



CPDI BUDGET WATCH

Pakistan's food exports surge 64% during first half of FY23

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (January 04, 2023)

The country experienced a boost in agriculture and food exports, recording 64% increase in the first half of the current fiscal year (July-December 2023-24). Official data reveals that total exports in this sector reached \$3.847 billion, a substantial rise from \$2.345 billion during the same period in the previous year. This surge played a pivotal role in narrowing the trade deficit, which decreased by 34.3% to \$11.14 billion in the first half of the fiscal year. The overall merchandise exports grew by ... [Read More](#)

Nepra okays second tariff hike for Karachiites

The Dawn (January 04, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (Nepra) on Wednesday approved a second increase in power tariff within a week for the consumers of K-Electric. The regulator, on a request by the Karachi-based power utility, gave the approval of Rs2.87 per unit hike, which comes as part of a quarterly tariff adjustment (QTA) from January to March 2023. The decision has been forwarded to the federal government for notification. This is the second time Nepra has ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's dollar bonds expected to rally in 2024: Report

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (January 03, 2023)

Investors foresee a second consecutive year of rally for Pakistan's dollar bonds as the government is expected to secure another bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Bloomberg reported on Wednesday. The bonds, which almost doubled in value last year, are still attractive to investors who see Pakistan as a high-yield emerging market with a stable currency and improving economic outlook, according to UBS Asset Management and William Blair Investment Management. Su ... [Read More](#)

Could 2024 mark Pakistan's economic turnaround moment?

The Dawn (January 03, 2023)

AFTER a commendable long period of uninterrupted decline in poverty rates, Pakistan's economy is now facing one of its worst crises. Poor policy choices, combined with a series of shocks — Covid 19, the 2022 catastrophic floods and adverse global conditions, caused growth to slow, poverty to increase, and brought the country to the brink of debt default. Moreover, human development outcomes remain at levels we see in much poorer cou ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's trade deficit shrinks over 34% to \$11.15bn in 6MFY24

Business Recorder (January 02, 2024)

Pakistan's trade deficit shrank 34.29% to \$11.15 billion in 6MFY24 on account of significant reduction in imports, a consequence of administratively controlled measures, and a marginal improvement in exports. The country's trade balance, gap between exports and imports, was recorded at a deficit of \$11.15 billion in July to December period of the year 2023-24 as compared to \$16.97 billion in the same period of the previous year, according to data released on Tuesday by the ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's beleaguered economy hinges on crucial IMF meeting

Samaa.tv (January 02, 2024)

Hope flickers on the horizon for Pakistan's beleaguered economy as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gears up for a crucial board meeting on January 11th. This high-stakes gathering will determine the fate of a much-needed \$700 million disbursement, potentially injecting a vital shot in the arm for the struggling nation. The meeting comes at a critical juncture for Pakistan, grappling with a confluence of economic woes. Inflation has skyrocketed, surpassing 29% in December 20 ... [Read More](#)

Saudi fund continues to support development efforts in other countries

Arabnews.pk (January 01, 2024)

RIYADH: Since its establishment in 1974, the Saudi Fund for Development has been extending a helping hand to other countries in the form of soft loans and grants for different development projects in various fields. According to official data, since its inception, the fund supported more than 800 development projects worth \$20 billion in over 100 countries. The Saudi fund continued with its efforts in 2023 as well. Following are highlights of the fund's activities during ... [Read More](#)

Special Report: Steering next year's economic ship

The Dawn (January 01, 2024)

THE two historical events of 2023 — the breakout of the Israel-Palestinian war and the spread of artificial intelligence — will continue to impact geopolitics and geoeconomics across all geographical regions throughout 2024. The post-May 9 change in Pakistan's political landscape in 2023 and the post-Israel-Hamas adjustments in the country's geopolitical stance may impact the February 8, 2024 elections. The outcome of the elections and the kind of democracy we ... [Read More](#)

Pakistan's first: Bank Alfalah launches Digital Payments Sales, Service Centres

Business Recorder (December 31, 2023)

KARACHI: Bank Alfalah, one of the leading commercial and digital banks, inaugurated Pakistan's first Digital Payments Sales and Service Centers - digital payments hubs strategically positioned in the vibrant and bustling Badar Commercial DHA and Disco Bakery Gulshan in Karachi to facilitate and provide convenient access to merchants and small scale businesses for all their payments acceptance and financing needs within the sphere of digital eco-system. Speaking at the ... [Read More](#)

31 public entities caused Rs730b loss in FY22

Tribune.com.pk (December 31, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's 31 state-owned commercial companies caused colossal losses of Rs730 billion with the National Highway Authority topping the list, revealed a report released by the finance ministry as part of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) condition. Titled 'The Federal Footprint, SOE [state-owned enterprises] consolidated report for fiscal year 2021 and 2022', the report has ended many myths. All the power distribution companies, including four based in Punjab, ... [Read More](#)

Business confidence rises 42% as expectations for the future improve:

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 30, 2023)

A recent survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan indicates a 42% increase in business owners' confidence regarding prospects, compared to the preceding quarter. The Gallup Business Confidence Index report for the third quarter of 2023 reveals that fewer business owners hold pessimistic views about future conditions and the country's direction compared to the second quarter. While a sense of business insecurity persists due to ongoing economic and political crises, the survey notes ... [Read More](#)

Political chaos hits economy in FY23: SBP

The Dawn (December 30, 2023)

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Governor Jameel Ahmed on Friday said that political uncertainty weighed heavily on business and consumer sentiments resulting in a contraction of real GDP by 0.2 per cent in FY23. In the Governor's Annual Report for 2022-23, which was issued very late as the first half of the current fiscal year has almost come to an end, the SBP chief said the budgetary targets for the government's fiscal and primary balances were missed by large ... [Read More](#)

Govt injects Rs200b subsidy to tackle power sector circular debt woes

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 29, 2023)

The Ministry of Finance disbursed a subsidy of Rs200 billion to the financially strained power sector, aiming to address the growing issue of circular debt, which had escalated to Rs2.7 trillion based on the latest estimates. Following the clearance of this amount, the remaining circular debt in the power sector is anticipated to be approximately Rs2.5 trillion by the end of December 2023. Official sources confirmed that this subsidy clearance, totaling Rs200 billion, will assist both the po... [Read More](#)

Inflation projected to ease to 20-22pc for FY24: SBP

The Dawn (December 29, 2023)

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Friday said the inflation rate will ease to around 20-22 per cent in the 2024 financial year, according to a report issued weeks ahead of the February 8 general elections. According to the SBP governor's annual report on the past fiscal year, the bank will continue to make decisions to prevent high inflation from becoming entrenched. The report added that the economy missed its fiscal and primary surplus targets in FY23 by a large margin, with re [Read More](#)

Exporters likely to get DLTL worth Rs37.306bn

Business Recorder (December 28, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The Commerce Ministry is planning to release Drawback on Local Taxes and Levies (DLTL) worth Rs37.306 billion to exporters to deal with their liquidity issues of leading export sectors. In this regard, the Commerce Ministry is all set to move a summary to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet seeking the release of DLTL worth Rs37.306 billion to exporters. Official sources revealed to Business Recorder that Caretaker Federal Minister [Read More](#)

Thanks to WB, ADB, Pakistan's foreign reserves rise to \$12.886bn

Samaa.tv (December 28, 2023)

The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan increased to \$12.886 billion after receiving American dollars from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, while the reserves held by the central bank reached \$7.757 billion in the week ended on December 22. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued on Thursday, informed that the Bank's reserves increased by \$852 million to \$7,757.1 million, mainly due to the receipt of official government of Pakistan inflows during the. [Read More](#)

Ministry of Finance projects inflation at 27.5-28.5% for December

Business Recorder (December 27, 2023)

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation in Pakistan for December has been projected at 27.5-28.5%, the finance ministry said in its monthly economic report on

Wednesday. In its latest 'Monthly Economic Update and Outlook' report, the finance ministry anticipated inflation to further ease out to 24-25% in January 2024. The

ministry said the outlook for the remaining months of FY2024 is expected to be at a moderate level despite the upward revision of administered pr ... [Read More](#)

Bank lending to private sector remains negative

The Dawn (December 27, 2023)

KARACHI: The bank lending to the private sector remained negative in the first half of the current fiscal year reflecting a pathetic economic growth scenario. Data released by the

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Tuesday showed that the private sector had been retiring its debts from July 1 till Dec 15. The net debt retirement during this period

was Rs41 billion compared to net borrowing of Rs141 in the same period last year. Bank advances to the private sector took a steep plunge to just Rs.208b in FY 23 [Read More](#)

Massive sell-off wipes out 2,500 points from PSX

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 26, 2023)

Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) suffered a bloodbath on Tuesday, bleeding more than 2,500 points, or a fall of over 4% due to a massive sell-off by the major players in the

market. According to the PSX website, the benchmark KSE-100 index settled at 59,170.97 points at the end of the trading, down by 2534.12 points or 4.11% from the

previous close of 61,705.09 points on December 22. The bourse started the day on a negative note and at 9:50 am it shed over 1009.92 points and dipped to 60 ... [Read More](#)

EXIM to become operational soon

Tribune.com.pk (December 26, 2023)

KARACHI: Fulfilling another International Monetary Fund (IMF) condition, the caretaker government has finally operationalised the state-owned EXIM Bank, the export

and import development finance institution (DFI), in line with global practices. This move assigns the bank the crucial task of growing and diversifying the country's

exports while creating import substitution opportunities. The establishment of the EXIM Bank marks the end of the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) role in di ... [Read More](#)

Millennials or Gen Zs: Who makes up 20% of tech injuries?

The News (December 25, 2023)

There has been an increase in phone-related accidents, with millennials suffering the greatest injuries, as per a recent study by the science website Study Finds. It stated that the generation most commonly linked with financial difficulties seems to be losing track of where they are in the real world and instead turning to their cell phones as a means of escape. Researchers discovered that there has been a 20% increase in tech-related injuries since 2020 after going through ten years' worth of [Read More](#)

'Economic landscape is undergoing transformation' due to SIFC

Business Recorder (December 25, 2023)

LAHORE: Coordinator for Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis said on Sunday Pakistan's economic landscape had undergone a remarkable transformation, largely because of establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which had successfully attracted foreign direct investment. Speaking as the keynote speaker at a seminar on "The Impact of SIFC on Pakistan Economy", held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic [Read More](#)

Inflation likely to escalate, warns economist

Business Recorder (December 24, 2023)

KARACHI: In Pakistan general inflation is constantly soaring, already surpassing almost 45% and it is expected to go even higher, said Ateeq ur Rehman, economic and financial analyst. The new situation of re-routing of ships in Red Sea with unavoidable longer voyages and additional payments like "transit disruption surcharges and peak season surcharge" would hugely increase the sea freight and two/ three weeks delay in delivery, thus creating a challenging situation for exp.... [Read More](#)

Stocks outshine dollar, bonds in 2023 on IMF boost

The News (December 24, 2023)

KARACHI: Pakistan's stocks outperformed other major asset classes, including bonds and dollar, in 2023, as investors cheered a \$3 billion bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that helped the country avoid a sovereign debt default and supported economic reforms. "After lagging for the last few years, Pakistan equities outperformed major asset classes in 2023," said brokerage Topline Securities said in report on Saturday. "The benchmark KSE 100 index provided a [Read More](#)

Thefts damage PSM's operational capability

The Dawn (December 23, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Industry and Production was informed on Friday that thefts had significantly impacted the operational capability of the Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) while its financial burden continued to mount. The committee discussed the challenges being faced by PSM as Acting Chief Financial Officer Arif Shaikh admitted that there was an alarming surge in theft incidents resulting in substantial financial losses to the state-owned entity, ... [Read More](#)

Govt rejects absorbing PIA's Rs263b debt

Tribune.com.pk (December 23, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has declined to absorb Pakistan International Airlines' (PIA) Rs263 billion debt, instead proposing to settle dues with nearly a dozen domestic commercial banks using the privatisation proceeds of the airline. Sources told The Express Tribune that the finance ministry, supported by Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, rejected the proposal to merge PIA's Rs263 billion debt into the public debt. The PM office did not respond to a request for com ... [Read More](#)

Shamshad highlights importance of Exim Bank

Business Recorder (December 22, 2023)

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar has stated that Exim Bank will play an important role in shaping Pakistan's trade finance infrastructure. Speaking at the inauguration of Exim Bank as chief guest on Thursday, the caretaker finance minister said the Exim Bank's operationalisation is a proud moment and a major milestone for the country because it would augment the banking and trade finance landscape. She added that Pakistan is in a ... [Read More](#)

SBP's reserves fall to \$6.904b, but IMF loan boosts Pakistan's outlook

Profit.pakistantoday.com.pk (December 22, 2023)

Foreign exchange reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) declined by \$136 million to \$6.904 billion in the week ending December 15, 2023, mainly due to the repayment of some external debt obligations. The country's total reserves, which include those of commercial banks, also fell by \$138 million to \$12.068 billion, the SBP said in a statement. However, analysts said the country's external outlook has improved significantly due to the International Mo ... [Read More](#)

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