

Investment Strategy

FX Indicator Chartpack

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Staying focused on the largest regions of the world.

USD (Positive; upgraded from Neutral in early March)

- The dollar has regained its position as the most effective hedge in a world where both bonds and equities face pressure from elevated energy prices and stagflation concerns. As long as energy disruptions persist, the global growth outlook remains fragile, and the dollar benefits from its safe haven status and favourable terms of trade. The currency also draws support from relative economic resilience and the perception that the US is better positioned to absorb energy shocks than major import-dependent economies. This keeps USD strength biased against European FX and other energy importer currencies.

CNY/RMB (Positive) | Long CNY vs. EM Asia FX

- CNY continues to behave as one of the more resilient Asian currencies in the current environment. Its lower disruption to imported oil and gas, combined with relatively muted inflation passthrough from energy prices, helps shield it from the volatility affecting other regional FX. Limited exposure to foreign investor flows also reduces the risk of sudden capital flight during geopolitical stress. As a result, CNY tends to hold its ground better than most peers when energy markets are disrupted, making it a relative safe haven within Asia.

EUR (Positive; reduced conviction; our positive view might take longer to payout)

- The euro remains structurally vulnerable because it sits firmly on the energy importer side of the global divide. With energy markets disrupted and growth expectations softening, the currency is not fully pricing the downside risks associated with a prolonged supply shock. Current pricing still assumes stronger global manufacturing activity than recent data suggests, leaving room for repricing if conditions deteriorate. Near term risks skew lower, particularly against the dollar and commodity linked currencies such as AUD, which benefit from stronger terms of trade. However, we continue to view EUR as the best way to achieve diversification of FX holdings. Further, hawkish central bank talk is likely to provide the support for EUR. Accordingly, we retain a positive view on the currency while acknowledging that our positive view might take longer to payout.

Keep neutral view on CHF and upgrade JPY to a neutral view.

CHF (Neutral)

- The Swiss franc remains supported by its traditional safe haven characteristics. Strong domestic fundamentals, reserve diversification flows, and repatriation dynamics continue to underpin the currency. While the central bank may occasionally lean against excessive appreciation, such actions are unlikely to reverse the broader multi-year trend unless they become sustained and forceful. In an environment dominated by geopolitical uncertainty and energy related inflation risks, CHF retains a defensive appeal and tends to outperform during risk off episodes.

JPY (Neutral; upgraded from Negative)

- The yen remains structurally weak due to an unfavourable policy mix and deteriorating terms of trade. Elevated energy prices amplify inflation pressures in an economy heavily reliant on imported fuel, while domestic policy settings continue to encourage capital outflows. The global monetary environment also works against the yen, with higher yields abroad reducing its relative appeal. Unless there is a major shift in global risk sentiment or domestic policy, the currency is likely to remain on a depreciation path. However, for the near-term, the risk of policy-intervention from Japanese authorities to counter excessive yen weakening has increased. Furthermore, market expectations of a faster rate hiking cycle from BoJ can be validated by elevated oil prices. We upgrade our view from negative to neutral, but we are reluctant to turn outright positive.

Stay negative on INR but turn negative on GBP.

GBP (Negative; downgraded from Neutral)

- Sterling faces a challenging combination of macroeconomic and political risks. The UK's high dependence on imported energy, a weakening labour market, and the potential for pro inflationary policy choices create a difficult backdrop. Political uncertainty adds another layer of vulnerability. Despite these headwinds, GBP has not fully adjusted to the deterioration in its terms of trade or its relatively weak savings buffer. This leaves the currency exposed to further downside, particularly against the dollar and against higher yielding, commodity linked currencies. Furthermore, we now think that the hawkish market pricing of BoE policy has gone too far. We downgrade our outlook to negative from neutral.

INR (Negative; on upgrade watch) | Long USD/INR

- The Indian rupee sits in a middle ground position. Higher energy prices are a clear negative for India's external balances, but policy measures and seasonal corporate inflows provide some offsetting support. The currency's valuation is relatively inexpensive, which helps limit excessive downside, though the lack of improvement in foreign equity flows caps its upside potential. Overall, INR is expected to remain relatively stable, but the momentum of weaker INR could persist in the very near-term.

FX consensus forecasts

FX consensus points to gradual EUR and GBP appreciation and lower USDJPY ahead.

(End of period)	Q4 25	Q1 26	Q2 26	Q3 26	Q4 26f	Q1 27f
EURUSD	1.17	1.16	1.17	1.19	1.20	1.20
GBPUSD	1.35	1.32	1.34	1.36	1.36	1.36
USDJPY	156.71	158.72	155.50	153.50	152.00	150.00
USDCHF	0.79	0.80	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78

Note: Numbers in blue are Bloomberg consensus forecasts | Source: Bloomberg, and ADCB Asset Management

Performance

Performance heat map

USD rebounded in March, strengthening broadly against major peers.

	EURUSD	GBPUSD	USDJPY	USDCHF
Jan-24	-2.00	-0.34	4.17	2.38
Feb-24	-0.12	-0.50	2.08	2.68
Mar-24	-0.14	-0.02	0.91	1.91
Apr-24	-1.15	-1.04	4.26	2.00
May-24	1.71	2.00	-0.31	-1.86
Jun-24	-1.24	-0.76	2.27	-0.39
Jul-24	1.05	1.67	-6.78	-2.31
Aug-24	2.05	2.11	-2.54	-3.23
Sep-24	0.79	1.89	-1.74	-0.47
Oct-24	-2.25	-3.56	5.85	2.19
Nov-24	-2.82	-1.27	-1.49	1.96
Dec-24	-2.11	-1.72	4.96	3.00
Jan-25	0.08	-0.97	-1.28	0.39
Feb-25	0.13	1.47	-2.94	-0.86
Mar-25	4.25	2.71	-0.44	-2.08
Apr-25	4.73	3.18	-4.59	-6.62
May-25	0.17	0.98	0.66	-0.41
Jun-25	3.88	2.03	0.01	-3.56
Jul-25	-3.16	-3.82	4.67	2.42
Aug-25	2.37	2.25	-2.45	-1.45
Sep-25	0.41	-0.43	0.58	-0.51
Oct-25	-1.68	-2.19	4.12	1.03
Nov-25	0.53	0.63	1.42	-0.07
Dec-25	1.28	1.81	0.34	-1.42
Jan-26	0.89	1.57	-1.23	-2.47
Feb-26	-0.33	-1.49	0.82	-0.48
Mar-26	-2.19	-1.89	1.71	3.93

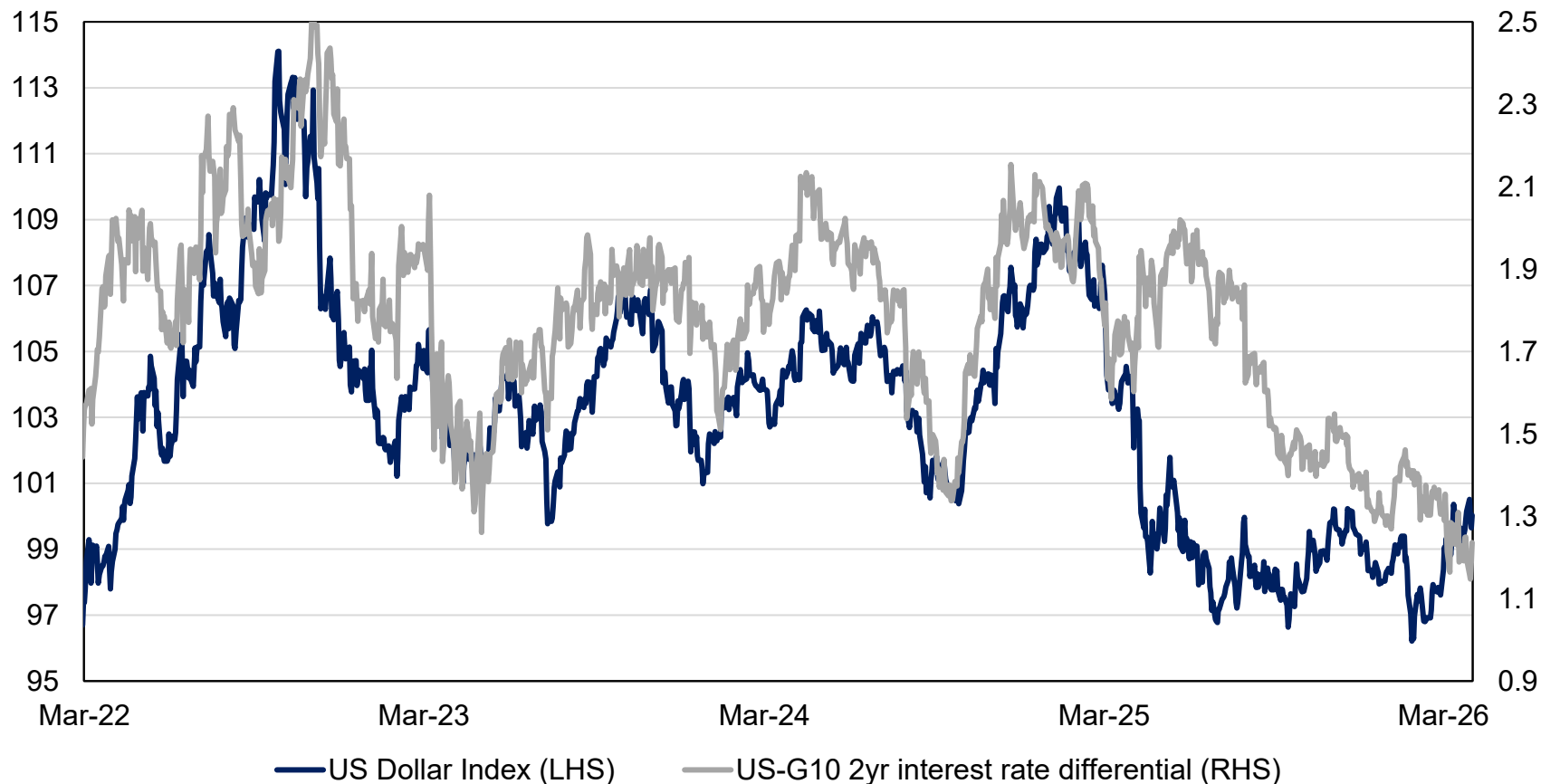
Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Macro

DXY index vs interest rate differentials

USD-rate differential has narrowed while the USD has stabilized.

DXY vs Interest rate differentials



Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

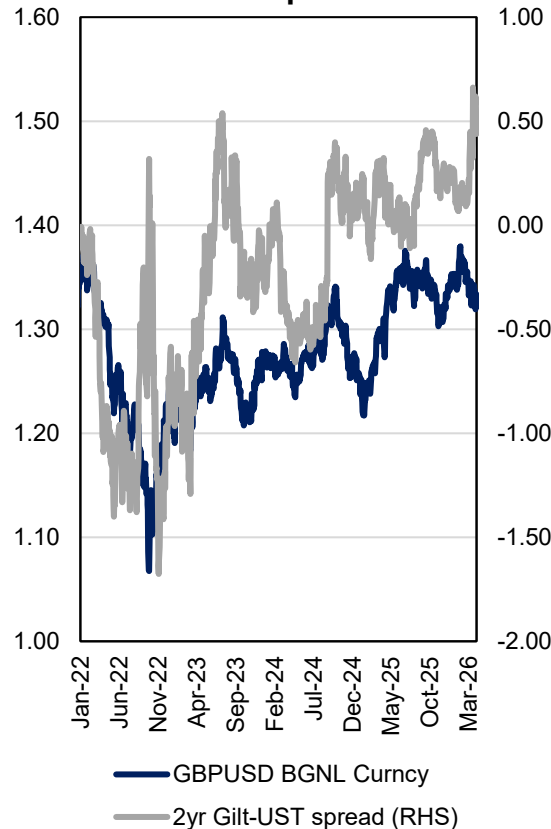
Currency pairs vs 2yr interest-rate differentials

FX pairs remain largely decoupled from 2-year interest-rate differentials.

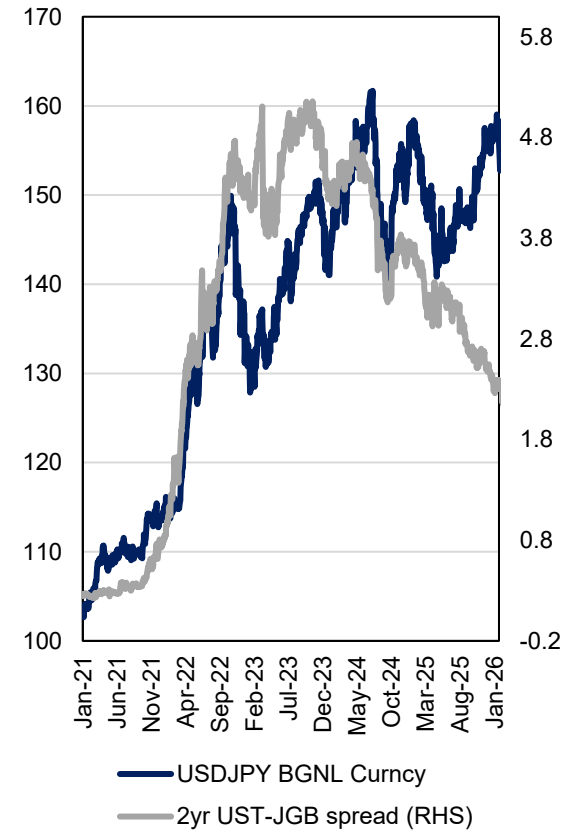
EURUSD Currency vs 2yr Bund-UST spread



GBPUSD Currency vs 2yr Gilt-UST spread



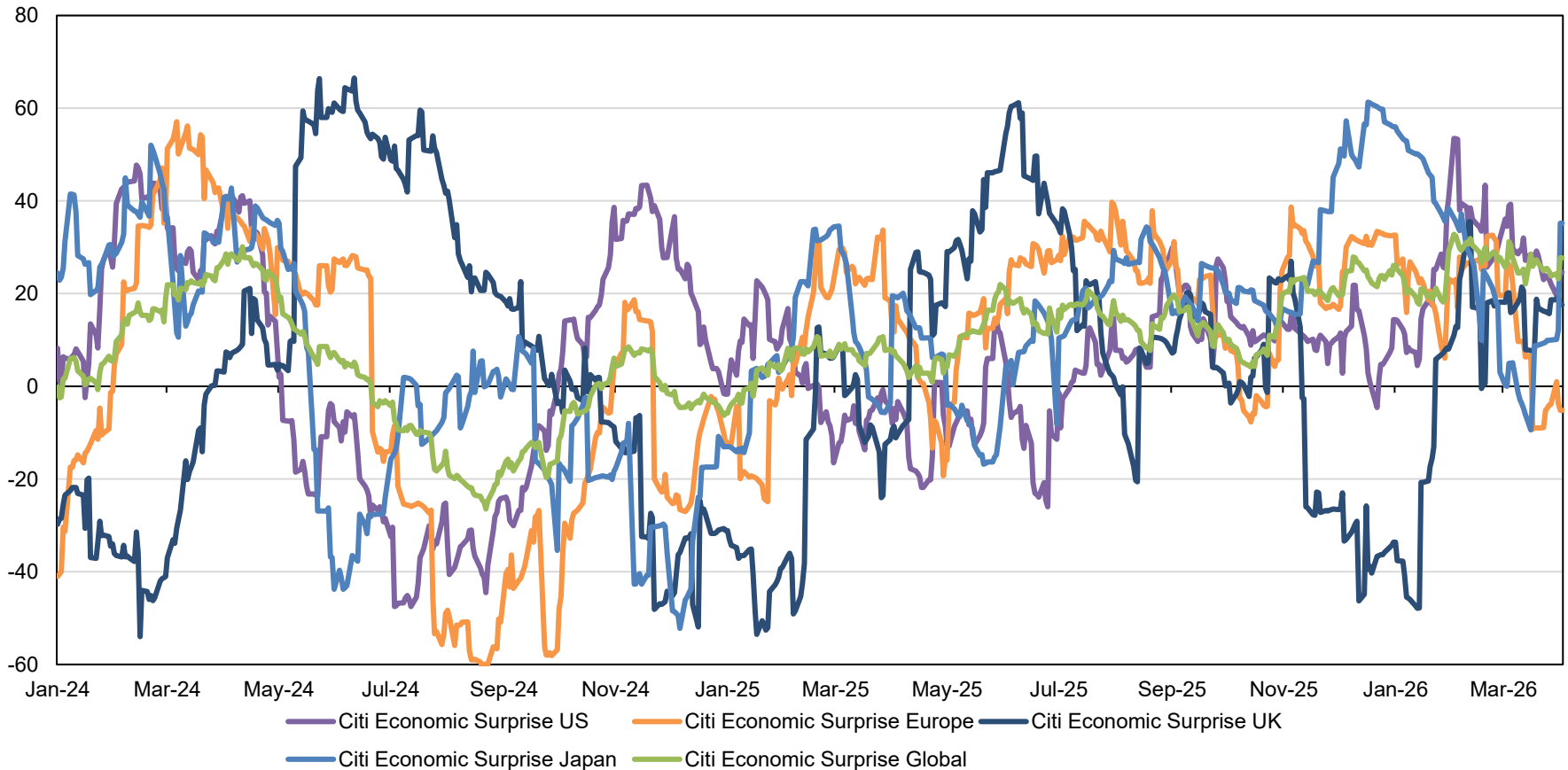
USDJPY Currency vs 2yr UST-JGB spread



Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Global economic surprises remain positive but have moderated from the recent highs.

Economic surprises



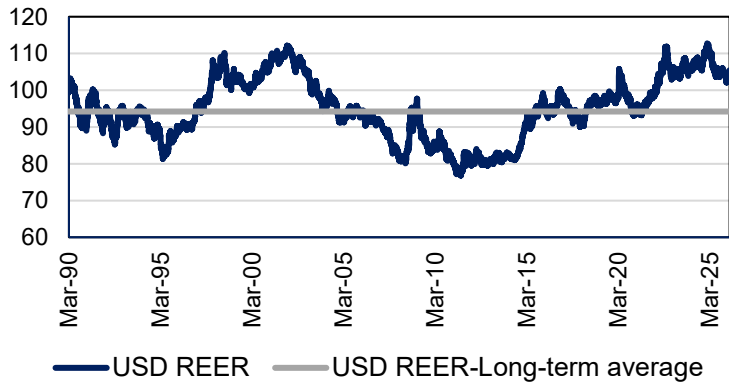
Source: Citi, Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Valuations

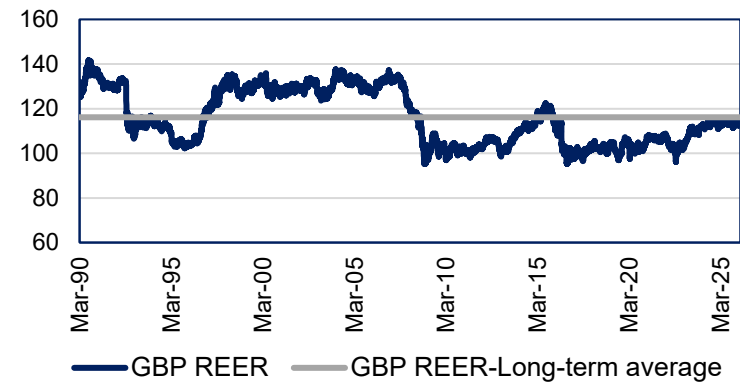
Real currency valuations

USD valuation premium continues to decline, while JPY remains deeply undervalued.

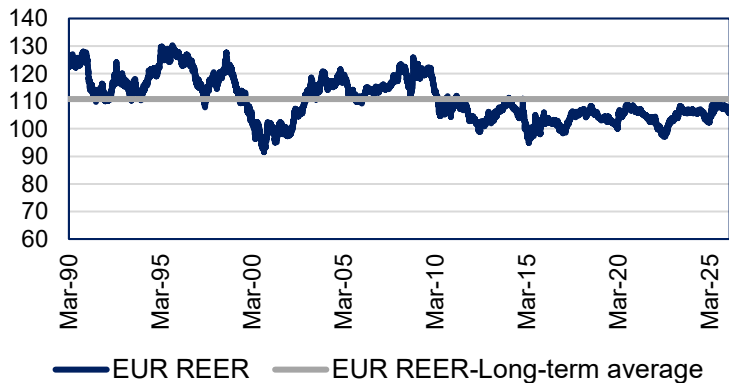
USD real effective exchange rate



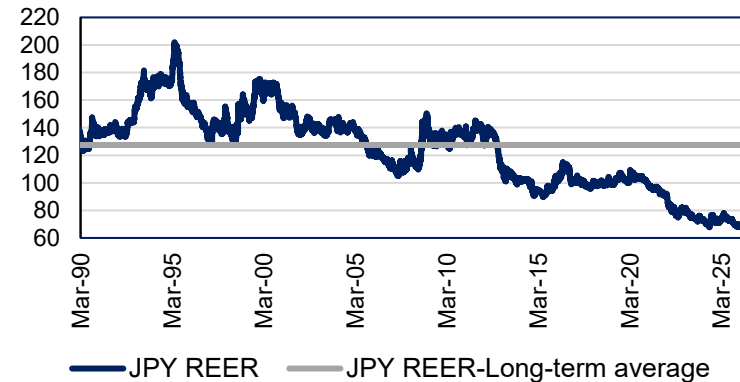
GBP real effective exchange rate



EUR real effective exchange rate



JPY real effective exchange rate

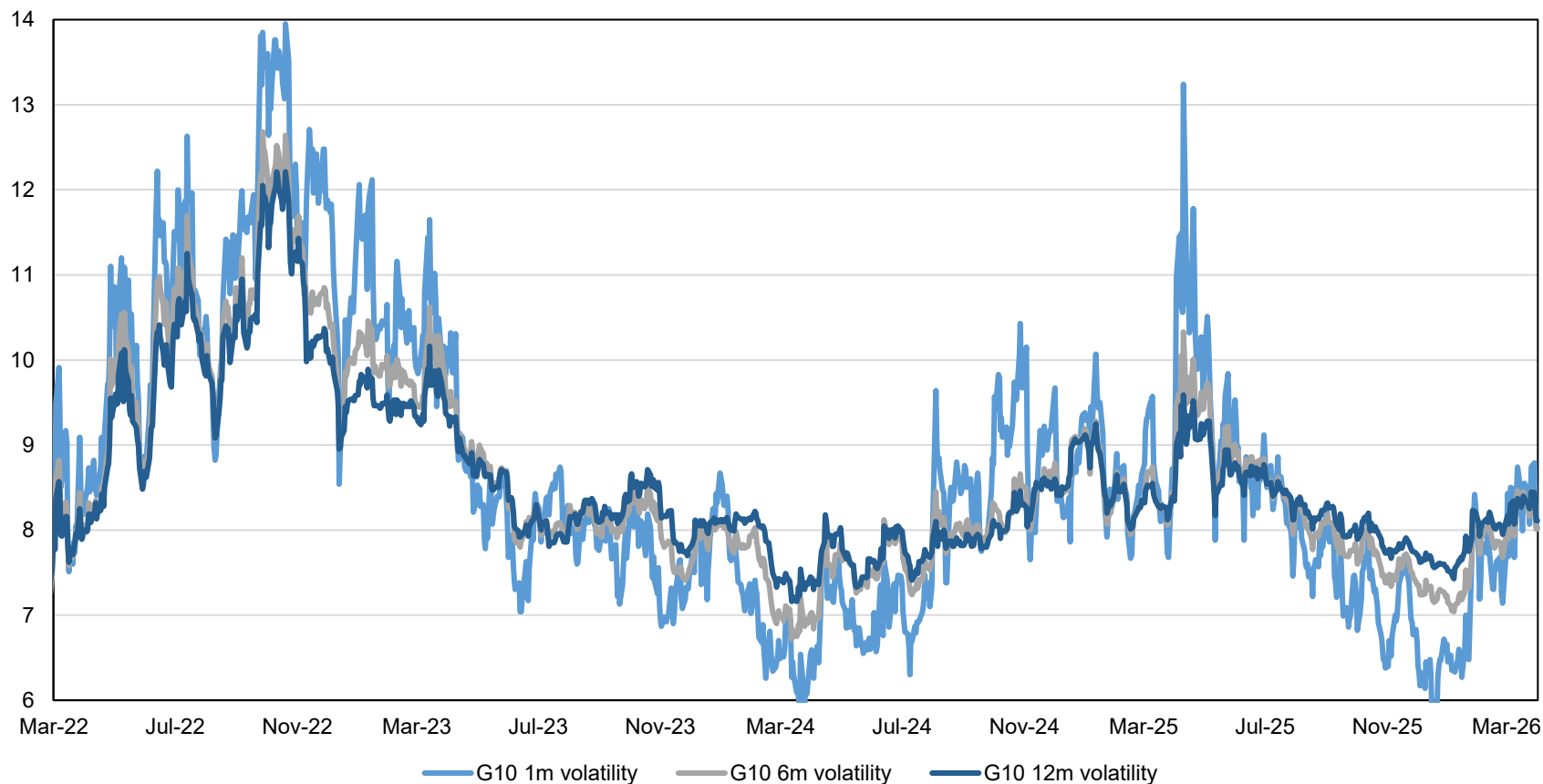


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Volatility

G10 FX volatility remains contained, with a modest rebound at the start of 2026.

G10 volatility

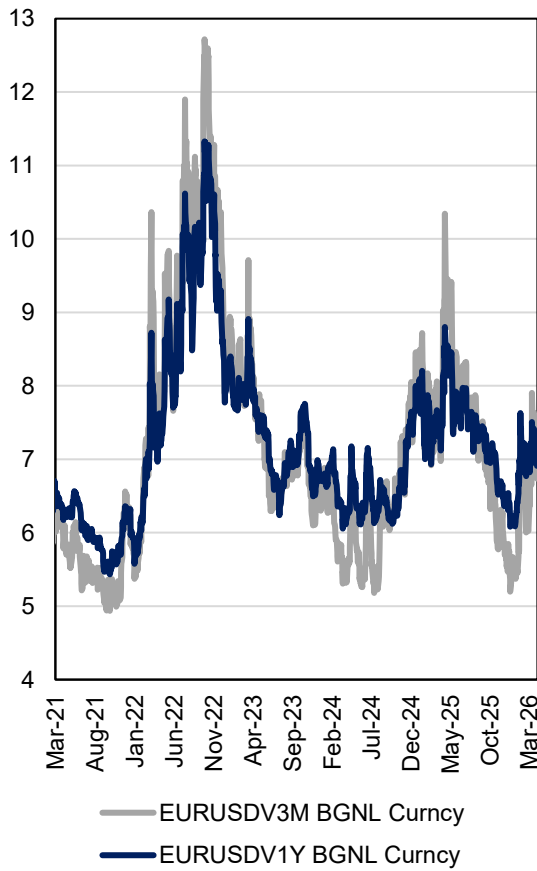


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

FX volatility

3-month volatility has risen but has not reached alarmingly high levels.

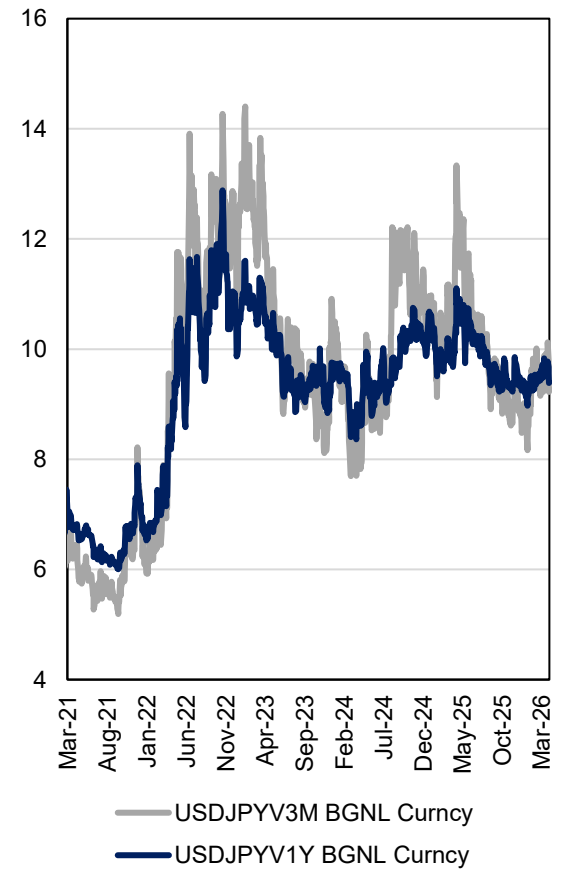
EURUSD



GBPUSD



USDJPY

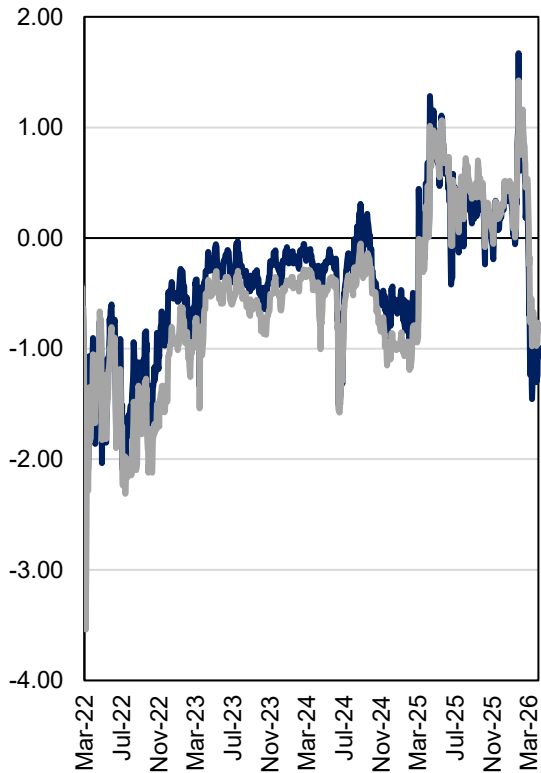


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Risk Reversal

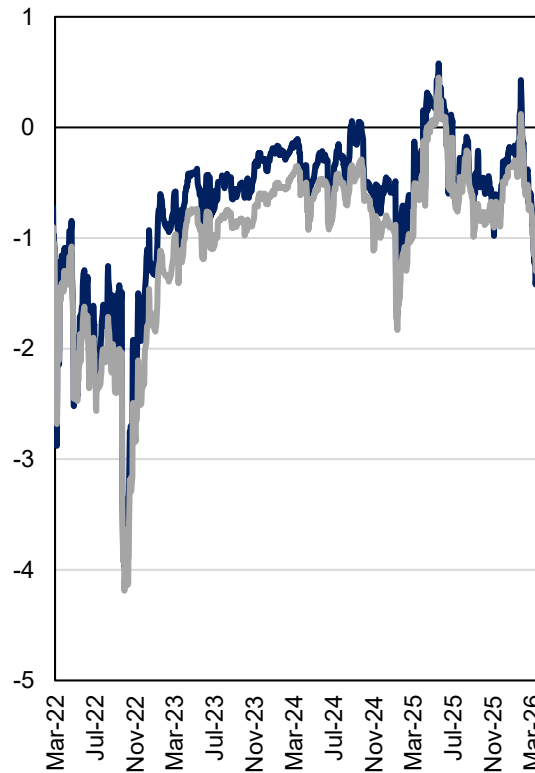
Markets are paying up for EUR and GBP downside protection.

EURUSD



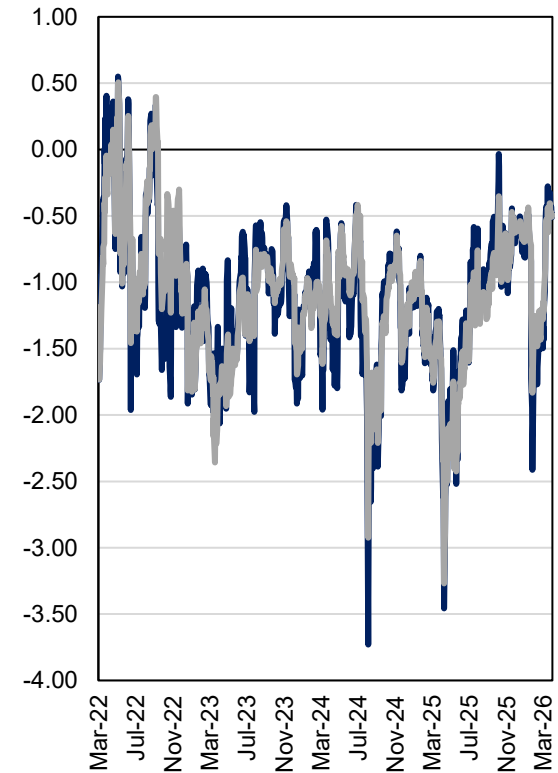
— EURUSD 1 month 25 Delta Risk Reversal
 — EURUSD 3 month 25 Delta Risk Reversal

GBPUSD



— GBPUSD 1 month 25 Delta Risk Reversal
 — GBPUSD 3 month 25 Delta Risk Reversal

USDJPY



— USDJPY 1 month 25 Delta Risk Reversal
 — USDJPY 3 month 25 Delta Risk Reversal

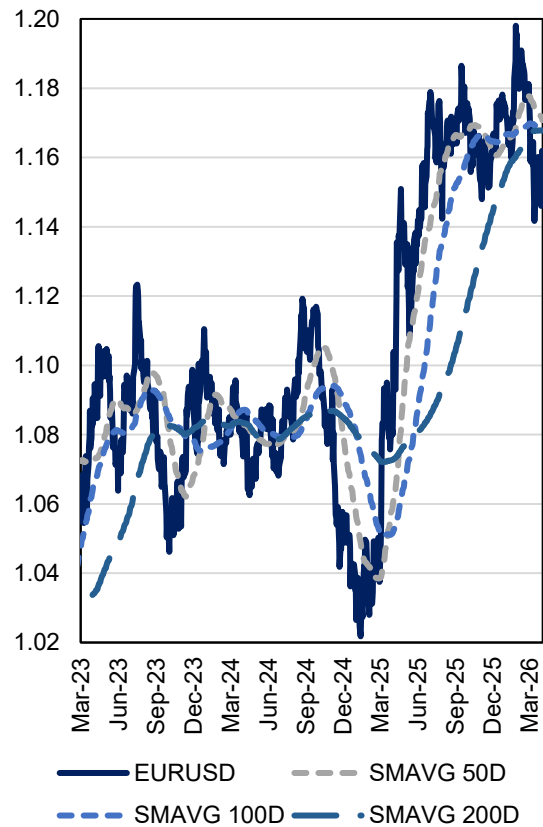
Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Technical

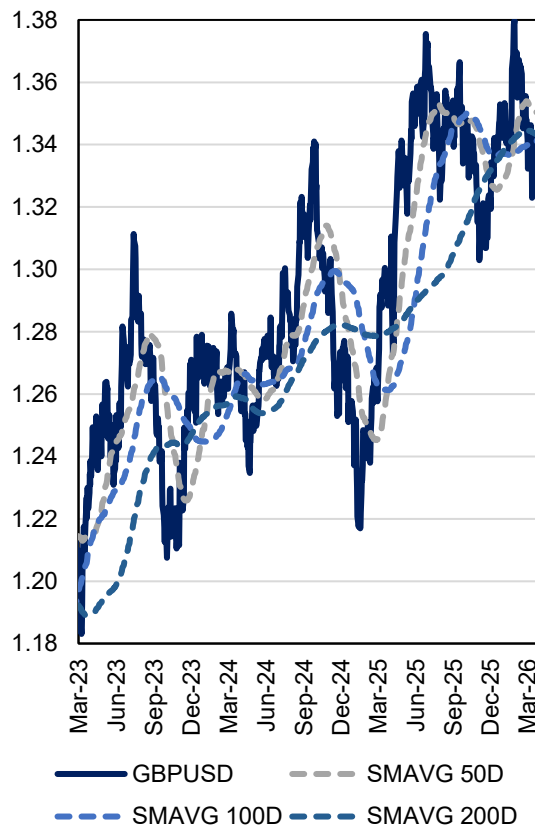
Moving average

EURUSD and GBPUSD have fallen below key technical levels, while USDJPY kept the upward momentum.

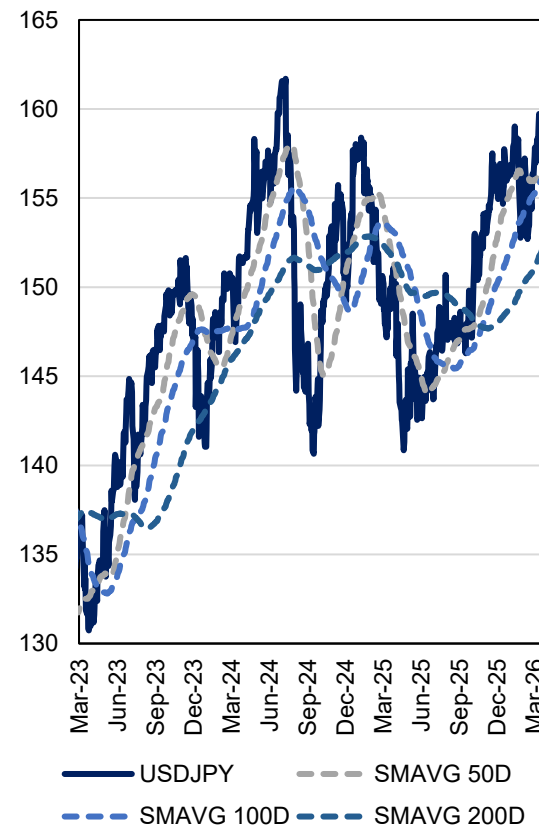
EURUSD moving average



GBPUSD moving average



USDJPY moving average

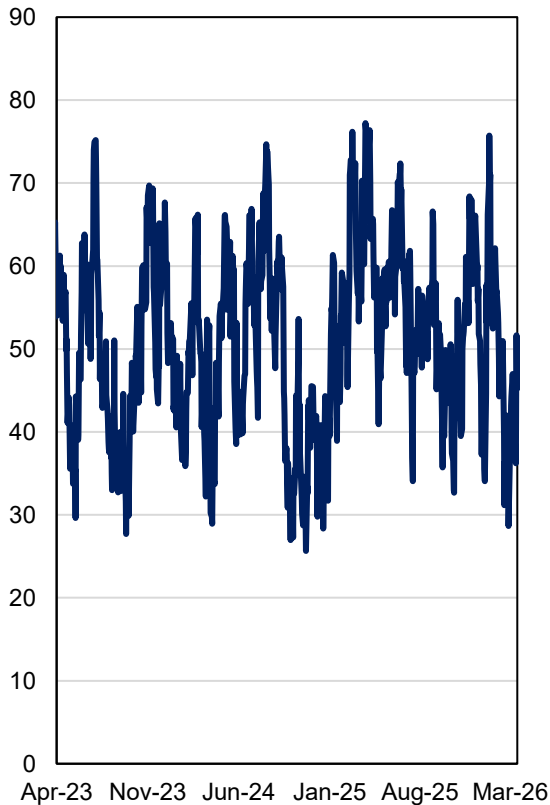


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

Relative strength index indicator

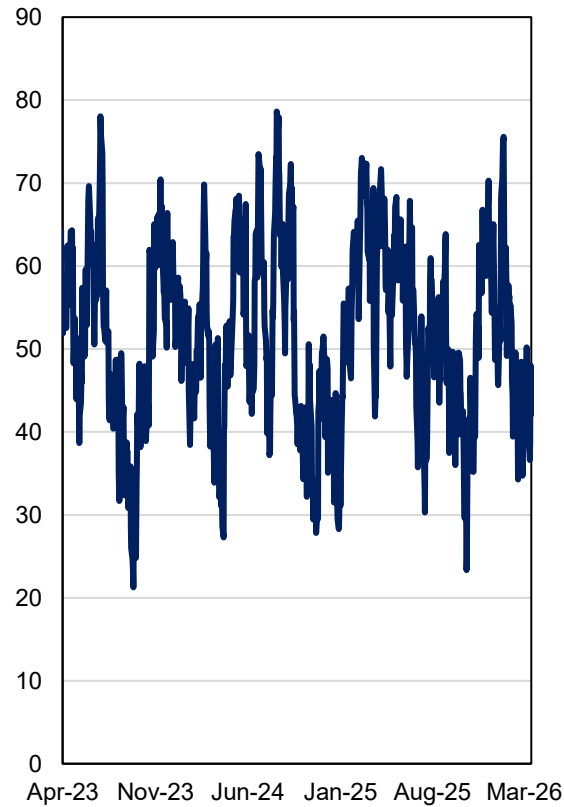
EUR/USD hit oversold conditions in mid-March.

EURUSD (RSI_14D)



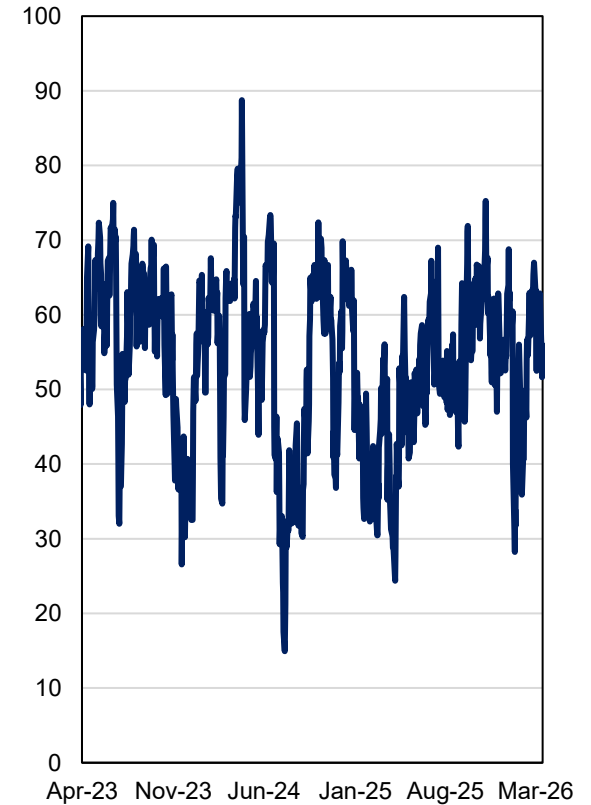
— EURUSD (RSI_14D)

GBPUSD (RSI_14D)



— GBPUSD (RSI_14D)

USDJPY (RSI_14D)



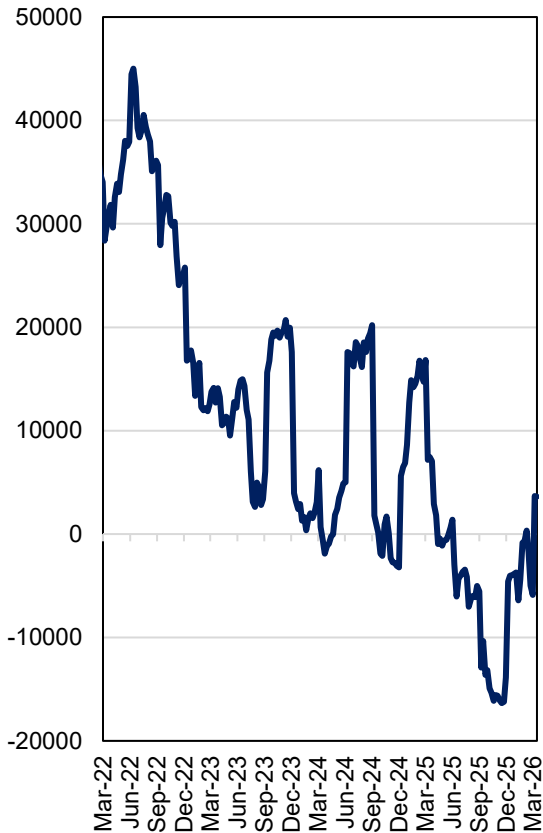
— USDJPY (RSI_14D)

Positioning

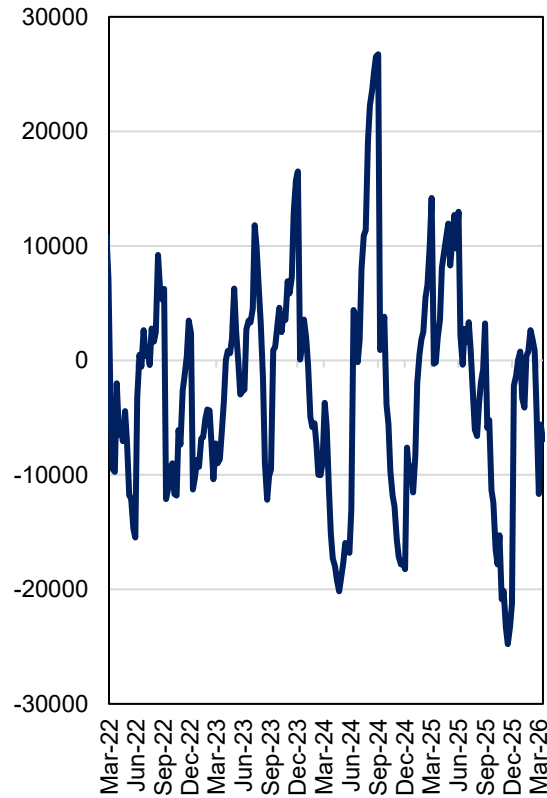
FX positioning- USD

USD speculative positioning turned positive.

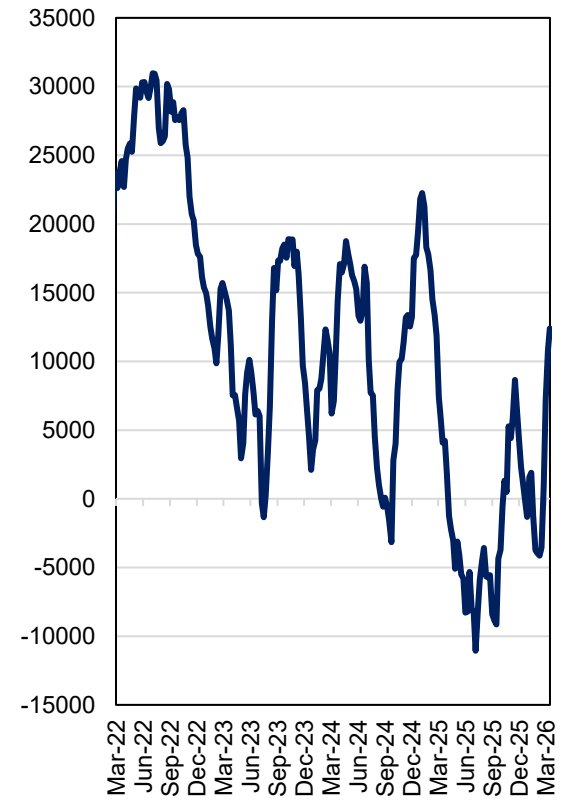
Non-commercial Net futures position for USD Index



Leveraged Funds Net futures position for USD Index



Asset Manager Institutional Net futures position for USD index

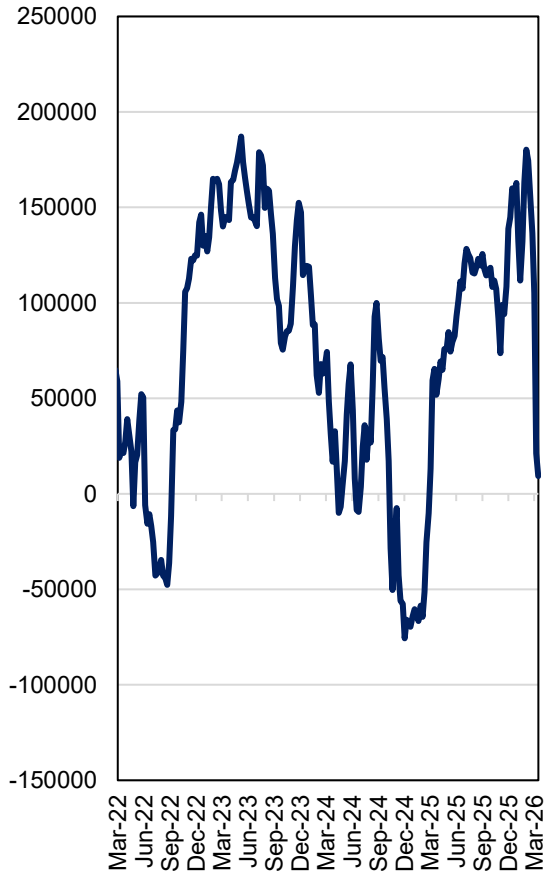


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

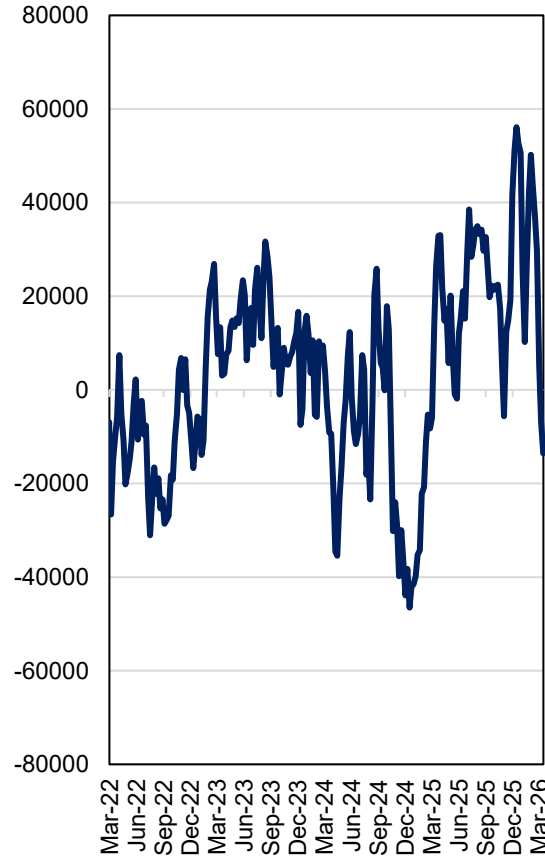
FX positioning- EUR

Positioning in EUR has eased across the board.

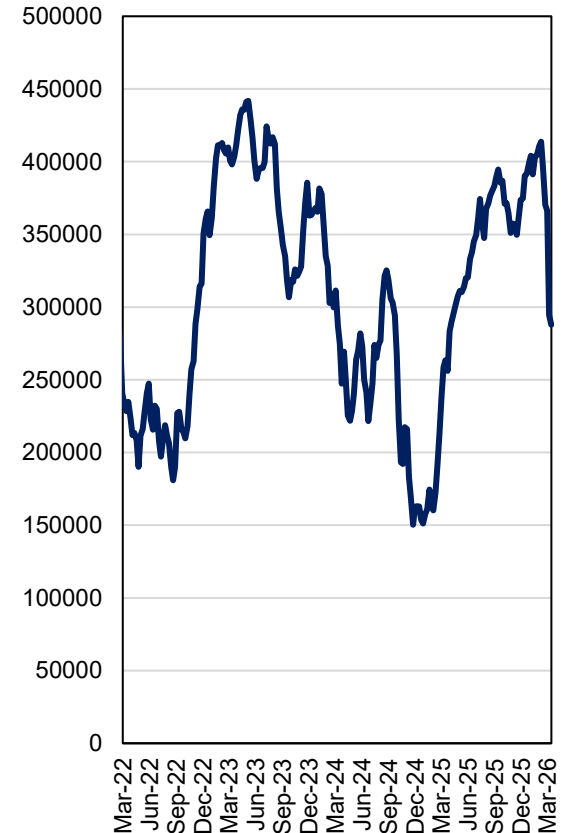
Non-commercial net futures position in Euro FX



Leveraged funds net futures position in Euro FX



Asset Manager Institutional net futures position in Euro FX

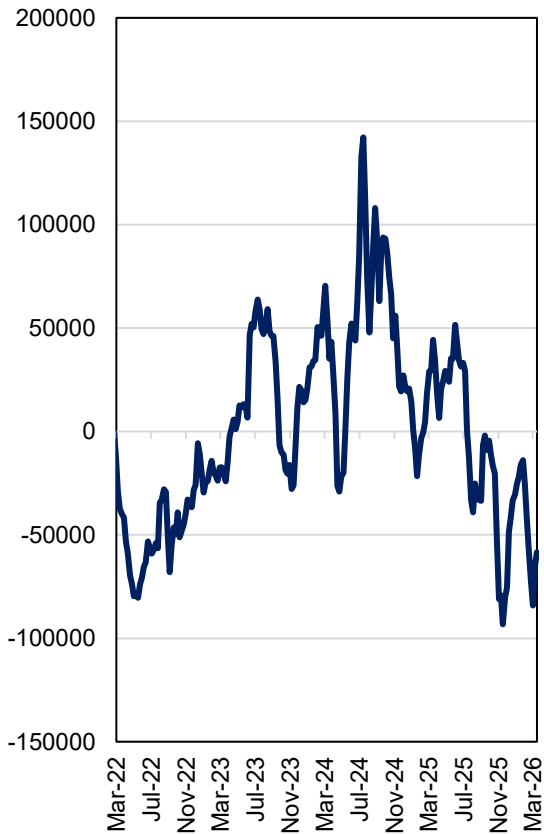


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

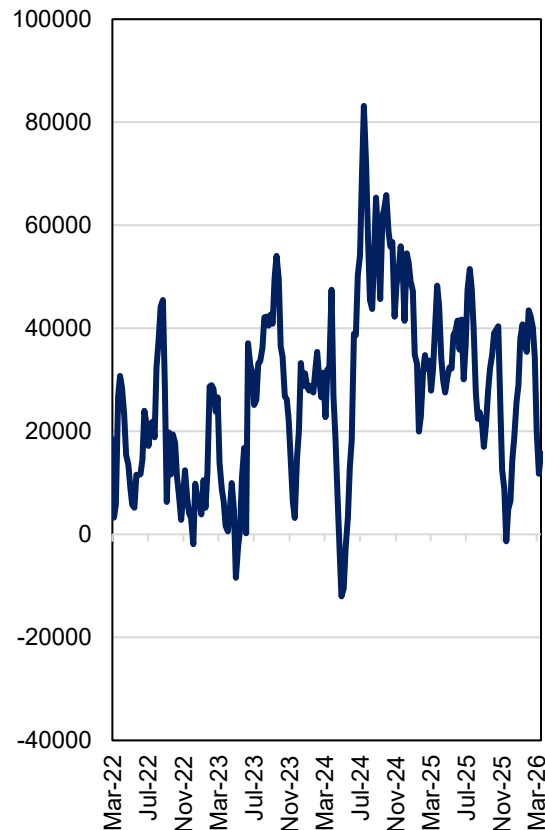
FX positioning- GBP

GBP positioning remained mixed, with volatile speculative flows and institutional investors stayed structurally short.

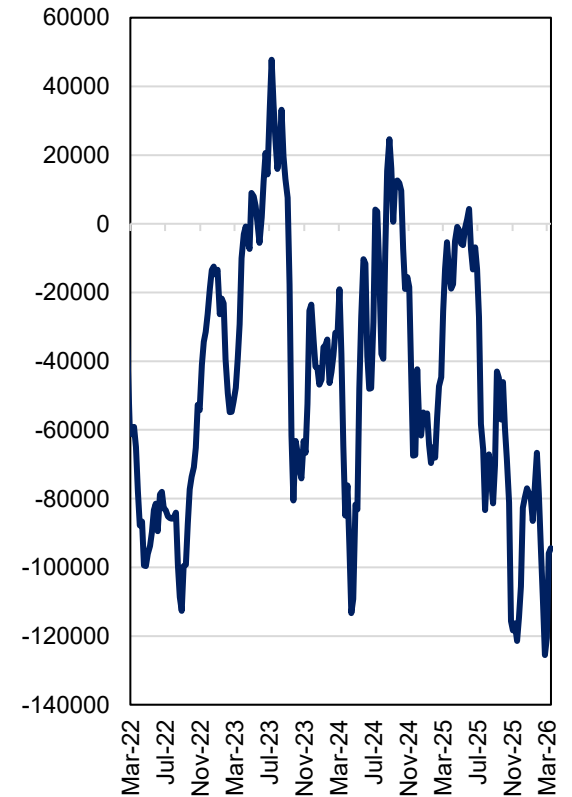
Non-commercial net futures position in Pound Sterling



Leveraged funds net futures position in Pound Sterling



Asset Manager Institutional net futures position in Pound Sterling

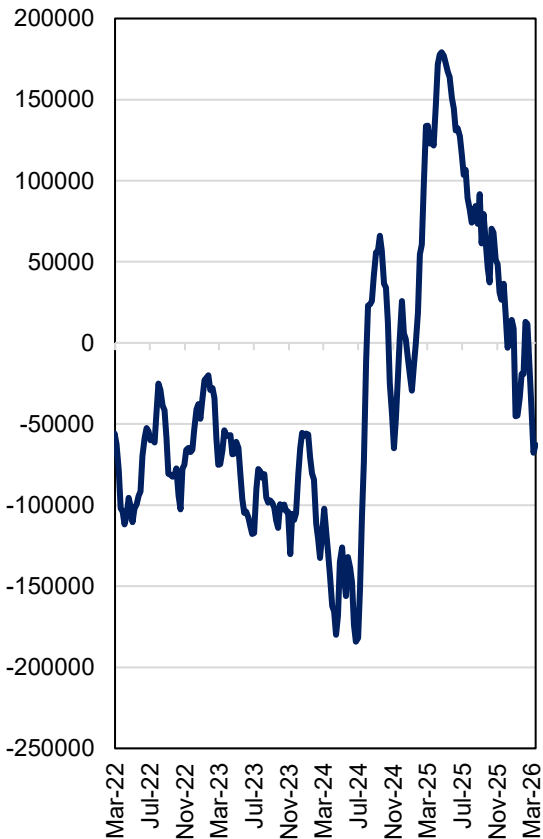


Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

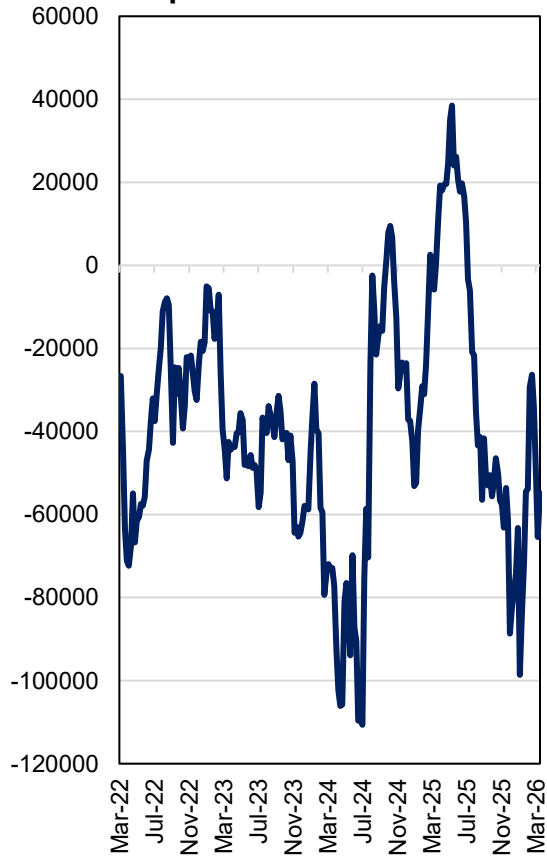
FX positioning- JPY

JPY shorts increased, driven by renewed selling from leveraged funds while asset managers trimmed longs.

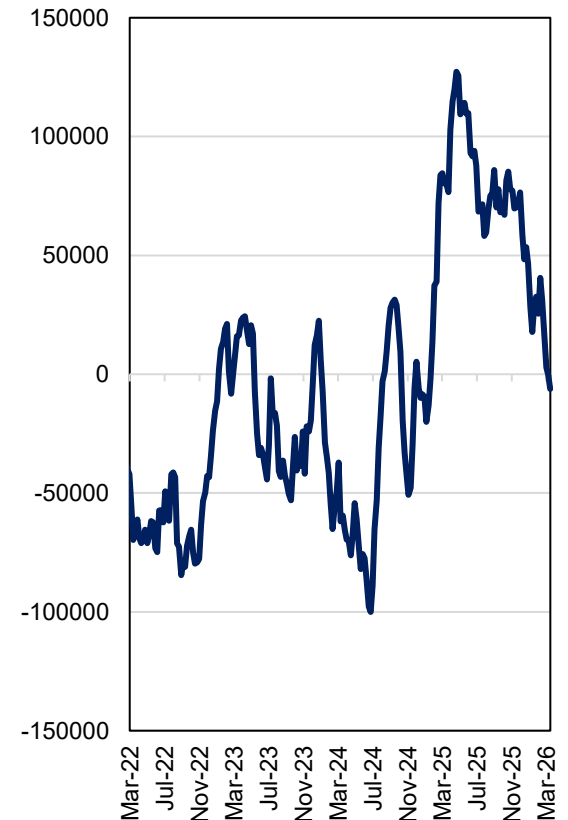
Non-commercial net futures position in JPY



Leveraged funds net futures position in JPY



Asset Manager Institutional net futures position in JPY



Source: Bloomberg and ADCB Asset Management

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