

April Market Commentary Compliance Notes

24/3 Talks conciliatory as Greece asks for reparations and says it can't meet loan repayments without 'short term help' <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32012066>

Greek/German cultural divide – why default looms
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32016158>

UK

4/3 Government sells 40% stake in Eurostar for £757m
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31721334>

Banks PPI mis-selling bill now totals £24.4bn <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31707494>

5/3 SFO probes BofE liquidity auctions during financial crisis
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31739051>

6/3 UK new car sales up in February <http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/industry/more-record-growth-uks-new-car-market>

10 yr high in 2014 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-30706580>

11/3 Mark Carney - foolish to cut rates to combat low inflation
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31825746>

Recovery by-passing retail sector as supermarket price war continues
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31812849>

13/3 BHS sold for £1 <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/mar/12/sir-philip-green-sells-off-lossmaking-bhs>

...As Morrisons announces closures after losing £800m last year
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/mar/12/morrisons-losses-soar-to-800m>

16/3 High Street shops continue to decline – closed at 3 x rate of 2103 last year – clothes and shoes worst hit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31899346>

21/3 FTSE goes through 7,000 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31981356>

24/3 Tesco to be sued over accounting scandal (potentially)
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32026738>

Plastic £5 note introduced – Clydesdale Bank 'more durable'
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-business-32000610>

25/3 UK inflation falls to zero in February <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32031473> as house prices fall 0.2% in January
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32032561>

FT – 28/3 Labour/SNP coalition would be a disaster

are increasingly concerned that May's general election will result in a Labour-led government backed by the Scottish National party. One FTSE 100 chairman described the prospect as a "nightmare".

A chief executive from the FTSE 100 said: "There's only one strand of coalition mix that would drive fear and shockwaves through the business community, and that would be the spectre of Labour and the SNP."

Another FTSE 100 chief said: "The current SNP leadership has a pretty unreconstructed 1970s socialist agenda."

Just six months after it lost a referendum on Scottish independence, opinion polls indicate that the SNP could rout Labour in Scotland on May 7 and increase its MPs in Westminster from six to about 40, probably putting it in third place behind Labour and the Conservatives.

SNP on 47% of vote in Scotland

<http://blog.whatscotlandthinks.org/2015/03/labour-and-the-liberal-democrats-still-trail-in-the-snps-wake/>

31/3 UK growth higher than thought in 2014 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32126975>

The UK's economy grew at a faster pace than initially estimated last year, revised official figures show.

The economy grew by 0.6% in the final three months of 2014, up from the previous estimate of 0.5%, the Office for National Statistics said.

The unexpected increase meant growth for the year was 2.8%, higher than the earlier estimate of 2.6%.

The revised rate marks the highest pace of annual growth since 2006, when the economy grew by 3%.

An expansion in both production and services as well as household spending helped to drive the increase, the official data suggested.

But the biggest contribution to the revised figure was a strong performance of exports, the ONS said.

Europe

6/3 ECB to launch €1.1tn bond buying programme from Monday 9th as Draghi claims "policies have worked." Has effectively driven the euro down by 20% against dollar and Chinese yuan over the last 12 months

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/economics/11453341/ECB-launches-1.1-trillion-blitz-as-bond-market-dries-up.html>

Growth rate revised up to 1.5% for this year and 1.9% for 2016 – Germany not entirely in favour of the new move, feeling that risks of deflation have been exaggerated

13/3 Germany-Greece row intensifies over Greek demand for war reparations. Schauble denies insulting Varoufakis

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/12/germany-greece-row-heats-up-schauble-denies-insulting-varoufakis>

US

11/3 Dow falls on fears that Fed could raise rates sooner than expected – all 2015 gains are lost <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31818958> (check that) - also took the FTSE down 2.5% in one day. Dollar also strengthening which makes it harder for exporters - £ also up vs. the euro

Dollar also up as emerging market currencies struggle – for example, Brazilian real down to lowest level in a decade against the dollar

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31812413>

13/3 Apple watch is unveiled – and a new, thinner Mac book

<http://www.theguardian.com/technology/gallery/2015/mar/09/apple-unveils-apple-watch-and-new-macbook-in-pictures>

25/3 US consumer prices rise as petrol goes up for first time since June last year

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32036978>

US economy adds 295,000 jobs in February <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31768388>

As Fed hints at possible rate rise – removed the word ‘patience’ from its regular statement. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31953699> who knows, maybe the person that writes it has teenage children...

Slowdown in US at end of 2014 more pronounced than thought – only grew at 2.2% Oct to Dec against 2.6% previously thought <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31663172>

Far East

5/3 China sets growth target of 7% for 2015 as growth slows to 7.4% in 2014

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31743423>

11/3 BBC site With China's latest production, investment and retail sales data all undershooting growth forecasts, there are fresh concerns about the economy. The government now targets annual GDP growth of 7% over the next few years, but Beijing-based economist professor Michael Pettis is not convinced. He tells World Business Report: "I expect next year we will see lower numbers, and on and on."

Relevant Chinese date <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31827805>

11/3 World's biggest cargo ship built in S Korea

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-31813045>

13/3 Britain joins Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/mar/13/white-house-pointedly-asks-uk-to-use-its-voice-as-part-of-chinese-led-bank> US expresses displeasure at 'constant accommodation' of China

16/3 China revealed as world's 3rd biggest arms exporter behind USA and Russia

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-31901493>

Chinese shares go to 5 year high as Premier says Government will prop up economy if growth is in danger of falling below targets <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31901498>

Emerging Markets

India cuts bank rate to 7.5% <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31724133>

But rates in Ukraine up to 30% from 17.5% in an effort to curb inflation and prop up beleaguered currency <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31721332> Hryvnia has lost 80% of its value since last April when pro-Russian separatists took up arms in Donetsk & economy projected to shrink 5.5% this year

5/3 Brazil lifts interest rates to 6 yr high of 12.75% in bid to curb inflation

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31744918>

Singapore retains title of world's most expensive city

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-31689124>

28/3 Brazil economy grew by 0.1% in 2014 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-32082662>

13/3 Is Putin ill? Not seen in public since 5th March and old photos used

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/12/vladimir-putin-sick-kremlin-cancels-meetings-uses-old-photos>

And finally

Spocking <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-31717210>

Guido <http://order-order.com/2015/03/09/canadians-are-spocking-their-5-bills/>