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Eurozone banks tighten firms' credit standards: ECB survey

The Euro area banks tightened their credit standards for companies in the fourth quarter citing higher perceived risks and lower risk tolerance, a survey from the European Central Bank reveals. Lenders renewed their internal guidelines and loan approval criteria for loans or credit lines to enterprises in the fourth quarter at the most pronounced level since the third quarter of 2023. (www.rttnews.com 28/01/25)

Traders bet ECB will need to deepen and accelerate rate cuts

Traders are betting the European Central Bank will have to adopt a more aggressive approach to cutting interest rates as the risk of US tariffs and political turmoil in the region weighs on the bloc's economy. Markets are positioning for the euro to weaken potentially to a level where it buys less than one US dollar from about \$1.04 now. (www.bloomberg.com 29/01/25)

US consumer confidence takes a turn for the worse

US consumer confidence suddenly dropped in January to a four-month low thanks in part to renewed pessimism about the labour market and the outlook for the broader economy. Complaints that jobs are harder to get are up while expectations that wages will rise are down - as is the number of people saying business conditions are good.

(www.bloomberg.com 29/01/25)

Fed holds rates steady and brace for Trump

Fed officials are expected to leave interest rates steady this week, giving themselves more time to lower inflation and to assess how President Trump's policies will affect the economy. The break in rate cuts would come after 3 straight reductions since September that lowered the Fed's benchmark rate by a percentage point.

(www.bloomberg.com 29/01/25)

Japanese starting to feel pain of BOJ rate hikes more concretely

Japanese people are feeling the impact from higher interest rates at a more personal level, according to analysis of social media activity following the central bank's latest policy decision. After the Bank of Japan raised borrowing costs for a third time under Governor Kazuo Ueda last week, about 80% of comments on YouTube were negative and dominated by concerns about housing loans and inflation.

(www.bloomberg.com 29/01/25)

Japan consumer confidence weakens to 21-month low

Japan's consumer sentiment decreased unexpectedly in January to the lowest level in nearly two years, survey data from the Cabinet Office shows. The seasonally adjusted consumer confidence index weakened to 35.2 in January from 36.2 in December.

(www.rttnews.com 29/01/25)

Non-banks and banks are interwoven, says ex-RBI official

Financial regulations should reflect the interconnectedness of banks and non-banks, a former senior official of the Reserve Bank of India has said. In an interview with Central Banking, Viral Acharya, who served as the RBI's deputy governor from 2017 to 2019, argues that risks associated with non-bank activities continue to exist within the banking system itself. (www.centralbanking.com 28/01/25)

Australia inflation softens in December

Australia's consumer price inflation eased in December to the lowest since early 2021 on falling electricity and auto fuel prices, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported. Consumer prices logged an annual increase of 2.4% in the December quarter, following a 2.8% rise in the preceding period.

(www.rttnews.com 29/01/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2429	(1.2478)	1.2430	(1.2479)
+USD/EUR	1.0422	(1.0504)	1.0423	(1.0505)
*GHS/USD	15.2424	(15.1924)	15.2576	(15.2076)
*GHS/GBP	18.9447	(18.9571)	18.9652	(18.9776)
*GHS/EUR	15.8866	(15.9598)	15.9024	(15.9757)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 29/01/25 (Rates for 28/01/25 in brackets)

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Spain jobless rate lowest since 2008

Spain's unemployment rate declined to the lowest level since the second quarter of 2008 as the economy remains on a faster growth trajectory, figures from the statistical office INE revealed on Tuesday [28/01]. The jobless rate came in at 10.61% in the fourth quarter of 2024, down from 11.21% seen in the third quarter. (www.rttnews.com 28/01/25)

IMF tells Kosovo to strengthen central bank reserves

The International Monetary Fund has said Kosovo does not have enough readily available reserve assets. In a paper released on January 16, IMF analysts, Javier Kapsoli and Ezgi Ozturk say the current holdings in the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo are “limited”. (www.centralbanking.com 28/01/25)

Palestine Monetary Authority resumes banking services in Gaza

The Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) has said banking services will resume in Gaza from January 28. PMA governor Yahya Shunnar said the resumption would take place in phases, the first of which would involve reopening operations in “three to four branches” in the areas of Deir al-Balah and Nuseirat. (www.centralbanking.com 28/01/25)

Swedish economy grows 0.2% in Q4

Sweden's economy expanded for the second straight quarter in the 3 months ending in December, though at a slower-than-expected pace, Statistics Sweden has revealed. Gross domestic product rose 0.2% sequentially in the fourth quarter, following a 0.3% growth in the second quarter. Meanwhile, economists were expecting a stable growth of 0.3%. (www.rttnews.com 29/01/25)

Irish economy contracts 1.3% in Q4

Ireland's economy shrank in the final quarter of 2024 after bouncing back strongly in the previous quarter, preliminary figures from the statistical office CSO showed on Tuesday [28/01]. Gross domestic product fell a seasonally adjusted 1.3% sequentially in the fourth quarter, reversing a 3.5% expansion in the third quarter. (www.rttnews.com 28/01/25)

Oil prices ease on rising US inventories, Libyan output

Oil prices slid on Wednesday [29/01], giving up some of last session's gains, as an increase in U.S. crude stockpiles and easing worries over Libyan supplies weighed on prices, although the decline was limited by potential US tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports. Brent crude futures fell 18 cents, or 0.2%, to \$77.31 a barrel by 0548 GMT. (www.reuters.com 29/01/25)

Gold rebounds from tech-led selloff on tariff uncertainties

Gold prices rebounded on Tuesday [28/01] from a dip in the previous session triggered by tech-led wider market sell-off, as increasing uncertainties over US President Donald Trump's proposed tariffs kept investor interest in the safe-haven asset. Spot gold rose 0.8% to \$2,762.02 per ounce by 01:41 p.m. ET (1841 GMT). (www.reuters.com 29/01/25)

South African statistics agency updates its inflation basket

South Africa's statistics agency has updated its consumer inflation basket for the first time since 2022, including items like rosé wine, air fryers and streaming services to reflect changes in spending habits. (www.reuters.com 28/01/25)

South African rand edges higher ahead of US rate decision

South Africa's rand edged higher early on Wednesday [28/01] ahead of an interest rate decision by the US Fed. At 0706 GMT, the rand traded at 18.66 against the US dollar, about 0.1% firmer than its previous close. The dollar last traded about 0.1% weaker against a basket of currencies. (www.reuters.com 28/01/25)

Ghana earns \$517m in crude oil revenue in second half of 2024

Ghana generated \$517m in crude oil revenues during the second half of 2024. This is according to the Bank of Ghana's latest Ghana Petroleum Funds Report for the period ending Dec., 31, 2024. The report reveals that \$369m was accrued from crude oil liftings at the Jubilee, TEN and Sankofa Gye Nyame oil and gas fields, with the liftings occurring between July and Oct. (www.citinewsroom.com 29/01/25)

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