



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

- Ministry of Tourism targets fake service charges
- Japan's trade balance turns to deficit
- U.S. inflation accelerates

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

Ministry of Tourism targets fake service charges

The Ministry of Tourism announced on [Facebook](#) on Monday that all tourist companies could be punished up to 300,000 riels (\$75) if they apply a service charge without a valid tourism license and certificate of quality provided by the Ministry of Tourism.

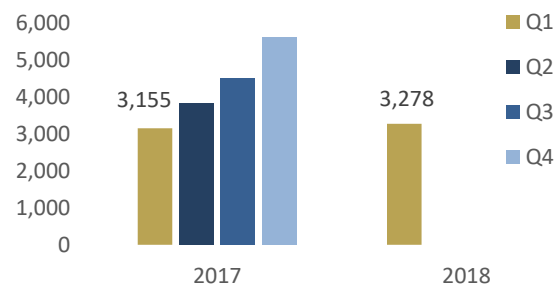
The service charge is set by the ministry at no more than 10 per cent of the value of the service. The goal of tourism licenses and the service charge is to verify and improve the quality of service to customers. IN 2017, licenses were given to 33,727 restaurants, 781 hotels, and 2,255 guesthouses, according to Ministry of Tourism statistics.

Chart of the week: Central government expenditure

According to the Ministry of Economy and Finance's latest Government Financial Statistics release, central government expenditure in the first quarter of 2018 was 3,278 billion riels, an increase of 3.9 per cent compared to the same quarter in 2017.

Total expenditure in the first quarter of 2018 is equal to 14.9 per cent of expenditure expected in Budget Law 2018, a decline of 1.7 percentage points compared to the same quarter of last year.

Central government expenditure (Riels)



Source: MoEF (Government Financial Statistics).

ASEAN and other trading partners news and data

Japan's trade balance turns to deficit

Japan's Ministry of Finance [announced](#) on Monday that it had a trade deficit of ¥578.3 billion in May, the first deficit in three months. The deficit was ¥204.4 billion larger than in the same month of a year earlier, and slightly exceeded the median estimate of a ¥203.7 billion deficit in a survey of 17 research institutes.

This deficit was attributed to rising natural resources prices such as crude oil and the increase of aircraft imports from the United States, according to the ministry's preliminary report. Japan's total exports in May rose 8.1 per cent to ¥6,323.3 billion but imports rose 14 per cent to ¥6,901.6 billion, up for the second consecutive month.

U.S. economy and Federal Reserve

U.S. unemployment rate

The U.S. unemployment rate declined to 3.8 per cent in May (seasonally adjusted), and the number of unemployed persons declined to 6.1 million, according to the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#). Compared to last year, the unemployment rate declined by 0.5 percentage points, or 772,000 persons.

The unemployment rate breakdowns among worker groups were 3.5 per cent for adult men, 3.3 per cent for adult woman, 5.9 per cent for blacks, 12.8 per cent for teenagers, 2.1 per cent for Asians, and 4.9 per cent for Hispanics

In May, the labor force participation rate and the employment-to-population ratio were 62.7 per cent and 60.4 per cent, respectively, with little change, while the number of people employed working part time was 4.9 million.

The week ahead

Highlights from the ASEAN region this week include the biggest day for monthly economic statistics for Thailand and Vietnam on Friday.

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

Monday, 25 June

- Indonesia balance of trade for May
- Malaysia leading index for April
- Philippines budget balance for May
- Singapore inflation rate for May
- Japan leading Economic index final for April

Tuesday, 26 June

- South Korean consumer confidence for June
- Singapore industrial production for May
- Hong Kong balance of trade for May
- U.S. consumer confidence for June

Wednesday, 27 June

- U.S. goods trade balance for May
- Indonesia loan growth for May
- Indonesia car sales for May
- Taiwan consumer confidence for June

Thursday, 28 June

- Japan retail sales for May
- Japan stock investment by foreigners, 23/Jun
- Indonesia interest rate decision
- U.S. GDP growth 2018Q1, final estimate

Friday, 29 June

- Japan unemployment rate for May
- South Korea industrial production for May
- South Korea retail sales for May
- Japan unemployment rate for May
- Japan industrial production for May
- Thailand unemployment rate for May
- Thailand industrial production for May
- Thailand private consumption for May
- Thailand current account for May
- Vietnam inflation rate for June
- Vietnam retail sales for June
- Vietnam GDP growth rate for 2018Q2
- Vietnam balance of trade for June
- U.S. personal income for May