICES HIT NEW HIGH LEVELS AFTER CEASEFIRE DEAL

While Lebanon is opening a new chapter after reaching a ceasefire deal, sovereign bonds traded higher this week, hitting 9.350-9.950 cents per US dollar on Friday against 8.500-9.200 cents per US dollar at the end of last week.

The bond price rally is mainly explained by hopes of a post-war political breakthrough, betting that the latest developments on the domestic front could cause a measurable improvement in the country's governance with time, its willingness to implement long-overdue reforms and ultimately its ability to restructure its external debts. Besides, some investors sought to add Lebanese debt papers to their holdings to reinforce their negotiable position in the future. That being said, Lebanese sovereigns accumulated price gains of 3.35 pts since the beginning of the year 2024.

### EUROBONDS INDICATORS

	29/11/2024	21/11/2024	29/12/2023	
Total tradable size \$m	31,793	31,793	31,793	→
<b>o.w.: Sovereign bonds</b>	<b>31,314</b>	<b>31,314</b>	<b>31,314</b>	<b>→</b>
Average Life	9.350	8.500	6.000	↑
Yield on US 5-year note	4.08%	4.27%	3.83%	↓

# Bank Audi

## INTERNATIONAL MARKET INDICATORS

	29-Nov-24	22-Nov-24	31-Dec-23	Weekly change	Year-to-date change
<b>EXCHANGE RATES</b>					
YEN/\$	149.77	154.77	141.04	-3.2%	6.2%
\$/£	1.274	1.253	1.273	1.6%	0.0%
\$/Euro	1.058	1.042	1.104	1.5%	-4.2%
<b>STOCK INDICES</b>					
DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE	44,910.65	44,296.51	37,689.54	1.4%	19.2%
S&P 500	6,032.38	5,969.34	4,769.83	1.1%	26.5%
NASDAQ	19,218.17	19,003.65	15,011.35	1.1%	28.0%
CAC 40	7,235.11	7,255.01	7,543.18	-0.3%	-4.1%
Xetra Dax	19,626.45	19,322.59	16,751.64	1.6%	17.2%
FT-SE 100	8,287.30	8,262.08	7,733.24	0.3%	7.2%
NIKKEI 225	38,208.03	38,780.14	33,464.17	-1.5%	14.2%
<b>COMMODITIES (in US\$)</b>					
GOLD OUNCE	2,643.15	2,716.19	2,062.98	-2.7%	28.1%
SILVER OUNCE	30.63	31.35	23.80	-2.3%	28.7%
BRENT CRUDE (per barrel)	71.84	74.63	77.04	-3.7%	-6.7%
<b>LEADING INTEREST RATES (%)</b>					
Term SOFR 1-month	4.53	4.59	5.35	-0.06	-0.82
US Prime Rate	7.75	7.75	8.50	0.00	-0.75
US Discount Rate	4.75	4.75	5.50	0.00	-0.75
US 10-year Bond	4.17	4.33	3.88	-0.17	0.29

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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