



Monthly Market Snapshot

Monthly Overview

March 2026

Equity markets were mixed in February amid growing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which heightened concerns about possible disruptions to global oil supply routes. Canada's main stock index rose, primarily fueled by gains in the energy and materials sectors. Significant exposure to commodities allowed the Canadian market to outperform despite rising global volatility towards the end of the month. Conversely, the S&P 500 Index experienced its second decline in three months, as investors reassessed valuations in the U.S. growth and technology market segments. The combination of geopolitical risks, inflation worries and interest-rate uncertainty contributed to a modest overall decline in the S&P 500.

Canada's benchmark S&P/TSX Composite Index was 7.6% higher in February, as nine of its underlying sectors were positive during the month. The gain was led by materials, rising 21.6%. Small-cap stocks, as measured by the S&P/TSX SmallCap Index, gained 12.5% for the month.

The U.S. dollar appreciated 0.2% versus the loonie in February, slightly boosting returns of foreign markets from a Canadian investor's standpoint. Note that all returns in this paragraph are in Canadian-dollar terms. U.S.-based stocks, as measured by the S&P 500, declined by 0.5% in February. Four of the benchmark's underlying sectors were in the red during the month, with consumer discretionary falling 5.1%. International stocks, as measured by the FTSE Developed ex-US Index, gained 6.8% during the month, while emerging markets were up 2.8%.

The investment-grade fixed-income indices we follow were positive in February. Canadian investment-grade bonds, as measured by the FTSE Canada Universe Bond Index, rose 1.7% during the month, while the key global investment-grade bond benchmark gained 1.8%. Global high-yield issues rose 0.9%.

Turning to commodities, natural gas prices fell 34.3% during the month, while the price of a barrel of crude oil rose 2.8%. Silver, gold and copper all had a positive month, gaining 18.0%, 11.3% and 1.4%, respectively.

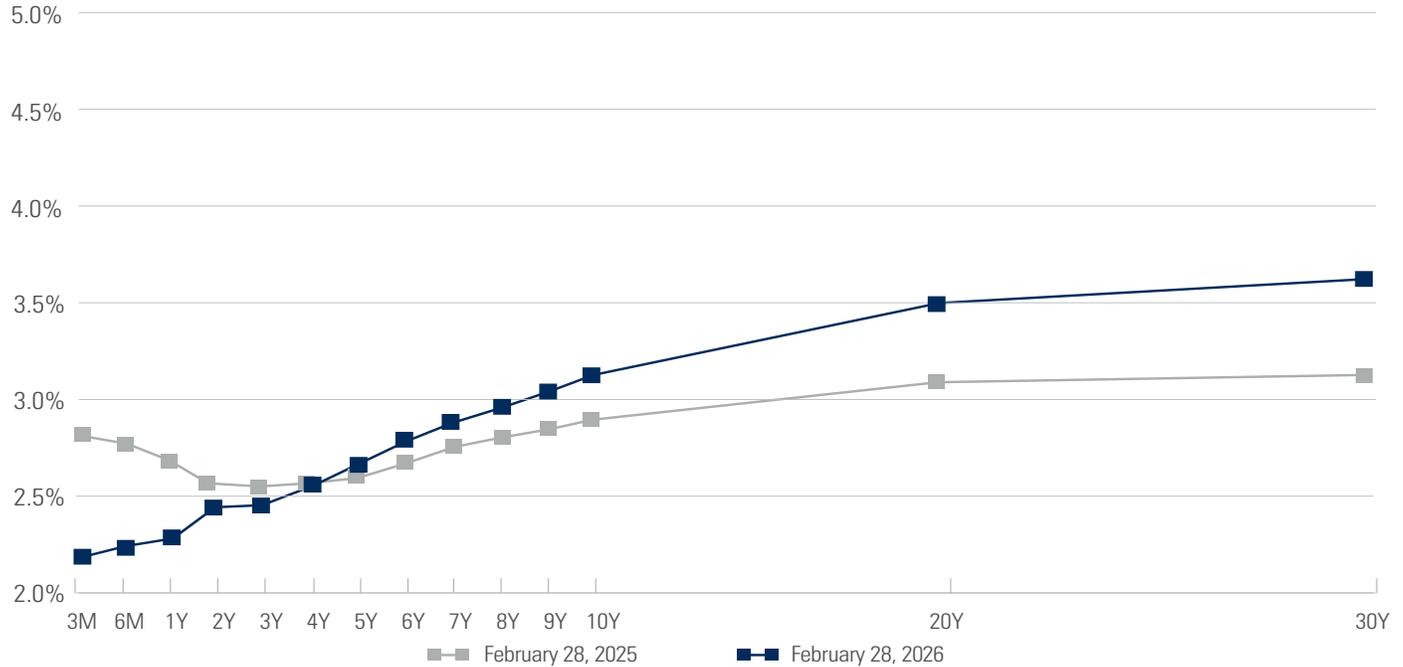
Inflation in Canada rose to 2.3% year-over-year in January. Moderating oil prices were the biggest factor in cooler January inflation. The Canadian economy lost 25,000 jobs in January, but the nation's unemployment rate improved to 6.5% as fewer people looked for work. Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) in the fourth quarter contracted by 0.6% on an annualized basis. This contraction in output was driven entirely by an inventory drawdown, which subtracted 4.2 percentage points from headline GDP growth.

U.S. nonfarm payrolls grew by 130,000 in January, lowering the unemployment rate to 4.3%. The U.S. consumer price index rose 0.2% in January, putting the 12-month inflation rate at 2.4%. On a quarter-over-quarter basis, the U.S. economy expanded by 1.4% in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Content sourced from Bloomberg.



Canadian Sovereign Yield Curve



Source: Bloomberg.

Monthly Market Statistics

Data to February 28, 2026, unless otherwise indicated

Table 1: Equity Index Returns (% in CAD)

Index	1 Mo	3 Mo	6 Mo	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	3 Yr Std Dev
S&P/TSX Composite	7.6	9.4	20.2	8.3	35.2	19.3	13.7	12.0
S&P/TSX 60	6.4	7.1	16.3	6.0	28.7	17.5	12.9	11.9
S&P/TSX Small Cap	12.5	24.8	45.6	22.2	83.0	26.6	15.3	17.5
S&P 500	-0.5	-2.0	5.7	-0.2	9.0	20.1	14.1	14.2
FTSE Developed ex US	6.8	13.5	20.8	11.7	30.8	17.5	10.2	13.4
FTSE Developed	1.6	2.3	9.8	3.2	15.1	19.3	12.4	13.1
FTSE Developed Small Cap	3.7	6.9	11.8	8.3	18.5	13.6	7.3	16.4
FTSE Developed Europe	3.4	9.3	15.6	7.1	21.7	15.5	10.5	14.6
FTSE Emerging	2.8	6.9	15.6	7.5	24.4	15.4	4.4	13.2
FTSE All World Asia Pacific	7.2	13.9	22.1	13.9	34.5	18.2	6.6	13.8

Source: Bloomberg.

Table 2: Fixed-Income Returns (%)

Index	1 Mo	3 Mo	6 Mo	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	3 Yr Std Dev
FTSE Canada Universe Bond	1.7	0.9	3.8	2.3	2.6	4.9	0.8	5.2
Barclays Global Agg	1.8	0.1	2.3	1.6	2.5	4.8	0.3	5.8
Barclays High Yield Very Liquid Index	0.9	-0.8	2.3	0.2	1.6	9.4	5.8	5.7

Source: Bloomberg.



Table 3: Commodity Prices (Prices and Returns in USD)

Commodity	Price (\$)	MoM Change (%)	YoY Change (%)	3 Mo (%)
WTI Crude Oil/BBL	67.02	2.8	-3.9	14.5
Natural Gas/mmBTU	2.86	-34.3	-25.4	-41.1
Copper/pound	6.00	1.4	33.0	15.8
Silver/oz	92.68	18.0	196.9	64.2
Gold/oz	5247.90	11.3	84.2	24.4

Source: Bloomberg.

Table 5: One-Month Sector Returns (% in CAD)

Sector	S&P/TSX returns	S&P 500 returns
Consumer Discretionary	10.4	-5.1
Consumer Staples	10.0	8.2
Energy	8.5	9.1
Financials	2.5	-3.5
Health Care	8.4	3.8
Industrials	6.3	7.3
Info Tech	-6.2	-3.6
Materials	21.6	8.6
Real Estate	-0.6	6.6
Telecom Services	2.8	-4.8
Utilities	8.1	10.2

Source: Bloomberg.

Table 4: Economic Data

Canada	
Real GDP- Q4 (q/q ann. % change)	-0.6
Consumer Prices, 01/2026 (y/y % change)	2.3
Unemployment Rate, 01/2026	6.5
United States	
Real GDP- Q4 (q/q ann. % change)	1.4
Consumer Prices, 01/2026 (y/y % change)	2.4
Unemployment Rate, 01/2026	4.3

Source: Bloomberg, Stats Canada.

Table 6: Exchange Rates

Cross	02/28/2025	6 Mos Ago	1 Yr Ago
USD/CAD	1.36	1.40	1.45
EUR/CAD	1.61	1.61	1.50
GBP/CAD	1.84	1.87	1.82
CAD/JPY	114.40	107.06	104.14

Source: Bloomberg.

iaprivatewealth.ca

This document was prepared by the Investment Products & Platforms Team. The opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the opinions of iA Private Wealth Inc.

Although the information contained in this document comes from sources, we believe to be reliable, we cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. The opinions expressed herein are based on an analysis and interpretation dating from the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Nothing contained herein constitutes an offer or solicitation to buy or sell any of the securities mentioned. Specific securities discussed are for illustrative purposes only. The information contained herein does not apply to all types of investors. The information provided herein does not constitute financial, tax or legal advice. Always consult with a qualified advisor prior to making any investment decisions.

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses all may be associated with mutual fund investments. The indicated rates of return include changes in unit value and reinvestment of all distributions and do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or optional charges or income taxes payable by any security holder that would have reduced returns. Returns for time periods of more than one year are historical annual compounded returns while returns for time periods of one year or less are cumulative figures and are not annualized. Where applicable, compound growth charts are used only to illustrate the effects of a compound growth rate and are not intended to reflect future values or returns of a fund. A mutual fund's "yield" refers to income generated by securities held in the fund's portfolio and does not represent the return of or level of income paid out by the fund. Mutual funds are not guaranteed, their values change frequently, and past performance may not be repeated. The information presented herein may not encompass all risks associated with mutual funds. Important information regarding mutual funds may be found in the simplified prospectus. Please read the simplified prospectus for a more detailed discussion on specific risks of investing in mutual funds. To obtain a copy, please contact your Investment Advisor.

iA Clarington Funds are managed by IA Clarington Investments Inc. a wholly owned subsidiary of Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc., a life and health insurance company which operates under the trade name iA Financial Group. iA Private Wealth Inc. is also a wholly owned subsidiary of Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. iA Private Wealth Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund and the Canadian Investment Regulatory Organization. iA Private Wealth is a trademark and business name under which iA Private Wealth Inc. operates.