Weekly Market Update

23 March 2026

BCP BANK (MAURITIUS)

The US dollar rose on Monday as escalating retaliatory threats in the Middle East conflict curbed risk appetite and lifted demand for safe-haven assets. The heightened volatility in markets has tended to benefit the greenback as a store of liquidity. The U.S. is also a net energy exporter, giving it a relative advantage over Europe and much of Asia, which are net importers. On another note, before the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran in late February, investors had priced in two cuts by the Federal Reserve this year. But even one cut is now considered a distant prospect, and other major central banks are turning more hawkish.
The euro was trading a shade lower at $1.1545 this morning, but away from major supports at $1.1409 and $1.1392. the European Central Bank kept rates on hold on Thursday, but warned of inflation driven by energy prices.
The Pound Sterling attracted some sellers to around $1.3315 during the early European session on Monday, dragged by the firmer US Dollar. The preliminary readings Purchasing Managers Index from the United Kingdom and the United States will be released later on Tuesday. The Bank of England held rates at 3.75% last week, and warned that the “oil shock to the economy” will likely push UK inflation higher in the short term. Furthermore, disappointing labour market data, including a rise in the unemployment rate, dented traders’ confidence in the GBP.
The Japanese Yen weakened 0.14% to around $159.50 on Monday as equities sold off across Asia. With the yen weakening back toward the key $160 level, Japan’s top currency diplomat A. Mimura signalled caution about speculative activity in oil markets spilling over into foreign exchange.
The Australian dollar underperformed its major currency peers, and was last down 0.7% to $0.6970 in the early European trade on Monday, amid the heightened risk-off market mood in the wake of the escalating conflicts in the Middle East. On the monetary policy front, the RBA raised its Official Cash Rate by 25 basis points to 4.10% last week, as expected, and warned that inflationary pressures could accelerate further amid the energy crisis.
The Indian rupee continued to remain under pressure, depreciating near the $94 level. As per analysts, the decline reflects a combination of elevated crude prices, persistent foreign outflows, and a structurally strong US dollar due to the ongoing war in the Middle East. The rupee opened at $93.738 and was last quoted at $93.928.
The South African rand began the week at its lowest level in four months as the escalating hostilities in the Middle East kept oil prices high, stoking inflation worries ahead of a much-anticipated rate decision. At 0651GMT, the rand traded at $17.2275, down 1.3% from its previous close, at its weakest level since late November 2025. Domestically focused investor attention will be pinned on the central bank’s rate decision on Thursday. Economists polled by Reuters expect the bank to keep its main lending rate steady at 6.75%. The SARB’s governor told Reuters earlier this month that the bank will revise its risk scenarios for its next policy meeting as the Middle East conflict continues to push oil prices higher.

Source: (Reuters)

INDICATIVE SPOT AND FORWARD MUR RATES

	USD	EUR	GBP
SPOT	46.10/47.00	53.02/54.57	61.12/62.95
1 MTH	46.11/47.01	53.03/54.58	61.13/62.96
3 MTH	46.12/47.02	53.04/54.59	61.14/62.97

Source: BCP Bank (Mauritius) Ltd.

LATEST WEIGHTED TREASURY BILLS YIELDS

91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS
3.82%	4.17%	4.38%

Source : Bank of Mauritius

CURRENCY QUOTES

CURRENCY	OPENING	OPENING LAST WEEK
EUR/USD	1.1551	1.1441
GBP/USD	1.3324	1.32525
USD/ZAR	17.11695	16.8628
USD/JPY	159.425	159.565

INDICATIVE USDSOFR, EURIBOR & SONIA RATES

	USD	EUR	GBP
O/N	3.62000	1.934	3.7294
1 MTH	3.67786	1.919	3.7383
3 MTH	3.70623	2.111	3.8578
6 MTH	3.72813	2.406	4.0848

LOCAL MARKET

Last week the USD/MUR traded within a range of 46.947/47.24, the EUR/MUR traded within a range of 54.34/54.53 and the GBP/MUR traded within a range of 62.93/63.25

Results of last week auctions held by the Bank of Mauritius

- On the 18th of March was held an auction of 91-Day and 364-Day Government of Mauritius Treasury Bills for a nominal amount of MUR 1,000.0 Million and MUR 1,500.0 Million respectively. Out of the 17 bids received (representing MUR 6,600.0 million), 8 were allocated as follows: 7 bids received for 182-Day for MUR 2,100.0 million and 4 allocated for the tender amount at a weighted average yield of 3.82%; 10 bids received for 364-Day for MUR 4,500.0 million and 4 allocated for MUR 1,700.0 million at a weighted average yield of 4.38%.

- On the 18th of March was also held an auction of 182-Day Bank of Mauritius Treasury Bills for a nominal amount of MUR 4,000.0 Million. 8 bids (representing MUR 6,550.0 million) were received, and 5 were accepted for the auction amount at a weighted average yield of 4.17%.

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THIS WEEK MAJOR ECONOMIC INDICATORS (GMT Time)

23 Mar	19:00	EUR	Consumer Confidence
24 Mar	13:00	EUR	HCOB Manufacturing & Services PMI
24 Mar	13:30	GBP	S&P Global Manufacturing & Services PMI
24 Mar	17:45	USD	S&P Global Manufacturing & Services PMI
25 Mar	04:30	AUD	C.P.I.
25 Mar	11:00	GBP	C.P.I.
25 Mar	13:30	GER	IFO – Business Climate
26 Mar	16:30	USD	Weekly Jobless Claims
27 Mar	11:00	GBP	Retail Sales
27 Mar	18:00	USD	Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index

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