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A Record Decrease in the Algerian Trade Balance Deficit

The Algerian trade balance deficit recorded a significant decrease, as a result of the government’s policy of tightening the belt and curbing imports by freezing the import of hundreds of goods and services. According to the figures issued by the Algerian Ministry of Finance, the trade deficit decreased by 87.89% during the first eight months of 2021, with a deficit of $926 million until the end of last August, compared to a deficit of $7.6 billion at the end of August of last year. This decline is due to the significant increase in overall exports of goods, which rose from $15.1 billion to $23.7 billion between August 2020 and 2021, of which $2.9 billion came from non-oil exports. Algeria’s exports from outside the hydrocarbon sector recorded a relatively large jump in the first five months of 2021, compared to the same period last year. Exports, excluding hydrocarbons, amounted to 1.55 billion dollars, up from 852 million dollars during the same period last year, representing an increase of 81.8 percent, or 11.13 percent of the total Algerian exports.

Source (The New Arab Newspaper, Edited)
أظهر تقرير صادر عن وكالة التصنيف الائتماني العالمية "ستاندرد آند بورز" أن النمو الاقتصادي بدأ التعافي في الربع الثالث من عام 2020، إلا أن المتحورات الجديدة من فيروس كورونا أحبطت مسار التعافي، وذلك لن تتمكن اقتصادات المنطقة الشرق الأوسط من العودة إلى مسار معدلات نمو الناتج المحلي الإجمالي، التي سجلتها قبل الجائحة، إلا بحلول عام 2024.

وبين التقرير أن الكويت سجلت أكبر مستوى انخفاض في النمو خلال 2020، إذ بلغت نسبة عجز النمو قرابة 12 في المئة. وبكشف الوكالة أن الثروة النفطية تعتبر فارقاً رئيسياً بين دول الخليج وشمال أفريقيا، إذ لا تزال المراكز المالية الشماليّة الضعيفة تلقي بثقلها على دول شمال أفريقيا، في حين أن تراكم مستويات عالية من الأصول الحكومية لدى الحكومات الخليجية يدعم مراكزها المالية الخارجية.

وأفادت الوكالة أن احتياطيات دول الخليج من النفط والغاز من العوامل الأساسية الداعمة لمعظم التصنيفات السيادية لدول الخليج، حيث أن الدخل المرتفع من قطاع النفط والغاز ينتج عنه مستويات عالية من الثروة الاقتصادية، مع وجود فوائد حكومية عامة مكونة من رقمين كسبة مكونة من الناتج المحلي الإجمالي قبل التصحيح الهيكلي لأسعار النفط الذي بدأ في الربع الثاني من 2014.

المصدر (صحيفة الراي الكويتية، بتحرير)

**Growth of Economic Recovery for Arab Countries by 2024**

A report issued by the global credit rating agency Standard & Poor's showed that regional growth began to recover in the third quarter of 2020, but the new variables from the Coronavirus frustrated the recovery path, and therefore the economies of the Middle East will not be able to return to the path of GDP growth rates, recorded before the pandemic, will be expected only by 2024.

The report indicated that Kuwait recorded the largest drop in growth among the countries of the region during 2020, with a growth deficit of nearly 12 percent. The agency reveals that oil wealth is a major difference between the Gulf countries and North Africa, as weak financial positions continue to weigh on North African countries, while the accumulation of high levels of government assets with Gulf governments supports their financial and external positions.

The agency disclosed that the large reserves of the Gulf states of oil and gas are among the main factors supporting most of the sovereign ratings of the Gulf states, as the high income from the oil and gas sector results in high levels of economic wealth, with general government surpluses consisting of double figures as a percentage of GDP before the structural adjustment in oil prices that began in the second half of 2014.

Source (Al-Rai Newspaper-Kuwait, Edited)
Qatar's Foreign Reserves Rose by 2.7%

The data released by Qatar’s Central Bank showed that its international reserves and foreign currency liquidity increased by 2.7 percent on an annual basis in August 2021, and this is a continuous increase for the 42nd consecutive month.

According to the same source, the foreign reserves rose to 209.323 billion riyals ($57.55 billion) last month, and reserves in Qatar amounted to 203.735 billion riyals ($56.01 billion) in the same month of 2020.

On a monthly basis, Qatar's foreign reserves increased by 1.94 percent, compared to 205.32 billion riyals ($56.45 billion) in the previous July.

It is worth noting that Qatar's foreign reserves continue to rise monthly since it began growing in March 2018, and that Qatar is experiencing pressures due to the repercussions of the Corona pandemic, and the high cost of projects to organize the World Cup in 2022, but it shows resilience based on the rise in its foreign reserves and the assets of its sovereign fund.

Source (Anadolu Agency, Edited)