

Tuesday 20th January 2026**Eurozone inflation eases to 1.9%**

Eurozone inflation eased more than initially estimated in Dec. Eurostat revealed on Monday [19/01]. The harmonized index of consumer prices rose by revised 1.9% year-on-year following an increase of 2.1% in each of the previous two months. Eurostat initially reported that inflation hit the 2% target in Dec. Core inflation, which excludes prices of energy and fresh food, slowed to 2.3%, in line with estimate, from 2.4% logged in the previous 3 months. (www.rttnews.com 19/01/26)

Yield curve ‘steepening’ best seen as normalisation – ECB study

Eurozone countries’ debt trajectories and a “common component” explain higher borrowing costs for long-term and very long-term government borrowing, the European Central Bank has said. In a blog post, economists Benjamin Böninghausen and Andreea Liliana Vladu look to disaggregate the surging borrowing costs of Eurozone governments. (www.centralbanking.com 19/01/26)

China keeps loan prime rates unchanged

China maintained its loan prime rates unchanged for the eighth straight session on Tuesday. The People's Bank of China kept its one-year loan prime rate unchanged at 3.0%, as widely expected. Likewise, the five-year LPR, the benchmark for mortgage rates, was maintained at 3.50%. (www.rttnews.com 19/01/26)

China unveils loan incentives to boost investment, consumption

China has announced a slew of incentives to spur investment and consumption, including a CN¥500bn (\$72bn) loan guarantee facility to encourage private companies to borrow for expansion. The loan guarantee will last for 2 years to help qualified private companies pay for spending such as equipment and raw material purchases. (www.bloomberg.com 20/01/26)

UK jobless rate unchanged at 5.1%

The UK unemployment rate remained stable in the three months to November, the Office for National Statistics said today. The jobless rate was estimated at 5.1%, unchanged from the three months to Oct. and matched expectations. Average earnings excluding bonuses posted an annual growth of 4.5%, which matched economists' forecast. Including bonuses, earnings grew 4.7% from the last year. (www.rttnews.com 20/01/26)

BoE is ramping up the pressure on hedge funds

Dave Ramsden, the Bank of England's deputy governor for markets, has finally said the quiet bit out loud. The central bank's July 2025 Financial Stability Report highlighted that just five hedge funds are responsible for 90% of net gilt repo borrowing, with more than £100bn (\$134bn) of exposure as of the end of Nov. That concentration of risk it didn't name the funds is clearly unhealthy. (www.bloomberg.com 20/01/26)

German producer prices continue to fall

Germany's producer prices continued to fall in Dec. driven by a sharp decrease in energy prices, data from Destatis showed today. Producer prices decreased 2.5% year-on-year in Dec. sharper than the 2.3% decline seen in Nov. Prices were expected to drop 2.4%. Prices have been falling since March. Energy prices registered a notable 9.7% fall in Dec. (www.rttnews.com 20/01/26)

Japan 20-year bond sale sees weaker demand than 12-month average

Japan's 20-year government bond auction drew weaker demand than its 12-month average after government plans for tax relief on food jolted the debt market. The bid-to-cover ratio at Tuesday's auction was 3.19 compared with 4.1 at the last auction and a 12-month average of 3.34. Japan's bond futures held losses after the sale. (www.bloomberg.com 20/01/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING	SELLING
+USD/GBP	1.3428 (1.3378)	1.3429 (1.3378)
+USD/EUR	1.1644 (1.1593)	1.1644 (1.1594)
*GHS/USD	10.8346 (10.8146)	10.8454 (10.8254)
*GHS/GBP	14.5487 (14.4678)	14.5643 (14.4822)
*GHS/EUR	12.6159 (12.5381)	12.6284 (12.5496)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 20/01/26 (Rates for 19/01/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 20/01/26 (Rates for 19/01/26 in brackets)

Japan industrial output falls than estimated

Japan's industrial production decreased more than initially estimated in Nov. the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has said. Industrial production dropped 2.7% monthly in Nov. reversing a 1.5% increase in Oct. In the initial estimate, industrial output showed a decline of 2.6%. (www.rttnews.com 19/01/26)

Canada business sentiment remains subdued, says Bank of Canada survey

Canadian business sentiment remains subdued amid trade tensions with the United States, and firms only expect modest sales growth in the year ahead, a Bank of Canada fourth quarter survey showed on Monday [19/01]. The quarterly business outlook survey also showed that 21% of firms plan to cut workers in the year ahead. (www.reuters.com 19/01/26)

Canada's Carney aims to lead new global trading order less reliant on US

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is trying to foster a new global trading order by working more closely with China and inking smaller trade deals but faces constraints from Canada's still overwhelming economic dependency on the US. Last week, Carney took his trade diversification push further than his allies in Europe by signing a deal with China. (www.reuters.com 20/01/26)

India proposes linking Brics countries' CBDCs

The Bank of India has proposed that BRICS countries link their central bank digital currencies, sources have said. The central bank has reportedly recommended that a proposal to link the CBDCs be added to the agenda of the 2026 BRICS summit, the news agency reported on Jan. 19. (www.centralbanking.com 19/01/26)

Azerbaijan's GDP grows 1.4% in 2025

Azerbaijan's GDP grew by 1.4% in 2025 to about AZN129bn (around \$76bn), according to data. The country's non-oil and gas GDP reached roughly AZN92bn, up 2.7% year on year, reflecting continued progress in economic diversification, according to state statistics. (www.xinhuanet.com 19/01/26)

Oil buoyed by weaker dollar while investors eye Greenland developments

Oil prices edged up today, bolstered by a weaker dollar, while markets watched President Trump's threats of higher US tariffs on European nations over his desire to buy Greenland. Brent futures rose 15 cents, or 0.2%, to \$64.09 a barrel at 0430 GMT.

(www.reuters.com 20/01/26)

Gold flashes past \$4,700/oz as Trump threats dampen global sentiment

Gold jumped past \$4,700 per ounce for the first time today, while silver traded near a record high, as US President Trump's threats to slap extra tariffs on European allies soured global sentiment and sparked a rush into safe-haven assets. Spot gold gained 0.7% to \$4,699.93 per ounce by 0514 GMT. (www.reuters.com 20/01/26)

South African rand weakens on risk-off mood, traders await mining data

The South African rand was weaker in early trade today as forex markets continued to be dominated by "risk-off" sentiment, while domestically focused traders awaited mining data for clues on the health of the economy. At 0756 GMT the rand traded at 16.4125 against the dollar. (www.reuters.com 19/01/26)

Ghana's IMF programme extension to August 2026 was to allow more time for final review work – IMF

The IMF Resident Representative in Ghana, Dr Adrian Alter, has revealed that the extension of Ghana's programme to August 2026 was purely technical. According to the Resident Representative, the extension was needed to allow more time to complete the final review of the programme. (www.myjoyonline.com 19/01/26)

Vice President engages IMF officials on Ghana's economic recovery, calls for evolved partnership

Vice President engages IMF officials on Ghana's economic recovery, calls for evolved partnership. The meeting, held on Jan. 20, provided the Veep with the opportunity to outline Ghana's improving macroeconomic conditions. (www.3news.com 20/01/26)

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