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Eurozone private sector growth moderates in December

The euro area private sector growth eased in Dec. as the manufacturing sector contracted and the services activity logged a weaker expansion, a flash survey compiled by S&P Global showed on Tuesday [16/12]. The HCOB composite output index, which measures overall private sector activity, dipped to 51.9 in Dec. from a final reading of 52.8 in Nov. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

Eurozone trade surplus surges in October

The Euroarea trade surplus increased notably in Oct from the prior year due to a moderate increase in exports amid a decline in imports, official data showed on Tuesday. The trade surplus rose to €18.4bn in Oct. from €7.1bn in Sept, Eurostat reported. However, the surplus was unchanged from Sept. On a yearly basis, growth in exports rose to 1.0% from 7.7% in Sept. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

US unemployment hits a four-year high

US unemployment hit 4.6%, a number not seen since the depths of the Covid pandemic as the American labor picture continues to darken. US job growth remained sluggish in Nov. as nonfarm payrolls increased by only 64,000 after declining 105,000 in Oct. the Bureau of Labor Statistics, part of the Department of Labor said. (www.bloomberg.com 16/12/25)

Fed's Bostic says inflation still clearer, more pressing risk

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic said policymakers should remain focused on addressing inflation, with elevated price pressures expected to persist through most of next year. Bostic also revealed that at the Fed's Dec. 9-10 policy gathering, he recommended keeping them level through 2026, citing economic tailwinds that could keep upward pressure on inflation. (www.bloomberg.com 16/12/25)

China signals policy push to stabilize, revive investment

China has sent clear signals to stabilize and revive investment through strengthened policy support, including appropriately increasing the scale of central budget investment and continuing to leverage new policy-based financial instruments, economists said. The tone was set at the annual Central Economic Work Conference held from Dec. 10 to 11. (www.xinhuanet.com 16/12/25)

UK private sector growth improves in December

The UK private sector activity expanded at a faster pace in Dec. led by the sharpest growth in new business in over a year, S&P Global reveals. The composite output index rose more-than-expected to 52.1 in Dec. from 51.2 in Nov. The expected level was 51.6. A reading above 50.0 indicates expansion in the private sector. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

German economic confidence strongest in 5 months

German economic sentiment strengthened to a five-month high in Dec. as analysts expect the expansive fiscal policy to support economic recovery, the financial market survey reveals. The economic sentiment index advanced to 45.8 in Dec. from 38.5 in the previous month, reaching the highest level since last July. The score was seen at 38.4. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

German private sector loses momentum

Germany's private sector growth slowed for the second straight month in Dec. the flash purchasing managers' survey from S&P Global showed on Tuesday [16/12]. The flash HCOB composite output index registered a four-month low of 51.5 in Dec. down from 52.4 in Nov. At the broad level, growth in the service sector eased to its weakest since September. The indicator dropped to 52.6 in Dec. from 53.1 in the previous month. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3419	(1.3389)	1.3420	(1.3390)
+USD/EUR	1.1767	(1.1760)	1.1768	(1.1760)
*GHS/USD	11.4943	(11.4843)	11.5058	(11.4957)
*GHS/GBP	15.4241	(15.3763)	15.4407	(15.3928)
*GHS/EUR	13.5252	(13.5057)	13.5374	(13.5191)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 17/12/25 (Rates for 16/12/25 in brackets)

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Japan's exports to us rise for first time since Trump's tariffs

Japan's exports to the US rose for the first time since Donald Trump announced baseline tariffs in early April, the latest indication that economies are faring better than expected in a more protectionist global trade environment. The turnaround in shipments to the US helped power the biggest gain in overall exports since February.

France private sector broadly stagnates in December

France's private sector economy broadly stagnated in Dec. flash survey results from S&P Global revealed on Tuesday [16/12]. The headline HCOB composite output index posted 50.1 in Dec. down from 50.4 in Nov. However, a reading above the threshold 50.0 indicates expansion. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

Italy trade surplus shrinks in October

Italy's foreign trade surplus decreased in Oct. from a year ago as imports rose faster than exports, the statistical office Istat showed on Tuesday [16/12]. The trade surplus dropped to €4.2bn in Oct. from €4.6bn in the corresponding month last year. The expected surplus was €3.22bn. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

Dollar drifts near 2-1/2-month lows as labour data leaves rate path uncertain

The US dollar inched away from its lowest level since the start of Oct. today after data showed the labour market remained soft, leaving investors on edge about when the next rate cut from the Fed is likely to come. The euro was 0.14% weaker at \$1.173, but stayed close to the 12-week high it touched in the previous session. (www.reuters.com 16/12/25)

HK jobless rate remains stable at 3.8%

Hong Kong's unemployment rate held steady in the Sept-Nov period, labor force statistics from the Census and Statistics Department showed on Tuesday. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate came in at 3.8% in the Sept-Nov period, the same as in the August-October period. (www.rttnews.com 16/12/25)

Oil rises over 1% as Trump's Venezuela blockade stokes uncertainty

Oil prices rose more than 1% on Wednesday after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered "a total and complete" blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela, raising fresh geopolitical tensions at a time of concerns over demand. Brent crude futures were up 79 cents, or 1.3%, at \$59.71 a barrel at 0500 GMT. (www.reuters.com 16/12/25)

South African inflation eases, economists see more rate cuts ahead

South African inflation slowed for the first time in three months in Nov. bolstering expectations that the central bank will cut interest rates next year even with its new, lower inflation target. Headline consumer inflation slowed to 3.5% year on year in Nov. from 3.6% in Oct. (ZACPIY=ECI). (www.reuters.com 17/12/25)

Ivory Coast miners start paying higher royalties after failed resistance, sources say

Gold mining companies in Ivory Coast have begun paying a new 8% royalty on revenue, backdated to Jan. after months of disputing the legality of the levy, three industry sources told Reuters. (www.reuters.com 17/12/25)

Gold and uranium boost Namibia's tax revenue after diamond prices plunge

Namibia's diamond revenue has been surpassed by income from other minerals for the first time, the country's mining chamber said, with record gold prices and higher uranium output helping to offset the impact of weak gem prices. (www.reuters.com 17/12/25)

BoG pledges to consolidate regulatory gains, unveil new banking reforms

The Governor of the Bank of Ghana Dr. Johnson Asiama, has reaffirmed the central bank's commitment to consolidating recent regulatory and monetary sector gains while pressing ahead with fresh reforms aimed at strengthening Ghana's banking industry. He the assurance when he met Managing Directors of commercial banks following the latest MPC meeting. (www.myjoyfonline.com 17/12/25)

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