



Tuesday, July 10, 2018

Eurozone investor confidence improves

Eurozone investor sentiment has improved this month after a sharp slide in June. The investor confidence index rose unexpectedly to 12.1 in July from 9.3 in June. The expected score was 9.0. Sentix said this development is unlikely to herald the start of a new upswing. (www.rttnews.com 09/07/18)

US mergers help bank fees spike to record highs

A record \$1.45tr of US syndicated lending to companies for acquisitions, leveraged buyouts, dividends and refinancing in the first half of the year has propelled bank fees from arranging the loans to all-time highs. The \$8.1bn earned in the first half of this year slightly topped the prior record of \$8bn taken in during the second half of last year. (www.reuters.com 09/07/18)

China's CPI up 1.9% in June

China's consumer price index (CPI) rose 1.9% year on year in June, compared with 1.8% in May. On a month-on-month basis, the CPI declined 0.1%. Food prices slipped 0.8% month on month and climbed only 0.3% year on year. On a monthly basis, it registered a 1.1% increase after a three-month straight decline. (www.xinhuanet.com 10/08/18)

China tells banks to 'significantly cut' lending rates for small businesses

China's financial regulator has told banks to "significantly cut" lending rates for small firms in the third quarter in comparison with the first quarter, two people with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters. The move comes amid a Chinese deleveraging campaign to crack down on financial risks and economic uncertainty triggered by a trade war with the US. (www.rttnews.com 09/07/18)

UK PM May seeks unity amid chaos over Brexit plans

British Prime Minister Theresa May holds a meeting of her cabinet, a day after her government was thrown into turmoil when two senior ministers quit in protest at her plans for trade ties with the EU after Brexit. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit minister David Davis resigned within hours of each other, denouncing a plan that the cabinet had agreed. (www.reuters.com 10/07/18)

Japan M2 money stock gained 3.2% in June

The M2 money stock in Japan was up 3.2% on year in June, coming in at ¥1,007.2tr, the Bank of Japan has said. That was in line with expectations and unchanged from the previous month. The M3 money stock was up an annual 2.7% to ¥1,336.6tr, again unchanged and matching forecasts. (www.rttnews.com 09/07/18)

Strong EU demand offsets falling German exports to US: figures

Strong demand from other European Union countries has helped German companies compensate for a steep fall in exports to the US in May. According to the Wiesbaden-based government agency, German exports to the US slumped by more than 10% compared with the same period last year as a raft of protectionist tariffs imposed by the US began to bite. (www.xinhuanet.com 09/08/18)

India June inflation likely reached highest level in nearly two years

Indian inflation likely rose to a near two-year high in June, driven by surging oil and food prices, a Reuters poll shows, a development that would strengthen calls for more monetary policy tightening by the Reserve Bank of India. (www.reuters.com 10/07/18)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCY	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3244	(1.3255)	1.3274	(1.3285)
+USD/EUR	1.1750	(1.1744)	1.1771	(1.1766)
*GHS/USD	4.5395	(4.5294)	4.5441	(4.5340)
*GHS/GBP	6.0180	(6.0096)	6.0259	(6.0175)
*GHS/EUR	5.3394	(5.3248)	5.3436	(5.3295)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 10/07/18 (Rates for 09/07/18 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 10/07/18 (Rates for 09/07/18 in brackets)

Swiss jobless rate fell in June

Switzerland's unemployment rate declined marginally in June, data from the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs has revealed. The jobless rate dropped to a seasonally adjusted 2.6% in June from 2.7% in May. The rate was forecast to drop to 2.5%. On an unadjusted basis, the unemployment rate came in at 2.4%, the same as in May. (www.rttnews.com 09/07/18)

Russia's trade surplus jumped 42.6% in the first five months

Russia's trade surplus surged 42.6% year-on-year to \$81.4bn in the first five months this year, the Russian Federal Customs Service has said. Russia's trade turnover amounted to \$273bn in the Jan.-May period, up 23.3% from the same period last year. Fuel and energy products accounted for 63.9% of the Russian exports. (www.xinhuanet.com 09/08/18)

Dutch industrial production growth at 10-month low

Dutch industrial production growth moderated in May to the lowest level in ten months. The average daily output of Dutch manufacturing industry climbed 3.2% year-over-year in May, slower than a 4.8% increase in April. On a monthly basis, industrial production rose a seasonally and working-day-adjusted 0.4% in May. (www.rttnews.com 10/07/18)

Estonia trade deficit widened in May

Estonia's foreign trade deficit increased in May from a year ago, as imports grew faster than exports. The trade deficit rose to €215m in May from €153m in the corresponding month last year. (www.rttnews.com 10/07/18)

Romania may trade deficit widened in May

Romania's merchandise trade deficit for May widened from a year ago. The trade gap widened to €1.270bn from €1.105bn in the same month last year. Exports grew 5.2% year-on-year and imports rose 6.8%. For the first five months of the year, the trade deficit was €5bn, with exports rising 8.8% and imports increasing 9.3% from a year ago. (www.rttnews.com 10/07/18)

Global stocks hit 2-week high, led by banks ahead of earnings

Global stocks hit a two-week high on Monday, led by a rise in bank shares ahead of earnings reports from the biggest US lenders, while the sterling took a hit after another British cabinet resignation left Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plans in chaos. The MSCI world equity index, which tracks shares in 47 countries, rose 0.86%. (www.reuters.com 09/07/18)

Oil prices rise as looming Norway strike adds to disruptions

Brent crude added 55 cents, or 0.7%, to \$78.62 per barrel by 0638 GMT, following a 1.2% climb. US light crude futures were up 47 cents, or 0.7%, at \$74.32. Hundreds of workers on Norwegian oil and gas offshore rigs are due to strike after rejecting a proposed wage deal. (www.reuters.com 10/07/18)

South Africa's rand holds on to gains in calm early trade

South Africa's rand opened firmer extending gains from the last three sessions as a lull in global trade war fears lifted demand for emerging currencies. The rand was 0.26% firmer at 13.3850, slightly softer than a three-week peak of 13.3100. The rand closed beneath 13.50 for the first time since June. (www.af.reuters.com 10/07/18)

Kenya floats \$400m bond

Kenya has this month put up for sale Treasury bond worth \$400m as the government strives to support the budget. The bond is the first for this financial year and comes weeks after the government presented its \$30bn budget in parliament. (www.xinhuanet.com 09/07/18)

Tunisia's trade deficit rose to \$3.13bn in Jan-June

Tunisia's trade deficit rose 8.8% year-on-year in the first six months this year to 8.16bn Tunisian dinars (\$3.13bn), the state statistics office has said. Exports from Jan. until June 30 this year reached about 20.3bn dinars, with imports of 28.5bn dinars. The trade deficit in the same period last year was about 7.5bn dinars. (www.reuters.com 09/07/18)

DISCLAIMER: This information has been compiled by the Secretary's 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.