

Dear investor,

Today's economic highlights...

Dollar gains put on hold, sterling looks to BoE for cues

- TOKYO (Reuters) - The dollar traded near its strongest in more than two months against the euro and the yen on Thursday as pessimism about the U.S. economic outlook receded before the release of important data on the jobs market.
- The British pound held steady against the dollar and traded near an eight-month high versus the euro ahead of a Bank of England policy meeting that will publish findings on the feasibility of negative interest rates.
- Sentiment for the dollar has improved recently as progress in coronavirus vaccinations, moves by U.S. President Joe Biden to pass more fiscal stimulus, and improving economic data forced some bearish investors to give up their short positions. [Read more...](#)

Biden's Payout Pledge; New Case in Melbourne: Virus Update

- (Bloomberg news) - U.S. President Joe Biden said he wasn't willing to reduce the \$1,400 stimulus checks outlined in his Covid-19 aid package as that would mean starting his presidency with a broken promise, though he was open to tightening the eligibility criteria for recipients.
- Hong Kong plans to double its in-school teaching capacity, allowing a third of students to return to class.
- AstraZeneca Plc and the University of Oxford have started looking at how to re-engineer their coronavirus vaccine to defeat new mutations, saying a tweaked injection could be ready late this year. [Read more...](#)

Job openings raise hope of economic rebound in 2021

- (Business Daily) - Job openings in the private sector in January rose at the second fastest pace over the past year, signalling a gradual economic rebound as more businesses and learning institutions increased spending.
- The Markit Stanbic Bank Kenya's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) — a monthly measure of private sector activity — shows that the rate of new hires was the fastest since October before authorities tightened some of the pandemic's containment measures, which had been eased, to stem a second-wave of coronavirus infections.
- Business managers polled in the closely watched monthly survey between January 12-27 said they added workers as a result of rising demand for goods and services. [Read more...](#)

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