



**DOMESTIC NEWS**

The Kenya shillings struck a new all-time low against the dollar on Tuesday weighed down by foreign currency demand from oil retailing companies and the manufacturing sector. Commercial banks quoted the shillings at 124.15/35 per dollar compared to Monday’s close of 124.05/25.

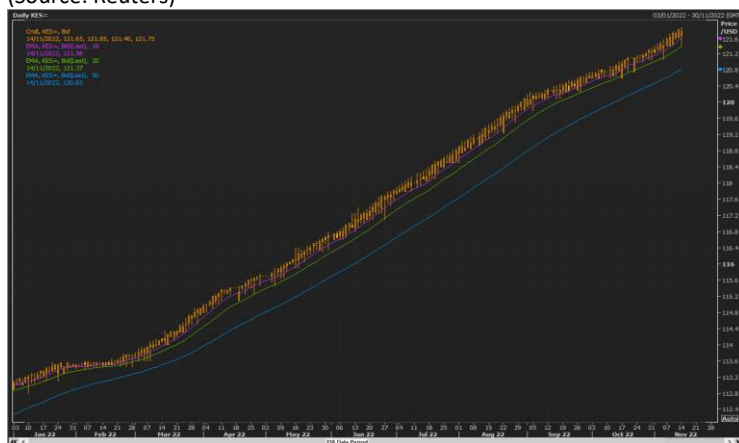
In other news locally, Kenya could soon start exporting its goods outside the East African Community (EAC) market with the implementation of a tripartite agreement that is expected to be implemented in March this year. The free trade pact that brings together three regional business blocs — the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), EAC and South African Development Community, was mooted seven years ago. However, it stalled after it did not meet the required number of member states to ratify it before its implementation. Christopher Onyango, director of Trade and Customs at COMESA secretariat, said achieving the tripartite dream is a complex process that requires a lot of commitment including financial but pointed out that at least three of the members who are yet to ratify have indicated their willingness. *(Business daily)*

**Indicative Forex Rates**

	Buy Cash	Sell Cash	Buy TT	Sell TT
USD/KES	120.30	131.80	120.30	130.80
GBP/KES	149.24	162.24	148.44	163.14
EUR/KES	130.57	144.47	130.87	147.37
AED/KES	29.84	42.84	31.84	39.84

Amounts > 10 million		Amounts >100,000
KES		USD
2 Weeks	7.00%	1.25%
1 Month	7.00%	2.00%
3 Months	7.50%	2.50%
6 Months	8.00%	3.25%
1 year	8.50%	4.00%

(Source: Reuters)



**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

The dollar edged lower against the euro on Tuesday after data showed euro zone business activity made a surprise return to modest growth in January, while U.S. business activity shrank for a seventh straight month. The dollar had briefly gained on the euro after the U.S. data, slipped to trade lower on the day, not far from the 9-month lows hit in the previous session. The euro was 0.09% higher at \$1.0881, just shy of the 9-month high of \$1.0927 touched on Monday. The common currency was backed by survey data supporting the view that the euro zone economy was weathering a winter of intense price pressures reasonably well.

Against the Yen, the dollar rose to a near 1-week high, before giving up those gains to trade down 0.44% to 130.095 yen. Last week, the greenback fell to as low as 127.215 yen, its weakest since May, ahead of a Bank of Japan policy review at which investors bet the central bank might signal the end of its stimulus program. The BOJ, however, left policy unchanged, giving the dollar some respite. Lastly on currencies Sterling was one of the worst-performing major currencies against the dollar, falling 0.34% on the day to \$1.2334, after a survey showed British private-sector economic activity fell at its fastest rate in two years in January.

In the commodities markets, Crude oil edged up on Wednesday as optimism for demand recovery in China and a likely unchanged output cut decision by major oil producers offset global recession worries. Brent crude rose 22 cents, or 0.3%, to \$86.35 per barrel by 0501 GMT after falling 2.3% in the prior session. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude climbed 13 cents, or 0.2%, to \$80.26 per barrel, after a 1.8% drop on Tuesday.

Gold prices on the other hand steadied near a nine-month high on Wednesday as fears of a looming recession kept haven demand elevated, while copper prices rose on expectations that a recovery in Chinese demand will help offset slowing consumption in other countries. Spot gold was flat at \$1,937.64 an ounce, while gold futures rose 0.2% to \$1,938.35 an ounce. The yellow metal’s spot price narrowed the gap with the futures contract, ahead of the latter’s expiry in February.

Finally in the Crypto markets, bitcoin was little changed on the day at \$22,973, steadying after having jumped by about a third in value since early January, as investors shook off pessimism after the high-profile collapse of crypto exchange FTX. *(Reuters)*

**Indicative Cross Rates**

	Bid	Offer
EUR/USD	1.0705	1.1125
GBP/USD	1.2195	1.2645
USD/ZAR	15.6726	19.1776
USD/AED	3.6626	3.6836
USD/JPY	128.30	132.85