

The Daily Economic and Business News Update, Friday, 10 May 2019

Foreign Currency, Money, Equities & Commodities Markets Overview

Foreign Currency Markets			International Stock Markets				Year-On-Year Inflation Rates	
Currency	10-05-19	09-05-19	Index	09-05-19	08-05-19	Change	Country	Rate
USD/RTGS	3.3500	3.3500	Dow Jones	25,828.36	25,967.33	-0.54%	Zimbabwe	66.80% ^{Mar}
USD/ ZAR	14.2874	14.3210	NASDAQ	7,910.59	7,943.32	-0.41%	South Africa	4.5% ^{Mar}
EUR/ USD	1.1221	1.1202	FTSE All Share	3,955.09	3,991.93	-0.92%	Malawi	9.3% ^{Mar}
GBP/USD	1.3000	1.3018	Nikkei 225	21,371.70	21,387.89	-0.08%	Zambia	7.7% ^{Apr}
USD /BWP	10.7643	10.7643	DAX	11,973.92	12,179.93	-1.69%	Botswana	3.3% ^{Mar}
Old Mutual Implied Exchange Rates							Mozambique	3.41% ^{Mar}
Currency	09-05-19	08-05-19	Dec 2018	Dec 2017	Dec 2016	Dec 2015	Namibia	4.5% ^{Mar}
GBP/USD	8.3624	8.0954	6.7717	2.3828	1.684563	1.137004	Kenya	6.58% ^{Apr}
USD/ZAR	44.6461	43.8070	35.4063	14.5289	10.13966	4.907358	Ghana	9.3% ^{Mar}
Regional Stock Markets			Interest rates			Nigeria	11.25% ^{Mar}	
Index	09-05-19	08-05-19	Change	09-05-19		Brazil	4.58% ^{Mar}	
ZSE Industrial Index	467.77	464.22	+0.76%	SARB Prime Rate		10.25%	China	2.3% ^{Mar}
ZSE Mining Index	187.09	183.35	+2.04%	BOB Prime Rate		5.00%	Canada	1.9% ^{Mar}
ZSE All Share	139.99	138.89	+0.79%	LIBOR One Month		2.451%	Germany	1.3% ^{Mar}
JSE All Share	56,496.08	58,043.60	-2.67%	LIBOR Three Month		2.545%	Australia	1.8% ^{Mar}
Ghana SE-CI	2,349.11	2,292.21	+2.48%	LIBOR One Year		2.714%	U.K.	1.9% ^{Mar}
Nairobi All Share	155.38	156.37	-0.63%	Federal Discount Rate		1.000%	Japan	0.5% ^{Mar}
Nigeria All Share	28,896.25	28,966.41	-0.24%	Federal Prime Rate		3.500%	U.S.A.	1.9% ^{Mar}
ZSE Counter	09-05-19 (US\$)	08-05-19 (US\$)	Last Traded (US\$)	Daily Change (US\$)	YTD Change (US\$)	YTD Change (%)	Issued Zimbabwe Shares	Market Cap. (US\$)
ZB Financial Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.000	+0.05	+13.89%	175,190,642	71,828,163.22
First Capital Bank Limited	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.000	-0.01	-16.67%	2,156,260,176	107,813,008.80
CBZ Holdings Limited	0.2496	0.2402	0.2402	+0.0094	+0.0996	+66.40%	687,231,691	171,533,030.07
Econet Wireless Zimbabwe	1.0954	1.1	1.1	-0.0046	+0.1954	+21.71%	2,590,577,000	2,837,718,045.80
FBC Holdings Limited	0.3911	0.3815	0.3815	-0.0096	+0.1911	+95.55%	671,949,927	262,799,616.45
Fidelity Life Assurance	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.000	0.000	0.00%	108,923,291	11,981,562.01
Get Bucks	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.000	+0.043	+116.2%	1,093,567,251	87,485,380.08
NMBZ Holdings Limited	0.27	0.25	0.25	+0.02	+0.18	+200.0%	392,954,830	106,097,804.10
Old Mutual Plc	10.1168	10.0318	10.0318	+0.085	+5.4168	+115.3%	69,081,664	698,885,378.36
First Mutual Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.000	-0.065	-33.33%	690,143,060	89,718,597.80
Mashonaland Holdings	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.000	-0.0056	-16.18%	1,859,073,947	53,913,144.46
ZSE Gainers				ZSE Losers				
Counter	09-05-19 (US\$)	Previous (US\$)	Change (%)	Counter	09-05-19 (US\$)	Previous (US\$)	Change (%)	
Dawn	0.0279	0.0250	+11.60%	Art	0.1100	0.1120	-1.79%	
African Sun	0.3000	0.2747	+9.21%	SeedCo	1.4524	1.4600	-0.52%	
Bindura	0.0597	0.0550	+8.55%	Econet	1.0954	1.1000	-0.42%	
NMB	0.2700	0.2500	+8.00%	Axia	0.4192	0.4200	-0.19%	
ZSE Market Data			International Commodity Prices					
Index	09-05-19	08-05-19	Commodity	09-05-19	08-05-19	Jan 19	Jan 18	
Turnover Value (\$m)	8.3493	5.1302	Gold (US\$/oz)	1,283.40	1,280.30	1,283.50	1,317.10	
Foreign Buys (\$m)	1.8140	1.3489	Platinum (US\$/oz)	847.00	859.00	792.00	942.00	
Foreign Sales (\$m)	3.9173	2.1485	Silver (US\$/oz)	14.720	14.795	15.470	17.150	
Market Cap (\$m)	18,330.99	18,200.30	Palladium (US\$/oz)	1,281.00	1,296.00	1,252.00	1,086.00	
YTD Change (Market Cap)	-4.47%	-5.16%	Brent Crude Oil (US\$/barrel)	70.39	70.37	53.80	66.55	

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Local Business News

1. A pharmaceutical drugs cartel, comprising mainly of businesspeople with links to India, is holding the country to ransom, amid revelations that only a few wholesalers have permission to distribute most “fast-moving” and cheaper drugs from India to the local market. Investigations carried out showed that one of the wholesalers, who is also of Indian origin, has exclusive rights from most Indian manufacturers to provide at least 85% of these cheaper drugs to both the private and public health sectors. Any other wholesaler wishing to bring in the same products from the same manufacturers is barred from doing so, giving the few with exclusive dealership monopoly to charge prices they deem fit. Investigations disclosed that some of those with exclusive dealership were making profit margins of over 300% because of relaxed pricing regulations for medicines in Zimbabwe. (Herald)

2. Government urgently needs investors in the mining sector as it targets to steer growth in the sector and help achieve an upper middle income economy by 2030, a Cabinet Minister has said. Government targets to increase ferro-chrome production to a million tonnes by 2022. Addressing mining experts and potential investors at the 35th International Chromium Development Association (ICDA) conference in Victoria Falls on Wednesday, Mines and Mining Development Minister Winston Chitando said Government is working hard to implement an integrated Mineral Development Plan whose goal is to increase production among other deliverables. The development plan will be guided by specific policies that Government is working on such as the Diamond Development Policy, Iron Ore, Nickel and Chrome Development Policy, Coal and hydrocarbons policy, Gold Development Policy, Lithium Development Policy and Platinum Development Policy. (Herald)

3. Government envisions the production of at least 2 million tonnes of carbon and stainless steel, of which ferrochrome one of the key ingredients is produced locally. The move is in tandem with government’s Vision 2030 of creating an upper middle income economy. This was revealed

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by Mines and Mining Development Minister Winston Chitando in his address during the 35th International Chrome Development Association (ICDA) conference in Victoria Falls on Wednesday. (Herald)

4. ZSE listed beverages manufacturer, Delta Corporation, has reduced prices of soft drinks in a bid to stimulate demand, which had markedly declined in the last few months as consumers could not afford the high prices. A 300ml returnable soft drink's new recommended retail price is RTGS\$1.25, down from almost RTGS\$1.80. The price of a 330ml can of Coke Zero is down to RTGS\$1.60; 330ml cans are pegged at RTGS\$1,80; 500ml PET (RTGS\$2.15); returnable 1 litre (RTGS\$3.60); while the 2 litre PET is now RTGS\$6.40). Delta company secretary Alex Makamure said yesterday that demand for the products had gone down as consumers could not afford them, hence the decision to reduce prices. Makamure said Delta has had soft drinks in stock for the past three weeks, with both retailers and wholesalers not buying the product given the low demand. (Herald)

5. The Insurance and Pension Commission has started engaging stakeholders on compensation framework for policy holders and pensioners whose savings were wiped off during the conversion of values from Zimbabwean dollars to US dollars a decade ago. This comes at a time when government said it would "assess" the potential prejudice. Last year, the commission of inquiry, which probed the process used to convert the benefits before and after dollarisation confirmed a "huge" loss of value to policy holders and pensioners and recommended compensation for the loss suffered. The commission, appointed by former President Robert Mugabe and led by retired Justice George Smith, said high levels of inflation, currency debasing, dollarisation conversion process and de-monetisation were the main reasons of the loss of value. (Herald)

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6. Zimbabwe's annual broad money supply increased by 30% to \$9.85 billion in January 2019, up from \$7.54 billion last year, despite efforts by government to keep a lid on money supply in order to lower inflationary pressures in the market. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) noted in its January 2019 economic review that annual broad money supply growth increased by 5.56 percentage points to 30.64% in January 2019, from 28.05% in January 2018. On a month-on-month basis, broad money supply declined by 1.53% from \$10 billion in December 2018 to \$9.8 billion. Demand deposits accounted for 79.71% of broad money, time deposits (14.88%), currency in circulation (4.82%), and negotiable certificates of deposits (0.60%). International best practice requires currency in circulation to be at least 15% of the value of the cash in bank. (NewsDay)

7. Shepco Industrial Supplies, a division of Shepco Group, has pleaded with government to support it in terms of raw materials so that it can boost the small-scale miners' production, an official has said. Shepco Group chief executive Shepherd Chawira told NewsDay that given enough support, the company could help the small-scale miners ramp up production. "Shepco Industrial Supplies needs support in terms of raw materials and mainly steel, because we manufacture the small locomotives which they use in the gold mines," he said. He also pleaded with government to expedite the resuscitation of Ziscosteel so they could get their raw materials in the country. Ziscosteel, once the largest employer in the country, collapsed due to government bungling, looting, corruption and mismanagement. In its heyday, Ziscosteel used to employ 5 000 workers, and 50 000 others benefited in downstream industries. (NewsDay)

8. The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) has opened an office in China as part of its drive to increase the number of visitors travelling from that region to the country. "This initiative comes at an opportune time when Zimbabwe is really looking at intensifying its marketing efforts in major source markets like China, which is in line with the Vision 2030: National Tourism Recovery and Growth Strategy. This tourism project illustrates efforts that will go a long towards doubling tourists to Zimbabwe from China in the near future," Environment, Tourism

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and Hospitality Industry minister Priscah Mupfumira said. Chinese visitors to Zimbabwe have grown from 14 407 arrivals recorded in 2017 to 19 428 last year. ZTA acting chief executive Rita Likukuma said the project would see some 340 Chinese tourists travel to Zimbabwe today as part of a three-country tour, which will include Djibouti and Tanzania. (NewsDay)

9. Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) governor John Mangudya is expecting the fuel situation to have vastly improved by end of this week after the apex-bank released Letters of Credit (LCs) worth US\$50 million to all the major petroleum companies operating in the country. Fuel queues had completely disappeared during the long Independence and Easter holidays last month after the RBZ worked round the clock to mobilise scarce resources to keep the country well oiled. But the queues have resurfaced with a vengeance as the demand for the commodity continues to edge upwards partly as a result of the growth in industry and the month-end salary payments that leave consumers with more money to spend. Mangudya told the Daily News yesterday that the LCs put together by the RBZ guarantee the supply of 130million litres of fuel, enough for a month. (DailyNews)

10. Local economic think-tank sees the annual rate of inflation dropping to around 15 to 20% by year end. The think-tank Africa Economic Development Strategies (AEDS) made the projection at the inaugural State of the Economy Report presented by its director Gift Mugano in Harare on Tuesday. The report is jointly produced by AEDS in conjunction with the Daily News, the country's leading independent daily. "Going forward, on the back of austerity measures and improvements in foreign exchange we expect the exchange rate to be kept under check," Mugano said. (DailyNews)

11. Government has started looking for potential suitors to invest in two of the Industrial Development Corporation of Zimbabwe (IDCZ)'s subsidiaries. IDC, along with the State Enterprises Restructuring Agency (Sera) have invited strategic partners to invest in Willowvale

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Motor Industries (Private) Limited (WMI) and Deven Engineering (Private) Limited. In the case of WMI, a request for an expression of interest has been issued for the disposal of 74% shareholding. Established in 1961, 91% is owned by government controlled IDCZ while the other 9% is owned by a workers' trust. WMI is involved in sales of completely built up Mazda and Mahindra vehicles as well as contact assembling of BAIC pick-up trucks. It has installed capacity for production of light heavy duty trucks, buses and agricultural tractors. WMI also has capacity to benefit from reduced duties for. SKD kits as provided for under the country's motor industries development policy as well as Statutory Instrument 136 of 2-16. (DailyNews)

12. The Bankers Association of Zimbabwe (Baz) has re-elected FBC Bank managing director Webster Rusere to the position of president at its 26th Annual General Meeting held at the end of last month. Rusere is deputised by Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe chief executive officer Ralph Watunga, who has taken over from NMBZ chief executive officer Benefit Washaya, who was not available for re-election. The new appointments were confirmed in a statement released by Baz chief executive officer Sijabuliso Biyam. (DailyNews)

13. United Kingdom based financial series consultancy ICG Capital and Finance Corp has singled out Finance minister Mthuli Ncube as the biggest obstacle stalling the finalisation of a US\$5 billion debt restructuring and refinancing package extended to Zimbabwe in 2017. The London-headquartered consultancy, in partnership with 5 top-tier United States banks, tabled the multi-billion dollar debt restructuring and refinancing package for Zimbabwe 2 years ago as part of a deal that could help the southern African country offset its ballooning liabilities. (Independent)

14. Local banks yesterday released letters of credit worth US\$50 million backed by a revolving US\$225 million Afreximbank facility, under an arrangement expected to alleviate worsening fuel shortages which have seen long queues sprouting all over the country. This comes as it emerged that the convoluted issuance of the letters of credit was one of the main reasons why

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there has been an acute fuel shortage of late. The fuel situation only improved during the Easter period and during the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair because government had released fuel from strategic reserves. (Independent)

15.MPs demand new NSSA audit report: Parliament has given Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare minister Sekai Nzenza an ultimatum to release the latest external forensic audit report on the National Social Security Authority, which reportedly implicate senior government officials including serving and former Cabinet ministers in a US\$82 million looting scandal. Auditor General Mildred Chiri handed over the report to Nzenza in March, but she is yet to table it before Parliament as is required by law. (Independent)

16.Government red tape has stalled the implementation of a US\$400 million tri-solar plant deal between Guarantee Risk Solar Energy and South African power giant Exess Africa, businessdigest has established. Guarantee Risk Solar Energy chief executive Jonathan Katsidzira this week said his company was still waiting for approval from government to commence the project. (Independent)

17.Non-performing loans resolved by the Zimbabwe Asset Management Corporation increased 9.54% to \$264 million in Q1 2019 from \$241 million in October 2018. Foreign currency shortages continue to cripple companies with that portfolio, affecting their loan repayments. The figure excludes restructured loans which have remained stagnant at around \$200 million with about \$40 million having been repaid. Zamco CE Cosmas Kanhai said the size of the portfolio of rehabilitated loans remains largely the same at \$200 million. (Independent)

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Regional News

1. South Africa's rand firmed in early trade yesterday, a day after an election for a new parliament and provincial legislatures, while stocks fell with Steinhoff the biggest loser on the all-share index. The election was seen as the toughest test yet for the ruling African National Congress party 25 years after the party swept to power at the end of white minority rule. At 0722 GMT, the rand traded at 14.3350 per dollar, 0.36% firmer than its New York close on Wednesday. "It's too early to tell how the domestic market has interpreted the initial results," RMB analyst Nema Ramkhelawan-Bhana said in a note. (Reuters)
2. Nigeria's central bank governor Godwin Emefiele has been nominated for a second five-year term, a move that could comfort bondholders keen to see the bank's policy of a stable and strong currency continue. President Muhammadu Buhari, who has backed Emefiele's monetary policy, nominated him for another term, according to a letter read on the floor of the senate yesterday. The upper house of parliament is expected to confirm the nomination. Emefiele has overseen an interventionist currency policy at the behest of the presidency, propping up the local naira by pumping billions of dollars into the foreign exchange market. (Reuters)
3. An International Monetary Fund mission said yesterday that it had agreed a three-year lending programme with Congo Republic subject to the government's fulfilment of reforms and approval by the IMF's executive board. Negotiations over a bailout for the oil-dependant economy have dragged on since 2017, as Congolese authorities failed to convince the IMF they were doing enough to control the national debt or tackle corruption. But Congo's reduction of its debt load and an agreement struck last month to restructure some \$2 billion in debt to China led the IMF mission to back a programme. (Reuters)

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4. Egypt's annual urban consumer price inflation eased to 13.0% in April from 14.2% in March, official statistics agency CAPMAS said yesterday, the lowest reading since January. Analysts suggested the drop was caused by the government upping supplies of food and vegetables to keep prices lower in the build-up to Ramadan - and inflation could rise next month. Egypt has been carrying out an IMF-backed economic reform programme since 2016 which saw inflation rise to a high of 33% the next year. It has since subsided, though rising fruit and vegetable prices have prolonged inflationary pressures. (Reuters)
5. Uganda has launched a second round of competitive bidding for five oil exploration blocks in the west of the country, where it has already discovered commercial crude reserves, the energy ministry said. In a statement posted on its Facebook page, the ministry said a total of 4,928 square kilometres would be offered in the new round. Energy Minister Irene Muloni, speaking at an oil conference in Kenya's seaport town of Mombasa on Wednesday, invited investors to take up the blocks, the statement said. (Reuters)
6. Namibia, MINES minister Tom Alweendo has dismissed calls for the government to own shares in mining companies, saying it is not a solution to economic benefits. Alweendo said he does not believe that the government's direct ownership in mining companies is the best way to cure the lack of local ownership problem. The minister said this during the official opening of the mining expo yesterday. He said: "However, to be fair to those who believe this to be the best course of action and not to dismiss their view out of hand, we are undertaking public consultations to fully understand the origin of this view and how best it can be addressed." (Namibian)
7. The IMF just concluded their 2019 country consultation with Zambia, which the team leader has described as being frank and collaborative. Indeed frank talk does not break any friendship. In

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IMF's words, large fiscal deficits and rising debt service have resulted in domestic expenditure arrears and taking a toll on economic growth. Increasing government arrears and delayed salaries are now becoming normal for some public institutions. Government is not finding it easy to service all sectors because the debt service has now become a big burden. In 2019, government is spending more than 27% of the budget on debt servicing compared to just over 6% in 2007. (LusakaTimes)

8. A Financial analyst has noted that the reduction in foreign reserves has contributed to the depreciation of the kwacha against major currencies. Blessings Kafwanka says the local unit, which by the close of business on Friday last week was trading at K13.00 per US dollar from 11.00 earlier in the week, is losing value due to reduced foreign reserves. He noted that the solution to the poor performance of the kwacha lies in government addressing the economic fundamentals which have contributed to the depreciation. (ZambianEye)

International News

1. The dollar was steady against the safe-haven Japanese yen today, taking in stride the hike in U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods that went into effect and awaiting resumption of talks between top officials of the world's two largest economies. U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff increase to 25 % from 10 % on \$200 billion of Chinese goods kicked in today, and Beijing said it would strike back, increasing tensions as the two sides pursue last-ditch talks to try salvaging a trade deal. (Reuters)
2. U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff increase to 25% on \$200 billion worth of Chinese goods took effect today, and Beijing said it would strike back, ratcheting up tensions as the two sides pursue last-ditch talks to try salvaging a trade deal. China's Commerce Ministry said it "deeply

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regrets” the U.S. decision, adding that it would take necessary countermeasures, without elaborating. The hike comes in the midst of two days of talks between top U.S. and Chinese negotiators to try to rescue a faltering deal aimed at ending a 10-month trade war between the world’s two largest economies. (Reuters)

3. Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso today expressed hope that Washington and Beijing will resolve their trade dispute in a constructive manner through dialogue. “We must closely watch developments” to see if negotiators from the two countries can clinch a deal to avert tariff hikes, Aso told reporters after a cabinet meeting. “This trade row has been a matter of great interest around the world. An exchange of trade restrictions won’t benefit any country. Any trade measures must be consistent with WTO rules,” he added. (Reuters)
4. Plans by Washington to hike tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods could cut China’s growth by 0.3 %age points but the strengthening economy has become more resilient to external shocks, a Chinese central bank adviser said today. The comments by Ma Jun were published by the Finance News, a paper run by the central bank, today as U.S. and Chinese officials undertake last-minute talks in Washington to avert an escalation of a trade war that threatens to derail the global economy. Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin started two days of talks late Thursday afternoon in Washington after a major setback when a rift opened between the two countries over a draft trade agreement. (Reuters)
5. A year ago, Malaysian land surveyor Muhammad Nur Aliff had high hopes that a shock election victory by 93-year-old Mahathir Mohamad could be the catalyst for reform and revival in a country hobbled by sky-high public debt and corruption. But polls show that such optimism has been steadily eroded since the election upset, in which the United Malays National Organisation

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(UMNO) was removed from power for the first time in 60 years and replaced by Mahathir and the patchwork Pakatan Harapan coalition. (Reuters)

6. A trade war between the world's two largest economies is escalating again, after the United States hit China with higher tariffs and Beijing vowed to retaliate. The Trump administration raised tariffs on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports from 10% to 25% at 12:01 a.m. ET today, according to China's Ministry of Commerce. Beijing responded just minutes after the tariffs went into effect. "China expresses deep regret over the development and will have to take necessary countermeasures," the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement Friday afternoon. "We hope the United States will meet us halfway, and work with us to resolve existing issues through cooperation and consultation." (CNN)
7. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are likely to announce a staff-level agreement today (Friday), as the former has accepted most of the global lender's demands earlier termed harsh that will lead to the unfolding of an inflationary budget expected to be announced on June 11 loaded with taxes. Both sides held the last round of talks a day earlier in which the remaining issues of the fiscal deficit and primary balance were finalised, sources in the Ministry of Finance said. They added that the country did not have any other option but to concede to the IMF's demands to remain afloat. (Pakistan Today)
8. Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) Deputy Governor Geoff Bascand said the economy is growing less than potential of 2.8%. And, there's just not enough pressure to get inflation up. "We think capacity pressures will just become a little less," he said. "There is pressure there, there's just not enough pressure to get inflation up. We need growth to be around 3% or more to keep being at or approaching our targets." Nevertheless, he added "nobody's talking gloom

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here” even though it was “getting a bit harder” to meet the inflation target. He said “the headwinds have become a bit stronger, the global economy has become a bit weaker, the domestic economy seems to have softened.” Hence, “we’re going to be drifting away a little bit, not staying as close, there’s more chance of inflation ebbing than rising”. (NewsNow)

9. Companies preparing for a rocky Brexit probably gave the U.K. economy a significant boost last quarter. Bloomberg Economics estimates that stock building added 1% point to growth, as manufacturers fearing possible supply disruptions hoarded goods ahead of the original March 29 deadline to leave the European Union. But with Brexit now delayed, the risk is that the same firms cause a slowdown this quarter by running down stores of unsold products. (Bloomberg)

10. Peru kept borrowing costs at an eight-year low as global trade tensions add to concern about sluggish domestic growth amid falling exports. The central bank board, led by its President Julio Velarde, kept the benchmark lending rate at 2.75% for a 14th consecutive month, as forecast by all 11 economists surveyed by Bloomberg. Peru’s economic growth is below potential though sectors of the economy tied to internal demand continue to show signs of dynamism and signal a gradual closing of the output gap, the board said in a statement accompanying its decision. Risks to global growth remain, it said. (Bloomberg)