


 Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Eurozone trade surplus declines sharply in June**

The euro area trade surplus declined sharply in June as exports remained weak amid a rebound in imports, official data reveals. The trade balance registered a surplus of €7.0bn compared to May's surplus of €16.5bn, Eurostat reported. Compared to last year, the surplus contracted by €13.7bn from €20.7bn. Overall exports grew only 0.4% year-on-year after rising 0.9% in May. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 18/08/25)

**China's five autonomous regions see robust economic growth**

The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of China's five autonomous regions surged from CN¥6.01tr (about \$843.06bn) in 2020 to nearly CN¥8.38tr in 2024, a senior official said on Monday [18/08]. Duan Yijun, deputy head of the National Ethnic Affairs Commission, announced the figures at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 18/08/25)

**UK house prices fall 1.3% in August: Rightmove**

UK house prices dropped moderately in August following the bigger-than-usual falls in June and July, property website Rightmove said Monday [18/08]. The average price of property prices coming to the market slid 1.3% month-on-month in Aug., which was in line with the ten-year average. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 18/08/25)

**Japan tertiary activity index rises 0.5%**

Japan's tertiary activity index increased for the third straight month in June, according to the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry. The seasonally adjusted tertiary activity index rose 0.5% monthly in June, following a 0.3% increase in May. Among the individual components, transport and postal activities, electricity, gas, heat supply and others increased. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 18/08/25)

**Japan must raise rates, get fiscal house in order, says veteran lawmaker Kono**

Japan must raise interest rates and get its fiscal house in order to strengthen a weak yen that has pushed up inflation and brought pain to households, veteran ruling party lawmaker Taro Kono told Reuters today. The Bank of Japan ended a massive, decade-long stimulus programme last year and raised short-term rates to 0.5% in January. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 19/08/25)

**Australia consumer sentiment at 3 1/2 year high: Westpac**

Australia's consumer confidence improved to a three-and-a-half year high in August as the central bank is expected to lower interest rates further after a third reduction this year, monthly survey results from Westpac showed today. The Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index rose to 98.5 in August from 93.1 in July. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 19/08/25)

**South Korea's household credit hits record high in Q2**

South Korea's household credit hit a new record high in Q2 due to solid demand for mortgage loan and higher stock investment with borrowed money, central bank data showed today. Household credit, which refers to debts owed by households to banks and other lenders in addition to the purchase on credit, stood at ₩1,952.8tr (\$1.41tr) at the end of June, up ₩24.6tr from 3 months earlier. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 19/08/25)

**Spain trade gap widens in June**

Spain's foreign trade deficit increased in June from a year ago as imports grew faster than exports, the Economy Ministry said. The trade deficit rose to €3.59bn in June from €0.71bn in the corresponding month last year. In May, the shortfall was €2.54bn. Exports rose 2.4 percent year-on-year in June, after a 0.8% growth in the prior month. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 18/08/25)

**EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES**

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3517	(1.3563)	1.3518	(1.3564)
+USD/EUR	1.1670	(1.1706)	1.1670	(1.1707)
*GHS/USD	10.7946	(10.6447)	10.8054	(10.6553)
*GHS/GBP	14.5911	(14.4374)	14.6067	(14.4529)
*GHS/EUR	12.5970	(12.4611)	12.6094	(12.4744)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 19/08/25 (Rates for 18/08/25 in brackets)

\* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 19/08/25 (Rates for 18/08/25 in brackets)

### **Prabowo's Populist budget raises doubts over revenue goals**

Indonesia risks blowing past its budget deficit target for next year, according to analysts, citing President Prabowo Subianto's populist spending promises and no plans for new tax measures. The government aims to collect Rp3,148tr (\$194bn) in state revenue in 2026, a 10% jump from the estimate for this year. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 19/08/25)

### **Brazil central bank still assessing if 15% interest rate is appropriate, says official**

Brazil's central bank is still assessing whether the benchmark interest rate at 15% is appropriate to bring inflation down to its 3% target, economic policy director Diogo Guillen said on Monday [18/08]. Policymakers kept rates unchanged in late July at a near 20-year high after 450 basis points in hikes since last September. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 19/08/25)

### **Czech producer prices fall 1.2%**

The Czech Republic's producer prices decreased for the sixth straight month in July, the Czech Statistical Office said on Monday [18/08]. The industrial producer price index dropped 1.2% yearly in July, following a 0.7% decrease in June. Prices were expected to fall 1.1%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 18/08/25)

### **Vietnam touts \$48bn in project investments to spur growth**

Vietnam on Aug., 19 said around 250 projects, with investments totaling about \$48bn, are being pursued in the country as the government seeks to show it's boosting economic growth. The state is funding 129 projects ranging from urban development to transportation with a total investment of about 478trn dong (\$18bn). ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 19/08/25)

### **Thai economic growth slows in Q2**

Thailand's economy grew at a softer pace in the second quarter largely due to the slowdown in tourist arrivals. Gross domestic product expanded 2.8% year-on-year in Q2, slower than the 3.2% growth posted in Q1, the National Economic and Social Development Council said. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 18/08/25)

### **Oil slips as market ponders potential Russia-Ukraine peace talks**

Oil prices slipped today as market participants contemplated possible three-way talks involving Moscow, Kyiv and Washington to end the war in Ukraine, which would likely lead to the lifting of sanctions on Russian crude. Brent crude futures fell 53 cents to \$66.07 a barrel by 0545 GMT. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 19/08/25)

### **Global shares flat amid Ukraine talks, ahead of Jackson Hole**

Wall Street and European shares ended flat to modestly lower on Monday [19/08] ahead of a key central bank gathering later in the week that likely will determine the future path of US interest rate policy. Investors also focused on the meeting between Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskiy and President Donald Trump. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 18/08/25)

### **President Adesina flags \$100bn annual FDI shortfall to Africa**

President of the African Development Bank Group, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, has cautioned that Africa faces an annual foreign direct investment (FDI) shortfall of about \$100bn, citing weak rule of law rankings, debt vulnerabilities, and predatory "vulture fund" litigation as key obstacles. ([www.norvanreports.com](http://www.norvanreports.com) 18/08/25)

### **South Africa's agricultural exports up 26% in Q2 amid US trade tensions**

South Africa's agricultural exports rose to \$161m in the second quarter of 2025, up 26% from the same period in 2024, Minister of Agriculture John Steenhuisen said on Monday [18/08]. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 19/08/25)

### **Ghana's poor score in 'B-READY' impedes private sector investments – World Bank**

Ghana's poor score in the World Bank's B-READY categories signals challenges to creating an enabling environment that encourages private sector investment, the World Bank has revealed. For instance, the country scored 32 in Market Competition, 41 in Business Entry and 55 in Dispute Resolution. ([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 18/08/25)

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