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2-Factor Authentication in e-Invoice System/ E-Way Bill: Options, Steps and Importance

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EXPERT'S Column



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The Gujarat Sales Tax Bar Association (2021-2023) and Member of Indirect Tax Task Force:- The Gujarat Chamber Of Commerce And Industry (2022-2023). He is an accredited GST trainer from the National Academy of Customs, Excise & Narcotics, Faridabad. He has delivered lectures on GST at various trade forums, professional associations and also at departmental outreach programmes. He has also participated in various GST discussions in the print and electronic media.

To improve the security of the e-way bill and e-invoice system, National Informatics Centre (NIC) has introduced 2-Factor Authentication to log in to the e-way bill or e-invoice system. Besides username and password, the user would now require providing a one-time password (OTP) for authenticating the login.

What is two-factor authentication in e-invoicing?

Two-factor authentication (2FA), also referred to as dual-factor authentication or two-step verification, refers to a security process in which users provide two different authentication factors for verifying themselves.

Two-factor authentication is implemented to protect both the user's credentials and the resources the user can access. After registering for two-factor authentication, the same can be used for the e-Invoice system and the e-Way bill system.

Purpose of two-factor authentication

The goods and services tax department has introduced a two-factor authentication process for

- Accessing the e-invoice system and e-way bill system more efficiently
- Enabling the e-invoice system to be more efficient and robust

- Ensuring a secure environment for accessing the e-invoice/e-way bill system

Modes available for two-factor authentication on the e-invoice portal

Two-factor authentication has three different ways to receive the one-time password (OTP). The same are discussed below:

SMS: OTP is shared with the assessee on the registered mobile number as SMS.

Sandes app: Sandes app is a messaging app provided by the Indian government so that assesseees can send and receive messages. Assesseees can download and install this app with their registered mobile number and can receive a one-time password in it.

NIC GST Shield app: NIC-GST-Shield is a mobile application provided by e-Invoice System/ eWay Bill, so OTP can be generated using this app. NIC-GST-Shield app could be downloaded only from the e-Invoice/ e-Waybill portal. The assessee needs to follow to below steps to use the NIC-GST-Shield mobile app:

- The assesseees need to download, install and register this app with their registered mobile number.
- One must ensure that the time displayed in the NIC-GST-Shield app is in sync with the e-Invoice/ e-waybill system.
- On opening this app, a one-time password is displayed.

NIC-GST-Shield

Instructions for Installing and using NIC-GST-Shield mobile app.
(Important note: This app is common for both e-Way bill and e-Invoice System and needs to be installed only on registered mobile number. Please create sub-users incase the system is used by multiple users of your GSTIN.)

Step 1: Download NIC-GST-Shield app on Mobile [Download Android version](#) [Download IOS version](#)

Step 2: Confirm Date and time on mobile **Current Date & Time : 22-04-2022 12:58:23**

I confirm that date and time displayed on the screen is in sync with my mobile device.

Step 3: Open NIC-GST-Shield app on your mobile , authenticate by entering username / password and OTP.

Step 4: Now Scan the QR Code shown below using NIC-GST-Shield.

Step 5: On successful scan of QR Code, OTP will be generated on the NIC-GST-Shield App.

Step 6: Now, enter this OTP in the box :

[Submit](#) [Exit](#)

- The assessee could enter this OTP and continue with the authentication process. Every 30 seconds, the OTP gets refreshed. The assessee doesn't require internet to generate the OTP on this app.

Steps for setting up two-factor authentication

Step 1. On logging into the e-Invoice System, the user needs to go to Main Menu

Step 2. The user then needs to select two-factor authentication and confirm the registration.

Step 3. Once confirmed, the system will ask for a one-time password along with the username and password.

This facility has been introduced on an optional basis. However, it will be made mandatory in near future.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX
e - INVOICE SYSTEM

Register for 2 Factor Authentication(2FA).

You can opt for 2 Factor Authentication and receive the OTP in 3 ways

1. OTP will be sent to your Registered mobile number as **SMS** .
2. OTP will be sent to **Sandes App** installed on Registered mobile number. You may download the app using '**Install Sandes**' in the main menu.
3. OTP can be generated using **NIC-GST-Shield app** installed on Registered mobile number. You may install this app using '**Install NIC-GST-Shield**' in the main menu.

You may enter any of the OTP received and continue logging to e-Invoice/e-WayBill System

Do you wish to Register for SMS OTP based login ?

[Not Now](#) [Yes](#)

(The views expressed in this column are of the author and not that of Cotton Association of India)

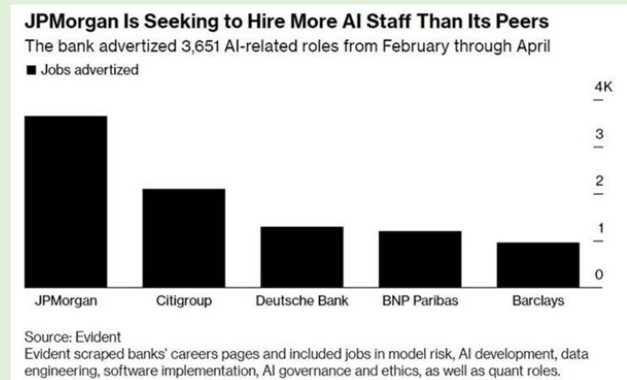
The Month That Was - Snippets for June 2023

Wall Street Banks Are Using AI to Rewire the World of Finance

Lenders are experimenting with artificial intelligence. Not even Warren Buffett is sure what happens next. Deutsche Bank AG is using artificial intelligence to scan wealthy client portfolios. ING Group NV is screening for potential defaulters. Morgan Stanley says its bankers are “experimenting” in a “safe and contained environment.” Meanwhile, JPMorgan Chase & Co. is hoovering up talent, advertising for more AI roles than any of its rivals.

The AI revolution is unfolding on Wall Street as wider interest grows in the evolving technology and its likely impact on business. At the most enthusiastic banks, about 40% of all open job roles are for AI-related hires such as data engineers and quants, as well as ethics and governance roles, according to new data from consultancy Evident. JPMorgan is leading the way.

The process has already begun, according to lawyers advising lenders on technology and

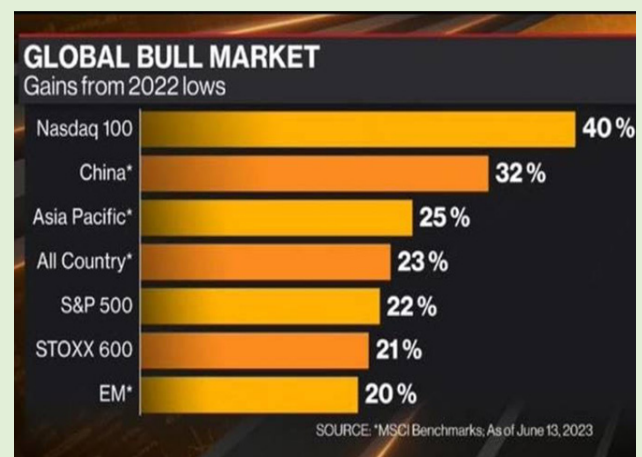


regulatory issues. Banks are using AI “to come up with more tailored hedging solutions through instruments like interest-rate swaps and equity derivatives, enabling them to offer better pricing to clients,” said Steven Burrows, a director at Fieldfisher LLP and a former derivatives trader. Deutsche Bank is deploying so-called deep learning to analyze whether international private banking clients are too heavily invested in a particular asset, and match individual customers with suitable funds, bonds or shares. Subject to regulatory compliance, human advisers then pass on AI-generated recommendations. “I’m a big fan of combining artificial and human intelligence,” said Kirsten-Anne Bremke, global lead on data solutions at Deutsche’s international private bank. JPMorgan has similar plans.

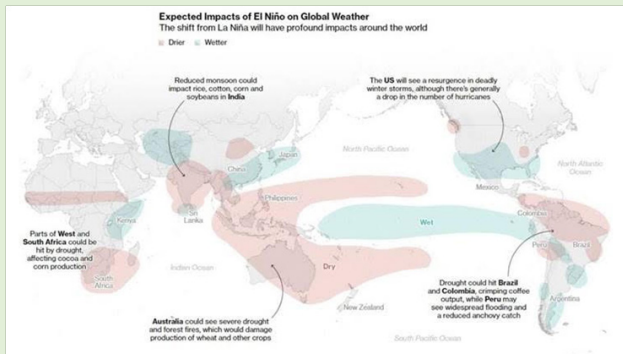
What You Need to Know About AI Technologies		
Type of AI	What it does	Example
Neural networks	Learn through trial and error, similar to a human brain	Facial recognition technology, automated translation systems
Machine learning	Feeding data into algorithms so they get more refined over time	Used in finance for fraud detection, credit scoring and portfolio management
Deep learning	Layers of neural networks taught to classify large datasets	High-frequency trading, algo trading, market forecasting
Natural language processing	Helps understand, process and generate speech and text	Enables banks to analyze news sentiment, regulatory filings, social media data
Predictive analysis	Uses historical and real-time data to forecast future outcomes	Helps Wall Street banks identify trading opportunities and optimize investment strategies
Generative AI	Creates visual or text works from simple prompts	Image and text generators Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, Dall-E
Large language models	Very large networks trained on massive amounts of text	The best-known LLMs are GPT-3 or GPT-4, which drive ChatGPT

Source: Bloomberg reporting

Global Bull Market in Stocks

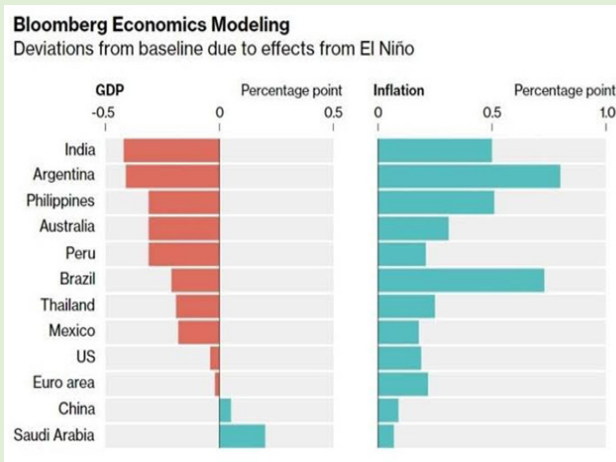


Return of El Niño Threatens New Levels of Economic Destruction



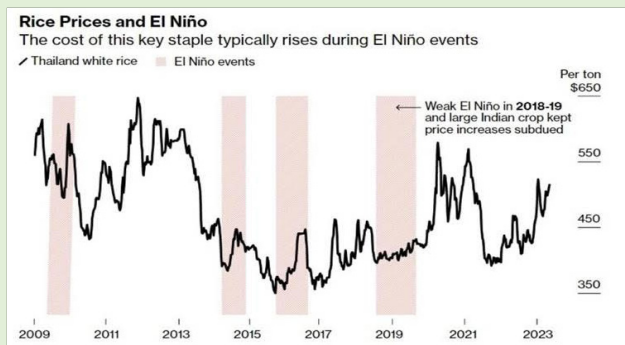
The world’s most potent climate phenomenon risks sparking a chain reaction of dangerous weather, food shortages and blackouts that can disrupt supply chains and stoke inflation. As the world struggles to recover from Covid-19 and Russia’s war in Ukraine grinds on, the arrival of the first El Niño in almost four years foreshadows new damage to an already fragile global economy. The shift to a warming phase from the cooler La Niña can generate chaos, especially in fast-growing emerging economies. Power grids strain and blackouts become more frequent. Extreme heat creates public health emergencies, while drought adds to fire risks. Crops are lost, roads are flooded and homes are destroyed. According to Bloomberg Economics modeling, previous El Niños resulted in a marked impact on global inflation, adding 3.9 percentage points to non-energy commodity prices and 3.5 points to oil.

El Niño Effect Lasts for Years



Economists at the Dallas Federal Reserve warned in 2019 that damage from El Niño cycles was “likely to have a persistent negative impact on output growth” and can even “possibly permanently alter income trajectories.” Climate researchers also found compounding economic effects. Dartmouth scientists estimated that the 1997-1998 El Niño led to \$5.7 trillion in lost gross domestic product the following five years. Their modeling estimates that by the end of this century, El Niños will have blocked some \$84 trillion in GDP. The risks are most acute in the tropics and the Southern Hemisphere. El Niños can trim almost half a percentage point off annual GDP growth in India and Argentina, according to Bloomberg Economics modeling. Peru, Australia and the Philippines can see reductions of about 0.3 percentage point.

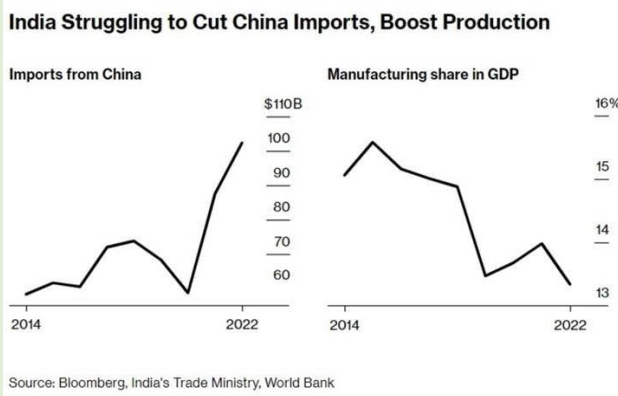
El Niño Results in Steep Price Increases



While some crops benefit from El Niño – higher rainfall in California benefits avocados and almonds – many staples including palm

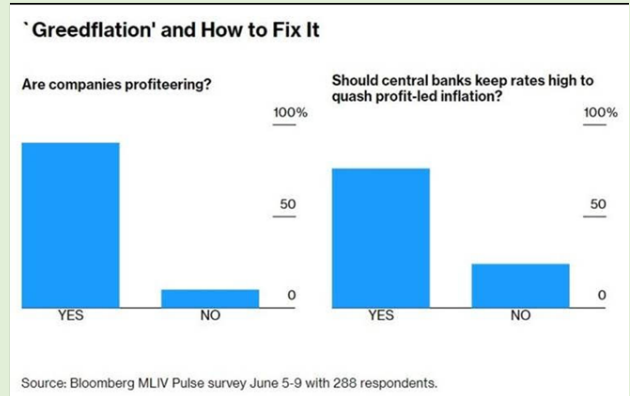
oil, sugar, wheat, cocoa and rice are produced in areas likely to face more challenging growing conditions. Charanjit Singh Gill, 67, a rice farmer in Punjab, is starting to think about what he’ll do if the monsoon doesn’t generate adequate rainfall for his 35 acres. “There is no way out but to spend more money running diesel-fired generators to pump groundwater,” he said. During the 2015-16 El Niño, his production costs surged by 35%, he said. The world’s poor will face the most dire consequences. Acute food insecurity is already at a record high of 222 million people due to the combined effects of conflict, economic shocks and weather extremes. The 2015-16 El Niño led to higher malnutrition rates and forced displacement and exacerbated outbreaks of cholera and typhoid, according to the United Nations.

The Road to India’s Ambitious Make-in-India Goal Runs Through China



India’s manufacturers are dependent on China for raw materials. High import duties, fiscal incentives are helping local producers. Sales doubled after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Made-in-India push saw import duties on toys ramped up from 20% to 70% over three years to 2023. But that’s just half the story: the production surge to meet those sales wouldn’t have been possible without raw materials like metallic pins, integrated circuits and LEDs imported from China. It’s a Catch-22 situation that ensnares companies in India making everything from a baby’s first toy to mobile phones: the more they try to ramp up production in competition with China, the more dependent they become on their northern neighbour for components and raw materials. India’s imports from China stood at \$102 billion in 2022, nearly double what it buys from its next two biggest markets – the United Arab Emirates and the US – combined.

Investors Say Fed Will Keep Rates High Thanks to Inflation Fuelled by Corporate Greed



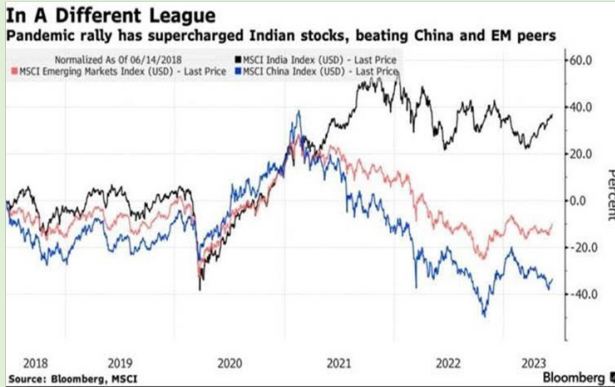
Surging profit margins that helped drive inflation will recede, according to majority of investors in a Bloomberg survey. Soaring corporate profits are a big part of the inflation problem, and keeping interest rates high is the best way to rein them in, according to Bloomberg’s latest poll of professional and retail investors. Some 90% of 288 respondents in a Markets Live Pulse survey said companies on both sides of the Atlantic have been raising prices in excess of their own costs since the pandemic began in 2020. Almost four out of five said that tight monetary policy is the right way to tackle profit-led inflation. One of the worst bouts of inflation in decades has spurred a search for explanations – with broken supply chains, big-spending governments and rising wages all shouldering some of the blame. But the surge in corporate markups is another potential cause that deserves attention, and is now getting it.

China Property Market Fizzling Out



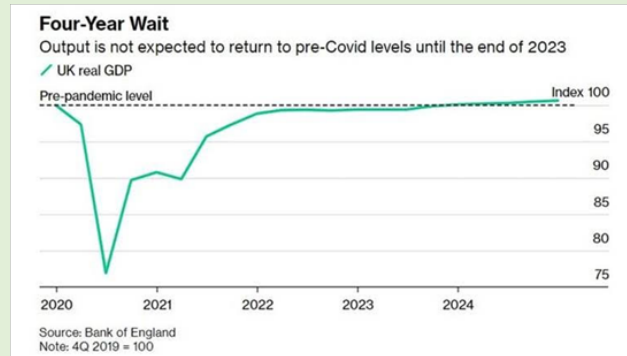
Chinese homeowners are losing conviction in their decades-long belief that property is a reliable store of wealth, undermining even coveted markets like Shanghai and adding pressure on authorities to find new sources of economic growth. Asking prices in the financial hub have slumped for three straight months, falling to the lowest level since before China emerged from Covid lockdowns at the end of last year, according to data compiled by Centaline Group. Despite surging inventory, transactions in the city tanked by one third to about 16,000 units in May compared with March, the Economic Observer reported this month.

Goldman Sees India Holding Its Own Even If China Stocks Rebound



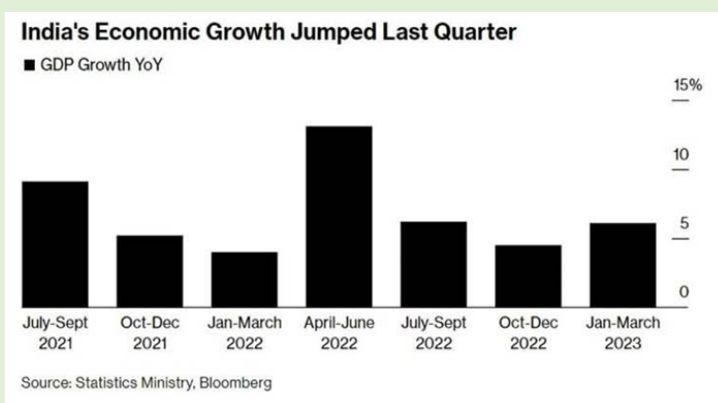
NSE Nifty 50 Index forecast to rise about 7% by March 2024. Recovery in Chinese equities expected to be gradual. A rebound in Chinese equities is unlikely to spur a strong rotation of funds out of India, where the benchmark index is headed for a record high amid a surge in foreign inflows. That’s the view from Sunil Koul, Goldman Sachs Group Inc.’s Asia Pacific equity strategist, who says the Indian market’s solid fundamentals will continue to lure long-term investors. Goldman has a target of 20,000 for the NSE Nifty 50 Index by end-March, implying an upside of almost 7% from current levels. India has been seen as one of the key beneficiaries as global sentiment toward Chinese equities soured due to a slower-than-expected recovery. “You may not see money coming out of India or at least you may not see a sharp selloff” even if China recovers,” he said.

UK Forecasters See Stronger Growth and Less Risk of Recession



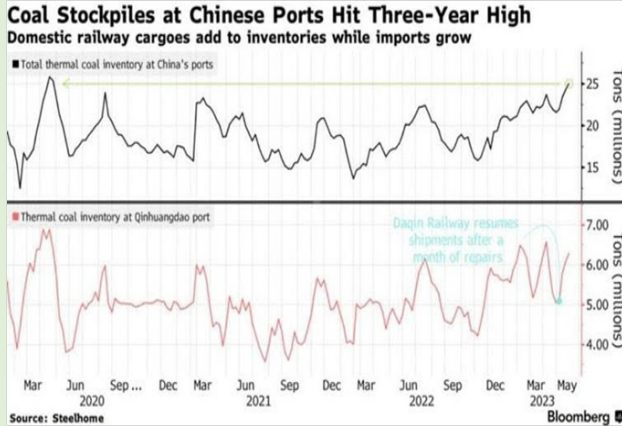
Bloomberg survey and CBI both boost estimates for 2023 GDP. Minority see rate rises and sticky inflation triggering slump. UK economic forecasters are stepping away from their recession predictions after falling energy prices and stronger-than-expected spending helped to support growth in the first half of 2023. Britain’s two biggest business lobby groups both are anticipating the economy will expand slightly this year, dodging two consecutive quarters of decline that they had previously expected. A Bloomberg survey of UK economists also shows the consensus for growth strengthening. Recent forecasts mark a sharp break with a minority of forecasters, who say that inflation and the threat of higher interest rates is likely to curtail both spending and confidence and bring about a downturn later in the year. Those gloomy voices have been increasingly silenced by surprisingly strong economic data.

Modi is Biden’s Man of the Moment



President Joe Biden’s administration views India as a crucial economic and strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific, a lynchpin of democracy in Asia, and a massive potential counterweight to China. It also sees India as a huge, largely untapped market for American businesses – including defence firms – and a key actor on global issues such as climate change. He’ll be tough to beat in federal elections in 2024, so countries around the world will likely be dealing with a Modi-led India possibly until 2029. His entrenched position as India’s leader for what could be a 15-year stretch.

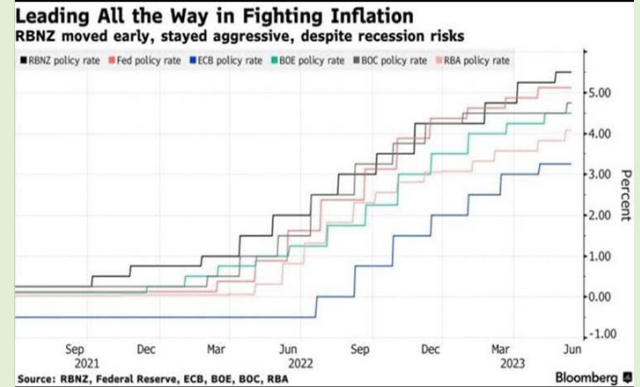
Key Charts to Watch in Global Commodity Markets



This week gasoline consumption in the US continues to increase as the summer driving season gets underway. Elsewhere, stockpiles of thermal coal at Chinese ports are on the rise, while surging copper inventories signal a softening market. Here are five charts to consider in global commodities this week.

Thermal coal stockpiles at China's ports are at the highest levels since April 2020 as companies import the power-plant fuel to meet summer demand. A slowdown in consumption of the fuel in Europe means more supplies are seeking a home in Asia. That's coinciding with higher rail shipments of domestic coal from Chinese mines. Qinhuangdao port's inventories surged in May after the key Daqin railway line ended a month of repairs.

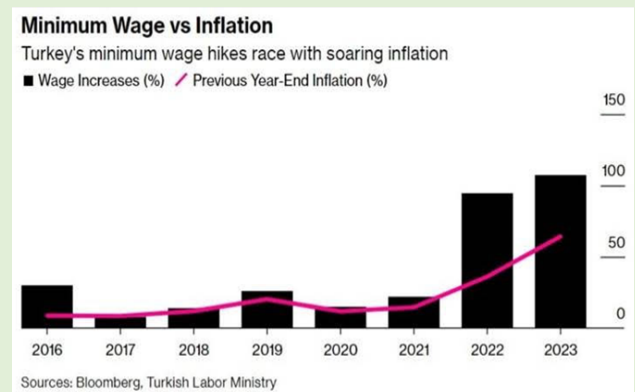
Pacesetter New Zealand's Recession May Be Harbinger for World



Gross domestic product declines for a second straight quarter. Recession confirmation comes four months ahead of an election. New Zealand led the world in raising interest rates to combat the post-pandemic inflation wave. Now it's officially in recession in a possible harbinger of what lies ahead for others. Gross domestic product fell 0.1% from the fourth quarter, when it dropped a revised 0.7%, according to Statistics New Zealand. These two quarterly contractions meet the local definition of recession. New Zealand was one of the first to begin raising rates when inflation surged after the pandemic, with its Reserve Bank delivering 5.25 percentage points of hikes in less than 20 months – outpacing even the Federal Reserve. Now the impact is starting to be felt as households already grappling with soaring prices see mortgage repayments jump.

Turkey's Minimum Wage Hike Race with Soaring Inflation

Turkey raised its minimum wage for a second time this year, potentially adding to inflationary pressures making the job of the country's new economic team harder. The monthly net minimum wage will rise by 34% to 11,402 liras (\$483), Labor Minister Vedat Isikhan said in televised comments. That's an increase of 107% from the end of last year. While it signals the commitment of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who won re-election last month, to improve economic



conditions for people on low wages, it could end up accelerating price rises. Inflation has slowed since last year, but still stands at 40%.

UPCOUNTRY SPOT RATES								(Rs./Qtl)					
Standard Descriptions with Basic Grade & Staple in Millimetres based on Upper Half Mean Length [By law 66 (A) (a) (4)]								Spot Rate (Upcountry) 2022-23 Crop June 2023					
Sr. No.	Growth	Grade Standard	Grade	Staple	Micronaire	Gravimetric Trash	Strength /GPT	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th
1	P/H/R	ICS-101	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4%	15	17716 (63000)	17687 (62900)	17687 (62900)	17659 (62800)	17603 (62600)	17519 (62300)
2	P/H/R (SG)	ICS-201	Fine	Below 22mm	5.0 – 7.0	4.5%	15	17856 (63500)	17828 (63400)	17828 (63400)	17800 (63300)	17744 (63100)	17659 (62800)
3	GUJ	ICS-102	Fine	22mm	4.0 – 6.0	13%	20	13216 (47000)	13216 (47000)	13188 (46900)	13160 (46800)	13104 (46600)	13048 (46400)
4	KAR	ICS-103	Fine	23mm	4.0 – 5.5	4.5%	21	13835 (49200)	13835 (49200)	13835 (49200)	13779 (49000)	13723 (48800)	13638 (48500)
5	M/M (P)	ICS-104	Fine	23mm	4.5 – 7.0	4%	22	15691 (55800)	15691 (55800)	15691 (55800)	15635 (55600)	15550 (55300)	15466 (55000)
6	P/H/R (U) (SG)	ICS-202	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4.5%	26	15213 (54100)	15213 (54100)	15157 (53900)	15072 (53600)	14988 (53300)	14875 (52900)
7	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	26mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	26	15494 (55100)	15438 (54900)	15382 (54700)	15297 (54400)	15185 (54000)	15044 (53500)
9	M/M(P)/SA/TL/G	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.0 – 3.4	4%	25	14172 (50400)	14172 (50400)	14172 (50400)	14060 (50000)	13919 (49500)	13779 (49000)
10	M/M(P)/SA/TL	ICS-105	Fine	27mm	3.5 – 4.9	3.5%	26	14960 (53200)	14904 (53000)	14904 (53000)	14847 (52800)	14763 (52500)	14622 (52000)
11	P/H/R(U)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.5 – 4.9	4%	27	16169 (57500)	16085 (57200)	16028 (57000)	15944 (56700)	15860 (56400)	15747 (56000)
12	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	27	15578 (55400)	15607 (55500)	15635 (55600)	15578 (55400)	15466 (55000)	15353 (54600)
13	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	27	15635 (55600)	15663 (55700)	15691 (55800)	15635 (55600)	15522 (55200)	15410 (54800)
14	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	28mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	27	15888 (56500)	15916 (56600)	15916 (56600)	15832 (56300)	15663 (55700)	15522 (55200)
15	R(L)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	28	16085 (57200)	16085 (57200)	16028 (57000)	15972 (56800)	15860 (56400)	15747 (56000)
16	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	28	15860 (56400)	15888 (56500)	15916 (56600)	15832 (56300)	15719 (55900)	15578 (55400)
17	SA/TL/K	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	28	15888 (56500)	15916 (56600)	15944 (56700)	15860 (56400)	15747 (56000)	15607 (55500)
18	GUJ	ICS-105	Fine	29mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	28	16169 (57500)	16169 (57500)	16169 (57500)	16085 (57200)	15944 (56700)	15832 (56300)
19	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.5	3.5%	29	16085 (57200)	16113 (57300)	16141 (57400)	16113 (57300)	15972 (56800)	15860 (56400)
20	SA/TL/K/O	ICS-105	Fine	30mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	29	16113 (57300)	16141 (57400)	16169 (57500)	16141 (57400)	16000 (56900)	15888 (56500)
21	M/M(P)	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	30	16338 (58100)	16366 (58200)	16394 (58300)	16366 (58200)	16225 (57700)	16085 (57200)
22	SA/TL/K / TN/O	ICS-105	Fine	31mm	3.7 – 4.5	3%	30	16394 (58300)	16422 (58400)	16450 (58500)	16422 (58400)	16281 (57900)	16141 (57400)
23	SA/TL/K/ TN/O	ICS-106	Fine	32mm	3.5 – 4.2	3%	31	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)	N.A. (N.A.)
24	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	33	20021 (71200)	20021 (71200)	19965 (71000)	19937 (70900)	19825 (70500)	19684 (70000)
25	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	34mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	34	20190 (71800)	20190 (71800)	20106 (71500)	20078 (71400)	19965 (71000)	19825 (70500)
26	M/M(P)	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	4%	35	20556 (73100)	20556 (73100)	20471 (72800)	20415 (72600)	20246 (72000)	20106 (71500)
27	K/TN	ICS-107	Fine	35mm	2.8 - 3.7	3.5%	35	20809 (74000)	20809 (74000)	20668 (73500)	20612 (73300)	20471 (72800)	20331 (72300)

(Note: Figures in bracket indicate prices in Rs./Candy)