

Bedrock Friday October 9th Newsletter

Call us old-fashioned, but the first company to give their results should be “AA”, or Alcoa. After hours last night they reported earnings of 7 cents versus the analysts’ estimate of 12.7 cents per share and their share price dropped by 4.75% - leaving it up a mere 8.5% month to date. The first of the S&P 500 companies to actually release their figures was McCormick & Co (a flavourings and seasonings company), within a cat’s whisker of the estimate. Perhaps (for once) this “flavour” for the earnings might allow us to rely on the analysts’ estimations – could this be the quarter they get it right? We doubt it, having received approximately 75% of beats in the last three earnings seasons; we don’t see any reason why they would improve their techniques for this quarter! With the S&P running at an actual P/E ratio of 17.83 and the year estimates at 118.13 this leaves an implied base case of 2,106 for year-end S&P 500 – as long as the analysts are “right”... but any “miss” by the analysts should see a positive impact for earnings and hence push the year end price closer to our target of above 2,200.

Having seen such strong negative moves in the markets in the third quarter we feel like now is a good time to look at where to go from here and maybe a little history lesson. The sector that has been feeling the most pain over the last 5 years has been the commodity sector: producers, the commodities themselves and the industrials. The highest profile price move has been in the oil markets since July last year. The miners also have been battered to the point where one of the world’s most successful trading companies, Glencore, has needed to reassure the market by divesting assets. 12% of all Zinc mines now operate at a loss, a whopping 50% of all Nickel mines operate at a loss and trying to find storage for refined products is like finding a diamond in the rough... except now you would need to pay the cut-diamond price for it! Capitulation has arrived with the miners, and assets are being idled or closed. Moving to the oil market, it bounced last week as the Rig Count dropped by 4% in North America. With production dropping from a peak of 9.6Mn barrels a day to about 9Mn barrels, the oil price is now above \$50 per barrel for WTI Crude Oil. Global demand prospects are being revised upwards and as summarised by Neil Atkinson of Lloyd’s List Intelligence, "We’ve got falling supply from the non-OPEC group of countries, rising demand growth from around the world, not least of course from the United States – bit of uncertainty about China,". Even Royal Dutch Shell has pulled out of Arctic exploration, leaving 22% of the world’s conventional reserves untapped!! Maybe the economics are beginning to turn in favour of a higher oil price? We are not trying to call a bottom in commodity prices, but when the producers start acquiescing to market forces, the pain trade loses its sting.

Looking forward to the fourth quarter we note that Q4 is traditionally a strong quarter for equities and in particular the technology sector. In the last 25 years the tech sector has averaged a gain of 6.6% and has risen 80% of the time. But why is this the case? Especially why should this be the case after such a tough third quarter? Technology usually leads in an upward trending market; as we believe the recent drop to have created the opportunity for an equity rally, the sector should lead the way. In the U.S., annual corporate budgets normally run through the calendar year and as such in a year like we have had in 2015, it is unlikely that the budgets have been spent as yet, leading to a possible supportive quarter for earnings as budgets are expected to be spent... use it or lose it! The last and most important point is that the vast majority of holiday seasonal gifts that are purchased are covered in the tech space. As trends settle in and social media locks onto the newest technology, the speed for acquiring it increases and hence why the consumer spending spree (with the lowest borrowing costs for decades) is likely to play a big part in boosting the sector in Q4.

Are there any clouds on the horizon that worry us? Of course there are; we worry about the change in rhetoric from the Ayatollah in Iran who has now banned further talks with the U.S. We worry about the plight of the refugees who are risking their families’ lives to get to a better life. We worry about the politicising of the movement of the refugees and the effects that will have on the European Union. Russia and the U.S. and the rise of the war-mongering that is appearing in the wings of power... Will the U.S. now go back into Afghanistan; are they looking to provoke the Chinese by sending a Navy warship through the contested waters in the South China Sea? The list is hardly exhaustive... But we also try to understand the impact of the possible outcomes to identify pricing opportunities or mispriced risk. The increased working populous in Europe and willingness to work for a lower wage is likely to increase productivity in the long run. The fact that Rouhani is still open for discussions and seems to have the support of his country may be enough to continue some form of open dialogue between Iran and the West – just maybe on an extended timescale than previously hoped for. China sailed within 12Km of Alaska recently and no war has erupted between China and the USA... So we remain vigilant but optimistic.

“When you’re chewing on life’s gristle, don’t grumble, give a whistle. And this’ll help things turn out for the best... Aaaand...” we guess you all know the next line and we think that the Pythons got it right. “Always look on the bright side of life”... give a whistle and have a wonderful Autumnal weekend. ☺

Market Weekly Highlights:

- The US Dollar has lost some ground this week against the major developed currencies, with the Dollar Index (DXY) currently at 94.98, off the highest levels of the week. The US\$ is now trading at about \$1.1320 against the EUR and at 0.9633 against the Swiss Franc. The Pound has strengthened against the USD at 1.5349. We maintain our belief in the fundamental strength of the US\$ in the longer term. Again, this view is driven by the outlook for interest rates to hold or rise in the US and hold or decline elsewhere. The Japanese Yen is finishing the week almost where it started and is now trading at 120.17. After the surge of last Friday of almost 35 USD, Gold has stabilised for the week at around \$1,150. WTI has had a good week with a slow but sure move of \$5 above where it started the week and is above \$50/Bbl. With Brent trading at \$53.60/Bbl. The Russian Ruble has strengthened 5 figures, profiting from the general weakening of the USD and strength of oil, moving from 66.00 to 61.00. The USD has also dropped against Brazilian Real which closed last night at 3.78.
- The US 10Yr Treasury yield has moved higher throughout the week and is trading at 2.09%. We are now marginally lower than where we started the year. The German 10Yr Bund has also moved higher during the week in line with the US Treasuries reaching 0.63% and is now yielding a shade below 0.60%. The Spanish 10Yr yield has followed the move and is trading around 1.84% having been as low as 1.74% at the start of the week. Italian 10Yr yield with a similar pattern as the Spanish yields and is trading at 1.68% this morning. In the UK, the yield on the Gilts has remained well below 2.0%, however surging from 1.71% to currently 1.86%. The Swiss 10Yr yields are back to last week's levels yielding -0.17%.
- Equity Markets were generally all positive on the week as the earning seasons kicked off and the continuation of accommodative Fed monetary policy. The S&P500 closed last night at +4.66% for the week. The Dow Jones closed last night above 17'000 points at +4.79% for the week and with the futures pointing to a positive open of +0.25% as we write. The DAX is currently trading at +5.88% for the week (despite VW debacle which has weighted heavily on the performance for Germany), the CAC40 remains strong at +5.90%, SMI +2.26%, the UK FTSE trading at +4.90% and the EuroStoxx 50 at +5.52%. The best European stock market performer is Spain with IBEX 35 at + 7.46% for the week. The Shanghai composite closed the week on a positive note of +2.94% whilst the Hang Seng Index was up +4.43% for the same period. In Japan the Nikkei was up by 4.03% for the week.

Bedrock Friday October 2nd Newsletter

Highlighted items are interesting data points for the week

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE

08/10/2015

INDEX NAME	CCY	Last Price	PRICE CHANGE IN % (unless indicated)									P/E
			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY REGION												
S&P 500 INDEX	USD	2013.43	0.88	4.66	4.86	3.68	-1.85	-3.72	-2.21	4.42	39.68	16.69
DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	USD	17050.75	0.82	4.79	4.70	4.90	-2.84	-5.06	-4.33	2.35	26.55	15.59
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX	USD	4810.788	0.41	3.97	4.13	1.14	-2.27	-3.29	1.58	9.88	56.96	17.73
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX	USD	1163.244	0.93	5.99	5.68	1.31	-5.75	-7.61	-3.44	8.92	40.50	17.55
EURO STOXX 50	EUR	3224.96	-0.04	5.27	4.85	-0.58	-4.04	-14.04	3.32	6.85	31.50	14.27
EURO STOXX 600	EUR	361.61	0.21	4.75	4.77	0.16	-4.38	-10.94	6.37	11.54	34.85	15.76
CAC 40 INDEX	EUR	4675.91	0.18	5.76	5.85	1.10	-0.87	-0.47	10.37	13.87	39.41	15.25
DAX INDEX	EUR	9993.07	0.23	5.62	4.44	-2.07	-8.25	-17.07	2.90	12.04	39.46	12.71
FTSE 100 INDEX	GBP	6374.82	0.65	4.61	5.79	2.95	-2.57	-8.59	-2.34	-0.30	10.37	16.00
SWISS MARKET INDEX	CHF	8674.17	0.41	2.31	2.33	-1.80	-3.04	-7.25	-3.02	2.70	31.03	17.11
NIKKEI 225	JPY	18141.17	-0.99	4.03	6.04	-1.77	-7.14	-7.52	5.66	19.12	110.26	17.38
HANG SENG INDEX	HKD	22354.91	-0.71	4.83	8.15	1.87	-7.57	-16.33	-4.49	-4.20	7.68	11.27
SHANGHAI SE COMPOSITE	CNY	3143.357	2.97	2.94	4.27	-1.85	-14.19	-19.57	-1.59	33.22	50.49	13.06
S&P BSE SENSEX INDEX	INR	26845.81	-0.70	2.96	3.22	4.96	-2.10	-6.54	-1.83	1.35	43.65	17.30
RUSSIAN RTS INDEX \$	USD	856.44	1.55	14.08	10.50	9.54	-1.92	-13.03	10.37	-19.85	-41.59	5.81
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	BRL	49106.56	0.39	8.37	8.98	5.25	-5.17	-8.73	-1.80	-14.25	-16.68	11.05
MSCI WORLD	USD	1863.57	0.62	3.51	5.16	2.17	-3.14	-6.11	-2.70	0.64	26.66	16.11
MSCI WORLD HEDGED	USD	709.554	0.57	4.50	4.78	2.21	-2.14	-5.29	0.60	5.42	44.41	-
MSCI WORLD LOCAL	-	1264.179	0.56	4.44	4.71	1.98	-2.60	-6.26	-0.91	3.56	36.53	-
MSCI AC WORLD	USD	402.07	0.53	3.70	5.35	2.43	-3.61	-7.36	-3.61	-1.22	21.19	15.54
MSCI EM	USD	848.37	-0.27	5.51	7.11	4.80	-7.76	-17.52	-11.29	-15.88	-14.87	11.77
MSCI AC ASIA x JAPAN	USD	514	-0.34	4.75	6.37	3.66	-7.39	-17.19	-8.82	-9.05	-0.68	12.09
MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	USD	2076.84	-0.23	8.76	9.62	4.33	-13.71	-20.74	-23.86	-36.96	-43.78	14.24
MSCI EM Eur, ME & Africa	USD	248.14	0.04	7.19	7.88	6.58	-6.68	-14.52	-8.36	-17.48	-24.66	10.66

EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY SECTOR

P/E

MSCI ENERGY	USD	206.96	1.51	10.02	14.39	10.26	-4.13	-12.01	-12.97	-20.71	-16.09	19.90
MSCI MATERIALS	USD	195.35	0.96	7.37	10.07	1.34	-9.03	-14.96	-12.42	-13.11	-13.37	16.65
MSCI INDUSTRIALS	USD	192.47	0.96	5.27	6.76	2.69	-1.90	-6.35	-3.44	1.92	30.03	16.31
MSCI CONS DISCRETIONARY	USD	193.68	0.82	2.90	5.04	2.47	-0.99	-3.21	4.01	13.32	54.96	17.21
MSCI CONS STAPLES	USD	204.78	0.72	2.77	3.91	5.12	0.96	-1.57	2.43	6.42	27.17	20.55
MSCI HEALTH CARE	USD	200.26	0.29	-0.46	1.68	-3.70	-8.36	-8.45	0.19	4.99	55.12	17.14
MSCI FINANCIALS	USD	97.71	0.26	3.62	4.50	1.41	-4.55	-6.70	-4.91	-2.18	26.78	12.91
MSCI INFO TECH	USD	140.85	0.37	2.93	4.47	3.67	0.49	-3.00	-0.30	6.44	43.36	16.53
MSCI TELECOMS	USD	66.17	0.24	3.36	2.86	-3.72	-4.72	-5.57	-3.20	-3.05	10.86	14.87
MSCI UTILITY	USD	114.3	0.89	2.37	3.06	4.98	1.03	-2.63	-7.12	-2.81	11.19	15.15
MSCI WORLD REAL ESTATE	USD	189.7	0.47	2.68	4.05	6.10	0.64	-6.89	-2.44	3.09	13.27	23.91

HEDGE FUND INDICES

HFRX GLOBAL HEDGE FUND	USD	1189.51	0.12	0.70	0.70	-0.97	-3.27	-4.77	-2.37	-3.15	4.22
HFRX EQUAL WEIGHTED	USD	1185.2	0.05	0.44	0.44	-0.60	-1.78	-2.64	-0.50	-1.57	5.70
HFRX GLOBAL EUR	EUR	1081.76	0.12	0.66	0.66	-1.05	-3.44	-5.15	-2.92	-3.81	2.76

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE

08/10/2015

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			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M			
FIXED INCOME INDICES - YIELD ON US GOVERNMENT BONDS (Change in bps)											
US 3 MONTH	USD	0	0.00	0.01	0.02	-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.04	-0.01	-
US 2 YEAR	USD	0.633	0.00	0.05	0.00	-0.11	0.05	0.09	-0.03	0.19	-
US 10 YEAR	USD	2.0881	-0.02	0.10	0.05	-0.11	-0.23	0.13	-0.08	-0.23	-

FIXED INCOME INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER

Yield to Worst

GLOBAL AGG TR HEDGED	USD	480.25	-0.07	-0.05	0.07	0.43	0.84	-1.03	0.99	2.61	9.51	1.87
US GOVERNMENT TR	USD	2110.42	-0.23	-0.55	-0.17	0.56	1.29	0.12	1.61	2.56	4.10	1.67
US CORPORATE TR	USD	2587.2	-0.28	-0.20	0.09	0.32	0.65	-2.40	-0.01	0.44	6.65	3.41
US HIGH YIELD TR	USD	1806.34	0.15	2.15	1.59	-1.72	-3.14	-4.07	-0.90	-2.14	12.11	7.71
EU GOVERNMENT TR	EUR	241.9723	0.11	-0.34	0.16	0.90	2.04	-2.59	1.21	3.58	19.16	0.74
EU CORPORATE TR	USD	242.98	0.05	0.37	0.57	-0.37	0.30	-2.66	-1.06	0.36	12.78	1.51
EU HIGH YIELD TR	EUR	271.1	0.07	1.04	1.30	-0.79	-0.08	-2.52	0.87	1.78	23.94	5.00
BARCLAYS GLOBAL CONVERT.	USD	214.09	0.26	2.18	2.08	-1.70	-3.23	-5.39	-0.27	1.93	22.61	-
GLOBAL EM TR (HEDGED)	USD	325.8693	-0.07	1.23	1.55	0.39	-0.87	-1.75	1.72	-0.14	5.92	5.40
S&P/LSTA U.S. LEV LOAN	USD	90.65125	0.08	-0.46	-0.53	-2.23	-4.44	-6.05	-4.92	-6.58	-5.76	5.93

COMMODITY INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER

GSCI INDEX TOTAL RETURN	USD	2729.496	1.28	5.61	4.84	2.06	-8.93	-9.50	-15.57	-37.54	-45.29
GSCI ENERGY TR	USD	525.351	2.40	8.16	7.13	2.81	-9.95	-10.28	-16.61	-46.87	-51.20
GSCI INDUSTRIAL METALS TR	USD	1010.613	-0.97	0.12	-1.09	-4.30	-8.27	-16.03	-20.11	-24.55	-37.00
GSCI PRECIOUS METALS TR	USD	1411.418	-0.57	3.37	3.24	2.59	-1.25	-5.12	-3.38	-6.95	-36.16
GSCI AGRICULTURE TR	USD	473.0904	-0.73	0.92	1.29	5.41	-8.86	-5.46	-12.63	-9.64	-41.25
GENERIC 1ST 'CL' FUTURE	USD	49.43	1.82	10.52	11.62	12.65	-6.78	-8.12	-14.20	-45.13	-47.31
GOLD SPOT \$/OZ	USD	1139.02	1.02	1.04	3.19	3.87	-0.76	-3.69	-2.89	-6.02	-34.78

CURRENCIES

DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	USD	85.318	-0.28	-0.81	-1.35	-1.00	-1.61	-4.14	5.30	11.14	18.89
Euro Spot	EUR	1.1276	0.62	1.16	1.51	1.24	2.81	6.45	-6.22	-10.60	-11.94
Japanese Yen Spot	JPY	119.93	-0.16	-0.17	-0.20	0.32	1.02	0.38	-0.28	-10.22	-34.85
British Pound Spot	GBP	1.5348	0.12	1.20	1.58	-0.01	-0.08	4.45	-1.35	-4.65	-3.97
Swiss Franc Spot	CHF	0.9661	0.48	1.04	1.23	1.46	-1.42	1.67	3.41	-0.74	-2.22
Brazilian Real Spot	BRL	3.7853	2.67	5.92	4.29	0.94	-14.53	-19.44	-29.79	-37.19	-46.38
China Renminbi Spot	CNY	6.3534	0.11	0.17	0.15	0.50	-2.17	-2.21	-2.22	-3.40	-
Singapore Dollar Spot	SGD	1.4045	0.46	2.49	1.74	1.34	-3.45	-2.75	-5.19	-9.05	-11.96
Norwegian Krone Spot	NOK	8.1442	0.47	3.28	5.05	1.38	0.41	0.04	-8.07	-20.14	-20.31

VOLATILITY / LIQUIDITY INDICES

CBOE SPX VOLATILITY INDX	USD	17.42	-5.33	-22.75	-28.90	-33.59	-12.77	33.08	-9.27	-7.14	6.41
USD SWAP SPREAD SEMI 2YR		12.84	-4.83	-5.20	3.08	1.69	-52.82	-53.73	-47.56	-55.03	-3.45
TED SPREAD		31.96	-1.27	-8.53	-7.44	4.24	16.94	27.38	45.21	39.50	25.83

All data is compiled from Bloomberg

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