



Friday, 8th August 2025

Trump's tariffs and the emerging market economies

Since president Trump declared 'Liberation Day' on April 2, the dark clouds already looming on the horizon of the global economy have grown thicker and darker. Given their substantial dependence on world trade, as well as their greater economic and financial vulnerabilities, the emerging market economies (EMEs) could be especially hard-hit by the Trump administration's new trade policies. (www.centralbanking.com 07/08/25)

Fed's Bostic sees one cut in 2025 as tariff effects may persist

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic said he still views one interest-rate cut as likely this year and reiterated there are reasons to be skeptical that the inflationary effects from tariffs will be temporary. (www.bloomberg.com 08/08/25)

China's foreign trade up 3.5% in first 7 months

China's total goods imports and exports in yuan-denominated terms rose to CN¥25.7tr (about \$3.6tr) in the first 7 months of 2025, up 3.5% year on year, data showed Thursday [07/08]. The growth rate accelerated from an increase of 2.9% registered in the first half of 2025, according to General Administration of Customs. (www.xinhuanet.com 07/08/25)

BoE cuts rates by 25bp in historic close call

The Bank of England has cut its policy rate by 25 basis points in an historically close decision that required a second round of voting from the monetary policy committee (MPC). The committee on Aug. 7 reduced the bank rate to 4% in a 5-4 decision, with the majority voting for the quarter-point cut and the rest preferring to hold. (www.centralbanking.com 07/08/25)

Japan June current account surplus ¥1.348tr

Japan posted a current account surplus of ¥1.348tr in June, the Ministry of Finance said today - down 23.6% from a year earlier. That missed forecasts for a surplus of ¥1.480tr and was down from ¥3.436tr in the previous month. Exports were down 2.4% on year at ¥8.962tr and imports fell 1.3% to ¥8.493tr for a trade surplus of ¥469.6bn. The capital account showed a deficit of ¥53.8bn, while the financial account saw a surplus of ¥1.141tr. (www.rttnews.com 08/08/25)

Japan overall bank lending climbs 3.2% on year

The value of overall bank lending in Japan was up 3.2% on year in July, the Bank of Japan said on Friday - coming in at ¥644.396tr. That exceeded expectations for an increase of 2.7%, which would have been unchanged from the downwardly revised figure in June (originally 2.8%). Excluding trusts, lending rose an annual 3.5% to ¥566.007tr. (www.rttnews.com 07/08/25)

French jobless rate steady at 7.5% in Q2

France's unemployment rate held steady as expected in the June quarter, the statistical office INSEE showed on Friday. The jobless rate stood at 7.5% in Q2, the same as in the previous quarter. The number of unemployed increased by 29,000 compared to the March quarter, to 2.4m. (www.rttnews.com 08/08/25)

Malaysia industrial output growth rebounds in June

Malaysia's industrial output growth accelerated in June after easing in the previous month, the Department of Statistics showed on Thursday [07/08]. Industrial production rose 3.0% year-over-year in June, faster than the 0.3% increase in the previous month. Production has been rising since Jan. 2024. (www.rttnews.com 07/08/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3429	(1.3355)	1.3430	(1.3356)
+USD/EUR	1.1639	(1.1644)	1.1640	(1.1644)
*GHS/USD	10.4948	(10.5447)	10.5053	(10.5553)
*GHS/GBP	14.0934	(14.0825)	14.1086	(14.0976)
*GHS/EUR	12.2158	(12.2777)	12.2268	(12.2898)

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

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Pakistan's central bank forex reserves decrease by \$72m

Foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan have decreased by \$72m, according to a statement issued by the central bank on Thursday [07/08]. During the week ending on Aug. 1, the total foreign exchange reserves of the bank stood at about \$14.2bn, the bank said. (www.xinhuanet.com 08/08/25)

Philippine GDP growth improves to 5.5%

The Philippine economic growth improved somewhat in Q2, thanks to increased household consumption amid easing inflation, Statistics Authority reported on Thursday [07/08]. GDP grew 5.5% year-on-year in the second quarter, which was slightly faster than the 5.4% rise in Q1. (www.rttnews.com 07/08/25)

RBNZ survey respondents expect bank to cut policy rate

New Zealand's business leaders and forecasters see a rate cut on the horizon and expect weaker inflation over the medium term, according to a survey published on Aug. 7 by the central bank. The quarterly survey by the Bank of New Zealand canvassed 40 respondents who, on average, expected the benchmark policy rate to fall from 3.25% to 3.02% by the end of Sept. (www.centralbanking.com 07/08/25)

Hungarian inflation exceeds estimate in support for rate caution

Hungary's inflation rate dropped less than expected due to rising food and energy costs, bolstering arguments for the central bank's monetary-policy caution. Headline consumer price growth was an annual 4.3% in July, compared with 4.6% in June, the statistics office said today. (www.bloomberg.com 08/08/25)

Romania to hold rates on inflation spike risk

Romania is poised to keep borrowing costs unchanged ahead of an expected surge in inflation from a wave of tax hikes designed to help curb the budget deficit. The National Bank of Romania is expected to keep the benchmark rate at 6.5% today for an eighth meeting, according to all 14 economists in a Bloomberg survey. (www.bloomberg.com 08/08/25)

Oil set for steepest weekly losses since June on tariffs, Trump-Putin talks

Oil prices fell today, heading for their steepest weekly losses since late June as the latest round of US tariffs weighed on the economic outlook and likely upcoming Trump-Putin talks raised the prospect of an ease in sanctions on Russia. Brent crude futures were down 51 cents to \$65.92 a barrel at 0630 GMT, on track to decline more than 4% week-over-week. (www.reuters.com 08/08/25)

Europe shares to rise, gold futures jump on tariff: markets wrap

European shares are set for a firmer open today, tracking a rally in Japanese equities as signs of easing trade tensions with the US and upbeat tech earnings lifted sentiment. Equity-index futures for Europe advanced 0.2%. Contracts for US stocks also rose by a similar level after the Nikkei-225 index advanced 1.8%. (www.bloomberg.com 08/08/25)

AfDB to lead efforts to raise \$7.8bn for new Ethiopian airport

The African Development Bank will take the lead in helping to raise \$7.8bn for a new airport in Ethiopia, the bank said. When completed in 2029, the airport will be the continent's largest and will have the capacity to handle 100m passengers a year. (www.reuters.com 08/08/25)

South Africa gets closer to full membership of biggest African trade bank

South Africa moved closer to becoming a full sovereign member of the Africa Export-Import Bank, the continent's leading provider of trade finance, after the cabinet gave its approval to the plan, the government said on 07/08. (www.reuters.com 07/08/25)

Ghana: Gov't targets \$2bn growth in textile and garment industry by 2033

The government plans to scale up the textile and garment industry to a value of over US\$2bn by 2033. Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry, the sector's expansion is expected to attract US\$1.2bn in new investments, create approximately 150,000 direct and indirect jobs. (www.citinewsroom.com 07/08/25)

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