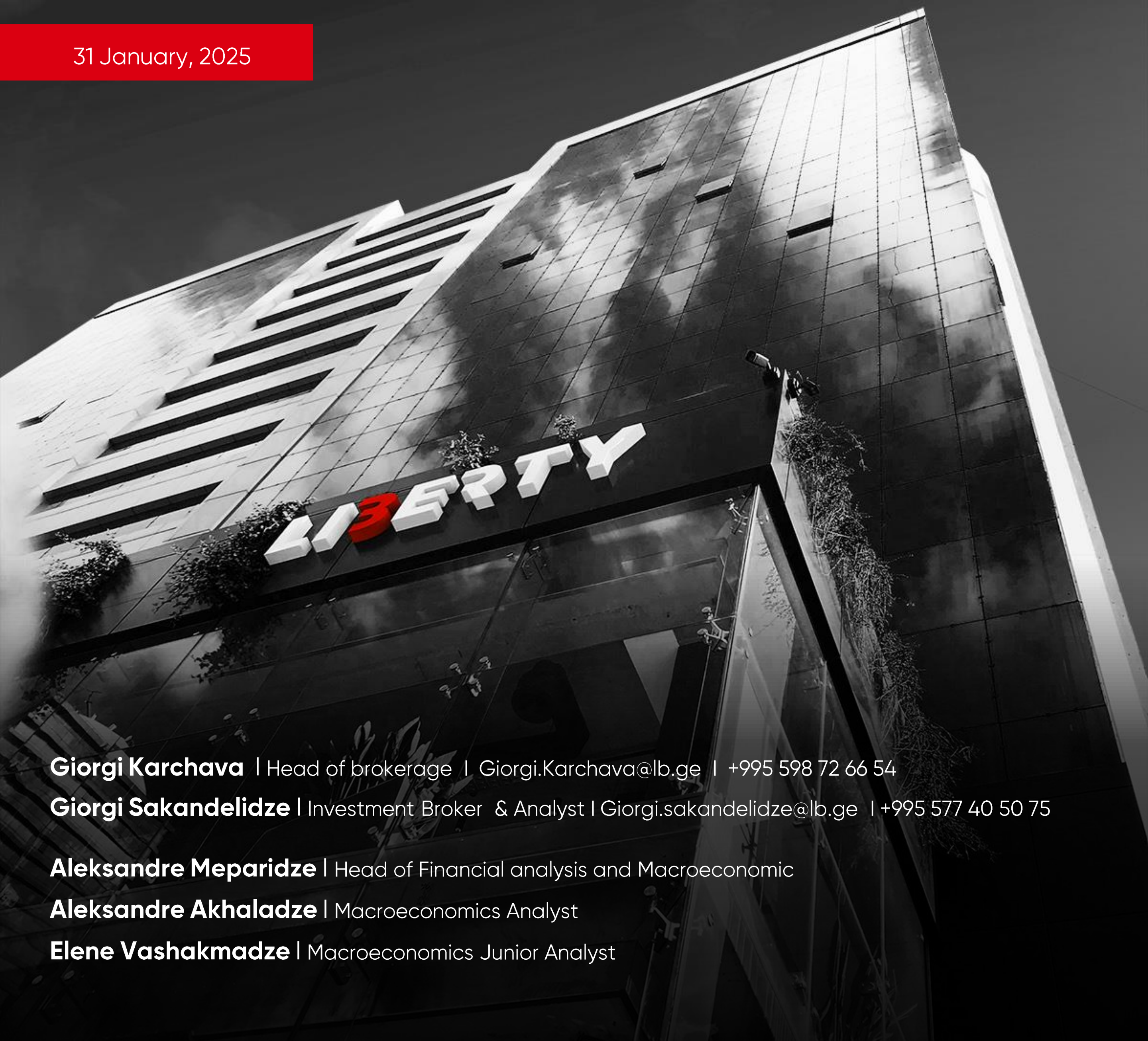
Global Financial Markets Weekly Update

31 January, 2025



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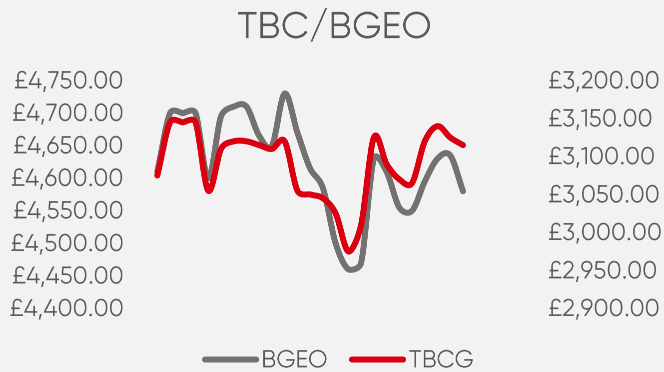
Quote of the week

Success is falling nine times
and getting up ten

Jon Bon Jovi

Executive Summary

- The FTSE 250 closed the week at **20,558£**, marking a solid **2.85% increase over the past five days**. This performance highlights the index's resilience, even as broader European markets opened lower due to lingering concerns over global economic conditions and political developments.
- The US Dollar Index (DXY) saw notable strength this week, bolstered by renewed tariff threats that heightened global market uncertainty. As trade tensions escalate, particularly with the U.S. signaling potential new tariffs, investors have flocked to the dollar as a safe-haven asset, driving the index higher.

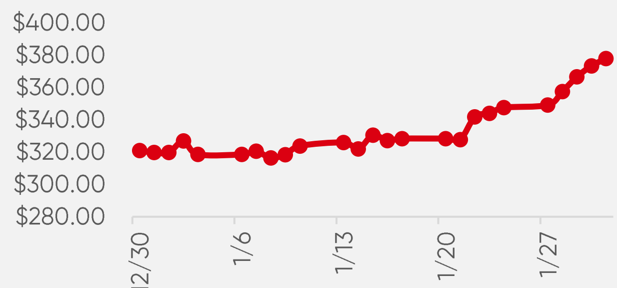


NAME	Ticker	Currency	Price	W/W chg%	P/E	EPS	Mcap '000
TBCG	TBCG	GBP	£33.40	4.38%	5.14	20.74	£1,860,706.87
BGEO	BGEO	GBP	£47.55	2.70%	3.16	31.30	£2,075,652.54
GCAP	CGEO	GBP	£12.12	1.00%	9.42	15.41	£459,833.43

Consumer Staples

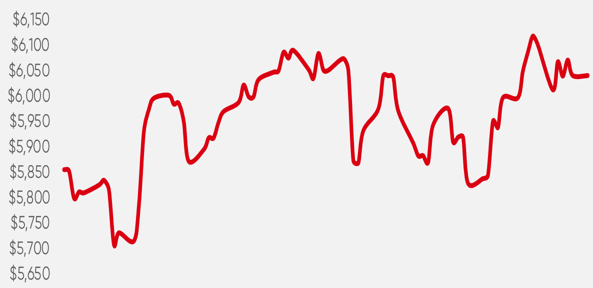
The consumer staples sector closed the week at **$799**, reflecting a **2.34% increase over the past five days.** This steady growth highlights the sector's defensive strength, as investors sought stability amid broader market volatility and renewed concerns over potential U.S. tariffs.

Coffee



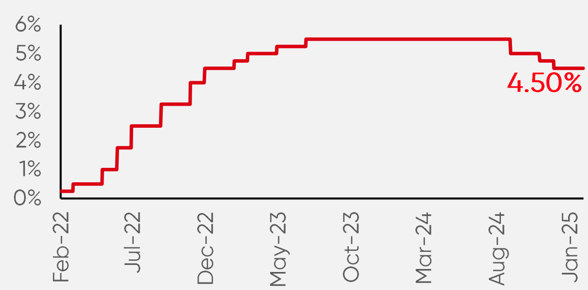
Coffee prices surged to **$380.1**, marking an impressive **8.2% increase over the past five days.** This sharp rise has been driven by escalating concerns over potential U.S. tariffs on Colombian imports, a key supplier of Arabica coffee, along with broader supply chain disruptions impacting global coffee markets.

S&P 500



The S&P 500 closed the week at **6,041**, marking a **0.47% increase over the past five days.** This modest gain reflects a period of consolidation as investors navigated mixed economic data and shifting market dynamics early in 2025.

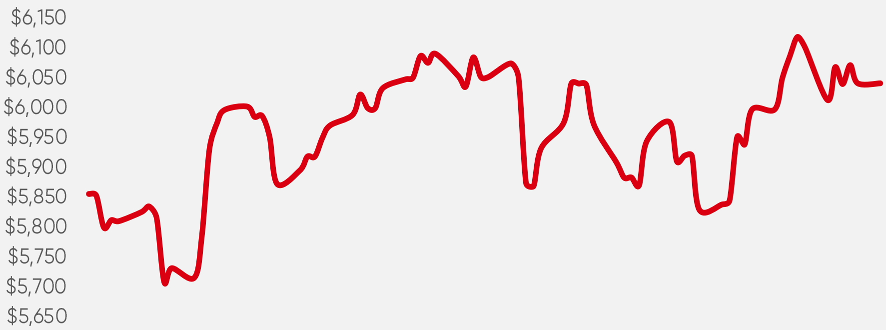
Fed Interest Rate



The Federal Reserve kept the federal funds rate at 4.25%-4.50% in its January 2025 meeting, pausing after three rate cuts in 2024. Inflation stood at 2.9% in December, still above the Fed's 2% target, while the unemployment rate remained stable at 4.1%.

Indices

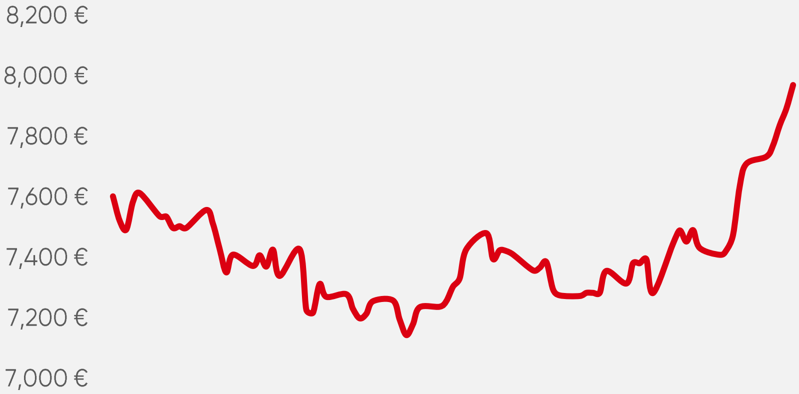
S&P 500



NAME	LAST
Communication Service	1.95%
Consumer Discretionary	0.93%
Consumer Staples	1.42%
Energy	-4.01%
Financial	1.22%
Health Care	1.74%
Industial	-1.91%
Materials	-0.22%
Real Estate	-0.32%
Technology	-3.57%
Utilities	-2.05%

The S&P 500 closed the week at **6,041**, marking a **0.47% increase over the past five days**. This modest gain reflects a period of consolidation as investors navigated mixed economic data and shifting market dynamics early in 2025.
The index's performance has been shaped by cautious optimism, with markets adjusting to evolving macroeconomic conditions, including interest rate expectations and corporate earnings reports. While certain sectors, particularly technology and consumer discretionary, provided upward momentum, overall market activity reflected a more defensive stance amid lingering concerns about global economic growth and inflationary pressures.

FTSE 250



Ticker	Price	W/W %	P/E
RPI	$ 728.00	15.27%	--
PNN	$ 442.00	14.57%	--
SMWH	$ 1,281.00	13.85%	24.86
HBR	$ 233.10	-7.56%	24.01
STEM	$ 253.50	-8.06%	6.80
WIZZ	$1,248.00	-10.88%	5.39

The FTSE 250 closed the week at **20,558£**, marking a solid **2.85% increase over the past five days**. This performance highlights the index's resilience, even as broader European markets opened lower due to lingering concerns over global economic conditions and political developments.
Despite a cautious start to the week, the FTSE 250 rebounded strongly, supported by investor optimism around the UK's mid-cap companies, which are more domestically focused and less exposed to global trade uncertainties. The index benefited from positive corporate earnings reports and improved business sentiment, helping to offset broader market pressures related to geopolitical risks and economic policy shifts.
The market also showed resilience in the face of renewed concerns about potential U.S. tariffs and their impact on global trade. While such developments have weighed on investor confidence across Europe, the FTSE 250's diverse sector composition—spanning financial services, real estate, and consumer goods—provided a buffer against external shocks.

Top Performing Sectors

Consumer staples **799$/2.34%**

Ticker	Price	W/W %	EPS T12M	P/E	Vol. mln
KR	$ 61.64	5.01%	$ 3.80	13.37	$4.47
COST	$ 979.88	4.28%	$ 17.07	57.59	$1.88
WMT	$ 98.16	3.59%	$ 2.44	40.24	$16.41
MKC	$ 77.23	3.12%	$ 2.94	26.61	$1.46
SJM	$ 106.89	3.07%	$ 4.96	12.39	$1.35
BG	$ 76.13	-1.37%	$ 7.93	7.51	$1.47
SYY	$ 72.92	-2.47%	$ 3.91	16.81	$4.67
BF/B	$ 33.01	-2.68%	$ 2.12	15.49	$6.82
HRL	$ 29.98	-2.91%	$ 1.47	20.13	$11.60
WBA	$ 10.28	-13.40%	$ (10.24)	1.08	$91.51

The consumer staples sector closed the week at **$799**, reflecting a **2.34% increase over the past five days**. This steady growth highlights the sector's defensive strength, as investors sought stability amid broader market volatility and renewed concerns over potential U.S. tariffs.

The sector's gains were driven by strong performances from key players in food, beverages, and household goods, supported by resilient consumer demand despite macroeconomic uncertainties. The potential impact of new tariffs under former President Trump's economic proposals has led investors to favor defensive sectors like consumer staples, which tend to perform well during periods of economic stress due to consistent demand for essential goods.

Additionally, improving supply chain conditions and easing input costs provided a boost to profit margins, contributing to the sector's positive momentum. Investors also responded favorably to earnings reports from major companies, which highlighted strong pricing power and operational efficiency in navigating inflationary pressures.

Health Care **6,003$/2.1%**

Ticker	Price	W/W %	EPS T12M	P/E	Vol. mln
ABBV	$ 183.90	7.99%	$ 2.40	24.42	$11.93
HSIC	$ 80.00	6.71%	$ 2.45	22.54	$1.28
HCA	$ 329.91	5.38%	$ 22.18	15.03	$1.25
DGX	$ 163.10	5.04%	$ 7.78	20.09	$1.58
VRTX	$ 461.68	5.02%	$ (1.85)	39.42	$3.65
TECH	$ 73.55	-4.54%	$ 0.95	59.92	$0.94
MRNA	$ 39.42	-4.81%	$ (5.80)	--	$6.54
RMD	$ 236.18	-5.72%	$ 8.50	27.38	$2.60
ALGN	$ 219.11	-6.08%	$ 5.87	33.87	$1.21
DHR	$ 222.74	-9.38%	$ 5.33	40.13	$4.79

The health care sector closed the week at **$6,003**, marking a **2.1% increase over the past five days**. This steady growth reflects renewed investor interest, fueled by strong performances in the biotechnology space and ongoing demand for health-related services.

A key driver of the sector's gains was the impressive surge in select biotech stocks, with notable companies experiencing significant valuation increases following positive clinical trial data and strategic partnerships. This momentum has boosted investor confidence in the broader health care sector, highlighting the growth potential of innovative therapies and medical technologies.

Top Performing Sectors

Financial

634$/1.86%

Ticker	Price	W/W %	EPS T12M	P/E	Vol. mln
BEN	$ 22.24	10.70%	$ 0.70	11.95	$22.38
IVZ	$ 19.23	9.08%	$ 1.18	14.65	$5.78
BLK	$ 1,075.50	5.39%	$ 42.45	26.85	$0.96
AJG	$ 301.82	4.25%	$ 6.67	38.15	$2.41
ERIE	$ 402.95	4.13%	$ 12.05	37.85	$1.59
USB	$ 47.78	-2.63%	$ 3.79	11.90	$11.18
AMP	$ 543.36	-3.59%	$ 33.68	15.22	$0.80
MSCI	$ 596.77	-3.86%	$ 14.09	42.81	$0.74
EG	$ 347.51	-4.83%	$ 64.48	5.65	$0.56
BX	$ 177.11	-5.16%	$ 3.64	48.15	$3.01

The financial sector closed the week at **$634**, posting a **1.86% increase over the past five days**. This moderate gain reflects a mixed environment where investor optimism is tempered by concerns over potential U.S. tariff policies and shifting market dynamics.

The sector experienced some volatility mid-week, driven by a retreat in key financial stocks amid broader market adjustments. Renewed discussions around tariffs under former President Trump's economic agenda have added a layer of uncertainty, particularly regarding their potential impact on global trade flows, corporate lending, and investment activities. These policy developments could influence credit markets and affect the profitability of multinational financial institutions.

Despite these headwinds, the sector's gains were supported by strong earnings reports from leading banks and asset managers, along with steady demand for financial services in a resilient economic environment. Additionally, expectations of stable interest rates have provided a favorable backdrop, supporting loan growth and margin stability for many firms.

Communication Service

717$/1.54%

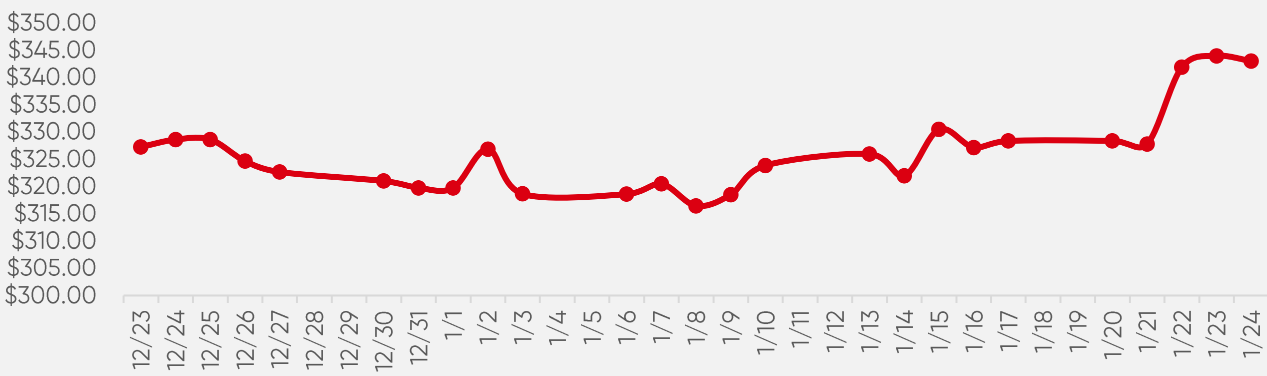
Ticker	Price	W/W %	EPS T12M	P/E	Vol. mln
TMUS	$ 232.97	6.59%	$ 9.70	23.52	$3.34
META	$ 689.18	6.44%	$ 24.61	28.55	$19.33
EA	$ 122.91	5.45%	$ 3.92	26.01	$6.59
MTCH	$ 35.70	4.82%	$ 2.34	15.94	$4.20
T	$ 23.73	4.45%	$ 1.49	10.32	$40.35
NFLX	$ 976.76	-0.08%	$ 20.28	49.80	$3.62
VZ	$ 39.39	-0.38%	$ 4.15	8.87	$45.19
PARA	$ 10.88	-1.72%	$ (8.22)	6.39	$6.73
CHTR	$ 345.49	-6.01%	$ 35.55	9.33	$2.81
CMCSA	$ 33.66	-10.53%	$ 4.16	8.88	$39.18

The consumer staples sector closed the week at **$717**, reflecting a **1.54% increase over the past five days**. This steady growth highlights the sector's defensive strength, as investors sought stability amid broader market volatility and renewed concerns over potential U.S. tariffs.

The sector's gains were driven by strong performances from key players in food, beverages, and household goods, supported by resilient consumer demand despite macroeconomic uncertainties. The potential impact of new tariffs under former President Trump's economic proposals has led investors to favor defensive sectors like consumer staples, which tend to perform well during periods of economic stress due to consistent demand for essential goods.

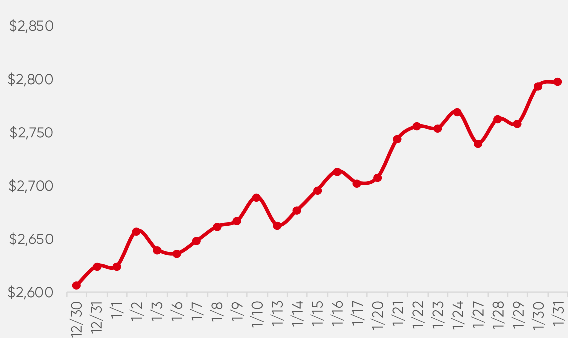
Commodities

Coffee



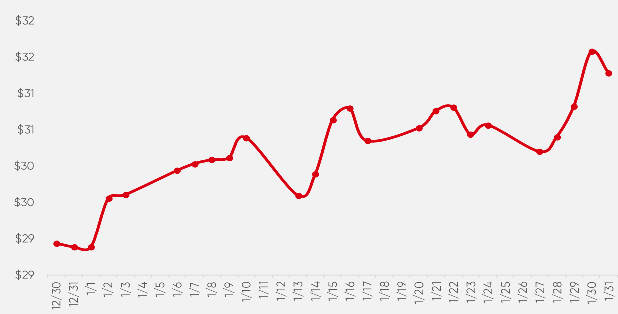
Coffee prices surged to **$380.1**, marking an impressive **8.2% increase over the past five days**. This sharp rise has been driven by escalating concerns over potential U.S. tariffs on Colombian imports, a key supplier of Arabica coffee, along with broader supply chain disruptions impacting global coffee markets.
The recent announcement of potential tariffs targeting Colombian goods has rattled the coffee industry, raising fears of supply shortages and increased costs for importers. As Colombia is one of the world's leading coffee producers, any trade restrictions could significantly tighten global supply, pushing prices higher in the short term.
In addition to geopolitical tensions, adverse weather conditions in major coffee-growing regions have contributed to the price rally. Unpredictable climate patterns, including droughts and excessive rainfall in parts of South America, have disrupted harvests, further straining supply.
Looking ahead, coffee prices are likely to remain volatile as markets react to ongoing trade negotiations, weather developments, and shifts in global demand. While short-term gains have been substantial, sustained price growth will depend on how geopolitical risks and environmental factors continue to unfold in the coming weeks.

Gold



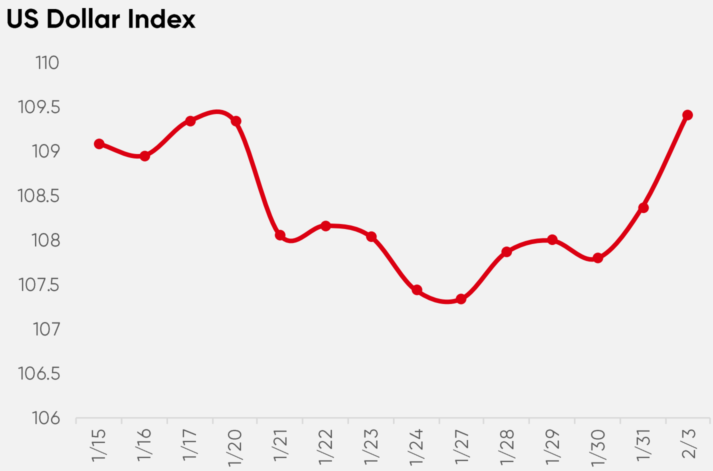
Gold prices advanced to **$2,797.32**, marking a **2.1% increase over the past five days**. This steady rise reflects the precious metal's enduring appeal as a safe-haven asset amid growing policy uncertainty and fluctuations in global financial markets.
Investor sentiment has been influenced by concerns over shifting monetary policies and geopolitical developments, prompting a flight to safety in traditional stores of value like gold.

Silver

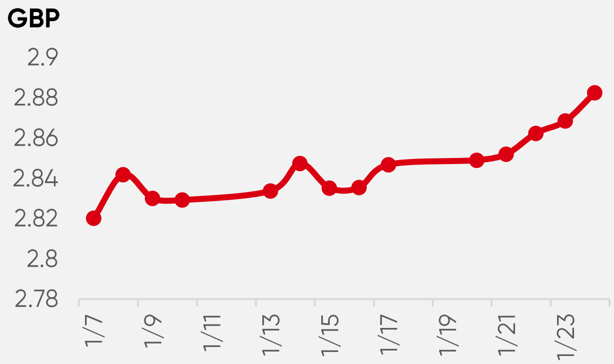


Silver prices climbed to **$31.15**, registering a **3.6% increase over the past five days**. This notable gain reflects silver's dual role as both a safe-haven asset and an essential industrial metal, benefiting from heightened market volatility and policy uncertainty.
Investors have turned to silver amid concerns over shifting monetary policies, with central banks' strategies on interest rates and inflation influencing demand for precious metals.

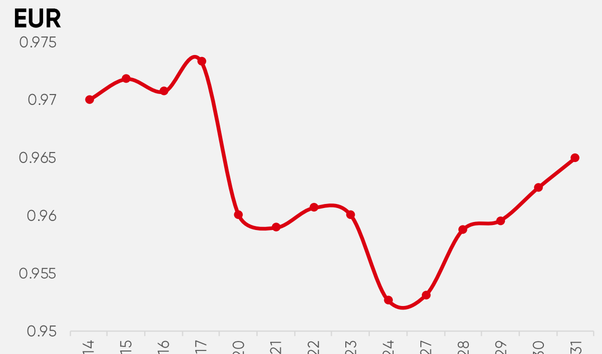
Currencies



The US Dollar Index (DXY) saw notable strength this week, bolstered by renewed tariff threats that heightened global market uncertainty. As trade tensions escalate, particularly with the U.S. signaling potential new tariffs, investors have flocked to the dollar as a safe-haven asset, driving the index higher.
Analysts highlight that the dollar's gains are closely tied to its role as a global reserve currency during periods of economic and geopolitical instability. The recent rhetoric around tariffs has sparked concerns about global trade disruptions, prompting a shift in investor sentiment toward more secure assets like the U.S. dollar.
In addition to geopolitical factors, expectations surrounding the Federal Reserve's monetary policy have also supported the DXY. Market participants are closely monitoring potential interest rate decisions, with the prospect of sustained higher rates further enhancing the dollar's appeal.
Looking ahead, the DXY's performance will depend on the trajectory of trade negotiations, macroeconomic data releases, and central bank policy shifts. While tariff threats have provided near-term momentum, the dollar's longer-term outlook will be shaped by broader global economic conditions and policy responses.



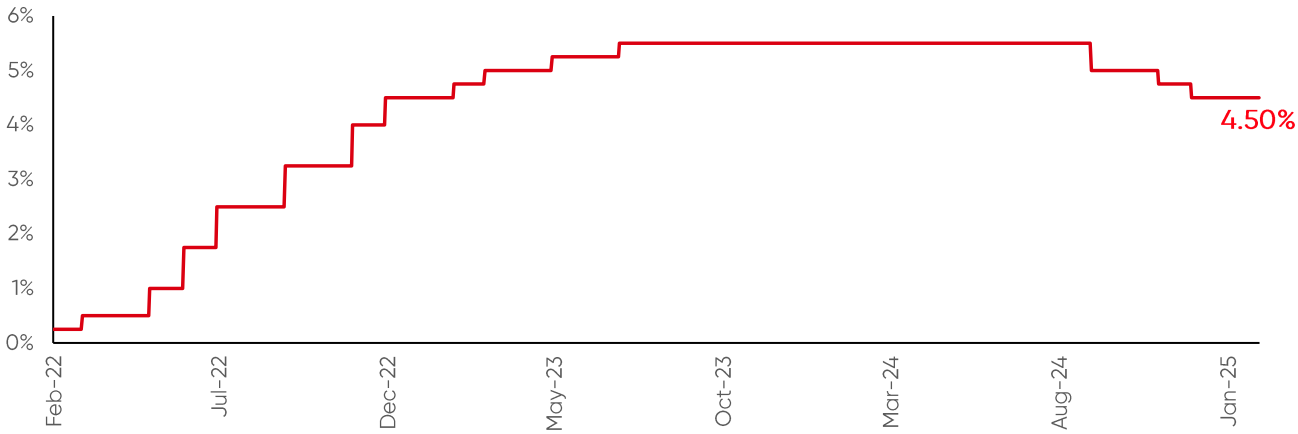
The British pound (GBP) showed signs of stabilization this week, briefly stepping out of the spotlight amid shifting market dynamics. This comes as investor sentiment balanced between cautious optimism and concerns over the UK's economic outlook.
The pound's resilience has been supported by a temporary easing of pressures from global market volatility and domestic economic challenges. Analysts note that the GBP benefited from reduced focus on UK-specific risks, with attention shifting toward broader macroeconomic events and currency movements globally.



The euro (EUR) maintained a steady performance this week, influenced by the release of Eurozone preliminary HICP inflation data, which rose to **2.5% year-over-year** in January, aligning with market expectations. This inflation figure has played a pivotal role in shaping investor sentiment around the euro's trajectory.
The uptick in inflation suggests that price pressures within the Eurozone remain persistent, potentially influencing the European Central Bank's (ECB) monetary policy stance.

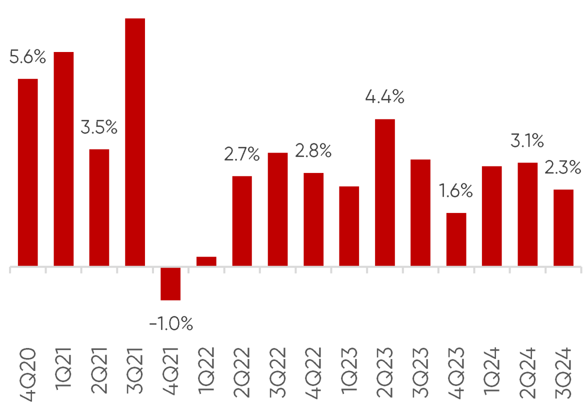
Macroeconomics

Fed Interest Rate



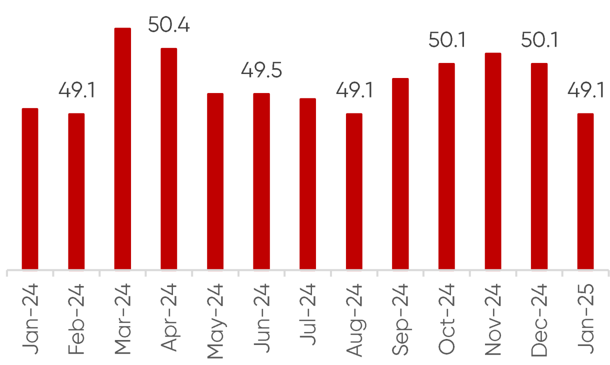
The Federal Reserve kept the federal funds rate at 4.25%-4.50% in its January 2025 meeting, pausing after three rate cuts in 2024. Inflation stood at 2.9% in December, still above the Fed's 2% target, while the unemployment rate remained stable at 4.1%. In its December 2024 projections, the Fed revised its year-end 2025 interest rate forecast to 3.9%, signaling a slower pace of rate cuts. Fed Chair Jerome Powell stressed the need for further progress on inflation before easing policy further. Despite solid economic growth, the Fed remains cautious, citing uncertainty in the outlook and risks to its dual mandate. The central bank will continue monitoring inflation, labor market conditions, and financial developments before making future policy adjustments.

US GDP Growth Rate (YoY)



U.S. GDP growth slowed to 2.3% in Q4 2024, down from 3.1% in Q3, as falling inventories subtracted 1.03 PP from overall expansion. Consumption remained strong, contributing 2.82 PP, driven by robust services and goods spending, while government spending and net exports also added to growth. Despite investment declines, the broader economy remains resilient, with low unemployment and solid consumption supporting expectations of 2.7% GDP growth in 2025.

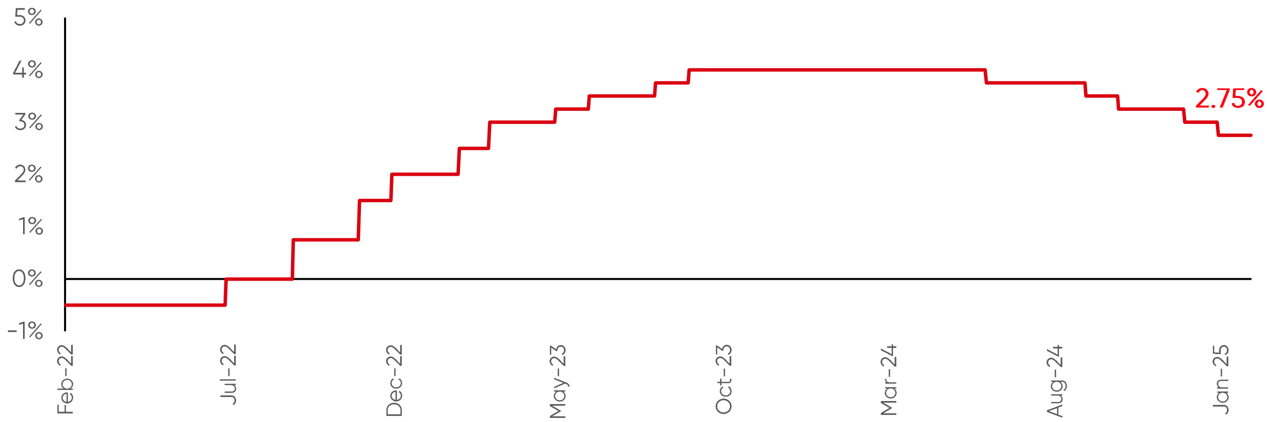
China Manufacturing PMI



China's manufacturing PMI unexpectedly fell to 49.1 in January, signaling contraction and missing the 50.1 forecast, as factory activity slowed. This reversed three months of expansion, adding to concerns about weak domestic demand and the impact of U.S. tariff threats. The services PMI remained in expansion at 50.3, supported by holiday-driven travel demand, while construction activity weakened with a 49.3 reading.

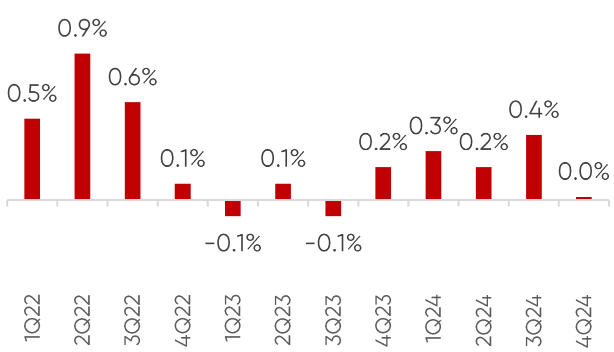
Macroeconomics

Euro Area Deposit Facility Rate



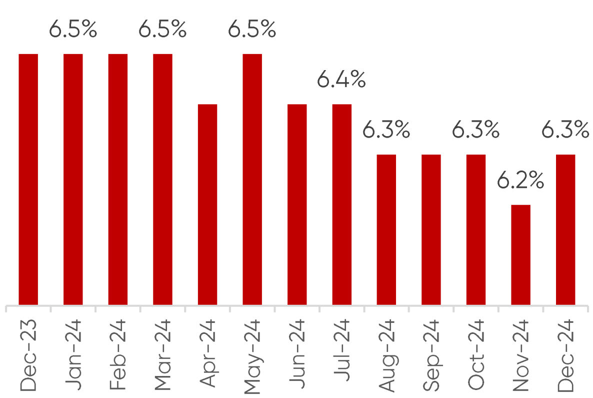
The European Central Bank (ECB) delivered a widely anticipated 25-basis-point interest rate cut, bringing its deposit facility rate to 2.75%, marking its fifth reduction since June 2024. The decision reflects the ECB's confidence that the disinflation process is on track, with inflation expected to return to the 2% target later this year, despite lingering domestic price pressures driven by wages. The Eurozone economy stagnated in Q4 2024, with Germany and France posting negative growth, reinforcing concerns over sluggish demand. While the ECB maintains a data-dependent, approach, markets anticipate further easing. The ECB's policy transmission remains restrictive, but lower borrowing costs are expected to gradually support economic recovery.

Euro Area GDP Growth Rate (QoQ)



The Euro Area economy stagnated in Q4 2024, while the EU economy grew by 0.1%, according to Eurostat's preliminary flash estimate. Annual GDP growth stood at 0.9% in the Euro Area and 1.1% in the EU. The data underscores weak economic momentum as the region grapples with high borrowing costs and sluggish demand. The ECB's policy stance will be closely watched, as investors expect rate cuts in 2025 to support growth.

Euro Area Unemployment Rate



The Euro Area unemployment rate edged up to 6.3% in December 2024, from a revised 6.2% in November, while the EU-wide rate increased to 5.9%. The number of unemployed individuals in the Euro Area rose by 96,000 to 10.83 million, marking a three-month high. Among major economies, Spain (10.6%) had the highest jobless rate, followed by France (7.8%) and Italy (6.2%), while Germany recorded the lowest at 3.4%.

Forthcoming Calendar

Monday

Name	Currency	Forecast	Current
CPI (YoY)	EUR		2.40%
Manufacturing PMI	USD	50.10	49.4
Manufacturing PMI	EUR	46.10	45.10
Caixin Manufacturing PMI	CNY	50.50	50.50
Manufacturing PMI	GBP	48.2	47.0

Tuesday

Name	Currency	Forecast	Current
JOLTS Job Openings	USD		8.098M
Factory Orders (MoM)	USD		-0.40%
10-Year JGB Auction	JPY		1.14%
IPC-Fipe Inflation Index (MoM)	BRL		0.34%

Wednesday

Name	Currency	Forecast	Current
Services PMI	USD	52.80	56.80
Trade Balance	USD		-78.20B
ADP Nonfarm Employment Change	USD		122K
Services PMI	EUR	51.40	51.60
Caixin Services PMI	CNY		52.20

Thursday

Name	Currency	Forecast	Current
Initial Jobless Claims	USD	228K	223K
BoE Interest Rate Decision	GBP		4.75%
German Factory Orders (MoM)	EUR		-5.40%
Trade Balance	AUD		7.079B
Construction PMI	GBP		53.30

Friday

Name	Currency	Forecast	Current
Unemployment Rate	USD		4.10%
Average Hourly Earnings (MoM)	USD		0.30%
Nonfarm Payrolls	USD		256K
German Trade Balance	EUR		19.7B
Unemployment Rate	CAD		6.70%

Upcoming Revenue Reports

Ticker	EPS Forecast	Forecast	Market cap
PLTR	0.1104	778.17M	187.91B
SCCO	1.12	2.9B	72.42B
NXPI	3.17	3.13B	53B
GMBXF	0.1263	4.04B	37.97B
IDXX	2.39	933.38M	34.56B

Ticker	EPS Forecast	Forecast	Market cap
GOOG	2.12	96.7B	2.51T
GOOGL	2.12	96.69B	2.51T
MRK	1.81	15.47B	2.49.98B
PEP	1.95	27.95B	209.15B
AMD	1.08	7.54B	188.16B

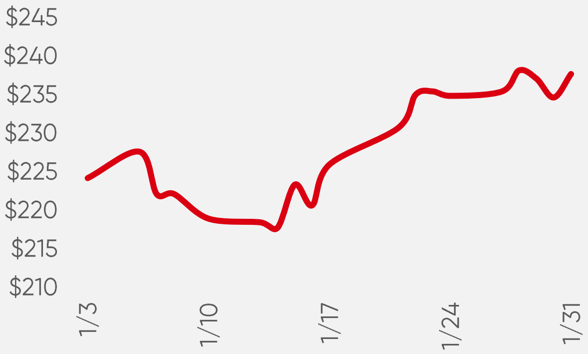
Ticker	EPS Forecast	Forecast	Market cap
NVO	0.8769	11.38B	364.09B
DIS	1.45	24.7B	204.46B
QCOM	2.97	10.93B	191.16B
ARM	0.25	761.71M	167.69B
BSX	0.6565	4.41B	150.86B

Ticker	EPS Forecast	Forecast	Market cap
AMZN	1.74	187.33B	2.5T
LLY	5.3	13.78B	730.32B
AZN	1.06	14.15B	215.23B
LIN	3.95	8.41B	208.48B
PM	1.5	9.5B	202.44B

Ticker	EPS Forecast	Forecast	Market cap
FTV	1.12	1.63B	28.22B
UI	1.86	510.41M	24.4B
DNKEY	0.4621	2.04B	24.23B
CBOE	2.14	527.51M	21.39B
BBD	0.0881	5.4B	20.97B

Upcoming Opportunities

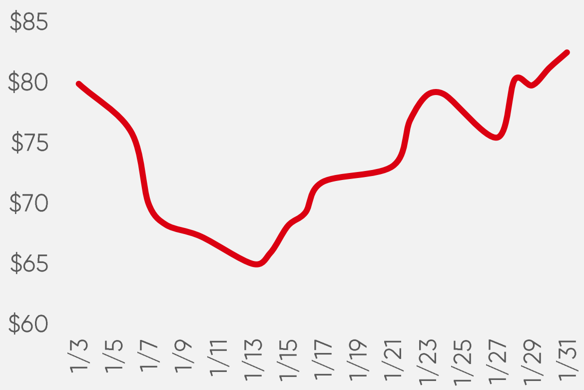
AMZN



Amazon (AMZN), currently trading at **$237.68**, presents a compelling investment opportunity as it prepares to release its highly anticipated revenue report next week. The company's strong track record, with its last **five consecutive earnings reports** surpassing expectations, has set the stage for continued investor optimism.

Amazon's growth has been fueled by its diversified business model, spanning e-commerce, cloud computing through AWS (Amazon Web Services), advertising, and expanding ventures into AI-driven technologies

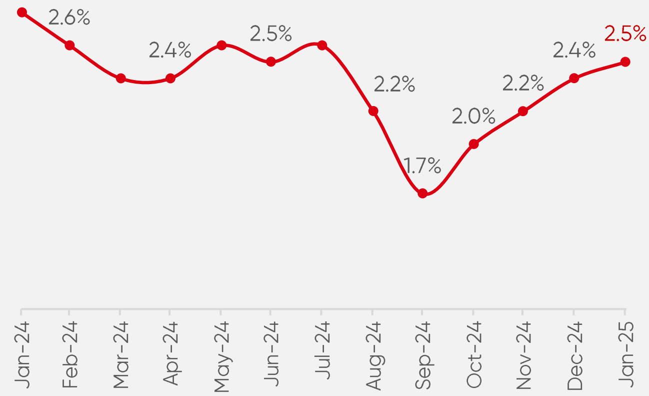
PLTR



Palantir Technologies (PLTR), currently trading at **$82.49**, represents a strong investment opportunity as the company heads into its upcoming earnings report. With a series of **positive earnings reports** and its stock demonstrating a **robust uptrend over the last quarter**, investor sentiment around Palantir remains highly optimistic.

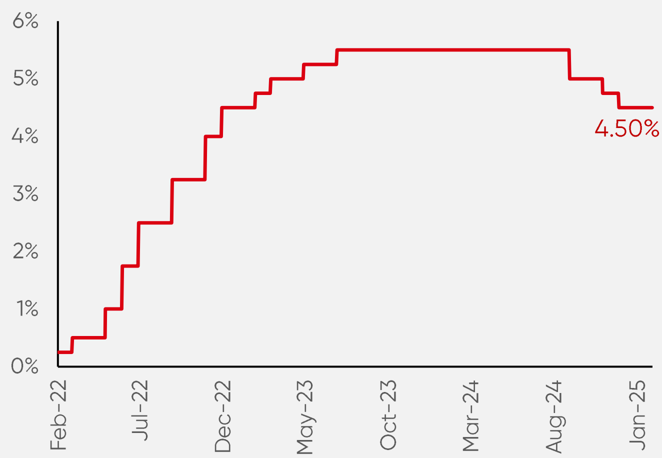
The company's growth trajectory has been fueled by increasing demand for its advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence platforms, which are widely adopted across government and commercial sectors.

Euro Area Inflation Rate



Euro Area inflation in January 2025 is expected to remain between 2.3%-2.5%, as weak economic growth and a rising unemployment rate limit demand-driven price pressures. Higher energy costs and a weaker euro may contribute to some inflationary momentum. With GDP stagnating (0.0%) in Q4 2024, the ECB is expected to take a cautious approach, assessing whether inflation trends justify rate cuts later in the year.

BoE Interest Rate



The Bank of England is expected to cut interest rates from 4.75% to 4.5% at its February 6 meeting. However, a weaker pound could push inflation above 3% later this year, with Bloomberg's SHOK model estimating that sterling's decline may add 0.23 percentage points to price pressures. While policymakers are likely to begin easing monetary policy, persistent wage growth, rising energy prices, and financial tightening could lead to a slower pace of rate cuts throughout 2025.

Story of the Week

New Tariffs from Donald Trump

In a bold move that has sent shockwaves through global markets, former President Donald Trump announced sweeping new tariffs on imports from **Canada, Mexico, and China**, reigniting fears of a full-scale trade war. Set to take effect on **February 4, 2025**, these tariffs include a **25% duty on goods from Canada and Mexico**, with a slightly reduced **10% tariff on Canadian energy products**, and a **10% tariff on all Chinese imports**. The Trump administration has justified these measures as necessary to address national security concerns, citing issues such as **illegal drug trafficking, undocumented immigration, and long-standing economic imbalances**.

The immediate reaction from financial markets was sharp and negative. Major indices like the **S&P 500**, **Dow Jones**, and **Nasdaq** experienced significant declines, as investors feared the potential economic fallout from escalating trade tensions. Industries heavily reliant on international supply chains—particularly **automotive, manufacturing, technology, and agriculture**—were among the hardest hit. Automakers like **General Motors, Ford, and Tesla** saw their share prices tumble, reflecting concerns about rising production costs, disrupted supply chains, and reduced global competitiveness. Analysts warn that these tariffs could exacerbate inflationary pressures, leading the **Federal Reserve** to delay anticipated interest rate cuts, which could further dampen economic growth.

In response, **Canada and Mexico** quickly announced retaliatory measures. Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** confirmed the imposition of **25% tariffs** on a wide range of U.S. goods, targeting approximately **$106 billion** in American exports. The affected products include **lumber, plastics, alcohol, appliances**, and various consumer goods, directly impacting U.S. industries that rely heavily on cross-border trade. **Mexico** has also signaled its intention to implement retaliatory tariffs, likely focusing on **agricultural products and industrial goods**, sectors where U.S. exporters have significant exposure. This tit-for-tat escalation threatens the stability of the **USMCA (United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement)**, undermining years of efforts to foster economic cooperation in North America.

The broader economic implications of this trade conflict are profound. The **automotive industry** faces some of the most immediate risks, with higher tariffs on steel, aluminum, and auto parts expected to drive up vehicle prices, reduce inventories, and strain profit margins for manufacturers and dealers alike. Beyond the auto sector, industries such as **technology**, **agriculture**, and **consumer goods** are bracing for higher costs and potential supply chain disruptions. U.S. farmers, in particular, are vulnerable, as tariffs on agricultural exports could limit market access, depress commodity prices, and exacerbate the financial pressures already facing rural communities.

Definitions

- **Equities:** Shares of ownership in a company that give investors a claim on profits, often through dividends or stock price gains.
- **Bonds:** Loans to governments or companies, paying fixed interest over time, with repayment at maturity.
- **Commodities:** Basic raw materials like oil, gold, or crops, traded on markets to hedge or profit from price changes.
- **Currency Markets (Forex):** Global trading of currencies where investors profit from exchange rate changes between pairs like EUR/USD.
- **Interest Rates:** The cost of borrowing money, set by central banks, influencing economic activity and inflation.
- **Unemployment Claims:** The number of people filing for jobless benefits. Higher claims can signal economic weakness, impacting stock and bond markets.
- **Job Creation:** A measure of new jobs added to the economy, used as an indicator of economic growth and consumer spending strength.
- **GDP (Gross Domestic Product):** The total value of goods and services produced by a country. It's a key measure of economic health and growth.
- Consumer price index (CPI): measures the average change in prices over time for a basket of goods and services typically purchased by households, serving as a key indicator of inflation.
- **Monetary Policy:** Actions by central banks, like adjusting interest rates, to influence economic activity and control inflation.
- **FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee):** The branch of the Federal Reserve that sets U.S. monetary policy, affecting interest rates and economic growth.
- **Dovish Stance:** A policy outlook that favors low interest rates to stimulate economic growth, often boosting stock and bond markets.
- **Hawkish Stance:** A policy outlook that favors higher interest rates to curb inflation, which can slow economic growth and hurt stocks.
- **Inflation:** The rate at which prices for goods and services rise, reducing purchasing power. It influences central bank policies and market performance.
- **Consumer Spending:** The total amount of money spent by households. It's a major driver of economic growth and corporate earnings.
- **Treasuries:** U.S. government bonds considered low-risk investments, sensitive to changes in interest rates set by the Federal Reserve.

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