

24 March 2025



**Handelsbanken**

Wealth & Asset Management

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

# A small spring in the step for global stock markets

### Key takeaways

There was a welcome (albeit petite) ripple of optimism in markets last week, alongside the official start of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. The prices of riskier assets, like shares, rose slightly in an otherwise challenging patch for global stock markets.

#### A gentler week for share prices

A mixture of influences improved the mood among stock market investors last week, including Friday's assurance of 'flexibility' on tariffs by President Trump. This allowed the US stock market (measured by the S&P500 Index) to eke out a positive result for the week, on the heels of weeks of market performance in the red. The opening months of 2025 have provided a very jumbled picture for global stock markets, with Europe the standout performer, while the US lags significantly behind.

#### Interest rates held steady in the US and UK

UK and US central banks both opted to keep interest rates at their current levels last week. Policymakers at central banks around the world are currently trying to balance threats to economic growth (including tariff wars) against stubbornly persistent inflation. It's too soon to say whether or not Trump's tariffs (and the tit-for-tat responses to these levies) will push inflation higher from here, but the uncertainty created around the cost of global trade is certainly lowering expectations for economic growth in the meantime. This in itself could influence the journey ahead for interest rate decisions at central banks, where policymakers typically have a responsibility to support growth in their domestic economies.

#### Green shoots of growth in Europe

Last week saw the presumed incoming German chancellor – Friedrich Merz – pass his €1trn spending package through Germany's outgoing parliament. While positive signs of growth had already been appearing in Europe prior to Merz's plans, this boost for infrastructure and defence investment has added momentum. Nascent signs of growth are visible in various sources, including business surveys and measures of change in economic data. For this to continue, though, Europe will likely need to enact structural changes over the medium and long term to secure a pattern of ongoing growth.

### Market moves

In a better week for financial markets, European share prices paused for breath while the US saw a patch of welcome recovery.

UK government bonds wavered in the run up to the government's Spring Statement later this week.

The gold price continued to break new ground, reaching new record highs as investors and central banks turn to this traditional 'safe haven'.

### What to look out for this week

The UK government's Spring Statement will be delivered on Wednesday, with Chancellor Reeves attempting to balance a range of factors, from the hole in UK public finances and anaemic UK economic growth, to the moving target of President Trump's global tariff policies and the Russia-Ukraine war.

The US central bank's preferred measure of US inflation – the Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Price Index – is due for release on Friday.

If you have questions about financial markets, or our investment services, please contact the Marketing team:

[marketing.hwam@handelsbanken.co.uk](mailto:marketing.hwam@handelsbanken.co.uk)

---

## Important Information

Handelsbanken Wealth & Asset Management Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the conduct of investment and protection business, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Handelsbanken plc. For further information on our investment services go to [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/important-information](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/important-information). Tax advice which does not contain any investment element is not regulated by the FCA. Professional advice should be taken before any course of action is pursued.

- Find out more about our services by contacting us on 01892 701803 or visiting our website: [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk)
- Read about how our investment services are regulated, and other important information: [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/important-information](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/important-information)
- Learn more about wealth and investment concepts in our Learning Zone: [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/learning-zone/](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/learning-zone/)
- Understand more about the language and terminology used in the financial services industry and our own publications through our Glossary of Terms: [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/glossary-of-terms/](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/glossary-of-terms/)

All commentary and data is valid, to the best of our knowledge, at the time of publication. This document is not intended to be a definitive analysis of financial or other markets and does not constitute any recommendation to buy, sell or otherwise trade in any of the investments mentioned. The value of any investment and income from it is not guaranteed and can fall as well as rise, so your capital is at risk.

We manage our investment strategies in accordance with pre-defined risk objectives, which vary depending on the strategy's risk profile.

Portfolios may include individual investments in structured products, foreign currencies and funds (including funds not regulated by the FCA) which may individually have a relatively high risk profile. The portfolios may specifically include hedge funds, property funds, private equity funds and other funds which may have limited liquidity. Changes in exchange rates between currencies can cause investments of income to go down or up.

This document has been issued by Handelsbanken Wealth & Asset Management Limited. For Handelsbanken Multi Asset Funds, the Authorised Corporate Director is Handelsbanken ACD Limited, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Handelsbanken Wealth & Asset Management, and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The Registrar and Depositary is The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited, which is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the FCA. The Investment Manager is Handelsbanken Wealth & Asset Management Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the FCA.

Before investing in a Handelsbanken Multi Asset Fund you should read the Key Investor Information Document (KIID) as it contains important information regarding the fund including charges and specific risk warnings. The Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document, current prices and latest report and accounts are available from the following website: [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/fund-information/fund-information/](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk/fund-information/fund-information/), or you can request these from Handelsbanken Wealth & Asset Management Limited or Handelsbanken ACD Limited: 77 Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8BS or by telephone on +44 01892 701803.

Registered Head Office: No.1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AN. Registered in England No: 4132340 [wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk](http://wealthandasset.handelsbanken.co.uk)