CREATERRA FINANCE

Market insight

January 2026

Dear clients, Dear readers,

2026 got off to a good start, with the main stock markets delivering solid performances.
We note that resilience remains high and that, despite the various risks hanging over investors' heads, calm seems almost unshakeable: massive investments in artificial intelligence by tech companies, while the state of traditional sectors is far less impressive; geopolitical risks in Greenland, Ukraine and the Middle East; trade wars with an uncertain outcome, etc.

The US macroeconomic environment remains generally better than expected: economic growth (change in gross domestic product) reached just over 4% year-on-year for the fourth quarter of 2025. Forecasts were for just over 3%.
The job market regained some momentum, but the service sectors are in excellent health.
Consumption remains reassuring, even though it is particularly well supported by wealthy households.
The dramatic episode surrounding Maduro's capture in Venezuela did not shake the markets and even helped US oil stocks accelerate their rise.
US inflation is hovering around 3%, too far from the Federal Reserve's target of 2% to allow for further rate cuts, at least in the immediate future. This displeased Donald Trump while putting some pressure on US interest rates.
The fact that Japan (due to the need to manage its huge debt) and several Scandinavian countries have sold or are planning to sell part of their US Treasury bonds is putting pressure on US interest rates, thereby shoring up the dollar.

Gold and, above all, silver, which had literally skyrocketed since last year, saw a significant downturn at the end of the month. This (temporary?) correction is partly due to renewed interest in the dollar. The rise in the US dollar and Trump's wise decision to appoint someone respected by the financial community to head the Fed have temporarily reduced the appeal of precious metals as safe havens.

Donald Trump reassured the markets by appointing Kevin Warsh to succeed Jerome Powell as Fed Chair next May. Warsh, while close to the US president, is widely recognised as credible, respectful of the independence of the monetary authority and a proponent of tight monetary policy.

In Europe, growth is certainly much more modest than in the United States, but there is a growing consensus that the economy will gradually bounce back this year.
The humiliations caused by Donald Trump's constant attacks on the European Union's incompetence have the merit of forcing us to accelerate our efforts to catch up in key sectors such as defence and technology in order to achieve a good level of autonomy.

So far, the tariff war has had no impact on China's trade balance.
The increase in its exports to the rest of the world has more than offset the decline in sales to the United States.
However, the Chinese domestic economy is still too weak to assume that the worst is behind it. The devastation caused by the real estate market is not yet forgotten.

We do not rule out market downturns in the coming weeks, but as long as economic fundamentals and corporate earnings remain broadly in line with expectations, the market should continue to rise.

Performance of the main markets in 2026

	January 2026
EURO STOXX 50	2.70%
STOXX Europe 600	3.18%
BEL 20	6.04%
S&P 500	1.37%
S&P 500 Equal Weight	3.40%
NASDAQ 100	1.20%
NIKKEI 225	5.93%
HANG SENG	6.85%
MSCI EMERGING	8.81%
MSCI WORLD	2.19%

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