



### Vietnam Market

#### **Imports and Exports in the First Half of March:**

- In the first half of March, Vietnam's exports grew by 12.4% YoY, lower than the 18.3% increase recorded in the first two months of the year. Growth continued to be driven by the electronics sector, while consumer goods weakened. Vietnam recorded a trade deficit of \$530 million in the first half of March, bringing the cumulative YTD trade deficit to \$3.5 billion, a significant reversal from the \$2.1 billion trade surplus in the same period of 2025.
- The free-market USD/VND exchange rate has surged and is currently approaching the 28,000 mark. Meanwhile, the official rates at commercial banks only increased slightly, causing the gap between the free-market and official rates to widen, currently exceeding VND 1,600.

#### **Equity Market:**

- **VN-Index:** Fell 2.9% WoW, marking its third consecutive week of decline. The benchmark index is down 7.7% YTD for 2026.
- **Foreign Investors' Trading:** net sellers of VND 7.47 trillion (reversing a net buying of VND 1.21 trillion in the previous week), with VIC net sell-off of VND 3.59 trillion. Accumulated YTD in 2026: net selling stands at VND 26.17 trillion.

### China Market

#### **Macroeconomy:**

The macroeconomy in the first two months of the year showed signs of recovery, as industrial production, retail sales, and investment all grew more positively than forecast. Specifically, industrial production increased by 6.3% YoY, exceeding the 5.3% forecast; retail sales of goods rose by 2.8% YoY, higher than the 2.5% forecast; while fixed-asset investment grew by 1.8% YoY, contrary to the forecasted 5.1% decline. Notably, investment activity returned to growth after months of decline, mainly driven by a strong increase in infrastructure investment, while real estate investment continued to go down, although the pace of decline has somewhat slowed.

### U.S. Market

#### **Highest Inflation Expectations**

12-month inflation expectations increased sharply to 5.2%, the highest level since March 2023.

**Assessment:** This development could make the Fed's management more difficult. In the event that inflation expectations cannot be anchored, the possibility of the Fed being forced to raise interest rates again cannot be ruled out.

#### **US Public Debt Exceeds \$39 Trillion**

US public debt officially exceeded \$39 trillion, equivalent to 124% of GDP, increasing by \$1 trillion after just 5 months.

**Assessment:** The high level of public debt will further exert interest payment pressure on the US government budget, thereby causing the Trump administration to face significant internal political pressure as the conflict with Iran continues.

### **Update on the Iran–U.S.–Israel conflict - Week 3**

- The conflict in its third week continued to escalate as the parties shifted to targeting each other's infrastructure. The most serious was the attack targeting Iran's South Pars gas field on March 18, considered the world's largest gas field and located in a joint production zone with Qatar. This action caused 2 of the 14 gas liquefaction trains of this complex (16% of production) to be severely damaged, and it will take 3-5 years to recover. The CEO of QatarEnergy stated that they would have to declare force majeure on long-term LNG contracts with customers in Italy, Belgium, South Korea, and China for a period of up to 5 years.
- Over the weekend, President Trump continuously made contradictory statements: initially declaring he did not want a ceasefire with Iran, then stating he was considering ending the war and planning peace negotiations, but by Sunday threatening to attack Iran's power plants if the Strait of Hormuz was not opened within 48 hours.
- Iran responded firmly to President Trump's threat to attack its power plants, outlining retaliation plans: (1) completely closing the Strait of Hormuz, (2) attacking the power plants and information technology infrastructure of Israel, and (3) attacking power plants in countries with US military bases and attacking companies with US stakes in these countries.