كشفت وزارة المالية التونسية عن تفاقم عجز الميزانية بنسبة 56 في المائة خلال النصف الأول من السنة الحالية، حيث بلغ حجم هذا العجز نحو 3.847 مليار دينار تونسي (حوالي 1.4 مليار دولار)، مقابل 2.453 مليار دولار، خلال الفترة نفسها من السنة الماضية.

وأرجعت الوزارة هذه الزيادة على مستوى عجز الميزانية، إلى ارتفاع في المائة على 14% نفقات التصرف الحكومية نتيجة تسجيل زيادة بنسبة 14% في حجم هذه الضرائب. كما شهدت قيمة تسديد أصول الديون المستوجبة على الحكومة التونسية زيادة بنسبة 40% خلال النصف الأول من سنة 2019.

لذا، ارتفعت قيمة خدمة الدين في المائة، فيما كانت خدمة الدين الخارجي قد عرفت زيادة بنسبة 16% في المائة.

كانت الخطة الاقتصادية وتوافر الأنشطة المختلفة لأشهر متتالية جراء جائحة كورونا، قد تقلصت الموارد الذاتية بنسبة 12%، والذي طالب بتخفيضها من 14 إلى 12% من الناتج المحلي. كما عرفت نسبة كتلة الأجور ركودًا بنسبة 33% خلال النصف الأول من سنة 2019.

وقد توزعت الديون بين 3.9 مليار دينار من القروض الخارجية و3.2 مليار من القروض الداخلية، وكان حجم هذه القروض لا يتجاوز حدود 5.3 مليار دينار.

وخلال النصف الأول من السنة الحالية، ونتيجة الركود الاقتصادي وتوقف الأنشطة لأشهر متتالية جراء جائحة كورونا، فقد ارتفعت قيمة خدمة الدين في المائة، بما أثر على مختلف التوازنات المالية.

The Tunisian Ministry of Finance revealed that the budget deficit has increased by 56 percent during the first half of the current year, as the size of this deficit reached about 3.847 billion Tunisian dinars (about 1.4 billion dollars), compared to 2.453 billion dollars during the same period last year.

The Ministry attributed this increase, at the level of the budget deficit, to the increase in government expenditures as a result of recording an increase of 14 percent at the level of the wage block, which represented one of the points of disagreement with the International Monetary Fund, which called for reducing it from 14 to 12 percent of GDP.

The value of debt repayment due to the Tunisian government also increased by 40%. During the first half of this year, as a result of the economic recession and the suspension of various activities for months in a row due to the Corona pandemic, the self-resources have shrunk by 12 per cent, which has affected various financial balances.

Government borrowing resources increased by 33 percent to approximately 7.1 billion dinars (2.6 billion dollars) at the end of last June, distributed between 3.9 billion dinars of external loans and 3.2 billion of internal loans, and the size of these loans did not exceed the limits of 5.3 billion dinars (1.9 billion dollars) by the end of the first half of 2019.

As a result of the government’s reliance on borrowing policy, the value of the domestic debt service increased by 41%, while the external debt service, in turn, increased by 16%. As a result, the Tunisian public debt increased to 89.4 billion dinars (about 36 billion dollars), compared to 83.1 billion dinars at the end of the first half of 2019.

Source (Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Edited)
Annual Inflation in the UAE Drops Down

The consumer price index in the United Arab Emirates recorded a contraction of eighteen in a row since the beginning of last year 2019 during the month of June, which led to a decrease in annual inflation by 2.36%, while it rose on a monthly basis by 0.33% compared to May of this year, according to data issued by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority.

The prices of five major spending groups led inflation to the monthly decline in last June: equipment and household equipment by 0.16%, communications services by 0.19%, health services by 0.95%, recreation and culture by 0.38%, and finally clothes and shoes by 0.35%. While the prices of six major spending groups rose on a monthly basis: food and beverages by 0.09%, housing services, water, electricity and gas by 0.48%, transportation by 1.04%, education by 0.19%, and restaurants and hotels by 0.33%.

According to the monthly inflation report of the State Statistics Authority, the annual inflation rate in the UAE during June stood at 2.35% compared to 2.65% in June last year. This is the least annual inflation rate in the UAE since June 2014.

The drop in inflation rates in June is attributed to lower prices of food and beverages, transportation, and housing services. In contrast, the prices of education, recreation, and clothing grew by 0.33%, 0.38%, and 0.35%, respectively. The inflation rate for services other than housing grew by 0.95%.

Source (Al-Khaleej Newspaper-UAE, Edited)
Bank Al-Maghrib (the central bank) revealed an increase in private debt issuances in the past year; where it reached 86.8 billion dirhams (8.6 billion dollars), an increase of 26 per cent, taking advantage of the context of low interest rates.

The report issued by the Central Bank on Financial Stability, which was published jointly with the Insurance and Social Reserve Supervisory Authority and the Moroccan Capital Market Authority, showed that the development was due to a 35 percent increase in certificates of deposits, as well as financing company bonds that doubled the size of their issuance from 5 to 10 billion dirhams.

According to the report, private debt issuances remained dominated by negotiable debt securities last year at 72 percent, compared to 64 percent in 2018, noting that certificates of deposit account for more than half of all private debt issues.

Bank Al-Maghrir indicated that loan institutions (banks and finance companies) remain the main issuers of the debt for 80.3 per cent of the total issuances, revealing that banks have issued significant amounts of approximately 58 billion dirhams ($5.8 billion) in the market, whether in the form of certificates of deposit or bonds, or 67 percent of the private debt issuances completed in 2019.

With regard to the contribution of private debt to financing the economy, the Central Bank revealed that its share increased from 22 percent in 2018 to 29 percent in 2019; Noting that this increase is due to a more significant increase in the volume of private debt issuances, which moved from 69 billion dirhams (6.9 billion dollars) in 2018 to 82.6 billion dirhams (8.2 billion dollars) last year.

Source (Al-Arabiya.net website, Edited)
The World Bank has indicated its willingness to provide assistance to Lebanon to cope with the repercussions of Beirut port explosion that has killed tens and injured thousands of people, as well as the severe damage it has caused.

The bank revealed its willingness to conduct a rapid assessment of the damages and needs to develop the reconstruction plan in accordance with international standards. The bank is also ready to provide expertise from all over the world to manage recovery and post-disaster recovery. Affirming its decades-long partnership with Lebanon and commitment to stand by the Lebanese people who have suffered from many economic and social challenges and who have continuously demonstrated strength and flexibility in overcoming difficult times.

In parallel, the Kuwait Center for Strategic Studies revealed that Lebanon needs about 16 billion dollars to reconstruct the total and partial destruction of vital and residential facilities left by the Beirut explosion, and the restoration of marine navigation, in addition to other losses.

According to the center, foreign financial aid, especially from the Gulf states, is the only straw that Lebanon relates to and relies on to withdraw it to safety and save it from bankruptcy, not the economic deterioration it is already suffering from.

Lebanon is experiencing its worst economic crisis in decades, characterized by an unprecedented decline in the value of its currency, which has plunged half of the people into poverty. The economic meltdown, which led to massive layoffs and massive increases in the prices of essential goods and services, led to historic hikes in inflation. Since the fall of 2019, Lebanon has witnessed an unprecedented popular uprising against the political class, which is seen as corrupt and incapable of putting an end to the severe economic crisis the country is experiencing.

Source (New Arab newspaper, Edited)