



Friday 27th February 2026

Eurozone economic sentiment deteriorates

Eurozone economic confidence weakened in Feb largely due to the significant drop in sentiment among services providers, data from the European Commission showed Thursday [26/02]. The economic sentiment index fell unexpectedly to 98.3 in Feb from 99.3 in the prior month. The score was forecast to rise to 99.8. Services confidence weakened to a four-month low in Feb. The corresponding index slid to 5.0 from 6.8 in Jan. (www.rttnews.com 26/02/26)

Eurozone bank lending to businesses rise at slower pace

Eurozone bank lending to businesses slowed in Jan. while growth in loans to households remained stable, the European Central Bank said Thursday [26/02]. Adjusted loans to businesses grew at a pace of 2.8% in Jan., which was weaker than Dec's 3.0% increase. At the same time, loans to households increased at a steady pace of 3.0%. (www.rttnews.com 26/02/26)

ECB posted €1.3bn loss in 2025

The European Central Bank's annual accounts report shows that it made a €1.3bn (\$1.53bn) loss in 2025. This was the third consecutive year in which the ECB posted a loss and, as with its losses of €1.3bn in 2023 and €7.94bn in 2024, the bank said the figure was mostly attributable to its declining but still significant bond holdings. (www.centralbanking.com 26/02/26)

Lagarde was paid almost €600,000 as ECB president last year

Christine Lagarde received compensation of €595,000 (\$701,830) in 2025 as European Central Bank president in addition to a residence provided by the institution. Her basic salary amounted to € 492,204, 5.6% higher than the previous year, according to the ECB's annual accounts, which were published Thursday [26/02]. On top of that, she received 21% or €103,362 as representation allowance. (www.bloomberg.com 26/02/26)

US weekly jobless claims increase marginally as labor market stabilizes

The number of Americans filing new applications for jobless benefits increased marginally last week and the unemployment rate appeared to hold steady in Feb amid a stable labor market. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits rose 4,000 to a seasonally 212,000 for the week ended Feb. 21, the Labor Department said on Thursday [26/02]. (www.reuters.com 26/02/26)

It's payback time for Trump's tariff fiasco

Donald Trump's had fun with tariffs and now it's payback time. As in it's literally time to pay it back. The Supreme Court decision against Trump's bogusly named emergency duties as issued under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act has put his trade policy in disarray. (www.ft.com 26/02/26)

China's central bank to support cross-border RMB interbank financing business

China's central bank on Thursday [26/02] said that it will support domestic banking financial institutions to engage in cross-border RMB interbank financing business with overseas institutions. The move will facilitate the openness of the country's capital account, develop the offshore RMB market and improve the macroprudential management of cross-border capital flows, according to the People's Bank of China. (www.xinhuanet.com 26/02/26)

UK set to slash bond sales to lowest in three years

The UK is expected to slash gilt sales in the coming year, a rare piece of good news for bond investors concerned about the country's strained finances. The Debt Management Office is expected to announce gross sales of £245bn (\$331bn) for the 2026/2027 fiscal year, according to the median estimate of twelve primary dealers surveyed by Bloomberg. (www.bloomberg.com 27/02/26)

EXCHANGE RATES OF SELECTED CURRENCIES

CURRENCIES	BUYING		SELLING	
+USD/GBP	1.3507	(1.3539)	1.3508	(1.3540)
+USD/EUR	1.1792	(1.1804)	1.1793	(1.1804)
*GHS/USD	10.6647	(10.6547)	10.6753	(10.6653)
*GHS/GBP	14.4048	(14.4254)	14.4202	(14.4409)
*GHS/EUR	12.5766	(12.5766)	12.5886	(12.5890)

+SOURCE: BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 27/02/26 (Rates for 26/02/26 in brackets)

* BOG INTERNAL TRANSACTION RATES: 27/02/26 (Rates for 26/02/26 in brackets)

UK consumer confidence falls amid fear of job losses, GfK says

UK consumer confidence declined for the first time in 3 months as rising unemployment and stretched household budgets loomed over the economic outlook. GfK said today its sentiment gauge fell three percentage points to minus 19 in Feb. with Britons less willing to splash out on big-ticket items. (www.bloomberg.com 27/02/26)

Core inflation in Japan's capital slows below BOJ's 2% target in test for policy

Annual core inflation in Tokyo slowed in February, running below the Bank of Japan's 2% target for the first time in 16 months, data showed on Friday, potentially heightening friction between the central bank and the government on the future path of rate hikes. (www.reuters.com 26/02/26)

Italy consumer confidence improves; business morale falls

Italy's consumer confidence strengthened in Feb. to the highest level in 4 months, while composite business confidence decreased slightly, the statistical office Istat showed on Thursday [26/02]. Consumer sentiment rose to 97.4 in Feb. from 96.8 in March. (www.rttnews.com 26/02/26)

Foreign investment surges to Canada's strongest level since 2007

Foreign direct investment into Canada jumped in the fourth quarter, pushing yearly inflows to the highest level in 18 years. FDI totaled C\$25.1bn (\$18.3n) between Oct. and Dec. Statistics Canada said. That brought the yearly sum of foreign direct investment to C\$96.8, the highest since 2007. (www.bloomberg.com 26/02/26)

Bank of Korea keeps policy rate on hold

The Bank of Korea maintained its key interest rate and signaled a neutral policy stance in its new six-month dot plot framework. The Monetary Policy Board unanimously decided to leave the Base Rate unchanged at 2.50% on Thursday [26/02]. The central bank had previously lowered the benchmark rate by a quarter-point each in Feb. and May 2025. (www.rttnews.com 26/02/26)

Oil heads for weekly decline as US, Iran extend talks

Oil prices climbed today but stayed on track for a weekly decline after the US and Iran extended nuclear talks, easing concerns about potential hostilities that could disrupt supply, while OPEC+ may resume an output hike at its Sunday meeting. Brent crude futures rose 36 cents, or 0.51%, to \$71.11 a barrel by 0600 GMT. (www.reuters.com 27/02/26)

Kenya Inflation Unexpectedly Eases, Boosting Rate-Cut Prospects

Kenyan annual inflation unexpectedly eased to 4.3% in Feb. giving the central bank more scope to continue cutting interest rates. The annual rate declined from 4.4% in Jan as prices rose 0.2% in the month, the Nairobi-based Kenya National Bureau of Statistics said today. (www.bloomberg.com 27/02/26)

Namibia budget forecasts slightly higher growth and narrower deficit

Namibia's economic growth is forecast to pick up slightly this year and the budget deficit will narrow, its finance minister said in a budget speech on Thursday [26/02]. The resource-rich South African country's public finances have taken a hit from a plunge in global diamond prices. (www.reuters.com 26/02/26)

Uganda's currency expected to fall, most others seen steady

Uganda's currency is expected to weaken against the dollar next week, while those of Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Zambia should be little changed, traders said. Uganda's shilling is seen falling on the back of dollar demand from foreign-owned firms looking to pay dividends. (www.reuters.com 26/02/26)

Ghana's external debt fell by GH¢86.7bn to GH¢330.2bn in November 2025

Ghana's external debt fell by GH¢86.7bn, about 6.0% of GDP from GH¢416.8bn in Dec. 2024 to GH¢330.2bn in Nov. 2025. The Bank of Ghana said, the decline was mainly driven by cedi appreciation reducing the external debt in local currency by GH¢100.8bn (8% of estimated GDP). (www.myjoyonline.com 26/02/26)

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