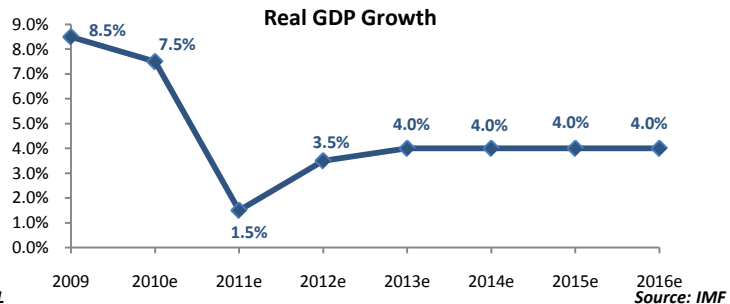
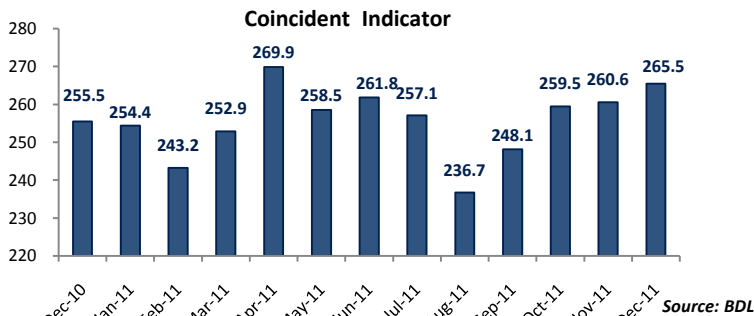


LEBANON ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS: December 2011

Coincident Indicator (INDIC) up 3.9% YOY in December 2011 :

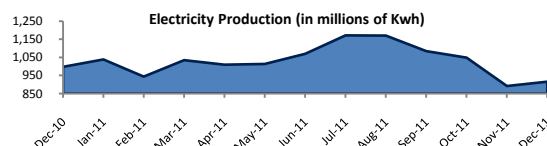
Coincident indicator was created in 1994 by the BDL as a monthly estimate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It includes eight economic indicators that seek to reflect the current state of the economy in Lebanon. In December 2011, the coincident indicator witnessed an increase of **3.9% YOY** from 255.5 in December 2010 to 265.5 in December 2011. The indicator increased 1.9% MOM from 260.6 in November 2011. 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 a growth rate of 1.5% in 2011. The estimated rate for 2012 is 3.5% and it is forecasted to stabilize at 4.0% for the following four years into 2016.

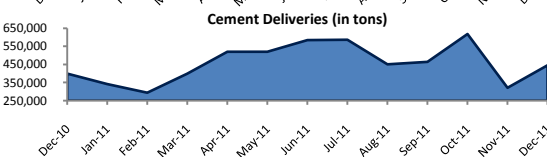
Electricity Production:

Electricity production decreased -8.2% YOY but increased 2.7% MOM to 916 million of Kwh.



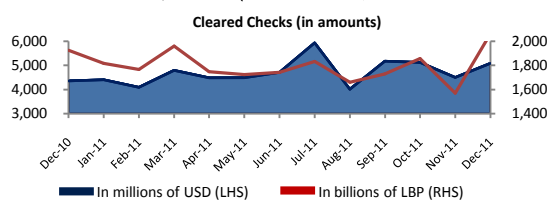
Cement Deliveries:

Cement deliveries, an indicator of construction activity, increased by 11.6% YOY to 445,835 tons and by 38.8% MOM. Construction permits, an indicator of future supply in the real estate sector, decreased -11.7% YOY.



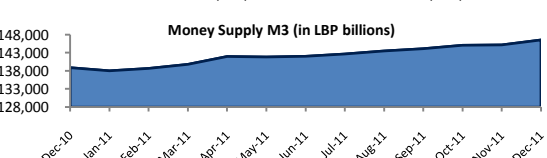
Cleared Checks:

The total value of cleared checks in both LBP and USD increased 14.5% YOY to USD 6,460 million. The cleared checks in LBP increased by 7.2% YOY to LBP 2,065 billion and 31.4% MOM, and those in USD increased 16.7% YOY to USD 5,091 million and increased 16.7% MOM.



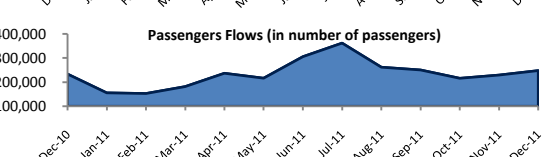
Money Supply M3:

M3 rose by 5.9% YOY and 0.1% MOM to LBP 146,575 billion (97.2 USD billion), of which 60.0% denominated in foreign currencies. M3 increased 7.9% in 2011 with regards to 2010.



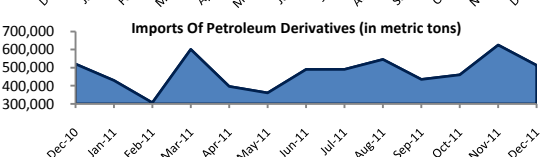
Passengers Flows:

The number of passengers arriving to Lebanon increased by 6.1% YOY and 8.1% MOM to 247,811. In 2011, arrivals increased by 2.0% with regards to 2010.



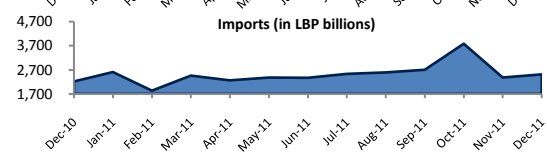
Imports Of Petroleum Derivatives:

Imports of petroleum derivatives decreased by -1.4% YOY and -18.0% MOM to 513,223 metric tons of petroleum derivatives.



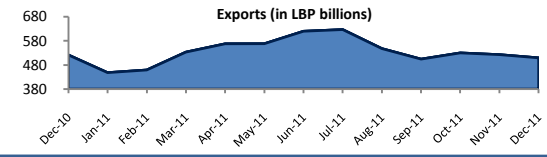
Imports:

Imports increased by 13.2% YOY to LBP 2,511 billion and 5.4% MOM. New car sales rose by 12.1% on a 12-month basis to 2,743 vehicles during December 2011 in comparison with 2,446 vehicles in the same month in 2010.



Exports:

Exports totaled LBP 509 billion reflecting a decrease of -2.3% YOY and -2.6% MOM.



Source: BDL

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