Economist: Fikri C Permana Email: fikri.permana@kbvalbury.com

BI Rate Stayed at 6.00%, but Room for Cuts Remains Open

Bank Indonesia (BI) continues to adopt a pro-stability policy stance by maintaining the BI rate at 6.00% (Cons: 6.00%, KBVS: 5.75%, Prev: 6.00%). We believe this decision triggered by BI's concern on potential Rupiah volatility in the coming period, despite the central bank's aggressive optimization of various monetary policies to attract foreign portfolio investments. Furthermore, we explicitly see this decision is driven by, firstly, BI's concern about the risks stemming from potential uncertainties in global trade and supply chains, which could impact global economic growth (real sector) and capital flows as a result of the imposition of Trump's tariffs and retaliatory measures prepared by various countries. For instance, China's recent export ban on Gallium, Germanium, and Antimony, which was implemented on Dec 3, '24, is one such concern. Secondly, another risk arises from the hawkish stance likely to be adopted by the Federal Reserve, even though the Fed rate is expected to decline. Consequently, BI's concern about volatility is reflected in expectations of the UST2Y yield reaching 4.5% in 2025 and the UST10Y yield reaching 4.7% by the end of 2025, alongside concerns over a continued rise in the DXY.

In this RDG, BI also provided a statement regarding the coordination of policies between BI and the Ministry of Finance in 2025. Coordination between BI and the Ministry of Finance includes: a) the planned issuance of SBN and monetary operations for 2025, which has been discussed by both BI and the Ministry of Finance, and b) BI's agreement to continue purchasing SBN in the secondary market, potentially in greater quantities (possibly exceeding IDR150 tn), compared to the IDR100 tn in burden-sharing SBN maturing. However, the detailed implementation of the coordination between BI and the Ministry of Finance will be finalized soon.

With the BI rate held steady at 6.00% over the past four months, while we expect the Federal Reserve will cut its rate by 25 bps tonight, the interest rate differential will be widened to 150 bps. At the same time, we expect the yield spread between the SUN10Y and the US10Y bond to widen further to 275 bps, potentially leading to appreciation in the Rupiah in the financial markets.

However, the cautious sentiment demonstrated by BI signals a careful and *wait-and-see* approach in the financial markets. That said, we anticipate that demand-side support from the real sector will serve as a fundamental driver for the Rupiah going forward, in line with the increase in the trade surplus in Nov '24, which reached USD4.42 bn (Prev: USD2.47 bn), the potential narrowing of the current account deficit in 4Q24, and further support for economic growth. This is also supported by inflation rate, both actual and expectations, remaining well-anchored at 2.5% (+/- 1%). As such, BI still has ample room to lower rates in 2025 from the real sector perspective, with a note of Rupiah stability must also be maintained.

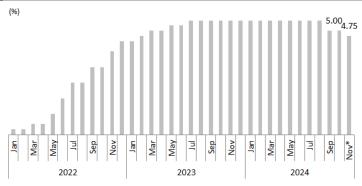
Table 1. Interest Rate Data

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Indicators	18-De Latest	c-24 M-1	Monthly Changes	Ytd Changes (in bps)			
			(in bps)	(5,57			
	Policy I	Rate (in %)					
United States	4.75	4.75	0.0	(75.0)			
European Union	3.15	3.40	(25.0)	(135.0)			
United Kingdom	4.75	4.75	0.0	(50.0)			
Japan	0.25	0.25	0.0	35.0			
China	3.10	3.10	0.0	(35.0)			
India	6.50	6.50	0.0	0.0			
Thailand	2.25	2.25	0.0	(25.0)			
Philippines	6.00	6.00	0.0	(50.0)			
Indonesia	6.00	6.00	0.0	0.0			

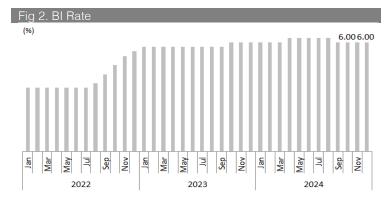
Global Monetary Policy Change (in number of countries)							
Easing	2	7					
Unchanged	15	10					
Tightening	14	0					
Averag	e Internatio	nal Interest	Rate (in %)				
USD LIBOR -1 Month	4.96	4.96	0.0	(45.0)			
USD LIBOR -3 Months	4.85	4.85	0.0	(75.6)			
USD LIBOR -6 Months	4.68	4.68	0.0	(117.8)			
Domestic Interbank Money Market (in %)							
INDONIA	6.12	6.30	(18.3)	11.9			
JIBOR - 1 Month	6.63	6.80	(17.5)	23.9			
JIBOR - 3 Months	6.92	7.08	(16.2)	16.6			
JIBOR - 6 Months	7.05	7.20	(15.0)	18.1			
JIBOR - 12 Months	7.20	7.36	(15.3)	15.3			

Sources : Each Central Bank and GlobalRates - treated (2024)

Fig 1. Fed Rate



Source: The Fed - treated (2024)



Source: Bank Indonesia - treated (2024)

Indonesia Macro Update

18 December 2024



Table 2. Fed Rate Probabilities,	as of 18 Dec '24
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MEETING DATE		MEETING PROBABILITIES						
	275-300	300-325	325-350	350-375	375-400	400-425	425-450	450-475
18-Dec-24	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.4%	4.6%
29-Jan-25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.3%	79.9%	3.8%
19-Mar-25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.6%	50.0%	39.6%	1.8%
30-Apr-25	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%	19.2%	47.3%	30.0%	1.3%
18-Jun-25	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	8.0%	28.7%	41.4%	20.2%	0.9%
30-Jul-25	0.0%	0.1%	2.2%	12.0%	31.2%	37.3%	16.4%	0.7%
17-Sep-25	0.0%	0.6%	4.2%	16.1%	32.5%	32.9%	13.1%	0.6%
17-Sep-25	0.1%	1.1%	6.0%	18.5%	32.6%	29.9%	11.3%	0.5%

Source : CME Group - treated (2024)

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★ KB Valbury Sekuritas Head Office

Sahid Sudirman Center 41st Floor Unit A=C
Jalan Jenderal Sudirman No. 86 Kelurahan Karet Tengsin,
Kecamatan Tanah Abang, Jakarta Pusat 10220, Indonesia
T. (021) 25098300

Branch Office

Jakarta – Sudirman

Sahid Sudirman Center 41st Floor Unit A-C Jalan Jenderal Sudirman No, 86 Karet Tengsin, Tanah Abang, Jakarta Pusat 10220 T. (021) 25098300/501

Bandung

Jl, Abdul Rivai No, 1A, Kel, Pasirkaliki, Kec, Cicendo Bandung 40171 T. (022) 3003133

Palembang

Komplek PTC Mall Blok I No, 7 Jl, R, Sukamto Palembang 30114 T, (0711) 2005050

Semarang

JI, Gajahmada 23A, Kecamatan Semarang Tengah, Kelurahan Kembang Sari 50241 T. (024) 40098080

Pontianak

Jl, Prof, M Yamin No. 14 Kotabaru, Pontianak Selatan Kalimantan Barat 78116 T. (0561) 8069000

Jakarta - Kelapa Gading

Rukan Plaza Pasifik
Jl. Boulevard Barat Raya Blok A1 No. 10
Jakarta Utara 14240
T. (021) 29451577

Malang

Jl, Pahlawan Trip No, 7 Malang 65112 T. (0341) 585888

Surabaya

Pakuwon Center Lt 21 Jl, Embong Malang No.1 Surabaya 60261 T. (031) 21008080

Makassar

Komplek Ruko Citraland City Losari Business Park, Blok B2 No, 09 Jl. Citraland Boulevard Makassar 90111 T. (0411) 6000818

Jakarta - Puri Indah

Rukan Grand Aries Niaga Blok E1 No, IV Jl, Taman Aries, Kembangan Jakarta Barat 11620 T. (021) 22542390

Baniarmasin

Jl, Gatot Subroto No, 33 Banjarmasin 70235 T. (0511) 3265918

Padang

Jl, Proklamasi No, 60A Padang Timur 25121 T. (0751) 8688080

Medan

Komplek Golden Trade Center Jl, Jenderal Gatot Subroto No, 18-19 Medan 20112 T. (061) 50339090

Jakarta - Pluit

JI, Pluit Putra Raya No. 2 Jakarta Utara 14450 T. (021) 6692119

Pekanbaru

JI, Tuanku Tambusai, Komplek CNN Blok A No, 3 Pekanbaru 28291 T. (0761) 839393

Yogyakarta

Jl, Magelang KM 5,5 No, 75 Yogyakarta 55000 T. (0274) 8099090

Denpasar

JI, Teuku Umar No. 177 Komplek Ibis Styles Hotel Denpasar Bali 80114 T. (0361) 225229

Investment Gallery

Jakarta

Citra Garden 6 Ruko Sixth Avenue Blok J.1 A/18, Cengkareng Jakarta Barat 11820 T. (021) 52392181

Tangerang

Ruko Aniva Junction Blok D No. 32 Gading Serpong, Tangerang, Banten 15334 T. (021) 35293147

Semarang Jl. Jati Raya No. D6, Srondol Wetan, Banyumanik, Semarang 50263 T. (024) 8415195

Salatiga

Jl. Diponegoro No. 68 Salatiga 50711 T. (0298) 313007

Solo

Jl. Ronggowarsito No. 34 Surakarta 57118 T. (0271) 3199090

Jambi

Jl. Orang Kayo Hitam No. 48 B Jambi Timur 36123 T. (0741) 3068533

