

## Asia Economic Weekly

## MAS Preview: No swift-flation

#### No change, but policy tone to sound cautious in Apr

MAS will release its policy decision by 12th Apr. We expect no change to policy, but the overall tone could sound cautious – shifting down a gear from the hawkish tone in the Jan MPS (see report), but not neutral as yet. The Jan CPI report has somewhat alleyed concerns over second round effects from 1% GST & larger-than-usual admin price hikes. As such, MAS might express greater conviction for further disinflation through 2025 by acknowledging that some domestic cost pressures have started to ease. At the same time, MAS should still be alert to inflation risks by reiterating that inflation would remain elevated in the near-term, and perhaps more explicitly highlighting that output gap might turn positive by year-end (which might in turn spur demand-pull pressures).

#### Greater hopes of core inflation returning to 2% in 2025

We expect core inflation (ex-GST) to moderate from 2.2% in 2024 to 1.8-1.9% in 2025 (i.e. within the historical 1.5-2% range). The latter is premised on broad downtrend in energy prices, dampened goods inflation, smaller administrative price hikes and tapering of services inflation as upward pressure on prices recede.

#### Well on track to meet MAS's Jan '24 implicit core forecast

Core inflation trajectory for 2024 seems to be tracking 10-20bp below our inference of MAS's forecast from Jan. As such, core inflation is more likely to stay within (rather than exceed) MAS's forecast of 2.5-3.5% for 2024. Historical patterns suggest that policy tends to be status quo in the absence of material changes to core inflation forecasts. Since 2010, we observed that MAS kept policy unchanged in 9 out of 11 episodes when current year's core inflation forecast was maintained.

## Still alert to inflation risks = Risk skewed towards tightening (but less so than before)

MAS is likely to remain vigilant to inflation risks, including wage-price spiral given still tight labour market conditions (even as it pulls back from extreme tight levels) and deanchoring of expectations. Given MAS's pre-emptive credentials and with effects of past aggressive tightening moves already past the peak, we do not entirely rule out a 50bp slope steepening to deliver more durable tightening.

K.W. Ang

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#### 15 March 2024

GEM Fixed Income Strategy & **Economics** Asia

Table of Contents	
Singapore in Focus	2
Data Preview	9
Macro Forecasts	11
Research Analysts	15

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## Singapore in Focus

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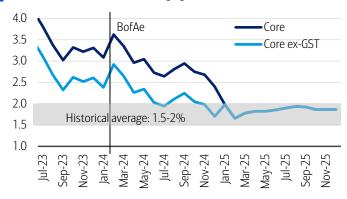
Merrill Lynch (Singapore)

### Core inflation (ex-GST) still above 2% in 2024...

While core inflation has been on a broad downtrend, we expect MAS to remain alert to inflation risks, also flagged in <u>Budget 2024</u> (see report). Our latest forecasts point to core inflation averaging 2.9% in 2024. Excluding GST impact – around 70bp the pass-through is complete – this implies core inflation averaging 2.2% in 2024, which is still above the historical average of 1.5-2%.

In terms of the trajectory, we forecast core inflation rebounding from 3.1% in Jan (see report) to 3.6% in Feb due to moving holiday effects. Thereafter, we see core inflation moderating to 3.4% in Mar, 2.9% in 2Q'24, 2.8% in 3Q'24 and 2.6% in 4Q'24 (Exhibit 1).

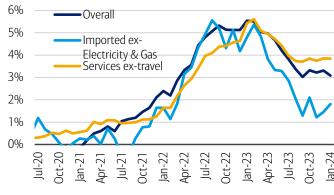
## **Exhibit 1: Monthly core inflation (%yoy)**We see core inflation (ex-GST) averaging 2.9% & 1.8-1.9% in 2024 & 2025



**Source:** BofA Global Research, Singstats, Haver

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## **Exhibit 2: Core inflation, by broad components (%yoy)**Imported inflation has eased, but services inflation still sticky



**Source:** BofA Global Research, Singstats, Haver

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## ...but greater hopes that it could return to 2% in 2025

Our latest forecasts point to core inflation moderating further to 1.8-1.9% in 2025, premised on the following assumptions:

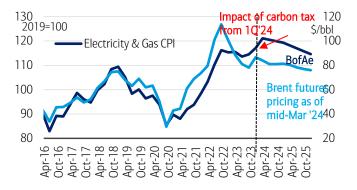
• (1) Energy prices on a broad downtrend through 2025. As at time of writing, futures pricing point to Brent prices falling from slightly above \$80/bbl in 1Q'24 to \$75/bbl by 4Q'25 (Exhibit 3). Accordingly, we see electricity & gas inflation falling by around 3% in 2025, after rising by >4% in 2024 on the back of higher carbon taxes starting Jan '24¹ (Exhibit 4).



<sup>1</sup> Carbon taxes was raised five-fold to S\$25/ tCO2e from Jan '24, and will be further raised to S\$45/ tCO2e from Jan '26

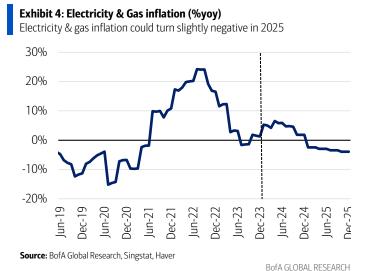
#### Exhibit 3: Electricity & gas CPI (2019=100) vs. Brent prices (\$/bbl)

Electricity & Gas CPI could creep down, based on Brent future pricing



**Source:** BofA Global Research, Singstat, SP Power, Haver Note: Electricity tariffs are adjusted on a quarterly basis, and based on energy prices in the previous 2/1/2 months

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- (2) Re-acceleration of imported inflation (ex-electricity & gas) seems
  unlikely, with y-o-y readings for producer price indices (which lead by 7-9 months)
  subdued (Exhibit 5).
- (3) Overall effects from administered prices would likely be smaller Price hikes for 2024 were larger-than-usua (Exhibit 6). For instance, fares for bus & train fares were raised sharply by 7% for 2024 (vs. 3% for 2023), and school bus operators were allowed to raise fares by up to 13% in 2024, almost double the increment allowed in 2023.

We suspect that the catch-up the higher cost levels would likely narrow in 2025, which would in turn facilitate lower price hikes. The only exception would be prices of water supply, whereby the announced quantum of increase would be higher in Apr '25 vs. Apr '24<sup>2</sup>.

Meanwhile, we also factored in the disinflationary impulse from lower childcare fees for government-supported pre-schools from Jan '25<sup>3</sup>. The government aims to provide government-supported pre-school places for 80% of children by around 2025 vs. >60% as of Mar '22.

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  Fee cap for full-day childcare will drop by S\$40 a month to S\$640 for 5 anchor operators (-6.5%) and S\$680 for 28 partner operators (-5.9%)

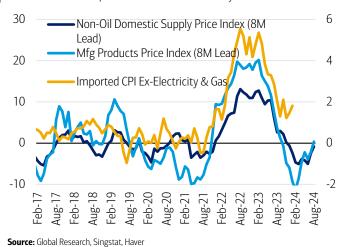


Asia Economic Weekly | 15 March 2024

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Prices of water supply (1.26% of core CPI basket) will be raised by 18% over 2 phases from Apr '24 (7.2ppt) and Apr '25 (10.8ppt).

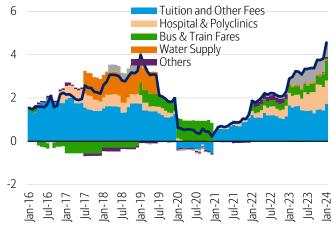
## Exhibit 5: Producer price index vs. imported inflation (%yoy)

Re-acceleration of imported inflation seems unlikely



#### **Exhibit 6: Administered prices (%yoy)**

Larger-than-usual admin price hikes to lift inflation in 2024



Source: Global Research, Singstat, Haver

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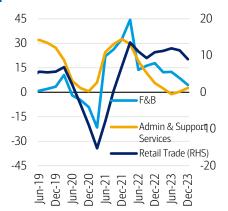
## (4) Services inflation (ex-travel related items) could taper as upward pressure

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**on prices recede.** Details in the Jan '24 core CPI print showed smaller sequential increase in items less subject to moving Lunar New Year effects. For instance, in m-o-m terms, household durables & services [newspapers, books & stationary] rose by a smaller 0.4% [0.3%] in Jan '24 vs. 1% [0.7%] in Jan '23 (GST increased by same magnitude in both months). This perhaps reflect businesses adjusting prices less due to weaker pricing power and/or reduced cost pressures. On the latter, we note that (a) unit labour cost (ULC) of consumer-facing sectors have moderated over the course of 2023 in y-o-y terms (Exhibit 7), and (b) shop median rentals were flat, even as vacancy rates have fallen over the past few quarters (Exhibit 8 & Exhibit 9).

#### Exhibit 7: Unit Labour Cost (ULC) – consumerfacing sectors (%yoy)

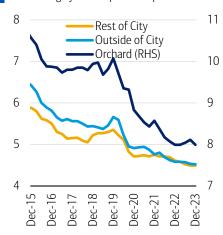
ULC have moderated over the course of 2023



**Source:** BofA Global Research, Singstats, MOM, Haver Note: ULC in 2020-22 partly influenced by government's copayment of wages under the Job Support Scheme (last payout in Mar '22)

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## **Exhibit 8: Shop median rentals (S\$/sq.ft)**Rentals largely flat the past few quarters...

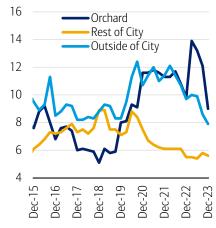


Source: BofA Global Research, URA, Haver

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### Exhibit 9: Shop vacancy rates (%)

...even as vacancy rates have fallen



Source: BofA Global Research, URA, Haver

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## Well on track to meet MAS's Jan '24 implicit core forecast

We currently see 1Q24 and full year 2024 core inflation tracking 10-20bp below our inference of MAS' forecasted trajectory from the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan MPS (i.e. before Jan CPI was published). Accordingly, core inflation seems increasingly likely to stay within (rather than exceed) MAS's forecast of 2.5-3.5% for 2024.



We infer MAS back then estimating 2024 core inflation around 3.5% in 1Q'24, 3% in 2Q'24, 2.9% in 3Q'24 and 2.5% in 4Q'24, such that core inflation averaged around 3% for full year 2024. This mechanically folds in the implied qoq momentum from MAS' Oct '23 forecasts (Exhibit 10) into actual 4Q'23 CPI prints.

Our core inflation forecasts (1Q'24: 3.3%, 2024: 3-3.1%) assume on core inflation rebounding to 3.6% yoy in Feb vs. 3.1% in Jan, after accounting for "back-loaded" Lunar New Year effects and partial rebound in travel-related items (Exhibit 11). In the scenario whereby price pressures in Feb prove stronger than expected and core inflation rebounds above 4%, core inflation could then potentially overshoot our inference of MAS's forecasted trajectory.

## **Exhibit 10: MAS inflation forecast up till 4Q24 (from Oct '23)** We inferred MAS seeing 2024 core inflation at 2.7-2.8%

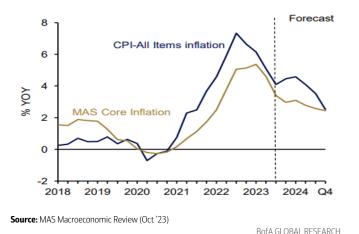
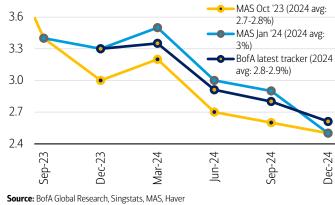


Exhibit 11: Quarterly core inflation (%yoy): Latest vs. our inference of MAS's forecasted trajectory





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## Historical patterns point to MAS staying on hold in Apr

Historically, we observed that MAS tend to adjust its FX policy in response to material changes to its current year's core inflation forecast (Exhibit 12). While MAS's policy orientation is focused on the medium-term, material changes to current year's forecast could alter expectations of the medium-term core inflation trajectory. We summarize our key observations below:

- (1) MAS kept policy unchanged in 9 out of 11 episodes when core inflation forecast was unchanged. The only exceptions were in (a) Apr '11 – The S\$NEER was re-centered upwards, when stronger activities (following the step-up in 1Q GDP) were seen exerting greater pressure on domestic costs, and (b) Oct '18 – the slope was steepened further as part of calibrated moves that commenced in Apr '18.
- (2) MAS tightened policy in 8 out of 10 episodes when core inflation forecast was raised; and
- (3) MAS loosened policy in 5 out of 11 episodes when core inflation forecast was lowered. The latter two observations also point to higher inertia to loosen vs. tighten policy settings.

To the extent that MAS only adjusts policies in response to material shifts in core inflation forecasts vs. the previous meeting (easier to track since meetings are quarterly), we expect MAS to keep policy settings unchanged in Apr.



#### Exhibit 12: Observations of MAS policy moves vs. change in current year's core inflation forecasts since 2010

MAS tend to adjust policies in response to material changes to its core inflation forecast

Core inflatio	n forecast	Policy Moves									
Change for current		<u>Tighten</u> – No.		No change –		<u>Loosen</u> – No. of					
year forecast *	No. of instances	of Instances	Meeting Dates	No. of Instances	Meeting Dates	Instances	Meeting Dates				
			Apr-10; Apr-12; Apr-18; Apr-21;								
Higher	10	8	Jan-22, Apr-22, Jul-22, Oct-22	2	Oct-16; Oct-20	0					
					Oct-10; Apr-14; Apr-15;						
					Apr-17; Oct-17; Apr-21;						
No change	11	2	Apr-11; Oct-18	9	Apr-23; Oct-23; Jan-24	0					
					Oct-11; Jan-15; Oct-15;		Oct-12; Apr-13; Oct-13;				
Lower	11	0		6	Apr-16; Oct-19; Apr-20	5	Oct-14; Apr-19				

Source: BofA Global Research, MAS

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# MAS to stay on hold for some time with core inflation seen at more comfortable levels in 2025...

Recent guidance suggest that MAS sees core inflation at more comfortable levels in 2025, which reinforces our view for MAS to stay on an extended pause for some time.

- (1) MAS Chief Economist Edward Robinson highlighted on 6<sup>th</sup> March that "the current policy setting keeps the S\$NEER policy band on an appropriately restrictive posture to ensure that core inflation declines to 2% by early 2025".
- (2) MAS noted in its Jan MPS that core inflation should "step down by 4Q24, before falling further next year".

### ...but would still be vigilant to inflation risks

At the start of the year, we suggested that <u>Apr meeting could be "live"</u> amidst concerns over second round effects from larger-than-usual administrative price hikes and 1% GST hike from Jan '24 (see report). Details in the <u>Jan CPI report</u> has since alleyed some of these concerns (see report).

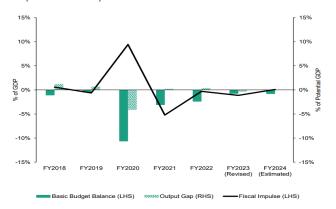
Nonetheless, MAS is likely to remain vigilant to inflation risks, also flagged in <u>Budget 2024</u> (See Feb' 24 report). MOF adopted a broadly neutral fiscal stance for FY24 to avoid stroking inflation, with the official forecasts pointing to the output gap likely to turn positive towards year-end (but still averaging close to 0% of potential GDP for FY24 itself; Exhibit 13). Factors we are keeping a close eye include risk of wage-price spiral and any de-anchoring of inflation expectations. We elaborate further below:

- (1) Labour market conditions could remain persistently tight even as it pulls back from extreme tight levels, which could in turn facilitate pass-through of accumulated business costs. Latest labour market indicators (e.g. vacancies to unemployed ratio, Exhibit 14) remain considerably tighter vs. the pre-COVID averages. We don't expect labour conditions to ease materially in the near-term as (a) hiring intention remain strong (Exhibit 15); and (b) growth of non-resident employment would be capped by multi-year policies aimed at reducing reliance on foreign manpower (see Appendix in Year Ahead).
- (2) Consumer inflation expectations remaining sticky Both 1Y-ahead core
  and headline inflation expectations retreated in 4Q'23 but remained well above the
  2017-19 average of 3.1-3.2% (Exhibit 16). Even as actual inflation moderates,
  expectations may remain sticky amid continued concerns over cost-of-living
  pressures.



#### Exhibit 13: MOF's projected output gap

Officials see output gap broadly flat in FY24 – implying that output might be seen positive in latter part of FY24

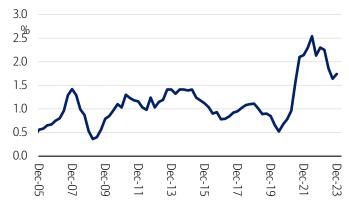


**Source:** MOF Note: Fiscal year runs from Apr of current year to Mar of following year

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#### Exhibit 14: Job vacancy to job seeker ratio (%)

Ratio rebounded to 1.74 in 4Q23 vs. 1.64 in 3Q23, and still well above unity – suggesting that labour market conditions remain tight



Source: BofA Global Research, MOM, Haver

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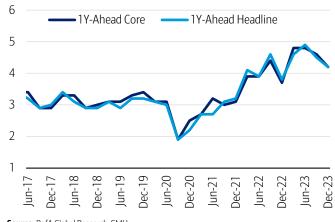
### Exhibit 15: Net employment outlook (%)

Hiring outlook remains strong at +24% for 2Q'24



#### Exhibit 16: Consumer inflation expectations (%yoy)

Expectations have retreated, but still well above pre-COVID averages



Source: BofA Global Research, SMU

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# Restrictive policy stance still warranted; Risk skewed towards tightening (but less so than before)

With MAS still alert to inflation risks we think that MAS would be inclined to keep policy restrictive, which can be maintained even if no adjustments are made to the policy parameters. Current policy stance is still slightly tight relative to where we are in the business cycle (economic recovery still incomplete), with the S\$REER (based on measures by BIS and IMF) still on an uptrend (Exhibit 17), and the S\$NEER continuing to trade on the stronger side of the band (Exhibit 18).

Given MAS' pre-emptive credentials and with effects of past aggressive tightening moves already past the peak, we do not entirely rule out a 50bp slope steepening to deliver more durable tightening. This is especially if core inflation is seen staying sticky above 2% through 2025. We note that in 2012-14, the S\$NEER slope was maintained at 2% p.a. when core inflation was seen ≥2% (Exhibit 19).

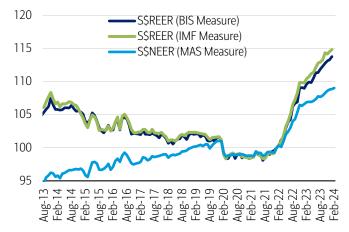
On the other hand, we think that expectations of formal easing this year seems premature in any view, given scope for MAS to steer the S\$NEER lower within the current band if needed. On this count, we note that MAS' Mar '24 professional



forecasters' survey suggests that at least 30% of respondents expect some form of formal easing this year.

#### Exhibit 17: S\$REER & S\$NEER (Jan 2022=100)

S\$REER has risen substantially since the start of 2022

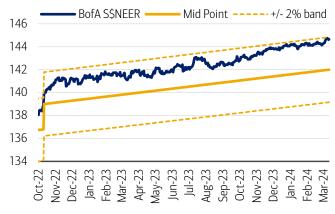


Source: BofA Global Research, MAS, BIS, Haver, CEIC

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#### **Exhibit 18: BofA S\$NEER Index**

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{N}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{E}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{R}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{a}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{R}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{R}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{B}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\xspace \ensuremath{\mathsf{A}}\x$ 

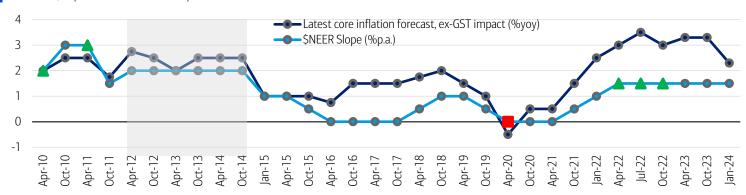


Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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#### Exhibit 19: Latest core inflation forecast (%yoy) vs. estimated S\$NEER slope (% p.a.)

In 2012-14, slope was maintained at 2% p.a. when core inflation forecasts were at least 2%



**Source:** BofA Global Research estimates, MAS Note: (1) For policy statements in Jan/Apr/Jul, we refer to latest current year's forecast; (2) For Oct policy statement, we refer to following year's forecast; (3) We refer to the mid-point of the latest forecast range, and (4) We assume GST impact to be 70bp in 2023 and 2024

## **Data Preview**

#### Exhibit 19: Week of 17 to 23 March

Data calendar for next week with BofA estimates and Bloomberg consensus

	Local						
	time	Country	Data/Event	BofAe	Cons.†	Previous	Comments
Monday,	March 18	3, 2024					
**	08:30	Singapore	Non-oil Domestic Exports (Feb, yoy)			16.8%	-
**	10:00 12:00	China Malaysia	Fixed Assets Ex Rural YTD (Feb, yoy) Exports (Feb, yoy)		3.2% 3.0%	3.0% 8.7%	<del></del>
Tuesday,	March 19	9, 2024					
**	13:30 14:30	Japan Australia	Industrial Production F (Jan, mom) RBA Cash Rate Target	4.35%	 4.35%	-7.5% 4.35%	 We see rates unchanged at this meeting but a slightly less hawkish tone as economic
***		Japan	BOJ Policy Balance Rate		-0.10%	-0.10%	data has weakened of late.
***		Japan	BOJ 10-Yr Yield Target			0.00%	
Wednesd	lay, Marcl	h 20, 2024					
***	14:20	Indonesia	BI-Rate	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	_
**	16:00	Taiwan	Export Orders (Feb, yoy)			1.9%	<del></del>
Thursday	, March 2	21, 2024					
**	08:50	Japan	Exports (Feb, yoy)	-1.0%	6.2%	11.9%	We expect YoY growth in nominal merchandise exports to sharply drop to -1.0% YoY from a significant jump of +11.9% YoY in January. This fluctuations are largely driven by the distortions related to the timing of the Lunar New Year, putting the negative base effects on the YoY export growth in February. In addition, the production stoppages among major OEMs in Jan-Feb should also drag overall exports in February.
***	10:45		GDP (4Q, yoy)		0.1%	-0.6%	-
***	10:45		GDP SA (4Q, qoq)		0.1%	-0.3%	-
***	11:30	Australia	Employment Change (Feb)		30k	0.5k	-
***	11:30	Australia	Unemployment Rate (Feb)		4.0%	4.1%	
**	11:30 16:30	Australia	Participation Rate (Feb) CPI Composite (Feb, yoy)		66.8%	66.8% 1.7%	<del></del>
***	10:50	Hong Kong Taiwan	CBC Benchmark Interest Rate	1.875%		1.9%	We expect the CBC to keep its policy rate unchanged at 1.875% at the March meeting. With CPI inflation remaining above the 2% target and growth momentum holding up well, rate cut is unlikely to be considered in the near term.
Friday, M							
**	10:45 08:30	New Zealand Japan	Trade Balance NZD (Feb) Natl CPI Ex Fresh Food (Feb, yoy)	2.7%	2.9%	-976m 2.0%	In the January nationwide CPI, we expect Japan-style core CPI (ex fresh food) to jump to +2.7% YoY from +2.0% YoY in January largely driven by the fading negative base effects of energy CPI, which has been depressed by the government's subsidies over the past 12 months. Meanwhile, we expect ex-energy BoJ-style core CPI (ex fresh food and energy) to continue to slow to +3.3% YoY, from +3.5% YoY in January, largely driven by the slowing YoY growth of non-perishable food prices and dining-our service charges.

Notes:  $^{\dagger}$ Bloomberg consensus; \* = level of importance; A = advanced; F = final; P = preliminary; sa = seasonally adjusted; saar = seasonally adjusted annualized rate; nsa = not seasonally adjusted; wda = working-day adjusted; n.a. = not available; mom = month-on-month; qoq = quarter-on-quarter; yoy = year-on-year, Central banks \* denotes previous month

**Source:** BofA Global Research, Bloomberg



# **Exhibit 20: Government bond auction calendar** Auction calendar for the week of 17 Mar to 23 Mar

	Country	Event	Comments
Monday, 18 Mar			
	Korea	Korea to sell 10y KTB worth KRW 2.9tn	
Tuesday, 19 Mar			
	Philippines	Philippines to sell PHP 30bn of 20y govt bond	
Wednesday, 20 Mar			
	China	China to sell 1y and 5y CGBs	
Friday, 22 Mar			
	China	China to sell 7y and 50y CGBs	

**Source:** BofA Global Research, Korea MoEF, MoF China, Bureau of Treasury Philippines



## **Macro Forecasts**

## **Exhibit 21: Key Macroeconomic Indicators**BofA estimates for important indictors

14 March, 2024	<u>2023</u>	BofA Global Res	earch Forecasts 2025			BofA Global Re Dec-24	search Forecasts Dec-25
GDP Growth (yoy) Asia	2023 Actual 4.7	<u>2024</u> F'cst 4.3	<u>2025</u> F'cst 4.4	Exchange rate (vs USD, eop) Asia	Current -	F'cst	F'cst
China	5.2	4.8	4.6	China	7.20	6.90	6.70
Hong Kong	3.2	2.1	2.4	Hong Kong	7.82	7.76	7.75
India	7.0	5.8	6.0	India	82.80	82.00	81.00
Indonesia	5.0	5.1	5.2	Indonesia	15645	15200	15000
Korea	1.4	2.3	2.5	Korea	1330	1230	1150
Malaysia	3.7	4.4	4.8	Malaysia	4.71	4.50	4.10
Philippines	5.6	5.4	5.5	Philippines	55.82	55.00	53.00
Singapore	1.1	2.6	2.6	Singapore	1.34	1.26	1.22
Taiwan	1.4	3.2	2.3	Taiwan	31.55	30.35	29.55
Thailand	1.8	2.6	2.8	Thailand	35.57	34.00	32.00
Vietnam	5.0	6.2	6.8	Vietnam	24695	24800	24500
Australia	1.8	1.4	2.0	Australia	0.66	0.71	0.71
Japan	1.9	0.4	1.4	Japan	148.49	142.00	136.00

Note: FY23-24, FY24-25, FY25-26 for India

	<u> 2023</u>	<u> 2024</u>	<u> 2025</u>		<u> 2023</u>	<u> 2024</u>	<u> 2025</u>
CPI inflation (yoy, avg)	Actual	F'cst	F'cst	Fiscal balance (% of GDP)	F'cst	F'cst	F'cst
Asia	3.6	2.6	2.5	Asia	-	-	-
China	0.4	0.8	1.7	China	-3.8	-3.5	-3.3
Hong Kong	2.1	2.0	1.9	Hong Kong	-3.5	-1.5	1.2
India	5.4	4.6	4.5	India	-5.9	-5.9	-5.3
Indonesia	3.7	2.8	2.8	Indonesia	-1.7	-2.3	-2.6
Korea	3.6	2.3	2.0	Korea	-0.6	-1.9	-0.9
Malaysia	2.5	2.0	2.5	Malaysia	-5.0	-4.3	-3.5
Philippines	6.0	3.3	3.1	Philippines	-6.1	-5.3	-4.8
Singapore	4.8	2.8	2.3	Singapore	0.4	-0.5	-0.5
Taiwan	2.5	2.0	1.5	Taiwan	-2.1	-2.0	-2.1
Thailand	1.6	0.8	0.9	Thailand	-3.3	-3.8	-3.6
Vietnam	3.4	3.8	4.1	Vietnam	-4.0	-3.6	-3.5
Australia	5.7	3.4	2.9	Australia	-	-	-
Japan	3.3	2.5	1.9	Japan	-	-	-
Note: FY23-24, FY24-25, FY25-26 for	India			Note: FY23-24, FY24-25, FY25-26 for	India		

Policy rate (% con)	2023	<u>2024</u> F'cst	<u>2025</u> F'cst	CA balance (% of GDP)	<u>2023</u> F'cst	<u>2024</u> F'cst	<u>2025</u> F'cst
Policy rate (%, eop) Asia	Actual -	- -	-	Asia			-
China	3.45	3.00	2.90	China	1.5	1.3	1.4
Hong Kong	5.75	5.00	4.00	Hong Kong	5.2	4.0	4.4
India	6.50	6.25	5.50	India	-	-	-
Indonesia	6.00	5.25	4.25	Indonesia	0.0	-0.4	-0.5
Korea	3.50	3.00	2.50	Korea	2.0	2.7	2.5
Malaysia	3.00	3.00	3.00	Malaysia	1.3	2.0	2.1
Philippines	6.50	5.50	4.50	Philippines	-3.4	-3.4	-3.6
Singapore	4.06	-	-	Singapore	17.6	16.5	16.0
Taiwan	1.88	1.88	1.88	Taiwan	12.7	13.7	13.9
Thailand	2.50	2.00	1.75	Thailand	1.3	0.8	1.8
Vietnam	4.50	4.50	5.00	Vietnam	3.6	3.8	3.9
Australia	4.35	4.35	3.50	Australia	2.1	1.5	1.1
Japan	-0.10	0.25	0.50	Japan	0.2	0.2	-
Note: FY23-24, FY24-25, FY25-26 for In-	Singapore	Note: FY23-24, FY24-25, FY25-26 for India					

Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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