



Nepal Rastra Bank

Economic Research Department, Baluwatar, Kathmandu

Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal

(Based on Ten Months' Data Ending Mid-May, 2022/23)

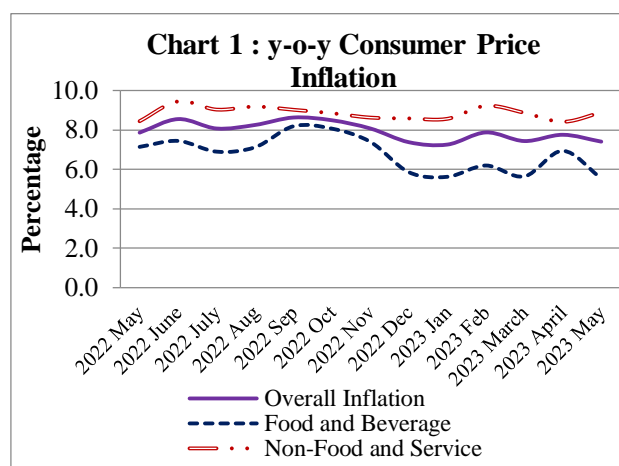
Major Highlights

- *CPI-based Inflation remained 7.41 percent on y-o-y basis.*
- *Imports decreased 16.8 percent, exports decreased 24.5 percent and trade deficit decreased 15.9 percent.*
- *Remittances increased 23.4 percent in NPR terms and 13.4 percent in USD terms.*
- *Balance of Payments remained at a surplus of Rs.214.67 billion.*
- *Gross foreign exchange reserves stood at NPR 1470.33 billion and 11.21 billion in USD terms.*
- *Federal Government expenditure amounted to Rs.1047.76 billion and revenue collection Rs.756.25 billion.*
- *Broad money (M2) increased 6.9 percent. On y-o-y basis, M2 increased 10 percent.*
- *Deposits at BFIs increased 7.3 percent and private sector credit increased 3.3 percent. On y-o-y basis, deposits increased 11.4 percent and private sector credit increased 3.1 percent.*

Inflation

Consumer Price Inflation

1. The y-o-y consumer price inflation remained at 7.41 percent in mid-May 2023 compared to 7.87 percent a year ago. Food and beverage inflation stood at 5.54 percent whereas non-food and service inflation rose to 8.89 percent in the review month.
2. Under the food and beverage category, y-o-y price index of spices sub-category increased 26.61 percent, restaurant and hotel 14.87 percent, cereal grains and their products 13.69 percent, milk products and eggs 10.41 percent and tobacco products 8.49 percent.
3. Under the non-food and services category, y-o-y price index of recreation and culture sub-category increased 15.75 percent, miscellaneous goods and services 13.08 percent, education 10.56 percent, housing and utilities 9.65 percent and furnishing and household equipment 8.27 percent.



4. In the review month, consumer price inflation in the Kathmandu Valley, Terai, Hill and Mountain surged to 7.68 percent, 7.15 percent, 7.57 percent and 7.12 percent respectively. Inflation in these regions were 7.39 percent, 8.15 percent, 7.89 percent and 8.21 percent respectively a year ago.

Table 1: y-o-y Consumer Price Inflation (Percent)			
Mid-Month			
Particulars	Apr/May 2022	Mar/Apr 2023	Apr/May 2023
Overall Inflation	7.87	7.76	7.41
Food and Beverage	7.13	6.93	5.54
Non-food and Service	8.45	8.42	8.89

Wholesale Price Inflation

5. The y-o-y wholesale price inflation increased 3.31 percent in the review month compared to 16.06 percent a year ago.
6. The y-o-y wholesale price of intermediate goods and capital goods increased 7.04 percent and 4.33 percent respectively while wholesale price of consumption goods dropped 3.12 percent. The wholesale price of construction materials increased 2.68 percent in the review month.

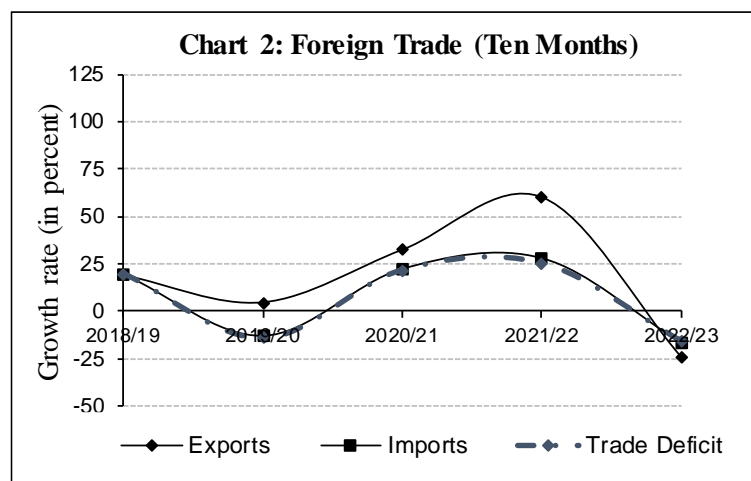
Salary and Wage Rate Index

7. The y-o-y salary and wage rate index increased 7.64 percent in the review month. Such growth rate was 8.52 percent a year ago. In the review month, salary index and wage rate index increased by 12.39 and 6.29 percent, respectively.

External Sector

Merchandise Trade

8. During the ten months of 2022/23, merchandise exports decreased 24.5 percent and stood Rs.130.90 billion against an increase of 59.8 percent in the same period of the previous year. Destination-wise, exports to India decreased 33.6 percent whereas exports to China and other countries increased 100.6 percent and 8.2 percent respectively. Exports of zinc sheet, particle board, cardamom, woolen carpets, polyester yarn and thread, among others, increased whereas exports of soyabean oil, palm oil, oil cakes, textiles, silverware and jewelries, among others, decreased in the review period.



9. During the ten months of 2022/23, merchandise imports decreased 16.8 percent and stood Rs.1335.32 billion against an increase of 28.0 percent a year ago. Destination-wise, imports from India, China and other countries decreased 15.1 percent, 21.0 percent, and 18.6 percent respectively. Imports of chemical fertilizer, sponge iron, gold, petroleum products, paper, among others, increased whereas imports of transport equipment and parts, M.S. billet, medicine, other machinery and parts, telecommunication equipments and parts, among others, decreased in the review period.

10. Based on customs points, exports from Bhairahawa, Dry Port, Kailali, Krishnanagar, Mechi, Rasuwa, Tatopani and Tribhuvan Airport Customs Offices increased whereas exports from all the other major customs points decreased in the review period. On the import side, imports from Rasuwa Customs Office increased whereas imports from all the other major customs points decreased in the review period.
11. Total trade deficit decreased 15.9 percent and stood Rs.1204.42 billion during the ten months of 2022/23. Such a deficit had increased 24.9 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. The export-import ratio decreased to 9.8 percent in the review period from 10.8 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year.
12. During the ten months of 2022/23, merchandise imports from India by paying convertible foreign currency amounted Rs.119.60 billion. Such amount was Rs.183.94 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Composition of Foreign Trade

13. As per the Broad Economic Categories (BEC), the intermediate and final consumption goods accounted for 54.9 percent and 44.5 percent of the total exports respectively, whereas the ratio of capital goods in total exports remained negligible at 0.6 percent in the review period. In the same period of the previous year, the ratio of intermediate, capital and final consumption goods remained 47.1 percent, 0.02 percent and 52.9 percent of total exports respectively.
14. On the imports side, the share of intermediate goods remained 53.2 percent, capital goods 8.4 percent and final consumption goods remained 38.4 percent in the review period. Such ratios were 52.8 percent, 10.4 percent and 36.8 percent respectively in the same period of the previous year.

Export-Import Price Index

15. The y-o-y unit value export price index, based on customs data, increased 4.1 percent and the import price index increased 0.7 percent in the tenth month of 2022/23. The terms of trade (ToT) index increased 3.4 percent in the review month against a decrease of 9.2 percent a year ago.

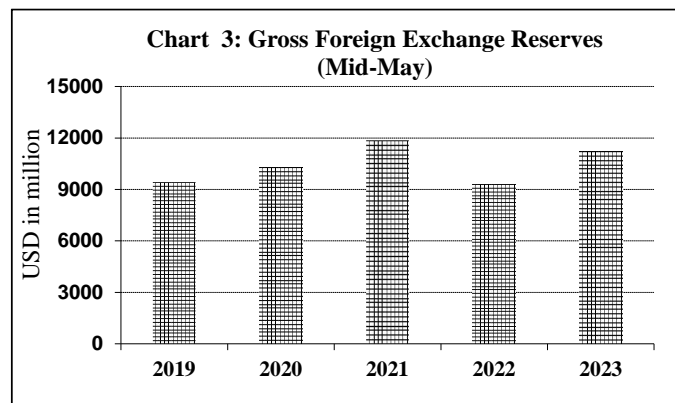
Services

16. Net services income remained at a deficit of Rs.57.74 billion in the review period compared to a deficit of Rs.88.18 billion in the same period of the previous year.
17. Under the service account, travel income increased 93.8 percent to Rs.51.88 billion in the review period which was Rs.26.77 billion in the same period of the previous year.
18. Under the service account, travel payments increased 35.3 percent to Rs.102.49 billion, including Rs.75.14 billion for education. Such payments were Rs.75.73 billion and Rs.51.34 billion respectively in the same period of the previous year.

Remittances

19. Remittance inflows increased 23.4 percent to Rs.1005.18 billion in the review period compared to an increase of 0.5 percent in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, remittance inflows increased 13.4 percent to 7.70 billion in the review period against a decrease of 1.2 percent in the same period of the previous year.

20. Number of Nepali workers (institutional and individual-new) taking approval for foreign employment increased 51.4 percent to 421,279 in the review period. The number of Nepali workers (Renew entry) taking approval for foreign employment increased 3.7 percent to 238,976 in the review period. It had increased 185.5 percent in the same period of the previous year.



21. Net transfer increased 22.5 percent to Rs.1110.22 billion in the review period. Such a transfer had increased 0.3 percent in the same period of the previous year.

Current Account and Balance of Payments

22. The current account remained at a deficit of Rs.54.67 billion in the review period compared to a deficit of Rs.545.06 billion in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, the current account registered a deficit of 424.5 million in the review period compared to deficit of 4.55 billion in the same period last year.

23. In the review period, capital transfer decreased 20.5 percent to Rs.6.36 billion and net foreign direct investment (FDI) remained Rs.4.36 billion. In the same period of the previous year, capital transfer and net FDI amounted to Rs.7.99 billion and Rs.16.65 billion respectively.

24. The second installment of Extended Credit Facility (ECF) of Rs.6.88 billion (USD 52.71 million) has been received from the IMF in the tenth month of 2022/23.

25. Balance of Payments (BOP) remained at a surplus of Rs.214.67 billion in the review period compared to a deficit of Rs.288.50 billion in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, the BOP remained at a surplus of 1.63 billion in the review period against a deficit of 2.41 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

26. Gross foreign exchange reserves increased 20.9 percent to Rs.1470.33 billion in mid-May 2023 from Rs.1215.80 billion in mid-July 2022. In the US dollar terms, the gross foreign exchange reserves increased 17.6 percent to 11.21 billion in mid-May 2023 from 9.54 billion in mid-July 2022.

27. Of the total foreign exchange reserves, reserves held by NRB increased 24.1 percent to Rs.1310.66 billion in mid-May 2023 from Rs.1056.39 billion in mid-July 2022. Reserves held by banks and financial institutions (except NRB) increased 0.2 percent to Rs.159.68 billion in mid-May 2023 from Rs.159.41 billion in mid-July 2022. The share of Indian currency in total reserves stood at 22.6 percent in mid-May 2023.

Foreign Exchange Adequacy Indicators

28. Based on the imports of ten months of 2022/23, the foreign exchange reserves of the banking sector is sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports of 11.2 months, and merchandise and services imports of 9.7 months. The ratio of reserves-to-GDP, reserves-to-imports and reserves-to-M2 stood at 27.3 percent, 80.7 percent and 25.0 percent respectively in mid-May 2023. Such ratios were 24.6 percent, 57.8 percent and 22.1 percent respectively in mid-July 2022.

Price of Oil and Gold

29. The price of oil (Crude Oil Brent) in the international market decreased 33.5 percent to US dollar 74.54 per barrel in mid-May 2023 from US dollar 112.12 per barrel a year ago. The price of gold increased 11.5 percent to US dollar 2019.90 per ounce in mid-May 2023 from US dollar 1811.55 per ounce a year ago.

Exchange Rate

30. Nepalese currency vis-à-vis the US dollar depreciated 2.79 percent in mid-May 2023 from mid-July 2022. It had depreciated 3.71 percent in the same period of the previous year. The buying exchange rate per US dollar stood at Rs.131.17 in mid-May 2023 compared to Rs.127.51 in mid-July 2022.

Fiscal Situation

Federal Government Expenditure and Revenue

31. During the ten months of 2022/23, total expenditure of the federal government according to data of Financial Comptroller General Office (FCGO), Ministry of Finance, stood at Rs.1047.76 billion. The recurrent expenditure, capital expenditure and financial management expenditure amounted to Rs.786.74 billion, Rs.125.68 billion and Rs.135.34 billion respectively in the review period.

32. In the review period, total revenue mobilization of Federal Government (including the amount to be transferred to provincial and local governments) stood at Rs.756.25 billion. The tax revenue amounted Rs.684.63 billion and non tax revenue Rs.71.62 billion in the review period (Table 2).

Particulars	Amount (Rs. in Billion)			Percentage Change	
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2021/22	2022/23
Total Expenditure	824.81	908.86	1047.76	10.2	15.3
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	630.20	716.87	786.74	13.8	9.7
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	125.88	118.27	125.68	-6.0	6.3
<i>Financial Management</i>	68.72	73.71	135.34	7.3	83.6
Total Revenue	761.00	865.70	756.25	13.8	-12.6
<i>Tax Revenue</i>	709.62	799.66	684.63	12.7	-14.4
<i>Non-Tax Revenue</i>	51.38	66.04	71.62	28.5	8.4

Source: Financial Comptroller General Office

Cash Balance of Government

33. Cash Balance at various accounts of the GoN maintained with NRB remained Rs.180.42 billion (including Provincial Governments and Local Government Account) in mid-May 2023. Such balance was Rs.225.80 billion in mid-July 2022.

Provincial Government

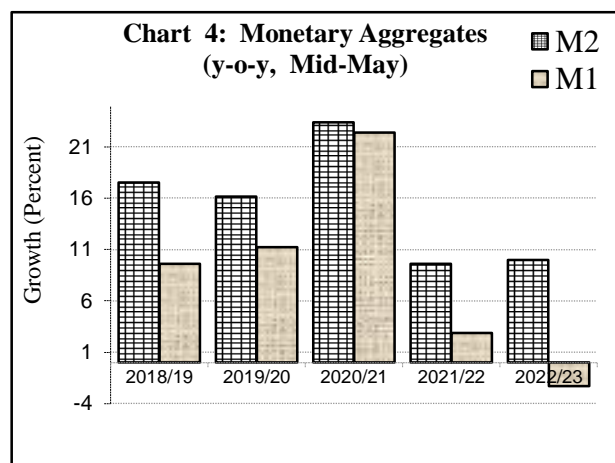
Expenditure and Revenue

34. In the review period, total expenditure of provincial governments stood at Rs.109.19 billion. In the review period, total resource mobilization of provincial governments remained Rs.142.28 billion, of which the federal government transferred Rs.111.44 billion as grants and revenue from federal divisible fund and the provincial governments mobilized Rs.30.84 billion in terms of revenue and other receipts in the review period.

Monetary Situation

Money Supply

35. Broad money (M2) increased 6.9 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 3.8 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, M2 expanded 10.0 percent in mid-May 2023.
36. The net foreign assets (NFA, after adjusting foreign exchange valuation gain/loss) increased Rs.214.67 billion (19.3 percent) in the review period in contrast to a decrease of Rs.288.50 billion (21.6 percent) in the corresponding period of the previous year.



37. Reserve money increased 1.7 percent in the review period in contrast to a decrease of 13.3 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, reserve money increased 3.9 percent in mid-May 2023.

Domestic Credit

38. Domestic credit increased 5.7 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 11.6 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, domestic credit increased 8.4 percent in mid-May 2023.
39. Monetary Sector's net claims on government increased 13.1 percent in the review period in contrast to a decline of 5.2 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, such claims increased 51.1 percent in mid-May 2023, which had increased 46.8 percent in mid-May 2022.
40. Monetary Sector's claims on the private sector increased 4.7 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 14.3 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, such claims increased 3.8 percent in mid-May 2023.

Deposit Mobilization

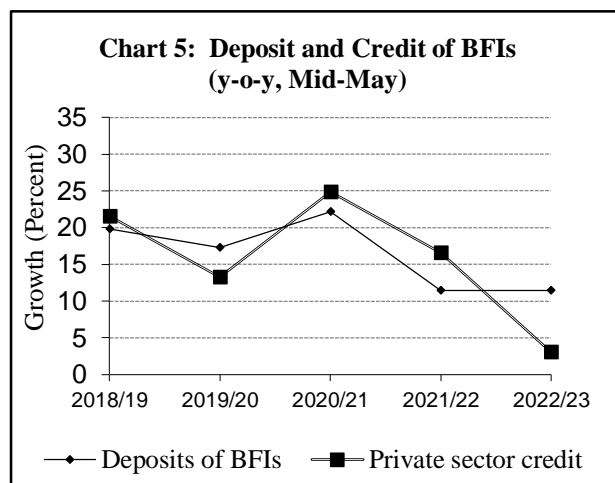
41. Deposits at Banks and Financial Institutions (BFIs) increased Rs.370.78 billion (7.3 percent) in the review period compared to an increase of Rs.231.32 billion (5.0 percent) in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, deposits at BFIs expanded 11.4 percent in mid-May 2023.

Deposits	Mid-July		Mid-May	
	2021	2022	2022	2023
Demand	10.4	8.9	8.5	7.7
Saving	34.2	27.6	28.1	25.8
Fixed	47.0	55.8	56.5	60.0
Other	8.4	7.7	6.9	6.5

42. The share of demand, saving, and fixed deposits in total deposits stands at 7.7 percent, 25.8 percent and 60.0 percent respectively in mid-May 2023. Such shares were 8.5 percent, 28.1 percent and 56.5 percent respectively a year ago.
43. The share of institutional deposits in total deposit of BFIs stands at 36.3 percent in mid-May 2023. Such a share was 38.4 percent in mid-May 2022.

Credit Disbursements

44. Private sector credit from BFIs increased Rs.153.17 billion (3.3 percent) in the review period compared to an increase of Rs.548.14 billion (13.4 percent) in the corresponding period of previous year. On y-o-y basis, credit to the private sector from BFIs increased 3.1 percent in mid-May 2023.
45. The shares of private sector credit from BFIs to non-financial corporation and household stand at 63.9 percent and 36.7 percent respectively in mid-May 2023. Such shares were 63.4 percent and 36.6 percent a year ago.



46. In the review period, private sector credit from commercial banks, development banks and finance companies increased 3.2 percent, 5.0 percent and 1.1 percent respectively.
47. In the review period, out of the total outstanding credit of the BFIs, 12.1 percent is against the collateral of current assets (such as agricultural and non-agricultural products) and 67.3 percent against land and building. Such ratios were 12.4 percent and 66.9 percent respectively a year ago.
48. In the review period, outstanding loan of BFIs to the agricultural sector increased 7.1 percent, industrial production sector 9.1 percent, construction sector 9.8 percent, transportation, communication and public sector 15.3 percent, wholesale and retail trade sector 3.6 percent, service industry sector 3.5 percent and consumable sector 5.2 percent.
49. In the review period, term loan extended by BFIs increased 21.2 percent, real estate loan (including residential personal home loan) 4.3 percent and trust receipt (import) loan 6.2 percent whereas overdraft loan decreased 66.7 percent (mainly due to reclassification of loan from the recent year), margin nature loan decreased 6.9 percent and hire purchase loan decreased 12.1 percent.

Liquidity Management

50. In the review period, NRB injected Rs.4949.22 billion liquidity on turnover basis of which Rs.414.47 billion was through repo, Rs.89.70 billion through outright purchase auction, Rs.2726.96 billion through standing liquidity facility (SLF) and Rs.1718.08 billion through Overnight Liquidity Facility (OLF). During the period, the NRB absorbed Rs.5 billion liquidity through reverse repo auction. In the corresponding period of the previous year, Rs.7342.65 billion net amount of liquidity was injected through various instruments.
51. In the review period, NRB injected liquidity of Rs.619.76 billion through the net purchase of USD 4.74 billion from foreign exchange market. Liquidity of Rs.256.73 billion was injected through the net purchase of USD 2.12 million in the corresponding period of the previous year.
52. The NRB purchased Indian currency (INR) equivalent to Rs.504.11 billion through the sale of USD 3.86 billion in the review period. INR equivalent to Rs.475.68 billion was purchased through the sale of USD 3.96 billion in the corresponding period of previous year.

Refinance, Concessional Loan and Business Continuity Loan

53. The outstanding amount of refinance provided by NRB remained Rs.3.56 billion in mid-May 2023.
54. As of mid-May 2023, the outstanding concessional loan remained Rs.203.25 billion extended to 146,866 borrowers. Of which, Rs.138.88 billion has been extended to 60,713 borrowers for selected commercial agriculture and livestock businesses. Likewise, Rs.61.31 billion loan has been extended to 83,358 women entrepreneurs. Total 2,795 borrowers have availed Rs.3.07 billion concessional loan in other specified sectors.
55. Business continuity loan has been extended to the Covid-19 affected tourism, cottage, small and medium industries for payment of salaries to workers and employees in line with 'Business Continuity Loan Procedure, 2020'. The outstanding loan extended under this provision remained Rs.748.5 million as of mid-May 2023.

Inter-bank Transaction

56. In the review period, BFIs interbank transactions amounted Rs.3441.97 billion on turnover basis including Rs.3150.95 billion inter-bank transactions among commercial banks and Rs.291.02 billion among other financial institutions (excluding transactions among commercial banks). In the corresponding period of the previous year, such transactions was Rs.2739.87 billion including Rs.2454.78 billion among commercial banks and Rs.285.09 billion among other financial institutions (excluding transactions among commercial banks).

Interest Rates

57. The weighted average 91-days treasury bills rate remained at 9.66 percent in the tenth month of 2022/23, which was 8.30 percent in the corresponding month a year ago. The weighted average inter-bank transaction rate among commercial banks, which was 6.99 percent a year ago, increased to 7.01 percent in the review month. The average inter-bank rate of BFIs which is considered as operating target of monetary policy, stood 7.01 percent in the review month. Such a rate was 7.00 percent a year ago.

Types	Mid-May 2022	Mid-May 2023
91-days treasury bills rate	8.30	9.66
Inter-bank rate	6.99	7.01
Base rate	9.30	10.27
Deposit rate	7.25	8.08
Lending rate	11.42	12.65

58. The average base rate of commercial banks increased to 10.27 percent in the tenth month of 2022/23 from 9.30 percent a year ago. Weighted average deposit rate and lending rate of commercial banks stood at 8.08 percent and 12.65 percent respectively in the review month. Such rates were 7.25 percent and 11.42 percent respectively a year ago.

Merger and Acquisition

59. After introduction of merger and acquisition policy aimed at strengthening financial consolidation, the number of BFIs involved in this process reached 259 as of mid-May 2023. Out of which, the license of 185 BFIs have been revoked thereby forming 74 BFIs.

Financial Access

60. Of the total 753 local levels, commercial banks extended their branches at 752 levels as of mid-May 2023. The number of local levels having commercial bank branches was 750 a year ago.

61. The total number of BFIs licensed by NRB remained 119 in mid-May 2023 (Table 5). As of mid-May 2023, 21 commercial banks, 17 development banks, 17 finance companies, 63 microfinance financial institutions and 1 infrastructure development bank are in operation. The number of BFIs branches reached 11,569 in mid-May 2023 from 11,528 in mid-July 2022.

Bank and Financial Institutions	Number of BFIs			Branches of BFIs		
	mid-July 2021	mid- July 2022	mid-May 2023	mid-July 2021	mid-July 2022	mid-May 2023
Commercial Banks	27	26	21	4753	5009	5003
Development Banks	18	17	17	1023	1118	1130
Finance Companies	17	17	17	222	267	283
Microfinance Financial Institutions	70	65	63	4685	5134	5153
Infrastructure Development Bank	1	1	1	-	-	-
Total	133	126	119	10683	11528	11569

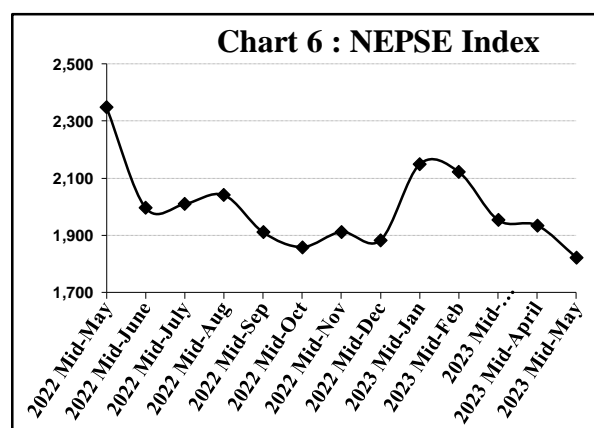
*Updated information is available at <http://emap.nrb.org.np/>

Capital Market

62. NEPSE index stood 1821.65 in mid-May 2023 compared to 2350.43 in mid-May 2022.

63. Stock market capitalization in mid-May 2023 stood Rs.2657.76 billion compared to Rs.3343.56 billion in mid-May 2022.

64. Number of companies listed at NEPSE reached 253 in mid-May 2023. Out of the total listing, 143 are bank and financial institutions (BFIs) and insurance companies, 72 hydropower companies, 19 manufacturing and processing industries, 6 investment companies, 6 hotels, 4 trading companies and 3 others. The number of companies listed at NEPSE were 229 in mid-May 2022.



65. Share of BFIs and insurance companies in stock market capitalization is 64.3 percent in mid-May 2023. Such a share for hydropower companies is 13.8 percent, investment companies 7.0 percent, manufacturing and processing industries 3.9 percent, hotels 2.3 percent, trading companies 0.4 percent and other companies is 8.3 percent.

66. The paid-up value of 7.24 billion shares listed at NEPSE stood Rs.713.87 billion in mid-May 2023.

67. Securities worth Rs.285.03 billion were listed at NEPSE during the first ten months of 2022/23. Such securities comprise ordinary share worth Rs.166.41 billion, government development bond worth Rs.45 billion, bonus shares worth Rs.34.81 billion, debenture worth Rs.29.19 billion, mutual fund worth Rs.5.49 billion and right share worth Rs.4.13 billion.

68. Securities Board of Nepal approved the total public issuance of securities worth Rs.37.12 billion in the review period which includes mutual fund worth Rs.13.35 billion, debenture worth Rs.11.60 billion, ordinary share worth Rs.10.01 billion and right share worth Rs.2.15 billion.