

Today's economic highlights...

Oil rises as investors focus on OPEC+ decision amid growing Omicron fears

- TOKYO (Reuters) -Oil prices rose on Thursday, recouping the previous day's losses, as investors adjusted positions ahead of an OPEC+ decision over supply policy, but gains were capped amid fears the Omicron coronavirus variant will hurt fuel demand.
- [Brent crude](#) futures rose 85 cents, or 1.2%, to \$69.72 by 0402 GMT, having eased 0.5% in the previous session.
- U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained 85 cents, or 1.3%, to \$66.42 a barrel, after a 0.9% drop on Wednesday. [Read more...](#)

Dollar Down, Yen Near Seven-Week High as Omicron Continues to Spread

- Investing.com – The dollar was down on Thursday morning in Asia while the yen, a fellow safe-haven asset, remained near a seven-week high. The South African rand and other riskier currencies were also impacted by concerns over the new omicron COVID-19 variant and its rapid global spread.
- The [U.S. Dollar Index](#) that tracks the greenback against a basket of other currencies inched down 0.06% to 95.968 by 11:03 PM ET (4:03 AM GMT). The index consolidated in the middle of its range over the past two weeks, after rising as high as 96.938 for the first time since July 2020 during that period.
- The [USD/JPY](#) pair was up 0.28% to 113.07. [Read more...](#)