

TRAMONDO
INVESTMENT PARTNERS

MARKET COMPASS

A MONTHLY BRIEFING ON THE STATE OF THE FINANCIAL MARKETS AND OUR TACTICAL POSITIONING.

FEBRUARY 2026

TACTICAL POSITIONING

Cash:	○	●	○	○	○
Bonds:	○	○	●	◀	○	○
Equities:	○	○	●	○	○
Alt. Investments:	○	○	●	○	○

We are happy to explain our detailed tactical positioning to you in a conversation. Please contact us.

SPOTTED

Things are going well in football – Germany's Bundesliga generated record revenue of EUR 6.3bn in the 2024/25 season, representing an increase of just over 8% compared with the previous year. The result highlights the continued robustness of Germany's services sector, which (in contrast to the industrial sector) remains on a solid growth trajectory.

MARKET REVIEW:

POWELL STANDS FIRM, COMMODITY MARKETS FALTER

Federal Reserve in focus – The US central bank and its Chair, Jerome Powell, once again resisted intense pressure from the White House and confirmed the policy rate at 3.50%–3.75% at its first meeting of 2026. Persistent inflation continues to severely limit the scope for monetary easing, meaning no further rate cuts should be expected in the first half of the year. The real flashpoint, however, came from US President Donald Trump, who nominated Kevin Warsh as Powell's successor once his term ends in May. Warsh, a former Fed Governor from 2006 to 2011, was long regarded as a monetary hawk warning against overly loose policy, but has recently voiced support for lower interest rates and is calling for an aggressive reduction of the Fed's bond holdings. This stance could confront financial markets with reduced liquidity and temper expectations of rate cuts. Investors view the nomination as a key test of the Fed's independence, particularly against the backdrop of Trump's ongoing calls for a more expansionary policy.

Gold and silver caught in the downdraft – After a breathtaking rally, gold and silver suffered a dramatic sell-off toward the end of the month, abruptly deflating the build-up of market excesses. Gold had just reached a record high of just under USD 5,600 per ounce before sliding by around 14% within a matter of days to roughly USD 4,700, with an intraday low of USD 4,440. Silver fell even more sharply: From a peak of around USD 120 per ounce, the industrial metal at times lost more than 30%, trading near USD 80. This marked its steepest daily decline since the 1980s. Following the exceptional momentum and an extremely one-sided positioning, a classic air pocket emerged: Once selling began, thin market liquidity and forced liquidations stemming from leveraged positions amplified the downturn well beyond what fundamentals alone would justify. We view the pullback in gold, and to some extent also in silver, as a healthy reset of overly euphoric positioning rather than the start of a structural bear market. The track record of both metals remains impressive in 2026. Despite the recent setback, gold is up 12.3%, while silver has gained as much as 18.8%.

Mixed results in Silicon Valley – The earnings results published so far by the tech giants paint a mixed picture and suggest that the "AI trade" is now facing more stricter profitability tests. Meta Platforms (+8.6% in January) impressed with operating profit increasing by 20% in 2025 to more than USD 83bn, driven by 24% revenue growth in advertising. Despite plans to double

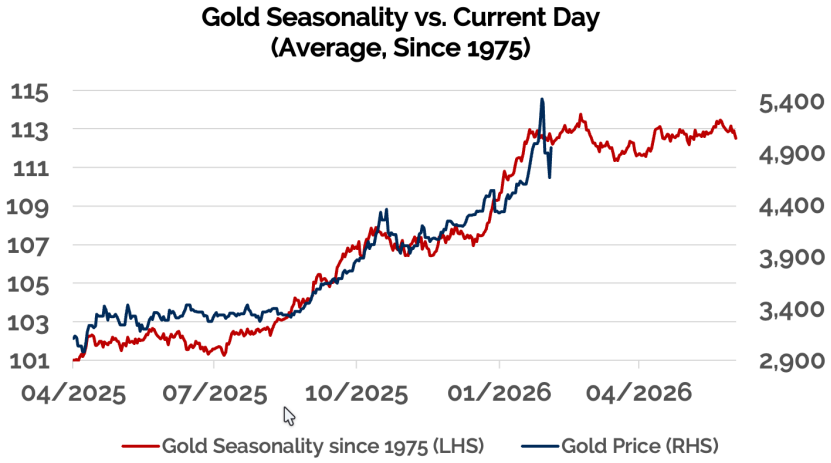
SOON IN FOCUS

Gold miners – From mid-February onwards, investors are likely to turn their attention to gold miners as earnings results across the sector are released. The average gold price in Q4 2025 stood at around USD 4,150 per ounce – roughly 55% higher than in Q4 2024 – a leverage effect that should materially enhance margins.

AI infrastructure spending to between USD 115bn and USD 135bn in 2026, investors rewarded the already visible productivity gains, sending the company's shares sharply higher. Microsoft (-11.0%) disappointed: Although revenue and earnings exceeded analysts' expectations, Azure cloud growth edged down slightly from 40% to 39%, while capital expenditure surged by 66% to USD 37.5bn. This triggered a 10% share price slump, the worst since March 2020, and raised doubts about the monetisation of AI investments, despite an extraordinary order backlog of USD 625bn (including the OpenAI deal). Tesla is grappling with declining margins and intensifying Asian competition, prompting the Austin, Texas-based group to redirect investments towards its Optimus robots. Apple's business, by contrast, is booming, particularly in China, where iPhone 17 upgrades and a high-margin services segment have provided renewed momentum.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

...THE GOLD PRICE FOLLOWS A CLEAR SEASONAL PATTERN?



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG, TRAMONDO

After a remarkable run in 2025, gold and silver extended their momentum well into January, reaching new all-time highs of around USD 5,600 and approximately USD 120, respectively. As we have discussed on several occasions, the most frequently cited driver behind this rise has been substantial buying by central banks. This trend towards de-dollarisation has been further reinforced by tariff-related uncertainties, growing concerns over the fiscal sustainability of the United States, and questions surrounding central bank independence. Geopolitical tensions – such as Trump's arrest of Venezuelan President Maduro and his threat of intervention in Iran – provided additional short-term support.

Once news emerged of President Trump's intention to nominate Kevin Warsh – widely regarded as a monetary hawk – as Jerome Powell's successor as Chair of the Federal Reserve, precious metals began to retreat. As the initial decline took hold, market dynamics such as trading algorithms, one-sided positioning and limited market liquidity – particularly in the silver market – accelerated the sell-off. At the same time, several major commodity exchanges raised margin requirements for gold and silver futures, adding further downward pressure on prices.

At the time of writing, both precious metals have recovered part of their losses as dip buyers have provided support to the market. Despite the elevated volatility, it appears that many investors continue to view gold as a

WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF, ONCE THE POST-SELL-OFF REBOUND HAS RUN ITS COURSE, THE PRECIOUS METAL ENTERED A SEASONALLY TYPICAL CONSOLIDATION PHASE.

lasting safe haven. We remain constructive on gold over the medium term. That said, we would not be surprised if the metal entered a seasonally typical consolidation phase once the post-sell-off rebound has run its course. As illustrated in the chart above, gold prices tend to move sideways for the remainder of the year following strong rallies (typically from August to October and from December to January).

The trajectory of gold prices since April 2025 has so far closely mirrored these seasonal patterns. Should gold remain "in trend", the outcome would not be a collapse but rather a six-month period of sideways trading. While this seasonal window offers the most attractive entry point, structural shifts in the global economy suggest that gold's role within a diversified portfolio is more critical than ever. We therefore advise underexposed investors to build positions selectively and with due regard to risk.

MARKET OUTLOOK

2026 continues to unfold against a complex yet broadly constructive backdrop, supported by a cautious easing of US monetary policy and a robust investment cycle centred on artificial intelligence (AI). Overall, we view the risk–reward profile in equity markets as balanced. Given valuations, particularly in the United States, that already price in a meaningful degree of optimism, we expect earnings growth, rather than further valuation expansion, to remain the key driver of returns in 2026.

AI IS INCREASINGLY CALLING INTO QUESTION THE ONCE-SIGNIFICANT COMPETITIVE MOATS OF MANY SOFTWARE BUSINESS MODELS, PROMPTING INVESTORS TO REASSESS THE SECTOR'S QUALITY PREMIA.

At the same time, the divergence within the technology sector observed since the summer of 2025 is becoming increasingly pronounced: while parts of the semiconductor and infrastructure segments are benefiting from AI-driven investment budgets, the software sector is undergoing a structural re-rating. AI is increasingly challenging the once-significant competitive moats of many software business models (lower switching costs, faster substitution cycles, and new competitive dynamics), prompting investors to reassess the sector's quality premia. This recalibration is likely to result in elevated volatility in software stocks in the near term, until a new equilibrium between growth, pricing power and sustainable monetisation is established.

The AI theme is likely to remain the dominant market narrative in February. We continue to see no signs of an abrupt end to the AI euphoria. Therefore, the earnings season will be all the more important, particularly the results of Nvidia, which reports on 25 February 2026. Once again, this event is likely to be pivotal for the broader "AI story", as guidance, demand signals and supply-chain commentary will act as key barometers for the entire AI ecosystem.

On a regional basis, the United States remains our preferred market. In Asia, we see attractive opportunities in Japan and Vietnam, as well as – very selectively – in China, while Europe remains a "show-me story".

We have downgraded bonds from overweight to neutral. While the income component remains intact, the asymmetric return profile appears less attractive: a significant portion of monetary easing is already priced in, while inflation risks and a potential steepening of the yield curve could increase volatility at the long end. We remain clearly quality-focused (investment grade), with only selective exposure to high-yield issuers.

Gold remains strategically attractive, particularly following the recent correction. We interpret the pullback not as a fundamental trend break but rather as a technical washout from overheated positioning, amplified by thin market liquidity. For investors who are structurally underexposed, we therefore see good reasons to use the current weakness to build positions gradually, with a clear preference for gold and gold mining equities. Silver, by contrast, is viewed more as a satellite allocation and is suitable for investors with a higher risk tolerance.

WHO WE ARE

Tramondo Investment Partners AG is a bank-independent Swiss asset manager based in Zug and licensed by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) to act as an asset manager of collective investment schemes. Tramondo is the investment arm of a multi-family office group that has been in existence for over 45 years.

CITYWIRE TOP 50 IAMs 2025

For the fifth time, the company was named one of the 50 most influential independent asset managers in Switzerland and Liechtenstein by the renowned media company Citywire.

ASV/ASWM
Allianz Schweizer Vermögensverwalter
Alliance of Swiss Wealth Managers

Tramondo is a member of the Alliance of Swiss Wealth Managers (ASV/ASWM), founded in 2016. The members of the Alliance currently represent more than 100 billion Swiss francs in client assets.

CONTACT US

Tramondo Investment Partners AG
Unter Altstadt 10
CH-6302 Zug
T +41 41 710 76 76
F +41 41 710 76 78
contact@tramondo.ch
www.tramondo.ch

Find out more about our asset management mandates and vested benefits solutions that are individually tailored to the special needs of private clients and vested benefits investors.

Or register now for an independent and critical assessment of your investment portfolio. As a result, you will receive concrete, easy-to-implement recommendations on how you can optimally align your investments and reduce costs in the process.

Please scan the QR code on the right with the photo function of your mobile phone and you will be taken to the page that provides more information and a link to register.

This information sheet has been prepared by Tramondo Investment Partners AG (the "Company") irrespective of specific or future investment objectives, a particular financial or tax situation or the individual needs of a particular recipient and is provided for personal use and information only. It is based on specific facts and circumstances and is prepared for a specific purpose. It is not intended to be and must not be relied upon by any other person.

The information in this sheet does not constitute a solicitation, offer or recommendation to any person in Switzerland or any other jurisdiction to buy, subscribe for or sell any securities or other financial instruments, to use it as a sufficient basis for making an investment decision or to engage in any transaction of any kind for that purpose. Furthermore, this presentation should not be construed as financial, legal or tax advice.

The information and opinions expressed in this sheet have been carefully collected, analysed and compiled by the Company based on publicly available information from trusted sources at the time of writing. They are subject to change without notice. The Company undertakes no obligation to update the information contained herein and it should be noted that material events may have occurred since the date hereof. Although the information has been obtained from sources believed by the Company to be reliable, no warranty is made as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. Any reference to past performance data is not necessarily indicative of current and future returns.

Individual products or components mentioned in this sheet may have a certain complexity and high risk (e.g. derivatives, alternative investments, structured investments). They are intended only for investors who understand and accept the risks involved. Investments in foreign currencies are subject to currency fluctuations, investments in emerging markets or in specialised products are subject to particular risks. An investment in any target described in this Information Sheet should only be made after careful consideration of the latest Prospectus and extensive due diligence on the targeted assets. The Company recommends that investors carefully consider and, where appropriate, seek professional advice on financial, legal, regulatory, credit, tax and accounting implications before making a final investment decision or implementing a strategy. The investor assumes responsibility for the proper declaration of all assets and their tax assessment.

The Company reserves the right to change the contents of this sheet in whole or in part at any time, and without prior notice. Although the Company takes all reasonable care to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this sheet, it cannot guarantee it. The company or its employees accept no liability for any damage (whether material or immaterial) arising from the use or non-use of the information contained herein, in particular no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, reliability or comparability of the information on third parties contained herein, which is based exclusively on publicly available information.

Tramondo Investment Partners AG is domiciled in Switzerland and is authorised and supervised by FINMA.