

INSPIRING WHAT'S NEXT

CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP

14 June 2024

US equities achieved record closing highs for the fourth consecutive session, driven by a continued rally in technology stocks. The S&P 500 hit a 29th record high this year, up +0.2%. PPI data came in unexpectedly lower than estimates, declining the most in seven months, adding to evidence that inflationary pressures are moderating. PPI declined 0.2% for the month against expectations for a 0.1% increase. Favorable May CPI and PPI data offered some reassurance of a rate cut later this year further reinforcing a soft-landing scenario; in addition, the Labor Department reported that initial unemployment insurance claims surged to 242,000 for the week ending June 8, an increase of 13,000 from the previous week. Despite the Fed's recent decision to project only a single 25bps cut, markets still anticipate two rate reductions. Treasury 10-year yields fell 7bps to 4.24% and a \$22 billion sale of US 30-year bonds saw strong demand.

Adobe surged 17% in extended trading after reporting better than expected earnings and revenue. The company also raised its full-year guidance, forecasting strong future sales for its creative products. This positive outlook indicates that customers are increasingly adopting its new AI-based tools, which have been integrated into its products. Broadcom, a chip supplier for Apple, also fueled the tech-driven rally surging 12% after delivering strong results and an upbeat forecast on the back of robust demand for AI products. Even though the company does not sell the highly prized AI chips made by Nvidia, the race to build AI systems has benefited many semiconductor companies. The Philadelphia Semiconductor index hit an all-time high, climbing 5.7% this week and 35% year to date.

Today morning, Asian indices fell dragged down by Australian and Chinese shares. Calls for a rate cut in China are getting louder yet a mixed bag of economic recovery data complicates the rate decision. The PBOC kept its one-year MLF rate unchanged at 2.5% since August. The BOJ today announced its monetary policy decision, unanimously to keep overnight call rate between 0% to 0.1%; to reduce amount of government bond purchases with a detailed plan to be specified at the next meeting. The yen fell, pushing towards 158 per dollar following the decision, attempting to breach resistance levels. In a nutshell, the BOJ is taking a slow approach, keeping its interest rate steady at this point to ensure any adjustments does not disrupt economic recovery however monetary policy normalization is expected to continue. Japanese stocks opened slightly higher while banks extended losses as the sector had outperformed the market on expectations higher rates will boost lender's profitability.

Key events today include US university of Michigan consumer sentiment survey and Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee to speak. The daily investment note will resume on Wednesday, June 19th, following Eid Al Adha holidays.

Chief Investment Office Wealth Management, Emirates NBD.

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