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Weekly Market Review

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Market Recap

Most equity markets finished mixed for the week, with US and UK equities broadly flat and Europe closing up 1%. The Japanese market closed down 2%, retracing the majority of the losses it incurred on Monday, following a sell-off that was attributed to the unwinding of the carry trade. If you would like to know about what the carry trade is, listen to our podcast.

Geopolitics

US Presidential candidate Kamala Harris announced Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate in the election race during last week's Democratic party rally.

Central Banks

Japan's market volatility, which reverberated globally, was to some degree soothed by comments from the Bank of Japan's Deputy Governor Shinichi Uchida, who said that the central bank would not raise interest rates when markets are unstable, reducing the likelihood of a near-term hike.

News

Japan's stock market fell 12% last Monday, its worst day in 37 years, but rebounded strongly throughout the week, clawing back nearly all the losses. The initial sell-off was attributed to the unwinding of the carry trade.

Inflation

A measure of inflation in China called CPI rose by +0.5% for the month of July 2024 (vs. +0.3% expected), up from a -0.2% decline in June. For the year, inflation rose to +0.5% in July, up from +0.2% in June and marking the highest figure since February. Food prices remained flat while non-food prices increased.



Commodities

Oil rose 4% to \$76 per barrel for the week, driven by positive economic data and indications from Federal Reserve officials that they might cut interest rates as soon as September, alleviating some concerns about demand. Gold finished the week at \$2,420 per ounce, benefiting from lingering geopolitical risks and expectations of a Federal Reserve rate cut.

ESG

According to media reports, the UK government will introduce legislation to regulate ESG rating providers in 2025, following Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves's speech last Wednesday. The new law would place ESG rating providers under the supervision of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Week Ahead

In the US, all eyes will be on inflation data. The inflation report is expected to show a slight deceleration in the annual inflation rate to 2.9% and a slowdown in the core rate to 3.2%, marking the lowest levels since March and April of 2021 respectively. The UK economy is expected to grow by 0.6% in Q2, slightly slower than the 0.7% increase in Q1. Inflation is projected to rise to 2.3% in July, up from the BoE's target of 2% for the previous two months. On the corporate front, US earnings season is coming to an end, but Home Depot, Cisco Systems, Walmart, and Deere & Company are still set to release quarterly reports.

Source: Marlborough Multi-Asset, Morningstar, BBC News, Financial Times, PIMCO, John Hancock, ESG Today, Trading Economics

Risk Warnings

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