

Public Finance Monitor The Monthly Statistical Bulletin of the Ministry of Finance August 2008

Fiscal Overview

For the period of January-August 2008, the **total fiscal balance** registered a deficit of LL 2,550 billion compared to a deficit of 2,327 billion for the same period of 2007, resulting from an increase in total payments by LL 1,019 billion, offsetting the increase in total receipts by LL 795 billion.

Meanwhile, the **primary balance** of this period registered a surplus of LL 848 billion, scoring an increase of LL 31 billion when compared to the surplus of LL 817 billion realized in the same period of last year, thereby continuing the same trend witnessed during the first half of 2008.

Till the end of August 2008, total revenues increased by 13 percent due to the increase of tax revenues and treasury receipts by LL 920 billion and LL 77 billion respectively. In fact, most of the taxes registered an improvement in collection for the period January-August 2008 when compared to the same period of last year; mainly on account of (i) 35 percent higher **income tax on profits** reflecting an increase in the profits made by the companies that filed their tax returns, as well as (ii) 71 percent increase in property registration fees, and (iii) 27 percent rise in VAT receipts. On the international trade front, collection of import duties increased by LL 62 billion. At the same time, excise revenues were down by 2 percent mainly due to the absence of collection of excise duties on fuel which offset the 76 percent rise in revenues from excises on cars (LL 131 billion additional receipt). On the other hand, non-tax revenues, witnessed a nearly 12 percent drop in receipts by the end of August 2008, explained by the absence of transfer from the **Budget Surplus of the Telecom** during the month of August 2008, the absence of transfer from the National Lottery for 7 months in 2008, and zero transfer from the Port of Beirut, which more than offset the 193 percent rise in Casino receipts¹. By the end of August 2008, Treasury receipts were LL 77 billion higher than the same period of 2007, explained by 26 percent higher revenues from the Independent Municipal Fund, and an amount of LL 53 billion of wheat subsidy refund.

During the period of January-August 2008, **total expenditures** increased by LL 1,019 billion. This rise resulted from increases in current primary expenditures by 5 percent, interest payments by 4 percent, foreign debt principal repayment by 105 percent and treasury expenditures by 44 percent offsetting the decline in capital expenditures by 16 percent. **Current primary expenditures** increased by LL 147 billion mainly due to (a) a LL 16 billion increase in salaries, wages and related items resulting from higher health allowances, school allowances and transfers to civil servants cooperatives by LL 53 billion, LL 17 billion and LL 4 billion respectively which offset the LL 69 billion

¹ For further clarification, kindly refer to previously published Public Finance Monitor reports.



decrease in basic salaries due to the bonus salary paid to the armed forces in 2007, (b) a LL 99 billion increase in retirement and end of service compensations mainly due to the resuming of end of service payments to the military after the temporary halt that followed the Nahr el Bared events, (c) a LL 129 billion treasury advance to the General Directorate of Cereals and Sugar to subsidize wheat and maintain the price of 1.12 kg of bread capped at LL 1,500, and (d) a LL 62 billion increase in hospitalization bills which offset the LL 180 billion lower transfers to NSSF. **Interest payments** were up by LL 131 billion of which LL 136 billion were due to higher payments on domestic debt offsetting the decrease of LL 6 billion in foreign debt; also foreign debt principal payment increased by LL 124 billion². The increase in **treasury expenditures** by LL 675 billion is mostly due to higher payments to/on behalf of EDL by LL 465 billion as well as additional payments to municipalities by LL 83 billion, diesel oil subsidy by LL 19 billion and VAT refunds by LL 62 billion.

By the end of August 2008, gross public debt reached LL 68,423 billion, registering an increase of LL 5,059 billion (7.98 percent) since the end-December 2007 debt level. As in previous months, most of this increase came from commercial banks increasing their LL Treasury Bills portfolio by LL 5,125 billion compared to December 2007, as well as the increase of the public sector deposits of LL 2,550 billion offsetting the decrease of the BDL portfolio and Paris II related debt (Eurobonds and loans) by LL 746 billion and LL 320 billion respectively. Exchange rate valuation changes account for 2.29 percent of the increase in gross public debt between August 2008 and December 2007.

Table 1. Summary of Fiscal Performance

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
				Jan-		
	August	August	August	Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
Total Budget and Treasury Receipts	344	632	647	5,054	5,981	6,776
Total Budget and Treasury Payments, of which:	1,168	1,039	1,019	7,339	8,308	9,327
Interest Payments	351	366	314	2,678	3,026	3,156
Concessional Loans Principal Payments 1/	13	11	17	105	118	242
Primary Expenditures 2/	804	662	687	4,556	5,164	5,928
Total Cash Deficit/Surplus	-824	-407	-372	-2,285	-2,327	-2,550
Primary Deficit/Surplus	-461	-30	-40	498	817	848

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)

² For more information please refer to PFM July 2008



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^{1/} Includes only Principal repayments of concessional loans earmarked for project financing

^{2/} Primary expenditures exclude debt related payments (Interest payments and Concessional loans principal repayment)

Section 2: Revenue Outcome

Table 2. Total Revenue

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	August	August	August	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
Budget Revenues, of						
which:	331	605	597	4,738	5,512	6,230
Tax Revenues	136	361	540	3,359	3,808	4,728
Non-Tax Revenues	195	244	57	1,379	1,704	1,502
Treasury Receipts	13	27	50	316	470	546
Total Revenues	344	632	647	5,054	5,981	6,776

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)

Table 3. Tax Revenue

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	August	August	August	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
Tax Revenues:	136	361	540	3,359	3,808	4,728
Taxes on Income, Profits, & Capital Gains, of which:	49	43	86	942	1,003	1,247
Income Tax on Profits	4	4	14	421	440	593
Income Tax on Wages and Salaries	5	2	2	150	159	197
Income Tax on Capital Gains & Dividends	2	4	18	87	114	129
Tax on Interest Income (5%)	36	33	52	272	284	319
Penalties on Income Tax	0	0	1	10	6	9
Taxes on Property, of which:	14	40	91	440	318	486
Built Property Tax	2	3	9	68	79	82
Real Estate Registration Fees	9	32	63	185	205	351
Domestic Taxes on Goods & Services, of which:	60	143	203	1,180	1,466	1,875
Value Added Tax	55	123	180	1,049	1,328	1,693
Other Taxes on Goods and Services, of which:	4	19	23	122	133	176
Private Car Registration Fees	3	13	17	76	84	122
Passenger Departure Tax	1	6	5	45	49	53
Taxes on International Trade, of which:	7	112	135	618	837	899
Customs	5	49	64	286	363	433
Excises, of which:	2	63	71	332	473	466
Petroleum Tax	0	13	0	90	157	0
Tobacco Tax	0	23	18	96	142	156
Tax on Cars	2	27	52	145	171	302
Other Tax Revenues (namely fiscal stamp fees)	7	22	25	179	183	222

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)



Table 4. Non-Tax Revenue

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	August	August	August	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
Non-Tax Revenues	195	244	57	1,379	1,704	1,502
Income from Public Institutions and Government Properties, of which:	167	201	16	1,025	1,374	1,138
Income from Non-Financial Public Enterprises, <i>of which</i> :	165	196	274	1,002	1,230	1,324
Revenues from Casino Du Liban	2	6	10	27	38	112
Revenues from Port of Beirut	0	0	0	0	30	0
Budget Surplus of National Lottery	3	4	0	47	40	5
Transfer from the Telecom Surplus	160	186	0	927	1,121	943
Property Income (namely rent of Rafic Hariri International Airport)	2	4	3	19	28	30
Other Income from Public Institutions (interests)	0	0	2	4	3	6
Administrative Fees & Charges, of which:	21	36	35	294	275	294
Administrative Fees, of which:	18	29	29	237	220	239
Notary Fees	1	2	2	11	13	15
Passport Fees/ Public Security	11	13	12	83	79	82
Vehicle Control Fees	4	10	11	103	89	99
Judicial Fees	1	1	1	13	13	14
Driving License Fees	1	1	2	15	11	12
Administrative Charges	0	1	0	9	12	12
Sales (Official Gazette and License Number)	0	0	0	2	2	2
Permit Fees (mostly work permit fees)	2	5	4	36	32	35
Other Administrative Fees & Charges	0	1	1	9	8	6
Penalties & Confiscations	0	0	0	3	4	4
Other Non-Tax Revenues (mostly retirement deductibles)	6	7	6	58	52	67

retirement deductibles)

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)



Section 3: Expenditure Outcome

Table 5. Expenditure by Economic Classification

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008
	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
1. Current Expenditures	5,596	6,384	6,785
1.a Personnel Cost, of which	2,098	2,404	2,507
Salaries, Wages and Related Items (Article 13) 1/	1,368	1,668	1,684
Retirement and End of Service Compensations, of which:	595	594	693
Retirement	488	516	547
End of Service	106	78	146
Transfers to Public Institutions to Cover Salaries 2/	135	141	130
1.b Interest Payments, of which: 3/	2,678	3,026	3,156
Domestic Interest Payments	1,486	1,730	1,866
Foreign Interest Payments	1,192	1,296	1,290
1.c Foreign Debt Principal Repayment	105	118	242
1.d Materials and Supplies, of which:	84	148	151
Nutrition	12	19	30
Fuel Oil	9	23	28
Medicaments	42	49	46
Accounting Adjustments for Treasury	6	33	30
1.e External Services	60	67	77
1.f Various Transfers, of which:	344	419	390
NSSF	150	220	40
Treasury Advance f or Wheat Subsidy	0	0	129
1.g Other Current, of which:	171	141	205
Hospitals	149	114	176
Others	21	25	28
1.h Reserves	56	61	57
Interest subsidy	56	61	57
2. Capital Expenditures	364	365	308
2.a Acquisitions of Land, Buildings, for the Construction of Roads, Ports,			
Airports, and Water Networks	11	15	3
2.b Equipment	15	30	23
2.c Construction in Progress, of which:	276	263	213
Displaced Fund	55	41	20
Council of the South	20	30	10
CDR	165	145	136
Ministry of Public Work and Transport	17	25	23
Other	19	22	25
2.d Maintenance	33	34	45
2.e Other Expenditures Related to Fixed Capital Assets	29	22	24
3. Other Treasury Expenditures	1,357	1,530	2,205
Municipalities	275	150	233
Guarantees	68	28	41
Deposits	33	53	44
Other, of which:	194	228	333
VAT Refund	86	127	188



Higher Council of Relief		6	9
EDL 4/	735	1,071	1,536
Treasury Advances for Diesel Oil Subsidy	52	0	19
4. Unclassified Expenditures	1	4	2
5. Customs Cashiers	21	25	27
6. Total Expenditures (Excluding CDR Foreign Financed)	7,339	8,308	9,327

Source: Statement of Account 36, Cashier Spending, Public Debt Department Figures, Fiscal Performance Gross Adjustment Figures

Table 6. Breakdown of Article 13: Salaries, Wages and Related Items

(LL billion)	Basic Salaries		Allowances		Other		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-		Jan-
	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Jan-Aug	Aug
Military Personnel	721	671	193	277	44	44	959	992
Army	475	438	111	146	28	28	615	613
Internal Security Forces	197	186	68	113	12	12	277	311
General Security Forces	37	35	10	13	3	3	50	51
State Security Forces	12	12	4	5	1	1	17	18
Education Personnel	338	322	0	0	36	32	373	354
Civil Personnel, of which:	149	146	2	2	175	177	326	325
Employees Cooperative					120	124		
Customs Salaries							10	13
Total	1,208	1,139	195	279	254	253	1,668	1,684

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)

Table 7. Breakdown of Transfers to Public Institutions for the Coverage of Salaries

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008
	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug
Transfer to Council of the South	3	3	5
Transfer to Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)	18	24	17
Transfer to the Displaced Fund	3	4	4
Transfer to the Lebanese University	102	104	98
Transfer to the Educational Center for Research and Development	9	6	7

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)



^{1/} For a detailed breakdown of salaries and wages, and related items, otherwise referred to as Article 13 in the Lebanese Budgets, kindly refer to table 6.

^{2/} For a detailed breakdown of those transfers, kindly refer to table 7.

 $^{3/\,\}mbox{For}$ a detailed breakdown of interest payments, kindly refer to table 8.

^{4/} For a detailed breakdown of transfers to EDL, kindly refer to table 9.

Table 8. Details of Debt Service Transactions

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
					Jan-	
	August	August	August	Jan-Aug	Aug	Jan-Aug
Interest Payments 1/	351	366	315	2,678	3,026	3,156
Local Currency Debt	185	218	253	1,486	1,730	1,866
Foreign Currency Debt, of which:	166	148	62	1,192	1,296	1,290
Eurobond Coupon Interest*	137	123	36	1,100	1,196	1,182
Special Bond Coupon Interest*	0	0	0	13	13	7
Concessional Loans Interest Payments	29	26	26	79	87	101
Concessional Loans Principal Payments	13	11	17	105	118	242

Table 9. Transfers to EDL

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	
	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Jan-Aug	Change
EDL of which:	735	1,071	1,536	465
Debt Service of which:	134	263	123	-140
C-Loans and Eurobonds, of which:	134	253	97	-156
Principal Repayments	96	221	78	-143
Interest Payments	38	32	19	-13
BDL Guaranteed Loan Payments	0	10	25	15
Repayment of Loans for Fuel Oil and Gas Oil Purchase (Principal and Interest)	17	67	0	-67
Reimbursement of KPC and Sonatrach Agreements	399	741	1,414	673
Repayment of Oil Suppliers Arrears	185			0

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)



Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Directorate General of Finance (DGF)

1/ Please note that the classification of debt service expenditures is now broken into two separate categories as follows: Interest Payments (as per GFS classification) and repayment of principal on concessional loans earmarked for project financing.

^{*} Includes general expenses related to the transaction

Section 4: Public Debt

Table 10. Public Debt Outstanding by Holder as of End-August 08

(LL billion)	Dec-06	Dec-07	Aug-08	Change Dec 07 - Aug 08	% Change Dec 07- Aug 08
Gross Public Debt	60,851	63,364	68,423	5,059	7.98%
Local Currency Debt	30,204	31,373	35,971	4,598	14.66%
a. Central Bank (Including REPOs and Loans to EDL to Finance Fuel Purchases) ⁽¹⁾	9,588	9,052	8,306	-746	-8.24%
b. Commercial Banks	16,487	16,847	21,972	5,125	30.42%
c. Other Local Currency Debt (T-bills), of which:	4,129	5,474	5,693	219	4.00%
Public Entities	3,313	4,796	4,836	40	0.83%
* Accrued Interest Included in Debt	685	754	841	87	11.54%
Foreign Currency Debt (2)	30,647	31,991	32,452	461	1.44%
a. Bilateral, Multilateral and Foreign Private Sector Loans	2,855	2,963	2,955	-8	-0.27%
b. Paris II Related Debt (Eurobonds and Loans) ⁽³⁾	6,540	6,063	5,743	-320	-5.28%
c. Paris III Related Debt (Eurobonds and Loans) ⁽⁴⁾		1,357	1,806	449	33.08%
d. Market-Issued Eurobonds	20,399	20,780	20,981	201	0.97%
e. Accrued Interest on Eurobonds	434	410	549	139	33.90%
f. Special T-bills in Foreign Currency ⁽⁵⁾	419	419	419	0	
Public Sector Deposits	4,444	4,527	7,077	2,550	56.33%
Net Debt	56,407	58,837	61,346	2,509	4.26%
Gross Market Debt ⁽⁶⁾	38,670	39,221	44,834	5,613	14.31%
% of Total Debt	64%	62%	66%		

Source: Ministry of Finance (MOF), Banque du Liban (BDL)



⁽¹⁾ The BDL has extended loans to EDL for the equivalent amount of US\$ 300 million to purchase fuel oil. These loans are listed as public debt as they are government guaranteed.

⁽²⁾ Figures for Dec 05 - Dec 07 may differ from previously published data due to updated information regarding bilateral and multilateral loans in the DMFAS system.

⁽³⁾ Paris II related debt (Eurobonds and Loans) including a Eurobond of USD 1,870 billion originally issued to BDL in the context of the Paris II conference.

⁽⁴⁾ Issued to Malaysia as part of its Paris III contribution, IBRD loans, UAE loan, first tranche of the French loan received in February 2008, and IMF loan.

⁽⁵⁾ Special T-bills in foreign currency (expropriation bonds)

⁽⁶⁾ Gross market debt equals gross debt less the portfolios of the BDL, NSSF, bilateral and multilateral loans, Paris II and Paris III related debt.



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