



Banco Central de Reserva del Perú

Weekly Economic Report N° 18

May 2, 2008

Indicators

- ↗ NIRs totaled US\$ 35,559 million on April 29
- ↗ Average interbank interest rate at 5.37 percent on April
- ↗ Exchange: S/. 2.852 per dollar on April 30
- ↘ Average country risk at 182 bps on April
- ↗ Lima Stock Exchange increases 0.3 percent on April 30

Content

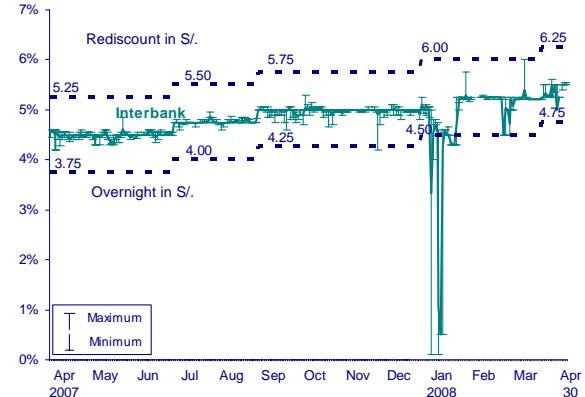
- Average interbank interest rate: 5.37 percent on April
- Corporate prime rate in nuevos soles decreased to 6.28 percent
- International reserves totaled US\$ 35,559 million on April 29
- Exchange rate: S/. 2.852 per dollar
- Average country risk at 182 basis points on April
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International Reserve and International Position of the BCRP
January 2006 - April 2008
(Millions of US\$)



Interest Rates in Domestic Currency
(April 2007 - April 2008)



Our website

<http://www.bcrp.gob.pe>

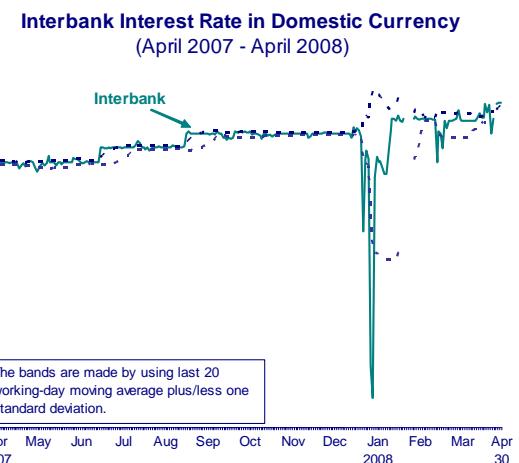
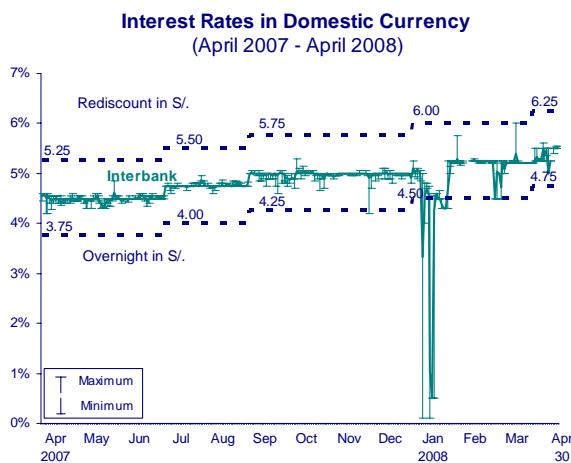
- Weekly Report N° 18-2008
- Informative note on the Monetary Program: April 2008. BCRP raises reference interest rate from 5.25% to 5.50% and raises reserve requirement rates
- International Reserves Management: March 2008
- Inflation Report: Recent trends and macroeconomic forecasts - January 2008
- Working papers N° 2008-003: ¿Can Peru be a New Economic Miracle?
- Monetary Policy in a Dual Currency Environment
- Quarterly Charts

resumen informativo

Average interbank interest rate: 5.37 percent on April

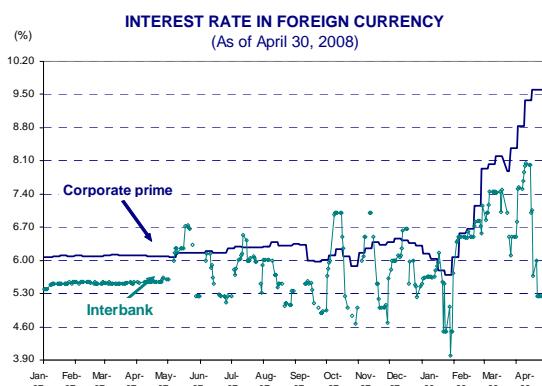
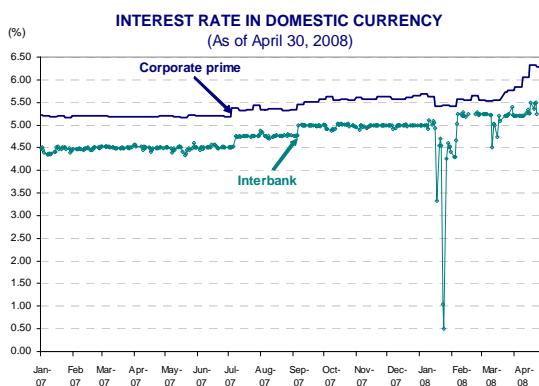
The average interbank interest rate in domestic currency on April was 5.37 percent, higher than the average rate seen in March (5.21 percent). **Between April 23 and 30**, this rate increased from 5.50 to 5.51 percent

	<u>Average</u>	<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
september	4.97	0.10
November	4.99	0.03
December	4.99	0.02
January 2008	4.44	1.24
February	5.02	0.36
March	5.21	0.21
April	5.37	0.13



Corporate prime rate in nuevos soles decreased to 6.28 percent

Between **April 23 and 30**, the daily average of the 90-day corporate prime rate in domestic currency decreased from 6.32 to 6.28 percent. However, this rate in dollars increased from 9.60 to 9.61 percent.



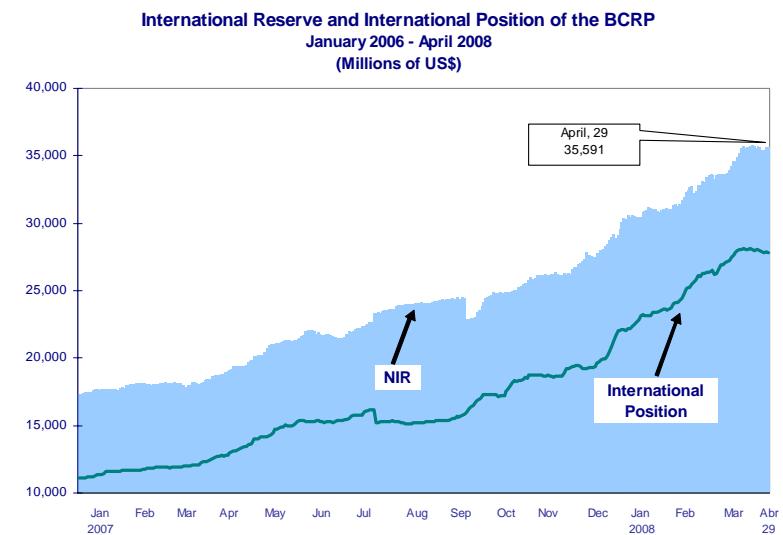
Monetary operations

Between **April 23 and 30**, the Central Bank made the following monetary operations: i) auctions of 1-day, 2-day, 3-day, 1 week, 1-month, and 3-month, BCRP Certificates of Deposit Subject to Limited Negotiation for a daily average of S/. 4,354.1 million. The interest on these operations, which amounted to S/. 19,612.4 million, is 5.52 percent; ii) overnight deposits in domestic currency for a total of S/. 1,016.1 million, and iii) sales of foreign currency to the Public Treasury for a total of US\$ 30 million.

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International reserves totaled US\$ 35,559 million on April 29

Net international reserves (NIRs), which increased by US\$ 1,983 million compared to end March and increased US\$ 7,871 billion compared to the close of 2007, amounted to US\$ **35,559** million on **April 29**. This increase in the balance of NIRs during April is mainly explained by BCRP exchange operations (US\$ 1,320 million), by higher deposits of the financial system (US\$ 1,217 million), by public sector's higher deposits (US\$ 19 million), and by a higher investment yield (US\$ 16 million). This increase was partially offset by lower valuation of other securities (US\$ 329 million), and by the sale of foreign currency debt payment (US\$ 230 million),



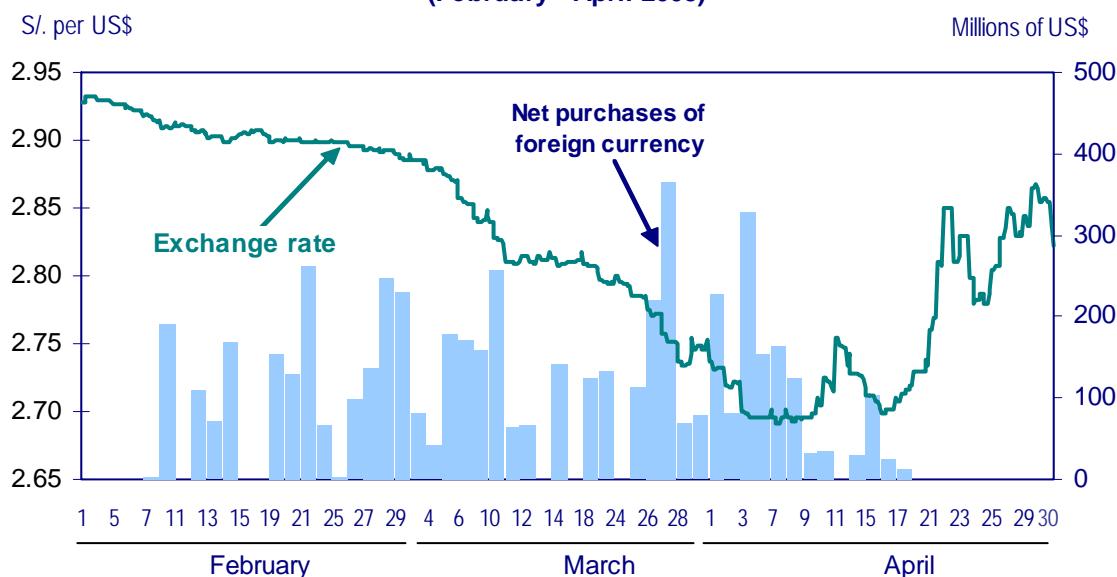
Moreover, the international position of the BCRP on **April 29** was US\$ **27,834** million, a sum US\$ 771 million higher than the one observed at end March.

Exchange rate: S/. 2.852 per dollar

Between **April 23 and 30**, the average ask price of the interbank exchange rate increased from S/. 2.794 to S/. 2.852 per dollar, as a result of which the nuevo sol depreciated 3.73 percent compared to end March. In this period, the Central bank didn't intervene in the exchange market.

INTERBANK ASK- EXCHANGE RATE AND NET PURCHASES OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

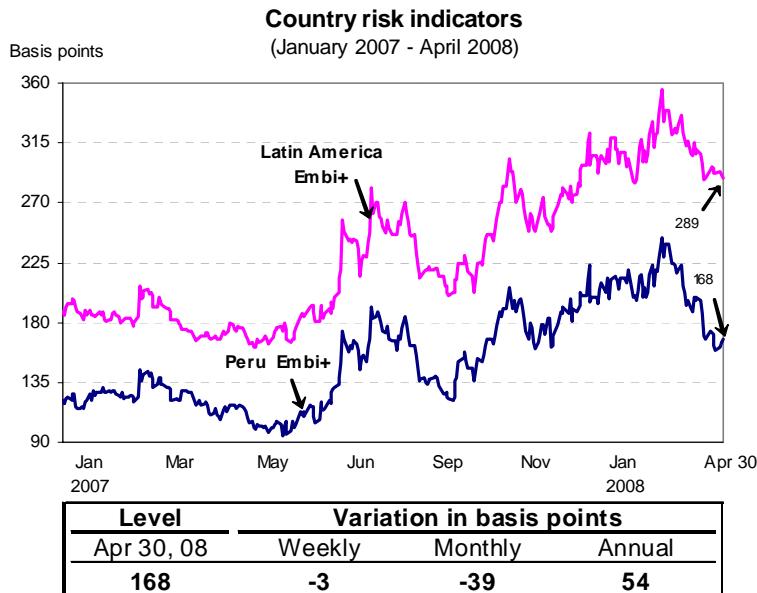
(February - April 2008)



International Market

Average country risk at 182 basis points on April

In April, the average country risk indicator, measured by the **EMBI+ Peru** spread, decreased from 221 to 182 basis points showing a similar conduct to the one observed in the region (the EMBI+ Latin America decreased from 325 to 302 basis points). The country risk in Peru was favored by the fact that Fitch Ratings assigned an investment grade to Peru's external debt at the beginning on April (Fitch Ratings increased the rating assigned to Peru's debt in foreign currency from "BB+" to "BBB-"). The lower of risk appetite among investors due to the increase in price assets in US was another positive factor in the shortest spread.

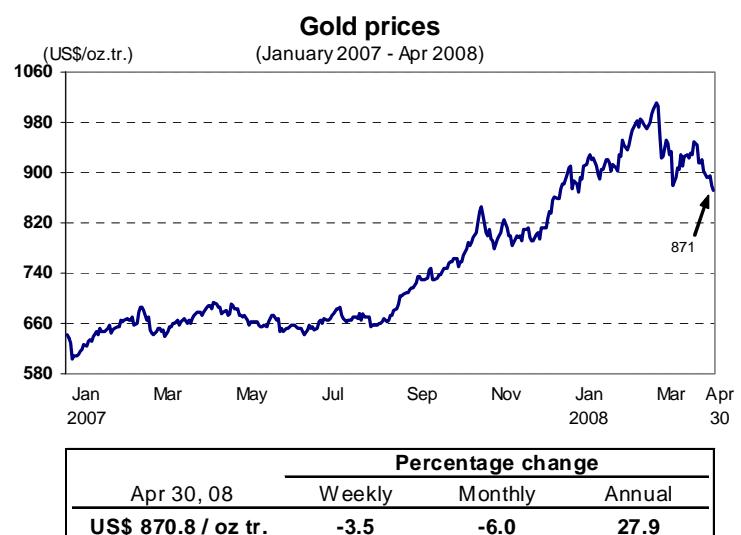


Average price of Copper rose to US\$ 3.94 per pound in April

In April, the average price of **copper** increased from US\$ 3.83 to US\$ 3.94 per pound (2.9 percent), driven by the greater weakening of the dollar (despite of the appreciation of last week) and the concern about copper production since three producing units of the Chilean state-owned company Codelco, continuous with the strike. However, a report elaborated by the International Copper Study Group that indicated that world copper production exceeded to consumption in 85 thousand MT during 2008 partially offset the increase in the price of copper.



In April, the average price of **gold** decreased from US\$ 968.1 to US\$ 910.5 per ounce troy (6.0 percent) due to the rebound of the dollar against the yen which encouraged operators to settle part of their gold holdings and the possible sale of part of the gold reserve of the IMF. But, record oil prices increased the attractiveness of gold as a hedge against inflation and prevented a greater drop in price.

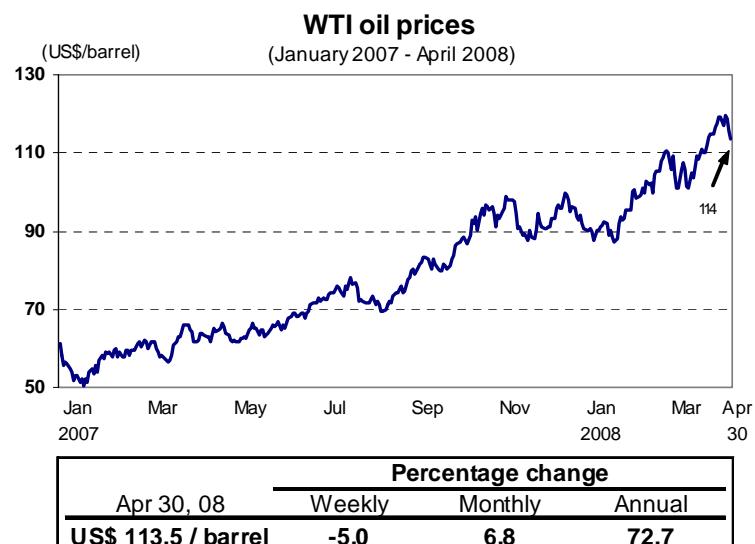


resumen informativo

In **April**, the average price of **zinc** showed a 9.9 percent fall when the price of this metal decreased from US\$ 1.14 to US\$ 1.03 per pound. This result was influenced by lower level of world inventories and by expectations of lower consumption and an expansion of the production capacity in China. Nevertheless, a report by the ILZSG that predicts an increase in global demand for zinc by about 5.2 percent of 11.8 million MT for 2008 limited the largest drop in the price of the commodity.

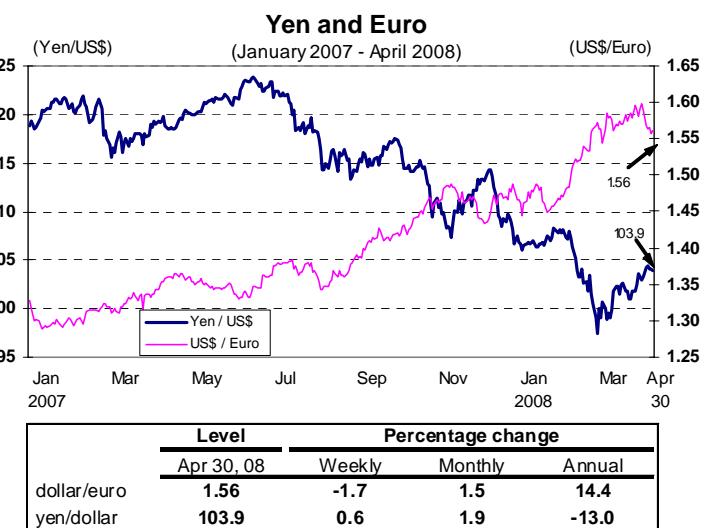


In **April**, the average price of **WTI oil** increased 6.8 percent, from US\$ 105.5 to US\$ 112.6 per barrel. This increase was influenced by the weakness of the dollar against the euro, the OPEC's position of not increasing its production quota, the interruption of supply in Nigeria and the North Sea, and the rising tensions between the US and Iran. This result was partially offset by fears of an economic slowdown in China and an increase in the availability of crude in the United States.



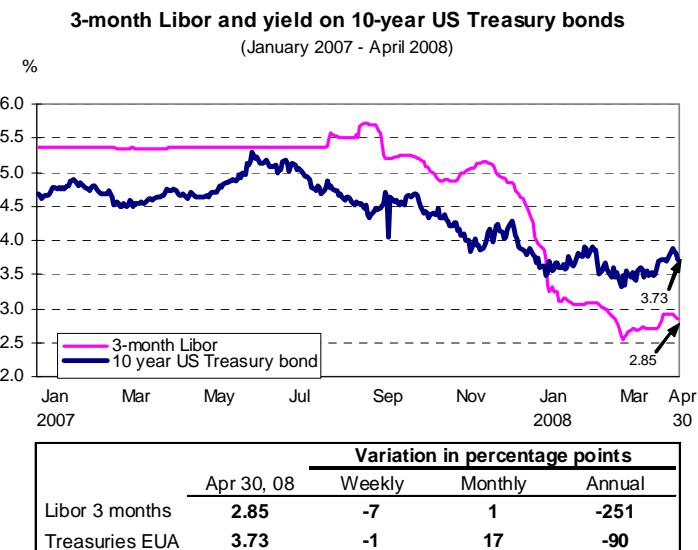
Dollar depreciated on average against the euro in April

On average, the dollar depreciated 1.5 percent against the **euro** in **April**, due to the high inflation in the Eurozone confirmed the outlook for the European Central Bank will not cut its interest rates in the near future. Regarding the yen, the dollar appreciated 1.9 percent by the continuing carry trade operations amid lower risk aversion by the increase in U.S. shares due to the earnings reported by an investment bank.



Yield on 10-year US Treasuries increased to 3.65 percent on average in April

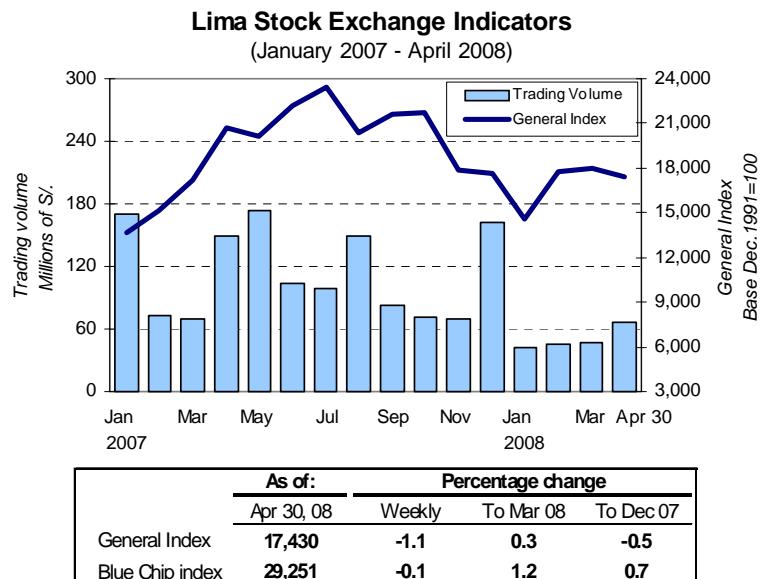
On average, the **3-month Libor** increased from 2.78 to 2.79 percent and the yield on the **10-year US Treasury bond** increased from 3.48 to 3.65 percent in **April**. In the case of the Treasury bond, this increase was explained by an increase in the stock market that reduced the attractiveness of Treasury securities, because the investors feel more confident of the outcomes of corporate earnings, which until now, have not showed negative surprises. The corporate earnings above the expected in US encouraged investors to take positions in the US Stock Market.



Lima Stock Exchange increased 0.3 percent in April

In **April**, the **General** and **Blue Chip** indices of the Lima Stock Exchange (LSE) increased 0.3 and 1.2 percent respectively, influenced by the favorable expectations on financial reports for the first quarter of firms listed on the local stock market, and by the fact that Fitch Ratings assigned an investment grade to Peru.

However, the fall in mining shares influenced by the lower price of base metals, such as zinc, was a factor that influenced negatively on the indexes.



Year-to-date, the General index of the LSE have accumulated losses of -0.5 percent, while the Blue Chip index have accumulated gains of 0.7 percent.

Resumen de Indicadores Económicos / Summary of Economic Indicators

* Incluye depósitos de Promcepri, Fondo de Estabilización Fiscal (FEF), Cofide, fondos administrados por la ONP; y otros depósitos del MEF. El detalle se presenta en el cuadro No.24 de la Nota Semanal.

*** A partir del 18 de enero, el BCRP utiliza los depósitos a plazo en moneda nacional como instrumento monetario.

***** Las tasas de interés para los créditos de regulación monetaria

***** 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 incluido 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+ PERU a partir del 29 de setiembre.

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

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Elaboración: Departamento de Publicaciones Económicas.

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30/04/08