Lebanon Economic Highlights - Q4 2015

Coincident Indicator (INDIC) up +3.4% YoY in December 2015:

The coincident indicator witnessed an increase of +3.4% YoY to 302.3 in December 2015 from 292.5 in December 2014. The indicator increased +3.1% MoM from 293.1 in November 2015. Coincident indicator was created in 1994 by the BDL as a monthly estimate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It includes eight economic indicators that seek to reflect the current state of the economy in Lebanon. The economic variables that compose the coincident indicator are: electricity production, cement deliveries, cleared checks, money supply M3, passengers flows, imports of petroleum derivatives, imports and exports.



According to the IMF, the Lebanese economy is expected to have grown by +2.8% in 2012, +2.5% in 2013 and +2.0% in 2014, and forecasted at +2.5% for both 2015 and 2016 and +3.0% for 2017.

Electricity Production:

Electricity production decreased -3.3% YoY yet increased +10.8% MoM to 1,066 millions of Kwh.

Cement Deliveries:

Cement deliveries, an indicator of construction activity, increased +0.6% YoY yet decreased -7.0% MoM to 447,724 tons. Construction permits in surface area, an indicator of future supply in the real estate sector, increased +9.4% YoY and +10.1% MoM to 1,078,966 sqm.

Cleared Checks:

The total value of cleared checks in both LBP and FC decreased -4.9% YoY yet increased +8.9% MoM to USD 5,981 million. The cleared checks in LBP increased +6.9% YoY and +0.5% MoM to LBP 2,578 billion. Those in FC decreased -9.0% YoY yet increased +7.2% MoM to USD 4,271 million.

Money Supply M3:

M3 increased +5.1% YoY and +1.0% MoM to LBP 186,360 billion (USD 123.6 billion) in December 2015. 57.6% of money supply M3 is denominated in foreign currencies.

Passengers Flows:

The number of passengers arriving to Lebanon increased +4.6% YoY and +37.0% MoM to 313,336.

Imports of Petroleum Derivatives:

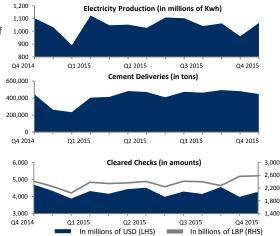
Imports of petroleum derivatives decreased -9.7% YoY and -10.7% MoM to 574,485 metric tons of petroleum derivatives.

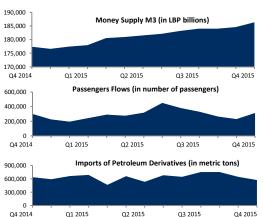
Imports:

Imports increased +11.7% YoY and +19.6% MoM to LBP 2,776 billion. Netherlands was the main source of imports, followed by China and Kuwait.

Exports:

Exports decreased -11.8% YoY yet increased +6.6% MoM to LBP 356 billion. Saudi Arabia was the main export destination followed by UAE and Iraq.









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