Asia-Pacific Inflation Monitor: Oil drives headline higher

- This publication summarizes regional and economy-specific inflation data across the Asia-Pacific economies we cover. The latest CPI/PPI data points are generally for April 2026, with some energy price data through late May.
- Our commodity strategists have lifted their energy price forecasts substantially since the onset of the war in Iran, and see risks to their current oil price forecasts ($90/bbl for Brent in Q4) as skewed to the upside. Import prices, producer prices, and retail fuel prices have generally risen sharply across Asia since the end of February (though implicit or explicit subsidies have moderated or capped retail fuel prices in some countries).
- Pre-war, CPI inflation was broadly in line with or below central bank targets in most countries. Now, headline and core CPI inflation are generally in line with targets or above (in Australia and the Philippines, both measures are above the top of the central bank's inflation target band).
- Inflation pressures are particularly acute in lower-income economies with more limited subsidies—the pace of seasonally-adjusted CPI inflation over the past three months in Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam is well over 10% annualized.
- CPI inflation forecasts (both ours and the consensus) have moved higher in most of the region since the onset of the Iran war, closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and consequent reduction in energy supply to Asia. Our 2026 CPI forecasts remain above consensus in India and in most of ASEAN, but broadly in line with consensus elsewhere in the region.
- Wage inflation has looked stable or lower in most of the region, though in some cases the most recent data are for Q4 2025. Korea and Indonesia are notable exceptions, with data through February (just before the start of the war) suggesting a pickup in wage growth.

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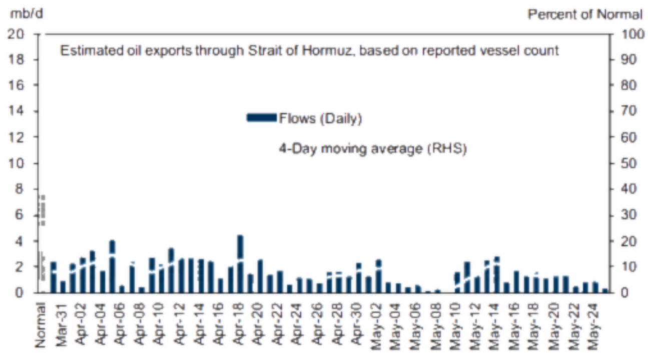
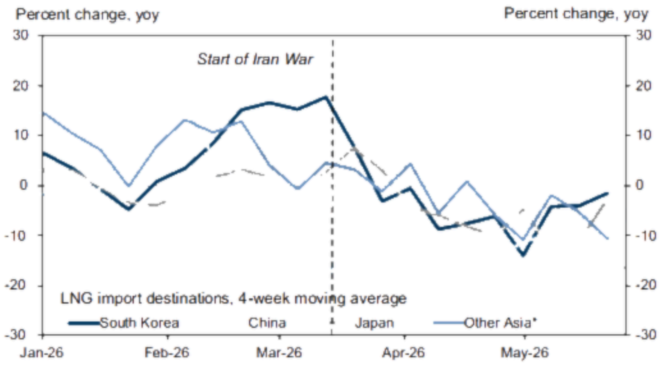
Exhibit 1: Reported ship traffic through the Strait of Hormuz still low



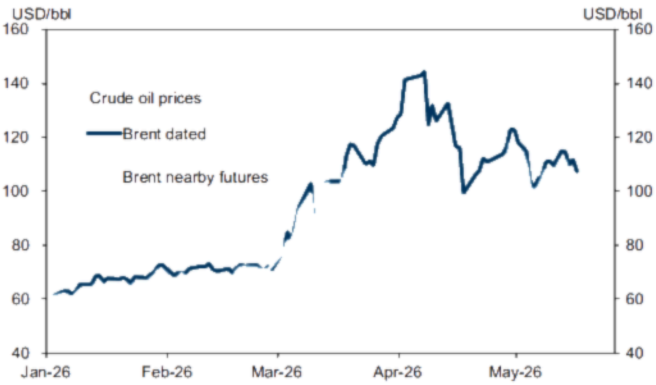
Source: S&P Global Commodities at Sea, Kpler, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 2: Inbound LNG flows remain modestly below 2025 levels



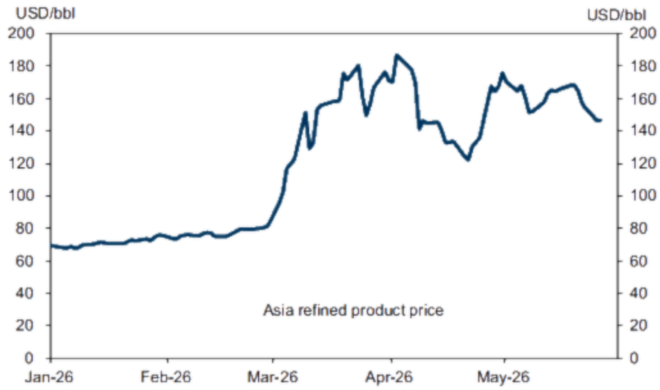
Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 3: Premia for physical oil delivery have come down since the ceasefire in early April



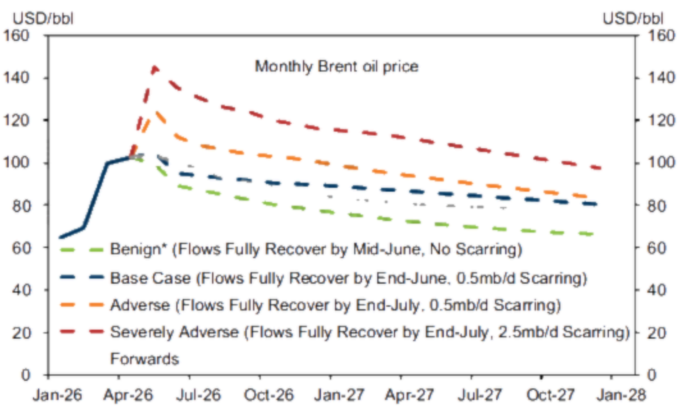
Source: Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 4: Refined product prices in Asia remain elevated



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 5: Our commodities team forecasts $90/bbl Brent in Q4 in their base case scenario

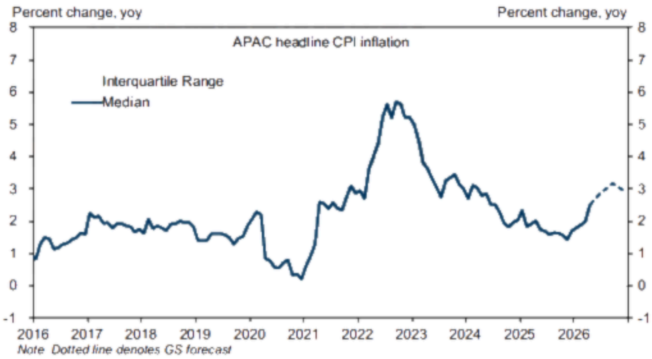


Prices correspond to nearby futures contract traded that month.

Source: ICE, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

This section provides an overview of regional trends; core inflation measures are economy-specific definitions.[1]

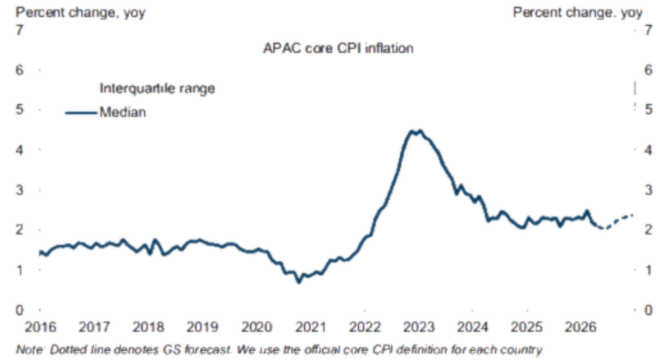
Exhibit 6: Headline CPI inflation has been reaccelerating in 2026



Note: Dotted line denotes GS forecast

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 7: Core inflation remains fairly steady in most economies



Note: Dotted line denotes GS forecast. We use the official core CPI definition for each country

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 8: Inflation has picked up sharply in some Southeast Asian economies

CPI INFLATION

(Red = higher month-on-month sa. inflation)

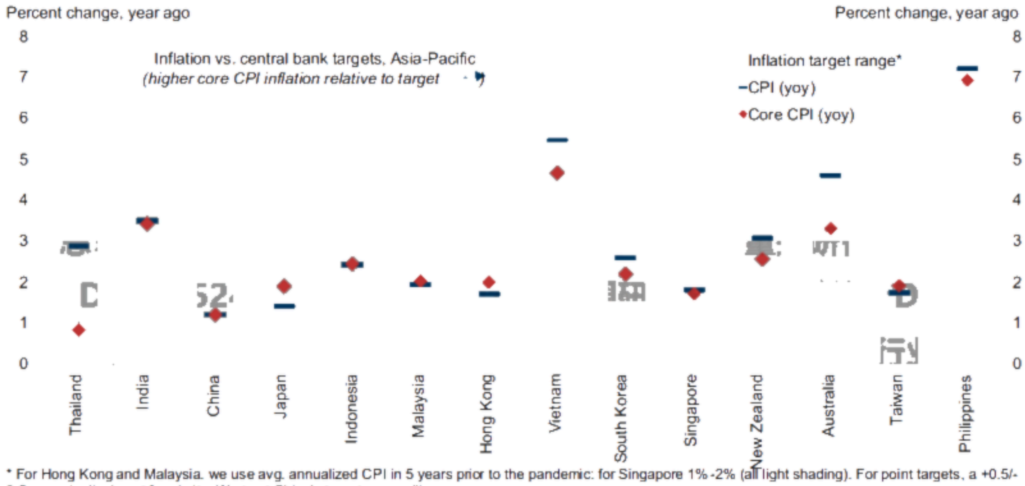
		As of	year-over-year	3m annl. Change, sa**	Monthly annl. Change, sa
Total CPI inflation	China	Apr-26	1.2	2.2	7.9
	South Korea	Apr-26	2.6	4.3	6.7
	Taiwan	Apr-26	1.7	2.8	5.8
	India	Apr-26	3.5	3.0	3.3
	Indonesia	Apr-26	2.4	0.1	-0.5
	Malaysia	Apr-26	1.9	2.7	4.5
	Philippines	Apr-26	7.2	20.0	42.9
	Thailand	Apr-26	2.9	13.1	33.7
	Vietnam	Apr-26	5.5	11.7	15.0
	Japan	Apr-26	1.3	2.2	1.1
	Hong Kong	Apr-26	1.8	0.7	-2.2
	Singapore	Apr-26	1.8	4.0	4.5
	Australia	Apr-26	4.2	4.0	-0.8
	New Zealand*	Mar-26	3.1	1.9	
CPI inflation ex food and energy	China	Apr-26	1.2	-0.5	0.4
	South Korea	Apr-26	2.2	1.7	1.0
	Taiwan	Apr-26	1.9	0.9	0.4
	India	Apr-26	3.4	2.3	0.4
	Indonesia	Apr-26	2.4	0.8	0.6
	Malaysia	Apr-26	2.0	1.8	-0.9
	Philippines	Apr-26	3.9	5.3	3.7
	Thailand	Apr-26	0.8	1.3	1.6
	Vietnam	Apr-26	4.7	6.1	4.0
	Japan	Apr-26	1.4	2.6	0.4
	Hong Kong	Apr-26	2.0	0.7	2.6
	Singapore	Apr-26	1.4	1.7	0.4
	Australia*	Mar-26	3.5	3.4	3.3
	New Zealand*	Mar-26	2.6	1.8	

* New Zealand headline CPI, Australia core CPI and New Zealand core CPI are released quarterly. **qoq figures are reported for New Zealand headline CPI, Australia core CPI and New Zealand core CPI
* The grey line area indicates unreleased data.

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

[1] The authors thank Sam Wang and Ming Yang, interns in the Asia economics group, for assistance in preparing this publication.

Exhibit 9: Inflation back within, or above, Asia-Pacific central banks' desired ranges



* For Hong Kong and Malaysia, we use avg. annualized CPI in 5 years prior to the pandemic; for Singapore 1%-2% (all light shading). For point targets, a +0.5/-0.5 range is displayed for clarity. We treat China's target as a ceiling.
* The latest CPI data release for Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand was in March.

Source: Haver Analytics, CEIC, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 10: Our inflation forecasts generally remain above consensus in ASEAN and India, in-line elsewhere

Consumer Prices (year-over-year)

	2025	2026		2027		Inflation Target/ Range
		GS	*Consensus*	GS	*Consensus*	
Asia ex-Japan	0.7	1.9	*1.8*	1.7	*1.8*	
China	0.0	1.0	*1.0*	1.0	*1.1*	2.0^
India	2.2	4.6	*4.4*	5.1	*4.9*	2.0-6.0
South Korea	2.1	2.4	*2.6*	2.1	*2.1*	2.0
Hong Kong	1.4	2.1	*1.9*	2.0	*2.0*	-
Taiwan	1.7	1.9	*1.9*	1.5	*1.7*	0.0-2.0
ASEAN	1.6	3.6	*3.2*	2.4	*2.6*	
Singapore	0.9	2.3	*2.0*	2.0	*1.9*	-
Malaysia	1.4	2.3	*2.1*	2.1	*2.0*	-
Thailand	-0.1	2.6	*2.5*	2.1	*1.6*	1.0-3.0
Indonesia	1.9	3.8	*3.1*	2.2	*2.8*	1.5-3.5
Philippines	1.7	5.7	*6.3*	2.9	*3.9*	2.0-4.0
Vietnam	3.3	5.0	*4.4*	3.5	*3.6*	4.5
Japan	3.2	2.0	*2.1*	2.3	*2.1*	2.0
Australia	2.8	4.4	*4.3*	2.8	*2.8*	2.0-3.0
New Zealand	2.8	3.4	*3.4*	1.8	*2.1*	1.0-3.0
USA	2.7	3.5	*3.5*	2.5	*2.4*	2.0
Euro area	2.1	3.0	*2.9*	2.6	*2.1*	2.0

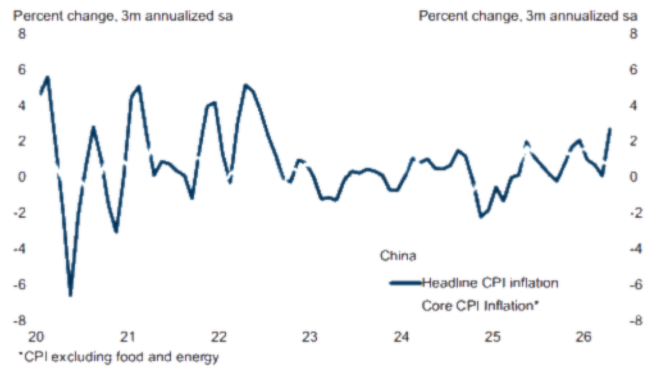
^We see the "target" as the upper bound of the desirable range.
Note: All forecasts are calculated on calendar year basis; Bloomberg FY forecasts used for India consensus when quarterly figure not available. Regional inflation figures are GDP-weighted averages.

Source: Central Banks, Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 11: China CPI inflation

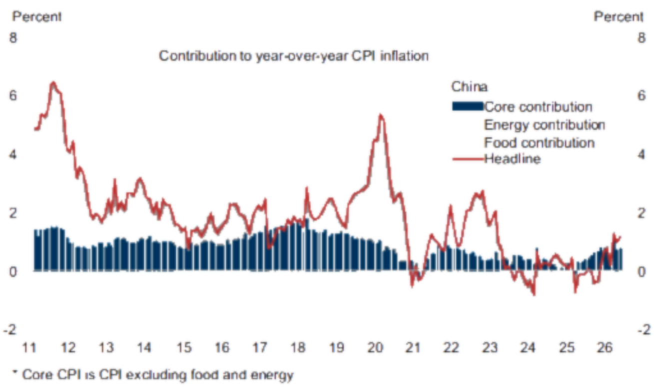
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 12: China CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 13: China CPI contribution breakdown



Source: NBS, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

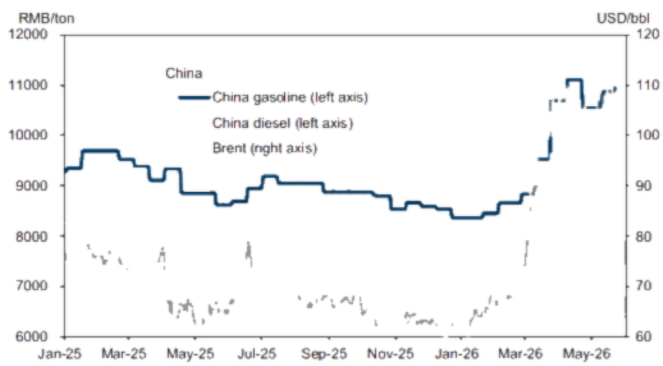
Exhibit 14: China PPI and Import Price Index

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 15: China wage growth

Source: CEIC, NBS, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Center for Quantitative Economic Research, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 16: China retail energy prices

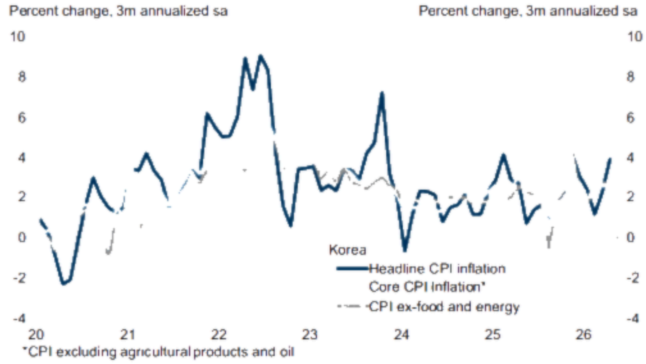


Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 17: Korea CPI inflation

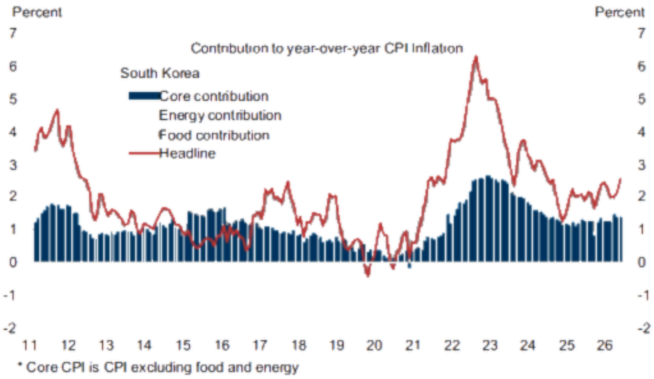
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 18: Korea CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 19: Korea CPI contribution breakdown

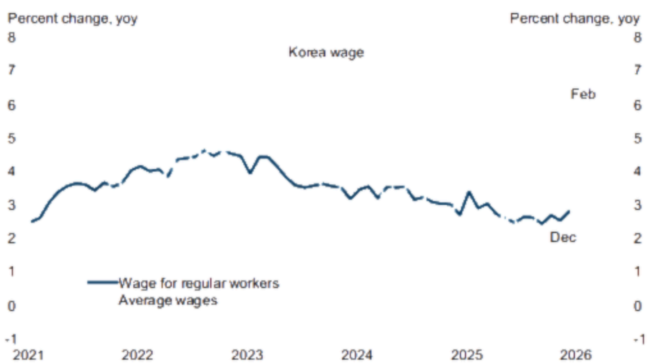


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 20: Korea PPI and Import Price Index

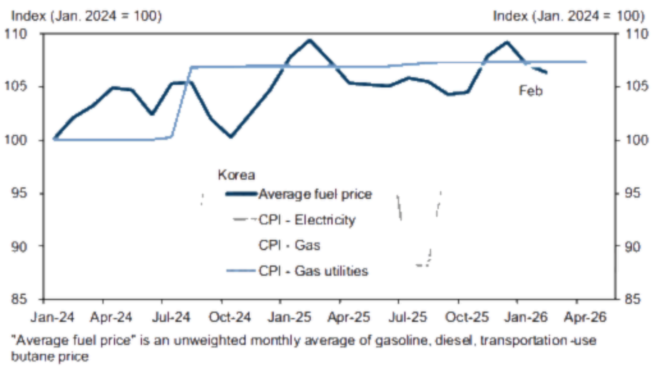
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 21: Korea wage growth



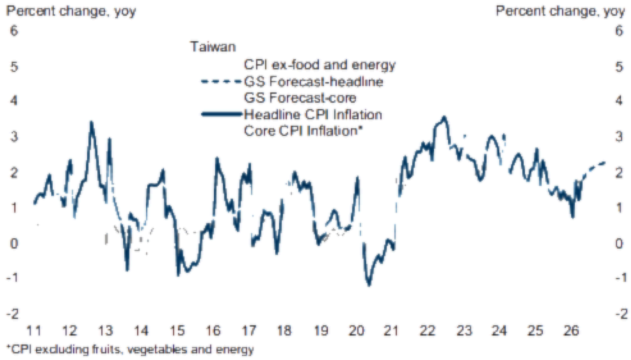
Source: CEIC, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 22: Korea retail energy prices



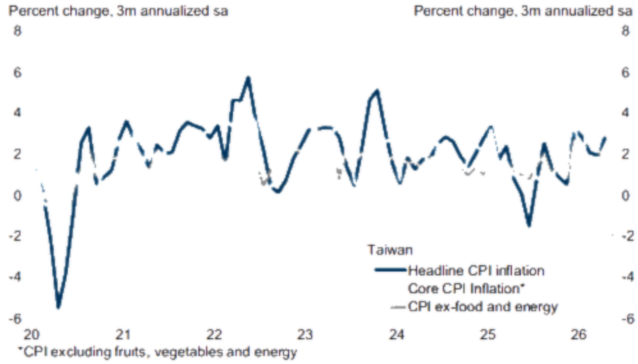
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 23: Taiwan CPI inflation



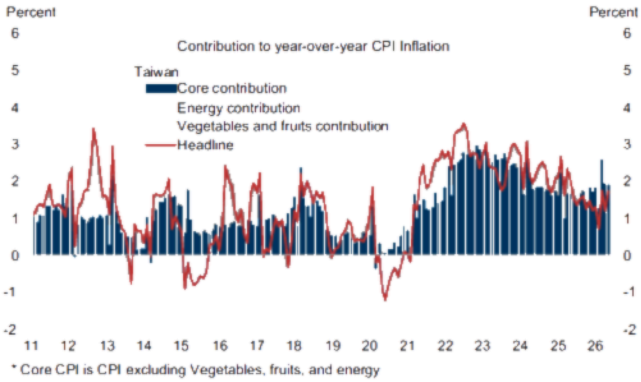
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 24: Taiwan CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 25: Taiwan CPI contribution breakdown



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

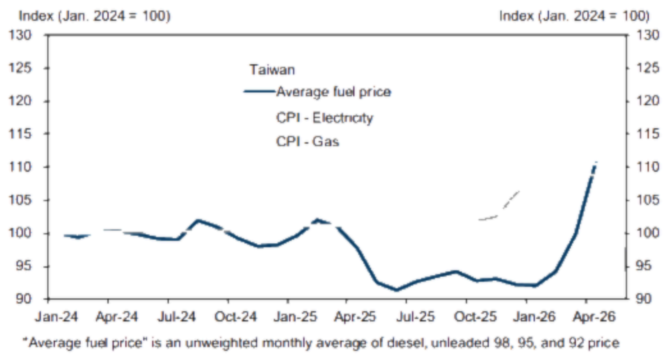
Exhibit 26: Taiwan PPI and Import Price Index

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 27: Taiwan wage growth

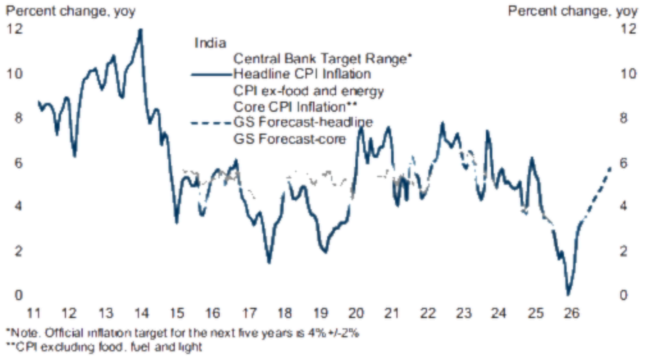
Source: CEIC, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 28: Taiwan retail energy prices



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

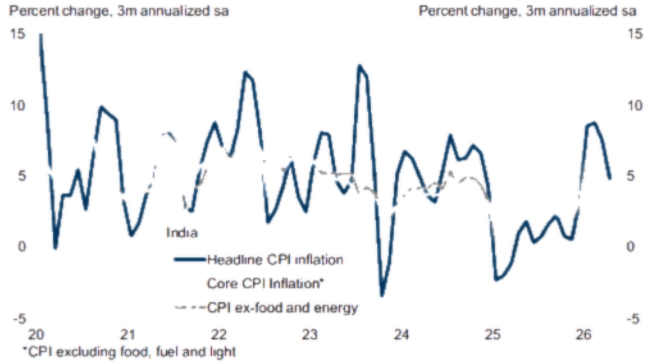
Exhibit 29: India CPI inflation



*Note: Official inflation target for the next five years is 4% +/-2%
**CPI excluding food, fuel and light

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

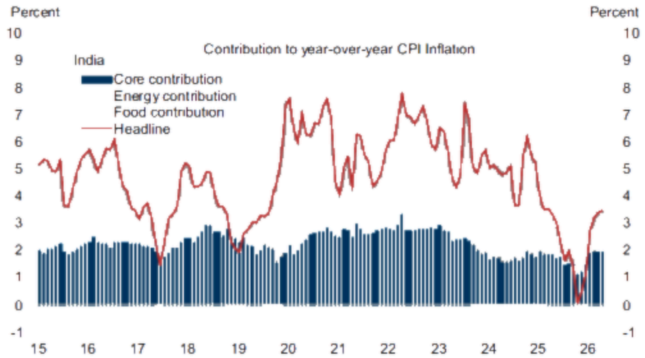
Exhibit 30: India CPI momentum



*CPI excluding food, fuel and light

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

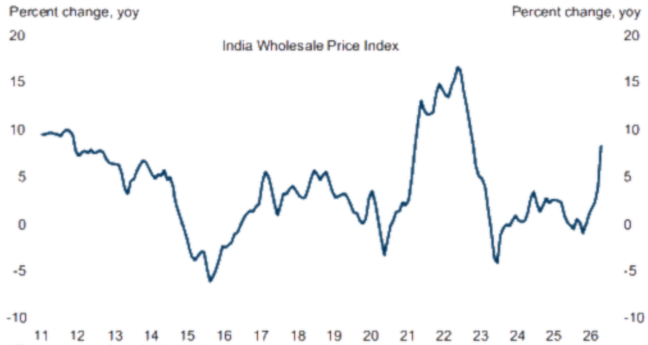
Exhibit 31: India CPI contribution breakdown



* Core CPI is CPI excluding food, fuel, and light

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

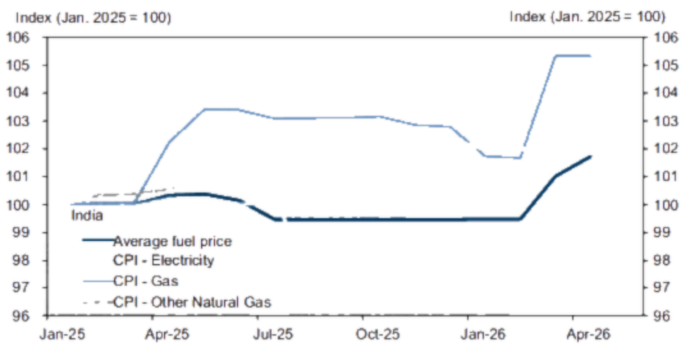
Exhibit 32: India Wholesale Price Index



*Fisher's Index from 2010-2013, then Laspeyres' Index

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

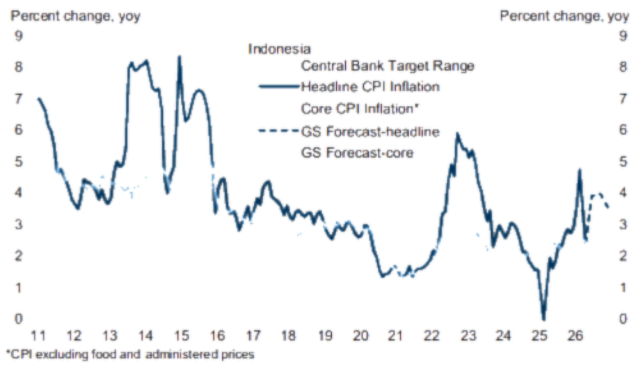
Exhibit 33: India retail energy prices



"Average fuel price" is an unweighted monthly average of auto gas, petrol/gasoline, and diesel price

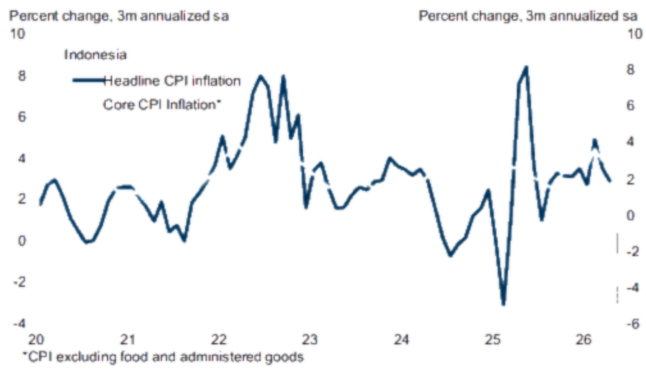
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 34: Indonesia CPI inflation



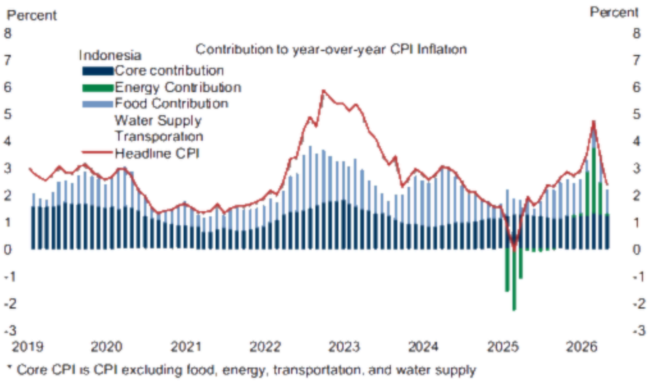
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 35: Indonesia CPI momentum



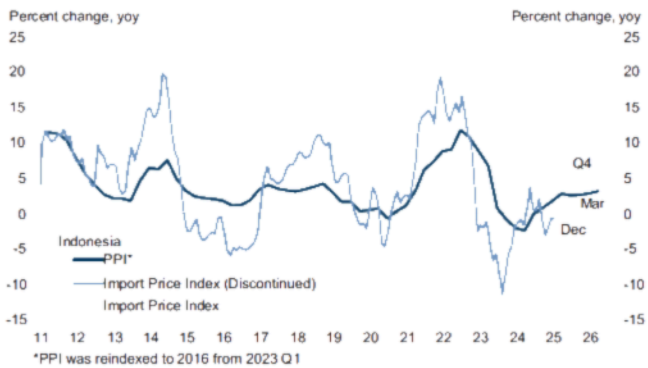
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 36: Indonesia CPI contribution breakdown



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 37: Indonesia PPI and Import Price Index

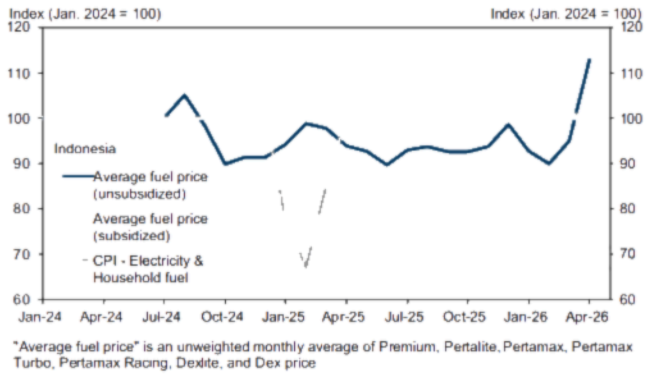


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 38: Indonesia wage growth

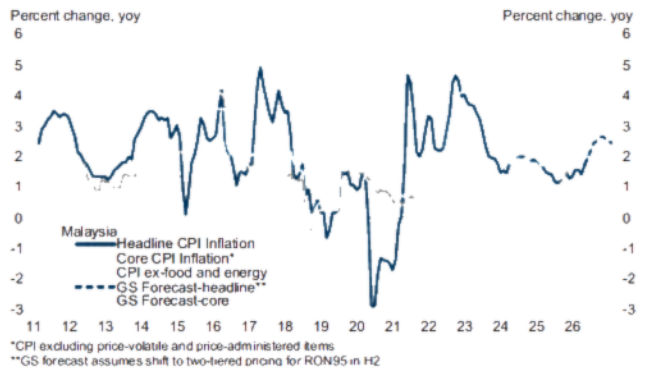
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 39: Indonesia retail energy prices



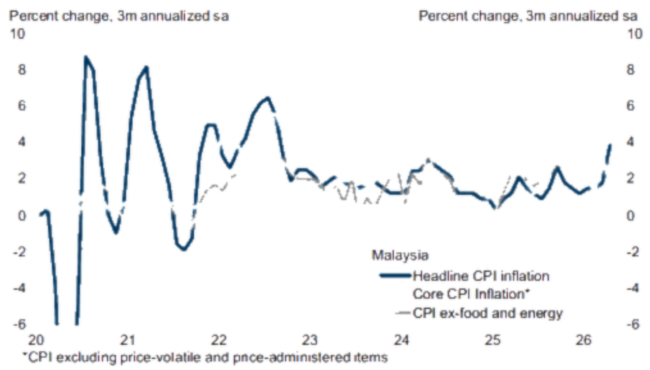
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 40: Malaysia CPI inflation



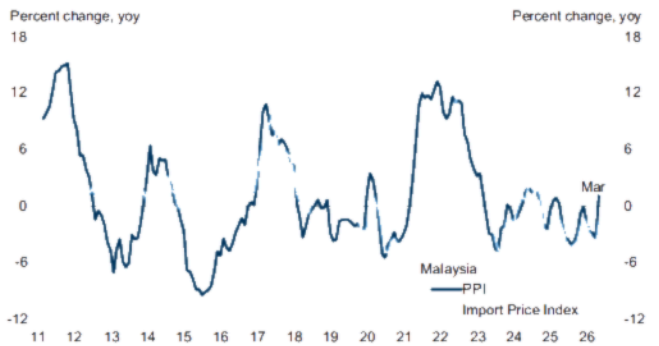
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 41: Malaysia CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 42: Malaysia PPI and Import Price Index

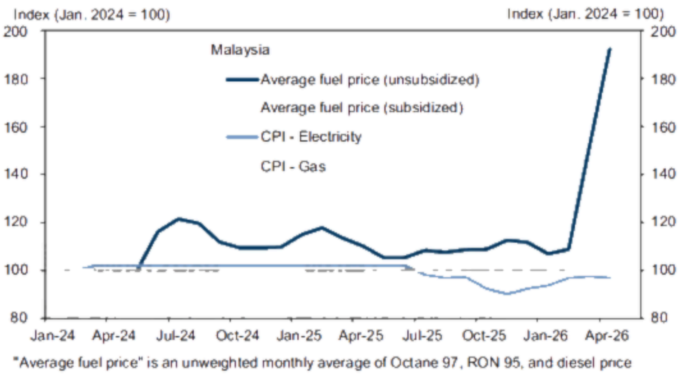


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 43: Malaysia wage growth

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 44: Malaysia retail energy prices

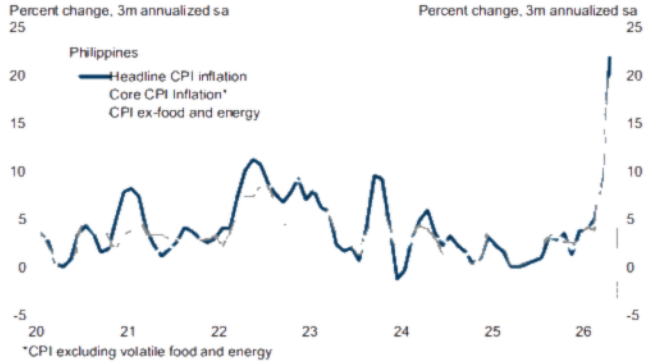


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 45: Philippines CPI inflation

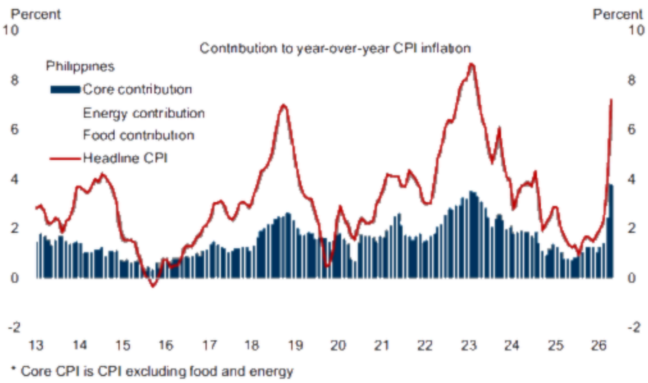
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 46: Philippines CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 47: Philippines CPI contribution breakdown

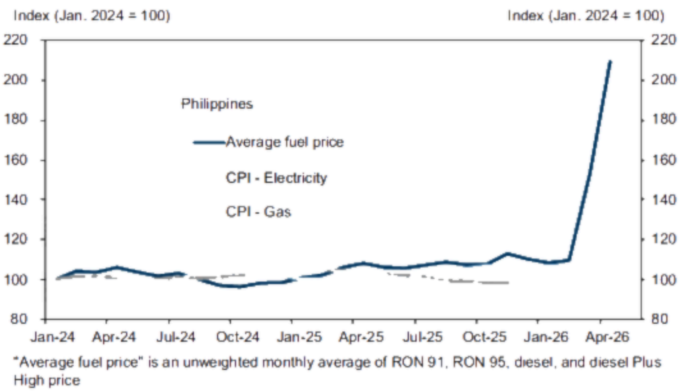


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 48: Philippines Manufacturing PPI and Import Price Index

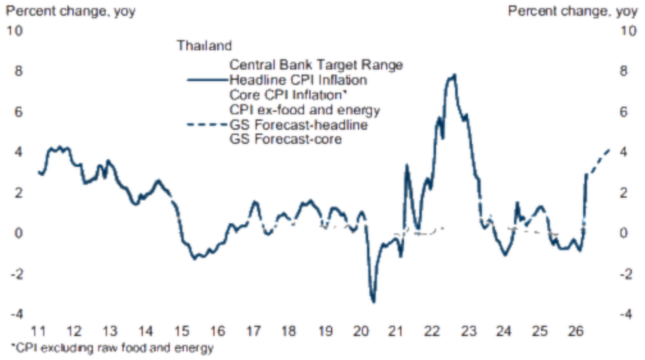
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 49: Philippines retail energy prices



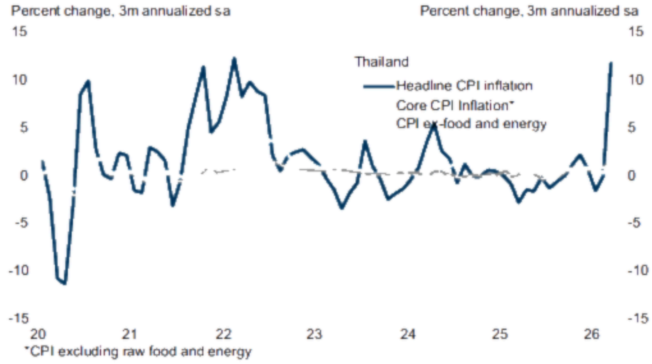
Source: Haver Analytics, CEIC, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 50: Thailand CPI inflation



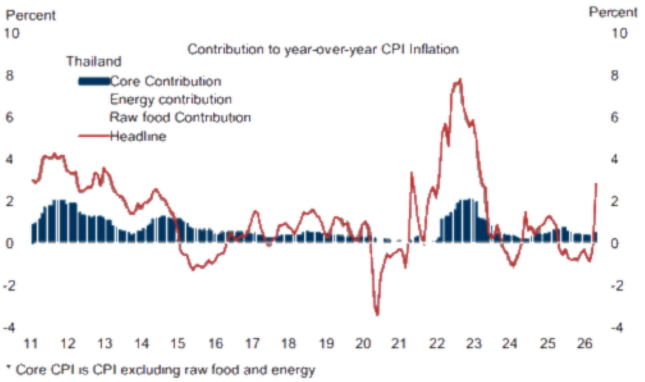
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 51: Thailand CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 52: Thailand CPI contribution breakdown



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

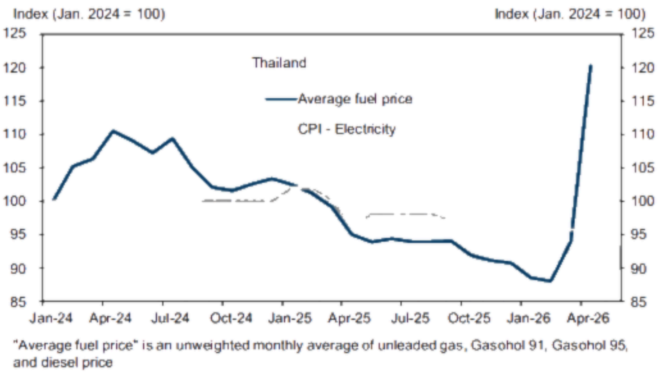
Exhibit 53: Thailand PPI and Import Price Index

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 54: Thailand wage growth

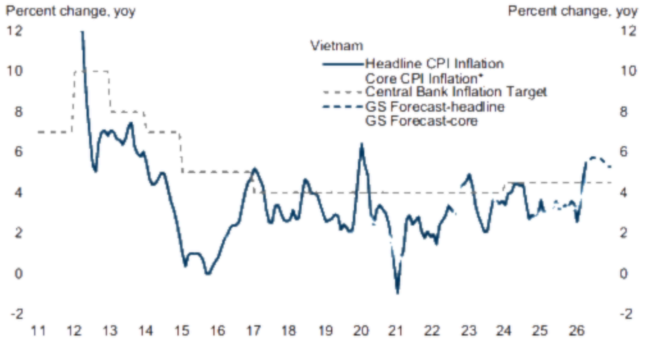
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 55: Thailand retail energy prices



Source: Haver Analytics, CEIC, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

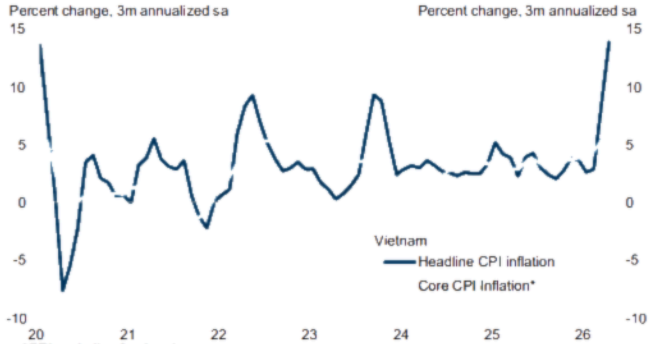
Exhibit 56: Vietnam CPI inflation



*CPI excluding food and energy

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 57: Vietnam CPI momentum



*CPI excluding food and energy

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 58: Vietnam PPI and Import Price Index

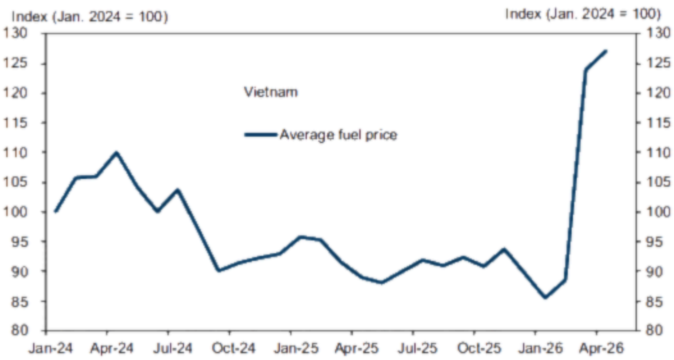
*In USD

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 59: Vietnam wage growth

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 60: Vietnam retail energy prices



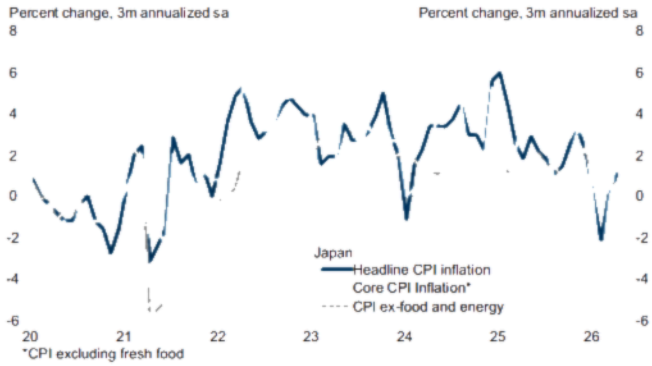
"Average fuel price" is an unweighted monthly average of RON 92, RON 95, and diesel price

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 61: Japan CPI inflation

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 62: Japan CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

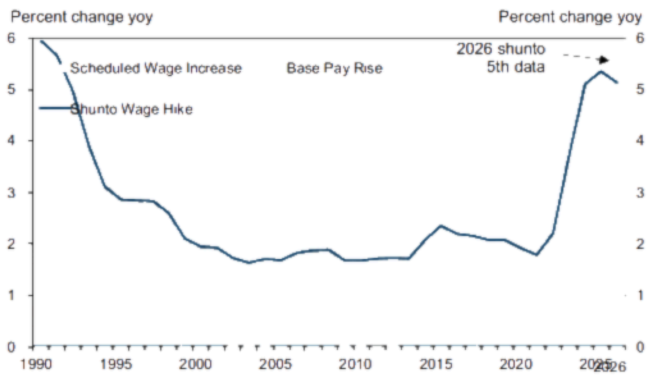
Exhibit 63: Japan PPI and Import Price Index

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 64: Japan wage growth

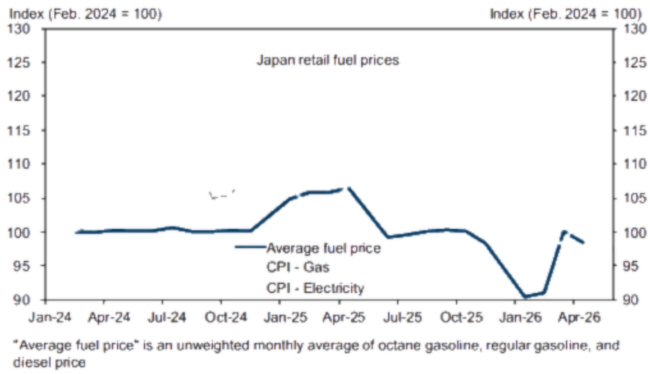
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 65: Japan shunto wage agreements



Source: JTUC-Rengo, Keidanren, Data compiled by Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 66: Japan retail energy prices

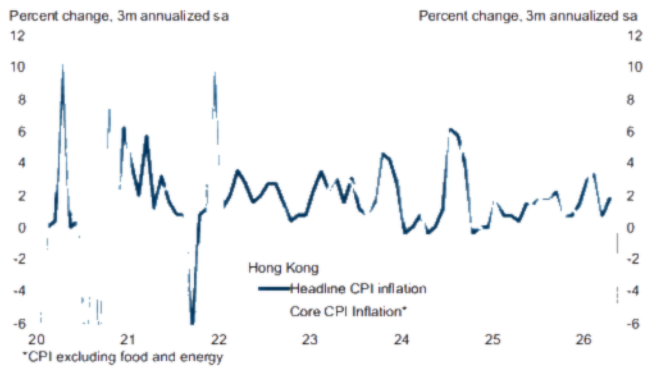


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 67: Hong Kong CPI inflation

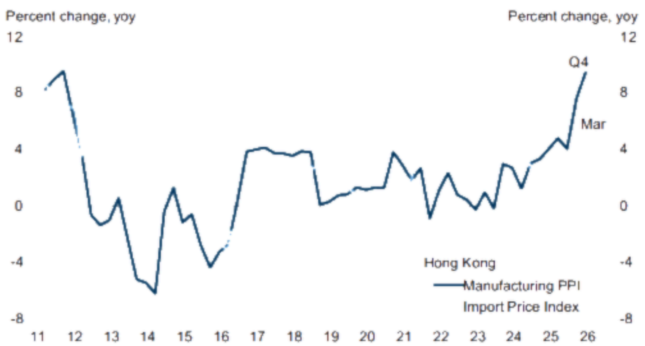
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 68: Hong Kong CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 69: Hong Kong PPI and Import Price Index

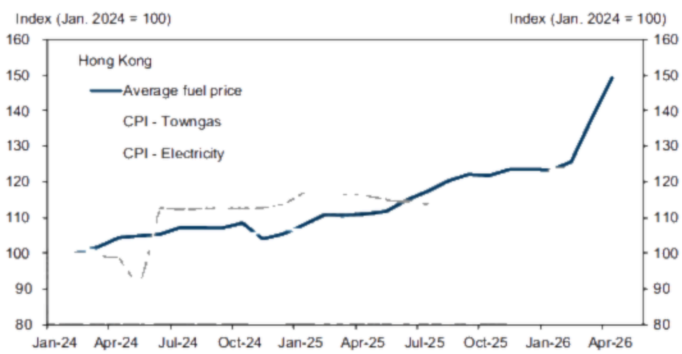


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 70: Hong Kong wage growth

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

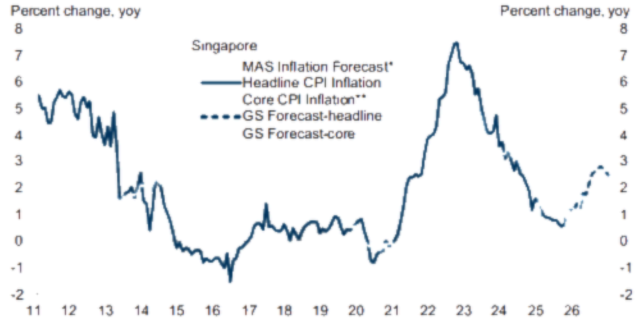
Exhibit 71: Hong Kong retail energy prices



"Average fuel price" is an unweighted monthly average of diesel, RON 98 Premium, and RON 98 Standard price

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

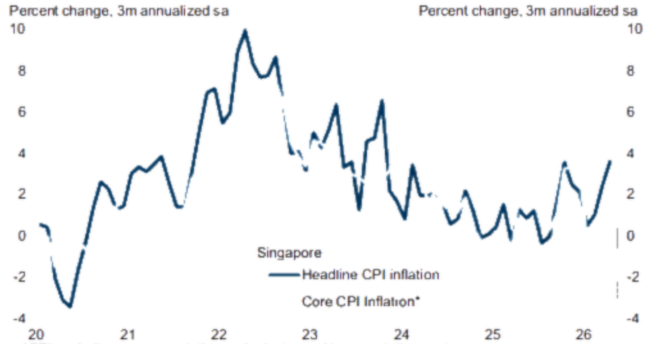
Exhibit 72: Singapore CPI inflation



*The forecast is for headline CPI inflation
**CPI excluding accommodation and private road transportation costs

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 73: Singapore CPI momentum



*CPI excluding accommodation and private road transportation costs

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 74: Singapore PPI and Import Price Index

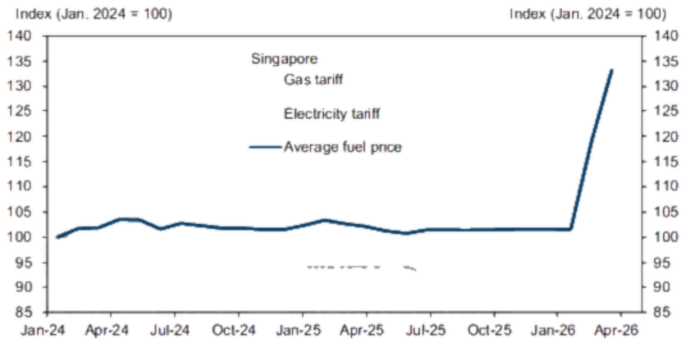
*In USD

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 75: Singapore wage growth

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

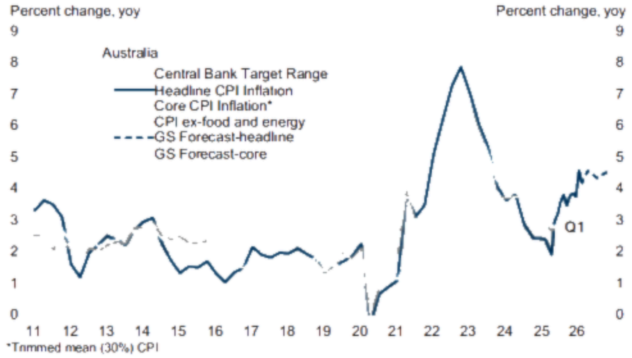
Exhibit 76: Singapore retail energy prices



"Average fuel price" is an unweighted monthly average of RON 98, RON 95, RON 92, and diesel price

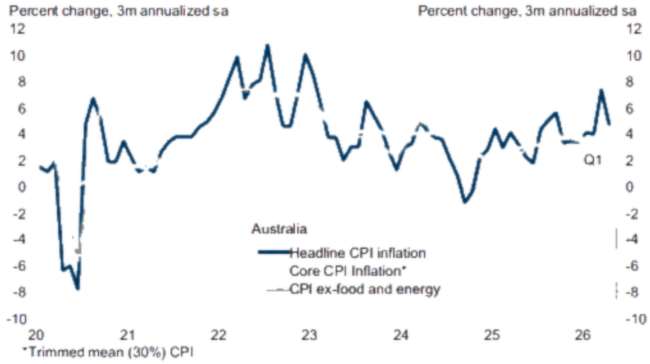
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 77: Australia CPI inflation



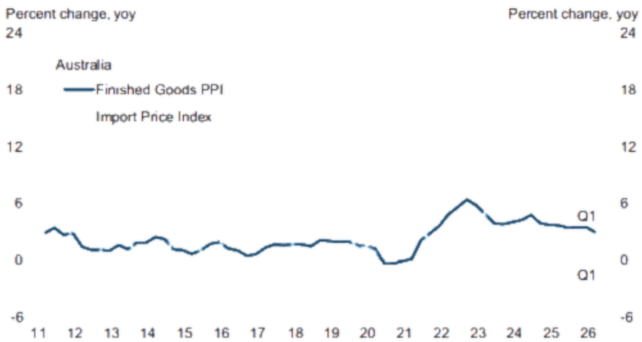
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 78: Australia CPI momentum



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 79: Australia Finished Goods PPI and Import Price Index

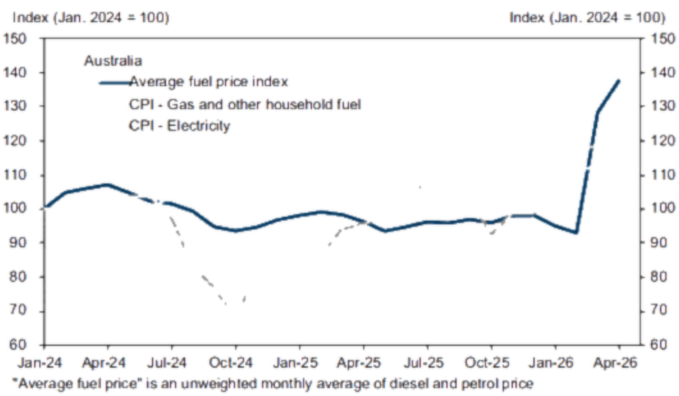


Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 80: Australia wage growth

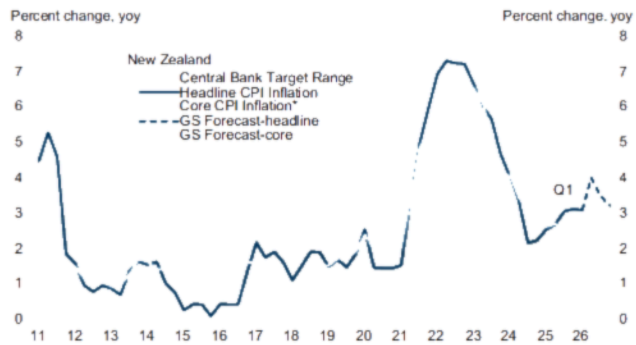
Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 81: Australia retail energy prices



Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

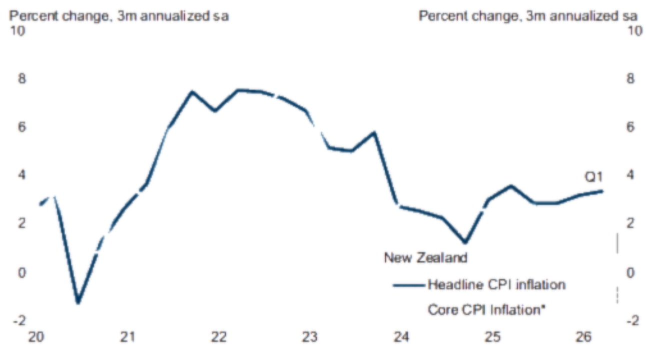
Exhibit 82: New Zealand CPI inflation



*CPI excluding food, energy and fuel

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 83: New Zealand CPI momentum



*CPI excluding food, energy and fuel

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

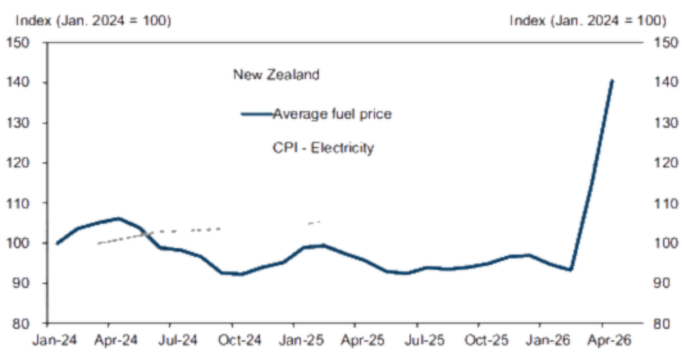
Exhibit 84: New Zealand Output Prices PPI and Import Price Index

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 85: New Zealand wage growth

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

Exhibit 86: New Zealand retail energy prices



"Average fuel price" is an unweighted monthly average of diesel, regular petrol, and premium petrol price

Source: Haver Analytics, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research