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President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi (2014-present) arrives in Nairobi (Kenya) on 11 May to participate in the Africa-France Summit. The Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) reports on 6 May that annual urban inflation rate unexpectedly slowed to 14.9% in April from 15.2% in March, even as the war in Iran results in higher fuel costs and a weakening pound. Egypt on 6 May launches the first phase of its \$4.5 billion monorail project that is part of a broader plan to connect the historical capital Cairo with its satellite cities and the \$58 billion New Administrative Capital (NAC) in the desert.

El-Sisi attends Africa-France summit

President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** (2014-present) [arrived](#) in Kenya on 11 May to participate in the **Africa-France Summit** held in **Nairobi** (Kenya) on 11 and 12 May under the theme 'Africa Forward: Africa-France Partnerships for Innovation and Growth Summit'. The event marked the first time the summit was hosted in a non-Francophone country. Several high-level officials attended the event, including **African Union Commission (AU)** chairperson, **Mahamoud Ali Youssouf**, France's President **Emmanuel Macron** (2017-present), **United Nations (UN)** secretary general **António Guterres** and representatives from international financial institutions. These leaders met to discuss issues such as economic growth across Africa, digital transformation, energy cooperation, reform of the global financial system and Africa's place in the global order.

While [speaking](#) at the summit's opening ceremony, El-Sisi thanked Kenya's President **William Ruto** (2022-present) and Macron for co-hosting, and acknowledged their remarks on reforming the global system to address the concerns of the developing world. While emphasising that there is "*no development without peace and no peace without development*," El-Sisi warned that prevailing geopolitical tensions continue to harm African economies:

*"It is obvious that the growing geopolitical tensions, including in the **Middle East**, have repercussions that undermine the stability of international supply chains and negatively impact energy and food security, even more severely impacting our African nations..."*

He further called for key reforms such as debt-for-development swaps, increased green bonds, and stronger support for African exports and industrial growth. While highlighting Egypt's ongoing economic reforms and infrastructure development, El-Sisi also presented Egypt as a gateway for investment and cooperation across Africa. At the summit, El Sisi also attended a state dinner co-hosted by Ruto and Macron, with discussions focusing on bolstering Africa's cooperation with France, advancing development partnerships, and addressing regional crises affecting the continent. He also used his time in Kenya to [engage](#) with other leaders, including **Chad's** President **Mahamat Idriss Deby** (2024-present) to pledge deeper trade, investment and infrastructure cooperation.

El-Sisi's participation in the summit also reaffirmed Egypt's efforts to position itself as a leading African actor pushing for reform of the global financial system, stronger African economic integration and expanded international investment partnerships. This is particularly significant given the division between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. Egypt has generally focused mostly on Middle East issues, particularly amid the war and instability in the region, so the Africa-France Summit represents an effort to reinforce its relations with the rest of Africa. Meanwhile, the summit showed that France is expanding its engagement with the continent beyond its traditional partnerships in **West Africa**,

while Kenya has seen its geopolitical profile rise by hosting the summit and being invited to June's **Group of Seven (G7) Summit in Évian-les-Bains (France)**.

Inflation reduces to 14.9% as central bank holds rates

The **Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS)** [reported](#) on 6 May that annual urban inflation rate unexpectedly slowed to 14.9% in April from 15.2% in March, despite the war in **Iran** spurring higher fuel costs and a weakening pound.

Food and beverage prices, the largest component of the inflation basket, increased by 6.7% in April from 5.8% in March – its highest in 10 months. Housing and utilities prices quickened further in April (38.5% vs 35.3% in March), driven by higher electricity costs. Inflation moderated for health (9.3% vs 17%) and for restaurants and hotels categories (12% vs 12.8%), while decreasing but remaining elevated for transportation at (29.2% vs. 39.4%). On a monthly basis, consumer prices in Egypt slowed to 1.1% from a 3.2% surge in March, driven by a reduction in food and beverage prices. Annual core inflation, which stripes out volatile items, eased to 13.8% in April from 14% in March.

Despite being far from the war's epicentre in the **Persian Gulf**, its impact has been significantly felt in Egypt due to the effective closure of the **Strait of Hormuz** – through which 20% of the global energy supplies flow. Billions of dollars of foreign-portfolio investment have exited; the pound has traded at record lows, hovering above EGP 52 per **United States (US)** dollar, and authorities have increased energy prices at least three times since the conflict began in February. Given the unexpected decline in inflation, analysts had expected the **Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** would hike interest rates but this did not materialise.

The CBE announced in a statement on 21 May that it has [decided](#) to hold rates for a second consecutive meeting, as it seeks to contain the impact of the war. By leaving the benchmark deposit rate at 19% and the lending rate at 20%, the MPC continues its "*wait-and-see approach*" adopted at its 2 April meeting where it decided to hold rates for the first time since November. The pause follows a monetary-easing cycle the CBE embarked on in 2025 - the MPC on 12 February cut rates for a second consecutive meeting to their lowest levels since mid-2023, paving the way for increased business borrowing and potentially accelerating an economic revival (*See ARC Briefing Egypt Feb 2026*). However, economists [forecast](#) that the CBE may raise borrowing costs by 200 basis points this year to contain rising prices and deal with ongoing geopolitical uncertainty from the war. The MPC will meet next on 2 July.

Egypt inaugurates first phase of \$4.5 billion high-speed monorail...

Egypt on 6 May [launched](#) the first phase of its \$4.5 billion monorail project that is part of a broader plan to connect the historical capital **Cairo** with its satellite cities and the \$58 billion **New Administrative Capital (NAC)**, 45km from Cairo. As part of the launch, a 16-stop section of the monorail project that links the NAC to the outskirts of eastern Cairo started accepting regular passengers and will operate from 6am to 6pm daily. This monorail project will be a particularly vital link for Egypt's NAC.

A consortium of **French** multinational rail transport manufacturer **Alstom SA**, Egyptian construction company **Arab Contractors** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**-headquartered contracting group **Orascom Construction Plc** built the [railway](#) over seven years. When fully complete, the monorail project will feature two routes; a 56km eastern line that will connect the NAC to **Cairo International Stadium** on the outskirts of Cairo and a separate 43km western line that will run from a square on the western banks of the **Nile River** to **6th of October City**, a modern development located beyond the historic **Pyramids of Giza**.

Beyond the monorail project, other key transportation infrastructure project under construction include expansions to Cairo's metro, a rapid transit bus system and a high-speed electric train that will connect Egypt's **Mediterranean** and **Red Sea** coasts. The high speed project is part of a \$23 billion deal with **German**-headquartered **Siemens Mobility GmbH**, Orascom Construction and Arab Contractors to build a 2,000km rail network that will link dozens of cities. Egyptian property

developer **Talaat Moustafa Group (TMG)** CEO **Hesham Talaat Moustafa** also [announced](#) plans on 18 April for a EGP 1.4 trillion (\$27 billion) mega city the company will build on the outskirts of Cairo. The mega city will not only help alleviate congestion in Cairo but also signal Egypt's continued ability to attract major investments despite ongoing economic pressures (*see ARC Briefing Egypt Apr 2026*). The new city is the latest in a series of megaprojects that have been built or planned in Egypt in recent years, the most notable being the \$58 billion NAC and the planned UAE-backed \$35 billion **Ras El-Hekma** development on the Mediterranean coast, in which TMG is involved.

These developments have come to symbolise El-Sisi's 12 year rule while stretching the country's finances. These developments and the inauguration of the monorail project come as the country faces higher energy prices and a weaker pound as a consequence of Middle East conflict. Authorities say that such new public transport options provide Egypt, North Africa's most populous country, with an opportunity to reduce its fuel expenditure and consumption. However, authorities have faced major [criticisms](#) for the costly spending on infrastructure and new cities. Critics blamed these projects for contributing to Egypt's economic troubles, noting that they diverted resources away from urgent needs, increased the debt burden and contributed to a foreign currency crunch. Authorities argue that the developments and expansion of the country's infrastructure are prerequisites for a modern economy that aims to attract foreign investment and boost exports.

Planner

2 Jul 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Central Bank of Egypt's (CBE) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meets;

Chronology

22 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Reuters**. Supply minister **Sherif Farouk**, speaking at a grains event in **Sochi (Russian)**, says Egypt, the biggest buyer of Russian wheat, aims to create a global grain trading and storage hub;

21 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Daily News Egypt**. Egypt issues \$1 billion in eight-year social and development bonds at a 6.7% yield, marking the first sovereign issuance in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** region since the escalation of the **Iran** conflict;

21 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Reuters**. **QatarEnergy** says it has signed a preliminary deal with **United States (US)**-headquartered **ExxonMobil** and Egypt's government to study the development and commercialisation of gas discoveries in **Cyprus** using Egypt's existing gas and LNG infrastructure;

19 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Daily News Egypt**. Egypt and **Algeria** are working to deepen their agricultural cooperation and economic partnerships through shared expertise in desert land reclamation, digital farming and livestock improvement;

18 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Daily News Egypt**. Egypt and **Rwanda** conclude a four-day meeting in Cairo to advance bilateral water cooperation, discussing initiatives that include rainwater harvesting, groundwater exploration and flood protection;

17 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Daily News Egypt**. Planning and economic development minister **Ahmed Rostom** meets with a **World Bank** regional director **Almud Weitz** to discuss an innovative financing model that combines public, private and foreign capital to fund major national infrastructure projects;

15 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Reuters**. **United Kingdom**-headquartered **BP**, which has invested more than \$35 billion in Egypt over six decades, is considering selling some of its natural gas assets in the country, as it restructures to cut debt and refocus on more profitable projects;

13 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt) Reuters**. Egypt and the **International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation** sign a \$1.5 billion loan agreement to support food and energy security in Egypt;

12 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** and **Chad's** President **Mahamat Idriss Deby** meet at the **Africa-France** summit in **Nairobi (Kenya)** to pledge deeper trade, investment and infrastructure cooperation;

9 May 2026 **New Borg El Arab (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** and **France's** President **Emmanuel Macron** reaffirm the strategic partnership between Egypt and **France** during the inauguration of the new **Senghor University** campus;

5 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. **Chemicals and Fertilizers Export Council of Egypt (CEC)** executive director **Mohamed Mageed** reports that Egypt and **Romania** are working to deepen trade ties in the chemical and fertiliser sectors after a bilateral meeting held in **Bucharest** (Romania), with Egyptian exports to Romania already reaching \$220m in 2025;

4 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. Planning minister **Ahmed Rostom** notes that economic growth accelerated to 5.3% in the first half of the current fiscal year, driven by strong performances in the industry, trade, construction, communications and tourism sectors;

3 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. **Monterra Developments** enters the Egyptian market via a joint Egyptian-**Russian** partnership, launching the EGP 25-billion (\$466.25m) **Monterra Bay** project on the **North Coast**;

3 May 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Reuters*. Egypt raises natural gas prices for several energy-intensive industries – including cement, iron and steel, non-nitrogen fertilisers and petrochemicals - by an average of \$2 starting in May;

29 Apr 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. Industry minister **Khaled Hashem** and **Japan's** ambassador to Egypt, **Iwai Fumio**, meet to discuss expanding strategic investments, with a specific focus on technology localisation in the automotive, pharmaceutical and electronics sectors;

28 Apr 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. Petroleum and mineral resources minister **Karim Badawi** meets with **Turkish** officials and mining executives in **Istanbul** (Türkiye) to expand bilateral investment and technical cooperation in the energy and mineral sectors;

27 Apr 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Bloomberg*. Businesses in Cairo have resumed operating later into the night following the easing of energy restrictions imposed by the government;

26 Apr 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. Foreign affairs, international cooperation and expatriates minister, **Badr Abdelatty**, announces that Egypt is working to redefine its strategic partnership with the **United States (US)** by shifting the narrative from a security-centric focus to one of economic cooperation in sectors like energy and technology;

22 Apr 2026 **Cairo (Egypt)** *Daily News Egypt*. President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** and **Finnish** President **Alexander Stubb** meet in Cairo to strengthen bilateral cooperation in sectors such as digital transformation, renewable energy, and healthcare;

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