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MACRODATA

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TRADE

Exports (Monthly in Million USD)

Imports (Monthly in Million USD)

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Forex Reserves (Month-End Levels in Million USD)

Balance of Payments (Monthly in Million USD)

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

PRICES

Inflation % (Monthly)

Exchange Rate (Monthly Average in PKR)

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

ENERGY

Prices

MoM% Change in Prices

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Trends in Electricity Generation

AIR QUALITY

Average Monthly AQI

Average Monthly PM2.5

Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

Macroeconomic Crises and Economic Recovery: The Labor Market Angle

Since 2000-01, Pakistan has negotiated six IMF programs to address balance of payments crises. These programs have resulted in major adjustments that include sharp devaluation of the rupee and cut back in public expenditure including public investment. However, there has been little discussion on the impact this has on the labor market, especially on the wages and factors interlinked with wages. This article explores the questions pertaining to the labor market and the impact of the IMF program.

This note is authored by Ijaz Nabi (Executive Director, CDPR and Country Director, IGC Pakistan) and Elva Arshad (Research Associate, CDPR).

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POLICY ANALYSIS

Sustainable Pakistan: Addressing climate-driven demands and fiscal challenges for electricity

This month's Policy Analysis section features a brief by the IGC discussing why an affordable and reliable electricity supply continues to be an elusive goal for the households of Pakistan and how they can attain it. The brief emphasizes that Pakistan's power sector is facing an affordability crisis, driven by high costs stemming from foreign-exchange-linked capacity payments, widespread theft, and inefficient collection. This situation worsens the country's fiscal stability. Climate change further exacerbates the problem by increasing demand for cooling, with a 1°C rise potentially surging electricity demand by 8.5%.

The authors of the brief Tim Dobermann (Research Director, IGC), Sajid Faiz (Country Economist, Pakistan, IGC), Faraz Hayat (Postdoctoral Researcher, IGC) and Zuhair Khan (Country Economist, Pakistan, IGC) highlight that Pakistan possesses significant untapped potential in wind and solar power. By utilizing these renewable energy sources, implementing comprehensive tariff reforms, and modernising its aging infrastructure, Pakistan can transition towards a more sustainable and affordable energy future, ensuring long-term economic and energy security.

READ MORE

LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT

Gateway to Growth: Export Policy as a Catalyst for Pakistan's Economy

Pakistan's economy is known for its volatile 'boom-and-bust' framework. When it experiences bouts of growth and stability, trade and industrialisation imbalances force it two steps backwards, trapping it in a cycle that relies on imports to sustain Pakistan in an increasingly polarising and unpredictable global context. In this episode, Usman Khan and Hamid Yaqoob Sheikh talk about trade solutions ranging from tariff reforms, non-tariffs and locally-based solutions, export-oriented growth, and diversification of the textile industry. They discussed how Pakistan's industrialisation should be supported by governmental bodies and relevant stakeholders to ensure its long-term economic security and success.

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FELLOWS' ARTICLES

Inclusive or exclusive growth?

THE government has clearly stated that inclusive growth is its foremost priority. This is reassuring, but will require reforms in the economic and development agendas of both the government and its international partners. Losing no time, we must prioritise people's needs, particularly for the poorest households.....

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Examination Leaks

THE A-Level examinations are still in progress, but there have been allegations that some papers were 'leaked', as per newspaper reports and statements attributed to officials at the Inter Board Coordination Commission. There was even a session of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Education where the matter was discussed.....

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Scant Relief, Mounting Burdens

AFTER being questioned on pre-budget claims, the finance minister clarified in a press conference that the proposed budget principally provides a 'direction of travel' for relief. This caveat is useful to bear in mind because the actual scale of relief for overtaxed segments, such as the salaried class, remains limited.....

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Zeba Sathar

Faisal Bari

Umair Javed

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In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uninformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research on development issues in Pakistan to an audience of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

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