



Thursday 18 June 2026

Eurozone inflation confirmed at 3.2%

Eurozone inflation matched the flash estimate in May, while core inflation accelerated beyond expectations, official data shows. Inflation advanced to 3.2%, the strongest since Sept. 2023, and remained unchanged from the estimate published on June 2. This followed April's 3.0% increase. Inflation has remained above the European Central Bank's medium-term target of 2% for the third straight month. (www.rttnews.com 17/06/26)

Fed hold rates in first meeting under Kevin Warsh

The Federal Open Market Committee has decided to hold rates in the first decision under its new chair, Kevin Warsh. In a statement announcing the decision on June 17, the Fed said it would maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 3.5–3.75%. It said the US economy was “expanding at a solid pace” despite elevated uncertainty resulting from the Iran war. (www.centralbanking.com 17/06/26)

China to further facilitate cross-border investment, financing

China will take more concrete steps to continuously advance capital account opening-up and facilitate cross-border investment and financing, Zhu Hexin, deputy governor of the People's Bank of China and head of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, said Wednesday. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/06/26)

UK jobs market shows signs of stabilizing ahead of BOE decision

Britain’s labor market is holding up better than expected according to figures published today just hours before the Bank of England’s latest interest-rate decision. The number of employees on payrolls rose 2,000 in May, tax data published by the Office for National Statistics showed. It was much better than the 23,000-drop expected by economists. (www.bloomberg.com 18/06/26)

Japan vows to act 'any time' on yen as markets brace for intervention

Japan is ready to respond appropriately to exchange-rate moves at any time, the government's top spokesperson said on Thursday as the yen's renewed slide tests Tokyo's resolve to prop up the sagging currency. "We are ready to respond appropriately to currency moves as needed at any time," Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said. (www.reuters.com 18/06/26)

Japan runs \$2.36bn USD trade deficit in May

Japan ran a trade deficit of ¥378.6bn yen (about \$2.36bn) in May, its first red ink in 4 months, government data shows, as the weak yen inflated the value of imports even as volumes fell. Total exports rose 17.0% to ¥9.51tr year-on-year in May on strong demand for semiconductors and other electronic parts as well as motor vehicles, the Finance Ministry said. (www.xinhuanet.com 17/06/26)

India taps World Bank, ADB for \$2.5bn infrastructure spend

India is said to be in talks with multilateral lenders to secure about \$2.5bn in funding from existing credit lines as New Delhi tees up fresh sources of money after the Middle East conflict crimped its ability to step up spending. The World Bank and Asian Development Bank are in discussions to disburse loans worth \$1.5bn and \$1bn. (www.bloomberg.com 18/06/26)

Russia piles up debt as costs of war in Ukraine outrun budget

President Vladimir Putin frequently touts Russia’s lowest public debt among Group of 20 nations as a key strength of its economy. With foreign sources of financing largely cut off by international sanctions, the Kremlin is increasingly relying on expensive domestic debt structure to help fund the war. (www.bloomberg.com 18/06/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3396	(1.3431)	1.3396	(1.3432)
+USD/EUR	1.1592	(1.1614)	1.1593	(1.1614)
*GHS/USD	11.1874	(11.1474)	11.1986	(11.1586)
*GHS/GBP	14.9866	(14.9721)	15.0016	(14.9882)
*GHS/EUR	12.9698	(12.9472)	12.9817	(12.9588)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 18/06/26 (Rates for 17/06/26 in brackets)

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Austria inflation confirmed at 3.7%

Austria's consumer price inflation increased as estimated initially in May to the highest level in five months, the latest data from Statistics Austria showed on Wednesday [17/06]. The consumer price index climbed 3.7% year-over-year in May, faster than the 3.4 percent increase in April. That was in line with the flash data published on June 2. (www.rttnews.com 17/06/26)

Singapore non-oil domestic exports surge 38.4%

Singapore's non-oil domestic export growth quickened sharply in May, data from Enterprise Singapore shows. Non-oil domestic exports grew 38.4% year-over-year in April, much faster than the 24.4% rise in the previous month. Economists were looking for a growth of 30.0%. Exports of electronic products grew 94.8% in May from last year, driven by robust AI-related demand. (www.rttnews.com 18/06/26)

Dutch jobless rate remains stable at 3.9%

The Netherlands' unemployment held steady in May after falling to an 8-month low in April, data from the Central Bureau of Statistics showed today. The seasonally adjusted ILO jobless rate stood at 3.9% in May, the same as in the previous month. In the corresponding month last year, the rate was 3.8%. (www.rttnews.com 18/06/26)

Hungary wage growth eases to 9.0% in April

Hungary's average gross earnings growth eased to the lowest level in four months, figures from the Hungarian Central Statistical Office shows. Average gross earnings grew 9.0% annually in April, slower than the 9.2% growth in March. The average gross earnings were HUF 772,165 in April compared to HUF 779,752 in March. (www.rttnews.com 17/06/26)

New Zealand GDP growth improves

New Zealand's economy logged a faster growth in Q1, primarily driven by manufacturing expansion, official data revealed Thursday. Gross domestic product advanced 0.8% in the March quarter after expanding by revised 0.5% in the preceding period, figures released by Stats NZ showed. (www.rttnews.com 18/06/26)

Oil falls to 3-1/2-month low after U.S., Iran sign ceasefire deal

Oil prices fell by more than \$2 per barrel on Thursday after the U.S. and Iran signed an interim agreement that would end the Iran war, reopen the Strait of Hormuz and waive U.S. sanctions on Tehran's oil, boosting the oil supply outlook. Brent crude futures were down \$2.14, or 2.69%, at \$77.41 a barrel as of 0616 GMT. (www.reuters.com 18/06/26)

South African rand strengthens as US-Iran interim deal eases geopolitical tensions

The South African rand strengthened in early trade today after the US and Iran released the text of an interim agreement signed by their presidents to end the war, easing geopolitical tensions and boosting risk appetite. At 0614 GMT the rand traded at 16.3175 against the dollar. (www.reuters.com 17/06/26)

Uganda announces next step towards 'cashless' society

The Bank of Uganda says its new withdrawal limits are first step towards creating a cashless financial system, as it directs financial institutions to cap the amounts of physical currency that customers can take out of their accounts. (www.centralbanking.com 17/06/26)

Bank of Namibia hikes repo rate for first time in three years

Namibia's central bank has raised its main interest rate for the first time in three years, citing rising inflation pressures linked to higher oil prices and the need to safeguard the country's currency peg with the South African rand. The Bank of Namibia increased its repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.75% on June 16. (www.norvanreports.com 18/06/26)

BoG converts all Rural Banks into Community Banks

The Bank of Ghana has announced that in line with the guideline on the Revised Microfinance Sector Framework, 2026, the Rural Banking Sector has been converted to Community Banking Sector. By this, existing Rural Banks have therefore become Community Banks. (www.myjoyonline.com 17/06/26)

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