# **Day Break**

Tuesday, December 16, 2025



Monetary Policy History				
Date	Stance	<b>Policy Rate</b>		
15-Dec-25	-50bps	10.5%		
27-Oct-25	Status Quo	11.0%		
15-Sep-25	Status Quo	11.0%		
30-Jul-25	Status Quo	11.0%		
16-Jun-25	Status Quo	11.0%		
5-May-25	-100bps	11.0%		
10-Mar-25	Status Quo	12.0%		
27-Jan-25	-100 bps	12.0%		
16-Dec-24	-200 bps	13.0%		
04-Nov-24	-250 bps	15.0%		
12-Sep-24	-200 bps	17.5%		
29-Jul-24	-100 bps	19.5%		
10-Jun-24	-150 bps	20.5%		
29-Apr-24	Status Quo	22.0%		
18-Mar-24	Status Quo	22.0%		
29-Jan-24	Status Quo	22.0%		
12-Dec-23	Status Quo	22.0%		
30-Oct-23	Status Quo	22.0%		
14-Sep-23	Status Quo	22.0%		
31-Jul-23	Status Quo	22.0%		
26-Jun-23	Status Quo	22.0%		
12-Jun-23	+100 bps	22.0%		

Source: SBP, IGI Research

### Economy

### SBP Cuts Policy Rate by 50bps to Stand at 10.5%

- In the latest Monetary Policy Announcement (link), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) decided to slash rate by 50bps to 10.5%. Since Jun-24 SBP has cumulatively cut interest rates by 1150bps. MPC noted that inflation remained within target range of 5-7% during Jul-Nov 2025, however core inflation remains sticky. The Committee noted that inflation outlook remains unchanged largely due to lower commodity prices and prudent monetary stance. Economic activity has picked up with higher than expected increase in LSM during 1QFY26. However, global environment remains challenging especially for exports. Thus, ensuring price stability MPC assessed that there was further room to cut rates to support economic growth.
- The Committee noted few key developments since last MPC meeting. SBP's Forex Reserves increased above US\$ 15.8bn post receipt of US\$ 1.2bn from IMF. Overall and primary balance recorded surplus mainly led by SBP profit transfer. Although commodity prices remain supportive, however overall global environment remains fluid with evolving tariff dynamics and challenging financial conditions.
- Inflation is likely to increase above SBP's target range during 2HFY26 and normalize within the range in FY27. However, core inflation remains elevated. We expect inflation for FY26 between 6-7%. In our view, SBP is likely to monitor impact of external risks, impact of Afghan Border closure and potential energy price adjustments going forward. Geopolitical tensions, PKR depreciation and energy price adjustments remain key risks to inflation outlook.

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Exhibit: Monetary Policy Rate Decision				
	Current	Previous	Chg. (bps)	
Target Policy Rate	10.50%	11.00%	50bps	
Discount rate (Ceiling Rate)	11.50%	12.00%	50bps	
Floor Rate	9.50%	10.00%	50bps	

Source: SBP, IGI Research

### **Analyst**

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The Committee noted few key developments since last MPC meeting. The Labor Force Survey 2024-25 pointed to increase in unemployment rate compared to 2020-21 however, there was improvement recorded from last survey. Secondly, SBP's Forex Reserves increased above US\$ 15.8bn post receipt of US\$ 1.2bn from IMF. Latest SBP-IBA survey showed improvement in consumer confidence while business confidence moderated slightly. Overall and primary balance recorded surplus mainly led by SBP profit transfer. Although commodity prices remain supportive, however overall global environment remains fluid with evolving tariff dynamics and challenging financial conditions.

Considering the recent developments and risks, MPC noted that real policy rates are adequately positive to stabilize inflation in the target range of 5-7% in medium term and contribute towards economic growth. The Committee noted continued monetary and fiscal policies along with structural reforms is likely to ensure a durable and higher growth trajectory.

Exhibit: Nationa	al CPI Hea	t Map										
	Nov-25	Oct-25	Sep-25	Aug-25	Jul-25	Jun-25	May-25	Apr-25	Mar-25	Feb-25	Jan-25	Dec-24
General	6.1	6.2	5.6	3.0	4.1	3.2	3.5	0.3	0.7	1.5	2.4	4.1
Food	5.5	5.6	5.0	-1.8	0.9	2.6	3.1	-4.8	-5.1	-4.1	-3.1	0.3
Transport	6.1	6.7	4.2	2.5	2.7	0.6	-2.5	-3.9	-1.2	-1.1	0.7	-2.5
Utility/Rent	5.3	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.6	-3.3	-2.5	-2.6	-2.2	-0.6	1.5	3.4
Essentials	6.9	8.3	8.4	8.5	8.5	9.1	9.6	9.6	12.2	12.2	12.2	13.2
Disc.	7.6	8.0	7.2	7.3	7.6	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.2

Source: PBS, IGI Research

### Key takeaways from analyst briefing

SBP in its post MPS briefing highlighted key updates, which included:

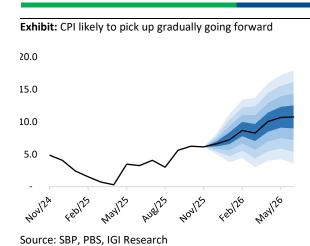
- C/a deficit stood at US\$ 0.7bn during 4MFY26, in line with MPC's expectation. Imports increased in line with improving economic activity while remittances continued to remain strong. However, exports remain subdued owing to decline in food exports mainly due to lower rice exports. Although net inflows remain depressed, SBP's FX reserves crossed Dec-25 target of US\$ 15.5bn led by continued purchases from market. Lower oil prices are likely to restrict import growth going forward, however exports are likely to remain under pressure. SBP expects C/a deficit to remain within 0-1% of GDP in FY26 while realization of planned official inflows are likely to push SBP's reserves to US\$ 17.8bn.
- High-frequency indicators depict a strong economic momentum across key sectors. In agriculture, latest information on wheat crop

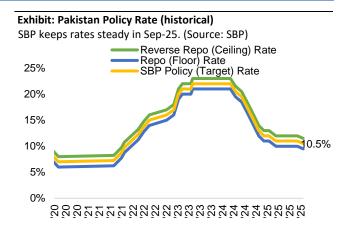


area, input conditions and incentive schemes backed by Government point towards wheat output surpassing its target. Moreover, LSM increased by 4.1% during 1QFY26. Growth in automobiles, cement, fertilizer sales along with import of machinery and intermediate goods have improved industrial activity outlook. These positive developments in commodity producing sectors are likely to support growth in services sector as well. GDP is now expected to be in the upper half of the projected range of 3.25-4.25%.

- M2 Broad Money accelerated to 14.9%y/y as of 28-Nov-25 since last MPC meeting driven by increase in net budgetary borrowings from banking system. Private sector credit increased by PKR 187bn during 5MFY26 with Textile, chemicals and wholesale & retail sectors as key borrowing sectors. Consumer financing especially automobile loans have improved owing to easing financial conditions, improved consumer sentiment and stable macroeconomic environment. Currency in circulation remained unchanged while increase in deposits led to overall decline in currency to deposit ratio.
- Debt repayments for FY26 stand at US\$ 25.8bn including US\$
   4.0bn in interest and US\$ 21.8bn in principal. Out of these US\$
   5.3bn have been rolled over and US\$ 4.4bn repaid. Out of the remaining US\$ 16.1bn, US\$ 9.3bn is expected to be rolled over during 2HFY26 while US\$ 6.8bn will be repaid. SBP's forward short positions stand at US\$ 2bn.
- Official inflows during 1HFY26 stood at US\$ 2.1bn including US\$
   1.2bn received from IMF while remaining US\$ 0.9bn received from other sources. SBP expects FX reserves to increase substantially in 2HFY26 leading to SBP achieving its FX target for Jun-26. SBP is confident that Pakistan will achieve 3 months import cover by Jun-26.
- SBP's FX interventions were higher during Oct-Nov, 2025 compared to Jul-Aug, 2025.







### Outlook

Inflation is likely to increase above SBP's target range during 2HFY26 and normalize within the range in FY27. However, core inflation remains elevated. We expect inflation for FY26 between 6-7%. In our view, SBP is likely to monitor impact of external risks, impact of Afghan Border closure and potential energy price adjustments going forward. Geopolitical tensions, PKR depreciation and energy price adjustments remain key risks to inflation outlook.



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