

Market commentary

# Top Economics News

January 2026



## Malaysia

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- ▶ Malaysia's GDP expanded by 5.7% YoY in 4Q25, picking up from the 5.2% growth registered in 3Q25 and above the consensus median of a 5.4% increase. This is the strongest print registered in six quarters. On a sequential basis, growth slowed to 0.4% QoQ sa, lower than the 2.4% expansion recorded in the previous quarter. Note the advanced GDP is calculated based on data from the first two months of the quarter, and estimates are used for data that are unavailable. For the full year, growth came in at 4.9% YoY, slightly below the 5.1% expansion registered in 2024.
- ▶ Malaysia's headline CPI inflation edged higher to +1.4%yoy in Nov-25 (Oct-25: +1.3%yoy), coming in slightly below market consensus of +1.5%yoy. The reading indicates that inflation continued its gradual upward trend from the low of +1.1%yoy in Jun-25. The faster inflation in Nov-25 was attributable to an increase in alcoholic beverages & tobacco, which accelerated to +2.4%yoy (Oct-25: +0.3%yoy).

## United States

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- ▶ US job openings unexpectedly fell in December to the lowest level since 2020 and layoffs edged up, adding to evidence of sluggish demand for workers. Available positions decreased to 6.54 million from a downwardly revised 6.93 million reading in November, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data out on Thursday. The latest figure was below all estimates in a Bloomberg survey of economists.
- ▶ US weekly jobless claims fall; trade deficit widens by the most in nearly 34 years. The number of Americans filing new applications for unemployment benefits fell last week from an upwardly revised level in the prior week, suggesting layoffs remained low, but tepid hiring is stoking households' anxiety about the labor market. (Reuters)

## Euro: Sovereign Debt Crisis Update

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- ▶ The ECB left interest rates unchanged on Thursday, arguing that its own inflation outlook is broadly unchanged and policymakers still saw price growth returning to the 2% target in the medium term after a well-telegraphed dip this year. ECB President Christine Lagarde also said that risks remained unusually high but were broadly balanced, so policy was in a 'good place. the ECB's survey sees inflation at 1.8% this year and 2.0% next year, in line with predictions made three months ago. Price growth will then rise to 2.1% in 2028 but remain at 2.0% over the 'longer term,' which is defined as 2030. (Reuters).
- ▶ Euro zone economy ends 2025 with solid growth despite low exports, US trade strife. 4Q25 GDP growth at 0.3% vs 0.2% expectation. The euro zone economy grew quicker than expected last quarter as consumption and investments kicked into higher gear, offsetting low exports and the exceptional uncertainty emanating from U.S. trade policy, Eurostat data showed on Friday. Spain remained the driver of growth, expanding a quicker-than-forecast 0.8%, but Germany, the euro zone's largest economy, also seems to be emerging from years of struggles to grow 0.3%, above economists' estimate of 0.2%.(Reuters)

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