

Monthly Market Update

March 2019

Despite being granted a short delay before we leave the European Union, Theresa May lost the third meaningful vote on her Withdrawal Agreement in the House of Commons resulting in continued uncertainty around our exit. We are now due to leave on 12 April which was chosen as this is the legal deadline for the UK to decide whether to hold European Parliament elections.

This uncertainty has not really impacted the FTSE 100, which closed March at 7,279.19, 2.9% higher than the February closing level.

In the US, the Dow Jones 30 was more or less flat, ending March at 25,928.68.

In terms of currency, £ Sterling ended March at 1.30 US Dollars. This was 1.8% lower than the closing figure at the end of February.

Against the Euro, £ Sterling ended March at 1.16 Euros, which was 0.5% lower than the February closing figure.

Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Prices Index including owner occupiers' housing costs (CPIH), was 1.8% in February 2019 (this is February's data which is reported in March). This was unchanged from the previous month. The 12-month rate for the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rate which excludes owner occupied housing costs and council tax was 1.9% in February 2019, which was up from 1.8% in January 2019.

The Bank of England maintained interest rates at 0.75% in March following the increase in August last year. This means long-suffering deposit savers are likely to continue to lose money in real terms when you consider the rate of savings interest compared to the rate of inflation.

The Omnis Managed funds, Openwork Graphene Model Portfolios and Omnis Managed Portfolio Service provide you with a diversified asset allocation in line with your Attitude to Risk, investing in Developed Market Equities, such as UK, US, Europe and Asia Pacific as well as Emerging Market equities. Cautious and Balanced investors will also have significant holdings in UK and Global Bonds, as well as Alternative Strategies.

We believe this multi-asset approach aims to give you the best opportunity for the highest level of return for your stated level of risk.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and any income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of market and currency fluctuations. You may not get back the amount you originally invested.



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