

# The Weekly Observer

A selection of economic publications  
by our Knowledge Management team  
June 23, 2017



## UN - World Population Prospects The 2017 Revision

The current world population of 7.6 bn is expected to reach 8.6 bn in 2030, 9.8 bn in 2050 and 11.2 bn in 2100. With roughly 83 mn people being added to the world's population every year, the upward trend in population size is expected to continue, even assuming that fertility levels will continue to decline. The new projections include some notable findings at the country level. China (with 1.4 bn) and India (1.3 bn) remain the two most populous countries, comprising 19 and 18% of the total global population. In roughly seven years, or around 2024, the population of India is expected to surpass that of China. Among the ten largest countries worldwide, Nigeria is growing the most rapidly. Consequently, the population of Nigeria, currently the world's 7th largest, is projected to surpass that of the United States and become the third largest country in the world shortly before 2050.

Read: [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017\\_KeyFindings.pdf](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2017_KeyFindings.pdf)

## ECB - When do countries implement structural reforms?

The objective of this paper is to investigate which factors - macroeconomic, policy-related or institutional - foster the implementation of structural reforms. To this objective, the authors look at episodes of structural reforms over three decades across 40 OECD and EU countries and link them to such factors. Their results suggest that structural reforms implementation is more likely during deep recessions and when unemployment rates are high. Moreover, the further distant from best practices, the more likely a country implements reforms. External pressures, such as being subject to a financial assistance programme, or being part of the EU Single Market facilitated pro-competitive reforms. If at all, low interest rates tend to promote rather than discourage structural reforms, while there seems no clear link between fiscal policy and reforms. Moreover, reforms in product markets tend to increase the likelihood of labour market reforms following suit.

Read: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpwps/ecb.wp2078.en.pdf>

## Bruegel - How to handle state-owned enterprises in EU-China investment talks?

Chinese state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are one of the main obstacles preventing China and the European Union from agreeing a bilateral investment agreement. Creating barriers to prevent Chinese companies acquiring European assets will not solve the problem, but bringing Chinese corporate governance closer to global market principles will be essential to ensure European and Chinese corporates operate on an equal footing in their cross-border investment decisions.

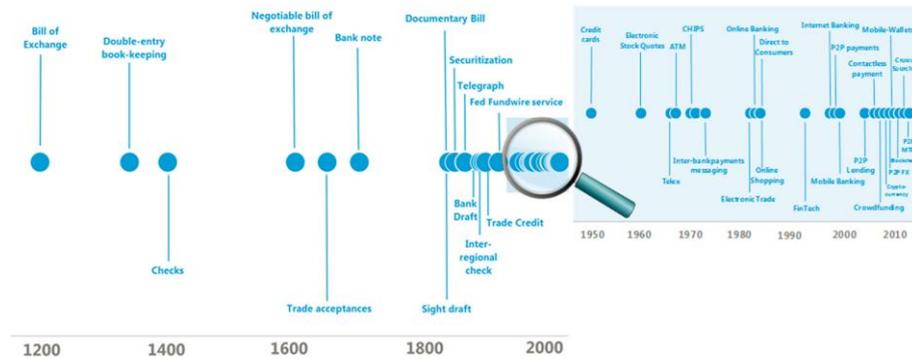
Read: [http://bruegel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PC-18-2017\\_1.pdf](http://bruegel.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PC-18-2017_1.pdf)

## IMF - Fintech and Financial Services Initial Considerations

Accelerating Pace of Technological Progress in Financial Services

# The Weekly Observer

A selection of economic publications  
by our Knowledge Management team  
June 23, 2017



Read: <http://www.imf.org/~media/Files/Publications/SDN/2017/sdn1705.ashx>

Terms of use: The content of this publication is provided as general information only. All material is taken directly from publicly published reports.