Yesterday marked the 30th anniversary of "Black Monday," On that day,the S&P 500 plunged 20.5% and the Dow dropped 22.6%. Yesterday started with falls in equity prices across the globe and yet, the DJIA managed to close at another all-time high, over 23'000. The US Dollar climbed and Treasuries fell after the latest developments in Washington buoyed optimism about the chances for tax European stocks pared some of Thursday's selloff. The Senate adopted a fiscal 2018 budget resolution Thursday that House GOP leaders agreed to accept, a show of unity aimed at speeding consideration of President Donald Trump's plan to enact tax cuts.This earnings season is off to a good start, with 73% of companies reporting better-than-expected quarterly earnings and revenue, according to Thomson Reuters

Many investors who are not in the market may be concerned that they've missed out on the eight-year run that has propelled the blue-chip DJI average up more than 250%. Jeff Saut, chief investment strategist at Raymond James, said yesterday "it's not even close to being too late to buy into the second-longest bull market in Wall Street history". He believes there may be nearly a decade left in this secular bull market, which is defined as a market that's driven by forces that could be in place for years. It's not to say that there can't be corrections or even a bear market along the way. But he said the secular bull should prevail. "You still ought to have another seven, eight, nine years left in this thing…"
As for the current secular bull market, Mary Ann Bartels, head of portfolio strategy at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, agrees with Saut that it has more room to run. "We're talking 23,000. We'll be talking 30,000" down the road for the Dow, she predicted. "What people don't understand is that the [1987] crash happened during a secular bull market," Bartels said. But she stressed, "This is a very, very different environment. And we're much more global than we ever were in 1987."

The core drivers of asset prices remain intact! Better yet, we sense that there is an acceleration in the "wellness" of the world. Companies around the world faced hurricanes, earthquakes, the U.K.'s messy divorce from the European Union and ominous missile tests by North Korea in the third quarter. As investors await more earnings reports over the coming weeks, the challenge will be to ignore all that. "The outlook is strengthening, with a notable pickup in investment, trade, and industrial production, together with rising confidence," the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the IMF's steering body, said in a communique. China reported third-quarter growth data at 6.8% meeting expectations, but a tad lower than the second quarter's 6.9% expansion. "We've seen the benefits of a synchronized global recovery in play. Exports have been quite buoyant versus last year and that has really given China quite a bit of buffer in terms of reducing the reliance on leverage expansion, reducing the reliance on fixed asset investment," said Helen Zhu, head of China equities at BlackRock. Yes, this is slower than back when they grew at 8%, but now they are the second largest economy in the world! By some measures, China's real GDP when using Purchasing Power Parity could actually be way ahead of the US… (As an example, a phone sold in the US at $1'000 vs. the same sold at $200 in China contributed 5 times the GDP value to the US).
The BIG NEWS of the week was clearly lodged in a 3 and a half hour speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping who said Wednesday that China supports an open world economy and pledged further liberalization of its market to foreign investors. "China's open door will not be closed — it will be only be opened wider," he said. We read in this further support for yet another leg-up in the global rally. These are all bits of support to a new kind of environment- Goldilocks if you will, no inflation and low risk of it coming back anytime soon, low interest-rates suitable to this situation, broadening growth patterns and powerful drivers from technology and opening-up of major population hubs such as China and India. We stay the optimist course and try hard to stay away from intra-day trading on blips of news.
The hazards of market timing were illustrated by a Bank of America Corp. study last year, which showed that missing the very end of a bull market often means missing a quarter of its gains. What's more, anyone who owned stocks just before they crashed in the worst bear market since the Great Depression would still have doubled their money as long as they had the fortitude—and enough of a financial cushion—not to bail.
When Bedrock started back in 2004, the world consumed 80 million barrels of oil per day. And since those days, the world has been investing much in green energy, motors have become way more efficient and yet, OPEC General Secretary Mohammad Barkindo said Thursday that oil markets are rebalancing at "an accelerating rate" and that he foresaw "no peak" for oil demand for "the considerable future." He predicts global consumption to reach 100 million barrels per day by 2020 (just about tomorrow, to be precise). We are now at 96MBpD. And we all know that energy consumption is a good proxy for GDP…

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said that the U.S. central bank expects to continue to raise interest rates gradually as solid growth, a strong labor market and a healthy global economy lift prices even as she recognized that inflation has been surprisingly low. We repeat our view that the low and even receding inflation should not surprise the Fed or you, the investor- We are just at the start of the effects of E.Commerce on prices, through clearer price discovery. A Bloomberg article on Monday reads "For all its efforts, the Federal Reserve can't seem to get inflation up to its 2% target -- a situation that Chair Janet Yellen has called a "mystery." If she's looking for clues, she might want to ask Amazon.com Inc. founder Jeff Bezos."
The world is changing- 100 years ago everyone had a horse and the rich had cars. Now, everyone has a car, only the rich a horse…

Market Weekly Highlights:

- The dollar has climbed this week against most of the currencies on the back of tax reforms impact in US. DXY is showing 93.56 slightly higher for the week. Tthe EUR is trading exactly where it started the week against the USD, currently at just above 1.18 whilst USDCHF is somewhat stronger at 0.9825. The Pound also is off the highs of last month and now trades down at 1.3150 as is the Japanese Yen, which followed the same path and shows 113.30.
  The Russian Ruble has traded sideways against the USD at about 58 and the Brazilian Real uchanged against the USD for the week at just about 3.17.
  Crude oil WTI is at almost $50.80, slightly down, whilst Brent stands at $56.75.

- 10Y U.S. Treasuries are trading down in price with yields going up to 2.35% after last week's closing at 2.27%.

  The Japanese 10 year JGB yield has moved slightly up this week at 0.075% continuing to offer POSITIVE yields.

  In Europe, the German Bund yield started the week at a low 0.3540% and has moved up since trading at 0.44% The French 10Y Yield followed a similar path reaching 0.777% early this week to and is now trading up at above 0.86% as we write.

  In Peripheral Europe Italian 10Y yields are above 2.0%, having started the year at 1.73%, whilst the Spanish 10Y yields trade some 35bps lower than Italy at 1.65% but higher then where they started the year at 1.30%.

- Markets had another positive week in the USA inspite of yesterday's sell-off with all three indices S&P, NASDAQ and DJIA hitting another new all-time highs during the week. The DJIA is at 23'160 up about 1.40% for the week as of yesterday's close, SP500 at just above 2'560, adding another 0.44% for the week and Nasdaq at about 6'600, adding a mere 0.21% positive return for the same period.

  In Europe the situation is mixed with Eurostoxx50 up 0.15%, as are DAX, CAC40 and FTSE100 at respectively +0.22%, +0.48% and +0.07% for the week while the peripheral Spanish IBEX 35 is down 0.68% together with the Italian FTSE MIB dropping 0.80%.
  The Nikkei trades higher at +1.43% for the week and shows positive returns for the year at 12.26%.

Bedrock Friday 20 October 2017 Newsletter

Highlighted items are interesting data points for the week

All data is compiled from Bloomberg

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE — 19/10/2017

PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y		
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY REGION												Fwd P/E	T12m P/E
S&P 500 INDEX	USD	2,562.10	0.04	0.44	1.70	2.15	3.58	8.76	14.44	19.65	34.56	19.42	21.84
DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	USD	23,163.04	0.04	1.41	3.38	3.35	7.18	12.56	17.21	27.53	41.24	18.66	19.77
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX	USD	6,605.07	-0.29	0.21	1.68	2.31	3.37	11.63	22.70	26.01	53.03	24.14	45.25
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX	USD	1,502.04	-0.20	-0.21	0.75	3.92	4.14	8.52	10.68	23.14	37.18	32.84	53.35
EURO STOXX 50	EUR	3,602.08	-0.49	0.24	0.51	2.49	3.25	5.04	9.81	17.44	23.43	15.56	18.49
EURO STOXX 600	EUR	389.11	-0.62	-0.33	0.50	2.13	1.58	3.19	7.94	13.31	23.06	16.23	21.64
CAC 40 INDEX	EUR	5,368.29	-0.29	0.59	1.01	2.71	3.54	6.02	10.72	18.58	34.88	15.85	18.69
DAX INDEX	EUR	12,990.10	-0.41	0.43	1.71	3.81	4.82	8.48	13.65	21.93	49.67	14.51	18.17
FTSE 100 INDEX	GBP	7,523.04	-0.24	0.12	2.33	3.75	0.75	5.98	5.62	7.36	20.38	15.30	25.18
SWISS MARKET INDEX	CHF	9,233.52	-0.82	-0.55	1.13	1.82	2.59	8.21	12.66	14.77	11.80	18.50	24.64
NIKKEI 225	JPY	21,448.52	0.40	1.43	5.41	5.65	6.52	16.42	12.26	24.50	42.00	18.45	19.39
HANG SENG INDEX	HKD	28,159.09	-1.92	0.06	3.41	1.30	6.56	18.45	29.52	21.91	23.51	12.97	14.19
SHANGHAI SE COMPOSITE	CNY	3,370.17	-0.34	-0.35	0.89	0.38	4.12	6.51	8.86	9.54	43.36	14.76	17.73
S&P BSE SENSEX INDEX	INR	32,389.96	-0.60	0.65	3.54	-0.03	1.52	10.09	21.65	15.14	22.55	21.05	23.79
RUSSIAN RTS INDEX $	USD	1,138.64	-0.80	-1.59	0.13	1.41	9.60	5.07	-1.22	15.27	7.72	7.17	7.78
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	BRL	76,283.16	-0.40	-0.49	2.68	0.37	17.47	19.64	26.66	19.50	40.48	14.77	23.91
MSCI WORLD	USD	2,033.29	0.15	0.26	1.64	1.73	3.56	10.11	16.11	19.32	25.04	17.91	21.35
MSCI WORLD HEDGED	USD	905.03	-0.04	0.46	1.78	2.59	4.04	10.25	14.98	20.72	39.80	-	-
MSCI WORLD LOCAL	-	1,537.12	-0.04	0.34	1.70	2.37	3.32	8.20	12.67	17.76	29.92	17.91	21.35
MSCI AC WORLD	USD	495.75	0.02	0.13	1.82	1.58	3.78	10.82	17.52	19.67	23.96	17.34	20.59
MSCI EM	USD	1,116.91	-0.89	-0.80	3.25	0.44	5.43	16.53	29.53	22.28	13.80	13.97	16.25
MSCI AC ASIA x JAPAN	USD	683.93	-1.09	-0.66	3.47	0.75	5.35	17.89	32.97	24.11	23.06	14.50	15.70
MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	USD	2,946.21	-0.22	-0.14	1.01	-1.81	7.69	12.91	25.87	13.76	-4.86	15.97	21.98
MSCI EM Eur, ME & Africa	USD	274.35	-0.15	-1.19	3.11	0.92	2.52	7.84	12.08	15.04	-6.51	11.74	13.41
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY SECTOR												P/E	P/E
MSCI ENERGY	USD	209.55	0.01	-0.53	-0.68	0.97	5.06	3.66	-4.31	1.05	-17.54	26.63	41.43
MSCI MATERIALS	USD	266.47	0.52	-0.16	2.21	1.29	5.95	13.69	20.09	24.74	19.17	17.13	19.22
MSCI INDUSTRIALS	USD	253.39	0.38	0.41	1.58	1.92	5.11	11.87	19.26	23.80	34.74	18.15	21.40
MSCI CONS DISCRETIONARY	USD	225.74	-0.03	-0.11	1.18	1.31	2.29	7.14	14.92	17.71	32.95	17.57	19.65
MSCI CONS STAPLES	USD	229.22	-0.45	-0.83	1.41	0.32	-0.65	2.93	10.45	7.42	20.25	20.46	22.67
MSCI HEALTH CARE	USD	230.70	0.52	1.25	2.00	1.69	2.52	11.52	19.64	16.43	24.01	18.04	24.42
MSCI FINANCIALS	USD	122.59	0.28	0.67	1.41	2.52	3.87	12.67	15.45	29.68	24.91	14.28	16.53
MSCI INFO TECH	USD	210.56	-0.16	0.30	3.14	3.37	6.02	16.92	30.60	31.76	64.31	19.92	25.53
MSCI TELECOMS	USD	69.43	0.38	0.10	-1.50	-2.12	0.40	0.49	-0.14	1.63	3.43	14.66	19.43
MSCI UTILITY	USD	131.91	0.80	0.73	2.71	0.82	3.29	8.72	14.74	13.10	12.28	16.87	20.17
MSCI WORLD REAL ESTATE	USD	208.38	-0.11	-0.23	1.89	0.77	1.96	3.23	9.62	6.31	11.94	24.56	18.62
HEDGE FUND INDICES													
HFRX GLOBAL HEDGE FUND	USD	1,262.52	0.06	0.08	0.46	0.66	1.64	3.32	4.91	6.46	4.59		
HFRX EQUAL WEIGHTED	USD	1,265.86	0.06	0.08	0.20	0.36	1.14	2.53	4.00	5.42	6.48		
HFRX GLOBAL EUR	EUR	1,115.02	0.06	0.07	0.32	0.47	1.02	2.08	2.98	4.07	-0.05		

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE — 19/10/2017

PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
LIBOR RATES AND YIELD ON US GOVERNMENT BONDS (Yield in %, Change in bps)												
US 3 MONTH	USD	1.09	-0.01	1.78	4.46	5.72	-5.36	29.78	58.77	75.53	-	
US 2 YEAR	USD	1.56	2.94	6.69	7.71	12.16	20.77	37.52	37.15	74.08	-	
US 10 YEAR	USD	2.36	4.50	8.98	2.92	9.52	10.39	13.08	-8.15	60.72	-	
US LIBOR 3M	USD	1.36	0.53	0.40	2.87	3.76	5.57	20.64	36.47	48.14	-	
EUR LIBOR 3M	EUR	-0.38	0.00	0.07	0.43	0.29	0.10	-1.59	-3.87	-5.16	-	
GBP LIBOR 3M	GBP	0.38	-0.06	1.25	4.81	5.06	9.47	4.76	1.65	-1.90	-	
CHF LIBOR 3M	CHF	-0.73	0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	0.22	0.58	0.28	0.24		
FIXED INCOME INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												Yield to Worst
GLOBAL AGG TR HEDGED	USD	512.03	0.06	0.01	0.31	0.26	0.77	1.33	2.54	0.64	9.12	1.61
GLOBAL HY TR	USD	1,306.70	0.13	0.23	0.62	0.56	2.41	5.91	10.17	9.77	19.59	5.02
US GOVERNMENT TR	USD	2,165.90	0.11	-0.19	0.07	-0.09	0.15	0.71	2.32	-0.79	4.52	1.61
US CORPORATE TR	USD	2,880.58	0.15	-0.13	0.43	0.64	0.98	3.25	5.64	2.75	11.22	3.14
US HIGH YIELD TR	USD	1,949.21	0.02	0.24	0.43	0.70	1.53	4.18	7.46	8.15	18.71	5.40
EU GOVERNMENT TR	EUR	250.71	0.02	0.10	0.50	0.36	0.91	1.04	0.17	-1.84	7.87	0.51
EU CORPORATE TR	USD	270.59	0.03	0.18	0.70	0.69	1.64	2.74	3.90	3.23	11.80	0.70
EU HIGH YIELD TR	EUR	316.34	-0.01	0.23	0.69	0.76	1.98	4.47	6.79	7.73	19.88	2.85
BARCLAYS GLOBAL CONVERT.	USD	237.44	-0.08	-0.26	0.14	0.08	-0.26	3.39	6.68	8.21	14.84	-
GLOBAL EM TR (HEDGED)	USD	383.64	0.07	0.12	0.53	0.57	2.15	3.76	7.86	5.30	17.27	4.09
S&P/LSTA U.S. LEV LOAN	USD	98.61	0.00	0.08	0.31	0.32	-0.08	-0.19	0.00	0.79	2.47	4.77
COMMODITY INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												
GSCI INDEX TOTAL RETURN	USD	2,332.32	-0.57	0.76	0.25	1.76	5.58	2.21	-3.52	-1.27	-44.56	
GSCI ENERGY TR	USD	400.86	-1.15	1.26	-0.47	2.09	10.46	2.14	-7.80	-5.30	-57.23	
GSCI INDUSTRIAL METALS TR	USD	1,384.14	0.24	-0.04	4.32	3.68	14.28	19.06	23.31	35.14	3.60	
GSCI PRECIOUS METALS TR	USD	1,559.16	0.66	-0.43	0.79	-1.33	3.80	-0.54	10.72	0.16	1.25	
GSCI AGRICULTURE TR	USD	383.59	0.41	-0.07	-0.96	-0.64	-9.80	-8.27	-11.01	-16.77	-27.17	
GENERIC 1ST 'CL' FUTURE	USD	51.42	0.25	-0.06	-0.48	1.44	8.50	-1.10	-10.43	-8.41	-52.39	
GOLD SPOT $/OZ	USD	1,280.95	-0.71	-1.81	0.06	-1.55	2.93	-0.07	11.17	1.20	2.73	
CURRENCIES												
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	USD	93.27	0.27	0.46	0.48	1.09	-0.83	-6.27	-8.50	-4.88	10.08	
Euro Spot	EUR	1.19	-0.41	-0.14	-0.09	-0.75	1.48	10.13	12.23	8.00	-7.79	
Japanese Yen Spot	JPY	112.54	-0.69	-1.32	-0.71	-0.97	-1.24	-3.53	3.21	-8.27	-5.62	
British Pound Spot	GBP	1.32	-0.22	-1.17	-2.00	-2.70	1.21	2.47	6.40	7.15	-18.78	
Swiss Franc Spot	CHF	0.98	-0.49	-0.67	-1.30	-1.15	-3.04	1.79	3.86	1.18	-3.90	
Brazilian Real Spot	BRL	3.17	0.00	0.07	-0.26	-1.11	-0.69	-0.56	2.66	-0.06	-23.19	
China Renminbi Spot	CNY	6.61	-0.04	-0.56	0.55	-0.63	2.16	4.01	4.96	1.94	-7.44	
Singapore Dollar Spot	SGD	1.36	-0.28	-0.82	-0.21	-0.87	0.43	2.75	6.35	2.33	-6.67	
Russian Ruble Spot	RUB	57.28	-0.39	-0.29	0.08	1.20	2.42	-2.36	7.01	8.57	-28.77	
Norwegian Krone Spot	NOK	7.93	-0.61	-1.16	-0.22	-1.43	0.82	8.09	8.28	2.56	-17.87	
VOLATILITY / LIQUIDITY INDICES												
CBOE SPX VOLATILITY INDX	USD	10.05	-0.20	3.23	4.31	1.43	3.55	-29.89	-29.34	-27.85	-46.58	
USD SWAP SPREAD SEMI 2YR	USD	24.58	-	-4.45	-3.41	-5.93	0.65	-27.26	-2.94	3.34	-6.60	
TED SPREAD		27.98	-	-3.68	-4.64	-4.93	24.80	-20.87	-44.10	-49.68	32.54	

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