

## — NOUVELLES —

OUR WEEKLY CAPITAL MARKETS UPDATE

### US & Europe Market News

US Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
DJIA	25,335.74	+797.68	3.25%	2.49%
S&P 500	2,786.57	+95.32	3.54%	4.22%
NASDAQ Composite	7,560.81	+302.94	4.17%	9.52%
TSX Composite Index	15,577.81	+193.22	1.26%	-3.89%
CBOE - VIX	14.64	-4.95	-25.26%	32.61%

Europe Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
UK - FTSE 100	7,224.51	+154.61	2.19%	-6.03%
Eurozone - STOXX 50	3,016.37	+75.53	2.57%	-5.08%
France - CAC 40	5,274.40	+137.82	2.68%	-0.72%
Germany - DAX	12,346.68	+432.97	3.63%	-4.42%
Netherlands - AEX	537.14	+18.42	3.55%	-1.37%
Switzerland - SMI	8,931.85	+303.34	3.52%	-4.80%

(In Dollar Terms)

- ❖ U.S. stocks surged last week, erasing all the losses from the market correction in February. The NASDAQ closed at a record high on Friday, with Shares of Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Google helping lead the gains.
- ❖ The U.S. economy added 313,000 jobs in February, versus an expected a gain of 200,000. Wages, meanwhile, grew less than expected, rising 2.6 percent on an annualized basis.
- ❖ The CBOE Volatility Index (VIX), widely considered to be the best gauge of fear in the market, hit its lowest level since Feb. 1 and traded more than 11.5 percent lower at 14.62.
- ❖ The Pan European Stoxx 50 recovered most of its losses from last week, ending the week 2.6% higher.
- ❖ While the majority of Europe's sectors higher, autos fell 0.12 percent amid heightened fears of a global tit-for-tat trade war.

### BRICS & Asia Market News

BRICS Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Brazil - Ibovespa	86,371.41	+610.07	0.71%	13.05%
Russia - MICEX	2,311.69	+13.79	0.60%	9.57%
India - SENSEX	33,307.14	-739.80	-2.17%	-2.20%
China - Shanghai	3,307.17	+52.64	1.62%	0.00%
South Africa - JSE Africa	59,169.23	+1,424.53	2.47%	-0.56%

Asia-Pacific Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Japan - Nikkei 225	21,469.20	+287.56	1.36%	-5.69%
Hong Kong - Hang Seng	30,996.21	+412.76	1.35%	3.60%
South Korea - KOSPI	2,459.45	+57.29	2.38%	-0.33%
Australia - ASX 200	5,963.23	+34.34	0.58%	-1.68%

(In Dollar Terms)

- ❖ Asian markets closed higher on Friday after President Donald Trump accepted an invitation to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. South Korean Kospi advanced on the news as tourism-related stocks got a boost from the latest geopolitical development.
- ❖ Elsewhere, Hong Kong, Japan and Main China markets all ended the week positively, erasing most of the losses from the last month.
- ❖ Indian equity benchmarks resumed selloff after taking a day's breather in the previous session as state-run lenders and metal producers came under selling pressure. On a weekly basis, the benchmarks posted worst performance in a month.
- ❖ Chinese exports were up by 44.5% compared to one year ago – significantly greater than the expected 13.6%. Consumer Stocks and Healthcare stocks jumped on this news.

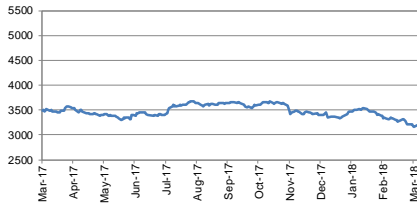


## Middle East Market News

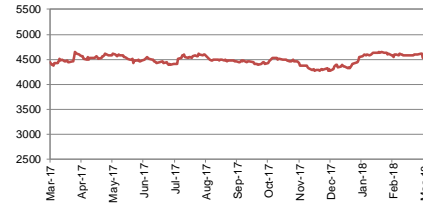
Key Indices	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Dubai - DFM	3,193.24	-18.79	-0.58%	-5.25%
Abu Dhabi - ADX	4,535.34	-69.12	-1.50%	3.11%
Saudi Arabia - TASI	7,676.44	+307.59	4.17%	6.23%
Qatar - QE	8,254.13	-475.93	-5.45%	-3.16%
Bahrain - BHSE	1,367.35	-12.87	-0.93%	2.68%
Oman - MSM 30	4,909.74	-93.45	-1.87%	-3.72%
Kuwait	6,767.01	-.53	-0.01%	5.60%

(In Dollar Terms)

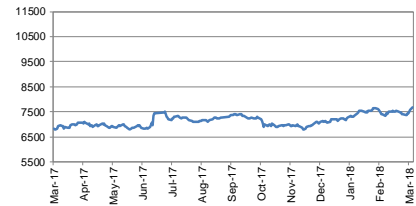
Dubai - DFM 52-Week Performance



Abu Dhabi - ADX 52-Week Performance



Saudi - TASI 52-Week Performance



- February data signaled a shift in the private sector. Greater overall business activity remained a key driver of growth momentum, whilst an uptick in new work was also registered. The best performing subsector monitored by the survey was the wholesale & retail sector (57.3), closely followed by the travel & tourism sector (57.2) and the construction sector (53.9).
- Dubai Land Department (DLA) has confirmed that it successfully conducted 8,173 real estate valuations worth over AED 287 billion, the highest value ever recorded in 2017.
- The Tadawul exchange, known as Tadawul, aims to boost foreign ownership of equities to as much as 25 percent in at least the next two years from about 10 percent. The bourse currently has about 120 registered Qualified Foreign Investors who can trade Saudi stocks directly and is reviewing applications of 180 more.

## Commodity Market News

Commodities	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Gold Spot	1,323.93	+1.18	0.09%	1.62%
Silver Spot	16.59	0.07	0.40%	-2.06%
Platinum Spot	965.59	-0.56	-0.06%	4.02%
Palladium Spot	998.22	4.15	0.42%	-6.14%
Crude Oil (WTI)	62.04	+0.79	1.29%	2.68%
Crude Oil (Brent)	65.49	+1.12	1.74%	-2.06%
Baltic Dry Ind	1,201.00	-6.00	-0.50%	-12.08%

- Oil prices rose on Friday, erasing all gains from the last two days as investors grew hopeful that a planned meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un could ease geopolitical tensions. In addition, Libya's 70,000 barrels per day El Feel oilfield stayed shut due to the Petroleum Facilities Guard saying it had reached a deal to reopen it.



## Currency Market News

Currencies			
	Closing		Closing
GBP/USD	1.385	EUR/USD	1.231
USD/JPY	106.820	AUD/USD	0.784
USD/CHF	0.951	EUR/AED	4.524
USD/INR	65.165	EUR/INR	80.167
USD/CNY	6.334	EUR/CHF	1.171
USD/RUB	56.659	AED/INR	17.684

- ❖ Sterling rallied on Friday after a slowdown in U.S. wage growth weakened the dollar and British industrial production data showed the UK's manufacturing sector continues to expand.
- ❖ The U.S. dollar's nosedive over the last year - only exacerbated by the recent threat of trade wars - is rekindling concerns that the greenback's standing as the premier global reserve currency is at risk. The U.S. dollar index DXY fell 10 percent against a basket of currencies last year, its steepest drop since 2003, on evidence Europe, China and other nations are growing faster than the United States even as the Federal Reserve raised rates three times.

## Investment Banking Deals

- ❖ U.S. health insurer Cigna Corp struck a \$52-billion deal to buy pharmacy benefits manager (PBM) Express Scripts Holding Co, looking for new ways to hold onto their profits as the industry faces greater scrutiny for rising healthcare costs. Cigna's deal follows close on the heels of a rival \$69-billion merger between CVS Health Corp and health insurer Aetna Inc.
- ❖ Altra Industrial Motion Corp (AIMC.O) will buy four units of Fortive Corp's automation & specialty business in a \$3 billion deal to bolster its presence in the power transmission and motion control industry. The deal comprises \$1.4 billion in cash and debt and \$1.6 billion in newly issued shares to Fortive's shareholders.
- ❖ S&P Global Inc will buy artificial intelligence and analytics firm Kensho Technologies Inc for about \$550 million in cash and shares. Kensho, founded at Harvard University in 2013, provides machine learning systems to Wall Street banks, investment firms and the national security community.
- ❖ France's AXA moved to buy Bermuda-based XL Group for \$15.3 billion to create what it said would be a world leader in property and casualty insurance. Europe's second-biggest insurer offered \$57.60 for each XL share, a 33 percent premium to Friday's (March 2<sup>nd</sup>) closing price, and said buying XL would result in property and casualty insurance rising to half of AXA's earnings, from 39 percent.

Sources: CNBC, Bloomberg, Wall Street Journal & Reuters

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