



Friday, 24th November 2023

Carstens says ‘quantum leap’ needed to overcome legacy systems

Financial technology is now advanced enough to allow a “quantum leap” that replaces the current fragmented network of legacy systems, Agustín Carstens said on Nov. 23. The Bank for International Settlements general manager said many elements of the financial sector were developed when computing power and communication was limited.

(www.centralbanking.com 23/11/23)

Eurozone PMI signals shallow technical recession

The ongoing downturn in the euro area private sector suggested that the region might have entered a shallow recession in the final quarter of 2023, according to S&P Global on Thursday. The HCOB flash composite output index rose to 47.1 in Nov. from 46.5 in Oct.

(www.rttnews.com 23/11/23)

Villeroy says ECB won’t raise rates again, excluding surprises

The European Central Bank won’t increase borrowing costs again, unless there is an unexpected event, according to Governing Council member Francois Villeroy de Galhau. “Excluding surprises, I don’t think the ECB will raise rates again,” Villeroy said on France 5 television. “A gradual reduction in rates will come one day, but we’re not there yet.”

(www.bloomberg.com 23/11/23)

UK consumer confidence rises sharply

UK consumer confidence rose sharply in November according to the research company GfK which raises hopes of higher spending on Black Friday and Christmas. The consumer confidence index a measure of how people view their personal finances and broader economic prospects rose six points to minus 24, recovering most of the ground lost in October. (www.ft.com 24/11/23)

German business outlook reaches six-month high in sign of hope

Germany’s business outlook improved for a third month in November, pointing to an impending recovery for an economy that is probably in a recession and beset by a budget crisis. The Ifo institute’s gauge of expectations rose to a six-month high of 85.2, less than the 85.8 median estimate in a Bloomberg survey.

(www.bloomberg.com 24/11/23)

Japan’s inflation quickens, clouding price outlook for BOJ

Japan’s key inflation measure accelerated for the first time in 4 months, coming largely in line with market expectations that price gains will continue and heightening the Bank of Japan’s dependence on data ahead of its Dec. policy meeting. Growth in consumer prices inched up to 2.9% in Oct. from 2.8% in Sept.

(www.bloomberg.com 23/11/23)

Turkish central bank raises rates above market expectations

Turkey’s monetary policy committee (MPC) raised its main rate on November 23 to combat continuing high inflation. The move was significantly larger than financial markets had expected. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey’s MPC increased its benchmark one-week repo rate by 500 basis points to 40%, its sixth consecutive hike.

(www.centralbanking.com 23/11/23)

Malaysia's inflation rises 1.8% in October

Malaysia's inflation increased 1.8% in Oct. the lowest since April 2021 with the index points recorded at 130.9 as against 128.6 in the same month of last year, official data showed on Friday. The Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM) said in a statement that the gain in inflation was driven by the lower increases in the food and non-alcoholic beverages group of 3.6%. (www.xinhuanet.com 24/11/23)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2534	(1.2460)	1.2536	(1.2461)
+USD/EUR	1.0906	(1.0870)	1.0907	(1.0871)
*GHS/USD	11.5687	(11.5687)	11.5803	(11.5803)
*GHS/GBP	14.5002	(14.4146)	14.5170	(14.4302)
*GHS/EUR	12.6177	(12.5760)	12.6301	(12.5885)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 24/11/23 (Rates for 23/11/23 in brackets)

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Bank Indonesia holds rate steady

Indonesia's central bank left its benchmark rate unchanged on Thursday after an unexpected quarter-point hike in Oct. to curb the fall in the rupiah currency. The Board of Governors of Bank Indonesia, led by Governor Perry Warjiyo, decided to hold the seven-day reverse repo rate at 6.00%.

(www.rttnews.com 23/11/23)

Riksbank keeps policy rate at 4%

Sveriges Riksbank kept interest rates unchanged at 4% at its monetary policy meeting on Nov. 23. The executive board unanimously supported the decision, even though inflation remains over the 2% target and most analysts expected a 25 basis points increase. This has been interpreted as a dovish decision. (www.centralbanking.com 23/11/23)

Sweden housing starts hit lowest level in more than a decade

The number of new housing starts in Sweden this year fell to the lowest level in more than a decade, as building activity grinds to a near-halt following a decline in home prices and increasing borrowing costs. In the nine months through Sept. construction started on about 20,950 new homes, which is 55% less than in the year-ago. (www.bloomberg.com 24/11/23)

Kazakhstan extends rate-cut cycle even after IMF urged caution

Kazakhstan cut interest rates for a third straight time, forging ahead with its longest stretch of monetary easing in half a decade even after the IMF cautioned it against loosening policy prematurely. The National Bank of Kazakhstan has lowered its benchmark to 15.75% from 16%.

(www.bloomberg.com 24/11/23)

Sweden producer prices fall 3.7%

Sweden's producer prices declined for the sixth straight month in Oct. amid a continued slump in costs for energy-related products, Statistics Sweden has said. The producer price index dropped 3.7% year-on-year in Oct. though slower than the 4.6% fall in Sept.

(www.rttnews.com 24/11/23)

Brent steady ahead of OPEC+ oil production decision

Brent crude futures were steady on Friday as traders kept their powder dry ahead of an OPEC+ meeting that could bring agreement on further supply cuts. Brent crude futures were down 8 cents, or 0.1%, at \$81.34 a barrel by 0913 GMT, having settled 0.7% down in the previous session. (www.reuters.com 24/11/23)

Reserve Bank's MPC keeps rates on hold

For its final decision of the year, the Monetary Policy Committee left SA's key interest rate unchanged at 8.25% for a third consecutive meeting, in line with economists' expectations. This comes after annual consumer price inflation leapt to 5.9% in Oct. from 5.4% in Sept. closing in on the upper end of the SA Reserve Bank's targeted band of 3% to 6%. (www.news24.com 23/11/23)

Kenya to privatise 35 state companies next three years

The Kenyan president has said his government is ready to privatise 35 state-owned companies which he said were currently functioning inefficiently due to bureaucracy. In a bid to boost productivity, President William Ruto said 100 other firms were also being looked at for possible privatisation.

(www.norvanreports.com 24/11/23)

Tunisia endeavors to overcome economic difficulties

Tunisia is working to restore its economic and financial stability, increase investment, and maintain and further enhance social benefits to overcome economic difficulties, said Tunisian Minister of Finance Sihem Boughdiri Nemsia on Thursday. (www.xinhuanet.com 24/11/23)

Angola not considering OPEC exit as output dispute roils

In the aftermath of a postponement in the next OPEC+ meeting for four days to November 30 over oil output quotas, Angola is not considering quitting the cartel, an official told Bloomberg. There's no thinking in that direction," Angola OPEC Governor Estevao Pedro has said. (www.norvanreports.com 24/11/23)

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