



# April 2019

#### **Global Economy**

The news that US and China were closer to reaching a final trade agreement supported global markets. On the other hand, WTO lowered its global trade volume growth forecast for 2019.

At its March meeting, Fed kept the policy rate unchanged at 2.25-2.50%. Projections released after the meeting indicated that FOMC participants expect no rate hikes in 2019.

While Fed's dovish stance supported the demand for Treasury bonds, the yield curve inversion raised recession concerns. Weak data fueled those worries.

At its meeting on March 7, ECB did not change the interest rates and announced to hold them at least through the end of 2019.

Uncertainty regarding the Brexit process continued to be the main focus in global markets. Early elections or "no-deal" Brexit are possible outcomes, while May said she will ask for a further Brexit delay.

Leading indicators in China continued to raise concerns about the economic activity in the Q1 of 2019.

OPEC's production cuts drove up oil prices, while gold prices fluctuated in line with US dollar in global markets.

#### **Turkish Economy**

Turkish economy contracted higher-than-expected by 3% in the last quarter of 2018 yoy. In 2018, GDP grew by 2.6%.

In December, unemployment rate rose by 3.1 points to 13.5% yoy. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 12.7% during this period, reaching the highest level since September 2009.

Decline in industrial production lost some momentum in January. Calendar adjusted industrial production fell by 7.3% yoy.

Manufacturing PMI, which reached the highest level since July 2018 with 47.2 in March, pointed out that the slowdown in the sector continued for 12 consecutive months.

Foreign trade deficit continued to decline in February. Export volume rose by 3.4% yoy to 13.6 billion USD, while import volume decreased by 16.9%.

In the first month of 2019, the current account deficit was realized as 813 million USD, in parallel with the expectations. 12-month cumulative current account deficit declined to 21.6 billion USD.

Central government budget gave a deficit of 16.8 billion TL in February.

In March, CPI came in above expectations, increasing by 1.03% on a monthly basis. D -PPI rose by 1.58%. Thus, CPI and D-PPI surged up by 19.71% and 29.64% yoy, respectively.

CBRT kept the one week repo rate (policy rate) at 24%, at its meeting on March 6. CBRT raised the cost of funding by suspending the one week repo auctions due to the increased volatility in FX market in the last weeks of March.

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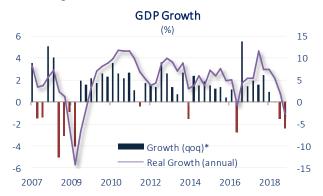
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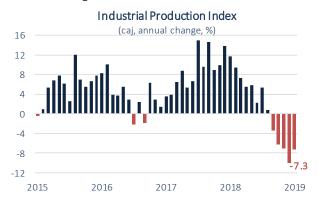
## Turkish economy grew by 2.6% in 2018.

In the last quarter of 2018, <u>Turkish economy</u> contracted more than expected by 3% compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the chain volume index. According to seasonally and calendar adjusted figures, Turkish economy contracted by 2.4% qoq, the worst performance since the third quarter of 2016. Having contracted by two consecutive quarters Turkish economy entered a technical recession. In the last quarter, the sharp decline in private consumption and investment expenditures pushed down the growth while net exports supported the growth by 8.4 pp. In 2018, Turkish economy had grown by 2.6%, lower than its longrun average.



# Industrial production continued to decline on annual basis.

Following a 10% decline in December, calendar adjusted industrial production fell by 7.3% yoy in January. Production in manufacturing industry, where 18 out of 24 subsectors experienced a drop, has decreased by 7.5%. Production in manufacture of mineral products, basic metal and machinery and automotive sectors continued to exhibit two digit decline. On the other hand, seasonally and calendar adjusted industrial production index posted a monthly rise for the first time in 5 months. In this period, recovery in the production of intermediate goods was notable.



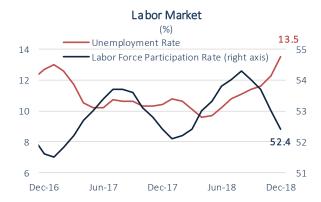
Manufacturing PMI remained under the threshold level for a year.

Although manufacturing PMI reached the highest level

since July 2018 with 47.2 in March, it remained below the 50 threshold, indicating the weakness in the sector has continued for a year. The index increased for the two consecutive months, showing that the contraction in the sector has lost some momentum. During this period, production and employment recovered while new orders and new export orders slowed down.

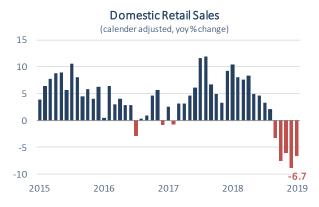
# Unemployment rate reached the highest level in 10 years.

In December period, unemployment rate reached 13.5% by increasing 1.2 points, the highest monthly rise since January 2009. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose by 0.6 point mom to 12.7%, reaching its highest level since September 2009. While number of persons employed declined by 297K during this period, the fall in the manufacturing industry became 182K. Having declined for ten consecutive months, employed persons in construction sector decreased by 464K on annual basis.



#### Retail sales increased on a monthly basis in January.

The deterioration in labor market also affects the domestic demand conditions. According to the Turkstat, calendar adjusted retail sales volume fell by 6.7% yoy. The annual decline in the index was 8.8% in December. During this period, food, drinks and tobacco sales decreased by 2.9%, while non-food sales excluding automotive fuel contracted by 10.3%. Compared to the previous month, seasonally and calendar adjusted retail sales, which declined by 0.3% in December, increased by 1.3% in January. During this period, automotive fuel sales, which displayed the highest rise by 4.8%, were followed by a 2.1% increase in pharmaceutical products.



Source: Datastream, Markit, Turkstat

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#### Weakness in house sales continues.

House sales declined by 18.2% compared to the same period of the previous year to 78,450 units in February. Thus, the fall in the first two months of the year became 21.5% yoy. Mortgage house sales declined by 68.2% yoy, losing some momentum. Other home sales recorded a limited annual increase with 2.2%. New home sales, which are a significant indicator for the building and real estate market, fell by 25.3% yoy in February.

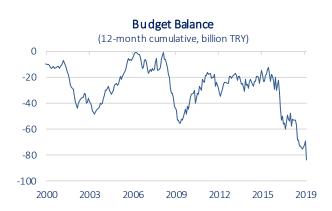
According to data released by CBRT, hedonic price index increased by 4% in January compared to the same month of the previous year, while house prices in real terms fell by 13.6%.

#### Tax cuts have been extended.

With the decision published in the Official Gazette; SCT and VAT cuts on automotive, white goods and furniture goods sales which was formerly planned to be ended on March 31st, has been extended until 30 June 2019. Besides, reduction for house sales and title deed fees are decided to be expired at December 31.

# In February, budget gave a deficit of 16.8 billion TRY.

Central government <u>budget</u> revenues increased by 9.7% yoy in February, the expansion in expenditures was realized as 33.2%. Hence, budget deficit, which was 1.9 billion TRY in February last year, climbed to 16.8 billion TRY in the same period of this year. The primary balance, which posted a surplus of 4.8 billion TRY in February 2018, gave a deficit of 2.1 billion TRY in February 2019. 12-month cumulative budget deficit rose to 84 billion TRY.



In the first two months of 2019, the budget deficit surged to 11.7 billion TRY from 201 million TRY in the same period of 2018. The course of economic activity as well as tax cuts will be decisive on budget performance during the rest of the year.

## Foreign trade deficit came in at 2.1 billion USD.

In February, exports increased by 3.4% yoy to 13.6 billion USD, while imports declined by 16.9% to 15.7 billion USD. Thus, foreign trade deficit fell by 63.1% to 2.1

billion USD, declining for the ninth consecutive month. During this period, import coverage ratio increased to 86.4%.

According to 12-month cumulative data, export volume continued to stay at record level with 169.1 billion USD. 12-month foreign trade deficit was realized as 44.8 billion USD, the lowest level in last 10 years.

	Febru	Change		
(billion USD)	2018	2019	(%)	
Exports	13.1	13.6	3.4	
Imports	18.9	15.7	-16.9	
Foreign Trade Deficit	-5.8	-2.1	-63.1	
Import Coverage (%)	69.4	86.4	-	

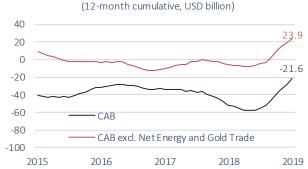
According to the provisional data announced by the Ministry of Commerce the foreign trade deficit continued to contract on an annual basis in March. In this period, exports increased slightly by 0.5%, while imports decreased by 17.8%. Thus, foreign trade deficit narrowed by 67.3%.

#### Current account deficit was 813 million USD in January.

In the first month of 2019, the <u>current account</u> deficit was realized as 813 million USD, in parallel with the expectations. In January, the current account deficit decreased by 88.4% yoy, due to the contraction in the foreign trade deficit. Current account excluding net gold and energy trade, which posted a deficit of 1.5 billion USD in January 2018, recorded a surplus of 2.9 billion USD in the same period of this year.

12-month cumulative figures revealed that current account deficit contracted by 6.2 billion USD compared to the previous month to 21.6 billion USD, the lowest level since April 2010. In this period, current account balance excluding net energy and gold trade posted a surplus of 23.9 billion USD, the highest level.

# Current Account Balance



Unlike 2018, strong portfolio inflows were registered in January 2019. Thanks to the increase in global risk appetite, portfolio investments posted a capital inflow of 6.1 billion USD in January.

Source: Turkstat, Datastream, Ministry of Trade

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# In March, inflation was above expectations.

<u>CPI</u> came in above expectations, rising by 1.03% mom in March. According to the Reuters' survey, the monthly CPI inflation was expected to be 0.92%. Domestic PPI (D-PPI) recorded a monthly increase by 1.58% in this period.

March	CPI		D-PPI				
(change %)	2018	2019	2018	2019			
Monthly	0.99	1.03	1.54	1.58			
Year-to-Date	2.77	2.27	5.29	2.14			
Annual	10.23	19.71	14.28	29.64			
Annual Average	11.14	18.70	15.35	31.17			

Annual consumer inflation, which followed a downward trend after reaching 25.24% in October and hovered around 20% since December, was realized as 19.71% in March. Declining trend in annual D-PPI inflation since October, on the other hand, ended in March. Accordingly, the annual D-PPI inflation, which had declined for 5 consecutive months and became 29.59% in February after reaching 46.15% in September, increased slightly to 29.64% in March.

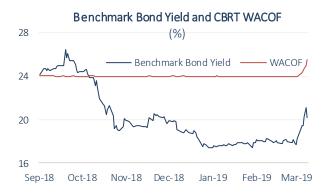


	28/Feb	29/Mar	Change
5-Y CDS (basis points)	301	419	118 bps 🔺
TR 2-Y Benchmark Yield	18.79%	21.19%	240 bps 🔺
BIST-100	104,530	93,784	-10.3% <b>V</b>
USD/TRY	5.3340	5.6496	5.9% 🔺
EUR/TRY	6.0739	6.3437	4.4%
Currency Basket*	5.7039	5.9966	5.1% 🔺

(\*) (0.5 USD/TRY + 0.5 EUR/TRY)

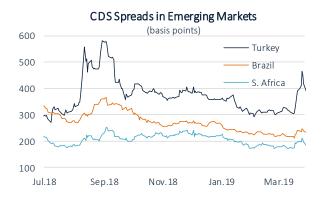
#### CBRT kept the policy rate on hold.

CBRT kept the interest rates unchanged at its meeting held on March 6. While holding the policy rate at 24%, the Monetary Policy Committee kept the statement that tight monetary policy stance will be maintained until a significant improvement in inflation outlook is achieved and that additional tightening can be made if needed.



#### Risk perception towards Turkey deteriorated in March.

Concerns regarding global economic activity increased during March. As the views that the recent performance of US bond yields has increased the possibility of an upcoming recession strengthened, global risk appetite remained under further pressure. In addition to the global developments, rising concerns over Turkey-US relations and the cautious stance of investors ahead of the local elections held on March 31 have caused risk perception towards Turkey to sharply deteriorate. Turkey's 5-year CDS risk premium rose by 118 bps in March and reached 419 bps at the end of the month.

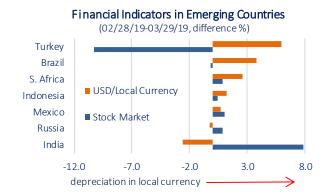


## Turkish lira depreciated in March.

The deterioration in risk perception led to selling pressure on TRY denominated assets. On March 22, USD/TRY climbed to 5.84, the highest level in the last 5 months. To combat the high volatility in TRY, CBRT raised the cost of funding by pausing one-week maturity repo auctions and did not open auction in the FX deposit market. In addition, CBRT raised the transaction limit of total swap sales for non-matured transactions in the TRY swap market, first from 10% to 20% of the banks' predetermined FX and Banknotes market transaction limits and then to 30%. USD/TRY declined due largely to the measures taken to reduce the volatility. As of March 29, USD/TRY rose by 5.9% compared to the end of February and became 5.65. In this period, EUR/TRY increased by 4.4% to 6.34.

#### Selling pressure in domestic markets....

Selling pressure on the TRY denominated assets weighed on the stock market. Having reached its highest level since May 2018 with 105,929 on March 19, BIST-100 index slumped to as low as 90,524 on March 27 as selling intensified across equities in the following days. In the remaining days of the month, the index rose slightly, compensating for some of its losses and closed March at 93,784, falling by 10.3% compared to a month ago.



#### Rise in bond yields...

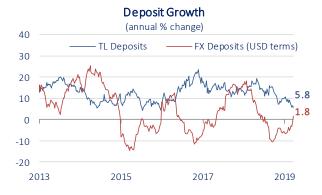
The recovery in inflation and inflation expectations as well as the growing expectations that CBRT may start easing monetary policy sooner than previously predicted led to a decline in bond yields in the first half of March. However, in the second half of the month, selling in TRY assets caused a rapid rise in interest rates. 2-year benchmark bond yield, completing February at 18.79%, increased by 240 bps and ended March at 21.19%.

Source: CBRT, Datastream, Reuters, BIST



## Demand for FX deposits continues.

According to BRSA Weekly Bulletin, as of March 22, deposit volume expanded by 22.9% yoy and reached 2,205 billion TRY. In this period, annual increase rate of TL deposits continued to lose momentum due to shift towards FX deposits. On the other hand, FX deposits in USD terms, contracting on an annual basis since July 2018, expanded yoy for the first time as of March 22.

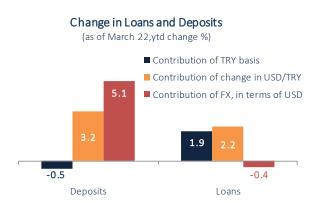


## FX credit volume kept declining.

As of March 22, total loan volume expanded by 13.7% yoy to 2,482 billion TRY. Having displayed a flat course since the beginning of the year, TL loan volume posted a slight increase in March. Due to the recent depreciation of Turkish lira, the weakness in FX loan demand continues. FX loans in USD terms decreased by 3.2% yoy to 180.4 billion USD as of March 22.

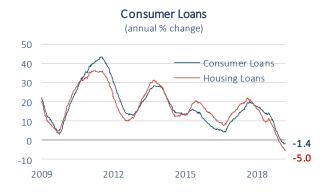
#### Contributions to the change in deposit and loan volumes...

The depreciation of TL has been effective in the rise of deposits and credits since 2018 year end. Total deposit volume increased by 7.8% ytd. In this period, while the volume of TL deposits declined, FX deposits in USD terms and rise in USD/TL contributed to the said growth by 5.1 pts and 3.2 pts, respectively. On the other hand, 2.2 pts of 3.7% rise in total loan volume from the end of 2018 stemmed from the increase in USD/TL. Rise in TL loan volume contributed to this increase by 1.9 pts in this period.



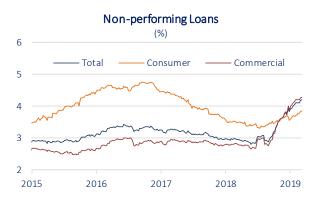
## Decline in housing loans is accelerating.

Contraction in consumer loans excluding consumer credit cards since the beginning of 2019 continued in the week of March 22. As of March 22, consumer loans declined by 1.4% yoy. In line with the increase in financing costs, as the demand for housing declined, housing loans decreased by 5% yoy. This situation indicates that the decline in mortgaged sales will continue.



#### NPL ratio is at 4.14%.

Gross non-performing loans, which have been rising since the beginning of 2019, increased to 105.8 billion TRY as of March 22. Having followed an upward trend in recent months, NPL ratio declined slightly in March and was realized as 4.14% as of March 22. In the same period, NPL ratio for consumer and commercial loans were recorded as 3.90% and 4.20%, respectively.



# Net foreign currency position...

As of March 22, banks' on-balance sheet FX position was (-) 41.1 billion USD, while off-balance sheet FX position was (+) 40.5 billion USD. Hence, banking sector's net FX position was realized as (-) 567 million USD.

Source: BRSA Weekly Bulletin



The news that US and China are drawing closer to a final trade agreement supported the global markets, while the negative impacts of current protectionist trade measures on the global economy is increasing. Leading indicators have also pointed out a broad-based momentum loss in the global economy leading the major central banks to take more cautious decisions in their monetary policy normalization process at their latest meetings. Developments regarding Brexit process continued to be main focus in global markets. While uncertainties remained, the possibilities of early elections and "no deal" Brexit stood out in UK.

Before the local elections held on March 31, financial markets were under pressure due to the deterioration in global risk perception and concerns about US-Turkey relations. Accordingly, steps taken by the CBRT in order to stabilize the volatility in the FX market were closely monitored. Data releases, on the other hand, pointed out that slowdown in economic activity continued albeit losing some momentum. While industrial production

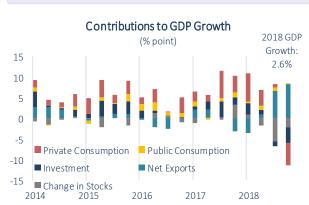
contracted by 7.3% yoy in January, manufacturing PMI, although it increased on a monthly basis, indicated that slowdown in the sector continued in March. 12-month cumulative current account deficit have also continued to decline, reaching the lowest level since April 2010. Higher than expected March inflation figures indicated that price stability concerns will remain on the agenda for a while. The recent increase in energy prices and the volatility in domestic financial markets might pose upside risks to inflation. On the other hand, the reform package which is anticipated to be announced in April, expected to reduce uncertainties.

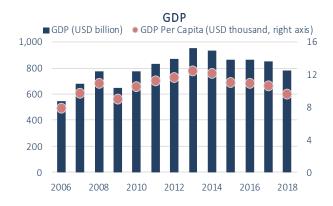
Forecasts (%)	2018 (A)	2019
Growth	2.6	1.0
Current Account Deficit/GDP	3.5	2.0
Inflation (year-end)	20,3	16.0
(A) Actual		

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# Growth





# **Leading Indicators**

#### Industrial Production and Capacity Utilization



#### Confidence Indices



### **Labor Market**



Dec-17

51

Dec-16

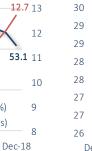
Jun-17

Labor Force Participation Ratio (%)

Unemployment Rate (%, right axis)

Jun-18

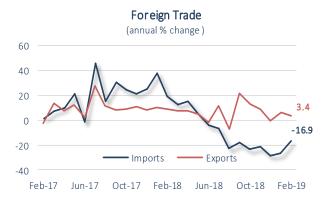
**Employment Indicators** 

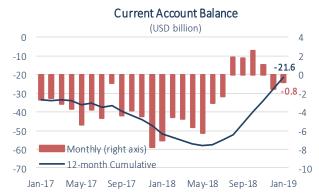


# Em ployment



#### Foreign Trade and Current Account Balance

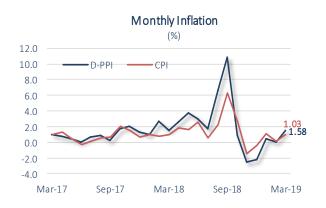


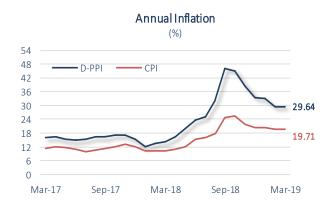


(CA) Calendar adjusted Source: Datastream, CBRT, Turkstat



# Inflation





# CBRT Survey of Expectations - Annual CPI Inflation Expectations



# CBRT Survey of Expectations - 12 & 24-month Ahead CPI Inflation Expectations

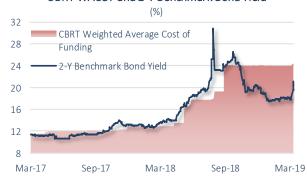


# Foreign Exchange and Bond Market





# CBRT WACOF and 2-Y Benchmark Bond Yield



# Average Compound Yield in Treasury Auctions



# **Expected Real Yield of TRY GDDIs**



(R) Realization

Source: BİST, Datastream, Reuters, CBRT, Turkstat, Treasury



Growth	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018			
GDP (USD billion)	935	862	863	851	784			
GDP (TRY billion)	2,045	2,339	2,609	3,107	3,701			
GDP Growth Rate (%)	5.2	6.1	3.2	7.4	2.6			
Inflation (%)						Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19
CPI (annual)	8.17	8.81	8.53	11.92	20.30	20.35	19.67	19.71
Domestic PPI (annual)	6.36	5.71	9.94	15.47	33.64	32.93	29.59	29.64
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Market Figu	res							
Unemployment Rate (%)	10.3	10.2	12.0	9.8	12.7			
Labor Force Participation Rate (%)	51.0	51.7	52.4	53.2	53.1			
FX Rates						Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19
CPI Based Real Effective Exchange Rate	105.9	99.2	93.6	86.4	76.4	75.7	77.2	
USD/TRY	2.3378	2.9189	3.5176	3.7916	5.3199	5.1759	5.3340	5.6496
EUR/TRY	2.8288	3.1708	3.7102	4.5530	6.0815	5.9391	6.0739	6.3437
Currency Basket (0.5*EUR+0.5*USD)	2.5833	3.0448	3.6139	4.1723	5.7007	5.5575	5.7039	5.9966
Foreign Trade Balance <sup>(1)</sup> (USD billion)							Jan-19	Feb-19
Exports	157.6	143.8	142.5	157.0	167.9		168.7	169.1
Imports	242.2	207.2	198.6	233.8	223.0		217.2	214.0
Foreign Trade Balance	-84.6	-63.4	-56.1	-76.8	-55.1		-48.5	-44.8
Import Coverage Ratio (%)	65.1	69.4	71.8	67.1	75.3		77.7	79.0
Balance of Payments <sup>(1)</sup> (USD billion)								Jan-19
Current Account Balance	-43.6	-32.1	-33.1	-47.3	-27.8			-21.6
Capital and Financial Accounts	-43.2	-22.7	-22.0	-46.7	-6.7			-1.4
Direct Investments (net)	-6.3	-14.2	-10.8	-8.8	-9.5			-9.7
Portfolio Investments (net)	-20.2	15.5	-6.3	-24.5	2.9			1.8
Other Investments (net)	-16.2	-12.1	-5.7	-5.2	10.3			17.8
Reserve Assets (net)	-0.5	-11.8	0.8	-8.2	-10.4			-11.2
Net Errors and Omissions	0.5	9.5	11.1	0.6	21.0			20.1
Current Account Balance/GDP (%)	-4.7	-3.7	-3.8	-5.6	-3.5			-
Budget <sup>(2)(3)</sup> (TRY billion)							Jan-19	Feb-19
Expenditures	448.8	506.3	584.1	678.3	830.5		91.9	175.6
Interest Expenditures	49.9	53.0	50.2	56.7	74.0		7.3	22.0
Non-interest Expenditures	398.8	453.3	533.8	621.6	756.5		84.6	153.6
Revenues	425.4	482.8	554.1	630.5	757.8		97.0	163.9
Tax Revenues	352.5	407.8	459.0	536.6	621.3		55.7	113.2
Budget Balance	-23.4	-23.5	-29.9	-47.8	-72.6		5.1	-11.7
Primary Balance	26.5	29.5	20.3	8.9	1.3		12.4	10.3
Budget Balance/GDP (%)	-1.1	-1.0	-1.1	-1.5	-2.0		-	-
Central Government Debt Stock (TRY b	illion)						Jan-19	Feb-19
Domestic Debt Stock	414.6	440.1	468.6	535.4	586.1		597.9	615.2
External Debt Stock	197.9	238.1	291.3	341.0	480.6		500.3	511.1

<sup>(1) 12-</sup>month cumulative

<sup>(2)</sup> Year-to-date cumulative (3) According to Central Government Budget



# BANKING SECTOR ACCORDING TO BRSA'S MONTHLY BULLETIN FIGURES

(TRY billion)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Jan.19	Feb.19	Change <sup>(1)</sup>
TOTAL ASSETS	1,994	2,357	2,731	3,258	3,867	3,861	3,936	1.8
Loans	1,241	1,485	1,734	2,098	2,395	2,377	2,422	1.1
TRY Loans	881	1,013	1,131	1,414	1,439	1,441	1,462	1.6
Share (%)	71.0	68.2	65.2	67.4	60.1	60.6	60.4	-
FX Loans	360	472	603	684	956	937	959	0.3
Share (%)	29.0	31.8	34.8	32.6	39.9	39.4	39.6	-
Non-performing Loans	36.4	47.5	58.2	64.0	96.6	99.9	103.9	7.6
Non-performing Loan Rate (%)	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.9	4.0	4.1	-
Securities	302	330	352	402	478	496	511	6.8
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,994	2,357	2,731	3,258	3,867	3,861	3,936	1.8
Deposits	1,053	1,245	1,454	1,711	2,036	2,048	2,097	3.0
TRY Deposits	661	715	845	955	1,042	1,034	1,034	-0.7
Share (%)	62.8	57.4	58.1	55.8	51.2	50.5	49.3	-
FX Deposits	391	530	609	756	994	1,014	1,062	6.9
Share (%)	37.2	42.6	41.9	44.2	48.8	49.5	50.7	-
Securities Issued	89	98	116	145	174	175	183	5.1
Payables to Banks	293	361	418	475	563	547	561	-0.4
Funds from Repo Transactions	137	157	138	99	97	105	116	19.9
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	232	262	300	359	421	426	432	2.7
Profit (Loss) of the Period	24.6	26.1	37.5	49.1	53.5	3.2	6.5	-
RATIOS (%)								
Loans/GDP	60.7	63.5	66.5	67.6	64.7			
Loans/Assets	62.2	63.0	63.5	64.4	61.9	61.6	61.5	-
Securities/Assets	15.2	14.0	12.9	12.3	12.4	12.8	13.0	-
Deposits/Liabilities	52.8	52.8	53.2	52.5	52.6	53.0	53.3	-
Loans/Deposits	117.9	119.2	119.3	122.6	117.6	116.1	115.5	-
Capital Adequacy (%)	16.3	15.6	15.6	16.9	17.3	17.1	17.0	

<sup>(1)</sup> Year-to-date % change

Source: BRSA, Turkstat

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