

## Key Developments in Asian Local Currency Markets

**R**eal gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Indonesia slowed marginally to 4.94% year-on-year (y-o-y) in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2016 from 5.01% y-o-y in the third quarter of 2016. For full-year 2016, Indonesia's economy grew 5.0%, up slightly from 4.9% growth in 2015. Japan's real GDP growth eased to 0.2% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) in Q4 2016 from 0.3% q-o-q in the third quarter 2016. On an annualized basis, Japan's economy expanded 1.0% in Q4 2016, lower than the 1.4% growth posted in the previous quarter. In the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Caixin General Services Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) fell to 53.1 in January from 53.4 in the prior month; however, a reading above 50.0 still indicates an expansion. Industrial production growth in Malaysia dropped to 4.7% y-o-y in December from 6.2% y-o-y in November.

➤ The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 3.00% at its monetary policy meeting on 9 February. The decision was influenced by both manageable inflation and uncertainties in the advanced economies. The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Thailand maintained the policy rate at 1.50% during its meeting on 8 February. The committee projects the economy will grow at a faster pace compared to previous assessments and inflation is expected to trend upward.

➤ Inflation in the Philippines inched higher in January to 2.7% y-o-y from 2.6% y-o-y in December, well within the government's 2.0%–4.0% target range. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas announced that it will closely monitor the inflation impacts of the tax reform proposal that is being debated in the Philippine Congress.

➤ The PRC's exports rose 15.9% y-o-y in January while imports rose 25.2% y-o-y, resulting in a trade surplus of CNY354.5 billion. Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of MYR8.7 billion in December as exports increased 10.7% y-o-y and imports increased 11.5% y-o-y. In the Philippines, exports were up 4.5% y-o-y and imports increased 19.1% y-o-y in December, resulting in a trade deficit of USD2.6 billion.

➤ Indonesia's current account deficit narrowed to USD1.8 billion in Q4 2016, equivalent to 0.8% of GDP. Japan's current account surplus narrowed to JPY1.1 trillion in December from JPY1.4 trillion in November. Japan posted a current account surplus of JPY20.6 trillion in full-year 2016, higher than the JPY16.4 trillion recorded in 2015.

➤ The PRC's foreign exchange reserves fell for the seventh straight month in January to USD2.99 trillion from USD3.01 trillion in December as the government continued to

### Asia Bond Monitor November 2016

[read more](#)

#### 10-Year Selected LCY Government Security Yields Close of 10 February 2017 basis point change from

Markets	Latest Closing	Previous Day*	Previous Week*	1-Jan-17*
US	2.41	1.25	-5.75	-3.70
EU	0.32	0.80	-9.20	11.20
Japan	0.09	-0.70	-0.80	4.60
PRC	3.44	1.80	1.40	37.70
Hong Kong, China	1.82	-0.30	-12.60	-15.90
India	6.81	-5.20	39.60	29.00
Indonesia	7.52	1.10	-8.10	-45.10
Korea, Rep. of	2.14	0.10	-3.90	4.90
Malaysia	4.11	0.30	-3.80	-11.50
Philippines	4.24	-0.48	-53.53	-39.20
Singapore	2.25	2.52	-4.80	-22.26
Thailand	2.70	4.60	-5.20	5.10
Viet Nam	6.34	2.80	-2.50	-3.70

- TABLES & GRAPHS**
- ▶ Selected Government Security Yields
  - ▶ Benchmark Yield Curves - Local Currency Government Bonds
  - ▶ 2-versus-10 Yield Spread Chart
  - ▶ Policy Rate versus Inflation Rate Charts
  - ▶ Credit Default Swap Spreads & Exchange Rate Indexes
  - ▶ Selected Debt Security Issuances
  - ▶ Selected Asia Data Releases

intervene in the currency market. Foreign exchange reserves in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines were up in January.

➤ On 8 February, Moody's Investors Service revised its outlook on Indonesia's sovereign credit rating to positive. The ratings agency also affirmed Indonesia's issuer rating at Baa3.

➤ Hong Kong Airlines International Holdings issued a USD250 million perpetual bond last week, which is callable after 3.5 years, at a yield of 7.125%.

➤ Local currency government bond yields fell for most tenors in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, and for all tenors in Hong Kong, China; the Republic of Korea; and Viet Nam. On the other hand, yield movements in the PRC and the Philippines were mixed. Yield spreads between the 2-year and 10-year tenors widened in all markets except in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.

---

## Summary Text of News Articles

---

### **GDP Growth in Indonesia Slows in the Fourth Quarter of 2016; Purchasing Managers Index in the PRC Falls in January; Malaysia's Industrial Production Growth Moderates in December**

Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Indonesia slowed marginally to 4.94% year-on-year (y-o-y) in the fourth quarter of 2016 from 5.01% y-o-y in the third quarter of 2016. Growth in domestic consumption, which accounts for the largest share in GDP, eased to 4.99% y-o-y from 5.01% y-o-y in the third quarter of 2016. Government spending contracted 4.05% y-o-y. For full-year 2016, Indonesia's economy grew 5.0% y-o-y, up slightly from 4.9% y-o-y in 2015.

The People's Republic of China's (PRC) Caixin General Services Purchasing Managers Index fell to 53.1 in January from 53.4 in the prior month; however, a reading above 50.0 still indicates an expansion.

The Index of Industrial Production in Malaysia showed that growth slowed in December to 4.7% y-o-y from 6.2% y-o-y in November, but was still faster than the 3.2% y-o-y growth recorded in December 2015. All subcomponents of the index showed positive growth, with the manufacturing sector growing 4.3% y-o-y, the mining sector 5.8% y-o-y, and the electricity sector 6.1% y-o-y.

### **BSP Keeps Policy Rate Unchanged at 3.00%; Bank of Thailand Holds Policy Rate at 1.50%**

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 3.00% during its monetary policy meeting on 9 February. The decision was influenced by manageable inflation that is forecast to remain within the BSP's target range of 2.0%–4.0% for 2017–2018. While the government's broad fiscal reform program and a likely adjustment to electricity rates present upside risks to inflation, expectations remain consistent with the inflation target over the policy horizon. Domestic economic activity is expected to stay firm amid ample credit and liquidity. Developments in advanced economies, particularly monetary policy normalization in the United States, will be closely monitored by the BSP as it calibrates its policy tools as needed.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Thailand maintained the policy rate at 1.50% in a unanimous vote during its meeting on 8 February. The committee projects the domestic economy will grow at a faster pace compared to previous assessments and inflation is projected to trend upward. While Thailand's growth outlook has improved, risks from external factors remain, which mostly include political and economic uncertainties in the United States and European Union, and financial stability concerns in the PRC. The committee also assessed that financial conditions are conducive to Thailand's recovery with ample liquidity and low interest rates. However, the appreciation of the Thai baht could potentially dampen the recovery. Monetary policy will continue to remain accommodative to support economic recovery and ensure financial stability.

For the historical trend of the Philippines' policy rate, refer to this link:

[https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/philippines/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy\\_rate\\_and\\_inflation\\_trends](https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/philippines/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy_rate_and_inflation_trends)

For the historical trend of Thailand's policy rate, refer to this link:

[https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/thailand/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy\\_rate\\_and\\_inflation\\_trends](https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/thailand/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy_rate_and_inflation_trends)

### **Inflation in the Philippines Inches Up to 2.7% in January**

Inflation inched higher in January to 2.7% y-o-y from 2.6% y-o-y in December and from 1.3% y-o-y in January 2016. The uptick in January inflation was driven by prices of nonfood items, particularly housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, which rose 1.8% y-o-y compared with 1.3% y-o-y in December, and accounts for 22.5% of the Consumer Price Index. Inflation has been above 2.0% since September and, while rising slowly, is still within the government's target range of 2.0%–4.0%. On a month-on-month (m-o-m) basis, consumer price inflation is 0.3% in January, unchanged from December. Core inflation, which excludes selected food and energy items, was unchanged from the previous month at 2.5% y-o-y, but increased from 1.8% y-o-y in January 2016. The BSP will closely monitor the inflation impacts of a proposed tax reform policy as it progresses in the Philippine Congress.

For the historical trend of the Philippines' inflation rate, refer to this link:

[https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/philippines/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy\\_rate\\_and\\_inflation\\_trends](https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/philippines/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy_rate_and_inflation_trends)

---

---

**Summary Text of News Articles**


---

**The PRC Posts a Trade Surplus in January;  
Malaysia Records a Trade Surplus in December;  
Trade Deficit Recorded in the Philippines in December and Full-Year 2016**

The PRC's exports rose 15.9% y-o-y in renminbi-denominated terms in January, up from 15.6% y-o-y in the prior month. Imports rose 25.2% y-o-y, up from 10.8% during the same period. For the month of January, the PRC reported a trade surplus of CNY354.5 billion or USD51.4 billion.

Malaysia's exports in December increased 10.7% y-o-y to MYR75.6 billion from MYR68.3 billion in December 2015. The increase was mainly from higher exports of electrical and electronic products, which expanded 9.0% y-o-y; refined petroleum products, which rose 71.9% y-o-y; and palm oil and palm-based products, which increased 24.5% y-o-y. On a m-o-m basis, exports increased 3.7%. Major export partners include the PRC, Singapore, Turkey, Australia, and the Republic of Korea. Imports also rose in December, increasing 11.5% y-o-y to MYR66.8 billion from MYR59.9 billion in November. Specifically, imports of intermediate goods grew 9.8% y-o-y, capital goods increased 11.8% y-o-y, and consumption goods increased 2.6% y-o-y. Imports grew 4.8% m-o-m. Imports are mainly from the PRC; Taipei, China; European Union; Japan; and Saudi Arabia. Malaysia recorded a trade surplus of MYR8.7 billion in December, an increase of 0.36% y-o-y, but a decrease of 0.31% m-o-m.

The Philippines' export sales rose 4.5% y-o-y to USD4.9 billion in December from USD4.7 billion in December 2015. The gains were attributed to coconut oil, other mineral products, metal components, chemicals, and other manufacturers. Total exports for 2016 amounted to USD56.2 billion, a 4.4% y-o-y decrease from USD58.8 billion in 2015. Total imports increased 19.1% y-o-y to USD7.4 billion from USD6.2 billion in December 2015, led by imports of transport equipment. Imports for full-year 2016 reached USD81.2 billion, up 14.2% from USD71.1 billion in 2015. The Philippines recorded a trade deficit of USD2.6 billion in December and a deficit of USD25 billion for full-year 2016.

**Japan's Current Account Surplus Narrows in December**

Japan's current account surplus narrowed to JPY1.1 trillion in December from JPY1.4 trillion in November, based on preliminary data released by the Ministry of Finance, primarily due to the decline in the primary income account surplus to JPY676 billion from JPY1.2 trillion. Moreover, the services account posted a JPY287 billion deficit in December, up from a JPY74 billion surplus in November. Meanwhile, the goods account surplus widened to JPY807 billion from JPY313 billion as exports increased at a faster pace than imports on a month-on-month basis. The secondary income account deficit narrowed to JPY84 billion from JPY175 billion during the same period. Japan posted a current account surplus of JPY20.6 trillion in full-year 2016, compared with JPY16.4 trillion recorded in 2015.

**Foreign Exchange Reserves Down in January in the PRC;  
Foreign Exchange Reserves Up in January in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines**

The PRC's foreign exchange reserves fell for the seventh straight month in January to USD2.99 trillion from USD3.01 trillion in December. According to the government, the decline in reserves was due to interventions in the currency market.

Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves reached USD116.9 billion at the end of January, up from USD116.4 billion at the end of December. The uptick was attributed to foreign exchange receipts from tax revenue, oil and gas export proceeds, and proceeds from the auction of Bank Indonesia foreign exchange bills. At the end of January, the reserve asset position was adequate to cover 8.7 months of imports or 8.4 months of imports and government debt servicing.

The foreign reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia rose to USD95.0 billion at the end of January, recovering from a monthly low in 2016 of USD94.6 billion at the end of December. The central bank's reserves can finance 8.6 months of imports and are 1.3 times greater than the short-term external debt.

The Philippines' gross international reserves slightly increased 0.4% m-o-m to USD81.0 billion at the end of January after falling to USD80.7 billion at the end of December, which was the lowest monthly level in 2016. The Philippines' foreign reserves are enough to cover 9.2 months of imports, which was unchanged from December's cover, and are equivalent to 5.8 times the country's short-term external debt based on original maturity and 4.1 times based on residual maturity.

---

---

**Summary Text of News Articles**

---

**Moody's Revises Indonesia's Rating Outlook to Positive**

On 8 February, Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) revised its outlook on Indonesia's sovereign credit ratings to positive. The ratings agency also affirmed Indonesia's issuer rating at Baa3. Moody's cited declining vulnerability to external shocks and improving institutional strength in its announcement on the revision of Indonesia's ratings outlook.

**Hong Kong Airlines Issues Perpetual Bond**

Last week, Hong Kong Airlines International Holdings issued a USD250 million perpetual bond, callable after 3.5 years, at a yield of 7.125%. If not called, the bond's coupon rate will increase by 500 basis points.

## Selected Government Security Yields

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

### 3-Month Selected LCY Government Security Yields

Markets	Latest Closing	basis point change from		
		Previous Day*	Previous Week*	1-Jan-17*
US	0.53	-0.51	3.56	3.56
EU	-0.66	0.50	-6.00	24.60
Japan	-0.22	2.90	7.10	17.50
PRC	2.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hong Kong, China	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
India	8.31	0.00	0.00	0.00
Korea, Rep. of	1.27	-0.10	-0.10	-4.90
Malaysia	3.01	0.00	-0.50	-1.90
Philippines	2.15	3.27	12.79	7.16
Singapore	0.81	0.00	1.80	-25.30
Thailand	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.00

Close of 10 February 2017

### 10-Year Selected LCY Government Bond Yields

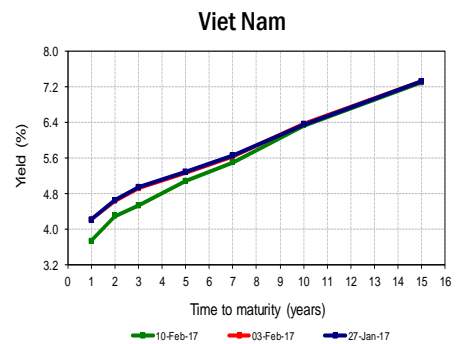
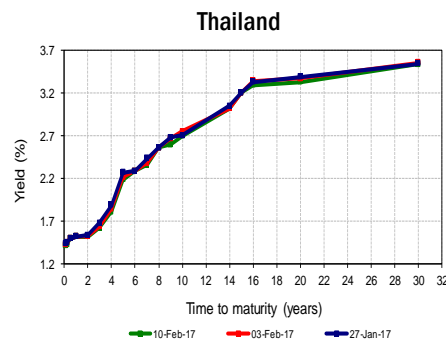
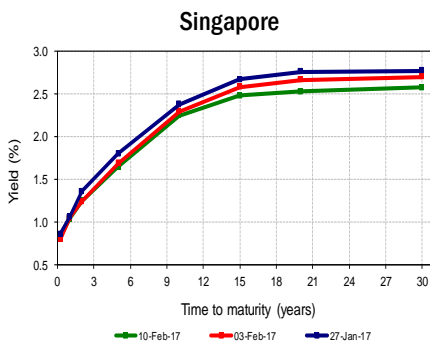
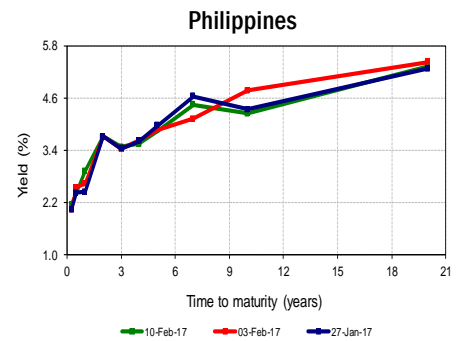
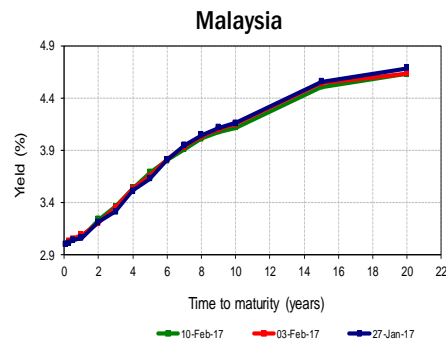
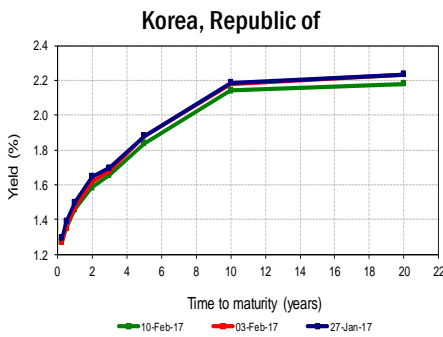
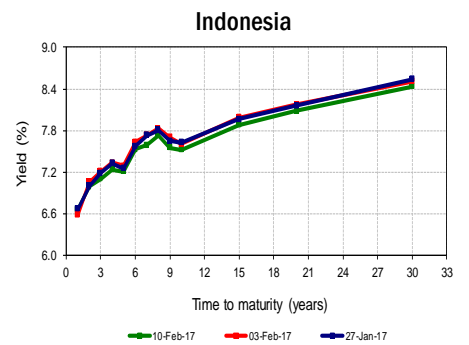
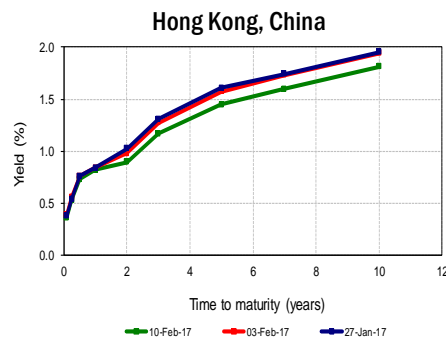
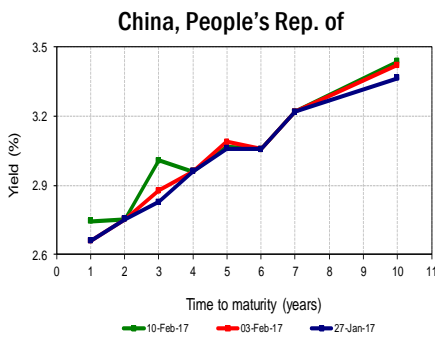
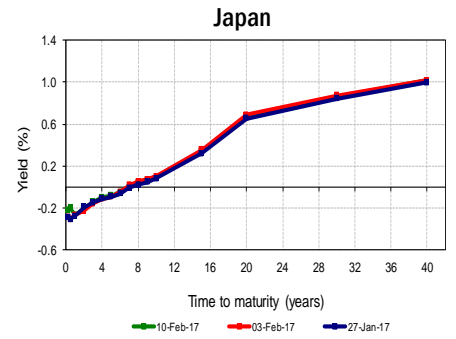
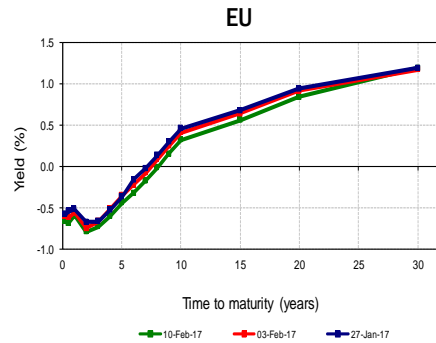
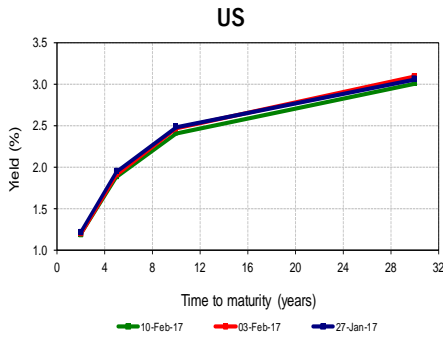
Markets	Latest Closing	basis point change from		
		Previous Day*	Previous Week*	1-Jan-17*
US	2.41	1.25	-5.75	-3.70
EU	0.32	0.80	-9.20	11.20
Japan	0.09	-0.70	-0.80	4.60
PRC	3.44	1.80	1.40	37.70
Hong Kong, China	1.82	-0.30	-12.60	-15.90
India	6.81	-5.20	39.60	29.00
Indonesia	7.52	1.10	-8.10	-45.10
Korea, Rep. of	2.14	0.10	-3.90	4.90
Malaysia	4.11	0.30	-3.80	-11.50
Philippines	4.24	-0.48	-53.53	-39.20
Singapore	2.25	2.52	-4.80	-22.26
Thailand	2.70	4.60	-5.20	5.10
Viet Nam	6.34	2.80	-2.50	-3.70

Close of 10 February 2017

EU = European Union, LCY = local currency, PRC = People's Republic of China, US = United States.  
 Source: Based on data from Bloomberg, LP.

**Benchmark Yield Curves – LCY Government Bonds**

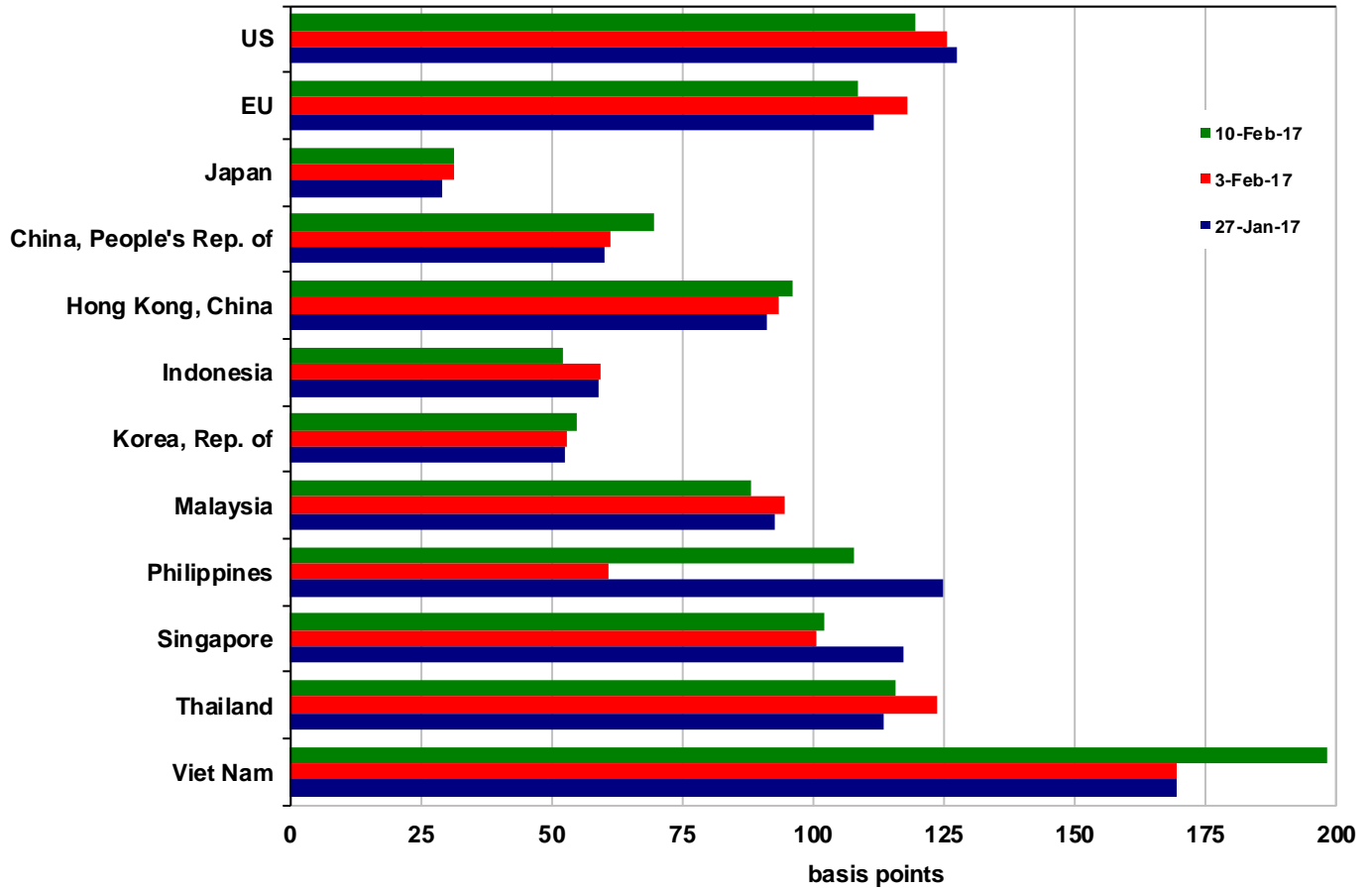
Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool



EU = European Union, LCY = local currency US = United States.  
Source: Based on data from Bloomberg.

### 2- versus 10- Year Yield Spread Chart

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

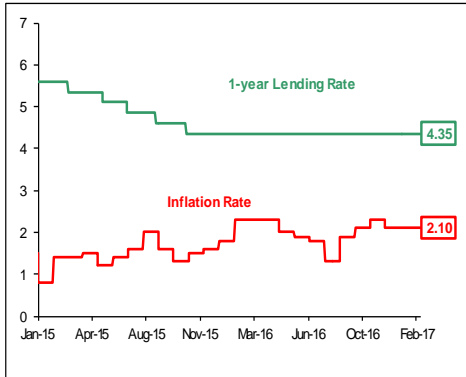


EU = European Union, US = United States.  
 Source: Based on data from Bloomberg LP.

**Policy Rate versus Inflation Rate**

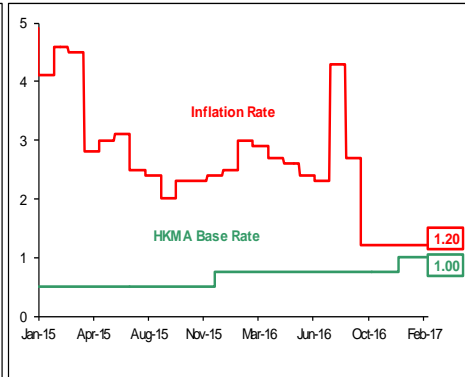
Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

**China, People's Rep. of**



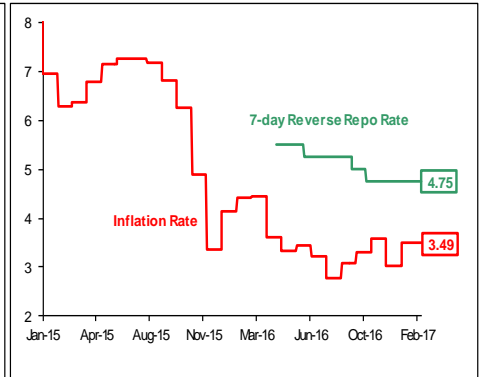
The PRC uses the 1-year lending rate as one of its policy rates.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Hong Kong, China**



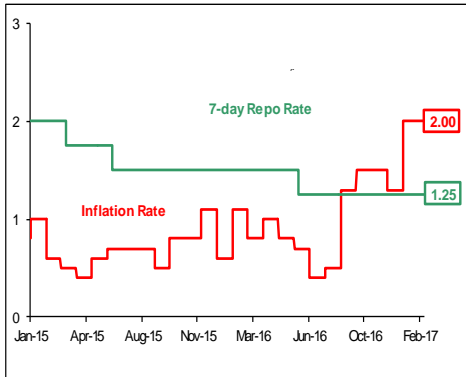
The Hong Kong Monetary Authority maintains a Discount Window Base Rate.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Indonesia**



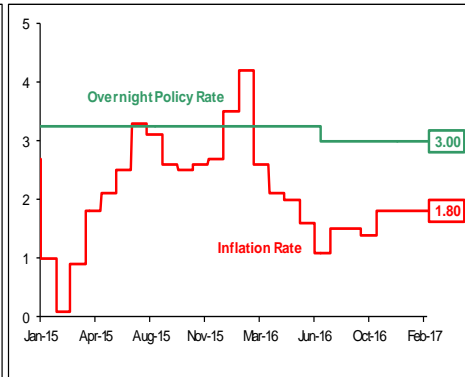
Bank Indonesia shifted its policy rate to the 7-day reverse repo rate effective 19 August 2016.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Korea, Republic of**



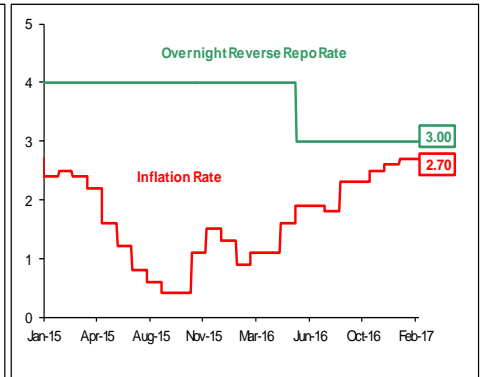
The Bank of Korea shifted its policy rate from the overnight repurchase (repo) rate to the 7-day repo rate in March 2008.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Malaysia**



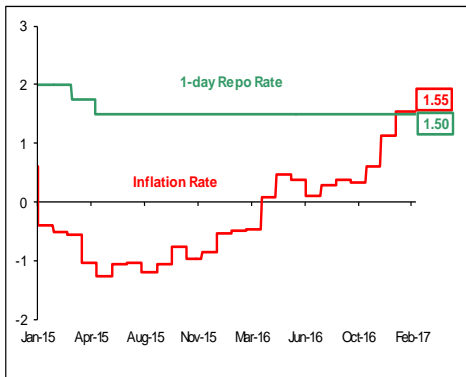
Bank Negara Malaysia uses the overnight policy rate (OPR) as its policy rate.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Philippines**



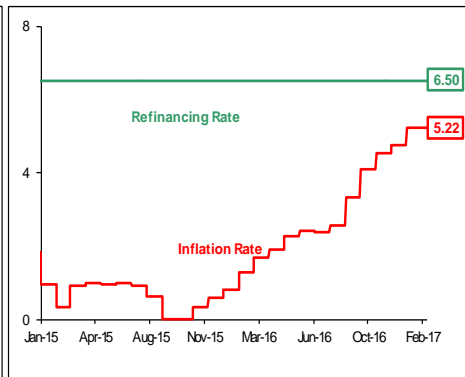
Banko Sentral uses the Philippine overnight reverse repurchase agreement rate as one of its policy instruments.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Thailand**



The Bank of Thailand replaced the 14-day repurchase rate with the 1-day repurchase rate in January 2007 as its policy rate.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.

**Viet Nam**



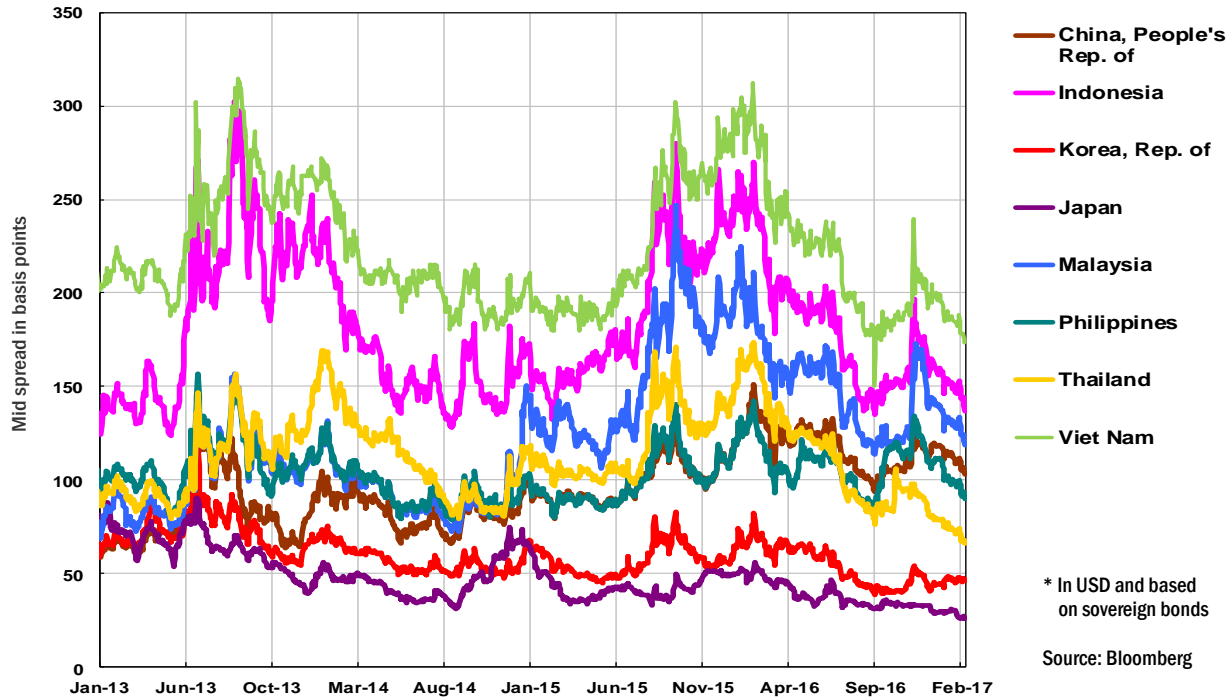
The State Bank of Viet Nam uses a benchmark prime lending rate as its policy rate.  
Source: Bloomberg LP.



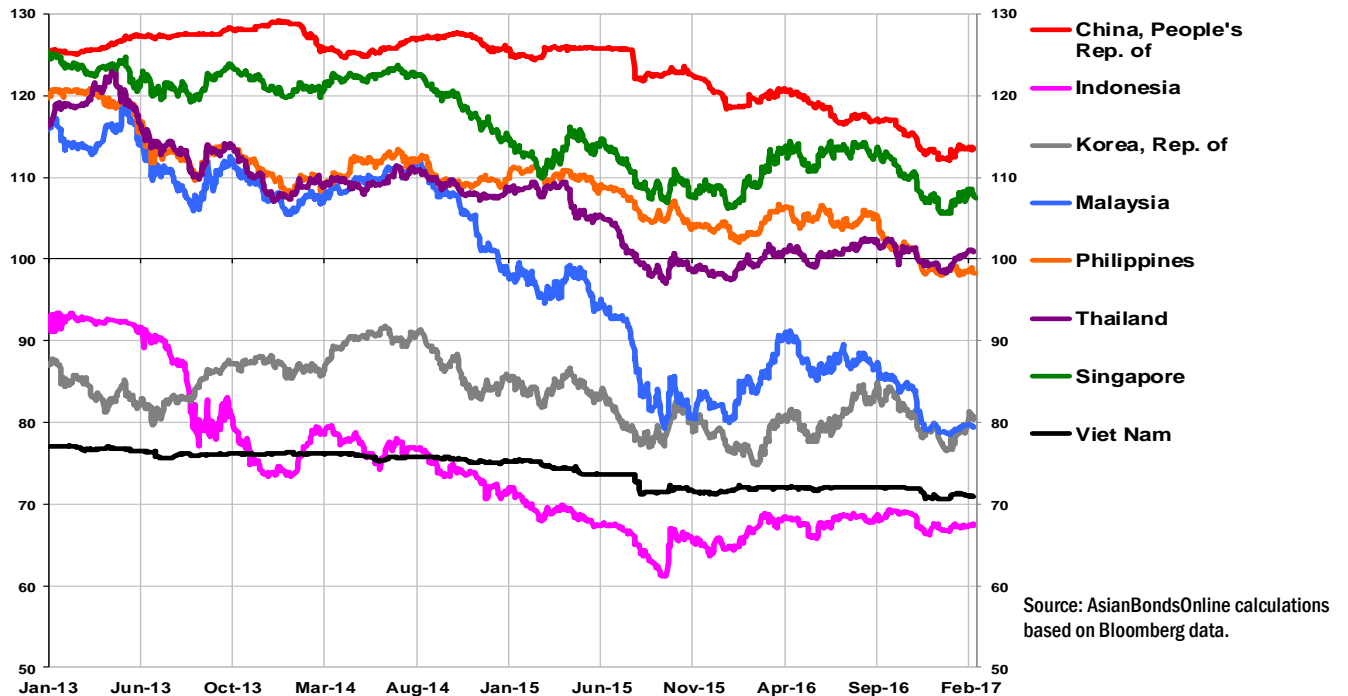
**Credit Default Swap Spreads and Exchange Rate Indexes**

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

**Credit Default Swap Spreads – Senior 5-Year\***



**Exchange Rate Indexes (vis-à-vis USD, 2 January 2007=100)**



### Selected Debt Security Issuances (6 – 10 February 2017)

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

Markets	Auction Date	Type of Security	Average Yield (%)	Coupon (%)	Amount Offered (LCY billion)	Amount Issued (LCY billion)	
CN	8-Feb	1-year Treasury Bonds	2.78	2.78	20.00	20.00	
		10-year Treasury Bonds	3.40	3.40	20.00	20.00	
HK	7-Feb	91-day Exchange Fund Bills	0.59		37.15	37.15	
		182-day Exchange Fund Bills	0.81		11.00	11.00	
ID	7-Feb	6-month Islamic Treasury Bills	5.37			2,000.00	
		3-year Project-Based <i>Sukuk</i>	7.04	6.25		2,700.00	
		5-year Project-Based <i>Sukuk</i>	7.50	6.50	6,000.00	620.00	
		7-year Project-Based <i>Sukuk</i>	7.88	8.75		200.00	
JP	8-Feb	15-year Project-Based <i>Sukuk</i>	8.34	8.88		2,052.60	
		6-month Treasury Discount Bills	-0.22		3,200.00	3,199.98	
		9-Feb	3-month Treasury Discount Bills	-0.21		4,400.00	4,389.96
		30-year Japanese Government Bonds	0.91	0.60	800.00	917.40	
KR	6-Feb	91-day Monetary Stabilization Bills	1.32		1,100.00	1,100.00	
		3-year Korea Treasury Bond	1.66	1.25	1,700.00	1,700.00	
	7-Feb	30-year Korea Treasury Bond	2.19	2.00	700.00	700.00	
SG	7-Feb	28-day MAS Bills	0.50		1.10	1.10	
		84-day MAS Bills	0.53		4.70	4.70	
	9-Feb	168-day MAS Bills	0.40		2.20	2.20	
TH	6-Feb	28-day Treasury Bills	1.37		20.00	20.00	
		7-Feb	91-day Bank of Thailand Bills	1.39		45.00	45.00
		182-day Bank of Thailand Bills	1.48		45.00	45.00	
		301-day Bank of Thailand Bills	1.51		40.00	40.00	
	8-Feb	49.38-year Government Bonds	3.70	4.00	12.00	12.00	
		9-Feb	14-day Bank of Thailand Bills	1.36		40.00	40.00
		10-Feb	28-day Treasury Bills	1.37		20.00	20.00

LCY = local currency, MAS = Monetary Authority of Singapore

Sources: Local market sources and Bloomberg, LP.

## Selected Asia Data Releases (14 – 20 February 2017)

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

Economy and Variable	Release Date	Historical Data	Recent Trends
<b>People's Republic of China</b> <b>CPI</b> y-o-y, % JAN	02/14	12/15: 1.6% 01/16: 1.8% <b>11/16: 2.3%</b> <b>12/16: 2.1%</b>	Inflation in the People's Republic of China (PRC), as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 2.1% year-on-year (y-o-y) in December from 2.3% y-o-y in November.
<b>Japan</b> <b>Industrial Production</b> y-o-y, % DEC—Final	02/14	11/15: 1.4% 12/15: -2.1% <b>11/16: 4.6%</b> <b>12/16: 3.0%</b>	Japan's industrial production growth eased to 3.0% y-o-y in December from 4.6% y-o-y in November.
<b>Indonesia</b> <b>Exports</b> y-o-y, % JAN	02/15	12/15: -17.5% 01/16: -20.9% <b>11/16: 21.5%</b> <b>12/16: 15.6%</b>	Export growth in Indonesia slowed to 15.6% y-o-y in December from 21.5% y-o-y in November.
<b>Indonesia</b> <b>Trade Balance</b> USD million JAN	02/15	12/15: -160.2 01/16: 13.6 <b>11/16: 834.2</b> <b>12/16: 992.1</b>	Indonesia's trade surplus was higher in December at USD992.1 million compared with a trade surplus of USD834.2 million in November.
<b>Philippines</b> <b>Overseas Remittance</b> y-o-y, % DEC	02/15	11/15: -6.2% 12/15: 4.9% <b>10/16: -3.0%</b> <b>11/16: 18.5%</b>	Overseas remittances to the Philippines recovered in November to increase 18.5% y-o-y from a decline of 3.0% y-o-y in October.
<b>Indonesia</b> <b>7-Day Reverse Repo Rate</b> % Feb-16	02/16	01/16: ... 02/16: ... <b>12/16: 4.75%</b> <b>01/17: 4.75%</b>	Bank Indonesia's (BI) Board of Governors decided to keep the 7-day reverse repurchase (repo) rate steady at 4.75% in its meeting held on 19 January.
<b>Malaysia</b> <b>Current Account Balance</b> MYR billion Q4 2016	02/16	Q3 2015: 5.1 Q4 2015: 10.5 <b>Q2 2016: 1.9</b> <b>Q3 2016: 6.0</b>	Malaysia's current account surplus widened to MYR6 billion in the third quarter (Q3) of 2016 from MYR1.9 billion in the second quarter (Q2) of 2016.
<b>Malaysia</b> <b>GDP</b> y-o-y, % Q4 2016	02/16	Q3 2015: 4.7% Q4 2015: 4.5% <b>Q2 2016: 4.0%</b> <b>Q3 2016: 4.3%</b>	Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) recorded 4.3% y-o-y growth in Q3 2016, up from 4.0% y-o-y growth in Q2 2016.
<b>Singapore</b> <b>Non-Oil Domestic Exports</b> y-o-y, % JAN	02/17	12/15: -7.2% 01/16: -10.1% <b>11/16: 11.5%</b> <b>12/16: 9.4%</b>	Singapore's non-oil domestic exports rose 9.4% y-o-y in December after jumping 11.5% y-o-y in November.
<b>Singapore</b> <b>GDP</b> y-o-y, % Q4 2016—Final	02/17 to 02/24	Q3 2015: 1.8% Q4 2015: 1.8% <b>Q3 2016: 1.1%</b> <b>Q4 2016: 1.8%</b>	Singapore's economy expanded in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2016 at a preliminary estimated rate of 1.8% y-o-y, rising from 1.1% y-o-y in the previous quarter.
<b>Japan</b> <b>Exports</b> y-o-y, % JAN	02/20	12/15: -8.0% 01/16: -12.9% <b>11/16: -0.4%</b> <b>12/16: 5.4%</b>	Japan's exports rose 5.4% y-o-y in December following a 0.4% y-o-y contraction in November.
<b>Japan</b> <b>Trade Balance</b> JPY billion JAN	02/20	12/15: 138.9 01/16: -647.7 <b>11/16: 147.9</b> <b>12/16: 641.4</b>	Japan's trade surplus widened to JPY641.4 billion in December from JPY147.9 billion in November.
<b>Philippines</b> <b>Balance of Payments</b> USD million JAN	02/20	12/15: 481 01/16: -813 <b>11/16: -1,671</b> <b>12/16: -214</b>	The balance of payments deficit of the Philippines narrowed sharply to USD214 million in December from USD1,671 million in November.
<b>Thailand</b> <b>GDP</b> y-o-y, % Q4 2016	02/20	Q3 2015: 2.9% Q4 2015: 2.8% <b>Q2 2016: 3.5%</b> <b>Q3 2016: 3.2%</b>	Thailand's GDP grew 3.2% y-o-y in Q3 2016, down from the 3.5% y-o-y GDP growth recorded in Q2 2016.

Source: *AsianBondsOnline*, Bloomberg LP, and Reuters.

## News Articles: Sources for Further Reading

Tip: Click on link to open a new browser (Acrobat Reader 8); for older versions right-click to open a new browser)

### GDP Growth in Indonesia Slows in the Fourth Quarter of 2016; Purchasing Managers Index in the PRC Falls in January; Malaysia's Industrial Production Growth Moderates in December

- [Economic Growth of Indonesia Fourth Quarter 2016](#)  
Statistics Indonesia (6 February 2017)
- [Caixin service PMI falls slightly to 53.1](#)  
Xinhua (6 February 2017)
- [Index of Industrial Production, Malaysia December 2016](#)  
Department of Statistics Malaysia (10 February 2017)

### BSP Keeps Policy Rate Unchanged at 3.00%; Bank of Thailand Holds Policy Rate at 1.50%

- [Monetary Board Maintains Monetary Policy Settings](#)  
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (09 February 2017)
- [Monetary Policy Committee's Decision on 1/2017](#)  
Bank of Thailand (8 February 2017)

### Inflation in the Philippines Inches Up to 2.7% in January

- [Summary Inflation Report Consumer Price Index \(2006=100\): January 2017](#)  
Philippine Statistics Authority (07 February 2017)
- [BSP watchful as inflation picks up](#)  
Business World (08 February 2017)

### The PRC Posts a Trade Surplus in January; Malaysia Records a Trade Surplus in December; Trade Deficit Recorded in the Philippines in December and Full-Year 2016

- [China's January exports up 15.9 pct, imports up 25.2 pct](#)  
Xinhua (10 February 2017)
- [Monthly External Trade Statistics December 2016](#)  
Department of Statistics Malaysia (08 February 2017)
- [Merchandise Export Performance: December 2016](#)  
Philippine Statistics Authority (10 February 2017)
- [External Trade Performance: December 2016](#)  
Philippine Statistics Authority (10 February 2017)

### Japan's Current Account Surplus Narrows in December

- [Balance of Payments Statistics, December 2016 \(Preliminary\)](#)  
Japan Ministry of Finance (8 February 2017)
- [Balance of Payments Statistics, 2016 C.Y. \(Preliminary\)](#)  
Japan Ministry of Finance (8 February 2017)

### Foreign Exchange Reserves Down in January in the PRC; Foreign Exchange Reserves Up in January in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines

- [China's forex reserves fall to six-year low in January](#)  
Xinhua (7 February 2017)
- [Official Reserve Assets Increased to US\\$116.9 Billion at the end of January 2017](#)  
Bank Indonesia (7 February 2017)
- [International Reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia as at 31 January 2017](#)  
Bank Negara Malaysia (07 February 2017)
- [End-January 2017 GIR Level Rises to US\\$81.04 Billion](#)  
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (02 February 2017)

### Moody's Revises Indonesia's Rating Outlook to Positive

- [Moody's Revised Outlook on Indonesia's Rating From Stable to Positive](#)  
Bank Indonesia (8 February 2017)

### Hong Kong Airlines Issues Perpetual Bond

- [HK Air prints in dollars](#)  
IFRAsia (4 February 2017)

Disclaimer: *AsianBondsOnline* Newsletter is available to users free of charge. ADB provides no warranty or undertaking of any kind with respect to the information and materials found on, or linked to, the *AsianBondsOnline* Newsletter. ADB accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the material posted or linked to in the publication, or the information contained therein, or for any consequences arising from its use, and does not invite or accept reliance being placed on any material or information so provided. Views expressed in articles marked with *AsianBondsOnline* are those of the authors and not ADB. This disclaimer does not derogate from, and is in addition to, the general terms and conditions regarding the use of the *AsianBondsOnline* website, which also apply.