WEEKLY UPDATE

Israel-Hamas: what does war mean for the markets?

Modest impact on financial markets so far. Hamas's attack on Israel pushed local markets down. The Israeli stock market lost nearly 7% and the currency around 2%. But outside the conflict zone, impacts on global markets remained modest. Remember that markets had already been jittery for weeks before the assault. September was notable for renewed pressure on interest rates, driving down bonds and risky assets across the board. Following the Hamas attack, we saw an uptick in gas and oil prices but nothing beyond the usual bounds of price volatility.

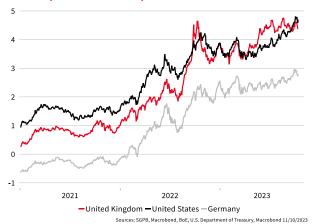
At the same time, bond market yields eased this week in what looks like a classic flight-to-quality at times of geopolitical tensions. But, in our view, much of this easing was caused by the less hawkish tone coming out of central banks and was in fact good for equity markets in the leading developed economies, which made gains all week, underlining the modest impact of Hamas's assault so far.

Crude oil prices still the key indicator to watch. Impacts on global markets should remain modest as long as the conflict remains locally contained. If tensions were to spill over to other countries in the region, the consequences could prove much larger, notably via higher oil prices. However, the impact on the global economy of an oil price surge similar to what we saw after the start of the war in Ukraine would potentially be very different this time. Energy markets remain more stretched than they were when Russia invaded Ukraine, with US strategic reserves in particular still unusually low. Also, in 2022 developed economies were enjoying their post-Covid boom whereas now they are slowing down, due at least in part to monetary policy tightening. In these circumstances, an oil price shock could trigger both a fresh bout of inflation and a sharper economic slowdown. That said, it is worth recalling that oil producers -Saudi Arabia first and foremost – would have a stake in capping excessive prices to avoid a slump in demand.

We remain confident in our strategic balance between equities and fixed income. We first took this stance in a climate of high economic and financial uncertainty, and this highly diversified allocation seems to serve us equally well now that geopolitical risks are on the rise. Our Overweight to the United States markets also seems to offer some insurance should turbulence intensify as the US is first choice in terms of flight-to-quality. Obviously, we remain highly vigilant, and ready to react to any changes in the situation.



10-year sovereign yields eased this week after a broadbased upward trend in September



The increase in oil price has remained very contained, and does not suggest a sustainable increase



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OUR MACRO COMMENTS

Events of the week



The IMF held its annual meeting in Marrakech, where it presented its new economic forecasts. While inflationary pressures have moderated, the IMF continues to forecast lower global economic growth than pre-Covid, reaching 3% in 2023, and 2.9% in 2024 (versus 3.8% pre-Covid). For the developed economies, the IMF forecasts 1.5% growth in 2023 and 1.4% in 2024%. Finally, it estimates that global inflation should ease, from 8.7% in 2022 to 6.9% in 2023 and 5.8% in 2024, although these figures have been revised upwards and inflation is unlikely to reach its target before 2025 in most cases.



Inflation remained stable in September, rising by 3.7% year-on-year. Energy prices again contributed to the rise in inflation, but the fall in gasoline prices in recent weeks should keep October inflation in check. Core inflation was in line with forecasts, at 4.1% year-over-year from 4.4% in August, helped by the fall in durable goods prices. Inflation thus continues to gradually soften towards the Fed's 2% target, likely prompting the Fed to maintain its key rate at 5.5% over the coming months.

Figures of the week

		Actual	Forecast	Last
	Industrial production (August, YoY)	-0.2%	-0.1%	-0.6%
	Industrial production (August, MoM)	-0.7%	-0.2%	-1.1%
3 D	Manufacturing production (August, MoM)	-0.8%	-0.4%	-1.2%
	Inflation (September, YoY)	3.7%	3.6%	3.7%
	Core inflation (September, YoY)	4.1%	4.1%	4.3%
	Inflation (September, YoY)	0%	0.2%	0.1%

Sources: Macrobond, October 13, 2023.

The week ahead

Tuesday



Unemployment rate (August)



Retail sales (September) Industrial production (September)

Wednesday



Inflation (September) Core inflation (September)



Retail sales (September) Industrial production (September) Unemployment rate (September)

Thursday



Business confidence (October)

Friday



Inflation (September) Core inflation (September)



Retail sales (September)



MARKET PERFORMANCES

Interbank rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M	Commodities	Last.	-1W	-3M
€STER O/N	3,90	3,90	3,40	1,91	0,66	Brent, USD/BL	85,47	-0,6%	7,6%
USD SOFR O/N	5,31	5,32	5,05	4,30	3,04	Or, USD/oz	1 874	2,9%	-4,3%
JPY TONAR O/N	-0,03	-0,02	-0,02	-0,02	-0,03	Copper, USD/metric ton	8 027	0,5%	-4,2%
GBP SONIA O/N	5,19	5,19	4,93	3,43	2,19	Platinium, USD/oz	887	1,8%	-5,3%
CHF O/N	1,70	1,71	1,74	0,80	0,63	Palladium, USD/oz	1 182	1,4%	-6,6%
						Silver, USD/oz	22,07	4,6%	-4,7%
Long term sov. rates	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M	FX rates	Last.	-1W	-3M
10Y OAT	3,27	3,52	3,10	2,98	2,98	EUR/USD	1,06	1,0%	-3,8%
10Y Bund	2,72	2,95	2,53	2,44	2,38	EUR/CHF	0,96	-0,6%	-0,6%
10Y BTP	4,66	4,92	4,21	4,55	4,84	USD/GBP	0,81	-1,5%	5,6%
10Y JGB	0,77	0,76	0,45	0,41	0,23	USD/JPY	149,17	0,2%	7,8%
10Y Bonos	3,81	4,05	3,53	3,51	3,56	USD/BRL	5,05	-2,1%	5,1%
10Y Swiss	1,05	1,15	1,05	1,57	1,48	USD/CNY	7,30	1,4%	1,9%
10Y Gilt	4,34	4,62	4,50	3,66	4,47	USD/RUB	100,24	0,5%	10,6%
10Y USTnote	4,58	4,73	3,86	3,88	3,91				
Credit & EM	Last.	-1W	-3M	YTD	-12M	Equity indices	-1W	-3M	YTD
EUR Corporate Aaa	3,66	3,83	3,45	3,12	3,34	Developped markets	2,6%	-2,8%	0,2%
EUR Corporate Baa	4,75	4,87	4,65	4,65	4,81	Euro area	2,5%	-3,7%	8,9%
GBP Corporate Baa	5,24	5,43	5,63	4,59	5,75	Germany	2,4%	-3,5%	9,9%
USD Corporate Aaa	5,20	5,36	4,59	4,62	4,90	France	1,9%	-2,8%	8,1%
USD Corporate Baa	6,30	6,44	5,72	5,70	6,15	United Kingdom	2,8%	2,7%	2,3%
USD EM aggregate	8,19	8,25	7,50	7,52	8,31	Switzerland	2,6%	0,2%	2,9%
						United States	2,7%	-2,1%	14,0%
						Japan	4,0%	3,9%	22,0%

Source: Bloomberg, on October 12, 2023.

Brazil

India

China

Hong Kong

3,0%

4,1%

1,9%

-0,6%

-0,5%

-5,1%

1,7%

-4,6%

10,0%

-9,5%

8,7%

-5,3%



YTD

-0,6%

2,6%

-4,4%

-16,7% -33,9%

-7,8%

YTD

-0,7%

-2,8%

-2,1%

14,0%

-5,4%

5,8%

37,3%

-12M 14,1% 26,1% 27,0% 22,6% 11,6% 8,2% 22,4% 23,5%

1,9%

7,1%

15,4%

-3,1%

-12M

-7,5%

12,0% 6,2%

-0,8%

-45,0%

15,0%

-12M

9,3%

-1,1%

-10,0%

1,6%

-4,6%

1,7%

55,0%

⁻¹W = 1-week change, -3M = 3-month change, -12M = 12-month change, YTD = year-to-date change. Equities; total return in local currency. Government bonds = 10-year returns. Figures are rounded.

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