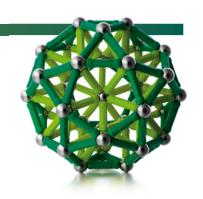


FOR RETAIL INVESTORS

WEEKLY MARKET ROUND-UP

MOOD SWINGS

WEEK ENDING 08 JUNE 2018





A ROCKY ROAD FOR G7 LEADERS

Global equity markets underwent a change of mood last week. World technology stocks led US and Asian markets higher initially but thoughts turned to the latest G7 summit and talks on trade later in the week. Nevertheless, stock markets gained in sterling terms, with the notable exception of Europe. While the US economy appeared to be in rude economic health, question marks appeared over the ability to sustain growth in the eurozone area, with the release of disappointing data in Germany. Emerging market equities rallied broadly, despite India joining Turkey and Argentina in raising interest rates.



TRADE WAR OVER TRUMP TARIFFS

Canada, the EU and Mexico are unhappy with US president Donald Trump, who has pressed ahead with tariffs on steel and aluminium. Mexico last week retaliated with tariffs on US bourbon, apples, potatoes, cheese and pork. Canada is targeting a range of US imports from sleeping bags to felt-tipped pens. The EU is expected to take action in July. Meanwhile, the US trade deficit narrowed in April, according to better-than-expected figures released last week. It has shrunk sharply since February. This should please Trump, who has vowed to narrow the gap.



DOWN IN AFRICA

Just as South Africa's new president, Cyril Ramaphosa, settles into the top job, the country recorded its worst economic performance in nine years. Africa's second biggest economy shrank by an annualised 2.2% in the first quarter, versus the previous quarter, as output declined in all major industries from mining to manufacturing and agriculture. The South African rand weakened, bond yields climbed and banking and retail stocks sold off on the news. Still, analysts say the numbers may not be as grim as first thought as the data can be volatile and subject to revisions. Here's hoping.



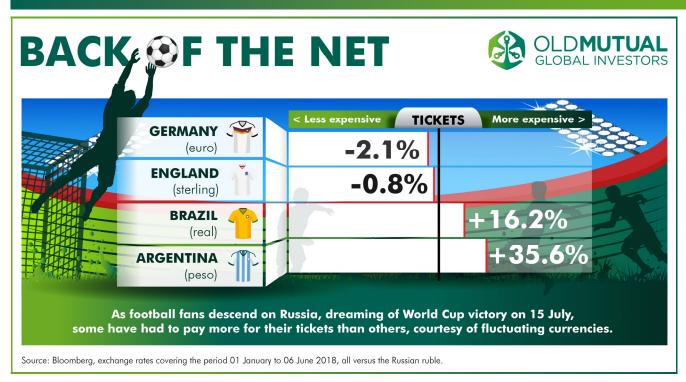
SKY HIGH

The UK government cleared the way for two US-based bidders to fight to buy Sky, Europe's largest pay TV broadcaster. The long-time suitor is Rupert Murdoch's 21st Century Fox, which already owns a sizeable 39% chunk of Sky, and in December 2016 offered £10.75 per share for the rest. The new rival is cable giant Comcast, which earlier this year trumped Fox's bid with a higher offer of £12.50 per share. Sky's shares traded around £13.59 last week, indicating a market expectation that at least one of the contenders will stump up more cash.



RETAILERS REVEAL DIFFERING FORTUNES

Chinese owned, House of Fraser, has joined a growing number of high street retailers in the UK struggling to compete against the rise of online shopping outlets. The 169-year old company plans to close 31 department stores, including its flagship store on London's Oxford Street, to satisfy creditors and secure funding. It blames "unsustainable" leasing arrangements across its properties. Its corporate bonds have hit a record low this year. Meanwhile, casual clothing chain Joules has managed to buck the trend after saying full year earnings will beat analyst expectations. The news sent the shares higher in London.



MARKET DATA - % CHANGE IN WEEK ENDING 08/06/2018

EQUITIES	LAST VALUE	% CHANGE
FTSE All-Share (UK)	4,216	-0.38%*
MSCI All Country World	520	+0.94%*
S&P 500 (US)	2,770	+0.85%*
Stoxx 600 (Europe)	384	-0.45%*
Topix (Japan)	1,781	+1.58%*
MSCI Asia ex Japan	732	+2.21%*
MSCI Emerging Markets	1,150	+1.30%*
FIXED INCOME		
Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate bond index, GBP-hedged – total return	589	-0.67%
10-year Gilt yield	1.36%	+0.08%**
10-year US Treasury yield	2.91%	+0.01%**
10-year Bund yield	0.42%	+0.04%**
10-year Japanese government bond yield	0.05%	0.00%**
COMMODITIES		
Gold (US\$, per troy ounce)	1,299	+0.46%
Brent Crude (US\$, per barrel)	76.85	+0.08%
CURRENCIES		
GBP/USD	1.34	+0.46%
GBP/EUR	1.14	-0.32%

Source: All data sourced from Bloomberg as at 11.05 am, 08 June 2018. *In GBP terms. **Yields move inversely to prices.

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