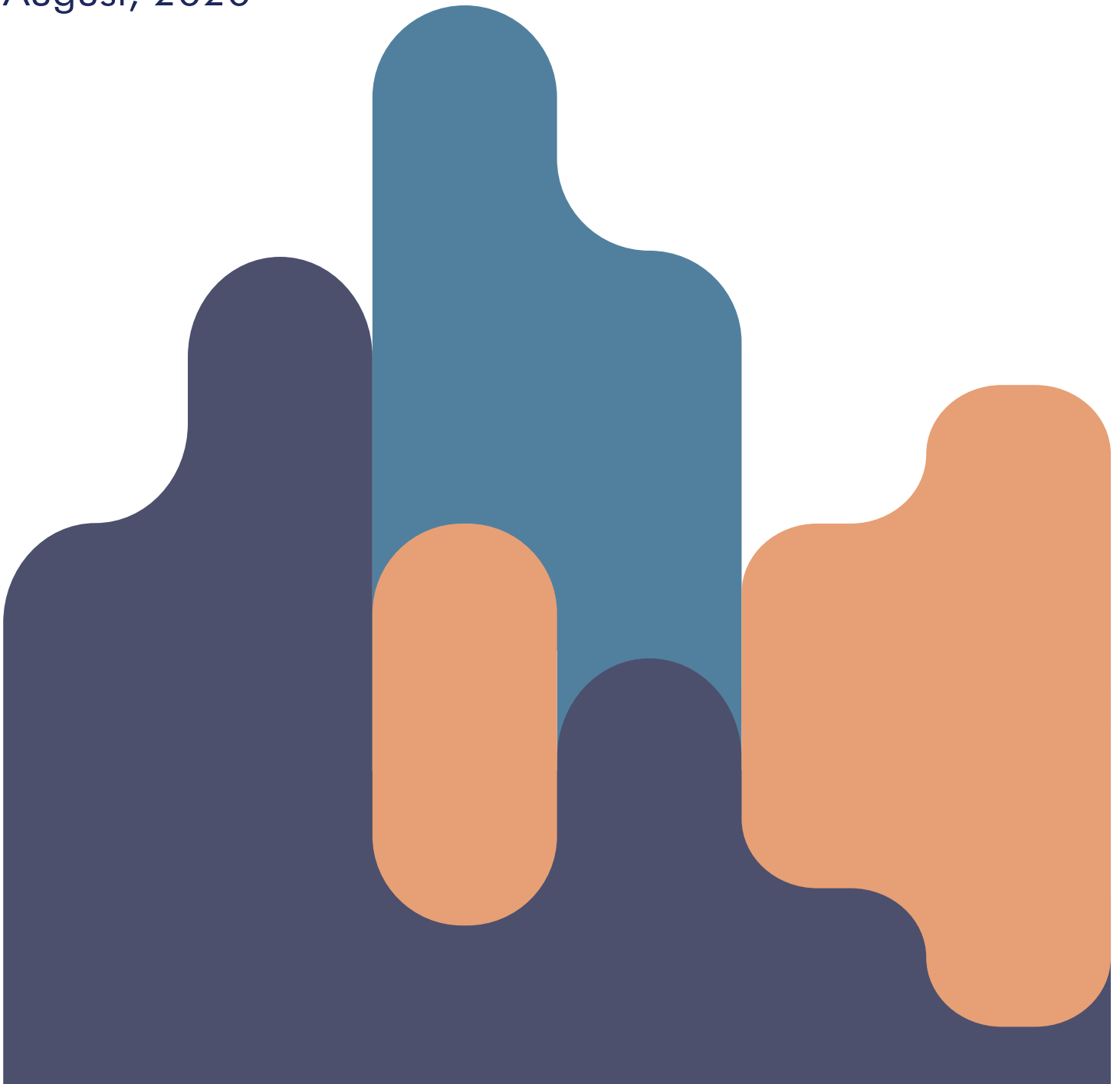




# Current Economic Outlook

August, 2020



## Brief Summary

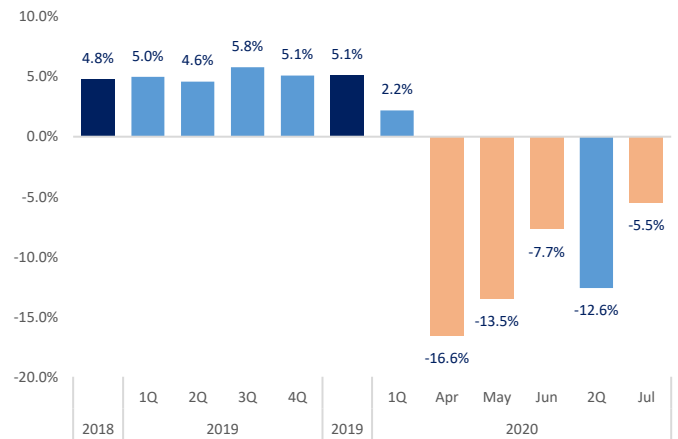
- Based on Geostat's preliminary data, annual real economic growth in July equals to -5.5 percent
- Annual inflation in August equals to 4.8 percent, while core inflation - 5.7 percent
- Export annually decreased by 20.8 percent in July
- Import annually decreased by 9.6 percent in July
- Refinancing rate decreased to 8 percent



## Economic Growth

In July 2020, annual economic growth was -5.5 percent, while the average real growth in the first seven was -5.8 percent. This sharp decline is due to declining economic activity, both within the country and in the region due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The estimated real growth compared to the same period of the previous year was posted negative in almost all activities, other than Mining and quarrying and Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities.

Figure 1: Economic Growth



Source: Geostat

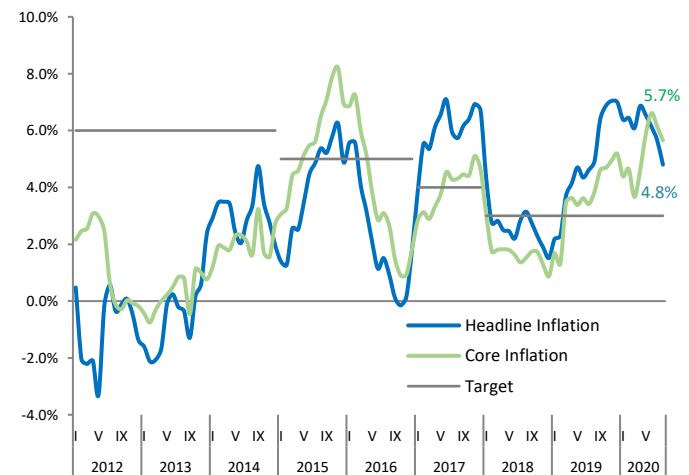
## Price Level

As of August 2020, the inflation rate was 4.8 percent compared to the same period last year, which is higher than the target inflation. Core inflation was 5.7 percent in the corresponding period.

The main influence on the formation of annual inflation was the dynamics of prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages (+9.2 percent), furnishings, household equipment and maintenance (+9.7), alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+8.9), restaurants and hotels (+7.4) and healthcare (+6.3). And the annual decline was observed in the categories of transport (-8.9), recreation and culture (-2).

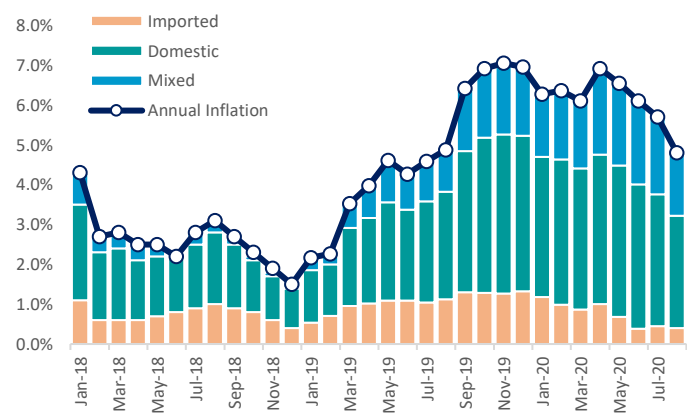
At the same time, in August 2020, inflation was -0.02 percent compared to the previous month, which was significantly caused by decreasing prices for clothing and footwear food (-2.3) and non-alcoholic beverages (-0.5).

Figure 2: Annual Inflation, 2020 August



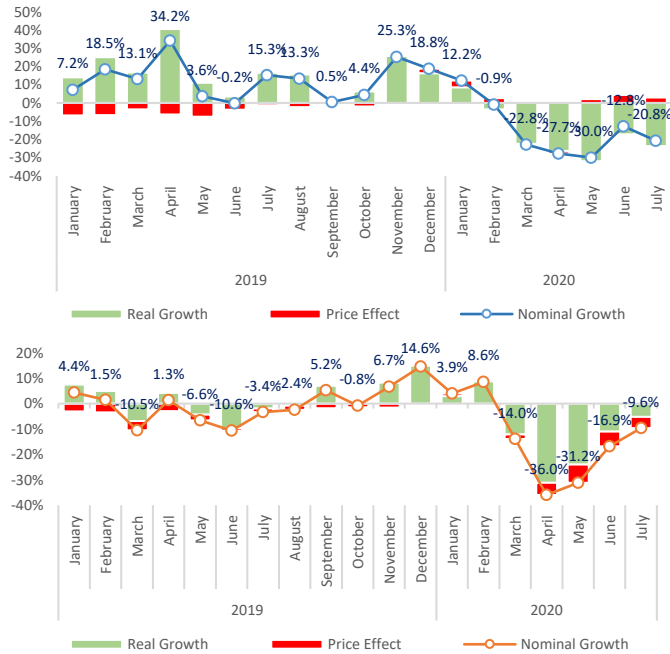
Source: NBG

Figure 3: Inflation Decomposition, 2020 August



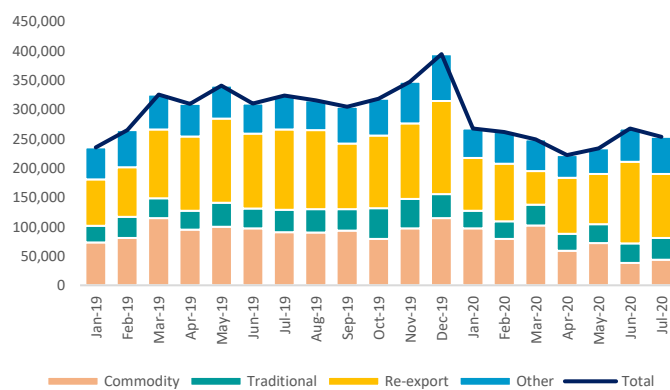
Source: Geostat

Figure 4: Annual Change of Export and Import



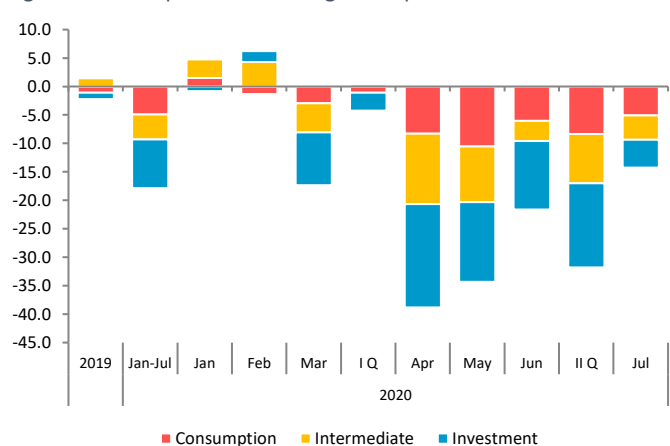
Source: Geostat

Figure 5: Decomposition of Export



Source: Geostat

Figure 6: Decomposition of Change of Import



Source: Geostat

## External Trade

In July 2020, export annually decreased by 20.18 percent and reached value of 254.1 mln USD, while import decreased by 9.6 percent reaching 696 mln USD. These changes caused decrease of the trade deficit by 1.6 percent compared to previous year and was equal to 442 mln USD. This significant reduction is due to the decline of domestic and external demand and decrease of economic activity in the world and the region as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic. In July 2020 real growth of export was equal to -23.7 percent, and real growth of import was -5.3 percent. The share of re-exports was 43.1 percent, while exports of commodity was -17.3 percent.

In July 2020, import of investment goods, import of intermediate and consumption goods decreased by 4.9, 4.3 and 5.1 percent respectively.

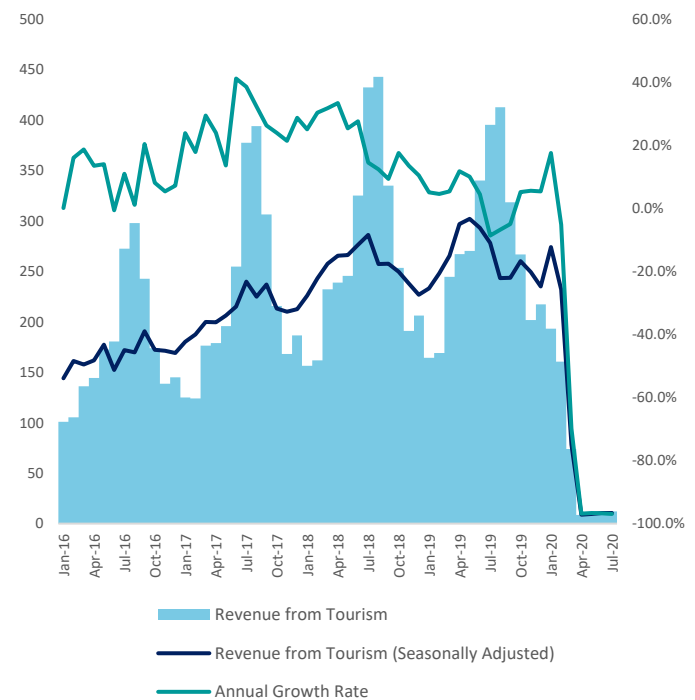
In July 2020, the first place in the top ten export goods from the commodity groups was occupied by copper ores and concentrates with 58.9 million USD (23.2 percent of total exports), second place – wine - 15.9 million US dollars (6.3 percent of total exports), and third - motor cars 14.5 million U.S. dollars (5.7 percent of total exports). The largest import commodity group in July 2020 was the group of motor cars, whose imports amounted to 70 million USD and accounted for 10.1 percent of total imports. Also significant were copper ores and concentrates with 56.7 million (8.1 percent of imports) and petroleum and petroleum oils with 46.9 million U.S. dollars (6.7 percent of imports).

In July 2020, the largest export partners are China (43.1 million US dollars, 17 percent of total exports), Russia (41 million US dollars, 16.1 percent) and Azerbaijan (27.2 million US dollars, 10.7 percent). The largest importing partner countries are Turkey (132.9 million USD, 19.1 percent of total imports), Russia (76.9 million USD, 11 percent) and USA (55.2 million USD, 7.9 percent).

## Tourism

In July 2020, revenue from tourism fell 96.9 percent to 12.1 million USD. This sharp decrease is due to the closure of the borders caused by the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic and the decline of international travel on the territory of Georgia since the second half of March. In 2019, revenue from tourism increased by 1.4 percent. The small increase in the ratio is due to the ban on flights from Russia to Georgia in July. However, at the same time, increased revenue from other countries has managed to mitigate the impact of this negative shock. At the same time, the number of visitors in 2019 increased by 8.4 percent annually.

Figure 7: Income from Tourism, mln USD

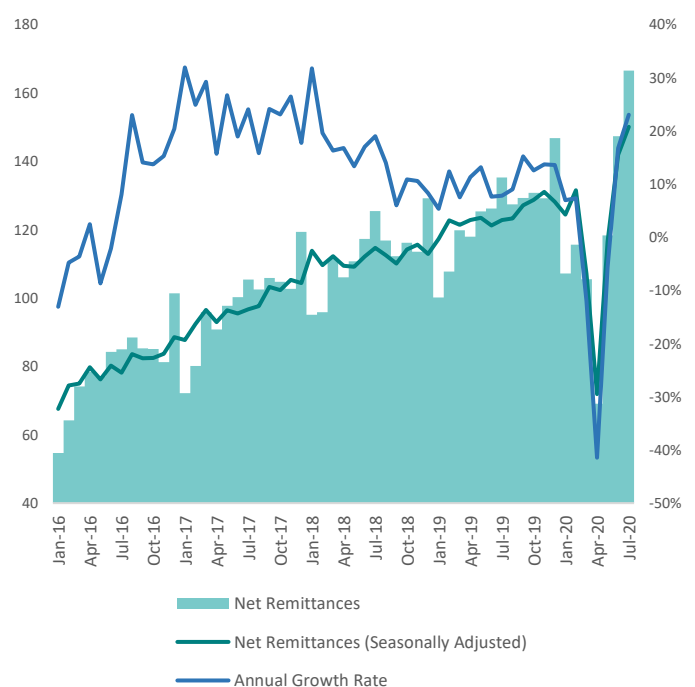


Source: NBG

## Remittances

In July 2020, net remittances totaled 166.5 million USD, which is 23 percent higher compared to previous year. Remittances increased from trading partner countries, where existing restrictions were partially eased and economic activity intensified. Remittances increased by 42.6 percent from USA (4.9 percent contribution to total growth), 34.8 percent from Italy (5.3 percent contribution to total growth), 18.7 percent from Greece (2.2 percent contribution to total growth), 3 percent from Russia (0.7 percent contribution to total growth). Remittances from Azerbaijan and Ukraine also increased significantly. At the same time, decrease was recorded at 13.4 percent from Poland (-0.3 percent contribution to total growth), -2 percent from Israel (-0.2 percent contribution to total growth).

Figure 8: Net Remittances



Source: NBG

Figure 9: Nominal Effective Exchange Rate

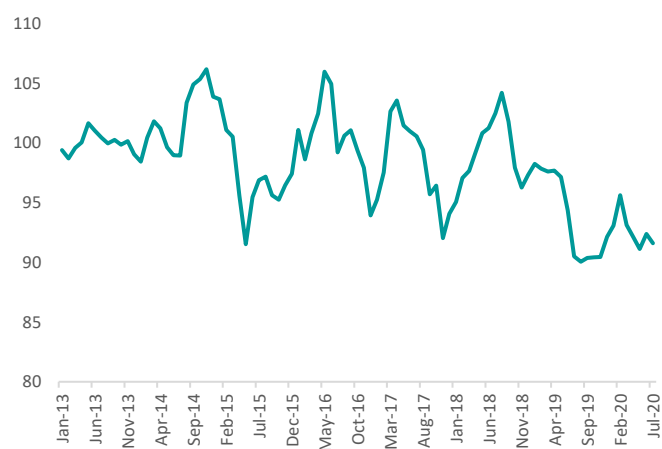


Source: NBG

## Exchange Rate

As of August 31, the nominal effective exchange rate of the lari has depreciated by 0.3 percent relative to January 1, 2020 and depreciated by 7 percent relative to January 1, 2019. At the same time, the real effective exchange rate for June is depreciated by 5.9 percent relative to January of the previous year and depreciated by 0.6 percent relative to January 2020.

Figure 10: Real Effective Exchange Rate



Source: NBG

Table 1: Change of Nominal Effective and Real Effective Exchange rates

|                  | August 31, 2020 | Aug 31, 2020 - Jan 1, 2020 | Aug 31, 2020 - Jan 1, 2019 |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Euro             | 3.6243          | ▼ -11.3%                   | ▼ -15.6%                   |
| US Dollar        | 3.0696          | ▼ -6.6%                    | ▼ -12.9%                   |
| Turkish Lira     | 0.4174          | ▲ 15.4%                    | ▲ 21.1%                    |
| Russian Ruble    | 0.0408          | ▲ 13.1%                    | ▼ -5.8%                    |
| NEER             | 118.91          | ▼ -0.3%                    | ▼ -7.0%                    |
| REER (July 2020) | 112.58          | ▼ -0.6%                    | ▼ -5.9%                    |

Source: NBG

## Budget Revenue Performance

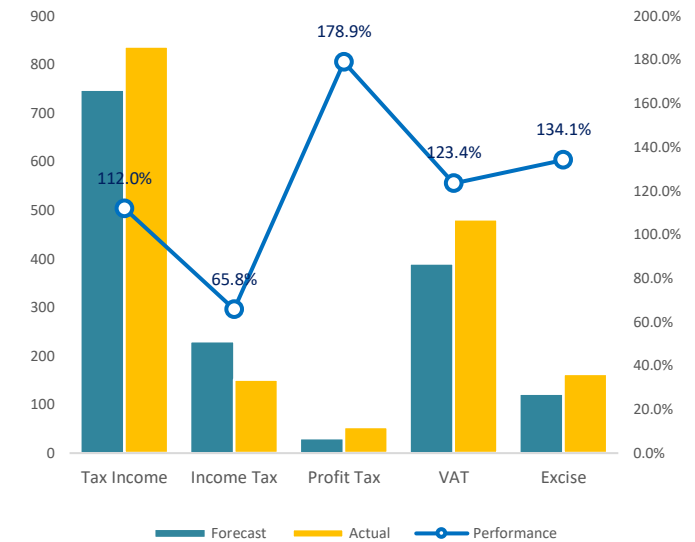
The forecast of tax income for January-August 2020 is 6,877 million GEL, while the actual figure for January-August 2020 is 4.3 percent higher than planned and equals to 7,170 mln GEL.

The actual level of tax income in August was 747.9 mln GEL, which is 12 percent higher compared to the forecasted value of tax income in (837.4 mln GEL).

- Revenue from Income tax amounted 151.3 mln GEL, which is 65.8 percent of forecasted value (230 mln GEL).
- Revenue from Profit tax was equal to 53.6 mln GEL, which is 178.9 percent of projected value (30 mln GEL).
- Revenue from VAT was equal to 481.4 mln GEL, which is 123.4 percent of the forecasted value of 390 mln GEL.
- Revenue from Excise tax amounted 163.6 mln GEL, which is 134.1 percent of the forecasted value of 122 mln GEL.
- Revenue from Custom tax was equal to 7.4 mln GEL, which is 136.6 percent of the forecasted value (5.4 mln GEL).

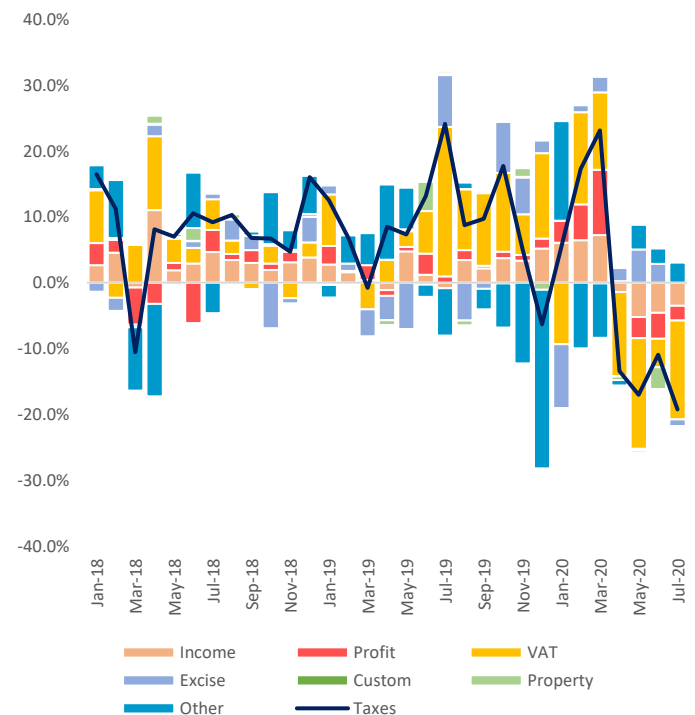
In July 2020, compared to the same period last year, consolidated budget revenues decreased by 17.4% and expenditures increased by 27.4%. At the same time, the operating balance of the consolidated budget, which is the government's savings, amounted to -273.9 million GEL, while the total balance was set at -615.1 million GEL. In total, tax revenue fell by 19.3 percent year on year, which was significantly affected by the decline in VAT revenue.

Figure 11: Budget Revenue Performance



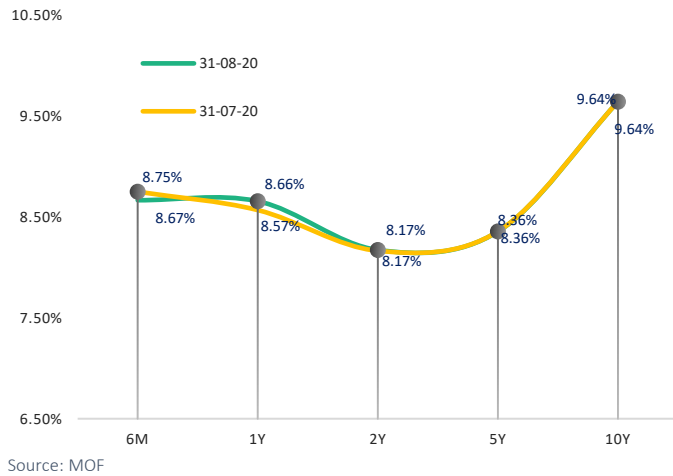
Source: MOF

Figure 12: Tax Income



Source: MOF

Figure 13: Portfolio Yield Curve



## Treasury Securities Portfolio

In August 2020, 4 auctions were held with total issuance volume of 220 million GEL. The weighted average interest rate amounted to 8.274 percent. There were issued treasury bills with maturities of 6 months and 12 months; Treasury bonds with maturities of 2 years and 5 years. Treasury securities with total amount of 60 million GEL were redeemed.

As of August 31, 2020, 30.95 percent of treasury securities portfolio is composed of securities whose maturity date is due for the next 1 year. Bid-to-cover ratio increased compared to the previous month's value (July 1.91) and is 2.00.

Figure 14: Weighted average interest rates

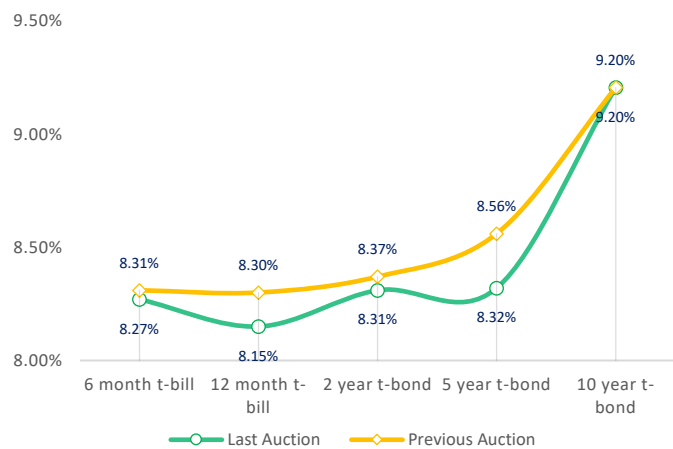


Figure 15: Issuance and Demand, mln GEL

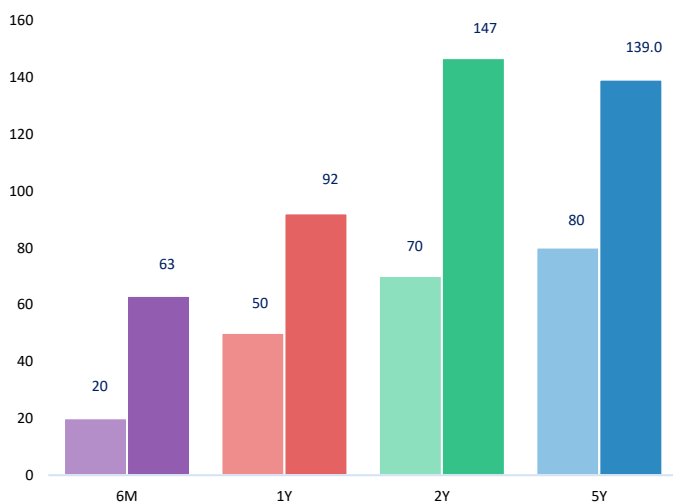
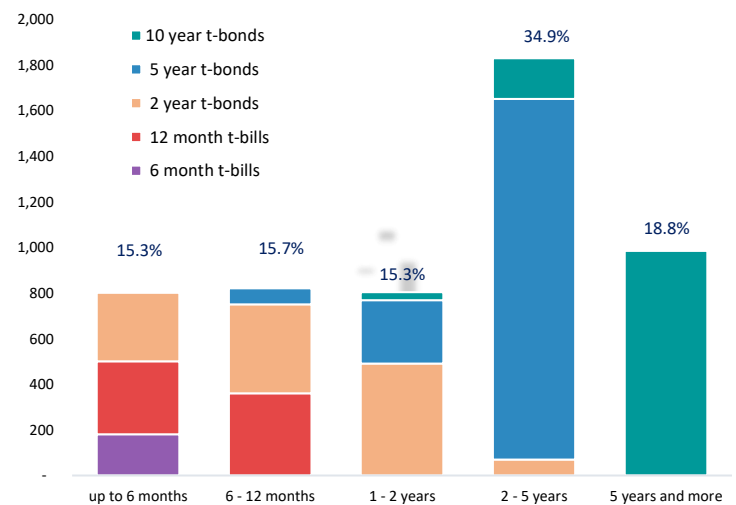


Figure 16: Portfolio Forming Securities Composed by Time to Maturity



## Private Sector Larization

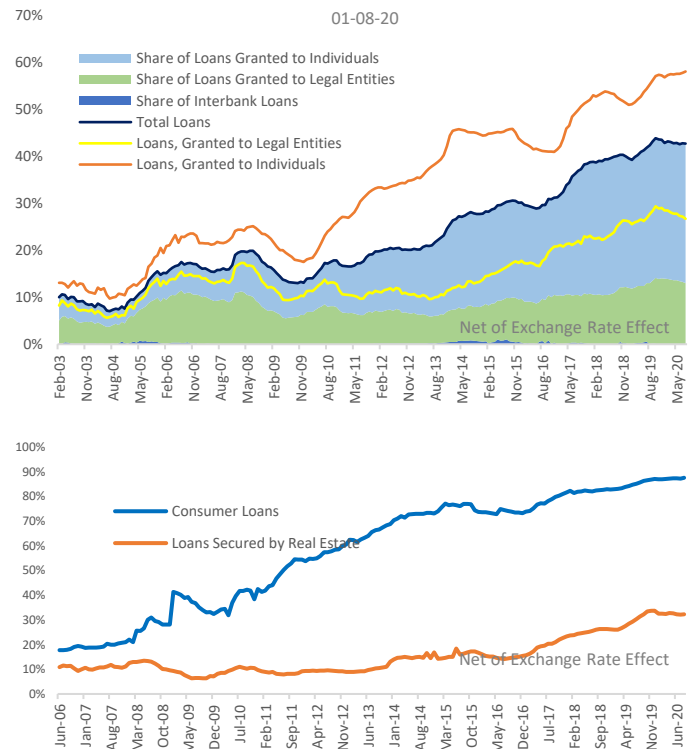
Loan larization is on the rise. The larization of total loans is largely due to the larization of loans issued to individuals. By 1 of August 2020, the larization of loans to individuals was 58.1 percent, the larization of loans to legal entities was 26.7 percent, and the total larization of loans was 42.7 percent.

As for the larization of loans according to collateral, there is a growing trend of both mortgage and consumer loans, but the larization of consumer loans significantly exceeds the larization of real estate loans. By 1 of August 2020, the larization of consumer loans was 87.5 percent, while the larization of mortgage loans was 32.2 percent.

The larization of deposits is significantly conditioned by the larization of deposits of legal entities. As of 1 of August 2020, the total larization of total deposits was 38.6 percent, the larization of deposits of legal entities in the same period was 52.6 percent, and the larization of deposits of individuals – 25.4 percent.

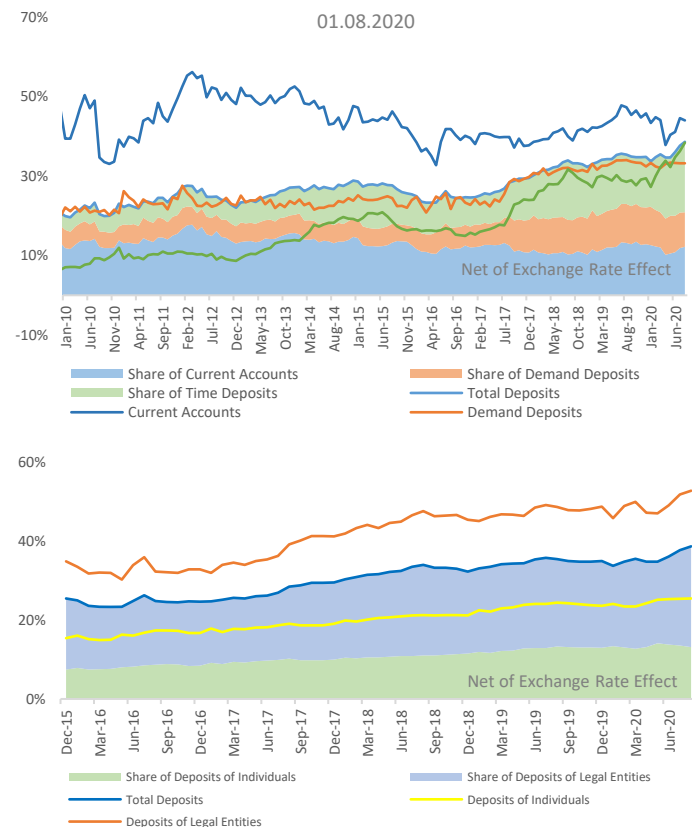
The larization of current accounts for August 2020 was 44 percent. At the same time, the larization of deposits before demand is 33.2 percent, and the larization of time deposits – 38.4 percent.

Figure 17: Loan Larization



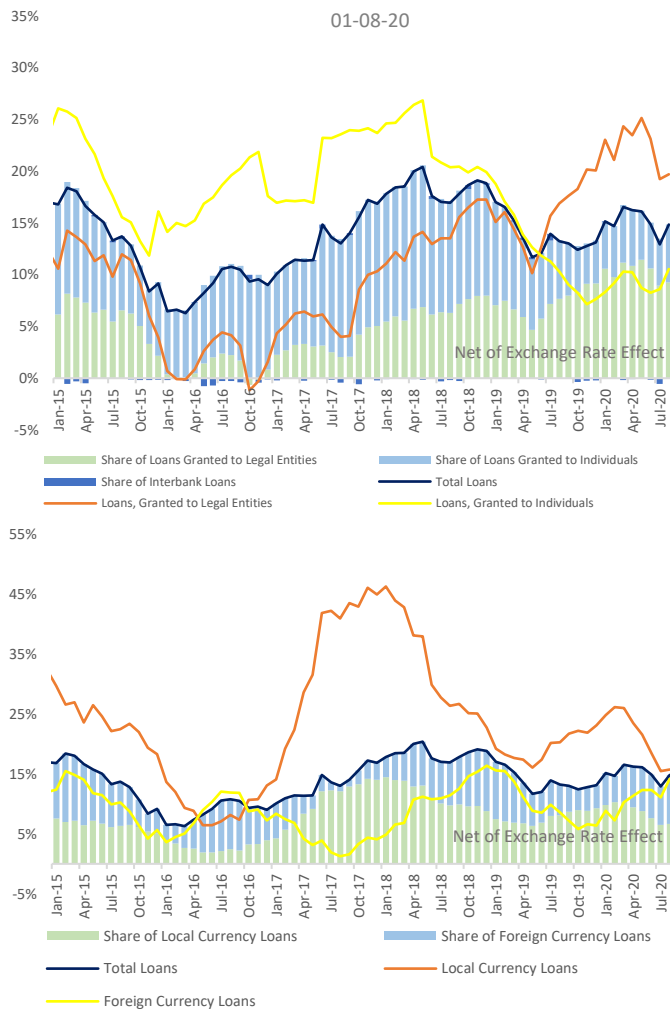
Source: NBG

Figure 18: Deposit Larization



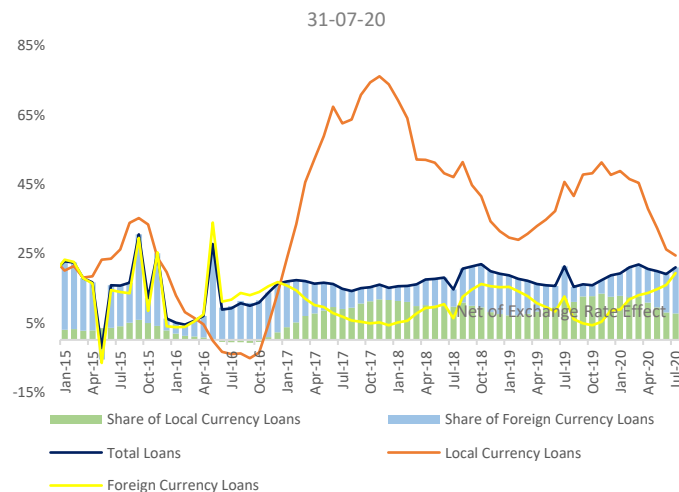
Source: NBG

Figure 19: Annual Growth of Loans



Source: NBG

Figure 20: Annual Growth of Loans secured by Real Estate



Source: NBG

## Review of Loans

The annual growth of the credit portfolio as of 1 of August 2020 compared to 2019 was 14.8 percent. The annual growth of loans to legal entities increased by 0.5 percentage points compared to the previous month and amounted to 19.7 percent during the same period, while the annual growth of loans to individuals amounted to 10.6 percent.

As of 1 of August 2020, the growth of loans in national currency amounted to 15.8 percent compared to the same period last year, the annual growth of loans in foreign currency hasn't changed and amounted to 14.2 percent during the same period.

By August 2020, mortgage loans had increased by 1.9 percentage points compared to the previous month and amounted to 20.9 percent.

## Review of Deposits

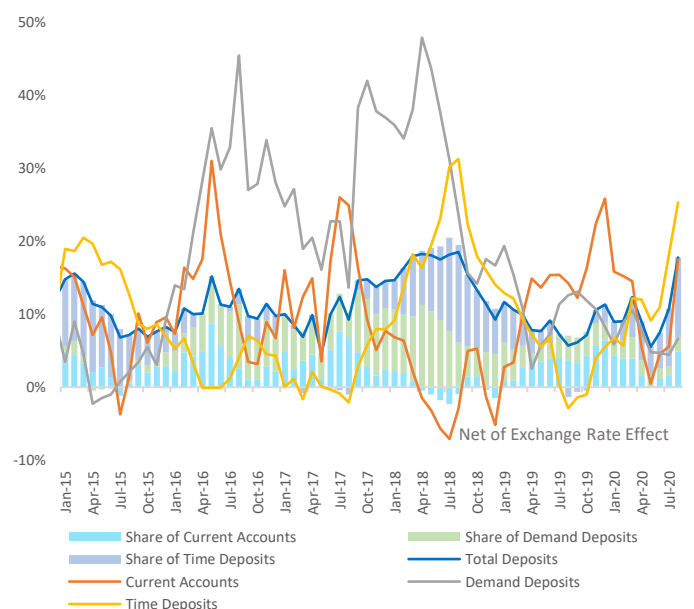
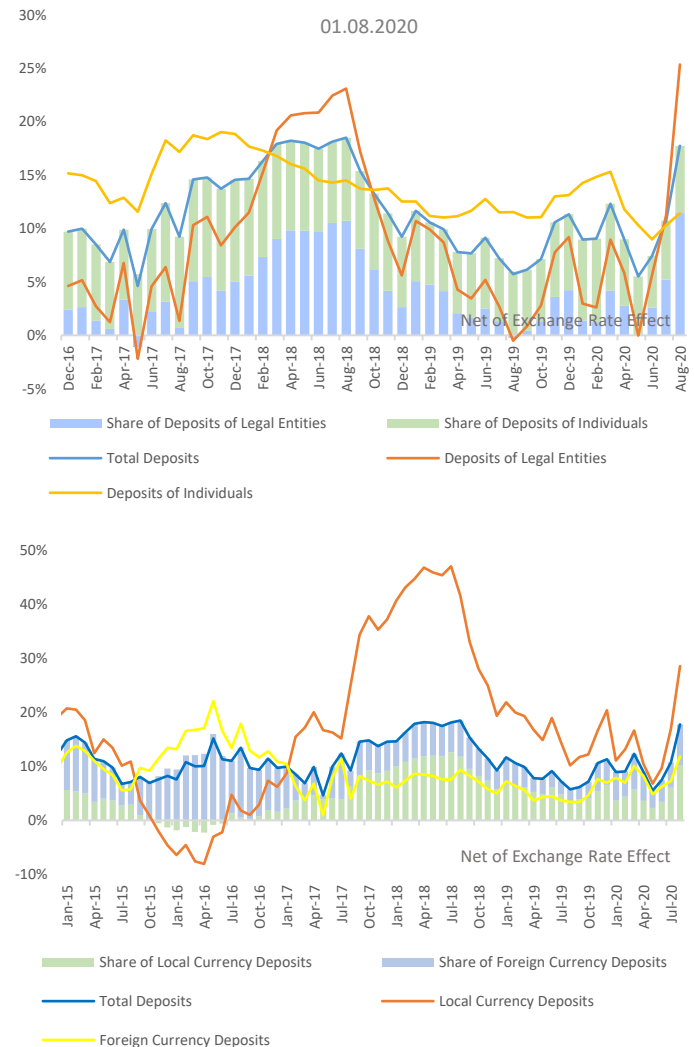
The growth of total deposits in August 2020 compared to the corresponding period of 2019 was 18 percent, the annual growth of deposits denominated in the national currency increased by 12 percentage points compared to the previous period and amounted to 29 percent, and the annual growth of deposits denominated in foreign currency was 12 percent.

In August 2020, the annual increase in deposits of individuals was 11 percent, while annual increase in deposits of legal entities was 25 percent.

## Monetary Policy Rate

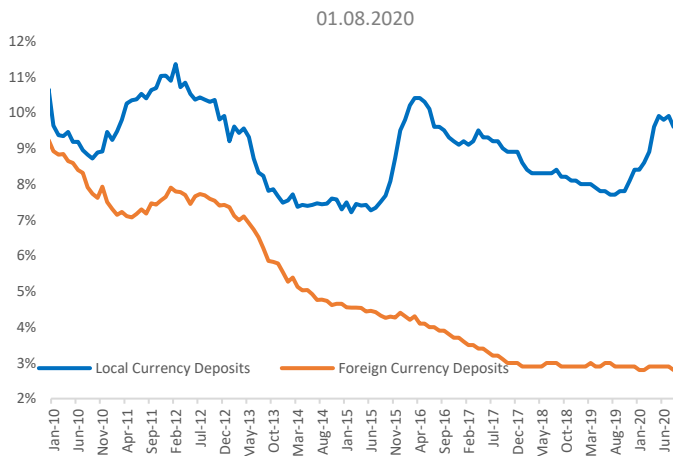
On August 5, 2020, the Monetary Policy Committee of the National Bank of Georgia decided to reduce the refinancing rate by 25 basis points and set it at 8 percent. According to the forecast of the National Bank, due to temporary factors, inflation will remain high for several months, then gradually decrease and the dispute will reach the target level in the first half of 2021. According to the National Bank, despite the decline, monetary policy remains tight, ensuring a return to the inflation target over the medium term. The Monetary Policy Committee will gradually move away from tightening policies, and further steps will depend on how quickly inflation expectations are reduced. The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee will be held on September 16, 2020.

Figure 21: Annual Growth of Deposits



Source: NBG

Figure 23: Interest rates on Deposits (stock)



Source: NBG

## Interest Rates

As of August 2020, the interest rate on foreign currency deposits was 2.8 percent, while the national currency was 9.6 percent.

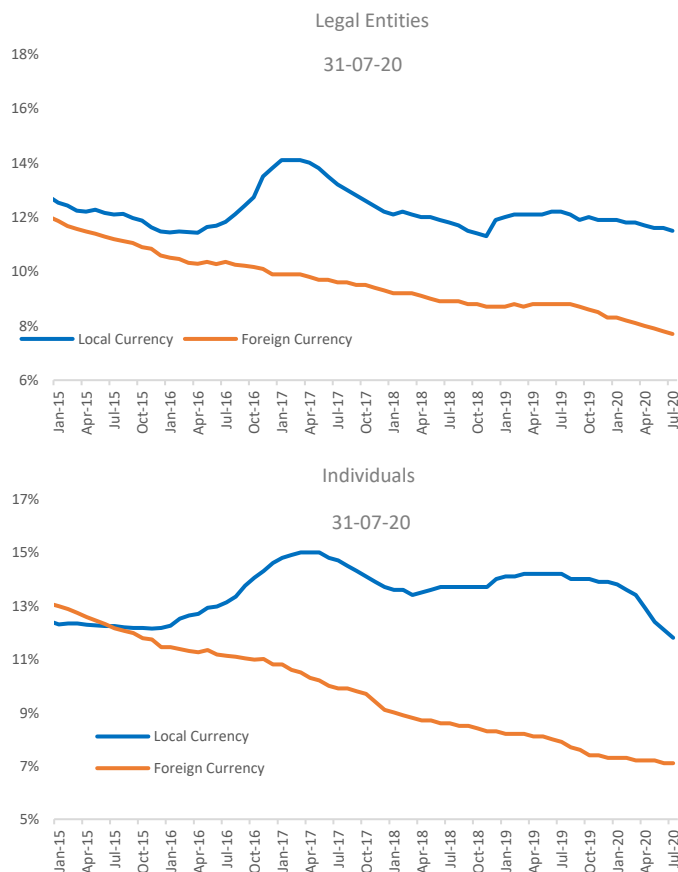
As of August 2020, the weighted average interest rate on deposits in national currency of legal entities was 9.4 percent, and in foreign currency - 2.4 percent. The average annual interest rate on deposits of individuals was 2.9 percent on deposits in foreign currency and 10 percent in national currency.

By August 2020, the weighted average annual interest rate on short-term consumer loans was 20.8 percent (26.6 percent in national currency and 6.3 percent in foreign currency).

Weighted average interest rates on long-term consumer loans are largely determined by loans denominated in the national currency. Its value for August 2020 was 16.8 percent. The interest rate on loans denominated in the national currency is 18 percent, and the interest rate on loans denominated in foreign currency is 8.2 percent.

At the end of July 2020, the interest rate on mortgage loans issued to legal entities issued was 12.2 percent, and in foreign currency – 6.9 percent. The interest rate on loans to individuals in national currency was 11.8 percent, and in foreign currency it was 6.3 percent.

Figure 24: Interest rates on Loans secured by Real Estate



Source: NBG

## Disclaimer

The publication was prepared by the Macroeconomic Analysis and Fiscal Policy Planning Department of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. The information and opinions contained in this publication represent the views of the authors - the economic team of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Fiscal Policy Planning Department and do not represent the official position of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. The analytical information provided in the publication serves informational purposes and is obtained from public sources. The forecasts and calculations given in the report should not be taken as a promise, reference or guarantee.

