

Asia's Financial Pulse: Inflation Surges, Bond Markets React, and Tech Giants

Asian Financial News · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. In March 2026, which Asian country experienced the largest monthly net foreign outflows from its bond market, reaching US\$7.25 billion, primarily due to oil-linked inflation fears?

- A) Thailand
- B) India
- C) South Korea**
- D) Malaysia

2. Bank Indonesia maintained its policy rate unchanged at 4.75% in April 2026. What was the primary reason cited for this decision, despite a desire to support economic growth?

- A) Rising export demand
- B) Concerns about the weakness of the rupiah**
- C) Increased foreign direct investment
- D) A surplus in the current account

3. What was the forecasted GDP growth rate for Vietnam in 2026, according to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report released in April 2026?

- A) 7.0%
- B) 7.2%**
- C) 6.8%
- D) 7.5%

4. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) reported a significant profit jump for the January-March quarter of 2026. What factor was identified as a key driver for this strong performance?

- A) Increased government subsidies
- B) Strong demand driven by the artificial intelligence boom**
- C) A reduction in manufacturing costs
- D) A surge in smartphone sales

5. In March 2026, Thailand's trade balance swung to a deficit. What was the reported deficit amount, and what was the primary reason for imports outpacing exports?

- A) USD 1.0 billion; strong electronics exports
- B) USD 3.34 billion; increased demand for energy and components**
- C) USD 500 million; a decline in automotive exports
- D) USD 1.5 billion; reduced agricultural imports

6. What was the projected GDP growth rate for Malaysia in 2026, as revised upward by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its April 2026 World Economic Outlook?

- A) 4.3%
- B) 4.6%
- C) 4.7%**
- D) 4.4%

7. The Philippines' inflation rate surged to 4.1% in March 2026. What was the primary sector contributing to this sharp increase?

- A) Food and non-alcoholic beverages
- B) Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels
- C) Transport**
- D) Communication

8. According to the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) report released in April 2026, what was the forecasted economic growth rate for the ASEAN and East Asia region for both 2026 and 2027?

- A) 4.3%
- B) 4.0%**
- C) 4.2%
- D) 4.5%

9. In April 2026, the Bank of Japan's Monetary Policy Meeting is expected to maintain the policy rate. What is the current range of the uncollateralized overnight call rate that officials will discuss?

- A) 0.50% - 0.75%**
- B) 0.75% - 1.00%
- C) 0.25% - 0.50%
- D) 1.00% - 1.25%

10. What was the forecasted inflation rate for Vietnam in 2026, as per the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) report released in April 2026?

- A) 3.8%
- B) 4.0%**
- C) 4.2%
- D) 3.5%

11. In April 2026, Malaysia reported a significant number of retrenchments in the first 16 days of the month. How many workers were retrenched during this period?

- A) 10,700
- B) 4,708**
- C) 7,500
- D) 5,900

12. As of April 20, 2026, what were the approximate percentage increases in gasoline and diesel prices from pre-conflict levels in the Philippines, as reported by BMI?

- A) Gasoline: 57.6%, Diesel: 118.4%**
- B) Gasoline: 40%, Diesel: 80%
- C) Gasoline: 30%, Diesel: 60%
- D) Gasoline: 70%, Diesel: 130%

13. Which Asian country's bond market saw foreign investors net selling US\$1.8 billion in March 2026 due to inflation concerns?

- A) Malaysia
- B) South Korea
- C) Thailand
- D) Indonesia**

14. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) announced that its newest A13 chip is set to enter volume production in which year?

- A) 2027
- B) 2028
- C) 2029**
- D) 2030

15. The IMF forecast Vietnam's GDP measured by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) to reach US\$2.025 trillion in 2026, surpassing several Southeast Asian economies to rank second. Which economy is projected to remain the largest by PPP?

- A) Thailand
- B) Malaysia
- C) Indonesia**
- D) Singapore