

Bedrock Friday July 1st Newsletter

It is Friday and the beginning of summer for those of us in the Northern hemisphere. In our little corner of the globe the weather is glorious. We emphasise this on and over the backdrop of scary news; The UK decided to leave the EU ("BREXIT") and appears to have lost its governance in the process. Terribly disturbing details emerge- Will the UK survive as a political entity? Will Europe manage to hold the remaining nations in its fold? Then we have terror attacks in Istanbul, we have ISIS atrocities disintegrating Syria and Iraq. Africa is having its own share of political turmoil, America is having nasty fires in the West with heat waves just as the East is having Biblical floods. Depressing as Brazil is in a political mess with a nasty recession just ahead of the Olympic Games. ZIKA is frightening as is Donald Trump. Not to mention Global warming... Closer to our domain, the central banks of the world are losing credibility with each new statement. But we wonder if it is truly the real state of the world? Or is it just the nature of the media which constantly bombards us with negative news? We would rename CNN "Crisis News Network".

It might interest you to know that the 1828 Noah Webster Dictionary identifies the optimist in complimentary terms, but says nothing about the pessimist. The word 'pessimist' was not in our vocabulary at that time. It's a modern 'invention' which I believe we should 'dis-invent.'

We chose to be optimists and will now give you a few good reasons to smile about the wonderful world we live in;

1. Absolute poverty is defined as living on less than \$1.25/day. Over the last 30 years, the share of the global population living in absolute poverty has declined from 53% to under 17%. Not perfect, but clearly getting better!
2. In the last 16 years, the number of children in hazardous work conditions and performing child-labour has been reduced by more than 50%. Work in progress!
3. Over the last 50 years, the percent of our disposable income spent on food has dropped by more than 50 percent, from 14% to less than 6%.
4. In the last 25 years, under-five mortality rates have dropped by 50%. Infant mortality rates and neonatal mortality rates have also dropped significantly.
5. Guinea worm is a nasty parasite that used to affect over 3.5 million people only 30 years ago. In 2008, there were just 4,647 cases.
6. At its peak in the early 1960's, 89.1 out of 1,000 American teenage women were giving birth. Today, it's dropped under 29 out of 1,000.
7. Western Europe used to be a very dangerous place to live. Over the last 700+ years, the number of homicides per 100,000 people has decreased to almost zero.
8. As recent as the early 80s and mid-90s, there were over 50 violent crime victims per 1,000 individuals. Recently, this number has dropped threefold to 15 victims per 1,000 people.
9. In the U.S. in 1820, the average person received less than 2 years of education. These days, it's closer to 21 years of education. Away from the USA the picture is similar if not quite as good. Within the next 20 years, the best possible education on Earth will be delivered by Artificial Intelligence and for free!
10. Global literacy rates have increased from around 10% to close to 100% in the last 500 years.

And closer to home, the cost of money is now as low as any chart can depict! Capital is abundant as its low price tells us.

"The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears it is true." J. Robert Oppenheimer. We say that we are living in the most exciting of times to be alive! Let these observations lighten the nastiness of the daily news and enjoy our world's goodness.

S&P downgraded UK to AA. And then, the yield on ten year gilts broke through 1% to their lowest level ever! What happened to Finance 101, where we learned that reduced credit quality causes cost of borrowing to rise? All these new educated people didn't understand their lessons?

Well, one group of such educated people are now saying that the Fed rate hike is off the table for 2016 and suggest a 12% chance of a cut by year-end... Janet Yellen should send the Brexit campaign leaders a gift basket as BREXIT gives her reason for her dovishness- It's the Brits, not the weak state of the US economy... Clearly, the upswing in the US\$ on the back of this uncertainty is tantamount to a tightening, so clearly there is no need for a rate hike...

A thought into the summer- The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.

Market Weekly Highlights:

- Thanks to Brexit results the Dollar is up for the week; with the USD Index (DXY) trading at 95.88 down 2.8% YTD. The US\$ is now trading at about \$1.1094 against the EUR and at 0.9769 against the Swiss Franc. The Pound has slipped further as Brexit is really now and it trades at 1.33 but having dropped from 1.50. We expect the GBP to be very volatile and weaken these days until the market digests the news.
With the Brexit vote the European stability is at risk which comforts us even more in our belief in the fundamental relative strength of the US\$ - this view is driven mainly by the outlook for short-dated interest rates to hold or rise further in the US and hold or decline elsewhere. The Japanese Yen is stronger at 102.53 having touched 0.99 last week to react to the Brexit results. Gold is up for the week, now trading at \$1'337.00. We note that WTI Oil is almost unchanged for the week to trade now at \$48.47/Bbl of WTI whilst Brent is trading at about \$49.82/Bbl. The Russian Ruble is basically flat at 64.07 per USD following the oil prices pattern. The Brazilian Real rose again this week against the USD and is trading at or around 3.21.
- Big swings in the Bond market as well- We note that the yield on the benchmark US 10 year note is at 1.39% (down from 1.54 yesterday's highest), with the Japanese 10 year JGB at NEGATIVE 25Bps, the German Bund at NEGATIVE 0.145% and the Swiss at NEGATIVE 0.59%. The Italian 10Yr yield has started the week at 1.57% to reach 1.15% this morning and is now trading back up at around 1.247%. The Spanish 10Yr yield moved on a similar path trading from 1.63% to 1.04 this morning and now trading at around 1.16% as we write. In the UK, the Gilts' yields moved lower during the week from 1.11% to 0.78% as we write, as Brexit will have a negative impact on UK economic growth and will put pressure on BoE who would need to potentially lower the rates. Clearly, a global flight to security!
- The Brexit impact on US equity markets started on negative stance for the first trading day of the week before reversing the trend on Tuesday bouncing back to almost pre-Brexit levels. SP is up for the year at 2.69% and still down 0.68% for the week with the futures pointing marginally south. The NASDAQ is down 1.37% for the week and negative for the year 3.29%. In Europe the recovery was less important. The DAX is trading -10.00% for the year and now at +1.29% for the week, the CAC40 is at -8.60% for the year and +3.26% for the week, with the SMI at -8.98% for the year and +3.60% for the week, the UK FTSE trading at +4.45% for the year in GBP terms and +6.13% for the week and EuroStoxx50 at -12.31% for the year and +3.26% for the week as we write. In Asia, the Nikkei has closed the week at +4.89%, whilst the Shanghai Composite and the Hang Seng Index closed up 2.74% and down 0.35% respectively.

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Highlighted items are interesting data points for the week

MARKET INDICES PERFORMANCE

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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	2098.86	1.36	-0.66	0.00	-0.02	1.26	2.69	2.69	1.03	29.96	17.21
DOW JONES INDUS. AVG	USD	17929.99	1.33	-0.45	0.00	0.79	0.77	2.90	2.90	0.97	19.73	16.70
NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX	USD	4842.672	1.33	-1.37	0.00	-2.21	-1.46	-3.29	-3.29	-3.40	41.00	18.42
RUSSELL 2000 INDEX	USD	1151.923	1.80	-1.73	0.00	-0.96	3.06	1.41	1.41	-8.32	16.37	16.86
EURO STOXX 50	EUR	2864.74	1.15	3.55	0.34	-5.40	-2.67	-12.03	-12.03	-17.78	9.61	13.35
EURO STOXX 600	EUR	329.88	1.05	2.62	0.16	-3.98	-0.82	-9.67	-9.67	-14.64	14.61	15.40
CAC 40 INDEX	EUR	4237.48	1.00	3.44	0.25	-5.08	-1.72	-8.39	-8.39	-13.01	12.76	14.19
DAX INDEX	EUR	9680.09	0.71	1.65	0.36	-4.80	-0.82	-9.57	-9.57	-13.11	21.68	12.31
FTSE 100 INDEX	GBP	6504.33	2.29	6.07	0.11	6.16	6.94	4.31	4.31	-1.47	3.23	17.06
SWISS MARKET INDEX	CHF	8020.15	0.52	3.56	0.04	-1.99	4.35	-9.02	-9.02	-9.94	3.64	17.14
NIKKEI 225	JPY	15575.92	0.06	4.89	0.68	-7.51	-2.98	-17.61	-17.61	-22.86	13.21	15.42
HANG SENG INDEX	HKD	20794.37	1.75	-0.35	0.00	0.16	1.44	-5.11	-5.11	-20.78	-0.04	11.45
SHANGHAI SE COMPOSITE	CNY	2929.606	-0.03	2.74	0.10	0.65	-2.56	-17.14	-17.14	-27.66	46.97	13.04
S&P BSE SENSEX INDEX	INR	26999.72	0.97	3.01	0.71	1.79	7.61	3.94	4.12	-2.96	38.90	17.25
RUSSIAN RTS INDEX \$	USD	930.77	-0.04	1.46	-0.53	3.96	7.41	22.29	22.29	-0.52	-27.49	7.10
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	BRL	51526.93	1.03	-0.06	0.00	5.13	1.91	18.86	18.86	-2.33	9.10	12.92
MSCI WORLD	USD	1653.23	1.16	2.76	0.00	-1.17	0.80	-0.57	-0.57	-5.38	14.46	16.31
MSCI WORLD HEDGED	USD	715.665	1.20	-1.32	-1.33	-1.44	0.98	-1.21	-0.54	-2.48	28.39	-
MSCI WORLD LOCAL	-	1253.24	1.20	3.01	0.00	-1.26	0.84	-1.92	-1.92	-5.46	20.27	-
MSCI AC WORLD	USD	399.29	1.20	2.84	0.00	-0.72	0.83	-0.02	-0.02	-6.27	11.46	15.80
MSCI EM	USD	834.1	1.52	3.50	0.00	3.33	0.96	5.03	5.03	-14.18	-11.45	12.51
MSCI AC ASIA x JAPAN	USD	503.67	1.62	3.33	0.00	2.04	0.55	0.75	0.75	-14.51	-1.10	12.77
MSCI EM LATIN AMERICA	USD	2269.34	1.62	2.35	0.00	10.99	5.00	24.02	24.02	-8.96	-28.93	15.39
MSCI EM Eur, ME & Africa	USD	230.71	1.22	2.15	0.00	2.95	-0.26	9.75	9.75	-15.87	-24.45	11.03
EQUITY MARKET INDICES - BY SECTOR												
MSCI ENERGY	USD	203.94	1.00	3.79	0.00	4.37	12.02	14.35	14.35	-7.56	-16.68	28.41
MSCI MATERIALS	USD	197.87	1.35	1.68	0.00	0.13	4.08	7.15	7.15	-11.19	-4.89	18.76
MSCI INDUSTRIALS	USD	197.23	1.57	2.55	0.00	-0.94	0.84	2.83	2.83	-1.57	16.41	16.42
MSCI CONS DISCRETIONARY	USD	182.68	0.46	1.35	0.00	-3.58	-3.88	-5.65	-5.65	-8.38	18.20	15.53
MSCI CONS STAPLES	USD	223.13	1.83	4.13	0.00	2.77	2.96	7.07	7.07	10.31	26.11	22.06
MSCI HEALTH CARE	USD	204.75	0.92	4.01	0.00	0.41	4.86	-2.60	-2.60	-6.83	36.65	16.66
MSCI FINANCIALS	USD	87.58	1.13	1.70	0.00	-5.87	-2.27	-9.73	-9.73	-16.50	-1.48	12.27
MSCI INFO TECH	USD	143.11	0.98	2.11	0.00	-2.63	-3.25	-2.23	-2.23	-0.21	39.37	17.10
MSCI TELECOMS	USD	73.45	1.03	4.61	0.00	3.26	2.66	8.13	8.13	3.51	19.51	15.61
MSCI UTILITY	USD	124.57	2.10	5.36	0.00	4.72	3.98	11.55	11.55	11.46	19.79	17.36
MSCI WORLD REAL ESTATE	USD	203.4	0.85	3.92	0.00	3.42	3.70	7.15	7.15	7.33	17.11	23.46
HEDGE FUND INDICES												
HFRX GLOBAL HEDGE FUND	USD	1161.64	0.76	-0.08	-0.04	-0.02	0.98	-1.22	-1.06	-6.81	-1.94	-
HFRX EQUAL WEIGHTED	USD	1172.5	0.47	-0.23	0.04	0.08	1.51	-0.06	-0.02	-3.02	0.71	-
HFRX GLOBAL EUR	EUR	1055.8	0.75	-0.12	-0.18	-0.16	0.57	-1.99	-1.81	-6.95	-4.00	-

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			1D	5D	MTD	1M	3M	6M	YTD	1Y	3Y	
FIXED INCOME INDICES - YIELD ON US GOVERNMENT BONDS (Change in bps)												
US 3 MONTH	USD	0.2587	0.00	0.01	0.00	-0.03	0.03	0.10	0.10	0.24	-	-
US 2 YEAR	USD	0.5735	-1.41	-0.05	-0.01	-0.33	-0.15	-0.47	-0.47	-0.11	-	-
US 10 YEAR	USD	1.4138	-0.06	-0.15	-0.06	-0.42	-0.36	-0.86	-0.86	-1.01	-	-
FIXED INCOME INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												
GLOBAL AGG TR HEDGED	USD	508.6037	0.04	0.70	0.04	1.89	2.42	5.87	5.87	7.64	16.22	1.14
US GOVERNMENT TR	USD	2204.2	-0.07	0.55	-0.07	2.20	2.11	5.22	5.22	6.48	10.70	1.14
US CORPORATE TR	USD	2767.19	-0.06	0.81	-0.06	2.33	3.62	7.68	7.68	8.37	17.03	2.88
US HIGH YIELD TR	USD	1688.84	0.32	0.17	0.32	1.13	5.53	9.06	9.06	1.40	12.93	7.27
EU GOVERNMENT TR	EUR	255.7046	0.17	1.22	0.00	2.09	1.97	5.36	5.36	8.47	22.45	0.21
EU CORPORATE TR	USD	256.5476	0.17	0.62	0.00	1.02	1.75	4.69	4.69	6.01	15.83	0.92
EU HIGH YIELD TR	EUR	281.3535	0.18	0.64	0.00	-0.54	1.51	3.65	3.65	3.07	19.08	4.54
BARCLAYS GLOBAL CONVERT.	USD	210.9	0.44	-1.37	-1.45	-1.25	0.50	-0.96	-0.92	-6.02	12.04	-
GLOBAL EM TR (HEDGED)	USD	353.1253	0.14	1.24	0.14	2.60	4.45	8.89	8.89	7.54	18.72	4.48
S&P/LSTA U.S. LEV LOAN	USD	90.75562	0.18	-0.36	0.00	-0.25	1.91	3.47	3.47	-4.49	-6.85	5.83
COMMODITY INDICES - BY TYPE OF ISSUER												
GSCI INDEX TOTAL RETURN	USD	2384.661	-1.66	-1.75	0.08	-0.17	12.72	10.76	9.86	-26.08	-48.43	-
GSCI ENERGY TR	USD	411.27	-2.67	-3.06	-1.20	-1.22	19.20	13.46	11.67	-36.60	-60.66	-
GSCI INDUSTRIAL METALS TR	USD	1024.747	0.53	1.49	5.72	5.62	5.67	6.58	7.33	-9.67	-21.98	-
GSCI PRECIOUS METALS TR	USD	1628.836	-0.29	4.83	9.32	9.18	8.84	25.41	25.40	12.91	4.94	-
GSCI AGRICULTURE TR	USD	480.9477	-0.73	-1.38	-0.05	-1.57	6.88	6.85	6.85	-10.28	-28.53	-
GENERIC 1ST 'CL' FUTURE	USD	48.33	0.41	1.87	0.41	-2.96	21.33	6.50	6.50	-30.69	-56.04	-
GOLD SPOT \$/OZ	USD	1322.2	0.94	1.45	0.94	10.02	9.17	25.73	25.73	14.16	6.55	-
CURRENCIES												
DOLLAR INDEX SPOT	USD	96.14301	-0.26	0.47	-0.26	0.46	1.35	-2.77	-2.77	-0.43	15.46	-
Euro Spot	EUR	1.1106	-0.14	-0.23	-0.14	-0.87	-2.63	2.16	2.11	0.34	-15.10	-
Japanese Yen Spot	JPY	103.2	0.57	-0.39	0.57	6.74	8.84	17.47	17.15	20.03	-2.88	-
British Pound Spot	GBP	1.3311	-0.14	-2.83	-0.14	-7.80	-6.57	-9.86	-9.80	-14.89	-12.65	-
Swiss Franc Spot	CHF	0.976	-0.10	-0.51	-0.10	1.14	-1.94	2.50	2.57	-2.93	-3.25	-
Brazilian Real Spot	BRL	3.213	0.24	3.88	0.00	12.41	11.80	23.27	23.27	-3.42	-30.54	-
China Renminbi Spot	CNY	6.648	-0.16	-0.55	-0.16	-1.18	-2.66	-2.48	-2.48	-6.86	-7.89	-
Singapore Dollar Spot	SGD	1.3472	0.10	0.56	0.10	2.31	0.36	4.93	5.39	0.53	-6.09	-
Norwegian Krone Spot	NOK	8.3634	-0.15	-0.51	-0.15	-0.84	-0.67	5.86	5.58	-5.26	-27.26	-
VOLATILITY / LIQUIDITY INDICES												
CBOE SPX VOLATILITY INDEX	USD	15.63	-6.07	-39.50	-0.32	9.72	18.93	-14.44	-14.44	-3.17	-4.83	-
USD SWAP SPREAD SEMI 2YR	USD	15.05	-	51.22	2.99	6.46	6.66	34.78	30.47	-38.47	-5.20	-
TED SPREAD	USD	39.54	-	11.07	-1.37	8.99	-8.43	-15.84	-12.13	42.18	62.92	-

All data is compiled from Bloomberg

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