

# Macro Outlook

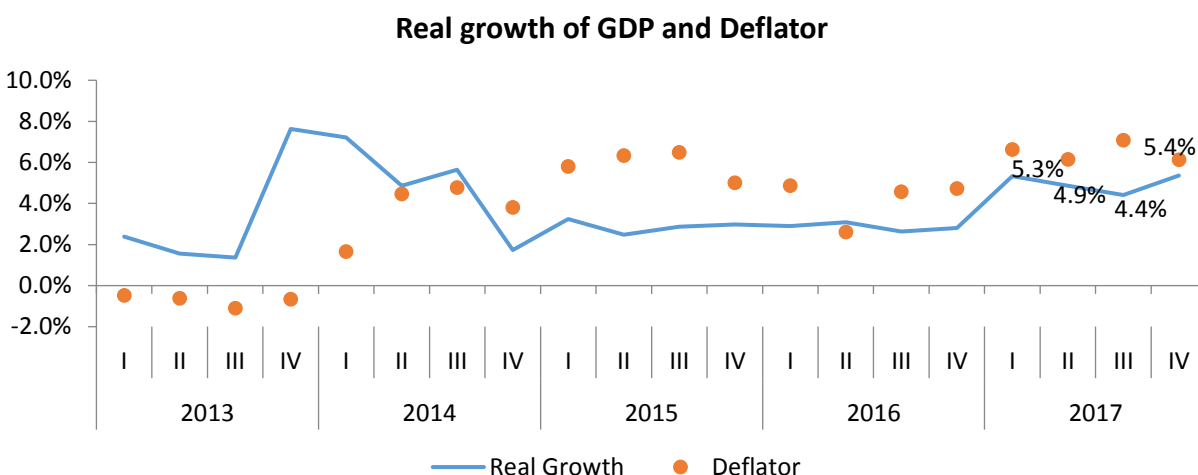
April, 2018

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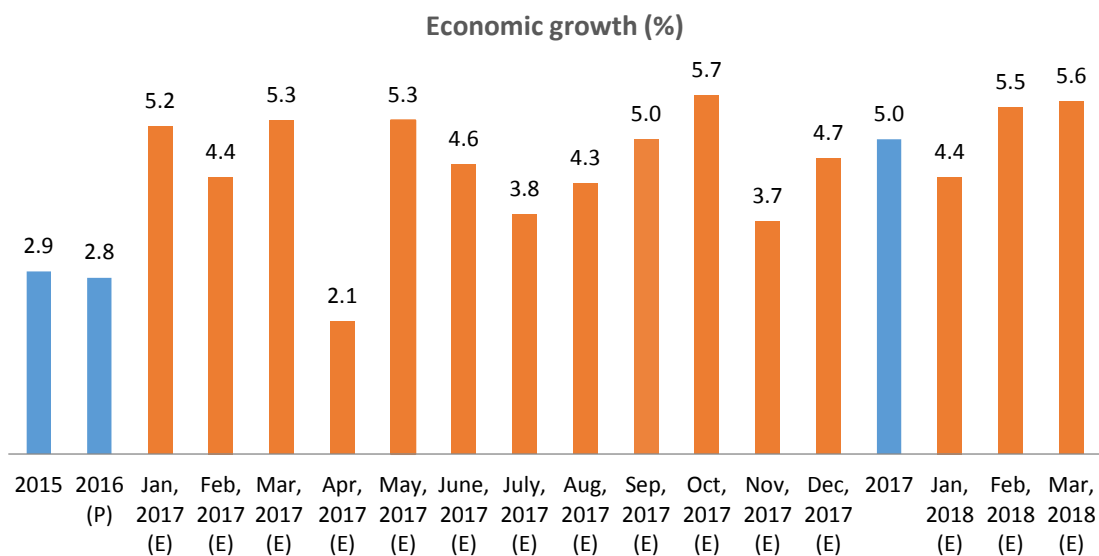
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## Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

From the beginning of 2017 year Georgian economy started rapid recovering after the economic slowdown in 2014-2016. According to the preliminary estimations, for the IV quarter real growth was amounted to 5.4 percent, while in 2017 growth rate of real GDP was 5.0 percent.



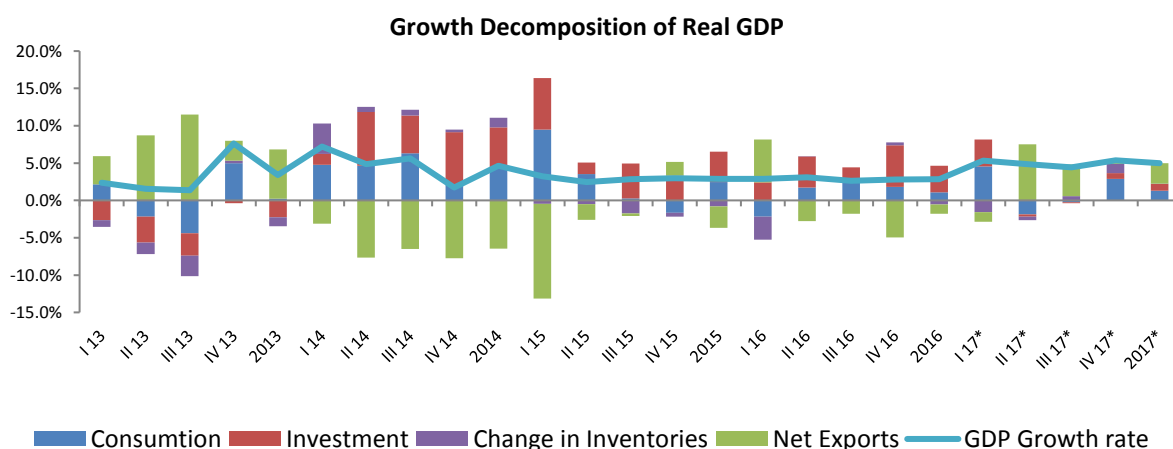
For 2017, the main growth was in the following sectors: Trade (growth 6.6, contribution 0.9%), construction (growth 11.2, contribution 0.7%), transport (growth 7.2, contribution 0.5%), manufacturing (growth 5.0, contribution 0.4%), financial intermediation (growth 9.2, contribution 0.3%), hotels and restaurants (growth 11.2, contribution 0.3%).



Economic activity has started with growing trend in 2018. Growth estimates in January 2018 real GDP stood at 4.4%, in February – 5.5% and in March – 5.6%. For the first quarter, economic growth amounted 5.2%.

## Structure of Economic Growth

Economic growth in 2017 was 5.0 percent. This acceleration of economic growth was mainly export driven. Global economic recovery and positive development in our trade partners positively affected export, consumption and economic growth overall.



We expect that in the medium term net export will remain a growth driver since global economic recovery is expected to be trade driven. Investments will be another important growth factor. The reforms implemented and in the ones in the pipeline focus on growth of savings and investments in the country.

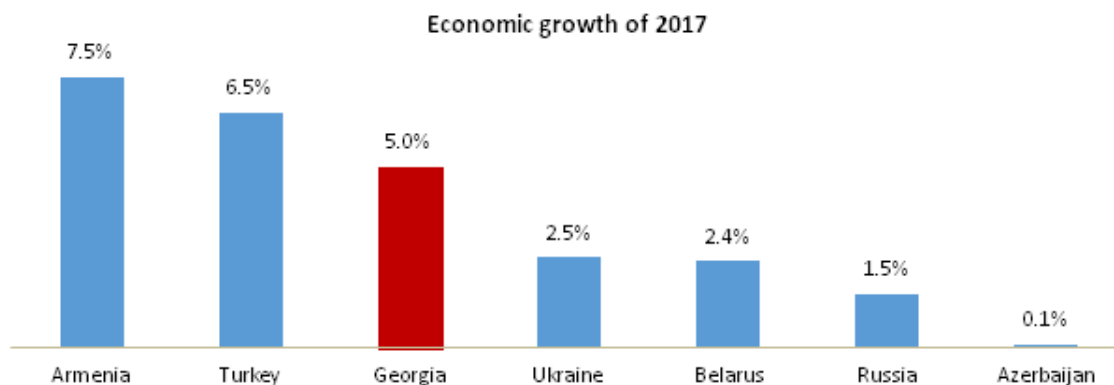
## Economic Growth in Georgia and Neighboring Countries

During last several years, despite economic growth slowdown, economic growth in Georgia was higher than in trading partners.

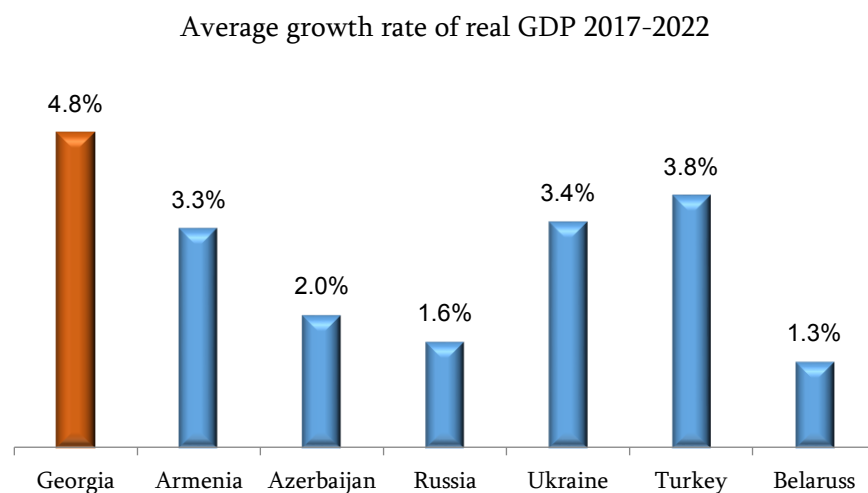
Georgia has also showed impressive resilience in the period of economic slowdown in region during 2014-2016. Georgian economy was growing about 3.4 percent in average (4.6 in 2014, 2.9 in 2015 and 2.8 in 2016), while all of our neighbor's experienced negative growth. Consistent reaction of the macroeconomic policy on the external shock made Georgian economy one of the leading country in 2016 too.

Economic activity has strengthened even more in 2017 and is 5.0 percent, which is the result of

the existing economic policy and current reforms.

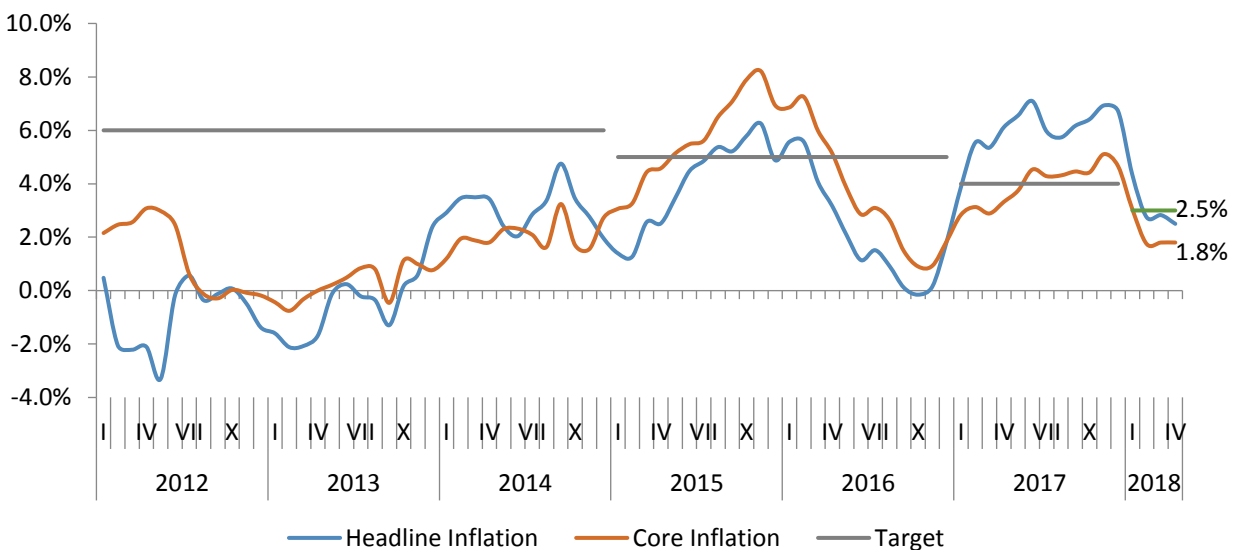
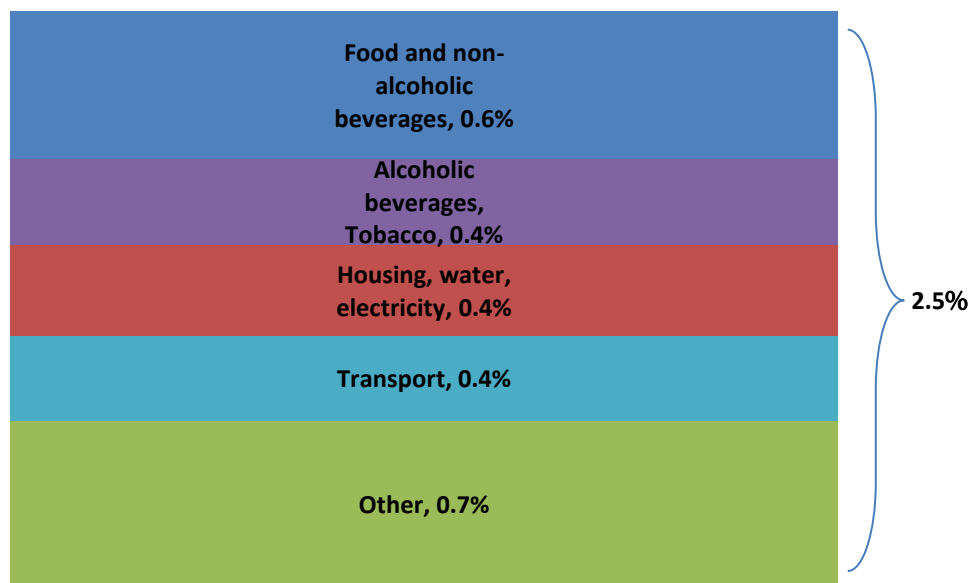


According to IMF estimates, Georgia will stay to be a leading country in region in terms of economic growth in medium-term.



## Prices

National Bank of Georgia (NBG) has a policy of inflation targeting. As for 2018, after the impact of excise has faded out, inflation has started to stabilize. Annual inflation rate in January amounted to 4.3 percent, in February – 2.7 percent, in March – 2.8 percent and in April – 2.5 percent. while core inflation was at 1.8 percent.



Annual rate of inflation in 2017 was 6.0 percent, a bit higher than the target of 4 percent. However, this deviation from the target is attributed by the one-off factors related to the changes in the excise taxes (on tobaccos, fuels, motor cars etc.) under the new fiscal reform implemented in 2017.

Annual inflation rate in December 2017 amounted 6.7 percent, while core inflation was at 4.7

percent. Core<sup>1</sup> inflation was fluctuating around the target level during the whole year.

Price changes on the following groups of products contributed to formation of yearly inflation<sup>2</sup>:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages: prices increased by 2.1 percent, contributing 0.66 percentage points to the annual inflation. Prices increased for the following subgroups: fruit and grapes (19.7 percent), oils and fats (3.5 percent), meat (3.2 percent), fish (2.4 percent), milk, cheese and eggs (2.1 percent), coffee, tea and cocoa (1.6 percent). Meanwhile, the prices decreased for the group of sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionary (-3.7 percent);
- Transport: prices in the group increased by 2.9 percent, with a relevant contribution of 0.43 percentage points to the overall index growth. Prices within the group increased for operation of personal transport equipment (4.4 percent) and for transport services (1.9 percent);
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco: prices in the group increased by 5.6 percent, with a relevant contribution of 0.38 percentage points to the annual inflation. Prices increased for the subgroup of tobacco (11.0 percent);
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels: prices increased by 4.6 percent, contributing 0.38 percentage points to the annual inflation. The prices were higher for the subgroups of water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling (7.7 percent) and electricity, gas and other fuels (5.2 percent);
- Health: prices increased by 4.1 percent, which resulted in a 0.34 percentage point contribution to the overall annual inflation. Prices increased for the following subgroups: medical products, appliances and equipment (5.3 percent), out-patient services (4.5 percent) and hospital services (2.4 percent).

## The Role of Private Sector in Economic Growth

Private sector historically had a leading role in economic growth of the country and the trend continued in 2017 as well.

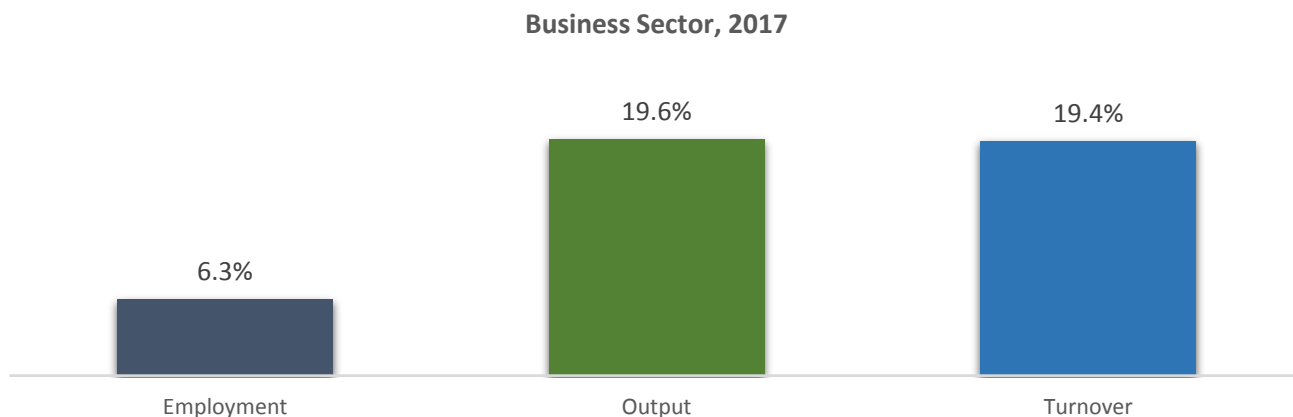
Turnover of the business sector increased by 21.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to the same period of 2016, output was 19.5 percent higher than in 2016 and employment grew

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<sup>1</sup> Non-food, non-energy inflation

<sup>2</sup> Source: National Statistics Office of Georgia

by 6.3 percent, which is 39,284 new job. Total number of employees was 660,059. In 2017 increase of output was 19.6 percent, while total turnover has increased by 19.4 percent compared to 2016.



## External Trade

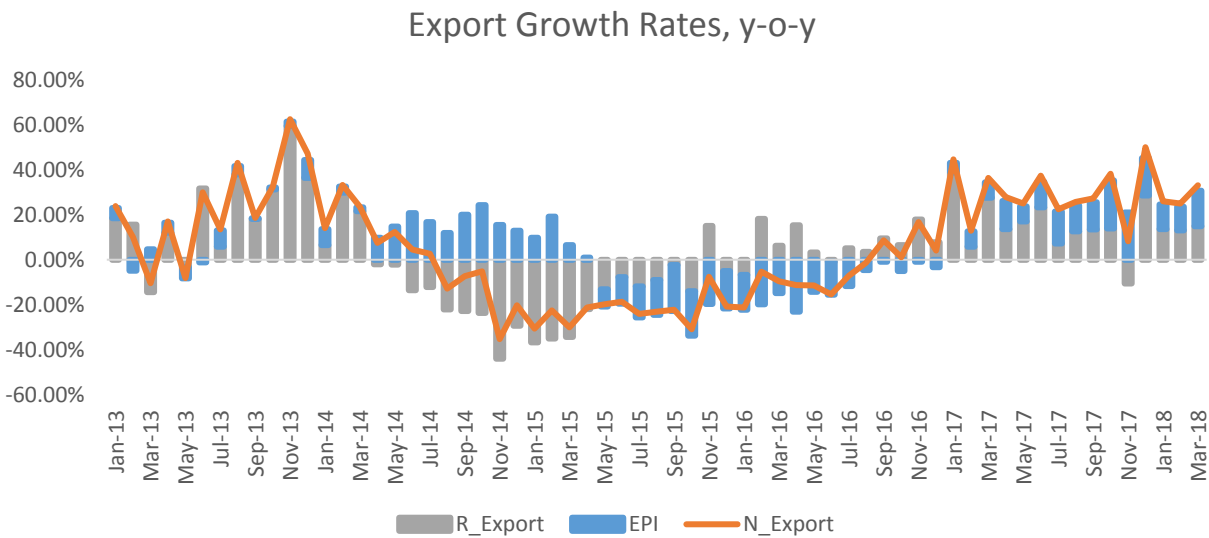
Economic recovery in region strongly affected on the Georgian export and merchandise export has increased by 28.4 percent in January-March of 2018. Real effect of export growth rate was up to 15 percent in March. This is continuation of the trend started in January 2017 due to global recovery.

In January of 2018, export have increased by 26.0 percent which constitutes 46 million USD, while import growth was 18.8 percent which is 95 million USD in nominal terms. As a result, trade balance worsened by 49.1 million USD compared to the same period of previous year. In February export has growth by 25.0 percent and import has increased by 10.1 percent.

The main contributors of export in March were Copper ores (contribution in growth 10.4%), Motor cars (contribution in growth 10.3%), Oil and oil products (contribution in growth 7.3%), Mineral aerated waters (contribution in growth 5.9%), Cigars (contribution in growth 5.8%) and Ferro-alloys (contribution in growth 4.1%).

In March, export has increased by 33.1 percent and import – by 34.7 percent. As a result, trade balance has worsened about 142.8 million USD compared to the last year. Should be mentioned, that 3.9 percentage growth of import was coming from the import of turbo-jets, turbo-propellers and gas turbines from Netherlands.

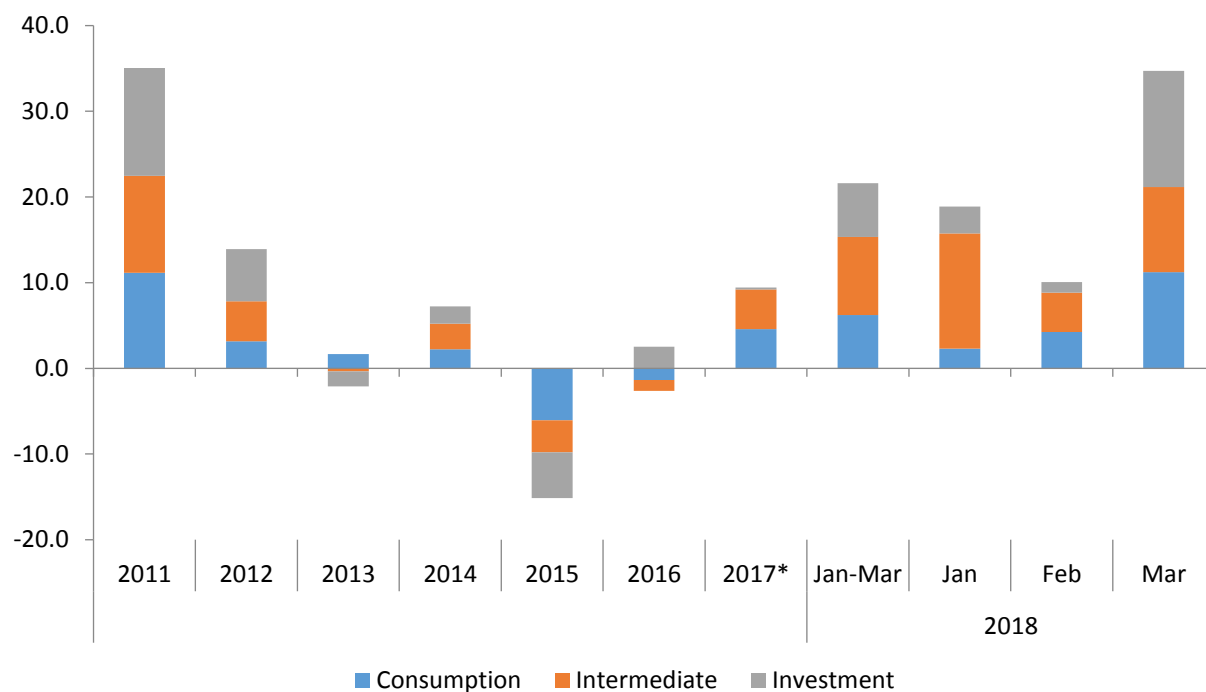
Overall, import is growing steadily, but slower than export. In January-March export increased by 28.4 percent, while import increased by 21.6 percent, of which 15.3 percent was contributed by capital and intermediate goods.



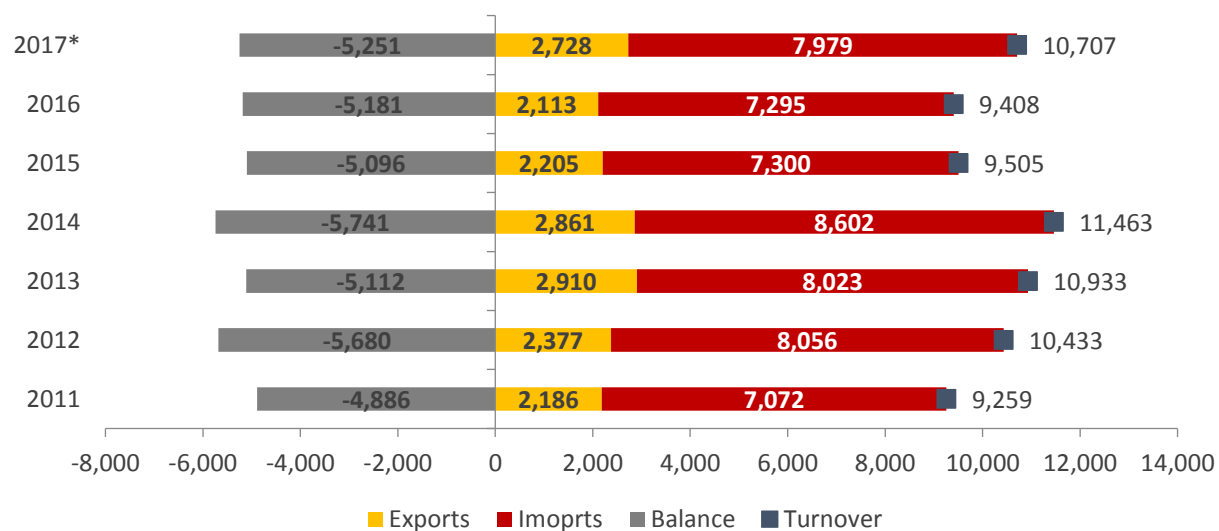
Export has started to decline from August 2014. The tendency reversed in the third quarter of 2015 when price effect was dominating in export reduction and export stopped to decline in real terms.

Import adjustments resulting from currency depreciation started in the second quarter of 2015 and import declining dynamics continued to May 2016. Since May, significant growth of import of investment goods, which was mainly caused by growth of machinery import (including generators, medical equipment, calculating machines, industrial equipment, etc.), contributed to growth of total import. In addition, growth of intermediary goods import (including machinery parts, fuel and lubricants) was high periodically. During the last three months of 2017, consumption goods import had a significant share in total import growth, which was linked to petroleum import. During the year, only investment goods import had a positive share in total import growth.

In 2017 there was observed 9.4 percent growth in imports. High growth was in import of consumption and intermediate products.

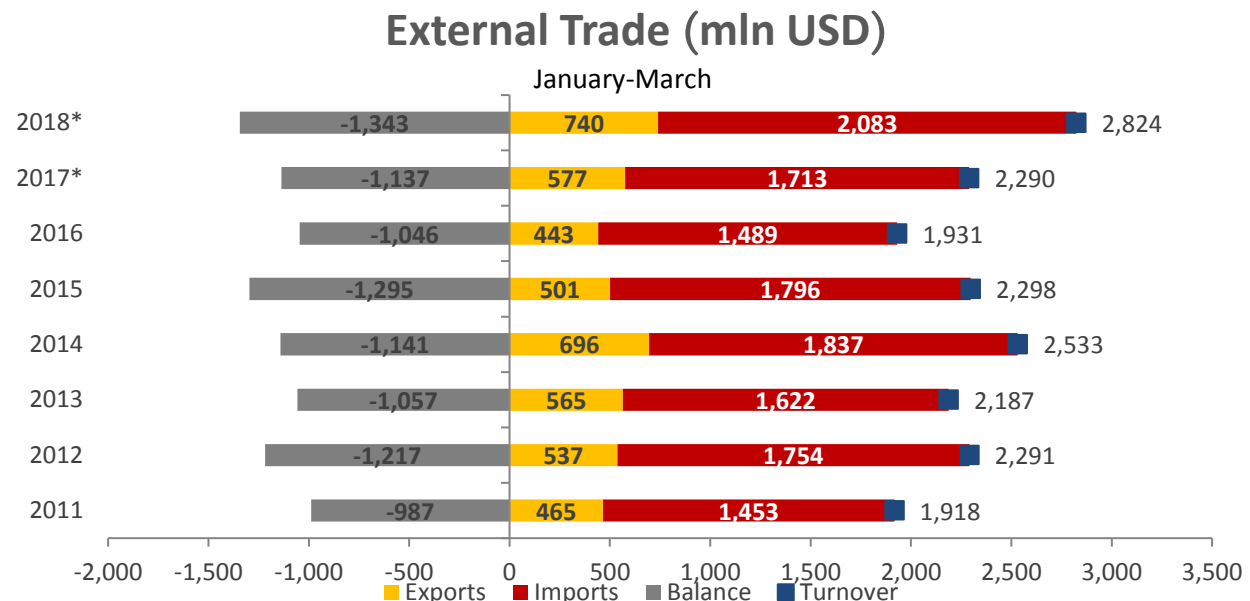


### External Trade (mln USD)



To sum up dynamics in trade with goods, in 2017 exports have increased by 29.1 percent. This constitutes 614.8 million USD in nominal terms. At the same time growth in imports amounted to

9.4 percent or 684.8 million USD. As a result, trade balance worsened by around 70 million USD as compared to the same period of 2016.



## Tourism

During the last years tourism has formed as one of the most important sectors of the economy.

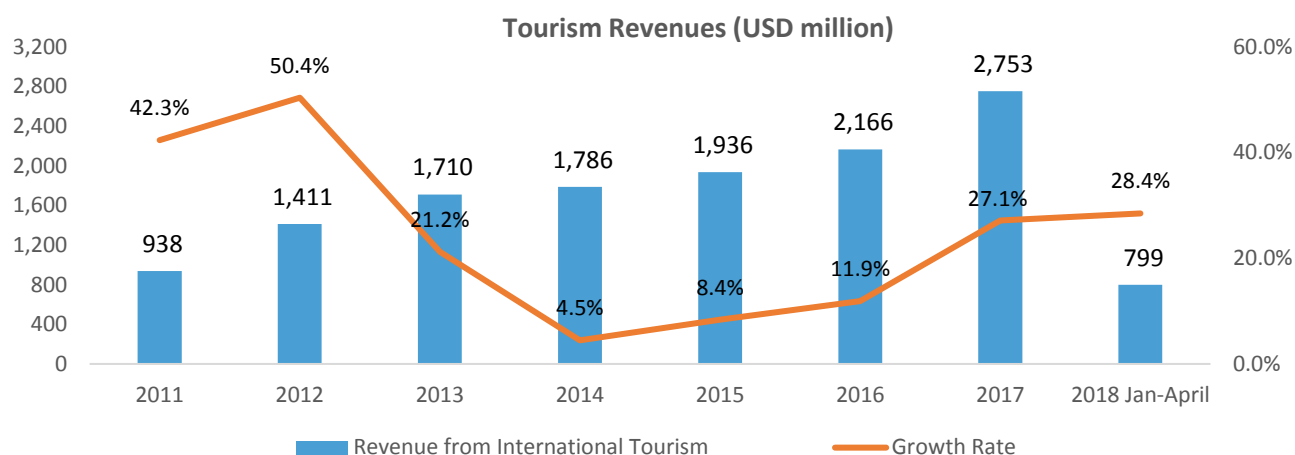
With increasing trend of visitors has started 2018. In January there were 444,2 thousand visitors in Georgia, which is 14.8 percent higher than in January of the last year. In February there were 19.8 percent higher compared to the same period of 2017, in March - 13.2 percent higher, while in April number of visitors was 16.9 percent higher compared to April 2017 and amounted 596,7 thousand.

Overall, there were 2060 thousand visitors in Georgia during January-April of 2018, which is 16.0 percent higher than the same period of 2017, while tourism revenues amounted to USD 799.4 million and exceeds the numbers of January-April of the previous year by 28.4 percent.

According the preliminary estimates, in 2017 revenues from international tourism increased by 27.1 percent and generated USD 587.3 million more foreign exchange inflows compared to the previous year. Tourism sector is increased by about nine times during last decade. In 2016, international tourism revenues exceeded USD 2 billion for the first time.

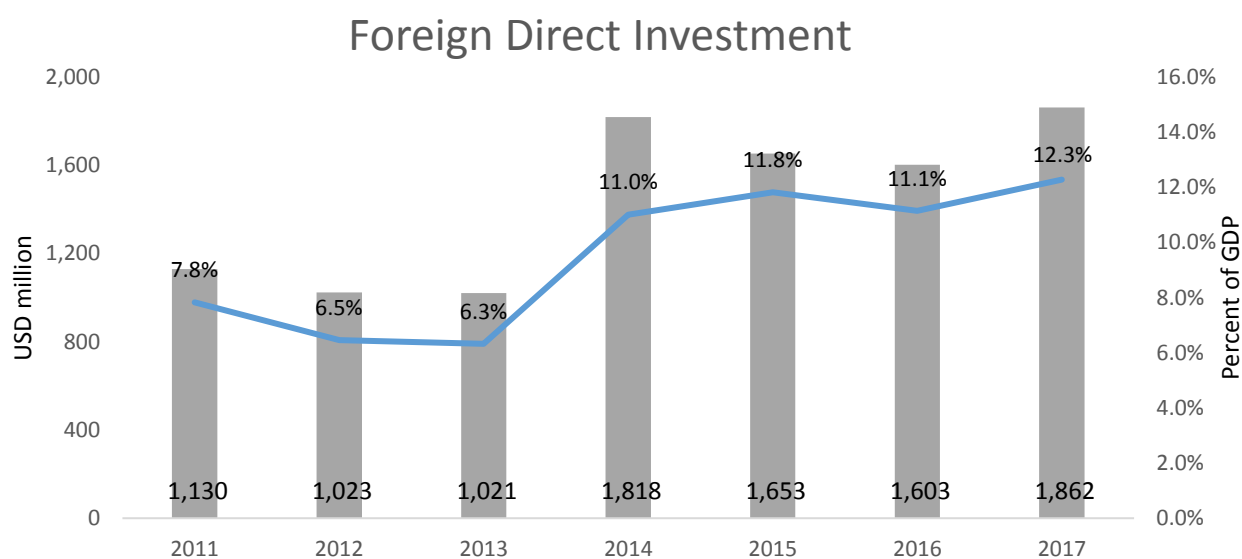
During the whole 2017, there were 7 555 thousand visitors in Georgia, which was 18.8 percent

higher than in the previous year. Tourism revenues amounted to around USD 2,753 million and is increased by 27.1 percent compared to the previous year.



## Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)

During the last four years, Foreign Direct Investments has improved significantly in Georgia and steadily amounts 10 percent of GDP. In 2016 FDI was USD 1,603 million, while in 2017 it was USD 1,862 million and is increased by 16.2 percent compared to 2016. In percent of GDP, FDI amounted 12.3 percent in 2017.



The main share of foreign direct investment in 2017 was implemented in transport and communication sector and was 28.3 percent, while in financial intermediation sector it amounted

16.3 percent, in construction – 15.8 percent, in the energy sector – 10.1 percent, in real estate – 8.6 percent, in hotels and restaurants – 4.8 percent, in manufacturing – 4.0 percent and in mining – 2.9 percent.

Foreign direct investments from OECD countries amounted 59.1 percent of total FDI, while during the 2016 this share was 46.5 percent.

There is improvement in FDI diversification by investing in new sectors. For instance, in 2015, there was rapid growth of investments in healthcare compared to the previous years. In 2016, FDI has increased in communication sector, where investments share of total FDI amounted 3.7 percent. In 2017, significant increase was observed in financial and construction sectors. In financial sector investments amounted 16.3 percent of total FDI, while in construction sector investments were 15.8 percent of total FDI.

The biggest investors by FDI in Georgia are Azerbaijan with 25.9 percent, Turkey with 15.0 percent and the UK with 13.4 percent shares.

It is important that in 2016 the highest indicator was recorded in case of reinvestments amounting to 32 percent of total FDI, and in 2017 reinvestment was 43.9%, which demonstrates that the government's economic policy and improved business environment is positively perceived by investors and more investors decided to extend their business plans in Georgia. The current economic policies and the reforms are prerequisites for maintaining of the high levels of reinvestment in subsequent periods and for increasing it in the medium and long term.

## Money Transfers

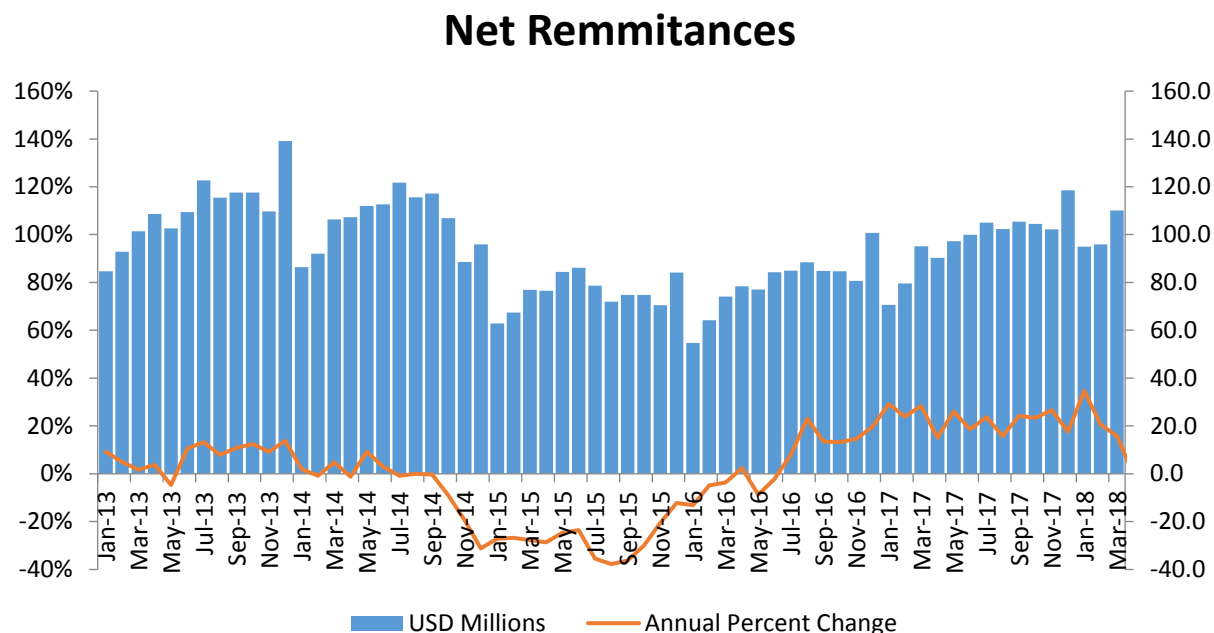
In 2017, net money transfers were 22.3 percent higher compared to the same period of 2016.

Increase of money transfers is important from starting of 2018. In January there was 34.7 percent annual increase, which is the maximum level of recent years. In February increase of remittances was 20.6 percent, while in March it was 15.7 percent.

Dramatically increase in the money transfer started from the second half of 2016. Despite the declining trend in the first five month of the year, money transfers increased by 8 percent in July, by 23.0 percent in August (the highest in 2016), by 14.6 in November and by 19.7 percent in December. In total, net money transfers increased by 5.3 percent in 2016 compared to 2015.

In January 2017, net money transfers increased by 29.1 percent, in February the number amounted to 23.9 percent, 28.4 percent in March, 15.1 percent in April, 26.1 percent in May, 18.6 percent in June, 23.7 percent in July, 15.7 percent in August, 24.2 percent in September, 23.4

percent in October, 26.6 percent in November and 17.7 percent in December.

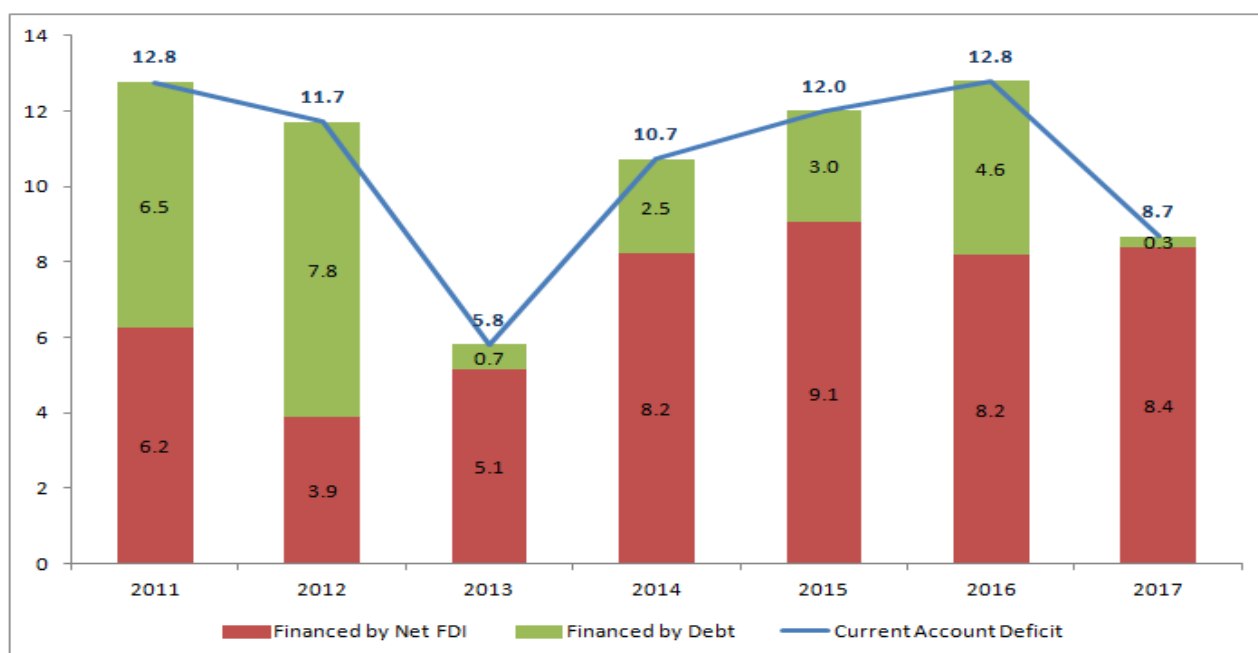
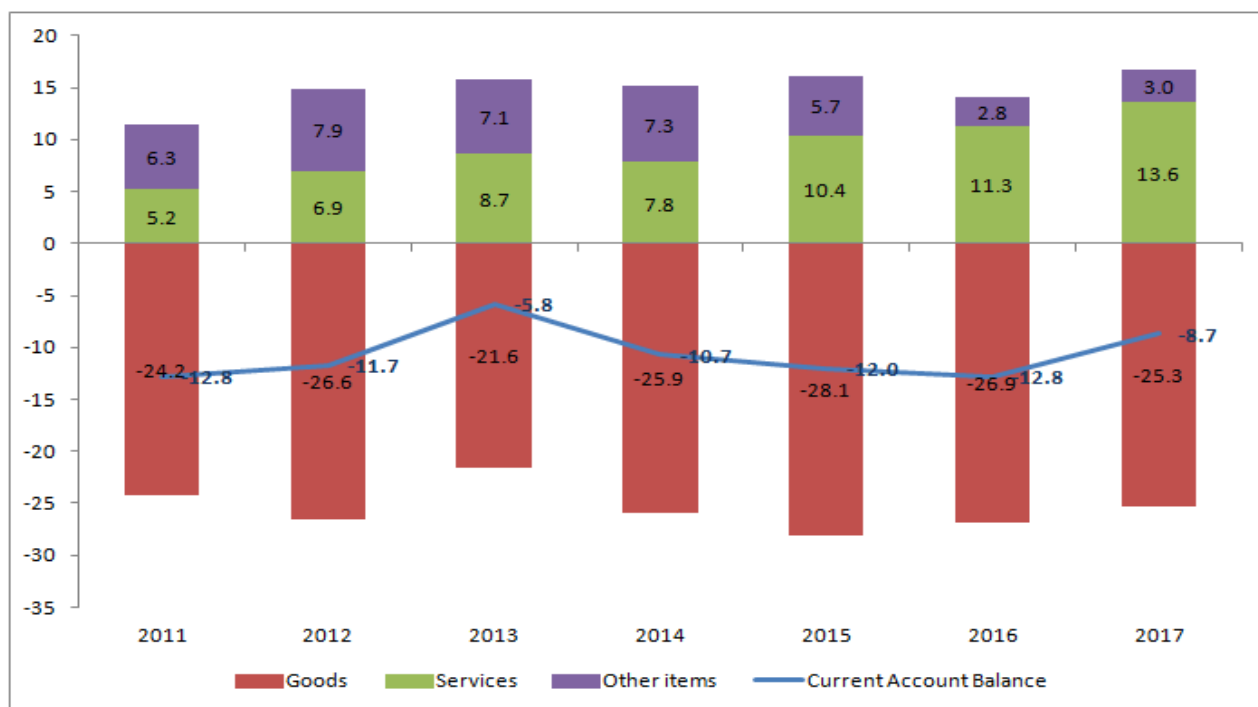


To sum up, during the whole 2017, foreign inflows from the merchandise exports, tourism and remittances increased by 1 413 million USD. At the same time, increase in outflow on imports totaled 684.8 million of USD. Accordingly, positive pressure on CA was observed in the whole 2017. In January-March 2018 foreign inflows from the international exports, tourism and remittances increased by 345.1 million USD, while outflow on imports increased by 370.1 million USD. As a result, in January-March there was small, but negative pressure on CA.

## Current Account (CA) Balance

High current account deficit is one of the main vulnerabilities of the Georgian economy. Because that, Government of Georgia initiated set of reforms to promote saving, increase productivity and export and gradually close saving-investment gap which effectively means balanced current account.

The first results are quite impressive: current account deficit for 2017 amounted to 8.7 percent which is significant improvement of the current account in recent period. In the third quarter of 2017, current account deficit to GDP amounted 3.0 percent, which is a lowest level historically. Declining tendency started in 2017. CA deficit in 2016 was 12.8 percent of GDP, in the first quarter it reduced to 11.6 percent, to 7.6 percent in the second quarter, to 3.0 percent in the third quarter and 13.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017.



## Credit Ratings

Georgia continues to cooperate with the international rating companies Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's. The country maintains stable ratings. Currently, Georgia has stable BB- rating according to Standard & Poor's, BB- positive rating according to Fitch and Ba2 stable rating according to Moody's. On the other hand, there is a deterioration of the ratings in the countries

of the region according to Moody's.

S&P and Fitch worsened ratings of Azerbaijan and affirmed to BB+ negative, which was changed from BBB+ in 2016, however outlook has improved from negative to stable in February 2018, according to Fitch. Moody's decreased it from Baa3 to Ba1 in 2016 and from Ba1 to Ba2 in the previous year. Moody's also decreased rating of Armenia from Ba3 to B1.

According to S&P and Moody's, Russia's credit rating deteriorated as well. Compared to December 2014, Russia's credit rating deteriorated from Baa3 to Ba1 according to Moody's and from BBB- to BB+ according to S&P.

Moody's decreased rating of Turkey from Baa3 to Ba1 in September 2016 and from stable to negative in March 2017, in 2018 rating has deteriorated to Ba2, while S&P decreased its rating from BB+ to BB in July 2017 and Fitch decreased from BBB- to BB+.

Rating company Moody's has upgraded rating of Georgia to Ba2 from Ba3 in September 2017, while outlook remain stable. Fitch revises Georgia's outlook to positive from stable BB- in March 2018.

According to Fitch report about the rating of Georgia, positive contributors of rating were: high economic growth, significantly improvement of current account, strengthening of fiscal sustainability and significant progress towards Larization. In the report, existing cooperation with the International Monetary Fund is positively assessed and successful ongoing process of the program is mentioned. According them, continued progress is meeting benchmarks aimed at strengthening of its financial sector, will help contribute towards further improvement of structural indicators, stimulating investment and savings.

The main weaknesses of Georgian economy are high levels of current account deficit and external debt, which still remain as the main vulnerabilities.

Moody's mentioned following positive factors: strong institutions and agreement with EU, diversified export countries and trade agreements, which will help the FDI to maintain average 10% of GDP, will increase the export in the medium-term and will accelerate economic growth.

Overall, despite the deterioration economic environment in the region, Georgia has maintained stable outlook and improved credit rating (outlook is positive by Fitch rating), which is the result of the correct policy (flexible exchange rate, inflation targeting, counter-cyclical fiscal policy, removal of trade barriers and export diversification, agreement with EU), low risks and medium-term perspectives.

## International Rating Agency "Moody's" Statement

Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the Government of Georgia's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Ba2 from Ba3. The outlook remains at stable.

The rating upgrade and stable outlook are supported by Moody's view that the Georgian economy's resilience in the wake of the regional economic shock which began in 2014 demonstrates the increasing strength of the economy and institutions. Looking forward, ongoing economic reforms, supported by the International Monetary Fund, will mitigate some of Georgia's underlying credit weaknesses, further boosting credit strength over time. However, material banking sector and external vulnerability risks continue to constrain the rating.

Georgia's foreign currency senior unsecured ratings have also been upgraded to Ba2 from Ba3.

The local-currency bond and deposit ceilings were raised to Baa1 from Baa3. The foreign currency bond ceiling was raised to Baa3 from Ba1 and the foreign currency bank deposit ceiling was raised to Ba3 from B1. In addition, the short-term foreign-currency bond ceiling was raised to "P-3" from "Not Prime" and the short-term foreign currency deposit ceiling was maintained at "Not Prime."

Ongoing economic reforms are positively perceived by rating agency - "Credible new reforms will further support credit strength". The 3-year program with IMF has improved credibility of the reforms:

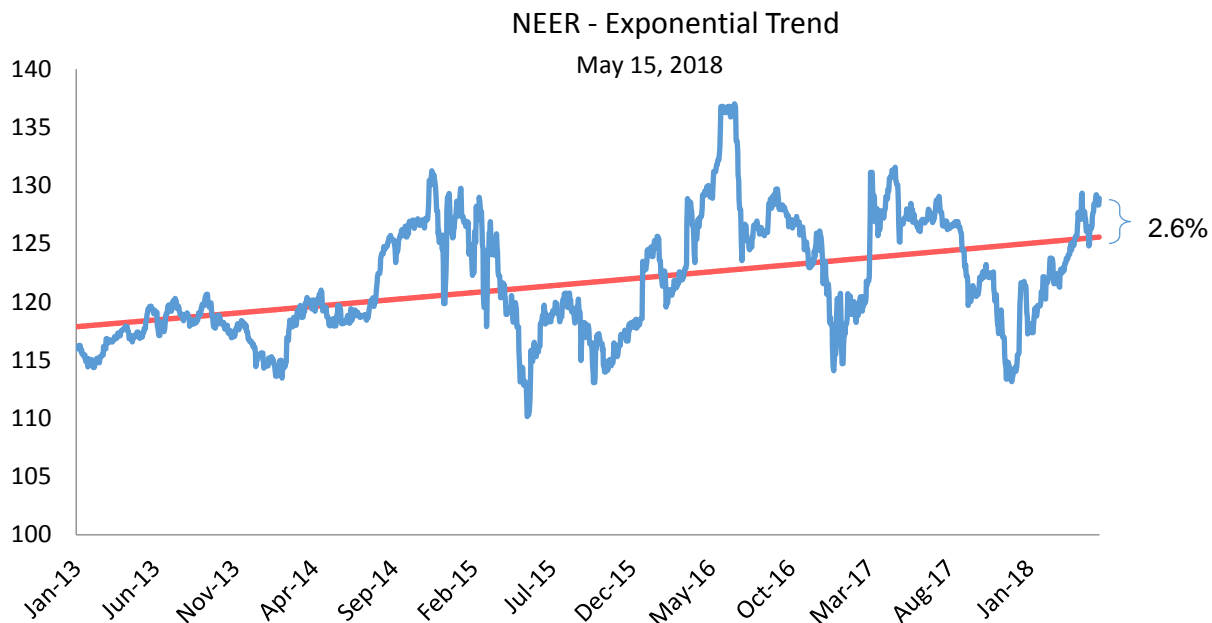
*The program emphasizes structural reforms to generate higher and more inclusive growth. The focus will be on improved education, road infrastructure investment, more efficient public administration, and further improvements in the business climate to boost the private sector's role as a growth driver.*

Dollarization and external vulnerabilities remain as main weaknesses of the economy, although Larization process is positively assessed by Moody's. Saving promoting reforms are encouraged by rating agency and reduction of saving-investment gap is considered as potential upward pressure on the rating.

## Exchange Rate

As for 15<sup>th</sup> May of 2018, NEER appreciated 9.1 percent compared to January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2018 and 7.4 percent compared to January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017. In real terms, annual appreciation rate of Lari is 3.8 percent while 4.0 percent appreciation is compared to January of the last year.

NEER is appreciated by 2.6 percent related to its medium term trend.



	15 May, 2018		15 May 2018 - 1 Jan 2018		15 May 2018 - 1 Jan 2017
Euro	2.9277	▼	-4.6%	▼	-10.7%
US Dollar	2.4434	▲	8.3%	▼	-1.9%
Turkish Lira	0.5654	▲	32.7%	▲	44.9%
Russian Ruble	0.0396	▲	8.6%	▼	-17.9%
NEER	128.90	▲	9.1%	▲	7.4%
REER (March 2018)	120.03	▲	3.8%	▲	4.0%

## Unemployment Rate

Unemployment rate maintained diminishing tendency last few years even during the regional economic slowdown. In 2016, unemployment rate in Georgia decreased by 0.2 percent and stood at 11.8 percent, at the lowest level historically, guaranteeing inclusive growth.

## Tax Revenues

In 2016, generated tax revenues were by GEL 775.2 million higher compared to the same period of 2015, which accounts to 9.7 percent of tax revenues. Tax revenues of 2016 are 100.5 percent of planed target exceeding it by GEL 46.1 million.

In 2017, generated tax revenues were by GEL 992.9 million higher compared to the same period of 2016, which accounts to 11.3 percent of tax revenues. Tax revenues of 2017 are 100.4 percent of planed target exceeding it by GEL 38.9 million.

In January-April 2018, generated tax revenues amounted to GEL 3 266.6 million which is 4.3

percent higher (GEL 134.6 million) compared to the same indicator of 2017.

Forecast of taxes in the January-April was GEL 3 145.0 million. Hence, during the 4 months of 2018 there was recorded 3.9 percent over performance compared to the projections, which amounted to GEL 124.7 million.

- Income taxes mobilized GEL 1 112.1 million which is 103.6 percent of forecast (GEL 1 073.0 million).
- Profit taxes mobilized GEL 286.9 million that is 108.3 percent of forecast (GEL 265.0 million).
- VAT mobilized GEL 1 434.5 million which is 109.2 percent of forecast (GEL 1 314.0 million).
- Excise mobilized GEL 421.5 million which is 96.0 percent of forecast (GEL 439.0 million).
- Import taxes mobilized GEL 25.2 million that is 132.9 percent of forecast (GEL 19.0 million).
- Property taxes mobilized GEL 43.7 million.
- Other taxes mobilized GEL -57.3 million.

Other taxes mobilized GEL 38.8 million.

## Public Debt and Financing of the Budget

### Public Debt

- The stock of public debt at the end of 2017 amounted 44.6% of the estimated GDP (of which external debt – 35.3%), while it was 44.4% at the end of 2016 (external debt – 35.1%) and 41.4% at the end of 2015 (external debt – 32.5%)
- The growth of public debt both in 2015 and in 2016 were mainly caused by the change of exchange rate.
- In the medium term, it projected to maintain the public debt to GDP ratio below 45% level.
- The market value of public debt as of December 2016 was 32% (excluding legacy debt, 1% of GDP as of end 2016), because significant part of our debt is under concessional terms.

At the same time, with development of capital market, treasury securities issues will increase, which will support to decrease external financing and increase share of domestic debt in the total debt.

## Government Securities Market

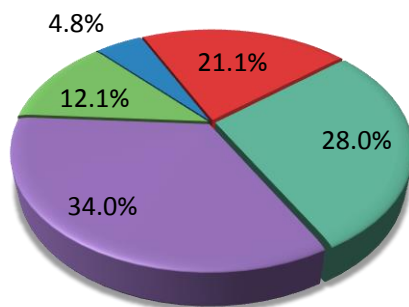
There were 5 auctions held in April 2018. In total, emission was USD 155 million and average weighted interest rate was 7.690%.

6 and 12 month maturity bills are issued and 2 years, 5 years and 10 years maturity treasury bonds. Treasury bills are covered in amount of USD 65 million.

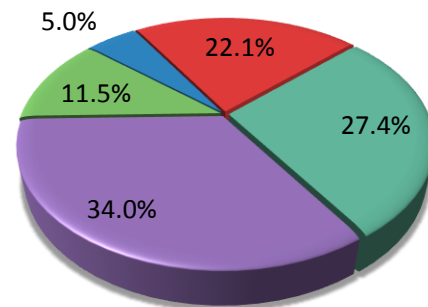
	6M	1Y	2Y	5Y	10Y	Total
Issue size	20	40	40	30	25	<b>155</b>
Weighted average interest rate	7.256	7.290	7.421	7.720	9.072	<b>7.690</b>
Redemption	20	45	0	0	0	<b>65</b>
Difference	0	-5	40	30	25	<b>90</b>

The structure of treasury securities portfolio has changed slightly:

Portfolio Structure as of 30.04.2018



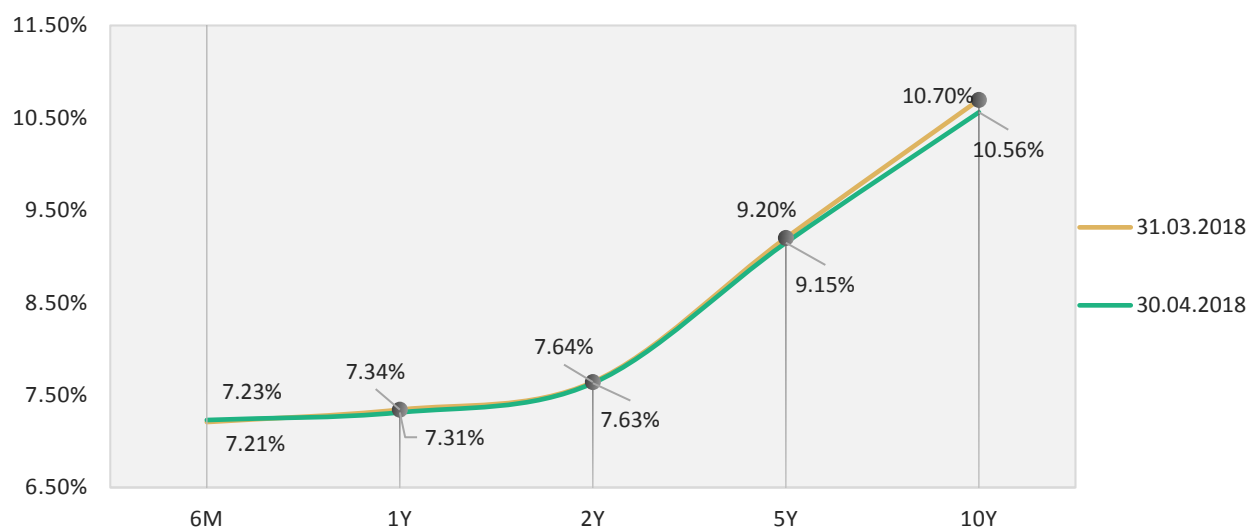
Portfolio Structure as of 31.03.2018



■ 6 months ■ 12 months ■ 2 years ■ 5 years ■ 10 years ■ 6 months ■ 12 months ■ 2 years ■ 5 years ■ 10 years

The portfolio yield has not changed, except slight change for 10 year t-bonds. The difference was -0.14%.

Portfolio Yield Curve for the Last Two Months

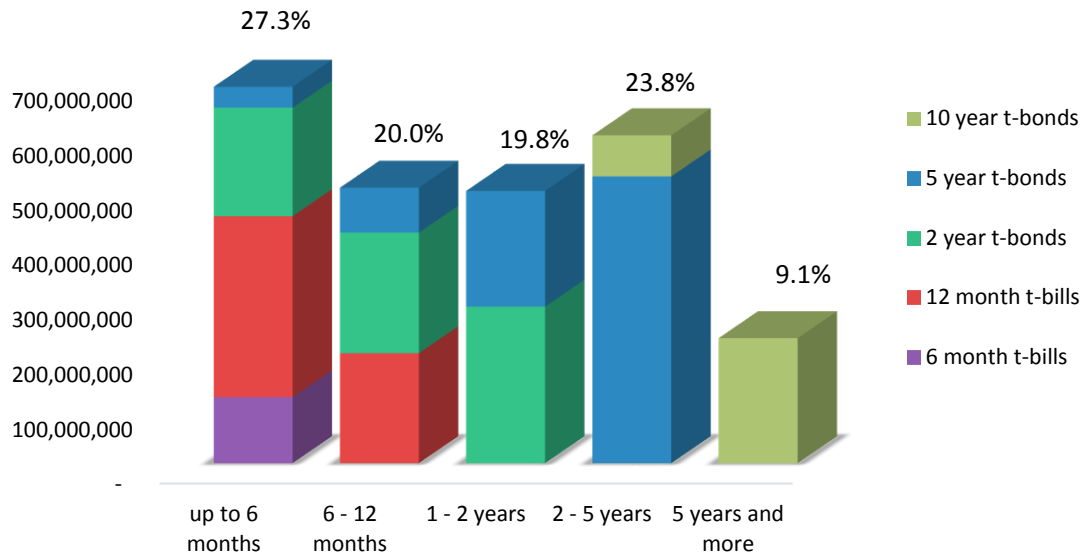


Average Time to Maturity (ATM) for all securities forming the portfolio has increased slightly compared to the last month's value.

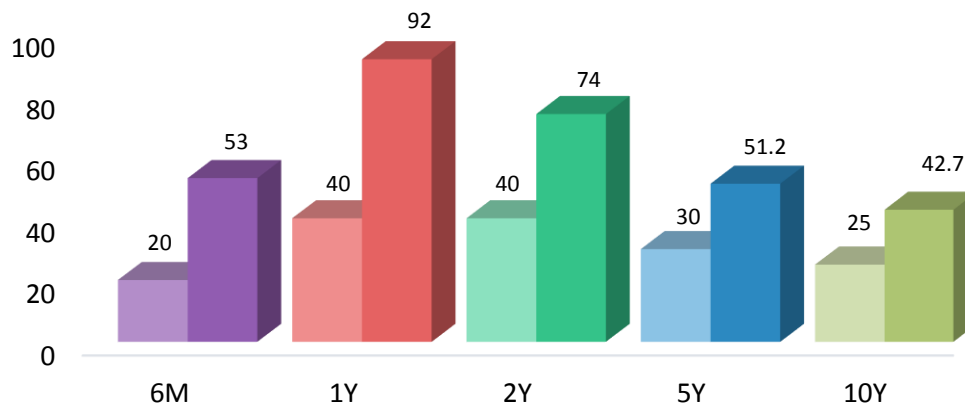
Average weighted period until maturity of securities (year)			
	28.02.2018	31.03.2018	30.04.2018
6 months	0.25	0.24	0.24
12 months	0.41	0.41	0.40
2 years	0.90	0.98	1.70
5 years	2.83	2.82	4.74
10 years	6.81	6.73	9.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.06</b>	<b>2.10</b>	<b>2.15</b>

As of April 30, 2018 more than a quarter (27.3%) of treasury securities portfolio is composed of securities whose maturity date is due for the next 6 months. Securities' distribution by time to maturity is shown below:

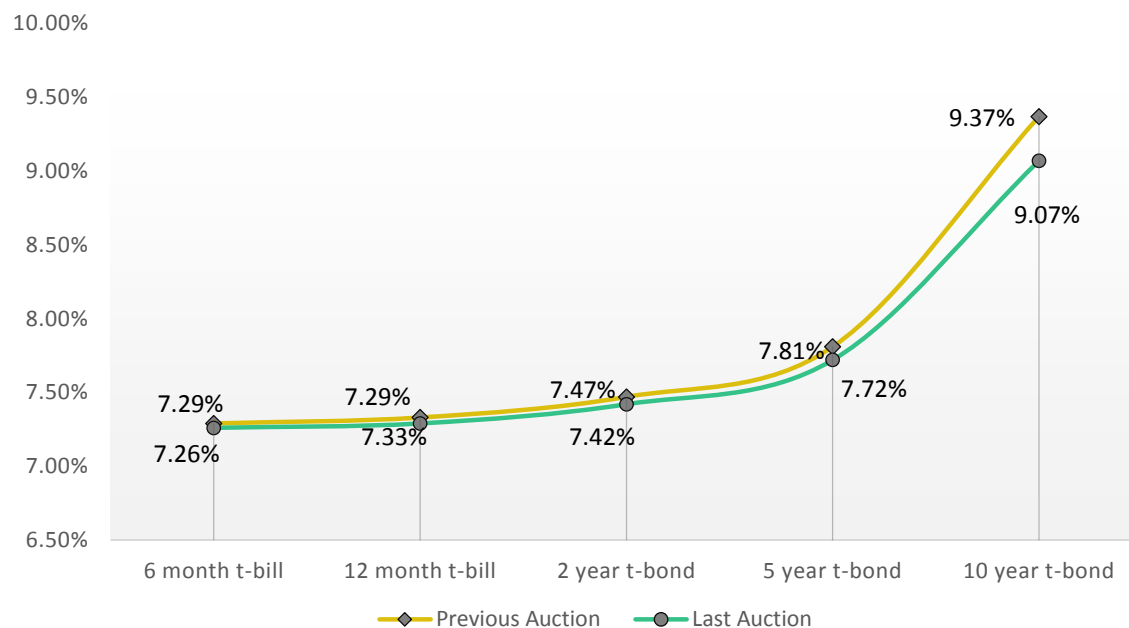
Portfolio Forming Securities Composed by Time to Maturity



Issuance and Demand  
Million GEL



Weighted average interest rates from the last month's auctions:\*



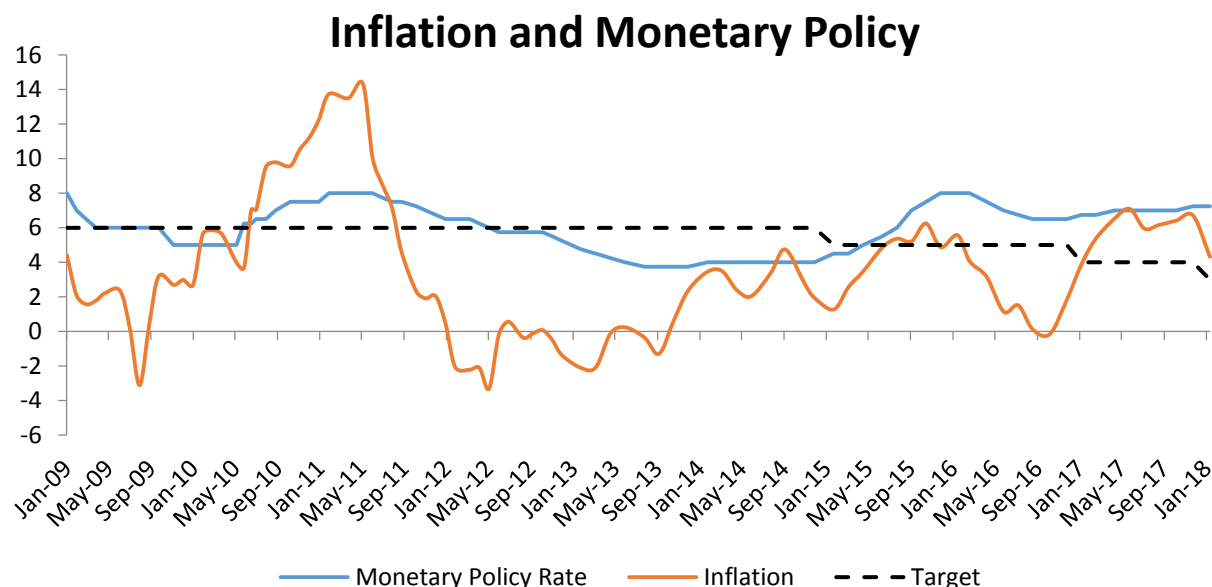
\*- If there was not issued any of the given maturity securities in the last month, previous results will be shown on the chart instead.

## Monetary Policy

On December 13<sup>th</sup> monetary policy committee increased the policy rate by 25 basis points to 7.25 percent, which was explained by worsen of nominal effective exchange rate and inflation pressure. According to NBG, together with the increase in global oil prices, inflation expectations have also risen and larger than expected improvement in economic activity decreased the downside pressure on inflation coming from demand-side, so the committee decided to increase the policy rate. Once the impact of those factors has faded out, the inflation is expected to decrease from the beginning of 2018.

On 31<sup>st</sup> of January, 14<sup>th</sup> of March and 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2018 the monetary policy committee keep the refinancing rate unchanged at 7.25 percent, which was mainly derived by the starting of nominal effective exchange rate appreciation and the fact that aggregate demand remain below its potential level that has a downward pressure on inflation.

After expiry of one-time effects, inflation will decrease and will be abound its target in the medium term. Together with expiry of factors affecting inflation, ceteris paribus, monetary policy rate will return to its neutral level in the medium run.



## 2017 Budget

Government 4 point plan and strategy is directed to support growth friendly policies and accelerate infrastructural projects. At the same time government is in for fiscal consolidation, cutting administrative costs and maintaining it low in mid-term.

As part of the growth friendly policy CIT reform was conducted, which implies improved tax environment favoring business sector.

In order to compensated loss of revenues on initial stages of CIT reform and mobilized resources for accelerating capital spending Government undertook measures both on revenue as well as expenditure side.

- Revenue-enhancing measures: Fuel excise increase (GEL 270 million, 0.7 percent of GDP); tobacco excise increase (GEL 215 million, 0.6 percent of GDP); gambling fee and e-gambling tax increase (GEL50 million, 0.2 percent of GDP); and a vehicle excise increase (GEL 45 million, 0.1 percent of GDP).
- Expenditure-reducing measures: reduction of the wage bill at the central and local government levels (GEL190 million, 0.5 percent of GDP); cuts in goods and services (GEL [50] million, 0.2 percent of GDP); improved efficiency of public healthcare provision and targeting of social programs in municipalities (GEL 90 million, 0.3 percent of GDP); and end

of the agro-land program (cumulative GEL [50] million, 0.1 percent of GDP).

2017 budget deficit is anticipated to be about 4.1%. Infrastructural projects financed through Capital Spending and lending is projected about 3 billion GEL (8.3%).

## Relationship with the IMF

On 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, the IMF Executive Board Approved US\$285.3 million Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility for Georgia.

IMF shares and welcomes the economic policies of the Government of Georgia, which ensures sustainable economic growth for the country. It is important that the new program is homemade, based on the Government's new four-point reform plan. Within the program, IMF will be our country's partner in carrying out Government's economic policies.

The economic and structural reforms were approved by IMF, which aims to support macroeconomic stability and economic growth.

2017 budget, as well as the government's medium-term budgetary plans, qualitatively represent transformed fiscal policy, which includes:

- Reducing administrative costs;
- Creating tax-system adapted to the economic growth;
- Increasing the effectiveness of the budget programs;
- Increasing investments in infrastructure projects.

In 2017-2020 country's road infrastructure backbone will be finished, that will allow us to fully use our logistical and touristic potential. Development of infrastructure will improve communication between the regions, which will increase their involvement in country's economic development.

During 2017-2020, capital expenditures foreseen under the budget will increase from 5.6% of GDP to 9%. Meanwhile, administrative costs will be reduced from 26.5% to 21.7%.

Within the program, Government of Georgia plans to carry out the most important structural reforms, which will support economic growth. Such as:

- Pension Reform;

- Capital Market Reform;
- Establishment of Deposit Insurance System;
- Establishment of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) System;
- Establishment of insolvency legislative framework;
- Land Reform;
- Insurance System Reform;
- Measures for improving the Public Finance Management;
- etc.

The decision of the Government of Georgia is to return the Financial Sector Supervision function to the National Bank of Georgia.