

9 February 2026

Global Markets Research

Daily Market Highlights

9 Feb: USD softened on the return of risk-on mood

US stocks roared back; risk-on saw treasuries and the US Dollar being sold

Commodities and commodity-sensitive FX jumped on geopolitical risks

US consumer sentiment improved; consumer credit jumped to its 1Y high

- US stocks largely roared back last Friday as technology stocks recovered following days of heavy selling while wagers that the US economy will continue to grow also saw investors piling up on cyclical stocks like banks and consumers. The Dow led gains at 2.5% d/d to close above 50k for the first time ever, while S&P 500 and Nasdaq also rallied 2.0% d/d and 2.2% d/d.
- Elsewhere, Stoxx Eur 600 gained 0.9% d/d, reversing morning losses amid a mixed slew of corporate earnings and news, while major Asian bourses most fell earlier in the day with Wall Street's tech rout rattling investors. Kospi led losses at 1.4% d/d, while Hang Seng and CSI 300 tumbled 1.2% d/d and 0.6% d/d. In contrast, Japan's Nikkei 225 reversed losses to close up 0.8% d/d ahead of the weekend's election.
- In other asset classes, the risk-on sentiment saw investors selling the Dollar and treasuries, the latter pushing yields slightly higher overall. The 2Y yield rose 5bps to 3.50%, while the 10Y increased 3bps to 4.21%. 10Y European sovereign bond yields closed mixed between -4 to +2bps.
- The DXY fell 0.2% d/d to 97.63, with NOK (1.3% d/d), and commodity sensitive currencies like AUD (1.2% d/d to 0.7013) and NZD (1.1% d/d) leading G10 gains against the greenback following the jump in prices for gold.
- JPY was the outlier and weakened 0.1% d/d to 157.22 ahead of its elections on Sunday. At the point of writing, early projections suggest a majority win for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), paving way for tax cuts and not boding well for JPY today although we suspect weakness could be limited as the results could have been priced in.
- On the regional front, IDR (-0.2% d/d) lagged most Asian FX peers after Moody's outlook cut, MYR closed just above its flatline at 3.9475, while SGD appreciated 0.3% d/d to 1.2713.
- In the commodity space, crude oil and gold rallied amid lingering concerns over US-Iran talks in Oman. Gold closed

Key Market Metrics

	Level	d/d (%)
Equities		
Dow Jones	50,115.67	2.47
S&P 500	6,932.30	1.97
NASDAQ	23,031.21	2.18
Stoxx Eur 600	617.12	0.89
FTSE 100	10,369.75	0.59
Nikkei 225	54,253.68	0.81
CSI 300	4,643.60	-0.57
Hang Seng	26,559.95	-1.21
Straits Times	4,934.41	-0.83
KLCI 30	1,732.83	0.10
FX		
Dollar Index	97.63	-0.20
EUR/USD	1.1815	0.32
GBP/USD	1.3611	0.59
USD/JPY	157.22	0.11
AUD/USD	0.7013	1.24
USD/CNH	6.9301	-0.15
USD/MYR	3.9475	-0.01
USD/SGD	1.2713	-0.32
USD/KHR	4,030.00	-0.01
USD/THB	31.65	-0.49
Commodities		
WTI (\$/bbl)	63.55	0.41
Brent (\$/bbl)	68.05	0.74
Gold (\$/oz)	4,951.20	1.85
Copper (\$/MT)	12,994.00	0.71
Aluminum(\$/MT)	3,085.00	1.92
CPO (RM/tonne)	4,132.50	-0.33

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research

* Closing as of 5 Feb for CPO

up 1.9% d/d, while crude oil gained 0.4-0.7% d/d to \$63.55/barrel for the WTI and \$68.05/ barrel for Brent.

US consumer sentiment improved slightly; consumer credit jumped

- Consumer sentiment was essentially unchanged, with the University of Michigan index inching up less than 1ppts to 57.3 in February (Jan: 56.4) and sitting about 20% below January 2025. On net, modest increases in current condition (58.3 vs 55.4) was offset by a small decline in expectations sub-index (56.6 vs 57.0), the latter weighed down by widespread concerns over job losses and relatively still elevated prices (year-ahead inflation expectations eased from 4.0% to 3.5%).
- Consumer credit increased by more than expected and by the most in a year at \$24.0bn in December, up from \$4.7bn the prior month. The increase reflects a pick-up in both non-revolving and revolving credit, the latter may be due to holiday spending season but also raising concerns over households' balance sheet.

Mixed data from Japan – leading index improved for the 8th month; household spending fell

- Economic prints from Japan were mixed. The leading index unexpectedly improved for the eight consecutive months to 110.2 in December from 109.9 previously, while bank lending also stayed robust at 4.5% y/y in January (prior: 4.3% y/y).
- Household spending fell 2.6% y/y in December from +2.9% y/y previously. That said, the latter brings 2025 spending up 0.9% y/y, its first increase after 3 years of lull and will continue to be supported by expectations of tax cuts and continuous wage growth in 2026 (labour cash earnings: 2.4% y/y in Dec vs 1.7% y/y in Nov).
- All in, no change in our view that the economy is recovering moderately and the BOJ will continue with its cautious tightening cycle in the near term.

Jump in Vietnam's trade and output data; retail sales softened a tad but remained robust

- In Vietnam, robust data kick-started 2026. Notably, export and imports both jumped more than expected by 29.7% y/y and 49.2% y/y in January (Dec: 23.8% y/y and 27.7% y/y), the latter driven by increased imports of electronics components & materials, a positive sign as it continues to signal strong export-oriented production ahead.
- In fact, IPI growth doubled to 21.5% y/y from 10.1% y/y previously, with the manufacturing sector specifically jumping 23.6% y/y from December's 10.9% y/y. As it is, these

robust numbers bode well for the economy but the continuous trade surplus with the US will post certain disadvantages for Vietnam in its latest round of trade negotiation with the US.

- On the domestic front, retail sales (9.3% y/y vs 9.8% y/y) remained strong on both domestic and tourist spending, while core-inflation remained tame at 3.2% y/y (prior: 3.3% y/y) despite seasonal demand which drove pork prices up, as well as on rising prices for eating out and home maintenance materials.
- All in, the still robust external and domestic indicators coupled with contained inflationary pressure keep our expectations that the SBV will maintain rates for 2026 for now.

House View and Forecasts

FX	This Week	1Q-26	2Q-26	3Q-26	4Q-26
DXY	96-100	96.71	95.13	94.70	95.49
EUR/USD	1.17-1.20	1.20	1.22	1.22	1.21
GBP/USD	1.33-137	1.36	1.37	1.37	1.35
USD/CHF	0.75-0.80	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78
USD/JPY	153-160	153	149	147	147
AUD/USD	0.67-0.71	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.69
NZD/USD	0.58-0.62	0.58	0.59	0.59	0.58
USD/CNY	6.92-6.97	6.90	6.83	6.85	6.90
USD/MYR	3.91-3.99	4.00	3.97	3.97	4.00
USD/SGD	1.26-1.29	1.26	1.23	1.23	1.24
USD/THB	30.60-31.90	32.2	32,1	32.0	30.8

FX	Last close	1Q-26	2Q-26	3Q-26	4Q-26
EUR/MYR	4.6558	4.78	4.82	4.85	4.84
GBP/MYR	5.3597	5.44	5.45	5.45	5.41
AUD/MYR	2.7536	2.72	2.75	2.78	2.76
CNY/MYR	0.5689	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58
SGD/MYR	3.1000	3.17	3.21	3.23	3.22

Rates, %	Current	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26
Fed	3.50-3.75	3.50-3.75	3.25-3.50	3.00-3.25	2.75-3.00
ECB	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
BOE	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
SNB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOJ	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
RBA	3.85	3.85	4.10	4.10	4.10
RBNZ	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
BNM	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75

Source: HLBB Global Markets Research

Up Next

Date	Events	Prior
9-Feb	AU Household Spending MoM (Dec)	1.00%
	MA Industrial Production YoY (Dec)	4.30%
	MA Manufacturing Sales Value YoY (Dec)	4.60%
	JN Eco Watchers Survey Outlook SA (Jan)	50.5

	MA Foreign Reserves (30 Jan)	\$125.6b
	EC Sentix Investor Confidence (Feb)	-1.8
10-Feb	AU Westpac Consumer Conf SA MoM (Feb)	-1.70%
	SI GDP YoY (4Q F)	5.70%
	AU NAB Business Confidence (Jan)	3
	US NFIB Small Business Optimism (Jan)	99.5
	US ADP Weekly Employment Change	7.750k
	US Import Price Index YoY (Dec)	0.10%
	US Employment Cost Index (4Q)	0.80%
	US Retail Sales Advance MoM (Dec)	0.60%

Source: Bloomberg

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