Daily Market Brief

March 16th 2026

BANQUE BEMO

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS *(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)*

EUR/USD
The EUR/USD pair recovers some lost ground to near 1.1450 during the Asian trading hours on Monday. Nonetheless, the potential upside for the major pair might be limited, as escalating conflict in the Middle East could boost safe-haven currencies such as the US Dollar (USD) against the Euro (EUR). US President Donald Trump claimed over the weekend that "many countries" would send warships to the region before publicly urging a string of countries to do so. Trump further stated that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) faces a "very bad" future if US allies fail to assist in opening up the Strait of Hormuz.

GBP/USD
The GBP/USD pair gains momentum around 1.3255 during the early European session on Monday, bolstered by a weaker US Dollar (USD). The major pair currently trades near its lowest since December 2025. Traders might turn cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve (Fed) and the Bank of England (BoE) interest rate decisions later this week. The Fed is widely expected to hold the benchmark federal funds rate steady at its current range of 3.50%–3.75% during its upcoming March meeting on Wednesday. Due to persistent inflation risks, many analysts have pushed back expectations for the next rate cut to September.

USD/JPY
USD/JPY edges lower after four days of losses, trading around 159.60 during the Asian hours on Monday. On the daily chart, technical analysis indicates a persistent bullish bias as the pair remains within the ascending channel pattern. The near-term bias is bullish as the USD/JPY pair holds well above the rising 50-day Exponential Moving Average (EMA) and extends the rebound that followed the mid-month pullback. The nine-day EMA tracks just below spot and has reasserted itself as dynamic support, underscoring persistent buying interest on shallow dips. The 14-day Relative Strength Index (RSI) sits in the high 60s, confirming strong upside momentum without yet registering extreme overbought conditions.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.1426	1.1457	1.1411	0.08	-1.80	-2.72
GBP-USD	1.3243	1.3266	1.3225	0.10	-1.44	-1.72
USD-JPY	159.34	159.75	159.26	-0.24	-1.05	-1.65
USD-CHF	0.7911	0.7912	0.7872	0.00	-1.72	0.19
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	5024.85	5035.97	4967.91	0.11	-2.21	16.33
Silver	80.26	81.62	78.52	-0.41	-7.70	12.00
Crude Oil	99.40	102.44	96.74	0.70	4.89	74.17
Bitcoin	73748.54	74416.18	71637.79	2.80	4.39	-15.86
Etherium	2264.22	2287.43	2123.76	6.33	9.43	-23.96

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	3.68	3.68	3.66	3.62
ESTR (€)	2.25	1.98	2.08	2.25
SONIA (£)	3.73	3.72	3.78	3.89
SARON (₣)	-0.07	-0.07	-0.04	0.05
TONAR (¥)	0.72	0.70	0.59	0.53

	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 fell on Friday, while oil prices extended their gains as investors awaited further developments in the Iran war. The S&P 500, which scored a new low for 2026 on Friday, posted a 1.6% loss this week and notched its first three-week losing streak in about a year. The 30-stock Dow slid about 2%, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq fell 1.3% week to date.

EUROPE
European stocks closed lower on Friday, as investors continued to weigh the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and its lasting impact on growth. The pan-European Stoxx 600 provisionally closed 0.5% lower, with most major regional bourses in negative territory, while sectors were mixed. Oil and gas, insurance, and utilities all led gains, while industrials and miners lagged the broader index. Meanwhile, sterling fell against the dollar and euro on Friday, after preliminary data showed the U.K. economy stalled in January.

Asia
Asia-Pacific markets fell Monday as investors assess elevated oil prices and the latest developments in the escalating U.S.-Iran conflict. U.S. crude prices topped $100 per barrel as the Trump administration weighs military strikes on Tehran's Kharg Island, a strategically vital hub often referred to as Iran's "oil lifeline." Goldman Sachs estimates that the surge in energy prices could shave about 0.3% off global GDP over the next year, while pushing headline inflation higher by roughly 0.5% to 0.6%.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	46558.47	-0.26	-5.94	-3.13	46838.00	0.43
S&P	6632.19	-0.61	-2.98	-3.12	6681.75	-0.06
Nasdaq	22105.36	-0.93	-1.96	-4.89	24578.25	-0.08
DJ EuroStoxx50	5716.61	-0.56	-4.39	-1.29	5743.00	0.02
FTSE 100	10261.15	-0.43	-2.03	3.32	10301.00	0.11
CAC 40	7911.53	-0.91	-4.87	-2.92	7949.50	-0.91
DAX	23447.29	-0.60	-5.46	-4.26	23531.00	-0.17
IBEX 35	17059.30	-0.47	-4.42	-1.44	17062.80	-0.52
FTSE MIB	44316.92	-0.31	-2.43	-1.40	44333.00	-0.31
Nikkei	53819.61	-0.13	-5.38	6.77	53530.00	-1.33
Hang Seng	25465.60	1.50	-3.22	0.84	25834.00	0.53
DFM General	5426.28	-2.28	-20.88	-12.31		
MSCI Tadawoul	10886.63	-0.06	-2.66	3.77		

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	75.65	76.00	75.00	-0.66	-0.46	-9.94
Solidere B	68.55	68.55	68.55	0.00	-2.07	-17.11
EuroBonds	26.75 / 27.75					

MUST READ *(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)*

Bond Market in Oil's Grip Ponders Shifting Focus to Growth Worry

Bond investors are debating whether the recent surge in oil prices—driven by the conflict involving Iran—will shift market concerns from inflation toward slowing economic growth. For now, the dominant worry is that higher crude prices will fuel inflation, especially with oil near its highest level since the aftermath of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. This has pushed US Treasury yields higher and reduced expectations for Federal Reserve rate cuts. However, as the conflict enters its third week and energy prices remain elevated, some strategists warn that markets may be underestimating the risk that expensive oil could weaken economic activity. Signs of strain are already appearing in the US labor market and consumer spending. If growth slows, investors could begin positioning for lower yields and more Fed easing than currently priced in. Several strategists argue that current yield levels—such as around 4.25% on 10-year Treasuries—are becoming attractive. Historically, major oil price shocks have often preceded recessions, reinforcing the risk that high energy costs could eventually suppress demand and growth. While financial markets have not yet fully reflected growth concerns, some investors are increasing bond exposure and betting on future rate cuts. The key question is how long oil prices remain elevated and whether the shock ultimately proves more inflationary or growth-damaging.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
KE HOLDINGS INC	BEKE	$ 19.72 B	16-Mar-26	Bef-mkt	0.63	1.14
DOLLAR TREE INC	DLTR	$ 21.37 B	16-Mar-26	Bef-mkt	2.52	2.11
TENCENT MUSIC I	TME	$ 21.98 B	17-Mar-26	Bef-mkt	1.55	1.47
OKLO INC	OKLO	$ 9.12 B	17-Mar-26	Aft-mkt	-0.18	-0.08
LULULEMON ATH	LULU	$ 18.51 B	17-Mar-26	Aft-mkt	4.78	6.14

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(16-03-26) CA - CPI YoY / NSA MoM
(16-03-26) US - Empire Manufacturing
(16-03-26) US - Industrial Production MoM
(17-03-26) AU - RBA Cash Rate Target
(17-03-26) JN - Tertiary Industry Index MoM
(17-03-26) US - Leading Index
(18-03-26) CA - CPI YoY / MoM CPI Core YoY

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