

Ministry of Finance of Georgia

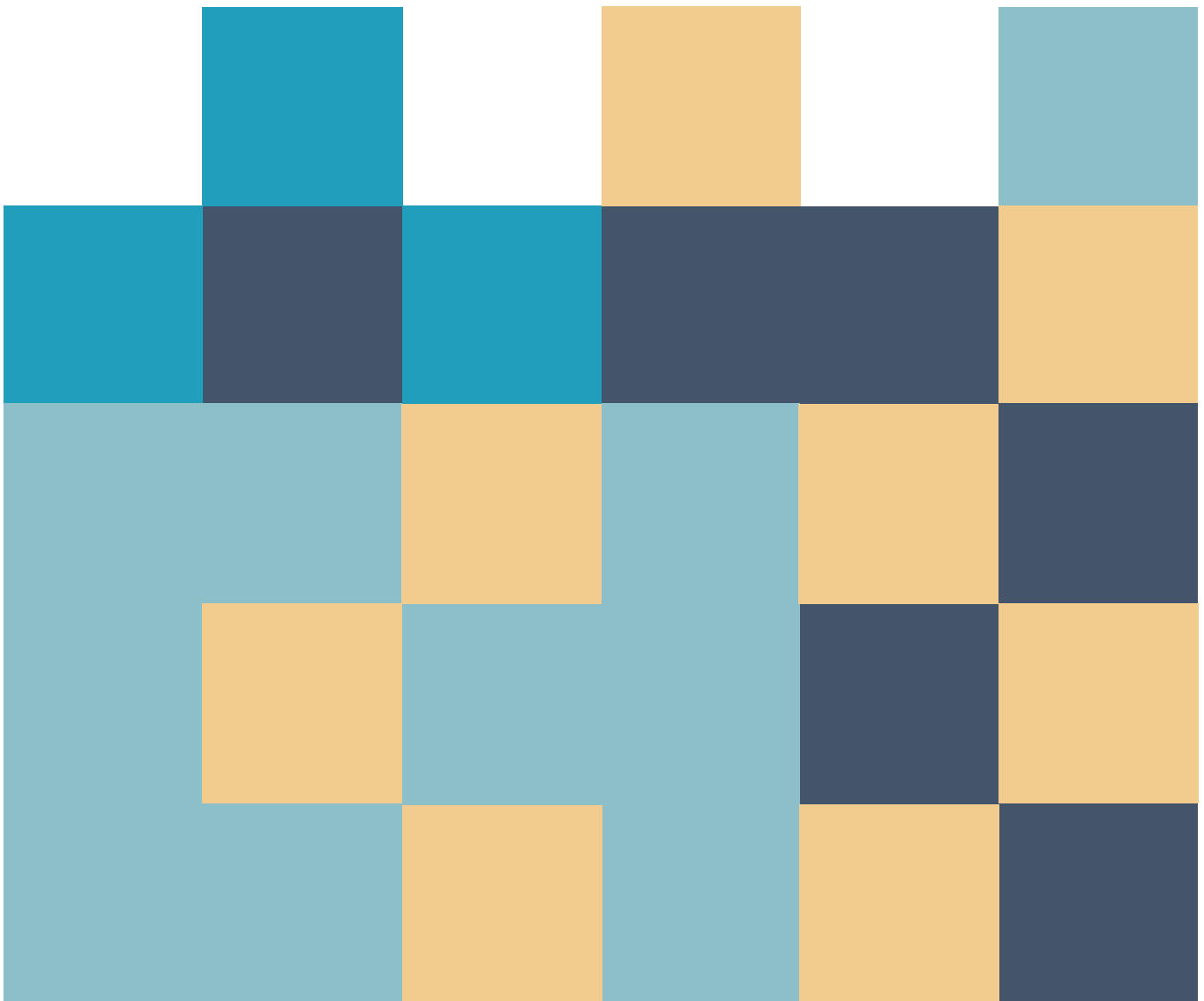


# Quarterly Economic Outlook

III Quarter, 2024

## Brief Summary

- Economic growth for 2023, according to preliminary data, equals to 7.5 percent
- Average economic growth for the second quarter of 2024 equals to 9.6 percent, while it was 8.4 percent in the first quarter
- Annual inflation in the third quarter equals to 1.1 percent, while core inflation (w/o tobacco) equals to 1.0
- Domestic export increased by 9.4 percent annually
- Import increased by 3.6 percent annually
- Revenues from tourism increased compared to the third quarter of 2023 as well as the 2019 level
- The National Bank of Georgia kept the refinancing rate at 8.0 percent





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# Real Sector

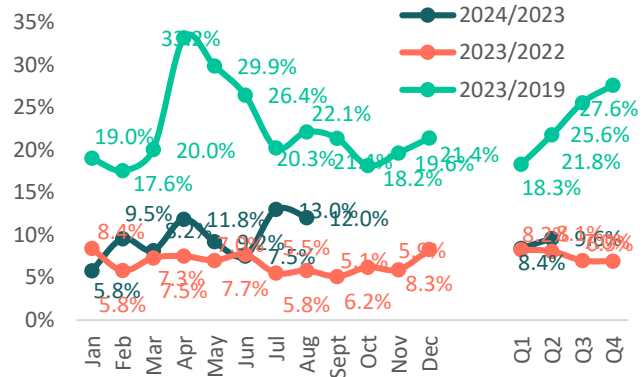
## Economic Growth

According to the preliminary data, in the first quarter of 2024 real GDP increased by 8.4 percent, while on the second quarter it amounted to 9.6 percent, on average, relative to same period of the previous year. At the same time, compared to the corresponding period of 2019, economic growth was 42.2 percent. In the second quarter, exports decreased annually by 4.4 percent, while imports increased annually by 1.9 percent. At the same time, compared to the second quarter of 2019, exports increased by 58.2 percent and imports increased by 71.8 percent. Considering tourism, revenue from international travelers increased by 24.3 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, while it increased by 8.1 percent compared to previous year. There was a 34.5 percent decrease in the net remittances compared to the same period in the previous year.

Real GDP grew by 7.5 percent annually in 2023. As for the second quarter of 2024, an increase of 9.6 percent was recorded, which means an increase of 33.5 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2019.

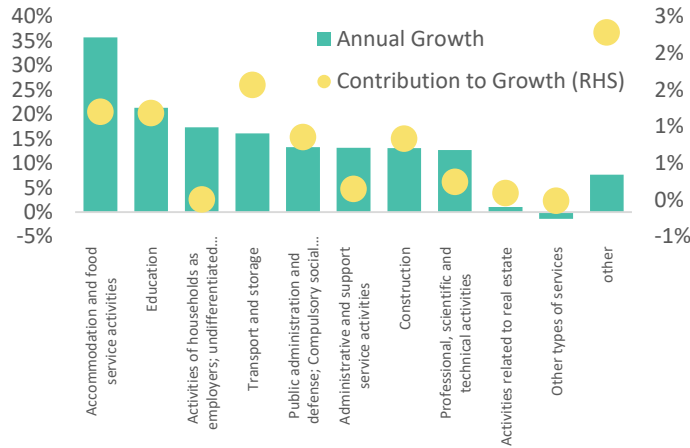
In the second quarter of 2024, the consumption component made a significant contribution to the overall growth in real terms and contributed to the increase by 18.3 pp., the export component also made a significant contribution, which contributed by 1.3 p.p. Investments had an impact of negative 1.9 p.p. At the same time, the contribution of the import component in the real terms decreased and it was negative 8.1 pp.

Figure 1: Economic Growth



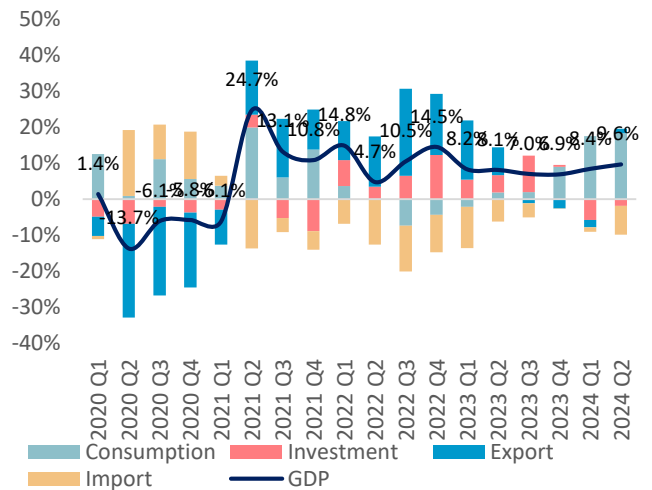
Source: Geostat

Figure 2: Real Sectoral Growth, 2024 1Q



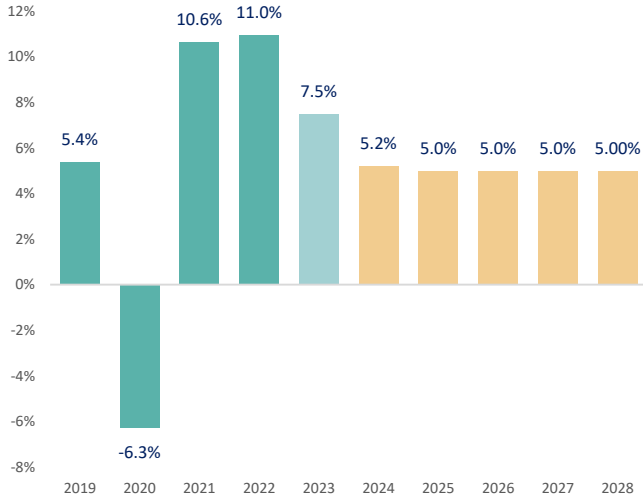
Source: Geostat

Figure 3: Decomposition of Economic Growth



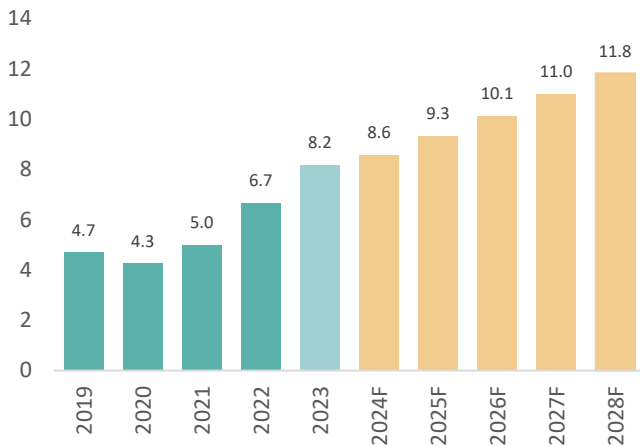
Source: Geostat

Figure 4: Economic Growth Projection



Source: MOF

Figure 5: GDP per capita, ths USD



Source: MOF

In the first quarter of 2024 the following sectors made a significant contribution to growth: Education: 29.1% y/y (1.7 p.p.), Activities related to real estate: 21.3% (1.2 p.p.), Professional, scientific and technical activities: 12.7% (0.2 p.p.), Public administration and defense: 13.3% (0.9 p.p.), Construction 13% (0.8 p.p.), Transport and warehousing: 16.1% (1.6 p.p.), Accommodation and food service activities: 35.7% (1.2 p.p.), Activities of households as employers; undifferentiated goods and services producing activities of household for own use: 17.3% ( 0.02 p.p.).

Growth in 2024 will partly depend on the current situation within the region and its impact on the Georgian economy. According to the forecast of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia, economic growth is expected to be 5.2 percent in 2024, which will be ensured by the growth of domestic demand and fiscal stimulus measures provided in the budget. The economic growth for 2025-2028 will see an average growth of 5.0 percent.

## Employment and Unemployment

In the second quarter of 2024, the unemployment rate was 13.7 percent, which is 0.3 p.p. lower than the value of the previous quarter and 3.1 p.p. lower compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Among them, unemployment in urban areas was 14.3 percent (-3.5 p.p. y/y), and in rural areas – 12.8 percent (-2.5 p.p. y/y). In the second quarter of 2024, the economically active population made up 54.5 percent of the working-age population (population aged 15 and older). In the second quarter of 2024, the unemployment rate for women was 10.9 percent, and for men it was 15.9 percent.

In the second quarter of 2024, compared to the corresponding period of the previous year, the number of employees increased by 4.6 percent and the employment level increased by 3 percentage points. In the same period, the number of unemployed decreased by 17.7 percent annually. At the same time, the average nominal salary of employees increased by 11.1 percent, which amounts to 2004.9 GEL as of the second quarter of 2024.

In the second quarter of 2024, there was a 3.9 percent decrease in productivity compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Productivity is calculated as the growth rate of the ratio of real GDP to the number of employees.

Figure 6: Indicators of Labor Market

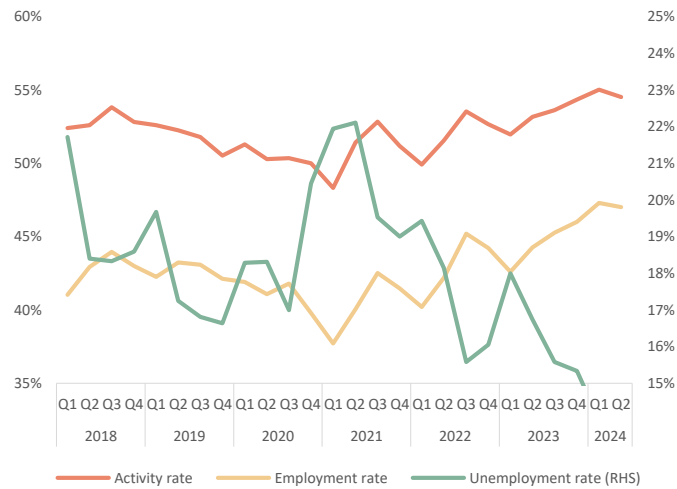


Figure 7: Productivity and Average Wage of employees (annual change, %)



Source: Geostat

## Price Level

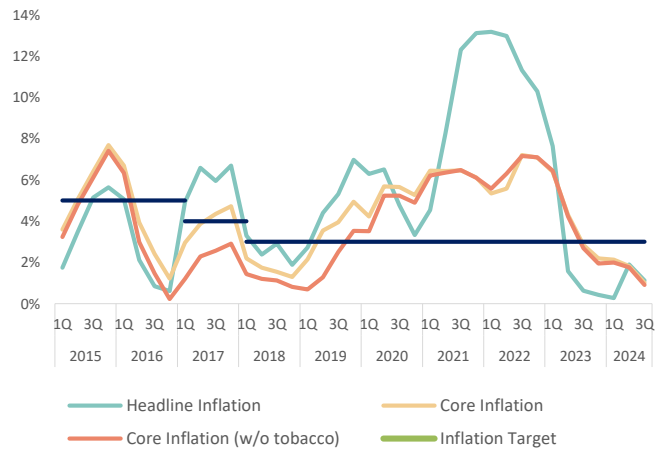
After double-digit inflation was recorded at 11.9% in 2022 and peaked at 13.3% in May, it began to decline and this trend continues in current period as well. Due to the high base effect on the one hand, and the tightened monetary policy on the other hand, the inflation level decreased in 2023 and the same trend continues in 2024. This was influenced by the decrease in the commodity prices on global market, as well as the prices of food products and oil. The downward impact on annual inflation also depends on the appreciation of the exchange rate, which reduces the impact of imported goods and food prices on the inflation rate.

According to the latest forecast of the International Monetary Fund (October, 2024), world inflation will decrease to 5.8 percent in 2024 from 6.7 percent in 2023, and it is also expected to decrease to 4.3 percent in 2025. with advanced economies returning to their inflation targets sooner than emerging market and developing economies. The International Monetary Fund cites that Inflation could fall faster than expected amid further gains in labor force participation, allowing central banks to bring easing plans forward.

Taking into account the above-mentioned factors, 2.5 percent inflation was recorded in 2023 which is below the target of 3%. In the first quarter of 2024, the average inflation was 0.3 percent, in the second quarter it amounted to 1.9 percent and in the third quarter it was 1.1 percent, which is also lower than the target inflation. The source of low inflation is the low inflation of domestically produced products due to tight monetary policy and reduced inflationary expectations. Core inflation equaled 1.0 percent in the third quarter and core inflation excluding tobacco was 0.9 percent.

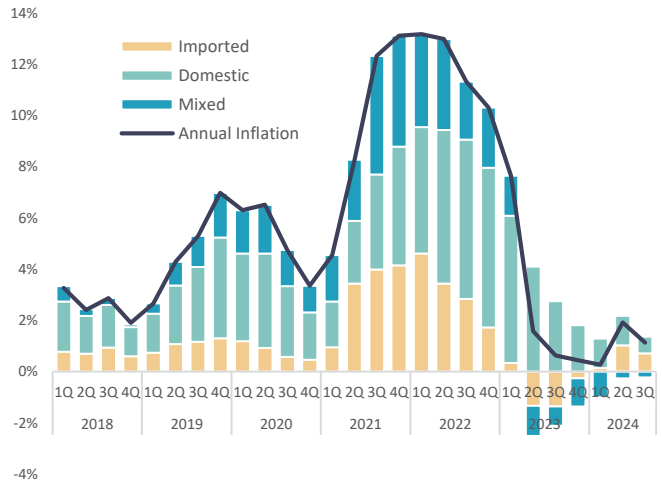
On September 11, 2024, the Monetary Policy Committee of the National Bank made a decision to keep the monetary policy rate at 8.0 percent level, after keeping it

Figure 8: Annual Inflation



Source: NBG

Figure 9: Decomposition of Inflation

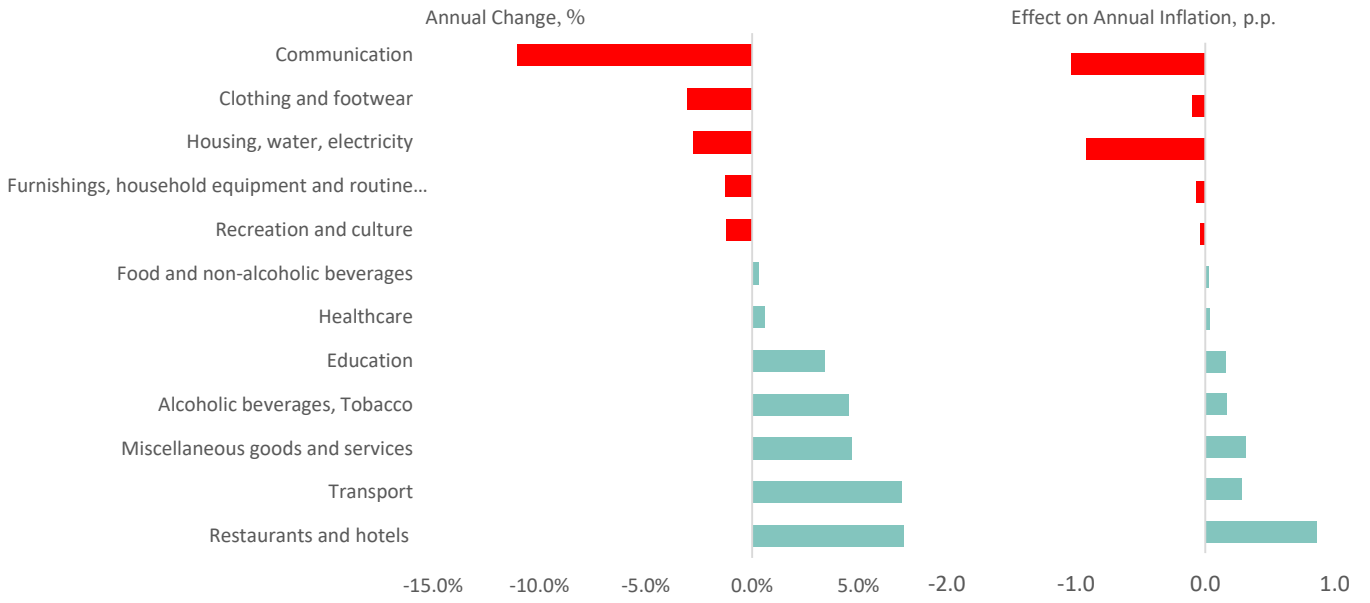


Source: NBG, Geostat

From June, because the low-inflationary environment is maintained in Georgia and the overall inflation is still below the target rate. One of the main risks of inflation is exchange rate volatility, which has become noteworthy as it creates inflationary pressures from imported goods. Also despite recent declines in international oil prices, global food prices have risen steadily in the Q3, so NBG continues to reduce the policy rate only at a slow pace.

In the third quarter of 2024, the contribution of domestic and imported inflation was 0.7 percent each.

Figure 10: Decomposition of Inflation, 2024 Q3



Source: Geostat



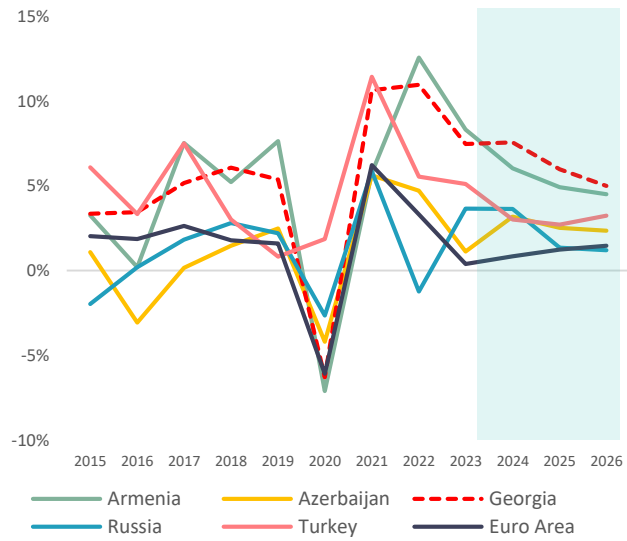
## Economic Outlook of the Region

In October, 2024 the IMF revised forecasts for major economies. According to the latest WEO, the global economic growth for 2022-2023 years stood at 3.6 and 3.3 percent levels, respectively. As for the 2024 estimates, the data came stronger for global growth at 3.2 percent for the whole world. According to the previous IMF WEO (published in April), the world economy in 2024 was expected to grow by 3.2%. The rise in growth in 2024 compared to 2023 (2.9%) is driven by advanced economies, especially by the USA’s strong recovery. It is also important to note that the prospects for 2024 is more favorable than it was expected in the previous year.

Even though in 2020 Turkey did not fall into recession, in 2021 Turkiye experienced a 11.4 percent growth in real GDP. Per the IMF October report, for 2024 and 2025 the WEO projections for Turkiye’s economic growth are 3.0 and 2.7 percent (after 5.1 percent growth in 2023). The projections for 2024 has been revised downward by 0.1 pp, compared to April WEO (2024). The main challenges for Turkiye remain exchange rate depreciation and high inflation. It is also relevant to mention that the tight monetary policy is close to end and the consumption starts recovering. In 2023 the actual inflation was 53.9%. The inflation is expected to reach a 60.9 percent in 2024. Turkey undergone changes into sovereign credit ratings in 2024. Fitch upgraded it to BB-, S&P to B+ (positive), and Moody’s to B1.

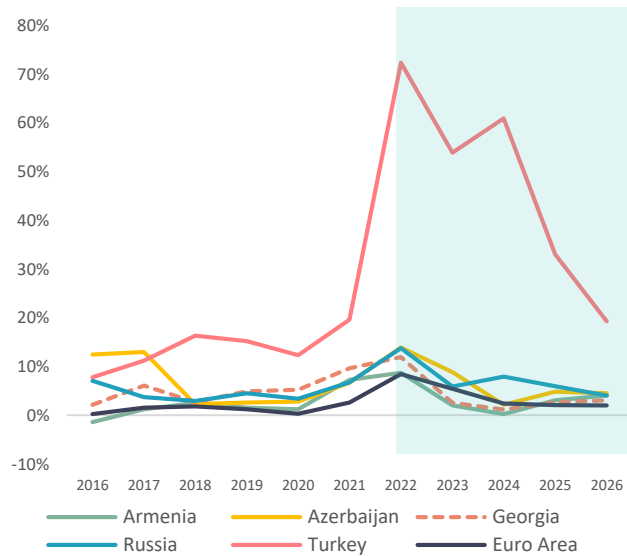
The Russian Federation economy, under the ongoing sanctions, performed better than it was expected in 2023. However, underlined sanctions will affect its medium-term capabilities, since the large consumers, as well as the sovereign countries, wean themselves off Russia’s energy and other sectors. Per the IMF’s October forecasts, the Russia’s real economic growth was 3.6% in 2023. As for the period of 2024-2025, it is expected to stand at 3.2 and 2.2, respectively. In 2022 the credit rating agencies (CRA), after sharp downgrading of Russia’s sovereign credit ratings, stopped assigning any ratings.

Figure 11: Economic Growth in the Region



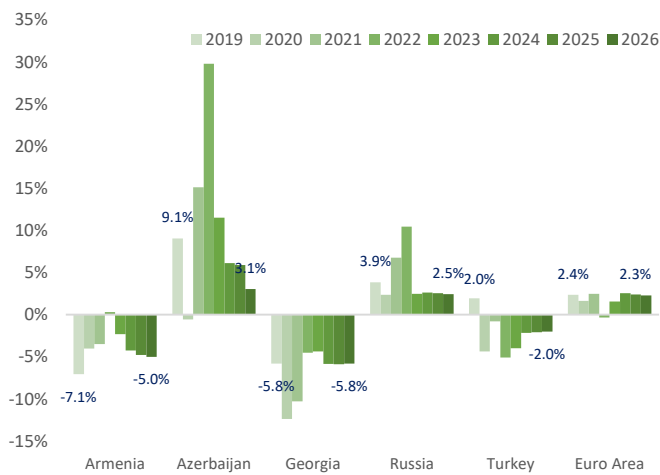
Source: IMF

Figure 12: Inflation in the Region



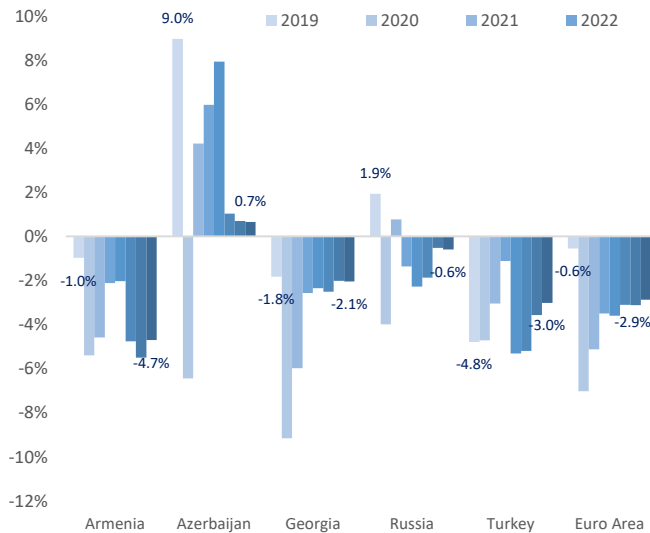
Source: IMF

Figure 13: Current Account to GDP, %



Source: IMF

Figure 14: Budget Balance to GDP, %



Source: IMF

A rising in oil prices, due to the Russia-Ukraine war, is expected to benefit Azerbaijan. As for 2024 October WEO, the economic growth has been revised downwards. After the high economic growth in 2021 and 2022 the real growth of the country was 1.1% in 2023. Azerbaijan’s real economy is expected to grow by 3.2% and 2.5% in 2024 and 2025 respectively. The country is characterized by a high inflation. In 2023, inflation was 8.8 percent and it is expected to decrease and stand at 2.1 and 4.8 percent in 2024 and 2025, respectively. In 2024 Azerbaijan’s sovereign credit ratings were BBB- (stable) according to Fitch, BB+ (stable) for S&P and Ba1 (positive) for Moody’s.

Per the IMF projections, Armenia was expected to be hit hardest in our region, except the participants of war. This was predictable, since Armenia has the tightest ties to the Russian economy. But those risks did not materialize. The economy of Armenia grew by 8.3% in 2023. As for 2024 October WEO, in 2024 and 2025, Armenia will grow by 6.0% and 4.9% respectively (in October 2023 the forecast for this indicator was 5.0 percent for 2024). Inflation was not very high in 2023 (2.0 percent) and it is expected to stand at 0.2% and 3.1% in 2024 and 2025 respectively. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024 the credit ratings of Armenia are as follows: BB- (stable) according to Fitch and S&P, and Ba3 (stable) according to Moody’s.

The situation around the Ukraine remains uncertain. The IMF restored the projections of the Ukrainian economy. However, the situation may change in any given time. According to the IMF latest data and projections, in 2023 the Ukrainian economy grew by 5.3 percent and taking into account a significant fall in the previous year this can be considered as a recovery. As for the short-term projections, the real GDP of Ukraine is expected to rise by 3.0% and 2.5% in 2024 and 2025 respectively. In 2023 inflation in Ukraine is expected to be 12.9 percent and it is predictable that it will be reduced.

## External Sector

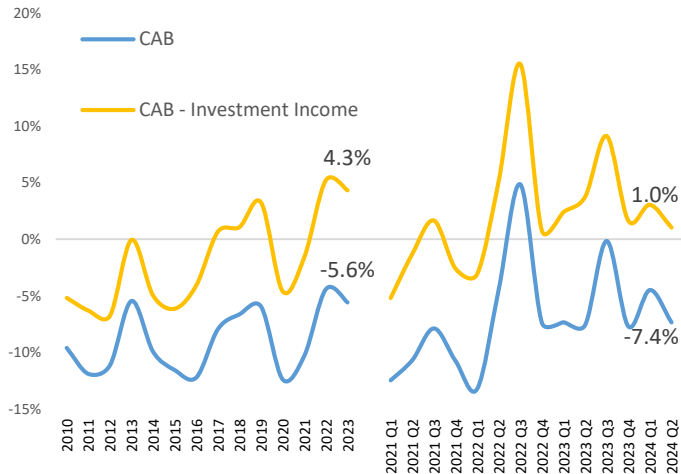
### Current Account Balance

In 2020 current account deficit stood at 12.4 percent of GDP, which has significantly worsened from 2019 numbers, when CA deficit was 6.0 percent of GDP. From Q2 2021 current account balance started to improve. As of 2021, CA deficit stood at 10.3 percent of GDP, while it improved in 2022 and amounted to 4.4% of GDP. An improvement has continued in 2023 as well and was observed at 4.4 percent of GDP, while in the first-second quarter of 2024 deficit was at 4.5 and 7.4 percent, respectively.

The current account deficit of Georgia is financed by the FDI and debt. Financing the deficit by debt, means borrowing new debt and, consequently, spending more on debt service. In this regard, it is important that the current account deficit is financed by increasing foreign direct investment. The structure of financing the current account deficit has been improving recently in Georgia. The deficit was entirely financed by the foreign direct investment in 2017. After that, during the post pandemic period, the foreign debt contributes quite a lot to finance the deficit. Especially noteworthy is 2020 when the debt financing contributed sizably, 8.8 p.p out of 12.4% deficit financing. The financing structure has still improved in 2022-2023 and current account was financed fully by the FDI.

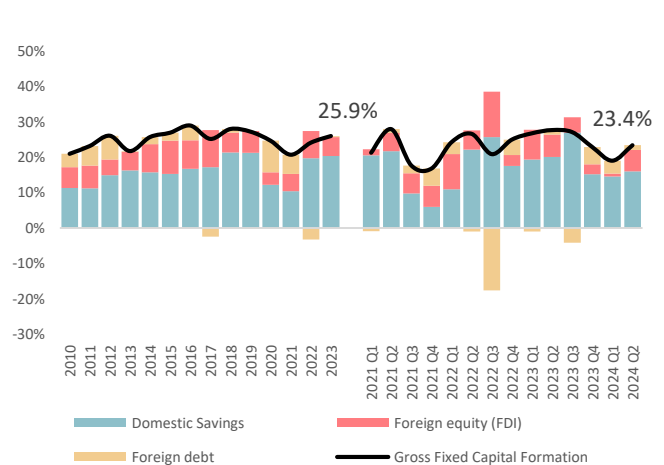
As for the second quarter of 2024, 6.0 p.p out of 7.4% was financed by the FDI, while debt had 1.3 p.p contribution. Debt contribution was high during the fourth quarter of 2023 (4.8 p.p out of 7.7%), compared to the negligible contribution during previous period. Debt contribution was only 0.3 p.p out of 5.6% current account deficit in 2023.

Figure 15: Current Account, % of GDP



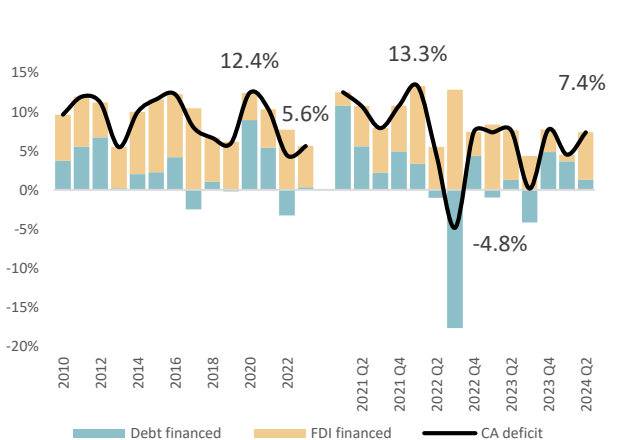
Source: NBG, Geostat

Figure 16: Financing of Investment



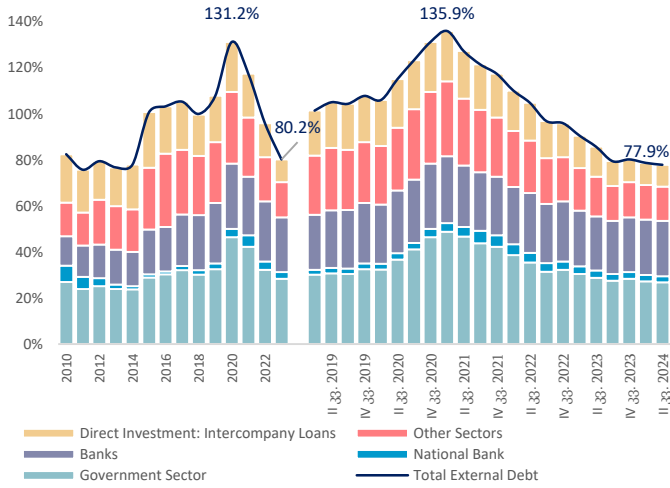
Source: NBG, Geostat

Figure 17: Financing of Current Account



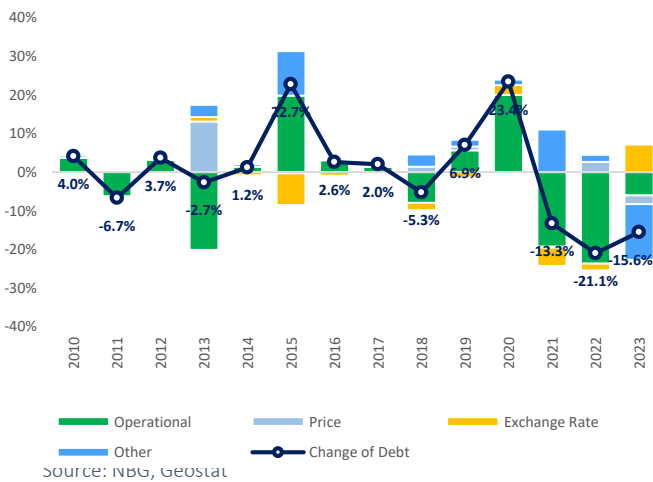
Source: NBG, Geostat

Figure 18: External Debt to GDP, %



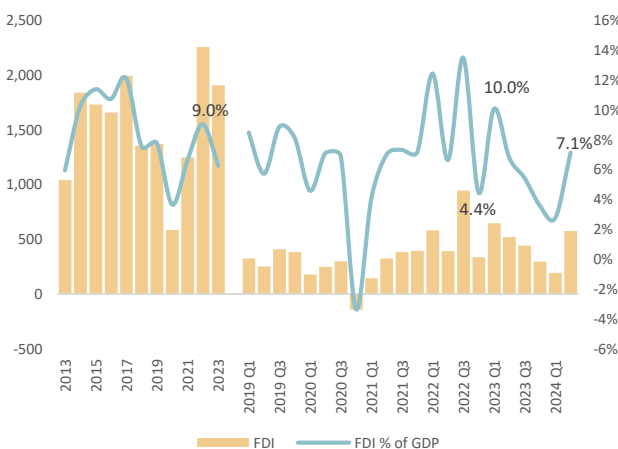
Source: NBG, Geostat

Figure 19: Change of Debt to GDP



Source: NBG, Geostat

Figure 20: Foreign Direct Investment



Source: Geostat

## External Debt

Along with the current account deficit, the additional weakness of the Georgian economy is considered to be external debt which remains a main source of vulnerability. External debt consists of government sector debt, as well as foreign debts of commercial and National Banks and intercompany loans.

The total external debt increased during the pandemic and amounted to 131.2 percent in 2020. Debt increased by 23.4 p.p compared to the previous year. The main reason was increased debt taken by the government sector, due to the financing during the pandemic. External debt started to decline from 2021 and amounted to 117.3 percent of GDP, which is 13.8 p.p. less than in the previous year. The reason for the decline is the sharpening of economic activity and the corresponding growth of nominal GDP by more than expected. External debt continued to decline during 2022-2023 years and by the end of 2023 it amounted to 80.2 percent of GDP, while it decreased even further in 2024 and amounted to 77.9 percent for the second quarter of 2024, which is the lowest after the pandemic.

The decomposition of the change in external debt is presented in terms of operating or borrowing, as well as in terms of price effect, changes in exchange rate and in nominal GDP. The largest contribution to the growth of external debt in some quarters of 2015-2016 was due to the exchange rate depreciation, but operational change has more impact annually. Also, GDP mostly contributed to the reduction of external debt. After the pandemic, debt to GDP in USD terms decreased by 13.3 p.p and 21.1 p.p in 2021-2022. Deficit did not require to use debt for financing for 2021-2020, due to improved current account, which helped debt to decrease. This continued in 2023 and debt decreased by 15.6 p.p, where operational helped to decrease but exchange rate contributed debt is to increase.

## Foreign Direct Investments

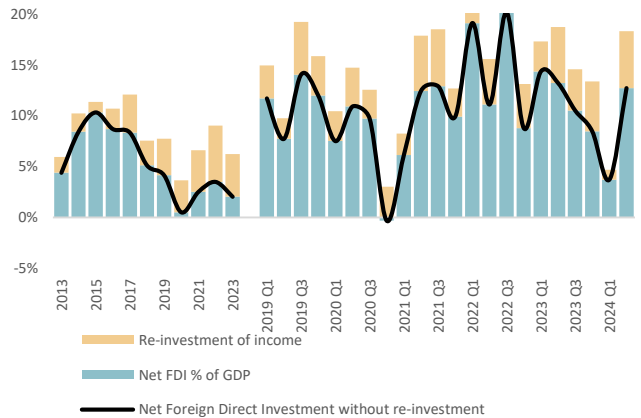
As for the second quarter of 2024, the foreign direct investments (FDI) amounted to 574 mln USD (7.1 percent of GDP), that was 10.3 percent higher than in 2023 Q2.

As of the second quarter of 2024, UK is the top investor in terms of FDI with a 46.4 percent share in totals. As for the 2nd and 3rd places, the Japan and Malta had 10.3 percent and 6.6 percent shares, respectively.

In 2024 Q2, the direct foreign investments were mainly allocated in the financial sector, amounted to 300.1 mln USD (52.3 percent of total FDI). The relatively larger shares had wholesale and retail trade sector, where the investments amounted 79.2 mln USD (13.8 percent).

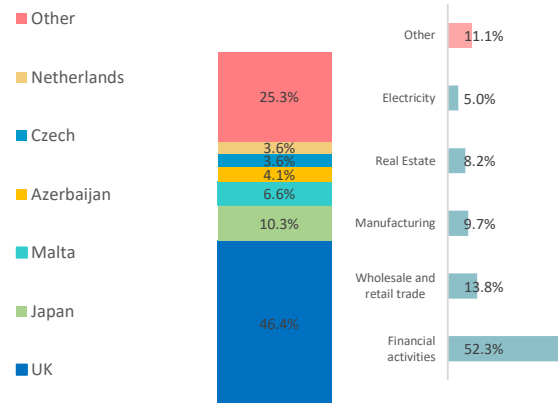
As for the components of the FDI, in the second quarter of 2024, reinvestment stood at 5.6 percent of GDP with the volume of 451.3 mln USD.

Figure 21: FDI, % of GDP



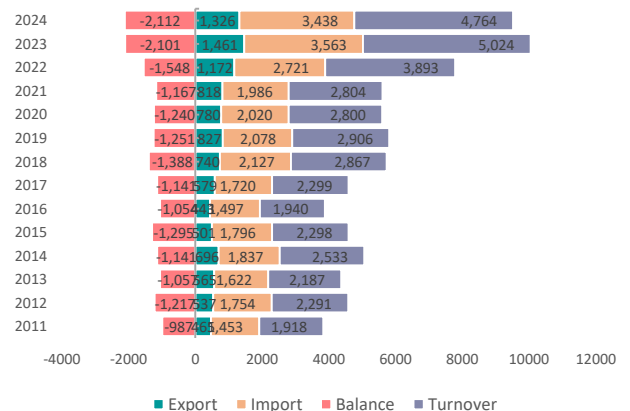
Source : Geostat

Figure 22: Composition of FDI, 2024 Q2



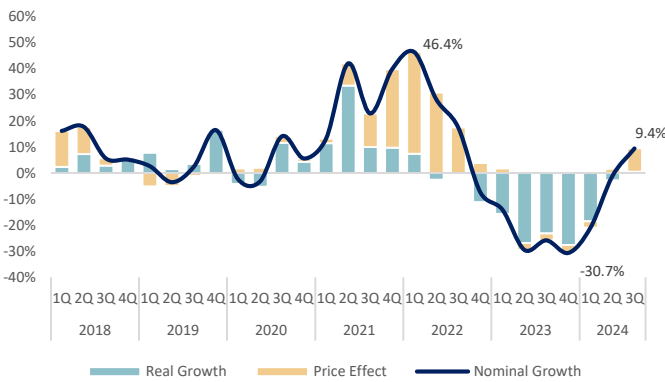
Source : Geostat

Figure 23: International Trade, Q1



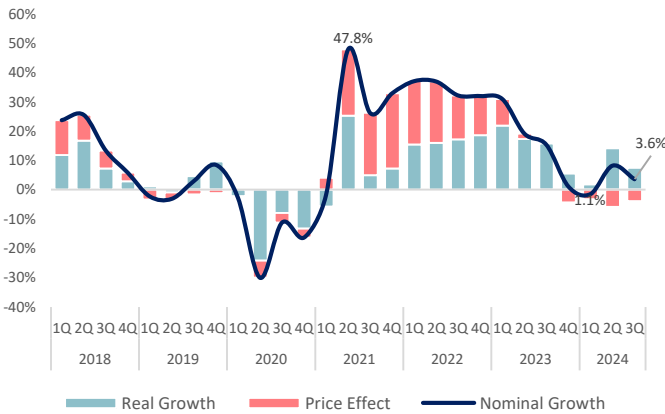
Source: Geostat

Figure 24: Annual Change of Domestic Export



Source: Geostat

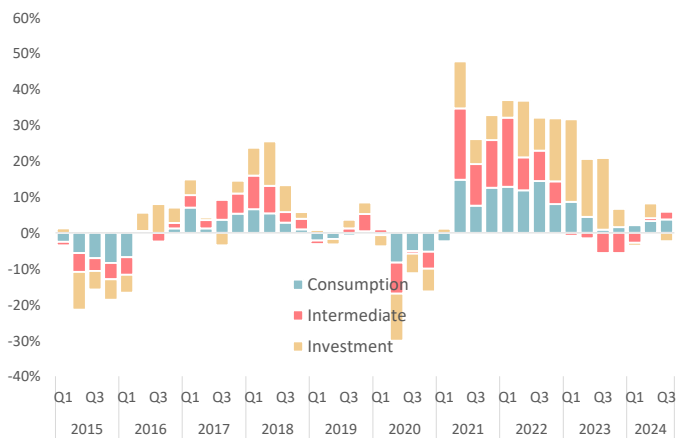
Figure 25: Annual Change of Import



Source: Geostat

Figure 26: Decomposition of Change of Import

Decomposition of Import



Source: Geostat; Author's calculation

### International Trade

Due to the epidemic around the world and restrictions imposed by most countries, foreign demand declined globally in 2020. All this had an impact on Georgia's economy. Due to reduced economic activity, import decreased as well, along with deteriorating exports in the first half of 2020.

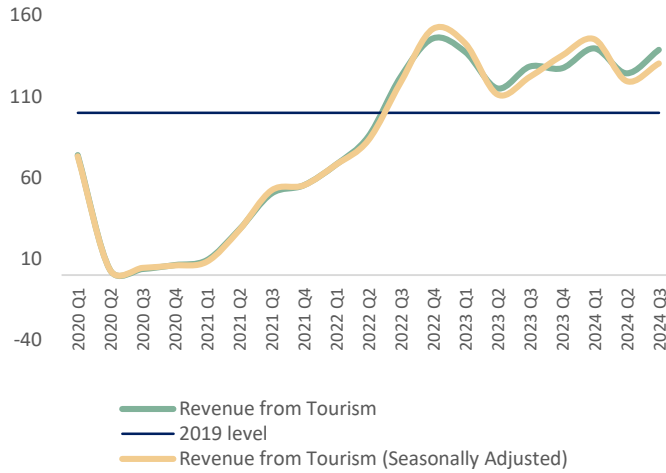
In 2021, after governments all over the world as well as in Georgia started to lift up restrictions, international trade started the fast recovery. Together with increased exports, imports also started fast recovery. Moreover, higher prices caused increased price effect in the export as well as import growth. However, together with the reduction of the price effect, domestic export started to increase slowly in 2022 and there was a reduction in nominal growth of domestic exports driven by real reduction. As for 2023, reduction of domestic export was even higher, mainly due to the real reduction, and it continued during the first quarter of 2024, when export change was negative 21.0 percent, out of which real growth contributed minus 18.6 p.p. As for the second quarter, the reduction was 1.2 percent, due to the real reduction. As for for the third quarter there was an increase by 9.4 percent and price contributed by 8.9 p.p, while real growth was 0.5 p.p.

As of third quarter of 2024, import of consumption goods increased by 3.6 percent annually (3.8 p.p. share in total imports). Reduction of imports of investment goods was observed at 5.4 percent annually (-2.3 p.p. share in total imports). As for the imports of intermediate goods, it increased by 8.0 percent annually (2.1 p.p. share in total imports). In Q3 2024, export of goods increased by 25.6 percent annually. The main driver of this growth are still motor cars (42.7 percent of total exports), Ferro-alloys (4.3 percent of total exports) and ethyl alcohol (4.0 percent of total exports) have also high shares. As for the imports, motor cars, oil products, and medicaments are still the main imported goods, with 19.8, 8.2 and 3.4 percent shares, respectively.

## Tourism

In 2023, income from international travel in all four quarters fully recovered from and exceeded 2019 levels. In the third quarter of 2024, the income from tourism amounted to 1563.3 million USD, which is 8.0 percent more comparing to the same period of the previous year and it is 138.7 percent of the 2019 level. Russia is the largest contributor to tourism revenues, accounting for 26.1 percent of total revenues. The next contributor is European Union with 18.7 percent, followed by Turkey the with 17.0 percent.

Figure 27: Income from Tourism

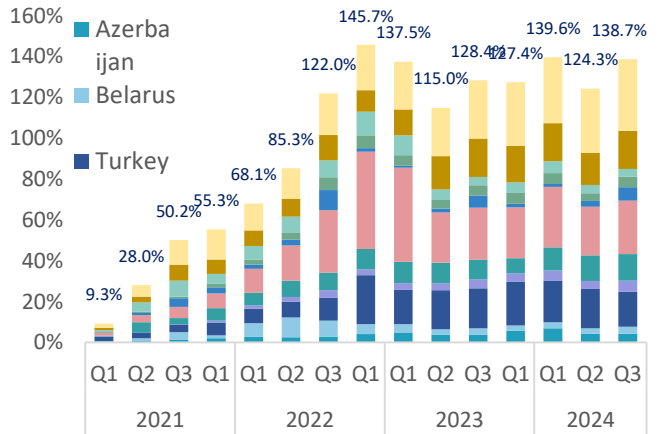


Source: NBG

## Remittances

In 2023, the net remittances reached 3,790,090 million USD. It decreased by 5.9 percent compared to the previous year. This decrease is caused by a high base effect and a significant decrease in net remittances from Russia (-26.7 percent y/y). It should be noted that 39.2 percent of net remittances in 2023 came from Russia.

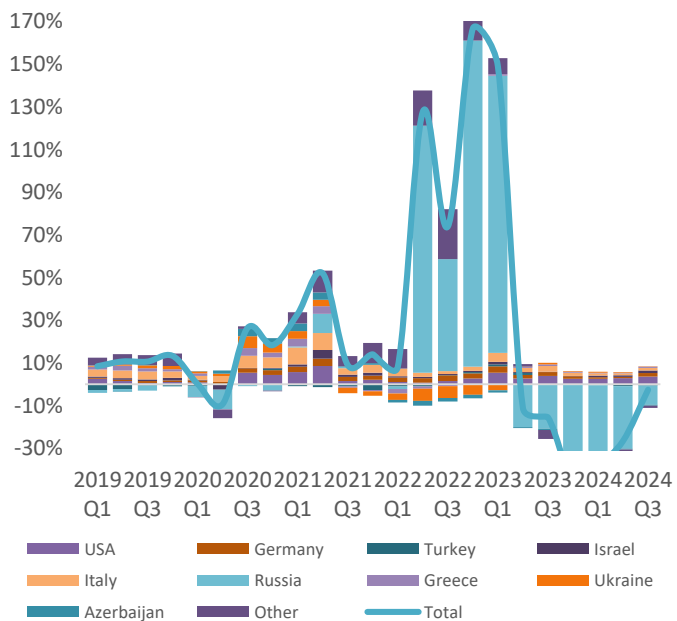
Figure 28: Income from tourism, mln USD



Source: NBG

As for the third quarter of 2024, the net remittances accounted 755.2 mln USD, which is by 36.0 percent less compared to the same period of the last year. Russia made the main negative contribution to the decrease by 29.3 pp. Kyrgyzstan (-0.3 p.p.), Kazakhstan (-2.2 p.p.), Turkey (-0.9) also contributed negatively. Growth was recorded in the net remittances from the USA of 28.1 percent, which contributed positively to overall growth by 2.9 pp. The net remittances from Germany also increased by 10.9 percent, which contributed 0.6 pp. to overall growth, and from Israel by 13.2 percent, which contributed 0.7 pp. There was also a positive impact from Italy which increased by 8.2 percent and contributed 1.0 p.p. positively to the growth.

Figure 29: Net Remittances



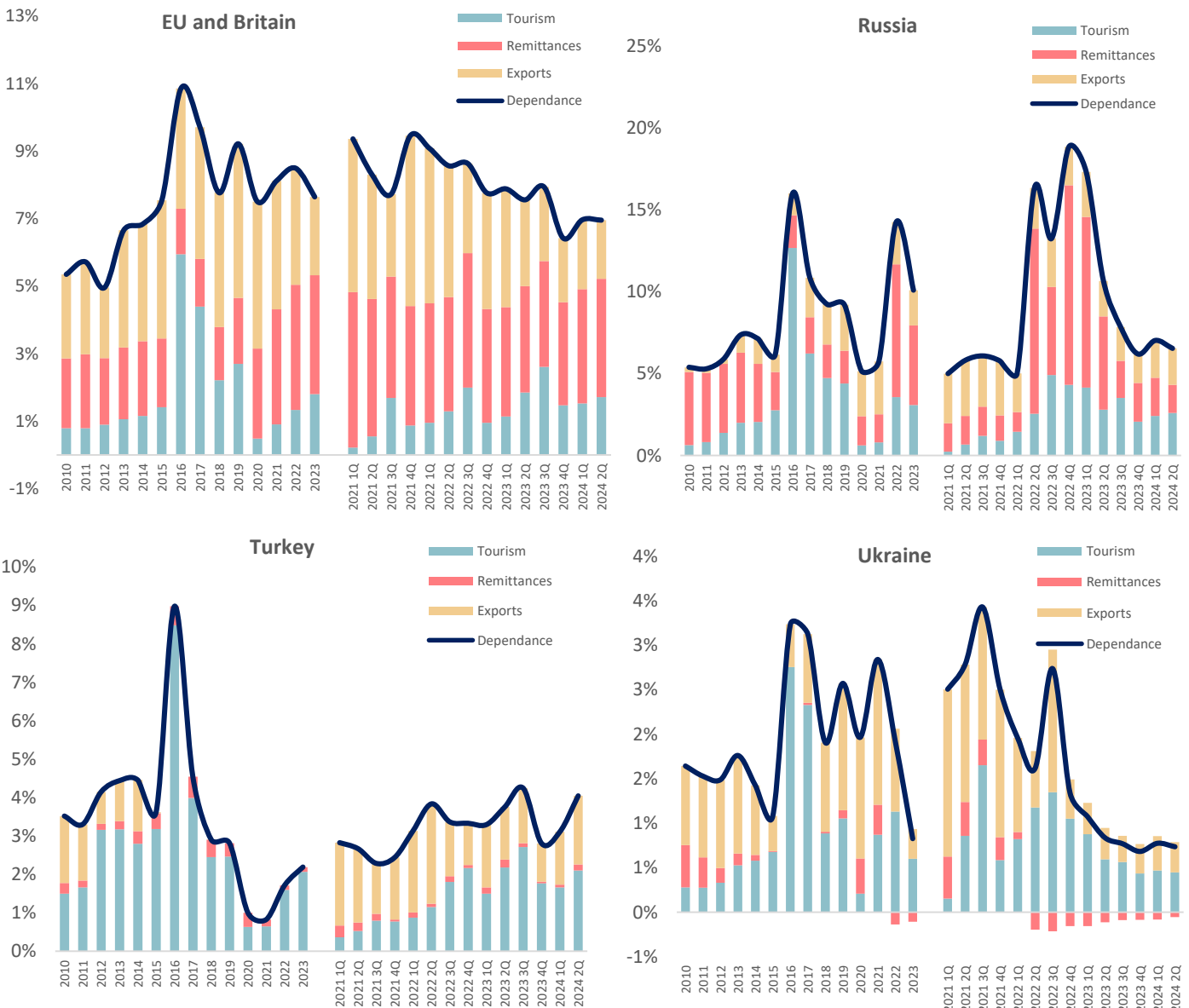
Source: NBG

It should be noted that remittances from Russia was decreased recently and had a significant negative contribution to the growth of the net remittances. The abovementioned dynamics changed in the second quarter of 2023 when a large amount of remittances were recorded.

### Dependence on Other Countries

The Georgian economy is diversified in terms of dependency on other countries. Based on the shares of exports, tourism, and transfers in the GDP, it can be concluded that Georgia has tight economic relationships with Russia, Turkey, and the European Union. According to the Q2 2024 data, the dependency on Russia is still high, but the reduction trend still continues and it decreased in the 2nd quarter of 2024. The dependency on Russia is still mainly driven by the tourism, the remittances, and the exports. The dependency on Turkey has increased in 2022 and 2023, mainly due to the revenues from tourism. Within the last 3 years a fall was observed in the dependency on Ukraine, which was due to a decrease in exports of goods and remittances. The dependency on the EU maintains at a high level, but reduced in Q2 of 2024 (compared to the same period of 2023). The fall in dependency of main trading partner countries (such as the EU and the Great Britain, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and Turkey) in the 2nd quarter and during the whole 2023 indicates to more diversified structure of the FX inflows of Georgia.

Figure 30: Dependence on Trading Partners (% of GDP)



Source: NBS, Geostat



Figure 31: Nominal Effective Exchange Rate

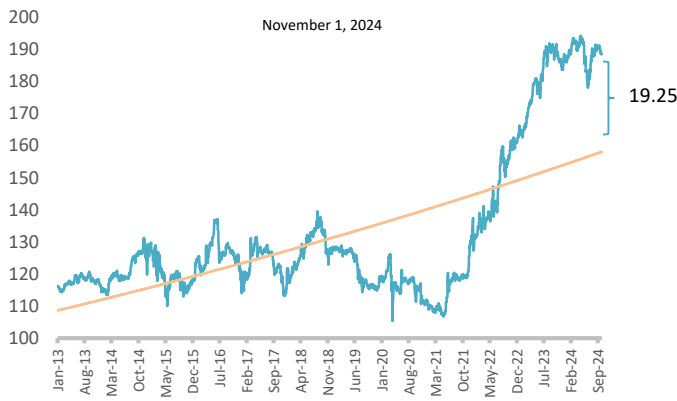


Figure 32: Real Effective Exchange Rate

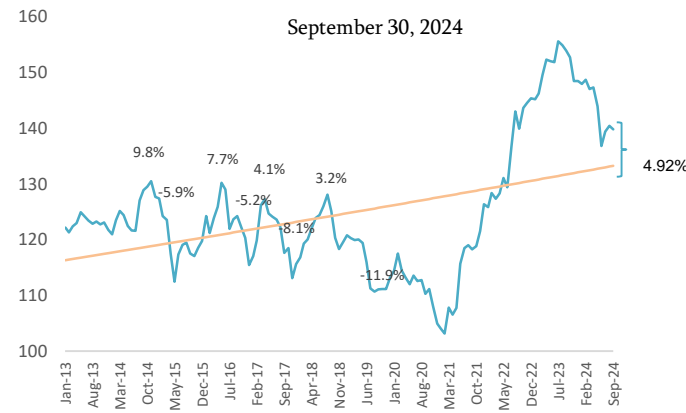


Figure 33: Volatility of Exchange Rates

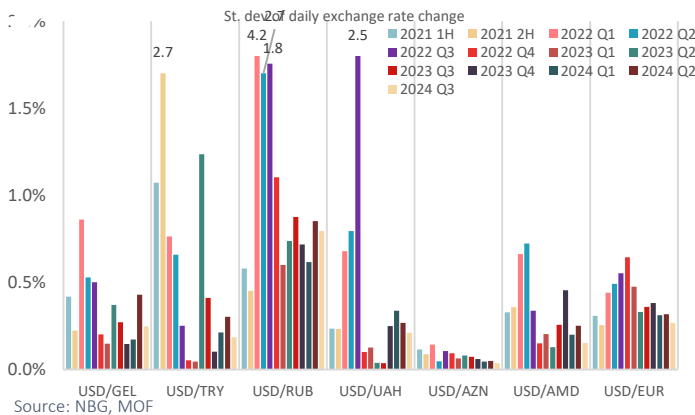


Table 1: Change of Nominal and Real Effective Exchange Rates

	October 1, 2024		October 1, 2024 - Jan 1, 2024		October 1, 2024 - Jan 1, 2023
Euro	3.0532	▼	-2.6%	▼	-5.5%
US Dollar	2.7300	▼	-1.5%	▼	-1.0%
Turkish Lira	0.0799	▲	13.9%	▲	80.6%
Russian Ruble	0.0293	▲	2.0%	▲	25.3%
NEER	188.46	▲	1.2%	▲	14.5%
REER (September 2024)	140.46	▼	-5.1%	▼	-3.4%

Source: NBG

## Exchange Rate

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the uncertainty was high all over the world, USD tended to be strong against other currencies. From the start of 2021, USD started to weaken against both developed and developing countries' currencies. GEL followed the same trend. From April 2021, GEL started sharp appreciation, which was due to the weaker USD, as well as strong numbers in export and improved expectations. From the start of 2022 GEL started gradual appreciation against USD as well as to other trading partners, but after Russia invaded Ukraine and full scale war started, GEL sharply depreciated, than throughout first quarter stabilized, all this caused sharp increase in GEL volatility, this increase in volatility was in line with behavior of the main trading countries' currencies. But at the end of the 2022 GEL and other currencies of our trading partners stabilized. As of 2024 Q3 the GEL's exchange rates were moving to different directions. Within the underlined period the main factors affecting the GEL's exchange rates were: capital inflows, economic activities, the FDI, and pre-election expectations and uncertainty and political turbulence. Within the same period, the Georgian Lari appreciated against USD by 2.0 percent. However it depreciated against EUR by 1.3 percentage compared to the previous quarter. Within the 3rd quarter of the current year, the GEL also depreciated against Turkish Lira by 6.4 percent. It is worth noting that the nominal exchange rate of GEL raised (depreciated) by 11.0 percent with respect to RUB. In the 3rd quarter of 2024, the nominal effective exchange rate of GEL was not changed. As for the real effective exchange rate of the national currency, it was depreciated and they (NEER and REER) were above their medium-term trends by 19.3 and 4.9 percent respectively.

# Fiscal Sector

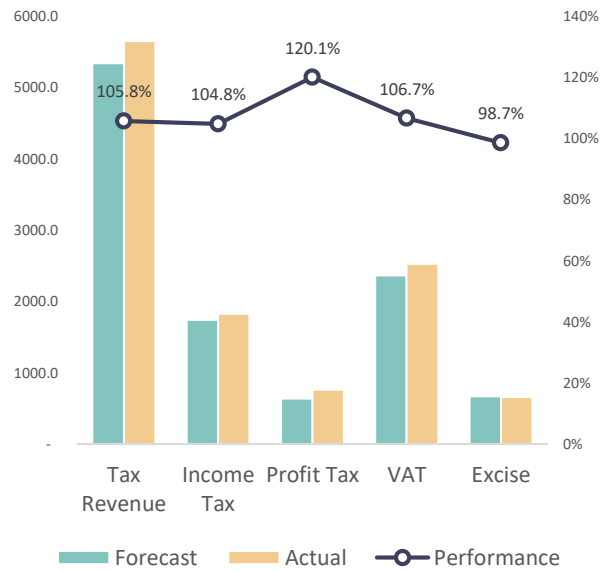
## Budget Performance

The consolidated budget tax revenue forecast for the third quarter of 2024 was set at 5,342 mln GEL, while 5,651 mln GEL was mobilized during the reporting period, which is 105.8 percent of the forecast.

- 1,826 million GEL is mobilized as income tax, which is 104.8 percent of the forecast figure (1,742 million GEL).
- 762 million GEL is mobilized as profit tax, which 120.1 percent of the forecast indicator (635 million GEL).
- 2,526 million GEL was mobilized as VAT, which is 106.7 percent of the forecast (GEL 2,367 million).
- 659 million GEL is mobilized as excise, which is 98.7 percent of the forecast indicator (668 million GEL).
- 37 million GEL is mobilized in the form of import tax, which is 93.1 percent of the forecast (40 million GEL).
- 40 million GEL is mobilized in the form of property tax, which is 193.1 percent of the forecast (21 million GEL).

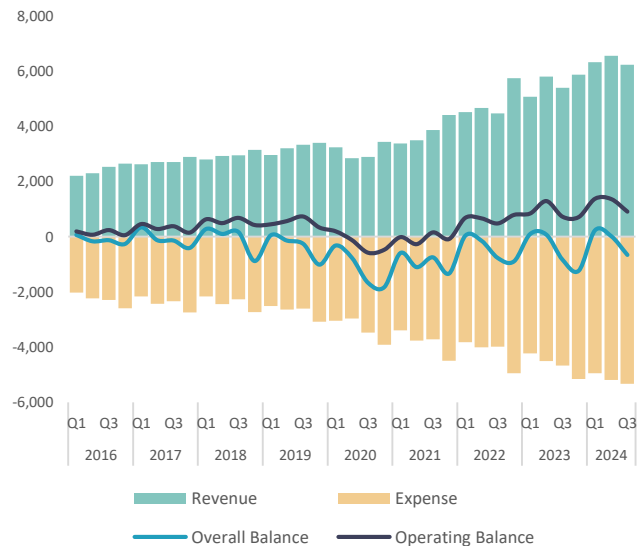
In the third quarter of 2024, compared to the same period last year, consolidated budget revenues increased by 15.6 percent and expenditures increased by 15.5 percent. At the same time, the operating budget of the consolidated budget, which represents the savings of the government, amounted to 908.8 million GEL, while the total balance was set at -657.9 million GEL.

Figure 34: Budget Revenue Performance



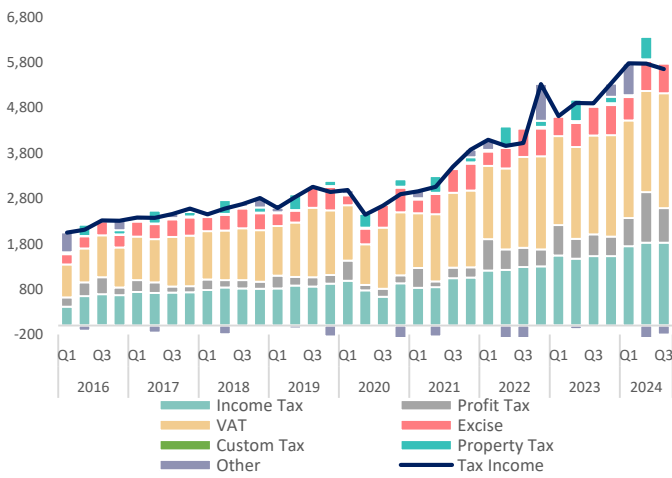
Source: MOF

Figure 35: Budget Balance



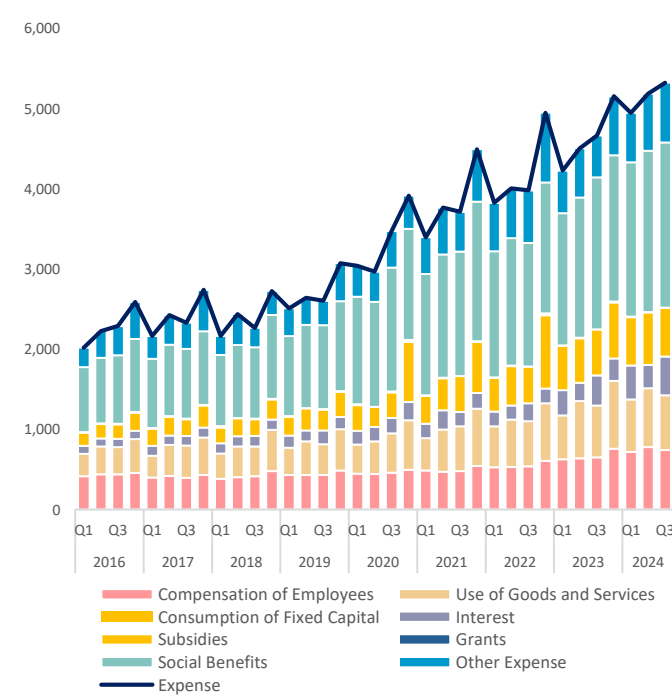
Source: MOF

Figure 36: Tax Income



Source: MOF

Figure 37: Budget Expenses



Source: MOF

A significant share of budget revenues is accounted by tax revenues, accounting for 90.7 percent in the third quarter of 2024. The consolidated budget received GEL 5,651 million in taxes, which is 15.5 percent more than the same period of previous year. Revenue from income tax increased by 19.2 percent year on year to GEL 1,826 million. Revenue from profit increased annually by 60.3 percent compared to the third quarter of 2023, amounted to 762 million and is 13.5 percent of total revenue from tax. At the same time, a significant increase in tax revenues is observed from VAT and income taxes. In particular, revenue from VAT increased by 16.1 percent, accounting 44.7 percent of total tax revenue, while revenue from income tax increased by 19.2 percent, and contributing by 32.3 percent. Revenue from property tax increased by 93.9 percent.

Expenditures in the third quarter of 2024 increased by 14.1 percent year on year to GEL 5,324 million. The largest share of budget expenditures is in social security expenditures, which account for 38.7 percent of total expenditures, while the annual growth rate is equal to 8.8 percent. Expenditures in the form of wages increased, with an annual growth rate of 14.3 percent to GEL 745 million, accounting for 14.0 percent of total expenditures. As for other items of expenditure, goods and services (12.8 percent of total costs), subsidies (11.4 percent of total costs), interest (9.1 percent of total costs) and other costs (14.0 percent of total costs) increased by 4.9 percent, 5.9 percent, 29.1 percent and 42.7 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2023, respectively.

### Government Debt

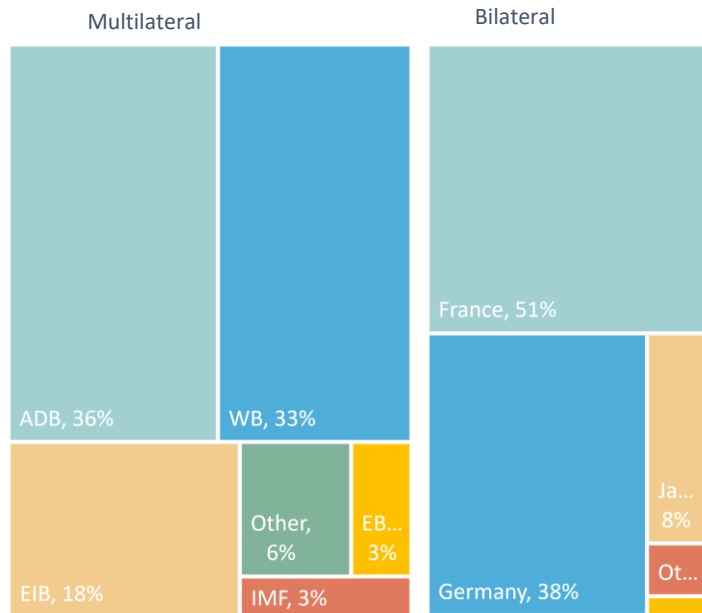
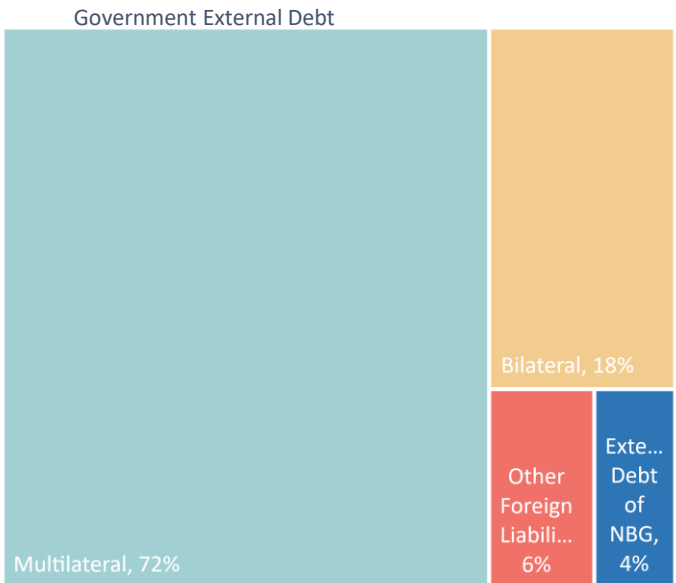
As of September 30, 2024, the stock of public debt of Georgia amounted to GEL 34,088 million, including:

☐ Government domestic debt stock is GEL 9,428.8 million, including:

- Annual Renewable Government Bond for the National Bank ("Bond for the NBG") - GEL 40.8 million;
- Government bonds with different maturities for open market operations ("Bonds for open market") - 160 million GEL;
- Treasury liabilities of the Ministry of Finance – GEL 360 million;
- Treasury bonds of the Ministry of Finance - GEL 8,823.9 million;

☐ Government external debt stock is 24,658.7 million GEL.

Figure 38: Government Debt



Source: MOF

# Monetary Sector

## Private Sector Larization

The larization of loans has an increasing trend and by 30th of September, 2024 it has reached 56.5 percent. It should be noted that the main determinant of the total loan larization is the loans larization granted to individuals. By 30 of September, 2024, the larization of the loans of individuals was 74.1 percent. In the same period, the larization of loans granted to legal entities amounted to 36.7 percent.

As for the larization of loans according to collaterals, the larization of the consumer loans significantly exceeds the larization of real estate loans. The larization of the consumer loans evolved around at 90 percent during the third quarter of 2024. By the 30th of September, 2024 it amounted to 89.9 percent. As for the larization of the mortgage loans, it amounted to 49.5 percent.

The larization of deposits remain lower than the larization of loans. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2024, the larization of the total deposits reached 50.2 percent. The larization of the deposits is mainly conditioned by the larization of deposits of legal entities. By the 30 of September, 2024, the larization of the deposits of the legal entities reached 65.1 percent and the larization of deposits of individuals in the same period was 35.6 percent.

It should be noted that the main contributor in the deposits larization is still time deposits larization. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2024, it reached 56.5 percent. In the same period, the current accounts larization amounted to 46.4 percent, while the larization of the demand deposits stands at 43.9 percent level.

Figure 39: Loan Larization

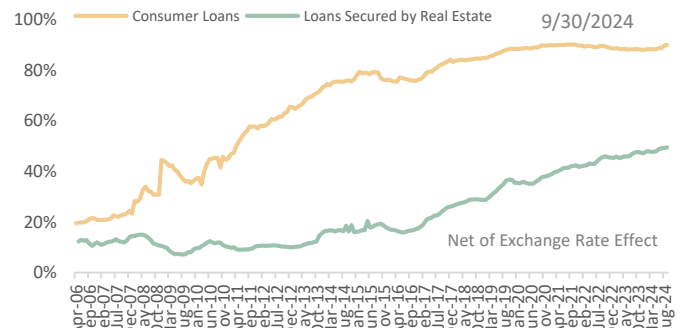
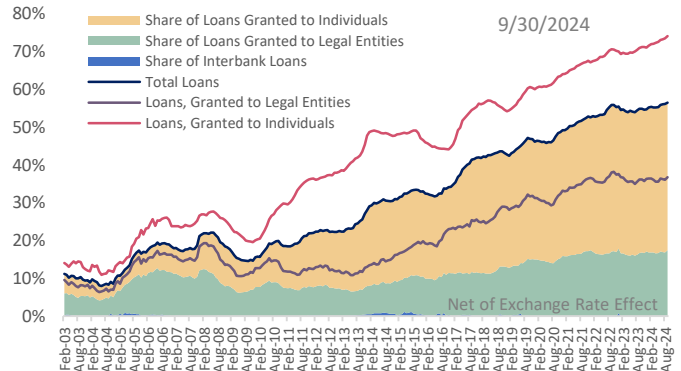
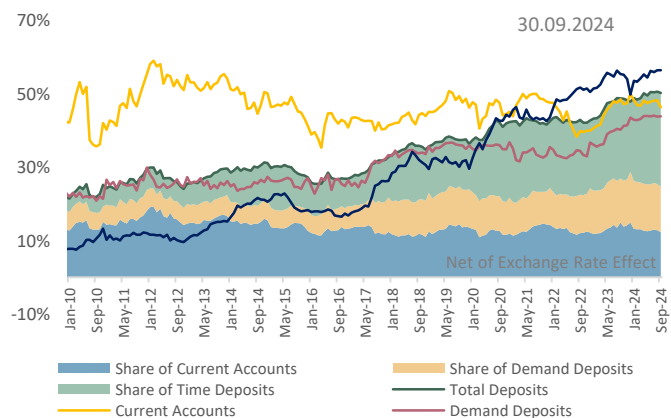
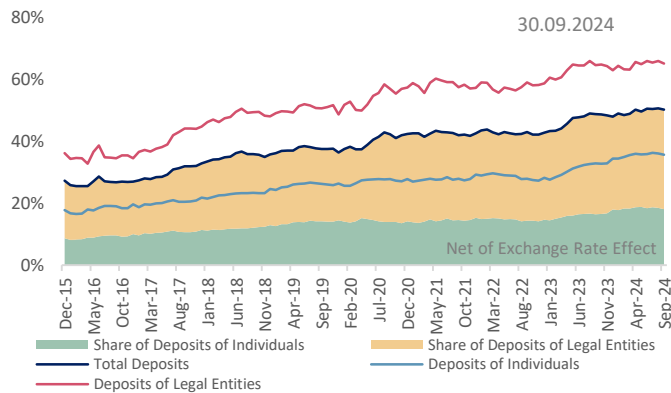
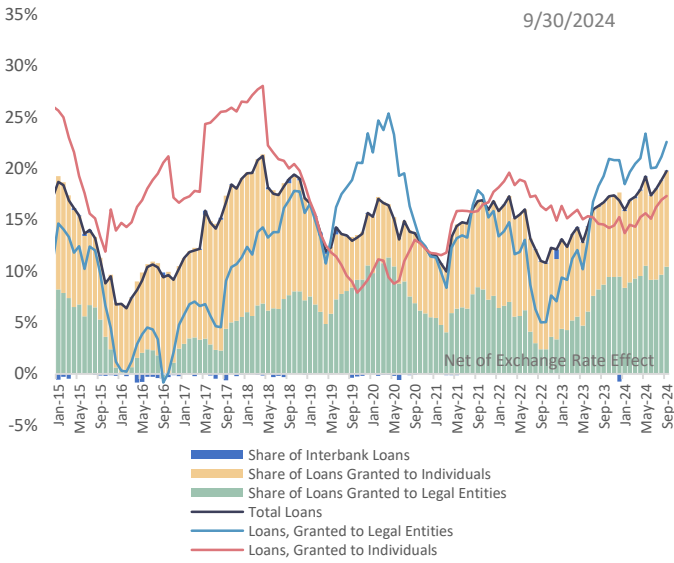


Figure 40: Deposit Larization



Source: NBG

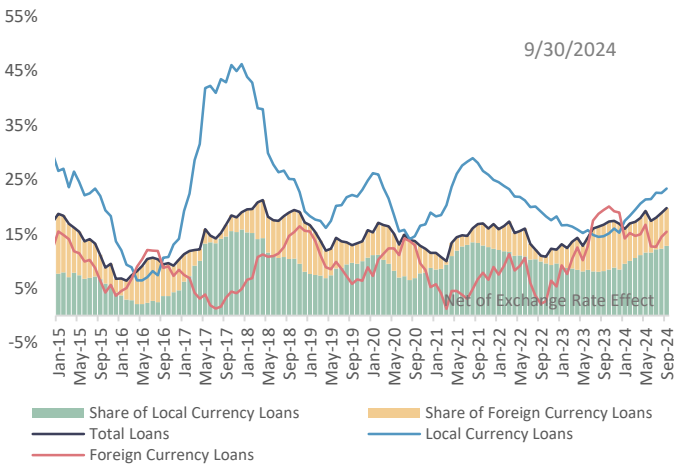
Figure 41: Annual Growth of Loans



Review of Loans

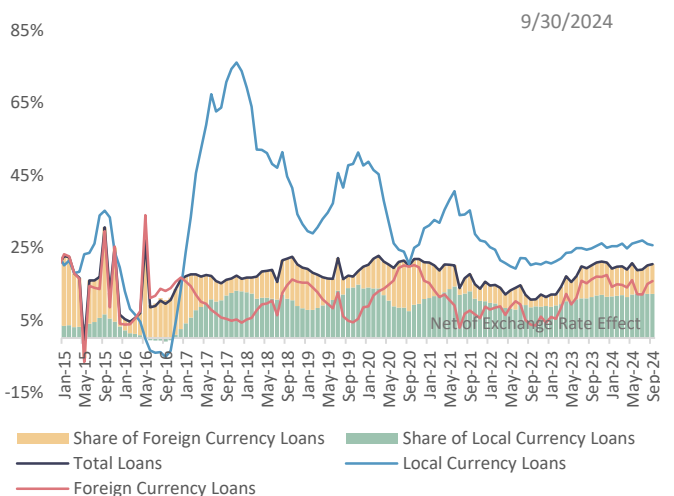
As of 30 September, 2024 the overall loans increased by 19.8 percent compared to the corresponding period of 2023, which was 2.4 percentage points greater than the previous quarter growth rate (net of exchange rate effect). A significant increase was observed also in the annual growth of the loans granted to legal entities. Its growth was amounted to 22.6 percent. During the same period, the loans to individuals increased by 17.3 percent.

It is important to note that there is an increasing trend in the growth of the loans denominated in the local currency as of 1 of September, 2024, it amounted to 23.3 percent that is 8.8 pp greater that the level of the same indicator in the corresponding period of 2023. During the same period, the growth of the loans in foreign currency was 15.4 percent, which is 2.7 percentage points lower than in the previous quarter (excluding exchange rate effect).



By 30 of September, 2024, the mortgage loans had increased by 20.4 percent compared to the corresponding period of the previous period. Moreover, the mortgage loans that are denominated in national currency increased by 25.6 percent that is 0.9 percentage points greater than in the previous quarter, while the foreign currency denominated mortgage loans increased by 15.7 percent, 3.7 percentage points higher than previous quarter.

Figure 42: Annual Growth of Loans secured by Real Estate



Source : NBG

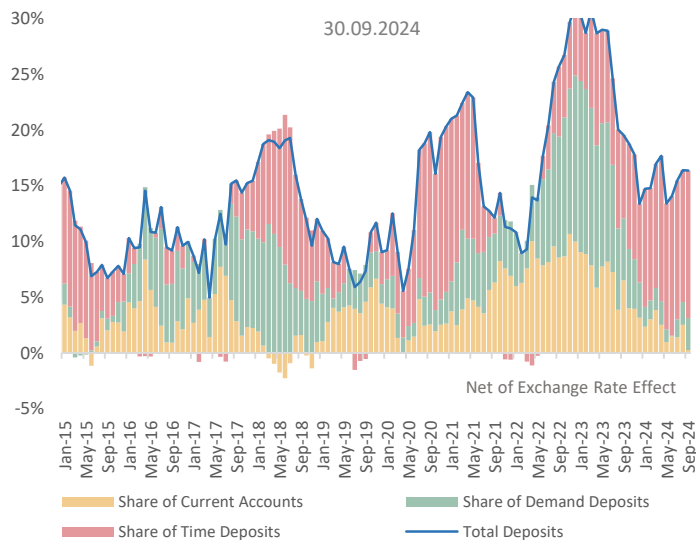
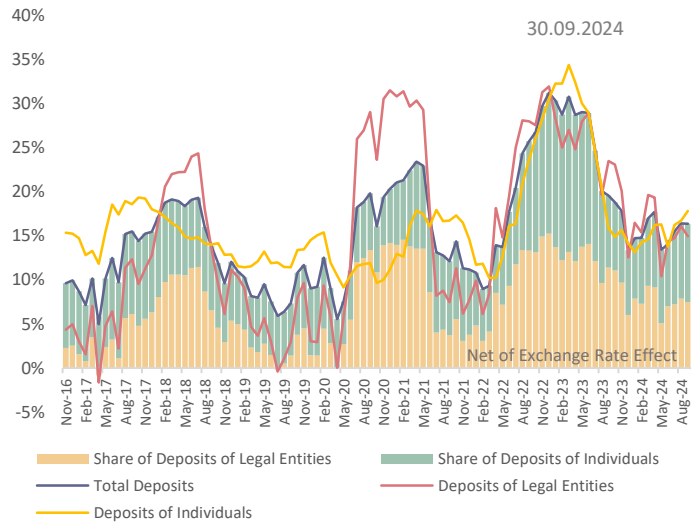
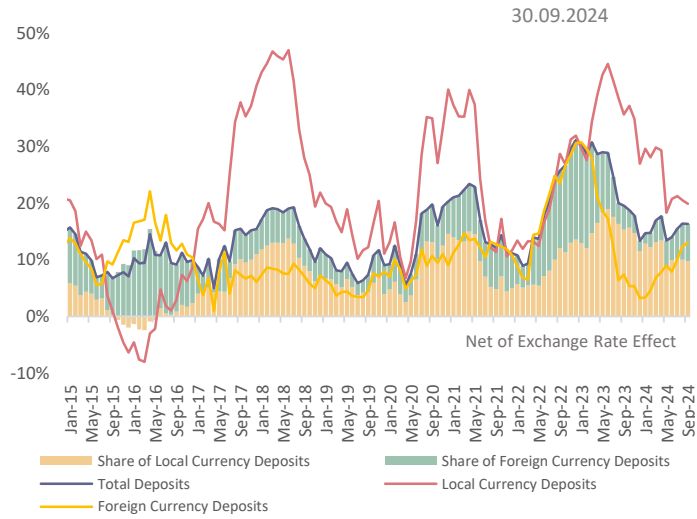
## Review of Deposits

The growth of the total deposits on was 16.4 percent on September 1, 2024. Compared to the corresponding period of 2023, it is 2.3 percentage points lower. A medium growth rate of the deposits is on the back of relatively slower growth rate of the foreign currency denominated deposits. The deposits denominated in the national currency increased by 19.9 percent, while the annual growth of the deposits denominated in foreign currency amounted 13.0 percent in the same period.

By the 30<sup>st</sup> of September, 2024, the annual growth of the deposits of individuals reached 17.8 percent, while the annual growth of the deposits of legal entities also experienced growth and amounted to 14.9 percent.

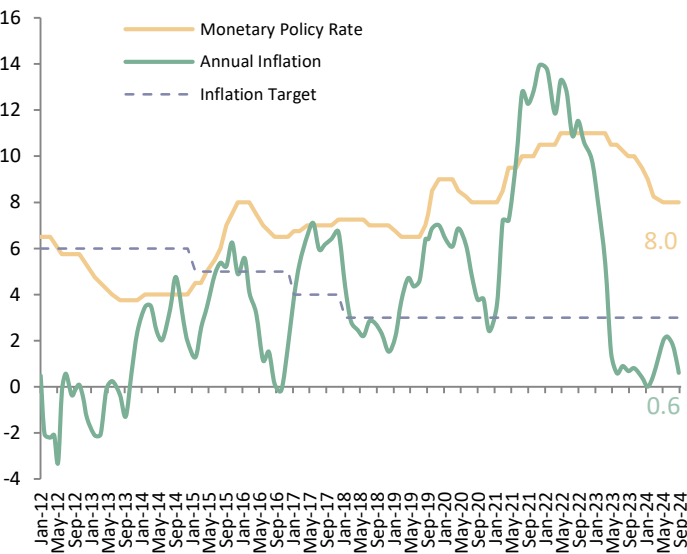
As for the growth of deposits by types, the larger deposits growth was reflected in the growth rate of the time and current deposits. By the 1st of September, 2024, the time deposits grew by 33.8 percent. As for the current and demand deposits, their growth rates equaled to 0.8 and 9.5 percent, respectively.

Figure 43: Annual Growth of Deposits



Source : NBG

Figure 44: Inflation and Monetary Policy Rate



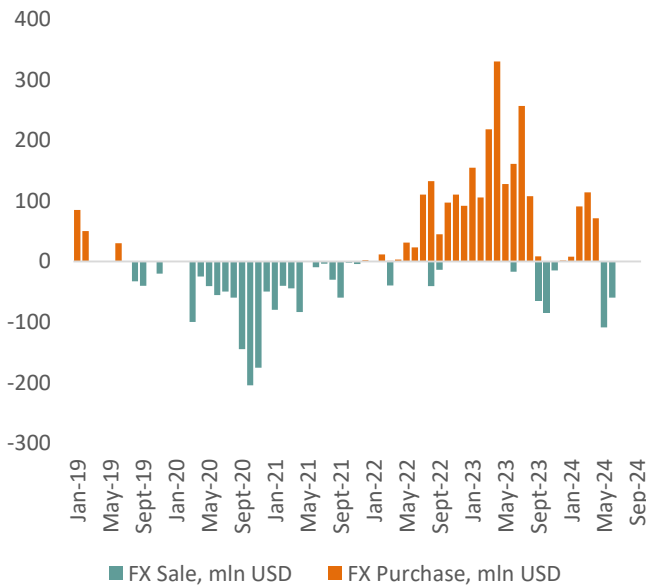
### Monetary Policy Rate

The Monetary Policy Committee of the National Bank of Georgia (NBG) held two sessions in the third quarter of 2024. On July 30 and September 11, the monetary policy authorities did not change the monetary policy rate and determined it at 8 percent level.

According to the NBG, there is a low-inflationary environment in the country. This situation is caused by different internal and external factors; Among the domestic factors such as the effects of the tight monetary policy of the NBG, declining inflation of domestically produced products and reduced inflation expectations are worth highlighting. Besides, the market competition has increased that creates a negative (lowering) pressure on firms' margins and prices. In addition, the country's economic growth is returning to a high rate (economic growth in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024 was 9.0%) which is supported by the expanding credit activities. Furthermore, the economy's production potential has been raised which creates price lowering pressure and low inflationary environment. Among the external factors, the Red Sea crisis, Russo-Ukrainian war and Israeli-Palestine and Israeli-Lebanese conflicts are relevant to be mentioned that contribute to an increase in the costs of international transport. The inflation in Georgia has already passed its peak period, decreased and even fell below the monetary policy target rate (3%). In September of this year, the inflation amounted to 0.6 percent. It should also be emphasized that the actual average inflation of the first 9 month of 2024 is 1.1%. It is expected that the National Bank of Georgia will ease the monetary policy at a slow pace, taking into account the inflationary risks.

The NBG did not make any foreign exchange interventions through the currency auctions during the third quarter of 2024.

Figure 45: Trade of USD by NBG, mln



Source: National Bank of Georgia



## Interest Rates

As of the 30<sup>st</sup> of September, 2024, the interest rate on foreign currency deposits was 2.2 percent, while on the national currency deposits it amounted to 9.9 percent.

As of October 1, 2024, the weighted average interest rate on deposits of legal entities in national currency was 10 percent, and in foreign currency – 3.0 percent. In the same period, the average annual interest rate was 2.2 percent on deposits of individuals in foreign currency and 9.9 percent in national currency.

By September 30, 2024, the weighted average annual interest rate on short-term consumer loans was 11.6 percent (15.8 percent in national currency and 6.0 percent in foreign currency). The weighted average interest rates on long-term consumer loans are largely determined by the loans denominated in the national currency. The magnitude of it was 15.7 percent in the above-mentioned period.

At the end of September, 2024, the interest rate on mortgage loans issued to legal entities in the national currency was 12.5 percent, and in foreign currency – 9.5 percent. The interest rate on loans to individuals in the national currency was 12.3 percent, and in the foreign currency it was 7.5 percent.

Figure 46: Interest rates on Deposits (stock)

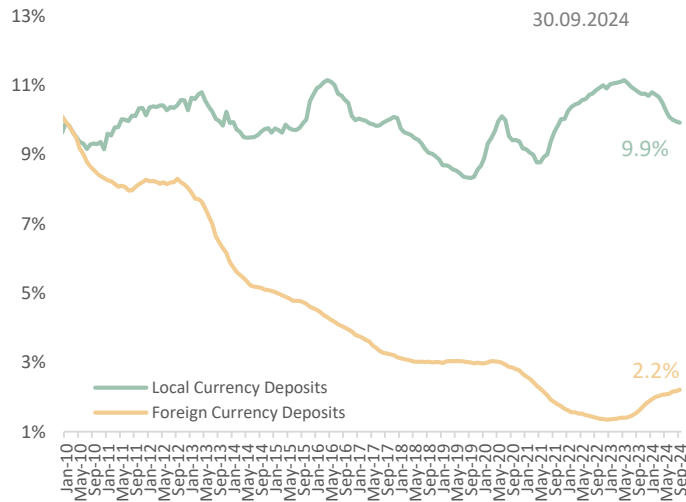
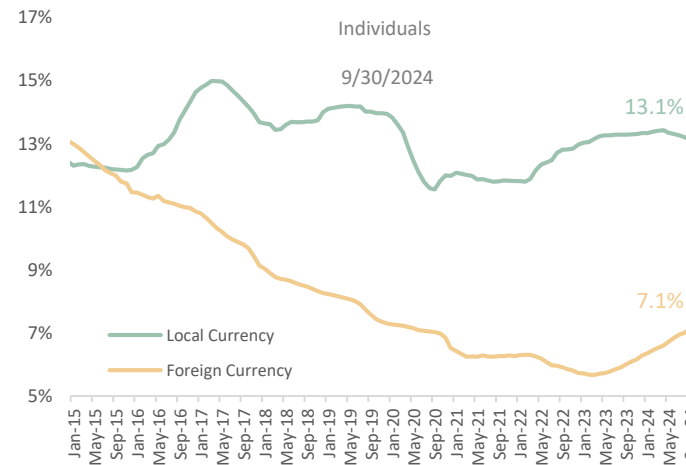
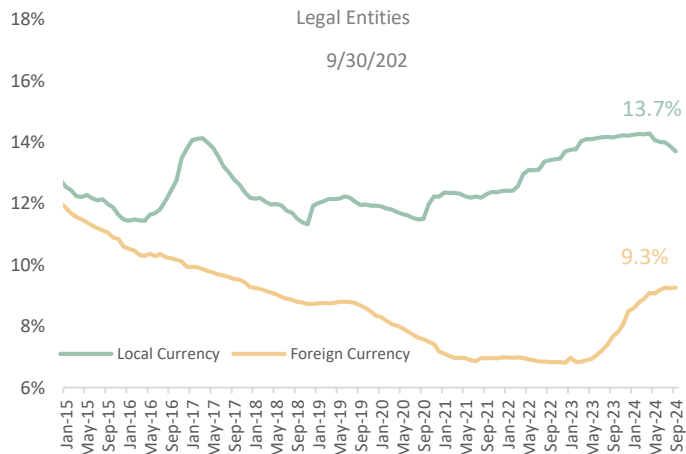


Figure 47: Interest rates on Loans secured by Real Estate



Source: NBG

## Disclaimer

The publication was prepared by the Macroeconomic Analysis and Fiscal Policy Planning Department of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. The information and opinions contained in this publication represent the views of the authors - the economic team of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Fiscal Policy Planning Department and do not represent the official position of the Ministry of Finance of Georgia. The analytical information provided in the publication serves informational purposes and is obtained from public sources. The forecasts and calculations given in the report should not be taken as a promise, reference or guarantee.

