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The LEBANON WEEKLY MONITOR

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While the Lebanese Parliament has passed a string of draft laws in two-day legislative sessions, and along successive attacks on the Central Bank governor and new circulars issued by BDL in the aim of regulating the payment of inward transfers in money transfer points and FC banking deposits' withdrawals, the country's capital markets saw this week a dramatic fall in the Lebanese pound against the US dollar, price contractions on the Eurobond market, and price gains on the equity market. In details, the Lebanese pound nosedived against the US dollar to reach a new record low level of LP 4,000/US\$, while the Central Bank of Lebanon started by setting the "market rate" at which inward transfers would be paid in money transfer points (LP 3,625/US\$ on April 24, 2020), signaling that this rate would be determined on a daily basis. On the Eurobond market, Lebanese sovereigns were given a final value of 14.125% in CDS settlement auction that was held on April 23, 2020. At the level of the equity market, the BSE price index increased by 1.2% week-on-week, driven by price gains in Solidere shares, while activity remained quite shy.

LEBANON MARKETS: WEEK OF APRIL 20 - APRIL 26, 2020

Money Market	↔
LP Tbs Market	↓
LP Exchange Market	↓

BSE Equity Market	↑
Eurobond Market	↓
CDS Market	↔

ECONOMY

A 30% DROP IN TRADE DEFICIT IN JANUARY AMID AN 18% DECLINE IN IMPORTS

The latest foreign trade statistics released by Lebanon's Customs Authority for the first month of 2020 suggest a net contraction in imports by a yearly 17.8%, alongside a 41.1% hike in exports, which led to a reduction in the trade deficit by 29.7% in January 2020 when compared to January 2019, a trend that is continuing since late November. State efforts should be further directed to stimulate domestic production at the detriment of imports through providing incentives for sectors that produce import-substitution goods and export oriented products.

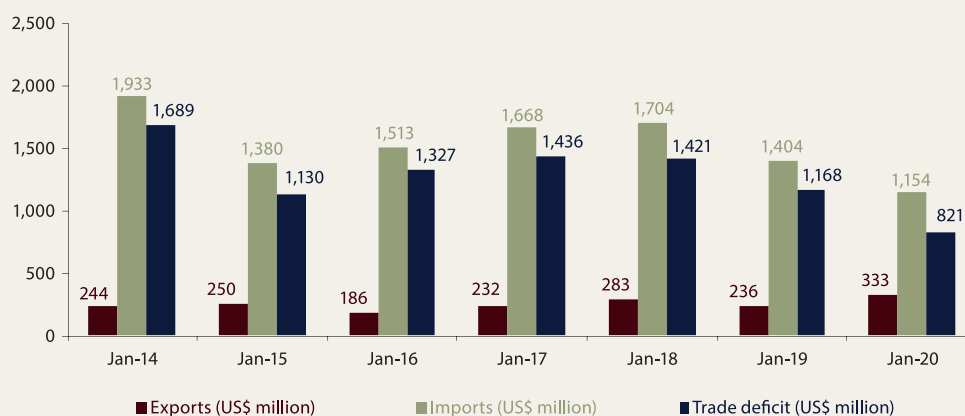
That said, the sum of exports and imports went down by a yearly 9.3% to reach US\$ 1.5 billion over the first month of the year, while the exports to imports ratio reached 28.9% over the period, a historical high level.

Going further into details, exports reached US\$ 333 million in January 2020, compared to US\$ 236 million in January 2019, to report its strongest yearly growth in almost a decade. The breakdown of exports by product shows that the main exports over the first month of the year were jewelry with 47.7% of the total (registering a hike of 101% year-on-year), followed by food products and metals with 9.0% each, chemical products with 7.2%, electrical equipments with 6.6% and vegetable products with 5.4% over the month of January 2020 when compared to the same month of 2019.

The breakdown of exports by major countries of destination suggests that Switzerland grabbed the lion's share of total exports with 39.0%, followed by UAE with 11.7%, Saudi Arabia with 6.6%, Iraq with 3.9% and Syria with 3.6%. It is worth mentioning that land exports through Syria registered a negative trend with a relative drop by 9.3%, while exports through the Hariri international Airport witnessed a hike by 78.4% and those through the port of Beirut went up by 11.0% over the same period.

In parallel, total imports reached US\$ 1.2 billion in January 2020, from US\$ 1.4 billion in January 2019. The breakdown of imports by product shows that the main imports over the first month of the year were mineral products with 39.7% of the total (registering a hike of 74% year-on-year), followed by chemical products with 10.9%, Jewelry with 7.9%, vegetable products with 6.6% and food products with 6.2% over the month of January 2020 when compared to the same month of 2019. The breakdown of imports

LEBANON'S FOREIGN TRADE ACTIVITY



Source: Lebanon's Customs Administration

by country of origin shows that 9.7% of the inward merchandise in January 2020 came from Greece, followed by Italy with 9.1% of the total, Turkey with 8.9%, USA with 6.3%, China with 5.7%, Russia with 5.6% and UAE with 5.4% of total imports over the same period.

GROSS PUBLIC DEBT AT US\$ 92.2 BILLION AT END-FEBRUARY 2020

The data published by the Ministry of Finance in Lebanon showed that the country's gross debt reached US\$ 92.2 billion at end-February 2020, up by 0.7% from the level seen at end-2019.

Domestic debt was higher by 0.5% from end-2019 to reach a total of US\$ 58.2 billion at end-February 2020.

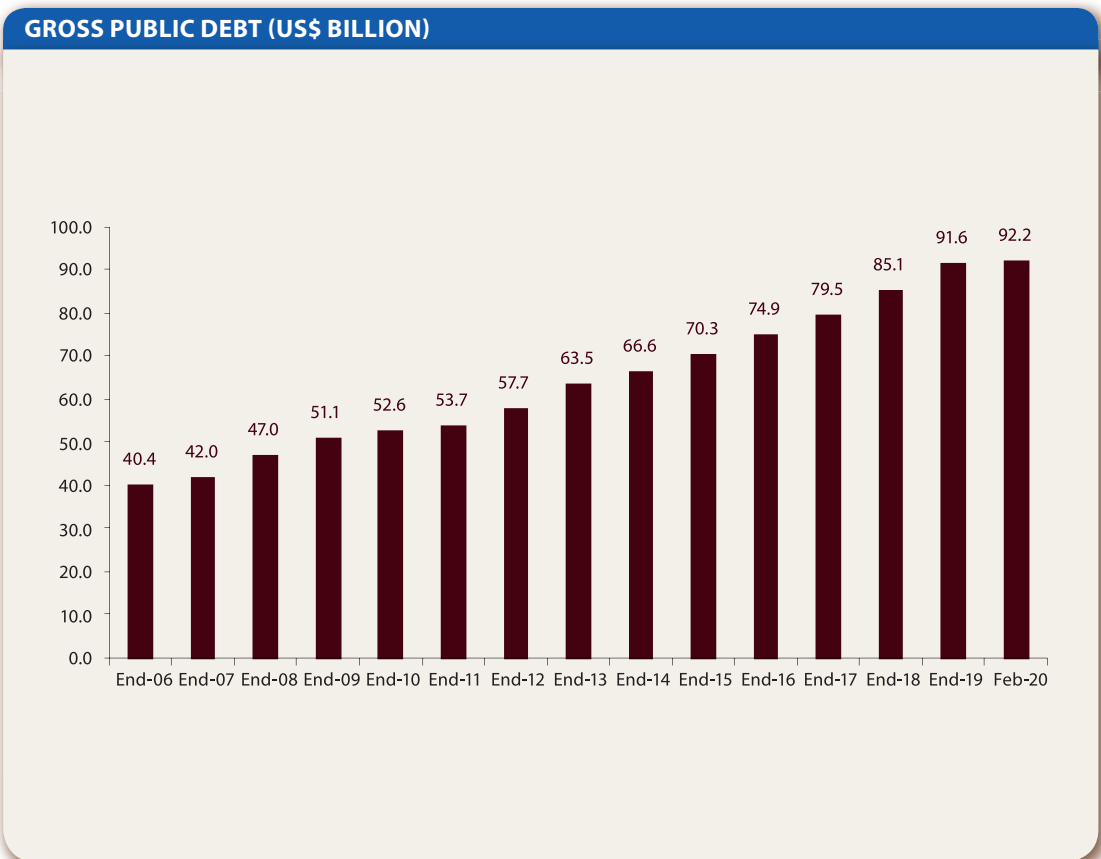
Lebanon's external debt rose by 1.0% from end-2019 to stand at around US\$ 34.1 billion at end-February 2020.

In this context, the public sector deposits at the Central Bank fell by 11.9% from end-2019 to stand at US\$ 4.8 billion at end-February 2020.

The public sector deposits at commercial banks edged down by 1.5% from end-2019 to reach US\$ 4.9 billion at end-February 2020.

As such, net public debt, which excludes the public sector deposits at the Central Bank and commercial banks from overall debt figures, increased by 1.6% from end-2019 to reach a total of US\$ 82.6 billion at end-February 2020.

Net domestic debt amounted to US\$ 48.5 billion at end-February 2020, up by 2.1% from end-2019.



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

LEBANON REGIONALLY UNCOMPETITIVE WITH REGARD TO LABOR MARKET RISKS, AS PER FITCH SOLUTIONS

According to Fitch Solutions' latest report on Lebanon's Labor Market Risk, Lebanon is regionally uncompetitive with regard to labor market risks due to a host of issues making the process of hiring and maintaining a suitable workforce difficult for investors.

Among the many key concerns are a small labor force, high employment costs, regionally low school enrolment rates, the influx of refugees, low expenditure on education and a brain drain of talented graduates.

According to the report, recruitment options are limited by very low female labor force participation, a spatial disparity in refugee camps and regulations preventing refugees from entering the labor force. The country's overall ranking is slightly uplifted by the lack of onerous regulations and low costs related to hiring and firing local workers; however, this leaves the supply chain vulnerable to legal risks as a result of widespread exploitative labor practices.

As such, Lebanon receives a middling overall score of 54.0 out of 100 in Fitch Solutions' Labor Market Risk Index.

According to the report, the cost of labor in Lebanon is regionally high and holds significant risks for Lebanese employers over the medium term. In particular, the high minimum wage and mandatory social security contributions will increase direct operational costs without providing a significant corresponding boost in productivity, given pertinent skills gaps in the market.

Additionally, due to significant domestic and regional security challenges, businesses will also have to factor in additional compensation requirements in order to attract foreign skilled workers such as private security measures as well as hardship and danger pay premiums.

In terms of labor flexibility, there are few restrictions on the hiring and firing of employees, annual paid leave days are comparatively low and there is no severance pay requirement. Though this relieves employment costs to some extent, it does not offset the high labor cost burden that firms face.

Lebanon's limited capacity to effectively integrate the large refugee and swelling youth population groups into the labor market combined with low female labor force participation rates highlight the long-term labor and social stability risks facing the country's small population, as per Fitch Solutions.

Although the availability of labor is bolstered by relatively high life expectancy and urbanization, as well as a large migrant stock, key labor market risks will likely emanate from poor skills development of disadvantaged groups, such as Syrian migrants, as per the same source.

Lebanon's good healthcare system will ensure that businesses face lower rates of absenteeism due to illness and higher productivity, particularly among skilled workers.

Nevertheless, healthcare costs remain high with the government only funding around half of the country's healthcare expenditure per capita, highlighting the risk that low-income workers will be unable to afford healthcare, increasing staff turnover and lowering productivity for this sub-group, as per the report.

SURVEYS

LEBANON TO RESET ENTIRE ECONOMIC MODEL THROUGHOUT THE 2020-2024 PERIOD, AS PER THE EIU

According to a recent note by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Lebanon is expected to reset its entire economic model throughout the 2020-2024 period.

In doing so, policy will concentrate on resolving immediate debt-sustainability difficulties, reforming the fiscal accounts and restructuring the banking sector. Because of swinging austerity and economic contraction, living standards will suffer severely in the first half of the forecast period, as per the report.

Moreover, Lebanon's economy will contract significantly in the first half of the 2020-2024 period. Global and domestic economic headwinds related to the coronavirus will compound already weak investor sentiment, meagre private and government consumption and short-term political uncertainty, as per the EIU.

Business and investment sentiment will be severely damaged, and household spending is expected to plummet. The Economist Intelligence Unit expects the political, economic and financial crises that converged at the end of the 2019 to deepen significantly in 2020, leading the economy to contract by 11.3% in 2020, followed by a 0.3% contraction in 2021.

Rising oil prices in the second half of the forecast period (averaging US\$ 62/barrel in 2022-24) would support increased Gulf investment and economic activity in Lebanon. The economy will return to modest growth in 2022-24-averaging 2.7% a year-helped by the authorities seeking to resolve financial issues and the (at least partial) unlocking of donor funds following the implementation of reforms, although this will be offset by increased fiscal restraint.

Real GDP growth will quicken to 3.1% in 2024, following the injection of donor funds and the gradual development of Lebanon's hydrocarbons sector, which will lead to higher investment and increased private-sector expenditure on infrastructure, as per the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Inflation will spike in 2020, averaging 16.8%, owing largely to an expected devaluation of the Lebanese pound, and the consequent effect on import prices. The inflation rate would be higher if it were not for the sharp fall in oil prices in March, as well as the expected deflationary effect on prices from an extremely weak demand environment in 2020. Price pressures will ease steadily in 2022-24 (although they will remain elevated), as international commodity prices normalise, tax rates are raised and private consumption growth returns.

The report also anticipates that the trade deficit would narrow in 2020 as imports become significantly cheaper amid the low oil price environment and as export competitiveness improves. The government's decision to halt debt repayments on dollar-denominated Eurobonds will also support a narrowing of the current-account deficit to a still-high 12.3% of GDP this year.

Last but not least, the tourism sector would be badly hit, at least in the first half of 2020 by reduced global travel owing to the coronavirus pandemic. The significant decline in remittances in late 2019 and the first quarter of 2020 will drive the secondary income balance into deficit in 2020, and the Economist Intelligence Unit expects the shortfall to widen gradually in 2021-24. However, these flows will be volatile, reflecting tensions with the Gulf Arab states, the impact of fluctuating oil prices on import costs and the uncertain currency situation. Overall, after the sharp fall in 2020, the current-account deficit will expand gradually in 2021-24 in line with recovering oil prices and the resumption of debt repayments.

LEBANON RANKS 9TH OUT OF 16 COUNTRIES IN ARAB MENA REGION, SAYS UN

According to the World Happiness 2020 report issued by the United Nations (UN), Lebanon ranked 9th out of 16 countries in the Arab MENA region.

The study documented an increase of happiness levels by individuals who live near green spaces or surrounded by natural trees, more than those who live far from any natural greenery. The same was also true for those who live overlooking water surfaces. As is the case for the ranking of countries in this World Happiness Report, the ranking of cities' happiness around the world relies on the Gallup World Poll, an annual survey that started in 2005 and that is conducted in more than 160 countries covering 99% of the world's population. It includes at least 1,000 observations per country per year, covering both urban and rural areas, with a tendency to oversample major cities.

The survey is nationally representative of the resident population aged 15 and above in each country. The happiness index in this year's report included 153 countries through which the happiness levels were captured by surveying citizens and residents to assess their general satisfaction with life. The report, which was first launched in 2012, saw Finland ranking first in the 2020 global index for the third year in a row but the UAE is keeping pace. It is worth noting that Denmark and Switzerland came in the second and third position globally.

Lebanon posted a score of 4.772 and it came in 9th position in the region. It was preceded by Iraq (rank:7) and Algeria (rank:8) in the region, and it was followed by Jordan (rank:10) and Palestinian Territories (rank:11), as per the report.

It is worth noting that the United Arab Emirates maintained its first place in the Arab world for the sixth consecutive year, according to the latest edition of the World Happiness Report. The country ranked in the 21st position and scored 6.791.

WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2020 RANKINGS

	Score	Global Rank
United Arab Emirates	6.791	21
Saudi Arabia	6.406	27
Bahrain	6.227	40
Kuwait	6.102	48
Libya	5.489	80
Morocco	5.095	97
Algeria	5.005	100
Iraq	4.785	110
Lebanon	4.772	111
Jordan	4.633	119
Palestinian Territories	4.553	125
Tunisia	4.392	128
Mauritania	4.375	129
Egypt	4.151	138
Yemen	3.527	146
South Sudan	2.817	152

Sources: United Nations, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

CORPORATE NEWS

CENTRAL BANK OF LEBANON'S CIRCULAR MANDATES FOREIGN CURRENCY WITHDRAWALS AT BANKS TO BE MADE IN LOCAL CURRENCY

The Central Bank of Lebanon (BdL) issued a new circular under the number 151 mandating that all withdrawals from deposits in foreign currency accounts to be converted to Lebanese pounds at market rates, conditional on the approval of the account holder.

The decision does not apply to "fresh money", which can still be withdrawn in their original foreign currency.

Excepted from this decision are accounts of less than US\$ 3,000 or LP 5,000,000 which are subject to a previous published BDL circular.

Banks are required to publish daily their market rates. The currency exchange should be carried out by the concerned banks through BDL.

CEDAR CLOSSES A US\$ 14.5 MILLION FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING PACKAGE FROM FFA PRIVATE BANK

Cedar's Premium Food and Beverage (CEDAR) closed a US\$ 14.5 million financial restructuring package from FFA Private Bank (FFA). The company manufactures several beverage products including Jalloul, Kazouza, California Garden (juice franchise), Fruit a day, and Fruity King. The funds will be used to grow the company's local and export footprint, as per the Chairman of CEDAR.

The deal consisted of a syndicated investment. It included a US\$ 3.2 million increase in capital (in Lebanese pounds) in which FFA has participated directly, a US\$ 9.5 million restructuring of the debt and a US\$ 1.8 million unsecured facility.

The debt portion carries a 4% interest rate. It allows rebalancing of maturities, a working capital financing, and a new governance structure.

An advisory team will provide support to the company over the next five years.

Cedar's Premium Food & Beverage SAL has 70 years of expertise in the beverage sector. Its owners have created several well-known brands.

The company operates an industrial facility in Zakroun, with five production lines covering three major segments of fruit juices, carbonated soft drinks and non-alcoholic malts.

THREE FIRMS HIRED BY LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO AUDIT CENTRAL BANK'S ACCOUNTS

The government hired three firms to audit the accounts of the Central Bank of Lebanon. The firms are KPMG, Kroll and Oliver Wyman.

KPMG is an international multinational professional services network, and one of the "Big Four" accounting organizations. Based in Amstelveen, the Netherlands, KPMG is a network of firms in 147 countries and has three lines of services: financial audit, tax, and advisory.

The second firm is Kroll, a corporate investigations and risk consulting firm based in New York City. It was established in 1972. It is owned by Duff & Phelps Corp., an international financial consultancy company, which itself was acquired this year by Stone Point Capital and Further Global. The company focuses on helping clients improve operations by uncovering kickbacks, fraud or other forms of corruption. Kroll's London office serves as headquarters for the Europe, Middle East & Africa region (EMEA). Their office in Dubai provides risk consultancy services to the Gulf area.

Oliver Wyman is a US-based global management consulting firm. Founded in New York City in 1984, the firm currently has more than 60 offices in Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Asia-Pacific.

BANKS AND COMPTOIRS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO IMPOSE PENALTIES FOR LATE PAYMENTS AS PER NEW LAW

The Lebanese Parliament passed a law suspending for six months the repayment of the principals and interests of loans owed by companies and people affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Lenders, which include banks and comptoirs, are not allowed to impose penalties for late payments.

According to the law, all installments of debt owed by people and companies belonging to business sectors affected by the spread of the coronavirus are to be suspended for six months starting from April.

This applies to credit facilities obtained from banks and credit companies (comptoirs). It includes principal and interest payments.

All legal, judicial, and executive procedures related to the provisions of this law are also suspended. There will be no late payment penalties, commissions or late-payment interest imposed on these loans.

The beneficiaries of this law include borrowers whose monthly income does not exceed the minimum wage or those whose income has been cut in half or less. Those who have been suspended from work partly or definitively, and consequently their income has been reduced in half or less will also benefit.

The beneficiaries also include companies operating in the tourism sector, restaurants, cafes, transportation companies, and all productive sectors directly affected by the crisis, especially small and medium enterprises.

SIX LEBANESE FIGURES LISTED ON FORBES' BILLIONAIRES LIST FOR 2020

Forbes finalized its 2020 World Billionaires list, counting 2,095 billionaires, 58 fewer than last year. Of the billionaires who remain, 51% are poorer than they were last year. In raw terms, the world's billionaires are worth US\$ 8 trillion, down US\$ 700 billion from 2019.

Arab billionaires were also not insulated from the downturn, with the number of billionaires reduced to 21, down from 24 last year, with three billionaires dropping off the list, one passing away and one making a comeback.

It is worth noting that Arab billionaires' total wealth declined 19.4% from a total of US\$ 58.7 billion to US\$ 47.3 billion, dropping by US\$ 11.4 billion—more than the wealth of the two richest people in the Arab world combined.

Egyptian Nassef Sawiris is again the world's richest Arab world, with US\$ 5 billion, a 21.9% drop from US\$ 6.4 billion last year. The Egyptian Mohammed Mansour was the year's biggest gainer in absolute terms, gaining US\$ 1 billion. His net worth grew 43.4% to US\$ 3.3 billion from US\$ 2.3 billion last year, making him the fourth richest Arab.

At the level of Lebanon, six renowned Lebanese individuals made it to Forbes' billionaires list for this year. In details, Taha Mikati emerged as the richest individual in Lebanon, with an estimated fortune of US\$ 2.2 billion, ranking 8th regionally and 945th globally, followed by Najib Mikati (US\$ 2.1 billion) who came in the 11th regional position and the 1,001st global position. Both have a background in the telecom industry.

The third is Bahaa Hariri (US\$ 2.0 billion) who came in the 12th regional position and 1,063rd global position and is concerned with real estate and investments.

Robert Mouawad came in the fourth position with US\$ 1.5 billion, 14th regional position and 1,415th global position). He comes from a background in the jewelry industry. The last two positions in Lebanon were taken by Ayman Hariri and Fahed Hariri.

CAPITAL MARKETS

MONEY MARKET: OVERNIGHT RATE REMAINS STABLE AT 3% ON AMPLE LP LIQUIDITY

With the local currency liquidity remaining quite abundant on the money market this week, the overnight rate remained stable at its low level of 3%, 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 9th of April 2020 showed that resident banking deposits contracted by LP 302 billion week-on-week. This is mainly driven by a LP 640 billion fall in total LP resident deposits amid a LP 306 billion drop in LP saving deposits and a LP 334 billion decline in LP demand deposits, while foreign currency resident deposits expanded by LP 338 billion (the equivalent of US\$ 224 billion). Within this context, the money supply in its largest sense (M4) contracted by LP 169 billion week-on-week amid a LP 363 billion growth in the currency in circulation and a LP 230 billion decrease in the non-banking sector Treasury bills portfolio.

On an annual basis, the money supply in its narrowest sense (M1) registered a significant yearly expansion of 97.5% during the week ending April 9, 2020. In parallel, LP resident saving deposits contracted by 42.6% year-on-year, while FC resident deposits recorded a shy expansion of 0.8%. Within this context, the money supply in its largest sense (M4) registered a yearly contraction of 7.3% during the covered week.

INTEREST RATES

	24/04/20	17/04/20	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: SHY NOMINAL WEEKLY DEFICIT OF LP 2 BILLION

The latest Treasury bills auction results for value date 23rd of April 2020 showed that the Central Bank of Lebanon has allowed banks to subscribe in full to the six-month category (offering a yield of 4.0%), the three-year category (offering a coupon of 5.50%) and the seven-year category (offering a coupon of 6.50%).

In parallel, the Treasury bills auction results for value date 16th of April 2020 showed that total subscriptions amounted to LP 91 billion, distributed as follows: LP 7 billion in the three-month category (offering a yield of 3.50%), LP 0.2 billion in the one-year category (offering a yield of 4.50%) and LP 84 billion in the five-year category (offering a coupon of 6.0%). These compare to maturities of LP 93 billion, resulting into a shy nominal weekly deficit of LP 2 billion.

TREASURY BILLS

	24/04/20	17/04/20	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%	↔
7-year	6.50%	-	9.00%	
Nom. Subs. (LP billion)		91	120	
Short-term (3&6 mths)		7	-	
Medium-term (1&2 yrs)		0.2	20	
Long-term (3 yrs)		-	-	
Long-term (5 yrs)		84	100	
Maturities		93	61	
Nom. Surplus/Deficit		-2	59	

Sources: Central Bank of Lebanon, Bloomberg

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: LP DIVES TO NEW LOWS AGAINST THE US DOLLAR ON THE PARALLEL MARKET

The Central Bank of Lebanon issued on April 21, 2020 the basic circular No. 151, which has allowed depositors in US dollars in Lebanese banks to withdraw their deposits in Lebanese pound at the "market exchange rate", provided that withdrawals do not exceed US\$ 5,000 per month. Also, the Central Bank of Lebanon issued on April 16, 2020 an intermediate circular No. 551 that has ordered money transfer services operating outside commercial banks to pay incoming transfers in local currency at the market exchange rate, noting that the latter would be determined on a daily basis.

At the level of the parallel market, the Lebanese pound fell dramatically against the US dollar this week, reaching a new record low level of LP 4,000/US\$, noting that the official LP/US\$ exchange rate is still quoted at LP 1,507.5/US\$.

EXCHANGE RATES

	24/04/20	17/04/20	27/12/19	
LP/US\$	1,507.50	1,507.50	1,507.50	↔
LP/£	1,856.79	1,878.35	1,970.00	↑
LP/¥	14.00	13.98	13.77	↓
LP/SF	1,542.04	1,556.53	1,543.78	↑
LP/Can\$	1,069.38	1,067.33	1,150.59	↓
LP/Euro	1,621.32	1,637.15	1,679.20	↑

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

STOCK MARKET: WEEKLY PRICE GAINS ON BSE, SUPPORTED BY SOLIDERE SHARES

Three out of 26 listed stocks were traded on the Beirut Stock Exchange this week, namely Solidere shares and Bank Audi's "listed" shares. Solidere "A" share price surged by 3.2% week-on-week to reach US\$ 10.47. Solidere "B" share price jumped by 5.3% to US\$ 10.50. Bank Audi's "listed" share price stood unchanged at US\$ 1.30. This was reflected by a 1.2% weekly rise in the BSE price index.

As to trading volumes, the BSE total turnover amounted to US\$ 3,103 thousand this week and compared to US\$ 2,808 thousand in the previous week, noting Solidere shares captured the lion's share of activity.

AUDI INDICES FOR BSE

22/1/96=100	24/04/20	17/04/20	27/12/19	
Market Cap. Index	266.97	263.81	316.37	↑
Trading Vol. Index	34.05	41.06	24.97	↓
Price Index	58.53	57.84	69.36	↑
Change %	1.20%	-0.17%	2.37%	↑
	24/04/20	17/04/20	27/12/19	
Market Cap. \$m	6,334	6,259	7,506	↑
No. of shares traded (Exc. BT)	324,793	538,358	333,997	↓
Value Traded \$000 (Exc. BT)	3,103	2,808	2,294	↑
o.w. : Solidere	3,069	1,671	2,294	↑
Banks	34	1,137	0	↓
Others	0	0	0	↔

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

BOND MARKET: LEBANESE BONDS VALUED AT 14.125% IN CDS SETTLEMENT AUCTION

Eight dealers submitted on 23 April 2020 initial markets, physical settlement requests and limit orders to the Lebanese Republic auction administered by Creditex and Markit to settle trades across the market referencing Lebanese Republic. Lebanon's bonds were given a final value of 14.125% in the auction. This means that investors holding debt protection on Lebanon would receive 86% of the amount covered by the instruments.

Under these circumstances, Lebanese sovereigns maturing between 2020 and 2037 registered weekly price contractions ranging between 1.75 pt and 4.0 pts. Within this context, prices of Lebanese Eurobonds hovered between 14.50 cents per US dollar and 15.25 cents per US dollar.

EUROBONDS INDICATORS

	24/04/20	17/04/20	27/12/19	
Total tradable size \$m	31,364	31,364	29,564	↔
o.w.: Sovereign bonds	30,114	30,114	28,314	↔
Average Yield	68%	58%	29.99%	↑
Average Life	7.68	7.70	7.50	↓
Yield on US 5-year note	0.37%	0.35%	1.71%	↑

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

INTERNATIONAL MARKET INDICATORS

	24-Apr-20	17-Apr-20	31-Dec-19	Weekly change	Year-to-date change
EXCHANGE RATES					
YEN/\$	107.50	107.54	109.61	0.0%	-1.9%
\$/£	1.237	1.250	1.275	-1.1%	-3.0%
\$/Euro	1.082	1.088	1.147	-0.5%	-5.6%
STOCK INDICES					
Dow Jones Industrial Average	23,775.27	24,242.49	28,538.44	-1.9%	-16.7%
S&P 500	2,836.74	2,874.56	3,230.78	-1.3%	-12.2%
NASDAQ	8,634.52	8,650.14	8,972.60	-0.2%	-3.8%
CAC 40	4,393.32	4,499.01	5,978.06	-2.3%	-26.5%
Xetra Dax	10,336.09	10,625.78	13,249.01	-2.7%	-22.0%
FT-SE 100	5,752.23	5,786.96	7,542.44	-0.6%	-23.7%
NIKKEI 225	19,262.00	19,897.26	23,656.62	-3.2%	-18.6%
COMMODITIES (in US\$)					
GOLD OUNCE	1,729.60	1,682.82	1,517.27	2.8%	14.0%
SILVER OUNCE	15.25	15.18	17.85	0.5%	-14.6%
BRENT CRUDE (per barrel)	21.44	28.08	66.00	-23.6%	-67.5%
LEADING INTEREST RATES (%)					
1-month Libor	0.44	0.67	1.71	-0.23	-1.27
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	0.64	1.92	-0.04	-1.32

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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