



Consortium for
Development
Policy Research



Newsletter

September 2026

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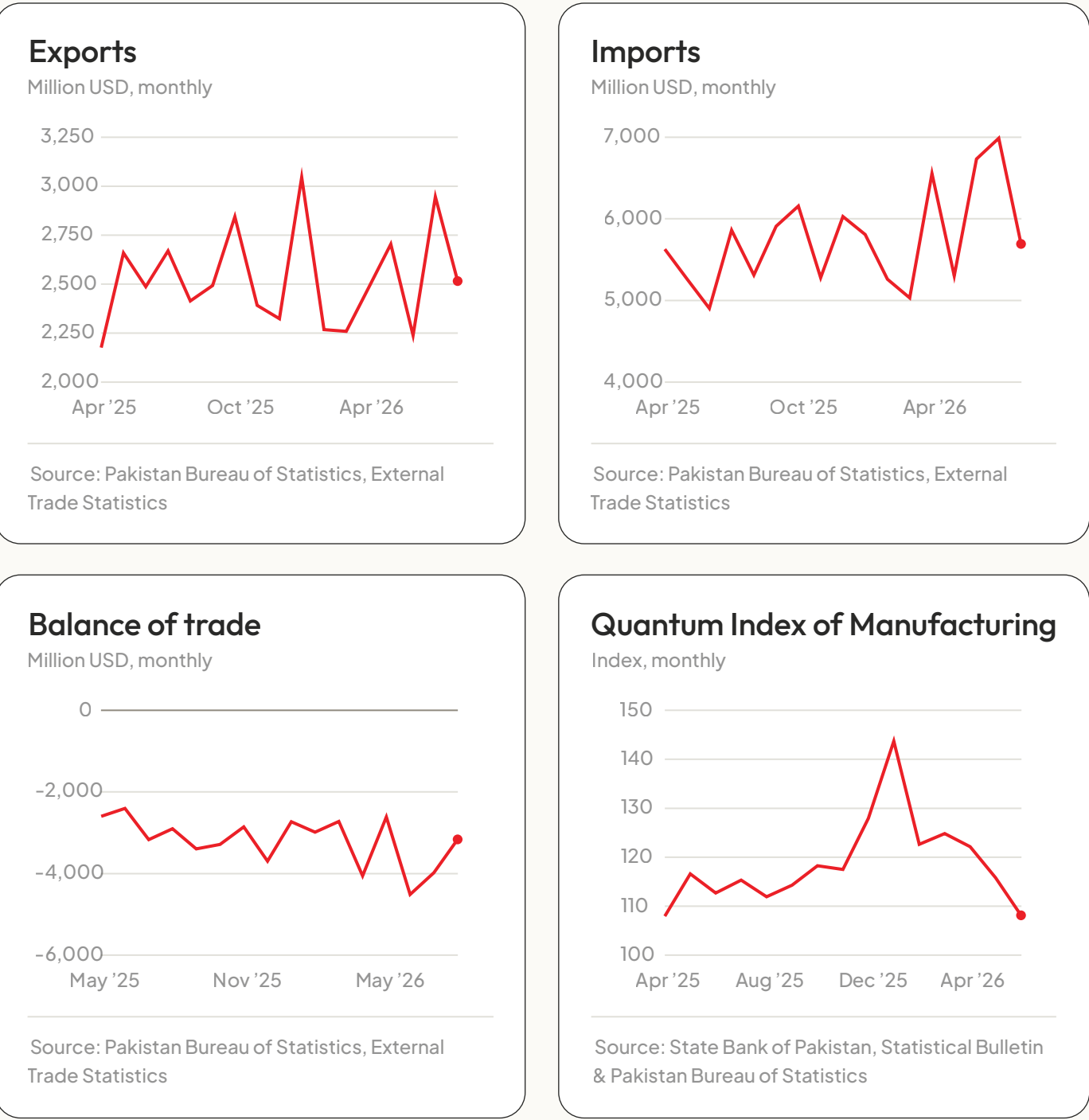
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MACRO DATA

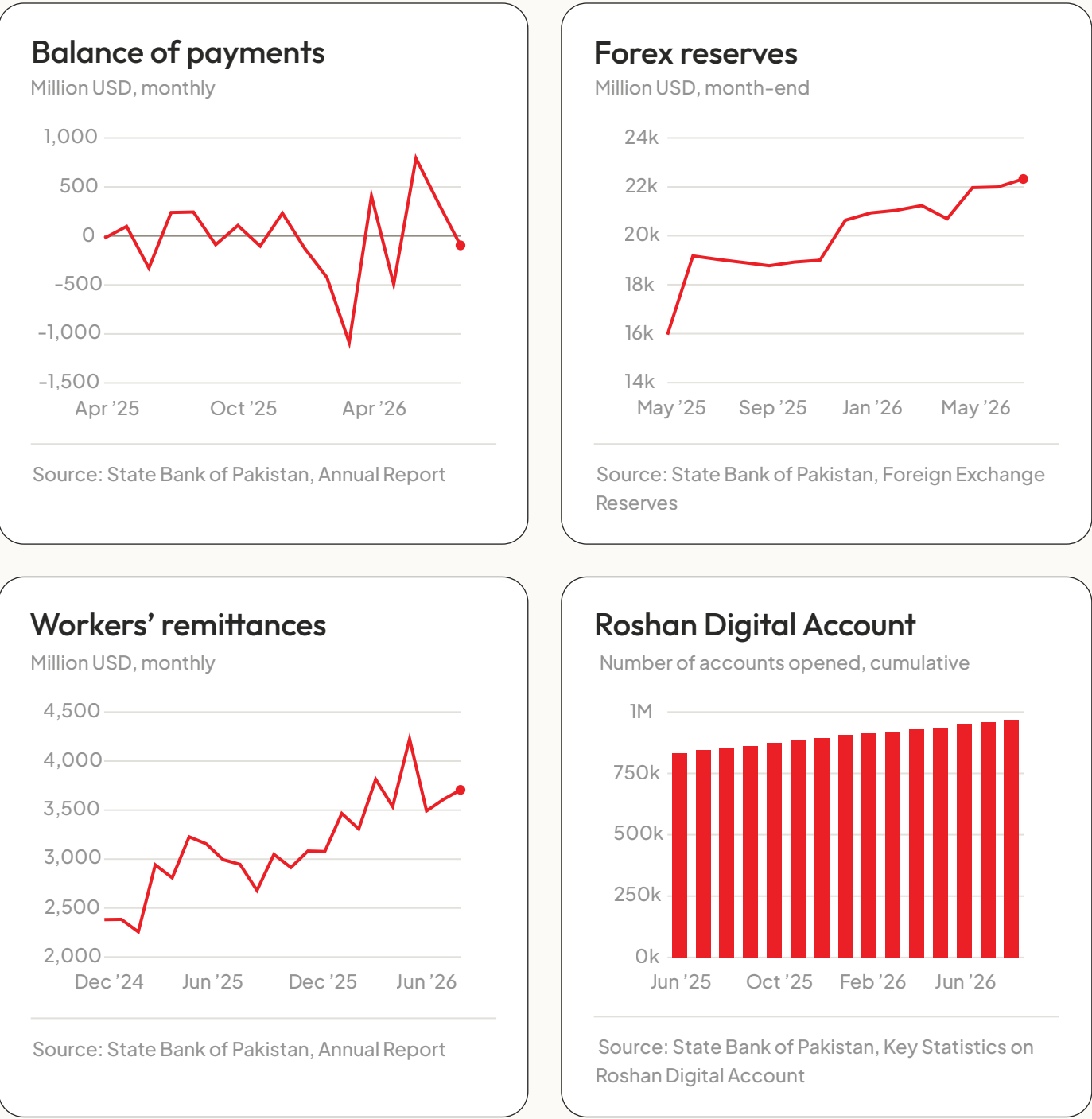
Pakistan's economy, month by month

Year-on-year inflation continued its upward trajectory into August, while month-on-month growth held steady. At the same time, monthly exports pulled back after a July peak. The charts below track Pakistan's key economic trends across trade, the balance of payments, prices, energy and air quality.

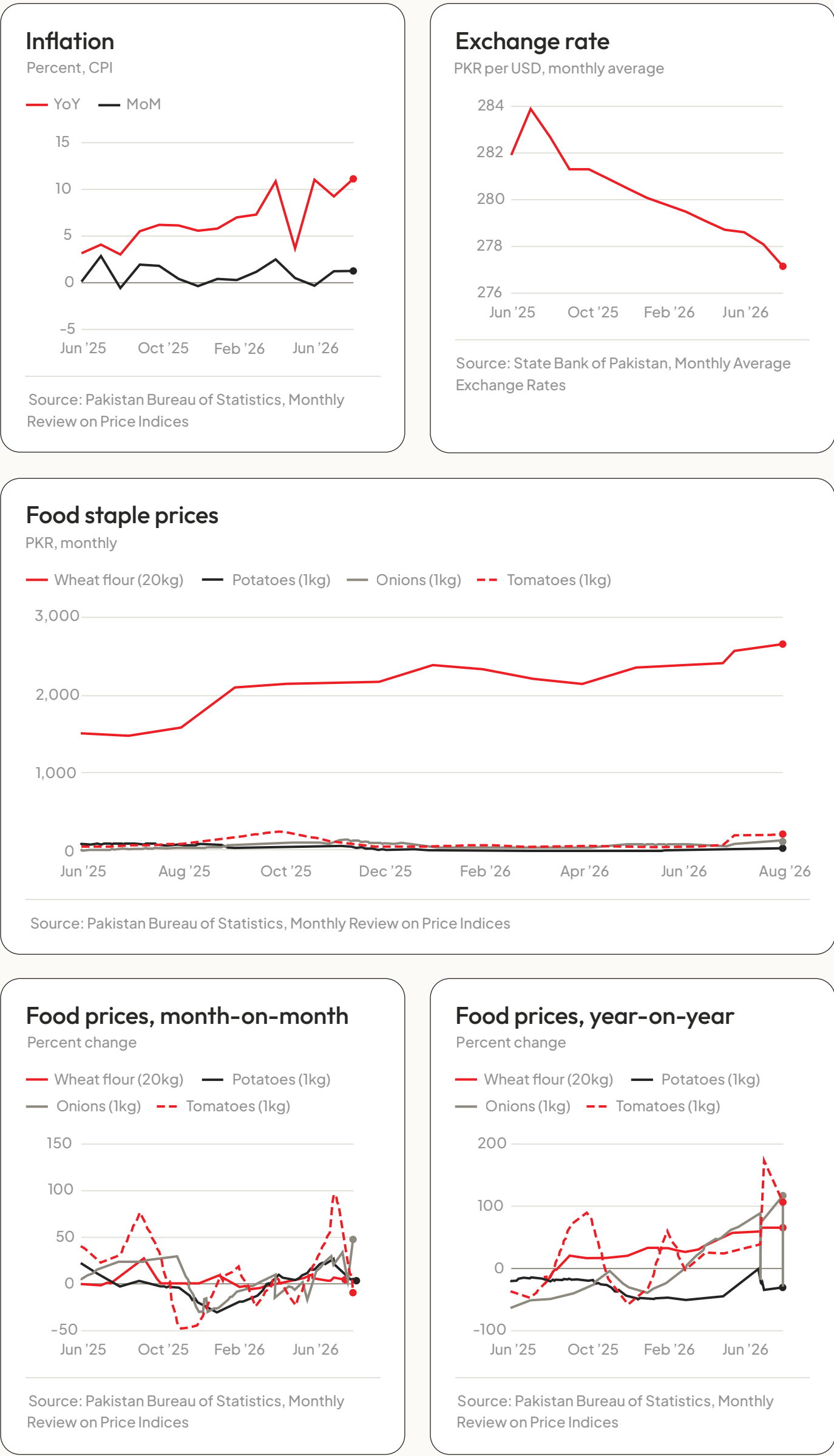
4.1 Trade



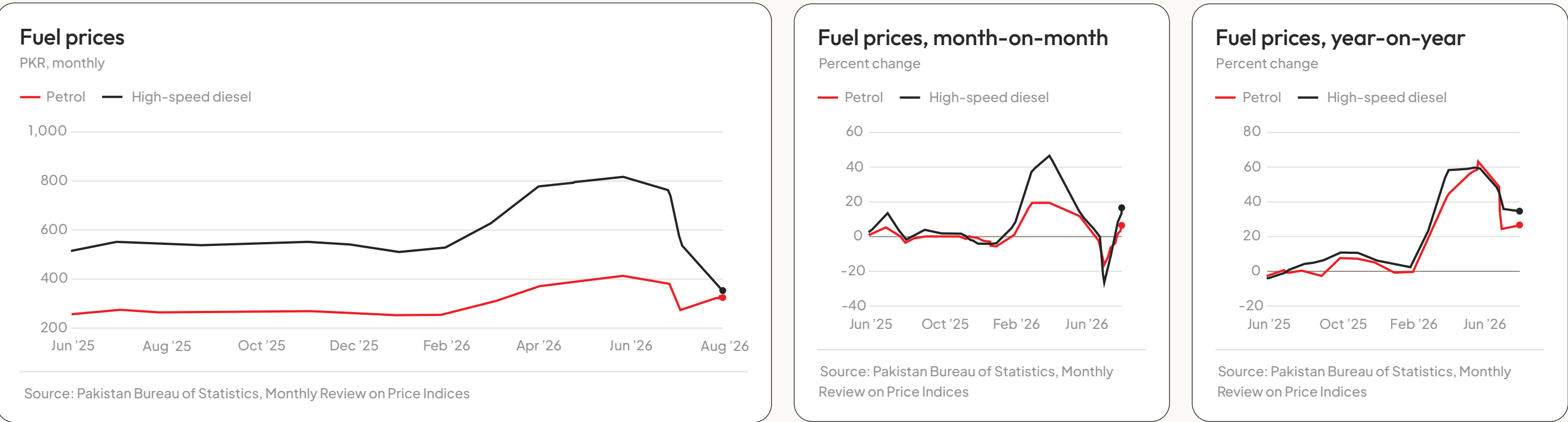
4.2 Balance of payments



4.3 Prices



4.4 Energy



INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

Power, Politics, and Profits in Pakistan's Electricity Sector

Power producers earn high returns. Consumers pay for them.

This article maps out Pakistan's Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), explores the risk-rent connection that is enabling power producers to achieve high returns at the expense of consumers, and the weak regulatory environment within the power sector. It looks at neighbouring markets that face similar risks and high competition, and recommends key strategies for improvement.



EVENTS

Shaping Punjab's Climate Agenda: Priorities, Evidence and Next Steps

On 30 September 2026, the Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) and the International Growth Centre (IGC) hosted the workshop Shaping Punjab's Climate Agenda: Priorities, Evidence and Next Steps at the Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore. It brought together government departments, researchers, the private sector and civil society to turn broad climate commitments into budgeted, sequenced and evidence-based provincial priorities. Dr. Ijaz Nabi (Executive Director, CDPR and Country Director, IGC) delivered the opening remarks, Iftikhar Ali Sahoo (Additional Chief Secretary, Punjab) was Chief Guest, and Tayyab Zia (Additional Secretary, EP&CCD, Government of Punjab) gave the keynote address.

The workshop ran in three sessions. Session 1 identified Punjab's climate challenges and the decisions the government needs to take, Session 2 drew on global lessons for adaptation, and Session 3 examined mitigation and carbon market readiness. This note summarises the key takeaways and way forward from each.

[Watch here](#)



LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT | PODCAST

Climate Change, Unequal Cities and the People Left Behind

From choking winter smog to flooded monsoon streets, Pakistan's cities are feeling the weight of a changing climate, and the poorest residents are paying the highest price. In the first episode of Season 4, Dr. Maryam Ibrahim (Human Geographer and Assistant Professor at LUMS) sits down with Dawar Hameed (Public Policy Analyst and co-founder of Climate Action Pakistan) to ask an important question: who are our cities really built for?

Together, they explore how rapid urban growth and short-term fixes have left cities increasingly vulnerable to environmental shocks. They discuss why climate change is often used to deflect responsibility, why data rarely shapes decisions, and why real accountability is still missing.

Watch on Youtube

Listen on Apple Podcast





88%

of farmers in Ghanche District were willing to adopt therecommended practices

POLICY ANALYSIS

Climate-smart agriculture in Gilgit-Baltistan

A recent IGC study by Amjad Ali et al. in Ghanche District, Baltistan, introduced Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) to local farmers through locally tailored soil testing and farmer training. The study also found that farmers' behavioural traits influenced their attitudes towards CSA, showing that adoption is shaped by more than just socio-economic factors. The findings suggest that agricultural extension services in mountainous areas should be adapted to local soil and climate conditions, while also addressing the financial and knowledge barriers that stop farmers from adopting new practices.

Willingness wasn't the problem. Many farmers faced financial constraints and lacked the know-how to follow through.

[Read here](#)

FELLOWS IN PRINT

Our fellows in the national press



Dawn | Op-ed

Managing external debt

ISHRAT HUSAIN

[Read here](#)



Dawn | Op-ed

Extraction and delivery

UMAIR JAVED

[Read here](#)

ABOUT CDPR

In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uniformed 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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