

Three Take-Aways

- 1) US manufacturing weakened in December as ISM PMI fell to 47.9, signaling soft demand and jobs amid cost pressures.
- 2) China's services sector slowed in December as firms adopt a "wait-and-see" stance pending stronger policy support.
- 3) Vietnam's economy met its 2025 growth target with Q4 GDP up 8.5%.

MACRO THEME: More Easing?

- The ISM manufacturing PMI registered 47.9 in December 2025, down 0.3 point from 48.2 in November and below market expectations.
- This was the lowest reading since October 2024.
- Production stayed in expansion at 51.0, but the **demand and labor signals were weaker**. New orders fell to 47.7 and employment to 44.9, consistent with firms reporting workforce reductions in response to a difficult operating environment.
- The prices Index remained elevated at 58.5, reflecting **persistent input-cost pressures** that survey respondents linked to metals and tariff-related costs, with price increases rippling through supply chains.
- Overall, the December report points to a manufacturing sector that is losing momentum on demand and employment even as the broader economy may still be growing, reinforcing a "soft patch" narrative rather than an economy-wide contraction.
- If weakness persists, it strengthens the case for a more accommodative stance by the Fed, but the policy trade-off is complicated by still-elevated input costs, which could limit how quickly inflation risks fade.

Yields (2Y: -2.2bp; 10Y: -3.0bp; 30Y: -2.0bp)

Equities (Nasdaq: +0.7%; S&P 500: +0.6%; Dow: +1.2%)

FX (DXY: -0.2%)

China: Awaits Policy Supports

- RatingDog Services PMI edged down to 52.0 in December 2025, marking the **slowest pace of expansion in six months**.
- A similar trend appeared in the official PMI. The service-sector sub-index rose slightly to 49.7 but remained in **contraction territory for the second consecutive month**.
- **Market competition remains intense**, leaving service providers with limited pricing power. **Deflationary pressures were a key theme**, particularly among smaller firms captured by the RatingDog survey.
- Job shedding persisted. Cost concerns, operational restructuring, and a lack of new projects were the primary reasons for reducing headcount or freezing hiring.
- **Despite current weakness, business expectations improved across the board**. This optimism reflects a collective belief that Beijing will soon roll out **more forceful and targeted fiscal and monetary measures in early 2026**.

DATA/EVENTS

Overnight	Actual	Exp.	Prior
(ID) Exports/Imports YoY (Dec)	-6.6%/0.5%	3.6%/1.9%	-1.2%/-2.3%
(ID) CPI.Core YoY (Dec)	2.9%/2.4%	2.8%/2.4%	2.7%/2.4%
(SG) Retail Sales YoY (Nov)	6.3%	4.9%	4.5%
(VN) CPI YoY (Dec)	3.5%	3.50%	3.60%
(VN) GDP YoY (4Q)	8.5%	7.7%	8.2%
(CH) RatingDog PMI Services (Dec)	52.00	52.00	52.10
(US) ISM Manufacturing (Dec)	47.90	48.40	48.20
Today	Actual	Exp.	Prior
(PH) CPI YoY 2018= 100 (Dec)	1.4%	1.5%	

- The data underscores a **widespread "wait-and-see" stance**, with firms deferring expansion plans until concrete policy actions materialize to strengthen domestic demand and growth momentum.

Japan: Not Hawkish Enough

- Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama emphasized **Japan is at a critical juncture**, transitioning from a deflationary economy to one driven by sustainable growth.
- BOJ Governor Ueda reiterated **plans to continue gradual rate hikes** in line with economic and inflation improvements, aiming for stable price growth and long-term expansion.
- Ueda noted that "the mechanism between moderate wage growth and inflation is likely to be maintained," signaling **confidence in the wage-price cycle sustaining inflation**.
- Despite these upbeat remarks on growth and inflation, **markets remain unconvinced** about a hawkish pivot.
- Investors widely believe political endorsement for another 25-bp hike will be essential before any near-term move, a priority unlikely for the Takaichi administration.
- **Market consensus sees no acceleration in tightening after December's cautious hike**, reinforcing expectations that the BOJ will maintain a dovish pace.
- USDJPY once traded above 157 yesterday, highlighting persistent yen weakness. The next hike is still projected for July 2026, unchanged despite Ueda's comments.

Vietnam: Targets

- With Q4 GDP growth printing at 8.5% YoY, **Vietnam has achieved their 8% growth target for 2025**.
- Both services and manufacturing sector saw accelerating growth to 8.8% YoY and 10.7% respectively.
- The services sector continues to be supported by robust activity in financial, banking and insurance services as well as Wholesale, Retail Sales & Motor Vehicles.
- **Momentum also remains firm in December as industrial production saw 2.2% MoM increase** aided by both seasonal production in apparel and footwear and higher vehicle output.
- That said, we note a 4.2% MoM manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products which warrants a close watch on possible slowing of the pace of semiconductor tailwinds.
- **Prices pressures remain evident** though still managed with headline and core inflation coming in at 3.5% and 3.3% respectively.
- Despite the relatively benign headline, it remains notable that food and beverage prices soared 1% MoM with soaring price of vegetables leading increases ranging from seafood, poultry to eggs.
- With another stellar FDI into Vietnam with disbursements growing 9% YoY, **the expanded industrial base sets a healthy stage for 2026 growth**.

FX OUTLOOK

FX	Close (NY)	Open*	Daily %Δ	Forecast		
USDJPY	156.38	156.64	▼0.29%	155.00	-	158.00
EURUSD	1.1722	1.1714	+0.03%	1.1600	-	1.1850
GBPUKD	1.3542	1.3533	+0.64%	1.3200	-	1.3550
AUDUSD	0.6714	0.6713	+0.31%	0.6600	-	0.6730
DXY	98.3	--	▼0.16%	98.0	-	99.1
USDCNY	6.9886	--	+0.01%	6.9500	-	7.1000
USDCNH	6.9835	6.9836	+0.19%	6.9500	-	7.1000
USDHKD	7.7855	7.7853	▼0.08%	7.7400	-	7.8200
USDSGD	1.2827	1.2830	▼0.26%	1.2820	-	1.3000
USDKRW	1447	1445	+0.00%	1432	-	1471
USDTWD	31.54	--	+0.41%	31.30		31.70
USDINR	90.29	--	+0.10%	89.20	-	91.00
USDIR	16740	--	+0.09%	16650	-	16900
USDMYR	4.072	4.071	+0.44%	4.050	-	4.120
USDPHP	59.11	--	+0.42%	58.30	-	59.60
USDTHB	31.33	31.32	▼0.57%	31.1	-	32.0
USDVND	26271	26272	▼0.06%	26100	-	26600

*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

MARKET MOVES

Bond Yields	2Y Close	10Y Close	2Y Δ (bps)	10Y Δ (bps)
UST (US)	3.452	4.162	-2.2	-3.0
JGB (JP)	1.189	2.117	2.1	5.8
Bunds (GE)	2.125	2.869	-1.3	-3.0
Gilts (UK)	3.713	4.505	-1.4	-3.0
AGB (AU)	4.081	4.798	-5.7	-3.9
SGS (SG)	1.485	2.122	1.0	1.2
CGB (CN)	1.366	1.849	0.1	0.6
KGB (KR)	2.796	3.387	0.0	0.0
SDL (IN)	5.804	6.633	3.1	2.7

Cross FX	Close (NY)	Open*	Daily %Δ
EUR/JPY	183.29	183.48	▼0.30%
GBP/JPY	211.755	211.966	+0.33%
JPY/SGD (100yen)	0.8202	0.8191	+0.01%
JPY/HKD (100yen)	4.9776	4.9703	+0.19%
CNH/JPY	22.35	22.412	▼0.32%
CNH/HKD	1.114	1.114	▼0.08%
EUR/GBP	0.86554	0.86562	▼0.60%
AUD/NZD	1.1599	1.1604	▼0.03%
EUR/CNH	8.1852	8.1806	+0.22%
GBP/CNH	9.4564	9.4506	+0.80%
CNY/HKD	1.114	1.114	▼0.08%
EUR/HKD	9.1259	9.1197	▼0.06%
SGD/HKD	6.0682	6.068	+0.15%

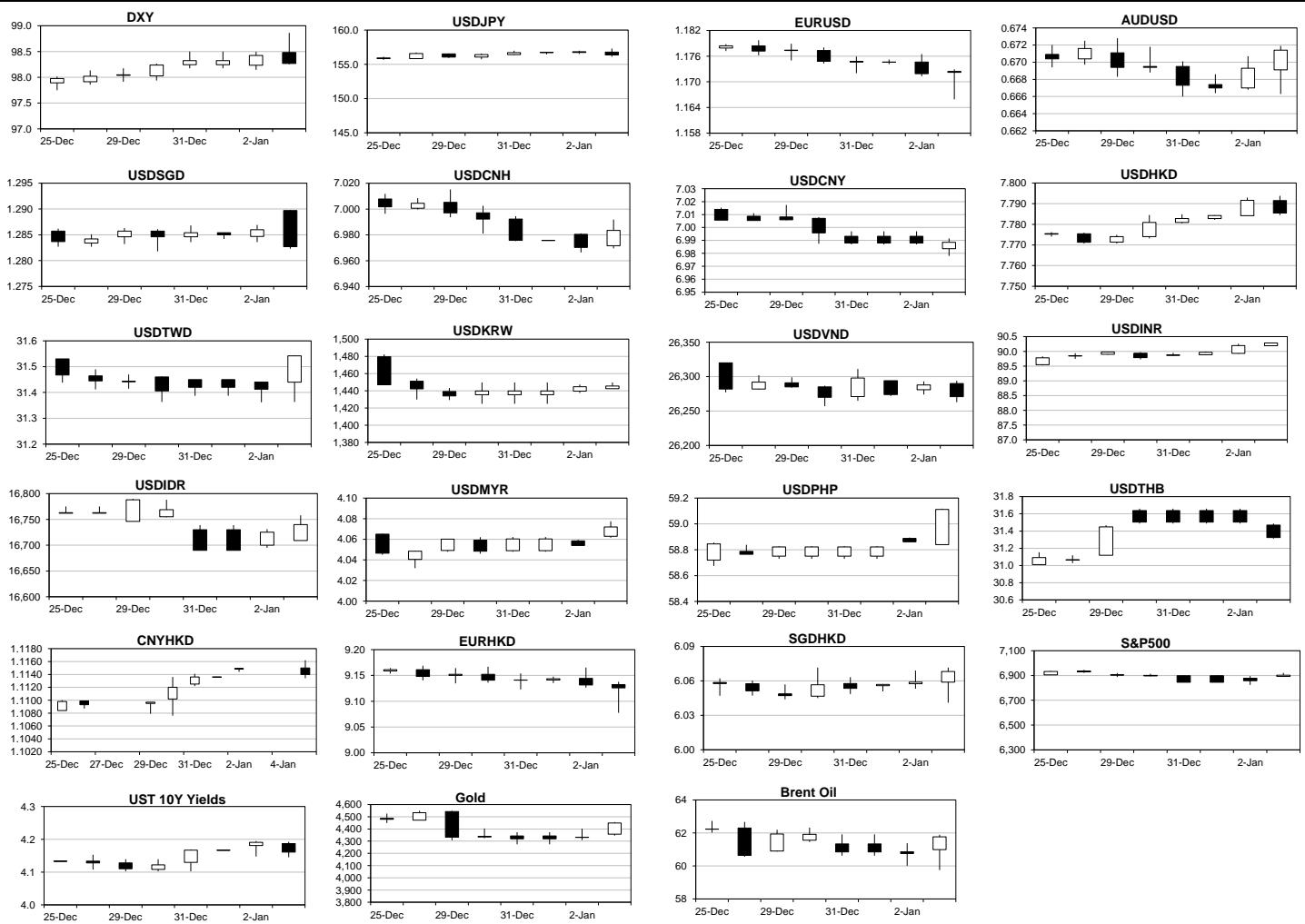
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G3 Equities	Close	Net Chg	Daily %Δ
S&P500 (US)	6902.05	43.58	+0.64%
Nasdaq (US)	23395.82	160.19	+0.69%
DJIA (US)	48977.18	594.79	+1.23%
N225 (JP)	51832.8	1493.32	+2.97%
STOXX50 (EU)	5923.69	73.31	+1.25%

Commodity	Close	Net Chg	Daily %Δ
COPPER (LME)	13,033.48	525.38	+4.20%
IRON ORE (CN)	105.97	-1.33	+0.40%
GOLD	4,449.15	116.86	+2.70%
SILVER	76.59	-0.09	▼2.63%
OIL (BRENT)	61.76	1.01	+1.66%
OIL (WTI)	58.32	1.00	+1.74%
NATURAL GAS	3.52	3.77	+5.18%

Asia Equities	Close	Net Chg	Daily %Δ
ASX (AU)	5388.52	30.40	+0.57%
STI (SG)	4680.5	24.38	+0.52%
SHCOMP (CN)	4023.417	54.58	+1.38%
SZCOMP (CN)	2581.524	50.56	+2.00%
HSI (HK)	26347.24	8.77	+0.03%
SENSEX (IN)	85439.62	-322.39	▼0.38%
JSE (ID)	8859.191	111.06	+1.27%
KLSE (MY)	1680.32	10.56	+0.63%
PSE (PH)	6164.53	29.47	+0.48%
SET (TH)	1280.05	20.38	+1.62%
VNINDEX (VN)	1788.4	0.00	+0.22%

CHARTS



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