

CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 05 December 2024

Wednesday was positive across asset classes. Global stocks gained +0.4% on average, led by America printing another all-time high. US Treasury yields shed -5 basis points on average on balanced economic data. Gold gained 0.2% to \$2,650 and the price of Brent crude oil settled lower at \$72.3. Starting with economic data, yesterday provided most of PMI Services for November. The measures for Japan, the Eurozone and the UK were slightly better than forecast at respectively 50.5, 49.5 and 50.8. India moderated to a still stellar 58.4 and China disappointed at 51.5. Turning to the US, both the S&P PMI Services and the ISM Services came out lower than expected at 56.1 for the former and 52.1 for the latter. The levels remain solid. Bottom-line, the global economy is resilient, with an unchallenged leadership from the US but without an acceleration which could alter the Fed's intentions. In an interview, Chairman Powell highlighted the strength of the economy as well as a level of stickiness of inflation, adding that the central bank can afford to be "a little more cautious" on their way to neutrality. This was a bit cryptic, but we can interpret it as a willingness to keep all options open with regards to the pace of easing next year – potentially as slow as one cut per quarter. A December cut remains the base case unless labor or inflation data materially overshoot expectations. The ADP job report didn't signal overheating, with 146k job being created last month – which will have to be confirmed by tomorrow's NFP number which is more followed.

In other news, the French parliament passed a no-confidence motion for the first time in more than 60 years, firing the current government and leaving the country without a budget for 2025. The French President will have to nominate a new prime minister able to gather more support from a congress which has no majority, with a powerful far-left and a powerful far-right. Both the euro and the OAT spread over Bund didn't massively react as this outcome was quite predictable and anticipated. At 2.89%, France's 10-year is now on par with Greece's and 85 basis points higher than Germany's. More uncertainty, and turbulences, probably lie ahead.

Markets this morning:

Bitcoin is on fire, up 5% with 6-digit for the first time ever at \$102,800, as President Trump picked procrypto Paul Atkins to be the next head of the market regulating body SEC. Asian markets are mixed as we write this morning. Stocks are up in Japan but down everywhere else, from -0.9% in Hong-Kong to -0.3% in Korea and Shanghai-Shenzhen. US treasury yields are steady at respectively 4.14% for the 2-year, 4.08% for the 5-year and 4.2% for the 10-year.

Upcoming Key events/data:

Today is light in terms of data, apart from US trade balance for October and the usual weekly US jobless claims. Tomorrow will be all about the US job report at 5.30PM Dubai time. The median forecast for the change in non-farm payrolls is currently at 215k.

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