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QNB Qatar Monthly Monitor July 2018

Highlights

- Powered by the construction sector, non-hydrocarbon real GDP growth was a solid 4.9% y/y in Q1 2018
- Exports continue to boom, up 22% y/y in May, thanks to higher oil prices. Import growth was a more modest 2.7% y/y
- QCB foreign exchange reserves jumped 12.7% m/m to USD44.8bn in May, equating to 7.0 months of import cover
- Bank deposit growth 3% y/y in May with non-resident and private sectors deposits stable



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 dropped to 0.1% y/y in June; food inflation continued to cool even as 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 USD76/b in June; Qatar's oil production fell to 578kb/d in April from 616kb/d prior

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





Economic Activity

Qatar's population grew 1.4% y/y, reaching 2.58 in June; women made up close to 24% of the population

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



The real estate price index continued its recovery, rising 1.0% m/m in March

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



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Industrial production rose to 1.4% y/y growth in April



(% year on year)

5-star and 4-star hotel occupancy rates slightly fell to at 57% and 61% respectively

(% occupancy rate)



Fiscal and External Balances

The fiscal account remained in deficit in Q4 but should recover subsequently as revenue rises 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

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



Exports grew 22% y/y in May as a result of higher oil prices, while imports growth was a more moderate 2.7% y/y (*bn USD*)



QCB foreign exchange reserves rose 12.7% m/m to USD44.8bn in May, equating to 7.0 months of import cover



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

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*International Reserves and Other Foreign Currency Liquidity Sources: MDPS, QCB, Haver Analytics, QNB Economics

Money and Banking

Bank assets growth was 2.5% y/y in May

(bn USD and % year on year)



Bank deposit growth was 3.0% y/y in May

(bn USD and % year on year)



Credit growth was 2.7% in May

(bn USD and % year on year)



Deposits from the non-resident and private sector remained stable in May

(% of total)





Money and Banking

Broad money supply (M2) steadily grew by 11.64% y/y in May (*bn USD and % year on year*)



Qatar Sovereign 5-year CDS Spreads





Interbank rates remain steady despite higher US short-term rates



QIBOR and LIBOR 3-month interest rates

(%, latest data 6th July)

(%, latest data 13th July)



QNB Sources: Bloomberg, QCB, Haver Analytics, QNB Economics

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