

# Weekly Review

Week ending 19<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Equities regained some positive momentum last week, with most developed and emerging market indices ending the week higher. Japanese equities performed particularly well, up 5.0%, whilst shares in Continental Europe returned a healthy 2.2% over the period (both returns in local currency terms). Fixed income securities, however, generally fell back, with global investment grade bonds declining by 0.3% over the week.

Friday marked the end of the most recent EU summit held in Brussels. Following the first day of discussions, Euro Group (the political control over the euro currency) President Jean Claude Juncker announced that decisions over a Spanish bailout would again be deferred, whilst praising the progress made by Greece and its creditors on budgetary and fiscal reforms. In a speech to the Bundestag on Thursday, Angela Merkel warned against placing the responsibility for direct recapitalisations of European banks on the shoulders of a single European bank supervisor, before the new body has been given sufficient time to establish itself. British Prime Minister David Cameron said he will veto any deal that would allow EU spending to “go up and up”, stating clearly that “if there isn’t a deal that’s good for Britain, there won’t be a deal”.

Over the weekend, Spanish regional elections saw Mario Rajoy’s People’s Party strengthen their absolute majority in Galicia, increasing their share of the seats to 41 out of a possible 75 on offer. Spain’s Prime Minister claimed the result was a vindication of his management of the economy. The elections have taken on increased significance, given that Spain’s semi-autonomous regions will be required to support large spending cuts in order to help bring down the country’s deficit. In the Basque Country, the Basque National Party will head a coalition alongside the Socialists or separatist party Bildu, after failing to achieve an outright majority.

In the US, the second of three live presidential debates saw President Obama score some points off Republican challenger Mitt Romney, according to a poll carried out by CNN. Despite being accused by Mr. Romney of having allowed the US to “sink into recession” by blocking the extension of tax cuts for the

wealthy, Obama defended his management of the economy and foreign policy. In this regard, the housing market continues to provide a bright spot for the President, with housing starts in September rising by 15% month-on-month to 872,000 (versus 770,000 expected). This marks the highest level of housing starts since before the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008, and the largest monthly gain since March 2011. In addition, building permits increased by 11.6% month-on-month, driven mainly by a surge in multi-family permits, whilst confidence amongst US homebuilders rose for the sixth straight month in October to reach its highest level since June 2006. Elsewhere, US industrial production rebounded following last month’s fall, with output expanding by more than forecast during September, helped by a 0.4% increase in factory, mine and utility output and a 0.2% rise in manufacturing. Finally, retail sales were stronger than expected last month, up 1.1% from their level at the end of August versus expectations for a rise of 0.7%.

As reporting season gathers pace in the US, data filed by 123 of the 498 reporting companies has so far shown mixed results. Some financial companies have, however, posted stronger than expected revenue and earnings figures, with banks such as Goldman Sachs and Citigroup recording higher than expected third quarter profits.

Ratings agencies continue to caution on the outlook for certain debtors, as Standard & Poor’s lowered 11 long-term and four short-term ratings on Spanish banks, following the sovereign’s double notch downgrade last week. Germany also downgraded its 2013 growth forecast to 1%, from 1.6% in April, after officials noted a fall in planned corporate investment due to the lack of decisive policy action to combat ongoing stresses in the Eurozone.

Property securities throughout the world continued to perform strongly last week, with the Europe ex UK index returning 3.1%. Agricultural commodities also performed well, returning 2% over the week, despite the broader RICI TR Index posting its third weekly loss of the month.

**Returns to 19 October 2012**

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Currency returns		
			Week ending 19 October 2012	Month to date	YTD 2012
<b>Developed Market Equities</b>					
United States	S&P 500 NR	USD	0.3%	-0.4%	15.4%
United Kingdom	FTSE All Share TR	GBP	1.8%	2.8%	11.2%
Continental Europe	MSCI Europe ex UK NR	EUR	2.2%	2.8%	15.9%
Japan	Topix TR	JPY	5.0%	2.3%	5.9%
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	MSCI Pacific ex Japan TR	USD	2.3%	2.4%	20.4%
Global	MSCI World NR	USD	1.3%	0.9%	14.0%
<b>Emerging Market Equities</b>					
Emerging Europe	MSCI EM Europe NR	USD	1.4%	2.4%	19.7%
Emerging Asia	MSCI EM Asia NR	USD	1.0%	0.2%	14.3%
Emerging Latin America	MSCI EM Latin America NR	USD	1.1%	1.7%	6.0%
BRICs	MSCI BRIC NR	USD	1.1%	2.2%	9.8%
South Africa	FTSE JSE All Share TR	USD	0.9%	-1.4%	10.8%
Global emerging markets	MSCI EM (Emerging Markets) NR	USD	1.0%	0.5%	12.5%
<b>Bonds</b>					
US Treasuries	JP Morgan United States Government Bond Index TR	USD	-0.5%	-0.6%	1.6%
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	Barclays Capital U.S. Government Inflation Linked TR	USD	-0.5%	0.1%	6.6%
US Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate Investment Grade TR	USD	0.2%	1.2%	9.9%
US High Yield	Barclays Capital U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap TR	USD	0.6%	1.3%	13.5%
UK Gilts	JP Morgan United Kingdom Government Bond Index TR	GBP	-1.3%	-1.4%	1.6%
UK Corporate (investment grade)	BofA Merrill Lynch Sterling Non Gilts TR	GBP	-0.2%	0.4%	11.4%
Euro Government Bonds	Citigroup EMU GBI TR	EUR	0.0%	0.8%	8.3%
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital Euro Aggregate Corporate TR	EUR	0.1%	0.7%	11.1%
Euro High Yield	BofA Merrill Lynch Euro High Yield Constrained TR	EUR	1.2%	2.4%	22.5%
Japanese Government	JP Morgan Japan Government Bond Index TR	JPY	-0.1%	-0.1%	1.8%
Australian Government	JP Morgan Australia GBI TR	AUD	-0.6%	-0.7%	5.7%
Global Government Bonds	JP Morgan Global GBI	USD	-0.6%	-0.5%	2.6%
Global Bonds	Citigroup World Broad Investment Grade (WBIG) TR	USD	-0.3%	0.0%	4.4%
Global Convertible Bonds	UBS Global Convertible Bond	USD	0.5%	0.5%	10.6%
Emerging Market Bonds	JP Morgan EMBI +	USD	0.3%	1.6%	16.1%

Source: Lipper Hindsight, October 2012.

## Returns to 19 October 2012

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Currency returns		
			Week ending 19 October 2012	Month to date	YTD 2012
<b>Property</b>					
US Property Securities	MSCI US REIT NR	USD	1.3%	0.9%	15.0%
UK Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT United Kingdom TR	GBP	2.2%	4.2%	25.5%
Europe ex UK Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Europe ex UK TR	EUR	3.1%	5.7%	23.0%
Australian Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Australia TR	AUD	0.6%	4.1%	29.5%
Asia Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Asia TR	USD	1.5%	1.6%	35.3%
Global Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed TR	USD	1.5%	1.6%	23.6%
<b>Currencies</b>					
Euro		USD	0.5%	1.3%	0.4%
UK Pound Sterling		USD	-0.4%	-0.8%	3.1%
Japanese Yen		USD	-1.3%	-2.0%	-3.1%
Australian Dollar		USD	1.1%	-0.5%	0.9%
South African Rand		USD	0.0%	-4.4%	-6.4%
Swiss Franc		USD	0.5%	1.3%	0.8%
Chinese Yuan		USD	0.2%	0.5%	0.6%
<b>Commodities &amp; Alternatives</b>					
Commodities	RICI TR	USD	-0.7%	-1.6%	3.9%
Agricultural Commodities	RICI Agriculture TR	USD	2.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Oil	ICE Crude Oil CR	USD	-2.4%	1.1%	4.7%
Gold	Gold Index	USD	-1.7%	-2.2%	13.4%
Hedge Funds	HFRX Global Hedge Fund	USD	0.2%*	0.2%*	2.9%*

\* Estimate

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