

## Today's economic highlights...

### It's Time to Consider Evasive Action on Inflation

- Bloomberg - There's a first time for everything. My generation arrived in the workforce just as inflation was ceasing to be a serious problem (at least in much of the West). Since the early 1990s, consumer price inflation has stayed firmly under control. There have been undulations and oscillations, and times when the risk of inflation needs to be taken into account. But there's never been a time when my generation of 50-somethings had to deal with inflation as something that's real and matters. For people younger than me, the notion becomes ever more abstract and hypothetical. Anyone who knows any basic economics understands the concept, but it has ceased to be a driving force in politics or the economy. There have been plenty of other ills, but not rising consumer prices.
- That's over. Whichever way you look at it, official U.S. data suggest inflation is the highest in 30 years, and rising. It's plenty possible, indeed likely, that this will prove a transitory phenomenon. But for now it's real and undeniable, and we have to deal with it. Thus, a wave of people under 60 have discovered the delights of digging through the entrails of official inflation data. It's made for a fascinating but confusing day.
- I have an ongoing attempt to keep track of all of this. The latest update of the Authers Indicators inflation heat map is [here](#). We've updated it in light of the new data. Now to venture into the thickets of the latest debate. Brace yourself for charts. [Read more...](#)

### Dollar hits three-month high to euro on bets for faster Fed tightening; kiwi soars

- TOKYO (Reuters) - The U.S. dollar touched a three-month high versus the euro and a one-week high versus the yen on Wednesday, after heated U.S. inflation spurred bets of faster monetary policy tightening than Federal Reserve officials have so far signalled.
- The New Zealand dollar jumped as much as 0.8% to 70.07 U.S. cents after the Reserve Bank of New Zealand said Wednesday it would halt its large-scale asset-purchase programme. On Tuesday, the [kiwi](#) had sunk as low as 69.18 cents for the first time since November.
- The greenback strengthened to \$1.17720 per euro, the highest since April 5, for a second day running, and was last little changed from Tuesday at \$1.17780. [Read more...](#)

### Oil Down, Drop in Chinese Crude Imports Prompts Fuel Demand Concerns

- Investing.com – Oil was down Wednesday morning in Asia, after data showing that [China's crude imports](#) dropped in the first half of 2021 triggered fuel demand

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concerns. However, the black liquid still remained near a one-week high as supply concerns persist alongside the economic recovery from COVID-19.

- [Brent oil futures](#) were up 0.34% to \$76.23 by 12:43 PM ET (4:43 AM GMT) after jumping 1.8% during the previous session. [WTI futures](#) were down 0.45% to \$74.91, after gaining 1.6% on Tuesday.
- Crude imports in China, the world's top oil importer, reportedly dropped by 3% from January to June 2021 year-on-year. Import quota shortages, refinery maintenance and rising global prices led to reduced purchases that resulted in the first such contraction since 2013. [Read more...](#)