

# Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal

(Based on Three Months' Data of 2019/20)

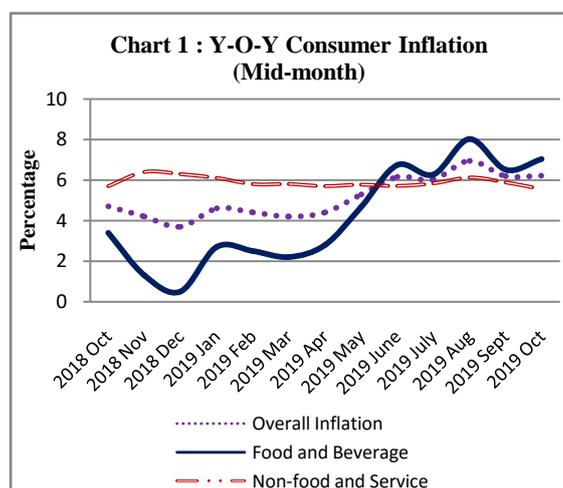
## Major Highlights

- Inflation remained 6.21 percent on y-o-y basis and 6.44 percent on average during three months.
- Imports decreased 10.3 percent and exports increased 14.4 percent.
- Remittances decreased 4.9 percent in NPR.
- Balance of Payments remained at a surplus of Rs.14.43 billion.
- Gross foreign exchange reserves stood at Rs.1087.73 billion. This level of reserve is sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise and services imports for 8.5 months.
- Federal Government spending based on banking transactions amounted to Rs.172.33 billion and revenue collection Rs.211.28 billion.
- Broad money (M2) expanded 3.2 percent. On y-o-y basis, M2 expanded 15.4 percent.
- Deposits at Banks and Financial Institutions expanded 3.0 percent and bank credit to the private sector expanded 4.3 percent. On y-o-y basis, deposits increased 18.6 percent and credit 16.2 percent.

## Inflation

### Consumer Price Inflation

1. The y-o-y consumer price inflation stood at 6.21 percent in mid-October 2019 compared to 4.68 percent a year ago. Food and beverage inflation stood at 7.04 percent whereas non-food and service inflation stood at 5.55 percent in the review month.
2. Within the food and beverage group, prices of vegetables, meat and fish, fruits and spices sub-groups rose significantly in the review month. Likewise, within the non-food and service group, prices of housing and utilities, clothes and footwear, and education sub-groups rose in the review month.
3. In the review month, the Kathmandu Valley witnessed 8.14 percent inflation followed by 5.75 percent in the Terai, 4.89 percent in the Hill and 5.11 percent in the Mountain. These regions had witnessed 4.04 percent, 4.34 percent, 6.1 percent and 4.24 percent inflation respectively a year ago.



**Table 1: Y-O-Y Consumer Price Inflation (Percent)**

Heads	Mid-Oct 2018	Mid-Sep 2019	Mid-Oct 2019
Overall inflation	4.68	6.16	6.21
Food and beverage	3.42	6.51	7.04
Non-food and service	5.68	5.89	5.55

- The y-o-y consumer price inflation in Nepal in the review month and in India (October 2019) stood at 6.21 percent and 4.62 percent respectively. Such rate of inflation was 4.68 percent in Nepal compared to 3.38 percent in India a year ago.

### Wholesale Price Inflation

- The y-o-y wholesale price inflation recorded 5.10 percent in the review month compared to 9.17 percent a year ago. In the review month, prices of primary food, transport equipment and parts, and textile sub-groups rose significantly.
- Based on broad economic classification, prices of consumption goods, intermediate goods, and capital goods increased 11.95 percent, 1.61 percent and 2.46 percent respectively. Wholesale price of construction materials dropped 2.41 percent in the review month.

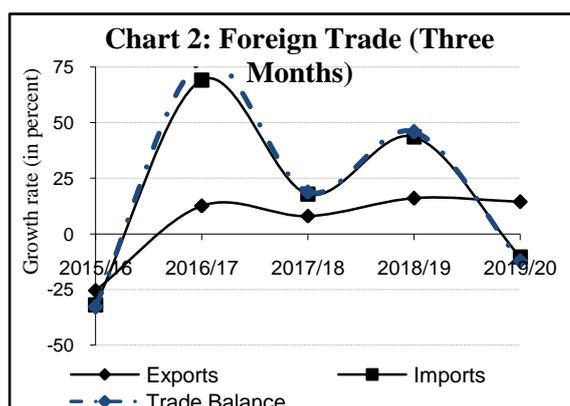
### Salary and Wage Rate Index

- The y-o-y salary and wage rate index increased 12.07 percent in the review month compared to 8.73 percent a year ago. In the review month, salary index and wage rate index increased 13.56 percent and 11.67 percent respectively.

## External Sector

### Merchandise Trade

- In three months of 2019/20, merchandise exports increased 14.4 percent to Rs.27.17 billion compared to an increase of 16.1 percent a year ago. Destination-wise, exports to India increased 35.8 percent whereas exports to China and other countries decreased 19.9 and 11.7 percent respectively. Mainly exports of palm oil, cardamom, medicine (ayurvedic), jute goods, yarn (polyester and other), among others, increased whereas exports of zinc sheet, juice, readymade garment, woolen carpet, wire, among others, decreased in the review period.



- In three months of 2019/20, merchandise imports decreased 10.3 percent to Rs.334.95 billion against an increase of 43.6 percent in the same period of the previous year. Destination-wise, imports from China increased 11.6 percent whereas imports from India, and other countries decreased 12.2 percent and 19.1 percent respectively. Commoditywise, imports of crude palm oil, hot rolled sheet, other machinery and parts, electrical equipment, solar panel, among others, increased whereas imports of aircraft spareparts, M.S. billet, petroleum products, gold, transportation equipment and parts, among others, decreased in the review period.
- Based on customs points, exports from Birgunj Customs Office, Biratnagar Customs Office, Mechi Customs Office, and Kanchanpur Customs Office increased whereas exports from other major customs points decreased. On the import side, imports from Dry Port Customs Office, Mechi Customs Office, Kanchanpur Customs Office and Rasuwa Customs Office increased whereas imports from other major customs points decreased in the review period.

11. Total trade deficit narrowed 12 percent to Rs.307.78 billion in the three months of 2019/20. The export-import ratio increased to 8.1 percent in the review period from 6.4 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### **Export-Import Price Index**

12. The y-o-y unit value export price index based on customs data decreased 0.7 percent and import price index decreased 4.9 percent in mid-October 2019. The terms of trade (ToT) index increased 4.4 percent in mid-October 2019 against a decrease of 11.4 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### **Services**

13. Net services income remained at a deficit of Rs.6.27 billion in the review period compared to a deficit of Rs. 19.81 billion a year ago.
14. Under the service account, travel income increased 16.5 percent to Rs.18.28 billion in the review period. Such income was Rs.15.69 billion in the same period of the previous year.
15. Under the service account, travel payments decreased 28.1 percent to Rs.21.21 billion, including Rs.10.24 billion for education. Such payments was Rs.29.50 billion in the same period of the previous year.

### **Remittances**

16. Remittance inflows decreased 4.9 percent to Rs.230.24 billion in the review period compared to an increase of 37.3 percent in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar term, such inflows decreased 4.6 percent in the review period compared to 24.5 percent increase in the corresponding period of the previous year.
17. Net transfer receipts decreased 3.7 percent to Rs.260.77 billion in the review period. Such receipts had increased 33.4 percent in the same period of the previous year.
18. Number of Nepalese workers (institutional and individual-new and legalized) migrated for foreign employment decreased 3.7 percent in the review period. It had decreased 34.8 percent in the same period of the previous year. The number of Nepalese workers (Renew entry) migrated for foreign employment decreased 0.9 percent in the review period. It had decreased 4.7 percent in the same period of the previous year.

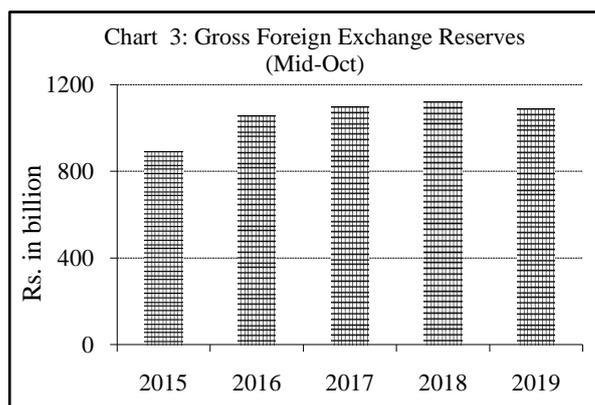
### **Current Account and BOP Position**

19. The current account registered a deficit of Rs.27.18 billion in the review period. Such deficit was Rs.81.74 billion in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, the current account deficit remained 239.9 million in the review period compared to 715 million a year ago.
20. Balance of Payments (BOP) remained at a surplus of Rs.14.43 billion in the review period compared to a deficit of Rs.35.42 billion in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, the overall BOP recorded a surplus of 127.8 million in the review period against a deficit of 316.2 million in the same period of the previous year.
21. In the review period, capital transfer and foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nepal amounted to Rs.3.68 billion and Rs.4 billion respectively. In the same period of the previous year, capital transfer and FDI amounted to Rs.3.55 billion and Rs.1.54 billion respectively.

## Foreign Exchange Reserves

22. Gross foreign exchange reserves increased to Rs.1087.73 billion as at mid-October 2019 from Rs.1038.92 billion as at mid-July 2019. In the US Dollar terms, the gross foreign exchange reserves increased to 9.54 billion as at mid-October 2019 from 9.50 billion as at mid-July 2019.

23. Of the total foreign exchange reserves, reserves held by NRB increased to Rs.943.83 billion as at mid-October 2019 from Rs.902.44 billion as at mid-July 2019. Reserves held by banks and financial institutions (except NRB) increased to Rs.143.90 billion as at mid-October 2019 from Rs.136.47 billion as at mid-July 2019. The share of Indian currency in total reserves stood at 25.1 percent as at mid-October 2019.



## Foreign Exchange Adequacy Indicators

24. Based on the imports of the three months of current fiscal year, the foreign exchange reserves of the banking sector is sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports of 9.8 months, and merchandise and services imports of 8.5 months. The ratio of reserve-to-GDP, reserve-to-imports and reserve-to-M2 stood at 31.4 percent, 71.1 percent and 29.2 percent respectively as at mid-October 2019. Such ratios were 30 percent, 64.9 percent and 29 percent as at mid-July 2019.

## Price of Oil and Gold

25. The price of oil (Crude Oil Brent) in the international market decreased 25.7 percent to USD 59.35 per barrel in mid-October 2019 from USD 79.91 per barrel a year ago. The price of gold increased 21.4 percent to USD 1492.65 per ounce in mid-October 2019 from USD 1229.05 per ounce a year ago.

## Exchange Rate

26. Nepalese currency vis-à-vis US dollar depreciated 4.1 percent in mid-October 2019 from mid-July 2019. It had depreciated 6.7 percent in the same period of the previous year. The buying exchange rate per US dollar stood at Rs.114 in mid-October 2019 compared to Rs.109.36 in mid-July 2019.

## Fiscal Situation\*

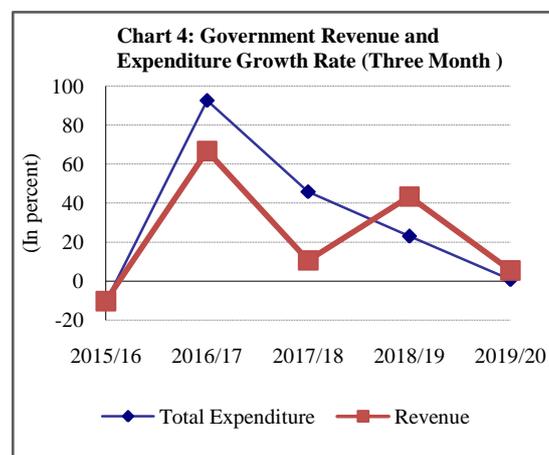
### Fiscal Deficit/Surplus

27. During three months of 2019/20, fiscal position of the Government, based on banking transactions, remained at a surplus of Rs.46.38 billion compared to a surplus of Rs.32.83 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### Government Expenditure and Revenue

28. In the review period, total expenditure of the federal government based on banking transactions (excluding direct payments and unrealized cheques) stood at Rs.172.33 billion. Such expenditure was Rs.170.95 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

29. In the review period, revenue collection based on banking transactions (including the amount to be transferred to provincial and local governments) stood at Rs.211.28 billion. Total government revenue was Rs. 200.32 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.



### Cash Balance of the Government of Nepal

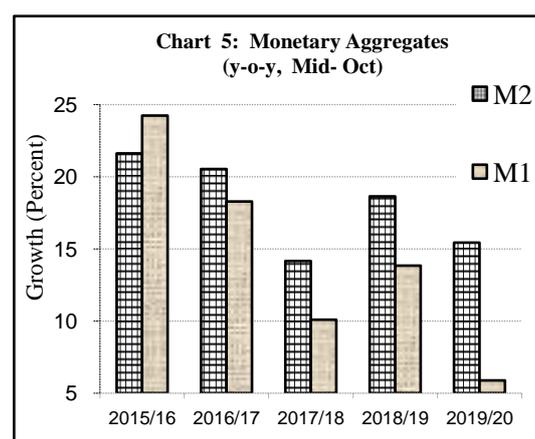
30. Balance at various accounts of the GoN maintained with NRB remained Rs.121.27 billion (including Rs. 40.41 billion in Local Authorities Account) in mid-october 2019.

## Monetary Situation

### Money Supply

31. Broad money (M2) increased 3.2 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 3.5 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, M2 expanded 15.4 percent in mid-October 2019.

32. Net foreign assets (NFA after adjusting foreign exchange valuation gain/loss) increased Rs.14.43 billion (1.5 percent) in the review period compared to a decrease of Rs.35.42 billion (3.4 percent) in the corresponding period of the previous year.

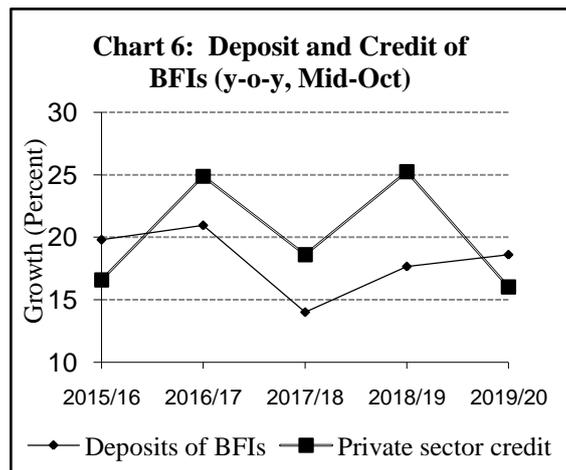


33. Reserve money increased 2.7 percent in the review period compared to a decrease of 10.6 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, reserve money increased 13 percent in mid-October 2019.

\* Based on data reported by Banking Office of NRB and Commercial Banks conducting government transactions and report released from 81 DTCOs and payment centers.

## Domestic Credit

34. Domestic credit increased 2 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 4.4 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, domestic credit increased 18.6 percent in mid-October 2019.
35. Monetary sector's claim on the private sector increased 4.4 percent in the review period compared to a growth of 7.3 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, such claims increased 15.9 percent in mid-October 2019.



## Deposit Mobilization

36. Deposits at Banks and Financial Institutions (BFIs) increased 3 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 2.4 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, deposits at BFIs expanded 18.6 percent in mid-October 2019.
37. The share of demand, saving, and fixed deposits in total deposits stands at 8.2 percent, 33 percent, and 47.8 percent respectively in mid-October 2019 (Table 2). Such shares were 8 percent, 35 percent, and 46.2 percent respectively a year ago.

**Table 2: Deposits at Banks and Financial Institutions (Percentage Share)**

Deposits	Mid-Jul				Mid-Oct	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019
Demand	9.1	8.7	9.3	9.7	8.0	8.2
Saving	43.3	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.0	33.0
Fixed	30.5	43.2	44.8	46.3	46.2	47.8
Other	17.1	12.7	11.3	11.2	10.9	11.0

38. The share of institutional deposits in total deposits of BFIs stands at 44.8 percent in mid-October 2019. Such share was 43.8 percent in mid-October 2018.

## Credit Disbursement

39. Credit to the private sector from BFIs increased 4.3 percent in the review period compared to a growth of 7.2 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, credit to the private sector from BFIs increased 16.2 percent in mid-October 2019.
40. Of the total outstanding credit of the BFIs, 64.4 percent is against the collateral of land and building and 13.7 percent against the collateral of current assets (agricultural and non-agricultural products). Such ratios were 63.1 percent and 14.4 percent respectively a year ago.
41. Loan of BFIs to agriculture sector increased 2 percent, industrial production sector increased 5.4 percent, construction sector increased 4.4 percent, transportation, communication and public sector increased 5.4 percent and service industry sector increased 6.3 percent in the review period.
42. In the review period, term loan extended by BFIs increased 7 percent, trust receipt (import) loan increased 8.9 percent, demand and working capital loan increased 6.2 percent, real estate loan (including residential personal home loan) increased 4.8 percent, hire purchase loan increased 0.4 percent and overdraft increased 1 percent whereas margin nature loan decreased 0.2 percent.

## **Liquidity Management**

43. In the review period, NRB mopped up Rs.30 billion liquidity through open market operations. Rs.95.35 billion liquidity was mopped up in the corresponding period of the previous year.
44. In the review period, Rs. 89.32 billion liquidity was injected including 39.52 billion through repo and Rs.49.80 billion through standing liquidity facility (SLF). Rs. 3.42 billion was injected through SLF in the corresponding period of the previous year.
45. In the review period, NRB injected net liquidity of Rs.102.22 billion through the net purchase of USD 898.5 million from foreign exchange market. Net liquidity of Rs.80.75 billion was injected through the net purchase of USD 699.1 million in the corresponding period of the previous year.
46. NRB purchased Indian currency (INR) equivalent to Rs.119.98 billion through the sale of USD 1.06 billion in the review period. INR equivalent to Rs.131.15 billion was purchased through the sale of USD 1.02 billion and other convertible foreign currencies in the corresponding period of the previous year.

## **Refinance**

47. The outstanding refinance facility provided by the NRB at a concessional rate for promoting productive sector activities and export amounted to Rs.14.62 billion in mid-October 2019. Of which, general refinance of Rs.12.10 billion and export refinance of Rs.502.8 million was availed.
48. The outstanding amount of refinance extended to BFIs for providing concessional housing loan to earthquake victims stands at Rs.2.01 billion as of mid-October 2019. The number of earthquake victims utilizing such loan is 1,578.

## **Concessional Loan**

49. The outstanding concessional loan extended to 18,805 borrowers for selected agriculture and livestock businesses stands Rs.38.20 billion as of mid-October 2019. The concessional loan outstanding to other headings remains Rs.1.10 billion utilized by 1,854 beneficiaries.

## **Inter-bank Transaction**

50. In the review period, inter-bank transactions among commercial banks amounted to Rs.583.31 billion and among banks and financial institutions (excluding transactions among commercial banks) Rs.43.88 billion. Such transactions were Rs.336.87 billion and Rs.32.44 billion respectively in the corresponding period of the previous year.

## **Interest Rates**

51. The weighted average 91-day Treasury bills rate increased to 4.33 percent in the third month of 2019/20 from 1.77 percent a year ago. The weighted average inter-bank transaction rate among commercial banks, which was 1.86 percent a year ago, increased to 4.62 percent in the review month.
52. The average base rate of commercial banks decreased to 9.56 percent in the review month from 10.23 percent a year ago. Weighted average deposit rate and lending rate of commercial banks stood at 6.75 percent and 11.98 percent respectively in the review month. Such rates were 6.57 percent and 12.26 percent respectively in the corresponding month of the previous year.

## Merger and Acquisition

53. After the introduction of merger and acquisition policy aimed at strengthening financial stability, the number of BFIs involved in this process reached 178. Out of which, the license of 135 BFIs was revoked thereby forming 43 BFIs.

## Financial Access

54. Of the total 753 local levels, commercial banks extended their branches at 741 levels as of mid-October 2019 (Table 3).

55. The total number of BFIs licensed by NRB is 165 in mid-October 2019 (Table 4). Of which, 28 commercial banks, 25 development banks, 22 finance companies, 89 microfinance financial institutions and 1 infrastructure development bank are in operation. The number of BFIs branches reached 9,110 in mid-October 2019 from 8,686 in mid-July 2019.

Province	No. of Local Levels	Local Levels having Bank Branches
Province 1	137	136
Province 2	136	134
Province 3	119	117
Gandaki	85	84
Province 5	109	109
Karnali	79	78
Far West	88	83
<b>Total</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>741</b>

Bank and Financial Institutions	Number of BFIs			Branches of BFIs		
	Mid-Jul 2018	Mid-Jul 2019	Mid-Oct 2019	Mid-Jul 2018	Mid-Jul 2019	Mid-Oct 2019
Commercial Banks	28	28	28	3023	3585	3884
Development Banks	33	29	25	993	1267	1258
Finance Companies	25	23	22	186	205	215
Microfinance Financial Institutions	65	90	89	2449	3629	3753
Infrastructure Development Banks	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>6651</b>	<b>8686</b>	<b>9110</b>

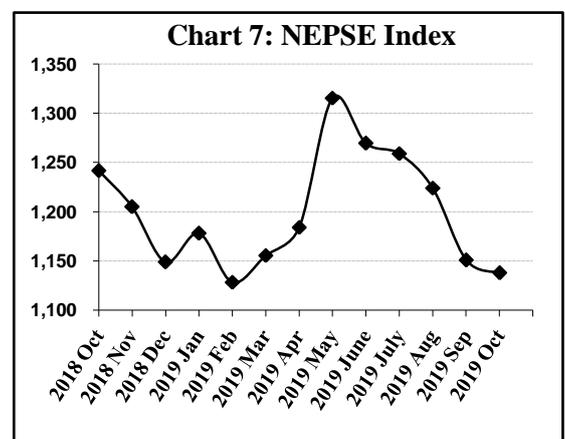
\*Detail information is available at <http://emap.nrb.org.np/>

## Capital Market

56. The NEPSE index decreased to 1137.8 points in mid-October 2019 compared to 1241.6 points in mid-October 2018. Such index was 1259.0 in mid-July 2019.

57. Stock market capitalization, on y-o-y basis, decreased 2.4 percent to Rs. 1445.56 billion in mid-October 2019. Market capitalization in mid-July 2019 stood at Rs. 1567.50 billion.

58. The number of companies listed at NEPSE stood 217 in mid-October 2019, out of which 154 are BFIs and insurance companies, 32 hydropower companies, 19 manufacturing and processing industries, 4 hotels, 4 trading companies and 4 others. The number of companies listed at NEPSE was 215 in mid-July 2019.



59. The share of BFIs and insurance companies in stock market capitalization is 78.5 percent. Such share for hydropower companies is 6.5 percent, manufacturing and processing industries 4.1 percent, hotels 1.6 percent, trading companies 0.1 percent and other sector companies 9.2 percent.
60. The paid-up value of the number of 4.40 billion listed shares at NEPSE stood at Rs. 431.83 billion in mid-October 2019.
61. Securities worth Rs 44.74 billion were listed at NEPSE in the three months of 2019/20. Such securities comprise ordinary shares worth Rs. 33.72 billion, bonus shares worth Rs. 8.08 billion, right shares worth Rs. 1.45 billion, debenture worth Rs. 350 million and others worth Rs. 1.14 billion. Securities Board of Nepal approved the issuance of debentures worth Rs. 3.40 billion during the period.