



**HIGHLIGHTS**

**South Africa**

1. US President Donald Trump delayed the imposition of 30% on South African imports to the US until 1 August.
2. The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) Trade Activity Index (TAI) was steady at 46 in May and June from 53 in April and 56 in March.
3. Manufacturing production grew by 0,5% y/y in May after a revised 6,4% (6,3%) y/y decline in April.
4. The volume of bulk exports rose by 4,7% y/y in June after falling by 0,8% y/y in May, rising by 6,2% y/y in April, a 15,9% y/y jump in March, a 1,7% y/y drop in February and a 9,1% y/y jump in January.
5. The number of full containers exported rose by 3,9% y/y in June after plunging by 19,0% y/y in May.
6. Tractor sales soared by 30,6% y/y in June after rising by 12,2% y/y in May, a 5,4% y/y gain in April and a 21,1% y/y jump in March.
7. Eskom's Energy Availability Factor (EAF) rose to 62,1% in week 27 from 60,4% in week 26
8. The Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) load factor jumped to 11,92% in the week ending 10 July from 2,41% in the week ending 3 July and 14,79% in the week ending 12 June.
9. The FNB Estate Agents Survey results for the second quarter reveal a slight slowdown in the residential property market amid heightened global and domestic political uncertainty.
10. The first progress report under Phase II of Operation Vulindlela (OV) was released on 10 July.
11. The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and China Development Bank (CDB) have signed a \$293m loan facility agreement.
12. The South African Reserve Bank's gross foreign exchange reserves rose by \$252m in June to \$48,652bn after a \$443m jump in May and falling by \$599m in April.

**Rest of Africa**

13. Consumer inflation in Angola eased to 19,73% y/y in June from 20,74% y/y in May, 22,23 % y/y in April, 23,85% y/y in March, 25,26% y/y in February and 26,48% y/y in January.
14. The R53bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project is now 50% complete.
15. Malawi has concluded \$12bn worth of Chinese mining and infrastructure transactions.
16. Mozambique's economy contracted by 3,9% y/y in the first quarter after a 5,7% y/y drop in the fourth quarter.
17. Consumer inflation in Namibia rose to 3,7% y/y in June from 3,5% y/y in April, 3,6% y/y in April and 4,2% y/y in March.
18. Consumer inflation in Rwanda rose to 8,3% y/y in June from 7,7% y/y in May and 6,6% y/y in April.
19. Consumer prices in Senegal rose by 0,8% y/y in June after a 0,3% y/y gain in May and a 0,2% y/y fall in April.
20. Consumer inflation in Tanzania rose to 3,3% y/y in June from 3,2% y/y in May.
21. Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) expects to significantly expand Zambia's renewable-energy capacity.

**International**

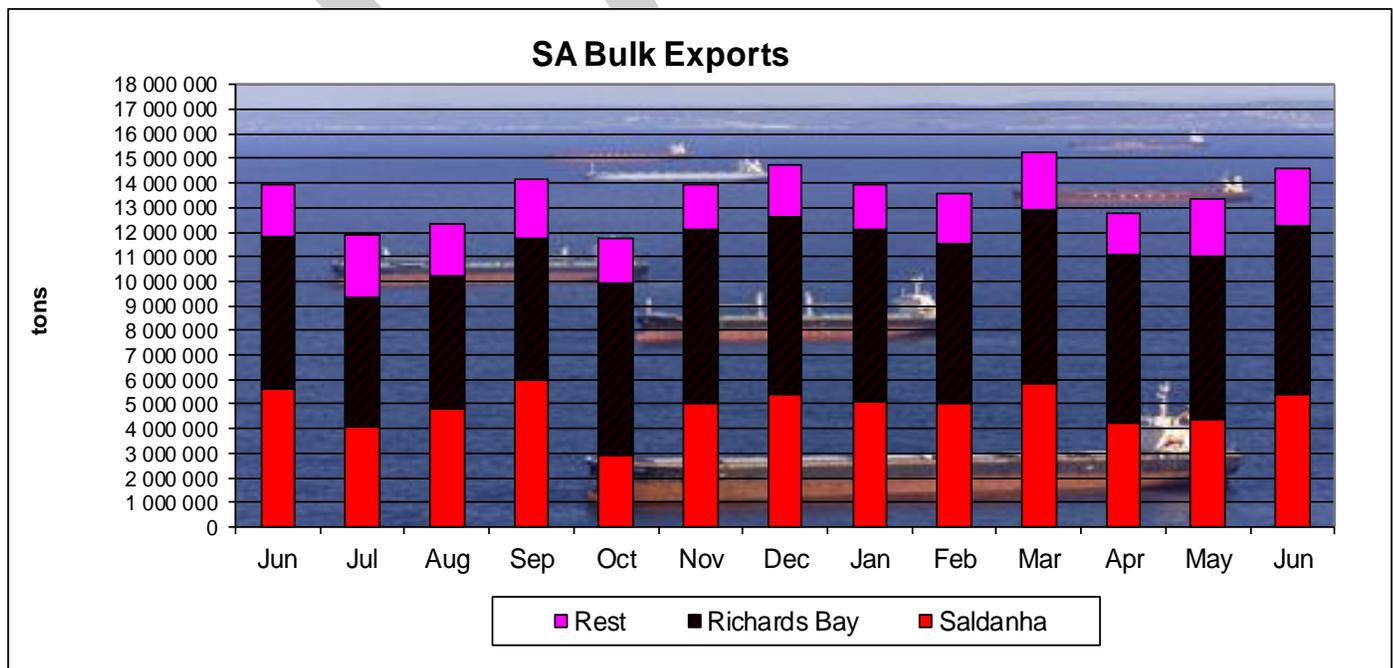
22. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
23. The central bank of Malaysia cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 2,75%.
24. The central bank of Uruguay cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 9,0%.
25. China added to its official gold reserves for an eighth straight month in June.
26. The Independence Day flash flood in Texas was one of the deadliest and costliest flash floods in US history.
27. US customs duties rose to a record \$27,2bn in June from \$23bn in May, \$16,3bn in April and \$8,75bn in March.
28. The US fiscal balance swung to a \$27bn surplus in June 2025 from a \$70bn deficit in June 2024.
29. US small-business optimism eased to 98,6 in June from 98,8 in May, 95,8 in April, 97,4 in March, 101,7 in February, 102,8 in January, 105,1 in December, 101,7 in November, 93,7 in October and 91,5 in September.
30. The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefit fell by 5 000 w/w to 227 000 in the week ending 5 July.
31. America's largest power grid is under strain as data centers and AI chatbots consume power faster than new plants can be built.
32. More than half of all the soybean oil produced in the US next year will be used to make biofuel.
33. Consumer inflation in Argentina eased to 39,4% y/y in June from 43,5% y/y in May, 47,3% y/y in April, 55,9% y/y in March, 66,9% y/y in February, 84,5% y/y in January, 117,8% y/y in December and 166,0% y/y in November.
34. Consumer inflation in Belarus rose to 7,3% y/y in June from 7,1% y/y in May and 6,5% y/y in April.

# WEEKLY ECONOMIC BRIEFING

35. Consumer inflation in Brazil rose to 5,35% y/y in June from 5,32% y/y in May and 5,53% y/y in April.
36. Consumer prices in China rose by 0,1% y/y in June after falling by 0,1% y/y in May, April and March.
37. Producer prices in China fell by 3,6% y/y in June after a 3,3% y/y decline in May and a 2,7% y/y drop in April.
38. Consumer inflation in Russia eased to 9,4% y/y in June from 9,9% y/y in May, 10,2% y/y in April, 10,3% y/y in March, 10,1% y/y in February, 9,9% y/y in January and 9,5% y/y in December.
39. Visitor arrivals to New Zealand rose by 6,1% y/y in May to 190 593 after a 18,8% y/y gain in April to 267 300, falling by 8,4% y/y in March to 311 800, a 2,3% y/y decline in February to 354 408 and rising by 13,4% y/y in January to 370 238.
40. Russia's foreign trade surplus narrowed to \$8,72bn in May from \$9,04bn in April.
41. The Brazilian Business Confidence Index eased to 47,3 in July from 48,6 in June, 48,9 in May, 48,0 in April and 49,2 in March.
42. China is constructing nearly three-quarters of all solar and wind power projects being built globally.
43. China's wind and solar capacity surpassed its coal and gas capacity for the first time during the first quarter of 2025.
44. The International Energy Agency (IEA) said it expects global oil demand to grow at the slowest pace since 2009, outside of the coronavirus pandemic.
45. Global renewable power capacity grew by 15% in 2024.
46. Solar power became the European Union's (EU) largest single electricity source for the first time ever in June 2025.
47. Western Europe officially experienced its hottest June on record.

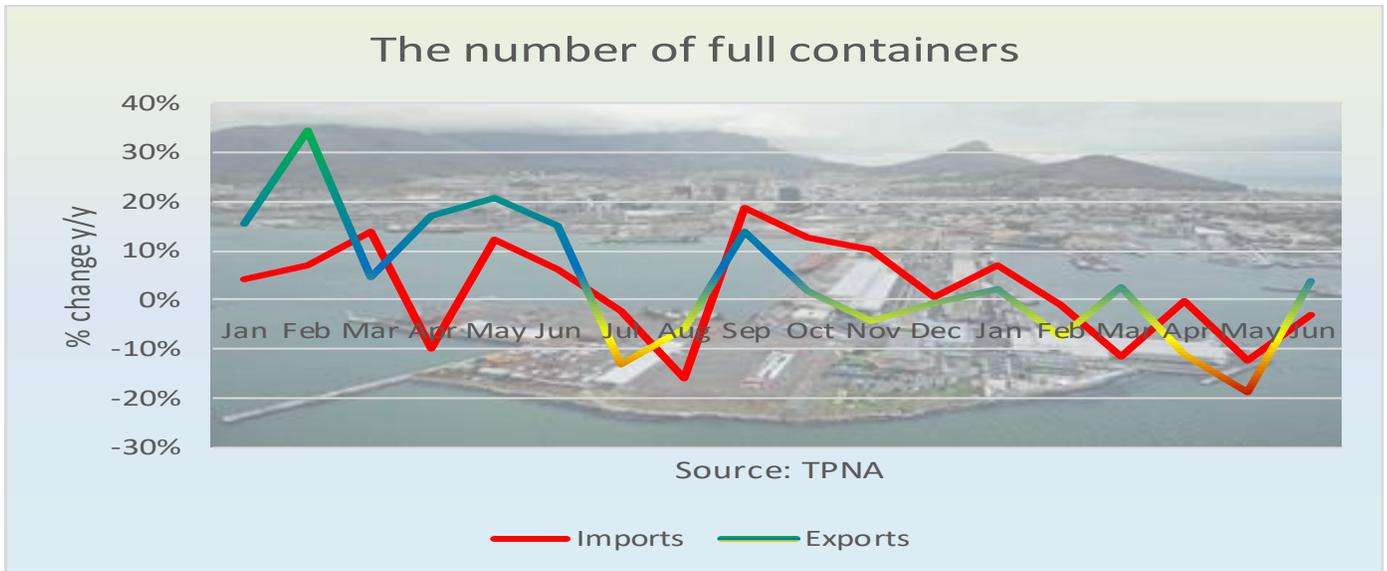
## South Africa

1. **US President Donald Trump delayed the imposition of 30% on South African imports to the US until 1 August.** South Africa will continue to negotiate a reduction in the proposed tariffs.
2. **The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) Trade Activity Index (TAI) was steady at 46 in May and June from 53 in April and 56 in March.** "The disappointing economic performance at present, and a globally uncertain economic and trade environment, contributed to a less favourable trade outlook. It, therefore, remains inevitable that the actions taken to enhance the local economic performance must be continued and enhanced," SACCI said in its commentary.
3. **Manufacturing production grew by 0,5% y/y in May after a revised 6,4% (6,3%) y/y decline in April.** This was the first y/y increase after six consecutive monthly contractions. The consensus forecast had been for a 1,5% y/y decline. The biggest boost came from the basic iron and steel, non-ferrous metal products, metal products, and machinery division, which expanded by 4,3% (vs -6,5% in April). Additional support came from the glass and non-metallic mineral products sector (+4,2% vs 2,0%); wood and wood products, paper, publishing and printing (+3,1% vs -0,6%) and textiles, clothing, leather and footwear (+1,7% vs -4,3%).
4. **The volume of bulk exports rose by 4,7% y/y in June after falling by 0,8% y/y in May, rising by 6,2% y/y in April, a 15,9% y/y jump in March, a 1,7% y/y drop in February and a 9,1% y/y jump in January.** The volume of bulk exports rose by 1,9% in 2024 to 158,3 million tons. I saw no media report on this.

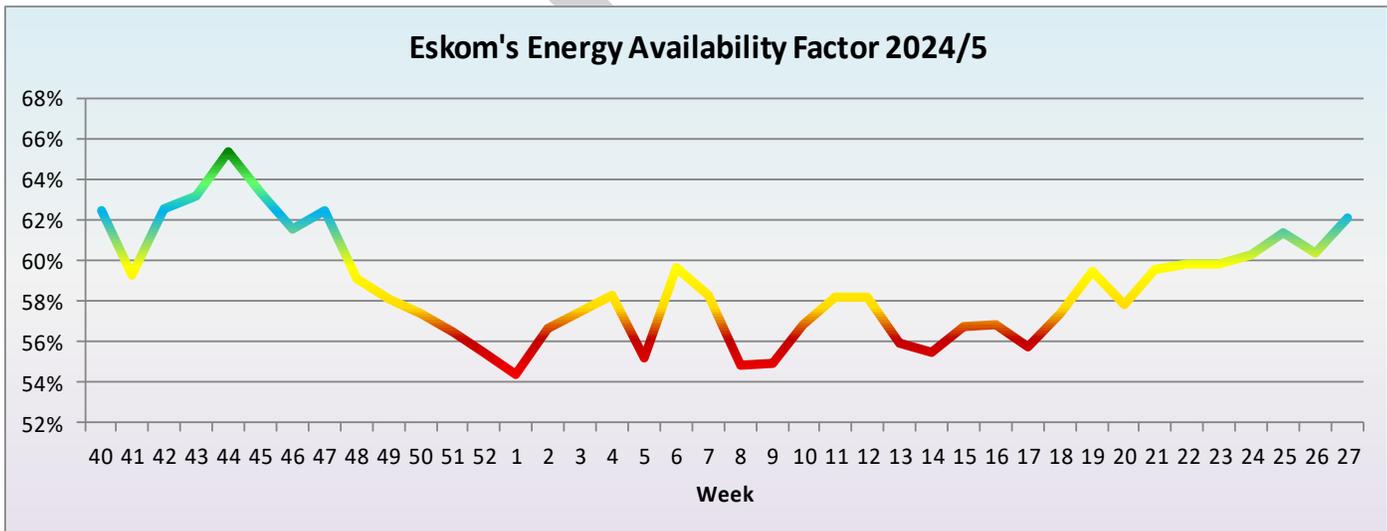


5. **The number of full containers exported rose by 3,9% y/y in June after plunging by 19,0% y/y in May.** There was a smaller 3,1% y/y decline in June in the number of full containers imported after a 12,4% y/y drop in May. I saw no media report on this.

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- Tractor sales soared by 30,6% y/y in June after rising by 12,2% y/y in May, a 5,4% y/y gain in April and a 21,1% y/y jump in March.** Sales so far this year are up 21,3% y/y. I saw no media report on this.
- Eskom's Energy Availability Factor (EAF) rose to 62,1% in week 27 from 60,4% in week 26.** I saw no media coverage of this important indicator. As I wrote in May, I expected the EAF to move above 60% in coming weeks as Eskom cuts back on planned maintenance and that is what happened. Unplanned outages eased to 28,3% in week 27 from 32,68% in week 26 and only 23,05% in week 7. Planned maintenance rose to 9,21% in week 27 from 6,62% in week 26, 16,53% in week 16 and a 2024 high of 19,63% in week 52 and a 2023-high of 19,07% in week 52 and only 5,06% in week 30 of 2022. The EAF rose to 59,79% in 2024 from 54,69% in 2023, 58,0% in 2022, 61,79% in 2021, 64,96% in 2020, 66,93% in 2019, 71,84% in 2018 and 78,61% in 2016. Planned maintenance outages rose to 13,25% in 2024 from 10,9% in 2023, 10,62% in 2022 from 10,81% in 2021, 11,32% in 2020 and 9,94% in 2019, while unplanned outages eased to 26,36% in 2024 from 33,08% in 2023, 29,86% in 2022, 24,49% in 2021 20,88% in 2020 and 21,57% in 2019.



- The Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) load factor jumped to 11,92% in the week ending 10 July from 2,41% in the week ending 3 July and 14,79% in the week ending 12 June.** Year-to-date, Eskom spent R5,26bn on fuel for the OCGT fleet, generating 892,42GWh. This is higher than the 485,39GWh generated during the same period last year.
- The FNB Estate Agents Survey results for the second quarter reveal a slight slowdown in the residential property market amid heightened global and domestic political uncertainty.** The market activity index fell to 5,9 from 6,3 in the first quarter. The average time a property spent on the market, however, remained unchanged at 12 weeks and one day. Downsizing due to life stage changes was the most common reason for 24% of transactions. Emigration-related sales stayed low at 5%, well below the long-term average of approximately 8%.

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- 10. The first progress report under Phase II of Operation Vulindlela (OV) was released on 10 July.** This provided an update across its seven focus areas: energy, water, logistics, visas, local government, spatial integration and digital infrastructure. Overall, 56% of Phase II activities are either on track or completed (with further work required), 27% are delayed but under way, 7% face significant challenges, and 10% have not yet started.
- 11. The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) and China Development Bank (CDB) have signed a \$293m loan facility agreement.** This will support infrastructure, energy, information and communications technology, water, health and manufacturing projects across Africa. This agreement is a practical measure to help upgrade financial, economic and trade cooperation among BRICS countries and promote the all-round strategic partnership between China and South Africa.
- 12. The South African Reserve Bank's gross foreign exchange reserves rose by \$252m in June to \$48,652bn after a \$443m jump in May and falling by \$599m in April.** Gold reserves fell by \$38m to \$13,239bn after rising by \$85m in May, a \$604m gain in April, rising by \$443m in May, a \$1,043bn jump in March and a \$230m gain in February.

## Rest of Africa

- 13. Consumer inflation in Angola eased to 19,73% y/y in June from 20,74% y/y in May, 22,23 % y/y in April, 23,85% y/y in March, 25,26% y/y in February and 26,48% y/y in January.** This was the slowest level since November 2023, helped by the relative stabilization of the kwanza. Elevated interest rates and improved availability of consumer goods have supported a sustained disinflationary trend since July 2024.
- 14. The R53bn Lesotho Highlands Water Project is now 50% complete.** It remains on track for completion by 2029, a mere nine years later than initially planned.
- 15. Malawi has concluded \$12bn worth of Chinese mining and infrastructure transactions.** The first \$7bn transaction is with China's Hunan Sunwalk for the development of titanium mining and processing facilities in Salima, and the second is a \$5bn arrangement for the establishment of a special economic zone. The special economic zone is to be located in Chipoka amid global demand for rare earths, uranium, titanium and graphite attracting general international attention.
- 16. Mozambique's economy contracted by 3,9% y/y in the first quarter after a 5,7% y/y drop in the fourth quarter.** The downturn occurred during a period of continued post-election social unrest and was primarily driven by a 16,2% drop in the secondary sector, notably in utilities (-22,5%), manufacturing (-14,8%), and construction (-10,8%). The tertiary sector also saw a sharp decline of 8,3%, with hotels and restaurants down 21,6%. Transport, storage, and communications fell 21,3%, and trade and repair services dropped 18,1%. On the upside, the primary sector saw a positive 2,1% rise, supported primarily by gains of 6,5% in mining and 1,3% in fishing.
- 17. Consumer inflation in Namibia rose to 3,7% y/y in June from 3,5% y/y in April, 3,6% y/y in April and 4,2% y/y in March.** Price growth accelerated mostly for alcoholic beverages & tobacco (6,9% vs 5,8% in May); food & non-alcoholic beverages (6,4% vs 5,8%); and housing & utilities (4,1% vs 3,6%).
- 18. Consumer inflation in Rwanda rose to 8,3% y/y in June from 7,7% y/y in May and 6,6% y/y in April.** Main upward pressure came from prices of restaurants & hotels (15,9% vs 13,5% in May); communications (17,2%, the same as in May); food & non-alcoholic beverages (10,7% vs 10,0%); alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics (8,8% vs 7,2%) and clothing & footwear (6,6% vs 6,4%).
- 19. Consumer prices in Senegal rose by 0,8% y/y in June after a 0,3% y/y gain in May and a 0,2% y/y fall in April.** The increase was driven by a rebound in prices for food products and non-alcoholic beverages (0,6% vs -0,3% in May), which saw the first increase in four months. Prices also accelerated for housing and utilities (1,0% vs 0,5%) and transport (1,6% vs 0,3%). Additionally, inflation recovered in the leisure, sport, and culture category (1,1% vs -0,4%). Excluding energy and fresh products, the core index increased by 2,8% y/y following a 2,1% y/y gain in May.
- 20. Consumer inflation in Tanzania rose to 3,3% y/y in June from 3,2% y/y in May.** Main upward pressure came from prices of food & non-alcoholic beverages (7,3% vs 5,6% in May); alcoholic beverages & tobacco (3,5% vs 3,4%) and education (3,1% vs 3,2%).
- 21. Copperbelt Energy Corporation (CEC) expects to significantly expand Zambia's renewable-energy capacity.** It aims to add 800 MW of solar energy to the national grid, by the end of 2027. Currently, Zambia is suffering from a generation shortfall of some 1,3 GW. CEC's key current projects are the 136 MW Itimpi solar plant at Kitwe, and the 12 MW Fitula solar plant in Chingola, both of which are scheduled for commissioning during the first quarter of next year. Another important project is a 25 MW Global Energy Transfer Feed-in Tariff solar power project, expected to achieve financial close during the third quarter of this year.

## International

- 22. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend the 17<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.** Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi did attend. Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran,

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Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were admitted as full members at the Johannesburg BRICS Summit. It also has 10 strategic partner countries, a category created at the last Summit in Russia, that includes Belarus, Cuba and Vietnam.

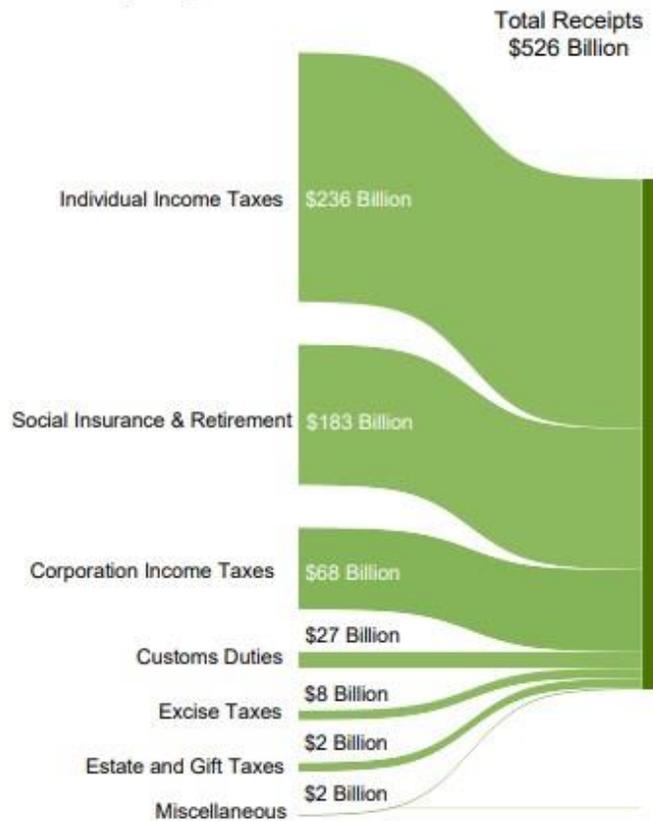
23. **The central bank of Malaysia cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 2,75%.** This was the first rate cut in five years, underscoring the central bank's commitment to supporting domestic economic momentum amid a weaker growth outlook and rising global trade uncertainties.
24. **The central bank of Uruguay cut its benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points to 9,0%.** Global dollar weakness and reduced commercial and geopolitical uncertainty have mitigated international price volatility. The Board emphasized the importance of consolidating inflation at target and reinforcing the downward trajectory of expectations, noting that further rate cuts could be warranted if inflation and expectations evolve as projected.
25. **China added to its official gold reserves for an eighth straight month in June.** Bullion held by the People's Bank of China rose by 70 000 troy ounces in June. Its gold reserves have climbed by 1,1 million troy ounces — or about 34,2 tons — since the current run of purchases began in November 2024.
26. **The Independence Day flash flood in Texas was one of the deadliest and costliest flash floods in US history.** This highlighted the mounting threat to communities that aren't prepared for extreme rainfall. The flash flood killed more than 100 people and a preliminary estimate from AccuWeather Inc. puts the total damage and economic loss at \$18bn to \$22bn.



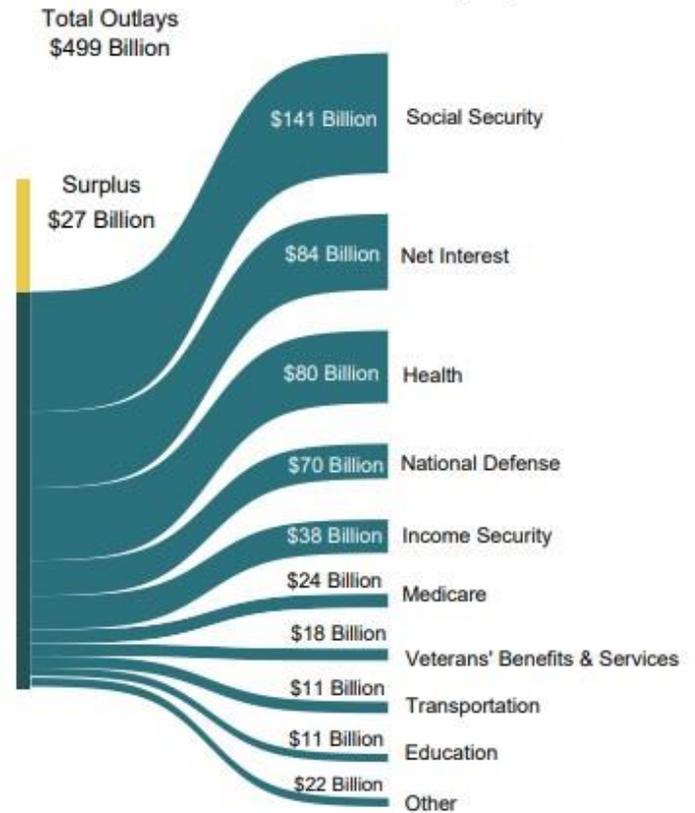
27. **US customs duties rose to a record \$27,2bn in June from \$23bn in May, \$16,3bn in April and \$8,75bn in March.** This is still well short of the \$2bn per day that President Donald Trump said he was expecting.
28. **US small-business optimism eased to 98,6 in June from 98,8 in May, 95,8 in April, 97,4 in March, 101,7 in February, 102,8 in January, 105,1 in December, 101,7 in November, 93,7 in October and 91,5 in September.** The December 2024 reading was the highest since October 2018. The March drop was the largest decline since June 2022. The May increase was the first rise since December. The share of owners reporting labour quality as the single most important problem for their business staying near the levels seen in the spring of 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.
29. **The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefit fell by 5 000 w/w to 227 000 in the week ending 5 July.** Still, federal employees fired by the newly created Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) are not included in the state claims data, as their claims are filed separately under the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program.
30. **America's largest power grid is under strain as data centers and AI chatbots consume power faster than new plants can be built.** Electricity bills are projected to surge by more than 20% this Northern Hemisphere summer in some parts of PJM Interconnection's territory, which covers 13 states - from Illinois to Tennessee, Virginia to New Jersey - serving 67 million customers in a region with the most data centers in the world.
31. **The US fiscal balance swung to a \$27bn surplus in June 2025 from a \$70bn deficit in June 2024.** Receipts rose by 13% y/y to \$526bn, while spending dropped by 7% y/y to \$499bn. Year-to-date, the overall budget deficit rose by 5% to \$1,337 trillion, due to increased outlays on healthcare, Social Security, defence, and interest on debt.

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## Receipts by Source:



## Outlays by Function:

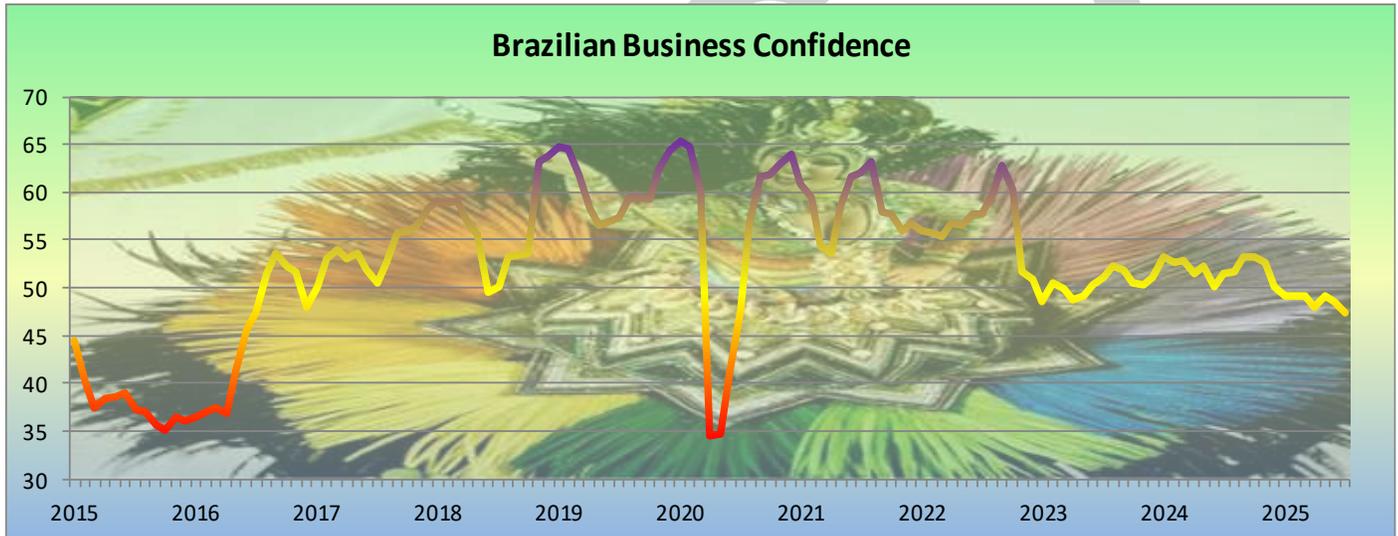


32. **More than half of all the soybean oil produced in the US next year will be used to make biofuel.** This is according to a new outlook by the US Department of Agriculture.
33. **Consumer inflation in Argentina eased to 39,4% y/y in June from 43,5% y/y in May, 47,3% y/y in April, 55,9% y/y in March, 66,9% y/y in February, 84,5% y/y in January, 117,8% y/y in December and 166,0% y/y in November.** This was the 13th consecutive month of disinflation and the softest increase since March 2021.
34. **Consumer inflation in Belarus rose to 7,3% y/y in June from 7,1% y/y in May and 6,5% y/y in April.** The increase was largely driven by higher prices for food, which rose by 10,5% from 9,6% in May and 8,3% in April. Offsetting some of the pressure, inflation for non-food goods eased to 3,2% in June from 3,6% in May, while services inflation dipped slightly to 7,1% from 7,2%.
35. **Consumer inflation in Brazil rose to 5,35% y/y in June from 5,32% y/y in May and 5,53% y/y in April.** It remained above the central bank's upper target of 4,5% for the ninth consecutive month. Inflation accelerated in several categories, including transport (5,11% in June vs 4,64% in May), housing (5,30% vs 4,53%), communication (2,16% vs 1,96%) and clothing (4,68% vs 3,92%). On the other hand, price growth slowed for food (6,66% vs 7,33%), healthcare (5,16% vs 5,66%), personal expenses (5,81% vs 5,87%), education (6,21% vs 6,27%), and household items (2,66% vs 2,77%).
36. **Consumer prices in China rose by 0,1% y/y in June after falling by 0,1% y/y in May, April and March.** This was the first annual increase in consumer inflation since January, driven by e-commerce shopping events, increased subsidies for consumer goods from the government, and easing trade risks with the US. Non-food prices edged up 0,1% after being flat in the prior two months. On the food side, prices dropped at a softer rate (-0,3% vs -0,4%), marking the fifth straight month of decline. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and fuel prices, rose by 0,7% y/y, marking the highest reading in 14 months and following a 0,6% y/y gain in May.
37. **Producer prices in China fell by 3,6% y/y in June after a 3,3% y/y decline in May and a 2,7% y/y drop in April.** This marked the 33rd consecutive month of producer deflation and the steepest decline since July 2023, driven by rising external risks amid uncertainty over US tariffs and persistently weak domestic demand. For the first six months of 2025, factory-gate prices fell by 2,6% y/y.
38. **Consumer inflation in Russia eased to 9,4% y/y in June from 9,9% y/y in May, 10,2% y/y in April, 10,3% y/y in March, 10,1% y/y in February, 9,9% y/y in January and 9,5% y/y in December.** The result was aligned with the central bank of Russia's warning that inflation would rise sharply this year due to a weak rouble, a labour force crisis forced by the military mobilization, and soaring levels of deficit spending. It remains well above the central bank's 4% target. Prices increased at a slower pace for food (11,2% vs

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12,5% in May vs 12,7% in April), mainly fruits and vegetables (15,2% vs 19,8% vs 21,2%); services (12,0% vs 12,6% vs 12,8%) and non-food products (4,5% vs 4,8% vs 5,4%).

39. **Visitor arrivals to New Zealand rose by 6,1% y/y in May to 190 593 after a 18,8% y/y gain in April to 267 300, falling by 8,4% y/y in March to 311 800, a 2,3% y/y decline in February to 354 408 and rising by 13,4% y/y in January to 370 238.** The decline in March was likely influenced by the timing of Easter, which fell later in 2025 compared to 2024. Total arrivals reached 87% of pre-pandemic levels seen in May 2019, when 219 300 visitors entered the country. The steady rebound in tourism reflects continued recovery in New Zealand's international travel sector.
40. **Russia's foreign trade surplus narrowed to \$8,72bn in May from \$9,04bn in April.** Exports fell by 9,7% y/y to \$33,1bn, the fourth consecutive month of lower foreign sales as lower oil prices and softer commodity demand from Russia's key trading partner, China, pared buying from Russia's key industries that are shunned from commerce with the West. Imports dropped by 0,4% to \$24,4bn.
41. **The Brazilian Business Confidence Index eased to 47,3 in July from 48,6 in June, 48,9 in May, 48,0 in April and 49,2 in March.** It remained below the 50 threshold for the seventh month. This was the lowest reading since June 2020, when the economy was still reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic. The decline was broad-based across all components. The Current Conditions Index dropped 1,7 points to 42,4, as industrial leaders viewed the Brazilian economy and their businesses more negatively than six months ago. This perception worsened and became more widespread compared to June. The Expectations Index fell 1,2 points to 49,7, crossing below the 50-point threshold and signalling a shift from optimism to pessimism for the first time since January 2023. The pessimism is mainly directed at the broader economy, with that sub-index at 40,5. However, sentiment toward individual businesses remained more positive, with that component holding at 54,3.



42. **China is constructing nearly three-quarters of all solar and wind power projects being built globally.** This is according to a new report by the Global Energy Monitor. Of about 689 gigawatts currently under construction worldwide, 510 gigawatts of utility-scale solar and wind were within China's borders.
43. **China's wind and solar capacity surpassed its coal and gas capacity for the first time during the first quarter of 2025.** They supplied 23% of the country's electricity consumption.
44. **The International Energy Agency (IEA) said it expects global oil demand to grow at the slowest pace since 2009, outside of the coronavirus pandemic.** The IEA expected oil consumption to increase by only 700 000 barrels a day this year.
45. **Global renewable power capacity grew by 15% in 2024.** This is according to the latest annual statistical report from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The report shows the world added 582 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable electricity capacity in 2024, representing a record annual increase. More than 70% of global renewable energy capacity added in 2024 was installed in Asia.
46. **Solar power became the European Union's (EU) largest single electricity source for the first time ever in June 2025.** Solar produced 22,1% of the EU's electricity in June, reaching 40,5% in the Netherlands.
47. **Western Europe officially experienced its hottest June on record.** The average temperature in western Europe was a high 2,81C above the 1991-2020 average.