

Equities lower as trade standoff takes centre stage

Weekly Snapshot



Gold
Copper



World Equities
Sovereign Bonds
Corporate Bonds
Oil

Week in Review

- Following a positive start to the period, **equities tailed off** on Thursday and Friday to finish in **negative territory for the week**. The market was firmly focussed on the continuing **trade standoff** between the US and China. Equities swung on every new announcement from either side, whilst oil was also hard hit by some of the proposals.
- The **monthly jobs data from the US failed to lift markets** as the number of jobs created came in at 103,000 – versus a median estimate of 185,000. However, the unemployment rate stayed at 4.1%, which is its lowest level since 2000 whilst wage growth picked up further to 2.7% (year-on-year).
- **Inflation data in Europe also saw an uptick**, with the March figure up to 1.4% from a previous reading of 1.1%. The upward move has led to **rising expectations** that the **ECB QE** programme **will not be extended** past September of this year.

	1 Week Return 30.03.18 to 06.04.18		Year to Date Return 31.12.17 to 06.04.2018	
	Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	-0.3%	-0.3%	-3.6%	-3.6%
US	-1.4%	-1.0%	-2.6%	-4.6%
Europe	0.6%	0.6%	-3.4%	-3.4%
Ireland	0.6%	0.6%	-5.8%	-5.8%
UK	1.8%	2.7%	-6.6%	-4.7%
Japan	0.2%	-0.1%	-5.4%	-2.6%
Hong Kong	-0.8%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-2.8%
Bonds	-0.1%	-0.1%	2.0%	2.0%

The **global index** was down 0.3% for the week, and was led lower by the dominant US market.

Oil also moved lower last week, and closed just short of \$62/barrel, on the

back of the aforementioned trade concerns.

Gold benefited from the 'risk-off' sentiment to close at \$1334 per troy ounce.

The **ten year US bond yield** finished the week higher at 2.77%, whilst the German equivalent was at 0.50%.

The **EUR/USD** rate finished at 1.23, whilst **EUR/GBP** was at 0.87.

The Week Ahead

Wednesday 11 April	Wednesday 11 April	Friday 13 April
US Consumer Price Inflation data goes to print, where the consensus forecast rises in both the headline and core figures.	The Federal Reserve releases the minutes of the latest interest rate meeting, which marked the first rate rise under Fed Chair Powell.	Three of the big financials (JP Morgan, Citigroup, and Wells Fargo) all release results as the Q1 earnings seasons gets into full swing.

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