



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

Pakistani economy expected to grow by 2% this year, Asian Development Bank says

Arabnews.pk (December 22, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy would grow by two percent this year as COVID-19 restrictions ease and business activity resumes, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report on Wednesday, adding that improvement in economic outlook would depend on an effective coronavirus immunization campaign launched by the country. The bank said in its Asian Development Outlook 2021 report the growth figure could jump to 4 percent in 2022 if the COVID-19 va.... [Read More](#)

S&P Global lowers Pakistan's long-term sovereign credit rating

The Dawn (December 22, 2022)

Global ratings agency S&P Global on Thursday cut Pakistan's long-term sovereign credit rating by one notch to "CCC+" from "B" to reflect a continued weakening of the country's external, fiscal and economic metrics. Pakistan's already low foreign exchange reserves will remain under pressure through 2023 unless oil prices slump or foreign assistance improves, the agency said. The country's central bank said on Thursday its reserves had fallen \$584 million to \$6.11 billion duri... [Read More](#)

CPEC charges up IT, digital economy in Pakistan

Dailytimes.com.pk (December 21, 2022)

A positive stir in IT industry parks, Research & Development, Internet density and computer Technology in Pakistan. Benefited by CPEC-led cooperation on IT and digital economy, it is predicted that the total value of Pakistan's IT industry will reach \$10 billion by 2025. During onset and till end of current year, Pakistan has more than 2 ... [Read More](#)

China willing to provide 'all kinds of assistance', envoy assures Dar

The Dawn (December 21, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: China assured Pakistan on Wednesday that it is ready to help Islamabad in every possible way following its request for about \$8.75 billion in an additional financial package, including the rollover of debt, bank deposits and currency swaps. Chinese Ambassador in Islamabad Nong Rong called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday and "assured continuous support of the Chinese government to Pakistan", the finance ministry said in a statement. The "government... [Read More](#)

World Bank approves \$1.69b for flood relief to Pakistan

The Frontier Post (December 20, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: The World Bank (WB) has approved \$1.692 billion in financing for five projects to support people living in flood-affected areas of southeastern Sindh province of Pakistan. Three projects support rehabilitation and housing reconstruction and the restoration of crop production for vulnerable communities, while another two projects support health services for mothers and children, the WB said in a press release. "Sindh was the province worst [Read More](#)

World Bank slashes China growth outlook on Covid, property woes

Dunyanews.tv (December 20, 2022)

BEIJING (Reuters) - The World Bank has cut its China growth outlook for this year and next, citing the impact of the abrupt loosening of strict COVID-19 containment measures and persistent property sector weakness. The Washington-based lender, in a report released on Tuesday, said it expected China's economy to grow 2.7% in 2022, before recovering to 4.3% in 2023 as it reopens following the worst of the pandemic. The bank's expected expansion for 2022 would be well below [Read More](#)

Pakistan equities close bearish amid heightened political uncertainty

Arabnews.pk (December 19, 2022)

KARACHI: Pakistan's share market closed bearish on Monday due to political uncertainty after former Prime Minister Imran Khan announced he would dissolve the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa legislative assemblies on December 23, 2022, to pressure the government into announcing snap polls, analysts and traders said. Khan has campaigned for early elections since being ousted from power in a parliamentary vote in April, heightening political [Read More](#)

Financial architecture needs to be changed to meet climate challenges

The News (December 19, 2022)

Islamabad: The international financial architecture has to change to meet the entirely new challenges related to the climate change that have caused losses worth \$65 billion in the world only in the first half of this year. The negative impacts of climate change have increased extreme weather events—from historic drought in the Horn of Africa to devastating floods in Pakistan that displaced 33 million people. According to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) [Read More](#)

Dar sharpens focus on energy circular debt

Business Recorder (December 18, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is considering a plan to reduce the stock of circular debt in both power and gas sectors by dividends or issuance of term finance certificates (TFC). Sources said that Finance Minister has sought a viable plan from the Ministry of Energy during a meeting on energy sector reforms on Saturday to reduce the stock of circular debt through dividends or TFC. He was informed by the Ministry of Energy during a presentation that the stock of ... [Read More](#)

Rupee to trade range-bound against dollar next week owing to lack of external financing

Geo.tv (December 18, 2022)

KARACHI: Rupee is expected to trade range-bound in the coming week, however, it might weaken slightly in the days ahead owing to the prevalent negative sentiment in the market, The News reported Sunday citing a dealer. During the outgoing week, the local currency closed at 224.65 against the greenback and ended at 224.94 on Friday. The rupee lost 0.12% during this week. "Since the central bank is using administrative measures to curb imports, the demand and sup ... [Read More](#)

Govt addressing issues of energy sector on priority: Ishaq Dar

Dunyanews.tv (December 17, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: - Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that the government was putting priority to address the issues of energy sector including circular debt in order to bring financial sustainability of the sector and ensure the economic growth of the country. While chairing a meeting on reforms in energy sector, the minister further directed the concerned authorities to make viable solutions for the settlement of all issues of ener ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan invites UAE businessmen to explore 'immense' economic opportunities

Arabnews.pk (December 17, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to the UAE, Faisal Niaz Tirmizi, invited UAE investors and businessmen to invest in the 'immense' economic potential of the country, state-run Radio Pakistan reported on Sunday. The invitation was extended by Tirmizi during his recent visit to the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The Pakistani envoy held meetings with various businessmen and investors during his stay in ... [Read More](#)

As Pakistan reels from dollar shortage, customers lured towards 'grey' market premiums

Business Recorder (December 16, 2022)

Pakistan's currency market continued to stay engulfed in a massive dollar shortage, as customers struggled to get their hands on the greenback, confirmed a number of exchange companies to Business Recorder on Friday. "Dollars are not available in the market as the economic situation remains vulnerable, while foreign exchange reserves remain low," said a currency exchange dealer. However, there is no shortage of other currencies, Business Recorder found [Read More](#)

Gold jumps to new peak in Pakistan as rupee loses traction

Geo.tv (December 16, 2022)

Gold jumped to new highs in Pakistan Friday as the rupee lost further ground against the US dollar, prompted by a liquidity crunch that has forced an increase in safe-haven buying. The price of precious metal recorded the same gains as yesterday that is an increase of Rs500 per tola and Rs428 per 10 grams to settle a historic high of Rs170,900 and Rs147,376, data released by All Pakistan Sarafa Gems and Jewellers Association (APSGJA) showed. Meanwhile, silver prices lost ground after los [Read More](#)

PM, Dar, others take stock of economic situation

Business Recorder (December 15, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the government would fulfil its current programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), besides ensuring all possible facilitation to the exporters to boost the country's exports. He said the incumbent government had inherited an economy in ruins and in a miserable situation, but with consistent hard work, they had stabilized it. The prime minister was addressing a high-level meeting over the economic situati.... [Read More](#)

Central bank reserves drop to \$6.7 billion

The Dawn (December 15, 2022)

The foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) dropped \$15 million from last week and stood at \$6.7 billion as of December 9, according to data released by the central bank on Thursday. The central bank's reserves were last recorded below this level on Jan 18, 2019, when it had some \$6.64bn. Net foreign reserves held by commercial banks now stand at \$5.9bn, meaning the country's total liquid foreign reserves are now \$12.6bn. Last week, forex reserves held by ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan to 'complete IMF programme'

Geo.tv (December 14, 2022)

Amid uncertainty over the delay in the 9th review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday rejected all news reports, saying that Pakistan would complete the programme. Pakistan and the IMF have been holding talks virtually but differences still persist over tax collection targets, and non-starter energy reforms including hiking of gas tariff, rising circular debt, and expenditure overrun, making consensus harder to strike on a staff [Read More](#)

Dar stresses need to broaden tax base, depoliticise economy

DunyaNews.tv (December 14, 2022)

ISLAMABAD (Dunya News) – Finance Minister Ishaq Dar underlines the need to enhance the tax base of the country, saying economy needs to be detached from politics. "Many countries in the world enhanced the ratio of taxes after the Covid pandemic so we also have no other option except to enhance tax-to-GDP ratio," he said while addressing a ceremony in the federal capital. Backing the track and trace system of the Federal Board of Revenue, Mr Dar said some reporting [Read More](#)

Pakistan's default risk won't subside until IMF comes aboard: Miftah

The Dawn (December 13, 2022)

PML-N leader and former finance minister Miftah Ismail on Tuesday claimed that Pakistan's default risk won't subside until and unless the International Monetary Fund (IMF) came to the table. "IMF is the lender of last resort [...] and when it comes on board, other lenders like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank agree to provide us with loans. "But if that connection with the IMF breaks or a programme is suspended then other loans stop as well and after that you can't save Pakistan," he said.... [Read More](#)

Saudi cash finance soon: Dar

Tribune.com.pk (December 13, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: - Pakistan is hoping to conclude talks with Saudi Arabia soon on financial help for the country, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Monday. Dar also told a news conference that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had asked Pakistan for more information to finalise its ninth review. "We hope that we will soon conclude talks, which we have started with Saudi Arabia," he said in response to a question whether there was any progress on seeking financial support from the ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan hopes to finalize talks with Saudi Arabia on financial help soon

Arabnews.pk (December 12, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is hoping to conclude talks with Saudi Arabia soon on financial help for the South Asian nation, Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said on Monday. Dar also told a news conference that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had asked Pakistan for more information to finalize its ninth review. "We hope that we will soon conclude talks, which we have started with Saudi Arabia," he said in response to a question whether there was any progress on seek... [Read More](#)

Facing massive economic headwinds, companies in Pakistan struggle to keep operations going

Business Recorder (December 12, 2022)

Facing energy shortages and an overall decline in demand, companies in Pakistan are either announcing shutdown of operations or scaling them back, leading to heightened risks of mass unemployment, dent in exports, and massively lower economic growth rate in fiscal year 2022-23. Frontier Ceramics Limited (FRCL), the makers of ceramic tiles, sanitary wares and related ceramic products, announced in a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday that it has shut down its flo [Read More](#)

Debt burden up, 2023 repayment becomes highly compromised

The News (December 11, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Advisory Group (EAG), an independent platform of Prime Institute, says Pakistan's debt burden has increased and the government's capacity to repay debt due in FY2023 is becoming increasingly compromised. The growing dependence on official sources is striking. In a statement issued on Sunday, the EAG, comprising economists and researchers, said as indicated in a recent podcast by the SBP governor at the outset of [Read More](#)

Pakistan headed in 'right direction', will not default — finance minister

Arabnews.pk (December 11, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday allayed businessmen's fears, stating that the country was headed in the "right direction" and would not default, despite worrying economic indicators. Pakistan is finding it difficult to negotiate its economic crisis in recent months, given the country's volatile political situation and poor macroeconomic indicators. Amid soaring inflation, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are dwindling as it's ... [Read More](#)

Financial czar Dar says economy heading in the right direction

Dunyanews.tv (December 10, 2022)

ISLAMABAD: - Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, while rejecting the default speculation, said on Saturday the country's economy was heading in the right direction and there was no risk of default. Speaking to the All-Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) members during a ceremony in Islamabad, Mr Dar took a jibe at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) top brass, saying the PTI leaders were spreading baseless rumours about the economic situation. He said these spe.... [Read More](#)

Pakistan unlikely to fulfill claim of implementing TSA by year-end

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 10, 2022)

KARACHI: The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s technical team visited Islamabad in October and worked on a draft report on the status of the "Implementing a Treasury Single Account (TSA) and Managing Fiscal Risks by Pakistan". As per recent reports, Pakistan will miss its end-December deadline to close all bank accounts maintained by the public sector entities and defense ministry in commercial banks, and transfer the money to the central bank. Mor... [Read More](#)

Saudi Arabia vows to continue supporting Pakistan

Tribune.com.pk (December 09, 2022)

RIYADH: - Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan affirmed on Thursday the kingdom's interest in supporting the regional economies, including Pakistan, by shoring up their deposits and making investments there from the kingdom's Public Investment Fund, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. Al-Jadaan's announcement came at a press conference in Riyadh on the occasion of announcing the state's general budget for the fiscal year 1444-1445 ... [Read More](#)

Ishaq Dar directs measures to stop cross-border dollar smuggling

Business Recorder (December 09, 2022)

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar on Friday directed authorities to devise a robust and proactive road map to curb cross-border smuggling of foreign exchange and various items, as the government seeks to bring economic and financial stability in the country. The development comes during an inter-ministerial meeting on economic situation of the country held at the Finance Division on Friday. The meeting discussed and reviewed the economic situation and cur... [Read More](#)

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