



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

- Solar power plant in Cambodia will add to domestic electricity supply by end of 2019
- China cuts crude oil import quotas to start 2019
- U.S. crude exports to Europe hit 11-month low

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

Solar power plant will add to domestic electricity supply by end of 2019

Jinko Solar Holding Co Ltd, the world’s largest producer of solar panels, [is building](#) a 60MW solar power plant worth over \$58 million in Kampong Speu province. The plant will install 200,000 solar modules beginning in early 2019 and start operating before the end of the year.

The solar power plant will play an important role in fulfilling growing demand for electricity in Cambodia. The Kingdom imported 442.50MW of electricity in 2018, the project will contribute to economic growth and environmental protection, said provincial governor Vei Samnang.

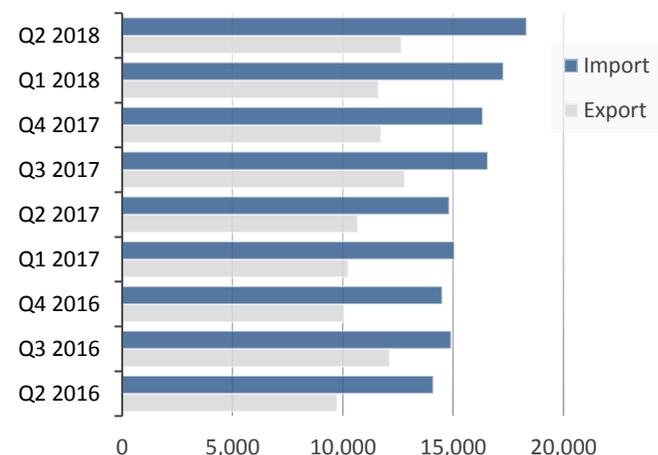
Chart of the week: International trade from 2016 to the second quarter of 2018

Cambodia’s imports reached 18,329 billion Riels in the second quarter of 2018, an increase of 6.1% compared to the previous quarter. The increase was mainly driven by garment raw materials, which rose

by 945 billion Riels (25.3%) and food and beverages, which rose by 42 billion Riels (5.2%).

At the same time, exports amounted to 12,651 billion Riels in the second quarter, an increase of 8.9%. The increase was led by garment and footwear exports.

Imports and exports from 2016 to the second quarter of 2018 (billion Riels)



Source: [National Bank of Cambodia 2018](#)

ASEAN and other trading partners news and data

China cuts crude oil import quotas to start 2019

The Ministry of Commerce in China released its first batch of crude oil import quotas for 2019 on January 2nd, cutting volumes from 121.32 million tonnes issued in the same batch last year. A total of 89.84 million tonnes were granted.

The decline suggests that crude demand growth may slow for the first half 2019. However, experts in the Chinese refineries markets expect an uptick of quotas and imports in the second round of allowances later this year, usually in September, according [Reuters](#).

U.S. economy and Federal Reserve

U.S. crude exports to Europe hit 11-month low

Crude export from Texas and Louisiana to Europe fell from 404,000 barrels per day (bpd) in November to 298,000 bpd in December, according to [Reuters](#). This marks the lowest level of exports since January 2018.

The decrease in demand for U.S. oil resulted from a shrinking discount compared to Brent oil and rising shipping costs, as well as a rising premium for U.S. Gulf Coast grade crude.

The week ahead

Data highlights in the coming week include inflation in the U.S. and China and unemployment in South Korea. Significant events include trade talks between the U.S. and China which kick off on Monday.

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

Monday, 07 January

- Indonesia consumer confidence for December
- South Korea exchange reserves for December
- U.S. China trade talks
- Taiwan balance of trade for December

Tuesday, 08 January

- Japan consumer confidence for December
- Taiwan inflation rate for December
- South Korea current account for November
- Indonesia exchange reserves for December

Wednesday, 09 January

- U.S. consumer credit for November
- South Korea unemployment rate for December
- Philippines retail prices for November
- Indonesia car sales for December
- Indonesia retail sales for November
- Euro Area unemployment rate November

Thursday, 10 January

- Philippines balance of trade for November
- China inflation rate for December
- Philippines FDI for October
- U.S. initial jobless claims for 06/January

Friday, 11 January

- Malaysia industrial production for November
- United Kingdom GDP for November
- U.S. inflation rate for December
- Singapore retail sales for November
- China vehicle sales for December