



16TH ANNUAL BRICS SUMMIT

Issuer Commentary

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A Report on the 2024 BRICS Conference

The recent BRICS conference, held in Kazan, Russia, from October 22 to 24, 2024, was a landmark event that brought together leaders and representatives from 36 countries. This included the core BRICS members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) and new members such as Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the UAE. The summit was pivotal for several reasons:

- 1. Financial Co-operation:** One of the primary focuses was on enhancing financial co-operation among member states. Discussions revolved around developing alternatives to Western-dominated payment systems like SWIFT and reducing reliance on the US dollar. This is part of a broader strategy to create a more resilient and independent financial infrastructure within the BRICS framework.
 - 2. Geopolitical Issues:** The conference occurred during a period of significant global geopolitical tension, including ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. Leaders used the platform to discuss these issues and advocate for a more balanced global power structure, challenging the current Western-dominated order. Russian President Vladimir Putin, in particular, criticized Western sanctions and emphasized the need for a more equitable global power distribution.
 - 3. Global South Representation:** The summit underscored the growing influence of the Global South. Many countries from this region expressed interest in joining BRICS, highlighting the bloc's expanding appeal. Countries like Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Malaysia have shown interest, reflecting a shift towards greater inclusivity and representation of emerging economies.
 - 4. UN Involvement:** The presence of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was notable. He called for peace in conflict zones like Ukraine and Gaza, emphasising the importance of diplomatic solutions and international co-operation.
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Current Economic Indicators

The following table provides a snapshot of the current economic indicators for the BRICS countries and some of the new members:

Country	GDP (Nominal, USD Trillions)	GDP Growth Rate (2023)	Inflation Rate (2023)	Unemployment Rate (2023)
Brazil	2.2	2.9%	4.5%	8.9%
Russia	1.8	3.6%	5.2%	4.8%
India	3.5	7.8%	4.3%	6.1%
China	18.0	5.2%	2.1%	5.0%
South Africa	0.4	0.6%	6.0%	32.6%
Iran	0.6	4.7%	40.0%	11.0%
Egypt	0.4	3.8%	30.0%	9.0%
Ethiopia	0.1	7.2%	20.0%	19.0%
UAE	0.5	3.4%	2.5%	2.4%

Forecast Economic Indicators

The forecast economic indicators for 2024 show varied growth prospects for the BRICS countries and new members:

Country	GDP Growth Rate (2024)	Inflation Rate (2024)	Unemployment Rate (2024)
Brazil	2.2%	4.0%	8.5%
Russia	3.2%	5.0%	4.5%
India	6.8%	4.0%	5.8%
China	4.6%	2.0%	4.8%
South Africa	0.9%	5.8%	32.0%
Iran	3.3%	35.0%	10.5%
Egypt	3.0%	25.0%	8.5%
Ethiopia	6.2%	18.0%	18.0%
UAE	3.5%	2.3%	2.2%

Detailed Analysis

- Brazil:** Brazil's economy is projected to grow at a modest rate of 2.2% in 2024, down from 2.9% in 2023. Inflation is expected to decrease slightly to 4.0%, while the unemployment rate remains high at 8.5%. The country faces challenges such as political instability and structural economic issues.
- Russia:** Russia's economy is forecasted to grow by 3.2% in 2024, slightly lower than the 3.6% growth in 2023. Inflation is expected to stabilise at 5.0%, and the unemployment rate is projected to decrease to 4.5%. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and Western sanctions continue to impact Russia's economic outlook.
- India:** India is expected to maintain a high growth rate of 6.8% in 2024, although slightly lower than the 7.8% growth in 2023. Inflation is projected to remain stable at 4.0%, and the unemployment rate is expected to decrease to 5.8%. India's economic growth is driven by strong domestic demand and structural reforms.
- China:** China's economy is projected to grow by 4.6% in 2024, down from 5.2% in 2023. Inflation is expected to remain low at 2.0%, and the unemployment rate is projected to decrease to 4.8%. China's economic outlook is influenced by its ongoing transition to a consumption-driven economy and geopolitical tensions.
- South Africa:** South Africa's economy is expected to grow by 0.9% in 2024, slightly higher than the 0.6% growth in 2023. Inflation is projected to decrease to 5.8%, while the unemployment rate remains extremely high at 32.0%. The country faces significant challenges, including high unemployment, structural economic issues, and a high debt-to-GDP ratio, although it is mostly local currency-denominated debt.
- Iran:** Iran's economy is forecasted to grow by 3.3% in 2024, down from 4.7% in 2023. Inflation is expected to decrease to 35.0%, and the unemployment rate is projected to decrease to 10.5%. Iran's economic outlook is influenced by ongoing sanctions and geopolitical tensions.
- Egypt:** Egypt's economy is projected to grow by 3.0% in 2024, down from 3.8% in 2023. Inflation is expected to decrease to 25.0%, and the unemployment rate is projected to decrease to 8.5%. Egypt faces challenges such as high inflation and a high debt level as well as reliance on external revenue and international financial support.
- Ethiopia:** Ethiopia's economy is expected to grow by 6.2% in 2024, down from 7.2% in 2023. Inflation is projected to decrease to 18.0%, and the unemployment rate is expected to decrease to 18.0%. Ethiopia's economic growth is driven by strong domestic demand and structural reforms.
- UAE:** The UAE's economy is forecasted to grow by 3.5% in 2024, slightly higher than the 3.4% growth in 2023. Inflation is expected to remain low at 2.3%, and the unemployment rate is projected to decrease to 2.2%. The UAE's economic outlook is influenced by its diversification efforts and geopolitical tensions.

Conclusion

The recent BRICS conference highlighted the bloc's efforts to foster greater financial independence and co-operation among its members. The economic indicators show that while some countries like India and Ethiopia are expected to maintain high growth rates, others like South Africa and Brazil face more modest prospects. The inclusion of new members like Iran, Egypt, and the UAE adds to the bloc's diversity and potential for economic collaboration.



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