

## Research Monitor (March)

### Key Themes

1. The Middle East situation is still very fluid with ongoing conflict in Iran, an unclear succession plan after the reported death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the avoidance of the Straits of Hormuz which is the potential choke point for disruption of the global energy and other trade. With the ensuring geopolitical risk premium and flight to quality, the question is whether this will be a temporary or prolonged conflict. Historically, the impact of Middle East conflicts tend to be sharp and frontloaded. During the 1973 Yom Kippur war which lasted roughly three weeks, it triggered an oil crisis with Arab members of OPEC imposing an embargo against the US, while the 1979 Iranian revolution and subsequent Iran-Iraq war from 1980 onwards saw sustained production loss. However, the 1990 Gulf war saw supply fears easing quickly, and ditto for the 2003 Iraq war and the 2019 Saudi Aramco attack. So the considerations are whether physical supply is actually removed since the Straits of Hormuz accounts for roughly 20% of global crude oil trade, whether there is spare capacity particularly from Saudi Arabia and UAE to reduce the severity of supply disruption, the global demand backdrop (as weak global growth environments mean price spikes fade faster) and the potential coordinated release of strategic oil reserves to ease any short term crunch.
2. With the FOMC in a wait-and-see mode given sticky inflation, the SCOTUS ruling invalidating US reciprocal tariffs prompting President Trump to announce a 15% global tariff, and AI disruption risk continuing to plague the equity markets, March is off to a somewhat rocky start. Geopolitical risk premiums, especially around the Middle East tensions, will lend an interim bid tone to commodities and safe haven assets. China's NPC policy signals will also be closely watched.
3. China's liquidity remained strong in January. M1 growth accelerated to 4.9% YoY (from 3.8% previously), while M2 growth rose to 9.0% YoY (from 8.5%). Both prints exceeded market expectations. This is in contrast to the deceleration of outstanding ASF growth, which edged down to 8.2% YoY. Historically, M2 (a broad measure of funding liquidity) and ASF (a proxy for credit deployment) exhibit relatively high correlation. The recent divergence between money supply and credit expansion is interesting. One plausible explanation is rising foreign exchange settlement. Robust export receipts and increased corporate FX conversion into RMB may have lifted both M1 and M2 growth, without a commensurate rise in domestic credit demand. In other words, liquidity conditions appear supportive, but the transmission into real-sector borrowing remains incomplete — a nuance that policymakers will likely be watching closely. Interestingly, despite strong net FX settlement, onshore foreign currency deposits continued to rise, reaching a record high of US\$909.2 billion. This shows that China continues to support global liquidity.

## Asset Class Views

	House View	Trading Views
FX	<p><b>USD (DXY):</b> Middle East tensions – and the risk of a broader conflict – have moved to the forefront after US and Israeli strikes on Iran triggered retaliatory attacks across the region. Oil briefly spiked above USD80/bbl. While this level is not enough to derail global growth, a sustained move higher would raise stagflation risks. Higher crude prices and rising risk aversion should lend support to the USD. The US, now the world’s largest LNG exporter and a net energy exporter since 2019, benefits from high energy prices. Energy linked currencies such as CAD, NOK and MYR may gain, though geopolitical driven risk aversion could limit upside. Conversely, import dependent currencies like JPY, INR and TRY may face growing pressure if oil remains elevated.</p> <p>Despite recovering from the “Greenland shock” and if our base case of no Hormuz blockade prevails, the USD still faces modest downside risks as US policy uncertainty remains an overhang. This underpins our unchanged EURUSD forecast of 1.23 at end-2026 – driven more by a softer USD than a stronger EUR. Even so, resilient US growth should limit the risk of a deeper USD sell-off. A true USD turnaround would require a solid reacceleration in US growth, which remains absent for now. Early signs of labour-market stabilisation could nevertheless set the stage for a USD rebound in 2027. Our base case remains intact: the AI-disruption narrative, tariff uncertainty and geopolitical oil shocks are unlikely to derail improving US and global growth, especially with fiscal support strengthening into 2026. Better non-US growth provides scope for USD weakness even if US activity holds up—particularly against cyclically sensitive currencies such as AUD, NZD, ZAR and BRL.</p>	<p>Sell rallies. Resistance at 98, 99 levels. Support at 97, 96.50.</p>
	<p><b>JPY:</b> A report suggesting PM Takaichi’s reservations about further BoJ hikes, plus two dovish BoJ board nominees, has weighed on JPY sentiment. Even so, BoJ Governor Ueda has signalled his intention to continue raising rates in line with economic and inflation progress, keeping attention on the March or April BoJ meetings. Intervention risks would rise quickly if USDJPY moves back toward 160, especially amid higher oil prices. Stronger warnings from Tokyo – and potentially Washington – are possible ahead of the 19 March US-Japan summit. We stay neutral on the JPY. We maintain that JPY will struggle to shift from a funding to an investment currency unless the BoJ turns more hawkish than our baseline of two hikes this year.</p>	<p>2-way trades. Support at 1.1750, 1.1640. Resistance at 1.1920, 1.20 levels.</p>
	<p><b>USDCNY</b> extended its decline for the month of Feb. RMB’s outperformance was not due to a single catalyst but likely a range of factors including less strong USD environment, supported risk sentiment and the perception that policymakers allow for RMB strength (given little pushback). That said, we would pay close attention to the fix in coming sessions to assess if policymakers do allow for faster pace of RMB appreciation or if policymakers are signalling for any moderation in pace of RMB appreciation.</p>	<p>Sell rallies preferred. Resistance at 156.70, 157.80. Support at 154.90, 152, levels.</p>
	<p><b>SGDMYR</b> has continued to trend lower to below 3.08 levels, from around 3.17 levels since start of the year. This is less about SGD deterioration but more about a meaningful improvement in Malaysia’s macro and flow dynamics that supported MYR’s outperformance. Malaysian policymakers also appear to view MYR appreciation favourably. Some of the reasons the MYR has strengthened more than the SGD lies partly in differing sensitivities and starting points. The MYR is more cyclical and has a higher beta, meaning it responds more sharply to shifts in global risk sentiment, USD and RMB direction. It also benefits more directly from commodity price tailwinds and was trading at deeper undervaluation previously, allowing for a sharper rebound when sentiment and fundamentals improved over the last year. In contrast, SGD tends to move in a more measured fashion given MAS’s exchange rate-based monetary policy. Whether MYR continues to outperform will depend on whether supportive drivers such as stable risk appetite, steady RMB, and sustained inflows remain intact. If global conditions turn more cautious, then MYR’s higher beta profile could just as quickly work in the opposite direction.</p>	<p>Bearish bias. Support at 6.84, 6.82. Resistance at 6.90, 6.94.</p>
		<p>Bearish but oversold. Support at 3.03, 2.98 levels. Resistance at 3.0950, 3.10 levels.</p>

	House View	Trading Views
Rates	<p>With the US labour market not cooling more rapidly while inflation stays above target, the Fed is likely to be in a wait-and-see mode. The latest FOMC minutes continued to point to a divided Committee. We have pushed our expectation for the next <b>Fed funds rate</b> cut to June, from March as previously expected. We hold onto our view that room for easing is small, with our base-case staying at one 25bp rate cut this year. Any additional rate cut will probably require inflation moves near the 2% target, as the Fed funds rate is now “within a broad range of estimates of its neutral value.</p>	<p><b>USD rates.</b> USTs rallied by 15-31bps in the past month, with the 2s10s segment last at 57bps versus 71bps at end January, in line with our curve flattening bias. 10Y UST yield last traded below our multi-month target of 4%, but the driver was not what we had expected. February’s fall in the nominal yield was mainly driven by lower real yield, which in turn by the term premium upon heightened risk aversion. Near-term trading range for the 10Y yield is seen wider at 3.90-4.15% (3.95% has been our end-Q3 forecast), between geopolitics and risk of renewed fiscal concerns.</p>
	<p>We now expect the <b>BoJ</b> to keep policy rate on hold at March meeting, and to deliver a 25bp hike at April meeting. The central bank’s stance remains that “if the outlook for economic activity and prices is realised... it will continue to raise the policy interest rate”. We see the criteria as being met for another rate hike as soon as in March, while BoJ also sounded hawkish regarding the expected wage negotiation outcome and firms’ proactive price setting behaviour. However, April appears to be a better window, as the BoJ would have the benefit of getting confirmation on the Shunto and another round of Tankan survey outcomes. These outcomes are particularly important in the face of pushback from the government on rate hikes.</p>	<p><b>SGD rates</b> fell by 10-25bps in the past month, as we had earlier flagged chances of interim retracement lower. With SORA the floating rate mostly staying at low levels, paid positions are seen not rewarding at this juncture, which is capping SGD rates for now. Further ahead, our medium-term view remains for short-end (up to 2Y tenor) SGD rates to settle into the 1.45-1.60% area; rates below these levels appear overly stimulative compared to the economic outlook.</p>
	<p>For <b>RBA</b>, we are adding another 25bp hike to our forecast profile, which will then bring the policy Cash Rate to 4.10%. RBA analysis continued to see inflation pressure to ease in coming quarters. However, an increase in economy-wide capacity pressures was noted. On balance, the RBA may be inclined to deliver one additional policy rate hike to guard against inflation risk. The timing of this hike is likely the May meeting, when Q1 CPI will have been released while the central bank updates the quarterly economic outlook.</p>	<p><b>IndoGBs</b> consolidated over the past month after the sell-off in January, with short-end bonds managing to garner some support while long-end yields traded a tad higher. That said, market sentiment may stay weak and sensitive to negative headlines. The 2Y yield remained better anchor at around 5% level. On the funding side, bond auctions including international offerings went well.</p>
	<p>We maintain our call for the <b>BoE</b> to cut the Bank Rate by 25bps at March MPC meeting, which is a close call. Beyond this expected cut, the room for further easing seems to have increased somewhat as January inflation eased across measures. We will observe more data before we decide as to whether to add one more cut to our profile. For now, we maintain our base-case for one 25bp cut this year.</p>	<p><b>MGS</b> traded in tight ranges over the past month, while MYR IRS fell more. Bond/swap spreads (IRS-yield) tightened to become less positive. The recent 5Y MGS auction garnered solid demand on relative value. Sentiment has turned more upbeat amid potential diversification flows into MGS/MGII. Still, with 3Y bond/swap spread at +25bps and 3Y yield-OPR spread at around 30bps, room for 3Y MGS to rally is limited. The belly (5Y) appears to offer better value considering bond/swap spreads and the curve shape.</p>
		<p><b>CGBs</b> held up well over the past month with yields a tad lower. PBoC stayed supportive of medium-term liquidity, net injecting CNY300bn via MLF in February. 1Y and 2Y repo-IRS briefly dipped below 1.5% level multiple times. We remain of the view that these rates are unlikely to stay sustainably below 1.5% before the next outright interest rate cut; 2Y CGB yield is likely to be floored at 1.3% assuming bond/swap spread does not break out of range.</p>

\*Arrows refer to expectations for general direction of rates/yields

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Credit	<p>Spreads widened in Global and Asiadollar credit markets through February (as of 27th) per Bloomberg. Global Investment Grade spreads widened m/m by 11bps to 84bps since 30 January 2025 while Global High Yield spreads widened by 29bps over the same period to 293bps. Asia IG spreads widened by 3bps m/m to 61bps, while Asia HY spreads widened by 25bps m/m to 349bps. On the structurally higher yielding front, the Bloomberg Global Contingent Capital Index widened by 15bps to 235bps. Meanwhile, SGD Credit Universe rose 0.75% m/m as of 27th February on lower SGD SORA OIS yields which fell 11bps to 28bps across the curve. Positive total returns were seen across all segments, though longer, mid tenors and Tier 2s outperformed.</p> <p>February was marred by multiple risk-off events, including a sell-off in US stocks driven by fears that AI could disrupt prevailing business models, renewed concern over private credit after Blue Owl gated its retail-investor focused fund, and expectations of rising defaults in the sector. The impact was mostly US-centric, with Asia seen as more insulated, benefiting from its role in the global technology value chain seen as a beneficiary of AI while Asia's private credit market is geared towards growth capital. Asia credit was also buffered by seasonally lower primary issuance amidst Lunar New Year. Geopolitical conflict in the Middle East has emerged as a late-month risk and may lead to caution as we enter March. However, Asia credit, especially SGD, should remain relatively insulated. Indonesia-events (MSCI's potential downgrade of Indonesian equity and Moody's negative credit outlook) sparked concerns earlier in the month, though the fallout was relatively contained to quasi-sovereigns, selected corporates and longer-dated bonds.</p> <p>Despite the widening in February, credit spreads continue to sit near historical tight, and we remain cautious about late-cycle dynamics that could widen dispersion across sectors. Against this backdrop, we recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality carry over beta.</li> <li>• Sector selectivity over index exposure.</li> <li>• Preference for Developed Market IG over Developed Market HY, given better downside protection and duration convexity.</li> <li>• Subordination risk, particularly of strong banks given strong carry profile.</li> <li>• SGD crossover credits and high yield over high grade with default risks to remain low in the SGD credit market.</li> </ul>	<p><b>OUECT 2.75% '32s (SGD)</b> <span style="float: right;">↑</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OUECT's overall 2H2025 underlying results (excluding divestment of Lippo Plaza Shanghai) improved modestly y/y, contributed by both Commercial and Hospitality segments. OUECT 2H2025 underlying net property income ("NPI") rose 5.2% y/y to SGD114.2mn. As of 31 December 2025, aggregate leverage improved q/q to 38.5% (September 2025: 40.9%) as partial net proceeds from the divestment of Lippo Plaza were utilised to repay loans. T12M interest coverage ratio improved 0.1x q/q to 2.4x. The credit outlook is stable.</li> <li>• OUECT recently announced the acquisition of a 19.9%-stake in Salesforce Tower in Sydney which is expected to push reported aggregate leverage up to 40.2%, although at the same time it has put One Raffles Place in Singapore up for sale. OUECT is reviewing opportunities in Singapore as well as key gateway cities in Sydney and Tokyo for offices, hotels or mixed-use developments in prime CBD areas and this may change OUECT's geographical mix overtime.</li> <li>• This bond's yield to maturity is attractive at 3.0% for a 6.6Y senior paper from an issuer that is externally rated at investment grade.</li> </ul> <p><b>HSBC 5.25% PERPc29s (SGD)</b> <span style="float: right;">↑</span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSBC Holdings PLC ("HSBC") is a Global Systemically Important Bank and one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. Its strategy is centred on its international connectivity with the bank currently undergoing a simplification of its organisational structure.</li> <li>• HSBC reported FY2025 profit before tax of USD29.9bn (-7% y/y), exceeding estimates of USD28.9bn. Net interest income was USD44.1bn for FY2025 (+0.2% y/y) on non-interest income growth of 14.8% y/y, with retail wealth management income rising 24.2% on investment distribution (+27.1% y/y) and insurance income (+35.3% y/y). HK business generated revenue of USD15.9bn (+6% y/y) while UK business generated revenue of USD12.9bn (+5% y/y). Asset quality remained stable while its CET1 ratio stood at 14.9% as of end 2025. Share buybacks remain suspended as the bank rebuilds its CET1 ratio to the target range of 14-14.5% following the Hang Seng privatisation.</li> <li>• We continue to recommend assuming subordination risk selectively, particularly of strong banks given the strong carry profile and see the HSBC 5.25% PERPc29s as conforming with this view.</li> </ul>

	House View	Trading Views
Equity	<p>Global equities posted total returns of 1.6% month-to-date (MTD) as at 26 Feb 2026. Japan outperformed (+8.5%) after a historic landslide provided Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi with a strong mandate to implement expansionary fiscal policies. Performance from Asia ex-Japan equities (+6.4%) was a mixed bag: Thai equities rallied on expected policy continuity after the surprise victory of the ruling Bhumjaithai Party, while Indonesian equities lagged amidst concerns about market transparency and a potential downgrade by MSCI to “frontier” status. Meanwhile, Europe (+3.9%) touched record highs at one point as luxury stocks benefitted from tariff-related developments. Finally, US (-0.3%) continued to lag, with various sectors ranging from cybersecurity to logistics taking turns to sell off as artificial intelligence (AI) disruption fears broadened out.</p> <p>In Singapore, Budget 2026 was the key policy event, from which we highlight five themes. (i) A calibrated moderation of cost-of-living measures may dampen the outlook for supermarket operators and retail REITs, though the impact is expected to be contained. (ii) An additional injection of SGD37b into the Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2030 Plan could provide tailwinds to high-growth and essential industries such as semiconductors and aerospace maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO). (iii) Significant emphasis on harnessing AI as a strategic advantage may bode well for AI enablers and adopters, as well as incumbent data centre REITs. (iv) Unmanned systems and cybersecurity were two essential defence capabilities highlighted amidst an increasingly complex threat environment. (v) The SGD1.5b expansion of the Equity Market Development Programme (EQDP) is expected to support sustained interest and trading liquidity in Singapore equities, particularly for small/mid-cap stocks.</p> <p>Altogether, the outlook for Singapore equities remains constructive, supported by positive earnings revisions, the strength of the SGD, attractive total returns potential, and Singapore’s safe haven status. We reiterate our Overweight rating on Singapore equities, and our base case is for the Straits Times Index (STI) to reach 5,250 points in the next 12 months, which is pegged to 16x forward earnings.</p>	<p><b>United Overseas Bank Ltd [UOB SP; FV: SGD41.00]</b> ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UOB posted FY25 net profit of SGD4.7b, slightly ahead of our estimates of USD4.6b, but down 22.5% year-on-year (YoY). FY25 net interest margin (NIM) stood at 1.89% (FY24: 2.03%); for 4Q25, this was 1.96%, down from 2.02% in 4Q24 but up from 1.82% in 3Q25.</li> <li>• Non-performing loan (NPL) ratio was flat at 1.5%, while non-performing assets (NPA) coverage was at 97% (versus 130% for DBS or 254% after taking collateral into account). We believe this level of coverage is healthy.</li> <li>• Management is keeping its guidance for 2026 NIM of 1.75-1.80%, in line with the current market view of softer rates this year. UOB is also guiding for low single-digit loan growth, high single-digit fee growth, low single-digit operating cost growth and total credit costs at 25-30 basis points (bps). In particular, it remains committed to growing the wealth business.</li> <li>• With the normalisation of its earnings in FY26, we are expecting UOB’s ordinary dividend payout to return to SGD1.80 per share. We have a fair value (FV) estimate of SGD41 on the counter and recommend investors looking for long-term exposure to accumulate on share price weakness below SGD38.80.</li> </ul> <p><b>CapitaLand Investment Ltd [CLI SP; FV: SGD3.63]</b> ↑</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLI’s FY25 operating revenue rose 6% YoY to SGD539m, marking a reversal from two consecutive years of declines in FY23 and FY24. However, this was 6% below our forecast and missed our expectations. Management declared a first and final dividend per share (DPS) of 12 Singapore cents.</li> <li>• Total revaluation losses for FY25 came in at SGD439m, driven largely by its China portfolio and partially offset by gains from Singapore and India. CLI intends to accelerate divestments of ~SGD3b of China assets remaining on its balance sheet, including plans for a follow-on China REIT listing.</li> <li>• CLI’s funds under management grew 7% from SGD117b (as at end-FY24) to SGD125b. Given that this is still a distance away from its SGD200b target by 2028, we expect M&amp;A to be a key consideration for management, supported by a healthy balance sheet.</li> <li>• We have a FV estimate of SGD3.63 on the counter and would recommend investors to buy on dips.</li> </ul>

## Macroeconomic Views

	House View	Key Themes
United States	<p>The US economy is expected to grow at a pace of 2.2% again in 2026. Given the historically tight correlation between the labor market differential and the unemployment rate, the modest rebound in the differential suggests no imminent broad-based deterioration in labor conditions. Unsurprisingly, rate-cut expectations have been pushed back. Fed funds futures now price the first cut in July. Our rates strategist has revised her call, now expecting the first rate cut in June instead of March. The bar for easing has clearly risen. On trade policy, following the Supreme Court’s rejection of President Trump’s IEEPA-based tariff measures, the US began collecting a temporary 10% global import tariff under Section 122 on 24 February, with the administration signaling a potential increase to 15%. While the legal setback alters the policy pathway, the effective tariff rate is likely to be lower than under the original IEEPA framework. In our assessment, this may help cap near-term downside risks to global trade flows, even as policy uncertainty remains elevated.</p>	<p>The delayed January US inflation data surprised modestly to the upside. Headline PCE rose 0.43% MoM, while core PCE increased 0.36% MoM, reaccelerating from the 0.2% MoM pace recorded in November. On a YoY basis, core PCE held at 3.00%, still meaningfully above the Fed’s 2% target. The path back to target is proving bumpier than markets had hoped at the start of the year. On the labor front, the unemployment rate edged down to 4.3% in January 2026 from 4.4%. Meanwhile, the Conference Board’s consumer confidence index rose 2.2 points to 91.2 in February, with January revised up sharply to 89.0 from 84.5. Interestingly, labor market perceptions showed a nuanced picture. The share of respondents saying jobs are “hard to get” climbed to 20.6%—the highest since February 2021—from 19.0%, while those viewing jobs as “plentiful” also rose to 28.0% from 25.8%. As a result, the labor market differential widened 0.6ppt to 7.4%. To us, this continues to reflect a K-shaped economy, where pockets of resilience coexist with emerging softness across sectors and income cohorts. On policy, outgoing Atlanta Fed President Raphael Bostic cautioned that structurally higher unemployment resulting from AI adoption may not be fully offset by lower interest rates, highlighting the limits of monetary policy in addressing supply-side or technological disruptions. Several other Fed officials echoed a similar stance, signaling no urgency to adjust policy in the near term. In short, with inflation still elevated and the labor market broadly resilient, the Fed has little incentive to rush.</p>
Euro Area	<p>We maintain our 2026 GDP growth forecast of 1.1% compared to 1.5% in 2025. Germany’s medium-term fiscal expenditure plans will keep domestic demand supported. European Parliament noted following the US Supreme Court decision that “the situation is now more uncertain than ever” and a “key instrument” used in negotiations with the US “is no longer available”. Fundamentally, however, growth proved resilient in 2025, with headline inflation at ECB’s 2% target range. We continue to see ECB remaining on hold through 2026.</p>	<p>The second estimate of Euro Area GDP growth was unchanged at 1.3%YoY and 0.3% QoQ sa for 4Q25. Growth was driven by Germany (0.3% QoQ from 0.0% in 3Q25), Spain (0.8% from 0.6%) and Cyprus (1.4% from 0.9%). Employment growth of 0.2% QoQ was recorded for 4Q25 and 0.7% for 2025 pointing to continued resilience in labour market conditions. Inflationary pressures also remain well contained, with headline and core inflation unchanged at 1.7% YoY and 2.2% in January. The incoming survey data for 1Q26 suggest that growth momentum has sustained. ECB kept its policy rate unchanged at 2.00%, with President Lagarde noting that ECB “will follow a data-dependent and meeting-by-meeting approach to determining the appropriate monetary policy stance.”</p>

	House View	Key Themes
Japan	<p>The economy ended 2025 on a softer footing. Real GDP expanded by just 0.1% QoQ sa in 4Q25, undershooting consensus expectations of 0.4%, highlighting fragile domestic demand momentum. That said, on a full-year basis, the economy grew 1.1% in 2025, rebounding from a 0.2% contraction in 2024. Japan enters 2026 with improved political clarity but lingering macro uncertainty. The equity rally reflects optimism about fiscal activism and structural reform. Inflation data added another layer of complexity. Tokyo CPI slowed to 1.8% YoY in February, dipping below the BOJ's 2% target for the first time in over a year. However, the moderation was largely driven by government utility subsidies rather than a broad-based cooling in underlying inflation pressures.</p>	<p>The political landscape shifted decisively in February. Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's historic electoral victory delivered Japan's first female prime minister a strong postwar mandate. The scale of the victory gives her significant latitude to advance a conservative agenda focused on expanded fiscal spending, defense modernization, and deeper strategic alignment with the United States. Markets interpreted the result as a pro-growth, pro-stability signal. The equity market responded swiftly. The Nikkei 225 surged more than 10% in February, reflecting optimism over fiscal support and structural reform prospects. Meanwhile, JGB yields fell sharply across the curve. PM Takaichi has pledged to pursue "active but responsible" fiscal policy while committing to lower Japan's debt-to-GDP ratio over time. On the currency front, the yen remained weak. The policy outlook has become more nuanced following the nomination of two academics - Ayano Sato and Toichiro Asada widely perceived as dovish, to the BOJ policy board.</p>
South Korea	<p>We have revised our full-year 2026 GDP growth forecast upward to 2.0%, up from 1.8%. This revision reflects a stronger-than-expected semiconductor upcycle, driven by continued global AI investment and robust demand for high-bandwidth memory chips. Additionally, the ongoing recovery in domestic demand provides further tailwinds to the growth outlook. Meanwhile, we maintain our inflation rate forecast at 2.0% for 2026, broadly in line with Bank of Korea's (BoK) target. On the monetary policy front, our base case remains for policy rates to remain unchanged at 2.50% in 2026. Fundamentally, inflation is expected to remain stable around BoK's target, although upside risks persist due to factors such as rising producer prices. Additionally, the impact of recent government tightening measures on housing regulations is expected to be confirmed by mid-year, allowing the BoK the opportunity to adopt a wait-and-see approach.</p>	<p>The latest monthly activity data reflect continued positive momentum, reinforcing the outlook for the growth trajectory. Exports adjusted for working-day differences climbed 47.3% YoY in the first 20 days of February. Meanwhile, retail sales were broadly stable at 4.4% YoY in January. Domestic consumption will remain a strong driver of growth as reflected in forward-looking indicators which continue to point toward improving consumer and business sentiment. Inflation pressures remained relatively contained, with headline CPI easing to 2.0% in January due to lower inflation in food and petroleum product. Core inflation remained broadly stable at 2.0%. Elsewhere, the BoK kept the policy rate unchanged at 2.50% on 26 February, marking the sixth consecutive hold. The BoK introduced its version of a "dot-plot" covering the following 6 months, which shows the base rate at 2.50%. This provides forward guidance to the market that the BoK is on hold for an extended period, which is also our base case. On the geopolitical front, cross-border tensions look set to remain elevated following North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's rejection of dialogue on 26 February.</p>

	House View	Key Themes
China	<p>China's GDP growth moderated to 4.5% YoY in 4Q, easing from 4.8% YoY in 3Q, broadly in line with market expectations. For full-year 2025, the economy expanded by 5.0% YoY, meeting the government's target of "around 5%" growth. China may set its growth target at 4.5-5% range in 2026. Relative to 2025, around 12 provinces have kept their growth targets unchanged, while as many as 18 provinces have either lowered their targets or shifted from point targets to target ranges. In aggregate, the weighted average of provincial GDP growth targets for 2026 is estimated at around 5.0%–5.1%, modestly below the weighted average growth target of 5.3% in 2025. This points to a likely national GDP growth target in the 4.5%–5.0% range.</p>	<p>In January, both manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMIs slipped back below the 50 expansion–contraction threshold. These indicators suggest that demand momentum remains fragile, keeping firms cautious on capacity expansion. Provincial governments have unveiled their growth targets for 2026. On property, Shanghai's Pudong New Area, Jing'an District, and Xuhui District have announced plans to acquire resale residential units for conversion into government-subsidized rental housing. Previously, acquisitions were largely concentrated on unsold newly completed homes. The current approach places greater emphasis on "old-and-small" units in core districts. Converting these high rental yielding units into subsidized rental housing helps unclog the housing upgrade chain while addressing rising rental demand linked to the urbanization of permanent residents. More importantly, the policy sends an early signal that price floors for older small units in core urban areas may be starting to form.</p>
Hong Kong	<p>We expect growth in 2026 to be supported by further decline in interest rate, a weakening HKD (against a basket of currencies), and supportive policy backdrop. External demand should stay resilient, while prospect of domestic demand likely improves further alongside positive wealth effect. GDP growth forecast for 2026 is pitched at 2.6% YoY, moderating from 3.5% YoY last year. We see upside risk to inflation, on the back of sustained recovery in domestic demand, but labour market is expected to stay relatively soft under the shadow of structural imbalances. We tip the unemployment rate and inflation forecast at 3.7% and 1.6% respectively for 2026.</p>	<p>Hong Kong's real GDP growth beat market expectations at 3.8% YoY in the fourth quarter of 2025 (3Q25: 3.7% YoY), supported by sustained recovery in private consumption and sharp rebound in investment. For full-year 2025, real GDP increased by 3.5% YoY, slightly above our in-house forecast of 3.4%. During the quarter, private consumption expenditure rose by 2.7% YoY (3Q25: 2.4% YoY). Gross domestic fixed capital formation accelerated sharply, growing by 10.5% YoY (3Q25: 3.4% YoY), while growth in government consumption moderated further to 1.4% YoY (3Q25: 2.0% YoY). The contribution from net exports turned negative in the fourth quarter, as import growth outpaced export growth. Separately, the government has ended the longest streak of budget deficits in the current fiscal year, with fiscal surplus estimated at HK\$2.9 billion (0.1% of GDP), instead of the previously estimated deficit of HK\$67 billion.</p>
Macau	<p>Exports of service will likely remain the key growth driver in 2026, with growth in gross gaming revenue (GGR) to slow but remain solid. We tip the year-on-year growth of GGR at 5% for 2026, taking into account the higher base. Riding on the sustained recovery of external demand, Macau's 2026 real GDP growth is tipped at 3.0%. Meanwhile, unemployment rate and inflation rate are pitched at 1.8% and 0.6% respectively. Housing prices edged up by 0.1% QoQ in 4Q25, a tentative pause in the prolonged downturn.</p>	<p>Real GDP grew by 4.7% YoY in 2025, bringing the total economic output back to 89.6% of its 2019 level. The real rates of change of GDP for 1Q to 3Q25 were revised to -1.5% (previously at -0.7%), 5.2% (5.5%) and 7.3% (8.0%) respectively. Per-capita GDP stood at MOP 607,263 in 2025, up by 4.3% YoY in real terms. The implicit deflator of GDP grew mildly by 0.5% YoY in 2025. Separately, Macau's residential property market has shown early signs of stabilization following the recent rollout of targeted policy support, including a stamp duty waiver for properties valued at up to MOP6 million and a relaxation of mortgage loan-to-value limits to as high as 80%.</p>

	House View	Key Themes
Singapore	<p>We have upgraded our 2026 GDP growth forecast to 3.0% YoY, up from our previous estimate of 2.0%, reflecting a brighter outlook for the global economy and the AI investment boom. Regarding inflation, we maintain our 2026 headline and core inflation forecasts at 1.3%. MAS's assessment of inflation risks remains similar to last month, with two-sided risks. MAS cited a benign external cost environment, where imported costs are expected to remain contained. Although global crude oil prices have been creeping higher due to the recent re-escalation of geopolitical tensions, they remain lower than a year ago. Moreover, subdued producer prices in Asia, mainly China, should also help cap price increases for many imported goods. On the other hand, domestic cost pressures are the key determinant of the 2026 inflation outlook, given that unit labour costs are expected to edge up due to labour market tightness. Looking ahead, our base case is for MAS to remain data-dependent, keeping a close watch on the incoming core inflation prints data before committing to a tightening move down the road.</p>	<p>The economy began 2026 on a positive note, with NODX and industrial production extending their positive momentum into January. This bright start was mainly driven by the electronics cluster benefitting from global tailwinds linked to AI-related demand. Nonetheless, economic activity may experience some volatility ahead due to seasonal festive effects in 1Q26 and tariff uncertainty. The Trump administration announced new tariffs of 10% following a Supreme Court ruling against some of its earlier tariff measures. DPM Gan Kim Yong reminded us that "we need to prepare for the long term and this is the new world that we are facing. Therefore, our Economic Strategy Review plays a very important part in charting the path forward to strengthen our competitiveness and deepen our resilience, and this is an important part of the work." Budget 2026, titled <i>Securing Our Future Together in a Changed World</i>, was delivered on 12 February and rolled out several measures to support businesses, workers and households amid geopolitical volatility, structural changes, and rapid technological advancement. It also addresses medium-term challenges through bold reforms that will drive sustainable prosperity and resilience. The overall fiscal position surprised with an \$8.5bn surplus (1.0% of GDP). A conservative and fiscally prudent approach in Budget 2026 leaves considerable dry fiscal powder on the table, potentially enabling support for the economy should downside growth risks materialise.</p>
Malaysia	<p>We upgraded our 2026 GDP growth forecast to 4.4% from 3.8%. Growth will continue to be driven by external tailwinds, particularly from the technology export upcycle, and domestic reform momentum bearing fruit from higher investment and consumption expenditures. Headline CPI is expected to average 1.5% versus 1.4% in 2025. With economic growth expected to remain resilient, we expect Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) to remain on hold in 2026.</p>	<p>Our analysis suggests that the effective tariff rate will be lower under Section 122 at 10% or 15% compared to IEEPA tariffs. The items exempt at a HS 6-digit level, however, is less at 59.7% of total US imports compared to 62.8% under IEEPA. Notwithstanding, we expect this will be a tailwind for Malaysia's exports to the US, which have already been solid. Goods export growth improved to 19.6% YoY in January from 10.2% in December, in part due to the moving Lunar New Year holidays while import growth slowed to 5.3% YoY versus 9.5% in December. The trade surplus remained comfortable at MYR21.4bn. BNM will publish its 2026 annual outlook in March, and we expect the 2026 GDP growth forecast range to be 4.5-5.5%.</p>
Philippines	<p>We maintain our GDP growth forecast of 5.5% YoY in 2026, up from 4.4% in 2025. The risks, however, are skewed to the downside as public sector spending will likely remain weak in 1H26. The corruption scandal from July 2025 has had a deeper than expected impact on confidence and resuscitating consumer and business confidence will be challenging. We forecast headline CPI inflation at 2.5% for 2026. Regarding monetary policy, we are revising our call for BSP to add another 25bp rate cut, taking the policy rate down to 4.00% by end-2026.</p>	<p>BSP cut its policy rate by 25bp at its 19 February meeting to support growth and help bolster confidence which has been weak. BSP Governor Eli Remolona explicitly stated that "the bar for another rate cut is high." However, the growth outlook is likely to remain weak through 1H26 and BSP is not ruling out further cuts either. Bolstering confidence in the fiscal outlook by furthering the structural reform agenda that centres on fiscal consolidation, tax rationalisation, and productivity enhancement could help restore business and consumer confidence. While headline and core inflation remain benign at 2.0% YoY and 2.8% YoY in January 2026, respectively, the BSP's upward revision of its 2026 headline inflation forecasts to 3.6% signals emerging supply-side pressures.</p>

	House View	Key Themes
Indonesia	<p>We raised our 2026 GDP growth forecast to 5.0% from 4.8% previously, given the stronger-than-expected 2025 outturn. Shifts in investment policies following the creation of Danantara in 2025 will likely need to show tangible outcomes in 2026 to bolster investor and business confidence. On the central bank front, Bank Indonesia kept its policy rate unchanged at 4.75% at its 19 February 2026 meeting, in line with consensus and our expectations. Governor Perry Warjiyo reaffirmed BI's focus on IDR stability but added that the central bank continues to look for room to cut amid high global uncertainty. Our base case remains for BI to deliver a 25bp cut in 2Q26 and another 25bp cut in 3Q26. The window for easing, however, depends on IDR movements, inflation staying on target, and GDP growth remaining broadly subdued.</p>	<p>S&amp;P Global Ratings flagged some credit metric risks for Indonesia's fiscal risk on 27 February. It noted that interest payments "very likely" exceeded the 15% of government revenue threshold in 2025 during its webinar "Asia-Pacific Sovereign Rating Trends: Balancing Act Continues." It added that "if it is likely the case that medium-term fiscal policy as well as revenue developments contribute to this ratio staying above 15% on a very sustained basis, that's when we could take a more negative view on the rating." By our calculations, this ratio was exceeded in 2023 and 2024. The government recorded a fiscal deficit of IDR54.6trn in January 2026, reflecting higher expenditure growth of 25.7% YoY versus 16% in December 2025, while revenue growth of 9.8% YoY (Dec: 13.1%) was lacklustre despite favourable base effects. S&amp;P noted that "it does not see an abrupt weakening of credit fundamentals in the drop of stock prices recently." As we noted after Moody's outlook change from stable to negative, we do not rule out other rating agencies shifting their outlook to negative based on fiscal risks. S&amp;P last reaffirmed its credit rating for Indonesia in July 2025, maintaining the sovereign at BBB with a stable outlook</p>
Thailand	<p>The clear outcome of the 8 February elections is positive for near-term and medium-term growth prospects. Although the coalition secured a comfortable majority, economic policies will depend on coalition's composition and stability. Consistent with our baseline scenario, we maintain GDP growth and inflation forecasts at 2.0% and 0.6%, respectively. The low growth and inflation environment, set against a backdrop of still-tight financial conditions, will keep discussions of further rate cuts alive for this year. Although many of the factors weighing on growth as structural and beyond the purview of monetary policy, there remains some room to support the cyclical growth cycle. We have added 25bp to our rate cut profile for 2026, bringing the policy rate further down to 0.75%.</p>	<p>Preliminary election results, according to the latest count, show that the Bhumjaithai Party, led by caretaker PM Anutin Charnvirakul, won 193 out of 500 seats in the lower house. The Pheu Thai Party and several smaller parties have agreed to join the coalition government led by the Bhumjaithai Party, bringing the total confirmed support to at least 292 seats. A coalition government composed of aligned political parties will provide a clear political mandate. This is the best-case scenario and represents definitively positive news after a series of gridlocked elections in 2019 and 2023. The election outcome reduces political uncertainty and gives the new government a mandate to introduce difficult, structural reforms essential to bolstering medium-term growth. Elsewhere, the BoT surprised markets with a 25bp cut lowering its policy rate to 1.00% at its 25 February meeting. The decision aimed to rein in the strength of the Thai Baht, which has continued to outperform, having risen by 1.4% YTD against the USD as of 25 February, contributing to tightening financial conditions.</p>

	House View	Key Themes
Vietnam	<p>We maintain our view that GDP growth will moderate to 7.5% in 2026, down from 8.0% in 2025, as external conditions become less favourable, particularly after the significant front-loading of exports to the US in 2025. The reappointment of To Lam as General Secretary for the 2026–2030 term signals continuity in the government’s reform agenda, alongside the rollout of high-priority infrastructure projects, which should further support already buoyant sentiment this year. On monetary policy front, the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) is expected to remain cautious amid recent currency fluctuations, and accordingly, our base case is for the central bank to keep policy on an extended pause through 2026.</p>	<p>Trade data for January 2026 was strong, with both exports and imports exceeding expectations. Exports rose 29.7% YoY in Jan26 while imports surged 49.2%. Consequently, the trade deficit widened to USD1.8bn in Jan 26 from USD636.5mn in Dec 25. However, these growth figures were influenced by low-base distortions from the shifting Tet holiday, with the holiday falling on 17-Feb 2026 compared to 29-Jan 2025. A combined January–February assessment would provide a clearer picture. Elsewhere, GS To Lam’s mid-February 2026 visit to Washington saw several notable outcomes. Specifically, President Trump agreed to lift US advanced technology restrictions on Vietnam and welcomed efforts to narrow the bilateral trade imbalance, while Secretary of State Rubio discussed expanding cooperation on critical minerals and energy security. However, discussions over “transshipped” goods remain unresolved. In addition, Vietnamese airlines also announced multi-billion-dollar Boeing purchases, including Sun PhuQuoc Airways’ USD22.5bn order for 40 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners.</p>



## Growth & Inflation Forecast

(% YoY)	GDP			Inflation		
	2025	2026F	2027F	2025	2026F	2027F
United States	2.2*	2.2	2.0	2.7	2.9	2.4
Euro Area	1.5*	1.1	1.1	2.1	1.8	2.0
Japan	1.1*	0.8	1.0	3.2	2.5	2.2
United Kingdom	1.4*	1.4	1.7	3.4	2.5	2.0
Australia	1.9**	2.2	2.2	2.8	3.3	2.7
New Zealand	0.4**	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.1
China	5.0	4.7	4.5	0.1	1.8	2.0
Hong Kong	3.5	2.6	2.5	1.4	1.6	1.9
Macau	4.7	3.0	3.0	0.3	0.6	0.9
Taiwan	8.7	5.8	3.5	1.7	1.7	1.9
South Korea	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0
India	7.1	7.5	6.4	4.6	1.7	3.5
Indonesia	5.1	5.0	5.0	1.9	2.7	2.5
Malaysia	5.2	4.4	4.2	1.4	1.5	2.0
Philippines	4.4	5.5	5.5	1.7	2.5	3.0
Singapore	5.0	3.0	2.5	0.9	1.3	1.6
Thailand	2.4	2.0	2.0	-0.1	0.6	1.0
Vietnam	8.0	7.5	8.0	3.3	3.7	4.0

Note: \*Advance estimate. \*\*Forecast. Source: Bloomberg, OCBC Group Research (Latest Forecast Update: 2 March 2026)

## Rates Forecast

USD Interest Rates	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
FFTR upper	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
SOFR	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
3M SOFR OIS	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
6M SOFR OIS	3.65	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
1Y SOFR OIS	3.55	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
2Y SOFR OIS	3.40	3.40	3.40	3.50	3.50
5Y SOFR OIS	3.40	3.45	3.45	3.50	3.50
10Y SOFR OIS	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65
15Y SOFR OIS	3.80	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70
20Y SOFR OIS	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80
30Y SOFR OIS	3.95	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90
SGD Interest Rates	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
SORA	1.20	1.35	1.45	1.50	1.50
3M compounded SORA	1.12	1.28	1.40	1.47	1.50
3M SGD OIS	1.20	1.30	1.50	1.55	1.55
6M SGD OIS	1.25	1.30	1.50	1.55	1.55
1Y SGD OIS	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.55	1.55
2Y SGD OIS	1.40	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.60
3Y SGD OIS	1.50	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.65
5Y SGD OIS	1.70	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75
10Y SGD OIS	2.05	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.10

SGD Interest Rates	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
15Y SGD OIS	2.10	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
20Y SGD OIS	2.10	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
MYR Interest Rates	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
OPR	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
1M MYR KLIBOR	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3M MYR KLIBOR	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
6M MYR KLIBOR	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
1Y MYR IRS	3.25	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20
2Y MYR IRS	3.28	3.23	3.23	3.23	3.23
3Y MYR IRS	3.30	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
5Y MYR IRS	3.40	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35
10Y MYR IRS	3.65	3.60	3.55	3.50	3.50
HKD Interest Rates	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
1M HKD HIBOR	2.60	2.55	2.45	2.45	2.45
3M HKD HIBOR	2.75	2.70	2.60	2.60	2.60
6M HKD IRS	2.70	2.65	2.55	2.55	2.55
1Y HKD IRS	2.65	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
2Y HKD IRS	2.65	2.62	2.60	2.60	2.60
5Y HKD IRS	2.70	2.80	2.80	2.80	2.80
10Y HKD IRS	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
UST yields	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
2Y UST	3.55	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
5Y UST	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65
10Y UST	4.05	4.00	3.95	3.95	3.95
30Y UST	4.80	4.75	4.75	4.70	4.70
SGS yields	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
2Y SGS	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.55	1.55
5Y SGS	1.60	1.70	1.75	1.75	1.75
10Y SGS	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.05
15Y SGS	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
20Y SGS	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
30Y SGS	2.25	2.20	2.15	2.15	2.15
MGS yields	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
3Y MGS	3.05	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
5Y MGS	3.30	3.25	3.20	3.20	3.20
10Y MGS	3.50	3.45	3.40	3.40	3.40
IndoGB yields	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	1Q27
2Y IndoGB	5.00	4.80	4.65	4.65	4.65
5Y IndoGB	5.70	5.65	5.50	5.50	5.50
10Y IndoGB	6.40	6.35	6.30	6.30	6.30

Source: OCBC Group Research (Latest Forecast Update: 27 February 2026).

## FX Forecast

Currency Pair	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
USD-JPY	153	151	150	149	147
EUR-USD	1.21	1.22	1.23	1.23	1.21
GBP-USD	1.39	1.42	1.44	1.45	1.41
AUD-USD	0.71	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73
NZD-USD	0.61	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62
USD-CAD	1.35	1.34	1.34	1.33	1.33
USD-CHF	0.77	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.78
DXY	95.50	94.50	93.90	93.60	94.70
USD-SGD	1.26	1.25	1.25	1.24	1.24
USD-CNY	6.90	6.86	6.85	6.80	6.80
USD-CNH	6.90	6.86	6.85	6.80	6.80
USD-THB	31.20	31.00	31.00	30.80	30.90
USD-IDR	16680	16620	16620	16500	16550
USD-MYR	3.90	3.86	3.86	3.83	3.84
USD-KRW	1405	1380	1380	1350	1350
USD-TWD	31.20	31.10	31.00	30.90	30.00
USD-HKD	7.77	7.76	7.76	7.76	7.76
USD-PHP	58.30	58.00	57.40	57.20	57.00
USD-INR	92.20	92.50	93.00	93.50	94.00
USD-VND	25900	25800	25800	25600	25600
EUR-JPY	185	184	184	183	178
EUR-GBP	0.87	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.86
EUR-CHF	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.94	0.94
EUR-AUD	1.70	1.67	1.68	1.68	1.66
EUR-NOK	11.70	11.60	11.50	11.40	11.30
AUD-NZD	1.16	1.17	1.17	1.17	1.18
EUR-SGD	1.52	1.52	1.53	1.52	1.50
GBP-SGD	1.75	1.77	1.79	1.79	1.74
AUD-SGD	0.89	0.91	0.91	0.90	0.91
NZD-SGD	0.77	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77
CHF-SGD	1.63	1.63	1.64	1.62	1.60
CAD-SGD	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93
JPY-SGD	0.82	0.82	0.83	0.83	0.84
SGD-MYR	3.11	3.10	3.10	3.10	3.10
SGD-CNY	5.50	5.51	5.50	5.51	5.48
SGD-IDR	13291	13349	13349	13360	13347
SGD-THB	24.86	24.90	24.90	24.94	24.92

Currency Pair	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26	Dec-26	Mar-27
SGD-PHP	46.45	46.59	46.10	46.32	45.97
SGD-VND	20637	20723	20723	20729	20645
SGD-CNH	5.50	5.51	5.50	5.51	5.48
SGD-TWD	24.86	24.98	24.90	25.02	24.19
SGD-KRW	1120	1108	1108	1093	1089
SGD-HKD	6.19	6.23	6.23	6.28	6.26
SGD-JPY	122	121	120	121	119
Gold \$/oz	5250	5367	5425	5600	5626
Silver \$/oz	117	119	121	133	134
Platinum \$/oz	2917	2982	3014	3111	3126
Palladium \$/oz	2161	2209	2233	2305	2315
ICE Brent \$/bbl	70	67	65	63	63
NYMEX WTI \$/bbl	66	64	62	60	60
MY CPO MYR/mt	4,200	4,150	4,250	4,300	4,300
LME Copper \$/mt	12,900	13,000	12,500	12,000	12,000

Source: OCBC Group Research (Latest Forecast Update: 27 February 2026).

Note: These are not meant to serve as point forecast for the quarter-end but meant as trajectory bias of the currency pair.



## Macroeconomic Calendar

Date Time	C	Event	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior
02/03 12:00	ID	CPI YoY	Feb	4.30%	4.76%	3.55%
03/03 18:00	EC	CPI YoY	Feb P	1.70%	--	1.70%
04/03 08:30	AU	GDP YoY	4Q	2.20%	--	2.10%
06/03 07:00	SK	CPI YoY	Feb	2.20%	--	2.00%
06/03 10:05	VN	CPI YoY	Feb	2.80%	--	2.53%
06/03 18:00	EC	GDP SA YoY	4Q T	1.30%	--	1.30%
09/03 09:30	CH	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	0.20%
10/03 07:00	SK	GDP YoY	4Q P	--	--	1.50%
10/03 07:00	SK	GDP Annual YoY	2025 P	--	--	1.00%
10/03 07:50	JN	GDP Annualized SA QoQ	4Q F	--	--	0.20%
10/03 07:50	JN	GDP SA QoQ	4Q F	--	--	0.10%
11/03 20:30	US	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	2.40%
11/03 20:30	US	Core CPI YoY	Feb	2.40%	--	2.50%
12/03 18:30	IN	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	2.75%
13/03 20:30	US	PCE Price Index YoY	Jan	--	--	2.90%
13/03 20:30	US	Core PCE Price Index YoY	Jan	--	--	3.00%
13/03 20:30	US	GDP Annualized QoQ	4Q S	--	--	1.40%
18/03 18:00	EC	CPI YoY	Feb F	--	--	--
19/03 12:00	MA	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	1.60%
20/03 16:30	HK	CPI Composite YoY	Feb	--	--	1.10%
23/03 13:00	SI	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	1.40%
24/03 07:30	JN	Natl CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	1.50%
25/03 08:30	AU	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	3.80%
25/03 15:00	UK	CPI YoY	Feb	--	--	3.00%
31/03 07:30	JN	Tokyo CPI YoY	Mar	--	--	1.60%
31/03 14:00	UK	GDP YoY	4Q F	--	--	1.00%
31/03 17:00	EC	CPI Estimate YoY	Mar P	--	--	--
31/03 17:00	EC	CPI YoY	Mar P	--	--	--

## Central Bank Interest Rate Decisions

Date Time	C	Event	Period	Survey	Actual	Prior
05/03 15:00	MA	BNM Overnight Policy Rate	6-Mar	2.75%	--	2.75%
17/03 11:30	AU	RBA Cash Rate Target	17-Mar	--	--	3.85%
17/03 15:20	ID	BI-Rate	17-Mar	--	--	4.75%
19/03 02:00	US	FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	18-Mar	3.75%	--	3.75%
19/03 02:00	US	FOMC Rate Decision (Lower Bound)	18-Mar	3.50%	--	3.50%
19/03 20:00	UK	Bank of England Bank Rate	19-Mar	--	--	3.75%
19/03 21:15	EC	ECB Deposit Facility Rate	19-Mar	--	--	2.00%
19/03 21:15	EC	ECB Main Refinancing Rate	19-Mar	--	--	2.15%
19/03 21:15	EC	ECB Marginal Lending Facility	19-Mar	--	--	2.40%
19/03	JN	BOJ Target Rate	19-Mar	--	--	0.75%
20/03 09:00	CH	5-Year Loan Prime Rate	20-Mar	--	--	3.50%
20/03 09:00	CH	1-Year Loan Prime Rate	20-Mar	--	--	3.00%

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