

Finance & AI Scout

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GLOBAL FINANCIAL NEWS

Global Markets Await Key U.S. Inflation and GDP Data

The Wall Street Journal | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 09:53:00 GMT

Global markets are holding steady as investors brace for the release of the U.S. Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index, the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, and fourth-quarter GDP figures. These data points are critical for shaping the outlook on the Fed's interest rate path for the year, especially after recent hawkish commentary from officials.

Dollar Hits Four-Month High on Hawkish Fed and Geopolitical Risk

Reuters | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 01:31:44 GMT

The U.S. dollar is poised for its best week in four months, strengthening against major currencies due to expectations of a hawkish Federal Reserve and rising geopolitical tensions. The currency's safe-haven appeal is being tested as markets await crucial U.S. economic data that could influence future Fed rate decisions.

Markets Pressured by Private Credit Worries and Potential U.S. Strike on Iran

CNBC | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 07:30:01 GMT

Major U.S. indices fell as investors contended with dual threats: emerging concerns over the stability of the private credit market and heightened geopolitical risk from a potential U.S. military action against Iran. This combination of financial and geopolitical uncertainty drove a risk-off sentiment across markets.

Japan's Core Inflation Slows to Two-Year Low, Complicating BOJ Policy

Reuters | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 01:31:44 GMT

Japan's annual core consumer inflation, which excludes fresh food, slowed to 2.0% in January, its lowest level in two years. The cooling inflation data reduces pressure on the Bank of Japan (BOJ) to proceed with further interest rate hikes, complicating its path toward policy normalization.

U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on Trump-Era Tariffs Looms Over Markets

Reuters | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 11:52:34 GMT

Market participants are on high alert for a potential U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the legality of broad emergency tariffs from the Trump administration. A decision to strike down the tariffs could necessitate the refund of over \$175 billion, creating significant fiscal and market uncertainty.

Euro and European Yields Decline Following Eurozone PMI Data

The Wall Street Journal | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 00:49:00 GMT

The euro weakened and European government bond yields fell after the release of the latest Eurozone Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data. The economic figures are influencing investor expectations regarding the European Central Bank's future monetary policy decisions.

Oil Prices Near Six-Month Highs as U.S.-Iran Tensions Escalate

Reuters | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 11:52:34 GMT

Crude oil prices traded near six-month highs as investors assessed the fallout from growing tensions between Washington and Tehran. Warnings from the U.S. President to Iran regarding its nuclear program have injected a significant risk premium into global energy markets.

Goldman Sachs: South Korea's Growth Potential 'Fairly Low' Outside of Tech

CNBC | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 04:52:11 GMT

A Goldman Sachs analysis suggests that South Korea's economic growth potential is 'fairly low' if its outperforming technology sector is excluded. The report highlights the nation's heavy reliance on AI-related investments to drive growth, while sluggish domestic demand continues to be a drag on the broader economy.

Airbus Shares Plunge 6% on Disappointing Delivery Forecast

CNBC | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 07:30:01 GMT

Shares in European aerospace manufacturer Airbus dropped 6% after the company announced a 2026 delivery forecast that fell short of analyst expectations. The CEO attributed the weaker outlook to 'unsatisfactory' and persistent engine shortages from its suppliers, signaling ongoing supply chain disruptions.

U.S. Stock Futures Muted as Investors Await Data Barrage

The Wall Street Journal | Fri, 20 Feb 2026 08:46:25 GMT

U.S. stock futures were little changed as investors awaited a series of key economic reports. The day's agenda is dominated by the release of the fourth-quarter GDP estimate and the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) price index, which are set to provide crucial insights into the health of the U.S. economy.

GLOBAL AI NEWS

OpenAI reportedly finalizing \$100B deal at more than \$850B valuation

TechCrunch | 2026-02-19T15:35:58Z

OpenAI is reportedly close to finalizing a fundraising deal of over \$100 billion, which would place its valuation at more than \$850 billion. Key investors are said to include Amazon, SoftBank, Nvidia, and Microsoft, signaling a massive capital injection into the AI leader.

OpenAI

Google's new Gemini 3.1 Pro model achieves record benchmark scores

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T00:55:22Z

Google has released its new Gemini 3.1 Pro model, which has achieved top scores on performance benchmarks, including the APEX-Agents leaderboard for real-world professional tasks. This release intensifies the competition in the large language model space against rivals like OpenAI and Anthropic.

Gemini 3.1 Pro	AI
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Reliance announces \$110 billion investment plan for AI data centers in India

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T11:58:15Z

Indian multinational conglomerate Reliance Industries revealed plans to invest \$110 billion over the next seven years to establish gigawatt-scale data centers, marking another major domestic investment to bolster India's AI compute capacity.

AI

Adani Group pledges \$100 billion for AI data center infrastructure in India

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T11:58:15Z

At the India AI Impact Summit, Indian conglomerate Adani Group announced a commitment to invest \$100 billion to develop up to 5 gigawatts of data center capacity in India by 2035, a massive push to build the nation's AI infrastructure.

Adani AI	AI
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UAE's G42 and Cerebras to deploy 8 exaflops of AI compute in India

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T11:58:15Z

Abu Dhabi's G42 is partnering with AI hardware firm Cerebras to deploy a supercomputer delivering 8 exaflops of AI compute in India. This move is a significant step in advancing India's sovereign AI capabilities and national competitiveness.

AI

General Catalyst commits \$5 billion to India over five years

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T06:41:44Z

Venture capital firm General Catalyst has announced a \$5 billion investment commitment for India over the next five years. The firm's CEO stated that India is positioned to build the next generation of global platform companies, particularly in the AI sector.

General Catalyst

OpenAI partners with Tata Group for Stargate AI compute project in India

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T11:58:15Z

As part of its global Stargate infrastructure project, OpenAI has partnered with India's Tata Group to secure an initial 100 megawatts of AI compute capacity in the country, with plans to scale the deployment to 1 gigawatt.

AI

Nvidia deepens strategic push into India's AI startup ecosystem

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T00:30:00Z

Nvidia is expanding its support for India's AI startup ecosystem by partnering with local venture capital firms like Accel and Peak XV. The initiative aims to identify and fund promising AI startups, giving them preferential access to Nvidia's technology and expertise.

Nvidia AI

AI data center boom drives demand for energy storage, fueling Redwood's growth

TechCrunch | 2026-02-19T21:10:13Z

The rapid expansion of AI data centers is creating a massive demand for reliable power, fueling the energy storage market. Redwood recently raised \$425 million, with participation from Google and Nvidia, to scale its capacity to meet the energy needs of these new facilities.

AI AI

Indian government aims to attract over \$200 billion in AI infrastructure investment

TechCrunch | 2026-02-20T11:58:15Z

India's technology minister announced at the AI Impact Summit that the country plans to attract more than \$200 billion in AI infrastructure investment over the next two years. The government will use a combination of tax incentives, state-backed VC, and policy support to achieve this goal.

AI AI