

BRICS Economic Shifts: Digital Currencies, Trade Dynamics, and Energy Markets

BRICS Economics · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Which BRICS nation is actively proposing the linking of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) to create a cross-border payment system for trade and tourism, with this initiative slated for discussion at the 2026 BRICS summit?

- A) South Africa
- B) Brazil
- C) India**
- D) China

2. BRICS countries are exploring the creation of a common currency, partly pegged to gold and partly to a basket of their own currencies, leveraging distributed ledger technology. What is a significant concern raised by a potential US President-elect regarding this initiative?

- A) Increased trade tariffs on BRICS nations
- B) Reduced investment in renewable energy
- C) A 100% tariff threat on BRICS nations**
- D) Exclusion from global financial messaging systems

3. In the energy sector, what contradictory pattern has been observed across BRICS nations in 2025, according to analysis from Global Energy Monitor?

- A) Record renewable energy milestones alongside a surge in fossil fuel exploration**
- B) A significant decrease in both renewable and fossil fuel capacity additions
- C) Unprecedented growth in nuclear power coupled with a decline in solar energy
- D) A sole focus on coal-fired power generation to meet demand

4. Which of the following countries has recently settled oil trades in rupees for the first time, indicating a shift in energy transaction currency away from the US dollar?

- A) Brazil
- B) Russia
- C) United Arab Emirates and India**
- D) China

5. What is the primary aim of the 'BRICS Bridge' initiative, spearheaded by Russia?

- A) To establish a unified BRICS stock exchange
- B) To create a cross-border payment system to bypass SWIFT**
- C) To develop a common BRICS agricultural commodity platform
- D) To harmonize intellectual property laws among member states

6. As of early 2026, what is the status of BRICS nations regarding their own specific digital currency?

- A) They have already launched a unified BRICS digital currency
- B) They do not yet have their own specific digital currency, but a blockchain-based payment system is in development**
- C) Each nation has independently launched a fully functional digital currency
- D) They have decided against pursuing any digital currency initiatives

7. Which BRICS member nation is identified as a key driver in the bloc's significant growth in solar electricity generation, contributing a substantial amount of output in 2024?

- A) South Africa
- B) Brazil
- C) Russia
- D) China**

8. According to IMF projections for 2025, how does the projected GDP growth rate of BRICS countries compare to the global average?

- A) BRICS' GDP growth is projected to be lower than the global average
- B) BRICS' GDP growth is projected to be equal to the global average
- C) BRICS' GDP growth is projected to exceed the global average**
- D) The IMF does not provide GDP growth projections for BRICS countries

9. What is a notable trend in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) within BRICS countries since the beginning of the 21st century, according to research?

- A) FDI inflows have consistently decreased across all BRICS nations
- B) BRICS countries have become significant investment donors, with a stable trend of intra-bloc investment towards the Global South**
- C) China has seen a sharp decline in FDI, while other BRICS nations have experienced a surge
- D) There has been a notable slowdown in FDI due to increased global instability

10. In 2024, BRICS countries accounted for approximately what share of global GDP measured by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)?

- A) Around 25%
- B) Approximately 39%**
- C) Roughly 15%
- D) Over 50%

11. What is the stated goal of the 'BRICS Pay' platform?

- A) To facilitate international tourism bookings
- B) To enable B2B transactions in national currencies without relying on dollar-based systems like SWIFT**
- C) To provide a social networking platform for BRICS citizens
- D) To manage currency exchange rates between member nations

12. Which BRICS nation is aiming to leverage its natural resources, particularly in renewable energy, as a key area for increased foreign investment?

- A) Russia
- B) India
- C) China
- D) Brazil**

13. What significant shift has occurred in intra-BRICS trade in recent years, according to analysis from 2019-2024?

- A) Trade among BRICS nations has decreased significantly
- B) Trade among BRICS nations has been increasing faster than trade between BRICS and G7 countries**
- C) Intra-BRICS trade has become solely dominated by manufactured goods
- D) Trade restrictions among BRICS countries have been completely eliminated

14. What is a key characteristic of the BRICS energy matrix, particularly concerning coal?

- A) BRICS countries have completely phased out coal-fired power generation
- B) The alliance remains a global center for coal-fired power generation, with a significant percentage of the world's capacity**
- C) BRICS countries are phasing out coal in favor of nuclear energy
- D) Coal production has become negligible within the BRICS bloc

15. As of May 2026, what percentage of Russia-China trade settlements are conducted in rubles and yuan?

- A) Approximately 20%
- B) Around 50%
- C) Nearly 90%**
- D) Less than 10%