

## The Economy Observer

## EAI - Monthly Dashboard: Economic activity grows faster in Jan'23...

...but expect weakness over Feb-Mar'23 as the base effect wanes

- Preliminary estimates indicate that India's EAI for GVA (EAI-GVA) grew at a seven-month high of 9.9% YoY in Jan'23 as against 6.9% YoY in Dec'22. This was driven by acceleration across all sectors. While the farm sector grew marginally faster, non-farm sector rose at a seven-month high pace in Jan'23, partly supported by a low base. Both industry and services sectors performed well in Jan'23 as compared to Dec'22.
- EAI-GDP grew 10.2% YoY in Jan'23 v/s 5.4% YoY a month ago. This was fueled by a sharp eight-month high total consumption growth of 10.2% YoY in Jan'23, a large part of which was propelled by massive government consumption spending. However, even after excluding fiscal spending, private consumption rose at a seven-month high of 6.6% YoY during the month.
- Investments, on the other hand, grew at a three-month low of 10.5% YoY in Jan'23. Government's real capex, on the brighter side, surged 59.8% YoY in Jan'23 as against -63.7% YoY a month ago. Further, net exports' contribution to EAI-GDP growth dropped 70pp, leading to an overall drag.
- Out of the six available indicators for Feb'23, only PMI manufacturing and vahaan registration have done better on YoY basis. Toll collections, power generation, forex reserves and currency with public decelerated.
- Overall, economic activity was upbeat in Jan'23, largely on account of a low base. However, we expect economic activity to weaken (as early signs indicate) during Feb-Mar'23 as the base effect wanes. Accordingly, we forecast a 4.6-4.8% YoY growth in real GDP in 4QFY23, implying a full-year growth of 6.8-6.9%.

Preliminary estimates indicate that India's EAI for GVA grew at a seven-month high of 9.9% YoY in Jan'23 as against 6.9% YoY in Dec'22

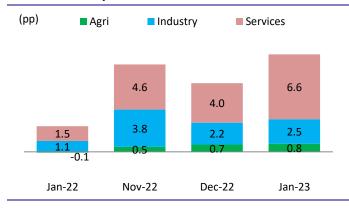
- **EAI-GVA** grew at a seven-month high of 9.9% YoY in Jan'23...: Preliminary estimates indicate that India's EAI-GVA grew at a seven-month high of 9.9% YoY in Jan'23 as against 6.9% YoY in Dec'22. This was driven by acceleration across all sectors within GVA. While farm sector grew marginally faster, non-farm sector rose at a seven-month high pace in Jan'23, partly supported by a low base (Exhibits 1, 2).
- ...and EAI-GDP grew at eight-month high in Jan'23: EAI-GDP grew 10.2% YoY in Jan'23 v/s 5.4% YoY a month ago. This was fueled by a spike in total consumption during the month, a large part of which was propelled by massive government consumption spending in Jan'23 (Exhibits 3, 4).

Exhibit 1: India's EAI-GVA grew 9.9% YoY in Jan'23...

Exhibit 2: ...led by broad-based acceleration







Source: Various national sources, CEIC, MOFSL

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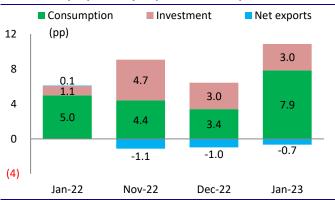
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Exhibit 3: EAI-GDP too grew faster by 10.2% YoY in Jan'23...



Exhibit 4: ...propelled by a spike in consumption



Please refer to our earlier report for details

Contribution of various components to EAI-GDP Source: Various national sources, CEIC, MOFSL

Excluding fiscal spending, private consumption rose at a seven-month high of 6.6% YoY in Jan'23 as against 5.6% YoY in Dec'22

- Consumption growth at an eight-month high in Jan'23...: Total consumption growth stood at 10.2% YoY in Jan'23 compared to 4.5% YoY in Dec'22 (Exhibit 5). This was not only led by strong growth in fiscal spending (60.8% YoY in Jan'23 v/s -19.7% YoY in Dec'22), but also by high private consumption. Auto sales, petrol sales, expected higher real rural wages and personal credit performed well in Jan'23. Therefore, excluding fiscal spending, private consumption rose at a seven-month high of 6.6% YoY in Jan'23 (Exhibit 11 for the heat maps).
- ...but investment decelerated to a three-month low: Investments grew 10.5% YoY in Jan'23 v/s 10.9% YoY in Dec'22. While cargo traffic, electricity generation and auto sales performed well, others such as capital goods imports, lower expected construction activity and capital goods production in Jan'23 led the overall slowdown in total investments during the month. Government's real capex, on the brighter side, surged 59.8% YoY in Jan'23 as against -63.7% YoY a month ago. Further, net exports' contribution to EAI-GDP growth declined 70pp, leading to an overall drag (Exhibit 12 for the heat maps).
- Strong farm as well as non-farm sectors pushes EAI-GVA: EAI-GVA details suggest that while the farm sector grew 5.2% YoY in Jan'23 v/s 5.1% YoY in Dec'22, the non-farm sector grew 10.5% YoY as against 7.3% YoY in Dec'22. All sub-components within the industrial sector – mining, manufacturing, and electricity (except construction) grew faster. Sharp growth in services sector was led by a low base in most of its indicators – auto sales, trade credit, real deposits, PMI services, telecom subscription and real government spending (Exhibits 13 for the heat maps).
- **Economic activity appears weak in Feb'23...:** Out of the six available indicators for Feb'23, only PMI manufacturing and vahaan registration have done better on YoY basis. Toll collections, power generation, forex reserves and currency
- with public decelerated (Exhibit 14 for the heat map).

We expect real GDP growth to be 4.6-4.8% in 4QFY23

While the farm sector grew 5.2% YoY in Jan'23 v/s 5.1%

YoY in Dec'22, the non-farm

sector grew 10.5% YoY as

against 7.3% YoY in Dec'22

...and we expect the weakness to continue in Mar'23: Overall, economic activity was upbeat in Jan'23, largely on account of low base. However, we expect economic activity to weaken (as early signs indicate) during Feb-Mar'23 as the base effect wanes. Accordingly, we forecast a 4.6-4.8% YoY growth in real GDP in 4QFY23, implying a full-year growth of 6.8-6.9%. Although there is no one-to-one correlation between our EAIs and the official GVA/GDP growth due to underlying differences, our composite indices move in sync with the official real GDP (ex-discrepancies) and real GVA estimates (Exhibits 9, 10).

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Exhibit 5: Consumption growth at an eight-month high...

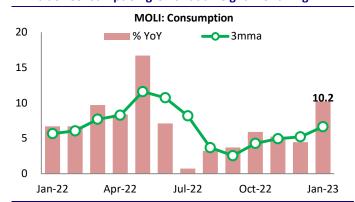


Exhibit 6: ...but investments at a three-month low in Jan'23

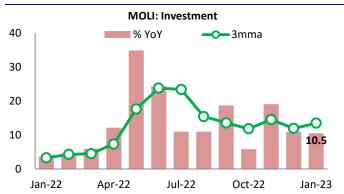


Exhibit 7: Industry activity grew faster in Jan'23...

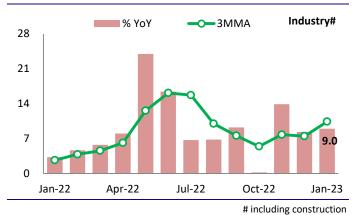


Exhibit 8: ...and so did services sector

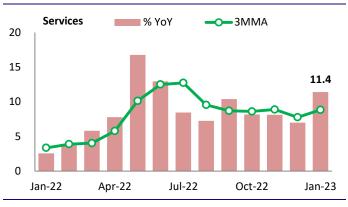
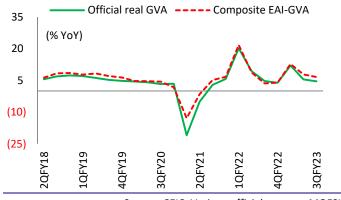
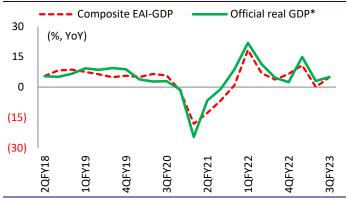


Exhibit 9: EAI-GVA moves in line with the official real GVA...



Source: CEIC, Various official sources, MOFSL

Exhibit 10: ...and so does official real GDP\* with EAI-GDP



\*Excluding discrepancies



Exhibit 11: Key leading indicators for consumption	Exhibit 11: Ke	y leading	indicators i	for	consumption
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% YoY	Passenger traffic <sup>1</sup>	Revenue spending <sup>2</sup>	Petrol sales	Rural wages3	Consumer durable: IIP	Currency	Auto sales <sup>4</sup>	Imports <sup>5</sup>	Foreign tourists arrival	Personal credit	Services PMI
Jan-22	44.3	50.9	(5.3)	(0.7)	3.1	8.0	(19.0)	33.2	112.9	12.8	51.5
Feb-22	42.5	39.7	3.5	(0.7)	(6.8)	8.6	(23.8)	27.2	118.4	12.7	51.8
Mar-22	52.7	78.8	6.2	(0.9)	(4.4)	9.8	(18.1)	35.5	155.9	12.6	53.6
Apr-22	115.5	28.4	17.2	(1.0)	(0.8)	10.4	11.4	24.0	399.2	14.5	57.9
May-22	478.3	27.6	51.5	(1.2)	1.4	8.8	241.3	25.7	2043.7	16.3	58.9
Jun-22	237.8	(14.3)	23.2	(0.7)	2.9	8.0	23.1	32.2	1349.2	18.1	59.2
Jul-22	167.4	(53.8)	6.8	(0.6)	(2.9)	8.1	10.3	35.4	783.9	18.8	55.5
Aug-22	112.4	(7.3)	11.7	(0.9)	(9.0)	8.1	17.6	45.9	437.3	19.5	57.2
Sep-22	86.9	6.5	8.8	(1.5)	(5.7)	8.3	21.0	21.6	363.7	19.6	54.3
Oct-22	61.5	51.5	8.9	(1.0)	(13.4)	9.3	5.7	11.2	243.2	20.2	55.1
Nov-22	50.1	(7.8)	8.1	0.3	9.1	7.7	19.4	16.2	165.3	19.7	56.4
Dec-22	40.1	(19.7)	5.9	0.9 <sup>6</sup>	7.2	8.2	4.5	10.1	204.2	20.2	58.5
Jan-23	65.1	60.8	14.2	1.2 <sup>6</sup>	2.3 <sup>6</sup>	8.6	7.2	3.8	421.0 <sup>6</sup>	20.4	59.5

Railways and aviation

Our forecasts



Worse than previous month and a year ago

Worse than the previous month but better than a year ago

Better than the previous month but worse than a year ago

Better than previous month and a year ago

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 2}$  Revenue spending  ${\it less}$  interest payments of the central government

Real rural wages; deflated by CPI for rural workers

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Includes passenger vehicles and two-wheelers

Imports of agricultural items, leather products, newsprint and electronic goods, textiles (excluding gold, silver, precious metals)



**Exhibit 12: Key leading indicators for investments** 

% YoY	Cargo traffic <sup>1</sup>	Electricity	Auto sales <sup>2,**</sup>	Diesel sales	Capital goods' imports <sup>3</sup>	Cement Production	IIP: Non- metallic products	IIP: Capital goods	Industrial credit	Govt capex <sup>4</sup>	Manufacturing PMI
Jan-22	4.0	0.9	8.8	(6.5)	6.5	14.1	11.2	1.8	5.9	(5.8)	54.0
Feb-22	2.9	4.5	17.1	(0.7)	1.7	4.2	7.7	1.3	7.4	0.8	54.9
Mar-22	4.7	6.1	9.3	6.7	5.1	9.0	10.0	2.4	7.5	219.1	54.0
Apr-22	8.0	11.8	57.1	7.9	8.1	7.4	6.9	12.0	8.0	67.5	54.7
May-22	12.7	23.5	317.2	31.7	14.4	26.2	22.1	53.3	8.8	77.8	54.6
Jun-22	12.1	16.5	98.3	23.9	18.3	19.7	19.6	28.6	9.5	40.1	53.9
Jul-22	10.5	2.3	46.6	8.2	36.4	0.5	0.0	5.1	10.5	98.5	56.4
Aug-22	7.9	0.9	45.4	13.0	35.5	1.8	1.4	4.3	11.4	0.5	56.2
Sep-22	11.1	11.0	50.1	13.4	45.2	12.1	9.6	11.4	12.6	57.5	55.1
Oct-22	2.1	1.2	32.4	5.5	21.4	(4.2)	(3.7)	(1.7)	13.6	176.5	55.3
Nov-22	4.1	12.7	35.0	19.2	25.9	29.0	20.3	21.6	13.1	87.1	55.7
Dec-22	5.5	10.4	21.9	6.5	21.7	9.5	6.8	7.6	8.7	(63.7)	57.8
Jan-23	6.6	12.0	28.0	12.7	10.2	4.6	5.3 <sup>5</sup>	7.1 5	8.7	59.8	58.8

Railways and waterways

<sup>\*\* -</sup> Data for total CV sales starting Apr'20 derived using CV sales of Ashok Leyland, Eicher Motors Itd., Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.; and Tata Motors; the three account for ~98% of all CV sales



Worse than previous month and a year ago

Worse than the previous month but better than a year ago Better than the previous month but worse than a year ago

Better than previous month and a year ago

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Includes commercial vehicles and three-wheelers

Machinery and equipment, transport equipment, machine tools and project goods

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Capital spending of the central government

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Our forecasts



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Exhibit 13: Key indicators use	d in the	creatio	n of EAI	-GVA o	n a mon	thly ba	sis						
% YoY	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-2
Agriculture and allied activities													
IIP: Fertiliser	(2.0)	(1.4)	15.3	8.8	22.9	8.2	6.2	11.9	11.8	5.4	6.4	7.3	17.9
Domestic tractor sales	(27.8)	(26.4)	(11.6)	38.1	47.7	(10.9)	(12.2)	(1.0)	18.9	3.6	4.4	19.2	16.0
Real rural wages <sup>1</sup>	(0.7)	(0.7)	(0.9)	(1.0)	(1.2)	(0.7)	(0.6)	(0.9)	(1.5)	(1.0)	0.3	0.9	1.2 8
Reservoir levels	3.1	2.8	10.5	11.6	6.8	(12.0)	18.9	36.0	11.5	13.2	8.5	5.8	2.9
Agriculture sector	(0.7)	(0.5)	2.3	7.5	9.0	0.9	2.2	4.6	5.5	3.6	3.6	5.1	5.2
Industrial sector													
Coal	8.2	6.6	0.3	30.1	33.5	32.1	11.4	7.6	12.0	3.7	12.2	11.5	16.1
Crude oil	(2.4)	(2.2)	(3.4)	(0.9)	4.6	(1.7)	(3.8)	(3.3)	(2.3)	(2.2)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.3)
Natural gas	11.7	12.5	7.6	6.4	7.0	1.2	(0.3)	(0.9)	(1.7)	(4.2)	(0.7)	2.6	1.4
IIP: Mining	3.0	4.6	3.9	8.4	11.2	7.8	(3.3)	(3.9)	5.2	2.5	9.7	9.8	9.6 8
Mining	9.6	10.4	7.0	15.4	21.5	13.7	3.4	2.8	8.1	5.0	11.3	11.9	12.2
Electricity	0.9	4.5	6.1	11.8	23.5	16.5	2.3	0.9	11.0	1.2	12.7	10.4	12.0
IIP: Manufacturing	1.9	0.2	1.4	5.6	20.7	12.9	3.1	(0.5)	2.0	(5.9)	6.4	2.6	3.3
Credit growth <sup>2</sup>	(6.8)	(5.4)	(6.2)	(6.4)	(6.7)	(5.8)	(3.2)	(1.0)	1.8	4.5	6.5	3.6	3.8
Fuel consumption	(3.7)	(0.1)	3.8	3.6	20.0	16.7	6.3	13.3	9.5	(0.1)	12.9	5.0	9.0
Manufacturing	2.0	2.7	5.3	8.3	26.9	19.8	8.0	9.1	9.4	(0.7)	14.6	7.8	10.2
Steel production	3.8	5.6	4.1	2.5	15.1	3.6	6.0	2.2	6.7	6.5	11.7	9.2	7.1
Cement output	14.1	4.2	9.0	7.4	26.2	19.7	0.5	1.8	12.1	(4.3)	29.0	9.1	10.0
IIP: NMMP <sup>3</sup>	11.2	7.7	10.0	6.9	22.1	19.6	0.0	1.4	9.6	(3.7)	20.3	6.8	5.3 <sup>8</sup>
IIP: Construction	5.9	8.6	6.7	4.0	18.4	9.4	4.8	3.0	8.2	1.1	13.2	8.2	3.8 8
Construction	5.9	8.6	6.7	4.0	18.4	9.4	4.8	3.0	8.2	1.1	13.2	8.2	3.8
Industry	3.3	4.7	5.8	8.0	24.0	16.4	6.7	6.8	9.3	0.2	13.9	8.3	9.0
Services sector													
Auto sales <sup>#</sup>	(17.6)	(21.8)	(16.5)	13.3	245.2	26.1	12.0	18.9	22.4	7.1	20.4	5.8	8.6
Trade credit <sup>4</sup>	(2.6)	1.4	(3.3)	(1.9)	(2.9)	0.4	0.1	3.9	9.7	7.7	9.3	8.4	11.6
Foreign tourist arrivals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Freight traffic <sup>5</sup>	4.0	2.9	4.7	8.0	(16.6)	12.1	10.5	7.9	11.1	2.1	4.1	5.5	6.6
Passengers traffic <sup>5</sup>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MFs AUMs	9.6	4.7	4.3	1.8	(3.5)	(8.9)	(6.3)	(4.4)	(5.4)	(2.6)	1.9	0.7	(0.5)
Fiscal Spending <sup>6</sup>	(2.8)	33.1	72.4	21.3	13.5	(15.5)	(40.9)	(16.0)	7.9	59.7	(2.2)	(39.9)	27.6
Real deposits <sup>7</sup>	(4.7)	(4.3)	(5.0)	(4.7)	(6.8)	(6.5)	(4.3)	(2.6)	1.7	0.2	3.5	4.0	5.5
Telecom subscribers	(0.9)	(1.8)	(2.9)	(3.0)	(2.3)	(2.5)	(3.0)	(2.9)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.8)	(0.7)	0.2 8
PMI: Services	(2.5)	(6.3)	(1.8)	7.2	26.9	43.7	22.2	0.9	(1.6)	(5.7)	(0.4)	5.4	11.1
Services sector	2.6	3.7	5.8	7.8	16.8	13.0	8.5	7.3	10.4	8.2	8.1	7.0	11.4
Aggregates													
EAI-GVA	2.5	3.6	5.5	7.9	18.6	13.2	7.2	6.7	9.5	5.1	8.8	6.9	9.9
Non-farm EAI-GVA	3.0	4.2	6.0	8.1	19.4	14.4	7.9	7.1	10.0	5.4	9.8	7.3	10.5

Rural wages; deflated by CPI for rural workers

# Sale of commercial vehicles within total auto Sales starting Apr'20 has been derived using CV sales of Ashok Leyland, Eicher Motors Itd., Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.; and Tata Motors; the three account for ~98% of all CV sales

Worse than previous month and a year ago

Worse than the previous month but better than a year ago
Better than the previous month but worse than a year ago
Better than previous month and a year ago

Banks' industrial credit growth; deflated by WPI
Bank's non-food trade credit; deflated by WPI

Non-metallic minerals products (NMMP)

Railways and aviation

Bank deposits; deflated by WPI

Our forecasts

Bank's non-food trade credit; deflated by WPI

Our forecasts



Exhibit 14: Monthly analysis of indicators in Feb'23 indicate weakness in economic activity

Indicators		Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23
PMI: Manufacturing	Index	54.9	54.0	54.7	54.6	53.9	56.4	56.2	55.1	55.3	55.7	57.8	55.4	55.3
PMI: Services	Index	51.8	53.6	57.9	58.9	59.2	55.5	57.2	54.3	55.1	56.4	58.5	57.2	
E-way registrations	% YoY	8.3	9.7	23.9	84.1	36.2	17.8	11.0	23.7	4.6	32.0	17.5	19.7	
Toll collection (Units)	% YoY	53.3	39.9	61.5	145.0	76.1	37.9	35.2	33.9	32.1	33.4	27.2	30.2	18.4
FX reserves	USD b	631.9	607.3	596.7	603.2	589.2	574.3	560.4	532.7	534.0	553.2	562.7	576.8	561.3
Currency in circulation	% YoY	8.6	9.7	10.1	8.6	8.0	8.1	8.1	8.0	9.0	7.9	8.2	4.3	4.1
Vahaan registrations <sup>1</sup>	% YoY	-9.1	-3.5	38.1	209.3	21.8	-8.5	7.5	7.2	48.2	18.8	-6.7	13.6	15.5
Exports <sup>2</sup>	% YoY	34.5	26.4	29.1	20.8	30.2	8.1	10.9	4.7	-11.5	9.7	-3.1	-6.6	
Imports <sup>2</sup>	% YoY	37.2	29.0	26.1	57.4	53.2	38.7	37.6	14.9	10.0	9.8	-0.2	-3.6	
Power Generation <sup>3</sup>	% YoY	4.9	6.0	8.1	23.3	17.7	4.3	3.1	13.8	3.1	14.3	13.7	18.3	13.8

Source: Various national sources, CEIC, MOFSL

2 March 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In terms of daily vehicle units <sup>2</sup> Merchandise exports and imports <sup>3</sup> Based on daily power generation



# NOTES



Explanation of Investment Rating	
Investment Rating	Expected return (over 12-month)
BUY	>=15%
SELL	< - 10%
NEUTRAL	> - 10 % to 15%
UNDER REVIEW	Rating may undergo a change
NOT RATED	We have forward looking estimates for the stock but we refrain from assigning recommendation

\*In case the recommendation given by the Research Analyst is inconsistent with the investment rating legend for a continuous period of 30 days, the Research Analyst shall within following 30 days take appropriate measures to make the recommendation consistent with the investment rating legend.

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