



Tuesday 16 June 2026

## Chinese economy stalls as spending, investment drop to Covid-era levels

China's consumer spending and investment slumped to levels unseen since the pandemic, exposing risks for the economy even as it benefits from booming exports and a de-escalation of tensions around Iran. Retail sales declined 0.6% last month from a year ago, posting a worse-than-forecast drop that was their first fall since the reopening from Covid lockdowns in late 2022.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 16/06/26)

## China's fixed-asset investment down 4.1% in first 5 months

China's fixed-asset investment dropped 4.1% year on year in the first 5 months of 2026, official data show today. Such investment totaled CN¥17.85tr (about \$2.62tr) during this period, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said. Excluding the property sector, the country's fixed-asset investment went down 1.2% in the first 5 months of the year.

([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 16/06/26)

## China's property stocks tumble back to pre-2024 stimulus levels

Chinese property stocks have slid back to levels seen before a raft of stimulus measures from the authorities in Sept. 2024 drove a market turnaround, underscoring lingering pessimism over the sector. Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of Chinese developer shares fell as much as 3% today, extending losses after a faster decline in home prices.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 16/06/26)

## Bank of Japan needs strong measures to prop up yen: strategists

Strategists expect the yen and government bonds to remain under pressure while Japan's stocks continue to find support following the Bank of Japan's decision to raise rates on today. They are concerned BOJ may need to move more decisively to give support to the currency and stem inflation.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 16/06/26)

## Bank of Japan raises interest rates to 31-year high

The Bank of Japan raised interest rates to a 31-year high today, marking another landmark step in normalising monetary policy as it focused on taming price pressures from the energy shock caused by the Iran war. The hike was the first since December and aligns the BOJ with other central banks shifting towards tighter policy to combat inflation, including the European Central Bank.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/06/26)

## Italy inflation confirmed at 32-month high

Consumer price inflation in Italy accelerated further in May to the highest level in more than two-and-a-half years, as estimated initially, the latest data from the statistical office shows today. Consumer price inflation accelerated to 3.2% in May from April's 2.7%. Moreover, this was the highest inflation rate since Sept. 2023, when prices rose 5.3%.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 16/06/26)

## Australia keeps interest rate unchanged

The Reserve Bank of Australia left its benchmark interest rate unchanged today as policymakers evaluate the effects of three consecutive rate hikes and the impact of oil supply disruption. The policy board, governed by Michele Bullock, unanimously voted to hold the cash rate target at 4.35%. The bank had lifted the policy rate by 25 basis points each in Feb. March and May.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 16/06/26)

## Hong Kong jobless rate remains stable at 3.7%

Hong Kong's unemployment rate held steady in the three months ending in May, labor force statistics from the Census and Statistics Department shows. The adjusted rate came in at 3.7% in March to May, as same in the Feb. to April period. Similarly, the underemployment rate stayed unchanged at 1.5%. Without adjustment, it also remained stable at 3.7%.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 16/06/26)

### EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3432	(1.3413)	1.3433	(1.3414)
+USD/EUR	1.1604	(1.1573)	1.1604	(1.1573)
*GHS/USD	11.0945	(11.0445)	11.1056	(11.0555)
*GHS/GBP	14.9021	(14.8140)	14.9181	(14.8299)
*GHS/EUR	12.8744	(12.7817)	12.8860	(12.7932)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 16/06/26 (Rates for 15/06/26 in brackets)

\* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 16/06/26 (Rates for 15/06/26 in brackets)

### **Singapore to introduce gold storage for central banks**

Singapore will open gold storage services for central banks this year as the country's monetary authority seeks to strengthen its role as a bullion hub in Asia. Deputy prime minister and Monetary Authority of Singapore chair Gan Kim Yong said on June 15 that reserves diversification by long-term holders of gold had anchored long-term demand for the precious metal. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 15/06/26)

### **Poland inflation confirmed at 3.1%**

Poland's consumer price inflation eased slightly in May from a 10-month high in the previous month as estimated earlier, the latest data from Statistics Poland showed on Monday. The consumer price index climbed 3.1 percent year-over-year in May, slower than the 3.2% increase in April. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 15/06/26)

### **Bulgaria inflation rises less than estimated**

Bulgaria's consumer price inflation accelerated slightly less than estimated in May to the highest level in more than two-and-a-half years, the latest data from the National Statistical Institute showed on Monday. The consumer price index climbed 6.9% year-over-year in May, faster than the 6.8% rise in April. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 15/06/26)

### **NZ economists trim inflation forecasts, still expect rate hikes**

New Zealand economists have trimmed their inflation forecasts after a report that fuel prices and airfares retreated in May even before the impact of potential peace in the Middle East. Still, inflation is likely to exceed 4% this year, breaching the Reserve Bank's 1-3% target and making it likely policymakers will need to raise interest rates as soon as July. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 16/06/26)

### **Slovakia inflation eases to 3.8%**

Slovakia's consumer price inflation softened slightly in May, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic said. Consumer prices rose 3.8% annually in May, following a 3.9% increase in April. Inflation based on food and non-alcoholic beverages eased to 0.3% from 1.0%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 15/06/26)

### **Oil falls as markets weigh return of supply, US-Iran peace deal**

Oil prices extended losses on Tuesday, as markets weighed prospects for a resumption of supply through the key Strait of Hormuz against shaky physical market drivers and a lack of details from a preliminary deal to end the Iran war. By 0631 GMT, Brent crude futures were down 45 cents, or 0.5%, at \$82.72 a barrel, and U.S. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/06/26)

### **Asia markets temper Iran deal optimism, BOJ hikes rates**

Asian stocks made cautious gains today after a rally in the previous session on news of a U.S.-Iran peace deal, while investors assessed a widely expected Bank of Japan rate increase to a 31-year high. The Nikkei 225 (.N225), opens new tab jumped 0.6%. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 16/06/26)

### **Ghana records weakest Q1 budget execution since 2017 as consolidation bites**

Ghana's government spent barely 3 quarters of what it had planned for the first 3 months of 2026, the widest gap between budget and actual spending in at least a decade, according to data. Figures from the Ministry of Finance show the money was held back mostly on capital expenditure. ([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 16/06/26)

### **Government Treasury Bills oversubscribed by 13.61% amid rising interest rates**

The government recorded a 13.61% oversubscription on its treasury bills auction for the second consecutive week, driven by higher interest rates on the yield curve. According to the Bank of Ghana, the government received total bids of GH¢8.43bn against a target of GH¢7.42bn, and ultimately accepted GH¢8.29bn. ([www.classfmonline.com](http://www.classfmonline.com) 15/06/26)

### **BoG warns IMTOs: Register by July 31 or cease operations**

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has extended the deadline for the registration of International Money Transfer Operators (IMTO) operating in Ghana to July 31, 2026, giving existing operators additional time to comply with regulatory requirements. Service Providers (PSPs). ([www.myjoyonline.com](http://www.myjoyonline.com) 15/06/26)

**DISCLAIMER:** This information has been compiled by the Communications Department of Bank of Ghana for general reference purposes only. While every effort is made to ensure that the information is accurate, the Bank of Ghana does not guarantee nor does it accept any responsibility or liability for the accuracy or completeness of the content or for any loss which may arise from reliance on information contained in this document.