

COMMENTARY

- Global developed market bourses (-7.6%) posted their worst performance of 2018 – US equities (-9.1%) led the decline when Trump’s public criticism of Fed Chair Powell failed to deter a federal funds rate hike and further key Trump administration exits added to market woes
- Chinese stocks (-6.1%) fell for the sixth time in seven months – investors are sceptical of reports touting progress in the US/China trade negotiations, instead focusing on data highlighting the country’s slowing economy
- Global emerging market bourses (-2.7%) outperformed developed market peers, led by India (-0.1%) and Brazil (-1.8%) – the election of pro-business candidate Jair Bolsonaro as Brazil’s president boosted the Sao Paulo stock market to its highest ever levels
- US sovereign bond yields including the 10-year (2.7%) and the 2-year yield (2.5%) declined markedly from intra-year highs on safe-haven buying – continued US/China trade conflict coupled with a partial US government shutdown led to a selloff in risk assets
- Precious metals including gold (+4.8%) and silver (+8.6%) rose – investors flocked to uncorrelated assets as market volatility spiked
- Oil (-8.4%) continued its downward trend on rising US stockpiles and slowing global demand – the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies have agreed to curb production by 1.2 million barrels to stabilise prices
- The US dollar was little changed against the euro (+1.0%) and pound (-0.2%) while declining against the yen (+3.5%) – investors view the relative isolation of the Japanese economy as a refuge during periods of increased market volatility

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TER

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