



Market Update

Friday, 20 March 2026

Global Markets

The dollar headed towards a weekly loss on Friday while bonds remained under pressure, after global central bankers warned that the Middle East war could reignite inflation. A dip in oil prices offered brief relief for markets, but trading stayed choppy and nerves frayed, highlighting how brittle investor confidence remains. Following a hectic week of monetary policy meetings across effectively the Group of Seven (G7) nations and others, the key takeaway for investors has been the prospect of a more aggressive policy tightening path.

Traders are no longer expecting a Federal Reserve rate cut this year, futures imply a 40% chance of a hike from the Bank of England next month, and sources said the European Central Bank may need to begin discussing rate increases in April and possibly tighten policy in June. "There's a lot of value in the signal," said Vishnu Varathan, Mizuho's head of macro research for Asia ex-Japan, of the hawkish rhetoric from central banks this week. "It's a message to markets that we are on top of this, you don't need to send yields unnecessarily higher, because... the yields are already starting to do the work for them."

A rout in global bonds pushed yields to multi-month highs on Thursday, though the selloff showed some signs of abating in Asia on Friday. Trading of cash U.S. Treasuries was closed due to a holiday in Japan, but futures edged marginally higher. The yield on the two-year U.S. Treasury note, which typically reflects near-term rate expectations, had jumped as much as over 20 basis points in the previous session. Germany's Bund futures were up 0.06%, while French OAT futures rose 0.16%. Still, for the month thus far, Germany's two-year yield has already risen some 56 bps. Yields on two-year British gilts have jumped 88 bps.

Brent crude futures were down 1.6% at \$106.90 a barrel on Friday, while U.S. crude fell 1.9% to \$94.32 per barrel, after leading European nations and Japan offered to join efforts to secure safe passage for ships through the Strait of Hormuz and the U.S. outlined moves to boost oil supply. But both remained well above levels before the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran, having risen more than 40% this month.

Natural gas prices have also soared, with those in Europe skyrocketing as much as 35% on Thursday, as Iranian and Israeli strikes targeted some of the Middle East's most important gas infrastructure. That prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to tell Israel not to repeat its attacks on Iranian natural gas infrastructure. "Even if the U.S. leaves (the conflict), Israel might not leave, and there may still be some strikes, and Iran will retaliate, maybe at a lower volume," said Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief Asia-

Pacific economist at Natixis. "But this means that the Gulf will still be under pressure... so oil prices will not go back to \$60, they will maybe stay at \$90, at least until the end of the year. So the shock is already unavoidable."

On the equities front, MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan swung between losses and gains to be 0.2% lower, though it was set for a weekly gain of 0.3%, snapping two straight weeks of losses. Nasdaq futures and S&P 500 futures added about 0.1% each. EUROSTOXX 50 futures were up 0.7%, while FTSE futures rose 0.15%.

The dollar was set for a weekly loss of roughly 1%, as the Fed is now seen as the only major central bank that is not expected to raise rates this year. That kept the euro holding to most of Thursday's 1.2% gain to fetch \$1.1560, while sterling dipped 0.17% to \$1.3408, after a 1.3% rise overnight. Even the yen, which was on the cusp of 160 per dollar in the previous session, found some support and stood at 158.36.

In precious metals, spot gold was up 1% at \$4,693 an ounce. Spot silver gained 1.2% to \$73.75 per ounce. Spot platinum rose 2.1% at \$2,012.95, and palladium added 2.2% to \$1,478.78.

Source: LSEG Thomson Reuters Refinitiv.

Domestic Markets

The South African rand weakened in early trade on Friday, pressured by a firmer U.S. dollar, while oil market developments played an increasingly important role in shaping the currency's direction. At 07:01 GMT the rand traded at 16.85 against the dollar, about 0.5% down from its previous close.

The dollar has emerged as one of the clearest safe-haven winners, strengthening over 2% so far this month. The dollar rose 0.2% against a basket of currencies as Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell signalled one rate cut this year, while hawkish comments from the ECB, BOE, BOJ and Swiss National Bank pointed to possible tightening amid inflation concerns driven by higher energy costs. "The local currency will continue to take its cue from international moves, with a keen focus on what the oil price does," said Andre Cilliers, Currency Strategist at TreasuryONE.

Domestically focused traders will next week look to the composite leading business cycle indicator by the central bank, and producer inflation data by the statistics agency for clues on the health of Africa's most industrialised nation. South Africa's benchmark 2035 government bond was firmer in early deals, as the yield fell 5.5 basis points to 8.995%.

When you are kind to someone in trouble, you hope they'll remember and be kind to someone else. And it'll become like a wildfire.

Whoopi Goldberg

Market Overview

MARKET INDICATORS		20 March 2026			
Money Market TB's		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
3 months	↓	7.28	-0.039	7.31	7.28
6 months	↓	7.39	-0.008	7.39	7.39
9 months	↓	7.40	-0.006	7.41	7.40
12 months	↑	7.44	0.022	7.42	7.44
Nominal Bonds		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
GC26 (Coupon 8.50%, BMK: R186)	↓	6.31	-0.016	6.32	6.31
GC27 (Coupon 8.00%, BMK: R186)	↓	7.41	0.000	7.41	7.41
GC28 (Coupon 8.00%, BMK: R186)	↓	8.90	-0.055	8.95	8.90
GC30 (Coupon 8.00%, BMK: R2030)	↑	9.18	0.080	9.10	9.18
GC32 (Coupon 9.00%, BMK: R213)	↑	9.95	0.153	9.79	9.94
GC35 (Coupon 9.50%, BMK: R209)	↑	10.60	0.085	10.52	10.60
GC37 (Coupon 9.50%, BMK: R2037)	↑	11.19	0.075	11.11	11.19
GC40 (Coupon 9.80%, BMK: R214)	↑	11.27	0.085	11.19	11.27
GC43 (Coupon 10.00%, BMK: R2044)	↑	11.50	0.075	11.43	11.50
GC45 (Coupon 9.85%, BMK: R2044)	↑	11.58	0.075	11.51	11.58
GC48 (Coupon 10.00%, BMK: R2048)	↑	11.57	0.085	11.48	11.57
GC50 (Coupon 10.25%, BMK: R2048)	↑	11.40	0.085	11.31	11.40
Inflation-Linked Bonds		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
GI27 (Coupon 4.00%, BMK: NCPI)	→	4.56	0.000	4.56	4.56
GI29 (Coupon 4.50%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.04	0.000	5.04	5.04
GI31 (Coupon 4.50%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.28	0.000	5.28	5.28
GI33 (Coupon 4.50%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.47	0.000	5.47	5.47
GI36 (Coupon 4.80%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.94	0.000	5.94	5.94
GI41 (Coupon 4.80%, BMK: NCPI)	→	6.21	0.000	6.21	6.21
Commodities		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
Gold	↓	4,650	-3.50%	4,819	4,708
Platinum	↓	1973	-2.53%	2024	2010
Brent Crude	↑	108.7	1.18%	107.38	107.48
Main Indices		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
NSX Overall Index	↓	1272	-2.08%	1299	1272
JSE All Share	↑	113,327	2.49%	110,572	113,327
S&P 500	↓	6,606	-0.29%	6,625	6,606
FTSE 100	↓	10,064	-2.34%	10,305	10,064
Hangseng	↓	25,252	-0.98%	25,501	25,252
DAX	↓	22,840	-2.82%	23,502	22,840
JSE Sectors		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
Financials	↓	24,536	-0.84%	24,743	25,147
Resources	↓	118,418	-6.38%	126,484	123,454
Industrials	↓	126,224	-1.30%	127,893	127,868
Forex		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
N\$/US Dollar	↓	16.76	-1.35%	16.99	16.76
N\$/Pound	↓	22.51	-0.04%	22.52	22.51
N\$/Euro	↓	19.42	-0.15%	19.45	19.39
US Dollar/ Euro	↑	1.159	0.78%	1.15	1.16
		Namibia		RSA	
Interest Rates & Inflation		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Jan-26
Central Bank Rate	→	6.50	6.50	6.75	6.75
Prime Rate	→	10.00	10.00	10.25	10.25
		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Jan-26
Inflation	↓	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.5

Notes to the table:

- The money market rates are TB rates
- “BMK” = Benchmark
- “NCPI” = Namibian inflation rate
- “Difference” = change in basis points
- Current spot = value at the time of writing
- NSX is the Overall Index, including dual listed

Source: Thomson Reuters Refinitiv

Important note: This is not a solicitation to trade and CAM will not necessarily trade at the yields and/or prices quoted above. The information is sourced from the data vendor as indicated. The levels of and changes in the yields need to be interpreted with caution due to the illiquid nature of the domestic bond market.



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