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ECB survey shows eurozone banks expect credit standards to tighten in Q2

Eurozone banks expect credit standards to tighten and net demand for loans to firms and households in the second quarter, results of a quarterly survey by the ECB show. The criteria for approving home loans eased slightly in the first quarter, while the credit standards for consumer credit and other lending to households tightened. (www.rttnews.com 20/04/21)

Investors trying to predict ECB plans face more uncertainty

Investors trying to predict the European Central Bank's stimulus plans are about to run into deeper uncertainty even as the clouds around the pandemic start to lift. Talks on how to exit the ECB's crisis measures are set to coincide later this year with a potential change to its inflation goal. The risk is that such unpredictability boosts volatility in borrowing costs that could undermine the recovery. (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/21)

China's fiscal revenue up 24.2% in Q1

China's fiscal revenue surged 24.2% year on year in the first quarter (Q1) of 2021. Data released by the Ministry of Finance show fiscal revenue topped ¥5.71tr (about \$878.07bn) in Q1, representing a 6.4% increase from the 2019 level, and putting the average Q1 growth for 2020 and 2021 at 3.2%. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/04/21)

China to jointly promote green development: central bank

China will enhance communication and exchanges in green finance with countries around the world to jointly promote green development. Asia has broad consensus on the green transformation of the economy. Yi Gang, Governor of the People's Bank of China has said. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/04/21)

UK: Higher petrol prices drive up cost of living in March

The UK inflation rate rose to 0.7% in the 12 months to March, up from 0.4% in Feb., pushed up by the increased cost of fuel, transport and clothes. The figure from the Office for National Statistics was slightly below economists' forecasts, with lower food prices offsetting other price rises. Inflation is forecast to rise further due to higher energy and oil prices. (www.bbc.com 21/04/21)

Italy construction output increases for second month

Italy's construction output rose for the second straight month in Feb., albeit at a softer pace, ISTAT has said. Construction output rose a seasonally adjusted 1.4% month-on-month in Feb. after a 5.0% growth in Jan. On a yearly basis, construction output increased a working day adjusted 3.5% in Feb. after a 0.7% fall in Jan. (www.rttnews.com 20/04/21)

Erdogan says Turkey used \$165bn of reserves in 2 years

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said authorities used \$165bn of central bank foreign-currency reserves to weather developments in 2019 and 2020. "The central bank currently has \$90bn in reserves," he said. "These reserves may be used again when needed or they may rise above \$100bn in the future", he added. (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/21)

Bank of Canada set to dial back bond buying: Decision-day guide

The Bank of Canada is poised to pare back its asset purchases amid a stronger-than-expected economic recovery, taking one of the biggest steps yet by a developed country to reduce emergency levels of monetary stimulus. Governor Tiff Macklem is expected to cut the central bank's government bond purchases to C\$3bn (\$2.4bn). (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/21)

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3931	(1.3945)	1.3932	(1.3946)
+USD/EUR	1.2031	(1.2047)	1.2031	(1.2048)
*GHS/USD	5.7283	(5.7285)	5.7341	(5.7343)
*GHS/GBP	7.9801	(7.9884)	7.9887	(7.9970)
*GHS/EUR	6.8919	(6.9015)	6.8987	(6.9083)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/04/21 (Rates for 21/04/21 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/04/21 (Rates for 21/04/21 in brackets)

Dutch jobless rate fell in March

The Dutch jobless rate declined in March, data from the Central Bureau of Statistics showed on Thursday. The ILO jobless rate for the 15-75 year old age group fell a seasonally adjusted 3.5% in March from 3.6% in Feb. The number of unemployed persons decreased to 326,000 in March from 340,000 in the preceding month, the agency said. (www.reuters.com 22/04/21)

NZ inflation accelerated in Q1, easing pressure on policy

New Zealand inflation accelerated slightly in the first quarter (Q1), adding to signs that the central bank may not need to cut interest rates any further. Consumer prices rose 1.5% from a year earlier, Statistics New Zealand has said in Wellington, picking up from 1.4% in the fourth quarter and matching economists' estimates. (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/21)

Scottish jobless rate remains unchanged

Scotland's unemployment rate from Dec. 2020 to Feb. 2021 remained at 4.4%. The Office for National Statistics said the employment rate for those aged 16 to 64, over the same period, was 74.6%. This was up 0.2% on the previous quarter. There were 2.567m people aged 16-64 in employment between Dec. and Feb. (www.bbc.com 20/04/21)

Saudi Arabia seeks to speed privatizations to help ease deficit

Saudi Arabia is hoping to speed up privatizations to narrow a budget deficit that ballooned last year due to the pandemic and a slump in oil revenue. The kingdom aims to strike around SR15bn riyals (\$4bn) worth of infrastructure deals with private investors this year. (www.bloomberg.com 21/04/21)

Slovenia output prices rose in March

Slovenia's output prices rose in March, figures from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia showed on Wednesday. Output prices rose 2.0% year-on-year in March. Domestic market output prices grew 2.6% and those for the export market increased 1.3%. (www.rttnews.com 21/04/21)

Global oil price drops

On the commodities market on April 21, 2021, the price of crude oil dropped on the world market, selling at \$62.54 as at 7:56 GMT. It traded at \$64.21 per barrel on April 20 with a price change of a positive eighty-three cents, indicating a positive 1.31% increase. The price change is standing at a negative zero point thirteen (-0.13). (www.ghanaweb.com 21/04/21)

Sub-Saharan Africa holds 46% of global mobile money accounts – GSMA

As the world progresses toward more forms of digital payments, sub-Saharan Africa appears to have a firm grip on the mobile money segment as it currently holds 46% of global mobile money accounts. The figures show a year-on-year growth of 12% for number of accounts, and 15% for volume of transactions. (www.ghanaweb.com 21/04/21)

S. Africa's inflation rose to 3.2% in March

South Africa's annual consumer price inflation (CPI) rose to 3.2% in March, up from 2.9% in Feb., said Statistics South Africa. Patrick Kelly, Chief Director for Price Statistics, said the change was mainly due to the increase in the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/04/21)

Kenyan bourse remains bullish despite Covid-19 disruption

Equity and bond turnover at the Nairobi Securities Exchange rose 15.3% and 17.8%, respectively, in the first quarter of 2021 as the market overcame Covid-19 pandemic disruption, a report released by the Capital Markets Authority on Wednesday shows. (www.xinhuanet.com 21/04/21)

Ghana's economy grew marginally by 0.4% in 2020

Ghana's economy grew at a rate of 0.4% in 2020, beating slightly most institutions and analysts' forecasts, the Ghana Statistical Service has revealed. Without oil, the economy however grew at a rate of 1.3%. Ghana is among few countries in African that recorded positive growth rates in 2020. (www.myjoyonline.com 21/04/21)

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