

Summary

- **COVID-19:** The total number of cases recorded globally has surpassed 127 million, according to Johns Hopkins University & Medicine. Circa 541 million people globally have been vaccinated, an increase of +24% over the week and equating to just under 7% of the global population. Reported deaths have reached circa 2.7 million.
- **Equities:** Globally, stocks are mixed. In Europe, the STOXX600 and the DAX are both up +0.1% over the morning, the CAC 40 is flat and the FTSE 250 down -0.1%. In Asia the TOPIX (+0.5%) and the CSI 300 (+0.2%) closed higher, but the S&P / ASX 200 (-0.4%), KOSPI (-0.1%) and Hang Seng (-0.1%) closed just lower. In the US, futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average are -0.6% and -0.3%.
- **VIX:** The CBOE market volatility index is up +8.3% this morning to 20.4, just above its long term average of 19.9. The Euro Stoxx 50 volatility is also higher, up +6.5% to 18.2, below its LTA of 23.9.
- **Bonds:** The UK 10-year gilt yield remained stable at 0.76%. The US 10-year treasury yield hardened -2bps to 1.66% while the German 10-year bund yield softened +1bp this morning to -0.34%.
- **Currency:** Sterling and the euro remain at \$1.38 and \$1.18 respectively. Hedging benefits into the UK and Eurozone are currently 0.61% and 1.71% on a five year basis.
- **Oil:** Brent Crude and the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) are -0.4% and -0.5% lower this morning at \$64.3 and \$60.7, respectively.
- **Gold:** The price of Gold is currently \$1,725 per troy ounce, -0.4% down over the morning and -9% below where it was at the start of the year.
- **Baltic Dry:** The Baltic Dry increased marginally on Friday, up +0.3% to 2,178.
- **Global trade:** The Suez Canal Authority announced this morning that the 220k tonne container ship that has blocked the Suez Canal for a week has been partially refloated, raising hopes that the route which carries 12% of global trade may soon reopen.

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Economic Dashboard

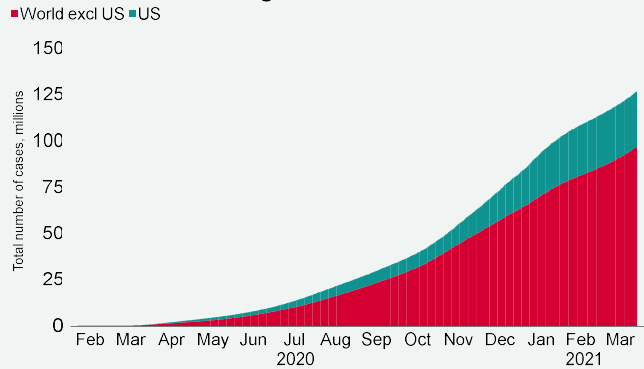
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COVID-19

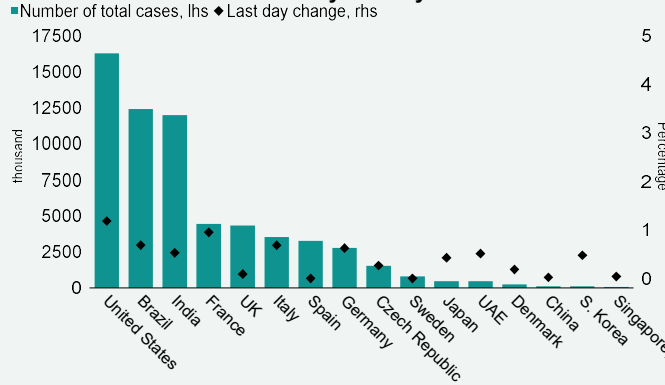
Cumulative number of global cases



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 28 March 2021 11:21 GMT.

The number of total confirmed cases reached 126.4 million on the 28 March, an increase of 566k new cases over the day prior.

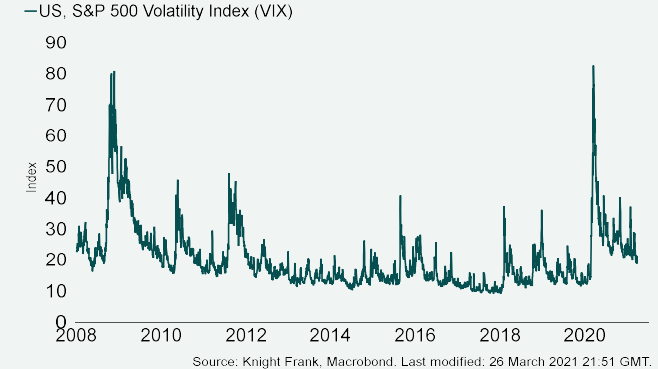
Cumulative number of cases by country



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

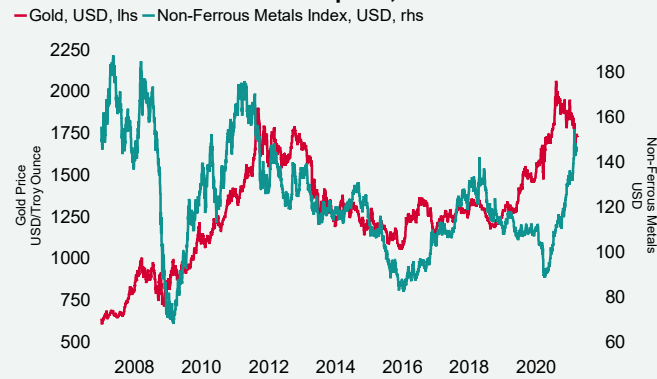


Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 26 March 2021 21:51 GMT.

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

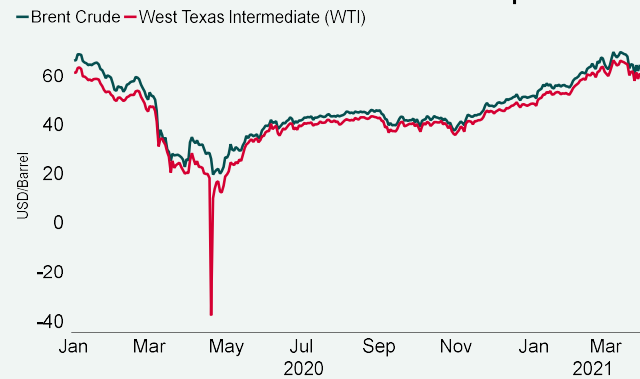
Gold and non-ferrous metals price, USD



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 27 March 2021 23:01 GMT.

	26 Mar	D/D (%)	YTD (%)
Gold, USD	1732	-0.1	-8.7
Non-Ferrous Metals, USD	146	-0.3	12.2

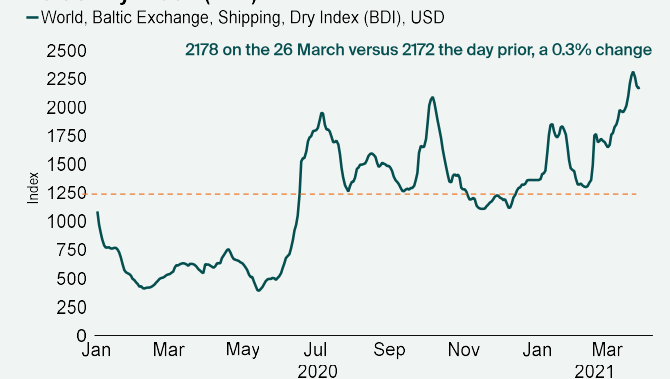
Brent Crude and West Texas Intermediate oil price



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond. Last modified: 28 March 2021 23:10 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: 26 March 2021 13:30 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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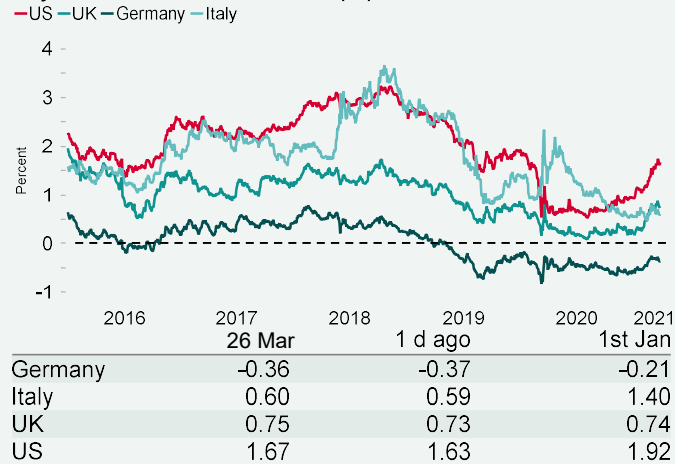
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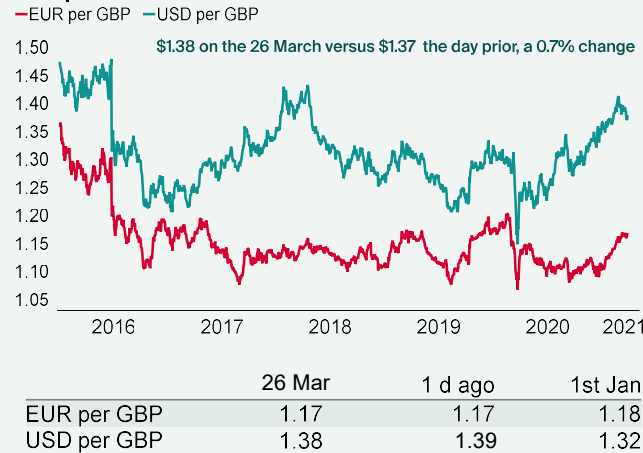
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Bonds and currencies

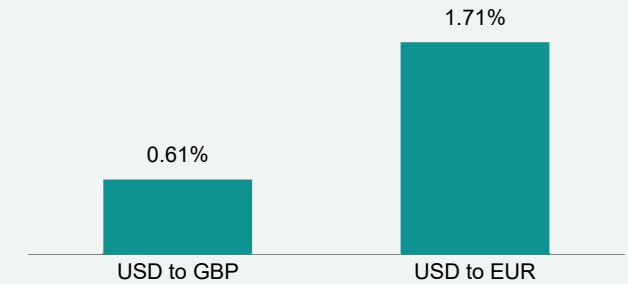
10y Government Bond Yield (%)



FX Spot Rates



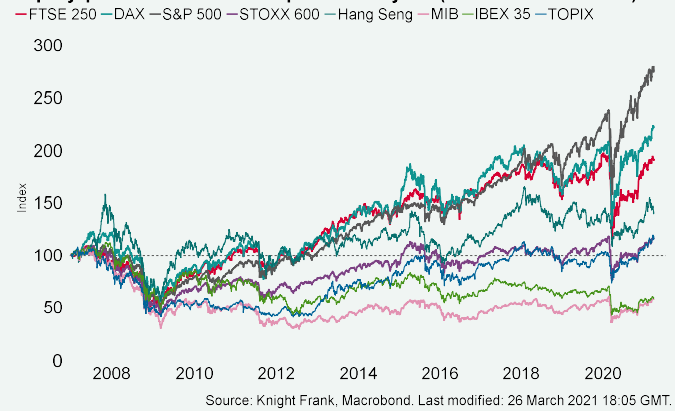
Currency hedging benefit p.a. based on a five year forward



Approximate additional return per annum that dollar denominated investors may obtain based on five year currency hedge.

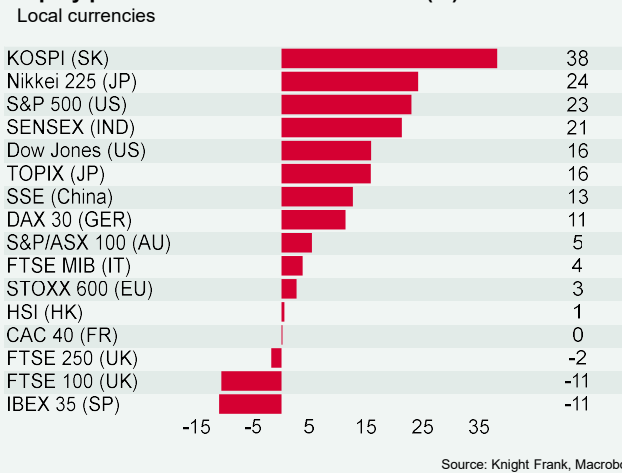
Equity and REIT

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

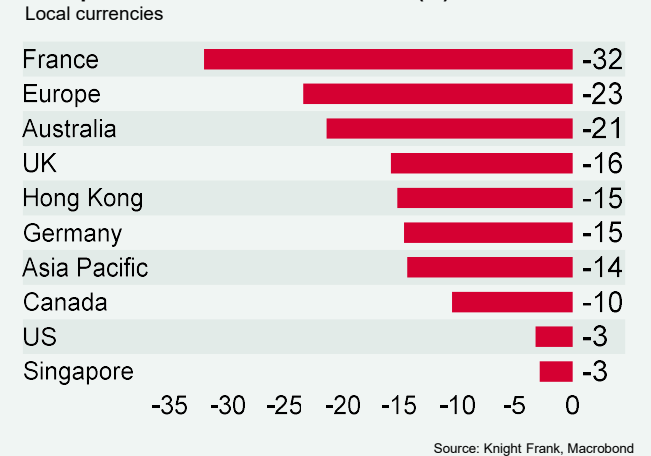


The chart presents the performance of selected equity indexes since the months prior to the global financial crisis (2007).

Equity performance: since 1st Jan 2020 (%)



REIT performance: since 1st Jan 2020 (%)



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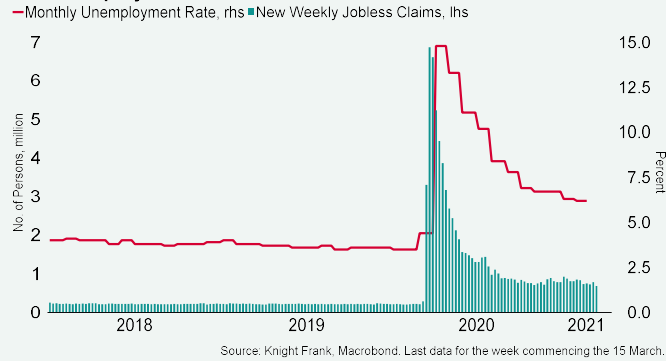
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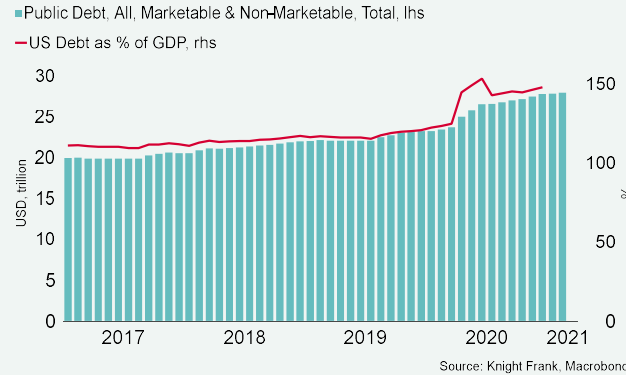
US unemployment

US Unemployment



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

US Public Debt



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	2.75%	4.50%	75 bps
China	4.35%	4.35%	0 bps
India	4.00%	5.15%	0 bps
Mexico	4.00%	7.25%	-25 bps
Russia	4.50%	6.25%	25 bps
Saudi Arabia	1.00%	2.25%	0 bps
South Korea	0.50%	1.25%	0 bps
Turkey	19.00%	12.00%	200 bps

Central Bank Assets Purchasing Programme

	Lastest (\$)	MoM (%)	YoY (%)
Advanced Economies			
Australia	299 bn	7.1%	96.9%
Canada	458 bn	4.1%	395.9%
Euro Area	8.53 tn	-0.9%	59.6%
France	2.1 tn	-0.1%	69.4%
Germany	2.94 tn	-2.4%	48.6%
Italy	1.66 tn	0.0%	50.4%
Sweden	162 bn	0.0%	81.3%
Japan	6.6 tn	-2.1%	23.7%
United Kingdom	1.09 tn	0.0%	91.0%
United States	7.72 tn	1.7%	49.3%
Developing Economies			
Brazil	436 bn	-4.2%	-10.5%
China	5.93 tn	-1.4%	15.0%
India	407 bn	1.0%	33.7%
Mexico	228 bn	-1.6%	10.8%
Russia	701 bn	0.0%	-0.9%
Saudi Arabia	489 bn	-0.9%	-3.2%
South Korea	482 bn	-2.2%	15.6%
Turkey	109 bn	-3.0%	6.6%

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Economic Dashboard

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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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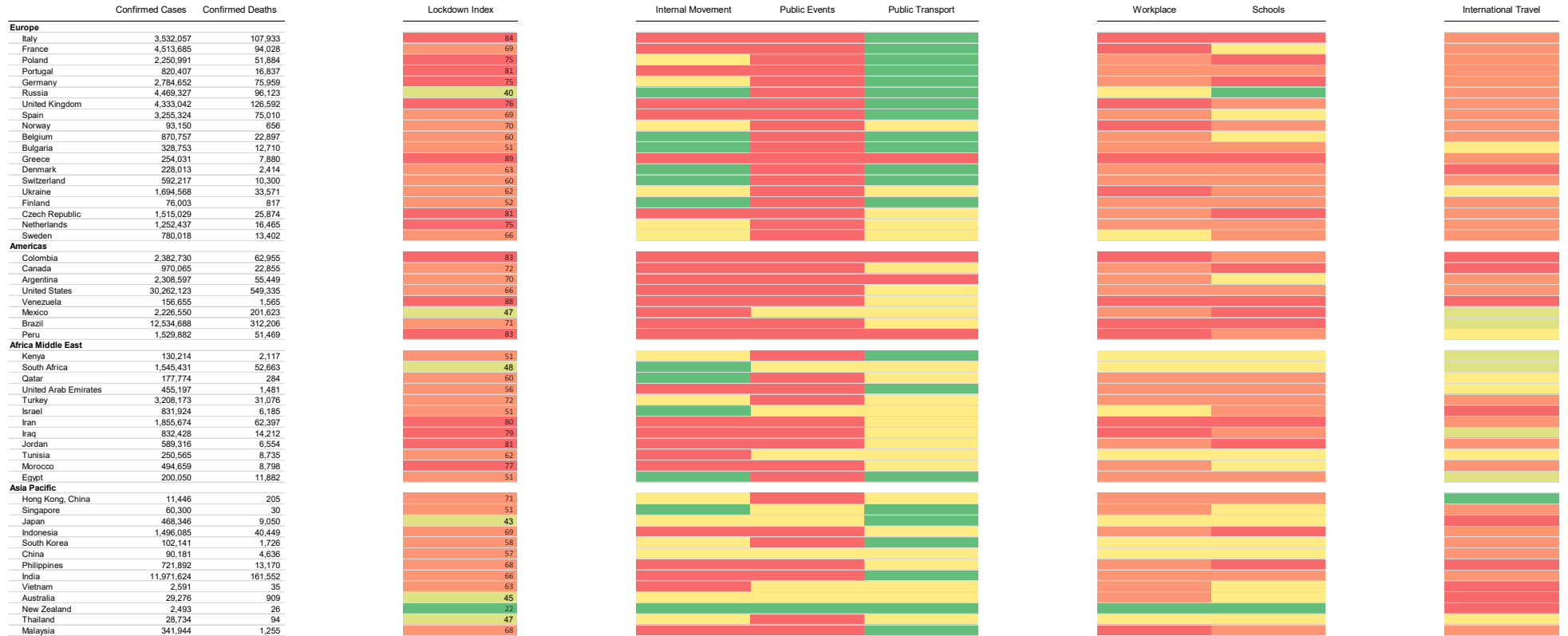
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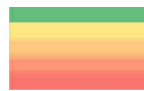


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Overview of the severity of Covid-19 and the resulting containment measures



Lockdown Index key & Scale
 No Restrictions: 0 – 25
 Recommended Restrictions: 26 – 50
 Enforced Restrictions: 51 – 75
 Highest Restrictions / Ban: 76 – 100



Internal movements	Public events	Public transport	Value
No measure	No Measure	No measure	0
Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	1
Restriction	Required	Required	2

Workplace	Schools	Value
No measure	No measure	0
Recommended	Recommended	1
Required closure of some sectors	Some level of schooling required to close	2
Required closure for all but essential work	All schools required to close	3

International travel	Value
No measure	0
Screening	1
Quarantine arrivals from high risk regions	2
Ban on high risk regions	3
Total border closure	4

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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