



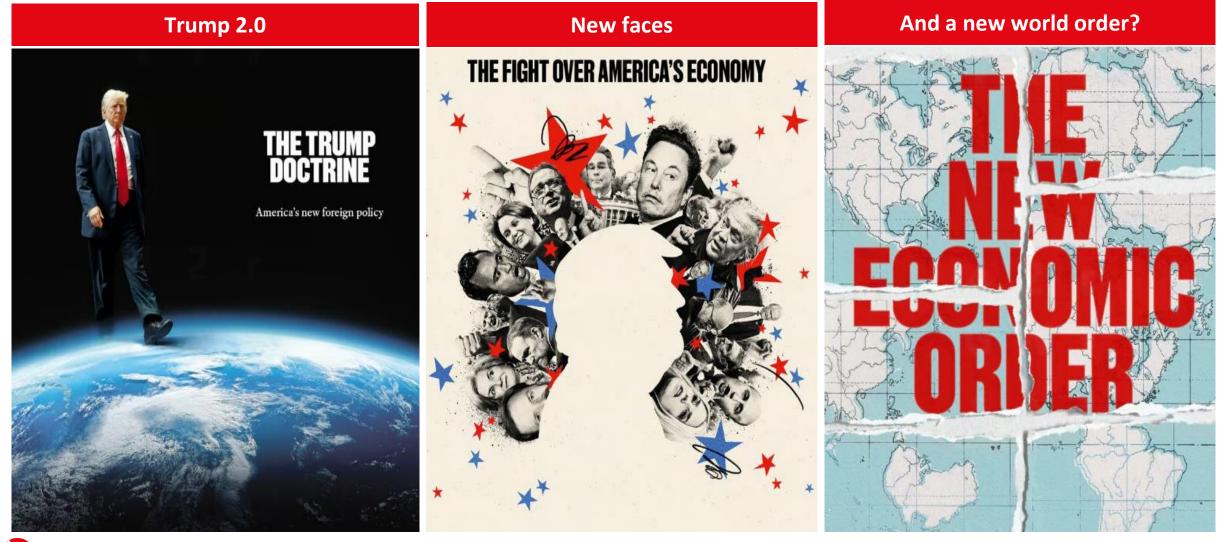
#### 2025 Outlook

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Global Markets Research & Strategy | Global Markets

23 January 2025

#### What's new?



# **Key themes in January:**

- Hawkish hold at the 17-18 December 2024 FOMC meeting.
- Market pricing for Fed rate cuts this year has dropped further ahead of 28-29 January FOMC meeting.
- **US president Trump spoke** about buying Greenland, reclaiming the Panama Canal and even Canada. What is possibly at stake is sea lanes and crucial minerals (e.g. neodymium, cerium and lanthanum critical to tech sectors). He also talked about an economic emergency to implement universal tariffs. Mass deportations.
- New US sanctions on Russian oil producers Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas and 183 vessels is likely to curb supply to China and India. This is likely to push their demand to the Middle East, Africa and the Americas.
- China grew 5.4% YoY in the last quarter of 2024, the fastest in six quarters and bringing full-year 2024 growth to 5.0%. However, property investments contracted by the most on record and deflation persisted for a second consecutive year. Adjusting for falling prices, nominal GDP expanded only 4.2% YoY in 2024, the slowest since the late 1970s excluding Covid.
- Singapore expanded by 4% in 2024, as manufacturing rebounded in 2H24. MAS may ease monetary policy on 24 January.



Source: Google images, OCBC.

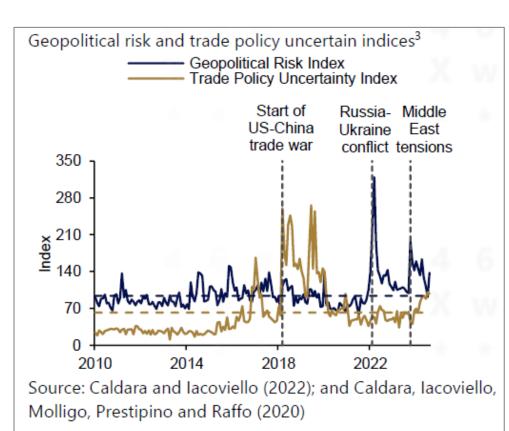




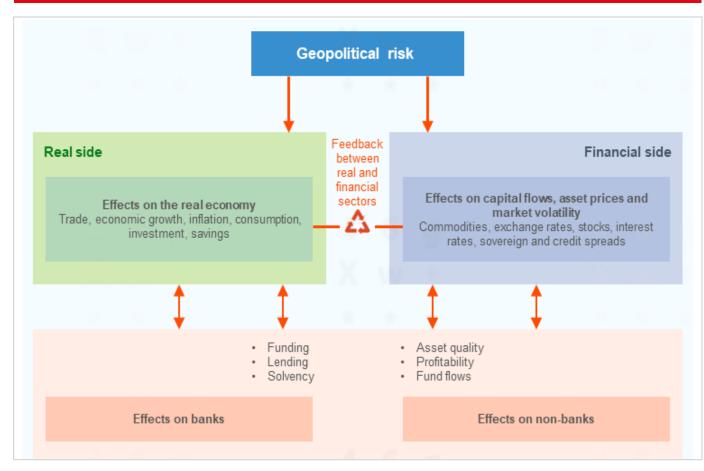
# Why geopolitical risks matter?

#### Measuring Geopolitical Risk

Transmission channels - geopolitical risk to financial stability



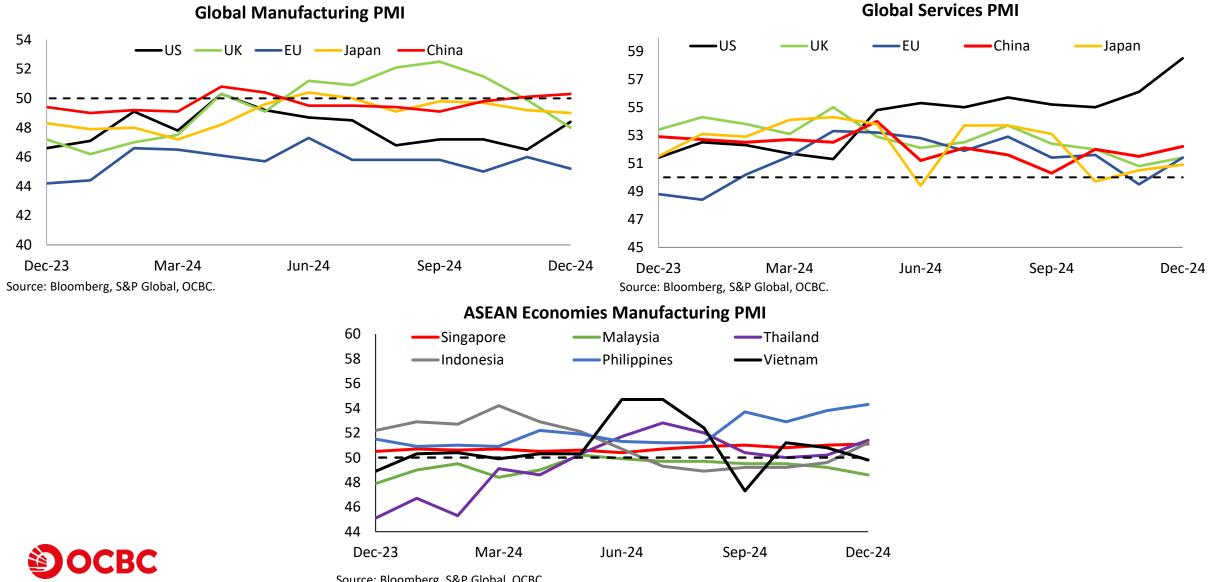
Note: Dashed lines indicate the average between 2010-19.



Source: ECB Financial Stability Review (May 2024)

#### DOCBC

## **1. US exceptionalism still in play?**



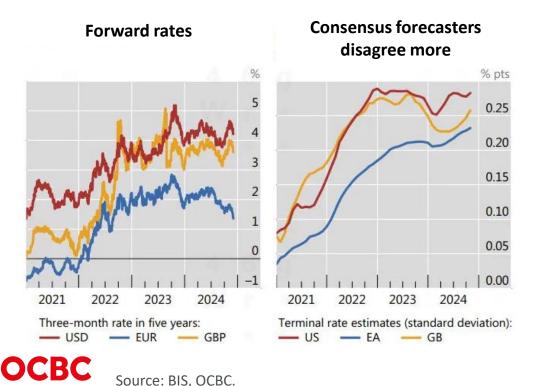
Source: Bloomberg, S&P Global, OCBC.

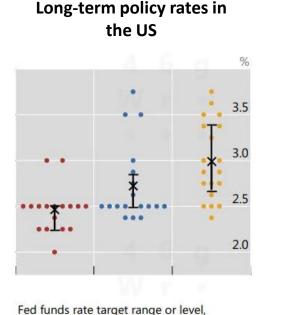
# Growing divergence of market views on terminal rates:

- Growing divergence reflects:
  - Surprising resilience of economic activity to higher rates. Data dependent?
  - Inflation outlook amid elevated geopolitical tensions. Tariff impact?
  - Higher uncertainty about the speed and strength of monetary policy transmission to economic and corporate activity.

longer run:

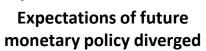
• Policymakers' neutral rate forecasts and the need to second-guess geopolitical/political influence.

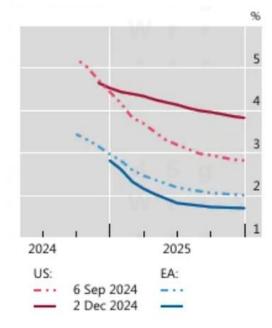




Dec 2021
 Dec 2023
 Sep 2024

Interguartile range X Mean





# US: Trumps four pillars in 2025 to MAGA

2025 has started with some fanfare, as market excitement surrounds the news report that Trump may
reduce wide-ranging tariffs to just critical imports when he takes office. However, this was quickly refuted
by Trump. With his inauguration day approaching on 20 January 2025, we take a look at the implications of
the new Trump administration

	Impact of Trump's four pillars	Scott Bessent 3-3-3 Philosophy
Trade	Tariff has been viewed as a major source of revenue to offset the impact of the tax cut. Likely inflationary and growth-negative.	
Tax cuts	Positive for growth and corporate profit but again potentially inflationary.	
	May not be investment relevant unless mass	
mmigration	deportations happen in quick order.	Cut the budget deficit 3% by 2028
	Somewhat bullish for growth and potentially	Spark 3% economic Growth
Deregulation	disinflationary. Deregulation in oil sector may lead to higher US capex and ease headline	Produce an additional 3mn barrels of oil a da
	inflation with lower oil prices as supply rise.	Source: Fox News

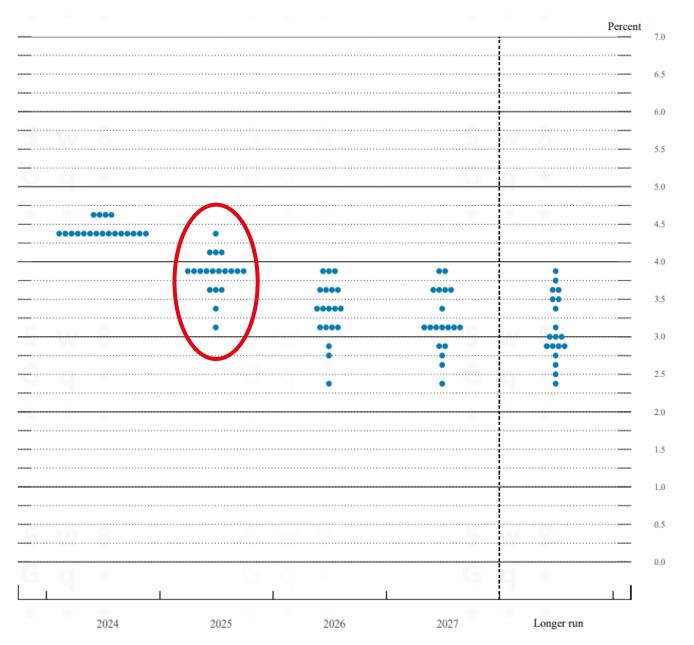
#### Trump 2.0: More vulnerable to de-risking in case of a shock?



55%

### US: Hawkish FOMC cut in December with likely pause in January

- At the 17-18 December 2024 meeting, the FOMC reduced interest rates by 25bps to 4.25% - 4.5%.
- The updated Summary of Economic Projections (SEP) showed that the median FOMC participant is expecting only two 25bps cuts in 2025, versus four 25bps cuts in September 2024.
- Current market pricing is less than that.





# US: the Fed's outlook

- The SEP also indicated an upward revision of 2025 GDP growth to 2.1% from 2.0%, 2025 core PCE inflation at 2.5% from 2.2%. 2025 Unemployment rate was also projected lower at 4.3% from 4.4%.
- The latest SEP suggests that Fed's economic outlook is modestly better growth but notably higher inflation.

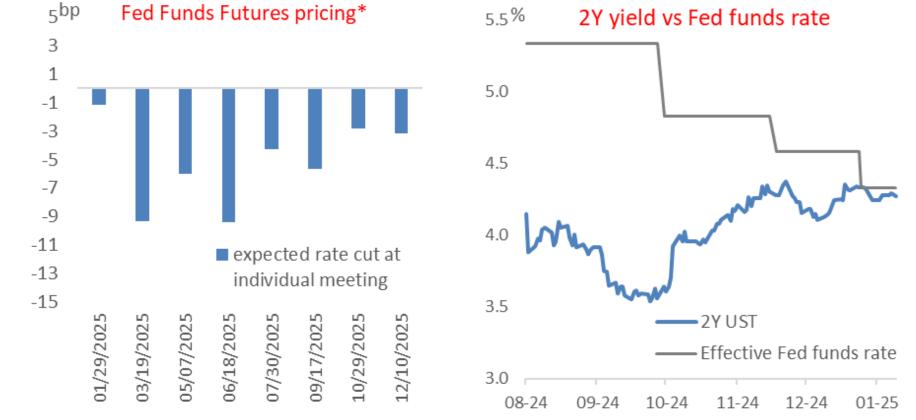
	Median <sup>1</sup>						
Variable	2024	2025	2026	2027			
Change in real GDP	2.5	2.1	2.0	1.9			
September projection	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0			
Unemployment rate	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3			
September projection	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2			
PCE inflation	2.4	2.5	2.1	2.0			
September projection	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.0			
Core PCE inflation <sup>4</sup>	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.0			
September projection	2.6	2.2	2.0	2.0			
Memo: Projected appropriate policy path							
Federal funds rate	4.4	3.9	3.4	3.1			
September projection	4.4	3.4	2.9	2.9			



Source: Federal Reserve, Bloomberg, OCBC.

#### US: Market reluctant to price more rate cuts

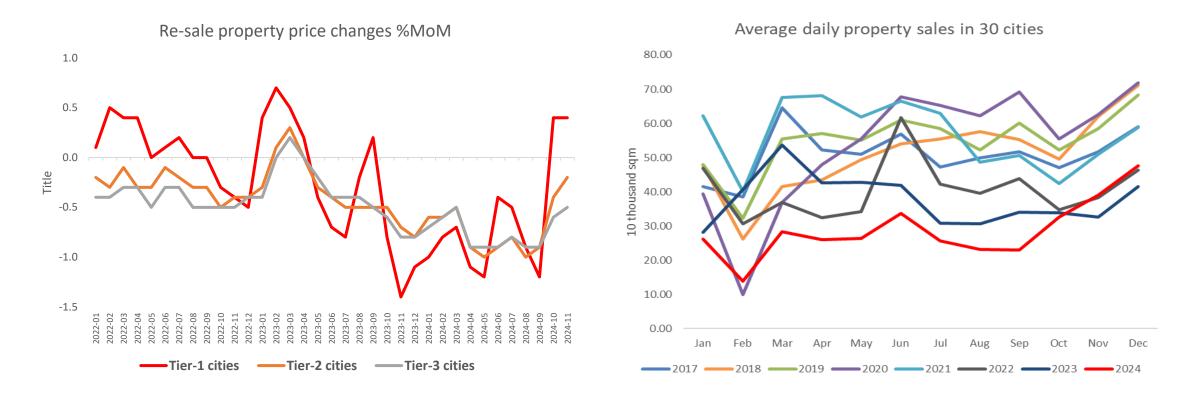
- We expect a slower pace of easing compared to the 100bps of back-to-back rate cuts that had been delivered in 2024. This is consistent with Fed stance to bring interest rates nearer a neutral level over time as current rate levels are still restrictive.
- There is a high uncertainty regarding the potential tariff impact on inflation and on economic growth.





# 2. China: initial signs of stabilization in property market

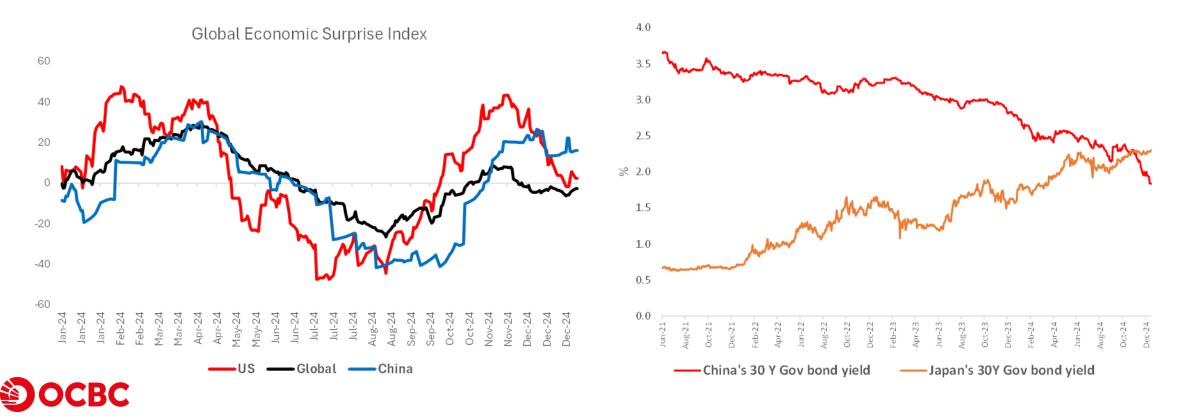
 Although China's property investment remained weak, property sales and property prices showed signs of stabilization. Property sales rebounded in November, rising 3.2% YoY, while resale property prices in tier-1 cities increased MoM for the second consecutive month, indicating gradual recovery in the sector.



Source: Bloomberg, OCBC.

# **China: Reality check**

China achieved its growth target of 5%, but notable disparities in the past year have highlighted underlying challenges for the economy. Firstly, there is a disparity between economic recovery and public sentiment.
 Secondly, there is a disparity between property market stabilization and weak retail sales in tier-1 cities.
 Thirdly, there is a disparity between deflationary pressures and reflation measure.



# **China: New economic framework for 2025**

• Despite these gaps between expectations and reality, China's intention to reflate the economy appears intact.

	Five notable changes in the policy tone
Monetary Policy	The monetary policy stance will shift to being <b>moderately loose</b> , marking a significant departure from the prudent monetary policy regime in place since 2011.
Fiscal Policy	Fiscal policy will become <b>more proactive</b> , signaling an intensification from the current proactive fiscal stance. The last instance of a more aggressive fiscal approach was during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic when China raised its fiscal deficit target.
Counter-Cyclical Adjustments	For the first time, the policy language includes the term <b>"extraordinary"</b> to describe counter-cyclical adjustments
Property and Equity Markets	The policy explicitly mentions maintaining <b>stability</b> in both the property and <b>equity markets</b> , with the latter being included for the first time.
Consumption	The government has pledged to significantly enhance consumption

×

# China: New economic framework for 2025 (continued)

#### Additional details from the Central Economic Working Conference

**Firstly,** among the nine key economic tasks for 2025, boosting consumption was given top priority. A new concept, "Special Action to Boost Consumption," was introduced, likely integrating efforts to promote consumption with improving social welfare. The focus will be on raising incomes, reducing the financial burden on low- and middle-income groups, and increasing basic pensions and healthcare fiscal subsidies.

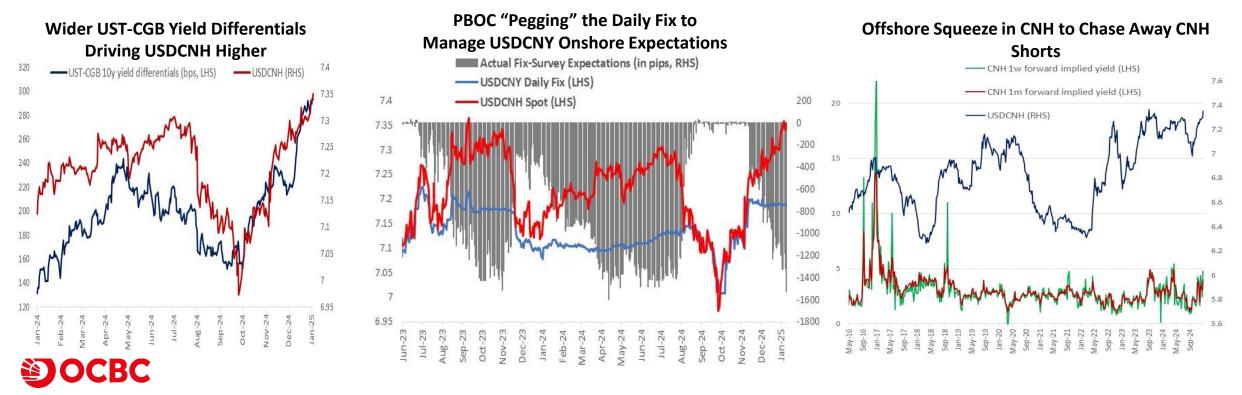
**Secondly,** the meeting emphasized the "comprehensive rectification of involuntary competition" and the standardization of behaviors by local governments and enterprises.

**Thirdly,** the proposal to "explore and expand the macroprudential and financial stability functions of the central bank" signals a strengthened role for the PBoC in stabilizing real estate and equity markets. This move reflects the increasing importance of the central bank in supporting broader financial stability and ensuring market confidence.



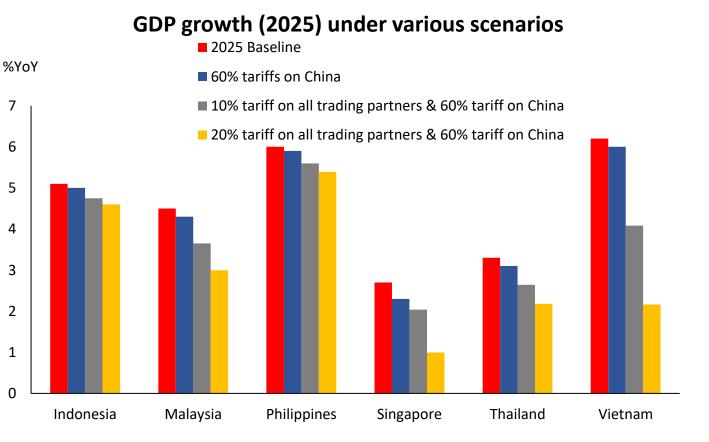
# **China: Depreciation remains the path of least resistance**

- Due to (1) wider UST-CGB yield differentials amid expectations for further China rate cuts while Fed may potentially slow the pace of rate cut cycle; (2) uneven economic recovery in China and lack of stimulus support measures; (3) markets anticipating for further RMB softness when US tariffs are implemented.
- Recent fixing pattern and offshore PBoC bill issuance suggest that PBoC is doing whatever it takes to restrain the RMB from over-weakening. While policymakers prefer RMB stability, they cannot fight against the trend. At some point when tariff hits, we believe policymakers may allow for RMB to trade weaker.

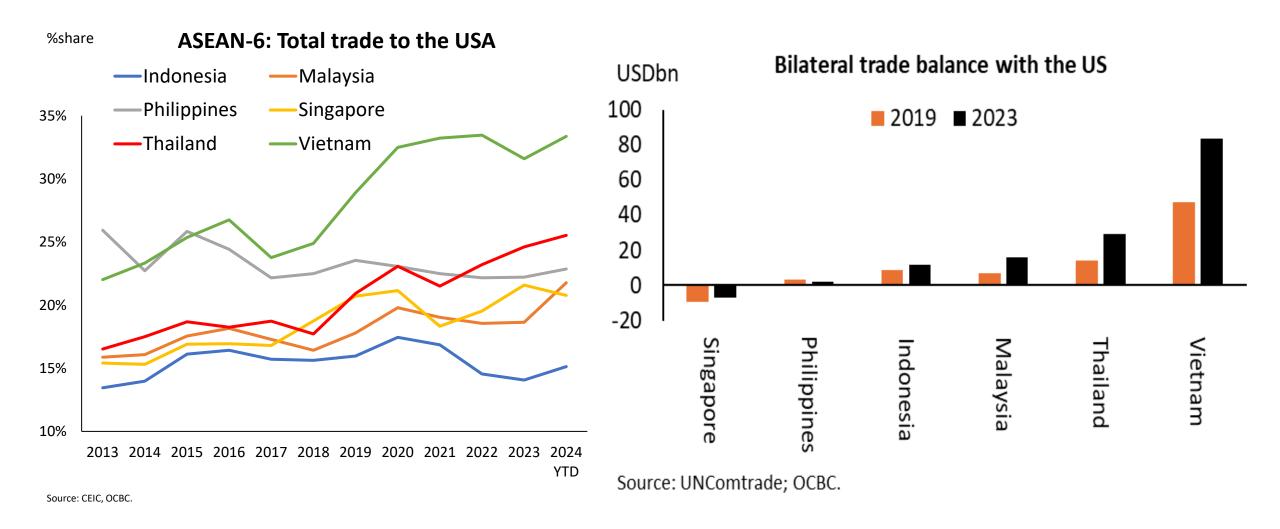


# **3. ASEAN: Assessing the impact of potential tariffs**

- Under scenario 1, we assume a 60% tariff is imposed on China's exports to the US. Under scenarios 2 and 3, tariffs are imposed on all trading partners including ASEAN along with 60% tariffs on China's exports to the US. Under scenario 2, we assume a tariff of 10% is imposed on all US trading partners including the ASEAN countries along with a tariff of 60% on China's exports to the US. Under scenario 3, a 20% tariff is imposed on US trading partners, along with a tariff of 60% on China's exports to the USA.
- GDP growth for the ASEAN-6 region could be relatively unimpacted (0.2pp lower than our baseline of 5.0%). However, under scenarios 2 and 3, ASEAN-6 GDP growth may be lower by 0.7pp and 1.3pp, respectively. Vietnam may be the most sensitive to higher US tariffs (2-4pp lower), followed by Malaysia and Thailand. The more domestic-oriented economies of the Philippines and Indonesia could see GDP growth 0.6pp and 0.5pp lower than the baseline in the worse-case.



### 3. ASEAN: Who is most vulnerable?

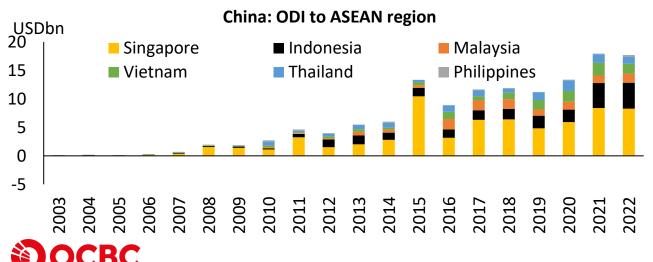


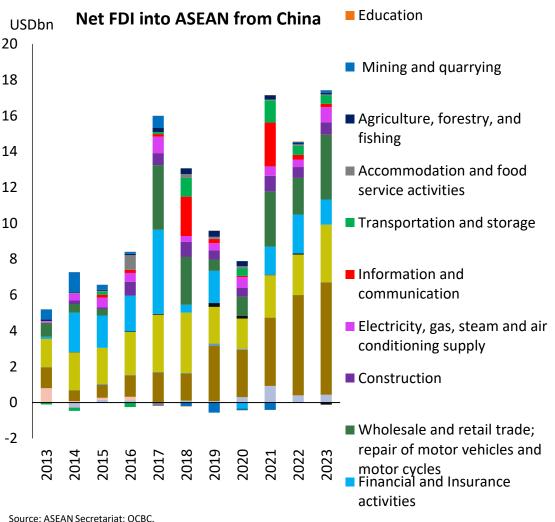


# What about China+1: ASEAN-China connectivity has improved

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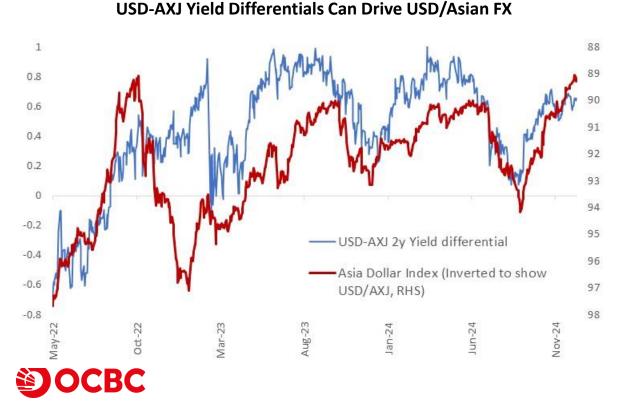
- ASEAN was key in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched in 2013.
- 20 FDI inflows have diversified from infrastructure into 18 electronics, resources and food industries. Rising FDI into manufacturing, wholesale & retail trade, finance and 16 insurance, real estate and professional services sectors. 14
- Singapore has been the largest recipient of FDI from <sup>12</sup> China, followed by Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and 10 Thailand. Inflows into Indonesia accounted for almost 1/3 8 of 2023 inflows. 6



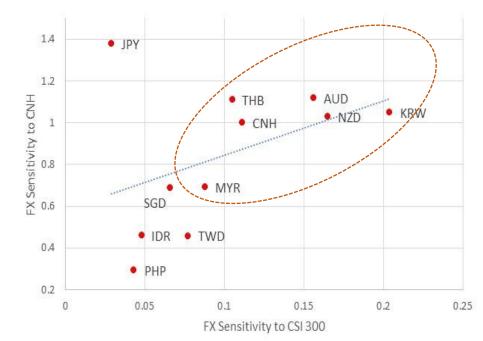


# Asian FX is dependent on tariff development and yield differentials:

- Asian FX are not only sensitive to China developments and trade war impact, but are also highly sensitive to Fed policy and UST-AXJ yield differentials. JPY, THB, KRW amongst Asian FX most sensitive to UST yields.
- If Fed continues to cut rates in 2025, US-Asia yield differentials can narrow and support of AXJ FX recovery.
- The risk here is Fed slows or halts rate cut cycle. This is likely to result in wider yield differentials, which in turn would see AXJs come under further pressure.



#### Asian FX Sensitivities to China Developments



FX Sensitivity to China Sentiment

Note: OLS regression over 2y weekly frequency data. Source Bloomberg, OCBC.

#### **OCBC forecasts for ASEAN economies:**

Country		GDP (% YoY)		Inf	lation (% Yo	()
Country	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Indonesia	5.0	5.0	5.1	3.7	2.3	2.8
Malaysia	3.6	5.2	4.5	2.5	1.8	2.7
Philippines	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	3.2	3.0
Singapore	1.1	4.0*	2.2	4.8	2.4	2.0
Thailand	1.9	2.6	3.3	1.2	0.4	2.2
Vietnam	5.0	7.1	6.2	3.3	3.6	4.0

Note:\*MTI Advance Estimates.

Country	ſ	Policy Rate (%	)	Fisca	l Deficit ( % G	iDP)
Country	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024F	2025F
Indonesia	6.00	6.00	5.50	-2.3	-2.3	-2.6
Malaysia	3.00	3.00	3.00	-5.0	-4.3	-3.5
Philippines	6.50	6.00	5.50	-6.2	-5.7	-5.3
Singapore*	3.70	3.03	2.58	-0.5	0.8	-
Thailand	2.50	2.25	2.00	-3.3	-4.3	-4.5
Vietnam	4.50	4.50	4.50	-3.5	-3.6	-3.8

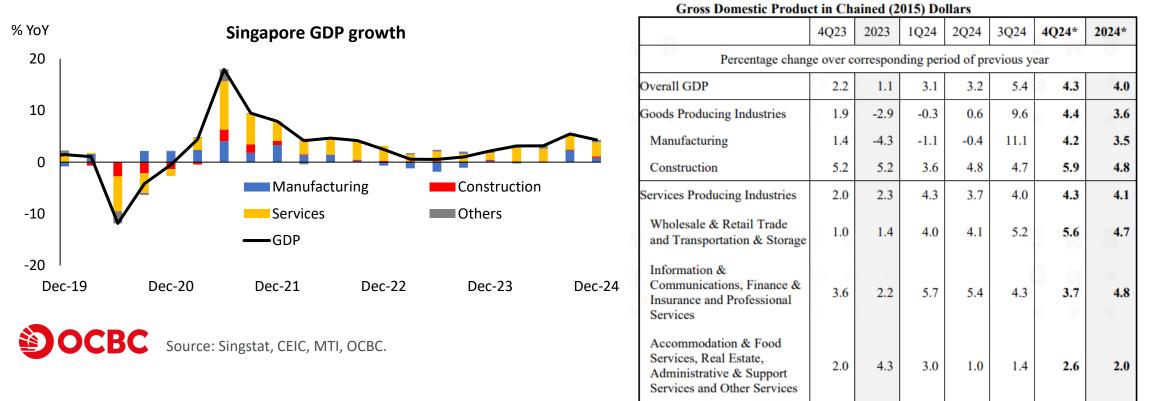
Note: \*3M Compounded SORA.

Source: OCBC.

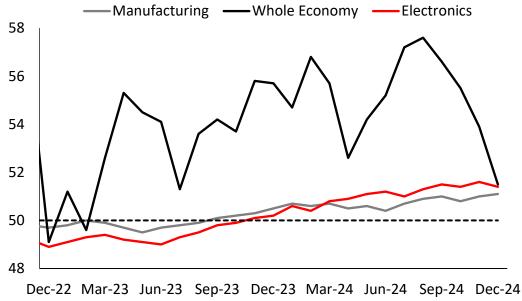


# 4. Singapore: Strong 2024 GDP growth, but slightly slower in 2025

- The economy experienced robust 4% YoY growth in 2024, the highest rate since 2021. This was an upside surprise due to stronger-than-expected 4Q24 growth of 4.3% YoY (0.1% QoQ sa) although it was a moderation from the 5.4% YoY (3.2% QoQ sa) growth seen in 3Q24.
- The growth support was broad-based. For manufacturing and services, these figures also marked the fastest growth since 2Q22 and 4Q22, respectively, and the strongest annual growth since 2021 and 2022.
- Given the higher growth base in 2024, we revised our 2025 GDP growth forecast down from 2.7% YoY to 2.2% YoY. The official 2025 growth forecast remains at 1-3% YoY.

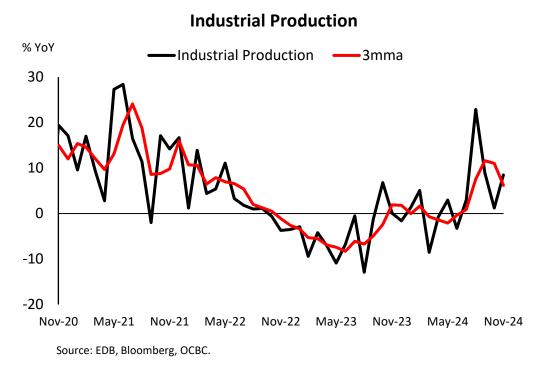


### Singapore: PMI and industrial production benefitting from electronics



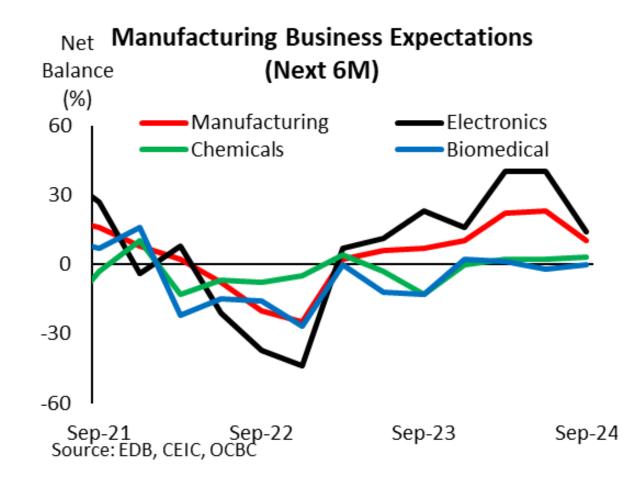
Singapore PMIs

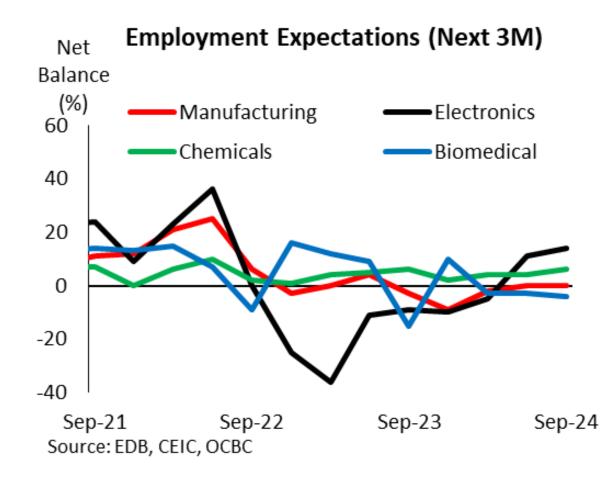
Dec-22 Mar-23 Jun-23 Sep-23 Dec-23 Mar-24 Jun-24 Sep-24 Dec-24 Source: S&P Global, SIPMM, OCBC.





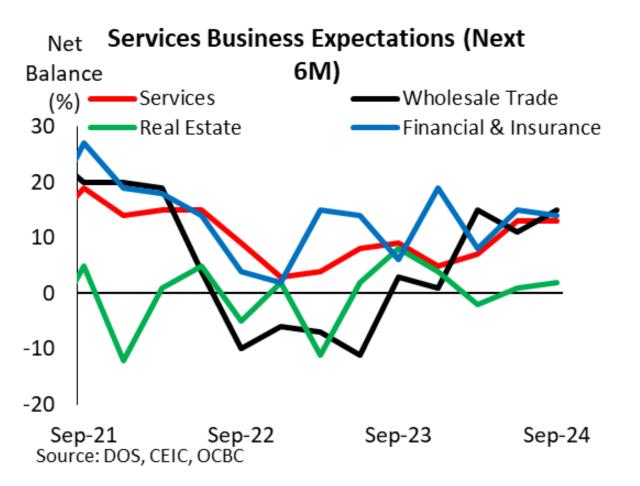
# Manufacturing business expectations:

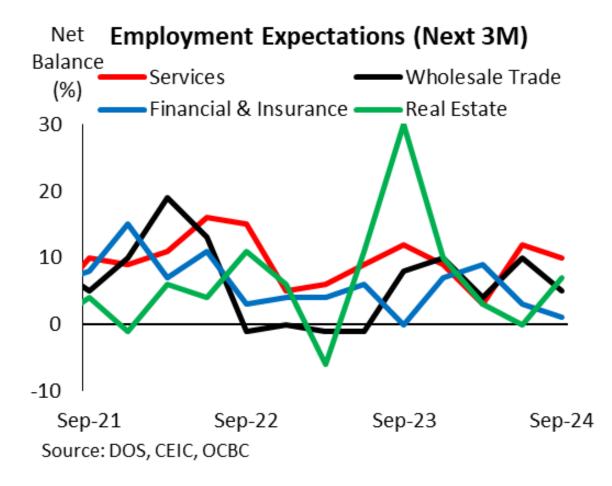






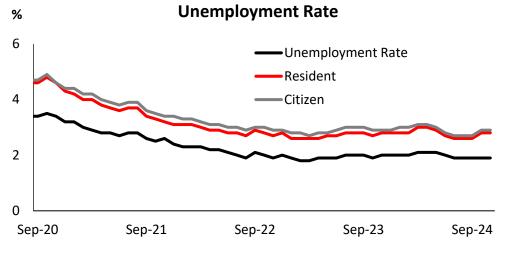
#### **Services business expectations:**



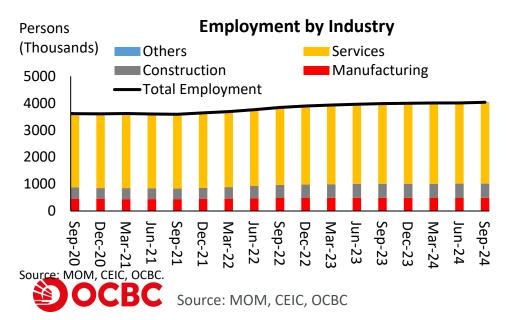


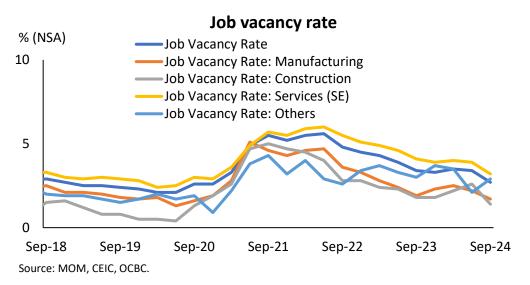
**OCBC** 

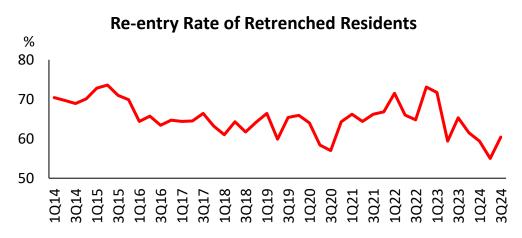
### Singapore: Labour market indicators



Source: MOM, CEIC, OCBC.



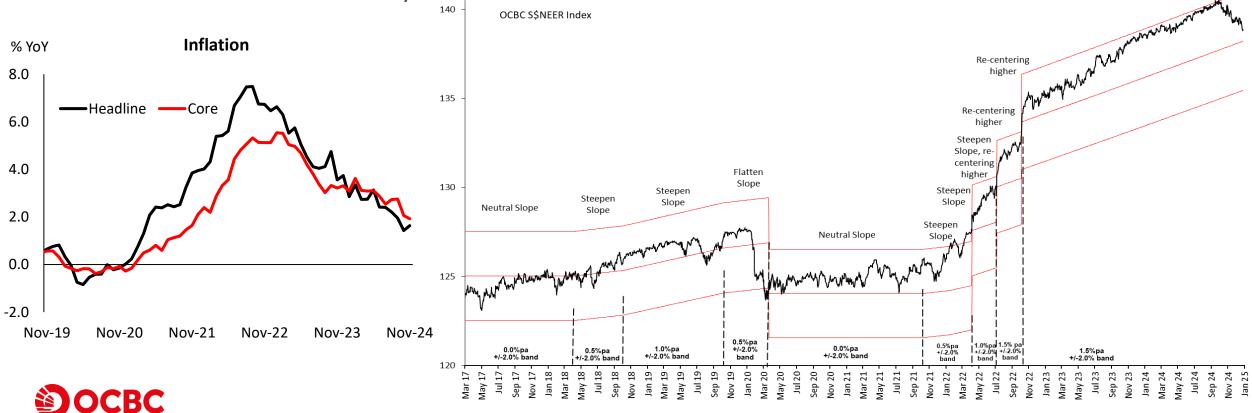




Source: Labour Market Survey, Manpower Research & Statistics Department, MOM and derived based on data from Administrative Records

# Singapore: MAS policy easing on 24 January 2025?

- The quarterly MAS monetary policy review (due by end-January) is open to an easing, possibly a slight flattening of the S\$NEER slope from our estimated 1.5% pa to ~1% pa.
- Core inflation subsided to 1.9% YoY handle in November 2024 and MAS tips 1.5-2.5% YoY for 2025. Our 2025 headline and core CPI forecasts stand at 2% and 1.9% YoY respectively.
- SGD short-term interest rates may see limited downside.



### Singapore: Strong fiscal out turn in FY2024?

	April - November 2024	Budget 2024 MOF Estimated	Budget 2024: Run Rate / % of Budgeted	% Share
Total Operating Revenue	80899.7	108640	74.47%	
Corporate Tax	25058.9	28029	89.40%	31.0%
Income Tax	13381.3	18075	74.03%	16.5%
Witholding Tax	1229.3	2307	53.29%	1.5%
Contributions By Statutory Boards	0	308	0.00%	0.0%
Assets Taxes	3571.5	6673	53.52%	4.4%
Customs & Excise Duties (CED)	2303.8	3564	64.64%	2.8%
GST	14370.6	19394	74.10%	17.8%
Motor Vehicles Tax	1633.4	2837	57.57%	2.0%
Fees & Charges: Vehicle Quota Premiums	4135.4	4725	87.52%	5.1%
Betting Taxes	2104.3	3257	64.61%	2.6%
Stamp Duty	4061.9	5731	70.88%	5.0%
Other Taxes	5610.8	8856	63.36%	6.9%
Other Fees & Charges	2679.8	4247	63.10%	3.3%
Other Receipts	758.9	637	119.14%	0.9%



Source: Ministry of Finance, CEIC, OCBC.

# Singapore: FY25 Budget hopes

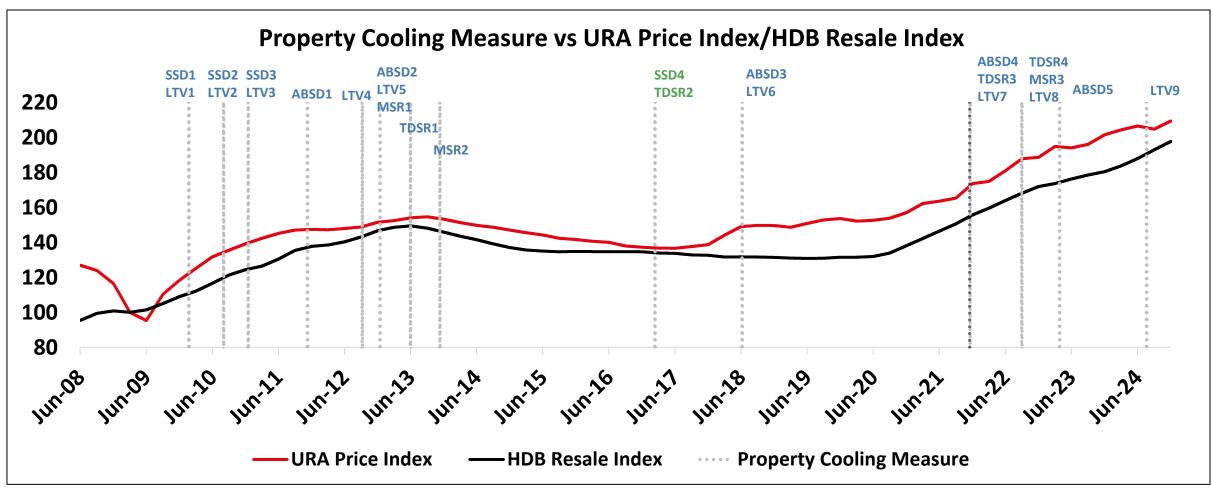
- Generous Budget 2025 expected on 18
   February given likely bumper fiscal outturn. PM Wong had highlighted in his New Year's Day message that while global inflation has moderated, price levels have still not fallen and are not yet at pre-pandemic levels, hence more targeted help is on the way for older people and lower-income groups to cope with cost-of-living increases.
- Expectations are running high given this is likely to be the final budget for this term of government and Singapore marks its SG60 celebrations.
- Any sticks?
- What are your thoughts?



Source: MOF, OCBC.

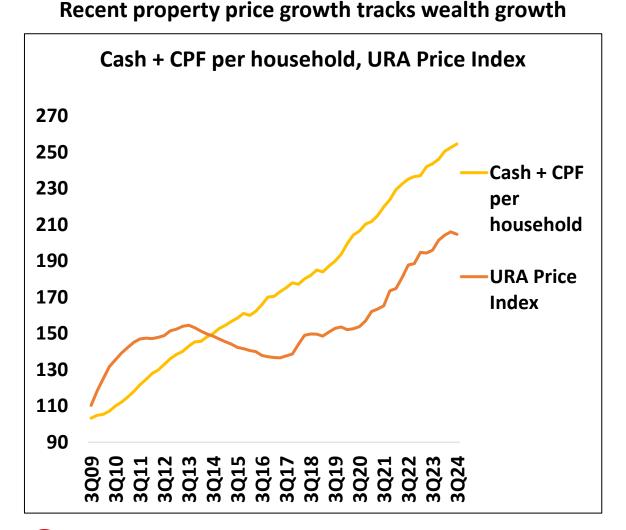
Fiscal Year	<b>Overall Fiscal Position</b>	Term of Government: Accumulated Surplus / Deficit
	S\$mn	S\$mn
	January 1997 G	eneral Election
FY1998	925	
FY1999	4884	7094
FY2000	3983	7094
FY2001	-2698	
	November 2001	General Election
FY2002	190	
FY2003	-1887	-373
FY2004	-106	-575
FY2005	1485	
FY2006	-55	
	May 2006 Ger	neral Election
FY2007	7656	
FY2008	239	12059
FY2009	-819	12035
FY2010	980	
FY2011	4003	
	May 2011 Ger	neral Election
FY2012	5821	
FY2013	4998	7340
FY2014	571	/340
FY2015	-4050	
	September 2015	General Election
FY2016	6125	*SGD40b
FY2017	10861	nast reserv
FY2018	3339	9603 past reserv
FY2019	845	COVID-19
FY2020	-51567	response
	July 2020 Ger	neral Election
FY2021	1880	
FY2022	1716	
FY2023 (Revised)	-3571	803
FY2024 (Estimated)	778	

# Property: Prices rose 3.9% in 2024, expect 2025 prices to rise 2-4%:

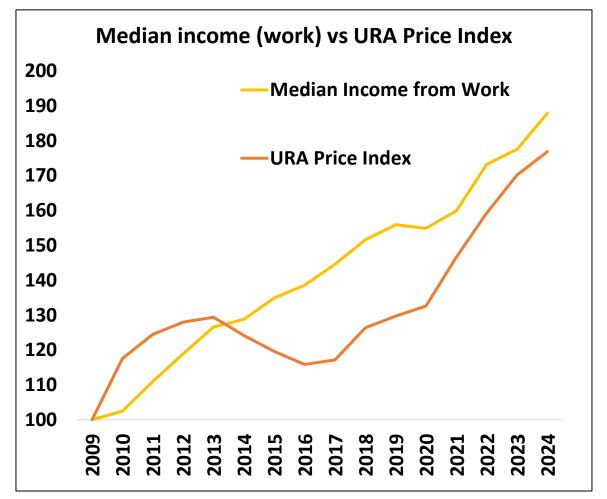


Recent cooling measures have caused only short-term blips

# Property price growth not excessive relative to wealth & income:

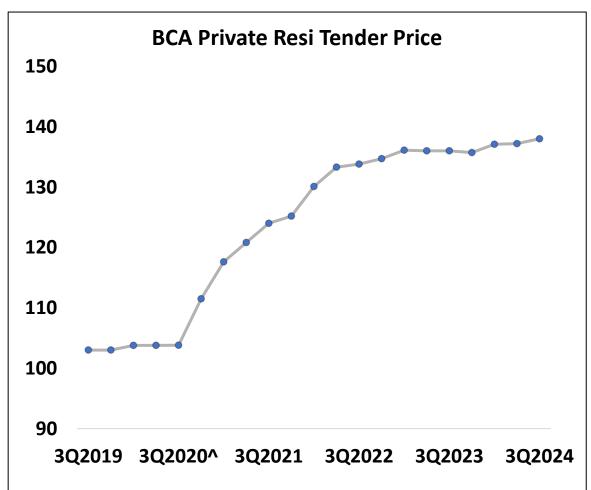


Recent property price growth tracks income growth

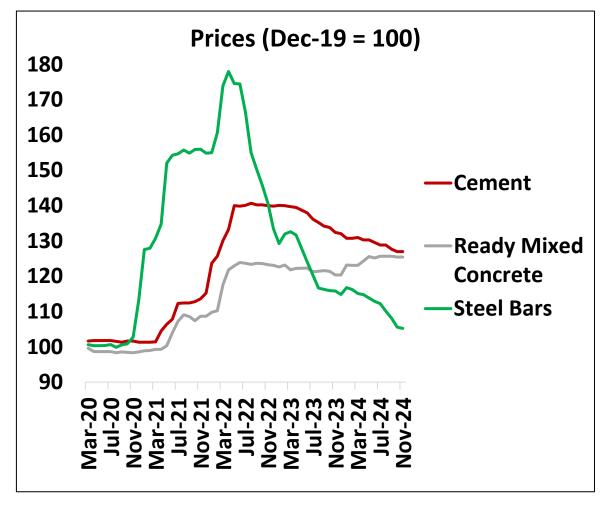


#### **Construction costs are still rising, albeit at a slower pace:**

Slower rise in tender prices

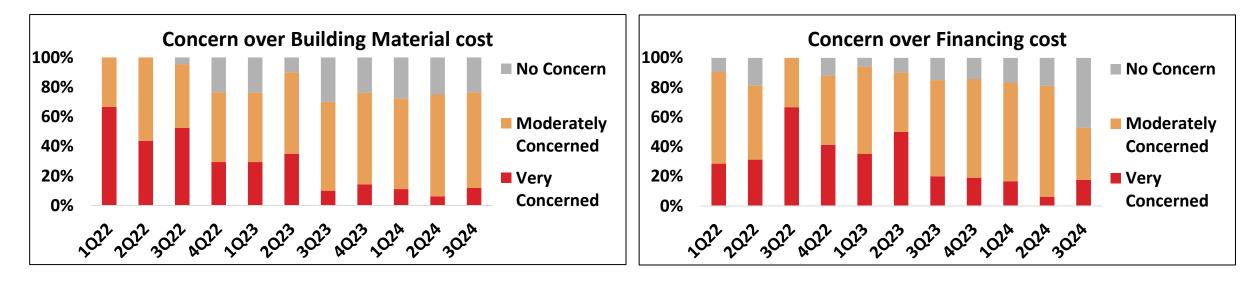


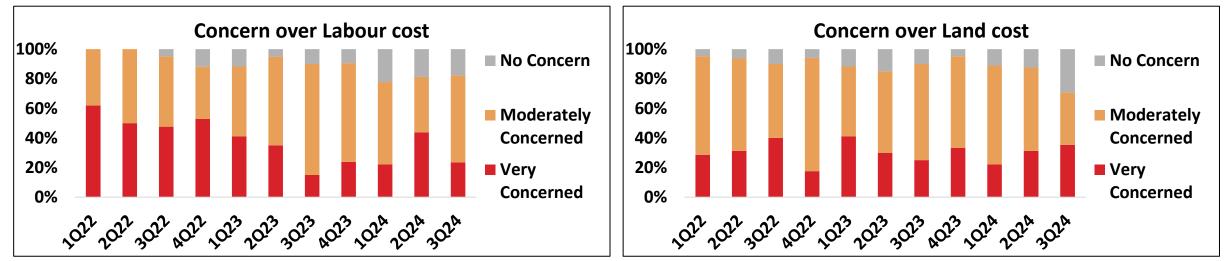
Raw material prices has stabilized



Source: URA, Bloomberg, OCBC

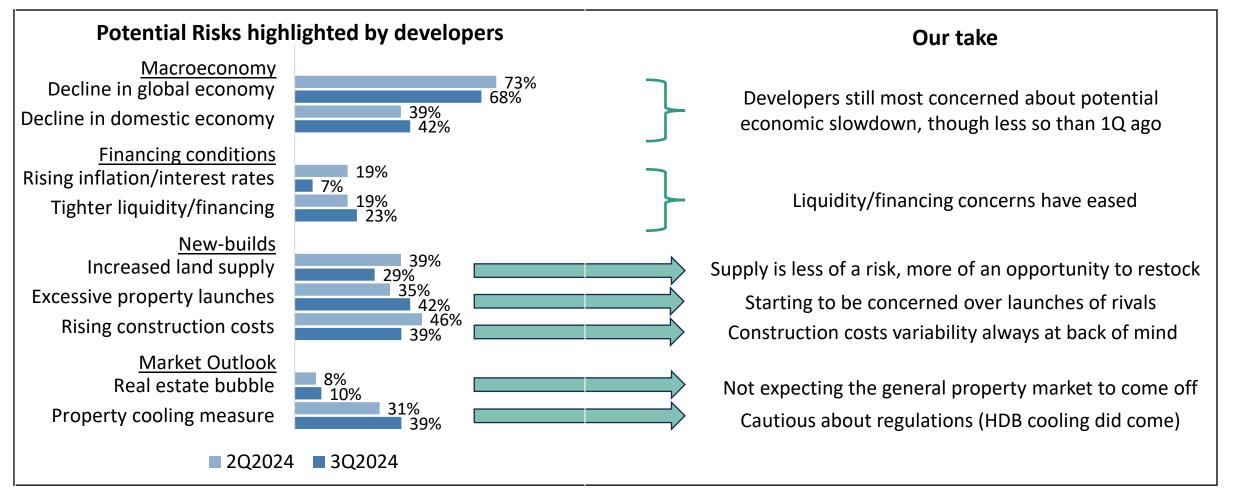
#### **Cost concerns have receded significantly**





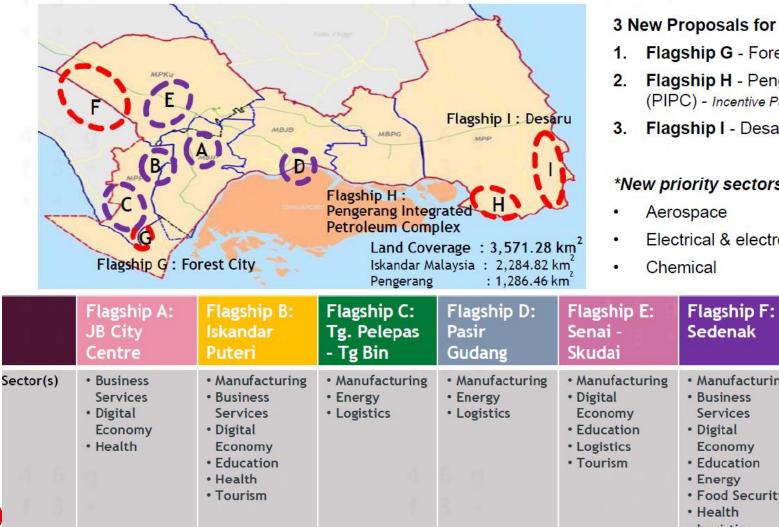
### **Developers not too concerned about price decline:**

#### Concerned about macroeconomy, not overly concerned about property market, financing conditions eased



### **5. Johor-Singapore Special Economics Zone: Design & target sectors**

#### Flagship Zone incentives for sectors in JS-SEZ



#### **3 New Proposals for Flagship Zone Areas**

- Flagship G Forest City
- Flagship H Pengerang Integrated Petroleum Complex (PIPC) - Incentive Packages under PIPC-JPDC

Elagebin G.

Flagship I - Desaru

#### \*New priority sectors

Medical devices

Elagshin H

Elagehin I.

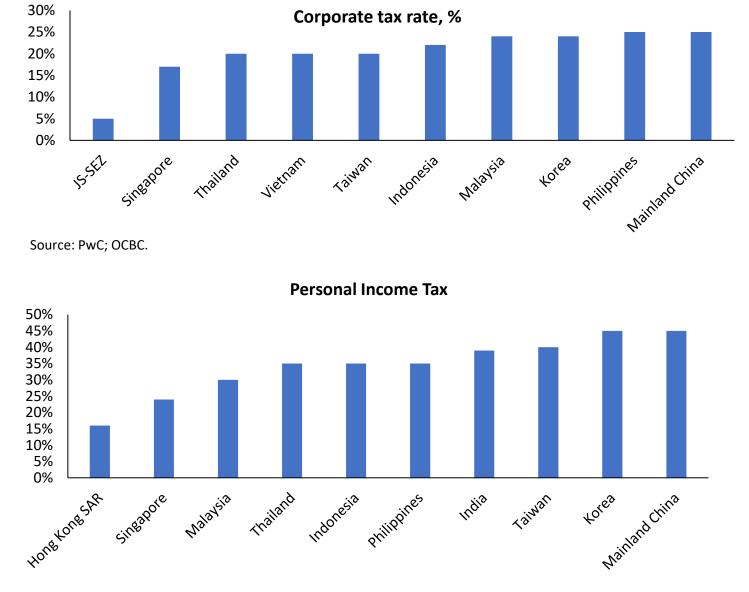
- Electrical & electronics
  - Pharmaceuticals

	JB City Centre	lskandar Puteri	Tg. Pelepas - Tg Bin	Pasir Gudang	Senai - Skudai	Sedenak	Forest City	PIPC	Desaru
Sector(s)	<ul> <li>Business Services</li> <li>Digital Economy</li> <li>Health</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Business Services</li> <li>Digital Economy</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Logistics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Logistics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Digital Economy</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Logistics</li> <li>Tourism</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Business Services</li> <li>Digital Economy</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Food Security</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Logistics</li> <li>Tourism</li> </ul>	• Financial Services Note : Special Financial Zone (SFZ)	<ul> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Energy</li> <li>Logistics</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Education</li> <li>Food Security</li> <li>Health</li> <li>Tourism</li> </ul>

# JS-SEZ: Tax incentives are competitive

- Effective 1 January 2025, companies undertaking new investments in qualifying manufacturing and services activities, such as AI and Quantum Computing Supply Chain, Medical Devices, Aerospace manufacturing and global services hub will benefit from a special tax rate of 5% for upto 15 years.
- Additional tailor-made incentives are allocated to businesses operating in certain flagship areas in JS-SEZ.
- Special tax rate for knowledge workers of 15% for 10 year for eligible knowledge workers, working in the JS-SEZ.

Source: MOF, Malaysia; OCBC.



# JS-SEZ: Incentives for the Special Financial Zone

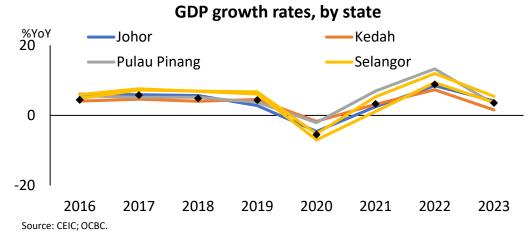
- The incentives for the Special Financial Zone (SFZ) were announced in on 20 September 2024. The incentives centre around providing competitive tax rates for businesses and individuals to attract investments and talent.
- The incentives are directed towards family wealth offices, which are being offered a 0% tax for ten years with the potential to extend it further if certain criteria are met.
- As of 24 November, 11 companies have committed to investing in the Special Financial Zone. These include some banks, which plan to officially launch within the SFZ in early 2025.

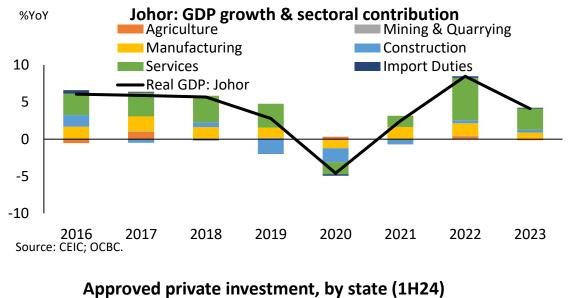
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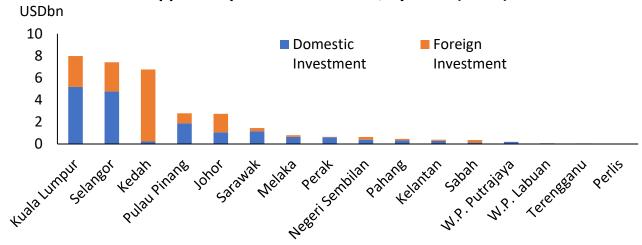
		Тах					
	Entity	rate	Notes				
5			Transaction revenue for 10 years				
r			with a potential to extend if				
k k			certain criterion are met;				
r	Family wealth offices	0%	minimum assets of MYR30mn				
)	Corporate tax (concessionary)	0-5%	n.a.				
	Individual tax rate for skilled foreign						
S	workers	15%	n.a.				
9	Financial services, fintech companies,						
S	foreign payment system operators	5%	n.a.				
t	Other incent	tives in	clude:				
	Special deductions	on relo	ocation costs				
S -	Enhanced industrial	buildir	ng allowances				
د د	Withholding t	ax exer	nptions				
2	Relax regulations for locally incorpora	ated for	reign banks to open additional				
- )	branches						
י ו	Allow flexibility in foreign exchange for	offsho	re borrowing in foreign currency				
	and investments in fo	reign c	urrency assets.				
	Source: Malaysia Star; The Edge; Straits <sup>-</sup>	Times;	OCBC.				

# JS-SEZ: Importance of Johor for Malaysia

- Johor's share of Malaysia GDP has been steady at ~9.5% since 2015. The growth of Johor in recent years has been marginally higher than the national average. Johor's growth rate is expected to be 5-5.2% in 2024.
- The services sector is the biggest contributor to Johor's GDP, followed by manufacturing.
- Private sector investments into Johor have also been increasing but lag other states.









Source: MIDA; OCBC.

#### Key takeaways:

	% of c	itations	Impact ranking		
Risk Categories cited by at least 10% of respondents	April 2024	October 2024 (Δ)	April 2024	October 2024 (Δ)	
Macroeconomic uncertainty (growth slowdown and inflation resurgence)	67	62 (-5)	1	1 X	
Geopolitical risk induced by escalation of ongoing conflicts, as well as trade tensions and uncertain policies of newly elected governments	51	54 (+3)	2	2	
Technology and cyber risk	51 9	46 (-5)	3	3	
Money laundering and terrorism financing risks	25	27 (+2)	4	4	
Transition and physical risks due to climate change	16	16	5	6 (↓1)	
AI developments	13	11 (-2)	6	5 (†1)	

OCBC

Notes: (i) Impact ranking is the aggregate of all respondents' ranking of each risk by potential impact. (ii) Both runs of the survey had response rates of 98% from 57 FIs.



