Daily Market Brief

February 2nd 2026

BANQUE BEMO

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

The EUR/USD pair holds onto Friday's losses near 1.1850 during the late Asian trading session on Monday. The major currency pair faces selling pressure as the US Dollar (USD) trades firmly, following the nomination of former Federal Reserve (Fed) Governor Kevin Warsh as the successor of current Chairman Jerome Powell. During the press time, the US Dollar Index (DXY), which tracks the Greenback's value against six major currencies, clings to gains near the weekly high of 97.33. There has been a significant positive impact of Warsh's appointment as the Fed's new Chairman on the US Dollar, given his historical preference for a strong US Dollar.

GBP/USD

The GBP/USD pair loses ground to around 1.3670 during the early European session on Monday, pressured by renewed US Dollar demand. Signs of political stability in the United States (US) provide some support to the Greenback against the Pound Sterling (GBP). Traders will take more cues from the US ISM Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) data later on Monday. US President Donald Trump said on Friday that Kevin Warsh, who prefers a smaller central bank balance sheet, would be his pick for the next Fed chair. Markets anticipate that Warsh may lean toward a smaller Fed balance sheet and hold the interest rate higher for longer, which provides some support to the USD and creates a headwind for the major pair.

USD/JPY

USD/JPY holds ground after three days of gains, trading around 155.20 during the Asian hours on Monday. The upside of the pair could be limited as the Japanese Yen (JPY) remains calm following the Bank of Japan's (BoJ) January Summary of Opinions. BoJ Summary of Opinions suggested the risk of falling behind the curve has not risen materially, though timely policy execution is becoming more important. With real rates still deeply negative, members agreed that further rate hikes would be appropriate if the outlook for growth and inflation holds, while maintaining a gradual tightening path.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1851	1.1875	1.1840	0.00	-0.24	0.89
GBP-USD	1.3668	1.3706	1.3661	-0.13	-0.09	1.43
USD-JPY	154.76	155.51	154.70	-0.01	-0.37	1.26
USD-CHF	0.7729	0.7748	0.7715	-0.01	0.52	2.55

Commodities	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
Gold	4468.32	4885.01	4434.07	-8.70	-10.79	3.45
Silver	73.65	87.95	72.57	-13.56	-29.04	2.77
Crude Oil	61.60	64.74	61.43	-5.54	1.60	7.65
Bitcoin	75188.82	78055.23	74540.62	-1.63	-15.78	-14.21
Etherium	2174.06	2333.60	2164.74	-5.01	-27.94	-26.99

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.67	3.66	3.62	3.49
ESTR (€)	1.91	1.93	1.92	1.91
SONIA (£)	3.73	3.72	3.64	3.55
SARON (₣)	-0.06	-0.07	-0.08	-0.11
TONAR (¥)	0.72	0.58	0.53	0.50

	Rates
U.S. Federal Fund Target Rate	3.75
ECB Main Refinancing Operation Announcement Rate	2.15
ECB Deposit Facility Announcement Rate	2.00
ECB Marginal Lending Facility Announcement Rate	2.40
BOE Official Bank Rate	3.75

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Stocks retreated on Friday as technology shares remained in a funk, even as investors largely approved of President Donald Trump's pick of Kevin Warsh to lead the Federal Reserve. Still, the S&P 500 squeaked out a January gain, despite Friday's losses and volatile trading this month.

EUROPE

European stocks closed higher on Friday, as international relations and corporate earnings remained in focus. The pan-European Stoxx 600 closed 0.5% higher, with most sectors and major bourses in positive territory. It's been a busy week of corporate earnings in Europe, with Friday a slightly quieter day on the earnings front before a flurry of companies report again next week.

ASIA

Asia-Pacific markets fell Monday as investors assessed private data for China's factory activity in January, while gold extended losses from Friday. South Korean benchmarks tumbled Monday, leading wider declines in the region. The Kospi index fell more than 4%, while the Kospi 200 futures dropped as much as 5%, prompting authorities to temporarily halt trading, according to an official note. Index heavyweights SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics were down 6.66% and 5.55%, respectively.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	48892.47	-0.36	1.05	1.73	48564.00	-0.94
S&P	6939.03	-0.43	1.17	1.37	6878.00	-1.73
Nasdaq	23461.82	-0.94	0.97	0.95	25250.25	-3.02
DJ EuroStoxx50	5947.81	0.95	1.67	2.70	5888.00	-0.25
FTSE 100	10223.54	0.51	2.74	2.94	10119.50	-0.38
CAC 40	8126.53	0.68	-0.84	-0.28	8046.50	0.67
DAX	24538.81	0.94	0.00	0.20	24382.00	-0.17
IBEX 35	17880.90	1.66	2.22	3.31	17874.10	1.56
FTSE MIB	45527.42	1.00	0.34	1.30	45656.00	1.00
Nikkei	53322.85	-1.10	4.76	4.76	52630.00	-1.03
Hang Seng	27387.11	-2.79	1.08	3.87	27901.00	0.00
DFM General	6435.36	0.37	5.65	6.82		
MSCI Tadawoul	11167.48	-1.89	5.86	6.45		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	70.15	70.50	69.00	0.36	-1.20	-16.49
Solidere B	69.25	70.00	68.00	-1.07	-1.07	-16.26
EuroBonds	28.25 / 29.25					

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

Gold Plunge Deepens as Traders Unwind 'Crowded' Bets on Rally

Gold and silver prices plunged sharply as traders unwound what many described as an overly "crowded" rally. Gold fell as much as 8%, extending losses to nearly 20% from the all-time high reached last Thursday, while silver dropped up to 14.6%, following its steepest intraday loss on record. The selloff marked a dramatic reversal after precious metals surged to record levels earlier this year. The rally had accelerated in January as investors sought protection against geopolitical risks, currency debasement, and concerns over the US Federal Reserve's independence. Heavy speculative buying from China further fueled the rise. However, analysts warned that positioning had become excessive, leaving markets vulnerable once sentiment shifted. A key catalyst for Friday's sharp decline was news that US President Donald Trump planned to nominate Kevin Warsh as Fed chair. Warsh is seen as a strong inflation hawk, boosting expectations of tighter monetary policy, strengthening the US dollar, and pressuring dollar-priced metals. Rising volatility and stretched risk limits also forced traders to cut exposure. Looking ahead, Chinese investor behavior will be crucial. While futures prices in Shanghai weakened, they continued to trade at a premium to international markets, and physical buying picked up ahead of the Lunar New Year. Analysts expect holiday-related risk reduction to persist, though lower prices may support retail demand.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
WALT DISNEY CO/	DIS	$ 200.04 B	2-Feb-26	Bef-mkt	1.56	1.76
PALANTIR TECHN	PLTR	$ 349.24 B	2-Feb-26	Aft-mkt	0.23	0.14
NXP SEMICONDU	NXPI	$ 56.91 B	2-Feb-26	Aft-mkt	3.32	3.18
PFIZER INC	PFE	$ 150.33 B	3-Feb-26	Bef-mkt	0.57	0.63
ADVANCED MICR	AMD	$ 385.41 B	3-Feb-26	Aft-mkt	1.32	1.09

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(02-02-26) JN - S&P Global Japan PMI Mfg
(02-02-26) UK - Nationwide House PX MoM / NSA YoY
(02-02-26) EC - HCOB Eurozone Manufacturing PMI
(02-02-26) UK - S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI
(02-02-26) US - S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI
(02-02-26) CA - S&P Global Canada Manufacturing PMI
(02-02-26) US - ISM Manufacturing

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