

INDIA

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*CitiViews – India Market Watch

- Spotlight Poverty in India: Although touted as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, India is also one of the poorest as there are nearly 250m people below the poverty line¹. Though trends indicate an improvement with the latest National Sample Survey pegging the poverty rate at 22% in FY05, down from 26% seen in FY00; as the Planning Commission points out, this is at best a modest rate of decline given the high absolute levels. This is due largely to the poor agricultural performance as despite its falling contribution to GDP, it continues to remain an important source of livelihood for the rural sector.
- ➤ On a positive note, the government is taking wide ranging measures to improve the situation. This is reflected in an improvement across social sector indicators, as seen in the rankings of the UNDP's Human Development Index. The 'farm to retail' model, is also likely to result in higher rural incomes. Moreover, India has a low Gini Coefficient, which is an indicator of income equality; although it is important to note that this is not an efficient yardstick of poverty.
- ➤ Forex Market: In one of the most volatile weeks, the rupee closed stronger at Rs44.21/US\$ from 44.30/US\$ in the week before. The synchronized global sell-off initially took its toll on the rupee with the unit falling to Rs44.70/US\$. However, recovery in the markets saw the rupee bounce back. While trends in the near term are likely to be choppy, we maintain our 12M estimate of Rs43.2.
- ➤ Bond Market: Benchmark 10-year yield rose to 7.99% from 7.94%. Overall liquidity was comfortable as reflected in the LAF receiving bids worth Rs251bn on a daily average basis. This resulted in ample liquidity in the money market a result of the Rs30bn daily cap on reverse repos bids, which saw call money rates come down to 5.3%. However, concerns on upcoming advance tax outflows, coupled with the possibility of more bonds being issued to absorb surplus cash kept sentiment weak and saw the 10-year yield rising over 8% intra-week.

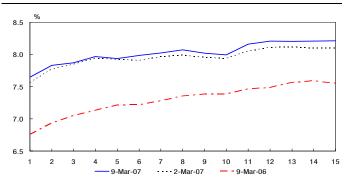
Trends in the Poverty Ratio				GIni Coefficient - India and Comparative													
	Number of Poor (Mns)	% of Popn	0.6	Coeffic	ient												
FY74	321	54.9		0.49													
FY84	323	44.5	0.5		0.45												
FY94	320	36.0	0.5	-	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.41								
FY00	260	26.1	0.4	-					-	0.37							
FY05	~250	22.0	0.4	-						_	0.36	0.34	0.33	0.00			
Source: Human Developme	ent Report, 2006; RBI, NSS		0.3											0.33	0.32	0.31	
																	0.
			0.3	-													0.
			0.2														
				Malaysia	China	Ŧ	Singapore	Thailand	United States	Viet Nam	United Kingdom	Indonesia	Sri Lanka	India	Bangladesh	Pakistan	

¹ **Poverty Line**: In India, poverty lines correspond to a total household per capita expenditure sufficient to provide, in addition to basic non-food items a daily intake of 2400 calories per person in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. Individuals who do not meet these calorie norms fall below the poverty line. In the FY00 survey, the criterion used was monthly consumption of goods below Rs211 for rural areas and Rs454 for urban areas



India – Markets in Pictures

Trends in GOI Yield Curve

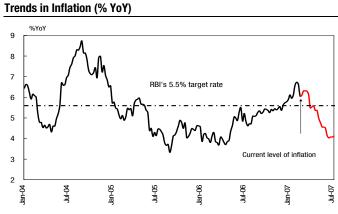


The curve was higher and inter-tenor spreads widened with the spread between 2-year and 15-year yield rising to 38bps from 32bps with yields rising at the longer tenors.

Trends in Exchange Rate - Rs/US\$

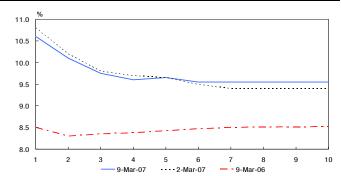


The rupee closed stronger at Rs44.21/US\$ from 44.30/US\$ in the week before. The synchronised global sell-off initially took its toll on the rupee with the unit falling to Rs44.70/US\$. However, recovery in the markets saw the rupee bounce back.



Inflation remained over the 6% mark, with the WPI at 6.1% for the weekended 24 Feb, up from 6.05% the previous week. While Primary Articles were up 11.1%, Manufactured Goods rose by 6.2% and the Fuel Index was up 1.2% yoy. We expect inflation to ease to 5% levels by May. Source: Reuters, Bloomberg

Trends in AAA Yield Curve



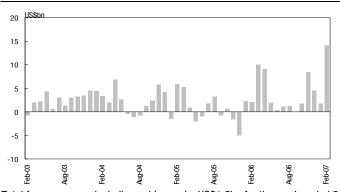
The curve flattened amidst sporadic interest in oil bonds and a few AAA rated bank bonds. The 5-year benchmark was flat at 9.65% while the credit spread narrowed 5bps to 151bps.

Trends in 6 Month Premiums (%)



The Premium rose to 3.15% from 3.03%. Stock indices indirectly affected the premium as movements in the currency market responded to stock market swings.



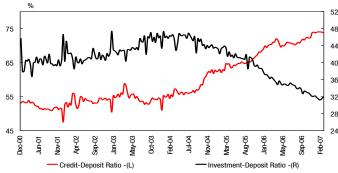


Total forex reserves, including gold, rose by US\$1.5bn for the week ended 2 March. Fiscal YTD, foreign currency assets have also increased by US\$42bn and currently stand at US\$187bn as compared with US\$143bn the previous year. Forex reserves including gold stand at US\$195bn.



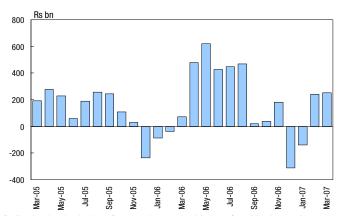
India – Markets in Pictures

Trends in the Credit and Investment Deposit Ratios



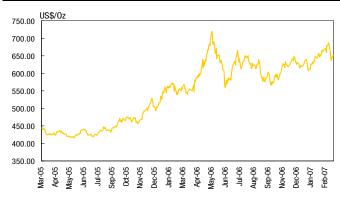
Trends in credit remain buoyant, up 29.3% for the week ended 23 Feb 07. However, deposits have also picked up, rising by 24.5% yoy. This has resulted in the credit-deposit ratio remaining more-or-less flat, at 73.8% currently.

Trends in Reverse Repos/Repos (Rs bn)



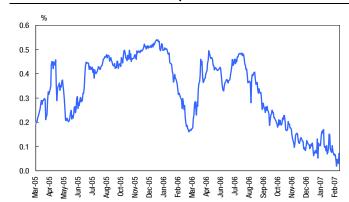
Dollar buying in the last few weeks resulted in comfortable domestic liquidity conditions, with the RBI receiving reverse repo bids to the tune of Rs250bn on a daily basis. The Rs30bn per day reverse repo cap led to call money rates coming off to 5.3%.

Trends in Commodities – Gold(US\$/Oz)



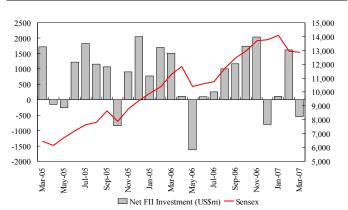
Gold rose to US\$650.28/oz from US\$642.95/oz in the previous week as investors re-entered the market following the financial market sell-off. Source: Reuters; Bloomberg; Citigroup

Trends in 10 Year GOI over 5 Year Spread



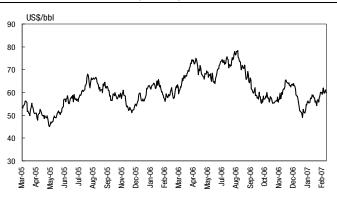
The spread between the 5- and 10-year GOI rose to 6bps up from 2bps in the previous week, with the longer end of the curve ending up.

2 Yrs - Trends in FII Flows (US\$ m)



Equities saw FII outflows to the tune of US\$154m for the trading week ended 9 March. March MTD, total FII outflows (equity) amounted to US\$550m. Fiscal YTD, flows totaled US\$5.2bn, as compared with US\$10.1bn during the same period last year.

Trends in Commodities - Oil (US\$/bbl)



The recovery in global stock markets along with a drop in US gasoline inventories provided support to Brent to stay above \$60/bbl.



India- Market Monitor

	Units	Latest	Previous	1M ago	3M ago	12M ago
Interest Rates	· · ·			· · ·		
Overnight	%	5.60	6.10	6.50	6.20	6.70
1 year Treasury Bill	%	7.73	7.84	7.70	6.94	6.80
1 year OIS	%	7.74	7.84	7.65	6.86	6.54
1 year MIFOR	%	8.32	8.50	8.63	7.41	7.44
5 year Corp AAA spread over GOI	%	1.54	1.56	1.34	1.15	1.08
10 year GOI	%	7.99	7.942	7.80	7.39	7.39
Currency & Reserves						
USD/INR		44.21	44.30	44.13	44.73	44.48
EUR/USD		1.32	1.32	1.30	1.33	1.19
USD/JPY		117.43	117.20	121.39	115.64	117.30
12 Month INR Forward Premium	%	2.91	3.15	2.90	2.46	2.08
FX Assets As On (2 Mar 07)	US\$ bn.	187.3	186.1	173.0	168.4	136.6
Money & Banking						
Credit-Deposit Ratio	%	73.8	74.0	74.0	73.8	71.0
Money Supply - M3	% YoY	21.8	19.2	21.10	19.40	16.30
Inflation - WPI (24 Feb 07)	% YoY	6.10	6.05	6.58	5.55	4.13

Source: Citigroup; RBI.

Financial Market Forecasts

Currency Forecasts and Forwards

		Spot	I Month		3 Months		6 Mo	onths	12 Months	
	Range in Feb	8-Mar	Forecast	Forward	Forecast	Forward	Forecast	Forward	Forecast	Forward
Versus USD										
Japan YEN	118.49-121.81	116.13	119.00	115.66	120.00	114.77	120.00	113.48	118.00	111.23
Euro EUR	1.2926-1.3245	1.3180	1.2800	1.3196	1.2600	1.3227	1.2600	1.3265	1.2400	1.3318
India INR	43.95-44.18	44.33	44.50	44.70	44.00	44.90	43.50	45.11	43.00	45.54
China RMB	7.7396-7.7662	7.7370	7.7000	7.7030	7.6300	7.6355	7.4700	7.5375	7.3000	7.3555

Source: Reuters, Citigroup estimates.

Interest Rate Forecasts

		Range in February	8-Mar	1007	2007	3007	4007
US	Fed Fund Rate	5.25 - 5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00
	10-Year Treasuries	4.51 - 4.83	4.50	4.80	4.90	4.95	4.95
EU	Repo Rate	3.5 - 3.5	3.50	3.75	3.75	4.00	4.00
	10-Year Bunds	3.95 - 4.12	3.92	3.90	3.90	3.95	3.95
JP	Call Money	0.25 - 0.705	0.53	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75
	10-Year JGBs	1.63 - 1.75	1.62	1.70	1.80	1.90	2.00
IN	Overnight Reverse Repo Rate	6 - 6	6.00	6.00	6.25	6.25	6.25
	91-Day T Bill	7.47 - 8.10	7.48	7.50	7.50	7.50	7.50
	10 Yr Gilt	7.69 - 8.08	7.96	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
CN	1-year lending rate	6.12 - 6.12	6.12	6.12	6.39	6.39	6.39
	Bond repo rate (7-Day)	1.94 - 4.38	1.45	1.90	2.00	2.20	2.50
	Government bond yield (5-Year)	2.68 - 2.76	2.70	2.75	2.80	2.95	3.12

Source: Datastream, CEIC Data Company Limited, Bloomberg, Moneyline Telerate, Citigroup estimates.

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