

# Market Comment | Movements to safe havens increased amid global growth uncertainties

Global Financial Markets Unit  
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- **Germany's industrial production plunged in December**, against estimates of an increase (by -1.2% MoM; BBVAe: +0.4%, consensus: +0.5%), and in annual terms dropped more than expected (by -2.2% YoY; consensus: -0.6%).
- **The IEA's February report foresees lower oil demand.** The report forecasts global oil demand to decrease from a five-year high of 1.6 million barrels per day (mb/d) in 2015 to 1.2mb/d in 2016, pulled down by notable slowdowns in Europe, China and the United States, according to newly-released IEA figures. On the other hand, supply may exceed consumption by an average of 1.75mb/d in the period, compared with an estimate of 1.5mb/d last month.
- **Movements to safe havens increased amid global growth uncertainties.** Uncertainty about the global growth outlook continued as the main driver in financial markets. Against this backdrop, the rebalancing process - from risk assets to safe-haven assets - is accelerating strongly. Consequently, the risk assets suffered a slump for the second day in a row. European equity markets fell further after yesterday's sell-off and have now fallen to 2013 low levels (Euro Stoxx: -1.7%, IBEX: -2.4%, DAX: -1.1%, CAC: -1.7%, MIB: -3.2%), dragged by cyclical sectors and especially by the financial sector. The release of worse-than-expected industrial production figures in Germany did not help to recover part of yesterday's falls. Along the same lines, US indices opened by falling (S&P: -0.4%, Dow: -0.3%). Furthermore, the Japanese Nikkei fell by 5%, ballasted by the financial sector and by the appreciation of JPY, which is set at maximum levels against USD (since mid-2014), due to flight to quality. This risk-off mood also drove the 10Y Japanese sovereign yield into negative territory. The remaining sovereign yields stayed broadly unchanged after yesterday's violent changes: US treasury yields remained stable, moderating their decrease after having dropped sharply in the previous session. In the same way, European yields remained unchanged across the board. The main exception was Portugal, as its 10Y yield continued to suffer strong punishment. As a result, the Portuguese risk premium increased sharply (+27bp). On FX markets, the USD depreciated against almost all major currencies, especially against safe-haven currencies (EUR: +1.05%, JPY: +0.75%). Furthermore, the new highs in the Japanese yen present a very worrying situation for Japanese monetary authorities; one of the main weapons of Abenomics is to ease the monetary conditions, among other things, via a "cheap JPY". EM currencies showed a mixed performance with some of the most commodity-linked depreciating (COP: -0.9%, CLP: -0.4%, MXN: -0.6%, RUB: -1.0%) due to the deterioration in oil prices, which was hampered by the IEA warning about the even larger oversupply in the oil markets (Brent: -3.3%, WTI: -2.0%, copper: -2.4%). Meanwhile, European emerging currencies linked to the EUR appreciated against the USD (PLN: +1.1%, CZK: +1.33%, TRY: +0.37%).

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Table1



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

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

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