



Wednesday 29 April 2026

**World Bank forecasts 24% surge in energy prices in 2026**

The World Bank predicted Tuesday that energy prices may surge 24% in 2026 to their highest level since the Russia-Ukraine conflict erupted in 2022 due to the war in the Middle East, while overall commodity prices are projected to increase 16%. The World Bank said that attacks on energy infrastructure and shipping disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have triggered the largest oil supply shock on record. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 28/04/26)

**Export restrictions on critical materials up fivefold since 2009, says OECD**

Export restrictions on critical raw materials have increased fivefold since 2009 despite continuing efforts by advanced economies to diversify their supply chains, OECD research has shown. Analysis of export restrictions on important ingredients for defence, technology and green energy supply chains also found that an increasingly broad range of countries were now imposing controls. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 28/04/26)

**Eurozone banks to tighten credit standards in Q2: ECB survey**

Eurozone banks plan to tighten credit standards in the second quarter amid geopolitical tensions, energy developments and higher funding costs, the Bank Lending Survey results from the European Central Bank showed Tuesday [28/04]. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 28/04/26)

**ECB survey shows Eurozone consumer inflation expectations jump in March**

Euro area consumers' inflation expectations for the one year ahead and those for the 3-year horizon surged in March as crude oil price continue to rise due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, results of survey by the European Central Bank shows [28/04]. Median expectations for inflation for the next 12 months and those for the three years ahead climbed to 4.0% and 3.0%, respectively. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 28/04/26).

**EU's top trade official leaves after clashing over Trump deal**

The EU's top trade official is leaving her job after clashing with her superiors over a hastily agreed trade deal with US President Trump. Sabine Weyand, who had led the European Commission's powerful trade department for seven years, publicly contradicted her bosses' view that the agreement struck last year in Scotland was compatible with global trade rules. ([www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) 28/04/26)

**Tariff changes to add \$1.1tr to US budget deficit over 10 years: CBO chief**

Recent adjustments of US tariffs could add \$1.1tr to the federal budget deficit over a period of 10 years, according to Phillip Swagel, director of the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The US Supreme Court's recent decision striking down US President Donald Trump's ability to impose tariffs citing the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) alone would add \$2tr to deficits over a decade. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 29/04/26)

**China's factory activity set to expand at a slower clip in April: Reuters poll**

China's factory activity likely grew at a slower pace in April as rising cost pressures stemming from the Middle East conflict test Beijing's reliance on manufacturing to underpin economic growth. The official manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) is expected to drop to 50.1 from 50.4 in March, economists said. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 29/04/26)

**BoE says more work needed on UK bank capital requirements**

The Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Authority has said it is conducting more work on reforming UK banks' capital requirements. The BoE's executive director for prudential policy David Bailey said maintaining trust in the financial system was important for firms to invest and build their businesses". ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 28/04/26)

**EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES**

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3514	(1.3537)	1.3516	(1.3538)
+USD/EUR	1.1710	(1.1723)	1.1711	(1.1723)
*GHS/USD	11.1794	(11.1044)	11.1906	(11.1156)
*GHS/GBP	15.1079	(15.0321)	15.1252	(15.0482)
*GHS/EUR	13.0917	(13.0193)	13.1045	(13.0299)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 29/04/26 (Rates for 28/04/26 in brackets)

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### **BoJ holds rates and halves growth forecast**

The Bank of Japan has left interest rates unchanged in a 6–3 vote, as it halved its growth forecast and as its governor said inflation would be “significantly” higher than the bank’s previous estimates. The BoJ’s monetary policy board on April 28 voted to keep rates at 0.75% for the third time in a row following a two-day meeting. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 28/04/26)

### **Australia inflation strongest since 2023**

Australia's consumer prices inflation accelerated at the fastest pace since 2023, driven by increases in housing and transport costs, data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed today. Consumer prices increased 4.6% on a yearly basis in March, marking the strongest inflation since September 2023. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 29/04/26)

### **Spain jobless rate reaches 1-year high**

Spain's unemployment rate rose to a one-year high in Q1, data from the statistical office INE showed Tuesday [28/04]. The unemployment rate climbed to 10.83% from 9.93% in the fourth quarter. This was the highest rate since Q1 of 2025. Unemployment increased. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 28/04/26)

### **Hong Kong trade gap widens in March**

Hong Kong's trade deficit increased notably in March from a year ago as imports grew faster than exports. Trade shortfall rose to HK\$89.1bn in March from HK\$45.4bn in the same month last year. In Feb. the trade balance showed a deficit of HK\$64.1bn. Exports climbed 35.8% year-on-year in March while imports surged by 41.2%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 28/04/26)

### **Laos steps up efforts to stabilize economy, prioritize key tasks**

The Lao government has reviewed the current situation and urgent priority tasks and is intensifying efforts to stabilize the economy and strengthen regulation in key sectors. The government's monthly meeting for April was held in Vientiane from Monday [27/04 to Tuesday [28/04], bringing together senior officials to review recent developments and set detailed priorities for the coming month. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 29/04/26)

### **Oil slips as market digests UAE exit from OPEC, supply concerns linger**

Oil prices eased today from a multi-day rally as investors digested the ramifications of the United Arab Emirates' surprise decision to quit OPEC, though supply disruptions from the stalemated Iran war support the market. Brent crude futures for June dipped 1 cent to \$111.25 a barrel by 0413 GMT. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 29/04/26)

### **UN, AU officials call for faster implementation of SDGs in Africa**

Leaders of the United Nations and the African Union Commission on Tuesday [28/04] called for faster implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. This was said at the opening of the 12th session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Ethiopia. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 29/04/26)

### **Kenya economic growth steady at 4.6% in 2025, data shows**

Kenya's economy grew 4.6% last year, little changed from 2024's 4.7% growth and below a finance ministry estimate, official data showed today. The finance ministry projected in February that gross domestic product (GDP) grew 5.0% in 2025. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 29/04/26)

### **Banking sector rebounds as assets hit GH¢465bn – BoG Report**

Ghana's banking sector is regaining momentum, with total industry assets climbing to GH¢465.4bn as of Feb 2026, according to the Bank of Ghana's March Monetary Policy Report. The figures point to a sector on firmer ground, reflecting stronger balance sheets and improved positioning within the domestic market. ([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 29/04/26)

### **Central Bank gulps GHS 22.7bn in OMO to further tighten liquidity**

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has withdrawn approximately GHS 22.66bn from the banking system through its 14-day bill auction, in line with ongoing open market operations (OMO) aimed at tightening liquidity conditions and reinforcing the disinflation process. The latest liquidity absorption exercise comes with headline inflation slowing to 3.2% at the end of March 2026. ([www.norvanreports.com](http://www.norvanreports.com) 29/04/26)

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