Daily Market Brief

January 16th 2026

BANQUE BEMO

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

EUR/USD holds ground after three days of losses, trading around 1.1610 during the Asian hours on Friday. The 14-day Relative Strength Index (RSI) momentum indicator, currently at 35 (neutral-bearish), shows momentum skewed to the downside. The technical analysis of the daily chart shows that the EUR/USD pair holds below the nine-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA) and the 50-day EMA, underscoring a bearish bias.

GBP/USD

GBP/USD edges higher after registering modest losses in the previous session, trading around 1.3380 during the Asian hours on Friday. The pair may further lose ground as the US Dollar (USD) receives support after Thursday's US Initial Jobless Claims data, which reinforced expectations that the Federal Reserve (Fed) will keep interest rates on hold for the coming months. Data from the US Department of Labor (DOL) showed Initial Jobless Claims unexpectedly fell to 198K in the week ended January 10, below market expectations of 215K and down from the prior week's revised 207K.

USD/JPY

The USD/JPY pair trades 0.18% lower to near 158.35 during the early European trading session on Friday. The pair has come under pressure as the Japanese Yen (JPY) strengthens on verbal warnings of intervention by Japan to counter one-way excessive moves. Earlier in the day, Japan's Finance Minister (FM) Satsuki Katayama said that all options, including direct currency intervention, are available for dealing with the recent weakness in the JPY.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1607	1.1614	1.1603	-0.02	-0.26	-1.18
GBP-USD	1.3380	1.3391	1.3371	-0.01	-0.18	-0.71
USD-JPY	158.42	158.70	157.98	-0.13	-0.33	-1.08
USD-CHF	0.8027	0.8039	0.8021	-0.06	-0.19	-1.26
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	4607.08	4621.03	4591.52	-0.20	2.16	6.66
Silver	90.96	92.81	89.53	-1.58	13.90	26.92
Crude Oil	58.99	59.42	58.95	-0.34	-0.22	2.73
Bitcoin	95634.73	95825.34	95119.76	0.09	5.53	9.11
Etherium	3306.95	3325.54	3275.94	0.28	6.10	11.06

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.68	3.67	3.63	3.49
ESTR (€)	1.93	1.93	1.93	1.93
SONIA (£)	3.73	3.71	3.63	3.52
SARON (₣)	-0.06	-0.05	-0.05	-0.05
TONAR (¥)	0.67	0.54	0.50	0.48

	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

The major averages climbed Thursday, rebounding from back-to-back losses as chip and bank stocks rallied. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 292.81 points, or 0.60% to 49,442.44, boosted by gains in Goldman Sachs and Nvidia. Bank stocks rose following the latest raft of quarterly earnings.

EUROPE

European stocks closed higher Thursday, led by AI chip stocks which surged following record earnings by TSMC. The pan-European Stoxx 600 finished the session 0.6% higher, with most major bourses and sectors in positive territory. Dutch semiconductor equipment maker ASML popped as much as 7% in early afternoon dealmaking, sending it to record highs, as investors responded to stronger-than-expected earnings from Taiwan's TSMC.

ASIA

Asian chip stocks climbed Friday, lifting several regional markets even as broader Asia-Pacific trade remained mixed. The Taiwan Weighted Index climbed 1.1%, making it the best-performing Asian market on Friday. Investors across the region were also watching chip-related stocks after the U.S. reached a trade deal with Taiwan. Under the agreement, Taiwanese semiconductor companies commited to invest at least $250 billion in U.S.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	49442.44	0.60	2.76	2.87	49730.00	0.16
S&P	6944.47	0.26	2.12	1.45	7002.75	0.51
Nasdaq	23530.02	0.25	1.81	1.24	25818.25	0.72
DJ EuroStoxx50	6041.14	0.60	5.65	4.31	6044.00	0.18
FTSE 100	10238.94	0.54	5.72	3.10	10238.00	0.61
CAC 40	8313.12	-0.21	2.55	2.01	8302.00	-0.24
DAX	25352.39	0.26	5.30	3.52	25396.00	-0.20
IBEX 35	17642.70	-0.30	4.26	1.93	17660.50	-0.36
FTSE MIB	45849.77	0.44	4.23	2.01	45899.00	0.43
Nikkei	54110.50	-0.21	9.34	7.26	54060.00	-0.53
Hang Seng	26923.62	-0.50	6.15	4.52	26797.00	-0.62
DFM General	6261.94	0.40	2.90	3.97		
MSCI Tadawoul	10818.32	-1.16	3.52	3.12		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	73.00	73.50	72.00	2.89	-3.57	-13.10
Solidere B	73.00	73.00	73.00	-1.55	-2.67	-11.73
EuroBonds	28.50 / 29.50					

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

US, Taiwan Clinch Deal to Cut Tariffs, Boost Chip Investment

The United States and Taiwan have reached a long-negotiated trade pact aimed at lowering tariffs and strengthening cooperation in the semiconductor sector. Under the agreement, US tariffs on Taiwanese goods will fall from 20% to 15%, aligning Taiwan with Japan and South Korea and avoiding additional most-favored-nation duties. In return, Taiwan's technology industry committed to at least $250 billion in direct investments in the US to expand advanced semiconductor, energy, and artificial intelligence operations, alongside $250 billion in credit guarantees to support further investment in the American chip supply chain. A significant portion of the deal affects Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC), the world's leading producer of advanced chips. TSMC plans to build at least four additional US chip plants beyond six already planned, potentially requiring another $100 billion in capital. The pact also provides tariff relief for Taiwanese semiconductors, allowing firms building US facilities to import large volumes tariff-free during construction. The US pledged to expand investments in key Taiwanese industries such as semiconductors, AI, defense, and biotechnology, while capping sector-specific tariffs on auto parts, timber, and wood products at 15% and exempting Taiwanese-made generic pharmaceuticals from import taxes. The agreement eases economic uncertainty for Taiwan, whose economy has surged on booming tech exports and rising trade with the US.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
STATE STREET CO	STT	$ 38.07 B	16-Jan-26	Bef-mkt	2.85	2.60
PNC FINANCIAL SI	PNC	$ 84.33 B	16-Jan-26	Bef-mkt	4.22	3.77
US BANCORP	USB	$ 83.86 B	20-Jan-26	Bef-mkt	1.19	1.07
3M CO	MMM	$ 90.89 B	20-Jan-26	Bef-mkt	1.80	1.68
NETFLIX INC	NFLX	$ 402.34 B	20-Jan-26	Aft-mkt	0.55	0.44

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(16-01-26) US - Industrial Production MoM
(19-01-26) JN - Industrial Production MoM
(19-01-26) EC - CPI MoM/YoY
(19-01-26) CA - CPI MoM/YoY
(20-01-26) UK - ILO Unemployment Rate 3Mths
(20-01-26) UK - Jobless Claims Change
(20-01-26) UK - Claimant Count Rate

CONTACT

Banque BEMO sal
Asset Management Unit

Ashrafieh, Elias Sarkis Ave., BEMO Bldg, 4th Floor
P.O.Box 16-6353 Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: +961 1 325405/6/7/9