

Market Comment | Rebound in financial markets but concerns about global outlook remain

Global Financial Markets Unit
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- **Positive CPI data in the US.** US CPI remained stable in January against estimates of its decreasing (by 0.0%MoM 1.4%YoY; consensus: -0.1%MoM).
- **Disappointing consumer confidence data in the Eurozone.** Eurozone consumer confidence preliminary data declined in January against estimates of its remaining unchanged. (by -2.5 to -8.8; BBVAe and consensus: -6.6)
- **Rebound in financial markets but concerns about global outlook remain.** Financial markets were highly volatile during the week. Equity markets rebounded early in the week, boosted by the rally in oil prices following a preliminary agreement between main oil exporters (Russia and Saudi Arabia) to maintain oil production at January's levels. Despite the willingness of OPEC and non OPEC countries to reach an agreement, financial markets are sceptical about a bold agreement being struck, because there are still significant barriers to remove, such as the case of Iran (Iran's authorities said the country would increase its production after the lifting of export sanctions). Finally, oil prices ended the week showing decreases in a high-volatility week (Brent: -0.9%). In this context, equity markets rose across the board (S&P: +2.8% Eurostoxx: +3.9% IBEX: +3.2% DAX: +4.4% CAC: +5.5% Nikkei: +6.8% Shanghai: +3.5%) driven by the cyclical sector. However, concerns about the global economic outlook remain. During this week the OECD downgraded its global 2016 GDP forecast, while economic figures kept disappointing in Asia (Japanese 4Q15 GDP and Chinese exports declined more than expected). However, US CPI was supportive after January's flat figure against expectations of a decrease. Moreover, the tone of central banks' statements (ECB and FOMC) was also cautious. Additionally, the BoJ also joined this sentiment and confirmed its willingness to go further if needed. Against this backdrop, emerging markets continued under pressure judging by downgrades in sovereign rating in some countries such as Brazil (from BB+ to BB due to remaining political and economic challenges) and Saudi Arabia (from A+ to A- due to oil prices). Furthermore, in a joint announcement, Banxico and the Mexican Ministry of Finance adopted fiscal, monetary and exchange rate measures to limit the FX pass-through. Among the measures are a 50 bp increase in MPR, and a cut in expenditure, especially PEMEX spending (the details will be released next week). These cyclical concerns encouraged gains in bond markets, except in the US. European yields fell, led by Portugal, which was the most punished last week (GER 10Y: -6bp FRA 10Y: -9bp ITA 10Y: -9bp SPA 10Y: -3bp POR 10Y: -30bp), narrowing its risk-premium (POR: -24bp), while US treasury yields remained almost unchanged. On FX markets, the USD showed a mixed performance against other major currencies (EUR: -1.19% JPY: +0.6% GBP: -1.11%). In the same line, EM currencies showed mixed responses against the USD (RUB: +1.6% BRL: -0.8% TRY: -0.9%, COP: +1.1% MXN: +3.4%) due to the different events in these economies. On another front, the PBoC acted to lift the CNY to its strongest level (against the USD) this year (6.5 CNY), helping to calm down financial markets fears about a further depreciation of the yuan.

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Table1

*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay

**Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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