

Daily Market Brief

February 26th 2024



FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

EUR/USD

The EUR/USD pair trades on a softer note amid a modest rebound of the US dollar (USD) during the early Asian session on Monday. The Fed officials will consider the incoming data to determine whether the current stickiness in US inflation is temporary or it is persistent. The ECB members agreed that the policy will be eased, but there is no clear consensus yet on the precise timing. The US January PCE inflation data will be in the spotlight this week.

GBP/USD

GBP/USD breaks its four-day winning streak and trades slightly lower around 1.2660 during the Asian session on Monday. The USD maintains its strength on hawkish comments from Fed officials, which in turn, undermines the GBP/USD pair. Additionally, the lower February consumer confidence data from the UK might have put downward pressure on the GBP.

USD/JPY

The USD/JPY faces an intense sell-off from 150.80 in Friday's early New York session. The asset has come under pressure as the USD retraces vertically, even though Fed policymakers argue in favor of keeping interest rates at their current level. Easing Japan's inflation would dwindle BoJ's plans of quitting the dovish policy stance. Fed Waller prefers to delay rate cuts.

Fx rates	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
EUR-USD	1.0827	1.0833	1.0813	0.06	0.45	-1.92
GBP-USD	1.2672	1.2683	1.2657	0.00	0.62	-0.46
USD-JPY	150.41	150.57	150.29	-0.07	-0.19	-6.23
USD-CHF	0.8809	0.8822	0.8799	0.00	0.17	-4.48
Commodities	Last	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	% YTD
Gold	2032.99	2035.03	2030.01	-0.12	0.78	-1.45
Silver	22.80	22.93	22.77	-0.68	-0.99	-4.20
Crude Oil	76.27	76.68	76.05	-0.29	-2.79	5.92
Bitcoin	51482.37	51860.81	51404.40	-0.55	0.18	21.11
Etherium	3111.35	3133.91	3085.76	0.06	6.27	36.32
Period	1 M		3 M			12 M
EURIBOR	3.85		3.93			3.74
SOFR	5.32		5.33			5.07
Notes/Bonds	2 Y		10 Y			30 Y
US	4.66		4.22			4.34
BTP - BUND	0.53		1.44			1.87
GILTS	4.54		4.04			4.59

INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MARKETS

(Sources: Bloomberg / Reuters)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The S&P 500 stabilized Friday after hitting another record as investors wrapped the week on a high note. Wall Street is coming off a monster day as Nvidia shares roared on strong quarterly results, leading the chipmaker to briefly surpass a \$2 trillion valuation. On Thursday, the S&P 500 had its best day since January 2023, while the Nasdaq Composite popped nearly 3% for its best session since February 2023.

EUROPE

European stocks closed higher Friday, extending positive momentum after the pan-European benchmark finished at a record high. U.K. consumer confidence dipped in February, new survey data from GfK showed Friday, indicating that higher inflation continues to weigh on hopes of an economic upturn.

ASIA

Asia-Pacific markets were mostly higher Friday, with China stocks rising for the ninth straight session as investors digested property prices data. The CSI 300 index ended 0.09% higher. Data showed sales prices of newly built commercial housing in first-tier cities fell 0.3% month-over-month in January, with declines narrowing by 0.1 % from the previous month.

Index	Close	% Daily	% M	YTD	Futures	% Change
DJIA	39131.53	0.16	2.68	3.83	39135.00	-0.14
S&P	5088.80	0.03	4.04	6.69	5090.50	-0.22
Nasdaq	15996.82	-0.28	3.50	6.56	17938.50	-0.29
DJ EuroStoxx50	4872.57	0.35	5.11	7.77	4869.00	-0.31
FTSE 100	7706.28	0.28	0.93	-0.35	7671.00	-0.27
CAC 40	7966.68	0.70	4.36	5.61	N/A Real Tim	N/A
DAX	17419.33	0.28	2.70	3.99	17418.00	-0.24
IBEX 35	10130.60	-0.08	1.95	0.28	N/A Real Tim	N/A
FTSE MIB	32700.92	1.07	7.64	7.74	32772.00	N/A
Nikkei	39233.71	0.35	7.44	17.24	39230.00	0.28
Hang Seng	16725.86	-0.64	4.17	-2.52	16616.00	-0.61
DFM General	4225.90	-0.25	1.25	3.83	N/A	N/A
MSCI Tadawoul	12604.59	-0.24	3.64	5.32	N/A	N/A

Leb. Mrkts	Closing Px	High	Low	% Daily	% Weekly	YTD
Solidere A	79.60	80.00	70.10	4.26	-4.73	-10.66
Solidere B	79.85	80.00	70.10	1.01	-4.77	-11.23

MUST READ

(Source: Bloomberg/ Forexlive)

Warren Buffett's cash mountain grows to record \$168 billion

Warren Buffett's mountain of money swelled to a fresh high in the fourth quarter as the bargain hunter came up short in his search for compelling places to spend it. The famed investor's Berkshire Hathaway grew its stash of cash and Treasury bills by 7% in three months to a record \$168 billion — a roughly \$60 billion increase in 15 months, its annual report revealed on Saturday. Buffett and his team plowed \$7.3 billion into stocks in the period. But they also sold \$7.8 billion worth, meaning they disposed of \$525 million of stocks on a net basis. They were net sellers of \$24 billion for the full year, a sharp contrast to their purchase of \$34 billion in stocks on a net basis in 2022. The centibillionaire stockpicker also spent \$2.2 billion on buybacks in the quarter after spending \$2.6 billion over the preceding six months. Berkshire repurchased \$9.2 billion of its stock last year, up from \$7.9 billion in 2022, but that's still a paltry amount compared to the north of \$24 billion it deployed in both 2020 and 2021. Berkshire's ballooning cash pile and relatively muted stock purchases and buybacks highlight the challenge Buffett faces as a value investor operating in a booming market with a bright economic outlook. The benchmark S&P 500 stock index has jumped by about 30% since the start of last year and broke through the 5,000-point mark for the first time this month. Berkshire stock has also climbed to record highs, making buybacks less attractive.

MAIN WEEKLY EARNINGS

Company	Ticker	Market Cap	Date	Time	Estimate	Year Ago
Zoom Video Corp	ZM US	\$ 19.30B	26-Feb-24	Aft-mkt	1.14	1.22
Macy's Inc	M US	\$ 5.34B	27-Feb-24	Pre-mkt	-0.25	-0.54
Devon Energy	DVN US	\$ 28.11B	27-Feb-24	Aft-mkt	1.40	1.66
EBAY INC	EBAY US	\$ 22.84B	27-Feb-24	Aft-mkt	1.03	1.07
Salesforce Inc	CRM US	\$ 283.43B	28-Feb-24	Aft-mkt	2.27	1.22

ECONOMIC CALENDAR

(26-02-24) US - New Home Sales
(27-02-24) JP - Natl CPI YoY
(27-02-24) EA - M3 Money Supply YoY
(27-02-24) US - Durable Goods Orders
(27-02-24) US - Conf. Board Consumer Confidence
(28-02-24) IT - Consumer Confidence Index
(28-02-24) US - MBA Mortgage Applications

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