Monthly Market Roundup

May 2018 (covering April 2018)

Global overview

- Global equity markets ended April in positive territory amid signs that trade tensions were easing
- Oil and gas-related sectors performed strongly across all markets
- Emerging markets lost ground over the month largely due to concerns including a stronger US dollar and rising US Treasury yields

Global equity markets ended April in positive territory amid signs that trade tensions were easing as attention turned to the corporate earnings season. Though geopolitical concerns lingered, US President Trump expressed optimism on a trade deal with China and hinted that the US may re-join the Trans-Pacific Partnership free-trade deal that he pulled out of shortly after taking office.

This move boosted the share prices of trade-sensitive sectors including commodities. As such, energy was the strongest performing US equity sector over the month, and share prices rose further after an industry report showed that crude oil inventories fell. The price of crude oil climbed to its highest since 2014 – moving above US$74 a barrel – after declines in US stockpiles of oil, gasoline, diesel and jet fuel signalled increasing scarcity in supplies. Production cuts by Opec and Russia over the past 16 months have also helped crude oil prices rally.

The UK equity market delivered positive returns in April, the first month of positive performance seen in 2018. The market was driven by the end of sterling's rally against the dollar, with strength in the US currency bolstering the returns of the market's many international constituents.

In line with the US and UK, European equity markets also posted their best monthly returns so far this year. Good corporate earnings data drove European stocks higher. Fading geopolitical risks given the encouraging progress in Korean talks, and a conciliatory tone from China's President Xi Jinping backing free trade and dialogue to resolve global trade disputes also helped equity sentiment this month.

In Japan, markets also benefited from receding geopolitical risks. At the same time, investors adopted a wait-and-see approach as regards domestic political concerns surrounding the longevity of Prime Minister Abe. The domestic demand-oriented sectors outperformed over the month while some of the more economically sensitive (cyclical) stocks were hurt by a softening in global macroeconomic indicators and fears that US trade policy is becoming more protectionist.

Oil and gas-related sectors performed strongly across all markets, and strengthening commodity prices provided some relief for emerging markets too, which marginally lost ground in April. This was largely due to a stronger US dollar, rising US Treasury yields and concerns around US-China trade wars. Emerging Asia was the best performing region. In Latin America all countries except Brazil advanced higher. Performance in EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) varied significantly with Greece posting healthy gains versus losses in Turkey and Russia. Russia attracted negative headlines during the month as diplomatic ties with the West deteriorated.

Government bond yields increased during April amid a decline in risk aversion, rising commodity prices and higher inflation expectations. Against this backdrop, high yield corporate bonds were the best performing area of bond markets.

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US

- US equity market benefited from easing trade tensions and a shift in focus to corporate earnings season
- The energy sector gained the most as an industry report showed crude oil inventories fell
- The US economy continued to grow above its trend rate (long-term average rate) in the first quarter

The US equity market erased its losses for the year and made small gains in April amid signs that trade tensions were easing as attention turned to the corporate earnings season. Though geopolitical concerns lingered, President Trump expressed optimism on a trade deal with China and hinted that the US may re-join the Trans-Pacific Partnership free-trade deal that he pulled out of shortly after taking office.

This move boosted the share prices of trade-sensitive sectors including commodities. As such, energy was the strongest performing sector over the month, and share prices rose further after an industry report showed that crude oil inventories fell. The price of crude oil climbed to its highest since 2014 – moving above US$74 a barrel – after declines in US stockpiles of oil, gasoline, diesel and jet fuel signalled increasing scarcity in supplies. Production cuts by Opec and Russia over the past 16 months have also helped crude oil prices rally, with the latest increase tracking rising risks to supplies, from Venezuela's economic downturn to the risk of the US re-imposing sanctions on Iran. While oil prices have rallied and global inventories have fallen, Opec is still seen as increasingly likely to maintain the cuts into 2019.

Consumer staples stocks were the weakest performers over the month. The prospect of higher interest rates is an issue for the sector, which as dividend payers, tends to struggle during periods of rising interest rates. Another issue is that consumer staples companies are often global operations and are vulnerable to the strength of the US dollar. The dollar has started to gain ground recently on account of the US Federal Reserve (Fed) raising interest rates. Furthermore, there was a series of disappointing earnings reports over the month from industry giants such as Philip Morris International, Procter & Gamble, and Kimberly-Clark. These negatively impacted share prices – a sign that markets remained sceptical of the sector's ability to cope with rising costs, as well as to fend off online competitors such as Amazon.

The US economy continued to grow above its trend rate (long-term average rate) in the first quarter, albeit at a slower pace than in the final quarter of 2017. Gross domestic product expanded at an annual rate of 2.3%, the Bureau of Economic Analysis said, down from 2.9% at the end of 2017. A slowdown in first quarter growth had been widely expected, reflecting slower consumer spending, although the GDP data exceeded analysts' forecasts for a 2% gain.

In terms of corporate news, T-Mobile US unveiled plans to acquire Sprint for US$26.5bn in stock after years of rumours and scuppered talks. Marathon Petroleum intends to buy rival oil refiner Andeavor in a US$36bn deal to create the largest crude oil processor in the US. Walmart's share price rose after UK supermarket chain J. Sainsbury struck a deal to take over the American company's subsidiary, Asda.

Europe

- European equity markets advanced in April
- Despite a slower momentum, European economic growth remained robust and sustainable
- European Central Bank kept monetary policy unchanged

European equity markets rose in April, posting the best monthly returns so far in 2018. Good corporate earnings data drove European stocks higher. Fading geopolitical risks given the encouraging progress in Korean talks, and a conciliatory tone from China's President Xi Jinping backing free trade and dialogue to resolve global trade disputes also helped equity sentiment this month.

Within the European equities market, the oil and gas sector was the leading outperformer driven by a strong recovery in the oil price. Brent crude oil crossed the US$74 per barrel in April, a level not seen since 2015. The consumer services sector, particularity the retail sub-sector, was another top outperformer this month. Meanwhile, the healthcare sector lagged the broader market as earnings growth expectations for some companies came under pressure from competition from cheaper alternatives. The industrials sector was another laggard this month. On a stock level, Greek lenders Piraeus Bank and National Bank of Greece were among the standout performers in April amid optimism from positive stress test results. Neste's share price, the Finnish energy refining company, also rose strongly after reporting better than expected earnings supported by very strong development in renewable products. Conversely, Osram, the German lights manufacturer, was among the main detractors after issuing a profit warning citing difficult market conditions and foreign exchange headwinds. AMS, the Austrian semiconductors company, also lagged after cautioning about pressures on its operating margins.

On the macroeconomic front, after dropping from multi-year highs at the start of the year, Purchasing Managers' Indices (PMIs) – which are private sector activity surveys and good lead indicators for economic growth – stabilised in April and beat expectations. Eurozone PMI readings remained firmly in expansionary territory (mid-50s) this month, reaffirming the sustainability of the recovery.

On the monetary policy front, the European Central Bank (ECB) did not announce any changes to its existing policies. It remained committed to the bond-buying programme at a pace of €30bn per month until September 2018, with interest rates kept on hold "well past" the end of quantitative easing. While acknowledging the 'moderation' in growth momentum observed in recent months, the ECB continued to note the "solid and broad-based expansion of the euro-area economy". The ECB also expressed confidence that the sustained growth in economic activity will eventually lead to a convergence of inflation, from the currently subdued range, towards the target level of below but close to 2%.

Invesco Perpetual

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UK

- UK equity markets delivered 2018's first month of positive returns during April
- Sterling's rally was brought to a sharp end following weaker than expected domestic growth for the three months to April
- The share price in supermarket J. Sainsbury rose sharply following news that it intends to buy rival store-chain Asda

UK equity markets delivered positive returns in April, the first month of positive performance seen in 2018. The market was driven by the end of sterling's rally against the dollar, with strength in the US currency bolstering the returns of the market's many international constituents.

Weaker than expected domestic growth for the three months to April saw a sharp decline in sterling towards the end of the month, as it brought some doubt over the likelihood of an interest rate rise at the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meeting in May. However, the 0.1% rise seen for the first quarter of the year was partly attributed to the "Beast from the East" - extreme weather saw construction and consumption hit, as workers and shoppers alike stayed home. Meanwhile there was some good news for UK consumers during April, as it was announced that wage growth had reached the fastest pace seen in more than three years.

Brent crude oil broke the elusive US$75 per barrel mark in April, the highest level seen since 2014. The rise came on the back of increasing expectations of sanctions against Iran, triggered by President Trump's threats to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.

In corporate news, the share price in UK's second largest supermarket, J. Sainsbury rose sharply at month end, on the announcement that they would buy rival store-chain Asda. In a deal worth £7.3bn the combined entity, if approved by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), will overtake rival Tesco as the number one supermarket chain in the UK.

The deal reflected a tick up in corporate activity seen in 2018, as Whitbread, the owner of Costa Coffee and Premier Inn, bowed to sustained investor pressure and announced the separation of the two businesses. The share price had rallied strongly earlier in the month following news that activist investor, Elliot Capital Advisers, has built a significant position in the company.

In financials, Barclays became the first UK bank to launch a ring-fenced bank in April – the new entity separates retail banking customers from the investment side of its operations. The new entity has its own board of directors and capital requirements. The Royal Bank of Scotland announced annual profits had more than tripled in 2017 from the year before, beating consensus forecasts, but also that loan growth remained "elusive".

The share price in outsourcer, Capita, rose sharply on the announcement of a £700m rights issue, alongside greater clarity on the company's recovery strategy. The news follows the very dramatic fall in the share price seen following the profit warning in January.

Travel and Insurance company Saga announced an increase in customers for the year to January mid-month. The company cited price cuts as the main driver, following very challenging trading periods. Fellow travel business Thomas Cook claimed that the "terrorism impact" was over, as customers flocked back to its core markets of Turkey and north Africa. The share price in Irish drug producer, Shire, were boosted by a fourth takeover bid from Japanese firm Takeda Pharmaceutical – yet further evidence of the increased consolidation witnessed in the pharmaceutical industry.

British American Tobacco issued a statement at its Annual General Meeting at the end of April, which included an unexpected trading update and a positive update on the outlook for the company's next generation 'reduced risk' offering. Though bolstered by the news, its share price ended the month lower overall.

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Asia Pacific

- US-China trade war concerns eased
- There was a rising prospect of peace in Korea following inter-Korea summit
- Japanese equity markets rebounded on yen weakness

Asian equity markets saw a modest rebound in April, following a weak couple of months. Investors were initially unnerved by the risk of a trade war between the US and China, with the US announcing a preliminary list of tariffs on US$50bn worth of Chinese imports, and China retaliating with counter measures of similar scale. However, concerns eased following the announcement of more conciliatory measures from China, which included: greater openness in the financial sector, intellectual property protection, a relaxation of requirements for joint ventures and a reduction in imports duty on certain products. China's equity market slightly lagged the broader market average, but economic data remained robust.

The inter-Korea summit towards the end of the month gave markets a little boost, as Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un announced that they plan to sign a peace treaty in 2018 and formally bring about an end to military conflict. This is just a prelude to Donald Trump's meeting with Kim next month, but the latter's interest in pursuing prosperity and economic development raised the prospect of a controlled opening up of North Korea's economy, which saw a strong rally in the share prices of Korean construction, cement, steel and rail companies.

Elsewhere, Taiwan was dragged lower by the technology sector, with weaker than expected 2018 second quarter guidance from Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing impacting sentiment towards other companies in the Apple supply chain. The Philippines and Indonesia also underperformed amidst lingering concerns over higher long-term US interest rates. However, India – the other country in the region with a current account deficit – rebounded after a period of weakness.

Australia's equity market benefitted from the strong performance of its energy and materials sectors, while financials underperformed as evidence of widespread misconduct emanated from the Banking Royal Commission.

Japan's equity market ended the month higher as higher US long-term interest rates saw the yen weaken relative to the US dollar, while concerns eased over a US-China trade war and geopolitical risk in Korea. However, there were lingering concerns over how long Prime Minister Abe will remain in power. Domestic demand-oriented sectors outperformed, while some of the more economically sensitive (cyclical) stocks were hurt by a softening in global macroeconomic indicators and fears over US protectionism. In terms of economic data, Japanese unemployment held at 2.5% and industrial production rose 1.2% (which was more than expected), while core inflation held 0.9% year-on-year (March data). Against that backdrop, the Bank of Japan left monetary policy unchanged at the April monetary policy committee meeting, but removed a deadline for achieving its 2% inflation target.

Emerging Markets

- US dollar strength and rising Treasury yields provided headwinds
- Russia was hit by US sanctions
- It was a positive month for commodities, with Brent crude oil up 8.5%

Emerging equity markets marginally lost ground during April as the asset class faced headwinds, including a stronger US dollar, rising US Treasury yields and concerns around US-China trade wars. However, strengthening commodity prices provided some relief. Emerging Asia was the best performing region, with gains led by Singapore, India and Korea offsetting weakness in Taiwan and Indonesia. In Latin America all countries except Brazil advanced higher, with Colombia doing particularly well. Performance in EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) varied significantly, with Greece posting healthy gains versus losses in Turkey and Russia. Materials and industrials were the sector leaders in emerging markets with healthcare and technology being the laggards. Aside from the Philippine peso and pegged currencies, emerging market currencies fell in value against the US dollar. The latter drew benefit from the prospect of higher US interest rates in 2018 and 10-year Treasury yields rising to 3%. Brent crude oil briefly traded above US$75 a barrel.

The Trump administration imposed new sanctions on Russia's business tycoons and government officials known to be allies of President Putin along with companies they control. The action prompted a sharp fall in Russia's equity market and rouble although both staged partial recoveries on reports that the US may soften its stance in regards to sanctions on a major Russian metals producer. Despite April's weakness, the Russia equity market remains up year-to-date in US dollar terms. Higher interest rates soured sentiment in Turkey as the central bank hiked the benchmark rate 0.75% to 13.5% and hinted that they may raise them again, depending on the latest developments in inflation. Turkish President Erdogan called early elections for 24 June. Greece was the best performing equity market as data showed that the country had beaten its budget targets for a third consecutive year in 2017 and trimmed its massive debt burden. European Commission President Juncker said that Greece will likely exit its international bailout programme without the need for a precautionary credit line.

Worries that the Brazilian government's economic reform package was running into stiffer political resistance dented confidence towards the local currency, the real, as well as the country's equity market. After failing to pass a plan to cut social security spending, the government's fiscal target for 2020 may not be met. A further cut in Brazilian interest rates looks likely following hints from the head of the central bank. They were previously reduced to 6.5% in March. Outside of Brazil, equity markets in Latin American posted positive gains. Mexico's economy shrugged off election and NAFTA jitters to grow at a stronger-than-expected 2.4% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2018. Trade talks with the US and Canada continued to make slow but steady progress.

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Fixed Interest

- Rising inflation expectations and a decline in risk aversion led to higher core government bond yields
- The prospect of the UK interest rate being hiked in May fell sharply
- Corporate bond markets held up reasonably well despite the rise in government bond yields

Government bond yields increased during April amid a decline in risk aversion, rising commodity prices and higher inflation expectations. Against this backdrop, high yield corporate bonds were the best performing area of bond markets.

Investors' appetite for risk increased as concerns about a trade war between the US and China eased. Comments from Chinese President Xi Jingping that China will cut import tariffs were among those that helped to ease tensions. Meanwhile, trade sanctions against Russia and positive global economic growth helped commodity prices to rally.

The market's inflation expectations also increased. Data released at the end of the month showed the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE), the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) favoured measure of core inflation (ex-energy and food prices), had reached an annual rate of 2%, in line with the Fed's target.

Against this backdrop, core government bond yields rose steadily higher. The yield of the 10-year US Treasury briefly passed the psychologically important 3% level, closing at 3.03% on 25th April before falling back to 2.95% at 30 April. Shorter dated US Treasury yields have also risen with the difference in yield between 2- and 10-year US Treasuries continuing to narrow.

Gilts and German Bunds followed the US lead with their respective yields higher by the end of the month. In the UK, the increase was however, tempered by remarks from Bank of England Governor, Mark Carney that a May hike in the interest rate was not a done deal. Following his comments, the probability of a May hike in the interest rate fell sharply.

Although the rise in government bond yields had a negative impact on the more interest rate sensitive parts of the bond market, investment grade (IG) corporate bond total returns were broadly flat as income helped to offset price falls. Meanwhile, the markets increased appetite for risk, and the sectors inherent higher level of income helped high yield bond markets to deliver positive returns. The best performing sector in IG was financials while in high yield bonds it was industrials.

Euro denominated IG corporate bond issuance slowed during April. Barclays report year-to-date supply for Euro IG corporate bonds is now 1% lower year-on year. After a strong March, sterling IG issuance picked up further with €4.1bn of new supply during April 2018. European high yield issuance was above April 2017 levels with Barclays reporting €8.6bn of new high yield supply in Europe.

Investment risks
The value of investments and any income will fluctuate (this may partly be the result of exchange rate fluctuations) and investors may not get back the full amount invested.

Government Bonds

Yield to maturity (%)

	30.04.18	31.03.18	31.01.18	31.10.17	30.04.17
US Treasuries 2 year	2.49	2.27	2.14	1.60	1.26
US Treasuries 10 year	2.95	2.74	2.71	2.38	2.28
US Treasuries 30 year	3.12	2.97	2.93	2.88	2.95
UK Gilts 2 year	0.78	0.82	0.66	0.46	0.08
UK Gilts 10 year	1.42	1.35	1.51	1.33	1.09
UK Gilts 30 year	1.83	1.71	1.95	1.90	1.72
German Bund 2 year	-0.59	-0.60	-0.53	-0.75	-0.73
German Bund 10 year	0.56	0.50	0.70	0.36	0.32
German Bund 30 year	1.24	1.16	1.33	1.23	1.10

Source: Bloomberg LP, Merrill Lynch data. Data as at 30 April 2018.

Corporate Bonds

Yield to maturity (%)/Spread[1] (bps)

	30.04.18		31.03.18		31.01.18		31.10.17		30.04.17	
£ AAA	2.16	58	2.11	61	2.04	43	1.81	39	1.64	45
£ AA	2.04	71	2.03	74	1.97	60	1.93	70	1.75	79
£ A	2.64	120	2.63	125	2.54	101	2.49	111	2.39	128
£ BBB	3.04	155	3.05	161	2.82	130	2.78	145	2.74	176
€ AAA	0.74	46	0.72	50	0.78	39	0.57	44	0.73	62
€ AA	0.56	57	0.55	61	0.54	45	0.36	58	0.46	72
€ A	0.81	79	0.79	82	0.78	65	0.57	77	0.74	98
€ BBB	1.29	112	1.27	117	1.19	90	0.99	106	1.22	137
European High Yield (inc € + £)	3.82	314	3.86	327	3.50	268	3.33	254	4.02	344

Source: Bloomberg LP, Merrill Lynch data. Data as at 30 April 2018.

[1] Credit spread - difference in yields offered by corporate bonds over government bonds, that have similar maturity but different credit quality. Option Adjusted Spread (OAS) is used to account for the optionality inherent in many corporate bonds.

Global currency movements – figures to 30 April 2018

	Current value	Change Over: 1 Month (%)	3 Months (%)	6 Months (%)	YTD (%)	2016 (%)	2015 (%)	2014 (%)	2013 (%)	2012 (%)
Euro/US Dollar	1.21	-2.0	-2.8	3.7	0.7	-3.2	-10.2	-12.0	4.2	1.9
Euro/GB Sterling	0.88	-0.2	0.2	0.0	-1.2	15.7	-5.1	-6.4	2.1	-2.4
Euro/Swiss Franc	1.20	1.8	3.4	3.0	2.4	-1.6	-9.5	-2.0	1.6	-0.5
Euro/Swedish Krona	10.57	2.8	8.0	8.3	7.4	4.4	-2.7	6.6	3.2	-3.9
Euro/Norwegian Krone	9.68	0.1	1.1	1.8	-1.7	-5.4	6.2	8.4	13.7	-5.4
Euro/Danish Krone	7.45	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.5	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.4
Euro/Polish Zloty	4.24	0.5	2.0	0.0	1.5	3.3	-0.6	3.2	1.8	-8.6
Euro/Hungarian Forint	313.57	0.3	1.1	0.7	0.9	-2.0	-0.3	6.5	2.1	-7.6
US Dollar/Yen	109.34	2.9	0.1	-3.8	-3.0	-2.8	0.5	13.7	21.4	12.7
US Dollar/Canadian Dollar	1.28	-0.4	4.3	-0.4	2.1	-2.9	19.1	9.4	7.1	-2.7
US Dollar/South African Rand	12.47	5.3	5.1	-11.7	0.8	-11.2	33.8	10.2	24.1	4.5
US Dollar/Brazilian Real	3.51	6.1	10.1	7.2	5.9	-17.8	49.0	12.5	15.3	9.9
US Dollar/South Korean Won	1070.46	0.9	0.0	-4.3	0.3	2.7	7.5	4.1	-0.7	-8.2
US Dollar/Taiwan Dollar	29.64	1.9	1.6	-1.8	-0.1	-1.2	3.8	6.1	2.7	-4.1
US Dollar/Thai Baht	31.55	1.2	0.7	-5.0	-3.1	-0.5	9.5	0.6	6.9	-3.1
US Dollar/Singapore Dollar	1.33	1.1	1.1	-2.7	-0.9	2.2	6.9	4.9	3.4	-5.8
US Dollar/GB Sterling	0.73	1.8	3.2	-3.6	-1.8	19.3	5.8	-5.9	1.9	4.6
GB Sterling/South African Rand	17.17	3.5	2.0	-8.5	2.7	-25.7	26.6	3.7	26.6	9.2
Australian Dollar/US Dollar	0.75	-1.9	-6.5	-1.6	-3.4	-0.9	-10.9	-8.4	-14.2	1.6
New Zealand Dollar/US Dollar	0.70	-2.8	-4.5	2.8	-0.7	1.7	-12.4	-5.0	-0.9	6.4

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream, all figures subject to rounding. Data as at 30 April 2018.

Global equity and commodity index performance – figures to 30 April 2018 (%)

	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	YTD	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Global US & Canada										
MSCI World (US$)	1.2	-5.0	3.7	0.0	23.1	8.2	-0.3	5.5	24.7	16.5
MSCI World Value (US$)	1.4	-5.7	1.9	-1.6	18.0	13.2	-4.1	4.4	27.5	16.4
MSCI World Growth (US$)	1.0	-4.3	5.4	1.7	28.5	3.2	3.5	6.6	27.2	16.6
MSCI World Small Cap (US$)	1.0	-2.9	4.3	0.5	23.2	13.3	0.1	2.3	32.9	18.1
MSCI Emerging Markets (US$)	-0.4	-6.7	4.9	1.0	37.8	11.6	-14.6	-1.8	-2.3	18.6
FTSE World (US$)	1.1	-5.0	3.9	0.2	24.1	8.7	-1.4	4.8	24.7	17.0
Dow Jones Industrials	0.3	-7.1	4.5	-1.6	28.1	16.5	0.2	10.0	29.7	10.2
S&P 500	0.4	-5.8	3.8	-0.4	21.8	12.0	1.4	13.7	32.4	16.0
NASDAQ	0.1	-4.4	5.6	2.7	29.6	8.9	7.0	14.8	40.1	17.5
Russell 2000	0.9	-1.8	3.3	0.8	14.6	21.3	-4.4	4.9	38.8	16.4
S&P/ TSX Composite	1.8	-1.4	-1.2	-2.8	9.1	21.1	-8.3	10.6	13.0	7.2
Europe & Africa										
FTSE World Europe ex-UK €	4.0	-2.2	-1.9	0.4	13.0	3.4	10.9	0.2	25.2	17.8
MSCI Europe	4.8	-1.2	-0.9	0.4	10.9	3.2	8.8	7.4	20.5	18.1
CAC 40	7.2	1.3	1.2	4.5	12.7	8.9	11.9	2.7	22.2	20.4
DAX	4.3	-4.4	-4.7	-2.4	12.5	6.9	9.6	2.7	25.5	29.1
Ibex 35	4.3	-3.6	-3.4	0.6	11.4	-4.8	-3.8	8.0	30.0	1.8
FTSEMIB	7.4	2.4	6.1	10.4	17.3	-6.5	15.8	3.0	20.5	12.2
Swiss Market Index (capital returns)	1.7	-4.8	-3.9	-5.3	14.1	-6.8	-1.8	9.5	20.2	14.9
Amsterdam Exchanges	5.9	0.5	2.1	3.4	16.5	13.6	7.4	8.7	20.7	14.1
HSBC European Smaller Cos ex-UK	3.3	-1.8	0.5	0.9	18.6	6.4	23.5	5.2	34.0	20.4
MSCI Russia (US$)	-7.4	-10.1	7.8	1.3	6.1	55.9	5.0	-45.9	1.4	14.4
MSCI EM Europe, Middle East and Africa (US$)	-3.4	-10.0	2.7	-1.7	16.5	22.8	-14.7	-28.4	-3.9	25.1
FTSE/JSE Africa All-Share (SA)	5.4	-1.0	0.2	-0.9	21.0	2.6	5.1	10.9	21.4	26.7
UK										
FTSE All-Share	6.4	1.1	2.1	-0.9	13.1	16.8	1.0	1.2	20.8	12.3
FTSE 100	6.8	1.1	2.3	-0.9	12.0	19.1	-1.3	0.7	18.7	10.0
FTSE 250	4.7	1.0	1.5	-1.3	17.8	6.7	11.2	3.7	32.3	26.1
FTSE Small Cap ex Investment Trusts	7.0	0.9	1.1	0.1	15.6	12.5	13.0	-2.7	43.9	36.3
FTSE TechMARK 100	6.4	1.1	-2.9	-2.3	9.8	10.0	16.6	12.3	31.7	23.0
Asia Pacific & Japan										
Hong Kong Hang Seng	2.5	-5.9	9.7	3.5	41.3	4.3	-3.9	5.5	6.6	27.5
China SE Shanghai Composite (capital returns)	-2.7	-11.5	-9.2	-6.8	6.6	-12.3	9.4	52.9	-6.7	3.2
Singapore Times	5.9	3.1	8.4	7.1	22.1	3.8	-11.2	9.6	3.0	23.4
Taiwan Weighted (capital returns)	-2.3	-4.0	-1.3	0.1	15.0	11.0	-10.4	8.1	11.9	8.9
Korean Composite (capital returns)	2.8	-2.0	-0.3	1.9	21.8	3.3	2.4	-4.8	0.7	9.4
Jakarta Composite (capital returns)	-3.1	-9.3	-0.2	-5.7	20.0	15.3	-12.1	22.3	-1.0	12.9
Philippines Composite (capital returns)	-2.0	-10.8	-6.5	-8.6	25.1	-1.6	-3.9	22.8	1.3	33.0
Thai Stock Exchange	0.8	-1.2	5.0	2.9	17.3	23.9	-11.2	19.1	-3.6	41.3
Mumbai Sensex 30	6.8	-1.9	6.6	3.7	29.8	3.7	-3.5	32.4	10.9	27.8
Hang Seng China Enterprises index	2.8	-9.1	7.2	5.3	29.6	1.5	-16.9	15.6	-1.5	19.8
ASX 200	3.9	0.3	3.4	-0.1	11.8	11.8	2.6	5.6	20.2	20.3
Topix	3.6	-2.3	1.8	-1.3	22.2	0.3	12.1	10.3	54.4	20.9
Nikkei 225 (capital returns)	4.7	-2.7	2.1	-1.3	19.1	0.4	9.1	7.1	56.7	22.9
MSCI Asia Pac ex Japan (US$)	1.0	-5.9	4.2	0.4	37.3	7.1	-9.1	3.1	3.7	22.6
Latin America										
MSCI EM Latin America (US$)	-1.2	-5.7	8.3	6.8	24.2	31.5	-30.8	-12.0	-13.2	8.9
MSCI Mexico (US$)	2.2	-4.3	2.7	3.2	16.3	-9.0	-14.2	-9.2	0.2	29.1
MSCI Brazil (US$)	-4.0	-7.6	9.6	8.0	24.5	66.7	-41.2	-13.7	-15.8	0.3
MSCI Argentina (US$)	-4.7	-11.9	-8.5	-10.0	73.6	5.1	-0.4	19.2	66.2	-37.1
MSCI Chile (US$)	1.8	-3.6	5.7	3.4	43.6	16.8	-16.8	-12.2	-21.4	8.3
Commodities										
Oil - Brent Crude Spot (US$/BBL)	10.0	12.0	23.8	13.8	20.9	51.6	-33.5	-49.4	0.2	3.2
Oil - West Texas Intermediate (US$/BBL)	5.7	5.8	26.1	13.4	12.5	44.8	-30.5	-45.8	6.9	-7.1
Reuters CRB index	3.6	2.8	8.5	4.8	1.7	9.7	-23.4	-17.9	-5.0	-3.3
Gold Bullion LBM (US$/Troy Ounce)	-0.8	-2.1	3.4	0.8	12.6	9.0	-10.5	-1.8	-27.3	5.6
Baltic Dry index	27.1	16.4	-11.9	-1.8	42.1	101.0	-38.9	-65.7	225.8	-59.8

Source: Thomson Reuters Datastream, total returns in local currency unless otherwise stated. Data as at 30 April 2018.

Important information

Where individuals or the business have expressed opinions, they are based on current market conditions, they may differ from those of other investment professionals and are subject to change without notice.

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Contact us

Client Services
Telephone 0800 085 8677
Email enquiry@invescoperpetual.co.uk

www.invescoperpetual.co.uk

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Perpetual Park, Perpetual Park Drive, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 1HH, UK
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