

# China in 2020

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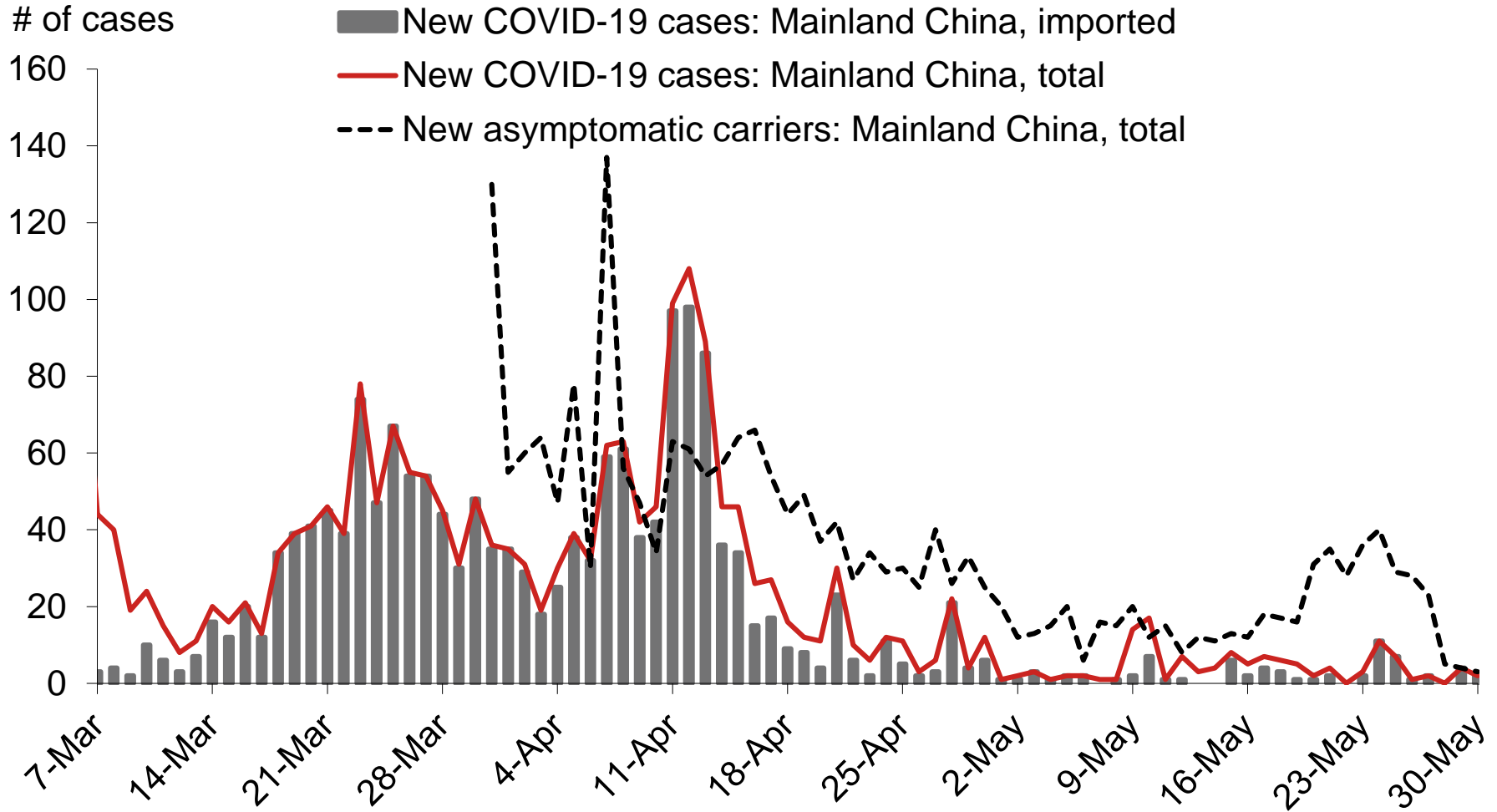
June 2020

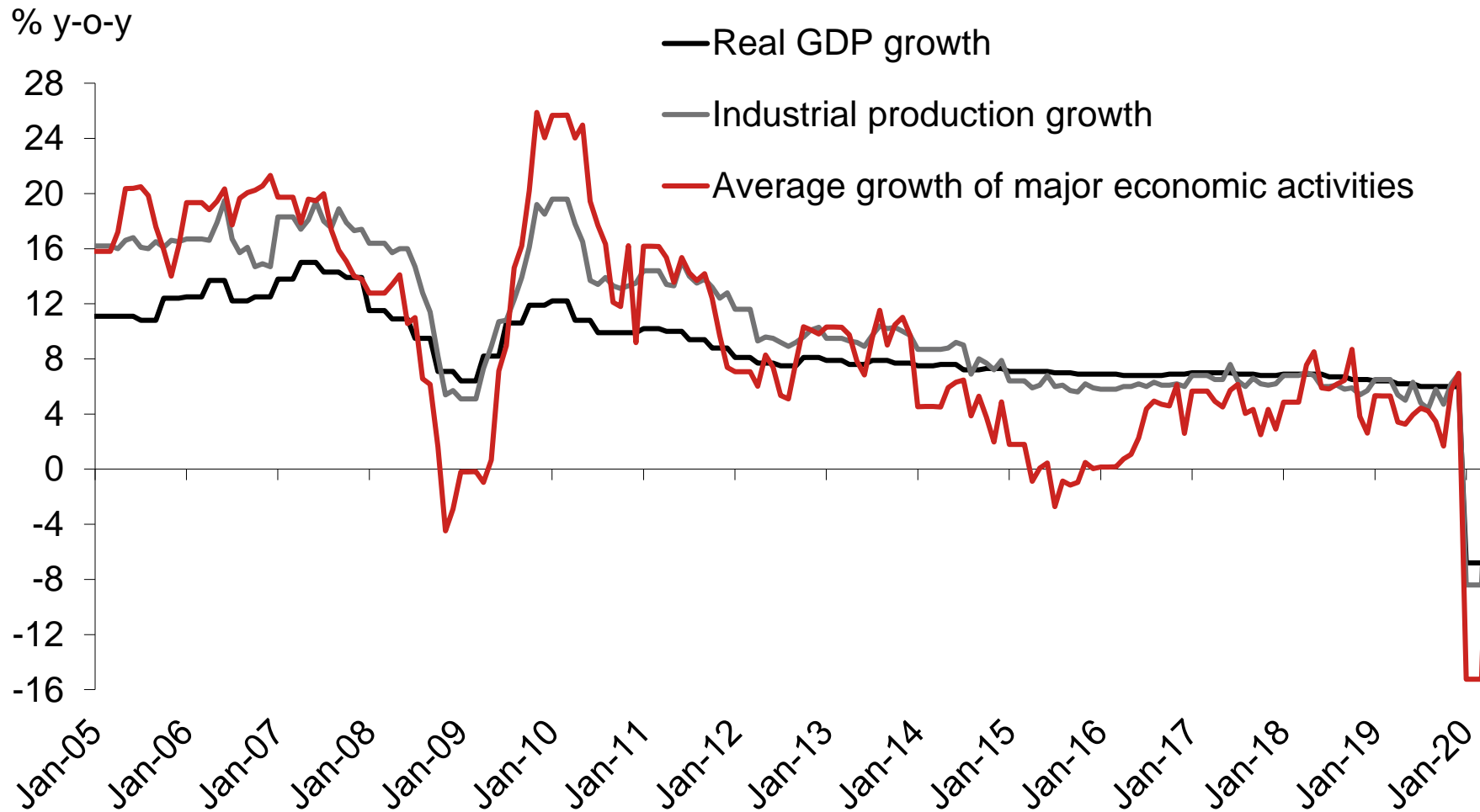
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- ❑ The Chinese economy is surely recovering, with mixed performance for different sectors.
  
- ❑ Beijing's policy package: Light on financial relief, heavy on infrastructure, and restraint on property.
  
- ❑ Strong headwinds are still there, big uncertainties still remain, and some new risks are on the rise.

# COVID-19 largely under control in China



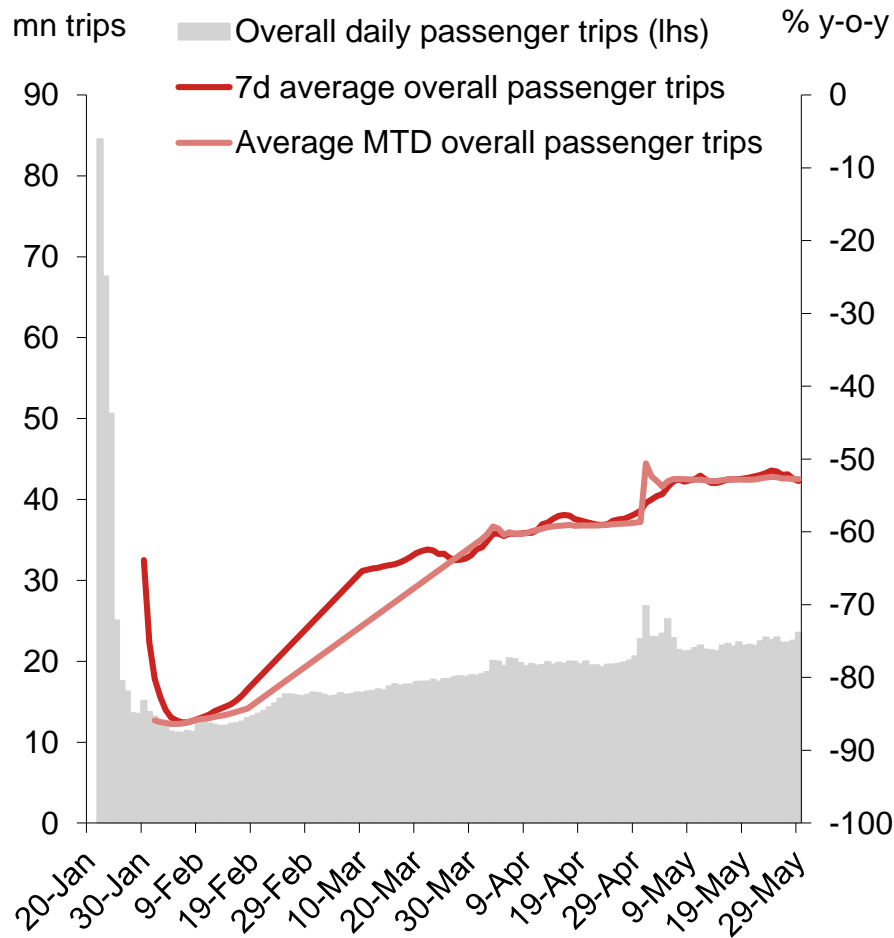


Note: "Average growth of major economic activities" refers to the average growth of steel product, cement, electricity and auto production, volume of freight, and real export, with time-varying weightings based on changes in the economic structure.

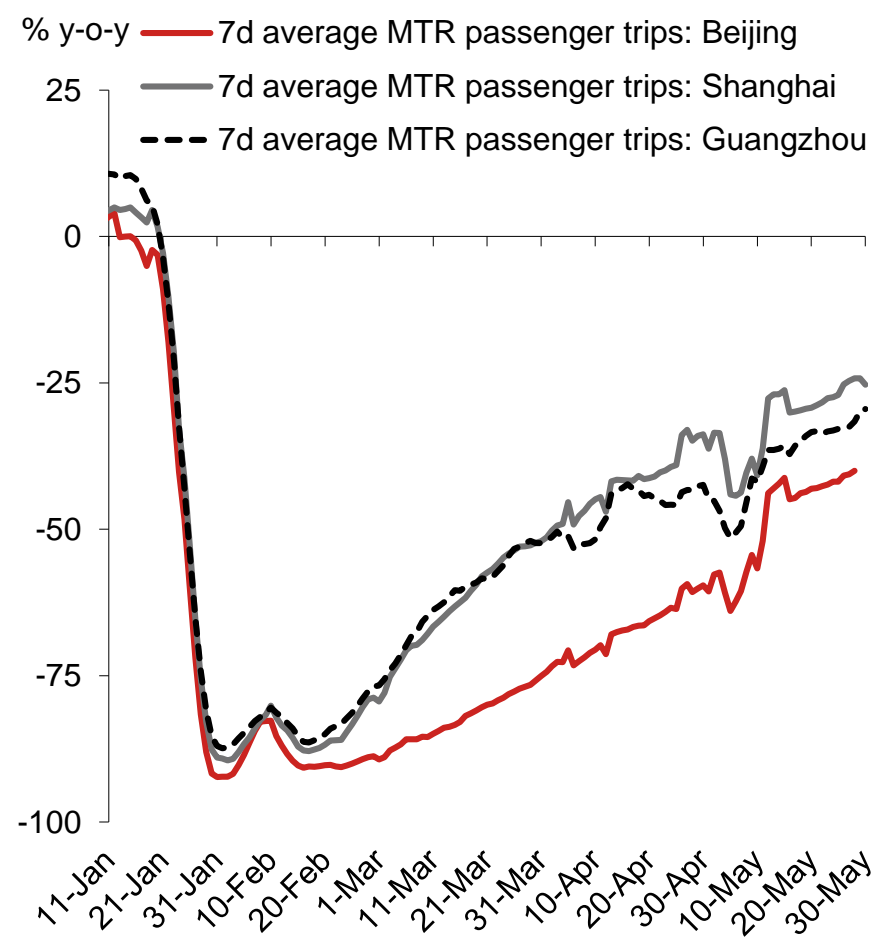
Source: WIND and Nomura Global Economics.

# Slow recovery in passenger travel

Overall passenger trips nationwide

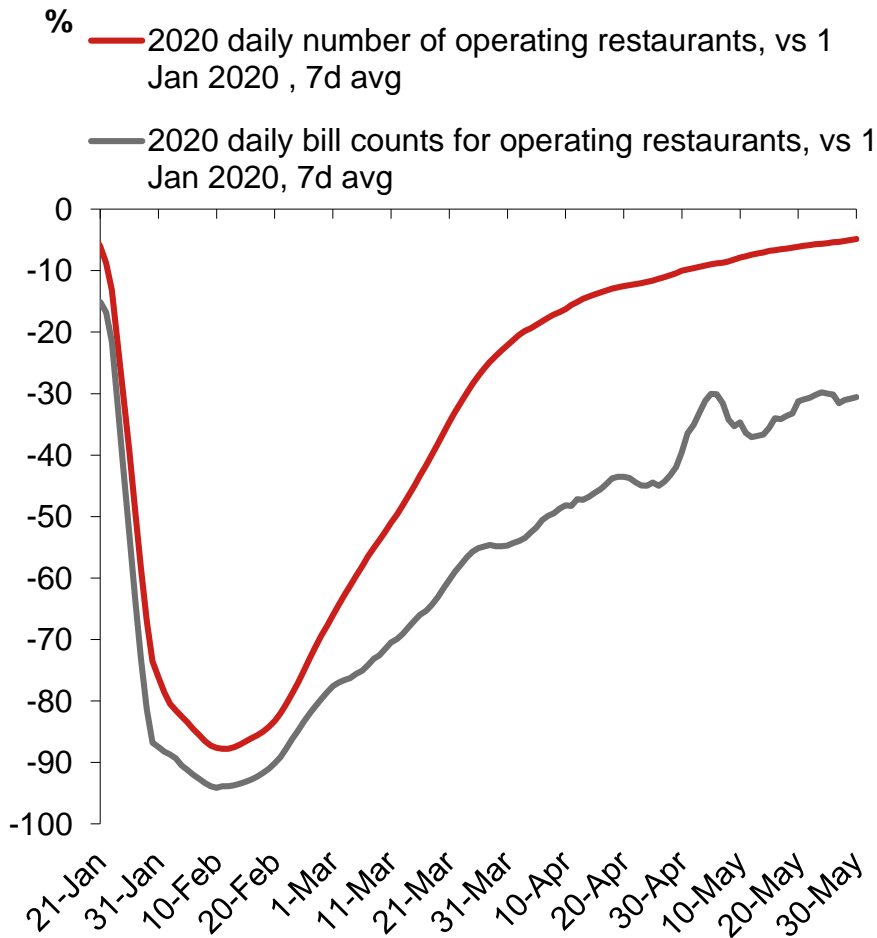


Passenger trips on MTR Lines in big cities

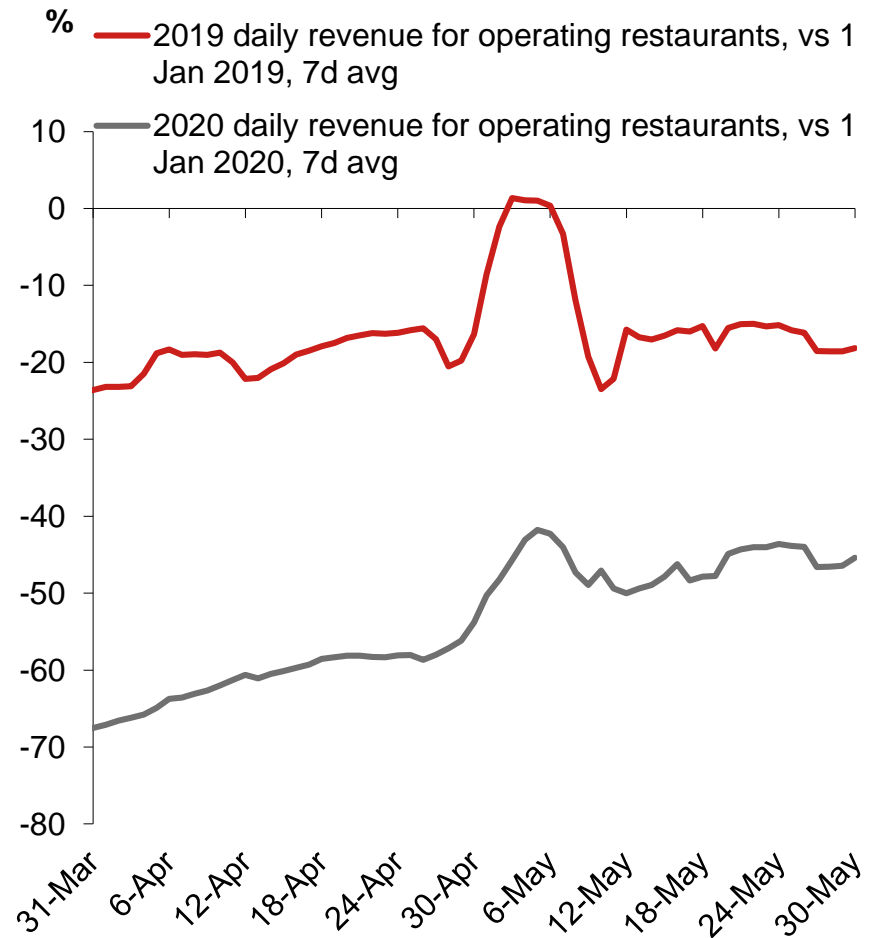


Source: Local metro authorities, Ministry of Transport, WIND and Nomura Global Economics.

The number of surveyed operating restaurants

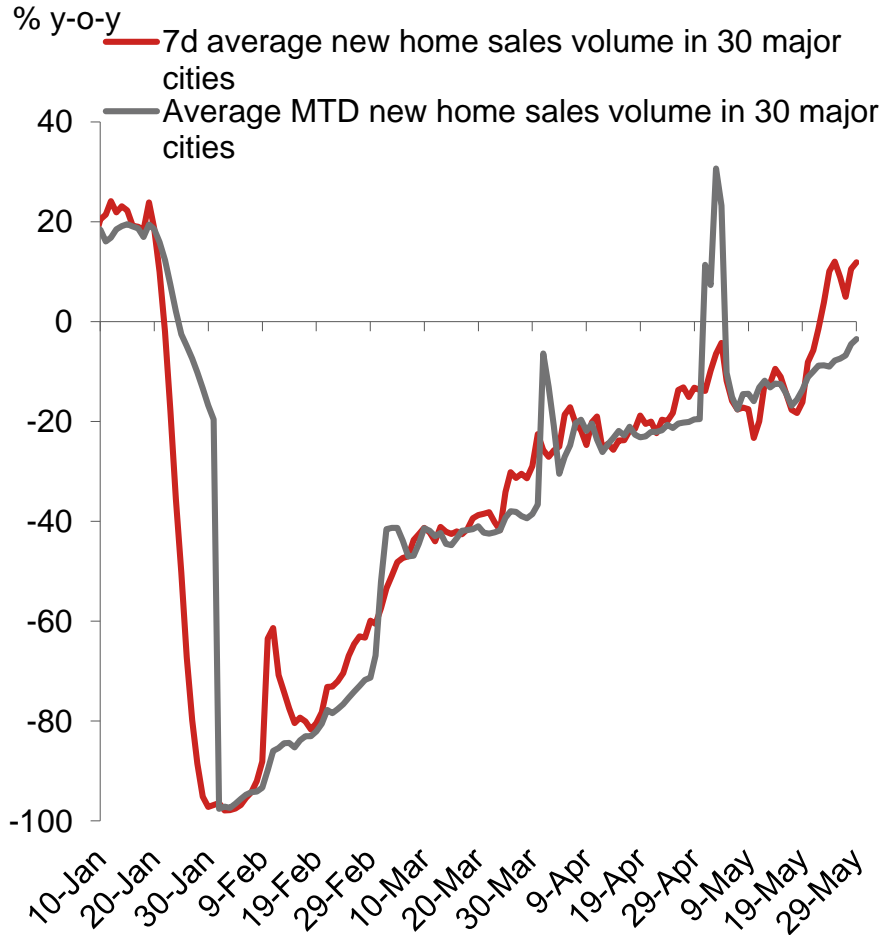


Revenue for surveyed operating restaurants

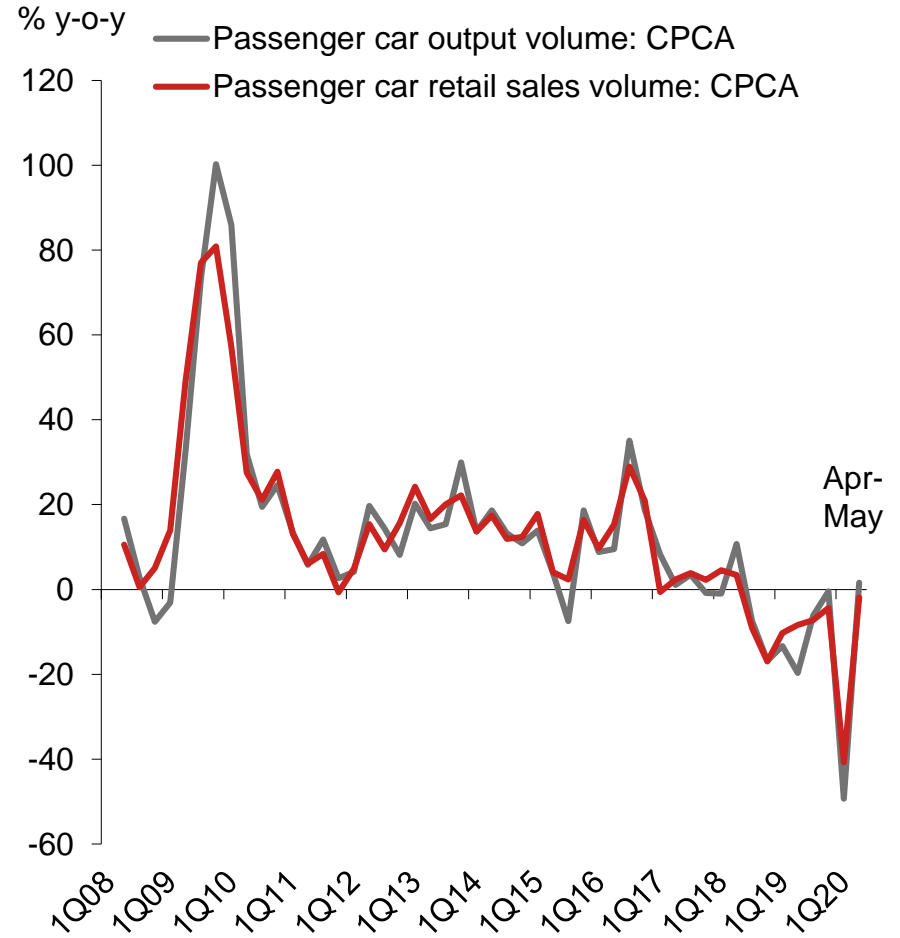


# Property sector recovery is still weak

**New home sales volume in 30 major cities**



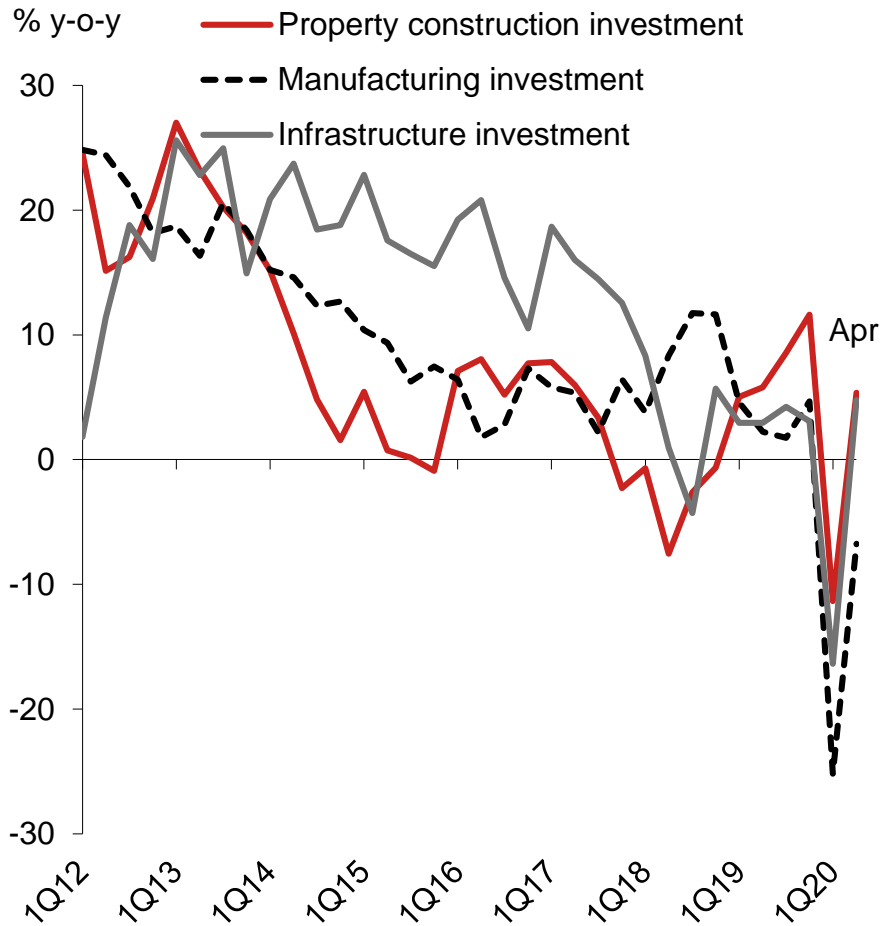
**CPCA passenger cars: retail sales and output volume**



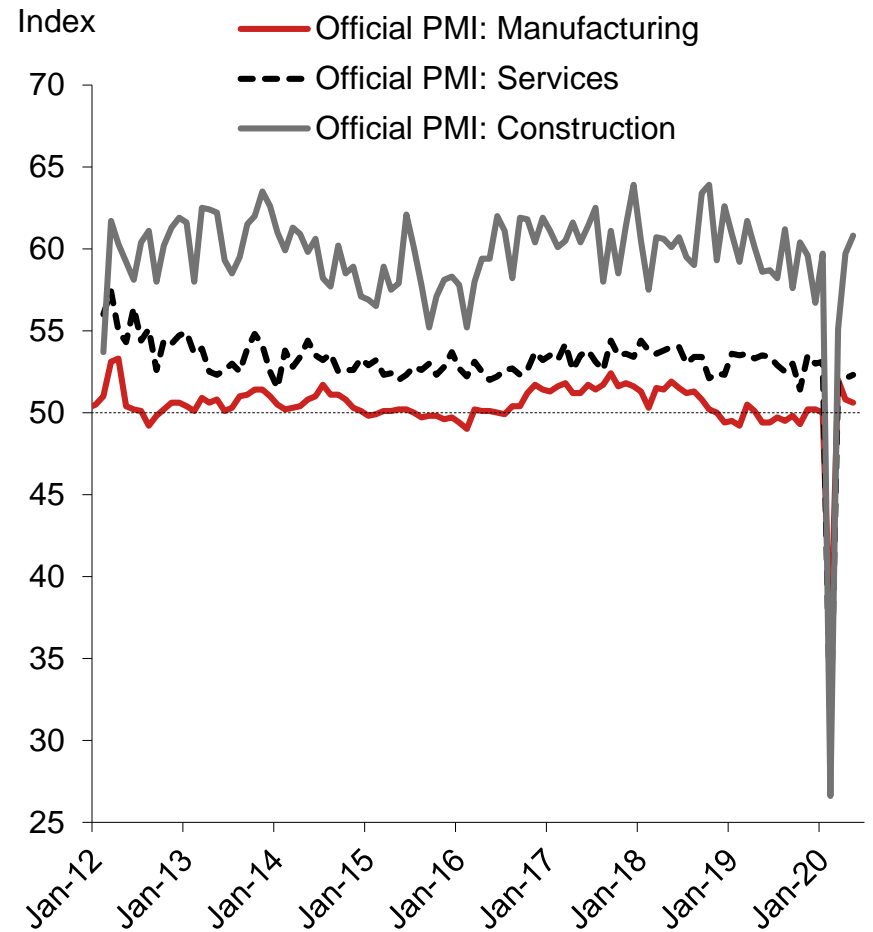
Source: WIND and Nomura Global Economics.

# Construction taking the lead

**Decent recovery in infrastructure investment**



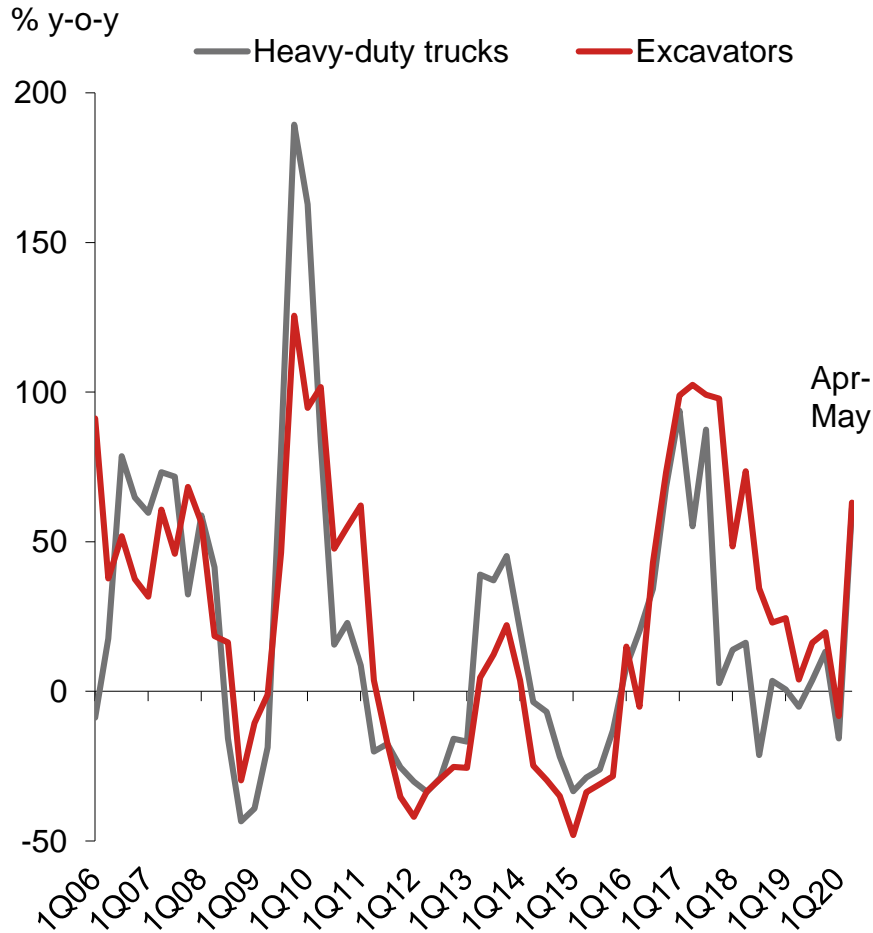
**Divergence among official PMIs**



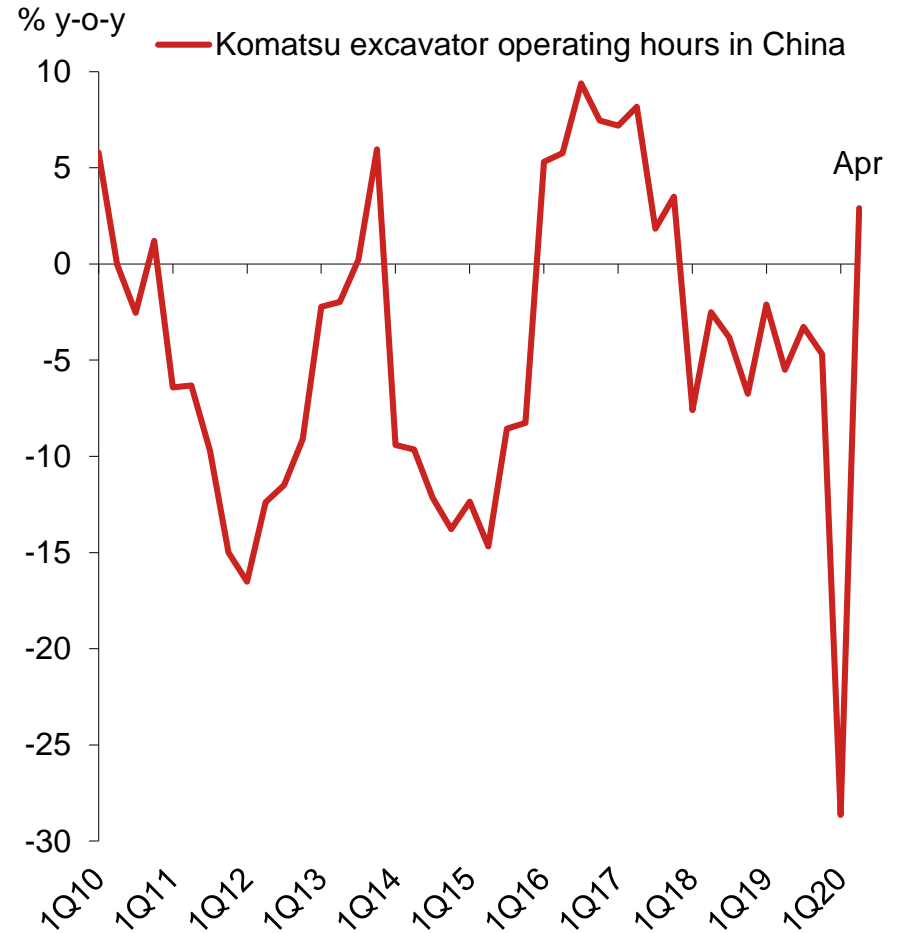


# Solid recovery in construction activity

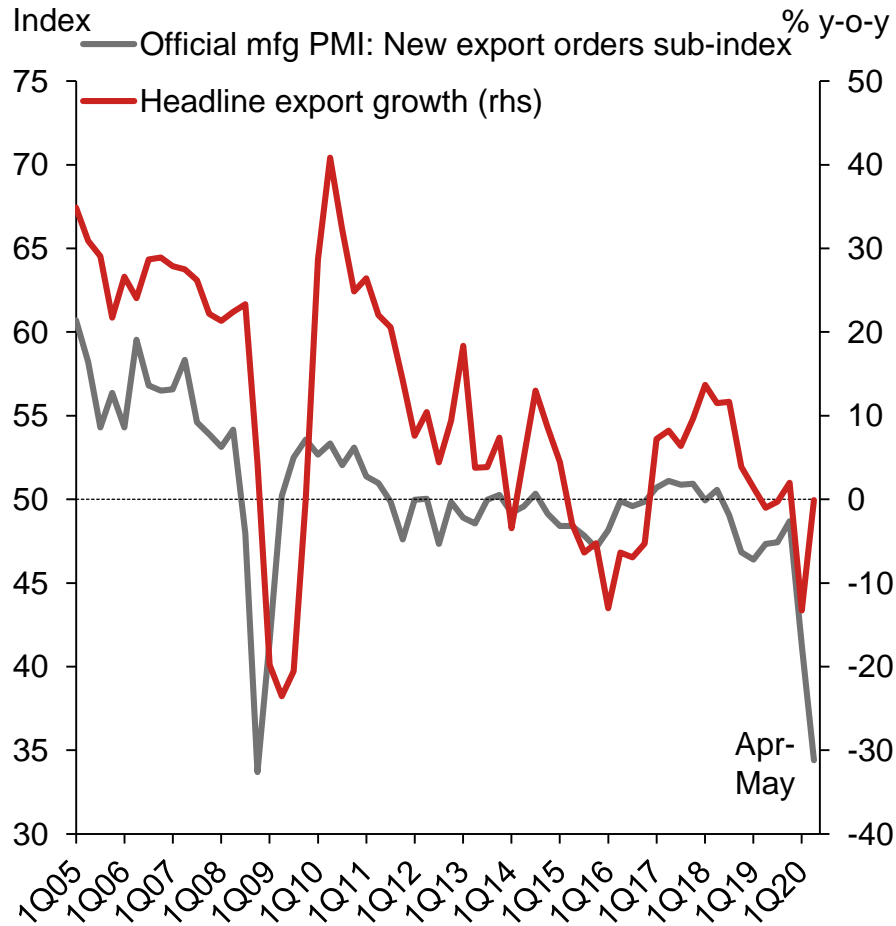
Sales volume of excavators and heavy-duty trucks



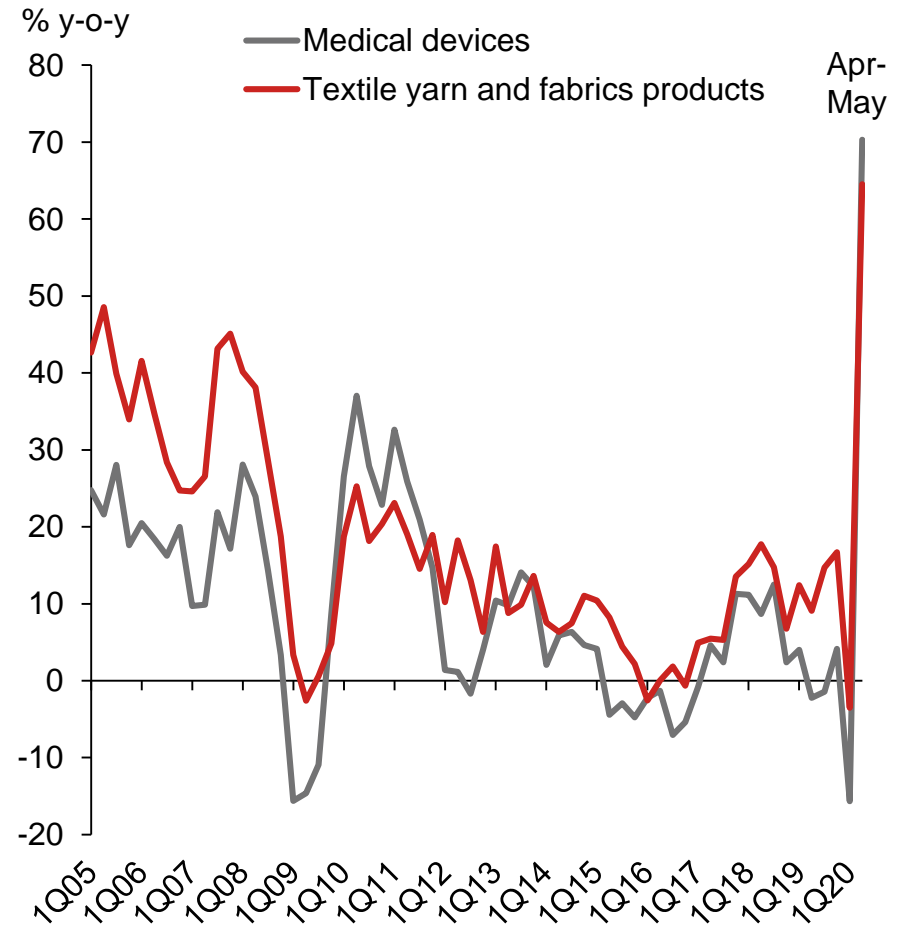
Excavators operating hours



Export growth and new export orders

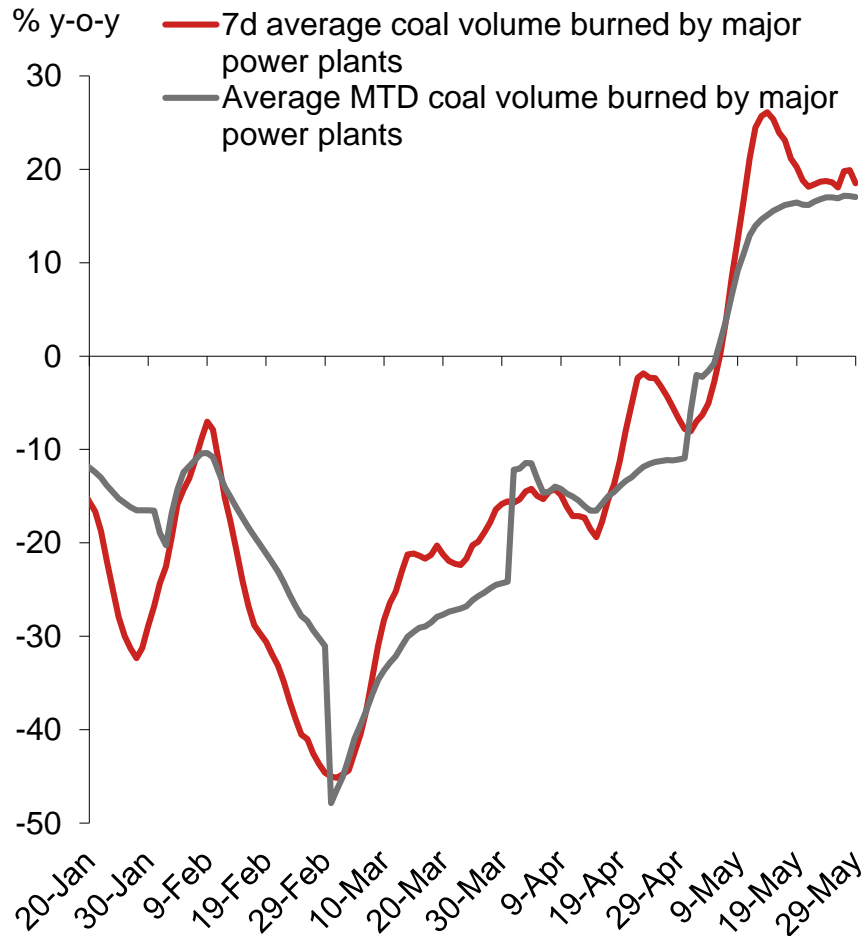


Surge in exports of antivirus medical products: short-lived

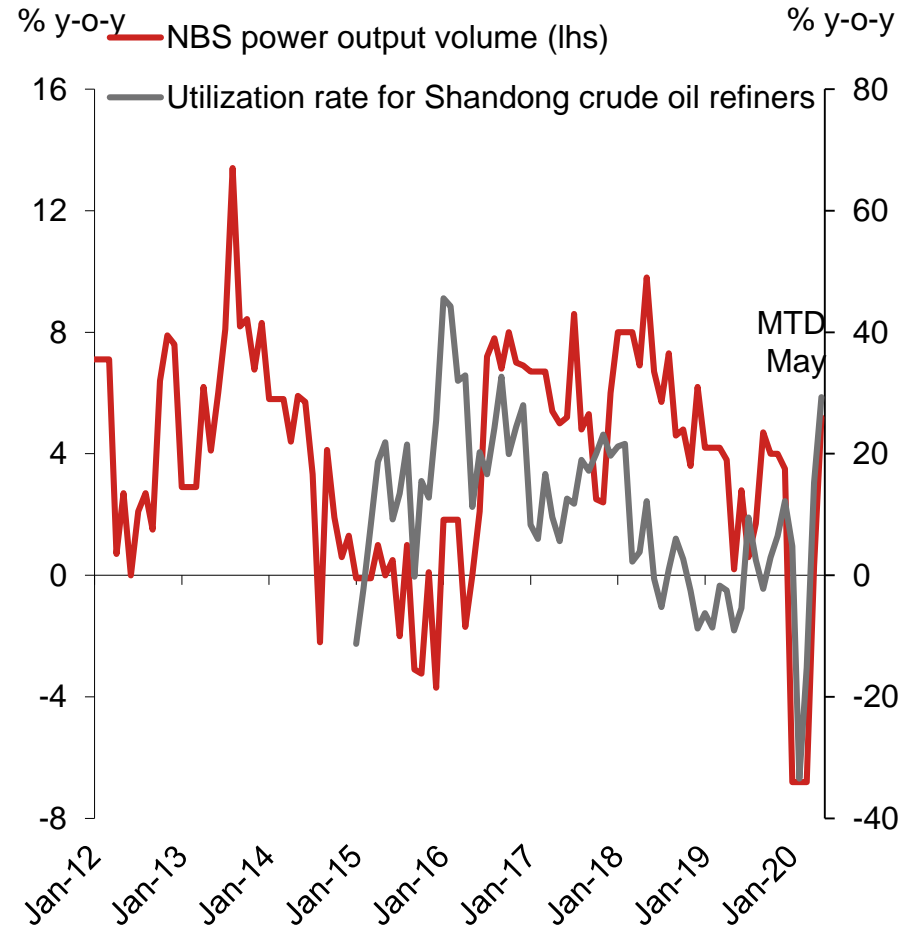


**Refiners have been rushing to raise utilization rates to consume up high-cost crude inventories, otherwise they have to book crude inventory revaluation losses.**

Daily coal volume burned by major power plants



Surging utilization rate for crude oil refiners



Note: MTD May of NBS power output volume refers to the time period of 1-20 May, while MTD May of utilization rate for Shandong crude oil refiners refers to the period of 1-27 May.  
Source: NDRC, WIND and Nomura Global Economics.

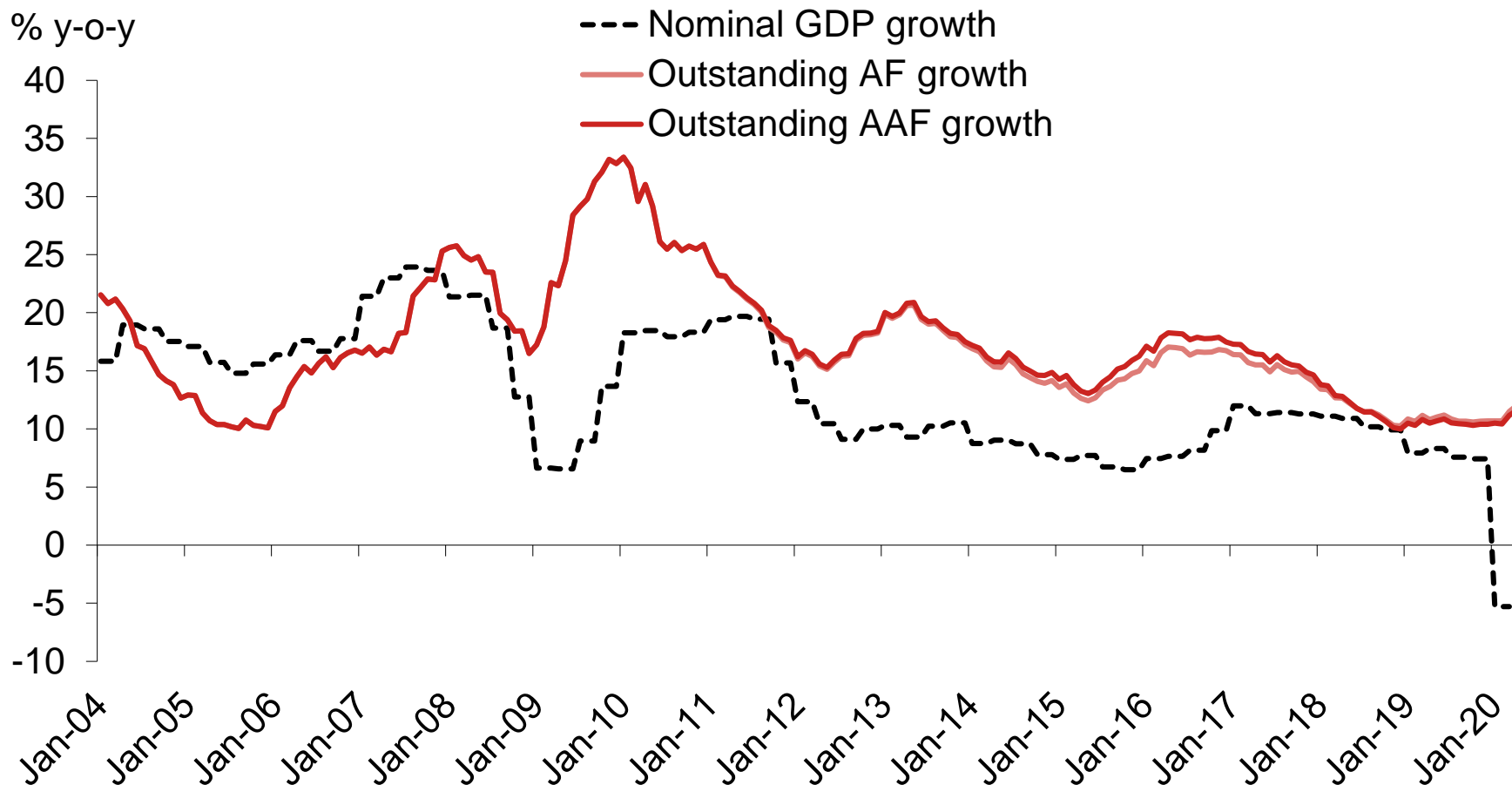
- ❑ The Chinese economy is surely recovering, with mixed performance for different sectors.
  
- ❑ Beijing's policy package: Light on financial relief, heavy on infrastructure, and restraint on property.
  
- ❑ Strong headwinds are still there, big uncertainties still remain, and some new risks are on the rise.

The PBoC has stepped up its liquidity injection via various channels this year.

| Major liquidity injection channels        |                              | Liquidity injection (RMB bn) |      |      |      |      | Jan-May 2020 |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
|                                           |                              | 2015                         | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |              |
| RRR cut (including targeted RRR cut)      | Liquidity injected           | 3400                         | 700  | 0    | 3650 | 2930 | 1750         |
|                                           | Change in benchmark RRR (bp) | 250                          | 50   | 0    | 250  | 150  | 50           |
| MLF (including TMLF)                      |                              | 21                           | 2792 | 1064 | 410  | -419 | 172          |
| PSL                                       |                              | 698                          | 972  | 635  | 692  | 158  | 8            |
| Relending and re-discounting              |                              | -3                           | 90   | 202  | 322  | 164  | 1800         |
| Total from above-mentioned major channels |                              | 4116                         | 4553 | 1901 | 5074 | 2833 | 3729         |

Note: On 1 June, the PBoC announced another RMB440bn lending quota for eligible small banks to increase their SME lending.  
Source: WIND, PBoC, and Nomura Global Economics.

**Credit growth ticked higher on monetary and credit easing.**

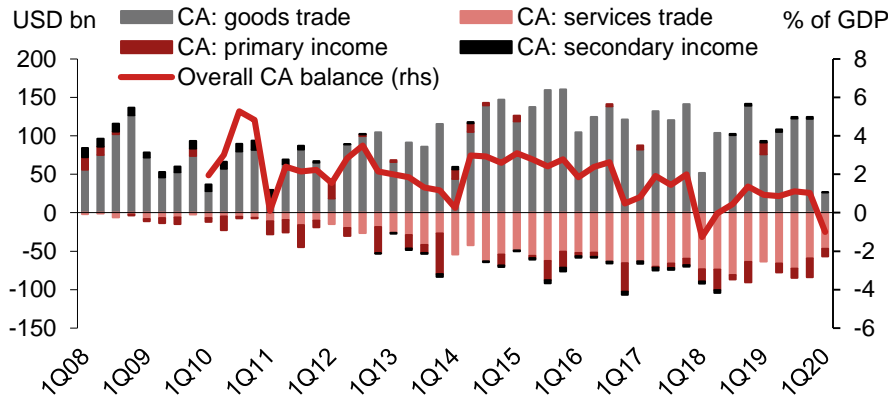


*Nota: AF growth refers to the AF based on the PBoC's new definition including all government bonds, while AAF refers to our augmented AF metric, measured by the PBoC's AF plus other obscure financing channels, e.g., special construction bonds, offshore dollar bonds, share pledge financing, P2P loans.*

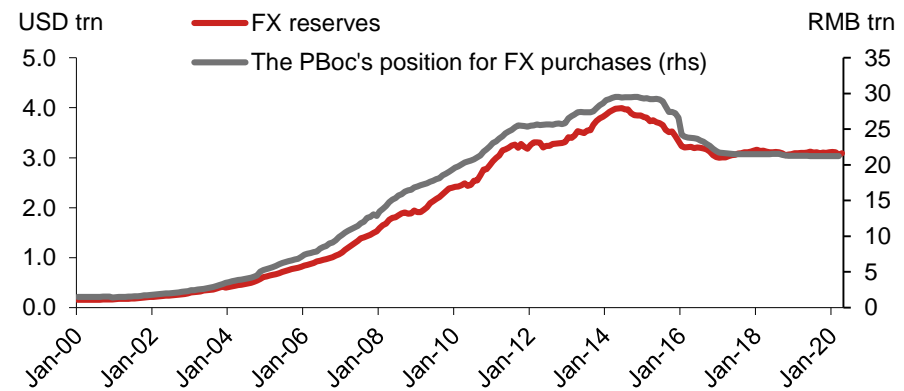
*Source: WIND, Bloomberg, SSE, SZSE and Nomura Global Economics.*

**A top-down approach: shrinking current account surplus, falling FX reserves, RMB depreciation, rising debts (including foreign debts), and falling return on capital.**

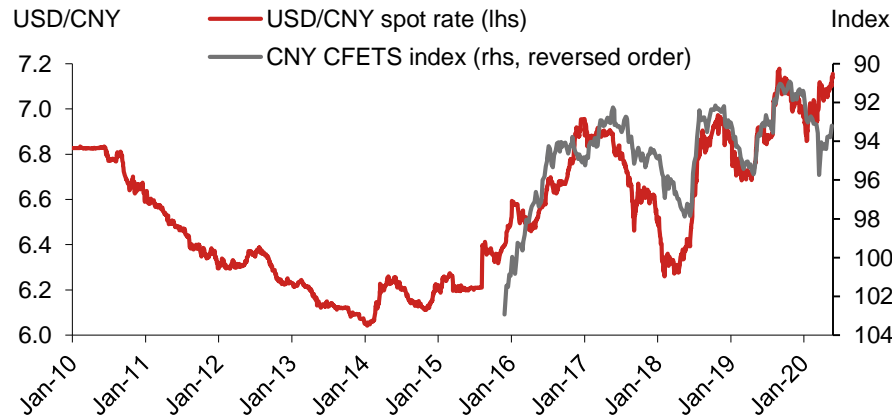
## Shrinking current account surplus



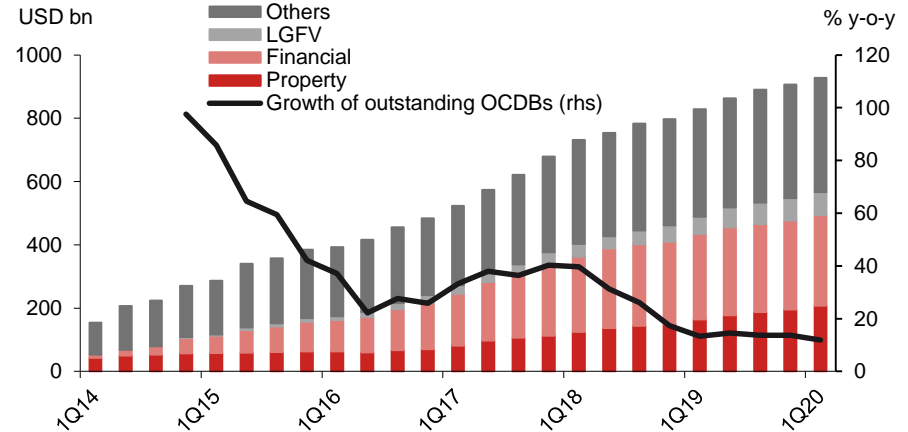
## Lower FX reserves



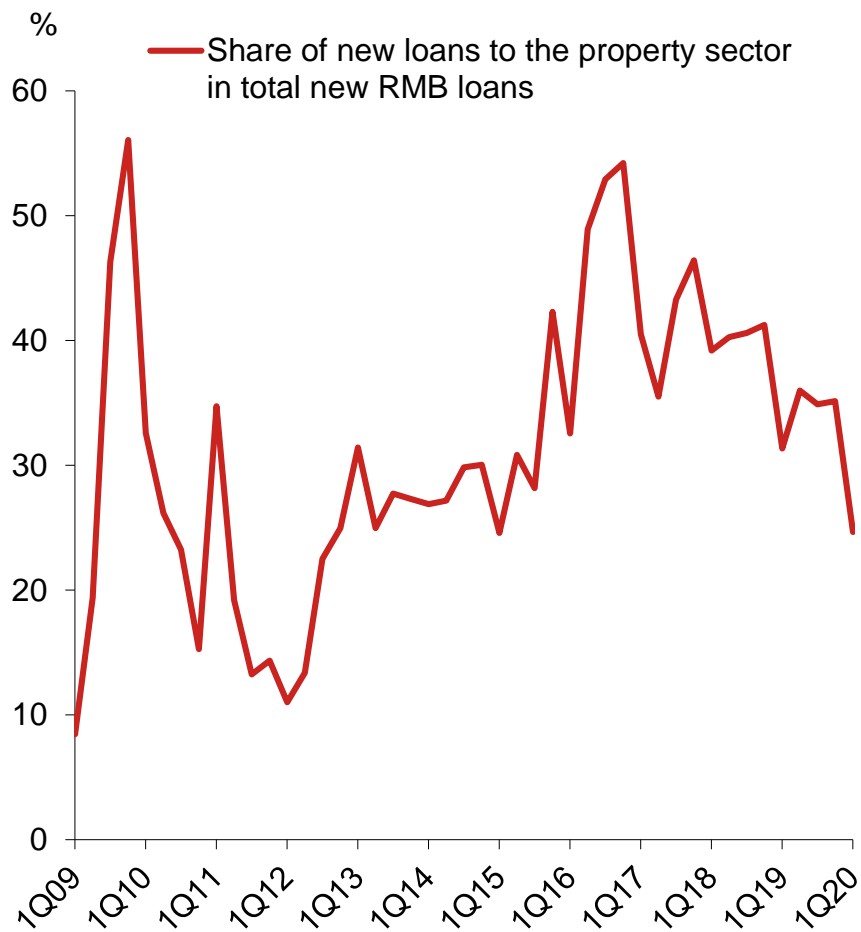
## RMB facing more downward pressure ahead



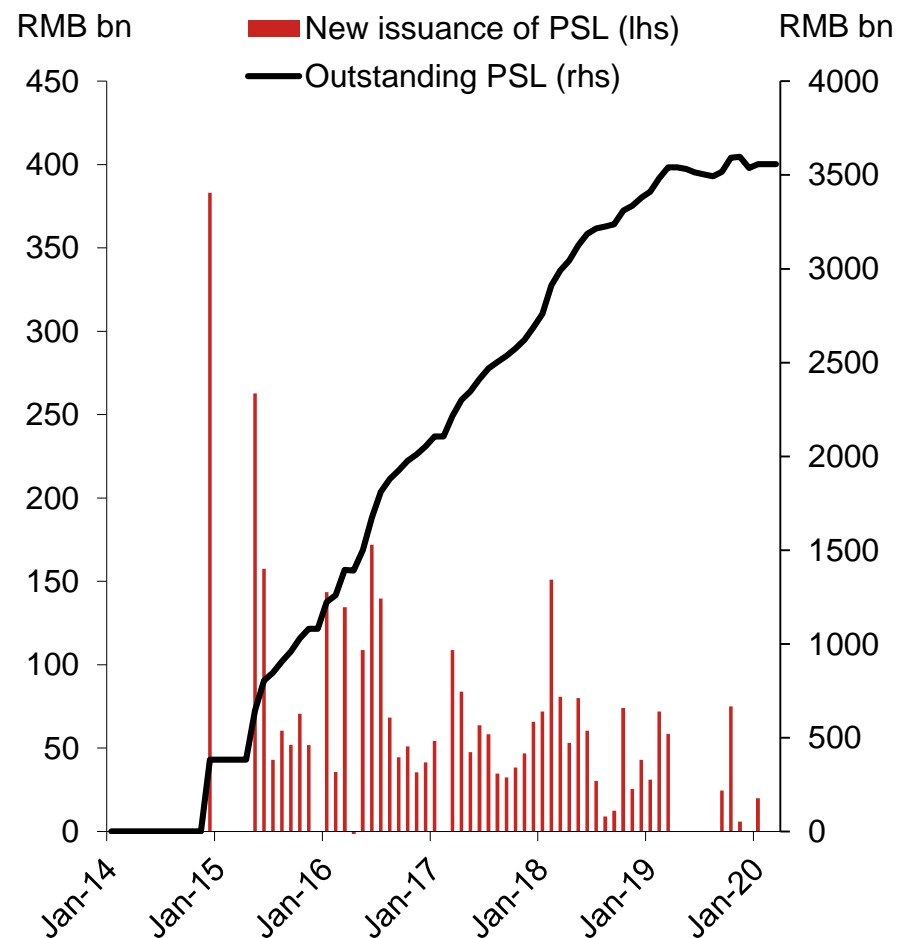
## Outstanding OCDB reached ~USD900bn as of Q1 2020



## Financing to the property sector is restrained



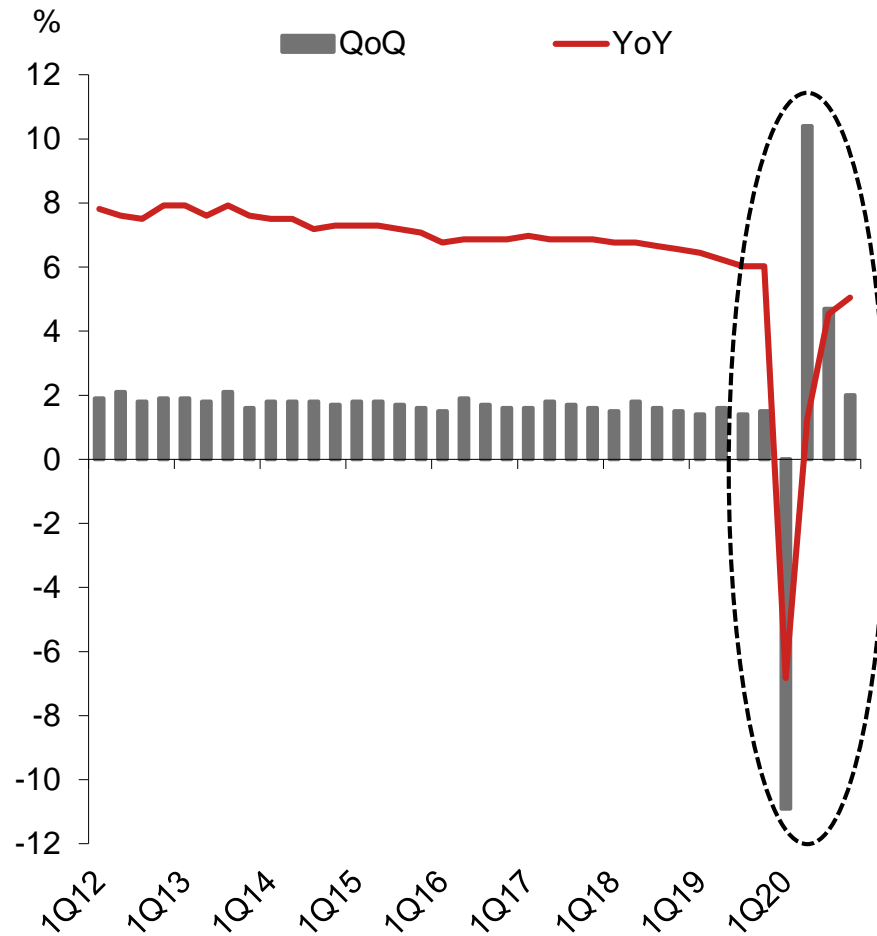
## PSL is done





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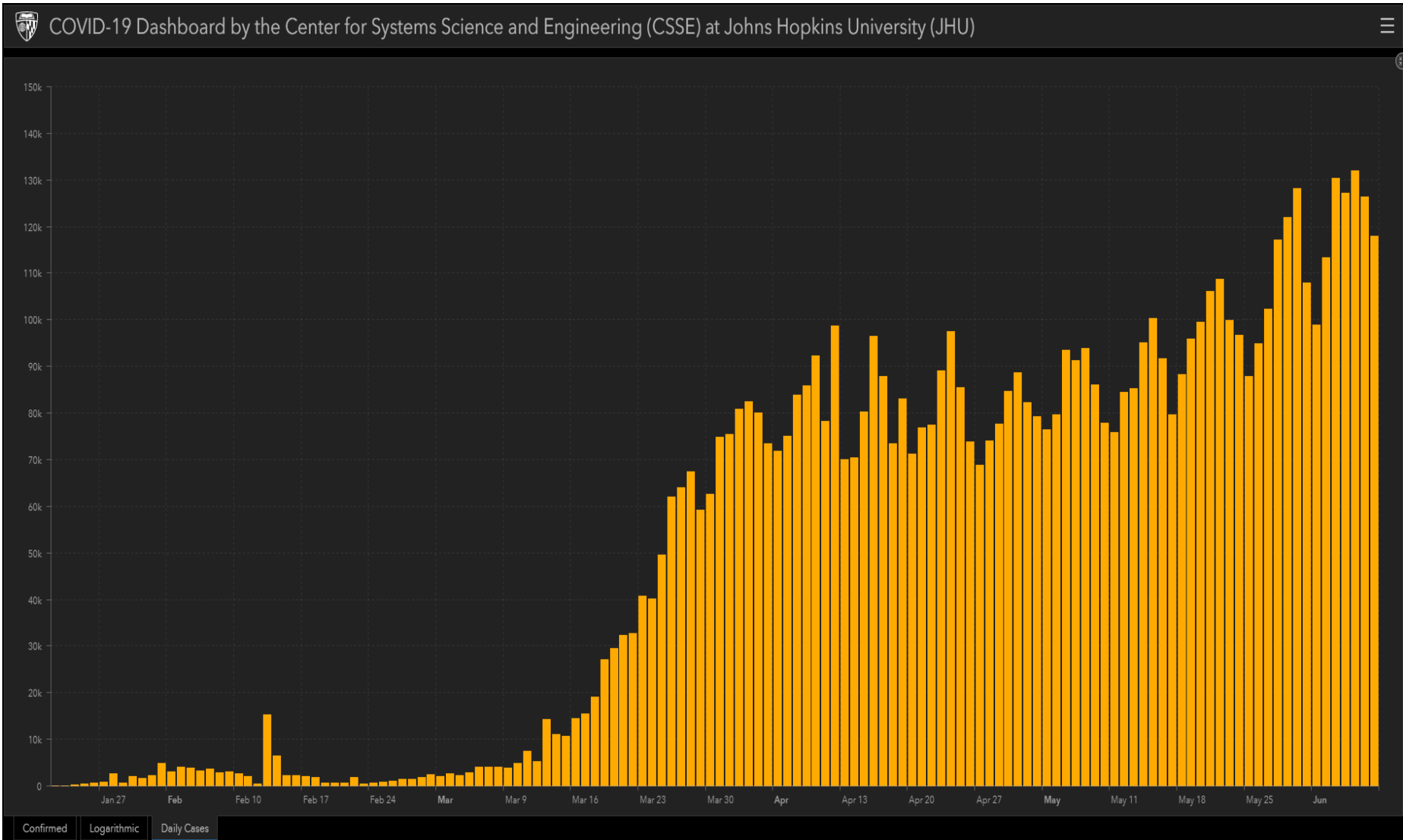
## Our forecasts of sequential and y-o-y GDP growth



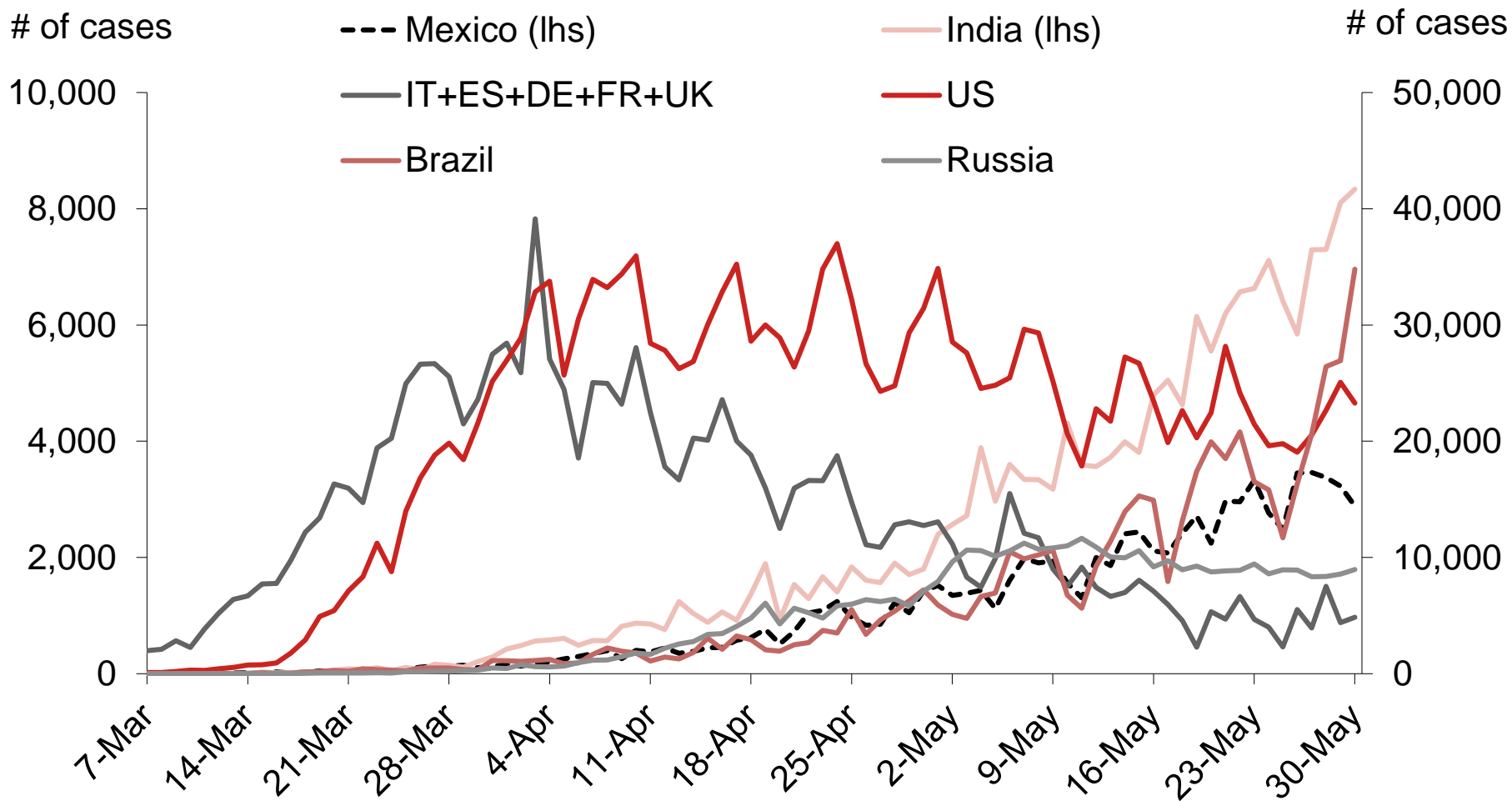
## Expectations and realities

- ❑ Q2 recovery is decent, but with large divergences among sectors;
  - Construction is the driver, led by infrastructure;
  - Some exports benefit from China's early recovery from COVID-19 such as medical products and refrigerator.
  - Pent-up demand to make up for loss in Q1;
  - Pent-up demand for capital goods;
  - Many social distancing rules are still in place, impacting the service sector.
  
- ❑ We believe markets are a bit too optimistic on the recovery in Q3 and Q4. Entering Q3, the pent-up demand will naturally lose some steam,
  - Some social distancing measures could extend well into H2 as the pandemic spreads to a wider range of countries.
  - Infrastructure related construction is still the major driver, but Beijing has no intention to stimulate the property sector.
  - Exports could drop much further when the medical exports peak and slumping new exports orders finally dent production.
  - The worsening US-China relationship could impact China's exports and export-related manufacturing investment.

# Global daily new Covid-19 cases



# Some EM countries become the new center of COVID-19



- China's recovery will likely take place ahead of other countries. One main reason could be that stimulating demand could prove more effective in boosting economic growth than in providing financial relief, similar to what occurred during the 2008-09 global financial crisis. Thus, China could again lead the world in generating a recovery.
- Since Beijing is likely to exclude the property sector in its demand stimulus package and as the economy continues to deal with the dual challenges of plummeting exports and the remnants of COVID-19, the recovery could be much weaker than markets expect.
- Because the property sector is excluded from the current stimulus package, the widely expected rebound of demand from China for key raw materials is unlikely to be as strong as during previous easing cycles; thus, any spillover to other economies could be limited.
- Credit, which is dominated by bank loans, could be further biased towards local governments, their financing vehicles (LGFVs) and state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Although Beijing may improve investment returns on infrastructure spending by favoring big cities, a rush to boost infrastructure spending could nonetheless lead to lower investment returns.
- The PBoC may find itself increasingly exposed to commercial bank lending risks in two ways: its ever rising direct lending to banks, and its obligation to rescue/take over troubled banks.
- By being relatively frugal with dispensing financial relief, Beijing's special policy mix could further widen income and wealth inequality among the population. While millions of migrant workers and small business owners have lost their sources of income, infrastructure spending in city clusters and spillover effects from the rapid rise in credit growth could benefit select social groups much more than others.

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