PANORAMA 360°

FEBRUARY 2026

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MFM
MIRANTE FUND MANAGEMENT

HIGHLIGHTS - FEBRUARY 2026

WEBINAR

Convertible Bonds, 5 March

MFM is hosting a 30-minute webinar for our institutional asset management client community.

We will discuss the key advantages of convertible bonds in today's market environment.

Thursday, 5 March
10:00 CET

To register, contact **Damian Milewski**
Email : damian.milewski@mirante.ch

Damian Milewski
Responsable des ventes
Spécialiste produit

SKI TEAM

Veysonnaz - Nendaz

At MFM, traditions matter and our annual ski day is one we never skip!

On Saturday, 7 February, the team hit the slopes of Veysonnaz and Nendaz for a day packed with fresh snow, sunshine, and lots of laughs.

The kind of moment that reminds us why we love working (and skiing) together.

This month, we present Vontobel, one of the six banks we collaborate with. This multi-depositary approach aims to offer solutions that are perfectly aligned with the needs and interests of each of our clients.

VONTOBEL

A depositary bank of choice for our clients

Since 2018, our collaboration with **Vontobel** has continued to strengthen, driven by trust and close working relationships.

In Geneva, the EAM team dedicated to MFM - made up of eleven specialists - supports us on a daily basis.

Their availability and professionalism facilitate the opening and management of our clients' accounts. They ensure that processes remain smooth and tailored to each individual situation.

External Asset Management team - Geneva

In practice, Vontobel stands out for several key strengths:

- high-quality private banking services;
- competitive and transparent pricing conditions;
- attractive mortgage and Lombard lending solutions;
- an intuitive digital platform;
- recognition obtained in 2025 as "***Best Private Bank***" from the Swiss Citywire Private Banking Awards;

All of these strengths make Vontobel a premier depositary bank for our clients and a valuable ally in ensuring client satisfaction.

A bit of history

Vontobel celebrated its centenary in 2024. Its Swiss roots date back to 1924. Today, as a global investment firm listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange, the bank remains majority-owned by its founding family. This structure provides **stability**, **independence, and transparency** - values that have shaped its identity since its acquisition by Jakob Vontobel in 1936 and that resonate strongly with MFM.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Vontobel

Head office	Zurich
Number of international offices	27
Assets under management	CHF 241 billion (AUM)
Founding family, majority shareholder	50,87 %

GEOPOLITICS IN TURMOIL, MARKETS UNDER OBSERVATION

The start of the year has been marked by geopolitical tensions and rapid adjustments in monetary policy expectations.

Frank Crittin,
Resp. des investissements

The beginning of the year was turbulent on the geopolitical front. Military intervention in Venezuela and threats against Iran and Greenland reignited investor concerns. These factors contributed to some market nervousness and a reassessment of risk premiums, without, however, changing the overall trajectory of the main asset classes.

Equity markets demonstrated resilience in this environment. Strong results from semiconductor companies eased concerns about the profitability of artificial intelligence investments. Conversely, some technology stocks, particularly large-cap companies exposed to infrastructure spending, were penalized by questions about the continuation of the investment cycle. Regionally, emerging markets benefited from the weak dollar, while the Swiss market underperformed, weighed down by Nestlé's poor performance related to baby product issues and by the weak contribution of technology and financial stocks.

In the bond market, attention focused on the appointment of Kevin Warsh as head of the Federal Reserve, leading to a rise in long-term US interest rates despite expectations of short-term rate cuts. In China, long-term rates continued to decline, as the country struggled to break free from its deflationary spiral. The credit segment remained robust, characterized by ultra-tight spreads and high issuance activity, reflecting investors' continued confidence in this premium. Against this backdrop, convertible bonds performed solidly, benefiting from their exposure to the equity premium in promising industries.

In this turbulent environment, our approach prioritizes rigorous diversification across asset classes and performance sources. The construction of balanced and resilient portfolios remains central to our strategies, in order to optimize the risk-return trade-off and preserve the portfolios' ability to withstand various macroeconomic scenarios.

YEAR-TO-DATE PERFORMANCE - JANUARY 2026

Important: The equity performances presented in this table are expressed in local currencies.

EQUITY MARKETS (LOCAL CURRENCY)

Emerging Markets	8.78
Asia (ex-Japan)	8.61
China	4.92
Japan	4.90
Europe	3.12
United Kingdom	3.08
World (all countries)	1.70
United States	1.27
Switzerland	-0.23

EQUITY SECTORS (LOCAL CURRENCY)

Energy	11.90
Materials	7.47
Industrials	6.26
Consumer Staples	4.56
Telecommunication Services	4.51
Real Estate	3.73
Utilities	3.27
Health Care	0.46
Consumer Discretionary	-0.21
Financials	-0.47
Information Technologies	-1.29

OTHERS (USD)

Global	10.04
Industrials (CBR)	3.41

FIXED-INCOME (USD HEDGED)

Global Convertibles	2.12
Swiss Bond Index AAA-BBB (CHF)	0.80
Global High-Yield	0.75
Global Inflation-Linked Bonds	0.72
Global Aggregate 5-7 Year	0.41
Global Corporate Credit	0.41
Global Aggregate 1-3 Year	0.32
Global Aggregate	0.24
Emerging Market Hard Currency Aggregate	0.23
Global Treasury	0.05
Global Aggregate Long Duration	-0.25
US Treasury Long Duration	-0.47

WHEN THE DOLLAR REDISCOVERS GRAVITY

A few quarters ago, before Donald Trump's re-election, a discussion with a client touched on the possibility of a weaker dollar. At the time, despite repeated statements by candidate Trump, convinced that a weaker dollar would boost American exports, the reaction was unequivocal: "*The dollar never goes down.*"

> The dollar never falls... except when it does. And the implications for portfolios are far from insignificant.

A few quarters later, market realities remind us that the dollar can sometimes falter. The accompanying chart is a clear example. Since 2000, periods of significant weakness in the greenback have not been frequent, but they have occurred. The year 2025 stands out as one of the most significant, with a decline of nearly 9%, representing the worst annual performance since 2017. Disturbingly, 2017 coincided with the first year of Donald Trump's first term.

The reasons for the decline in 2025 are primarily political and strategic. Trade tensions, the reintroduction of tariffs, and a unilateral approach to international relations have likely prompted many investors to reduce their exposure to US assets. This repatriation of capital has mechanically resulted in dollar sales and increased support for their domestic markets outside the United States.

What are the impacts of a weaker dollar on investments?

In the short term, historically, a weak dollar has favored riskier assets like emerging markets and commodities. It also reflects a more accommodative financial environment. Furthermore, with the appointment of the new Federal Reserve chairman, markets are still anticipating future interest rate cuts in the United States. In the medium term, if the weak dollar were to become entrenched and inflationary, it could lead to a tightening of monetary policy by the Fed. This scenario remains to be monitored, but it is not the one favored by the market, as the depth of its capital markets, the strength of its technology companies, and the growth of corporate earnings continue to exert a strong attraction on investors.

What are the impacts on MFM's investment strategies?

In terms of investment strategy at MFM, we are not overly concerned with the direct impact of currency movements. These are inherently volatile and difficult to predict; this is precisely why we hedge our portfolios against currency fluctuations. The indirect effects mentioned earlier certainly exist, but our approach is not based on directional currency bets. It consists of building robust portfolios capable of withstanding various scenarios, including those where certain currencies, once thought to be immutable, ultimately shift.

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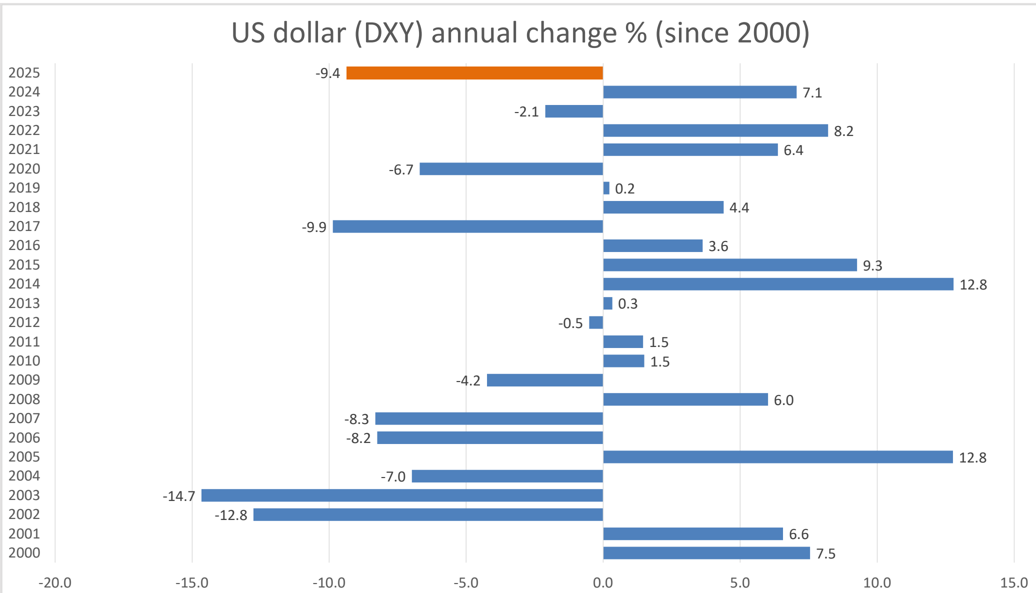

ABOLITION OF THE RENTAL VALUE : REAL IMPACT FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTORS

The vote of 28 September 2025 marks a historic shift in Swiss real estate taxation.

Anna Vladau
Tax Attorney
Partner, Bonnard Lawson

The abolition of the rental value - expected to take effect no earlier than 2028 - does not concern only **homeowners**. It fundamentally reshapes the balance between private wealth and real estate investment. For investors, this is not a minor technical adjustment, but a structural change to the tax framework.

The Swiss system was based on a compromise: homeowners were taxed on a **notional income** (the **rental** value **of their property**), while related expenses and part of their mortgage interest remained deductible. The reform breaks this balance. Homeowners will no longer be taxed on imputed income, but in exchange will lose most deductions. By contrast, investment property held as private or business assets retains its economic logic. Interest costs, maintenance expenses, and depreciation remain deductible for income-producing rental properties. The reform does not penalize rental real estate; rather, it removes the tax incentives previously attached to owner-occupied housing.

The key change lies in the new mechanism for **deducting interest expenses**. Until now, interest was deductible based on the return generated by assets. The new system breaks this economic link and ties deductibility to the structure of the assets themselves. In other words, deductions will depend not on investment returns, but on whether the taxpayer owns rental real estate.

This mechanism has important collateral effects for **financial investors**. Without rental property, interest expenses related to other private financing also become non-deductible. This applies in particular to Lombard loans used to finance securities portfolios. An investor heavily exposed to financial markets but without income-producing real estate could therefore lose all interest deductions, even when the debt finances income-generating assets.

The chart below illustrates how the new system operates in practice. The greater the share of rental property, the higher the remaining interest deductibility. Conversely, a household owning only its primary residence must bear the full tax cost of its debt.

Simplified simulator – Deduction of interest expenses

Wealth profile	Total assets	Rented properties	Rental ratio	Private interest paid	Deductible interest	Lost interest deductions
Active investor	CHF 5'000'000	CHF 2'000'000	40 %	CHF 50'000	CHF 20'000	CHF 30'000
Mixed investor	CHF 5'000'000	CHF 1'000'000	20%	CHF 50'000	CHF 10'000	CHF 40'000
Owner-occupier	CHF 1'000'000	CHF 0	0%	CHF 30'000	CHF 0	CHF 30'000

An exception is provided for first-time buyers. A transitional deduction is foreseen for **the purchase of a first home**, capped at CHF 10,000 for a couple and CHF 5,000 for a single person. This deduction is reduced linearly by 10% per year over a maximum of ten years, provided eligibility conditions continue to be met. While this softens the transition, it does not restore the previous tax advantage.

Property renovation further highlights the divergence between private use and investment. Federal tax incentives for energy-efficiency improvements will disappear for homeowners who do not rent their property, even as climate regulations tighten. Cantons may choose to maintain such deductions. Renovation expenses for rental properties, however, remain deductible. A surge in renovation activity is likely before the reform takes effect, potentially driving up construction costs. In the medium term, energy performance will become a key valuation factor: renovated buildings will command a premium, while energy-inefficient properties may suffer a lasting discount.

Secondary residences introduce additional uncertainty. Cantons may introduce specific taxes to compensate for lost revenue. Owners could therefore face both the loss of existing deductions and a new cantonal tax. Future returns will depend heavily on political decisions at the cantonal level.

In this context, holding property through a **real estate company** once again becomes a strategic consideration. A corporate structure preserves deductions and depreciation, but introduces double taxation, higher administrative costs, and greater legal complexity. Transferring property into a company can be expensive, depending on asset structure, property valuation, and cantonal rules. This is not a universal solution, but a planning tool that must be assessed case by case.

The reform professionalizes real estate taxation. It removes the leverage previously attached to homeownership and encourages a more rational, investment-driven approach. High-performing, renovated, and economically managed assets will be rewarded. Investors who anticipate these rules today may gain a lasting competitive advantage. The challenge is no longer simply acquiring real estate, but structuring assets intelligently in a transformed tax environment.

Tax structuring and planning on a case-by-case basis for the holding of real estate assets (direct/indirect ownership; cantonal legislation; property depreciation; interest deductibility; duration of the real estate investment; application of the tax shield).

MFM TEAM

Joe Mirante
Founder & CEO

My ambition has always been to build a solid and sustainable company by diversifying our offering and strengthening our technological hub.

Cultivating excellence in our services and using our digital resources effectively are key to staying competitive and meeting our clients' needs.

« Proud of the journey so far, the team around me, and the innovations implemented, which open up new future opportunities. »

Laetitia Oguey
Communication & Marketing Manager

My role is to present, with authenticity, all the facets that define MFM.

I create communication materials that showcase my colleagues' expertise and reflect the innovative and rigorous approach underpinning our activities.

« What I love the most is putting the spotlight on the people who contribute to MFM's success. »

MFM
MIRANTE FUND MANAGEMENT

OUR UNIQUE SERVICES

Where institutional asset management meets wealth management

A 360° WEALTH MANAGEMENT APPROACH

We offer a comprehensive range of services designed to support every aspect of your financial life. Our solutions are actively managed, carefully negotiated, and customised to meet your specific needs.

13 INVESTMENTS STRATEGIES

We provide institutional-grade asset management that combines fundamental expertise with a data-driven approach.

MORTGAGE

We find the best financing solution for your real-estate project.

FINANCIAL PLANNING

We guide you towards a smooth retirement and estate planning.

FORESIGHT

We set up your Swiss pension plan for the 2nd and 3rd pillars (1E, vested benefit foundation and 3A)

FAMILY OFFICE

We collaborate with a network of professionals in the legal, tax, insurance and cryptocurrency fields.

ACCESS TO DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Benefit from the portfolio aggregator My MFM.

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