

S'pore inflation expectations ease on weak economy: poll

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SINGAPORE - Inflation expectations in Singapore eased in December from September amid a weakening global economy, according to a report released on Thursday.

The Singapore Management University's Sim Kee Boon Institute for Financial Economics and MasterCard Worldwide said their latest poll showed consumers in the city-state see inflation at 4.37 per cent in 12 months' time, down from 4.57 per cent when a similar survey was conducted in September.

Singapore's consumer price index rose by a higher-than-expected 4.3 per cent in December from a year earlier, spurred by higher car prices, the government said on Wednesday.

Over the past two years, Singapore has been suffering from higher-than-usual inflation, and economists warn that the pace is unlikely to fall back to 2 per cent levels anytime soon given the rise in inflation expectations.

Asian economies will see weaker growth this year than was expected just three months ago, despite expected policy easing by central banks as inflation pressures taper off, a Reuters poll showed on Wednesday. - REUTERS