



Friday 2nd January 2026

Fed Cross-Benchmarks Staffing Report 2025: tackling shortages

Data from Central Banking's benchmarking service reveals several – sometimes apparently conflicting – facts about views on staffing at central banks. The first is that, broadly speaking, managers think the situation is manageable – the governance benchmark in 2025 found 95.6% of respondents can “attract sufficient staff for the roles [they have] to fill”. (www.centralbanking.com 02/01/26)

Lagarde says Bulgaria joining euro is powerful symbol for Europe

ECB President Christine Lagarde said Bulgaria joining the euro area on Thursday [01/01/26] is a testament to Europe's ability to collaborate and defy international headwinds. “The euro is a powerful symbol of what Europe can achieve when we work together, and of the shared values and collective strength that we can leverage to confront the global geopolitical uncertainty that we face at the moment,” she said. (www.bloomberg.com 01/01/26)

US draws bulk of state-owned investment in 2025 as assets hit record \$60 trillion

Sovereign wealth and public pension fund investors poured a whopping \$132bn - roughly half of their investments last year - into the US in 2025, while big emerging markets drew in almost a third less than in 2024, an annual report showed on Thursday [01/01/26]. (www.reuters.com 01/01/26)

US 30-Year yields rise to highest since September on growth rise

Treasuries fell on the first trading day of 2026, with the yield on 30-year bonds rising to the highest since early September as optimism about the US growth outlook damped demand for haven assets. (www.bloomberg.com 02/01/26)

Dollar makes a soft start to 2026 after sharpest drop in 8 years

The US dollar made a feeble start to 2026 today after struggling against most currencies last year, while the yen steadied near 10-month lows as traders awaited economic data this month to gauge the path of interest rates. A dwindling interest rate difference between the US and other economies has cast a shadow over the currency market, resulting in most currencies gaining sharply against the dollar in 2025. (www.reuters.com 02/01/26)

The year America's economic edge evaporated

It's the time of year when investors peek at their accounts to see whether it will be champagne and caviar to celebrate the holidays or beer and chips. The MSCI USA Index's 16.3% gain would suggest the former is on the menu, and yet, the latter might be more appropriate (www.bloomberg.com 01/01/26)

US to cut tariffs on imported pasta, Italy foreign ministry says

The US decided to reduce controversial anti-dumping tariffs on some Italian pasta brands, Italy's Foreign Ministry said. The US Department of Commerce made the move before an anti-dumping investigation concludes in March, the ministry said in a statement. (www.bloomberg.com 01/01/26)

UK house prices end 2025 with surprise drop, nationwide says

UK house prices unexpectedly fell in December, according to a top mortgage lender, in a sign that the property market may have been affected by Labour's tax-hiking budget. Nationwide Building Society said the average price of a home was down 0.4%. (www.bloomberg.com 02/01/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING	SELLING
+USD/GBP	1.3452	(1.3498)
+USD/EUR	1.1744	(1.1779)
*GHS/USD	10.4448	(10.6447)
*GHS/GBP	14.0503	(14.3682)
*GHS/EUR	12.2667	(12.5388)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 02/12/26 (Rates for 31/12/25 in brackets)

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BOK's Rhee sees 'misaligned' won, vows to guard FX stability

Bank of Korea Governor Rhee Chang Yong said the recent won weakness doesn't reflect the real strength of the country's economy, and he vowed to oppose any US investment decisions that could threaten the stability of the foreign-exchange market.

(www.bloomberg.com 02/01/26)

Singapore GDP growth accelerates in Q4

Singapore's economic growth accelerated in Q4 driven by strong expansions in the biomedical and pharmaceutical output, advance estimates from the Ministry of Trade and Industry revealed on Friday. GDP grew 5.7% on a yearly basis in Q4, outpacing the 4.3% increase seen in Q3. (www.rttnews.com 02/01/26)

Indian banks' bad loans may fall, but risks rise for non-bank lenders, central bank says

Indian banks' gross bad loan ratio may fall further from already low levels in the next financial year, but non-bank lenders are showing signs of a rise in risk, a report published by the central bank today showed. Gross bad loans of Indian banks could drop to 1.9% by the end of March 2027 from 2.1% at the end of Sept. 2025 under the baseline scenario. (www.rttnews.com 02/01/26)

Yemen's Hadramout to launch 'peaceful operation' to reclaim military sites, says region's Saudi-backed governor

The Saudi-backed governor of Hadramawt in Yemen said today that a "peaceful operation" would be launched to reclaim military positions seized by southern separatists backed by the United Arab Emirates. "This operation is not a declaration of war, nor an attempt to escalate tensions," Salem Al-Khanbashi said in a statement. (www.reuters.com 02/01/26)

Spain's manufacturing sector slips into contraction in December, PMI shows

Spain's manufacturing sector entered contraction territory in Dec. for the first time since April, as both output and new orders fell amid weakening demand, S&P Global reported today. The HCOB Spain Manufacturing PMI dropped to 49.6 in Dec. from 51.5 in Nov. (www.reuters.com 02/01/26)

Gold and silver open 2026 with gains following huge annual surge

Gold and silver advanced as trading in 2026 kicked off, building on their best annual performances since 1979. Bullion rose near \$4,375 an ounce, as silver gained more than 2%. While traders have flagged the metals could do well in 2026 on further US interest-rate cuts and dollar weakness, there's near-term concern that broad index re-balancing may pressure prices. (www.bloomberg.com 02/01/26)

Oil edges higher following biggest annual loss since 2020

Oil prices edged up on the first day of trade in 2026 after last year posting their biggest annual loss since 2020, as Ukrainian drones targeted Russian oil facilities and a US blockade pressured Venezuela's export. Brent crude futures climbed 14 cents today to \$60.99 a barrel by 0146 GMT. (www.reuters.com 02/01/26)

European shares seen mixed at open

European stocks are seen opening mixed on the first trading day of 2026 today, following the New Year's Day holiday. US equity futures ticked higher after the major indexes fell for a fourth straight session on Wednesday [31/12/25] to wrap up 2025. But full-year performance was robust, with the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite rallying by 20.4% for the year, the S&P 500 surging by 16.4%. (www.rttnews.com 02/01/26)

South African rand makes steady start to 2026 in thin holiday trade

The South African rand made a steady start to the new year in slim trading today, with many investors still away on holiday. The currency ended 2025 nearly 13% stronger against the U.S. dollar, marking its biggest annual gain in 16 years. (www.reuters.com 02/01/26)

Zambia becomes the first African country to take mining taxes in China's yuan

Zambia has become the first African country to formally accept China's yuan for mining taxes and royalties, a move that highlights Beijing's expanding financial influence across the continent's most strategic resource sectors. BoZ confirmed that payments in RMB began in Oct. (www.norvanreports.com 01/01/26)

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