6. TRADE AND FOREIGN TRADE

**Consumer price index (CPI)**
The CPI was equal to 124.1 in December 2007. If compared to the CPI of December 2007 which is equal to 113.5, it shows an increase of 9.3%.

**Foreign trade**
Total imports by section and by country were to 17,817,420 million LBP. Exports by section and by country were 4,246,807 million LBP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Peak Product</th>
<th>Peak Month</th>
<th>Exports</th>
<th>Peak Product</th>
<th>Peak Month</th>
<th>Peak Group</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Peak Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17,817,420</td>
<td>Mineral Products</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4,246,807</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>Arab Counties</td>
<td>(13,569,000)</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>47.7%</td>
<td>17.5%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>(40.9%)</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table made by CAS based on Customs General Directorate (2007) data*

**Customs and external value added tax revenues**
Customs Revenues were equal to 1,318,000 million LBP in 2007 and the peak month was March (9.6%). As for customs revenues by office, Port of Beirut came first (84.3%).

External VAT revenues were equal to 1,450,000 million LBP in 2007 and the peak month was October (9.7%). As for VAT revenues by office, the Port of Beirut came also first (76.8%).

*Data Sources:*
- Customs General Directorate (2007).