



Monday, 18th September 2023

IMF, WB to decide Monday on October meetings in earthquake-hit Morocco

The IMF and World Bank decide on Monday whether to proceed with Oct. 9-15 annual meetings in earthquake-hit Morocco after completing a "thorough review" of the country's ability to host the meetings, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said. She also said in an exclusive interview that the IMF has reached a staff-level agreement with Morocco to provide a \$1.3bn loan to bolster the country's resilience to climate-related disasters. (www.reuters.com 15/09/23)

Basel Committee will look at interest rate risk and liquidity reforms

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision will examine whether to change global regulations on interest rate risk and liquidity, its chairman announced on Sept. 14. Pablo Hernández de Cos said the committee would examine interest rate risk in the banking book, or IRRBB. (www.centralbanking.com 15/09/23)

Eurozone trade surplus declines in July

The euro area trade surplus declined sharply in July as exports declined amid rising imports, data from Eurostat showed on Friday. The trade surplus declined sharply to a seasonally adjusted €2.9bn from €8.6bn in the previous month. Exports decreased 1.7% from a month ago, while imports grew 0.7% in July. (www.rttnews.com 15/09/23)

Don't bet on ECB rate cuts in first half of 2024, Kazaks says

Betting that the European Central Bank cuts interest rates in the first half of next year would be a mistake, according to Governing Council member Martins Kazaks. Wage growth in the euro zone hasn't yet peaked and it's unclear how quickly underlying inflation will retreat, the head of Latvia's central bank said. (www.bloomberg.com 17/09/23)

Economists expect Fed to defy investors with more interest rate rises

The US Federal Reserve will defy investors' expectations and raise interest rates by at least another quarter-point, according to a majority of leading academic economists polled by the Financial Times. More than 40% of those surveyed said they expected the Fed to raise rates twice or more from the current benchmark level of 5.25-5.5%, a 22-year high. (www.ft.com 17/09/23)

PBoC cuts reserve requirement ratio but holds policy rate

The Bank of China cut the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves and injected liquidity into the banking system to support the country's economic recovery. The PBoC announced on Sept. 14 it would cut the reserve requirement ratio for financial institutions, except those that implemented a 5% reserve ratio by 25bps. (www.centralbanking.com 15/09/23)

Public confidence in BoE's inflation strategy hits record low

UK public confidence in the Bank of England's approach to tackling inflation has fallen to a record low, data released before policymakers vote on a potential 15th consecutive interest rate rise reveals. In Aug, 40% of Britons were dissatisfied with how the central bank was doing its job of setting interest rates in order to control the pace of price rises. (www.ft.com 15/09/23)

BoE expected to raise interest rates to 5.5%

Financial markets and economists are expecting the BoE to raise interest rates by another quarter point at its meeting, taking the cost of borrowing to 5.5%.The rise would follow a similar move from the ECB last week, despite comments from BoE rate setters that were designed to give them the option to hold rates at 5.25%. (www.ft.com 18/09/23)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCY

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2400	(1.2418)	1.2401	(1.2420)
+USD/EUR	1.0672	(1.0653)	1.0673	(1.0653)
*GHS/USD	11.0653	(11.0606)	11.0763	(11.0716)
*GHS/GBP	13.7209	(13.7350)	13.7358	(13.7510)
*GHS/EUR	11.8101	(11.7826)	11.8208	(11.7943)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/09/23 (Rates for 15/09/23 in brackets)

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France inflation exceeds initial estimate

France's consumer price inflation exceeded the initial estimate in Aug. but harmonized inflation figure was confirmed, the statistical office INSEE says. At 4.9%, CPI was higher than July's 4.3% and the provisional estimate of 4.8% for Aug. At the same time, the statistical office INSEE confirmed the EU measure of inflation at 5.7% in Aug. up from 5.1% a month ago. (www.rttnews.com 15/09/23)

Italy inflation eases more than estimated

Italy's consumer price inflation eased slightly more than initially estimated in August, while the trade balance turned to a surplus in July from a deficit in the previous year as imports fell faster than exports, separate reports from the statistical office ISTAT showed on Friday. (www.rttnews.com 15/09/23)

Bullock takes over at Australia central bank with soft landing in sight

When Michele Bullock takes over as the first woman to head Australia's central bank on Monday, she inherits an economy with inflation moderating, employment strong and growth still afloat. The Bank of Australia (RBA) has been on hold for three months after raising interest rates aggressively for more than a year. (www.reuters.com 17/09/23)

Cuban official denies plans to issue higher-value notes

A senior central bank official has denied rumours Cuba will introduce new, higher-denomination banknotes. Deputy governor Alberto Quiñones Betancourt said "at the moment", the central bank was "not thinking about in the short term working with banknotes in other denominations different from those in circulation". (www.centralbanking.com 15/09/23)

Ireland trade surplus shrinks to €4.58bn

Ireland's foreign trade surplus decreased in July as imports rose amid lower exports, figures from the Central Statistics Office show. The seasonally adjusted trade surplus dropped to €4.5bn in July from €5.53bn in June. In the corresponding month last year, the trade balance showed a surplus of €3.8bn. (www.rttnews.com 15/09/23)

Oil rises on supply concerns, China demand recovery

Oil prices rose for a third straight session on Monday, buoyed by forecasts of a widening supply deficit in the fourth quarter after Saudi Arabia and Russia extended cuts and on optimism of a demand recovery in China, the world's top crude importer. Brent crude futures rose 39 cents, to \$94.32 a barrel by 0253 GMT. (www.reuters.com 18/09/23)

Asia equities dip as traders await outcomes of central bank meetings

Most Asian equity indices declined on Monday as traders looked ahead to a busy week of central bank meetings and potential interest rises. Hong Kong's Seng index shed 0.9%, Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.6% and South Korea's Kospi declined 0.8%. China's CSI 300 rose 0.5%. (www.ft.com 18/09/23)

Macroeconomic stability key to realising single currency dream – Bawumia to W/A Finance Ministers

The Vice President of Ghana, Alhaji Dr. Bawumia has said that ensuring macroeconomic stability by West African states is key to realising the long-standing dream of achieving a single currency for the Sub-region. (www.ghanaweb.com 17/09/23)

Nigeria gets new Central Bank Governor, Yemi Cardoso

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu has approved the nomination of Dr. Yemi Michael Cardoso to serve as the new Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). According to a presidential spokesman, Ajuri Ngelale, on Friday evening, Yemi Cardoso will serve for a term of five (5) years at the first instance. (www.myjoyonline.com 15/09/23)

Algeria's GDP in 2022 stands at \$233bn

Algeria's gross domestic product reached \$233bn in 2022, with an average per capita GDP of approximately \$5,187, Algerian Prime Minister Aymen Benabderrahmane said on Sunday. Benabderrahmane made the remarks at the 47th Ordinary Session of the Council of Arab Central Banks and Monetary Authorities Governors. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/09/23)

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