

November 2013

Welcome to the latest issue of D&B's ASEAN Newsletter, where we aim to round up exciting developments in D&B, news around the region, data stories and product updates. Referenced below are a number of hot topic areas, take a look, click on the links, ask your local sales team for further clarification or drop us an email directly.

EU to redouble efforts in strengthening relations with ASEAN

Nov. 1 – Jakarta - The European Union (EU) will redouble its effort to strengthen relations with ASEAN by stepping up its support to ASEAN Community building, said the new Ambassador of the EU to ASEAN, H.E. Olof Skoog. He presented his Letter of Credence to H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN at the latter's office on 31 October.

Ambassador Skoog stressed that ASEAN is a very important partner of the EU, and that a prosperous, successful and stable ASEAN is also in the interest of the EU.



Secretary-General Minh welcomed Ambassador Skoog as the new Ambassador of the EU to ASEAN, and encouraged him to work closely with ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat to further strengthen ASEAN-EU relations. Secretary-General Minh said that cooperation could be further strengthened, among others, in the areas such as trade and investment, education, disaster management, and maritime cooperation. [Read More](#)

Source: ASEAN Secretariat News

ASEAN GDP remains robust, backed by services

Oct. 21 – The latest statistics revealed that ASEAN economies remained buoyant as nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 5.7 percent at US\$ 2.31 trillion in 2012. The continued growth of the region is reflected in the improved GDP per capita at US\$ 3,751 from US\$ 3,591 in 2011. Most recent figure showed that averaged income of ASEAN5 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) has increased by 5.1 percent during the first semester of this year, driven by favorable economic developments in Philippines and Thailand.

On the other hand, ASEAN's real GDP in 2012 advanced by 5.7 percent, higher by 1.0 percentage point than in 2011. ASEAN5 rate of growth has outpaced the CLMV country group at 5.8 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively. [Read More](#)

Source: ASEAN Secretariat News

ASEAN Industry Highlights

ASEAN

21-Oct-13 Radio Free Asia [Asian Economies Face Debt Threat Amid Excessive Borrowings](#)

Indonesia

31-Oct-13 Bisnis Indonesia [Game Industry Soars](#)

29-Oct-13 Bisnis Indonesia [Foundry May Grow 10%, Spurred By LCGC Program](#)

29-Oct-13 Bisnis Indonesia [Pharmacy Industry May Grow 28% Next Year](#)

28-Oct-13 Bisnis Indonesia [Cars Export Increase In Sept](#)

19-Oct-13 The Jakarta Post [Govt to up fish, shrimp production in 2014](#)

16-Oct-13 The Jakarta Globe [Nation's Banking Sector Resilient to Slowdown: Bank Indonesia](#)

Laos

17-Oct-13 ASEAN Briefing [Laos to Increase Foreign Workers](#)

4-Oct-13 Radio Free Asia [Debt-Laden Laos Told To Tighten Policies Amid Economic Concerns](#)

Malaysia

6-Nov-13 The Star [End of life vehicle policy likely to be implemented](#)

4-Nov-13 The Star [Budget 2014 is what M'sia needed to go on consolidation and growth mode](#)

1-Nov-13 The Star [Malaysia's Sept Producer Price Index 1.4% lower](#)

24-Oct-13 The Star [Vietnam seeks investments in Malaysia's halal sector](#)

24-Oct-13 The Edge Malaysia [Possible Pickup in Business Loans Growth](#)

23-Oct-13 The Star [Outsourcing industry set to double in growth by 2017](#)

22-Oct-13 The Star [Q4 car sales seen steady supported by new models, promotions](#)

Myanmar

29-Oct-13 Myanmar Times [Myanmar among hardest places to do business: World Bank](#)

20-Oct-13 Myanmar Times [New trade program on way](#)

20-Oct-13 Myanmar Times [Rubber exports set to double](#)

13-Oct-13 Myanmar Times [Joint ventures law has banks worried](#)

7-Oct-13 The Nation [Foreign investors still cautious about Myanmar](#)

6-Oct-13 Myanmar Times [Ford launches as govt revamps import rules](#)

Country Risk Update

ASEAN Regional Country Risk Headline News

The Country Risk Headline News is designed to help draw your attention to potential business risk associated with trading in overseas countries. The headlines below highlight some of the recent changes that have impacted the risk environment. For more analysis on the specific factors affecting these countries – [Go Online](#) if you already have an IRPR Subscription.

- **Korea (South)** - Corporate debt levels emerge as a risk.
- **Singapore** - The authorities maintain policy to discourage inflation, despite flagging exports.



Country Risk Spotlight - Thailand

Concerns over the economy increase the possibility of an interest rate cut.

Thailand's risk profile remains under downward pressure on the back of ongoing concerns over the economy. In mid-October, the Bank of Thailand (BoT, the central bank) left its benchmark interest rate on hold at 2.50%, a level it currently believes will help the Thai economy to escape the recession it dipped into in Q2. However, at its October meeting the BoT also reduced its forecast for overall real GDP growth this year. Although the scale of this revision has not yet been revealed, the market view is that the monetary authorities now envisage growth of between 3.8% and 4.0% in 2013, bringing them into line with the D&B forecast.

The main drivers of this now less sanguine official view are muted domestic demand plus fragile export demand as external economic conditions gain traction only slowly. Indeed, there is a reasonable chance that these factors will be reflected in what we expect to be poor Q3 real GDP data when it is released in mid-November. If this is the case, we would expect the BoT to give serious consideration to a 25 basis point-cut in its benchmark rate, the likelihood of this happening being increased by ongoing benign price pressures (consumer price inflation stood at an annual 1.42% in September, down from 1.59% in August and over 3% at the beginning of 2013).

This complimentary write-up from D&B's Country Insight Services group has been put together by their team of experts using the most up-to-date information to provide a snapshot of the latest country risk situation, and provides an excellent overview for those exposed to cross-border credit or investment risks.

Looking For Different Countries?

D&B Country Insight Services provides analysis on over 130 countries worldwide and its products are available for purchase online by TSR subscribers.

If you wish to order reports using your TSR subscription [please click on the link](#) and select the country/region in which you are registered as a TSR subscriber. Non-TSR subscribers wishing to order reports please contact Customer Services at your local TSR Office.

ASEAN Industry Highlights (Cont')

Philippines

- 30-Oct-13 Business World [Philippines tagged most improved for business](#)
- 25-Oct-13 Daily Inquirer [BPO sector seen becoming PH's top forex earner](#)
- 22-Oct-13 Daily Inquirer [Electronics exports seen to fall by 12%](#)
- 16-Oct-13 Business Mirror [Toshiba to expand offerings in Philippine market](#)
- 11-Oct-13 Business World [The Philippines' auto industry riding high](#)
- 10-Oct-13 Business World [German logistics giant investing \\$25M](#)
- 11-Oct-13 Business World [Factory production continues climb](#)

Singapore

- 5-Nov-13 Channel News Asia [Singapore's manufacturing economy continues to expand](#)
- 31-Oct-13 Channel News Asia [Manufacturers in electronics sector least upbeat about business conditions](#)
- 30-Oct-13 Channel News Asia [Singapore plans to lift LNG supplier cap](#)
- 23-Oct-13 Channel News Asia [Singapore SMEs seek to capitalize opportunities in Tianjin](#)

Thailand

- 29-Oct-13 ASEAN Briefing [Thailand Auto Market Accelerates Into Overdrive](#)
- 24-Oct-13 The Nation [Buyer's market for vehicles continues](#)
- 19-Oct-13 The Nation [Ministry eyes export growth of 7% in 2014](#)
- 15-Oct-13 The Nation [Industry sector to boost Thailand's energy demand: ADB](#)
- 9-Oct-13 The Nation [Licensing, investment will push ICT boom, says ministry](#)

Vietnam

- 1-Nov-13 Stock Biz [Vietnam dong the third best performing currency in Asia](#)
- 29-Oct-13 Vietnam Plus [Vietnam ranks 99th in WB Doing Business report](#)
- 28-Oct-13 Nhan Dan Online [Vietnam sees marked increase in ten-month FDI inflow](#)
- 25-Oct-13 VietnamNews [UK-Viet Nam trade jumps](#)
- 21-Oct-13 Vietnam Investment Review [Exports to hit \\$131 billion in 2013](#)
- 21-Oct-13 ASEAN Briefing [Vietnam Increases Trade Deficit with ASEAN Nations](#)
- 21-Oct-13 Vietnam Investment Reviews [Banks await lift in foreign ownership](#)
- 21-Oct-13 VOV [Dramatic rise in CBU vehicle imports to Vietnam](#)
- 14-Oct-13 Saigon Times [HCMC, Japan boost microchip industry cooperation](#)
- 12-Oct-13 VOV [Vietnam, China aim for US\\$60 billion trade](#)

November 2013

News Around The Region

Indonesia

31-Oct-13	Indonesia Finance Today	<u>Computer Product Market Predicted to Grow Slightly in 2014</u>
30-Oct-13	Bisnis Indonesia	<u>Tire Sales Grows 12% In September</u>
23-Oct-13	Indonesia Finance Today	<u>National Coal Production Tops 299 Million Tons</u>

Malaysia

31-Oct-13	The Star	<u>GST:Govt ready to deal with increase in prices of goods and inflation rate</u>
26-Oct-13	The Malay Mail Online	<u>SME Bank: Budget 2014 SME-friendly, inclusive”</u>
12-Oct-13	New Straits Times	<u>25 percent SMEs to have global market business networking</u>

Myanmar

20-Oct-13	Myanmar Times	<u>Bomb fallout hits tourism sector</u>
20-Oct-13	Myanmar Times	<u>Demand for energy will double: ADB</u>
18-Oct-13	Myanmar Times	<u>E-shopping slowly taking hold</u>
6-Oct-13	Myanmar Times	<u>Better loans needed: retailers</u>

Philippines

9-Oct-13	Philippine Star	<u>Gov't urged to finalize automotive roadmap</u>
8-Oct-13	Business World	<u>IT, outsourcing sectors seen to beat targets</u>

Singapore

31-Oct-13	Channel News Asia	<u>Most industries in services sector optimistic about business prospects</u>
24-Oct-13	Singapore Business Review	<u>Singapore inflation could rise to 3% next year</u>
13-Oct-13	Channel News Asia	<u>Singapore economy should grow modestly into 2014 amid domestic inflation says MAS</u>
3-Oct-13	Channel News Asia	<u>SMES sign up with SIMTech to find solutions to raise productivity</u>

Thailand

18-Oct-13	The Nation	<u>Bt30 billion refunded under first-car scheme</u>
5-Oct-13	The Nation	<u>SME confidence down slightly in August</u>

Vietnam

1-Nov-13	Vietnam News	<u>MoF explores import tariff increase</u>
30-Oct-13	Tuotire News	<u>18 million Vietnamese shop online</u>
17-Oct-13	Vietnam Investment Review	<u>Chemical industry invests in new technology</u>
11-Oct-13	Vietnam News	<u>Car sales driven by incentives</u>
10-Oct-13	Vietnamplus	<u>Vietnam to import 600,000 tonnes of cotton in 2013</u>

Feedback

The ASEAN Newsletter will continue to evolve and we have exciting plans moving forward that will further improve communication. We welcome your feedback so please send us your comments via this [Quick Survey](#), or to the Newsletter Team directly at ongc@dnb.com. We welcome your feedback so please send us your comments for us to serve you better.