



Monday 16th February 2026

Majority of central banks still lack CBDC issuance powers

Most jurisdictions still have no legal mandate to issue central bank digital currency (CBDC), the Fintech Benchmarks 2026 show. Of the 28 central banks that addressed the question, 71.4% say they lack the power to issue a CBDC. The result agrees with the findings published in the 2025 benchmark when 69% of 29 respondents had no mandate to issue a CBDC. (www.centralbanking.com 13/02/26)

EU cross-border banking deals jump to highest since 2008 crisis

Cross-border mergers between EU banks have hit their highest level since the 2008 financial crisis, as rising profits and share prices in the sector bring an end to a long period of sluggish dealmaking activity. Several multibillion-euro bank mergers helped to propel the total value of cross-border European banking deals to €17bn last year, up from €3.4bn the previous year. (www.ft.com 16/02/26)

Eurozone trade surplus declines

The Euro area trade surplus declined in Dec. as growth in imports exceeded the exports growth, data published by Eurostat showed Friday [13/02]. The trade surplus fell to €12.6bn from €13.9bn in the previous year. Exports increased 3.4% from the previous year, offsetting the 3.4% fall in Nov. Imports logged an annual growth of 4.2% in Dec. reversing a 1.1% fall seen a month ago. (www.rttnews.com 13/02/26)

Eurozone GDP expands as estimated

The Euro area economy grew at a steady pace in the fourth quarter, matching the initial estimate, flash estimates from Eurostat showed Friday [13/02]. Gross domestic product rose 0.3% sequentially, the same rate of growth as seen in Q3. The rate matched the initial figure published on Jan 30. Year-on-year, GDP moved up 1.3%, in line with the estimate. (www.rttnews.com 13/02/26)

ECB makes euro backstop global to bolster currency's role

The European Central Bank unveiled plans on Saturday to widen access to its euro liquidity backstop, making it globally available and permanent in a bid to bolster the international role of single currency. Access to such repo lines, has been limited to just a handful of mostly Eastern European countries. (www.reuters.com 14/02/26)

Warsh's war on the Fed balance sheet

One of the few constant public positions of Kevin Warsh President Donald Trump's choice to succeed Jay Powell as Fed chair is that he wants to shrink the central bank's balance sheet "significantly." Unfortunately, that's a very risky idea. Whether that means returning to the pre-pandemic level of \$4tn or even further back to \$1tr of the pre-Lehman era remains unclear. (www.ft.com 16/02/26)

China to establish regular financial support mechanism for rural revitalization

China's central bank and three other government departments have issued a guideline to establish a regular financial support mechanism to help prevent a relapse into poverty and advance all-around rural revitalization, the People's Bank of China said this on Saturday [14/02]. The guideline outlines a range of financial measures.

(www.xinhuanet.com 16/02/26),

BOE on knife edge over rates awaits pivotal UK inflation data

The Bank of England will see a slew of data closely in the coming days after a knife-edge decision to keep interest rates steady on concerns that inflation is still uncomfortably high. A packed week for observers of the UK economy runs through labor market numbers and consumer price statistics and concludes with public finance and retail sales reports. (www.bloomberg.com 15/02/26))

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3640	(1.3627)	1.3641	(1.3628)
+USD/EUR	1.1860	(1.1866)	1.1861	(1.1867)
*GHS/USD	10.9930	(10.9920)	11.0040	(11.0030)
*GHS/GBP	14.9945	(14.9788)	15.0106	(14.9949)
*GHS/EUR	13.0375	(13.0443)	13.0504	(13.0572)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 16/01/26 (Rates for 13/02/26 in brackets)

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Japan's economy ekes out anemic growth as Takaichi eyes spending

Japan's economic output in Q4 of 2025 was much weaker than expected, registering anemic growth after a deep contraction in the previous period, underscoring the case for Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's proactive spending policies following her election triumph. Japan's real GDP grew to 0.2% on an annualized basis in 3 months. (www.bloomberg.com 15/02/26)

Israeli inflation slows to lowest since 2021 as shekel rallies

Israel's inflation slowed in Jan to levels not seen since before the pandemic-induced flare-up, falling to its lowest mark since June 2021. The country's CPI dropped by 0.3% from the prior month, pushing the year-on-year print to 1.8%, data from Israel's Central Bureau for Statistics showed on Sunday [15/02]. (www.bloomberg.com 15/02/26)

Malaysia's surprise growth surge spurs 2026 forecast upgrades

Malaysia's much better-than-expected growth last quarter has prompted a flurry of analyst upgrades to their forecasts for this year, with some predicting the Southeast Asian nation will once again outperform official projections. (www.bloomberg.com 16/02/26)

Russia eases by 50bp despite inflation risk

The Bank of Russia has cut its policy rate by 50 basis points to 15.5%. On Feb 13, the bank said seasonally adjusted price growth had slowed from 6.5% in Q3 2025 to 3.9% in the final quarter of the year. Core inflation had risen from 4.1% to 4.7% over the same period and underlying inflation had remained in the range of 4–5% over recent months. (www.centralbanking.com 13/02/26)

Slovakian GDP growth improves to 1.0%

Slovakia's economic growth accelerated somewhat in the 3 months ending in Dec flash data from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic showed on Friday [13/02]. Gross domestic product grew an unadjusted 1.0% year-over-year in Q4, following a 0.9% rise in Q3. (www.rtnews.com 13/02/26)

Oil steady as traders brace for U.S.–Iran nuclear talks

Oil traded little changed today, with investors weighing the market implications of upcoming US-Iran talks aimed at de-escalating tensions against a backdrop of expected OPEC+ supply increases. Brent crude futures edged up 3 cents to \$67.78 a barrel by 0358 GMT.. (www.reuters.com 16/02/26)

Gold drops over 1% as thin trading, profit-taking weigh

Gold prices dropped today, pressured by thin trading volumes as US and China markets remained shut due to local public holidays, while some traders booked profits after last session's 2.5% jump. Spot gold fell 1.1% to \$4,986.32 per ounce by 0550 GMT. (www.reuters.com 16/02/26)

Egypt cuts rates by 100bp and lowers reserve requirements

The Central Bank of Egypt has cut its key lending rates by 100 basis points and lowered its reserve requirements. In a statement, the bank said it had reduced the overnight deposit rate, overnight lending rate and the rate of the main operation to 19%, 20% and 19.5% respectively. (www.centralbanking.com 13/02/26)

Ghana's economy vulnerable to commodity swings and global tightening PwC

Accounting firm PwC has warned that Ghana's economy remains exposed to commodity price volatility despite signs of renewed stability. PwC also cautioned that global financial tightening and climate shocks could weigh heavily on the economy if Ghana does not strengthen its shock absorbers. (www.myjoyonline.com 16/02/26)

BoG draws out GHs 11.2bn from economy

The Bank of Ghana has withdrawn about GHS11.2bn from the economy through its 14-day Bill auction as part of ongoing open market operations aimed at tightening liquidity and further taming inflation. The central bank's Sept. 2025 total money supply (M2+) in the economy stood at GHS353bn. (www.norvanreports.com 16/02/26)

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