

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

Fiscal Overview

Till the end of July 2008, the **total fiscal balance** registered a deficit of LL 2,176 billion compared to a deficit of LL 1,920 billion in the same period of 2007. This deterioration in the fiscal balance is the result of an increase in total payments by LL 1039 billion, offsetting the increase in total receipts by LL 784 billion.

Meanwhile, the **primary balance** of January-July 2008 registered a surplus of LL 892 billion, scoring an increase of LL 45 billion compared to the surplus of LL 847 billion realized in the same period of last year.

During the period January-July 2008, total revenues increased by 15 percent mainly due to improved collection of most tax revenues and treasury receipts which achieved 22 percent and 13 percent respective increases (equivalent to LL 741 billion and LL 58 billion more receipts) whereas non-tax revenues registered a 1 percent decrease in collection (equivalent to LL 15 billion). Most types of taxes witnessed an improved performance in Jan-July 2008 when compared to the same period of last year: **income tax on profits**' collection¹ increased by 33 percent in Jan-July 2008 when compared to the same period of 2007 reflecting higher companies' profits in 2007 (as opposed to profits realized in 2006 and filed in 2007) property registration fees increased by 67 percent or LL 115 billion, VAT receipts were 26 percent (or LL 308 billion) higher than receipts in Jan-July 07. Revenues from international trade increased by 5 percent (equivalent to LL 39 billion) attributed to LL 55 billion higher customs duties, LL 105 billion higher car excises and LL 19 billion higher tobacco excises, all of which overcompensated for the LL 139 billion year-on-year loss in gasoline excises. The drop in the collection of non-tax revenues is explained by the lower transfers from (i) the Treasury's 80 percent share of Banque du Liban net profits (LL 113 billion transferred during Jan – July 2007, compared to LL 41 billion transferred in Jan-July 2008), (ii) the Budget surplus of the National Lottery (LL 36 billion transferred in Jan-July 2007 compared to LL 5 billion in Jan-July 2008); (iii) the absence of transfers from Port of Beirut; all of which offset the LL 69 billion² higher

² The increase in Casino transfers account for LL 42 billion representing the first payment of a settlement agreement with Casino Management concerning an old litigation over the Treasury's revenue sharing rights from certain gambling machine. This rise in receipts may also be attributed to the full fledge implementation of a new phase of the arrangement between Government of



¹ Note that income tax on profits for corporations were mostly filed and settled in June 08 (and not during the month of May as per the regular schedule of tax filing) due to the extension of the filing deadline as per Decision #456 dated May 22, 2008. That being said, given that Commercial Banks have 3 days period after the filing deadline to transfer the tax payments to the Treasury, further corporate income tax receipts have been transferred during the first week of July.

transfers from Casino du Liban. Note that the transfers from the budget surplus of the Telecom for the period Jan-July 2008, is nearly LL 8 billion above the transfer level in Jan-July 2007. Treasury receipts amounted to LL 500 billion during January-July 2008, of which LL 165 billion are grants of the US Government received mostly throughout the first 5 months of 2008, LL 130 billion are revenues for the Independent Municipal Fund, and LL 36 billion are wheat subsidy refunds.

The increase in total expenditures by LL 1,039 billion was mostly attributed to rises in current primary expenditures, treasury expenditures and interest payments which offset the decline in capital expenditures. Current primary expenditures increased by LL 135 billion mainly due to (a) increase in salaries, wages and related items (article 13) by LL 33 billion resulting from an increase in hospitalization, school allowances and transfers to cooperatives by LL 40 billion, LL 8 billion and LL 14 billion respectively, more than offsetting the decline in items related to basic salaries as shown in table 6 (b) higher retirement and end of service compensations by LL 92 billion mainly due to the resuming of end of service payments to the military after the temporary halt that the armed forces imposed during the Nahr el Bared events, (c) a treasury advance to the General Directorate of Cereals and Sugar for wheat subsidy of LL 129 billion to maintain the price of a pack of bread (weighing 1.12 kg) capped at LL 1,500, (d) materials and supplies by LL 12 billion and (e) hospitalization in the private sector by LL 76 billion which combined together offset the LL 220 billion lower transfers to NSSF. Interest payments were up by LL 182 billion of which LL 101 billion were due to higher payments on domestic debt and LL 81 billion increase in foreign debt; also foreign debt principal payments increased by LL 118 billion because of the early repayment of three World Bank loans paid by USAID grant money for budgetary support. The increase in treasury expenditures by LL622 billion is mostly due to the increase in fuel oil and gas oil payments on behalf of EDL by LL 627 billion, additional payments to municipalities by LL 89 billion, diesel oil subsidy by LL 19 billion, VAT refunds by LL 66billion, a treasury advance for the maintenance of the Rafic Hariri International Airport of LL 28 billion, a treasury advance to the Rafic Hariri University Hospital of LL 6 billion and other tax refunds by LL4.4 billion.

By the end of July 2008, gross public debt reached LL 67,308 billion, registering an increase of LL 3,944 billion (6.22 percent) over the end-December 2007 debt level. Most of this increase is coming from commercial banks increasing their LL Treasury Bills portfolio by LL 4,067 billion compared to December 2007, as well as the increase in public sector deposits of LL 1,697 billion offsetting the decrease of the BDL portfolio and Paris II related debt by LL 685 billion and LL 203 billion respectively. Exchange rate valuation changes account for 6.0 percent of the increase in gross public debt.

Lebanon and Casino Management that grants the Treasury a higher Treasury's revenue sharing right (40% in lieu of 30%).



Table 1. Summary of Fiscal Performance

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	Inle	Inle	Inle	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-
	July	July	July	July	July	July
Total Budget and Treasury Receipts	628	851	933	4,710	5,349	6,133
Total Budget and Treasury Payments, of which	939	923	1,117	6,171	7,269	8,308
Interest Payments	246	302	411	2,327	2,660	2,842
Concessional loans principal payments 1/	13	17	19	92	107	225
Primary Expenditures 2/	680	604	687	3,753	4,502	5,241
Total Cash Deficit/Surplus	-311	-72	-185	-1,461	-1,920	-2,176
Primary Deficit/Surplus	-52	247	245	957	847	892

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

Section 2: Revenue Outcome

Table 2. Total Revenue

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	July	July	July	Jan-July	Jan-July	Jan-July
Budget Revenues, of <i>which:</i>	511	646	862	4,407	4,907	5,633
Tax Revenues	321	546	734	3,223	3,447	4,188
Non-Tax Revenues	190	100	128	1,185	1,460	1,445
Treasury Receipts	116	61	64	303	442	500
Total Revenues	628	707	926	4,710	5,349	6,133



^{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)

Table 3. Tax Revenue

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006 Jan-	2007 Jan-	2008
	July	July	July	Jan- July	Jan- July	Jan-July
Tax Revenues:	321	546	734	3,223	3,447	4,188
Taxes on Income, Profits, & Capital Gains, of which:	105	112	136	894	960	1,160
Income Tax on Profits	8	10	21	417	437	579
Income Tax on Wages and Salaries	39	44	55	145	157	195
Income Tax on Capital Gains & Dividends	17	24	13	85	110	111
Tax on Interest Income (5%)	41	34	46	236	251	267
Penalties on Income Tax	1	1	2	9	5	8
Taxes on Property, of which:	26	38	69	425	278	395
Built Property Tax	3	5	9	66	75	74
Real Estate Registration Fees	21	29	5	177	173	288
Domestic Taxes on Goods & Services, of which:	123	266	359	1,120	1,323	1,672
Value Added Tax	106	250	328	994	1,205	1,513
Other Taxes on Goods and Services, of which:	17	15	30	118	114	153
Private Car Registration Fees	8	13	22	73	71	105
Passenger Departure Tax	9	2	8	44	42	47
Taxes on International Trade, of which:	42	100	128	612	725	764
Customs	27	49	60	281	314	367
Excises, of which:	15	52	68	330	411	397
Petroleum Tax	0	4	0	90	145	5
Tobacco Tax	2	19	26	96	119	138
Tax on Cars	12	28	41	143	144	249
Other Tax Revenues (fiscal stamp fees)	24	30	43	172	161	196



Table 4. Non-Tax Revenue

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	July	July	July	Jan-July	Jan-July	Jan-July
Non-Tax Revenues	190	244	135	1,185	1,460	1,445
Income from Public Institutions and Government Properties, of which:	160	201	88	858	1,173	1,122
Income from Non-Financial Public Enterprises, <i>of which</i> :	160	198	84	837	1,034	1,050
Revenues from Casino Du Liban	5	4	9	25	32	101
Revenues from Port of Beirut	0	0	0	0	30	0
Budget Surplus of National Lottery	4	8	0	44	36	5
Transfer from the Telecom Surplus	151	186	75	766	935	943
Income from Financial Public Institutions					113	41
Property Income (namely rent of Rafic Hariri International Airport)	0	2	3	18	23	26
Other Income from Public Institutions (interests)	1	0	1	3	3	4
Administrative Fees & Charges, of which:	26	36	40	273	239	259
Administrative Fees, of which:	22	29	33	218	191	210
Notary Fees	1	2	2	11	12	13
Passport Fees/ Public Security	13	13	13	72	66	70
Vehicle Control Fees	5	10	12	99	80	89
Judicial Fees	1	2	2	12	11	13
Driving License Fees	2	1	2	15	10	10
Administrative Charges	1	1	1	9	12	12
Sales (Official Gazette and License Number)	0	0	0	2	2	2
Permit Fees (mostly work permit fees)	3	4	5	34	27	30
Other Administrative Fees & Charges	1	1	1	9	8	5
Penalties & Confiscations	0	0	1	3	3	3
Other Non-Tax Revenues (mostly retirement deductibles)	4	7	7	51	45	60



Section 3: Expenditure Outcome

Table 5: Expenditure by Economic Classification

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008
	Jan-July	Jan-July	Jan-July
1. Current expenditures	4,905	5,605	6,041
1.a Personnel cost, of which	1,859	2,092	2,207
Salaries, wages and related items (Article 13) 1/	1,214	1,444	1,477
Retirement and end of service compensations, of which	523	522	614
Retirement	425	451	477
End of Service	98	71	137
Transfers to public institutions to cover salaries 2/	123	126	116
1.b Interest payments of which 3/	2,327	2,660	2,842
Domestic interest payments	1,301	1,512	1,613
Foreign interest payments	1,027	1,148	1,229
1.c Foreign debt principal repayment	92	107	225
1.d Materials and supplies of which	81	117	129
Nutrition	11	16	27
Fuel Oil	8	20	25
Medicaments	41	31	37
Accounting adjustments for treasury	5	30	25
1.e External services	58	56	64
1.f Various transfers of which	286	401	331
NSSF	100	220	0
Wheat Subsidy	0	0	129
1.g Other current of which	157	121	194
Hospitals	137	96	172
Others	20	23	21
1.h Reserves	44	51	48
Interest subsidy	44	51	48
2. Capital expenditures	358	297	280
2.a Acquisitions of land, buildings, for the construction of roads, ports,			
airports, and water networks	11	15	2
2.b Equipment	14	27	21
2.c Construction in Progress of/which	272	201	194
Displaced fund	55	31	20
Council of the South	20	20	10
CDR	164	113	121
Ministry of Public Work and Transport	16	19	20
Other	17	19	24
2.d Maintenance	32	31	39
2.e Other Expenditures Related to Fixed Capital Assets	29	22	24
3. Other treasury expenditures	891	1,340	1,962
Municipalities	219	129	218
Guarantees	64	25	29
Deposits	30	50	30
Other	162	193	314
of which VAT refund	73	116	182
of which Higher Council of Relief		6	9



EDL 4/	364	943	1,351	
treasury advances for diesel oil subsidy	52	0	19	
4. Unclassified expenditures	1	4	2	
5. Customs cashiers	17	23	24	
6. Total expenditures (excluding CDR foreign financed)	6,171	7,269	8,308	

Source : statement of account 36, cashier spending, Public Debt Department figures , Fiscal performance gross adjustment figures

- 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/ 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 6: Breakdown of Article 13: Salaries, Wages and Related Items

(LL billion)	Basic s	alaries	Allov	vances	Ot	her	Т	'otal
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	Jan-	
	July	July	July	July	July	July	July	Jan-July
Military Personnel	638	590	169	232	38	39	844	861
Army	420	382	93	111	25	25	537	517
Internal Security forces	175	167	63	104	10	11	248	282
General Security forces	32	31	9	13	2	3	44	46
State Security forces	11	10	4	5	1	1	15	16
Education Personnel	277	283	0	0	34	31	311	314
Civil Personnel	131	128	2	1	149	162	281	291
Civil Servants Cooperative					100	114	100	114
Customs salaries							9	12
Total	1,045	1,001	171	233	220	231	1,444	1,477

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-July	Jan-July	Jan-July
Transfer to Council of the South	3	3	5
Transfer to Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)	18	21	15
Transfer to the Displaced Fund	3	3	4
Transfer to the Lebanese University	90	93	87
Transfer to the Educational Center for Research and Development	9	6	6



Table 8. Details of Debt Service Transactions

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
	July	July	July	Jan-July	Jan-July	Jan-July
Interest Payments 1/	246	302	411	2,327	2,672	2,842
Local Currency Debt	194	213	279	1,301	1,512	1,613
Foreign Currency Debt, of which:	52	89	132	1,026	1,160	1,229
Eurobond Coupon Interest*	48	83	125	964	1,087	1,146
Special bond Coupon Interest*			0	13	13	7
Concessional Loans Interest Payments	4	7	7	50	61	76
Concessional Loans Principal Payments	13	17	19	92	107	225

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

Table 9. Transfers to EDL

(LL billion)	2006	2007	2008	
	Jan-July	Jan-July	Jan-July	Change
EDL of which:	363	943	1,351	408
Debt Service of which:	111	247	95	-152
C-Loans and Eurobonds, of which:	111	238	70	-168
Principal repayments	78	208	56	-152
Interest payments	34	30	14	-16
BDL guaranteed loan payments		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	235	629	1,256	627



^{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-July 08

(LL billion)	Dec-05	Dec-06	Dec-07	Jul-08	Change Dec 07 - July 08	% Change Dec 07- July 08
Gross Public debt	57,985	60,851	63,364	67,308	3,944	6.22%
Local currency debt	29,141	30,204	31,373	34,905	3,532	11.26%
a. Central Bank (including REPOs and Loans to EDL to finance fuel purchases) ⁽¹⁾	11,686	9,588	9,052	8,367	-685	-7.57%
b. Commercial Banks	14,130	16,487	16,847	20,914	4,067	24.14%
c. Other Local Currency Debt (T-bills)	3,325	4,129	5,474	5,624	150	2.74%
o/w Public entities	2,446	3,313	4,796	4,798	2	0.04%
* Accrued interest included in debt	517	685	754	845	91	12.07%
Foreign currency debt ⁽²⁾	28,844	30,647	31,991	32,403	412	1.29%
a. Bilateral, Multilateral and Foreign Private sector loans	2,789	2,855	2,963	2,970	7	0.23%
b. Paris II related debt (Eurobonds and Loans) ⁽³⁾	6,501	6,540	6,063	5,860	-203	-3.35%
c. Paris III related debt (Eurobonds and Loans) ⁽⁴⁾			1,357	1,826	469	34.57%
d. Market-issued Eurobonds	18,729	20,399	20,780	20,903	123	0.59%
e. Accrued Interest on Eurobonds	406	434	410	426	16	3.90%
f. Special Tbls in Foreign currency ⁽⁵⁾	419	419	419	419		0.00%
Public sector deposits	5,590	4,444	4,527	6,224	1,697	37.49%
Net debt	52,395	56,407	58,837	61,084	2,247	3.82%
Gross Market debt ⁽⁶⁾	34,721	38,670	39,221	43,557	4,336	11.06%
% of total debt	60%	64%	62%	65%	,	0.00%

Source: Ministry of Finance, Banque du Liban

Notes:



⁽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 Tbs 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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