

Global Markets Daily

Fading US Exceptionalism

USD Softens After the Oval Office Blow-Up

The debacle at the oval office between Ukraine Zelenskiy and US Trump and JD Vance had watchers concerned about the prospect of a ceasefire in Ukraine. Zelenskiy had left the White House without signing the minerals deal after the shouting match. European leaders used a security summit in London thereafter as a way to show support for Ukraine. European Commission Ursula Von de Leyen said that we need to rearm Europe and Europe needs to see a “surge” in defense spending. Amid signs that European leaders are banding together, the EUR also rose around 0.4% against the USD this morning. The DXY index softened as a result this morning. There have been two-opposing forces for the greenback - While concerns that Trump’s 25% tariffs on Canada, Mexico and an additional 10% tariffs on China would take effect tomorrow lift the USD, signs of fading US exceptionalism also weigh on the greenback.

TWD, THB, CNY on the Backfoot

Trump spoke about another blanket 10% tariff coming into effect on China’s imports tomorrow. What is keeping the USDCNH from climbing more is not just the PBoC Daily fix (around 7.17) but also fading US exceptionalism. UST yields have started to fall more discernibly along with the weakening of US consumer confidence, services PMI and retail sales. The appearance of Deepseek seems to have also blunted the US’ competitive edge. Focus also on the two-sessions with CPPCC starting on 4 Mar and NPC on 5 Mar. Premier Li Qiang is expected to deliver the work report on 5 Mar - a review for the work done for 2024 along with the priorities. Growth targets along with other macro goals will be released. Fiscal deficit is said to be set higher at 4% of GDP. TWD, THB, CNY are the laggards this morning.

Data/Events We Watch Today

There are data aplenty today - Caixin Mfg PMI just came in at 50.8, firmer than expected. This follows stronger official Mfg PMI and non-Mfg PMI release over the weekend as well. Asia Mfg PMI have mostly improved with Thailand rising back to expansion territory. Front-loading in light of tariff threats might have been a factor. ID CPI, EZ CPI estimate (Feb), SG PMI (Feb), US ISM Mfg (Feb).

FX: Overnight Closing Levels % Change					
Majors	Prev Close	% Chg	Asian FX	Prev Close	% Chg
EUR/USD	1.0497	↑ 0.79	USD/SGD	1.3462	↓ -0.65
GBP/USD	1.2484	↑ 1.06	EUR/SGD	1.4132	↑ 0.13
AUD/USD	0.6314	↑ 0.46	JPY/SGD	0.8629	↓ -0.62
NZD/USD	0.5709	↑ 0.60	GBP/SGD	1.6805	↑ 0.40
USD/JPY	156	↓ -0.03	AUD/SGD	0.8499	↓ -0.20
EUR/JPY	163.68	↑ 0.70	NZD/SGD	0.7685	↓ -0.05
USD/CHF	0.9059	↓ -0.17	CHF/SGD	1.486	↓ -0.50
USD/CAD	1.4341	↓ -0.29	CAD/SGD	0.9384	↓ -0.42
USD/MYR	4.3775	↓ -1.50	SGD/MYR	3.2502	↓ -0.78
USD/THB	33.605	↓ -1.12	SGD/IDR	12010.82	↑ 0.15
USD/IDR	16172	↓ -0.69	SGD/PHP	43.2673	↑ 0.01
USD/PHP	58.336	↓ -0.62	SGD/CNY	5.3819	↑ 0.02

Implied USD/SGD Estimates at, 9.00am

Upper Band Limit	Mid-Point	Lower Band Limit
1.3357	1.3630	1.3903

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G10: Events & Market Closure

Date	Ctry	Event
3 Mar	AU	Market Closure
6 Mar	EU	ECB Policy Decision

AXJ: Events & Market Closure

Date	Ctry	Event
3 Mar	SK	Market Closure
4 Mar	CH	CPPCC starts
5 Mar	CH	NPC starts - Li Qiang delivers Work Report
6 Mar	MY	BNM Policy Decision

The Trump Tracker 2025

Date	Market-Moving Events Since Trump's Inauguration on 20 th Jan 2025	Impact on Markets
20 th Jan	Declares National Energy Emergency, roll back on Biden's climate regulations, enable new O&G development on federal lands	Negative for Oil, Better for Inflation Outlook if crude production expands
27 th Jan	Trump threatened to impose 25% tariff on Columbia but did not do so eventually after Columbia reportedly agreed "to all of President Trump's terms" including the "unrestricted acceptance" of immigrants who entered the US illegally within a few hours of the threat.	DXY clocked the low for Jan that day but headed higher thereafter in anticipation of tariffs on Canada and Mexico.
30 th Jan	Eases Regulations on Crypto-Currency Industry. SEC rescinded an accounting rule (SAB 121) which required banks and FIs to treat cryptocurrencies as a liability on their balance sheet.	Supportive of cryptocurrencies but arguably, great expectations may already be in the price. Last check, bitcoin has been gyrating around \$100,000, within \$90-110K, after rising around 60% since Trump won the elections.
1 st Feb - 3 rd Feb	To impose tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico. Trump had issued executive order on 1st Feb (Sat) under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose 25% tariffs on most goods from Canada and Mexico as well as 10% tariffs on goods from China that will take effect on Tue. Canada's energy and oil exports will be taxed at 10%. On top of that, the US legislators have halted the de minimis provision that allows packages worth under \$800 to be exempted from tariffs. Trump said tariffs on EU goods could happen "pretty soon" while trade issues with the UK can be worked out.	USDCAD and USDMXN rose on 3rd Feb (Mon) before making a complete reversal by the end of the session when it was made known that tariffs on the two countries are to be delayed for a month. USDCAD was up 2.5% from open to high, while USDMXN was up 4.6% during the session.
4 th Feb	Trump wants access to Ukraine's rare earths resources in return for aiding its defence against Russia.	An end to the war in Ukraine would be positive for EUR. However, recent tariff threats are likely to weigh.
4 th Feb	Tariffs on China take effect. Trump mentioned about talks with Xi but in the end, the 10% tariff on China came into effect on 4th Feb. China's Retaliation. Almost immediately, China announced a probe into Google, added several US companies to a "blacklist" of entities, impose new export controls on critical minerals¹. imposed 10% tariffs on US products, including coal, LNG and agricultural equipment with effect from 10 Feb.	USDCNH rose at first when US tariffs on China took effect. China's retaliatory moves were seen as mild and restrained, resulting in some retracements. We suspect that markets are confident that PBoC would continue to defend the yuan for now and this is a reflection of cautious optimism that there could be a quick deal. In addition, China also pledged to take the case to the WTO. Its foreign ministry pointed out that "fentanyl is America's problem".
7 th Feb	Trump said "reciprocal tariffs" that could "affect everyone" could be announced the following week.	USD started the week on 10 th Feb stronger in anticipation of it.
9 th Feb	Trump told the press that he would impose 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminium.	
10 th Feb	Trump signed executive orders to order 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminium.	Pro-cyclical AUD, CAD, NZD fell more than G10 and Asian peers this morning.
13 th Feb	Trump announces that talks with Putin for a peace deal with Ukraine will begin.	EUR small rebound, within range.

Note¹: Critical minerals include tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium products.

Sources: Bloomberg, various news sources, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

Date	Market-Moving Events Since Trump's Inauguration on 20 th Jan 2025	Impact on Markets
18 th Feb	Trump threatened 25% tariffs on semiconductor, pharmaceuticals and automobiles - "can go substantially higher over the course of a year".	The DXY index rose a tad in reaction.
27 th Feb	Trump said tariffs on Canada, Mexico will take effect as scheduled, announced another 10% blanket tariff on China for its role in fentanyl flows into the US	USDCAD, USDMXN and USDCNH rose, taking the DXY broadly higher

Note¹: Critical minerals include tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium products.

Sources: Bloomberg, various news sources, Maybank FX Research & Strategy

G10 Currencies

- **DXY Index - *Softening into Asia after Oval Office Debacle***. DXY softened into Asia and was last seen around 107.30. There are two-opposing forces - While concerns that Trump's 25% tariffs on Canada, Mexico and an additional 10% tariffs would take effect tomorrow lift the USD, signs of US exceptionalism fading are also weighing on the USD. In addition, after Trump and JD Vance's shouting match with Ukraine Zelenskiy, the Europeans seem to have banded together. An emergency summit in London for what is coined as the "coalition of the willing" to secure Ukraine after any US-brokered ceasefire. The UK, France and others would work on a plan to stop the fighting according to PM Keir Starmer (BBG). Macron told his local press that a one-month truce is sought followed by negotiations for a more sustained peace. Meanwhile, UST yields continue to slide and 10y was last seen around 4.20%. 2Y at 4.02%. Data from home was less inspiring with core PCE steady at 0.3% m/m in Jan, slowing to 2.5% y/y from 2.6% in line with expectations. Personal income rose +0.9% m/m from previous 0.4% while personal spending slid -0.2% from previous 0.8%. This latest data somewhat underscores growing caution amongst households. The DXY index is bouncing towards the 50-dma around 108.00. Last printed 107.30. Support is seen around 106.75. Week ahead has ISM Mfg for Feb due today, Feb ADP employment due on Wed along with factory orders (Jan) and ISM Services. Into the wee hours of Thu, we have the Fed's Beige Book release. Thu also has Jan trade and weekly claims. NFP release dominates on Fri.
- **EURUSD - *Slightly higher, two-way risks***. EURUSD was last seen slightly higher at 1.0415 levels as the USD weakened slightly on the notion of fading US exceptionalism. Options traders have pared back on bearish bets on the EUR, with 1-month risk reversals having narrowed (premium for puts over calls narrowed). Trump mentioned that he would place a 25% tariff on the EU without providing details. Macron was seen publicly rebuffing Trump in an interview, a sign that Europe (or at least France) may not be fully amenable to Trump's demands. Conclusion of the German elections brought a short-lived rally for the pair with the CDU winning the elections but a coalition still necessary. Far-right (AfD) and far-left parties have gained shares, although CDU had earlier ruled out a coalition involving either extreme of the political spectrum. Specifically, CDU leader Merz ruling out a coalition with the far-right (Euro-sceptic) AfD could provide some relief. The CDU has about two months to form a government (by Easter) and coalition negotiations will be closely watched. Risks could still be two-way given a coalition has yet to be formed. Watching to see if a break of the 1.0500 to 1.0530 range which has capped the EUR thus far this year is possible. Exercise caution as breakouts of the range are possible if a deal on Ukraine is reached. Situation remains highly uncertain after the public disagreement between Ukraine and US leaders over the weekend. ECB Lagarde spoke about the progress in disinflation (albeit fight "isn't over") and remained concerned that global trade friction continues to pose risks to the Euro area inflation outlook. She also reiterated a "data-dependent and meeting-by-meeting approach to determining the appropriate monetary policy stance". EUR continues to face pressures with the bloc likely to be next in Trump's crosshairs for action. Looking at the bigger picture, political uncertainty in France and Germany should in our view continue to weigh on the EUR amid a more challenging external environment and uncertainty over Trump tariff policy. Trump has made explicit mention that he plans to address what he views as trade imbalances between the US and the EU. Divergent monetary policy outlooks and the political uncertainties surrounding the French and the German should weigh on the EURUSD. On the EURUSD chart, we see two way trades within 1.0180-1.0530 range. Week ahead has Feb F HCOB EZ Manufacturing PMI, Feb P CPI (Mon), Jan Unemployment (Tue), Feb F

HCOB EZ Services/Composite PMI, Jan PPI (Wed), Jan Retail Sales, ECB Policy Decision (Thu) and 4Q EC GDP (Fri).

- **GBPUSD - Steady, earlier 1.25 cap broken.** GBPUSD was seen steady at 1.2606 levels even as the USD lost a bit of ground on the notion of fading US exceptionalism. We maintain that the GBP could be better sheltered from any potential Trump action, given the services-oriented nature of the UK economy, a goods trade deficit with the US (4Q 2024) and the close relationship between the US and UK. Recall that the BOE cut rates by 25bps to 4.50%. The MPC voted 7-2 in favour of a 25bps easing, with the 2 dissenting members, Dhingra and Mann preferring a 50bps cut. Notably, Mann has been widely known as a hawk. Mann later opined that BoE should have been more aggressive with easing due to falling consumer demand and job markets. This was a contrast to Chief Economist Huw Pill who sees the need to keep policy restrictive. We see three more cuts for the BOE this year with the policy rate ending at 3.75%. This is broadly in line with current market pricing although slightly more dovish than the 4.00% that the BOE signalled. Nevertheless, we maintain our view that the GBP could be somewhat sheltered from tariffs as it avoids specific trade action from the Trump administration. Week ahead has Jan Consumer Credit, Jan Mortgage Approvals, Jan Money Supply, Feb F SP Mfg PMI (Mon), Feb BRC Shop Price Index (Tue), Feb F SP Services/Comp (Wed), Feb F Construction PMI and DMP 1Y CPI/3M Output Price Expectations (Thu).
- **USDCHF - Higher.** USDCHF was last seen higher at around 0.9025 levels as market digested the prospect of negative rates loomed on the CHF. Schlegel said that rates would only go negative if necessary to keep inflation within the 0 to 2% target band. CHF as a safe-haven should continue to stay resilient as long as tariff fears and threats are still at play. We expect the traditional safe-havens to be better supported on heightened volatility and uncertainty. It could however take some time to catch up with the USD. On the USDCHF chart, resistance is at 0.90 and support is at 0.89. 4Q GDP (Thur) came in at 1.5% YoY (exp: 1.6%; prev: 1.9%) and 0.2% QoQ (exp: 0.2%; prev: 0.4%). Sport event adjusted number was 0.5% QoQ (exp: 0.4%; prev: 0.4%). Data for the week includes Feb PMI Manufacturing/Services (Mon), Feb CPI (Wed), Feb Unemployment Rate (Thu) and Feb FX Reserves (Fri).
- **USDJPY - Higher, Near Term Upside, Downside Trend Intact.** The pair was last seen at 150.36 as the pair rose up slight to above the 150.00 mark. It was trading even higher this morning but it pulled back again. Initially, we do note the possibility that there could have been some upwards reversal due in the pair as the bullish JPY positioning is quite stretched on the upside. There could also be some unwinding also of the short EURJPY trade given the risks of a Ukrainian peace deal (even amid the Trump public spat in the weekend with Zelenskyy). Later, the JGB 10Y real yields rise to a seven month high looks to have lifted the JPY again. We have been calling for some near term rebound in USDJPY albeit it being limited and it looks like that could be the case playing out now. At this point, it is not clear yet if we done with that so we stay wary of any additional move up. For this week, key catalysts for the pair would be developments related to the Ukraine peace deal, US jobs data and importantly the trade situation (with Canada, Mexico and China tariffs deadline tomorrow). Domestically, this month we keep a look out for any positive news on the Shunto wage negotiations. Key data releases this week to watch out for include Jan jobless rate (Tues), Jan job-to-applicant ratio (Tues), 4Q capital spending (Tues), 4Q company sales/profits (Tues), Feb monetary base (Tues), Feb consumer confidence index (Tues), Feb F Jibun Bank PMI composite/services (Wed), 28 Feb Japan/foreign buying Japan/foreign bond/stocks (Thurs) and Feb Tokyo avg office vacancies (Thurs). Back on the chart, resistance is at 152.00 and 155.00. Support at 150.00 and 145.00.

- **AUDUSD - Bullish Trend Channel Violated.** AUDUSD was last seen around 0.6230, just a tad higher because of the broadly softer USD. The announcement of more tariffs on China (10% more) dragged the AUDUSD below the 50-dma. We remain cautious for the rest of 1H 2025. Markets could be too complacent on the possibility of further trade frictions between the US and China that could impact Australia's resource exports. Since the last trade war in 2018, non-commercial positions of the AUD has hardly been in net long. Further signs of de-coupling between Australia's traditional ally and biggest trading partner could hurt AUD sentiment in the medium term. Next support around 0.6220 before the next at 0.6170 and then at 0.6090. Resistance at 0.6390. Data-wise, M-I inflation gauge was released this morning (-0.2%m/m for Feb). ANZ-Indeed job advertisements fell -1.4% vs. previous +1.3%. Tue has Minutes of Feb. policy meeting and Jan retail sales. Wed has 4Q GDP. Thu has Jan building approvals and Jan trade.
- **NZDUSD - Bearish.** NZDUSD edged higher as we write this morning, alongside fellow antipodean, last printed 0.5614. Risk-sensitive NZD has been affected by fresh tariff threats made on its biggest trading partner-China. As a result, the NZDUSD has pierced through the 50-dma and en-route towards next support around 0.5590 before 0.5510. At this point, broader USD softness has been supporting this pair on dips but on net, bias remains to the downside due to the risk of wider trade conflict. With RBNZ's policy already well anticipated, drivers into Mar are likely to be related to Trump's trade policies. Break-out to open the way towards 0.5960. AUDNZD has formed a double top. With RBA and RBNZ likely in peak policy divergence, we see downside in this pair, further supported by the bearish technical patterns towards 1.1067, 1.1051 and then at 1.0987 with final target at 1.0940. Last at 1.1086. Data-wise, we watch building permits for Jan due on Tue. Wed had CoreLogic home value data.
- **USDCAD - Two-way Action.** USDCAD has been on the rise and was last seen around 1.4430. CAD has been underperforming since Trump's reminder that the tariffs on Canada/Mexico could proceed on 4 Mar. Momentum is turning bullish and USDCAD has closed in on a key resistance at 1.4450. We have warned that it is hard to see a lot more gains for the CAD as politicians at home and business leaders cautioned about high-stakes negotiations ahead and potential retaliatory plans. The race to replace Trudeau as the leader of the Liberal party and Prime Minister would end on 9 Mar. CFIB business barometer for Feb fell to 49.5 from 54.5 in Jan - a ten-month low. Expected change in prices on average has risen to 3.1% from previous 2.6% though. A slide in confidence could continue to weigh on investment decision and demand, lifting the USDCAD towards 1.4595 (30 Jan high) before the next at 1.4793 (3 Feb high). Support at 1.4350 (50-dma). Week ahead has labor productivity for 4Q on Tue, Jan trade on Thu and Feb labour data on Fri.
- **Gold (XAU/USD) - At risk of further Technical Pullback.** Gold continues to remain a tad softer and was last seen around \$2870. There could be further profit taking given its inability to rise above the key \$3000 level. The gold metal continues to be supported by concerns on geopolitical conflicts (uncertainty of the trajectory that the war in Ukraine would take) as well as the possibility of more tariffs from Trump on various nations. The easing of supply conditions have revert the gold back to contango. 3000 is still a psychological resistance before the next at resistance at 3110. We cannot rule out a technical pullback. Support at 2780 before 2730 (21-dma).

Asia ex Japan Currencies

SGDNEER trades around +1.11% from the implied mid-point of 1.3641 with the top estimated at 1.3368 and the floor at 1.3914.

- **USDSGD - Higher.** USDSGD was higher at 1.3490 levels, although it came off from a high of 1.3520 as market digested potentially fading US exceptionalism. In addition, Jan SG CPI inflation showed core inflation at 0.8% YoY the lowest level since 2021 which also weighed on the SGD. Our economists suggest opens the door for MAS to ease further in Apr. SG Budget 2025 was released earlier with a projected S\$6.8b fiscal surplus (or 0.9% of GDP). Budget is expansionary even with the healthy surplus. Our economists maintain their growth forecasts at +2.6% (2025) and +2.3% (2026). Vouchers are expected to cushion consumption amid an uncertain global environment. MAS eased for the first time since 2020 (24 Jan 2025) and the market reaction has been rather muted - a possible indication that this move was expected. The move looks to be one that is calculated to be a tad more growth supportive while continuing to hold the reins on inflation. The trade-weighted SGDNEER is at +1.11% above the mid-point this morning and looks to remain supported in line with our expectations. We expect that SGD could be sheltered given the correlation of SG/US rates. Moreover, Singapore is unlikely to be singled out by the US for additional tariffs given that it has a bilateral trade deficit with the US. Regional safe-haven properties are also likely to be supportive for the SGD. MAS policy continues to be supportive of SGD strength and we look for the resilience to continue even with this easing. We do not expect SGDNEER to weaken too much further even with MAS easing (slight slope reduction). In the medium-term, we remain positive on the SGD given robust macro fundamentals and a monetary policy that has an appreciating currency as a default stance. Resistance at 1.3500 and 1.3600. Support at 1.3450 and 1.3400. Data releases this week include Feb Purchasing Managers Index, Feb ESI (Mon), Feb SP PMI, Jan Retail Sales (Wed) and Feb FX Reserves (Fri).
- **SGDMYR - Ranged.** SGDMYR was last seen lower at 3.3076 levels this morning with MYR outperforming as the USD eased from highs on potentially fading exceptionalism. SGD does better on tariff fears and when the fears ease MYR tends to do better which affects the movement of the cross. Resistance at 3.32. Support at 3.30.
- **USDMYR - Sideways.** Pair was last seen lower at 4.4570 as it traded at levels similar to that seen on Friday. BNM decision is due this week where we expect a hold at 3.00% as the central bank stays vigilant of the global situation. External developments are likely to continue to stay the main focus regarding the MYR, especially those related to the US and China. We do note domestic fundamentals are strong (robust growth, strong investment interest and pick-up of inflation, which lead to less easing pressure on BNM) and acts as a support for the currency. Back on the chart, resistance at around 4.5000 (around 200-dma) and 4.6300. Support at 4.3600. Meanwhile, Feb S&P Global PMI mfg out today showed a slight increase to 49.7 (Jan. 48.7). Key data releases this week include 28 Feb foreign reserves (Fri).
- **1M USDKRW NDF - Higher, Watching Yoon's saga.** 1M USDKRW NDF was last seen slightly higher at 1458.20 levels although the USD retreated from highs on potential concerns of fading US exceptionalism. BOK cut rates by 25bps last week to bring its policy rate to 2.75%, largely in line with both the market and our expectations. Decision was unanimous and heralds potentially the start of rate cuts to be more growth supportive, in line with most other central banks globally. BOK maintains a cautious outlook given the highly volatile FX outlook and the potential for upside risks to

inflation. However, if the current disinflationary trajectory were to continue, it would not be a surprise for us to see more cuts in the future. President Yoon has been indicted, and elections will need to be held within 60 days should he be removed from office. Yoon's impeachment hearings are ongoing. However, there remains plenty of concerns for the KRW. The political situation is highly uncertain with a snap election likely. Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung had proposed compiling an extra budget worth at least KRW30trn to prop up the economy in the face of headwinds posed by political uncertainties and tariff threats. There also remains risks that the BOK could cut rates in the coming months given the economic concerns. We see markets are likely to stay cautious too and so are we too amid these concerns on the KRW. For near term, we are watching how both the political and Trump tariff developments pan out. Back on the chart, resistance is at 1460. Support is at 1450 followed by 1440. Data releases this week include Jan Industrial Production, Jan Cyclical Leading Index Change, Feb SP Mfg PMI (Tue), 4Q/2024 GDP (Wed), Feb FX Reserves, Feb CPI (Thu) and Jan BOP CA/Goods Balance (Fri).

- **USDCNH - Double bottom.** USDCNH hovered around 7.2880, capped by the 50-dma at this point. Bullish momentum seems to be rising. China was threatened with another 10% tariff on all goods that could take effect on 4 Mar. Fix is at 7.1745, 1114 pips below estimate of 7.2859. The fix this morning remains a clear signal that PBoC wants to stabilize the yuan ahead of the NPC and ahead of any meaningful conversation between Xi and Trump. The threat of higher tariffs could continue to lift the USDCNY and eyes are on whether PBoC continues to support the CNY via the fixing. The scenario of further US-China escalation is still underpriced and leaves room for the pair to rise further. Effect on the yuan on net is still going to be negative. Looking ahead, we watch as Trump acts more concretely to limit investment flows into China, pressure other nations to enact tariffs on China as well as the upcoming AFTP report (1 Apr) that could determine whether a more drastic trade sanction would be imposed on China. He even mentioned recently that 2 Apr could be a date "for everything". On that day, Trump administration would probably have an assessment of China's compliance with the first trade agreement, potential for tariff modifications and its PNTR status. **What is keeping the USDCNH from climbing more is not just the fix but also fading US exceptionalism. UST yields have started to fall more discernibly along with the weakening of US consumer confidence, services PMI and retail sales.** Focus also on the two-sessions with CPPCC starting on 4 Mar and NPC on 5 Mar. Premier Li Qiang is expected to deliver the work report on 5 Mar - a review for the work done for 2024 along with the priorities. Growth targets along with other macro goals will be released. Fiscal deficit is said to be set higher at 4% of GDP. Back on the USDCNH, pair is above the support at 7.22. Keeping the yuan from depreciating would be a sign of goodwill but PBoC may allow the fix to rise above the 7.20 at one point should tensions escalate or talks come to an impasse. China's outlook
- **USDVND - Bid.** USDVND was last seen around 25555, bid this morning. The reference rate was fixed 0.12% higher, allowing more headroom for USDVND. There seems to be an escalation in trade tensions between the US and China with Trump getting increasingly frustrated with the lack of response from China. Resistance at 25600 before the next at 25800. Support around 25370. SBV has pledged to keep interest rates stable this year to support growth and hopefully achieve its target of around 8%. Commercial banks would be expected to reduce operational costs to lower interest rates. SBV may also adjust its 16% credit growth target whilst monitoring inflation and the domestic market, taking into account the fresh inflation goal at 4.5-5%.
- **1M USDIDR NDF - Sideways.** 1M USDIDR NDF was last seen at 16558. After crossing the 16600 level, the 1M NDF pulled back slightly. This morning, it

continues to trade at levels similar to Friday. BI did say that they “will boldly” be in the market to stabilize the currency. External developments especially those in relation to the US are likely to be key drivers for the currency and the wider Asian FX space. For this week, we watch developments related to Ukraine peace deal, US jobs data and importantly the trade situation (with Canada, Mexico and China tariffs deadline tomorrow). Back on the chart, support at 16400 and 16200. Resistance is at 16750 and 17000. Key data releases this week include Feb CPI (Tues) and Feb foreign reserves (Fri).

- **1M USDPHP NDF - Sideways, Likely Ranged.** The 1M USDPHP NDF was last seen at 57.98 as it traded sideways and remains around the recent range of 58.00 - 59.00. External developments especially those in relation to the US are likely to be key drivers for the currency and the wider Asian FX space. For this week, we watch developments related to Ukraine peace deal, US jobs data and importantly the trade situation (with Canada, Mexico and China tariffs deadline tomorrow). Back on the chart, support at 58.00 (around 200-dma) with the next level after that at 57.00. Resistance is at 59.50 (around the recent Dec high) and 60.00. 1M NDF may stay within range 58.00 - 59.00. Meanwhile, Feb S&P Global PMI mfg was slightly weaker at 51.0 (Jan. 52.3). Key data releases this week include Feb CPI (Wed), Jan unemployment rate (Thurs), Jan M3 (Thurs), Jan bank lending (Thurs) and Feb foreign reserves (Fri).
- **USDTHB - Higher, Ranged.** Pair was last seen at 34.19 as it edged up. A number of factors for now look to be weighing on the THB. Near term, a looming deadline for tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico can be weighing on sentiment given that Thailand is susceptible to US reciprocal and sectoral tariffs whilst the THB also exhibits quite some sensitivity to the CNH. At the same time, there are concerns of further cuts by the BOT which could be hurting appetite for the currency. However, elevated gold prices can still be an offsetting support for the THB. For this week, there are several major catalysts that could impact the THB. Aside the looming tariff deadline as mentioned, other key developments to watch out for include those related to a Ukraine peace deal, US jobs data and importantly the trade situation (with Canada, Mexico and China tariffs deadline tomorrow). USDTHB could climb higher as on net, conditions could be less favorable although for now it may still remain within the year to date range of about 33.50 - 35.00. Back on the chart, resistance is at 34.40 and 35.00. Support at 33.30 and 32.80. Meanwhile, Feb S&P Global PMI mfg did enter expansion territory at 50.6 (Jan. 49.6), which is some positive development. Key data releases this week include Feb CPI (Wed), 28 Feb gross international reserves/forward contracts (Fri) and Feb consumer confidence (7 - 13 Mar).
- **1M USDINR NDF- Higher.** USDINR 1M NDF was last seen higher at 87.63 levels. USD has come off from highs on potential concerns of fading US exceptionalism. RBI Chief has hinted at some willingness to allow more flexible currency moves. There was likely some RBI intervention earlier as INR rallied by about 1.2%. Some have suggested that the RBI has been less interventionist under new governor Sanjay Malhotra, but this episode is evidence to the contrary. RBI could be trying to draw a line in the sand, with INR weakness pretty much a one-way street since Trump's election win. RBI's latest bout of intervention could necessitate a further injection of liquidity into INR money markets. Modi has already sought to directly engage Trump as India also warms ties with China with the resumption of direct flights between the two countries resuming in late Jan. Both countries could be aware of the potential mutual benefit from close collaboration amid a more challenging and uncertain external environment. Growth support is likely to be a major concern for the RBI, as more generally central banks have shown a preference to opt to be more growth supportive and are generally less worried about inflation.

INR could face some near-term pressures as expectations of easing build, although it remains one of the more sheltered against the impact of US tariffs. Also contrary to what some might suggest, we think RBI maintains a relatively tight grip on the INR Resistance at 88.00. Support at 87.00. Data this week includes Feb F Mfg PMI (Mon) and Feb F Svcs/Comp PMIs (Wed).

Malaysia Fixed Income

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Rates Indicators

MGS	Previous Bus. Day	Yesterday's Close	Change (bps)
3YR ML 5/27	3.43	3.43	Unchg
5YR MI 8/29	3.59	3.59	Unchg
7YR MO 7/32	3.75	3.75	Unchg
10YR MS 7/34	3.79	3.79	Unchg
15YR MS 4/39	3.96	3.96	Unchg
20YR MX 5/44	4.06	4.06	Unchg
30YR MZ 3/53	4.18	4.18	Unchg
IRS			
6-months	3.63	3.63	-
9-months	3.62	3.62	-
1-year	3.61	3.61	-
3-year	3.54	3.52	-2
5-year	3.57	3.56	-1
7-year	3.64	3.63	-1
10-year	3.73	3.72	-1

Source: Maybank

*Indicative levels

**Daily Trade Data: 1) Government bonds and 2) PDS/corporate bonds

- Ringgit bonds had a moderate session, with most players rebalancing their portfolios at month-end. It was a choppy session, with selling pressure in the first half pushing yields 1bp higher, but buyers emerged in the second half driven by lower IRS and USTs. In terms of the flows we observed, there were sellers in the front end, and healthy 2-way activity in the 7y, 10y and 20y bonds. The curve closed relatively unchanged on the day ahead of the release of the US PCE inflation to gauge the Fed's monetary policy stance.
- MYR IRS shifted 1-2bp lower as the recent paying interest took a pause and intraday sentiment was dragged down by falling US rates. 3M KLIBOR was unchanged at 3.66%. 9m IRS traded at 3.62%. 5y IRS traded at 3.55%, 3.555% and 3.56%.
- The PDS market had an active session with the GG space being the most active as Govco Holdings and MRL spreads tightened 1bp. AAA-rated names traded mixed. PLUS mid-tenor bonds were sold 3bp higher in yield, while ALR 10/32 traded 3bp lower. In AA1/AA+, GENM Capital spread tightened for sizeable volumes. In AA3/AA-, MMC Port 4/32 saw MYR20m dealt 2bp lower. Single-A names were dealt in odd amounts.

Singapore Fixed Income

Rates Indicators

SGS	Previous Bus. Day	Yesterday's Close	Change (bps)
2YR	2.65	2.61	-4
5YR	2.69	2.64	-5
10YR	2.77	2.74	-3
15YR	2.83	2.79	-4
20YR	2.85	2.81	-4
30YR	2.82	2.78	-4

Source: MAS (Bid Yields)

- The SGS market extended the rally from the prior session as yields fell 3-5bp across the tenors. 5y SGS yield declined 5bp to 2.64% while 10y SGS yield declined 3bp to 2.74%. The overnight SORA rose 25bp to 2.64% on 27 February.

Indonesia Fixed Income

Rates Indicators

Gov't Bonds	Previous Bus. Day	Latest Day's Close	Change
1YR	6.40	6.53	0.13
2YR	6.54	6.58	0.04
5YR	6.77	6.75	(0.02)
10YR	6.92	6.91	(0.01)
15YR	7.02	7.02	(0.00)
20YR	7.05	7.04	(0.01)
30YR	7.04	7.03	(0.00)

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* Source: Bloomberg, Maybank Indonesia

- Most Indonesian government bonds, especially medium-long tenor series, strengthened on the last Friday (28 Feb-25). It seemed that the market players took momentum for applying “buy on weakness” strategy as the yields of Indonesian government bonds are looking attractive. A rally on Indonesian medium-long tenor series of government bonds occurred during a weakening of Rupiah. We also concluded that Bank Indonesia had a strong role to make market intervention through its participation for entering position on the government bond market during high uncertainty on the global economic condition due to trade war tariff. Moreover, the market players also seemed on holding positions for aggressively entering Indonesian government bonds during the era of government’s transition period with a change of focus development from physical/infrastructure activities to be improvement on the human resources quality and larger portion for investment activities by forming new government’s vehicle for investment activities.
- Indonesian government bonds are expected to revive since 2H25 after subdued impact of Donald Trump’s policies to global financial market and receiving incoming signal for the next policy rate cut by the Fed. Actually, Indonesia becomes one of favorable destination for the global investors due to its solid fundamental background. The yield of 10Y Indonesian government bond has fair level around 6.76%-7.20%.
- Today, Indonesia Statistic Agency will announce the latest result of inflation data. We expect February 2025 Inflation at 0.24% MoM (0.63% YoY). Last month's inflation was driven by rising food prices, such as chilies, chicken eggs, chicken meat and shallots. However, inflation is still low because it is still affected by the basic electricity tariff discount policy. Furthermore, we estimate market inflation of 1.02% MoM (1.13% YoY) due to the normalization of the basic electricity tariff for a maximum power of 2200kv, increases in air and land transportation rates, and increases in the prices of beef, chicken, eggs, chilies, onions, and tomatoes. However, we believe Bank Indonesia to keep maintaining an attractiveness on Indonesian investment by retaining its BI Rate at 5.75% this month, although inflation pressures are still low.

Foreign Exchange: Daily Levels

	EUR/USD	USD/JPY	AUD/USD	GBP/USD	USD/CNH	NZD/USD	EUR/JPY	AUD/JPY
R2	1.0486	153.92	0.6293	1.2618	7.2947	0.5697	160.9067	96.1607
R1	1.0491	154.96	0.6304	1.2551	7.2695	0.5703	162.2933	97.3343
Current	1.0414	150.35	0.6214	1.2602	7.2975	0.5603	156.5700	93.4330
S1	1.0431	153.07	0.6259	1.2488	7.2517	0.5650	159.9333	96.2063
S2	1.0366	150.14	0.6203	1.2492	7.2591	0.5591	156.1867	93.9047
	USD/SGD	USD/MYR	USD/IDR	USD/PHP	USD/THB	EUR/SGD	CNY/MYR	SGD/MYR
R2	1.3538	4.4619	16498	58.1427	34.2883	1.4113	0.6119	3.3091
R1	1.3500	4.4197	16335	58.2393	33.9467	1.4123	0.6082	3.2797
Current	1.3503	4.4665	16543	57.9490	34.2700	1.4061	0.6130	3.3091
S1	1.3445	4.3878	16272	58.2013	33.6207	1.4070	0.6062	3.2583
S2	1.3428	4.3981	16372	58.0667	33.6363	1.4007	0.6079	3.2663

*Values calculated based on pivots, a formula that projects support/resistance for the day.

Equity Indices and Key Commodities

	Value	% Change
Dow	43,840.91	1.39
Nasdaq	18,847.28	1.63
Nikkei 225	37,155.50	-2.88
FTSE	8,809.74	0.61
Australia ASX 200	8,172.35	-1.16
Singapore Straits Times	3,895.70	-0.65
Kuala Lumpur Composite	1,574.70	-0.75
Jakarta Composite	6,270.60	-3.31
Philippines Composite	5,997.97	-2.06
Taiwan TAIEX	23,053.18	-1.49
Korea KOSPI	2,621.75	-0.73
Shanghai Comp Index	3,320.90	-1.98
Hong Kong Hang Seng	22,941.32	-3.28
India Sensex	73,198.10	-1.90
Nymex Crude Oil WTI	69.76	-0.84
Comex Gold	2,848.50	-1.64
Reuters CRB Index	301.83	-1.37
MBB KL	10.72	0.56

Policy Rates

Rates	Current (%)	Upcoming CB Meeting	MBB Expectation
MAS SGD 3-Month SIBOR	3.3000	Apr-25	Neutral
BNM O/N Policy Rate	3.00	6/3/2025	Neutral
BI 7-Day Reverse Repo Rate	5.75	19/3/2025	Easing
BOT 1-Day Repo	2.00	30/4/2025	Neutral
BSP O/N Reverse Repo	5.75	3/4/2025	Easing
CBC Discount Rate	2.00	20/3/2025	Neutral
HKMA Base Rate	4.75	-	Easing
PBOC 1Y Loan Prime Rate	3.10	-	Easing
RBI Repo Rate	6.25	9/4/2025	Easing
BOK Base Rate	2.75	17/4/2025	Easing
Fed Funds Target Rate	4.50	20/3/2025	Easing
ECB Deposit Facility Rate	2.75	6/3/2025	Easing
BOE Official Bank Rate	4.50	20/3/2025	Easing
RBA Cash Rate Target	4.10	1/4/2025	Neutral
RBNZ Official Cash Rate	3.75	9/4/2025	Easing
BOJ Rate (Lower bound)	0.00	19/3/2025	Tightening
BoC O/N Rate	3.00	12/3/2025	Easing

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