

# Singapore Economics 2H 2026

## Steady Keel in Choppy Seas

### Limited Impact from Gulf War Shocks

We forecast GDP growth at +4.6% in 2026, well above MTI's 2%-4% range, and +3.1% in 2027. Impact from the Gulf War on both growth and inflation has been limited. GDP growth was upgraded despite the Gulf War, after the strong GDP growth of +6% in 1Q. Two powerful structural tailwinds – the global AI capex and construction boom – are cushioning the headwinds from higher energy prices and Gulf-related supply disruptions.

The Gulf War has impacted petroleum, petrochemical and land transport activities, but these sectors combined account for a small 2.1% of nominal GDP. Diversified energy sources, reserve inventories, and GasCo's forward LNG procurement have cushioned energy shocks. Some industries are benefiting from the diversion of demand, including marine shipping, aviation, transport engineering and finance. The financial sector has seen safe-haven flows for both foreign currency and Singdollar deposits, supporting loan growth and banking liquidity. We forecast the 3-month SORA to end the year at 1%, premised on the Fed remaining on hold.

### Global AI Capex & Construction Boom Intact

The AI capex boom remains the dominant growth driver. Mega US hyperscalers are planning to increase capex by +77% in 2H 2026, raising demand for memory chips, servers and AI infrastructure components. Singapore's manufacturing output climbed +13% YoY in May, led by a +36% jump in electronics. We forecast Singapore's non-oil domestic exports growing at +15% in 2026, far higher than the official 2%-4% forecast. Major investments from Micron and Applied Materials are deepening Singapore's role in the global AI supply chain.

The construction boom remains intact. We raised our construction growth forecast to +7% in 2026 (up from +6%) after strong 1Q growth of +11.8%. A robust pipeline of civil engineering megaprojects including Changi Terminal 5, Tuas Megaport, the North-South Corridor and Jurong Island expansion, alongside newly announced works at Changi Terminal 3 and Marina South will sustain growth to the end of the decade. Government cost-sharing schemes are providing relief to cushion rising bitumen and diesel costs. The governments retains ample fiscal dry powder if more support is required.

### MAS to Hold as Inflation Tame

We expect the MAS to maintain the current modest S\$NEER appreciation stance for the rest of 2026 and 2027. Inflation has come in lower than expected despite Gulf War shocks. We forecast core and headline inflation averaging 1.7% in 2026 and 1.6% in 2027, at the lower end of MAS 1.5-2.5% range. Core inflation is unlikely to breach the top of the MAS forecast upper bound, given a strengthening Singapore dollar, softening labor market and sharp drop in energy prices. Our FX team forecasts the SGD to be stable against the USD at 1.285 in end-2026, similar to end-2025 levels.

### Wildcards: Short US-Iran Truce, Aggressive Fed Tightening

A short-lived US-Iran truce if negotiations fail could restart the Gulf War and disrupt energy supplies. High US inflation could trigger aggressive Fed tightening which could translate into higher Singapore interest rates.

### Analysts

Chua Hak Bin  
(65) 6231 5830  
chuahb@maybank.com

Brian Lee Shun Rong  
(65) 6231 5846  
brian.lee1@maybank.com

# Singapore: Steady Keel in Choppy Seas

## Limited Impact from Gulf War Shocks

We forecast GDP growth remaining resilient at +4.6% in 2026, well above MTI's 1% to 3% range, and +3.1% in 2027 (vs. +5% in 2025). Impact from the Gulf War on both growth and inflation has been limited. GDP growth was upgraded despite the Gulf War, after the strong GDP growth of +6% in 1Q. MTI will likely upgrade its full-year forecast to 3%-5% (from 2%-4%) when final 2Q GDP data is released in August.

Two powerful structural tailwinds – the global AI capex and construction boom – are cushioning the headwinds from higher energy prices and Gulf-related supply disruptions (see *Singapore Economics Year Ahead 2026: Riding on AI, Low Rates and Construction Boom*, 9 Dec 2025). Gulf war shocks are easing with the US-Iran interim peace deal. The sharp fall in global energy prices and gradual recovery of Hormuz shipping traffic is positive for energy-dependent industries.

**Table 1: Singapore - Key Macroeconomic Indicators, 2026-2027 Forecasts**

	2023	2024	2025	2026F	2027F
GDP Growth (average %)	1.5	5.3	5.0	4.6	3.1
Headline CPI (average %)	4.8	2.4	0.9	1.7	1.6
Core CPI (average %)	4.2	2.7	0.7	1.7	1.6
3M SORA (year-end %)	3.71	3.07	1.19	1.00	1.00
10Y Bond Yield (year-end %)	2.69	2.85	2.11	2.00	1.90
USD/SGD (year-end)	1.32	1.37	1.285	1.285	1.26

Source: CEIC, Maybank IBG Research

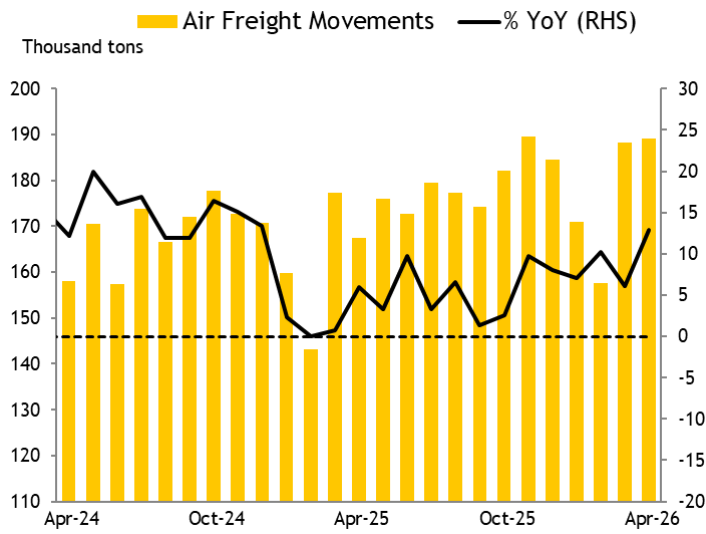
Cost pressures and input supply disruptions from the Gulf war have been mostly concentrated in the petroleum (1.1% of GDP), petrochemicals (0.5% of GDP) and land transport (0.5% of GDP) industries, but their combined share of the economy is relatively small at 2.1% of GDP. Sharp output contractions were seen in petrochemicals (-41.6%) and petroleum (-29.7%) in April, due to disruptions in crude oil-based feedstock supply.

Singapore's energy sources are well-diversified with reserve buffers, mitigating supply disruption risks in a prolonged conflict and Hormuz Strait blockade. GasCo, the government-owned centralized procurer of natural gas for the power sector, announced in May that it had secured enough LNG to replace disrupted supplies from Qatar through the end of 2026. The Energy Market Authority noted that gas imports from Qatar made up less than 10% of total gas demand before the conflict. Around 95% of Singapore's electricity is generated using natural gas.

Several industries, including marine shipping, aviation and finance are being cushioned by diversion of demand from the Gulf region and other spillover effects.

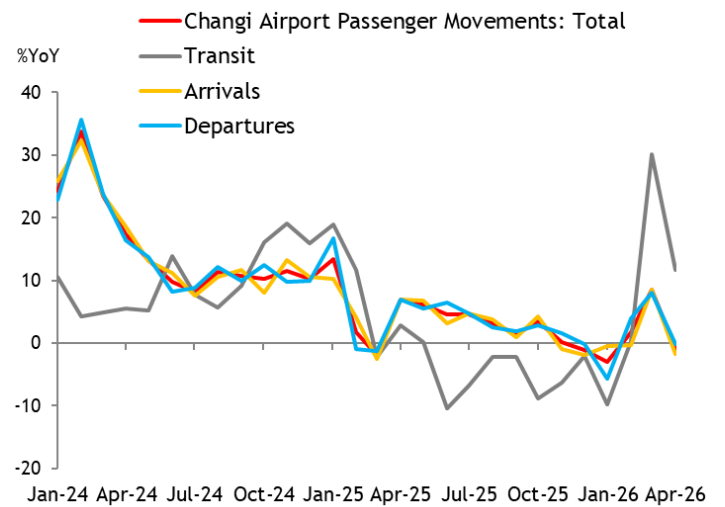
Long-haul flights that previously transited through Gulf hubs like Dubai or Doha are being diverted through Singapore and other Southeast Asian air hubs. Singapore Airlines is progressively increasing flight frequencies to UK and Germany from July, and will launch a new five-time weekly service to Madrid via Barcelona in October.

**Fig 1: Air Cargo Rose +12.9% in April to 5-Month High of 189k Tons in April**



Source: Maybank IBG Research

**Fig 2: Air Passenger Movements Fell -0.9% in April, as Both Arrivals (-1.7%) and Departures (-0.2%) Declined**

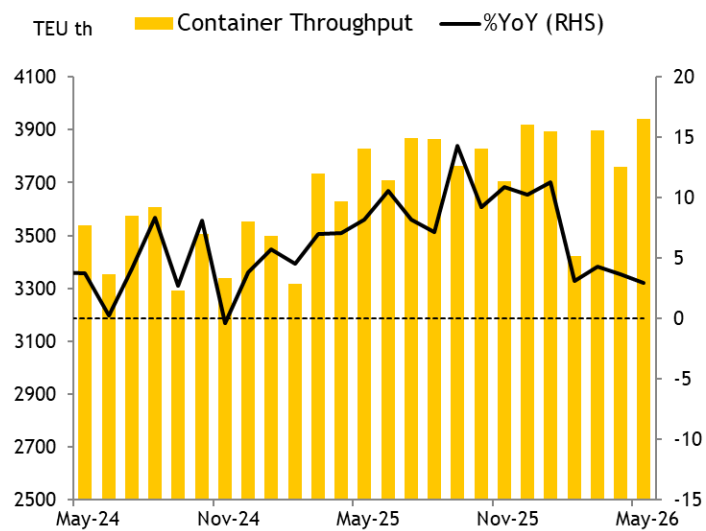


Source: Maybank IBG Research

Air cargo volumes rose by +12.9% in April to a 5-month high of 189k tons. Air passenger movements through Changi Airport have however been muted, falling -0.9% YoY to 5.7mn in April, after a +8.5% jump in March. Transit passenger volumes remain buoyant (+11.7% vs. +30% in Mar), but air passenger departures (-0.2%) and arrivals (-1.7%) declined.

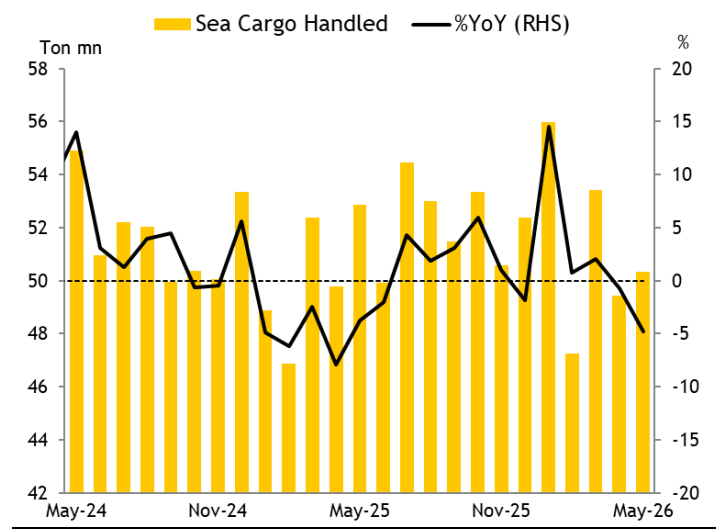
More ships are calling at the Port of Singapore, a major transshipment and bunkering hub, as the war disrupts Persian Gulf routes. Some 10,873 ships called at Singapore in April (+3%), continuing the uptrend from March (+8.7%). Container throughput growth (measured in twenty-foot equivalent container units) grew +3.0% in May, although sea cargo handled (measured in tonnes, encompasses both containerized freight and bulk carriers) declined -4.8%.

**Fig 3: Container Throughput Rose 3% in May to Reach New High of 3.94mn TEU**



Source: CEIC

**Fig 4: Sea Cargo Handled Fell -4.8% YoY in May, Steepest Decline in a Year**

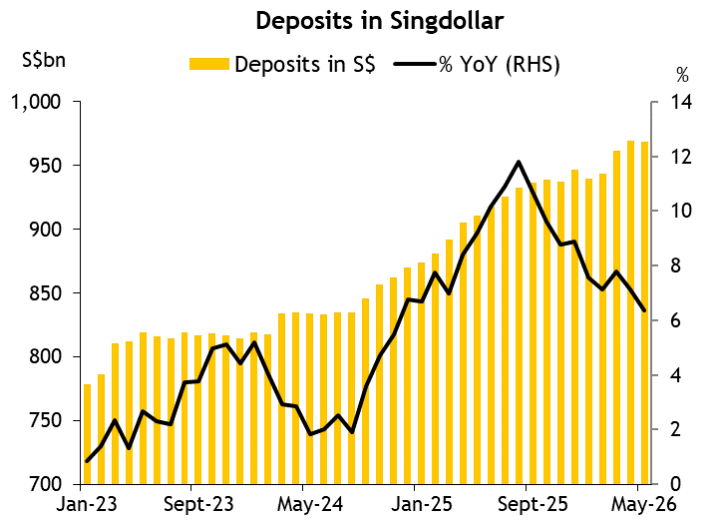


Source: CEIC

The financial sector is benefiting from safe haven fund inflows, as investors shift their funds from Gulf financial hubs like Dubai (see *Singapore Macro - Gulf War: Safe Haven Flows*, 13 May 2026). Foreign currency deposits rose +7.2% year-on-year in May (Apr: +7.4%; Feb: +2.9%), up S\$40.4bn from pre-war levels in February. Singdollar deposits grew +6.4% in May, cooling from +7.1% in April but remain

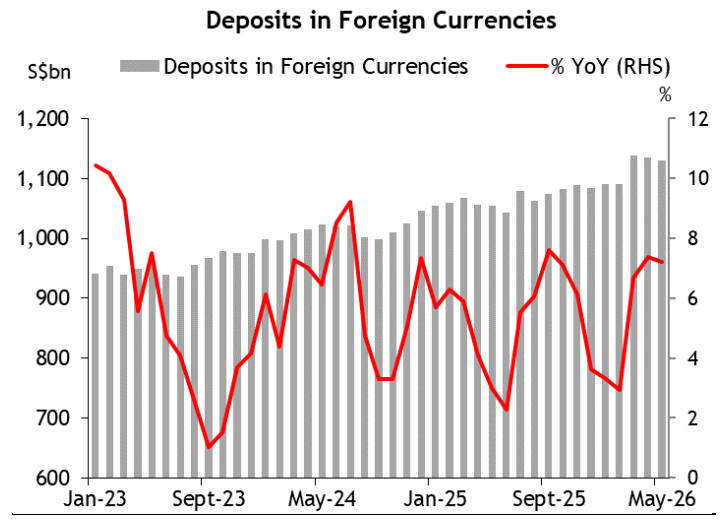
S\$25bn higher than February. Gold imports from UAE to Singapore surged to a record 1,446kg (worth US\$220mn) in March.

**Fig 5: S\$ Deposits Rose +6.4% YoY to S\$969bn in May, Up By S\$25bn from February**



Source: MAS, CEIC

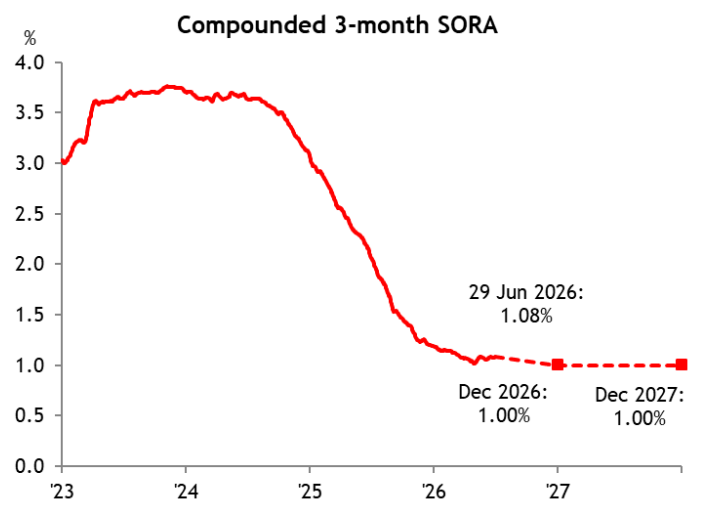
**Fig 6: Foreign Currency Deposits Grew +7.2% YoY in May, Increased S\$40.4bn from Feb**



Source: MAS, CEIC

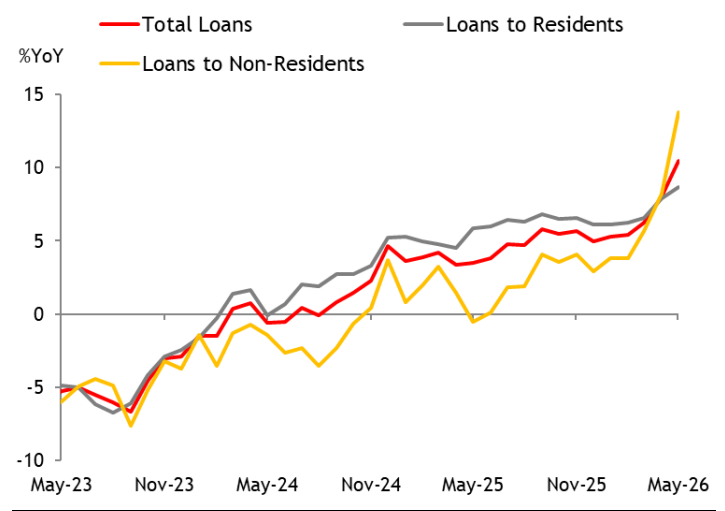
The safe haven flows are boosting liquidity in the banking system, which should support loan growth. Overall loans grew +10.5% year-on-year in May (Apr: +8%), representing the strongest growth post-pandemic. Loans to residents grew +8.7%, while credit to non-residents jumped +13.8%. Outward facing sectors like wholesale trade, manufacturing, infocomm and finance are underpinning the strength. Abundant liquidity is containing interest rates across the yield curve despite rising US yields. The benchmark 3-month SORA stands at 1.08% as of 29 June (end-2025: 1.2%), and is expected to dip to 1% by end-2026.

**Fig 7: The 3M SORA Eased to 1.08% on 29 June from 1.2% at End-2025: Projected to Ease Further to 1% by End-2026**



Source: MAS, CEIC

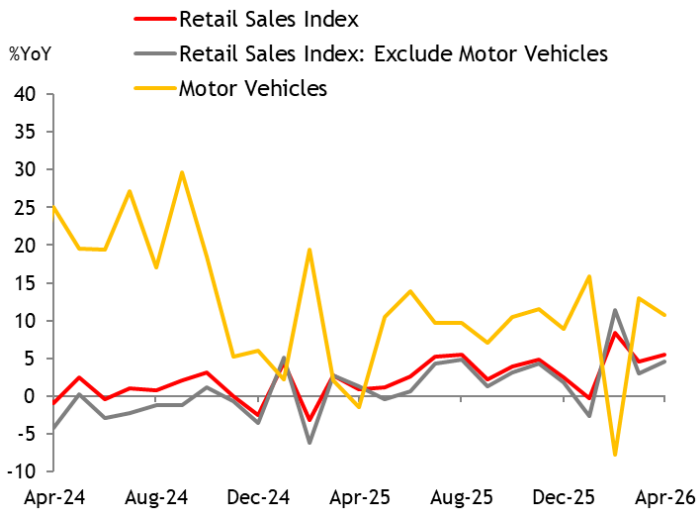
**Fig 8: Total Loans Grew +10.5% in May, Led by Both Resident (+8.7%) and Non-Resident (+13.8%) Loans**



Source: MAS, CEIC

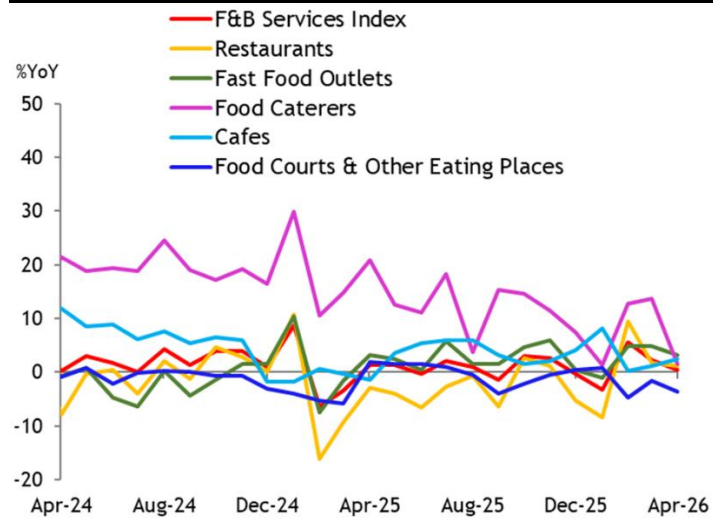
Retail sales remained resilient, accelerating to +5.4% YoY in April (Mar: +4.8%). In real terms, retail sales grew +3.1% in April, improving from +1.9% in March. Real retail sales growth was led by recreational goods (+8.7%), apparel & footwear (+6.9%), optical goods & books (+5.9%), supermarkets (+3.8%), motor vehicles (+5.7%) and cosmetics/medical goods (+4.6%).

**Fig 9: Nominal Retail Sales Growth Picked Up to +5.4% in April, Rose +4.5% Excluding Auto Sales**



Source: Singstat, CEIC

**Fig 10: Nominal F&B Growth Eased to +0.4% in April on Declining Food Court Sales and Smaller Gains in Food Caterers**



Source: Singstat, CEIC

Food & beverage services sales was weaker, declining -0.7% in real terms in April (nominal: +0.4%) after two straight months of growth (Mar: +1.3%). Real restaurant sales were flat (0% vs. +0.6% in Mar), while food caterer sales decelerated to +1.5% growth (vs. +13.7% in Mar). Food courts/other eating places took the biggest hit, falling -5.3% in real terms (Mar: -3%) in its ninth straight month of contraction. Micro-businesses like food court and hawker stalls operate on razor-thin margins, and are exposed heavily to logistics and other operating cost pressures. Restaurant sales have been more insulated, possibly due to a steady stream of new overseas entrants and resilient discretionary consumption.

Pockets of retail sales categories will benefit from fiscal support, including CDC vouchers and SG Culture Pass vouchers. A new S\$500 tranche of CDC vouchers per household was disbursed in June 2026 (split evenly into supermarket and hawker stores/heartland shops), which was brought forward from Jan 2027.

Consumption growth may nonetheless cool going forward, as households turn more cautious given a softer labor market. Manpower Group's net employment outlook<sup>1</sup> stood at +13% for the third quarter, an 11-point decline on both the quarter and the year, and the softest hiring forecast since 4Q 2021.

Significant dry powder for additional fiscal support remains given Budget FY2026's S\$8.5bn (1% of GDP) surplus, even after S\$1bn was tapped on in April for the support package (see *Singapore Budget 2026 Building Resilience in Age of AI and Geopolitics*, 13 Feb 2026).

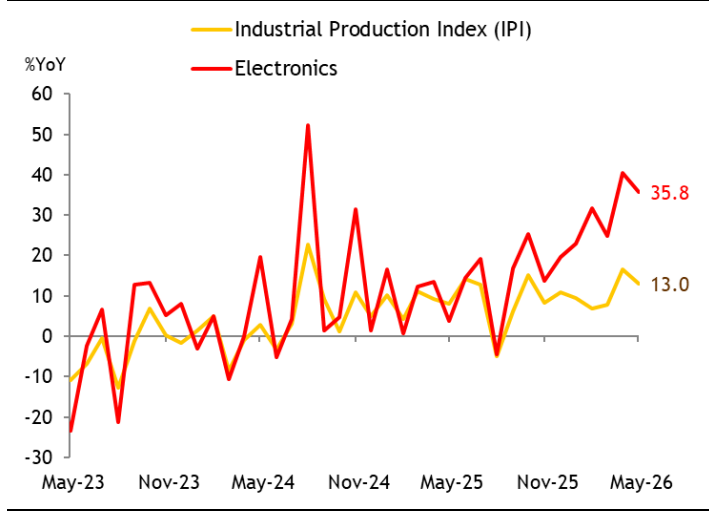
## Global AI Capex Boom

The global AI capex boom and data center buildout is supercharging electronics exports and production, particularly for memory chips, servers and server-related products. The Gulf war has not dampened AI-led manufacturing growth momentum despite worries over helium shortages, with chip companies in Singapore like Micron and UMC diversifying their sourcing. Helium accounts for just 0.5% to 1% of total semiconductor manufacturing costs. Higher costs can easily be passed onto customers or absorbed by manufacturers.

<sup>1</sup> Net employment outlook subtracts the percentage of employers who anticipate reductions to headcount from the percentage of those who plan to hire.

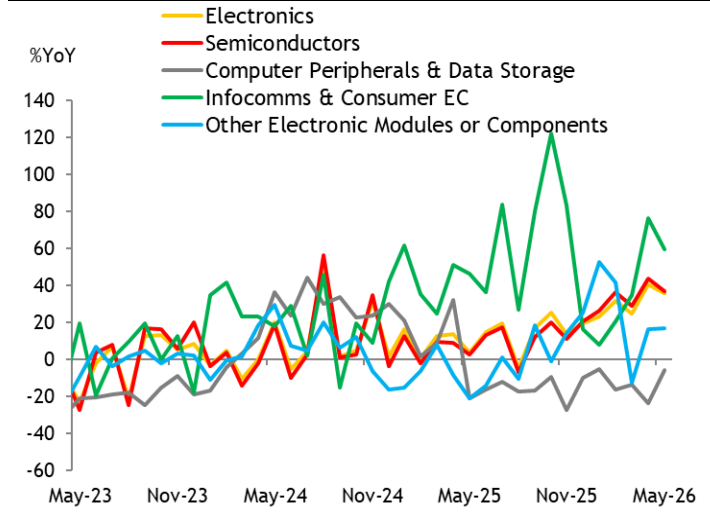
Manufacturing growth accelerated to +14.8% in Apr-May (vs +8% in the first quarter), with electronics output surging +35.8% in May (vs. +40.3% in Apr). AI-related demand has supercharged infocomms & consumer electronics (+59.2% in May) and semiconductors (+37%).

**Fig 11: Manufacturing Growth Robust at +13% YoY in May, Led by Electronics (+35.8%)**



Source: Singstat, CEIC

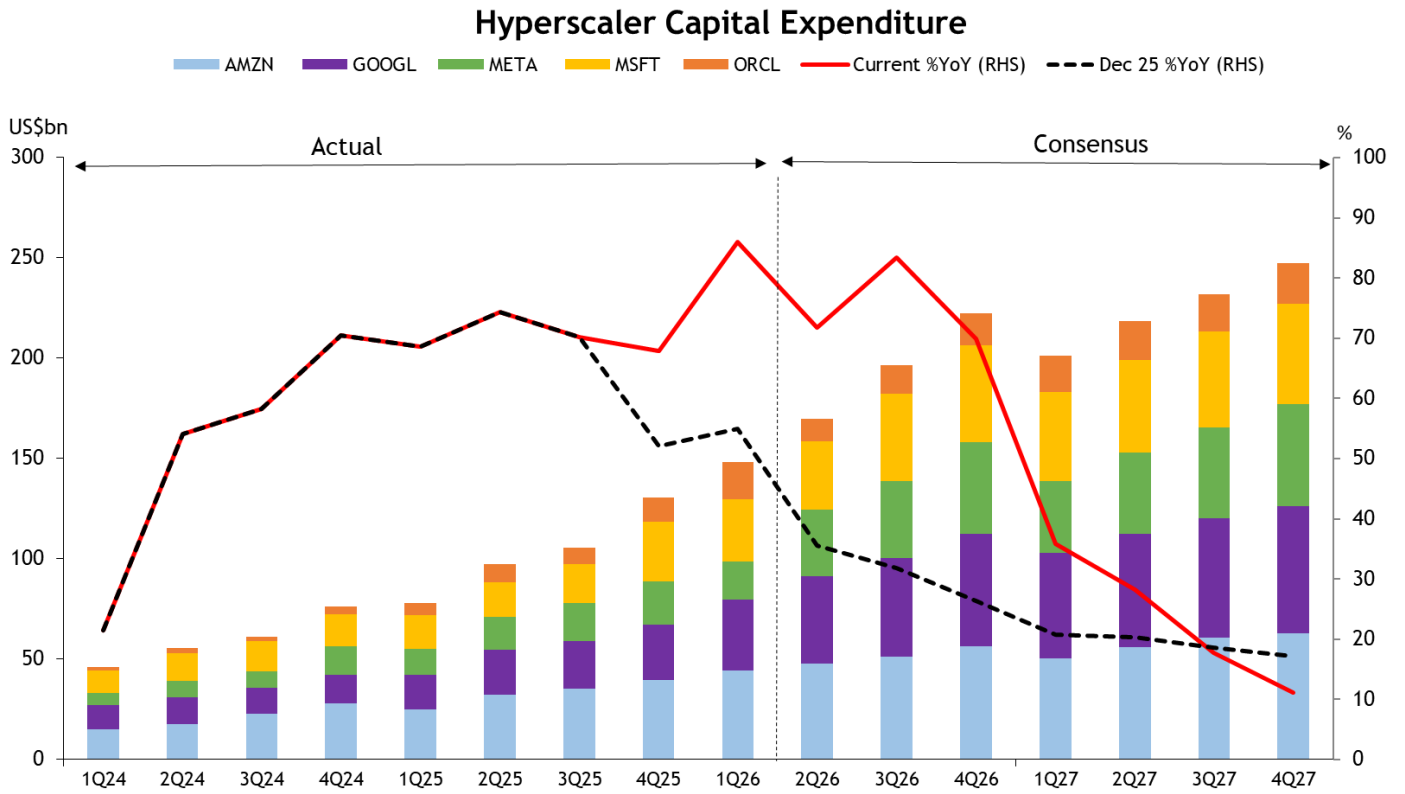
**Fig 12: Buoyant Electronic Growth Was Driven by Infocomms & Consumer EC (+59.2%) and Semiconductors (+37%)**



Source: Singstat, CEIC

We expect the global AI capex boom to be sustained into the second half of 2026. Mega US tech firms upgraded their guidance for 2026 capital expenditures following the 1Q earnings season. America’s five largest hyper-scalers are planning to increase capex by about +77.1% in 2H 2026 and +21.9% in 2027, as they race to invest in AI infrastructure to capitalize on skyrocketing compute demand. Higher China capex spending is likely to add another layer of demand. NODX to China has been picking up with a +31% jump in May, led by buoyant demand for specialized machinery and IC chips.

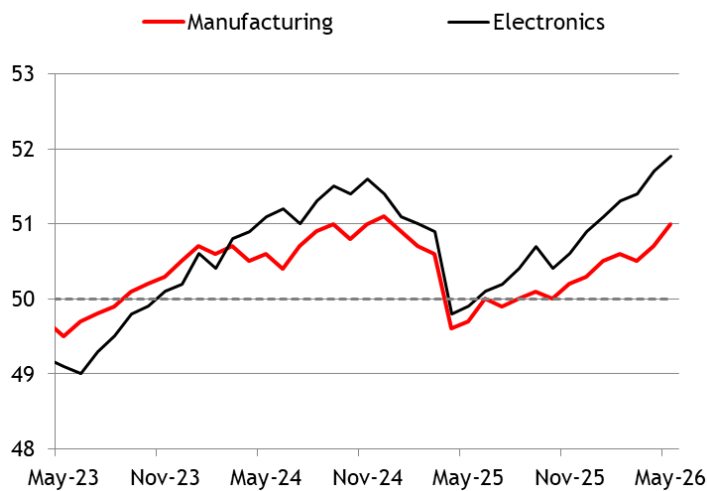
**Fig 13: Top 5 US Hyperscalers Planning to Increase Capex by About +79% to Over US\$700bn in 2026**



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

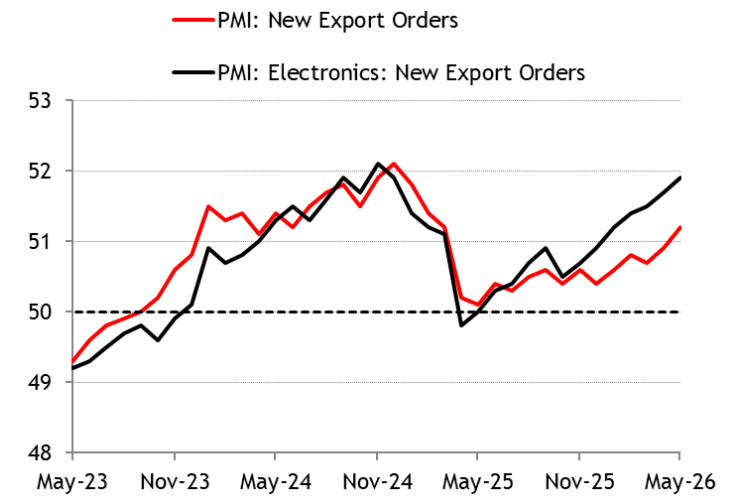
Rising PMIs, led by electronics, bode well for the manufacturing outlook. The headline PMI climbed to 51 in May, the highest since Dec 2024 on a strong electronics reading (51.9).

**Fig 14: Headline PMI (51.0) Climbed to Highest Level since Dec 2024 on Strong Electronics (51.9)**



Source: SIPMM, CEIC

**Fig 15: Electronic New Exports Order PMI (51.7) Rose for 8th Consecutive Month, Lifted the Overall Reading to 51.2 in May**

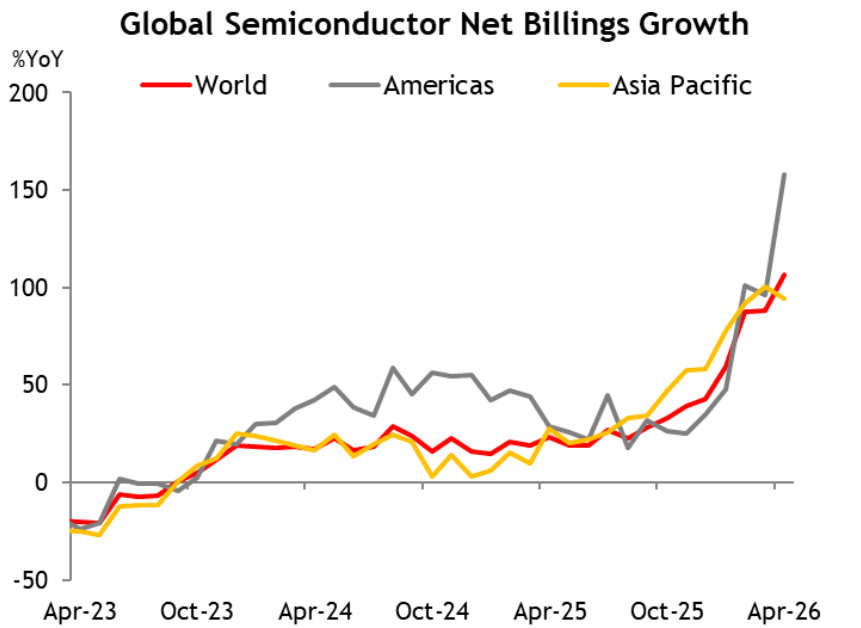


Source: SIPMM, CEIC

One key trend fueling a rising appetite for computing capacity is the shift from AI chatbots to rising prevalence of autonomous AI agents, entailing “always-on” inference. Generative AI adoption is accelerating with companies worldwide investing heavily in AI initiatives.

Demand for semiconductors and other electronic components will continue to grow strongly amid the AI infrastructure buildout. Global chip sales more than doubled (+106%) in April, driven by the Americas (+158%) and Asia Pacific (+94%). Gartner forecasts worldwide semiconductor revenue to grow +64% to US\$1.32tn in 2026 (2025: +21%), amid high demand for AI processing, data center networking and power, and memory price gains<sup>2</sup>.

**Fig 16: Global Chip Sales Rose +106% in April, Driven by Americas (+158%) and Asia Pacific (+94%)**



Source: World Semiconductor Trade Statistics, CEIC

AI-related demand will support Singapore's electronics exports, inward investments and infocomm services activity into the second half. We forecast aggregate NODX growing by +15% in 2026 from +4.8% in 2025, well above Enterprise SG's 2%-4% forecast range.

There have been a slew of AI R&D and semiconductor-linked investments announced in 2026, which will deepen Singapore's position in the AI supply chain. Micron is expanding its advanced wafer fabrication capabilities within its existing NAND flash manufacturing complex, committing a planned investment of US\$24bn (S\$31bn) over 10 years. Applied Materials announced in June that it will build a new US\$500mn campus, which will more than double its advanced cleanroom capacity in Singapore to serve chipmakers fulfil rising AI-driven demand.

Open AI launched its first Applied AI Lab outside the US as part of a S\$300mn commitment to support work aligned with Singapore's AI Missions, particularly in areas of public services, finance, healthcare and digital infrastructure.

We do not expect potential higher US tariffs to dampen the AI-led export boom. The US has proposed a 12.5% tariff on Singapore's exports after a Section 301 probe launched in March, which found that the city state had not effectively enforced a ban on goods produced with forced labor. Another Section 301 investigation on excess capacity is ongoing.

Final tariff rates have not yet been decided, and will likely be finalized by late July when global 10% Section 122 tariffs expire. Singapore has rejected the US'

<sup>2</sup> Gartner, "Gartner Forecasts Worldwide Semiconductor Revenue to Exceed \$1.3 Trillion in 2026", Press Release, 8 April 2026.

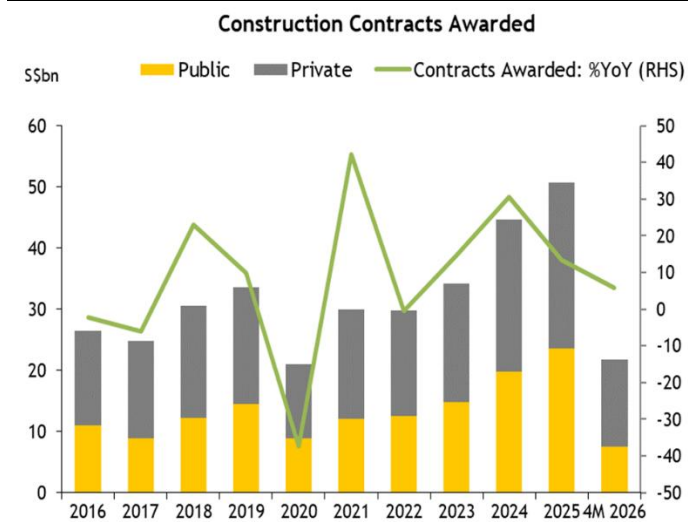
allegations. The proposed 12.5% tariff will be applicable to only about a third of Singapore's exports to America. Exemptions include energy & energy products, pharmaceuticals & pharmaceutical ingredients, certain electronics, certain aerospace goods, semiconductors and metals used in currency and bullion<sup>3</sup>.

## Construction Boom

Construction activity remains robust, amid a strong project pipeline (see *Singapore Economics: The Construction Boom*, 24 Sep 2025). We raised our construction sector growth forecast to +7% in 2026 (up from +6%) after the strong 1Q growth of +11.8%.

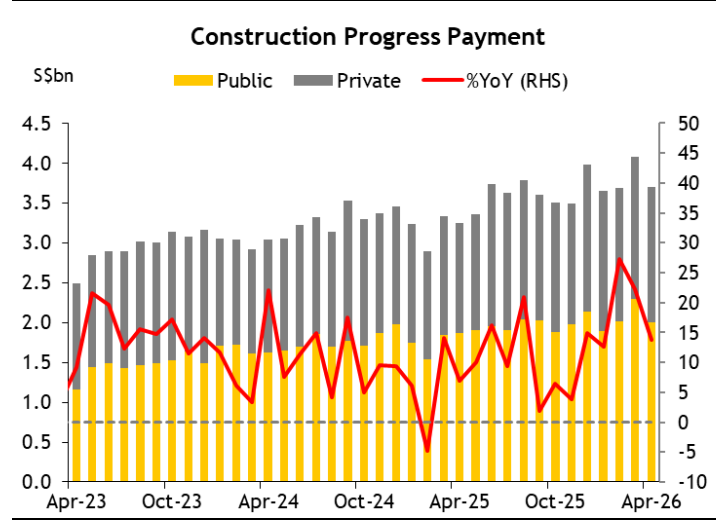
Contracts awarded, an indicator of future activity, more than doubled (+108%) in April, led by the private sector. Contracts awarded over Jan-Apr 2026 rose +5.9% to S\$21.7bn, on track to reach BCA's full-year forecast of S\$47bn-S\$53bn and possibly exceeding the S\$50.5bn in 2025. In April, construction progress payments, a measure of ongoing activity, grew +13.8% year-on-year (vs +20.5% in 1Q).

**Fig 17: Construction Contracts Awarded Reached S\$21.7bn During Jan-Apr Period, Growing +5.9% YoY**



Source: BCA, CEIC

**Fig 18: Construction Progress Payments Rose +13.8% in April, Bringing Total Payment Growth to +18.8% in Jan-Apr 2026**



Source: BCA, CEIC

Civil engineering contracts are a bright spot given the slew of large-scale public infrastructure projects. Ongoing large-scale projects include Changi Airport Terminal 5, Tuas Megaport, Integrated Resorts expansion, MRT lines, North-South Corridor, the Jurong Island expansion and the Deep Tunnel Sewerage System. These mega projects alone could cost more than S\$100bn and last until 2030 or beyond.

A major upgrade of Changi Airport Terminal 3 was announced in end-April to improve passenger handling capacity, with tender for building works to be called in the second half of 2026. This upgrade is part of a broader S\$3bn infrastructure investment that spans all four terminals over six years. Construction works will begin by end-2026. The upgrade will include early bag storage capacity, more bus gates, a new inter-terminal baggage system and an expansion of Skytrain's operating fleet.

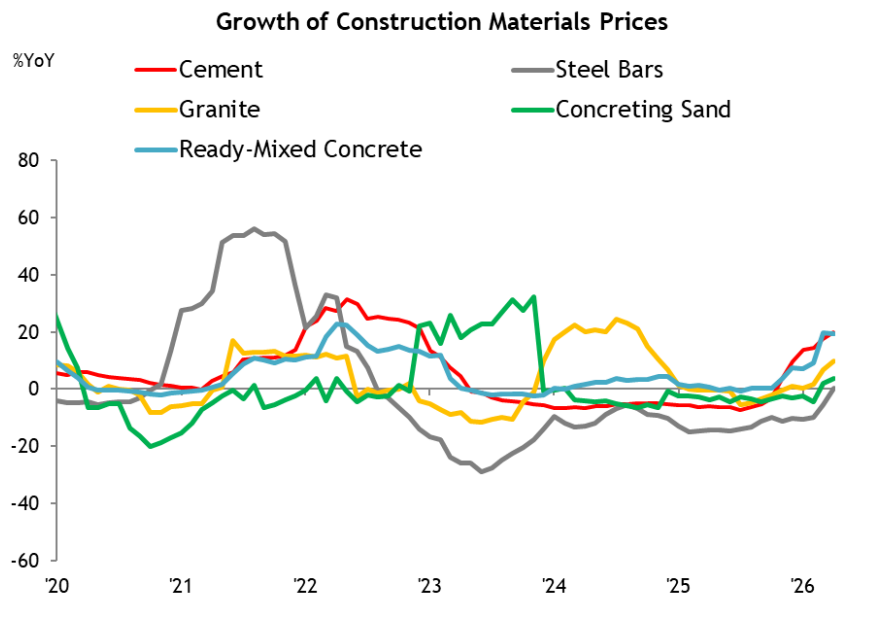
At Marina South, a new integrated cruise terminal will be built, possibly next to the existing Marina Bay Cruise Centre which will boost the existing terminal's

<sup>3</sup> The Business Times, "Proposed 12.5% tariff could affect one-third of Singapore exports; MTI rejects US claim of forced labour links", 4 Jun 2026.

capacity by 1.5 times from the current 11,700 passengers. A MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) hub will also be built in the area, with both projects completed in the 2030s. Construction on a S\$1bn wellness project in Marina South by Therme will begin in 3Q 2026, slated for completion by 2030. The seven-storey facility will be Singapore’s first large-scale wellness attraction, spanning over 720,000 sq ft.

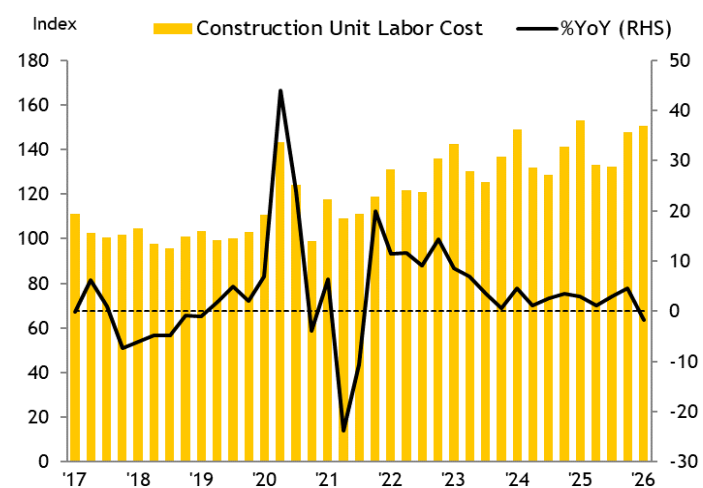
The construction sector faces challenges from rising material and diesel costs, which are squeezing margins. Construction material prices have been picking up in April amid the Gulf war, led by cement (+19.8%), ready-mixed concrete (+19.4%) and granite (+9.9%). Foreign labor availability constraints are weighing on firms given the high volume of ongoing building projects, with construction job vacancies hitting a record of 13.2k in the fourth quarter of 2025 while the job vacancy rate climbed to 3.3%. Vacancies cooled in 1Q 2026, but the job vacancy rate remained relatively elevated (2.8%) compared to recent years. Labor costs will rise, with qualifying salaries for mid-skilled S Pass foreign workers scheduled to be hiked to S\$3,600 from S\$3,300 for new applicants from January 2027.

**Fig 19: Construction Materials Price Growth Accelerated in April, Led by Cement (+19.8%), Ready-Mixed Concrete (+19.4%) and Granite (+9.9%)**



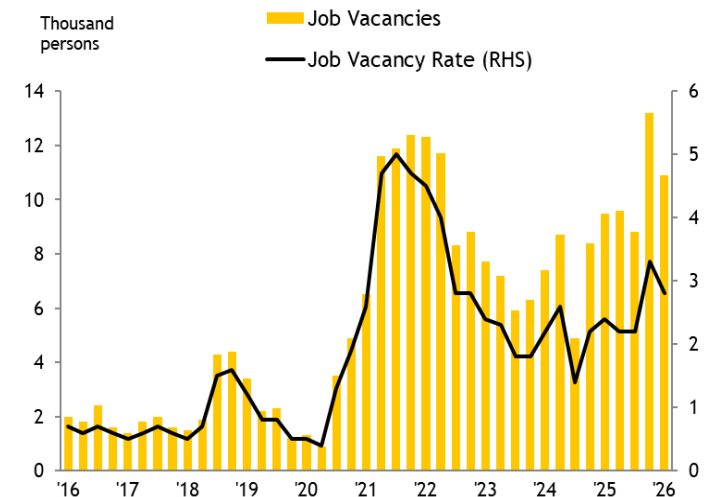
Source: Maybank IBG Research

**Fig 20: Construction Unit Labor Cost Rose to 150.6 in 1Q26, But Is Lower Than A Year Ago**



Source: CEIC  
June 30, 2026

**Fig 21: Construction Job Vacancy Remained High at Above 10k in 1Q26, Elevated Job Vacancy Rate (2.8%)**



Source: CEIC

Supportive measures have been rolled out to aid the construction sector, cushion cost pressures and ease manpower constraints. The government is co-sharing 50% of the additional direct costs incurred for diesel and bitumen in critical public construction projects from March to May. Construction activities being supported are earthworks, foundation and piling works, reclamation works and roadworks, due to their heavy reliance on diesel-powered equipment.

To address labor bottlenecks and boost productivity, the government will remove from Jan 2027 the requirement for construction firms to put new foreign workers from China and Thailand through mandatory skills testing in their home countries before entering Singapore. The change will be extended to workers from the remaining source countries from Jan 2028, and is expected to cut hiring timelines to one month from about four months currently<sup>4</sup>.

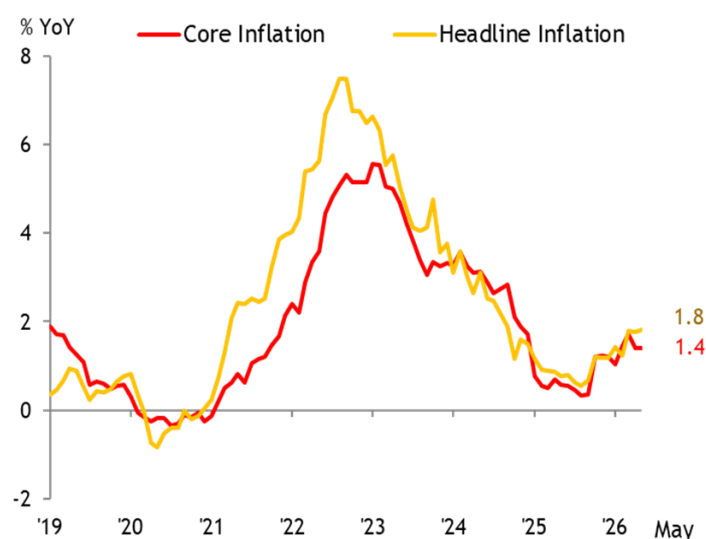
## MAS to Hold as Inflation Tame

We expect the MAS to maintain the current modest S\$NEER appreciation stance for the rest of 2026 and 2027. Our FX team forecasts the USD/SGD remaining stable at 1.285 by end-2026 (current: 1.29), unchanged from the 1.285 in 2025, on the back of safe haven flows and the Fed remaining on hold.

Inflation has come in lower than expected despite Gulf War shocks. We forecast core and headline inflation averaging 1.7% in 2026. Core inflation is unlikely to breach the top of the MAS 1.5%-2.5% ceiling, given a strengthening Singapore dollar, softening labor market, and sharp drop in energy prices with the US-Iran truce.

The import price index jumped +18.4% from a year ago in April (Mar: +17%), although non-oil imported inflation was a more benign +3.6% (Mar: +2.9%). The pick-up in the non-oil index was led by manufactured goods (+5% vs. +3.5% in Mar) and miscellaneous manufactures (+7.3% vs. +9.4% in Mar). In the first 5 months, core inflation averaged 1.4% whilst headline inflation was 1.6%.

**Fig 22: Inflation Tame in May with Both Core (+1.4%) and Headline (+1.8%) Inflation Unchanged from April**



Source: Singstat, CEIC

**Table 2: Services Inflation Dipped to 8-Month Low While Food & Retail Inflation Picked Up but Remained Sub-2%**

%YoY	2025	5M26	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26
CPI - All Items	0.9	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8
Food	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.8
Services	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.5	1.3
Retail & Other Goods	-0.3	1.2	1.8	1.5	1.6
Electricity & Gas	-4.2	-3.7	-4.3	-3.0	-3.0
Private Transport	2.5	5.7	6.6	8.1	8.6
Accommodation	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5
Core inflation	0.7	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.4

Source: Maybank IBG Research

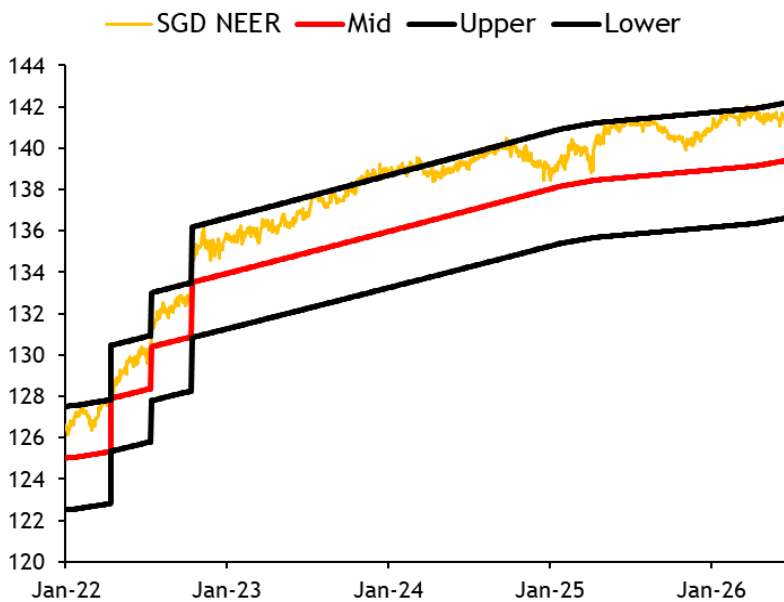
The pass-through of higher energy and imported good prices to consumer prices has so far been limited primarily to fuel and transport services, but will likely broaden in the coming months. Inflation in some categories such as recreation and

<sup>4</sup> CNA, "Singapore to shorten hiring time for foreign construction workers from 2027", 30 Apr 2026.

culture is already rising, while China's exit from factory deflation removes the cushion of cheap imported disinflation for Singapore. Electricity & gas inflation remains negative in 2Q, but lagged transmission of higher global energy prices means that prices will rise markedly in the third quarter before cooling in 4Q. Energy tariffs were raised by +17% for electricity and +7.1% for gas for the third quarter, reflecting the surge in global crude oil prices since the end of February.

The risk of core inflation testing the upper bound of MAS' forecast 1.5% to 2.5% range has receded with the US-Iran truce. Oil prices have fallen back to US\$70.3bbl for Brent (US\$80.2bbl for Dubai crude oil) as at 23 June from a peak of about US\$113bbl on 7 April for Brent (US\$138bbl for Dubai crude on 19 March). A strengthening Singdollar stance will dampen the imported inflation shock on households and firms. The SGD has depreciated just -0.9% against the US dollar year-to-date, while the S\$NEER has appreciated +0.5% (against a basket of key trading partners). Singapore's strategic energy reserve stockpiles, fuel refining capabilities, and GasCo's forward-looking procurement strategy has cushioned the shock from rising energy prices and supply disruptions.

**Fig 23: The MAS Modest Appreciation Stance: S\$NEER Currently Trading at +1.4% Above Mid-point on 23 June 2026**



Note: Last data point as of 23 June 2026. There is the change in the country weights for S\$NEER model from 18 March 2024

Source: Maybank GM FX Research

## Wildcards: Short US-Iran Truce, Aggressive Fed

A short-lived US-Iran truce if negotiations fail could restart the Gulf War and disrupt energy supplies. High US inflation could trigger aggressive Fed tightening which could translate into higher Singapore interest rates.

A short-lived US-Iran truce could breakdown if negotiations fail. The Gulf War could erupt again and Iran may reinstate the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. The US-Iran MoU initiated a 60-day ceasefire and negotiation window ending on 14 August 2026. The first round of technical talks kicked off in Switzerland on 21 June. Sticking points to a peace deal include the fate of Iran's uranium stockpile, release of US\$12bn in frozen Iranian funds, and the specifics of sanctions relief.

High and persistent US inflation could trigger Fed tightening and translate into higher interest rates and borrowing costs in Singapore. This could dampen domestic

spending and housing demand. In the last Fed rate hike cycle in 2022-2023, the Fed funds rate was hiked by +525bps to a peak of 5.25%-5.5% in July 2023, a 22-year high. Singapore short-term interest rates peaked at 3.76% by November 2023 (vs. 0.2% in early 2022) during that episode. Housing loans have been growing strongly (+6.1% YoY in 1Q 2026, fastest since 1Q 2022) and households may be vulnerable to a sharp interest rate shock.

**Table 3: Singapore - Key Macroeconomic Indicators**

	2023	2024	2025	2026F	2027F
<b>Real GDP (%)</b>	1.5	5.3	5.0	4.6	3.1
<b>By Expenditure:</b>					
Private Consumption	3.7	5.8	3.9	3.6	3.6
Government Consumption	1.1	7.9	1.7	3.0	3.0
Gross Fixed Capital Formation	-0.8	6.3	6.1	6.5	6.2
Exports of Goods & Services	4.4	5.7	10.8	12.5	7.0
Imports of Goods & Services	4.1	6.7	11.9	13.0	7.5
<b>By Industry:</b>					
Manufacturing	-4.2	3.8	8.7	7.8	3.2
Construction	11.9	5.4	5.2	7.0	5.0
Services	2.6	5.8	4.3	4.1	3.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	0.1	5.3	5.9	5.9	3.0
Transportation & Storage	4.0	6.6	3.3	2.6	3.0
Accommodation & Food Services	8.9	1.4	0.8	1.5	1.9
Information & Communication	12.3	14.2	6.1	5.1	5.0
Finance & Insurance	1.8	7.3	4.3	5.9	4.2
Business Services	-0.2	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.5
Other Services	5.2	3.2	3.3	2.6	1.5
Current Account Balance (% of GDP)	16.4	17.2	16.7	16.4	16.5
Fiscal Balance (% of GDP)	-0.4	0.8	1.9	0.9	0.7
Headline Inflation (% , period average)	4.8	2.4	0.9	1.7	1.6
Core Inflation (% , period average)	4.2	2.8	0.7	1.7	1.6
Unemployment Rate (% , end-period)	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1
Exchange Rate (per USD, end-period)	1.3203	1.3657	1.2854	1.285	1.26
10-Year Government Bond Yield (% , end-period)	2.69	2.85	2.11	2.0	1.9
3M SORA (% p.a., end-period)	3.71	3.07	1.19	1.0	1.0

Source: CEIC, Maybank IBG Research forecasts

## Research Offices

### ECONOMICS

**Suhaimi ILIAS**  
Chief Economist  
Malaysia | Philippines | Global  
(603) 2297 8682  
suhaimi\_ilias@maybank-ib.com

**CHUA Hak Bin**  
Regional Thematic Macroeconomist  
(65) 6231 5830  
chuahb@maybank.com

**Erica TAY**  
China | Thailand  
(65) 6231 5844  
erica.tay@maybank.com

**Brian LEE Shun Rong**  
Indonesia | Singapore | Vietnam  
(65) 6231 5846  
brian.lee@maybank.com

**Azril ROSLI**  
Malaysia | Philippines | Global  
(603) 2082 6818  
azril.rosti@maybank-ib.com

**Luong Thu Huong**  
(65) 6231 8467  
hana.thuhoang@maybank.com

### FX

**Saktiandi SUPAAT**  
Head of FX Research  
(65) 6320 1379  
saktiandi@maybank.com

**Fiona LIM**  
(65) 6320 1374  
fionallim@maybank.com

**Alan LAU, CFA**  
(65) 6320 1378  
alanlau@maybank.com

**Shaun LIM**  
(65) 6320 1371  
shaunlim@maybank.com

### STRATEGY

**Anand PATHMAKANTHAN**  
ASEAN  
(603) 2297 8783  
anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

### FIXED INCOME

**Winson PHOON, FCA**  
Head of Fixed Income  
(65) 6231 5831  
winsonphoon@maybank.com

**SE THO Mun Yi, CFA**  
(603) 2630 2541  
munyi.st@maybank-ib.com

**Erine YU**  
(603) 2074 7606  
erine.yu@maybank.com

### PORTFOLIO STRATEGY

**ONG Seng Yeow**  
(65) 6231 5839  
ongsengyeow@maybank.com

**Sean LIM**  
(603) 2297 8888  
lim.tzekhang@maybank.com

**Benjamin HO**  
(852) 2268 0641  
benjaminhoyin.ho@maybank.com

### MBG SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH

**Jigar SHAH**  
Head of Sustainability Research  
(91) 22 4223 2632  
jigars@maybank.com

**Neerav DALAL**  
(91) 22 4223 2606  
neerav@maybank.com

### REGIONAL EQUITIES

**Anand PATHMAKANTHAN**  
Head of Regional Equity Research  
(603) 2297 8783  
anand.pathmakanthan@maybank-ib.com

**WONG Chew Hann, CA**  
Head of ASEAN Equity Research  
(603) 2297 8686  
wchewh@maybank-ib.com

### MALAYSIA

**LIM Sue Lin, Head of Research**  
(603) 2297 8612  
suetin.lim@maybank-ib.com  
• Equity Strategy

**Desmond CH'NG, BFP, FCA**  
(603) 2297 8680  
desmond.chng@maybank-ib.com  
• Banking & Finance • Insurance

**ONG Chee Ting, CA**  
(603) 2297 8678  
ct.ong@maybank-ib.com  
• Plantations - Regional

**YIN Shao Yang, CPA**  
(603) 2297 8916  
samuel.y@maybank-ib.com  
• Gaming - Regional • Construction  
• Aviation • Non-Bank Financials

**TAN Chi Wei, CFA**  
(603) 2297 8690  
chiwei.t@maybank-ib.com  
• Utilities • Telcos

**WONG Wei Sum, CFA**  
(603) 2297 8679  
weisum@maybank-ib.com  
• Property • Glove

**Jade TAM**  
(603) 2297 8687  
jade.tam@maybank-ib.com  
• Consumer Staples & Discretionary

**Nur Farah SYIFAA**  
(603) 2297 8675  
nurfarahsyifaa.mohamadfuad@maybank-ib.com  
• REITs

**LOH Yan Jin**  
(603) 2297 8687  
lohyanjin.loh@maybank-ib.com  
• Ports • Automotive

**Jeremie YAP**  
(603) 2297 8688  
jeremie.yap@maybank-ib.com  
• Oil & Gas • Petrochemicals

**Nur Natasha ARIZA**  
(603) 2297 8691  
natashaariza.aizarizal@maybank-ib.com  
• Healthcare • Media

**Lucas SIM**  
(603) 2082 6824  
lucas.sim@maybank-ib.com  
• Technology (EMS)

**THONG Kei Jun**  
(603) 2297 8677  
keijun.thong@maybank-ib.com  
• Renewable Energy

**Justin YEOH**  
(603) 2082 8676  
justin.yeoh@maybank-ib.com  
• Technology (Software)

**TEE Sze Chiah Head of Retail Research**  
(603) 2082 6858  
szechiah.t@maybank-ib.com  
• Retail Research

**Amirah AZMI**  
(603) 2082 8769  
amirah.azmi@maybank-ib.com  
• Retail Research

**Aseela ZAHARI**  
(603) 2082 8767  
aseela.za@maybank-ib.com  
• Retail Research

**Amirul RUSYDY, CMT**  
(603) 2297 8694  
rusydy.azizi@maybank.com  
• Chartist

### SINGAPORE

**Thilan WICKRAMASINGHE Head of Research**  
(65) 6231 5840  
thilanw@maybank.com  
• Strategy • Consumer  
• Banking & Finance - Regional

**Eric ONG**  
(65) 6231 5849  
ericong@maybank.com  
• Healthcare • Transport • SMIDs

**Jarick SEET**  
(65) 6231 5848  
jarick.seet@maybank.com  
• Technology • SMIDs

**Krishna GUHA**  
(65) 6231 5842  
krishna.guha@maybank.com  
• REITs • Industrials

**Hussaini SAIFEE**  
(65) 6231 5837  
hussaini.saifee@maybank.com  
• Telcos • Internet • Consumer

**TOH Xuan Hao**  
(65) 6231 5820  
xuanhao.toh@maybank.com  
• Financials • SMIDs

**LIU Miaomiao**  
(65) 6231 5845  
miaomiao.liu@maybank.com  
• REITs

### PHILIPPINES

**Kervin Laurence SISAYAN Head of Research**  
(63) 2 5322 5005  
kervin.sisayan@maybank.com  
• Strategy • Banking & Finance • Telcos

**Daphne SZE**  
(63) 2 5322 5008  
daphne.sze@maybank.com  
• Consumer

**Raffy MENDOZA**  
(63) 2 5322 5010  
joseraphael.mendoza@maybank.com  
• Property • REITs • Gaming

**Germaine GUIINTO**  
(63) 2 5322 5006  
germaine.guinto@maybank.com  
• Utilities

**Ronalyn Joyce LALIMO**  
(63) 2 5322 5009  
rona.lalimo@maybank.com  
• Industrials • Tourism

### VIETNAM

**Quan Trong Thanh Head of Research**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8184  
thanh.quan@maybank.com  
• Strategy • Banks

**Hoang Huy, CFA**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8181  
hoanghuy@maybank.com  
• Strategy • Technology

**Le Nguyen Nhat Chuyen**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8082  
chuyen.le@maybank.com  
• Oil & Gas • Logistics

**Nguyen Thi Sony Tra Mi**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8084  
trami.nguyen@maybank.com  
• Consumer Discretionary

**Tran Thi Thanh Nhan**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8088  
nhan.tran@maybank.com  
• Consumer Staples

**Nguyen Le Tuan Loi**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8182  
loi.nguyen@maybank.com  
• Property

**Nguyen Thanh Hai**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8081  
thanhhai.nguyen@maybank.com  
• Industrials

**Vu Viet Linh**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8201  
vietlinh.vu@maybank.com  
• Strategy

**Nguyen Thanh Lam**  
(84 28) 44 555 888 ext 8086  
thanhlam.nguyen@maybank.com  
• Retail Research

### INDONESIA

**Jeffrosenberg CHENLIM Head of Research**  
(62) 21 8066 8680  
jeffrosenberg.lim@maybank.com  
• Strategy • Banking & Finance • Property

**Willy GOUTAMA**  
(62) 21 8066 8688  
willy.goutama@maybank.com  
• Consumer

**Etta Rusdiana PUTRA**  
(62) 21 8066 8683  
etta.putra@maybank.com  
• Telcos • Internet • Construction

**Paulina MARGARETA**  
(62) 21 8066 8690  
paulina.tjoa@maybank.com  
• Autos • Healthcare

**Hasan BARAKWAN**  
(62) 21 8066 2694  
hasan.barakwan@maybank.com  
• Metals & Mining • Oil & Gas

**Faiq ASAD**  
(62) 21 8066 8692  
faiq.asad@maybank.com  
• Banking & Finance

**Kevin HALIM**  
(62) 21 8066 2687  
kevin.halim@maybank.com  
• Property • Cement

**Satriawan HARYONO, CEWA, CTA**  
(62) 21 8066 8682  
satriawan@maybank.com  
• Chartist

### THAILAND

**Chak REUNGSINPINYA Head of Research**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1399  
chak.reungsinpinya@maybank.com  
• Strategy • Energy

**Jesada TECHAHUSDIN, CFA**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1395  
jesada.t@maybank.com  
• Banking & Finance

**Wasu MATTANAPOTCHANART**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1392  
wasu.m@maybank.com  
• Telcos • Technology (Software) • REITs  
• Property • Consumer Discretionary

**Suttatip PEERASUB**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1430  
suttatip.p@maybank.com  
• Consumer Staples & Discretionary

**Natchaphon RODJANAROWAN**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1393  
natchaphon.rodjanarowan@maybank.com  
• Utilities • Property

**Boonyakorn AMORNSANK**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1394  
boonyakorn.amornsank@maybank.com  
• Services (Hotels, Transport)

**Nontapat SAHAKITPINYO**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 2352  
nontapat.sahakitpinyo@maybank.com  
• Healthcare • Construction • Insurance  
• Industrial Estate

**Yugi TAKESHIMA**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1530  
yugi.takeshima@maybank.com  
• Technology (EMS & Semicon) • Automotive  
• Industrials

**Tanida JIRAPORNKASEMSUK**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 1396  
tanida.jirapornkasemsuk@maybank.com  
• Food & Beverage

**Aomsub NGOWSIRI**  
(66) 2658 5000 ext 2518  
aomsub.ngowsiri@maybank.com  
• Industrials

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### Definition of Ratings

Maybank IBG Research uses the following rating system

<b>BUY</b>	Return is expected to be above 10% in the next 12 months (including dividends)
<b>HOLD</b>	Return is expected to be between 0% to 10% in the next 12 months (including dividends)
<b>SELL</b>	Return is expected to be below 0% in the next 12 months (including dividends)

### Applicability of Ratings

The respective analyst maintains a coverage universe of stocks, the list of which may be adjusted according to needs. Investment ratings are only applicable to the stocks which form part of the coverage universe. Reports on companies which are not part of the coverage do not carry investment ratings as we do not actively follow developments in these companies.

 **Malaysia**

Maybank Investment Bank Berhad  
(A Participating Organisation of  
Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad)  
33rd Floor, Menara Maybank,  
100 Jalan Tun Perak,  
50050 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: (603) 2059 1888;  
Fax: (603) 2078 4194

Stockbroking Business:  
Level 8, Tower C, Dataran Maybank,  
No.1, Jalan Maarof  
59000 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: (603) 2297 8888  
Fax: (603) 2282 5136

 **Singapore**

Maybank Securities Pte Ltd  
Maybank Research Pte Ltd  
50 North Canal Road  
Singapore 059304

Tel: (65) 6336 9090

 **Indonesia**

PT Maybank Sekuritas Indonesia  
Sentral Senayan III, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Jl. Asia Afrika No. 8  
Gelora Bung Karno, Senayan  
Jakarta 10270, Indonesia

Tel: (62) 21 2557 1188

Fax: (62) 21 2557 1189

 **Thailand**

Maybank Securities (Thailand) PCL  
999/9 The Offices at Central World,  
20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Rama 1 Road Pathumwan,  
Bangkok 10330, Thailand

Tel: (66) 2 658 6817 (sales)

Tel: (66) 2 658 6801 (research)

 **London**

Maybank Securities (London) Ltd  
PNB House  
77 Queen Victoria Street  
London EC4V 4AY, UK

Tel: (44) 20 7332 0221

Fax: (44) 20 7332 0302

 **India**

MIB Securities India Pte Ltd  
1101, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, A Wing, Kanakia  
Wall Street, Chakala, Andheri -  
Kurla Road, Andheri East,  
Mumbai City - 400 093, India

Tel: (91) 22 6623 2600

Fax: (91) 22 6623 2604

 **Vietnam**

Maybank Securities Limited  
Floor 10, Pearl 5 Tower,  
5 Le Quy Don Street,  
Vo Thi Sau Ward, District 3  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Tel : (84) 28 44 555 888

Fax : (84) 28 38 271 030

 **Hong Kong**

MIB Securities (Hong Kong)  
Limited  
28/F, Lee Garden Three,  
1 Sunning Road, Causeway Bay,  
Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2268 0800

Fax: (852) 2877 0104

 **Philippines**

Maybank Securities Inc  
17/F, Tower One & Exchange  
Plaza  
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue  
Makati City, Philippines 1200

Tel: (63) 2 8849 8888

Fax: (63) 2 8848 5738

 **Sales Trading**
**Indonesia**

Helen Widjaja  
helen.widjaja@maybank.com  
Tel: (62) 21 2557 1188

**Philippines**

Keith Roy  
keith\_roy@maybank.com  
Tel: (63) 2 5322 3184

**London**

Greg Smith  
gsmith@maybank.com  
Tel: (44) 207 332 0221

**India**

Sanjay Makhija  
sanjaymakhija@maybank.com  
Tel: (91) 22 6623 2629

[www.maybank.com/investment-banking](http://www.maybank.com/investment-banking)  
[www.maybank-keresearch.com](http://www.maybank-keresearch.com)