



Thursday 8th January 2026

Eurozone inflation lowest in 4 months in December

Euro area consumer price inflation eased to its lowest level in four months in Dec. amid a bigger decline in energy prices and a modest slowing in services cost growth, preliminary data from the statistical office Eurostat showed on Wednesday [07/01]. The consumer price index rose 2.0% year-on-year following an increase of 2.1% in each of the previous two months. (www.rttnews.com 07/01/26)

US services activity expands at fastest pace in over a year

US services activity expanded in Dec. at the fastest pace in more than a year, fueled by solid demand growth and a pickup in hiring. The Institute for Supply Management's index of services rose 1.8 points to 54.4, the highest since Oct. 2024, the group said. Readings above 50 indicate expansion in the largest part of the economy. (www.bloomberg.com 07/01/26)

US job openings decline to lowest level in more than a year

US job openings fell in Nov. to a more than one-year low and hiring slowed, indicating employers are growing increasingly cautious. The number of available positions decreased to 7.15m in Nov. from a downwardly revised 7.45m in the prior month, Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed Wednesday [07/01]. (www.bloomberg.com 07/01/26)

China kicks off 2026 with record pace of sovereign bond issuance

China is starting the year with a record clip of government bond issuance, rattling a market where demand is already weak. The nation has announced plans to issue CN¥522bn (\$74.6bn) of bonds in three auctions between Jan. 1 to 15. That would be the highest amount for a half-monthly period, Bloomberg calculations show. (www.bloomberg.com 08/01/26)

China's foreign exchange reserves rise in December 2025

China's foreign exchange reserves totaled \$3.3579tr at the end of Dec. 2025, marking an increase of \$11.5bn, or 0.34%, from the end of Nov. official data showed on Wednesday [07/01]. The State Administration of Foreign Exchange stated that the US dollar index declined, and global financial asset prices saw mixed movements last month.

(www.xinhuanet.com 07/01/26)

UK must deepen ties with EU to avoid slow trade growth, BCG says

UK trade growth is set to undershoot the global average over the next decade, according to a new report from Boston Consulting Group which laid bare the importance of the European Union to Britain's efforts to support exporters. Trade between the UK and its partners is expected to grow by 2.3% annually, compared to the average of 2.5%, compared to the average of 2.5%. (www.bloomberg.com 08/01/26)

German unemployment rate unchanged at 6.3%

Germany's unemployment rate remained unchanged at the end of the year, but the actual jobless numbers increased as economic activity remained weak. The unemployment rate held steady at 6.3%, as expected, in Dec, figures from the Federal Employment Agency showed on Wednesday [07/01]. (www.rttnews.com 07/01/26)

Japan consumer confidence falls unexpectedly in December

Japan's consumer sentiment decreased slightly in Dec. from a 19-month high in the previous month, the Cabinet Office shows today. The seasonally adjusted CCI weakened to 37.2 in Dec. from 37.5 in Nov. Meanwhile, economists had forecast the index to rise to 37.8. Meanwhile, economists had forecast the index to rise to 37.8. (www.rttnews.com 08/01/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING	SELLING
+USD/GBP	1.3474	(1.3498)
+USD/EUR	1.1686	(1.1689)
*GHS/USD	10.6647	(10.6116)
*GHS/GBP	14.3696	(14.3235)
*GHS/EUR	12.4628	(12.4056)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 08/01/26 (Rates for 07/01/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 08/01/26 (Rates for 07/01/26 in brackets)

French consumer confidence rises slightly in December

France's consumer confidence recovered somewhat at the end of the year, the statistical office INSEE showed on Wednesday [07/01]. The consumer sentiment index rose to 90 in Dec. as expected from 89 in the previous month. Nonetheless, the index remained well below its long-term average of 100. (www.rttnews.com 07/01/26)

Italy inflation rises to 1.2%

Consumer price inflation in Italy rose slightly in Dec. from a 13-month high in Nov, data from the statistical office showed on Wednesday [-7/01]. CPI inched higher to 1.2% in Dec. from 1.1% in Nov. Meanwhile, economists had expected inflation to remain stable at 1.1%. (www.rttnews.com 07/01/26)

Canada's Ivey PMI shows activity expanding in December

Canadian economic activity expanded in Dec. as employment increased at the fastest pace in 10 months, Ivey Purchasing Managers Index data said on Wednesday [07/01]. The seasonally adjusted index rose to 51.9 last month from 48.4 in Nov. The measures the month-to-month variation in economic activity as indicated by a panel of purchasing managers from across Canada. (www.reuters.com 07/01/26)

Taiwan inflation rises to 1.31% in December

Taiwan's consumer price inflation increased in December after easing in the previous month, data released by the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting, and Statistics showed on Wednesday. The consumer price index climbed 1.31% year-on-year in December, faster than the 1.22% rise in Nov. (www.rttnews.com 07/01/26)

Austria inflation eases to 3.8%

Austria's consumer price inflation moderated in Dec. and came in below 4.0% for the first time in 5 months, Statistics Austria said. The CPI climbed 3.8% year-over-year in Dec. slower than the 4.0% increase in Nov. Nonetheless, the inflation rate is well above the European Central Bank's stability target of 2.0%. (www.rttnews.com 07/01/26)

Oil prices recover, stocks ease as investors weigh geopolitics, US data

Oil prices steadied today after their recent slide, while stocks retreated as investors assessed the implications of deepening geopolitical tensions and mixed US labour market data. Top US officials said on Wednesday [07/01] the country needs to control Venezuela's oil sales and revenue indefinitely to stabilise the latter's economy. (www.reuters.com 08/01/26)

European shares likely to drift lower as US jobs data looms

European stocks may drift lower at open today after the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average snapped their three-day win streaks overnight amid rising geopolitical risks and caution ahead of the Supreme Court's opinions on the legality of tariffs imposed by Trump expected Friday. (www.rttnews.com 08/01/26)

South Africa eases anti-trust rules for firms facing high power costs

South Africa has softened its anti-trust regulations to allow firms battling high power costs to jointly build energy infrastructure and collectively negotiate supply contracts. South Africa said the new measures are to assist distressed industries. (www.reuters.com 07/01/26)

Zambia drops plan to extend IMF loan programme

Zambia has ditched plans to extend its IMF loan programme before the scheduled expiration at the end of this month, the fund said on Wednesday [07/01]. "While the authorities initially requested a one-year extension of the Facility, they have since informed the IMF team that they will not pursue this option. (www.reuters.com 07/01/26)

Dr Asiamah targets 10% lending rate by 2028 as BoG signals easing credit conditions

The Governor of the Bank of Ghana (BoG), Dr Johnson Asiamah, has restated his ambition to reduce Ghana's lending rate to no more than 10 per cent by the end of his tenure, underscoring a policy focus on making credit more affordable for businesses and households. (www.myjoyonline.com 07/01/26)

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