Oman’s Budget Surplus Rises to $2.9 Billion

The Omani Ministry of Finance revealed that the Sultanate achieved a surplus in the general budget of 1.123 billion Omani riyals (2.9 billion dollars) in the nine months until the end of last September. At a time when high oil prices support the state’s public finances, the surplus constituted a shift from a deficit of 1.03 billion riyals in the same period of 2021.

Net oil revenues (oil and gas) increased by 51.9 percent, to reach 8.1 billion Omani riyals, compared to 5.3 billion Omani riyals until the end of September 2021. This was driven by an increase in the average price of oil collected at $94, in addition to an increase in production by about 1.56 thousand barrels per day, while spending for this period exceeded 9.4 billion riyals.

The Ministry of Finance indicated that despite the government’s commitment to a program of fiscal discipline and structural reforms in the past few years to reduce the growing deficit, spending increased by 12.5 percent until the end of September compared to the previous year.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)
The total international reserves and foreign currency liquidity at the Qatar Central Bank increased last October by 1.3 percent on a monthly basis, reaching about $60 billion. Official data issued by the Qatar Central Bank showed growth in official reserves last month by 1.8 percent compared to the previous month (September) to $44 billion, supported by an increase in investment in foreign treasury bonds to about $31.8 billion.

Qatar is working to maximize its balance of foreign reserves to support the local currency and to reduce the public debt-to-GDP ratio, by taking advantage of the high value of financial surpluses resulting from increased revenues from high energy prices.

According to the latest data on foreign trade, Qatar's foreign reserves cover the value of the country's merchandise imports for about 22 months in a row. On the other hand, balances with foreign banks decreased by about 3.4 billion riyals to the level of 22.5 billion riyals, compared to the month of October (October) last year, while gold stocks rose by about 5.2 billion riyals, to reach 17 billion riyals.

Source (CNBC Arabic Website, Edited)

“Fitch” gives Morocco a Positive Long-Term Rating with a Stable Outlook

“Fitch’s” fixation on Morocco’s credit rating at stable levels gave the government a new moral boost to proceed with the implementation of the economic recovery program. The agency gave a positive long-term assessment of foreign currency cash reserves at BP + with a stable outlook, indicating that the rating was supported by a moderate share of foreign currency debt within the total public debt. Estimates indicate that Morocco’s external debt reached 229 billion dirhams (about 21 billion dollars) by the end of this year, with a growth of about 10 percent on an annual basis. While the internal debt is expected to grow by 7.7 percent this year to reach nearly 731 billion dirhams (67 billion dollars), an annual comparison. According to “Fitch”, the historical stability of Morocco’s macroeconomic balances is reflected in relatively weak levels of inflation and the volatility of GDP in the pre-pandemic period. On the other hand, these qualifications are offset, at the same time, by weak indicators of development and governance, high public debt, and a larger budget and current account deficit compared to its peers.

Fitch expects growth to slow to 1.1 percent in 2022 due to the effects of the drought, a strong contraction in agricultural production, and inflation affecting consumption.

Source (Al-Arab Newspaper of London, Edited)