FINANCE CLUB UNIPI

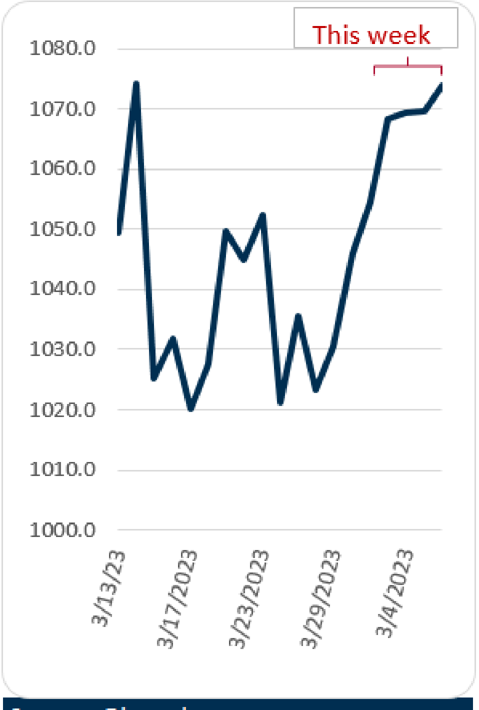
FINANCIAL MARKETS DEPARTMENT

WEEKLY OUTLOOK

03.04.2023 - 07.04.2023

GREECE |GI 's rally uninterrupted by OPEC+ decision

ASE General Index Closing Prices



Source: Bloomberg

Athens Stock Exchange General Index Movers	Weekly Change
Top Gainers	
Ekter	17.48%
Fourlis	7.06%
MTD	6.71%
Alumil	6.70%
Hellenic Exchanges	6.24%
Top Losers	
Kekrops	-7.29%
Lamda Development	-3.95%
Aegean Airlines	-2.37%
Entersoft SA	-2.37%
Jumbo	-1.03%

MARKET COMMENT & DRIVING EVENTS

The first week of April was positive for the Greek markets as the two major indices recorded significant gains. The Athens General Composite (ATG) gained 1.84% or 19.41 points closing at 1,074.00, rising for seven consecutive days and solidifying above the 1000 points as it has remained above it for 50 consecutive days. The Athens Large cap index also recorded major gains as it rose 1.91% or 48.79 points, reaching 2,597.68. The sentiment in the country improved as analysts and institutional investors are pricing in a higher chance that Fed and ECB will pause their rates hiking programs as inflation starts declining from its highs. Also, BoG governor, Giannis Stournaras said that rate hikes will stop in the near future as ECB is approaching the terminal rate it has set as a target. Moreover, he announced that Greece is in a position to acquire the investment grade by S&P very soon, if the current government wins the general elections on May 21 because a different outcome would be undoing years of progress. On the other hand, JP Morgan analysts believe that the party currently in power will need two rounds of elections to win again as the Tempi tragic incident damaged its popularity. In other news, Greek markets weren't affected by OPEC+ decision to lower its production output, unlike other European countries where many energy stocks closed Monday's session with significant gains.

STOCK OF THE WEEK: Mytilineos

Mytilineos' shares rose 4.89% last week marking the 3rd consecutive week with gains as the Greek company continues impressing investors with strong financial results and steady presence in the Greek energy sector. On Friday, Fitch upgraded Mytilineos' long term credit rating to BB+ from BB bringing the company one step away from the invaluable investment grade. The rating agency expects that Mytilineos will expand its operations in the energy sector and keep diversifying its operations portfolio. The company's shares have risen 35.57% since the start of the year, reaching new highs several times in the past months. Mytilineos is an industrial-based company that's active in four sectors: Power & Gas, Metallurgy, Sustainable Energy Solutions and Renewables & Storage Development.

CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

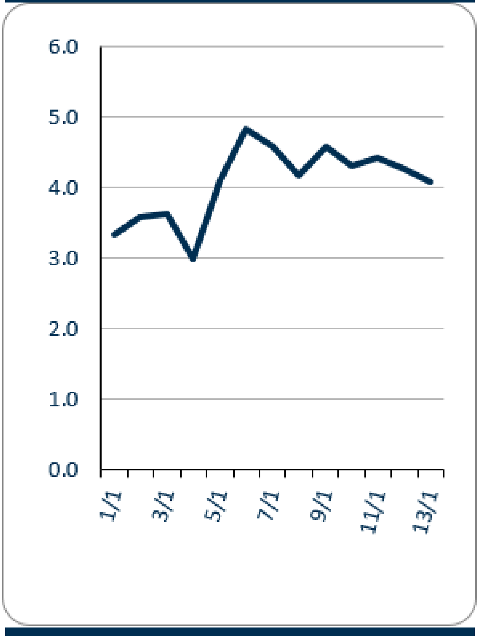
The Greek markets remain bullish as April 21 is approaching when it's said that there is a possibility that S&P will upgrade the country's credit rating to investment grade (BBB), allowing for more foreign funds to flow in the country. Most financial, institutions believe that there is little probability for an upgrade before the May 21 general elections as the results will be largely indicative of Greece's future economic policies and many analysts believe that the current government would be the winner after two rounds of elections. The upcoming week will act most probably be a consolidating one as the Orthodox Easter is approaching and investors will have time to figure out their next moves as the next month will be critical for the stock market due to significant event that can change the sentiment very quickly.

NEWS & ECONOMY

Bank of Greece forecasts high growth rate and lower inflation for 2023

According to Giannis Stournaras, Greek economy is expected to grow at a 2.2% rate in 2023, a much larger pace than other European economies

10Y Greek Bond YTM



Source: Bloomberg

as consumer spending and investments will keep fueling growth. Moreover, tourism which is the countries main industry is expected to perform fairly well despite the uncertainty looming over developed economies. On the inflation front, CPI is expected to slow down but remaining relatively high at 4.4% rate for the year which will largely depend on food and non-energy industrial goods prices.

Greek exports rise while imports fall in February

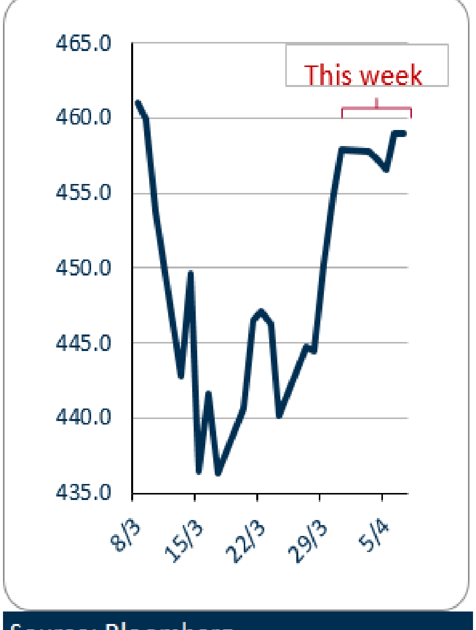
Greek exports climbed to €4.4 bn. in February from €3.6 bn. last year marking a 20% increase. Non-oil exports also increased by 6.2% or €170 mn. in the last year indicating strong growth even without the boost from the surging energy prices. At the same time, imports decreased by 4.9% to €6.6 bn. from €7 bn. last year, driving down the trade deficit which plummeted 32% Y.o.Y to €2.2 bn. from €3.3 bn.

EUROPE | European indices on the rise before the catholic Easter

MARKETS&ECONOMY

The European stock markets concluded the shortened week due to the Easter holiday with gains, with banks and travel-leisure sector giving a positive and optimistic tone to the session. The pan-European Stoxx 600 index rose by 0.25%. The other pan-European index, Euro Stoxx 50, which includes the heavyweights of the Eurozone, gained 0.26% to reach 4,309.45 points. The German DAX strengthened by 0.50% to 15,597.89 points, while the French CAC 40 gained 0.12% to 7,324.75 points. The UK's FTSE 100 recorded gains of 1.03% to 7,741.56 points. In the region, the Italian FTSE MIB rose 1.29% to 27,213.86 points, while the Spanish IBEX 35 gained 0.62% to 9,312.30 points. The banking sector gained 1.8%, continuing its generally positive trend after the recent turmoil over Credit Suisse's acquisition by UBS. Meanwhile, the travel and leisure sector gained 1.4%, with tourism company Tui recording the biggest gains among European stocks, driven by strong new bookings. On the other hand, the household goods sector fell by 1.3%, as did the retail sector by 0.5%.About monetary policy , the President of the European Central Bank (ECB), Christine Lagarde, along with Vice President Luis de Guindos and Chief Economist Philip Lane, suggested that the increasing inflationary pressures would demand additional interest rate increases. Although a number of other policymakers, such as Bank of France Governor François Villeroy de Galhau, Bank of Lithuania Governor Gediminas Šimkus, and Bank of Greece Governor Yannis Stournaras, shared the opinion that interest rates may go up, they also expressed their belief that rates were approaching a maximum level.According to data from Eurostat, home prices in the European Union experienced their first drop since 2015 during the fourth quarter of last year. The decline was significant, with a sequential decrease of 1.5%, caused by reduced demand due to higher interest rates. Additionally, eurozone producer prices dropped for the fifth consecutive month in February, more than initially anticipated, primarily due to lower energy prices.

STOXX 600 Closing Prices



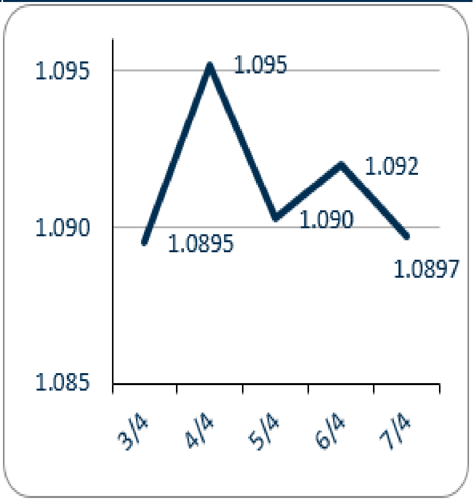
Source: Bloomberg

US | Stability in the banking sector propelled stocks higher

MARKETS & ECONOMY

Equity markets ended the holiday-shortened week with losses as recent economic data reflected some weakness in the economic activity, raising worries over a potential recession. Dow Jones Industrials Average was up 0.6% closing at 33,485 points, NASDAQ closed down at 12,088 slipping -1.1% and the S&P 500 closed at 4,105 down -0.1%. After numerous reports revealing a growing economy in the first quarter, the new one

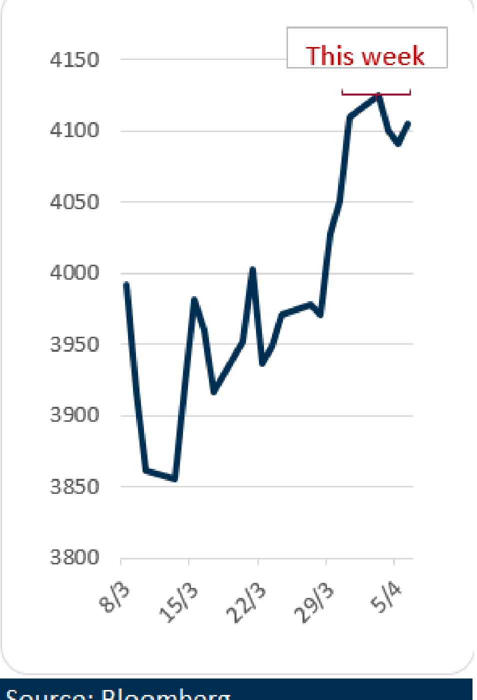
EUR/USD



Source: Bloomberg

started with signs of a slowdown, spreading a defensive tone in the markets. According to the Institute for Supply Management both the manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMI came in softer than expected as a result of diminishing demand following the central bank's tightening policy this past year, accompanied by higher rates. Even though the PMI referring to the services sector still remains above the 50 points mark, which indicates expansion, the index unexpectedly decreased to 51.2 in March, from 55.1 the previous month, while in the meantime manufacturing activity was heavily affected by the tightening economic conditions which led to hardly any demand for goods, leading to the lowest reading in nearly three years, down to 46.3 for the month of March, being the 5th consecutive month that the index remains in contractive territory. Recent data also point to a potentially softening labor market as reports showed a deceleration in hiring. Reviewing the March jobs report the US economy added 236K jobs, the weakest since December 2020, but still above the number analysts anticipated considering the latest financial challenges, bringing the unemployment rate down to 3.5%, close to a 50-year low. However with a participation rate of 62.6%, the highest since the pandemic started and a shrinking wage growth of 4.3%, the lowest in three years, it is possible that the Fed officials will end their aggressive campaign sooner than expected. To support this view job openings took a downfall in February too, totaling 9.9 mn, falling below 10 mn for the first time in two years, signaling that tight labor market conditions which fuel inflationary pressures and impose an aggressive reaction from the Fed, have finally eased. The slowdown in both jobs and average hourly earnings are welcoming news for officials who were already considering the pause of their rate-hiking campaign as soon as June, as the economy has evidently cooled off. The growing expectations of a slowing economy in the months ahead are also reflected in yields, which are trending well below their recent highs, with the 2 year T-note around 3.8%, from its highest point of 5.1% not long ago and the 10 year yield hovering around 3.3%. With the latest financial challenges resolved, investors remain focused on inflation, monetary policy and its implications for the economic outlook, as well as the results of the first-quarter earrings season kicking-off next week.

S&P 500 Closing Prices

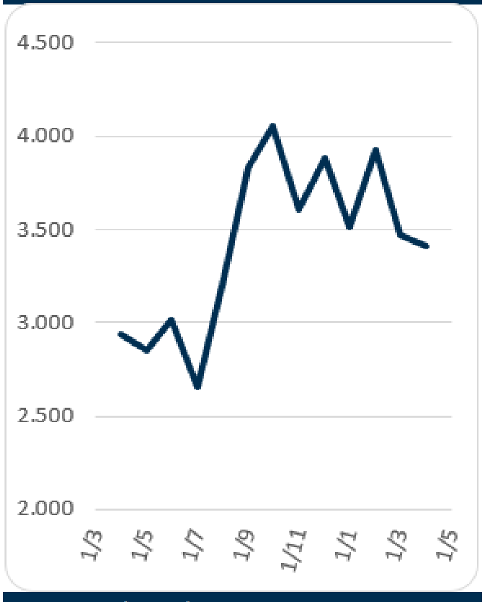


Source: Bloomberg

STOCKS | Performance & Fundamental Analysis

Saudi Arabian Oil Group (Saudi Arabia Stock Exchange: 2222)) is an Arabian public petroleum and natural gas company based in Dhahran. It was founded in 1935 and listed on the Saudi Stock Exchange at 11 December 2019. It's well known that she is playing a leading role in the energy transition because is delivering societal and economic benefits to people and communities around the globe who rely on the vital energy that supplies and also helps the world achieve a net-zero economy. Saudi Aramco had started with crude oil production at 500,000 barrels per day in 1949. In 1950, completed the 1,212-kilometer Trans-Arabian Pipeline (Tapline) — the longest in the world. The Tapline linked eastern Saudi Arabia to the Mediterranean Sea, sharply cutting the time and cost of exporting oil to Europe. And after two years of exploration in the shallow Arabian Gulf waters, discovered the Safaniyah field in 1951. It proved to be the world's largest offshore oil field. And in 1958, Aramco's crude oil production exceeded 1 million barrels in a calendar year. In 1973, the Saudi government bought a 25% interest in Aramco, increasing that interest to 60% the following year and by the 1980 to 100%.Nowadays, oil prices have soared to multi-year highs, largely aided by strong post-

US 10Y Bond YTM



Source: Bloomberg

Dow Jones Movers	Weekly Change
Top Gainers	
UnitedHealth Group	8.51%
J&J	6.55%
Merck & Company	5.58%
Amgen	4.79%
Walgreens Boots Alliance	3.47%
Top Losers	
Caterpillar	-8.60%
American Express	-3.71%
Salesforce	-3.62%
3M	-3.38%
Home Depot	-2.21%

-Covid demand, surprise OPEC+ cuts and the disruption caused by Russia's war in Ukraine. This petrodollar windfall has really given a boost to previously battered Gulf economies, allowing some Gulf Arab states to pay down debt and others to diversify their oil-reliant economies in very big ways. Saudi Aramco said it plans to spend $110 billion over the next couple of years to develop the Jafurah gas field, which is estimated to hold 200 trillion cubic feet of gas. The company hopes to start natural gas production from Jafurah in 2024 and reach 2.2 Bcf/d of sales gas by 2036 with an associated 425 million cubic feet per day of ethane. Moreover, company expanded its presence in China by acquiring a 10 percent stake in Shenzhen-listed Rongsheng Petrochemical Co. for $3.6 billion. This announcement demonstrates Aramco's long-term commitment to China and belief in the fundamentals of the Chinese petrochemicals sector.

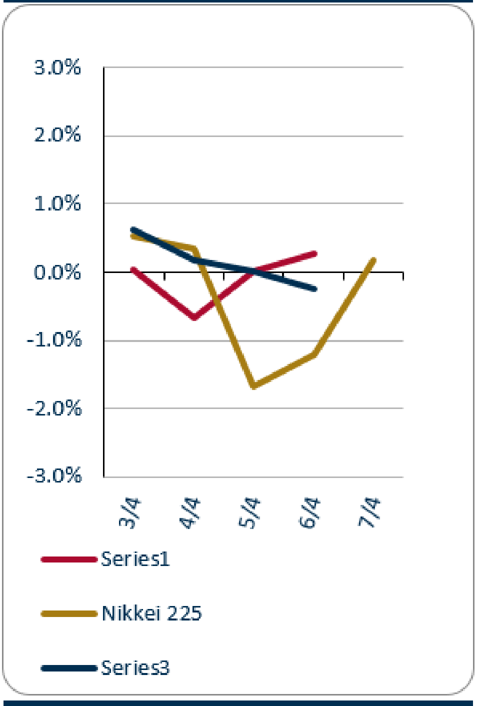
Western Alliance Bancorporation (NYSE: WAL) is a bank holding company that provides banking products and services. It operates through Commercial and Consumer Related segments and offers various deposit products, including checking, savings, and money market accounts, as well as treasury management and residential mortgage products and loan services. The company recently reported a net deposit outflow of $6 billion in the first quarter of 2023, with the outflows concentrated in its tech and innovation as well as settlement services groups. This was due to customers being spooked by the sudden collapse of two U.S. mid-sized lenders, Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank, which triggered a banking crisis and led to investors becoming concerned about a possible mismatch between long-dated assets and short-dated liabilities. However, the bank's recent update shows that deposit outflows have stabilized and deposit balances have grown about $900 million to quarter end since March 30. The bank also said it has seen deposits grow by $1.2 billion this month and that its total insured deposits now stand at 68% of total deposits, significantly higher than year-end. Investors took solace in the update, which allayed concerns of severe deposit outflows. While the bank's stock has been under pressure, declining more than 50% this year and off 66% from its record high, the stabilization of deposit pressures should be a positive sign for investors. Western Alliance's focus on regional banking products and services has helped the bank navigate through the current crisis. Policymakers have also emphasized that the current crisis is different from the last as lenders are better capitalized, but banks still sought record amounts of emergency liquidity in mid-March. While the decrease in deposits is ultimately an acceptable and manageable outcome for the company, analysts suggest that earnings may be under material near-term pressure. Nevertheless, the bank's ability to weather the current crisis and stabilize deposit outflows should be a positive sign for investors. As a final note, Western Alliance Bancorporation has experienced deposit outflows due to the recent banking crisis, but the bank's recent update shows that deposit outflows have stabilized and deposit balances have grown.

APAC | Sentiment in China is improving – Profit taking in Japan

MARKETS & ECONOMY

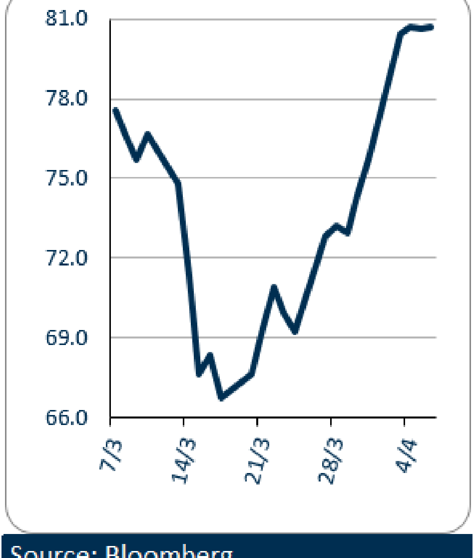
This past week was a solid one for the Chinese markets as the two major indices recorded significant gains. Specifically, Shanghai Shenzhen (CSI 300) gained 1.79% or 72.35 points closing at 4,123.28 and Shanghai Composite gained 1.67% or 54.79 points closing at 3,327.65. China has outperformed world stocks in the

APAC Daily Returns



Source: Bloomberg

Crude Oil WTI Futures



Source: Bloomberg

months of March as the MSCI China index rose 4.5% during that period beating MSCI World index which gained 2.7%, indicating strong growth potential. Moreover, the Shanghai Composite recorder its best quarter in over two years gaining 5.9%. Since, the announcement of Alibaba's plan to split its six main money-making department and create separate companies, investors and fund managers have been heavily investing in Chinese stocks, as the government seems to easing its regulatory crackdown on major technology companies, which will boost business growth as market conditions will be getting better in the foreseeable future. Furthermore, data shows net foreign buying since Alibaba's announcement, which indicates that the sentiment among foreign investors is shifting after their absence from Chinese markets when the government started easing their zero-Covid policy to allow businesses to recover. Crossing the border, the Japanese stock market saw a sharp decline as the Nikkei 225 lost 1.87% or 523.17 points closing the week at 27,518.31. Many investors rushed to sell in order to lock in profits from Japanese stocks that saw three straight days with gains, during a high volatility period for the world markets as some major European countries released weak economic data, JPM warned that he banking sector isn't out of danger just yet and US jobs data indicates a cooling market. Moreover, Kazuo Ueda will be taking over in Sunday, as BoJ's new governor and is said to slowly but surely put an end to Haruhiko Kuroda's extensive stimulus program. He also announced that BoJ will focus its actions on achieving the 2% inflation target and mitigating possible side effects.

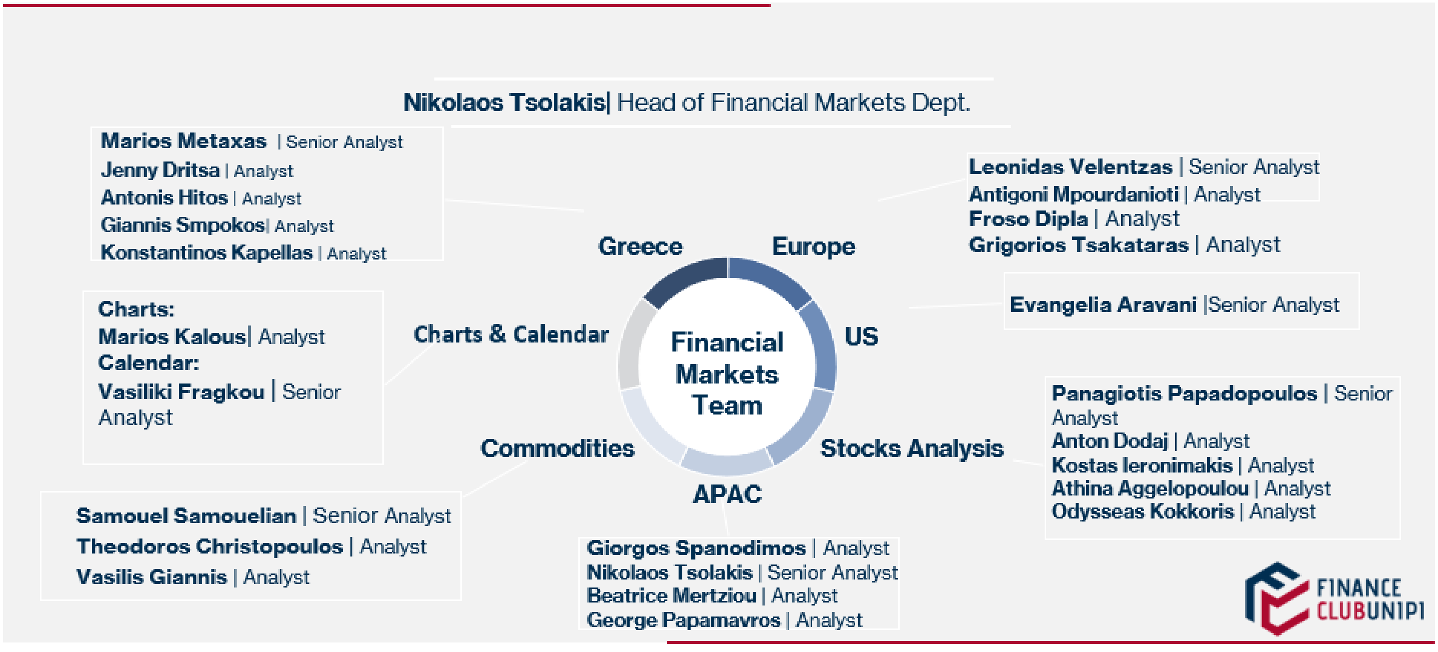
COMMODITIES | Oil and Gold rise - Natural Gas tumbles

Another week of gains for oil markets ended on Thursday, as the Holy Week for the Catholic world shortened the weekly market session. U.S. WTI crude benchmark yielded +6.65%, to $80.70/b, and Brent yielded +6.71%, to $85.12. This whole week's surge was fueled by OPEC and allies surprise decision from last week, to cut production by over 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd). Saudi Arabia, being the leading oil producer, announced a production cut of 500000 bpd. The cartel's decision came as oil prices have been on relatively low levels pressured by recession fears and last month's bank defaults. Adding to that, based on global targets of switching to green energy in the coming decades, the cartel's members want to profit from their 'black gold' for as long as possible, taking on, at the same time, green energy projects. The price increase mainly happened in the beginning of the week, with the rest of the weekly session facing small fluctuations around the $80 point for WTI and $84 for Brent. The inability to break over these prices signals the uncertainty in the markets. Nonetheless, prices stayed over 80$ grasping profits for the third consecutive week. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported a 3.7-million-barrel draw in oil crude inventories for the week ending on March 31. Within the latest weekly EIA report was, however, a line showing a draw of 3.7M barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or SPR. This was the first SPR draw for this year. U.S. Natural Gas tumbled for the 6th consecutive week, even diving beneath the $2 key price-point. Futures ended the 4-day weekly session at $2.011/MMbtu, losing 9.25%. The EIA reported that utilities pulled 23 billion cubic feet, or bcf, from natural gas storage for the week ended March 31, leaving a balance of 1.83 trillion cubic feet, or tcf. The unusually warm temperatures and high storage had triggered a selloff in gas futures since late last year. European Natural Gas futures also lost 9. 86%, closing the week at €43.125/MWh. Gold followed an uptrend throughout the week and yielded +2.18% this week, climbing to $2011.90/ounce. The week started with an uptrend as weak economic data and signs of growth slowdown bolsters the price of the ‘safe-haven’ and moving further towards 2020 highs. On Thursday, a stronger than expected job reported led prices slightly on the red but with no significant losses.

Apr 2023	Next week's economic calendar
MON 10	GBP:BRC Retail Sales Monitor(YoY) (Mar)
	AUD: Westpac Consumer Sentiment (Apr)
	AUD: NAB Business Confidence (Mar)
	CNY: CPI (MoM) (Mar) (fx:0.2%)
	CNY: CPI (YoY) (Mar) (fx:1.9%)
TUE 11	EUR: Retail Sales (MoM) (Feb) (fx:0.2%)
	BRL: CPI (YoY) (Mar) (fx:5.54%)
	BRL: CPI (MoM) (Mar) (fx:0.80%)
	BRL: Brazilian IPCA Inflation Index SA (MoM) (Mar)
	USD:WASDE Report
	JPY: Core Machinery Orders (MoM) (Feb)(fx:1.8%)
WED 12	USD: Core CPI (MoM) (Mar) (fx:0.4%)
	USD: CPI (MoM) (Mar) (fx:0.3%)
	USD: CPI (YoY) (Mar) (fx:6.0%)
	CAD: BoC Interest Rate Decision (fx:4.50%)
	USD: FOMC Meeting Minutes
	Deployment Change (Mar)
THU 13	GBP: GDP (MoM) (Feb) (fx:0.1%)
	GBP: Monthly GDP 3M/3M Change (Feb)
	GBP: Manufacturing Production (MoM) (Feb) (fx: -0.1%)
	EUR: German CPI (MoM)(Mar)
	USD:PPI (MoM)(Mar)
FRI 14	USD: Core Retail Sales (MoM) (Mar) (fx: -0.1%)
	USD: Retail Sales (MoM) (Mar) (fx: -0.3%)
	USD: Michigan Consumer Expectations (Apr) (fx:64.5)
	EUR: Spanish CPI (YoY)(Mar) (fx:6.1%)
	USD: Industrial Production (MoM) (Mar)(fx:0.2%)

What to look for this week

The upcoming week is not going to be very busy, as we are starting off on Monday seeing that many markets will be closed due to Easter, while on the same day China’s Consumer Price Index (CPI) (YoY) is expected to rise up to 1.9%, which will be bullish for the CNY. Moving on Tuesday, the Brazil’s CPI (YoY) is about to be released at 5.54%, which will have a negative impact on BRL. Furthermore, the next day, Core CPI (MoM) for the U.S. is about to be released with the expectation of experiencing a small drop down to 0.4%, while the previous closing was at 0.5%, causing small problems to the USD, while the BoC Interest Rate Decision is not expected to experience any changes and won’t have neither a bearish nor bullish outcome on the CAD. On Thursday, the U.K is expected to be negatively affected by the fact that GDP(Gross Domestic Product) (MoM) is about to drop down to 0.1%,measuring the annualized change in the inflation-adjusted value of all goods and services produced by the economy, while in the U.S. the OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report will be released ,which is very important as it covers major issues affecting the world oil market and provides an outlook for crude oil market developments for the coming year. Their report provides a detailed analysis of key developments impacting oil market trends in world oil demand, supply as well as the oil market balance .Finally, on Friday, the Spanish CPI (YoY) is expected to rise up to 6.1% affecting positively the economy of the country and therefore the EUR.



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