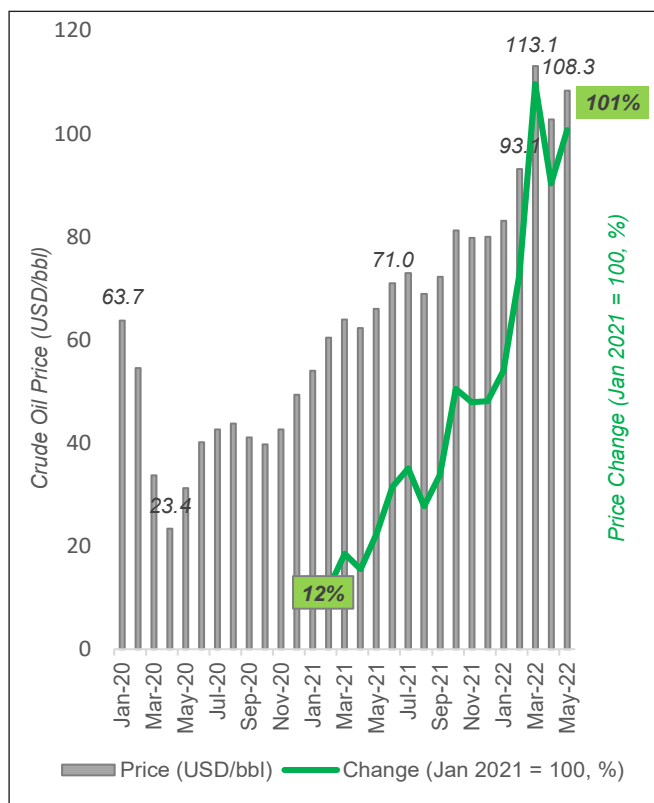


## OIL PRICES, EXCHANGE RATES, AND INFLATION IN ASEAN, JANUARY - MAY 2022

As the global economy started to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, world oil prices (represented in Figure 1 below by the Dubai crude oil price in the Philippines) also began to pick-up, increasing by 48% for the period January to December 2021. The momentum of the economic recovery, however, has been disrupted by the Russia-Ukraine war which started on 24 February 2022. It has triggered further escalation in oil prices from US\$93.1 per barrel in January 2022 to as high as US\$113 per barrel in March 2022, and settling at US\$108.3 per barrel in May 2022. This translates to as much as 101% increase in world oil prices from January 2021 to May 2022.

**FIGURE 1**  
**AVERAGE PRICE OF DUBAI CRUDE OIL (USD/BBL)**  
**AND PRICE CHANGE (JAN 2021 = 100),**  
**JAN 2020- MAY 2022**



Source: [index.lamudi.com](http://index.lamudi.com)

The prices of goods and services in the oil-importing and trade-dependent ASEAN Member States (AMS)

# Facts in Figures

Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department  
House of Representatives  
July 2022 (No. 43)

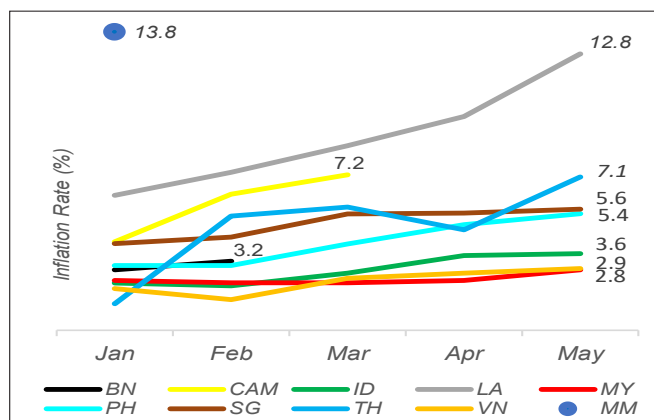
have likewise risen owing to the strengthening of the US dollar on account of the Fed's policy of increasing interest rate (the reversal of monetary easing) to tame the worsening US inflation, and the dollar being a risk haven for investors (Table 1). National currencies all shed values against the US dollar since March 2022 except for the oil-producing Indonesia and China-trade partner Cambodia. As of May 2022, Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei, and Malaysia had the most depreciation against the benchmark US dollar.

**TABLE 1**  
**CURRENCY CONVERSION RATES TO 1 US DOLLAR**  
**OF ASEAN MEMBER STATES, JAN - MAY 2022**

AMS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Brunei D.	0.74034	0.74314	0.73565	0.73196	0.72310
Cambodia	0.00025	0.00025	0.00025	0.00025	0.00025
Indonesia	0.00007	0.00007	0.00007	0.00007	0.00007
Lao PDR	0.00009	0.00009	0.00009	0.00008	0.00008
Malaysia	0.23872	0.23883	0.23815	0.23326	0.22727
Myanmar	0.00056	0.00056	0.00056	0.00054	0.00054
Philippines	0.01950	0.01950	0.01925	0.01917	0.01914
Singapore	0.74034	0.74267	0.73565	0.73225	0.71429
Thailand	0.03010	0.03063	0.03008	0.02960	0.02907
Vietnam	0.03008	0.03058	0.03007	0.00004	0.00004

Source: CPBRD staff computation based on data from AMS central banks, CEIC, the IMF and BIS.

**FIGURE 2**  
**AMS INFLATION RATES (%), JAN - MAY 2022 <sup>ai</sup>**



Note: <sup>ai</sup> Latest available data for Brunei Darussalam is for February, while for Cambodia is March and Myanmar is for January  
Source: Tradingeconomics.com and national statistical agencies.

The combined effects of increasing oil import prices and the depreciation of national currencies are, at best, reflected in inflation rates accordingly (Figure 2). Among the countries with reported official data on inflation rate from January to May 2022, residents from Lao PDR led in experiencing the unabated price increases as inflation reached 12.8% in May from 6.3% in January. It is followed by Thailand (7.1% from 1.2%), Singapore (5.6% from 4%), and the Philippines (5.4% from 3%). Although Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia registered increases in prices for the month of May, all maintained their inflation rates within the 3-4% level.

**TABLE 2**  
**GASOLINE PRICES (USD/L) AND TRANSPORTATION CPI OF AMS, JAN/ APR AND MAY 2022 <sup>ai</sup>**

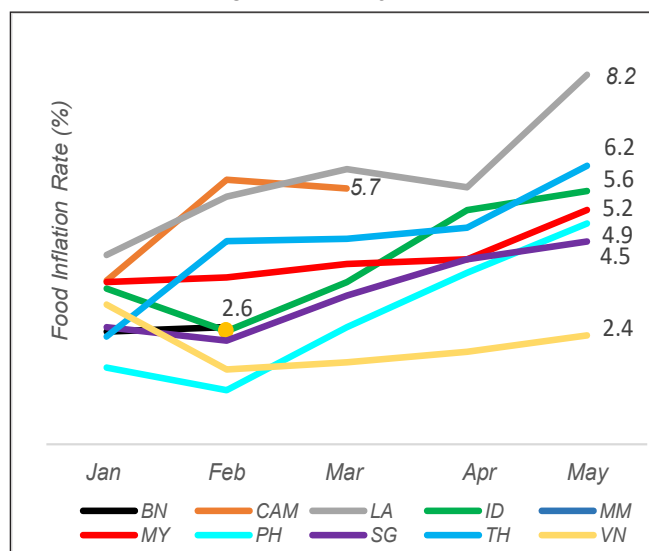
AMS	Gasoline Price (USD / liter)					Transport CPI	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Apr	May
Brunei D.							
Cambodia	1.03	1.03	1.31	1.28	1.38	121.7	126.8
Indonesia	0.50	0.53	0.53	0.52	0.53	107.7	108.4
Lao PDR							
Malaysia	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	117.7	119.0
Myanmar						142.1	151.7
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>125.1</b>	<b>127.3</b>
Singapore	1.98	2.00	2.21	2.17	2.30	123.3	123.9
Thailand	1.20	1.31	1.36	1.35	1.40	111.7	115.3
Vietnam	1.04	1.14	1.19	1.18	1.20	114.5	117.2

Note: <sup>ai</sup> With latest available data, except for, Cambodia transportation CPI Jan-Feb 2022, and Myanmar for Dec 2021- Jan 2022 and Myanmar is for January for Dec 2021- Jan 2022  
Source: Tradingeconomics.com and national statistical agencies.

The soaring fuel price increases in the world market rippled through the AMS' domestic market with gasoline prices per liter shooting up for the January-May 2022 period (Table 2). Cambodia posted the highest average monthly increase of 8.2% in gasoline prices, followed by the Philippines (4.8%), while the rest ranged from 2-4% rise, except for Malaysia which had an average 1% reduction in gasoline price with a noticeable drop in April and maintaining the same level in May.

Correspondingly, notable increments in the transportation CPI for the AMS were observed. Cambodia, with its latest data for January and February 2022 registered an increment of 5.1 percentage points (pps), while Myanmar with the latest data for December 2021 and January 2022 had 9.6 pps increase; while the rest with actual data for April and May 2022 added less than 1 pps to 3.6 pps including Thailand.

**FIGURE 3**  
**AMS FOOD INFLATION RATES (%), JAN - MAY 2022 <sup>ai</sup>**



Note: <sup>ai</sup> Latest available data for Brunei Darussalam is for February, March e for Cambodia and for Myanmar is as of December 2021  
Source: Tradingeconomics.com and national statistical agencies.

Moreover, ASEAN residents had to pay more for their food, which has the highest weight in the CPI basket (Figure 3). Consumers from Lao PDR, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, Myanmar and Brunei had to pay an additional half to one percentage point while the rest incurred less than a half percentage point more in the cost of their food.