



BANK OF GHANA NEWS BRIEF

News Summaries from Foreign and Local Media

Friday, 1st August 2025

Euro zone inflation holds at ECB target, supporting case for steady rates

Eurozone inflation held steady at the ECB's 2% target in July, confirming the bank's benign view on prices and strengthening the case for policymakers to keep interest rates on hold for some time after rapidly cutting borrowing costs. The ECB halved its key rate to 2% in the year to June and predicted that inflation would hover near its target over the medium term, reducing the need for further action, even if the outlook was unusually uncertain given trade tensions with the US and geopolitical volatility. (www.reuters.com 01/08/25)

Slow US job gains expected in July; unemployment rate forecast rising to 4.2%

US job growth likely slowed in July, with the unemployment rate forecast rising back to 4.2%, but that probably would be insufficient to spur the Federal Reserve to resume cutting interest rates soon as tariffs are starting to fan inflation. (www.reuters.com 01/08/25)

China manufacturing activity slips into contraction

China's factory activity contracted in July as softening new orders forced manufacturers to scale back production and staffing, purchasing managers' survey results from S&P Global showed today. The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 49.5 in July from 50.4 in June. (www.rttnews.com 01/08/25)

UK house prices rebound with 0.6% gain, nationwide says

UK house prices bounced back in July in a sign demand is recovering after a tax increase in April discouraged prospective homebuyers, according to one of Britain's largest mortgage lenders. Nationwide Building Society said the average price of a home rose 0.6% to £272,664 (\$359,980) following a 0.9% fall the month before. (www.bloomberg.com 01/08/25)

German inflation steady at 2.0%

Germany's consumer price inflation remained stable in July after easing marginally in June, flash estimates from Destatis revealed on Thursday [31/07]. CPI came in at 2.0% in July, the same as in June. Meanwhile, economists had expected inflation to ease to 1.9%. Further, inflation continued to remain in line with the ECB's target. Core inflation, which excludes prices of food and energy, also held steady at 2.7% in July. (www.rttnews.com 31/07/25)

German unemployment rises in July

Germany's unemployment increased less than expected in July but the overall number of people out of work remained close to the 3 million mark due to the prolonged period of economic slowdown, official data revealed on Thursday [31/07]. The number of unemployed rose by less-than-expected 2,000 from June, the Federal Employment Agency said. For July, economists had forecast an increase of 15,000. (www.rttnews.com 31/07/25)

Japan consumer confidence weakens in July

Japan's consumer sentiment decreased unexpectedly in July after improving in the previous two months, data from the Cabinet Office shows. The seasonally adjusted consumer confidence index dropped to 33.7 in July from 34.5 in June. Economists forecast the index to rise to 35.1. (www.rttnews.com 31/07/25)

BoJ holds policy and ups inflation expectations

The Bank of Japan has left its key policy rate unchanged, in a move that had been widely expected by economists. In a brief monetary policy statement on July 31, the central bank said it would encourage Japan's uncollateralised overnight rate to remain at 0.5%. It said its Monetary Policy board had reached the decision unanimously. (www.centralbanking.com 31/07/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3232	(1.3277)	1.3233	(1.3278)
+USD/EUR	1.1441	(1.1471)	1.1442	(1.1472)
*GHS/USD	10.4948	(10.4948)	10.5053	(10.5053)
*GHS/GBP	13.8867	(13.9339)	13.9016	(13.9489)
*GHS/EUR	12.0096	(12.0400)	12.0204	(12.0509)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 01/08/25 (Rates for 31/07/25 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 01/08/25 (Rates for 31/07/25 in brackets)

Asia's factory activity worsens as US trade uncertainty bites

Asia's factory activity deteriorated in July as soft global demand and lingering uncertainty over US tariffs weighed on business morale, private sector surveys showed today, clouding the outlook for the region's fragile recovery. (www.reuters.com 01/08/25)

Australian gov't advised to cut company tax rate to boost productivity

A review commissioned by the Australian government has recommended cutting tax rate for small- and medium-sized businesses to boost productivity. The Productivity Commission the government's principal review and advisory body on economic, social and environmental issues, said in a report that the tax rate should be cut to 20% for all businesses with revenue of up to A\$1bn (\$643m). (www.xinhuanet.com 01/08/25)

Hong Kong GDP growth improves to 3.1%

Hong Kong's economic growth accelerated slightly in the second quarter, the advance estimates from the Census and Statistics Department showed Thursday [31/07]. Gross domestic product advanced 3.1% year-over-year in the June quarter, slightly faster than the 3.0% growth in Q1. (www.rttnews.com 31/07/25)

Indonesia's trade surplus rises to \$19.48bn in H1 2025

Austria's economic momentum remained weak in the second quarter of this year, with economic output grew by 0.1% on a quarterly basis, according to a flash estimate on Wednesday [30/07]. "According to the first calculations, real GDP in Q2 of 2025 was slightly above the level of the previous quarter. (www.xinhuanet.com 31/07/25)

Taiwan GDP growth accelerates in Q2

Taiwan's economy expanded at an accelerated pace in the second quarter, according to advance estimates by the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting, and Statistics. GDP advanced 7.96% year-on-year in the June quarter, faster than the 5.48% increase in the March quarter. (www.rttnews.com 31/07/25)

Crude falls amid trade uncertainty nearing August 1 deadline

Crude oil decreased on Thursday [31/07] due to concerns of slowing energy demand amid a high-tariff global economy along with the August 1 deadline set by the US President for countries to strike a trade deal with the US about to expire in hours. WTI Crude Oil for Sept. delivery was last seen trading, down by \$0.71 (or 1.01%) to \$69.29 per barrel. (www.rttnews.com 31/07/25)

South Africa faces 30% US tariff after failing to reach trade deal

South Africa faces a 30% tariff on its exports to the United States starting next week, a move expected to cost tens of thousands of jobs after the country failed to secure a trade deal before a deadline set by U.S. President Donald Trump. (www.reuters.com 01/08/25)

Kenya's inflation rose to 4.1% year-on-year in July

Kenya's consumer inflation opens new tab rose to 4.1% year-on-year in July, compared to 3.8% in June. Inflation was primarily driven by the rise in prices of items such as food and non-alcoholic beverages, transport, housing and utilities, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement. (www.reuters.com 31/07/25)

Zimbabwe's treasury chief sees lower economic growth from next year

Zimbabwe's economy is expected to expand an average of about 5% a year between 2026 and 2029, with risks to output from the agriculture, mining and electricity sectors, according to Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube. A growth rate of 6% is anticipated this year. (www.bloomberg.com 31/07/25)

Ghana: Gold hedging programme will target a portion of our reserves – BoG Governor

The Bank of Ghana Governor, Dr. Johnson Asiamah, has announced plans to embark on a gold hedging programme, targeting a portion of its reserves. According to him, his outfit is targeting all its reserves, but currently allocating only a fraction, that could take off by year end. (www.myjoyonline.com 31/07/25)

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