Daily Market Brief

February 16th 2026

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS (Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

EUR/USD inches lower during the Asian hours on Monday, trading around 1.1870 at the time of writing. The 14-day Relative Strength Index (RSI) momentum indicator at 56 (neutral) stays above the midline, confirming improving momentum. RSI has cooled from prior overbought readings but stabilizes above 50, suggesting dips could stay limited before buyers reassert control. The technical analysis of the daily chart shows that the EUR/USD pair holds above the nine-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA), and the slope remains positive. The nine-day average stands above the rising 50-day EMA, maintaining a bullish bias. The near-term trend would remain intact while price holds above the nine-day EMA. The 50-day EMA offers a broader floor for pullbacks.

GBP/USD

The GBP/USD pair kicks off a new week on a subdued note and oscillates in a narrow range, just below mid-1.3600s, during the Asian session. Moreover, the mixed fundamental backdrop warrants some caution for aggressive traders as the market focus now shifts to this week's important releases from the UK and the US. The UK jobs report is due on Tuesday and will be followed by the latest consumer inflation figures on Wednesday. The crucial data would influence market expectations about the Bank of England's (BoE) policy outlook amid bets for a 25 basis points (bps) rate cut in March. This, in turn, will play a key role in driving the British Pound (GBP).

USD/JPY

The USD/JPY pair attracts some buyers during the Asian session on Monday and climbs back above the 153.00 mark following the disappointing release of Japan's Q4 GDP report. Spot prices, for now, appear to have snapped a five-day losing streak, reaching a two-week low last Thursday, although the upside potential still seems limited. Data published by Japan's Cabinet Office revealed that the economy grew 0.1% in the fourth quarter of 2025, compared to a 0.7% contraction recorded in the previous quarter. The reading, however, was below market expectations and tempered bets for an immediate interest rate hike by the Bank of Japan (BoJ).

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1868	1.1878	1.1859	0.00	-0.39	1.04
GBP-USD	1.3643	1.3650	1.3634	-0.06	-0.37	1.25
USD-JPY	153.13	153.25	152.62	0.28	1.80	2.34
USD-CHF	0.7683	0.7689	0.7675	0.05	-0.27	3.16
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	4993.76	5037.61	4966.41	-0.96	-1.27	15.61
Silver	76.39	78.19	74.59	-1.32	-8.40	6.60
Crude Oil	62.91	63.30	62.76	0.03	-2.25	9.94
Bitcoin	68455.57	69063.29	68123.93	-0.53	1.03	-21.90
Etherium	1965.13	1980.19	1944.60	0.38	-0.21	-34.01

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.66	3.66	3.60	3.44
ESTR (€)	1.90	1.93	1.92	1.90
SONIA (£)	3.73	3.62	3.55	3.46
SARON (₣)	-0.05	-0.07	-0.08	-0.11
TONAR (¥)	0.72	0.62	0.55	0.51

	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 S&P 500 closed barely above the flatline on Friday as a key consumer inflation report that came in slightly lighter than expected failed to spark a substantial rally. The broad market index added 0.05% and ended at 6,836.17, while the Nasdaq Composite fell 0.22% and closed at 22,546.67. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 48.95 points, or 0.10%, and settled at 49,500.93.

EUROPE

The pan-European Stoxx 600 closed lower on Friday, after AI fears triggered another sell-off on Wall Street overnight. The Stoxx 600 provisionally closed below the flatline, with major bourses in mixed territory. French aerospace firm Safran led the Stoxx 600, surging about 8% on Friday after reporting a net income rise of 3.5% year-on-year to 3.17 billion euros ($3.8 billion) in 2025, as revenues rose 15% to 31.3 billion euros.

ASIA

Asian shares quietly consolidated recent hefty gains on Monday as the Lunar New Year holiday made for thin trading, while dismal economic data out of Japan took some air out of that booming market. China, South Korea, Taiwan were among the markets that were closed, leaving currencies and bonds becalmed, but precious metals under fresh pressure. Japan reported its economy grew a miserly 0.2% annualised in the December quarter, far below the 1.6% gain forecast as government spending dragged on activity.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	49500.93	0.10	0.29	2.99	49653.00	0.12
S&P	6836.17	0.05	-1.50	-0.14	6863.00	0.12
Nasdaq	22546.67	-0.22	-4.12	-2.99	24825.75	0.15
DJ EuroStoxx50	5985.23	-0.43	-0.73	3.35	6003.00	-0.22
FTSE 100	10446.35	0.42	2.06	5.19	10420.00	0.50
CAC 40	8311.74	-0.35	0.64	1.99	8315.00	-0.35
DAX	24914.88	0.25	-1.51	1.73	24997.00	0.34
IBEX 35	17672.40	-1.25	-0.22	2.11	17687.30	-0.98
FTSE MIB	45430.62	-1.71	-0.81	1.08	45520.00	-1.72
Nikkei	56941.97	-0.09	5.48	13.02	56840.00	-0.91
Hang Seng	26567.12	0.52	-0.52	4.20	26800.00	-0.69
DFM General	6730.11	0.01	6.56	11.30		
MSCI Tadawoul	11228.64	-0.21	3.79	7.03		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	73.70	74.00	73.00	2.15	10.00	-12.26
Solidere B	73.20	74.00	73.05	0.69	4.27	-11.49
EuroBonds	28.875 / 29.875					

MUST READ (Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

Rampant AI Demand for Memory Is Fueling a Growing Chip Crisis

A global memory chip shortage is intensifying as AI data center expansion consumes an unprecedented share of supply. Companies such as Alphabet Inc. and OpenAI are purchasing massive quantities of AI accelerators from Nvidia Corp., each requiring large amounts of DRAM and high-bandwidth memory (HBM). This surge is diverting production away from consumer electronics, leaving manufacturers scrambling for limited supply. Tech leaders including Elon Musk and Tim Cook warn the crisis is squeezing profits and raising prices across smartphones, laptops, automobiles, and gaming consoles. DRAM prices have spiked sharply, with some calling the situation "RAMmageddon." Meanwhile, memory makers Samsung Electronics Co., SK Hynix Inc., and Micron Technology Inc. are prioritizing higher-margin HBM for AI systems, further tightening supply of standard memory. Major cloud firms—including Amazon.com Inc. and Microsoft Corp.—are collectively projected to spend up to $650 billion on AI infrastructure in 2026. Because building new fabrication plants takes years, shortages are expected to persist, potentially marking a long-term "super-cycle" in memory demand that reshapes the semiconductor industry and keeps prices elevated across global electronics markets.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
ENERGY TRANSFE	ET	$ 64.38 B	17-Feb-26	Bef-mkt	0.37	0.29
MEDTRONIC PLC	MDT	$ 127.55 B	17-Feb-26	Bef-mkt	1.34	1.39
PALO ALTO NETW	PANW	$ 134.91 B	17-Feb-26	Aft-mkt	0.94	0.81
ANALOG DEVICES	ADI	$ 164.72 B	18-Feb-26	Bef-mkt	2.30	1.63
OCCIDENTAL PETI	OXY	$ 45.39 B	18-Feb-26	Aft-mkt	0.10	0.80

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(16-02-26) JN - GDP SA QoQ / Annualized QoQ
(16-02-26) JN - Industrial Production MoM
(17-02-26) JN - Tertiary Industry Index MoM
(17-02-26) UK - ILO Unemployment Rate 3Mths
(17-02-26) UK - Claimant Count Rate
(17-02-26) UK - Jobless Claims Change
(17-02-26) US - Empire Manufacturing

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