



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

- 32nd ASEAN Summit kicks off
- The Philippines approves its fiscal program
- Fed releases Beige Book for March and early April

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

32nd ASEAN Summit kicks off

Cambodia will send a high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Hun Sen to the 32nd ASEAN Summit, to be held in Singapore on 27-28 April 2018. This year’s summit has the theme “Resilient and Innovative ASEAN”, reflecting ASEAN’s continued relevance in maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

The delegation will discuss innovation initiatives in the region, such as ASEAN Smart Cities Networks, Cybersecurity Cooperation, ASEAN’s external relations, and its future direction. Details have been announced by the [Office of the Council of Ministers](#).

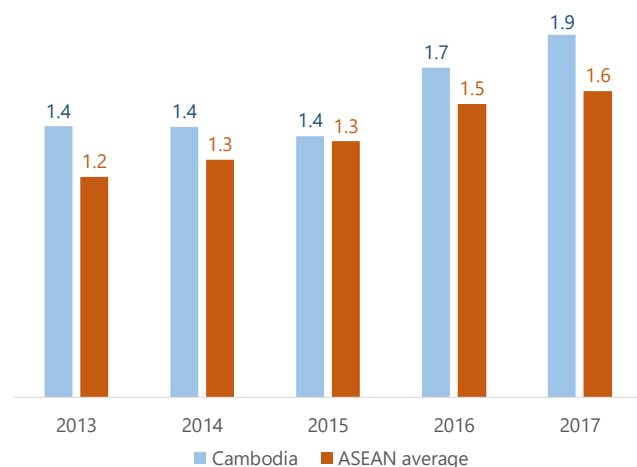
Cambodia and China embark on new port in Kampot

Cambodia and China plan to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to construct a new port in Kampot. The port will be a main corridor to advance China’s One Belt, One Road Initiative.

The news was [announced](#) after Cambodia received a visit from the governor of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China in Phnom Penh on Tuesday.

Chart of the week: Cambodia health spending outpaces ASEAN average

Chart of the week: health spending (% of GDP)



Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance and FACT calculations

Cambodia’s spending on education has grown significantly over the past two years, rising to 1.9 per

cent of GDP in 2017. Spending growth in Cambodia has outpaced steadily increasing ASEAN spending, which has risen to 1.6 per cent of GDP over the same period.

ASEAN and other trading partners news and data

The Philippines approves its fiscal program

The Development Budget Coordination Committee in the Philippines approved the National Government Quarterly Fiscal Program for 2018 on Tuesday ([pdf](#)). The program allocates revenues of P2,846 billion (16.6 per cent of GDP) and expenditure of P3,370 billion (19.3 per cent of GDP), resulting in a deficit of P523.7 billion (3 per cent of GDP).

National Government Revenues are projected to increase by around 15.1 per cent compared to actual collections in 2017, while an increase in expenditures of 19.3 per cent is expected. The deficit is up from P350.6 billion recorded last year.

U.S. economy and Federal Reserve

Fed releases Beige Book for March and early April

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve [released](#) its regular report on current economic conditions, commonly known as the "Beige Book". The Beige Book reports the Fed's surveys of businesses in its 12 regional districts.

Businesses reported a positive outlook, citing robust borrowing, rising consumer spending, and tight labour markets. On the downside, businesses expressed concern over newly imposed or proposed tariffs.

The week ahead

Data highlights in the coming week include inflation from Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia, and the Philippines, as well as unemployment in Thailand.

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

Monday, 30 April

- Thailand current account for March
- Thailand unemployment rate for March
- South Korea industrial production for March

Tuesday, 01 May

- South Korea balance of trade for April
- Thailand inflation rate for April
- Japan manufacturing PMI for April

Wednesday, 02 May

- South Korea inflation rate for April
- Japan services PMI
- Indonesia manufacturing PMI for April
- Indonesia inflation rate for April

Thursday, 03 May

- Japan foreign bond investment 28/April
- Thailand consumer confidence for April
- Thailand business confidence for April
- Hong Kong retail sales for March

Friday, 04 May

- Philippines inflation rate for April
- South Korea current account for March
- Taiwan foreign exchange reserve for April
- Malaysia balance of trade for March
- Indonesia consumer confidence for April