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Defence spending sprees tend not to deliver lasting growth, says IMF

Defence spending booms tend to stoke inflation and store up fiscal problems without delivering a lasting boost to economies, the IMF warned on Wednesday [08/04], as it urged European governments to develop joint military procurement programmes. Around half the countries in the world have increased military budgets in the past five years, the fund said. (www.ft.com 08/04/26)

Long Covid projected to cost OECD economies up to \$135bn a year

The impact of long-term illness suffered by people after Covid-19 infections is forecast to cost OECD countries a total of up to \$135bn a year and will dog their economies for at least a decade, according to new research. The projected hit to GDP from lower productivity, increased absences or employees quitting work altogether will dwarf extra health spending burdens. (www.ft.com 08/04/26)

Bessent urges Congress to pass crypto regulation bill

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Congress must pass a bill to create federal rules for digital assets, reiterating the push for rules that he says will ensure cryptocurrency development and investment remain anchored in the U.S. Bessent urged passage of a crypto market structure bill called the Clarity Act. (www.reuters.com 09/04/26)

Greer stresses trade over investment before Trump-Xi Summit

A top US trade official promoted the creation of a US-China board of trade, while downplaying the possibility of a broad investment push between the two countries, a sign of what could be at the center of talks when Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump meet next month. (www.bloomberg.com 08/04/26)

German exports rise more than expected in February

German exports rose more than expected in Feb. increasing by 3.6% compared with the previous month, data from the federal statistics office showed today. The result compared with a forecast 1% increase in a Reuters poll. The statistics office published more detailed economic information on its website. (www.reuters.com 09/04/26)

German industrial production disappointed even before Iran war

German industrial production unexpectedly fell in Feb. casting doubt on a swift recovery in Europe's largest economy even before the Iran war started. Output dropped 0.3% from Jan. with construction and consumer goods driving the decline. Economists predicted a 1.3% increase. (www.bloomberg.com 09/04/26)

Japan's consumer confidence tumbles by most since covid pandemic

Sentiment among Japan's households deteriorated by the most since the early stages of the Covid pandemic following the outbreak of the war in Iran. Confidence among multi-person households plunged to 33.3 in March from a revised 39.7 in the biggest drop since April 2020, according to a Cabinet Office report published today. The ratio of those expecting to see inflation a year from now jumped to 93.1%. (www.bloomberg.com 09/04/26)

French trade deficit widens in February

France's foreign trade deficit increased in February as exports fell amid an increase in imports. The trade gap widened to €5.8bn in Feb from €2.0bn in Jan. Exports posted a monthly fall of 2.3% in Feb, while imports climbed 4.6%. The rise in imports was fuelled by an increase in natural hydrocarbons, transport equipment, and pharmaceuticals. (www.rtnnews.com 08/04/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3423	(1.3249)	1.3424	(1.3250)
+USD/EUR	1.1679	(1.1568)	1.1679	(1.1568)
*GHS/USD	11.0145	(11.0045)	11.0255	(11.0155)
*GHS/GBP	14.7847	(14.5799)	14.8006	(14.5955)
*GHS/EUR	12.8641	(12.7313)	12.8757	(12.7427)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 09/04/26 (Rates for 08/04/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 09/04/26 (Rates for 08/04/25 in brackets)

IMF gives initial nod to Sri Lanka for \$700m loan tranche

The IMF reached a staff-level agreement with Sri Lanka, paving the way toward unlocking about \$700m in financing for the South Asian nation. The decision follows the conclusion of a combined fifth and sixth review of Sri Lanka's \$3bn loan program and is contingent on approval from the IMF's executive board. (www.bloomberg.com 09/04/26)

Dutch inflation confirmed at 2.7%

Dutch consumer price inflation increased as initially estimated in March. Consumer prices logged an annual increase of 2.7% in March, faster than the 2.4% stable rise in Feb. An 18.7% surge in motor fuel prices largely drove the acceleration in inflation. The annual price growth in food and non-alcoholic beverages accelerated to 2.0% from 1.2%. (www.rttnews.com 09/04/26)

Thailand's bond slump seen deepening as inflation concerns mount

Thailand's sovereign bonds among the world's worst performers since the Iran war erupted face more losses as rising inflation risks add to worries over fiscal strain, analysts say. Local-currency Thai bonds have lost 4.1% since the end of February, the most after the UK among 29 global markets tracked by Bloomberg. (www.bloomberg.com 08/04/26)

Luxembourg inflation rises to 2.4% in marc

Consumer price inflation in Luxembourg accelerated in March after remaining stable in the previous month. The CPI rose 2.4% year-on-year in March, faster than the 1.3% stable increase in Feb. Costs for housing and utilities rebounded 1.7%, and inflation based on transportation accelerated to 4.2% from 0.2%. (www.rttnews.com 08/04/26)

Finland trade gap widens in February

Finland's foreign trade deficit increased in February from a year ago as imports grew amid a decline in exports. The trade deficit rose to €655m in Feb from €250m in the corresponding month last year. The value of exports decreased 3.1% annually in Feb. while imports climbed by 3.7%. (www.rttnews.com 09/04/26)

Oil rebounds as fragile Gulf ceasefire, constrained Hormuz keep supply risks elevated

Oil prices rose today as doubts over a fragile two-week Middle East ceasefire raised concerns that energy flows through the crucial Strait of Hormuz will remain restricted. Brent crude futures were up \$1.96, or 2.07%, at \$96.71 a barrel at 0325 GMT. (www.reuters.com 08/04/26)

Kenya holds interest rates amid uncertainty over Iran war

Kenya's central bank held its benchmark interest rate at 8.75%, halting an easing cycle that's run for nearly 2 years. Monetary policymakers chose to keep the rate unchanged as they gauge the likely impact of US-Israeli war on Iran in the East African economy, Governor Kamau Thugge said. (www.bloomberg.com 08/04/26)

Senegal projects sharp slowdown in growth, debt challenges

Senegal's economic ministry forecast a sharp slowdown in annual growth and highlighted the uncertainty over the West African country's debt challenges in a document released on Wednesday. Senegal has faced economic challenges since the discovery of \$13bn in hidden debt attributed to the previous administration. (www.reuters.com 08/04/26)

World Bank projects 4.8% growth for Ghana, 9% inflation by end-2026

The World Bank projects 4.8% growth for Ghana in 2026, alongside an end-of-year inflation rate of 9%. These forecasts were contained in the Bank's latest Africa Economic Update report released on April 8. (www.myjoyonline.com 08/04/26)

Ghana's economy expands by 7.5% in January 2026, driven by services sector – GSS

Ghana's economic activities recorded a year-on-year growth of 7.5% in January 2026, according to the Monthly Indicator of Economic Growth released by the Ghana Statistical Service on April 8, 2026. (www.graphic.com.gh 08/04/26)

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