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Economic Outlook Based on July 2025

Abstract

At Kala Legal, we provide expert guidance to investors navigating evolving markets, helping them leverage opportunities while addressing legal and regulatory complexities.

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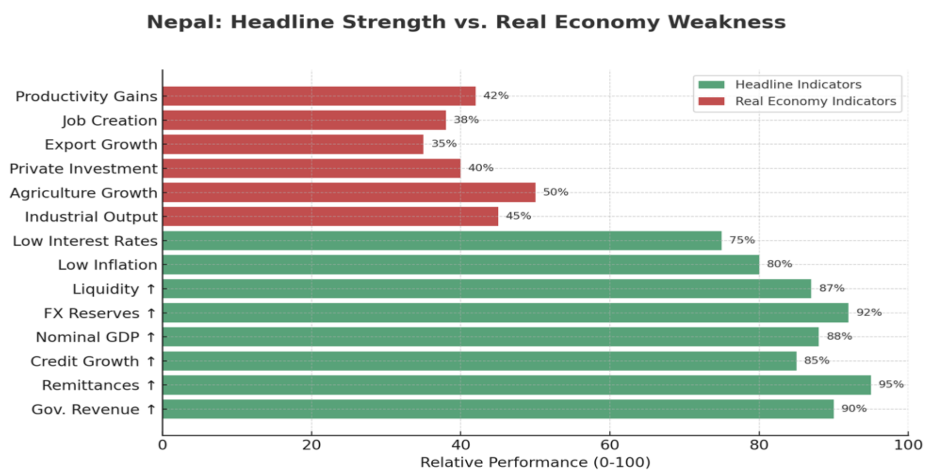
Section 1 Overview 2024/25

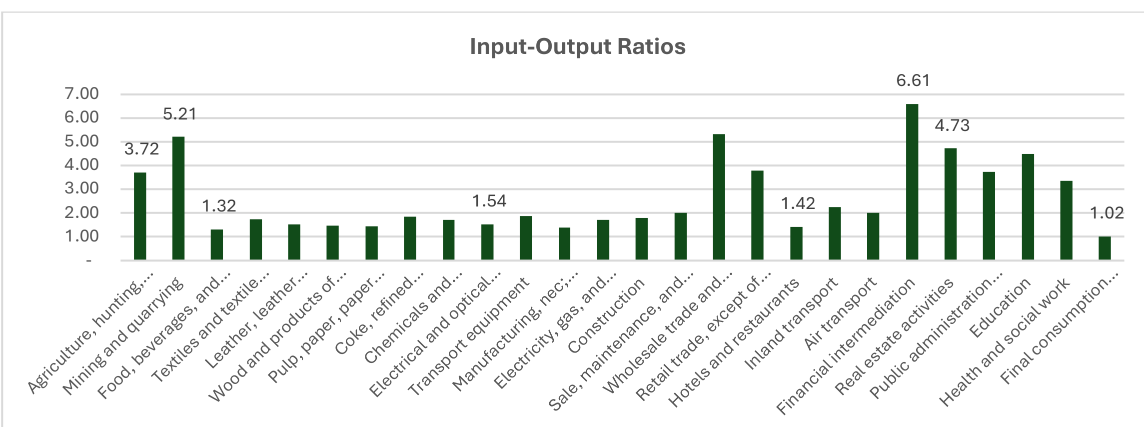
1) Background

As of July 2025, Nepal's economic landscape presents a mix of opportunities and challenges as it approaches its scheduled graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status to a developing nation in November 2026. The United Nations classifies 44 LDCs based on low income, weak human assets, and economic vulnerability, and Nepal's transition after over 50 years in this category signals a pivotal shift toward trade-driven growth over aid dependency. This opens avenues for Nepal to boost productivity, skills, and capital in key sectors like hydropower, tourism, and IT, positioning it on the global business map. However, challenges such as the loss of preferential trade access by December 2026 and persistent economic fragility demand strategic planning. Despite positive macroeconomic indicators, rising government revenue, remittances, private sector credit, foreign exchange reserves, liquidity, and low inflation and interest rates, Nepal's economy remains subdued, with structural inefficiencies and implementation gaps hampering broad-based growth.

Drawing from the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation report (Mid-July 2025), the Government of Nepal (GoN) Budget Review 2025/26, and data from the National Statistics Office (NSO), IMF, World Bank, and ADB, Nepal's GDP growth is estimated at 4.6% for FY 2024/25, with provisional projections for FY 2025/26 ranging from 4.25–5.25%, falling short of the 6% target. Sectoral contributions are uneven, with agriculture at ~4%, industry at ~5%, and services at ~3%. While stable commodity prices and improved supply chains support modest GDP improvement, risks like debt distress, trade tensions, and slow-growing foreign direct investment (FDI) due to weak governance and procedural delays pose hurdles. Policy reforms are critical to sustaining FDI and economic momentum.



2) Input-Output



Nepal's Input–Output chart provide a snapshot of the economy's production, consumption, and trade linkages. Analysis of sectoral output, household demand, exports, imports, and value-added reveals both structural strengths and vulnerabilities. These findings are critical for designing strategies that boost resilience, promote self-reliance, and diversify exports in alignment with Nepal's long-term growth agenda.

A. Key Findings

1) Structural Strengths

a) Large Output Sectors: Agriculture, Construction, Wholesale Trade, Financial Services, Retail Trade, and Public Administration dominate total output. Together they account for more than half of national production.
b) Household-driven Demand: Most sectors are highly consumption-oriented, with household demand contributing 40–70% of output in services, retail, and agriculture.
c) Value-Added Intensity: Sectors like Real Estate, Financial Services, Business Services, and Education show high value-added shares (60–80%), indicating strong domestic contribution with limited import dependency.

2) Vulnerabilities

a) High Import Dependence: Air Transport, Petroleum, Chemicals, and Electricity show import shares exceeding 30–50% of output, exposing the economy to external price shocks.
b) Weak Export Orientation: Exports remain small relative to output (generally <10%), except for Food & Beverages, Transport Services, and selected manufacturing subsectors.
c) Low Investment Penetration: Except for Construction (which absorbs large GFCF flows), most industries show minimal investment shares—suggesting undercapitalization.
d) Agriculture Paradox: While Agriculture contributes the largest share of output, its value-added intensity is declining, and productivity growth is weak compared to services.

B. Other Major issues

A. Heavy Reliance on Remittances Without Productive Reinvestment

Remittances surged to Rs. 189.1 billion (NPR terms) in the twelfth months to mid-July 2025, up 19.3% y-o-y (16.3 % in USD terms), bolstering forex reserves and liquidity. However, these inflows mainly support consumption and imports, not productive investments in manufacturing or infrastructure, perpetuating a "remittance trap." Growth has slowed from prior years' highs (e.g., 25%+ in 2023/24), amid global uncertainties and fewer migrant departures, risking reserve erosion. This contributes to high informal employment (82%) and brain drain, limiting domestic job creation despite poverty reduction.

B. Rising Financial Sector Stress from Non-Performing Loans

Private sector credit grew by 8.4 % (Rs. 409 billion) by mid-July 2025, focused on Communications and Energy (15%) Service Industries (12.79) consumables (10.87%) and construction (11.25%). Yet, NRB data lacks specific NPL figures for different sectors, while earlier trends indicate rising NPLs (4.4-4.9% in Q1-Q2 FY 2024/25), with provisions at 5.15-5.41% and potential additional needs of Rs. 250-285 billion. This signals borrower distress from low demand and post-pandemic effects, eroding bank capital and curbing lending despite excess liquidity (NRB absorbed Rs. 21,343.5 billion via auctions).

C. Low Inflation and Interest Rates Indicating Weak Demand

CPI inflation stood at 2.2% y-o-y in mid-July 2025 (down from 3.57% corresponding previous year), with food inflation eased at -1.19% and non-food spikes at 4.12%. Mid-year estimates project 2.4-4.1% for FY 2025/26 (vs. 5.5% target), but volatility in food prices (3.67-6.99% spikes) pressures vulnerable groups. Interest rates declined: lending at 7.85% (from 9.93%), deposits at 4.19% (from 6.57%), interbank at 2.99%. These lows reflect subdued activity, low confidence, and migration-driven demand weakness, not robust growth, with unemployment at 15-20% and underemployment higher.

D. Inefficient Fiscal Management and Spending Shortfalls

Government revenue reached Rs. 1,178.82 billion (tax Rs. 1,049.88 billion, non-tax Rs. 128.94 billion), up 14.14% y-o-y.

E. Vulnerability to External Shocks and Limited Diversification

Gross foreign exchange reserves increased 31.2 percent to Rs.2677.68 billion in mid-July 2025 from Rs.2041.10 billion in mid-July 2024. In the US dollar terms, the gross foreign exchange reserves increased 27.7 percent to 19.50 billion in mid-July 2025 from 15.27 billion in mid-July 2024. Yet, reliance on remittances and foreign loans exposes to shocks like disasters (0.8% GDP damage in 2024/25 floods) and trade issues. GDP growth for FY 2024/25 is estimated at 4.61% (vs. 6% target), with NSO data showing uneven sectors: agriculture and industry up modestly, services lagging due to tourism slowdowns. Low FDI (<0.5% GDP), FATF Grey List status, and political instability hinder diversification.

Overall Economic Challenges and Recommendations

Combined data show stability (e.g., current account surplus Rs. 409 billion, low inflation) but underline underperformance: slower recovery, revenue/expenditure shortfalls and implementation gaps. Kala recommends prudent fiscal policies, stronger oversight, inflation controls via monetary tools, and initiatives like NRN investments and sectoral plans (IT, agriculture) to boost confidence, attract FDI, and achieve 4.4-5.1% growth in 2025/26.

Indicator	NRB Annual Data (Mid-June 2025)	Review (FY 2025/26 Projections)	Why It Doesn't Translate to Improvement
Government Revenue	Rs. 11,178.82 billion (+14.14% y-o-y)	14,800 (32.4% increase form actual collections)	Shortfalls due to inefficiencies; Low capital spending (under 60% of budget) limits impact on infrastructure and jobs.
Remittances	Rs.1723.27 billion (+19.2% y-o-y)	Slowing trends noted	Supports consumption, not investment; deceleration risks reserves.
Private Sector Loans	+8.4 % (Rs. 409 billion)	12% y-o-y (Monetary Policy target)	Offset by rising NPLs (4.4-4.9%), restricting expansion.
Bad Loans (NPLs)	4.62%	~4.23%	Indicates borrower distress and banking risks, curbing credit expansion. Borrower distress erodes banking stability.
GDP Growth	4.61%	4.25-5.25% (vs. 6% target)	Modest and uneven; reliant on volatile sectors, not broad-based. Uneven sectors; below pre-pandemic levels.
Forex Reserves	Rs. 2677.68 billion (+31.2% y-o-y)	~Rs. 1,060 billion (Monetary Policy target)	Vulnerable to remittance slowdowns/shocks. Driven by remittances; vulnerable to external shocks and declining inflows.
Liquidity	Excess absorbed Rs. 2,4651.35 billion	High (Rs. 2,007-3,355 billion)	Weak demand prevents productive credit flow. Leads to low rates but weak demand prevents investment.
Interest Rates	Lending 7.85%, Deposit 4.19%, Interbank 2.99%	Lending 7.5-8.5%, Deposit 4.19-3.78%	Reflects stagnation, not vibrancy. Reflects low demand, not vibrancy; doesn't spur borrowing amid risks.
Inflation	2.2% (CPI), Food -1.19%	2.4-4.1% (est.), Food likely to spikes 6.99%	Signals weak activity; volatility affects poor. Food prices still pressure vulnerable groups.

F. Policy Priorities

1. Enhancing Self-Reliance

a. Energy Security: Prioritize domestic hydropower and renewable generation to reduce import dependency in petroleum and electricity.
b. Chemical & Fertilizer Industries: Develop localized production capacity to reduce reliance on imports critical for agriculture and manufacturing.
c. Transport Linkages: Invest in domestic maintenance and aviation service facilities to reduce the foreign exchange drain from air transport.

2. Export Diversification

a. Agro-processing and Food Industries: Strengthen value chains in high-potential products (tea, coffee, spices, processed food) for regional markets.
b. Service Exports: Expand ICT, business services, and higher education exports, leveraging Nepal's skilled youth.
c. Tourism & Air Transport: Position aviation and hospitality as bundled export services, supported by quality and regulatory upgrades.

3. 3 Investment Mobilization

a. Infrastructure-focused Capital Formation: Channel GFCF into construction, logistics, and energy infrastructure to crowd in private investment.
b. Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs): Expand capital market instruments to attract diaspora financing into productive sectors.
c. Sector-specific Incentives: Introduce fiscal and credit support for industries with high value-added and export potential.

G. Strategic Recommendations

Priority Area	Recommended Action	Expected Impact
Energy & Petroleum	Scale hydropower, introduce biofuels, reduce petroleum imports	Lower trade deficit, energy security
Manufacturing	Develop agro-processing, chemical & fertilizer plants	Higher self-reliance, export base expansion
Services	Promote ICT, education exports, health tourism	Diversified export portfolio
Agriculture	Boost productivity through inputs, irrigation, and storage	Reduce food imports, improve food security

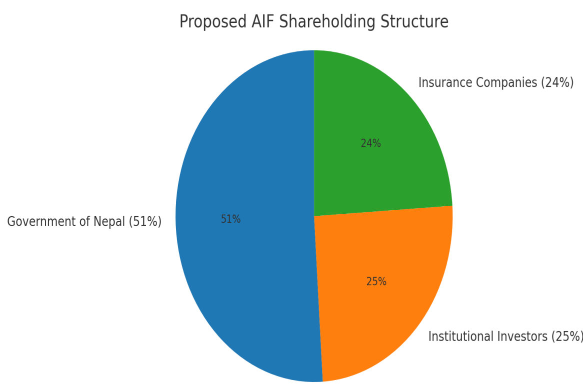
Priority Area	Recommended Action	Expected Impact
Investment Climate	Expand blended finance, AIFs, PPPs	Mobilize private and diaspora capital
Trade Policy	Negotiate market access under NTPP and SAFTA	Enhance export competitiveness

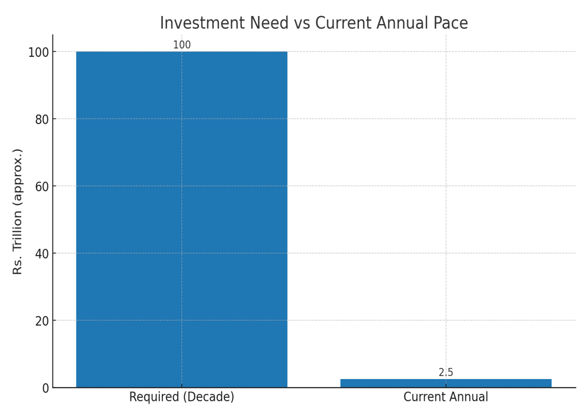
Nepal's input–output structure highlights a household-driven, import-sensitive economy with limited export diversification. Strategic reforms must focus on reducing import dependency in critical sectors, expanding export-ready industries, and mobilizing investment for productive transformation. A coordinated push across energy, agro-processing, services, and infrastructure will create resilience and unlock Nepal's growth potential.

2) The proposed Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Act

The proposed Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) Act seeks to establish a sovereign-backed financing institution to mobilize long-term capital for Nepal's large-scale development and infrastructure projects. With an authorized capital of Rs. 100 billion and an initial paid-up capital of Rs. 25 billion, the Fund will be structured with majority ownership (51%) by the Government of Nepal, complemented by contributions from institutional investors such as the Employees' Provident Fund, Citizens' Investment Trust, Social Security Fund (25%), and insurance companies (24%). Over time, the state's shareholding will gradually dilute to encourage greater private and foreign participation. The AIF is designed to bridge the country's vast financing gap, as Nepal requires investments exceeding Rs. 100 trillion in the coming decade, while current annual flows remain limited to Rs. 2–3 trillion. To achieve this, the Fund will mobilize resources through equity, debt, blended finance instruments, bonds, debentures, guarantee schemes, pooled "fund of funds" models, and a dedicated Remittance Investment Fund targeting NRN and migrant savings. Investments will prioritize sectors such as energy generation, transmission and distribution, transport infrastructure (roads, railways, tunnels, airports, ropeways), industrial zones and SEZs, urban development, IT and digital economy projects, tourism, and other high-return ventures with strong employment and economic multipliers. However, the Fund will exclude projects below Rs. 1 billion, those with weak financial viability, or those involving conflicts of interest.

The AIF will operate as an autonomous statutory body with a Board of Directors chaired by the Finance Secretary and include representatives from key ministries, institutional investors, insurers, and independent experts, while its operations will be managed by a Chief Executive Officer supported by specialized subcommittees on investment, audit, and risk management. Strong governance, due diligence, conflict of interest disclosure, and adherence to ESG principles will guide its operations. Strategically, the AIF is envisioned as a transformative financing mechanism to complement traditional banking, reduce Nepal's infrastructure financing gap, attract private and foreign capital including NRN investments, and support national priorities such as the 16th Plan's target of generating 40,000 MW of electricity. Ultimately, the Act aims to provide Nepal with a sustainable, long-term investment platform to drive economic growth, employment generation, and structural transformation.





3) Briefing Note for Sovereign Rating

Nepal's macroeconomic fundamentals provide a strong case for a notch rating improvement. Our foreign exchange reserves cover more than 15 months of imports, public debt remains moderate at below 45% of GDP with a highly concessional structure, and remittances—over 25% of GDP, continue to provide a stable cushion for the external sector. Inflation is under control, banking system liquidity is stable, and medium-term growth prospects are supported by hydropower exports, services, and infrastructure investment.

We acknowledge that qualitative overlays, particularly FATF Grey List status and governance concerns, weigh on the assessment. However, these are being addressed through a high-level compliance roadmap and governance reforms. Our immediate focus is to demonstrate fiscal discipline, strengthen financial sector oversight, and advance export diversification.

The key message for Fitch is that Nepal's quantitative resilience, combined with ongoing reforms, warrants a more favorable risk assessment. A notch upgrade would align the rating with the country's macroeconomic fundamentals and reinforce investor confidence.

4) Nepal Fiscal Risk Statement and Strategies 2025

The Fiscal Risk Statement (FRS) 2025, published by the Ministry of Finance, highlights potential deviations in fiscal outcomes due to macroeconomic shocks, specific contingent liabilities, and institutional weaknesses. It uses the IMF Fiscal Risk Assessment Tool (FRAT) to quantify risks and propose mitigation strategies.

A. Macroeconomic Risks

Indicator	Avg. Value	Std. Dev. / Volatility	Fiscal Impact	Risk Level
GDP Growth	4%	±2.7 pp	–0.7% of GDP revenue loss; +3.2 pp debt increase	Medium
Inflation	6.9%	±2.2%	Medium (higher spending, slightly higher revenues)	Medium
Interest Rate	7–8% (domestic)	~1% change sensitivity	+0.2% of GDP cost if rates rise 1%	Low
Exchange Rate	4.3% volatility	Moderate	Limited (due to concessional debt)	Low
Debt-to-GDP	22.7% (2016/17) → 42.7% (2023/24)	Projected ~50% by 2028/29	Stable; low distress risk	Low

Mitigation Tools: borrowing limits (5.5% of GDP for domestic debt), medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF), fiscal rules, debt ceilings, stabilization funds.

B. Specific Risks

i) Forecasting Errors

Indicator	Forecast Error	% of GDP	Risk Assessment
Tax Revenue	NPR 550 bn/yr	7.2%	High, Probable
Foreign Grants	~50% over-forecast	1.5–2%	Medium, Probable

Mitigation: better analytics, independent reviews, fiscal buffers.

ii) Natural Disasters

Event	Frequency	Fiscal Cost	Risk Assessment
Floods/Landslides	Frequent	Up to 2% of GDP	Low Impact, Probable
Earthquakes	Infrequent	22.8% of GDP (2015)	High Impact, Possible

Mitigation: disaster funds, insurance, resilient infrastructure, contingency financing.

iii) Sub-National Governments (SNGs)

Risk Indicator	Value	Notes
Dependence on federal transfers	>75% revenue	Structural
Spending execution gaps	Significant underspending	Development delays
Outstanding arrears	NPR 2.7 bn (provinces), NPR 7.3 bn (local)	Fiscal burden

Mitigation: Sub-National Government (SNG) Fiscal Risk Monitoring System, Sub-national Treasury Regulatory Application (SuTRA), better Public Financial Management (PFM), borrowing limits.

iv) Government Guarantees

Item	Value	% of GDP	Notes
Outstanding Guarantees	NPR 51.6 bn	0.9%	Mostly Nepal Airlines
Potential Calls	NPR 7 bn/yr	0.1%	Low likelihood

Mitigation: 1% of GDP ceiling, guarantee fees, monitoring, contingency reserves.

v) Public Enterprises (PEs)

Item	Value	% of GDP	Notes
Total Assets	NPR ~3,000 bn	51%	Large footprint
Total Liabilities	NPR ~1,950 bn	33%	High exposure
Net Fiscal Flow (2 yrs)	NPR 102.5 bn positive	-	Mixed performance
Loss-Making PEs	Nepal Airlines, NEA (intermittent)	Medium risk	

Mitigation: restructuring, PPP revival, stronger governance, digital reporting.

vi) Public–Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Indicator	Status	Risk
Active PPPs	Limited portfolio	Low
Risks	Weak structuring, capacity gaps, disclosure issues	Emerging

Mitigation: PPP law, transparent procurement, registry, risk-based fees.

C. Institutional Risks

Risk Factor	Assessment	Mitigation
Forecasting Errors	High impact, probable	Strengthen models, independent review, fiscal buffers
Public Financial Management (PFM)	Weak execution, arrears	PFM reforms, digital systems
Intergovernmental Coordination	Gaps in fiscal rules	Harmonized frameworks, monitoring

D. Consolidated Risk Matrix

Risk Category	Impact	Likelihood	Overall Rating
GDP Volatility	Medium	Possible	**Moderate**
Inflation	Medium	Possible	**Moderate**
Interest Rate	Low	Possible	**Low**
Exchange Rate	Low	Remote	**Low**
Debt	Low	Remote	**Low**
Forecast Errors	High	Probable	**Critical**
Floods/Landslides	Low	Probable	**Moderate**
Earthquakes	High	Possible	**Critical**
Sub-National Governments	Low	Low	**Low**
Guarantees	Low	Remote	**Low**
Public Enterprises	Medium	Possible	**Moderate**
PPPs	Low	Remote	**Low**

E. Fiscal Risk Statement 2025 – Nepal

Risk Area	**Key Challenges**	**Policy & Structural Reforms**	**Lead Agency**	**Success Metrics (by FY26/27)**
Macroeconomic & Debt	GDP growth volatility (±2.7 pp), inflation ~7%, debt rising to ~50% GDP	Amend Financial Procedures and Fiscal Responsibility Act 2019 with fiscal rules & buffer fund Annual The Medium-Term Debt Management Strategy (MTDS) with risk limits Extend yield curve, smooth redemptions	MoF, NRB, Parliament	Buffer ≥0.5% GDP Debt stable ≤50% GDP
Forecasting & Institutional	Tax forecast error NPR 550 bn (7.2% GDP); optimistic grants	Create Independent Fiscal Council Publish forecast error report Use real-time digital tax/customs data	MoF, IRD, NPC	Tax forecast error <5% (MAPE) Public forecast reports published
Natural Disasters & Climate	Floods (~2% GDP), Earthquakes (2015: 22.8% GDP loss)	Adopt Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) strategy (buffers, Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat-DDO), insurance) Climate-proof all new projects Disaster contingency fund	MoF, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), NPC	Emergency funds disbursed <14 days 80% projects climate-screened
Sub-National Governments	High transfer dependence, arrears (NPR 10 bn+)	Issue uniform SNG fiscal rules & debt registry Roll out SuTRA 2.0 with commitment controls	MoF, Financial Comptroller General Office (FCGO), Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA)	Arrears <0.1% GDP Capital execution >85%
State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) & Contingent Liabilities	SOE liabilities 33% GDP, weak governance; guarantees NPR 51.6 bn	Pass SOE Governance Act (boards, IFRS audits) Restructure loss-making SOEs (Nepal Airlines) Guarantee ceiling 1% GDP, risk-based fees	MoF Public Enterprises Division (PE Division), IBN	>90% SOEs NFRS-audited Net fiscal flow positive Guarantee provisions ≥60% of expected losses
PPPs & Public Investment	Weak structuring, hidden liabilities	Amend PPP Act with Value for Money (VfM) & affordability caps Establish PPP Unit & Project Preparation Facility (PPF)	IBN, MoF, NPC	100% PPPs VfM-tested PPP liabilities <0.5% GDP

5) The World Bank Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Nepal (FY2025–2031)

Theme	Key Data / Facts	WBG Strategic Focus / Outcomes
Fiscal Policy	Trade taxes: 45% of tax revenue- Fiscal deficit: ~6% of GDP (FY2023)	Improve tax base- Strengthen public financial management- Reform intergovernmental fiscal transfers
Monetary Policy	Inflation target: 6.5% (actuals exceeded in recent years)- Weak monetary transmission	Support macroeconomic stability- Develop financial infrastructure- Promote credit access
Industrial Policy	Export stagnation- Manufacturing shrinking- FDI limited	Business environment reform (DPC)- Support private investment- Target tourism, hydropower, digital sectors
Health	25% of children stunted- Gender gaps in access remain	Integrate health into climate and resilience agenda- Strengthen health delivery at subnational levels

Theme	Key Data / Facts	WBG Strategic Focus / Outcomes
Climate Change	2nd most hazard-prone country globally- Forest cover rose to 46% (2022)	Promote green energy & hydropower- Build resilient infrastructure- Expand climate-smart financing
Education	1/3 of workforce lacks primary education- Youth NEET: 35% (47% for females)	Support quality education- Promote digital & vocational training- Strengthen school-to-work transition
Employment	82% informal employment- Women's labor participation: 24% (vs. men's 53%)	Enhance access to jobs via private sector- Promote gender inclusion- Support MSMEs and digital services
Poverty Reduction	Poverty: 0.37% (int'l extreme poverty line), 20% (national poverty line)- High in Karnali, Sudurpaschim	Reduce regional disparities- Build social protection systems- Promote jobs-led growth

The World Bank Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Nepal (FY2025–2031) outlines a strategic vision focused on two major development challenges: generating employment-driven growth and building resilience to natural disasters and climate change. The CPF identifies key areas for intervention under four broad policy domains: fiscal policy, monetary policy, industrial policy, and health.

Under fiscal policy, the CPF highlights that Nepal's public finances remain vulnerable, with nearly 45% of tax revenue derived from trade taxes, making it highly susceptible to external shocks. The fiscal deficit peaked near 6% of GDP in FY2023, largely due to import restrictions. The CPF recommends broadening the tax base, strengthening public financial management, and ensuring debt sustainability, with the current debt standing at about 43% of GDP (mostly concessional). It also promotes improved capital expenditure effectiveness and fiscal decentralization, especially at the provincial and local levels, through collaboration between the World Bank and ADB.

On monetary policy, the CPF supports macroeconomic stability and advocates for more flexible exchange rate management and enhanced monetary transmission mechanisms. Despite Nepal Rastra Bank's inflation target of 6.5%, actual inflation has remained persistently above this level. The CPF emphasizes strengthening financial infrastructure, including secured lending frameworks and credit reporting systems—to bolster investment and consumption.

Regarding industrial policy, Nepal faces stagnation in the manufacturing sector and weak export performance, primarily due to high tariffs, regulatory hurdles, and logistical inefficiencies. The CPF stresses the need to improve the business environment, particularly through reforms aimed at attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and fostering SME growth. It also promotes sectoral support for tourism, hydropower, digital industries, and urban development, along with initiatives to boost industrial productivity through regulatory simplification and infrastructure development. The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) are pushing for private capital mobilization and public-private partnerships (PPPs), particularly in the transport, logistics, and tourism sectors.

In the health sector, although Nepal has made progress in maternal and child health, persistent issues of stunting and health inequality remain. Health investments under the CPF are relatively limited but strategically targeted. They focus on developing shock-responsive health systems to address climate-related and disaster risks and improving service delivery coordination across the three tiers of government. Additionally, the CPF aims to enhance human capital through integrated efforts in health, education, and nutrition.

The World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Nepal also places strong emphasis on four interconnected priority areas: climate change, education, employment, and poverty reduction—each critical for achieving long-term resilience and inclusive development. In the area of climate change, Nepal is identified as the second most vulnerable country to multi-hazard mortality risks. The CPF builds on the findings of the Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) and emphasizes the development of green infrastructure, including roads, energy, and urban systems. It also promotes sustainable hydropower and regional energy trade, as well as climate-smart agriculture, forestry, and disaster risk financing. A key objective is to reduce exposure to air pollution and enhance household and community climate resilience.

On education, despite improved access, Nepal continues to face challenges related to learning outcomes, skill mismatches, and gender disparities. The CPF supports foundational learning and digital skills, along with the reform of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to improve youth employability. It also focuses on strengthening the school-to-work transition and enhancing subnational education delivery systems. In the area of employment, the CPF highlights that 82% of employment in Nepal remains informal, with youth not in education, employment, or training (NEET) at 35%, and even higher at 47% for young women. Under its "More and Better Jobs" pillar, the CPF promotes labor market reform, MSME growth, and improved access to finance. It also emphasizes support for gender-inclusive employment in sectors such as tourism, digital, and care work, while encouraging apprenticeships and demand-driven skill development programs.

Regarding poverty reduction, Nepal has made remarkable progress in reducing extreme poverty (measured at US$2.15/day), which declined from 55% in 1995 to just 0.37% in 2022. However, using the national poverty line of 2023, poverty still affects 20% of the population, with disproportionately high rates in Sudurpashchim (34.2%) and Karnali (26.7%) provinces. The CPF prioritizes targeted interventions, robust social protection systems, and jobs-led growth, particularly aimed at marginalized groups. While remittances have played a key role in poverty alleviation, they have not led to sustained productive employment, highlighting the need for deeper structural reforms.

CPF Outcomes and Indicators (WBG Strategy)

CPF Outcome	Indicators
1. More and Better Jobs	Private investment as % of GDP- Wage employment share- Students supported- Financial service access (esp. for women)
2. Connected Communities	People connected to sustainable transport- People with electricity- Digital service access
3. Green Planet and Resilient Populations	People with improved climate resilience- Reduced exposure to air pollution

6) The Sixth Review of the IMF

1. The Sixth Review of the IMF program for Nepal, completed in June 2025, introduced several important additions and updates compared to the Fifth Review conducted in March 2025, particularly across key structural reform areas.

2. One significant development was the Loan Portfolio Review (LPR). While it was only planned and under consultant selection during the Fifth Review, it has now been elevated to a prior action required for Executive Board approval, signaling its heightened importance in assessing banking sector health. Similarly, the amendment of the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) Act, which was previously recommended, has now progressed to the drafting stage. The draft incorporates recommendations from both the IMF's 2021 and 2023 assessments and is being prepared for submission to Parliament.

3. Progress has also been made in fiscal transparency and planning. The Tax Expenditure Report and National Project Bank guidelines, which were pending during the Fifth Review, have now been completed, marking a step forward in improving public finance management.

4. In terms of financial integrity, Nepal has moved from merely enacting legal amendments under the Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) framework to now entering the full implementation phase of the AML/CFT Action Plan.

5. Lastly, the concept of an Asset Management Company was not addressed in the Fifth Review but has now been introduced cautiously in the Sixth Review. Its implementation is to be conditioned upon the establishment of appropriate insolvency and recovery frameworks, reflecting a more structured and risk-sensitive approach to managing non-performing assets.

6. **IMF Fifth Review (completed March 2025):- Key Outcomes & Conditions***:***

IMF Fifth Review (completed March 12–18, 2025)

Key Outcomes & Conditions:

- ***$41.8 M (SDR 31.4M)*** *disbursed upon Executive Board approval*
- ***Economic outlook****: Growth ~4.2 % in FY2024/25; inflation near 5 %; flood-related challenges, sluggish domestic demand*
- ***Quantitative and structural performance****:*
  - *Largest part of performance criteria met, except revenue and child welfare grants*
  - *Structural reforms included: amended AML law, strengthened oversight of public enterprises, completed audit of NRB 2023/24 accounts with international experts*
  - *Loan Portfolio Review (LPR) planned: procurement cancelled once, then relaunched to hire consultant*
- ***Policy advice****: Emphasized revenue mobilization, improved capital project execution, gradual fiscal consolidation, cautious/responsive monetary policy, strengthening NRB Act, ongoing AML/CFT reforms*

IMF Sixth Review (May 26 – June 10, 2025)

Key Outcomes & Conditions:

- ***$42.7 M (SDR 31.4M)*** *pending Executive Board approval*
- ***Economic conditions****: Growth >4 %, inflation at ~3.4 % (April 2025); recovery buoyed by hydropower, manufacturing, a strong harvest, and remittances*
- ***Completion of prior benchmarks****:*
  - *Tax expenditure report completed.*
  - *Updated National Project Bank guidelines published.*
  - *LPR roadmap finalized.*
  - *NRB Act amendments drafted, incorporating IMF's 2021 and 2023 recommendations*
- ***New conditionality****: Sixth review* ***requires further progress on the LPR****—not just planning but actual execution—before Executive Board approval*
- ***Additional cautions****:*
  - *Financial vulnerabilities persist: NPLs at 5.2 %, stressed SACCOs*
  - *Advised cautious approach to creating an Asset Management Company, contingent on stronger debt recovery and insolvency frameworks*
  - *AML/CFT reforms transitioning from legal framework to* ***implementation*** *phase*

7) ADB Country Partnership Strategy. 2025-2029:

1. ADB Country Partnership Strategy. 2025-2029Key Issues in Nepal's Development Context Nepal's economy is significantly remittance-driven, with remittances contributing approximately 25% of GDP. While this inflow supports household consumption and reduces poverty, it also discourages domestic production and undermines the competitiveness of the export and manufacturing sectors. This over-reliance has made the economy vulnerable to external shocks and limited long-term sustainable growth.

2. The country also suffers from weak private sector competitiveness. High tariffs and logistics costs, coupled with a strong real exchange rate, have created an unfriendly business environment. Moreover, around 50% of enterprises operate informally, limiting access to finance, regulatory protection, and productivity-enhancing opportunities.

3. Agricultural productivity remains low due to fragmented land holdings, insufficient irrigation coverage, poor rural infrastructure, and limited connections between farming and agribusiness markets. This has constrained income growth in rural areas and reduced the sector's potential to support broader economic development.

4. There are also significant gaps in education and skilled labor. The current education system, particularly Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), is misaligned with market needs, leading to a mismatch in supply and demand for labor. Additionally, basic skill deficits continue to hinder workforce readiness and employability.

5. At the institutional level, Nepal faces challenges in administrative capacity, especially at the sub-national level. The transition to a new federal governance structure has exposed weaknesses in coordination, planning, and service delivery across provincial and local governments.

6. Lastly, geographic and climate vulnerabilities pose persistent risks. Nepal's landlocked status increases trade costs, while its exposure to natural disasters—such as earthquakes and floods—threatens economic resilience and development gains. Addressing these multifaceted challenges is critical for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

7. **Critical Review and Suggested Actions for Nepal's Development Agenda**

Area	***Suggested Action***
Implementation capacity	***Strengthen local financial management, service delivery, and project implementation capacity at sub-national level.***
Private-sector environment	***Cut trade and regulatory barriers; implement PPPs outside hydropower (e.g., logistics, agri-processing).***
Agriculture	***Invest in irrigation, cooperative farming, rural infrastructure, and support agribusiness financing.***
TVET	***Align TVET curricula with market demand; scale apprenticeship and skill-upgrading schemes.***
Financial innovation	***Support local rupee bonds, improve investor confidence, and leverage pension and insurance funds.***
Climate action	***Require climate-risk proofing for all investments; scale adaptation measures (retrofitting, water security).***
Regional trade links	***Develop trade corridors and logistics links with India and China; align with regional trade bodies.***

a. To address the pressing development challenges, Nepal must take targeted actions across key policy and implementation areas. A primary concern is the country's limited implementation capacity at the sub-national level. Strengthening local financial management systems, improving service delivery, and enhancing project implementation capabilities are essential to ensure effective federalism and accelerate development outcomes.
b. Improving the private-sector environment is also critical. This requires reducing trade and regulatory barriers that hinder business activity, while expanding public-private partnerships (PPPs) beyond the traditional focus on hydropower. Sectors such as logistics and agro-processing offer strong potential for PPP-based development.
c. In agriculture, increasing productivity and rural income demands significant investment in irrigation systems, promotion of cooperative farming models, and the expansion of rural infrastructure. In parallel, financing support for agribusinesses must be strengthened to connect farmers to markets and value chains.
d. Nepal's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system must be realigned with market demand. Updating curricula to match evolving industry needs and scaling up apprenticeships and skill-upgrading programs will help close the labor market mismatch and enhance workforce readiness.
e. To advance financial innovation, Nepal should promote the development of local currency (rupee-denominated) bond markets, boost investor confidence, and mobilize long-term capital from pension and insurance funds. These reforms can provide sustainable financing options for infrastructure and development projects.

f. On climate action, the government must integrate climate-risk proofing into all public and private investments. Scaling up adaptation efforts—such as retrofitting infrastructure and ensuring water security—will be crucial in building long-term resilience to climate shocks.
g. Lastly, enhancing regional trade linkages will require the development of efficient trade corridors and logistics networks with India and China. Strengthening Nepal's alignment with regional trade bodies will further facilitate cross-border commerce and economic integration.

ADB's CPS is comprehensive and well aligned with national goals and global frameworks. Its strength lies in multi-sector coordination, driving growth through private investment, human capital, public service quality, and climate resilience. However, its success critically depends on strengthening local implementation capacity, delivering deep structural reforms, and transforming current dependency models, especially remittance dependence, agricultural stagnation, and weak TVET systems.

Most importantly, a sharper focus on execution, across federal structures, private sector ecosystems, vocational education, and finance innovation, will determine whether the CPS achieves its bold aims for a green, resilient, inclusive, and employment-intensive future for Nepal.

8) Additional Areas of Focus beyond IMF, ADB, and World Bank recommendations

While the guidance from institutions like the IMF, ADB, and World Bank provides a strong foundation for economic reform in Nepal, several additional areas require targeted attention to ensure long-term resilience and inclusive development.

1. In the **financial sector**, there is a pressing need to expand access to credit, particularly through digital financial platforms. Strengthening secured transaction frameworks and modernizing payment systems will enhance financial inclusion and support private sector growth.

2. On **AML/CFT and FATF compliance**, Nepal must reinforce the capacity of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-Nepal) by adopting a risk-based supervision approach. This includes stricter enforcement of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, full disclosure of Ultimate Beneficial Ownership (UBO), and capacity building across law enforcement, prosecutors, and the judiciary to combat financial crimes effectively.

3. Following its removal from the **FATF Grey List**, Nepal must remain vigilant by improving the quality and timeliness of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs), and ensuring that new anti-money laundering (AML) legislation is fully aligned with global FATF standards to avoid relapse and restore global financial credibility.

4. To address **corruption and governance** challenges, the government should enforce transparency in public procurement through expanded use of the electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) platform. Streamlining land acquisition and environmental clearance processes is also crucial for accelerating infrastructure development. Moreover, prioritizing civil service reforms is necessary to enhance administrative efficiency and service delivery.

5. In tackling **human trafficking**, Nepal should expand support services for survivors and increase the presence of labor attachés in destination countries to protect migrant workers. Additionally, monitoring and regulation of recruitment agencies and brokers must be strengthened to prevent exploitation and trafficking.

6. With the rapid growth of the digital economy, **digital regulation** must be updated. This includes enacting robust cybersecurity and privacy laws, regulating digital lenders and fintech startups, and improving cybercrime enforcement mechanisms to safeguard consumers and ensure responsible innovation.

7. Lastly, a forward-looking **migration policy** should integrate labor market planning with migration strategies. Developing returnee skill certification systems and employment programs for returning migrant workers will help reintegrate talent and reduce long-term dependency on foreign labor markets.

Section 2 Market outlook

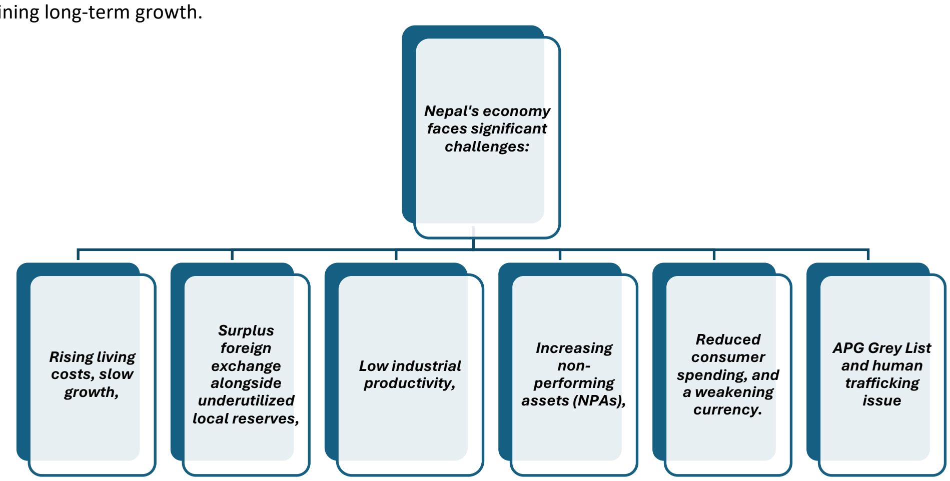
1) Growth trend

1. Based on data from Nepal's Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the country's economic growth trajectory over the past decade reveals both resilience and structural challenges. The GDP for the fiscal year 2024/25 is projected to grow by 4.61%, marking a steady recovery from the pandemic-induced slump. Key drivers of this growth include the electricity and gas sector, which is projected to grow by 13.82%, reflecting ongoing expansion in hydropower and increased energy exports. The transportation and storage sector is another major contributor, with 9.45% growth, signaling recovery in logistics and infrastructure development. Tax revenues (net of subsidies) also surged by 9.89%, indicating increased economic activity or tax reforms.

2. The manufacturing sector, which had experienced negative growth in recent years, shows signs of recovery with a 3.78% increase. Meanwhile, the accommodation and food service sector continues to perform well, posting a 5% growth rate after peaking at 21.03% in the previous year, highlighting the ongoing rebound of Nepal's tourism industry. However, some sectors remain sluggish. Construction, traditionally a key employer, is recovering slowly (2.21%) after two years of contraction. Public services such as education (1.98%) and public administration (2.24%) show limited growth, suggesting stagnation or inefficiencies. Agriculture, forestry, and fishing – a vital sector for employment – remains stable with modest growth at 3.28%, indicating a need for modernization to enhance productivity.

3. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the economy, with GDP shrinking by 2.37% in 2019/20. Sectors such as tourism, trade, and transportation were hit hardest, with accommodation and food services contracting by nearly 37%. While the economy began recovering in 2020/21 with a 4.84% growth rate, momentum slowed in subsequent years. Non-agricultural sectors are now leading the recovery, contributing to a more balanced growth profile in recent years.

4. Overall, Nepal's economic recovery is being driven by a combination of energy sector expansion, revived tourism, and a rebound in transportation and manufacturing. However, the data also point to ongoing challenges in agriculture, construction, and public services. Structural reforms, investment in infrastructure, and productivity-enhancing measures across sectors will be essential to sustaining long-term growth.



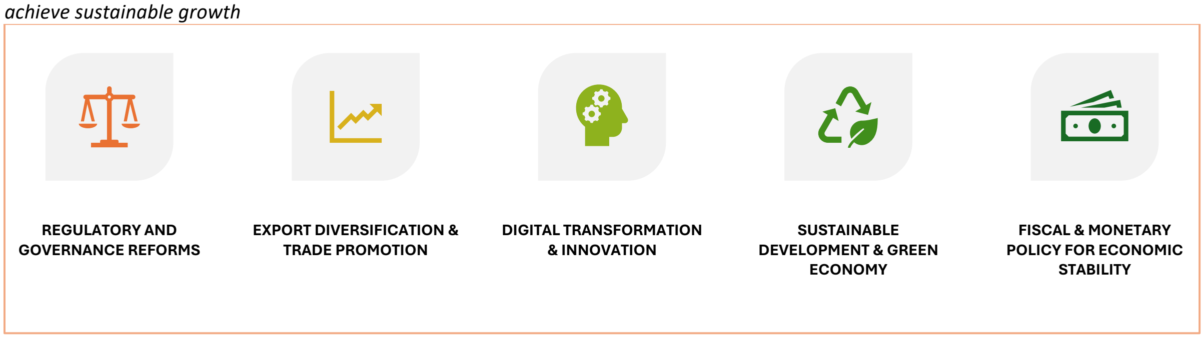
Key Challenges	
Rising Living Costs:	***• Inflation has rendered essential goods and services increasingly unaffordable.***
Slow Economic Growth:	***• Structural inefficiencies hinder Nepal's economic potential.***
Underutilized Resources:	***• Surplus foreign exchange reserves coexist with unproductive local resources.***
Low Industrial Productivity:	***• Limited innovation and skill gaps impede industrial growth.***
Overleveraged Corporate Sector:	***• Rapid expansion, overreliance on borrowing from BFIs, and long cash conversion periods from corporate trading activities.***
Non-Performing Assets (NPAs):	***• Growing NPAs jeopardize the financial sector's stability.***
Reduced Consumer Spending:	***• Declining purchasing power has weakened demand and overall economic activity.***
Weakening Currency:	***• Depreciation of the Nepalese rupee raises import costs and strains the economy.***

2) Nepal's economic landscape, highlighting key challenges and opportunities:

5. Structural Issues: Persistent challenges such as excessive bureaucracy, outdated regulations, and weak governance are identified as barriers to business stability.
6. Emerging Risks: The emerging risks that could threaten business stability, underscoring the need for proactive measures.
7. Emerging Risks: The emerging risks that could threaten business stability, underscoring the need for proactive measures.

2) Strategic Plan for Nepal's Economic Growth

Nepal can implement the following strategies and action plans to strengthen its economic resilience, enhance competitiveness, and achieve sustainable growth



1) Strategies for Nepal's Economic Development

Regulatory and Governance Reforms:	*Export Diversification:*	*Digital Transformation:*	*Sustainable Development:*	*Strategic Monetary and Fiscal Policies:*
Address structural issues by streamlining bureaucracy, updating outdated regulations, and strengthening governance to create a more business-friendly environment.	*Develop and implement policies that enhance the export sector, focusing on products where Nepal has a competitive advantage to increase foreign exchange earnings.*	*Invest in digital infrastructure and promote innovation to improve efficiency and global competitiveness.*	*Incorporate environmental sustainability into economic planning to ensure long-term resilience and inclusive growth.*	*Implement prudent financial management practices to navigate economic challenges effectively.*

2) Outlook for Nepal: Navigating Uncertainty with Urgent Action and Long-Term Vision

1. As Nepal steps into the New Year 2082, the country finds itself at a pivotal crossroads. Mounting economic headwinds, both domestic and international, are fueling uncertainty and raising the specter of another downturn. A confluence of risks is intensifying, demanding urgent and strategic action. At home, political instability and the erosion of public and investor confidence are compounding economic vulnerabilities.

2. The government's continued dependence on import-based revenue and elevated direct and indirect tax burdens, combined with rising public expenditure and a lack of structural reforms, further strain the economic landscape.

3. Meanwhile, the economy is facing a troubling disconnect, muted consumer demand alongside surplus capacity. Despite historically low interest rates, productivity remains stagnant, and private sector momentum has failed to pick up. Yet, amidst these challenges, there is room for cautious optimism.

4. With decisive leadership and well-targeted reforms, Nepal can still course-correct and lay the foundation for sustainable growth. Immediate stabilization measures are necessary, but so too is a bold medium-term reform agenda that strengthens institutions, boosts competitiveness, and improves living standards.

5. Key Recommendations for the Year Ahead:

   i) Safeguard International Credibility
   ii) Take urgent diplomatic and legal steps to ensure compliance with APG standards and address human trafficking concerns proactively.
   iii) Stimulate Domestic Demand
   iv) Support small businesses, expand access to affordable credit, and incentivize local production to invigorate the real economy.

v) Reform the Tax Structure
vi) Reduce over-reliance on import-based taxation by creating a fairer, growth-oriented tax regime that promotes investment and entrepreneurship.
vii) Strengthen Public Financial Management
viii) Improve efficiency, transparency, and targeting of government spending to maximize impact and maintain fiscal discipline.
ix) Rebuild Confidence and Stability
x) Foster political stability, regulatory consistency, and a clear, credible reform roadmap to restore public trust and attract long-term investment.

Nepal's path forward will not be without difficulty, but with focused effort and genuine political will, 2082 can mark the beginning of a more resilient, inclusive, and prosperous economic era.

Industrial Classification	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81 R	2081/82 P	Compare to last year
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2.85	2.35	3.02	3.35	3.28	DOWN
Mining and quarrying	4.65	8.84	0.91	3.23	1.99	DOWN
Manufacturing	8.66	6.70	-1.70	-2.02	3.78	UP
Electricity and gas	4.18	52.68	19.76	10.96	13.82	UP
Water supply; sewerage and waste management	1.35	3.08	3.22	1.27	2.09	UP
Construction	7.00	6.93	-1.48	-2.20	2.21	UP
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6.64	7.42	-4.10	-0.36	3.30	UP
Transportation and storage	4.44	4.60	1.45	13.43	9.45	DOWN
Accommodation and food service activities	10.73	12.56	18.03	21.03	5.00	DOWN
Information and communication	3.67	4.19	4.15	4.91	4.81	DOWN
Financial and insurance activities	4.66	6.91	7.92	7.94	6.29	DOWN
Real estate activities	2.77	1.72	2.91	2.43	2.72	UP
Professional, scientific and technical activities	1.51	3.50	3.93	4.15	3.98	DOWN
Administrative and support service activities	2.30	1.58	5.03	4.04	3.97	DOWN
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	3.38	4.08	5.46	4.27	2.24	DOWN
Education	3.92	4.66	3.93	2.15	1.98	DOWN
Human health and social work activities	6.60	6.99	6.57	5.31	4.77	DOWN
Other Services	3.38	4.48	5.64	4.27	3.92	DOWN
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.85	2.35	3.02	3.35	3.28	DOWN
Non-Agriculture	5.21	6.54	1.98	3.36	4.28	UP
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at basic prices	4.49	5.28	2.29	3.36	3.99	UP
Taxes less subsidies on products	8.03	8.75	-0.60	6.36	9.89	UP
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	4.84	5.63	1.98	3.67	4.61	UP

3) Economic Growth and Inflation

1. GoN set GDP growth target rate at 6% for FY 2025/26
2. For FY 2025/26 the GoN set target rate of inflation at 5.5% June 2025 inflation 2.72 within NRB target.

4) Growth Projections

1. The GDP growth forecasts for Nepal provided by key institutions such as the World Bank, ADB, IMF, and CBS reveal a dynamic and often shifting outlook. These projections are revised frequently, reflecting changes in both domestic and global economic conditions. The constant adjustments show how uncertain and volatile economic forecasting can be — and how numbers alone can sometimes be misleading without understanding the context behind them.

2. For instance, the World Bank initially projected Nepal's GDP growth for FY 2024/25 at 4.6% in April 2024. This was later revised upward to 5.1% in October 2024, only to be lowered to 4.9% by April 2025. A similar trend was observed for FY 2025/26, where forecasts peaked at 5.5% and later edged down to 5.4%. These fluctuations suggest a cautious optimism tempered by emerging economic data and possibly concerns over sustained recovery in key sectors.

3. ADB also adjusted its projections considerably. While it forecasted 4.9% growth for FY 2024/25 in September 2024, this estimate dropped to 4.4% by April 2025. These changes reflect the bank's sensitivity to developments such as slower-than-expected industrial growth or weaker domestic consumption. Even more stark are the revisions made by the IMF, which initially projected a robust 4.9% growth for FY 2024/25 in May 2024, but revised it down to around 4.0% in January 2025, before slightly increasing it to 4.2% in March. These changes reflect how susceptible Nepal's economy remains to external shocks, policy adjustments, and global market trends.

4. Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), which bases its estimates on actual data, reported a modest recovery, with growth improving from 2.16% in FY 2022/23 to 3.2% by the end of FY 2023/24. The early quarters of FY 2024/25 showed further improvement, with Q2 and Q3 estimates at 5.1% and 4.6%, respectively. Although these figures offer a more grounded view of Nepal's growth trajectory, they still align broadly with the revised projections of other agencies.

5. This volatility highlights the importance of looking beyond the figures to understand the underlying assumptions, risks, and policy environments that shape Nepal's economic future.

World Bank

1.April 2024 ***4.6%. FY 2024/25 projections***
- ***Oct. 2024*** ***5.1% (0.5% Improved form April 24 for 2024/25)***
- ***January 2025*** ***5.1% (no change from Oct. 2024 for 2024/25)***
- ***April 2025*** ***4.9% (0.2% down form January 2025)***
- ***June 2025.*** ***4% (0.9% down form April 2025)***

2.April 2024 ***5.3 % FY 2025/26 projections***
- ***Oct 2024*** ***5.5 %. (0.2% Improved from April 24 for FY 2025/26)***
- **January 2025** ***5.5% (no change from Oct. 2024 for 2025/26)***
- ***April 2025*** ***↓5.4% (0.1% down form January 2025)***

ADB

1.April 2024. ***3.6% - FY 2023/24 projections***
- ***Sept. 2024.*** ***3.90. 0.60% up from previous for FY 2023/24***

2.April 2024. ***4.8% - FY 2024/25 projections***
- ***Sept 2024.*** ***4.9% 0.1% up from April 2024 for 2024/25***
- **April; 2025** ***↓ 4.4% 0.5% down form Sept 2024 for 2024/25***

3.April 2025 ***5.1% FY 2025/26 Projection***

IMF

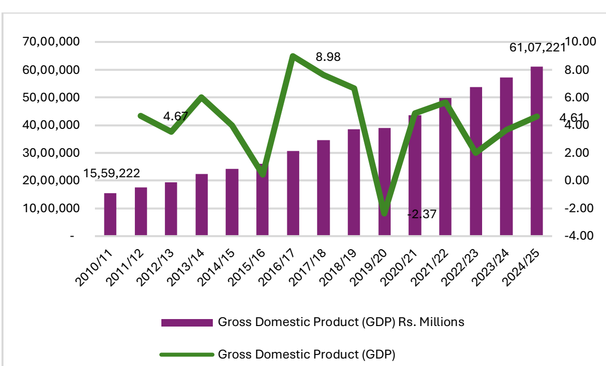
1. Oct 2023. ***0.80 % 4.3 % down from Jan 2023 (FY 22/23)***

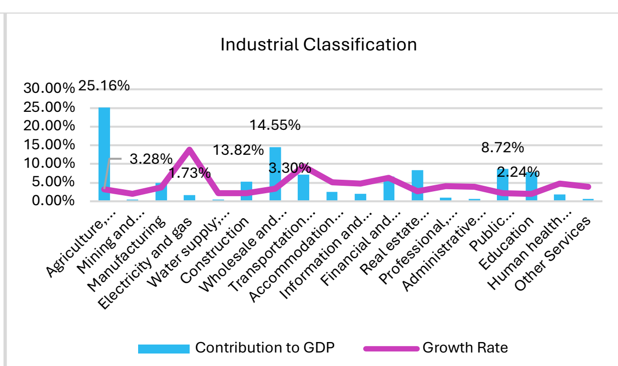
2. Dec 2023. ***3.5 % Forecast for 2023/24***
- ***May 2024.*** ***3.9%. (0.4% improved from Dec. 2023 for 2023/24)***

3. May 2024 ***4.9% FY 2024/25 projections***
- **January 2025** **↓ ~4 % (0.90% down from May 2024)**
- ***March 2025*** ***↑ 4.2%. (0.2% improved from Jan 2024 for 2024/25)***

CBS

- ***April 2023*** ***2.16% 2022/23***
- ***April 2024*** ***3% FY 2023/24***
- ***Oct. 2024*** ***3.2% FY 2023/24 Estimate Q IV***
- ***Jan 2025*** ***3.4% 2024/25 Estimate Q I***
- ***March 2025*** ***5.1% 2024/25 Estimate Q II***
- ***July 2025*** ***4.6% 2024/25 Estimate QIII***





6. Nepal's economic growth in 2024/25 is increasingly being powered by dynamic service sectors and productive middle-tier industries, while growth in large traditional sectors remains muted. Sectors like transport, finance, energy, and ICT are becoming new growth poles, but their scale is still developing. Meanwhile, public sector and agriculture dominate the structure but lack transformative momentum.

7. To ensure balanced and sustainable economic development, Nepal should:
   i) Scale up high-growth sectors through investment and policy support.
   ii) Modernize agriculture and public services to raise productivity.
   iii) Strengthen manufacturing and logistics, which combine scale and dynamism
   iv) Promote digital, green, and inclusive growth models to align emerging sectors with national development goals

5) Nepal's Financial and Energy Sectors at a Critical Juncture

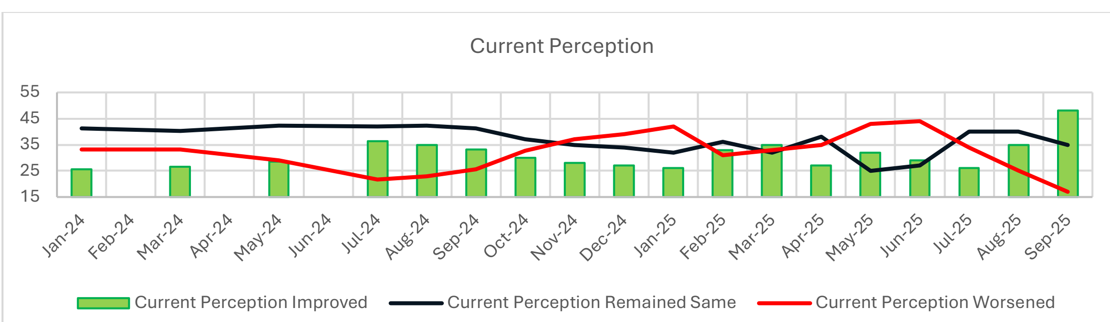
1. Nepal's financial sector stands at a pivotal moment. The recent placement of the country on the FATF Grey List due to deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (AML/CFT) framework has underscored the urgency of comprehensive reform. At the same time, the World Bank's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for FY2025–2031 offers a roadmap for fostering inclusive growth, strengthening institutional resilience, and advancing financial stability. Against this backdrop, the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) has taken a pivotal step by establishing a high-level Financial Sector Reform Committee, charged with addressing systemic gaps and guiding the financial sector towards a more resilient, trustworthy, and competitive future.

2. The CPF identifies a range of long-standing structural constraints within Nepal's economic landscape. Remittances comprise approximately 25.3% of GDP, highlighting their central role in the national economy, yet domestic investment and formal job creation remain subdued. Private investment has plateaued at roughly 22% of GDP, over 80% of the workforce operates in the informal sector, and women's participation in the labor market is just 24%, compared to 53% for men. Meanwhile, capital budget execution has been a persistent challenge, with only 63.5% of allocations utilized in FY2024. These indicators point to deep-seated institutional, regulatory, and financial access bottlenecks that require urgent attention. In response, NRB's Financial Sector Reform Committee has been mandated to address critical areas, including strengthening AML/CFT compliance and enforcement, aligning supervisory practices with international standards, and deepening financial inclusion. The Committee aims to design a dedicated national AML/CFT mechanism, refine legal provisions for financial and non-financial institutions, and foster stronger cross-border regulatory collaboration. It will also emphasize post-merger oversight of financial institutions, expand rural and underserved access, integrate gender-responsive financial literacy, and lay the groundwork for a more open and competitive financial sector.

3. These priorities are well-aligned with the World Bank's vision for a digital, climate-resilient, and inclusive financial ecosystem. Yet experience suggests that reform efforts in Nepal often stumble due to institutional fragmentation, political interference, and a lack of accountability. To break this cycle, the Committee must operate with a focus on transparency, clearly defined milestones, robust inter-agency collaboration, and strong legal underpinnings. Amendments to critical legislation, such as the NRB Act, must be prioritized to reinforce the central bank's independence and enforcement authority. With disciplined execution and sustained political will, this initiative has the potential to position Nepal's financial sector as a trusted, resilient, and investment-ready engine of growth — one that serves its people, especially women, MSMEs, and underserved communities, while aligning with global standards and best practices. Simultaneously, Nepal's hydropower sector faces its own critical challenge. The shift from a "take or pay" to a "take and pay" model threatens to disrupt the country's long-standing strategy for harnessing its hydropower potential, estimated at over 100,000 MW, and realizing its vision of converting "water into watts" and "watts into wealth." Without predictable, secure, and transparent policies, this vision may remain an unrealized slogan rather than an economic reality.

4. The NRB should review its productive sector lending policies, especially the mandatory lending quotas for the hydropower sector. At a time when uncertainty surrounding the role of the sole energy off-taker threatens to categorize the sector as high-risk, such policies must be re-evaluated. To preserve and deepen investor confidence, regulatory clarity and long-term stability must be priorities. By providing a sound policy environment, Nepal can secure the financing required to fully unlock its hydropower potential, ensuring long-term energy security and robust economic growth.

6) Consumer perception

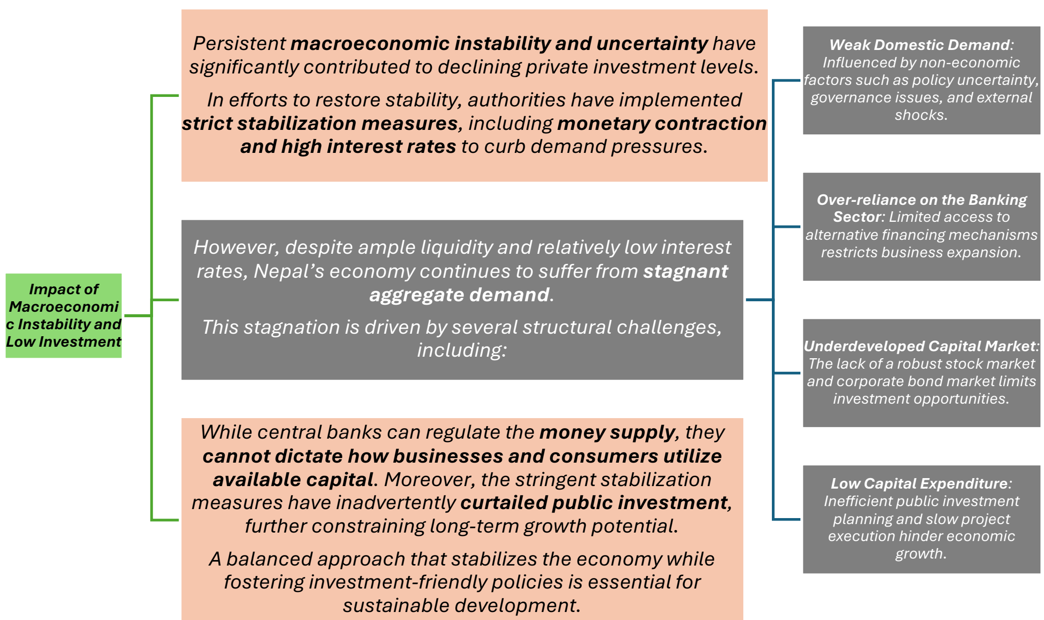


1. Persistent macroeconomic instability and uncertainty in Nepal have significantly influenced public sentiment, contributing to declining consumer confidence and subdued private investment. Despite temporary improvements in perception during mid-2024, recent survey rounds show a mix picture, reflecting growing concerns about the country's economic direction. To restore macroeconomic balance, authorities have adopted strict stabilization policies, including monetary tightening and high interest rates. While these measures aim to curb inflation and manage external vulnerabilities, they have also dampened domestic demand and investment enthusiasm.

2. Notably, even as liquidity conditions improved and interest rates softened in early 2025, consumer perception failed to rebound, indicating persistent stagnation in aggregate demand. This disconnect is rooted in structural challenges such as weak domestic demand driven by policy uncertainty, governance bottlenecks, and global shocks. Additionally, Nepal's over-reliance on the banking sector and its underdeveloped capital market continue to restrict access to diverse financing channels, limiting business and investment expansion. However, we expect that consumers perception will improve during September 2025.

3. Moreover, ineffective public investment execution and low capital expenditure have further reinforced negative consumer sentiment, as citizens see limited on-the-ground impact from public spending. While central banks can control the money supply, they cannot dictate consumer behavior or investor confidence. The current perception data underscores that monetary tools alone are insufficient—confidence, transparency, and effective policy implementation are critical to revive economic momentum.

4. To reverse the worsening trend in consumer sentiment, Nepal requires a balanced approach that not only ensures macroeconomic stability but also stimulates aggregate demand through proactive, investment-friendly reforms, improved capital market development, and *efficient public spending.*

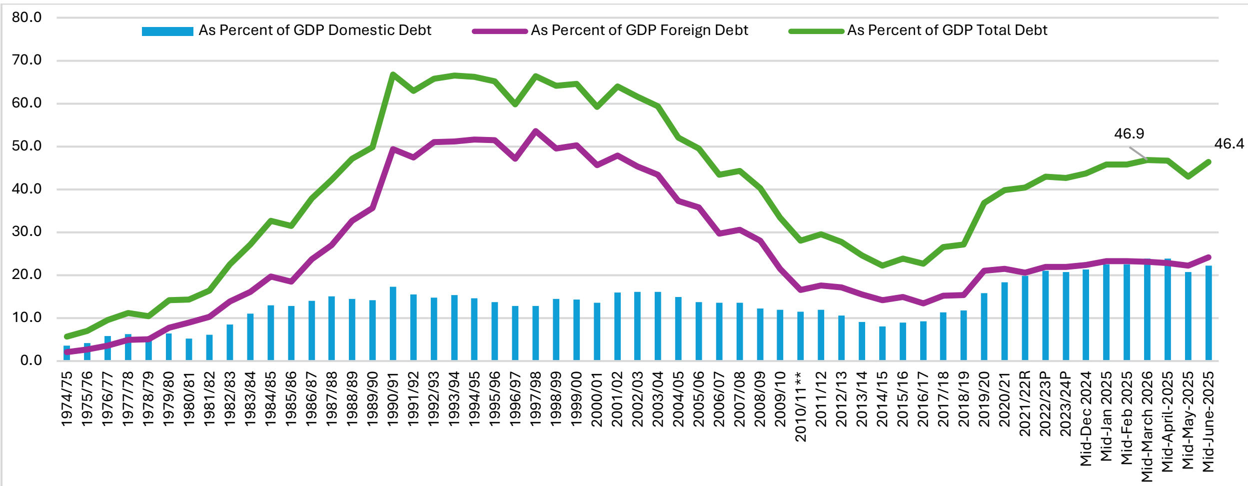


7) Interest rates and Inflation

Interest rates remain low, and inflation is expected to stabilize; however, credit growth is likely to remain subdued.

8) Debts to GDP

Starts above 66% of GDP, decreases to around 60% by 2009/10. Stabilizes, then rises from 2015/16 onwards, ending at 42.9% in 2019/80. Overall, foreign debt debt remains stable with a slight increase, domestic debt increases significantly, and total debt shows an increasing trend followed by a recent rise.



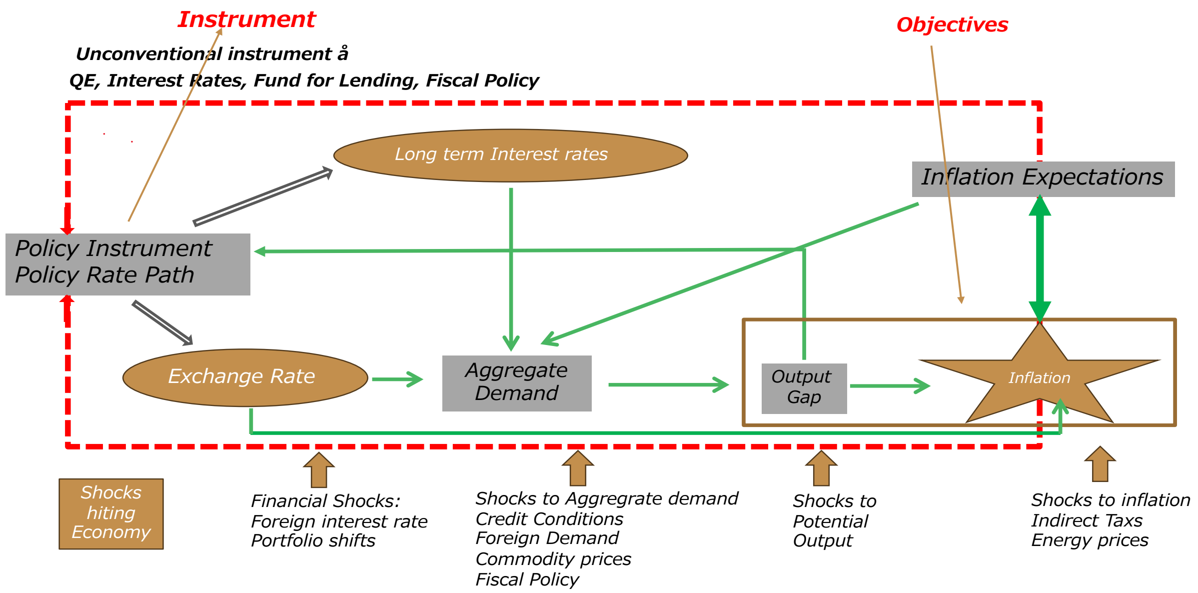
9) Risk Matrix

Risks	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Political Instability	*High*	*High*	*Strengthen governance frameworks and prioritize bipartisan support for key projects.*
Climate Disruptions	*High*	*High*	*Invest in disaster management and climate-resilient infrastructure.*
Weak Spending Execution and Revenue Mobilization	*High*	*High*	*Streamline budgetary processes and enhance accountability in capital expenditure and revenue moralization.*
Declining Private Sector Confidence	*Medium*	*High*	*Implement tax incentives, regulatory reforms, and ease of doing business measures.*
External Shocks (e.g., remittance or export decline)	*High*	*Severe*	*Nepalese government revenue heavily relies on customs duties. However, the risk of reciprocal tariffs from trading partners and a potential reduction in grants from friendly nations could threaten fiscal stability. To mitigate these challenges, Nepal should focus on boosting local production, reducing government expenditures, downsizing the government structure, and increasing investment in research and development.*
Rising Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)	*Medium*	*High*	*Establish an Asset Management Company (AMC) to address banking sector vulnerabilities.*

Condition		Related effect	Trend	Risk
Low Investment/low domestic income/ High migration	*Improving wholesale and retail operations.*	*Aggregate demand*	*Increase*	*Low*
	High unemployment	*Aggregate demand*	*Decline*	*High*
	Improving Corporate cash recovery/low productivity	*Firm Investment*	*increase*	*Low*
	Failure of SACCOs	*Disposable saving*	*Decline*	*High*
Trade war	*Increasing commodities prices*	*Import Bill*	*Increase*	*High*
	Energy Price	*Cost of production*	*Increase*	*High*
Interest Rates outlook	*Excess Liquidity*	*Deposit rates go below inflation*	*Decline*	*High*
Informal Economy	*Erode trust among investors and consumers*	*Government Revenue*	*Decline*	*High*
FDI inflow Outlook	*Excessive bureaucracy, outdated regulations, weak governance*	*FDI inflows*	*Decline*	*High*
Level of loan Default	*NPA reaching all time high*	*Pressure on Capital*	*Increase*	*High*
Demand for Working capital	*Low consumer confidence*	*Unutilized liquidity*	*Low*	*High*
Inflation outlook	*Lower consumer demand*	*Cost of living*	*Decline*	*Low*

These risks, individually and collectively, pose significant threats to Nepal's economic resilience. Immediate, coordinated policy actions are necessary to strengthen institutional capacity, diversify the economic base, and protect fiscal and financial stability. Leadership commitment, strategic investments, and evidence-based policymaking will be key to navigating these challenges.

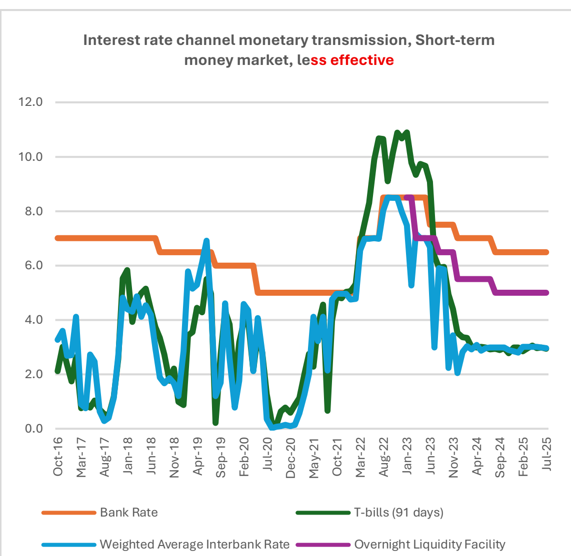
10) Policy Mistakes

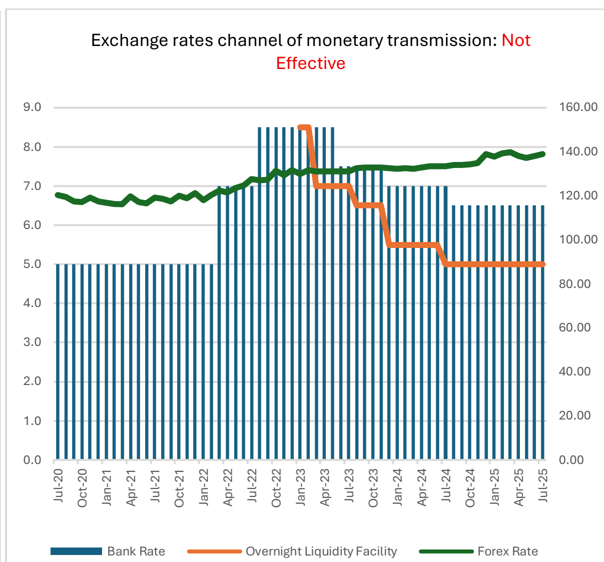


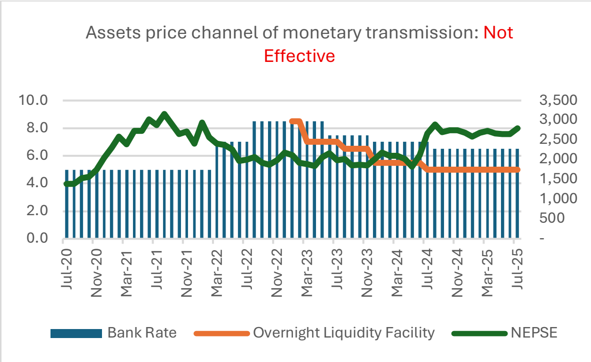
Monetary Transmission Mechanism

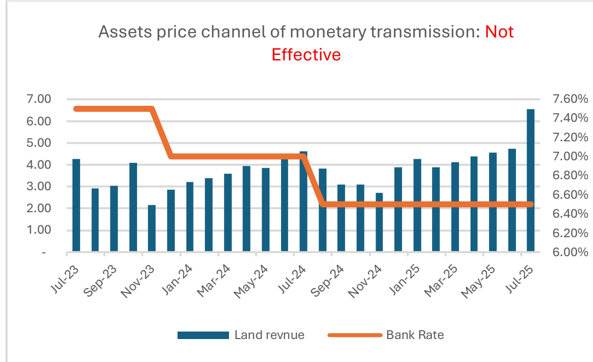
a) Monetary policy transmission

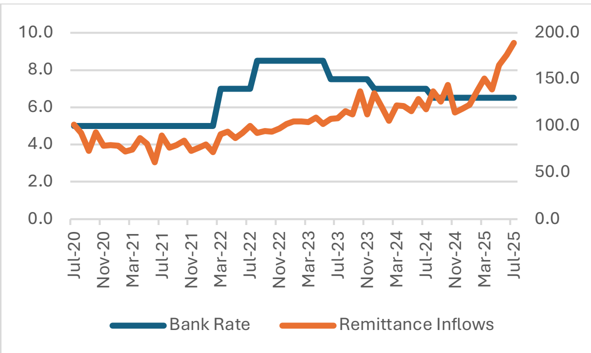
1. Interest Rate Channel	*Less Effective*
2. Lending Rates Channel	*Not Effective*
3. Asset Price Channel	*Not Effective*
4. Exchange Rate Channel	*Not Effective*

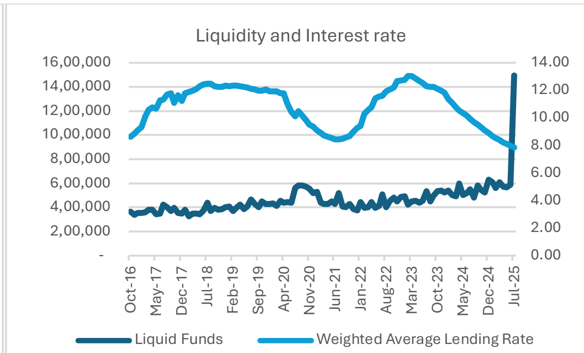


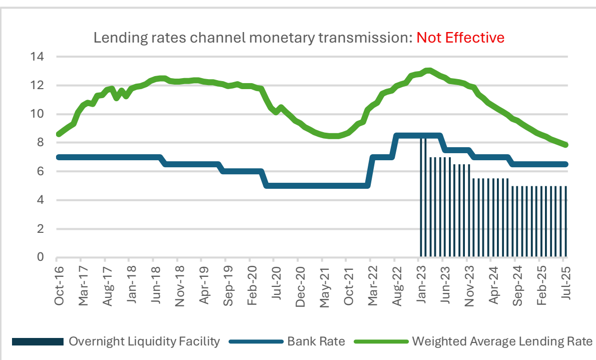


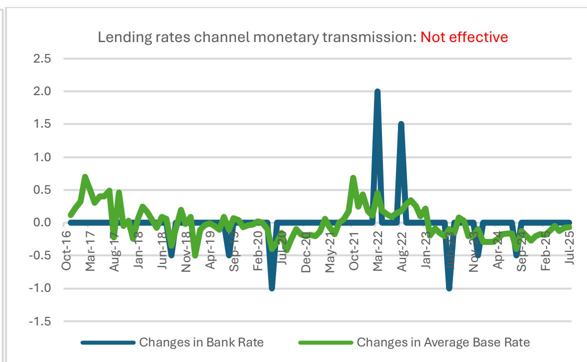

Assets price channel of monetary transmission: Not Effective
Bank Rate
Overnight Liquidity Facility
NEPSE

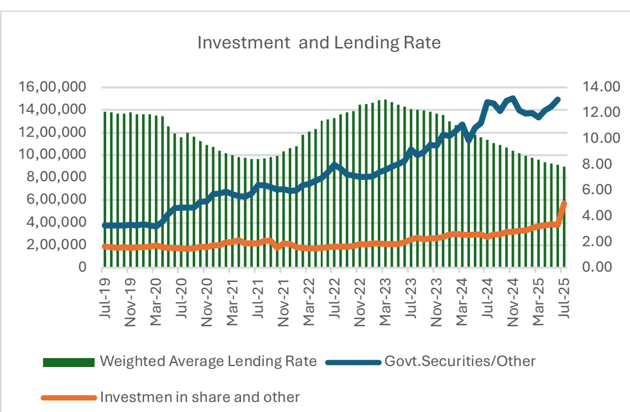

Assets price channel of monetary transmission: Not Effective
Land revnue
Bank Rate

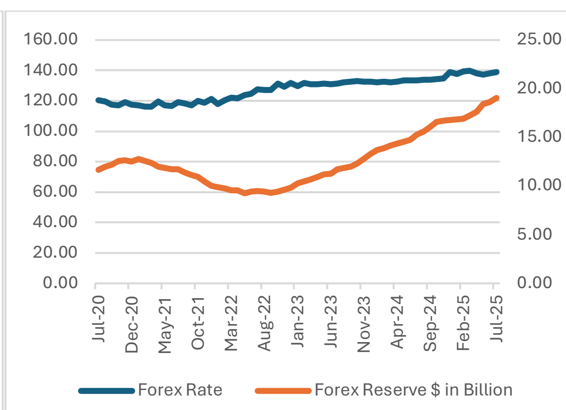

Bank Rate
Remittance Inflows

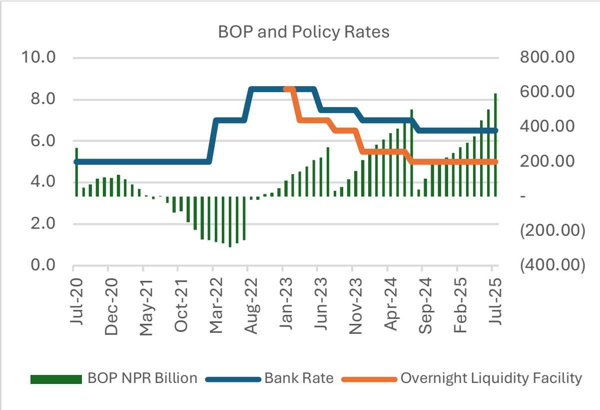

Liquidity and Interest rate
Liquid Funds
Weighted Average Lending Rate

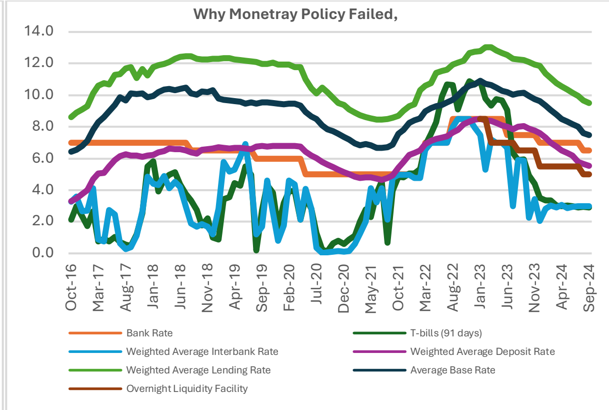

Lending rates channel monetary transmission: Not Effective
Overnight Liquidity Facility
Bank Rate
Weighted Average Lending Rate

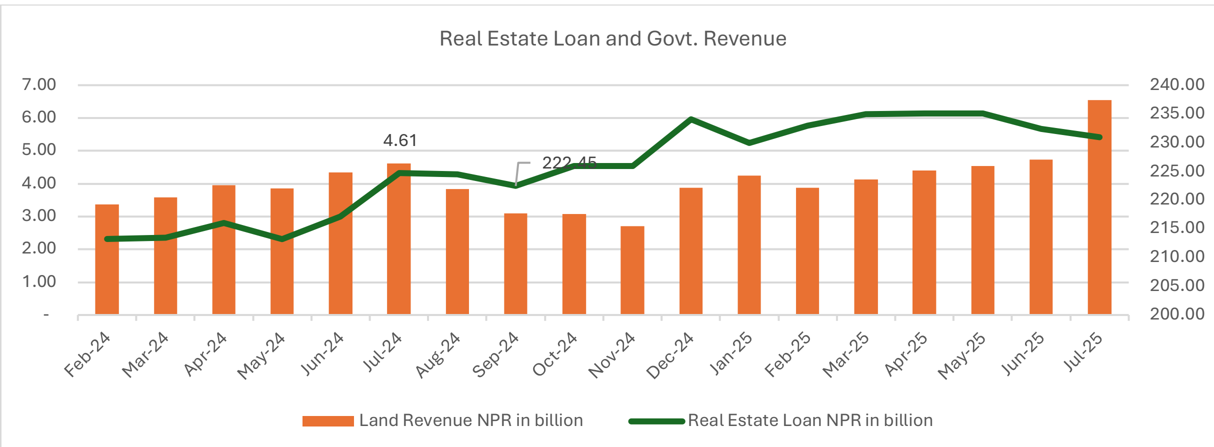

Lending rates channel monetary transmission: Not effective
Changes in Bank Rate
Changes in Average Base Rate


Investment and Lending Rate
Weighted Average Lending Rate
Govt.Securities/Other
Investmen in share and other


Forex Rate
Forex Reserve $ in Billion







b) Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)

1. Consumer Price Inflation (CPI)

Consumer price inflation exhibited considerable volatility from 2019 to 2024. The initial years saw relatively high inflation rates, which moderated slightly during the pandemic but surged again in the subsequent years.

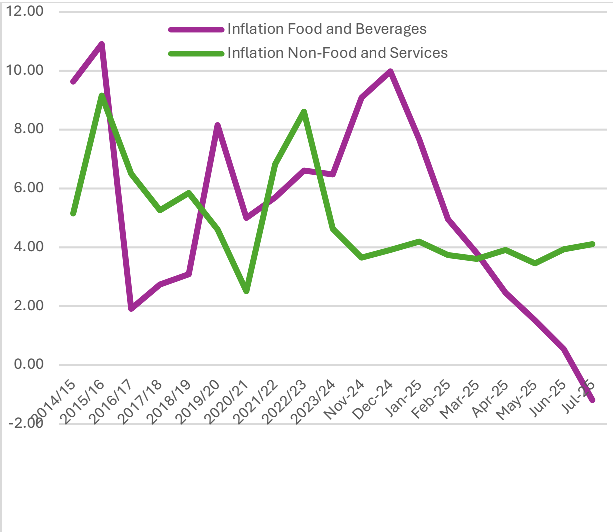
- *2019-2021: CPI fluctuated between 4.44% and 6.95%.*
- *2022: A decline in CPI, reaching a low of 2.70% in Jan-Feb, reflecting subdued demand during the pandemic.*
- *2023-2025: Inflation surged, peaking at 8.56% in 2023 before stabilizing around 2.20% by July 2025.*

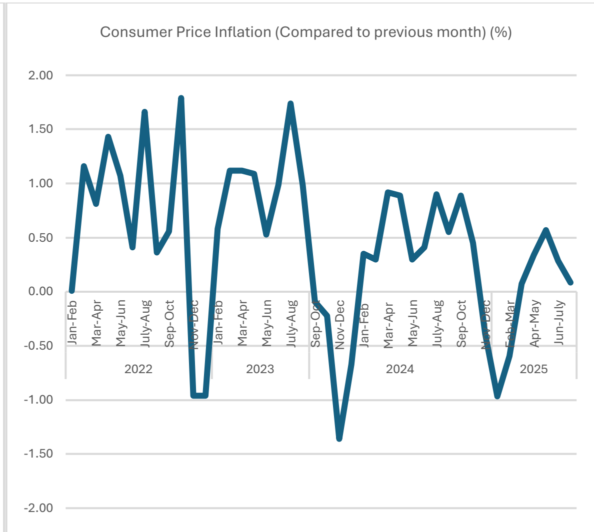
Policy Mistakes:

- ***Reactive Inflation Control:*** *Sudden interest rate adjustments intended to control inflation have added to economic instability. Nepal's Consumer Price Index (CPI) is largely driven by price fluctuations in the Indian market, making it relatively unresponsive to the Nepal Rastra Bank's (NRB) policy rate. In July 2025, the CPI declined to 2.20% from 6.05% in December 2024, primarily due to improved supply chain conditions and lower consumer demand. Persistence low inflation can be strong signal of the deflationary pressure.*

Recommendations:

- *Gradual and predictable adjustments to interest rates to manage inflation more effectively.*
- *Implement supply-side policies to address structural causes of inflation.*





c) The Kathmandu vegetable market

Vegetable and Fruit Price Movements (Bhadra 7–8, 2082)

The average wholesale prices of vegetables, fruits, and spices rose by 4.66% within a single day, underscoring the extreme short-term volatility in Nepal's agricultural markets. While some staple items like potatoes, onions, and tomatoes remained relatively stable, fresh vegetables and green spices saw disproportionate hikes, with local cucumber (+38.87%), green onion (+37.78%), green chili (+28–29%), and Neuro greens (+28%) recording the steepest increases. Such fluctuations have three key economic implications:

1. Inflationary Pressure on Households
   Green vegetables and spices are a daily consumption necessity for urban households. Their sudden spikes directly raise food expenditure, disproportionately affecting low- and middle-income families. Since food holds a large weight in Nepal's Consumer Price Index (CPI), persistent volatility in these items can translate into broader food inflation.

2. Supply Chain and Market Inefficiencies
   The sharp divergence, where some commodities like okra (-17.38%), parwar (-12.94%), and bitter gourd (-11.84%) fell, points to supply chain bottlenecks and poor market integration. Farmers in surplus areas face gluts and low prices, while urban consumers pay premiums for other items. This mismatch signals a need for better storage, transport, and distribution systems to smoothen supply shocks.

3. Dependence on Imports vs. Local Production
   Items like garlic, carrots, and fruits imported seasonally show greater stability or even declines, while perishable local vegetables are more volatile. This reflects Nepal's limited capacity in cold storage, processing, and market timing, making local produce vulnerable to weather and transport disruptions. Overreliance on imports in some items and poor management of local harvests in others exposes structural weaknesses.

Policy Recommendations

1. Strengthen Cold Chain & Storage Infrastructure: Investment in warehousing and cold storage facilities could reduce post-harvest losses and stabilize supplies, particularly for perishables like cucumbers, leafy greens, and chilies.

2. Promote Market Linkages & Transport Efficiency: Enhancing farm-to-market logistics and digital trading platforms could bridge the rural–urban supply gap, preventing both gluts at the farmgate and shortages in cities.

3. Seasonal Price Stabilization Mechanisms: Government could pilot buffer stock or minimum support systems for highly volatile items, cushioning both farmers and consumers from extreme swings.

4. Encourage Off-Season & Greenhouse Production: Policies supporting controlled-environment agriculture (CEA), tunnels, and hydroponics could mitigate seasonality and stabilize supply of high-demand vegetables.

5. Data-Driven Monitoring: Regular publication of real-time market intelligence on prices and stocks would enable policymakers, traders, and consumers to make informed decisions.

The sharp 4.66% average rise in just one day demonstrates that Nepal's food markets are highly vulnerable to volatility, particularly in vegetables and spices. Without structural interventions in storage, logistics, and production planning, such fluctuations will continue to fuel short-term food inflation, erode household purchasing power, and undermine farmer incomes. Policymakers must prioritize market integration and infrastructure to ensure both consumer affordability and farmer sustainability.

d) Overall inflation

a) Overall inflation fluctuated significantly, peaking at 9.92% in FY 2015/16 due to the 2015 earthquake and trade blockades, while reaching its lowest at 3.60% in FY 2020/21, reflecting subdued economic activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

b) Food and beverages inflation shows greater volatility, often exceeding non-food inflation, particularly during crises such as FY 2015/16 and FY 2019/20, driven by supply chain disruptions, seasonal shortages, or rising import prices. Conversely, years like FY 2016/17 and FY 2020/21 saw food inflation dip significantly, likely due to improved agricultural output or lower global food prices.

c) Non-food and services inflation, however, remained relatively stable and typically lower than food inflation, except in FY 2022/23, when it surged past food inflation (8.62% vs. 6.62%), suggesting steady demand for services and non-perishable goods.

d) In FY 2023/24, inflation moderated to 5.44% compared to the previous year, though food inflation remained elevated at 6.47%. Notably, food inflation spiked sharply in November and December 2024, reaching 9.10% and 9.99%, respectively, likely due to seasonal factors or supply disruptions. In contrast, non-food inflation remained low, ranging between 3.65% and 4.19%, indicating limited price pressures in non-food categories. However, in July 2025, non-food inflation spikes to 4.12%, while food inflation decreased to -1.19%.

e) Overall, food inflation appears more susceptible to shocks from natural disasters, supply chain disruptions, or global price fluctuations, while non-food inflation demonstrates relative stability, indicating controlled service sector pricing and steadier demand.

e) Export and Import

2. Exports and Imports

The trade dynamics of Nepal showed significant variations, with exports growing inconsistently and imports experiencing sharp fluctuations.

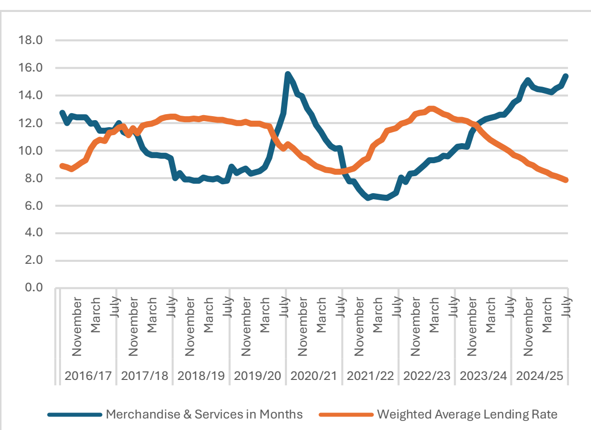
- *Exports rose steadily from NPR 8.6 billion in early 2019 to NPR 13.33 billion by December-January 2024, before climbing further to NPR 24.7 billion by mid-January 2025. In contrast, imports saw a significant surge, increasing from NPR 112.5 billion in early 2019 to NPR 188.1 billion by December 2021. To mitigate this sharp rise, the Government of Nepal (GoN) implemented import restrictions. Even after these restrictions were eased, imports showed a slow recovery, resulting in a substantial unutilized foreign exchange reserve capable of covering 17 months of imports, well above the Nepal Rastra Bank's target of seven months. By mid-August 2025, imports had decreased to NPR 143 billion, we expect iimport will increas in comming month due to festival demand.*

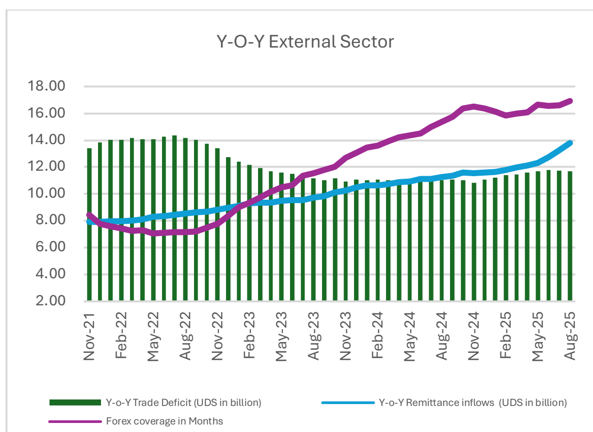
Policy Mistakes:

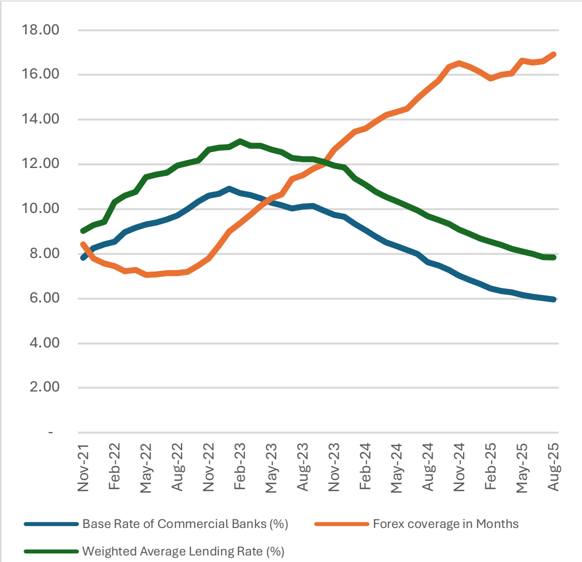
- *Overreliance on import restrictions proved to be a short-term solution, causing supply chain disruptions without providing a sustainable resolution to the trade deficit. The ongoing currency depreciation and rising costs are expected to continue exerting pressure on the balance of payments (BOP).*

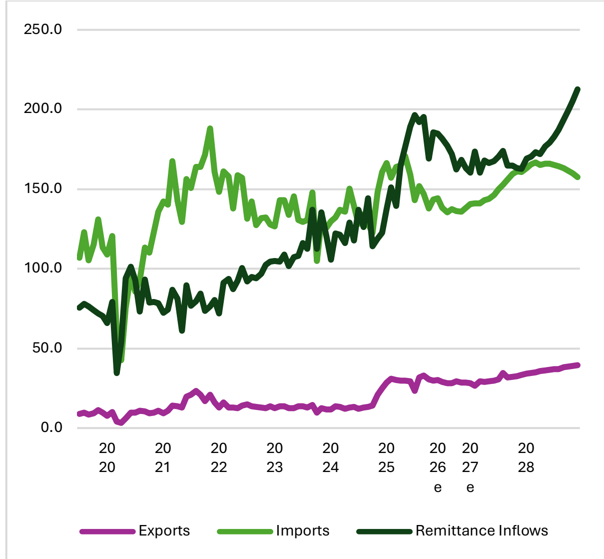
Recommendations:

- *Develop and promote local industries to reduce import dependency.*
- *Implement balanced trade policies to ensure essential imports while fostering domestic production. To mitigate these challenges, Nepal should focus on boosting local production, reducing government expenditures, downsizing the government structure, and increasing investment in research and development.*









f) Government Expenditure

3. Government Expenditure

Government expenditure showed considerable volatility, particularly during the pandemic, with significant increases aimed at economic stabilization.

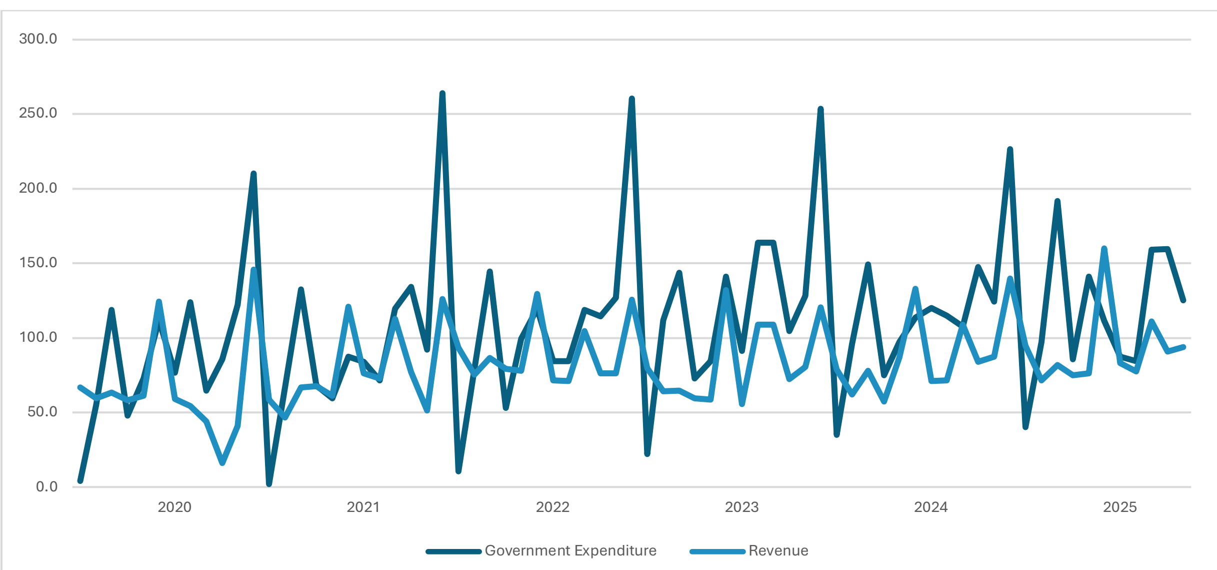
- *2019-2021: Varied widely, peaking at NPR 260.6 billion in Jun-Jul 2021.*
- *2022-2024: Continued to fluctuate, reaching NPR 226.7 billion by Jun-Jul 2024 and NPR 125 billion August 2025.*

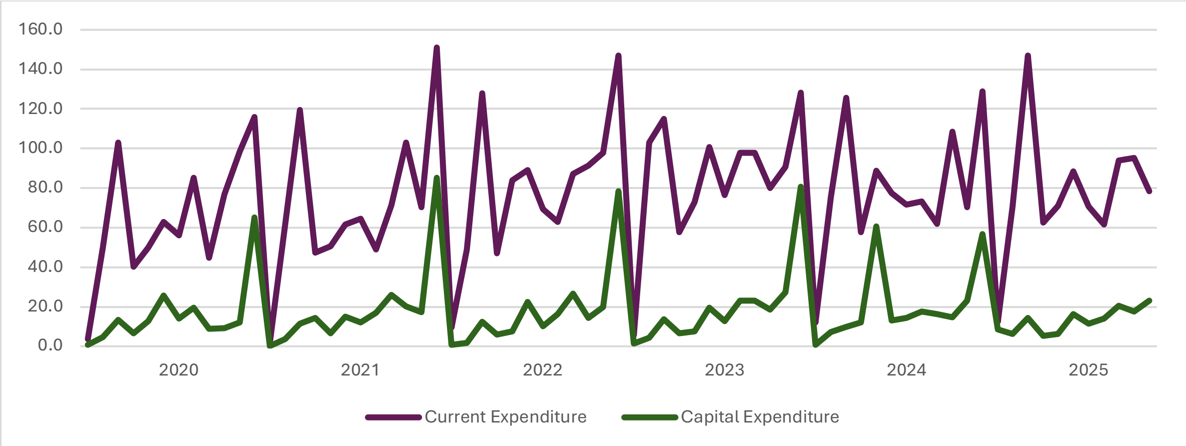
Policy Mistakes:

- *Inconsistent fiscal stimulus, marked by delays and erratic implementation, has undermined its effectiveness in stabilizing the economy. High administrative costs and growing social security commitments have increased debt burdens and reduced revenue collection, further straining government spending.*

Recommendations:

- *Ensure timely and consistent fiscal interventions to support economic stability.*
- *Focus on efficient allocation and utilization of government resources.*





g) Private sector Credit

4. Private Sector Credit and Deposit Mobilization

Private sector credit and deposit mobilization showed high variability, reflecting changes in economic confidence and policy impacts.

- *Private Sector Credit: Saw periods of contraction and growth, with notable increases during the end of FY 2024/25.*
- *Deposit Mobilization: Experienced similar volatility, with significant peaks and troughs.*

Policy Mistakes:

- *Sudden policy changes, such as the rapid implementation of working capital guidelines, caused short-term disruptions in credit availability. Increasing non-performing assets (NPA) have added pressure on capital, while diminished confidence among both lenders and borrowers has further strained domestic demand.*

Recommendations:

- *Introduce policy changes with phased rollouts to minimize disruptions.*
- *Engage stakeholders in policy development to ensure smooth transitions.*
- *To address these challenges, Nepal Rastra Bank's working capital guidelines require structural reform, and a review of asset classification and provisioning norms is essential to align with the realities of muted GDP growth and ensure financial stability.*

1. A core set of financial stability indicators for banks:

Capital adequacy	*Asset quality*	*Earnings and profitability*	*Liquidity*	*Sensitivity to market, credit and operational risks*
Under Pressure	*Deteriorating*	*Net Interest Merging narrowing*	*Excessive increasing negative carrying cost*	*Increasing*

2. If all problem, loan become bad

a. As of mid-July2025, Nepal's gross loan portfolio totals NPR 5,591 billion, with 92.05 % classified as good loans (NPR 5,146 billion) and 7.95% as problem loans (NPR 444.36 billion). While this indicates relatively healthy loan quality, it underscores the importance of careful handling of the banking sector's risk profile. Provisions currently amount to NPR 285.01 billion (5.10% of gross loans), serving as a buffer against defaults. However, if all problem loans were to turn bad, an additional NPR 159.35 billion in provisions would be required, raising the total provisioning requirement to 7.95%.

b. The banking system is supported by NPR 567.16 billion in paid-up capital and statutory reserves, equivalent to 10.14% of gross loans. With additional reserves, total capital reaches NPR 764.85 billion, or 13.68% of the loan portfolio. In a stressed scenario where all problem loans turn bad, net capital would drop to NPR 407 billion (7.29% of gross loans), falling below the minimum capital threshold. When Tier 1 capital breaches this threshold, banks lose their lending capacity, reducing investment and slowing economic activity. However, total capital would remain at NPR 605 billion (10.83%), demonstrating resilience while emphasizing the need for vigilance.

c. This challenging scenario also presents opportunities for reform. With timely action, the regulator can review and update policies to fortify the financial system. Introducing robust insolvency laws to expedite loan resolution and encouraging the development of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) could create a more efficient recovery framework. The Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) is well-positioned to take proactive steps by re-evaluating asset classification and provisioning approaches. Transitioning to a loss-given-default model, rather than time-based provisioning norms, could better reflect actual risks. Lenders must also implement stricter asset classification guidelines and accurately assess provisioning needs to enhance preparedness.

d. By aligning Nepal's provisioning framework with regional best practices and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, the country can address financial challenges effectively and strengthen its banking sector. These measures would contribute to a more stable and resilient financial system capable of withstanding future shocks.

Amount in Rs Billion	Mid-July	%age
Gross Loan	5,591.29	100.00%
Good loan	5,146.93	92.05%
Problem Loan	444.36	7.95%
Provision made	285.01	5.10%
Additional provision required if all become Bad	159.35	2.85%
Paid up Capital and Statutory Reserves	567.16	10.14%
Total capital to loan	764.85	13.68%
Net capital If all problem loan becomes bad	407.81	7.29%
Total capital If all problem loan becomes bad	605.50	10.83%

3. Total Loan Loss Provision

	Mid-July			Mid-July
Provision for Risk Rs in billion	2022	2023	2024	2025
Opening		110.30	168.12	230.01
Addition		85.63	105.41	113.86
Less Write Back		27.56	43.24	58.46
Less Recovery from Written off Loan		0.25	0.29	0.41
Closing	110.30	168.12	230.01	285.01
Gross Loan Loas Provision	2.27%	3.33%	4.26%	5.10%

4. Risk Assets Classification

Gross loan	2025			
Risk Assets Classification	Mid-July			
Pass Loan	4,698.74	5,146.61	84.04%	92.05%
Watch List	447.88		8.01%	
Special Mention Loan	368.63	444.68	6.59%	7.95%
Other specified Loan	76.05		1.36%	
Gross Loan	5,591.29		100.00%	100.00%

5. Key Considerations: Can Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) Help Solve Nepal's Debt Problem?

Key Considerations: Can Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) Help Solve Nepal's Debt Problem?

1. Valuation & Market Readiness

- *Should banks accept reasonable valuations for only a fraction of their non-performing assets (NPAs)?*
- *Banks must mark down asset values to levels acceptable to the market and ARCs.*

2. Transparency & Governance

- *Establish a clear and transparent methodology to prevent collusion and allegations of wrongdoing.*
- *Engage private sector participants through an open and competitive bidding process.*

3. Regulatory Oversight & Financial Stability

- *Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) should conduct periodic Asset Quality Reviews to assess financial institutions' health.*
- *NRB must introduce measures to improve price discovery and facilitate efficient credit risk transfer.*

4. Legal & Structural Reforms

- *Reduce legal barriers and roadblocks that hinder asset resolution and recovery.*
- *Develop policies to enable ARCs to issue security receipts (SRs) or "hope notes" as part of debt resolution mechanisms.*

5. Government & Institutional Support

- *Define the extent and form of government financial backing for ARCs.*

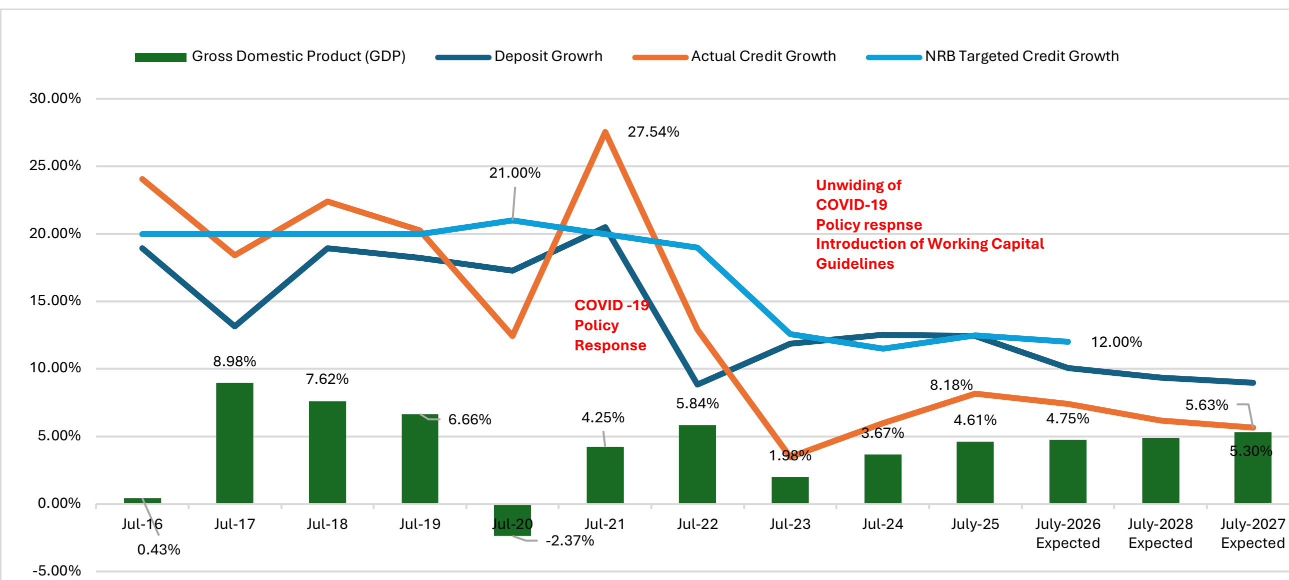
h) Commercial Bank's Loan Composition and Growth Trend

Heading *(Rs. in million)*	**2025**			
	Jul (P)	**Share**	**Trend**	**Growth**
Agriculture	4,17,889	7.47%	Down	-0.17%
Mines	11,755	0.21%	Down	-1.20%
Productions	8,84,047	15.81%	Down	7.91%
Construction	2,31,393	4.14%	Up	11.25%
Metal Productions	73,073	1.31%	Down	3.96%
Transportation	52,327	0.94%	Down	0.56%
Communications and Energy	4,76,623	8.52%	Up	15.54%
Wholesaler and Retailers	10,33,244	18.48%	Down	3.37%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estates	4,40,738	7.88%	Up	11.28%
Service Industries	4,88,550	8.74%	Up	12.79%
Consumable Loan	11,51,769	20.60%	Up	13.63%
Local Government	1,234	0.02%	Down	1.29%
Others	3,29,428	5.89%	Down	-0.47%
Total	55,92,070		Up	8.22%

i) Loan Securities Composition and Growth Trend

H Heading (Rs. in million)	2025 Jul (P)	Share	Trend	Growth
Gold/Silver	83,287	1.49%	Up	42.40%
Government Securities	4,606	0.08%	Up	45.74%
Non Government Securities	1,31,074	2.34%	Up	60.53%
Fixed A/c Receipt	40,105	0.72%	Down	-3.59%
Asset Guarantee	49,41,761	88.37%	Up	6.91%
Lands and Buildings	36,19,801	64.73%	Up	5.31%
Machinery and Tools	1,94,428	3.48%	Up	14.81%
Furniture and Fixture	2,141	0.04%	Down	-13.95%
Vehicles	1,54,659	2.77%	Up	4.17%
Other Fixed Assets	1,61,418	2.89%	Down	-10.63%
Current Assets	8,09,314	14.47%	Up	18.28%
Agricultural Products	61,037	1.09%	Up	0.42%
Other Non Agricultural Products	7,48,277	13.38%	Up	20.02%
On Bills Guarantee	51,517	0.92%	Up	44.75%
Domestic Bills	5,629	0.10%	Up	406.21%
Foreign Bills	45,887	0.82%	Up	33.10%
Guarantee	1,97,228	3.53%	Down	-1.18%
Credit Card	6,223	0.11%	Up	9.58%
Others	1,36,269	2.44%	Up	14.65%
Total	55,92,070		Up	8.22%

j) Growth Trend



a. The data from FY 2016 to FY 2027 reveals not just economic trends but deeper structural and policy dynamics in Nepal's financial system. A critical analysis of the period—especially surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic—highlights how policy responses, external shocks, and domestic structural weaknesses have influenced credit growth, deposit mobilization, and broader macroeconomic stability.

b. During the early COVID-19 period (FY 2020), Nepal experienced a historic contraction in GDP by -2.37%, accompanied by a significant drop in credit growth to 12.46%, down from 20.28% the year before. In response, the government and the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) implemented aggressive monetary and fiscal stimuli to support the economy. This included refinancing facilities, interest subsidies, loan moratoriums, and relaxed regulatory measures. These interventions, while critical in the short term, had profound side effects. By FY 2021, credit growth surged to 27.54%, far exceeding the NRB's target of 20%, as banks deployed liquidity into the economy at unprecedented rates. However, the economic rebound in GDP was only moderate (4.25%), revealing a possible mismatch between credit expansion and real economic activity. Much of the credit appears to have flowed into non-productive sectors such as real estate and margin lending, inflating asset prices rather than generating broad-based economic growth.

c. As the COVID stimulus unwound post-FY 2021, the NRB began tightening monetary policy to rein in inflationary pressure and financial risks. This policy reversal coincided with a sharp deceleration in both credit and deposit growth. Credit growth dropped to 12.91% in FY 2022 and collapsed further to just 3.48% in FY 2023, despite a moderate GDP expansion. Deposit growth, the foundation of financial intermediation, also declined significantly, from 20.5% in FY 2021 to just 8.84% in FY 2022. This suggests not just liquidity tightening but a deeper erosion in public trust and saving capacity—partly driven by inflation, falling remittances in real terms, and economic uncertainty.

d. One of the key structural failures contributing to this decline is the crisis in Nepal's savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOS). Traditionally a significant source of local credit and deposit mobilization, these cooperatives have suffered from poor regulation, governance failures, and mismanagement of funds. The collapse or insolvency of several cooperatives in recent years has severely undermined confidence in the informal financial system, pushing more pressure onto the formal banking sector. This has likely contributed to the reluctance of both savers and borrowers, further weakening financial intermediation.

e. Compounding these economic issues is ongoing political instability. Frequent changes in government, inconsistent policy direction, and delays in budget implementation have all hampered the effectiveness of economic reforms. The absence of a credible long-term economic vision and weak institutional execution capacity have further aggravated investor uncertainty and discouraged long-term credit demand and investment. As a result, even as NRB has tried to stabilize the economy through calibrated credit growth targets (down to 11.5% by FY 2024 and projected 12% in FY 2026), actual credit growth remains tepid. The expected figures for FY 2025–FY 2027 indicate a gradual recovery in credit growth, but still below historical norms. Interestingly, the projected credit growth (around 6.5%) remains consistently higher than deposit growth (falling to 5.63% by FY 2027), suggesting a potential structural liquidity mismatch or continued reliance on alternative funding sources such as external borrowing or NRB refinancing. This imbalance, if not managed carefully, may create systemic risks or constrain credit availability in the future.

f. In summary, the post-COVID period in Nepal is marked by the challenge of transitioning from stimulus-driven liquidity to a more disciplined, growth-oriented credit environment. While NRB has responded with tighter policy frameworks, the overall effectiveness is limited by broader structural issues, including political volatility, institutional mistrust following the cooperative crisis, and a fragile depositor base. For sustained recovery, Nepal will need not only macroprudential discipline but also deep structural reforms in financial governance, cooperative regulation, and political accountability to rebuild confidence in both the banking system and the broader economy.

k) Interest Rates

5. Interest Rates

Interest rates exhibited a general upward trend, particularly post-pandemic, as the NRB attempted to control inflation and stabilize the economy.

- *Deposit Rates: Increased from approximately 6.70% in early 2019 to around 8.08% by April-May 2023, before declining to 4.75% in January 2025. Despite the lower rates and surplus liquidity, the market continues to experience a credit crunch.*
- *Lending Rates: Rose from about 12.30% in early 2019 to nearly 12.55% by April-May 2023, but have since dropped to 7.99% June 2025.*
- *Base Rates of Commercial Banks: Gradually decreased over the period, indicating the impact of excess liquidity and loss of confidence in the market.*
- *Liquidity remains high, foreign reserves are strong, but average credit demand has stagnated at ~5.8% for three years. Rising NPAs are eroding banking capital, and Tier 1 capital is nearing the minimum threshold. Businesses are highly leveraged, limiting new investments.*

Policy Mistakes:

- *Overemphasis on Monetary Measures: Relying solely on interest rate adjustments without tackling broader economic challenges proves insufficient. Excessive focus on working capital guidelines, risk weightage, and asset classification fails to align with the subdued growth dynamics of the economy.*

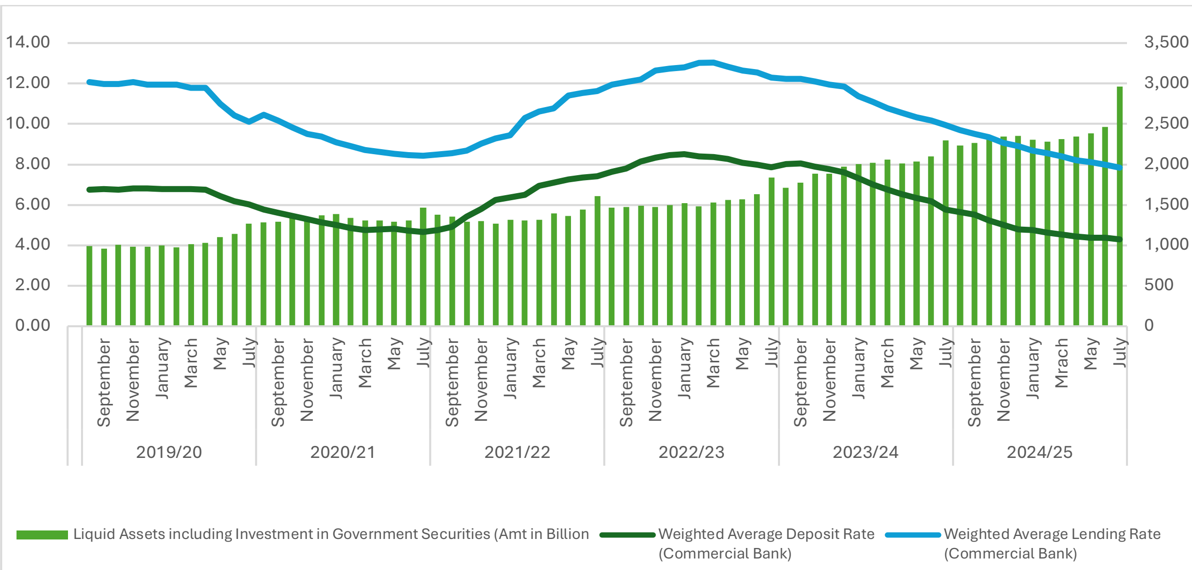
Recommendations:

- *Balance monetary measures with structural reforms to enhance overall economic resilience.*
- *Implement targeted lending programs to support critical sectors.*

a. The relationship between deposit rates, lending rates, and liquidity in Nepal's banking sector reflects critical dynamics impacting the sector's overall health and economic growth. Over the observed period, deposit and lending rates have shown a consistent decline. For instance, the weighted average deposit rate dropped from 6.77% in August 2019 to 4.29% in June 2025, while lending rates decreased from 12.08% to 7.85%. This trend indicates an easing monetary policy environment or competitive efforts by banks to reduce funding costs. Simultaneously, banks' liquid assets, including investments in government securities, rose significantly from NPR 989 billion in August 2019 to NPR 2,390 billion by July 2025. This increase in liquidity highlights a trend of banks holding more liquid assets, driven by subdued credit demand and regulatory liquidity requirements.

b. Despite falling interest rates, loan demand has not increased proportionately due to several factors. Economic uncertainty, such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, has reduced business confidence and borrowing appetite. Structural bottlenecks like bureaucratic delays and insufficient infrastructure, combined with borrowers' risk aversion and a lack of viable investment opportunities, have further constrained loan growth. Additionally, banks' cautious approach to lending due to perceived credit risks has limited credit expansion. As a result, excess liquidity has been funneled into low-risk government securities, which yield lower returns compared to loans, compressing banks’ net interest margins and affecting profitability.

c. To address these challenges, banks should diversify their loan portfolios by targeting emerging sectors like renewable energy, technology, and export-oriented industries. Fiscal policy measures, such as increased government spending on infrastructure and subsidies for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), can stimulate economic activity and boost credit demand. Strengthening financial intermediation by streamlining loan evaluation and disbursement processes, coupled with promoting financial literacy to encourage productive borrowing, is essential. A coordinated approach involving both fiscal and monetary policies is critical to overcoming these structural and demand-side issues, ensuring that declining interest rates translate into meaningful economic growth and financial stability.



Section 3 Reforms agenda

1) Key Considerations:

Targeted Stimulus: *Implement targeted stimulus measures to revive sectors hardest hit by the pandemic and policy changes. This includes providing financial support and incentives for industries such as tourism, hospitality, and small businesses.*

Infrastructure Investment: *Prioritize investments in infrastructure projects to stimulate economic activity and create employment opportunities. Infrastructure development not only boosts short-term growth but also lays the foundation for long-term prosperity.*

Diversification Strategies: *Encourage diversification strategies to reduce reliance on sectors susceptible to external shocks. Promoting innovation and supporting emerging industries can enhance economic resilience and mitigate vulnerabilities.*

Regulatory Clarity: *Provide clarity and consistency in regulatory frameworks to support lending activities and foster a conducive environment for credit growth. Clear guidelines and streamlined processes can enhance the efficiency of credit allocation and promote investment.*

Policy Coordination: *Enhance coordination between fiscal and monetary authorities to ensure a cohesive approach to inflation management. Coordinated policies, including targeted fiscal measures and appropriate monetary interventions, can effectively address inflationary pressures.*

Forward Guidance: *Provide clear and transparent forward guidance on monetary policy to guide market expectations and promote stability. Clear communication from central banks can help manage interest rate expectations and minimize market volatility.*

Policy Flexibility: *Maintain policy flexibility to respond to evolving economic conditions. Central banks should stand ready to adjust interest rates in line with changing economic indicators, ensuring an appropriate balance between growth and inflation objectives.*

1) *To enhance financial transparency and prevent illicit activities, Nepal should centralize the AML reporting system under a single regulatory authority. This will streamline reporting, reduce redundancy, and ensure consistent enforcement of AML regulations across financial institutions and businesses.:*

   a. Strict Implementation of AML Regulations:
      Strengthen oversight to prevent financial crimes while maintaining a balanced approach that does not overburden legitimate businesses.

   b. Encouraging Voluntary Reporting of Suspicious Transactions:
      Businesses should be incentivized to report suspicious activities proactively. A safe harbor provision can be introduced to protect businesses that voluntarily disclose transactions in good faith.

   c. Reducing Compliance Costs:
      Current AML compliance requirements create a heavy financial and administrative burden on businesses. Simplifying reporting procedures, digitalizing compliance processes, and providing clear guidelines will reduce costs and ensure smoother operations.

   d. Enhanced Coordination Among Agencies:
      Establish a centralized digital platform for AML reporting, allowing banks, financial institutions, and businesses to submit reports efficiently without duplication.

   e. Capacity Building and Awareness Programs:
      Train businesses and financial institutions on AML best practices, ensuring they understand regulatory expectations and compliance requirements.

By adopting these measures, Nepal can strengthen its AML framework while maintaining a business-friendly environment, ensuring that financial integrity and economic **growth go hand in hand.**

2) BAFIA Amendment

Report on Proposed Amendments to Banking and Financial Institution Act (BAFIA)

*The Government of Nepal has introduced amendments to the **Banking and Financial Institution Act (BAFIA),** particularly focusing on redefining **"Financial Interest"** and **"Related Persons"** under Section 2 and tightening prohibitions on **related party transactions** under Sections 52 and 52a.*

1. *The intent of these changes is to strengthen governance, reduce conflict of interest, and align Nepal's financial sector with international best practices. However, given the historical structure of Nepal's banking sector, where business and banking interests are often interlinked, **the implementation of these reforms could pose systemic risks, including credit stagnation, increased compliance burden, and potential disruption in capital mobilization.***

Critically assesses their implications, and recommends a phased implementation framework to mitigate transitional risks.

Background

1. *Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), in its role as the regulator, has consistently aimed to modernize and safeguard the stability of the financial sector. The proposed amendments under Section 2, 52, and 52a of the BAFIA are designed to prevent related-party transactions that may lead to poor credit discipline, insider lending, and governance failures.*

Content of the Proposed Amendments

Section 2: Definitions

Clause (kaya): Financial Stakeholder (Substituted)

"Financial Interest"** means a person who is a director, a shareholder holding 1% or more shares or chief executive or his/her family or an individual authorized to appoint a director, or an entity or firm holding 10% or more of paid-up capital either individually or jointly, or having significant interest or control in such institution. **This includes persons or entities with less than 1% shareholding but having substantial control or influence in the financial dealings of the institution as designated by the bank from time to time."

a. **Clause (kana): Related Person (Substituted) "Related Person" now includes the following (abridged for clarity):**

Description	*Data Availability / Remarks*	*Risk to Financial Sector Stability*
Founders, directors, officials of BFIs, or their family members having single or joint ownership of 10% or more in any entity.		*Medium*
Single or joint ownership of at least 10% in any other entity, as per Clause 3.3.1.	*Data consolidation is difficult*	*Medium*
Entities where BFI officials are involved in management or have authority to appoint or remove directors.	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*High*
Entities with authority to appoint or remove BFI directors, or where they are board members, office bearers, or hold 10%+ shareholding in BFIs.	*Data consolidation is difficult*	*Low*
Chief Executive Officer of a BFI.		*High*
Directors, officials of BFIs, or individuals/entities receiving guarantees from them.		*High*
Natural or legal persons with direct or indirect legal/ownership links with BFI shareholders.	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*Medium*
Persons or shareholders who can influence BFI management or board decisions.	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*Low*
Entities in which such shareholders or their relatives hold 10% or more.	*Data consolidation is difficult*	*Medium*
Entities significantly owned by BFIs or by individuals/families holding 10%+ in such entities.	*Data consolidation is difficult*	*Medium*
Entities where shareholders with significant BFI ownership serve as office bearers.	*Data consolidation is difficult*	*Medium*
Entities holding 1% or more shareholding in BFIs, individually or jointly.	*Data consolidation is difficult*	*Medium*

Description	Data Availability / Remarks	Risk to Financial Sector Stability
Entities with less than 1% BFI ownership but control over governance (e.g., directors, office bearers, or their families).	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*Low*
Parent company officials influencing BFI decisions, directly or indirectly.	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*Low*
Entities where the BFI holds 10% or more shareholding.	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*Low*
Entities with less than 10% BFI shareholding but influence on BFI board decisions.	*Subjective, cannot be quantified*	*Low*
Executives of BFI subsidiary companies.		*Low*
Other persons or entities as designated by Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB).		
For government-owned BFIs, any officials designated by NRB.		

Section 52 and Section 18: Prohibition on Transactions and Activities and Directorship

- *Loan Ban:*
  - *Banks shall not be allowed to provide any type of loan facilities to affiliated person of that bank or financial institution or to the person holding significant ownership in any bank.*

Exceptions:

- *Loans backed by 100% cash margin guarantees.*
- *Loans secured with institutional fixed deposits.*
- *Loans backed by Nepal Government or NRB bonds.*
- *Home loans, as per NRB guidelines.*

Prohibited Section 52 and Section 18:

- *Section 52: Transactions and Activities:- Related persons are barred from providing legal, tax, accounting, valuation, or auditing services to the concerned bank.*
- *Section 18 (Cha 1): Directorship:- The total business loans obtained by the individual concerned, their family members, or any company or institution affiliated with them, exceeding one percent of the core capital of the bank or financial institution to which the individual is being proposed for appointment as a director.*

Section 52a: Maintenance of Related Party List

- *Initial List: New institutions must prepare and submit a related persons list to NRB upon establishment.*
- *Existing Institutions: Must prepare and submit within 35 days of fiscal year end when the section comes into force.*
- *Annual Update: The list must be updated annually and any changes reported within 35 days.*

b. Critical Analysis and Implications

1. Governance and Risk Management Improvements
   i. Encourages better risk management and transparency.
   ii. Aligns with Basel principles and international banking standards.
   iii. Restricts undue influence by insiders and affiliated parties.

2. Downsides and Practical Challenges
3.
   i. Structural Incompatibility
      1. Nepal’s banking sector was historically built on a symbiotic relationship between bankers and businesses.
      2. Many promoters and board members are also business borrowers, making a clean separation impractical in the short term.

   ii. Credit Flow Constraints
      1. An overly broad definition of “related persons” may restrict legitimate credit transactions, especially in SME and industrial sectors where ownership overlaps are common.

   iii. Compliance Burden
      1. Maintaining and updating extensive related-party lists requires dedicated human and technological resources
      2. Ambiguity around what constitutes “significant influence” or “substantial control” may lead to inconsistent interpretations and regulatory friction.

   iv. Risk of Overregulation
      1. Could discourage capital investment in banks if shareholders perceive reduced access to financial services.

2. May push credit activities outside the formal sector, increasing systemic vulnerability

v. Recommendations
1. Phased Implementation: Provide a transition window (e.g., 10–15 years) for compliance and restructuring of governance practices.
2. Clarification Guidelines: NRB should issue operational guidelines to define “significant influence,” “substantial control,” and how these will be determined.
3. Regulatory Sandbox: Allow a trial phase where banks can report related party exposures while continuing operations under existing norms.
4. Capacity Building: Provide training and digital infrastructure support for banks to manage compliance.
5. Stakeholder Consultation: Engage banks, promoters, and private sector representatives to design a practical enforcement roadmap.

c. Conclusion

1. While the proposed amendments represent a bold regulatory effort to insulate banking institutions from conflicts of interest and insider control, their blanket implementation could disrupt Nepal’s traditionally integrated banking-business model. To ensure reform without destabilization, a balanced approach that blends enforcement with institutional strengthening and gradual transition is essential.

2. The proposed amendments to Section 2, Clause (kaya) and (kana), and the enforcement of Sections 52 and 52a of the to the Banking and Financial Institution Act (BAFIA), in Nepal indicate a sweeping redefinition of "Financial Interest" and "Related Persons," greatly expanding the scope of individuals and entities restricted from receiving credit or providing professional services to banks. While this aligns with global prudential norms aimed at minimizing conflict of interest and enhancing transparency, it also introduces serious downside risks for Nepal's banking sector. The rigid prohibition under Section 52 on lending to a vast and ambiguously defined network of related parties could paralyze credit flow, particularly in a banking ecosystem historically rooted in closely intertwined banker-business relationships. From inception, Nepal’s banking sector has grown within a framework where promoters, shareholders, and directors often overlap with major borrowers, and the sector lacks the institutional and governance maturity to abruptly transition into a fully segregated model.

3. The immediate implementation of such stringent provisions without transitional safeguards, capacity development, or ownership restructuring, may lead to a credit crunch, underutilization of capital, and erosion of promoter confidence. Furthermore, the compliance burden introduced by Section 52a, requiring banks to continuously track and update complex related-party relationships, adds operational strain without commensurate support mechanisms. Thus, while the intent of the proposed act is commendable from a regulatory standpoint, the Nepalese banking sector is currently not structurally prepared for such a stark separation of banker and business, risking regulatory overreach that may stifle private sector-led growth.

3) Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064

The Government of Nepal has introduced amendments to the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064. Some key changes.

Here are the major amendments in the bill to amend the Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2064:

1. *Expansion of Jurisdiction:* The amendment ensures that offenses committed by Nepali citizens outside Nepal or against Nepali citizens abroad fall under the act's jurisdiction.
2. *Clear Definitions:* New definitions for terms like “exploitation,” “provincial committee,” and “district committee” are introduced to align with international standards.
3. *Inclusion of Internal Trafficking:* The amendment includes internal human trafficking within Nepal under the legal framework, treating the movement of people for exploitation within Nepal as trafficking.
4. *Protection of Victims' Identity:* The act strengthens confidentiality measures, preventing the disclosure of victims' identities.
5. *Increased Punishment & Fines:*
   1. Harsher penalties, including increased prison terms and fines for traffickers.
   2. Higher fines and jail terms for those found guilty of child trafficking.
   3. Expanded punishment for those involved in abetting, conspiring, or attempting trafficking.
6. *Asset Seizure & Passport Confiscation:* The law allows for the freezing of assets and passports of traffickers who are fugitives.
7. Legal Support for Victims: Victims now have the right to a translator if they do not understand the court language.
8. *Mandatory Rescue and Rehabilitation:* The law mandates government authorities to rescue victims and ensure their rehabilitation and reintegration.
9. *Decentralization:* The law establishes provincial, district, and local-level committees to handle human trafficking cases more effectively.
10. *International Coordination:* The amendments align Nepal’s laws with international anti-human trafficking protocols, ensuring cross-border cooperation.

4) Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)

1. In addition to the existing Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) guidelines, the NRB should consider introducing supplementary provisions to address the growing risks in the banking sector. If the net NPA level remains below 7%, no further intervention is necessary; however, once it exceeds 7% but stays below 9%, BFIs should be restricted from sanctioning new loans. Crossing the 9% threshold would trigger the second tier, requiring BFIs to refrain from accepting new deposits, while a net NPA of 11% or above should place the institution under formal PCA measures. To complement these measures, the allowable provisioning charged to the Profit and Loss (P&L) statement under the Income Tax Act should be raised from the current 5% to 9%, ensuring that banks maintain adequate buffers against potential losses. At the same time, the NRB should conduct a comprehensive review of the risk weightage assigned to different assets and liabilities on the balance sheet, recalibrating them in line with their inherent risks so that regulatory requirements more accurately reflect actual exposures, thereby fostering prudence and long-term financial stability.

2. The need for such reforms has become increasingly urgent in the context of Nepal's rising levels of non-performing assets (NPAs) and the associated risk of blacklisting by international monitoring bodies. Over the past few years, economic slowdown, sluggish private sector credit absorption, and weak corporate governance have contributed to a steady build-up of stressed assets in BFIs. At the same time, lapses in compliance and inadequate supervisory responses have heightened Nepal's vulnerability to being flagged for weak financial discipline and governance. If left unaddressed, this trend not only erodes public confidence in the banking system but also increases the risk of Nepal being blacklisted, which would severely undermine its international credibility, deter foreign investment, and isolate its financial sector from global markets. Strengthened PCA measures, higher provisioning requirements, and a recalibrated risk-weighting framework are therefore critical steps to restore resilience and prevent systemic instability.

Section 4 External Sector

1. The Silent Killer: Currency depreciation is silently reshaping Nepal's economic landscape, eroding purchasing power, discouraging investment, and straining an already fragile system. Addressing these structural challenges is essential for long-term stability. Despite signs of recovery in customs revenue, Nepal's import-driven economy faces a growing concern: the depreciation of the Nepalese rupee. Since 2020, the NPR has weakened from 1 USD = 119 to 1 USD = 139 in 2025, marking a 16.6% decline. This depreciation has increased import costs while providing only marginal improvements in export competitiveness. The export growth recorded in the second quarter of FY 2024/25 appears to be driven more by duty advantages than by currency depreciation.

2. Nepal's foreign trade balance from F.Y. 2022/23 to F.Y. 2024/25 (Mid-April) shows a persistent trade deficit, but with some encouraging signs of improvement. The trade deficit as a percentage of GDP has been gradually declining, from 20.56% in 2022/23 to 18.36% in 2024/25, indicating a slight improvement in Nepal's external trade position. Imports, which dominate the country's trade, decreased in 2023/24 (-1.21%) but rebounded in 2024/25 (+13.31%), maintaining a high share of over 86.7% of total trade. Exports, on the other hand, fell by 3.30% in 2023/24 but saw a significant 82.05% growth in 2024/25, increasing their share of total trade to 13.13%. Despite this improvement, Nepal's Export-to-Import Ratio remains at 1:10, meaning the country still imports 10 times more than it exports, reflecting a continued trade imbalance.

1) Imports and Remittance outlook.

The initial results appeared promising, but this seemingly strong performance masked deeper structural weaknesses that remained unresolved. Nevertheless, we remain optimistic that authorities will refine policies to tackle these challenges. Additionally, we anticipate that electricity exports will contribute to improving overall export performance.

Between July 2020 and September 2024, Nepal's economic indicators exhibited significant fluctuations in the bank rate, overnight liquidity facility (OLF) rate, balance of payments (BoP), exchange rate, and remittance flows. The ***bank rate*** *remained steady at* ***5%*** *until early 2022, when it was raised to* ***7%*** *amid inflationary pressures, peaking at* ***8.5%*** *in August 2022 before decreasing to* ***2.72%*** *by June 2025. The* ***OLF rate*** *followed a similar trend, starting at* ***8.5%*** *in mid-2022 and dropping to* ***5%*** *by June 2024, reflecting improved liquidity conditions. The* ***BoP*** *shifted from a positive surplus of* ***NPR 282. 40 billion*** *in Nov. 2020 to significant deficits starting in July 2021, reaching lows of around* ***NPR -292.24 billion*** *in May 2022. However, by 2023, the BoP began to recover, ultimately achieving a surplus of* ***NPR 491.44 billion*** *by June 2025.*
The ***exchange rate*** *of the Nepali Rupee against the US Dollar saw depreciation, starting at* ***NPR 120.37*** *per USD in July 2020 and reaching* ***NPR 137.50*** *by July 2025. Remittances and export proceed are crucial components of Nepal's foreign exchange earnings, fluctuated during this period, impacting both the BoP and forex reserves. Overall, these trends indicate a period of monetary tightening, liquidity management, and gradual improvement in Nepal's foreign currency balance amid fluctuating economic conditions.*

Between November 2021 and August 2025, Nepal's trade indicators reveal persistent structural imbalances and evolving external sector dynamics. Imports consistently exceeded exports, reflecting a large and persistent trade deficit. For instance, imports ranged from USD 0.80–1.31 billion across the period, while exports remained modest, ranging only USD 0.08–0.24 billion. Consequently, the trade deficit remained substantial, fluctuating between USD 0.72 billion and USD 1.09 billion, indicating Nepal's ongoing reliance on imports and limited export capacity.

Remittance inflows showed a steady upward trajectory, increasing from USD 0.61 billion in Nov 2021 to USD 1.45 billion in Aug 2025 (estimated), providing a crucial buffer against the persistent trade deficit. These inflows have been instrumental in supporting domestic consumption and maintaining foreign exchange liquidity.

Forex reserves mirrored these inflows, demonstrating a steady accumulation over the period. From NPR 10,471 billion in Nov 2021, reserves increased to NPR 19,500 billion by Aug 2025 (estimated), signaling strong external sector resilience despite the trade gap. The growth in reserves reflects the combined effect of robust remittances, aid, and foreign currency inflows supporting macroeconomic stability.

Overall, the period reflects a structurally trade-deficit economy cushioned by rising remittances, resulting in substantial foreign exchange accumulation and external sector stability. While exports remain limited and imports continue to dominate, the steady remittance inflows have played a critical role in maintaining foreign exchange reserves and supporting Nepal's balance of payments.

2) Monthly indicators

Particulars Amount in NPR Billion	2024				2025						
	Sep-Oct	Oct-Nov	Nov-Dec	Dec-Jan	Jan-Feb	Feb-Mar	Mar-Apr	Apr-May	May-Jun	Jun-July	July-Aug e
Consumer Price Inflation (y-o-y) (%)	4.82	5.60	6.05	5.41	4.16	3.75	3.39	2.77	2.72	2.20	2.61

Consumer Price Inflation (Compared to previous month) (%)	0.89	0.45	(0.39)	(0.97)	(0.60)	0.07	0.34	0.57	0.28	0.08	
Food and Beverage (%)	1.94	0.89	(1.54)	(3.05)	(2.26)	(0.40)	0.73	0.57	0.06	-0.17	
Non Food and Service (%)	0.32	0.20	0.28	0.23	0.32	0.32	0.13	0.58	0.41	0.22	
Exports	13.29	14.29	20.99	25.13	28.42	30.97	30.02	29.72	29.66	29.46	23.40
Imports	128.2	122.6	148.1	160.9	166.2	157.0	164.0	164.7	170.6	159.3	143.00
Travel Income	7.2	9.1	8.3	6.7	7.4	7.5	9.8	9.2	6.5	6.3	
Travel Spending	12.3	12.5	16.7	16.9	14.0	32.2	22.3	14.4	18.9	20.5	
Remittance Inflows	144.2	114.3	118.8	122.7	137.5	151.2	139.5	165.3	176.3	189.1	196.34
Government Expenditure	191.6	85.8	141.1	111.5	87.3	84.5	159.2	159.4	125.1	240.2	97.4
Current Expenditure	146.9	62.7	71.0	88.5	70.6	61.5	94.0	95.1	78.4	128.8	30.6
Capital Expenditure	14.5	5.2	6.3	16.1	11.5	13.9	20.6	17.5	23.0	79.3	19.8
Revenue	81.9	75.0	76.4	160.0	83.2	77.5	111.1	91.0	93.7	162.7	99.8
Deposit Mobilization	135.0	-20.2	22.5	66.7	6.3	31.9	91.2	31.3	117.8	293.9	-69.0
Private Sector Credit	55.3	-0.2	49.8	87.3	17.9	21.4	56.2	7.6	38.9	16.1	-10.0
Weighted Average Deposit Rate (%)	5.24	5.01	4.78	4.75	4.62	4.54	4.45	4.37	4.29	4.19	4.15
Weighted Average Lending Rate (%)	9.33	9.07	8.90	8.69	8.55	8.40	8.22	8.11	7.99	7.85	8.00
Base Rate of Commercial Banks (%)	7.29	7.02	6.82	6.65	6.46	6.34	6.29	6.17	6.09	6.02	5.96

In 2025, Nepal's economy exhibited a notable disinflationary trend. Year-on-year consumer price inflation peaked at 6.05% in November–December but gradually declined to 2.20% by June–July. However we estimate that inflation will slight uptick in July–August man may reach to 2.61%. The easing of inflation was largely driven by volatile food prices, which saw significant month-to-month declines, while non-food and service prices remained relatively stable. This indicates a low-inflation environment, primarily supported by falling food costs and subdued domestic demand.

The external sector continued to reflect structural challenges. Exports grew steadily until February–March, reaching NPR 30.97 billion, but stagnated afterward, ending at 23.4 billion in July–August. Imports remained consistently high, ranging between NPR 122.6 billion and 170.6 billion, resulting in a persistent trade deficit. Remittance inflows, however, surged from NPR 114.3 billion in October–November to NPR 196.34 billion in July–August, providing a critical buffer to external imbalances. Tourism continued to show a negative net balance, as outbound travel spending consistently exceeded travel income, peaking at NPR 32.2 billion in February–March.

On the fiscal front, government expenditure was uneven, with significant outlays in September–October (NPR 191.6 billion) and June–July (NPR 240.2 billion), followed by a sharp drop in July–August. Capital expenditure remained modest for most of the year, except for a spike in June–July, reflecting a year-end spending pattern, while revenue collection was inconsistent, peaking twice during the year.

The financial sector showed signs of easing. Deposit mobilization was highly volatile, with substantial inflows in June–July and negative growth in October–November and July–August. Private sector credit expanded in most months but contracted during October–November and July–August, indicating weak investment demand despite falling interest rates. Weighted average deposit and lending rates declined steadily, with the base rate of commercial banks falling from 7.29% in September–October to 5.96% in July–August, reflecting an accommodative monetary stance.

Overall, Nepal's economy in 2025 is characterized by low inflation, robust remittance inflows, and easing financial conditions, but continues to face structural trade imbalances, weak private sector investment, and uneven fiscal management. Consumption and remittances remain the main drivers of growth, highlighting both resilience and vulnerabilities in the economic structure.

3) Our view on the current level of External vulnerabilities

Nepal's foreign trade balance over the past three fiscal years (first month trade) shows a persistent dependence on imports, with imports consistently accounting for over 85% of total trade. In F.Y. 2022/23, exports represented only 9.17% of trade, resulting in a wide trade deficit of 0.89 (2.20% of GDP). The situation worsened in 2023/24 as exports fell by 10%, pushing the export–import ratio to 1:11, though the deficit as a share of GDP eased slightly to 1.95%.

A notable turnaround occurred in 2024/25, when exports doubled and their share in total trade rose sharply to 14.06%, improving the export–import ratio to 1:6.1 despite imports also rising by 11.11%. Revenue collections increased steadily across the period, supported by higher imports and exchange rate depreciation from NPR 125 to NPR 130 per USD. Overall, while the trade deficit persists, the rebound in exports in 2024/25 signals some positive momentum toward reducing external imbalance, though Nepal's structural reliance on imports remains the key vulnerability.

F.Y. 2081/82 (2024/25) (Mid-August)

a) Imports rose to 1.10 (up 11.11%), but exports surged to 0.18 (a 100% jump).
b) As a result, the trade deficit widened to 0.92, but relative to GDP it stabilized at 1.99%.
c) Export share in total trade improved significantly to 14.06% (up from 8.33% the previous year).
d) The export-import ratio improved sharply to 1:6.1, showing better diversification in trade.
e) Revenue rose slightly to 0.28 (3.7% increase).
f) The exchange rate remained 1 USD = NPR 130.

Current year shows a remarkable recovery in exports, while imports also grew. The export contribution to trade doubled, making the trade structure more balanced, although the deficit persists.

a) Persistent Trade Deficit – Nepal continues to run a structural trade deficit, though as % of GDP it has slightly improved.
b) Exports Rebound in 2024/25 – After a decline in 2023/24, exports doubled in 2024/25, showing potential gains from policy reforms, improved competitiveness, or favorable external demand.
c) High Import Dependency – Imports consistently account for over 85% of total trade, underscoring vulnerability to external shocks and foreign exchange pressure.
d) Exchange Rate Depreciation Effect – The fall in the NPR from 125 to 139 per USD increased import costs but boosted customs revenue collection.
e) Revenue Growth Linked to Trade – Government revenue from foreign trade is rising, but it is still highly dependent on import volumes rather than export-led growth.

Foreign Trade Balance of Nepal	**Total Imports**	**Total Exports**	**Trade Deficit**	**Total Trade**	**Export: Import Ratio**		**Revenue**	**Exchange factor**
F.Y. 2022/23 (Mid-August)	0.99	0.10	0.89	1.09	1.00	9.90	0.25	1 USD= 125NPR
Share % in Total Trade	90.83	9.17						
Trade deficit % GDP		2.20%					-	
F.Y. 2023/24 (Mid-August)	0.99	0.09	0.90	1.08	1.00	11.00	0.27	1 USD= 130 NPR
Share % in Total Trade	91.67	8.33					Up	
Trade deficit % GDP		1.95%						
F.Y. 2081/82 (2024/25) (Mid-August)	1.10	0.18	0.92	1.28	1.00	6.11	0.28	1 USD= 130 NPR
Share % in Total Trade	85.94	14.06					Up	
Trade deficit % GDP		1.99%						
Percentage Change in F.Y. 2023/24 compared to same period of the previous year	0.00%	-10.00%	1.12%	-0.92%			8.00%	
Percentage Change in F.Y. 2024/25 compared to same period of the previous year	11.11%	100.00%	2.22%	18.52%			3.70%	

Trade to GDP As a positive sign of improved resilience in the external sector, the Department of Customs announced that the **Year-on-Year** trade deficit as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) saw an decreased to 25.8 % by mid-August 2025, compared to the 27.32% reported in the corresponding previous year.

Trade Deficit In the first month of fiscal year 2025/26, the monthly trade deficit declines at $0.74 billion. However, compared to the same period in FY 2025/26, there was a year-on-year increase in the trade deficit to $11.77 billion, indicating a reversal from the $11.98 billion recorded during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Import Pressure Heavy reliance on imported raw materials, capital goods, and consumer products. Limited potential for export growth. Sending unskilled manpower abroad as a primary export. Limited international transportation connectivity. Untapped natural resources.

Observations Presently, Nepal maintains strong foreign exchange reserves, which cover over 16.63 months of imports and service payments based on the year-on-year import ratio. The Nepalese economy is stable, aided by the decreasing prices of imported energy and food. Despite the transition in monetary policy from tightening to a more accommodative stance, there hasn't been a significant increase in aggregate demand. However, there is optimism about continued growth in remittance inflows, which is expected to provide relief to the balance of payments in the coming months. Although there has been a noticeable increase in the import of specific goods, the risk of a major reversal in this trend has not significantly escalated, contributing to overall economic stability.

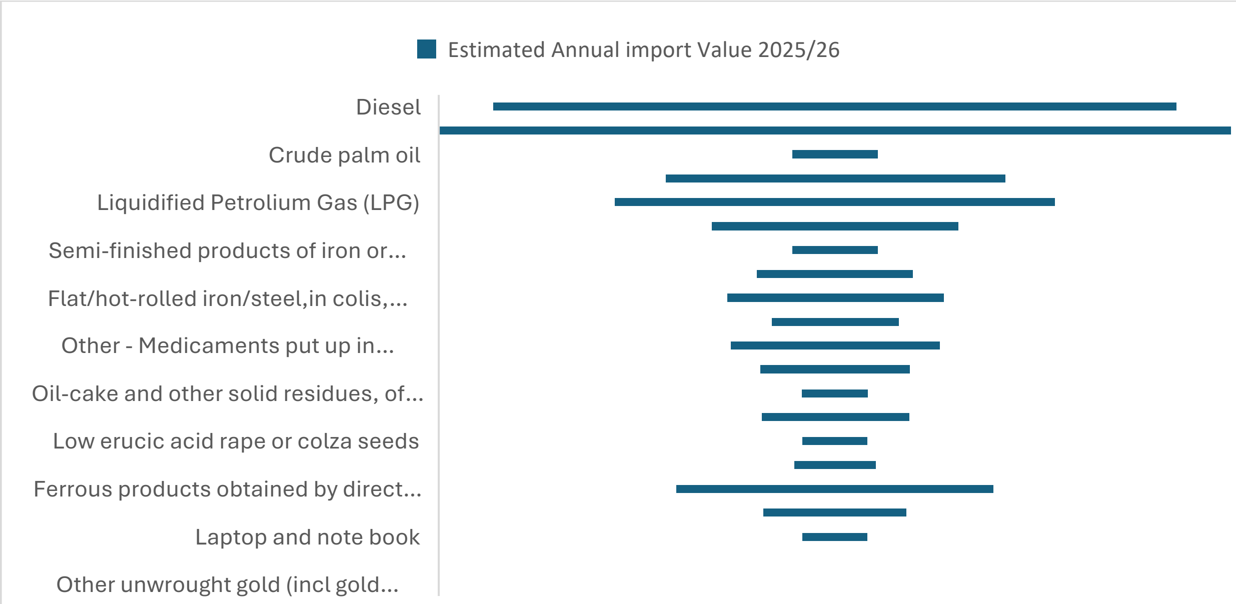
4) Trade Directions

	2024/25			205/26			
Trade Indicators	**May-25**	**Jun-25**	**Jul-25**	**Aug-25**	**Y-o-Y**	**Remaks**	**%age**
Imports (UDS in billion)	11.34	12.65	13.88	1.10	13.99	UP	0.90%
Monthly Imports	1.27	1.31	1.23	1.10			
Exports (UDS in billion)	1.68	1.90	2.13	0.18	2.22	UP	7.69%
Montly Exports	0.23	0.22	0.23	0.18			
Trade Deficit (UDS in billion)	9.66	10.75	11.75	0.92	11.77	UP	0.18%
Total Foreign Trade (UDS in billion)	13.02	14.55	16.01	1.28	16.21	UP	1.49%
Monthly Import Revenue	0.34	0.39	0.32	0.28			
Total Import revenue	2.97	3.36	3.68	0.28	3.69	UP	0.31%
Montly Remittance	1.27	1.36	1.28	1.30			
Remittance inflows	10.44	11.79	13.07	1.30	13.31	UP	3.57%
Imports/Exports Ratio	6.75	6.66	6.52	6.11	6.30	Down	-2.05%
Exports Share to Total Trade (%)	12.90	13.06	13.30	14.06	18.86	UP	63.74%
Imports Share to Total Trade (%)	87.10	86.94	86.70	85.94	81.14	Down	-6.09%
Monthly Trade Deficit (UDS in billion)	1.04	1.09	1.00	0.74			
Trade deficit % GDP	20.91%	23.27%	25.44%	1.99%	25.48%	Down	6.05%
Change in Monthly Trade Deficit %	0.96%	4.59%	-9.00%	-35.14%			
Conversion Factor	130	130	130	130	130		

The country grapples with a persistent trade deficit, as imports consistently outstrip exports, though the deficit's growth is slowing, and its share of GDP is declining, signaling potential stabilization in trade dynamics. The trade indicators dataset for the fiscal years 2021/22 to 2025/26 reveals a persistent trade imbalance characterized by a significant trade deficit, with imports consistently outpacing exports. Monthly imports fluctuated between $0.80 billion and $1.59 billion, stabilizing around $1.0–$1.3 billion in recent months.

Monthly exports ranging from $0.08 billion to $0.24 billion. This led to a declining imports-to-exports ratio, dropping from 10.52 in December 2020 to a projected 6.30 in August 2025 (Y-o-Y change: -2.05%), indicating improving trade dynamics. The trade deficit expanded from $4.00 billion to a projected $11.77 billion by August 2025, but its share of GDP decreased from 35.52% in July 2021 to 25.08% (Y-o-Y change: 6.05% down), suggesting stabilization.

Total foreign trade (imports plus exports) increased from $4.84 billion to a projected $16.21 billion (Y-o-Y growth: 1.49%), with the export share of total trade rising significantly from 8.68% to a projected 18.86% (Y-o-Y growth: 63.74%), while the import share fell from 91.32% to 81.14% (Y-o-Y change: -6.09%). Import revenue grew modestly from $2.79 billion in July 2021 to a projected $3.69 billion (Y-o-Y growth: 0.31%), with monthly revenues fluctuating between $0.21 billion and $0.39 billion. Remittance inflows, a critical economic lifeline, surged from $3.38 billion to a projected $13.64 billion by August 2025 (Y-o-Y growth: 3.57%), with monthly remittances peaking at $1.45 billion, nearly offsetting the trade deficit.



5) Expected Annual Imports of Major Items

Description $ in million	2023/24 Annual Import Value	Annual Import Value 2024/25	2025/26 July-August	Estimated Annual import Value 2025/26	Import Direction	Monthly Movement 2025/26	Annualized Movement 2025/26
Diesel	1,108	990	45	840	Decline	-55.16%	-15.12%
Crude soya-bean oil	103	838	83	974	Growth	-18.53%	16.23%
Crude palm oil	82	52	8	105	Growth	-19.00%	101.94%
Petrol	524	493	44	417	Growth	5.71%	-15.32%
Liquidified Petrolium Gas (LPG)	428	481	36	541	Decline	-10.25%	12.38%
Smartphones	221	273	26	304	Decline	1.15%	11.18%
Semi-finished products of iron or non-allo steel, <025% carbon, nes	107	106	5	105	Decline	20.75%	-0.93%
Gold	182	132	12	191	Growth	#DIV/0!	45.05%
Flat/hot-rolled iron/steel,in colis, width >=600mm, not pickled,<3mm thickness	266	254	24	267	Growth	24.53%	5.04%
Other coal, not agglomerated, nes	176	166	16	157	Growth	30.58%	-5.68%
Other - Medicaments put up in measured dos s or in forms or packing for retail s	211	233	15	257	Decline	-18.39%	10.43%
Maize (excl seed)	108	141	12	184	Growth	-20.67%	30.56%
Oil-cake and other solid residues, of soyabean	130	98	6	81	Decline	26.80%	-17.08%
Crude sunflower oil	137	223	6	181	Decline	-60.44%	-18.61%
Low erucic acid rape or colza seeds	83	115	4	80	Decline	-42.86%	-30.72%
Bar & rods, hot-rolled circular cross-sect on measuring <=8mm in diameter	80	90	6	101	Growth	218.00%	12.50%
Ferrous products obtained by direct reduct on of iron ore,in lumps,pellets or si	300	375	31	391	Growth	34.35%	4.17%
Others Paddy	93	157	8	177	Growth	182.33%	12.54%
Laptop and note book	58	68	8	80	Growth	31.00%	17.24%

Description $ in million	
Diammonium hydrogenorthophosphate (diammonium phosphate)	35.82
Fertilizer Grade	17.76
Unassembled Motorcycles with piston engine of capacity exceeding 50 not exceeding 125CC	13.42
Other Rice Semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or glazed	10.85
ATF	9.92
Petroleum bitumen	8.95
Apples, fresh	8.11
Polypropylene, in primary forms	7.64
Other potatoes, fresh or chilled	5.70
Wire of refined copper, maximum cross-sect onal dimension >6mm.	5.47
Synthetic staple fibres, of polyesters, no carded, etc	5.39
Dyed kintted or crocheted fabrics of synth tic fibres, nes.	4.91
Concentrate of non-alcohalic soft drinks	4.90
Non-alloy pig iron containing, =<05% phos p orus, in pigs, blocks or other primer	4.81
Polyethylene having a specific gravity >=0.94, in primary forms.	4.68
Carboys, bottles, flasks, jar, pot, phials etc of glass, nes	4.64
Unwrought aluminium, not alloyed .	4.63
Onions and shallots, fresh or chilled	4.53
Unassembled Motorcycles with piston engine of capacity exceedubg 125 not exced 200 CC	4.29
Aircraft spark-ignition piston engines .	4.23

Description $ in million	Exports Value
Soya-bean oil (excl. crude) and fractions	82.28
Carpets and other textile floor coverings, of wool or fine animal hair, knotted.	6.31
Refined bleached deodorized palm olein	5.16
Sunflower-seed and safflower oil (excl. crude) and fractions thereof	5.01
other Felt, whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or laminated. nes .	3.92
Single yarn, with >=85% polyester staple f bres, nprs	3.56
Other black tea (fermented) and other partly fermented tea	2.88
Unbleached woven fabrics of jute or of oth r textile bast fibre of heading 5303.	2.78
Veneer sheets and sheets for plywood and o her wood, =<6mm thick, nes	2.68
Other yarn, <85% polyester staple fibres, ith artificial staple fibres, nprs	2.54
Big Cardamon (Alaichi) neither crushed nor ground	2.48
Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veil , etc, of wool or fine animal hair	2.44
Oil-cake of low erucic acid rape or colza seeds	1.92
Mixtures of juices, unfermented, not containing added spirit.	1.88
Other pasta, nes	1.86
Portland cement (excl white)	1.79

Nepal's recent trade data reveals significant structural imbalances in its import and export patterns. On the import side, fuel products continue to dominate, though a notable shift is emerging. Diesel imports have sharply declined from USD 1,108 million in FY 2023/24 to an estimated USD 840 million in 2025/26, showing a 15% annualized drop. Petrol imports are also expected to contract, while LPG demand is projected to rise moderately, suggesting changing energy use patterns influenced by efficiency improvements and the gradual adoption of electric vehicles.

At the same time, Nepal's dependency on imported edible oils has surged alarmingly. The crude soybean oil imports jumped from USD 103 million in 2023/24 to over USD 838 million in 2024/25 and are projected to reach USD 974 million in 2025/26, while palm oil imports are also expected to more than double. These imports have risen sharply because a large portion is re-exported to India, driven by duty differentials and India's import policies. Although this has boosted Nepal's export numbers in the short run, such trade is highly vulnerable to regulatory changes in India and cannot be treated as a permanent or sustainable source of export earnings. Alongside oils, imports of maize, paddy, and other cereals have also increased, pointing to domestic production gaps and a growing reliance on foreign supply for food security.

Construction-related imports such as iron, steel, and ferrous products remain steady, reflecting ongoing infrastructure and industrial demand. Meanwhile, rising imports of smartphones, laptops, and pharmaceuticals indicate increasing consumer demand, digital adoption, and healthcare needs. Smaller but strategic imports include fertilizers, unassembled motorcycles, onions, apples, and petrochemicals.

On the export side, Nepal continues to rely on a narrow range of products. The largest share comes from processed vegetable oils, particularly soybean oil (USD 82 million) and palm and sunflower derivatives, which together account for the bulk of total export earnings. However, as noted, this export surge is largely driven by re-exports linked to India's tariff regime, leaving Nepal exposed to policy reversals. Traditional exports such as carpets, wool textiles, tea, cardamom, jute products, and handmade shawls continue to provide niche markets but remain small in value. Industrial exports such as polyester yarns, plywood, veneer, and cement are slowly emerging, but they remain limited in scale compared to import volumes.

Overall, Nepal faces a widening structural trade deficit, with imports concentrated in high-value essentials like fuel, oils, and medicines, while exports remain low-value and dependent on trade preferences. This creates multiple risks: food insecurity due to reliance on imported edible oils and cereals, exposure to global energy price shocks, rising healthcare costs, and vulnerability in exports if tariff benefits are withdrawn or India alters its import policy. Addressing these issues requires strategic reforms. Nepal should diversify its export base beyond edible oils by promoting high-value agro-processing sectors such as tea, coffee, spices, and herbal products. Investments in domestic oilseed and maize production are critical to reduce food import dependency. On the energy front, accelerating electric vehicle adoption and expanding renewable energy will help curb petroleum imports. Industrial policy must support local production of iron, steel, pharmaceuticals, and ICT-related products, while trade diplomacy should focus on maximizing access under programs such as the US Nepal Trade Preference Program (NTPP) and the EU's GSP scheme.

In conclusion, while Nepal's imports are shifting from diesel toward edible oils as the largest burden, exports remain narrow and highly dependent on temporary arbitrage opportunities created by India's tariff regime. Without structural reforms, the trade deficit will persist. The way forward lies in strengthening agriculture, advancing energy transition, promoting industrialization, and diversifying exports to ensure sustainable and resilient trade growth.

6) Nepal's FDI Landscape: A Look at Progress and Persistent Challenges

Nepal is actively positioning itself as a prime investment destination, as highlighted in the "FDI Trends and Investor Guideline 2025" report. With a BB- sovereign credit rating from Fitch Ratings and legal reforms like the new Investment Related Act, the government is making strides to attract foreign capital. The establishment of the One Stop Service Centre (OSSC) is a commendable step toward streamlining processes.

Recent data shows strong FDI commitments, with India, China, and the USA leading the way, demonstrating growing international interest. Top FDI Commitments (FY 2081/82)

- India: 3,745.54 million NRs.
- China: 3,212.19 million NRs.
- USA: 1,511.23 million NRs.

However, a closer look reveals a significant gap between these commitments and actual investment inflows. The flow of capital-intensive FDI remains a persistent challenge. While the government has introduced new legal frameworks, the lack of timely issuance of corresponding regulations often creates a climate of uncertainty for investors.

Why is Nepal still lagging behind its neighbors?

- Political and Bureaucratic Hurdles: Frequent political instability and a slow, cumbersome bureaucracy create a "wait-and-see" approach among investors, despite government efforts.

- Infrastructure Deficit: Poor transportation infrastructure and land acquisition issues increase the cost and complexity of setting up large-scale projects, making Nepal less competitive compared to countries like India and China with more developed infrastructure.
- Lack of Implementation: While new laws and acts are passed, the slow pace of implementation and inconsistent enforcement of regulations erode investor confidence. This is particularly true for complex projects that require coordination across multiple government agencies.
- Small Domestic Market: Nepal's relatively small market size does not always justify the large-scale, capital-intensive projects that investors in sectors not vulnerable to demand shock might consider.

To truly unlock its potential, Nepal must focus on bridging the gap between policy and practice. By translating legal reforms into tangible, efficient processes, and by prioritizing the development of robust infrastructure, the country can move beyond mere commitments to attract the sustained, high-impact investments it needs for long-term growth.

Key FDI Data and Sectoral Performance

Analysis of recent FDI data from the Department of Industry reveals a detailed breakdown of FDI approvals by sector for the months of July and August 2025. The data shows a notable increase in the number of projects, though with significant monthly fluctuations in value.

FDI Approved by the Department of Industry (July-August 2025)

Category	FDI for the month of August 2025 (No. of Projects/Amount in USD)	Cumulative FDI Up to Mid-August 2025 (No. of Projects/Amount in USD)	Monthly Growth (%)
Manufacturing	3 / $1.19	3 / $1.19	-78%
Energy	1 / $1.42	1 / $1.42	100%
Agro and Forestry Based	3 / $154.20	3 / $154.20	100128%
Tourism	41 / $23.23	41 / $23.23	5%
Service	8 / $2.58	8 / $2.58	-27%
Infrastructure	-	-	-
ICT	71 / $2.81	71 / $2.81	32%
Total	127 / $185.42	127 / $185.42	453%

Section 5 Financial Sector highlights

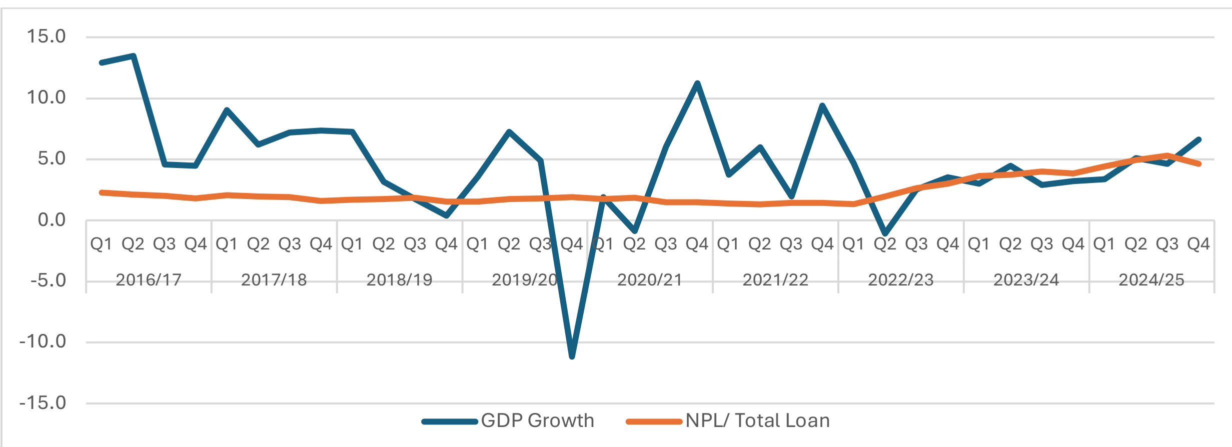
1) Persistent Stagnation in Bank Credit Growth Despite Lower Lending Rates

Economic activity in Nepal has been sluggish, despite some positive developments. May 2024 saw only a slight improvement in consumer spending, primarily due to increased remittances and lower borrowing costs. However, the manufacturing sector, crucial to industrial activity, has not experienced significant advancements on the supply side.

Migration and urbanization have led to a weakening of rural demand, which is expected to remain below the levels recorded in fiscal year 2023/24. In the current fiscal year 2024/25, the weighted average lending rate has declined by 183 basis points to 8.11%, slightly below the previous low of 8.22% observed in July 2021. This decline in borrowing costs has supported a modest uptick in urban demand for domestic capital goods, as evidenced by key economic indicators.

Consumer confidence for this year has reached a record low, and construction activity has also been lackluster. Investment outlook remains bleak due to various factors, including subdued demand for credit from corporate, especially those in manufacturing; sustained low government capital expenditure; weakened balance sheets of both banks and corporates; diminished capacity utilization; and declining business sentiment.

Despite the low lending rates, credit demand has remained subdued, with bank credit growth remaining stagnant. This is attributed to the elevated concentration of government securities and excess liquidity held by financial institutions. As a result, banks have persisted in adjusting their lending and deposit rates downwards to accommodate the lack of significant demand for credit. This ongoing trend has resulted in notable decreases in the weighted average lending and deposit rates.

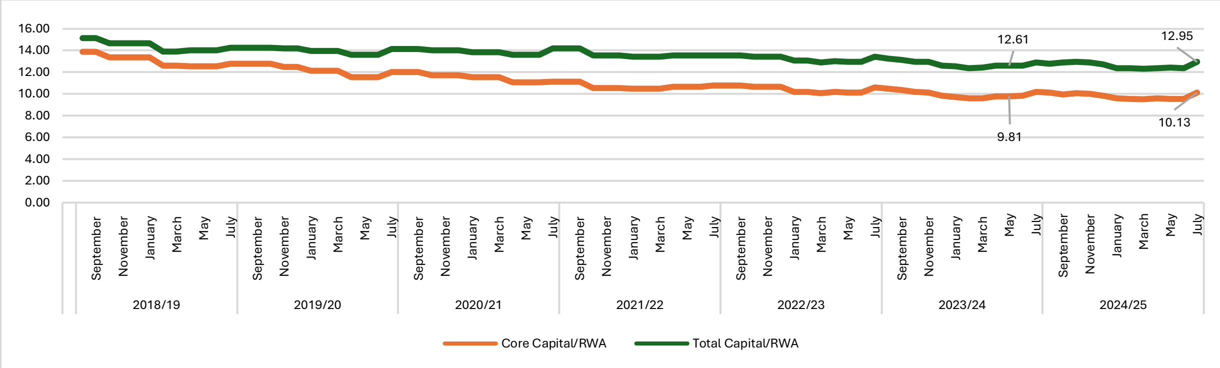


2) Non-Performing Loans (NPL)

The chart presents data on GDP growth and the ratio of Non-Performing Loans (NPL) to total loans for various quarters from 2016/17 to 2024/25. Over this period, GDP growth fluctuated significantly, with the highest growth recorded in Q1 2016/17 at 12.9%, and the lowest contraction in Q4 2019/20 at -11.2%, largely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. After the sharp decline in 2019/20, the economy began to recover, although growth remained moderate and volatile. Some quarters showed slower growth or even negative growth, particularly in 2022/23. Despite this, there were signs of gradual recovery, with Q4 2020/21 marking a strong rebound at 11.2%.

The NPL ratio, on the other hand, exhibited an overall decline in the earlier years, from 2.25% in Q1 2016/17 to 1.48% in Q4 2020/21, signaling improved loan quality and a lower default risk in the banking sector. However, starting in 2021, the NPL ratio began to rise, peaking at 3.98% in Q3 2023/24. This increase suggests growing challenges for the banking sector in managing defaults, possibly related to post-pandemic economic stresses and inflationary pressures. In Q4 of 2024/25, the NPL ratio reached moderate high of 4.64%, signaling some correction from immediate previous quarter high of 5.30%.

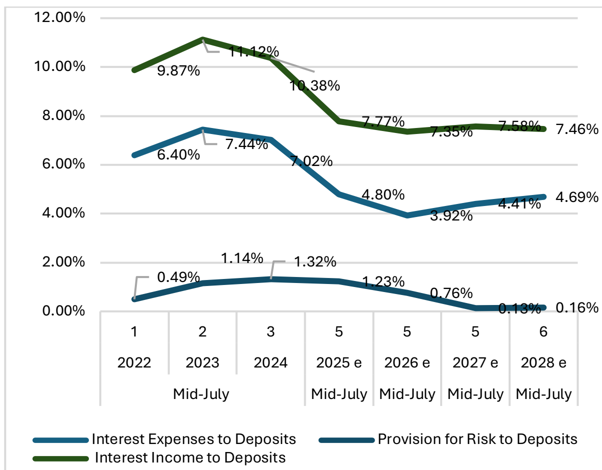
The data suggests a correlation between economic performance and banking sector stability. Periods of high GDP growth generally align with lower NPL ratios, reflecting a healthier economic and banking environment, while times of economic contraction tend to correspond with higher NPL ratios, indicating stress within the banking sector.



From mid-July 2021 to mid-July 2025, a steady rise in accrued interest, from USD 1.32 billion to USD 2.43 billion (2.83 billion June 2025), suggests a growing volume of interest income yet to be received, driven by delayed loan repayments. This trend indicates an over-optimism in credit operations and also reflects potential stress in loan recovery.

In contrast, liquid funds have shown fluctuations without a consistent upward trend, hovering around USD 4.98 billion (4.52 billion June 2025), which implies that institutions have significantly increased their liquid reserves due to lower credit deployment. This may point to excess liquidity buffers or a deliberate shift in asset allocation to low risky assets has supported increasing cash-equivalents.

Meanwhile, non-banking assets—rising gradually from USD 0.06 billion to USD 0.39 billion (0.35 billion June 2025), reflect increased holdings in foreclosed properties or other non-core assets, typically acquired through loan defaults. The concurrent rise in accrued interest and non-banking assets, alongside relatively stagnant liquid assets, suggests that financial institutions are facing higher credit risk and delayed recoveries, which could be putting pressure on their balance sheet resilience and liquidity position.



3) BFIs Outlook 2024/25, 2025/26, 2026/27 and 2027/28

Assets and Liability (Exchange Factor $ 1 = NPR 130)								
Capital, Deposits and Risk Assets. USD in million								
Particulars	***Jul-25***	**Change**	***July 2026e***	**Change**	***July 2027e***	**Change**	***July 2028e***	**Change**
CAPITAL FUND	5,965	*6.41%*	6,956	*16.62%*	7,205	*3.58%*	7,435	*3.19%*
PAID UP CAPITAL	3,412	*1.65%*	3,482	*2.03%*	3,538	*1.62%*	3,596	*1.63%*
BORROWINGS	1,808	*-2.41%*	1,752	*-3.10%*	1,547	*-11.70%*	*1,358*	*-12.22%*
Borrowing from NRB	3	*10.31%*	*2.20*	*-33.91%*	*2.84*	*29%*	*10*	*255%*

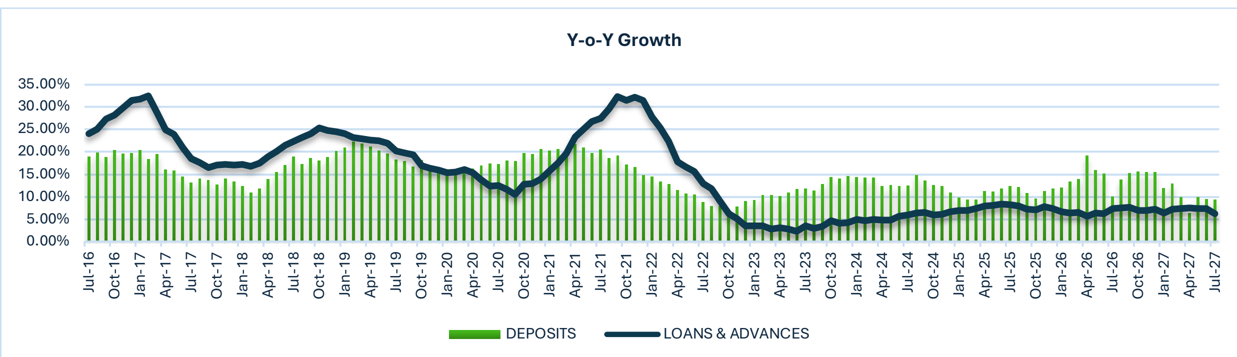
Assets and Liability (Exchange Factor $ 1 = NPR 130)								
Capital, Deposits and Risk Assets. USD in million								
Particulars	***Jul-25***	**Change**	***July 2026e***	**Change**	***July 2027e***	**Change**	***July 2028e***	**Change**
DEPOSITS	56,181	*12.44%*	61,837	*10.07%*	67,612	*9.34%*	73,685	*8.98%*
Current	4,061	*38.26%*	4,589	*13.01%*	5,572	*21.42%*	6,079	*9.10%*
Saving	20,565	*36.79%*	27,270	*32.60%*	32,890	*20.61%*	5,872	*-82.15%*
Fixed	26,977	*-3.73%*	24,908	*-7.67%*	23,418	*-5.98%*	39,426	*68.36%*
Call	4,209	*15.80%*	4,649	*10.44%*	5,275	*13.47%*	*5,872*	*11.31%*
Others	369	*9.10%*	421	*14.02%*	457	*8.53%*	*495*	*8.30%*
LIQUID FUNDS	*4,979*	*17.00%*	*5,497*	*10.41%*	*6,532*	*18.82%*	7,480	*14.52%*
GOVT. SECURITIES/OTHER	*13,409*	*18.49%*	15,298	*14.08%*	*18,145*	*18.62%*	21,073	*16.13%*
Investment in share and other	*4,391*	*107.05%*	4,665	*6.26%*	*7,061*	*51.35%*	10,000	*41.62%*
LOANS & ADVANCES	*43,010*	*8.18%*	*46,197*	*7.41%*	*49,041*	*6.16%*	*51,803*	*5.63%*
Total Capital/RWA	*12.08%*	*-6.76%*	*12.96%*	*7.34%*	*12.00%*	*-7.45%*	*11.12%*	*-7.29%*
CD	*75.27%*	*-3.54%*	*73.60%*	*-2.22%*	*71.66%*	*-2.63%*	*69.62%*	*-2.85%*
NPL /Total Loan	*4.62%*	*18.44%*	*4.08%*	*-11.68%*	*3.69%*	*-9.43%*	*3.92%*	*6.16%*
Return on Capital Employed	*10.23%*	*1.45%*	*14.47%*	*41.49%*	*17.57%*	*21.38%*	*15.71%*	*-10.59%*

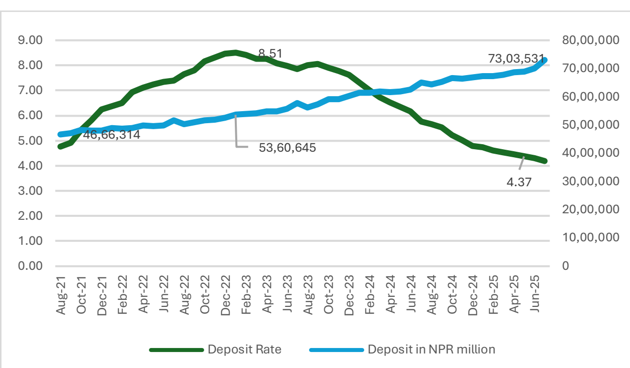
Profit and loss. USD in million								
	Jul-25	***Change***	***July 2026e***	**Change**	***July 2027e***	**Change**	***July 2028e***	**Change**
Int on Loans and Adv.	*3,698*	*-18.28%*	*3,827*	*3.48%*	*4,351*	*13.69%*	*4,634*	*6.51%*
Total Int. Income	*4,363*	*-15.86%*	*4,547*	*4.22%*	*5,122*	*12.64%*	*5,496*	*7.31%*
Avg. Yield From Loan	*8.08%*	*-18.66%*	*7.95%*	*-1.61%*	*8.87%*	*11.56%*	*8.95%*	*0.83%*
Int Expenses	*2,694*	*-23.19%*	*2,427*	*-9.94%*	*2,979*	*22.75%*	*3,455*	*16.00%*
Avg. Cost of Fund	*4.46%*	*-22.52%*	*3.65%*	*-18.18%*	*5.02%*	*37.62%*	*5.35%*	*6.44%*
NII	*1,669*	*-0.55%*	*2,121*	*27.09%*	*2,143*	*1.07%*	*2,041*	*-4.78%*
Interest Spread	*3.62%*	*-13.34%*	*3.99%*	*10.24%*	*3.85%*	*-3.60%*	*3.60%*	*-6.49%*
Commission & fees	*263*	*11.83%*	*274*	*3.95%*	*270*	*-1.25%*	*268*	*-1.01%*
Ex. Fluctuation Gain	*74*	*51.16%*	*105*	*41.18%*	*132*	*26.31%*	*160*	*20.92%*
Other Operating & Non-operating Income	*109*	*56.02%*	*78*	*-28.47%*	*48*	*-38.64%*	*18*	*-62.44%*
Gross Income	*2,115*	*4.08%*	*2,577*	*21.84%*	*2,594*	*0.64%*	*2,486*	*-4.14%*
Employees Exp	*524*	*7.00%*	*585*	*11.70%*	*642*	*9.63%*	*708*	*10.39%*
Employee cost in % of Total Int. Income	*12.01%*	*27.17%*	*12.87%*	*7.18%*	*12.53%*	*-2.67%*	*12.89%*	*2.87%*
Office Operating Exp	*334*	*1.06%*	*318*	*-4.86%*	*294*	*-7.60%*	*282*	*-4.08%*
LLP & write-off	*759*	*13.85%*	*470*	*-38.06%*	*88*	*-81.21%*	*118*	*33.47%*
Additional LLP to Risk Assets	*1.87%*	*12.98%*	*1.02%*	*-45.55%*	*0.18%*	*-82.30%*	*0.23%*	*26.35%*
Provision Written Back	*450*	*35.19%*	*360*	*-20.00%*	*396*	*10.00%*	*435*	*10.00%*
PBT	947	*7.95%*	1,563	*65.00%*	1,965	*25.73%*	1,813	*-7.74%*
Return on total assets	*1.36%*	*-1.86%*	*2.05%*	*50.00%*	*2.34%*	*14.30%*	*1.96%*	*-16.12%*

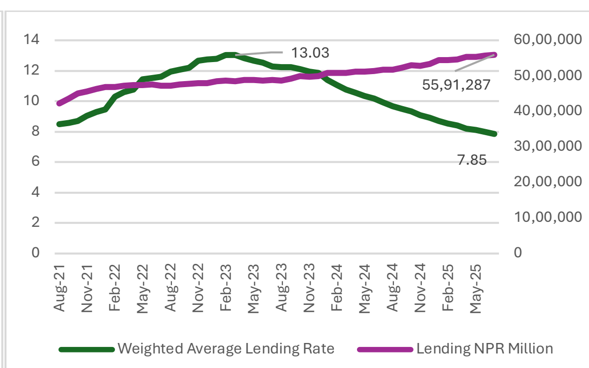
$ in million				
Summarized P/L Account				
Particulars	**Expected July 25**	**Expected July 26**	**Expected July 27**	**Expected July 28**
Total Operating Income	4,809	5,004	5,572	5,941
Total Operating Expenses	3,553	3,330	3,914	4,445
Provision Written Back	450	360	396	435
Provision for Risk	(692)	(455)	(73)	(98)
Loan Written Off	(67)	(15)	(15)	(20)
Net Profit before Bonus & Tax	947	1,563	1,965	1,813
Bonus	89	147	185	171
Tax	257	425	534	493
Net profit	601	991	1,246	1,150

The profit and loss forecast for July 26 to July 28 indicates a period of rising income and strengthening profitability, supported by declining risk provisions. Total operating income is projected to grow steadily from $4,809 million on July 25 to $5,941 million by July 28, while operating expenses are expected to remain manageable, dipping to $3,330 million on July 26 before increasing to $4,445 million at the end of the period. Provisions for risk are forecasted to ease significantly, from $692 million on July 25 to just $98 million on July 28, providing a major boost to earnings.

Loan write-offs are expected to remain minimal, ranging between $67 million and $20 million. As a result, net profit before bonus and tax is projected to rise from $497 million to a peak of $1,965 million on July 27, slightly moderating to $1,813 million on July 28. After adjusting for bonuses and tax obligations, net profit is forecasted to increase from $401 million to a high of $1,246 million on July 27, before settling at $1,150 million on July 28. Overall, the outlook suggests strong profit growth, with peak performance expected on July 27, driven by higher income and lower provisions, though rising costs and taxes may soften gains toward the end of the period.







Weighted Average Lending Rate vs Lending Growth

- *The weighted average lending rate rises steadily from approximately 8.5% in August 2021 to a peak of 13.03% in January 2023. Following this peak, the rate declines consistently, reaching 7.85% by July 2025. Meanwhile, lending exhibits relatively stable growth at around NPR 5,561 billion in June 2025 but witnessed increase to NPR 5,591 billion by mid-June 2025.*
- *Lending growth initially appears less responsive to rising interest rates, remaining stable or increasing moderately despite higher rates (2021 to early 2023). After rates begin to fall in 2023, lending growth continues rising, suggesting that lower interest rates positively support lending growth. There is some inverse relationship between lending rates and lending growth, but the impact is not immediate. It suggests that businesses and consumers are more responsive to sustained rate changes over time rather than short-term fluctuations.*

Deposit Rate vs Deposit Growth

The deposit rate rises sharply from Aug 2021 (~5%) to 8.51% by early 2023. Post Jan 2023, the rate starts declining to 4.29% by June 2025. Deposits in NPR million increase steadily, with significant growth after early 2023, reaching a peak of NPR 7,303 billion by mid-July 2025. Deposit growth appears positively correlated with higher deposit rates initially. Even as rates decline in 2023-2024, deposits continue to grow, suggesting other factors like improved economic confidence or liquidity may play a role. Higher deposit rates initially stimulate deposit growth. However, growth continues even as rates fall, indicating that deposits may not solely depend on rates but are influenced by broader economic conditions and liquidity.

Interest rates and lending growth:

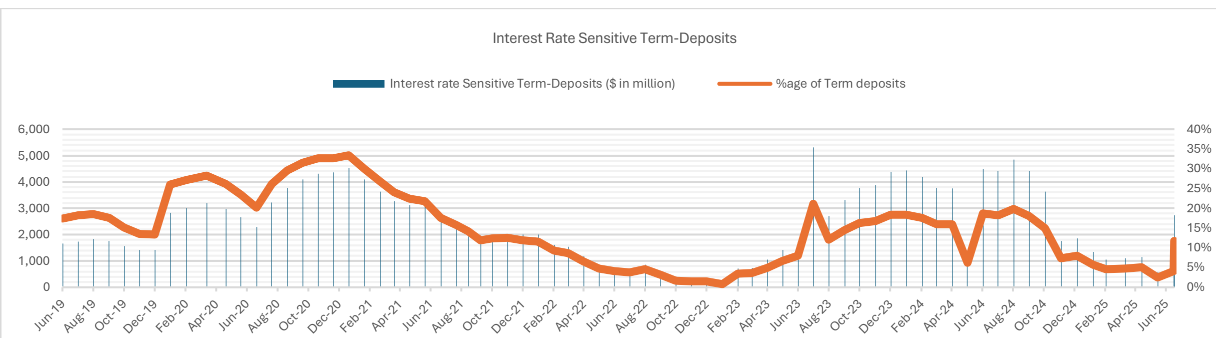
Lending growth is more resilient to short-term changes in interest rates but shows an inverse relationship over time. Lower rates encourage lending growth.

Interest rates and deposit growth:

Deposit growth responds positively to higher rates but continues rising despite rate reductions, indicating a more complex relationship influenced by confidence and liquidity.

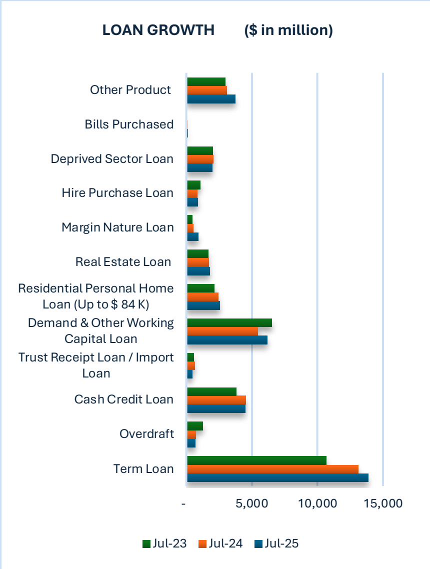
In summary, while interest rates influence growth in deposits and lending, the relationship is not perfectly direct. External economic factors, confidence, and liquidity conditions also play a major role in determining overall growth.

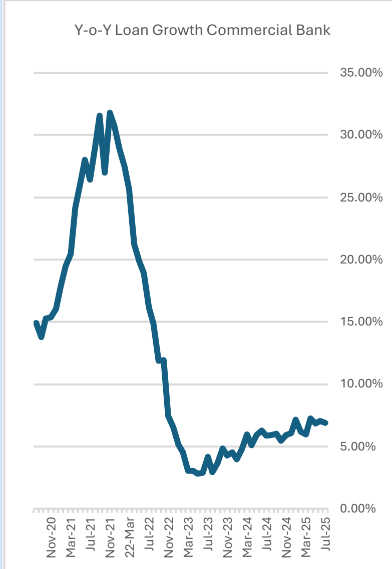
Amount in million		**Net Maturity Amount in $ million**		
Period	Deposit mix	Within next month	Within a Year	Total
3-6 months	18%	350.63	3,935.14	4,285.76
6-12 months	37%	1,267.47	7,330.80	8,598.27
1-2 yrs.'	19%	256.97		4,165.43
2 yrs. and above	26%	866.80		5,152.66
Total	100%	11.75%	48.30%	**100%**

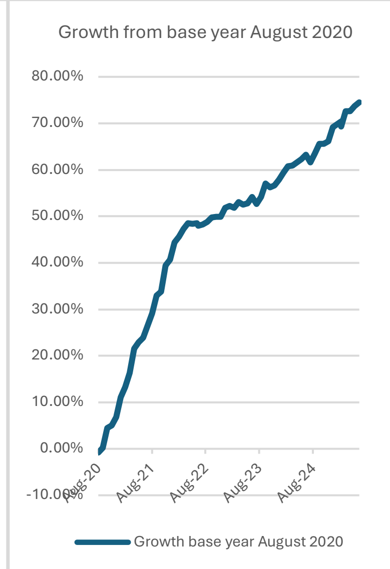


Although interest rate-sensitive fixed deposits are experiencing a decline, fluctuations in the short-term money market are likely to persist. Nonetheless, we expect interest rates to remain subdued over an extended period. The deposit mix of the Nepalese banking sector over the past several months reveals a clear shift in depositor behavior, largely influenced by declining interest rates on fixed deposits. From August 2023 to July 2025, there has been a noticeable increase in saving deposits, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of total deposits. This trend suggests that depositors are gradually favoring more flexible savings accounts over long-term fixed deposits, likely due to the narrowing interest rate differential.

4) Sector wise Loan Growth of Commercial Banks







Section 6 Insurance Sector

1) Sector Overview

Regulation & Structure
The Nepal Insurance Authority (NIA), established under the Insurance Act 2079 B.S (2022 A.D.), regulates the industry. As of mid-2025, Nepal hosts:

a) 14 life insurers
b) 14 non-life insurers
c) 2 reinsurance firms
d) Several micro-insurance providers

2) Coverage & penetration

a) Population reached: About 47.95% of the population was covered by some form of insurance as of mid-June 2025 (Fiscal Nepal).
b) When excluding micro and foreign employment policies, coverage drops to 16–17%
c) While total penetration is strong, standard life/non-life coverage remains significantly low.
d) Premium-to-GDP ratio:
Nepal's insurance sector penetration rose from ~1.3% in 2010 to ~4.2% by 2020, outperforming regional peers
e) Employment:
Insurance employs ~1.8% of Nepal's workforce (agents, staff, surveyors)

3) Premium & Business Growth

a) Premium collection (11 months FY 2081/82):
b) Total: ~NPR 195.04 bn (+14.5%)
  a. Life: NPR 155.15 bn (+16%)
  b. First-year: NPR 35.17 bn (+26.98%)
  c. Renewal: NPR 119.98 bn (+13%)
c) Non-life: NPR 39.88 bn (+9%)
Early FY 2081/82 (Baisakh): Premiums totaled NPR 1.76 trn (+14%)

4) Challenges & Areas for Improvement

a) Low standard coverage: Most coverage stems from micro or migrant-worker policies; standard insurance remains sparse
b) Policy surrenders: A noticeable rise in early policy cancellations—over 80,000 in a single recent year—signals affordability or product trust issues (
c) Non-life growth slower: Motor and non-life segments show moderate performance; specialized areas like agriculture remain underutilized.
d) Insurance Sector Overview by Province (Up to Q3, FY 2081/82)

5) Strategic Insights

Area	Status	Recommendation
Coverage	~48%, but mostly non-standard	Expand traditional life/non-life reach
Premium Growth	+14–16% (life), +9% (non-life)	Sustain momentum with innovative products
Policy Retention	Rising surrenders	Enhance client education and product design
Asset Utilization	Growing investment base	Channel funds into productive sectors

Nepal's insurance sector has made remarkable strides in premium growth and quality of outreach, especially via niche products. Despite this, traditional coverage remains low, and policy retention is a growing concern. To drive inclusive insurance, particularly standard life and non-life products, the sector must improve consumer trust, strengthen product innovation, and deepen financial education. With its robust economic role and regulatory backing, Nepal's insurance industry is well-positioned for sustainable, inclusive expansion.

Unit: Amount in Lakh (NPR)

Province	Indicator	FY 2081/82 Q3	FY 2080/81 Q3	% Change	Trend
Koshi	Number of Issued Policies	622,291	1,776,369	-64.97%	▼ Decline
	First Premium Income	33,652.67	25,596.71	+31.47%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	1,19,459.92	1,08,311.89	+10.29%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	1,53,112.59	1,33,908.60	+14.34%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	23,391	20,948	+11.66%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	34,603.22	28,659.16	+20.74%	▲ Growth
Madhesh	Number of Issued Policies	86,670	91,213	-4.98%	▼ Decline

Province	Indicator	FY 2081/82 Q3	FY 2080/81 Q3	% Change	Trend
	First Premium Income	24,083.21	19,839.76	+21.39%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	87,606.63	78,648.43	+11.39%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	1,11,689.84	98,488.19	+13.40%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	17,268	15,450	+11.77%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	25,460.07	20,179.47	+26.17%	▲ Growth
Bagmati	Number of Issued Policies	30,28,884	28,05,359	+7.97%	▲ Growth
	First Premium Income	1,25,393.94	99,266.02	+26.32%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	4,42,527.82	3,88,152.04	+14.01%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	5,67,921.76	4,87,418.06	+16.52%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	73,884	66,590	+10.95%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	1,72,708.24	1,44,113.90	+19.84%	▲ Growth
Gandaki	Number of Issued Policies	2,78,983	98,962	+181.91%	🚀 Surge
	First Premium Income	22,314.39	17,549.59	+27.15%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	1,05,349.35	95,087.01	+10.79%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	1,27,663.74	1,12,636.60	+13.34%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	9,330	8,357	+11.64%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	21,316.85	17,143.43	+24.34%	▲ Growth
Lumbini	Number of Issued Policies	1,68,330	1,73,060	-2.73%	▼ Decline
	First Premium Income	41,748.37	32,622.99	+27.97%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	1,56,128.24	1,40,297.73	+11.28%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	1,97,876.62	1,72,920.72	+14.43%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	22,298	21,524	+3.60%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	37,961.40	34,522.57	+9.96%	▲ Growth
Karnali	Number of Issued Policies	1,07,704	33,605	+220.50%	🚀 Surge
	First Premium Income	9,019.49	6,161.69	+46.38%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	26,989.57	24,009.35	+12.41%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	36,009.07	30,171.04	+19.35%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	3,636	3,166	+14.85%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	5,778.97	4,382.47	+31.87%	▲ Growth
Sudurpaschim	Number of Issued Policies	1,20,160	1,08,322	+10.93%	▲ Growth
	First Premium Income	18,525.19	14,379.47	+28.83%	▲ Growth
	Renewal Premium Income	57,570.46	51,693.42	+11.37%	▲ Growth
	Total Premium	76,095.66	66,072.89	+15.17%	▲ Growth
	Number of Gross Claim Paid	10,509	9,292	+13.10%	▲ Growth
	Amount of Gross Claim Paid	15,692.79	12,597.06	+24.58%	▲ Growth

National Summary (Up to Q3)

Indicator	FY 2081/82 Q3	FY 2080/81 Q3	% Change	Trend
Number of Issued Policies	44,13,022	50,86,890	-13.25%	▼ Decline
First Premium Income	2,74,737.28	2,15,416.22	+27.54%	▲ Growth
Renewal Premium Income	9,95,631.99	8,86,199.87	+12.35%	▲ Growth
Total Premium	12,70,369.27	11,01,616.09	+15.32%	▲ Growth
Number of Gross Claim Paid	1,60,316	1,45,327	+10.31%	▲ Growth
Amount of Gross Claim Paid	3,13,521.54	2,61,598.06	+19.85%	▲ Growth

Nationally, first premium income grew by 27.54% to Rs. 2,74,737 lakh, while renewal premium income rose by 12.35%. Total gross premium reached Rs. 12,70,369 lakh, a 15.32% increase year-on-year. The number and amount of gross claims paid rose by 10.31% and 19.85% respectively, highlighting improved claim settlement practices.

In summary, while the insurance sector faces a decline in the volume of new policies, it is witnessing robust growth in revenue and claims, with underpenetrated provinces like Karnali and Gandaki showing promising expansion. This shift suggests a gradual move toward higher-quality and more valuable insurance coverage nationwide.

Provincial Distribution of Total Insurance Premiums Collected by Non-Life Insurance Companies through Various **Insurance Policies up to the End of Ash**ad

(In NPR Lakhs)

Province	Property	Marine	Aviation	Motor	Engineering & Contractors All Risk	Miscellaneous	Agriculture & Crops	Micro	Total
Koshi	14,912.75	3,947.20	-	11,843.48	3,793.69	1,374.45	2,297.76	1,594.99	39,764.31
Madhesh	11,056.95	2,366.82	-	10,291.00	2,491.54	1,063.95	1,824.75	726.87	29,821.90
Bagmati	66,558.99	17,114.85	23,399.35	74,324.97	65,510.77	42,524.59	7,691.85	4,810.25	3,01,935.62
Gandaki	5,186.58	254.32	35.44	10,529.05	2,026.63	1,534.76	2,139.81	707.86	22,414.45
Lumbini	12,454.56	1,761.31	-	15,534.22	3,414.46	2,186.33	2,439.12	1,285.81	39,075.79
Karnali	1,281.44	14.51	-	1,767.65	632.50	294.81	367.89	135.67	4,494.48
Sudurpaschim	3,220.92	171.11	-	4,767.88	1,955.86	430.48	627.83	445.44	11,619.52
Total	1,14,672.20	25,630.11	23,434.79	1,29,058.25	79,825.45	49,409.36	17,389.01	9,706.89	4,49,126.07

Section 7 Capital Market

1) Impact of IPO Delays by SEBON on Market Trust and Governance Concerns

a) The Securities Board of Nepal (SEBON) currently faces significant scrutiny due to extended delays in the approval of Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications, as evidenced by the IPO pipeline data as of 2082.01.28. These delays, observed across multiple sectors and types of companies, have increasingly created mistrust in the capital market, raising serious concerns about regulatory mismanagement and potential rent-seeking behavior.

b) An analysis of the pipeline data reveals that the delays are not isolated to one segment of the market. IPOs across all categories—including hydropower, manufacturing, hospitality, investment companies, and insurance—have been pending for extended periods. The number of shares offered ranges from under 100,000 to over 30 million, with corresponding issue amounts ranging from NPR 10 million to over NPR 6 billion. Despite the variation in size and sector, delays are prevalent across the board, suggesting systemic inefficiencies within SEBON's approval mechanism.

c) Furthermore, many IPO applications date back over 12 to 18 months, some with little to no movement despite the submission of responses and required documentation by the issuing companies. This stagnation has created the perception of a regulatory bottleneck that is not just administrative but potentially influenced by non-transparent practices. The inconsistency in processing timelines has led stakeholders to question whether certain companies receive undue favor, reinforcing fears of rent-seeking behavior among regulators.

d) The dominance of ordinary equity shares issues in the pipeline—commonly sought after by retail and institutional investors alike—means that delays in their approval have an outsized impact on market sentiment. Investors are left uncertain about capital allocation, and companies are unable to capitalize on favorable market conditions. Such inefficiencies discourage broader participation in the market and undermine the goal of financial inclusion.

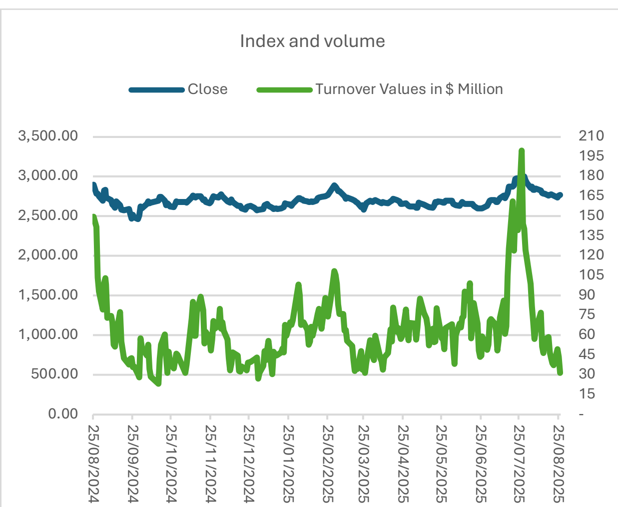
e) SEBON's inaction and lack of timely communication have not only delayed capital formation but also damaged its institutional credibility. The perception that approvals may depend on informal networks or discretionary influence rather than objective criteria further deteriorates trust. This environment of uncertainty and suspicion is detrimental to Nepal's evolving capital markets.

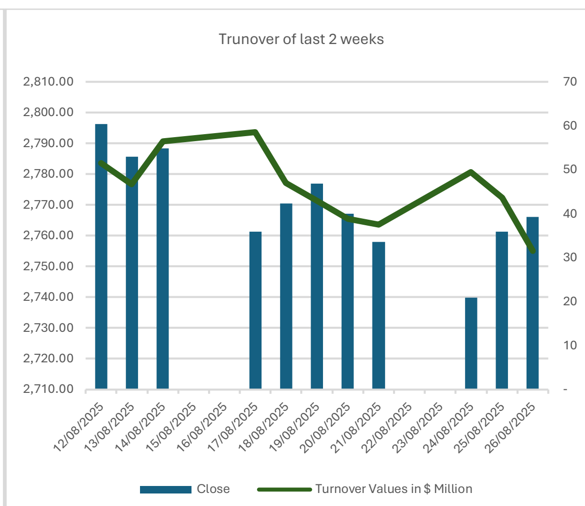
f) Recommendations

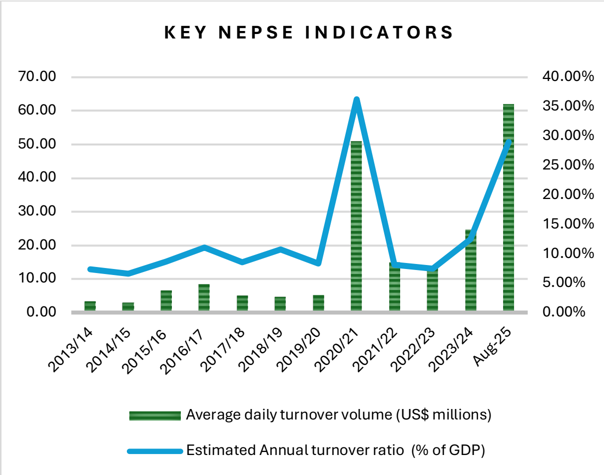
SEBON's prolonged indecision in processing IPO applications has become a significant obstacle to market growth. It has fostered widespread doubt about regulatory governance, amplified concerns about rent-seeking behavior, and discouraged participation from both issuers and investors.

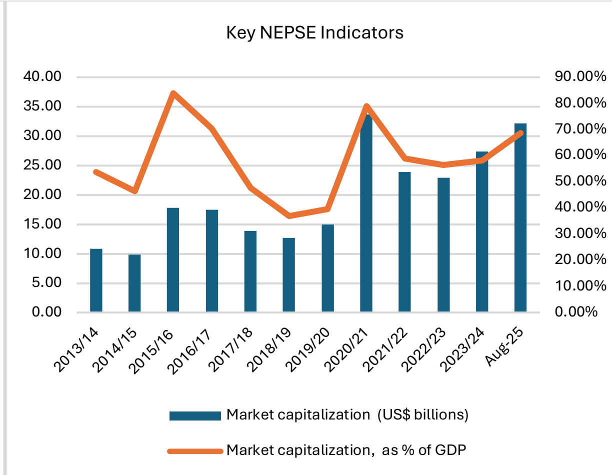
a) To restore trust and improve market efficiency, SEBON must:
b) Implement a transparent, time-bound IPO approval process.
c) Increase accountability within the regulatory framework.
d) Introduce digital tools to streamline tracking and evaluation.

Without urgent reforms, the credibility and effectiveness of SEBON as a regulator will continue to decline, putting the integrity of Nepal's capital market at risk.

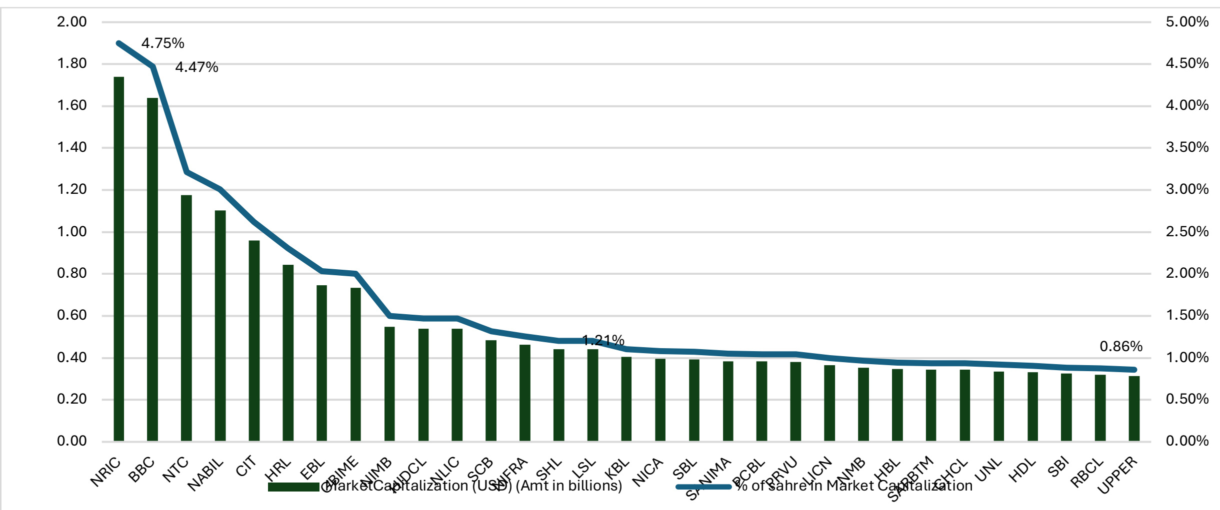


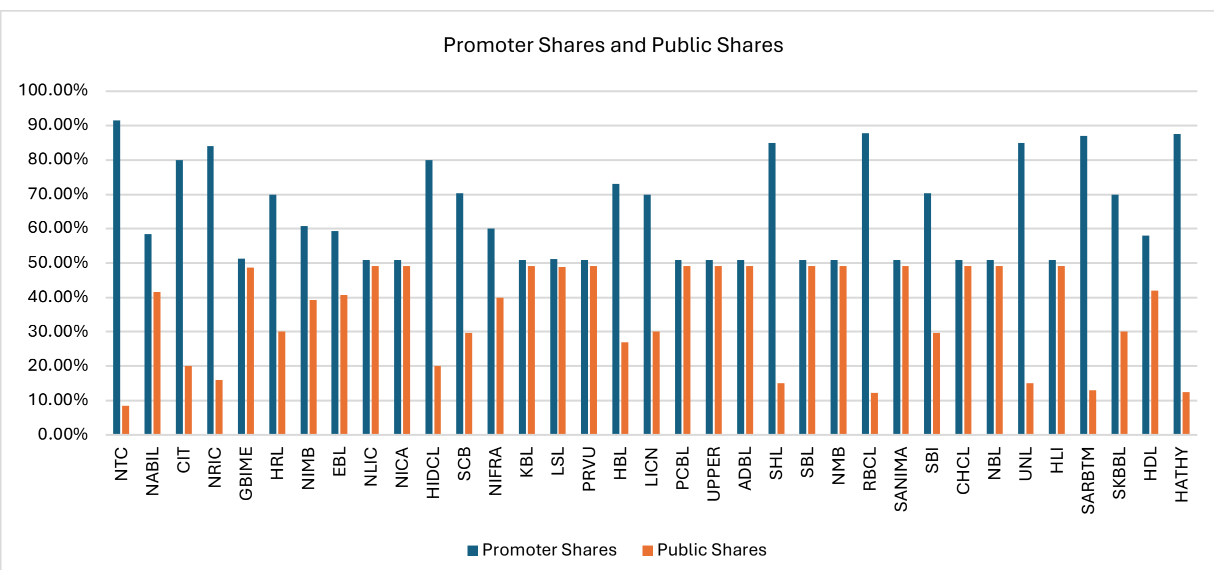






The 29 companies listed on NEPSE make up 47.17 % of the total market capitalization, with most of their shares not available for free trade.





Section 8 Fiscal Situation

1) Government of Nepal Receipts & Payments Status

(Exchange Factor $ 1 = NPR 130)

Government Receipts & Payments Status	Annual Budget	24/08/2025	% age
1. Revenue (USD in million)	11,384.62	788.86	6.93%
a) Tax Revenue	10,196.80	752.60	7.38%
b) Non Tax Revenue	1,187.82	36.26	3.05%
2. Grants	411.13	4.51	1.10%
3. Other Receipts	-	5.30	
Total Receipt	11,795.75	798.66	6.77%
2. Total Expenditure from Treasury	15,108.54	475.46	3.15%
a. Recurrent	9,084.46	247.04	2.72%
b. Capital	3,137.60	19.96	0.64%
c. Financing	2,886.48	208.46	7.22%
Deficit	(3,312.79)	323.20	
% of GDP	7.06%	-0.69%	

2) Government Treasury position

F/Y 2016/17	Mid-Month	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
F/Y 2022/23	Expenditure	180	1,048	2,888	3,596	4,707	5,505	5,505	6,449	7,460	8,805	9,813	11,579
	Revenue	670	1,209	2,253	2,747	3,857	4,325	4,325	4,897	5,746	6,355	6,594	8,043
	Treasury Position	2,473	2,238	1,536	1,533	1,673	1,722	1,722	1,602	1,608	1,516	1,426	605
F/Y 2023/24	Expenditure	287	942	2,289	3,773	4,709	5,685	5,685	6,498	7,328	8,543	9,709	11,361
	Revenue	663	1,186	1,841	3,054	4,172	4,768	4,768	5,370	6,286	6,991	7,724	8,898
	Treasury Position	1,756	1,614	1,441	1,579	1,989	1,809	1,809	1,722	2,636	2,351	2,114	834
F/Y 2024/25	Expenditure	338	1,156	2,766	3,689	4,673	5,610	6,343	7,068	8,391	9,730	10,781	12,799
	Revenue	815	1,398	2,086	2,798	3,410	4,703	5,544	6,212	7,189	7,752	8,776	10,250
	Treasury Position	1,662	2,265	1,476	1,800	1,847	2,502	2,942	3,297	3,124	3,033	3,033	1,099

3) Gross Value Added by Industrial Division

			Rs. millions		
Industrial Classification. Rs. millions	**2022/23**	**2023/24**	**2024/25**		**2024/25**
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	11,43,101	12,48,694	13,53,729	UP	25.16
Mining and quarrying	24,009	24,020	24,776	UP	0.46
Manufacturing	2,43,679	2,49,252	2,67,803	UP	4.98
Electricity and gas	76,908	84,187	93,237	UP	1.73
Water supply; sewerage and waste management	21,735	22,052	22,788	UP	0.42
Construction	2,76,190	2,72,725	2,81,639	UP	5.24
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	6,69,055	7,07,522	7,82,958	UP	14.55
Transportation and storage	3,18,739	3,42,873	3,87,578	UP	7.20
Accommodation and food service activities	92,682	1,21,423	1,32,546	UP	2.46
Information and communication	92,741	97,832	1,04,251	UP	1.94
Financial and insurance activities	3,33,778	3,31,032	3,57,655	UP	6.65
Real estate activities	4,02,323	4,24,376	4,46,100	UP	8.29
Professional, scientific and technical activities	45,408	49,982	52,084	UP	0.97
Administrative and support service activities	33,060	36,038	38,768	UP	0.72
Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	4,67,358	4,81,098	4,69,164	DOWN	8.72
Education	3,95,230	4,31,635	4,23,513	DOWN	7.87
Human health and social work activities	90,993	94,877	1,02,638	UP	1.91
Other Services	30,401	33,787	38,363	UP	0.71

4) High-Growth Sectors: Small but Rapidly Expanding

High-Growth Sectors: Small but Rapidly Expanding

Several smaller sectors posted impressive growth rates, indicating dynamic shifts in emerging industries:

- *Electricity and gas saw the highest growth rate at 13.82%, though it contributes only 1.73% (NPR 93.24 billion) to GDP.*
- *Transportation and storage grew by 9.45%, contributing a significant 7.20% (NPR 387.58 billion) — both a fast-growing and sizeable sector.*
- *Financial and insurance activities expanded by 6.29%, with a 6.65% share (NPR 357.66 billion), suggesting healthy sectoral modernization and financial deepening.*
- *Accommodation and food services grew by 5.00%, though still relatively small at 2.46% (NPR 132.55 billion).*
- *Information and communication rose by 4.81%, contributing 1.94% (NPR 104.25 billion).*
- *Human health and social work grew by 4.77%, reflecting post-pandemic recovery in health investment.*

These sectors, although not the largest in value, point to a shift toward services, logistics, and utilities, showing a diversification of growth sources beyond traditional agriculture and trade.

5) *Mid-Sized Productive Sectors: Stable, Foundational Growth*

Mid-Sized Productive Sectors: Stable, Foundational Growth

*A cluster of **productive sectors** with both moderate size and growth rate form the **core of Nepal's structural economic transition**:*

__Manufacturing__ (NPR 267.80 billion, 4.98% of GDP) grew by __3.78%__, reflecting modest industrial growth.

__Construction__ (NPR 281.64 billion, 5.24%) grew by __2.21%__.

__Wholesale and retail trade__ (NPR 782.96 billion, 14.55%) saw __3.30% growth__, maintaining its dominant role in value addition.

*These sectors are **key drivers of employment and investment**, and their **steady expansion** supports infrastructure, trade, and industrialization goals.*

6) *Traditional Large Sectors: Slow or Declining Performance*

Traditional Large Sectors: Slow or Declining Performance

*The **largest sectors by value** showed either **slow growth or contraction**, highlighting challenges in transforming the economic base:*

- *__Agriculture, forestry, and fishing__ remains the largest sector at __NPR 1,353.73 billion (25.16%)__, but grew by only __3.28%__ — a low rate relative to its economic weight.*
- *__Real estate activities__ contributed __NPR 446.10 billion (8.29%)__ but grew by just __2.72%__.*
- *__Public administration and defence__ (NPR 469.16 billion, 8.72%) and __education__ (NPR 423.51 billion, 7.87%) both saw minimal growth of __2.24%__ and __1.98%__, respectively — likely reflecting tighter public budgets or reduced fiscal momentum.*

*Despite their large contribution to GDP, these sectors are **no longer the main engines of growth**, signaling potential saturation or policy constraints.*

7) *Government* Revenue

Amounr USD million (Exchange Factor 1 UAS = 130 NPR)

	2024								2025						
HEADS ($ in million) I USD= NPR 130	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	July-25
Customs	1,107	1,249	1,398	1,546	122	253	400	520	826	968	1,109	1,259	1,419	1,596	
Import Duties	885	995	1,110	1,225	99	206	324	419	659	772	885	1,006	1,134	1,274	
Green Tax	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Export Duty	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	5	6	
Infrastructure Tax	110	126	142	159	10	20	33	44	76	90	103	118	132	147	
Other incomes of Custom	2	3	4	5	0	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	

	2024								2025						
HEADS ($ in million) I USD= NPR 130	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	July-25
Agriculture Reform Duties	40	44	47	50	4	7	10	15	28	34	39	43	48	51	
Road Maintenance and Improvement Duty	47	54	61	68	6	12	20	26	38	44	50	57	64	72	
Road Construction and Maintenance Duty	22	26	32	33	3	7	10	13	19	22	25	28	32	40	
Value Added Tax	1,678	1,882	2,121	2,388	203	386	578	760	1,191	1,405	1,616	1,845	2,074	2,327	
Production, Sales and Service	671	757	863	1,001	100	171	241	319	498	586	674	776	872	978	
Imports	1,007	1,124	1,258	1,387	103	215	336	441	693	818	942	1,069	1,202	1,349	
Excise Duties	803	918	1,042	1,126	93	195	307	426	641	731	838	954	1,095	1,246	
Internal Production	595	686	780	840	67	137	213	304	468	535	616	704	812	919	
Excise on Imports	208	232	262	286	26	58	95	121	174	196	222	250	283	326	
Educational Service Tax	18	21	23	25	2	5	8	10	14	16	18	23	26	28	
Income Tax	1,555	1,675	1,793	2,180	176	278	397	515	1,092	1,230	1,333	1,643	1,762	1,864	
Income Tax	1,337	1,412	1,522	1,897	124	219	329	406	968	1,064	1,159	1,461	1,545	1,641	
Interest Tax	218	263	271	283	52	59	67	108	124	167	174	182	218	223	
Total Tax Revenue	5,162	5,745	6,377	7,266	595	1,117	1,690	2,230	3,765	4,351	4,914	5,724	6,376	7,062	8,076
Non Tax Revenue	592	655	693	880	133	163	220	256	540	594	627	671	719	754	992
Total Revenue	5,754	6,399	7,071	8,145	729	1,280	1,910	2,486	4,305	4,945	5,541	6,395	7,096	7,816	9,068
Other Receipts	171	172	174	183	17	24	37	44	60	62	72	75	86	89	315
Total Receipts	5,925	6,571	7,245	8,329	746	1,304	1,946	2,531	4,365	5,007	5,613	6,470	7,182	7,905	9,382

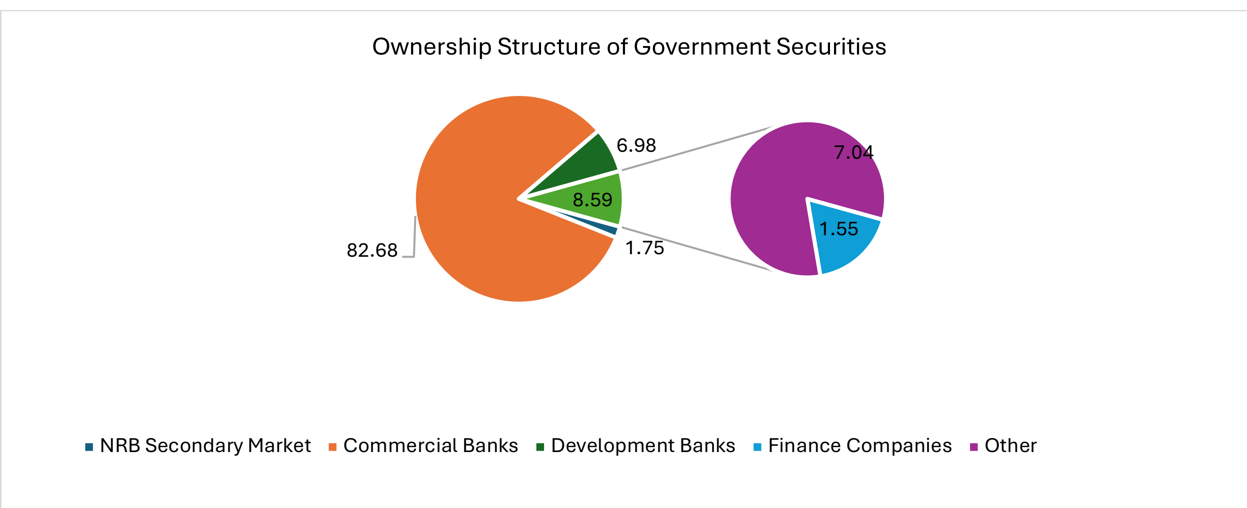
8) ***Key*** Indicators

Indicator	2023/24 (to July 2024)	2024/25 (to July 2025)
CPI-based Inflation (y-o-y)	3.57%	2.20%
Trade	Imports ↓1.2%; Exports ↓3.%;	Imports ↑13.3%; Exports ↑81.8%;
Remittances	↑16.5% (NPR), ↑14.5% (USD)	↑91.2% (NPR), ↓16.3% (USD)
Balance of Payments	Surplus Rs. 502.49 billion	Surplus Rs. 594.54 billion
Gross Foreign Exchange Reserves	USD ↑15.27 billion	USD 19.50 billion
Government Expenditure	Rs. 1,408 billion	Rs. 1,523.11 billion
Government Revenue	Rs. 1082.75 billion	Rs. 1,178.82 billion
Broad Money (M2)	y-o-y expansion: 12.9%	y-o-y expansion: 12.5%

Economic Outlook Based on July 2025

Indicator	2023/24 (to July 2024)	2024/25 (to July 2025)
BFI Deposits	y-o-y: ↑13%	↓8%; y-o-y: 12.6%
Private Sector Credit	y-o-y: ↑8.1%	↑8%; y-o-y: 8.4%

	Heading	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
A	Real Sector (growth and ratio in percent)				
	Real GDP at basic price	2.3	3.4	4.0	
	Real GDP at purchasers' price	2.0	3.7	4.6	
	Nominal GDP at purchasers' price	7.8	6.4	7.0	
	Gross National Income (GNI)	8.5	6.9	6.7	
	Gross National Disposable Income (GNDI)	11.0	8.5	7.4	
	Gross Capital Formation / GDP	31.1	30.4	28.1	
	Gross Fixed Capital Formation / GDP	24.6	24.3	24.1	
	Gross Domestic Savings / GDP	7.2	6.2	6.6	
	Gross National Savings / GDP	33.9	35.4	36.2	
	Gross Domestic Product (Current Price) (Rs in billion)	5367.0	5709.1	6107.2	
	Heading			Mid-June	
		2022/23	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25
B	Public Finance (growth and ratio in percent)				
	Revenue Growth (%)	-9.3	7.1	7.1	10.5
	Expenditure Growth (%)	8.5	-0.9	-2.0	9.3
	Domestic Debt (Rs. in billion)	1,129.1	1,180.9	1180.9	1268.2
	External Debt (Rs. in billion)	1,170.2	1,252.3	1257.9	1401.4
	Revenue / GDP	18.9	19.0	19.0	19.6
	Recurrent Expenditure / GDP	18.8	16.7	16.3	16.1
	Capital Expenditure / GDP	4.4	3.4	3.4	3.6
	Domestic Debt / GDP	21.0	20.7	20.7	20.8
	External Debt / GDP	21.8	22.0	22.0	22.9



9) *Nepal's* Policies and Programs for Fiscal Year 2025/26

Nepal's Annual Policies and Programs (2082/83): A Strategic Push Toward Reform and Growth

The Government of Nepal has unveiled its Annual Policies and Programs for FY 2082/83 (2025/26), setting a clear roadmap for economic revitalization, governance reform, and inclusive development.

The Plan will focus on IT, tourism, agriculture, energy, and green industry to drive job-rich economic growth and structural transformation. It also aims to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and support Nepal's smooth graduation from LDC status by 2026..

Economic Recovery:

The government will implement high-level economic reform recommendations to boost economic dynamism. Public-private-cooperative collaboration will be promoted for job creation, poverty reduction, and sustainable growth.

Agriculture Transformation:

The Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project will be restructured and upgraded into a National Integrated Agricultural Modernization Program.

Energy & Infrastructure:

The "Energy Development Roadmap, 2081" will be implemented, covering necessary legal, policy, institutional, and procedural reforms.

Healthcare Expansion:

Broadened health insurance, telemedicine, and hospital upgrades. Nepal will expand health insurance to cover serious illnesses and restructure the Insurance Board to improve service quality and financial sustainability.

Global Engagement:

With the guiding principle of "friendship with all, enmity with none," Nepal aims to strengthen its relationships with all nations, focusing on mutually beneficial and respectful ties.Enhanced economic diplomacy and sustainable development positioning

Human Capital:

The "Entrepreneurship-Oriented Education Policy" will address the mismatch in the labor market by tackling the shortage of skilled workers and surplus of unskilled labor.

10) *Economic* and institutional reform

Economic Revitalization & Fiscal Reform

The government will implement high-level economic reform recommendations to boost economic dynamism. Public-private-cooperative collaboration will be promoted for job creation, poverty reduction, and sustainable growth.

Emphasis on reducing trade deficits through productivity-driven import substitution.

Assets Management Company & Financial Sector Restructuring

*A national **Assets Management Company** will be established to manage non-performing assets and improve financial sector health.*

Reforms to address distressed banks and ensure sectoral stability are prioritized.

Digital Banking & Fintech Ecosystem

*A **Digital Bank** will be promoted to expand financial inclusion and increase digital payment access across Nepal*

Policy direction favors fintech integration, cybersecurity, and regulatory innovation.

Agricultural Modernization

*The Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Project will be restructured and upgraded into a **National Integrated Agricultural Modernization Program.***

Infrastructure, Energy, and Trade

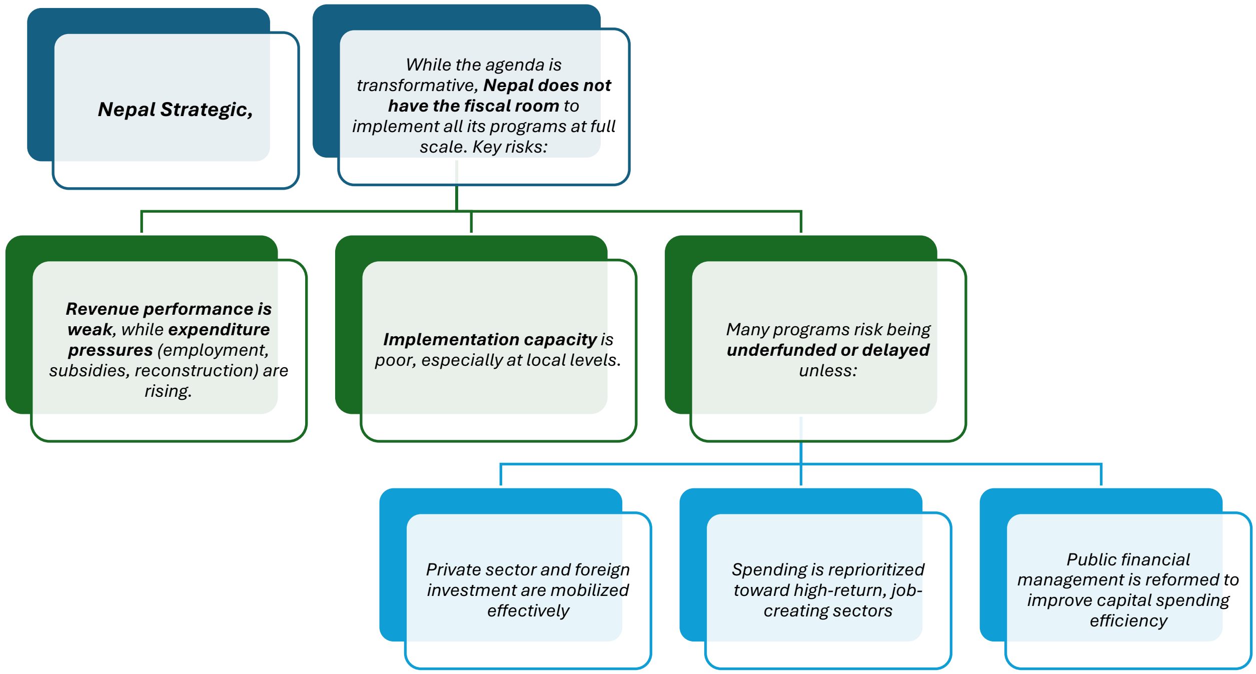
*Universal access to clean and renewable energy will be ensured. The **"Energy Development Roadmap, 2081"** will be implemented, covering necessary legal, policy, institutional, and procedural reforms.*

Health, Human Capital & Governance

Strengthen the training programs for healthcare professionals.

Education reform aligned with labor market needs, including national skill standards.

Governance reforms include local-level judicial strengthening and harmonized federal laws.



11) ***Nepal's*** immediate economic rescue plan to revive its economy

Nepal requires an immediate economic rescue plan to revive its economy.	The plan should aim to restore fiscal balance, ensure financial stability, and control inflation.
Importance of Fiscal Balance	Fiscal balance is crucial for sustainable economic growth. It involves managing government revenues and expenditures to prevent budget deficits. Ensuring fiscal balance fosters investor confidence and supports long-term economic stability.
Ensuring Financial Stability	Financial stability is essential for a robust economy. It involves maintaining stability in the banking sector, preventing financial crises, and ensuring smooth credit flows. Upholding financial stability boosts investor trust and encourages economic investment.
Anchoring Inflation	Controlling inflation is vital for economic health. Excessive inflation erodes purchasing power and destabilizes the economy. Anchoring inflation to a reasonable limit supports price stability and fosters economic growth.
Components of the Emergency Economic Plan	Fiscal Measures: Implementing prudent fiscal policies to manage government finances and reduce budget deficits. Financial Sector Reforms: Strengthening regulatory frameworks and enhancing oversight to ensure stability in the banking sector. Monetary Policy Actions: Implementing measures to control inflation through appropriate monetary policy tools.
Immediate Action Steps	Assessing the current economic situation and identifying priority areas for intervention. Formulating and implementing policies swiftly to address fiscal imbalances, ensure financial stability, and control inflation. Collaboration between government agencies, financial institutions, and international partners to implement the plan effectively.
Benefits of the Plan	Stimulating economic growth and creating employment opportunities. Restoring investor confidence and attracting foreign investment. Enhancing the overall economic resilience of Nepal in the face of future challenges.
Conclusion	An emergency economic plan is essential for Nepal to overcome its economic challenges. By maintaining fiscal balance, financial stability, and controlling inflation, Nepal can jump-start its economy and pave the way for sustainable growth and development. Given the current economic uncertainties and challenges, achieving these ambitious targets will require effective implementation and favorable economic conditions.