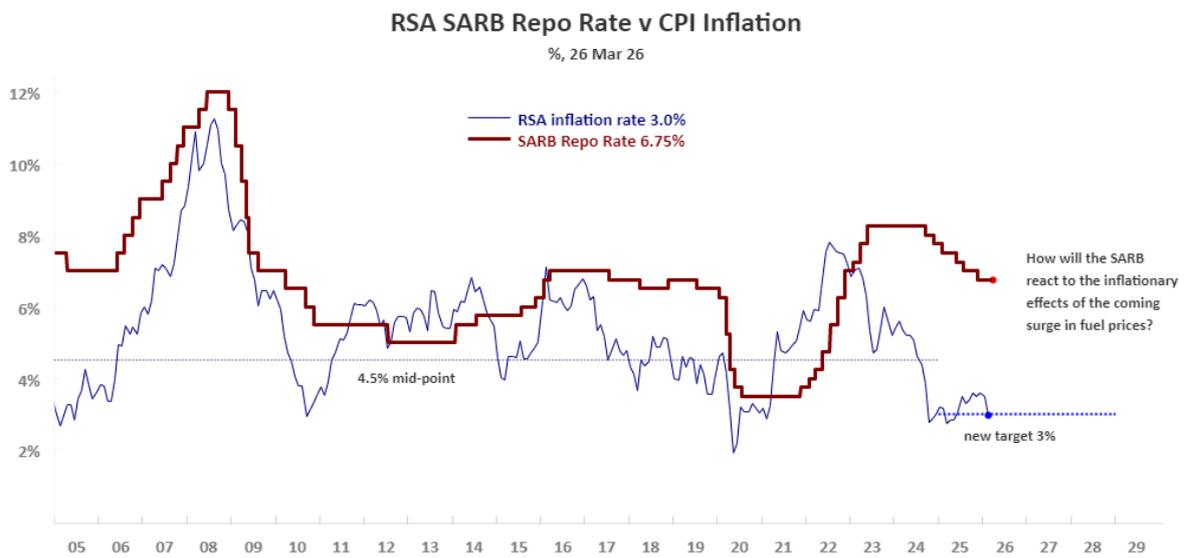




Market Update

Thursday, 26 March 2026



Global Markets

The widening war has jolted global markets this month, sending oil prices soaring, reigniting inflation fears and upending global interest rate expectations. Contradictory messages from the two sides over ceasefire talks have kept investors on edge. U.S. President Donald Trump said Iran was desperate to make a deal, while Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said there had been no dialogue or negotiations with the U.S., although various messages had been exchanged through intermediaries.

The pan-European STOXX 600 remains under pressure as Europe's dependence on oil imports has weighed on equities since the start of the war. The broad index is down more than 7% while the S&P 500 is down just over 4% in March. Japan's Nikkei reversed early gains to trade 0.7% lower, while South Korean stocks fell 2.7% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slid 1.7%. "It looks like the market's relief trade is starting to wobble," said Charu Chanana, chief investment strategist at Saxo. "Traders are also remembering that one peace rumour does not undo the inflation and rates damage already in the system."

The nearly month-long war triggered by joint U.S.–Israeli strikes on Iran in late February has resulted in Iran effectively shutting the Strait of Hormuz, a conduit for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows. The disruption has sent crude prices surging above \$100 per barrel. Brent crude futures were at \$104.53, up over 2% on the day, and set for a 43.6% jump in the month.

The dollar held firm near recent highs and was on track for a 2% monthly gain, cementing its status as the preferred safe haven. The latest comments by Iran suggested some willingness by Tehran to negotiate an end to the war if its demands were met. The U.S. sent a 15-point ceasefire proposal to Iran that was originally brushed aside by Iranian officials. "If you look at what the U.S. wants to achieve, what Israel wants to achieve, and what Tehran wants to achieve, it will be very hard to reconcile all these points," said Matthias Scheiber, senior portfolio manager and the head of the multi-asset team at Allspring Global Investments. "We still think there is a case to make for structurally higher energy prices for the moment."

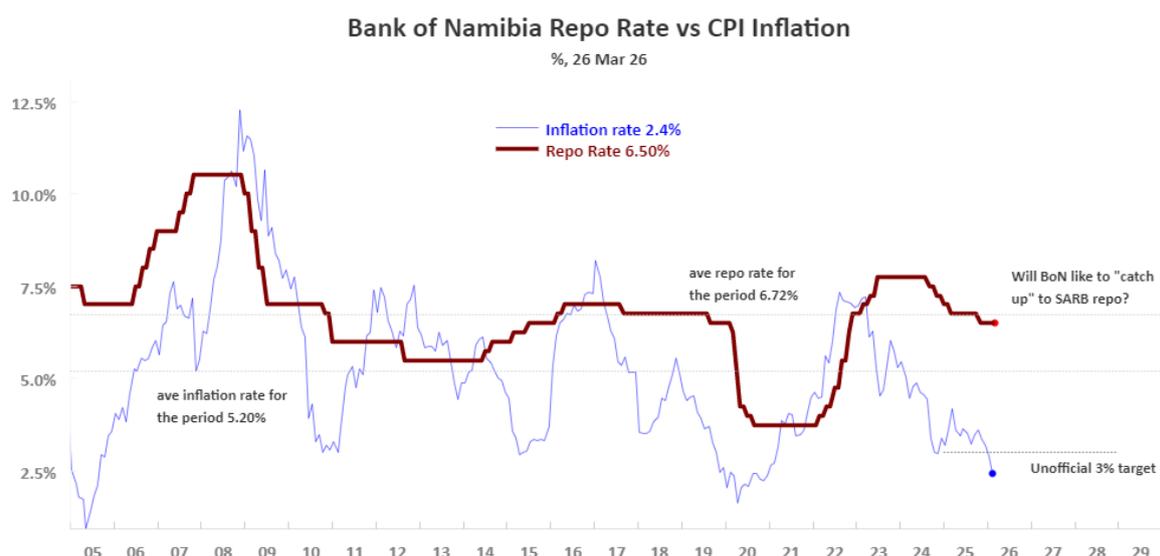
Fears of an inflationary aftershock have pushed traders to price out any chance of a Federal Reserve rate cut this year, supporting the dollar. Bets on U.S. rate hikes briefly gained traction but have since been pared back. European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde opened the door on Wednesday to raising rates if war in the Middle East pushes up inflation in the euro area for some time. "If the shock gives rise to a large though not-too-persistent overshoot of our target, some measured adjustment of policy could be warranted," Lagarde said in Frankfurt.

In currencies, the euro was little changed at \$1.1564, while sterling bought \$1.3362. The yen hovered at 159.44 per dollar, near the closely watched 160 level that traders see as a potential trigger for intervention.

In precious metals, gold reversed course to trade 0.3% lower at \$4,439 per ounce as the selloff in the yellow metal extended. Gold is on course for a 14% drop this month, which would be its steepest monthly decline since October 2008. Spot silver fell 1.9% to \$69.90 per ounce. Spot platinum was down 1.4% at \$1,893.60, while palladium dropped 2% to \$1,394.83

Source: LSEG Thomson Reuters Refinitiv.

Domestic Markets



The rand weakened in early trade on Thursday, ahead of a much-anticipated interest rate decision by the South African Reserve Bank (SARB) later in the day. At 07:20 GMT, the rand traded at 17.03 against the dollar, down 0.4% from Wednesday's close.

Twenty-one of 28 economists polled by Reuters expect the SARB to keep its main lending rate steady at 6.75% with a hawkish outlook at its meeting at 13:00 GMT. The central bank's governor told Reuters earlier this month that the bank will revise its risk scenarios as the Middle East conflict continues to push oil prices higher. "The SARB needs to decide whether to act pre-emptively on inflation and hike interest rates now, or whether to hold off, in the hope that the fluid situation in Iran calms down," said ETM Analytics in a note.

South Africa's annual inflation slowed to the central bank's target of 3% in February, but analysts said the slowdown could be temporary as the ripple effects of the Iran war will show up in upcoming releases. Commerzbank analyst Volkmar Baur said: "We must wait and see. Should the conflict come to an end soon and oil prices return to normal, at least in part, the possibility of an interest rate cut is likely to arise again later this year." Statistics South Africa will publish producer inflation numbers at 09:30 GMT, which could offer clues on the health of Africa's most industrialised economy.

On the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the Top-40 index was down 1.8% in early trade. South Africa's benchmark 2035 government bond also weakened, as the yield rose 10.5 basis points to 9.065%.

Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends we choose.

Tennessee Williams

Market Overview

MARKET INDICATORS		26 March 2026			
Money Market TB's		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
3 months	↓	7.28	-0.039	7.31	7.28
6 months	↓	7.39	-0.008	7.39	7.39
9 months	↓	7.40	-0.006	7.41	7.40
12 months	↑	7.44	0.022	7.42	7.44
Nominal Bonds		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
GC26 (Coupon 8.50%, BMK: R186)	↓	6.20	-0.016	6.22	6.20
GC27 (Coupon 8.00%, BMK: R186)	↓	7.41	0.000	7.41	7.41
GC28 (Coupon 8.00%, BMK: R186)	↓	8.89	-0.065	8.95	8.88
GC30 (Coupon 8.00%, BMK: R2030)	↑	9.30	0.076	9.23	9.30
GC32 (Coupon 9.00%, BMK: R213)	↑	9.97	0.008	9.97	9.97
GC35 (Coupon 9.50%, BMK: R209)	↓	10.72	-0.095	10.81	10.72
GC37 (Coupon 9.50%, BMK: R2037)	↑	11.22	0.053	11.17	11.22
GC40 (Coupon 9.80%, BMK: R214)	↑	11.30	0.059	11.24	11.30
GC43 (Coupon 10.00%, BMK: R2044)	↓	11.47	-0.004	11.48	11.47
GC45 (Coupon 9.85%, BMK: R2044)	↓	11.46	-0.098	11.56	11.46
GC48 (Coupon 10.00%, BMK: R2048)	↓	11.47	-0.050	11.52	11.47
GC50 (Coupon 10.25%, BMK: R2048)	↓	11.30	-0.050	11.35	11.30
Inflation-Linked Bonds		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
GI27 (Coupon 4.00%, BMK: NCPI)	→	4.56	0.000	4.56	4.56
GI29 (Coupon 4.50%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.04	0.000	5.04	5.04
GI31 (Coupon 4.50%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.28	0.000	5.28	5.28
GI33 (Coupon 4.50%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.47	0.000	5.47	5.47
GI36 (Coupon 4.80%, BMK: NCPI)	→	5.94	0.000	5.94	5.94
GI41 (Coupon 4.80%, BMK: NCPI)	→	6.21	0.000	6.21	6.21
Commodities		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
Gold	↑	4,506	0.68%	4,476	4,451
Platinum	↓	1925	-0.31%	1931	1887
Brent Crude	↓	102.2	-2.17%	104.49	104.90
Main Indices		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
NSX Overall Index	↑	1325	3.52%	1280	1325
JSE All Share	↓	112,497	-1.59%	114,313	112,497
S&P 500	↑	6,592	0.55%	6,556	6,592
FTSE 100	↑	10,107	1.42%	9,965	10,107
Hangseng	↓	24,814	-2.06%	25,336	24,814
DAX	↑	22,957	1.41%	22,637	22,957
JSE Sectors		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
Financials	↑	25,224	3.12%	24,461	25,005
Resources	↑	125,506	4.78%	119,776	121,388
Industrials	↑	128,726	2.30%	125,829	127,563
Forex		Last Close	Change	Prev Close	Current Spot
N\$/US Dollar	↑	16.98	0.06%	16.97	17.01
N\$/Pound	↓	22.68	-0.40%	22.77	22.73
N\$/Euro	↓	19.61	-0.51%	19.71	19.67
US Dollar/ Euro	↓	1.156	-0.34%	1.16	1.16
		Namibia		RSA	
Interest Rates & Inflation		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Jan-26
Central Bank Rate	→	6.50	6.50	6.75	6.75
Prime Rate	→	10.00	10.00	10.25	10.25
		Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Jan-26
Inflation	↓	2.4	2.9	3.0	3.5

Notes to the table:

- The money market rates are TB rates
- “BMK” = Benchmark
- “NCPI” = Namibian inflation rate
- “Difference” = change in basis points
- Current spot = value at the time of writing
- NSX is the Overall Index, including dual listed

Source: Thomson Reuters Refinitiv

Important note: This is not a solicitation to trade and CAM will not necessarily trade at the yields and/or prices quoted above. The information is sourced from the data vendor as indicated. The levels of and changes in the yields need to be interpreted with caution due to the illiquid nature of the domestic bond market.



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