

East Asia Financial Pulse: Yen Intervention, TSMC Price Hikes, and South Korea

East Asia Finance · Answer Key · 15 Questions

1. Japan recently deployed a record amount, approximately what value in USD, to support the Japanese Yen over the past month?

- A) \$73.6 billion**
- B) \$50 billion
- C) \$100 billion
- D) \$25 billion

2. According to recent reports, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) is planning to increase prices for its 3-nanometer process products. By approximately how much could these prices be raised in the second half of the year?

- A) Up to 15%**
- B) Up to 5%
- C) Up to 10%
- D) Up to 20%

3. South Korea's exports in the first 20 days of May 2026 saw a significant year-on-year increase. What was the percentage growth, largely driven by the semiconductor sector?

- A) 64.8%**
- B) 43.7%
- C) 20.1%
- D) 110.4%

4. What is the primary downside risk to the ASEAN-6 economies' outlook identified by QNB due to the prolonged US-Israel-Iran conflict?

- A) Persistently higher energy costs and supply chain disruptions**
- B) Decreased demand for technology exports
- C) Reduced foreign direct investment inflows
- D) A significant drop in tourism revenue

5. Hong Kong is considering tax reforms to attract top fund managers, specifically proposing tax breaks on what type of bonus pay?

- A) Performance bonuses (carried interest)**
- B) Annual salary increments
- C) Signing bonuses
- D) Retirement bonuses

6. In April 2026, South Korea's annual inflation rate accelerated to what percentage, up from 2.2% in March?

- A) 2.6%**
- B) 2.0%
- C) 3.2%
- D) 1.9%

7. Which of the following countries saw a significant year-on-year increase in South Korean exports during the May 1-20, 2026 period, with growth exceeding 100%?

- A) Taiwan**
- B) China
- C) Vietnam
- D) European Union

8. The Bank of Japan is likely to consider a rate hike in June 2026. What is the estimated probability of this occurring, according to traders as of late May 2026?

- A) Roughly 78%**
- B) Roughly 50%
- C) Roughly 90%
- D) Roughly 25%

9. China's housing market is expected to see a slower pace of price decline in 2026. What is the projected percentage change in home prices for the year?

- A) -3.5%**
- B) -4.0%
- C) -2.3%
- D) -5.1%

10. As of May 29, 2026, the USD/JPY exchange rate was approximately what value, indicating continued pressure on the Japanese Yen?

- A) 159.1970**
- B) 155.0000
- C) 160.7200
- D) 158.0000

11. Hong Kong's main stock market index, the HK50, experienced a percentage gain over the past year. What was this gain?

- A) 8.13%**
- B) 1.6%
- C) 10.4%
- D) 2.31%

12. South Korea's central bank recently revised its 2026 growth forecast for the Korean economy upward, citing robust semiconductor exports. What is the new projected growth rate?

- A) 2.6%**
- B) 2.0%
- C) 3.5%
- D) 1.5%

13. What is the projected annual GDP growth rate for China in 2026, according to CBRE's forecast, reflecting a strategic shift towards 'high-quality development'?

- A) Approximately 4.5%**
- B) Approximately 5.0%
- C) Approximately 3.8%
- D) Approximately 4.0%

14. Which sector has outperformed the Hong Kong market over the last week, gaining 3.6%?

- A) Information Technology**
- B) Financials
- C) Real Estate
- D) Consumer Discretionary

15. The ASEAN-6 economies are expected to maintain strong fundamentals in 2026. Which specific ASEAN country recorded an exceptional economic expansion of 8 percent in 2025?

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