ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook 2023

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Growth in ASEAN+3 has generally been robust, anchored by domestic demand.

Selected ASEAN+3: Aggregate Real GDP Growth, by Expenditure Category
(Percentage points; year-on-year)

Selected ASEAN+3: Retail Sales and Volume of Capital Goods Imports
(Percent, year-on-year; Index Jan 2020 = 100)

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics; AMRO staff estimates and calculation.
Note: Selected ASEAN+3 includes Brunei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Q4 2022 data for Brunei are estimated by AMRO staff.

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics; AMRO staff calculations.
Note: Calculated on a 3-month moving average basis, based on local currency values for all economies except Indonesia and Thailand (volume). Retail sales data includes ASEAN-6, Japan, and China; capital goods imports includes Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, and Japan.
Export growth continues to weaken on slowing global trade, but travel would be a bright spot

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics; AMRO staff calculations.
Note: Goods exports data are not available for Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar. Services exports data are not available for Brunei and Myanmar.
Inflation appears to have peaked in most ASEAN+3 economies.

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics; AMRO staff calculations.
Note: Aggregate consumer price inflation is calculated as a simple average of individual economies’ data series. Data are up to February 2023, except for Brunei (January 2022).

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics.
Note: China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam are not inflation-targeting economies. Data for 2023 are up to February, except for Japan, Malaysia, and Singapore (January 2023).
China’s reopening offers a timely boost to the region’s growth

China: Household Excess Deposits/Savings
(Annual change, RMB trillion)

Selected ASEAN+3: Manufacturing PMI
(Index, seasonally adjusted)

Source: IHS Markit; and JPMorgan.
Notes: *Denotes both manufacturing and services combined. PMI readings are coded by colors: darker shades of red denote readings further below the diffusion level of 50 (darkest red denotes 45); conversely, greener shades denote readings further above the diffusion level of 50 (darkest green denotes 55). Data as 26 March 2023.
In the United States and euro area, policymakers continue to hike policy rates to rein-in inflationary pressure.

United States and Euro Area: Policy Interest Rates (Percent)

United States: Market Implied Path of (Effective) Fed Funds Rate (Percent)

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics. Euro area policy rate refers to deposit facility rate.
Note: Data are up to 22 March 2023.

Source: Bloomberg.
Note: March 2023 pricing as of 22 March 2023.
Regional asset prices weakened in recent weeks, but overall market performance has improved since early-2020.
Growth is on track to improve in 2023 and sustained in 2024…

**AMRO Staff Baseline Growth Estimates and Forecasts, 2023–24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economy</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022 (Percent year-on-year)</th>
<th>2023</th>
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Source: National authorities via CEIC and Haver Analytics; and AMRO staff estimates and forecasts.

Note: Myanmar’s growth numbers are based on its fiscal year, which runs from 1 October to 30 September. e = estimates; f = forecast.
…while inflation is expected to moderate going forward.

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Source: National authorities via CEIC and Haver Analytics; and AMRO staff estimates and forecasts.
The baseline forecast is subject to multiple risks

Regional Risk Map (March 2023)

Likelihood

High

Medium

Low

Imminence

Perennial Risks

➢ Climate change transition
➢ Natural disasters
➢ Cyber attacks

Legend:

- Low impact
- Medium impact
- High impact

Source: AMRO staff estimates.
Banking sector distress in the United States and Europe have amplified global market volatilities

CBOE Market Volatility Index
(Index)

Implications for ASEAN+3

Direct Exposure
- Limited exposure of regional banks.
- Regional tech startups may have deposits in Silicon Valley Bank.

Tech Sector
- Collapse highlights slowdown in the sector.
- Tighter lending conditions.

Banks
- Investors will likely scrutinize bank risk profiles.
- Exposure to interest rate sensitive investments.

Fed's Policy
- Expectations of Fed easing its hawkish stance.
- If materializes, it will be positive for risk assets once volatility subsides.

Source: Chicago Board Options Exchange.
Note: Index refers to daily closing values. The CBOE Volatility Index, is a real-time market index representing the market’s expectations for volatility over the coming 30 days.
Most banks in the ASEAN+3 region are well-capitalized and have ample liquidity.

Selected ASEAN+3: Nonperforming Loan Ratio
(Percent, end-2022)

Selected ASEAN+3: Liquidity Coverage Ratio
(Percent)

Source: National authorities via CEIC; BankFocus; and AMRO staff estimates.
Note: NPL data as of Q4 2022, except for Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Vietnam (Q3 2022). The minimum NPL needed to breach the regulatory capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is estimated via a reverse stress test, using data in 2020.

Source: International Monetary Fund via Haver Analytics.
Note: Data as of Jan 2023 (Malaysia and Thailand), December 2022 (China and Indonesia), and June 2022 (Korea and the Philippines).
Regional authorities have raised policy rates to safeguard price stability, and moving toward restoring fiscal space.

Selected ASEAN+3: Key Policy Interest Rates (Percent)

Source: National authorities via Haver Analytics.
Note: Data are up to 22 March 2023.

Selected ASEAN+3: Fiscal Balances (Percent of GDP)

Source: National Authorities via CEIC and Haver Analytics; AMRO staff estimates.
Note: Fiscal year (FY) is October to September for Thailand and Myanmar; January to December for the other economies; e = estimates; b = budgeted.
Policymakers must tread a fine balance between securing growth and building resilience

Fiscal Policy

- Fiscal policy stance in 2023 is assessed to be contractionary or broadly neutral across most regional economies, which is appropriate.

- Targeted fiscal support should continue to be provided to vulnerable groups/sectors lagging in the recovery.

- Beyond the short-term, it is crucial to rebuild fiscal buffers to prepare for future shocks and to address longer-term challenges.

Source: AMRO staff estimates.

Note: Asterisk (*) denotes fiscal year from 1 April to 31 March. Fiscal policy stance is assessed by the fiscal impulse based on structural primary balance. The fiscal policy stance in 2022 is based on 2022 estimates, while the fiscal stance in 2023 is based on the 2023 budget.
Policymakers must tread a fine balance between securing growth and building resilience

**Monetary Policy**

Monetary policies should aim at containing inflationary pressure while supporting growth.

- Monetary policy should remain tight in economies where inflation is above-target (KR, PH, SG).
- Monetary conditions can remain accommodative where there is economic slack, with inflation under control (ID, TH).
- Authorities can consider easing monetary policy, in the event downside risk to growth materializes (VN).

**Prudential Policies**

Prudential forbearance policies should be withdrawn, with targeted credit support to some hard hit sectors.

- Most central banks/regulators have phased out forbearance measures with the recovery of the economies.
- Targeted credit support for hard-hit but viable business in lagging sectors should remain, alongside careful monitoring.
Key Messages

- Growth in ASEAN+3 remains robust, anchored by domestic demand.
- While goods exports would continue to weaken, services exports are expected to strengthen as the travel sector rebounds.
- China’s reopening provides a timely boost to the region’s growth.
- Regional growth is on track to improve in 2023 (+4.6 percent) and sustained in 2024 (+4.5 percent).
- Regional inflation is projected to moderate to 4-percent level in 2023-24.
Thank you.

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