



Thursday 15 May 2026

Eurozone GDP growth confirmed at 0.1%

The euro area economy expanded only marginally in the first quarter, the statistical office Eurostat confirmed on Wednesday. Gross domestic product posted a quarterly growth of 0.1%, matching the initial estimate but slower than the 0.2% expansion seen in the fourth quarter, Eurostat reported. On a yearly basis, GDP growth eased to 0.8 % from 1.3% in the fourth quarter. (www.rttnews.com 13/05/26)

Strategic Planning Benchmarks 2026 report – digital strategy

This year marks the second iteration of the Strategic Planning Benchmarks. The 2026 dataset reveals more details about the ways strategic planning teams are using data and digital platforms, as well as their continued focus on organisation-wide digital transformation, payments reform and – increasingly – the use of artificial intelligence. (www.centralbanking.com/ 14/05/26)

US Senate committee to weigh crypto bill in milestone for digital assets

The Republican-led Senate Banking Committee on Thursday is set to consider long-awaited legislation that would create regulations for cryptocurrencies - a landmark step for the bill which has been bogged down by a dispute between crypto companies and banks. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

US, China are discussing AI guardrails to safeguard most powerful models, Bessent says

US and Chinese delegations will discuss artificial intelligence guardrails at their Beijing summit and will set up a protocol for best practices to keep non-state actors from getting the most powerful AI models. Bessent told CNBC that it was "of utmost importance" that the US maintain its lead over China in AI. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

UK economy posts strong Q1, but Iran war casts shadow over outlook

Britain's economy grew unexpectedly in March to cap another strong first quarter, suggesting it was in better shape as the Iran war escalated than many feared, though economists said seasonal distortions were flattering the figures. Gross domestic product increased by 0.3% month-on-month in March, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said, against expectations in a Reuters poll of economists for a 0.2% contraction. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

UK to tighten money market fund rules by end of year

Britain will impose tougher rules later this year on money market funds, which have been a focus of regulators since market turmoil in March 2020, when they were hit by heavy redemptions during a COVID-19-induced "dash for cash". (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

Iran and UAE clash at BRICS foreign ministers' meeting

Iran's foreign minister accused the United Arab Emirates of direct involvement in military operations against his country during a BRICS meeting in New Delhi on Thursday, Iranian state media reported. The spat comes a day after the UAE denied a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he visited the Gulf country during the Iran war. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

Israel's Bank Hapoalim profit falls, hit by tax on sector

Bank Hapoalim one of Israel's largest lenders, reported lower quarterly profit on Thursday, as it started paying a new tax on the banking sector that it said would weigh on growth in 2026. Hapoalim, which has a market share of nearly 30%, said profit in the first quarter was 2.12 billion shekels (\$730 million). (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3520	(1. 3523)	1.3521	(1. 3524)
+USD/EUR	1.1712	(1. 1734)	1.1712	(1. 1735)
*GHS/USD	11.3343	(11. 2944)	11.3457	(11. 3057)
*GHS/GBP	15.3240	(15. 2733)	15.3405	(15. 2898)
*GHS/EUR	13.2744	(13. 2535)	13.2876	(13. 2655)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 14/05/26 (Rates for 13/05/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 14/05/26 (Rates for 13/05/25 in brackets)

Germany's Merz calls for EU budget overhaul as battle looms

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz on Thursday called for a revamp of what he cast as the European Union's outdated budget system, backing a streamlined approach that prioritised investing in defence and making the bloc more competitive. The speech showed how battle lines were being drawn over the 2028-2034 EU budget. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

French central bank succession fight tests Macron's sway ahead of 2027 election

French President Emmanuel Macron faces a test next week when lawmakers decide whether to approve his former chief of staff to run the central bank, a nomination some critics say is part of a campaign to protect key institutions from a possible far-right election win in 2027. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

Spain inflation moderates as estimated

Spain's consumer price inflation moderated in April, as initially estimated, revised data from the statistical office INE showed Thursday [14/05]. Consumer price inflation slowed to 3.2% from 3.4% in March. The rate matched the estimate released on April 29. Underlying inflation edged down to 2.8%, in line with estimate, from 2.9% in the previous month. (www.rttnews.com 14/05/26)

Irish inflation climbs to 27-month high

Ireland's consumer price inflation accelerated further in April to the highest level in more than two years, data from the Central Statistics Office showed on Thursday. The consumer price index climbed 3.7% year-over-year in April, slightly faster than March's increase of 3.6%. (www.rttnews.com 14/05/26)

Slovakia inflation rises to 3.9% in April

Slovakia's consumer price inflation accelerated for the first time in three months in April amid higher fuel prices, figures from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic showed on Thursday. Consumer prices rose 3.9% annually in April, faster than the 3.5% increase in March. Inflation was expected to remain stable at 3.5%. (www.rttnews.com 14/05/26)

UK stocks rise as economic growth surprise offers relief amid political uncertainty

UK shares rose as strong economic growth in the first quarter reassured investors shaken by the country's political uncertainty. Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced the increasing prospect of a leadership challenge, with his health minister reportedly ready to resign and his former deputy calling on him to "reflect" on his position. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

Oil prices inch higher as investors focus on Trump-Xi meet

Oil prices traded higher after the International Energy Agency warned that global oil inventories are falling at a record pace and will continue to drop for months as a result of disruption to Middle East supplies. Investors also await the outcome of US President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. (www.rttnews.com 14/05/26)

Gold prices tad higher in cautious trade

Gold prices were a tad higher on Thursday [14/05] as investors awaited cues from a high-stakes summit between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. Spot gold edged up by 0.2% to \$4,698.72 an ounce while US gold futures were little changed at \$4,705.05. (www.rttnews.com 14/05/26)

South African rand steady as investors watch Ramaphosa's revived "Farmgate" impeachment process

The South African rand was steady in early trade on Thursday as investors watched developments in President Cyril Ramaphosa's "Farmgate" scandal. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

AFRICA-FX-Ghana's currency still on back foot

Ghana's currency is expected to fall further against the dollar in the next week to Thursday, while those of Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda should be little changed and Zambia's may strengthen, traders said. Ghana's cedi is being dragged down by persistent corporate foreign-currency demand. (www.reuters.com 14/05/26)

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