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NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

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OUR VIEWS ON ECONOMIC AND OTHER EVENTS AND THEIR EXPECTED IMPACT ON INVESTMENTS

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

OWNER OPERATED COMPANIES

GO TO PORTLAND 15 OF 15 ALTERNATIVE FUND[1]

PORTLAND 15 OF 15 ALTERNATIVE FUND[1] COMPANY NEWS

Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton Société Européenne (LVMH)'s full year (FY) 2025 results largely reflected trends alluded to throughout 2025: softer demand in some of the discretionary categories (notably Fashion & Leather Goods and Cognac), partly offset by resilient growth in beauty retail and high-end jewellery. Group revenue was €80.8 billion (Euro) (–1% year-over-year) for the year, while the fourth quarter (Q4) returned to +1% growth, extending the gradual stabilization that began in the second half (H2). Regionally, management characterized the United States (U.S.) and Asia as "good" in the second half of the year, with Europe slightly down and Japan declining off an unusually strong 2024 tourism/Japanese yen comparison. By geography, Q4 year-over-year revenue growth was +1% in the U.S., +1% in Asia excluding Japan, –2% in Europe, and –5% in Japan. Segment results remained bifurcated: Selective Retailing (+4% organic) and Watches & Jewellery (+3%) were the clear outperformers, supported by Sephora's momentum (approximately 100 store openings in 2025) and Tiffany & Co.'s (Tiffany) ongoing shift toward higher-ticket jewellery, while Fashion & Leather Goods (–5%) and Wines & Spirits (–5%) were the principal drags as Cognac stayed under pressure. Profitability compressed but remained at healthy levels by historical standards: profit from recurring operations for the year was €17.76 billion (–9%), with a 22.0% operating margin versus 23.1% in 2024 and 26.5% in 2023, consistent with negative operating leverage and foreign exchange (FX) headwinds, even as LVMH continued investing in brands and the retail network. Notably, cash generation improved year-over-year despite weaker earnings, with operating free cash flow up 8% to €11.33 billion, reflecting working-capital discipline. The balance sheet strengthened further, with net financial debt down 26% to €6.86 billion, reinforcing financial flexibility at a point in the cycle when some peers are more constrained. Strategically, management emphasized continued flagship/product initiatives and portfolio actions, notably the agreement to sell Duty Free Stores' (DFS) Greater China travel retail operations. Looking into 2026, the key sensitivities remain whether volume recovery broadens into Fashion & Leather Goods, whether Cognac stabilizes, and whether tariffs become a more visible headwind as inventories turn over.

Reliance Industries Limited (Reliance) which paused Russian crude oil imports this month for the first time since 2022, will take around 150,000 barrels a day from February as it presses ahead with limited purchases from Moscow's non sanctioned producers, according to a person familiar with the matter. India became the single-largest buyer of seaborne cargoes from the Russian Federation since 2022. At the peak, Reliance was the dominant buyer of those volumes and Russia accounted for 45% of its imports, thanks to a term deal signed with top producer Rosneft Public Joint Stock Company (Rosneft). Rosneft was sanctioned in October, prompting Reliance to pause that agreement and cut back from its overall high water mark of roughly 590,000 barrels of Russian crude last year. The barrels bought from non sanctioned Russian producers will be processed at Reliance's 663,000 barrel a day Jamnagar unit focused on the domestic market, the person said, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter. The company's 707,000 barrel a day export oriented refinery stopped processing Russian crude in November to comply with the European Union's (EU) ban on the import of fuels made from Russian oil. Europe's petroleum products curbs have put some traders on edge as they came into force last week. Reliance has not seen any interruption to its exports, the person said, thanks to its compliance with the rules. It has also segregated its oil import infrastructure, dedicating one of the three single point mooring (SPM) facilities at Sikka port to non Russian crude for its export unit. Reliance has ramped up oil purchases from the Middle East, West Africa, Brazil and the United States of America

(U.S.) to make up for lost Russian barrels. It is also keen to resume imports from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Venezuela), where it had a term deal that was suspended in 2019 due to U.S. sanctions. Its Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) license to buy oil from the Latin American country was canceled in May last year. India's largest private refiner is waiting for the administration of President Donald Trump to bring Venezuelan flows under a general license, allowing a wider pool of buyers to tap discounted barrels, before it starts actively securing cargoes, the person said. A spokesperson for Reliance did not immediately respond to a request for comment

DIVIDEND PAYERS

GO TO PORTLAND CANADIAN BALANCED FUND[1]

Elevance Health Incorporated (Elevance Health) – Reported fourth quarter (Q4) earnings and provided 2026 guidance. Operating revenue was US$ 49.3 billion in Q4 2025, an increase of US$ 4.3 billion, or 10% compared to Q4 2024. Diluted earnings per share (EPS) for Q4 were US$ 2.47, US$ 3.33 on an adjusted basis. The benefit expense ratio was 93.5% in the fourth quarter, an increase of 110 basis points compared to the prior year period, reflecting the higher medical cost trend. The operating expense ratio was 11.0%, 10.8% on an adjusted basis. For the full year 2025, diluted EPS was US$ 25.21, US$ 30.29 on an adjusted basis. Operating revenue was US$ 197.6 billion in 2025, an increase of US$ 22.4 billion, or 13%. The increase in revenue for the quarter and year was driven by higher premium yields in the Health Benefits segment, contributions from acquisitions, and growth in Medicare Advantage membership. In 2026 management projects generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) diluted EPS of at least US$ 22.30 and adjusted diluted EPS of at least US$ 25.50.

United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS) – Released earnings for the Q4 2025 and provided guidance for 2026. The company announced consolidated revenues of US$ 24.5 billion, consolidated operating margin of 10.5%; non generally accepted accounting principles (non GAAP) adjusted consolidated operating margin of 11.8% and diluted EPS of US$ 2.10; non GAAP adjusted diluted EPS of US$ 2.38. UPS accelerated its fleet modernization plans, completing the retirement of its McDonnell Douglas MD 11 fleet during the fourth quarter of 2025. For the full year 2025, revenue was US$ 88.7 billion. Operating profit was US$ 7.9 billion; non GAAP adjusted operating profit was US$ 8.7 billion. Operating margin was 8.9%; non GAAP adjusted operating margin was 9.8%. Diluted EPS totaled US$ 6.56; non GAAP adjusted diluted EPS of US$ 7.16. Cash from operations was US$ 8.5 billion and non GAAP adjusted free cash flow was US$ 5.5 billion. Management guidance for 2026 expects revenue to be approximately US$ 89.7 billion and non GAAP adjusted operating margin to be approximately 9.6%. The company also plans to have capital expenditures of about US$ 3.0 billion and dividend payments of around US$ 5.4 billion, subject to board approval. The effective tax rate is expected to be approximately 23.0%.

Verizon Communications Inc. (Verizon) – Released earnings for the Q4 2025 and provided guidance for 2026. Verizon delivered its highest quarterly total mobility and broadband volumes since 2019. In fourth quarter 2025, Verizon reported earnings per share (EPS) of US$ 0.55 and adjusted EPS, excluding special items, of US$ 1.09. Consolidated net income for fourth quarter 2025 was US$ 2.4 billion and consolidated adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) was US$ 11.9 billion. In 2025, EPS was US$ 4.06 and adjusted EPS, excluding special items, was US$ 4.71. For 2026 Verizon expects adjusted EPS of US$ 4.90 to US$ 4.95, or year over year growth of 4%–5% and free cash flow of US$ 21.5 billion or more, growing approximately 7% or more from 2025.

LIFE SCIENCES

GO TO PORTLAND LIFE SCIENCES ALTERNATIVE FUND[1]

Amgen Inc. (Amgen) and Kyowa Kirin Co., Ltd. (Kyowa Kirin) have discontinued their 2021 collaboration to develop rocatinlimab for atopic dermatitis (eczema) following Amgen's portfolio reprioritization. The decision marks the end of one chapter in a long standing partnership between the two companies that began in 1984. As a result, Kyowa Kirin will regain full global control of the program, including regulatory filings and future commercialization. Amgen will continue to support the program in a limited capacity, serving as the exclusive manufacturer of the antibody during the transition period. The deal originally included a US$ 400 million upfront payment from Amgen and covered joint development and commercialization, with potential expansion into other autoimmune diseases. Kyowa Kirin, which discovered rocatinlimab, remains committed to the asset and noted that it is currently in Phase 3 trials, with a United States regulatory filing planned later this year.

Danaher Corporation (Danaher)- Reported Q4 2025 revenue of US$ 6.8 billion (an increase of 4.5% year over year; core revenue an increase of 2.5%) and adjusted diluted EPS of US$ 2.23, with Reuters citing both metrics ahead of consensus estimates. Operating cash flow was US$ 2.1 billion and free cash flow was US$ 1.8 billion in Q4; for the FY2025, revenue was US$ 24.6 billion (an increase of 3.0% year over year; core revenue an increase of 2.0%) with adjusted diluted EPS of US$ 7.80 and free cash flow of US$ 5.3 billion. For FY2026, the company guided core revenue growth between 3% and 6% and adjusted diluted EPS of US$ 8.35–US$ 8.50 (midpoint approximately US$ 8.43), broadly in line with consensus estimates. Noteworthy takeaways from the earnings release included continued strength in bioprocessing and improved momentum in Diagnostics and Life Sciences.

Olema Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Olema Pharmaceuticals) is undergoing an executive leadership transition as it advances key clinical programs, announcing that Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Shane Kovacs, will step down, with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sean P. Bohen assuming interim responsibility for the company's financial operations while a permanent successor is sought. Kovacs will remain in an advisory role through August 1, 2026 to support continuity. The leadership change comes at a critical time for Olema Pharmaceuticals, as its lead breast cancer candidate, Palazestrant (OP 1250), is being evaluated in two Phase 3 clinical trials, alongside continued early stage development of OP 3136 in a Phase 1 study.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

ČEZ, a.s. (ČEZ Group) – The Government of the Czech Republic has formally tasked ČEZ Group with securing extended access to the Eemshaven liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in the Kingdom of the Netherlands beyond the current contract. The directive reflects concerns that the existing arrangement expires at the end of 2027, which could leave a supply gap in 2028 if replacement LNG capacity is not secured. While ČEZ Group has also booked capacity at a Federal Republic of Germany LNG terminal starting in 2027, officials have pointed to construction delays, increasing the strategic importance of maintaining access to Eemshaven.

Eemshaven is owned and operated by N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie (Gasunie), the Dutch state owned gas infrastructure company, and was developed rapidly after the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine to serve north west and Central Europe. Under the current contract, ČEZ Group has secured 3 billion cubic meters (bcm) per year of regasification capacity, out of the terminal's 8 bcm annual capacity, equivalent to roughly one third of the Czech Republic's annual gas demand. Since operations began in September 2022, LNG deliveries through Eemshaven have become one of Czechia's most critical non Russian supply routes. From start up through end 2025, 72 LNG carriers delivered 6.44 bcm of gas for Czech use, all sourced from non Russian suppliers, including 2.48 bcm across 28 ships in 2025 alone.

GE Vernova LLC (GE Vernova) - Reported Q4 2025 revenue of US$ 11.0 billion (an increase of 4% reported; an increase of 2% organic), adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of US$ 1.2 billion, and free cash flow of US$ 1.8 billion. Orders for the quarter totaled US$ 22.2 billion (an increase of 65% organic), while total backlog increased to US$ 150 billion. For the full year (FY) 2025, revenue was US$ 24.6 billion (an increase of 3.0% year over year; core revenue an increase of 2.0%) with adjusted diluted earnings per share (EPS) of US$ 7.80 and free cash flow of US$ 5.3 billion. For FY2026, the company raised revenue guidance to US$ 44–US$ 45 billion and noted Gas Power equipment backlog and slot reservation agreements grew from 62 gigawatts (GW) to 83 GW, with the outlook including the pending acquisition of Prolec GE. Noteworthy takeaways included demand commentary linked to rising electricity consumption, ongoing wind related challenges, and FY2025 free cash generation of US$ 3.7 billion, with US$ 3.6 billion returned to shareholders.

Sprott Physical Uranium Trust (SPUT) has materially increased its physical uranium holdings year to date, with total triuranium octoxide (U_3O_8) held rising from 74,789,404 pounds at December 31, 2025, to 78,039,404 pounds, implying purchases of approximately 3.25 million pounds year to date. This steady accumulation reflects SPUT's role as a "flow to physical" vehicle, converting investor demand into incremental pounds removed from the market. In late January, SPUT also refreshed its at the market (ATM) equity program, filing a new prospectus supplement under its US$ 2.0 billion base shelf prospectus framework. The updated ATM authorizes up to US$ 1.0 billion of additional unit issuance, providing flexible capacity to raise capital gradually at prevailing prices and fund further uranium acquisitions. This dynamic has likely contributed to the recent firming in uranium spot prices into the high US$ 90 per pound range.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Canadian gross domestic product (GDP) was flat in November, falling short of the Statistics Canada guidance and market expectations of 0.1%. Compositionally, 10 of 20 industries registered a decline on the month. Goods producing industries fell for a second consecutive month (a decrease of 0.3% month over month), while the services sector edged higher by 0.1% month over month. Statistics Canada's flash estimate for GDP growth in December is 0.1% month over month. The flat November reading with the 0.3% drop in October and a 0.1% increase in December would leave Canada's fourth quarter (Q4) GDP slightly down, and below the Bank of Canada's view of a flat GDP in Q4.

Canada's trade deficit widened from CA$ 395 million in October to CA$ 2.2 billion in November. Exports fell 2.8% month on month (m/m); however, this decline was narrowly based, being driven by a 24.4% m/m drop in unwrought gold, silver, and platinum metals, and an 11.6% drop in motor vehicles and parts. Otherwise, 8 of 11 product categories registered a gain. Goods imports were down 0.1% m/m in November with 7 of 11 categories declining. Canada's merchandise trade surplus with the United States (U.S.) widened from CA$ 5.2 billion in October to CA$ 6.6 billion in November. Exports to non U.S. markets fell by 4.9% m/m on the month. In volume terms, merchandise exports were down 0.9% m/m while imports increased by 0.9% m/m.

In November 2025, the United States (U.S.) goods and services trade deficit widened to US$ 56.8 billion, as exports declined to US$ 292.1 billion (a decrease of US$ 10.9 billion m/m) while imports rose to US$ 348.9 billion (an increase of US$ 16.8 billion month over month). The deterioration was overwhelmingly goods driven: the goods deficit expanded to US$ 86.9 billion (an increase of US$ 27.9 billion), only partially offset by a modest improvement in the services surplus to US$ 30.1 billion (an increase of US$ 0.3 billion). On the export side, goods exports fell US$ 11.1 billion to US$ 185.6 billion, led by a steep pullback in industrial supplies and materials (a decrease of US$ 6.1 billion), including declines in nonmonetary gold, other precious metals, and crude oil, alongside weaker consumer goods exports, particularly pharmaceuticals. Meanwhile, goods imports climbed US$ 16.8 billion to US$ 272.5 billion, propelled by strength in consumer goods (notably pharmaceutical preparations) and a surge in capital goods imports, with large increases in computers and semiconductors. Services trade provided only a small counterbalance: services exports edged higher to US$ 106.4 billion while services imports slipped slightly to US$ 76.3 billion.

Eurozone factory activity remained in contraction territory in January for the third straight month. The manufacturing output index, a key component of the headline figure, climbed back above the 50 threshold to 50.5 in January from 48.9 in December. However, new orders fell for the third consecutive month. Factory job cuts continued for the 32nd straight month, although the pace of reduction was the slowest since September. The Hellenic Republic of Greece registered the strongest performance with a five month high of 54.2, while the French Republic recorded expansion at 51.2, its highest reading in over three and a half years. By contrast, manufacturing sectors in the Kingdom of Spain, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Italian Republic, and the Republic of Austria all remained in contraction, with Austria showing the weakest performance at 47.2.

China's factory activity slowed in January, the manufacturing Purchaser Manager Index (PMI) fell to 49.3, missing forecasts after a brief rise into positive territory at the end of last year. December's slight uptick at 50.1 had snapped an extended streak in contractionary territory that began in April. January's reading represents a decline back into contractionary territory, and was below the consensus expectation of 50.1.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The Bank of Canada (BoC) left its key interest rate unchanged at 2.25%, in line with consensus expectations. The opening statement noted that the Bank's outlook for growth and inflation "has not changed significantly" since the October monetary policy report. The updated Monetary Policy report showed growth is expected to register 1.1% in 2026 and 1.5% in 2027. Importantly the release noted that, "while Council judges the current policy rate is appropriate based on our outlook, the consensus was that elevated uncertainty makes it difficult to predict the timing or direction of the next change in the policy rate".

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) kept policy rates unchanged today in line with expectations, the target range remains 3.50%-3.75%. The decision comes following three consecutive quarter-point "risk management" cuts. The policy statement was slightly more optimistic on the economy, upgrading its assessment of recent economic activity to "solid" from "moderate". Ten of the twelve Committee members voted in favor of today's decision. Stephen Miran and Christopher Waller both dissented in favor of another quarter-point cut.

President Trump has nominated Kevin Warsh as next US Federal Reserve (the "Fed") Chair. The Senate Banking Committee still needs to confirm Warsh's nomination. Warsh brings plenty of experience to the position, as he previously served as a Fed governor from 2006 to 2011. Senator Thom Tillis has said that he will oppose President Trump's nomination until the ongoing federal criminal probe of current Chair Jerome Powell is resolved.

The U.S. 2 year/10 year treasury spread is now 0.71% and the U.K.'s 2 year/10 year treasury spread is 0.82%. A narrowing gap between yields on the 2 year and 10 year Treasuries is of concern given its historical track record that when shorter term rates exceed longer dated ones, such inversion is usually an early warning of an economic slowdown.

The U.S. 30 year mortgage market rate is now 6.1%. Existing U.S. housing inventory is at 3.3 months supply of existing houses as of February 2, 2026 - well off its peak during the Great Recession of 11.1 months and we consider a more normal range of 4-7 months.

The Chicago Board Options Exchange (Cboe) Volatility Index (VIX) is at 16.46 and while, by its characteristics, the VIX will remain volatile, we believe a VIX level below 25 bodes well for quality equities.

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Glossary of Terms: 'CET' core equity tier, 'EBITDA' earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, 'EPS' earnings per share, 'FCF' free cash flow, 'GDP' gross domestic product, 'GAAP' Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, 'ROE' return on equity, 'ROTE' return on common equity, 'ROTCE' return on tangible common equity, 'conjugate" a substance formed by the reversible combination of two or more others, 'SG&A' Selling, General, and Administrative expense ratio.

1.Not all of the funds shown are necessarily invested in the companies listed.

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