

DAILY POINTS

January 22, 2026 @ 7:25 EST

Contributors

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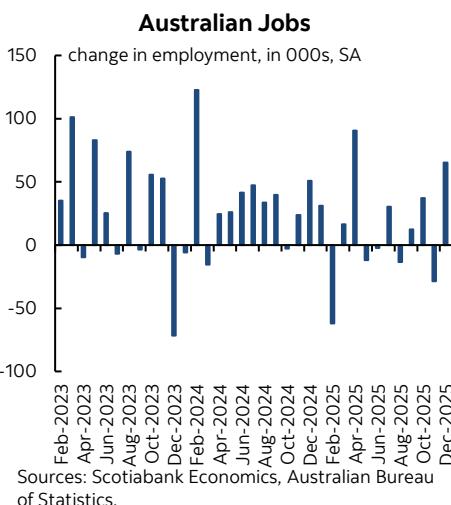
On Deck for Thursday, January 22nd

Country	Date	Time	Indicator	Period	BNS	Consensus	Latest
US	01-22	08:30	GDP (q/q a.r.)	3Q F	4.3	4.3	4.3
US	01-22	08:30	GDP Deflator (q/q a.r.)	3Q F	--	3.8	3.8
US	01-22	08:30	Initial Jobless Claims (000s)	Jan 17	215	209.0	198.0
US	01-22	08:30	Continuing Claims (000s)	Jan 10	1900	1890.0	1884.0
US	01-22	08:30	PCE Deflator (m/m)	Oct	--	--	0.3
US	01-22	08:30	PCE Deflator (m/m)	Nov	--	0.2	--
US	01-22	08:30	PCE Deflator (y/y)	Oct	--	--	2.8
US	01-22	08:30	PCE Deflator (y/y)	Nov	--	2.8	--
US	01-22	08:30	PCE ex. Food & Energy (m/m)	Oct	--	--	0.2
US	01-22	08:30	PCE ex. Food & Energy (m/m)	Nov	--	0.2	--
US	01-22	08:30	PCE ex. Food & Energy (y/y)	Oct	--	--	2.8
US	01-22	08:30	PCE ex. Food & Energy (y/y)	Nov	--	2.8	--
US	01-22	08:30	Personal Spending (m/m)	Oct	0.3	--	0.4
US	01-22	08:30	Personal Spending (m/m)	Nov	0.5	0.5	--
US	01-22	08:30	Personal Income (m/m)	Oct	0.4	--	0.4
US	01-22	08:30	Personal Income (m/m)	Nov	0.4	0.4	--

KEY POINTS:

- Stocks up, as US-Europe tensions subside
- US Q3 GDP revisions on tap
- US core PCE: the fog remains thick
- Australian bond yields spike after strong jobs report...
- ...as the Antipodean central banks are priced for the next moves to be up this year
- The won lost on GDP
- Norges, Negara hold as expected...
- ...as Turkey cuts by less than expected
- Statcan must change the release day for the next CPI report

Chart 1



It's back to the fundamentals. Thankfully. Stocks are broadly higher the world over after the US dropped its threatened tariffs on Europe and backed off threats against Greenland upon encountering a united opposition. There was and remains little reaction to the highly sceptical tone of US Supreme Court questioning in Fed Governor Lisa Cook's hearing yesterday because markets were already basically assuming the Court would reject attempts to have her dismissed before her case has fully played out.

US equity futures are up by over 1%, TSX futures are up by just over 1/4% and European cash markets are rallying by either side of 1% after a 1 1/4% rally in Tokyo. Sovereign bonds are little changed except for losses across Antipodean curves. Gold is flat, oil is off a few dimes and the USD is mixed.

A blend of regional central banks, light overnight data mainly focused on RBA watchers, and sketchy US data releases are the focal points. Key is the opportunity to place further emphasis upon the central bank space and the benign neglect of too many folks in the markets toward the potential for policy pivots toward less accommodation.

RBA HIKE PRICING JUMPS AFTER JOB GAIN

Australia is back. Job growth rebounded impressively by 65k in December after a 29k drop the prior month (revised from -21k). Chart 1 shows the pattern. Most of December's gain was in full-time jobs (+55k). The unemployment rate fell back to 4.1% from 4.3% even with more folks entering the work force in search of jobs that pushed the participation rate up a tick to 66.7%.

The Australian dollar rallied to lead the pack against the USD, but Australian bonds paid a price as shorter-term yields spiked higher by 6-7bps. The bond reaction reflected a spike in market pricing for RBA hikes with the February 3rd decision almost 60% priced for a 25bps rate hike. About 50bps of hikes are priced through to year-end.

New Zealanders said thanks a lot for that, as the spillover effects raised hike pricing in that country as well. Kiwi bonds are slightly underperforming others—but by much less than Aussie bonds—with the RBNZ priced to hold for the next three meetings but then it gets dicey with material odds of a hike priced for the July and September meetings. Almost a half point of hikes is priced by year-end.

The global central bank space clearly continues to pivot toward less policy accommodation this year.

CENTRAL BANKS—TWO HOLDS AND A HIKE

Norges Bank held its policy rate at 4% as widely expected, and so did Bank Negara Malaysia (2.75%). Only Turkey's central bank cut as the one-week repo rate dropped by 100bps to 37%; all but two forecasters had expected a bigger cut.

THE WON LOST ON GDP

South Korea's economy unexpectedly contracted in Q4. GDP fell by -0.3% q/q, a half point shy of consensus. About one-third of consensus expected a dip. The result pushed the won to being the weakest performer among major currencies relative to the USD. Construction sector activity shrank by 5% q/q and manufacturing output fell -1.5% for the first decline since Q1. Services were a bright spot, up 0.6%.

THE FOG REMAINS OVER US DATA

Believe it or not, US data agencies are still playing catch-up with releases covering the period of the government shutdown. Data quality remains in flux.

1. Q3 US GDP revisions (8:30amET)

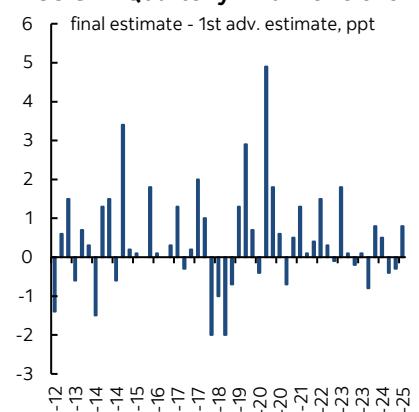
No one expects any material revision and those that expect small ones are doing so on a lark. Uh oh. The US issues quarterly GDP figures in three main rounds: initial, first revision a month later, second revision a month after that. Then there can also be later revisions. The average revision on first pass can be substantial (chart 2). The second pass can be bigger mainly because by then we get more data on the services side of the economy. Bigger revisions used to occur after the Global Financial Crisis than more recently. Will this time also offer small first revisions? That's tough to tell, given the sampling and data quality issues that may have affected the data out of the shutdown.

Recall what drove the US economy in Q3 was a surge of consumer spending on services followed by a jump in exports and a drop in imports that in GDP accounting terms is an addition to growth through less of an import leakage effect (chart 3). Also recall that the only game in town when it comes to business investment is AI-related spending; take that out, and business investment in the US economy is gently falling (chart 4). That's quite unusual given the otherwise strong growth and capacity constraints.

Yet despite this GDP growth, the job market has been weakening this year. The only thing propping up private sector jobs this year has been the health care sector; take that out, and private US nonfarm payrolls have fallen in the majority of the past eight months dating back to 'Liberation Day' (chart 5).

Chart 2

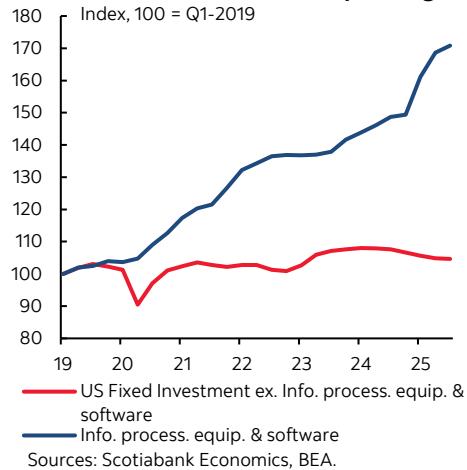
US GDP Quarterly Final Revisions



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, BEA.

Chart 4

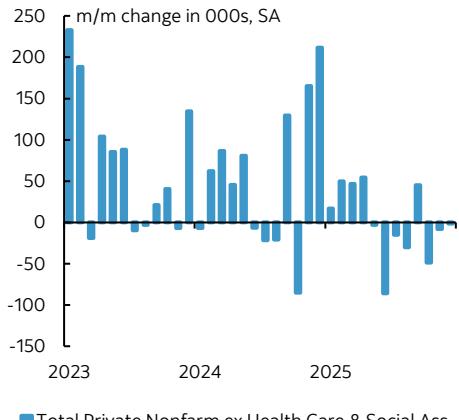
US Investments Tied to AI Spending



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, BEA.

Chart 5

US Private Sector Jobs ex Health Care



Sources: Scotiabank Economics, BLS.

2. PCE inflation (8:30amET)

The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge gets updated this morning. This one's going to be messy. The BEA previously advised that for prices not collected in October they will average the September and November readings for its estimates included in the personal income and outlays report for October and for the PCE gauges. That could make both the October and November PCE and core PCE m/m readings tough to evaluate from a data confidence standpoint. We may still be able to infer the average m/m rise in the Fed's preferred PCE ex-food and energy price gauge, but the data quality will remain suspect. A November gain of 0.2% m/m is expected.

We don't have m/m CPI readings because the opportunity to collect data was lost during October when the government was shut. Recall, however, that we do have producer prices for September through November. The weighted contributions from the pertinent PPI categories that flow through to PCE suggest a 0.1% weighted contribution to core PCE.

In short, the fog remains thick, we're by no means into the realm of 'clean' data yet even if we plug our noses on all the other issues with US data these days.

Also keep an eye on weekly jobless claims. Initial filings for unemployment benefits dipped below 200k the prior week. At least as important is that continuing claims have pulled off the prior peak which matters because of correlations with the unemployment rate.

STATCAN MUST CHANGE RELEASE DAY FOR THE NEXT CPI

Statistics Canada will release its next CPI report for January on Monday February 16th. That's 'Family Day' in Ontario. Other than not being terribly inclusive of the agency, the issue is that Canadian bond and equity markets will be shut. Brilliant. Statcan will lend an artificial advantage to foreign shops to trade the data principally through CAD as local bonds and equities catch up the next day; they shouldn't be in the business of creating such distortions and favouring some parts of the markets over others. It's also worth asking whether a federal institution would show as much indifference to releasing on a market holiday if, say, we were talking about Ste. Jean Baptiste Day in Quebec. I'm so used to plugging away on holidays and weekends that we'd cover the release in any event, but the concern is mainly around the ability of market participants to react to any CPI surprise before everyone else has had a chance to do so. #madeincanada.

Fixed Income	Government Yield Curves (%):												Central Banks			
	2-YEAR			5-YEAR			10-YEAR			30-YEAR						
	Last	1-day	1-wk	Last	1-day	1-wk	Last	1-day	1-wk	Last	1-day	1-wk				
U.S.	3.59	3.59	3.57	3.82	3.83	3.77	4.24	4.24	4.17	4.86	4.86	4.80	Canada - BoC	2.25		
	2.56	2.56	2.53	2.94	2.95	2.89	3.41	3.41	3.35	3.84	3.84	3.79		3.75		
	2.09	2.09	2.10	2.46	2.46	2.39	2.87	2.88	2.82	3.49	3.51	3.40	US - Fed	3.75		
	1.23	1.23	1.19	1.67	1.68	1.63	2.25	2.29	2.16	3.69	3.74	3.48		3.75		
	3.68	3.69	3.67	3.92	3.92	3.86	4.47	4.46	4.39	5.23	5.21	5.13	England - BoE	3.75		
	-103	-103	-104	-88	-88	-87	-83	-83	-82	-102	-102	-100		2.15		
	-149	-150	-147	-137	-136	-138	-138	-136	-135	-137	-135	-139	Euro zone - ECB	0.75		
	-236	-236	-238	-216	-214	-214	-200	-196	-201	-117	-113	-132		7.00		
	9	10	10	10	9	9	23	21	22	37	35	33	Japan - BoJ	2.25		
	Spreads vs. U.S. (bps):														2.15	
Equities															0.75	
CANADA	Level			% change:												
	Last	Change	1 Day	1-wk	1-mo	1-yr										
	32852	101.3	0.3	-0.2	2.7	29.8										
	49077	588.6	1.2	-0.2	1.5	11.1										
	6876	78.8	1.2	-1.3	-0.0	13.0										
	23225	270.5	1.2	-2.0	-0.9	16.1										
	24829	267.9	1.1	-2.1	2.2	16.8										
	10158	20.2	0.2	-0.8	3.0	18.9										
	53689	914.3	1.7	-0.8	6.5	35.4										
	26630	44.9	0.2	-1.1	3.2	34.6										
Commodities															4.0	
Natural Gas	Level			% change:												
	5.45	0.57	11.7	74.5	37.3	37.5										
	4826.74	-4.99	-0.1	4.6	8.6	75.1										
	94.86	-0.85	-0.9	4.1	44.2	211.2										
	309.22	2.87	0.9	0.8	3.5	-0.1										
	CRB Index												Japan - BoJ			
Currencies															Jan 23, 2026	
USDCAD	Level			% change:												
	1.3819	-0.0015	-0.1	-0.5	0.5	-3.9										
	1.1705	0.0020	0.2	0.8	-0.5	12.5										
	158.59	0.2900	0.2	-0.0	1.0	1.3										
	0.6806	0.0044	0.7	1.6	2.2	8.5										
	1.3428	-0.0001	-0.0	0.4	-0.2	9.0										
GBPUSD															Feb 17, 2026	
USDCHF															Feb 05, 2026	

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