



Daily US Opening News - 20th February 2026

SNAPSHOT

STOCKS			
Euro Stoxx 50	+0.5%	DAX40	+0.4%
Stoxx 600	+0.5%	FTSE 100	+0.8%
ES Mar'26	+0.2%	RTY Mar'26	+0.2%
NQ Mar'26	+0.3%	YM Mar'26	+0.2%

FX			
DXY	+0.1% (97.92)	EUR/USD	-0.1% (1.1763)
USD/JPY	+0.3% (155.37)	GBP/USD	U/C (1.3463)

BONDS			
US T-Note Mar'26	U/C	Bund Mar'26	+10 ticks
US 10yr Yield	4.071%	German 10yr Yield	2.737%

ENERGY & METALS			
WTI Apr'26	-0.6%	Brent Apr'26	-0.6%
Spot Gold	+0.6%	LME Copper	+0.1%

CRYPTO			
Bitcoin	+1.9%	Ethereum	+0.1%

As of 10:30GMT / 05:30EST

LOOKING AHEAD

- Highlights include US S&P Flash PMIs (Feb), US PCE/GDP (Dec/Q4), Canadian Retail Sales (Jan), SCOTUS Opinions day (potential decision on President Trump's IEEPA tariffs). Speakers include Fed's Logan & Bostic.
- [Click here for the Week Ahead preview](#)

EUROPEAN TRADE

EQUITIES

- European bourses** (STOXX 600 +0.5%) have rebounded from Thursday's selloff, with the FTSE MIB (+1.0%) and CAC 40 (+0.7%) leading gains. The FTSE 100 (+0.7%) is also in the green, supported by strong January retail sales and a PSNB surplus figure, beating estimates by a large margin.
- European sectors** hold a positive bias; **Consumer Products and Services** (+1.7%) lead the standings, closely followed by **Chemicals** (+1.4%). On the other hand, the pullback in oil prices is weighing on the **Energy** sector (-0.6%). **Moncler** (+11.9%) announced a positive set of FY earnings, comfortably beating revenue and net income estimates. This is lifting other luxury companies such as **LVMH** (+3.0%) and **Kering** (+1.2%).
- US equity futures** (ES/RTY +0.2%, NQ +0.3%) are broadly in the green, rebounding after Thursday's losses in the **Financial** sector, which followed the report that Blue Owl halted redemptions at its private credit fund. The Co. has since come out and said it is not halting investor liquidity. Focus now turns to **US GDP/PCE** later.
- Anglo American (AAL LN) - FY 2025 (USD)**: Revenue 18.5bln (prev. 17.7bln Y/Y), Adj. Profit 610mln (exp. 710.8mln), Adj. EBITDA 6.4bln (exp. 6.34bln). Hit with a pre-tax impairment charge of USD 2.3bln relating to De Beers. Also sees USD 1.8bln of run-rate cost savings delivered.
- NVIDIA (NVDA)** is said to be nearing a USD 30bln investment in OpenAI that would replace the prior unfinished USD 100bln deal, according to FT.
- Samsung Electronics (005930 KS)** wins likely exclusive HBM4 deal for NVIDIA's (NVDA) top Vera Rubin GPU, according to

- [Click for the sessions European pre-market equity newsflow](#)
- [Click for the additional news](#)

FX

- **DXY** is incrementally firmer this morning and trades at the mid-point of a 97.84 to 98.07 range, with the peak of the day matching the WTD's best; currently holding around its 50 DMA at 97.96. Focus remains firmly on the geopolitical situation between US and Iran. To recap, President Trump said 15 days is the maximum deadline to reach an agreement with Iran, otherwise it will be "unfortunate" for them. Recent reports in the **WSJ** suggest that Trump is weighing a "limited" strike, to force Iran into a deal. Attention for the time being will be on US data, which includes US GDP and PCE.
- **GBP** is incrementally firmer/flat. **Retail Sales** was an exceptionally strong report, with the upside attributed to strong "artwork and antiques sales, alongside continued strong sales from online jewellers". But other components suggest that the pick-up was also seen in more conventional figures such as household goods store sales, with clothing sales also rising. Elsewhere, the **PSNB** was in a surplus in January and topped expectations – though the figure is subject to the usual caveats for the period (tax filings). **GBP** moved higher in an initial reaction, but then pared that move; thereafter, a strong set of **PMI** metrics took **Cable** to a session high of 1.3478. Despite the strong metrics, the inner report suggested that "ongoing worrying labour market weakness will likely result in a growing call for further rate cuts". Market pricing for the BoE meeting was little moved, with the chance of a March cut priced in at 88% whilst April is fully priced.
- **JPY** slightly weaker this morning, succumbing to the broader **USD** strength and following the region's inflation report, which held a dovish skew. In brief, National CPI printed at 1.5% (exp. 1.6%), core was in-line whilst the supercore metric was a touch below the consensus. Elsewhere, PMIs printed better-than-expectations – benefiting from increased optimism following Takaichi's landslide victory. Following the inflation data, Pantheon Macro wrote that the inflation report "justifies" the BoJ taking time on a rate hike. **USD/JPY** in a 154.87-155.64 range.
- **Other G10s are broadly lower against the USD**. **Aussie** manages to stay afloat, whilst the **EUR** moves a touch lower. More ECB-related newsflow, this time via the **WSJ**, which suggested that ECB's Lagarde said her baseline is finishing the ECB term, while she added that she has accomplished a lot but needs to make sure it is solid. **On the data front, EZ PMIs continue to confirm the modest recovery picture in the EZ**. The strong German report spurred fleeting **EUR** strength.

FIXED INCOME

- **USTs** are near enough flat in thin 112-29+ to 113-02 parameters. Specifics for the space are somewhat light thus far as we count down to a packed 13:30GMT data docket and await any further insight on US-Iran tensions before **potential SCOTUS opinion(s)** at 15:00GMT.
- **Gilts** had two leads to digest at the open. Stronger-than-expected retail sales, though with caveats, were a bearish driver as the data doesn't push BoE's Bailey (or any of the hawks, particularly focused on Mann) towards voting for a cut in March vs April; however, ultimately, the data will have little impact on that discussion. Separately, a larger-than-expected government **PSNB surplus in January** served as a bullish driver. **Gilts** came off best levels alongside **EGBs** into the morning's UK PMIs, a series that printed above consensus across the board. Within the series, S&P's Williamson wrote that "relatively modest price pressures being signalled and ongoing worrying labour market weakness will likely result in a growing call for further rate cuts".
- **Bunds** spent the morning firmer, with gains of 20 ticks at best, notching a 129.45 peak, strength that seemed to just be a continuation of recent gains. Thereafter, the benchmark fell from best and moved to near-enough unchanged on the session at a 129.28 trough following the morning's PMIs, which were generally strong and particularly so for manufacturing, which unexpectedly returned to expansionary territory for Germany for the first time in over 3.5 years.
- **Australia** sold AUD 800mln 3.25% April 2029 bonds, b/c 3.89, avg. yield 4.3014%.

COMMODITIES

- **Crude** benchmarks are taking a breather, with both WTI and Brent trading subdued, though still near highs for the week, due to the heightening geopolitical tension between the US and Iran. US President Trump yesterday reiterated that Iran has 10-15 days to strike a deal, or else something bad will happen. However, during a report by the **WSJ**, which stated that Trump is reportedly weighing a limited strike to force Iran into a nuclear deal. WTI and Brent are trading at the lower end of USD 65.86-67.03/bbl and 71.10-72.34/bbl, respectively.
- **In the precious metal space**, spot gold was aided by the ongoing geopolitical tension, with the yellow metal crossing the USD 5,000/oz mark to the upside overnight. The dollar has waned from its best levels throughout the European session after finding resistance at Thursday's high, thus underpinning gold prices. XAU and XAG are trading at the upper range of USD 4,981.58-5,042.37/oz and USD 77.47-81.20/oz, respectively.
- **Copper** prices are also firmer, tracking broader risk sentiment in the European session. Otherwise, a fresh macro catalyst has been lacking for the red metal, especially with the Chinese market on holiday. 3M LME copper trades at the upper range of USD 12.781-12.895k/t.
- **Iranian Oil Minister** said cooperation with the US on oil is possible.
- **Hungarian government to release 250k tonnes of crude oil from its strategic reserves after Druzhba oil flow stopped**.
- **US ambassador to India** said active negotiations are underway with India's Energy Ministry on the import of Venezuelan oil.
- **Goldman Sachs** sees significant upside to gold price forecasts on further private sector diversification when expressed through call option structures.
- **US President Trump** said 50mln bbls of Venezuelan oil are on the way to Houston and US-Venezuela energy cooperation is

going well.

TRADE/TARIFFS

- **India's Trade Minister** said they expect the US to issue a notice on lowering the import tariff to 18% during February.
- **India's Trade Minister** said they expect the trade deal with the UK to come into effect by April.
- **Indonesian Government** said they will get 19% tariffs on most goods, with 0% on coffee, chocolate and rubber in the US trade deal. Deal also will not involve any third country when asked about China trans-shipment concerns.
- **Japan's Trade Minister Akazawa** said not set the timing on the second set of US investment projects, adds want to make sure PM Takaichi's US trip in March is fruitful.
- **White House** releases fact sheet on Trump administration finalising the trade deal with Indonesia that will provide Americans with unprecedented market access and unlock major breakthroughs for America's manufacturing, agriculture, and digital sectors.
- **US President Trump** accused China of flooding US market with subsidised goods.
- **US President Trump** said steel tariffs have been a game-changer.

NOTABLE EUROPEAN DATA RECAP

- UK S&P Global Services PMI Flash (Feb) 53.9 vs. Exp. 53.5 (Prev. 54.0, Low. 52.8, High. 54.2).
- UK S&P Global Manufacturing PMI Flash (Feb) 52.0 vs. Exp. 51.5 (Prev. 51.8, Low. 51, High. 52.5).
- UK S&P Global Composite PMI Flash (Feb) 53.9 vs. Exp. 53.3 (Prev. 53.7, Low. 52.8, High. 53.9).
- UK Retail Sales MoM (Jan) M/M 1.8% vs. Exp. 0.2% (Prev. 0.4%, Low. -0.6%, High. 1.0%).
- UK Retail Sales ex Fuel MoM (Jan) M/M 2.0% vs. Exp. 0.2% (Prev. 0.3%, Low. -0.1%, High. 0.9%).
- UK Retail Sales YoY (Jan) Y/Y 4.5% vs. Exp. 2.8% (Prev. 1.9%, Rev. From 2.5%, Low. 2.4%, High. 3.6%).
- UK Retail Sales ex Fuel YoY (Jan) Y/Y 5.5% vs. Exp. 3.6% (Prev. 2.5%, Rev. From 3.1%, Low. 3.2%, High. 4.2%).
- UK Public Sector Net Borrowing Ex Banks (Jan) 30.4B surplus vs. Exp. 23.8B surplus (Prev. -11.58B borrowing).
- EU HCOB Manufacturing PMI Flash (Feb) 50.8 vs. Exp. 50 (Prev. 49.5, Low. 49.4, High. 50.5).
- EU HCOB Services PMI Flash (Feb) 51.8 vs. Exp. 51.9 (Prev. 51.6, Low. 51.4, High. 52.3).
- EU HCOB Composite PMI Flash (Feb) 51.9 vs. Exp. 51.5 (Prev. 51.3, Low. 51.3, High. 52). "
- German HCOB Services PMI Flash (Feb) 53.4 vs. Exp. 52.3 (Prev. 52.4, Low. 51.8, High. 53).
- German HCOB Composite PMI Flash (Feb) 53.1 vs. Exp. 52.3 (Prev. 52.1, Low. 51.8, High. 52.7).
- German HCOB Manufacturing PMI Flash (Feb) 50.7 vs. Exp. 49.5 (Prev. 49.1, Low. 49.2, High. 50.2).
- French HCOB Services PMI Flash (Feb) 49.6 vs. Exp. 49.2 (Prev. 48.4, Low. 48.2, High. 49.7).
- French HCOB Composite PMI Flash (Feb) 49.9 vs. Exp. 49.7 (Prev. 49.1, Low. 49.1, High. 50.5).
- French HCOB Manufacturing PMI Flash (Feb) 49.9 vs. Exp. 51 (Prev. 51.2, Low. 51, High. 51.5).
- German PPI YoY (Jan) Y/Y -3.0% vs. Exp. -2.1% (Prev. -2.5%, Low. -2.4%, High. -1.9%).
- German PPI MoM (Jan) M/M -0.6% vs. Exp. 0.3% (Prev. -0.2%, Low. -0.1%, High. 0.5%).
- ECB EZ Indicator of Negotiated Wages (Q4) 3.00% (exp. 2.9%)

CENTRAL BANKS

- **Fed's Daly (2027 voter)** said policy is in a good place and labour market is in a better position after 75bps of cuts, adds inflation continues to decline outside goods sector. said: We have more work to do to get inflation down, but don't want to get behind, or over our skis.
- **ECB's Lagarde** said her baseline is finishing the ECB term, according to WSJ.
- **ECB President Lagarde** called for cooperation to 'save global order' in award acceptance speech in New York.
- **RBNZ Governor Breman** noted that although central bank remains forward focus, monetary policy will adapt based on new information instead of following a predetermined path. The path back to 2% inflation has been bumpy, but expects inflation to be within the target range in Q1. Central bank is confident inflation will return to 2% midpoint over the next 12 months. NZD is not too far from fair value right now.

NOTABLE US HEADLINES

- **US President Trump** wants to ban investors that own more than 100 homes from buying more, which could potentially ban hundreds of investment firms, according to WSJ.
- **US President Trump** said regarding affordability 'we've solved it' and will talk about inflation in the State of the Union next week.

GEOPOLITICS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE

- **Russia's Kremlin** reiterates that there's no confirmed date set for a new round of talks with Ukraine.
- **Ukraine's President Zelensky** said he's ready to discuss with the US about compromises.
- **Next round of Russia-Ukraine talks** is reportedly possible next week, via TASS.

MIDDLE EAST

- **US President Trump** reportedly weighs limited strike to force Iran into nuclear deal, according to WSJ; President considers a range of military options but said he still prefers diplomacy. Trump is considering an initial limited military strike on Iran to

force it to meet his demands for a nuclear deal, in an attempt to pressure Tehran into an agreement but fall short of a full-scale attack that could see a major retaliation. Sources add, the opening fire, which if authorized, could come within days, would target a few military or government sites. If Iran still refused to comply with Trump's directive to end its nuclear enrichment, the US would respond with a broad campaign against regime facilities.

- **Semafor**, on US President Trump reviewing his options regarding Iran, writes "He hasn't made a decision yet, though people close to the president see an attack as growing more likely by the day."
- Iran said in letter to UN Secretary General and members of the Security Council that if they are attacked, all bases, facilities and assets of hostile force in the region will constitute legitimate targets within the framework of Iran's defensive response.
- **Palestinian media** reported Israeli warplanes launched a raid on the Al Tufar neighbourhood in Gaza City, according to Sky News Arabia.

OTHERS

- Russia's Foreign Minister Lavrov discusses Iranian nuclear program with Iranian counterpart, TASS reported.
- China is monitoring US military aircraft movements over Yellow Sea, according to Global Times.
- NORAD said it detected and tracked two Tu-95s and two Su-35s and one A-50 operating Alaskan ADIZ on February 19th, while it launched several aircraft to intercept and positively identify, and escort the aircraft until they departed the Alaskan ADIZ.
- New Zealand provides a Russia sanctions update which includes a designation of 23 individuals, 13 entities, and 100 vessels, while it lowered the oil price cap on Russian oil from USD 47.60/bbl to USD 44.10/bbl.

CRYPTO

- **Bitcoin** rebounds back above USD 68,000 while **Ethereum** trades rangebound below USD 2,000.

APAC TRADE

- **APAC stocks** followed suit to the predominantly negative mood on Wall Street, where risk appetite was subdued amid private credit fund concerns and geopolitical risks related to the US and Iran following Trump's latest threat and 10-15 day ultimatum.
- **ASX 200** was lacklustre amid underperformance in the tech, telecoms and consumer sectors, while participants continued to digest a slew of earnings, although downside was stemmed by resilience in utilities and the top-weighted financial industry.
- **Nikkei 225** stumbled back beneath the 57,000 level with the index pressured despite recent currency weakness and the softer inflation data, which essentially provides the BoJ with more policy space, while tech and autos were among the industries notably represented in the list of worst-performing stocks.
- **Hang Seng** retreated upon returning from the Lunar New Year holidays with the big tech names leading the declines in the index, while mainland markets and the Stock Connect remained shut and won't open until next Tuesday.

NOTABLE ASIA-PAC HEADLINES

- **Japanese PM Takaichi said there is a dearth of domestic investment in Japan and will stop trend of austerity and lack of investment.** She pledges to drive a significant investment via multi-year budgets and long-term funding strategies and affirms that essential expenditures will be maximised through the initial budget allocation. Affirms commitment to prudent fiscal policies to maintain market confidence. Aims for swift approval of crucial legislation, including tax reform, by the end of FY26/27. Government will unveil an investment roadmap for 17 strategic sectors beginning next month. Announced acceleration of nuclear reactor restarts.
- **Japan PM Takaichi to promote measures to spur private spending and outline plans for increased strategic investment**, active but responsible fiscal policy, and more assertive diplomacy in parliamentary address, according to Bloomberg.

NOTABLE APAC DATA RECAP

- **Japanese National CPI Ex. Fresh Food YY (Jan) 2.0% vs Exp. 2.0% (Prev. 2.4%).**
- **Japanese National CPI Ex. Fresh Food & Energy YY (Jan) 2.6% vs Exp. 2.7% (Prev. 2.9%).**
- **Japanese National CPI YY (Jan) 1.5% vs Exp. 1.6% (Prev. 2.1%).**
- **Japanese S&P Global Services PMI Flash (Feb) 53.8 (Prev. 53.7).**
- **Indian HSBC Composite PMI Flash (Feb) 59.30 (Prev. 58.40, Rev. From 58.4).**
- **Indian HSBC Services PMI Flash (Feb) 58.4 (Prev. 58.5).**
- **Indian HSBC Manufacturing PMI Flash (Feb) 57.5 (Prev. 55.4).**
- **Australian S&P Global Composite PMI Flash (Feb) 52.0 (Prev. 55.7).**
- **Australian S&P Global Services PMI Flash (Feb) 52.2 (Prev. 56.3).**
- **New Zealand Exports (Jan) 6.21 (Prev. 7.51, Rev. From 7.65).**
- **New Zealand Imports (Jan) 6.73 (Prev. 7.60, Rev. From 7.6).**
- **New Zealand Balance of Trade (Jan) -519B vs. Exp. -0.745B (Prev. -88B, Rev. From 0.052B).**

