

Multi-Asset Investment Solutions

Weekly Market Review

Author

Nick Warmisham

Investment Analyst

Date: 15/06/2026

Market recap – peace deal hopes drive relief rally

Global stock markets recovered from the previous week's tech rout, with a powerful Friday rally driven by a fall in oil prices and growing optimism about the prospects for a US-Iran peace deal. US markets led the rebound, with the **Nasdaq 100 climbing 2.1%** (all returns quoted are in sterling terms) and the **S&P 500 up 0.4%**. US smaller companies were the standout performers though, with the **Russell 2000 surging 3.7%** and **MSCI USA Small Cap up 3.8%**. In the UK, the **FTSE 100 rose 1.0%**, supported by banks and mining companies, while **MSCI Europe excluding UK gained 1.9%**. Japan was the clear laggard, with the **TOPIX falling 1.9%** and the **Nikkei 225 down 1.0%**, weighed by a stronger yen and jitters about the valuations of artificial intelligence-related stocks. **MSCI Asia Pacific excluding Japan slipped 0.5%** and **MSCI Emerging Markets was down 0.2%**.

Geopolitics – Hormuz in focus as deal edges closer

Middle East diplomacy dominated sentiment during the week. The US launched strikes on Iran after accusing Tehran of downing a US helicopter. But the tone shifted decisively on Thursday when President Donald Trump cancelled further attacks and signalled a deal was near. Under the agreement, which is expected to be signed on Friday, the **Strait of Hormuz would reopen** after more than 100 days closed. The deal includes a commitment by Iran that its forces will clear mines and that it will not charge tolls for vessels travelling through the strait during a 60-day ceasefire extension. Iran will also reaffirm it will not develop nuclear weapons, and its stockpile of over **9,000kg of enriched uranium** will be diluted under independent supervision.

Central banks – ECB hikes rates for first time since 2023

The **European Central Bank raised rates by 0.25% to 2.25%**, its first hike since September 2023, citing increased inflation risks caused by the Middle East energy shock. It revised forecasts to show **headline inflation averaging 3.0% in 2026 and 2.3% in 2027**, while trimming its economic growth forecast to **0.8% for 2026**. Investors have priced in another rate hike, probably in September. The week ahead will be a busy one for central banks, with the US Federal Reserve (the Fed), Bank of Japan (BoJ), Bank of England (BoE), Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and others all holding rate-setting meetings. The **BoJ is widely expected to increase its rate by 0.25% to 1.0%**, its first increase since December 2025.

News – SpaceX makes history

Company news last week was dominated by the stock market flotation of **SpaceX**, the largest on record. The company raised roughly **\$75 billion** and was priced at **\$135 a share**. This valued SpaceX at nearly **\$1.8 trillion** and placing it among the world's ten largest companies from day one. The share price rose around **19% in the first day of trading on Friday**. The company will have to wait a year before being included in the S&P 500 index, but will be admitted sooner to the Russell 1000, MSCI USA and Nasdaq 100 indices. Artificial intelligence giants Anthropic and OpenAI are also expected to float on the stock market this year.

Economic data – US inflation higher and jobless claims up

US headline consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose 4.2% year on year in May, the highest rate since 2023, driven largely by rising energy costs. However, the monthly rate eased to 0.5% and **core CPI** (with volatile food and energy costs stripped out) **moderated to 0.2%** month on month. Initial jobless claims climbed to **229,000**, a third consecutive weekly rise and the highest since early February. Consumer sentiment improved but remained subdued. In the UK, **economic growth** (as measured by gross domestic product or GDP) **contracted 0.1% in April**, the first decline in eight months, with weaker activity in the services sector acting as a drag. China provided brighter news, with **exports jumping 19.4% year on year**, well ahead of forecasts, and with semiconductor exports more than doubling. However, Chinese consumer inflation remained weak at **1.2%**.

Commodities

The Brent Crude oil price fell 3.4% on Friday to around \$87 per barrel on hopes of a peace deal between the US and Iran. Over the week, the **S&P GSCI Brent Crude oil index was down -5.9%** (in sterling terms), though it is still up sharply since the conflict began. **The gold price dropped 3.0%** to around \$4,200 per ounce, as interest rate-hike expectations and easing energy fears undermined its safe-haven appeal. **The wider commodities index fell 2.6%** and **industrial metal prices were broadly flat**.

Week ahead – what to watch

US: Building permits & housing starts (Tue); retail sales; Fed interest rate decision, & press conference (Wed).

UK: Inflation rate for May (Wed); unemployment rate & BoE interest rate decision (Thu); retail sales (Fri).

Japan: BoJ Interest rate decision (Tue); balance of trade (Wed); inflation rate for May (Fri).

Asia: China industrial production & retail sales (Tue).

Europe: Germany economic sentiment (Tue).

Source: Marlborough Multi-Asset, Morningstar, Financial Times, PIMCO, T. Rowe Price, Anglia Advisors, Trading Economics

Risk Warnings

These are the views of the investment team at the time of writing and should not be construed as investment advice. The opinions expressed are correct at time of writing and may be subject to change. Capital is at risk. The value and income from investments can go down as well as up and are not guaranteed. An investor may get back significantly less than they invest. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future performance and should not be the sole factor considered when selecting funds.

This document is a general communication being provided for informational purposes only. It is educational in nature and not designed to be taken as advice or a recommendation for any specific investment product, strategy, plan feature or other purpose in any jurisdiction, nor is it a commitment from Marlborough or any of its subsidiaries to participate in any of the transactions mentioned herein. Any examples used are generic, hypothetical and for illustration purposes only. This material does not contain sufficient information to support an investment decision and it should not be relied upon by you in evaluating the merits of investing in any securities or products. In addition, users should make an independent assessment of the legal, regulatory, tax, credit, and accounting implications and determine together with their own professional advisers if appropriate if any investment mentioned herein is believed to be suitable. Investors should ensure that they obtain all available relevant information before making any investment. Any forecasts, figures, opinions or investment techniques and strategies set out are for information purposes only, based on certain assumptions and current market conditions and are subject to change without prior notice. All information presented herein is considered to be accurate at the time of production, but no warranty of accuracy is given and no liability in respect of any error or omission is accepted.

Regulatory Information

Issued in the UK by Marlborough Investment Management Limited, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (reference number 115231). Registered office: Marlborough House, 59 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4QP. Registered in England No. 01947598.

Issued in Europe by Marlborough Investment Management Limited (authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) on behalf of Marlborough ICAV (authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland). Marlborough ICAV is managed by TMF Fund Management (Ireland) Limited (authorised and regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland). Marlborough ICAV is registered under the laws of Ireland with registered number C186352 as an Irish Collective Asset Management Vehicle which is constituted as an open ended umbrella UCITS fund with segregated liability between sub funds. Directors: Raymond O'Neill (Irish), Dom Clarke (British), Brian Farrell (Irish) and Danny Knight (British). Registered office: Registered Office: Marlborough ICAV 88 Harcourt Street Dublin 2, Ireland. The fund is registered and approved under section 65 of CISCA. South African investors must read this document with the latest Minimum Disclosure Document & General Investor Report.

Marlborough House, 59 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4QP

Intermediary Support. 0808 145 2502

Email. salesupport@marlboroughgroup.com

Website. marlboroughgroup.com

