The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected Bangladesh economy, with official preliminary estimate showing a decline of GDP growth to 5.2 percent in FY20, from over 8 percent in FY19. In FY20, GDP per capita grew, albeit at a slower rate of 6.2 percent, to USD 1970 from USD 1856 in 2019.

At end-June 2019, annual population growth rate was 1.2%, with population reaching 165.6 million. In 2018, the working-age population (ages 15-64) was 67.1%, while total dependency ratio (population ages below-15 and 65+ per 100 working-age population) was 49%

ILO estimates 61.1% of the working-age population are in the labor force in 2019; the female participation rate is only 38.3%

1/ The fiscal year (FY) in Bangladesh covers July-Jun. GDP per capita data are based on calendar year, taken from the WDI. 2020 GDP per capita is the national estimate for FY20. 2/ Projection data from year 2020 are taken from United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). The population growth rates from year 2020 are five-year average growth projections, e.g. year 2020 data indicates average growth rate in 2015-2020. 3/ National measures of poverty for year 1991 and 1995 are taken, respectively, from Household Expenditure Survey 1991-1992 and Household Expenditure Survey 1995-1996. In national measure, up to 1991 a person having an intake of less than 2,122 kilo-calories daily was considered as absolute poor (upper poverty line), and one having an intake of below 1,805 kilo-calories was considered as hard-core poor. Since 1995, the ‘Cost of Basic Needs (CBN)’ method has been used. 2019 data is as on end of June 2019. 4/ Gini Index ranges from 0 to 100, higher value shows higher inequality. Gini index of 0 means perfect equality. 5/ National estimates of labor force participation rate for 2016 and 2017 are respectively of FY2016 and FY2017. Sources: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS); World Development Indicators (WDI); United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017); and IMF staff calculations.
Bangladesh: Real Sector Developments

Private consumption and investment, respectively, contributed 2.5 and 1.6 percentage points to 5.2 percent GDP growth in FY20, while public consumption and investment, respectively, contributed 0.4 and 0.7 percentage points.

Contributions to Real GDP Growth
FY11-FY20 (y/y, in percentage points)

Consumption-GDP ratio fell slightly to 74.7% in FY20 from 75% in FY19, while investment-GDP ratio edged up from 31.6% to 31.8%.

Selected indicators’ Share in Nominal GDP
FY11-FY20 (in percent)

In FY20 May, the y/y growth of the quantum index of manufacturing was negative 27%, mining negative 3.3%, and electricity negative 18.6%.

Quantum Index of Medium and Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries, Mining and Electricity 1/
FY16-FY20 (May) (y/y growth, in percent)

Rice production target—the sum of Aus, Aman and Boro, is 38.9 MMT for FY20 compared with actual production of 37.3 MMT in FY19. Total target for wheat and maize is 6.5 MMT for FY20 against actual outturn of 5.9 MMT in FY19.

Major Food Grains Production 2/
FY14-FY20 (Million Metric Tons (MMT))

In Aug 2020, headline inflation increased to 5.7% from 5.5% in Jul 2020. Food and non-food inflation, respectively, increased to 6.1% and 5.7%, while core inflation decreased to 5.2%.

Twelve Month Average Inflation
Jan 2017-Aug 2020 (y/y, in percent)

Point-to-Point Inflation
Jan 2017-Aug 2020 (y/y, in percent)

1/ FY20 data are provisional. 2/ FY20 Aus, Aman and wheat data are actual, while Boro and Maize data are the production targets.

Sources: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS); Department of Agriculture Extension, Ministry of Agriculture; Bangladesh Bank; and IMF staff calculations.
Bangladesh: External Sector Developments

The FY21(Jul-Aug) current account surplus amounted to USD 3.3 billion, against a USD 0.2 billion surplus in FY20 (Jul-Aug).

**Current Account Balance Components 1/**
FY16-FY21(Jul-Aug) (in billion USD)

- Capital goods and oil-related products, respectively, contributed negative 7.6, and 0.8 percentage points to import decline of 13.8% in FY21(Jul-Aug), while contribution from food grains and consumer goods was 1.2 percentage points.

**Item-wise Contributions to Import Growth 2/**
FY17-FY21(Jul-Aug), (y/y growth, in percentage points)

In FY21(Jul-Aug), y/y remittances rose by 50% to USD 4.6 billion, exports increased by 2.4% to USD 6.7 billion, while imports decreased by 13.9% to USD 7.4 billion.

Following an upward trend since early 2018, REER recently edged down from 152.1 in May 2020 to 147.8 in Aug 2020. During Jan 2018-Aug 2020, the Taka/USD nominal exchange rate depreciated from 82.8 to 84.8.

**Exchange Rates**
Jan 2018-Aug 2020

In FY21(Jul-Aug), GCC countries contributed 56.6% of USD 4.6 billion remittance inflows, with total share of 35.1% from KSA and UAE.

**Contributions to Workers’ Remittances**
FY16-FY21(Jul-Aug)
(in billion USD, unless otherwise indicated)

1/ FY21(Jul-Aug) data are provisional. 2/ Data are recorded by customs. 3/ Exports and imports are f.o.b. data. 4/ Aug 2020 data are provisional.

Net international reserve (NIR) is gross international reserves (excluding investment on bonds below the grade BBB, Silver Acquisition A/C, deposit with Rupali Bank, Pakistan & deposit with Sonali Bank, UK) minus total liabilities. Total liabilities comprise reserve liabilities in ACU, IMF Trust Fund Account (ECF) and other foreign currency clearing accounts, and deposits of IBRD/IDA, and SDR allocation.

Sources: Bangladesh Bank; Export Promotion Bureau (EPB); and IMF staff calculations.
Bangladesh: Fiscal Sector Developments 1/

Total revenue-GDP ratio reached 9.4% in FY20, against 10% in FY19. During this period, the VAT and supplementary duties-GDP ratio came down from 4.9% to 4.2%.

Central Government Revenue
FY15-FY20 (In percent of GDP)

In FY20, y/y growth of total revenue was 3.7%, where VAT and supplementary duties accounted for negative 2.4 percentage points, and taxes on income and profits 3.2 percentage points.

Contributions to Total Revenue Generation
FY15-FY20 (y/y, in percentage points)

Total expenditure-GDP ratio fell to 14.1% in FY20, against 15.4% in FY19. During this period, ADP-GDP ratio decreased from 5.8% to 5%.

Central Government Expenditure
FY15-FY20 (In percent of GDP)

In FY20, total expenditure fell by 0.9% (y/y), with ADP expenditure contributing negative 1.6 percentage points, interest payments 0.8 percentage points, and subsidies, transfer, and net lending 0.6 percentage points.

Contributions to central government’s expenditure growth
FY15-FY20 (y/y, in percentage points)

In FY20, preliminary data show that net deficit financing accounted for 4.7% of GDP, against 5.4% in FY19. Domestic sources financed 73.6% of net financing. Net financing from the banking sector reached 62.1%, and net NSC sales 11% of net financing.

Fiscal Balance and Sources of Financing
FY15-FY20

At end-Jun 2020, central government debt reached 36.8 percent of GDP, above from 35.3 percent of GDP at end-Jun 2019.

Central Government Debt
Jun 2015-Jun 2020
(In percent of GDP)

1/ FY20 fiscal data are provisional.
Sources: Office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance; and IMF Staff calculations.
Bangladesh: Monetary and Financial Market Developments

In Aug 2020, y/y reserve money growth was 12.2%, against 19.9% in Jul 2020, driven mainly by increasing net foreign assets.

**Contributions to Reserve Money Growth**

Jan 2018-Aug 2020 (y/y, in percentage points)

- Other net domestic assets
- Non-reserve liabilities to DMBs
- Claims on DMBs
- Claims on government
- Reserve money (M2)
- Net foreign assets
- Other domestic assets
- Non-reserve liabilities to DMBs
- Claims on DMBs
- Net claims on government
- Net foreign assets
- Reserve Money

In Jul 2020, broad money (M2) growth reached 12.5%, with M2 and NSC sales, respectively, accounting for 11.3 and 1 percentage points.

**Contributions to Broad Money (M2) Growth**

Jan 2018-Jul 2020 (y/y, in percentage points)

- Other net domestic assets
- Non-reserve liabilities to DMBs
- Claims on DMBs
- Claims on government
- Reserve Money
- Net foreign assets
- Other domestic assets
- Non-reserve liabilities to DMBs
- Claims on DMBs
- Net claims on government
- Net foreign assets
- Broad money

Interest rates have been declining in recent months, reflecting some easing in the money market.

**Interest Rates**

Jan 2018-Aug 2020 (in percentage points)

- Deposit Rate
- Lending Rate
- Call Money Rate
- 91-DAY TREASURY BILLS
- 2-YEAR TREASURY BONDS

In Jul 2020, excess liquid assets (as percent of total demand and time liabilities in the industry) reached 11.8%, compared with 7.9% in March 2020.

**Excess Liquid Assets (as percent of total demand and time liabilities)**

1/, Jan 2018-Jul 2020

- Foreign Banks
- Islamic Banks
- Private Banks (Other than Islamic)
- Specialised Banks
- State-owned Banks
- Total

Growth of bank advances to the private sector came down from 12.4% at end-FY19 to 9.8% at end-FY20.

**Economic Purpose-wise Contributions to Bank Advances’ Growth (Private Sector)**

FY15-FY20 (y/y, in percentage point)

- Others
- Other Institutional loan
- Trade & Commerce
- Industry: Working capital financing
- Industry: Term loan
- Agriculture: Others
- Agriculture: Crops
- Total

Sources: Bangladesh Bank; and IMF Staff calculations

1/ Excess Liquidity is statutory liquidity eligible liquid assets of banks minus statutory liquidity (excluding cash reserve). Excess Reserve is balance with Bangladesh Bank in local currency minus required cash reserve. These are provisional data taken from Bangladesh Bank’s Department of Off-Site Supervision.
The loan-to-deposit ratio declined from 85.9% in May 2020 to 84.1% in Jul 2020. During the period, the ratio excluding government deposits decreased from 92.3% to 90.1%.

At Jun 2020, CAR of the banking industry reached 11.6% - at the same level of Dec 2019. CAR of the state-owned banks (SOBs) increased to 6.9% in Jun 2020 from 5% in December 2019, remaining below the regulatory requirement of 10%.

In Jun 2020, banking sector’s NPL ratio increased to 9.2% from 9% in Mar 2020. In SOBs, the ratio came down from 22.8% to 22.7%, and in private commercial banks (PCBs) from 5.6% to 5.9%.

Stressed advances in the banking industry - the sum of NPLs, rescheduled and restructured loans - accounted for 20.5% of outstanding loans in Dec 2018.

Following a steady decline since Mar 2019, the 3-mma DSE Broad index has been picking up since Jun 2020.

Sources: Bangladesh Bank; and IMF Staff calculations.