

LEBANON INFLATION WATCH: November 2012

■ LEBANON'S CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) up **10.3**%* YoY in November 2012:

November 2012 saw Lebanon's Consumer Price Index increase 10.3%* YoY from 117.6 in November 2011 to 129.6 in November 2012. The index decreased -0.3% MOM from 130.1 in October 2012. CPI measures the price of goods in an economy by tracking the cost of a basket of goods over time and is used as a proxy for inflation.

FFA estimate for inflation excluding housing was 5.0% on a YoY basis in November 2012.



^{*}Housing adjusted in July 2012 and not revised for the prior three years overstates YoY calculations. FFA estimate for inflation excluding housing was 5.0% on a YoY basis in November 2012.

According to the IMF, the inflation in Lebanon is estimated at 3.1% for 2011, 10.1% for 2012 and 2.0% for the following four years until 2016.

The biggest changers were clothing and footwear which increased 0.4%, food and non-alcoholic beverages which increased 0.2%, water, electricity, gas and other fuels which decreased -0.3%, transportation which decreased -3.2% MoM. The cost of transportation was the major driver of the index, as it represents 12.3% of the index's weight and changed more over the October-November period than any other component. Other components of the index also changed like alcoholic beverages, tobacco up 0.5%, miscellaneous goods & services up 0.2%. Housing, furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, health, communication, recreation, amusement and culture, education and restaurant and hotels remained unchanged.

■ MONEY SUPPLY IN LEBANON

M3 increased by 0.5% MoM to 155,111 billion Lebanese pounds (USD 102.9 billion) in November 2012 and was up 6.8% YoY from 145,206 billion Lebanese pounds (USD 96.3 billion) in November 2011. M3, a benchmark for broad money, is the sum of currency in circulation, sight and time deposits in Lebanese pounds and deposits in foreign currencies and other financial liabilities.

■ INTERNATIONAL FACTORS TO WATCH

OIL SPOT PRICE

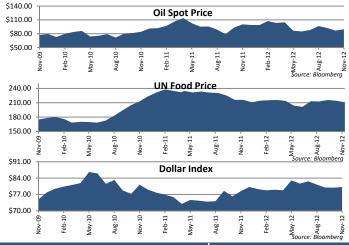
WTI Cushing Spot Price increased 3.2% MoM to \$89.5 per barrel from \$86.7 per barrel in October 2012. YoY, it decreased -10.8%. The WTI spot price measures the price of West Texas Intermediate oil on world markets. Brent spot price increased 2.5% MoM and 5.4% YoY to \$110.3 per barrel.

UN FOOD PRICE

UN Food Price Index was down -1.5% MoM to 210.9 from 214.1 in October 2012 and down -2.4% YoY. The UN Food Price Index measures the prices of global food staples.

DOLLAR INDEX

Dollar Index was up 0.3% MoM to \$80.2 and 2.3% YoY. The Dollar Index measures the value of the US Dollar against a basket of the world's most widely held currencies.



								Source: Biodinberg
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS MONTHS								UNADJUSTED 12-MO. ENDED NOV-12
	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	
LEBANON CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	-0.3%	-1.3%	6.6%	0.9%	0.9%	1.5%	-0.3%	10.3%*
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0.3%	-1.6%	1.0%	0.3%	0.6%	1.2%	0.2%	5.3%
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	4.9%	2.7%	-0.2%	0.5%	8.7%
Clothing and footwear	0.5%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	1.2%	0.4%	4.5%
Housing*	0.0%	0.0%	44.1%	0.00%	0.00%	0.0%	0.0%	44.1%
Water, electricity, gas and other fuels	-1.5%	-3.6%	5.9%	3.0%	2.6%	0.1%	-0.3%	6.5%
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	1.2%
Health	0.1%	-1.4%	-0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	1.1%	0.0%	-0.2%
Transportation	-2.2%	-4.6%	-2.1%	3.5%	3.7%	-1.3%	-3.2%	1.5%
Communication	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Recreation, amusement and culture	0.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	4.3%	0.0%	7.1%
Education	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.5%	0.0%	14.5%
Restaurant & hotels	0.3%	0.2%	0.9%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	4.1%
Miscellaneous goods & services	0.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	3.6%

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