

## Economy

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#### p.2 WORLD BANK FORECASTS REAL GDP TO CONTRACT BY A FURTHER 6.5% IN 2022

A new World Bank report on Lebanon was issued this week. The report says Lebanon is almost three years into an economic and financial crisis that is among the worst the world has seen. Nominal GDP plummeted from close to US\$ 52 billion in 2019 to an estimated US\$22 billion in 2021. The crisis has also led to a triple-digit depreciation and inflation, decimating the country's gross foreign reserve base.

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## Markets In Brief

#### p.9 MARKETS IN BRIEF: LEBANON'S CAPITAL MARKETS HOLDING BREATH BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Amid fading hopes that Lebanon would be able to meet IMF's requirements before May 2022 Parliamentary elections, and following BDL's decision to extend ceiling-free US dollars purchases from the Central Bank till end-May 2022 to curb currency swings, Lebanon's capital markets saw this week marginal fluctuations in the LP/US\$ exchange rate on the parallel FX market and extended price contractions on the bond market, while the equity market posted price rebounds. In details, the LP/US\$ rate slid to LP/US\$ 26,600-LP/US\$ 26,700 on Friday after touching the LP/US\$ 28,000 level earlier this week, and compared to LP/US\$ 25,750-LP/US\$ 25,800 at the end of last week. This came within the context of extended BDL's exceptional measures for the fourth time in a row till end-May 2022, while all eyes remained focused on post-elections challenges after Lebanon failed to implement IMF's prior actions and issue needed reform laws. Concurrently, the bond market dipped further into the red, with sovereign prices reaching 11.0-11.63 cents per US dollar on Friday. Finally, the equity market bounced back this week, posting price gains of 3.1%, mainly helped by price rises in Solidere shares.

### LEBANON MARKETS: APRIL 25 - MAY 1, 2022

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

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## ECONOMY

### WORLD BANK FORECASTS REAL GDP TO CONTRACT BY A FURTHER 6.5% IN 2022

A new World Bank report on Lebanon was issued this week.

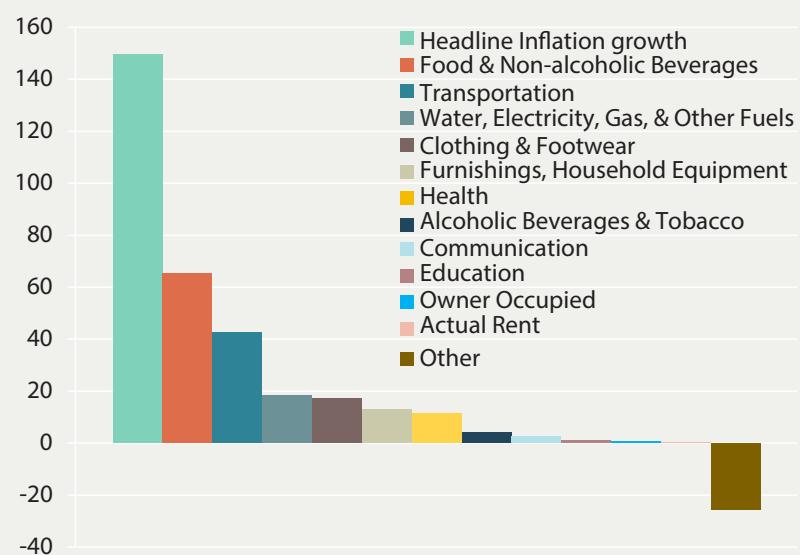
The report says Lebanon is almost three years into an economic and financial crisis that is among the worst the world has seen. Nominal GDP plummeted from close to US\$ 52 billion in 2019 to an estimated US\$22 billion in 2021. The crisis has also led to a triple-digit depreciation and inflation, decimating the country's gross foreign reserve base.

Real GDP is projected to decline by 10.5 percent in 2021, on the top of a 21.4 percent contraction in 2020. A scarce source of growth is the tourism sector, where tourist arrivals surged by 101.2 percent, from a low base, over the first seven months of 2021. Public finances improved in 2021, paradoxically, as spending collapsed faster than revenue generation. Revenues are estimated to have declined from an already low 13.1 percent of GDP in 2020 to a mere 6.3 percent of GDP in 2021—the third lowest revenue ratio worldwide in 2021, ahead of only Somalia and Yemen. The expenditure contraction was even more pronounced, shrinking by 9.2 pp to 7.3 percent of GDP in 2021. This partly reflects low interest payments due to the Eurobond default and a favorable arrangement with Banque du Liban (BdL, central bank) on domestic debt as well as drastic cutbacks in primary spending (falling by 4.3 pp of GDP over 6M-2021). As a result, the overall fiscal (primary) balance is estimated to have reached -1 percent (0.2 percent) of GDP in 2021, compared to -3.3 percent (-0.8 percent) in 2020.

Subject to extraordinarily high uncertainty, real GDP is projected to contract by a further 6.5 percent in 2022 under the assumptions of continued inadequate macro policy responses and a minimum level of stability on the political and security scenes. A runaway inflation-depreciation spiral, a plausible scenario, is not assumed. Inflation rates will remain in triple digits, subdued only by BdL's ability to control narrow money supply.

The projections come with wide confidence intervals attributed to (i) a downside risk of gross FX reserves depletion, renewed COVID-19 outbreaks, higher commodity prices, especially oil; and (ii) upside risk if Government agrees to and implements a comprehensive macroeconomic stabilization and reform program. Considering the scale and scope of Lebanon's financial and economic crisis, the negative impact of the economic consequences of the Russian invasion, war and associated sanctions is of a different magnitude. It is nonetheless large and negative as Lebanon will have to quickly tap new alternatives for its wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine to guarantee food security. Additionally, surging energy prices will further exacerbate already existing, crisis related exchange market pressures, highly elevated inflation rates, and likely reduce further the limited amount of electricity supplied by EdL.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO OVERALL INFLATION IN 2021, PERCENT



Sources: Lebanese authorities and World Bank staff calculations.

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## VALUE OF CLEARED CHECKS DOWN BY 15% IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022

Total value of cleared checks, an indicator of consumption and investment spending in the Lebanese economy, contracted by 14.7% year-on-year in the first three months of 2022 mirroring improvement in spending during the above mentioned period.

The value of cleared checks reached US\$ 8,526 million in the first three months of 2022 down from US\$ 9,997 million in same months of the previous year.

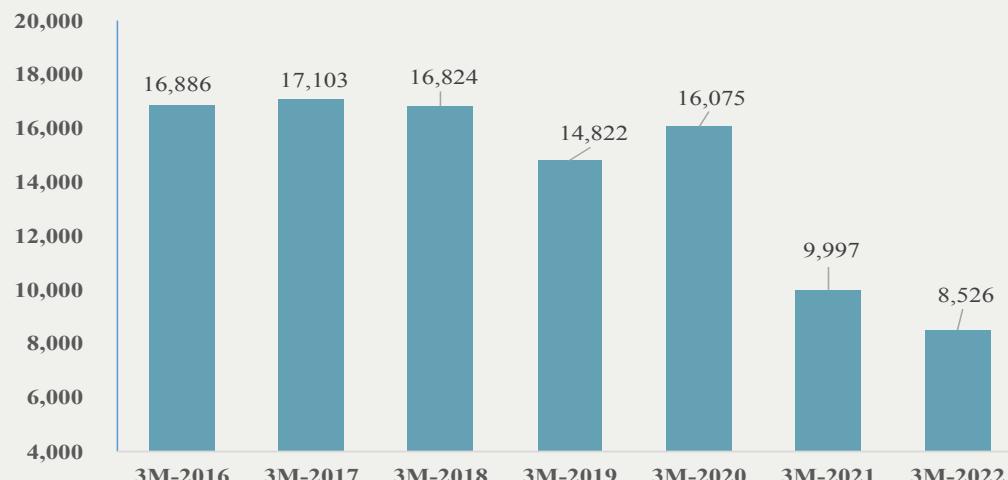
A breakdown by currency shows that the banks' clearings in Lebanese Pounds amounted to LP 8,340 billion, a 33.3% increase, in the first three months of 2022 while those in US\$ amounted to US\$ 2,994 million, retreating by 48.8%.

Moreover, the number of cleared checks registered 565,271 in the first three months of 2022, down by 38.0% from 911,875 checks in the first three months of 2021.

The average value per check rose by 37.6% year-on-year to attain at US\$ 15,084 in the first three months of 2022.

It is worth noting that the value of returned checks registered US\$ 77 million in the first three months of 2022 down by a yearly 43.7%. The number of returned checks stood at 4,156 in the first three months of 2022, down from 8,522 in the same period of 2021.

### CLEARING ACTIVITY (IN US\$ MILION)



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

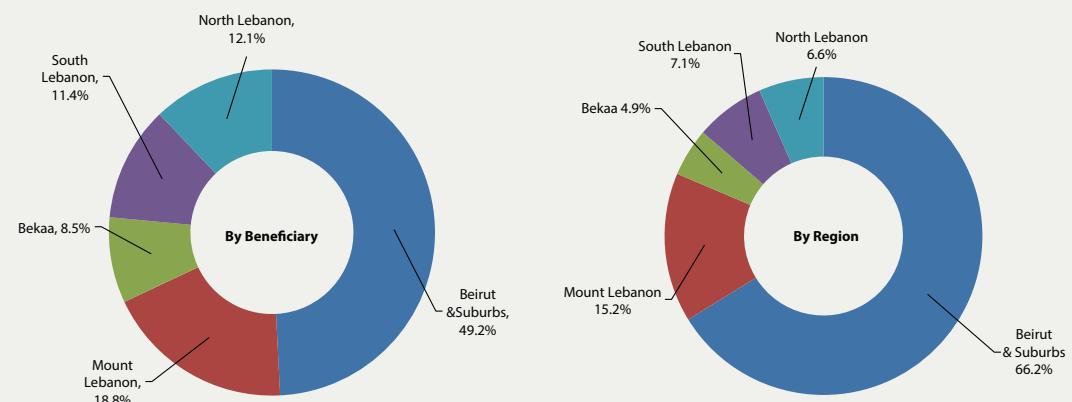
## BEIRUT ACCOUNT FOR 66% OF PRIVATE SECTOR DEPOSITS AND 49% BY BENEFICIARIES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2021

As per the Central Bank of Lebanon, the distribution of private sector deposits as at Sep-2021 on the regions' level revealed that Beirut represented the highest constitution of 66.2%, followed by Mount Lebanon with 15.2%, South Lebanon for 7.1%, North Lebanon for 6.6% and Bekaa for 4.9%.

On the beneficiary level, the distribution of private sector deposits as at Sep-2021 showed that the biggest share depositors is in Beirut and Suburbs with a constitution of 49.2%, followed by Mount Lebanon with 18.8%, North Lebanon for 12.1%, South Lebanon for 11.4% and Bekaa for 8.5%.

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## DISTRIBUTION OF PRIVATE SECTOR DEPOSITS AT SEP-2021



Sources: BDL, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

## 46% OF DIRECT UTILIZED CREDITS IS AGAINST REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE AND 51% OF IT IS ABOVE LP 10 BILLION AS AT JUN-2021

As per the Central Bank of Lebanon, total direct facilities at Sep-2021 accounted for LP 55.7 trillion in direct facilities and LP 105.9 trillion in off-balance sheet facilities.

46.1% of the total were against real estate mortgage, followed by 32.6% on clean basis, 13.3% against personal guarantees, 4.9% against cash collateral/bank guarantees, 2.5% in advances against financial values and 1.7% in advances against other real guarantees.

In parallel, indirect facilities represented 65.5% of total utilized credits at Sep-2021, down from 66.1% in Dec-2020. It is worth mentioning that endorsements and guarantees as at Sep-2021 constituted the biggest share for 95.5%, same as at Dec-2020.

It is worth highlighting that the small creditors represented the biggest share of beneficiaries utilizing direct credits between LP 5 million and LP 25 million recording 43.5% and 45.5% at Sep-2021 and Dec-2020 respectively. The distribution of utilized credits by amount reported at Sep-2021 that 51.1% were loans bigger than LP 10 billion, versus 47.5% at Dec-2020.

## DISTRIBUTION OF UTILIZED CREDITS



Sources: BDL, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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## SURVEYS

### MORE THAN 80% OF THE LEBANESE RESIDENTS DID NOT HAVE ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS, INCLUDING HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING IN 2021, ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The human rights situation in Lebanon deteriorated further in 2021. More than 80% of the country's residents did not have access to basic rights, including health, education, and an adequate standard of living, such as adequate housing and electricity, according to the United Nations. The World Bank has described Lebanon's crisis as a "deliberate depression," due to mismanagement and lack of effective policy actions, and ranked it among the top three most severe global financial crises since the mid-nineteenth century.

According to the report, the Lebanese pound has lost 90% of its value since October 2019, eroding people's ability to access basic goods, including food, water, health care and education. Fuel shortages have caused widespread electricity blackouts, lasting up to 23 hours per day, and private generators, a costly alternative, have not been able to fill the gap, leaving large portions of the country in darkness for several hours per day. Hospitals, schools and bakeries have struggled to operate amid these energy shortages.

The Lebanese government removed or decreased subsidies on fuel, wheat, medicine, and other basic goods, but it has failed to implement an adequate social protection scheme to shield vulnerable residents from the impact of steep price rises.

According to the report, following decades of government mismanagement and corruption at Beirut's port, on August 4, 2020, one of the largest non-nuclear explosions in history pulverized the port and damaged over half the city. The explosion resulted from the detonation of tons of ammonium nitrate, a combustible chemical compound commonly used in agriculture as a high nitrate fertilizer, but which can also be used to manufacture explosives. The Beirut port explosion killed at least 219 people, wounded 7,000 people, and left hundreds with permanent disabilities.

Human Rights Watch has also documented a range of procedural and systemic flaws in the domestic investigation that render it incapable of credibly delivering justice, including flagrant political interference, immunity for high-level political officials, lack of respect for fair trial standards, and due process violations.

Families of the victims and local and international rights groups have called for a Human Rights Council-mandated international, independent investigation, into the Beirut Blast.

In December 2020, the World Bank, United Nations, and European Union announced an innovative model for disbursing aid to Lebanon in the aftermath of the Beirut Blast, the Reform, Recovery, and Reconstruction Framework (3RF), that aims to disburse funds directly to nongovernmental groups and businesses.

Lebanon's financial and economic crisis is caused by the Lebanese authorities' "deliberately inadequate policy responses," according to the World Bank.

Between June 2019 and June 2021, the inflation rate was 281%. Food prices alone increased by 550% between August 2020 and August 2021. Meanwhile, the national currency lost 90% of its pre-crisis value, and banks continue to impose arbitrary restrictions on cash withdrawals.

The impacts of the crisis on residents' rights have been catastrophic and unprecedented. The UN estimates that by March 2021, 78% of Lebanon's population was in poverty—triple the estimated number in 2020. 36% of the population live in extreme poverty—up from 8% in 2019 and 23% in 2020.

The Lebanese government provided almost no support to families struggling to cope with the economic crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, fumbling a World Bank loan intended to provide emergency relief to vulnerable Lebanese and repeatedly delaying a ration card program to help families cope with the lifting of subsidies.

The economic crisis has had a devastating impact on the healthcare sector. Medicines and medical supplies, most of which are imported, are in short supply, leading to several deaths due to lack of medication and threatening the lives of patients with illnesses, such as cancer. The fuel and electricity shortages in the country have pushed hospitals to "imminent disaster," with hospitals permanently closing or warning that they will be forced to cease their operations, threatening the lives of hundreds.

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The value of nurses and doctors' salaries has declined rapidly, triggering a mass exodus, placing a heavy burden on the remaining workforce. The COVID-19 pandemic also placed an additional strain on a healthcare sector already in crisis. Lebanese authorities have shown a callous disregard for the protection of healthcare workers at the front lines of the pandemic.

Despite the enormous pressures facing hospitals, the government is not disbursing billions of dollars that it owes them, as per the same source.

According to the report, women continue to face discrimination under 15 distinct religion-based personal status laws. Discrimination includes inequality in access to divorce, child custody, and inheritance, and property rights. Unlike men, Lebanese women cannot pass on their nationality to foreign husbands and children.

An estimated 250,000 migrant domestic workers, primarily from Ethiopia, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, are excluded from Lebanon's labor law protections, and their status in the country is regulated by the restrictive kafala (sponsorship) system, which ties migrant workers' legal residency to their employer.

Lebanon hosts nearly 900,000 registered Syrian refugees, and the government estimates another 500,000 live in the country informally. Only 20% of Syrian refugees have legal residency, making most of them vulnerable to harassment, arrest, detention and deportation.

The government continues to pursue policies designed to coerce Syrian refugees to leave, and the acute economic crisis and staggering inflation have made it exceedingly difficult for refugees to afford the most basic necessities, 90% of Syrian families in Lebanon live in extreme poverty, relying on increasing levels of debt to survive.

Many Lebanese and nearly all Syrian refugee children received no meaningful education as the government closed schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic without ensuring access to distance learning. Children with disabilities were particularly hard hit, as they could not access remote education on an equal basis with others amid a lack of government support.

The authorities' planning failures delayed the start of the 2021-2022 school year to October 11 and led to concerns public schools would not remain open.

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## AMID RISING GLOBAL COMMODITY PRICES, LEBANON EXPERIENCED DRAMATIC GRAIN SHORTAGE, AS PER CRISIS GROUP

According to a recent briefing by Crisis Group, grain shortage triggered bread crisis in Lebanon. In April, government struck preliminary deal with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and ambassadors of Gulf countries returned after October 2021 diplomatic spat.

Amid rising global commodity prices, country mid-April experienced dramatic grain shortage triggered by Central Bank refusal to continue previous policy of providing importers with US dollars at highly subsidized exchange rate, Central Bank reportedly requested government to sign formal loan agreement that would guarantee repayment of any amount disbursed for this purpose.

Lebanese lira continued to decline in value, reports indicated long queues to get bread across country as many bakeries were forced to shut down. Government and IMF signed "Staff Level Agreement" for institution to provide US\$ 3 billion over period of four years, deal comes with stringent conditions and seen as trial that could lead to release of additional funding, particularly some US\$ 11 billion pledged at 2018 donor conference, observers during month expressed concern about deal being used by government as electoral ploy ahead of polls in May. Following diplomatic dispute that surfaced in October 2021, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and internationally recognized government returned ambassadors to capital Beirut.

Furthermore, boat licensed for 12 passengers carrying at least 60 irregular migrants that was headed to Italy 23 April capsized off coast near Tripoli city after attempted interception by Lebanese Navy, total number of dead unknown while 45 were rescued.

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## CORPORATE NEWS

### CEDAR OXYGEN ALLOCATES US\$ 100 MILLION FOR ECONOMIC REINVIGORATE IN LEBANON

Lebanese-founded, Paris-based, Cedar Oxygen Fund, aims to revive the Lebanese industrial sector by injecting US\$ 100 million as fresh funds into impoverished businesses in forms of long-term credit loans.

Interested candidates are requested to fill out their respective paperwork and applications before being assessed by the Cedar Oxygen Committee. Currently, the second phase reported 55 potential borrowers, as mentioned in a statement.

Cedar Oxygen's Credit Committee, comprising from internal and external financial experts, was able to address the requests of more than 80 Lebanese companies and approve 39 private Lebanese borrowers amounting to US\$ 59 million during the last 12 months only, as mentioned in a statement.

In addition to the investors in the fund, the Central Bank of Lebanon (BDL) was the first entity to grant in the fund, as mentioned by Cedar Oxygen.

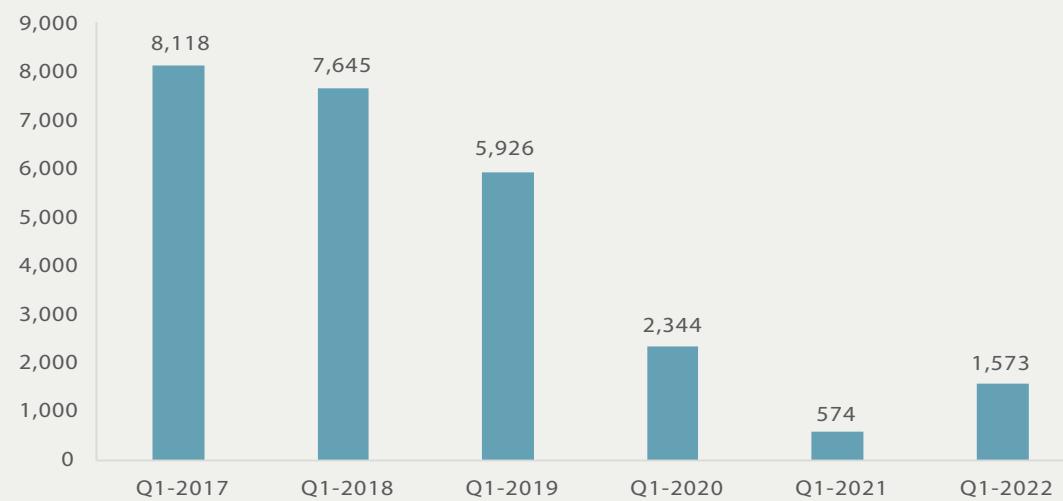
### A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NEW CARS REGISTERED IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2022

According to data compiled by the Association of Car Importers in Lebanon, the number of newly registered passenger cars stood at 1,573 during the first three months of 2022, recording a 174% spike with respect to 574 cars in the first three months of 2021, during which it had witnessed a country-wide lockdown.

It is worth mentioning that the newly registered cars in the first three months of 2020 and 2019 reached 2,344 cars and 5,926 cars respectively.

According to a recent statement, the registrations activity exacerbated in the last two years due to the serious deterioration in the financial, economic and political situation, to the closure of companies and Registration Center (TMO) during the past few months due to the lack of electricity and to the slump in Lebanese Pounds.

NUMBER OF NEWLY REGISTERED CARS



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

### PEPSICO LAUNCHED SHARETHEMEAL CHALLENGE TO PROVIDE 1 MILLION MEALS IN LEBANON

PepsiCo Foundation announced donating US\$ 310,000 to the World Food Program (WFP) for providing half a million meals to the neediest families in Lebanon, as mentioned in a statement.

The ShareTheMeal challenge aims to reach one million meals, supporting WFP to continue its vital work by providing food assistance in Lebanon.

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This initiative marks the next milestone on PepsiCo's mission to reinforce food security across the region, said PepsiCo Foundation in a statement.

## STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM TO SUPPORT LEBANESE ENTERPRISES

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Trade and Investment Facilitation (TIF) project, launched Lebanon's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Stewardship Program that aims to support more than 100 Lebanese corporations and small and medium enterprises during an event held at Sursock Museum in Beirut.

The ESG program is one of the first in the MENA region. The Lebanon ESG Stewardship Program will support more than 100 Lebanese corporations and small enterprises to adopt internationally recognized Environmental, Social, and Governance practices, as mentioned in a statement.

USAID is committed to facilitate investments in Lebanese businesses because of their ability to enhance Lebanon's economic prosperity, the USAID Lebanon Mission Director said in a statement.

By helping Lebanese businesses adhere to ESG standards, USAID is helping local corporates to better position themselves to attract funding and investment, the USAID Lebanon Mission Director added in a statement.

Moreover, USAID's TIF project aims to support Lebanon's economy by facilitating trade and investments, as well as creating jobs to increase the income of the Lebanese people. The TIF program also aims to increase the exports of Lebanese goods and services.

## YOUNG LEBANESE ENTREPRENEURS INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE ARLEM AWARD

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) announced the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the ARLEM Award for Young Local Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean. The application deadline is on August 15, 2022, while the winner will be announced on November 28, 2022, as mentioned in a statement.

The ARLEM Award aims to feature entrepreneurial enterprises boosting local communities in the Southern Mediterranean. It will be granted to a young entrepreneur, whose company is already registered for at least 3 years.

Many local young entrepreneurs opened businesses and initiated startups during the worldwide pandemic that affected Lebanon and the Mediterranean region, and they need support in developing them.

ARLEM, or the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly, is a convention established in 2010 by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and is represented by Mediterranean partners and local and regional delegates from the European Union.

## SAYRAFA TRANSACTED A DAILY AVERAGE OF US\$ 72 MILLION LAST WEEK

The daily average volume of transactions on Sayrafa foreign exchange platform during the 48<sup>th</sup> week was US\$ 72.0 million, compared to previous week's daily average transacted volume of US\$ 50.8 million (against a cumulative daily average volume since the launch of Sayrafa of US\$ 22.1 million).

The daily average conversion rate for week 48 is LP 22,675 when compared to daily average conversion rate of previous week of LP 22,917 and the cumulative daily average conversion rate since the launch of Sayrafa of LP 19,433.

The Central Bank (BDL) announced that the conversion rate at end of week 48 was LP 22,600, while the conversion rate reported by end of week 47 was LP 23,000.

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## CAPITAL MARKETS

### MONEY MARKET: COST OF LP CASH QUOTED ABOVE 30% ON SEVERE SHORTAGE IN LP LIQUIDITY

The cost of LP cash remained quoted above 30% this week, as the money market continued to suffer from a severe shortage in local currency liquidity that was mainly fueled by BDL's exceptional measures.

In parallel, the latest monetary aggregates released by the Central Bank of Lebanon for the week ending 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 showed contractions in total resident banking deposits of LP 569 billion. This is mainly attributed to a LP 340 billion fall in total LP resident deposits amid a LP 300 billion decrease in LP demand deposits and a LP 40 billion retreat in LP saving deposits, while foreign currency resident deposits declined by LP 229 billion (the equivalent of US\$ 152 million at the official rate of LP 1,507.5). Yet, the money supply in its broadest sense (M4) expanded by LP 870 billion over the covered week amid a significant rise in the money in circulation of LP 1,483 billion and a LP 43 billion contraction in the non-banking sector Treasury bills portfolio.

#### INTEREST RATES

	29/04/2022	22/04/2022	30/12/2021	
Overnight rate (official)	1.90%	1.90%	1.90%	↔
7 days rate	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	↔
1 month rate	2.75%	2.75%	2.75%	↔
45-day CDs	2.90%	2.90%	2.90%	↔
60-day CDs	3.08%	3.08%	3.08%	↔

Source: Bloomberg

### TREASURY BILLS MARKET: NOMINAL WEEKLY SURPLUS OF LP 138 BILLION

The latest Treasury bills auction results for value date 28th of April 2022 showed subscriptions 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 21st of April 2022 showed that total subscriptions amounted to LP 291 billion, fully allocated to the Central Bank of Lebanon and distributed as follows: LP 90 billion in the six-month category (offering a yield of 4.0%) and LP 201 billion in the three-year category (offering a yield of 5.50%). These compare to maturities of LP 153 billion, resulting into a nominal weekly surplus of LP 138 billion.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET: MARGINAL FLUCTUATIONS IN LP/US\$ EXCHANGE RATE THIS WEEK

As hopes faded regarding Lebanon's ability to implement IMF's prior actions and enact needed reform laws before May 15 Parliamentary elections, and following BDL's decision to extend the basic circular No.161 and its exceptional measures allowing ceiling-free US dollars purchases from the Central Bank of Lebanon till end-May 2022, the LP/US\$ exchange rate slid to LP/US\$ 26,600-LP/US\$ 26,700 on Friday after touching the LP/US\$ 28,000 level earlier this week, compared to LP/US\$ 25,750-LP/US\$ 25,800 at the end of last week.

Concurrently, the Central Bank of Lebanon announced this week that FX operations on the "Sayrafa" platform were executed at an average rate of LP/US\$ 22,600 to LP/US\$ 22,900 between April 26, 2022 and April 29, 2022.

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## TREASURY BILLS

	29/04/2022	22/04/2022	30/12/2021	
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%	
<b>Nom. Subs. (LP billion)</b>	<b>291</b>		<b>246</b>	
Short-term (3&6 mths)	90		-	
Medium-term (1&2 yrs)	-		-	
Long-term (3 yrs)	201		200	
Long-term (5 yrs)	-		-	
Long-term (7 yrs)	-		46	
<b>Maturities</b>	<b>153</b>		<b>13</b>	
<b>Nom. Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>138</b>		<b>233</b>	

Sources: Central Bank of Lebanon, Ministry of Finance

## STOCK MARKET: WEEKLY EQUITY PRICE REBOUNDS, SUPPORTED BY PRICE GAINS IN SOLIDERE SHARES

The Beirut Stock Exchange rebounded this week, as reflected by a 3.1% rise in the price index, following two consecutive weeks of price falls. This was driven by price gains in Solidere shares amid the investor tendency to avoid haircuts on their financial placements and hedge against currency losses on the black FX market. Two out of six traded stocks posted price gains, while three stocks registered price declines and one stock saw no price change this week.

A closer look at individual stocks shows that Solidere "A" and "B" share prices surged by 6.4% and 3.6% respectively to close at US\$ 36.80 and US\$ 36.25 respectively. In contrast, BLOM's "listed" share price shed 5.5% to US\$ 2.93, followed by Bank Audi's GDRs with -4.0% to US\$ 1.70 and Bank Audi's "listed" shares with -1.2% to US\$ 1.68. BLOM's "listed" share price stood unchanged at US\$ 2.85.

As to trading volumes, the BSE total turnover expanded by 36.6% week-on-week, moving from US\$ 7.5 million last week to US\$ 10.3 million, noting that Solidere shares captured 87.2% of activity, while the banking shares accounted for the remaining 12.8%.

## EXCHANGE RATES

	29/04/2022	22/04/2022	30/12/2021	
LP/US\$	1,507.50	1,507.50	1,507.50	↔
LP/£	1,892.36	1,968.95	2,022.91	↑
LP/¥	11.58	11.76	13.11	↑
LP/SF	1,556.37	1,589.35	1,639.48	↑
LP/Can\$	1,182.35	1,208.90	1,175.53	↑
LP/Euro	1,593.13	1,645.74	1,701.52	↑

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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## AUDI INDICES FOR BSE

	29/04/2022	22/04/2022	30/12/2021	
Market Cap. Index	460.57	446.93	447.87	↑
Trading Vol. Index	116.52	113.78	80.38	↑
Price Index	96.69	93.82	94.02	↑
Change %	3.05%	-0.18%	4.13%	↑
	29/04/2022	22/04/2022	30/12/2021	
Market Cap. \$m	10,927	10,603	10,625	↑
No. of shares traded (Exc. BT)	979,541	522,486	171,230	↑
Value Traded \$000 (Exc. BT)	10,291	7,536	5,359	↑
o.w.: Solidere	8,974	6,625	4,614	↑
Banks	1,317	754	732	↑
Others	0	157	13	↓

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

## BOND MARKET: LEBANESE BOND MARKET DIPS FURTHER IN RED

Amid fading hopes that Lebanon would be able to meet IMF requirements before May 2022 Parliamentary elections and given the tough task of implementing much-needed economic reforms, Lebanese Eurobonds prices continued to fall without finding a floor.

In details, Lebanese sovereigns maturing between 2020 and 2037 registered price contractions of 0.25 pt to 1.0 pt week-on-week. This brought bond prices to a range of 11.0-11.63 cents per US dollar on Friday as compared to 11.50-12.38 cents at the end of last week. On a cumulative basis, Lebanese Eurobonds maturing between 2020 and 2037 posted price gains of 1.0 pt to 1.50 pt since the beginning of the year 2022

## EUROBONDS INDICATORS

	29/04/2022	22/04/2022	30/12/2021	
Total tradable size \$m	32,364	32,364	32,364	↔
o.w.: Sovereign bonds	31,314	31,314	31,314	↔
Bid price (cents per US dollar)	11.00-11.63	11.50-12.38	9.88-10.63	↓
Average Life	5.90	5.91	6.18	↓
Yield on US 5-year note	2.96%	2.86%	1.26%	↑

Source: Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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## INTERNATIONAL MARKET INDICATORS

	29-Apr-22	22-Apr-22	31-Dec-21	Weekly change	Year-to-date change
<b>EXCHANGE RATES</b>					
YEN/\$	129.77	128.52	115.11	1.0%	12.7%
\$/£	1.257	1.284	1.353	-2.1%	-7.1%
\$/Euro	1.055	1.079	1.137	-2.3%	-7.3%
<b>STOCK INDICES</b>					
DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE	32,977.21	33,811.40	36,338.30	-2.5%	-9.2%
S&P 500	4,131.93	4,271.78	4,766.18	-3.3%	-13.3%
NASDAQ	12,334.64	12,839.29	15,644.97	-3.9%	-21.2%
CAC 40	6,533.77	6,581.42	7,153.03	-0.7%	-8.7%
Xetra Dax	14,097.88	14,142.09	15,884.86	-0.3%	-11.2%
FT-SE 100	7,544.55	7,521.68	7,384.54	0.3%	2.2%
NIKKEI 225	26,847.90	27,105.26	28,791.71	-0.9%	-6.8%
<b>COMMODITIES (in US\$)</b>					
GOLD OUNCE	1,896.93	1,931.60	1,829.20	-1.8%	3.7%
SILVER OUNCE	22.78	24.14	23.31	-5.7%	-2.3%
BRENT CRUDE (per barrel)	107.14	106.65	77.78	0.5%	37.7%
<b>LEADING INTEREST RATES (%)</b>					
1-month Libor	0.80	0.70	0.10	0.10	0.70
US Prime Rate	3.50	3.50	3.25	0.00	0.25
US Discount Rate	0.50	0.50	0.25	0.00	0.25
US 10-year Bond	2.93	2.90	1.51	0.03	1.42

Sources: Bloomberg, Bank Audi's Group Research Department

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