

China cuts tariff on US products. China will slash tariffs on USD 75 billion worth of US products which will take effect on February, 14. According to China's Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, the tax rate on some 916 items including soybeans, pork and fish will be deducted from 10% to 5%, while the rate for 801 items including auto parts will be slashed from 5% to 2.5%. China saw this move as an attempt to ease economic and trade tensions in the midst of economic threat from the coronavirus outbreak. China's Ministry of Finance stated that the next step depends on the development of the Chinese-US economic and trade situation and it hopes to work with US towards the final elimination of all tariff increases.

Indonesia's 4Q19 GDP fell below expectation. Indonesia's GDP in the fourth quarter of 2019 was recorded at 4.97% YoY, the slowest since 2016's fourth quarter and contracted 1.74% QoQ. Meanwhile, Indonesia's full year GDP growth in 2019 was recorded at 5.02%, lower as compared to 2018's which was reported at 5.17%. The figure was relatively far below early state budget's estimate of 5.3% in 2019. Slowing global trade amid the US-China tariff dispute had hurt Indonesia's important commodity exports, while national elections delayed investment decisions. Breaking down into details 4Q19's GDP figure, household spending only grew by 4.97% YoY in the fourth quarter, government spending slightly expanded by 0.48% YoY, gross fixed capital formation increased by 4.06% YoY, while exports and imports contracted by 0.39% YoY and 8.05% YoY, respectively. Moving forward, while the government aims to achieve GDP growth of 5.3%, we see pressures on household consumption might drag GDP closer to the 5.0% level. On the other hand, diminishing political year uncertainties and supportive monetary policies should serve as the catalysts that could boost investments.

Indonesia posted USD 131.7bn foreign exchange reserves. According to Bank Indonesia (BI), Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves increased to near record-high levels in January at USD 131.7 billion owing to foreign inflows from global bonds issuance and the oil and gas sector. This amount indicates a USD 2.5 billion increase from the previous month and is enough to support 7.8 months of imports and 7.5 months of imports and payments of the government's short-term debt. BI assumed that the current reserve level is "strong enough" to support the country's resilience to external factors, as well as to maintain macroeconomic and financial system stability. Meanwhile, BI has injected about USD 1.82 billion on Wednesday into the country's financial markets by buying government bonds to stabilize prices and liquidity. Going forward, BI will continuously be working closely with the Finance Ministry as an effort to stabilize the market and prevent the short-term impact of the coronavirus.

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