

Today's economic highlights...

Dollar on back foot after hawkish tilts by BoE, ECB

- TOKYO (Reuters) - The U.S. dollar remained under pressure on Friday, a day after the Bank of England and European Central Bank adopted more hawkish stances than markets had expected, giving a boost to sterling and the euro.
- The [dollar index](#), which measures the currency against six major peers including the euro and British pound, started the Asian session at 95.933 following a 0.61% two-day slide that took it as low as 95.850 on Thursday for the first time since Dec. 8.
- Sterling edged up to \$1.33305, after surging as high as \$1.33755 for the first time since Nov. 24 in the previous session, when the BoE surprised most market participants to become the first major central bank to raise interest rates since the beginning of the pandemic. [Read more...](#)

Oil prices head for weekly loss on Omicron coronavirus uncertainty

- SINGAPORE (Reuters) -Oil prices dipped on Friday, putting the market on track for a weekly loss, as surging cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant raised fears new curbs may hit fuel demand, while a weaker dollar supported commodity markets broadly.
- Brent crude futures fell 74 cents, or 1%, to \$74.28 a barrel at 0530 GMT while U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures dropped 81 cents, or 1.1%, to \$71.57 a barrel. Brent is headed for a 1.2% loss this week, while WTI is poised to finish the week down 0.1%.
- "Look at what's happening with Omicron - that's a negative which people are trying to digest. Are we going to be in line for some new restrictions? That's what the market's trying digest," said Commonwealth Bank commodities analyst Vivek Dhar. [Read more...](#)

CDC recommends Pfizer, Moderna vaccines over J&J shots for adults due to rare blood clot cases

- [CNBC.COM](#) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday recommended Pfizer's and Moderna's vaccines over Johnson & Johnson's shot for adults, after finding dozens of people developed a rare blood clot condition following vaccination with J&J shots. All of those patients were hospitalized, and nine died.
- The CDC has confirmed 54 cases of people developing blood clots and showing low blood platelet levels — a new condition called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, or TTS, which mostly affects younger women. Of those cases, 36 required treatment in intensive care.
- In a statement Thursday evening, the CDC said the U.S. has an abundant supply of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The agency emphasized that people who are unwilling or unable to receive Pfizer and Moderna shots will still have access to the J&J vaccine. [Read more...](#)