

CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 9 December 2024

Both DM and EM stocks advanced 1% and 1.7% last week respectively in a strong start to December. Nasdaq topped the returns chart increasing 3.3% followed by European Stocks that gained 2%. Cyclical sectors such as Consumer Discretionary, IT and Communication Services led the rally. US yield curve bull-steepened with long-end yields dropping by 1 to 2 bps whereas the 3-month yields dropped 10 bps. Gold rallied 0.1%. Bitcoin was the star of the week after crossing the \$100k mark for the first-time last Thursday.

In terms of Macro Data, the US NFP numbers released last Friday sent mixed signals.US added 227k jobs in November while previous job prints were revised higher. Hourly earnings remained higher at 0.4% which makes it difficult to project inflation going down to 2%. Unemployment rate surprisingly picked up to 4.2% increasing December Fed rate bets. The current probability for the rate cut is over 85%. President-Elect Trump told NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday that he has no plans to replace Fed Chair Jerome Powell.

Geopolitical risk premiums have ticked up recently. Last Wednesday, 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. In South Korea, martial law was declared by the president and taken back the same night after pressure form the opposition. President Yoon Suk Yeol managed to avoid impeachment over the weekend by just a handful of votes. During the weekend, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government has fallen after territorial advance by opposition groups over the past few days.

Markets this morning:

The Asian markets are cautious this morning. Korean markets are down 2.2% as the political uncertainties in the country take its toll. Hong Stocks are down slightly whereas mainland Chinese are up 0.1%. China's consumer price index rose just 0.2% from a year earlier, below expectations of 0.4%. Factory deflation extended into a 26th straight month, though the 2.5% drop in the producer price index was slower than October's 2.9% decrease. The data comes out just before the Central Economic Work Conference, due to take place this week, which will hammer out economic targets and plans for 2025. Meanwhile, Japan's Q3 GDP grew at 1.2% beating estimates of 1%. The benchmark US 10-year yields trade at 4.15%. Gold has increased to \$2,641. Brent Crude has gained 0.5% to trade above \$71.5.

Upcoming Key events/data:

This week has a heavy events and macro data dossier. Investors look at US CPI on Wednesday which is expected to tick up to 0.3% from a growth of 0.2% in October. We get India's CPI data on Thursday which is expected to drop to 5.54% following a lackluster Q3 GDP growth. ECB is expected to further cut rates by 25 bps on Thursday. UK's Oct Industrial Production data to be released on Friday may show a return to positive growth after September's 1.8% decrease.

Have a good week ahead!

Chief Investment Office Wealth Management, Emirates NBD.

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