

Jan 24, 2025

Three Take-Aways

Mizuho Daily

- 1) Trump's call for OPEC to lower oil prices saw Brent crude prices fall and subsequent allusion to lower rates led to mild pressure on front end yield.
- 2) China's equities related measures a long term anchor not short term boost.
- 3) MAS monetary policy easing via slight slope reduction to give growth a headstart amid headwinds.

MACRO THEME: Of Oil, Rates and Independence

- Last night, addressing the audience at Davos remotely, US President Donald Trump called on **OPEC to lower oil prices which will help to end the Russia-Ukraine War immediately**.
- His call may not sit well with the likes of Putin and also does not align with the fiscal needs of OPEC+ members who were already inclined to restore output levels. This is also at odds of with his own equip to ask Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to round up the US\$600bn investment pledge to US1 trillion. Nonetheless, **Brent crude prices fell** 1.5% to below US\$78/barrel, afterall one will find it hard to forget his "Drill Baby Drill" remarks.
- OPEC was not the only ones President Trump had opinions for as he touted that he would call for an immediate drop in interest rates following lower oil prices. President Trump said that he knows interest rates better than the Fed and believed that the Fed officials would listen to him. Slight slippage of front end 2Y UST yields perhaps reflect the skepticism around the Fed's receptiveness to his possible interference. That said, these attempts at influencing the Fed's independence may well be the base case going forward and one should consider these risks given the President's tendency for personnel changes.
- Aside from his Davos comments, President Trump also signed more executive orders to setup a working committee on cryptocurrency to recommend a regulatory framework and legislate proposals including evaluating the creation of a digital asset stockpile. Bitcoin declined as the order fell short of expectations that it will be specified as a national reserve. There was an AI related order which asked for an action plan in 180 days to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance as well as easing regulations such as safety and transparency requirements.
- Norges Bank kept their policy rate unchanged but signalled that the rate will likely be reduced in March. Specifically, they flagged the risks of uncertainty over the impact of trade barriers as well as fewer policy rate cuts abroad.

Yields (2Y: -0.9bp; 10Y: +3.3bp; 30Y: +4.2bp)

- UST yield curve steepened as front end yields edged lower and longer end yields rose.

Equities (Nasdaq: +0.2%; S&P 500: +0.5%; Dow: +0.9%)

 US equities continued to climb as sentiments were boosted by various executive orders and Trump's call to lower rates.

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| DATA/EVENTS | | | |
|--|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Yesterday | Actual | Exp. | Prior |
| (SG) CPI/Core YoY (Dec) | 1.6%/1.8% | 1.5%/1.7% | 1.6%/1.9% |
| (KR) GDP YoY/SA QoQ (4Q A) | 1.2%/0.1% | 1.4%/0.2% | 1.5%/0.1% |
| (TW) Industrial Production YoY (Dec) | 20.0% | 13.5% | 10.3% |
| (US) Initial Jobless Claims | 223k | 220k | 217k |
| (EZ) Consumer Conifdence (Jan P) | -14.2 | -14.1 | -14.5 |
| (JP) Trade Balance (Dec) | ¥130.9b | -¥68.5b | -¥110.3b |
| (US) Kansas City Fed Mfg Acty | -5.0 | 0.0 | -5.0 |
| (TH) Customs Trade Balance (Dec) | -\$11m | -\$210m | -\$224m |
| Today | Actual | Exp. | Prior |
| (JP) CPI Ex Fresh Food, Energy (Dec) | 3.6%/2.4% | 3.4%/2.4% | 2.9%/2.4% |
| MAS Monetary Policy Statement | | | |
| (PH) Exports/Imports YoY (Dec) | | -1.1%/4.5% | -8.7%/-4.9% |
| (TW) GDP YoY (4Q A) | | 2.0% | 4.2% |
| (SG) Industrial production YoY (Dec) | | 6.2% | 8.5% |
| (EZ) Mfg/Services PMI (Jan P) | | 45.4/51.5 | 45.1/51.6% |
| (US) Uni of Michigan Sentiment (Jan F) | | 73.2 | 73.2 |
| (JP) BoJ Policy Target Rate | | 0.50% | 0.25% |

FX (DXY: -0.1%)

- USD was slightly softer in a mixed performance among G10 peers. USD/JPY is slighly lower hovering around 156 ahead of the BoJ decision today. EUR managed to stay above 1.04.
- AUD buoyed above mid 62 cents. The USD/SGD is trading around mid-1.35.

China: Long Term Anchors, Not Short Term Boost

- China announced guidance for mutual funds and insures to support equity. These measures appear to be aimed at anchoring longer term demand and reflecting so the CSI 300 pared some of its 1.8% gains to close just 0.2% higher.
- Measures: 1. Authorities will aim to shorten the time for ETF approvals. Investment rules for the national pension fund will also be revised to encourage long term investments. 2. Trial program for insurer's long term equity investment will begin in H1 2025 at a size of more than 100bn RMB.
- 3. Mutual Funds holdings in A shares should growth 10% annually in the next three years. 4. Big state own insurers should strive to invest 30% of new premiums from 2025.

To provide flexibility to state-owned insurers and mutual funds, their KPIs will be adjusted and based on a 3 year cycle.

MAS: Headstart For Headwinds

- The decision this morning (8 am) by the MAS is to **reduce the slope of appreciation of the S\$NEER policy band** while keeping the center and width of the band unchanged.
- The policy change is framed as a measured adjustment with is consistent with ensuring medium term price stability. On that note, the MAS now expects core inflation in 2025 to average 1-2.0% in 2025 which is well within their long term historical average. The accompanying question then is the gradient of the slope which is consistent with inflation's medium term trajectory.
- Nonetheless, it is should perhaps be well noted that the policy easing comes despite output level being close to **potential (likely above)** as a whole despite growth being expected to moderate to 1-3% in 2025 from 4.0% in 2024.
- Consequently, this monetary policy easing is really one which gives a headstart to the economy which is set to face substantial headwinds. Specifically, they pointed out uncertainty around the pace and impact of global macroeconomic policy easing and the durability of the electronics upturn amid sharp escalation in geopolitical conflicts.

Taiwan Q4 GDP: High Base Tones Down Strong End

- -While we expect Taiwan's Q4 GDP to end on a high note, high base effects imply that it is evitable to see growth slow on a year ago basis from the 4.2% in Q3. Growth will likely hit above the 2% mark for Q4 which is admittedly on the higher end among consensus estimates.
- In our view, growth remains robust as semiconductor demand is resilient alongside healthy services indicators amid still buzzing construction activity.

FX OUTLOOK

| FX OUTLOOK | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|--------|----------|--------|------|--------|
| FX | Close (NY) | Open* | Daily %∆ | Fore | cast | t |
| USDJPY | 156.05 | 156.17 | ▼0.31% | 154.00 | - | 157.50 |
| EURUSD | 1.0415 | 1.0416 | +0.06% | 1.0340 | - | 1.0480 |
| GBPUSD | 1.2353 | 1.2353 | +0.30% | 1.2230 | | 1.2430 |
| AUDUSD | 0.6285 | 0.6282 | +0.18% | 0.6220 | - | 0.6320 |
| DXY | 108.0 | | ▼0.11% | 107.6 | - | 108.7 |
| USDCNY | 7.2862 | | +0.14% | 7.2500 | - | 7.3000 |
| USDCNH | 7.2877 | 7.2833 | +0.09% | 7.2500 | - | 7.3100 |
| USDHKD | 7.7893 | 7.7896 | +0.01% | 7.7730 | - | 7.8000 |
| USDSGD | 1.3550 | 1.3560 | ▼0.04% | 1.3480 | - | 1.3640 |
| USDKRW | 1436 | 1435 | +0.00% | 1425 | - | 1445 |
| USDTWD | 32.77 | | ▼0.04% | 32.60 | | 33.00 |
| USDINR | 86.47 | | +0.15% | 86.00 | - | 86.70 |
| USDIDR | 16280 | | ▼0.03% | 16200 | - | 16400 |
| USDMYR | 4.444 | 4.440 | +0.18% | 4.410 | - | 4.470 |
| USDPHP | 58.70 | | +0.33% | 58.20 | - | 58.80 |
| USDTHB | 34.02 | 34.00 | +0.58% | 33.7 | - | 34.1 |
| USDVND | 25108 | 25110 | +0.04% | 25000 | - | 25250 |
| | | | | | | |

*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

MARKET MOVES

| Bond Yields | 2Y Close | 10Y Close | 2Y Δ (bps) | 10Y Δ (bps) |
|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| UST (US) | 4.291 | 4.645 | -0.9 | 3.3 |
| JGB (JP) | 0.692 | 1.201 | 0.6 | 1.0 |
| Bunds (GE) | 2.242 | 2.548 | 0.9 | 1.9 |
| Gilts (UK) | 4.318 | 4.635 | -3.1 | 0.3 |
| AGB (AU) | 3.905 | 4.469 | -0.4 | 0.9 |
| SGS (SG) | 2.833 | 2.930 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| CGB (CN) | 1.276 | 1.658 | 1.9 | 0.1 |
| KGB (KR) | 2.843 | 2.660 | 4.2 | -0.9 |
| SDL (IN) | 6.734 | 6.636 | 0.5 | 0.6 |

| Cross FX | Close (NY) | Open* | Daily %∆ |
|------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| EUR/JPY | 162.54 | 162.65 | ▼0.24% |
| GBP/JPY | 192.768 | 192.903 | ▼0.00% |
| JPY/SGD (100yen) | 0.8683 | 0.8683 | +0.28% |
| JPY/HKD (100yen) | 4.9914 | 4.9881 | +0.32% |
| CNH/JPY | 21.41 | 21.413 | ▼0.51% |
| CNH/HKD | 1.069 | 1.069 | ▼0.13% |
| EUR/GBP | 0.84322 | 0.84319 | ▼0.23% |
| AUD/NZD | 1.1075 | 1.107 | +0.00% |
| EUR/CNH | 7.5907 | 7.5884 | +0.15% |
| GBP/CNH | 9.0025 | 8.9961 | +0.38% |
| *O | | | |

*Open is as at 8am HKT/SGT.

| G3 Equities | Close | Net Chg | Daily %∆ | |
|--------------|----------|---------|----------|--|
| S&P500 (US) | 6118.71 | 32.34 | +0.53% | |
| Nasdaq (US) | 20053.68 | 44.34 | +0.22% | |
| DJIA (US) | 44565.07 | 408.34 | +0.92% | |
| N225 (JP) | 39958.87 | 312.62 | +0.79% | |
| STOXX50 (EU) | 5217.5 | 11.67 | +0.22% | |
| | | | | |

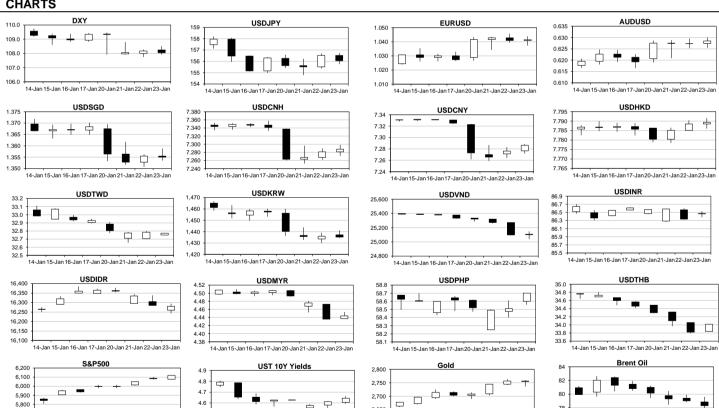
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|---------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| STOXX50 (EU) | 5217.5 | 11.67 | +0.22% |
| | | | |
| Commodity | Close | Net Chg | Daily %∆ |
| COPPER (LME) | 9,117.75 | 12.30 | +0.14% |
| IRON ORE (CN) | 101.44 | 0.42 | +0.02% |
| GOLD | 2,754.87 | -1.61 | ▼0.06% |
| SILVER | 30.45 | -0.02 | ▼0.38% |
| OIL (BRENT) | 78.29 | -0.71 | ▼0.90% |
| OIL (WTI) | 74.62 | -0.82 | ▼1.09% |
| NATURAL GAS | 3.95 | -0.37 | ▼1.21% |

| Asia Equities | Close | Net Chg | Daily %∆ |
|---------------|----------|---------|----------|
| ASX (AU) | 4647.52 | 7.75 | +0.17% |
| STI (SG) | 3806.57 | 25.36 | +0.67% |
| SHCOMP (CN) | 3230.164 | 16.54 | +0.51% |
| SZCOMP (CN) | 1913.265 | -7.16 | ▼0.37% |
| HSI (HK) | 19700.56 | -78.21 | ▼0.40% |
| SENSEX (IN) | 76520.38 | 115.39 | +0.15% |
| JSE (ID) | 70320.36 | -24.48 | ▼0.13% |
| () | | = | |
| KLSE (MY) | 1577.2 | -10.60 | ▼0.67% |
| PSE (PH) | 6378.86 | 30.52 | +0.48% |
| SET (TH) | 1344.17 | -17.60 | ▼1.29% |
| VNINDEX (VN) | 1259.63 | 0.01 | +1.38% |

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CHARTS



2,650

14-Jan15-Jan16-Jan17-Jan20-Jan21-Jan22-Jan23-Jan

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5,800

5,600

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4.5

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