

Friday the 13th - while it might be yet another day in the calendar, its potential to influence markets is a useful reminder of the human element in markets. **Backtests however reveal that Friday the 13th has historically been a better Friday than any random Friday.**

**This sell off** got a name – the “Claude crash”. The issue, in part, is fear of the unknown, as AI turns from lifting all boats to sinking all ships - For businesses operating globally, this is not just an upgrade; it’s an upheaval. Up to now, bond market wasn't validating the turmoil in equities but that is changing.

On Tariffs , there are signs that trade rules could shift in more volatile ways. In a 219 to 211 vote, Congress passed a resolution

that seeks to end tariffs Trump imposed on Canada last year.

Weekly claims not concerning- pace of firing's, as measured remains muted while the rate of hirings has slowed. Existing home sales dropped 8.4% in Jan largest decline in four years.

EU leaders agreed to move ahead with a "Buy European" policy to protect "strategic sectors" of European industry. EU Q4 flash employment (poll +0.1% q/q) & GDP (poll +0.3%) today. Lagarde in Munich security conference might talk trade fragmentation and supply constraints. EURUSD expected lines 1.1860 break to see 1.1787.

Continued slide in home prices (3.1% y/y decline)- Of the 70 cities 62 recorded price declines, up from 58 in Dec- reinforces

downside risks to China's consumption.

Easing political jitters but the risk is that it could flare up anytime - rallies continue to be sold. Decisive break of 1.3600 awaited.

Japan signals hard-fought progress on U.S. investment talks ahead of Takaichi's Washington visit. Japan seizes Chinese fishing boat off Nagasaki, Could lead to escalation in tension. 152.70 offers strong support now.

Capped so far at 90.75 - break there sets up risk a weekly close at 91.07