



Friday, 31st January 2025

### Higher yields drive record demand for euro zone government debt sales

Eurozone governments saw record demand for bond sales in January, showing that investors are ready to cover unprecedented funding needs if paid the right price. Strong demand for the sales followed a surge in bond yields, as prices fell earlier in the month, driven in part by worries about high funding needs ahead of US President Donald Trump's inauguration.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 31/01/25)

### ECB cuts rates, leaves room for more easing

The European Central Bank cut interest rates on Thursday [30/01] and kept the door open to further policy easing as concerns over lacklustre economic growth supersede worries about persistent inflation. It was the fifth ECB rate cut since June and markets expect two or 3 more this year, driven by arguments that the biggest inflation surge in generations is nearly defeated and the flagging economy needs relief.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 30/01/25)

### Eurozone economy stagnates in Q4

The Euro area economic growth ground to a halt in the fourth quarter as output shrunk in Germany and France and remained flat in Italy, leaving Spain as the only economy in the big four to continue expansion, adding hopes of another interest rate cut by the European Central Bank. Gross domestic product showed a flat growth in the fourth quarter, following an expansion of 0.4 % in the third quarter.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 30/01/25)

### Weak business spending restrains US economy, domestic demand robust

US economic growth slowed in the fourth quarter as a strike at Boeing, contributed to depressing business investment but robust consumer spending probably keeps the Fed on a slow interest rate cut path this year.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 30/01/25)

### Big central banks start 2025 heading in different directions

The first central bank meetings of 2025 suggest it will be a year in which policymakers go their own way as economic paths diverge, as the United States holds interest rates steady, the Eurozone cuts, and outlier Japan is firmly in hiking mode. That's a change from last year where the global consensus was for cautious rate cuts, with seven of the world's 10 major, developed-market central banks easing policy.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 30/01/25)

### Trump is getting the lower interest rates he demanded from everyone but the Fed

The United States' President Donald Trump is getting his wish that interest rates drop across the world, just not at home where a strong economy and uncertainty over his own policies have set the stage for the Fed to diverge from its central bank peers.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 31/01/25)

### US weekly jobless claims decline more than expected

The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits fell more than expected last week, pointing to low layoffs though job opportunities are becoming scarce for those who are out of work. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped from 16,000 to a seasonally adjusted figure of 207,000 for the week ended Jan. 25, the Labour Department said on Thursday [30/01].

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 30/01/25)

### China's exports to over 160 countries, regions achieve growth in 2024

China's exports to over 160 countries and regions saw growth in 2024, the General Administration of Customs (GAC) said. The country's exports grew 7.1% year on year, reaching CN¥25.45tr (about \$3.55tr) last year, marking the eighth consecutive year of growth, according to GAC.

([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 30/01/25)

#### EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2467	(1.2467)	1.2469	(1.2427)
+USD/EUR	1.0435	(1.0414)	1.0436	(1.0415)
*GHS/USD	15.2899	(15.2424)	15.3051	(15.2576)
*GHS/GBP	19.0619	(18.9402)	19.0840	(18.9607)
*GHS/EUR	15.9540	(15.8761)	15.9712	(15.8906)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 31/01/25 (Rates for 30/01/25 in brackets)

\* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 31/01/25 (Rates for 30/01/25 in brackets)

### **German import prices rise most in 22 months**

Germany's import prices increased for the second straight month in December and at the fastest pace in nearly two years, data from Destatis showed on Thursday[30/01]. Import prices registered an annual increase of 2.0%, following a 0.6% rise in November. Further, this was the fastest import price inflation since February 2023, when prices had risen 3.1%.

([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 30/01/25)

### **BOJ Ueda voices confidence conveying rate hike message to market**

The Bank of Japan's message on gradual interest hikes has been clearly received by financial markets, Governor Kazuo Ueda said, adding that more hikes will take place if its economic outlook is realized. Ueda said the BOJ's policy settings are still accommodative after recent rate hikes and that would remain the case as the central bank continues to support the inflation trend. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) 31/01/25)

### **Italian economy remains in stagnation, jobless rate rises**

Italy's economy stagnated for the second straight quarter in the three months ending in December, while the jobless rate increased to the highest level in four months, separate reports from the statistical office shows. Gross domestic product remained flat sequentially in the fourth quarter. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 30/01/25)

### **Spain inflation climbs to 3.0%, highest in 7 months**

Spain's consumer price inflation accelerated further in January to the highest level in seven months amid an increase in fuel costs, the statistical office INE reveals. Consumer price inflation rose more-than-expected to 3.0% in January from 2.8% in Nov. Prices were forecast to climb 2.9%. ([www.rttnews.com](http://www.rttnews.com) 30/01/25)

### **Brazil again raises rates by 100bp**

The Central Bank of Brazil (BCB) on January 29 delivered another increase of 100 basis points in a unanimous decision, thus bringing its policy rate to 13.25%. In a statement, the monetary policy committee, known as Copom, said inflation had been fluctuating above target. ([www.centralbanking.com](http://www.centralbanking.com) 30/01/25)

### **Oil prices rise amid US tariff threat but still set for weekly loss**

Oil prices rose on Friday [31/01] as markets weighed the threat of tariffs by US President Donald Trump on Mexico and Canada, the 2 largest crude exporters to the US, that could take effect this weekend. Brent crude futures for March, which expires today [31/01], gained 61 cents at \$77.48 a barrel at 0430 GMT.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 31/01/25)

### **Stocks tread with caution, dollar firms as tariff threat lingers**

Global shares drifted on Friday[31/01] as investors reflected on relatively strong earnings from tech bellwethers in a week that started with a market rout sparked by the emergence of a low-cost Chinese artificial intelligence model.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 31/01/25)

### **South Africa trims key rate and models impact of global trade war**

South Africa's central bank trimmed its main lending rate as expected on Thursday [30/01], its third cut in a row, but it placed emphasis on the uncertain global backdrop and said it had modelled the potential impact of a trade war. The repo rate was reduced by a further 25 basis points (bps) to 7.50%, in a split decision by the Monetary Policy Committee.

([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) 30/01/25)

### **Egypt's SCZone sees 32% rise in revenues for 1st half of FY2024/25**

Egypt's General Authority of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) said its net revenues surged to around EPG5.7bn Egyptian pounds (nearly \$113.5m) in the first six months of the current fiscal year 2024-2025, a 32% increase from EPG 4.3b in the same period of the previous fiscal year. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com) 31/01/25)

### **Ghana's Gold reserves increase by over 50% in one year**

Ghana's gold reserves have skyrocketed by 56%. The Bank of Ghana says that the country's gold reserves rose from 19.5 tonnes in 2023 to a robust 30.5 tonnes in 2024 estimated in value at \$2.7bn. This strategic accumulation of gold follows the Bank of Ghana's Gold for Oil Policy and Domestic Gold Purchasing Programme. ([www.citinewsroom.com](http://www.citinewsroom.com) 31/01/25)

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