

Foreign Exchange Development

The yen firmed and the U.S. dollar held steady on Thursday as investors pondered what Trump's latest tariff agenda would mean for the global economy and how it could affect the interest rate outlook for major central banks. Trump on Wednesday said he will announce tariffs related to imports of timber, cars, semiconductors and pharmaceuticals "over the next month or sooner".

Sterling retreated from a two-month top and last stood at \$1.2594. The euro was flat at \$1.0422, having fallen in the previous session as top policymakers at the ECB took opposing views on inflation risk and on how much the bank is holding back economic growth.

Against a basket of currencies, the dollar hovered near a one-week top at 107.15.

Oil prices edged lower on Thursday after an industry report showed a build in U.S. crude stockpiles and as tariff concerns weighed on sentiment, falling back from gains made in the previous session on worries over supply disruptions in Russia.

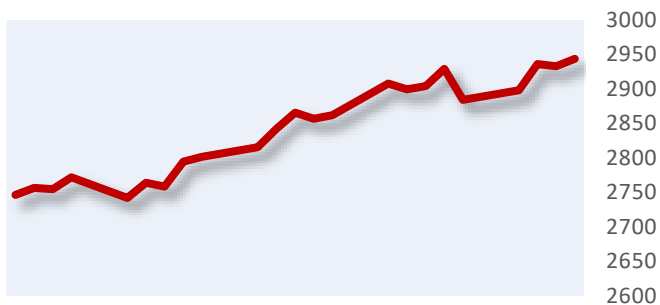
Gold prices held firm near a record high on Thursday, as Trump's tariff plans stoked fears of higher inflation and a major global trade war.

Currencies & Commodities

Currency	Price	MTD%	3M%	YTD%
EUR/USD	1.0435	0.69	-1.04	0.77
GBP/USD	1.2602	1.65	-0.43	0.67
USD/CHF	0.9028	-0.92	2.08	-0.54
USD/JPY	150.26	-3.20	-3.36	-4.22
AUD/USD	0.6367	2.45	-2.15	2.84
USD/CAD	1.4223	-2.10	1.77	-1.12
USD INDEX	106.98	-1.28	0.01	-1.39

Gold	Silver	KWT OSP	Brent
2943.60	32.86	79.82	76.13

Gold - 1 Month



Economic Updates

Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee's latest policy meeting released on Wednesday showed Trump's initial proposals raised concern among Federal Reserve officials about quickening inflation and reinforced their patient approach to rate cuts.

China left benchmark lending rates unchanged at the monthly fixing on Thursday, showing authorities are going slow with monetary stimulus as they prioritise financial and currency stability.

The Bank of Japan will hike interest rates only once more this year, most likely during the third quarter to 0.75%, according to a majority of economists in a Reuters poll published on Thursday.

Stock markets in the Gulf ended mixed on Wednesday as investors exercised caution following U.S. President Donald Trump's latest tariff threats on auto, semiconductor and pharmaceutical imports.

Global Markets

Index	Price	Change	MTD%	YTD%
DOWJONES	44,627.59	71.25	0.19	4.90
FTSE 100	8,712.53	-54.20	0.44	6.60
KUWAIT ALL	8,103.23	40.15	4.09	10.06

Benchmark	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
TERM SOFR	4.32021	4.33003	4.30668	4.24548
EURIBOR	2.6240	2.5160	2.4840	2.4440
KIBOR	3.6875	3.9375	4.1250	4.3750

Benchmark	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
US TRSY	4.188	4.270	4.344	4.513

Benchmark	ON	3 Month	6 Month	12 Month
CBK BOND	-	4.125	4.250	4.375
KONIA	1.900			
SOFR	4.370			

Country	KWT	US	EURO	UK
INT. RATES	4.000	4.500	2.75	4.500

Upcoming Indicators / Events

Date	Country	Indicator Name	Prior	Forecast
20Feb	United States	Initial Jobless Clm	213.0	214.3
20Feb	Euro Zone	Consumer Confid. Flash	-14.2	-13.97
20Feb	Japan	CPI, Core Nationwide YY	3.00	3.14
21Feb	United Kingdom	Retail Sales MM	-0.30	0.67
21Feb	Euro Zone	HCOB Mfg Flash PMI	46.6	46.89
21Feb	United Kingdom	Flash Manufacturing PMI	48.3	48.25
21Feb	United Kingdom	Flash Services PMI	50.8	50.78

Source: Reuters and Bloomberg