

Weekly Market Update

Global financial markets were influenced by a combination of corporate earnings volatility, strategic international agreements, and the broader implications

US

President Donald Trump announced plans to impose a 25% tariff on goods imported from the European Union, escalating trade tensions.

The S&P 500 experienced a decline of approximately 1% for the week, while the Nasdaq fell 3.5%, reflecting market volatility amid economic uncertainties, Bitcoin fell over 25% to sub \$80,000 but recovered over the weekend as Trump looks to Crypto reserve.

The US Conference Board Consumer Confidence for February came in at 98.3 vs 102.7 that rocked the market.

Anticipation built around the February jobs report, with forecasts predicting a gain of 160,000 jobs; deviations from this expectation could signal deeper economic issues and lead to significant market adjustments.

UK

The People's Pension, a major UK pension fund, withdrew £28 billion from State Street, citing diminished commitments to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing.

The UK faced potential economic impacts from the US's planned tariffs on the European Union, given its close trade ties with EU countries.

Sterling hit a two-month high at 1.2650, boosted by sticky UK inflation and delayed Bank of England rate cuts.

Anticipation grew around upcoming UK PMI data, which could test the strength of the pound amid global trade uncertainty.

Europe

The European Union faced the prospect of new US tariffs, with President Trump announcing a 25% levy on EU imports, potentially impacting the bloc's economy.

European stocks reacted negatively to the tariff announcement, with the STOXX Europe 600 declining.

The EU estimated that the proposed tariffs could have a €28 billion impact, significantly larger than previous tariff rounds.

European officials prepared for potential economic contractions, with estimates suggesting a 0.4% decrease in the EU economy if the tariffs were implemented.

Asia/ROW

China faced new US tariffs, with a 10% levy announced by President Trump, adding to global trade uncertainties.

Market reactions in Asia were cautious, with investors monitoring the implications of US trade policies on China's economy.

The real official policy rate in Japan stood at -3.5%, the lowest in two years, as annual consumer price inflation reached 4%, higher than in the US, eurozone, and UK.

Ukraine and the US discussed signing a minerals deal aimed at securing long-term security commitments and investing in Ukrainian projects, as part of efforts to solidify US-Ukraine relations.



Performance

Asset Class/Region	Currency				
		Week ending 28 Feb 2025	Month to date	YTD 2025	12 Months
Developed Market Equities					
United States	USD	-1.0%	-1.3%	1.4%	18.6%
United Kingdom	GBP	2.0%	2.2%	8.4%	19.6%
Continental Europe	EUR	0.3%	3.7%	10.9%	13.4%
Japan	JPY	-2.0%	-3.8%	-3.7%	2.6%
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	USD	-4.1%	0.2%	1.6%	12.8%
Australia	AUD	-1.3%	-3.8%	0.6%	10.5%
Global	USD	-1.0%	-0.7%	2.8%	16.1%
Emerging markets equities					
Emerging Europe	USD	-0.8%	2.9%	11.6%	10.9%
Emerging Asia	USD	-4.6%	0.7%	1.4%	13.5%
Emerging Latin America	USD	-4.5%	-1.8%	7.5%	-17.1%
BRICs	USD	-4.5%	3.1%	3.2%	14.4%
China	USD	-4.3%	11.8%	12.8%	39.5%
MENA countries	USD	-1.7%	-0.8%	2.3%	0.4%
South Africa	USD	-5.6%	0.5%	5.9%	28.5%
India	USD	-3.8%	-6.7%	-8.2%	-3.2%
Global emerging markets	USD	-4.3%	0.5%	2.3%	10.3%
Bonds					
US Treasuries	USD	1.4%	2.2%	2.8%	5.1%
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	USD	1.4%	2.3%	3.6%	6.7%
US Corporate (investment grade)	USD	1.1%	2.0%	2.6%	6.9%
US High Yield	USD	0.4%	0.7%	2.0%	10.2%
UK Gilts	GBP	0.8%	0.8%	1.6%	2.1%
UK Corporate (investment grade)	GBP	0.5%	0.4%	1.6%	5.7%
Euro Government Bonds	EUR	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	4.4%
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	EUR	0.3%	0.6%	1.1%	6.8%
Euro High Yield	EUR	0.2%	1.0%	1.7%	9.1%
Global Government Bonds	USD	0.3%	1.4%	2.0%	2.1%
Global Bonds	USD	0.6%	1.6%	2.1%	3.4%
Global Convertible Bonds	USD	-1.0%	0.8%	3.1%	11.3%
Emerging Market Bonds	USD	0.9%	1.4%	2.7%	9.5%

Performance

Asset Class/Region	Currency				
		Week ending 28 Feb 2025	Month to date	YTD 2025	12 Months
Property					
US Property Securities	USD	2.1%	3.7%	4.7%	16.0%
Australian Property Securities	AUD	-5.7%	-6.8%	-2.4%	7.1%
Asia Property Securities	USD	1.2%	2.6%	3.6%	0.3%
Global Property Securities	USD	0.7%	2.0%	3.4%	11.7%
Currencies					
Euro	USD	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.5%	-4.1%
UK Pound Sterling	USD	-0.4%	1.1%	0.6%	-0.6%
Japanese Yen	USD	-0.8%	2.9%	4.6%	0.2%
Australian Dollar	USD	-2.6%	-0.8%	0.3%	-4.5%
South African Rand	USD	-1.9%	-0.3%	1.3%	3.4%
Swiss Franc	USD	-0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	-2.5%
Chinese Yuan	USD	-0.3%	-0.4%	0.3%	-1.1%
Commodities & Alternatives					
Commodities	USD	-3.3%	-0.5%	2.5%	7.8%
Agricultural Commodities	USD	-4.3%	-3.4%	-0.2%	1.7%
Oil	USD	-1.7%	-4.7%	-2.0%	-12.5%
Gold	USD	-2.7%	2.1%	8.9%	40.5%



Global Matters Weekly

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