



Tuesday, 4th March 2025

Eurozone inflation slows to 2.4%

Eurozone inflation eased slightly in February partly reflecting the slowdown in services inflation, but the rate remained above the 2 percent target, data from Eurostat shows. The harmonized index of consumer prices logged an annual growth of 2.4% after rising 2.5% in January. The rate was expected to ease to 2.3%. Likewise, core inflation that excludes prices of energy, food, alcohol and tobacco, slowed marginally to 2.6% from 2.7% in the previous month. (www.rtfnews.com 03/03/25)

Eurozone factory activity slump eases

Eurozone manufacturing sector remained in contraction in February, but the downturn was the least marked since early 2023, final survey results from S&P Global showed on Monday [03/03]. The HCOB manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index rose to a 24-month high of 47.6 in February from 46.6 in January. (www.rtfnews.com 03/03/25)

US companies announce layoffs to cut costs

US companies have initiated layoffs across sectors as they attempt to streamline operations amid economic uncertainties, following similar cutbacks seen last year. The Labor Department's Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey reports, from early February showed vacancies were down 1.3m over the year at the end of December. (www.reuters.com 03/03/25)

Trade wars erupt as Trump hits Canada, Mexico, China with steep tariffs

US President Donald Trump's new 25% tariffs on imports from Mexico and Canada took effect on Tuesday[04/03], along with a doubling of duties on Chinese goods to 20%, launching new trade conflicts with the top three US trading partners. The tariff actions, which could upend nearly \$2.2tr in 2-way annual US trade went live at 12:01 a.m. EST (0501 GMT). (www.reuters.com 04/03/25)

China to impose extra tariffs of 10%-15% on various US products

China today[04/03] swiftly retaliated against fresh US tariffs, announcing 10%-15% hikes to import levies covering a range of American agricultural and food products, and placing 25 US firms under export and investment restrictions. (www.reuters.com 04/03/25)

Chinese stocks pare losses as investors assess tariff response

Chinese stocks pared losses as traders digested an escalation in Sino-American tensions before a crucial political meeting in Beijing this week. A gauge of Chinese shares listed in Hong Kong briefly erased losses after ending the morning session down 0.7%. It had lost as much as 2.5% early in the day. The onshore benchmark CSI 300 Index erased a bulk of its 0.8% slide. (www.bloomberg.com 04/03/25)

UK mortgage lending strongest since 2022, approvals fall slightly

Mortgage borrowing of British homebuyers hit the highest since September 2022, while home loan approvals decreased slightly in January ahead of the stamp duty changes in April, figures from the Bank of England showed on Monday [03/03]. Mortgage lending increased £0.9bn to £4.2bn in Jan., which was the highest since Sept., 2022. This followed an increase of £1.1bn in December. (www.rtfnews.com 03/03/25)

Japan corporate capex drops for first time in 4 years amid tariff fears

Japanese corporate spending on plant and equipment dropped 0.2% year-on-year in the fourth quarter, Ministry of Finance said, marking the first quarterly fall in nearly 4 years amid growing uncertainties over the global economy. Although firms remain keen for capital expenditure due to robust profits, but intensifying labour shortages have served as a bottleneck. (www.reuters.com 04/03/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.2707	(1.2587)	1.2708	(1.2588)
+USD/EUR	1.0497	(1.0401)	1.0498	(1.0401)
*GHS/USD	15.5222	(15.5222)	15.5378	(15.5378)
*GHS/GBP	19.7241	(19.5378)	19.7454	(19.5589)
*GHS/EUR	16.2942	(16.1443)	16.3104	(16.1604)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 04/02/25 (Rates for 03/03/25 in brackets)

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Japan consumer confidence weakest in nearly 2 years

Japan's consumer sentiment decreased unexpectedly in February to the lowest level in almost two years, survey data from the Cabinet Office shows. The seasonally adjusted consumer confidence index weakened to 35.0 in February from 35.2 in January. Meanwhile, economists had forecast the index to rise to 35.7. (www.rttnews.com 04/03/25)

RBA says rate cut doesn't commit board to further policy easing

Australia's central bank board expressed caution about future policy easing after cutting interest rates for the first time in four years, minutes of its February meeting showed, worrying that rapid moves could jeopardize inflation's return to the 2.5% midpoint of its target. (www.bloomberg.com 04/03/25)

Iran's central bank tells lenders to be more transparent

Iran's central bank has instructed banks and other financial institutions to follow a law that mandates transparency regarding economic data. The Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran said it had found widespread violation of the law on publication and free access to information. (www.centralbanking.com 03/03/25)

Turkish inflation slows to 39.05% in February, below forecasts

Turkish annual consumer price inflation slowed to 39.05% in February, official data, lower than a Reuters poll forecast and sustaining a downtrend since it peaked at around 75% in May last year. A Turkish regulation lowering patients' co-payments at public hospitals recently helped to rein in price growth. (www.reuters.com 03/03/25)

Thailand's business sentiment improves slightly in February

Thailand's business sentiment rose marginally in February, mainly thanks to improvements in the manufacturing sector, the central bank said. According to the Bank of Thailand, the Southeast Asian country's business sentiment index (BSI) was recorded at 48.9 last month. (www.xinhuanet.com 04/03/25)

Oil down on OPEC+ output increase, tariffs start and US pause on Ukraine aid

Oil prices extended losses on Tuesday[04/03] following reports that OPEC+ will proceed with a planned output increase in April and as markets braced for the start of US tariffs on Canada, Mexico and China, as well as Beijing's retaliatory tariffs. Brent futures were down 90 cents, or 1.26%, to \$70.72 a barrel at 0827 GMT. (www.reuters.com 04/03/25)

Stocks drop as Trump says tariffs start Tuesday; euro gains

US stocks ended down sharply Monday[03/03], with the S&P 500 posting its biggest daily percentage drop since December 18, after US President Donald Trump said 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico will go into effect today, while the Euro strengthened after European leaders agreed to draw up a Ukraine peace plan. (www.reuters.com 04/03/25)

UN's food agency WFP closes southern African bureau amid funding cuts

The United Nations' World Food Programme, which gets much of its funding from the United States, is closing its southern African bureau due to funding constraints, the agency said on Monday [03/03]. (www.reuters.com 03/03/25)

Egypt and EU agree €90m deal to boost food security

Egypt and the European Commission have signed a €90m (\$93.9m) soft funding agreement to enhance food security, the Egyptian Ministry of international cooperation said on Monday [03/03]. The funding, provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB), aims to improve Egypt's grain storage and logistics infrastructure. (www.reuters.com 03/03/25)

Libya announces first bidding round for oil exploration in 17 years

Libya plans its first bidding round for oil exploration in more than 17 years, Masoud Suleman, acting Chairman of the National Oil Corporation, announced in a televised address on Monday [03/03]. Libya is Africa's second-largest oil producer and a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. (www.reuters.com 03/03/25)

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