

ASEAN Bulletin

13 June 2024

May in ASEAN

Singapore



- The MSCI Singapore and Strait Times Index extended their uptrend this month, gaining 2.9% and 2.6%, respectively.
- Singapore continued to outperform its ASEAN peers, driven largely by the Communications Services, Transportation and Financials sectors. In contrast, Utilities, Consumer Staples, and Industrials lagged.
- April's core inflation remained unchanged at 3.1% YoY, with sequential easing in both goods and services. The Monetary Authority of Singapore has kept its headline and core inflation forecasts for 2024 at 3.5% and 2.5%, respectively.

Malaysia



- The FBM KLCI gained 1.3% in May, outperforming its regional peers. The market's strength was driven by solid Q12024 earnings and buying flows from local institutions.
- The technology sector gained 11.5%, due to earnings recovery and positive sentiment from the development of Silicon Island and AI boom.
- The construction and property sectors also saw gains, driven by newsflow on data centre investments in Malaysia.
- Consumption is expected to be boosted by civil servants' wage hike and Employee Provident Fund (EPF) Account 3 withdrawals.

Thailand



- In May, the Stock Exchange of Thailand index fell by 1.6%. The market initially rose in early May due to better-than-expected Q1 2024 earnings but declined in late May due to weak GDP growth and political developments.
- In April, the Thai economy improved compared to March, with continued expansion in the service sector due to increased tourist arrivals.
- Government spending continued to contract due to the delay of the Budget Act, B.E. 2567.

Indonesia



- The Jakarta Composite Index declined by 3.6% in May due to foreign outflows reaching US\$880 million, with the financial sector (-5.6% MoM) bearing the brunt of the decline. Despite this, the basic materials (+4.52% MoM) and energy sectors (+3.48% MoM) continued to show positive gains.
- Most of the outflow occurred in the last two weeks of the month, as the USD strengthened and USD/IDR reached the IDR16,200 mark again.
- GDP expanded by 5.1% YoY in Q12024.
- May inflation was slower than expected at 2.8% YoY with core CPI at 1.93% YoY as price pressure eased.

Philippines



- The Philippines market faced challenges in May, with the Philippines Composite Index declining by 4.0% MoM.
- The weak performance was mainly due to the Peso's weakness and foreign selling pressure, resulting in a USD 174 million outflow in May.
- Bank loans grew by 10.2% in April, slightly above the 10.1% growth in March.

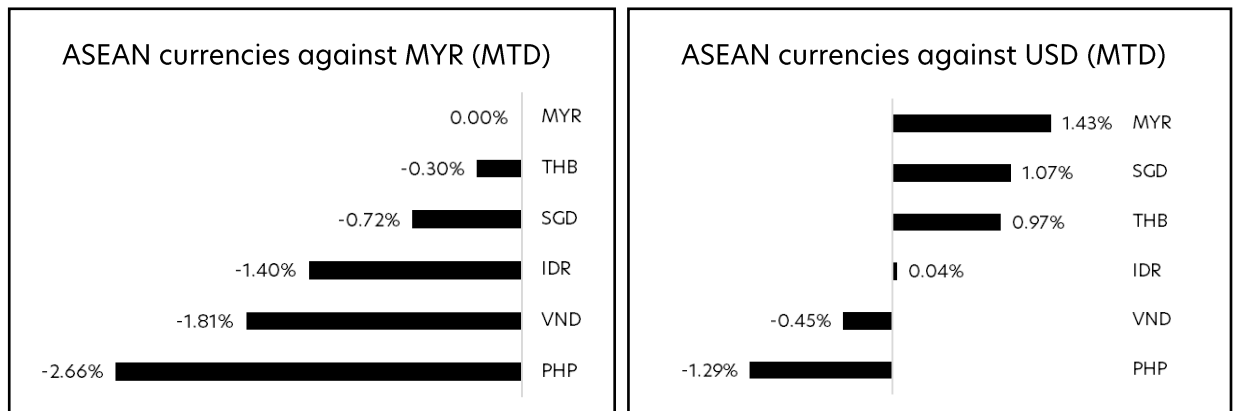
Vietnam



- The Vietnam Stock Index showed a strong recovery in the first half of May and stabilised in the second half, as it approached 1,300 points. The index rose 4.3% MoM, bringing year-to-date return to 11.7%.
- The market recovery was driven by a technical rebound and growth in macroeconomic indicators, particularly in export turnover, FDI, tourism, and domestic consumption.
- Market liquidity increased by 2.7% MoM, with the daily average trading value across the three bourses exceeding US\$985 million.

ASEAN Currencies

Riding the waves against USD and MYR



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