

# **Weekly Economic Report N° 12**

March 19, 2008

#### **Indicators**

A	NIRs amount to US\$ 33,493 million on March 17
A	Interbank interest rate at 5.19 percent on March
	18

Exchange: S/. 2.809 per dollar on March 18

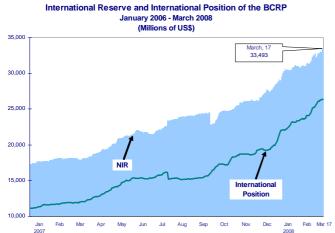
Country risk at 229 bps on March 18

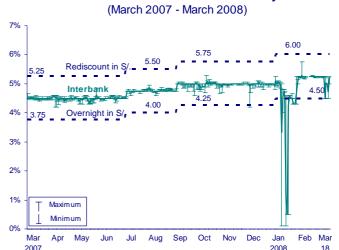
Lima Stock Exchange fell 0.8 percent as of March 18

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**Interest Rates in Domestic Currency** 





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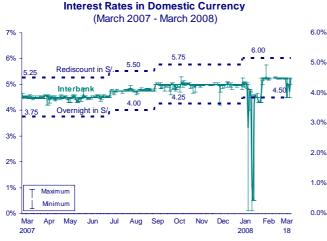
# Our website http://www.bcrp.gob.pe

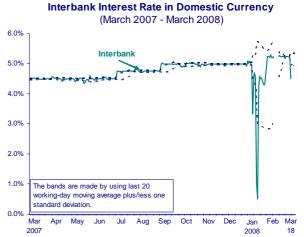
- ➤ Weekly Report N° 12-2008
- International Reserves Management: February 2008
- Inflation Report: Recent trends and macroeconomic forecasts January 2008
- ➢ Informative note on the Monetary Program: March 2008. BCRP maintains the reference interest rate at 5.25%
- Working papers N° 2008-003: ¿Can Peru be a New Economic Miracle?
- Monetary Policy in a Dual Currency Environment
- Quarterly Charts

#### Interbank interest rate on March 18: 5.19 percent

The average interbank interest rate in domestic currency on March 18 was 5.19 percent, higher than the average rate seen in February (5.02 percent). **Between March 12 and 18**, this rate increased from 4.50 to 5.21 percent.

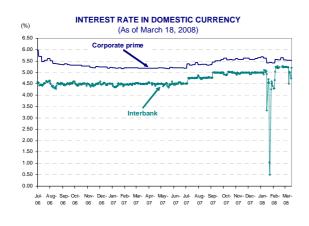
Interbank Interest Rate Average (percent)				
	Average	<u>S.D</u>		
December 2005	3.34	0.08		
December 2006	4.51	0.04		
March 2007	4.50	0.01		
June	4.52	0.03		
August	4.77	0.04		
October	4.98	0.05		
November	4.99	0.03		
December	4.99	0.02		
January 2008	4.44	1.24		
February	5.02	0.36		
March 18	5.19	0.25		

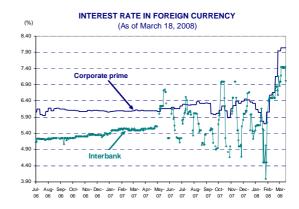




## Corporate prime rate in nuevos soles remained at 5.54 percent

Between **March 12 and 18**, the daily average of the 90-day corporate prime rate in domestic currency remained unchanged at 5.54 percent, while this rate in dollars remained at 8.04 percent.



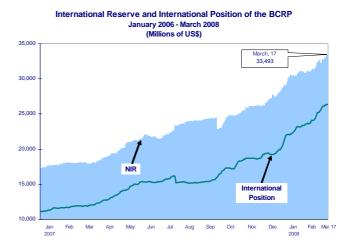


# **Monetary operations**

Between **March 13 and 18**, the Central Bank made the following monetary operations: i) auctions of 1-day, 1-week, 1-month, 3-month, 4-month, 6-month, and 12-month BCRP Certificates of Deposit Subject to Limited Negotiation for a daily average of S/. 2,871.1 million. The interest on these operations, which amounted to S/. 16,869.7 million, is 5.32 percent; ii) purchases of foreign currency for a total of US\$ 268 million, iii) sales of foreign currency to the Public Treasury for a total of US\$ 200 million, and iv) overnight deposits in domestic currency for a total of S/. 1,792 million.

# International reserves reach new historical record of US\$ 33,493 million on March 17

Net international reserves (NIRs) increased by US\$ 1,187 million compared to end February and amounted to US\$ 33,493 million on March 17. The increase recorded in the balance of NIRs this month is mainly explained by BCRP exchange operations (US\$ 1,161 million), by banks' higher deposits (US\$ 789 million), by the higher valuation of other securities (US\$ 243 million), and by a higher investment yield (US\$ 9 million). This increase was offset by public sector's lower deposits (US\$ 818 million) and by the sale of foreign currency for the repayment of the external debt (US\$ 200 million).



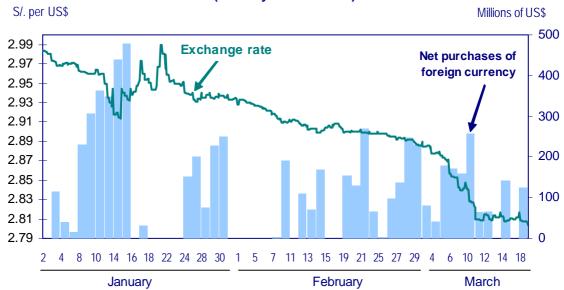
Moreover, the international position of the BCRP on **March 17** was US\$ **26,364** million, a sum higher by US\$ 1,224 million than the one recorded at the close of February.

# Exchange rate: S/. 2.809 per dollar

Between **March 12 and 18**, the average ask price of the interbank exchange rate fell from S/. 2.813 to S/. 2.809 per dollar, as a result of which the nuevo sol appreciated by 2.8 percent compared to end February.

In this period, the Central bank intervened in the exchange market buying US\$ 333 million.

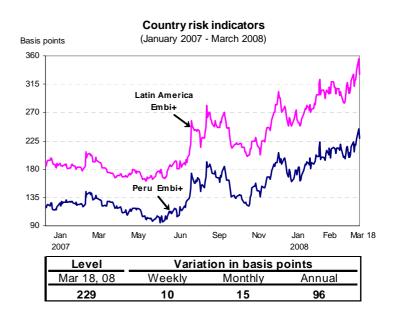
# INTERBANK ASK- EXCHANGE RATE AND NET PURCHASES OF FOREIGN CURRENCY (January - March 2008)



#### **International Markets**

## Country risk at 229 basis points

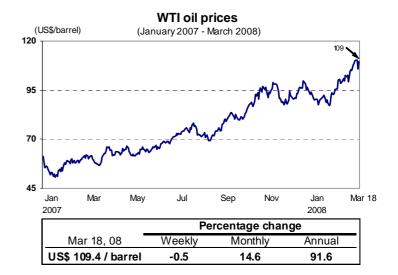
Between March 12 and 18, the country risk indicator, measured by the EMBI+ Peru spread, increased from 219 to 229 basis points. reflecting a similar behavior to that of spreads in the region (the EMBI+ Latin America rose from 321 to 331 basis points). This increase is associated with greater nervousness concerning the US financial sector after liquidity problems forced the sale of one of the main investment banks.

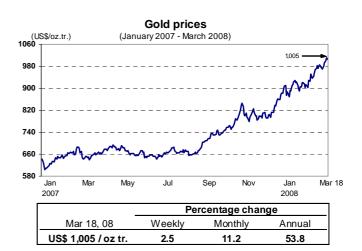


#### Price of petroleum fell to US\$ 109.4 per barrel

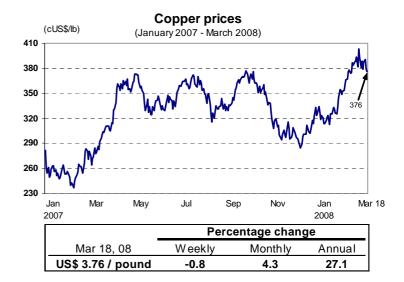
Between March 12 and 18, the price of WTI oil fell 0.5 percent to US\$ 109.4 per barrel. This fall in the price of crude was due to an investors' profit taking (after the price of oil reached a record level of US\$ 110.3 per barrel), and to increased sales of crude forwards by speculators seeking to collect money and reduce their exposition to commodities. However, this price fall was offset by the fact that crude and fuel inventories in USA increased less than previously expected.

In March 12-18, the price of **gold** rose 2.5 percent to US\$ 1,005.0 per troy ounce. This price rise was influenced by the strong fall of the dollar and by inflationary concerns which led investors to seek safer assets as hedges. Moreover, another factor that contributed to increase the price of this metal was the publication of a report indicating that the production of gold in South Africa had declined in January due to electricity problems.

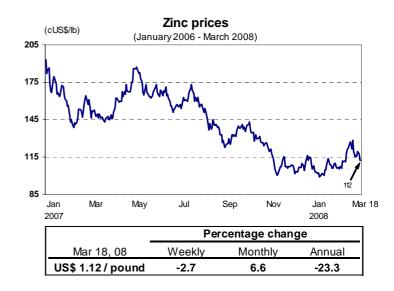




In the same period of analysis, the price of **copper** fell 0.8 percent to US\$ 3.76 per pound. This evolution in the price of copper was associated with a profit take, given the high levels reached last week. Other factors contributing to this price fall included higher concerns of a slow down of demand given the worsening of the economic outlook.

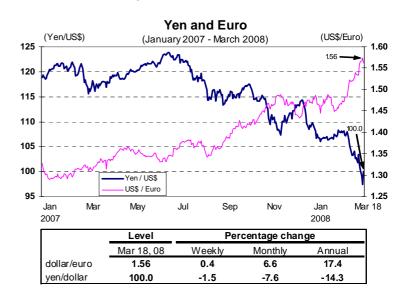


Between March 12 and 18, the price of **zinc** dropped 2.7 percent to US\$ 1.12 per pound, despite the reduction of inventories at the London Metal Exchange (inventories fell 0.7 percent to 122,950 MT). This drop in the price of zinc was mainly influenced by increased concerns about the demand for metals due to the credit crisis affecting world financial markets.



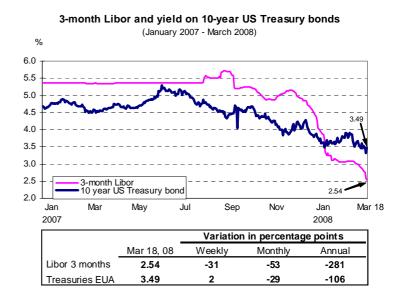
# Dollar depreciated against the euro and the yen

Between March 12 and 18, the dollar depreciated 0.4 percent against the euro and 1.5 percent against the yen. The dollar weakened against the euro and the yen due to growing concerns of a recession in USA following the publication of negative indicators (Retail sales data fell more than expected in February and a drop in consumer confidence) and the worsening of the financial crisis.



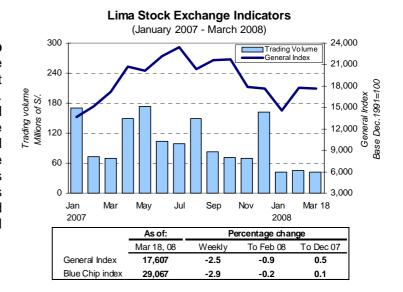
## Yield on 10-year US Treasuries decreased to 3.47 percent

Between March 12 and 18, the 3month Libor fell from 2.85 to 2.54 percent, while the yield on the 10year Treasury bond increased from 3.46 to 3.49 percent. The increase in the case of the Treasury bond was due to the fact that the FED's cut of its interest rate contributed to raise the price of stocks, which reduced the attraction government's However, fears about the evolution of the US financial sector following the liquidity problems faced by one of the main investment banks offset the increase in the yield on the Treasury bonds.



### Lima Stock Exchange fell 0.9 percent as of March 2008

The General and Blue Chip indices of the Lima Stock Exchange (LSE) fell 0.9 and 0.2 percent respectively as of March 18. Moreover, between March 12 and 18 these indices had a negative performance and dropped 2.5 and 2.9 percent respectively, due to the decline of the main global markets as a result of increased concerns about the US financial sector and the drop seen in the international prices of basic metals.



So far this year, the indices of the LSE have accumulated gains of 0.5 and 0.1 percent respectively.