

Lebanese Republic

Presidency of the Council of Ministers

Central Administration of Statistics



Gross Domestic Product Fourth quarter of 2019

CAS has recently switched from an annual system to a new quarterly system of national accounts. The sources and methods used to compile quarterly estimates of GDP are very similar to those used in the former annual system. The difference is that annual data sources may not be available for some months after the end of the year. Until then, some temporary quarterly indicators or projections are used. When the annual data becomes available, the quarterly estimates are revised to align with the annual ones so that, when the four quarters are added up, they result in the same annual numbers.

The estimates

For the year ending in December 2019, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Lebanon is provisionally estimated at 80.7 trillion Lebanese Pounds. In terms of value, this is 3.1 per cent lower than in the year ending December 2018. In volume terms, the GDP declined by 7.2 per cent, after inflation of 4.4 per cent was taken out.

In Table 1, quarterly series of GDP estimates are presented. This shows that in Quarter 4 (October to December) 2019, the volume of GDP was about 16% lower than in the same quarter of 2018. In the third quarter, it was 2% lower.

Table 2 shows the estimated gross value added of each activity during the 12-month period ending December 2019 and how this changed compared with the previous 12 months. The volume of construction taking place during these 12 months showed the largest fall, down by 29%. Business services (down by 18%), manufacturing and utilities (down by 13%), commercial trade and transport (down by 12%) and hotels and restaurants (down by 10%) were also affected more than other activities.

Table 1

Gross domestic product

By activity

Not seasonally adjusted

Year	Quarter	GDP at current prices LBP trillion	Volume index (2015=100) chain-linked	% change (compared with the same period in the previous year)		
				value	price	volume
2015		75.5	100.0			
2016		77.5	101.6	2.6%	1.0%	1.6%
2017		80.4	102.4	3.8%	3.0%	0.8%
2018		83.3	100.6	3.7%	5.5%	-1.7%
2019		80.7	93.4	-3.1%	4.4%	-7.2%
2016	Q1	18.1	94			
	Q2	19.4	103			
	Q3	19.7	104			
	Q4	20.2	105			
2017	Q1	18.6	96	3%	0%	2%
	Q2	19.7	102	1%	2%	-1%
	Q3	20.6	105	5%	4%	1%
	Q4	21.5	105	6%	6%	0%
2018	Q1	19.8	96	6%	7%	-1%
	Q2	20.9	101	6%	8%	-1%
	Q3	21.3	103	3%	6%	-3%
	Q4	21.3	103	-1%	2%	-2%
2019	Q1	20.0	93	1%	4%	-3%
	Q2	20.0	94	-5%	2%	-7%
	Q3	21.7	100	2%	4%	-2%
	Q4	19.1	86	-10%	7%	-16%

Source: Central Administration for Statistics

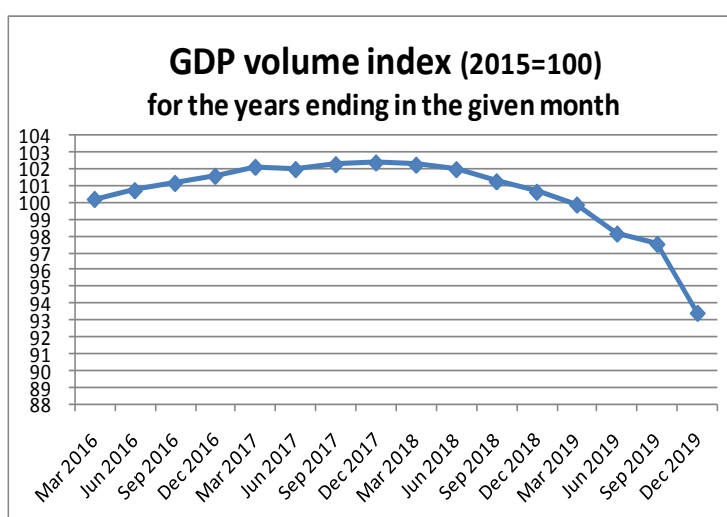
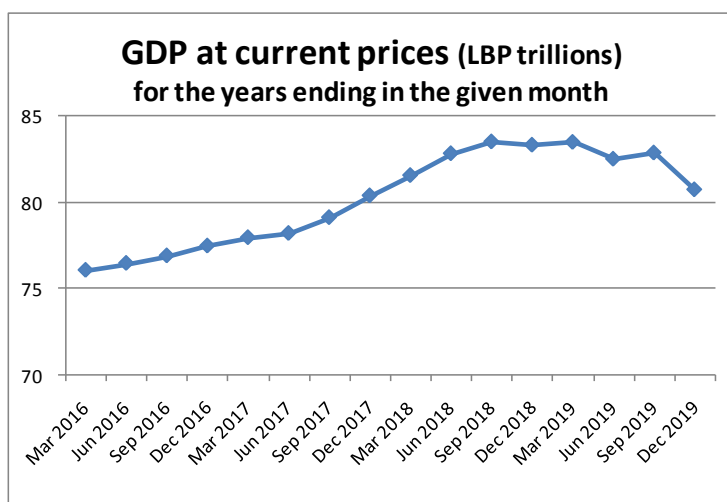


Table 2

Gross domestic product

GDP

By activity

Billions of Lebanese Pounds

Description	ISIC code	Year ending	Year ending	annual % change		
		Dec 2018 at current prices	Dec 2019 at current prices	value	price	volume
Gross domestic product at market prices		83,329	80,736	-3.1%	4.4%	-7.2%
Taxes less subsidies on products		4,883	4,185	-14%	5%	-19%
Gross value added at basic prices		78,446	76,552	-2.4%	4.3%	-6.4%
Agriculture, livestock, forestry & fishing	A	2,681	2,483	-7%	-12%	6%
Mining, manufacturing & utilities	B,C,D,E	8,723	8,282	-5%	9%	-13%
Construction	F	3,146	2,086	-34%	-7%	-29%
Commercial trade & transport	G,H	13,207	12,310	-7%	5%	-12%
Hotels & restaurants	I	2,490	2,421	-3%	8%	-10%
Information & communications	J	1,731	1,532	-11%	1%	-12%
Financial services	K	7,035	7,378	5%	9%	-4%
Real estate	L	12,609	13,231	5%	2%	3%
Business services	M,N	5,759	5,135	-11%	9%	-18%
Personal services, private education & health	P,Q R,S,T	10,046	10,419	4%	6%	-2%
Public administration, education & health	O,P,Q	11,020	11,273	2%	2%	0%

Source: Central Administration for Statistics

Notes

GDP is calculated according to the production approach. For many activities, indicators of output are derived by deflating aggregated sales data (from the quarterly returns made by VAT traders) using appropriate elements of the consumer price index. For some others, for example construction and electricity, volume indicators are used. The publication “*National accounts data sources and compilation methods*” provides more details. The results provide a good indication of activity overall but they are not accurate in every detail.

Activity in a small economy such as that of Lebanon tends to be more variable than that in large ones. Growth can be more rapid and contraction more acute. The quarterly statistics can be volatile and should be used with caution. For this reason, the numbers presented in this release focus more on the latest 12-month period than on the latest quarter.

For more detailed quarterly time series please contact:

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