



Wednesday, 20th September 2023

Global debt pile hits record high of \$307tn

The world economy's debt pile hit a fresh high in the first half of this year, while borrowing as a share of gross domestic product is rising again after nearly two years of declines, according to the Institute of International Finance (IIF). Total debt spanning sovereigns, corporates and households rose by \$10tn to about \$307tn in the six months to June, the IIF said in its global debt monitor report published on Tuesday. (www.ft.com 19/09/23)

OECD Lifts 2023 global growth outlook; trims 2024 projection

The global economy is projected to grow faster than expected this year as activity proved more resilient in the first half of the year but a sharper slowdown in China and elevated public debt are likely to weigh on next year growth, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said. (www.rttnews.com 19/09/23)

FSB proposes global standard to tackle failed CCPs

The Financial Stability Board has laid out a global standard to govern how authorities prepare to resolve central counterparties (CCPs) whenever they fail. The FSB launched a consultation on the standard, building on its previous work to boost the resilience and recoverability of CCPs. (www.centralbanking.com 19/09/23)

Eurozone current account surplus declines

The Euro area current account surplus declined in July largely due to the fall in the visible trade surplus, the European Central Bank says. The current account surplus declined to €21bn in July from €36bn in June. In the same period last year, the account posted a €22bn deficit. The surplus on goods trade declined to €23bn from €39bn in the prior month. (www.rttnews.com 19/09/23)

US business optimism about China outlook falls to record low - survey

Political tensions and a slowing economy are sapping the confidence of US businesses operating in China, with the number of companies optimistic about their five-year outlook falling to a record low, a survey published on Tuesday showed, even after the ending of COVID curbs, which weighed heavily on revenues and sentiment in 2022. (www.reuters.com 19/09/23)

Yellen says she trusts IMF, WB, Morocco to adjust annual meetings after disaster

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Tuesday that she trusts the leaders of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to adjust their Oct. 9-15 annual meetings in Morocco in an appropriate way given the country's devastating earthquake. (www.reuters.com 20/09/23)

China keeps benchmark rates unchanged as economy finds footing

China kept benchmark lending rates unchanged at a monthly fixing on Wednesday, in line with expectations, as fresh signs of economic stabilisation and a weakening yuan reduced the need for immediate monetary easing. Recent economic data showed the world's second-largest economy was finding its footing after a sharp slowdown. (www.reuters.com 20/09/23)

UK inflation unexpectedly slows in August

UK consumer price inflation unexpectedly slowed in Aug and factory gate prices declined for the second consecutive month. The CPI posted an annual increase of 6.7% in August after rising 6.8% in July. Inflation was expected to rise to 7.0%. Moreover, this was the weakest inflation since Feb. 2022. On a monthly basis, the CPI was up 0.3%, in contrast to the 0.4% fall in July. (www.rttnews.com 20/09/23)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCY

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2385	(1.2396)	1.2386	(1.2397)
+USD/EUR	1.0682	(1.0693)	1.0684	(1.0694)
*GHS/USD	11.0681	(11.0668)	11.0791	(11.0778)
*GHS/GBP	13.7078	(13.7184)	13.7226	(13.7332)
*GHS/EUR	11.8232	(11.8343)	11.8339	(11.8451)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 20/09/23 (Rates for 19/09/23 in brackets)

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Japan trade deficit Y930.477bn in August

Japan posted a merchandise trade deficit of 930.477 billion yen in August, the Ministry of Finance said on Wednesday. That was well shy of expectations for a shortfall of ¥659.1bn following the upwardly revised ¥66.3bn deficit in July (originally -¥78.7bn yen). Exports were down 0.8% on year at ¥7.994tr. (www.rttnews.com 19/09/23)

Canadian inflation jumps, October rate hike bets rise

Canada's annual inflation rate in August jumped to 4.0% from 3.3% in July on higher gasoline prices, data showed on Tuesday, a sign the central bank may be forced to raise interest rates yet again after 10 hikes since March of last year. Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast that inflation would hit 3.8%. (www.reuters.com 19/09/23)

Malaysia trade surplus rises in August

The Malaysian trade surplus was almost unchanged in August due to a continued slump in exports, the statistical office has said. The trade surplus stood at MYR 17.31bn in August versus MYR 17.29bn in the same month last year. In July, the trade surplus was MYR 17.36bn. (www.rttnews.com 19/09/23)

ADB lowers growth forecast for Cambodia to 5.3%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered its 2023 economic growth forecast for Cambodia to 5.3% from an earlier prediction of 5.5%, mainly due to slower-than-expected industry growth, according to its updated economic report released on Wednesday. (www.xinhuanet.com 20/09/23)

Philippines posts \$57m deficit in August

The Philippines' overall balance of payments (BOP) position posted a deficit of \$57m in August lower than a deficit of \$572m a year ago, the country's central bank said. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said the BOP deficit in Aug. this year reflected net outflows arising mainly from the national government's payments of its foreign currency debt obligations. (www.xinhuanet.com 20/09/23)

Oil falls ahead of Fed rate policy announcement

Oil prices retreated further from 10-month highs on Wednesday ahead of the U.S. Fed's interest rate decision, with investors uncertain when peak rates will be hit and how much of an impact it will have on energy demand. Global benchmark Brent crude futures fell slightly over \$1 to \$93.33 a barrel, and were last down 80 cents, or 0.8%, at \$93.54 a barrel by 0310 GMT. (www.reuters.com 20/09/23)

Gold rises slightly ahead of Fed's interest rate decision

Gold futures on the COMEX division of the New York Mercantile Exchange rose slightly ahead of the Fed's decision on interest rate. The most active gold contract for Dec. delivery rose \$0.30 or 0.02%, to close at \$1,953.70 per ounce. (www.xinhuanet.com 20/09/23)

Shares slip, yields rise as market awaits a likely hawkish Fed

Global stocks eased and the 10-year Treasury yield almost hit levels last seen in 2007 as a plunge in US homebuilding last month underscored the balancing act the Federal Reserve faces in presenting its outlook on inflation and the economy this week. (www.reuters.com 19/09/23)

Inflation ticks higher despite lower food prices

Annual consumer price inflation picked up slightly to 4.8% in Aug. from 4.7% in July - the first increase in 4 months in line with economists' expectations. After many months of big hikes, food prices started to fall, this was not enough to counteract a rise in fuel prices and increases in municipal tariffs. (www.news24.com 20/09/23)

Ghana: Economic assessments begin amidst marginal inflation fall

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of Ghana (BoG) has commenced its regular meetings to review developments in the economy. This is the 114th meeting of the Committee and is expected to decide on steps to ensure financial and economic stability. (www.citibusinessnews.com 20/09/23)

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