

**Key Data Releases**

**Consumer Price Index – Agricultural/Rural Workers**

- Rural India witnessed higher inflation in March 2022 compared to the preceding month. Retail price inflation for agricultural labourers, measured by the CPI-AL, rose to 6.1 per cent in March 2022 from 5.6 per cent in February 2022.
- The food group, which accounts for 69.15 per cent of the consumption basket of agricultural labourers, saw inflation rise to 4.9 per cent from 4.5 per cent.
- Inflation for rural labourers, measured by the CPI-RL, rose to 6.3 per cent in March 2022 from 5.9 per cent in February 2022. Food inflation for rural labourers rose to 4.9 per cent in March 2022 from 4.4 per cent.

**Wholesale Price Index**

- Wholesale price inflation, measured by the WPI, rose to 14.5 per cent in March 2022 from 13.1 per cent in February 2022. The rise was seen across all three major sub-groups of WPI. Inflation in the manufactured products group rose to 10.7 per cent in March 2022 from 9.8 per cent in the preceding month. Inflation in primary article prices rose to 15.5 per cent from 13.4 per cent and that in power & fuel increased to 34.5 per cent from 31.5 per cent.

**Foreign Exchange Reserves**

- India's foreign exchange reserves fell by USD 311 million to USD 603.7 billion during the week ended 15 April 2022.

**Key Sectoral Insights**

**Gems and Jewellery**

**Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC):** Gems and jewellery exports rebounded in 2021-22 to touch USD 39.15 billion, showing a nearly 55 per cent jump compared to the previous financial year. The gross gems and jewellery exports stood at USD 25.40 billion during 2020-21. Meanwhile, in March the overall gross gems and jewellery exports went up by 4.33 per cent to USD 3,393.29 million, a decline of 0.46 per cent compared to USD 3,409.07 million for the same period in FY21. With annual exports of USD 39.15 billion, the Indian gems and jewellery sector has maintained its promise of contributing a 10th of the country's overall USD 400 billion export target. Out of the total G&J exports, the cut and polished diamonds segment alone accounted for 62 per cent or USD 24,236.57 million, reflecting robust demand from the US, the UAE, Belgium, and Israel.

**Cement**

**ICRA:** The cement demand is expected to grow by 7-8 per cent to around 382 million metric tonnes in the current fiscal, helped by tailwinds of strong demand from rural housing and infrastructure sectors. The cement production in the first 11 months of FY22 was at 323 million MT, which is higher by 22 per cent Y-o-Y. The demand, which was adversely impacted in November 2021 due to cyclones and unseasonal rains, picked up from December 2021. ICRA estimates the production to grow by around 18-20 per cent and surpass pre-Covid levels to reach around 355 million MT in FY2022.

**Real Estate**

**Savills India:** Private equity investment inflows into the Indian real estate sector stood at \$1.0 billion (Rs 79 billion) during Q1 2022, almost 5 times the quantum recorded during Q4 2021. However, PE investment in real estate witnessed a 47% dip when compared to Q1 2021. As per the report, the first quarter of 2022 has already clocked in nearly one-third of the investment inflows that the sector witnessed in the entire year of 2021. Commercial office assets continued to remain the frontrunner during Q1 2022, garnering more than two-third share of the investment pie. All the quarterly investment came from foreign institutional investors and was concentrated in core office assets in Bengaluru.

Upsides	Downsides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India's merchandise exports rose year-on-year by 37 per cent to USD 18.8 billion during 1-14 April 2022, as per preliminary data from the Ministry of Commerce &amp; Industry. The key sectors that recorded healthy growth in exports include petroleum, gems and jewellery. Exports during 1-14 April 2021 stood at USD 13.72 billion. Meanwhile, the country's imports rose by about 12.2 per cent to USD 25.8 billion during 1-14 April 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fine-dining and quick service restaurants, bars and cafes are increasing prices by up to 15% to deal with steep food inflation caused by global supply disruptions. Many chains are undertaking a combination of reducing discounts and increasing prices as their raw material costs have shot up by anywhere between 7% and 30% over the past three months.</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India's summer pulses sowing is up by 37.19% while summer oilseed is up 3.35% even as rice has been sown in 1.87 lakh ha less than last year. For pulses about 12.21 lakh ha area coverage has been reported compared to 8.90 lakh ha during the corresponding period of last year. The area has been reported mainly from the states of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Assam, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Jammu &amp; Kashmir.</li> <li>▪ Hiring activity saw a six per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in March 2022, according to the Monster Employment Index (MEI). The index showed that hiring in March was driven by banking, financial services and insurance which rose by 37 per cent followed by telecom/ISP was up 17 per cent and production &amp; manufacturing up 16 per cent. In addition, jobs rebounded for hospitality &amp; travel personnel by 11 per cent.</li> <li>▪ Coal India (CIL) reported a strong 27 per cent growth in coal production to 26.4 million tonnes in the first half of April 2022. With this, daily coal supplies to the power plants have touched 1.6 million tonnes per day against 1.43 million tonnes per day in April 2021. Cumulative supplies during the first half of April 2022 rose by 14.2 per cent. The coal miner is coordinating with the ministries of coal, power, and railways to build up stocks at power plants in a synergic effort, in the wake of a decline in coal stocks at power plants.</li> <li>▪ India's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme to encourage domestic manufacturing has generated investment commitments of ₹2.34 lakh crore across 14 sectors, according to data collated from various ministries. Automobile and auto components, advanced chemistry cell batteries, specialty steel and high-efficiency solar panels have attracted the maximum interest. The government expects the scheme to generate additional output worth Rs 28.15 lakh crore and 6.45 million new jobs over the next five years.</li> <li>▪ Around 1.06 crore domestic passengers travelled by air in March, approximately 38 percent more than 76.96 lakh who flew in February. The passenger load factors -- which means occupancy rates -- were above 80 percent for all Indian private carriers in March.</li> <li>▪ OPEC and allies including Russia agreed to increase output by 432,000 barrels per day in May 2022 although major consumers were pressuring the group to pump more. OPEC+ reportedly produced 1.45 million barrels per day (bpd) below its production targets in March 2022. Russia reportedly produced about 300,000 bpd below its target in March 2022.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ India's fertilizer subsidy is likely to rise to Rs.2 trillion in 2022-23 from Rs.1.6 trillion in 2021-22 due to a surge in global fertilizer prices. Prices of imported urea have risen by more than 145 per cent y-o-y to USD 930 a tonne in April 2022. Similarly, prices of DAP and MoP have risen by 66 per cent and 11 per cent to USD 924 a tonne and USD 590 a tonne, respectively. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis have led to a steep rise in prices of fertilisers globally.</li> <li>▪ India's effective reproduction number (R) for Covid, an indicator of how quickly the infection is spreading, has increased to over one for the first time since January, according to an estimate from Chennai's Institute of Mathematical Sciences. The country's R-value, steadily increasing over the last few weeks, is 1.07 for the week between April 12-18. In the preceding April 5-11 week, it was 0.93. The last time the R-value was above 1 was in the week between January 16-22, when the value was 1.28.</li> </ul>

### Key Policy Announcements/ Notifications

#### Large Exposures Framework for Non-Banking Financial Company - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?id=12298&Mode=0>

#### Nidhi (amendment) Rules, 2022

<https://www.mca.gov.in/bin/dms/getdocument?mds=LTZyclKMNKOLX6JwM%252BaPeA%253D%253D&type=open>

#### RBI issues new rules, penalties for credit & debit cards

[https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=12300](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasDirections.aspx?id=12300)

#### NITI Aayog releases draft battery swapping policy, prioritizes major cities

[https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-04/20220420\\_Battery\\_Swapping\\_Policy\\_Draft\\_0.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2022-04/20220420_Battery_Swapping_Policy_Draft_0.pdf)

## Reports

### World Economic Outlook, International Monetary Fund

The war in Ukraine has triggered a costly humanitarian crisis that demands a peaceful resolution. At the same time, economic damage from the conflict will contribute to a significant slowdown in global growth in 2022 and add to inflation. Fuel and food prices have increased rapidly, hitting vulnerable populations in low-income countries hardest. Global growth is projected to slow from an estimated 6.1 percent in 2021 to 3.6 percent in 2022 and 2023. This is 0.8 and 0.2 percentage points lower for 2022 and 2023 than projected in January.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/Issues/2022/04/19/world-economic-outlook-april-2022>

## Forthcoming Data Releases

Forex Reserves, Reserve Bank of India, April 29, 2022, 05:00 pm  
Consumer Price Index – Industrial Workers, Labor Bureau, April 29, 2022\*  
Eight Core Index, MOSPI, April 29, 2022\*  
Public Finance, Comptroller General of Accounts, April 29, 2022\*

\*Expected

### Sources:

Various Press Articles, CMIE, MOSPI, RBI, SEBI, PIB

**For previous editions / other data products and fact sheets please write to**

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