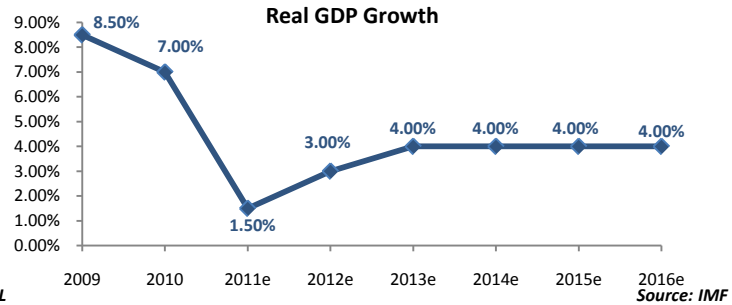
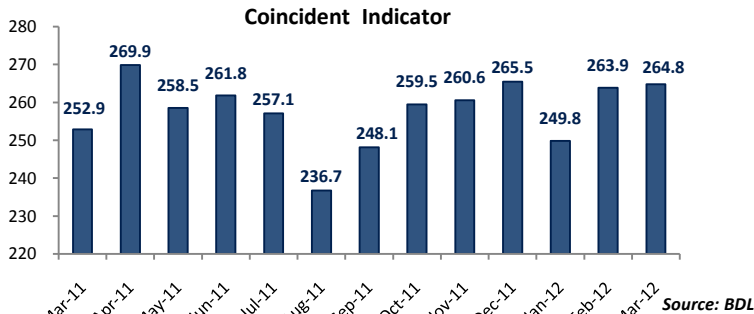


LEBANON ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS: March 2012

Coincident Indicator (INDIC) up 4.7% YOY in March 2012:

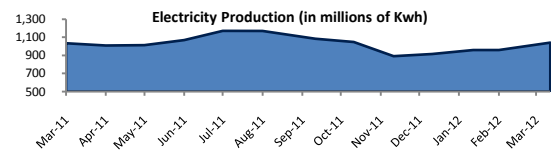
In March 2012, the coincident indicator witnessed an increase of **4.7% YOY** from 252.9 in March 2011 to 264.8 in March 2012. The indicator increased 0.3% MOM from 263.9 in February 2012. Coincident indicator was created in 1994 by the BDL as a monthly estimate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It 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 a growth rate of 1.5% in 2011. The estimated rate for 2012 is 3.0% and it is forecasted to stabilize at 4.0% for the following four years into 2016.

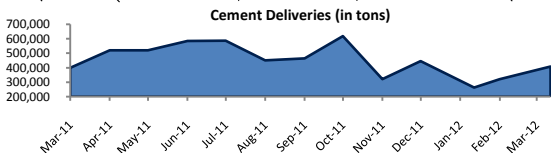
Electricity Production:

Electricity production increased 0.7% YOY and 8.5% MOM to 1,042 million of Kwh.



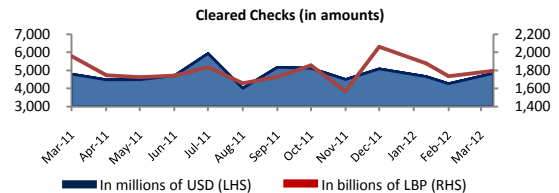
Cement Deliveries:

Cement deliveries, an indicator of construction activity, increased by 2.2% YOY to 408,430 tons and 27.4% MOM. Construction permits, an indicator of future supply in the real estate sector, decreased -14.1% YOY but increased 11.4% MOM.



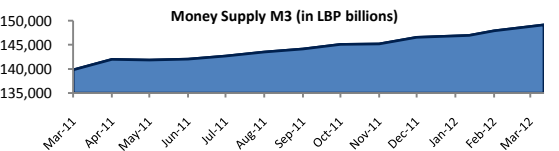
Cleared Checks:

The total value of cleared checks in both LBP and USD decreased -1.1% YOY to USD 6,035 million. The cleared checks in LBP decreased by -8.4% YOY to LBP 1,796 billion but increased 3.5% MOM, and those in USD increased 0.9% YOY to USD 4,843 million and 13.4% MOM.



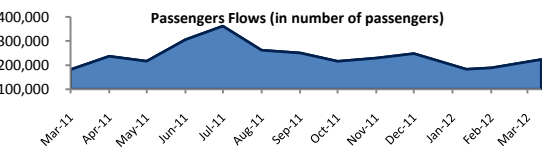
Money Supply M3:

M3 rose by 6.7% YOY and 0.8% MOM to LBP 149,158 billion (98.9 USD billion), of which 59.5% is denominated in foreign currencies. M3 increased by 1.8% from end December 2011.



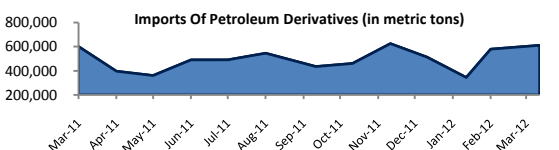
Passengers Flows:

The number of passengers arriving to Lebanon increased by 23.0% YOY and 18.3% MOM to 223,254. In the first quarter of 2012, the total number of arrivals increased 21.4% in comparison to previous year first quarter.



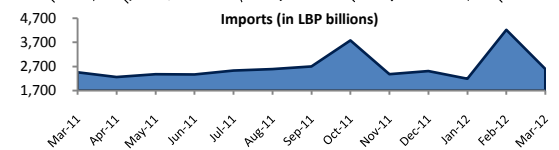
Imports Of Petroleum Derivatives:

Imports of petroleum derivatives increased by 1.6% YOY and 5.5% MOM to 611,356 metric tons of petroleum derivatives.



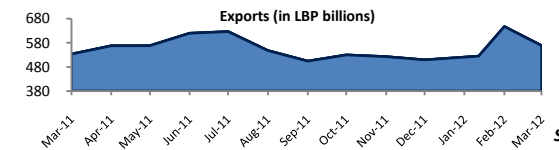
Imports:

Imports increased by 5.6% YOY to LBP 2,598 billion but decreased -38.5% MOM. In terms of imports, USA ranked first with a 20.5%, followed by Italy with 7.3% and France with 6.8%.



Exports:

Exports totaled LBP 568 billion reflecting an increase of 6.6% YOY but decrease -12.2% MOM. In terms of exports, South Africa ranked first with 21.0%, followed by Switzerland with 16.7% and UAE with 7.8%.



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Source: BDL