

Monthly Market Wrap

I February 2026

Equity index returns (% local currency)

Index	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	5Y Std Dev
S&P 500	-0.9%	+0.4%	+6.5%	+0.5%	+15.5%	+73.3%	+80.5%	15.0%
MSCI World	+0.6%	+3.6%	+9.1%	+2.9%	+19.7%	+67.9%	+67.1%	14.2%
MSCI World Small Cap	+3.8%	+10.6%	+14.5%	+9.7%	+29.5%	+46.6%	+33.8%	16.9%
MSCI Europe	+3.9%	+9.9%	+15.2%	+7.1%	+13.2%	+37.0%	+57.8%	11.9%
MSCI EM	+5.4%	+17.8%	+28.0%	+14.7%	+46.8%	+67.1%	+20.3%	15.8%
MSCI AC Asia	+6.8%	+17.1%	+23.6%	+14.8%	+42.5%	+65.4%	+26.5%	14.8%
SEMDEX	-1.2%	-2.9%	-5.2%	-2.6%	-8.3%	+15.1%	+45.1%	10.9%
DEMEX	+0.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%	-1.1%	-6.2%	-15.1%	-2.5%	9.4%

Fixed income index returns (% local currency)

Index	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	5Y	5Y Std Dev
Barclays Global Aggregate Bond	+1.1%	+2.3%	+3.0%	+2.1%	+8.2%	+14.9%	-6.0%	7.7%
Barclays US Aggregate Bond	+1.6%	+1.6%	+4.0%	+1.7%	+6.3%	+16.2%	+2.1%	6.4%
Barclays High Yield bond	+0.2%	+2.2%	+4.2%	+1.2%	+11.0%	+38.2%	+24.5%	7.6%
JP Morgan EMU IG Bond	+1.4%	+1.5%	+2.8%	+2.0%	+2.2%	+11.9%	-9.1%	6.3%
JP Morgan EM Bond	+1.4%	+2.3%	+6.6%	+1.7%	+12.5%	+35.3%	+13.8%	9.5%
FTSE Asian Broad Bond	+1.3%	+1.5%	+3.5%	+1.5%	+7.2%	+22.3%	+7.8%	5.8%

Commodity prices

Commodity	Current \$	1M
WTI Crude Oil / Bbl	67.02	+2.8%
Brent Crude Oil / Bbl	72.48	+2.5%
Natural Gas / mmBtu	2.86	-34.3%
Copper / oz	600.45	+1.4%
Silver / oz	93.79	+10.1%
Gold / oz	5,278.93	+7.9%

SEMDEX sector performance (%)

Index	Weight	1M
Financials	49.8%	-1.0%
Commerce	10.8%	-2.3%
Industry	5.5%	+1.3%
Investments	17.3%	-2.2%
Leisure & Hotels	9.7%	-1.2%
Property	3.2%	+1.0%
ICT	3.3%	-0.7%
Sugar	0.4%	-3.8%
Foreign	0.1%	0.0%

Secondary market yields - GoM

Tenor	91D	182D	364D	3Y	5Y	10Y	15Y	20Y
Current	3.81%	4.13%	4.40%	4.76%	5.06%	5.48%	5.70%	5.87%
-1M	4.15%	4.39%	4.68%	4.98%	5.18%	5.54%	5.81%	5.92%

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Selected economic data*

Index	Manufacturing PMI		Service PMI		Consumer confidence		CPI YoY	Policy rate	Unemployment
	Current	-1M	Current	-1M	Current	-1M	Current	Current	Current
US	51.6	52.4	51.7	52.7	91.2	89.0	2.4%	3.5% - 3.75%	4.4%
Germany	50.9	49.1	53.5	52.4	92.0	-	1.9%	2.2%	6.3%
France	50.1	51.2	49.6	48.4	91.0	90.0	0.9%	2.2%	7.9%
UK	51.7	51.8	53.9	54.0	-19.0	-16.0	3.0%	3.8%	5.2%
Japan	53.0	51.5	53.8	53.7	39.7	37.6	1.3%	0.8%	2.7%
China	52.1	50.3	56.7	52.3	NA	NA	1.3%	4.4%	4.0%
India	56.9	55.4	58.1	58.5	NA	NA	3.2%	5.3%	7.7%

*based on latest available data

SBM Fund performance (% local currency)

Fund	Currency	Strategy	NAV	1M	3M	1Y	5Y Std Dev
SBM Perpetual Fund	MUR	Local fixed income	254.57	+0.3%	+0.9%	+3.8%	0.3%
SBM Universal Fund	MUR	Multi-asset	38.27	+0.3%	+0.2%	+4.5%	5.9%
SBM Growth Fund	MUR	Global equities	18.96	+0.7%	+0.8%	+7.7%	9.8%
SBM India Opportunities Fund (Class B)	USD	Indian equities	92.31	+1.1%	-5.4%	+9.0%	

Commentary

Local indices posted contrasting performances in February with the SEMDEX registering -1.2% while the DEMEX gained 0.6%. The main leaders, that is, companies which contributed to the positive performance of the SEMDEX were GML, ASCE and SUN, while the main laggards were IBL, MCBG, and NRL. The top price performances were GML (+3.3%), MDIT (+2.6%) and UDL (+2.2%), while the main detractors were BMH (-9.1%), ENLG (-7.2%) and NRL (-6.8%). The price-earnings ratio and dividend yield of the SEMDEX stood at 7.10x and 4.89% respectively, as at 28 February against corresponding figures of 7.15x and 4.85%, as at 31 January. During the month, foreign investors turned net seller to the tune of MUR 69.1M (vs. net inflow of MUR 4.3M in Jan-26), led primarily by MCBG, SBMH, and BMH.

The MSCI World Index gained 0.6% in February 2026, supported by continued strength in global equities outside the United States. Overall, Asia-Pacific and European markets extended their positive momentum against a backdrop of moderating inflation and improving economic indicators.

The S&P 500 index registered -0.9% in February reflecting narrowing market leadership as several large-cap technology names weighed on the index. Pockets of value-oriented sectors continued to demonstrate resilience, with value stocks outperforming growth stocks, recording +2.1% vs -3.5% MoM, respectively. Manufacturing activity, although strong, recorded the weakest growth in seven months, with the S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI falling from 52.4 to 51.6, amid production slowdown in response to a near-stalling customer orders, while exports remained a drag for the eighth consecutive month.

The Euro Stoxx 50 index advanced by 3.2% MoM, benefiting from improving macro data and capital flows seeking diversification away from US tech concentration. The DAX 30, FTSE MIB, and CAC 40 indices posted strong corresponding returns of 3.0%, 3.7%, and 5.6%. Eurozone manufacturing conditions strengthened, with headline index rising to 50.8 from 49.5 in January as a fresh rise in new orders triggered sharper expansions in factory production. In the UK, the FTSE 100 index gained 6.7% MoM, driven by macroeconomic resilience and improving risk appetite across Europe. Manufacturing activity remained strong in February, with PMI clocking 51.7 compared to January's 51.8, marking the fourth consecutive month of expansion. Output rose at its quickest pace in 17 months during February, while new export orders rose sharply along. Business sentiment remained close to January's high.

Japanese equities continued to outperform global peers in February 2026, with the Nikkei 225 surging 10.4%, fuelled by renewed investor optimism following the ruling coalition's landslide victory in the general election. This signalled confidence in Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's pro-growth agenda, including aggressive fiscal expansion and tax reforms. Japan's manufacturing sector surged in February with the S&P Global Japan Manufacturing PMI reaching a 45-month high to 53.0 from 51.5 in January. Output, new orders and employment expanded at steepest rates since January 2022, driven by improved demand conditions, surge in exports and rising business optimism.

Emerging markets outperformed developed markets' equities with the MSCI Emerging Markets index adding 5.4% MoM. The CSI 300 index gained 0.1% in local currency and 1.4% in USD terms. China's headline PMI increased to 52.1 from 50.3, marking the strongest overall expansion since December 2020. Output growth accelerated sharply, supported by a surge in new orders including higher export demand. In India, the BSE 500 index recorded a marginal gain of 0.4% in February as the index remained volatile following a sharp "Budget-day" correction, while sentiment was supported by record domestic institutional buying despite persistent foreign investor outflows. India's manufacturing sector continued its expansion as the HSBC India Manufacturing PMI rose to a four-month high of 56.9 from 55.4 in January, following significant improvement in domestic demand and upturn in production volume. Output growth accelerated, fuelled by new order intakes, while export orders maintained its slowing trend.

Within fixed income, the Barclays Global Aggregate Bond index registered 1.1% MoM. The 10-year US yield closed the month at 3.94%, equivalent to a monthly decrease of 30bps, as a flight to safety triggered by geopolitical tensions increased demand for Treasuries. No FOMC meeting was held during February so the federal funds rate remained at 3.50% - 3.75% after the rate cut pause in January. In Europe, the ECB held its February meeting and kept the deposit facility, main refinancing, and marginal lending rates unchanged at 2.00%, 2.15%, and 2.40%, respectively. The decision to pause was motivated by a "wait-and-see" approach as the Council weighed cooling headline inflation against persistent wage growth across the Eurozone.

On the commodity side, the S&P GSCI index surged by 2.4% MoM, underpinned by sectoral rotation and a heightened geopolitical risk premium as markets reacted to escalating tensions in the Middle East. Crude oil posted modest gains, with Brent and WTI gaining 2.5% and 2.8%, respectively, driven by OPEC+ signalling tighter supply policies and disruptions. The price of natural gas plummeted by -34.3% MoM, amid warmer-than-expected temperatures combined with high production levels and substantial storage inventories. Within industrial metals, the price silver rose by 10.1% while gold rallied by 7.9%, reaching new record highs as investors sought safe-haven assets against a backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty.

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