

Weekly Review

Week ending 29th June 2012

Early signs of progress at the European Council summit sparked a sharp rally by equities and peripheral European government bonds at the end of last week. The Euro Stoxx 50 index rose by 5.0% on Friday, to leave global developed markets up 2.5% over the period in US dollar terms, whilst demand for Spanish and Italian government bonds helped to bring their cost of borrowing down.

Eurozone leaders gathered in Brussels on Thursday and Friday for yet another summit, now the 19th since the start of the region's sovereign debt crisis more than two years ago. The end of easy credit brought about by the demise of Lehman Brothers' in 2008 predictably impacted those governments that had relied heavily on borrowing in order to meet their current spending needs. Whilst policymakers have acknowledged that Europe's structural reforms process is likely to require the administration of financial aid (bailouts) in the short term, austerity programmes in countries such as Spain have been undermined by the capital needs of the banking sector. Given the importance of banking services for the real economy, governments have felt it necessary to intervene to support the sector, with the result that their own debt levels have risen steadily over time. Eurozone leaders took steps towards alleviating this burden on government finances at last week's summit, further to the European Central Bank's (ECB) liquidity operations earlier in the year. Attendees agreed that the ECB will play a role in supervising Eurozone banks, a decision that may convince bank officials to do more to assist lenders at their next policy meeting on Thursday. Europe's permanent bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), will be able to recapitalise banks directly rather than through loans to governments, and this financial assistance will not have the effect of subordinating private bond holders, thus reducing the risk of renewed investor flight from European bond markets.

Expectations ahead of the summit were predictably low, given the failure of previous rounds of discussions to deliver an effective roadmap for tackling the region's problems. European equities traded sideways through Thursday, as German Chancellor Angela Merkel continued to manage investors' expectations down with respect to the possibility of some form of debt mutualisation. Cyprus became the fifth euro area member to apply for a bailout at the start of the week, as a result of the exposure of the country's banking sector to Greek debt, whilst at the same time Spain's Economy Minister formally asked fellow euro area members for EUR 100 billion to help recapitalise the country's banks. Market participants appear to have been surprised by news from the summit, although it remains to be seen how long the effects of Friday's rally will last, given a full schedule of data releases this week starting with today's US ISM manufacturing survey.

The euro rose by 1.8% to close at USD 1.2666 on Friday, its biggest daily gain in eight months. Commodities added 6.0% last week to lift them into positive territory for the month, with Brent crude oil prices rallying by 7.0% in Friday's trading. Whilst a portion of oil supply was affected by strikes in the North Sea, Friday's moves appear to have been driven principally by revised expectations for future demand.

Finally, China has lowered the minimum standards for foreign institutions investing in its onshore stock markets via the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor (QFII) programme. The move is intended to increase the number of foreign investors in China's A-share market, following the decision by the country's Securities Regulatory Commission to raise the limit on foreign investment to USD 80 billion at the start of April. In other developments, Chinese banks will be allowed to renew securitisation of loans after a four year hiatus, which should help to increase the flow of credit in the economy.

Returns to 29 June 2012

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Currency returns		
			Week ending 29 June 2012	Month to date	YTD 2012
Developed Market Equities					
United States	S&P 500 NR	USD	2.1%	4.1%	9.1%
United Kingdom	FTSE All Share TR	GBP	1.1%	4.8%	3.3%
Continental Europe	MSCI Europe ex UK NR	EUR	2.7%	5.6%	4.2%
Japan	Topix TR	JPY	2.6%	7.2%	7.0%
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	MSCI Pacific ex Japan TR	USD	3.0%	6.3%	5.9%
Global	MSCI World NR	USD	2.5%	5.1%	5.9%
Emerging Market Equities					
Emerging Europe	MSCI EM Europe NR	USD	4.6%	11.9%	6.6%
Emerging Asia	MSCI EM Asia NR	USD	1.9%	2.5%	5.0%
Emerging Latin America	MSCI EM Latin America NR	USD	2.4%	3.9%	-0.5%
BRICs	MSCI BRIC NR	USD	2.6%	3.5%	0.4%
Global emerging markets	MSCI EM (Emerging Markets) NR	USD	2.3%	3.9%	3.9%
Bonds					
US Treasuries	JP Morgan United States Government Bond Index TR	USD	0.1%	-0.4%	1.7%
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	Barclays Capital U.S. Government Inflation Linked TR	USD	0.1%	-0.8%	4.2%
US Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital U.S. Corporate Investment Grade TR	USD	0.2%	0.4%	4.7%
US High Yield	Barclays Capital U.S. High Yield 2% Issuer Cap TR	USD	0.6%	2.1%	7.2%
UK Gilts	JP Morgan United Kingdom Government Bond Index TR	GBP	-0.4%	-1.0%	1.8%
UK Corporate (investment grade)	BofA Merrill Lynch Sterling Non Gilts TR	GBP	-0.1%	0.3%	5.0%
Euro Government Bonds	Citigroup EMU GBI TR	EUR	0.1%	-0.7%	3.7%
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	Barclays Capital Euro Aggregate Corporate TR	EUR	0.1%	-0.2%	5.7%
Euro High Yield	BofA Merrill Lynch Euro High Yield Constrained TR	EUR	0.4%	1.9%	11.6%
Japanese Government	JP Morgan Japan Government Bond Index TR	JPY	0.0%	-0.1%	1.4%
Australian Government	JP Morgan Australia GBI TR	AUD	0.1%	-0.6%	5.3%
Global Government Bonds	JP Morgan Global GBI	USD	0.6%	-0.2%	0.4%
Global Bonds	Citigroup World Broad Investment Grade (WBIG) TR	USD	0.6%	0.4%	1.3%
Global Convertible Bonds	UBS Global Convertible Bond	USD	1.4%	2.4%	5.0%
Emerging Market Bonds	JP Morgan EMBI +	USD	0.6%	3.8%	6.9%

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

Returns to 29 June 2012

Asset Class/Region	Index	Currency	Currency returns		
			Week ending 29 June 2012	Month to date	YTD 2012
Property					
US Property Securities	MSCI US REIT NR	USD	4.1%	5.5%	14.3%
UK Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT United Kingdom TR	GBP	1.9%	4.9%	14.2%
Europe ex UK Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Europe ex UK TR	EUR	2.7%	3.9%	10.7%
Australian Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Australia TR	AUD	2.7%	4.2%	16.6%
Asia Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed Asia TR	USD	4.2%	8.4%	18.2%
Global Property Securities	FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Developed TR	USD	4.0%	6.5%	15.3%
Currencies					
Euro		USD	1.2%	2.6%	-2.2%
UK Pound Sterling		USD	0.8%	1.9%	0.9%
Japanese Yen		USD	0.9%	-1.7%	-3.6%
Australian Dollar		USD	2.0%	5.7%	0.0%
South African Rand		USD	3.1%	4.7%	-1.3%
Swiss Franc		USD	1.2%	2.7%	-1.2%
Chinese Yuan		USD	0.2%	0.2%	-0.9%
Commodities					
Commodities	RICI TR	USD	6.0%	2.5%	-5.2%
Agricultural Commodities	RICI Agriculture TR	USD	6.8%	8.7%	-0.2%
Oil	ICE Crude Oil CR	USD	1.3%	-11.5%	-14.0%
Gold	Gold Index	USD	2.1%	2.6%	4.4%
Hedge Funds	HFRX Global Hedge Fund	USD	0.1%	-0.3%	1.2%

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