

# BRICE METREES

**19** Jan 2025

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#### FOREX MARKET

### **2025 Equity Market Outlook: Positive** but with Key Risks

The outlook for equity markets in 2025 remains positive, supported by steady corporate earnings and declining inflation. However, two key risks could derail this outlook. The first is rising bond yields, driven by looser fiscal policies and higher debt levels, which could increase borrowing costs for companies and make bonds more attractive relative to stocks. The US 10-year Treasury yield nearing 4.8% signals potential concerns for equity valuations. The second risk is market concentration, particularly in large-cap tech stocks, which pose systemic risks if any of these companies underperform. This concentration is also seen in Europe and Japan, making broad market exposure riskier. With shifting economic dynamics, investors must adapt by focusing on active management and sector rotation rather than relying on traditional diversification strategies.

#### GBP/USD Rebounds from 14-Month Low as **Dollar Weakens**

The British pound recovered slightly against the US dollar after hitting a 14-month low, supported by a weaker USD following softer US inflation data. Lower-thanexpected CPI and PPI figures reinforced expectations of Fed rate cuts, pushing Treasury yields down and easing pressure on the GBP/USD pair. However, the pound's rebound remains fragile as weak UK economic data increases the likelihood of Bank of England rate cuts. Declining UK inflation and weak retail sales signal economic slowdown, while uncertainty over Trump's return adds to market caution. Traders now focus on upcoming UK employment data, US jobless claims, and key economic reports, with additional market-moving developments expected from the World Economic Forum in Davos. NASHINGTON

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### Trump's Second Term: Market Reactions and Policy Uncertainty

While the Fed signals caution on rate cuts, the European Central Bank remains dovish, facing weak economic data and potential disruptions from U.S. trade policies. As Donald Trump begins his second term as president of the United States, markets are closely monitoring how his policies will affect the Federal Reserve and global trade. The U.S. dollar is still strong, with speculation that Trump's proposed tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada could further strengthen it, complicating the Fed's monetary strategy. Future economic reports may provide more clarity, but market attention is still focused on Trump's expected tariffs and their wider impact on trade and monetary policy.

### Commodities

## Oil Prices End Week Higher Despite Friday's Dip

Despite closing lower on Friday, oil prices enjoyed their fourth weekly gain in a row. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude prices sank 1% to \$77.88, while Brent crude futures slid 0.6% to \$80.79 per barrel. Concerns about disruptions to the oil supply caused by U.S. sanctions on Russian energy, which could become more severe under President-elect Trump, were the main cause of the fall. Despite this, investors showed optimism by increasing their net long positions in U.S. crude. In the meantime, shipping disruptions were lessened by hopes of a ceasefire in Yemen. Oil prices were sustained by a number of factors, including worries about global demand and the declining U.S. oil production.



### Gold's 2024 Rally Continues, but Trump Policies Pose Potential Risks

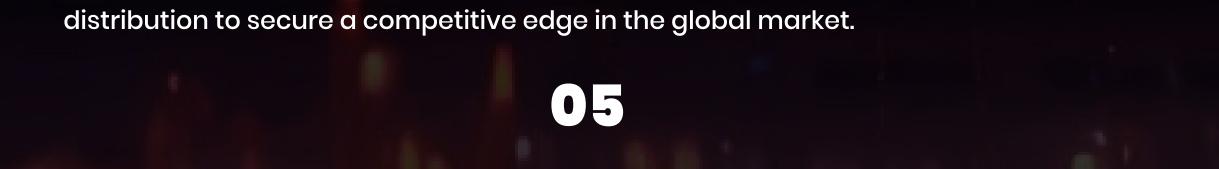
A declining US dollar and encouraging inflation data have propelled gold (XAU/ USD) to reach \$2,720 an ounce for the first time since mid-December. With the US Dollar Index (DXY) falling after six weeks and weak US inflation data feeding anticipation of further Fed rate cuts, gold has increased by more than 27% in 2024. However, worries about the plans of President-elect Donald Trump, such as possible tariffs and regulatory changes, raise the possibility of inflationary pressures that could shift the Fed's position and have an effect on gold. Although relaxing fiscal policies support gold's bullish prognosis, policy changes could

change the metal's future course.

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#### Aramco to Begin Commercial Lithium Production by 2027

Saudi Aramco is boosting its investments in lithium production as part of a broader strategy to diversify away from oil and build a local supply chain for lithium, essential for electric vehicle (EV) batteries. In partnership with Ma'aden, Aramco plans to start commercial lithium production by 2027, aiming to meet the rapidly growing lithium demand in Saudi Arabia, which is expected to increase 20-fold by 2030. The country is positioning itself to compete globally in lithium refining and exports, challenging China's dominance in the market. Saudi Arabia is also developing an EV manufacturing hub, with plans for its own EV brand and ongoing efforts to extract lithium from oilfield brine. Despite challenges in lithium extraction technology, the kingdom is focusing on integrating production and



#### • CRYPTO MARKET

#### **Tokenized ETFs: The Next Evolution in Exchange-Traded Funds**

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ETFs have made investing more accessible by evolving from index funds to a major part of daily trading, and now tokenization is poised to enhance them further. Unlike crypto ETFs, tokenized ETFs use blockchain for faster, more secure transactions with fewer intermediaries, reducing costs while introducing regulatory and security concerns. Financial institutions are exploring tokenized ETFs as a bridge between traditional finance and blockchain, though challenges like asset custody, liquidity fragmentation, and compliance remain. Success depends on advancements in blockchain scalability, regulatory adaptation, and broader adoption, with tokenization offering a gradual path toward a more efficient and transparent financial system.



#### **Bitcoin as a Force for Economic and Political Change**

Davidson and Rees-Mogg's concept of "mega-politics" predicted how cryptography would disrupt power structures, a vision now embodied by Bitcoin's growing influence on global economics. El Salvador exemplifies this shift, leveraging Bitcoin to attract investment, improve its credit rating, and foster a fintech-friendly environment. At the individual level, innovations like home mining and open-source projects are expanding Bitcoin accessibility, while institutions like the FDIC face criticism for resisting the industry. In the U.S., political interest in Bitcoin is rising, signaling its integration into national financial strategies. As predicted, Bitcoin is reshaping economic and geopolitical power dynamics. HING

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#### Crypto Consolidation: A New Era for Digital Finance?

The surge in cryptocurrency mergers and acquisitions in late 2024 signals a growing convergence between traditional finance and DeFi, driven by institutional interest from firms like BlackRock and Fidelity. Major deals, such as Stripe's acquisition of Bridge and Robinhood's purchase of Bitstamp, highlight the shift toward integrating digital assets within regulated financial structures. Rather than replacing traditional finance, DeFi is evolving to become more accessible and compliant, with platforms like Enzyme bridging the gap. Consolidation is also enhancing composability, improving interoperability, and fostering innovation. As regulatory clarity improves, 2025 could see further expansion, balancing innovation with institutional demands.

#### Beyond Treasury Holdings: Institutional Bitcoin Adoption Evolves

Institutional adoption of bitcoin accelerated in 2024, with pension funds and corporations integrating it into their treasuries, but 2025 is poised for even deeper financial innovation. Institutions are embracing multi-jurisdictional custody models to mitigate regulatory risks, while bitcoin ETPs have surged to \$114 billion in assets, attracting hedge funds and pension funds. Bitcoin trusts are re-emerging as tax-efficient alternatives to ETFs, and bitcoin-backed bonds and mortgages are expanding its role in lending. With major firms like Morgan Stanley integrating bitcoin trading, it is evolving from a speculative asset into a core financial

#### instrument within traditional finance.



### Ourplatform

#### • 1. Co-Founding Programs

Shape the future of finance by joining our Co-Founding Programs. We're looking for visionary partners who are ready to bring innovative ideas to life. As a co-founder, you'll collaborate closely with us, sharing in both the challenges and rewards of building something great. Whether you have a groundbreaking concept or are looking for a strategic partner, our Co-Founding Programs offer the support and resources you need to succeed. Let's create something extraordinary together!



#### • 2. As a Signal Provider

Turn your trading expertise into profit by becoming a Signal Provider with us. Share your trading signals with a broad audience, gain visibility, and earn competitive rewards. Whether you focus on forex, stocks, or crypto, our platform offers the perfect environment to showcase your skills. Join our Signal Provider program today and start making an impact!





#### • 3. Platform Joint Venture

Take your business to the next level by partnering with us through a Platform Joint Venture. Whether you're developing financial technology or a new market solution, our platform provides the resources and network needed for growth. Together, we'll create innovative products and expand your reach in the financial world. Let's collaborate on a joint venture today!



#### • 4. As a Manager

Take the lead and drive success by joining our team as a Manager. We're looking for experienced professionals to oversee operations, guide teams, and execute high-impact strategies. As a Manager, you'll be instrumental in shaping our growth and ensuring smooth performance across projects. Ready to take on a leadership role? Apply now and make a difference!





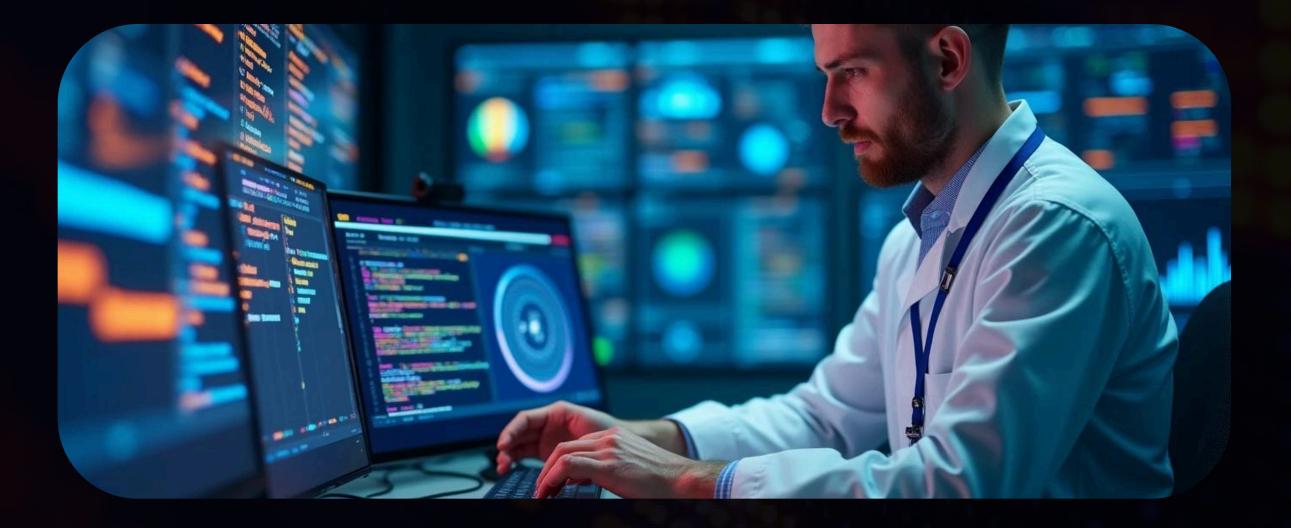
#### • 5.Investors Plan

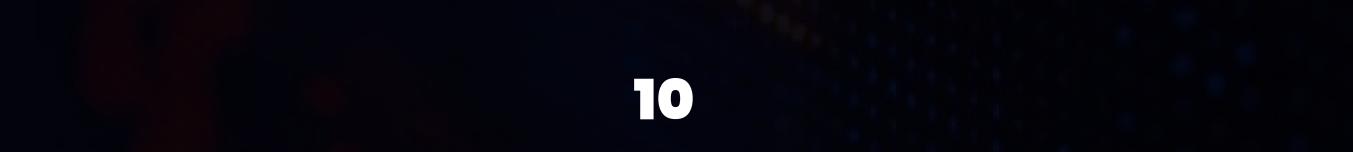
Achieve your financial goals with our Investors Plan. Tailored to your risk tolerance and objectives, this plan provides you with expert guidance and diversified investment opportunities. Whether you're a seasoned investor or just starting out, our Investors Plan helps you grow your wealth securely and strategically. Start planning your financial future today!



#### • 6. As an Al/Software Expert

Are you a tech-savvy professional with expertise in AI and software development? Join us as an AI/Software Expert, where you'll work on groundbreaking projects that blend finance and technology. Bring your skills to the forefront, contribute to innovative solutions, and help revolutionize the trading industry. Apply now and be part of the future of finance!





#### • 7. As a Strategist

Share your market expertise by joining us as a Strategist. We're seeking professionals who can develop and implement high-performing trading strategies. As a Strategist, you'll collaborate with our team to optimize trading performance and contribute to client success. If you're passionate about finance and strategy, we want you on our team!



#### • 8. Organizational Deals

Leverage exclusive opportunities with our Organizational Deals, designed for institutions and large businesses. We offer tailored financial solutions, including investment packages and trading strategies that cater specifically to your organizational needs. Partner with us to boost your company's financial performance and reach new heights. Explore our Organizational Deals today!



#### Fuel your passion, ignite your purpose—join us now!

#### **Trusted Platform**



#### 1. MetaTrader

MetaTrader, developed by MetaQuotes, is a leading trading platform offering real-time access to Forex, commodities, and other markets. Known for its user-friendly interface and robust tools, it supports both manual and automated trading through Expert Advisors, catering to traders of all experience levels.

### **17** TradingView

#### • 2. TradingView

TradingView is a powerful charting platform and social network for traders, providing real-time data, advanced charting tools, and a collaborative environment. Its intuitive interface and ability to integrate with brokers make it a favorite among both retail and professional traders.



#### • 3. cTrader

cTrader is a professional trading platform known for its fast execution speeds and advanced charting tools. Designed for both novice and experienced traders, it supports automated trading through cAlgo and offers transparency with Level II pricing and market depth views



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#### • 4. Axi Financial Services

Axi, formerly AxiTrader, is a global Forex and CFD broker offering competitive spreads and fast execution. With access to over 140 trading instruments and a focus on customer support and education, Axi caters to traders of all levels through its reliable MetaTrader 4 platform.



#### • 5. Pepperstone

Pepperstone is a leading online broker known for its low-cost trading, fast execution, and access to a wide range of markets, including Forex, indices, and commodities. Supporting MetaTrader and cTrader, Pepperstone offers a robust trading experience for both retail and institutional clients.

## Robinhood Ø

#### • 6. Robinhood Broker

Robinhood is a commission-free trading platform that democratizes finance, making investing accessible to everyone. With a user-friendly app, Robinhood offers trading in stocks, ETFs, options, and cryptocurrencies, attracting millions of users with its no-fee structure.



## MultiBank Group "

#### • 7. MultiBank Group

MultiBank Group is a major financial derivatives provider offering trading in Forex, metals, shares, and cryptocurrencies. Known for its competitive pricing and regulatory oversight, MultiBank provides a secure trading environment with advanced platforms like MetaTrader 4 and 5.



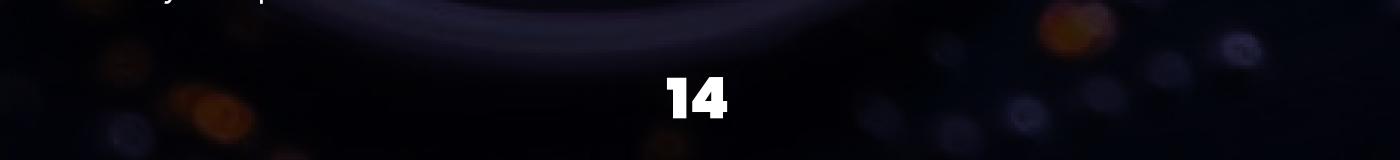
#### • 8. IG Broker

IG is a global leader in online trading, offering access to over 17,000 markets, including Forex, indices, and commodities. With innovative trading platforms, comprehensive educational resources, and strong regulatory backing, IG caters to both retail and institutional traders.

## FGREX.com

#### • 9. Forex.com Broker

Forex.com, part of GAIN Capital, is a top Forex and CFD broker providing access to a wide range of markets with competitive spreads. It offers advanced trading platforms like WebTrader and MetaTrader, supported by comprehensive educational tools and dedicated customer service.





#### • 10. FXCM Broker

FXCM is a trusted online Forex and CFD trading platform known for its transparency and innovation. Offering multiple platforms like Trading Station and MetaTrader, FXCM provides access to various markets, fast execution, and extensive educational resources for traders.

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#### • 11. XM Global

XM Global is a reputable Forex and CFD broker offering access to a broad range of trading instruments. Known for competitive spreads and a norequote policy, XM supports MetaTrader 4 and 5 platforms and provides extensive educational resources and customer support.



#### • 12. FP Markets Broker

FP Markets is an established Forex and CFD broker providing access to over 10,000 instruments. With competitive pricing, fast execution, and support for MetaTrader 4, 5, and IRESS platforms, FP Markets caters to both retail and institutional traders worldwide.





# Bridge Market

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