

Bedrock Friday 08 September 2017 Newsletter

Holidays and vacations are over. We are closing week one of September and we feel that the proper adjective for our markets is "resilience"; in the face of huge damage from Hurricanes and now a big earthquake, ongoing political shenanigans in Washington, threats from North Korea we see markets basically steady, trading comfortably at or around their all-time highs.

America gave us data showing U.S. worker productivity was stronger than initially thought in the second quarter, leading to a modest increase in labor costs that could keep inflation muted in the near term. The Labor Department said on Thursday that nonfarm productivity rose at a 1.5% annualized rate. Productivity was previously reported to have increased at a 0.9% pace in the April-June period. It grew at a 0.1% rate in the first quarter. Looking good for the economy, not so for inflation. So maybe the Fed will hold its rate-horses? The US ten year Treasury yield has fallen further to 2.03% But it is not only in the US...

In a speech highlighting months of weak data that has pushed core U.S. inflation down to 1.4%, Fed Governor Lael Brainard said the central bank should go so far as to make clear it is comfortable pushing prices modestly above a 2% target. "We should be cautious about tightening policy further until we are confident inflation is on track to achieve our target," Brainard said. Investors are skeptical about rate rise and give a December rate hike about a 30% probability.

Last week the US revised its Q2 GDP to read 3% growth! If the economy is growing at a faster clip than the cost of money, why worry so much about equity prices?

China just distracted us from the natural disasters reporting data pointing to strong domestic demand as imports beat expectations in August, although overall export growth eased. In August, exports were up 5.5% from a year ago in dollar terms, while imports were up 13.3% The country's surplus with the U.S. rose to \$26.23 billion from \$25.2 billion in July. The two countries' trade is closely-watched amid current tensions between the economic giants about trade practices (we note that the Chinese trade-surplus with the US accounts for almost half of the latter's total trade deficit!).

The ECB yesterday told us that much is working well in the Eurozone. The Euro saw a volatile afternoon of trade on Thursday as currency traders reacted to comments from Mario Draghi, the President of the European Central Bank (ECB). The Euro rallied strongly reaching \$1.2065. Many see the euro appreciation as being a key reason why the ECB has held off from announcing a start to the wind down of its stimulus package. Since the start of the year, the euro has risen 13% buoyed in part by a weakening dollar.

Yes, indeed the global economy is ticking along on all cylinders 😊

Chinese regulators are about to start a campaign related to the country's initial coin offerings (ICO), according to a Caixin report. In a document, authorities said they have banned new projects that raise cash or other virtual currencies through cryptocurrencies. We are not the only ones concerned about the meaning of Bitcoin and its cryptobrethren...

Separately, some others are giving support to our views- With the S&P 500 up nearly 10% ytd at a time when geopolitics is worrying investors, some money managers have begun considering a market correction. However, Carol Pepper, chief executive officer at Pepper International, believes that stocks have plenty of room to run. "I think we are mid-way through the game, I don't think we are at the end of the game, and I'll tell you why, because we've had 10 years of a flat market and 10 years is a long time ... You could say we have 5, 6 years to run," Pepper told CNBC Wednesday morning. "People have been talking about fatigue in the rally since the rally started," she said. "I think stay the course through the end of the year. Yes, we will have a few more dips of course, this North Korea thing is very disturbing, but assuming we don't go to war, I believe by the end of the year, will be at least this level if not higher," Pepper explained. Discussing three different reasons for why investors should stick to U.S. equities specifically, she says corporates still have a lot of cash, the country still has little pressure on wages and there's still lots of capital expenditure to be done. Health care and technology are her top choices as she expects them to continue to outperform this year; but financials should be avoided.

While we always look at the risks embedded in the investments we make, charts clearly show that the risk is on the upside as most investors are expecting a correction (bearishness at multi-year high and bullishness at almost a 20-year low), not to say an "Armageddon". We are not contrarian just for the sake of it, we are just convinced that going into year-end, US stocks are likely to sustain or even accelerate their upward momentum as the Fed tightening is already priced in (and may not happen quite so soon...) while the overhaul of the US tax system would be a major catalyst (not discounted by investors who have been disappointed by the previous failures of the Trump administration). Also, we note that the S&P 500 blended 12-month forward dividend yield currently offers higher returns than 10-year notes (Bloomberg).

The ratio of outstanding puts to calls on the S&P 500 has risen to levels last seen in the late-2015 market sell-off, according to Richard Turnill, BlackRock Inc.'s chief investment strategist. The ratio for German stocks has also risen. The move to boost downside protection shows investors are getting nervous. And yet, the VIX as a measure of fear remains in the basement...

An investment thought crossed our desk- •Morgan Stanley predicts shared and autonomous vehicles will add 80 basis points to annual alcoholic beverage sales growth for the next 10 years. Disruptive car-technology could help address the mutual exclusivity of drinking and driving! Buy Diageo 😊

Market Weekly Highlights:

- The DXY is trading lower losing almost 11% YTD showing 91.21 as we watch. The USD is trading currently above 1.2060 against the EUR and at 0.9470 against the CHF. The Pound has gained some ground this week against the USD hitting 1.3161 today while the Japanese Yen strengthened for the week showing 107.61 as we write. Basically a US\$ weakness across the board!
The Russian Ruble has traded sideways against the USD at about 57. The Brazilian Real is up against the USD for the week at just about 3.10 and the Crude oil WTI trades at almost \$49 a barrel while Brent is trading at just above \$54.70.
- The yield on 10Y U.S. Treasuries stands at 2.03% down some 10Bp for the week. The Japanese 10 year JGB tempted to hike during the week reaching POSITIVE 0.28% to only fall back down and flirt with the zero line today offering returns at 0.004%.
In Europe, the German Bund shows 0.32% returns, off some 7bp for the week. The French 10Y yield which hit 1.10% before the elections is also down for the week standing at 0.62%. The Swiss 10 year bond yield started August in POSITIVE territory at 0.04% only to drop back -0.16% as we write.
In Peripheral Europe, Italian 10Y yields having started the year as high as 1.73% are currently down at 1.63% whilst the Spanish 10Y yields trade 9bps lower than Italy at 1.54% they are higher than where they started the year at 1.30%.
- Equity markets are mixed this week in the USA; the DJIA is at 21'784, off some points from its all-time high down 0.49% for the week, the S&P500 at just above 2'465 up 0.31% or so for the week and Nasdaq at just below 6'400 at yesterday close, also up some 0.46%. In reality, we are basically still at or near the all time highs.
In Europe Eurostoxx50 is also up for this week 0.24%, with the DAX showing +1.36%, while the rest of major indices are down. The Spanish IBEX 35 is the worst weekly performer with a negative 1.87% followed by FTSE 100 down 0.81% and the FTSE MIB off 0.42% as we write.
The Nikkei traded down 2.12% for the week losing most of the positive performance cumulated throuout the year. In Asia Hang Seng is also negative for the week 1.02% but showing strong performances for the year: +25.76% YTD.

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Highlighted items are interesting data points for the week

All data is compiled from Bloomberg

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE													07/09/2017	
INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)									Fwd P/E	T12m P/E	
			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y			
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY REGION														
S&P 500 INDEX	USD	2,465.10	0.01	0.31	-0.26	-0.40	1.29	4.32	10.11	13.01	23.16	18.85	21.10	
DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	USD	21,784.78	-0.06	-0.49	-0.74	-1.36	2.84	4.45	10.23	17.88	27.31	17.83	18.55	
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX	USD	6,397.87	0.08	0.46	-0.48	0.43	1.20	9.60	18.85	21.64	39.32	23.91	39.45	
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX	USD	1,398.67	-0.24	-0.53	-0.47	-0.81	-1.20	2.39	3.06	11.15	19.31	30.09	46.93	
EURO STOXX 50	EUR	3,447.66	0.41	-0.09	0.57	-2.13	-3.45	1.51	4.57	11.59	5.31	14.64	17.62	
EURO STOXX 600	EUR	374.95	0.29	-0.57	0.03	-2.26	-3.89	0.38	3.48	7.07	8.07	15.66	20.78	
CAC 40 INDEX	EUR	5,114.62	0.26	-0.54	0.19	-2.37	-3.21	2.72	4.79	12.18	13.87	15.08	18.16	
DAX INDEX	EUR	12,296.63	0.67	1.12	1.85	-0.11	-3.42	2.60	6.95	15.02	25.83	13.46	17.11	
FTSE 100 INDEX	GBP	7,396.98	0.65	-0.79	-0.68	-2.16	-0.94	0.62	3.32	7.60	7.98	15.15	24.99	
SWISS MARKET INDEX	CHF	8,906.66	0.53	-0.63	-0.45	-3.02	0.84	3.00	8.10	6.86	0.77	17.82	23.78	
NIKKEI 225	JPY	19,396.52	0.20	-2.12	-1.89	-3.61	-3.19	0.11	0.84	13.66	22.73	16.60	17.42	
HANG SENG INDEX	HKD	27,522.92	-0.27	-1.06	-1.12	-0.71	6.11	16.29	25.71	15.62	9.79	12.55	13.77	
SHANGHAI SE COMPOSITE	CNY	3,365.50	-0.59	-0.06	0.13	2.54	6.82	3.84	8.43	8.70	44.65	14.83	17.64	
S&P BSE SENSEX INDEX	INR	31,662.74	0.02	-0.67	-0.17	-1.05	1.49	9.60	18.97	9.06	15.95	20.64	23.33	
RUSSIAN RTS INDEX \$	USD	1,110.73	0.38	1.77	2.21	6.80	7.85	2.06	-2.80	10.55	-10.08	6.89	7.70	
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	BRL	73,412.41	1.75	3.56	3.64	8.06	16.21	11.67	21.89	22.09	20.98	14.24	22.92	
MSCI WORLD	USD	1,964.57	0.30	-0.06	0.25	-0.11	2.10	7.08	12.18	12.62	12.63	17.33	20.67	
MSCI WORLD HEDGED	USD	866.42	0.13	-0.26	-0.26	-0.87	0.82	4.70	10.08	14.48	24.66	-	-	
MSCI WORLD LOCAL	-	1,474.94	0.14	-0.54	-0.31	-1.00	0.28	3.39	8.11	11.96	17.05	17.33	20.67	
MSCI AC WORLD	USD	479.57	0.35	-0.07	0.24	0.02	2.65	8.12	13.69	13.19	11.29	16.79	19.97	
MSCI EM	USD	1,090.10	0.66	-0.12	0.22	1.07	6.97	16.60	26.42	17.56	-0.45	13.58	15.93	
MSCI AC ASIA x JAPAN	USD	661.25	0.63	-0.39	-0.23	-0.12	4.90	16.96	28.56	17.61	9.16	14.02	15.23	
MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	USD	2,953.46	0.48	2.80	2.80	5.72	16.11	15.54	26.18	17.92	-17.94	15.80	22.05	
MSCI EM Eur, ME & Africa	USD	277.43	0.40	-0.54	-0.13	2.31	7.75	11.01	13.34	11.96	-16.80	11.73	13.72	
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY SECTOR												P/E	P/E	
MSCI ENERGY	USD	200.18	0.44	2.23	3.12	0.05	2.42	-1.52	-8.59	-4.02	-31.79	26.07	39.84	
MSCI MATERIALS	USD	259.06	0.80	0.27	1.06	2.99	7.89	11.56	16.75	19.77	4.99	16.93	18.64	
MSCI INDUSTRIALS	USD	241.54	0.45	0.07	0.40	0.08	2.05	8.31	13.68	14.69	18.95	17.50	20.42	
MSCI CONS DISCRETIONARY	USD	219.86	-0.02	0.15	0.64	-0.88	0.55	6.88	11.92	12.51	21.20	17.06	19.10	
MSCI CONS STAPLES	USD	231.09	0.53	0.96	1.23	0.47	-0.82	6.25	11.35	3.56	17.21	20.57	23.08	
MSCI HEALTH CARE	USD	226.10	1.05	1.08	1.19	3.21	4.17	8.83	17.25	9.36	16.41	17.66	23.88	
MSCI FINANCIALS	USD	114.12	-0.75	-2.43	-1.95	-4.72	1.82	2.14	7.48	19.36	8.52	12.93	15.39	
MSCI INFO TECH	USD	201.95	0.60	-0.10	-0.08	1.69	2.60	13.79	25.25	27.27	46.84	19.91	24.83	
MSCI TELECOMS	USD	68.39	-0.59	-2.08	-2.25	-4.22	-2.65	-0.98	-1.64	-6.45	-3.96	14.23	19.09	
MSCI UTILITY	USD	133.10	1.02	0.94	0.93	2.22	2.93	12.76	15.78	8.95	9.36	16.97	20.29	
MSCI WORLD REAL ESTATE	USD	208.57	0.72	0.62	0.51	1.48	2.55	7.94	9.72	-0.05	6.34	24.82	18.57	
HEDGE FUND INDICES														
HFRX GLOBAL HEDGE FUND	USD	1,249.76	-0.02	-0.10	0.03	0.41	1.14	2.16	3.85	5.18	-0.18			
HFRX EQUAL WEIGHTED	USD	1,257.82	-0.01	-0.08	0.05	0.31	1.04	1.83	3.34	4.71	2.88			
HFRX GLOBAL EUR	EUR	1,106.45	-0.03	-0.13	-0.06	0.20	0.51	0.95	2.19	2.85	-4.43			
MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE													07/09/2017	
INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)											
			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y			
LIBOR RATES AND YIELD ON US GOVERNMENT BONDS (yield in %, Change in bps)														
US 3 MONTH	USD	1.03	-0.52	3.44	4.32	-1.03	4.32	31.81	53.68	69.33	-			
US 2 YEAR	USD	1.26	-0.40	-8.40	-6.76	-9.28	-5.63	-9.62	6.97	48.81	-			
US 10 YEAR	USD	2.02	-1.57	-14.27	-9.40	-23.89	-16.55	-53.67	-42.13	42.40	-			
US LIBOR 3M	USD	1.32	0.00	0.11	-0.06	0.53	9.82	21.10	31.93	47.66	-			
EUR LIBOR 3M	EUR	-0.37	0.00	-0.07	-0.14	-0.06	-0.33	-2.12	-3.69	-4.93	-			
GBP LIBOR 3M	GBP	0.28	0.50	0.54	0.54	0.44	-0.81	-7.34	-8.38	-9.64	-			
CHF LIBOR 3M	CHF	-0.73	0.00	0.02	0.00	-0.06	0.34	-0.32	0.30	0.68	-			
FIXED INCOME INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												Yield to Worst		
GLOBAL AGG TR HEDGED	USD	514.28	0.18	0.40	0.29	0.96	1.17	3.26	2.99	0.77	10.49	1.47		
GLOBAL HY TR	USD	1,296.41	0.19	0.47	0.51	1.01	2.74	6.70	9.30	9.13	16.40	5.12		
US GOVERNMENT TR	USD	2,190.76	0.28	0.37	0.37	1.29	1.42	3.82	3.50	-0.20	7.40	1.47		
US CORPORATE TR	USD	2,881.89	0.28	0.30	0.30	1.17	2.02	5.48	5.69	2.97	12.67	3.03		
US HIGH YIELD TR	USD	1,928.14	0.03	0.24	0.24	0.21	1.35	3.99	6.30	8.46	15.79	5.55		
EU GOVERNMENT TR	EUR	251.61	0.31	0.57	0.40	0.77	0.66	2.46	0.53	-2.05	8.03	0.45		
EU CORPORATE TR	USD	269.45	0.17	0.30	0.24	0.58	1.39	3.14	3.46	2.68	11.46	0.70		
EU HIGH YIELD TR	EUR	313.03	0.07	0.16	0.20	0.04	1.58	3.84	5.68	6.84	16.67	3.01		
BARCLAYS GLOBAL CONVERT.	USD	235.44	0.10	0.03	0.03	-0.56	0.45	2.69	5.78	6.44	8.03	-		
GLOBAL EM TR (HEDGED)	USD	382.85	0.21	0.48	0.44	1.41	2.19	5.31	7.63	4.77	16.48	4.01		
S&P/LSTA U.S. LEV LOAN	USD	98.36	0.02	0.06	0.04	-0.48	-0.46	-0.83	-0.26	6.22	0.25	4.77		
COMMODITY INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER														
GSCI INDEX TOTAL RETURN	USD	2,289.08	-0.02	1.66	1.66	1.79	6.64	-2.93	-5.31	3.12	-51.02			
GSCI ENERGY TR	USD	389.12	0.18	2.28	2.28	3.34	11.30	-4.72	-10.50	2.26	-63.74			
GSCI INDUSTRIAL METALS TR	USD	1,368.97	0.13	0.39	0.39	7.42	18.73	14.19	21.96	35.13	-4.57			
GSCI PRECIOUS METALS TR	USD	1,630.58	0.88	2.25	2.25	7.30	3.86	9.36	15.79	-2.01	2.61			
GSCI AGRICULTURE TR	USD	389.14	-1.13	0.60	0.60	-5.30	-5.75	-12.65	-9.72	-11.68	-28.36			
GENERIC 1ST 'CL' FUTURE	USD	48.94	-0.31	3.62	3.62	-0.85	5.84	-6.99	-14.34	-8.80	-58.18			
GOLD SPOT \$/OZ	USD	1,353.23	0.29	2.14	2.41	7.32	5.88	11.99	17.44	1.12	7.79			
CURRENCIES														
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	USD	91.66	-0.42	-1.66	-1.50	-2.53	-5.82	-10.58	-10.70	-3.95	8.36			
Euro Spot	EUR	1.20	0.22	1.60	1.18	2.54	7.46	14.32	14.58	7.02	-6.55			
Japanese Yen Spot	JPY	108.45	0.66	2.33	2.08	2.39	2.12	6.14	8.56	-4.87	-1.59			
British Pound Spot	GBP	1.31	0.26	1.42	1.59	1.10	1.38	7.95	6.44	-1.20	-18.44			
Swiss Franc Spot	CHF	0.95	0.42	1.92	1.28	2.92	2.18	7.22	7.65	2.75	-1.17			
Brazilian Real Spot	BRL	3.10	0.55	1.92	1.58	0.83	5.74	1.20	5.00	3.10	-27.69			
China Renminbi Spot	CNY	6.49	0.60	1.71	2.20	4.00	5.46	7.21	7.70	3.39	-4.76			
Singapore Dollar Spot	SGD	1.34	0.10	1.37	1.29	1.84	3.26	5.92	8.08	0.98	-5.94			
Russian Ruble Spot	RUB	56.89	-0.20	0.83	1.80	5.02	-0.16	3.33	7.95	12.31	-35.17			
Norwegian Krone Spot	NOK	7.73	0.14	0.98	0.49	3.03	9.98	10.68	11.88	6.02	-18.00			
VOLATILITY / LIQUIDITY INDICES														
CBOE S&P VOLATILITY INDEX	USD	11.55	-0.69	13.50	13.50	9.67	18.31	1.35	-14.39	-3.92	-5.06			
USD SWAP SPREAD SEMI 2YR	USD	24.04	-	9.55	12.23	-10.32	9.50	-26.29	-8.92	-9.85	4.38			
TED SPREAD	USD	28.04	-	-15.21	-15.21	-0.36	15.25	-22.02	-43.98	-44.24	35.46			

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