



Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

### Eurozone consumer confidence improves modestly

Pessimism among euro area consumers declined for a second straight month in May, but the improvement was less than expected, preliminary survey results from the European Commission show. The seasonally adjusted flash consumer confidence rose to -17.4 from -17.5 in April. Economists had forecast a score of -17.0. The latest reading was the strongest since February last year, when it was -9.5. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 22/05/23)

### Yellen says it's now 'highly likely' US out of cash early June

The US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said it's now "highly likely" that her department will run out of sufficient cash in early June, and repeated her warning that the moment could come as soon as June 1. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 23/05/23)

### Americans' financial health hit by higher inflation, Fed survey shows

Americans reported that their financial health had deteriorated sharply in 2022 in the face of elevated inflation, new data from the Fed showed. According to the US central bank, the share of US adults reporting that they were "doing at least OK financially" fell to 73% in 2022, down 5 percentage points from the previous year and one of the lowest readings since 2016. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 22/05/23)

### China's non-financial ODI up 26.6% in January-April

China's non-financial outbound direct investment rose 26.6% year on year to ¥289.29bn in the first four months of the year, official data shows. In U.S. dollar terms, the ODI stood at 42.19bn in the period, up 17.6% from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Commerce. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 22/05/23)

### PBoC holds key lending rates for ninth straight month

The People's Bank of China kept its benchmark lending rates unchanged for the ninth straight month on May 22, despite recent data suggesting the country's economic recovery is sputtering. The PBoC held the one-year loan prime rate (LPR) at 3.65% and maintained the five-year LPR – a reference for mortgage rates – at 4.3%. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 22/05/23)

### UK: Labour willing to force pension plans to invest in £50bn 'growth fund'

Labour is prepared to force pension funds to invest in a proposed £50bn "future growth fund", as the party aims to boost the amount of capital available for fast-growing UK companies. Rachel Reeves, shadow chancellor, said she did not believe Labour would need to mandate retirement schemes to invest in the new fund because of the goodwill in the sector. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 22/05/23)

### Britons among most gloomy on inflation prospects

People in the UK are among the least confident that the financial authorities will bring inflation under control quickly, according to an Ipsos Mori survey of 29 countries around the world seen by the Financial Times. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 22/05/23)

### Japan manufacturing PMI improves in May - Jibun

The manufacturing sector in Japan continued to expand in May, and at a faster pace, the latest survey from Jibun Bank revealed on Tuesday with a manufacturing PMI score of 50.8. That's up from 49.5 in April and it moves above the boom-or-bust line of 50 that separates expansion from contraction. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 22/05/23)

#### EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2422	(1.2482)	1.2423	(1.2483)
+USD/EUR	1.0801	(1.0824)	1.0802	(1.0825)
*GHS/USD	10.7824	(10.8074)	10.7932	(10.8182)
*GHS/GBP	13.3939	(13.4898)	13.4084	(13.5044)
*GHS/EUR	11.6469	(11.6997)	11.6585	(11.7103)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 23/05/23 (Rates for 22/05/23 in brackets)

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### **Turkish consumer sentiment strongest since Mid-2018**

Turkey's consumer confidence strengthened to the highest level since mid-2018 as households expect general economic situation to improve over the coming year, a survey conducted in cooperation with the Turkish Statistical Institute and the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey showed on Monday.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 22/05/23)

### **India pulls highest-denomination notes from circulation**

India's central bank sought to calm the public after its decision to withdraw its highest-value currency notes from circulation triggered alarm about financial stability. The Bank of India announced that it would eliminate Rs2,000 (\$24) notes, instructing the public to exchange or deposit them at banks by the end of September. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 22/05/23)

### **Israel's central bank hikes interest rate to 4.75%**

The Bank of Israel (BOI) announced on Monday that it is raising its benchmark interest rate by 0.25 percentage points to 4.75%, the highest level since Nov; 2006. This is the tenth consecutive increase in the benchmark rate since April 2022, which stood at 0.1%. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 23/05/23)

### **HK inflation rises 2.1% in April**

Hong Kong's overall consumer prices rose 2.1% in April over the same month a year earlier, larger than the 1.7% rise in March. The larger increase was mainly attributable to the lower ceiling of rates concession in April when compared with the same month last year. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 22/05/23)

### **Swiss industrial production expands 3.4% in Q1**

Switzerland's industrial production continued to expand in the first quarter, though at a slower pace compared to the previous quarter amid a slowdown in manufacturing growth and further contraction in construction output, the Federal Statistical Office reported on Monday. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 22/05/23)

### **Oil extends gains on higher gasoline demand, tighter supply**

Oil prices continued to climb on Tuesday with investors expecting a tighter market led by a seasonal rise in gasoline demand and supply cuts from OPEC+ producers, though concerns over the risk of a US debt default capped gains. Brent crude futures rose 35 cents, or 0.46%, to \$76.34 a barrel by 0630 GMT.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 23/05/23)

### **Gold declines as dollar and yields rise on hawkish Fed**

Gold traded near its lowest level since early April on Tuesday as the dollar strengthened in the wake of hawkish comments from Fed officials. Spot gold fell 0.7% to \$1,958.20 per ounce, while US gold futures were down 0.9% at \$1,959.85. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 23/05/23)

### **Africa not risky for private sector climate change, green growth investment – AfDB President**

African Development Bank (AfDB) President, Dr Akinwumi Ayodeji Adesina, said growth has made a compelling case for investors to put their money in Africa for climate change and green growth, adding, private sectors provide the \$2.7tr fund for climate change, the Bank would use it to support African countries to climate-proof their economies.

([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 23/05/23)

### **UN emergency fund allocates \$5m to help Egypt accommodate Sudanese refugees**

The United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) announced it has allocated \$5m for its humanitarian efforts in Egypt to accommodate the people fleeing conflicts in neighbouring Sudan.

([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 23/05/23)

### **Bank of Ghana MPC stays policy rate amid easing inflationary pressures**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Ghana (BoG) has opted to keep the key monetary policy rate unchanged at 29.5 percent, citing rapid easing of underlying inflationary pressures and decreasing inflation expectations.

([www.thebftonline.com](http://www.thebftonline.com) 23/05/23)

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