



Nepal Rastra Bank
Economic Research Department, Baluwatar, Kathmandu
Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation of Nepal
(Based on Six Months Data Ending Mid-January, 2024/25)

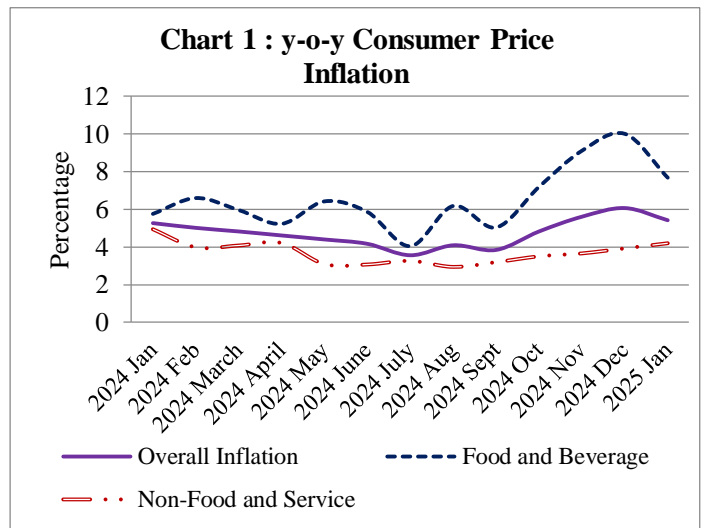
Major Highlights

- *CPI-based inflation remained 5.41 percent on y-o-y basis.*
- *Imports and exports increased 7.1 percent and 31.8 percent respectively.*
- *Remittances increased 4.1 percent in NPR terms and 1.1 percent in USD terms.*
- *Balance of Payments remained at a surplus of Rs.249.26 billion.*
- *Gross foreign exchange reserves stood at 16.84 billion in USD terms.*
- *Nepal Government expenditure amounted to Rs.667.60 billion and revenue collection Rs.559.61 billion.*
- *Broad money (M2) increased 3.9 percent. On y-o-y basis, M2 expanded 10.2 percent.*
- *Deposits at BFIs increased 3.7 percent and private sector credit increased 5.2 percent. On y-o-y basis, deposits increased 9.9 percent and private sector credit increased 7.0 percent.*

Inflation

Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)

1. The y-o-y consumer price inflation stood at 5.41 percent in mid-January 2025 compared to 5.26 percent a year ago. Food and beverage inflation stood at 7.67 percent whereas non-food and service inflation stood at 4.19 percent in the review month. During the same period in the previous year, the price indices of these groups had increased by 5.75 percent and 4.93 percent respectively.
2. Under the food and beverage category, y-o-y price index of vegetable sub-category increased 28.52 percent, ghee & oil 10.67 percent, pulses and legumes 9.48 percent and cereal grains & their products 7.23 percent while y-o-y price index of spices sub-category decreased 3.12 percent.



3. Under the non-food and services category, y-o-y price index of miscellaneous goods & services sub-category increased 9.35 percent, alcoholic drinks 7.01 percent, clothes and footwear 6.75 percent and furnishing & household equipment 5.29 percent.
4. During the review month, y-o-y price index in rural areas increased by 5.68 percent, while in urban areas, it rose by 5.31 percent.
5. Based on provinces, in the review month, y-o-y consumer price inflation in Koshi Province is 6.73 percent, Madhesh Province 5.96 percent, Bagmati Province 5.14 percent, Gandaki Province 4.37 percent, Lumbini Province 4.83 percent, Karnali Province 4.60 percent, and Sudurpashchim Province 5.67 percent.
6. In the review month, y-o-y consumer price inflation in the Kathmandu Valley, Terai, Hill and Mountain region surged to 5.03 percent, 5.60 percent, 5.41 percent and 5.27 percent respectively.

Table 1: y-o-y Consumer Price Inflation (Percent)			
Mid-Month			
Particulars	Dec/Jan 2023/24	Nov/Dec 2024/25	Dec/Jan 2024/25
Overall Inflation	5.26	6.05	5.41
Food and Beverage	5.75	9.99	7.67
Non-food and Service	4.93	3.92	4.19

Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI)

7. The y-o-y wholesale price inflation stood at 4.01 percent in mid-January 2025 compared to 3.36 percent a year ago.
8. The y-o-y wholesale price of consumption goods, intermediate goods and capital goods increased 6.92 percent, 2.55 percent and 3.14 percent respectively. The y-o-y wholesale price of construction material decreased by 4.28 percent in the review month.

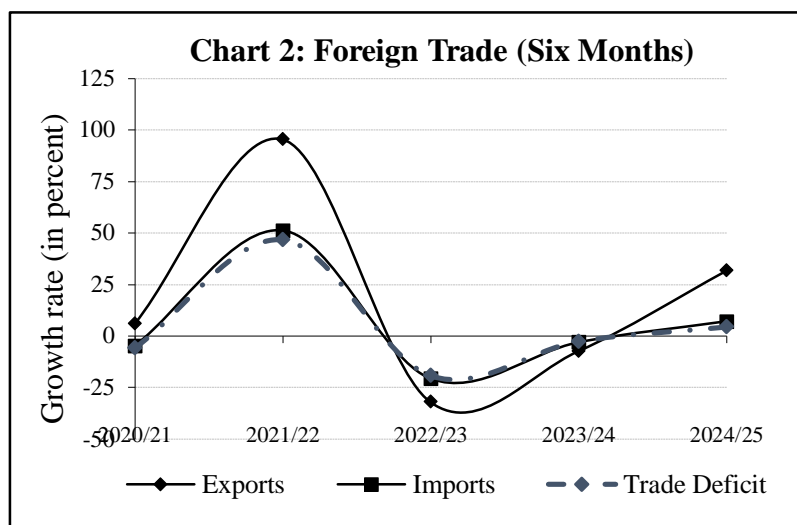
Salary and Wage Index (SWI)

9. The y-o-y salary and wage index increased 2.85 percent in second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25 compared to 5.56 percent a year ago.
10. Based on provinces, in the review quarter, the increase in y-o-y salary and wage index in Koshi Province is 1.30 percent, Madhesh Province 4.26 percent, Bagmati Province 1.73 percent, Gandaki Province 2.70 percent, Lumbini Province 3.37 percent, Karnali Province 3.08 percent, and Sudurpashchim Province 7.59 percent.

External Sector

Merchandise Trade

11. During the six months of 2024/25, merchandise exports increased 31.8 percent to Rs.98.79 billion against a decrease of 7.2 percent in the same period of the previous year. Destination-wise, exports to India, China and other countries increased 46.1 percent, 19.7 percent and 1.0 percent respectively. Exports of soyabean oil, tea, polyester yarn and thread, particle board,



cardamom, among others increased whereas exports of palm oil, zinc sheet, ginger, readymade garments, herbs, among others decreased in the review period.

12. During the six months of 2024/25, merchandise imports increased 7.1 percent to Rs.822.37 billion against a decline of 3.1 percent a year ago. Destination-wise, imports from India, China and other countries increased 5.9 percent, 8.9 percent and 9.0 percent respectively. Imports of crude soyabean oil, rice/paddy, transport equipment, vehicle and other vehicle spare parts, sponge iron, edible oil, among others increased whereas imports of petroleum products, crude palm oil, gold, chemical fertilizer, peas, among others decreased in the review period.

13. Based on customs points, exports from Bhairahawa, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Dry port, Kailali, Krishnanagar, Mechi, Nepalgunj, and Rasuwa customs offices increased whereas exports from all other major customs points decreased in the review period. On the import side, imports from Bhairahawa, Biratnagar, Birgunj, Jaleswor, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Krishnanagar, Mechi, Nepalgunj, Rasuwa, Tatopani and Tribhuvan Airport customs offices increased whereas imports from Dry port customs points decreased in the review period.

14. Total trade deficit increased 4.4 percent to Rs.723.58 billion during the six months of 2024/25. Such a deficit had decreased 2.6 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. The export-import ratio increased to 12.0 percent in the review period from 9.8 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year.

15. During the six months of 2024/25, merchandise imports from India by paying convertible foreign currency amounted Rs.88.56 billion. Such amount was Rs.76.25 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Composition of Foreign Trade

16. As per the Broad Economic Categories (BEC), the intermediate and final consumption goods accounted for 40.4 percent and 58.8 percent of the total exports respectively, whereas the ratio of capital goods in total exports remained 0.8 percent in the review period. In the same period of the previous year, the ratio of intermediate, capital and final consumption goods remained 55.9 percent, 0.23 percent and 43.9 percent of total exports respectively.

17. On the imports side, the share of intermediate goods remained 50.2 percent, capital goods 8.8 percent and final consumption goods 41.0 percent in the review period. Such ratios were 49.2 percent, 8.7 percent and 42.1 percent respectively in the same period of the previous year.

Export-Import Price Index

18. The y-o-y unit value export price index, based on customs data, decreased 1.0 percent and the import price index decreased 0.7 percent in the six months of 2024/25. The terms of trade (ToT) index decreased 0.4 percent in the review period.

Services

19. Net services income remained at a deficit of Rs.43.53 billion in the review period compared to a deficit of Rs.35.43 billion in the same period of the previous year.

20. Under the service account, travel income increased 5.1 percent to Rs.41.86 billion in the review period which was Rs.39.82 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Particulars	Values (in Billion)		Percentage Change	
	2023/2024 ^R	2024/2025 ^P	2023/2024 ^R	2024/2025 ^P
Travel income	39.82	41.86	42.6	5.1
Travel payment	92.87	101.92	60.5	9.7
Remittance inflows	733.26	763.08	22.2	4.1
Direct Investment Inflows (Equity only)	4.54	6.50	72.1	43.2

R=Revised P=Provisional

21. Under the service account, travel payments increased 9.7 percent to Rs.101.92 billion, including Rs.56.83 billion for education. Such payments were Rs.92.87 billion and Rs.58.95 billion respectively in the same period of the previous year.

Remittances

22. Remittance inflows increased 4.1 percent to Rs.763.08 billion in the review period compared to an increase of 22.2 percent in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, remittance inflows increased 1.1 percent to 5.58 billion in the review period compared to an increase of 19.5 percent in the same period of the previous year.

23. Net secondary income (net transfer) reached Rs.832.76 billion in the review period compared to Rs.799.54 billion in the same period of the previous year.

24. The number of Nepali workers, both institutional and individual, taking first-time approval for foreign employment stands at 230,439 and taking approval for renew entry stands at 162,628. In the previous year, such numbers were 206,390 and 133,940 respectively.

Current Account and Balance of Payments

25. The current account remained at a surplus of Rs.148.17 billion in the review period compared to a surplus of Rs.162.56 billion in the same period of the previous year. In the US Dollar terms, the current account registered a surplus of 1.08 billion in the review period against a surplus of 1.22 billion in the same period last year.

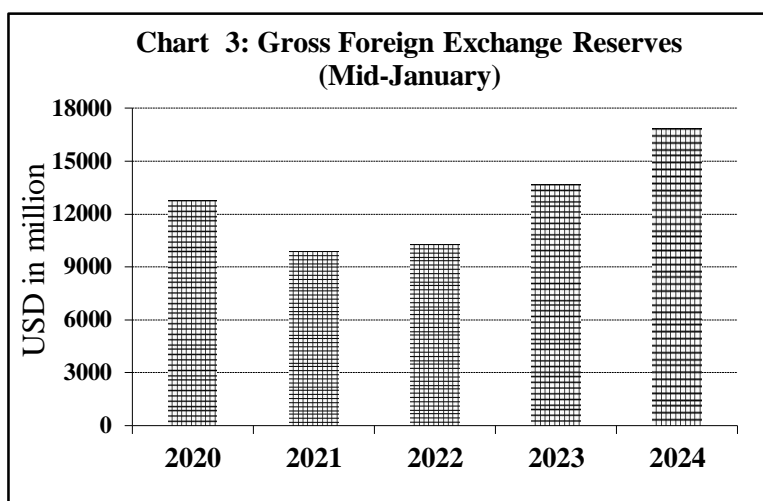
26. In the review period, net capital transfer amounted to Rs.4.29 billion. In the same period of the previous year, such transfer amounted to Rs.3.11 billion. Similarly, in the review period, Rs.6.50 billion foreign direct investment (equity only) was received. In the same period of the previous year, such foreign direct investment (equity only) inflows amounted to Rs.4.54 billion.

27. Balance of Payments (BOP) remained at a surplus of Rs. 249.26 billion in the review period compared to a surplus of Rs. 273.52 billion in the same period of the previous year. In the US

Dollar terms, the BOP remained at a surplus of 1.82 billion in the review period compared to a surplus of 2.06 billion in the same period of the previous year.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

28. Gross foreign exchange reserves increased 13.5 percent to Rs.2316.84 billion in mid-January 2025 from Rs.2041.10 billion in mid-July 2024. In the US dollar terms, the gross foreign exchange reserves increased 10.3 percent to 16.84 billion in mid-January 2025 from 15.27 billion in mid-July 2024.



29. Of the total foreign exchange reserves, the reserves held by NRB increased 12.1 percent to Rs.2072.34 billion in mid-January 2025 from Rs.1848.55 billion in mid-July 2024. Reserves held by banks and financial institutions (except NRB) increased 27.0 percent to Rs.244.50 billion in mid-January 2025 from Rs.192.55 billion in mid-July 2024. The share of Indian currency in total reserves stood at 24.3 percent in mid-January 2025.

Foreign Exchange Adequacy Indicators

30. Based on the imports of six months of 2024/25, the foreign exchange reserves of the banking sector is sufficient to cover the prospective merchandise imports of 17.3 months, and merchandise and services imports of 14.4 months. The ratio of reserves-to-GDP, reserves-to-imports and reserves-to-M2 stood at 40.6 percent, 120.3 percent and 32.0 percent respectively in mid-January 2025. Such ratios were 35.8 percent, 108.6 percent and 29.3 percent respectively in mid-July 2024.

Price of Oil and Gold

31. The price of oil (Crude Oil Brent) in the international market increased 3.5 percent to US dollar 82.69 per barrel in mid-January 2025 from US dollar 79.89 per barrel a year ago. The price of gold increased 29.86 percent to US dollar 2669.50 per ounce in mid-January 2025 from US dollar 2055.65 per ounce a year ago.

Exchange Rate

32. Nepalese currency vis-à-vis the US dollar depreciated 2.83 percent in mid-January 2025 from mid-July 2024. It had depreciated 0.91 percent in the same period of the previous year. The buying exchange rate per US dollar stood at Rs.137.25 in mid-January 2025 compared to Rs.133.36 in mid-July 2024.

Fiscal Situation

Government of Nepal

Expenditure and Revenue

33. According to the Ministry of Finance, Financial Comptroller General Office (FCGO), the total expenditure of the Government of Nepal stood at Rs.667.60 billion during six months of FY 2024/25. The recurrent expenditure, capital expenditure and financial expenditure amounted to Rs.452 billion, Rs.56.94 billion and Rs.158.66 billion respectively in the review period.

Particulars	Amount (Rs. in Billion)			Percentage Change	
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2023/24	2024/25
Total Expenditure	576.35	566.62	667.60	-1.7	17.8
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	<i>455.13</i>	<i>437.38</i>	<i>452.00</i>	<i>-3.9</i>	<i>3.3</i>
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	<i>53.46</i>	<i>49.24</i>	<i>56.94</i>	<i>-7.9</i>	<i>15.6</i>
<i>Financial Management</i>	<i>67.77</i>	<i>80.00</i>	<i>158.66</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>98.3</i>
Total Revenue	458.99	496.50	559.61	8.2	12.7
<i>Tax Revenue</i>	<i>405.27</i>	<i>443.55</i>	<i>489.40</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>10.3</i>
<i>Non-Tax Revenue</i>	<i>53.72</i>	<i>52.95</i>	<i>70.21</i>	<i>-1.4</i>	<i>32.6</i>

Source: Financial Comptroller General Office

34. In the review period, total revenue mobilization of the Government of Nepal (including the amount to be transferred to provincial and local governments) stood at Rs.559.61 billion. The total revenue comprises of tax revenue amounting Rs.489.40 billion and non tax revenue Rs.70.21 billion in the review period (Table 3).

Cash Balance of the Government

35. Cash Balance at various accounts of the GoN maintained with NRB remained Rs.297.70 billion (including Provincial Governments and Local Government Account) in mid-January 2025. Such balance was Rs.83.99 billion in mid-July 2024.

Provincial Government

Expenditure and Revenue

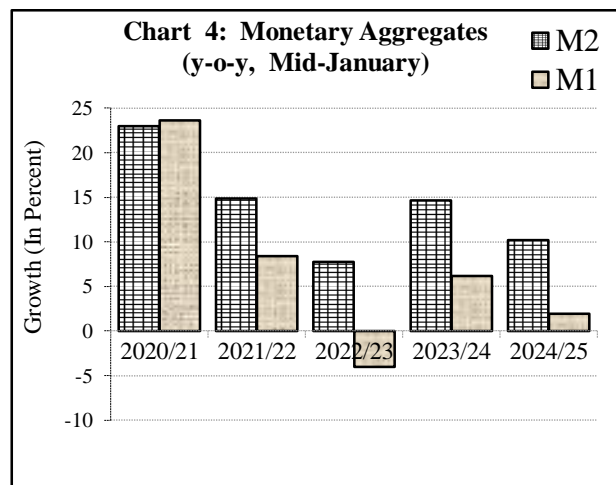
36. In the review period, total expenditure of provincial governments stood Rs.44.81 billion and resource mobilization stood Rs.84.91 billion. The total resource mobilization of provincial governments includes the grants and revenue transferred from the Government of Nepal amounting Rs.67.17 billion and revenue and other receipts of the provincial governments amounting Rs.17.74 billion in the review period.

Monetary Situation

Money Supply

37. Broad money (M2) increased 3.9 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 6.5 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, M2 expanded 10.2 percent in mid-January 2025.

38. The net foreign assets (NFA, after adjusting foreign exchange valuation gain/loss) increased Rs.249.26 billion (12.5 percent) in the review period compared to an increase of Rs.273.52 billion (18.8 percent) in the corresponding period of the previous year.



39. Reserve money increased 6.9 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 1.6 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, reserve money increased 13.3 percent in mid-January 2025.

Domestic Credit

40. Domestic credit increased 1.2 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 2.6 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, domestic credit increased 4.8 percent in mid-January 2025.

41. Monetary Sector's net claims on government decreased 18.7 percent in the review period compared to a decrease of 8.3 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, such claims decreased 7.1 percent in mid-January 2025.

42. Monetary Sector's claims on the private sector increased 5.4 percent in the review period compared to an increase of 4.5 percent in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, such claims increased 6.9 percent in mid-January 2025.

Deposit Mobilization

43. Deposits at Banks and Financial Institutions (BFIs) increased Rs.239.06 billion (3.7 percent) in the review period compared to an increase of Rs.377.07 billion (6.6 percent) in the corresponding period of the previous year. On y-o-y basis, deposits at BFIs expanded 9.9 percent in mid-January 2025.

Deposits	Mid-July		Mid-January	
	2023	2024	2024	2025
Demand	7.7	5.8	6.8	5.6
Saving	26.6	30.3	26.7	34.1
Fixed	58.8	56.4	59.9	52.5
Other	6.9	7.5	6.6	7.8

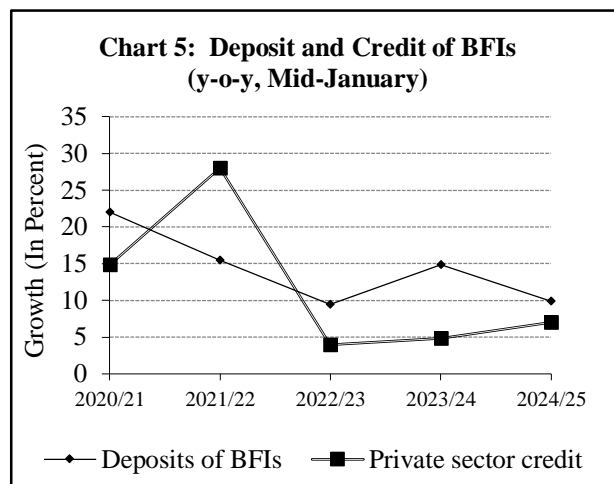
44. The share of demand, saving and fixed deposits in total deposits stood at 5.6 percent, 34.1 percent and 52.5 percent respectively in mid-January 2025. Such shares were 6.8 percent, 26.7 percent and 59.9 percent respectively a year ago (Table 4).

45. The share of institutional deposits in total deposit of BFIs stood at 35.5 percent in mid-January 2025. Such a share was 36.6 percent a year ago.

Credit Disbursement

46. Private sector credit from BFIs increased Rs.265.56 billion (5.2 percent) in the review period compared to an increase of Rs.192.64 billion (4.0 percent) in the corresponding period of previous year. On y-o-y basis, credit to the private sector from BFIs increased 7.0 percent in mid-January 2025.

47. The shares of private sector credit from BFIs to non-financial corporation and household stand at 64.2 percent and 35.8 percent respectively in mid-January 2025. Such shares were 63.2 percent and 36.8 percent a year ago.



48. In the review period, private sector credit from commercial banks, development banks and finance companies increased by 5.3 percent, 4.4 percent and 5.3 percent respectively.

49. Out of the total outstanding credit of the BFIs as of mid-January 2025, 14.5 percent is against the collateral of current assets (such as agricultural and non-agricultural products) and 64.9 percent against land and building. Such ratios were 11.4 percent and 67.7 percent respectively a year ago.

50. In the review period, outstanding loan of BFIs to the industrial production sector increased 8.4 percent, construction sector 7.7 percent, wholesale and retail sector 4.8 percent, transportation, communication and public sector 5.7 percent, service industry sector 5.7 percent, consumable sector 5.8 percent and agriculture sector credit increased 0.02 percent.

51. In the review period, term loan extended by BFIs increased 3.1 percent, margin nature loan 26.3, trust receipt (import) loan 56.6 percent, hire purchase loan 3.8 percent, cash credit loan 4.7 percent and real estate loan (including residential personal home loan) increased 3.2 percent. However, the overdraft loan decreased 9.8 percent.

Liquidity Management

52. In the review period, NRB absorbed, on transaction basis, a total liquidity of Rs.14000.80 billion, including Rs.1486.65 billion through deposit collection auction and Rs.12514.15 billion through Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) whereas Overnight Liquidity Facility of Rs.800 Million was utilized. In the corresponding period of the previous year, Rs.199.56 billion net amount of liquidity was injected through various instruments of monetary operations.

53. In the review period, NRB injected liquidity of Rs.340.06 billion through the net purchase of USD 2.52 billion from foreign exchange market. Liquidity of Rs.366.14 billion was injected through the net purchase of USD 2.75 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

54. The NRB purchased Indian currency (INR) equivalent to Rs.256.53 billion through the sale of USD 1.90 billion in the review period. INR equivalent to Rs.242.08 billion was purchased through the sale of USD 1.82 billion in the corresponding period of previous year.

Inter-bank Transaction

55. In the review period, BFIs inter-bank transactions amounted Rs. 837.98 billion on a turnover basis, including Rs. 745.91 billion inter-bank transactions among commercial banks, and Rs.92.07 billion among other financial institutions (excluding transactions among commercial banks). In the corresponding period of the previous year, such transaction was Rs.2574.20 billion, including Rs.2316.98 billion among commercial banks and Rs.257.22 billion among other financial institutions (excluding transactions among commercial banks).

Interest Rate

56. The weighted average 91-days treasury bills rate remained at 2.81 percent in the sixth month of 2024/25. Such rate was 3.37 percent in the corresponding month a year ago. The weighted average inter-bank rate among BFIs, which was 2.86 percent a year ago, increased to 3.00 percent in the review month (Table 5).

Types	Mid-January 2024	Mid-January 2025
91-days treasury bills rate	3.37	2.81
Inter-bank rate of BFIs	2.86	3.00
Base rate		
Commercial banks	9.35	6.65
Development banks	11.49	8.61
Finance companies	12.77	9.50
Deposit rate		
Commercial banks	7.32	4.75
Development banks	8.55	5.56
Finance companies	9.62	6.66
Lending Rate		
Commercial banks	11.38	8.69
Development banks	13.14	10.10
Finance companies	14.09	11.10

57. The average base rates of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies stood 6.65 percent, 8.61 percent and 9.50 percent respectively in the sixth month of 2024/25. The average base rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies were 9.35 percent, 11.49 percent and 12.77 percent respectively in the corresponding month a year ago.

58. Weighted average deposit rates of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies stood 4.75 percent, 5.56 percent and 6.66 percent respectively in the review month. Weighted average deposit rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies were 7.32 percent, 8.55 percent and 9.62 percent respectively in the corresponding month a year ago. Likewise, the weighted average lending rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies stood 8.69 percent, 10.10 percent and 11.10 percent respectively in the review month. Such rate of commercial banks, development banks and finance companies were 11.38 percent, 13.14 percent and 14.09 percent respectively in the corresponding month a year ago.

Financial Access

59. The total number of BFIs licensed by NRB remained 107 in mid-January 2025 (Table 6). As of mid-January 2025, 20 commercial banks, 17 development banks, 17 finance companies, 52 microfinance financial institutions and 1 infrastructure development bank are in operation. The number of BFIs branches remained 11,545 in mid-January 2025 compared to 11,530 in mid-July 2024.

Table 6: Number of BFIs and their Branches*						
Bank and Financial Institutions	Number of BFIs			Branches of BFIs		
	mid-July 2023	mid-July 2024	mid-January 2025	mid-July 2023	mid-July 2024	mid-January 2025
Commercial Banks	20	20	20	5049	5056	5078
Development Banks	17	17	17	1128	1135	1132
Finance Companies	17	17	17	284	288	291
Microfinance Financial Institutions	57	52	52	5128	5051	5044
Infrastructure Development Bank	1	1	1	-	-	-
Total	112	107	107	11589	11530	11545

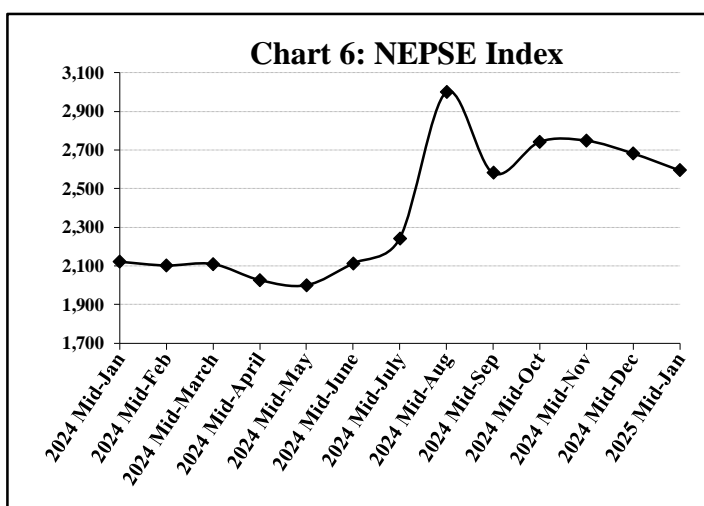
*Updated information is available at <http://emap.nrb.org.np/>

Capital Market

60. NEPSE index stood 2594.13 in mid-January 2025 compared to 2120.62 in mid-January 2024.

61. Stock market capitalization in mid-January 2025 stood Rs.4302.88 billion compared to Rs.3330.75 billion in mid-January 2024.

62. Number of companies listed at NEPSE reached 267 in mid-January 2025. Out of the total listing, 129 are Bank and Financial Institutions (BFIs) and insurance companies, 91 hydropower companies, 22 manufacturing and processing industries, 7 hotels, 7 investment companies, 4 trading companies and 7 others. The number of companies listed at NEPSE were 271 in mid-January 2024.



63. Share of BFIs and insurance companies in stock market capitalization is 54.2 percent in mid-January 2025. Such a share for hydropower companies is 16.3 percent, investment companies 7.4 percent, trading companies 5.6 percent, manufacturing and processing industries 5.2 percent, hotels 2.8 percent and the share of other companies is 8.5 percent.

64. The paid-up value of 8.64 billion shares listed at NEPSE stood Rs.851.37 billion in mid-January 2025.

65. Securities worth Rs.16.33 billion were listed at NEPSE during the six months of FY 2024/25. Such securities comprise bonus shares worth Rs.7.17 billion, right shares worth Rs.3.91 billion, mutual fund worth Rs.1.25 billion, FPO worth Rs.39.76 million and others worth Rs.3.96 billion.

66. Securities Board of Nepal approved the total public issuance of securities worth Rs.16.81 billion in the review period which includes right share worth Rs.8.24 billion, mutual fund worth Rs.8 billion, ordinary shares worth Rs.450 million and debenture worth Rs.120 million.