



Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## Global house prices close to bottoming out, BIS stats show

Global house prices appear to be close to bottoming out, despite widespread concerns among economists that high interest rates would trigger a sharp correction. Data published on Feb. 21 by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) highlights the first pick-up in nominal terms since early 2022. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 21/02/24)

## Carbon price has only ‘modest’ impact on inflation – IMF paper

Setting a high carbon price in a bid to tackle climate change is likely to have only a “modest” impact on inflation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) says. Climate policies are likely to have large macroeconomic effects, the paper notes. A carbon price needs to change the relative price of carbon to succeed it does not need to generate inflation. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 21/02/24)

## Eurozone consumer confidence improves more than expected

Euro area consumer confidence improved more than expected in Feb. after deteriorating in the previous month, but the reading remained negative, suggesting lessening pessimism, data from the European Commission showed Wednesday. The flash consumer confidence index climbed to 15.5 from -16.1 in Jan. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 21/02/24)

## China's bond market remains magnet for foreign investors

Buoyed by an upward trend in the economy and continued opening-up efforts, China's bond market has maintained its appeal for foreign capital despite lingering global financial volatility. Overseas investors still purchase Chinese bonds from Sept. to Dec. 2023, with an increase of over \$60bn in net holdings. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 22/02/24)

## Japan’s manufacturing PMI falls to lowest since Aug 2020

A key gauge of Japan’s manufacturing activity fell to the weakest in more than 3 years, sending a signal to the Bank of Japan as it mulls an exit from its ultra-stimulative policy settings. The au Jibun Bank purchasing managers index for manufacturing sector activity slid to 47.2 in Feb. the lowest since Aug. of 2020. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/02/24)

## BOJ chief Ueda keeps upbeat view on inflation, wage outlook

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said the country's inflation was accelerating as a trend as a tight labour market pushes up wages, reiterating the bank's conviction that conditions for ending negative interest rates were falling into place. Speaking in parliament, Ueda said Japan's economy is likely to experience a positive cycle. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 22/02/24)

## Australia now seen cutting rates in third quarter, survey shows

Australian economists brought forward their forecasts for the start of the Reserve Bank’s easing cycle, reflecting slight downgrades to inflation estimates and aligning them with current money-market pricing. The RBA will lower its cash rate by a quarter-percentage point to 4.1% in the third quarter, economists have said. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 22/02/24)

## Turkey’s digital lira to use ‘programmable payments’

Turkey’s digital lira will use “programmable payments” that will be dependent on the services provided by intermediaries, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) has said. The central bank released an English language version of the findings from phase one of its digital lira pilot on February 19. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 21/02/24)

### EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2611	(1.2654)	1.2612	(1.2655)
+USD/EUR	1.0807	(1.0820)	1.0808	(1.0821)
*GHS/USD	12.3766	(12.2892)	12.3890	(12.3014)
*GHS/GBP	15.6081	(15.5507)	15.6250	(15.5675)
*GHS/EUR	13.3769	(13.2980)	13.3890	(13.3112)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/02/24 (Rates for 21/02/24 in brackets)

\* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 22/02/24 (Rates for 21/02/24 in brackets)

### **Argentine gov't offers 30% minimum wage hike**

As labor and business groups failed to reach an agreement, Argentina has proposed a 30% increase in the minimum wage by March, the presidency's spokesperson Manuel Adorni said. "It's not possible for the parties to agree when this happens, the government must arbitrate between the parties and set a minimum wage." ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 21/02/24)

### **BoK keeps rates on hold**

The Bank of Korea left its benchmark rate unchanged for the ninth consecutive meeting on Thursday and vowed to maintain a restrictive stance to stabilize inflation at 2 percent. The Monetary Policy Board, led by Governor Rhee Chang-yong, unanimously decided to maintain the key base rate at 3.50%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 21/02/24)

### **Indonesia Central Bank maintains rate**

Indonesia's central bank left its benchmark rate unchanged for the fourth straight session on Wednesday. The Board of Governors of Bank Indonesia, led by Governor Perry Warjiyo, decided to hold the seven-day reverse repo rate at 6.00 percent. The deposit facility rate was maintained at 5.25% and the lending facility rate at 6.75%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 21/02/24)

### **Hungary wage growth accelerates in Dec**

Hungary's average gross earnings increased at the fastest pace in seven months in Dec. figures from the Hungarian Central Statistical Office shows. Average gross earnings rose 16.4% year-on-year in Dec. faster than the 14.1% increase in Nov. The average gross earnings increased to Ft655,552 in Dec. from Ft621,150 in Nov. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 22/02/24)

### **Denmark business confidence weakens to -7**

Denmark's business confidence weakened in Feb. after showing some recovery trend in the previous months, as entrepreneurs were positive about production expectations, figures from Statistics Denmark shows. The industrial confidence index dropped to -7 in Feb. from -5 in Jan. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 22/02/24)

### **Oil rises on softer dollar, shipping attack**

Oil prices rose for a second day, buoyed by a softer dollar and another attack on shipping near Yemen. Brent crude futures rose 35 cents, or 0.4%, to \$83.38 a barrel at 1036 GMT. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures climbed 37 cents, or 0.5%, to \$78.28 a barrel. The dollar index slipped 0.3% to 103.66, supporting prices. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 21/02/24)

### **Gold futures settle lower ahead of Fed minutes**

Gold futures settled lower on Wednesday as the dollar swung between gains and losses ahead of the release of the minutes of the Fed's monetary policy meeting. The minutes might offer additional clues on when the US central bank will start to cut interest rates. The dollar index, which climbed to 104.21 in the European session. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 21/02/24)

### **Remittance inflow to Africa dip marginally to \$94.8bn in 2023 – WB**

According to the World Bank, remittance inflow to the African Continent for the 2023 review year dipped to \$94.8bn from the \$100.1bn recorded in 2022. Per the World Bank, the decline in remittance inflows reflects the slowing pace of growth in high-income economies where many African migrants earn their income. ([www.norvanreports.com](http://www.norvanreports.com) 21/02/24)

### **Africa's growth trend signals return to faster expansion**

Eleven of the world's 20 fastest-growing economies will be in Africa in 2024, according to new forecasts from the African Development Bank (AfDB), despite recent shocks like inflation, increased debt and higher interest rates. ([www.norvanreports.com](http://www.norvanreports.com) 21/02/24)

### **SA's economy estimated to grow 1.6% over next 3 years: minister**

South Africa's economy is estimated to have grown by 0.6% last year and will increase to 1.6% over the next 3 years, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana said. He made this revelation while delivering the 2024 Budget Speech in Cape Town, the legislative capital of South Africa. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 22/02/24)

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