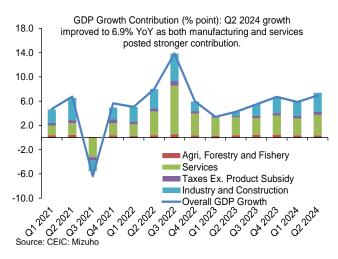
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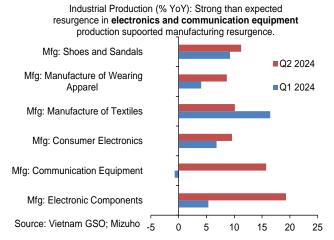


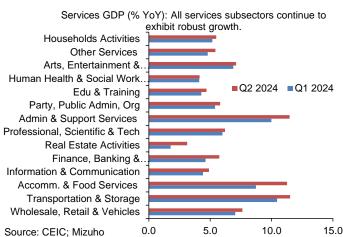
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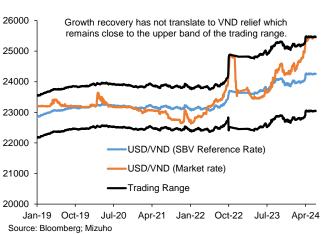
1 July 2024 | Tan Boon Heng | Market Economist

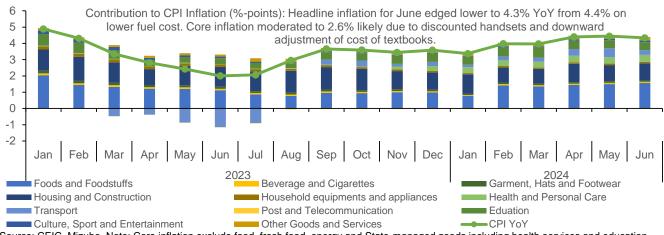
Vietnam: Growth Recovery and VND Woes











Source: CEIC, Mizuho. Note: Core inflation exclude food, fresh food, energy and State-managed goods including health services and education.

- In Vietnam, Q2 GDP growth outperformed expectations surging to 6.9% YoY. Both manufacturing and services sector contributed more to growth as the manufacturing sector value added grew 10% YoY from 7.2% YoY in Q1 while services GDP posted growth of 7.1% YoY in Q2 from 6.1% in Q1.
- For the manufacturing sector, the strength of the surge in electronics components and communication equipment surprised on the upside on the positive spillover from the current semiconductor upturn while the more moderate strength in consumer electronics we had expected. June's strong PMI also signal continued resiliency in manufacturing output in the months ahead.
- On the services front, all sub-sectors aside from accommodation and foods services rose on a QoQ basis aside from accommodation and services due to a seasonal decrease in tourist arrivals in Q2. The upturn in manufacturing likely also led to increase in demand for transportation and storage services which contributed 1.6%-point to services GDP growth.
- Finance, banking, insurance services as well as **the troubled real estate services sector also saw robust activity growing 5.7% and 3.1% respectively.** Nonetheless, construction sector growth slowed from 7.7% YoY in Q1 to 7.1% in Q2 to dampen outright optimism. Looking ahead, we expect continued real estate sector recovery albeit at a steady pace amid government efforts in extending housing sector credit and promoting their social housing program.
- All in, we revised our estimates for Vietnam's 2024 growth forecast upwards to 6.1% to fall within the government's target range of 6.0%-6.5%.
- Despite the robust growth outturns, **headline inflation moderated to 4.3%** on substantial downward adjustments on fuel prices for the first half of June. That said, **more than half of these adjustments have been revised upwards in the second half of June.** We continue to see underlying price prices as food inflation rose to 4.7% YoY in June from 4.5% YoY in May while medical costs rose amid the Ministry of Health's regulation to unify prices of medication examinations and guide treatment prices.
- Looking ahead, headline inflation is likely to hover around the SBV's 4.0-4.5% target range. Strong growth and wages underpin inflationary pressures. Notably, the government approved a **30% increase in base pay of state workers and 15% increase in pension for retiree** which is effective from 1 July.
- Despite the still contained inflation and economic recovery, the VND remain pressured from the unrelenting Greenback as the USD/VND is at the top of the SBV's trading range. Admittedly, among regional peers, the VND remains in the middle of the pack, outperforming the likes of the PHP, IDR and THB on a YTD basis.
- Nonetheless, depreciation against the USD remain a key concern, the SBV has reducing terms of their bills from 28 days to 14 days in June while keeping the rates the same (at 4.25%) to prop up shorter end VND interest rates which had been falling and lean against VND depreciation pressures. Should depreciation pressures persist, adjusting the policy related re-financing and re-discount rates remain very much on the table.

	2024			2025		Annual	
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	2024	2025
Vietnam	GDP Growth (% YoY)	6.9	5.0	5.2	5.5	6.1	5.4
	Inflation (%)	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.6
	SBV Policy Rate	5.00%	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%		
		24700 - 25600	25200 - 25800	24800 - 25300	24600 - 25200		
	USD/VND	(25200)	(25300)	(24900)	(24800)		

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