

## Market reacts to escalations in the Middle East

Heightened volatility and selling pressure continued to sweep across all asset classes as the war in the Middle East ended its third week. The International Energy Agency (IEA) called the war in Iran “the biggest threat to energy security in history”, while attacks from both sides on critical energy infrastructure stoked fears of a prolonged oil supply shock. The price of WTI Crude continued to hover close to the \$100/barrel level. Global equities fell -2.8% in EUR terms, with stocks in Europe (where inflation concerns are particularly strong) falling -3.9%.

On Saturday, US President Trump gave Iran a 48-hour deadline to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, warning he would “obliterate” the country’s power plants if the demand is not met. In turn, Iran vowed it would “irreversibly destroy” essential water and energy infrastructure in response to such an attack. This marked a potential escalation in the conflict, with Trump’s ultimatum also following reports that the US is sending thousands more troops to the Middle East. However, this morning, Trump ordered a five-day halt to the military strikes following what he described as “productive” talks with Iran.

If not for the developing conflict, the market’s focus would likely have been on Nvidia’s GTC conference. The headline from the event was CEO Jensen Huang projecting over \$1 trillion of sales through 2027. Elsewhere, the share price of Super Micro Computer fell -33% after several employees, including its co-founder, were charged by the US Department of Justice for allegedly smuggling Nvidia chips to China.

Central banks in Europe, the US, the UK, and Japan all decided to hold interest rates steady in their respective meetings last week, adopting a “wait-and-see” approach amid current inflationary pressures. Bond yields continued to climb: the US 10-year treasury yield rose from 4.28% to 4.38%, while the German 10-year bund yield climbed from 2.98% to 3.04%. Diminishing hopes of rate cuts and rising bond yields dampened the market’s sentiment around Gold, which fell -11.7% in EUR terms during the week.



### Fact of the week

Global equities were green on St. Patrick’s Day—as they usually are. History shows that the 17th is the best day in March for the S&P 500 going all the way back to 1950.

Our regular market information continues on the next page.

### Snapshot



- Oil
- Gold



- Corporate Bonds
- Sovereign Bonds
- World Equities
- Copper

### The week ahead

<b>24 Mar</b>	German, US, UK, and Japan PMI data is released.
<b>25 Mar</b>	UK inflation data for February is reported.
<b>27 Mar</b>	UK retail sales data for February is released.



	1 Week Return 13.03.26 to 20.03.26		Year to Date Return 31.12.25 to 20.03.26	
	Local Currency	Euro	Local Currency	Euro
World	-2.0%	-2.8%	-4.0%	-2.3%
U.S.	-1.9%	-2.7%	-5.0%	-3.3%
Europe	-3.9%	-3.9%	-4.1%	-4.1%
Ireland	-4.0%	-4.0%	-10.9%	-10.9%
U.K.	-3.3%	-3.7%	1.1%	1.7%
Japan	-0.6%	-1.2%	5.7%	5.9%
Hong Kong	0.9%	-0.1%	7.9%	9.1%
Corporate Bonds	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.5%	-0.5%
Sovereign Bonds	-0.6%	-0.6%	-1.0%	-1.0%

**Warning: Past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.**  
**Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.**  
**Warning: Benefits may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.**  
**Warning: If you invest in this product, you may lose some or all of the money you invest.**

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#### Equities

- Global stocks finished down -2.8% in euro terms and down -2.0% in local terms last week.
- Year-to-date global markets are down by -2.3% in euro terms and down by -4.0% in local terms.
- The U.S. market, the largest in the world, finished down at -2.7% in euro terms and down at -1.9% in local terms.

#### Fixed Income & FX

- The U.S. 10-year yield finished at 4.4% last week. The German equivalent finished at 3.0%. The Irish 10-year bond yield finished at 3.3%.
- The Euro/U.S. Dollar exchange rate finished at 1.16, whilst Euro/GBP finished at 0.87.

#### Commodities

- Oil finished the week at \$98 per barrel and is up 73.8% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Gold finished the week at \$4,492 per troy ounce and is up 5.6% year-to-date in euro terms.
- Copper finished the week at \$11,835 per tonne and is down -3.5% year-to-date in euro terms.