

Brazil central bank to make more rate decisions with board vacancies, sources say

Brazil's central bank will make another interest rate decision this week with two empty seats on its monetary policy committee, which may remain open for several more months given tensions between the government and Senate leaders, people familiar with the matter said. (www.reuters.com 18/03/26)

Australia leading index growth remains stable

Australia leading index logged steady growth in Feb but remained weak compared to the last year, Westpac said today. The six-month annualized growth rate in the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Leading Index, which indicates the likely pace of economic activity relative to trend three to nine months into the future, held unchanged at 0.08% in Feb. (www.rttnews.com 18/03/26)

New Zealand Q4 current account deficit NZ\$4.6bn

New Zealand posted a seasonally adjusted current account deficit of NZ\$4.6bn in Q4 of 2025, Statistics New Zealand said today. In Q4, the goods deficit widened to NZ\$866m, while the services surplus was NZ\$122m. The primary income deficit widened to NZ\$3.7bn. (www.rttnews.com 17/03/26)

Austria inflation confirmed at 2.2%

Austria's consumer price inflation increased somewhat as initially estimated in February, the latest data from Statistics Austria showed today. The CPI climbed 2.2% year-over-year in Feb, faster than the 2.0% increase in Jan, which was the lowest inflation rate in thirteen months. That was in line with the flash data published on March 3. (www.rttnews.com 18/03/26)

Croatia inflation confirmed at 3.8%

Consumer price inflation in Croatia increased as initially estimated in Feb to the highest level in three months, the latest data from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics showed on Tuesday [17/03]. The CPI climbed 3.8% year-over-year in February, following a 3.4% rise in Jan, in line with the flash data published on March 3. (www.rttnews.com 17/03/26)

Oil prices fall over \$2 as Iraqi and Kurdish authorities agree to export deal

Oil prices fell more than \$2 per barrel today to pare some of Tuesday's [17/03] sharp gains after the Iraqi government and Kurdish authorities reached a deal to resume oil exports via Turkey's Ceyhan port, providing modest relief to concerns about supplies from the Middle East. Brent futures retreated \$2.26, or 2.19%, to \$101.16 a barrel by 0429 GMT today. (www.reuters.com 18/03/26)

Iran war triggers hunt to secure new fuel supplies in Africa

Many African economies are running on weeks of refined fuel as the Iran war chokes off shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, forcing governments to scramble for alternatives. About 600,000 barrels a day of oil products that typically flow to the continent from the Middle East are at risk. (www.bloomberg.com 18/03/26)

Morocco keeps benchmark interest rate unchanged at 2.25%

Morocco's central bank, Bank Al-Maghrib, on Tuesday [17/03] decided to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 2.25% following its Q1 meeting of 2026. It projected economic growth to improve markedly, reaching 4.8% in 2025 and 5.6% in 2026, up from 3.8% in 2024. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/03/26)

Ethiopia's financial system achieves "remarkable growth" despite global challenges: central bank

National Bank of Ethiopia said Tuesday [17/03] that Ethiopia's financial system remained stable and recorded "remarkable growth" during the 2024/2025 fiscal year despite a challenging global environment. (www.xinhuanet.com 18/03/26)

Ghana rate cut still expected despite Iran war

Ghana's interest-rate easing cycle is expected to continue Wednesday [18/03] despite inflation risks stemming from conflict in the Middle East. The median estimate of five analysts surveyed by Bloomberg was for a 100-basis-point reduction to 14.5%, after inflation slowed to a near three-decade low last month of 3.3%. (www.bloomberg.com 18/03/26)

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