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BOB ECONOMICS RESEARCH | MONTHLY ECONOMIC BUFFET

Economic Round-up: Jun 2026

METALS & MINING | Q1FY27 PREVIEW

Higher Steel prices to drive profitability and support margins

REAL ESTATE (REITS) | Q1FY27 PREVIEW

Supportive macro-environment; set up for strong performance

SUMMARY

INDIA ECONOMICS: MONTHLY ECONOMIC BUFFET

The major highlight of the month has been the Jun'17 MoU between US and Iran centering 60-day negotiation period. This has resulted in major downward correction in international oil prices (declined by -21% in Jun'26 over May'26 and in Jul'26 as well trading at similar levels) with the resumption in traffic flows in the Strait of Hormuz. On macro front, US economy showed some stress from supply related disruption and higher inflation impinging on consumer demand. Labour market conditions also remained weaker. Elsewhere in Eurozone, macro indicators still held ground, in Japan and China, it remained mixed.

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METALS & MINING: Q1FY27 PREVIEW

- Demand momentum to continue with a likely 7.0-8.0%YoY growth, driven by strong demand from construction and auto sectors
- Steel pricing improved by 8.1%YoY and 6.7%QoQ. Costs went up to some extent owing to coking coal price
- Maintain BUY on Goodluck India; HOLD on JSW Steel, Jindal Steel, Tata Steel & Hindalco; and SELL on SAIL

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REAL ESTATE (REITS): Q1FY27 PREVIEW

- Record office absorption (~25msf, +22.2% YoY) and supply (~21msf, +22.8% YoY); preference for high-quality workspaces
- REITs well-placed to improve utilisation; higher occupancy (~92%, ~+350bps YoY) and avg. in-place rents (~Rs 91.7psf/m, ~+5.2% YoY)
- Improved utilisation and controlled interest expense likely to result in NDCF growth of ~+28% and DPU growth of ~12%

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MONTHLY ECONOMIC BUFFET

06 July 2026

Economic Round-up: Jun 2026

Dipanwita Mazumdar
Economist

The major highlight of the month has been the Jun'17 MoU between US and Iran centering 60-day negotiation period. This has resulted in major downward correction in international oil prices (declined by -21% in Jun'26 over May'26 and in Jul'26 as well trading at similar levels) with the resumption in traffic flows in the Strait of Hormuz. On macro front, US economy showed some stress from supply related disruption and higher inflation impinging on consumer demand. Labour market conditions also remained weaker. Elsewhere in Eurozone, macro indicators still held ground, in Japan and China, it remained mixed.

Global central banks broadly adopted wait and watch data dependent approach in their recent policies. New Fed Chair however reiterated its commitment towards bringing inflation back to the targeted 2% level. On domestic front, government and RBI took concerted effort to encourage foreign capital flows. The measures were holistic from tax rationalisation to FPIs, expanding the scope of FAR to encouraging flows through the FCNR (B) and ECB route. This has supported flows through the FAR which went up to US\$ 2.3 bn (net inflow) in Jun'26 and in Jul'26 as well the momentum is maintained at US\$ 301mn (upto 3rd Jul'26). However, monsoon holds the key how major economic activities will shape out in the coming days. Jun'26 has been a deficit situation, but the Jul situation is changing. Thus, the spatial distribution holds the cue for prices of major vegetable items especially Tomato, Onion and Potato, amongst other which are the most volatile items in the CPI basket.

Global central banks: Recent central bank official commentaries suggest a more data dependent wait and watch approach. ECB has been ahead of the curve in its Jun'26 policy meeting and went for a rate hike in anticipation of any second order impact of war related shocks. Fed, BoE and RBI stayed put. Fed policy tone remained hawkish with new Fed Chair emphasising on bringing back inflation to the targeted 2% level. He however, refrained from participating in the dot plot projections. The forward rates are not pricing in any rate action on Fed's part in the next 3-months at least. On domestic front, RBI's policy backdrop has changed completely as during the time of policy announcement crude was trading at US\$ 110/bbl (on 5 Jun 2026) and now there is considerable decline in crude prices to ~US\$ 72/bbl. Thus, coming few months are crucial. Any undershooting of RBI's inflation projection will further make RBI cautious before taking any call on rates. Only upside risks emanate from El Nino conditions which have already developed in the tropical Pacific as per World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) 3 Jul 2026 update.



METALS & MINING

Q1FY27 Preview

03 July 2026

Higher Steel prices to drive profitability and support margins

- Demand momentum to continue with a likely 7.0-8.0%YoY growth, driven by strong demand from construction and auto sectors
- Steel pricing improved by 8.1%YoY and 6.7%QoQ. Costs went up to some extent owing to coking coal price
- Maintain BUY on Goodluck India; HOLD on JSW Steel, Jindal Steel, Tata Steel & Hindalco; and SELL on SAIL

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Overall sector performance: Sector will likely show good volumes growth performance during Q1FY27E, with growth estimated to be 7-8%YoY. Pricing improved, with an increase of 8.1%YoY and 6.7%QoQ, helped by strong demand; leading to price hike. Costs likely to increase up to some extent due to coking coal price hike from USD190/t in Q1FY26 to USD235/t in Q1FY27E. Overall, our coverage universe of 4 steel companies will likely show revenue growth of 8.9%YoY and EBITDA growth of 21.9%YoY.

Pricing environment: Price of HRC steel for Q1FY27E averaged Rs57,200/t; higher by Rs3,900 from Rs53,300/t in Q1FY26 and higher by Rs3,577 from Rs53,623/t in Q4FY26. QoQ increase is by 6.7%. Improvement is on the back of strong demand that led to industry players taking price hikes during this period.

JSW Steel: Likely to see revenue growth of 1.8%YoY and EBITDA growth of 9.1%YoY. Volumes are likely to decline by 2.2%YoY. Numbers are not directly comparable as Q1FY27E excludes Bhushan Power & Steel volumes and financials, following its transfer to a JV in March 2026. Adj for BPSL volumes, growth is likely ~15%. EBITDA benefited from improved pricing, partly offset by higher coking coal costs. Consequently, EBITDA/t increased 11.6% YoY to Rs12,633.

Jindal Steel: Likely to see revenue growth of 15.8%YoY to be driven by incremental volumes from expanded capacity. Volume growth estimated at 14.5%YoY. Volumes likely to have declined QoQ due to impact of maintenance shutdown during the quarter. Pricing to see growth of 1.1%YoY and 5.7%QoQ.

Tata Steel: Likely to see revenue growth of 12.5%YoY, driven by volume growth in India aided by a low base. Q1FY26 has low volumes owing to maintenance shutdown. EBITDA growth of 38.3%YoY is on account of improved India profitability. Europe volumes are likely to be lower, given the fire incident in the UK.



Supportive macro-environment; set up for strong performance

- **Record office absorption (~25msf, +22.2% YoY) and supply (~21msf, +22.8% YoY); preference for high-quality workspaces**
- **REITs well-placed to improve utilisation; higher occupancy (~92%, ~+350bps YoY) and avg. in-place rents (~Rs 91.7psf/m, ~+5.2% YoY)**
- **Improved utilisation and controlled interest expense likely to result in NDCF growth of ~+28% and DPU growth of ~12%**

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Constructive Macro Environment: Over Q1FY27, ~24.6msf was absorbed (+22.2% YoY), with GCCs continuing to be the primary demand anchor (accounting for ~42% of total absorption). ~21msf (+22.8% YoY) of office space was delivered, with ~76% of the completions being green-certified assets (LEED or IGBC rated), in-line with occupiers' growing preference for high-quality workspaces. **Record absorption and a preference for Grade A office spaces continued to make for a supportive macro environment for demand to consolidate into REIT-managed properties.**

Expect utilisation to improve: Given the supportive macro environment, we believe REITs under our coverage are set to deliver average NOI growth of ~+41.2% (BIRET expected to outperform), on the back of improved average committed occupancy (~92%, ~+350bps YoY) and higher average in-place rents (~Rs 91.7psf/m, ~+5.2% YoY). As leasing momentum skews increasingly towards larger, high-quality workspaces, we believe **REITs are well-placed to capture leasing demand by GCCs and domestic enterprises, and expect REITs to report revenue growth on the back of improved utilisation of leasable area.**

Limited expansion in leasable area: In the absence of any material expansion in leasable area (except MINDSPACE) — we expect revenue growth driven by incremental space added to the portfolios to be limited, but continue to believe that expansion in leasable area remains key to driving DPU growth.

Lower cost of debt: As yields adjust lower (~100bps over FY27E-FY29E) reflecting easing tensions in West Asia and recent concessions by the RBI to attract foreign inflows — we expect REITs under our coverage to have benefitted from controlled interest expenses (limited impact on avg. cost of debt) and expect REITs to work towards re-financing a larger portion of their outstanding debt to lower fixed-rates.

DPU growth of ~+12.1% YoY: We expect REITs under our coverage to deliver NDCF growth of ~+27.8% YoY over Q1FY27, driven by improved utilisation and controlled interest expense, resulting in DPU growth of ~+12.1% YoY.



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BUY – Expected return >+15%

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Note: Recommendation structure changed with effect from 21 June 2021

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