

Equity markets rise on strong US economic data

Weekly Snapshot



World Equities

Sovereign Bonds

Gold

Copper

Oil



The **global index** rose by an

impressive 2.8% last week, led by the

US.

Oil moved higher last week, and closed back above \$62/barrel. **Copper**

Week in Review

- Equity markets cheered the latest US jobs report, where 313,000 jobs were created in February, much higher than consensus expectations. Wage growth however slowed to 2.6%, down from the 2.9% figure last month which had shaken markets. The unemployment rate remained steady at 4.1% as the 'goldilocks scenario' appears to have at least temporarily returned for risk assets.
- Trade tensions remained a key focus with continuing mixed messages emanating from the White House. Economic Advisor Gary Cohn resigned in what appeared to be a direct protest to the trade strategy. However, markets generally shrugged off the developments, and the news of potential direct US-North Korea talks was also positively welcomed.
- The S&P 500 in the US rose throughout the week before Friday's data, which coincided with the ninth anniversary of the current bull market, which began on 9 March 2009.

| | 1 Week Return 02.03.18 to 09.03.18 | | Year to Date Return 31.12.17 to 09.03.18 | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | Local Currency % | Euro % | Local Currency % | Euro % |
| Global (euro) | 2.8% | 2.8% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| US | 3.5% | 3.6% | 4.2% | 1.7% |
| Europe | 3.0% | 3.0% | -1.8% | -1.8% |
| Ireland | 1.2% | 1.2% | -4.2% | -4.2% |
| UK | 2.2% | 2.7% | -6.0% | -6.1% |
| Japan | 0.4% | -0.5% | -5.6% | -2.9% |
| Hong Kong | 1.4% | 1.4% | 3.6% | 0.8% |
| Bonds | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |

was up slightly at 0.4%, whilst **gold** was relatively flat.

The **ten year US bond yield** finished the week at 2.89%, up from 2.86% following the positive economic data

(yields move inversely to price). The **German equivalent** was down slightly to 0.64%.

The **EUR/USD** rate closed the period at 1.23 and **EUR/GBP** was at 0.89.

The Week Ahead

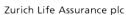
| Tuesday 13 March | Tuesday 13 March | Friday 16 March |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| US inflation data for February goes to print, with the year-on-year figure expected to hold steady at 2.1%. | UK Chancellor Philip Hammond will issue the spring budget statement, which will give guidance on the economic plans of the UK government. | Eurozone inflation figures for February are also released this week, with the month-on-month number forecast to fall to 0.9%. |

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