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# Regional Market Insights

February 17th to February 28th 2025

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# AMERICA

## Viking Global Invests Half a Billion Dollars in Boeing Amidst Production Challenges

*Sources : Financial Times, Reuters (17/02/2025)*

**Viking Global Investors has established a new $526 million position in Boeing Co., acquiring 2.9 million shares during the fourth quarter of 2024.**

This strategic investment comes as Boeing endeavors to stabilize production following a tumultuous year marked by a machinists' strike and safety concerns after a mid-air incident. Despite reporting an $11.8 billion loss for 2024, Boeing's shares have risen 3.92% year-to-date but remain 30% below their December 2023 peak.

Other notable investors, including Soros Fund Management and Discovery Capital Management, have also increased their stakes in Boeing, indicating confidence in the company's recovery prospects. Boeing's fourth-quarter revenue stood at $15.2 billion, with a GAAP loss per share of $5.46, primarily due to impacts from labor disputes and charges on certain defense programs.

The company's efforts to stabilize production and address operational challenges are being closely monitored by investors and industry analysts.

## Tesla Braces for Delay in China Licence Amid US-China Trade Tensions

*Source : Financial Times(17/02/2025)*

**Tesla is facing a potential delay in obtaining Chinese approval for its "Full Self-Driving" (FSD) technology as tensions between the United States and China continue to escalate.**

The approval is vital for Tesla to roll out its semi-autonomous driving system in China, which could help bolster its sales and subscription revenue in the world's largest automotive market. Despite earlier expectations that the licence would be granted in the second quarter of 2025, there is no definitive timetable for approval. According to sources familiar with the matter, Chinese authorities may be using the FSD approval as leverage in the trade talks, which could significantly affect Tesla's operations in the country.

The FSD system, which Tesla plans to implement in China and Europe, can accelerate, steer, brake, and change lanes, although it still requires the driver to remain alert and keep their hands on the wheel. Tesla had announced its plans to deploy the technology in China and Europe in early 2025, contingent on regulatory approval. However, with the trade conflict between the two superpowers intensifying, the timeline for this rollout has become increasingly uncertain.

The approval process has become more complicated due to the strict data security rules imposed by both Beijing and Washington. Tesla's FSD system relies on a machine-learning algorithm trained on billions of hours of driving data, which presents data transfer challenges between the two countries.

## Goldman Sachs Appoints New Co-Heads for Americas Equity Capital Markets

*Sources : Reuters (19/02/2025)*

**Goldman Sachs has announced the appointment of William Connolly and Michael Voris as co-heads of its Equity Capital Markets (ECM) division in the Americas.**

This leadership shift aims to strengthen the bank's IPO pipeline amid a recovering equity market. Connolly, who joined Goldman in 2005, will continue overseeing Technology ECM, advising clients in tech, media, and telecom sectors.

Voris, previously global head of convertible bond financing, will focus on alternative capital solutions and equity derivatives.

Additionally, Elizabeth Reed has been named global COO for ECM, enhancing operational efficiency. These appointments signal Goldman's push to reinforce its ECM leadership and capture more deal flow.

## Nuclear Reactor Groups Raised $1.5bn Amid Race to Power AI

*Source : Financial Times(19/02/2025)*

**Developers of small modular reactors have raised $1.5 billion in the past year, capitalizing on the growing interest in energy supply deals linked to the surging demand for power to support artificial intelligence technology.**

The interest in SMRs has been fueled by both private investment and government support, with the technology seen as critical for providing clean, reliable energy to power the booming AI industry.

The largest funding round was closed by X-energy, a U.S.-based SMR developer, which secured $700 million in February 2025. The funding round saw participation from several prominent investors, including Amazon, Citadel founder Ken Griffin, and chemical giant Dow. Other notable SMR developers that raised significant capital in the last year include Newcleo, which raised $151 million, and Blue Energy and Last Energy, which raised $45 million and $40 million, respectively.

In total, three SMR developers—Oklo, NuScale, and Nano Nuclear—raised more than $700 million through share sales and other financing mechanisms in the past year. The surge in funding is attributed to major tech companies like Amazon and Google, who have recognized the potential of SMRs in ensuring reliable and clean energy for their massive data centres, which are essential for AI operations.

## Trump Cancels Chevron's Oil Licence in Venezuela

*Source : Financial Times (26/02/2025)*

**U.S. President Donald Trump has announced the cancellation of a concession agreement that allowed Chevron to pump and export oil in Venezuela. The move, which reverses a decision made by the Biden administration in November 2022, has delivered a significant blow to both Chevron and Venezuela's energy sector.**

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump stated that the decision was made due to the failure of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's regime to meet certain electoral conditions. He called the concessions granted by President Biden a mistake and vowed to reverse them.

Although Trump did not directly mention Chevron, it is the only company that was granted a licence to work with Venezuela's state-owned oil group, Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), under the 2022 agreement. Other companies like Repsol, Eni, and Maurel & Prom had been granted similar concessions, but Chevron's license was the most significant.

Chevron, in response, acknowledged the decision and said it was evaluating its implications, noting that its operations in Venezuela had been fully compliant with U.S. laws and sanctions.

The impact of the licence cancellation will be considerable for Venezuela's oil industry, which has been recovering in recent years, largely due to Chevron's involvement.

## Robinhood Finalizes Acquisition of TradePMR

*Source : Robinhood Investor Relations (26/02/2025)*

**Robinhood Markets Inc. has completed its acquisition of TradePMR, a custodial and portfolio management platform for registered investment advisers (RIAs), in a deal valued at approximately $300 million.**

This strategic move enables Robinhood to enter the $7 trillion RIA market, aiming to connect its over 25 million funded accounts with fiduciary financial advisors. The integration of TradePMR's Fusion platform will allow investors to manage both advised and self-directed assets within the Robinhood app.

This expansion aligns with Robinhood's goal to cater to the evolving needs of its predominantly Millennial and Gen Z customer base, who are poised to benefit from an estimated $84 trillion wealth transfer in the coming decades.

## Engie Warns of Investment Uncertainty Amid Trump's Tariff Plans

*Source : Financial Times(27/02/2025)*

**French energy company Engie has issued a warning that it may redirect investments away from the US unless it receives clearer guidance on tariffs, tax credits, and the future of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) under President Donald Trump.**
Catherine MacGregor, the CEO of Engie, expressed concerns over the uncertainty surrounding US energy policy, particularly after Trump's decision to freeze hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy funds at the start of his presidency.

MacGregor highlighted that the lack of clarity on regulations and government policy makes it difficult to invest in long-term energy projects in the US. She noted that while Engie is capable of reallocating capital to other parts of the world in the short term, prolonged uncertainty could lead to permanent shifts in investment.

This caution follows similar moves from other energy companies. Air Products recently paused its hydrogen project in New York, while TotalEnergies announced that it would delay an offshore wind project until Trump's presidency concludes. German energy group RWE also scaled back its wind investments in the US, citing growing risks for offshore wind projects.

In the meantime, Engie faces difficulties in the US but remains optimistic about business prospects in Europe, driven by increasing energy demand from sectors like artificial intelligence and cryptocurrencies.

## Wall Street Stocks Steady Despite Trump Tariff Threats

*Source : Financial Times(28/02/2025)*

**US stocks experienced a rebound on Friday 28th, halting a sharp sell-off driven by fears that President Donald Trump's latest tariff threats would harm the global economy.**

The S&P 500 closed up by 1.6%, recovering earlier losses and reducing its February decline to 1.4%. Meanwhile, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite index also rose by 1.6%, though it had fallen 4% over the past month.

The concerns were further exacerbated by Trump's remarks accusing Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of "gambling with world war three" during a heated White House meeting.

Friday's market gains came at the end of a volatile month for equities investors. US stocks had been hit hard by disappointing economic data and worries that Trump's tariffs would impede economic growth. Despite the market's initial reaction to the tariff announcements, stocks surged later in the day, with 441 of the S&P 500's constituent stocks ending higher.

# ASIA – PACIFIC

## Bain Capital Beaten by KKR in $4bn Battle for Japan's Fuji Soft

*Source : Financial Times, Reuters (17/02/2025)*

**Bain Capital has withdrawn its bid to acquire Japan's Fuji Soft, conceding to KKR after months of intense competition in one of the most high-profile private equity battles in recent history.**

The $4bn contest was marked by a rare level of public hostility, with KKR accusing Bain of acting in bad faith and misusing confidential information during the bidding war.

Bain's decision came after KKR raised its offer for Fuji Soft to ¥9,850 ($65) per share, which Bain said it would not match. This marks the end of a bidding process that began last summer when activist fund 3D Investment Partners pushed for Fuji Soft to go private. Fuji Soft's board had already supported KKR's offer, which included purchasing more than a third of the company's shares from activist investors, effectively giving KKR a blocking stake.

Bain had received backing from Fuji Soft's founding family, a major shareholder, and had initially pressed forward with its own bid without the board's approval, a move considered highly unusual in Japan's corporate culture. Despite this, Bain ultimately decided not to pursue a tender offer for the IT services company.

Fuji Soft's portfolio, which includes valuable real estate assets valued at upwards of $1bn, made it an attractive target for private equity firms, along with its core IT services business, which is seen as ripe for a potential turnaround.

## Honda Open to Reviving Nissan Merger Talks, Conditioned on Makoto Uchida's Departure

*Source : Financial Times (18/02/2025)*

**Honda has signalled its willingness to resume merger discussions with Nissan, contingent on the departure of Nissan's CEO, Makoto Uchida.**

Relations between the two companies soured during negotiations, with Honda growing frustrated over the pace of Nissan's restructuring and its financial troubles. The merger talks initially broke down when Honda demanded Nissan become a fully owned subsidiary instead of forming a holding company with equal footing for both firms. Honda has expressed openness to reconsider the merger under new leadership at Nissan.

Uchida, who was initially a strong advocate for the Honda deal, has indicated he plans to stay until 2026 but is facing growing pressure to step down. His exit is being discussed informally by Nissan's board and partner Renault, especially following the collapse of negotiations for a $58bn mega-deal, which further complicated the situation.

Despite these tensions, Honda remains interested in Nissan's capital ties with Mitsubishi Motors, which could enhance its position in Southeast Asia and provide access to valuable plug-in hybrid technology.

Nissan has also been exploring alternative partnerships as it grapples with declining sales and rising debt. Companies like Foxconn, KKR, and US automakers are reportedly considering investments, though concerns about a potential "vicious cycle" of financial instability persist.

## Apple's Quiet Pivot to India: A Strategic Shift Amid Geopolitical Tensions

*Source : Financial Times (18/02/2025)*

**Apple has quietly shifted some of its manufacturing focus from China to India. This move is part of Apple's broader strategy to diversify its supply chain in response to growing geopolitical tensions, particularly with China.**

The relationship between Apple and India has grown significantly since 2017 when local officials began courting Apple to set up iPhone production facilities in India. With the escalating trade war between the US and China, Apple's dependence on China became more precarious, leading the company to explore new manufacturing bases. Foxconn, a key Taiwanese supplier for Apple, and India's Tata Electronics have now established manufacturing operations in India, producing models like the iPhone 16 Pro.

India, for its part, has become a critical player in Apple's global supply chain. Mobile phones have overtaken diamonds as India's biggest export, and Apple's share of India's manufacturing footprint is projected to increase from 15% to 25% by 2027. The Indian government has offered substantial incentives, including tax breaks, as part of its Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) program, to attract companies like Apple.

Despite the promising partnership, the road to scaling production in India remains challenging. Apple still largely relies on importing parts to assemble iPhones in India, and it will need to cultivate a robust local supply chain to sustain long-term manufacturing. Additionally, building a flexible workforce to replicate the success Apple enjoys in China is another hurdle. Labour laws, gender-based societal pressures, and infrastructural gaps complicate efforts to establish a fully functional and scalable workforce.

## Australia to Inject $1.5bn into Gupta's Whyalla Steelworks

*Source : The Australian, Financial Times (20/02/2025)*

**In a significant intervention in Australia's manufacturing sector, the government has pledged $1.5 billion to rescue the Whyalla steelworks in South Australia, which was seized this week from Sanjeev Gupta's GFG Alliance.**

This move comes amid a growing political focus on industrial policy, as the country heads into a federal election. The South Australian government enacted an emergency legal amendment to seize control of the steelworks, citing its "irredeemable" financial condition and a failure by GFG Alliance to sufficiently invest in the facility.

The mill, located in Whyalla, a town about 400 km north of Adelaide, is vital to Australia's industrial base, providing 75% of the country's domestic structural steel needs. It also employs over 3,000 people directly and indirectly.

The Australian government sees the steelworks as essential to the nation's economic resilience, especially as it looks to broaden its industrial base and reduce dependency on imports like the solar panels, which, while designed with Australian technology, are mainly produced in China.

## Singapore to Inject $4bn into Stock Market to Boost Listings

*Source : Financial Times (21/02/2025)*

**Singapore's financial regulator, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), has announced a substantial effort to revitalize the country's equity market, committing to inject S$5bn (approximately $3.7bn) into funds focused on local equities.**

The key components of the MAS plan include tax incentives for companies and investors, a streamlined listings process, and a focused investment in funds that target Singapore equities. These steps aim to not only grow the local equity market but also strengthen the fund management industry in the region, with an emphasis on increasing interest in and investments in Singapore-based companies.

This move comes after Singapore's stock exchange, the SGX, saw a drop in the number of listed companies, falling to a two-decade low of 617 listings in 2024 from a peak of 782 in 2013. In recent years, many high-profile companies, such as Grab and Sea, chose to list in the US, while others, like the fast-fashion company Shein, are considering alternative markets like London for their IPOs.

MAS's strategy also includes inviting both domestic and international investment groups to pitch for a share of the funds, which will be allocated in the second half of the year. Additionally, the plan proposes reducing the IPO review period to between six to eight weeks, making the process more efficient and competitive.

## WiseTech Shares Plunge After Majority of Board Quits

*Source : Financial Times (24/02/2025)*

**Shares in Australian logistics software company WiseTech fell by more than 20% on Monday after a majority of its board resigned due to ongoing conflicts over the role of co-founder Richard White amid allegations of inappropriate behaviour.**

Four of the company's six directors, including chair Richard Dammery, stepped down following "intractable differences" regarding White's future involvement in the company. This marked a significant shake-up in the leadership, leaving only two board members, Maree Isaacs (a co-founder) and Charles Gibbon, the former chair, who is also an investor.

White, who founded WiseTech in 1994, stepped down as CEO in October 2024 but continued in a consulting role focused on product and business development. The turmoil surrounding the company began with a legal dispute between White and a former girlfriend over an unpaid bill, leading to allegations of inappropriate behaviour towards women, including a company employee. These allegations were followed by a complaint from a former board member accusing White of bullying behaviour.

## Japanese Trading House Shares Surge After Warren Buffett's Latest Endorsement

*Source : Financial Times (25/02/2025)*

**Shares in Japan's five largest trading houses surged as much as 9% on Tuesday following Warren Buffett's recent endorsement, which signalled that his company, Berkshire Hathaway, intends to increase its already substantial stakes in the companies.**

The trading houses—Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsui, Marubeni, Sumitomo, and Itochu—saw their stocks rise by between 4% and 9% in Tokyo. This rally came after Buffett revealed Berkshire's plan to increase ownership in these companies and hold the stakes for "many decades." This was following a disclosure in 2020 where Berkshire initially acquired a 5% stake in each trading house for a combined total of more than $6bn. The market value of these holdings has now soared to $23.5bn, significantly outpacing the original cost of $13.8bn.

Buffett also mentioned in his annual letter that Berkshire had agreed with the five companies to lift the ceiling capping its investment at 10%, allowing Berkshire to gradually increase its stake. This marks an ongoing commitment to the trading houses, which have evolved from being focused mainly on commodities trading to having highly diversified portfolios, including businesses in convenience stores, salmon farming, infrastructure, and technology start-ups.

## Necessary Investment Boost for India's Renewables Sector Remains Unrealized

*Sources : Ember, Financial Times (26/02/2025)*

**According to a report by energy think-tank Ember, India needs to secure $68 billion annually in clean energy investments to meet its target of producing 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power by 2030. As of last year, India only received just over $13 billion in green energy investment, falling far short of the required amount.**

India's installed renewable capacity stands at about 209 GW, contributing less than a quarter of the country’s total power generation. In comparison, China generates approximately 35% of its power from clean energy sources. The investment shortfall is attributed to various factors, including delays in project commissioning, challenges with land acquisition, grid connectivity issues, and regulatory hurdles.

The report also highlights concerns regarding the involvement of Gautam Adani's group, Adani Green Energy, with allegations of bribery schemes linked to winning renewable energy contracts in India.

India is expected to require a total capital flow of $300 billion by 2032 to stay on track with its renewable energy targets. The government is increasingly acknowledging the need for more investment, with officials emphasizing the importance of access to long-term, low-cost capital and foreign capital to bridge the funding gap.

## Seven & i Buyout Fails

*Source : Financial Times (27/02/2025)*

S**hares of Seven & i plunged by 10.5% after the founding Ito family abandoned their $58 billion buyout attempt for the Japanese convenience store chain, which owns 7-Eleven.**

The family group was unable to secure necessary financing for the acquisition, prompting the company to announce on Thursday that the buyout would not proceed. This failure increases the likelihood that Alimentation Couche-Tard, a Canadian rival, will succeed with its unsolicited $47 billion bid for Seven & i, which would be the largest acquisition of a Japanese company if completed.

The Ito family's buyout proposal, which aimed to keep the company under Japanese ownership, came after Couche-Tard’s initial bid in 2024. However, the Ito family was unable to find sufficient financing, with Itochu, a major investor and rival convenience store chain operator, deciding not to participate in the bid. This decision was based on concerns over the financing’s credit rating and the inability to agree on a viable capital structure.

# EUROPE

## Is France no Longer Attractive to Investors ?

*Source : Ouest France (17/02/2025)*

**France had 1,595 investment projects in 2024, down 5% on the previous year, according to the SCET-Ancoris barometer.**

The industrial sector is one of the most hard hit with a 17% drop in investments, but the unlucky champion for this year is the service sector, experiencing a devastating 23% decrease in investments compared to 2023.

This trend can be explained by a number of factors, mainly political uncertainty, fiscal instability, high interest rates, and a rise in bankruptcies, all of which are dampening investor confidence.

However, one lever remains in play: green reindustrialisation. With the United States pulling out of the Green New Deal, France could do well to focus on the ecological transition.

## Stellantis Plans to Reinvests in diesel

*Source : Les Echos (19/02/2025)*

**Against all expectations, Stellantis has announced that it is reinvesting in diesel engines, continuing production until at least 2030.**

At a time when the European automotive market is moving massively towards electric vehicles, the group is justifying this strategy by the continuing strong demand for combustion engines, particularly in the light commercial vehicle and heavy goods vehicle segments.

As European emissions regulations are set to change, Stellantis plans to adapt its engines to the new standards while continuing to develop its electric range. A decision that raises questions about the direction the automotive industry will take in the coming years.

## CKI makes £7 billion bid for Thames Water

*Source : Financial Times (21/02//2025)*

**Hong Kong-based CK Infrastructure (CKI) has submitted a £7 billion bid to acquire a majority stake in Thames Water.**

The bid is primarily structured around a substantial capital injection but is contingent upon a significant debt restructuring amounting to nearly £20 billion. This restructuring is expected to involve negotiations with multiple creditors, with some concessions likely required to make the deal viable.

However, a major hurdle in the process comes from opposition by senior creditors, including the influential hedge fund Elliott Management, which has voiced strong resistance to the proposed restructuring terms. Their concerns stem from the potential financial implications of the concessions being sought, which they argue could unfairly disadvantage senior debt holders. In addition to creditor opposition, the deal faces regulatory scrutiny, particularly due to CK Infrastructure Holdings' (CKI) existing presence in Northumbrian Water. Regulators are expected to closely examine whether the transaction could lead to any conflicts of interest or breaches of competition rules within the UK water sector.

Meanwhile, Thames Water, which has been grappling with severe financial difficulties, has taken steps to address its liquidity issues. The company recently secured High Court approval for a £3 billion loan, a move aimed at ensuring its financial stability and continued operations at least until March. This emergency funding highlights the broader financial strain within the UK water industry and the pressing need for structural reforms to address mounting debts and investment challenges across the sector.

## The ECB Announces a European blockchain

*Source : Les Echos (24/02/2025)*

**The European Union has officially approved the development of a European blockchain, marking a significant step toward modernizing and regulating digital financial infrastructures across member states.**

This ambitious project is designed to facilitate the tokenization of financial securities, allowing for more efficient and secure transactions within a regulated framework. Additionally, it aims to integrate the digital euro into the financial system, ensuring that Europe's monetary sovereignty is maintained in the face of rapid global advancements in blockchain technology.

A key factor driving the urgency of this initiative is the shifting regulatory landscape in the United States, particularly with the return of Donald Trump to the presidency. His administration is in favour of the deregulation of cryptocurrencies, which would give the U.S. a competitive edge in the digital asset space. In response, the Eurosystem is accelerating efforts to catch up with the technological progress made by both the U.S. and China, particularly in the realm of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and blockchain applications.

To ensure a structured and well-regulated rollout, the European blockchain project will undergo an initial test phase, currently scheduled to commence in June 2025. This phase will assess the technical viability, security, and scalability of the system, as well as its ability to support financial markets in compliance with EU regulations.

## Amundi Relocates Major Fund from Luxembourg to Ireland Due to Tax Regulations

*Source : Paperjam (25/02/2025)*

**French asset manager Amundi has completed the transfer of its $7 billion MSCI World V fund from Luxembourg to Ireland.**

The move is designed to take advantage of the double tax treaty between Ireland and the US, which allows for a more advantageous withholding tax on US dividends (15% compared with 30% in Luxembourg).

The transaction led to the merger of the Luxembourg fund with an $11.1 billion Irish fund, bringing the combined assets under management to $18.1 billion. This restructuring illustrates Amundi's desire to optimise its tax structure and offer better returns to its investors.

A spokesperson for Amundi confirmed that this change, although motivated by tax considerations, does not alter the fund's exposure and could lead to an improvement in its net performance over the long term.

## Tesla Expands in Europe Amid Declining Sales with Manz Acquisition

*Source : Financial Times (25/02/2025)*

**Tesla has reached an agreement to acquire key assets from the financially troubled German engineering group Manz, signalling an effort to strengthen its European presence despite facing significant headwinds.**

As part of the deal, Tesla Automation will absorb more than 300 employees and take over a manufacturing plant, along with essential equipment, at Manz’s Reutlingen site. This acquisition follows Manz’s insolvency, driven by mounting financial pressures and a worsening battery market outlook.

While this move could bolster Tesla’s manufacturing capabilities in Europe, it comes at a time of severe challenges for the electric vehicle giant. Tesla’s European sales have plummeted by over

45%, with its market share shrinking considerably due to increasing regulatory scrutiny and the fallout from controversial political statements made by CEO Elon Musk. The company now faces an uphill battle to regain stability in the region.

## Lord Mayor of London calls for British Companies to Invest Abroad

*Sources: Financial Times (25/02/2025)*

**The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alastair King, is urging British businesses to take greater risks and step up their international investments.**

During his visit to Mumbai, the Lord Mayor stressed the need for British financial and legal firms to seize the opportunities offered by fast-growing markets, particularly in India.

According to King, Brexit and the financial crisis of 2022 have increased the risk aversion of UK businesses, reducing their global competitiveness. The UK government is looking to boost economic growth and secure a trade deal with India to encourage two-way investment.

He also highlights India's recent efforts to cut red tape and improve accessibility for foreign investors, although challenges remain in terms of regulations and tax transparency.

## French Postal System in Troubled Waters

*Source : Cour des Comptes, France TV Info (28/02/2025)*

**The Cour des Comptes, France’s supreme audit institution responsible for overseeing public spending and financial management, has issued a stark warning about the worsening financial situation at La Poste.**

Over the past 15 years, La Poste has experienced a dramatic decline in traditional mail volumes, which now contribute just 15% of total revenue, a sharp drop from 50% in 2010. In an effort to offset these losses, the company has diversified into banking, parcel delivery, insurance, and even driving tests. However, despite these new revenue streams, profitability remains elusive.

While La Poste's profits have reportedly quadrupled over the past two years, this improvement comes in the context of a €200 million savings plan, raising concerns about the long-term viability of its business model.

The Cour des Comptes is closely monitoring the situation and has suggested that more drastic measures may be necessary. These could include further cost-cutting, structural reforms, or even state financial intervention to stabilize the company.

# WEIGHT CLASSES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| USA | +2 | Overweight | The U.S. economy is showing strong growth, driven by AI and tech investments, despite inflationary pressures and rising interest rates. The AI sector, offers promising long-term growth. While trade tensions and inflation remain risks, the outlook for the is now more positive due to fiscal measures and strong tech sector performance. |
| China | +1 | Overweight | China's recovery continues to be slow, primarily due to internal challenges such as unemployment, regulatory issues, and geopolitical tensions.. The country's ambitious goals in green energy and AI are positive but remain underdeveloped due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and the difficult economic environment. |
| Japan | +1 | Overweight | Japan's economy continues to benefit from strong investments in AI, semiconductors, and green energy. The country is undergoing a positive industrial transformation, although demographic challenges and fiscal policies still pose concerns. |
| Europe | 0 | Neutral | Europe remains attractive due to strong AI investments and renewable energy initiatives. The region is recovering from the disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine and benefiting from significant EU-level fiscal support. The new tension between Ukraine and the U.S could however have a negative impact on trade and investments. |
| UK | 0 | Neutral | The UK is facing significant economic headwinds, including high inflation, and slow growth. While some labour market improvements offer short-term hope, the UK's outlook remains weak due to the global economic slowdown and domestic fiscal issues. |
| Emerging Markets | 0 | Neutral | Emerging markets are recovering, with significant growth in tech and consumer sectors. However, these regions are also heavily impacted by external factors like inflation, political instability, and trade tensions. While there is potential for growth in specific sectors, investor confidence remains cautious, and the risk of volatility persists. |

# CONTACT, DISCLAIMER & SOURCES

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**Sources**: Cours des Comptes, Ember, Financial Times, France TV Info, Les Echos, Ouest France, Paperjam, Reuters, Robinhood Investor Relations, The Australian.