

AB FINANCIAL NEWS

WEEKLY ECONOMIC & MARKET SUMMARY

Primarily Prepared for Maraki Club Members

Discussion on the news scheduled for March 1, 2026

Week of February 16–20, 2026 | Broadcast: Monday February 23, 2026 | 6:00 PM EST

Breaking NEWS

Trump Eyes New National Security Tariffs

☺ THE WEEK IN TARIFFS: A TIMELINE

- **Monday:** Markets fear tariffs.
- **Wednesday:** Supreme Court kills IEEPA tariffs.
- **Thursday:** Markets rally 0.69%.
- **Friday night:** Trump signs NEW 10% tariff.
- **Saturday:** Trump raises it to 15%.
- **Sunday:** EU and UK call emergency meetings.
- **Monday:** 15% tariff takes effect.
- **Markets:** 'Did we... did we just go in a circle?'
- **Trump:** 'Different law, same vibe.'
- **Economists everywhere needing antacids.**

KEY TAKEAWAY:

The Supreme Court ruling (6-3) that IEEPA tariffs were illegal is historic.

But Trump immediately countered with a 15% tariff under Trade Act Section 122 - legal but **expires in 150 days without Congressional approval.**

Companies may get \$175B in refunds for IEEPA tariffs paid.

For immigrants: goods **you import from your home country may become slightly cheaper** during the legal adjustment period. Watch consumer **prices over the next 4 weeks.**

The Trump administration is considering a slate of new national security tariffs after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down many of the tariffs enacted last year, according to a report in *The Wall Street Journal*. The national security tariffs would be in addition to the 15% global tariff he announced in the wake of the court ruling. The tariffs would target a handful of industries, including large-scale batteries, cast iron and iron fittings, plastic piping, industrial chemicals, and power grid and telecommunications equipment.

Meanwhile, global shipper **FedEx (FDX)** on Monday filed suit against the government **seeking a full refund for tariffs paid.** FedEx is the **first major company** to file suit to recover **tariff payments** following last week's court ruling. Shares of FedEx were flat in premarket trading.

The Board of Peace

The new diplomacy

The Board of Peace holds its first gathering since **more than 20 nations signed the board's founding charter last month**. Delegates will talk about how to **rebuild Gaza**.

But the board, a kind of Trump-aligned alternative to the United Nations, is aiming much higher. It wants to **“secure enduring peace in areas affected or threatened by conflict,”** according to the charter. That's a lot of places beyond Gaza. It also promises to be a nimble peacekeeping body, presumably unlike the diplomats at the United Nations.

It sounds like something off a pitch deck: a start-up meant to disrupt international statecraft. Trump has offered many out-of-the-box ideas, and some of them have succeeded. Will this one?

What's next?

Many experts in international affairs worry about what they see as a worst-case scenario: The Trump administration could weaken the multilateral diplomatic system that the United States helped build after World War II — and replace it with something more rapacious and less stable, led by Trump.

Economic NEWS

SECTION 1: U.S. STOCK MARKET SUMMARY

Major U.S. Stock Indices - Week of February 16-20, 2026

INDEX	CLOSE PRICE	WEEKLY CHG	WEEKLY %	YTD %	STATUS
Dow Jones (DJIA)	49,625.97	+125.04	+0.25%	-0.75%	Recovery
S&P 500	6,909.51	+73.34	+1.07%	+1.07%	Positive
Nasdaq Composite	22,886.07	+339.40	+1.51%	-2.0%	Recovering
Russell 2000	2,663.78	+17.08	+0.65%	+0.65%	Steady
VIX (Fear Index)	19.09	-2.11	-9.96%	vs 14 Jan	Easing

Market Sector Performance + Immigrant Opportunity Guide

SECTOR	WEEKLY %	YTD %	OUTLOOK	IMMIGRANT OPPORTUNITY
Energy	+1.9%	+10.2%	Strong	Oil field jobs, pipeline maintenance
Technology	+2.1%	-1.8%	Recovery	IT, software, engineering roles
Healthcare	+1.4%	+3.5%	Stable	58K healthcare jobs added in Jan 2026
Financials	+0.8%	+2.2%	Stable	Banking, accounting, insurance
Consumer Disc.	+0.9%	-2.1%	Cautious	Retail management, food service

Industrials	+1.2%	-0.5%	Cautious	Manufacturing, logistics, trades
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Top Stocks in Focus

COMPANY	PRICE (Feb 20)	WEEKLY %	YTD %	MKT CAP	KEY HIGHLIGHT
NVIDIA (NVDA)	\$189.82	+3.8%	+3.8%	\$4.69T	EARNINGS Feb 25! Biggest event of week
Alphabet (GOOGL)	\$314.98	+6.5%	+12.1%	\$3.87T	AI momentum, best performer of week
Tesla (TSLA)	\$411.82	+15.7%	-15.7%	\$1.32T	Biggest weekly winner; still YTD down
Microsoft (MSFT)	\$397.23	+3.5%	-17.8%	\$2.95T	Recovering; cloud + AI integration
Apple (AAPL)	\$264.58	+3.4%	-8.0%	\$3.98T	Recovering; services revenue growing
Amazon (AMZN)	\$210.11	-10.3%	-12.9%	\$2.22T	Ended 9-day losing streak by Fri
Meta Platforms	~\$715	-1.8%	-7.8%	\$1.80T	AI investments weighing on sentiment

KEY TAKEAWAY: Markets had their FIRST positive week in 5 weeks! The SCOTUS tariff ruling gave markets a Friday afternoon boost (+0.69% S&P on Friday). NVIDIA earnings on Feb 25 could move the entire market. NVIDIA +3.8%, Tesla +15.7%, Alphabet +6.5% were the week's winners. Amazon still struggling. VIX fear index at 19 - still elevated but improving. Healthcare jobs (+58K in Jan) continue to offer the best stability for immigrant workers.

SECTION 2: ECONOMIC INDICATORS

U.S. Economic Health Dashboard - February 2026

INDICATOR	CURRENT	PREVIOUS	TARGET/TREND	IMMIGRANT IMPACT
CPI Inflation (Jan 2026)	2.4%	2.6% (Dec)	Target: 2.0%	Lower prices on groceries & rent
Core PCE (Dec 2025)	3.0%	2.9% (Nov)	Above target	Fed still cautious on rate cuts
GDP Growth (Q4 2025)	1.4%	2.8% (Q3)	Slowing	Job market may soften; plan ahead
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.2% (Dec)	Slight uptick	Healthcare/trades still hiring strong
Nonfarm Payrolls (Jan)	+130K	Forecast: +125K	Beat Expectation	Jobs market resilient for now

10-Year Treasury Yield	4.30%	4.48% (Jan)	Declining	Mortgage rates slowly improving
Fed Funds Rate	3.50-3.75%	No change	Hold until PCE drops	Keep fixed-rate loans if possible

KEY TAKEAWAY: Inflation is falling (2.4% CPI in January) but Core PCE remains hot at 3.0%. GDP growth slowed to 1.4% in Q4 2025 - partly due to government shutdown impact. Unemployment ticked up to 4.3% but still healthy. Fed will NOT cut rates until PCE falls further. For immigrants: keep fixed-rate debt, explore refinancing if you have adjustable-rate mortgages, and prioritize tax-advantaged savings now.

SECTION 3: PRECIOUS METALS & ENERGY MARKETS

Precious Metals Performance

METAL	PRICE (Feb 20)	WEEKLY %	YTD %	1-YR HIGH	SIGNAL
Gold (XAU/USD)	\$5,062/oz	+0.9%	+16.2%	\$5,100	STRONG BUY - safe haven demand
Silver (XAG/USD)	\$80.62/oz	+4.7%	+16.6%	\$122 (peak)	REBOUND - from \$122 peak crash
Platinum (XPT/USD)	~\$2,080/oz	+2.4%	+10.5%	\$2,100	Rising with PGM demand
Palladium (XPD/USD)	~\$1,700/oz	+1.8%	+8.2%	\$1,720	Hybrid vehicle demand supporting

Energy Market Snapshot

ENERGY	PRICE (Feb 20)	WEEKLY %	YTD %	KEY DRIVER	CONSUMER IMPACT
WTI Crude Oil	\$66.48/bbl	+5.7%	+5.2%	Iran tensions	Gas prices rising moderately
Brent Crude	~\$68.50/bbl	+4.5%	+4.0%	Iran/Hormuz risk	Global shipping costs up
Natural Gas	~\$4.20/MMBtu	+5.0%	+72.1%	Winter demand	Heating bills elevated; budget now
Gasoline (Retail)	~\$3.20/gal	+1.0%	-5.0%	Seasonal demand	Below last year; savings opportunity

KEY TAKEAWAY: Gold at \$5,062/oz is sending a strong signal - investors fear inflation, war risk, and currency instability. Silver recovering from its crash from \$122. Oil at \$66.48/bbl driven by Iran tensions - if Iran talks collapse, oil could spike to \$90-100. Natural gas +72% YTD - if you have not budget-checked your heating bills, do it now. Gasoline is actually below last year - a rare win for commuters.

SECTION 4: COMPANY & MARKET NEWS

Key Corporate Events & Market Headlines

COMPANY / EVENT	DATE	WHAT HAPPENED & WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
NVIDIA (NVDA)	Feb 20	Stock +3.8% this week. KEY EVENT: Earnings report after close on FEB 25. Analysts expect revenue ~\$38B. Could move market dramatically. If you own NVDA, be prepared for big swings.
Tesla (TSLA)	Feb 14-20	Surged +15.7% for the week - biggest gainer. Still down -15.7% YTD. Musk involvement in DOGE + AI narrative drove short covering. Volatile - not for the faint-hearted.
Amazon (AMZN)	Feb 20	Ended 9-day losing streak on Friday after dropping -10.3% for the week. At \$210, stock is down -12.9% YTD. Long-term investors may see opportunity if patient.
SCOTUS Tariff Ruling	Feb 20, 2026	Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that Trump IEEPA tariffs were ILLEGAL. Markets rallied immediately. Trump responded with new 15% tariff under Trade Act Section 122. \$175B in refunds possible for companies that overpaid.
New 15% Global Tariff	Feb 21-24	Trump signed new 15% tariff using different legal authority. Expires in 150 days. EU and UK alarmed - trade deal ratification paused. Consumer prices may rise. Watch retail + import stocks.

□ THE WEEK IN TARIFFS: A TIMELINE

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KEY TAKEAWAY: The Supreme Court ruling (6-3) that IEEPA tariffs were illegal is historic. But Trump immediately countered with a 15% tariff under Trade Act Section 122 - legal but expires in 150 days without Congressional approval. Companies may get \$175B in refunds for IEEPA tariffs paid. For immigrants: goods you import from your home country may become slightly cheaper during the legal adjustment period. Watch consumer prices over the next 4 weeks.

HOME DEPOT VS LOWE'S

Home Depot and Lowe's are set to report earnings this week, with traders anticipating sizable swings in the home improvement retailers' stocks following the results. Home Depot is set to report earnings on Tuesday morning, with rival Lowe's following Wednesday. Current options pricing suggests traders expect Home Depot ([HD](#)) stock could move up to 4% in either direction by the end of the week, while Lowe's ([LOW](#)) could swing up to 5%.

For Home Depot, a shift of that size from Friday's close could lift the stock above \$398, its highest level since last September, or drag the stock down to \$366. For Lowe's, the move could mean setting a record high above \$294 at the high end, or dropping as low as \$266.

Both stocks have enjoyed a strong start to the year so far, with Home Depot gaining about 11% and Lowe's up 16% for 2026.

Novo Nordisk Stock Tumbles Monday to Its Lowest Point in Nearly 5 Years. Here's Why

The weight-loss drug wars took a fresh turn on Monday.

Shares of Novo Nordisk ([NVO](#)) were down over 15% in recent trading after the Danish drugmaker announced the results of a clinical trial for its new weight-loss drug that came in short of expectations.

Novo Nordisk said that among a group of 809 people, the average weight loss for a patient taking its in-development drug CagriSema was about 23% of a patient's body weight after 84 weeks. That was lower than the 25.5% mark for those in the trial that took tirzepatide, the active ingredient in Eli Lilly's ([LLY](#)) Mounjaro and Zepbound.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO INVESTORS

Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly's stocks have diverged over the last year as Eli Lilly's sales continued to accelerate while Novo Nordisk's have slowed. Monday's trial results could be taken as another signal that Novo Nordisk is falling behind in the weight-loss drug race.

Earlier this month, Eli Lilly said it expects another solid year of sales growth, while Novo Nordisk warned a number of factors could lead to a sales decline this year.

Separately, Eli Lilly on Monday announced a new product: a version of its injectable drug Zepbound that contains four doses of the medication in one injector pen, enough for a one-month supply.

With Monday's drop, Novo Nordisk shares hit their lowest point in nearly five years. The shares have lost more than half their value in the last 12 months. Eli Lilly shares, which rose nearly 4% Monday morning, have gained about 19% in the last year.

SECTION 5: WORLD COUNTRY NEWS

IRAN - FULL STORY: The Crisis That Could Move Oil, Gold & Markets

□ IRAN-US CRISIS: THE STORY THE WORLD IS WATCHING

The most critical geopolitical and economic story of February 2026 is unfolding between the United States and Iran. Here is a comprehensive briefing for the AB Financial News community:

BACKGROUND:

Iran's nuclear program has been a source of global tension for decades. In June 2025, the US and Israel conducted joint airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear sites, significantly degrading Iran's nuclear capabilities. Despite this, Iran has continued to enrich uranium and refuses to accept 'zero enrichment' - the key US demand.

WHERE TALKS STAND RIGHT NOW:

February 6: Indirect US-Iran talks in Muscat, Oman (mediated by Oman). February 13-18: Talks in Switzerland (Geneva). February 18: Axios analysis says 'war is the most likely outcome.' February 19: Trump says he is 'considering limited military strikes.' February 20: Reports say any strike would be limited to nuclear/ballistic

missile sites. February 23: Oil retreats as Oman announces a THIRD round of talks in Geneva this week.

KEY STICKING POINTS:

US demands: Complete dismantlement of nuclear program, zero enrichment on Iranian soil, end to ballistic missile stockpiles, stop backing proxy groups. Iran demands: Sanctions relief, right to enrich uranium for civilian use, economic normalization including oil/gas deals, aircraft purchases. Gap: Enormous. Iran says zero enrichment is a 'red line.' US says enrichment inside Iran is a weapons risk.

THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS FOR YOU:

1. OIL PRICES: About 13 million barrels/day transit the Strait of Hormuz - 31% of global seaborne crude. Any military action could spike oil to \$90-100/barrel, raising gas prices \$0.50-\$1.00/gal in the US. 2. GOLD: Gold already at \$5,062/oz. A military strike could push it to \$5,500+. 3. STOCK MARKET: Defense stocks (Raytheon, Lockheed) would surge; airlines and shipping would fall. 4. IRAN'S ECONOMY: Inflation at 60% YoY (Jan 2026), capital flight accelerating, only 9 of Iran's banks are solvent. Iran is economically desperate. 5. ENERGY SECTOR JOBS: Higher oil prices = more US drilling = more energy sector hiring. Opportunity for immigrant workers in Texas, Wyoming, North Dakota.

WHAT TO WATCH THIS WEEK:

Third round of Geneva talks (week of Feb 23). Trump's response to talk outcomes. US aircraft carrier positioning (USS Abraham Lincoln is 700km from Iranian coast with 80 aircraft aboard). Any Iranian military exercises near Hormuz. Oil price movements are your real-time indicator.

CHINA - SCOTUS Tariff Ruling Shifts Power Before Trump-Xi Summit

□□ CHINA - Xi Gains Leverage After SCOTUS Tariff Ruling

The Supreme Court tariff ruling dramatically shifted US-China dynamics. Trump's ability to impose emergency tariffs at will is now limited, strengthening Xi Jinping's hand ahead of Trump's planned Beijing visit (March 31 - April 2). China's commerce ministry is 'assessing the impact.' Xi is expected to push for reduced tariffs and a Taiwan discussion - while China pivots hard to new trade deals with the EU, Gulf States, and trans-Pacific partners. Despite tariff war, Chinese factories are buzzing: a 30% tariff rate vs. most Asian neighbors is actually competitive. GDP growth holds at ~4.5%, supported by stimulus. Big picture for immigrants: Chinese imports may become more affordable again. Chinese-American businesses could benefit from trade normalization.

EUROPE: Germany, France & UK Navigate New 15% Tariff Reality

European Country Briefs

COUNTRY	KEY METRIC	STATUS	FULL STORY
GERMANY □□	DAX: 25,260	Cautious	Chancellor Friedrich Merz visits White House in early March to negotiate on 15% global tariff and EU trade

	+6.3% YTD		deal. German companies (VW, BMW, BASF) potentially owed \$118B+ in tariff refunds from IEEPA ruling. Manufacturing sector under pressure - autos, chemicals hardest hit. Merz: 'The separation of powers in the US still functions - that is good news.'
FRANCE □□	CAC 40: 8,515 +2.4% Weekly	Alert	President Macron opened France's International Agriculture Fair Feb 21, warning 'let's not celebrate too soon' on SCOTUS ruling. France has called for EU to activate 'trade bazooka' (Anti-Coercion Instrument) against US. Luxury sector threatened: LVMH and Kering fell -3.5% on tariff fears. EU's \$93B retaliation list includes French wine, cheeses, cognac. France pushing hardest for unified EU response.
UK □□	FTSE: 10,686 +2.0% Weekly	Uncertain	UK had negotiated a special 10% baseline tariff (Turnberry Deal) - a competitive advantage over EU. But now the entire deal's future is in doubt after SCOTUS ruling. UK Trade Minister questioning how the 15% global tariff affects their deal. GDP growth forecast: 1.2% for 2026 - below trend. UK is in a difficult position: close ally of US but needs trade certainty. Inflation falling toward 2.5%.

ASIA: Iran & China Update

Asian Country Briefs

COUNTRY	KEY METRIC	STATUS	FULL STORY
IRAN □□	Oil: \$66.48 Inflation: 60%	CRITICAL	See detailed Iran story above. US military assets deployed in Persian Gulf. Third round of Geneva nuclear talks underway Feb 23-27. If talks fail and military action occurs: oil to \$90-100/bbl, gas prices spike +\$0.50-1.00, gold to \$5,500+, markets volatile. Iran's economy collapsing: 60% inflation, capital flight, banking system near insolvency. Desperate for sanctions relief.
CHINA □□	Nikkei-linked GDP: ~4.5%	Pivoting	See detailed China story above. SCOTUS ruling boosted Xi's leverage. Trump-Xi summit April in Beijing. China aggressively pursuing 20+ new trade deals globally. Despite US tariffs, factories and ports buzzing - Lunar New Year demand strong. China targeting EU, Gulf States, trans-Pacific as US alternatives. For immigrants: US-China normalization benefits small importers, restaurant supply chains, electronics.
S. Korea			A South Korean court sentenced former President Yoon Suk Yeol to life in prison , after finding him guilty of masterminding an insurrection,

			stemming from his December 2024 attempt to impose martial law.
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AFRICA: Ethiopia, Nigeria & South Africa

African Country Briefs

COUNTRY	KEY METRIC	STATUS	FULL STORY
ETHIOPIA □□	GDP: 10.2% Birr: 155.2	Growing	MAJOR NEWS: Ethiopia revises GDP growth forecast UP to 10.2% - first double-digit growth since 2016-17. IMF-backed reforms are working: floating exchange rate, banking reforms (49% foreign ownership now allowed), new stock exchange, foreign exchange liberalization. Ethiopian Airlines driving agro-exports + tourism. Two new gold mines (Kurmuk + Tulu Kap) starting 2026-27. Rising military tensions with Eritrea are a risk. USD/ETB at 155.2 = historic high for dollar. Great time to send money home - your dollars go further.
NIGERIA □□	GDP: 4.4% Naira: 1,355	Improving	Nigeria set to become Africa's 3rd largest economy in 2026, overtaking Algeria with projected GDP of \$334B. IMF raised growth forecast to 4.4%. FX reserves at \$45.4B. Central Bank maintaining hawkish stance as inflation cools. Naira stabilizing at 1,355. Energy sector investment surging. US advisory team on Nigerian soil (AFRICOM). Diaspora remittances growing. But: household purchasing power still weak - recovery at macro level, not yet felt by average Nigerians. Job creation challenge remains.
SOUTH AFRICA □□	GDP: 1.4% CPI: 3.5%	On the Cusp	President Ramaphosa: 'We are on the cusp of rapid growth - first time in 20 years.' South Africa removed from FATF grey list (Oct 2025) - boosting investor confidence. Inflation at 3.5% (lowest in 20 years). Four consecutive quarters of GDP growth. Gold and platinum prices soaring benefit SA's economy. Budget speech coming up. IMF projects 1.4% growth in 2026. Credit rating improved. Eskom (power utility) improving. For diaspora: more stable SA means remittances hold value better.

CANADA: Economic Outlook & Diaspora Angle

Canada Briefs

REGION/TOPIC	KEY METRIC	STATUS	FULL STORY
CANADA (National) □□	GDP: 1.2% Unemp: 6.5%	Holding	Canada avoided technical recession in 2025 despite enormous pressure from US tariffs. GDP growth forecast: 1.2% for 2026 - below average but stable. Manufacturing sector in its longest recession in a generation. Federal government launched 'One Canadian Economy' strategy - removing interprovincial trade barriers (\$110-200B in potential growth). CUSMA (USMCA) review this summer is critical. Bank of Canada cut rates to 3.0%. 'Buy Canadian' campaign gaining traction with consumers. For immigrants living in Canada: housing costs remain high but interest rates falling.
CANADA (Diaspora Angle) □□ USD/CAD: ~1.43 Exports: -25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Ethiopian and Eritrean immigrants in Canada: The weaker Canadian dollar makes remittances to Africa cheaper in CAD terms but your dollars/pounds go further. • Canada's healthcare and IT sectors still growing despite trade headwinds. • Calgary and Edmonton (Alberta) are outperforming due to oil strength. • Vancouver and Toronto (Ontario) most exposed to trade uncertainty. • Defense sector emerging as new employer - Canada committed to major military spending increases. • Diversification strategy: Canada looking to expand trade to Europe, Asia, Africa. This creates business opportunities in import/export for diaspora communities. 		
<p>OpenAI knew of Tumbler Ridge shooter's concerning content The latest: A representative of tech giant OpenAI met with the B.C. government one day after an 18-year-old killed six people in a school shooting in Tumbler Ridge and two others at a nearby residence, but the company did not disclose that it had suspended the shooter's ChatGPT account months earlier because of concerning content. The context: The shooter's communications with an artificial-intelligence chatbot were flagged by OpenAI and the account was banned in June for violating the company's usage policy, but it was not reported to law enforcement – months before the deeply troubled teen killed five young students and an education assistant, as well as her mother and half-brother.</p>			

GLOBAL TAKEAWAY: The world's attention is on Iran (Geneva talks this week) and China (Trump-Xi summit April). Ethiopia hitting 10.2% GDP growth is the best African news in years - your remittances are going to a growing economy. South Africa and Nigeria both turning a corner. Canada struggling but avoiding recession. For

the diaspora: being informed about these 9 countries gives you a strategic advantage in business, investing, and remittance timing.

America

Mexico and S. America

COUNTRY	FULL STORY
Mexico	<p>The latest: The Mexican army killed the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes (El Mencho) on Sunday. The killing of the powerful drug lord set off several hours of roadblocks with burning vehicles to block military operations. The state of Jalisco is the base of the cartel known for trafficking huge quantities of fentanyl and other drugs to the U.S.</p> <p>What's next: Global Affairs posted travel advice that Canadians in Puerto Vallarta, a popular tourist destination in the state, should shelter in place and keep a low profile because of the escalating violence. Several flights were suspended by airlines, and an updated advisory said Canadians in Jalisco State should stay informed of the situation on the ground as the situation develops.</p>

SECTION 6: REMITTANCE & DIASPORA MARKETS

Remittance Exchange Rates - February 20, 2026

CORRIDOR	RATE (Feb 20)	1-MONTH CHG	YTD CHG	WHAT THIS MEANS
USD to ETB (Ethiopian Birr)	155.2 Birr	+0.4% (from 154.6)	+20.6%	HISTORIC HIGH! Dollar near all-time peak vs Birr. Send now - every \$1,000 = 155,200 Birr
USD to ERN (Eritrean Nakfa)	15.00 Nakfa	Stable	Stable	Official rate stable. Check parallel market rates with diaspora community.
USD to CAD (for Canada)	~1.43 CAD	+0.5%	+2.1%	Weaker CAD means Canadians pay more per remittance in local currency
USD to NGN (Nigerian Naira)	~1,355 Naira	Stable	+0.2%	Naira stabilizing. Good time to remit if family needs support.
USD to ZAR (S. African Rand)	~18.5 ZAR	+0.8%	+3.0%	Dollar strong vs. Rand. Good remittance window for SA diaspora.

Ethiopia Economic Snapshot

ETHIOPIA INDICATOR	LATEST DATA	TREND	SIGNIFICANCE
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GDP Growth (FY 2025-26)	10.2% (revised up)	Accelerating	Best performance since 2016. IMF program working. First double-digit growth in nearly a decade.
Inflation Rate	~18.2%	Declining (was 28%)	Still high but falling fast. Birr stabilization helping.
Annual Remittances	\$6.2B (2025)	+12% YoY	YOU are driving Ethiopia's foreign exchange reserves. Diaspora vital.
USD/ETB Exchange	155.2 Birr	Near all-time high	All-time peak was 155.36 (Feb 5). Dollar very strong. Great window to send.
Ethiopia-Eritrea Tensions	Escalating	High Risk	Military tensions rising over Red Sea access. Could disrupt Djibouti trade corridor (95% of Ethiopia's trade).
New Airport (Bishoftu)	\$7.8B project	Under construction	Will be Africa's largest airport by 2029. Growth opportunity for investors.

REMITTANCE ALERT: USD/ETB is at 155.2 - near the all-time high of 155.36 (reached Feb 5). This is one of the best windows in history to send money to Ethiopia. Every \$1,000 USD = 155,200 Ethiopian Birr. Compare this to 128 Birr just 18 months ago (+21%). Ethiopia's 10.2% GDP growth means your family's economy is growing. Naira and Rand also at favorable levels.

SECTION 7: BEHAVIORAL FINANCE DEEP DIVE

SPECIAL FEATURE: BEHAVIORAL FINANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS

This week's topic is:

The Immigrant Wealth Paradox

This Week's Deep Dive Concept | Presented by AB Financial News
Listen KIDI Ethiopia weekly program on YouTube

This Week's Behavioral Traps in the Market

TRAP OF THE WEEK	EXAMPLE THIS WEEK	ANTIDOTE
Availability Bias	'Iran war will crash market' panic selling	War talk \neq war. Brent rose then fell as talks resumed. Stay the course.
FOMO - Fear of Missing Out	Buying Tesla after +15.7% week surge	Tesla is still -15.7% YTD. Weekly spikes are often reversed. Buy on thesis, not momentum.
Overconfidence	'SCOTUS ruling means everything is fine'	Trump replaced with 15% tariff immediately. One victory doesn't end uncertainty.
Loss Aversion	Holding Amazon as it fell -10% hoping it recovers	Set a stop-loss rule (e.g. -15% = evaluate). Don't let hope override analysis.
Herd Mentality	Selling gold when silver crashed from \$122 to \$80	Gold and silver are different. Gold at \$5,062 held strong. Understand what you own.
Anchoring	'Amazon was \$250, so \$210 is a discount'	Price is just a number. Value depends on earnings, growth, competitive position.

BEHAVIORAL TAKEAWAY: The biggest financial trap for our community is not the stock market - it is the Immigrant Wealth Paradox. Every day you delay building wealth here is a day of compound interest you can never recover. You can be generous AND financially strong. These are not mutually exclusive. The goal is to build a legacy your family, here and abroad, will benefit from for generations.

SECTION 8: WEEK AHEAD - FEBRUARY 23-27, 2026

Economic Calendar & Key Events

DATE	EVENT	WHAT TO WATCH	WHY IT MATTERS FOR IMMIGRANTS
Mon Feb 23	15% Global Tariff TAKES EFFECT	Market open reaction; import prices	Products you buy may cost more. Watch retail sector.
Mon Feb 23	Iran Talks (Geneva Round 3)	Diplomatic vs. military signals	Oil prices this week depend heavily on talk outcomes. Watch energy bills.
Tue Feb 24	Consumer Confidence	Jan vs Dec survey	How Americans feel = how they spend = jobs in retail/hospitality
Wed Feb 25	NVIDIA EARNINGS	Revenue ~\$38B expected. Stock will move big.	Most important event of the week. If you own NVDA or tech ETFs, watch closely!

Wed Feb 25	FOMC Minutes	Fed language on rate cuts	If Fed signals cuts, mortgage rates will fall. Opportunity for first-time homebuyers.
Thu Feb 26	PCE Inflation + Jobless Claims	Core PCE - Fed's preferred measure	Lower PCE = more rate cuts = cheaper loans. Watch for big market moves.
Fri Feb 27	Personal Income & Spending	Consumer health check	Gauge of American spending strength. Key for service sector jobs.

5-Point Action Plan for the AB Financial News Community

#	ACTION PLAN FOR DIASPORA COMMUNITY THIS WEEK
1	CALCULATE YOUR NET WORTH: Write down everything you own and owe. This 30-minute exercise changes your financial trajectory. Most immigrants are shocked by how little they have accumulated after years of hard work.
2	SEND REMITTANCES STRATEGICALLY: USD/ETB at 155.2 is near all-time high. If you are sending money to Ethiopia this month, this is an excellent time. Every \$1 = 155.2 Birr. Compare services: FastPay, Ria and others operating in your area.
3	WATCH NVIDIA EARNINGS (Feb 25): If you own NVDA or tech funds, prepare for big swings Wednesday after close. Have a plan BEFORE the earnings report. Don't make emotional decisions at 10pm.
4	REVIEW YOUR 401(k): If your employer matches contributions, confirm you are contributing enough to get the FULL match. This is the highest guaranteed return available to any investor.
5	MONITOR OIL PRICES AND IRAN NEWS: If Iran talks fail this week and military action becomes likely, oil will spike. This affects your gas bill, grocery prices (transport costs), and market portfolio. Be informed, not surprised.

AB FINANCIAL NEWS

Broadcast: Monday February 23, 2026 | 6:00 PM EST | English & Amharic

Next Broadcast: Tuesday, March 2, 2026 | 6:00 PM EST

Empowering the Ethiopian & Eritrean Diaspora | Work. Career. Mission.