

Asia COVID-19 & Vaccine Tracker

Frequent mass testing

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Economics - Asia

- ◆ Beijing is battling against a new cluster with tightening curbs, and Shanghai will conduct mass testing frequently
- ◆ Hong Kong requires testing for entry to bars and nightclubs, while Taiwan has shortened the quarantine period to “3+4”
- ◆ Vaccination rates have slowed as Asia has made substantial progress, but HK continues to push for a booster shot

Testing across the board

Two weeks after curbs were relaxed, Beijing detected a new cluster from a bar, taking new infections to more than 300 in the past week. The spread triggered a fresh round of mass testing and more restrictions: most schools delayed a re-opening originally scheduled for 13 June, while the authorities halted all sports competitions and closed more bars, movie theatres, gyms and other entertainment venues considered to be “potential magnifiers” of the outbreak (*Bloomberg*, 15 June).

Similarly, Hong Kong has also tightened some rules in response to elevated cases, hitting around 1,000 for the first time in two months. From 16 June, patrons entering bars and clubs are required to present a negative 24h Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) result, which is expected to remain in place until 29 June.

After new cases consistently dropped below 20, Shanghai is set to conduct mass testing every weekend until the end of July, an effort to detect cases at an early stage (*Bloomberg*, 16 June). Certain professionals, including workers at supermarkets, restaurants, and delivery workers, are required to do daily testing.

Elsewhere, Taiwan’s daily infections dropped 7% last week, though its fatality rate per capita remains high (Chart 7). From 15 June, travel restrictions have started to ease, with a shortened “3+4” (3 days of hotel quarantine and 4 days of self-health monitoring) quarantine period for inbound travellers. However, pre-departure and on-arrival tests are still required.

In ASEAN, several economies are seeing a small flare-up of Omicron infections, including Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Policymakers across the region have expressed their caution to watch the outbreaks closely, however, they have refrained from ramping up restrictions.

Slowing vaccinations

As much of Asia has made impressive progress in pushing for vaccinations, many of the economies, particularly in ASEAN, are slowing down their vaccination drive (Chart 3). Still, Hong Kong and Taiwan continue to top the region, as the two accelerate the roll out of booster shots. Bangladesh, lagging behind the region, is also showing signs of catching up (Chart 1).

We hope this time will be different: high vaccinations will allow sustainable re-openings.

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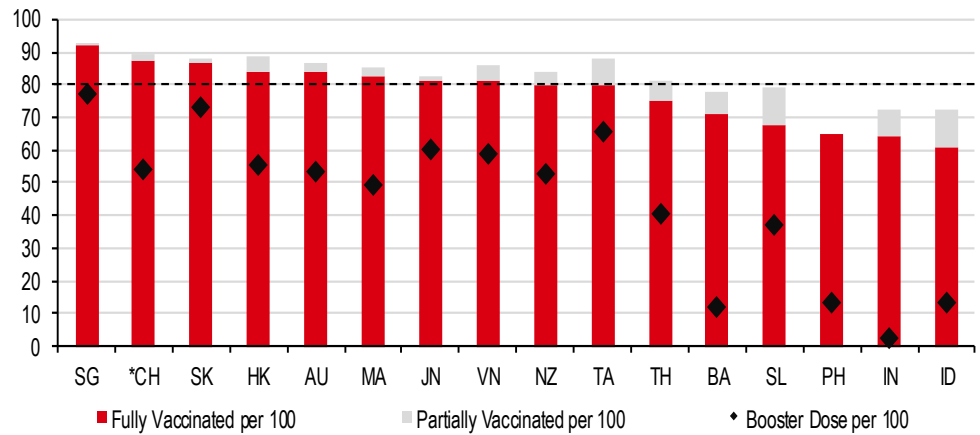
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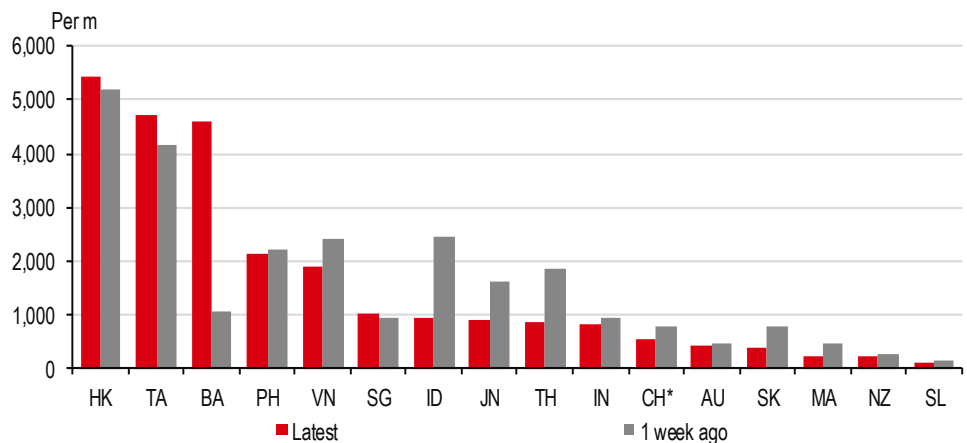
Asia COVID-19 and vaccine tracker

Chart 1: Percentage of individuals who received one, two, and three doses of vaccines



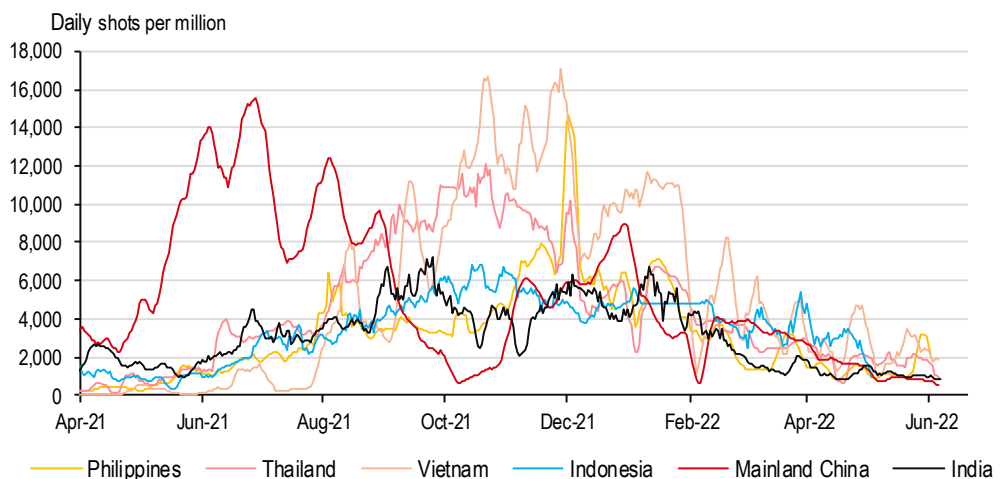
Note: *CH – mainland China; SG and PH data are from its respective authorities.
Source: Our World in Data, HSBC

Chart 2: Daily vaccination rate per million of population



Note: *CH – mainland China
Source: Our World in Data, HSBC

Chart 3: Daily trend of doses administered per million of population



Source: CEIC, HSBC

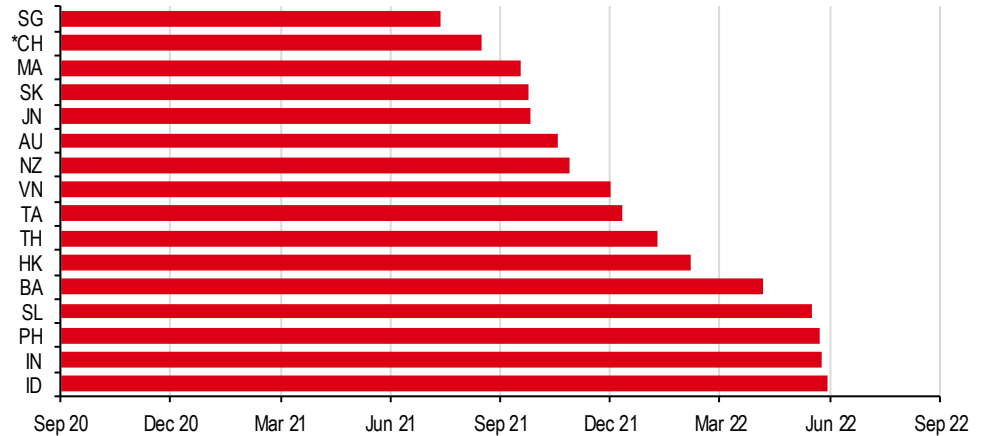
10 economies have hit the 80%-plus double-jabbed vaccination rate

The daily vaccination rate per million population remains high in Hong Kong and Taiwan...

...but it is slowing in the ASEAN region

Asia COVID-19 and vaccine tracker

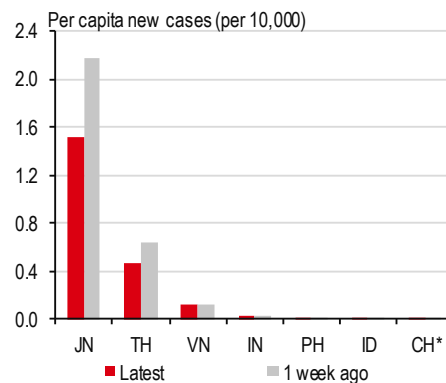
Chart 4: Projected timeline, given the current pace, of reaching a 70% vaccination rate



Note: *CH – mainland China.
Source: Our World in Data, HSBC

At the current daily vaccination rate, when might 70% of the population be fully vaccinated?

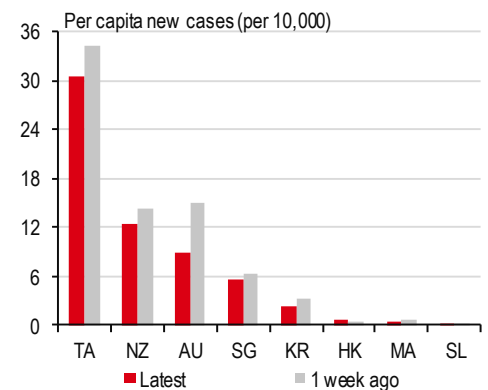
Chart 5. Number of per capita cases for economies with large populations



Note: *CH – mainland China's cases include confirmed and asymptomatic cases.
Source: CEIC, HSBC

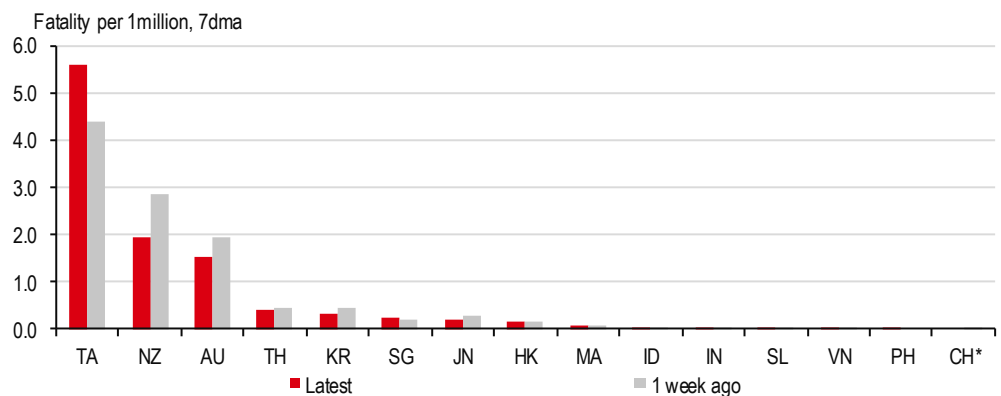
The number of new cases per capita is moderating across the region

Chart 6. Number of per capita cases for economies with small populations



Source: CEIC, HSBC

Chart 7. Fatalities per capita



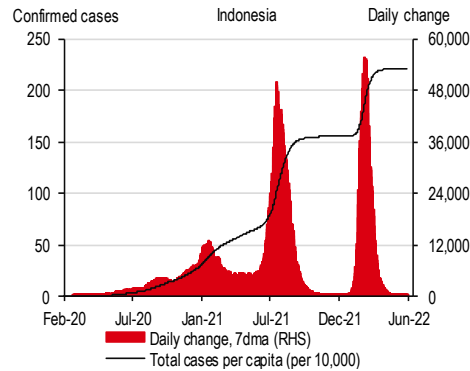
Note: *CH – mainland China.
Source: CEIC, HSBC

But fatality rate per million population continues to rise in Taiwan

COVID-19 in Asia

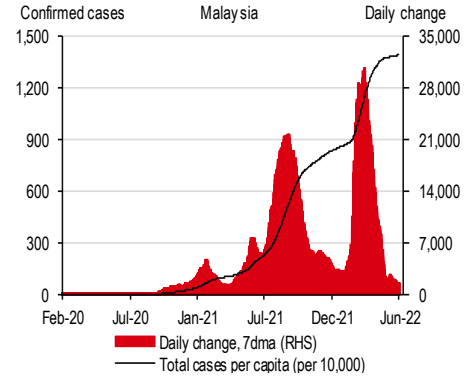
Both Indonesia and Malaysia saw small flare-ups of COVID-19 cases

Chart 8: Indonesia



Source: CEIC, HSBC

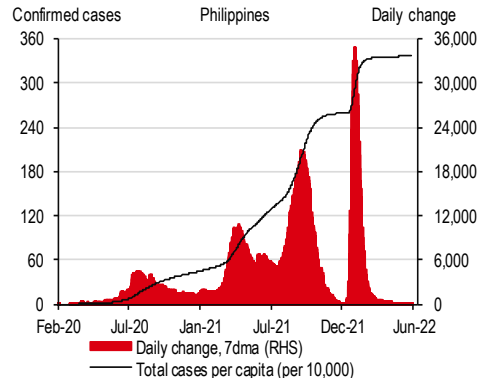
Chart 9: Malaysia



Source: CEIC, HSBC

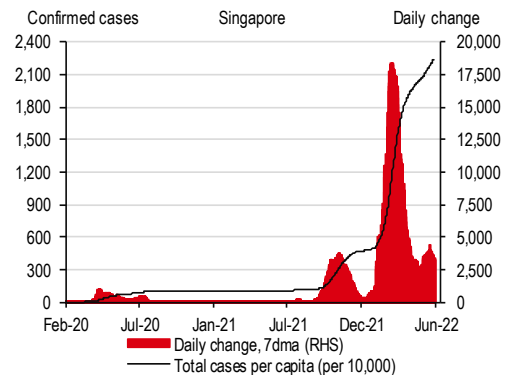
There are signs of rising, though gradually, new infections in both the Philippines and Singapore

Chart 10: Philippines



Source: CEIC, HSBC

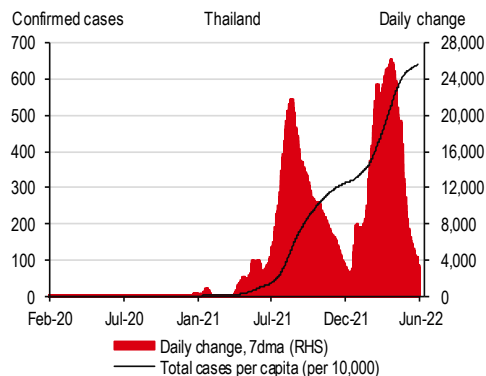
Chart 11: Singapore



Source: CEIC, HSBC

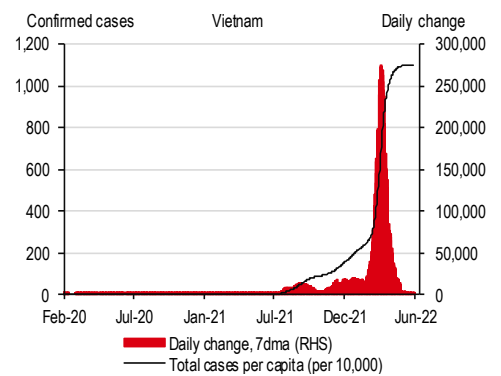
Daily new case numbers continue to drop in Thailand and Vietnam

Chart 12: Thailand



Source: CEIC, HSBC

Chart 13: Vietnam

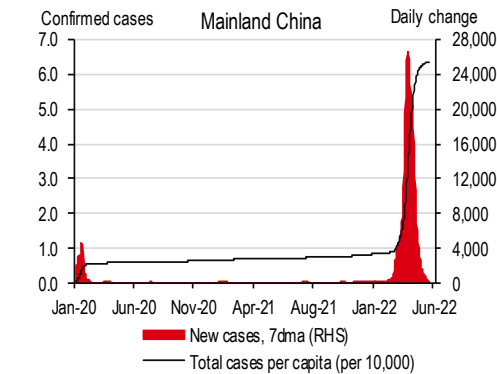


Source: CEIC, HSBC

COVID-19 in Asia

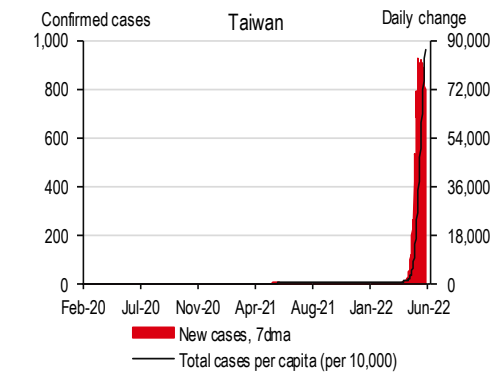
Daily new case numbers have dropped in mainland China but remain elevated in Taiwan

Chart 14: Mainland China



Source: CEIC, HSBC
Note: Mainland China's cases include confirmed and asymptomatic cases.

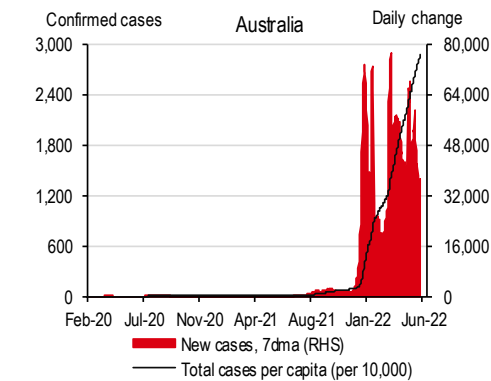
Chart 15: Taiwan



Source: CEIC, HSBC

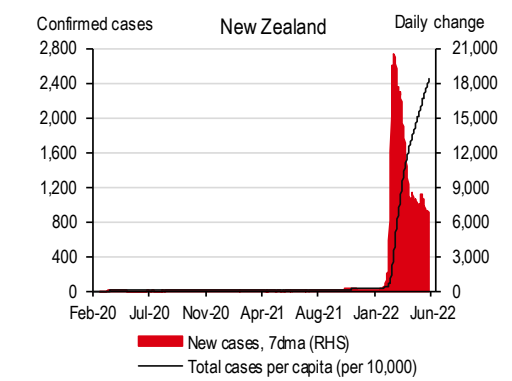
The daily number of new cases are dropping in Australia but are fluctuating in New Zealand

Chart 16: Australia



Source: CEIC, HSBC

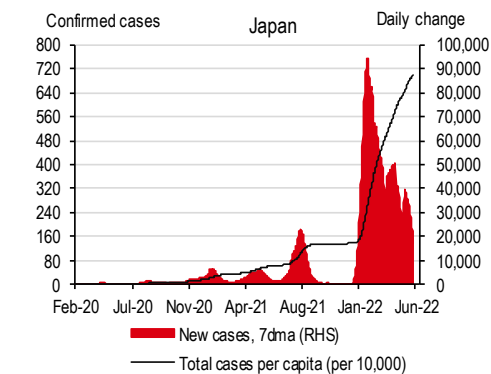
Chart 17: New Zealand



Source: CEIC, HSBC

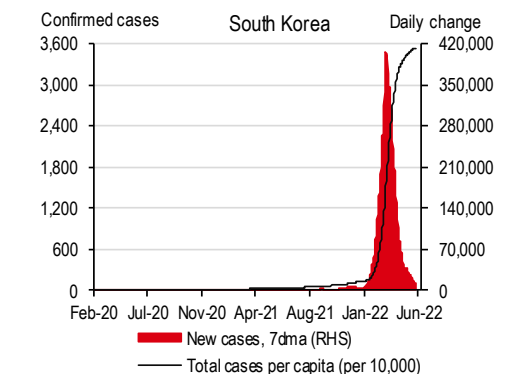
The daily number of new infections are moderating in Japan and South Korea

Chart 18: Japan



Source: CEIC, HSBC

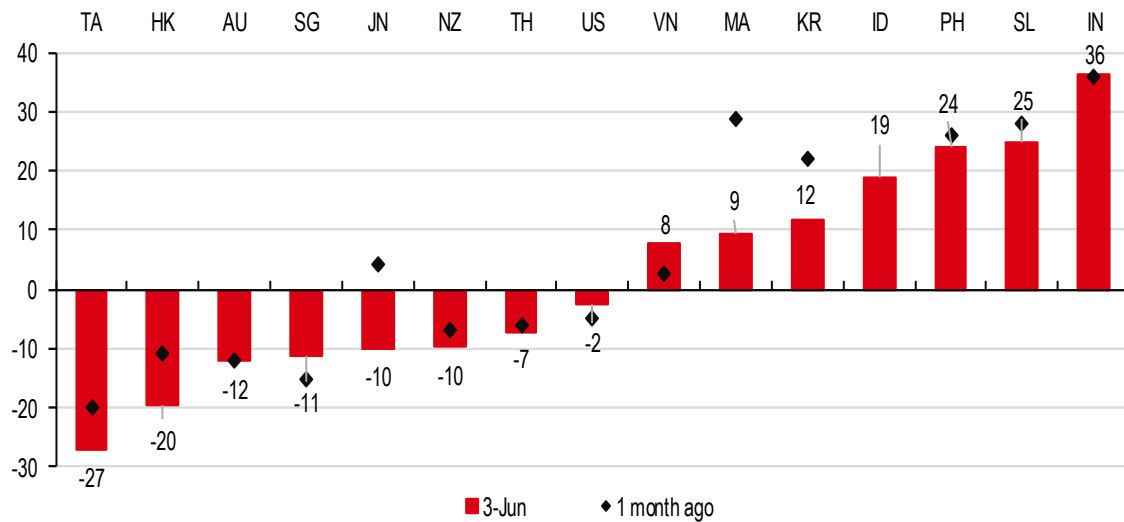
Chart 19: South Korea



Source: CEIC, HSBC

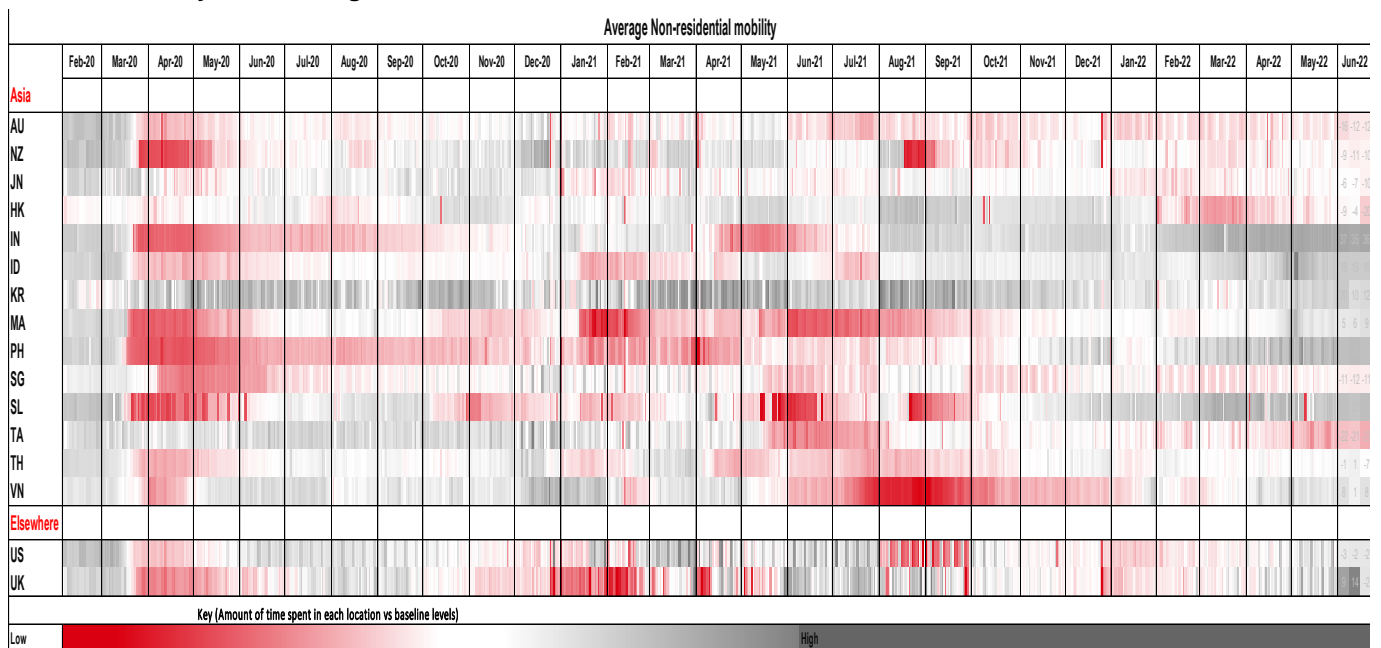
Economic indicators

Chart 20: Average non-residential mobility (recent vs. one month ago)



Note: Comparison to Google baseline. The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the five-week period of 3 January 2020-6 February 2020.
Source: CEIC, HSBC

Chart 21: Mobility data: Average non-residential COVID-19 tracker

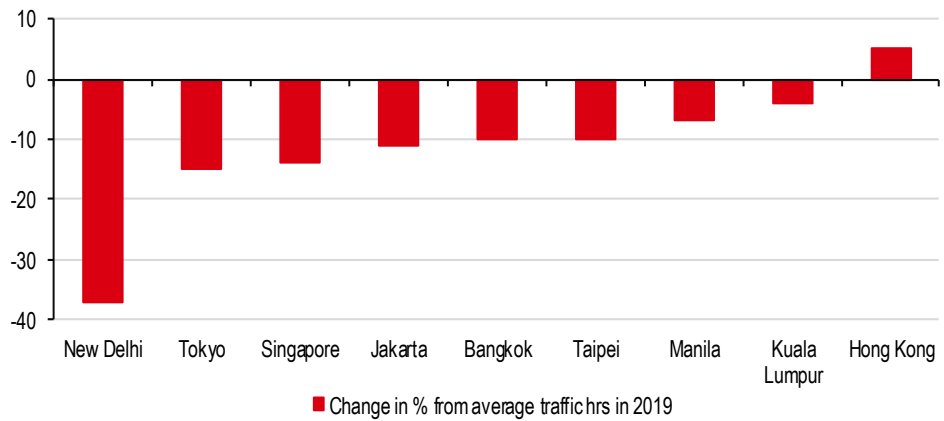


Note: Comparison to Google baseline. The baseline is the median value, for the corresponding day of the week, during the five-week period of 3 January 2020-6 February 2020.
Source: CEIC, HSBC

Economic indicators

Chart 22: Ground traffic trends in major cities

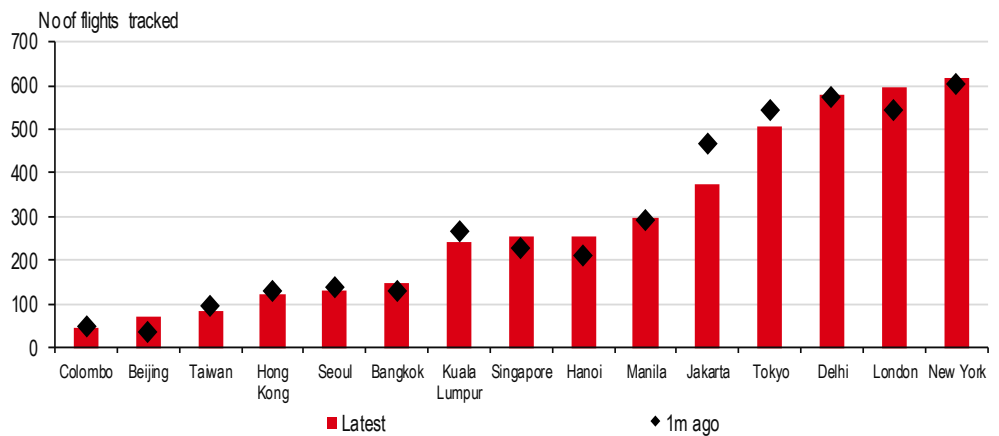
Ground traffic trend has deteriorated the most in New Delhi



Source: TomTom, HSBC

Chart 23: Air traffic trends across Asia

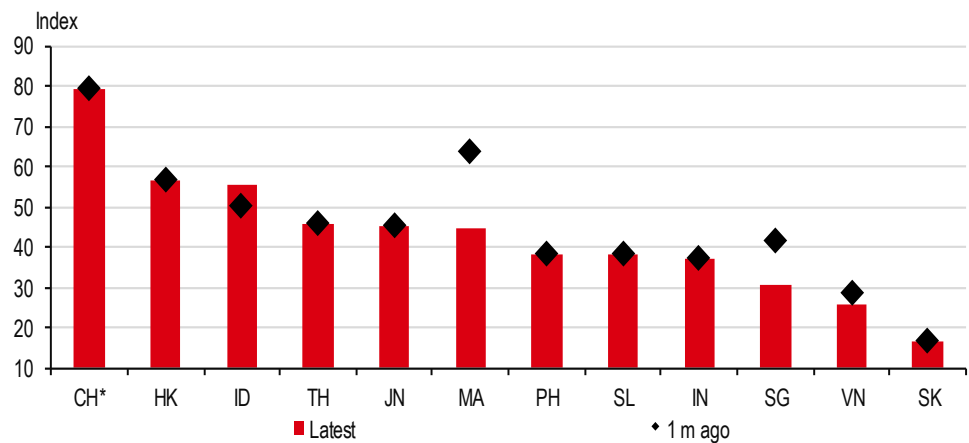
Air traffic is picking up gradually in Beijing



Source: Flight Tracker, HSBC

Chart 24: Oxford Stringency Index

Government stringency measures are lower in Malaysia and Singapore



Note: *CH – mainland China.
 Source: CEIC, HSBC

ASEAN COVID-19 trends

Chart 25: Daily number of new COVID-19 cases

The daily number of new cases in ASEAN have moderated

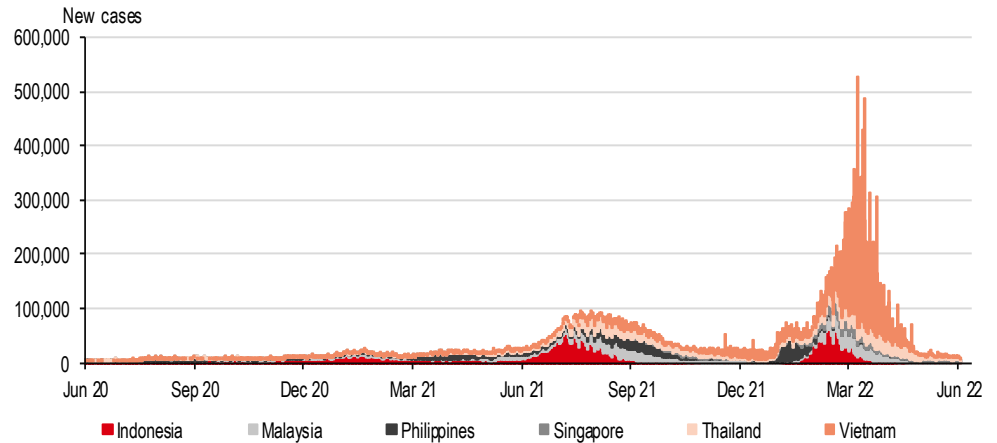


Chart 26: Oxford Stringency Index time series

Government containment measures are lower in Vietnam and Singapore

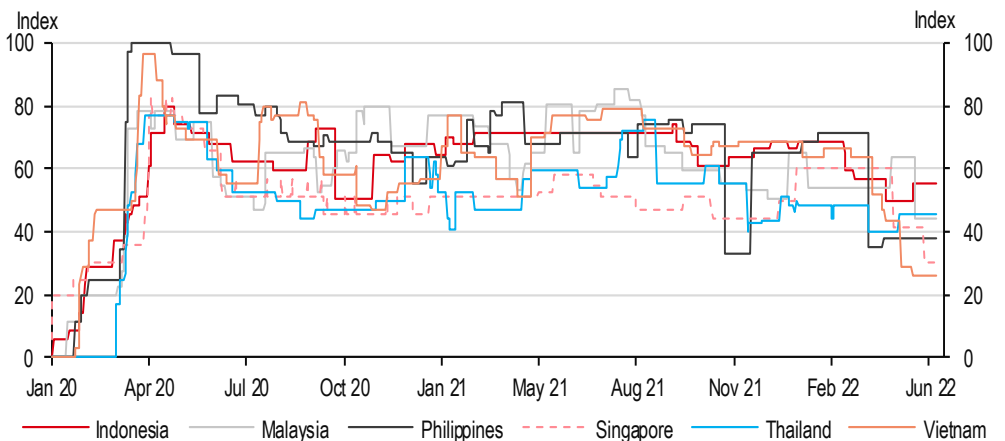
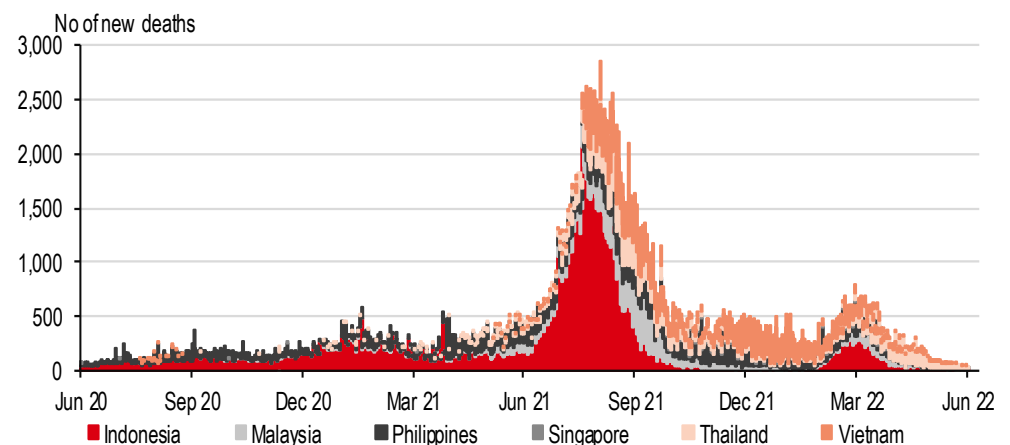


Chart 27: Number of new fatalities per day

The daily number of fatalities have moderated



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