

# London Investment Markets – Newsletter



London Investment Markets

LIM is the exclusive, institutional-grade trading platform providing a definitive edge for CFD, Forex, and Commodities traders.



## London Investment Markets – News & Markets

LIM keeps you informed with the latest financial news, market analysis, and economic events that move global markets.

**Week Commencing: February 16, 2026**

The financial world starts the week with a quiet front as the **United States (Presidents' Day)** and **China (Lunar New Year)** observe public holidays on Monday, February 16. However, this calm is likely the "eye of the storm" before a deluge of data from Europe, Japan, and the UK takes center stage, followed by a high-stakes finish in the U.S. bond and equity markets.

### Central Banks: Diverging Paths

The narrative of "higher for longer" in some regions versus "cuts are coming" in others is hitting a fever pitch this week.

- **Federal Reserve (Wednesday):** The release of the **FOMC Meeting Minutes** on February 18 will be parsed for any hawkish undercurrents. While the Fed paused in January, recent strong labor data has pushed market expectations for the first rate cut back toward June.
- **Reserve Bank of New Zealand (Wednesday):** Analysts expect the RBNZ to hold its official cash rate at **2.25%**. Unlike its neighbors, New Zealand is seeing significant spare capacity, making it a potential outlier in the global inflation battle.
- **RBA Meeting Minutes (Tuesday):** Coming off a hawkish hike to **3.85%**, traders will look for clues on whether the Australian central bank is done or if another "insurance" hike is on the table for March.

## The Inflation Gauntlet

Inflation remains the primary driver of volatility, and this week features three heavy-hitters:

- **United Kingdom (Wednesday):** CPI is expected to ease to **3.0%** from 3.4%. A soft print would likely send the FTSE 100 to fresh record highs as BoE cut expectations accelerate.
- **Canada (Tuesday):** January inflation data will be vital for the CAD, which has been range-bound against the USD.
- **Japan (Friday):** National CPI is expected to drop below the **2.0%** threshold. This is a critical psychological level for the Bank of Japan as it considers its exit from ultra-loose policy.

## Economic Growth: GDP and PMIs

- **Japan (Monday):** Preliminary Q4 GDP is expected to show a rebound from the Q3 contraction. A strong figure would provide the "green light" for the BoJ's normalization path.
- **United States (Friday):** The **Advance Q4 GDP** reading is the week's headline event. Analysts are forecasting a robust **3.1% (annualized)** growth rate, fueled by strong consumer spending and AI-driven business investment.
- **Flash PMIs (Friday):** Global manufacturing and services data will offer a real-time look at how businesses are navigating high rates at the start of 2026.

## Earnings Spotlight: Blue Chips and Retail

The Q4 2025 earnings season is moving past "Big Tech" and into the broader economy.

Date	Company	Ticker	Market Impact
Tuesday	Walmart	\$WMT\$	The ultimate gauge of the US consumer's resilience.
Wednesday	Cisco Systems	\$CSCO\$	Insight into corporate networking and infrastructure spend.
Thursday	Deere & Co.	\$DE\$	A window into the health of the global agricultural sector.
Friday	Coca-Cola	\$KO\$	Monitoring global pricing power and brand elasticity.



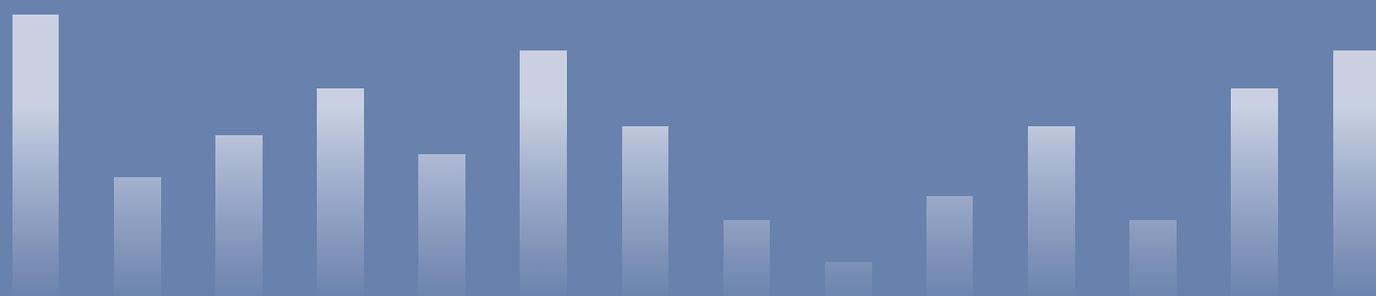
## Technical Watchlist: The "Risk-Off" Pivot?

- **Gold (\$4,920/oz):** After a slight dip last week, gold is consolidating. If the US GDP print on Friday surprises to the upside, a break below the **\$4,900** support could be rapid.
- **USD/JPY:** The pair remains on "fragile footing." With Japan's GDP on Monday and CPI on Friday, any hawkish surprise from Tokyo could trigger a massive unwinding of the carry trade.

## The Bottom Line for Traders

Expect a **low-liquidity Monday** followed by a **high-volatility Friday**. The "inflation-growth" trade-off is the theme of the week. If US GDP remains hot while UK and Japanese inflation cools, we may see a significant widening of the policy gap between the Fed and other major central banks, keeping the **USD** as the dominant currency play.

**\*Past performance does not reflect future results. The above is for marketing and general informational purposes only and are only projections and should not be taken as investment research, investment advice or a personal recommendation.**



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