

## **BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

### **1. General trends**

GDP contracted by 5.7% in 2015, owing to declines of 7.0% and 1.9% in non-oil and oil activity, respectively. This contraction and an 18.7% fall in imports led to a 9.2% reduction in overall supply. Aggregate domestic demand narrowed by 10.1%, with declines of 17.6% in gross fixed investment, 7.8% in private consumption and 2.4% in general government spending. ECLAC estimates that GDP will contract by 8.0% in 2016, subject to trends in crude oil prices and the country's ability to resolve problems in generating and distributing electricity.

Inflation reached 180.9% in 2015, up from 68.5% in 2014. Prices jumped by 315% in the food and non-alcoholic beverages category. According to the central bank, the sharp decline in imports and weaker domestic production led to the spike in inflation, while other influential factors included the depreciation of the exchange rate and demand factors linked to growth in monetary aggregates (such as the monetary base) and in domestic credit, of more than 114% and 112%, respectively.

In 2015, the current account posted a deficit (US\$ 18.150 billion) for the first time since 1998. As regards the trade balance, exports of goods and services fell by 50% compared with 2014, reflecting the decrease in the average oil price from US\$ 88.42 per barrel in 2014 to US\$ 44.65 per barrel in 2015, and the resulting drop in oil exports, which represented 96.7% of total exports. Public finances were also hit hard by falling oil prices.

The impact of the sharp contraction was seen in the labour market, with a 0.5 percentage point increase in the unemployment rate from 5.5% in December 2014 to 6.0% in December 2015. In the first four months of 2016 the situation remained more or less unchanged, with an increase of 1.1 percentage points in the national unemployment rate.

### **2. Economic policy**

#### **(a) Fiscal policy**

Public finances were hit hard by falling crude oil prices in 2015, which were down by 49.5% compared with the average price in 2014. In 2011-2014, revenue from oil taxes stood at 43% of the total tax take on average. The drastic change in oil market conditions led to a 29.0% downward revision of the fiscal revenues forecast announced by the Ministry of Finance during the presentation of the 2016 Budget Act.

In response to the sharp drop in oil tax receipts, the public sector adopted a series of countermeasures, including a significant reduction in public spending in real terms, changes to the tax system, significant use of external assets, an increase in debt (domestic and external), changes in the exchange-rate system and considerable monetary financing.

Given the lack of information on public finances, it is not possible to analyse trends in spending or tax income; however, judging from the trend in the government's final consumption in national

accounts (down by 2.5%), spending is likely to have declined in real terms, particularly in the third quarter of 2015.

Among the government spending categories for which information is available, debt service payments stand out, and according to information provided by the central bank, US\$ 11.972 billion of external public debt was paid down in 2015, of which US\$ 7.333 billion corresponded to capital and US\$ 4.689 billion to interest. This implies that the equivalent of 40.5% of total exports in the first three quarters of 2015 was used to pay down external debt.

As regards the trend in non-oil tax receipts, the customs and tax office reported a nominal increase of 145.8% in 2015, compared with 2014. In the light of reported inflation figures, non-oil tax income therefore contracted by 15.8% in real terms. Breaking down these figures, the income tax take narrowed by 31.8% and customs revenue fell by 25.8% in 2015, both in real terms.

In 2015 the government made use of various external assets, withdrawing US\$ 2.343 billion from the IMF. It also signed agreements with Jamaica and the Dominican Republic for advance debt payments from these countries stemming from the sale of oil under the PetroCaribe initiative, in exchange for significant discounts, of 50% and 52%, respectively. These transactions allowed the Venezuelan authorities to obtain US\$ 1.500 billion from Jamaica and US\$ 1.933 billion from the Dominican Republic. The central bank's monetary gold reserves fell sharply in 2015, down by more than US\$ 3.200 billion in real terms.

External debt rose by US\$ 2.9 billion in 2015 to around US\$ 120 billion, which is equivalent to 66% of GDP. The composition of external public debt changed, revealing an increase in debt in the form of loans from 34.5% in 2014 to 39.2% in 2015, while debt in the form of bonds and promissory notes fell from 43.2% in 2014 to 39.5% in 2015.

## **(b) Monetary policy**

Growth in the monetary base picked up pace, from 77.7% in 2014 to 114.3% in 2015. Similarly, broader aggregates such as M1 and M2 also saw an uptick in growth, from more than 60% in 2014 to 100% in 2015.

A key element for understanding growth trends in monetary aggregates is the increase in the central bank's financing of non-financial public entities, particularly oil companies. The rise in lending by the central bank to State-owned oil companies represented 84.9% of the expansion in the monetary base in 2014 and 27.7% in 2015.<sup>1</sup>

In contrast to the growth in money supply, the significant increase in prices, contraction in economic activity and negative expectations for the future performance of these variables drove down demand, which had been contracting since mid-2014 and had declined by close to 30% at year-end 2015, when using M2 as a benchmark.

Lending to the private sector grew by 109.5% in nominal terms in 2015, with a significant increase in commercial lending (150%) between the fourth quarter of 2014 and the fourth quarter of 2015. Despite the nominal increase, lending in real terms contracted by almost 20%. Interest rates remained

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<sup>1</sup> The central bank law has been changed to allow direct financing of the public sector, initially by transferring international reserves to the national development fund and more recently by acquiring bonds from State-owned companies and granting loans to public entities.

fairly stable in 2015 judging from the average lending rate, which rose by only 1.86 percentage points compared with the end of 2014. This stability in nominal interest rates against a backdrop of high inflation led to very negative real interest rates, which discouraged savings in bolívares.

**(c) Exchange-rate policy**

In 2003 the economic authorities implemented exchange-rate controls that placed restrictions on financial and commercial transactions between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the rest of the world. The scheme involved multiple exchange rates to reflect the government's priorities for funding external transactions. Despite the adjustments made, the various official exchange rates were significantly overvalued, which stimulated the population's imports of goods and services, but weakened income from non-oil exports.

In 2014, as income from oil exports declined sharply, there was a drop in the amount of foreign currency available to the private sector on the official market, which led to longer delays in obtaining currency and a reduction in the number of priority sectors. The government modified the exchange-rate scheme in February 2015, and established three official exchange rates. The first (CENCOEX) was for financing priority imports by the public sector, at 6.30 bolívares per dollar. The second (SICAD) was for other imports, payment of services such as tourism and transfers abroad of remittances and pensions, at 13.50 bolívares per dollar. The third (SIMADI) was for purchases and sales of foreign exchange between individuals, and purchases in bolívares of public securities issued in foreign currency on the domestic market, at 199.95 bolívares per dollar. Up to the third quarter of 2015, the most recent data available, foreign exchange set aside by the government to finance imports represented 54% of total imports, while the figure had stood at close to 100% in 2014.

In the light of the significant loss of reserves recorded by the country in 2015 (25%), stemming from the fall in oil prices and the significant level of foreign-currency debt held by the public sector, the government announced another change in the exchange-rate scheme in March 2016. The most noteworthy element is a reduction in the number of official exchange rates, from three to two. One fixed rate to pay for priority imports of food and medicine and other public imports (DIPRO) and another adjustable exchange rate for all other transactions (DICOM). The announcement also included a 59% devaluation of the exchange rate for priority imports (DIPRO), from 6.30 bolívares per dollar to 10 bolívares per dollar. DICOM, which began at the same rate applied to SIMADI, 199.95 bolívares per dollar, depreciated by 212% between March and June 2016.

The parallel (unofficial) exchange rate depreciated sharply, by 381% in 2015. Nonetheless, since the introduction of DICOM, the parallel exchange rate has appreciated by 3%, although it is still equivalent to more than 10 times the DIPRO rate.

Despite the use of external assets, the significant decline in funding for imports and higher external debt, international reserves fell by 25.8% in 2015 and by 25.1% in the first five months of 2016. The current balance of international reserves is at its lowest level since 1995, at US\$ 12.255 billion, which is equivalent to 5.5% of GDP.

### 3. The main variables

#### (a) The external sector

In 2015, the current account posted a deficit (US\$ 18.150 billion, which is equivalent to 10% of GDP) for the first time since 1998. According to central bank data, this deficit stemmed from the weak trade balance (US\$ 456 million) and the negative balances in the services and income accounts, of US\$ 12.611 billion and US\$ 5.798 billion, respectively. The trade balance was at the lowest level seen since 1998 and represented a decline of 98.1% compared with 2014.

As to the components of the trade balance, exports of goods and services fell by 50% in 2015 compared with 2014, reflecting the decline in the average price of Venezuelan oil, from US\$ 88.42 per barrel in 2014 to US\$ 44.65 per barrel in 2015, and the subsequent fall in oil exports, which represented 96.7% of total exports.

Imports of goods and services fell by 22.3% in 2015. On the basis of the information available up to the third quarter of 2015, the decline in imports of final consumption goods and intermediate goods was 19% larger than the year-earlier period, and hit both the private and public sectors.

#### (b) Economic activity

Venezuelan GDP contracted for the second year in a row in 2015, by 5.7% versus 4.0% in 2014. This trend was reflected in declines of 7.0% in non-oil activity and 1.9% in oil activity. Within the non-oil category, there were decreases in construction (23.8%), financial institutions (13.0%), commerce (11.8%), transport and storage (6.9%) and manufacturing (6.8%). Only the communications and general government services sectors grew in 2015 (by 2.7% and 1.0%, respectively).

The decline in GDP, along with a fall in imports (18.7%), led to a contraction of 9.2% in overall supply in 2015. At the same time, aggregate domestic demand narrowed by 10.1%, with declines of 17.6% in gross fixed investment, 7.8% in private consumption and 2.4% in general government spending. Exports dipped by 0.7%.

According to the private production sector, the lack of foreign currency to acquire production inputs, the fall in demand and delays in adjusting prices on the part of the authorities in charge of price controls were some of the factors responsible for the decline in production.<sup>2</sup> Another contributing factor was the rationing of electricity and water supply in response to the effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon, which resulted in the country being divided into zones subject to scheduled power cuts lasting four hours per day. The workweek was reduced to two days for the civil service while the school week was reduced to four days. Working hours were also reduced in the commerce sector (shopping malls) and hotels depending on their ability to generate their own electricity. At the end of June 2016, the government announced that the main sources of hydroelectric power had been restored, putting an end to electricity rationing.

In the light of the difficulties mentioned, ECLAC expects the GDP of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to decline by 8.0% in 2016, which implies a reduction in private consumption and a further fall

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<sup>2</sup> See *Encuesta de Coyuntura Trimestral: Situación IV Trimestre 2015*, March 2016, CONINDUSTRIA.

in gross fixed capital investment.<sup>3</sup> This scenario is subject to the trends in crude oil prices and the government's ability to solve problems in generating and distributing electricity. Another factor that could affect growth forecasts for 2016 is the decline in crude oil production reported by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

### (c) Prices, wages and employment

In 2015 average inflation as measured by the national consumer price index stood at 180.9%, which was much higher than the level of 68.5% seen in 2014, and the highest level recorded by the central bank since 1950. Inflation exceeded 200% in the Venezuelan cities of Barquisimeto, Ciudad Guayana, Maturín and Puerto La Cruz.

The sharp acceleration in inflation stood out in categories such as food and non-alcoholic beverages, which, despite significant price controls in the sector, saw prices jump by 315%. The central bank highlighted the significant decline in imports (between the first three months of 2014 and the same period in 2015, consumer goods imports fell by 20%) and the decline in domestic production as two of the factors contributing to the rapid increase in prices. However, in addition to these supply factors, demand factors such as the increase of more than 100% in monetary aggregates and domestic credit also contributed. Both stemmed from the need to finance the fiscal deficit. The significant devaluation of the bolívar at both the official and parallel rates also helped push prices up.

At the time of writing (June 2016) inflation figures for 2016 had not been published, but according to the Latin American Consensus Forecasts (June 2016), inflation is expected to reach 436%.

In response to this difficult situation, the government adopted a series of measures to try to improve the supply of essential goods to the lowest income sectors of the population. However, this was made difficult by "leaks" from public distribution channels, which led to the intervention of institutions such as the State-run grocery store network (MERCAL) and food distribution agency (PDVAL).

The effects of the sharp contraction in the Venezuelan economy were reflected in the labour market. In 2015 the unemployment rate rose by 0.5 percentage points, from 5.5% in December 2014 to 6.0% in December 2015, driven by a decline in the employment rate from 61.9% to 58.8% over the same period. At the same time, the inactivity rate rose by 3.0 percentage points, ending 2015 at 37.4%.

The increase in unemployment had a significant impact on the youngest age groups, 15-24 years and 25-44 years, which suffered from increases in unemployment of 0.5 percentage points and 3.6 percentage points, respectively, between December 2014 and December 2015.

In 2015 roughly 440,000 jobs were lost, 300,000 of which were in the formal sector. This decline in jobs reflects the 510,000 jobs losses in the private sector, which was offset partly by the creation of 70,000 jobs in the public sector.

The situation remained unchanged in the first four months of 2016, with a new increase of 1.1 percentage points in the domestic unemployment rate, as the unemployment rates for men and women rose at a similar pace. During this period, the private and public sectors recorded job losses of roughly 40,000 each. Most job losses occurred in the informal sector, probably reflecting the impact of the economic situation and electricity rationing on commerce.

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<sup>3</sup> This will be the third year in a row of a contraction in GDP, which has not occurred since 1950, when the central bank began publishing national accounts data.

The minimum wage was raised four times in 2015 (in February, May, July and November). The total change stood at 97.3% when comparing the end of 2015 (9,649 bolívares) with the end of 2014 (4,889 bolívares). Despite these changes, the purchasing power of Venezuelan workers and pensioners who receive the minimum wage was hit hard by high inflation. Between December 2014 and December 2015, the minimum wage contracted by 23.6% in real terms, much more than the year-earlier period (4.6%). So far in 2016 the minimum wage has been raised twice, in March and May, by 20% and 30%, respectively, resulting in cumulative change of 56% since December 2015. Similarly, food vouchers were increased from 6,750 bolívares at the end of 2015 to 18,585 bolívares in May 2016.

Table 1  
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 a/
	<b>Annual growth rates b/</b>								
Gross domestic product	8.8	5.3	-3.2	-1.5	4.2	5.6	1.3	-3.9	-5.7
Per capita gross domestic product	7.0	3.6	-4.7	-2.9	2.7	4.2	0.0	-5.1	-6.9
Gross domestic product, by sector									
Agriculture, livestock, hunting, forestry and fishing	2.6	3.5	1.0	0.9	-1.1	3.1	0.5	-4.7	...
Mining and quarrying	-2.7	2.9	-7.7	-1.8	1.6	1.0	-0.1	-4.3	...
Manufacturing	3.2	1.3	-6.4	-2.3	2.9	1.7	-0.2	-6.9	...
Electricity, gas and water	2.6	5.0	4.1	-5.8	5.0	3.8	3.3	-1.0	...
Construction	20.8	10.5	-0.2	-7.0	4.8	16.6	-2.3	-7.0	...
Wholesale and retail commerce, restaurants and hotels	16.3	4.7	-7.7	-6.2	5.3	8.4	3.0	-10.2	...
Transport, storage and communications	17.5	12.9	3.4	4.2	6.7	6.8	3.1	0.7	...
Financial institutions, insurance, real estate and business services	11.0	-1.1	-1.2	-2.8	6.0	13.3	9.4	4.2	...
Community, social and personal services	7.3	6.7	2.3	1.7	5.6	5.9	3.6	1.1	...
Gross domestic product, by type of expenditure									
Final consumption expenditure	16.3	6.0	-2.1	-1.1	4.4	6.9	4.4	-2.5	-6.6
Government consumption	13.8	4.8	1.5	2.1	5.9	6.3	3.3	0.6	-6.0
Private consumption	16.9	6.3	-2.9	-1.9	4.0	7.0	4.7	-3.4	-6.8
Gross capital formation	28.2	2.2	-19.1	1.0	15.2	24.1	-14.0	-22.9	-2.4
Exports (goods and services)	-7.6	-1.0	-13.7	-12.9	4.7	1.6	-6.2	-4.7	-9.4
Imports (goods and services)	33.0	1.4	-19.6	-2.9	15.4	24.4	-9.7	-18.5	-2.3
Investment and saving c/	<b>Percentajes of GDP</b>								
Gross capital formation	30.3	26.8	25.8	22.0	23.1	26.6	27.3	...	...
National saving	36.2	36.7	25.9	24.3	28.2	27.3	28.5	...	...
External saving	-5.8	-9.9	-0.1	-2.3	-5.2	-0.7	-1.2	...	...
Balance of payments	<b>Millions of dollars</b>								
Current account balance	13,464	31,297	429	5,585	16,342	2,586	4,604	3,598	-18,150
Goods balance	22,800	44,864	16,907	25,153	41,172	31,926	31,570	27,206	456
Exports, f.o.b.	70,197	96,057	58,518	66,887	93,747	97,877	88,753	74,714	37,357
Imports, f.o.b.	47,397	51,193	41,611	41,734	52,575	65,951	57,183	47,508	36,901
Services trade balance	-9,112	-11,067	-11,181	-12,460	-14,950	-17,238	-17,041	-15,015	-12,611
Income balance	515	-1,567	-4,646	-6,208	-9,079	-11,099	-8,707	-8,375	-5,798
Net current transfers	-739	-933	-651	-900	-801	-1,003	-1,218	-218	-197
Capital and financial balance d/	-19,206	-22,022	-10,691	-13,645	-20,374	-3,582	-9,194	-4,316	14,632
Net foreign direct investment	3,783	1,316	-3,613	-918	6,110	1,679	1,928	-704	2,609
Other capital movements	-22,989	-23,338	-7,078	-12,727	-26,484	-5,261	-11,122	-3,612	12,023
Overall balance	-5,742	9,275	-10,262	-8,060	-4,032	-996	-4,590	-718	-3,518
Variation in reserve assets e/	5,742	-9,275	10,262	8,060	4,032	996	4,590	718	3,518
Other external-sector indicators									
Real effective exchange rate (index: 2005=100) f/	84.3	68.1	52.3	79.1	69.6	58.7	60.3	...	...
Terms of trade for goods (index: 2005=100)	93.6	115.5	84.1	100.0	120.2	121.4	118.9	114.1	67.5
Net resource transfer (millions of dollars)	-18,691	-23,589	-15,337	-19,853	-29,453	-14,681	-17,901	-12,691	8,834
Total gross external debt (millions of dollars)	58,426	66,727	84,602	102,354	118,285	130,785	132,362	135,767	138,869
Employment g/	<b>Average annual rates</b>								
Labour force participation rate	64.9	64.9	65.1	64.6	64.4	63.9	64.3	65.3	63.7
Open unemployment rate	9.8	8.3	7.9	8.7	8.3	8.1	7.8	7.2	7.0

Table 1 (concluded)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 a/
<b>Prices</b>	<b>Annual percentages</b>								
Variation in consumer prices (December-December)	22.5	30.9	25.1	27.2	27.6	20.1	56.2	68.5	180.9
Variation in wholesale prices (December-December)	17.2	32.4	24.8	26.8	20.7	16.6	52.4	...	...
Variation in nominal exchange rate (annual average)	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.6	1.2	0.0	41.5	...	...
Variation in average real wage	1.2	-4.5	-5.8	-5.3	3.0	5.9	-4.4	...	...
Nominal deposit rate h/	10.6	16.0	15.6	14.7	14.7	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.8
Nominal lending rate i/	16.7	22.8	20.6	18.0	17.4	16.2	15.6	17.2	20.0
<b>Central government</b>	<b>Percentajes of GDP</b>								
Total revenue	28.6	24.5	21.4	19.3	22.5	23.5	26.8	33.0	21.5
Tax revenue	16.0	13.4	13.3	11.1	12.5	13.2	13.5	17.9	15.8
Total expenditure j/	25.6	25.7	26.5	22.9	27.5	28.4	30.5	35.9	23.7
Current expenditure	19.7	19.8	20.6	19.2	21.0	23.7	24.9	29.8	18.8
Interest	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	2.1	2.7	3.1	3.0	1.5
Capital expenditure	5.8	5.7	5.4	2.9	6.5	4.8	5.5	6.1	4.8
Primary balance	4.5	0.1	-3.7	-2.1	-1.8	-2.2	1.1	1.1	-0.2
Overall balance	3.0	-1.2	-5.0	-3.6	-4.0	-4.9	-2.0	-1.9	-1.7
Central government public debt	19.2	14.0	18.2	18.4	25.2	27.5	32.9	28.5	28.5
Domestic	7.3	4.5	7.5	8.9	11.4	15.6	20.1	19.5	19.5
External	11.9	9.5	10.7	9.5	13.8	11.9	12.8	9.0	9.0
<b>Money and credit</b>	<b>Percentages of GDP, end-of-year stocks</b>								
Domestic credit k/	32.2	28.6	32.9	27.6	30.8	40.4	49.7	59.7	53.8
To the public sector	4.3	2.4	5.1	5.6	7.8	12.8	16.2	15.6	9.8
To the private sector	22.8	20.8	22.9	18.6	20.4	25.2	29.7	39.5	40.1
Others	5.1	5.4	4.9	3.4	2.6	2.4	3.7	4.7	4.0
Monetary base	13.0	12.3	13.8	12.1	12.7	16.4	19.8	25.0	25.3
Money (M1)	26.4	24.6	28.6	26.8	31.4	42.7	53.4	64.4	62.0
M2	30.9	28.8	33.2	28.4	32.7	43.6	54.3	66.0	63.4

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

a/ Preliminary figures.

b/ Based on figures in local currency at constant 1997 prices.

c/ Based on values calculated in national currency and expressed in current dollars.

d/ Includes errors and omissions.

e/ A minus sign (-) indicates an increase in reserve assets.

f/ Annual average, weighted by the value of goods exports and imports.

g/ Nationwide total.

h/ 90-day deposits rate.

i/ Average rate for loan operations for the six major commercial banks.

j/ Includes extraordinary expenditure and net lending.

k/ Credit granted by the commercial and universal banks..



Table 2  
**BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: MAIN QUARTERLY INDICATORS**

	2014				2015				2016	
	Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Q.1	Q.2	Q.3	Q.4	Q.1	Q.2 a/
Gross domestic product (variation from same quarter of preceding year) b/	-5.2	-5.4	-2.7	-2.6	-1.4	-4.7	-7.1	...	...	...
Gross international reserves (millions of dollars)	21,785	21,705	21,281	21,593	22,592	17,613	16,610	15,390	14,107	12,437 c/
Open unemployment rate d/	8.4	7.2	7.2	6.3	7.7	7.1	7.4	6.2	7.5	...
Employment rate d/	59.2	60.3	60.8	61.1	58.7	59.9	58.1	59.0	58.3	...
Consumer prices (12-month percentage variation)	59.3	60.5	64.0	68.5	82.4	97.2	141.5	180.9	...	... c/
Nominal interest rates (average annualized percentages)										
Deposit rate e/	14.6	14.5	14.5	14.7	14.6	14.7	14.8	15.0	14.8	15.0 c/
Lending rate f/	15.9	16.5	17.6	18.9	18.8	19.6	20.4	21.2	20.4	21.2 c/
Interbank rate	0.5	4.6	11.7	8.8	0.4	2.5	6.8	4.2	2.0	6.0 c/
Monetary policy rates	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.5	6.5 g/	...
Sovereign bond spread, Embi + (basis points to end of period) h/	1,130	926	1,323	2,295	2,804	2,611	2,986	2,658	3,007	2,546
Risk premia on five-year credit default swap (basis points to end of period)	1,261	918	1,575	3,155	4,752	4,444	5,716	4,868	5,259	3,892
Stock price index (national index to end of period, 31 December 2005 = 100)	12,374	10,362	14,267	18,925	24,977	63,057	58,229	71,546	71,480	63,028
Domestic credit (variation from same quarter of preceding year)	66.6	65.4	62.2	61.9	61.7	64.6	82.3	84.3	94.4	93.2 i/
Non-performing loans as a percentage of total credit	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3 i/

**Source:** Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of official figures.

a/ Preliminary figures.

b/ Based on figures in local currency at constant 1997 prices.

c/ Figures as of May.

d/ Nationwide total.

e/ 90-day deposits rate.

f/ Average rate for loan operations for the six major commercial banks.

g/ Figures as of February.

h/ Measured by J.P.Morgan.

i/ Figures as of April.