

## Market Comment | Rebound in US market smoothed the early morning slump in Europe

Global Financial Markets Unit 14 Jan 2016

- **Negative labour data in the US.** US jobless claims rose (against estimates of decreasing) in the week ended 09 January (by 7K to 284K; consensus: 275K), while continuing claims increased unexpectedly in the week ended 02 January (by 29K to 2,263K; consensus: 2,234K). On another front, import prices in December declined in line with expectations (by -1.2% YoY; consensus: -1.3%).
- Germany's preliminary GDP data showed an increase in 2015 in line with estimates (by 1.7% YoY; BBVAe: 1.6%, consensus: 1.7%; previous: 1.5%). The improvement was due mainly by the contribution of domestic demand (+1.5%), while external demand rose less than in the previous period (+0.2%; previous: +0.4%). On another front, Italian industrial production declined in November in line with our expectations (by -0.5% MoM; BBVAe: -0.4%; consensus: 0.2%), although it remained at +0.2% QoQ, beyond the 3Q15 average (2Q15: +0.4% QoQ).
- ECB Minutes: 3 December meeting. The ECB released the monetary policy accounts of its 3 December meeting. The minutes confirm that a large majority of voting members supported a decision to recalibrate the degree of monetary accommodation. The accounts revealed that there was wide agreement among the members that additional monetary policy measures were warranted, as the adjustment in inflation to rates closer to 2% would take longer than had been envisaged in March 2015, and that downside risks to both growth and inflation continued to prevail. Regarding further measures, the accounts showed that there was a discussion about increasing the monthly purchases of APP bonds as well as extending the purchase period beyond six months. "However, there was broad agreement that such measures would not be warranted at this juncture, while a reassessment could be made in future." Against this background, the minutes underlined that the monetary policy stance would remain accommodative for as long as necessary, to ensure a "a sustained return of inflation rates towards levels below, but close to, 2%." It was also recalled that the APP (asset purchase programme) provided sufficient flexibility in terms of adjusting its size, composition and duration.
- Bank of England decided to keep the rates at 0.5%. In today's meeting, the monetary authority voted
  eight to one to keep the rates unchanged. The tone was slightly dovish, based on the negative impact of
  the ongoing trend of oil prices on inflation figures and the downward revision of growth forecasts.
- Rebound in US market smoothed the early morning slump in Europe. The abrupt falls in early morning trading were partially offset at the end of the trading session, and the final losses were minimised (mostly in European indices). High intraday volatility has been a constant characteristic of the last few trading, days amid doubts concerning commodity prices (oil prices tested the USD30/bbl threshold again), and uncertainty regarding China's economic outlook. Yesterday's slump in the US equity markets dragged down both Asian (Nikkei: -2.7% and Hang Seng: -0.60%) and European equity indices (that registered a 3% fall in the main indices early this morning). Furthermore, the negative trend was reinforced by the terrorist attack in Indonesia. Nonetheless, despite doubts at the US opening,



stocks rebounded and minimised the losses in the remaining developed indices. Against this backdrop, Asian and European equity markets fell, with the exception of China's equity indices (Euro Stoxx: -1.3%, DAX: -1.4%, IBEX-35: -1.4%, CAC: -1.4%, Shanghai: +1.97%). Auto sector underperformed amid a new investigation related to the emissions scandal, and this time Renault is in the limelight (-10%). The US equity indices rebounded today after yesterday's drop, and were helped by positive 4Q results releases (JP Morgan beat the market's expectations in 4Q15). At ther time of writing, the S&P 500 was +0.8%, and the Dow +1.2%). On bond markets, US treasury yields declined slightly in all tenors (2Y and 10Y: -1bp). Meanwhile, European yields rose slightly (GER 10Y: +1bp, FRA 10Y: +2bp, ITA 10Y: +2bp, SPA 10Y: +1bp, POR 10Y: +2bp). Oil prices recovered slightly (Brent: +1.6% WTI: +1.7%), as geopolitical tension increased after the terrorist attacks in Indonesia, which also helped EM currencies. They appreciated against the US dollar, mainly those most linked to commodity prices (RUB: +0.3%, BRL: +0.3%, MXN: +0.2%, COP: +0.5%, CLP: +0.1%). The USD appreciated against other major currencies (EUR: -0.17%, JPY: -0.29%, GBP: -0.08%).

Update 17.30 CET 14 January, 2015 Table1



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\*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay

\*\*Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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