

# GLOBAL WEEKLY ECONOMIC NEWS IN THE ADVANCED ECONOMIES

(19 August 2019 – 23 August 2019)

Countries	Highlights
<p><b>US</b></p> <p><b>Dollar declines as markets uncertain about Powell's speech in Jackson Hole</b></p>	<p>The dollar slipped on Thursday, but moved within narrow ranges, as investors awaited a possible announcement or statement from the Federal Reserve at this week's Jackson Hole, Wyoming event to address the worsening global economic outlook. Market participants said the Fed could announce a stimulus measure, or re-affirm the U.S. central bank's easing stance, a scenario viewed as negative for the dollar. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell will speak on Friday and some say he may clarify the Fed minutes released on Wednesday and deliver a dovish speech that would soothe market worries about the prospect of recession. But Powell could also push back against expectations of aggressive U.S. interest rate cuts, especially after two Fed officials said they saw no need for easing at this time.</p> <p><i>(Source: Reuters, 22 August 2019)</i></p>
<p><b>UK</b></p> <p><b>No deal Brexit ready: UK firms automatically enrolled in customs system for post-EU future</b></p>	<p>UK is in the process of automatically enrolling UK firms into a customs system in a bid to speed up preparations for a no deal Brexit. VAT-registered firms in the UK that had not already registered onto the customs system would receive an ID number within the next two weeks. The number is called an Economic Operator Registration and Identification (EORI) and works by allowing British companies to continue to trade with customers and suppliers in the EU once Brexit happens on Halloween. Firms that do not have the EORI will not be able to trade with EU member states after Brexit. Up to 72,000 companies have already registered for an EORI number, but the intervention from the Government would mean a further 88,000 would be registered in time for the Brexit deadline.</p> <p><i>(Source: Express,, 21 August 2019)</i></p>
<p><b>JAPAN</b></p> <p><b>Japan inflation hovers at two-year low in July</b></p>	<p>Japan's key consumer prices continued to rise at the same pace last month, hovering at a two-year low amid increasing speculation that the Bank of Japan (BOJ) may ramp up its stimulus as early as next month. Prices excluding that for fresh food rose 0.6% last month from a year earlier, matching economists' median estimate, according to official data out yesterday. The downward impact of sharper falls in petrol costs was cancelled out by firmer cellphone handset prices. A stubbornly low inflation rate makes it harder for the BOJ to argue that it is slowly but steadily making progress towards its 2% inflation target. Price growth is expected to slow further in the coming months as a result of lower oil prices and government measures to make pre-school education free.</p> <p><i>(Source: The Straits Time, 23 August 2019)</i></p>
<p><b>CHINA</b></p> <p><b>China eases restrictions on gold imports</b></p>	<p>China has partially lifted restrictions on imports of gold, bullion industry sources said, loosening curbs that had stopped an estimated 300-500 tonnes of the metal worth \$15-25 billion at current prices from entering the country since May. China's central bank had for several months curtailed or not granted import quotas to commercial banks responsible for most of the gold that enters the country, Reuters reported last week. Measures had possibly been designed to reduce capital outflows and bolster the yuan, which has slumped to 11-year lows against the dollar as a trade dispute with the US batters China's economy.</p> <p><i>(Source: Reuters, 22 August 2019)</i></p>