Daily Market Brief

February 17th 2025

BANQUE BEMO

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

EUR/USD
EUR/USD pauses its four-day winning streak, trading around 1.0490 as US markets close for Presidents' Day. The pair has gained recently due to delays in US tariffs and weak economic data, with speculation growing that the Federal Reserve may cut interest rates, further supported by potential peace talks in Ukraine.

GBP/USD
GBP/USD gains modestly to 1.2585 in early Asian trading, supported by positive UK GDP data and weak US Retail Sales. The drop in US Retail Sales has weakened the US Dollar, while the UK economy's growth and upcoming labor market and inflation data could influence future Bank of England decisions on interest rates.

USD/JPY
The Japanese Yen (JPY) continues its bullish trend for the third day, supported by strong domestic GDP data and expectations of further interest rate hikes by the Bank of Japan. While US Dollar selling pressure keeps the USD/JPY pair near a one-week low, concerns about US economic policies and hawkish Federal Reserve expectations could limit further JPY gains.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.0493	1.0506	1.0478	0.01	1.80	1.34
GBP-USD	1.2597	1.2609	1.2578	0.09	1.85	0.65
USD-JPY	151.63	152.39	151.48	-0.45	0.24	3.67
USD-CHF	0.9002	0.9009	0.8979	0.04	1.23	0.80
Commodities	**Last**	**High**	**Low**	**% Daily**	**% Weekly**	**% YTD**
Gold	2900.30	2905.34	2878.56	0.62	-0.27	10.51
Silver	32.16	32.48	31.92	0.19	0.35	11.28
Crude Oil	70.69	70.89	70.12	-0.07	-2.25	-0.79
Bitcoin	96294.11	97216.76	95837.54	-0.92	-1.40	2.75
Etherium	2690.43	2695.55	2639.77	0.11	0.28	-19.60

Period	1M	3M	6M	12M
SOFR ($)	4.31	4.32	4.31	4.27
ESTR (€)	2.14	2.44	2.29	2.14
SONIA (£)	4.46	4.44	4.33	4.19
SARON (F)	0.44	0.28	0.21	0.15
TONAR (¥)	0.39	0.28	0.25	0.16

	Rates
U.S. Federal Fund Target Rate	4.50
ECB Main Refinancing Operation Announcement Rate	2.9
ECB Deposit Facility Announcement Rate	2.75
ECB Marginal Lending Facility Announcement Rate	3.15
BOE Official Bank Rate	4.50

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS *(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The three major averages ended the week in the green, as sentiment improved after investors got more certainty around President Donald Trump's tariff plans, while new inflation data wound up being more constructive than first thought. Traders also shrugged off data released Friday that reflected a 0.9% slump in retail sales for January, worse than the Dow Jones estimate for a 0.2% decline.

EUROPE
European stock markets closed lower on Friday after hitting record highs earlier this week. Investors have been reacting to a flurry of corporate earnings and the prospect of a peace deal to end the war in Ukraine.

ASIA
Asia-Pacific markets traded mostly higher Monday, as investors parsed Japan's fourth-quarter economic growth data, while awaiting a slew of central bank decisions from the region this week. Japan's economic expansion in the fourth quarter beat analysts' expectations for quarter-on-quarter and annualized growth, preliminary government data showed Monday.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	44546.08	-0.37	2.43	4.71	44662.00	-0.33
S&P	6114.63	-0.01	1.97	3.96	6143.25	0.13
Nasdaq	20026.77	0.41	2.02	3.71	22263.50	0.68
DJ EuroStoxx50	5493.40	-0.13	6.70	12.20	5500.00	-0.13
FTSE 100	8732.46	-0.37	2.67	6.84	8700.50	-0.39
CAC 40	8178.54	0.18	6.08	10.81	8189.50	0.26
DAX	22513.42	-0.44	7.70	13.08	22593.00	-0.48
IBEX 35	12956.00	0.15	8.73	11.74	12981.00	0.25
FTSE MIB	37977.59	0.18	4.71	11.09	38115.00	0.22
Nikkei	39174.25	0.06	1.88	-1.81	39200.00	-0.61
Hang Seng	22620.33	0.28	15.82	13.08	22730.00	3.94
DFM General	5361.96	0.05	2.94	4.00	N/A	N/A
MSCI Tadawoul	12372.07	-0.26	0.69	2.52	N/A	N/A

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	113.00	115.00	112.10	0.53	2.08	-5.83
Solidere B	109.60	109.60	109.60	0.00	-0.81	-8.28

MUST READ *(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)*

Deal on Ukraine minerals 'a game-changer' for US support for Kyiv

A potential deal between the US and Ukraine regarding rare earth minerals is seen as a "game-changer" for boosting US support for Ukraine, according to Republican Senator Lindsey Graham. The agreement would allow the US to mine critical minerals in Ukraine, which are essential for everyday products, high-tech devices, and military hardware. President Trump hinted that this deal is vital for continued US military support for Ukraine. Graham argued that it would make Ukraine a benefit, not a burden, to the US, especially with its trillions of dollars in mineral resources. He emphasized that such a deal would complicate Russia's position and strengthen American defense interests. Graham also expressed strong support for NATO, despite some isolationist sentiments within the Republican Party and controversial statements by US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. He stressed that NATO's role is crucial, especially to deter Russian aggression. Graham also urged for increased US arms supplies to Ukraine, specifically more advanced weapons like F16s, citing the failure of past Western responses to Putin's 2014 invasion. He criticized the reluctance to provoke Putin back then and stressed the importance of deterring further Russian aggression by strengthening Ukraine's military and economic ties with the West.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
Medtronic PLC	MDT US	$ 119.01B	18-Feb-25	Pre-mkt	1.36	1.30
Arista Networks I	ANET US	$ 134.63B	18-Feb-25	After-mkt	0.57	0.52
Occidental Petrol	OXY US	$ 45.10B	18-Feb-25	After-mkt	0.70	0.74
Cadence Design S	CDNS US	$ 80.96B	18-Feb-25	After-mkt	1.83	1.38
Devon Energy Cor	DVN US	$ 22.76B	18-Feb-25	After-mkt	1.03	1.41

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(18-02-25) UK- Jobless Claims Change
(18-02-25) CA- CPI NSA MoM
(18-02-25) US- Empire Manufacturing
(19-02-25) JP - Core Machine Orders MoM
(19-02-25) UK- CPI MoM / YoY / Core YoY
(19-02-25) US- MBA Mortgage Applications
(19-02-25) US - Housing Starts

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