



Weekly Report N° 30

July 26, 2006

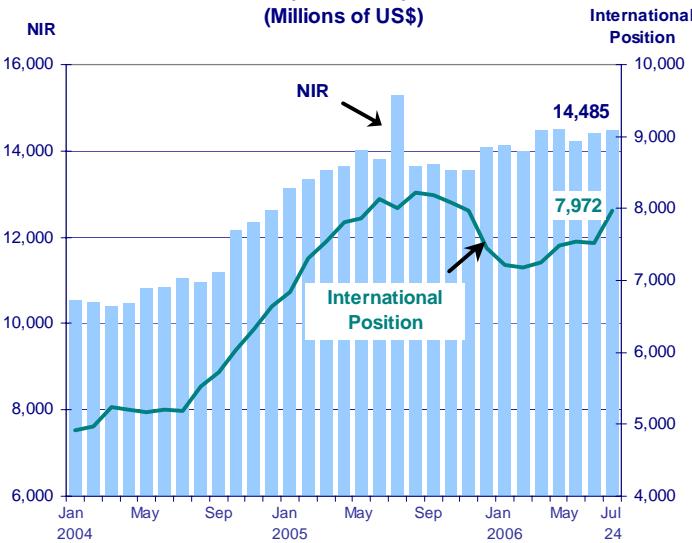
Indicators

- Reference interest rate at 4.49%.
- International Reserves: US\$ 14,485 millions.
- Exchange Rate at S/. 3.24.
- Country Risk fell at 144 bps.
- Lima Stock Exchange grows 6.5%.

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International Reserve and International Position of the BCRP
January 2004 - July 2006
(Millions of US\$)



Interest Rates in Domestic Currency
(July 2005 - July 2006)



In our web site
<http://www.bcrp.gob.pe>

- Historical statistical series are extended.
- Study Note 22: Management of Net Reserves Internationals: May 2006.
- Working paper "Corrupción e Indicadores de Desarrollo: Una Revisión Empírica".

Interbank interest rate: 4.49 percent

The **average interbank rate in domestic currency** increased from 4.52 percent to 4.60 percent between **July 19 and 25**. So far this month, the average interbank rate has reached 4.49 percent, having fluctuated between 4.42 percent and 4.62 percent. This evolution is consistent with the reference interest rate for July, which remains at 4.50 percent.

Interbank Interest Rate average (percent)

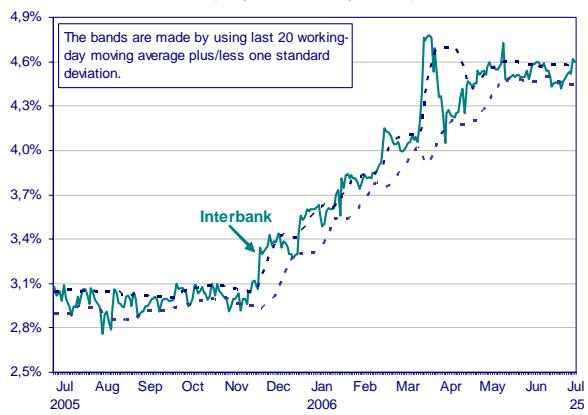
Average Standard Deviation

	Average	Standard Deviation
December 2004	3.00	0.05
December 2005	3.34	0.08
January 2006	3.58	0.06
February	3.82	0.04
March	4.12	0.17
April	4.42	0.24
May	4.48	0.08
June	4.53	0.07
July 25	4.49	0.06

Interest Rates in Domestic Currency
(July 2005 - July 2006)

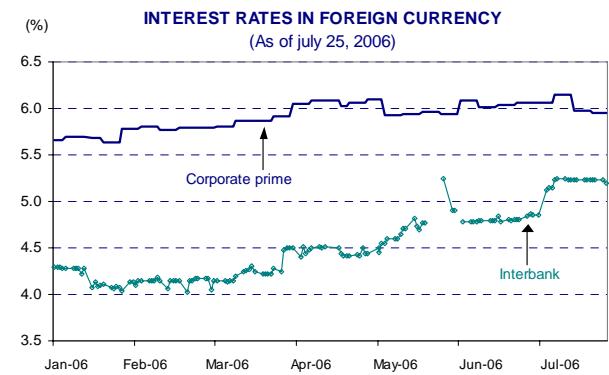
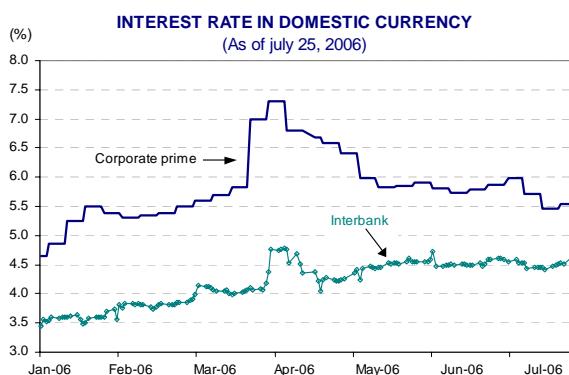


Interbank Interest Rate in Domestic Currency
(July 2005 - July 2006)



Corporate Prime interest rate dropped to 5.47 percent.

From **July 19 to 26**, the 90-day corporate prime rate in soles increased from 5.47 percent to 5.53 percent, while the corporate prime rate in dollars fell from 5.97 percent to 5.93 in the same period.



Monetary Operations

Between **July 20 and July 25**, the Central Reserve Bank made the following operations:

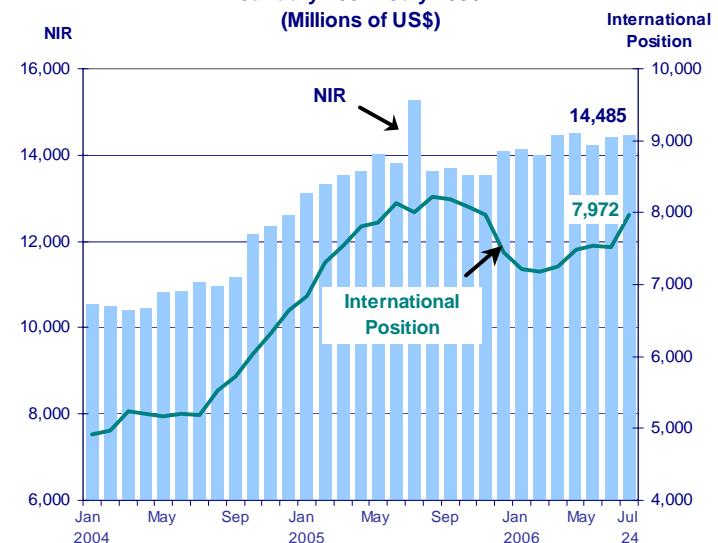
- Auctions of temporary purchases of BCRP and BTP Certificates of Deposits with 1-day, 3-day, 1-week, and 2-week maturities for a daily average of S/. 806.3 million. The average interest rate of these securities fluctuated between 4.47 and 4.65 percent, and

ii) Purchases of foreign currency for a total of US\$ 81.5 million at an average exchange rate of S/. 3.240 per dollar.

International Reserves: US\$ 14,485 million

By July 24, net international reserves (NIRs) reached US\$ 14,485 million, increasing US\$ 70 million with respect to the level NIRs posted at the close of June. This evolution is mainly due to over the counter purchases of foreign currency (US\$ 562 million), to higher Public Sector deposits (US\$ 128 million), and greater investment yield (US\$ 23 million). However, this outcome was partially offset by lower deposits from the financial system (US\$ 528 million), payment of the external debt (US\$ 120 million), and lower prices of gold (US\$ 30 million). So far this year, NIRs have recorded a growth of US\$ 388 million.

International Reserve and International Position of the BCRP
January 2004 - July 2006
(Millions of US\$)

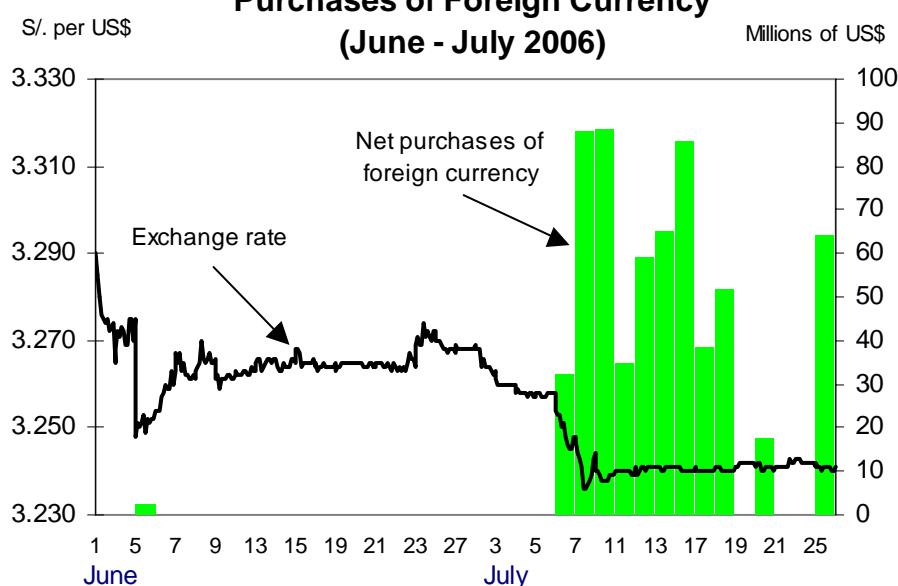


In the same period, the Central Bank's **international position** (US\$ 7,972 million) increased US\$ 447 million with respect to June, and US\$ 522 million with respect to the close of 2005.

Average exchange rate at S/. 3.24 per U.S. dollar

On July 25, the ask price of the interbank exchange rate closed at S/. 3.241 per dollar, which represented a 0.7 percent appreciation of the nuevo sol with respect to the end of June. During the week, this exchange rate was stable. The Central Bank intervened in the exchange market buying a total of US\$ 82 million. So far this month, the BCRP has bought US\$ 625.5 million.

Interbank Ask- Exchange Rate and Net Purchases of Foreign Currency
(June - July 2006)



Mercados Internacionales

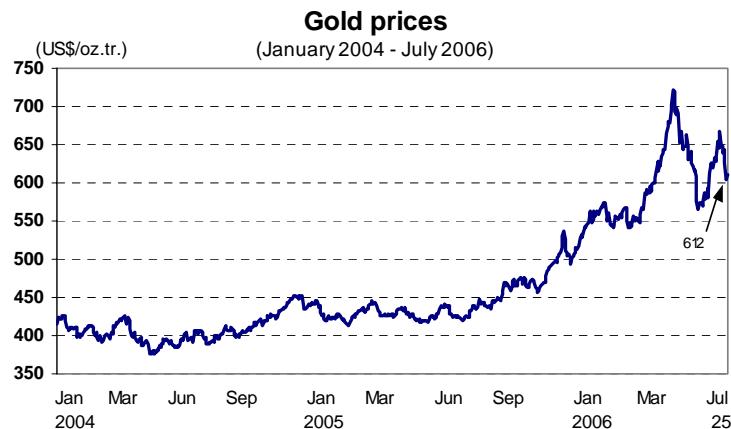
Country risk dropped to 144 basis points

In July 18 -25, the country risk measured by the **EMBI+ Peru** spread, dropped from 168 to 144 basis points, one of the lowest levels logged since February. Among other factors, this positive result was due to the greater credibility vis-à-vis both the management of the new economic program and the implementation of reforms. Another factor explaining this evolution is the adequate climate for the transition to a new administration, which is supported by the positive performance of economic fundamentals.



Metal prices drop due to greater geopolitical tensions

In July 18 - 25, the quotation of **gold** decreased 5.4 percent and fell from US\$ 646.9 to US\$ 611.7 per troy ounce, due to the reversion of early gains during the week as a result of renewed expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise its interest rates at its August meeting. In addition, gold futures slipped as U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in the Middle East to try to resolve the conflict between Israel and Lebanon.



In this same period, the price of **copper** decreased 5.8 percent, falling from US\$ 3.62 to US\$ 3.41 per pound. This decline was associated with the drop in China's imports, as a result of Chinese consumers' using stockpiled metal. During the week, copper supply was favored by the fact that workers at Cananea, the biggest copper mine in Mexico, returned to work after a strike that had begun on June 1..



However, supply problems appear to give a good support to the copper market, given that workers of BHP Billiton's mine La Escondida prepare to strike in order to improve their wages, and supply of the metal was cut by a rockslide at the Chuquicamata mine, owned by Codelco, the world's largest copper producer.

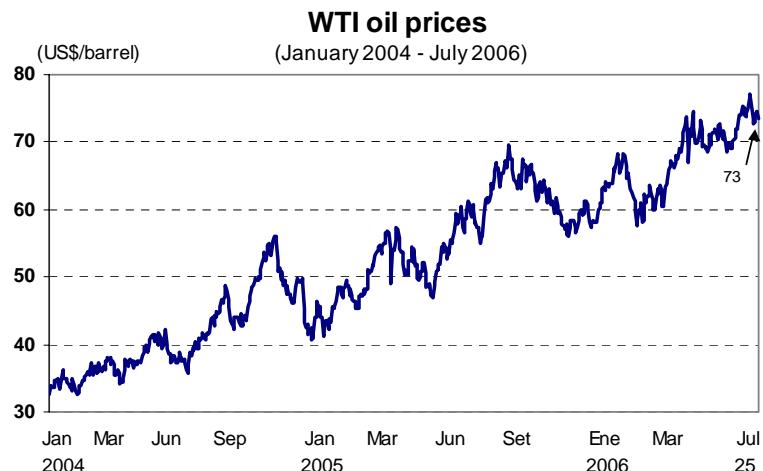
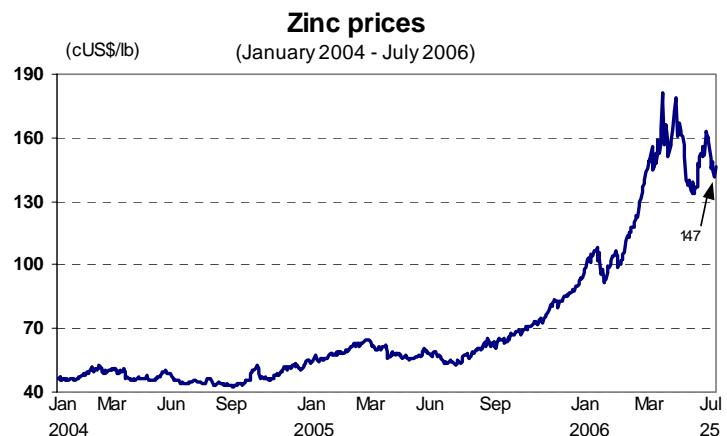
In the week of July 18 - 25, the price of **zinc** also fell 2.6 percent, and decreased from US\$ 1.51 to US\$ 1.47 per pound, due to the current geopolitical problems that have increased expectations of a lower global growth and, therefore, of a decline in the demand for basic metals.

On the supply side, Teck Cominco Ltd's reported a higher production of refined zinc in the second quarter. Production of refined zinc has reached a total of 72,800 MT, whereas last year's production totaled 71,400 MT.

In addition, reports show that miner Compañía Minera Volcan SAA had increased by 7.2 percent its second-quarter production of this metal.

In the week of analysis, the **WTI oil** price decreased slightly (0.2 percent) to US\$ 73.40 per barrel, due to speculation that the conflict between Lebanon and Israel will not spread in the Middle East, source of about a third of the world's oil, and affect prices.

During this week, the moderate reaction of economic agents was influenced by reports to be released by the U.S. Department of Energy on July 28, according to which fuel inventories are above average levels this year.

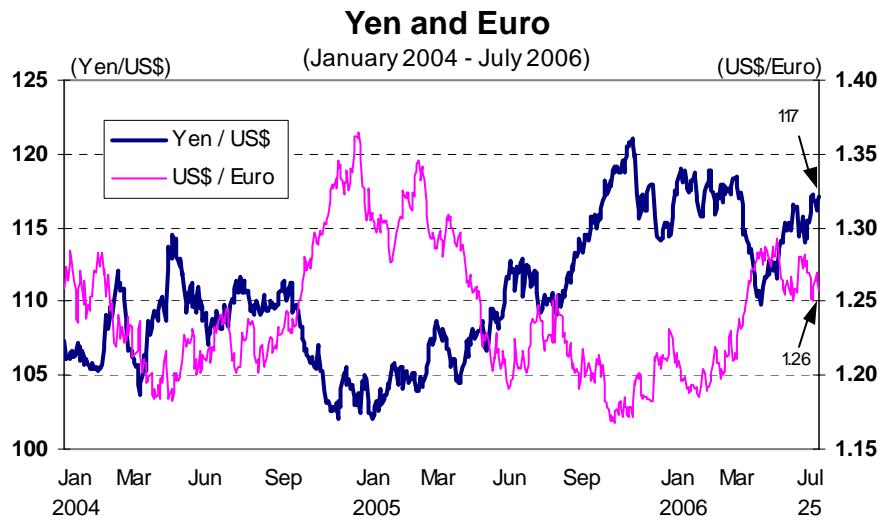


However, expectations that the price of crude will increase were reinforced by the problems caused by a fire in the refinery of Amuary, Venezuela, which forced the plant to close for five months, as well as by the proximity of the hurricane period in the North Atlantic region which has generated a permanent alert in the Gulf of Mexico, the area that supplies 12 percent of U.S. oil production.

Dollar depreciates against the euro and the yen.

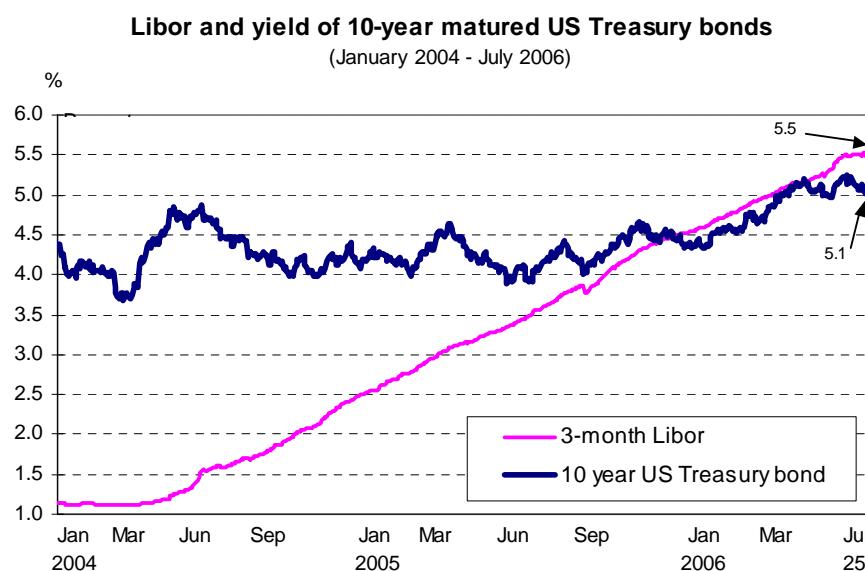
In the week of analysis, the dollar depreciated 0.6 percent against the **euro** and 0.1 percent against the **yen**. Early this week, the dollar had appreciated against these other currencies given concerns that a lower pace of global growth and the Middle East conflicts might drive funds away from emerging markets towards other dollar-denominated assets involving lower risks, reflecting the "flight to quality effect". In addition, the euro appreciated after the confidence

index on business in France posted one of its highest levels in the past five years, thus generating greater expectations the European Central Bank will raise its interest rates in its meeting of August 3 and probably by the end of the same month.



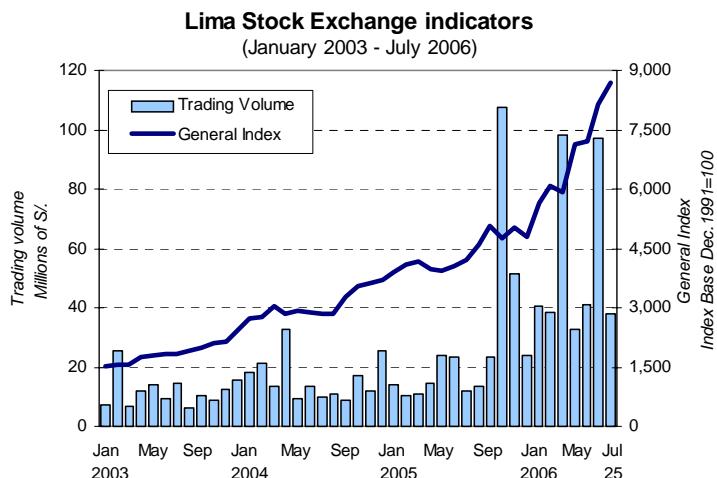
Yield of US Treasuries decreases to 5.07 percent.

From July 18 to 25, the **3-month Libor** decreased from 5.50 to 5.49 percent, and continued to be above the yield of the **US Treasuries with a 10-year maturity**, which decreased from 5.13 to 5.07 percent. The yield of the US Treasuries decreased amid declarations of the Governor of the Federal Reserve who stated that the FED is expecting a slower economic pace to revert the acceleration of inflation, thus generating higher expectations that the FED will not continue with its policy of raising interest rates. This decrease was also associated with two other factors: the rise in the price of oil and the escalate of violence between Israel and the Hezbollah, both of which have contributed to make agents look for safer assets, such as U.S. Treasuries, thus increasing their price and reducing their yield.



Lima Stock Exchange rose to 6.5 percent by July 25

In the week of analysis, the **General** and **Blue Chip** indices of the Lima Stock Exchange (LSE) increased 6.5 percent and 8.2 percent respectively. This positive evolution in the LSM resulted from the gains of some companies during the second quarter, but was offset by agents' greater caution given that the new administration, led by president-elect Alan García, will come to office on July 28.



So far this year, the **General** and **Blue Chip** indices have recorded a growth of 80.9 and 94.1 percent respectively.

Resumen de Indicadores Económicos / Summary of Economic Indicators

** Incluye depósitos de Promecipri, Fondo de Estabilización Fiscal (FEF), Cofide, fondos administrados por la ONP; y otros depósitos del MEF. El detalle se presenta en el cuadro No.22 de la Nota Semanal.

*** A partir del 7 de abril de 2006, esta tasa se elevó a 5,0%

*** Las tasas de interés para los créditos de regulación monetaria en dólares serán a la tasa Libor a un mes más un punto porcentual.

Fuente: BCRP, INEI, Banco de la Nación, BVL, Sunat, SBS, Reuters y Bloomberg.

Elaboración: Departamento de Publicaciones.