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World's central bankers fear being caught in Fed's storm

Global central bankers gathered at a US mountain resort at the weekend starting to fear the political storm surrounding the Fed may engulf them too. Trump's efforts to reshape the Fed to his liking and pressure it into interest rate cuts have raised questions whether the Fed can preserve its independence and inflation-fighting credentials. (www.reuters.com 25/08/25)

Foreign workers have boosted euro zone economy, ECB's Lagarde says

An influx of foreign workers has given the euro zone's economy a boost in recent years, helping offset shorter working hours and lower real wages, ECB President Christine Lagarde said on August 23. Migration into the EU pushed its population to a record last year despite declining birth rates. (www.reuters.com 23/08/25)

Kazaks says ECB can watch economy with rates in good place

The ECB has entered a new monetary-policy phase where officials can focus on monitoring the economy rather than actively intervening to change its course, according to Governing Council member Martins Kazaks. With inflation at the 2% target there's currently no need to cut interest rates further, Kazaks said. (www.bloomberg.com 24/08/25)

US Debt-to-GDP of 250% won't push up rates: Jackson Hole paper

US debt could reach 250% of GDP without putting upward pressure on interest rates, according to a paper presented at the Fed's Jackson Hole conference. "Until fiscal consolidation occurs, there will be a race between the rising asset demand of an older population and the rising debt issuance needed to finance associated increase in government expenditures," said its authors. (www.bloomberg.com 23/08/25)

US inflation to edge up as Powell shifts on job market

A key US inflation gauge probably ticked higher last month, underscoring the challenge Fed Chair Jerome Powell and his colleagues face in balancing rising prices and mounting risks in a fragile job market. A report on August 22 is forecast to show the personal consumption expenditures price index excluding food and energy - the Fed's preferred measure of underlying inflation rose 2.9% in July from a year ago. (www.bloomberg.com 24/08/25)

Bank of England's Bailey says UK has 'acute challenge' over weak growth

Britain faces an "acute challenge" over its weak underlying economic growth and reduced labour force participation since the COVID-19 pandemic, Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey has said. (www.reuters.com 24/08/25)

German business outlook unexpectedly hits highest since 2022

Confidence among German firms unexpectedly improved to the highest since 2022 after the European Union struck a trade deal with the US, despite some criticizing higher tariffs. An expectations index by the Ifo institute rose to 91.6 in August from a revised 90.8 in July. Economists in a Bloomberg survey had expected a decline. (www.bloomberg.com 25/08/25)

Japan inflation eases to 3.1%

Japan's inflation softened further in July but continued to remain above the 2% target, data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications showed on Friday [22/08]. Core inflation that excludes fresh food cost eased to 3.1% in July from 3.3% in June. Meanwhile, economists surveyed had expected inflation to remain stable at 3.3%. Moreover, this was the weakest inflation since Feb., when prices rose 3.0 %. (www.rttnews.com 22/08/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3539	(1.3419)	1.3540	(1.3420)
+USD/EUR	1.1727	(1.1606)	1.1727	(1.1607)
*GHS/USD	10.8946	(10.9445)	10.9055	(10.9555)
*GHS/GBP	14.7501	(14.6865)	14.7660	(14.7022)
*GHS/EUR	12.7773	(12.7045)	12.7888	(12.7171)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 25/08/25 (Rates for 22/08/25 in brackets)

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BOJ's Ueda expects tightening job market to push up wages

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda said wage hikes are spreading beyond large firms and likely to keep accelerating due to a tightening job market, signaling his optimism that conditions for another interest rate hike were falling into place. The remarks are likely to reinforce market expectations that the central bank will resume a rate hike cycle.

(www.reuters.com 24/08/25)

RBI Chief sees limited US tariff hit, growth still in focus

The Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra said US President Donald Trump's tariffs will likely have a limited impact on India, while stressing the central bank hasn't "lost sight" of its growth mandate. "We are hopeful trade negotiations" between New Delhi and Washington will "play out," Malhotra said.

(www.bloomberg.com 25/08/25)

Spain producer prices rise 0.3%

Spain's producer prices increased at a slower pace in July, the statistical office INE said today. The producer price index posted an annual increase of 0.3% in July, following a 1.0 percent rebound in June. The annual price growth in energy eased to 1.5% from 2.5%, which largely influenced the slowdown in overall inflation. (www.rttnews.com 25/08/25)

Mexico GDP grows less than estimated in Q2

The Mexican economy expanded less than initially estimated in Q2, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, has said. GDP advanced a seasonally adjusted 0.6% sequentially, faster than the 0.3% rebound in Q1. In the flash estimate, the rate of increase was 0.7%. (www.rttnews.com 22/08/25)

Taiwan jobless rate falls to 3.33%

The unemployment rate in Taiwan dropped slightly in July, the Directorate General of Budget Accounting and Statistics has reported. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate came in at 3.33% in July versus 3.34% in June. In the same period last year, the rate was 3.37%. (www.rttnews.com 22/08/25)

Oil prices climb after Ukraine attacks hit Russian energy sites

Oil prices rose today after Ukraine stepped up attacks on Russia, fanning concerns Russian oil supply could be disrupted, while expectations for a cut in US interest rates buoyed the outlook for global growth and fuel demand. Brent crude futures rose 13 cents, or 0.19%, to \$67.86 at 0656 GMT, and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 15 cents, or 0.24%, to \$63.81. (www.reuters.com 25/08/25)

Asian shares rise as Powell signals rate cuts

Asian stocks rose broadly today as Fed Reserve Chair Jerome Powell's dovish signals at the Jackson Hole symposium opened the door to an interest rate cut next month. Fed fund futures currently price in an 84% chance of a quarter-point rate cut in September and at least 100 basis points of easing to 3.25-3.5% by the middle of next year. (www.rttnews.com 25/08/25)

South Africa Treasury, banks fear SWIFT loss, Sowetan says

South Africa's National Treasury and the heads of its top banks discussed the risk the country may be cut off from SWIFT, the international payments system, if US lawmakers impose sanctions, Sowetan reported.

(www.bloomberg.com 25/08/25)

Egypt central bank set to cut rates by 100 basis points

Egypt's central bank is likely to cut its key interest rates by 100 basis points on August 28, to support growth as inflation cools, a Reuters poll showed. The median forecast of eight economists surveyed is for the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) to lower its overnight deposit rate to 23%. (www.reuters.com 25/08/25)

S&P upgrades Kenya's credit rating to 'B' on easing liquidity risks

Global credit ratings agency S&P upgraded Kenya's long-term sovereign credit rating to 'B' from 'B-' on Friday[22/08], citing reduced near-term external liquidity risks. Robust export earnings and diaspora remittances have bolstered Kenya's foreign exchange reserves and imbalances. (www.reuters.com 22/08/25)

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