



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

- Cambodia and South Korea team up for online jobs portal
- Malaysia's unemployment rate falls
- IMF warns central banks of risks

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

Cambodia and South Korea team up for online jobs portal

Cambodia's Labour Minister announced an [agreement](#) with South Korea this week to develop an online jobs portal for Cambodians. South Korea has contributed \$3.1 million to the agreement between the two countries' ministries that runs until 2021.

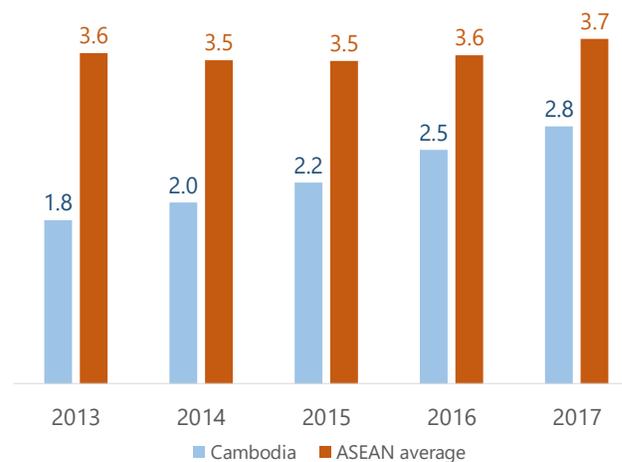
The outcome will be a public online jobs database in Cambodia where domestic employers with vacancies can be matched with job seekers. A later phase in 2021 will be devoted to technical monitoring and evaluation.

The project will be led by Cambodia's National Employment Agency.

Chart of the week: Cambodia gaining ground on education spending

Cambodia's spending on education has grown dramatically over the past five years, rising from 1.8 per cent of GDP to 2.8 per cent. Cambodia is quickly catching up to the ASEAN average of 3.7 per cent.

Chart of the week: education spending (% of GP)



Source: Ministry of Economy and Finance and FACT calculations

ASEAN and other trading partners news and data

Malaysia's unemployment rate falls

The unemployment rate in Malaysia declined to 3.3 per cent year-over-year in February, according to the [Department of Statistics Malaysia](#).

The number of unemployed dropped by 1.2 per cent to 509 thousand, while employment went up by 2.2 percent to 15 million and the labor force rose 2.1 percent. Month-over-month the jobless declined to 3.2 per cent from 3.3 per cent January.

U.S. economy and Federal Reserve

IMF warns central banks of risks

In their twice-annual [Global Financial Stability Report](#), the International Monetary Fund warned central bankers of financial vulnerabilities that have accumulated during the last decade under low interest rates.

The fund urged central bankers, particularly the U.S. Federal Reserve, to take a gradual approach to tightening rates, so as not to shock the world economy.

The week ahead

Friday looks to be the most important data date of the month, with major indicators released by Japan and Vietnam.

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

Monday, 23 April

- Thailand balance of trade for March
- Singapore inflation for March
- Taiwan unemployment rate for March

Tuesday, 24 April

- Philippines budget balance for March
- Malaysia leading index for February
- Japan all industry activity index for February

Wednesday, 25 April

- South Korea consumer confidence for April

Thursday, 26 April

- South Korea GDP growth for 2018Q1
- Indonesia foreign direct investment 2018Q1
- Singapore industrial production for March
- Hong Kong balance of trade for March

Friday, 27 April

- South Korea business confidence for April
- Japan retail sales, industrial production, unemployment for March and CPI inflation for April
- Philippines retail sales index for March
- Singapore unemployment for 2018Q1
- Thailand new car sales for March
- Singapore import prices for March
- Vietnam inflation, industrial production, and balance of trade for April