



Wednesday, 15th January 2025

Traders mark time ahead of US CPI, bank earnings

Global markets treaded water today ahead of US consumer price data that could potentially shift the monetary policy outlook there, while investors waited to see if earnings of big banks would match sky-high expectations. US equity futures were mostly flat in Asia. Pan-European STOXX 50 futures edged up 0.1% and UK FTSE futures were 0.2% higher ahead of the British consumer inflation report. (www.reuters.com 15/01/25)

World readies for Trump tariffs even before his white house return

Donald Trump's inauguration promises to usher in an era of upheaval in global commerce, forcing governments around the world to scramble in preparation for a tariff onslaught even before he's back in the White House. (www.bloomberg.com 15/01/25)

ECB defends rate-cutting path in face of traders paring bets

The European Central Bank is pushing back against investors who reckon firmer inflation, a surprisingly sturdy US jobs market and Donald Trump's economic disruption will narrow the scope to lower interest rates. Governing Council members like Francois Villeroy de Galhau and Yannis Stournaras have reiterated long-held beliefs that the deposit rate will fall to about 2% by mid-2025, from 3% today. (www.bloomberg.com 15/01/25)

US producer prices rise 0.2% in December, slightly less than expected

Producer prices in the US rose by slightly less than expected in the month of Dec. according to the Labor Department. It said its producer price index for final demand crept up by 0.2% in Dec. after climbing by 0.4% in Nov. Economists had expected producer prices to rise by 0.3%. (www.rttnews.com 14/01/25)

US posts record \$711bn deficit for first three months of fiscal 2025

The US government posted an \$87bn budget deficit in Dec. reduced partly by a shift of benefit payments into Nov. but capping a record \$711bn deficit for the first 3 months of the 2025 fiscal year, the US Treasury Department said on Tuesday [14/01]. (www.reuters.com 14/01/25)

China bank lending rises moderately

China's bank lending increased moderately in the whole year of 2024, data from the People's Bank of China showed on Tuesday [14/01]. The yuan-denominated loans increased by CNY18.09tr in 2024. At the end of Dec., the local currency loans totaled CNY255.68tr, up 7.6%. At the same time, foreign currency loans declined 17.4% on year to \$542.2bn. (www.rttnews.com 14/01/25)

UK inflation unexpectedly slows in boost for rate cut hopes

UK inflation unexpectedly slipped back for the first time in three months in Dec. keeping alive hopes of a Bank of England interest-rate cut next month. Consumer prices rose 2.5% from a year earlier, down from a 2.6% pace in Nov. the Office for National Statistics said today. The figure was in line with what the BOE forecast in Nov. and better than the unchanged reading expected by private-sector economists. (www.bloomberg.com 15/01/25)

Japan finance minister flags action against excessive foreign exchange movement

Japan Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato today reiterated that the government would take appropriate action against excessive movement on the foreign exchange market, as the yen has seen high volatility ahead of a key monetary policy meeting. "As I have said previously, we have been seeing rather sharp movement," Kato said at the Japan National Press Club. (www.reuters.com 15/01/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2178	(1.2167)	1.2179	(1.2168)
+USD/EUR	1.0271	(1.0214)	1.0271	(1.0215)
*GHS/USD	14.8366	(14.7926)	14.8514	(14.8074)
*GHS/GBP	18.0680	(17.9982)	18.0875	(18.0176)
*GHS/EUR	15.2395	(15.1093)	15.2535	(15.1244)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 15/01/25 (Rates for 14/01/25 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 15/01/25 (Rates for 14/01/24 in brackets)

BOJ's Ueda joins Deputy Chief in flagging chance of January hike

Bank of Japan Governor Kazuo Ueda joined his deputy in strengthening market expectations for a potential interest rate hike next week, boosting the yen and signaling the central bank is doing its utmost to avoid a global market crash that followed July's hike. (www.bloomberg.com 15/01/25)

Russia-China partnership key to global stability: Lavrov

The relationship between Russia and China is essential to maintaining global stability at a time of rising tensions around the world, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Tuesday [14/01] in his annual press conference. He noted that the Russia-China partnership is one of the main stabilizing factors in contemporary international relations. (www.xinhuanet.com 14/01/25)

South Korea jobless rate highest since mid-2021

South Korea's unemployment rate rose to the highest level in three-and-a-half years in Dec. as political turmoil added economic uncertainty and weighed on business sentiment, data shows today. The unemployment rate rose to a seasonally adjusted 3.7% in Dec. from 2.7% in the previous month, Statistics Korea reported. (www.rttnews.com 15/01/25)

Dutch exports expand most in 20 months

Exports in the Netherlands increased for the third straight month in Nov. and at the quickest pace in more than one-and-a-half years, according to figures published by the statistical office CBS today. Exports rose 4.2% year-on-year in Nov. faster than the 2.3% growth in Oct. (www.rttnews.com 15/01/25)

Finland economic output recovers in Nov

Finland's economic output expanded for the first time in 3 months in Nov. largely on the back of strong growth in the primary sector, data from Statistics Finland showed today. Output of the national economy rose a working-day-adjusted 1.5% year-over-year in Nov. reversing a 0.4% drop in Oct. (www.rttnews.com 15/01/25)

Oil inches up, but uncertainty over sanctions impact caps gains

Oil prices rose on Wednesday trimming losses from the previous day, as the focus turned back to potential supply disruptions from sanctions on Russian tankers, though gains were capped as the market awaited more clarity on their impact. Brent crude futures edged up 51 cents, or 0.6%, to \$80.43 a barrel by 0735 GMT after dropping 1.4% in the previous session. (www.reuters.com 15/01/25)

Africa's "immense" value-addition opportunity

Africa holds untapped potential in global and regional value chains, with the capacity to redefine its economic trajectory through strategic investments and integration, according to a new report. The report indicates that Africa can transition from being a primary exporter to a prominent player in value-added global trade. (www.norvanreports.com 15/01/25)

World Bank suspends disbursements to Gabon due to \$27m debt arrears

The World Bank has suspended its disbursements to Gabon due to debt arrears of 17bn CFA francs (\$27m), the central African country's public accounts ministry said. The ministry said the suspension was caused by several factors, including an insufficient mobilisation of resources on the international market. (www.reuters.com 15/01/25)

Nigeria's sky-high inflation seen cooling after data revamp

Nigeria's efforts to curb red-hot inflation are about to get some help from changes to the basket of goods used to gauge living costs. The National Bureau of Statistics is rebasing the consumer price index used to track household expenditure. (www.norvanreports.com 14/01/25)

Congo courts Saudi mining investors to help curb China dominance

The Democratic Republic of Congo, the world's top cobalt supplier, is courting new mining investors from Saudi Arabia to help it diversify and curb overreliance on companies from China, Marcellin Paluku, a senior government official told Reuters in an interview. (www.reuters.com 14/01/25)

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