



وَدَارَةُ الْمَالِئِيَّةِ وَالْاِقْتِصَادِ الْوَطَنِيَّ

Ministry of Finance  
and National Economy



# Bahrain Economic Quarterly Q1 2019

2030  
البحرين  
BAHRAIN

## SUMMARY

### 2019 OPENS ON A POSITIVE NOTE

Bahrain's economy recorded strong growth<sup>1</sup> during the first quarter of 2019<sup>2</sup> which is a testament to the resilience of the economy and the government's commitment to delivering the Fiscal Balance Program. In Q1 2019, the Kingdom's real gross domestic product (GDP) recorded growth of 2.7% compared with the same period in 2018. Furthermore, GDP growth for the year 2018 has been revised up to 2.5% compared with the year 2017, following the incorporation of newly released financial data.

- ◆ **Bahrain's real GDP growth reached an annual pace of 2.7% in Q1 2019.** This is largely in line with the 2018 headline growth. Growth was led by a rebound in the oil sector with the sector's real GDP growth reaching 9.2% year-on-year (YoY), as a result of the 7.8% increase in oil production over the same periods. This marks a clear improvement on the negative GDP growth of 14.7% in Q1 2018 when oil production had been suppressed by seasonal maintenance in the offshore Abu Sa'afah field.
- ◆ **Non-oil growth moderated to 1.5%.** The relatively lower growth rate in Q1 2019 is partly the result of base effects, with revisions to the 2018 GDP pushing the Q1 2018 GDP growth rate to 3%, and also a result of the change in consumer behaviour before and immediately after the introduction of the VAT in January 2019. Still, the positive growth rate is driven by strong and continued growth across the non-oil sectors. This reflects the strength and resilience of the economy and the continued efforts led by the Kingdom to diversify its resources, including the introduction of the Fiscal Balance Program. The hotels and restaurants sector recorded an unprecedented growth in the quarter at a rate of 8%, followed by the financial corporations sector which saw growth of 3.5% and the construction sector with growth of 2.9%.
- ◆ **Real GDP growth in 2018 was 2.5%.** The 2018 preliminary results were revised following the release of finalized financial data relating to the 2018 financial year. Non-oil sector GDP growth increased to 3.4%, while oil sector GDP growth remained negative at 1.3%. Similarly, Q4 2018 GDP was revised up to 5.3% with non-oil sector GDP reaching 4.1%.
- ◆ **The regional context remained generally favourable while the global confidence has been affected by trade tensions.** Economic confidence in the region continued to improve as growth gradually accelerated. However, recent oil price volatility contributed to some financial market uncertainty. On the other hand, global financial markets have benefited from a return to more permissive monetary and fiscal policies in key countries. Moreover, the prospect of rising trade tensions and barriers has been a source for renewed market volatility and are likely to exert some negative influence on global growth.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to growth in this report refer to the growth of the real (inflation-adjusted) GDP.

<sup>2</sup> Q1 2019 figures are estimates.

**Bahrain Economic Outlook**

	2017	2018e	2019f	2020f
Real GDP growth (%)	3.8%	2.5%	2.3%	2.7%
Non-hydrocarbons sector	4.9%	3.4%	2.8%	3.2%
Hydrocarbons sector	-0.7%	-1.3%	0.0%	0.5%
Nominal GDP growth (%)	9.9%	6.9%	3.3%	4.7%
Inflation (CPI %)	1.4%	2.1%	2.8%	2.5%
Current account (% of GDP)	-3.8%	-5.8%	-3.2%	-2.0%
Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	-10.1%	-6.2%	-4.7%	-3.9%
Crude Oil Brent (USD)	53	72	65	62

Source: Ministry of Finance and National Economy estimates

## EXTERNAL CONTEXT

### *Global Prospects*

After a brief rally in Q1 2019, global financial markets once again experienced renewed turbulence. Renewed trade tensions between the US and China are set to be at the forefront of global concerns. Escalating trade tensions have led to the introduction of new tariffs in both China and the United States.

The broader policy backdrop is gradually becoming more permissive with the US Federal Reserve (Feds) signaling that it will pursue a cautious, data-driven approach to rate setting. This should entail little change in the cost of capital in the foreseeable future. The Feds' position is underpinned by the absence of systemic inflationary pressures in spite of US unemployment declining to a 49-year low of 3.6%. Following the recent financial market volatility, a rate cut this year is seen as increasingly likely by financial markets.

Oil prices have shown some renewed volatility under the conflicting pressures of trade tensions and supply concerns. While US inventories have continued to increase, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and their allies have continued to produce well below their agreed-upon quotas.

### *GCC Economic Outlook*

GCC economic reports reflected the broadly positive growth prospects with Saudi Arabia posting its first budget surplus in Q1 2019 in over four years, reflecting continued progress in the area of fiscal consolidation. Both oil and non-oil revenues expanded by 45% or more over the past year while expenditures only grew by 8.5%. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Central Bank projects growth of 2% this year, supported by a recovery in the non-oil economy from 1.3% in 2018 to 1.8% in 2019. Other GCC countries are forecasting comparable growth levels.

The Emirates NBD UAE Purchasing Managers' Index for May 2019 rose to its highest level since October 2014, while the Saudi index hit its highest level since December 2017 in the same month. Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE posted deflation in CPI, above all due to declining housing costs and to the overall stabilization in the prices a year after the introduction of VAT.

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## BAHRAIN

### Economic Growth Overview

In an encouraging sign of resilience and reflecting the government's commitment to balancing fiscal consolidation efforts with economic development, overall annual real economic growth in Bahrain reached 2.7% during Q1 of 2019. This was broadly in line with the revised 2.5% headline growth for 2018 as a whole.

As was the case during Q4 2018, the strong growth was in large part driven by base effects in the oil sector. Oil production was temporarily depressed in the first quarter of 2018 due to seasonal maintenance in the offshore Abu Sa'afah field. In contrast, oil output was close to capacity in Q1 2019, up 7.8% on Q1 2018 levels, while gas production levels continued to increase. Overall, oil sector real GDP increased by an annual 9.2%, compared to a 14.7% contraction in Q1 2018. On the other hand, non-oil growth recorded an annual pace of 1.5%, having reached 3.4% during 2018 as a whole.

#### Real GDP Growth (%)



Source: Information & e-Government Authority

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## Non-oil Sector

Annual real economic growth in Bahrain's non-oil economy reached 1.5% in Q1 2019. The positive growth momentum reflects improved consumer and business confidence after the introduction of the Fiscal Balance Program which provided much greater certainty about the future economic policy direction for the Kingdom. The relatively lower rate of growth of non-oil sectors is partly due to upward revision to the Q1 2018 growth rate which reached 3%, and is also due to fact that many expenditure decisions had been brought forward to Q4 2018 ahead of the introduction of the VAT in January 2019. This was evident in the unusually fast growth in imports in Q4 2018, followed by a slowdown in Q1 2019. Trade statistics showed signs of normalizing to previous levels by March 2019.

The fastest growing sector of the non-oil economy in Q1 2019 was the hotels & restaurants sector, which expanded by an annual rate of 8%, markedly ahead of the 1.1% contraction recorded in 2018. The strong performance was largely due to the increase in the number of organized events during the quarter. In addition, the number of inbound tourists increased by 3.1% YoY, totalling 3.2 million visitors while the number of international arrivals entering the country reached 3.5 million, an increase of 3.1% over the same period last year. Hotel occupancy rates at 5-star hotels reached 53% in Q1 2019 compared to 50% in the same period last year while occupancy rates at the Kingdom's 4-star hotels reached 46% compared to 42% during the same period last year. Furthermore, there was a 2% increase in visitors arriving via King Fahad Causeway to a total of 2.8 million visitors, a 3% increase in arrivals at the Bahrain International Airport to a total of 299,196 visitor, and an 82% increase in visitors arriving via Khalifa bin Salman Port to 81,371.

The financial corporations sector expanded by an annual rate of 3.5%. This followed a strong year of credit growth and improving margins in a higher interest rate environment. In addition, the insurance sector has seen brisk growth in its premiums – by 6% in 2018. Growth in the construction sector remained positive, with a growth rate of 2.9%, supported by continued infrastructure activity. Despite that, growth in the sector was slower than the growth rates achieved in 2018, largely due to weaker price dynamics at a time of slower demand growth following substantial supply increases of residential and commercial real estate. A total of 2,576 building permits were issued in the first quarter of 2019, marking an annual increase of 4.2%.

With regards to the other sectors, the transportation and telecommunication sector recorded growth of 1.5%, while trade, real estate & business activities and social and personal services all grew at a rate of 1.3%.

The manufacturing sector, by contrast, saw an unusual 3.1% drop in its GDP. The sector has been challenged by increased energy prices which have squeezed profit margins. ALBA recorded an unusual quarterly loss of BHD15.8mn due to a 14% YoY drop in aluminium prices along with a simultaneous increase in alumina input costs. Generally lower commodity prices have had a similar adverse effect in other parts of the sector. The ramping up of ALBA's new Line 6 by the middle of the year is likely to significantly boost the performance of the manufacturing sector going forward.



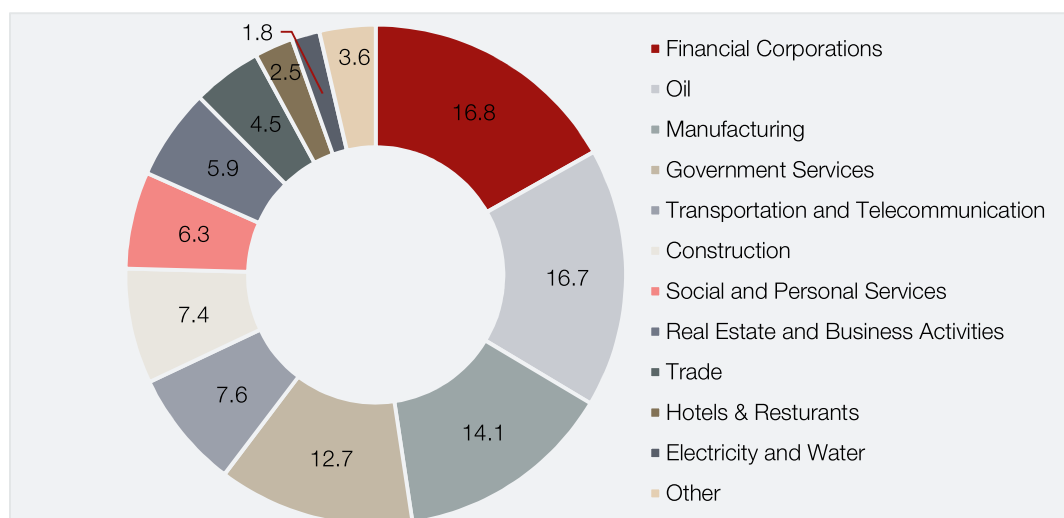
## Sector Real Growth Rates, YoY

YoY growth (%)	Annual	2018				2019
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
Crude Pet. & Nat. Gas	-1.3%	-14.7%	0.8%	-1.5%	11.3%	9.2%
Manufacturing	1.9%	2.7%	2.8%	1.3%	0.8%	-3.1%
Construction	5.6%	6.7%	6.7%	5.4%	4.0%	2.9%
Trade	0.1%	-0.6%	-0.8%	-0.5%	2.1%	1.3%
Hotels & Restaurants	-1.1%	-2.7%	-6.1%	-1.4%	6.1%	8.0%
Transp. & Comm's	4.1%	6.6%	3.8%	1.8%	4.1%	1.5%
Social & Pers. Serv.	3.0%	4.1%	3.2%	3.1%	1.7%	1.3%
Real Est. & Bus. Act.	2.8%	3.7%	3.0%	2.9%	1.5%	1.3%
Finance	0.9%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.8%	2.7%	3.5%
Government	5.0%	3.7%	3.1%	6.6%	6.7%	-1.1%
Other	15.9%	6.7%	22.5%	12.6%	23.2%	11.2%
<b>GDP</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<i>Non-oil GDP</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>3.0%</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	<i>3.1%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>

Source: Information & eGovernment Authority

In terms of the non-oil sector contributions to the overall GDP for Q1 2019, the financial corporations sector continued to be the highest contributing sector making up 16.8% of the GDP. The other high contributing sectors were the manufacturing sector with a contribution of 14.1% and the government services sector with a contribution of 12.7%. These were followed by the transportation and communication sector and the construction sector with contributions of 7.6% and 7.4%, respectively. With such remarkable contribution, the financial services sector has overtaken the oil sector as the highest contributing sector to the GDP in Q1 2019, which is a testament to the Kingdom's continued efforts to diversify its economy.

## Sector Contribution to GDP – Q1 2019



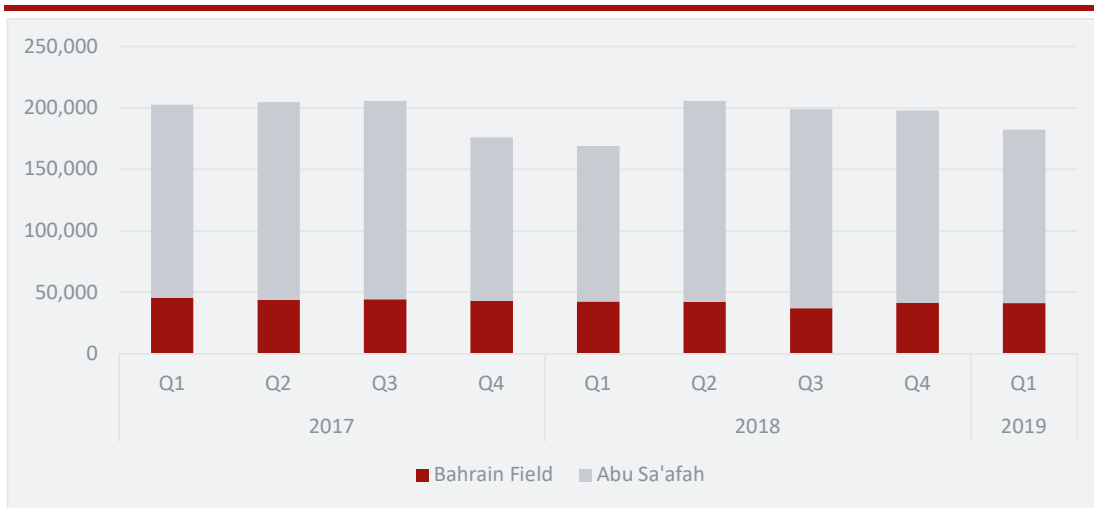
Source: Information & eGovernment Authority

### Oil Sector

Oil production in Bahrain experienced a clear YoY rebound in Q1 2019. In total, Bahrain’s oil production reached a daily average of 182,310 barrels during Q1 2019. This represented a 7.8% YoY increase, in large part because seasonal maintenance of the offshore Abu Sa’afah Field had depressed offshore drilling in Q1 2018. Compared to Q4 2018, overall oil production was down by 7.9%.

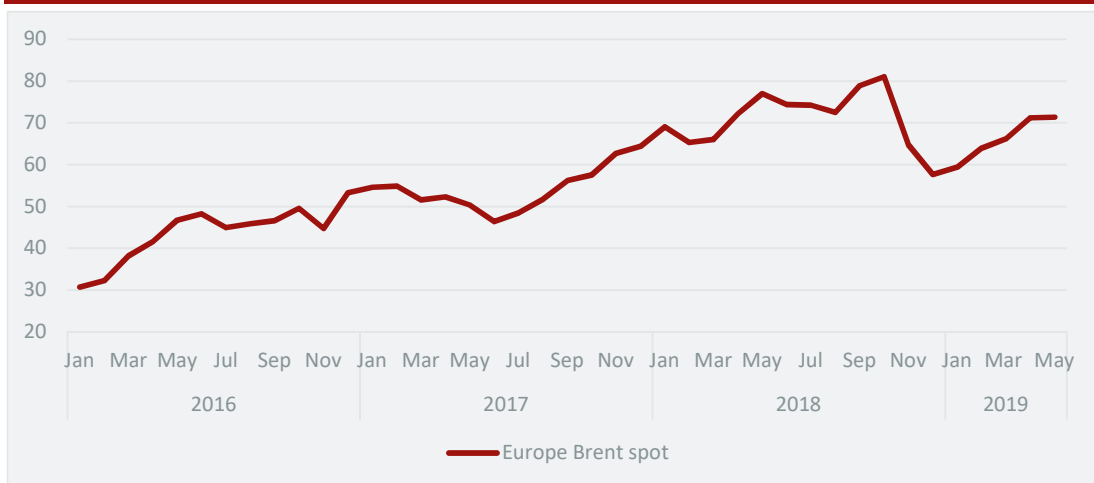
Production from the offshore Abu Sa’afah averaged 140,969 barrels per day (bpd), just shy of the 150,000-bpd capacity level, due to maintenance activity in March 2019. Onshore production from the Bahrain Field averaged 41,341 bpd, much in line with the trend observed in 2018.

#### Crude Oil Production (bpd)



Source: National Oil and Gas Authority

#### Brent Oil Price (USD per barrel)



Source: US Energy Information Administration



## Infrastructure Projects

Infrastructure projects have been an important source of resilience and continuity in growth in recent years and are expected to retain this role. The 2019-2020 State Budget identified 66 projects with an aggregate value of BHD1.3bn. Social housing accounts for 28% of the overall project spending, followed by public works and roads at 24%, electricity and water networks at 17% and transportation infrastructure at 10%.

Key infrastructure projects in the Kingdom of Bahrain:

- ◆ In May 2019, Bapco announced the financial close of the refinery modernization program. The project is funded by five export credit agencies and a syndicate of 21 commercial banks, with a combination of conventional and Islamic elements. The USD4.2bn project is undertaken by a consortium comprising TechnipFMC, Samsung Engineering, and Technicas Reunidas. It is expected to be completed in 2022.
- ◆ In April 2019, Tatweer Petroleum signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with France's Total for the exploration of the new Khalij al Bahrain oil field discovery. Apart from oil and gas exploration, the MOU covers knowledge sharing and LNG imports. The MOU was announced during a Royal visit to France in April, which involved the announcement of USD1.5bn worth of deals.
- ◆ Work on the new passenger terminal of the Bahrain International Airport is entering its final stages with the facility now scheduled to open in Q4 2019. The terminal is part of the USD1.1bn Airport Modernization Program. The 207,000 sqm building will feature a 4,600 sqm departure hall, 104 check-in counters, 36 immigration lanes and 24 security screening points. The facility will have 22 eGates using biometric recognition technology. The terminal will use a new automated border control platform that can boost overall capacity to 14 million passengers and 130,000 air traffic movement a year while also boosting baggage handling capability to 4,700 per hour during peak times.
- ◆ In early May 2019, Eagle Hills Diyar announced a USD374mn syndicated loan facility provided by a group of Bahrain- and UAE-based banks. The funding will go toward the construction of the Marassi Galleria, a 200,000 sqm shopping and entertainment facility, the Address Hotel, and the Vida Hotel. All three are part of the Marassi al Bahrain development in the north of the Kingdom. The district is eventually expected to have 6,000 residences with a population of approximately 22,000.
- ◆ The legal separation of the telecommunications company Batelco into two entities is now complete. The infrastructure assets of Batelco have been transferred to NBNetCo, which is the new national broadband infrastructure company. The company will remain under Batelco's ownership. The separation is designed to provide a level playing field in the telecommunications sector.
- ◆ According to the Ministry of Works, Municipal Affairs, and Urban Planning, a total of 192 building permits were issued for BHD179mn worth of investment projects spanning an estimated 652,000 sqm of land during Q1. These include projects linked to the expansion of the Bahrain International Airport and the second phase of the Al Dur plant.

## International Trade

Non-oil trade patterns in Bahrain continued to normalize following some VAT-induced volatility around the end of last year. A sharp increase in imports in late 2018 is primarily reflective of an attempt to import and distribute goods before the introduction of the VAT. This was followed by a corresponding drop in January-February 2019, before import levels rebounded in March 2019.

Overall, the aggregate value of Bahrain's non-oil merchandise exports rose by an annual 19.3% to BHD782.4mn during the first quarter of 2019, exports of national origin totalled BHD586.6mn during the same period, representing a 9.1% YoY increase and re-exports rose by an impressive 65.4% YoY to a total of BHD195.8mn. On the other hand, non-oil imports during the first quarter of 2019 reached BHD2.1bn, a 10.5% YoY drop.






The preliminary balance of payments data released by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) pointed to a merchandise trade surplus of BHD209.4mn in Q1. This represented a sharp reversal from a BHD52.5mn deficit a year earlier. The value of remittances dropped from BHD305.9mn in Q1 2018 to BHD238.9mn as of the end of March 2019. The overall balance of payments surplus in Q1 2019 was estimated at BHD406.2mn as compared to BHD349.9mn in Q1 2018.

### Non-oil Trade (USD mn)



Source: Information & eGovernment Authority, preliminary data from Customs Affairs

The Kingdom's top trading partners during Q1 2019 were:

Imports			Exports		
Country		% of Total	Country		% of Total
 China		13.62	 Saudi Arabia		24.19
 UAE		7.95	 UAE		17.72
 Brazil		7.25	 USA		9.82
 Saudi Arabia		6.76	 Egypt		6.30
 Australia		6.56	 Oman		5.58

### *Foreign Direct Investment*

The Kingdom of Bahrain succeeded in raising the value of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2018 to USD1.5bn, compared to USD1.4bn in 2017, an increase of 6%. FDI represents 4% of GDP, higher than the global average of 2%. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently issued its annual report for 2019, in which it revised its data to conform to the data of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a positive step and an important event for the credibility and accuracy of the Kingdom's national data.

## *Regulatory Initiatives*

Four important new laws received parliamentary assent in May 2019:

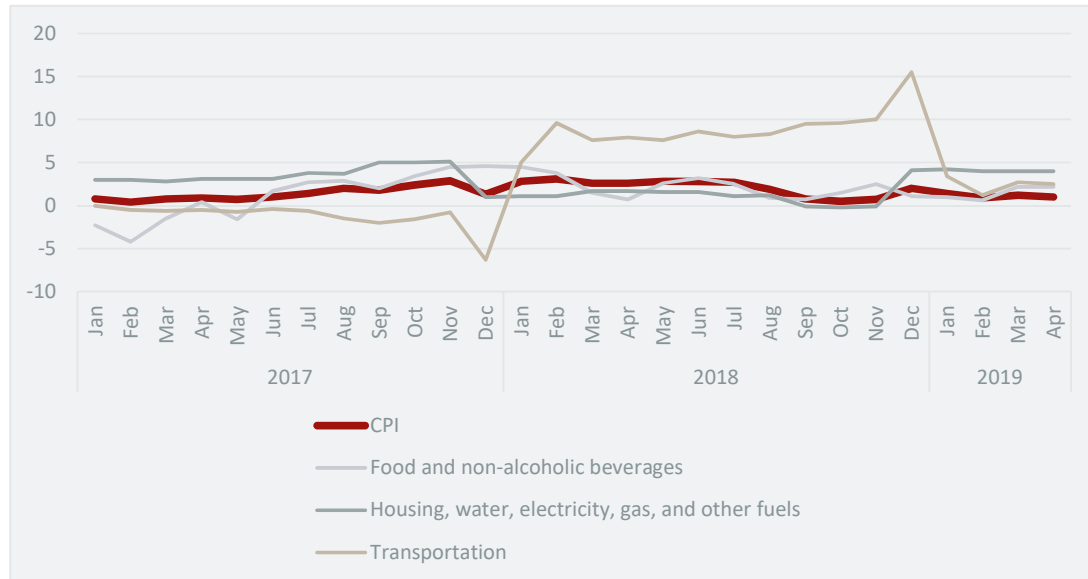
- ◆ Decree Law No. 56 for the year 2018 of Providing Cloud Computing Services to Foreign Parties is designed to encourage more international cloud providers and investors to come to Bahrain.
- ◆ Decree Law No. 54 for the year 2018 for Issuance of Letters and Electronic Transactions is designed to expand the scope of operations that could be completed via e-mails, regulate providers of electronic services and creating a safe and modern electronic ecosystem.
- ◆ Decree Law No. 58 for the year 2018 Concerning the Amendments to Certain Provisions of Decree Law No. 2 for the year 2018 for the Registration and Safety of Small Vessels which designates the Ministry of Transportation and Telecommunications as the relevant regulatory authority responsible for setting the eligibility criteria for registering vessels, simplifying the registration process, issuing registration certificates and conducting periodic inspections of vessels. This aims to further the Kingdom's efforts to diversify its economy through attracting investors in the sector.
- ◆ Decree Law No. 57 for the year 2018 Concerning the Amendments to Certain Provisions of Decree Law No. 4 for the year 2001 for the Prohibition and Combating of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing was amended to expand the definition of terrorism in line with recommendations by the Financial Action Task Force.

## Inflation

Contrary to expectations of an inflationary spike following the introduction of VAT, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Bahrain continued broadly in line with the trend observed over the past year. The CPI reading during the first four months of 2019 was 1.1% higher than a year earlier.

CPI inflation in April reached an annual pace of 1.0%. Among its main components, food prices were up by an annual 2.2%, whereas housing costs increased by 4.0%. In most other categories, price pressures were minimal or even negative. The recreation and culture index was down by 10.1%, the clothing and footwear index down by 4.1%, the cost of furnishing, household equipment, and routine household maintenance declined by an annual 1.6% and the cost of health care services was down by 0.7%. In most cases, these declines were linked to relatively subdued demand growth, locally as well as regionally.

### Consumer Price Inflation (%) YoY



Source: Information & e-Government Authority

### Bank Credit

Bank lending growth in Bahrain remained steady at a rate far above the regional average. In April 2019, the annual pace of growth reached a rate of 7.8%, the highest monthly increase in the year to date, albeit lower than the 2018 growth of 9.4%. Headline growth continued to be depressed by YoY reductions in lending to the government sector.

By contrast, private sector loan growth has once again accelerated. The total value of outstanding loans and credit facilities provided by retail banks amounted to BHD9.6bn at the end of Q1 2019 compared to BHD9.0bn at the end of Q1 2018, an increase of 6.7%. This amount includes loans and facilities provided to institutions which amounted to BHD5.1bn at the end of the first quarter of this year compared to BHD4.7bn at the end of the same period last year.

The robust loan growth reflects a strong underlying liquidity situation and an increased expectation of relatively stable funding costs now that the US tightening cycle looks to be largely over. Furthermore, point of sale credit and debit card transactions rose by an annual 13.7% to a record high of BHD560.5mn from BHD493mn a year earlier.

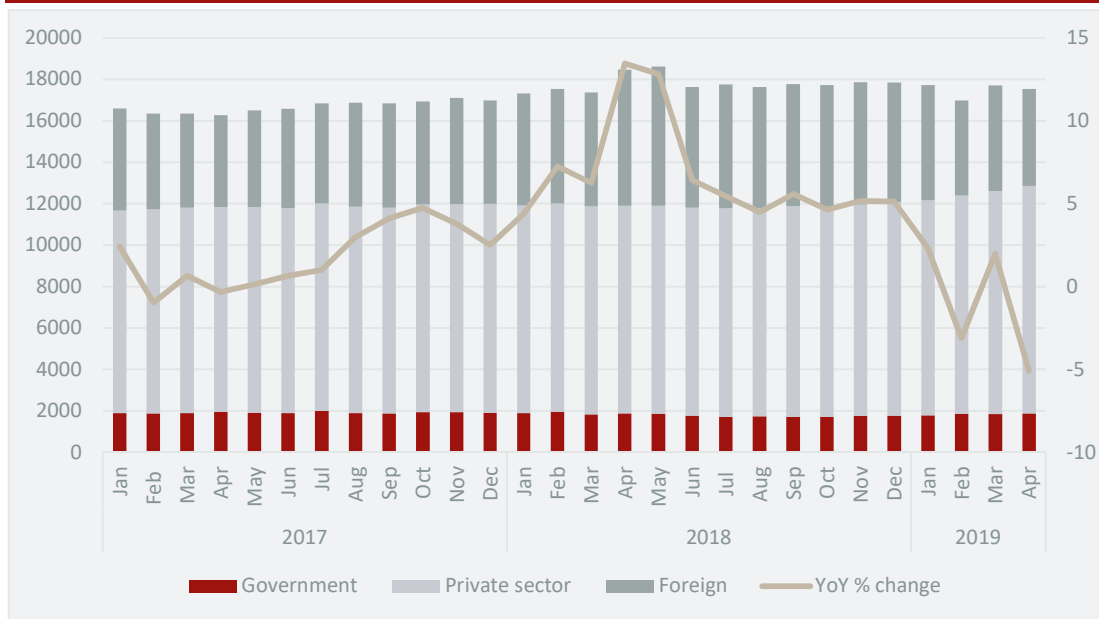
#### YoY Growth in Credit Issued by Retail Banks (BHD mn)



Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

Deposit growth decelerated in recent months, although this appears to be largely linked to base effects. There was a temporary increase in deposits during the spring period in 2018, largely due to perceived financial market uncertainties.

### Deposit Liabilities to Non-banks (BHD mn)



Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

The cost of borrowing held steady for retail borrowers, averaging just over 5%. By contrast, business loans manifested unusual month-to-month volatility.

### Average Rate of Interest on Credit Facilities - Conventional Retail Banks



Source: Central Bank of Bahrain



The financial sector continues to benefit from benign liquidity conditions. The M3 measure of money supply reached BHD13.2bn at the end of Q1 2019, compared to BHD12.4bn at the end of Q1 2018, a 6.5% YoY increase. Also, the CBB's foreign exchange reserves more than doubled from BHD530.7mn at the end of Q1 2018 to just over BHD1.1bn as of the end of March 2019.

The aggregate balance sheet of the banking system rose by an annual 9.7% to BHD78bn. The overall capital adequacy of the banking system reached 18.2%, which was well above the 12.5% minimum requirement.

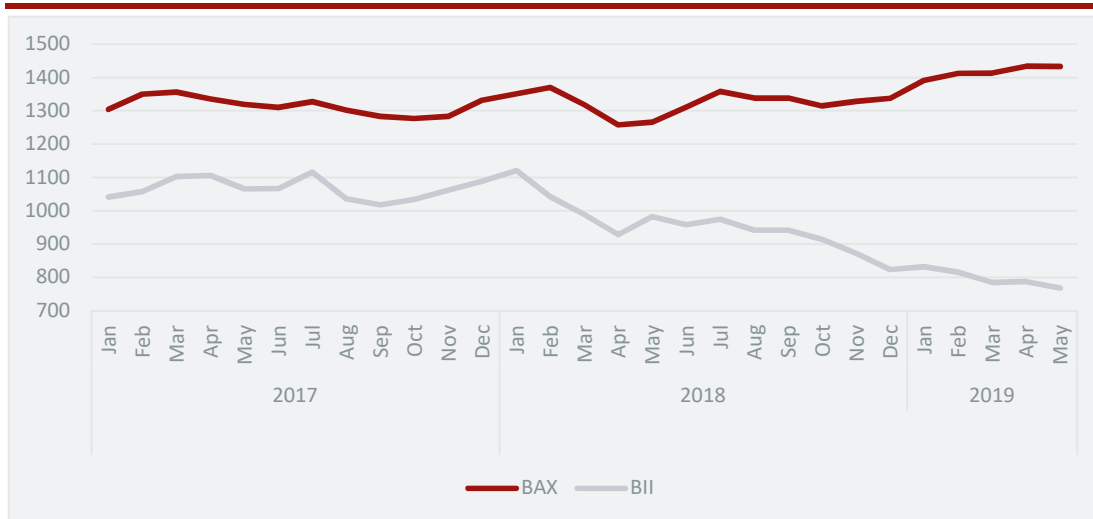
According to the most recent insurance sector report for 2018, the insurance sector saw a 6% increase in its premiums to a total of BHD284mn.

## Financial Markets

Bahrain Bourse continued its positive performance with the Bahrain All-Share Index up by 7.2% during the first five months of 2019. This compared to 5.5% for the S&P GCC Index. However, the Bahrain Islamic Index declined by 6.7% over the same period.

The total market capitalization of the Bourse stood at BHD8.9bn at the end of May 2019, representing a 14.6% YoY increase.

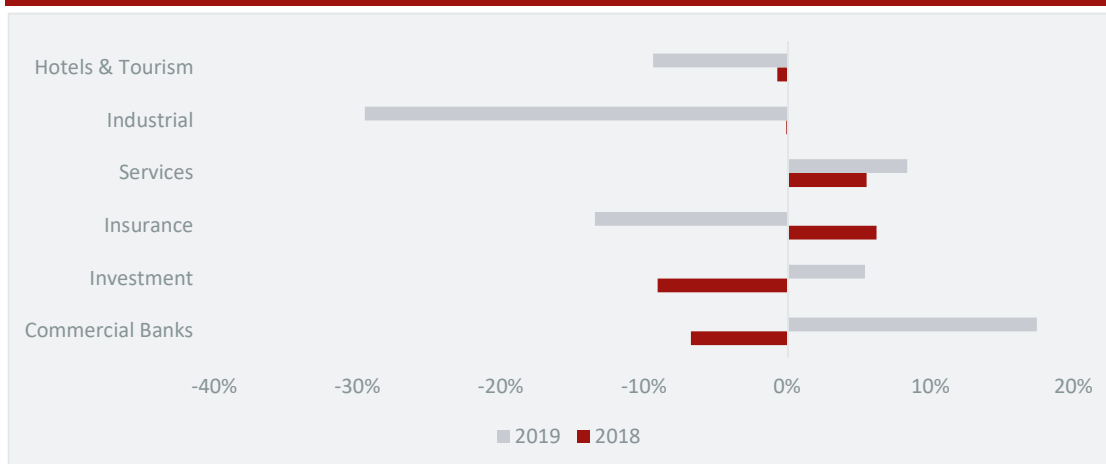
### Bahrain All Share Index and Bahrain Islamic Index



Source: Bahrain Bourse

The best performing sector index during the first five months of the year was commercial banks, which advanced by 17.4%. The services index and the investment index posted increases of 8.4% and 5.4%, respectively. At the other end of the spectrum, the industrial index shed 29.5%, whereas hotels & tourism shed 9.4%.

## Changes in Sectoral Stock Market Indices (January-May 2019 vs. 2018)



Source: Bahrain Bourse

In the fixed income space, the CBB continued with its regular issuance of short-term Treasury bills and sukuk. There has been a continued, marked decline in the interest rate while the quarter has seen some record high oversubscription rates, especially in the Islamic space.

## Short-term Bond and Sukuk Issues Arranged by the Central Bank of Bahrain

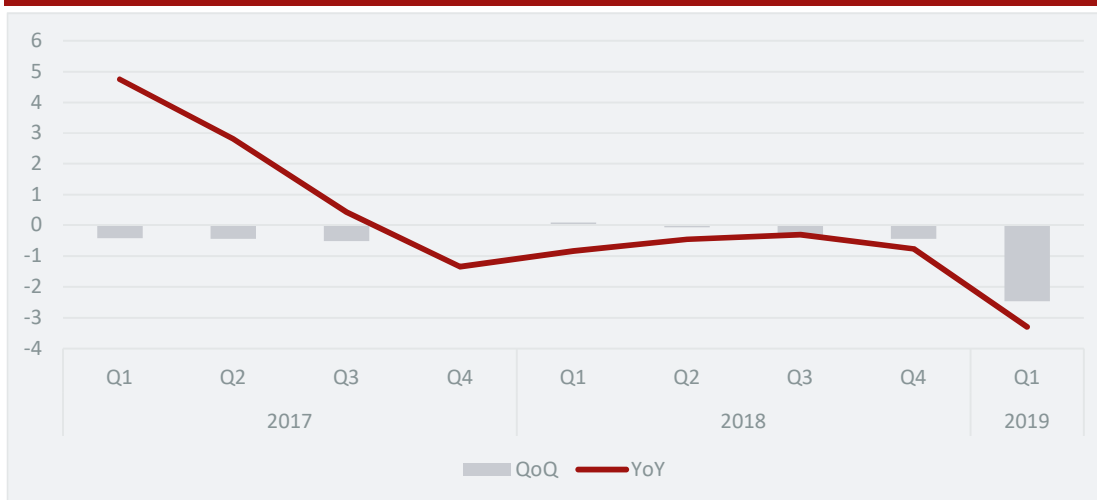
Issue date	Issue	Value, BHD mn	Maturity days	Average interest/profit rate (%)	Avg price (%)	Over-subscription (%)
3 Apr 2019	Treasury bill No. 1750	70	91	3.75	99.06	199
10 Apr 2018	Treasury bill No. 1751	70	91	3.62	99.094	269
11 Apr 2019	Sukuk al ijarah No. 164	26	182	3.95	-	621
3 Apr 2019	Treasury bill No. 1750	70	91	3.75	99.06	199
10 Apr 2018	Treasury bill No. 1751	70	91	3.62	99.094	269
11 Apr 2019	Sukuk al ijarah No. 164	26	182	3.95	-	621
17 Apr 2019	Sukuk al salam No. 216	43	91	3.62	-	529
24 Apr 2019	Treasury bill No. 1752	70	91	3.46	99.132	243
25 Apr 2019	12-month Treasury bill No. 56	100	365	3.91	96.196	431
1 May 2019	Treasury bill No. 1753	70	91	3.32	99.167	272
8 May 2019	Treasury bill No. 1754	70	91	3.27	99.180	114
9 May 2019	Sukuk al ijarah No. 165	26	182	3.70	-	623
12 May 2019	Treasury bill No. 1745	35	182	3.50	98.263	332
15 May 2019	Treasury bill No. 1756	70	91	3.18	99.202	188
22 May 2019	Sukuk al salam No. 217	43	91	3.18	-	294
29 May 2018	Treasury bill No. 1757	70	91	3.14	99.213	137
30 May 2019	12-month Treasury bill No. 57	100	365	3.51	96.537	300
2 Jun 2019	Treasury bill No. 1758	35	182	3.22	98.396	358

Source: Central Bank of Bahrain

## Labour Markets

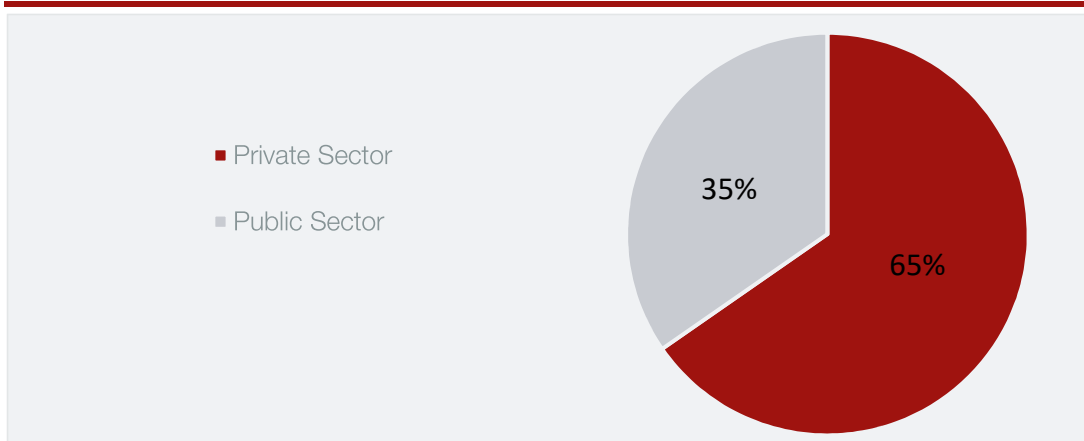
According to the data released by the Social Insurance Organization, net employment creation in Bahrain turned negative in Q1 2019. This is primarily reflective of the rolling out of the voluntary retirement scheme for government employees under the auspices of the Fiscal Balance Program. The total number of contributors stood at 628,938, which was 3.3% below the corresponding quarter a year earlier. The number of Bahraini contributors reached 142,785, which was 2.6% lower than a year earlier. The number of Bahrainis working in the public sector totalled 49,148, a -8.9% drop over the year before. By contrast, the number of Bahraini private sector contributors increased by an annual 1.1% to a total of 92,637. The number of expatriate contributors declined by an annual 3.5% to 486,153.

### Change in Social Insurance Organization Contributors (%)



Source: Social Insurance Organization

### Bahraini Workforce Distribution



Source: Social Insurance Organization

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