

Market Comment | Equity indices rebound but investors still hoarding bonds

Global Financial Markets Unit
01 Jul 2016

- **Manufacturing indicators improve in both Europe and the US, while still pointing to weakness in China:** euro zone PMI for June 52.8 (consensus 52.6, previous 52.6), US ISM for June 53.2 (consensus 51.3; previous 51.3) and China's Caixin PMI0 48.6 (consensus 49.2; previous 49.2).
- **Last Friday's sell-off of risk assets - spurred by Brexit - continued early this week but as the week went by risk assets trimmed losses** as investors began searching for cheap stocks and the Bank of England's governor hinted at another round of stimulus. In this context, UK assets were the best performers, except for the British pound, which depreciated further (-3% against the US dollar), spurring fresh gains in UK equity indices, led by export sectors, which benefited from a weak pound. Moreover, the expectations of more easing stimulus in the UK also boosted Gilt prices, with the 10Y UK yield declining by (-7 bps).
- **Although markets' risk measures have eased (VIX 42.1%, Move -7%), probably because investors perceived central banks as more wedded to ultra-loose monetary policy, the week ended with a clear move towards hoarding bonds.** Safe-haven bond yields extended declines from last Friday's low levels. The 10-year yield decreased in the week (-9 bps in Germany, -7 in UK, -22 in US and -8 bps in Japan). Moreover, investors jumped into peripheral bond markets, with the Spanish and Italian risk premiums narrowing markedly (-40 bps in Spain and -25 bps in Italy), due to an appreciable decline in risk aversion, coupled with some market rumours suggesting that the ECB may change the allocation of bond purchases away from the size of an ECB capital key towards a percentage of country debt outstanding, implying less purchases of German bonds and more purchases of Italian bonds. Nonetheless, EM yields benefited from yield-seeking strategies in sovereign bonds, with the 10-year yield declining across EM countries (Turkey -67 bps, Mexico -18 bps and Brazil -30 bps).
- **Equity indices rebounded across the board during the week after the big downturn** due to the Brexit referendum outcome (S&P +3.3%, Euro Stoxx50+3.8%, FTSE 100 +7.2%). However only the FTSe100 achieved levels above pre-Brexit. The banking sector, especially the European banking sector, was again the worst performer. The news about a potential bailout of the Italian banks - the Italian government is considering injecting around €40bn into the banking system - brought some volatility to the banking sector. Finally European Commission gave Italy the green light to supply as much as 150 billion euros in government liquidity guarantees for its struggling banks until the end of the year. Despite of it, Italian banks declined. Moreover, UK banks started to worry that they could lose their European passport.
- **In FX markets the British pound (-3%) extended its depreciation trend,** due a dovish Bank of England, while the Japanese yen and the Swiss franc slightly depreciated and the euro inched up. However, EM currencies sharply appreciated across the board in the week, especially the Latin American currencies. The Mexican peso appreciated (2.9%) in the week after Banxico increased its main interest

rate by 50 bps due to concerns about the pressure exerted by current currency depreciation on core inflation and inflationary expectations.

- **Although financial markets ended the week in much calmer mood, latent global sources of risk are still in place** and disturbed the financial stability. China`s FX management could contribute to increasing turbulence in financial markets, as it did early this year. According to Reuters agency, sources close to PBoC said that the USD/CNY exchange rate could continue its current downwards path of depreciation against the USD (the CNY depreciated by around 2.5% against the USD during last month). The source also said that the cross rate could end the current year hovering around 6.8 USD/CNY to support growth in a challenging environment regarding trade relations. Furthermore the weakness shown by some Chinese indicators (Caixin PMI 48.6; consensus 49.2; previous 49.2) spurred markets` hopes for more easing actions.

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Table 1

Current level and changes at daily, weekly, monthly and annual frequencies

Debt markets (changes in bp)

US 2yr 0.59 (1) 42 (13) 440
 US 5yr 0.91 (1) 26 (19) 176
 US 10yr 1.46 (2) 14 (11) 286 (42)

Japan 10yr 2.56 (4) 24 (11) 132
 OER 3yr 0.66 (1) 1 (1) 173 (36)
 OER 5yr 0.86 (1) 4 (1) 168 (52)
 OER 10yr 1.15 (1) 18 (1) 173 (36)

Belgium 10yr 0.19 (4) 24 (13) 170
 France 10yr 0.13 (1) 21 (13) 120 (44)
 Greece 5yr 2.02 (1) 16 (1) 120 (44)
 Russia 5yr 6.46 (1) 1 (1) 170
 Italy 10yr 1.23 (1) 23 (1) 137
 Netherlands 10yr 0.51 (1) 18 (1) 120 (44)
 Portugal 10yr 2.1 (1) 18 (1) 120 (44)
 Spain 10yr 1.52 (1) 18 (1) 120 (44)

Poland 10yr 2.88 (1) 13 (1) 271 (43)
 Russia 5yr 6.46 (1) 1 (1) 170
 Russia 10yr 8.24 (1) 13 (1) 120 (44)
 Turkey 10yr 6.83 (1) 18 (1) 120 (44)
 India 10yr 7.42 (1) 18 (1) 120 (44)
 Indonesia 10yr 7.33 (1) 18 (1) 120 (44)

EUR overnight swaps (against Germany)
 Belgium 12 (1) 15 (1) 12
 France 20 (1) 15 (1) 12
 Greece 100 (1) 15 (1) 12
 Italy 14 (1) 15 (1) 12
 Netherlands 11 (1) 15 (1) 12
 Portugal 14 (1) 15 (1) 12
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Source: Bloomberg, Datastream and IHS

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Current level and changes at daily, weekly, monthly and annual frequencies

Global markets (change in bp)

US 2 yr 1.59 (1.42) (1.31) (46)

US 5 yr 1.61 (1.31) (0.98) (70)

US 10 yr 1.46 (1.11) (0.80) (42)

Japan 10 yr 2.51 (44) (40) (10) (25)

US 2 yr -0.05 (1) (1) (47) (32)

US 5 yr -0.36 (0) (4) (16) (52)

US 10 yr -1.15 (0) (1) (17) (76)

Belgium 10 yr 0.19 (44) (24) (132) (78)

France 10 yr 0.13 (21) (21) (22) (48)

Germany 10 yr 0.21 (48) (69) (32)

Spain 10 yr 0.41 (57) (31) (71)

Italy 10 yr 1.23 (23) (14) (137)

Netherlands 10 yr 0.53 (10) (12) (21) (73)

Portugal 10 yr 0.19 (26) (11) (48)

Spain 10 yr 1.15 (2) (10) (25) (48)

Emerging Markets

Brazil 10 yr 13.25 (130) (120) (120) (420)

China 10 yr 4.42 (152) (141) (141) (471)

Colombia 10 yr 5.12 (15) (14) (14) (14)

India 10 yr 5.88 (2) (1) (2) (1) (4)

Mexico 10 yr 5.88 (2) (1) (2) (1) (4)

Pers 10 yr 6.08 (10) (12) (12) (12)

Poland 10 yr 2.88 (2) (2) (2) (2) (4)

Russia 10 yr 4.48 (2) (2) (2) (2) (4)

Saudi 10 yr 4.24 (4) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Taiwan 10 yr 0.15 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

India 10 yr 1.42 (2) (4) (7) (3) (6)

Indonesia 10 yr 1.38 (4) (1) (4) (1) (37)

C country risk (change in bp)

10 yr sovereign spreads (against Germany)

Belgium 21 (4) (15) (14) (2)

France 20 (3) (15) (14) (8)

Germany 10 (2) (10) (10) (4)

Italy 10 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Netherlands 14 (1) (2) (1) (2)

Portugal 31 (4) (2) (1) (2)

Spain 124 (1) (4) (1) (1)

5 yr sovereign spreads (against Germany)

Belgium 11 (1) (1) (1) (1)

France 10 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Germany 10 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Italy 27 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Netherlands 14 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Portugal 23 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spain 76 (1) (1) (1) (1)

3 yr sovereign spreads (against Germany)

Belgium 11 (1) (1) (1) (1)

France 21 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Germany 7 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Netherlands 7 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Portugal 12 (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spain 47 (1) (1) (1) (1)

C country risk

Spr CDS Belgium 58 (1) (1) (1) (2) (2)

Spr CDS France 42 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Germany 26 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Greece 466 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Ireland 80 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Italy 142 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Netherlands 32 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Portugal 39 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Spain 54 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS UK 42 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS US 28 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Emerging Markets

Spr CDS Argentina 402 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Brazil 338 (2) (4) (4) (1) (2)

Spr CDS China 102 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Colombia 298 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Ecuador 308 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Peru 104 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Taiwan 477 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Pakistan 61 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Russia 229 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Turkey 238 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS China 120 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS India 72 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

Spr CDS Indonesia 190 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

C credit risk

US 46 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

VSTOXX 25 (2) (4) (1) (2) (4) (1) (2)

US 10 yr credit spread 31 (2) (1) (2) (1)

Default spread 10 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

US bank credit spread 7 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

US bank credit spread 7 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

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CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay

**Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

***S&P GSCI with one day delay

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