

MONTHLY INSIGHT MARCH 26

RISEON

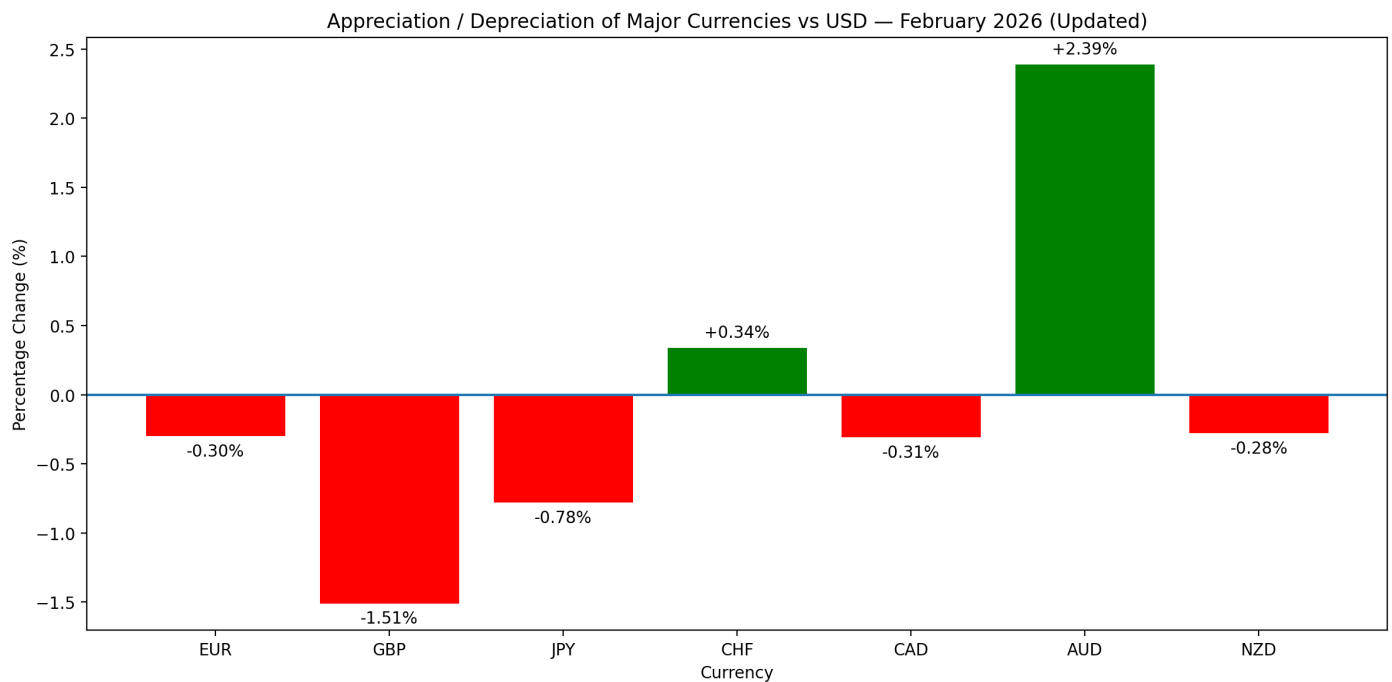
- Page 2** FX Market
- Page 4** FX Analytics
- Page 20** Oil Market
- Page 22** Gold Market
- Page 24** SP500 Market
- Page 26** EUROSTOXX50

FX Market

FX Market Analysis - February 2026

For pairs where USD is the base (USD/JPY, USD/CHF, USD/CAD), an increase reflects USD appreciation, while a decline reflects USD weakness.

For pairs where USD is the quote currency (EUR/USD, GBP/USD, AUD/USD, NZD/USD), an increase reflects foreign currency appreciation versus USD.



Below is the detailed performance breakdown by currency pair:

Analysis by Currency

1. EUR/USD (-0.30%):

The euro slightly weakened in February after January's gains. The move suggests temporary consolidation, possibly driven by softer Eurozone macro data or renewed USD stabilization. The pullback remains moderate and does not yet indicate a structural reversal.

2. GBP/USD (-1.51%):

Sterling was one of the weakest performers this month. The decline reflects cooling UK momentum, potential dovish repricing of Bank of England expectations, and profit-taking after strong January gains. GBP showed higher volatility relative to EUR.

3. USD/JPY (+0.78% -> JPY depreciation):

The yen gave back part of January's recovery. USD/JPY moved higher again, indicating renewed USD demand or fading expectations of immediate BOJ normalization. The move suggests the market is not yet ready for sustained JPY strength.

4. USD/CHF (-0.34% -> CHF appreciation):

The Swiss franc continued to strengthen modestly. CHF remains supported by safe-haven positioning and capital inflows, even during mixed global sentiment. This confirms CHF's structural resilience.

5. USD/CAD (+0.31% -> CAD depreciation):

CAD weakened slightly, potentially reflecting oil price stabilization or mild USD recovery. The move is limited and does not indicate aggressive capital outflows.

6.AUD/USD (+2.39%):

The Australian dollar was again a strong outperformer. AUD extended January's gains, suggesting continued risk-on sentiment, commodity support, and China-linked optimism. AUD momentum remains structurally bullish.

7.NZD/USD (-0.28%):

NZD slightly weakened after being January's top performer. This appears to be consolidation rather than reversal, potentially reflecting positioning adjustments and relative yield dynamics.

Key Observations

- **Best performer: AUD (+2.39%)** - continues to lead risk-sensitive currencies.
- **Weakest performer: GBP (-1.51%)** - significant correction after January rally.
- **CHF remains structurally strong.**
- **JPY recovery stalled**, showing market hesitation on BOJ normalization.
- **USD stabilized**, but without broad-based dominance.
- **Commodity currencies diverged:** AUD strong, CAD soft, NZD consolidating.

Political and Economic Context**1. USD Stabilization Phase**

After broad USD weakness in January, February showed partial stabilization, suggesting positioning recalibration rather than full trend reversal.

2. Divergence in Risk Currencies

AUD strength reflects improving global growth sentiment and commodity flows, while NZD and CAD were more sensitive to local macro dynamics.

3. Bank of England Repricing

Sterling's weakness may reflect a shift in expectations toward a more cautious BoE stance, particularly if inflation data softened.

4. BOJ Uncertainty

JPY's renewed weakness suggests that markets remain skeptical about aggressive Japanese policy normalization in the near term.

5.Safe-Haven Demand

CHF strength confirms that investors continue to maintain defensive exposure despite risk-on conditions elsewhere.

Conclusion

February 2026 marked a transition month:

- January's broad USD weakness slowed.
- Risk appetite remained present, but more selective.
- AUD emerged as the strongest trend currency.
- GBP corrected sharply, signaling higher sensitivity to policy repricing.
- CHF continued its steady structural appreciation.
- JPY failed to build on prior gains.

The FX market is currently in a selective rotation regime, with capital flowing into currencies backed by commodity strength and macro resilience, rather than a uniform USD-driven move.

FX Analytics

USD INDEX

February 2026 Recap

February marked a month of stabilization and modest recovery for the U.S. Dollar Index following January's broader weakness. The DXY traded within a relatively contained range of 1.645 index points, ultimately closing higher and reclaiming part of the prior month's losses.

Monthly Performance Overview

- Opening Level: 96.950
- High of the Month: 98.015
- Low of the Month: 96.370
- Closing Level: 97.565
- Monthly Change: +0.63%

Price Action Breakdown

Early-Month Recovery Attempt

- The dollar opened at 96.950 and found support above January lows.
- Early-month strength pushed the index to 98.015, the monthly high.
- The rebound confirmed the 95.30-96.30 zone remains structurally supported.

Mid-Month Consolidation

- After testing 98.00, momentum faded.
- The index retraced to 96.370, but held above the January low (95.390).
- This confirmed a short-term base, limiting downside risk.

End-of-Month Positioning

- DXY closed at 97.565, above the opening price.
- Momentum shifted neutral-to-slightly bullish, though without a clear breakout.

Fundamental Drivers

1. Inflation & Labor Data

U.S. inflation showed moderate stabilization, limiting aggressive repricing of rate cuts. Labor data remained mixed but stable, preventing renewed bearish pressure on the USD

2. Federal Reserve Expectations

With markets pricing a March rate cut, February became a positioning month rather than a directional one. Balanced Fed communication helped anchor Treasury yields and provided temporary support for the dollar.

3. Global Risk Environment

Risk sentiment improved moderately without triggering major USD outflows. EUR and JPY strength paused, allowing the DXY to consolidate.

Technical Assessment

Support at 96.30-96.40 held, while 98.00-98.20 acted as resistance. February printed a higher low and higher close vs January, suggesting short-term base formation, though no confirmed trend reversal yet.

Conclusion

- February 2026 marked a consolidation phase for the U.S. dollar. After January's weakness, the DXY managed to defend key support levels and post a modest recovery.
- The inability to break 96.30 suggests a short-term base forming, while rejection near 98.00 shows limited bullish conviction.
- The index now enters March positioned for potential volatility expansion, with macro data and Fed expectations likely to determine whether DXY moves toward 99.00 or back toward 96.00.



March 2026 Outlook

Starting Position After February

February Close: 97.565

February marked a consolidation month, printing:

- A higher low (96.370 vs January's 95.390)
- A higher close

Price action suggests short-term base formation, but the broader medium-term structure remains fragile.

The DXY enters March trading in the mid-range of the 96.30-98.00 corridor, awaiting a macro catalyst.

Primary Catalyst: Federal Reserve (March FOMC)

The March FOMC meeting is the dominant driver this month.

Current Market Positioning:

- Markets are heavily pricing a 25bps rate cut, with some probability of a larger move if data weakens.
- Forward guidance will matter more than the cut itself.

Implications:

- Dovish tone + further cuts signaled -> USD downside extension
- Cut but cautious guidance -> Relief bounce
- No cut (low probability) -> Sharp USD rally

Key Data Releases to Watch

1. Non-Farm Payrolls (early March)

- A weak print would validate easing expectations and pressure the dollar.
- A surprise rebound could trigger short covering above 98.00.

2. CPI & PPI

- Inflation below 2.3-2.4% YoY would reinforce the disinflation narrative.
- Sticky services inflation could limit downside in the DXY.

3. Retail Sales & ISM

- Will help determine whether the U.S. economy is slowing materially or merely normalizing.

Key Technical Levels

98.00-98.20: February high / short-term resistance

99.30: Major January high (structural ceiling)

96.30-96.40: February support

95.30: January low

94.00: Medium-term bearish target

Technical Assessment

- Momentum remains neutral-to-bearish on the weekly timeframe
- The broader structure since Q4 2025 is one of lower highs
- A break above 98.20 would be the first signal of structural stabilization
- A break below 96.30 reopens the path toward 95.30 -> 94.00

March is likely to determine whether February was a pause in the downtrend or the beginning of a bottoming process

Scenario Matrix - March 2026

Base case: a 25bps Fed cut with balanced communication keeps the DXY in a 96.50-98.20 range.

Bearish USD scenario: weak jobs, soft CPI and dovish guidance could push the index below 96.30 toward 95.00-94.00.

Bullish USD scenario: sticky inflation and a more cautious Fed could drive a break above 98.20 toward 99.30.

Global Context

- EUR and JPY strength remains a structural headwind.
- Risk sentiment is stable but fragile.
- If global equities correct sharply, the dollar could temporarily benefit from defensive flows.

However, structurally, capital flows are no longer overwhelmingly USD-centric.

Executive Summary

- March 2026 is a decision month for the U.S. dollar.
- The February consolidation suggests base-building, but confirmation is required.
- The March FOMC meeting will likely trigger directional expansion.
- Bias remains cautiously bearish unless 98.20 is decisively reclaimed.
- Expected volatility: elevated.

Projected trading range: **95.00 to 99.30**, with policy guidance dictating breakout direction.

EUR/USD

February 2026 Recap

February 2026 was a month of technical correction and consolidation, following the strong breakout seen in January (with the 1.2080 high). Instead of extending the bullish momentum, the pair entered a phase of:

- Loss of upside momentum
- Compression in volatility
- Failure to sustain levels above 1.19

The monthly close at 1.18138, below the opening level, confirms a slightly negative month and a cooling of the prior bullish acceleration.

Monthly Performance Overview

- Opening Level: 1.18500
- High of the Month: 1.19286
- Low of the Month: 1.17420
- Closing Level: 1.18138
- Monthly Change: -0.30% approx.

Technical Interpretation

- The pair attempted to extend January's rally but failed near the 1.1900-1.1930 zone.
- The monthly high at 1.19286 remained well below January's 1.2080 peak.
- The low at 1.17420 shows selling pressure emerged, but: The key structural support at 1.1640 was never tested.
- The close below the open signals mild seller dominance, though not a structural breakdown.

Fundamental Drivers in February

USD Firmed Slightly

- Some U.S. data surprised to the upside, particularly labor market releases.
- Markets slightly reduced expectations for aggressive Fed cuts.
- This triggered a technical rebound in the dollar.

ECB Neutral

- The ECB maintained a steady stance.
- No additional bullish catalysts emerged for the euro.

More Cautious Risk Sentiment

- Global markets showed less aggressive risk appetite compared to January.
- Mild defensive flows supported the USD.

Outlook vs. Reality

February projections expected an extension toward 1.2150 and a sustained break above 1.2000, but the market instead delivered a technical pullback, with the broader bullish structure remaining intact.

Conclusion

February 2026 was characterized by:

- Moderate correction
- Consolidation below 1.19
- Temporary loss of bullish momentum
- Medium-term structure remaining intact

Key takeaway:

- No structural breakdown occurred.
- 1.1640 remains the decisive medium-term level.
- The market now enters March at a technical decision point: bullish resumption or deeper consolidation.



March 2026 Outlook

March begins under a materially different regime compared to January:

- February already showed loss of bullish momentum.
- On March 2, the market opened with a clear downside gap.
- The start of the offensive in Iran introduces a significant geopolitical risk shock.

We are now facing a classic combination of:

- Geopolitical stress + USD safe-haven demand + technical downside gap

This materially shifts the short-term risk balance.

Geopolitical Impact - Offensive in Iran

1. Immediate Effect: Risk-Off Environment

Historically, Middle East conflicts:

- Increase demand for USD as a safe haven.
- Pressure risk-sensitive assets.
- Drive oil prices higher.
- Strengthen defensive positioning in global markets

While the euro is not an emerging currency, it:

- Underperforms during periods of global uncertainty.
- Is structurally more sensitive to energy shocks.

If oil prices spike:

- The Eurozone suffers more than the U.S.
- Additional structural pressure builds on the euro.

2. Oil and Terms of Trade

A conflict affecting oil supply typically:

- Improves relative terms of trade for the U.S. (energy producer).
- Worsens terms for the Eurozone (net energy importer).

This creates a structural bearish bias for EUR/USD while the conflict remains active or escalates.

Current Technical Structure

Situation After the March 2 Gap

The bearish gap signals:

- Abrupt repositioning.
- Aggressive selling at the open.
- Potential start of a deeper corrective leg.

Gaps in risk-off environments often lead to follow-through selling, especially when aligned with macro stress.

Key Technical Levels

1.1810-1.1825: Technical pivot (former breakout zone)

1.17420: February low

1.1640: Major structural support

1.1500: Next acceleration zone if breakdown occurs

1.2000: Psychological resistance

1.2080: January high

March 2026 Scenarios

Base Case (Higher Probability Short-Term)

Technical correction + geopolitical shock = downside pressure

- The bearish gap likely produces follow-through.
- Immediate test of 1.1740.
- If 1.1740 breaks -> natural target becomes 1.1640.

If 1.1640 fails:

- The medium-term bullish structure comes into question.
- Next technical objective: 1.1500-1.1450.

Expected March range:

- **1.1500 - 1.1900**

Bias: Short-term bearish

Alternative Scenario - Gap Fill

If:

- The conflict does not escalate,
- Markets stabilize,
- Oil retraces lower,

EUR/USD could:

- Close the downside gap.
- Recover toward 1.1900-1.1950.

However, for a full bullish resumption:

- The pair must reclaim 1.2000.
- And invalidate geopolitical-driven selling pressure.

Probability at this stage: moderate, but lower than the corrective scenario.

Strategic Technical Reading

- February was a consolidation month.
- March begins with an external shock.
- ADX is likely to rise (volatility expansion).
- A lower-high structure may begin forming if 1.1740 breaks.

Strategic Summary

Immediate momentum: negative.

Medium-term structure: still bullish, but vulnerable.

Dominant factor: geopolitics and oil dynamics.

Decisive level: 1.1640.

Main risk: conflict escalation.

Conclusion

March 2026 begins as a critical transition month:

- The offensive in Iran introduces systemic risk.
- The USD benefits as a safe haven.
- The bearish opening gap signals potential regime shift in the short term.
- 1.1640 is the structural line in the sand.

If that level breaks decisively, EUR/USD may enter a deeper correction phase into Q2.

GBP/USD

February 2026 Recap

Monthly Price Action

- Open: 1.36834
- High: 1.37332
- Low: 1.34339
- Close: 1.34764

Monthly Performance:

GBP/USD closed approximately -1.50% lower compared to the monthly open, forming a clearly bearish monthly candle with strong rejection near the highs.

1. Monthly Technical Structure

Strong Start, Rejection at Resistance

- February opened near a major resistance zone.
- The move to 1.37332 represented a direct test of the previously identified 1.3700-1.3770 structural resistance area, aligning with the upper boundary of the ascending channel.
- Failure to sustain above this level triggered aggressive selling pressure.

Sustained Selling in the Second Half of the Month

- After rejection from the highs, the pair entered a consistent corrective move.
- The break below 1.3550-1.3500 accelerated downside momentum.
- The monthly low at 1.34339 confirmed a deeper correction within the broader structure.
- The close at 1.34764, near the monthly lows, reinforces a short-term bearish bias.

2. Monthly Candle Interpretation

The February candle shows:

- Limited upper wick ->clear rejection at resistance.
- Dominant bearish body ->sellers in control.

- Close near monthly lows ->lack of meaningful late-month recovery.

Technically, this suggests:

- Loss of bullish momentum.
- Possible transition into a corrective phase.
- Increased probability of short-term downside continuation.

3. Key Technical Levels Going Forward

Immediate Resistance: 1.3550

Major Resistance: 1.3700-1.3770

Immediate Support: 1.3430

Structural Support: 1.3200-1.3280

If 1.3430 breaks decisively in March, the next downside target lies in the 1.3200-1.3280 zone, aligned with the base of the weekly ascending channel.

4. Broader Structural Interpretation

- February confirmed a failed breakout above channel resistance, suggesting a potential lower high on the monthly timeframe and a shift from expansion to corrective phase.
- However, the medium-term bullish structure remains intact as long as price holds above 1.3200, meaning the move may still represent a healthy correction within the broader uptrend.

Conclusion

- February marked a period of technical rejection and corrective price action. The pair tested a major resistance zone, failed to break higher, and closed the month with downside momentum.
- The close near the lows suggests March may start with a bearish bias, unless price recovers above 1.3550.



March 2026 Outlook

1. Geopolitical Shock: Iran Conflict (Feb 28)

The outbreak of conflict involving Iran on February 28 introduced a classic risk-off environment in global markets. Historically, geopolitical escalation produces:

- Immediate demand for safe-haven assets
- Higher energy prices (especially oil)
- Increased volatility
- USD strengthening during initial shock phases

For GBP/USD specifically:

- Sterling typically underperforms during acute geopolitical stress.
- Risk-sensitive currencies tend to weaken relative to safe havens.
- Energy price spikes are particularly negative for the UK due to import exposure.

2. Technical Context: Bearish Gap on March 2

Following the February close at 1.34764, the market opened March with a clear downside gap, confirming:

- Panic positioning
- Forced deleveraging
- Short-term structural breakdown

A gap lower after a bearish monthly close significantly increases the probability of trend continuation rather than immediate recovery.

This shifts March from a neutral corrective month into a momentum-driven downside phase.

3. Technical Structure for March

Immediate Implications

- February already formed a rejection candle near 1.3730.
- The gap confirms loss of bullish structure.
- Market likely transitions from correction to impulsive downside leg.

Key Levels

Immediate Resistance: 1.3500-1.3550 (gap-fill zone)

Breakdown Level: 1.3430 (February low)

Major Support: 1.3200-1.3280 (weekly channel base)

Extended Support: 1.3000 (psychological + structural)

A decisive break below 1.3430 would significantly increase the probability of a move toward the 1.3200-1.3280 zone.

4. Energy & Macro Risk

An Iran conflict typically implies:

- Oil price spike risk
- Inflation reacceleration risk
- Pressure on UK trade balance
- Higher imported energy costs

This creates a difficult dynamic for the Bank of England:

- Growth already fragile
- Inflation potentially rising again due to energy
- Limited room for aggressive rate cuts

This environment is not GBP-supportive in the short term.

5. March Scenario Framework

Base Case (Most Likely)

- **Range: 1.3100 - 1.3450**
- Gap not immediately filled
- Continued risk-off sentiment
- Retest of 1.3200 area

Bearish Extension Scenario

- **Range: 1.2900 - 1.3200**
- Escalation of conflict
- Energy shock intensifies
- 1.3000 becomes realistic target

Bearish Extension Scenario

- **Range: 1.2900 - 1.3200**
- Escalation of conflict
- Energy shock intensifies
- 1.3000 becomes realistic target

However, gaps following major geopolitical events are rarely filled immediately.

Structural Interpretation

March opens with:

- A failed February breakout
- A bearish monthly close
- A geopolitical shock
- A downside gap

This combination significantly increases the odds that:

March becomes a momentum continuation month rather than a consolidation month.

The ascending channel from 2022 is now under stress.

If 1.3200 breaks, the medium-term bullish structure is technically invalidated.

Final Outlook for March 2026

Bias: Bearish

Primary Target: 1.3200

Extended Risk: 1.3000

Invalidation: Sustained recovery above 1.3550

March is likely to be volatility-driven and headline-sensitive.

Unless the geopolitical situation stabilises quickly, downside risks dominate.

USD/JPY

February 2026 Recap

Price Action Summary

February saw a partial recovery, reversing part of January's bearish rejection from 159.421. The pair opened at 154.874 and briefly tested 152.269, with support holding above the January low (152.186).

USD/JPY then rebounded to a monthly high of 157.658 and closed at 156.082 (+0.78%), confirming short-term bullish recovery momentum and printing a bullish monthly candle with a higher close.

Structural Interpretation

1.Support Held - No Breakdown Confirmation

The key level around 152.00-152.20 (January low zone) was tested but not broken.

That failure to break lower:

- Invalidated the immediate bearish continuation scenario.
- Signaled strong underlying demand in the 152 area.
- Forced short covering.

This confirms that the broader uptrend from late 2025 has not yet structurally reversed.

2.Momentum Shift

The rebound toward 157.658 shows:

- Buyers are still active.
- The market is willing to reprice USD strength if macro conditions allow.
- However, price failed to retest the January high at 159.421, meaning full bullish continuation was not confirmed.

So February becomes a range expansion month, not a breakout month.

Macro Drivers During February

U.S. Side

- The Feb 6 NFP came in mixed but not weak enough to accelerate Fed easing expectations.
- Feb 13 CPI did not materially surprise to the downside.
- As a result, aggressive USD selling paused, allowing yield differentials to stabilize.

Markets slightly reduced the probability of a March rate cut, supporting USD.

Japan Side

- Tokyo CPI remained firm, but no concrete BoJ policy shift occurred.
- Without actual tightening, speculative JPY buying faded.
- The market began to question how soon policy normalization would actually happen.

This reduced immediate JPY upside pressure.

Technical Breakdown

Open: 154.874 – mid-range positioning

Low: 152.269 – key structural support held

High: 157.658 – strong rebound, but below January high

Close: 156.082 – bullish monthly close

Range: 5.389 yen – elevated volatility

Conclusion

- February 2026 did not confirm the bearish continuation expected after January's rejection.
- The pair defended 152 successfully and regained upside momentum.
- However, the failure to retest 159.421 means bullish continuation is not confirmed either.
- The market is now coiling between 152 and 158, preparing for a larger structural move.



March 2026 Outlook

USD/JPY is compressing between:

- Structural Resistance: 159.40 - 159.50 (January high)
- Structural Support: 152.00 - 152.20 (January & February base)

March is unlikely to remain range-bound. Macro catalysts are aligning for expansion.

Macro Drivers for March

Federal Reserve - Potential First Rate Cut

The March FOMC meeting is pivotal.

Markets are pricing strong probability of a first rate cut either in March or May.

Key dates:

March 6 - NFP

March 12 - CPI

March 19 - FOMC Decision

Scenario Impact:

- If Fed cuts or signals imminent easing -> USD weakens -> downside pressure
- If Fed delays cuts -> yields rebound -> USD strengthens -> upside breakout

March volatility will likely center around the FOMC.

Bank of Japan - Policy Risk Rising

BoJ pressure continues building:

- Inflation remains above target.
- Wage negotiations (Shunto) conclude in March.
- Markets increasingly expect policy normalization in Q2.

If wage growth is strong -> expectations of rate normalization rise -> JPY strengthens sharply.

Technical Structure

Monthly Structure

- January: Shooting star at 159.421 (reversal signal)
- February: Bullish recovery candle (higher close)
- March: Inside compression between extremes

This is classic range compression before expansion.

Key Technical Levels

Major Resistance:

- ¥159.40-159.50 – January high / structural ceiling

Intermediate Resistance:

- ¥157.70-158.00 – February high

Immediate Support:

- ¥154.50-155.00 – February mid-base

Major Support:

- ¥152.00-152.20 – structural floor

Breakdown Trigger:

- below ¥151.80 – opens path to ¥149-150

Breakout Trigger:

- above ¥159.50 – opens path to ¥161-163

March 2026 Scenarios

Bullish Breakout (40%)

- Range: 158.00 - 163.00
- Trigger: Fed delays cuts + BoJ remains cautious
- Outcome: Retest of 160 followed by extension to 162-163
- A weekly close above 159.50 would confirm continuation of the 2025 uptrend.

Bearish Breakdown (35%)

- Range: 149.00 - 152.00
- Trigger: Fed cuts in March + strong Japanese wage data
- Outcome: Clean break of 152 leads to acceleration toward 149-150
- This scenario would confirm January as a long-term top.

Base Case - Volatile Expansion but No Structural Break (25%)

- Range: 153.00 - 158.50
- FOMC volatility but no confirmed policy shock.

Momentum Signals to Watch

- Weekly RSI holding above 50 = bullish structure intact.
- Break below 50 = trend shift confirmed.
- Watch U.S.-Japan 10Y yield spread closely – it remains the dominant driver.

Strategic Summary

- February confirmed strong support at 152.
- January confirmed heavy resistance at 159.4.
- March will likely resolve this 7-yen compression range.
- Risk/reward favors waiting for breakout confirmation rather than pre-positioning aggressively.

Bottom Line:

USD/JPY is coiling between 152 and 159.5.

March is likely to determine whether:

- We move toward 163, or
- We rotate down toward 149-150.

USD/CHF

February 2026 Recap

Overview

USD/CHF opened February at 0.77193 and closed at 0.76929, marking a marginal monthly decline of approximately -0.34%. The pair traded within a relatively contained range, posting a monthly high of 0.78175 and a low of 0.76291.

After January's stronger bearish extension, February was characterized by consolidation and reduced volatility, suggesting temporary stabilization within the broader downtrend.

Price Action Summary

- The pair attempted a recovery early in the month, pushing toward 0.78175, testing the former breakdown zone near 0.7800.
- However, the move lacked follow-through, confirming that 0.7800-0.7820 remains a strong resistance area.
- Selling pressure re-emerged mid-month, driving the pair down to 0.76291, close to the structural support near 0.7600.
- The monthly close at 0.76929, slightly below the open, reflects a neutral-to-bearish consolidation phase rather than trend acceleration.

The monthly range (~188 pips) was significantly narrower than January's range, indicating compression inside the broader descending structure.

Structural Context

The pair remains inside the long-term descending channel that has been intact since 2023.

February confirmed:

- Resistance above 0.7800 is still respected.
- Support around 0.7600 continues to hold for now.

Momentum indicators (from prior months) remain tilted to the downside, but February did not produce new lows with conviction.

Monthly Metrics

Open: 0.77193

High: 0.78175

Low: 0.76291

Close: 0.76929

Net Change: -0.34%

Range: 188 pips

Structure: bearish consolidation

Interpretation

February did not invalidate the broader bearish trend, but it also did not extend it aggressively.

The market appears to be:

- Building a short-term base above 0.7600,
- Respecting resistance near 0.7800,
- Waiting for a stronger macro catalyst (likely U.S. inflation or Fed communication).

Unless 0.7800 is reclaimed decisively, the medium-term bias remains bearish, with the market vulnerable to another test of 0.7600 in March.



March 2026 Outlook

USD/CHF closed February at 0.76929, after trading between 0.78175 and 0.76291. The pair remains inside a multi-year descending channel, but February confirmed temporary stabilization above the 0.7600 structural support.

The market is now at an inflection point:

- Resistance near 0.7800 continues to cap rallies.
- Support near 0.7600 remains intact but increasingly tested.
- Volatility compressed in February, typically a precursor to expansion.

March is likely to determine whether USD/CHF resumes its bearish trend or begins a corrective rebound

Key Macro Drivers for March

1. Federal Reserve Expectations

Markets continue pricing rate cuts later in 2026. The tone of Fed speakers during March will be critical:

- Any pushback against aggressive easing expectations could support USD.
- Confirmation of dovish bias would likely pressure the pair lower.

2. U.S. Economic Data

Key releases this month include:

- Non-Farm Payrolls (early March)
- CPI (mid-March)
- Retail sales and PMI surveys

Strong data could fuel a corrective bounce toward 0.7800–0.7900.

Weak data increases the probability of a breakdown below 0.7600.

3. Swiss Franc Dynamics

- The SNB remains passive, maintaining rates at 0%.
- CHF continues to benefit from safe-haven positioning and macro stability.
- No indication of intervention suggests CHF strength may persist if global risk sentiment deteriorates.

Technical Outlook

0.7600 – Major Support: multi-month floor / channel base

0.7500 – Extension Target: next downside objective if 0.7600 breaks

0.7800 – Resistance: former breakdown zone

0.7900 – Secondary Resistance: recovery trigger

0.8040 – Structural Resistance: January high

Technical Observations

- Price remains below 0.7800, keeping the bearish structure intact.
- Momentum indicators remain weak but not accelerating.

- February's inside-range behavior suggests volatility expansion is likely in March.
- A decisive break of 0.7600 would confirm continuation of the long-term downtrend.

Scenario Framework

Scenario 1: Bearish Continuation (Base Case)

- USD fails to gain macro traction.
- Break below 0.7600.
- Downside extension toward 0.7500, potentially 0.7400 if momentum builds.

Scenario 2: Range Extension

- Mixed data and no strong Fed signal.
- Pair remains trapped between 0.7600–0.7800.
- Consolidation continues while market awaits Q2 catalysts.

Scenario 3: Corrective Rebound (Lower Probability)

- Strong CPI or NFP surprise.
- Short squeeze above 0.7800.
- Targets: 0.7900 0.8040.
- Would still be considered corrective unless 0.8040 breaks.

March 2026 Bias Summary

Primary Bias: bearish below 0.7800

Breakdown Trigger: sustained move below 0.7600

Rebound Trigger: close above 0.7800

Macro Alignment: CHF structurally favored

Volatility Expectation: likely expansion vs February

Strategic View

March represents a decision month:

- Either the market confirms the longer-term bearish continuation,
- Or it stages a corrective rebound before the next macro cycle.

As long as USD/CHF trades below 0.7800, risk remains skewed to the downside.

USD/CAD

January 2026 Recap

Monthly Price Action

- Opening: 1.37178
 - High: 1.39291
 - Low: 1.34875
 - Close: 1.36130
 - Range: ≈ 441 pips
 - Monthly change: -105 pips (-0.77%)
- The pair traded within a broad range, climbing early in the month to test resistance near 1.3930 before reversing sharply to close lower at 1.3613, a net monthly drop for the USD.

Key Drivers

U.S. Dollar Dynamics

- After an early surge, the USD weakened throughout the second half of January:
- Markets increased bets on rate cuts by the Fed starting in Q2 2026.
 - Softer U.S. macro data (especially retail sales and manufacturing) pressured yields and the dollar.

CAD - Resilient but Not Crude-Driven

The CAD appreciated, particularly in the latter part of January, despite lack of support from crude oil.

WTI crude reached a monthly high of only \$66.25, far from levels that typically bolster CAD.

The loonie's gains were instead supported by:

- Narrowing yield differentials as Fed expectations shifted
- Domestic data stability, especially in employment and housing
- Slightly better-than-expected Canadian CPI, reducing pressure on the BoC to ease quickly

Technical Outlook

- Bearish reversal: After failing to break 1.3930, USD/CAD reversed strongly, breaking key support levels at 1.3820 and 1.3720.
- The monthly close at 1.3613 points to renewed CAD strength.
- Momentum indicators (MACD, RSI) turned negative by mid-January, and price closed below the 50-day moving average – a technical bearish signal.

Conclusion

Despite limited help from crude oil (with WTI capped at \$66.25), January saw the CAD outperform on the back of:

- A weakening USD driven by softer U.S. data and dovish Fed expectations
- Stable Canadian fundamentals
- A technical breakdown in USD/CAD after rejection at 1.3930

Unless oil prices recover or U.S. data surprises to the upside, the bias for USD/CAD remains to the downside heading into February, with potential targets near 1.3520-1.3480.



March 2026 Outlook

Starting Position (End of February 2026)

- February close: 1.36459
- The pair held strong support at 1.3500 and formed a monthly candle with a long lower wick.
- Current structure: consolidation phase after January's sharp decline, with early signs of USD stabilization.

USD/CAD enters March at a critical technical juncture: Either the 1.3500 level confirms as a medium-term base, or the broader bearish trend resumes.

Monetary Policy Expectations

Federal Reserve:

- Markets continue to price the first Fed rate cut for May/June 2026.
- March inflation and labor data will be key.
- If U.S. data surprises to the upside, expectations for cuts could be pushed back, providing short-term support to the USD.

Bank of Canada (BoC):

- The BoC remains on hold.
- With no immediate signals of easing, the CAD retains a relative policy stability advantage versus the Fed.

Rate differentials are no longer widening meaningfully, meaning March may be driven more by technical positioning and incoming data than by structural policy divergence.

Oil Factor

WTI crude remains relatively soft, with the recent monthly high at \$66.25.

As long as oil stays below \$70, CAD is unlikely to receive strong commodity-based support.

Therefore, March will likely be dominated by:

- Monetary policy expectations
- Macro data releases
- Technical structure

Key Technical Levels for March

Immediate Resistance: 1.3720-1.3750 – February high / former breakdown area

Upper Resistance:

1.3820-1.3850 – major supply zone

Key Support: 1.3500 – structural base

Breakdown Target: 1.3350 – next bearish extension level

March 2026 Scenarios

Base Case (Neutral to Mild USD Recovery)

Range: 158.00 – 163.00

- Consolidation continues
- USD attempts moderate rebound
- 1.3500 support remains intact

Bullish Extension

Range: 1.3800 – 1.3950

- Strong U.S. data
- Fed tone shifts less dovish
- Break above 1.3750 confirms upside momentum

Bearish Breakdown

Range: 1.3350 – 1.3500

- Decisive break below 1.3500
- Risk-on environment
- Further compression in U.S. yields

Strategic Bias

- The pair is currently range-bound rather than trending strongly.
- Momentum is neutral following February's consolidation.
- The 1.3500 level is the key pivot for March.

As long as 1.3500 holds, recovery attempts toward 1.3750-1.3850 remain viable.

A sustained break below 1.3500 would shift the structure back to bearish continuation.

Conclusion

March 2026 is shaping up to be a decision month for USD/CAD.

February stabilized the prior decline.

March will determine whether:

- A medium-term bottom has formed near 1.3500, or
- The broader bearish move resumes toward 1.3350.

AUD/USD

February 2026 Recap

Performance Overview

AUD/USD delivered a constructive performance in February 2026, closing the month at 0.71124, up from an opening level of 0.69461, representing a gain of approximately +2.4%.

The pair traded within a relatively controlled range:

- **Open:** 0.69461
- **High:** 0.71473
- **Low:** 0.70155
- **Close:** 0.71124

Notably, the monthly low (0.70155) remained well above the January breakout zone near 0.6900, confirming underlying bullish structure and sustained demand throughout the month.

Key Drivers

RBA Stability and Inflation Discipline

- The RBA held rates steady at 3.60% at its early-February meeting.
- The tone remained cautious but firm regarding inflation risks, reinforcing expectations that easing would not be imminent.
- Australian inflation data later in the month showed continued moderation but remained above target, supporting rate stability.

USD Softness Amid Rate Cut Pricing

- US macro data in early February reinforced expectations of a March Fed rate cut, keeping downward pressure on the USD.
- While volatility followed both NFP and CPI releases, overall USD momentum remained subdued.
- US yields drifted lower during the month, providing structural support to high-beta currencies such as the AUD.

Risk Sentiment and China

- Global equity markets maintained a positive tone.
- Commodity prices remained firm, particularly in industrial metals, indirectly supporting the AUD.
- Chinese data showed signs of stabilization, reducing downside risk for Australia's external sector.

Technical Overview

0.7000: strong psychological and structural support
0.7095-0.7100: former resistance -> now support
0.7147: February high / short-term resistance
0.7200-0.7250: next upside projection zone

The monthly close above 0.7100 confirms continuation of the bullish trend initiated in January. The market structure now reflects:

- Higher highs
 - Higher lows
 - Sustained closes above prior breakout levels
- Momentum indicators on the monthly and weekly timeframes remain supportive, with no visible bearish divergence at this stage.

Conclusion

February 2026 reinforced the structural bullish shift in AUD/USD:

- The pair extended January's breakout.
- The market absorbed event-driven volatility without revisiting key support levels.
- The monthly close near the highs suggests continuation potential into March.

The broader technical picture now favors an advance toward the 0.7200-0.7250 zone, provided macro conditions, particularly US rate expectations, remain aligned with ongoing USD softness.



March 2026 Outlook

AUD/USD enters March 2026 under renewed downside pressure after opening the month with a bearish gap on March 2, triggered by the geopolitical conflict that began on February 28. The gap reflects an abrupt shift toward risk-off positioning, USD demand, and defensive flows out of high-beta currencies.

Despite February's strong close at 0.71124, the geopolitical shock has altered short-term sentiment. March is likely to be defined by volatility, headline risk, and liquidity-driven moves, with technical levels now critical in determining whether the broader bullish structure survives or transitions into corrective consolidation.

Key Macro Themes

1. Geopolitical Conflict - Risk-Off Regime

The outbreak of conflict on February 28 triggered:

- Safe-haven demand for USD
- Equity market weakness
- Pressure on risk-sensitive currencies including AUD

The immediate impact was a gap lower at the weekly open (March 2), signalling repricing of geopolitical risk.

The duration and escalation path of the conflict will determine whether this is a short-term shock or the start of a sustained defensive cycle.

2. US Dollar Dynamics - Safe Haven vs Fed Expectations

- While markets still price Fed easing in 2026, geopolitical tension has temporarily overridden rate-differential logic.
- In periods of acute uncertainty, USD strength tends to dominate, even in dovish environments.
- US CPI and labour data this month will determine whether macro softness can offset geopolitical USD demand.

3. RBA Positioning

- The RBA remains on hold at 3.60%, with no immediate policy shift expected.
- However, if global conditions deteriorate and commodity prices fall, pressure may build on the Australian economy.
- Australia's exposure to global trade and China makes AUD particularly sensitive in a conflict-driven environment.

Technical Outlook

February Close Context

- February Close: 0.71124
- February High: 0.71473
- Strong bullish structure into month-end.

March Opening Condition

- Bearish gap lower on March 2
- Indicates a break in short-term momentum.

Key Technical Levels

Feb 3: RBA rate decision – Critical

Feb 6: US NFP (Jan) – High

Feb 13: US CPI (Jan) – Critical

Feb 28: AU Monthly CPI (Jan) – High

Ongoing: China macro (credit/trade) – Med-High

Key Technical Levels

0.7100-0.7120: gap origin / overhead resistance

0.7000: psychological support

0.6940-0.6900: February breakout base / structural support

0.6800-0.6850: deeper correction zone

The gap represents a technical imbalance, often leading to partial or full gap fills.

A sustained move below 0.7000 would signal deeper corrective risk, while holding above 0.6900 preserves the broader bullish reversal structure from January.

Scenario Framework

Conflict stabilizes quickly:

gap partially filled > retest 0.7100

Escalation / prolonged risk-off:

break below 0.6900 > test 0.6800

Fed remains dovish:

USD strength capped > consolidation

Commodities sell off: AUD underperforms majors

Key Risk Events

US CPI (mid-March): high importance

US NFP (early March): high importance

China industrial data: medium-high importance

Geopolitical headlines: critical / unscheduled

Strategic View

March is likely to be a transition month:

- The structural uptrend from January-February is now being tested.
- The bearish gap signals caution, but not yet structural reversal.
- The 0.6900 level becomes pivotal – above it, the medium-term uptrend remains intact.
- Below it, the market shifts into corrective mode.

Conclusion

The geopolitical shock has introduced a new risk variable into AUD/USD's trajectory. While the pair entered March with strong bullish momentum, the bearish gap indicates a regime shift toward caution. The coming weeks will determine whether:

- The gap becomes a temporary dislocation within an ongoing uptrend, or
- The market transitions into a broader corrective phase.

Volatility is expected to remain elevated.

NZD/USD

February 2026 Recap

1. Monthly Performance Overview

February 2026 was characterised by consolidation following January’s structural breakout, with price action stabilising above the former long-term descending trendline.

Open: 0.60093

High: 0.60761

Low: 0.59284

Close: 0.59926

Monthly Change: -0.28%

Range: 147 pips

NZD/USD traded within a 147-pip consolidation range, digesting January’s strong rally. Despite briefly moving below 0.6000, the broader bullish structure remained intact.

2. Macro & Fundamental Drivers

Federal Reserve

- U.S. inflation data for January came broadly in line with expectations, reinforcing the view that the Fed remains on track for a mid-2026 easing cycle, but without urgency.
- The February NFP report showed moderation in job growth, limiting USD upside but not triggering aggressive dollar selling.

New Zealand Domestic Backdrop

- RBNZ inflation expectations remained stable, reducing immediate pressure for rate cuts.
- Domestic data prints were mixed, with no strong upside surprise to extend January’s NZD momentum.
- The macro narrative shifted from directional conviction to stability and policy patience.

Global Risk Sentiment

- Risk appetite remained constructive but cautious, with equities consolidating and volatility subdued.
- Commodity-linked currencies, including NZD, moved in tandem with broader risk flows rather than domestic catalysts.

3. Technical Structure & Market Behaviour

- NZD/USD briefly dipped to 0.59284, testing the prior breakout zone (0.5980-0.6000 area), but buyers re-emerged on weakness.
- The inability to sustain a move above 0.6076 indicates near-term resistance remains firm.
- Importantly, price action continues to hold above the former multi-year trendline, now acting as structural support.

Key Technical Levels

- **0.5980-0.6000:** structural support
- **0.6076:** February high / short-term resistance
- **0.5928:** monthly low / downside pivot
- **0.6240:** medium-term bullish target

Executive Summary

February 2026 marked a period of consolidation for NZD/USD, with the pair closing marginally lower but maintaining its post-breakout structure above 0.5980. The absence of strong macro catalysts resulted in contained price action, as markets transitioned from directional momentum to range-bound stability. Importantly, the structural breakout achieved in January remains intact. As long as NZD/USD holds above the 0.5980-0.6000 support band, the medium-term outlook continues to favour a gradual move toward 0.6240, although further confirmation will require renewed upside momentum.



 March 2026 Outlook

1. Macro Landscape & Policy Drivers

March will be a pivotal month in determining whether January's structural breakout evolves into sustained bullish continuation or transitions into a more prolonged consolidation phase.

Federal Reserve

Markets continue to price the first Fed rate cut for mid-2026, but March will be critical in assessing:

- The tone of the FOMC statement
- Updates to the dot plot
- Revised macroeconomic projections
- If the Fed maintains a cautious, data-dependent tone, USD stability may persist.
- A more dovish-than-expected signal could accelerate dollar weakness and support NZD upside.

Reserve Bank of New Zealand

- The RBNZ remains in a wait-and-see mode, with inflation stabilised but growth still fragile.
- Weak domestic data could revive easing expectations for H2 2026, limiting NZD upside.
- Conversely, positive surprises in activity or consumer indicators would reinforce the stabilisation narrative.

Global Risk Sentiment

NZD remains highly sensitive to:

- Global risk appetite
- Chinese macro data
- U.S. yield dynamics
- A backdrop of resilient equities and declining U.S. yields would favour further NZD appreciation.

2. Technical Structure & Key Levels

After February's consolidation, NZD/USD enters March with a constructive but moderating technical backdrop.

Key Levels

- **0.5980-0.6000:** structural support
- **0.5928:** downside trigger (Feb low)
- **0.6076:** immediate resistance
- **0.6240:** medium-term target

Assessment:

The higher-low structure remains intact. RSI stays above 50 and MACD is positive but flattening, suggesting consolidation rather than reversal. Holding above 0.5980 keeps the bullish structure intact.

3. Institutional Positioning

Positioning remains moderately constructive, with 0.5980-0.6000 viewed as a key accumulation zone. A break below 0.5928 would likely trigger position reduction and short-term risk reset.

Scenario Map - March 2026

- **Bullish continuation:** 0.6076 > 0.6150 > 0.6240
- **Consolidation:** 0.5950-0.6100 range
- **Bearish correction:** 0.5928 > 0.5850 > 0.5740

Executive Summary

NZD/USD enters March 2026 in a constructive yet consolidative phase following January's structural breakout and February's digestion period. The broader technical framework remains supportive while price holds above 0.5980. March is likely to determine whether the pair resumes its upward trajectory toward 0.6240 or extends its range-bound behaviour. The bias remains moderately bullish, but conviction depends on confirmation from U.S. monetary policy signals and domestic New Zealand data stability.

Oil Market

February 2026 Recap

February confirmed the constructive shift in WTI that began in January. Despite early volatility, prices recovered into month-end and closed near the highs, reflecting improving sentiment and tighter short-term balances.

Price Performance

- Opening Price: \$64.699
- Monthly High: \$67.810
- Monthly Low: \$61.110
- Closing Price: \$67.284

WTI briefly retraced to \$61.11 before rebounding strongly, closing near \$67.28 (~4% monthly gain), the highest close since Q3 2025.

The recovery from sub-\$62 levels signals solid demand and strengthening market structure.

Key Drivers

1. Inventory Draws & Physical Tightness

- Several weekly U.S. EIA reports showed net crude draws, reinforcing the perception that the market was rebalancing.
- Refinery utilization rates increased as maintenance season was less disruptive than expected.
- Cushing inventories stabilized after prior accumulation phases.

2. Demand Stability

- Winter-related demand remained supportive, particularly in North America.
- Chinese crude imports showed resilience, supported by continued economic stimulus measures.

- U.S. gasoline and distillate demand data surprised slightly to the upside.

3. Technical Confirmation

- The early-month pullback toward \$61.11 effectively retested January's breakout zone.
- The subsequent rebound and close above \$67 strengthened the bullish technical structure.
- Momentum indicators shifted decisively positive, with higher lows and higher highs confirmed on the weekly timeframe.

Supply

- OPEC+ kept output steady, U.S. production near 13.4 mbpd, and Russian flows stable.
- No major supply tightening, but limited pressure allowed demand to drive prices.

Macro

- A slightly weaker USD and improved risk sentiment supported crude.

WTI - February

Open: \$64.70 | High: \$67.81 | Low: \$61.11 | Close: \$67.28

Direction: bullish | Structure: higher highs & lows

Demand: stable | Sentiment: constructive

Conclusion

February reinforced the bullish reversal that began in January, with the market absorbing early selling pressure and closing near the highs. Momentum now leans to the upside, despite lingering oversupply concerns. Into March, focus shifts to whether WTI can break above the \$68-\$70 resistance zone and confirm a medium-term recovery phase.



March 2026 Outlook

WTI enters March 2026 under a materially altered risk environment following the outbreak of direct conflict involving Iran on February 28. The geopolitical escalation triggered a bullish gap at the market open on March 2, repricing immediate supply risk and injecting a significant geopolitical premium into crude futures.

While the underlying demand-supply balance had already improved during January and February, the new geopolitical dynamic shifts the short-term outlook decisively toward upside volatility. The sustainability of higher prices will depend on whether the conflict disrupts physical flows or remains contained.

Market Structure & Gap Analysis

- The market opened March 2 with a clear upside gap, reflecting weekend risk repricing.
- The gap occurred above the late-February close of \$67.284, signaling aggressive buying interest.
- Technically, this gap transforms prior resistance near \$68-\$70 into immediate support.

Key levels for March:

- Immediate Support: \$68.00 (gap base zone)
 - Secondary Support: \$64.00-\$65.00
 - Resistance: \$72.50 / \$75.00
 - Extreme Risk Target (escalation scenario): \$80+
- Gaps driven by geopolitical shocks tend to remain open if the event risk persists. A rapid gap-fill would signal de-escalation.

Supply-Side Risk Assessment

Iran Factor

Iran is a significant oil producer (~3+ mbpd) and a critical geopolitical actor in the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly 20% of global oil flows transit. Risk scenarios:

1. Contained Conflict (Base Case)

- No disruption to Hormuz shipping lanes.
- Iranian exports partially impacted but rerouted.
- Risk premium of \$3-6 sustained.

2. Escalation Scenario

- Disruption or threat to Hormuz transit.
- Potential temporary removal of 1-3 mbpd from global supply.
- WTI could spike toward \$75-80.

3. Rapid De-escalation

- Diplomatic intervention limits impact.
- Gap partially retraces toward \$66-68.

OPEC+ Response

OPEC+ is unlikely to immediately increase supply in response to a geopolitical spike unless prices move disorderly above \$80. The group may adopt a wait-and-see approach.

U.S. Production

U.S. shale output remains stable near ~13.4 mbpd. A sustained move above \$75 would likely incentivize hedging and forward production growth.

Demand & Macro Considerations

Macro conditions stabilized vs late-2025. Chinese demand remains steady, while a softer USD supports commodities.

However, rapid price rises could trigger demand elasticity, especially in emerging markets.

WTI Outlook - March 2026

Range: \$68-\$75

Bias: bullish / higher volatility

Driver: geopolitics (Iran risk premium)

Support: \$68

Resistance: \$72.5-\$75

Upside (escalation): \$80+

Downside: \$65-\$68

Structure: bullish with event-driven volatility

Strategic Conclusion

March 2026 is shaping up as a geopolitically driven month, with price action dominated by headline risk rather than pure fundamentals.

The key variable is whether physical supply disruptions materialize.

- If Hormuz remains open and exports continue, the rally may stabilize in the low-to-mid \$70s.
- If escalation intensifies, volatility could expand sharply with upside spikes beyond \$75.

Risk management strategies should account for gap risk, elevated implied volatility, and headline-driven intraday swings.

Gold

February 2026 Recap

Performance Overview

February 2026 was a month of exceptional volatility and strong bullish continuation for gold. After closing January at elevated levels, the metal opened February at \$4,807.51/oz and experienced a sharp mid-month correction before staging a powerful recovery into month-end.

Gold ultimately closed at \$5,280.14/oz, just below the monthly high of \$5,281.13/oz, marking a significant bullish reversal and confirming renewed upside momentum.

- **Monthly Open:** \$4,807.51
- **Monthly High:** \$5,281.13
- **Monthly Low:** \$4,402.63
- **Monthly Close:** \$5,280.14
- **Net Monthly Gain:** +9.83%
- **Intra-month Range:** \$878.50 (~18.3% volatility)

Market Structure & Price Dynamics

Early-Month Correction

Gold declined sharply in the first half of February, falling to a low of \$4,402.63/oz, a move driven by:

- Continued repricing of U.S. rate cut expectations following January's hawkish Fed tone
- Temporary rebound in U.S. real yields
- USD strength and short-term liquidation of leveraged long positions
- Technical unwinding after January's extreme volatility

This decline represented a technical flush of speculative positioning, rather than a breakdown of structural demand.

Aggressive Bullish Reversal

- Gold rallied nearly 20% from the \$4,402 low, reclaiming losses and breaking above the \$5,000 psychological level.
- Drivers included softer U.S. inflation data, renewed geopolitical risk, central bank accumulation, and a technical breakout above \$5,000, which triggered systematic buying.

Technical Perspective

- The monthly candle shows a strong bullish rejection near \$4,400, with price closing near the highs.
- The \$5,000 breakout now acts as structural support, supporting continued upside momentum into March.

Institutional Commentary

"February validated the structural bull thesis for gold. The aggressive recovery from \$4,400 levels demonstrates deep institutional demand and confirms that macro-driven corrections are being used as accumulation opportunities. The monthly close at \$5,280 places gold in a renewed momentum phase heading into Q2 2026."

Strategic Takeaways

- Volatility remains elevated but constructive within a strong uptrend.
- The \$4,400 level now stands as major structural support.
- Sustained trading above \$5,000 reinforces the long-term breakout regime.
- Momentum into March remains clearly positive.



March 2026 Outlook

Executive Summary

Gold enters March 2026 with strong upside momentum after closing February at \$5,280.14/oz, just below the monthly high. The late-February escalation of conflict involving Iran (February 28) introduces a significant geopolitical catalyst at a time when gold is already in a structurally bullish regime.

The combination of:

- Elevated geopolitical risk,
 - Persistent central bank demand,
 - Cooling U.S. inflation dynamics,
 - And strong technical positioning,
- creates conditions for a potentially explosive month, albeit with heightened volatility.

Geopolitical Shock - Iran Conflict

The outbreak of conflict involving Iran materially shifts the risk landscape:

Immediate Implications:

- Surge in safe-haven flows into gold
- Potential disruption risks in the Strait of Hormuz
- Oil price spike > inflation expectations reprice higher
- Flight from risk assets into hard assets

Historically, Middle East escalations have triggered sharp initial gold spikes, often followed by consolidation once the market assesses escalation risk.

If the conflict expands regionally, gold could accelerate toward new highs rapidly.

Macro & Policy Backdrop

Federal Reserve Positioning

Markets had begun repricing potential rate cuts following softer inflation prints in February. However:

- If oil prices surge materially due to the Iran conflict,
- Inflation expectations could rise again,
- Potentially complicating the Fed's easing timeline.

This creates a dual-force dynamic:

- Geopolitical bullish pressure
- Policy uncertainty volatility

Gold tends to benefit from both uncertainty and geopolitical stress, even if rate cuts are delayed.

Technical Structure

After February's bullish reversal candle:

- Immediate support: \$5,000
- Secondary support: \$4,750
- Resistance zone: \$5,300 - \$5,350
- Breakout extension target: \$5,500 - \$5,700

The close near the highs in February suggests strong continuation momentum. A sustained break above \$5,300 could trigger another systematic buying wave.

Momentum indicators remain constructive, and structural support now sits firmly above \$5,000.

Scenario Analysis - March 2026

Geopolitical acceleration (bull case): conflict escalation, oil spike, stronger risk-off > \$5,400-\$5,700

Controlled escalation (base case): tensions persist but contained > \$5,100-\$5,400

De-escalation pullback: diplomatic resolution + USD rebound > \$4,800-\$5,050

Institutional View

"Gold enters March at the intersection of structural momentum and geopolitical shock. The Iran conflict adds a powerful catalyst to an already tight market, increasing the probability of upside extension. While volatility will rise, downside appears increasingly protected by central bank demand and structural reallocation into hard assets."

Key Risk Variables to Monitor

- Oil price reaction and inflation expectations
- U.S. Treasury yield movement
- Scale and duration of the Iran conflict
- ETF inflows and central bank reserve data
- Any emergency G7/NATO diplomatic response

Strategic Conclusion

March is likely to be a high-volatility, high-momentum month for gold.

The structural bull market remains intact, but geopolitical escalation introduces the potential for accelerated upside moves toward \$5,500+, with strong institutional demand likely absorbing any corrective dips.

March 2026 Outlook

Executive Summary

The S&P 500 enters March 2026 at 6,865.97, following a modest pullback in February (-0.7%) and a failed breakout above the 7,000 resistance zone. The index remains structurally bullish within its long-term ascending channel, but short-term momentum has clearly moderated.

March is set to be a decisive month, shaped by:

- The FOMC meeting (mid-March)
- Fresh inflation and labor market data
- Escalating geopolitical risk stemming from the Iran conflict

The interaction between monetary policy expectations and energy-driven inflation risk will likely determine directional bias.

Geopolitical Risk: Impact of the Iran Conflict

Escalation in Iran introduces a new macro variable with three primary transmission channels:

1. Oil Price Channel

If tensions intensify:

- Brent above \$90-100/barrel
- Risk of disruption through the Strait of Hormuz
- Higher energy input costs

This would:

- Reignite inflation pressures
- Delay Fed rate cuts
- Compress equity multiples

Historically, sustained oil spikes above 15-20% tend to reduce forward P/E expansion and increase volatility.

2. Inflation Expectations

Energy-driven CPI acceleration in March/April would:

- Reduce probability of a March/May rate cut
- Strengthen the "higher for longer" narrative
- Increase real yields

Growth equities (especially high-duration tech) would be most vulnerable under this scenario.

3. Risk Premium & Volatility

Geopolitical escalation increases:

- Equity risk premium
- Demand for safe havens (USD, Treasuries, Gold)
- VIX expansion toward 20-25

Unless oil supply is materially disrupted, markets typically absorb geopolitical shocks within 2-6 weeks, provided macro fundamentals remain intact.

Monetary Policy Interaction

The March FOMC meeting becomes critical.

If:

- CPI stabilizes despite oil noise
- Labor data softens

The Fed may signal cuts for Q2, offsetting geopolitical stress.

If instead:

- Energy inflation feeds through
- Core CPI re-accelerates

The Fed may delay easing – increasing downside risk for equities.

Scenario Analysis – March 2026

Bullish reacceleration: 7,050-7,200 – contained conflict, oil < \$85, dovish Fed tone

Base case (volatile consolidation): 6,700-7,000 – elevated tensions, cautious Fed

Bearish escalation: 6,400-6,600 – oil > \$95, inflation repricing, delayed rate cuts

Sector Implications

Likely Beneficiaries

- Energy
- Defense & Aerospace
- Commodities / Materials
- Gold miners

Likely Under Pressure

- High-multiple Technology
- Consumer Discretionary
- Small Caps (rate-sensitive)
- Industrials exposed to global trade

Strategic Positioning Considerations

Maintain core equity exposure, but reduce leverage.

Increase allocation to:

- Energy
- Defensive sectors
- Gold or commodity hedges

Monitor real yields closely.

Consider volatility hedges around FOMC.

Final Assessment

March 2026 is shaping up to be a macro-driven month rather than earnings-driven.

The S&P 500 remains structurally bullish, but the combination of:

- Resistance near 7,000
- Inflation sensitivity
- Geopolitical risk

Creates a fragile equilibrium.

Unless the Iran conflict materially disrupts energy flows, the likely outcome is volatile consolidation rather than systemic breakdown. However, a sustained oil shock could trigger a deeper retracement toward 6,500 before the longer-term uptrend resumes.

STOXX50

February 2026 Recap

The STOXX Europe 50 (SX5E) delivered a strong performance over the month, opening at 5,934.11, reaching a high of 6,200.23, posting a low of 5,855.47, and closing at 6,104.87.

This represents a monthly gain of approximately +2.9%, confirming renewed upside momentum and marking a decisive break above the key psychological 6,000 level. The close near the upper end of the monthly range reflects sustained buying pressure throughout the latter half of the period.

Macro and Policy Drivers

The rally was supported by a constructive macro backdrop:

- Continued disinflation progress across the euro-zone, reinforcing expectations of monetary easing later in 2026.
- Stable communication from the European Central Bank (ECB), reducing policy uncertainty.
- Gradual improvement in forward-looking indicators, particularly in Germany's industrial sector.

Markets increasingly embraced the soft-landing narrative, encouraging risk allocation toward European equities.

Sector Performance

Performance was led by:

- Technology and Industrials, benefiting from global investment themes and stronger earnings visibility.

- Financials, supported by stable credit conditions and resilient balance sheets.

More defensive sectors such as Utilities and Healthcare underperformed relative to the broader index, reflecting improved risk appetite.

Energy stocks showed mixed performance amid moderate oil price volatility.

Investor Sentiment and Flows

Investor sentiment strengthened meaningfully during the month:

- The VSTOXX volatility index likely remained contained, reflecting controlled risk conditions.
- Institutional flows turned positive, particularly into quality large-cap names.
- The sustained move above 6,000 triggered additional technical buying and momentum-driven allocations.

Conclusion

The month confirmed a clear continuation of the bullish trend in the STOXX Europe 50.

With a high at 6,200.23 and a strong close at 6,104.87, the index demonstrated resilience after an early dip and successfully established itself above a major psychological threshold.

As long as price remains above the 5,850-5,900 support zone, the broader structure continues to favour further upside, with the next technical objectives likely emerging in the 6,250-6,350 region in the medium term.



March 2026 Outlook

The STOXX Europe 50 (SX5E) enters March 2026 trading near 6,100 points, following a strong February close at 6,104.87 after reaching a monthly high of 6,200.23.

However, the geopolitical landscape has shifted materially with the escalation of tensions involving Iran, introducing a new source of volatility into global markets. While the broader technical structure of the index remains bullish, March is likely to be shaped by energy price dynamics, risk sentiment shifts, and cross-asset volatility spillovers.

Geopolitical Risk: Iran and Market Implications

The escalation involving Iran has immediate implications for global markets, primarily through:

1. Oil Supply Risk
2. Any disruption or perceived threat to shipping flows through the Strait of Hormuz increases upside risk for crude oil prices. A sustained move higher in oil would:
 - Pressure European margins, particularly in Industrials and Consumer sectors.
 - Revive inflation concerns across the eurozone.
 - Potentially delay expected monetary easing from the ECB.
3. Risk Premium Expansion
4. Heightened geopolitical uncertainty typically results in:
 - Increased volatility (VSTOXX likely to move toward 22-25 range).
 - Rotation into defensive sectors (Healthcare, Utilities).
 - Short-term capital flows into USD and safe-haven assets, indirectly pressuring European equities.
5. Energy and Defense Outperformance
6. Energy producers and defense-related equities within Europe may outperform in this environment, partially cushioning index-level downside.

Macro and Monetary Considerations

Prior to the geopolitical escalation, the macro environment supported a soft-landing scenario:

- Eurozone inflation was trending toward 2.3-2.5%.
- Markets were pricing the first ECB rate cut in H2 2026.
- Growth indicators were stabilizing but not accelerating.

If oil prices remain elevated through March, the inflation trajectory could stall, forcing the ECB to maintain a more cautious stance. This would likely cap upside momentum in equities.

Technical Perspective

Technically, the index remains within its long-term ascending channel but faces near-term pressure:

- Immediate Resistance: 6,200-6,250 (February high / breakout zone)
- Primary Support: 5,950-6,000 (psychological and structural pivot)
- Secondary Support: 5,850 (February low region)

A sustained break below 5,950 could trigger a deeper corrective move toward 5,750-5,800, representing a healthy retracement within the broader uptrend.

Conversely, if geopolitical tensions stabilize quickly, a renewed break above 6,200 would re-open the path toward 6,300-6,400.

Sector Positioning

In March, market leadership is likely to rotate:

- Energy and Defense: Relative outperformance potential.
- Financials: Sensitive to yield volatility and risk sentiment.
- Industrials & Consumer Discretionary: Most vulnerable to higher energy costs.
- Healthcare & Utilities: Defensive allocation likely to increase.

Portfolio positioning may shift toward balance-sheet strength, dividend yield, and lower cyclical.

Market Outlook

March 2026 is expected to be a volatility-driven month, with geopolitical headlines dominating short-term direction.

Base case:

Range-bound but volatile trading between 5,950 and 6,250, with downside risk if oil prices spike aggressively.

Risk scenario:

Sustained escalation leading to oil above key thresholds could drive a corrective phase toward 5,750.

Bullish scenario:

Rapid de-escalation and stabilization in energy markets would allow the STOXX Europe 50 to resume its upward trajectory.

Conclusion

The STOXX Europe 50 uptrend remains intact, but March introduces a higher geopolitical risk premium.

The key variable will be energy price stability: if oil remains stable, the bullish trend should persist; if volatility rises, expect short-term consolidation before the broader trend resumes.

For additional Information and Contacts:

www.riseon.io

Phone

+44 20 4587 3861

E-mail

inquiries@riseon.io

Address

Capital Office, 124 City Road
London, EC1V 2NX
England

Confidential and proprietary All rights reserved

DISCLAIMER

THIS DOCUMENT IS CONFIDENTIAL AND WAS ISSUED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. IT IS NOT ANY INVITATION TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT IN ANY PRODUCT MANAGED OR ADVISED BY RISEON GROUP LTD OR TO OPEN A MANAGED ACCOUNT WITH RISEON GROUP LTD, NOR DOES IT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE OF ANY SUCH PRODUCT OR SERVICE. NONE OF THE SERVICES OR OTHER MATTERS DESCRIBED HERE SHOULD BE TAKEN AS AN OFFER OR SOLICITATION OF THOSE SERVICES OR OTHER MATTERS IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE SUCH AN OFFER OR SOLICITATION IS NOT PERMITTED UNDER APPLICABLE LEGISLATION.