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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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OUR VIEWS ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER EVENTS AND THEIR EXPECTED IMPACT ON INVESTMENTS

MARCH 16, 2026

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OWNER OPERATED COMPANIES



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ALTERNATIVE FUND
COMPANY NEWS

Ares Management Limited (Ares Management) – is reportedly planning its first local-currency private credit fund in Asia. The Thailand-focused vehicle would target performing credit to high-quality Thai corporates, raising capital primarily from domestic insurers earning in Thai Baht (THB), a local-currency structure designed to avoid the foreign exchange (FX) mismatch that has historically constrained foreign private credit in the region. The opportunity stems from Thai banks pulling back on lending amid elevated non-performing loans (NPLs) in auto and housing. The firm is simultaneously raising a new regional Asia special situations fund targeting at least the approximately US\$2.4 billion secured by its predecessor vintage in 2023, and with recently hired former CapitalLand Investment (CLI) executive Gabriel Fong as a partner for Asia credit. The initiatives extend Ares Management's existing Asia-Pacific (APAC) credit platform, built through the 2020 SSG Capital acquisition (approximately US\$6 billion assets under management (AUM) at close) and since scaled to US\$11.5 billion AUM across more than 20 funds with more than 60 investment professionals.

LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Société Européenne (LVMH) – Tag Heuer Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Antoine Pin departed the Swiss watchmaker in January after just over a year in the role, with LVMH stating he “decided to start a new chapter in his career” after 23 years with the Group. Pin had been appointed CEO in July 2024 as part of an executive reshuffle in LVMH's watch division, and his tenure saw Tag Heuer secure a landmark 10 year Formula 1 (F1) timekeeping partnership, become the first title partner

of the Monaco Grand Prix, and launch its fifth generation connected watch. LVMH has now named Béatrice Goasglas as his successor, effective May 1, 2026. Goasglas has been with Tag Heuer since 2018, having served as Vice President (VP) Digital and Client Experience, then Managing Director (MD) of Asia Pacific (APAC), and most recently President of Tag Heuer Americas. Separately, Louis Vuitton closed Paris Fashion Week on March 10 with its Women's Fall/Winter 2026 collection, staged in a dramatic mountain scape installation at the Louvre's Cour Carrée. Creative Director Nicolas Ghesquière drew on folklore, nomadic travel, and the Maison's trunk making origins, echoing founder Louis Vuitton's own 450 kilometer walk from the Jura mountains to Paris, where he apprenticed as a malletier (a trunk maker) and launched what would become the world's preeminent luxury house. These developments come alongside the Arnault family's recent increase of its LVMH equity stake to 50.01%, up from 49.77% at year end 2025, crossing the majority ownership threshold through approximately €407 million in share purchases following the January earnings release, cementing formal control with 65.94% of voting rights.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) – The Indian government's delays in formalizing changes to listing rules are threatening to force RIL to miss the targeted timeline for an initial public offering (IPO) of shares in Jio Platforms. RIL is waiting for the government to formalize the changes backed by the regulator to appoint bankers formally and file a draft IPO prospectus, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. The company is now aiming to file the draft prospectus before April, depending on the government notification, they said. Jio, which owns India's largest wireless operator, is one of the crown jewels of RIL and its IPO, the first listing of a major RIL unit in almost 20 years, could be the country's biggest ever. Investment bankers have proposed a valuation of as much as US\$170 billion for the company, which would offer a rare opportunity for investors to buy into one of world's biggest growth stories of the past decade. RIL was aiming to list Jio in the first half of 2026. A

top-end valuation could raise about US\$4.3 billion by selling the minimum stake and would place the company among the biggest companies in India by market value. Meta Platforms Incorporated (Meta) and Alphabet Incorporated (Alphabet) announced investments totaling more than US\$10 billion in Jio in 2020. Deliberations are ongoing and details of the offering, including timing and size, may change, the people said. RIL declined to immediately comment. Representatives for the finance ministry didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in September approved amendments to its regulations, allowing companies with a post-issue market capitalization exceeding INR5 trillion (US\$55 billion) to dilute as little as 2.5% in an IPO, rather than the current minimum of 5%. The rule change is a possible catalyst for mega listings such as Jio and National Stock Exchange of India but doesn't yet have final government approval. It's unclear what the holdup is and there's no indication that the delay is targeting the Jio IPO in particular.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) – is in talks with America First Refining, with options ranging from an equity stake to offtake agreements or broader strategic partnerships, people familiar with the matter said, asking not to be identified as the information is private. The potential deal underscores how RIL is capitalizing on shifting energy alliances as geopolitical conflicts chokes energy supplies. Although it did not name RIL, Washington had last year accused India's politically connected energy titans of war profiteering through purchases of discounted Russian crude. But on Tuesday, President Trump announced the Brownsville project, calling it "the FIRST new United States (US) Oil Refinery in 50 YEARS" and thanking RIL for its role. Still, the finer details of RIL's involvement remain fluid and under negotiations, the people said. The intent has been to help smooth out the bilateral relations, one person said. That shift in tone reflects Washington's recalibrated stance as Middle Eastern supplies tighten amid the Iran war. Indian refiners, including RIL, have bought about 30 million barrels of Russian oil after the US gave its green light for purchases to cope with a shortfall caused by the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz. RIL also resumed purchases of cargoes from Venezuela, after the US stepped in to oversee Caracas's oil sales. A RIL representative did not reply to email seeking comments. The US Energy Department did not immediately respond to a request for more details. RIL operates the world's largest refining complex in Jamnagar, with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels a day and can process the dirtiest grades of crude oil, but has no overseas refining assets. A foothold in South Texas would help embed the company in the US energy landscape, as commercial interests align with diplomatic priorities.



DIVIDEND PAYERS



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The Cigna Group Incorporated (The Cigna Group) – Announced David Cordani will retire as CEO of The Cigna Group on July 1, 2026, transitioning to a new role as Executive Chair of the Board of Directors. Brian Evanko, The Cigna Group's President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) will assume the CEO role on July 1. His appointment follows more than 28 years within the organization, holding leadership roles across geographies and businesses, including international operations, the individual exchange business, and, most recently, enterprise wide financial and operational oversight. As Evanko prepares to take the helm, he has been clear about where he wants to focus. He pointed to three major challenges facing health care today: affordability, fragmented customer and patient experiences, and a system oriented more toward sick care than prevention. He said The Cigna Group's Commitments to Better are designed to address those challenges by centering care around individuals and using data and technology, including artificial intelligence (AI), to make health care more personalized and proactive.

The Mosaic Company (Mosaic) – Mosaic Fertilizantes P and K Limitada, a subsidiary of Mosaic, and Rainbow Rare Earths Limited (Rainbow) have completed a favorable preliminary economic assessment (PEA) and entered into a joint project development agreement to advance the Uberaba rare earths project in Minas Gerais, Brazil. Under the agreement, the parties will jointly pursue a prefeasibility study (PFS), with the intention, subject to favorable results, to progress to a definitive feasibility study (DFS) targeted later in 2026. Subject to the favorable outcome of the DFS and a decision by both parties to proceed, Mosaic and Rainbow would expect to negotiate definitive agreements for a jointly owned project company, with construction of a processing facility in Uberaba targeted to start in 2027. Initial production is targeted for 2030, subject to further studies, regulatory approvals, financing arrangements, investment decisions, and successful project execution.

South Bow Corporation (South Bow) – reports its fourth quarter and year end 2025 financial and operational results. South Bow generated revenue of US\$503 million and US\$1,986 million for the three months and year ended December 31, 2025, respectively. The company recognized net income of US\$156 million (US\$0.75 per share) and US\$433 million (US\$2.07 per share) during the three months and year ended December 31, 2025, respectively. Recorded normalized Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization (EBITDA) of US\$252 million and US\$1,022 million for the three months and year ended December 31, 2025, respectively. Full year 2025 normalized EBITDA was slightly above guidance of US\$1,010 million. Reported distributable cash flow (DCF) of US\$149 million and US\$709 million for the three months and year ended December 31, 2025, respectively. Full year 2025 DCF was in line with revised guidance of US\$700 million and increased relative to 2024 due to South Bow's tax optimization efforts and lower expected current taxes resulting from changes in United States (US) tax legislation.

 LIFE SCIENCES



Arvinas Incorporated (Arvinas) – full year 2025 results showed stable revenue of US\$262.6 million, as lower collaboration revenue from Novartis and Pfizer was largely offset by increased revenue from vepdegestrant, its estrogen receptor (ER) degrader, along with a US\$20 million milestone payment from Novartis. Research and development (R&D) expenses declined to US\$285.2 million, driven by reductions in personnel and external program spending, which helped narrow the company's net loss to US\$80.8 million, a significant improvement from 2024. Arvinas streamlined operations by scaling back development programs, reducing selling, general and administrative (SG&A) expenses, and adjusting commercialization plans after narrowing the vepdegestrant opportunity to estrogen receptor 1 (ESR1) mutant patients. The company ended 2025 with US\$685.4 million in cash and securities, reflecting both operating cash use and US\$91.9 million in share repurchases, providing financial runway into the second half of 2028. Looking ahead to 2026, Arvinas anticipates multiple Phase 1 clinical milestones, continues to focus on its four priority early stage programs, and, together with Pfizer, aims to secure a commercialization partner for vepdegestrant ahead of its June 5, 2026, Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) decision date.

BeOne Incorporated (BeOne) – reported strong fiscal year (FY) 2025 results, with total revenue rising 40% to US\$5.3 billion, driven primarily by BRUKINSA, its lead oral Bruton's tyrosine kinase (BTK) inhibitor, which generated US\$3.98 billion (+49% year over year) and accounted for roughly three quarters of total revenue. The company issued 2026 revenue guidance of US\$6.2 billion to US\$6.4 billion and delivered gross margins in the approximately 87% range, up from approximately 84% in 2024. Free cash flow (FCF) reached US\$942 million, an improvement of US\$1.6 billion, supported by revenue growth, margin expansion, and disciplined operating cost management. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) operating income was US\$447 million, with GAAP earnings per share (EPS) of US\$2.53 per American Depositary Share (ADS). Clinically, BRUKINSA continues to demonstrate durability, with six year SEQUOIA data showing 74% progression free survival in frontline chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), while Phase 3 readouts for sonrotoclax in CLL and mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) remain on track for 2026. TEVIMBRA, the company's programmed cell death protein 1 (PD 1)-blocking monoclonal antibody used across multiple advanced cancers, continues to expand reimbursement across European and global markets.

lovance Biotherapeutics Incorporated (lovance) – reported a strong 2025 performance with total product revenue of approximately US\$264 million in its first full year of commercialization, driven by US\$220 million from United States (US) Amtagvi, its tumor derived autologous T cell therapy for previously treated unresectable or metastatic melanoma, and US\$44 million from global Proleukin, an immunotherapy used in metastatic melanoma and renal cell carcinoma (RCC). Fourth quarter revenue reached

US\$87 million, reflecting roughly 30% sequential growth. Gross margin declined year over year due to higher costs associated with scaling Amtagvi manufacturing, though fourth quarter margins improved to about 50% as cost efficiency initiatives began to take effect. The company ended 2025 with US\$303 million in cash, extending its operational runway into the third quarter (Q3) of 2027, and reduced its net loss, with fiscal year (FY) 2025 earnings per share (EPS) improving to US\$1.09 from US\$1.28 in 2024. Management also highlighted a key operational milestone as all lifileucel manufacturing transitioned to the internal lovance Cell Therapy Center (iCTC) facility, enhancing capacity utilization, lowering cost of sales, and supporting further margin improvement.

Separately, lovance announced early Phase 1 data in advanced soft tissue sarcoma showing an approximately 50% objective response rate (ORR), a striking early signal in a cancer where checkpoint inhibitors typically achieve only 5% to 15% response rates and chemotherapy offers limited durability, underscoring the promising potential of its cell therapy platform.

Clarity Pharmaceuticals Limited (Clarity Pharmaceuticals) – announced that the registrational Phase III Amplify trial evaluating Copper 64 (⁶⁴Cu)-SAR bisPSMA for imaging biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer has reached its target enrollment of approximately 220 participants across sites in the United States (US) and Australia, marking an important step toward a future regulatory submission. Notably, the company achieved this recruitment milestone in just nine months after imaging the first participant, a rapid pace given that three standard of care prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA) positron emission tomography (PET) imaging products are already commercially available from four different companies. The trial is designed to evaluate the diagnostic performance of the tracer in detecting recurrent disease, building on earlier studies suggesting strong lesion detection and positioning the program for potential United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval.

Janux Therapeutics Incorporated (Janux Therapeutics) – reported its full year 2025 results, highlighting strong clinical and strategic progress across its tumor activated immunotherapy pipeline. The lead program, JANX007, a prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA) targeted therapy for metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), continued to show encouraging results in Phase 1, including durable clinical activity, deep prostate specific antigen (PSA) declines, and median radiographic progression free survival (rPFS) of 7.9 to 8.9 months. In parallel, JANX008, a therapy that targets epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) expressing tumors and activates T cells within the tumor microenvironment (TME), advanced through expansion cohort enrollment in selected solid tumors, while JANX011, a cluster of differentiation 19 (CD19) protein targeted antibody recruiting molecule, entered its first Phase 1 study in healthy volunteers. The company also strengthened its strategic position through a global collaboration and exclusive license agreement with Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS), securing US\$50 million in upfront and near term payments with eligibility for up to US\$800 million in development and commercial milestones to co develop a novel tumor activated therapeutic for solid tumors. Janux Therapeutics ended 2025 with US\$966.6 million in cash and investments, providing substantial financial flexibility to support ongoing pipeline execution despite increased research and development (R&D) spending of US\$125.9 million and a full year net loss of US\$113.6 million.

Lantheus Holdings Incorporated (Lantheus) – said the FDA issued tentative approval for its Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) for lutetium Lu 177 dotatate (PNT2003), a proposed generic to Novartis' Lutathera for somatostatin receptor positive gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (GEP NETs). The company said the application has completed FDA review, but final approval is blocked until a 30 month Hatch Waxman Act stay expires in June 2026. Lantheus previously disclosed it believes it is first to file for this ANDA and, if approved, could be eligible for 180 days of generic marketing exclusivity in the United States (US). PNT2003 rights were licensed from Point Biopharma in December 2022, and Point Biopharma was acquired by Eli Lilly and Company in December 2023. Lu 177 dotatate is a radiopharmaceutical therapy where a somatostatin targeting peptide binds somatostatin receptor 2 (SSTR2) on tumor cells and delivers beta radiation from lutetium 177 (Lu 177) to damage the tumor after internalization.

Nuvalent Incorporated (Nuvalent) – reported its full year results and highlighted major progress across its drug pipeline and corporate strategy. The FDA has accepted the New Drug Application (NDA) for zidesamtinib, a treatment for ROS1 positive non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) in patients previously treated with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI), with a decision expected by September 18, 2026, under the Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA). The company also plans to file for expanded approval for use in TKI naïve patients in the second half of 2026. In parallel, Nuvalent expects to submit an NDA for neladalkib, a therapy for anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) positive NSCLC, in the first half of 2026. Financially, Nuvalent ended 2025 with US\$1.4 billion in cash, extending its runway through 2029, and completed a US\$500 million equity raise in November 2025. Operating expenses increased significantly as the company prepared for its first commercial drug launch, contributing to a net loss of US\$425.4 million. The appointment of industry veteran Ron Squarer to the board in December 2025 further underscores Nuvalent's focus on launch readiness, competitive positioning, and pricing strategy in the ROS1 market. The company has not yet provided financial guidance for 2026 and is expected to do so following potential FDA approval of zidesamtinib.

Relay Therapeutics Incorporated (Relay Therapeutics) – reported full year results that underscore meaningful clinical momentum and disciplined financial execution as it advances zovogalisib (RLY 2608), an oral phosphoinositide 3 kinase alpha (PI3Kα) inhibitor, across multiple programs. In 2026, the company expects early Phase 1/2 data from its triplet regimen (zovogalisib, fulvestrant, and a cyclin dependent kinase 4/6 (CDK4/6) inhibitor) in phosphatidylinositol 4,5 bispophosphate 3 kinase catalytic subunit alpha (PIK3CA) mutated hormone receptor positive/human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 negative (HR+/HER2-) metastatic breast cancer (MBC) and will detail the design of a global first line Phase 3 study versus standard care. Relay Therapeutics will also present initial data on March 16, 2026, evaluating zovogalisib plus fulvestrant in patients who have progressed on CDK4/6 inhibitors, alongside early proof of concept data in PIK3CA driven vascular anomalies that could support expansion beyond oncology. Financially, Relay Therapeutics closed 2025 with US\$554.5 million in cash and investments, providing runway into 2029, while revenue grew to US\$15.4 million and net loss improved to US\$276.5 million for the year.

Telix Pharmaceuticals Limited (Telix) – reported that Part 1 of the Phase 3 ProstACT Global study for its prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA)

targeted radiopharmaceutical TLX591 Tx (lutetium 177 (Lu 177) rosoapatamab tetraxetan) met its primary objectives, demonstrating an acceptable safety and tolerability profile with no new safety signals in 36 patients with metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) who had progressed after prior androgen receptor pathway inhibitor (ARPI) therapy. The safety lead in confirmed favorable dosimetry, biodistribution, and manageable hematologic toxicity, while showing the therapy can be combined with standard treatments such as enzalutamide, abiraterone, or docetaxel without drug drug interactions. The positive safety readout supports the program's advancement into Part 2 of the Phase 3 trial, a randomized expansion expected to enroll roughly 490 patients comparing TLX591 Tx plus standard of care versus standard of care alone, with radiographic progression free survival (rPFS) as the primary endpoint.

Separately, Telix announced it has resubmitted its NDA to the FDA for TLX101 Px (Pixclara), an investigational fluorine 18 (¹⁸F) fluoroethyl L tyrosine (FET) positron emission tomography (PET) imaging agent designed to distinguish recurrent or progressive glioma from treatment related changes in both adult and pediatric patients. The resubmission includes additional data and statistical analyses requested by the FDA after a prior Complete Response Letter (CRL), and the company believes the updated package addresses the agency's concerns. TLX101 Px has received Orphan Drug designation and Fast Track designation, reflecting the unmet need for more accurate brain tumor imaging in the US, where no targeted amino acid PET agent is currently approved. If approved, the imaging agent could support improved diagnosis and treatment decisions for glioma patients and potentially serve as a companion diagnostic to Telix Pharmaceuticals' therapeutic brain cancer program, TLX101 Tx.



NUCLEAR ENERGY

ČEZ Group a.s. (ČEZ Group) – reported FY 2025 results that were broadly stable year on year (YoY) despite lower realized power prices and weaker commodity trading profits, with management highlighting stronger contributions from distribution, sales, gas, and higher nuclear output. A key operational highlight was record nuclear generation of 32.1 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2025, up 2.4 TWh YoY, which helped offset softer market conditions elsewhere in the portfolio. Revenue declined 3% YoY to CZK 333.4 billion, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) was down only CZK 0.4 billion, underscoring the resilience of the underlying business mix. Net profit fell CZK 1.7 billion YoY, mainly due to higher depreciation and amortization tied to the GasNet consolidation and the accelerated depreciation of coal assets beginning in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024. Capital expenditures (Capex) remained elevated at CZK 56.1 billion, with a further CZK 5.8 billion funded via subsidies, primarily for distribution system reinforcement. Customer and infrastructure trends were constructive: electricity consumption in ČEZ Distribuce territory rose 1.3% to 34.1 TWh, gas consumption in GasNet territory increased 7% to 63.3 TWh, and ČEZ Prodej's end customer supplies grew 1% in electricity and 13% in gas. For 2026, management guides to EBITDA of CZK 103–108 billion and adjusted net profit of CZK 27–31 billion, implying a lower earnings base after an exceptionally strong prior year environment but continued stability through the group's ongoing transformation.

GE Vernova LLC (GE Vernova) – Global Nuclear Fuel (GNF), a GE Vernova led alliance with Hitachi and an affiliate of GE Vernova Hitachi Nuclear Energy, said it was awarded a contract by Entergy to continue supplying fuel to the Grand Gulf and River Bend nuclear power plants, extending the current agreement through 2035 and covering four reloads of its GNF4 fuel design. GNF said lead use assemblies of GNF4 (initial test assemblies loaded ahead of full core adoption) will be loaded into River Bend in 2027, with full GNF4 reloads scheduled for Grand Gulf in 2030 and River Bend in 2031. The company described GNF4 as its 11x11 next generation boiling water reactor (BWR) fuel product, introduced in October 2025, and said it incorporates two United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S. NRC) licensed advanced components: Zircon cladding, which it said was developed for improved corrosion resistance, and aluminosilicate doped uranium dioxide (UO₂) pellets, which it said provide accident tolerant fuel benefits through an added layer of reliability. Entergy said the design allows it to achieve the same power levels with less uranium and less enrichment, while GNF said fuel for both plants will be fabricated at its Wilmington, North Carolina facility and noted it has supplied Grand Gulf and River Bend continuously since 2008.

Separately, GE Vernova said at its Energy of Change Summit in Hanoi that its 9HA.02 gas turbines and H78 generators had been chosen for three liquefied natural gas (LNG) power projects in Vietnam: PetroVietnam Power (PV Power)'s Quynh Lap LNG project, VinEnerg's Hai Phong LNG project, and Vietnam Electricity (EVN)'s Quang Trach II LNG project, representing a total of six HA gas turbines and six H78 generators. The company also announced an approximately US\$200 million investment in a new Hai Phong manufacturing facility for large power transformers used mainly in high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission projects, with phased development and full operations expected in 2028 subject to regulatory approvals, and said it signed a non binding memorandum of understanding (MOU) with EVN to explore potential opportunities in HVDC technology. GE Vernova also said commercial operation had started at PV Power's Nhon Trach 3 and 4, 1.6 gigawatt (GW) power plant, while noting that the reported technology selections for the LNG projects do not constitute firm orders or backlog and remain subject to definitive agreements.

ITM Power PLC (ITM Power) – said MorGen Energy's West Wales Hydrogen project in Milford Haven has reached final investment decision (FID) and that the previously announced 20 megawatt (MW) Notice to Proceed relates to this project, with ITM Power set to deploy POSEIDON (its 20 MW core electrolysis process module) at the site. ITM Power said the plant will be located at the former Milford Haven Refinery, will serve industrial clusters across Milford Haven, Port Talbot and wider Wales, is targeting commissioning in 2028, and is expected to produce about 2,000 tonnes of hydrogen per year. The company also said it signed a 10 year long term service agreement (LTSA) with MorGen Energy to provide maintenance and operational support for the project, which it described as among the first projects backed by the United Kingdom (UK) government's Hydrogen Allocation Round 1 (HAR1) to reach FID.

NuScale Power Corporation (NuScale) – NuScale and Framatome said on March 10 that they expanded their longstanding fuel partnership to include Framatome's European fuel fabrication facilities for future European customers, while also issuing notice for Framatome's Richland, Washington facility to qualify for manufacturing and delivery of NuScale's NuFUEL HTP2 fuel design (NuScale's proprietary reactor fuel for its small modular reactor

(SMR) design) within the next five years. The companies said the notice includes direction to produce at least 444 fuel assemblies for NuScale's first United States (US) customer as early as 2030 and described the agreement as building on their exclusive fuel manufacturing contract signed in 2015. NuScale said its reactor uses a fuel design based on Framatome pressurized water reactor (PWR) fuel technology, while Framatome said the expanded arrangement is intended to support supply chain and manufacturing milestones for both US and European deployment.

Oklo Incorporated (Oklo) – and Centrus Energy Corporation (Centrus) said they have agreed to pursue discussions on a potential joint venture focused on high assay low enriched uranium (HALEU) deconversion services and related fuel cycle technologies at Centrus' Piketon, Ohio site, which is co located with Centrus' enrichment operations and adjacent to Oklo's planned 1.2 gigawatt (GW) power campus in Pike County. The companies said deconversion is the step after uranium is enriched where it is converted into a different chemical form, such as uranium oxide or uranium metal, before it can be fabricated into fuel for advanced reactors, and that the proposed structure is intended to integrate enrichment and deconversion at one location to improve efficiency and cost through co location. Oklo and Centrus also said a centralized deconversion hub at Piketon could reduce the need for each HALEU fuel fabrication facility to build its own deconversion line, simplify HALEU shipping, and expand domestic fuel cycle capacity for Oklo's future needs and broader United States (US) advanced reactor deployment. The release also said the parties plan to explore coordination on regulatory and research and development (R&D) activities and engage with federal, state, and local initiatives supporting the siting of deconversion services in Pike County. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) says most advanced reactor designs require HALEU, while Centrus says its Piketon site has been producing HALEU under DOE contract since late 2023.

PRIVATE CREDIT

JPMorgan tightened lending to several private credit borrowers after marking down some software linked loans used as collateral—an explicit signal that back leverage capacity could shrink just as investor redemptions rise. Bloomberg subsequently detailed why "back leverage" has become a fresh pain point: with banks reducing loan to value (LTV) ratios or re marking assets, the leverage that helped transform 8–9% gross returns into double digits becomes harder to sustain—especially if lower base rates and more problem loans compress performance. The bank private credit nexus drew attention in Europe, where Deutsche Bank flagged EUR 26 billion of private credit exposure (approximately 5% of its loan book) as a key risk—noting investor focus on underwriting after recent events. Managers responded with transparency initiatives and balance sheet actions to shore up confidence. Apollo Global Management Incorporated (Apollo) said it will begin monthly net asset value (NAV) reporting for its credit funds and is working toward daily marks and third party valuations—an attempt to narrow the "valuation opacity" gap that critics say is fueling retail redemptions and discounts. Ares Management Limited (Ares) worked to steady internal and external stakeholders—holding a town hall to emphasize opportunities amid volatility and, separately, pushing Asia expansion with plans for its first local currency private credit fund in Thailand, a sign of continued geographic diversification despite United States (US) based disruptions.



ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Canada's trade deficit widened in January, up to CA\$3.6 billion from CA\$1.3 billion in December. Exports fell 4.7% month on month (m/m) in January. Exports of motor vehicles and parts fell sharply (21.2% m/m) to its lowest level since late 2021. Exports of unwrought gold, silver and platinum groups were volatile, down by 12.6% m/m. Energy exports, led by natural gas (+23.7% m/m), provided a bit of an offset. In total, 6 of 11 product categories registered a decrease on the month. Goods imports fell in January (2.2% m/m), with 7 of 11 subsectors booking a decline. Imports of motor vehicles and parts (8.3% m/m) was also the biggest contributor to the contraction. In volume terms, exports sagged by 5.8% m/m while imports fell by a lesser 2.2% m/m. Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the United States (US) narrowed from CA\$5.7 billion in December to CA\$5.3 billion in January. Exports to non US destinations fell by 6.5% m/m after reaching an all time high last month.

Canada's economy lost 84 thousand (k) jobs in February (0.4% month on month (m/m)), below consensus expectations for a 10k increase.

The number of full time workers was down 108k, and the number of private sector workers down 73k for the month. The unemployment rate rose to 6.7% from 6.5% in January. The rise in the unemployment rate came despite another 27k people leaving the labour force. Job losses were spread across both goods (28k) and services producing industries (56k), with wholesale and retail trade (18k), "other services" (14k), construction (12k) and manufacturing (9.2k) bearing the brunt of the declines. Wage growth was up in February, with average hourly wages up 3.9% versus a year ago (3.3% in January).

Canadian housing starts increased to 250.9k annualized units in February, up 4.5% month over month (m/m). The six-month moving average of starts increased 0.4% m/m to 256.0k units in February. February's increase was concentrated in the multi-family sector, with urban starts up 8% m/m to 192.3k units. Urban single-detached starts were down 8% m/m to 38.2k units.

Canada's headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) fell to 1.8% year over year (y/y) in February (vs. 1.9% expected, 2.3% prior), driven in part by base-year effects from last year's GST/HST tax holiday expiry, a distortion expected to fully unwind after March. Excluding the effect of indirect taxes, the CPI rose 1.9% y/y, decelerating for a third consecutive month since December's 2.5% reading, suggesting the underlying disinflationary trend is not purely a function of tax arithmetic. The Bank of Canada's preferred core measures all moderated: CPI-common fell to 2.4% from 2.7%, while CPI-median and CPI-trim each declined to 2.3%. Shelter costs, the largest CPI basket component at roughly 29% weight, rose just 1.5% y/y as mortgage interest costs and rent growth continued to decelerate, reinforcing the easing trend in what had been the most persistent source of domestic inflation.

U.S. CP rose 0.3% m/m in February, meeting the Bloomberg consensus forecast. On a twelve-month basis, CPI was unchanged at 2.4%. Services prices increased 0.3% m/m. Energy costs increased 0.6% m/m, while food

prices increased 0.4% m/m. Excluding food and energy, core inflation rose 0.2% m/m. On a twelve-month basis, the core measure held steady at 2.5%.

U.S. Existing home sales rose 1.7% m/m to 4.09 million units (annualized) in February, well above the consensus forecast calling for a decline to 3.85 million. January's pullback was also revised up, with activity that month falling 5.9% instead of 8.4% as initially reported. Sales in the single-family segment rose 2.5% (m/m), while sales in the smaller condo/co-op segment fell 5.3%. Measured at the current sales rate and seasonally adjusting, unsold inventory stood at 4.2 months' supply, the same as in the two months prior, but up from 4.0 months' supply in February 2025. The median home price was up 0.3% y/y, a deceleration from 0.4% in the two months prior.

U.S. Housing starts increased 7.2% m/m in January to 1.49 million (annualized) units much stronger than the consensus forecast for a decline to 1.35 million units. The gain was entirely driven by the smaller and more volatile multifamily segment, where starts surged by 30% (or 127k). Homebuilding activity in the single-family segment fell 2.8% (or 27k). Permits fell 5.4% m/m to 1.38 million annualized units in January, wiping out the gain in the month prior. Permitting activity declined in both segments, falling by 0.9% in the single-family segment and a sharp 12.4% in the multifamily segment.

U.S. nonfarm payrolls declined by 92k in February, well below the consensus forecast calling for a gain of 55k. Private payrolls fell by 86k, following a gain of 146k in January, with the bulk of the pullback coming from health care & social assistance (-18.6k), as well as leisure & hospitality (-27k). Note that part of the reversal in the health care payrolls figure reflected a strike among offices of physicians. Job losses were also seen in construction (-11k), manufacturing (-12k), information (-11k) and professional & business services (-5k). The unemployment rate increased to 4.4%, up from 4.3% in January. Average hourly earnings increased 0.4% m/m and is up 3.8% year-on-year (y/y).

U.S. Personal income rose by 0.4% m/m in January, a touch below market expectations for a 0.5% gain. After adjusting for taxes and transfers, disposable income advanced strongly in January (+0.9%), reflecting a jump in social security benefits due to the annual cost-of-living adjustment. Consumer spending advanced by 0.4% month-over-month in nominal terms, on par with December's pace. Most of the gain, however, was due to higher prices: real spending rose by just 0.1% m/m. Spending on goods declined 0.4% m/m in real terms, weighed down by reduced spending on cars and parts and on recreational goods and vehicles. Spending on services rose by 0.3% m/m, supported by higher outlays on housing and utilities, financial services, and healthcare. With disposable income outpacing spending, the personal saving rate jumped to 4.5% from the upwardly revised 4% in December. This was the first increase in the savings rate since April 2025. Also in this release was core PCE inflation, the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of consumer inflation, which held at an 0.4% in January and accelerated to 3.1% from a year ago, in line with expectations.

US Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) (excluding food and energy), the Federal Reserve's preferred measure of consumer inflation, rose 0.4% m/m and 3.1% y/y in January, above the 2.8% headline reading. The persistence was driven almost entirely by services inflation (+0.4% m/m, 3.5% y/y), with healthcare (+\$37.4 billion (B)), housing

& utilities (+\$24.4B), and financial services & insurance (+\$8.3B) accounting for the bulk of the increase, while goods prices were essentially flat. On the spending side, real PCE growth was negligible at +0.1% m/m, as a \$105.7B increase in services outlays was largely offset by a \$24.6B contraction in goods, led by motor vehicles & parts (-\$29.3B) and recreational goods (-\$15.3B).

U.S. retail sales declined 0.2% m/m in January, slightly better than the consensus expectations for a decline of 0.3% m/m. Sales of autos and parts declined by 0.9% m/m and sales at gasoline stations fell by 2.9% m/m. Sales at building and garden retailers increased 0.6% m/m. Sales in the “control group”, which excludes the three categories above, fared better, rising by 0.3%. Growth was led by higher sales at non-store/online retailers (+1.9% m/m), miscellaneous retailers (+2.0% m/m), and furniture (+0.7%) and general merchandise stores (+0.4% m/m). These were partially offset by decreases in sales at health & personal care (-3.0% m/m) and clothing (-1.7%) stores, as well as stores selling sporting goods & books (-1.2% m/m). Spending at bars and restaurants declined 0.2% m/m.

China’s Industrial output and Retail sales both beat expectations in January-February. Industrial output rose 6.3% year-on-year (y/y), up from 5.2% in December. The read was stronger than the consensus forecast of 5%. Retail sales accelerated to 2.8% y/y, up from 0.9% y/y in December and above consensus expectations of 2.5%. Strong spending was driven in part by the Lunar New Year Holiday in February. The retail sales growth was the largest since October but fell short of the jumps recorded during the same months in past years, including 4% in 2025.

UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was flat in January, below expectations of 0.2% growth. Housebuilding saw a tough start to the year, with private housing new work plunging by 5.6% in January, the worst performance since March 2020. The services sector showed no growth, while production fell by 0.1%. Meanwhile the construction sector grew by 0.2%. The Office for National Statistics (ONS), which released the GDP figures, called the overall picture “subdued”.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The U.S. 2 year/10 year treasury spread is now 0.54% and the U.K.’s 2 year/10 year treasury spread is 0.68%. A narrowing gap between yields on the 2 year and 10 year Treasuries is of concern given its historical track record that when shorter term rates exceed longer dated ones, such inversion is usually an early warning of an economic slowdown.

The U.S. 30 year mortgage market rate is now 6.11%. Existing U.S. housing inventory is at 3.8 months supply of existing houses as of March 16, 2026 - well off its peak during the Great Recession of 11.1 months and we consider a more normal range of 4-7 months.

The Cboe Volatility Index (VIX) is a 23.78 and while, by its characteristics, the VIX will remain volatile, we believe a VIX level below 25 bodes well for quality equities.

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Glossary of Terms: ‘CET’ core equity tier, ‘EBITDA’ earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, ‘EPS’ earnings per share, ‘FCF’ free cash flow, ‘GDP’ gross domestic product, ‘GAAP’ Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, ‘ROE’ return on equity, ‘ROTE’ return on common equity, ‘ROTCE’ return on tangible common equity, ‘conjugate’ a substance formed by the reversible combination of two or more others, ‘SG&A’ Selling, General, and Administrative expense ratio.

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