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IMF chief warns of “much worse outcome” for global economy as Mideast war drags on

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva warned on Monday [04/05] that the global economy would face a "much worse outcome" if the Middle East war drags on into 2027 with oil prices hitting around 125 dollars per barrel. "We are going to see inflation climbing up, and then inevitably, inflation expectations would start de-anchoring," she said at a conference hosted by the Milken Institute in Washington, D.C. (www.xinhuanet.com 05/05/26)

Eurozone investor confidence improves unexpectedly

Eurozone investor sentiment improved unexpectedly in May, driven by investor expectations that the conflict with Iran would not escalate further, a survey conducted by the behavioral research institute Sentix showed Monday [04/05]. The investor sentiment index rose to -16.4 in May from -19.2 in April. The score was forecast to fall to -20.9. (www.rttnews.com 04/05/26)

Eurozone manufacturing growth reaches 47-month high

The Euro area factory activity expanded at its strongest pace in nearly four years in the month of April as manufacturers front-loaded their orders due to fears of the war-induced price increases and supply shock, data from S&P Global showed Monday [04/05]. (www.rttnews.com 04/05/26)

US factory orders jump much more than expected in March

New orders for US manufactured goods increased by much more than expected in the month of March, according to a report released by the Commerce Department on Monday [04/05]. The Commerce Department said factory orders jumped by 1.5% in March after rising by an upwardly revised 0.3% in Feb. (www.rttnews.com 04/05/26).

US economic growth accelerates slightly less than expected in Q1

a report released by the commerce department on Thursday [30/04] showed US economic growth reaccelerated in Q1 of 2026 but came in slightly below economist estimates. the commerce department said GDP shot up by 2.0% in Q1 after climbing by 0.5% in Q4 of 2025. economists had expected GDP to jump by 2.1%. (www.rttnews.com 30/04/26)

China Development Bank's relending loans support foreign trade firms in Q1

The China Development Bank (CDB) provided CN¥28.54bn (\$4.16bn) in Q1 of 2026 in special-purpose relending loans to support small and micro-sized firms engaged in foreign trade businesses. With a weighted-average interest rate for borrowers lower than the national average for newly issued inclusive loans to micro and small enterprises in Q1. (www.xinhuanet.com 05/05/26)

Australian household spending rises at fastest pace in two years

Australian household spending rose at its fastest pace in 2 years in March, driven by a spike in gasoline prices following the outbreak of war in Iran and complicating the Reserve Bank's efforts to cool the economy. Consumer outlays expanded 6.3% from a year earlier, exceeding economists' value of 6.1%, Australian Bureau of Statistics reveals. (www.bloomberg.com 05/05/26)

RBA delivers third straight hike, cementing outlier status

Australia's central bank raised its key interest rate for a third consecutive meeting, underscoring its determination to tame strong inflation and cementing its outlier status among global counterparts. The Reserve Bank's 9-member policy committee opted to increase the cash rate to 4.35% from 4.1% by vote of 8 to 1 today. (www.bloomberg.com 05/05/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3517	(1.3583)	1.3518	(1.3584)
+USD/EUR	1.1689	(1.1733)	1.1690	(1.1733)
*GHS/USD	11.2201	(11.1844)	11.2313	(11.1956)
*GHS/GBP	15.1662	(15.1918)	15.1825	(15.2081)
*GHS/EUR	13.1161	(13.1235)	13.1280	(13.1342)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 05/05/26 (Rates for 04/05/26 in brackets)

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Indonesian growth surges to 5.6% despite Iran energy crisis

Indonesia's economic growth accelerated to a three-year high in Q1, as a record increase in government spending helped support consumers in the face of a global energy crisis. Gross domestic product rose 5.61% in the Jan-March period from a year earlier, the statistics agency said today. (www.bloomberg.com 05/05/26)

Greece factory growth weakest in 7 months

Greece's manufacturing growth moderated to a 7-month low in April amid softer expansions in output and new orders. The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index dropped to 52.4 in April from 54.5 in March. The growth in new orders eased substantially as demand was weighed by widespread uncertainty among customers and pressure from higher costs. (www.rttnews.com 04/05/26)

Afghanistan secures over 552-mln-USD investment commitments

The Afghan government has secured investment commitments worth 35bn Afghanis (over \$552m), marking a significant push to revitalize the national economy and foster sustainable growth, the office of the deputy prime minister for economic affairs announced today. (www.xinhuanet.com 05/05/26)

Poland factory activity contracts further in April

Poland's factory downturn continued in April amid soaring inflationary pressure caused by the war in the Middle East. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index rose marginally to 48.8 in April from 48.7 in March. However, any PMI reading below 50 suggests contraction in the sector. (www.rttnews.com 04/05/26)

Venezuela's inflation rate eases to 10.6% in April, cenbank says

Venezuela's inflation rate eased to 10.6% in April from 13.1% in March, the country's central bank said on Monday [04/05]. The inflation rate so far in 2026 has reached 90%, the bank said on its website, while according to Reuters calculations based on central bank figures the annualized inflation rate is 611.86%. (www.reuters.com 05/05/26)

Oil eases on signs US is loosening Iranian closure of Strait of Hormuz

Oil prices eased 1% today after climbing by as much as 6% in the previous session on signs the U.S. Navy is loosening Iran's grip on the Strait of Hormuz, potentially opening up supply from the Middle East. The U.S. on Monday launched a new operation aimed at reopening the strait to shipping. (www.reuters.com 05/05/26)

Gold edges higher on dip buying while inflation risks still loom

Gold edged higher on signs dip buyers stepped into the market after a flare-up in hostilities in the Middle East pushed down prices by 2%. Bullion rose as much as 0.6% toward \$4,550 an ounce. The US military said it fought off attacks from Iran as it facilitated the passage of two US-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz. (www.bloomberg.com 05/05/26)

South African factory mood improves in April, Absa PMI shows

A gauge of South African manufacturing sentiment improved in April as output and new sales orders rebounded after a weak first quarter, a purchasing managers' index survey shows. The adjusted PMI sponsored by South African bank Absa rose to 52.6 in April from 49.0 in March. (www.reuters.com 04/05/26)

European Union commends Ghana's recovery momentum, calls for policy discipline

The European Union has described Ghana's ongoing economic recovery as "positively surprising," while cautioning that sustaining the gains will require continued reforms and policy discipline. (www.norvanreports.com 05/05/26)

BoG cuts currency issuance cost to GH¢471m as cash in circulation rises to GH¢83.8bn

The cost of issuing currencies by the Bank of Ghana (BoG) slowed significantly, falling from over GH¢1bn in 2024 to GH¢ 471m. That's according to the central bank's 2025 Financials. The report showed that the cost of printing new notes and coins minting went down from GH¢986m in 2024 to GH¢277m in 2025. (www.myjoyonline.com 05/05/26)

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