

Jan 10, 2025

Three Take-Aways

- 1) With markets fretting the Fed's propensity to keep policy restrictive, a strong NFP print may dent sentiments rather than spur "risk on".
- 2) Excessive "Trumpflation" may be baked in, at the expense of neglecting downside risks both inherited, and associated with Trump 2.0.
- 3) Slumping CGB yields, while not desirable, may have to be tolerated (to some extent) to keep easing intact. Some CNY pressures inevitable.

MACRO THEME: Fed Fret?

- It appears that markets, at some level, are fretting the risk that the Fed will keep policy a lot more restrictive than is conducive for sustaining unbridled "risk on".
- To be sure, equities are fractionally higher for the year, but sentiments are distinctly nervier amid uncomfortably elevated UST yields remain elevated alongside exceptional USD strength*.
- It is fair to say that markets are cautious as inflation risks reemerge, with a swathe of Fed speakers warning premature and excessive easing. And inadvertently, this obfuscates market "risk response" to data as good economic data may be "bad news". Especially, if reflation associated with Trump 2.0 results in effective tightening at the expense of asset prices.
- As such, the scrutiny over the NFP print later may be subject to more fluid data-risk (appetite) response. In particular, any resilient hiring alongside buoyant wage data might conspire to trigger "risk off" in spite of the implied economic strength that ought to inspire optimism. To be fair though, the "Fed fret" is arguably a **policy risk extension of Trump 2.0**.
- * Except for briefly between Sep-Nov 2022, these levels have not been sustained. Before that, these levels were last seen in mid-2002.

Barkin Up the Wrong Tree?

- But the Fed might be barking up the wrong tree in fretting about inadequate policy restraint as the overriding policy risk. To be sure, Fed's Barkin (a non-voter) is not the most hawkish of his peers. And perhaps he is not even unduly cautious about cutting too much too soon. Nonetheless, his reference to term premium, and not inflation, driving the (recent) surge in in long-end yields is worth examining given potential for policy mis-interpretation pitfalls.
- If the Fed interprets this as risk re-pricing rather than inflation red flags, so requiring no unnecessary relative tightening response on its part, it is probably appropriate. But if the Fed deems this to be inadequate in accounting for inflation risks, therefore requiring more policy restraint, then it may risk costly policy missteps.
- The pertinent point being that term premium is in any case defector tightening (from risk re-pricing mechanics). Whereas the **greater worry is impaired policy (easing) transmission** when 10Y yields are up 70bp in 2024 (although 2Y is broadly unchanged) after 100bp of Fed cuts. Especially given that that US exceptionalism may be concealing

DATA/EVENTS

DATACTENTS			
Yesterday	Actual	Exp.	Prior
(AU) Retail Sales MoM (Nov)	0.8%	1.0%	0.5%
(AU) Trade Balance (Nov)	A\$7079m	A\$5550m	A\$5670m
(PH) Exports/Imports YoY (Nov)	-8.7%/-4.9%	-1.4%/4.9%	-5.0%/11.3%
(CH) CPI YoY (Dec)	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%
(CH) PPI YoY (Dec)	-2.3%	-2.4%	-2.5%
(TW) Exports/Imports YoY (Dec)	9.2%/30.4%	6.0%/15.5%	9.7%/19.8%
(JP) Labor Cash Earnings YoY (Nov)	3.0%	2.7%	2.2%
(EZ) Retail Sales MoM (Nov)	0.1%	0.3%	-0.3%
Today	Actual	Exp.	Prior
(MY) Industrial Production YoY (Nov)		2.5%	2.1%
(IN) Industrial Production YoY (Nov)		4.0%	3.5%
(JP) Coincident Index (Nov P)		115.3	116.8
(JP) Leading Index CI (Nov P)		107.2	109.1
(US) Change in Nonfarm Payrolls (Dec)		165k	227k
(US) Unemployment Rate (Dec)			7.8%
(US) UoM Sentiment/Expectations (Jan P)		74.0/72.7	74.0/73.3
(US) UoM 1/5-10Y Inflation (Jan P)		2.8%/3.0%	2.8%/3.0%



fragilities in household cash-flows, which can come home to roost as softer consumption down the road.

The Inflated Trumpflation Threat

- Admittedly, there are many elements of Trump 2.0 that are reflationary (and some purely inflationary). Nonetheless, the "Trumpflation" threat appears to be, quite aptly, inflated.
- For one, the **reflation effects of "tax cuts" may be overstated** insofar that much of this entails an extension of tax cuts already in effect.
- <u>Second</u>, **inflationary consequences of** growth-boosting **deregulation may be mitigated** by either *capacity expansion/productivity increases*.
- <u>Third</u>, while cost shocks from tariff impact, are not unreasonable to anticipate, this may be dampened by softer export prices and post-pandemic buffers built up in profit margins.
- Crucially, tariffs may ultimately turn out to be destructive to demand, so will not entail an inflationary spiral despite cost shocks. Immigration is admittedly the thorny issue given the wide range of opposing forces in labour market and demand outcomes. But on balance, it may be deleterious to growth and demand.
- The upshot is that some degree of "Trumpflation" is not an unreasonable risk to brace for, but currently overstated as the overarching policy risk. The specifics are highly dependent on the execution mix of various Trump 2.0 initiatives.

Yields (2Y: -2.0bp; 10Y: -0.1bp, 30Y: -0.2bp)

- Yield curve continued to steepen with front end yields lower.

Equities (Closed in observance of mourning for late Former President Jimmy Carter)

FX (DXY: +0.1%)

- USD retained traction against G10 peers. GBP led losses amid signs of softer inflation and weaker labour market amid fiscal woes. AUD also slipped as retail sales dissappointed.

China: The PBoC Paradox

- Clearly, the **slump in CGB yields** (10Y now testing 1.6% and 30Y below 2%) is **not welcome by the PBoC**, given the association with deflationary spirals. But **slumping CGB yields are the symptom**, **not the driver of deflationary dynamics** in the economy. Whereas the mechanics of propping up yields will dampen the efficacy of rate cuts (to spur the economy) and could inconveniently drain liquidity.
- Given this inherent conflict in policy objectives, the PBoC ought to train its efforts on unqualified policy easing. Moreover, it could help to accentuate policy transmission via efforts to maintain the net interest margins of banks (via programs to incentivize/subsidize lending). This ought to be a means to restoring confidence, which is imperative, if not a precondition, to averting entrenched deflation risks.
- The trade-off though may be some CNY pressures in the near-term may be hard to avert. But it may be managed such that trade-weighted CNY stability is not unduly compromised.

FX OUTLOOK

FX OUTLOOK						
FX	Close (NY)	Open*	Daily %∆	Forecast		ı
USDJPY	158.14	158.06	▼0.13%	156.00	-	160.50
EURUSD	1.0300	1.0297	▼0.17%	1.0190	-	1.0450
GBPUSD	1.2308	1.2299	▼0.44%	1.2100		1.2480
AUDUSD	0.6196	0.6190	▼0.32%	0.6100	-	0.6270
DXY	109.2		+0.08%	108.5	-	110.0
USDCNY	7.3321		+0.01%	7.3150	-	7.3500
USDCNH	7.3561	7.3571	+0.03%	7.3300	-	7.3800
USDHKD	7.7826	7.7821	+0.05%	7.7740	-	7.7900
USDSGD	1.3683	1.3685	+0.03%	1.3580	-	1.3800
USDKRW	1459	1460	+0.00%	1450	-	1470
USDTWD	32.95		+0.18%	32.70		33.10
USDINR	85.86		+0.01%	85.70	-	86.10
USDIDR	16200		+0.03%	16150	-	16270
USDMYR	4.503	4.503	▼0.01%	4.480	-	4.530
USDPHP	58.50		+0.17%	58.20	-	58.90
USDTHB	34.63	34.56	+0.03%	34.4	-	34.8
USDVND	25382	25385	+0.01%	25320	-	25440

*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

MARKET MOVES

Bond Yields	2Y Close	10Y Close	2Y Δ (bps)	10Y Δ (bps)
UST (US)	4.265	4.690	-2.0	-0.1
JGB (JP)	0.642	1.176	0.2	0.3
Bunds (GE)	2.227	2.565	2.8	1.9
Gilts (UK)	4.511	4.810	0.4	1.5
AGB (AU)	3.879	4.486	-2.3	-1.4
SGS (SG)	2.867	2.981	0.6	-1.8
CGB (CN)	1.140	1.624	7.0	1.9
KGB (KR)	2.793	2.615	-0.2	-2.0
SDL (IN)	6.765	6.688	0.0	0.2

Cross FX	Close (NY)	Open*	Daily %∆
EUR/JPY	162.87	162.76	▼0.32%
GBP/JPY	194.634	194.382	▼0.58%
JPY/SGD (100yen)	0.8653	0.8658	+0.17%
JPY/HKD (100yen)	4.9215	4.9236	+0.19%
CNH/JPY	21.561	21.558	▼0.25%
CNH/HKD	1.0614	1.0614	+0.03%
EUR/GBP	0.83682	0.83726	+0.27%
AUD/NZD	1.1064	1.1067	▼0.16%
EUR/CNH	7.577	7.5756	▼0.14%
GBP/CNH	9.0532	9.0481	▼0.42%

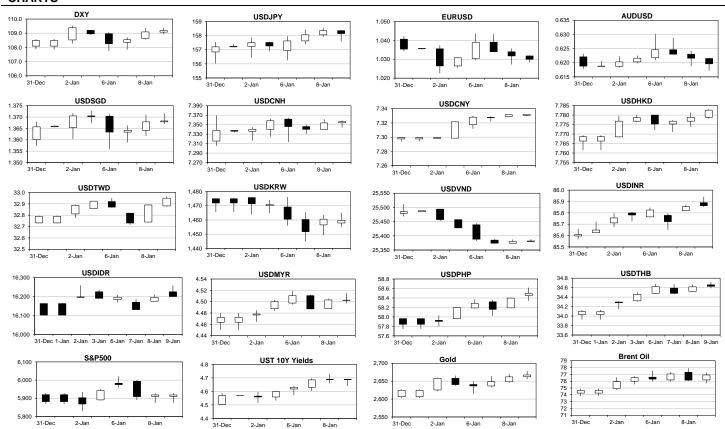
*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

G3 Equities	Close	Net Chg	Daily %∆
S&P500 (US)	5918.25	0.00	+0.00%
Nasdaq (US)	19478.88	0.00	+0.00%
DJIA (US)	42635.2	0.00	+0.00%
N225 (JP)	39605.09	-375.97	▼0.94%
STOXX50 (EU)	5017.91	21.52	+0.43%

Asia Equities	Close	Net Chg	Daily %∆
ASX (AU)	4517.93	33.76	+0.75%
STI (SG)	3862.6	-24.38	▼0.63%
SHCOMP (CN)	3211.393	-18.78	▼0.58%
SZCOMP (CN)	1878.935	5.55	+0.30%
HSI (HK)	19240.89	-38.95	▼0.20%
SENSEX (IN)	77620.21	-528.28	▼0.68%
JSE (ID)	7064.588	-15.76	▼0.22%
KLSE (MY)	1600.81	-14.02	▼0.87%
PSE (PH)	6511.57	14.85	+0.23%
SET (TH)	1362.97	-24.75	▼1.78%
VNINDEX (VN)	1245.77	0.00	▼0.42%

Commodity Close Net Chg Daily %∆ COPPER (LME) 8,971.57 54.23 +0.61% IRON ORE (CN) 97.82 -3.56 +0.47% GOLD 5.31 2.667.25 +0.20% SILVER 30.13 0.05 +1.37% OIL (BRENT) 76.92 0.76 +1.00% OIL (WTI) 73.92 0.60 +0.82% NATURAL GAS 0.03 3.70 +0.10%

CHARTS



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