

# Daily Market Brief

February 23rd 2024



## FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

### EURUSD

EUR/USD consolidates following a volatile session prompted by the release of European and US (PMI) data on Thursday. The Euro stabilized as investors processed the mixed figures concerning private business activity in the (EU). In the Eurozone, the disinflationary trend persists as both Eurozone and German PMI data for February reveal mixed figures. While preliminary Eurozone and German Services PMIs increased, Manufacturing PMIs fell short of market expectations.

### GBPUSD

The GBP/USD pair posts modest gains above the mid-1.2600s during the early Asian trading hours on Friday. The US Initial Jobless Claims for the week ending February 17 fell to 201K from the previous weeks of 213K. Continuing Claims dropped to 1.862M, below expectations and the prior week. The report suggested the US labor market remains robust and might convince the (Fed) to delay cutting interest rates.

### USDJPY

The (JPY) struggles to register any meaningful recovery against its American counterpart and languishes near a one-week low touched the previous day. A recession in Japan could delay the (BoJ) plan to exit from the negative interest rate regime in the coming months.

| Fx rates    | Last     | High     | Low      | % Daily | % Weekly | % YTD |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|
| EUR-USD     | 1.0825   | 1.0832   | 1.0815   | 0.02    | 0.45     | -1.94 |
| GBP-USD     | 1.2660   | 1.2667   | 1.2649   | 0.00    | 0.46     | -0.56 |
| USD-JPY     | 150.65   | 150.65   | 150.38   | 0.08    | -0.29    | -6.38 |
| USD-CHF     | 0.8808   | 0.8810   | 0.8799   | 0.07    | -0.02    | -4.47 |
| Commodities | Last     | High     | Low      | % Daily | % Weekly | % YTD |
| Gold        | 2020.01  | 2027.43  | 2019.76  | -0.22   | 0.32     | -2.08 |
| Silver      | 22.61    | 22.84    | 22.61    | -0.60   | -3.45    | -4.97 |
| Crude Oil   | 78.10    | 78.39    | 78.08    | -0.65   | 0.66     | 8.46  |
| Bitcoin     | 51209.35 | 51704.91 | 50960.44 | -0.85   | -1.28    | 20.47 |
| Etherium    | 2956.55  | 2991.97  | 2932.49  | -0.94   | 3.84     | 29.54 |
| Period      | 1 M      | 3 M      | 12 M     |         |          |       |
| EURIBOR     | 3.89     | 3.95     | 3.70     |         |          |       |
| SOFR        | 5.32     | 5.32     | 5.03     |         |          |       |
| Notes/Bonds | 2 Y      | 10 Y     | 30 Y     |         |          |       |
| US          | 4.71     | 4.32     | 4.46     |         |          |       |
| BTP - BUND  | 0.54     | 1.48     | 1.89     |         |          |       |
| GILTS       | 4.60     | 4.11     | 4.63     |         |          |       |

## INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both surged to record closing highs on Thursday, powered by investors piling into growth and technology stocks the day after artificial intelligence poster child Nvidia's bumper earnings and outlook. Rivian and Lucid fall as 2024 production targets disappoint.

### EUROPE

European shares rose to a record high on Thursday, boosted by a rally in global stocks that also saw Japan's blue-chip Nikkei index hit an all-time high.

### ASIA

Asian stocks gained for a second day on Friday, fueled by the global rally in equities that's seen markets from the US to Europe and Japan hit all-time highs. Australian, Taiwanese and South Korean equities advanced. Japanese markets were closed Friday for a public holiday.

| Index          | Close      | % Daily | % M   | YTD     | Futures  | % Change |
|----------------|------------|---------|-------|---------|----------|----------|
| DJIA           | 39069.11   | 1.18    | 3.07  | 3.66    | 39164.00 | 0.09     |
| S&P            | 5087.03    | 2.11    | 4.57  | 6.65    | 5101.75  | 0.08     |
| Nasdaq         | 16041.62   | 2.96    | 3.99  | 6.86    | 18045.50 | 0.00     |
| DJ EuroStoxx50 | 4855.36    | 1.68    | 8.72  | 7.39    | 4875.00  | 0.10     |
| FTSE 100       | 7684.49    | 0.29    | 2.66  | -0.63   | 7671.50  | -0.05    |
| CAC 40         | 7911.60    | 1.27    | 7.09  | 4.88    | 7764.50  | N/A      |
| DAX            | 17370.45   | 1.47    | 4.47  | 3.69    | 17459.00 | 0.17     |
| IBEX 35        | 10138.90   | 0.31    | 2.84  | 0.36    | 9855.60  | N/A      |
| FTSE MIB       | 32356.26   | 1.06    | 7.58  | 6.60    | 32459.00 | N/A      |
| Nikkei         | 39098.68   | 2.19    | 7.07  | 16.84   | 39470.00 | 0.89     |
| Hang Seng      | 16742.95   | 0.01    | 9.06  | -1.77   | 16761.00 | -0.10    |
| DFM General    | 4229.21    | -0.44   | 2.51  | 3.72    | N/A      | N/A      |
| MSCI Tadawoul  | 12634.33   | 0.22    | 4.33  | 5.57    | N/A      | N/A      |
| Leb. Mkts      | Closing Px | High    | Low   | % Daily | % Weekly | YTD      |
| Solidere A     | 76.35      | 80.00   | 74.00 | -3.78   | -11.53   | -14.31   |
| Solidere B     | 79.05      | 80.25   | 78.50 | -1.00   | -9.50    | -12.12   |

## MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

### Nvidia Tops Meta Record With Over \$230 Billion Jump in Value

Nvidia is on track to best Meta Platforms Inc.'s historic stock-market session, just three weeks after the Facebook owner set the record. Shares in the chipmaker surged 14%, putting it on course to add more than \$230 billion to its market capitalization. That would be the biggest single-session increase in market value in history, eclipsing a \$197 billion gain made by Meta at the start of the month. Listen to the Big Take podcast on Heart, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and the Bloomberg Terminal. "The company is printing money at this point," Stacy Rasgon said. "And the prospect for continued growth from here still seems solid." Nvidia shares surged after it reported blowout results that cemented Wall Street bets on the potential for its artificial intelligence technologies. The chipmaker also gave guidance above expectations, driven by AI spending at its biggest customers, including Microsoft Corp. and Meta. A series of estimate-beating results means the shares have been getting cheaper on a price-to-earnings basis. Nvidia surpassed high expectations, according to Morgan Stanley analyst Joseph Moore. "We had never seen \$2 billion+ of upside to quarterly revenue guidance until Nvidia did it a few quarters ago, but it has become routine during the AI surge," he wrote. "Strength of AI demand continues to be remarkable."

## MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

| Company           | Ticker  | Market Cap | Date      | Time    | Estimate | Year Ago |
|-------------------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Fomento Econom    | FMX US  | \$159.1 B  | 23-Feb-24 | Pre-mkt | N/A      | 0.69     |
| Warner Bros Discr | WBD US  | \$23.9 B   | 23-Feb-24 | Pre-mkt | -0.11    | 0.42     |
| AerCap Holdings   | AER US  | \$19.1 B   | 23-Feb-24 | Pre-mkt | 2.44     | 2.66     |
| RB Global Inc     | RBA US  | \$12.6 B   | 23-Feb-24 | Pre-mkt | 0.41     | 0.40     |
| Lamar Advertising | LAMR US | \$10.9 B   | 23-Feb-24 | Pre-mkt | 1.95     | 1.91     |

## ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(23-02-24) US- Fed's Kashkari speech; Fed's Cook speech  
(23-02-24) UK- Gfk Consumer Confidence FEB  
(23-02-24) US- Fed's Waller speech  
(23-02-24) DE- Gross Domestic Product QoQ, YoY Q4  
(23-02-24) EA- EcoFin Meeting; ECB's Schnabel speech  
(23-02-24) DE- IFO - Current Assessment, Business Climate, Expectations FEB  
(23-02-24) US- Fed Monetary Policy Report

## 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

Disclaimer: This report is published for information purposes only. The information herein has been compiled from, or based upon sources we believe to be reliable, but we do not guarantee or accept responsibility for its completeness and accuracy. This document should not be construed as a solicitation to take part in any investment, or as constituting any representation or warranty on our part. The investment risks described herein are not purported to be exhaustive, any person considering an investment should seek independent advice on the suitability or otherwise of the particular investment. Investment, Capital Market and Treasury products are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal amount invested. Past performance is not indicative of future results: prices can go up or down. Investors investing in investments and/or treasury products denominated in foreign (non-local) currency should be aware of the risk of exchange rate fluctuations that may cause loss of principal when foreign currency is converted to the investor's home currency. Client understands that it is his/her responsibility to seek legal and/or tax advice regarding the legal and tax consequences of his/her investment transactions. The consequences of any action taken on the basis of information contained herein are solely the responsibility of the recipient.