

# BBGI PRIVATE BANKING STRATEGIES & INDICES USD

A BBGI exclusivity since 1999

March 2026

Annualized performance  
of **+5.44%** to **+6.92%**

## Energy crisis and market downturn

### POSITIVE PERFORMANCE FOR THE THREE BBGI PRIVATE BANKING USD INDICES IN MARCH

BBGI Private Banking Index « Low Risk »	<b>-2.48%</b>	(YTD <b>+0.99%</b> )
BBGI Private Banking Index « Medium Risk »	<b>-2.64%</b>	(YTD <b>+1.26%</b> )
BBGI Private Banking Index « Dynamic Risk »	<b>-2.79%</b>	(YTD <b>+1.54%</b> )

### Comments (performances in USD)

The BBGI Private Banking indices posted negative returns in March. The low-risk approach fell by -2.48%, the medium-risk strategy lost -2.64%, and the dynamic-risk index posted the worst performance of the month (-2.79%). Nevertheless, year-to-date results remain positive (+0.99%, +1.26%, and +1.54%, respectively). Bond markets are in the red this month. The domestic segment fell by -1.72% and the international segment by -3.18%. Year-to-date, the trend is also negative for both sectors, with a performance of -1.05% internationally and -0.04% in the domestic market. The equity market posted negative returns. The domestic segment fell by -4.93% and the international segment by -10.79%, the latter marking the worst performance of March. Both segments have continued on an unfavorable trajectory since the start of the year. The international segment fell by -0.71% and the domestic segment by -4.61%. In March, real estate recorded a performance of -8.85%. Despite this monthly decline, the annual performance remains positive (+1.30%). Commodities posted strong gains, rising 24.53% in March and 40.02% year-to-date, marking their best monthly and annual performances. Private equity declined this month, with a return of -5.50%, and has fallen sharply since the start of the year (-19.93%). Alternative investments fell by -2.95% for the month and -0.57% since the start of the year.

### Financial market developments (performances in local currencies)

As we noted in our latest TCOR at the end of February, the crisis that erupted on February 28 in the Middle East was likely to significantly alter the assessment of the global economic situation and the risks facing financial markets in March. We anticipated that the crisis would escalate very rapidly, particularly due to a probable closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran. We were particularly concerned about the supply-side consequences for Asian and European countries, but also about its direct implications for oil, energy, and fertilizer prices, which would inevitably trigger inflationary effects across all economies. Against a backdrop of a complete upheaval in inflation expectations and growth prospects, central banks faced a new dilemma and real risks of stagflation, completely overturning previous expectations of upcoming cuts in key interest rates. We believed that this serious crisis would have rapid effects on financial markets that were still overly optimistic and recommended a more cautious strategy for equities. We now know that this initial shock was followed by a war and widespread turmoil across the Middle East, the consequences of which are already evident in most countries. In the financial markets, our forecast of rising crude oil prices materialized with Brent crude reaching \$120, and the resulting rise in inflation expectations also pushed yield curves higher. International bond markets thus plunged by -3.07% over the month, resulting in a negative quarterly return of -1.07%. The impact was even more severe on equity markets, which fell by 6.37% globally and 7.37% in Switzerland. Real estate markets were also caught off guard by rising interest rates and fell by 9.42% (5.26% in Switzerland). In the commodities market, crude oil prices soared, as did natural gas prices, which rose by more than 50%. Gold prices faced fresh profit-taking after peaking at \$5,550 per ounce in January. In a negative environment for most assets, the trade-weighted dollar bucked the trend, rising by +2.4% and posting a surprising +3.9% gain against the Swiss franc, which is typically sought after during times of crisis. We believe this crisis is not over and anticipate lasting negative effects on inflation, yields, policy rates, and equity market levels. A more cautious strategy for equities seems appropriate in this highly uncertain environment.

### PERFORMANCE OF ASSET CLASSES (USD)

#### MARCH

+ 24.53%	Commodities
- 1.72%	US bonds
- 2.95%	Hedge funds
- 3.18%	International bonds
- 4.93%	US equities
- 5.50%	Private equity
- 8.85%	International real estates
- 10.79%	International equities

#### YTD

+ 40.02%	Commodities
+ 1.30%	International real estates
- 0.04%	US bonds
- 0.57%	Hedge funds
- 0.71%	International equities
- 1.05%	International bonds
- 4.61%	US equities
- 19.93%	Private equity

## COMMENTS BY ASSET CLASS

### Bonds

All bond markets followed the same trend in March. The shock of the war in the Middle East and the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz signal a complete reversal in the future trajectory of inflation. All countries will be affected by this entirely unexpected new development. The rise in 10-year government bond yields (approximately 35 basis points) was very similar across Europe (from 2.64% to 3%), the United States (from 3.93% to 4.31%), and Japan (from 2.12% to 2.38%). Central banks, which were expected to remain accommodative and potentially announce further rate cuts, will not do so and will certainly have to respond to these inflationary risks with further monetary policy tightening. Market reactions do not yet seem to us to sufficiently factor in the inflation trend. We recommend shortening maturities and reducing average duration in portfolios to limit the impact on prices of inflation that proves more persistent than currently expected.

### Equities

Risk scores remain very high in Switzerland, Japan, and the U.S., and have worsened in Europe. The current situation suggests that equity markets remain fragile and will not withstand economic data confirming stagflation scenarios. The decline in momentum in February, which signaled an increased risk of investor pullback, was confirmed in March. The market decline is already significant, but scores remain clearly in dangerous territory. An economic slowdown, rising production costs, and shrinking margins will certainly affect earnings expectations. Rising interest rates should also put downward pressure on valuations. Caution remains an appropriate strategy for the current situation.

### Commodities

In March 2026, the oil market was severely disrupted by the conflict in the Middle East, leading to a significant drop in global supply. Oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz came to a near standstill, causing an estimated production shortfall of nearly 8 million barrels per day. Against this backdrop, prices rose sharply, with Brent briefly reaching \$120 per barrel before stabilizing around \$92, representing an increase of approximately \$20 over the month. At the same time, rising prices and logistical disruptions weighed on global demand, which is now expected to grow by a limited +640 kb/d in 2026. For its part, gold experienced a sharp correction, falling by about -12% in March to settle at \$4,608 per ounce, its steepest monthly decline since 2013. This decline is primarily driven by technical factors, including outflows from ETFs, unwinding of speculative positions, and a period of global deleveraging, rather than a deterioration in fundamentals. Despite this decline, gold has maintained a positive performance since the start of the year, in an environment that remains broadly supportive over the medium term.

BBGI Group Private Banking Indices - Historical Performances in USD											
	Last three months			YTD	Full Year				Annualized Performances		
	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026		Current Year	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	2025 to date	1993 to date
	<b>BBGI Group PBI "Low risk" (65%fxd income)</b>	1.63%	1.89%	-2.48%	0.99%	0.99%					11.02%
<b>BBGI Group PBI "Medium risk" (48%fxd income)</b>	2.27%	1.69%	-2.64%	1.26%	1.26%					12.74%	6.22%
<b>BBGI Group PBI "Dynamic risk" (25%fxd income)</b>	2.91%	1.49%	-2.79%	1.54%	1.54%					14.47%	6.92%
<b>Sub-Indices</b>											
US Bonds	-0.10%	1.81%	-1.72%	-0.04%	-0.04%					6.30%	3.96%
International Bonds	0.91%	1.28%	-3.18%	-1.05%	-1.05%					7.55%	3.36%
US Equities	1.27%	-0.91%	-4.93%	-4.61%	-4.61%					17.31%	10.02%
International Equities	5.98%	5.02%	-10.79%	-0.71%	-0.71%					32.39%	5.98%
Private equity	-2.31%	-13.28%	-5.50%	-19.93%	-19.93%					1.10%	8.78%
Hedge Funds	2.00%	0.44%	-2.95%	-0.57%	-0.57%					5.69%	5.35%
International Real Estate	3.81%	7.06%	-8.85%	1.30%	1.30%					10.70%	6.74%
Commodities	9.83%	2.38%	24.53%	40.02%	40.02%					7.12%	3.02%
<b>Forex</b>											
USD/EUR	-0.89%	0.33%	2.24%	-10.38%	-10.38%					6.62%	-1.17%

The BBGI Group Private Banking indices can be obtained free of charge from the BBGI Group Analysis & Research Department (reception@bbgi.ch). They provide the first objective benchmarks for the performance of the wealth management industry.

Sources : Bloomberg, BBGI Group SA

Performance of the various BBGI Private Banking USD strategies (1993-2026)



Sources : Bloomberg, BBGI Group SA

The diversified systematic strategies of the BBGI Private Banking Indices have produced returns of +5.44% to +6.92% annualized since 1993 to date.

The composition of our indices is available on request.