

Feb 10, 2026

Three Take-Aways

- 1) Political pressure raised uncertainty over the Fed's future policy stance and independence.
- 2) The US-India deal eases uncertainty but is unlikely to trigger INR rallies.
- 3) Strong PBoC liquidity injections are helping stabilise domestic funding conditions ahead of Lunar New Year

MACRO THEME: A Smaller Fed?

- Federal Reserve Governor **Stephen Miran** signaled support for a **smaller Fed balance sheet**, arguing that reducing the Fed's market footprint would restore policy space for future crises.
- He emphasized that large-scale asset purchases remain appropriate during "zero-lower-bound" shocks, but the **Fed should "keep its powder dry"** for genuine emergencies.
- Miran also cautioned that **balance-sheet reduction cannot begin immediately given regulatory and operational hurdles**.
- The discussion comes as markets assess potential policy shifts under Kevin Warsh, a long-time advocate of balance-sheet shrinkage and a structurally tighter liquidity stance.
- Trump further amplified the spotlight by claiming **Warsh could deliver 15% economic growth**—a highly ambitious (if not implausible) assessment that underscores the political pressure surrounding the nomination.
- The rhetoric adds **uncertainty around the Fed's policy reaction function** and heightens concerns over how much **independence the institution would retain under new leadership**.

Inflation Relief Without a Confidence Rebound

- The New York Fed's January consumer survey showed **easing of near-term inflation concerns**, with one-year inflation expectations declining to 3.1% from 3.4% in December, the lowest in six months.
- Longer-term expectations held steady, with **3- and 5-year horizons anchored at 3%**, still **above the Fed's 2% target**.
- Labour-market perceptions improved slightly. Households reported a **lower perceived risk of job loss** and a **higher likelihood of finding work** if displaced.
- While earnings expectations strengthened, households reported **weaker assessments of both current and future financial conditions**, and anticipate **tighter credit availability** ahead.
- This divergence suggests that **consumer sentiment remains fragile**, where improving wage expectations are not translating into a broader uplift in confidence.

Yields (2Y: -1.3bp; 10Y: -0.5bp; 30Y: +0.7bp)

Equities (Nasdaq: +0.9%; S&P 500: +0.5%; Dow: +0.04%)

FX (DXY: -0.8%)

DATA/EVENTS

Overnight	Actual	Exp.	Prior
(AU) Household Spending YoY (Dec)	5.0%	5.8%	6.0%
(MY) Industrial Production YoY (Dec)	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%
(TW) Exports/Imports (Jan)	69.9%/63.6%	56.7%/42.8%	43.4%/14.9%
(JP) Labour/Real Cash Earning YoY (Dec)	2.4%/-0.1%	3.2%/0.8%	1.7%/-1.6%
Today	Actual	Exp.	Prior
(US) NY Fed 1-Yr Inflation Expectations (3.4%	3.1%	3.4%
(US) NFIB Small Business Optimism (Jan)	99.8	99.5	
(US) Retail Sales Adv./Ex Auto and Gas MoM (Dec)	0.4%/0.4%	0.6%/0.4%	
(AU) Westpac Consumer Conf SA MoM (I	-2.6%	--	0.0
(AU) NAB Business Confidence (Jan)	--	--	300.0%

India: Removing Overhang but Not Inviting Rallies

- The US-India joint statement last Friday highlighted the US removal of secondary tariffs on Russian oil purchases, paired with India's reciprocal 18% rate.
- Nonetheless, it is said that India will begin duty cuts in March after the interim agreement is signed.
- India will also purchase US\$500bn of US products which includes the usual range of energy, aircraft to technology products over the next 5 years.
- Given energy and investment needs, the import expenditure commitments may not be as strenuous relative to investment deals.
- Meanwhile, India's pharmaceutical industry will likely receive a negotiated rate rather than an outright exemption depending on section 232 investigation findings.
- Tariffs on aircraft parts will be removed while autos components will enjoy a tariff rate quota.
- Looking ahead, this statement removes an overhang on the INR but a firmer recovery remains contingent on wider fiscal consolidation and favour global backdrop (softer oil prices and better risk sentiments).

China: Liquidity Support

- The PBoC has stepped up liquidity injections ahead of the Lunar New Year to prevent a seasonal cash crunch, including restarting 14-day reverse repos to inject RMB 600bn after a two-month pause.
- Liquidity support has been substantial in January, with net injections of RMB 1,238.4bn, representing a 54% increase from December.
- In February, the PBoC rolled over maturing 3-month outright reverse repos and delivered a net RMB 100bn injection last week, with another RMB 500bn of 6-month repos due, suggesting further injections are likely.
- This strong liquidity push reduces the likelihood of an immediate RRR cut around the holidays, but does not rule out policy easing in March after the annual "Two Sessions" meetings, especially if January–February data point to a more pronounced growth slowdown.

More Trade Pressures

- Australia imposed a 10% anti-dumping tariff on steel ceiling frames from China after confirming dumping practices.
- In parallel, The EU raised tariffs on Chinese ceramic tableware to 79% and launched a subsidy investigation into wind-power firm Goldwind on concerns over distorted competition.
- China has pushed back against these actions, urging the EU to ensure fair competition and refrain from the "abuse" of unilateral trade instruments, while pledging to safeguard the legitimate interests of Chinese firms.
- Taken together, these developments highlight that **China is increasingly facing trade pressure not only from the US, but across advanced economies**, raising risks of a broader drag on its export outlook.

FX OUTLOOK

FX	Close (NY)	Open*	Daily %Δ	Forecast
USDJPY	155.88	156.13	▼0.85%	155.00 - 158.00
EURUSD	1.1914	1.1904	+0.84%	1.1700 - 1.1900
GBPUSD	1.3693	1.3683	+0.60%	1.3500 - 1.3900
AUDUSD	0.7093	0.7084	+1.14%	0.6900 - 0.7100
DXY	96.8	--	▼0.84%	96.5 - 98.0
USDCNY	6.9209	--	▼0.21%	6.9000 - 7.0500
USDCNH	6.9152	6.9161	▼0.22%	6.9100 - 7.0500
USDHKD	7.8157	7.8150	+0.03%	7.7400 - 7.8500
USDSGD	1.2657	1.2660	▼0.44%	1.2620 - 1.2800
USDKRW	1460	1458	+0.00%	1440 - 1480
USDTWD	31.55	--	▼0.44%	31.30 - 32.00
USDINR	90.77	--	+0.11%	90.00 - 92.70
USDIR	16803	--	▼0.37%	16600 - 17000
USDMYR	3.935	3.934	▼0.32%	3.900 - 4.000
USDPHP	58.47	--	▼0.20%	58.30 - 59.80
USDTHB	31.23	31.18	▼1.32%	31.1 - 32.0
USDVND	25914	25920	▼0.20%	25700 - 26300

*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

MARKET MOVES

Bond Yields	2Y Close	10Y Close	2Y Δ (bps)	10Y Δ (bps)
UST (US)	3.487	4.203	-1.3	-0.5
JGB (JP)	1.305	2.281	3.0	5.9
Bunds (GE)	2.075	2.840	-0.7	-0.1
Gilts (UK)	3.618	4.527	0.1	1.3
AGB (AU)	4.287	4.866	3.3	4.0
SGS (SG)	1.312	1.960	-1.8	-2.4
CGB (CN)	1.365	1.803	0.7	-0.3
KGB (KR)	3.013	3.699	0.0	0.0
SDL (IN)	5.768	6.756	0.0	2.0

Cross FX	Close (NY)	Open*	Daily %Δ
EUR/JPY	185.71	185.87	▼0.02%
GBP/JPY	213.452	213.632	▼0.24%
JPY/SGD (100yen)	0.8118	0.8108	+0.36%
JPY/HKD (100yen)	5.0133	5.0052	+0.89%
CNH/JPY	22.528	22.56	▼0.54%
CNH/HKD	1.1292	1.1292	+0.23%
EUR/GBP	0.86992	0.86998	+0.21%
AUD/NZD	1.1713	1.1705	+0.48%
EUR/CNH	8.2382	8.2329	+0.60%
GBP/CNH	9.4707	9.4633	+0.41%
CNY/HKD	1.1292	1.1292	+0.23%
EUR/HKD	9.3122	9.303	+0.87%
SGD/HKD	6.175	6.173	+0.47%

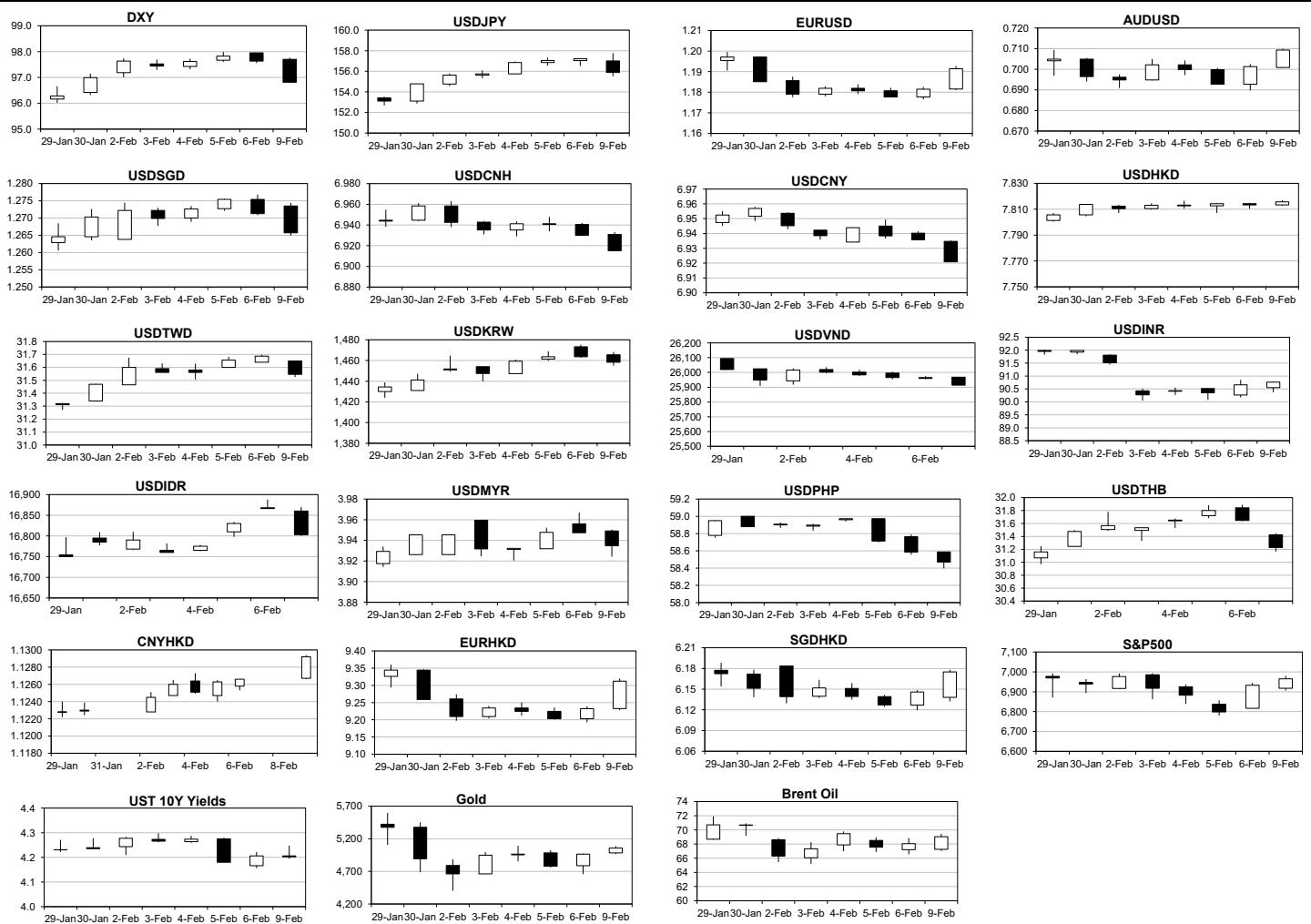
*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

G3 Equities	Close	Net Chg	Daily %Δ
S&P500 (US)	6964.82	32.52	+0.47%
Nasdaq (US)	23238.67	207.46	+0.90%
DJIA (US)	50135.87	20.20	+0.04%
N225 (JP)	56363.94	2110.26	+3.89%
STOXX50 (EU)	6059.01	60.61	+1.01%

Commodity	Close	Net Chg	Daily %Δ
COPPER (LME)	13,099.13	176.08	+1.36%
IRON ORE (CN)	100.25	-2.40	+0.67%
GOLD	5,057.80	93.44	+1.88%
SILVER	83.40	-0.28	▼8.30%
OIL (BRENT)	69.04	0.99	+1.45%
OIL (WTI)	64.36	0.81	+1.27%
NATURAL GAS	3.14	5.56	+7.15%

Asia Equities	Close	Net Chg	Daily %Δ
ASX (AU)	5591.38	11.67	+0.21%
STI (SG)	4960.83	26.42	+0.54%
SHCOMP (CN)	4123.09	57.51	+1.41%
SZCOMP (CN)	2700.218	50.65	+1.91%
HSI (HK)	27027.16	467.21	+1.76%
SENSEX (IN)	84065.75	485.35	+0.58%
JSE (ID)	8031.874	96.61	+1.22%
KLSE (MY)	1751.3	18.47	+1.07%
PSE (PH)	6349.16	-41.75	▼0.65%
SET (TH)	1400.89	46.88	+3.46%
VNINDEX (VN)	1754.82	0.00	▼0.04%

CHARTS



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