


 Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025

**ECB hopes to hit 2% inflation target in 2025, Lagarde says**

The European Central Bank's 2% inflation target is in sight, according to President Christine Lagarde. "We have made significant progress in 2024 in bringing down inflation and hopefully 2025 is the year when we are on target as expected and as planned in our strategy," she said. "Of course, we will continue our efforts to ensure that inflation stabilizes sustainably at that 2% medium-term target."

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 02/01/25)

**PBOC seen delaying reserve ratio cut after \$233bn cash injection last month**

China's central bank injected massive liquidity into the market at the end of 2024 without using high-profile stimulus, as officials preserve policy space before US President-elect Donald Trump returns to office. The People's Bank of China flagged it could free more cash for banks by cutting the reserve requirement ratio again by the end of 2024. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 02/01/25)

**PBOC boosts support for Yuan after currency's year-end tumble**

China is keeping its hand firmly on the yuan, supporting the currency via the official daily reference rate after it slid to the weakest level since 2022 at year-end in offshore trading. The People's Bank of China set the so-called fixing, which confines yuan's trading onshore to a 2% range on either side, at 7.1879 per dollar today[02/01]. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 02/01/25)

**UK house price growth accelerates in December**

UK house prices increased at a faster pace in December, the Nationwide Building Society says. House prices grew 4.7% year-on-year in December, faster than the 3.7% increase in November, and stronger than economists' forecast of 3.8% gain.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 02/01/25)

**India manufacturing activity logs softest expansion in 2024**

India's manufacturing sector growth remained strong at the end of the year, but at the weakest pace in 2024 amid slower increases in output, new orders, and stocks of purchases, data compiled by S&P Global shows. The HSBC final manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index dropped slightly to 56.4 in December from 56.5 in Nov. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 02/01/25)

**Australian home prices finally cool as 2024 comes to an end**

Australia's home prices marked the first monthly decline in almost two years in December as high mortgage rates stretched affordability and more sellers emerged after a long run of gains. Figures from property consultant CoreLogic, showed prices across the nation dipped 0.1% in December from the prior month. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 01/01/25)

**Singapore GDP growth exceeds expectations**

Singapore's economic growth exceeded expectations at the end of 2024 but the pace of growth moderated from the preceding period, official data revealed on Wednesday [01/01]. Gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 4.3% on a yearly basis, which was slower than the 5.4% growth posted in the third quarter, advance estimates from the Ministry of Trade and Industry showed. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 02/01/25)

**Bank of Korea governor says monetary easing this year will be flexible**

South Korea's central bank governor said on Thursday[02/01] the pace of monetary policy easing would need to be flexible this year due to heightened political and economic uncertainty. "This year, conditions surrounding our economy will be more difficult than ever before," Bank of Korea Governor Rhee Chang-yong said in a New Year's address.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/01/25)

**EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES**

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2517	(1.2518)	1.2518	(1.2519)
+USD/EUR	1.0350	(1.0388)	1.0351	(1.0389)
*GHS/USD	14.6927	(14.7026)	14.7074	(14.7174)
*GHS/GBP	18.3908	(18.4048)	18.4107	(18.4247)
*GHS/EUR	15.2065	(15.2737)	15.2217	(15.2889)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 02/01/25 (Rates for 31/12/24 in brackets)

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### **Turkey inflation likely missed Central bank target for end-2024**

Turkey's annual inflation in December likely eased less than the central bank projected, just as policymakers have started to set the stage for a more accommodative stance in the new year. Annual growth in consumer prices slowed to 45.2% in December from 47.1% a month earlier, according to the median forecast in a Bloomberg survey of analysts.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 02/01/25)

### **Indonesia inflation rises slightly to 1.57%**

Indonesia's consumer price inflation (CPI) rose marginally in Dec., from a three-year low in Nov., data from the statistics bureau shows today. The consumer price index (CPI) climbed 1.57% year-on-year in Dec., following a 1.55% increase in the previous month. Economists had expected inflation to rise to 1.6%.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 02/01/25)

### **Dollar eases in cautious start to 2025; yen lingers at five-month lows**

The US dollar wobbled at the start of 2025 trade on Thursday[02/01] after a strong year of gain against most currencies, with the yen anchored near its lowest level in more than five months as investors ponder US interest rates staying higher for longer. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/01/25)

### **Sri Lanka sees highest record of overseas employment in 2024**

The year 2024 has been recorded as the year with the highest number of Sri Lankans migrating abroad for employment in the nation's history, local media reported, quoting statistics from the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE). Data shows a total of 312,836 left Sri Lankans for overseas jobs during the year. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 02/01/25)

### **Poland's manufacturing PMI falls in December, but outlook improves**

Poland's manufacturing sector saw a further decline in December with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) dropping to 48.2 from 48.9 in November marking the strongest deterioration since August, S&P Global reported today[02/01]. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/01/25)

### **Oil rises as investors return from holidays, eye China recovery**

Oil prices nudged higher today[02/01], the first day of trade for 2025, as investors returning from holidays cautiously eyed a recovery in China's economy and fuel demand following a pledge by President Xi Jinping to promote growth. Brent crude futures rose 17 cents, or 0.06% to \$74.82 a barrel by 0547 GMT after settling 65 cents today. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/01/25)

### **Gold holds after 27% annual gain as traders mull US rate path**

Gold opened the New Year steady after notching its biggest annual gain since 2010, with traders assessing prospects for a slower pace of monetary easing by the Federal Reserve in 2025. Bullion was trading near \$2,625 an ounce following its 27% gain in 2024 which was driven by the Fed's cutting cycle, sustained haven demand and a wave of purchases by central banks, with many analysts seeing further gains ahead this year.

([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 02/01/25)

### **Asia shares get off to rocky start in 2025 on Trump trepidation**

Asian stocks began the year on a dour note today[02/01] as they struggled for traction after a jittery close to 2024, while the United States (US) dollar held steady and investor sentiment stayed cautious ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 02/01/25)

### **Ethiopia earns over \$2.6bn from exports in 5 months**

Ethiopia has generated some \$2.63bn in export revenue during the first 5 months of the current fiscal year amid strong performance in major agricultural export commodities, the country's Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration has disclosed. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 02/01/25)

### **Nigeria to expand credit access to citizens**

Nigeria will establish a national credit guarantee company in May to lend to businesses and individuals, President Bola Tinubu said in a speech on Wednesday [01/01]. Tinubu, who campaigned on economic reforms including expanding credit access to boost economic growth. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 01/01/25)

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