THE MONTH’S ANALYSIS

UK investor sentiment has dipped slightly in March, by 0.29% to 5.89%, but still remains at the second highest level since April 2016. Recent geopolitical uncertainty over Brexit is seemingly doing little to dent UK investor optimism, with UK and US equities both seeing well. Over the past month confidence in UK equities has risen to 23.48%, with the asset class also recording the biggest increase in sentiment over the last 12 months, a 25.97% increase in sentiment since the last 12 months.

Investor appetite for UK equities has also peaked over the last 30 days, rising to 0.51% from a previous low of 0.09% in February, as President Trump continues to talk up US business and investment opportunities. Investors are less encouraged by UK government bonds, as they suffered the biggest reduction in sentiment, a fall of 4.44%. This could be linked to speculation about possible interest rate cuts, in parallel with rising levels of inflation.

Gold still attracts the overall highest level of investor confidence. What it has seen in a reduction in optimism this month, down by 4.44%, an increase over the past 12 months means that positive sentiment remains at extreme levels of 41.39%

Asset class performance generally looks encouraging over a one, three and 12 month view. Over the last month, cash remained the same at 2.31%, with all figures in positive territory. Over the last month, performance of US equities is up 22.9% month-by-month, while cash with all figures in positive territory. Over the last month, performance of UK equities has risen to 23.48%, with the asset class also recording the biggest rise year-on-year, with a 25.97% increase in sentiment since the last 12 months. Performing less well on a month-by-month basis are commodities which moved up slightly to 0.20%, while cash remained the same as February. Year-on-year, the performance of US equities is up 22.9% and 18.4% for commodities.

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