



Friday, 18th July 2025

ECB may wait until December to make final rate cut, survey shows

The European Central Bank can delay its final interest-rate cut until Dec. without investors concluding in the meantime that easing is over, a Bloomberg survey of economists showed. A majority continues to expect the last quarter-point reduction in the deposit rate, to 1.75%, will come in Sept. after a pause next week. At the same time, half of respondents think the ECB can sit out 3 meetings before traders assume borrowing costs are at their floor. (www.bloomberg.com 18/07/25)

ECB fine-tunes plans for digital euro

The European Central Bank has said it has made further improvements to the rule book for the proposed digital euro. In its third progress report, published on July 16, the ECB said it had received “extensive feedback” from the rule book development group which comprises representatives from Europe’s retail payments market as well as observers from the Eurosystem and European Union institutions. (www.centralbanking.com 17/07/25)

US Consumers get early taste of tariff price hikes as inflation set to rise

Expectations for widespread price hikes following a wave of new tariffs this year have largely fallen short, surprising economists and fueling claims from tariff defenders that the levies are having no impact on inflation. (www.bloomberg.com 17/07/25)

US initial jobless claims decline for a fifth straight week

Applications for US unemployment benefits declined for a fifth straight week to the lowest level since mid-April, showing a resilient job market. First-time jobless claims decreased by 7,000 to 221,000 in the week ended July 12. Economists called for 233,000 applications. (www.bloomberg.com 17/07/25)

China injects most short-term cash this week since January

China ramped up its short-term cash injection into the banking system to the highest since January this week as it sought to replenish funds drained by tax payments and heavy government debt issuance. The Bank of China added a net CN¥1.3tr (\$181bn) of cash into the financial system through 7-day reverse repurchase agreements. (www.bloomberg.com 18/07/25)

UK’s Reeves announces South Africa infrastructure partnership to boost investment

UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves announced an infrastructure partnership with the South African government to boost investment in Africa’s biggest economy. “Infrastructure investment in both of our countries is absolutely key to driving productivity, economic growth and importantly job creation,” Reeves said. (www.bloomberg.com 17/07/25)

German central bank chief warns U.S. tariffs threaten German economic outlook

German Bundesbank President Joachim Nagel said that higher US tariffs on EU imports are likely to present a significant downside risk to Germany’s economic outlook. US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday the decision to impose a 30% tariff on imports from the EU and Mexico starting Aug. 1. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/07/25)

German producer prices drop for fourth straight month

Germany’s producer prices declined for the fourth straight month in June on lower energy prices, Destatis reported today. The producer price index dropped 1.3% year-on-year in June, faster than the 1.2% fall in May. This was the fourth consecutive decrease. Month-on-month, producer prices were up 0.1% in June. (www.rttnews.com 18/07/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

| CURRENCIES | BUYING | | SELLING | |
|------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| +USD/GBP | 1.3418 | (1.3446) | 1.3419 | (1.3447) |
| +USD/EUR | 1.1599 | (1.1655) | 1.1600 | (1.1657) |
| *GHS/USD | 10.4248 | (10.4248) | 10.4352 | (10.4352) |
| *GHS/GBP | 13.9880 | (14.0172) | 14.0030 | (14.0322) |
| *GHS/EUR | 12.0930 | (12.1508) | 12.1039 | (12.1607) |

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/07/25 (Rates for 17/07/25 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/07/25 (Rates for 17/07/25 in brackets)

Japan's inflation stays elevated after easing from two-year high

Japan's key price measure cooled a tad more than expected while remaining well above the Bank of Japan's target, keeping pressure on Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba to mollify voters as he heads into Sunday's national election. Consumer prices excluding fresh food rose 3.3% from a year earlier in June. (www.bloomberg.com 17/07/25)

Italy construction output falls 1.4%

Italy's construction output decreased in May after recovering in April, according to the statistical office Istat. Construction production fell 1.4% monthly in May, reversing a 2.8% increase in April. The yearly growth in construction output eased to 3.9% in May from 6.5% a month ago. (www.rttnews.com 18/07/25)

Austria inflation confirmed at 13-month high

Austria's consumer price inflation increased as estimated in June to the highest level in just over a year, the latest data from Statistics Austria showed on Thursday [17/07]. The consumer price index climbed 3.3% year-over-year in June, faster than the 2.9% increase in May. A similar rate of increase was last seen in May 2024. (www.rttnews.com 17/07/25)

Malaysian growth unexpectedly quickens despite trade risks

Malaysia's economy grew faster than expected in the second quarter, driven by the services sector, even as the country contends with US President Donald Trump's rollout of global tariffs. Gross domestic product rose 4.5% in the April-June period from a year earlier. (www.bloomberg.com 18/07/25)

Hong Kong jobless rate steady at 3.5%

Hong Kong's unemployment rate held steady in the April to June period, statistics from the Census and Statistics Department shows. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate came in at 3.5% from April to June, the same as in the March-May period. The data showed that the underemployment rate remained stable at 1.4%. (www.rttnews.com 17/07/25)

Oil extends gain on Iraq outages, tight market supports

Oil prices extended gains on Friday, underpinned by supply concerns following drone attacks on northern Iraqi oilfields and tight market fundamentals amid healthy summer demand. Brent crude futures climbed 29 cents, or 0.40%, to \$69.81 a barrel as of 0451 GMT, U.S. (www.reuters.com 18/07/25)

Gold steady as traders weigh US economy, rate cut directions

Gold steadied and was set for a moderate weekly loss as investors assessed the outlook for Fed Reserve rate cuts after resilient US jobs and retail data eased concerns about the economy. Bullion traded below \$3,340 an ounce, heading for a 0.5% drop on the week. (www.bloomberg.com 17/07/25)

AFRICA-FX-Ugandan and Zambian currencies could gain

The Ugandan and Zambian currencies are expected to strengthen in the next week to Thursday, while Nigeria's and Ghana's could be broadly unchanged, traders said. Uganda's shilling is seen firming modestly thanks to subdued importer appetite for hard currency. (www.reuters.com 17/07/25)

Chinese firms boost Zimbabwe's job market, says experts

The increasing presence of Chinese companies is boosting Zimbabwe's job market, a Zimbabwean economic analyst said Thursday. Dereck Goto, an economic analyst the ever-increasing employment opportunity brought by Chinese firms, particularly in the mining sector. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/07/25)

BoG cracks down on currency counterfeiters, calls for public vigilance

The Governor of the Bank of Ghana, Dr. Johnson Asiamah, has called on Ghanaians to renew their confidence in the local currency and take an active role in protecting it from counterfeiting and abuse, adding that rising cases of currency counterfeiting threaten the stability of Ghana's monetary system. (www.myjoyonline.com 17/07/25)

DISCLAIMER: This information has been compiled by the Communications Department of Bank of Ghana for general reference purposes only. While every effort is made to ensure that the information is accurate, the Bank of Ghana does not guarantee nor does it accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the content or for any loss which may arise from reliance on information contained in this document.