

Equities move higher on the back of US Rate Hike and Dutch election

Weekly Snapshot



World Equities

Gold

Industrial Metals

European Sovereign Bonds

Oil



The **global index** moved higher by 0.4% over the course of the week, with stocks in Hong Kong leading the way, up over 3% in local terms. Gold moved higher by just over 2%, as both silver and copper also saw positive returns.

Week in Review

- As expected, the US Federal Reserve raised short term interest rates last week by 25 basis points, to give a new target range of 0.75%-1.0%. The vote of confidence in the US economy was matched by further encouraging economic data, with the Conference Board's index of leading economic indicators now sitting at its best level in over ten years.
- European stocks performed well during the week, as the Fed's move higher was complemented by **Dutch voters' rejection of** Far-Right candidate Geert Wilders, in favour of current leader Mark Rutte.
- **US treasury prices rose** during the week as comments from Chair Janet Yellen in the wake of the Fed announcement were seen as more hawkish. **Oil posted a slight gain** on the back of falling US stockpiles and comments from Saudi Arabia; committing to curtailing its production.

	Index	1 Week Return 10.03.17 to 17.03.17		Year to Date Return 31.12.16 to 17.03.17	
		Local Currency %	Euro %	Local Currency %	Euro %
Global (euro)	FTSE World (total return)	0.4%	0.4%	5.4%	5.4%
US	S&P 500	0.2%	-0.4%	6.2%	4.3%
Europe	FTSE Europe Ex. U.K.	1.2%	1.2%	5.6%	5.6%
Ireland	ISEQ	0.5%	0.5%	3.0%	3.0%
UK	FTSE 100	1.1%	2.4%	4.0%	2.4%
Japan	Topix	-0.5%	0.7%	3.1%	4.8%
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3.2%	2.6%	10.5%	8.4%
Bonds	Merrill Lynch Euro over 5	0.4%	0.4%	-3.7%	-3.7%

The US 10 year bond price moved higher, as Yellen's comments kept rate expectations for the year in check. The yield, which moves inversely to price, closed the week at 2.50%, from 2.57%. The equivalent German yield

also moved lower, from 0.48% to 0.43%.

The euro/dollar rate finished the week at 1.07, whilst euro/sterling was at 87 pence per euro.

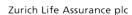
The Week Ahead

Tuesday 21 March	Friday 24 March	Friday 24 March
UK inflation data goes to print, where the consensus expects a rise to 2.1% (year-on-year), from the last reading of 1.8%.	Eurozone Purchasing Managers Index information will be closely watched for signals of continued strength in the eurozone economy. The consensus is for a reading of 55.8 (last reading: 56.0).	US durable goods orders data is released, and the market expects a month-on-month increase of 1.1% (last reading: 2.0%).

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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