The UAE’s Central Gold Reserves increased by 15 percent

The monthly report of the UAE Central Bank showed that the value of the bank’s gold possession increased by about 15 percent, and by 1.35 billion dirhams, during the month of last October, to reach 10.31 billion dirhams, compared to 8.96 billion dirhams in September 2020. On an annual basis, the increase reached 231.5 percent, as the value of gold possession at that time amounted to about 3.11 billion dirhams.

The increase in the value of the UAE Central Bank’s holdings of gold since the beginning of this year has reached approximately 155 percent, as the value of the holding at the end of December 2019 was about 4.04 billion dirhams.

Global central banks are working to enhance their gold reserves, as a safe haven in times of crisis, whereas, the UAE Central Bank had begun to significantly increase its gold holdings since August 2019; as it raised the value of its holdings by 56% to 2.24 billion dirhams, compared to 1.43 in July of the same year. Deposits also continued their remarkable decline since the beginning of the year; where it recorded a decrease of nearly 6 percent last October to reach 624.72 billion dirhams, compared to 663.9 billion dirhams in September 2020. While the decline in the total value of deposits in the banking sector reached 15.4% since the beginning of this year.

Source (Al Khaleej UAE newspaper, Edited)
كشفت البيانات الصادرة عن المركز الوطني للإحصاء والمعلومات حول الأرقام القياسية لأسعار المستهلكين في سلطنة عمان، عن انخفاض معدل التضخم في المئة خلال شهر نوفمبر (تشرين الثاني) الماضي، مقارنة بنفس الشهر السابق.

في المئة 1.46

وشهد معدل التضخم خلال الشهر الماضي انخفاضاً بنسبة 0.09 مقارنة بشهر أكتوبر (تشرين الأول) الماضي.

والسبب في انخفاض مؤشر الأسعار في الشهر الماضي هو انخفاض الأسعار الرئيسية كمجموعة السكن والمياه والكهرباء والغاز وأنواع الوقود في المئة، ومجموعة النقل بنسبة 5.88 في المئة، ومجموعة الأعمال والتحديات الأخرى بنسب عقلية 0.42 في المئة و облаتي النقص والملابس والأحذية بنسبة 0.13 في المئة، والمعدات المنزلية والصيانة المنزلية الاعتيادية بنسبة 0.25 في المئة، والمعدات المنزلية والصيانة المنزلية الاعتيادية بنسبة 0.25 في المئة، والمعدات المنزلية والصيانة المنزلية الاعتيادية بنسبة 0.25 في المئة.

ولكن هناك بعض الأشياء التي ارتفعت الأسعار منها مجموعة المواد الغذائية والمشروبات الغازية بنسبة 0.78 في المئة، فيما ارتفعت أسعار مجموعة السلع الفاخرة والمعدات المنزلية بنسبة 0.26 في المئة، وكذلك مجموعة التعليم بنسبة 0.26 في المئة، ومجموعة الفنادق والترفيه بنسبة 0.52 في المئة، ومجموعة المطعم بنسبة 0.52 في المئة، ومجموعة التلفزيون بنسبة 0.52 في المئة، ومجموعة التلفزيون بنسبة 0.52 في المئة، ومجموعة التلفزيون بنسبة 0.52 في المئة، ومجموعة التلفزيون بنسبة 0.52 في المئة.

المصدر (صحيفة الشرق الأوسط، بتصريف)

Sultanate of Oman Inflation drops by 1.46 percent

The data issued by the National Center for Statistics and Information about the Consumer Price Index numbers in the Sultanate of Oman revealed, the rate of inflation decreased by 1.46 percent during the month of November (November), compared to the same month last year.

The rate of inflation during the past month decreased by 0.09 percent compared to last October.

The reason for the decrease in the price index last month is due to the drop in the prices of the main groups such as housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels by 0.42 percent, the transmission group increased by 5.88 percent, the restaurant and hotel group by 0.25 percent, and clothes and shoes by 0.13 percent, and the telecommunications group by 0.04 percent, and the group of furniture, household appliances and equipment, and regular household maintenance by 0.25 percent.

On the other hand, the prices of the food and non-alcoholic beverages group decreased by 0.78 percent. While the prices of the various goods and services group increased by 1.26 percent, and the education group by 0.08 percent. And the health group by 0.02 percent, and the culture and entertainment group by 0.52 percent, while the prices of the tobacco group were stable.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Edited)
Moody’s gives Gulf Banks a Negative Outlook in 2021

Moody’s credit rating agency gave a negative view of Gulf banks next year, according to a recent report on the sector’s performance and its future prospects in 2021. Indicating that this negative outlook could turn into stable in the event of a strong recovery in economic growth and easing of fiscal control measures, as well as a return to high levels of government spending.

The agency stated in its report that the negative outlook of Gulf banks is driven by the slowdown in economic growth and the continued negative consequences for companies due to the continuing outbreak of the Corona pandemic, which continues to have its effects on all economic sectors.

According to Moody’s, the decline in oil revenues has cast a shadow over government deposits in banks, which represent the largest part of the deposit portfolio in the Gulf banking sector, which has affected the financing costs associated with the sector. Moody’s expects the profitability of the sector to decline with higher provisions and lower returns, as the average return on assets this year and next year will reach 1.2 percent, compared to an average return of about 1.5 percent in the past 2019.

On the other hand, Moody’s expects momentum in mergers within the sector during the coming period, driven by weak economic growth, intense competition, and a large number of small banks facing difficult operating conditions that may ultimately push them towards consolidation.

Source (Arabic cnbc site, Edited)

High Iraqi Debt and The Erosion of Foreign Exchange Reserves in 2020

The Iraqi Central Statistics Agency revealed the high internal debt of Iraq and the erosion of foreign exchange reserves during the first quarter of this year 2020, in light of the repercussions of the new Corona virus pandemic and the global drop in crude oil prices. The internal public debt reached about 43.4 trillion dinars (equivalent to 36 billion dollars) during the first quarter, compared to 38.3 trillion dinars in the last quarter of last year.

The report showed that foreign exchange reserves decreased by 12.5 percent on a quarterly basis, during the first quarter of this year 2020, to $ 57.5 billion, opposed to $ 65.75 billion in the last quarter of 2019. The decline in foreign exchange reserves coincided with a decline in oil revenues, the most prominent source of revenue for Iraq, and an increase in expenditures, including the salary bill.

On 12 November, the Iraqi parliament approved the internal and external borrowing law worth 12 trillion dinars (10 billion dollars), in an effort to end the crisis of delayed payment of state salaries. This is the second time that the government has asked Parliament to grant it the authorization to borrow, with the aim of securing operating expenses, on top of which are the salaries of employees. On June 24, parliament approved a bill that allowed the government to borrow 15 trillion dinars (12.5 billion dollars) internally, and 5 billion dollars abroad to cover the fiscal deficit.

Source (Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Newspaper, Edited)