

## — NOUVELLES —

OUR WEEKLY CAPITAL MARKETS UPDATE

### US & Europe Market News

US Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
DJIA	24,946.51	-389.23	-1.54%	0.92%
S&P 500	2,752.01	-34.56	-1.24%	2.93%
NASDAQ Composite	7,481.99	-78.82	-1.04%	8.38%
TSX Composite Index	15,711.33	+133.52	0.86%	-3.07%
CBOE - VIX	15.80	+1.16	7.92%	43.12%

Europe Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
UK - FTSE 100	7,164.14	-60.37	-0.84%	-6.81%
Eurozone - STOXX 50	3,015.58	-.79	-0.03%	-5.11%
France - CAC 40	5,282.75	+8.35	0.16%	-0.56%
Germany - DAX	12,389.58	+42.90	0.35%	-4.09%
Netherlands - AEX	536.92	-.22	-0.04%	-1.41%
Switzerland - SMI	8,882.53	-49.32	-0.55%	-5.32%

(In Dollar Terms)

- ❖ The Dow Jones, S&P 500 & Nasdaq all posted weekly losses of over 1%, on the back of rising trade tensions. Tariffs on steel and aluminum imports are expected to come into effect in the coming weeks, after Trump signed two declarations last week. Shares of Boeing dropped 6.8% for the week.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump fired Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, with CIA Director Mike Pompeo set to replace him. John Kelly, Trump's Chief of Staff is expected to be next in firing line.
- ❖ Consumer sentiment rose to a level not seen since 2004 in March, according to a preliminary reading from the University of Michigan.
- ❖ The Pan-European STOXX 600 provisionally ended 0.22 percent higher, with sectors pointing in different directions by the market close.
- ❖ Euro zone consumer prices grew less than expected in February. The bloc saw inflation at 0.2 percent month-on-month and 1.1 percent year-on-year.

### BRICS & Asia Market News

BRICS Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Brazil - Ibovespa	84,886.48	-1,484.93	-1.72%	11.10%
Russia - MICEX	2,294.60	-17.09	-0.74%	8.76%
India - SENSEX	33,176.00	-131.14	-0.39%	-2.59%
China - Shanghai	3,269.88	-37.28	-1.13%	-1.13%
South Africa - JSE Africa	58,101.02	-1,068.21	-1.81%	-2.36%

Asia-Pacific Indices				
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Japan - Nikkei 225	21,676.51	+207.31	0.97%	-4.78%
Hong Kong - Hang Seng	31,501.97	+505.76	1.63%	5.29%
South Korea - KOSPI	2,493.97	+34.52	1.40%	1.07%
Australia - ASX 200	5,949.42	-13.81	-0.23%	-1.91%

(In Dollar Terms)

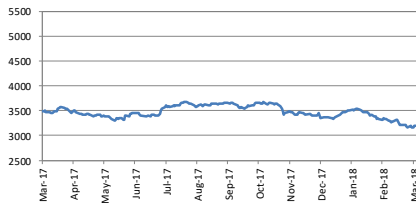
- ❖ Most Asian markets closed mixed on the last day of the trading week amid a backdrop of global trade-related developments and political news out of Washington.
- ❖ Trade was the main focus for markets last week, with the Wall Street Journal reporting that the White House was looking to impose tariffs on at least \$30 billion of Chinese imports.
- ❖ The combined market valuation of 6 of the top-10 most valued companies declined by over Rs 52,000 crore (\$8 Billion) last week, with IT major TCS taking the steepest hit. Reliance Industries, State Bank of India and ONGC were the other big losers.
- ❖ Japan's Nikkei share average slipped on Friday in choppy trade as concerns about U.S. political uncertainty sapped investors' risk appetite, although the index managed to post weekly gains. Index-heavy stocks underperformed, with Fanuc Corp shedding 1.6 percent, TDK Corp stumbling 3.3 percent and Tokyo Electron declining 1.4 percent.

## Middle East Market News

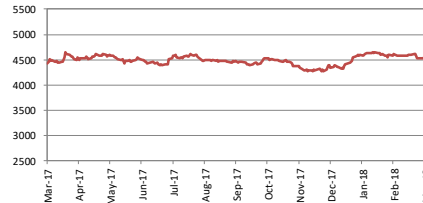
	Key Indices			
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Dubai - DFM	3,192.78	+4.86	0.15%	-5.26%
Abu Dhabi - ADX	4,533.11	-41	-0.01%	3.06%
Saudi Arabia - TASI	7,728.06	+31.99	0.42%	6.94%
Qatar - QE	8,802.80	+550.14	6.67%	3.28%
Bahrain - BHSE	1,352.49	-15.40	-1.13%	1.56%
Oman - MSM 30	4,892.98	-13.03	-0.27%	-4.05%
Kuwait	6,757.50	-5.37	-0.08%	5.45%

(In Dollar Terms)

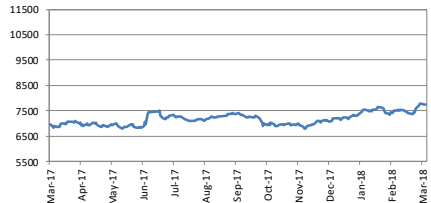
Dubai - DFM 52-Week Performance



Abu Dhabi - ADX 52-Week Performance



Saudi - TASI 52-Week Performance



- ❖ The Government of Sharjah has issued a \$1 billion sukuk on a 10-year maturity. It is the region's first sovereign sukuk issued in 2018 and the revenue from the sukuk will be used to fund infrastructure in the emirate. This is the largest sukuk issuance by the Government of Sharjah. This reaffirms the emirate's aim to fulfil its financial commitments, and reflects the confidence of global institutions in the financial system of Sharjah.
- ❖ Over the past few weeks, Aramco executives and government officials pitched their plan for what could be world's largest share sale to some of the biggest US mutual fund firms and hedge funds. Investors have shown resistance at several aspects of the deal. Among the issues raised were the \$2 trillion valuation Saudi Arabia wants for the world's largest oil producer, the scale of dividends Aramco's prepared to pay and the impact of the shale boom on oil prices over the next few years.
- ❖ Moody's Investors Services has downgraded the government of Oman's long-term issuer and senior unsecured bond ratings from Baa3 to Baa2, with an outlook that remains negative in the near-term. In a statement, Moody's noted that it expects Oman's "fiscal and external metrics" to continue to weaken, partly due to institutional policy constraints. Additionally, Moody's noted that subdued economic growth over the course of the next few years may "weaken economic resiliency."

## Commodity Market News

	Commodities			
	Closing	Net		YTD
		Change	% Change	
Gold Spot	1,314.24	-9.69	-0.73%	0.88%
Silver Spot	16.34	-0.25	-1.51%	-3.54%
Platinum Spot	950.10	-15.49	-1.60%	2.35%
Palladium Spot	994.79	-3.43	-0.34%	-6.46%
Crude Oil (WTI)	62.34	+30	0.48%	3.18%
Crude Oil (Brent)	66.21	+72	1.10%	-0.99%
Baltic Dry Ind	1,150.00	-51.00	-4.25%	-15.81%

- ❖ Gold prices dipped on Friday and were set for their biggest weekly fall in three weeks on pressure from a stronger U.S. dollar and expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next week for the first time this year. Losses were limited by political tumult in the United States which fueled safe-haven demand for bullion.



## Currency Market News

Currencies			
	Closing		Closing
GBP/USD	1.394	EUR/USD	1.229
USD/JPY	106.010	AUD/USD	0.771
USD/CHF	0.952	EUR/AED	4.514
USD/INR	64.940	EUR/INR	80.029
USD/CNY	6.335	EUR/CHF	1.170
USD/RUB	57.493	AED/INR	17.715

- ❖ The dollar rose against most currencies on Friday, bolstered by solid U.S. economic data that further supported consensus expectations that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates at next week's monetary policy meeting.
- ❖ The euro fell 0.17 percent to \$1.2283, with little in the way to drive the single currency. It has struggled to make much headway since rallying in January and faced further headwinds after the European Central Bank last week cautioned investors not to expect a paring back of monetary stimulus any time soon.
- ❖ South Africa's rand weakened against the dollar as investors took a cautious tone towards the currency ahead of a rating decision by Moody's.

## Investment Banking Deals

- ❖ Chinese video streaming service provider iQiyi Inc, a unit of search engine giant Baidu Inc, has launched an initial public offering in New York worth up to \$2.4 billion, seeking to expand its range of content. The listing is expected to give the firm extra financial muscle as it squares off against rivals in the Chinese market, including Alibaba Group Holding.
- ❖ A unit of Chinese ride-hailing firm Didi Chuxing has applied to raise 10 billion yuan (\$1.6 billion) through an issuance of asset-backed securities. The funds will be raised by Dirun (Tianjin) Technology Co Ltd, according to a filing published on the Shanghai Stock Exchange's bond market website. Dirun's sole shareholder is Didi Chuxing.
- ❖ Walmart Inc. is in discussions to spend about \$7 billion to become the largest investor in India's leading e-commerce company, a move that would put the U.S. retailer in competition with Amazon.com Inc. in one of the most promising online retail markets. The Arkansas-based retail giant plans to buy about a third of Flipkart Online Services, in part by purchasing stakes from Tiger Global Management and Softbank Group.

Sources: CNBC, Bloomberg, Wall Street Journal & Reuters

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