

CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 03 September 2024

An important week started with a very quiet day, as all US markets were closed for a holiday. Stocks were down -0.3% in emerging markets due to China growth concerns weighing on their equity indices. Non-US developed markets were flat in Europe and down -0.8% in Japan.

Economic data released yesterday did not particularly move markets. Manufacturing PMIs were broadly in line with expectations: buoyant in India at 57.5, still in contraction although slightly improving in the Eurozone at 45.8, and steady in the UK at 52.5. In the corporate world, Volkswagen shocked Germany as the firm is considering shutting factories in their home country for the first time, recognizing a tough situation, between intense EV competition and the broader issue of higher costs of energy for Germany without Russian gas. Closer to us, Abu Dhabi's main oil producer Adnoc began a roadshow to make their bond market debut to reportedly raise 5-, 10- and 30- year debt. Meanwhile, protests in Israel are putting pressure on the government to demand a cease-fire and a deal to free the remaining hostages, after 6 of them were found dead in Gaza. Prime Minister Netanyahu apologized for the first time in 11 months of war, but whether this is a turning point for the conflict remains to be seen, as he also clearly said in a press conference yesterday that Israel would not give up control of the Gaza border with Egypt, a key ask from Hamas.

Asian markets are quiet and mixed as we write this morning. Stocks are slightly down in Korea and Hong-Kong but up +0.2% in Japan in Shanghai/Shenzhen. US Treasuries trading has resumed in Tokyo, and yields are modestly up by one basis point on average across the curve, to 3.93% for the 2-year, 3.71% for the 5-year and 3.91% for the 10-year. Gold is little changed, just below \$2,500 and so is Brent crude, at \$77.3. There is no major move in currencies, where the Japanese yen continues to gently consolidate around 146 for a dollar. Futures on Western stock indices are currently slightly lower.

Today we will look at the S&P Global aggregated PMI for Saudi Arabia, before turning to the US tonight with the manufacturing PMI at 5.45PM Dubai time followed by its more followed cousin, the ISM manufacturing at 6PM. The gauge is expected to recover to 47.5 in August from July's disappointing 46.8. The most cyclical components of the survey, especially the new orders, will provide an idea of the state of US factories. Release of leading indicators will continue throughout the week, while market attention will probably focus on employment related data, the most relevant to the Fed: JOLTS job openings tomorrow, the ADP job report on Thursday, and crucial and much more followed NFP job report on Friday.

Have a good day.

Chief Investment Office Wealth Management, Emirates NBD.

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