



BANK OF GHANA NEWS BRIEF

News Summaries from Foreign and Local Media

Monday, 28th April 2025

ECB consensus builds for June rate cut but no appetite for big move, sources say

ECB policymakers are becoming increasingly confident about cutting interest rates in June as inflation continues its march lower, but there is little to no appetite for a big move, six sources told Reuters. ECB governors gathering in Washington for the IMF and World Bank's Spring Meetings took stock of a weakening economy in the euro zone and around the world as uncertainty from tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

(www.bloomberg.com 28/04/25)

ECB still has a gradual margin for rate cuts, Villeroy says

The ECB has room to lower borrowing costs, according to Governing Council member Francois Villeroy de Galhau. The trade war triggered by US tariffs will weigh on the global economy but won't affect the inflation trend in Europe, he told Radio RTL today.

(www.bloomberg.com 28/04/25)

ECB launches new task force to simplify banking regulation

The ECB has convened a task force led by some of its most powerful governors aimed at simplifying banking regulation, amid growing fears the region is falling behind. The central bank governors of Germany, France and Italy are among the key figures in the newly-convened group, as is the governor of the Bank of Finland, who's also the first vice chair of Europe's Systemic Risk Board.

(www.bloomberg.com 26/04/25)

ECB prepares for June cut with tariffs expected to hurt economy

ECB officials are preparing to lower interest rates further, expecting lasting damage to the economy from US tariffs even if Donald Trump's administration softens its stance in the weeks ahead.

(www.bloomberg.com 27/04/25)

ECB's Kazaks urges cautious steps even as growth outlook worsens

The ECB should only lower interest rates into accommodative territory if the growth outlook deteriorates much further, according to Governing Council member Martins Kazaks.

(www.bloomberg.com 27/04/25)

US economy was already sputtering before trade pain from Trump's tariffs kicked in

After cruising along comfortably for most of last year, the world's largest economy lost altitude at the start of 2025 as consumers tired and the trade deficit ballooned on a tariff-related scramble for imports. The US government's initial estimate of Q1 GDP is projected to show the economy expanded at a 0.4% annualized rate, the weakest in nearly three years.

(www.bloomberg.com 26/04/25)

China downplays impact of Trump tariffs on economic recovery

Chinese policymakers today sought to assuage concerns the broad U.S. tariffs could derail efforts to shore up a fragile economic recovery, even as analysts warn the hefty levies raise the risk of a sharp downturn in growth. U.S. President Donald Trump's global trade war has rattled financial markets and raised fears of a recession, particularly as tit-for-tat tariffs between the world's two biggest economies threaten to upend supply chains and a whole range of industries.

(www.reuters.com 28/04/25)

China to keep RMB exchange rate at reasonable, balanced level

China will maintain the basic stability of the RMB exchange rate at a reasonable and balanced level, Zou Lan, deputy governor of PBOC, told a press conference. The U.S. announcement of tariff hikes on multiple economies has triggered sharp fluctuations in the global financial market, Zou said.

(www.xinhuanet.com 28/04/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3326	(1.3322)	1.3327	(1.3323)
+USD/EUR	1.1377	(1.1372)	1.1378	(1.1372)
*GHS/USD	14.5427	(14.8926)	14.5573	(14.9075)
*GHS/GBP	19.3796	(19.8399)	19.4005	(19.8612)
*GHS/EUR	16.5468	(16.9369)	16.5618	(16.9522)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 28/04/25 (Rates for 25/04/25 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 28/04/25 (Rates for 25/04/25 in brackets)

BOJ to hit pause on rate-hike path as economic risks mount

The Bank of Japan is widely expected to signal a pause in policy normalization this week as US tariffs heighten global uncertainty, without shifting its stance on gradually raising interest rates when the outlook clears. Governor Kazuo Ueda's board is poised to keep the benchmark rate at 0.5% at the conclusion of the two-day gathering on Thursday, according to all 54 economists in a Bloomberg survey. (www.bloomberg.com 27/04/25)

Sweden producer prices fall 0.3%

Producer prices in Sweden decreased for the first time in five months in March, data from Statistics Sweden showed. The producer price index dropped 0.3 percent year-on-year in March, reversing a 3.4 percent increase in February. Appreciation of the Swedish krona led to lower prices on all markets, the agency said. (www.rttnews.com 28/04/25)

Spain unemployment rate rises in Q1

Spain's unemployment rate increased in the first quarter, the statistical office INE said today. The jobless rate rose to 11.36 % from 10.61% in the fourth quarter. The rate was expected to climb marginally to 10.7%. In the first quarter of 2024, the jobless rate was 12.29% (www.rttnews.com 28/04/25)

Norway jobless rate climbs to 14-month high

Norway's unemployment rate increased slightly in March to the highest level in more than a year, the labor force survey data from Statistics Norway showed today. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate rose to 4.4% in March from 4.0% in February. In the corresponding month last year, the rate was 4.5%. (www.rttnews.com 28/04/25)

Hong Kong trade gap widens in March

Hong Kong's trade deficit increased in March from a year ago, data from the Census and Statistics Department showed today. The trade shortfall rose to HK\$45.4bn in March from HK\$45.0bn in the same month last year. In February, the trade balance showed a deficit of HK\$36.3bn. (www.rttnews.com 28/04/25)

European shares edge higher as investors await tariff updates, economic data

European shares nudged higher today, after registering a second consecutive weekly gain, as investors looked ahead to potential tariff developments and a busy week of earnings and economic data. (www.reuters.com 28/04/25)

Oil prices edge higher amid economic uncertainty, OPEC+ supply fears

Oil prices inched higher today though remained dogged by uncertainty over trade talks between the U.S. and China, clouding the outlook for global growth and fuel demand, while the prospect of OPEC+ raising supply cast more gloom. Brent crude futures were up 21 cents, or 0.3%, at \$67.08 a barrel, as of 0742 GMT. U.S. (www.reuters.com 28/04/25)

Gold falls as easing US-China tensions curb safe-haven demand

Gold retreated on Monday as easing U.S.-China trade tensions boosted investors' risk appetite and dented demand for safe-haven assets such as bullion, while a stronger dollar also piled on the pressure. Spot gold was down 0.8% at \$3,292.43 an ounce, as of 0431 GMT. (www.reuters.com 28/04/25)

Ethiopia expects to reach draft agreement on IMF review this week

A slide in crude oil prices is increasing the likelihood that Angola will need an IMF loan, Finance Minister Vera Daves de Sousa told Reuters, adding the government is running stress tests to gauge the impact on its finances. Sub-Saharan Africa's second-biggest crude oil exporter has based its 2025 budget on an oil price of \$70 per barrel. (www.reuters.com 28/05/25)

Ethiopia expects to reach draft agreement on IMF review this week

Ethiopia expects to reach a preliminary agreement on the third review of its \$3.4bn loan programme with the IMF early this week and sees formal debt talks with bondholders starting in summer, State Finance Minister Eyob Tekalign told Reuters. The East African nation, which struck a four-year, \$3.4bn program IMF deal last July, is in the midst of a far-reaching reform push (www.reuters.com 28/04/25)