## Banco Central de

## Reserva del Perú

## Indicators

NIRs increased to US\$ 17,783 million. Exchange rate at S/. 3.198 per dollar.Country Risk: 131 bps. as of January 31.
Lima Stock Exchange grew 5.8 percent as of January 31.

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## Our website http://www.bcrp.gob.pe/bcr/ingles/

> Working paper "Perú: Grado de inversión, un reto de corto plazo"
> International Reserves: Composition and Performance - December 2006
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## Average interbank interest rate in January: 4.47 percent

The average daily interbank interest rate in domestic currency decreased from 4.51 percent to 4.43 percent between January 24 and 31, with rates fluctuating between 4.39 and 4.51 percent. As of January 31, the average monthly interbank interest rate was 4.47 percent, a rate lower than the one posted in December 2006 (4.51 percent).

| Interbank Interest Rate Average (percent) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average Standard Deviation |  |  |
| December 2004 | 3.00 | 0.05 |
| December 2005 | 3.34 | 0.08 |
| March 2006 | 4.12 | 0.17 |
| June | 4.53 | 0.07 |
| July | 4.50 | 0.06 |
| August | 4.44 | 0.01 |
| September | 4.51 | 0.04 |
| October | 4.50 | 0.04 |
| November | 4.48 | 0.04 |
| December | 4.51 | 0.04 |
| January 2007 | 4.47 | 0.06 |

Interest Rates in Domestic Currency
(January 2006 - January 2007)


Interbank Interest Rate in Domestic Currency (January 2006 - January 2007)


## Corporate prime rate in soles fell to 5.16 percent

In the January 24-31 period, the daily average of the 90-day corporate prime rate in soles fell from 5.21 percent to 5.16 percent, while this rate in dollars fell from 6.10 percent to 6.09 percent.


## Monetary operations

Between January 25 and 31, 2007, the Central Bank made the following monetary operations: i) auctions of BCRP Certificates of Deposit with 1-day, 1-week, and 1-month maturities for a daily average of $\mathrm{S} / .366 .3$ million. The average interest rate on these operations fluctuated between 4.42 and 4.72 percent; and
ii) overnight deposits in domestic currency for a total of $\mathrm{S} / .320 .2$ million.

## International reserves post new historical record: US\$ 17,783 million as of January 30

As of January 30, net International reserves (NIRs) have increased US\$ 533 million with respect to the close of December and thus amount to US\$ 17,783 million. This increase in the balance of NIRs was mainly due to the BCRP exchange operations (US\$ 610 million), a higher investment yield (US\$ 30 million), higher banks' deposits (US\$ 17 million), and higher deposits at the Deposit Insurance Fund (US\$ 2 million). However, this result was offset by a decrease in public sector deposits (US\$ 69 million), by sales of foreign currency (US\$ 50 million) to repay the external public debt, and by the lower price of other securities (US\$ 35
 million).

As of January 30, the international position of the BCRP (US\$ 11,619 million) has increased US\$ 533 million with respect to the close of 2006.

## Exchange rate as of January 31: SI. 3.198 per dollar

Between January 24 and 31, the average ask price of the interbank exchange rate rose from S/. 3.194 to S/. 3.198 per dollar, as a result of which the nuevo sol depreciated 0.1 percent. In January, the Central Bank intervened in the exchange market buying US\$ 610 million at the BCRP's front desk. It should be pointed out that the Central Bank has not carried out any exchange operations since January 23.

Interbank Ask- Exchange Rate and Net Purchases of Foreign Currency (October 2006 - January 2007)


## Liquidity and credit to the private sector as of January 7

In the last four weeks, liquidity in domestic currency increased 6.5 percent (S/. 2,109 million) and reached a balance of $\mathrm{S} / .34,678$ million (annual growth of 18.0 percent). Credit to the private sector in domestic currency increased 1.4 percent (S/. 341 million), thus amounting to S/. 24,400 million (annual growth of 29.4 percent).

Liquidity in foreign currency decreased by 0.1 percent (US\$ 7 million) and reached a balance of US\$ 12,943 million (annual growth of 13.9 percent). Credit to the private sector in foreign currency decreased by 2.8 percent (US\$ 345 million), thus amounting to US\$ 11,842 million (annual growth of 4.8 percent).

| EVOLUTION OF THE LIQUIDITY AND CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | MONETARY BASE |  | LIQUIDITY IN D/C |  | CREDIT IN D/C |  | LIQUIDITY IN F/C |  | CREDIT IN F/C |  |
|  | VAR.(\%) MONTH | VAR.(\%) YEAR | VAR.(\%) MONTH | VAR.(\%) | VAR.(\%) MONTH | VAR.(\%) YEAR | VAR.(\%) MONTH | VAR.(\%) YEAR | VAR.(\%) MONTH | VAR.(\%) YEAR |
| $\underline{2004}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dec. | 14.9\% | 25.3\% | 6.6\% | 31.5\% | 1.7\% | 11.5\% | 0.9\% | 4.7\% | 1.2\% | 1.9\% |
| $\underline{2005}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mar. | -0.2\% | 25.7\% | 4.2\% | 35.5\% | 2.8\% | 15.5\% | -1.3\% | 3.8\% | 0.4\% | 3.2\% |
| Jun. | 1.9\% | 28.1\% | 1.8\% | 34.1\% | 1.2\% | 19.0\% | 0.4\% | 5.0\% | 1.5\% | 5.5\% |
| Sep. | -0.1\% | 31.8\% | 0.6\% | 39.5\% | 2.5\% | 24.6\% | 0.5\% | 4.8\% | -1.2\% | 4.9\% |
| Dec. | 13.1\% | 25.7\% | 7.7\% | 33.3\% | 6.5\% | 36.4\% | 2.9\% | 10.5\% | 0.0\% | 5.7\% |
| $\underline{2006}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. | -7.2\% | 25.0\% | -4.9\% | 28.4\% | 1.3\% | 38.2\% | 3.5\% | 14.7\% | -3.3\% | 2.4\% |
| Feb. | 0.3\% | 22.9\% | 1.4\% | 25.1\% | 2.6\% | 40.4\% | 1.5\% | 17.1\% | 0.0\% | 2.5\% |
| Mar. | 0.8\% | 24.2\% | 2.4\% | 22.9\% | 2.3\% | 39.7\% | 1.7\% | 20.7\% | 1.7\% | 3.7\% |
| Apr. | 0.3\% | 18.3\% | -4.0\% | 19.0\% | 1.2\% | 39.5\% | -1.0\% | 16.1\% | 0.5\% | 2.3\% |
| May. | -1.6\% | 15.5\% | -0.2\% | 18.2\% | 1.0\% | 38.1\% | -1.1\% | 12.8\% | 3.3\% | 3.6\% |
| Jun. | 2.3\% | 16.0\% | 1.6\% | 18.0\% | 1.9\% | 39.0\% | 0.4\% | 12.9\% | 2.0\% | 4.1\% |
| Jul. | 8.0\% | 11.7\% | 2.6\% | 12.1\% | 1.6\% | 38.7\% | 1.0\% | 14.9\% | 0.5\% | 3.9\% |
| Aug. | -4.2\% | 12.8\% | 1.2\% | 13.3\% | 2.0\% | 36.7\% | 0.9\% | 14.4\% | -0.6\% | 5.2\% |
| Sep. | 0.9\% | 13.9\% | 1.1\% | 14.0\% | 2.5\% | 36.7\% | 0.8\% | 14.7\% | 0.9\% | 7.4\% |
| Oct. | 0.8\% | 13.5\% | 2.6\% | 15.2\% | 3.4\% | 35.7\% | 1.8\% | 15.9\% | 0.4\% | 7.6\% |
| Nov. | 2.6\% | 15.6\% | 4.2\% | 16.2\% | 3.1\% | 33.6\% | 2.4\% | 15.6\% | 1.3\% | 6.7\% |
| Dec. | 15.7\% | 18.3\% | 10.4\% | 19.2\% | 3.0\% | 29.2\% | 1.5\% | 14.1\% | -2.0\% | 4.5\% |
| $\underline{2007}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. 7 | 9.3\% | 15.4\% | 6.5\% | 18.0\% | 1.4\% | 29.4\% | -0.1\% | 13.9\% | -2.8\% | 4.8\% |
| Memo: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance as of Dec. 7 | 12813 |  | 32569 |  | 24060 |  | 12950 |  | 12188 |  |
| (Mill.S/.or Mill.US\$) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balance as of Jan. 7 (Mill.S/.or Mill.US\$) | 14007 |  | 34678 |  | 24400 |  | 12943 |  | 11842 |  |

## Use of electronic means of payments increases for operations in soles

In the last two years, the use of credit cards for operations in domestic currency grew 106 percent reflecting the increase observed in the number of bank clients in all the various socioeconomic strata and in the use of credit cards nationwide. In the same period, payments through debit cards increased by 34 percent, particularly in 2006 when a higher use of these cards was recorded in commercial establishments.

Likewise, significant dynamism was observed in the use of virtual banking, which grew 57 percent. Operations through virtual banking include payment of public utilities, money transfers, purchases of foreign currency, and other operations. Moreover, the volume of transactions carried out through ATMs increased 27 percent between 2004 and 2006. ATMs are mainly used for cash withdrawals and purchases of foreign currency.

## resumen informativo

In the same period, direct debit and credit transfer, associated with authorizations for the automatic payment of recurrent expenses (mainly household bills for public utilities) and with nonperiodical payment orders requested by bank clients, increased between 24 and 19 percent each.

This evolution stems from efforts aimed at modernizing the financial system and the payment system. These efforts have translated into the public's increased access to financial services, into lower transaction costs, greater security, and clients' increased consumption capacity.

USE OF ELECTRONIC MEANS OF PAYMENTS
(In domestic currency, in millions of $\mathrm{S} /$.)

source: BCRP, Chart 43 of Weekly Report - System of Payments.

## International Markets

## Average country risk at 123 basis points in January

In January, the average country risk indicator -measured by the EMBI+ Peru spread- dropped from 131 to a 123 basis points following the evolution of the rest of emerging economies and the region. This evolution of the country risk is associated with positive indicators for the US economy and with a higher yield on the 10-year US Treasuries. It is worth pointing out that Peru's country risk posted a historical minimum level of 115 basis points in the month of January.

## Country risk indicators

(July 2006 - January 2007)


## Average quotation of oil fell to US\$ 54.5 per barrel in January

In January, the average quotation of WTI oil fell 12.1 percent -from US\$ 62.0 to US\$ 54.5 per barrel. This outcome is due to an unseasonably warmer weather in the Northern Hemisphere -which has implied a lower demand of heating oil-, to the increase of crude and gasoline inventories in the US, and to uncertainty regarding a new cut in Saudi Arabia's production quota -the world's largest oil producer- in addition to the one programmed for February this year.


However, this fall was offset by the US government new plan for duplicating its strategic reserves of oil by 1,500 million barrels of crude by 2027 , as well as by the arrival of a colder weather in the East Coast of the US since end January.

In January, the average price of gold increased from US\$ 630.0 to US\$ 631.6 per troy ounce ( 0.25 percent) due to a higher accumulation of inventories by Asian jewelers, a better outlook for the recovery of the demand for Italian jewelry this year -Italy is the second producer of jewelry in the world-, and concerns regarding inflation in the US.

Gold prices


On the other hand, the drop in the price of oil and the strengthening of the dollar against the main currencies compensated the rise in the price of gold.

In the month of January, the average quotation of copper dropped 14.9 percent -from US\$ 3.02 to US $\$ 2.57$ per pound- due to the increase recorded in the level of global inventories at the stock markets of London, Shanghai and New York, as well as to expectations of an over-supply of copper in 2007 given that a recent report issued by the International Copper Study Group (ICSG) shows that the copper market recorded a surplus of 128 thousand MT in the first ten months of 2006.

However, this fall was partially offset by expectations of future demand in China -copper imports increased 11 percent in Decemberby sustained economic growth in the US, and by concerns that the supply of copper might be interrupted by a workers' strike at the BHP Billiton-owned mine of Cerro Colorado in Chile.

In January, the average price of zinc decreased 14.1 percent, falling from US\$ 2.00 to US\$ 1.72 per pound. This result was influenced by an increase of inventories at the London Metal Exchange, by investment funds' increased sales of zinc at the beginning of January to reflect changes in the commodity index -the weight of zinc was adjusted downwards in the Dow Jones AIG index- and by forecasts made by Zinifex Ltd., the second largest zinc producer, indicating a surplus of this mineral for 2007.

Copper prices
(cUS\$/lb)
(January 2006 - January 2007)



## Dollar appreciates against the euro and the yen

On average, the dollar appreciated 1.6 percent against the euro and 2.5 percent against the yen in January. The Federal Reserve decided to maintain its interest rate at 5.25 percent and announced better economic prospects, but emphasized that that the risk of inflationary pressures remains. This has reduced expectations that the FED will lower its reference interest rate during the first quarter of 2007.


Moreover, the dollar strengthened as a result of positive data on the labor market (employment grew more than expected in December), on economic activity (retail sales and industrial production increased in December), and on external accounts (net capital inflow in the US in December was higher than the commercial deficit). On the other hand, the yen dropped to its lowest level in four years due to lower expectations that the Bank of Japan will adjust its interest rate, given positive data on inflation.

## Yield on 10-year US Treasuries increased 4.76 percent on average in January

In average terms, the 3-month Libor remained at 5.36 percent and the yield on the 10-year US Treasury bond increased from 4.56 to 4.76 percent due to positive data on employment -employment grew more than expected as the US economy saw an increase of 167 thousand new jobs in December-, to a 0.9 percent increase in retail sales with respect to the previous month, and to a 0.4 percent growth in the industrial production in December after three months of production declines. All of these indicators point to a lower deceleration of the US economy.


## Lima Stock Exchange grew 5.8 percent in January

In January, the General and Blue Chip indices of the Lima Stock Exchange (LSE) grew 5.8 and 3.5 percent respectively, due to expectations of favorable financial statements from mining and industrial companies in the fourth quarter of 2006. Preliminary financial reports of the Southern Copper Corp. show an annual increase of profits of 50.7 percent in the fourth quarter and an increase of 44.0 percent in year 2006.


However, this result was offset by a decline in the international prices of basic metals, which affected the performance of mining stocks. It is worth pointing out that the daily average number of transactions made amounted to $\mathrm{S} / .169 .8$ million, a level 58.5 percent higher than the one recorded in December. This result is associated with the negotiation of a transfer of Interbank stocks as a result of a corporate reorganization of the economic group that owns this bank.


${ }^{* *}$ A partir del 5 de mayo de 2006, esta tasa se elevó a $5,25 \%$.
${ }^{* * *}$ Las tasas de interés para los créditos de regulación monetaria en dólares serán a la tasa Libor a un mes más un punto porcentual.
${ }^{* * * *}$ Desde el 29 de setiembre de 2006, el JP Morgan, de acuerdo a sus criterios de liquidez de mercado, ha incluído dentro de su EMBI+ PERÚ los bonos globales Peru 2025 y 2033 . Al ser los spreads de dichos bonos cercanos a los 200 pbs, ello explica el aumento de cerca de 40 pbs en el EMBI+ PERÚ a partir del 29 de setiembre.
Fuente: BCRP, INEI, Banco de la Nación, BVL, Sunat, SBS, Reuters y Bloomberg.
Elaboración: Departamento de Publicaciones Económicas.

