The Weekly Letter

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This week we provide a condensed version of the Weekly Letter; regular publication will resume on September 15, 2015.

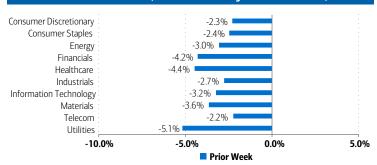
Markets in Review

Equities declined last week as global growth concerns and market volatility remained elevated, with the S&P 500 falling 3.4% and the MSCI EAFE Index down 4.4%. Bonds were roughly unchanged, with the 10-year Treasury yield declining modestly to 2.12% from 2.18% in the prior week. Commodities were slightly down 1.0%, however, WTI crude rose 1.8% to \$46.05 per barrel, while gold declined 0.9% to \$1,124 per ounce.

Trailing Economic Releases

- U.S. nonfarm payrolls grew by 173,000 in August, somewhat lower than July's growth of 215,000. The U.S. unemployment rate came down to 5.1% from 5.3%, implying that the slack in the labor market continues to diminish.
- Average hourly earnings increased modestly 0.3% month-over-month for August from 0.2% in July. This remains in line with recent months, suggesting wage pressures are growing but at a moderate pace. This should give the Federal Reserve more confidence to raise rates in September.
- The euro area Manufacturing PMI came in at 52.3 in August from 52.4 in July. Readings above 50 indicate expansion in manufacturing, while those below 50 indicate a contraction. This reading has remained steady in recent months and should alleviate some concerns that an economic slowdown in China will weigh on the European economy.

S&P 500 Sector Returns (as of last Friday's market close)



Equities				
		Total Return in USD (%)		
	Level	WTD	MTD	YTD
DJIA	16,102.4	-3.2	-2.5	-8.1
Nasdaq	4,683.9	-3.0	-1.9	-0.3
S&P 500	1,921.2	-3.4	-2.5	-5.4
S&P 400 Mid Cap	1,386.3	-2.8	-2.1	-3.6
Russell 2000	1,136.2	-2.3	-2.0	-4.9
MSCI World	1,595.7	-3.7	-3.0	-5.4
MSCI EAFE	1,671.1	-4.4	-3.8	-4.0
MSCI Emerging Mkts	788.6	-3.8	-3.6	-16.0

Fixed Income				
		Total Return in USD (%)		
	Yield (%)	WTD	MTD	YTD
ML U.S. Broad Market	2.27	0.2	0.3	0.8
U.S. 10-Year Treasury	2.12	0.6	0.7	1.6
ML Muni Master	2.46	0.0	0.0	1.1
ML U.S. Corp Master	3.41	0.4	0.5	-0.1
ML High Yield	7.32	0.3	0.2	0.2

Commodities & Currencies				
		Total Return in USD (%)		
	Level	WTD	MTD	YTD
Bloomberg Commodity	178.3	-1.0	-2.7	-15.2
Gold Spot ¹	1,123.5	-0.9	-1.0	-5.2
WTI Crude \$/Barrel ¹	46.1	1.8	-6.4	-13.6
		Prior	Prior	2014
Level	Current	Week End	Month End	Year End
EUR/USD	1.11	1.12	1.12	1.21
USD/JPY	119.0	121.7	121.2	119.8

Source: Bloomberg. ¹Spot Price Returns. All data as of last Friday's close.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Looking Ahead

In the U.S., the NFIB small business optimism index is expected to rise, while consumer sentiment, as measured by the University of Michigan Sentiment Index, is expected to fall slightly in the preliminary report for September. In Europe, the final 2Q GDP growth for the Euro area is expected to be unrevised from the initial estimates.

Upcoming Economic Releases

- On Tuesday, the NFIB small business optimism index, compiled from a monthly survey of small business owners, is expected to rise to 96.0 in August from 95.4 in July, reflecting a slight improvement in sentiment for the sector.
- On Friday, the University of Michigan Sentiment Index is expected to fall slightly to 89.5 in the preliminary report for September from 91.9 in the final report for August. Although gas prices have declined and employment conditions have improved, market turmoil has likely weighed on consumers' sense of current economic conditions.
- On Tuesday, the final 2Q Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for the Euro area is expected to be unrevised from the initial estimates, at 0.3% qoq and 1.2% yoy.

BofA Merrill Lynch Global Research Key Year-End Forecasts

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S&P Outlook	2015 E
S&P 500 Target	2,100
EPS	\$117.50
Real Gross Domestic Product	2015 E
Global	3.2%
U.S.	2.6%
Euro Area	1.6%
Emerging Markets	4.0%
U.S. Interest Rates	2015 E
Fed Funds	0.50-0.75%
10-Year T-Note	2.35%
Commodities	2015 E
Gold	1,122
WTI Crude Oil	\$50

All data as of last Friday's close.



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