

Week Ahead Economic Preview

Inflation updates in the US and Europe accompanied by UK GDP numbers

9 January 2026

US and euro area inflation updates, alongside monthly UK GDP, will provide key insights and guidance for markets, the tone of which will be reflected in S&P Global's Investment Manager Index.

US policymakers get an inflation update via the consumer price index for December. Recent data have been affected by the government shutdown, which meant price statistics were not collected for October and led to some suspicions over the quality of November's data. Hence the drop in headline inflation to 2.7% in November, down from 3.0% in September, and the drop in core inflation to 2.6% (its lowest since March 2021), was treated by markets with caution.

December's CPI data will therefore provide more insights into the inflation trajectory, and to policymaking. Rate setters at the Federal Reserve have been split on whether to loosen policy to help shore up the labour market, or whether sticky inflation warrants more caution. At the time of writing, a cut in US interest rates is not widely expected until June, with rates having been cut by 25 basis points at each of the last three meetings. Updates to US retail sales, industrial production and producer prices will also be released through the week.

In the UK, official GDP data including monthly updates to manufacturing, services and construction for November are due and will give guidance on fourth quarter economic performance. Prior data showed GDP dropping 0.1% for a second successive month in October, having failed to grow since April. That pushed the three-month growth rate into negative territory (albeit just -0.1%) for the first time since late 2023. PMI data have been similarly subdued, indicating broadly stalled business conditions in both November and December to round off a year of only very modest growth. With changes to UK employment taxes and the minimum wage meaning job losses have been worryingly high over 2025, the KPMG/REC recruitment industry survey will also be keenly assessed for insights into December's job market.

Elsewhere in Europe, inflation data for Germany, Italy, France and Spain are released, with the overall message expected to be one of largely benign eurozone price growth.

In Asia, trade statistics for mainland China are accompanied by a preliminary reading of Q4 GDP in Malaysia, while rate setters in South Korea meet. Having held rates in November, further cuts are not expected imminently – especially amid signs of a [stabilising manufacturing sector](#) and sticky inflation – but have not been ruled out.

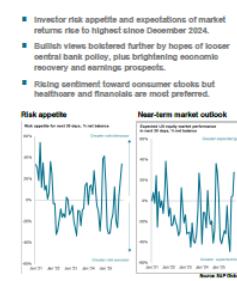
The tone of the US equity market will be reflected in S&P Global's [Investment Manager Index](#) (IMI) survey, the January results of which are published on Tuesday. Prior data showed risk appetite improving among fund managers, fuelled by expected market gains linked to looser monetary policy and improved economic growth prospects, both within the US and globally.

S&P Global

9 December 2025

Investment Manager Index™ US equities

Fund manager risk appetite hits one-year high



Investor risk appetite has improved for a third straight month, hitting the highest for a year in December, according to the S&P Global [Investment Manager Index™](#) (IMI™) survey. Risk appetite has improved for a third straight month as investors have been buoyed primarily by the expectation of lower interest rates and improved economic growth prospects, both within the US and globally.

The IMI's Risk Appetite Index has risen from +18% in November to +34% in December, its highest since December 2024 and marking a further improvement to the level last observed in October 2023. The latest survey results also showed the survey respondents have been more positive about the future of equities.

Expectations of near-term market returns have likewise improved to their highest since December 2024, signaling one of the most bullish stances in the survey history.

For a fourth consecutive month, central bank policy is seen as the most powerful driver of rising market returns, though

with the anticipated boost to equities from lower interest rates now the highest recorded since April 2021. Some 80% of survey respondents anticipate a further cut from the FOMC at its December meeting ([see page 7](#)). Lower rate expectations are also expected to bear down on the US dollar over 2025 as monetary easing continues relative to other major economies ([see page 8](#)).

An anticipation of improving corporate performance meanwhile means that rising shareholder value is now the second-most significant factor behind stronger equity performance, alongside brighter equity fundamentals.

Underpinning these improving sentiments is a growing conviction of better macroeconomic trends. The contribution to equity returns from the US macroeconomy has risen to the highest since January, with growth expectations for the coming year the highest for three years running only that seen at the end of 2022 ([see page 5](#)). The broader global macro environment is improving, with the survey seeing its strongest boost to US equities since January 2022.

Helping the domestic market is the ending of the government shutdown, which has helped lift the expected boost to the market from fiscal policy to its highest for a year, and helped moderate the expected drag on equities from the political environment as it wound down.

That said, concerns remain to be the largest drag on equities, though concerns over high stock prices are notably now down to their lowest since June despite major equity indices rebounding since the November sell-off.

Investors are most bullish with regard to healthcare and financials, but also remain highly in favor of communication services and tech (albeit with growth slowing for the latter). Non-financials are also high. Similarly, basic materials has meanwhile risen to its most positive since May 2024, but enthusiasm has moderated slightly for utilities and industrials.

Real estate is least favored for a second consecutive month, while negative investors are still high. The shift toward consumer staples and energy, and has turned positive from consumer discretionary for the first time since January, a marked shift in sentiment which reflects rising hopes of improved consumer spending alongside the brightened economic outlook.

Commentary from Chris Williamson
Chief Business Economist
S&P Global Market Intelligence

All other content from Jingyi Pan
Economics Associate Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence

Key diary events

Monday 12 Jan	Tuesday 13 Jan	Wednesday 14 Jan	Thursday 15 Jan	Friday 16 Jan
EMEA - UK KPMG/REC Report on Jobs (Dec) - Germany Current Account (Nov)	GEP Global Supply Chain Volatility Index* (Dec) S&P Global Investment Manager Index* (Jan) Americas - US ADP Weekly Employment change - US CPI (Dec) - US New Home Sales (Oct) - US Monthly Budget Statement (Dec)	Americas - US PPI (Nov) - US Retail Sales (Nov) - US Existing Home Sales (Dec) - US Business Inventories (Oct)	Americas - Brazil Retail Sales (Nov) - US Export and Import Prices (Nov) - US NY Empire State Manufacturing Index (Jan) - US Philadelphia Fed Manufacturing Index (Jan)	Americas - Canada Housing Starts (Dec) - US Industrial Production (Dec)
APAC <i>Japan Market Holiday</i> - Australia Household Spending (Nov) - India Inflation (Dec)	EMEA - Türkiye Current Account (Nov) APAC - Australia Westpac Consumer Confidence Change (Jan) - Japan Current Account (Nov)	APAC - South Korea Export and Import Prices (Dec) - New Zealand Building Permits (Nov) - China (Mainland) Balance of Trade (Dec) - China (Mainland) M2, Loan Growth, New Yuan Loans (Dec) - India WPI (Dec)	EMEA - Germany Wholesale Prices (Dec) - Sweden Inflation (Dec, final) - UK monthly GDP, incl. Manufacturing, Services and Construction Output (Nov) - France Inflation (Dec, final) - Spain Inflation (Dec, final) - Germany Full Year GDP Growth - Italy Industrial Production (Nov) - Eurozone Balance of Trade (Nov) - Eurozone Industrial Production (Nov)	EMEA - Germany Inflation (Dec, final) - Italy Inflation (Dec, final)
<i>Indonesia Market Holiday</i>			APAC - South Korea BoK Interest Rate Decision - India Balance of Trade (Dec)	APAC - Singapore Non-Oil Domestic Exports (Dec) - Malaysia GDP (Q4, prelim)

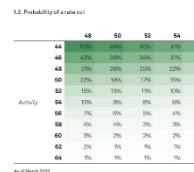
* Access press releases of indices produced by S&P Global and relevant sponsors [here](#).

Recent PMI and economic analysis from S&P Global

Global	Flash PMIs show US demand growth falling behind all other major developed economies	17-Dec	Chris Williamson
	Emerging markets new export orders rise at fastest pace since US tariff announcements	11-Dec	Andrew Harker
	Monthly PMI Bulletin: December 2025	8-Dec	Jingyi Pan
	Global PMI signals robust expansion in November but confidence and hiring remain subdued	8-Dec	Chris Williamson
	PMI data highlight global economy's ongoing reliance on rising financial services activity	8-Dec	Chris Williamson
	Global trade stabilises in November	5-Dec	Jingyi Pan
EMEA	December flash PMI rounds off eurozone's best quarter for two and a half years	16-Dec	Chris Williamson
	UK flash PMI signals higher growth and optimism post-Budget, but inflation also lifts higher	16-Dec	Chris Williamson
	November flash PMI adds to signs of improved fourth quarter eurozone growth	21-Nov	Chris Williamson
Americas	Flash US PMI signals slower business growth in December as prices spike higher	17-Dec	Chris Williamson
	US equity market investor sentiment reaches one-year high as policy optimism improves	10-Dec	Jingyi Pan
Asia-Pacific	Inflationary pressures intensify in December amid a fresh rise in new orders for Japanese firms	16-Dec	Jingyi Pan

S&P Global Market Intelligence highlights

Using PMI data to better understand monetary policy decisions



In this paper, we use Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI®) data from S&P Global to calculate the likelihood of changes in monetary policy at the world's major central banks. PMI data are advantageous as a tool for central banks, providing timely sets of macroeconomic information that are released monthly and not revised. This contrasts with official data, such as GDP, employment or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which have a longer publication lead times and are often subject to revision.

[Click here to access our research and analysis](#)

The Decisive | PMI in Focus: Global Business Outlook and AI Sentiment



Host Paul Smith is joined by senior economists Pollyanna de Lima and Andrew Harker to explore the latest trends in Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMI) and their implications for the global economy. They discuss the resilience of global economic growth in 2025 in the face of challenges such as low business confidence, tariffs, and trade uncertainties

[Click here to listen to this podcast by S&P Global Market Intelligence](#)

For further information:

For more information on our products, including economic forecasting and industry research, please visit <https://www.spglobal.com/>. For more information on our PMI business surveys, please visit [here](#).

The intellectual property rights to the data provided herein are owned by or licensed to S&P Global and/or its affiliates. Any unauthorised use, including but not limited to copying, distributing, transmitting or otherwise of any data appearing is not permitted without S&P Global's prior consent. S&P Global shall not have any liability, duty or obligation for or relating to the content or information ("Data") contained herein, any errors, inaccuracies, omissions or delays in the Data, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. In no event shall S&P Global be liable for any special, incidental, or consequential damages, arising out of the use of the Data. Purchasing Managers' Index™ and PMI® are either trade marks or registered trade marks of S&P Global Inc or licensed to S&P Global Inc and/or its affiliates.

Links to more resources

- [Sign up to receive updated commentary in your inbox here.](#)
- [Calendar of upcoming PMI releases](#)
- [Running commentary on the PMI survey findings](#)
- [PMI Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Background to the PMIs \(video\)](#)
- [Understanding the headline PMI and its various subindices](#)
- [PMI data use-case illustrations](#), from nowcasting to investment strategy
- [PMI podcasts](#)
- [How to subscribe to PMI data](#)
- [Join our monthly webinar](#)

CONTACT US

Chris Williamson

Chief Business Economist
S&P Global Market Intelligence
London

T: +44 779 5555 061

chris.williamson@spglobal.com

Jingyi Pan

Economics Associate Director
S&P Global Market Intelligence
Singapore

T : +65 6439 6022

jingyi.pan@spglobal.com

The Americas

+1-877-863-1306

EMEA

+44-20-7176-1234

Asia-Pacific

+852-2533-3565

spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/mi/products/pmi.html