



Tuesday, 2nd April 2024

ECB says consumer inflation expectations declined in February

Inflation expectations of consumers in the euro area fell in Feb. according to the European Central Bank reinforcing hopes that price growth will decrease further in the coming months. Prices are seen rising 3.1% over the next 12 months down from 3.3% in Jan. the ECB said. That's the lowest level since the start of the war in Ukraine in Feb. 2022, it said. (www.bloomberg.com 02/04/24)

WB says developing East Asia to log slower growth

Amid the increasing protectionism and policy uncertainty, Developing East Asia is expected to log slower growth this year and next but, the pace is likely to be faster than the rest of the world on recovering global trade, the World Bank said in its East Asia and Pacific April 2024 Economic Update on Monday. (www.rttnews.com 01/04/24)

A million simulations, one verdict for US economy: debt danger ahead

The Congressional Budget Office warned in its latest projections that US fed government debt is on a path from 97% of GDP last year to 116% by 2034 higher even than in World War II. The actual outlook is likely worse. From tax revenue to defense spending and interest rates, the CBO forecasts released earlier this year are underpinned by rosy assumptions. (www.bloomberg.com 01/04/24)

Fed posts largest operating loss ever

The US Fed System's expenses exceeded its income by \$114.3bn in 2023. It was the largest operating loss the Fed has ever experienced. Like other major central banks, the mixture of the Fed's hiking cycle and large balance sheet heavily impacted its budget last year. (www.centralbanking.com 28/03/24)

PBoC chief urges Asian nations to push for IMF quota reform

People's Bank of China governor Pan Gongsheng has called on Asian countries to push for reforms to the IMF's quota system that would give them more sway at the institution. "The current quota share has been long overdue in reflecting members' relative weight in the world economy," Pan said. (www.centralbanking.com 28/03/24)

Japan monetary base gains 1.6% on year in March

The monetary base in Japan was up 1.6% on year in March, the Bank of Japan said coming in at ¥666.240tr. That was well shy of forecasts for an increase of 2.5% and down from the upwardly revised 2.4% gain in Feb (originally 2.1%). Banknotes in circulation were down 0.8% on year, while coins in circulation sank 1.8%. (www.rttnews.com 01/04/24)

French inflation slowest since late 2021

France's consumer price inflation slowed to the lowest in two-and-a-half years in March on slower increases in food and energy prices, flash data from the statistical office INSEE showed on Friday. The CPI posted an annual increase of 2.3% in March, following Feb's 3.0% rise. The rate was the weakest since Sept. 2021, when the figure was 2.2%. Consumer prices were forecast to climb 2.6% in March. (www.rttnews.com 29/03/24)

Italy inflation accelerates in March

Italy's inflation accelerated in March but at a slower than expected pace, preliminary data from the statistical office ISTAT showed on Friday. Consumer prices logged an annual increase of 1.3% in March after rising 0.8% in Feb. However, this was slightly weaker than the forecast of 1.4%. (www.rttnews.com 29/03/24)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2628	(1.2624)	1.2629	(1.2625)
+USD/EUR	1.0796	(1.0821)	1.0797	(1.0822)
*GHS/USD	12.8706	(12.8624)	12.8834	(12.8752)
*GHS/GBP	16.2529	(16.2375)	16.2705	(16.2550)
*GHS/EUR	13.8962	(13.9186)	13.9100	(13.9313)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 02/04/24 (Rates for 28/03/24 in brackets)

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Russia's economy picked up in early 2024 on consumers, exports

Russia's economy accelerated at the start of the year on the back of strong consumer demand, investment and exports, as the country continues to weather the impact of sanctions following the invasion of Ukraine. Despite signs growth was slowing at the end of last year, the economy picked up in the early months of 2024.

(www.bloomberg.com 01/04/24)

S Korea's FDI logs double-digit growth in Q1

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in South Korea logged a double-digit growth in the first quarter due to robust investment in the manufacturing industry, government data shows. The FDI jumped 25.1% over the year to \$7.05bn in the Jan.-March quarter, posting the largest first-quarter figure in the country's history. (www.xinhuanet.com 02/04/24)

Pakistan posts 20.7% surge in inflation in March

Pakistan's inflation measured by the consumer price index (CPI) reached its lowest point in 23 months as it increased to 20.7% year-on-year in March, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said. This is the lowest inflation recorded since May 2022 when it stood at 13.76%. (www.xinhuanet.com 01/04/24)

Indonesian inflation rises to 3.05%, highest in 7 months

Indonesia's consumer price inflation accelerated more-than-expected in March to the highest level in seven months, data from the statistics bureau shows. The consumer price index climbed 3.05% year-on-year in March, faster than the 2.75% increase in Feb.

(www.rttnews.com 01/04/24)

WB raises Sri Lanka's growth forecast to 2.2% for 2024

The World Bank raised its forecast for Sri Lanka's economy projecting growth of 2.2% for 2024 as the crisis-hit nation makes a faster-than-expected recovery from its worst financial crisis in decades.

(www.reuters.com 02/04/24)

Oil gains on expectations for higher demand and as Middle East concerns rise

Oil prices rose on Tuesday, underpinned by signs that demand may improve China and the U.S., the world's biggest oil consuming nations, and growing concerns of a widening conflict in the Middle East that could affect supply from region. 41 cents to \$87.83 a barrel by 0440 GMT. (www.reuters.com 02/04/24)

African central banks most likely to manage sovereign wealth fund

Central banks rarely oversee sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) in their countries. SWF oversight is more common with institutions from Africa, the Governance Benchmarks 2024 finds. Of the 46 institutions that provided data on their oversight functions, just 8 (17.4%) central banks mentioned overseeing SWFs. (www.centralbanking.com 28/03/24)

SA: Interest rates on hold but petrol goes up

While the South African Reserve Bank kept interest rates on hold last week, consumers will suffer another blow as petrol prices are set to rise this week. The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) announced the fuel price adjustments on Thursday.

(www.iol.co.za 02/04/24)

Egypt to receive first tranche of expanded IMF loan next week

Egypt will receive the first tranche of an expanded loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) next week, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said during a news conference on Saturday. Madbouly did not specify the figure, but the IMF said on Friday the expanded \$8bn financial support program enables the immediate release of \$820m. (www.reuters.com 30/03/24)

IMF ties Egypt loan disbursements to currency flexibility

The IMF will tie payments to Egypt under an \$8bn financial programme to Cairo's letting market conditions to determine the price of its currency and its making foreign exchange available to all businesses and private individuals the IMF said on Monday.

(www.reuters.com 01/04/24)

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