

Weekly Review

Week ending 18th June 2010

The biggest single piece of news for the week came on Saturday 19th at 19.00 hrs Beijing time as China signalled it will relax the Chinese Yuan's (CNY) fixed rate against the US Dollar. The impact of this event in the hours since has been moderate increases in Asian stock markets and Europe opening up. The relaxation of the peg may be taken as a sign that the Chinese believe that their economic recovery is adequately strong to allow an increase in their local currency. This may make life a little more difficult for Chinese exporters, as a strengthening currency effectively increases the cost of exported goods and services to those abroad. The People's Bank of China has suggested that the move should help to curb inflationary pressures throughout the world's third largest economy and shift investment toward service industries from export-manufacturing.

If the appreciation of the currency is plotted as in the graph below, the change may look marginal, but it is still significant as it is suggestive of greater openness on the subject of currency moves on the part of the People's Bank of China. This comes days before the G20 summit which is due to take place in Toronto on 26-27 June. The currency peg was introduced in 2008 to help exporters cope with the financial crisis and also to protect the local currency values of China's well documented USD2.4 trillion of foreign exchange reserves. Chinese authorities effectively restrained the Yuan against the Dollar following a 21% appreciation over three years after the previous peg was scrapped

in 2005. Significant moves in the Yuan should not be expected, however, as the People's Bank of China will allow "flexibility", but has ruled out "large changes". The authorities have again moved to a managed float of the Yuan against a basket of currencies.

This move came after a better week in the markets, following a degree of consolidation after a difficult May. Global equity markets added 3.2% in US Dollar terms with continental Europe posting the strongest local currency returns of the major regions of 3.2%. Global emerging markets outperformed the developed markets by a small degree, returning 4.0%. The -2.6% year to date return of the emerging markets is also slightly ahead of the developed markets return of -3.5%. In the fixed income markets, both government paper and credit rallied in line with equity markets and the Citigroup WorldBIG gained 0.9% in US Dollar terms. This is essentially in line with the pure government paper return of 1.0%.

Property securities underperformed the broader equity markets, with global returns of 2.6% in US Dollars. Year to date this sector is ahead, however, with returns of -0.8%. In the currency markets, the US Dollar experienced some weakness against other majors which provided a tailwind to performance of global assets when expressed in USD terms. Commodities enjoyed a positive week, although their year to date returns are still behind global equities. Gold is an exception, up 11.6% year to date.



Returns to 18 June 2010

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Week	Month to date	Year to date
Equities					
United States	S&P 500 NR	USD	2.4	2.7	0.9
United Kingdom	FTSE All Share TR	GBP	1.7	1.6	0.0
Continental Europe	MSCI Europe ex UK NR	EUR	3.2	5.4	1.2
Japan	Topix TR	JPY	2.1	0.5	-1.6
Australia	S&P/ASX 300 TR	AUD	1.1	2.9	-5.0
Global	MSCI World NR	USD	3.2	3.4	-3.5
Global emerging markets	MSCI World Emerging markets TR	USD	4.0	3.0	-2.6
Bonds					
US Treasuries	JP Morgan United States Government Bond Index TR	USD	0.0	0.6	4.6
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	Barclays Capital U.S. Government Inflation Linked TR	USD	0.4	0.8	3.8
US Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate Investment Grade TR	USD	0.5	0.6	4.2
US High yield	Barclays Capital U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap TR	USD	1.6	1.0	4.2
UK Gilts	JP Morgan United Kingdom Government Bond Index TR	GBP	-0.7	0.2	4.5
UK Corporate (investment grade)	Merrill Lynch Sterling Non Gilts TR	GBP	-0.4	0.0	4.8
Euro Government Bonds	Citigroup EMU GBI TR	EUR	-0.8	-0.9	2.1
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital Euro Aggregate Corporate TR	EUR	-0.1	-0.1	3.2
Euro High yield	Merrill Lynch Euro High Yield 3% constrained TR	EUR	1.6	0.0	5.7
Japanese Government	JP Morgan Japan Government Bond Index TR	JPY	0.2	0.5	1.5
Australian Government	JP Morgan Australia GBI TR	AUD	0.2	0.2	3.6
Global Government bonds	JP Morgan Global GBI	USD	1.0	0.7	-1.0
Global Bonds	Citigroup World Broad Investment Grade (WBIG) TR	USD	0.9	0.7	-1.6
Global Convertible bonds	UBS Global Convertible Bond	USD	2.1	1.4	-2.4
Emerging Market Bonds	JP Morgan EMBI +	USD	1.5	1.9	5.0

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

Returns to 18 June 2010

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Week	Month to date	Year to date
Property					
US Property securities	MSCI US REIT TR	USD	2.3	3.5	14.9
UK Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT United Kingdom TR	GBP	0.6	-0.4	-9.5
Europe ex UK Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Europe ex UK TR	EUR	3.4	5.2	0.1
Australian property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Australia TR	AUD	0.4	2.6	1.2
Asia Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Asia TR	USD	2.4	3.1	-5.2
Global Property securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed CR	USD	2.6	3.3	-0.8
Currencies					
Euro		USD	2.4	0.9	-13.7
Sterling		USD	1.7	1.9	-8.3
Yen		USD	0.9	0.2	2.5
Australian Dollar		USD	2.4	3.7	-3.3
Rand		USD	2.8	2.4	-1.9
Commodities					
Commodities	RICI TR	USD	3.3	2.3	-7.9
Agricultural Commodities	RICI Agriculture TR	USD	2.9	2.1	-10.6
Oil	Brent Crude Index (ICE) CR	USD	5.1	5.4	1.2
Gold	Gold index	USD	3.0	4.0	11.6

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