



مصرف الإمارات العربية المتحدة المركزي
CENTRAL BANK OF THE U.A.E.

United Arab Emirates
Monetary, Banking & Financial Markets Developments

2019 – 1st Quarter Report

May 2019

Introduction

As part of its commitment to promote economic and financial stability and growth in the UAE, the Central Bank of the UAE actively fosters a stable and efficient financial system by providing effective central banking services. The *United Arab Emirates Monetary, Banking and Financial Markets Developments Report* is one of the many avenues through which the Central Bank seeks to keep its stakeholders informed.

This report discusses the monetary and banking activities as well as developments in the UAE financial markets during the first quarter of 2019, in comparison to the first quarter of the previous year. The report also reviews ratios of annual change over the period from March 2018 to March 2019.

Monetary Developments

Money Supply M_1 , which comprises Currency in Circulation outside Banks (Currency Issued - Cash at banks) plus Monetary Deposits, increased by 5.4% during the first quarter of 2019, compared to a 3.7% quarterly increase during the same period last year. On an annual basis, there was a 0.3% rise in the monetary aggregate M_1 , reaching AED 512 billion.

Money Supply M_2 (M_1 plus Quasi Monetary Deposits (Resident Time and Savings Deposits in Dirham plus Resident Deposits in Foreign Currencies)), increased by 1.5% during the first quarter of 2019, compared to a 1.4% quarterly increase during the same period last year. On an annual basis, there was a 2.7% increase in Money Supply M_2 , reaching AED 1328.6 billion.

Consequently, Money Supply M_3 (M_2 plus government deposits at banks and at the Central Bank) also increased by 1.8% during the first quarter of 2019 as compared to a 2.7% rise during the first quarter of 2018. On an annual basis, there was a 6.9% increase in Money Supply M_3 , reaching AED 1631.7 billion.

Generally, the median money supply, M_2 , is considered the best indicator for the availability of liquidity in the economy, as it comprises currency in circulation outside banks, in addition to various deposits of all the resident sectors except the government sector in the UAE. Statistical data show that at the end of the first quarter of 2019, there was a bigger increase in M_2 , compared to the increase during the same period of 2018. The rise in M_2 during the first quarter of 2019 was mainly due to the quarterly increase in non-government resident deposits by 1.3% reaching 1254.7 billion, similar to an identical increase of 1.3% (reaching AED 1223.9 billion) during the same period of the previous year.

	2018								2019		
	First Quarter		Second Quarter		Third Quarter		Fourth Quarter		First Quarter*		
	Amount	Quarterly Change (%)	Amount	Quarterly Change (%)	Amount	Quarterly Change (%)	Amount	Quarterly Change (%)	Amount	Change (%)	
										Quarterly	Annual
Money Supply (M₁)	510.6	3.7%	495.5	-3.0%	484.2	-2.3%	485.7	0.3%	512.0	5.4%	0.3%
Money Supply (M₂)	1293.8	1.4%	1300.1	0.5%	1291.1	-0.7%	1308.5	1.3%	1328.6	1.5%	2.7%
Money Supply (M₃)	1526.7	2.7%	1553.6	1.8%	1579.8	1.7%	1602.4	1.4%	1631.7	1.8%	6.9%

Source- Data received from banks operating in the UAE

M₁ = Currency in Circulation Outside Banks (Currency Issued - Cash at banks) + Monetary Deposits

M₂ = M₁ + Quasi-Monetary Deposits

M₃ = M₂ + Government Deposits

*Estimates, subject to revision

Banking Sector Development

1- Banks Operating in the UAE

The number of locally incorporated banks remain constant at 22 banks at the end of the first quarters of 2018 and 2019. Whereas, the branches of these locally incorporated banks decreased from 761 at the end of the first quarter of 2018 to 733 at the end of the same period of 2019. The number of electronic service units of these banks increased at the end of the first quarter of 2019 to 33 from 32 at the end of March 2018. The number of Cash Offices decreased from 48 offices at the end of March 2018 to 34 offices at the end of March 2019.

The number of GCC banks remains constant during the first quarter of 2019 at 6 banks, with 4 branches. The number of other foreign banks also remain constant at 21 banks at the end of the first quarters of 2018 and 2019. However, their branches decreased from 77 branches, at the end of March 2018, to 75 branches during the same period of 2019. The number of electronic service units of these banks remain constant at 21 units at the end of first quarters of 2018 and 2019. The number of cash offices also remains constant at one cash office during the first quarters of 2018 and 2019.

The reductions in banks' branches, electronic banking service units and cash offices reflect the increasing trend of mobile banking, online banking and ease in the use of automated teller machines (ATM).

At the end of the first quarter of 2019, the number of financial institutions licensed by the Central Bank, i.e., Wholesale Banks, Representative Offices, Finance Companies, Moneychangers and Offices for Intermediating in Currency Trading & Money Market Operations reached 11, 97, 24, 123 and 8, respectively.

The total number of ATM of banks operating in the UAE reached 5,279 by the end of March 2019, compared to 5,274 at the end of March 2018.

Table-2 Banks, Other Financial Institutions & ATMs										
2013 - 2019										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018				2019
	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar*
Locally Incorporated Banks										
Main Branches	23	23	23	23	22	22	22	22	22	22
Additional Branches	841	869	874	846	771	761	755	751	743	733
Electronic Banking Service Units	29	34	37	33	36	32	32	32	33	33
Cash Offices	89	90	90	76	51	48	48	36	34	34
GCC Banks										
Main Branches	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Additional Branches	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Foreign Banks										
Main Branches	22	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	21
Additional Branches	83	82	82	81	78	77	77	77	76	75
Electronic Banking Service Units	52	48	40	31	25	21	21	21	21	21
Cash Offices	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Wholesale Banks	4	7	8	11	12	12	12	12	11	11
Representative Offices	120	121	115	114	103	102	99	99	99	97
Finance Companies	25	26	27	27	27	27	26	26	26	24
Moneychangers	134	140	140	140	132	130	128	128	123	123
Offices for Intermediating in Currency Trading & Money Market Operations	12	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	11	8
ATMs	4,664	4,847	5,119	5,243	5,302	5,274	5,261	5,293	5,303	5,279

Source: Banking Supervision Department and UAESWITCH

*Estimates, subject to revision

2- Bank Assets and Loans

At the end of the first quarter of 2019 total assets of banks operating in the UAE increased by 0.9%, reaching AED 2894.9 billion., similar to the 0.9% quarterly increase at the end of the first quarter of 2018. During the period between March 2018 and March 2019, the total assets of banks operating in the UAE increased by 6.5%.

Gross credit also increased by 1.1% at the end of March 2019, reaching 1675.1 billion. On an annual basis, gross credit increased by 4.2%.

3- Customer Deposits

By the end of the first quarter of 2019, total deposits of resident and non-resident customers with banks operating in the UAE decreased by 0.4%, reaching AED 1748.1 billion, compared to an increase of 2.2% (AED 1662.4 billion) at the end of the first quarter of 2018. Resident deposits decreased by 0.1%, reaching AED 1539.9 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2019, compared to an increase of 2.6% at the end of the first quarter of 2018 reaching AED 1472.9 billion. Non-resident deposits also decreased by 2.4%, reaching AED 208.2 billion by the end of March 2019, compared to a 1.1% reduction at the end of the same period of 2018. On an annual basis, Resident deposits increased by 4.5% and Non-resident deposits increased by 9.9%.

4- Capital and Reserves

Aggregate Capital and Reserves of banks operating in the UAE decreased by 1.4%, reaching AED 350.2 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2019 compared to a 6.2% quarterly reduction at the end of the same period of 2018. During the first quarter of 2019, Total Capital Adequacy Ratio increased by 2.3% standing at 17.9%, remaining well above the 12.375% Capital Adequacy Ratio, including the 1.875% Capital Conservation Buffer requirement and the 8.5% Tier1 Ratio, prescribed by the Central Bank regulations in compliance to Basel III guidelines. Whereas, the Total Capital Adequacy Ratio reduced by 3.3% during the first quarter of 2018, settling at 17.5%.

Capital adequacy ratios measure the amount of a bank's capital expressed as a percentage of its risk weighted exposures. A high capital adequacy ratio provides protection to depositors and promotes the stability and efficiency of the financial system of an economy. Effective December 2017, banks in the UAE follow Basel III principles for calculating the Capital Adequacy Ratios in line with the Guidelines issued by the Central Bank.

Table- 3: Banking Indicators

(End of Month, Figures in billions of Dirhams unless otherwise indicated)

	2018						2019		% Annual Change		
	Mar	Quarterly Change (%)	Jun	Quarterly Change (%)	Sep	Quarterly Change (%)	Dec	Quarterly Change (%)		Mar*	Quarterly Change (%)
Total Assets	2718.3	0.9%	2748.9	1.1%	2838.2	3.2%	2868.5	1.1%	2894.9	0.9%	6.5%
Banks' Investments in Central Bank CDs	134.3	-0.6%	125.2	-6.8%	121.4	-3.0%	138.2	13.8%	139.2	0.7%	3.6%
Shariah Compliant Certificates of Deposits	43.0	12.3%	34.4	-20.0%	32.4	-5.8%	36.3	12.0%	34.9	-3.9%	-18.8%
Gross Credit ⁽¹⁾	1608.1	1.8%	1622.3	0.9%	1638.3	1.0%	1656.2	1.1%	1675.1	1.1%	4.2%
Personal Loans to Residents	336.5	-0.3%	337.3	0.2%	338.4	0.3%	337.4	-0.3%	333.5	-1.2%	-0.9%
Total Deposits ⁽²⁾	1662.4	2.2%	1684.3	1.3%	1728.2	2.6%	1755.6	1.6%	1748.1	-0.4%	5.2%
Capital & Reserves ⁽³⁾	316.3	-6.2%	330.2	4.4%	342.9	3.8%	355.2	3.6%	350.2	-1.4%	10.7%
Capital Adequacy Ratio ⁽⁴⁾	17.5%	-3.3%	18.1%	3.4%	18.2%	0.6%	17.5%	-3.8%	17.9%	2.3%	2.3%
Tier-1 Ratio	16.0%	-3.6%	16.6%	3.8%	16.8%	1.2%	16.2%	-3.6%	16.6%	2.5%	3.8%
Common Equity Tier 1 (CET 1) Capital Ratio	13.9%	-4.8%	14.6%	5.0%	14.9%	2.1%	14.3%	-4.0%	14.6%	2.1%	5.0%

⁽¹⁾ Includes credit to residents and non-residents: loans to non-banking financial institutions, Trade Bills Discounted and Loans and Advances to the Government and Public Sector, Private sector (corporates and individuals) in local and foreign currencies.

⁽²⁾ Net of inter-bank deposits and bank drafts, including commercial prepayments.

⁽³⁾ Excluding subordinated borrowings/deposits, but including current year profit.

⁽⁴⁾ Total Capital Ratio , Tier 1 Ratio and CET 1 Ratio for the period starting from Dec 2017 are calculated according to the Basel III Guidelines issued by CBUAE vide Circular 52/2017 .Whereas CAR for period prior to Dec 2017 are according to Basel II Guidelines.

*Estimates, subject to revision

5- Foreign Assets of the Central Bank

At the end of the first quarter of 2019, the Central Bank's foreign assets rose by 4%, reaching AED 377.1 billion, compared to a 3.3% decrease at the end of the first quarter of 2018. This increase was mainly attributed to increases in Current Account Balances & Deposits with banks abroad by 4.6% (an increase of AED 13.5 billion), Foreign Securities by 0.04% (an increase of AED 0.02 billion) and Other Foreign Assets by 7.5% (an increase of AED 1 billion). From March 2018 to March 2019, Central Bank Foreign Assets increased by 12.1%.

6- Abu Dhabi and Dubai Financial Markets Values

Abu Dhabi's quarterly average Financial Market Index increased by 4.6% during the first quarter of 2019 compared to an increase of 6.4% in the first quarter of 2018. The quarterly average Market Capitalization of companies listed at the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) also increased by AED 7.7 billion reaching AED 520 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2019 compared to AED 42.2 billion increase at the end of the first quarter of 2018. The Quarterly Trading Value increased from AED 9 billion (9.1% quarterly decrease) during the first quarter of 2018 to AED 10.9 billion (20.4% quarterly decrease) during the first quarter of 2019.

Dubai's quarterly average Financial Market Index decreased by 1.8% during the first quarter of 2019, compared to a 6.5% reduction during the same period in 2018. The quarterly average Market Capitalization of companies listed on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM) decreased by AED 7.2 billion reaching AED 347.4 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2019 compared to AED 7.5 billion increase at the end of the first quarter of 2018. Quarterly Trading Value decreased from AED 20.4 billion (27.7% quarterly decrease) during the first quarter of 2018 to AED 11.3 billion (4.2% quarterly decrease) during the first quarter of 2019.

Table 4: Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) Indicators

	2016	2017				2018				2019
	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar
Number of listed Companies	69	67	67	67	69	69	68	70	70	70
General Share Price Index**	4385.1	4514.8	4458.4	4477.3	4318.4	4595.1	4611.5	4927.2	4862.3	5085.8
<i>Quarterly Variation (%)</i>	-2.7%	3.0%	-1.2%	0.4%	-3.5%	6.4%	0.4%	6.8%	-1.3%	4.6%
<i>Annual Variation Y-o-Y (%)</i>	-2.7%	0.2%	1.5%	2.0%	1.0%	0.1%	0.8%	3.5%	6.9%	9.2%
Market Capitalization (Billion AED)**	461.1	467.4	460.7	459.2	460.9	503.1	492.4	515.0	512.3	520.0
Quarterly Traded Values (Billion AED)	11.3	17.4	10.9	9.9	9.9	9.0	8.6	8.2	13.7	10.9

Source: Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX)

Table 5: Dubai Financial Markets (DFM) Indicators

	2016	2017				2018				2019
	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Dec	Mar
Number of listed Companies*	61	62	62	62	65	67	67	67	67	67
General Share Price Index**	3408.1	3584.5	3382.1	3611.6	3475.4	3249.0	2950.4	2877.0	2661.0	2612.7
<i>Quarterly Variation (%)</i>	-2.3%	5.2%	-5.6%	6.8%	-3.8%	-6.5%	-9.2%	-2.5%	-7.5%	-1.8%
<i>Annual Variation Y-o-Y (%)</i>	-9.3%	-3.6%	1.5%	4.8%	4.4%	-1.0%	-4.2%	-10.3%	-16.5%	-19.1%
Market Capitalization (Billion AED)**	325.8	387.0	356.9	377.3	386.2	393.7	379.4	375.0	354.6	347.4
Quarterly Traded Values (Billion AED)	42.0	48.2	21.6	16.7	28.2	20.4	15.8	11.0	11.8	11.3

**includes foreign companies*

Source: Dubai Financial Markets (DFM)

**The Quarterly Share Price Index and the Quarterly Market Capitalization are measured as the quarterly average of monthly observations.

***The annual variation of the Share Price Indices are measured as the yearly averages of monthly observations.