CAPITAL THAT WORKS

# Peru: Beset by Countervailing Winds February 2021

Estudios Económicos – Scotiabank (Peru)

Guillermo Arbe +51.1.211.6052 (Peru) Scotiabank Peru guillermo.arbe@scotiabank.com.pe



# **Countervailing winds**

Strong Q4 recovery trend

Political turbulence

Metal prices

Second COVID-19 wave

Strong macro balances

Elections

Macro Growth & Balances	2020	2021
GDP Growth	-11.1	8.7
Domestic Demand	-9.8	7.8
Private Consumption	-8.7	6.8
Private Investment	-17.2	15.1
Public Investment	-17.7	13.8
Unemployment (% GDP)	13.8	10.0
Inflation	2.0	2.6
Reference rate	0.25	0.25
Fiscal Balance (% GDP)	-8.9	-5.4
Trade Balance	7,750	12,523
NIR (USD mn)	74,707	77,000

2021 GDP growth, y/y

Consensus 9.5%

Market range 6%–12%

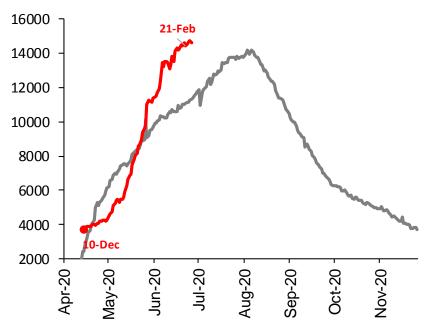
Source: BCRP; Prepared by Scotiabank Peru

- Mortality per million: 1,200 (the world average is 280 per million).
- Timing of second-wave restrictions much later than in first wave.

### **Status of vaccines**

- Procurement of 85 mn doses.
- 1 mn have arrived, 2 mn in March, 10 mn by June.
- Government goal: 15 mn vaccinated by July.
- 160,000 health professionals have been vaccinated (0.5% of the population).

### **COVID-19 Hospital Patients**



### **Inoculation Phases**

- 1. Health professionals, domestic security 1.7mn
- 2. People over 60 or with health issues, indigenous communities
- 3. Ages 18 to 59

6.0mn

16.8mn

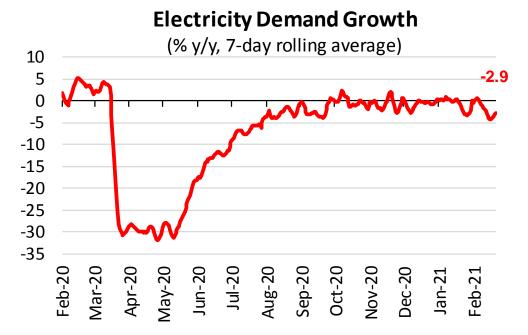


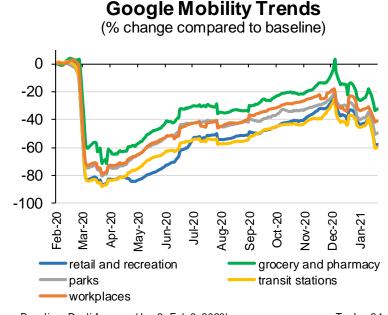
# New measures restrict mobility, not production

- 95% of the economy allowed to operate, versus 44% at height of 2020 lockdown.
- Our GDP growth forecast of 8.7% y/y for 2021 in line with 6.8 weeks of restrictions.
- New support measures represent 2.5% of GDP in resources for households.
- Difference between electricity demand and mobility trends: government restrictions have affected mobility, but not production.

### **Support measures:**

- PEN 600 transfer to over four million families.
- One-month postponement on the payment of income, sales, and other taxes.
- PEN 2 bn small-business support program (similar to Reactiva), and a PEN 0.2 bn tourism support program.





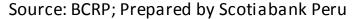
## **Scotiabank**

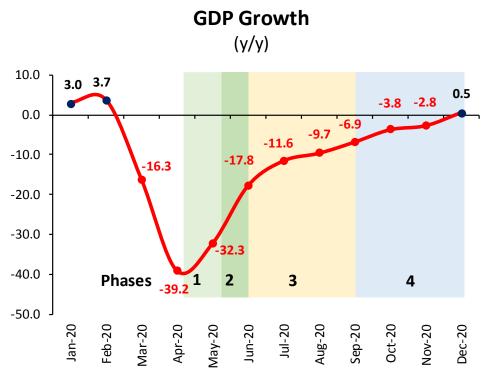
# 2020: the recovery was better than expected

### **Q4** especially strong

- · Domestic demand did not contract.
- Surprisingly strong private investment turnaround.
- December: positive growth ahead of expectations.
  - 6 of 12 major sectors rose (fishing, construction, resource processing, government services, telecom, and financial services).

GDP Demand Growth	2020	
	Q4	FY
GDP	-1.7	-11.1
Domestic Demand	0.0	-9.8
Private Consumption	-1.5	-8.7
Govt Current Spending	21.7	7.5
Private Investment	9.4	-17.2
Public Investment	8.6	-17.7
Exports Volume	-11.2	-20.0
Imports Volume	-5.6	-15.6

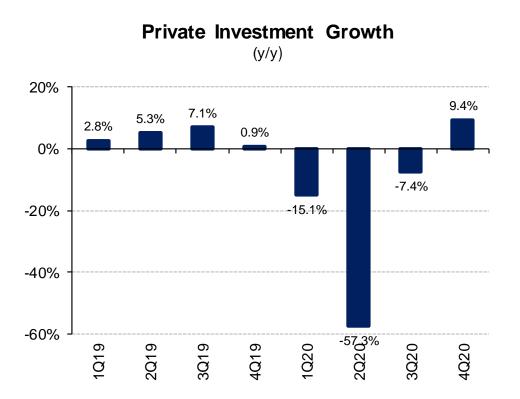






# An encouraging improvement in private demand—investment

- Technological transformations.
- Booming real estate.
- Companies adapting to new consumption patterns.
- Terms of trade (high metal prices) have traditionally given strong support to macro accounts and business confidence.



Source: BCR Elaboration: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru



Source: BCRP; Sunat Prepared by: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru



# Infrastructure investments are slow, but progressing

Ancón Industrial Park: USD 750 mn – tender pending.

Chancay Port – phase 1: USD 1.2 mn – beginning construction.

Lima Metro Line 2: USD 5.3 bn – under construction.

Lima airport: USD 1.2 bn – under construction.

9 Ports: USD 420 mn – (Salaverry, San Martin, others).

Reconstruction North: PEN 22.7 bn (USD 6.2 bn) – G2G UK.

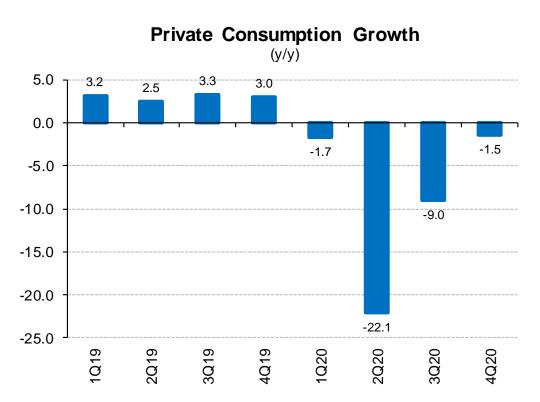
Hospitals:
 PEN 1 bn (USD 280 mn) – G2G France.

Projects on agenda for tender in 2021: PEN 4.3 bn (USD 1.2 bn).



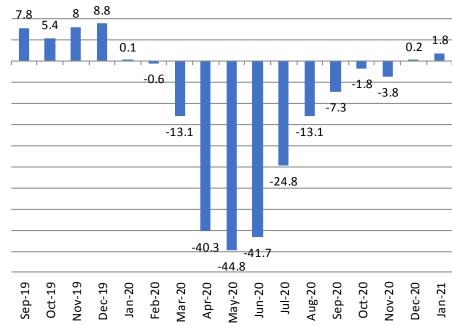
# An encouraging improvement in private demand—consumption

- Government measures (5.5% of GDP).
- Rebound in employment.
- New (virtual) sources of service income.
- Sales tax revenue above pre-COVID-19 levels reflects robust sales, but also new activities and the formalization of informal sales through digitalization.



Source: BCRP; Prepared by: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru

# Domestic Sales Tax Revenue (y/y, %)



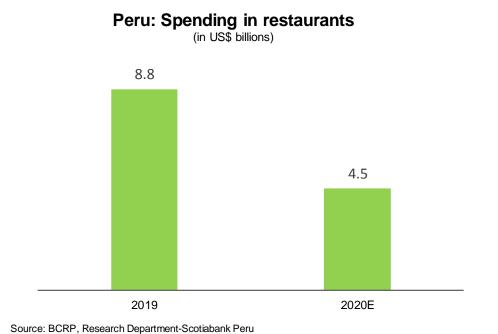
Source: BCRP; Sunat Prepared by: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru

Resources available to boost domestic demand

In 2020, government transfers and access to savings helped sustain consumption.

Resources that will be available in 2021: +5% of GDP.

- Household deposits at banks up by PEN 30 bn (15%) between March and December 2020.
  - lower spending on restricted activities + resources from AFP withdrawals + Reactiva.
- Nearly PEN 19 bn in pension withdrawals, government transfers.



**Resources Available for Households** 

AFP withdrawals in 2020: S/24.3bn CTS withdrawals in 2020: S/ 4.5 bn

Household Support funds 2020: S/ 13 bn

Total 2020: S/ 41.8 bn

(5.5% of GDP)

AFP withdrawals 2021: S/ 15.9 bn

ONP Support funds: S/ 0.5 bn

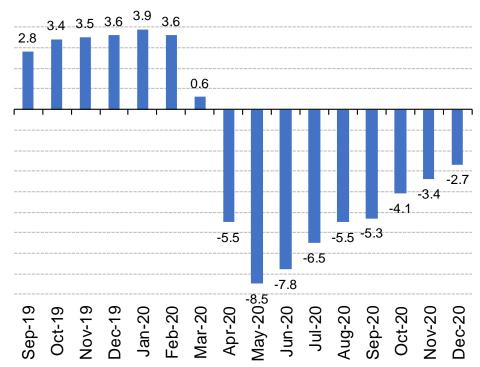
Household Support funds 2021 S/ 2.4 bn

Total 2021: S/ 18.8bn

(2.5% of GDP)

# Employment is also recovering, albeit still under past levels

# Formal Jobs Growth- Sunat Digital Payroll (y/y, %)



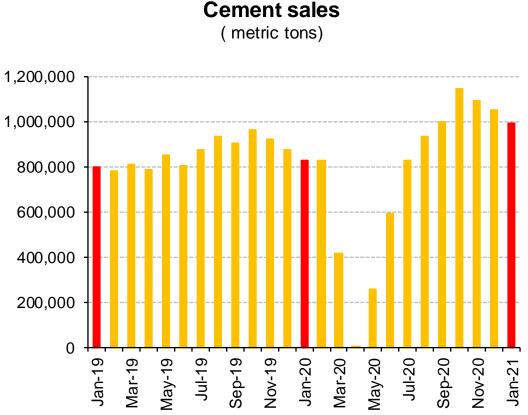
Source: BCRP; Sunat Prepared by: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru

### **Employment in Lima** (millions) 6.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 -11.9% 4.1 3.6 3.7 3.9 4.0 2.9 3.0 2.5 2.2 2.0 1.0 0.0 jan-20 apr-20 Sep-20 Nov-20 Dec-20 feb-20 mar-20 May-20 Jun-20 Jul-20 aug-20 Oct-20 Jan-21

Source: INEI Elaboration: Research Department -Scotiabank Perú

# **Construction is booming**

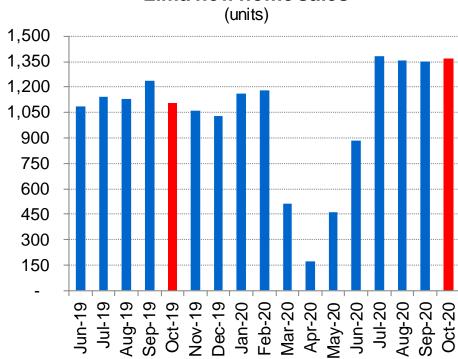
- Cement sales have risen 19%–20% y/y each month from October 2020 to January 2021.
- Construction GDP is currently significantly above pre-COVID-19 levels.
- Part of construction growth is government spending, but most involves a booming real estate market.



Sources: Asocem Prepared by: Scotiabank Peru.

Source: Asociación de Empresas Inmobiliarias
Prepared by Scotiabank Research Department

### Lima new home sales

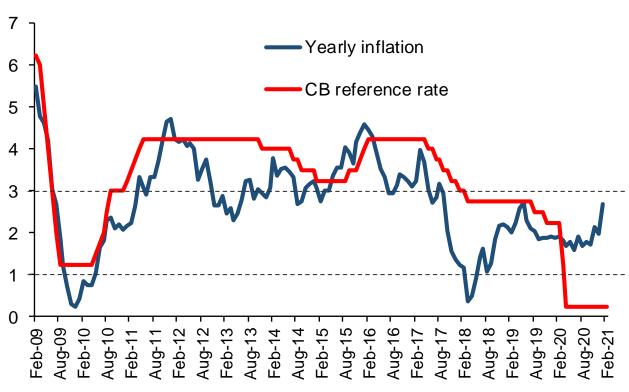




## Low interest rates is probably the most likely source

The reference rate will remain low well into 2022, although rising inflation merits monitoring.

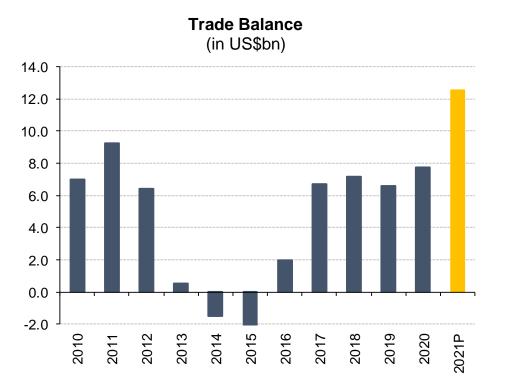
### Inflation and Reference Rate

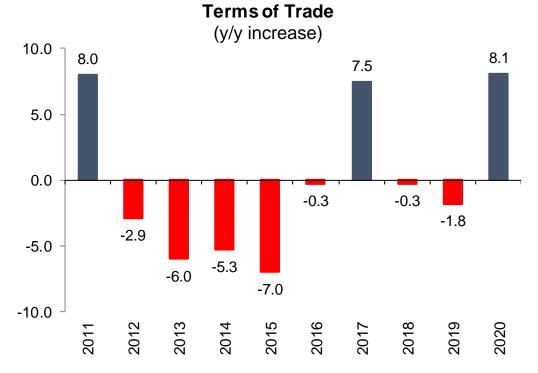


Source: BCRP. Scotiabank Peru

# Metal prices are changing external outlook

- External accounts are very, very strong, and are set to get even stronger in 2021 as metal prices move higher.
- 2020 Current Account: 0.5% of GDP.
- Net international reserves: USD 74.7 bn, or 25 months of imports.
- Every one cent increase raises exports by USD 50 mn.
- A copper price of USD 4.00/lb would increase exports by over USD 3 bn.





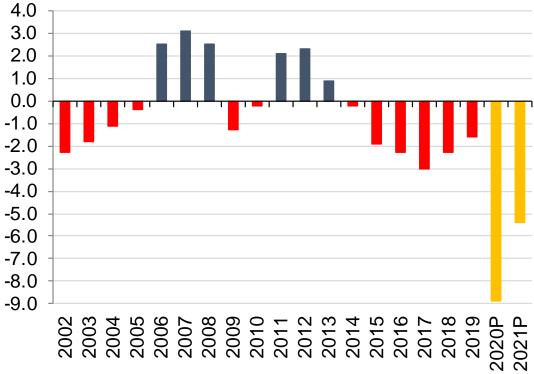
Source: BCRP Projections: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru

Source BCRP: Prepared by: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru

# Metal prices could lower 2021 fiscal deficit

- Current 2021 forecast: -5.4% GDP, with avg copper price of USD 3.35/lb.
- Every one cent increase raises income tax revenue by USD 10 mn.
- A copper price of USD 4.00/lb would increase income tax revenue by USD 650 mn to USD 800 mn.
- This would bring down the fiscal deficit by 0.4 ppts to 0.5 ppts.

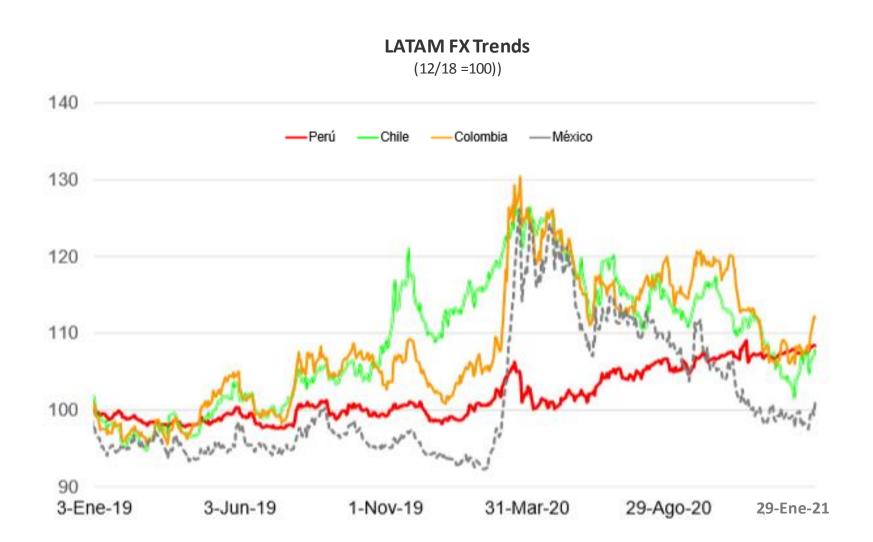
### Fiscal Deficit as a % GDP



Source: BCR Projections: Research Department-Scotiabank Peru

# Scotiabank 15

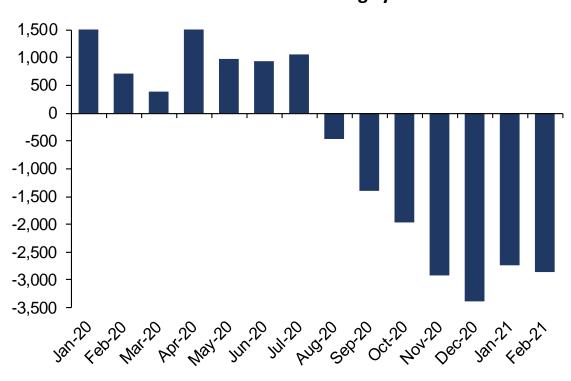
# PEN is not aligned with regional peers



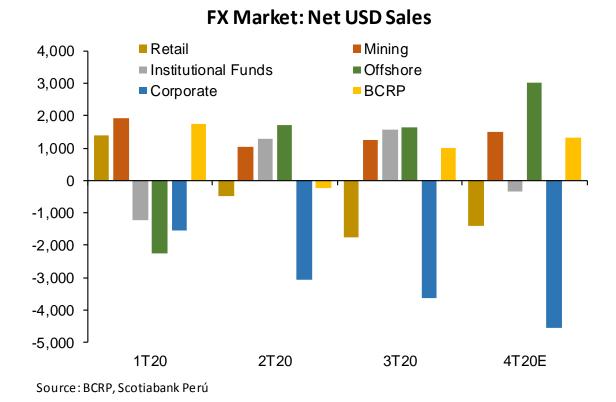
Source: BCPR

# Corporate demand for USD liquidity has shifted from bank loans to FX market

### **Net USD Assets in Banking System**



### Source: BCRP. Prepared by. Estudios Económicos Scotiabank Bank Peru



### **Elections are in seven weeks**

### **Voter Intention - Peru elections**

Candidate	Feb-21	Jan-21	Dec-20	Nov-20
George Forsyth	11	17	18	16
Yonhy Lescano	10	6	4	3
Keiko Fujimori	8	8	7	5
Verónika Mendoza	8	7	7	6
Daniel Urresti	7	6	6	6
Hernando de Soto	4	5	3	na
Julio Guzmán	4	7	8	7
Undecided/None	29	25	28	35

**Source: Ipsos** 

- Health crisis + credibility crisis + political crisis + economic crisis may bolster anti-establishment vote.
- A quarter of voters are undecided.
- Votes will shift from lagging to leading candidates as elections near.

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# Key issues regarding new authorities

- Forsyth no party; city mayor.
- Lescano no executive experience; Congress.
- Fujimori political experience; no executive experience.
- Mendoza no party; no executive experience.
- Urresti no party; no executive experience.
- Guzmán new party; no government experience.

- No candidate has significant governing experience or proven management capacity.
- New cabinet head: will define political priorities and governance.
- New finance minister: will define policy quality and continuity.
- New BCRP Board: will define monetary solvency and confidence.
- The new Congress will include many members with little experience (new law prohibits re-election).

# Governability is at issue (again!)

### Vacunagate has renewed governability risk—the risk of an empowered Congress

Exceptional times: health crisis + credibility crisis + economic crisis.

### Why is Peru in a state of seemingly perpetual political turbulence?

- The difference between Peru and other countries is the weakness of political institutions and of the rule of law.
- Political parties neither represent voters (no constituencies) nor do they develop future leaders.
- The application of the law is unpredictable.
- State management capabilities have deteriorated.
- Economic institutions are strong, but the above puts them at risk.

# **Legislative legacy**

### Constitutional Court has struck down:

- 1. road tolls elimination;
- 2. reimbursement of public pension funds; and
- 3. automatic worker promotion in State institutions.
- Pension fund reform
- Mining law
- Interest rate caps

### Possible future initiatives:

- Wealth tax
- Education reform

# A bright spot

### After the Presidential elections are concluded, the economy could soar:

- Electoral uncertainty resolved
- New authorities with the credibility of having been elected
- A vaccinated population in a vaccinated world
- Renewal of correlation between metal prices and private investment
- Pent-up investment and consumption (high level of savings)
- Robust macro accounts
- Infrastructure investment already tendered
- A more digitalized world

Key: adequate governance, continuity in economic policy, no sharp decline in metal prices

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