SRC Wealth Matters

SRC Wealth Management

Monthly Financial Briefing – Edition #3

March 2026

Introduction

Recent weeks have seen a mix of economic updates, market movements, and global developments competing for attention in the headlines. It's natural for this to create uncertainty—particularly for those approaching or living in retirement.

This monthly update is designed to step back from the noise and focus on what these developments are likely to mean for long-term financial planning.

Key Takeaway

Despite heightened geopolitical tensions, the fundamentals of long-term investing remain unchanged. Short-term uncertainty is expected—but well-structured retirement plans are designed to withstand exactly these conditions.

Market Facts – Key Metrics

(Latest available data as at late March 2026)

Interest Rates & Inflation

- **Bank of England Base Rate:** 3.75%
- **UK CPI Inflation:** 3.0% (latest published reading)

Equity Markets

- **FTSE 100:** 9,934

- **S&P 500:** 6,581

Exchange Rates

- **£1 = €1.16**
- **£1 = $1.34**

Precious Metals (spot prices, USD)

- **Gold:** c. $4,405 per troy ounce
- **Silver:** c. $70 per troy ounce

Figures rounded for clarity. Markets move daily and are shown for general context.

Geopolitical Events – Keeping Perspective

Geopolitical tensions have become more prominent in recent weeks and are understandably receiving significant media attention. These events can create short-term uncertainty in financial markets, often leading to increased volatility.

While the news flow can feel unsettling, it's important to recognise that markets have experienced similar periods many times before. Events such as political conflicts, trade disputes, and global instability are not new—and markets have consistently adapted over time.

Short-term market reactions are often driven more by uncertainty than by lasting economic impact.

A Longer-Term View

Looking at history, geopolitical events have **rarely caused lasting damage to well-diversified long-term investment portfolios**.

This is because:

- Economies continue to function, even during periods of tension
- Businesses adapt to changing conditions
- Markets tend to recover once uncertainty begins to ease

The greater risk for investors is often not the event itself, but reacting to it in a way that disrupts a well-considered long-term plan.

Gold, Silver and “Safe Haven” Thinking

Periods of uncertainty often bring increased attention to assets such as gold and silver.

Gold remains elevated compared to historical levels, reflecting demand during uncertain periods. Silver, which also has industrial uses, has shown more pronounced price swings.

It’s important to keep this in perspective:

- These assets **do not produce income**
- Their prices can be **volatile**
- They are typically used as **diversifiers**, not core holdings

Strong recent performance can attract attention, but long-term financial plans are rarely improved by chasing short-term trends.

What This Means for Your Plan

1. Your plan is designed for uncertainty
Financial planning is built to withstand periods like this—not just stable conditions.

2. Income security comes first
If your essential spending is covered by dependable income sources, short-term market movements should not affect your day-to-day financial security.

3. Growth still plays an important role
Even in retirement, some exposure to growth assets is usually necessary to help maintain purchasing power over time.

Planning Considerations This Month

Stay focused on your time horizon
Your financial plan is built around years and decades, not weeks or months.

Avoid reactive decisions
Changes made in response to uncertainty are often difficult to reverse and can negatively impact long-term outcomes.

Review when life changes—not when headlines do
Your plan should evolve with your circumstances, not the news cycle.

Tax Year-End: Last-Minute Planning Opportunity

With the end of the tax year approaching, there may still be an opportunity to make use of available allowances before they reset.

Depending on your circumstances, this could include:

- Making use of **ISA allowances**
- Reviewing **pension contributions**
- Considering **capital gains allowances**
- Ensuring your investments remain structured in a tax-efficient way

These allowances are valuable but cannot be carried forward in most cases, so it can be worth reviewing whether anything should be actioned before the deadline.

If you're unsure whether you've fully used your allowances, or would like to explore last-minute opportunities, we're very happy to help.

A Steady Perspective

Uncertainty can feel uncomfortable, particularly when it dominates the headlines. However, it is a normal and ongoing feature of investing.

A well-structured plan provides stability during these periods and helps ensure that decisions remain grounded in long-term objectives rather than short-term events.

If You'd Like to Talk

If recent developments have raised questions about your investments, retirement income, or year-end planning opportunities, please feel free to get in touch.

A brief conversation can often provide clarity and reassurance.