



Wednesday, 15th March 2023

US consumer prices rise 6% at tricky time for Fed amid Silicon Valley Bank fallout

US inflation was high enough in Feb. to further complicate the path forward for the Fed as it contends with three bank failures and broader concerns about financial stability. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 6% year on year last month, following a 0.4% increase from the previous month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has said. (www.ft.com 14/03/23)

Fed launches supervision review in wake of SVB collapse

The Fed said it would conduct a review of its supervision of Silicon Valley Bank, after the mid-sized lender collapsed late last week, spreading panic through markets. "The events surrounding Silicon Valley Bank demand a thorough, transparent, and swift review by the Fed," said chair Jerome Powell. (www.centralbanking.com 14/03/23)

China's fixed-asset investment up 5.5% in Jan-Feb

China's fixed-asset investment went up 5.5% year on year in the first two months of this year, 0.4 percentage points higher than the full-year growth rate of 2022, data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows. The investment totaled ¥5.3577tr (about \$780bn) in Jan. and Feb. combined, the bureau said in a statement. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/03/23)

UK pay growth slows as BoE mulls rates pause

Growth in pay in Britain - which the Bank of England is watching closely as it weighs up whether to pause its run of interest rate hikes next week - lost pace in the three months to Jan. Total pay grew by an annual 5.7% in the Nov.-to-Jan. period, slowing from 6.0% in the previous figures and the weakest increase since the three months to July last year. (www.reuters.com 14/03/23)

Hunt has limited room for maneuver on UK budget

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt will pledge to drive economic growth by unblocking business investment in his first budget in which he will set out tax-and-spend policies for the last full year before the next election. Hunt will pledge to "deliver the next part of our plan: a budget for growth," according to prepared remarks released by the Treasury. (www.bloomberg.com 14/03/23)

Italy industrial output contracts 0.7%

Italy's industrial production declined at the start of the year amid contractions in the capital and intermediate goods output, data from the statistical office ISTAT shows. Industrial production fell 0.7% month-over-month in Jan. reversing a 1.2% recovery in Dec. which was the first increase in four months. (www.rttnews.com 14/03/23)

Spain inflation rises less than estimated

Spain's inflation rose slightly less than estimated in Feb. final data from the statistical office INE shows. The CPI climbed 6.0% annually after the 5.9 % rise in Jan. The rate was revised down from 6.1% estimated on Feb 28. Likewise, underlying inflation advanced to revised 7.6% from 7.5% a month ago. The preliminary estimate showed an annual growth of 7.7% for Jan. (www.rttnews.com 14/03/23)

S. K's money supply falls in January

South Korea's money supply marked the first fall in over nine years in Jan due to interest rate hikes, central bank data shows. The seasonally-adjusted M2, or broad money, came in at ₩3,803.4tr (\$2.92tr) in Jan. down 0.2% from the previous month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). It has marked the first reduction in almost nine and a half years since August 2013 amid the higher policy rate. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/03/23)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2164	(1.2153)	1.2165	(1.2155)
+USD/EUR	1.0718	(1.0731)	1.0719	(1.0732)
*GHS/USD	11.0081	(11.0081)	11.0191	(11.0191)
*GHS/GBP	13.3902	(13.3781)	13.4047	(13.3937)
*GHS/EUR	11.7986	(11.8140)	11.8103	(11.8246)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 15/03/23 (Rates for 14/03/23 in brackets)

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Argentina's inflation rate tops 100% for the first time in three decades

Argentina's annual inflation rate has hit a three-decade high, surging past 100% for the first time since 1991 in a sign of how the country's government has failed to tame price pressures that have torn across the economy. Prices rose by 6.6% in Feb. bringing the 12-month figure to 102.5%, government statistics agency has said. (www.ft.com 14/03/23)

Saudi Public Investment Fund announces initiatives to support private sector

The Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced on Tuesday new initiatives to support the private sector's development. The initiatives were announced at the inaugural PIF Private Sector Forum held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, the Saudi Press Agency reported. (www.xinhuanet.com 15/03/23)

Dutch inflation rises to 8.0%, as estimated

The Netherlands' consumer price inflation rose in Feb. as initially estimated, largely led by higher food prices, data from the Central Bureau of Statistics shows. The consumer price index climbed 8.0% year-over-year in Feb. faster than the 7.6% increase in Jan. which was the slowest rate since Feb. 2022. (www.rttnews.com 14/03/23)

Finland's economy expands 1.4% in Jan

Finland's gross domestic product continued to expand at the start of the year and at a faster pace, largely attributed to the growth in the industrial and agricultural sectors, data from Statistics Finland shows. Output of the national economy rose a working-day-adjusted 1.4% year-over-year in Jan. faster than the 0.4% rise in Dec. (www.rttnews.com 15/03/23)

NZ has NZ\$9.46bn in Q4

New Zealand posted a current account deficit of NZ\$9.46bn in the fourth quarter of 2022, Statistics New Zealand has said. That missed expectations for a shortfall of NZ\$7.64bn following the downwardly revised NZ\$11.40bn deficit in the third quarter. New Zealand's seasonally adjusted current account balance was an NZ\$8.5bn deficit in the fourth quarter. (www.rttnews.com 14/03/23)

Oil prices rebound after OPEC upgrades China demand outlook

Oil prices rebounded more than 1% on Wednesday, recovering from the previous day's plunge, as a stronger OPEC outlook on China's demand helped offset bearish global investor sentiment in the wake of the recent U.S. bank failures. Brent crude futures climbed 93 cents, or 1.2%, to \$78.38 a barrel by 0324 GMT. (www.reuters.com 15/03/23)

Central Banks discuss establishment of an African Central Bank

The Bureau of the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) convened its first meeting of the year on March 9th, 2023, in Dakar, Senegal, Governor of the Bank of Ghana and Chairman of the West African sub-region of the AACB, Dr. Ernest K.Y. Addison, represented the West African central bank Governors. (www.norvanreports.com 15/03/23)

SARB deputy warns on growth prospects

A deputy governor of the South African Reserve Bank (Sarb) warned the country is enduring the "lowest growth episode in recent South African history". Speaking to the Central Banking Spring Meetings in Cape Town on March 14, Rashad Cassim blamed a "failure of basic infrastructure". (www.centralbanking.com 14/03/23)

Nigeria's old currency can be used longer amid cash crisis

Nigeria's central bank has extended the timeline to swap out its old currency for redesigned notes after the change triggered a cash shortage, forcing businesses to close and leaving millions unable to withdraw their money. The Bank announced late Monday that the old notes of N200, N500 and N1,000 will remain legal tender until Dec. 31. (www.africanews.com 14/03/23)

Prez Akufo-Addo honours Bank of Ghana

Bank of Ghana has been recognized by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo for the distinguished roles it played during the fight to contain the Covid-19 Pandemic. (www.norvanreports.com 15/03/23)

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