



Monday, 17th March 2025

ECB to cut rates by less as Europe ramps up spending, poll shows

The European Central Bank will lower borrowing costs two more times, according to analysts surveyed by Bloomberg who no longer expect interest rates to go below 2%. After six reductions so far, back-to-back cuts are still likely in April and June, the monthly poll shows. But contrary to the previous round, respondents then see the deposit rate currently at 2.5%, staying at 2% through the end of the survey period. (www.bloomberg.com 17/03/25)

The Fed is in wait-and-see mode. Investors want reassurance it will act if needed

Jerome Powell faces a tricky task this week of both assuring investors the economy remains on solid footing while also conveying policymakers stand ready to step in if necessary. Even as the Fed chair has touted US resilience, uneasiness sparked by President Trump's rapidly escalating trade war has sent stocks tumbling over the past month. (www.bloomberg.com 16/03/25)

China economic pickup tops forecasts before tariff pain deepens

The Chinese consumption, investment and industrial production exceeded estimates to start the year, pointing to signs of resilience for an economy still in need of more stimulus as Donald Trump's tariffs threaten growth. (www.bloomberg.com 17/03/25)

China's fixed-asset investment up 4.1% in first 2 months

China's fixed-asset investment went up 4.1% year on year in the first 2 months of this year, 0.9 percentage points higher than the full-year growth rate of 2024, official data shows. The investment totaled CN¥5.2619tr (about \$734bn) during the January-February period, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/25)

UK axes regulators, targets welfare in economic growth drive

The UK government will abolish more business regulators and scale back welfare spending to drive stagnant economic growth. Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves is summoning eight of the UK's main regulators, including the Financial Conduct Authority, to Downing Street today [17/03] to discuss her plan to cut regulatory costs on business by a quarter. (www.bloomberg.com 17/03/25)

Bank of England set to keep rates on hold as global uncertainty mounts

The Bank of England is likely to keep interest rates on hold and stick to its mantra of only gradual moves ahead as it grapples with the fallout from US President Donald Trump's trade war and mixed news on Britain's economy. Economists polled by Reuters expected the BoE to leave its benchmark interest rate on hold at 4.5%. (www.reuters.com 17/03/25)

Spain's Lure for digital nomads is boosting the economy, central bank chief says

Spain's economy is getting a boost thanks to the country's attractiveness for remote workers, according to central bank chief Jose Luis Escriva. There are "a number of elements in the configuration of the European post-Covid economy that help us," the Bank of Spain governor told Bloomberg TV in an interview. (www.bloomberg.com 17/03/25)

Bank of Russia to allow wealthy investors to trade crypto

The Bank of Russia has outlined a three-year framework that would allow wealthy investors in the country to trade crypto assets. The central bank said the initiative, which it announced on March 12, followed direct instructions from Russia's president, Putin. It would only apply to investors with at least ₺100m (\$1.17m) in investments. (www.centralbanking.com 14/03/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2913	(1.2942)	1.2914	(1.2943)
+USD/EUR	1.0872	(1.0858)	1.0872	(1.0859)
*GHS/USD	15.5222	(15.5222)	15.5378	(15.5378)
*GHS/GBP	20.0439	(20.0889)	20.0655	(20.1105)
*GHS/EUR	16.8762	(16.8559)	16.8915	(16.8712)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 17/02/25 (Rates for 14/03/25 in brackets)

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CBRT says protectionism may drive up inflation

The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey has signalled that increased trade protectionism internationally could drive up domestic inflation. In a summary of its most recent monetary policy committee meeting, published on March 13, the CBRT said protectionist tendencies had “exacerbated upside risks to inflation”. (www.centralbanking.com 14/03/25)

South Korea's money supply grows for 20th month in January

South Korea's money supply grew for the 20th successive month due to robust demand for deposits and money trusts, central bank data shows. The seasonally adjusted M2, or broad money, gained 0.5% to ₩4,203.8tr (\$2.9tr) in January compared to the previous month, continuing to rise since June 2023. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/25)

Singapore's non-oil domestic exports rebound with 7.6% growth in February

Singapore's non-oil domestic exports rose by 7.6% year-on-year in Feb., reversing the 2.1% decline recorded in Jan., according to Enterprise Singapore. Both electronics and non-electronics contributed to the growth, expanding by 6.9% and 7.8% year-on-year, respectively. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/25)

Philippine remittances grow by 2.9% in January

Personal remittances from overseas Filipinos reached \$3.24bn in Jan., 2025, 2.9% higher than the \$3.15bn recorded in January 2024, the Philippine central bank said. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the increase in remittances was observed from land and sea-based workers. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/03/25)

Peru holds policy rate at 4.75%

The Central Reserve Bank of Peru has held its policy rate at 4.75% amid slowing inflation and steady growth. The bank's board said indicators for economic activity had been showing “higher growth” in recent months. Indicators related to expectations of economic activity remained in “optimistic territory”. (www.centralbanking.com 14/03/25)

Oil prices rise as US vows to keep attacking Houthis

Oil prices traded higher today [17/03] after the United States vowed to keep attacking Yemen's Houthis until the Iran-aligned group ends its assaults on shipping. Brent futures rose 41 cents or 0.6%, to stand at \$70.99 a barrel by 0336 GMT, while US West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 40 cents, or 0.6%, to \$67.58 a barrel. (www.reuters.com 17/03/25)

Gold holds steady as geopolitical and economic concerns linger

Gold was unchanged today[17/03] after touching a historic milestone last week, driven by geopolitical tensions, jitters about escalating tariffs and hopes of further US interest rate cuts. Spot gold was flat at \$2,983.09 an ounce, as of 0518 GMT. (www.reuters.com 17/03/25)

SA inflation expectations increase before MPC meeting

A key gauge of South African inflation expectations rose slightly, providing central bankers with a reason to be cautious about lowering borrowing costs. Expectations for average inflation in two years' time is a measure the central bank's monetary policy committee uses to inform its decision-making edged up to 4.7% in the first quarter from 4.6% previously. (www.bloomberg.com 17/03/25)

Kenya and IMF agree to start formal talks on new lending programme

Kenya and the IMF will discuss a new lending programme for the country, as both sides agreed to abandon a ninth review of the current \$3.6bn loan. Kenya needs continued support to keep its economy on track after its debt-servicing costs surged due to a borrowing spree over the past decade. (www.reuters.com 17/03/25)

Kenyan shilling eases, seen under pressure from lower dollar inflows

Kenya's shilling weakened slightly and was expected to ease further due to slowing dollar inflows, especially from non-governmental organisations. At 0655 GMT, the shilling traded at 129.35/65 per dollar, compared with Friday's closing rate of 129.00/30. (www.reuters.com 17/03/25)

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