



Thursday 19th January 2023

Eurozone core inflation rises in December

Raising scope for another aggressive rate hike in Feb. Eurozone core inflation accelerated in Dec. as estimated, while overall inflation slowed to a four-month low on energy prices. Core inflation that excludes energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, advanced to 5.2% from 5.0% in Nov. The rate came in line with the preliminary estimate published on Jan 6. (www.rttnews.com 18/01/23)

ECB union says staff losing faith in leadership over inflation, pay

European Central Bank staff are losing confidence in the institution's leadership following the ECB's failure to control inflation and a pay award that lagged the leap in prices, according to a survey by trade union IPSO. The responses underline that even central banks, whose primary responsibility is fighting inflation, are not immune to staff dissatisfaction with the sharply rising cost of living. (www.reuters.com 18/01/23)

US debt-crisis worries sour Davos optimism on global economy

The global financial elite gathering in Davos, Switzerland, this week warned of the dangers stemming from the looming US federal debt-limit fight, a potential crisis that overshadowed any cheer from a reopening of China's economy and diminishing recession risks in Europe. (www.bloomberg.com 18/01/23)

US PPI declines by most since start of pandemic

US producer prices dropped in Dec. by the most since the start of the pandemic, extending a months-long pullback in inflationary pressures and giving the Federal Reserve room to slow the pace of interest-rate hikes. The PPI for final demand fell 0.5% last month, the most since April 2020. (www.bloomberg.com 18/01/23)

China's economy retains resilience, vitality, potential

Those who claim that "China's economic slide is dragging down the global economy" should retract their rumors. Faced with the impacts of multiple unexpected factors, China's economy withstood the pressure and maintained overall stability. China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3% year on year to a record high of 121.0207tr (about \$17.95tr) in 2022. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/01/23)

UK inflation eases slightly to 10.5% in Dec: ONS

The United Kingdom's (UK) inflation slowed for a second month in Dec. 2022, but the cost-of-living crisis continued as food inflation remained record high, official figures showed on Wednesday. The consumer price index (CPI) rose at an annual rate of 10.5% in Dec. falling from 10.7% in Nov. and a 41-year peak of 11.1% in Oct. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/23)

Germany forecast to narrowly escape recession in 2023 - source

Germany is expected to narrowly avoid recession this year with price-adjusted growth of 0.2%, a source said on Wednesday, citing estimates from a draft of the government's annual economic report. This is to be followed by 1.8% growth in gross domestic product next year, according to the draft report, the source said. (www.reuters.com 18/01/23)

Japan industrial production rise 0.2%

Japan's industrial production increased in Nov. revised data from the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry said on Wednesday. Industrial production grew by a seasonally adjusted 0.2% monthly in Nov. In the initial estimate, output fell 1.0%. Shipments fell by 0.1% month-on-month in Nov. Inventories rose by 0.3%, and the inventory ratio increased by 3.3%. (www.rttnews.com 18/01/23)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2402	(1.2280)	1.2404	(1.2282)
+USD/EUR	1.0855	(1.0836)	1.0856	(1.0837)
*GHS/USD	10.3510	(10.3410)	10.3614	(10.3514)
*GHS/GBP	12.8373	(12.6988)	12.8523	(12.7136)
*GHS/EUR	11.2352	(11.2051)	11.2473	(11.2162)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/01/23 (Rates for 17/01/23 in brackets)

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Italy trade surplus shrinks on widening energy deficit

Italy's foreign trade surplus decreased in Nov. from last year, as imports grew faster than exports amid a widening energy deficit, data from the statistical office Istat shows. The trade surplus for Nov was €1.45bn, down from €2.20bn in the corresponding month last year. In Oct. the trade balance showed a deficit of €2.06bn. (www.rttnews.com 18/01/23)

Israel's debt-to-GDP ratio sees sharpest decline in 35 years

Israel's public debt-to-GDP ratio dropped to 60.9% in 2022 from 68% in 2021, the Israeli Finance Ministry has said. The year-on-year decrease of 7.1 percentage points is the sharpest since 1987, when an annual decrease of about 20 percentage points was recorded in the ratio figure, according to Israel's central bank. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/23)

S. Korean banks' loan delinquency ratio rises in November

South Korean banks' loan delinquency ratio rose in Nov. due to interest rate hikes, financial watchdog data showed Thursday. Bank loans, overdue at least one month, stood at 0.27% of the total at the end of Nov. up 0.02 percentage points from a month earlier, according to Financial Supervisory Service. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/23)

Taiwan economy shrinks 0.9% on weaker exports, worst contraction in 13 years

Taiwanese economy contracted the most in thirteen years as export demand was impacted by the Covid pandemic related woes in China, advance estimates by the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting & Statistics, or DGBAS, revealed. (www.rttnews.com 18/01/23)

Dutch jobless rate falls slightly to 3.5%, lowest in 6 months

The Dutch unemployment rate dropped for the third straight month in Dec. to the lowest level in six months, the Central Bureau of Statistics has said. The seasonally adjusted ILO jobless rate for the 15-75-year-old age group dropped slightly to 3.5% in Dec from 3.6% in Nov. (www.rttnews.com 19/01/23)

Oil prices dip as recession concerns resurface

Oil prices dropped on Wednesday as traders focused on recession risks. The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for Feb. delivery slipped 70 cents, or 0.87%, to settle at \$79.48 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude for March delivery lost 94 cents, to close at \$84.98 a barrel on the London ICE Futures Exchange. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/23)

Implementation of AfCFTA pact to help boost intra-African trade: UNECA chief

The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement should be expedited as the free trade zone will boost intra-African trade and accelerate industrialization, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Acting Executive Secretary Antonio Pedro has said. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/23)

SA: Inflation cools slightly to 7.2%, but food prices remain red hot

Annual consumer price inflation cooled to 7.2% in Dec. down from 7.4% in Nov. and 7.6% in Oct. Statistics SA reported on Wednesday. Dec's inflation rate was slightly lower than economists expected. The median forecast of 15 economists in a Bloomberg survey was 7.3%. (www.news24.com 18/01/23)

S.Sudan's central bank restricts commercial transactions in foreign currencies

The central bank of South Sudan has restricted public institutions and the private sector to transact business only in the local currency, the South Sudanese pound (SSP), amid the current volatile exchange rate which has seen the local pound depreciates against the US dollar. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/23)

Ghana: Headline inflation has peaked – IMF Deputy Boss

Gita Gopinath, the International Monetary Fund's Deputy Boss had said headline inflation has probably peaked but some of "the more sticky components" such as the services sector are still trending up in some countries. She added that 2023 will be a "tough year." (www.myjoyonline.com 18/01/23)

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