

Summary

- **COVID-19:** The total number of cases recorded globally has surpassed 103 million, according to Johns Hopkins University & Medicine. Circa 56.5 million people globally have been vaccinated, an increase of +35% over the week. Reported deaths have reached 2.2 million.
- **Equities:** Globally, equities are higher. In Europe, gains have been recorded by the CAC 40 (+1.7%), DAX (+1.2%), STOXX 600 (+1.1%) and FTSE 250 (+1.0%). In Asia, the CSI 300 and S&P / ASX 200 both closed +1.5% higher, while the KOSPI (+1.3%), Hang Seng (+1.2%) and TOPIX (+0.9%) were also up on close. In the US, futures for the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) are currently +0.9% and +0.8%.
- **VIX:** Following a -12% decrease over Monday, the CBOE market volatility index has declined a further-8.3% this morning to 27.8. The Euro Stoxx 50 volatility index is also lower, down -8.1% to 25.4. Both indexes remain above their long term average.
- **Bonds:** The UK 10-year gilt yield, US 10-year treasury yield and German 10-year bund yield have all softened +3bps this morning to 0.35%, 1.11% and -0.49%, respectively.
- **Currency:** The euro has depreciated to \$1.20 and sterling is currently \$1.37. Hedging benefits for US dollar denominated investors into the UK and the eurozone are at 0.54% and 1.36% per annum on a five-year basis.
- **Baltic Dry:** The Baltic Dry decreased for the seventh consecutive session on Monday, down -0.6% to 1,444, a four-week low. The index remains -22% lower than the four-month high seen in mid January. Prices have been pushed down by the capesize index, which is now at its lowest level since December 22nd after declining -1% yesterday.
- **Oil:** The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent Crude have increased +2.5% and +2.4% this morning to \$54.87 and \$57.68, their highest prices since January and February 2020, respectively.
- **Eurozone GDP:** In Q4 2020, GDP for the eurozone contracted -0.7% q-q, in line with market expectations. Therefore, over 2020 as a whole, the trading bloc's GDP declined -6.8%. This compares to a -3.5% contraction in the US economy over 2020 and +3.0% annual growth in Chinese GDP.

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Economic Dashboard

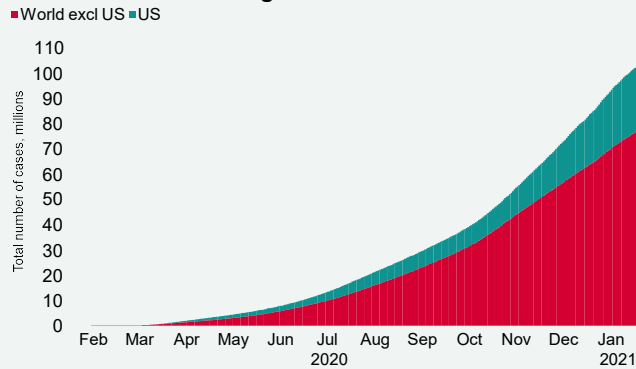


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COVID-19

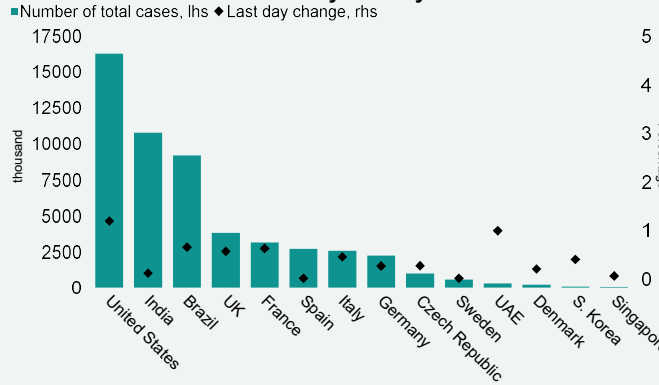
Cumulative number of global cases



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 01 February 2021 15:55 GMT.

The number of total confirmed cases reached 102.4 million on the 1 February, an increase of 316k new cases over the day prior.

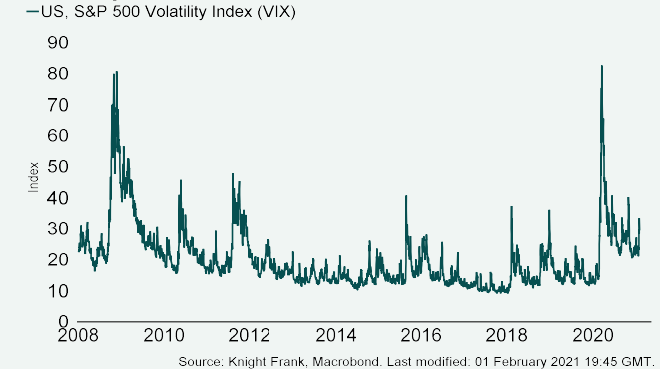
Cumulative number of cases by country



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond.

The chart presents the number of cumulative cases (left axis) and the percentage change of new cases against the day before (right axis).

Volatility Index

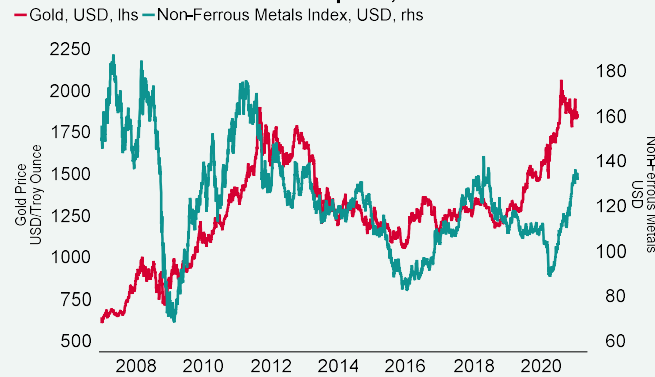


Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 01 February 2021 19:45 GMT.

The CBOE VIX (colloquially known as the Investor fear gauge) is an indication of near term S&P 500 stock price volatility based on underlying options.

Commodities

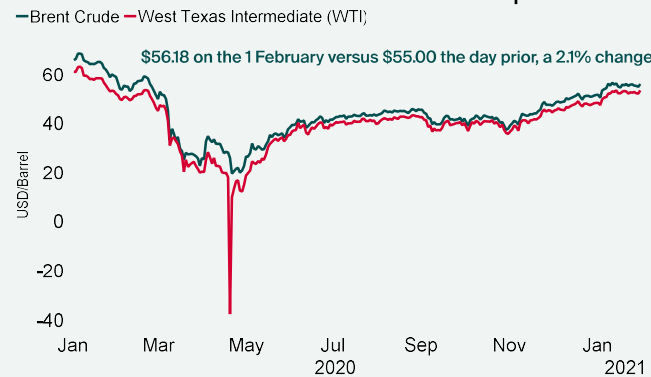
Gold and non-ferrous metals price, USD



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 01 February 2021 23:00 GMT.

	1 Feb	D/D (%)	YTD (%)
Gold, USD	1858	0.9	-2.0
Non-Ferrous Metals, USD	133	-0.4	2.3

Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate oil price



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 01 February 2021 23:15 GMT.

Brent crude monitors the level of demand for raw materials and is a measure of economic activity. Lately also influenced by Saudi-Russia price war.

Baltic Dry Index (BDI)



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 01 February 2021 13:00 GMT.

Baltic Dry Index is a measure of what it costs to ship raw materials and is a leading indicator of global demand. A lower value means lower demand.

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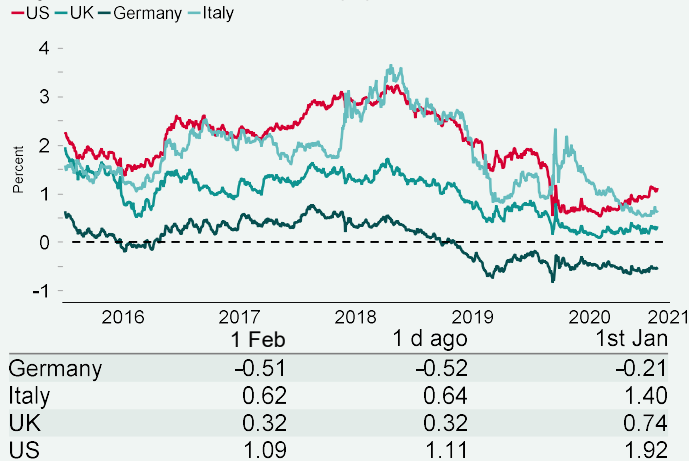


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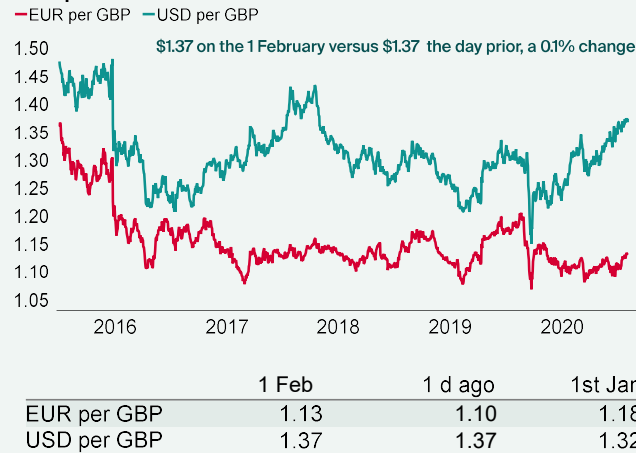
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Bonds and currencies

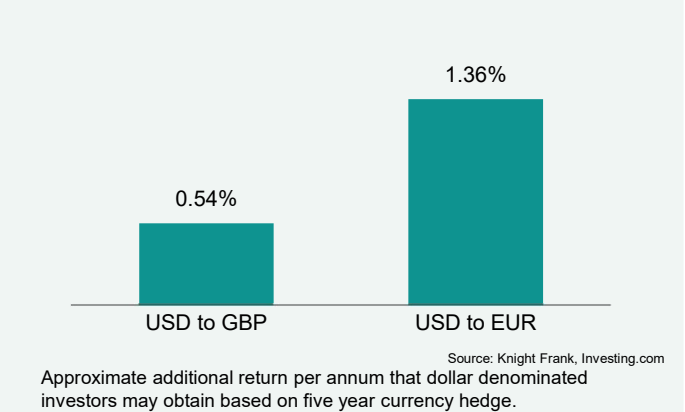
10y Government Bond Yield (%)



FX Spot Rates

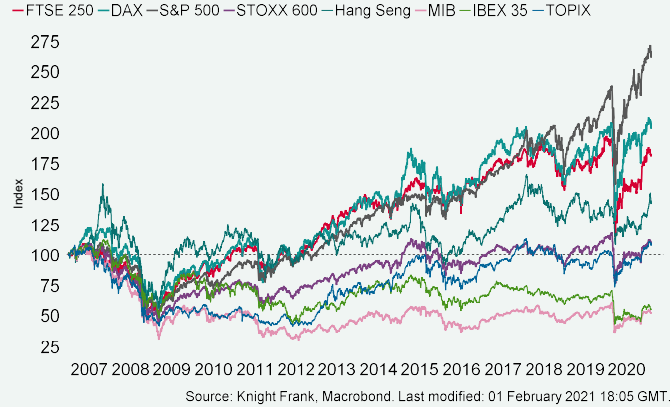


Currency hedging benefit p.a. based on a five year forward

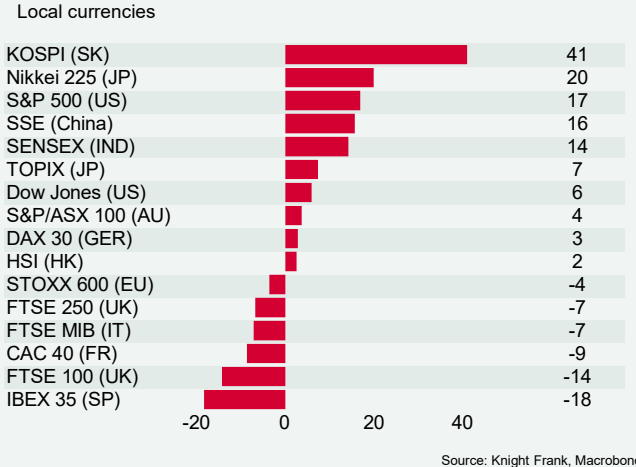


Equity and REIT

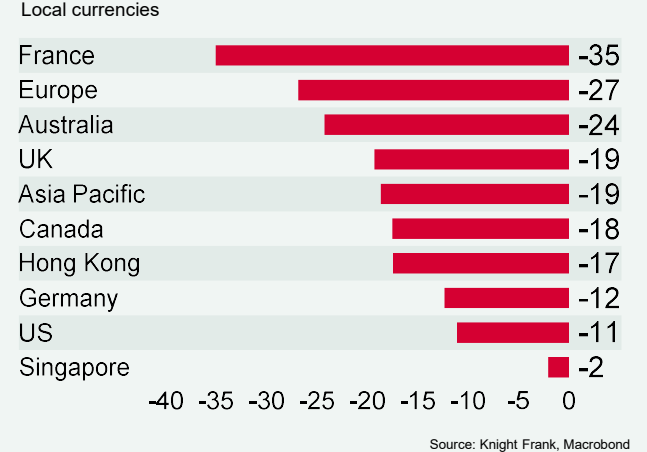
Equity performance: since previous cycle (1st Jan 2007 = 100)



Equity performance: since 1st Jan 2020 (%)



REIT performance: since 1st Jan 2020 (%)



The chart presents the performance of selected equity indexes since the months prior to the global financial crisis (2007).

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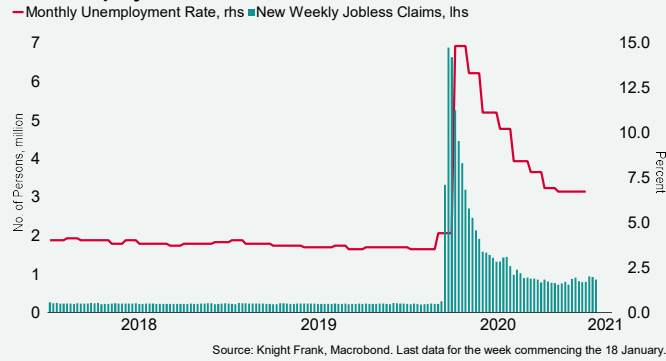


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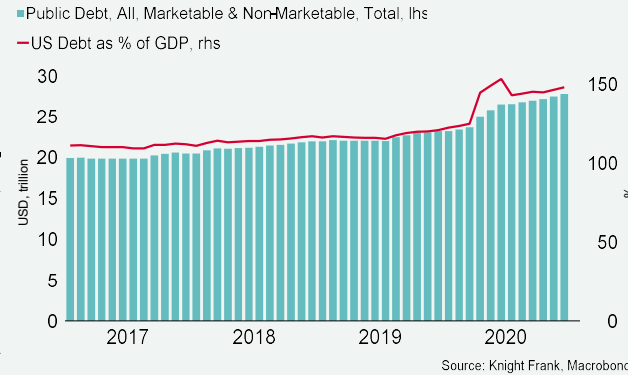
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US unemployment

US Unemployment



US Public Debt



The chart presents the number of Americans that each week file for unemployment benefits (left axis) and the overall monthly unemployment rate (right axis)

The chart presents the amount of American government debt (left axis) compared to debt as a percentage of total US GDP (right axis).

Fiscal policy

Fiscal measures details

UK	£330bn+ : Government backed loans and guarantees equivalent to 15% of UK GDP. SMEs given access to cash grants. Support for furloughed employees of 80% salary ≤£2,500 per month. Furlough scheme extended until October 2020 with employers sharing the cost from August. Taxable grant for self-employed <£50k trading profit, worth 80% of monthly profits up to £2.5k, paid as a lump sum.
USA	\$3.0tn : 2 nd package passed 23 rd April, worth \$483 billion, increasing US stimulus to \$3 trillion (15% GDP).
EU	€1.35tn : This includes €240bn to the European Stability Mechanism, and €200bn in EIB guarantees. On 4 th June, the ECB extended the pandemic purchase programme (PEPP) until June 2021, purchasing an additional €600bn in bonds, taking total stimulus to €1.35tn. €750bn : a new recovery package for EU member states announced in July including €390bn in grants and €360 in interest free loans.
Germany	€880bn : The emergency aid measure approved on Monday 23 rd of March. In June an additional €130bn fiscal stimulus programme including VAT rate cut to 16% from 19% and one off 'children's bonus' payment.
Italy	€400bn : The stimulus announced on the 7 th April €25bn : Emergency package to support businesses and families.
France	€100bn : The stimulus announced on the 3 rd September €45bn : The aid package for SMEs and other hard-hit sectors announced by the French government on 17 th of March. Includes deferred corporate tax, social security charges and two months state payments to laid off workers. €300bn : government backed loans.
Spain	€200bn : the aid package includes government loan guarantees to ensure liquidity for SMEs (the government said it would provide businesses with "all the liquidity they need"), other government commitments and private money.
Japan	\$2.2tn : Further stimulus announced in late May added \$1.1 trillion to the country's stimulus package, bringing total stimulus to \$2.18 trillion or 40% of GDP.
Hong Kong	HK\$10k for every adult citizen (c.£7bn).

Source: Knight Frank, various sources

Monetary policy

Central Banks Policy Rates

	Current Rate	Rate at 1/1/2020	YTD Change
Advanced Economies			
Australia	0.10%	0.75%	0 bps
Canada	0.25%	1.75%	0 bps
Euro Area	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
France	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
Germany	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
Italy	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
Sweden	0.00%	-0.25%	0 bps
Japan	-0.10%	-0.10%	0 bps
United Kingdom	0.10%	0.75%	0 bps
United States	0.25%	1.75%	0 bps
Developing Economies			
Brazil	2.00%	4.50%	0 bps
China	4.35%	4.35%	0 bps
India	4.00%	5.15%	0 bps
Mexico	4.25%	7.25%	0 bps
Russia	4.25%	6.25%	0 bps
Saudi Arabia	1.00%	2.25%	0 bps
South Korea	0.50%	1.25%	0 bps
Turkey	17.00%	12.00%	0 bps

Central Bank Assets Purchasing Programme

	Lastest (\$)	MoM (%)	YoY (%)
Advanced Economies			
Australia	257 bn	4.0%	122.4%
Canada	428 bn	4.1%	368.0%
Euro Area	8.52 tn	-0.3%	64.5%
France	2.14 tn	6.7%	66.7%
Germany	3 tn	-0.4%	59.9%
Italy	1.67 tn	4.5%	50.0%
Sweden	158 bn	-1.3%	68.3%
Japan	6.78 tn	-0.4%	27.0%
United Kingdom	1.03 tn	2.3%	76.4%
United States	7.4 tn	0.3%	78.4%
Developing Economies			
Brazil	460 bn	-4.3%	-1.2%
China	5.94 tn	2.2%	11.8%
India	398 bn	0.9%	38.4%
Mexico	231 bn	-1.2%	14.3%
Russia	669 bn	-1.5%	0.0%
Saudi Arabia	492 bn	-0.7%	-3.5%
South Korea	491 bn	4.3%	17.3%
Turkey	114 bn	3.7%	2.7%

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Timeline of Covid-19 containment measures and their stringency



This chart shows the change in severity of containment measures over time, up to the latest data. Green indicates a score of zero or no restrictions, while the darkest red indicates the highest restrictions or complete bans. Where grey, no new data is available.

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond, Oxford University

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Overview of the severity of Covid-19 and the resulting containment measures



In line with some of the fewest reported cases and the smallest reported deaths attributed to COVID-19, New Zealand has the lowest 'lockdown index' score at 22, indicating the restrictions in place are generally recommendations and are not enforced. Countries including Iraq, Argentina and Colombia have some of the highest 'lockdown index' scores.

For most countries, public transport has the most relaxed restrictions. Tunisia, Norway, Poland, Netherlands and Greece are the only countries with no measures implemented on public events. Meanwhile, across the world, there is some measure of restriction on international travel. However, France is the exception, where international travel is freely permitted with no measures implemented.

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond, Oxford University

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