Weekly Economic Update

31 March 2023

FOR PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS ONLY

UK

- The FTSE 100 closed the week at 7632 up 3.07%. The 10 year UK gilt yield moved from 3.28% to 3.49%.
- The UK's housing market continues to weaken as house prices fell at their fastest rate since the financial crisis, declining every month since August by over 6.1% according to Nationwide. Net mortgage lending also saw a significant decrease in February, according to Bank of England data.
- The UK government abandoned its proposal to raise the retirement age to 68 because of declining life expectancy.
- The Bank of England's Financial Policy Committee made recommendations to The Pensions Regulator to ensure the resilience of LDI funds and mandates. They suggested that as a minimum requirement, LDI funds should be able to withstand a 250 basis point yield movement. Also, the Treasury plans to extend the exemption that pension funds have from clearing obligations until June 18, 2025.
- According to the British Retail Consortium, a shortage of fruits and vegetables contributed to a record-high food inflation rate of 15% year-on-year in March, up from 14.5% in February.
- The UK government has declared its intention to categorise nuclear energy as a green investment.
- Humza Yousaf has become Scotland's first minister having won the SNP's leadership race.

GLOBAL

- Eurozone's HICP inflation dropped to 6.9% YoY in March from 8.5% in February, (the forecast was 7.1%) but core inflation climbed to a record 5.7% YoY, strengthening the case for ECB's interest rate hikes.
- Due to recent banking collapses and the increasingly attractive yields available, it was reported that money markets saw the biggest inflow of capital in march, the highest level since the depths of the pandemic. They reached a record inflow of \$66 billion in the US last week.
- In March, China's non-manufacturing sector reached its highest level of expansion in the last 12 years.
- Alibaba announced it is going to split its business into 6 separate entities covering: digital commerce, media, local services, logistics, ecommerce, and cloud computing, each segment has the ability to raise capital independently. Shares surged 14% on the news.



| Equity Markets | Index Level 31 Mar 23 | Total Return (Sterling) | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------|--------|--|
| | | MtD | YtD | 1 Year | |
| FTSE All Share | 4158 | -2.8% | 3.1% | 2.9% | |
| FTSE 100 | 7632 | -2.5% | 3.6% | 5.4% | |
| FTSE 250 | 18928 | -4.6% | 1.0% | -7.9% | |
| MSCI World | 2791 | 1.1% | 5.7% | -0.6% | |
| MSCI World EM | 990 | 1.0% | 1.9% | -4.6% | |

| Bond Markets | Yield 31 Mar 23 | Index % Change (Sterling) | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------|--------|--|
| bonu Markets | | MtD | YtD | 1 Year | |
| FTA All Stock Gilt Index | 3.70 | 2.9% | 2.0% | -16.3% | |
| FTA All Stock ILG index | 0.29 | 6.2% | 4.3% | -26.7% | |
| FTA Over 5 Year ILG index | 0.29 | 7.1% | 4.9% | -30.4% | |
| FTA Under 5 Year FIG Index | 3.59 | 0.8% | 0.8% | -2.4% | |
| FTA Over 15 Year FIG Index | 3.79 | 5.2% | 2.8% | -29.7% | |

| Interest Rates & Yields | Yield 31 Mar 23 | Yield 28 Feb 23 | Yield 31 Dec 22 | Yield 31 Mar 22 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| UK 10 Year Gilt Yield | 3.49 | 3.83 | 3.67 | 1.61 |
| UK 15 Year Gilt Yield | 3.78 | 4.12 | 3.99 | 1.81 |
| US 10 Year Treasury Yield | 3.47 | 3.92 | 3.87 | 2.34 |
| German 10 Year Yield | 2.29 | 2.65 | 2.57 | 0.55 |
| Spanish 10 Year Yield | 3.30 | 3.60 | 3.66 | 1.44 |
| Greek 10 Year Yield | 4.19 | 4.43 | 4.57 | 2.65 |
| Japan 10 Year Yield | 0.32 | 0.50 | 0.41 | 0.21 |

| Currencies Exchange Rate | 31 Mar 23 | 28 Feb 23 | 31 Dec 22 | 31 Mar 22 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| GBP / USD | 1.23 | 1.21 | 1.21 | 1.31 |
| GBP / EURO | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.13 | 1.19 |
| GBP / YEN | 163.93 | 164.32 | 158.48 | 159.71 |

| Commodities | Price Level 31 Mar 23 | | Price Level 31 Dec 22 | |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| Oil - WTI \$ | 75.67 | 77.05 | 80.26 | 100.28 |
| Gold \$ | 1,969.28 | 1,826.92 | 1,824.02 | 1,937.44 |
| Wheat \$ | 692.25 | 691.50 | 792.00 | 1,006.00 |

Source: Mobius Life, Bloomberg Please Note: Past performance is not a guide to future performance

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Weekly Economic Update Upcoming Data Releases



| Date | Region | Event | Survey | Actual | Prior |
|------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| 06/04/2023 | GE | Industrial Production SA MoM | -0.10% | | 3.50% |
| 05/04/2023 | FR | S&P Global France Services PMI | 55.5 | | 55.5 |
| 05/04/2023 | FR | Industrial Production MoM | 0.50% | | -1.90% |
| 05/04/2023 | US | MBA Mortgage Applications | | | 2.90% |
| 06/04/2023 | US | Initial Jobless Claims | 200k | | 198k |
| 07/04/2023 | US | Change in Nonfarm Payrolls | 240k | | 311k |
| 07/04/2023 | US | Unemployment Rate | 3.60% | | 3.60% |

Source: Bloomberg

Important Information

The value of investments, and the income from them, may go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. This document has been prepared by Mobius Life Limited for professional advisers only. Opinions expressed are those of Mobius Life Limited and are not investment research. Mobius Life Limited is unable to provide advice and can only provide information on its own products and services.

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