

# Bedrock Friday 28 April 2017 Newsletter

We are back on schedule- Our Friday's Newsletter is on Friday again... and, it appears as though the markets too have returned to their normal pattern of rising... We are two days away from closing the month of April and its May time, in more ways than one 😊

Theresa May has called a snap General Election for June 8 to shore up support in Parliament for her Brexit negotiating position. The governing Conservative Party has a Parliamentary majority of 12; there are also >12 "remain-supporting" Conservative MPs who support a Brexit deal that preserves Single Market membership. Although May wants to negotiate a trade agreement, her priorities are leaving the jurisdiction of the ECJ and controlling EU migration. To avoid challenges from disgruntled MPs, the PM wants to secure a larger majority; and given the historic weakness of the opposition Labour Party, the General Election looks set to give her one. Opinion polls have the Conservative Party >20% ahead of Labour. Together with elections in France and Germany, which are likely to preoccupy EU leaders in Q2, the snap General Election will delay serious Brexit negotiations until later in 2017. But given the questionable reliability of recent polls, some are wondering though, if June will mark the end of May... This week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel laid down a tough line for Brexit talks with the U.K., reminding Britain it can't expect preferential treatment as she warned that some officials in London were harbouring "illusions." She said the bloc will put its interests first and that talks on departure terms must precede the crafting of a new trade relationship. The EU is heading into the "very complex" negotiations with a strong sense of unity. "A third-party state – and that's what Britain will be – can't and won't be able to have the same rights, let alone a better position than a member of the European Union".

Does the EU really need the UK? Things are looking up (at last) on the Euro-side; Euro-area economic confidence jumped to the highest in almost a decade this month, a testament to a continued improvement that may soon prompt a policy shift at the European Central Bank. The index of executive and consumer sentiment surged to 109.6 in April from a revised 108 in March, the European Commission in Brussels said on Thursday. That's the strongest since August 2007. And some of the political risk around the European Union have abated now that we all know that the French have some reason in them, having pitched Macron against Marine. We hope that reason will prevail in the second round. Markets seem to have decided the outcome already. If only the Sun too will emerge from these spring clouds over us, all will be good...

The global economy is gathering momentum, the International Monetary Fund has declared. That's probably correct and undeniably encouraging, but there's an ominous discord between this economic expansion and what's euphemistically called "political uncertainty" -- that is, the stresses caused by surging anti-trade, anti-market, anti-immigrant populism. The current expansion is steady but unspectacular. The IMF's new forecasts say global output will rise by between 3% and 4% this year and next -- slightly better than in 2016. Yet even if all goes well, there's a problem. Advanced and emerging economies are settling into a pattern of growth that's disappointing by historical standards. This shortfall means persistent poverty, diminished opportunities and stagnant incomes for hundreds of millions of people. It helps explain the current state of politics.

With all these words in our minds, we shift back to our fundamental belief that the markets pre-tell tomorrow's news and we try to read them. "The increasing divergence between global equity market performance and bond markets has raised questions as to whom is right," Jefferies Group LLC analysts led by Sean Darby wrote in a note. Figuring out which market will be on the right side of history is a pressing issue for analysts, investors and traders. If government bonds prove correct, risk appetite may soon vanish; if the optimism displayed by stocks and corporate bonds is vindicated, then interest-rate markets are likely to sell off in coming months, according to strategists.

Strategist Tom Lee has a clear message for investors: Stocks are carrying more downside risk than upside risk at this juncture. Many divergent opinions are meandering about... Some see Goldilocks everywhere (low inflation, low rates, fair growth), others are troubled by the US-Russia discords, North Korea and the non-ending Syrian conflict and its refugee problems. Some are most concerned of famine in Africa. And then we have the ECB which is set to take a pause and change tone on economy. At this week's European Central Bank meeting it is all about slight changes in tone when it comes to their assessment of economic activity. With the French Presidential run-off scheduled for May 7, there appears to be little appetite to rock the boat. Somehow, the weakening US Dollar is telling us that there is little risk perceived in connection with European politics. As we enjoy a flow of wonderful corporate earnings' reports and further rises in general equity indices, the adage "Sell in May and go away" is at the back of our thoughts... And then, one little bit of information makes us happy- Scientists found a worm that eats plastic. Maybe our oceans will be cleared of this pollution?

Complicated out there... and we know from Pierre Corneille that to win without risk is to triumph without glory...

## Market Weekly Highlights:

- The greenback has marked a pause since last year's strong rebound against all currencies. The DXY reached 103.80 and has lost some ground so far this year to trade below 100, down this week at 98.77. The USD is trading around 1.0940 against the EUR and just below parity against the CHF. The Pound is trading steady at 1.2944 after the big jump of last week. The Japanese Yen is trading slightly lower for the week against the USD at 111.45, remaining still up vs. the Dollar YTD for the year.  
The Russian Rouble is lower against the USD at 57.02 for the week following the oil pattern. The Brazilian Real is now at 3.18. Crude oil WTI reached \$55.24 a barrel on the first day of trading on January 1<sup>st</sup> and is now again just above \$49 at about \$49.34. Brent is at \$51.59.
- The yield on 10Y U.S. Treasuries is higher this week at 2.30% as we write. The Japanese 10 year JGB is trading almost unchanged for the week and continues to offer POSITIVE returns trading at 0.018%.  
In Europe, since the start of month we saw the German Bund trading lower in yield almost every day reaching almost 0.15% and then after the French election bouncing back to almost 0.40% and now trading at 0.35%. The French 10Y Yield is now back below the 1% trading at about 0.87%.  
The Swiss 10 year bond yield traded higher this week jumping from -0.20% to -0.10% as we write. In Peripheral Europe Italian 10Y yields crossed the 2% level having started the year at 1.71% and are currently at 1.95% while the Spanish 10Y yields trade 50bps lower having started the year at 1.30% and currently trading at 1.65%.
- All markets are up globally this week. In the USA, all the major indices have all marked new all-time highs this month with DJIA trading at about 21'000, Nasdaq at above 6'040, and SP500 at almost 2'390 now. So far for the week DJIA is up at almost 2.00%, Nasdaq at 2.23%, while the SP500 is up 1.40% as of yesterday closes. In Europe stocks are also strongly up for the week with FTSE 100 being the less performant at only 1.41%, while all major European markets are up 3% or more. Eurostoxx50 is showing a positive 3.70% for the week together with DAX 3.40%, CAC40 4.37% , IBEX at 3.48% and Italian MIB up at 4.82%.  
Nikkei is also trading higher for the week with a strong 3.09%.  
In Latam Bovespa is showing 2.00% while in Asia the Hang Seng is up 2.38% and Shanghai Composite down slightly at -0.58%.

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Highlighted items are interesting data points for the week

All data is compiled from Bloomberg

## MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE

27/04/2017

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)									P/E
			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
<b>EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY REGION</b>												
S&P 500 INDEX	USD	2,388.77	0.07	1.40	1.10	1.28	4.10	12.34	6.70	15.08	27.78	18.34
DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	USD	20,981.33	0.03	1.96	1.54	1.35	4.42	15.53	6.17	17.67	27.56	17.40
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX	USD	6,048.94	0.40	2.23	2.32	2.96	6.86	16.55	12.37	25.88	48.46	-0.41
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX	USD	1,417.13	-0.16	2.38	2.25	3.65	3.39	19.33	4.42	24.27	26.86	19.85
EURO STOXX 50	EUR	3,563.29	-0.33	3.44	1.64	2.70	7.73	15.56	8.14	13.86	12.40	15.17
EURO STOXX 600	EUR	387.79	-0.17	2.42	1.61	2.65	5.70	13.64	7.16	11.00	15.91	15.82
CAC 40 INDEX	EUR	5,271.70	-0.31	4.20	2.91	4.47	8.92	15.90	8.42	15.67	18.18	15.60
DAX INDEX	EUR	12,443.79	-0.23	3.21	1.00	2.36	5.26	16.26	8.32	20.49	31.65	14.04
FTSE 100 INDEX	GBP	7,237.17	-0.64	1.61	-1.28	-1.56	0.62	3.33	1.21	14.34	7.89	14.82
SWISS MARKET INDEX	CHF	8,844.78	0.20	3.14	1.89	2.63	5.29	11.56	7.34	8.93	5.22	17.84
NIKKEI 225	JPY	19,251.87	-0.19	3.09	1.52	-0.03	-1.39	10.03	0.43	15.18	34.35	16.77
HANG SENG INDEX	HKD	24,698.48	0.49	2.33	2.03	1.05	5.31	7.18	11.83	15.03	11.16	12.23
SHANGHAI SE COMPOSITE	CNY	3,152.19	0.37	-0.58	-2.11	-3.02	-0.14	1.62	1.64	7.10	57.46	13.61
S&P BSE SENSEX INDEX	INR	30,029.74	-0.34	1.87	0.99	1.72	7.29	7.06	12.35	16.84	32.18	17.80
RUSSIAN RTS INDEX S	USD	1,106.92	-1.09	3.22	0.47	-0.58	-6.40	12.78	-2.89	16.03	-1.78	6.35
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	BRL	64,676.55	-0.29	2.00	-0.47	0.06	-2.06	0.57	7.39	19.08	25.87	12.03
MSCI WORLD	USD	1,881.14	-0.04	2.12	1.48	1.20	4.31	11.25	7.42	12.15	12.46	17.06
MSCI WORLD HEDGED	USD	842.18	-0.05	2.01	1.37	2.35	4.51	12.60	7.00	16.39	29.97	-
MSCI WORLD LOCAL	-	1,448.16	-0.04	2.04	1.18	1.27	3.80	11.52	6.15	14.60	21.91	17.06
MSCI AC WORLD	USD	455.88	-0.07	2.09	1.56	1.17	4.60	10.94	8.07	12.58	11.01	16.40
MSCI EM	USD	979.66	-0.28	1.86	2.22	0.96	6.96	8.43	13.61	16.07	-1.36	12.45
MSCI AC ASIA x JAPAN	USD	596.01	-0.02	2.25	2.41	1.69	8.68	9.70	15.88	17.70	8.48	13.08
MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	USD	2,595.58	-0.42	-0.53	-0.59	-1.65	1.87	-0.11	10.89	13.65	-19.42	13.82
MSCI EM Eur, ME & Africa	USD	258.95	-0.77	2.10	3.64	0.08	2.41	8.93	5.79	6.24	-17.28	10.79
<b>EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY SECTOR</b>												
MSCI ENERGY	USD	201.55	-1.33	0.21	-2.51	-1.78	-6.77	-1.09	-7.97	-0.36	-30.75	22.26
MSCI MATERIALS	USD	237.97	-0.67	1.66	0.88	0.50	-0.53	11.51	7.25	15.45	-2.32	15.98
MSCI INDUSTRIALS	USD	232.43	0.03	2.62	2.86	2.45	5.40	14.21	9.39	15.30	15.99	17.94
MSCI CONS DISCRETIONARY	USD	216.58	0.29	2.88	3.12	3.21	6.24	13.99	10.25	13.74	24.61	17.12
MSCI CONS STAPLES	USD	224.41	-0.14	1.14	1.47	0.77	6.50	5.31	8.13	3.98	14.98	20.69
MSCI HEALTH CARE	USD	211.51	0.47	2.73	1.72	1.16	8.12	10.74	9.69	4.00	17.85	16.66
MSCI FINANCIALS	USD	111.65	-0.46	3.01	1.00	0.42	1.73	17.32	5.15	19.09	10.65	13.24
MSCI INFO TECH	USD	184.30	0.59	2.39	2.11	2.16	8.08	15.10	14.31	29.68	50.12	19.06
MSCI TELECOMS	USD	68.91	-0.82	0.60	-1.37	-2.39	-1.28	2.02	-0.89	-4.03	-1.85	14.48
MSCI UTILITY	USD	122.66	0.16	0.72	0.77	0.29	7.00	5.27	6.70	2.64	1.79	16.70
MSCI WORLD REAL ESTATE	USD	200.06	0.09	-0.46	1.70	1.87	4.78	4.84	5.24	1.11	10.10	25.28
<b>HEDGE FUND INDICES</b>												
HFRX GLOBAL HEDGE FUND	USD	1,228.98	0.07	0.47	0.45	0.69	0.98	3.54	2.12	6.15	-0.13	-
HFRX EQUAL WEIGHTED	USD	1,240.58	0.09	0.35	0.42	0.62	1.02	3.08	1.92	6.66	2.57	-
HFRX GLOBAL EUR	EUR	1,098.06	0.06	0.45	0.29	0.47	0.48	2.43	1.41	4.07	-3.62	-

## MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE

27/04/2017

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)									Yield to Worst
			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
<b>LIBOR RATES AND YIELD ON US GOVERNMENT BONDS (Yield in %, Change in bps)</b>												
US 3 MONTH	USD	0.80	0.50	3.05	5.09	3.04	29.49	52.35	30.51	59.40	-	-
US 2 YEAR	USD	1.25	-0.39	7.38	0.00	-4.76	3.58	40.14	6.57	47.24	-	-
US 10 YEAR	USD	2.29	-0.36	4.30	-9.64	-12.68	-19.33	44.42	-15.33	46.67	-	-
US LIBOR 3M	USD	1.17	0.14	1.61	2.22	2.05	13.28	28.14	17.39	53.74	-	-
EUR LIBOR 3M	EUR	-0.36	0.07	0.00	-0.29	-0.50	-1.71	-3.71	-2.43	-8.79	-	-
GBP LIBOR 3M	GBP	0.32	-0.43	-1.23	-1.29	-1.68	-3.89	-7.79	-4.21	-26.66	-	-
CHF LIBOR 3M	CHF	-0.73	0.00	0.22	-0.04	0.12	-0.26	-0.20	-0.08	-0.56	-	-
<b>FIXED INCOME INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER</b>												
GLOBAL AGG TR HEDGED	USD	504.71	0.12	-0.13	0.63	0.74	1.55	-0.24	1.07	1.58	11.28	1.58
GLOBAL HY TR	USD	1,242.61	0.04	0.77	1.54	1.69	2.96	4.83	4.77	11.40	12.23	5.33
US GOVERNMENT TR	USD	2,144.52	0.07	-0.31	0.63	0.74	1.22	-1.29	1.31	-0.48	6.47	1.58
US CORPORATE TR	USD	2,786.32	0.11	-0.21	0.95	1.06	1.93	0.18	2.18	3.08	11.24	3.25
US HIGH YIELD TR	USD	1,881.84	0.02	0.53	1.02	1.75	2.20	4.88	3.75	13.11	14.90	5.66
EU GOVERNMENT TR	EUR	248.26	0.30	0.15	0.57	0.62	1.10	-1.62	-0.81	-0.04	11.92	0.55
EU CORPORATE TR	EUR	263.89	0.27	0.20	0.67	0.98	1.84	1.25	1.33	4.27	13.06	0.84
EU HIGH YIELD TR	EUR	304.71	0.09	0.60	1.01	1.16	2.02	3.87	2.87	7.93	15.43	3.48
BARCLAYS GLOBAL CONVERT.	USD	232.72	0.06	1.12	1.05	1.91	2.81	6.33	4.56	8.86	9.24	-
GLOBAL EM TR (HEDGED)	USD	370.54	0.05	0.12	1.03	1.04	3.07	2.31	4.17	7.78	17.32	4.20
S&P/LSTA U.S. LEV LOAN	USD	98.78	0.00	-0.02	0.12	0.27	-0.13	0.96	0.17	8.75	0.72	4.53
<b>COMMODITY INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER</b>												
GSCI INDEX TOTAL RETURN	USD	2,232.78	-0.76	-1.87	-2.72	0.26	-6.69	-4.04	-7.63	-3.05	-55.77	-
GSCI ENERGY TR	USD	376.97	-1.55	-3.65	-4.10	0.79	-9.70	-7.52	-13.30	-4.20	-67.21	-
GSCI INDUSTRIAL METALS TR	USD	1,183.38	-0.86	0.07	-3.49	-2.09	-0.99	12.23	5.43	16.56	-11.96	-
GSCI PRECIOUS METALS TR	USD	1,540.01	0.06	-1.71	0.45	0.02	5.50	-1.03	9.36	-0.11	-5.78	-
GSCI AGRICULTURE TR	USD	412.33	0.17	0.00	-2.29	-2.63	-8.19	-10.70	-4.34	-12.27	-42.18	-
GENERIC 1ST 'CL' FUTURE	USD	49.31	0.69	-0.62	-3.39	1.02	-9.99	-6.84	-12.15	-8.52	-58.57	-
GOLD SPOT \$/OZ	USD	1,265.98	0.13	-1.41	1.33	1.13	6.27	-0.75	9.87	-0.02	-2.37	-
<b>CURRENCIES</b>												
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	USD	99.08	0.01	-0.89	-1.26	-0.63	-1.44	0.75	-3.06	5.68	24.35	-
Euro Spot	EUR	1.09	0.13	1.48	2.21	0.68	1.80	-0.89	3.52	-4.10	-21.40	-
Japanese Yen Spot	JPY	111.26	0.01	-1.94	0.13	-0.09	2.27	-5.85	5.13	-2.82	-7.87	-
British Pound Spot	GBP	1.29	0.23	0.91	3.06	3.89	3.59	6.15	4.81	-11.47	-23.04	-
Swiss Franc Spot	CHF	0.99	0.09	0.31	0.95	-0.07	0.21	-0.51	2.60	-2.67	-11.37	-
Brazilian Real Spot	BRL	3.18	-0.32	-1.17	-1.97	-1.82	-1.37	-0.57	2.22	10.75	-29.55	-
China Renminbi Spot	CNY	6.90	0.01	-0.17	-0.15	-0.26	-0.19	-1.72	0.69	-6.11	-9.35	-
Singapore Dollar Spot	SGD	1.40	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.13	1.78	-0.31	3.62	-3.65	-9.98	-
Russian Ruble Spot	RUB	57.04	0.04	-0.61	-1.35	0.06	5.08	10.32	7.93	13.55	-37.08	-
Norwegian Krone Spot	NOK	8.57	0.11	1.33	0.50	-0.37	-2.82	-3.41	0.99	-4.88	-29.81	-
<b>VOLATILITY / LIQUIDITY INDICES</b>												
CBOE SPX VOLATILITY INDX	USD	10.36	-4.52	-28.71	-15.68	-9.54	-1.42	-35.58	-25.71	-31.47	-25.34	-
USD SWAP SPREAD SEMI 2YR	USD	30.41	-	-11.38	-14.59	-6.59	3.76	32.76	21.25	129.21	174.84	-
TED SPREAD	USD	36.42	-	-1.14	-8.03	-11.26	-31.46	-39.11	-27.23	-9.94	68.22	-

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