



Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023

### Christine Lagarde warns ECB ‘not done’ in inflation fight

Lagarde has said it is too early to “start declaring victory” in the European Central Bank’s push to tame inflation, calling for rate-setters and markets to “allow some time” to see how fast disinflationary forces take effect. Eurozone policymakers left borrowing costs on hold at their Oct. policy meeting and are expected to do so again in December.

([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 21/11/23)

### US existing home sales hit 13-year low as high interest rates bite

Sales of previously built homes in the U.S. tumbled to their lowest annual rate in more than 13 years, pressured by a “persistent lack of housing inventory” and mortgage rates hovering near their highest level since 2000. Existing home sales dropped 4.1% in Oct. from a month earlier to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.79m, according to National Association of Realtors.

([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 21/11/23)

### Fed officials showed little urgency to raise interest rates further

Federal Reserve officials expressed little urgency to raise interest rates again at their most recent meeting, even as they reiterated their willingness to tighten monetary policy further if warranted by new data. Minutes from the Federal Open Market Committee’s November meeting shows.

([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 21/11/23)

### China to cut gasoline, diesel retail prices

China will cut the retail prices of gasoline and diesel from Wednesday, based on recent changes in international oil prices, the country’s top economic planner said on Tuesday. Gasoline prices will be reduced by ¥340 (about \$47.62 US) per tonne, and diesel prices by 330 yuan per tonne, the National Development and Reform Commission confirmed.

([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 21/11/23)

### UK’s Hunt targets £20bn investment lift with tax cut plan

UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt aims to boost business investment by £20bn (\$25bn) a year by unleashing a package of measures on Wednesday including making permanent a 100% tax relief on investment spending by British businesses.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/11/23)

### BOJ pulls back from risk asset buying in sign of normalization

The Bank of Japan is on track for zero purchases of real estate investment trusts this year and its smallest annual haul of exchange-traded funds since 2010 as it continues to stealthily tiptoe in the direction of more conventional policy. The central bank has yet to step into the J-REIT market this year as of Nov. 21, after purchases every year since 2010 to help lower risks in the property market.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/11/23)

### India’s Central Bank Governor warns of credit ‘exuberance’

India’s central bank Governor Shaktikanta Das warned banks to undertake stress tests and said all forms of “exuberance” should be avoided, days after imposing curbs on some lending. While there’s no immediate cause for concern, Das said banks and non-bank financial companies must ensure credit growth is sustainable.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/11/23)

### Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia launch cross-border payment links

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has set up new cross-border payments links with the central banks of Malaysia and Indonesia. The Singaporean central bank has led a series of cross-border payments projects with Asian countries. It announced similar real-time payments links with Thailand in 2021.

([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 21/11/23)

#### EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2534	(1.2495)	1.2535	(1.2496)
+USD/EUR	1.0934	(1.0941)	1.0935	(1.0942)
*GHS/USD	11.5600	(11.5552)	11.5716	(11.5668)
*GHS/GBP	14.4893	(14.4382)	14.5050	(14.4538)
*GHS/EUR	12.6412	(12.6429)	12.6526	(12.6544)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/11/23 (Rates for 21/11/23 in brackets)

\* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/11/23 (Rates for 21/11/23 in brackets)

### **Singapore's GDP expansion beats, sees 2024 growth of 1%-3%**

Singapore's economy fared better than initially thought in the third quarter as the government forecasts that growth may quicken next year, adding to signs that recovery is well on track and that a recession is unlikely. Gross domestic product in the three months through September grew 1.4% from the previous quarter. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/11/23)

### **Brazil Central Bank can keep cutting rates, Campos Neto says**

Brazil's central bank has room to continue lowering interest rates as inflation is well-behaved even if still a bit above the target, Governor Roberto Campos Neto said in an interview with Bloomberg. Monetary policy remains so restrictive in Brazil "because as inflation goes lower, real rates go higher," Neto. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/11/23)

### **S.K to cut import tariffs on 76 items in 2024**

South Korea's Finance Ministry said that it will cut import tariffs on 76 items in 2024 as part of their efforts to strengthen industrial competitiveness and control inflation. The lower tariff rates will be applied to 76 industrial products and food items beginning Jan. 1. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 22/11/23)

### **HK inflation up 2.7%, highest in 13 months**

Hong Kong's consumer price inflation (CPI) accelerated for the second straight month in Oct. to the highest level in just over a year, the Census and Statistics Department has stated. The CPI climbed 2.7% year-on-year in Oct. following a 2.0% rise in Sept. This was the highest inflation rate since Sept 2022, when prices rose to 4.4%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 21/11/23)

### **Swiss trade surplus shrinks in October**

Switzerland's trade surplus decreased in Oct. as exports fell faster than imports, the Federal Customs Administration said. The trade surplus dropped to CHF 3.4bn in Oct. from CHF 5.0bn in Sept. In real terms, exports fell 7.2% monthly in Oct. reversing a 3.8% rise in the previous month. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 21/11/23)

### **Oil prices dip in pre-Thanksgiving trade ahead of OPEC+ cuts**

Oil prices slipped in quiet pre-US Thanksgiving holiday trading, as the market awaited news on output cuts from the OPEC+ and looked for confirmation of a sharp build-up in US crude stocks.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 22/11/23)

### **AfDB hybrid capital note could launch before end-November**

The AfDB could launch its debut hybrid capital note, sized between \$500m and US\$1bn, before the end of the month if market conditions are right, the bank's acting treasurer said. AfDB is set to become the first multilateral lender to issue a perpetual hybrid note – a deeply subordinated, debt-like equity instrument that will have a lower credit rating than the lender's AAA-rated bonds.

([www.asaaseradio.com](http://www.asaaseradio.com) 21/11/23)

### **S.A's business confidence slips in fourth quarter - survey**

South Africa's business confidence slipped in Q4, mainly due to weak local demand for vehicles as consumer incomes remained under pressure in the face of high borrowing costs.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 21/11/23)

### **Angola central bank hikes rates as inflation continues to climb**

Angola's central bank increased its main interest rate from 17% to 18%, aiming to curb rising inflation which it hopes to get back into single digits in the medium term. Inflation climbed to 16.58% year-on-year in Oct. from 15.01% in Sept. It had slowed significantly last year and over the first half of 2023.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 21/11/23)

### **Zambia's troubled debt restructuring efforts**

Zambia's debt restructuring has been a complex, 3-year process, which suffered a serious setback when bilateral creditors, including China, effectively ordered it secure more debt relief from international funds that hold its sovereign bonds.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 21/11/23)

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