



# BANK OF GHANA NEWS BRIEF

News Summaries from Foreign and Local Media

Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

## Digital payments 'indispensable' in driving development – Tombini

Digital payment technologies are crucial to fostering growth, according to the chief representative of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) office for the Americas Alexandre Tombini. He said on August 28, the use of technologies such as fast payment systems (FPS) and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) had been on the rise in the Americas. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 02/09/24)

## ECB cuts set to become trickier once key rate falls to near 3%

Decisions at the European Central Bank are set to get a lot more contentious once interest rates fall to about 3% and clashes emerge over what's still needed to keep inflation in check, according to people familiar with the matter. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 03/09/24)

## Chinese yuan weakens to 7.1112 against USD

The central parity rate of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, weakened 85 pips to 7.1112 against the U.S. dollar Tuesday [03/09], according to the China Foreign Exchange Trade System. In China's spot foreign exchange market, the yuan is allowed to rise or fall by 2 percent from the central parity rate each trading day. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 03/09/24)

## Ueda reiterates that BOJ will lift rates if outlook realized

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda reiterated Tuesday [03/09] that the central bank will continue to raise interest rates if the economy and prices perform as expected by the BOJ, a comment that supported further gains in the yen. Ueda made the remark in a document submitted to a government panel chaired by outgoing Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in which he explained the BOJ's July policy decision. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 03/09/24)

## BOK's Rhee says time to mull rate cut after inflation eases

The timing to consider an interest-rate cut has arrived as inflation cools, even though issues pertaining to financial stability also still need to be considered, Bank of Korea Governor Rhee Chang-yong said Tuesday [03/09]. Rhee spoke to reporters hours after South Korea announced inflation decelerated in August to 2%, the slowest pace in more than three years. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 03/09/24)

## Bank of Russia expands CBDC pilot

The Bank of Russia said on Aug. 30 that it was expanding its central bank digital currency (CBDC) pilot programme. The bank said the new phase, which started on Sept. 1, would involve "up to 9,000 people and 1,200 companies" a marked increase on the 600 people and 22 firms that took part in the previous stage. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 02/09/24)

## Italy Q2 GDP growth confirmed at 0.2%

Italy's economy expanded for the fourth straight quarter in the three months ending June, in line with the flash data published earlier, the latest data from the statistical office ISTAT reveals. Gross domestic product rose 0.2% sequentially in the second quarter, following a 0.3% rise in the first quarter. On the expenditure side, household consumption grew 0.2%, while government consumption expenditure declined by 0.5%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 02/09/24)

## Spain unemployment rises unexpectedly

Spain's unemployment increased unexpectedly in August, Labour Ministry says. The number of people out of work increased by 21,884 in Aug. from the previous month, data showed. The figure was forecast to fall by 6,300. In the same period last year, unemployment rose by 24,826. Despite the increase, the total number of unemployed was 2.57m, the lowest in Aug; since 2008. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 03/09/24)

### EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3145	(1.3117)	1.3146	(1.3119)
+USD/EUR	1.1070	(1.1049)	1.1071	(1.1049)
*GHS/USD	15.2226	(15.1823)	15.2378	(15.1975)
*GHS/GBP	20.0101	(19.9146)	20.0316	(19.9376)
*GHS/EUR	16.8520	(16.7745)	16.8687	(16.7910)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 03/09/24 (Rates for 02/09/24 in brackets)

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### **Brazil's economy expected to have grown at solid pace in second quarter**

Brazil's economy kept growing at a solid pace last quarter compared to the first 3 months of the year, supported by household expenditure, a Reuters poll predicted. But higher imports of goods and services likely weighed on the country's growth after surpassing less-dynamic exports at the start of 2024 due to a strong foreign exchange rate. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/09/24)

### **Hungary Q2 GDP growth confirmed at 1.5%**

Hungary's economy expanded at an accelerated pace as initially estimated in the second quarter, the latest data from the Hungarian Central Statistical Office showed on Tuesday [03/09]. On an unadjusted basis, gross domestic product grew 1.5% in the June quarter from last year, following a 1.1% rise in the previous quarter. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 03/09/24)

### **Sri Lanka inflation drops in August**

Annual inflation dropped to 0.5% in Sri Lanka last month, down from 2.4% in July, according to figures published by the central bank on August 30. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka said the fall was in line with its previous projections that inflation would continue to decline until early next year. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 02/09/24)

### **Swiss inflation slows as SNB prepares September rate cut**

Swiss inflation slowed more than expected in August supporting the case for another interest-rate cut. Consumer prices rose 1.1% from a year ago, the statistics office has said. That's weaker than the 1.2% median estimate in a Bloomberg survey and compares with 1.3% in July. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 03/09/24)

### **Philippines' debt rises to \$276.84bn in July**

The Philippines' debt soared to ₱15.69tr (roughly \$276.84bn) as of July, 1.3% higher than that at the end of June, the Philippines' Bureau of Treasury has said. The bureau attributed the increase to the net issuance of both domestic and external debt. The bureau said 31.46% of the total debt stock was sourced externally. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 03/09/24)

### **World stocks tiptoe, dollar holds as investors await U.S. data**

World stocks steadied on Tuesday [03/09] and the dollar remained near a 2-week high as investors turned cautious awaiting a raft of economic data that may determine how deeply the U.S. will cut interest rates. Focus was on the U.S. ISM manufacturing activity survey due later in the day. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 03/09/24)

### **Oil prices fall as demand concerns overshadow Libyan export halt**

Brent oil prices fell on Tuesday[03/09] as sluggish economic growth in China, the world's biggest crude importer, increased worries about demand that overshadowed the impact of the halt of production and exports from Libya. Brent crude futures were down 37 cents, or 0.5%, to \$77.15 a barrel by 0525 GMT. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 03/09/24)

### **Egypt central bank seen holding interest rates steady: Reuters poll**

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) will leave its overnight interest rates unchanged when its monetary policy committee meets on Thursday [05/09] as inflation continues to decline. The CBE kept rates steady at its last two meetings, on July 18 and May 23, saying economic growth remained slow but that inflation had been decreasing. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/09/24)

### **Egypt's non-oil sector returns to growth in August, PMI shows**

Egypt's non-oil private sector activity expanded in August for the first time in well over three years, as demand stabilised and the economy improved, a survey shows. The S&P Global Purchasing Managers' Index for Egypt improved to 50.4 in August. from 49.7 in July. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 03/09/24)

### **BoG reaffirms commitment to clamp down unauthorized lending platforms**

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has indicated it will continue to clamp down on illegal lending apps used to threaten people who default in paying back loans. According to the central bank, it is a crime to threaten loan defaulters with publication of pictures and confidential data. ([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 02/09/24)

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