Monthly Economic Review

April 2025

Comments are welcome at directorgeneral@ncaer.org.
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Highlights

- **Global Growth Projections:** In its World Economic Outlook (April 2025), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered the global growth projection for 2025 downwards to 2.8 percent from 3.3 percent projected in January 2025, owing to intensifying trade tensions and growing policy uncertainty.
- **Monetary Policy in Advanced Economies:** On April 17, 2025, the European Central Bank (ECB) reduced key policy rates by 0.25 percentage points.
- **Inflation in Advanced Economies:** Year-over-year inflation across major advanced economies decelerated in March 2025 compared to February 2025 - United States (U.S.) to 2.4 percent from 2.8 percent; Euro Area to 2.2 percent from 2.3 percent; Japan to 3.6 percent from 3.7 percent; and UK to 2.6 percent from 2.8 percent.
- **India's Growth Projections:** India's GDP growth projections for FY2025-26 have been revised downwards in April 2025 by the IMF, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and rating agencies. IMF lowered its projection for India's GDP growth to 6.2 percent from 6.5 percent projected in January 2025. The RBI has lowered its projection to 6.5 percent from 6.7 percent projected in February 2025. The ADB has revised its forecast to 6.7 percent down from 7 percent projected in December 2024. The World Bank has also reduced its estimate to 6.3 percent, compared to 6.5 percent projected in January 2025.
- **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India:** The MPC reduced the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 percent in April 2025. The CPI inflation forecast for FY2025-26 has been revised downward to 4 percent from 4.2 percent projected in February 2025.
- **High-Frequency Indicators:** High-frequency indicators show resilience. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for Manufacturing increased to 58.1 in March 2025, signaling expansion. PMI for Services eased to 58.5 but maintained expansionary momentum. The year-over-year growth of gross GST collections accelerated to 9.9 percent in March 2025 from 9.1 percent in February, while growth of net GST collections decelerated to 7.3 percent from 8.1 percent in February 2025. Gross direct tax collections for FY2024-25 increased to Rs. 27 lakh crore, as of March 31, 2025, with year-over-year growth of 15.6 percent. The year-over-year growth in the volume of UPI transactions accelerated to 36.2 percent in March 2025. The year-over-year growth in non-EV two-wheeler sales accelerated to 11.4 percent in March 2025, while registered motor vehicles growth remained negative. And, the year-over-year growth in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) decelerated to 2.5 percent in February 2025 from 5 percent in January 2025.
- **Employment:** As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (January-December 2024), India's annual unemployment rate (usual status) increased slightly to 3.2 percent in 2024 from 3.1 percent in 2023. The year-over-year growth of the Naukri JobSpeak Index decelerated to (-) 1.5 percent in March 2025 from 4 percent in February 2025. The year-over-year growth of new EPFO subscribers also decelerated to 6.3 percent in February 2025 from 11.3 percent in January 2025. However, year-over-year growth in work demand under MGNREGA accelerated to 1.6 percent in March 2025 from 1.4 percent in February 2025.
- **External Sector:** Foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 20.7 billion, to USD 686.1 billion as of April 18, 2025, compared to their level of USD 665.4 billion as of March 28, 2025. The merchandise trade deficit widened to USD 21.5 billion in March 2025, while services trade surplus increased to USD 17.9 billion in March 2025. Net foreign portfolio investments turned negative and amounted to USD (-) 4 billion as of April 21, 2025, compared to their level of USD 3.8 billion in March 2025.
- **Financial Markets:** As of April 21, 2025, the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) India Index fell by 1.5 percent; the MSCI Emerging Markets Index declined by 3.9 percent; and, the Global Index dropped by 4.6 percent, compared to their levels at the end of March 2025. The 1-year, 5-year and 10-year government bond yields decreased as of April 21, 2025, compared to their levels on March 28, 2025. The NSE Volatility Index (VIX) increased as of April 21, 2025, indicating increasing market uncertainty, compared to its level on March 28, 2025.

Global updates and data releases

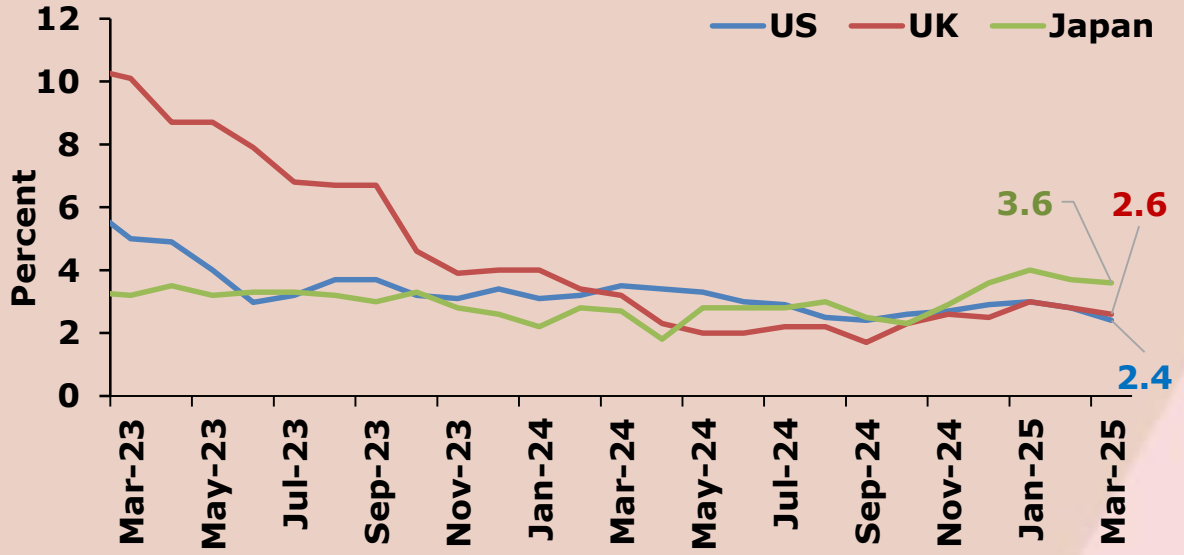
- **European Central Bank (ECB) announced rate cut:** On April 17, 2025, the ECB reduced key policy rates by 0.25 percentage points – the deposit facility at 2.25 percent, main refinancing operations at 2.40 percent, and the marginal lending facility at 2.65 percent.

- **Year-over-year inflation decelerated across major advanced economies.** In the U.S., inflation decelerated to 2.4 percent in March 2025 from 2.8 percent in February 2025 (Figure 1). Similarly, in the Euro Area, inflation decelerated to 2.2 percent in March 2025 from 2.3 percent in February 2025. In Japan, inflation decelerated to 3.6 percent in March 2025, from 3.7 percent in February 2025. Inflation in the UK decelerated to 2.6 percent in March 2025 from 2.8 percent in February 2025 (Figure 1).

- **Global oil demand growth** for 2025 has been revised downwards to 730 thousand barrels per day (kb/d), primarily due to rising trade tensions. Growth in oil demand is expected to slow in 2024 with demand projected at 690 kb/d, subject to the global economic uncertainty.
  - **Global oil supply growth** for 2025 has been reduced to 1.2 mb/d due to decrease in production in the U.S. and Venezuela. In 2026, supply is projected to increase by 960 kb/d. OPEC+ will lift output targets by 411 kb/d in May 2025. This decision, coupled with trade tensions, has contributed to decline in oil prices. **[IEA Oil Market Report – April 2025]**

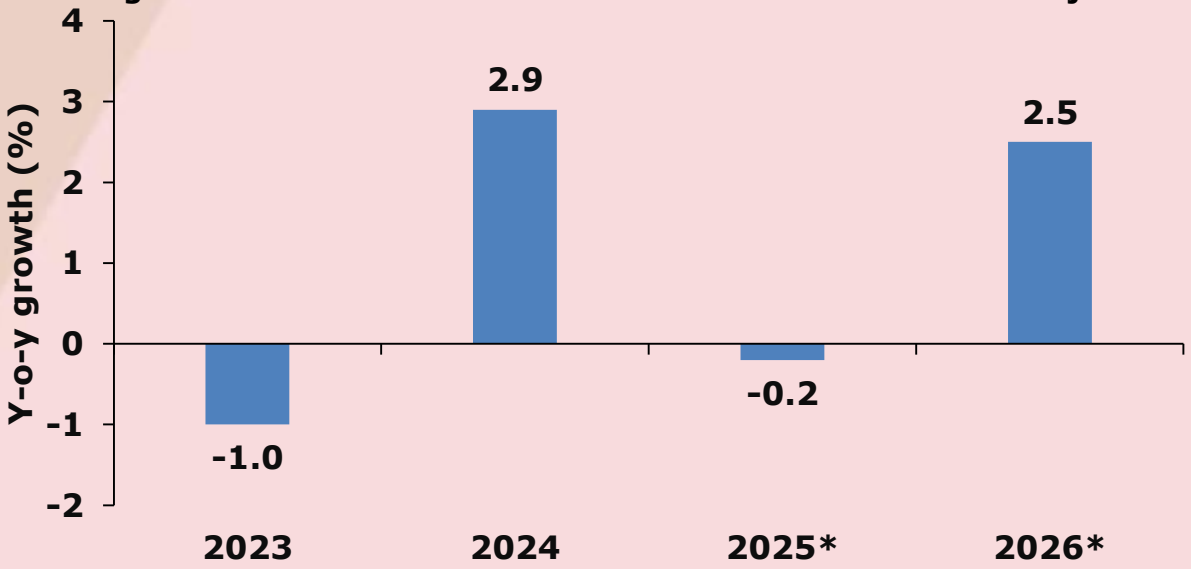
- The World Trade Organization (WTO), in its **Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report (April 2025),** highlighted a sharp deterioration in global trade due to rising tariffs and heightened trade policy uncertainty. **World merchandise trade volume** is projected to contract by 0.2 percent in 2025. The projection for merchandise trade volume growth for 2026 is 2.5 percent (Figure 2).
  - Although services trade is not directly subject to tariffs, tariff induced decline in goods is expected to weaken demand for services such as transport and logistics. **Global volume of commercial services trade** is forecasted to grow by 4 percent in 2025 and 4.1 percent in 2026. This is lower than the baseline (low tariff environment) projections of 5.1 percent and 4.8 percent.

Figure 1: Headline Inflation in Advanced Economies



Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics; Office for National Statistics; Statistics Bureau, UK and The Bank of Japan.

Figure 2: Merchandise Trade Volume Growth and Growth Projections



Source: WTO.

Note: In Figure 2, * denotes the projection for merchandise trade volume growth published in Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report, April 2025 by WTO.

World Economic Outlook April 2025 Update: Global economic outlook remains subdued due to downside risks amid escalating trade tensions and policy uncertainty; Global growth for 2025 revised downwards to 2.8 percent

Global Growth: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its 2025 global growth forecast downwards to 2.8 percent in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), April 2025 from 3.3 percent projected in WEO January 2025 (Figure 3).

Growth Forecasts by Major Country Groups for 2025:

- **Advanced Economies (AEs)** real GDP growth forecast was revised downwards to 1.4 percent from 1.9 percent in January 2025 (Figure 3).
  - United States (U.S.): Growth forecast has been revised downwards to 1.8 percent from 2.7 percent in 2025 due to greater policy uncertainty, trade tensions, and softer demand momentum. Growth is expected to moderate to 1.7 percent in 2026.
  - Euro Area: Growth projection has been revised downwards to 0.8 percent from 1 percent in 2025. Growth is expected to accelerate to 1.2 percent in 2026.

- **Emerging Markets & Developing Economies (EMDEs)** real GDP growth forecast revised downwards to 3.7 percent from 4.2 percent in WEO January 2025 (Figure 3).
  - China's 2025 growth projection has been revised downwards to 4 percent from 4.6 percent on account of the recent trade measures by the U.S.
  - India's growth projection for 2025 has been revised downwards to 6.2 percent from 6.5 percent.

Global Inflation: Global headline inflation is expected to decline at a slower pace. The projection has been slightly revised upwards to 4.3 percent in 2025 from 4.2 percent projected in January 2025. Inflation for 2026 is projected at 3.6 percent (Figure 4).

Risks to the Outlook: The global outlook is dominated by downside risks such as escalating trade tensions and policy uncertainty. These are expected to have a significant impact on global economic activity and weaken resilience to future shocks. Rapid policy changes and weakening sentiment could trigger financial instability, and demographic shifts may threaten fiscal sustainability.

Figure 3: Real GDP Growth Forecasts - World and Country Groups for 2025

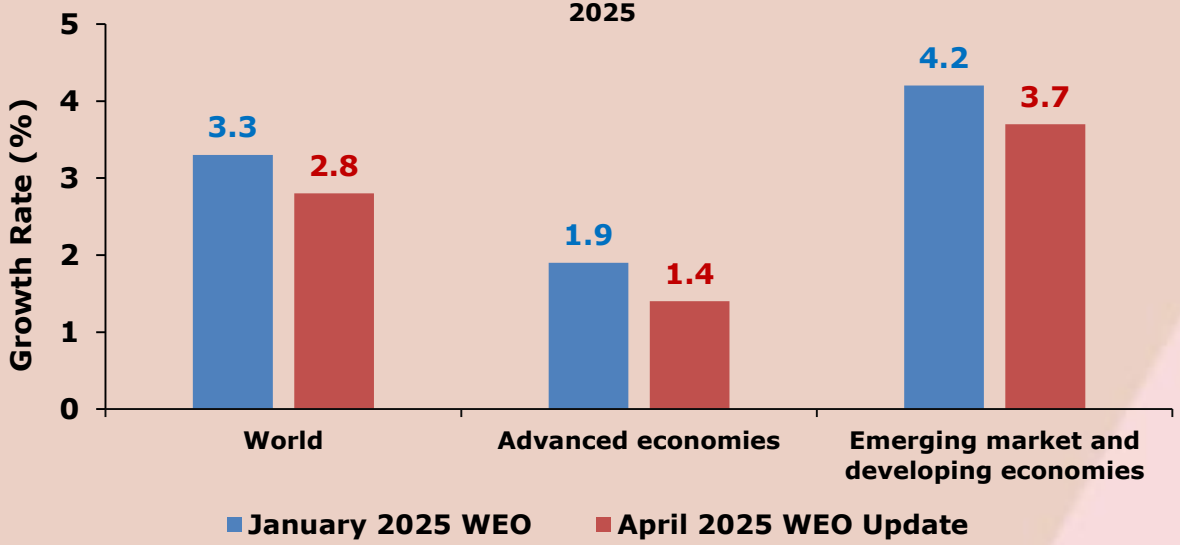
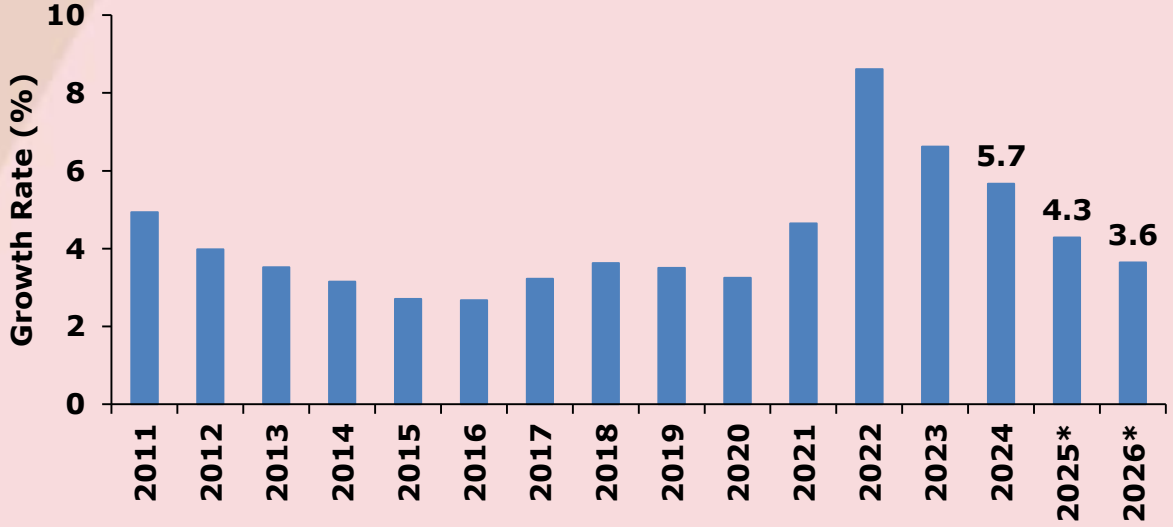


Figure 4: Inflation Forecasts, Consumer Prices - World



Source: World Economic Outlook, IMF

Note: For India, projections are presented on a fiscal year (FY) basis, with FY2024-25 (starting in April 2024). Based on the calendar year, India's growth projections are 6.5 percent for 2025 and 6.2 percent for 2026.

GDP Growth Projections

- **Global Growth Projections for 2025:** The latest available projection for global GDP growth for FY2025-26 have been revised downwards by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Fitch Ratings. The global real GDP growth projections by the multilateral and rating organizations range from 1.9 to 3.3 percent for 2025 (Figure 5).
  - **IMF:** Lowered global growth projection to **2.8 percent** in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) from **3.3 percent** projected in WEO January 2025.
  - **Fitch Ratings:** Lowered the global growth projection to **1.9 percent** in its latest Global Economic Outlook, from **2.3 percent** projected in March 2025.
- **India's growth projections for FY2025-26:** India's GDP growth projections for FY2025-26 have been revised downwards in April 2025 by the IMF, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, Moody's Analytics, and Fitch Ratings. Real GDP growth projections for India by multilateral and rating organizations range from 6.1 to 6.7 percent for FY2025-26. The month of the latest update for each is mentioned in the graph (Figure 6).
  - **IMF:** Lowered India's GDP growth projection to **6.2 percent** from **6.5 percent** projected in WEO January 2025.
  - **RBI:** Lowered India's GDP growth projection to **6.5 percent** from **6.7 percent** projected in February 2025.
  - **ADB:** Lowered India's GDP growth projection to **6.7 percent** in its latest Asian Development Outlook from **7 percent** projected in December 2024.
  - **World Bank:** Lowered India's GDP growth projection to **6.3 percent** in its South Asia Development Update from **6.7 percent** projected in its Global Economic Prospects report in January 2025.
  - **Moody's Analytics:** Lowered India's GDP growth projection to **6.1 percent**, from **6.5 percent** projected in its Banking System Outlook released in March 2025.
  - **Fitch Ratings:** Lowered India's growth projection to **6.4 percent** in its latest Global Economic Outlook, from **6.5 percent** projected in March 2025.

Figure 5: Global Real GDP Growth Projections for 2025 (Percent)

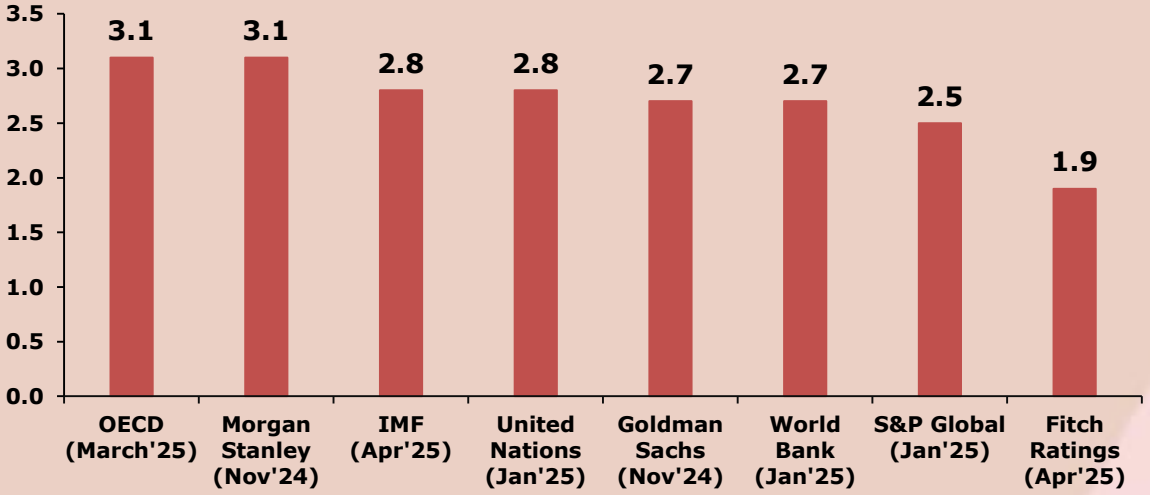
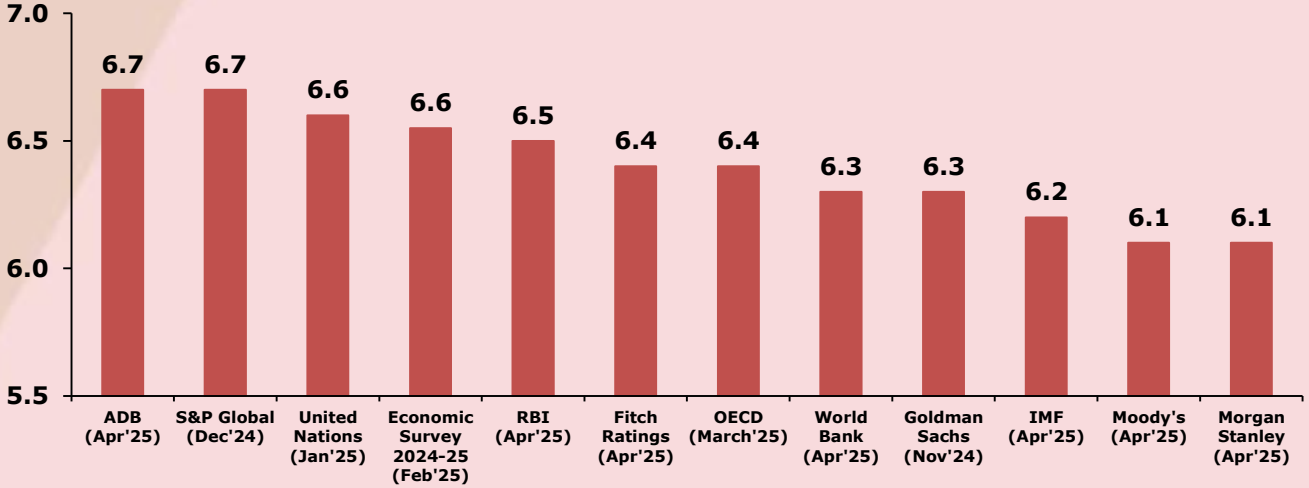


Figure 6: India's Real GDP Growth Projections for FY2025-26 (Percent)



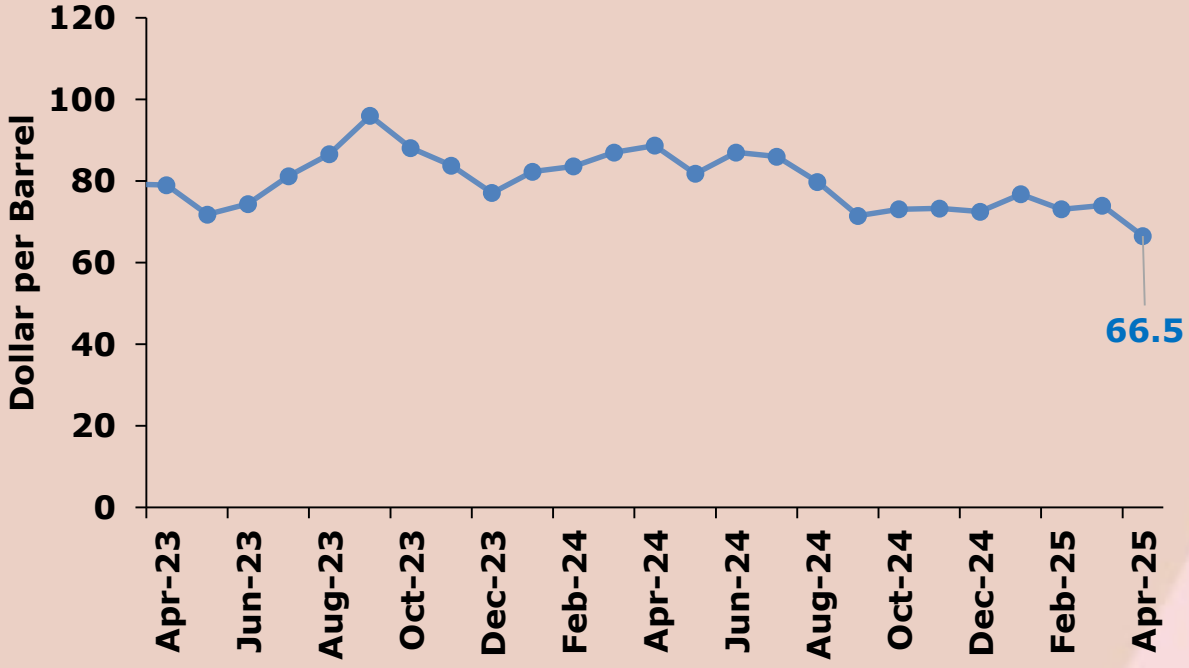
Source: Various reports and media articles by the institutions.

Note: (i) In Figure 5, the asterisk indicates that the projection from the Economic Survey represents the midpoint of the 6.3–6.8 percent range. Real GDP is projected to grow by 6.3–6.8 percent in FY2025-26, according to the Economic Survey 2024-25. (iii) The forecasts for India's real GDP by the United Nations are based on the calendar year 2025.

Brent Crude Oil Price decreases to USD 66.5 per barrel, as of April 21, 2025; MSCI India, Emerging Markets Global Indices decline as of April 21, 2025

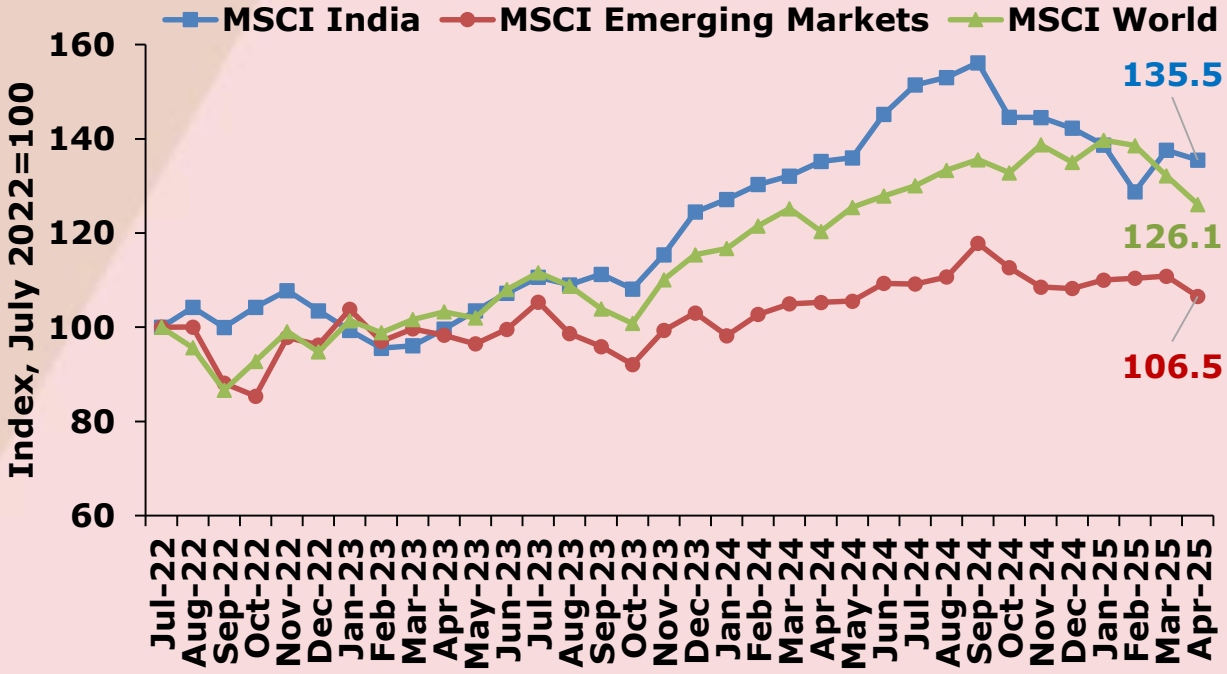
- **Brent crude oil** price, as of April 21, 2025, was USD 66.5 per barrel, decreasing from USD 74 at the end of March 2025 (Figure 7).
- As of April 21, 2025, the **Morgan Stanley Capital International** (MSCI) India Index fell by 1.5 percent, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index declined by 3.9 percent, and the Global Index dropped by 4.6 percent compared to their levels at the end of March 2025 (Figure 8).

Figure 7: Brent Crude Oil Price



Source: Global Markets Monitor, IMF

Figure 8: Equity Markets



Source: Investing.com

Note: The data for Figure 7 are sourced from the Global Markets Monitor (GMM), and data for April 2025 is taken as of April 21, 2025. Figure 8 is indexed from July 2022 to July 2022=100. Data are reported until April 21, 2025, and the average of daily values was taken to estimate the monthly value for April 2025.

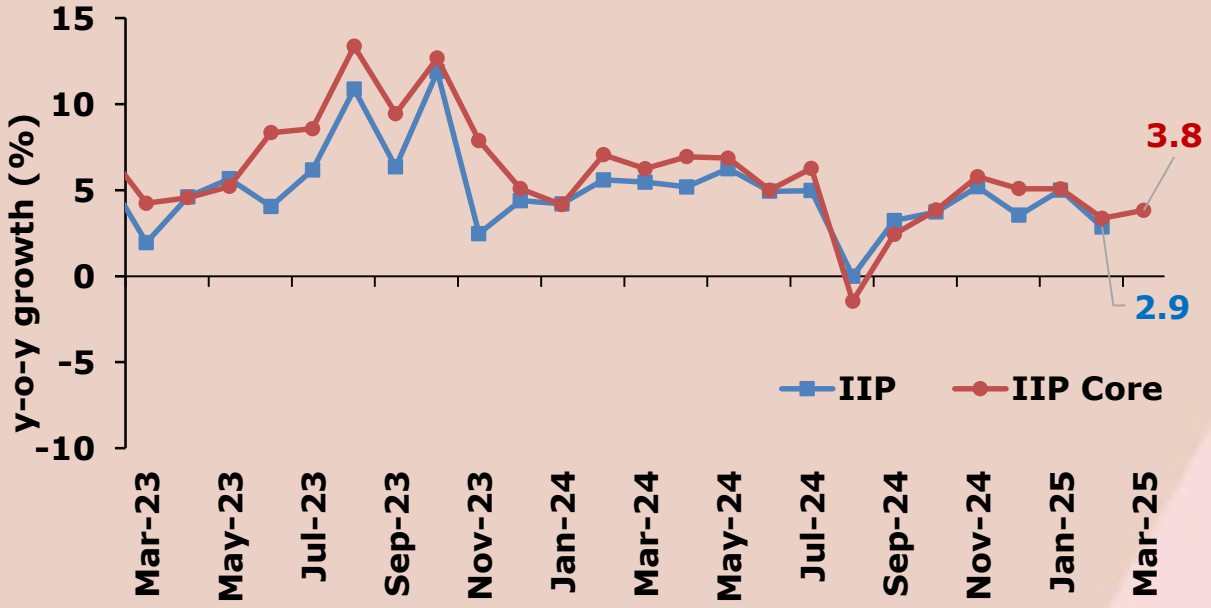
PMI for Manufacturing increases to 58.1 in March 2025, signalling expansion in the Manufacturing sector; PMI for Services eases to 58.5 but maintains expansionary momentum

- The **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing** increased to 58.1 in March 2025 from 56.3 in February 2025, signaling expansion in manufacturing activity. **PMI for services** eased to 58.5 in March 2025 from 59 in February 2025, but maintained expansionary momentum. The **composite PMI** increased to 59.5 in March 2025 from 58.8 in February 2025 (Figure 10).

- The year-over-year growth rate in the **Index for Industrial Production (IIP)** decelerated to 2.9 percent in February 2025 (Provisional Estimates), from 5 percent in January 2025 (Provisional Estimates) (Figure 9). [IIP Press Release, April 11, 2025]

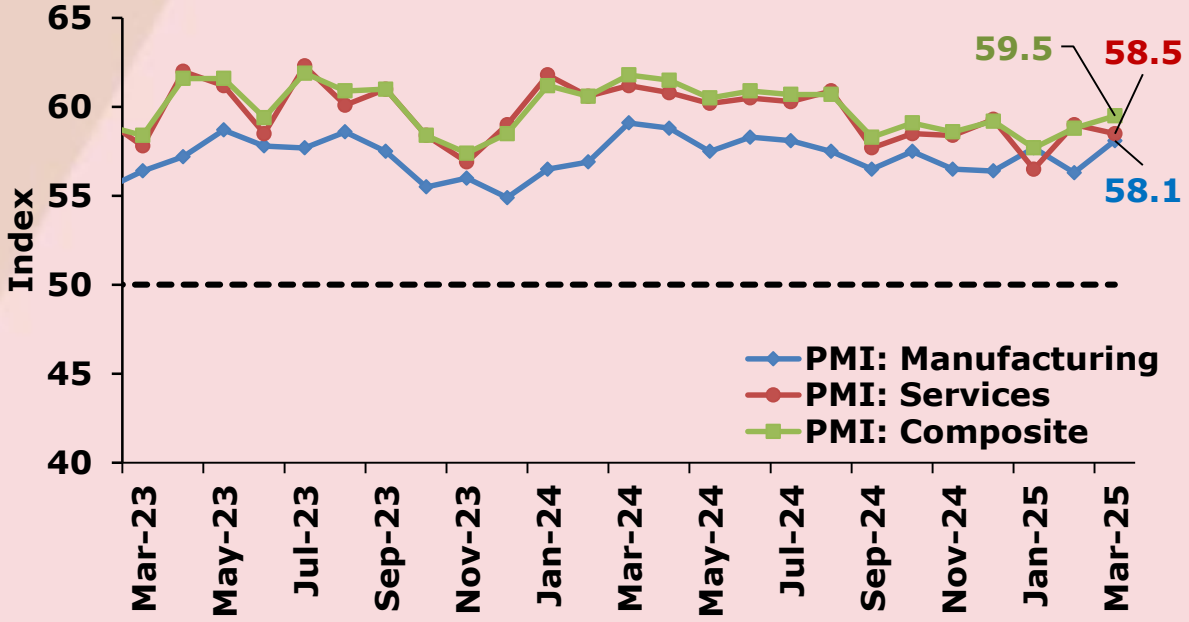
- The year-over-year growth in the **combined index of eight core industries (IIP Core)** accelerated to 3.8 percent in March 2025 (Provisional Estimates) from 3.4 percent (Revised Estimates) in February 2025 (Figure 9). [IIP Core Press Release (Office of Economic Advisor, DPIIT, Govt. Of India), April 21, 2025]

Figure 9: Index of Industrial Production (IIP)



Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India

Figure 10: Purchasing Managers' Indices



Source: IHS Markit

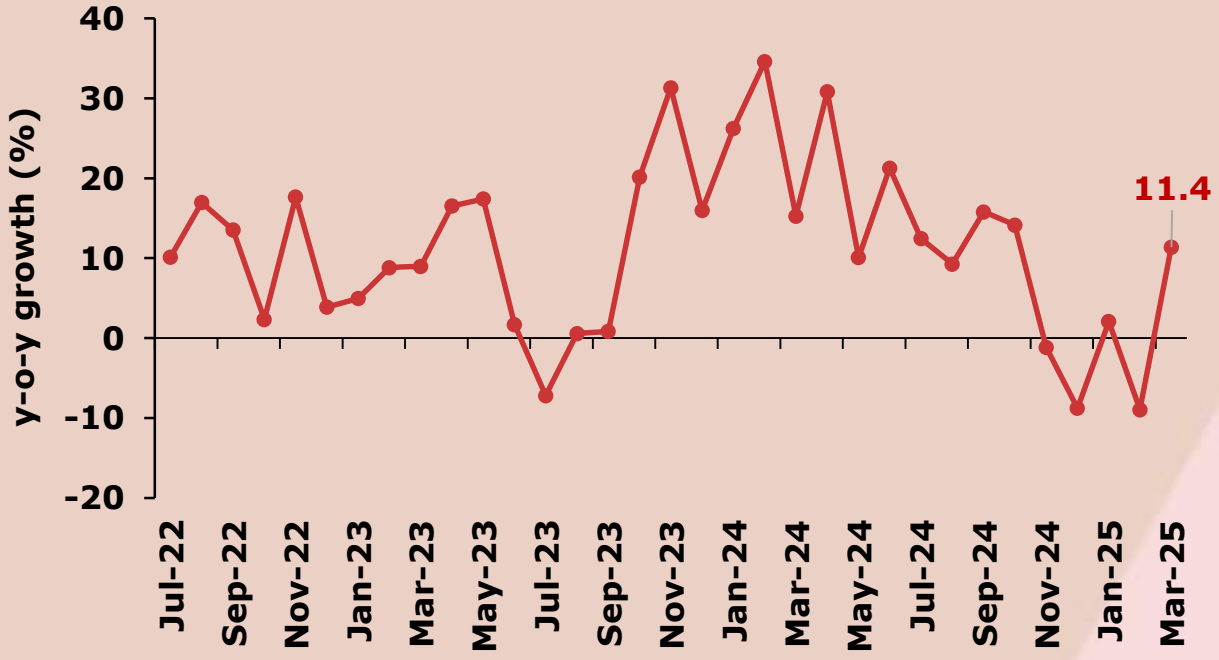
Note: PMI value ranges from 0 to 100. Any value under 50 represents a contraction, a reading at 50 indicates no change, and a reading above 50 indicates expansion. The further away from 50 is the reading, the greater is the level of change (Figure 13).

Year-over-year growth in non-EV two-wheeler sales accelerates to 11.4 percent; Year-over-year growth in registered motor vehicles remains negative in March 2025

- The year-over-year growth of **non-electric two-wheeler sales** turned positive and accelerated to 11.4 percent in March 2025, from (-) 9 percent in February 2025 (Figure 11). The sequential growth rate of non-electric two-wheeler sales turned positive and accelerated to 19.7 percent in March 2025 from (-) 9.3 percent in February 2025.

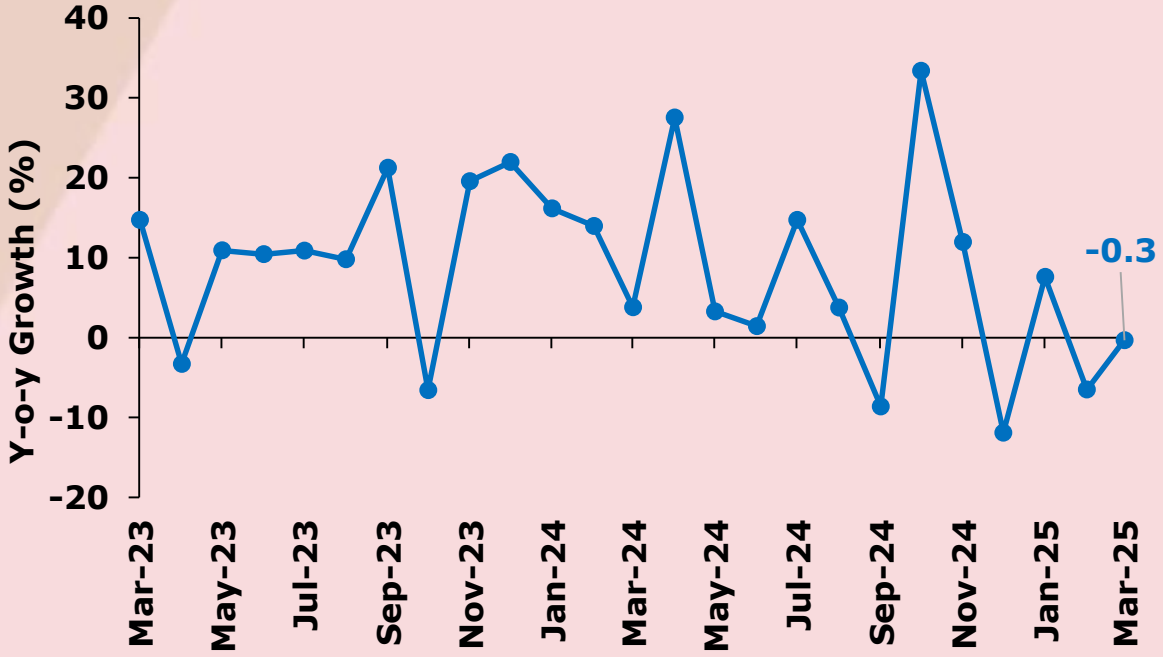
- The year-over-year growth of **registered motor vehicles** remained negative but improved to (-) 0.3 percent in March 2025 from (-) 6.5 percent in February 2025 (Figure 12). The sequential growth rate turned positive and accelerated to 11.5 percent in March 2025 from (-) 17.2 in February 2025.

Figure 11: Automobile (non-EV Two-wheeler) Sales



Source: CEIC estimates, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers

Figure 12: Registered Motor Vehicles



Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Year-over-year growth of registered EV sales decelerates to (-) 4.6 percent in March 2025; Digital toll collections witness deceleration in year-over-year growth

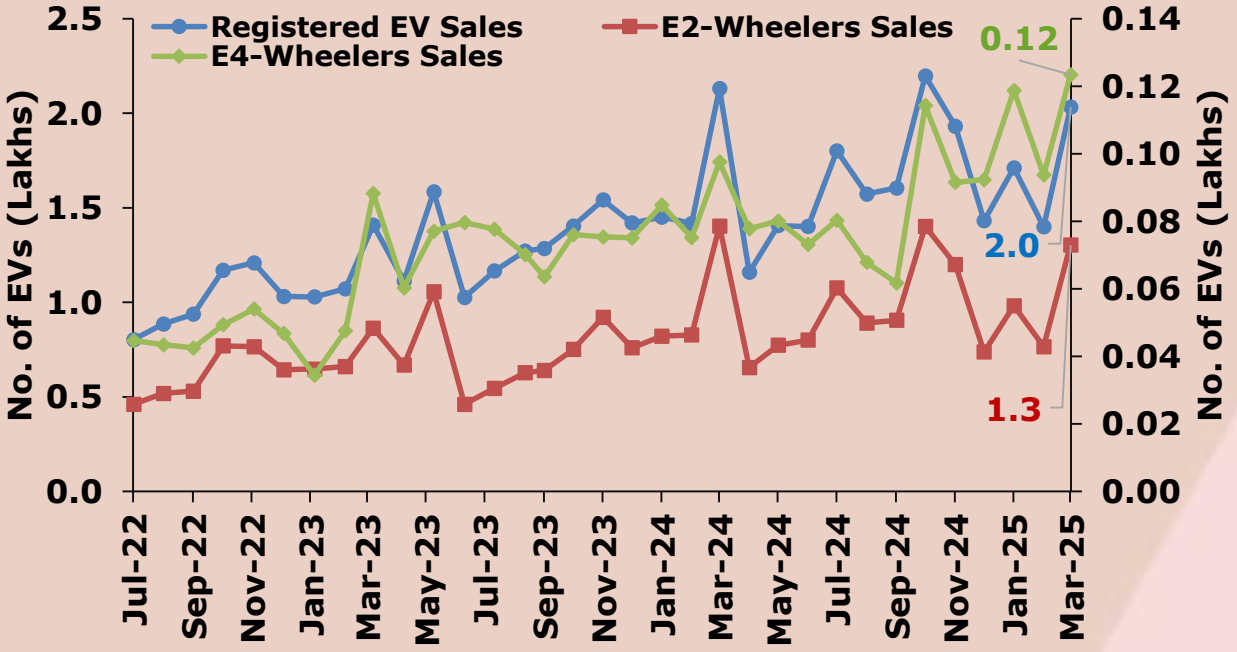
- According to the Vahan Dashboard, year-over-year growth of **registered electric vehicle (EV) sales** remained negative and decelerated to (-) 4.6 percent in March 2025 from (-) 1.3 percent in February 2025 (Figure 13). However, the sequential growth rate of registered EV sales turned positive and accelerated to 45.2 percent in March 2025 from (-) 18.3 percent in February 2025.

- The year-over-year growth of **electric two-wheelers (E2Ws) sales** remained negative at (-) 7.1 percent in March 2025 compared to (-) 7.4 percent in February 2025 (Figure 13). However, the sequential growth rate of electric two-wheelers (E2Ws) turned positive and accelerated to 70.2 percent in March 2025 from (-) 22.1 percent in February 2025.

- The year-over-year growth of **electric four-wheeler (E4Ws) sales** accelerated to 26.4 percent in March 2025 from 24.6 percent in February 2025 (Figure 13). The sequential growth of electric four-wheelers (E4Ws) turned positive and accelerated to 31.7 percent in March 2025 from (-) 21.1 percent in February 2025. [Monthly EV Update – April 2025 (https://evreporter.com/)]

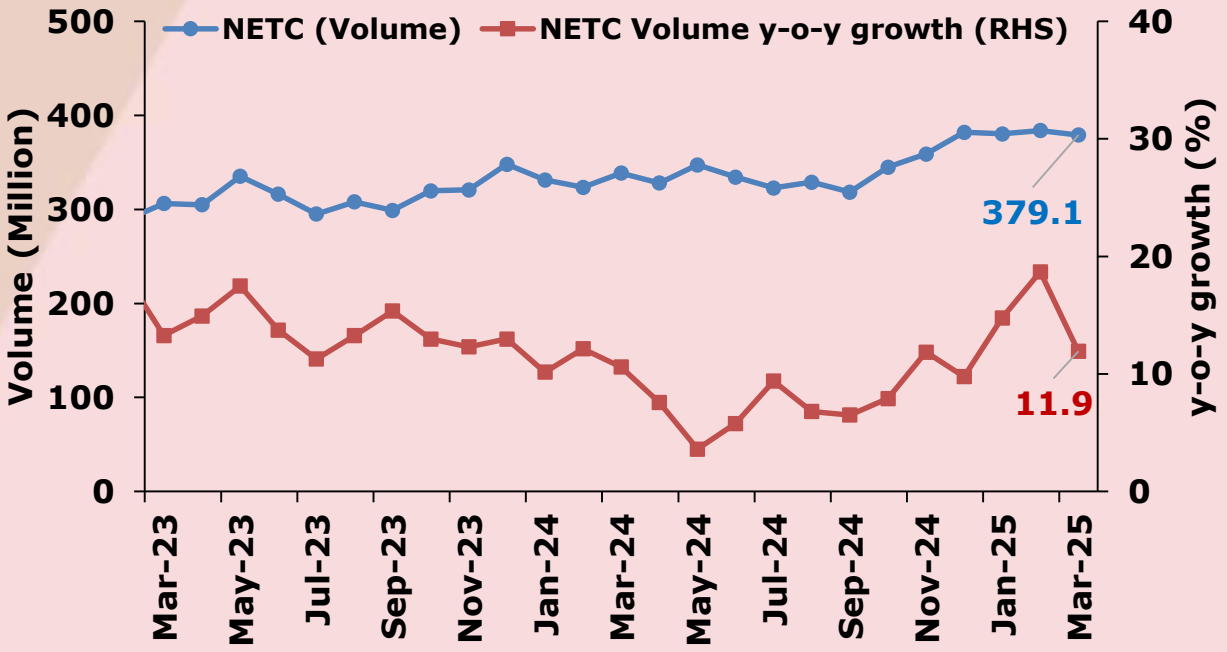
- **National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC)** recorded 379.1 million transactions in March 2025. The year-over-year growth of NETC decelerated to 11.9 percent in March 2025 from 18.7 percent in February 2025 (Figure 14). The sequential growth rate of NETC turned negative and decelerated to (-) 1.2 percent in March 2025 from 0.9 percent in February 2025.

Figure 13: Electric Vehicles Sales - By Categories



Source: EV reporter, Vahan Dashboard.

Figure 14: Digital Payments - NETC Volume and Growth Rates



Source: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

UPI records 18.3 billion transactions (in volume) in March 2025 with year-over-year growth at 36.2 percent; Year-over-year growth in IMPS transactions (in volume) remains negative at (-) 20.5 percent

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, India's leading digital payment system, reported 18.3 billion transactions (in volume) in March 2025 (Figure 15). The year-over-year growth rate in the volume of transactions in March 2025 was 36.2 percent, accelerating from 33.1 percent in February 2025 (Figure 16). Sequentially, the growth in the volume of transactions turned positive and accelerated to 13.6 percent in March 2025 from (-) 5.2 percent in February 2025.

- The electronic funds transfer system, **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**, recorded 461.6 million transactions in March 2025 (Figure 15), with a year-over-year growth rate of (-) 20.5 percent compared to (-) 24.3 percent in February 2025 (Figure 16). The sequential growth in the volume of IMPS transactions turned positive and accelerated to 14 percent in March 2025 from (-) 8.9 percent in February 2025. [National Payments Corporation of India, Monthly Metrics (npci.org.in)]

Figure 15: Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) Transactions

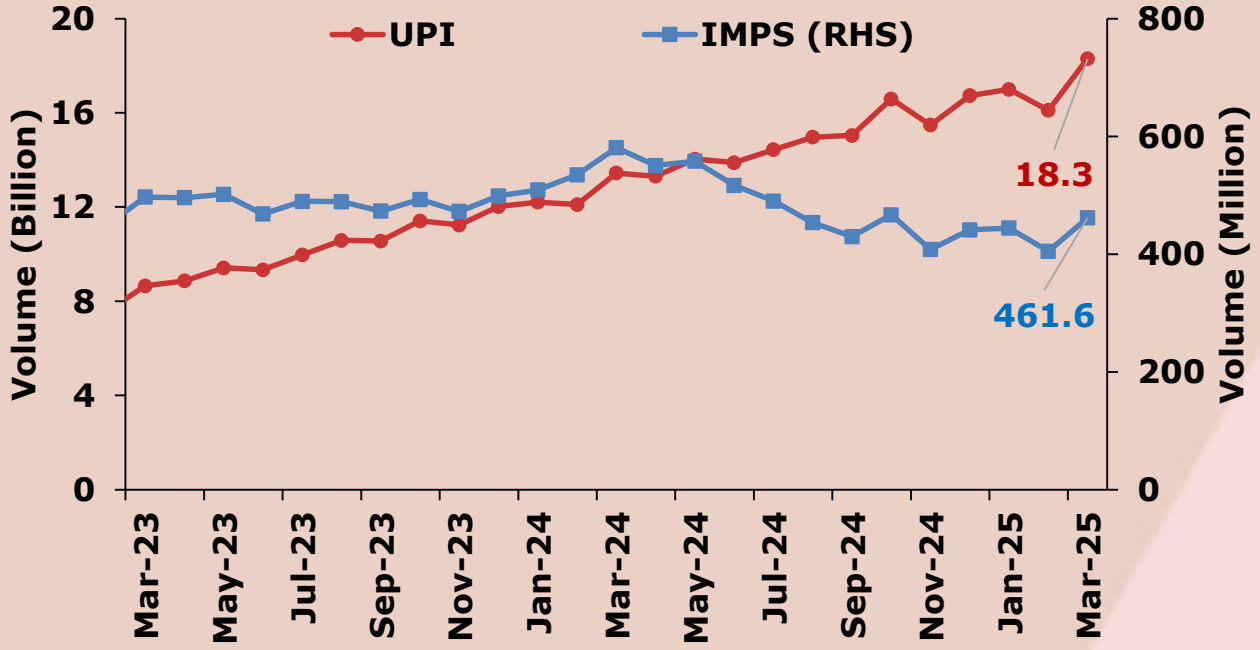
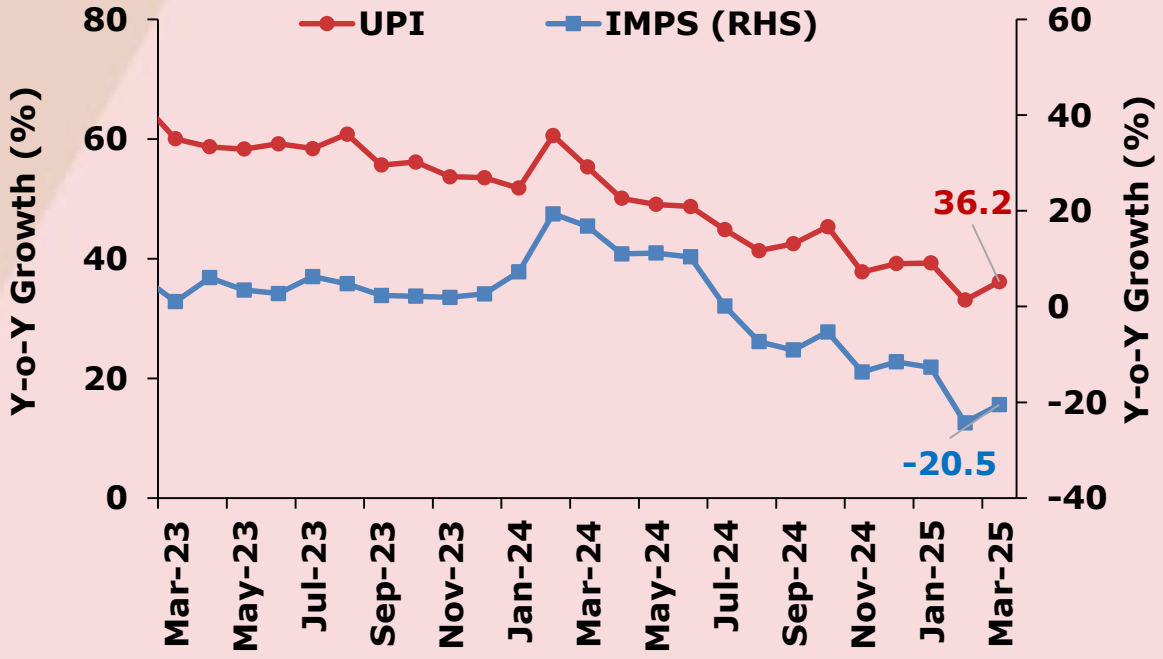


Figure 16: UPI and IMPS Growth



Source: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Note: In Figures 15 and 16, the RHS axis was rescaled for IMPS to ensure comparability.

Gross GST collections in March 2025 accelerate by 9.9 percent and increase to Rs. 1.96 lakh crore; Net GST collections decelerate by 7.3 percent to Rs. 1.77 lakh crore

- **Gross GST collections** stood at Rs 1.96 lakh crore in March 2025. The year-over-year growth of gross GST collections accelerated to 9.9 percent in March 2025 from 9.1 percent in February 2025 (Figures 17 and 19).
  - The sequential growth rate of gross GST collections turned positive and accelerated to 6.8 percent in March 2025 from (-) 6.1 percent in February 2025.
- **Net GST collections** stood at Rs 1.77 lakh crore in March 2025. The year-over-year growth of net GST collections decelerated to 7.3 percent in March 2025 from 8.1 percent in February 2025 (Figures 18 and 19).
  - The sequential growth rate of net GST collections turned positive and accelerated to 8.5 percent in March 2025 from (-) 5.2 percent in February 2025.

Figure 17: Gross GST Revenue

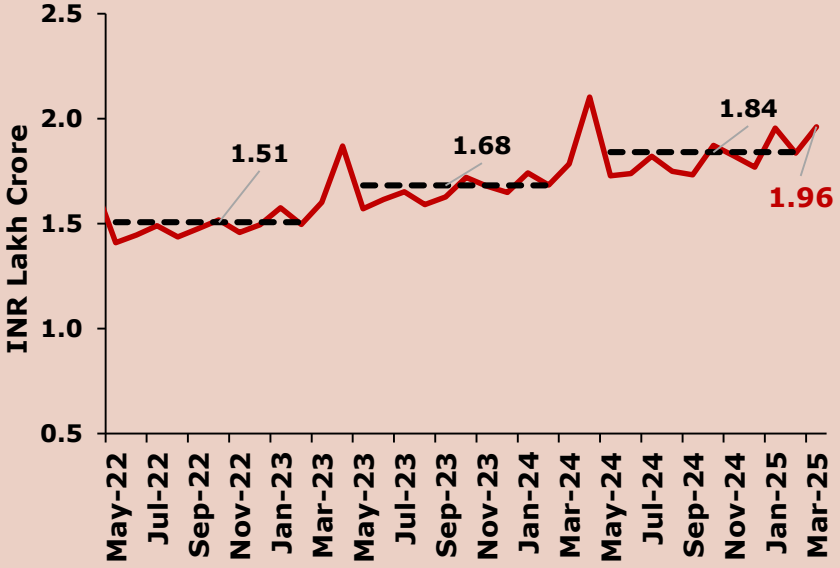


Figure 18: Net GST Revenue

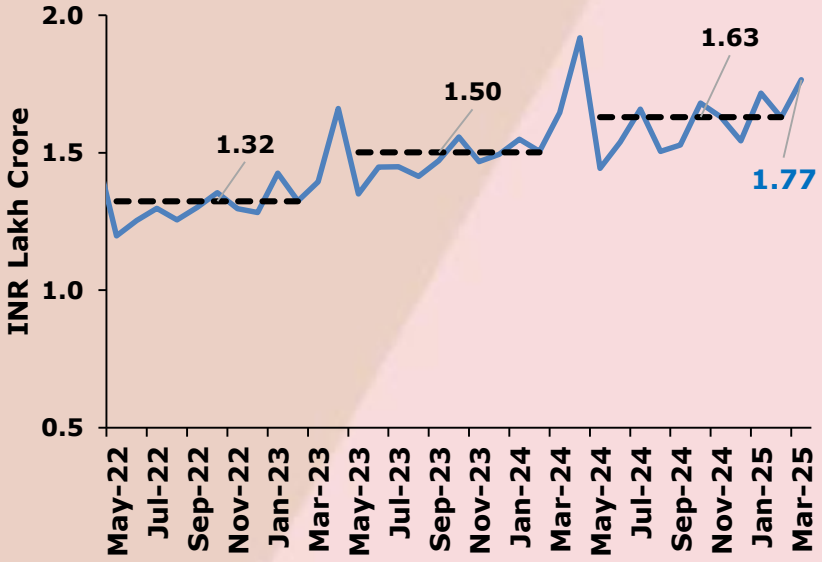
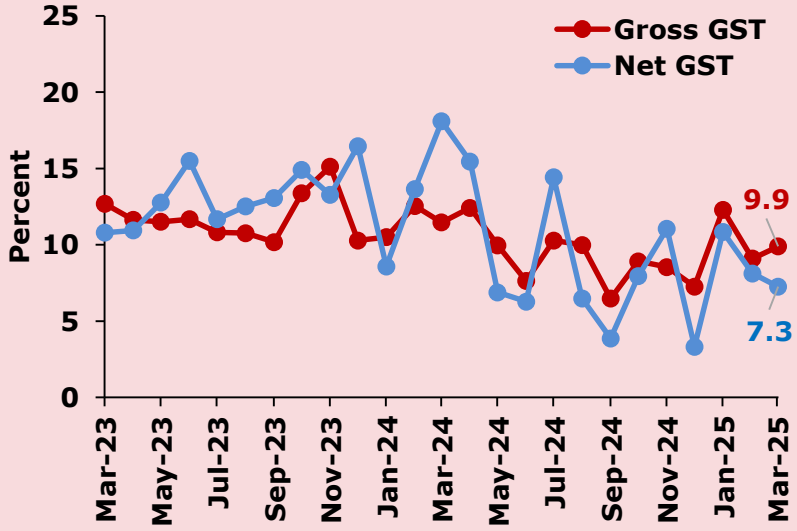


Figure 19. Gross and Net GST Y-o-Y Growth



Source: Ministry of Finance and CEIC estimates.

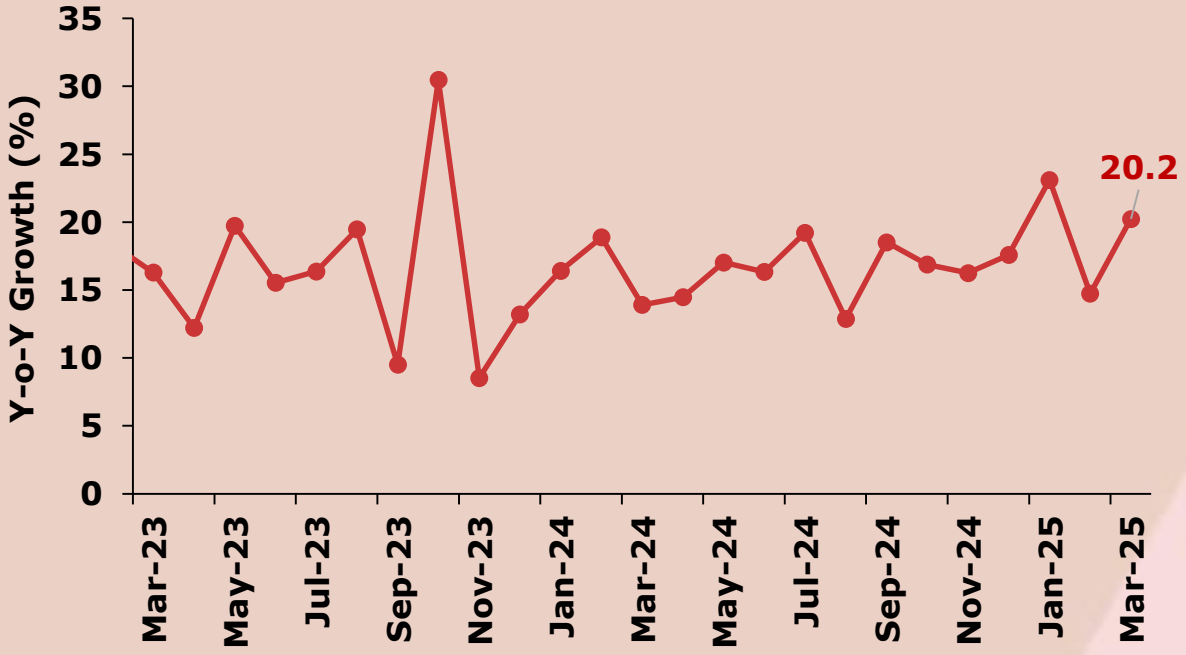
Note: (i) In Figures 17 and 18, the dashed horizontal lines represent the annual averages for FY2022-23, FY2023-24, and FY2024-25.

Year-over-year growth in GST E-way bills accelerates to 20.2 percent in March 2025; Direct tax collections reach Rs. 27 lakh crore, reflecting a year-over-year growth of 15.6 percent

- **GST E-way bill** generation stood at 12.5 crore in March 2025. The year-over-year growth of GST E-way bills accelerated to 20.2 percent in March 2025 from 14.7 percent in February 2025. The sequential growth rate of GST E-way bills turned positive and accelerated to 11.5 percent in March 2025 from (-) 5.5 percent in February 2025 (Figure 20).

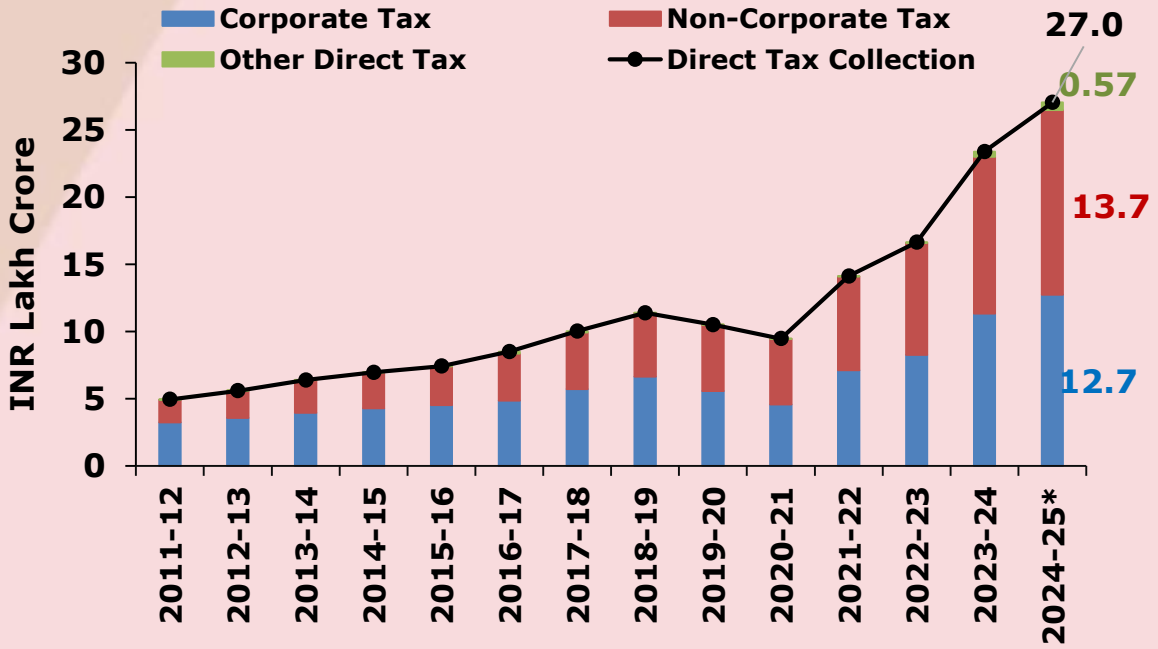
- **Gross direct tax collections** for FY2024-25 increased to Rs. 27 lakh crore from Rs. 23.4 lakh crore in FY2023-24, as of March 31, 2025, with the year-over-year growth of 15.6 percent (Figure 21).
  - Net of refunds, collections increased to Rs 22.3 lakh crore from Rs. 19.6 lakh crore, with a year-over-year growth rate of 13.6 percent.
  - Corporate tax collections for FY2024-25 increased to Rs. 12.7 lakh crore from Rs. 11.3 lakh crore, with a year-over-year growth rate 12.4 percent.
  - Non-corporate tax collections increased to Rs. 13.7 lakh crore from Rs. 11.7 lakh crore, with a year-over-year growth rate of 17.6 percent. [Net direct tax collection grows 13.6% to Rs 22.3 lakh crore so far in FY2024-25 | Income Tax Department, Ministry of Finance]

Figure 20: GST E-Way Bills



Source: Goods and Services Tax Network.

Figure 21: Direct Tax Collections



Source: Ministry of Finance.

Note: (i) In Figure 21, the asterisk represents that for the FY2024-25 the data for direct tax, corporate tax, non-corporate tax, and other direct taxes is updated as of March 16, 2025.

MPC cuts repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 percent; Lowers CPI Inflation forecast for FY2025-26 to 4 percent

- **Key Policy Rate Adjustments:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) reduced the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility by 25 basis points to 6 percent.
  - The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate was adjusted to 5.75 percent. The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank rates were adjusted to 6.25 percent (Figure 22).
  - The MPC's decision is in alignment with the objective of achieving the medium-term CPI inflation target of 4 percent, while supporting economic growth. [Monetary Policy Statement, April 9, 2025]

- **Real GDP Growth Projections:** India's real GDP forecast for FY2025-26 has been revised downwards to 6.5 percent from 6.7 percent projected in February 2025.
  - Quarterly real GDP projections for FY2025-26: 6.5 percent in Q1; 6.7 percent in Q2; 6.6 percent in Q3; and 6.3 percent in Q4 (Table 1).

- **Inflation Outlook:** The CPI inflation projection for FY2025-26 has been revised downwards to 4 percent from 4.2 percent projected in February 2025.
  - Quarterly CPI inflation projections for FY2025-26: 3.6 percent in Q1; 3.9 percent in Q2; 3.8 percent in Q3; and 4.4 percent in Q4 (Table 1).

Figure 22: RBI Rates

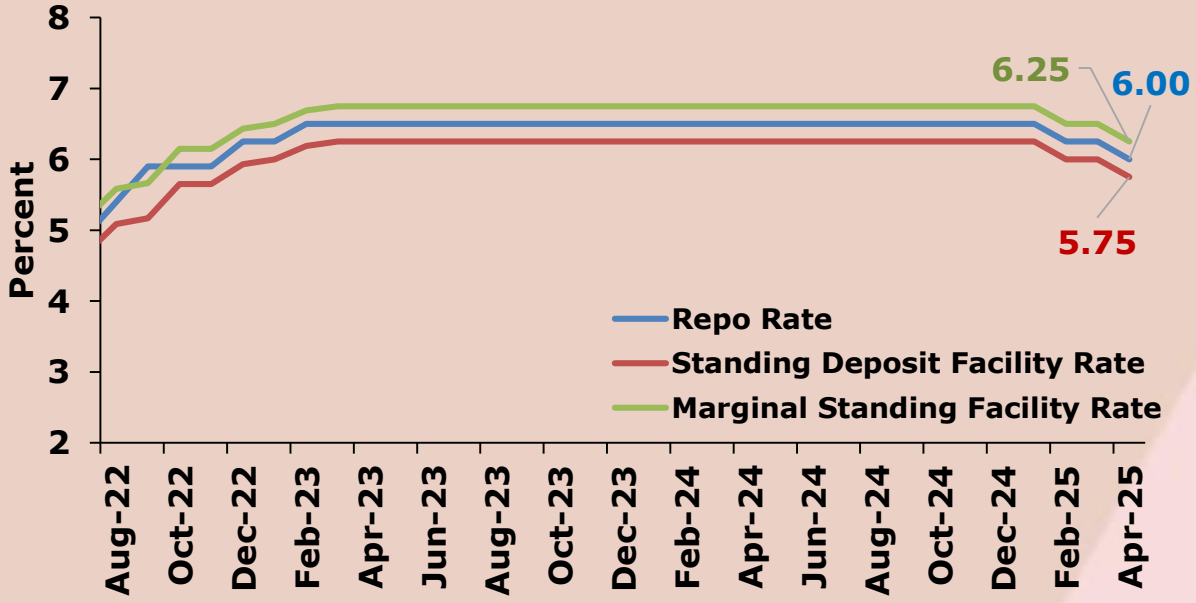


Table 1: RBI Projections

Yearly and Quarterly Projections FY2025-26					
CPI Inflation Projections (%)					
	FY2025-26	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Apr-25	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.8	4.4
Feb-25	4.2	4.5	4.0	3.8	4.2
Dec-24	-	4.6	4.0	-	-
Real GDP Growth Projections (%)					
	FY2025-26	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Apr-25	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.3
Feb-25	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.5	6.5
Dec-24	-	6.9	7.3	-	-

Source: Reserve Bank of India.

Note: In Table 1, - denotes that no projections were given by RBI for real GDP growth and CPI Inflation in that specific month.

CPI Headline Inflation decelerates to 3.3 percent in March 2025; Consumer Food Price Inflation decelerates to 2.7 percent; WPI Inflation decelerates to percent

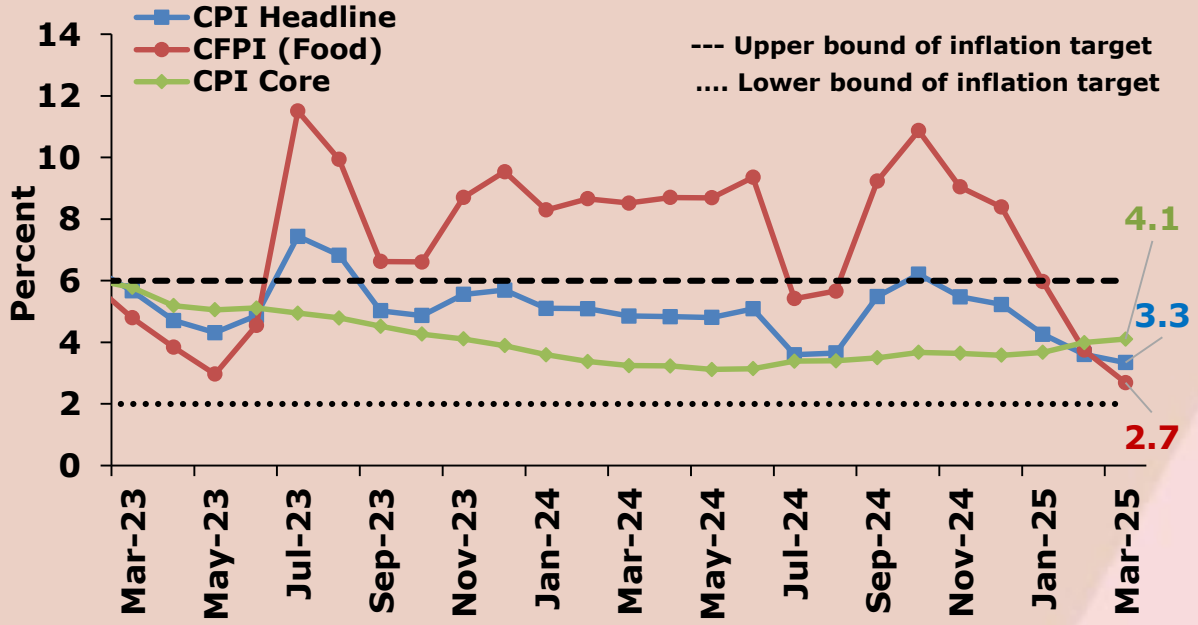
- **CPI headline inflation** decelerated to 3.3 percent in March 2025 from 3.6 percent in February 2025 (Figure 23).
  - **Core inflation** accelerated marginally to 4.1 percent in March 2025 from 4 percent in February 2025 (Figure 23).
  - **Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) inflation** decelerated to 2.7 percent in March 2025 from 3.7 percent in February 2025 (Figure 23).

  [CPI Press Release, April 15, 2025 | MOSPI]

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** inflation decelerated to 2 percent (Provisional Estimates) in March 2025 from 2.4 percent (Provisional Estimates) in February 2025 (Figure 24).
  - **WPI inflation for Primary Articles** decelerated to 0.8 percent in March 2025 from 2.8 percent in February 2025 (Figure 24).
  - **WPI inflation for Fuel and Power** turned positive and accelerated to 0.2 percent in March 2025 from (-) 0.7 percent in February 2025 (Figure 24).
  - **WPI inflation for Manufacturing Products** accelerated to 3.1 percent in March 2025 from 2.9 percent in February 2025 (Figure 24).

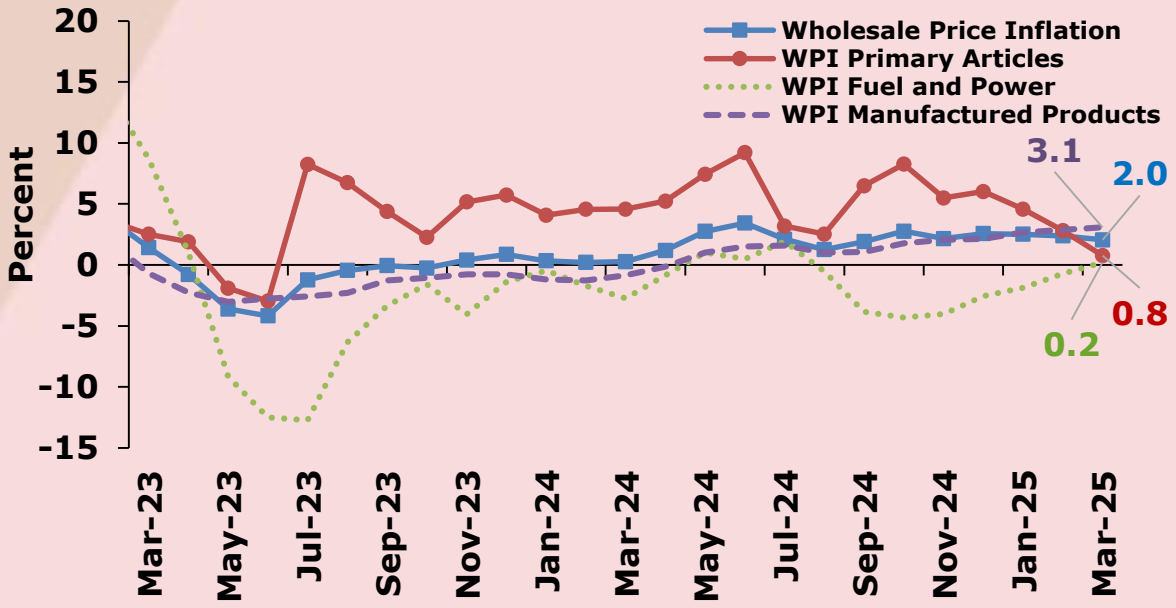
  [WPI Press Release, April 15, 2025, | Ministry of Commerce and Industry, DPIIT]

Figure 23: Consumer Price Indices Inflation Rates



Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Figure 24: Wholesale Price Indices Inflation Rates



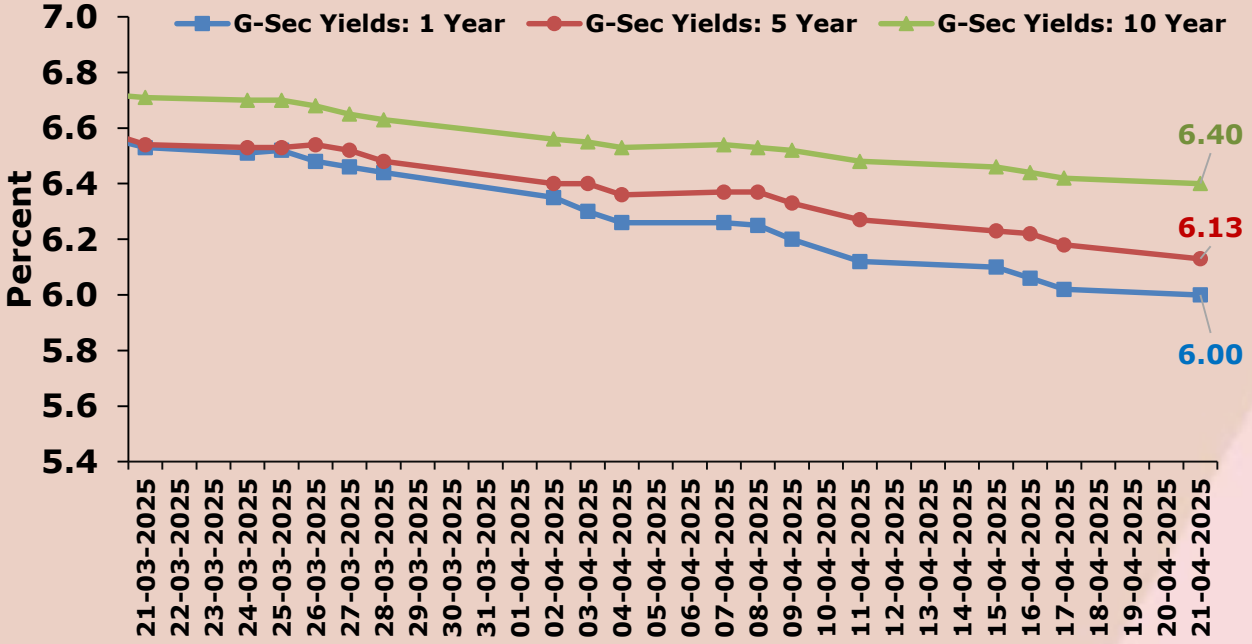
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Government of India

Note: In Figure 23, CFPI includes the following ten sub-groups- Cereals and Products; Meat and Fish; Eggs, Milk and Products; Oils and Fats; Fruits; Vegetables; Pulses and Products; Sugar and Confectionery; and Spices.

As of April 21, 2025, 1-year, 5-year and 10-year government bond yields decrease; NSE Volatility Index (VIX) increases

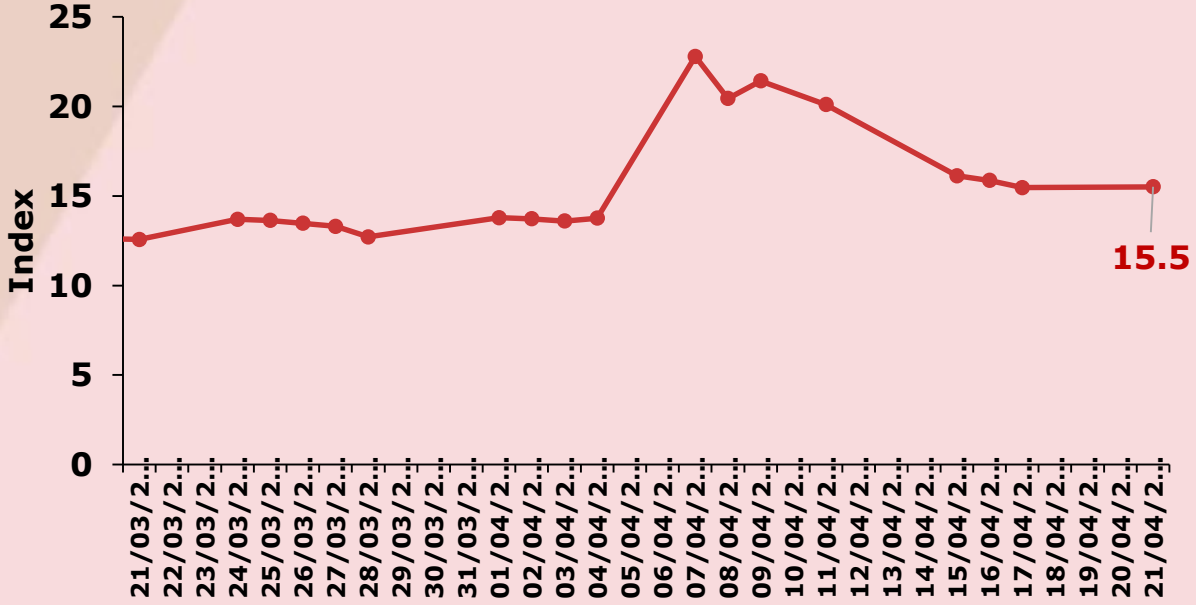
- The yield for **1-year government securities** decreased to 6 percent as of April 21, 2025, compared to its level of 6.4 percent at the end of March 2025. The yields for **5-year and 10-year government securities** decreased to 6.1 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively, as of April 21, 2025, compared to their respective levels of 6.5 percent and 6.6 percent at the end of March 2025 (Figure 25).
- As of April 21, 2025, the **National Stock Exchange VIX index** increased to 15.5 compared to its level of 12.7 at the end of March 2025 (Figure 26).
- As of April 21, 2025, the **National Stock Exchange NIFTY 50 Index** increased to 24125.6 compared to its level of 23519.4 at the end of March 2025.

Figure 25: Yields on Domestic Government Securities



Source: Clearing Corporation of India Ltd

Figure 26: VIX Index



Source: CEIC estimates and Investing.com

Note: (i) In Figure 25, for April 2025, data are reported as of April 21, 2025. The average of daily values is taken to create the monthly value for April 2025. (ii) In Figure 26, for April 2025, data are reported as of April 21, 2025. The NSE VIX (National Stock Exchange Volatility Index) for India measures the market's expectations of volatility of the NIFTY 50 index over the next 30 calendar days. A high VIX value indicates high volatility and uncertainty, suggesting that investors expect significant price movements in the near term. Conversely, a low VIX value suggests a stable or less volatile market.

As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey, unemployment rate (usual status) increases slightly to 3.2 percent in 2024; Year-over-year growth of Naukri JobSpeak Index decelerates to (-) 1.4 percent in February 2025

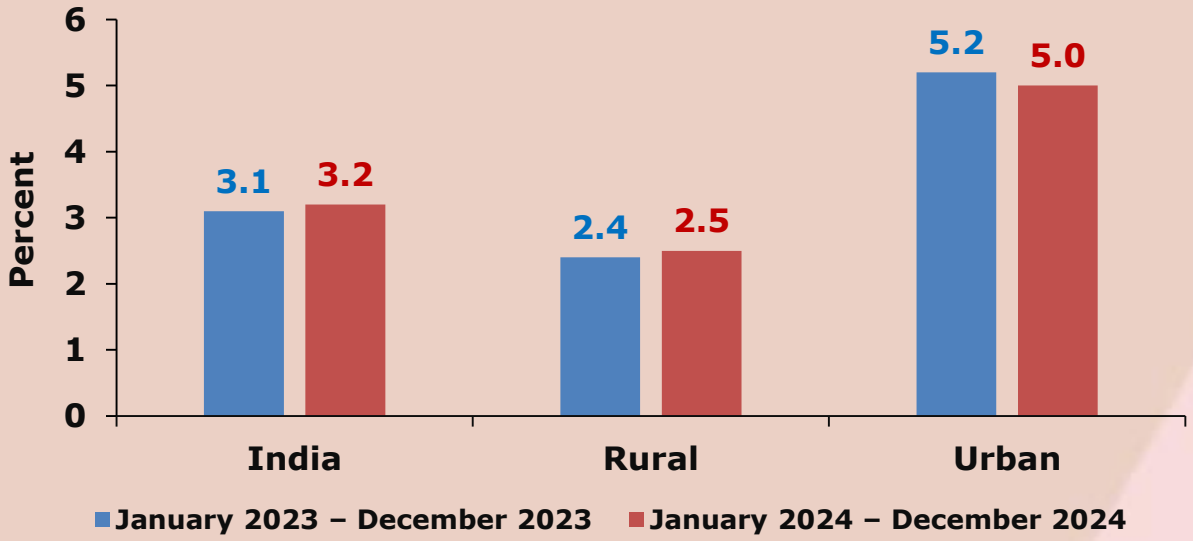
- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (January–December 2024), **India's unemployment rate (usual status)** increased slightly to 3.2 percent in 2024 from 3.1 percent in 2023 (Figure 27). The **Current Weekly Status (CWS) unemployment rate** for people aged 15 and above eased marginally from 5 percent to 4.9 percent, indicating modest improvements in employment. [Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – Key Employment Unemployment Indicators for 2024 | MOSPI, Press Note, April 9, 2025]

  - In rural areas, the unemployment rate (usual status) increased to 2.5 percent from 2.4 percent (Figure 27). The CWS unemployment rate eased to 4.2 percent from 4.3 percent.
  - The urban unemployment rate declined to 5 percent from 5.2 percent as per the usual status (Figure 27). The CWS unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.7 percent.
  - The female unemployment rate increased to 3.1 percent from 3 percent, while the male unemployment rate increased to 3.3 percent from 3.2 percent as per the usual status (Figure 27). The CWS unemployment rate for females remained unchanged at 4.9 percent, while that for males declined to 4.9 percent from 5 percent.

- In March 2025, year-over-year growth of **Naukri JobSpeak Index** turned negative and decelerated to (-) 1.5 percent from 4 percent in February 2025. The sequential growth rate turned negative and decelerated to (-) 9.4 percent in March 2025 from 13.3 percent in February 2025 (Figure 28).

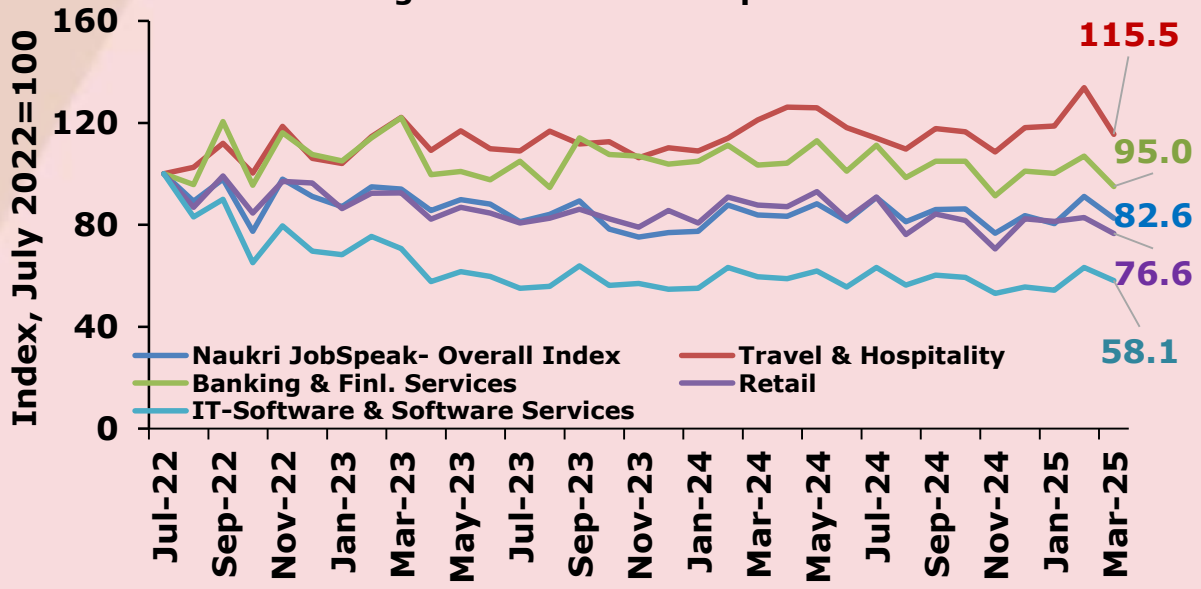
  - In March 2025, year-over-year growth for hiring in the travel and hospitality sector turned negative and decelerated to (-) 4.6 percent, and the sequential growth rate decelerated to (-) 13.7 percent. Year-over-year growth for hiring in the banking and financial services sector remained negative and decelerated to (-) 8.1 percent and the sequential growth rate decelerated to (-) 11.2 percent. Year-over-year growth for hiring in the retail sector remained negative and decelerated (-) 12.7 percent, and the sequential growth rate turned negative and decelerated to (-) 7.6 percent. Year-over-year growth for hiring in the IT and software services sector remained negative and decelerated to (-) 2.5 percent, and the sequential growth rate turned negative and decelerated to 8 percent (Figure 26).

Figure 27: PLFS Unemployment Rates 2024 (Usual Status)



Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Figure 28: Naukri JobSpeak Index



Source: CEIC Estimates.

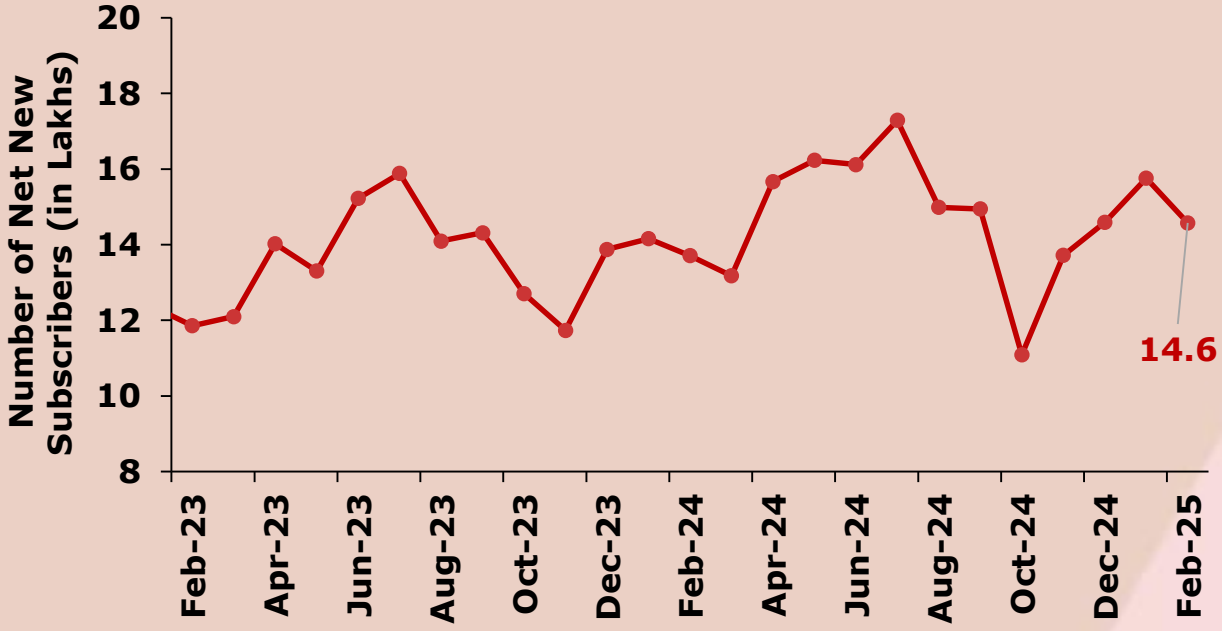
Note: In labour force surveys, a person's employment status is assessed using two main reference periods: Usual Status and Current Weekly Status (CWS). The Usual Status (ps+ss) reflects an individual's activity status over the past 365 days, combining their Principal Status (ps)—the activity in which they spent most of their time—and Subsidiary Status (ss), which accounts for any additional economic activity performed for 30 days or more during the year. In contrast, the Current Weekly Status (CWS) measures activity over the last 7 days, indicating whether a person was employed, unemployed, or seeking work during that short-term period.

Year-over-year growth of new EPFO subscribers decelerated to 6.3 percent in February 2025; Year-over-year growth in work demand under MGNREGA accelerates to 1.6 percent in March 2025

- The provisional estimates for February 2025 reveal that the **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation recorded 14.6 lakh new subscribers,** compared to the revised estimates of 15.8 lakh in January 2025. The year-over-year growth of new EPFO subscribers decelerated to 6.3 percent in February 2025 from 11.3 percent in January 2025 (Figure 29). [Provisional Monthly Estimate of Payroll | Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, India Ministry of Labour & Employment, April 2025]

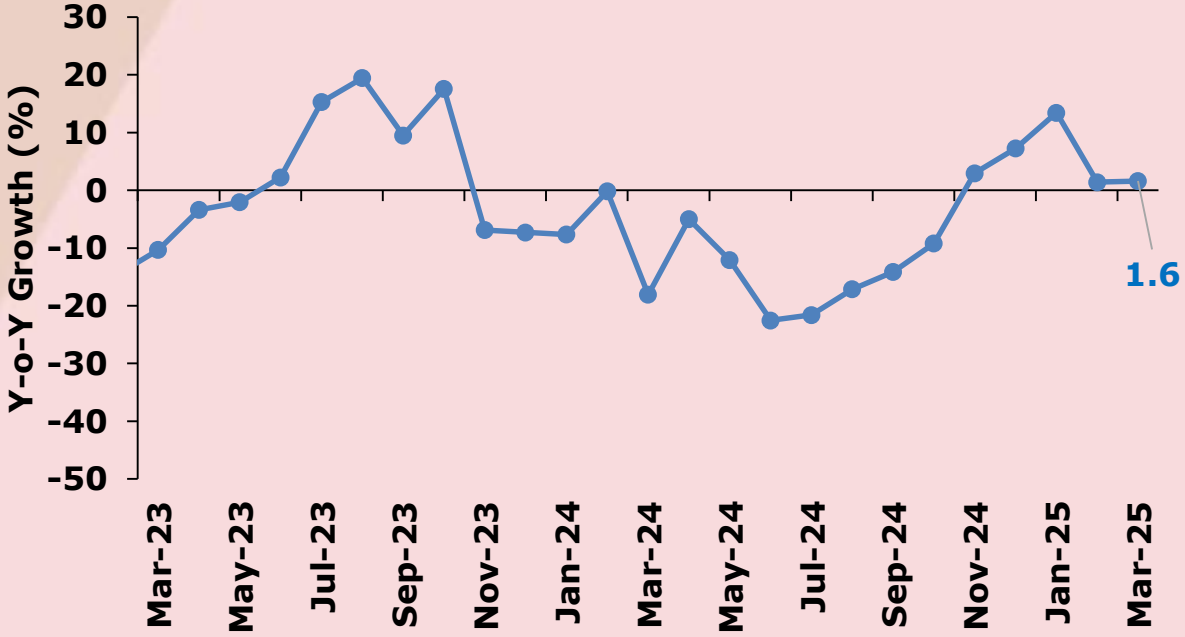
- The year-over-year growth in **work demand under MGNREGA** accelerated to 1.6 percent in March 2025 from 1.4 percent in February 2025 (Figure 30). The sequential growth decelerated to (-) 11.3 percent in March 2025 from (-) 2 percent in February 2025.

Figure 29: EPFO Net New Subscribers



Source: Employees' Provident Fund Organisation

Figure 30: People Demanding Work under MGNREGA



Source: Ministry of Rural Development

In March 2025, merchandise trade deficit widened to USD 21.5 billion; Services trade surplus increased to USD 17.9 billion

- The year-over-year growth of India's merchandise exports turned positive and accelerated to 0.7 percent in March 2025 from (-) 10.9 percent in February 2025, while, merchandise imports turned positive and accelerated to 11.4 percent from (-) 16.3 percent. The sequential growth rate of merchandise exports accelerated to 13.7 percent in March 2025 from 1.4 percent in February 2025. The sequential growth rate of imports accelerated to 24.6 percent from (-) 14.3 percent. The **merchandise trade deficit** widened to USD 21.5 billion in March 2025, compared to USD 14.1 billion in February 2025 (Figure 31).

- In March 2025, the year-over-year growth rate of services exports decelerated to 5.4 percent from 11.6 percent in February 2025, while services imports decelerated to (-) 17.3 percent from (-) 4.8 percent. The sequential growth rate of services exports accelerated to 0.05 percent in March 2025 from (-) 8.9 percent in February 2025, while that of imports remained negative but improved to (-) 5.3 percent from (-) 13.2 percent. The **services trade surplus** increased to USD 17.9 billion in March 2025, compared to USD 17.1 billion in February 2025 (Figure 32). [Press Release, April 16, 2025 | Ministry of Commerce & Industry]

Figure 31: Merchandise Trade

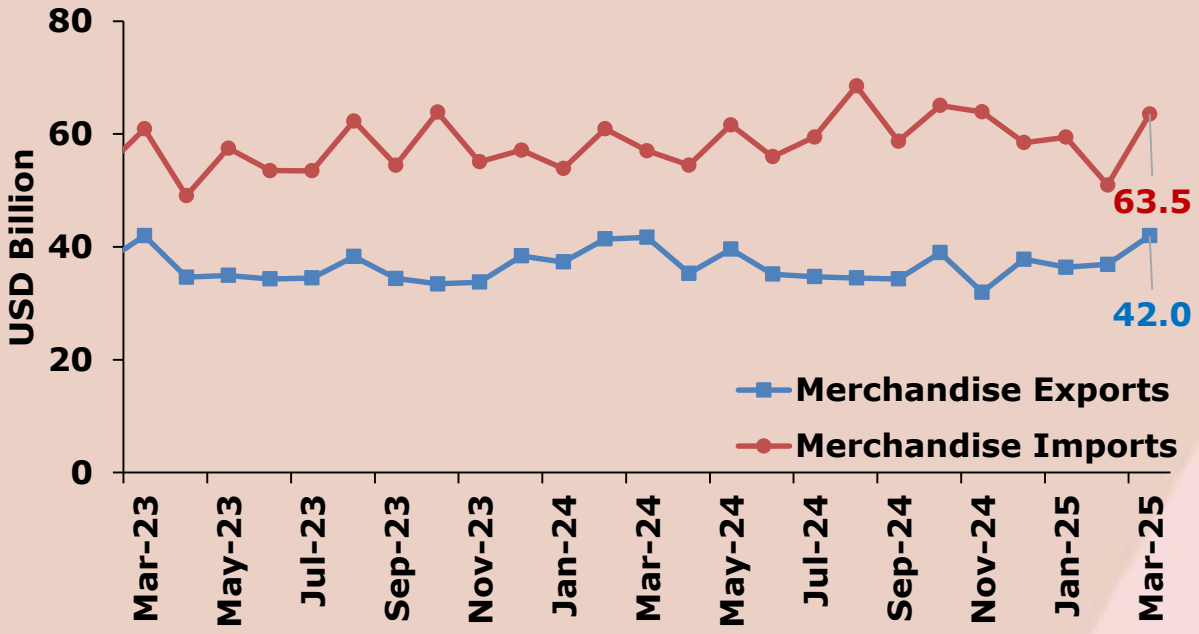
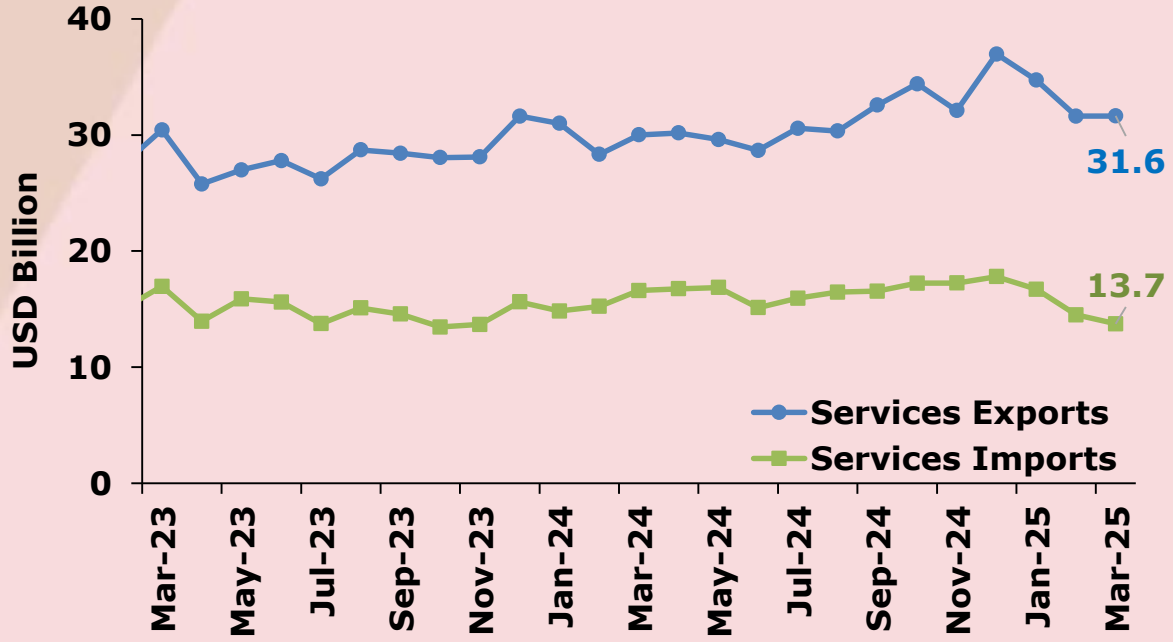


Figure 32: Services Trade



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Year-over-year growth of Non-petroleum and Non-gems and Jewellery exports accelerates in March 2025

- The year-over-year growth of non-petroleum exports turned positive and accelerated to 2.2 percent in March 2025 from (-) 6.3 percent in February 2025. The year-over-year growth of non-petroleum imports turned positive and accelerated to 9.4 percent from (-) 11.3 percent. The sequential growth rate of non-petroleum exports turned positive and accelerated to 19.4 percent in March 2025 from (-) 5.4 percent in February 2025, and that of non-petroleum imports also turned positive and accelerated to 13.9 percent from (-) 15.1 percent. The **non-petroleum trade deficit** narrowed to USD 7.4 billion in March 2025, compared to USD 8 billion in February 2025 (Figure 33).

- The year-over-year growth of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports turned positive and accelerated to 1.5 percent in March 2025 from (-) 4.7 percent in February 2025. The year-over-year growth of imports accelerated to 5.3 percent from 3.1 percent. The sequential growth rate of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports accelerated to 19.6 percent in March 2025 from (-) 4.4 percent in February 2025, and that of imports turned positive and accelerated to 7.8 percent from (-) 15 percent. The **non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery trade deficit** narrowed to USD 3.6 billion in March 2025, compared to USD 6.5 billion in February 2025 (Figure 34). [Press Release, April 16, 2025 | Ministry of Commerce & Industry]

Figure 33: Non-Petroleum Exports and Imports

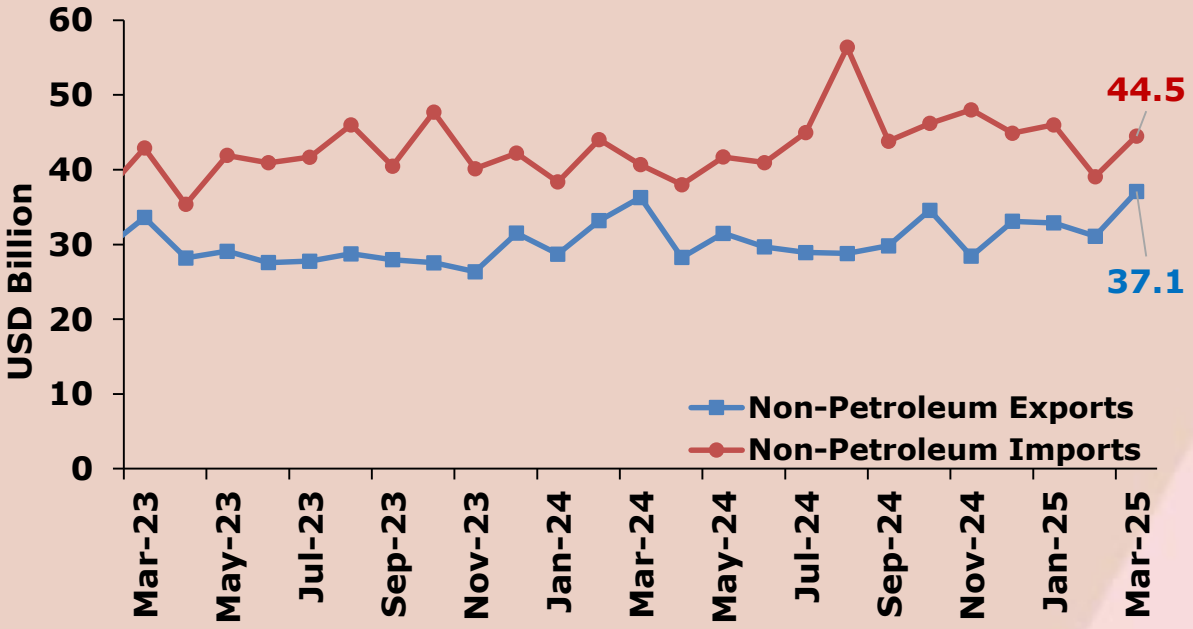
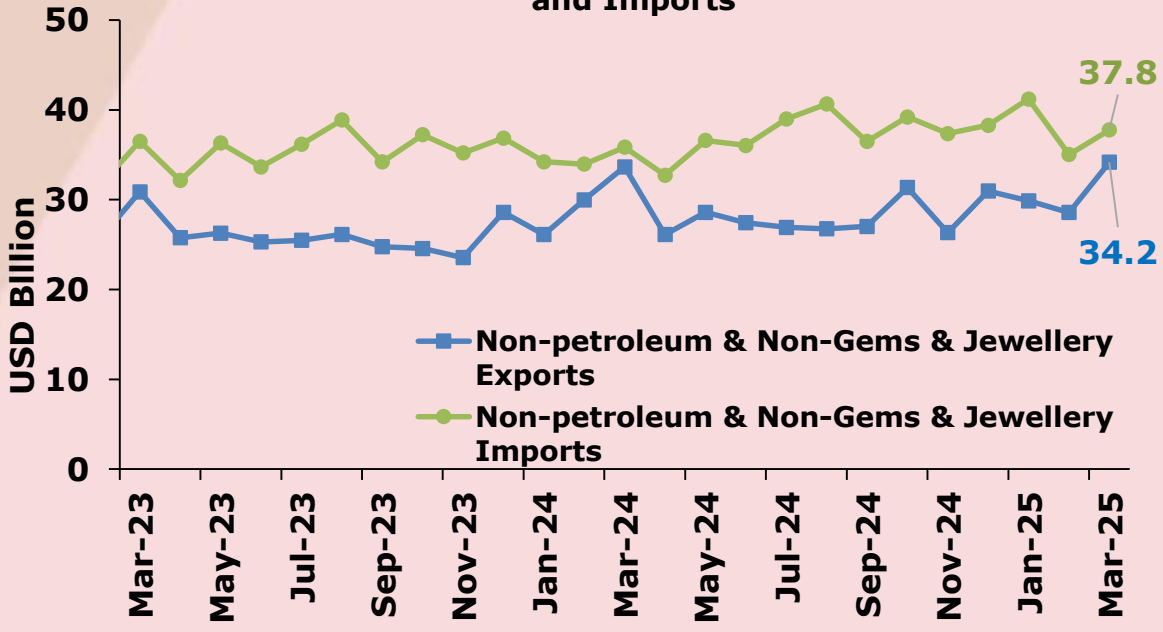


Figure 34: Non-Petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery Exports and Imports



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Forex reserves increase by USD 20.7 billion reaching a total of USD 686.1 billion as of April 18, 2025, compared to their level as of March 28, 2025

- The **Indian Rupee (INR)** appreciated marginally to Rs. 85.2 against the US dollar as of April 21, 2025, compared to Rs. 85.6 at the end of March 2025, reflecting a 0.5 percent appreciation (Figure 35).
- **Key EME Currencies:** In March 2025, the Chinese Renminbi slightly appreciated against the US dollar to 7.25 RMB from 7.27 RMB in February 2025. The Brazilian Real appreciated to 5.758 BRL from 5.764 BRL in February 2025. The Russian Ruble (RUB) appreciated to 86.07 from 92.82 in February 2025.
- **Foreign Exchange Intervention:** The RBI sold a net USD 1.6 billion in the spot market in February 2025 compared to the net USD 11.1 billion sale in January 2025. [Sale/ Purchase of U.S. Dollar by the RBI | April 2025]
- **Foreign Exchange Reserves:** As of April 18, 2025, foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 20.7 billion, reaching a total of USD 686.1 billion compared with their level of USD 665.4 billion as of March 28, 2025 (Figure 36). [RBI – Bulletin Weekly Statistical Supplement, Foreign Exchange Reserves Press Release, April 25, 2025]

Figure 35: Nominal Exchange Rate

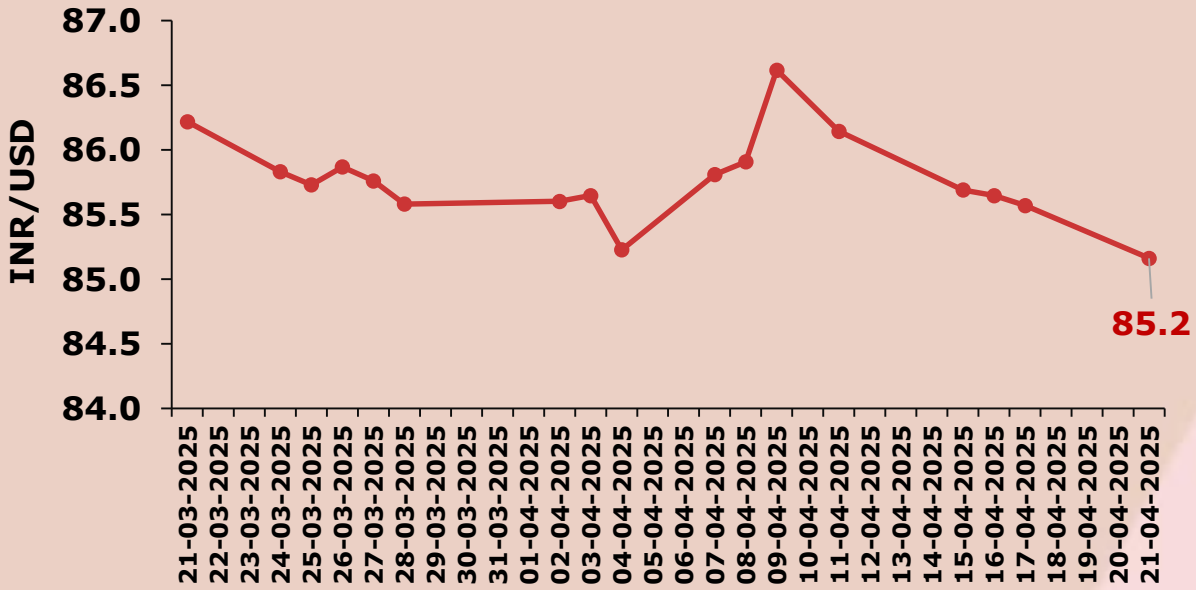
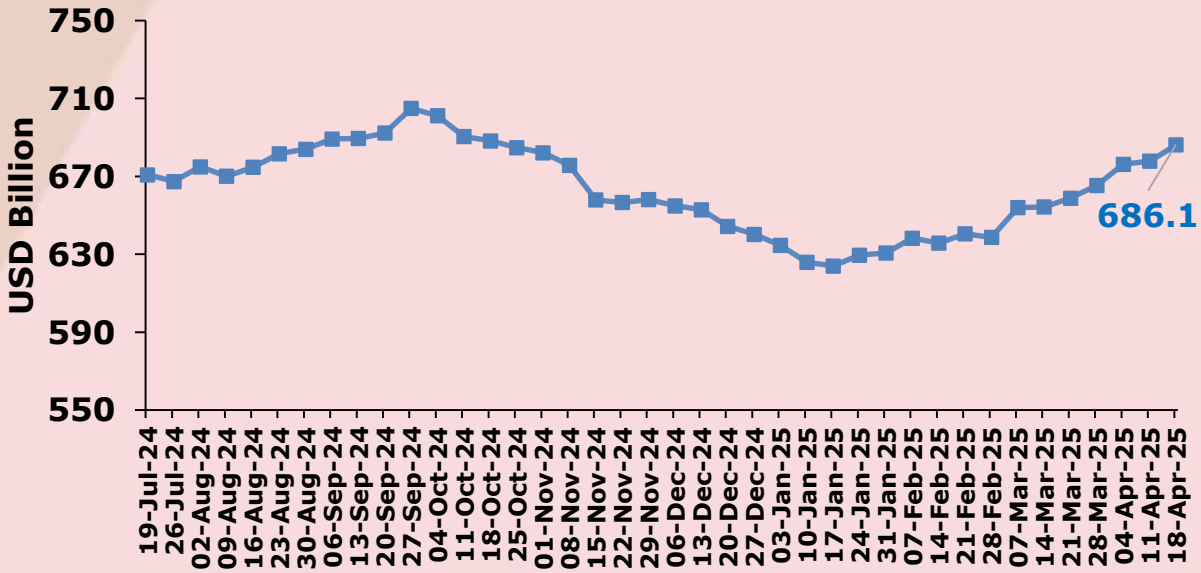


Figure 36: Foreign Exchange Reserves



Source: Reserve Bank of India.

Note: For Figure 35 are taken as of April 21, 2025; data for Figure 36 are taken as of April 18, 2025.

Net Foreign Portfolio Investments turn negative and amounted to USD (-) 4 billion as of April 21, 2025

- As of April 21, 2025, **net Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI)** turned negative and amounted to USD (-) 4 billion compared to USD 3.8 billion in March 2025 (Figure 37).
- **Net FPI equity** amounted to USD (-) 2.2 billion as of April 21, 2025, compared to USD (-) 0.4 billion in March 2025 (Figure 38).
- **Net FPI debt** turned negative and amounted to USD (-) 1.1 billion as of April 21, 2025, compared to USD 1.1 billion in March 2025 (Figure 39).

Figure 37: Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)

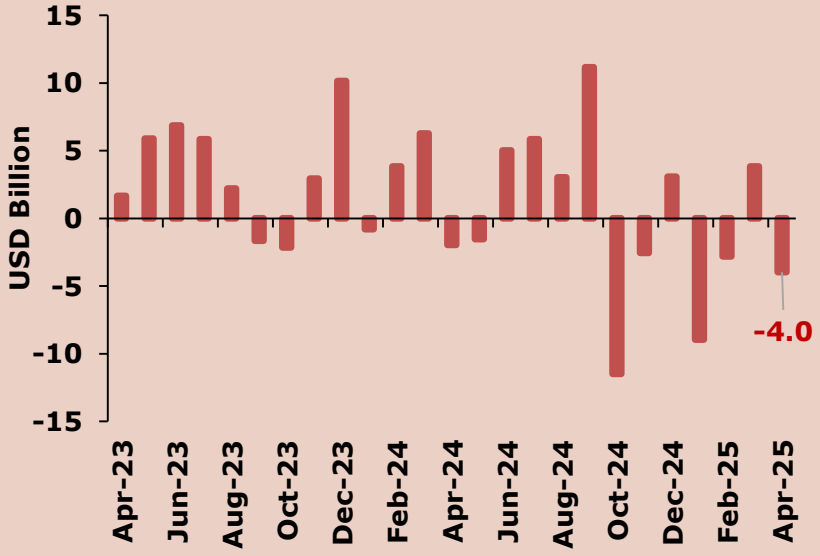


Figure 38: Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) Equity

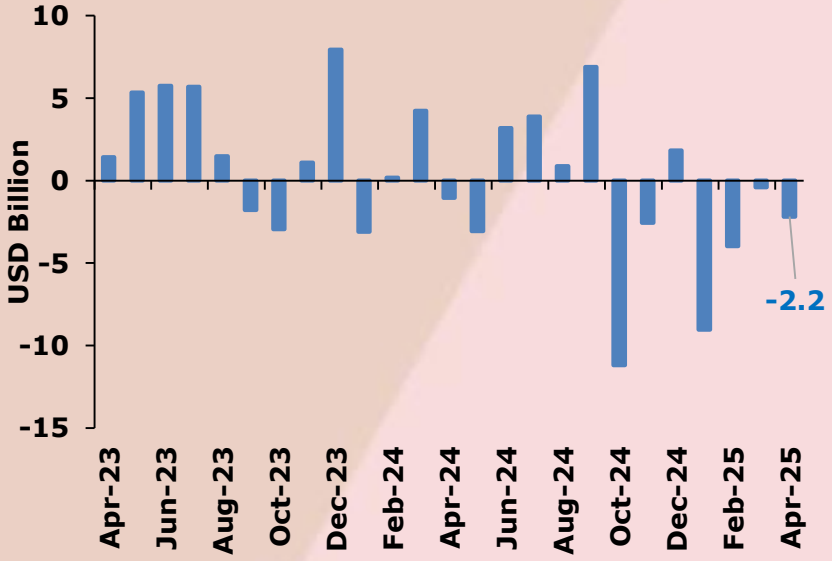
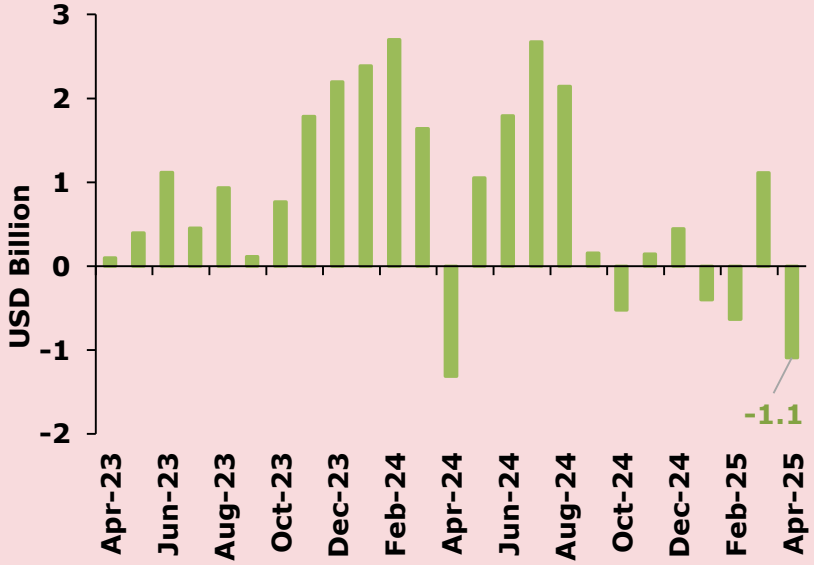


Figure 39. Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) Debt



Source: National Securities Depository Limited.

Note: For April 2025, data for Figures 37, 38, and 39 are as of April 21, 2024. Monthly values for April 2025 have been estimated by summing up the daily values of Net FPI Equity and Net FPI Debt. For Figure 37, the monthly value for April 2025 has been calculated by taking the sum of the daily data for Net FPI Equity, Net Debt-General Limit, Net Debt Voluntary Retention Route (VRR), Net Debt Fully Accessible Route (FAR), Net Hybrid, Mutual Funds, and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).

Heatmap for High-Frequency Indicators

Indicators	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Agriculture																									
Fertilizer Sales: Urea	-6.1	-16.6	4.3	0.5	-8.5	-2.8	2.2	28.5	15.0	2.7	-0.2	-10.7	-1.1	11.9	3.3	3.5	4.1	-8.8	-1.8	-20.8	-16.2	3.9	-3.3		
Industry																									
IIP Manufacturing	1.5	5.5	6.3	3.5	5.3	10.0	5.1	10.6	1.3	4.6	3.6	4.9	5.9	4.2	5.1	3.5	4.7	1.2	4.0	4.4	5.5	3.4	5.8	2.9	
IIP Core	4.2	4.6	5.2	8.3	8.6	13.4	9.5	12.7	7.9	5.1	4.1	4.2	6.3	6.9	6.9	5.0	6.3	-1.5	2.4	3.8	4.4	4.8	5.1	2.9	
PMI Manufacturing	56.4	57.2	58.7	57.8	57.7	58.6	57.5	55.5	56.0	54.9	56.5	56.9	59.1	58.8	57.5	58.3	58.1	57.5	56.5	57.5	56.5	56.4	57.7	56.3	58.1
PMI Services	57.8	62.0	61.2	58.5	62.3	60.1	61.0	58.4	56.9	59.0	61.8	60.6	61.2	60.8	60.2	60.5	60.3	60.9	57.7	58.5	58.4	59.3	56.5	59.0	58.5
Automobile Sales: 2-wheelers (excluding EVs)	9.0	16.5	17.4	1.7	-7.2	0.6	0.8	20.2	31.3	16.0	26.2	34.6	15.3	30.8	10.1	21.3	12.5	9.3	15.8	14.2	-1.1	-8.8	2.1	-9.0	11.4
Registered Motor Vehicles	14.7	-3.3	10.9	10.4	10.9	9.8	21.2	-6.6	19.6	22.0	16.1	14.0	3.8	27.5	3.3	1.4	14.7	3.7	-8.6	33.4	11.9	-11.9	7.6	-6.5	-0.3
Registered EV Sales	74.6	46.0	129.7	37.2	45.2	43.6	37.2	19.9	27.5	37.6	41.0	32.2	51.2	4.1	-11.2	36.5	54.5	23.6	24.8	56.5	25.3	0.8	18.0	-1.3	-4.6
Natural Gas Production	2.4	-2.9	-0.1	3.4	8.3	9.3	6.1	9.3	7.4	6.1	5.5	11.1	6.2	7.8	6.7	2.9	-1.6	-3.7	-1.6	-1.6	-2.3	-2.1	-2.3	-6.7	-4.8
Crude Steel Production	2.7	7.7	5.9	13.6	13.7	17.6	18.8	16.3	11.0	11.0	8.7	12.3	8.6	4.2	4.1	3.4	5.8	2.6	0.3	4.2	4.5	8.3	7.4	6.0	7.0
Electricty Supply	-1.3	0.1	0.9	5.9	12.3	17.5	11.6	23.2	6.2	1.0	5.7	9.1	10.1	9.2	13.8	8.0	3.9	-4.6	-0.5	-0.2	3.8	5.1	1.8	2.5	6.6
Services																									
Air Passenger Traffic	27.0	25.5	19.0	20.5	25.8	23.2	19.4	11.9	10.7	9.9	7.2	8.1	6.5	6.0	8.3	7.7	7.8	7.5	8.1	9.8	13.2	10.5	13.5	11.2	
Air Cargo	-0.9	0.0	-0.3	-0.8	-1.2	6.9	-0.3	13.1	6.6	10.8	15.5	22.7	17.3	10.0	15.6	15.9	18.1	12.5	18.0	14.5	9.7	8.0	7.0	-4.9	
Trade																									
Merchandise Export	-5.9	-12.8	-10.4	-18.8	-10.0	3.4	-2.8	5.8	-3.3	0.8	4.3	11.9	-0.6	2.0	13.3	2.4	0.6	-9.9	-0.2	16.6	-5.3	-1.5	-2.5	-10.9	0.7
Services Export	13.0	7.2	7.4	3.2	8.1	8.3	-2.7	10.7	4.2	1.7	10.8	3.4	-1.4	17.1	9.7	3.2	16.6	5.7	14.6	22.7	14.2	16.9	12.0	11.6	5.4
Fiscal																									
Gross Tax Revenue (Centre)	16.8	-6.1	4.4	11.3	1.5	95.2	15.9	-1.2	21.3	12.9	16.5	-0.5	13.4	16.9	14.4	35.0	14.0	-15.8	11.9	1.6	10.0	11.1	4.6	19.7	
Goods and Services Tax Revenue	12.7	11.6	11.5	11.7	10.8	10.8	10.2	13.4	15.1	10.3	10.4	12.5	11.2	12.4	10.1	7.6	10.3	10.0	6.5	8.9	8.5	7.3	12.3	9.1	9.9
Banking																									
SCB bank Credit: Total Outstanding	15.0	15.9	15.4	16.2	19.7	19.8	20.0	19.7	20.6	19.9	20.3	20.5	20.2	19.0	19.8	17.4	13.6	13.6	13.0	11.5	10.6	11.2	11.4	11.0	
SCB bank Credit: Non-Banking Financial Companies	29.9	29.2	27.3	34.7	19.9	21.3	21.9	18.3	18.9	15.0	15.6	14.7	15.3	15.3	16.0	8.5	12.7	11.9	9.5	6.4	7.8	6.7	7.7	6.4	
SCB bank Credit Non-food: Personal Loans	20.6	19.4	19.1	21.3	30.5	30.4	30.0	29.6	30.0	28.4	28.6	28.1	27.5	26.7	28.7	25.6	15.0	13.9	13.4	12.9	13.3	12.0	11.8	11.7	
SCB bank Credit Non-food: Agriculture	15.4	16.7	16.0	19.7	16.7	16.5	16.7	17.4	18.1	19.4	20.0	20.0	20.0	19.8	21.6	17.4	18.1	17.7	16.4	15.5	15.3	12.5	12.2	11.4	
SCB bank Credit Non-food: Industry	5.7	7.0	6.0	8.1	5.8	6.6	7.1	5.9	6.6	8.6	8.3	9.3	8.5	7.4	9.4	8.1	10.1	9.7	8.9	7.9	8.0	7.2	8.0	7.1	
SCB bank Credit Non-food: Services	19.5	21.3	21.3	26.8	23.4	25.0	25.4	24.0	25.7	23.3	24.2	24.3	23.5	22.0	23.2	17.4	14.0	13.9	13.7	12.7	13.0	11.7	12.5	12.0	
Financial Markets																									
NIFTY 50 Index	-0.6	5.6	11.8	21.6	15.1	8.4	14.9	5.9	7.3	20.0	23.0	27.0	28.6	25.1	21.6	25.1	26.3	31.1	31.4	26.9	19.9	8.8	8.2	0.6	5.3
BSE SENSEX	0.7	7.1	12.7	22.1	15.6	8.9	14.6	5.1	6.2	18.7	20.5	23.0	24.9	21.9	18.1	22.1	22.9	27.0	28.1	24.3	19.1	8.2	8.0	1.0	5.1
Employment and Inflation																									
Naukri JobSpeak Index	5.2	-5.2	-0.5	-2.9	-18.8	-5.7	-8.6	1.2	-23.3	-15.6	-11.1	-7.5	-10.8	-2.7	-1.8	-7.6	11.8	-3.4	-3.8	10.0	2.0	8.7	3.9	4.0	-1.5
EPFO Net New Subscribers	-11.6	-2.5	-3.5	0.4	2.7	0.4	3.9	21.6	-11.6	14.0	14.3	15.6	8.9	11.6	22.1	5.9	8.9	6.3	4.4	-12.7	16.9	5.2	11.3	6.3	
Consumer Price Inflation	5.7	4.7	4.3	4.9	7.4	6.8	5.0	4.9	5.6	5.7	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.8	4.7	5.1	3.5	3.7	5.5	6.2	5.5	5.2	4.3	3.6	3.3
Wholesale Price Inflation	1.4	0.8	3.6	4.2	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.2	2.7	3.4	2.1	1.2	1.8	2.4	1.9	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.0

Source: NCAER Team's calculation, based on the CEIC database.
Methodology Note: The y-o-y growth (%) has been calculated for all indicators for the period as indicated in the data appendix (except for PMI Manufacturing and PMI Services).

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