

GLOBAL MARKET UPDATE



5 TO 11 MARCH: WEIGHING IT UP

THIS WEEK'S GLOBAL EQUITY MARKET MOVERS

DEVELOPED	Top 3:	Sweden 4.52% , Italy 3.85% , Germany 3.68%
	Bottom 3:	Luxembourg -2.67% , Japan 0.18% , Singapore 0.46%
EMERGING	Top 3:	Hungary 4.75% , Egypt 4.70% , South Africa 4.05%
	Bottom 3:	Indonesia -2.33% , India -1.82% , Thailand -1.64%
FRONTIER	Top 3:	Venezuela 8.53% , Mongolia 6.04% , Argentina 4.21%
	Bottom 3:	Laos -6.72% , Qatar -4.83% , Bosnia -3.62%

Last week, there were a number of important data releases and events for markets:

- In the US, average hourly earnings did not accelerate, and Trump's tariff proposals were watered down.
- In Europe, the SPD voted to end Germany's political deadlock and the ECB stayed dovish despite removing their easing bias by reducing their inflation forecast.
- In Japan, the Governor of the BOJ appeared to talk down the potential for policy normalisation
- Gary Cohn, Trump's chief economic advisor, resigned in protest at Trump's protectionist change of course.
- In Italy, the election result left no clear path for government and risks populist and unhelpful policy going forward.

We continue to believe we are in a new, higher volatility regime, and we also now see a tail risk of a Trump inspired trade war. Nonetheless, we think last week's news flow, in aggregate, should be taken positively; there is not enough evidence that US inflation is accelerating (albeit we have another reference point on Tuesday with the release of February CPI) and, across the rest of the world, policymakers appear in no hurry to tighten the monetary purse strings.

UNITED STATES

S&P 2,787 **+3.54%**, 10yr Treasury 0.02% **+3.32bps**, HY Credit Index- 12 **+1bps**, Vix- 4.95 **-5.21Vol**

US equities rallied strongly last week, mostly on Friday post the employment report. Indeed, the Nasdaq touched a new all-time high.

With respect to the jobs' numbers, payrolls came in well ahead of consensus at 313k, but the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1% thanks to a rise in the participation

rate (63%, the highest since 2009). Most importantly, **average hourly earnings slowed to 2.6%, with the previous month revised down to 2.7% (from 2.9%)**.

We viewed last month's 2.9% average hourly earnings reading as significant because it suggested a, so far in the cycle elusive, acceleration in wage growth. If confirmed, this would have the potential to increase the Fed's urgency in tightening rates. Last week's numbers were near perfect in moderating these concerns, whilst still painting an encouraging picture of the economy. Higher participation and hours worked are positive for consumer spending and

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suggest continued slack in the labour market, to which the revision and new reading for earnings also allude.

In contrast to equities, bond markets sold off. We do not view this as necessarily contradictory; data is strong, and the FED will need to hike further (potentially 4 times this year), but the key point for equities, was that the data was not consistent with the need a to deviate from the committee's "gradual" mantra. Inflation data on Tuesday, could provide the next flashpoint.

Over on Capitol Hill, **Donald Trump lost economic advisor Gary Cohen in protest at new steel and aluminium tariffs. More positively, it was announced that Mexico and Canada will be exempt from the measures** (although this remains conditional on NAFTA negotiations), with other countries able to apply for exemption.

EUROPE

Eurostoxx 0 0.00%, German Bund 0.00% -0.80bps, Xover Credit Index- 18 -10bps, EURUSD 1,159.714 -0.93%

After the ECB meeting on Thursday, **Mario Draghi confirmed that the governing council had voted unanimously to remove their easing bias** (specifically to no longer promise an extension of asset purchases in the event of any deterioration). Growth forecasts were also upgraded, but inflation expectations for 2019 were marked down from 1.5% to 1.4%.

Assuming the European economy continues with its better momentum, we expect asset purchases to conclude in September and there is also the potential to end negative rates in late 2018 or early 2019. However, with very little sign of inflation and spare capacity across much of the region, the ECB is in no rush.

From a data perspective, the moderation in activity from December's euphoric top was again confirmed with French and German industrial production coming in lower.

We commented last week on Italy's difficult political outlook post the general election. Any coalition will be fragmented and will include anti-establishment parties and the country will therefore continue to be unable to deliver structural reform. Whilst this is all unhelpful, we would reiterate our longer-term view, that Italy is a tragedy waiting to happen, whatever the politics. Without an exit from the Euro or full fiscal union, the country will never achieve the growth, competitiveness and adjustment it requires to right its balance sheet and emerge from the doldrums.

The CBT in Turkey left rates on hold at the March meeting.

ASIA PACIFIC

HSCEI 2,108 -1.28%, Nikkei 6,482.00 -2.33%,10yr JGB -0.02% 0bps, USDJPY .010 +0.12%

At their March meeting, **the BOJ voted 8-1 to leave**

monetary policy unchanged, with Kataoka again dissenting in favour of more aggressive purchases. Moreover, BOJ Governor Kuroda suggested that any exit from yield curve control would have to wait until 2019, therefore tempering recent market speculation that better Japanese growth would prompt an early reduction of stimulus. Of course, the BOJ is known for its skittishness and it would not surprise us if Kuroda changes his rhetoric later in the year.

China's National People's Congress continued last week, with the key headline being the official annual growth target for 2018 being set at "around 6.5%". This is similar to the 2017 objective, which was articulated as 6.5% or higher "if possible". The fiscal deficit target was reduced versus last year, cut from 3.0% to 2.6% of GDP.

We see these announcements as consistent with our view that the Chinese policy mix, when looked at holistically, broadly represents a multi-year status quo.

Ever since the ill-fated rebalancing attempt of 2015, which led to the January 2016 market panic and associated concerns that China was heading for recession, policymakers have been reluctant to rock the boat in any meaningful way.

Though China's growth rate will naturally decline in percentage terms as the economy matures, and policy will be tweaked at the margin in line with second-level objectives, we believe that the government will largely maintain the current policy environment until 2020. This is consistent with the government's over-arching objective of doubling GDP between 2010 and 2020, the lens through which all other economic factors in China are currently viewed.

Within this framework, as with any centrally planned economy, the government will continue to perform surgery on specific focus areas of the economy.

In terms of tightening, this includes new regulation against speculative lending and behaviours seen to contribute to asset bubbles. This is also reflected in the lower fiscal deficit target for 2018, the incidence of which will most likely fall on investment in fixed capital formation and infrastructure, in accordance with targets to reduce overcapacity.

Conversely, stimulus will continue to flow to target areas, such as to facilitate greater investment in industrial automation and artificial intelligence, to simultaneously encourage Chinese workers to move towards service sector employment instead of low-end manufacturing jobs, whilst also cutting China's manufacturing cost to help maintain global competitiveness, as China's cost of labour begins to surpass an increasing number of lower cost countries across Asia.

Beyond the economy, the National People's Congress also passed constitutional amendments to remove presidential term limits. President Xi Jinping is now able to serve beyond 2023, the year which would have seen him forced to step down under the previous two-term limit system.

This is the ultimate culmination of Xi's power grab thus

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far. Combined with having his philosophies on socialism enshrined in China's constitution under his own name, successfully abolishing term limits singles out Xi as China's most powerful president since the Mao era.

China also published its February data batch this week. CPI inflation accelerated (2.9% YOY vs 1.5% in January) while PPI contracted (from 4.3% to 3.7%). The trade balance rose from a revised US\$20.4bn in January to US\$33.7bn.

Inflation in the Philippines spiked up to a three-year high of 4.4% YOY in February, from 3.9% in January, partly on account of the impact of tax reform. Communication from the central bank continues to suggest, however, that rates are likely to remain on hold until the transient impacts of tax reform can be understood and isolated from the underlying inflation drivers.

Malaysia kept rates on hold at 3.25% in line with expectations.

LATIN AMERICA

MSCI Lat Am 3,192 -1.61%

Colombia's CPI inflation dropped remarkably once again, from 3.68% YOY in January to 3.37% in February, its lowest level since October 2014 and further converging towards the Banco de la Republica target. The downward trend is mainly explained by the fading of the VAT hike effect, a stable to appreciating COP and a large output gap. *This provides further room for the central bank to continue with its easing cycle in the coming months.*

In Colombia, polls highlight a surge in vote intentions in favour of market-friendly and centre-right candidate Ivan Duque, the candidate endorsed by former President Álvaro Uribe and member of Centro Democrático party. *A stable to improving macro-economy, rebalancing fiscal and current accounts and the fading of political risk should be supportive for Colombian assets.*

Brazil's industrial output climbed 5.7% YOY in January, picking up from 4.5% in the previous month. The uncertainties associated to NAFTA and the presidential elections are discouraging private investment decisions. The uncertainty is only increasing as we move closer to the event and the probability of a negative outcome for markets is only increasing. Additionally, fiscal consolidation – even if more moderate than in previous years – will curb public sector investment.

Mexico's economy slowdown is confirmed:

- **gross fixed investment decelerates further, falling 2.3% YOY (calendar-adjusted data) in 4Q17 (down from a contraction of 0.4% in 3Q17).**
- **Private consumption weakened to +2.2% YOY in 4Q17, moderating over the course of 2017 (+3% vs. 4.2 in 2016) as the negative effects of falling real wages (due to the spike of inflation) and less-dynamic consumer credit.**

Chile's business confidence keeps cranking up and reached 57.4 points in February 2018, its highest level in almost 5

years.

The is the first step of the virtuous cycle: investments, employment, consumption, profits, reinvestment. Increasing copper prices also provides a tailwind and indirectly benefits the whole economy.

Peru Central Bank lowered its monetary policy reference rate from 3.00% to 2.75%, as inflation is in the lower part of the target range (1% - 3%) with a downward trend expected to continue.

AFRICA

MSCI Africa 1,068 +4.89%

South Africa's economy beat expectations in Q4 2017, growing 3.1% QOQ compared to 1.8% expected, and a total of 1.3% in 2017 compared to 0.6% in 2016. The largest positive contributor in the fourth quarter was the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, which expanded by 37.5% and contributed 0.8% to GDP growth.

The rebound in Q4 2017 was driven by cyclical recovery, particularly in agriculture, where the negative impacts of the drought in 2016 began to fade out and provide a favourable base effect. Given the subsequent change in political leadership which makes passage of economic reforms more likely, and has already seen business confidence hit a 2.5 year high, we expect this positive momentum to continue in 2018, with positive contributions coming from a broader range of industries going forward.

The IMF stated that the Kenyan government has committed to policies that will reduce the fiscal deficit and substantially modify interest controls, in order to secure a 6-month extension of the USD 1.5bn standby credit facility currently in place. Elsewhere, in a surprise meeting on Friday, Kenya's president Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition leader Raila Odinga promised to work together to unite the country after elections last year in which around 100 people were killed, and the results disputed.

Kenya's twin deficits, interest controls which have choked out private sector lending, and political tensions make the country un-investable at this point. However, while the devil will be in the detail, these developments are highly welcomed.

Moving on to strong set of data prints across Africa's main markets:

- South Africa's private sector activity rose to a 14-month high and expanded for the first time in seven months. The Standard Bank PMI index rose to 51.4 in February from 49.0 in January, driven by expansion in new orders, to 51.6 in February from 47.9 in January.
- South Africa's business confidence fell marginally as exports, imports and retail sales fell. The SACCI monthly business confidence index fell to 98.9 in February from 99.7 in January which was its highest since late 2015.
- Egypt's annual inflation eased to 14.4% in February from 17.1% in January. MOM, CPI rose 0.3%

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compared to a 0.1% contraction in the previous month. Core inflation fell to 11.9% from 14.4%, paving the way for continuation of the easing cycle that began last month.

- Kenya's Private sector activity rose to an almost 2-year high. The Standard Bank PMI Index for manufacturing and services rose to 54.7, its highest since April 2016, from 52.9 in January as output rose to 59.3 from 57.0.
- Nigeria's private sector activity expanded for the 14th consecutive month. The Stanbic IBTC Bank PMI index for the whole economy moderated to 56.0 in February from 57.3 in January, but still above the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction.
- Nigeria's trade balance for 2017 stood at a surplus of N4.04tn (USD13.2bn) compared to a negative trade balance of N290.1bn in 2016 following a rise in

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THE WEEK AHEAD

	Date	Consensus
UNITED STATES		
US budget balance (FEB) bn USD	Mon/12	-223
US CPI (FEB) % YOY	Tue/13	2.2
US retail sales (FEB) % MOM	Wed/14	0.3
US industrial production (FEB) % MOM	Fri/16	0.3
Michigan consumer sentiment (MAR)	Fri/16	99.5
EUROPE		
Russia trade balance (JAN) bn USD	Wed/14	13.9
Eurozone industrial production (JAN) % YOY	Wed/14	4.7
Eurozone HICP (FEB) % YOY	Fri/16	1.2
ASIA PACIFIC		
India CPI (FEB) % YOY	Mon/12	4.7
China industrial production (YTD) % YOY	Wed/14	6.2
China retail sales (YTD) % YOY	Wed/14	9.8
India trade balance (FEB) bn USD	Thu/15	-15.0
LATIN AMERICA		
Argentina interest rates %	Tue/13	27.25

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GLOBAL MARKET DATA (CONTD.)

5 TO 11 MARCH

FX (vs USD)			Return +ive=USD Stronger			
Name	BBG Code	Price	1 Week	MTD	YTD	1Y
DLAR INDEX S	DXU Index	90.15	0.06%	-0.75%	-2.38%	-12.00%
USD-EUR X-RAT	USDEUR Curncy	0.81	-0.18%	-1.01%	-2.55%	-14.71%
USD-RUB X-RAT	USDRUB Curncy	57.17	1.22%	0.82%	-1.52%	-3.47%
USD-TRY X-RAT	USDTRY Curncy	3.82	0.49%	0.22%	0.25%	2.14%
USD-GBP X-RAT	USDGBP Curncy	0.73	1.19%	-0.30%	-2.11%	-11.11%
FX JPMorgan A	ADXY Index	111.06	-0.24%	0.05%	1.13%	6.20%
USD-AUD X-RAT	USDAUD Curncy	1.29	1.03%	0.02%	0.59%	-2.42%
USD-CNY X-RAT	USDCNY Curncy	6.34	0.13%	0.23%	-2.48%	-7.90%
USD-INR X-RAT	USDINR Curncy	65.08	0.68%	-0.01%	2.03%	-2.31%
USD-JPY X-RAT	USDJPY Curncy	105.37	-1.07%	-0.87%	-6.16%	-7.57%
USD-KRW X-RAT	USDKRW Curncy	1,082.00	0.14%	-0.23%	1.22%	-5.36%
USD-TWD X-RAT	USDTWD Curncy	29.29	0.02%	-0.03%	-1.55%	-4.93%
USD-ARS X-RAT	USARS Curncy	20.28	1.54%	0.83%	8.91%	31.66%
USD-BRL X-RAT	USDBRL Curncy	3.25	0.44%	0.18%	-1.79%	3.16%
USD-CLP X-RAT	USDCLP Curncy	599.16	1.32%	0.82%	-2.64%	-8.49%
USD-MXN X-RAT	USDMXN Curncy	18.91	1.44%	-0.08%	-4.26%	-5.88%
USD-EGP X-RAT	USDEGP Curncy	17.62	-0.28%	0.04%	-0.77%	8.11%
USD-NGN X-RAT	USDNGN Curncy	360.07	0.00%	-0.05%	0.02%	14.22%
USD-ZAR X-RAT	USDZAR Curncy	12.02	3.15%	1.08%	-3.71%	-9.37%
Commodities			Return (USD)			
CRUDE FUTURE	CLA Comdty	61.38	-3.62%	-0.63%	1.41%	13.20%
CRUDE FUTR	COA Comdty	64.50	-3.98%	-0.56%	-2.60%	15.67%
ALTYC DRY IND	BDIY Comdty	1,207.00	1.86%	1.26%	-11.64%	33.52%
natural Gas Futu	NG1 Comdty	2.68	2.67%	1.05%	-8.74%	-3.89%
Gold Spot \$/C	XAU Curncy	1,326.77	-0.45%	0.34%	1.53%	7.17%
Silver Spot \$/C	XAG Curncy	16.54	-0.06%	0.66%	-2.45%	-7.02%
COPPER 3M	LMCADSO3 Comdty	6,898.00	-2.78%	-0.48%	-4.82%	16.32%
Government Bond Yields %			Change (percentage points)			
Americ Govt 2 Ye	USGG2YR Index	2.21	0.00	-0.01	0.36	0.93
Americ Govt 5 Ye	USGG5YR Index	2.59	0.01	-0.01	0.42	0.61
Americ Govt 10 Ye	USGG10YR Index	2.82	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.39
Govt Bonds 10	GCAN10YR Index	2.20	-0.05	-0.03	0.16	0.51
Govt Bonds 10	GMXN10YR Index	7.61	-0.02	-0.02	-0.04	0.18
Bonds 10 Year	GUKG10 Index	1.47	-0.05	-0.03	0.28	0.26
Ind Govt Bond	GSWISS10 Index	0.06	-0.04	-0.02	0.23	0.25
Government Bo	GDBR2 Index	-0.57	-0.02	-0.01	0.08	0.28
Government Bo	GDBR5 Index	-0.02	-0.01	-0.01	0.22	0.49
Generic Govt	GDBR10 Index	0.60	0.00	-0.01	0.22	0.33
Generic Govt 10	GTFRF10Y Govt	0.88	-0.01	0.00	0.14	-0.01
Generic Govt 10	GTGRD10Y Govt	4.32	-0.03	-0.06	0.25	-2.60
Generic Govt 10	GBTPGR10 Index	2.02	-0.10	0.00	-0.05	-0.17
Generic Govt 10	GSPG10YR Index	1.56	-0.05	0.01	-0.02	-0.15
Generic Govt	GSPT10YR Index	2.03	-0.05	0.00	0.04	-1.96
Govt Bonds C	GACGB10 Index	2.74	-0.11	-0.07	0.10	-0.05
vt Bond Gener	GIND10YR Index	7.75	0.07	0.01	0.42	0.90
th Korea Trea	GVSK10YR Index	2.76	-0.04	0.02	0.29	0.53
Generic Govt 10	GJGB10 Index	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
rica Govt Bond	GSAB10YR Index	8.72				
Corporate Credit Indices			Change (Bps) +ive = Widening			
TRX EUR XOY	ITRXEXE CBIL Curncy	277.45	-0.64	8.35	40.10	-4.49
ITRX EUROPE	ITRXEBE CBIL Curncy	55.85	-1.21	1.88	9.40	-15.74
TRX EUR SNR	ITRXESE CBIL Curncy	57.54	-2.15	2.04	11.20	-31.75
TRX EUR SUB	ITRXEUE CBIL Curncy	122.13	-1.88	5.55	13.41	-81.88
ITCDX.NA.IG.2	IBOXUMAE CBIL Curncy	56.36	-0.78	2.26	7.75	-3.43
ITCDX.NA.HY.2	IBOXHYSE CBIL Curncy	337.22	4.22	13.82	34.84	34.38
Implied Volatility (Equity Index)			Change (Volatility Points) +ive = Volatility Rising			
stoxx 3month	SX5E Index	17.20	2.93	2.98	3.54	-1.09
DOO 500 3month	UKX Index	14.08	2.31	2.27	4.69	0.36
Seng 3month	HSI Index	19.63	0.66	-0.11	4.72	4.95
Nikkei 3month A	NKY Index	21.20	3.23	3.14	5.67	2.38
500 3month	SPX Index	15.65	2.49	0.78	5.73	3.49
Volatility (VIX)	VIX Index	19.59	3.10	-0.26	8.55	7.78
Inflation (Long term inflation expectation proxy) %			Change (percentage points)			
Y5YF Inflation Swap		2.40	0.03	0.01	0.11	0.02
Y5YF Inflation Swap		3.35	0.00	0.03	-0.03	-0.02
Y5YF Inflation Swap		0.39	0.01	0.00	-0.01	-0.10
Y5YF Inflation Swap		1.71	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Economic Data Surprise (+ive/-ive = above/below expectations)						
conomic Surpris	CESIAPAC Index	16.30				
conomic Surpris	CESICNY Index	5.30				
conomic Surpris	CESIEM Index	9.90				
conomic Surpris	CESIEUR Index	-0.50				
conomic Surpris	CESIG10 Index	12.30				
conomic Surpris	CESIJPY Index	-10.60				
conomic Surpris	CESILTAM Index	-15.90				
conomic Surpris	CESIUSD Index	39.10				

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