Increased Profits of the UAE Banking System

The profits of the Emirati Banking System increased in 2021 to around pre-pandemic levels, and reached 35.7 billion dirhams, which reflects an improvement in business sentiment and economic conditions and the lifting of restrictions related to the Corona virus. As a result, the return on assets increased to 1.2%, the return on shareholders’ equity improved to 8.2%, and the cost-to-income ratio improved to 36.4%. With the economic recovery gaining momentum, profitability is expected to improve further in 2022.

Total operating income grew moderately in 2021 by 1.2% YoY. The increase was driven by improvements in other operating income by 19.6% YoY, mainly due to growth in income from trading and fees and commissions.
Inflation Increased in Jordan by 3.63 percent

The general consumer price index (inflation) in Jordan increased during the first seven months of this year, by 3.63%, to reach 105.77 points, compared to 102.06 recorded in the same period in 2021. According to the monthly report of the Department of Statistics, the most prominent commodity groups that contributed to this rise were the fuel and lighting group by 19.42%, transportation by 5.64%, dry and canned vegetables and legumes 12.09%, rents 1.18%, and culture and entertainment 7.27%.

According to the department, the general consumer price index for July 2022 reached 107.92 compared to 102.45 for the same month in 2021, recording an increase of 5.34%. This increase was mainly contributed by the fuel and lighting group by 30.56%, transportation by 6.41%, rents by 4.48%, culture and entertainment 12.92%, and health by 6.85%.

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

Losses of the Oil and Mineral Resources Sector in Syria Exceeded 105 Billion Dollars

The Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources in Syria revealed that the losses of the oil and mineral resources sector from 2011 until the end of the first half of 2022 amounted to about 105 billion dollars. According to the ministry’s report for the first half of this year, oil production during the period from January to the end of June reached 14.5 million barrels, with an average daily production of 80.3 thousand barrels. Indicating that what is being delivered of these quantities to refineries is about 14.3 thousand barrels, while up to 66,000 barrels per day are stolen from the fields of the Eastern Province.

Syria has witnessed a continuous decline in oil and gas production, since 2011, as the volume of production exceeded 385,000 barrels, while it reached zero limits in 2015, before the Syrian government took control of some wells, east of the central city of Homs and west of the Euphrates River, with a daily production of about 14,000 barrels. According to a report by the Ministry of Oil, the volume of gas production amounted to about two billion cubic meters during the first half of the year, with a daily production rate of 11.3 million cubic meters.

Source (Al-Araby Al-Jadeed Newspaper, Edited)
"EFG-Hermes" revealed that the total profits of Kuwaiti banks increased by 45 percent year-on-year in the second quarter and first half of 2022, driven by strong revenues and a sharp decline in provisioning costs.

The group indicated in a report that the total cost of risk decreased to 32 basis points in the first half of 2022, compared to about 130 points in the first half of 2011 and about 150 points from 2015 to 2020. Indicating that the results of the first half of this year confirm the view on the moderate cost of risk in 2022, after making conservative provisions over the past few years.

Loan growth rose to 10 percent year on year in June, compared to 4 percent year on year last December, while the retail sector (retail) is still thriving (+14 percent year on year in June), while corporate loan growth witnessed a strong recovery after 2021, at around 6% y/y in June from 1% y/y in December.

Source (Al-Rai Kuwaiti Newspaper, Edited)