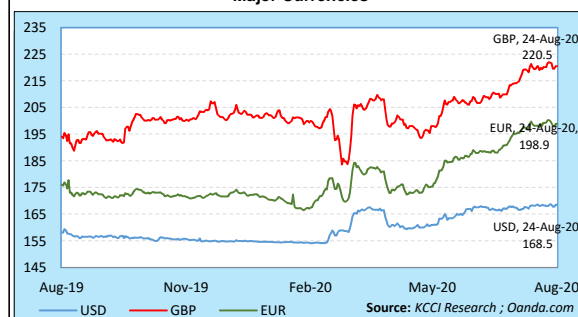


Economic Indicators

List of Indicators	Date / Period	Unit	Value	Change Daily
USD-Interbank	24-Aug	PKR	168.38	0.05%
USD-Open MKT	24-Aug	PKR	169.00	0.18%
KSE-100 index	24-Aug	Pts.	39,803	0.46%
FIPI	24-Aug	\$ Mn	-0.16	NM**
Crude (AP'19)	24-Aug	\$/bbl	42.40	0.26%
Gold (MA'19)	24-Aug	\$/oz	1,923.9	-0.72%
Gold (10g) Local	24-Aug	PKR	104,940	0.04%
Silver (MA'19)	24-Aug	\$/oz	26.66	-0.40%
Cotton(KHI)-40 kg	24-Aug	PKR	9,109	0.59%
Kibor-6M	24-Aug	%	7.18	0.00%
			WoW	0.70%
			YoY	
Forex Reserves	13-Aug	\$ Bn	19.66	
Remittances	Jul-20	\$ Bn	2.77	36.50%
Exports*	Jul-Jun 20	\$ Bn	21.39	-6.84%
Imports*	Jul-Jun 20	\$ Bn	44.57	-18.61%
Trade Balance*	Jul-Jun 20	\$ Bn	-23.18	27.11%
Current Account	Jul-20	\$ Bn	0.42	169.17%
Foreign Direct Inv.	Jul-20	\$ Bn	0.11	60.76%
LSM Growth*	Jul-Jun 20	%	-10.17	
Avg. CPI	Jul-20	%	9.26	
Discount Rate	Jul-20	%	7.00	

Sources: KCCI Research, PMEX, NCCPL, KSE, SBP, PBS*
 ** Not Meaningful, WoW= week on week; YoY=Year on Year

Major Currencies

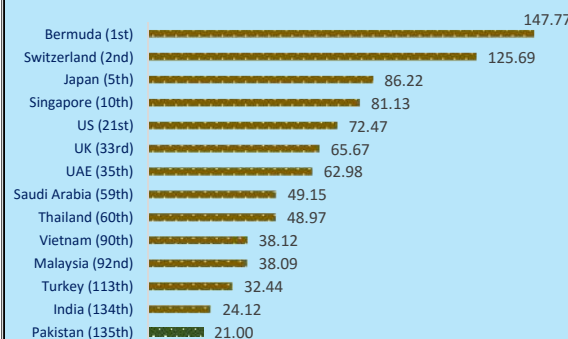


Quote of the Day

"Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected."

Steve Jobs

Cost of Living Index by Countries - Mid-Year 2020



*Cost of living in Pakistan is very low compared to 135 countries

Source: KCCI Research; Numbeo

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by KCCI Research & Development Cell. The information contained herein have been compiled or arrived at based upon information obtained from sources believed to be reliable and in good faith. Such information has not been independently verified.

Yellow icon represents the sole viewpoint of the KCCI R&D Cell, and is stated to enrich the readers' understanding of the news item. The

FBR notifies rules to access account holders' information

FBR has notified rules for seeking information from banks about account holders' deposits, credit card payments and cash withdrawals. Through SRO773, it is now compulsory for banks to provide information of profit on debt and particulars of account holders. *Dawn*.

Government decides to allow MoF to issue only floating-rate Zero Coupon Bonds

The government has reportedly decided to allow Ministry of Finance (MoF) to issue only floating-rate Zero Coupon Bonds under Pakistan Investment Bonds (PIBs) rules instead of giving it blanket authority. The profit on bonds shall be paid monthly, quarterly and semi-annually as was proposed by the Finance Ministry. *BR*.

FATF requirements: NA passes four bills amid opposition's protest

The National Assembly has passed four bills to fulfill the requirements of FATF to get the country out of the grey list amid dissent from opposition. The Lower House of the Parliament passed - The Anti-Money Laundering (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020, The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and The Islamabad Capital Territory Waqf Properties Bill, 2020, - with majority votes. *BR*.

Sindh agrees to resume federal tax collection on PKR 5Bn deal

Sindh govt. has agreed to resume collection and depositing of withholding tax on motor vehicles on behalf of FBR after having been pledged of PKR 5.4Bn controversially deducted from the provincial kitty by the center. *The News*.

Shaikh not happy over lack of anti-corruption mechanism in FBR

Adviser on Finance Dr A. Hafeez Shaikh has showed his dis-satisfaction over lack of anti-corruption mechanism in FBR and directed the tax authorities to place an independent mechanism and make few dozen example for others. While chairing high-level meeting on FBR's proposed reforms, he assigned the FBR to replace at least 50 known corrupt officers from lucrative field postings and dumped them into headquarters without major assignment in order to penalize them. *The News*.

Sindh Finance (Amendment) Bill 2020 passed into law

The Sindh Assembly has unanimously passed the Sindh Finance (Amendment) Bill 2020 into law to end capital value tax to help promote construction and real estate sectors. The new law that will help about 40 different ancillary businesses in construction and real estate sectors was tabled by Mehboob Uzaman, the Sindh Revenue Minister. *BR*.

Current account posts \$ 424Mn surplus in July

The first month of FY21 posted current account surplus of \$ 424Mn compared to deficit of \$ 631Mn in Jul'19. The strong turnaround is due to continued recovery in exports and record high remittances, with support from several policy and administrative initiatives by SBP and the govt. *Dawn*.

FBR for early clearance of perishable goods consignments

In another Trade Facilitation Initiative, FBR has issued instructions to all field formations of Pakistan Customs to ensure expeditious clearance of imports & exports consignments of perishable goods. The Chief Collectors have been directed to monitor the clearance of perishable goods on daily basis and resolve the issues of the importers/exporters on priority. *The News*.

FBR urged to clear textiles dues

Cloth Merchants have appealed to the govt. to release the outstanding Sales Tax/Duty Drawback Refunds of textile industry that was facing severe liquidity issues owing to COVID-19 led economic sluggishness. They urged the FBR to take concrete action/efforts for early disposal of refund claims of industries and that FBR must take steps to further improve its systems and simplify the Annexure-H to facilitate the taxpayers. *The News*.

\$ 800 million external inflows received in July

Pakistan has received \$ 800 million total external inflows from multiple financing sources in 1MFY21 including \$ 115 million from foreign commercial banks, which is 7 percent of annual budget estimates of \$ 12.23 billion for FY21. The external inflows during 1MFY20 were \$ 657 million which were around 5 percent of the annual budgeted amount of \$ 12.95 billion. *BR*.

Government setting up 'Pakistan Islands Development Authority'

The Ministry of Maritime affairs has recently revealed that it proposes to introduce "The Pakistan Islands Development Authority Act, 2020," through which the "Pakistan Islands Development Authority" will be established for the development of barren islands in the territorial waters of the country, and to undertake residential/infrastructure projects in these islands, which would contribute towards revival of fifty plus allied industries thereby generating large scale skilled employment opportunities. *BR*.

Ogra's blunder cost RLNG consumers Rs350bn in five years

Ogra has conceded to have allowed gas companies charge about 6-7% higher system losses to consumers of Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) for at least five years costing them PKR 350Bn resulting in significantly higher rates. SNGPL and SSGC have been claiming much lower losses of less than 4% for RLNG but were given a benefit of about 11% losses. *Dawn*.

Banks disburse PKR 1.2Tn to agri sector in FY20

Banks disbursed PKR 1.215Tn to agriculture sector during FY20, which was 3.5% higher than FY19 but less than the credit target of PKR 1.35Tn set by the Agricultural Credit Advisory Committee. Several factors constrained growth of agriculture credit including the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, locust attack and continuing real side issues including water shortage, low production of cotton, sugarcane, low fertilizer off-take and price volatility in agriculture produce etc. The outstanding portfolio of agriculture credit increased to PKR 581Bn at end-Jun'20, registering growth of 3.3% compared with PKR 562Bn in Jun'19. *Dawn*.

Murad promises funds for 10,000 cameras to be installed at 2,000 points in city

The 24th meeting of the Sindh Apex Committee on Mon (24th Aug'20) has decided to conduct 'security audit' of important installations. The CM said he would release funds for block allocation to install 10,000 cameras at 2,000 sites. Currently 2,500 CCTV cameras are functional and being monitored through the command and control center located at the Central Police Office. Overall financial estimate of the Safe City project has been made at PKR 24Bn. *Dawn*.

Pakistan's foreign loans jump to \$ 1.8Bn in July

Pakistan received \$ 1.8Bn in gross foreign loans in Jul'20 - 263% higher than Jul'19- due to the premature repayment of \$ 1Bn of Saudi Arabian cash assistance. In Jul'20, the govt. has reported to have received \$ 800Mn total external inflows from multiple financing sources. However, it did not report the \$ 1Bn in Chinese loan that Pakistan obtained to return the Saudi loan. *Tribune*.

Blending imported RLNG with local gas: Centre's bid faces opposition

The federal govt.'s effort to include the imported RLNG into the existing Weighted Average Cost of Gas of indigenously produced natural gas is facing stiff opposition from Sindh. Sindh currently gets an average 900-1000mmcf natural gas against its constitutional right of 2500-2600 mmcf. It even defies the common sense that the people of Sindh on the one hand are deprived of its constitutional share of 2600 MMCFD at PKR 520.54 per MMBTU while on the other hand, are also being asked to buy it at PKR 1690 per MMBTU. *The News*.