



Highlights from this week's economic and fiscal developments in ASEAN member states and abroad:

- Cambodian import-export exhibition strengthens trade networks
- Cambodia's rice exports fall 13 percent
- Vietnam's economy grows but risks heighten
- Trump says Fed Chairman shouldn't hike

FACT Sheet is a weekly newsletter that tracks the latest economic and fiscal developments in Cambodia and its trading partners. It is produced by the Fiscal Analysis Capacity Training (FACT) department of the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia to practice research and drafting skills. Every effort is made to ensure that the analysis and insight is of high quality; however, readers should treat it as a training exercise. We cannot guarantee that it is free from error or omission.

Cambodia news and data

Annual import-export exhibition strengthens trade networks

The 13th annual Cambodia Import-Export and One Province One Product Exhibition was held [last week](#), with the goal of promoting local products and import/export opportunities.

The trade fair was promoted by both the Minister of Commerce and Minister for Economy and Finance as an opportunity to grow Cambodia's foreign trade and encourage investment, particularly from the private sector.

The government, for its part, is working to improve trade logistics costs by boosting infrastructure and reducing energy costs.

Cambodia's rice exports fall 13 percent

Cambodia's rice exports to the international market fell 13 percent over the first 11 months of 2018, from 562,237 tonnes to 497,240 tonnes, according to the [Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality](#).

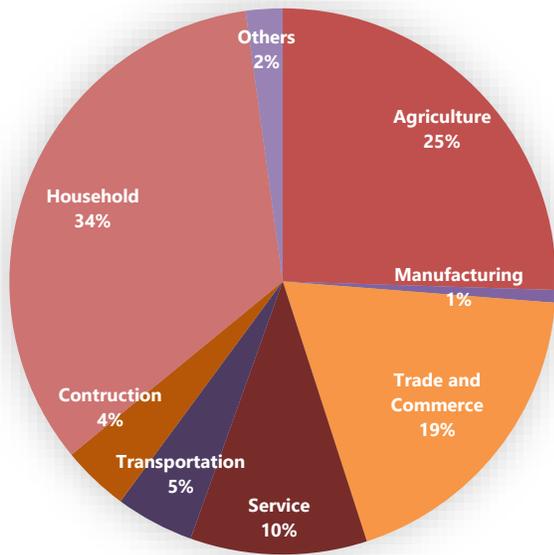
The head of the Cambodian Rice Federation attributed the decline to price competition with neighboring countries and a lack of rice reserves available for export.

Chart of the week: loans classified by type of businesses in 2017

Cambodia has seven Microfinance Deposit Taking Institutions (MDIs) and 76 Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) as of 2017, according to the [National Bank of Cambodia](#). MFIs have total assets of 20,310 billion riels, which grew by 31 percent of GDP in 2017. MDIs have 17,236.44 billion riels, which grew by 31 percent of GDP in 2017.

This week's chart shows the breakdown of loans by MDIs and MFIs to different sectors of the economy. Households received the greatest share, equal to 34 percent of loans, while agriculture received the second-greatest at 25 percent.

Loans classified by type of businesses in 2017



Source: National Bank of Cambodia

ASEAN and other trading partners news and data

Vietnam's economy grows but risks heighten

Vietnam's economy is forecast to grow by 6.8 percent this year, according to the World Bank's [update on recent economic developments](#). Growth is expected to be higher than the World Bank's projection of 6.3 percent for emerging markets in the East Asia and Pacific Regions.

Growth is driven by an increase in domestic demand and a dynamic export-oriented manufacturing sector. Growth is expected to decline slightly to 6.6 percent in 2019 and 6.5 percent in 2020, owing to an expected slowdown of global growth and evolving risks such as global trade tensions and capital inflow reductions.

U.S. economy and Federal Reserve

Trump says Fed Chairman shouldn't hike

Amid trade war threats against China and other countries, Trump has made demands for maintaining low interest rates to sustain the wider U.S. economy.

Trump gave Reuters an [exclusive interview](#) on Tuesday, telling them that a rate hike would be "foolish" and that he disagrees with the potential hikes indicated by Jerome Powell, the Fed Chairman that Trump installed.

The week ahead

It's monetary policy week, with interest rate decisions in the U.S., Thailand, Japan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Below is the complete calendar of data releases and developments that the FACT team will be following next week.

Monday, 17 December

- Singapore non-oil exports for November
- Indonesia balance trade for November

Tuesday, 18 December

- U.S foreign bond investment for October
- U.S Redbook for 5/December
- Hong Kong unemployment rate for November

Wednesday, 19 December

- Japan balance of trade for November
- Malaysia inflation rate for November
- Thailand interest rate decision
- U.S current account for 2018Q3

Thursday, 20 December

- U.S Federal interest rate decision
- U.S the Federal Open Market Committee economic projections
- Bank of Japan interest rate decision
- Thailand balance of trade for November
- Indonesia interest rate decision
- Honk Kong interest rate decision

Friday, 21 December

- South Korea Producer Price Index for November
- Japan inflation rate for November
- U.S personal income for November
- U.S personal spending for November
- U.S GDP growth rate final Q3
- Taiwan interest rate decision