

GLOBAL MARKETS NEWSLETTER

Friday March 21st, 2025

Local Markets:

The Kenyan shilling held steady on Thursday compared with the previous session, supported by subdued dollar demand from importers.

Today's expected USD/KES trading range is 128.45/129.95

Indicative FX rates as at 8.30am:

Currency	Buying	Selling	Currency	Today	Previous
USD/KES	128.45	129.95			
GBP/KES	166.00	168.40	GBP/USD	1.2954	1.3024
EUR/KES	139.00	141.20	EUR/USD	1.0851	1.0925
INR/KES		1.5123	USD/INR	85.93	85.93
			AUD/USD	0.6312	0.6369
			Commodities		
			Gold	3025.40	3051.46
			Brent Crude	72.23	71.18

Benchmark Rates:

Tenor	Current	Previous	Next meeting
91 Days	8.8402%	8.9180%	-
182 Days	9.0860%	9.1149%	-
364 Days	10.4613%	10.4736%	-
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) Oil price holds ground for the third successive session, trading around \$68.40 per barrel during Asian hours on Friday. Oil prices remain on track for their second consecutive weekly increase, driven by new United States (US) sanctions on Iran.

Asia-Pacific markets: In Asia, most risk-driven currencies weakened on Friday, while the Japanese yen also retreated despite a stronger-than-expected inflation reading for February. The Chinese yuan was flat as traders sought more cues on stimulus measures.

International Markets

USD: The U.S. dollar firmed as traders bet on no U.S. interest rate cuts in the near-term, while fears of higher tariffs and slower growth dented risk appetite.

GBP: The GBP/USD pair lacks any firm intraday direction on Friday and oscillates in a narrow trading band, around the 1.2960 area during the Asian session. Spot prices, however, remain close to the highest since early November – levels beyond the 1.3000 psychological mark touched on Thursday – and remain at the mercy of the US Dollar (USD) price dynamics.

EUR: The EUR/USD pair continues its decline for the third consecutive session, hovering around 1.0830 during Friday's Asian trading hours. The technical analysis of the daily chart suggests growing selling pressure and a possible trend reversal, as the pair has fallen below the ascending channel pattern. A continued decline would confirm the shift toward a bearish outlook.

INR: The Indian Rupee (INR) remains stable against the US Dollar (USD) during the Asian trading hours on Friday, with USD/INR holding near a seven-week low of 86.20, recorded on Thursday. However, further downside of the pair may be limited as the Greenback gains strength amid rising risk aversion driven by concerns over US tariff policies.

Source: Reuters.

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