

# Quant Daily Digest

## ■ Daily Overview

**Macro & Sentiment** As 2025 closes, market sentiment is buoyed by a mix of strong tech sector performance and evolving monetary policy expectations. Citigroup's bullish Bitcoin forecast—targeting \$143K by 2026 in a best-case scenario—reflects growing institutional acceptance amid regulatory uncertainties. Meanwhile, economist Mark Zandi's contrarian call for three Fed rate cuts in H1 2026 contrasts with the Fed's more cautious outlook, injecting speculation about a potentially earlier and more aggressive easing cycle. **Retail investors** capped a stellar year by capitalizing on volatility, outperforming institutions through tactical dip-buying, signaling sustained appetite for risk despite geopolitical and policy uncertainties. **Equities / Rates** Alphabet capped its best year since 2009, driven by AI innovation and strong earnings, outperforming megacap peers and reinforcing tech's leadership in the equity rally. Nike's shares jumped on significant insider buying, prompting a reassessment of its turnaround prospects amid mixed broader market signals. **Rates markets** remain sensitive to divergent Fed expectations; while official guidance points to modest easing, Zandi's forecast may fuel volatility in front-end yields and curve positioning early next year. **FX & Commodities** No major FX or commodity moves dominate year-end flows, though Bitcoin's elevated forecast may sustain crypto market interest. **Traditional safe havens** remain range-bound as risk sentiment holds. **What to Watch** • Fed communications and data for signs of earlier-than-expected easing in 2026 • Bitcoin price action and regulatory developments amid Citigroup's bullish scenario • Insider activity and earnings updates from key tech and consumer names (Alphabet, Nike)

## ■ Hot List

### Citigroup's \$143K Bitcoin Call for 2026—Bull, Base, and Bear Scenarios Explained

Citigroup has issued a notable Bitcoin price forecast for 2026, projecting a bull case target of \$143,000. The bank outlined three scenarios: bull, base, and bear, reflecting varying degrees of adoption, regulatory impact, and macroeconomic conditions. This forecast highlights growing institutional interest and the increasing role of Bitcoin in diversified portfolios. The call may influence market positioning and flows as investors weigh the potential upside against regulatory and volatility risks. Citigroup's detailed scenario analysis provides a framework for quant models assessing crypto asset risk and return profiles over the medium term.

Read more: <https://247wallst.com/investing/2025/12/29/citigroups-143k-bitcoin-call-for-2026-bull-base-and-bear-scenarios-explained/>

24/7 Wall St.

### Economist Mark Zandi sees the Fed surprising with three rate cuts in first half of 2026

Economist Mark Zandi forecasts the Federal Reserve will implement three rate cuts in the first half of 2026, diverging from market consensus and Fed officials who anticipate only modest easing. This suggests potential shifts in monetary policy expectations that could impact bond yields and interest rate-sensitive assets. Current market pricing reflects a cautious outlook on rate reductions, implying that Zandi's view could trigger repricing if realized. Investors and quants should monitor Fed

communications and economic data closely for signs of earlier-than-expected easing. Positioning in fixed income and interest rate derivatives may need adjustment to account for this potential policy surprise.

Read more: <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/12/31/economist-mark-zandi-sees-the-fed-surprising-with-three-rate-cuts-in-first-half-of-2026-.html>

US Top News and Analysis

## **Google wraps up best year on Wall Street since 2009, beating megacap peers as AI story strengthens**

Alphabet's shares surged in 2025, marking their best annual performance since 2009, driven by strong investor enthusiasm around its AI advancements. The stock outperformed other megacap peers as the company launched new AI-related products, addressing earlier market skepticism about its competitive positioning in artificial intelligence. This positive sentiment fueled increased buying flows and improved positioning among quant funds focused on tech innovation. Alphabet's rally contributed to broader tech sector gains, reflecting a market rotation into AI leaders. The price action underscores the growing importance of AI narratives in equity valuations and portfolio allocations.

Read more: <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/12/31/google-stock-wraps-best-year-since-2009-as-ai-excites-wall-street-.html>

US Top News and Analysis

## **Retail investors close out one of their best years ever. How they beat Wall Street at its own game**

In 2025, retail investors significantly outperformed by strategically buying dips during key market downturns, capturing outsized gains compared to institutional players. This contrarian approach allowed them to capitalize on volatility and market rebounds, contributing to one of their best years ever. Data indicates increased retail participation and flow into equities during sell-offs, highlighting a shift in market dynamics. Their success challenges traditional Wall Street dominance, emphasizing the impact of retail positioning and timing. This trend may influence future market liquidity and volatility patterns as retail investors continue to play a pivotal role.

Read more: <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/12/31/retail-investors-dip-buying-taco-trade-strong-2025.html>

US Top News and Analysis

## **Stock Market Today, Dec. 31: Nike Jumps on Major Insider Buying**

On December 31, 2025, Nike shares surged following significant insider buying, signaling confidence in the company's future prospects. This activity has prompted Wall Street to reevaluate Nike's turnaround narrative amid mixed market sentiment. The insider purchases suggest strong internal conviction, potentially influencing positioning and attracting momentum-driven flows. The broader market context remains cautious, but Nike's price action stands out as a key focus for quant strategies monitoring insider signals and sentiment shifts. This development may impact sector rotation and equity factor exposures in the near term.

Read more: <https://www.fool.com/coverage/stock-market-today/2025/12/31/stock-market-today-dec-31-nike-jumps-on-major-insider-buying/?tsrc=rss>

Yahoo! Finance: ^GSPC ^IXIC ^DJI News

## **Dow Jones, Stock Market Fall To Key Levels To End 2025; Tesla, Palantir, Nvidia Chipmaker In Focus**

The stock market closed 2025 on a weaker note, with key indices like the Dow Jones and S&P; 500 retreating from recent highs. Notable attention was on tech names such as Palantir and Nvidia's chip manufacturing partner, Taiwan Semiconductor, amid concerns over demand and supply chain dynamics. Tesla's upcoming delivery numbers also drew investor focus, potentially impacting near-term price action. Market positioning appears cautious as investors digest mixed signals from earnings and macroeconomic data. Flow data suggests some profit-taking ahead of the new year, contributing to the pullback in equities.

Read more: <https://finance.yahoo.com/m/57ea6d61-b23e-34a7-9d2f-99385d66cfd2/dow-jones%2C-stock-market-fall.html?.tsrc=rss>

Yahoo! Finance: ^GSPC ^IXIC ^DJI News

## **Stock Market Today, Dec. 31: Lackluster Year End Barely Dents 2025's Double Digit Gains**

On December 31, 2025, U.S. equity markets experienced a modest pullback as investors engaged in profit-taking, particularly in high-growth and AI-related stocks. This year-end selling pressure led to declines in major benchmarks despite the overall strong performance throughout 2025, which saw double-digit gains. Trading volume was thin, reflecting typical year-end liquidity conditions. The fading enthusiasm for AI themes contributed to the rotation away from growth sectors. Despite the late-year softness, the market maintained robust annual returns, signaling sustained investor confidence heading into 2026.

Read more: <https://www.fool.com/coverage/stock-market-today/2025/12/31/stock-market-today-dec-31-lackluster-year-end-barely-dents-2025-s-double-digit-gains/?tsrc=rss>

Yahoo! Finance: ^GSPC ^IXIC ^DJI News

## **Stock Market Today, Dec. 31: Plug Power Rises After Clear Street Upgrades Rating Despite Lower Price Target**

On December 31, 2025, Plug Power's stock rose following an upgrade by Clear Street, despite the firm lowering its price target. The upgrade reflects confidence in Plug Power's hydrogen turnaround potential, though concerns remain about the company's funding strategy and associated risks. This move highlights investor interest in alternative energy plays amid ongoing market volatility. The stock's price action suggests a positive shift in sentiment, potentially driven by expectations of operational improvements and strategic funding solutions. Market participants should monitor Plug Power's funding developments and hydrogen sector trends for future positioning.

Read more: <https://www.fool.com/coverage/stock-market-today/2025/12/31/stock-market-today-dec-31-plug-power-rises-after-clear-street-upgrades-rating-despite-lower-price-target/?tsrc=rss>

Yahoo! Finance: ^GSPC ^IXIC ^DJI News

## **■ Articles**

**Qualitative exploration of comprehension and experiences of healthcare professionals regarding nutrition care in Karachi, Pakistan**

The article explores healthcare professionals' understanding and experiences with nutrition care in Karachi, Pakistan, highlighting challenges due to structural and economic constraints. While not directly related to financial markets, insights into healthcare infrastructure and resource allocation can influence sector-specific investments and policy-driven healthcare spending. The study underscores the need for systematic, evidence-based nutrition interventions, which may impact healthcare service demand and related market segments. No direct data points, price action, or flows are discussed, limiting immediate market relevance.

Read more: <https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0005483>

Plos.org

## **BeeTrade – Create and deploy trading strategies in minutes - no coding required**

BeeTrade offers a platform enabling users to create and deploy trading strategies quickly without coding skills. This tool targets traders seeking efficient strategy development and execution, potentially enhancing algorithmic trading accessibility. While not directly providing market data or price action insights, BeeTrade's ease of use could influence trading flows by increasing participation in systematic strategies. Its no-code approach may impact quant workflows by lowering technical barriers, facilitating rapid strategy iteration and deployment. The platform's relevance lies in democratizing algorithmic trading, potentially affecting market dynamics through broader strategy adoption.

Read more: <https://betalist.com/startups/beetrade>

Betalist.com

## **Decoding the genome of *Brainea insignis* reveals insights into fern evolution and conservation**

The article discusses the sequencing of the genome of *Brainea insignis*, an endangered fern species, providing new insights into fern evolution and conservation. While primarily a scientific advancement, this genomic data could influence biotech and environmental sectors by informing conservation strategies and potentially impacting related equities or ETFs focused on biodiversity and sustainability. No direct market data, price action, or policy changes are mentioned. The research may indirectly affect long-term investment flows in environmental genomics and conservation technologies.

Read more: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-025-68053-0>

Nature.com

## **quant-torch 0.0.1**

Quant-torch 0.0.1 is a newly released machine learning forecasting and backtesting framework available on Pypi.org. This tool is designed to assist quants and data scientists in developing and validating predictive models for financial markets. By integrating ML techniques, it aims to enhance the accuracy of market forecasts and improve strategy robustness through systematic backtesting. The framework could facilitate better handling of market data, price action analysis, and risk management. Its release signals growing adoption of advanced ML tools in quantitative finance workflows.

Read more: <https://pypi.org/project/quant-torch/0.0.1/>

Pypi.org

## **Saylor's Strategy would have done better without Bitcoin, says Peter Schiff**

Peter Schiff criticized Michael Saylor's Bitcoin-heavy investment strategy, arguing it would have yielded better returns without Bitcoin due to its high volatility and risk. Schiff's comments reignite discussions on the importance of diversification and strategic asset allocation in crypto portfolios. This critique may influence market sentiment, potentially affecting Bitcoin flows and positioning among institutional investors. The debate underscores ongoing concerns about Bitcoin's role in long-term investment strategies amid fluctuating price action. Market participants may reassess risk exposure and portfolio balance in response to such high-profile commentary.

Read more: <https://cryptobriefing.com/saylor-strategy-better-without-bitcoin-says-schiff/>

Crypto Briefing

## **A computational framework to study EGFR signaling distribution in egg chambers during dynamic interactions between soma and germline**

The article presents a computational framework to analyze EGFR signaling distribution in egg chambers, focusing on dynamic soma-germline interactions during cell differentiation. This model captures the spatiotemporal anisotropy and time-dependent signaling patterns critical for developmental processes. While the study advances biological understanding, it does not provide direct financial market data, price movements, policy changes, or flow/positioning insights relevant to market or quantitative finance professionals.

Read more: <https://journals.plos.org/ploscompbiol/article?id=10.1371/journal.pcbi.1013802>

Plos.org

## **Nanochemicals Market Size to Worth USD 43.93 Billion by 2035**

The global nanochemicals market is projected to expand from USD 22.63 billion in 2026 to USD 43.93 billion by 2035, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.65%. This significant growth trajectory highlights increasing demand and investment in nanochemical technologies. Market expansion is likely driven by advancements in nanotechnology applications across various industries, potentially influencing sector-specific equity and commodity flows. The forecasted growth may impact related supply chains and investment positioning in materials and chemical sectors. Quantitative strategies could consider this trend for sector rotation or thematic exposure in emerging technology markets.

Read more: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/12/29/3210910/0/en/Nanochemicals-Market-Size-to-Worth-USD-43-93-Billion-by-2035.html>

GlobeNewswire

## **Thermoplastic Polyimides Market Size to Worth USD 1,926.61 Mn by 2035**

The global thermoplastic polyimides market is projected to expand significantly, with its size expected to increase from USD 795.39 million in 2026 to USD 1,926.61 million by 2035. This represents a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) that underscores strong demand growth in this specialty polymer sector. The market's expansion is likely driven by increased applications in aerospace, automotive, and electronics industries, reflecting broader industrial trends. Investors and quant models

tracking materials and industrial sectors may find relevant signals in this growth trajectory, potentially influencing sector allocations and commodity-linked equities. No immediate price action or policy changes are noted, but the forecasted growth suggests positive long-term fundamentals.

Read more: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/12/29/3210902/0/en/Thermoplastic-Polyimides-Market-Size-to-Worth-USD-1-926-61-Mn-by-2035.html>

GlobeNewswire

## **Epoxy Resin Market Size Worth USD 21.22 Bn by 2035 Driven by EV Growth, Renewable Energy, and Infrastructure Development**

The epoxy resin market is projected to reach USD 21.22 billion by 2035, driven primarily by growth in electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy sectors, and infrastructure development. This forecast highlights increasing demand for epoxy resins in battery components, wind turbine blades, and construction materials. Market expansion is supported by technological advancements and rising environmental regulations promoting sustainable materials. Key players are investing in capacity expansion and innovation to capture market share. The report suggests strong sectoral flows into related materials and potential shifts in supply chains aligned with green energy trends.

Read more: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/12/29/3210848/0/en/Epoxy-Resin-Market-Size-Worth-USD-21-22-Bn-by-2035-Driven-by-EV-Growth-Renewable-Energy-and-Infrastructure-Development.html>

GlobeNewswire

## **Trump's first vetoes of his second term hit bipartisan infrastructure projects, draw accusations of retribution**

Former President Trump issued his first vetoes of his second term, targeting bipartisan infrastructure projects. The vetoes are seen as retribution following Colorado's refusal to release Tina Peters, convicted last year. This political move introduces uncertainty around key infrastructure funding, potentially delaying project timelines and impacting related sectors. Market participants may reassess risk in infrastructure-linked equities and bonds amid heightened political risk. The vetoes could also influence state-level fiscal flows and federal-state cooperation on infrastructure initiatives.

Read more:

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/31/trumps-first-vetoes-hit-bipartisan-infrastructure-projects.html>

US Top News and Analysis

## **Khanna calls for nationwide fraud investigation after wealth tax proposal caused firestorm**

California Representative Ro Khanna is facing backlash after proposing a wealth tax, prompting him to call for a nationwide fraud investigation. The proposal has sparked significant controversy, leading to shifts in political support and market uncertainty around potential tax policy changes. Investors and market participants are closely monitoring the situation, as the wealth tax could impact high-net-worth individuals and capital flows. The heightened scrutiny and political tension may influence asset allocation and risk positioning in sectors sensitive to tax policy. Market reaction remains cautious amid the evolving legislative landscape.

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/30/ro-khanna-calls-for-fraud-probe-after-california-wealth-tax-firestorm.html>

US Top News and Analysis

## Moolec Receives Staff Determination Letter and Provides Update on Nasdaq Listing Compliance Status

Moolec Science SA received a determination letter from Nasdaq's Listing Qualifications Department, addressing its compliance status with Nasdaq listing rules. The letter signifies ongoing regulatory scrutiny but does not indicate immediate delisting. Moolec is actively working to meet Nasdaq's requirements to maintain its listing. The update may influence investor sentiment and trading volumes as market participants assess the company's regulatory risk. No specific price action or flow data was disclosed in the announcement. Monitoring Moolec's compliance progress will be crucial for positioning decisions.

Read more:

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/moolec-receives-staff-determination-letter-230000753.html?.tsrc=rss>

Yahoo! Finance: ^GSPC ^IXIC ^DJI News

## What links the Trump crypto empire and Burkina Faso's stablecoin plans?

The article explores the surprising connection between Donald Trump's crypto ventures and Burkina Faso's plans to launch a national stablecoin. It highlights how both initiatives reflect broader trends in the adoption of digital currencies by diverse actors, from political figures to emerging economies. Burkina Faso aims to leverage stablecoins to enhance financial inclusion and economic stability, while Trump's crypto empire underscores the increasing politicization and commercialization of digital assets. The piece underscores the growing importance of stablecoins in global finance, with implications for market liquidity, regulatory scrutiny, and cross-border capital flows. These developments signal evolving positioning and potential volatility in crypto markets.

Read more: <https://www.ft.com/content/ddc2b71b-7134-4863-a096-6256f17ddfe0>

FT Alphaville

## Dotcom tycoon to bankruptcy court: the fall and fall of Robert Bonnier

Robert Bonnier, a dotcom entrepreneur, faces bankruptcy court amid allegations of manipulating AudioBoom's share price. A judge determined Bonnier lied to secure investment from property developer Nick Candy, raising concerns about the integrity of the company's equity flows and investor positioning. This case highlights risks in market transparency and potential distortions in share price movements due to fraudulent activities. The fallout may impact investor confidence and trading volumes in related tech stocks. Market participants should monitor developments for potential volatility and regulatory scrutiny in similar cases.

Read more: <https://www.ft.com/content/728d7c77-f037-48b3-9a81-d112791d8b62>

FT Alphaville

## The best of FT Alphaville, 2025 edition

FT Alphaville's 2025 edition offers a deep dive into market introspection, focusing on evolving investor behavior and shifting macroeconomic trends. The analysis highlights increased volatility in equity and bond markets driven by policy uncertainty and geopolitical tensions. Quant strategies are adapting to



new data regimes, emphasizing alternative data and machine learning to capture alpha amid structural changes. Flows indicate a rotation from traditional assets into thematic and ESG-focused funds, reflecting changing investor priorities. Positioning shows cautious optimism but with heightened sensitivity to central bank communications and inflation dynamics. Overall, the report underscores the need for dynamic risk management in a complex market environment.

Read more: <https://www.ft.com/content/c5e120cd-494e-4eef-a620-35fed8d62d27>

FT Alphaville

## Prediction markets barely make money; sportsbooks make money

Prediction markets like Kalshi, which aim to financialize differences of opinion on events including sports, struggle to generate consistent profits compared to traditional sportsbooks. While sportsbooks leverage odds and betting volumes to maintain profitability, prediction markets face challenges in liquidity and pricing efficiency, limiting their revenue potential. The article highlights that despite the innovative approach of turning event outcomes into tradable contracts, prediction markets have yet to match the financial success and market impact of established betting platforms. This suggests ongoing difficulties in scaling prediction markets for broader financial applications.

Read more: <https://www.ft.com/content/1ac03f57-bd5d-4196-85ff-4bd96dc69e0d>

FT Alphaville

## Person of Interest 2025: the longlist

The FT Alphaville article "Person of Interest 2025: the longlist" highlights key individuals and entities likely to face significant market scrutiny or regulatory challenges in 2025. It underscores potential catalysts for volatility, including policy shifts and enforcement actions that could impact asset flows and positioning. The piece serves as a cautionary guide for quant and market participants to monitor evolving risks tied to these figures. While not providing specific price data, it emphasizes the importance of incorporating regulatory and reputational risk factors into trading models and risk assessments. This aligns with a broader trend of increased market sensitivity to governance and compliance issues.

Read more: <https://www.ft.com/content/6d1e1434-ddca-44cc-af66-8422fee0b0bf>

FT Alphaville

## ■ AI & Finance

### Project ideas to appreciate the art of programming

The article from Codecrafters.io presents various programming project ideas aimed at enhancing coding skills and appreciating the art of programming. While it does not directly address financial markets or quantitative trading, such projects can be valuable for quants and developers seeking to improve algorithmic thinking, coding efficiency, and problem-solving abilities. These skills are crucial for developing robust trading algorithms, data analysis tools, and automated strategies. The resource may indirectly support market participants by fostering better programming practices and innovation in quantitative finance. No specific market data, price action, or policy information is discussed.

Read more: <https://codecrafters.io/blog/programming-project-ideas>

Codecrafters.io



## ILLR Remains Confident in Nasdaq Appeal and Imminent Filing Compliance

Triller Group Inc. disclosed that Nasdaq has suspended its trading following a determination by the Nasdaq Hearings Panel on December 26, 2025. Despite the suspension, Triller remains confident in its appeal against the decision and expects to achieve imminent compliance with Nasdaq's filing requirements. The company's focus on resolving regulatory issues may impact its stock liquidity and volatility in the near term. Market participants should monitor developments around the appeal outcome and any subsequent filings that could influence Triller's trading status and investor sentiment.

Read more: <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/12/30/3211453/0/en/ILLR-Remains-Confident-in-Nasdaq-Appeal-and-Imminent-Filing-Compliance.html>

GlobeNewswire

## The art of the backhand compliment: Why negative marketing works

The article highlights a marketing trend where brands use self-deprecating or negative messaging to capture consumer attention amid saturated media environments. Data indicates that such "backhand compliments" can boost sales by up to 45%, leveraging the psychological negativity bias to enhance engagement. This approach contrasts with traditional positive branding, suggesting a shift in consumer responsiveness to authenticity and imperfection. While not directly tied to financial markets, the trend may influence advertising spend allocation and media flow dynamics, potentially affecting marketing sector equities and ad-tech data analytics. Quant strategies could consider sentiment shifts in advertising content as a novel alpha source.

Read more: <https://brandequity-preprod.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/marketing/the-art-of-the-backhand-compliment-why-negative-marketing-works/126227514>

The Times of India

## ■ Quant Keywords & Mini-Glossary

**Bull, Base, Bear Scenarios** — [Different market outcome projections reflecting optimistic, neutral, and pessimistic cases.]

**Volatility Risks** — [The potential for large price fluctuations impacting asset returns and risk management.]

**Monetary Policy Easing** — [Central bank actions to lower interest rates to stimulate economic activity.]

**Interest Rate Derivatives** — [Financial contracts whose value depends on interest rate movements.]

**Market Positioning** — [The aggregate stance of investors in terms of long or short exposures.]

**Flow Data** — [Information on buying and selling volumes indicating market demand and supply.]

**Profit-Taking** — [Selling assets to realize gains, often causing short-term price pullbacks.]

**Trading Volume** — [The total quantity of shares or contracts traded in a given period.]

**Insider Buying** — [Purchases of company stock by executives or insiders signaling confidence.]

**Sector Rotation** — [Shifting investment allocations between industry sectors based on market outlook.]

**Equity Factor Exposures** — [Sensitivity of a portfolio to systematic drivers like value, momentum, or growth.]

**Repricing** — [Market adjustment of asset prices due to new information or changing expectations.]

**Risk Positioning** — [The degree of exposure investors have to market risks.]

**Algorithmic Trading** — [Automated execution of trades based on predefined quantitative strategies.]

**Backtesting** — [Testing a trading strategy on historical data to evaluate performance.]

**Scenario Analysis** — [Evaluating portfolio outcomes under different hypothetical market conditions.]

**Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** — [The mean annual growth rate of an investment over a specified period.]

**Liquidity Conditions** — [The ease with which assets can be bought or sold without affecting price.]

**Market Sentiment** — [The overall attitude of investors toward a particular security or market.]

**Regulatory Risk** — [The risk that changes in laws or regulations will affect asset values.]

**Price Target** — [Analyst's forecasted future price level for a security.]

**Momentum-Driven Flows** — [Capital movements influenced by recent price trends and investor behavior.]

**Macro Data** — [Economic indicators that influence market expectations and asset prices.]

**Vol Surface** — [The pattern of implied volatility across different option strikes and maturities.]

**Risk-Return Profiles** — [The relationship between the expected returns of an asset and its risk.]