

Monthly Economic Review March 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Key Indicators Point to Economic resilience coupled with macroeconomic stability at end of FY 2023-24: NCAER

New Delhi: Key markers point to the Indian economy remaining buoyant at the end of FY 2023-24 with Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) for manufacturing increasing and that of services maintaining a robust trend, according to the Monthly Economic Review for March, released by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Sunday.

The PMI for manufacturing activity increased to 56.9 in February, reflecting a strong expansionary momentum. Growth in the output of eight key infrastructure sectors rose to a three-month high of 6.7 percent in February from 4.1 percent in January 2024.

GST collections too remained buoyant, reaching a value of Rs. 1.7 lakh crore in February, registering a year-on-year growth of 12.5 percent. Collections of GST E-way bills marked an equally impressive year-on-year growth of 18.9 percent.

Bank credit growth remained strong at 20.5 percent with robust growth for personal loans, services, and agriculture and allied activities.

"These and other markers corroborate the optimistic growth outlook of 7.6 percent growth rate for FY 2023-24 as per the Second Advance Estimates," said NCAER Director General Dr Poonam Gupta.

"As in the past economic growth has been accompanied by indicators pointing toward macroeconomic sustainability," Dr Gupta said, pointing out that the external sector, in particular, improved with the Current Account Deficit (for Q3 FY2023-24) moderating; remittances flow remaining high at USD 31.4 billion; services trade surplus increasing; portfolio inflows resuming; and all of this enabling a sharp increase in India's foreign exchange reserves to nearly \$650 billion.

Meanwhile, inflationary pressures remained elevated with Consumer Price Index headline inflation at 5.1 percent in February 2024, primarily due to high food price inflation and despite core inflation declining.

Strong growth combined with elevated inflation rates will likely result in a status quo on policy rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets on April 3-5, Dr Gupta added.

Media citations

- **Business Standard:** [Key indicators suggest economy remains buoyant at end of FY24: NCAER](#)
- **The Economic Times:** [Key indicators point to economic resilience at the end of FY24: NCAER](#)
- **The Hindu Business Line:** [NCAER predicts no change in policy rates as MPC gathers for April meeting](#)
- **Statesman:** [Key economic indicators show buoyancy at end of FY24: NCAER Report](#)
- **The Times of India:** [Key indicators point to economic resilience at the end of FY 24: NCAER](#)
- **The Week:** [Key indicators point to economic resilience at the end of FY24: NCAER](#)
- **Centre for Monitoring the Indian Economy :** [NCAER has a strong outlook for Indian economy in FY24](#)
- **Indiablooms:** [Key indicators point to economic resilience coupled with macroeconomic stability at end of FY 2023-24, says NCAER's March review](#)
- **PTI:** [Key indicators point to economic resilience at the end of FY24: NCAER](#)
- **Taxpublishers.in:** [Key indicators suggest economy remains buoyant at end of FY24: NCAER](#)