



Wednesday, May 05, 2021

## IMF optimistic for global agreement on corporate income taxation

Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF, has said that she's optimistic for a global agreement on corporate income taxation this year to fix the international tax system. "Now, we face the two disastrous and very expensive crises of Covid-19 and climate change. These urgent needs, combined with a renewed spirit of multilateralism, give us an opportunity to rethink and fix the international tax system," Georgieva said. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 05/05/21)

## US trade deficit nearly matched estimates in March

The Commerce Department of the United States has said the trade deficit widened to \$74.4bn in March from a revised \$70.5bn in Feb. The trade deficit was nearly in line with estimates, as economists had expected the deficit to widen to \$74.5bn from the \$71.1bn originally reported for the previous month. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 04/05/21)

## China's food industry continues expansion in production, sales

China's food industry continued robust growth in terms of production and sales in the first quarter of the year, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology show. The industrial added value of major food manufacturers rose 17.4% year on year in the period. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 04/05/21)

## BoE weighs when to taper its stimulus as UK economy rebounds

The UK's economic rebound from the pandemic is already fueling speculation that Bank of England policymakers this week will start discussing how to ease their foot off the stimulus pedal. The nine-member Monetary Policy Committee will maintain its target for £150bn (\$209bn) of bond purchases this year. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 04/05/21)

## UK factory activity expands at fastest rate since 1994 – PMI

British manufacturing activity grew at the fastest pace in almost 27 years last month, amid supply chain delays and shortages of raw materials as businesses tried to make up for ground lost during the coronavirus pandemic. The IHS Markit/CIPS Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing activity rose to 60.9 in April from 58.9 in March, slightly above an earlier flash estimate of 60.7 and its highest reading since July 1994. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 04/05/21)

## French banks told to speed up response to climate change

French banks are to speed up their response to climate change, France's banking regulator has said, after publishing the world's first climate-related stress test of banks. Other global financial watchdogs will also be conducting similar tests on the finance industry to help to reduce the impact of climate change on economies. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 04/05/21)

## Australia central bank retains policy; lifts growth outlook

Australia's central bank kept its policy stance unchanged as widely expected and said it will review the asset purchase programme at its July meeting. The policy board of the Bank of Australia headed by Governor Philip Lowe decided to leave its cash rate unchanged at a record low of 0.10%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 04/05/21)

## Turkey manufacturing growth slowed in April

Turkey's manufacturing sector grew at a softer pace in April, mainly due to the current wave of Covid-19 infections, survey results from IHS Markit showed on Monday. The headline Istanbul Chamber of Industry's Turkey manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 50.4 in April from 52.6 in March. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 04/05/21)

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3873	(1.3820)	1.3874	(1.3821)
+USD/EUR	1.2018	(1.2029)	1.2019	(1.2030)
*GHS/USD	5.7291	(5.7293)	5.7349	(5.7351)
*GHS/GBP	7.9480	(7.9179)	7.9566	(7.9264)
*GHS/EUR	6.8850	(6.8924)	6.8924	(6.8992)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 05/05/21 (Rates for 04/05/21 in brackets)

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### **Turkish annual inflation climbs to 2-year high of 17.7%**

Turkey's annual consumer price inflation surged to 17.1% year-on-year in April, the highest level in two years as the government is making efforts to control price hikes. According to the official data, consumer prices rose by 1.68% month-on-month while producer prices increased by 35.2%. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 04/05/21)

### **Indonesia's economy contracted in Q1**

Indonesia's economy contracted for the fourth straight quarter, the statistical office has said. GDP fell 0.74% on a yearly basis in the first quarter of 2021, following a 2.19% drop in the fourth quarter. Quarter-on-quarter, GDP was down 0.96%, which was smaller than economists' forecast of -1.04%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 05/05/21)

### **Colombia's central bank revises up growth forecast**

The Central Bank of Colombia has revised up its GDP growth forecasts for 2021 after its monetary policy meeting on April 30. The institution expects the economy to expand by 6% this year, up from 5.2% expansion earlier forecast. This is the result of "better-than-expected economic performance in the first quarter". ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 04/05/21)

### **NZ jobless rate fell to 4.7% in Q1**

The unemployment rate in New Zealand came in at 4.7% in the first quarter of 2021, Statistics New Zealand has said. That was shy of estimates for 4.9%, which would have been unchanged from the previous three months. The employment change was 0.6% on quarter, steady from the three months earlier. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 04/05/21)

### **Swiss consumer sentiment rose in April**

Swiss consumer sentiment improved in April as expectations regarding the economic outlook turned positive, quarterly survey results from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs has shown. The consumer confidence index rose to -7.1 in April from -14.2 in Jan. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 04/05/21)

### **OPEC keeps crude production steady before planned increases**

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries pumped an average of 25.27m barrels a day last month, about 50,000 a day less than in March. A setback for Libyan exports was largely offset by further increases from Iran. The group slashed production to satisfy a recovery in global demand. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 04/05/21)

### **SA: Rising food prices put manufacturers in tight spot**

The rapidly rising agricultural producer price inflation (PPI) leading to soaring food prices has placed food manufacturers in a tight spot about whether to absorb these cost increases or try and pass them on to financially-constrained consumers. ([www.iol.co.za](http://www.iol.co.za) 04/05/21)

### **Kenya's horticulture exports rose to \$1.37bn in 2020**

Kenya's horticulture exports earnings rose to 148bn shillings (\$1.37bn) in 2020, up from \$1.27bn recorded in the previous year, a government official has said. Benjamin Tito, head of Horticultural Crops Directorate said revenue from the sector increased despite a slight drop in volumes shipped overseas. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 04/05/21)

### **Zimbabwe central bank keeps policy rate at 40%**

Zimbabwe's central bank said on Tuesday that its MPC had decided to keep its policy rate at 40%. "The MPC reaffirmed its strong commitment to continue with the conservative monetary policy stance," the bank said in a Twitter post. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 04/05/21)

### **Nigeria's spending structure unsustainable, budget head says**

Nigeria's current trend of spending more money on running the government than on building new infrastructure is unsustainable. Africa's largest economy requires at least \$3tr of spending over the next 30 years to close its infrastructure gap. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 04/05/21)

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