

## FOR RETAIL INVESTORS WEEKLY MARKET ROUND-UP BOND MARKET IN THE DRIVING SEAT





#### EUROZONE YIELDS RISE ON ECB OUTLOOK

Company shares worldwide were little changed in sterling terms, with the MSCI All Country World index remaining close to a record peak, as fresh weakness in debt markets restrained sentiment. Bank stocks, whose profits are linked to the level of bond yields, topped the leaderboard on the index. (Yields move inversely to prices.) The moves came amid further indications that the European Central Bank (ECB) is growing more confident of the economic outlook and may start to wind down its stimulus policies over the coming months, which helped push yields on euro-area government bonds higher.



#### OUT WITH COMBUSTION, IN WITH THE PLUG-IN

Volvo last week called time on its combustion engine. The Chinese-Swedish car maker declared that from 2019 all of its new models would be powered by electricity. Last year, according to market researchers IDTechEX, electric car sales made up less than 1% of the global market. But technological improvements in batteries, bringing down the overall cost of production, mean that number could soon be set to rise. Volvo joins a long list of manufacturers ready to do battle for market share in the electric car space – most notably Tesla, but also Daimler and General Motors.



#### LONDON RETAINS EUROPE'S 'TECH HUB' TITLE

A year on from Brexit vote and London looks no closer to relinquishing its title of Europe's 'tech hub.' According to London & Partners, the Mayor of London's promotional agency, London received some £1.8bn in venture capital (VC) funding – money provided to early stage, private companies – into its technology sector since the EU vote on 23 June 2016, spread across 544 deals. Indeed, London's tech sector received double the VC investment of its closest competitor, Berlin. Meanwhile, the UK-wide sector has received more private equity investment than any other European country since the referendum.



#### CHINA THROWS OPEN US\$9TN BOND MARKET

China has opened its US\$9 trillion bond market to foreign investors. The Bond Connect programme allows foreign banks, insurers and fund managers to buy bonds issued by the Chinese government and companies. The country's bond market is the third largest in the world, but only 2% of it is foreign-owned. The move could encourage Chinese provinces and cities to issue more debt, reducing their reliance on borrowing from banks – where Chinese authorities are keen to reduce risks. The liberalisation also follows the opening of Chinese domestic shares to foreign investors in November 2014.



#### NOT YOUR TYPICAL MUNDANE MONDAY

What do US tech companies Apple, Amazon and Zynga, have in common? The answer is that a glitch on the Nasdaq stock exchange meant shares in the electronics giant, internet retailer and games maker were all quoted at a price of US\$123.47 on Monday. That came as a bit of a shock to holders, who watched unusual – albeit temporary – gyrations in share prices. The incorrect prices were triggered after financial data providers wrongly interpreted a Nasdaq test as 'live' data. The ensuing turbulence was thought to be related to the exchange closing early for the 4 July break.

# **BITCOIN'S BULL RUN**



Source: Bloomberg.

### MARKET DATA - % CHANGE IN WEEK ENDING 07/07/2017

EQUITIES	LAST VALUE	% CHANGE
FTSE All-Share (UK)	4,013	+0.32%*
MSCI All Country World	463	-0.03%*
S&P 500 (US)	2,410	-0.20%*
Stoxx 600 (Europe)	379	+0.87%*
Topix (Japan)	1,607	-0.59%*
MSCI Asia ex Japan	622	+0.01%*
MSCI Emerging Markets	1,006	+0.07%*
FIXED INCOME		
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate bond index, GBP-hedged – total return	598	-0.18%
10-year Gilt yield	1.31%	+0.05%**
10-year US Treasury yield	2.38%	+0.08%**
10-year Bund yield	0.57%	+0.11%**
10-year Japanese government bond yield	0.09%	+0.00%**
COMMODITIES		
Gold (US\$, per troy ounce)	1,222	-1.60%
Brent Crude (US\$, per barrel)	46.69	-2.57%
CURRENCIES		
GBP/USD	1.29	-1.03%
GBP/EUR	1.13	-0.90%

Source: All data sourced from Bloomberg as at 12.00pm, 7 July 2017. \*In GBP terms. \*\*Yields move inversely to prices.

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