

GLOBAL MARKETS NEWSLETTER

Tuesday March 18th, 2025

Local Markets:

The Kenyan shilling weakened slightly on Monday and was expected to ease further due to slowing dollar inflows, especially from non-governmental organizations.

Today's expected USD/KES trading range is 128.40/129.90

Indicative FX rates as at 8.30am:

Currency	Buying	Selling	Currency	Today	Previous
USD/KES	128.40	129.90			
GBP/KES	166.60	169.00	GBP/USD	1.3005	1.2965
EUR/KES	140.10	142.30	EUR/USD	1.0941	1.0908
INR/KES		1.5046	USD/INR	86.33	86.47
			AUD/USD	0.6401	0.6358
			Commodities		
			Gold	3014.20	2985.24
			Brent Crude	71.38	71.19

Benchmark Rates:

Tenor	Current	Previous	Next meeting
91 Days	8.9180%	8.9228%	-
182 Days	9.1149%	9.1509%	-
364 Days	10.4736%	10.4967%	-
KES INFLATION	3.300%	3.000%	-
KES CBR	10.75%	11.25%	-
FED RATE	4.25%	4.50%	-
ECB RATE	3.00%	3.25%	-
BOE RATE	4.75%	5.00%	-
RBI RATE	6.50%	6.50%	-

Top News

Oil: West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the US crude oil benchmark, is trading around \$67.30 during the early Asian session on Tuesday. The WTI price extends the rally as the United States (US) vows to continue attacks on Houthis.

Asia-Pacific markets: Asia-Pacific markets rose on Tuesday, tracking gains on Wall Street, which ticked up after U.S. retail sales data appeared to ease recession concerns.

International Markets

USD: The US Dollar firmed as market participants keenly await for the Federal Reserve's policy meeting starting today, where interest rates are expected to remain steady. Investors will closely scrutinize the Fed's commentary on recent trade policies, including tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, which have heightened fears of a potential recession.

GBP: GBP/USD retreats after gaining in the previous session, hovering around 1.2970 during Asian trading on Tuesday. The pair faces pressure as the US Dollar (USD) attempts to recover losses from the last two sessions. However, downside movement may be limited, as the Greenback remains vulnerable amid rising trade tensions and growing economic concerns in the United States (US).

EUR: The EUR/USD pair trades with mild losses around 1.0915 during the early Asian session on Tuesday. Escalating trade war with further tariffs from US President Donald Trump on European Union goods weighs on the Euro (EUR). However, the weaker US Dollar (USD) amid the concerns over the economic slowdown in the United States and the hopes of the German fiscal deal might cap the downside for the major pair.

INR: The Indian Rupee (INR) softens on Tuesday. A rise in crude oil prices amid the escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East weighs on the local currency. It's worth noting that India is the world's third-largest oil consumer and higher crude oil prices tend to have a negative impact on the INR value.

Source: Reuters.

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