

Daily Market Brief

March 17th 2025



FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

EUR/USD remains steady at 1.0880, with the US Dollar supported ahead of upcoming Retail Sales data, though it faced pressure after the University of Michigan reported a drop in Consumer Sentiment. The Euro strengthened on positive German fiscal news and expectations of a potential ceasefire between the US and Russia, while ECB officials expressed concerns about economic uncertainty and the Euro's global role.

GBP/USD

GBP/USD starts the week quietly around 1.2930, with caution warranted after reaching a four-month high last week, as concerns over US tariffs and a potential Fed rate cut weigh on the US Dollar. The British Pound faces challenges from weak UK economic data but benefits from expectations that the Bank of England will cut rates more gradually than the Fed, with traders awaiting key US economic data and central bank meetings this week.

USD/JPY

USD/JPY has staged a decent comeback to test 149.00 amid a positive risk tone early Monday. The prevalent bearish sentiment surrounding the US Dollar and the divergent Fed-BoJ policy expectations could limit the pair's further upside. US Retail Sales data eyed.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.0874	1.0894	1.0870	-0.05	0.37	5.02
GBP-USD	1.2930	1.2945	1.2917	-0.04	0.40	3.31
USD-JPY	148.94	149.10	148.46	0.20	-1.12	5.55
USD-CHF	0.8846	0.8855	0.8838	-0.06	-0.41	2.58
Commodities	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
Gold	2989.09	2994.20	2982.33	0.16	3.47	13.89
Silver	33.82	33.90	33.69	0.06	5.33	17.01
Crude Oil	67.64	68.37	67.29	0.68	2.44	-4.54
Bitcoin	83220.82	83851.13	82008.76	0.00	0.14	-11.20
Etherium	1894.04	1915.45	1871.53	-0.04	0.14	-43.40
Period	1M	3M	6M	12M		
SOFR (\$)	4.32	4.30	4.20	4.02		
ESTR (€)	2.10	2.32	2.21	2.10		
SONIA (£)	4.46	4.39	4.30	4.18		
SARON (F)	0.27	0.26	0.23	0.21		
TONAR (¥)	0.47	0.36	0.29	0.20		

Rates

U.S. Federal Fund Target Rate	4.50
ECB Main Refinancing Operation Announcement Rate	2.65
ECB Deposit Facility Announcement Rate	2.50
ECB Marginal Lending Facility Announcement Rate	2.90
BOE Official Bank Rate	4.50

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Stocks rallied Friday, clawing back some of the steep losses seen over the week, as investors got a reprieve from tariff-related headlines. Data released Friday from the University of Michigan confirmed that consumer confidence has suffered from the ongoing tariff-related uncertainty, worries that have driven the market down the last three weeks.

EUROPE

European markets closed higher on Friday after German lawmakers reportedly came closer to agreeing on reforming the country's so-called debt brake rule. Multiple media reports said Friday that Germany's likely next chancellor Friedrich Merz had won support from the Greens party to hike public borrowing to allow an increase in defense spending.

ASIA

Asia-Pacific markets mostly climbed on Monday. The Chinese government on Sunday announced a "Special Action Plan to Boost Consumption" to revive consumption by boosting people's incomes.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	41488.19	1.65	-6.86	-2.48	41296.00	1.06
S&P	5638.94	2.13	-7.78	-4.13	5604.75	1.41
Nasdaq	17754.09	2.61	-11.35	-8.06	19575.50	1.71
DJ EuroStoxx50	5404.18	1.42	-2.10	10.38	5396.00	1.35
FTSE 100	8632.33	1.05	-1.55	5.62	8649.50	1.22
CAC 40	8028.28	1.13	-1.96	8.77	8031.50	1.12
DAX	22986.82	1.86	0.83	15.46	22975.00	1.91
IBEX 35	13005.20	1.43	-0.09	12.16	12993.00	1.31
FTSE MIB	38655.30	1.73	0.85	13.07	38668.00	1.72
Nikkei	37053.10	0.93	-4.54	-6.26	37170.00	1.86
Hang Seng	23959.98	0.86	6.85	20.47	24209.00	3.01
DFM General	5140.61	0.64	-3.89	0.29	N/A	N/A
MSCI Tadawoul	11853.78	1.09	-3.36	-1.52	N/A	N/A

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	102.10	102.10	102.10	-0.49	-3.41	-14.92
Solidere B	101.90	102.00	100.00	-0.29	-4.14	-14.73

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

Gold holds steady as geopolitical and economic concerns linger

Gold remained steady on Monday after reaching a historic high last week, driven by geopolitical tensions, concerns over rising tariffs, and expectations of U.S. interest rate cuts. Spot gold was flat at \$2,983.09 per ounce, while U.S. gold futures fell 0.3% to \$2,992.30. The recent rally in gold is attributed to fears of stagflation, with the metal's short-term momentum staying positive. Analysts noted resistance levels at \$3,016 or \$3,030. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent warned of the potential for a U.S. recession, though no guarantees were made. U.S. consumer sentiment dropped to a 2.5-year low in March, further fueling inflation fears as President Trump's tariffs raised concerns over rising prices. Gold, seen as a hedge against economic uncertainty and inflation, has risen around 14% in 2025. Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions persisted with U.S. attacks on Yemen's Houthis and Israeli strikes in Gaza, although there was some hope for easing tensions after Trump's planned call with Russian President Putin. Markets are now focusing on the Federal Reserve's upcoming policy meeting, which could further support gold prices if inflation forecasts are upgraded or economic uncertainties are addressed. Silver, platinum, and palladium also saw small movements.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
Xpeng Inc ADR	XPEV US	\$ 22.55B	18-Mar-25	Pre-mkt	-0.86	-1.50
Williams Sonoma	WSM US	\$ 20.62B	19-Mar-25	Pre-mkt	2.93	2.72
General Mills Inc	GIS US	\$ 32.83B	19-Mar-25	Pre-mkt	0.97	1.17
Nike Inc	NKE US	\$ 105.99B	20-Mar-25	Aft-mkt	0.32	0.98
Micron Technolog	MU US	\$ 112.30B	20-Mar-25	Aft-mkt	1.43	0.42

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(17-03-25) US - Empire Manufacturing
(17-03-25) US - Retail Sales Advance MoM
(18-03-25) CA - CPI NSA MoM / CPI YoY
(18-03-25) US - Industrial Production MoM
(19-03-25) JP - Core Machine Orders MoM
(19-03-25) EC - CPI YoY / MoM
(19-03-25) US - FOMC Rate Decision (Upper / Lower Bound)

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

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