



GLOBAL RATINGS

A subsidiary of CARE Ratings Limited

CareEdge

► Global Economy Update

February 2026



Contents

1 International Landscape

- [Modest Upward Revision in 2026 Growth Forecasts](#)
- [Emerging Economies Dominate the Trade Space](#)
- [The AI Wave](#)

2 APAC

- [APAC: Elections Are a Monitorable](#)
- [China: Yuan Rallies, but Domestic Headwinds Persist](#)
- [India: Centre's Commitment to Fiscal Consolidation Continues](#)
- [Australia: Inflation Pressures Culminate in Renewed Rate Tightening](#)
- [Indonesia: Investor Confidence Wanes as Stocks and Currency Slide](#)

3 The Americas

- [US: Dollar and Consumer Confidence Edges Lower](#)
- [Canada: China Trade Reset with US Strings Attached](#)
- [Brazil: Higher Primary Income Deficit Continues to Put Pressure on Current Account](#)

4 Europe

- [EU-US Relations: Evolving Dynamics](#)
- [Greece: Fiscal Performance has Improved Markedly in Recent Years](#)

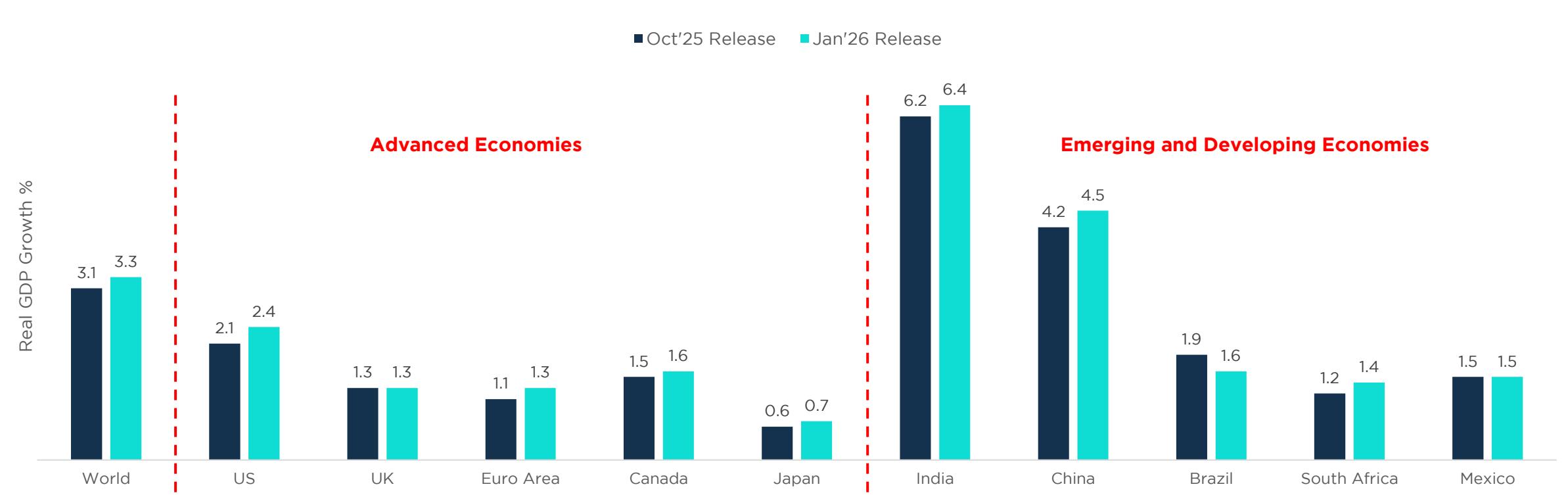
5 Africa

- [Egypt: Quarterly Growth Exceeds 5% for the First Time in 3 Years](#)
- [Morocco: Rising Tourist Arrivals and Earnings Reinforce Tourism Upswing](#)

6 CareEdge Global Sovereign Ratings

≡ International Landscape

IMF WEO: Real GDP Growth Projections Up for Almost All Economies

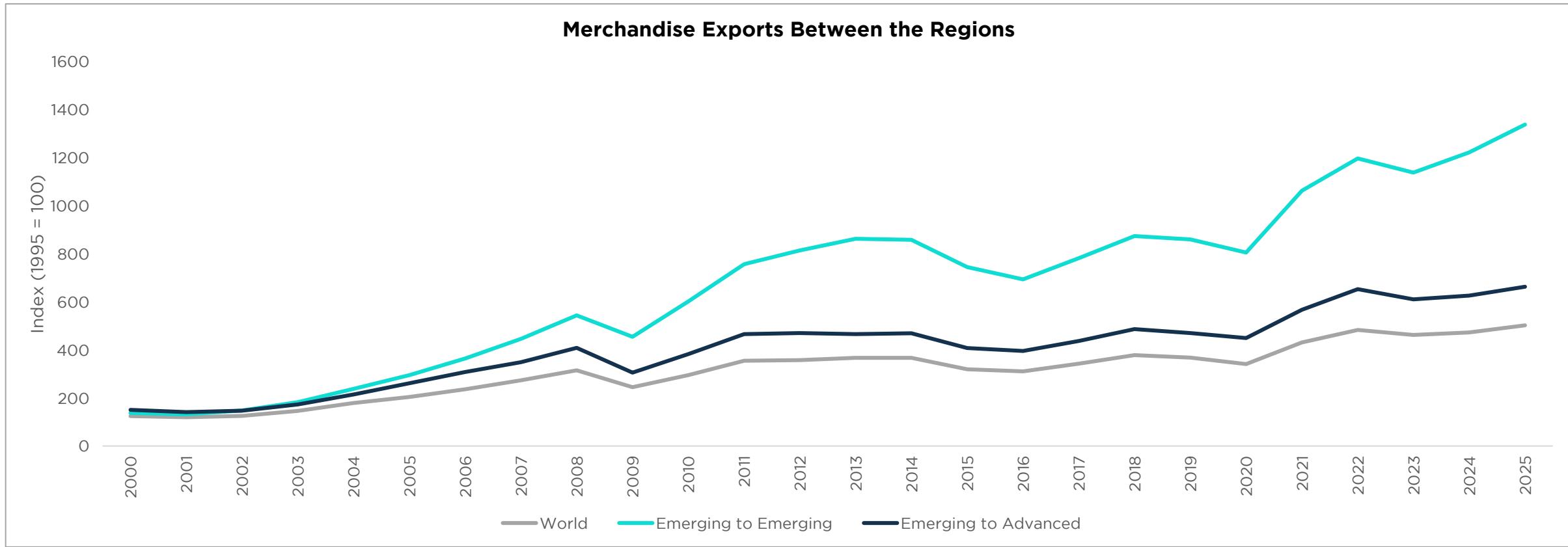


Source: IMF WEO, CGIL

Note: India data is presented on a fiscal year basis

- Global growth is projected at 3.3% for 2026, following a year of positive surprises and successive upward revisions through 2025 despite elevated uncertainty.
- Early headwinds from trade policy uncertainty are increasingly being offset by a surge in technology and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven investments.
- Major economies, including the US, Euro Area, China and Japan, are expected to gain additional support from the ongoing fiscal stimuli.
- However, risks remain, particularly from any renewed escalation in trade tensions, a potential reassessment of AI-driven productivity gains, rising domestic political uncertainty and broader geopolitical strains.

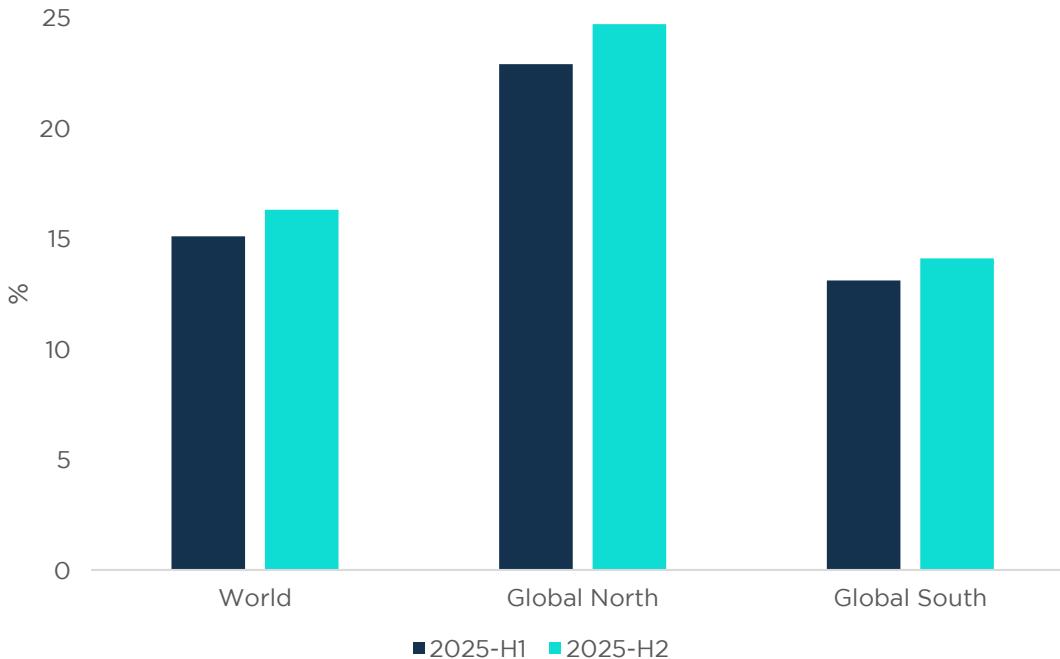
Emerging Economies Dominate the Trade Space



Source: UNCTAD

- Merchandise exports among the emerging economies increased at a CAGR of nearly 10% between 2000 and 2025, compared with about 6% growth in trade between emerging and advanced economies.
- Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America are strengthening their links. Deeper inter-regional trade can help offset weaker demand in advanced economies and boost resilience.
- Middle-class expansion is turning the emerging economies into fast-growing consumer markets for goods, tech and services.

Global North Takes the Lead in AI Diffusion Rates



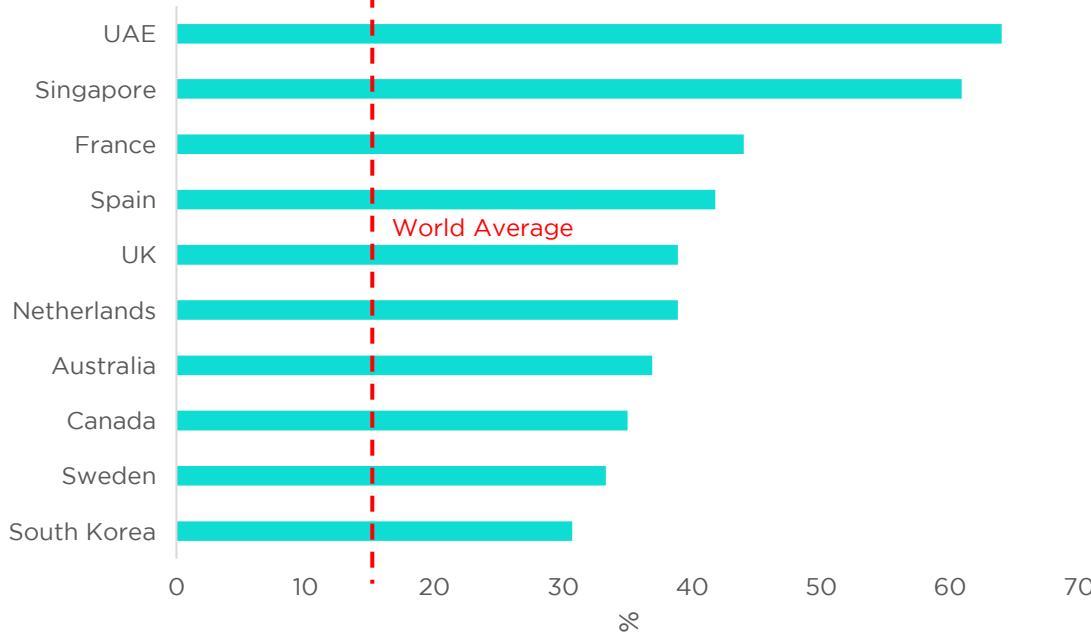
Source: Microsoft AI Economy Institute

Note: AI diffusion rate refers to the share of a country's population that has used a generative AI product during the reporting period.

Global North and South represent countries in Northern and Southern hemispheres, respectively.

- The global AI adoption rate climbed to 16.3% by the second half of 2025.
- However, adoption gaps are widening as uptake in the Global North has been expanding nearly twice as fast as in the Global South.
- The key challenge is to ensure the next wave of AI innovation delivers broad-based, inclusive gains, rather than deepening digital and economic divides.

Top 10 Countries by AI Diffusion Rates as of 2025-H2



Source: Microsoft AI Economy Institute

Note: AI diffusion rate refers to the share of a country's population that has used a generative AI product during the reporting period.

≡ APAC

Thailand (Feb 08)

- Early general election triggered by parliamentary dissolution highlights political instability.
- Voter priorities on cost of living and weak economic growth intensify the risk of policy shifts amid a fragmented political landscape.



Japan (Feb 08)

- The LDP's recent snap election represents a political strategy to seek a parliamentary majority.
- However, its timing at the start of the Diet session and ahead of budget deliberations is a monitorable, as it could delay the passage of the FY26 budget.

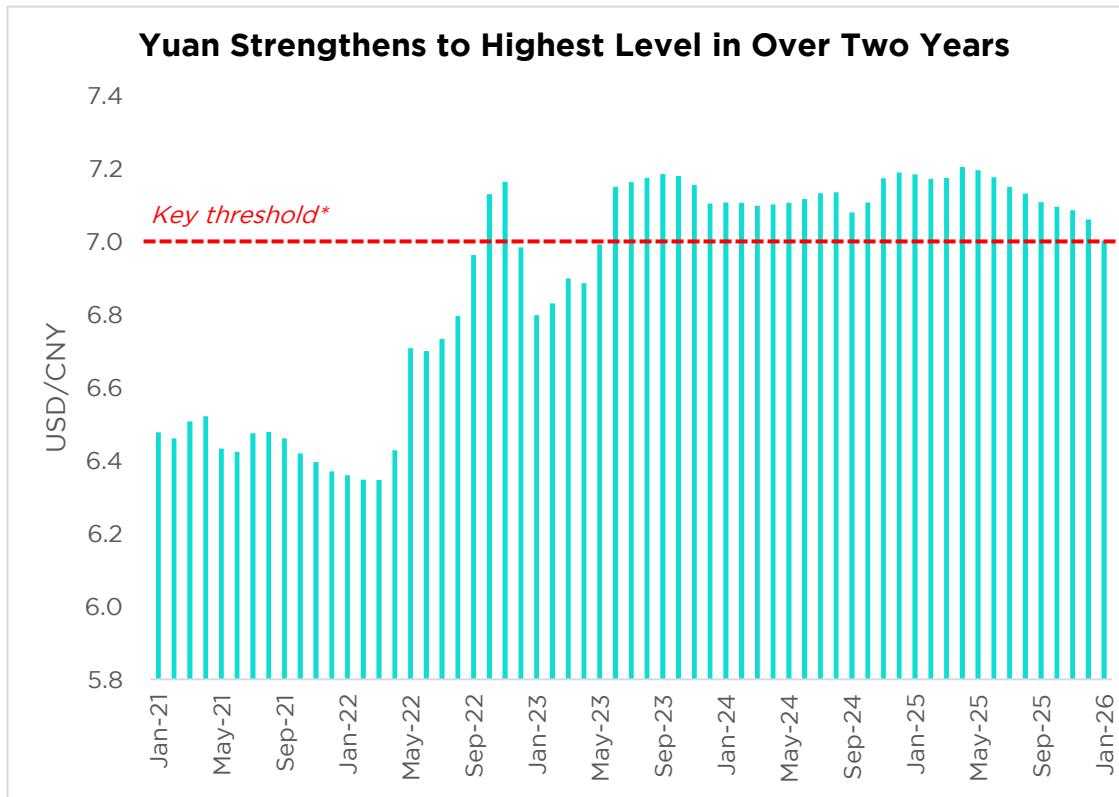


Bangladesh (Feb 12)

- Pre-election political tensions raise uncertainty over the credibility and stability of the electoral process.
- India's decision to halve financial assistance signals diplomatic strains and weaker external support.

Source: CGIL

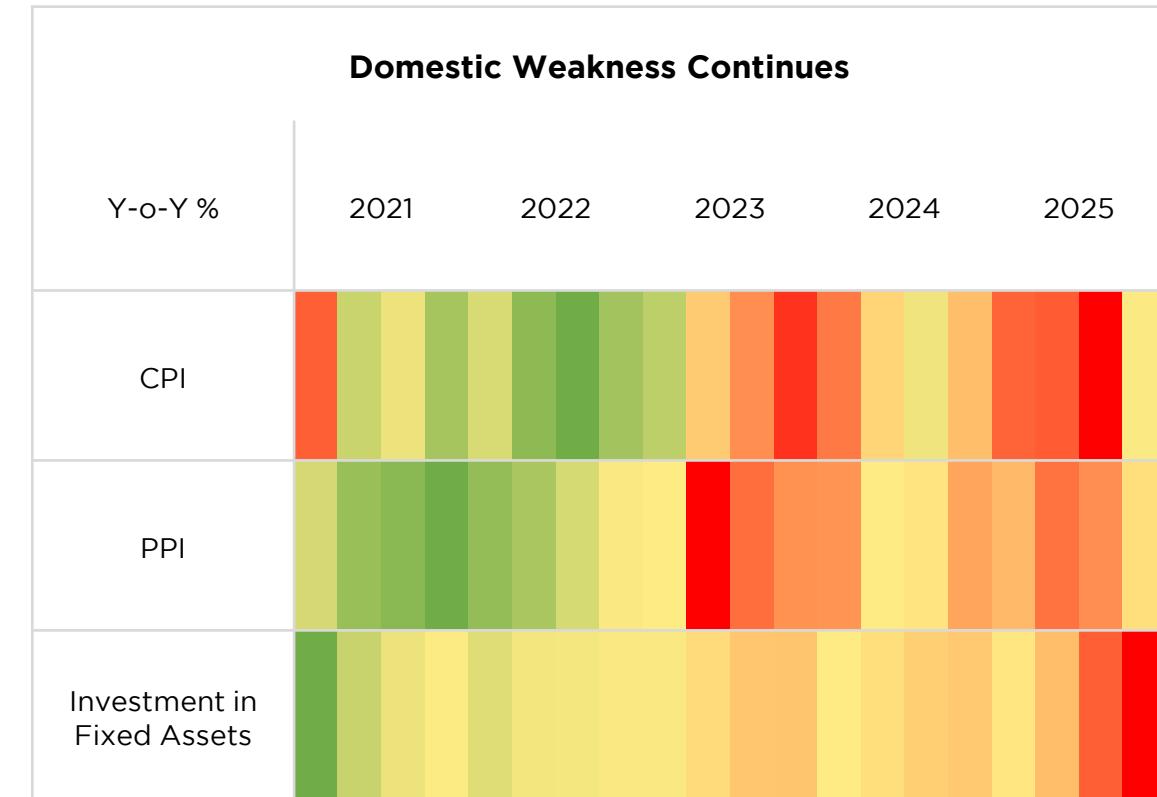
- For a detailed report on Japan, refer to - [CGIL_Rating_Rationale_Japan](#)



Sources: Haver Analytics, State Administration of Foreign Exchange, CGIL

Note: Data represents monthly average

* The 7.0 level is perceived by markets as a key psychological threshold for USD/CNY



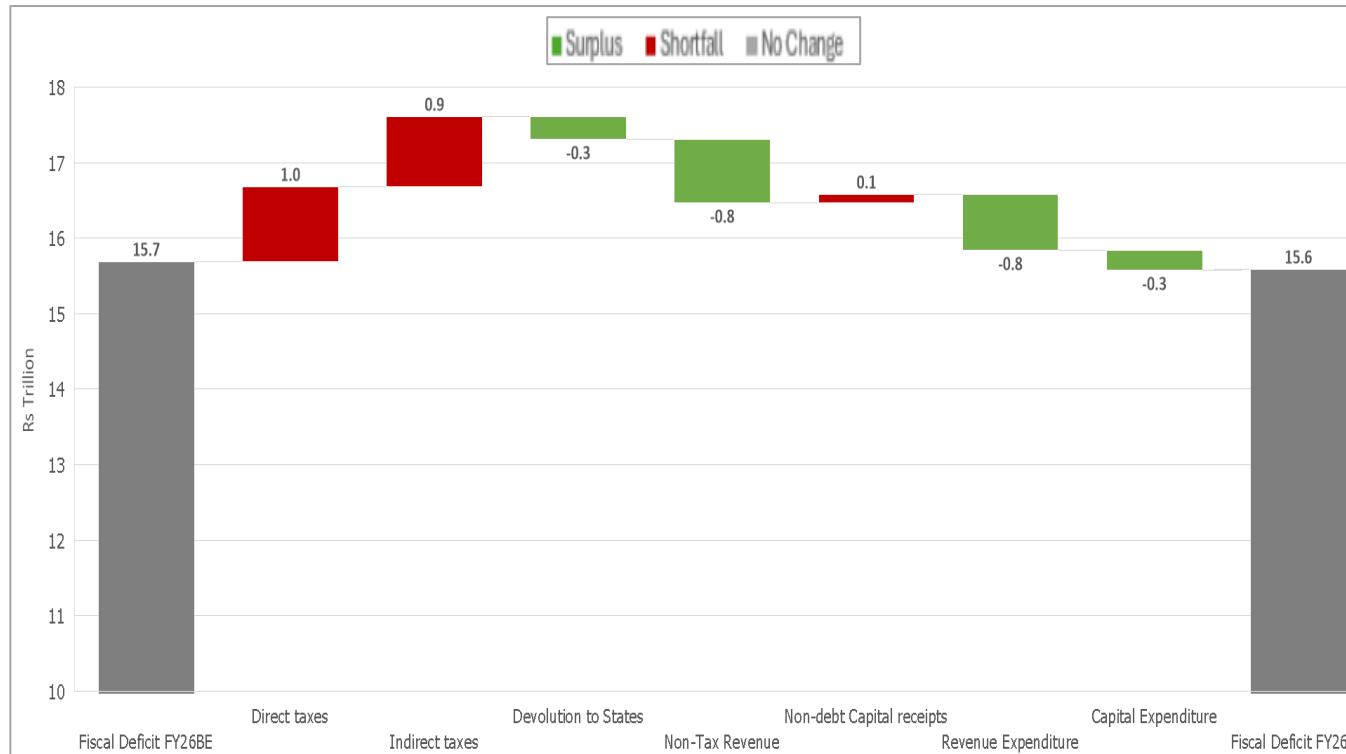
Sources: Haver Analytics, China National Bureau of Statistics, CGIL

Note: Data represents quarterly average. Red indicates deflationary pressures and lower fixed asset investment.

- The yuan has strengthened against the dollar by nearly 4% in the past 12 months, aided by stronger PBOC daily fixings and record net exports.
- However, China's domestic economy remains under pressure: inflation stays subdued and fixed-asset investment is contracting.
- Lifting domestic demand remains a policy priority.

India: Centre's Commitment to Fiscal Consolidation Continues

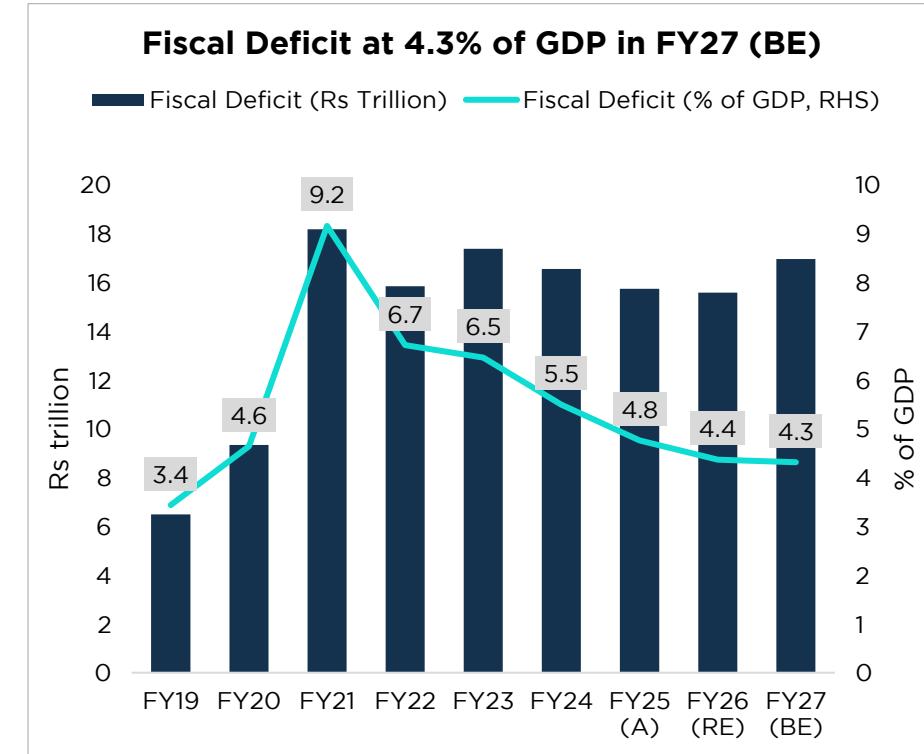
Contribution to Changes in Fiscal Deficit (FY26 RE over FY26 BE)



Source: Union Budget Documents; CGIL

Note: (RE): Revised Estimate; (BE): Budget Estimate

Fiscal Deficit at 4.3% of GDP in FY27 (BE)

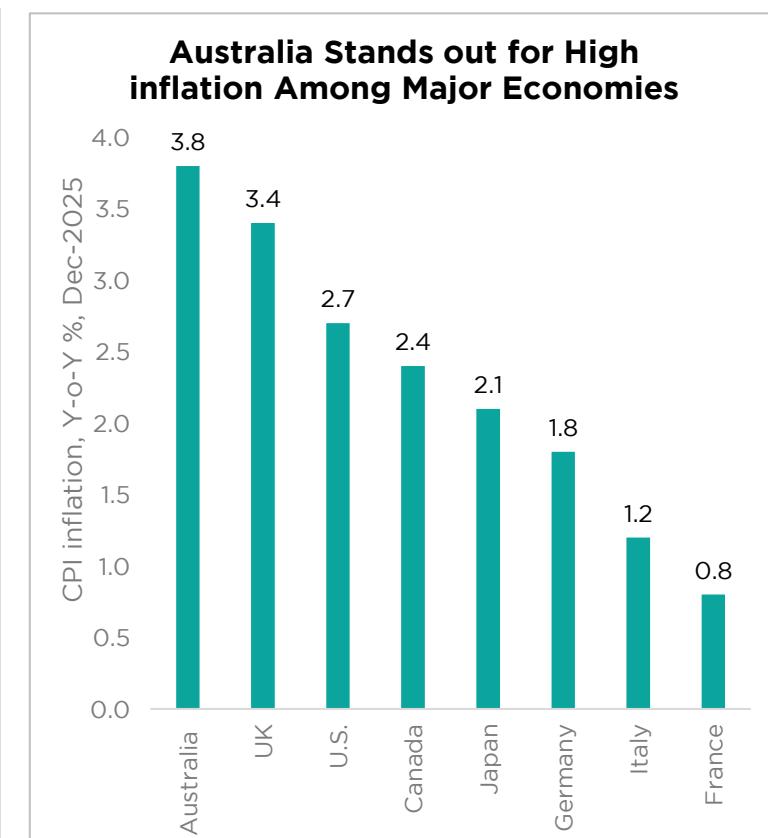
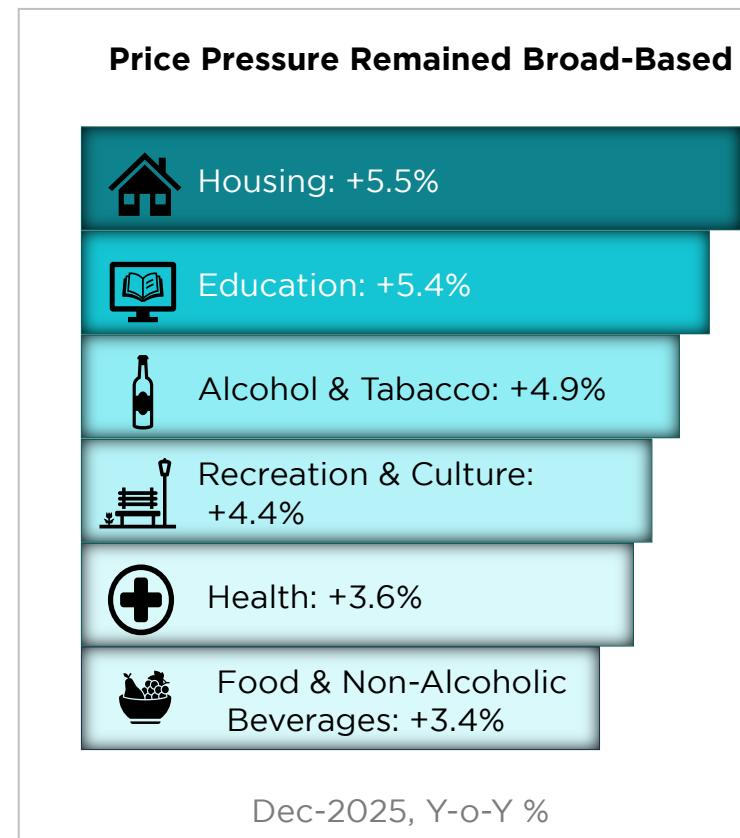
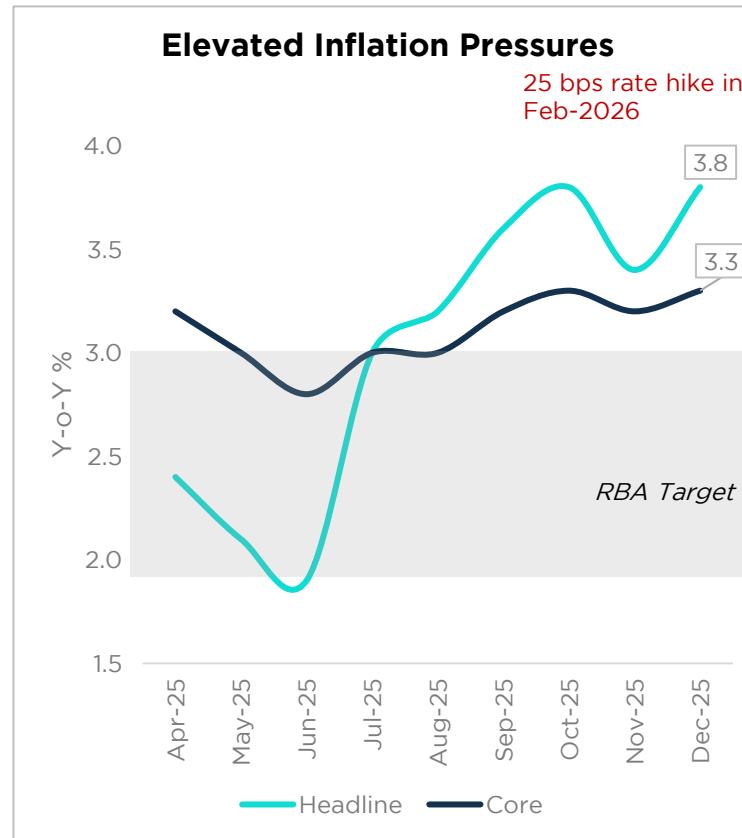


Source: Union Budget Documents; CGIL

Note: (RE): Revised Estimate; (BE): Budget Estimate

- Despite weaker tax and subdued divestment in FY26, the Centre achieved its 4.4% fiscal deficit target due to lower spending and higher RBI dividend.
- Fiscal deficit to GDP budgeted lower at 4.3% in FY27. The Centre's fiscal deficit target looks reasonable.
- This will reduce the Centre's debt-to-GDP ratio to 55.6% in FY27 from 56.1% in FY26.

Australia: Inflation Pressures Culminate in Renewed Rate Tightening



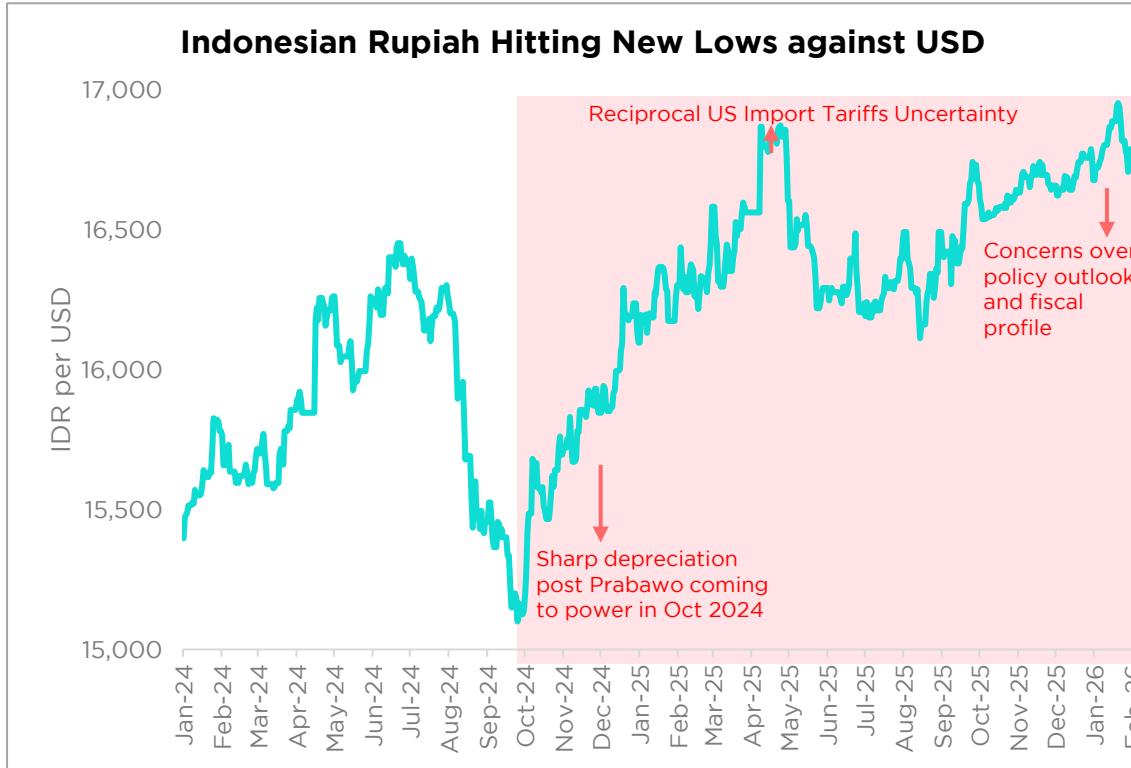
Sources: Havers Analytics, ABS

Sources: Havers Analytics, ABS

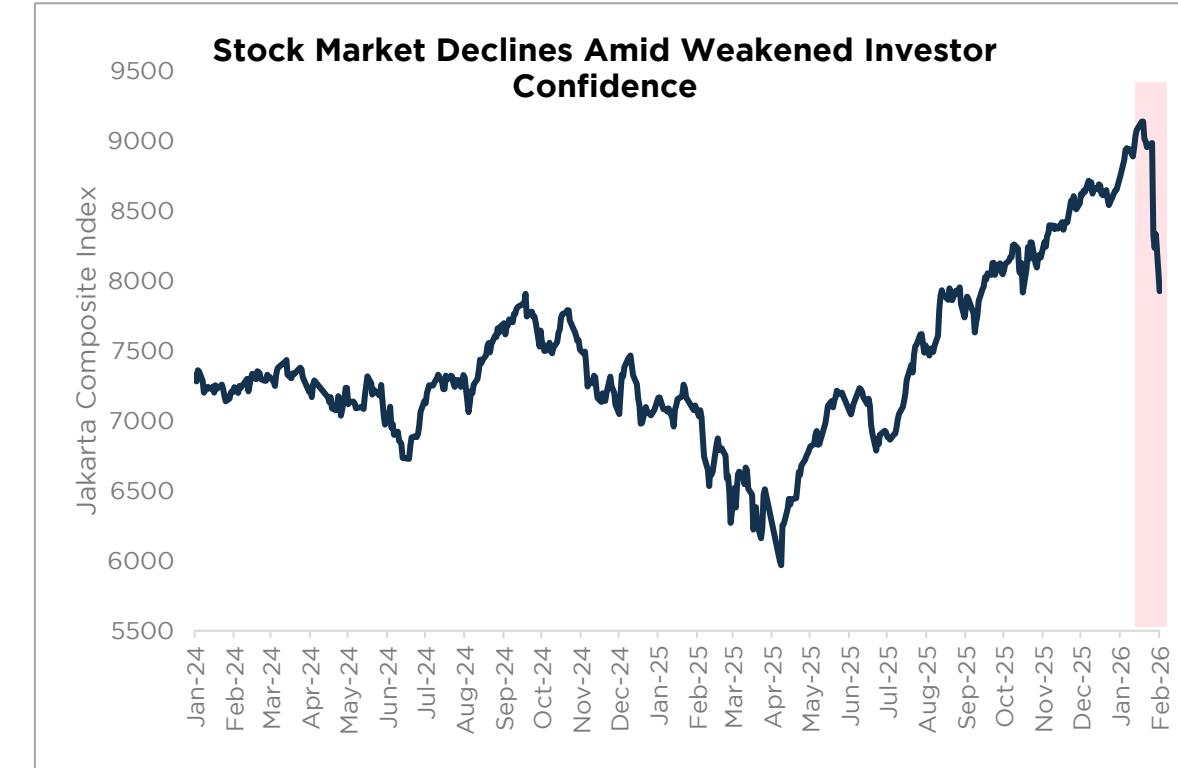
Sources: Havers Analytics

- Inflation pressures strengthened in late-2025, with headline inflation rising to 3.8% y-o-y in December and core inflation firm at around 3.3% y-o-y.
- The RBA cut rates thrice in 2025 by 75 basis points (bps) to 3.6%, but firmer inflation dynamics subsequently led to a 25 bps rate hike to 3.85% in February 2026.
- Australia's inflation remains high relative to peers, with headline inflation exceeding that of most G7 advanced economies.

Indonesia: Investor Confidence Wanes as Stocks and Currency Slide



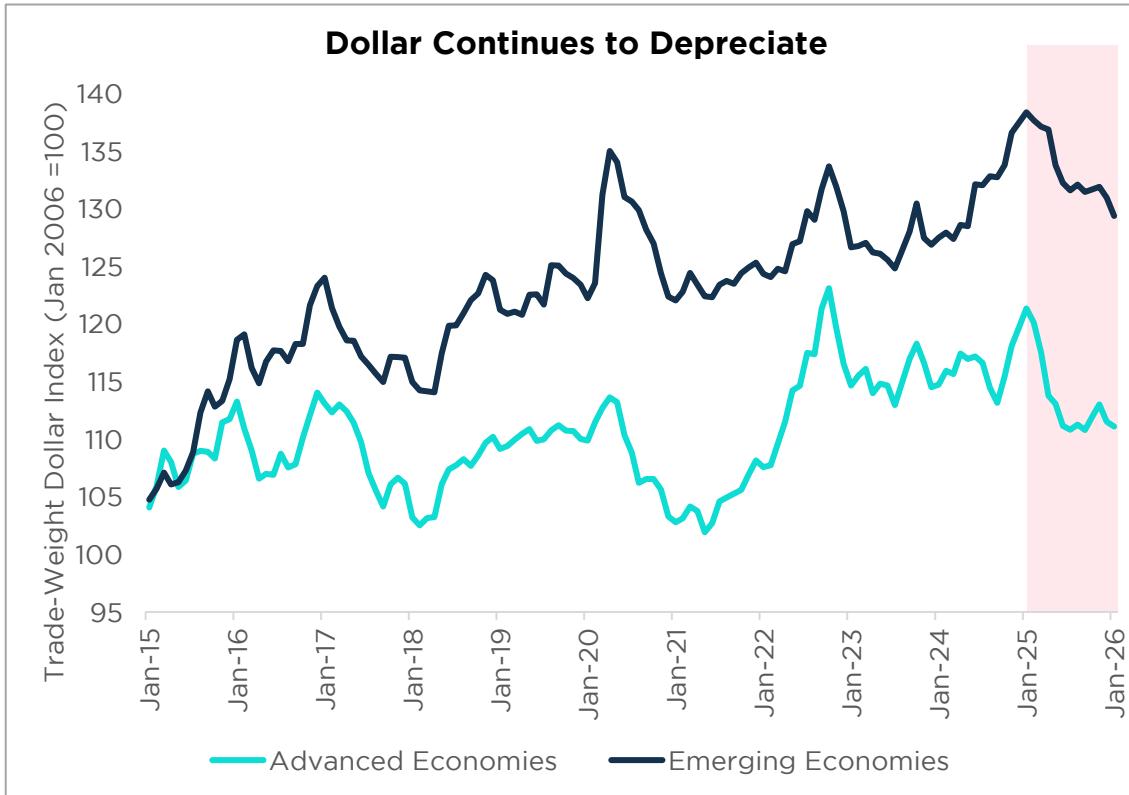
Sources: Refinitiv, CGIL



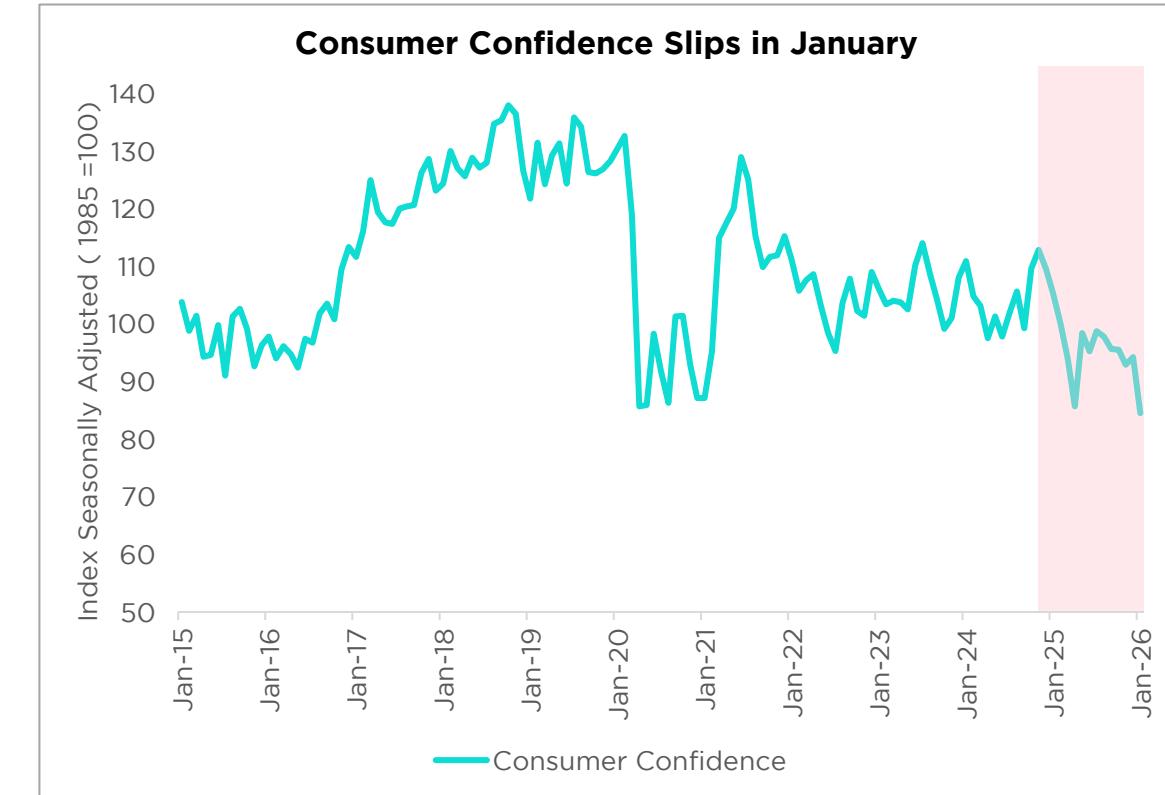
Sources: Refinitiv, CGIL

- Indonesia's equity market saw its sharpest two-day decline since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis in February 2026, driven by concerns over a potential MSCI downgrade from emerging market to frontier market status, citing issues around market opacity and investability.
- Parallelly, the rupiah continues to fall to record lows despite continued central bank intervention and depreciated by 10.4% between October 2024 and February 2026.
- These concerns, as reflected in the currency and equity markets, stem from mounting fiscal pressures with the expectation of widening fiscal deficit in FY26, driven by rising social expenditure and prolonged weakness in revenue collections.

≡ Americas



Sources: Haver Analytics, Federal Reserve Board, CGIL

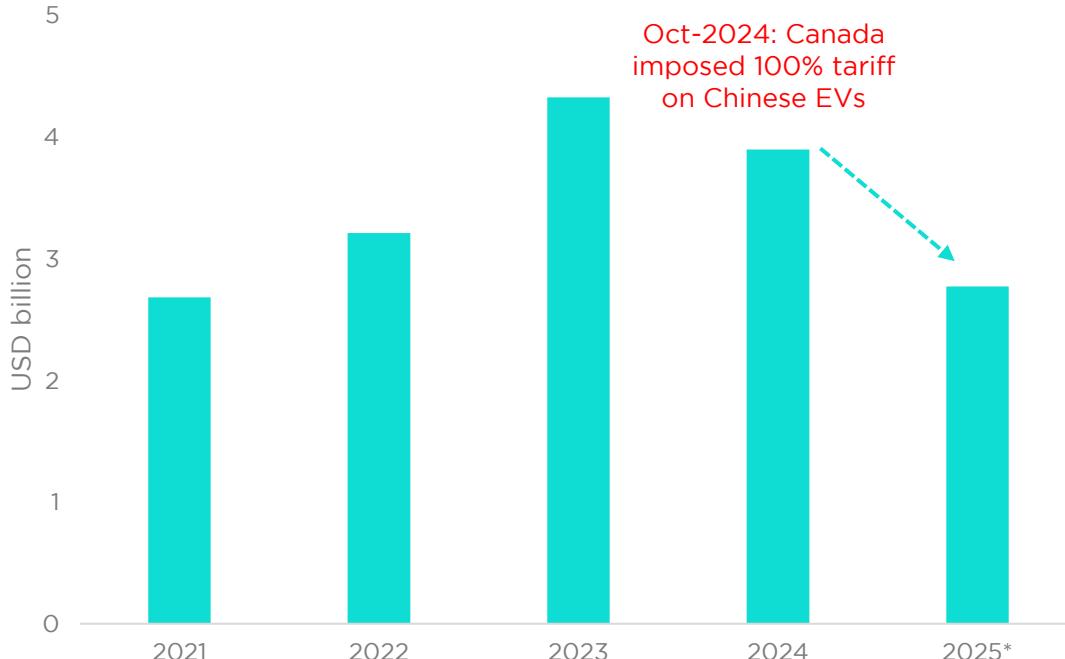


Sources: Haver Analytics, The Conference Board, CGIL

- The trade weighted dollar index fell around 4.7% and 7% in 2025 against advanced and emerging economies' currencies, respectively. The US dollar observed a notable depreciation throughout 2025 and continues to do so in 2026.
- Fiscal, institutional and trade policy concerns are weighing on the US dollar. President Trump has signaled comfort with a weaker currency to support exports.
- Policy uncertainty is also denting consumer confidence.

Canada: China Trade Reset with US Strings Attached

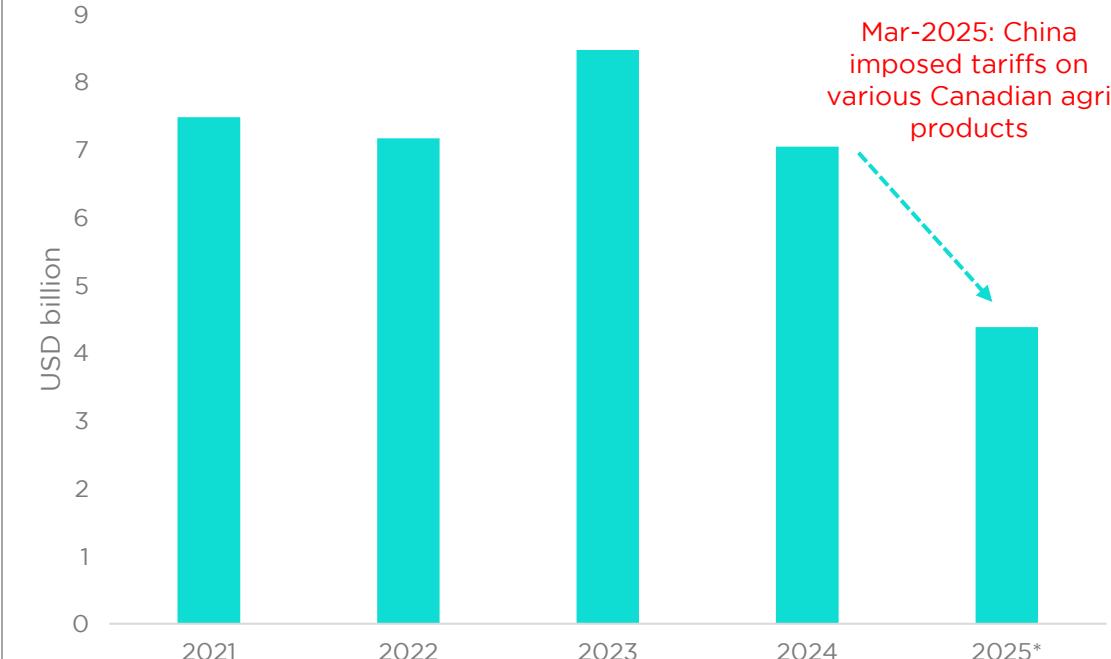
Canada's Auto Imports from China Fell after EV Tariffs



Sources: Haver Analytics, Statistics Canada, CGIL

* As of November 2025

China's Retaliation Hit Canada's Agri Exports

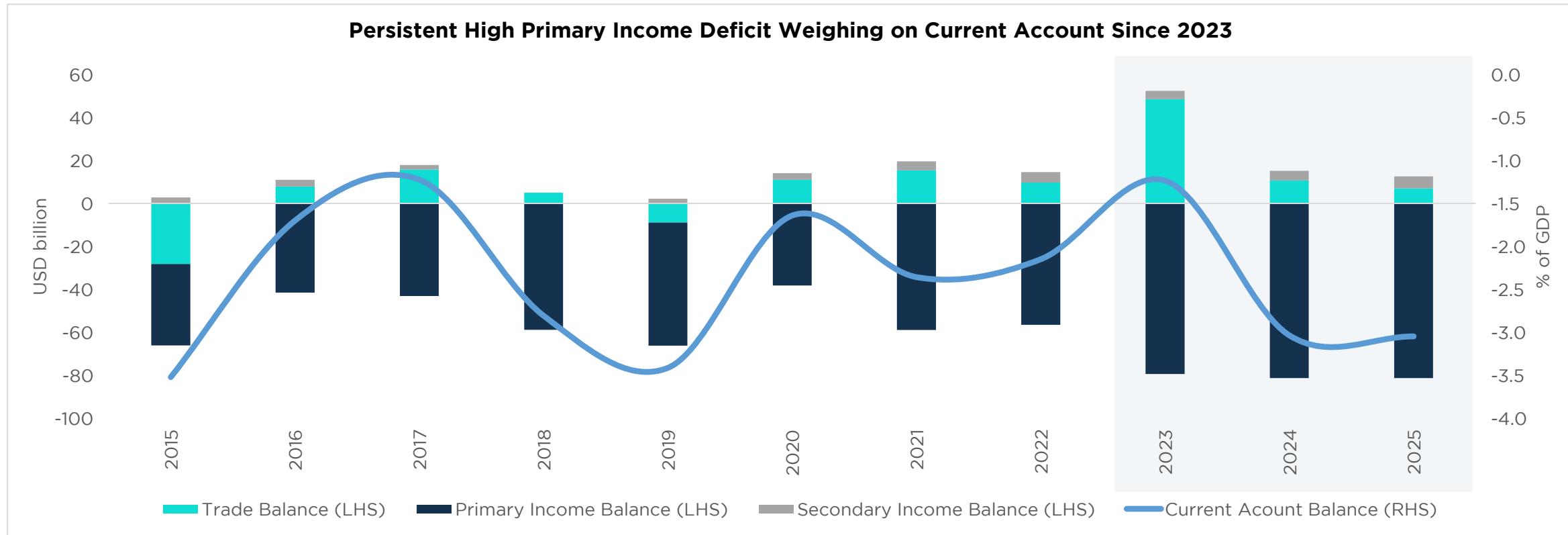


Sources: Haver Analytics, Statistics Canada, CGIL

* As of November 2025

- China is Canada's second-largest trading partner and its second-largest global market for agriculture, forest and seafood products.
- Canada-China deal sharply cuts previously imposed tariffs on Chinese EVs from 100% to 6.1% (up to 49,000 cars) and on key Canadian agri exports from 85% to 15% (by March 1, 2026), which could improve near-term trade flows.
- However, Canada faces pressure, with President Trump threatening 100% of tariffs on Canada in the event of a deal with China. This is especially significant with the 2026 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) review looming.

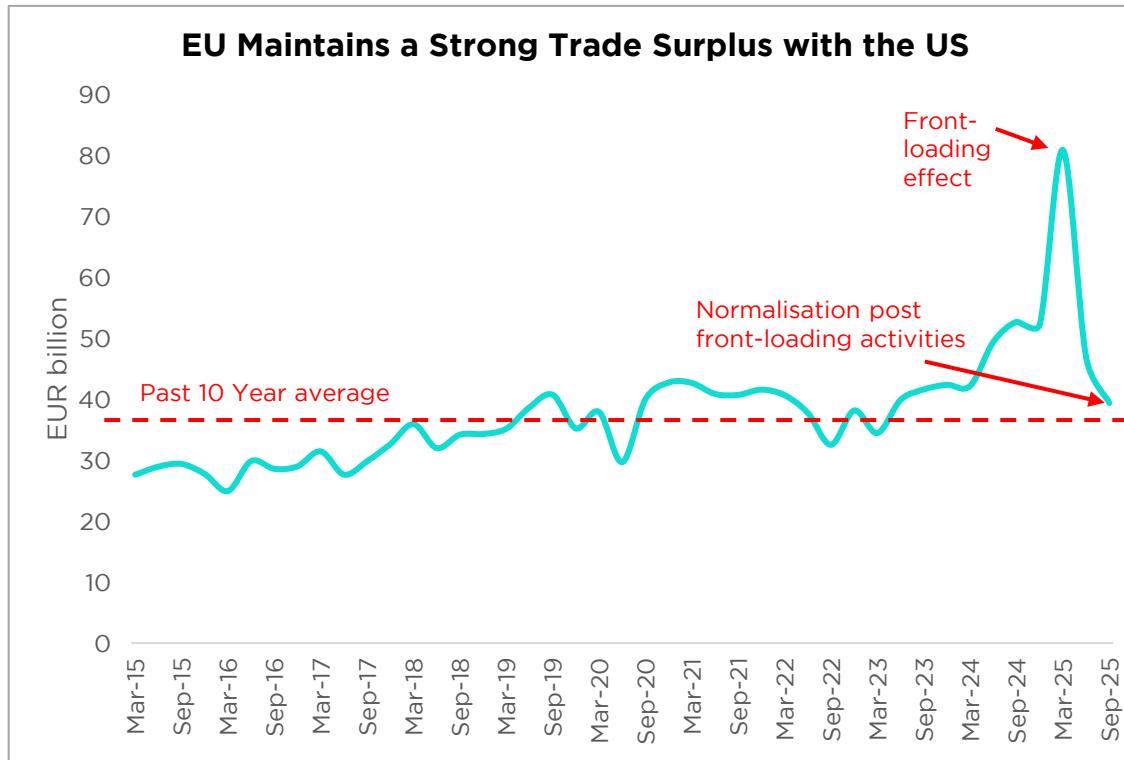
Brazil: Higher Primary Income Deficit Continues to Put Pressure on Current Account



Sources: Haver Analytics, Banco Central do Brasil, CGIL

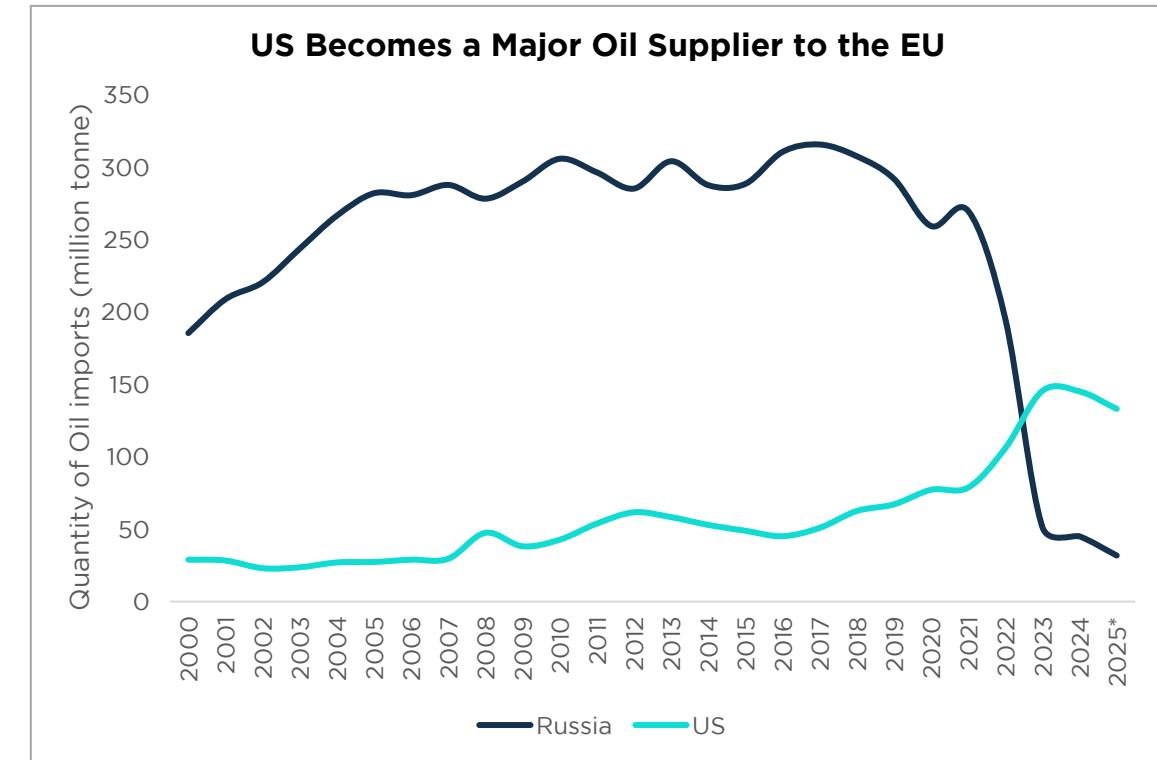
- The current account deficit stood at 3.1% of GDP (Primary Estimate) in 2025, largely unchanged from 2024, but elevated compared with the 2020–2023 period.
- Primary income deficit continued to weigh on the current account balance in 2025, it remained at USD 81.3 bn (3.6% of GDP). It has been high since 2023, driven partly by a decline in Brazil's foreign income from abroad.

≡ Europe



Sources: EuroStat, CGIL

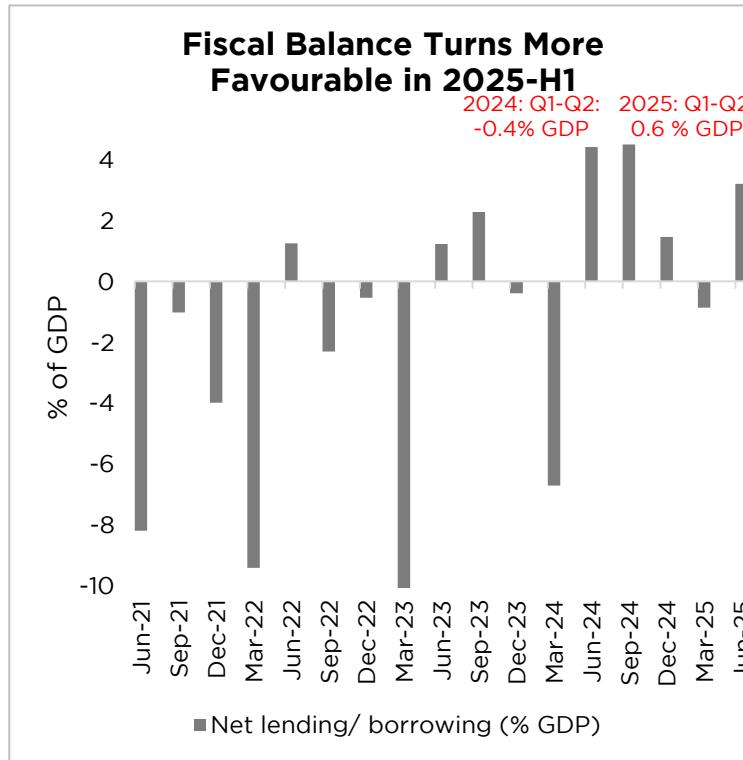
- The US remains an important export market for the EU.
- Post Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the reduction of Russian energy supplies, the EU increased its oil imports from the US, partially offsetting lost volumes and strengthening their trade linkages.
- However, with the resurgence of tariff tensions tied to the Greenland dispute, transatlantic economic cooperation has come under strain and become a point of concern for broader EU-US strategic ties.



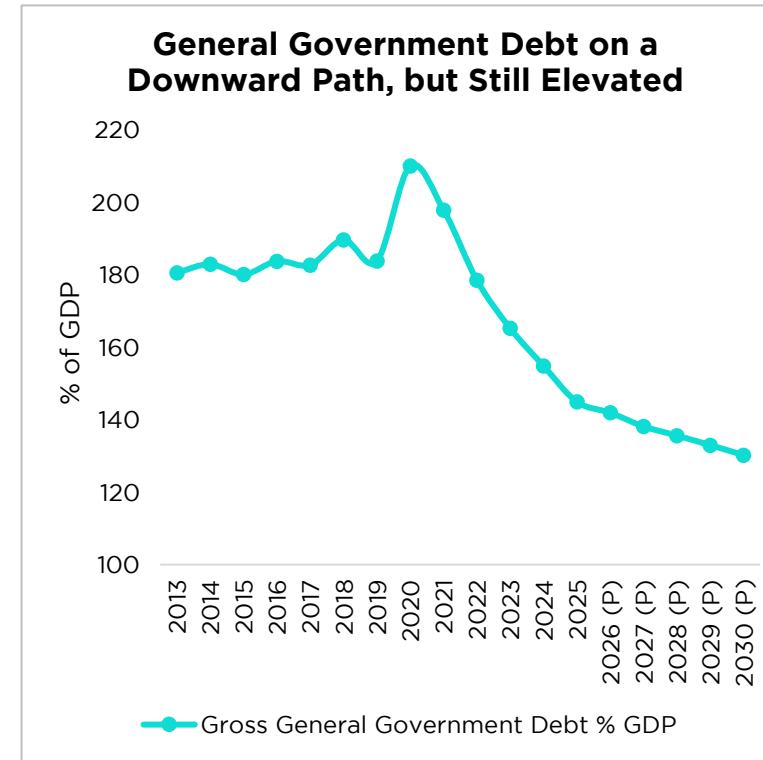
Sources: EuroStat, CGIL

Note: *Data for 2025 until November.

Greece: Fiscal Performance has Improved Markedly in Recent Years



Source: Havers, ECB



Source: Havers, IMF
Note: P = IMF Projections

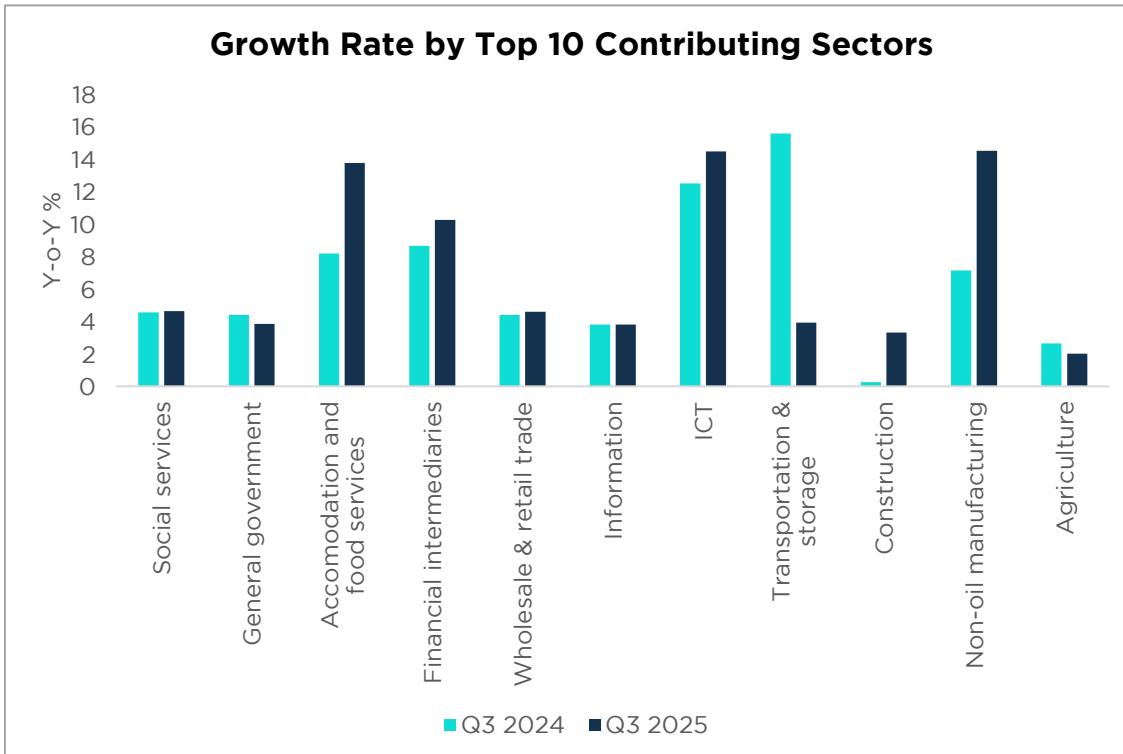
Year	Early Debt Repayments
2021	Prepayment of EUR 3.4 billion owed to the IMF regarding repurchases carrying high-interest rate charges and surcharges.
2022	Fully repaid remaining IMF obligations due by end-2024. Repaid €2.65bn due in 2023, of loans granted from euro area countries participating in the Greek Loan Facility (GLF).
2023	€5.3bn in GLF loans due in 2024 and 2025
2024	€4bn prepayment in the first half of 2024. Further, in December 2024 prepaid €7.9bn in GLF loans due in 2026–2028, improving debt sustainability and reducing rollover risk.
2025	Early repayment of €5.3bn from its first bailout loans, originally maturing beyond 2031.

Source: IMF, PDMA, Greece

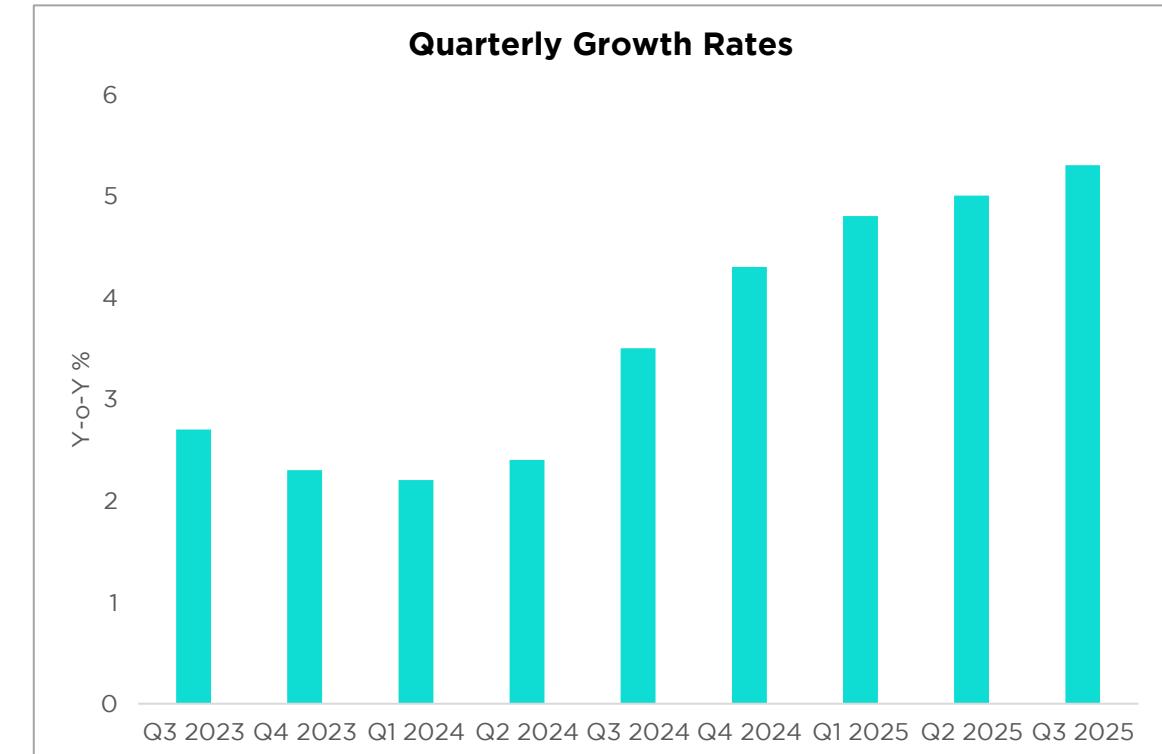
- The general government balance turned positive in 2024, recording a surplus of 1.3% of GDP, compared with an average deficit of -5.4% of GDP during 2020–23.
- The momentum continued into 2025, with the GG fiscal balance recording a surplus of around 0.6% of GDP in the first half of 2025, compared with a deficit of -0.4% of GDP over the same period in 2024.
- The debt-to-GDP ratio declined significantly from over 190% of GDP in 2018 to 144.9% in 2025, supported by strong nominal GDP growth, sustained primary surpluses and proactive debt management.
- For a detailed report, refer to - [CGIL Rating Rationale Greece](#)

≡ Africa

Egypt: Quarterly Growth Exceeds 5% for the First Time in 3 Years



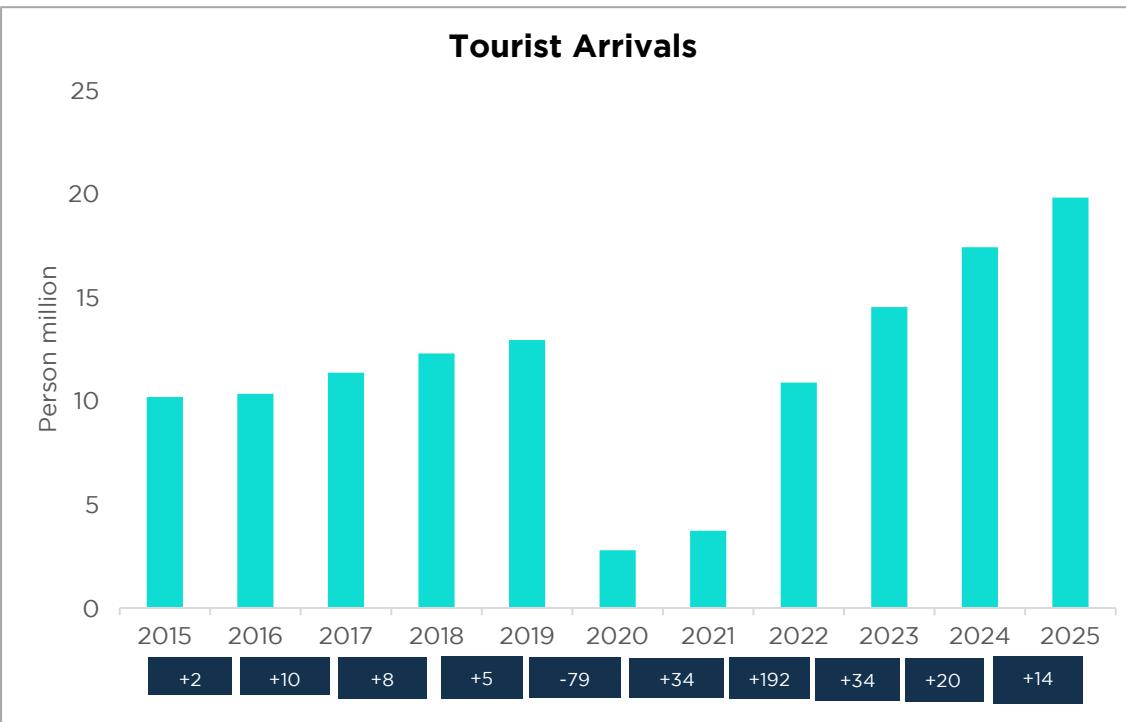
Sources: Egypt Ministry of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation



Sources: Egypt Ministry of Planning, Economic Development & International Cooperation

- GDP growth reached 5.3% YoY in Q3 2025 compared with 3.5% in Q3 2024, the highest quarterly growth rate in more than 3 years.
- Non-oil manufacturing and information and communication technology (ICT) recorded the highest sectoral growth of 14.5% each, followed by tourism, which grew 13.8%.
- This acceleration reflects the tangible impact of ongoing economic and structural reforms that are steering the country's growth model towards export-oriented, high-productivity sectors.
- The IMF estimates growth at 4.4% in 2025 from 2.4% in 2024, and projects a further acceleration to 4.7% and 5.4% in 2026 and 2027, respectively.

Morocco: Rising Tourist Arrivals and Earnings Reinforce Tourism Upswing



Sources: Haver Analytics, Observatoire du Tourisme
Note: Annual % Change is indicated in dark blue boxes



Sources: Office Des Changes

- Tourist arrivals hit a record 19.8 million in 2025, up 14% YoY, fuelled by the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament and expanded air connectivity, positioning Morocco as Africa's leading destination.
- Cumulative gross travel earnings for 2025 (January-September) increased 15.6% YoY, totalling MAD 100 billion.
- The tourism boom supported broader economic activity, with GDP growth accelerating to 4.6% in 2025 (from 3.8% in 2024).
- Morocco now targets 26 million visitors by 2030, leveraging its co-hosting of the FIFA World Cup with Spain and Portugal.

≡ CareEdge Sovereign Ratings

CareEdge Global: Long Term Foreign Currency Ratings*

 Germany CareEdge AAA/Stable	 Japan CareEdge AA-/Stable	 Spain CareEdge A/Stable	 Philippines CareEdge BBB+/Stable	 Brazil CareEdge BB+/Stable	 Nigeria CareEdge B/Positive
 Netherlands CareEdge AAA/Stable	 Korea CareEdge AA-/Stable	 Chile CareEdge A-/Stable	 Indonesia CareEdge BBB/Stable	 Colombia CareEdge BB+/Negative	 Egypt CareEdge B-/Stable
 Singapore CareEdge AAA/Stable	 UAE CareEdge AA-/Stable	 Malaysia CareEdge A-/Stable	 Italy CareEdge BBB/Stable	 Greece CareEdge BB+/Positive	 Ecuador CareEdge CCC+
 Sweden CareEdge AAA/Stable	 United Kingdom CareEdge AA-/Stable	 Thailand CareEdge A-/Negative	 Mauritius CareEdge BBB/Stable	 Vietnam CareEdge BB+/Stable	 Bangladesh CareEdge CCC+
 Australia CareEdge AA+/Stable	 France CareEdge A+/Stable	 Botswana CareEdge BBB+/Negative	 Mexico CareEdge BBB-/Stable	 South Africa CareEdge BB/Stable	 Argentina CareEdge CCC+
 Canada CareEdge AA+/Stable	 Portugal CareEdge A+/Stable	 Cyprus CareEdge BBB+/Stable	 Morocco CareEdge BBB-/Stable	 Turkiye CareEdge BB-/Stable	 Ethiopia CareEdge D
 United States CareEdge AA+/Negative	 China CareEdge A/Stable	 India CareEdge BBB+/Stable	 Peru CareEdge BBB-/Stable	 Kenya CareEdge B/Stable	

Analytical Contacts

Rajani Sinha
Chief Economist
rajani.sinha@careedge.in

Shobana Krishnan
Consultant
C-Shobana.Krishnan@careedge.in

Dr. Annie Mahajan
Senior Economist
Annie.Mahajan@careedgeglobal.com

Zaakirah Ismail
Senior Economist
Zaakirah.Ismail@careratingsafrica.com

Akanksha Bhende
Senior Economist
akanksha.bhende@careedge.in

Yogesh Kumar
Economist
Yogesh.Kumar@careedgeglobal.com

Amya Parmar
Associate Economist
Amya.Parmar@careedgeglobal.com

Mihir Raravikar
Associate Economist
Mihir.Raravikar@careedgeglobal.com

Mihika Sharma
Senior Economist
Mihika.Sharma@careedgeglobal.com

Sanroy Seechurn
Consultant
C-Sanroy.Seechurn@careratingsafrica.com

Utkarsh Kumar
Economist
Utkarsh.Kumar@careedgeglobal.com

Girisha Algo
Associate Economist
Girisha.Algo@careratingsafrica.com

Hemasree Tummaluru
Associate Economist
Hemasree.Tummaluru@careedgeglobal.com

Shivani Sahu
Associate Economist
Shivani.Sahu@careedgeglobal.com



**Scan the QR code to
access CareEdge Global's
full range of reports**

Contact

Mradul Mishra

Media Relations

mradul.mishra@careedge.in

+91 - 22 - 6754 3596

CareEdge Global IFSC Limited

(subsidiary of CARE Ratings Ltd.)

501, FlexOne, GIFT SEZ, Block 15, Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382050, India. | Phone: +91-79-6519 0701 | www.careedgeglobal.com |
CIN-U66190GJ2024PLC151103

About us:

CareEdge Global IFSC Limited (CareEdge Global) is a full-service Credit Rating Agency (CRA) with a mission of Empowering Global Capital Market Participants Through Unrivalled Insights and Expertise. As the first CRA registered and authorized by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (India), we are uniquely positioned to provide comprehensive ratings on a global scale. A part of the CareEdge Group - we are a knowledge-based analytical organisation offering a wide range of services in Credit Ratings, Analytics, Consulting, and Sustainability. Established in 1993, our parent company, CARE Ratings Limited (CareEdge Ratings), stands as India's second-largest rating agency.

Disclaimer:

Ratings from CareEdge Global IFSC Limited (CareEdge Global) are statements of opinion as of the date they are expressed and not statements of fact or recommendations or solicitation to enter into any transactions or to purchase, hold or sell any securities/instruments or make any investment decisions and are only current as of the stated date of their issue. The rating contained in the report is not a substitute for the skill, judgment and experience of the investor or user and they shall seek professional advice before acting on the report in any way. CareEdge Global is not responsible for any errors and states that it has no financial liability whatsoever to the users of the ratings of CareEdge Global. CareEdge Global does not act as a fiduciary by providing the rating.

Any unsolicited ratings are based on publicly available information and CareEdge Global undertakes no independent verification of any information it receives and/or relies on in its reports.

CareEdge Global does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the report, and shall not have any liability for any errors, omissions or interruptions therein, regardless of the cause, or for the results obtained from the use of any part of the report. CareEdge Global **DISCLAIMS ANY AND ALL EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, SUITABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR USE.** In no event shall any CareEdge Global or its associated entities or persons be liable to any party for any direct, indirect, incidental, exemplary, compensatory, punitive, special or consequential damages, costs, expenses, legal fees or losses (including, without limitation, lost income or lost profits and opportunity costs) in connection with any use of any part of the report even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

© 2026, CareEdge Global IFSC Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of CARE Ratings Limited. All Rights Reserved.
This content is being published for the purpose of dissemination of information required as per applicable law and regulations and CareEdge Global IFSC Limited holds exclusive copyright over the same. Any reproduction, retransmission, modification, derivative works or use or reference to the contents, in whole, in part or in any form, is prohibited except with prior express written consent from CareEdge Global IFSC Limited.