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Weekly Review

Week ending 22nd June 2012

Events in the Eurozone continue to dominate the near term outlook for markets. Greece, a country with less than 4% of the area's population, remains crucial to short term investor sentiment in spite of its size. Antonis Samaras, leader of Greece's New Democracy party, was sworn in as the country's 185th prime minister on Wednesday, heading a three-party coalition alongside traditional rivals Pasok and the Democratic Left. So far the new government has stated its commitment to staying in the euro and complying with the terms of its EUR 130 billion bailout programme. Whilst this news reduces the tail risk of a country exiting the Eurozone in the near term, visibility over the shape of the monetary union in the years to come remains extremely low. The list of actors in Europe's debt crisis is long and varied, and the interests of individual member states may ultimately prove difficult to balance.

The BRIC economies pledged new funding to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) at the G20 summit in Mexico, marking the first time the quartet have contributed to the international lender independently of the United States. Brazil's prime minister said the final amount would most likely be on par with the last round of fund raising, when Brazil, Russia, India and China contributed circa USD 70 billion of the USD 430 billion raised. Christine Lagarde, managing director of the Fund, was quick to point out that the IMF existed as a "second line of defense", only to be used in the event that Europe's own facilities prove insufficient.

To this end, Oliver Wyman's report on the capital needs of Spain's banking sector concluded that EUR 51 to 62 billion is needed in order to protect the sector, based on the adverse scenario of a contraction in GDP of 6.5% between 2012 and 2014, along with a decline in house prices of 60% from their peak. Consultants Roland Berger plumped for a figure of EUR 51.8 billion in their own assessment. The bailout will come initially from the European Financial Stability Fund (EFSF), before being transferred to the region's new permanent bailout facility, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), which is set to come into force next month. Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti used the term "virtuous countries" last week to describe euro members such as Italy and Spain who were complying with their reform goals.

These countries, according to Mr. Monti, should receive assistance with their borrowing costs in the form of buying from the European Central Bank. Further, this assistance should be clearly separated from the idea of a bailout.

Ratings agency Moody's downgraded 15 global banks after the close of US markets on Thursday evening, including heavyweights Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley. Four banks saw their credit rating cut by one notch, ten banks by two notches, and one bank – Swiss lender Credit Suisse – by three notches. US bank stocks generally rose following the announcement, suggesting that the downgrades were not as bad as investors had initially feared.

Inflation in the UK eased more than expected in May, falling to 2.8% year-on-year, the lowest level since November 2009. The news is likely to fuel further speculation over a new round of quantitative easing (QE), after the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee's latest meeting showed that four of the nine members had voted in favour of expanding the gilt purchasing programme. In the US, the Federal Reserve similarly held back from restarting QE, opting instead to extend 'Operation Twist' into 2013 by rebalancing its portfolio towards longer dated treasuries. Reducing long term yields in this manner is intended to give households and individuals the confidence to restart spending and investment, an important boost to the economy after the latest initial jobless claims figure exceeded expectations.

Global equities fell by 0.2% last week in US dollar terms, after the US dollar's continued strength reversed local currency gains of 0.2%. Emerging markets declined by 0.8% over the same period, with all major regions losing ground in US dollar terms. In fixed income markets, the JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index fell by 0.9% to leave credit and high yield as areas of relative strength. Commodities remain volatile, with Brent crude falling to an eighteen month low of USD 89.2 a barrel during the week, after the US government reported its' stockpiles had risen to a 22 year high on the back of increased Saudi Arabian production.

Returns to 22 June 2012

| Asset Class/Region | Index | Currency | Currency returns | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | | | Week ending 22 June 2012 | Month to date | YTD 2012 |
| Developed Market Equities | | | | | |
| United States | S&P 500 NR | USD | -0.6% | 2.0% | 6.9% |
| United Kingdom | FTSE All Share TR | GBP | 0.7% | 3.7% | 2.2% |
| Continental Europe | MSCI Europe ex UK NR | EUR | 1.0% | 2.9% | 1.5% |
| Japan | Topix TR | JPY | 3.4% | 4.4% | 4.2% |
| Asia Pacific (ex Japan) | MSCI Pacific ex Japan TR | USD | -0.1% | 3.2% | 2.8% |
| Global | MSCI World NR | USD | -0.2% | 2.5% | 3.3% |
| Emerging Market Equities | | | | | |
| Emerging Europe | MSCI EM Europe NR | USD | -1.8% | 7.0% | 1.9% |
| Emerging Asia | MSCI EM Asia NR | USD | -0.9% | 0.6% | 3.0% |
| Emerging Latin America | MSCI EM Latin America NR | USD | -0.1% | 1.4% | -2.9% |
| BRICs | MSCI BRIC NR | USD | -2.3% | 0.9% | -2.1% |
| Global emerging markets | MSCI EM (Emerging Markets) NR | USD | -0.8% | 1.6% | 1.6% |
| Bonds | | | | | |
| US Treasuries | JP Morgan United States Government Bond Index TR | USD | -0.4% | -0.5% | 1.6% |
| US Treasuries (inflation protected) | Barclays Capital U.S. Government Inflation Linked TR | USD | -1.1% | -0.7% | 4.1% |
| US Corporate (investment grade) | Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate Investment Grade TR | USD | 0.1% | 0.1% | 4.4% |
| US High Yield | Barclays Capital U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap TR | USD | 1.0% | 1.5% | 6.6% |
| UK Gilts | JP Morgan United Kingdom Government Bond Index TR | GBP | 0.5% | -0.6% | 2.3% |
| UK Corporate (investment grade) | BofA Merrill Lynch Sterling Non Gilts TR | GBP | 0.5% | 0.5% | 5.1% |
| Euro Government Bonds | Citigroup EMU GBI TR | EUR | 0.3% | -0.8% | 3.6% |
| Euro Corporate (investment grade) | Barclays Capital Euro Aggregate Corporate TR | EUR | -0.1% | -0.4% | 5.6% |
| Euro High Yield | BofA Merrill Lynch Euro High Yield Constrained TR | EUR | 1.1% | 1.5% | 11.2% |
| Japanese Government | JP Morgan Japan Government Bond Index TR | JPY | 0.1% | -0.1% | 1.4% |
| Australian Government | JP Morgan Australia GBI TR | AUD | -0.3% | -0.7% | 5.2% |
| Global Government Bonds | JP Morgan Global GBI | USD | -0.9% | -0.8% | -0.2% |
| Global Bonds | Citigroup World Broad Investment Grade (WBIG) TR | USD | -0.7% | -0.3% | 0.7% |
| Global Convertible Bonds | UBS Global Convertible Bond | USD | -0.2% | 1.0% | 3.6% |
| Emerging Market Bonds | JP Morgan EMBI + | USD | -0.2% | 3.2% | 6.3% |

Source: Momentum Global Investment Management / Lipper Hindsight. June 2012.

Returns to 22 June 2012

| Asset Class/Region | Index | Currency | Currency returns | | |
|----------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------------|---------------|----------|
| | | | Week ending 22 June 2012 | Month to date | YTD 2012 |
| Property | | | | | |
| US Property Securities | MSCI US REIT NR | USD | -0.6% | 1.4% | 9.8% |
| UK Property Securities | FTSE EPRA/NAREIT United Kingdom TR | GBP | 0.4% | 3.0% | 12.1% |
| Europe ex UK Property Securities | FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Europe ex UK TR | EUR | 1.2% | 1.1% | 7.8% |
| Australian Property Securities | FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Australia TR | AUD | 0.4% | 1.5% | 13.6% |
| Asia Property Securities | FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Asia TR | USD | 0.8% | 4.0% | 13.5% |
| Global Property Securities | FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed TR | USD | 0.0% | 2.5% | 10.9% |
| Currencies | | | | | |
| Euro | | USD | -0.7% | 1.4% | -3.4% |
| UK Pound Sterling | | USD | -0.5% | 1.1% | 0.1% |
| Japanese Yen | | USD | -2.2% | -2.6% | -4.4% |
| Australian Dollar | | USD | -0.1% | 3.6% | -2.0% |
| South African Rand | | USD | -0.7% | 1.6% | -4.2% |
| Swiss Franc | | USD | -0.7% | 1.4% | -2.4% |
| Chinese Yuan | | USD | 0.0% | 0.1% | -1.1% |
| Commodities | | | | | |
| Commodities | RICI TR | USD | -2.0% | -3.3% | -10.5% |
| Agricultural Commodities | RICI Agriculture TR | USD | 3.1% | 1.8% | -6.6% |
| Oil | ICE Crude Oil CR | USD | -5.7% | -12.6% | -15.1% |
| Gold | Gold Index | USD | -3.8% | 0.5% | 2.3% |
| Hedge Funds | HFRX Global Hedge Fund | USD | 0.1% | -0.4% | 1.1% |

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