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# CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS

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NOVEMBER 2017



MOFGEORGIA



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## Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

In 2015, economic growth in Georgia was 2.9 percent due to the external shocks in the region and slowed global economic growth.

Real yearly growth of 2016 amounted to 2.8 percent. According to preliminary data, for the first quarter of 2017 growth was 5.3 percent, for the second quarter it was 4.9 percent, while for the third quarter it was 4.4 percent.

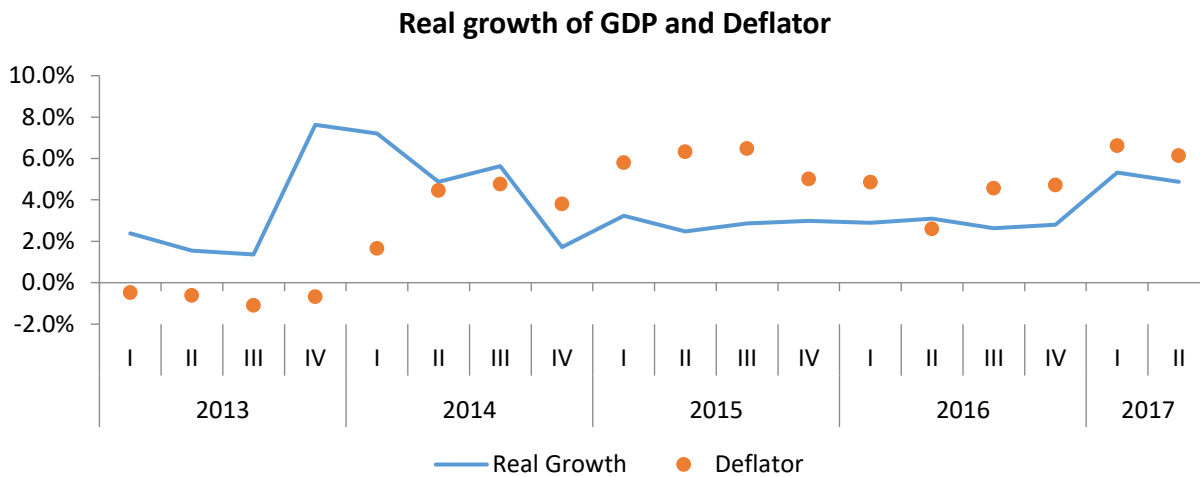


Diagram 1. Quarterly Dynamics of Real GDP Growth and GDP Deflator.

## Economic Growth in Georgia and Neighboring Countries

Economic activity of the region has declined by the end of 2016 and resulted in reduced economic growth of all countries. As noted above, the growth rate in Georgia in 2016 was 2.8 percent, which makes it the one of the leading economies in the region.

### Economic Growth of 2016 (Preliminary Data)

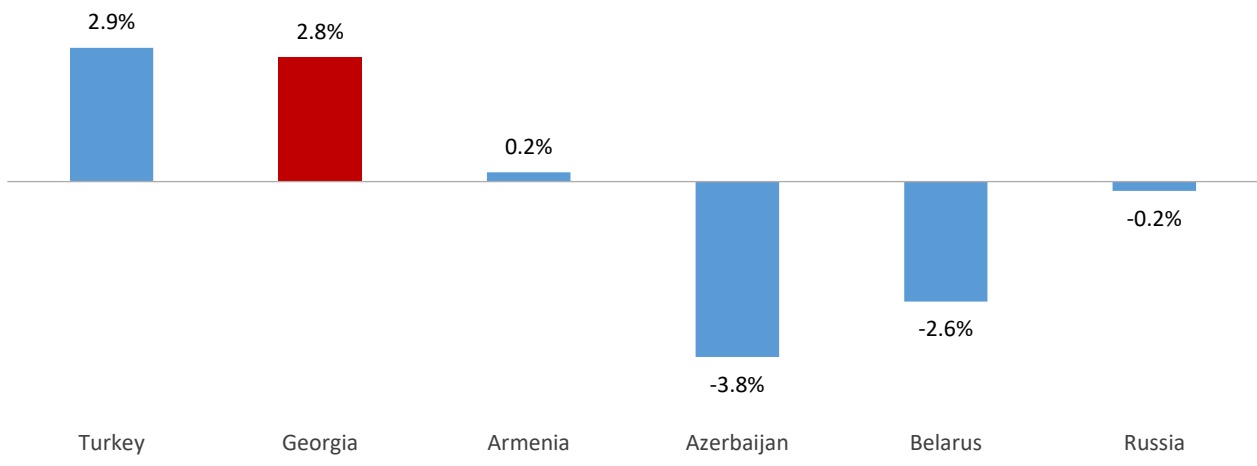
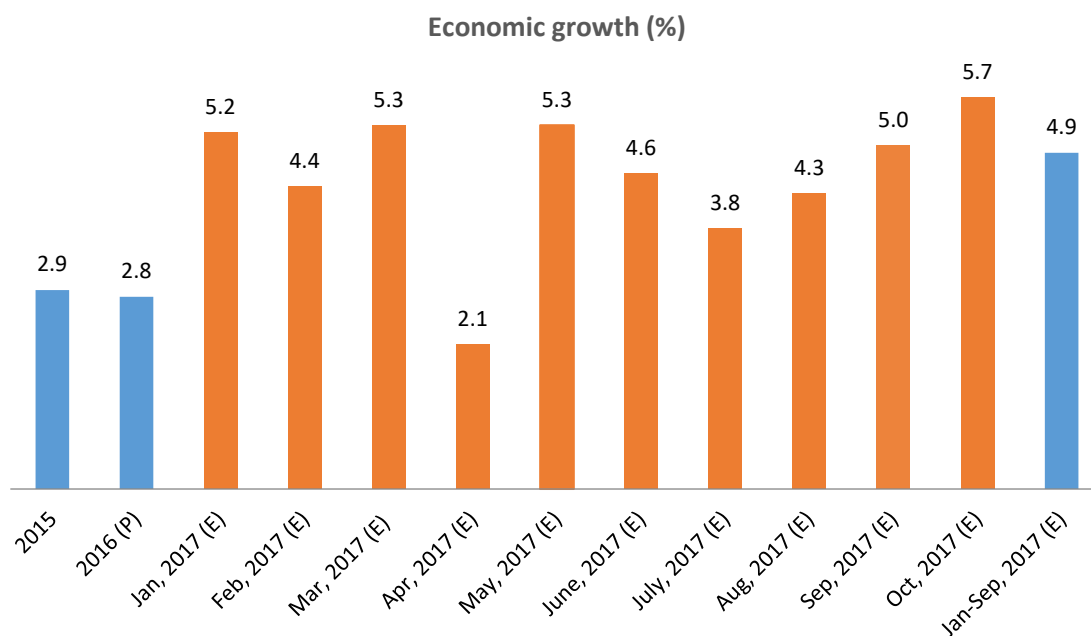


Diagram 2. Economic Growth in the countries of the Region in 2016.

According to the rapid estimates in January 2017 real GDP growth stood at 5.2%, in February the growth rate was 4.4%, in March it reached 5.3%, in April – 2.1%, in May – 5.3%, in June – 4.6%, in July – 3.8%, in August – 4.3%, in September 5.0%, and in October – 5.7%. Overall, in the ten months, economy has increased by 4.9% compared to the last period.

For the second quarter, the main growth was in the following sectors: construction (growth 16.4, contribution 1.1%), transport (growth 7.0, contribution 0.5%), Trade (growth 3.7, contribution 0.5%), Real Estate (growth 7.2, contribution 0.4%), hotels and restaurants (growth 12.9, contribution 0.4%).

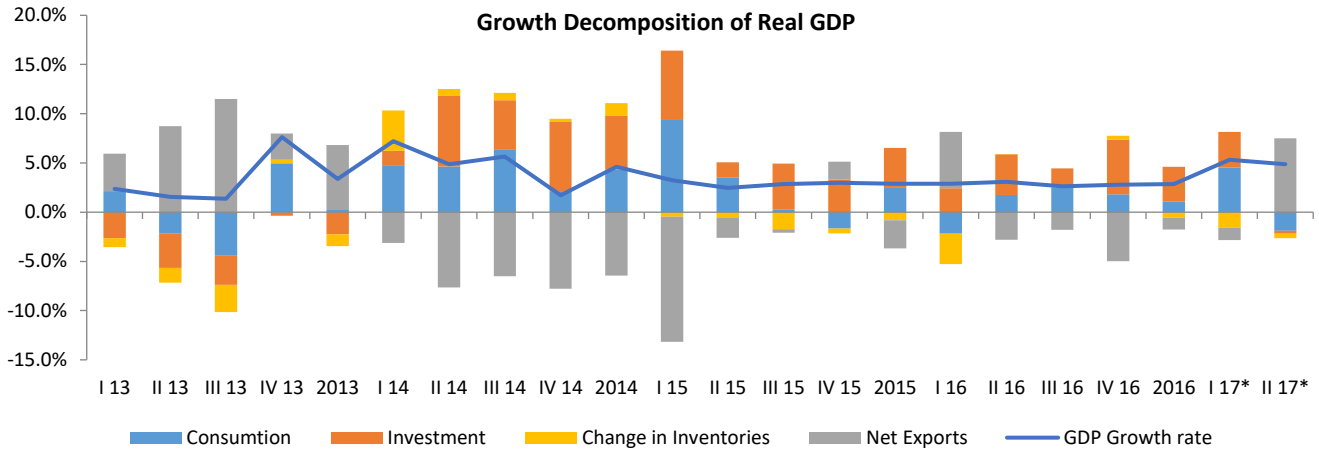
For September, the main growth was in the following sectors: manufacturing (growth 9.7, contribution 1.1%), financial intermediation (growth 13.4, contribution 0.4%), hotels and restaurants (growth 20.2, contribution 0.4%).



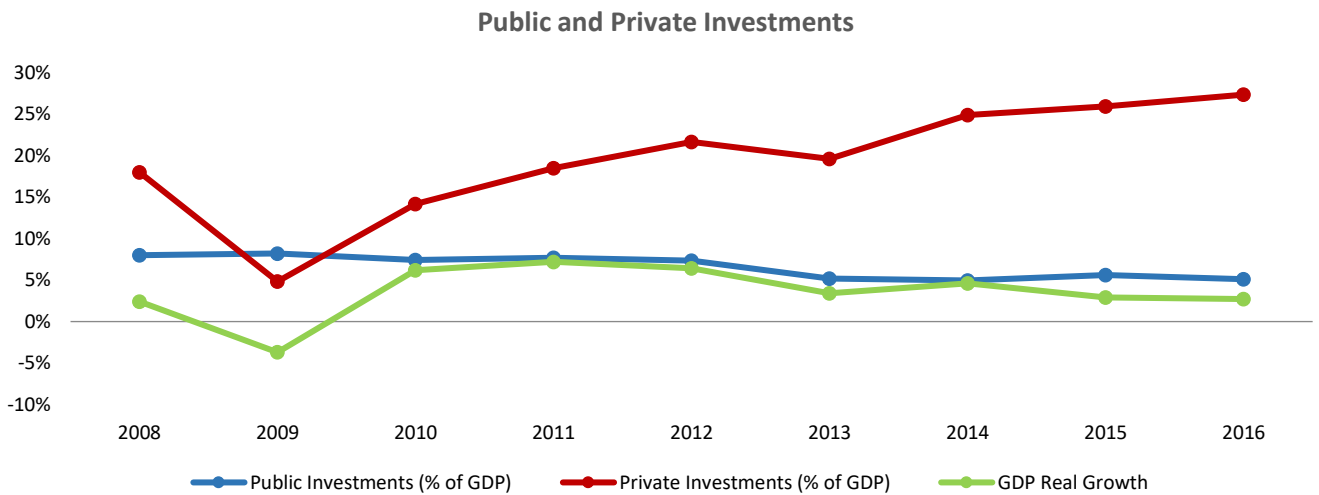
## Structure of Economic Growth

Economic growth of 2016 was 2.8 percent, in which the main contributor (3.5%) was investment. Growth was positively affected by the consumption, but its contribution was 1.1%. Real consumption was increased by only 1.2 percent compared to the last year, due to increased costs of debt service given high dollarization level in the country. Net export influenced the economic growth negatively (-0.9%), that can be explained by external demand shock.

Economy has started to recover from 2017. Shocks are offered in the trade partners, as a result, export and money transfers have increased, nominal effective and GEL/USD exchange rate have stabilized, that has led to improve expectations and was positively affected to export, consumption and economic growth overall. In total, economic growth was 5.3 percent in the first quarter, 4.9 in second quarter and 4.4 in third quarter. In 2017, growth is mainly driven by external demand.



Private investments are the main part of overall investment.

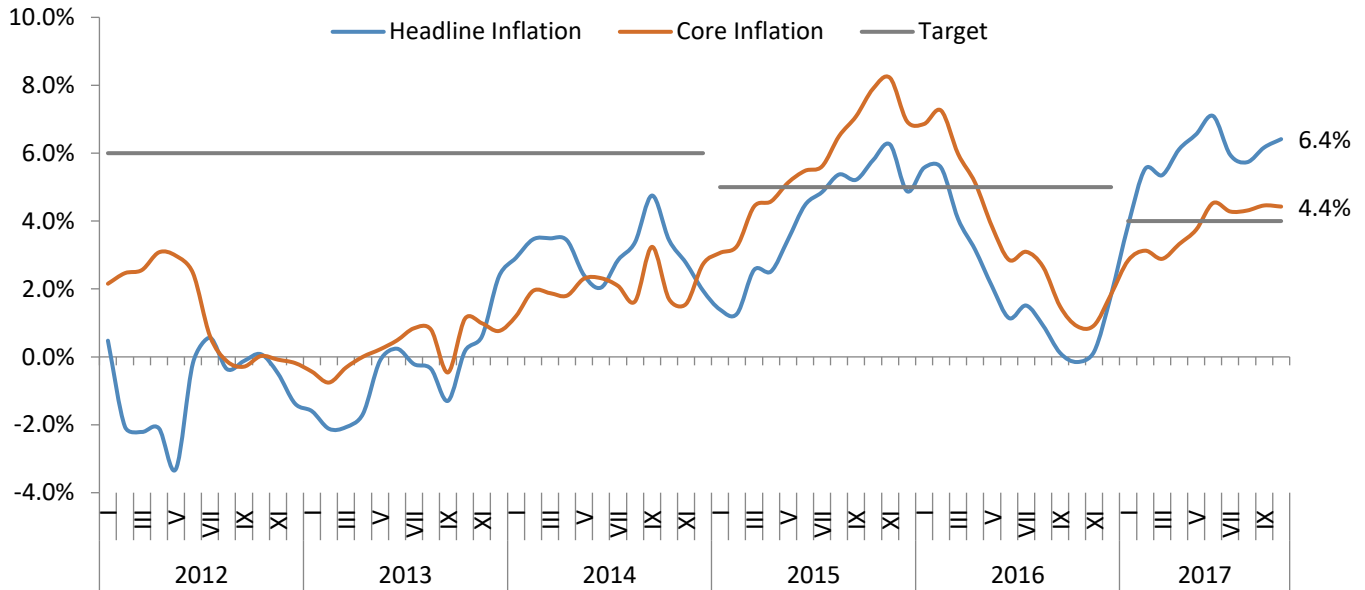


## Prices

National Bank of Georgia has relied on inflation targeting. In 2016, inflation target of the National Bank of Georgia (NBG) was 5.0 percent. Although the annual inflation by the end of 2015 was 4.9 percent, in 2016 there was a declining trend in inflation. Starting from August 2016, inflation was lower than 1 percent. In December 2016, inflation rate increased to 1.8 percent. As a result, in 2016, inflation was significantly lower than its target and was amounted to 2.1 percent, which was mainly determined by expectations of reduced inflation and lower imported inflation: rapidly declining of oil and food prices. In addition, core inflation amounted to 1.8 percent<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Inflation net of energy, food and administered tariffs

From 2017 the inflation target set at 4.0 percent. In November 2017, consumer price index in Georgia increased by 6.9 percent. Core inflation in the same period was 5.1 percent and average annual inflation was at 5.2 percentage level.



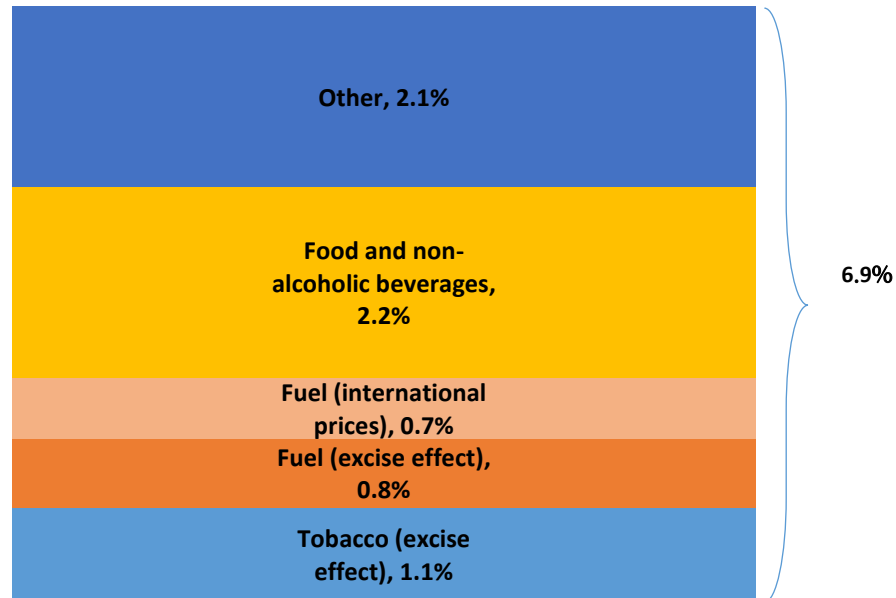
Price changes on the following groups of products contributed to formation of yearly inflation<sup>2</sup>:

- Food and non-alcoholic beverages: prices increased 7.5 percent, contributing 2.24 percentage points to the annual inflation. Prices were up for the following subgroups: vegetables (25.8 percent), meat (9.9 percent), milk, cheese and eggs (9.7 percent), fruit and grapes (9.0 percent), oils and fats (7.4 percent), coffee, tea and cocoa (6.1 percent);
- Transport: prices increased 15.8 percent, contributing 2.02 percentage points to the annual inflation. The prices were up for operation of personal transport equipment (18.9 percent), purchase of vehicles (18.6 percent) and transport services (8.5 percent);
- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco: prices increased 19.4 percent, with a relevant contribution of 1.24 percentage points to the overall index growth. Prices within the group were higher for tobacco (40.4 percent);
- Health: prices were up 6.4 percent, which resulted in a 0.55 percentage point contribution to the overall annual inflation. Prices increased for subgroups of medical products, appliances and

<sup>2</sup> Source: National Statistics Office of Georgia



equipment (12.2 percent) and out-patient services (6.3 percent).



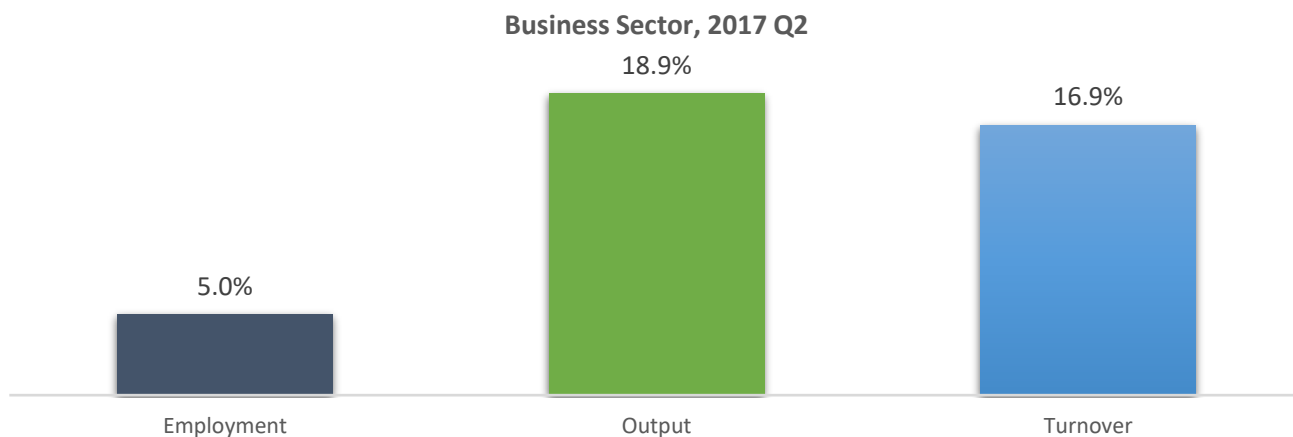
## The Role of Private Sector in Economic Growth

Private sector had a leading role in economic growth of the country in 2015 and the trend continued in 2016 as well. Real value added by the business sector in 2015 compared to the previous year has increased by nine percent.

Turnover of the business sector increased by 13.3 percent during 2016. At the same period, the value of industrial production increased by 14.6 percent compared to the same period of 2015. Turnover of the business sector increased by 19.1% in the first quarter of 2017 compared to the same period of 2016, growth was 16.9% in the second quarter and in the third quarter it was 19.7%. The growing tendency has production and is 19.6% higher than the first three quarters of 2016.

In 2016, 36.3 thousand more people employed in business sector compared to the previous year. Total employment reached 621 thousand. In the first quarter of 2017 605.0 thousand people were employed which is 4.7% higher compared to the previous year, in the second quarter employment there was 30.3

thousand higher (by 5%) and in the third quarter it has grown by 37.9 thousands (6.3 percent) and amounted to 643.9 thousand.



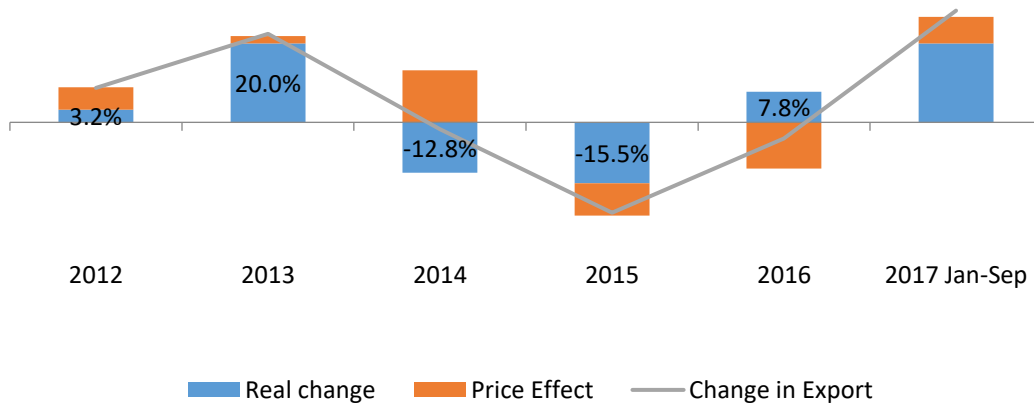
## External Trade

Export has started to decline from August 2014. The tendency reversed in the third quarter of 2015 when price effect was dominating in export reduction and export stopped to decline in real terms.

During 2016 export was increasing in real terms. In the first quarter export increased by around 7.0 percent, while in the fourth quarter real growth was 10.5 percent. As a result, real export increased by 7.8 percent in 2016 after declining trend for two years. Positive growth in nominal terms at 8.3 percent took place in September, while nominal export increased slowly, by 0.8 percent in October. The growth amounted to 16.8 percent in November, while in December export in nominal terms increased by 5.1 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. Export declined by 4.1 percent in nominal terms throughout the year.

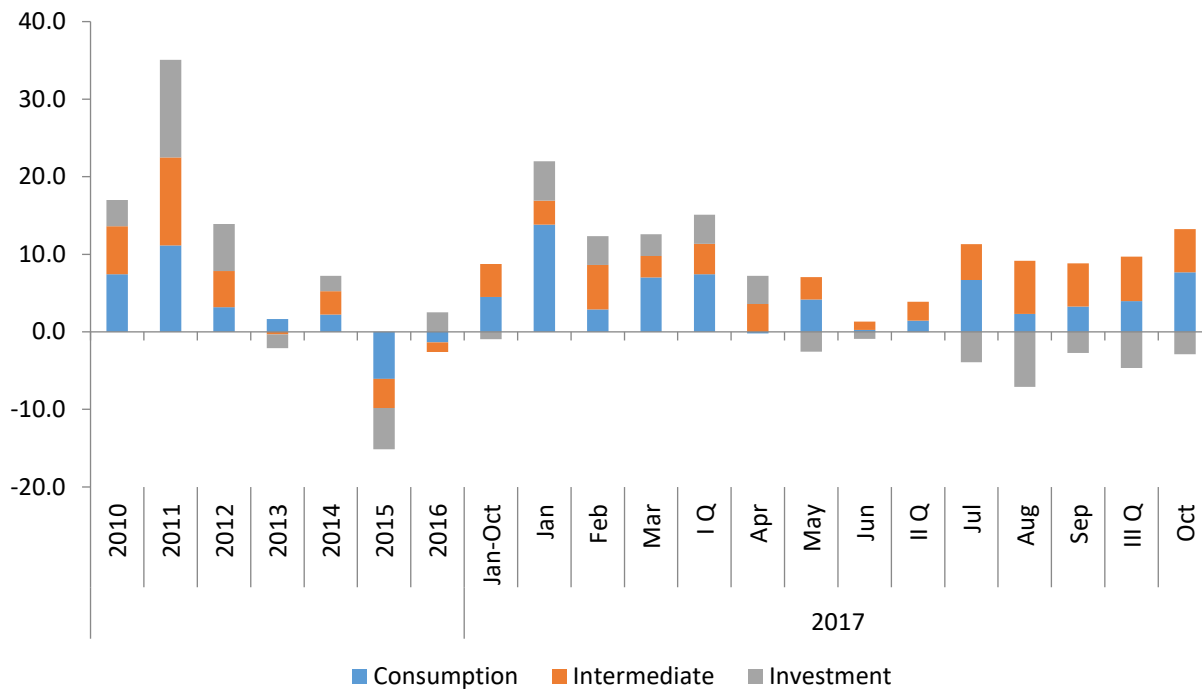
In January 2017, there was a sharp increase in export and amounted to 44.7 percent, in February 13.0, in March 36.3 percent, in April 27.3 percent, in May 24.9 percent, in June – 37.4 in July – 22.4 percent, in August – 25.6 percent, in September – 27.3% and in October 38.3 percent. In total, growth of exports in January-October amounted 29.4 percent in nominal term. Sharp increase was observed in Ferro-alloys (contribution in growth 7.3%), Copper ores and concentrates (contribution in growth 5.1%), Wine of fresh grapes (contribution in growth 2.8%), oil and oil products (contribution in growth 2.3%), Medicaments (contribution in growth 1.8%). From the first nine months data, export of goods increased by 29.4%, which mainly comes from real growth of exports.

Decomposition of Export Dynamics



Import adjustments resulting from currency depreciation started in the second quarter of 2015 and import declining dynamics continued to May 2016. Since May, significant growth of import of investment goods, which was mainly caused by growth of machinery import (including generators, medical equipment, calculating machines, industrial equipment, etc.), contributed to growth of total import. In addition, growth of intermediary goods import (including machinery parts, fuel and lubricants) was high periodically. During the last three months, consumption goods import had a significant share in total import growth, which was linked to petroleum import. During the year, only investment goods import had a positive share in total import growth.

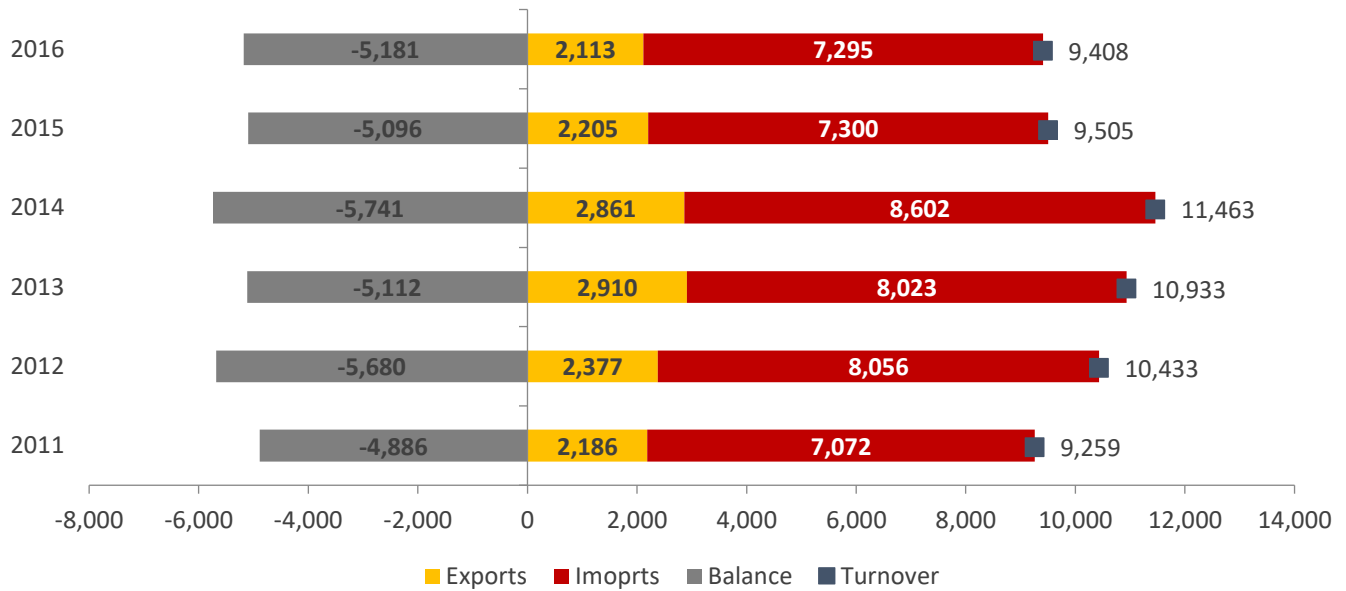
In January-September 2017 there was observed 7.8 percent growth in imports. High growth was in import of consumption goods, which is mainly due to fuel import. Significant growth was in intermediate product import as well and Investment goods in decreased.



In 2016 export declined by 4.1 percent compared to the same period of 2015 and amounted to USD 2,114 million. Export excluding re-export amounted to USD 1,658 million in the same period, which is higher by 1.0 percent compared to the same period of the previous year. Import declined by 0.7 percent and amounted to USD 7,234 million<sup>3</sup>. In total, there is deterioration of trade balance by USD 43 million.

<sup>3</sup>Excluding imports of medicaments for C hepatitis

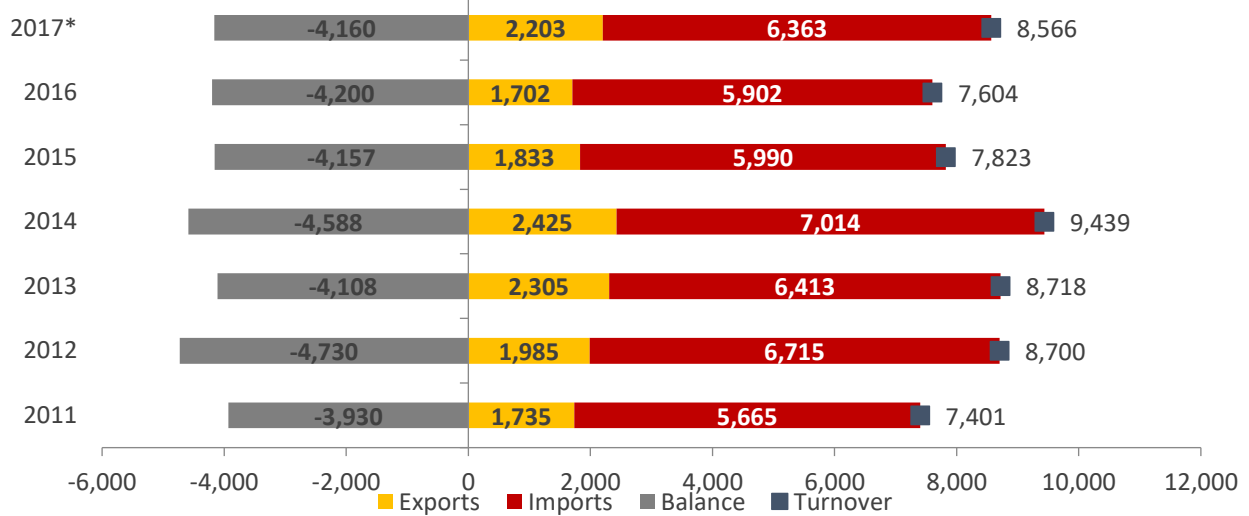
## External Trade (mln USD)



To sum up dynamics in trade with goods, in ten months of 2017 exports have increased by 29.4 percent. This constitutes 500.9 million USD in nominal terms. At the same time growth in imports amounted to 7.8 percent or 461.1 million USD. As a result, trade balance improved by around 39.7 million USD as compared to the same period of 2016.

## External Trade (mln USD)

January-October

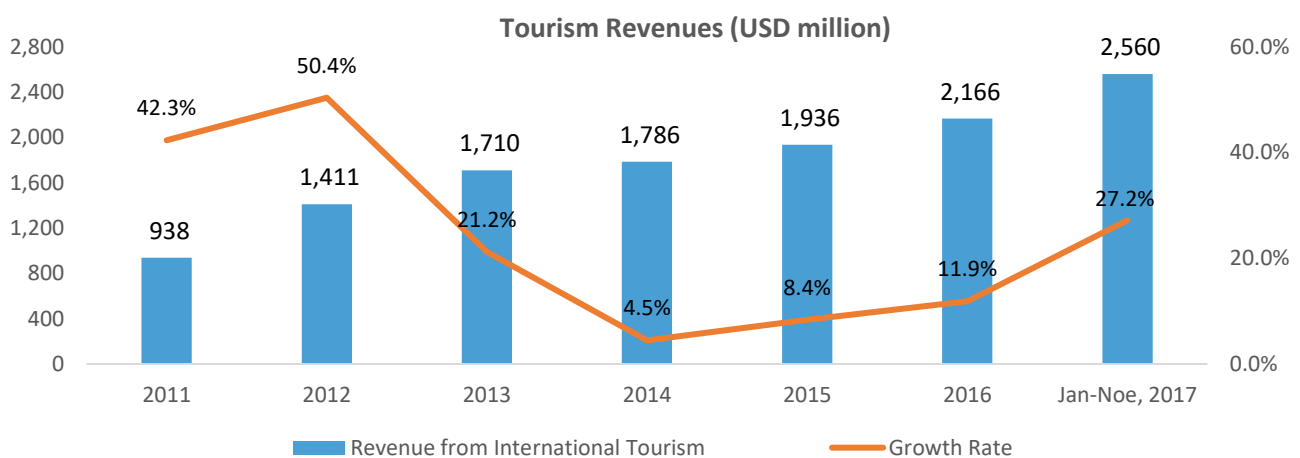


## Tourism

In 2016, revenues from international tourism increased by 11.9 percent and generated by around USD 230 million more foreign exchange inflow compared to the previous year.

In 2016, international tourism revenues exceeded USD 2 billion for the first time. During the last five years tourism has formed as one of the important sectors of the economy.

During the first eleven months of 2017, there were 6,955 thousand visitors in Georgia, which was 18.6 percent higher than in the previous year. Tourism revenues amounted to around USD 2,560 mln USD which is by 28.2 percent, or 547 mln USD greater than the last year.



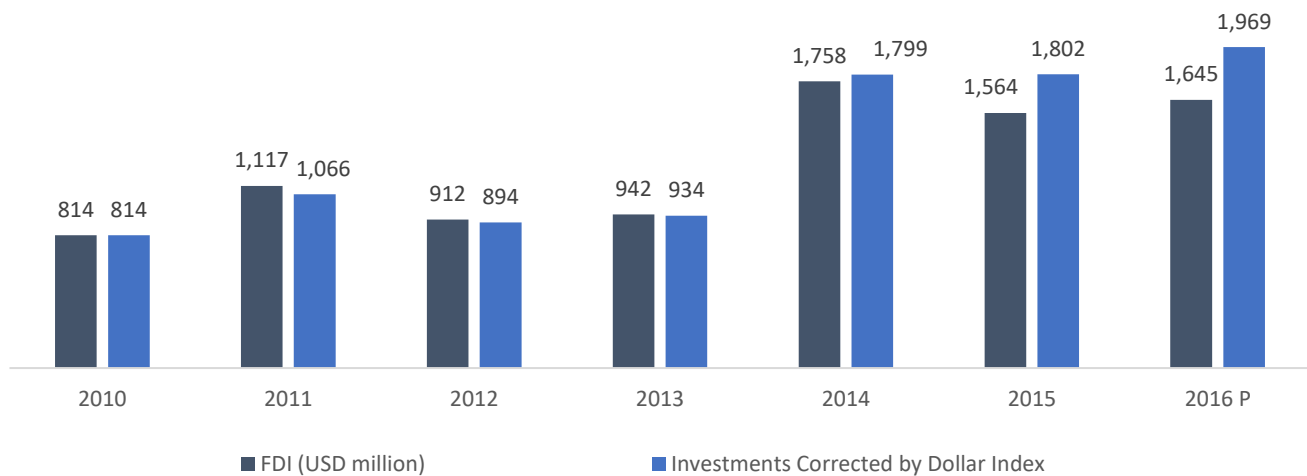
## Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)

During the last three years, Foreign Direct Investments has improved significantly in Georgia. In 2016 FDI was USD 1,645 million, which is by 5.2 percent higher compared to 2015.

According the preliminary data FDI for the three quarter of 2017 was USD 1,346.5 million, which is 2.9 percent higher compared to the same period of the last year.

Despite that, real growth rate of FDI is impressive. Taking into account dynamics of dollar appreciation, real growth rate of dollar denominated FDI is limited. For more precise number, it is important to correct FDI by dollar index. Considering such correction, FDI growth was 9.2 percent in 2016 compared to the previous year.

### Foreign Direct Investments



In 2016, investments in transport and communication contributed with the highest share of 39.2 percent to total FDI, while the shares of other sectors are: energy sector – 12.3 percent, construction – 9.9 percent, financial sector – 8.3 percent, manufacturing – 7.3 percent, hotels and restaurants – 6.7 percent, real estate - 4.2 percent.

As for 2017, according to the preliminary data, for the third quarter the highest share to total FDI had transport and communication – 29.9 percent, construction – 19.5 percent, energy – 12.2 percent, finance sector – 12.0 percent, manufacturing – 6.6 percent, hotels and restaurants – 5.1 percent, real estate – 3.5 percent and mining – 2.3 percent.

For the second quarter of 2017, investments from OECD countries amounted 49.7 percent of total FDI.

There is improvement in FDI diversification by investing in new sectors. For instance, in 2015, there was rapid growth of investments in healthcare compared to the previous years. There was growth investment in energy sector in 2016 compared to 2015 and it amounted 12.3 of total FDI.

During the 2016, investments from OECD countries amounted 46.5 percent of total FDI.

The biggest investors by FDI in Georgia are Azerbaijan with 25.9 percent, Turkey with 23.3 percent and the UK with 10.7 percent shares.

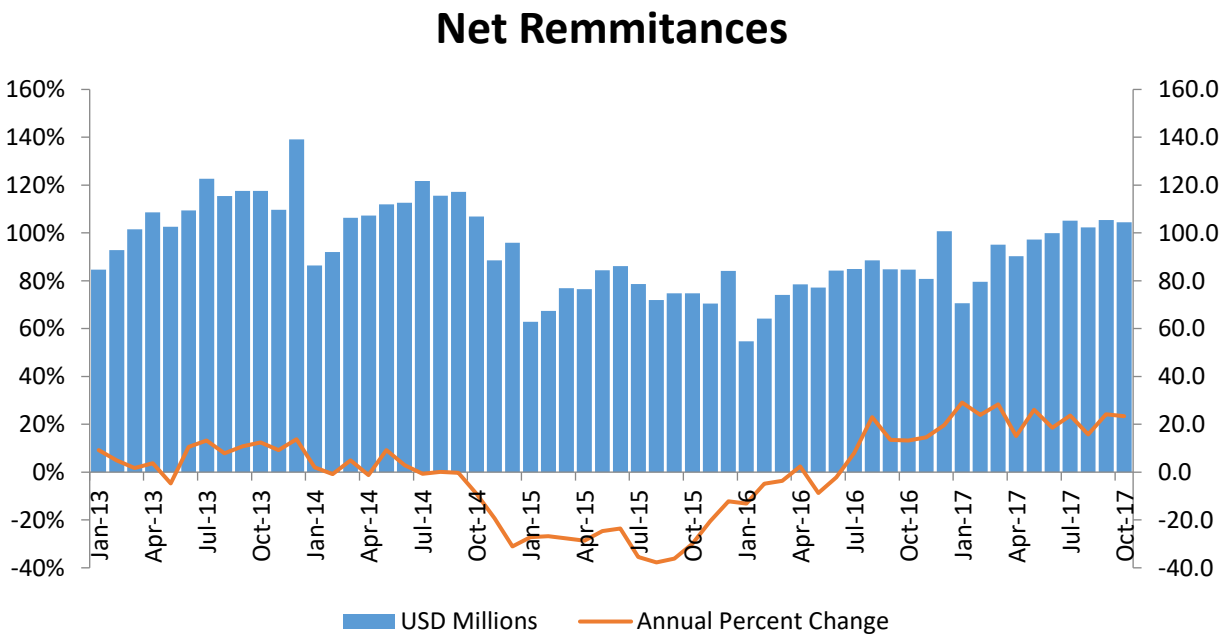
It is important that in 2016 the highest indicator was recorded in case of reinvestments amounting to 32 percent of total FDI, and in 2017 reinvestment was 43.9%, which demonstrates that the government's economic policy and improved business environment is positively perceived by investors and more investors decided to extend their business plans in Georgia. The current economic policies and the reforms are prerequisites for maintaining of the high levels of reinvestment in subsequent periods and for

increasing it in the medium and long term.

## Money Transfers

Starting from the second half of 2016, amount of money transfers is increasing dramatically. Despite the declining trend in the first five month of the year, money transfers increased by 8 percent in July, by 23.0 percent in August (the highest in 2016), by 14.6 in November and by 19.7 percent in December. In total, net money transfers increased by 5.3 percent in 2016 compared to 2015.

In January 2017, net money transfers increased by 29.1 percent, in February the number amounted to 23.9 percent, 28.4 percent in March, 15.1 percent in April, 26.1 percent in May, 18.6 percent in June, 23.7 percent in July, 15.7 percent in August, 24.2 percent in September and 23.4 percent in October. In January-October, net money transfers were 22.5 percent higher compared to the same period of 2016.



During the January-September, inflow of foreign currency from remittances has increased by USD 174 million as compared to the same period of 2016.

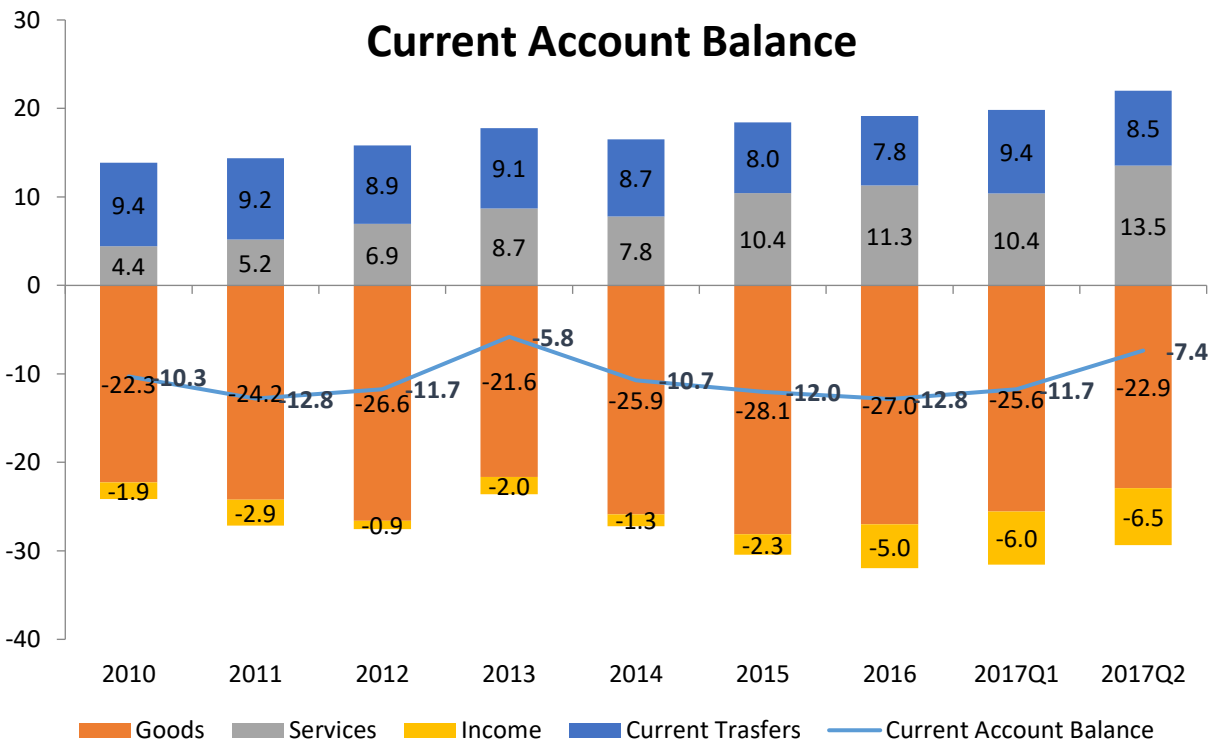
To sum up, during the first ten months of 2017, foreign inflows through the exports with goods and tourism and remittances increased by 1 202 million of USD. At the same time, increase in outflow on imports totaled 461.1 million of USD. Accordingly, positive pressure on CA was observed in the first ten months of 2017.

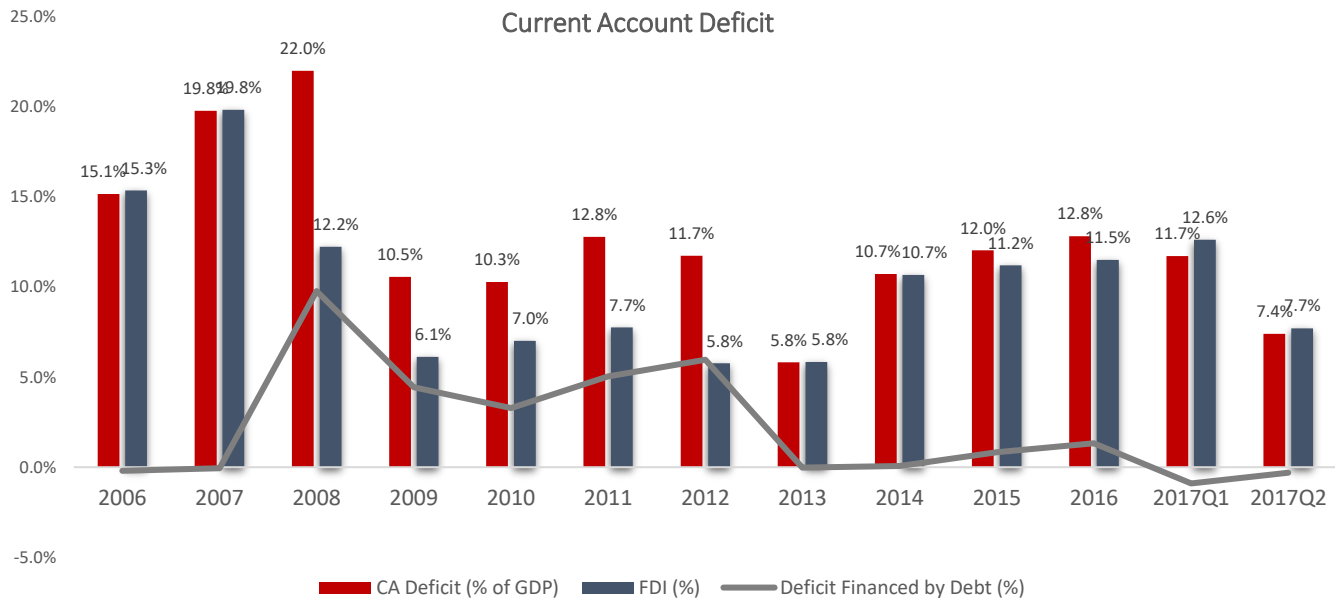


## Current Account (CA) Balance

High deficit of current account balance is one of the main vulnerabilities of Georgian economy.

In 2014, CA deficit was 10.7 percent of GDP and amounted to USD 1,769 million. In 2015, CA deficit improved in nominal terms. However, due to decrease in USD denominated nominal GDP resulting from the foreign exchange depreciation, the ratio deteriorated. In 2015, CA deficit was 12.0 percent of GDP. In 2016, USD denominated nominal GDP has increased, but also CA deficit has deteriorated in nominal terms. As a result, the CA deficit to GDP for 2016 was 12.8 percent. As for the first quarter of 2017, CA deficit stood at 11.7 percent of GDP and in the second quarter declined further to 7.4 percent.





## Credit Ratings

Georgia continues to cooperate with the international rating companies Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's. The country maintains stable ratings. Currently, Georgia has stable BB- rating according to Standard & Poor's and Fitch and Ba2 stable rating according to Moody's. On the other hand, there is a deterioration of the ratings in the countries of the region according to Moody's.

S&P and Fitch worsened ratings of Azerbaijan from BBB- to BB+, while Moody's decreased it from Ba3 to Ba1. Moody's also decreased rating of Armenia from Ba3 to B1.

According to S&P and Moody's, Russia's credit rating deteriorated as well. Compared to December 2014, Russia's credit rating deteriorated from Baa3 to Ba1 according to Moody's and from BBB- to BB+ according to S&P.

Moody's decreased rating of Turkey from Baa3 -to Ba1 in September 2016 and from stable to negative in March 2017, while S&P decreased its rating from BB+ to BB in July and Fitch decreased from BBB- to BB+.

Fitch published Georgia's rating according to which the countries weaknesses are: high levels of current account and external debt.

Economy's strong side includes floating exchange rate, high growth in tourism sector and improvement in money transfers. According to the report, initiated tax reform will encourage economic growth in the medium term.

There were several different variables which led to maintain the rating stable. Low economic growth due to regional crises, high current account deficit and increased external debt due to depreciation were negative. Positive factors includes: strong institutions and agreement with EU, diversified export countries and trade agreements, which will help the FDI to maintain average 10% of GDP, will increase the export in the medium-term and will accelerate economic growth.

Overall, despite the deterioration economic environment in the region, Georgia has maintained stable outlook and improved credit rating, which is the result of the correct policy (flexible exchange rate, inflation targeting, counter-cyclical fiscal policy, removal of trade barriers and export diversification, agreement with EU), low risks and medium-term perspectives.

### International Rating Agency "Moody's" Statement

Moody's Investors Service has upgraded the Government of Georgia's local and foreign currency issuer ratings to Ba2 from Ba3. The outlook remains at stable.

The rating upgrade and stable outlook are supported by Moody's view that the Georgian economy's resilience in the wake of the regional economic shock which began in 2014 demonstrates the increasing strength of the economy and institutions. Looking forward, ongoing economic reforms, supported by the International Monetary Fund, will mitigate some of Georgia's underlying credit weaknesses, further boosting credit strength over time. However, material banking sector and external vulnerability risks continue to constrain the rating.

Georgia's foreign currency senior unsecured ratings have also been upgraded to Ba2 from Ba3.

The local-currency bond and deposit ceilings were raised to Baa1 from Baa3. The foreign currency bond ceiling was raised to Baa3 from Ba1 and the foreign currency bank deposit ceiling was raised to Ba3 from B1. In addition, the short-term foreign-currency bond ceiling was raised to "P-3" from "Not Prime" and the short-term foreign currency deposit ceiling was maintained at "Not Prime."

Ongoing economic reforms are positively perceived by rating agency - "Credible new reforms will further support credit strength". The 3 year program with IMF has improved credibility of the reforms:

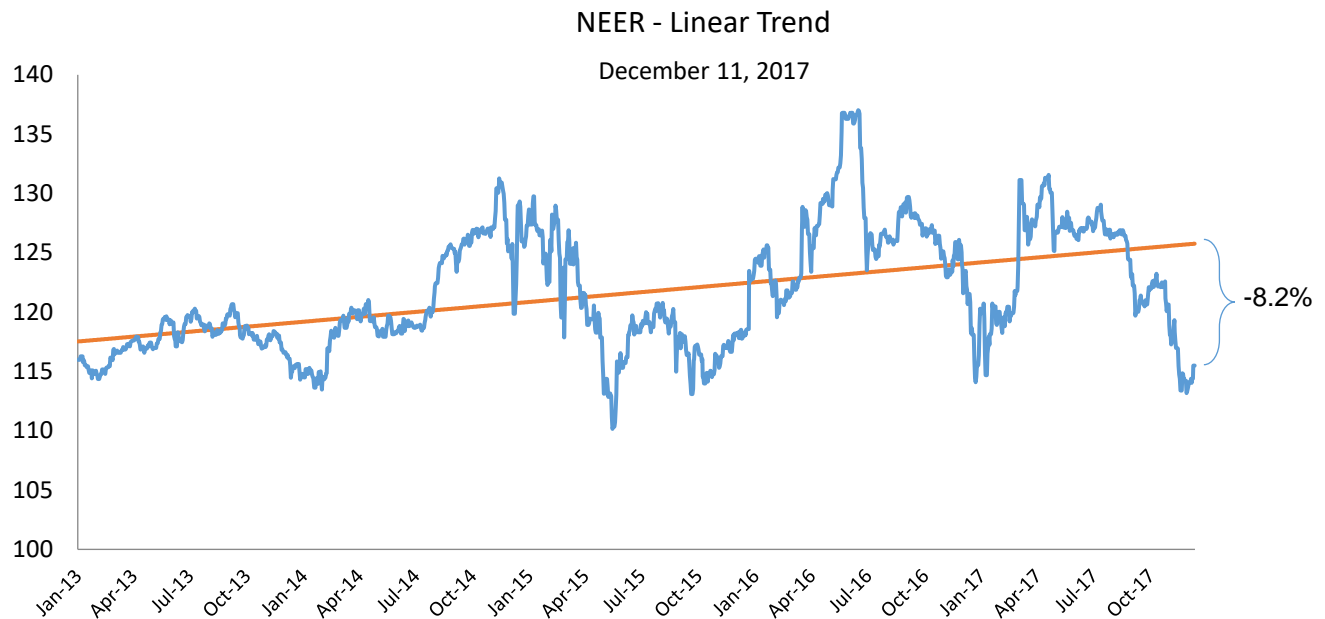
*The program emphasizes structural reforms to generate higher and more inclusive growth. The focus will be on improved education, road infrastructure investment, more efficient public administration, and further improvements in the business climate to boost the private sector's role as a growth driver.*

Dollarization and external vulnerabilities remain as main weaknesses of the economy, although Larization process is positively assessed by Moody's. Saving promoting reforms are encouraged by rating agency and reduction of saving-investment gap is considered as potential upward pressure on the rating.

## Exchange Rate

As of 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, NEER depreciated 3.7 percent compared to January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017 and depreciated 7.3 percent compared to January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016. In real terms, annual appreciation rate of Lari is 2.6 percent by October 2017 and compared to January 2016 there is depreciation by 1.0 percent.

NEER is depreciated by 8.2 percent related to its medium term trend helping to preserve competitiveness in the economy.



	11 December, 2017		11 Dec 2017 - 1 Jan 2017		11 Dec 2017 - 1 Jan 2016
Euro	3.1462	▼	-11.2%	▼	-16.9%
US Dollar	2.6794	▼	-1.2%	▼	-10.6%
Turkish Lira	0.6950	▲	8.0%	▲	17.8%
Russian Ruble	0.0451	▼	-4.7%	▼	-28.0%
NEER	115.48	▼	-3.7%	▼	-7.3%
REER (October 2017)	118.52	▲	2.6%	▼	-1.0%

## Unemployment Rate

In 2016, unemployment rate in Georgia decreased by 0.2 percent and stood at 11.8 percent, at the lowest level historically.

## Tax Revenues

In 2016, generated tax revenues were by GEL 775.2 million higher compared to the same period of 2015, which accounts to 9.7 percent of tax revenues. Tax revenues of 2016 are 100.5 percent of planed target exceeding it by GEL 46.1 million.

In January-Noember 2017, generated tax revenues amounted to GEL 8 903.5 million which is 13.3 percent higher (GEL 1 043.7 million) compared to the same indicator of 2016. Forecast of taxes in the January-Noember was GEL 8 564.0. Hence, during the 11 months of 2017 there was recorded 4.0 percent over performance compared to the projections, which amounted to GEL 339.5 million.

- Income taxes mobilized GEL 2 666.2 million which is 99.2 percent of forecast (GEL 2 681.0 million).
- Profit taxes mobilized GEL 694.2 million that is 117.5 percent of forecast (GEL 591.0 million). Among them BP amounts GEL 133.0 million.
- VAT mobilized GEL 3 759.8 million which is 110.2 percent of forecast (GEL 3 411.0 million).
- Excise mobilized GEL 1 312.9 million which is 89.0 percent of forecast (GEL 1 475.0 million). From 2017 increased of excise of some products (petroleum, cigar, motor cars). As a result, there is GEL 333.2 million higher mobilized excise compared to same period of the last year.
- Import taxes mobilized GEL 64.7 million that is 93.7 percent of forecast (GEL 69.0 million).
- Property taxes mobilized GEL 389.9 million.

Other taxes mobilized GEL 15.8 million.

## Public Debt and Financing of the Budget

### Public Debt

- The stock of public debt at the end of 2016 amounted 44.6% of the estimated GDP (of which external debt – 35.6%), while it was 41.4% at the end of 2015 (external debt – 32.5%).
- The growth of public debt both in 2015 and in 2016 were **mainly caused by the change of exchange rate**.
- In the medium term, it projected to maintain the public debt to GDP ratio **below 45%** level.
- **The market value of public debt as of December 2016 was 32%** (excluding legacy debt, 1% of GDP as of end 2016), because significant part of our debt is under **concessional** terms.

At the same time, with development of capital market, treasury securities issues will increase, which will support to decrease external financing and increase share of domestic debt in the total debt.

As for the first quarter of 2017 public debt to GDP is 41.6 percent (according the GDP of the last four quarter), which is less by 3.0 percent compared to the last quarter.

## Government Securities Market

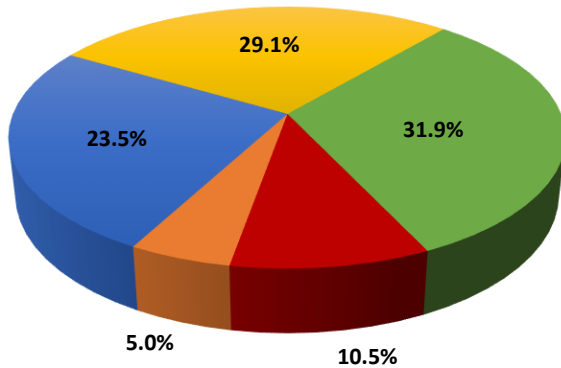
There were 4 auctions held in November, 2017. In total, emission was USD 80 million and average weighted interest rate was 7.33%.

6 and 12 month maturity bills are issued and 2 and 5 years maturity treasury bonds. Treasury bills are covered in amount of USD 109 million.

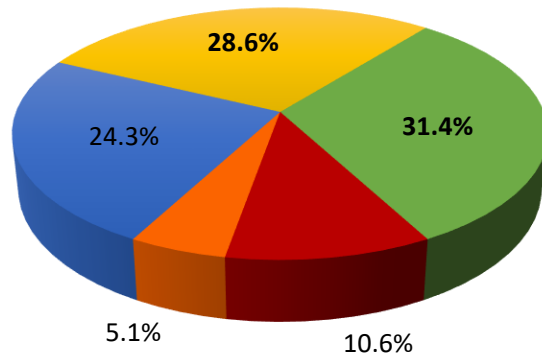
	6M	1Y	2Y	5Y	Total
Emission volume	20	20	20	20	<b>80</b>
Average weighted interest rate	7.100	7.120	7.330	7.780	7.33
Cover	20	33	0.0	0	53.0
Difference	0	-13	20	20	27.0

The structure of securities have changed insignificantly.

Portfolio as for  
30.11.2017

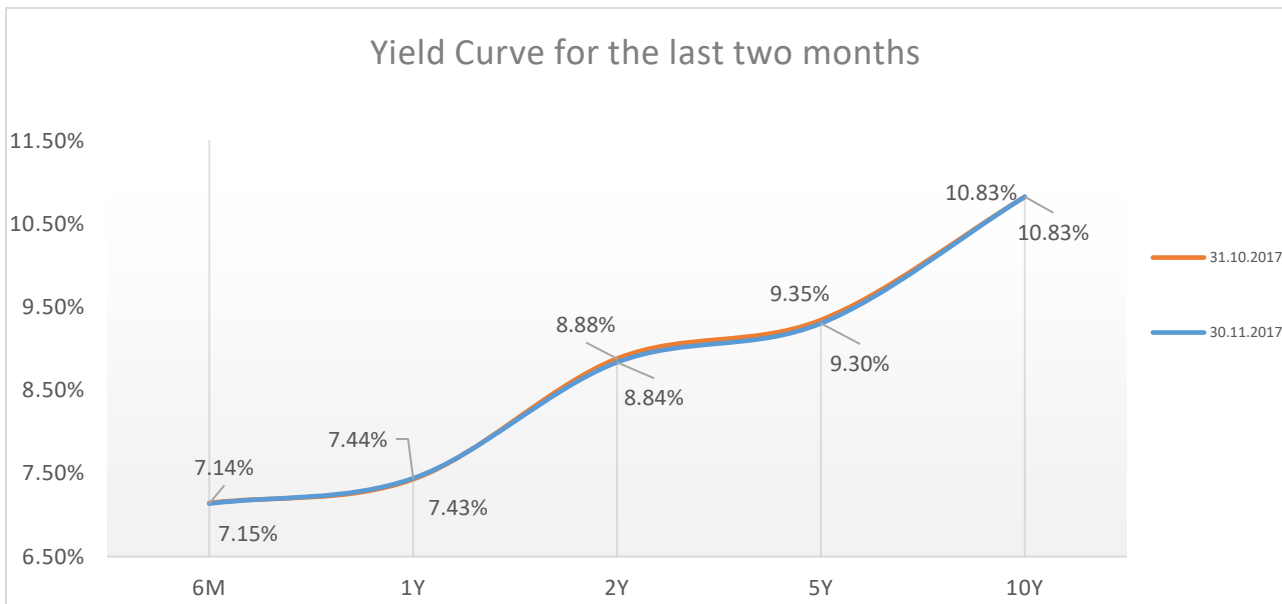


Portfolio as for  
31.10.2017



6 Months 12 Months 2 Years 5 Years 10 Years

6 Months 12 Months 2 Years 5 Years 10 Years



There

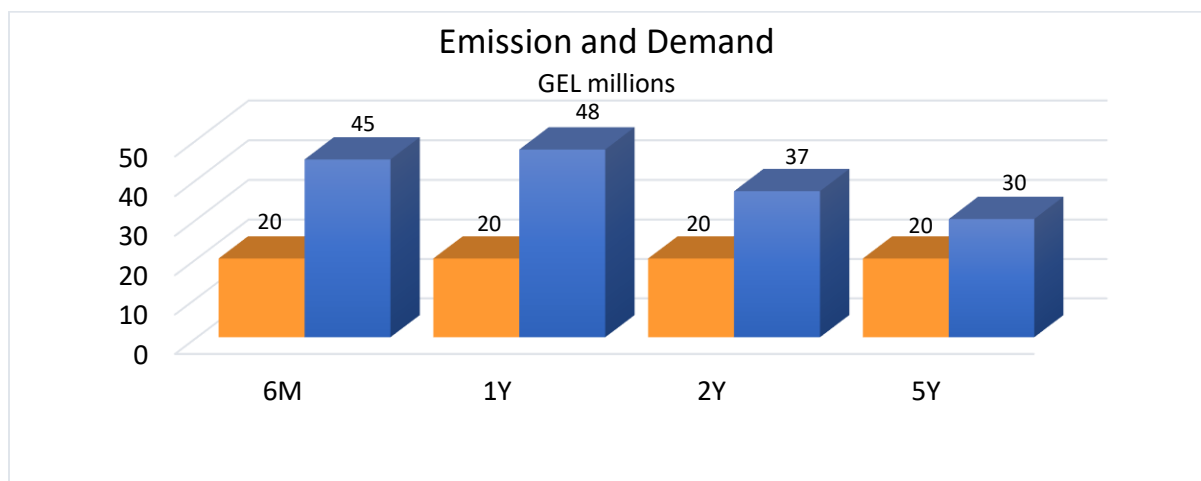
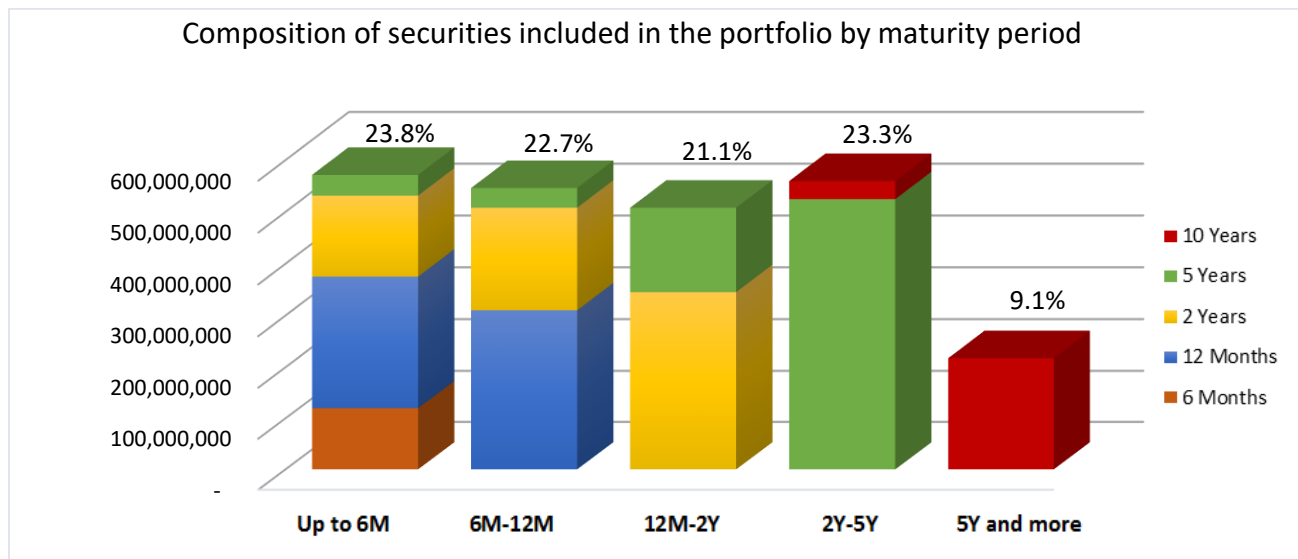
was no significant change of portfolio yield.

Average weighted term maturity (ATM) of securities included in the portfolio has decreased.

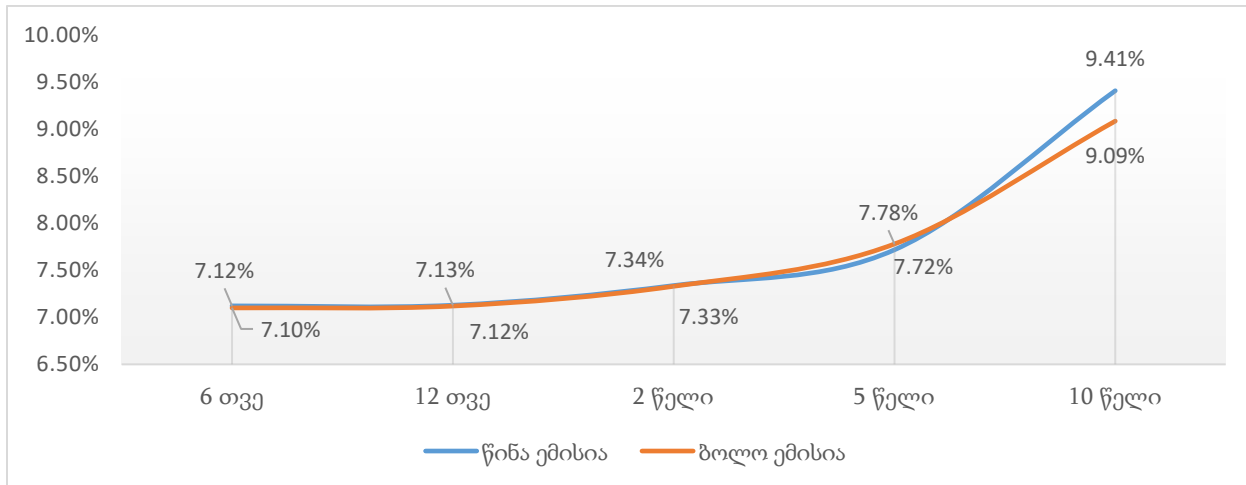
Average weighted period until maturity of securities (year)			
	30.09.2017	31.10.2017	30.10.2017
6 months	0,24	0,24	0,24

12 months	0,51	0,50	0,46
2 years	1,05	0,98	0,92
5 years	2,70	2,77	2,75
10 years	6,67	6,84	6,76
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,94</b>	<b>2,01</b>	<b>1,98</b>

As for 30<sup>st</sup> of November of 2017 less than quarter of government securities portfolio (23.8%) are formed by securities, which will have maturity period the nearest 6 months. distribution of securities included in the portfolio by maturity period is following:







Demand coefficient of securities have decreased in October compared to the previous month and amounted to 1.99 (in octomber 2.31). Interest rates from auctions decreased slowly, but interest rate of portfolio service almost was not changed. Portfolio maturity increased.

## Monetary Policy

In order to gradually exit from the tightened monetary policy, National Bank of Georgia reduced refinancing rate in 2016 along with inflation rate lower than the target. Policy rate reduced to 1.5 percent throughout the year.

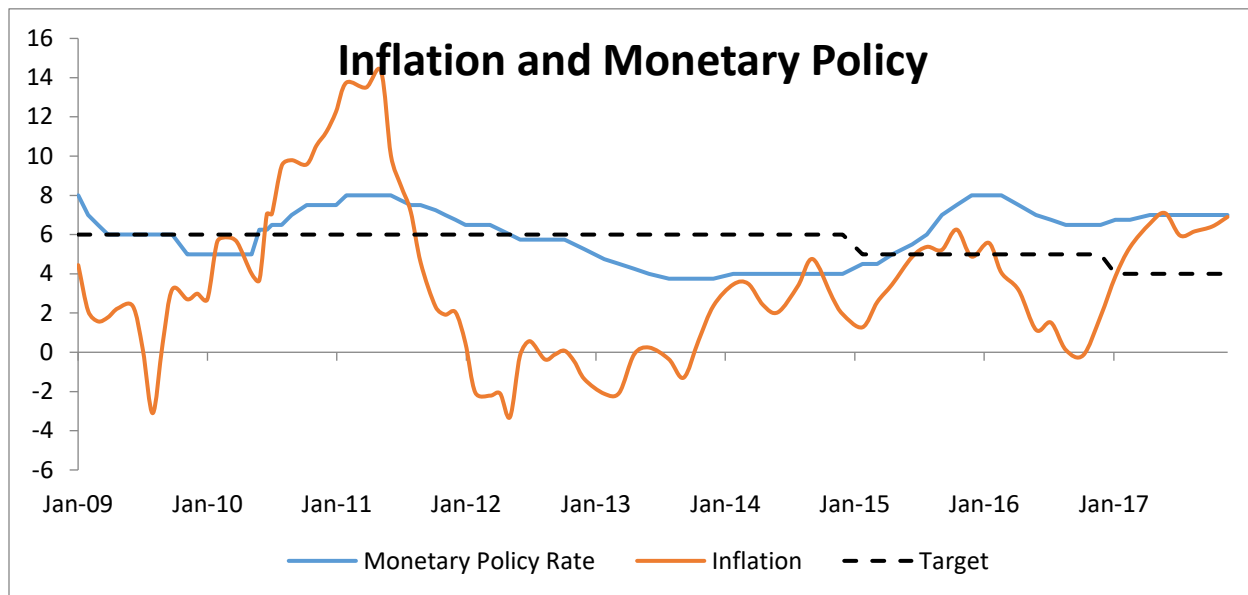
On January 25<sup>th</sup> of 2017, NBG decided to increase refinancing rate to 6.75 percent as a response to higher inflationary expectations resulting from increased excise tax and exchange rate changes. Alongside, it was announced that refinancing rate will increase to 7.0 percent during the following two quarters.

After expiry of one-time effects, inflation will decrease and will be around its target in the medium term. Together with expiry of factors affecting inflation, ceteris paribus, monetary policy rate will return to its neutral level in the medium run.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2017, NBG increased the policy rate by 25 basis points to 7.0 percent. NBG decision is based on the macroeconomic forecast, according to which, due to the supply side pressures, the inflation is expected to be above its target rate during 2017, but it is also expected to gradually decrease to its neutral level in the medium term.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, July 26<sup>th</sup>, September 6<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> monetary policy committee kept the rate unchanged at 7 percent. They said that given the absence of additional shocks and with the elimination of

the impact of the one-time factors affecting the inflation, inflation rate will achieve the target of 3 percent and the policy rate in the medium term is expected to decrease to its neutral level.



## 2016 Budget Outturn

2016 revenues of general government amounted to 9 675.5 million GEL (29.1% of GDP). Tax revenues outturn was 8 786.1 million GEL (26.4% to GDP) which is 46 million GEL more than projected and 775 million GEL more than 2015 outturn.

Current expenditure amounted to 8849.5 million GEL (26.6%) among which social expenditure was 3 393.7 million GEL (10.2%). It should be mentioned that Government has started restricting administrative costs at the end of 2016 and actual performance in Compensation of Employees and Goods and Services was lower (about 30 million GEL) than the last projection. This is part of Expenditure measures decided by the Government to mobilize resources for accelerating infrastructural projects in the mid-term period.

2.3 billion GEL (capital expenditure and lending – 6.9%) was directed to the infrastructural projects.

2016 Budget Deficit (GFSM 1986) amounted 4.2%.

## 2017 Budget

Government 4 point plan and strategy is directed to support growth friendly policies and accelerate

infrastructural projects. At the same time government is in for fiscal consolidation, cutting administrative costs and maintaining it low in mid-term.

As part of the growth friendly policy CIT reform was conducted, which implies improved tax environment favoring business sector.

In order to compensated loss of revenues on initial stages of CIT reform and mobilized resources for accelerating capital spending Government undertook measures both on revenue as well as expenditure side.

- Revenue-enhancing measures: Fuel excise increase (GEL 270 million, 0.7 percent of GDP); tobacco excise increase (GEL 215 million, 0.6 percent of GDP); gambling fee and e-gambling tax increase (GEL50 million, 0.2 percent of GDP); and a vehicle excise increase (GEL 45 million, 0.1 percent of GDP).
- Expenditure-reducing measures: reduction of the wage bill at the central and local government levels (GEL190 million, 0.5 percent of GDP); cuts in goods and services (GEL [50] million, 0.2 percent of GDP); improved efficiency of public healthcare provision and targeting of social programs in municipalities (GEL 90 million, 0.3 percent of GDP); and end of the agro-land program (cumulative GEL [50] million, 0.1 percent of GDP).

2017 budget deficit is anticipated to be about 4.1%. Infrastructural projects financed through Capital Spending and lending is projected about 3 billion GEL (8.3%).

## Relationship with the IMF

On 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2017, the IMF Executive Board Approved US\$285.3 million Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility for Georgia.

IMF shares and welcomes the economic policies of the Government of Georgia, which ensures sustainable economic growth for the country. It is important that the new program is homemade, based on the Government's new four-point reform plan. Within the program, IMF will be our country's partner in carrying out Government's economic policies.

The economic and structural reforms were approved by IMF, which aims to support macroeconomic stability and economic growth.

2017 budget, as well as the government's medium-term budgetary plans, qualitatively represent

transformed fiscal policy, which includes:

- Reducing administrative costs;
- Creating tax-system adapted to the economic growth;
- Increasing the effectiveness of the budget programs;
- Increasing investments in infrastructure projects.

In 2017-2020 country's road infrastructure backbone will be finished, that will allow us to fully use our logistical and touristic potential. Development of infrastructure will improve communication between the regions, which will increase their involvement in country's economic development.

During 2017-2020, capital expenditures foreseen under the budget will increase from 5.6% of GDP to 9%. Meanwhile, administrative costs will be reduced from 26.5% to 21.7%.

Within the program, Government of Georgia plans to carry out the most important structural reforms, which will support economic growth. Such as:

- Pension Reform;
- Capital Market Reform;
- Establishment of Deposit Insurance System;
- Establishment of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) System;
- Establishment of insolvency legislative framework;
- Land Reform;
- Insurance System Reform;
- Measures for improving the Public Finance Management;
- etc.

The decision of the Government of Georgia is to return the Financial Sector Supervision function to the National Bank of Georgia.