

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW VOLUME: 10 ISSUE: 02

MARCH 2019

How Softening World Economy will affect Bangladesh Economy







MTBiz

MONTHLY BUSINESS REVIEW

VOLUME: 10 ISSUE: 02

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How Softening World Economy will affect Bangladesh Economy



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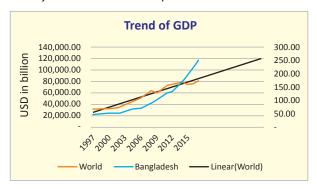
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How Softening World Economy will affect Bangladesh Economy

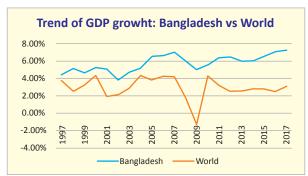
In recent years, slowdown of world economy has been phenomenon in media and different forums and symposia. In contrast, Bangladesh has seen steady accelerating growth rate of its GDP since last decade. Therefore, impact of slowdown of the world economy on the GDP of Bangladesh has been a serious cup of tea in the country recently. This article addresses, whether global RMG fluctuates subject to global GDP slowdown and accordingly whether Bangladeshi export of RMG will also fluctuate and hence will impact the growth of Bangladesh economy. In addition to RMG scenario, impact of global fuel price on World GDP and Bangladesh GDP have been examined to find out the probable impact of rising global fuel price on GDP of Bangladesh.

World Bank (WB) says, global growth is moderating as the recovery in trade and manufacturing activity loses steam. Borrowing costs for emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs) have increased, in part as major advanced-economy central banks continue to



withdraw policy accommodation in varying degrees. A strengthening U.S. dollar, heightened financial market volatility and rising risk premiums have intensified capital outflow and currency pressures in some large EMDEs, with some vulnerable countries experiencing substantial financial stress.

Energy prices have fluctuated markedly, mainly due to supply factors, with sharp falls toward the end of 2018. Economic activity in the Euro Area has been somewhat weaker than previously expected. EMDE growth edged down to an estimated 4.2 percent in 2018 as a number



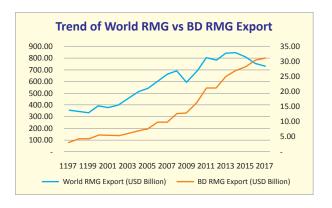
of countries with elevated current account deficits experienced substantial financial market pressures. In low-income countries (LICs), growth is firming as infrastructure investment continues and easing drought conditions support a rebound in agricultural output.

In all, according to World Bank, global growth is projected to moderate from a downwardly revised 3 percent in 2018 to 2.9 percent in 2019 and 2.8 percent in 2020-21, and global trade gradually slows. Government and/or private sector debt has also risen in a majority of EMDEs over the last few years, including in many LICs, reducing the fiscal room to respond to shocks and heightening the exposure to shifts in market sentiment and rising borrowing costs.

According to International Monetary Fund (IMF), risks to global growth tilt to the downside. An escalation of trade tensions remains a key source of risk to the outlook. Financial conditions have already tightened.

Given the background, this study examines the effects of global economic slowdown on the growth of Bangladesh economy in next decade.

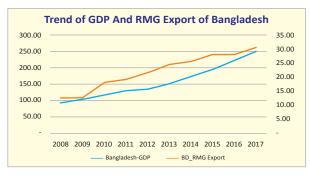
Economic output of Bangladesh booked steady growth despite the negative growth of World GDP during the recession in 2008. However, it raises the question whether growth rate of Bangladesh GDP is dependent on the growth rate of World GDP. Statistically, the growth rate of Bangladesh GDP is not associated with the growth rate of World GDP and hence it may be argued that, growth rate of Bangladesh GDP is found independent of growth rate of World GDP and growth rate of Bangladesh GDP may grow upward despite the growth rate of World GDP is downward. Though this argument directly denies any risk on the economy of Bangladesh from global economic softening as depicted in the recent world economic forecast by WB, this write-up attempts to crosscheck the probable risk in two additional perspectives: two most powerful engines behind economic growth of Bangladesh,



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

inward foreign remittance and export of Readymade Garments (RMG or Textile & Clothing), are examined to find associations with the domestic GDP growth, in one perspective while in the other, the impact of price of Global fuel market on Bangladesh GDP are examined to draw alternate view to the topic.

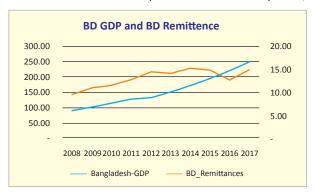
In econometric view, rise or fall in foreign remittance of Bangladesh would push the national GDP upward or downward. Export of RMG puts similar impact of national GDP. Underlying assumption says if RMG export of Bangladesh is affected by the World RMG export, and World RMG export is affected by World GDP contraction and consequently, RMG Export of Bangladesh would be affected by contraction of World GDP.



As the econometrics implies, World RMG export changes with change in World GDP, that is, change in World GDP significantly changes World RMG export. While Bangladesh RMG export is subject to change in World RMG export, which implies that, increase in World RMG export hits the BD RMG Export positively. Therefore, from the perspective of global and domestic RMG exports, World GDP has positive propensity to affect the GDP of Bangladesh.

According to the 'Asian Development Outlook 2019', the GDP of Bangladesh is expected to grow by 8 percent in 2019-2020 with robust private consumption, increased public investment, strong export performance, and expansion in industries.

"To sustain this momentum in the medium to long-term, Bangladesh requires expanded industrial base, diversified export basket, improved business environment for vibrant private sector development,



expanded tax base, better revenue collection for increased resource allocation, and human capital development," says ADB. "Continued focus on prudent macroeconomic policies, sound debt management, strengthening sector, the banking infrastructure constraints, and reducing the cost of doing business are important to help achieve the long-term development vision of the country."

While Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics estimated a record economic growth of 8.13 percent at the end of the fiscal year 2018-2019, based on the data for the first eight months of the current fiscal year (July-February).

"Driven by industry, Bangladesh's economy continues to grow at an impressive rate. Bangladesh is among the five fastest growing economies of the world, in spite of insufficient private sector investment," according to the "The Bangladesh Bank report titled Development Update April 2019: Towards Regulatory Predictability," published recently. The report further articulates that, Bangladesh's growth outlook remains strong and stable. Sound macroeconomic policies such as keeping the budget deficit below 5% of GDP and resilient domestic demand have led to growth in manufacturing and construction industries on the supply side while growth is led by private consumption and exports on the demand side.

Therefore, the question of risk raised by the slowdown of the world economy forecasted by the international organizations on Bangladesh is less likely to affect Bangladesh economy strongly, provided it must keep its positive economic factors like RMG export, inward foreign remittance etc., that impact national GDP significantly, on track while ensuring robust private consumption, increased public investment, strong export performance and expansion in industries to accelerate the national growth engine.

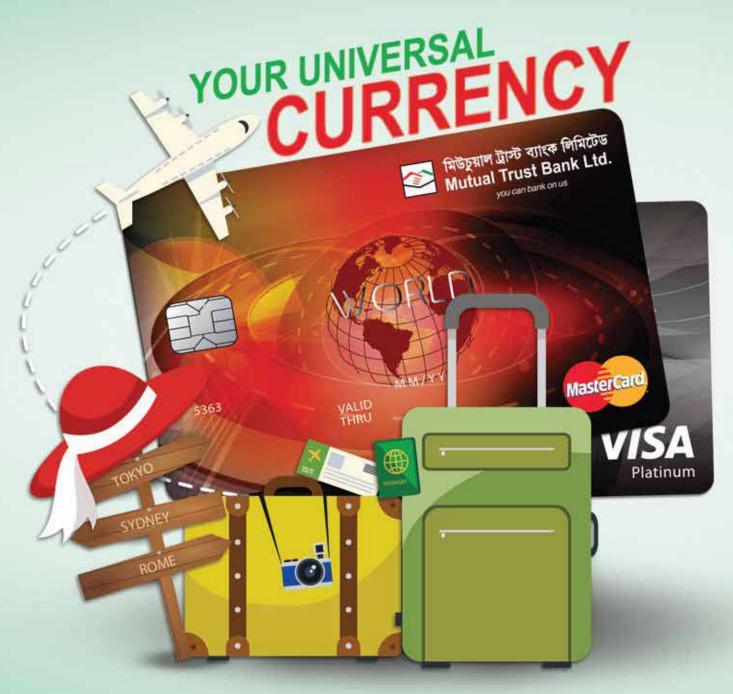
The findings of this article echoes the same as the growth forecast of Bangladesh by international development organizations do with statistical evidence saying that the key growth factors of the country are not found to be strongly impacted by the global economic softening. In addition, according to economic experts, export earning so far this year from ready-made garments expanded by double digits, and non-garment exports also bounced back. Therefore, capitalizing this situational advantage, along with the decade-old development momentum, Bangladesh can confidently move forward to achieve economic growth it visions by 2041.

> **ANM Farukh** Head of Group R&D, MTB















মিউচুয়াল ট্রাস্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.

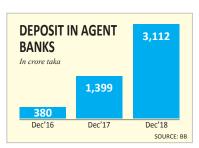
BB to widen reach of digital wallets



The central bank is set to come up with a guideline for electronic money in further proof of its commitment to building a cashless

society. The draft guideline has been sent to stakeholders for vetting, after which it will be issued at the earliest. At present, there is only one digital company, iPay, to provide e-money service in Bangladesh, but many are waiting in the wings. The finalisation of the guideline will help them get the licence. An individual can transact a maximum of BDT 50,000 a day through the system, according to the central bank's instructions to iPay when giving the licence. The digital wallet must be linked with one's bank account, from where the money will be sent, according to the draft regulations. The digital wallet can be accessed through the mobile apps of the respective vendors. The vendors, which would be called e-money service (EMS) providers, would have to cough up BDT 20 crore in paid-up capital to get the green light from the Bangladesh Bank.

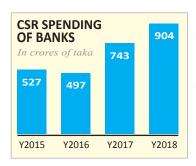
Deposit through agent banking rises 122pc



Deposits collected through agent banking rose a whopping 122 percent last year from the previous year whereas the whole banking

sector experienced a fall in deposit growth. Bangladesh Bank data showed BDT 3,112 crore was deposited through the agent banking channel in 2018, up from BDT 1,399 crore a year ago. The amount collected by the outlets—which provide banking services on a limited scale—was only BDT 380 crore in 2016. However, the deposit growth of the banking sector fell by 1.22 percentage point's year-on-year to 9 percent in 2018. The BB issued the agent banking guideline in 2013 but the licensees started full-fledged operation in 2016. Currently, 19 banks provide agent banking service with Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL) and Bank Asia are leading the pack with a combined 78 percent market share. The number of agent banking accountholders doubled year-on-year to 24.56 lakh last year.

Banks' CSR spending soars despite lower profits



Banks' spending on corporate social responsibility shot up last year, even overshooting the regulatory ceiling -- at a time when they logged in lower profits for higher

provisioning needs from the mounting default loans. In 2018, banks spent a total of BDT 904 crore, up 21 percent year-on-year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank. As per the CSR expenditure guideline of the BB, banks can spend for philanthropic purposes from their net profits and there is no limit on expenditure. The expenditure will be participatory and not mandatory. But, they cannot spend more than: 30 percent of their CSR outlay on the education sector, 20 percent on the health sector, and 10 percent for climate risk or disaster management. Banks breached the ceilings last year: they spent BDT 380 crore on the education sector and BDT 331 crore on disaster management, which are 42 percent and 36.62 percent respectively of the total CSR expenditure.

Farm loan drops by BDT 4.73pc in July-Jan



Disbursement of farm loans by banks dropped by 4.73 per cent or BDT 601 crore in seven m o n t h s (July-January)

of the current fiscal year (2018-19) compared with that in the same period of the previous fiscal year. State-run, private and foreign banks disbursed BDT 12,101.04 crore in farm loans in the seven months of FY19 against BDT 12,702.17 crore they had disbursed in the same period of FY18, according the latest BB data. In July-January of FY18, the banks had managed to disburse 62.27 per cent of the target for the entire fiscal year but their loan disbursement in the first seven months of FY19 dropped to 55.51 per cent of the annual target. The central bank has set BDT 21,800 crore as farm loan disbursement target for FY19 for the banks. The target was BDT 20,400 crore for FY18.

BB to seek opinions of stock stakeholders before MPS framing: Governor



From now on Bangladesh Bank will take opinions from the capital m a r k e t stakeholders before declaring

its monetary policy statement to prevent any negative impact of the policy on the market, said BB governor Fazle Kabir. He made the statement at a seminar on 'Monetary Policy Statement: Implication on Private Sector' organised by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dhaka Stock Exchange director Minhaz Mannan Emon said that BB had never given the capital market importance in its MPS declaration despite having profound relations between them. Minhaz urged Bangladesh Bank to discuss with stakeholders concerned before framing MPS. Kabir said that from now on the central bank would take opinions from the share market stakeholders before framing its monetary policy.

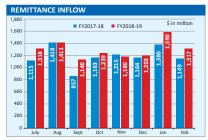
BB issues new policy to police offshore banking operations



The central bank has issued a new policy asking banks to comply with cash reserve requirement (CRR) and statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) rules for their Offshore Banking

Operations. Under the new policy, three-fourths of total outstanding offshore operations' funds will have to be invested in Bangladesh. All the banks will have to capital requirements under framework along with the implementation of Asset Liability Management (ALM) guidelines for their offshore banking operations, according to the new policy issued by the Bangladesh Bank (BB). The banks have been asked to renew the approvals of OBUs in line with the new policy by applying to the central bank within three months. The banks will have to launch their offshore banking operations within six months or the time period subsequently extended by the central bank from the issuing date of approval, the policy added.

Remittances rise by 10pc in 8 months on strong dollar



Inflow of remittances rose by 9.94 per cent in July-February in the current fiscal year compared with that of the same

period of last year amid depreciation of the taka against the dollar, prompting expatriate Bangladeshis to send money home. Bangladesh Bank data released recently showed remittance inflow rose to USD 10.40 billion in the first eight months of the fiscal year 2018-2019 against USD 9.46 billion in July-February of FY18. Monthly remittance inflow posted a healthy growth of 14.68 per cent in February rising to USD 1.32 billion from USD 1.15 billion in February a year ago as the taka lost more grounds against the dollar in the month. Remittance inflow started to pick up pace in recent months due mainly to transfer of fund by the expatriates through the legal banking channel amid rising value of the dollar.

BB finalises gold dealer guideline



The central bank has finalised a guideline for appointing authorised gold dealers (AGDs), who will be eligible to import gold bars

directly. Under the guideline, authorised dealer (AD) banks or individually-owned firms, or joint ventures or limited companies will be eligible to apply to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) for becoming ADGs. The interested business entities may collect application form from the central bank, paying BDT 0.5 million as fee. The required capital for ADG has been fixed at BDT 10 million each, and the interested parties are allowed to submit their applications to the central bank by September 30, he added. The central bank may issue the guideline shortly. On the other hand, the manufacturers of ornaments will not be able to buy gold from others, apart from the ADGs, according to a gazette notification, issued by the government earlier. The ADGs will be allowed to import gold through bonds, but for that they will have to get bond licences from the authority concerned.

BD poised to emerge as 30th largest economy: MIGA



Bangladesh is poised to emerge as the world's 30th largest economy over the next few years

with a trillion-dollar GDP, a top official of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) said recently. "In order to ensure sustained economic development, it is essential that the country is seen as a safe harbour for foreign investment, particularly in sectors that are critical towards this growth: energy, infrastructure, manufacturing and agriculture," said S Vijay Iyer, the vice-president and chief operating officer of MIGA, the political risk insurance arm of the World Bank Group. MIGA is currently exploring the possibility of building an energy efficient fertiliser plant in Narsingdi, which will produce urea from natural gas. This will help boost domestic urea production and improve agricultural production, enhance food security, and reduce environmental pollution. Overall, MIGA's guarantees have contributed significantly to harnessing private investment for power generation in Bangladesh, with an active portfolio of over USD 500 million.

BD, India to be key regional economic actors over decade



Building a pluralistic and liberal democratic society is a common challenge for both Bangladesh and India, a visiting Indian researcher said recently. Both

the countries are facing the risks of extremism and militancy, said Dr Samir Saran, president of the Delhi-based Observer Research Foundation. He was delivering a public lecture titled "India, Bangladesh and the Indo-Pacific." "Bangladesh and India need to move beyond the government to government (G2G) mechanism creating a stronger bonding within communities for greater good as the two countries will become important economic actors in the region in the next 10 years," he added. The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) organised the lecture in the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in the city. Both the courtiers can work together to serve common interests in the region, particularly in the areas of regional connectivity, infrastructure development, energy and technological development, he noted. To protect the regional interest, the two countries can work together while negotiating with global powers like the USA, China and Japan.

China to invest more than USD 50b in next 10 yrs in Bangladesh



China is expected to invest more than USD 50 billion in the next 10 to 15 years in Bangladesh's thrust sectors like energy and power, transport and

communications etc. Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi MP disclosed this in a Bangladesh-China Business Connections event, arranged by HSBC recently. The Commerce Minister said: "China has been a trusted partner of Bangladesh for a long time now. Under the leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister, Bangladesh has on boarded into the highway of development and China has been a key partner in this journey. HSBC organised the event this week, bringing successful Bangladeshi and Chinese businesses and institutions, together with economic, government, industry and financial services experts to share insights to help businesses advance their China-Bangladesh commercial strategy. Keynote speeches explored the opportunity to invest in Bangladesh, as well as market reforms in China and the Belt and Road Initiative, which are accelerating business, trade and investment activity between the two countries.

Imports up by 10pc, trend may continue ahead of Ramadan



Bangladesh's overall imports grew by nearly 10 per cent in the first seven months of this fiscal year (FY), 2018-19, following higher imports of intermediate goods

and fuel oils. The actual import in terms of settlement of letters of credit (LCs) rose to USD 32.60 billion during the July-January period of FY'19 from USD 29.65 billion in the same period of the previous fiscal, according to the central bank's latest data. However, import of intermediate goods such as coal, hard coke, clinker and scrap vessels etc, surged by 42.51 per cent to USD 3.30 billion during the period under review from USD 2.32 billion in the same period of FY '18. Import of petroleum products rose by 48.43 per cent to USD 2.43 billion in the first seven months of FY'19 from USD 1.64 billion in the same period of the FY'18. Industrial raw material import also rose by 12.36 per cent to USD 11.59 billion during the period under review from USD 10.31 billion in the same period of FY '18.

Non-profits' part in economy growing



The contribution of non-profit organisations to the national economy has been substantial in recent years as the sub-sector is growing rapidly. Such non-profits tend to provide services rather than

produce goods and they still consume goods and services just as a private company does. It usually happens when an economy booms. Non-profits like religious bodies, political parties, non-governmental organisations and clubs now contribute nearly 1.0 per cent of the USD 274-billion economy, showed the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The BBS has been including the sub-sector as 'Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households (NPISHs)' of the service sector since fiscal year 1998. BBS officials said 361,672 non-profit organisations are in operation here and their contribution to GDP amounts to BDT 274 billion per year. As many as 30.08 million people are involved in non-profits-1.4 million are paid employees. Even 77.6 per cent of the institutes are rural-focused.

Exports jump 10pc in Feb



Export earnings jumped 10.12 percent year-on-year to USD 3.39 billion in February. The figure is also 7.13 percent higher than the

monthly target of USD 3.15 billion, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). In the first eight months of 2018-19, garment export rose 14.17 percent to USD 23.12 billion, of which USD 11.50 billion came from knitwear and USD 11.63 billion from woven garment. Export receipts during the period also increased 12.98 percent year-on-year to USD 27.56 billion, which is also 7.81 percent higher than the target of USD 25.56 billion. Of the total export of garment items from Bangladesh in a year, nearly 50 percent is high-end. Exports of some other goods also increased in the last eight months. Frozen fish and live fish shipments increased by 2.87 percent year-on-year to 394.03 million. Exports of vegetables, pharmaceuticals, handicrafts, cotton products, carpets, terry towels, ceramics and furniture also rose during the period. In the eight months to February, export earnings from leather products declined by 11.5 percent year-on-year to USD 694.72 million and jute and jute goods fell by 24.36 percent year-on-year to USD 560.56 million.

Ceramic exports to EU market growing fas



Ceramic exports grew by 127 percent in the first eight months of the current fiscal 2018-19 mainly riding on the growing buying orders from European countries to

emerge as a major foreign exchange earner of the country. Chaina has so far supplied the bulk of ceramic products to the EU nation at 12 percent import duty but recently the EU has hiked the duty which is discouraging China's export and allowing Bangladesh to overtake European market. Top buyers of European Union (EU) and other countries have started to move to Bangladesh for ceramic items that pushed export earnings of the sectors to a healthy growth of USD 56.5 million in the first eight months of the current fiscal, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) data shows. Over 50 countries now buy ceramic items from Bangladesh including USA, China, Japan, Poland, India, Indonesia, Croatia, Romania, Turkey, Russia, Spain, Norway, New Zealand, Denmark, Italy, Australia and UK, EPB data shows.

RMG sector maintains positive trend in export earnings



On the back of value added products, government policy support and completion of 90 per cent factory remediation work

set by the Accord and Alliance, the Bangladeshi RMG sector is maintaining a positive trend in export earnings. In the first eight months (July-Feb) of 2018-19, garments export rose 14.17 per cent to USD 23.12 billion—USD 11.50 billion came from knitwear and USD 11.63 billion from woven garments. Export receipts during the period also increased by 12.98 per cent on a year-on-year basis to USD 27.56 billion, which is also 7.81 per cent higher than the target of USD 25.56 billion. The government announced cash incentives to the non-traditional market back in 2010, which was 5 per cent at that time. Now, the cash incentive is 4 per cent, but it has helped to retain a two-digit export growth rate. According to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Export earnings fetched 10.12 per cent year-on-year, rising to USD 3.39 billion in February.

Govt predicts GDP growth at 8.13 %



The country's GDP growth will reach 8.13 percent in the ongoing fiscal (2018-19), year **Finance** said Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal recently. In the

2017-'18 fiscal, the GDP growth was 7.86 percent. The Finance Minister said the per capita income in the country has now risen to USD 1909 from USD 1751. He said the investment ratio to GDP will stand at 31.57 percent 8.17 percent public and 23.40 percent private investment at the end of the current fiscal year. In the last fiscal year, the investment ratio to GDP was 31.13 percent. He said that the total size of the GDP in the current fiscal year will rise to BDT 25,36,177 crore from BDT 22,50,479 crore recorded in the last fiscal year. Besides, the GNI in the current fiscal year will reach BDT 26,49,786 crore and the per capita GDP USD 1,827.

ADB, PRAN sign USD 14.2m loan deal



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently signed a USD 14.2 million loan agreement to support the expansion plans

of Sylvan Agriculture Limited (SAL), a sister concern of PRAN-RFL Group (PRAN) company, to enhance inclusive agribusiness by lifting incomes and skills of farmers particularly women in Bangladesh. ADB's assistance would finance new food processing facilities to produce potato chips, potato flakes, and pasta. Under a gender action plan, womenfolk will comprise at least half of the 450 people directly employed in the new facilities. Gender wage gaps will be reduced, women's facilities introduced, and greater technological assistance provided to women farmers. The project is expected to increase contract farmers' income by at least 50 per cent expand the area they cultivate and benefit from the assurance that their production will be bought by SAL. The project is ADB's first repeat assistance to a private sector borrower in agribusiness. In 2012, ADB approved a USD 25.1 million loan to SAL for the construction of processing facilities.

Bangladesh second fastest growing economy: IMF



Bangladesh is among the three fastest growing economies in the world, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) -- in yet another thumping endorsement of the country's extraordinary growth momentum. The

economy will grow at 7.3 percent this year, which will be second highest in the world, as per the IMF report 'World Economic Outlook, April 2019: Growth Slowdown, Precarious Recovery' revealed recently. Neighbouring India will also grow at the same pace as Bangladesh but Rwanda will grow the fastest at 7.8 percent. The three countries would be the only ones in the world to log in more than 7 percent growth this year. The IMF's projection comes on the heels of the World Bank's and the Asian Development Bank's. The Asian Development Bank tipped Bangladesh to log in the fastest economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region in fiscal 2019-20.

Chemical imports rise by 25pc yearly



The country's market size of textile chemicals is about USD 864 million at the moment and is growing by 25

percent year on year basis raising safety concerns. Are these chemicals are stored in well protected foolproof warehouses to avert accidents is the burning question of the moment. The market size may grow to USD 1.38 billion by 2024 registering an 8 percent compound annual growth rate, said a global research tank called 'The Research and Markets' located in Ireland. Its findings were unveiled in a recent report titled "Bangladesh textile chemicals market by product type, by cluster, by application, competition, forecast & opportunities, 2013-2024". Local importers now supply chemicals from many countries to over 1396 textile factories as per an estimate that include 450 spinning mills, 1,200 weaving mills and 5,000 export-oriented dyeing plants. A report said chemicals imports have almost doubled in the first eight months of the current fiscal 2018-19 reaffirming the report made by Ireland based research group.



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you can bank on us

MTB PARTICIPATES IN "BANKER-SME WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR **CONFERENCE & PRODUCT EXHIBITION FAIR 2019"**





Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) has participated in a "Banker-SME Women Entrepreneur Conference & Product Exhibition Fair 2019", held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises from March 8-10, 2019 organized by Bangladesh Bank. Dr. Dipu Moni, MP and the Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education, People's Republic of Bangladesh was the Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony. Fazle Kabir, Hon'ble Governor, Bangladesh Bank was also present as the Special Guest.

Laiju Handicrafts & Tailors, represented by its Proprietor Ms. Laiju Akter, one of the women entrepreneur customers of MTB displayed their products at MTB's stall. Different banks and non-bank financial institutions participated in the product exhibition fair. Women entrepreneurs, financed by different banks and financial institutions participated in the fair and displayed their products at their respective stalls.

MTB OFFERS GUARDIAN LIFE INSURANCE FOR ITS EMPLOYEES







MTB has signed an agreement with Guardian Life Insurance Limited (Guardian Life) at a simple ceremony held at MTB Centre, 26 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 on March 18, 2019. Under this agreement, MTB employees and their dependent family members will enjoy insurance coverage and related services from Guardian Life.

M M Monirul Alam, Managing Director & CEO, Guardian Life and Anis A. Khan, Managing Director & CEO, MTB signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Tapan Chowdhury, Chief Patron, David Griffiths, Director, Md. Azimul Hague, Head of Group Insurance, Ahmed

Istiaque Mahmud, Head of Bancassurance, Rubayat Saleheen, Head of Marketing & Communication, Guardian Life and M A Rouf JP, Dr. Arif Dowla and Md. Abdul Malek, Directors, Marcus C. Gomes, Acting Group Head, HR and Azam Khan, Group Chief Communications Officer, MTB along with other senior officials from both the organizations were also present at the ceremony.

MTB SPONSORES IUB INTER SCHOOL & COLLEGE TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2019





MTB sponsored a four-day Inter School & College Tennis Tournament organized by the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) at its parmanent campus, Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka 1229 from March 15-18, 2019.

Rashed A. Chowdhury, the then Chairman, Board of Trustees, IUB as well as Former Chairman and Director, MTB, Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, ndc, President, Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation as well as Former Senior Secretary, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Prof Dr. M. Omar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, IUB and Azam Khan, Group Chief Communications Officer, MTB along with other senior officials were present at the prize giving ceremony.

MTB CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019





MTB has observed the International Women's Day 2019 on March 07, 2019 at the Samson H. Chowdhury Auditorium, MTB Tower, 111 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1000. This year, the global theme for the day is *#BalanceforBetter*, which focuses on a future to remove the structural barriers for all women and girls with a view to achieving a 'Planet 50-50 by 2030'.

Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh, Rokeya Sultana, Professor, Department of Printmaking, University of Dhaka, Nazia Andaleeb Preema, President, Women in Leadership (WIL) & Director, Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) and Hamida Akter Mily, Proprietor, Printing Point graced the day as Guests of Honor.

All female MTBians of the Corporate Head Office and Dhaka city branches, senior officials and Anis A. Khan, Managing Director & CEO, MTB attended the event.



MTB OPENS AGENT BANKING CENTRE AT ULLABAZAR, VAROTKHALI, SAGHATA, GAIBANDHA



MTB has recently opened its Agent Banking Centre at Ullabazar, Varotkhali, Saghata, Gaibandha 5751. Advocate Md. Fazle Rabbi Miah, MP, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament inaugurated the centre.

Azam Khan, Group Chief Communications Officer, MTB senior officials, managers of nearby MTB branches along with local elite, leaders of local business associations, people from different strata also attended the inauguration ceremony.

MTB OPENS CRP AGENT BANKING CENTRE AT CRP ROAD, DAGORMORA, SAVAR

MTB has recently opened CRP Agent Banking Centre at CRP Road, Dagormora, Savar 1340. Madan Mahan Karmoker, Head of Agent Banking, MTB inaugurated the centre.

Azam Khan, Group Chief Communications Officer, MTB senior officials, managers of nearby MTB branches along with local elite, leaders of local business associations, people from different strata also attended the inauguration ceremony.



MTB OPENS AGENT BANKING CENTRE AT NAPITKHALI, BOTTOLI, COX'S BAZAR



MTB has recently opened an Agent Banking Centre at Napitkhali, Bottoli, Cox's Bazar 4702. Md. Khurshed Ul Alam, Head of Chattogram Division Branches, MTB inaugurated the centre.

Madan Mahan Karmoker, Head of Agent Banking, MTB senior officials, managers of nearby MTB branches along with local elite, leaders of local business associations, people from different strata also attended the inauguration ceremony.

MTB INKS DEAL WITH SOFTWARE SHOP LIMITED (SSL)







MTB and Software Shop Limited (SSL) have recently signed an agreement at a simple ceremony held at MTB Centre, 26 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212 on January 10, 2019. Under the agreement, MTB clients will be able to pay Indian Visa Application processing fees using MTB Internet Banking service.

Anis A. Khan, Managing Director & CEO, MTB and Sayeeful Islam, Managing Director, SSL signed the agreement on of their respective organizations. Chakraborty, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SSL, Rafiqul Haq, Deputy Managing Director & Chief Business

Officer (CBO), Tarek Reaz Khan, Deputy Managing Director, Md. Shah Alam Patwary, Group Chief Information Officer (GCIO), Md. Rabiul Alam, Head of Alternate Delivery Channel (ADC), MTB along with other senior officials from both the organizations were present at the signing ceremony.



MTBiz

WORKSHOP ON "SME CREDIT AND PROCESS"



MTB has organized a daylong workshop for its employees on "SME Credit and Process" at MTB Training Institute (MTBTI), MTB Square, 210/A/1 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka 1208 on March 10, 2019.

AWARENESS PROGRAM ON "INFORMATION & CYBER SECURITY"



MTB has organized an awareness program for its employees on "Information & Cyber Security" at MTBTI, MTB Square, 210/A/1 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka 1208 on March 09, 2019.

MTBSL PARTICIPATES IN THE ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS CONFERENCE, RANGPUR



MTB Securities Limited (MTBSL) has participated in a daylong conference on "Entrepreneurs and Investors Conference, Rangpur 2019" organized by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) at Rangpur Zila Parishad Community Centre on March 09, 2019.

Dr. M. Khairul Hossain, Chairman, BSEC presided over the conference. Md Nazrul Islam Mazumder, CEO, MTBSL along with other senior officials from MTBSL attended the daylong session.

The conference is a continuation of the Investment Education Program, introduced by BSEC since January 2017. This training program is run for the investors of the capital markets in a frequency of short, medium and long terms.



INDUSTRY APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL NEWS

BDBL gets new Chairman



Former Senior Secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin ioined Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL) as Chairman of the board of directors of the served bank. He as and senior secretary secretary at different ministries namely Energy &

Mineral Resources Division, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division and Economic Relations Division (ERD). Mejbahuddin joined the civil service of Bangladesh in 1983 and served in a number of ministries at home and abroad.

Abdul Aziz elevate as AMD of SJIBL



Abdul Aziz has promoted as Additional Managing Director of Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited (SJIBL) recently. Prior to this promotion, he held the position of Deputy Managing Director. Abdul Aziz joined SJIBL as SAVP in 2005. He started his career in 1986 at NCC Bank Limited. He also

served First Security Islami Bank Limited.

Shamim elected CSE Chairman



Major General (retd) Mohammad Shamim Chowdhury was elected as Chairman of Chittagong Exchange Limited (CSE). Shamim retired from the Bangladesh Army in completing 2013, after almost thirty-five years of service. For his distinguished service to the nation and

international community, the General was decorated with fourteen operational & service awards that include one from the UN Secretary General (UN Peace Medal) and the other from US Government.

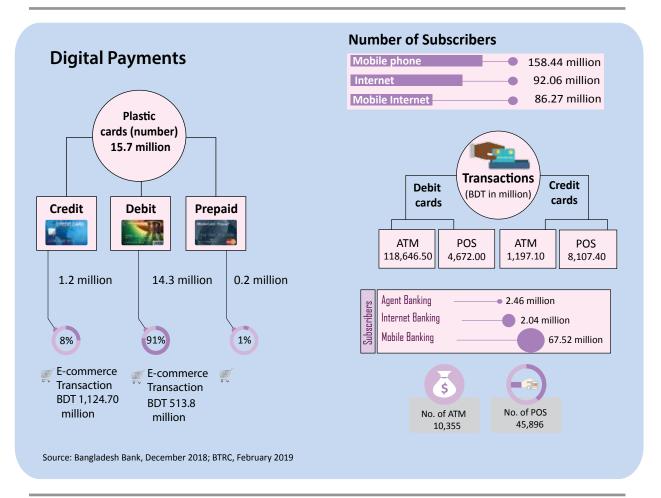
City Bank gets new AMD

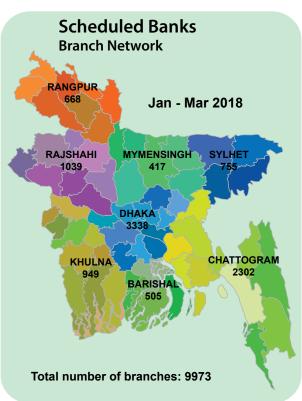


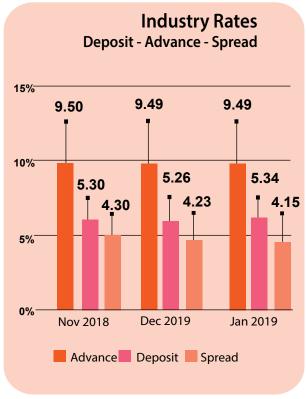
City Bank Limited has recently appointed Sheikh Mohammad Maroof Additional Managing Director. Prior to this promotion, Maroof held the position of Deputy Managing Director and Headof wholesale banking since 2012. He joined the bank as

Executive Vice President and head of treasury in 2007.

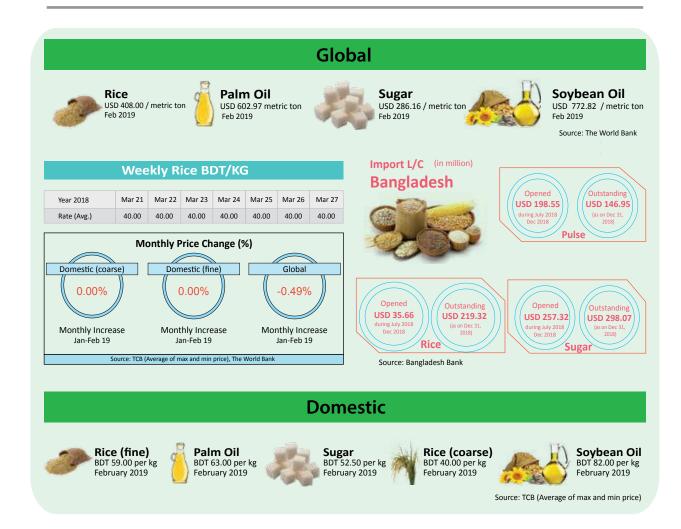








Source: Bangladesh Bank





POWER SECTOR OF BANGLADESH

AT A GLANCE (March 2019)



Generation Capacity Public Sector 52% Private Sector 48%



Distribution Loss 9.60% (June 2018)



Per Capita Generation 464 KWh



Distribution Line 5,02,000 km



Generation Capacity 21,169 MW



Access to **Electricity** 93%



Transmission Line 11,396 Circuit Kilometer



Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)	2016	2015	2014	LPG
LPG Production (BPC)	18000	18000	18000	Metric Ton
LPG Production	18000	18000	18000	
Production from Refineries	10000	11000	11000	
Production from Plants	8000	7000	7000	
Consumption by households	16000	17000	18000	
Final Consumption	16000	17000	18000	
Source: United Nations; Bangladesh Bank				

Natural Gas Reserve & Production at a glance, December 2018



Gas Initially in Place (GIIP) 35,796.19

Recoverable (2P) 28,685.40

Cumulative Production as of December 2018 16,459.09

12,226.31 Remaining Reserve upto December 2018

Gas Production in December 2018 80.66 **Bcf**

National Oil Company (NOC's) production

International Oil Company (IOC's) production

Source: Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources



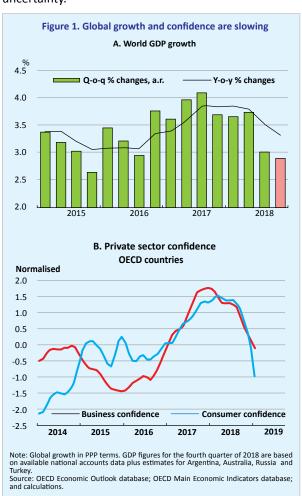
Bcf (Billion cubic feet)

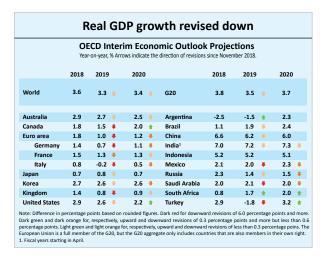
MTBiz

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

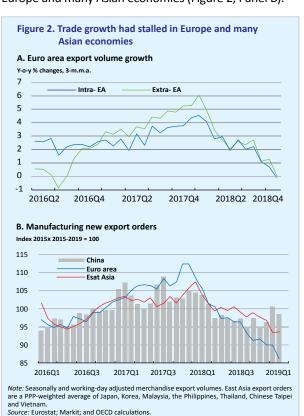
OECD Interim Economic Outlook: Global growth continues to slow as risks mount

The global expansion continues to lose momentum, amidst heightened policy uncertainty, persistent trade tensions and ongoing declines in business and consumer confidence. Global growth slowed more quickly than anticipated in the latter half of 2018, to around 3% on a quarterly basis. This was the weakest pace since mid2016 (Figure 1, Panel A), in part reflecting the deep recessions occurring in some emerging-market economies and weakness in industrial sectors. Confidence indicators have slowed markedly in OECD countries (Figure 1, Panel B), especially in the euro area and the United Kingdom, where growth has disappointed, and also in China, where concerns linger about the extent of the slowdown. One-off factors have contributed to the weakness in Europe, such as the disruption to the car sector following new vehicle-emission tests. However, business investment prospects have also weakened, reflecting declining confidence and continued policy uncertainty.





Trade growth, a key artery in the global economy, has also slowed markedly, to around 4% in 2018 from 5½ per cent in 2017, with trade restrictions having adverse effects on confidence and investment plans around the world. In Europe, trade growth has stalled, reflecting a slowdown in both external and internal demand (Figure 2, Panel A). Leading indicators suggest that near-term trade prospects are weak. Survey indicators of new export orders remain low in China and continue to decline in Europe and many Asian economies (Figure 2, Panel B).



Even in the absence of further trade restrictions, the slowdown in many key trading economies - such as Germany, China, the United Kingdom and Italy - is acting to weaken growth in their trading partners in Europe and in Asia given their importance as export markets and in regional supply chains (Figure 3).

A number of factors have cushioned the slowdown in growth. Improving labour market conditions continue to support household incomes and spending in many economies. Macroeconomic policies also generally remain supportive. Financial market conditions have improved and commodity prices are lower. The significant repricing of risk in financial markets seen at the end of last year has been partially reversed, amidst signals by major central banks that monetary policy may remain more accommodative than previously expected. Oil prices have also eased, despite continued supply restrictions by OPEC and Russia, helping to lower headline inflation around the world, and boost household real income growth.

Global growth is set to slow further this year, with downward revisions in most G20 countries

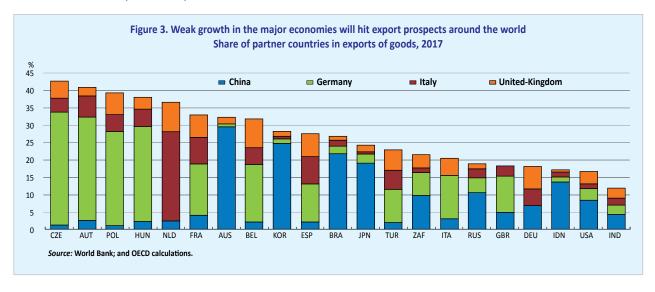
Overall, recent economic and financial developments, and the materialisation of some downside risks, suggest that global growth prospects have eased since the November Economic Outlook, especially in Europe. Global GDP growth is projected to slow from 3.6% in 2018 to below-trend rates of 3.3% this year and 3.4% in 2020, with downward revisions in most G20 economies. In the advanced economies, improved labour market conditions, lower headline inflation and supportive fiscal measures targeted at lower-income households in some countries, including France and Italy, should help to support real income growth and household spending. Monetary policy support also continues to underpin activity. However, continued

policy uncertainty and declining confidence are set to weigh further on business investment and trade prospects. Growth prospects in the emerging-market economies are collectively projected to be steady over 2019-20, but this masks diverging developments in the major economies. A gradual slowdown appears set to persist in China, despite renewed policy support, and substantial adjustment challenges are continuing in those economies hard hit by the financial market stress seen last year. In other countries, including India and Indonesia, downside risks from financial market tensions have eased, and strong investment, improving income growth and past reforms are helping to support domestic demand.

Country prospects

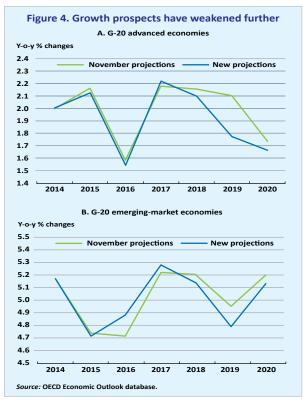
Key features of the projections in the G20 economies are:

- GDP growth in the United States is projected to moderate to around 2½ per cent in 2019 and a little over 2% in 2020 as the support from fiscal easing slowly fades. Solid labour market outcomes and supportive financial conditions continue to underpin household incomes and spending, but higher tariffs have begun to add to business costs and prices, and the growth of business investment and exports has moderated. The partial Federal government shutdown is likely to slow growth in the first quarter of 2019 but this effect will be reversed in the following quarters.
- GDP growth in Japan is set to be around ¾ per cent in 2019 and 2020. High corporate profits and severe labour shortages continue to stimulate investment, but confidence has eased and recent industrial production and export data have been very weak. Stronger social spending, the FY2018 supplementary budget, and temporary spending increases and tax cuts in the FY2019 budget will cushion part of the short-term impact of the scheduled increase in the consumption tax rate in October 2019.



ECONOMIC FORECAST

GDP growth in the euro area slowed sharply through 2018 and is projected to remain soft, at 1% in 2019 and 1.2% in 2020. Industrial output has been especially weak. Softening external demand and one-off factors contributed to the slowdown last year, but fading intra-area trade growth, high political uncertainty and moderating confidence point to an underlying demand slowdown that may persist. Wage growth and accommodative macroeconomic policies provide support for household spending, but policy uncertainty, weaker external demand and lower confidence are likely to weigh on investment. Despite the stimulus that fiscal easing will provide this year, growth has been revised down particularly sharply in Germany and Italy, reflecting their relatively high share of exports in GDP compared with that of France.



- Growth is projected to remain weak in the United Kingdom, at under 1% in both 2019 and 2020. The still-strong labour market continues to support household spending, but persisting uncertainty about Brexit and the ongoing growth slowdown in the euro area are weighing on business confidence, investment and export prospects.
- GDP growth remains resilient in Australia, but is projected to moderate slowly to around 2¾ per cent in 2019 and 2½ per cent in 2020. Continued labour market improvements, higher public infrastructure spending and accommodative financial conditions should all support domestic demand, but headwinds have started to appear from the housing market slowdown and export market growth is set to slow.

- Growth in Mexico is projected to be 2% in 2019 before picking up to 2½ per cent in 2020. Strong remittances, a rise in the minimum wage and government plans to boost infrastructure investment and revive energy production should all lift domestic demand. Further declines in inflation would offer scope for monetary policy easing.
- Growth prospects remain weak in Turkey. Output and domestic demand have declined sharply since mid-2018, following severe financial market pressures and tighter macroeconomic policies. Financial markets have stabilised and external competitiveness has improved, but weak confidence, high corporate debt service burdens, tight monetary policy and soft demand in euro area markets still weigh on domestic and external demand.
- GDP growth in China is projected to moderate gradually, to 6% by 2020. New fiscal policy stimulus is being implemented, although the extent and effectiveness of some measures is difficult to gauge, and monetary policy has eased. Scope remains for further policy support if required, but this would further delay the necessary deleveraging of the corporate sector and aggravate risks to financial stability. Recent monthly trade value data have been very erratic, in part reflecting the frontloading of some trade in 2018, but generally suggest that underlying growth has weakened, with trade tensions weighing increasingly on exports and industrial production.
- GDP growth in India has eased, but is projected to be around 7½ per cent in FY 2019 and FY 2020. Business confidence and investment remain strong, and activity should benefit from easing financial conditions, lower oil prices, accommodative fiscal policy and recent structural reforms.
- A moderate recovery is underway in Brazil, with GDP growth projected to strengthen to around 2% this year and close to 2½ per cent in 2020. Stronger business confidence, reduced policy uncertainty, disinflation and improving labour markets will all underpin domestic demand. Successful implementation of the new government's reform agenda, particularly the pension reform, remains key for a stronger revival in growth.
- Solid GDP growth is projected to continue in Indonesia, at a little above 5% per annum on average in 2019-20. Strong income growth will support private consumption, and ongoing infrastructure projects continue to underpin investment. The impact of tighter financial conditions has been mild to date and financial market conditions have improved markedly since late-2018, but slowing external demand in Asia will check export growth.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



U.S. Overview

Stumbling Off the Blocks

Although the big picture is not fundamentally different for the U.S. economy, it is now increasingly likely that GDP growth in the first quarter will come in well below the pace Wells Fargo has seen in the past several quarters. Since the last monthly forecast Wells Fargo finally have Q4 GDP numbers. Like other economic indicators, the GDP report had been delayed by the government shutdown. The takeaway from that report is growth slowed in the fourth quarter, although not as much as expected.

Since that report was released, incoming data suggest some downside risk not only in the form of downward revisions to Q4, but also lower base effects in key categories such as consumer spending, which suggests a soft start to 2019. The forecast sees Q1 GDP growth coming in at a scant 1.3% annualized clip, which, if realized, would be the slowest growth rate in more than three years.

This is partly a function of timing and an extraordinarily bad December for consumer spending. Barring another market selloff, which was likely to blame, at least partially, for households cutting back in December, Wells Fargo sees only a moderation rather than a serious slowdown for the rest of the year. The full-year growth number for 2019 is 2.4%, down just a tenth of a percentage point from the February forecast, and the expected full-year GDP growth number for 2020 is unchanged at 2.2%.

Wells Fargo still expect the FOMC's next move will be to raise rates, and Wells Fargo still expect that rate hike to be in Q3.

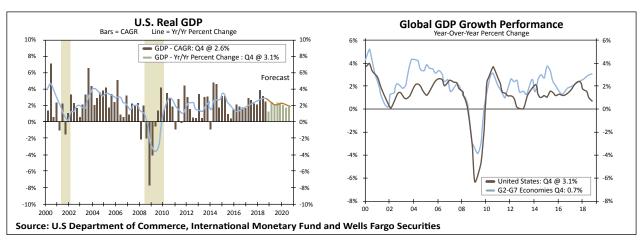
International Overview

Slow Motion Global Expansion

While the U.S. economy held up reasonably well in Q4, signs of slower growth were widespread across the globe. Other major economies in Europe, North America and Asia registered only marginally positive growth late last year, while China's economy extended its ongoing gradual and orderly economic slowdown.

Against this backdrop of slower international growth, many foreign central banks have adopted a more dovish stance. Most notably the European Central Bank (ECB) has signaled that policy rates may now be on hold through all of 2019, and also announced a new round of targeted long-term loans. The Bank of Canada (BoC) said that the timing of future rate hikes had become more uncertain, while central banks in Australia and New Zealand have explicitly acknowledged in recent months that the next move in policy interest rates could be up or down.

Given the slowdown, is global tightening permanently off the table, and is sustained global easing now a prospect? Wells Fargo believes the answer is no. Even with slower growth, the forecast for calendar 2019 anticipates that many major economies will grow close to (or above) their potential or trend growth rates. In the opinion that argues against extended easing, and indeed on a growth pick-up global, tightening could resume. Thus, while the forecast timing has been pushed back, Wells Fargo still expects rate hikes from the ECB and BoC for example. The Bank of Japan's policy could stay on hold, however, given the approaching consumption tax increase. With many countries growing close to trend the global GDP growth forecasts have fallen only slightly, to 3.4% in 2019 and 3.3% in 2020.



Together we'll go far





Front-End Load: A front-end load is a commission or sales charge applied at the time of the initial purchase for an investment, usually with mutual funds and insurance policy purchases. It is deducted from the investment amount and, as a result, lowers the size of the investment. Front-end loads are paid to investment intermediaries, such as financial planners, brokers and investment advisors, as sales commissions; as such, these sales charges are not part of a mutual fund's operating expenses.

Historical volatility: HV. Degree or level of up and down movement in a value over time. In securities trading, it refers to price fluctuation over a standard period such as a day, week, month, quarter, or year. Historical volatility is computed by taking the standard deviation of price changes over the chosen period and is usually compared with the implied volatility in pricing an option. It is directly related to the level of risk associated with a security: low HV means low risk, and high HV means high risk, also called statistical volatility.

Off-Balance-Sheet Financing: In off-balance-sheet financing, large capital expenditures are kept off a company's balance sheet to keep the debt to equity (D/E) and leverage ratios low, especially if the inclusion of a large expenditure would break negative debt covenants. Examples of off-balance-sheet financing include joint ventures, research and development (R&D) partnerships, and operating leases, where the asset itself is kept on the lessor's balance sheet, and the lessee reports only the required rental expense for use of the asset.

Leaseback: Arrangement in which one party sells a property to a buyer and the buyer immediately leases the property back to the seller. This arrangement allows the initial buyer to make full use of the asset while not having capital tied up in the asset. Leasebacks sometimes provide tax benefits. Also called sale and leaseback.

Domicile: A domicile is a person's primary residence for tax purposes, and it is established, in part, via a driver's license, voter registration and bank accounts. It may also be the address of record for credit cards and other bills. Although most people do, it is not necessary that people live in their listed domiciles.

Underwriter: An investment bank that acts as an intermediary between the issuing company and the investors who purchase the company's debt instruments and/or stock at the Initial Public Offering (IPO). The underwriter buys the newly issued securities from the company and sells them to investors on the secondary market through a stock exchange.

Umbrella fund: An umbrella fund is an investment fund containing several distinct sub-funds which in effect are traded as individual investment funds in a different market or country. It is an investment fund that invests in other funds rather than in direct investments. Umbrella fund was originally developed in the European investment management industry. An umbrella fund is sometimes known as a fund of funds. The umbrella fund structure makes it cheaper for depositors to move from one sub-fund to another.









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