Market News 25-10-2021

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Chinese markets slightly firmer overnight helping European markets start the week slightly higher.

The US Dollar continues to slip versus other major currencies as risk-on theme continues.

Review

FTSE -29 -0.41% DOW +382 +1.29% S&P +76 +1.64% NASDQ +193 +1.29% DAX -44 -0.28% NIKKEI -264 -0.91% Hang Seng +795 +3.14%

Despite the **below consensus Chinese GDP** data at the start of last week, overall, the **data last week was positive**. The **PMI data** from most western economies was **better than the consensus** with stand-out data from both the UK and US. However, the **Eurozone services sector suffered an unexpected fall** which is likely due to the **spike in energy and general commodity prices** brought about by these global supply bottlenecks that all economies are experiencing.

News last Friday from **Evergrande**, the massively indebted Chinese property development group, **helped markets to recover losses** from the start of last week.

Evergrande managed to **pay at the eleventh hour** the **missed interest payment on foreign US Dollar bonds** which has given some very **short-term relief** to the **Hong Kong** market although the debt remains and so does the **risk that the company could default** without offloading some assets.

However, equity markets continue to believe what central bankers are telling us about the prospects for inflation.

Here in the UK, analysts are now pricing in a **near 80% probability of a rate rise** before Christmas. There has been some criticism of the Bank of England's **aggressive market speak** with the **Economist publication** calling for the bank to **pause with any rate rise**.

An interesting article in the FT highlights how investors view what Central Banks are up to.

The yield on the **two-year UK gilt and 2-year treasury** (US sovereign debt) have been **risen sharply in the last two months** reflecting the likelihood of a **start in the tightening cycle in both the UK and US**.

In the UK, **2-year gilts are now yielding 0.7%** - not much to write home about – but just **two months ago they were 0.1%.** Similar in the US, where 2-year bond yields are at **0.49% have risen from 0.25%.**

However, if we look further along the yield curve or duration, we see that the yield on long term bonds in both markets have not moved much at all which suggests that the market suspects that inflation will be tamed quickly. Remember that long term bond yields are very sensitive to the corrosive effects of inflation. So, put it another way – investors are currently implying that that both the **BoE** and **Federal Reserve** could be making a **policy error in raising rates** and **tapering QE**.

This means, these central banks could end up **choking off some of the post pandemic recovery** risking stagflation in the medium term and the **likelihood** that these **rate rises would have to be reversed**.

Of course, these moves in the **bond markets could change again** should inflation **really** take hold.

EURUSD +0.49 +0.42 GBPUSD Unch USDJPY -0.23 -0.2%

Little action in the forex market last with the US Dollar losing more of its gains since early September in anticipating of the start to QE tapering.

Gold +24 +1.35% UK OIL +1.04 +1.23% US OIL +1.7 +2.06%

Oil continued its relentless rise, adding another \$1 from the previous week. The Yen experience some profit taking halting the slide from the previous week although the energy squeeze will have a direct impact on Japan which has to import significant quantities of oil and gas.

The successful launch of the **Proshares Bitcoin Strategy ETF**, to give its full name, **last Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange** gave another **boost to Bitcoin and other Cryptos.** The Bitcoin ETF, or BITO as its called, **attracted more than \$1 Bin from investors** making it was of the fastest growing ETFs.

Data / Events this week

ECB, BoC & BoJ policy meetings, the UK budget, and US GDP data to look forward to.

Monday

Germany German IFO business climate. Large survey of manufacturers and retailers. Gradually slipping from levels four months ago.

Tuesday

Wednesday	
Japan	Bank of Japan policy meeting. Following upgrade in outlook the bank is expected to make no change to official rates.
UK	UK's Autumnn Statement presented by Chancellor Rishi Sunak. Almost all the policy announcements seem to have been trailed ahead of the announcements in parliament so markets will probably have little in the way of any meaningful surprises.
Canada	Bank of Canada – no change ahead of FED's FOMC policy meeting in early November.
US	Core Durable Goods orders. Still on the rise but slowing .
Thursday	
Eurozone	ECB policy meeting . Whilst investors have started to price in a slight rise in Eurozone rates by end of 2022, the likelihood of anything happening in the short to medium term is very low . Markets are predicting the Eurozone rates will increase by 0.1% by the end of 2022.
	Hardly noteworthy – actually noteworthy for how dovish investors are about prospects for a rate rise.

GDP data.

Most analysts expect the ECB to maintain a more dovish approach, contrary to what the BoE have been saying. **They can't both be right, or can they??**

Friday	
US	Revised University of Michigan Consumer
	sentiment. Stabilising??
US	Chicago PMI – Still falling.