

GLOBAL MARKETS NEWSLETTER

Wednesday March 19th, 2025

Local Markets:

The Kenyan shilling was barely changed on Tuesday, but it is believed that it could soon get a boost from increased dollar inflows from remittances.

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	166.75	169.10	GBP/USD	1.3018	1.3005
EUR/KES	140.40	142.60	EUR/USD	1.0964	1.0941
INR/KES		1.5072	USD/INR	86.19	86.33
			AUD/USD	0.6387	0.6401
			Commodities		
			Gold	3038.58	3014.20
			Brent Crude	70.34	71.38

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 Oil price remains under pressure for the second consecutive day during Asian trading hours on Wednesday. The downward trend is driven by expectations of increased Russian supply.

Asia-Pacific markets: Asia-Pacific markets traded mixed on Wednesday, following declines on Wall Street after a sell-off in technology stocks picked up pace. The Bank of Japan held interest rates steady at 0.5%, in line with expectations, as the central bank weighed the potential impact of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs.

International Markets

USD: The US Dollar Index (DXY), which measures the value of the US Dollar against a basket of six currencies, is stabilizing after avoiding a fresh five-month low. The Federal Reserve's two-day policy meeting started overnight, where the central bank is expected to hold interest rates unchanged at the end of the meeting on Wednesday.

GBP: GBP/USD edges lower, trading around 1.2990 during Asian hours on Wednesday after posting gains in the previous two sessions. The pair struggles as the US Dollar remains firm, supported by stable US Treasury yields ahead of the Federal Reserve's (Fed) interest rate decision later in the day. Markets widely expect the Fed to hold rates steady amid persistent inflation concerns and economic uncertainty.

EUR: The EUR/USD pair weakens to near 1.0935 during the Asian trading hours on Wednesday, pressured by a modest recovery in the US Dollar (USD). Traders prefer to wait on the sidelines ahead of the US Federal Reserve (Fed) interest rate decision on Wednesday.

INR: The Indian Rupee (INR) loses ground on Wednesday after reaching over a three-week high in the previous session. The escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East weigh on the Indian currency. The upcoming reciprocal tariffs from US President Donald Trump on April 2 could also exert some selling pressure on the INR in the near term.

Source: Reuters.

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