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QNB Qatar Monthly Monitor August 2018

Highlights

- The fiscal account moved into a surplus in Q1 as revenue picked up in line with higher oil prices
- Exports grew 46% y/y in July as a result of higher oil prices, while imports grew 50% y/y reflecting last July's low base
- QCB foreign exchange reserves ticked up to USD45.2bn in June, equating to 7 months of import cover



Economic Activity

Real GDP growth slowed in Q1 thanks to a further fall in hydrocarbon output. Non-hydrocarbon GDP growth was a solid 4.9% y/y (% year on year)



CPI Inflation was broadly flat at 0.2% y/y in July; food inflation dropped due to the base effect from last year; deflation in housing costs moderated (% year on year)



Booming construction output, up 17.2% y/y, remained the key driver of activity in the non-hydrocarbon sector. Manufacturing gained 3% y/y (% year on year)



Brent crude prices slipped to an average of USD75/b in July; Qatar's oil production rose to 601kb/d in May from 578kb/d prior

(average prices (USD/b), left axis; Oil production (k b/d), right axis)





Economic Activity

Qatar's population increased 0.9% y/y to stand at 2.45m in July; women made up close to 22% of the population

(*m*, male and female right axis; % year on year, left axis)



The real estate price index slipped back further in June

(Index, left axis; % year on year, right axis)



Industrial production rose 4.7% y/y in May from 1.4% the previous month



(% year on year)

5-star and 4-star hotel occupancy rates dipped slightly in July to stand at 55% and 60% respectively

(%, occupancy rate)



Fiscal and External Balances

The fiscal account turned to a surplus in Q1 as revenue rose in line with higher oil prices

(% of GDP)



The current account surplus widened to 7.3% of GDP in Q1, while the financial account deficit narrowed

(bn USD, Balances, left axis; bn USD, change in Overall Balance, right axis)



Exports grew 46% y/y in July as a result of higher oil prices, while imports grew 50% y/y due to the base effect from last year (*bn USD*)



QCB foreign exchange reserves rose 0.9% m/m to reach USD45.2bn in June, equating to 7 months of import cover



(bn USD; Reserves, left axis; Months of Import Cover, right axis)

Money and Banking

Bank asset growth was 6.6% y/y in June

(bn USD and % year on year)



Bank deposit growth was 6.2% y/y in June

(bn USD and % year on year)



Credit growth was 6.0% y/y in June

(bn USD and % year on year)



Deposits from the non-resident and public sector grew 7.1% and 8.9% m/m respectively in June, while the private sector declined 0.7% m/m (% of total)





Money and Banking

Broad money supply (M2) grew by 10.2% y/y in June



(bn USD and % year on year)

Qatar Sovereign 5-year CDS Spreads





Interbank rates steady despite higher US short-term rates



QIBOR and LIBOR 3-month interest rates

(%, latest data 16th August)



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