



Monday, 29 December 2025

US weekly jobless claims fall, but more people collect unemployment checks

The number of Americans filing new applications for jobless benefits unexpectedly fell last week, consistent with a low level of layoffs, but the unemployment rate likely remained high in Dec. amid sluggish hiring. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped for a second straight week, declining by 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 214,000 for the week ended Dec. 20.

(www.reuters.com 25/12/25)

China to expand fiscal spending in 2026: finance minister

China will continue to adopt a more proactive fiscal policy next year, expanding fiscal expenditure to maintain the necessary intensity of spending, Finance Minister Lan Fo'an said at the national fiscal work conference held from Saturday [27/12] to Sunday [28/12].

(www.xinhuanet.com 28/12/25)

China's financial risks generally under control: central bank

Banking institutions in China maintained sound operations in the first half of this year, with risks kept generally under control, according to a central bank. The China Financial Stability Report 2025 was compiled by the People's Bank of China and cites the ratings of 3,529 banking institutions across the country.

(www.xinhuanet.com 28/12/25)

China industrial profits decline in November as demand cool

China's industrial profits fell for a second month in Nov. adding to signs that weakening domestic demand and persistent deflation are weighing on corporate earnings. Industrial profits dropped 13.1% last month a year earlier after a 5.5% decline in Oct. according to the National Bureau of Statistics Saturday [27/12].

(www.bloomberg.com 27/12/25)

BOJ summary signals real rates still low, pointing to more hikes

Some members of the Bank of Japan's board signaled that the country's real interest rate remains very low during a meeting earlier this month where authorities raised the benchmark rate, suggesting that further increases are likely in store. "Japan's real policy interest rate is by far at the lowest level globally," one of 9 board members said. (www.bloomberg.com 29/12/25)

Russian factory activity shrinks at fastest pace since March 2022, PMI shows

Russia's manufacturing sector contracted at its fastest rate since March 2022 in Dec. as output and new orders fell sharply, S&P Global reported today. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for Russian manufacturing dropped to 48.1 in Dec. from 48.3 in Nov. marking a seventh consecutive month of contraction. (www.reuters.com 29/12/25)

Turkey Cenbank will expand key bond portfolio for 'flexibility'

Turkey's central bank will boost government bond purchases next year to strengthen a key portfolio that's used in managing lira liquidity. The central bank aims to increase the size of its government bond holdings to 450bn liras (\$10.5bn) in 2026, up from 262.3bn liras currently. It will also have the option to make additional purchases for the so-called Open Market Operations portfolio, the bank said. (www.bloomberg.com 28/12/25)

Malaysia producer prices fall for ninth straight month

Malaysia's producer prices dropped for the ninth straight month in Nov. the Department of Statistics said today. The PPI decreased 1.8% on a yearly basis, which was sharper than the 0.1% drop in Oct. Prices have been falling since March. In Nov. manufacturing sector reported a moderate fall of 0.6%. (www.rttnews.com 29/12/25)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3504	(1.3482)	1.3505	(1.3483)
+USD/EUR	1.1778	(1.1776)	1.1778	(1.1776)
*GHS/USD	11.0945	(11.3443)	11.1056	(11.3557)
*GHS/GBP	14.9819	(15.2944)	14.9980	(15.3109)
*GHS/EUR	13.0675	(13.3587)	13.0793	(13.3719)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 29/12/25 (Rates for 24/12/25 in brackets)

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South Korea exports hit record high in 2025

South Korea's exports this year have surpassed \$700bn for the first time, the trade ministry said today. The milestone of \$700bn was hit as of 0403 GMT today, the ministry said. Exports from Asia's fourth-largest economy recorded an all-time high of \$683.6bn in 2024, up 8.1% from a year earlier. (www.reuters.com 29/12/25)

S. Korean banks' lending rate rebounds in November

South Korean banks' lending rate rebounded in three months due to lower expectations for additional policy rate cuts, central bank data showed today. The weighted average rate for new bank loans gained 0.13 percentage points from a month earlier to an annualized rate of 4.15% in Nov. (www.xinhuanet.com 29/12/25)

Indonesia set to revamp benchmark rates for money market

Indonesia is set to phase out a key money-market benchmark this week, concluding a years-long transition to align with global standards. Bank Indonesia will retire the Jakarta Interbank Offered Rate and fully replace it with the Indonesia Overnight Index Average, known as Indonia, on Jan. 1. (www.bloomberg.com 28/12/25)

Uruguay Central Bank Chief signals more rate cuts in 2026

Uruguay's central bank plans to continue cutting interest rates next year to get consistently low inflation up to its 4.5% target by accelerating growth and weakening the currency, Chairman Guillermo Tolosa said on Friday [26/12]. (www.bloomberg.com 26/12/25)

Philippine trade deficit narrows in November

Philippine trade deficit narrowed in Nov. from a year ago as exports logged a double-digit growth amid falling imports, the Philippine Statistics Authority said. The trade deficit decreased to \$3.5bn in Nov. from \$4.9bn in the previous year. In Oct. 2025, the trade shortfall totalled \$4.2bn. Data showed that annual growth in exports accelerated to 21.3% from 20.3% in Oct. (www.rttnews.com 25/12/25)

Oil rises as investors weigh outcome of Trump–Zelenskiy meeting

Oil prices rose on Monday as investors weighed the outcome of talks between the US and Ukrainian presidents on a potential deal to end the war in Ukraine, as well as Middle East tensions that could disrupt supply. Brent crude futures rose 63 cents, or 1.04%, to \$61.27 per barrel at 0443 GMT. (www.reuters.com 29/12/25)

Asian stocks rise, precious metals hit records on Fed rate cut bets

Asian stocks were at six-week highs today, while the dollar hovered near its lowest in almost 3 months on expectations of the Fed cutting interest rates next year which have also sparked a fierce rally in precious metals. Silver climbed above the \$80-per-ounce-mark for the first time before sliding sharply lower in volatile trading today. (www.reuters.com 29/12/25)

Sudan's gold production reaches 70 tons in 2025

Sudan's Ministry of Minerals said on Sunday the country's gold production for 2025 reached 70 tons, 13% higher than the target. The Sudanese Mineral Resources Company, an affiliate of the ministry, said in a statement the mining sector brought about 1.087tr Sudanese pounds (about \$1.8bn) in public revenues this year. (www.xinhuanet.com 29/12/25)

Zimbabwe to continue mineral purchases in 2026, Central Bank Governor says

Zimbabwe will continue to make strategic mineral purchases in 2026 to build its foreign currency reserves, as it pushes ahead with plans to adopt the ZiG as its sole currency by 2030, central bank governor John Mushayavanhu said on Sunday [28/12]. (www.bloomberg.com 28/12/25)

Strong investor demand pushes T-bills auction above target for fifth week

The government has, for the fifth consecutive week, recorded an oversubscription at its Treasury bills auction, signalling sustained investor appetite for short-term government securities. The auction target was GH¢3.3bn, but total bids reached GH¢3.9bn. (www.norvanreports.com 29/12/25)

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