

# Weekly Review

Week ending 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Equity market investors enjoyed some respite after a few weeks of tough conditions in stock markets around the globe. For the week ending 12 February 2010, equities posted somewhat of a recovery before the Chinese New Year, Japanese and US holidays around and over the weekend. Reports that Germany and other members of the EU may bail out Greece if they could not meet bond obligations supported the performance of risky assets.

In the United States the S&P 500 added a little under a percent for the week, with the MSCI Europe (+1.4%) and FTSE All Share in the United Kingdom (+1.6%) somewhat stronger in local currency terms. Global equities also edged higher as the MSCI World added 1.1% and emerging markets recovered by 2.7% (both in USD terms). Globally equity indices are still significantly below the levels recorded at the end of 2009 and lag their relevant bond counterparts between 3% and 6% six weeks into 2010. Some investors may view this as a good buying opportunity as government bonds still seem to be priced on the expensive side.

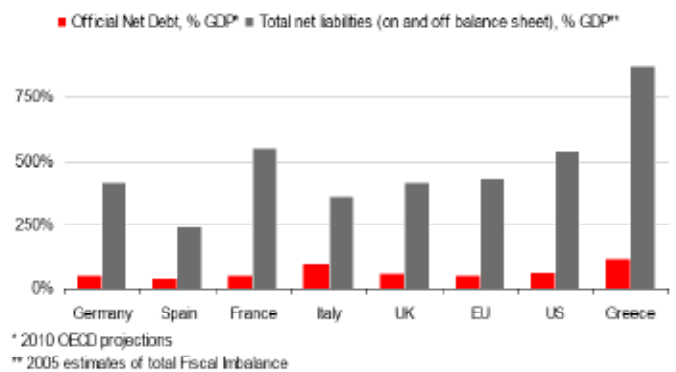
In the light of the stronger equity markets bonds sold off across the board with the notable exceptions of European government bonds which strengthened 0.3% (in euro terms) on the back of support for Greece, and emerging market bonds which gained 0.8% in US Dollar terms. Global convertible bonds benefited from equity market strength and added 0.4% during the week.

Continuing our discussion on sovereign risk that has featured in previous editions of Weekly review we note that it's not

only Greece that's in crisis - the pressure to tighten fiscal policy from current nose-bleed levels of deficits is now virtually a challenge for all developed economies. In research that Societe Generale recently released they note that it's a particular issue for the US and UK with structural (cyclically adjusted) general government deficits of almost 10% of GDP (according to the OECD). There is also a heavy debate ongoing between those who believe there needs to be a rapid reduction in these deficits to avoid some combination of insolvency/default/rapid inflation and those who believe that there should be even more fiscal stimulus. The debate is loud and opinions are tending to be polarised.

The graph below shows that, including unfunded liabilities, most governments are already insolvent with debt to GDP ratios closer to 500% of GDP instead of around 100% for most G7 countries. Turning government spending taps off now may already be too late...

**Our governments are insolvent: what's off-balance sheet dwarfs what's on ...**



Source: 35 Cross Asset Research, Jagadeesh Gokhale (2009), OECD

## Returns to 12 February 2010

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Week	Month to date	Year to date
<b>Equities</b>					
United States	S&P 500 NR	USD	0.9	0.2	-3.4
United Kingdom	FTSE All Share TR	GBP	1.6	-0.8	-4.3
Continental Europe	MSCI Europe ex UK NR	EUR	1.4	-2.8	-6.2
Japan	Topix TR	JPY	0.0	-1.0	-1.7
Australia	S&P/ASX 300 TR	AUD	1.1	-0.1	-6.2
Global	MSCI World NR	USD	1.1	-1.0	-5.1
Global emerging markets	MSCI World Emerging markets TR	USD	2.7	-1.2	-6.7
<b>Bonds</b>					
US Treasuries	JP Morgan United States Government Bond Index TR	USD	-0.6	-0.2	1.4
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	Barclays Capital U.S. Government Inflation Linked TR	USD	-1.0	-1.1	0.5
US Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate Investment Grade TR	USD	-0.9	-0.9	0.7
US High yield	Barclays Capital U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap TR	USD	-1.3	-1.9	-0.7
UK Gilts	JP Morgan United Kingdom Government Bond Index TR	GBP	-1.2	-0.9	-0.3
UK Corporate (investment grade)	Merrill Lynch Sterling Non Gilts TR	GBP	-0.9	-0.8	1.5
Euro Government Bonds	Citigroup EMU GBI TR	EUR	0.3	0.7	1.1
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital Euro Aggregate Corporate TR	EUR	-0.2	0.1	1.7
Euro High yield	Merrill Lynch Euro High Yield 3% constrained TR	EUR	-1.0	-1.2	2.2
Japanese Government	JP Morgan Japan Government Bond Index TR	JPY	0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Australian Government	JP Morgan Australia GBI TR	AUD	-0.5	-0.3	1.1
Global Government bonds	JP Morgan Global GBI	USD	-0.5	-0.5	0.0
Global Bonds	Citigroup World Broad Investment Grade (WBIG) TR	USD	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5
Global Convertible bonds	UBS Global Convertible Bond	USD	0.4	-0.4	-2.0
Emerging Market Bonds	JP Morgan EMBI +	USD	0.8	0.1	0.0

Source: RMB Asset Management / Bloomberg / Lipper Hindsight. February 2010.

## Returns to 12 February 2009

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Week	Month to date	Year to date
<b>Property</b>					
US Property securities	MSCI US REIT TR	USD	-0.6	-0.9	-6.3
UK Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT United Kingdom TR	GBP	-0.3	-0.6	-7.6
Europe ex UK Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Europe ex UK TR	EUR	-2.8	-3.2	-3.2
Australian property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Australia TR	AUD	0.8	0.8	-2.0
Asia Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Asia TR	USD	3.0	0.9	-5.9
Global Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed CR	USD	0.4	-1.0	-6.8
<b>Currencies</b>					
Euro		USD	-0.4	-2.1	-5.1
Sterling		USD	0.0	-2.4	-3.1
Yen		USD	-0.7	0.7	3.4
Australian Dollar		USD	2.0	-0.8	-1.9
Rand		USD	-0.1	-2.3	-4.6
<b>Commodities</b>					
Commodities	RICI TR	USD	4.0	1.4	-6.6
Agricultural Commodities	RICI Agriculture TR	USD	3.4	2.0	-5.8
Oil	Brent Crude Index (ICE) CR	USD	-1.1	1.1	-6.2
Gold	Gold index	USD	2.3	0.3	-3.8

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