

Republic of Lebanon
Ministry of Finance

Fiscal Performance Report for April 2001

Overall fiscal performance - budgetary and treasury operations

Total expenditures (budgetary and treasury) for the period January- April 2001 amounted to LL 2,346 billion compared to LL 2,983 billion for the same period last year, indicating a decrease of LL 637 billion. The total deficit for the period January- April 2001 amounted to LL 954 billion, equivalent to 40.68% of total expenditures, compared to a deficit of LL 1,584 billion or 53.10% of total expenditures for the same period last year representing an decrease of LL 630 billion.

Budget operations

The budget deficit for the period January – April 2001 amounted to LL 758 billion, equivalent to 31.27 % of budget expenditures compared to a budget deficit of LL 1,047 billion, equivalent to 44.87 % of budget expenditures in the same period last year. A primary surplus of LL 647 billion was attained during the period January – April 2001 compared to LL 321 billion in the same period last year.

In addition to the improvement in the deficit, budget revenues also increased during the period January - April 2001 to reach LL 1,312 billion compared to LL 1,287 billion for the same period last year, representing an increase of LL 25 billion. It is also worth mentioning that out of total budget revenues for this period, customs revenues amounted to LL 489 billion compared to LL 558 billion for the same period last year (a decrease of LL 69 billion), despite the decreases in the custom tariffs, thus indicating growth in external trade activity (volume of imports grew by 18% during the first four months of 2001 over the same period in 2000).

Treasury operations

The deficit resulting from treasury operations for the period January- April 2001 amounted to LL 196 billion, equivalent to 71.05% of treasury expenditures, compared to a deficit of LL 536 billion or 82.73% of treasury expenditures for the same period last year.

Note:

Budget revenues and expenditures are not equally distributed among the months of the year. Therefore, upon the execution of the budget, revenue and expenditure figures from both the budget

and treasury accounts will differ among the months of the year and with it the deficit ratio and amount.

Summary of Fiscal Performance April 2000-2001

(In million of L.L.)

	Apr-00	Apr-01	Jan-Apr 00	Jan-Apr 01	Change	% Change
1. Budget Transactions						
1.1 Revenues	345,474	271,358	1,286,861	1,311,542	24,681	1.92%
1.1.1 Tax Revenues	218,212	190,872	900,448	810,136	-90,312	-10.03%
<i>of which customs revenues*</i>	135,735	127,370	558,075	489,103	-68,972	-12.36%
1.1.2 Non-Tax Revenues	127,262	80,486	386,413	501,406	114,993	29.76%
1.2 Expenditures	807,753	583,643	2,334,116	2,069,456	-264,660	-11.34%
1.2.1 Expenditures excluding debt service	281,567	103,519	966,164	664,327	-301,837	-31.24%
1.2.2 Debt Service	526,186	480,124	1,367,952	1,405,129	37,177	2.72%
1.2.1.1 Domestic Debt	390,485	294,800	1,122,007	1,080,497	-41,510	-3.70%
1.2.1.2 Foreign Debt	135,701	185,324	245,945	324,632	78,687	31.99%
Budget Total Deficit/Surplus	-462,279	-312,285	-1,047,255	-757,914	289,341	
In % of total budget expenditures	-57.23%	-53.51%	-44.87%	-36.62%		
Budget Primary Deficit/Surplus	63,907	167,839	320,697	647,215	326,518	
In % of total budget expenditures	7.91%	28.76%	13.74%	31.27%		
2. Treasury Transactions						
2.1 Receipts	30,752	21,072	112,021	79,993	-32,028	
2.1.1 Trust accounts / guarantees	9,763	4,047	32,974	22,049	-10,925	
2.1.2 Municipalities	11,869	9,991	52,841	38,859	-13,982	
2.1.3 Deposits	1,305	1,152	4,134	4,618	484	
2.1.4 Other	7,815	5,882	22,072	14,467	-7,605	
2.2 Payments	51,561	25,660	648,473	276,294	-372,179	
2.2.1 Trust accounts/Guarantees	5,028	17,778	20,713	118,868	98,155	
2.2.2 Municipalities	12,438	1,039	52,523	8,849	-43,674	
2.2.3 Deposits	4,864	5,504	22,808	27,759	4,951	
2.2.4 Expenditures from previous years appropriations	1,575	317	205,975	50,630	-155,345	
2.2.5 Expenditures from previous years/Guarantees	21,344	237	237,225	35,527	-201,698	
2.2.6 Other	6,312	785	109,229	34,661	-74,568	
Total Treasury Deficit/Surplus	-20,809	-4,588	-536,452	-196,301	340,151	
In % of total treasury expenditure	-40.36%	-17.88%	-82.73%	-71.05%		
3. Total Budget and Treasury Receipts	376,226	292,430	1,398,882	1,391,535	-7,347	-0.53%
4. Total Cash Budget and Treasury Payments	859,314	609,303	2,982,589	2,345,750	-636,839	-21.35%
5. Total Cash Deficit/Surplus	-483,088	-316,873	-1,583,707	-954,215	629,492	
In % of Total Expenditures	-56.22%	-52.01%	-53.10%	-40.68%		

* Receipts from excise taxes are included within customs revenues for comparative reasons