

MARKET TREND

INDEX	16/02/2026	YTD	COMMO	16/02/2026	1Y	CURRENCIES	16/02/2026	YTD	BONDS	16/02/2026	1Y	▲
S&P500	6,836.17	-0.14%	GOLD	5,010.92	73.85%	EUR-USD	1.186	1.08%	US 10 Y	4.26%		-35
NASDAQ	22,546.67	-2.99%	SILVER	77.02	139.36%	GBP-USD	1.365	1.41%	UK 10 Y	4.68%		1
DOW JONES	49,500.93	2.99%	WTI	62.80	-6.21%	USD-CAD	1.360	-0.64%	AUS 10 Y	4.84%		30
EURO STOXX	5,985.23	2.30%	NAT. GAS	3.19	-21.32%	CHF-USD	1.301	3.03%	SW 10 Y	0.27%		-22
HANG SENG	26,705.94	4.20%	CORN	441.75	-9.80%	USD-CNY	6.903	-1.33%	NOR 10 Y	4.17%		20
TA-125	4,145.10	13.41%	COFFEE	296.25	-12.69%	USD-ILS	3.079	-3.05%	ISR 10 Y	3.81%		-62

Overview:

Global stock markets were volatile over the past week, driven by shifting interest-rate expectations, inflation concerns, and a pullback in technology stocks linked to heavy AI spending. In the United States, equities traded unevenly as weakness in mega-cap tech dragged on the Nasdaq despite some support from declining bond yields and defensive sectors. European markets outperformed, buoyed by strong corporate earnings, solid inflows, and gains in financial stocks, reflecting improving investor confidence in the region. Asian markets were mixed to weaker overall, pressured by foreign outflows from technology-heavy markets such as South Korea and Taiwan and softer economic signals from Japan, although selective strength remained in parts of India and Southeast Asia. Overall, investors showed a cautious stance globally, rotating away from high-growth sectors toward value and defensives while awaiting clearer signals on inflation and monetary policy.

WORLDWIDE TOP NEWS

- Russia intensified nationwide drone and missile attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing widespread power outages and escalating the conflict.
- European Union leaders debated additional financial and military aid for Ukraine amid internal disagreements and budget pressures.
- Sudan's civil war continued to fuel one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with millions displaced and famine risks rising.
- Iran signaled conditional openness to nuclear negotiations while tensions with the United States and regional actors remained elevated.
- The 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina officially opened, drawing global attention and heightened security across Italy.
- China reported weaker economic momentum and ongoing property-sector stress, reinforcing concerns about global growth.
- The United States carried out security operations against drug-trafficking networks in the Caribbean region, highlighting continued regional instability.
- A rare annular "Ring of Fire" solar eclipse on February 17 generated worldwide interest, visible across parts of South America, Africa, and Asia.

REAL ESTATE

- U.S. real estate activity remained supported by foreign investors, helping sustain transaction volumes despite high mortgage rates and affordability constraints.
- Commercial real estate stocks in the U.S. and Europe declined amid concerns that artificial intelligence could reduce long-term demand for office space.
- In the United Kingdom, house prices were broadly stable in February, with higher housing supply giving buyers increased negotiating power.
- The UK housing market showed early signs of recovery as buyer enquiries improved and expectations for moderate price growth strengthened.
- A major build-to-rent transaction in London highlighted continued institutional investment in rental housing due to strong tenant demand and limited supply.
- China continued efforts to stabilize its property sector by encouraging state-owned firms to purchase distressed and foreclosed properties.
- Real estate investment sentiment across Asia-Pacific improved, with buying intentions reaching multi-year highs amid stronger rental outlooks and easing financing conditions.

BANKING & FINANCE

- U.S. regulators moved closer to introducing stricter capital rules for large banks under updated Basel standards, potentially increasing risk requirements.
- The U.S. Federal Reserve launched a review of supervisory weaknesses to strengthen oversight of material financial risks in the banking system.
- The Fed is expected to appoint a senior Wall Street lawyer to a key oversight role, signaling tougher regulatory scrutiny of major banks.
- European banks reported strong profits supported by higher interest rates and announced significant shareholder payouts.
- Switzerland advanced plans for tighter banking regulations following the Credit Suisse crisis, including higher capital and liquidity requirements.
- The European Central Bank expanded access to euro liquidity for foreign central banks to reinforce financial stability and the euro's global role.
- Investors increased hedging against U.S. dollar exposure, reflecting rising caution over currency volatility and macro uncertainty.
- India's central bank tightened lending rules to market intermediaries, triggering declines in brokerage and financial stocks.
- Banks warned that interest-bearing stablecoins could draw substantial deposits away from traditional banking systems, increasing competitive pressure from digital finance.

TECHNOLOGY

- World leaders and technology executives gathered in India for a major AI summit focused on global governance, safety, and economic impact of artificial intelligence.
- The United States increased restrictions on advanced semiconductor exports to China, intensifying the ongoing global chip rivalry.
- European regulators advanced new digital and AI rules aimed at strengthening oversight of large technology platforms.
- Major tech companies announced expanded investment plans in artificial intelligence infrastructure and data centers.
- China accelerated support measures for its domestic semiconductor industry to reduce reliance on foreign technology.
- Cybersecurity agencies in the U.S. and Europe issued warnings about rising state-sponsored cyber threats targeting critical infrastructure.
- Several global firms unveiled new AI-enabled software features for enterprise productivity and automation.
- Technology stocks worldwide experienced volatility as investors reassessed valuations following heavy spending on AI development.

Key Economic Indicators:

- U.S. inflation data showed a modest slowdown but remained above target, reinforcing expectations that interest rates will stay elevated for longer.
- U.S. retail sales weakened compared with the previous month, signaling softer consumer spending momentum.
- The U.S. labor market remained resilient with low unemployment and steady job creation despite tighter financial conditions.
- Eurozone economic growth indicators remained subdued, with manufacturing activity still in contraction territory while services showed modest expansion.
- The European Central Bank signaled caution on rate cuts as inflation pressures persist across several member states.
- The United Kingdom reported stagnant economic growth and ongoing cost-of-living pressures on households.
- China's inflation remained weak, highlighting soft domestic demand and ongoing deflation risks.
- China's exports showed mixed performance, reflecting uneven global demand and trade uncertainty.
- Japan's economic growth slowed, raising concerns about domestic consumption and external demand.
- Several emerging Asian economies reported stable inflation but slower industrial output growth.

Outlook:

Global markets in the coming week are expected to remain highly sensitive to incoming inflation data, central bank signals, and geopolitical developments. In the United States, investors will focus on additional economic indicators and Federal Reserve commentary for clues on the timing of potential rate cuts, while corporate earnings—particularly from major technology firms—could drive sector volatility. In Europe, attention will center on inflation trends, growth data, and policy guidance from the European Central Bank, alongside energy prices and political developments. In Asia, markets will monitor China's policy support measures, property-sector stabilization efforts, and export performance, as well as Japan's currency movements and monetary stance. Overall, global sentiment is likely to stay cautious, with elevated volatility as investors balance persistent inflation risks against hopes for eventual monetary easing.

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