

CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 12 March 2025

After an awful Monday, Tuesday was not great. Stocks fell -0.8% in developed markets and -0.3% in emerging regions, expressed in US dollar. Wall Street had a very volatile session but ended with a modest loss of -0.8% for the S&P500 and -0.2% for the Nasdaq. The trade-weighted dollar fell another -0.5%. The US yield curve steepened with a +7 basis points increase for maturities of 2-year and above. Both gold and oil prices gained, to respectively \$2,916 and \$69.6.

Market action was once again driven by the White House. On tariffs, President Trump announced he would double the rate on Canada aluminum from 25% to 50%, in response to Ontario's threat to surcharge electricity exports to the US. The two parties then talked and quickly reached a deal a few hours later. On recession, the President downplayed his previous warnings of a transition period, saying he "doesn't see it at all", that the country "will be booming". When asked about Wall Street turmoil, he added that he's not concerned as markets "will go up and will go down". We can see this conversation as an indication that he actually cares about market action. Fed fund futures now price-in three 25bps cuts from the Fed between now and the end of 2025, down from 3.3 cuts on Monday's market open. With regards to geopolitics, Ukraine formally accepted the US proposal for a 30-day ceasefire, following talks in Saudi Arabia. The next step for the US is to convince Russia, which appears to have a superior position on the ground, to accept the truce.

Markets this morning

Asian stock markets are overall flat to slightly positive as we write this morning, with Korea outperforming at +1.2%. US Treasury yields are steady at 3.93% for the 2-year, 4.02% for the 5-year and 4.27% for the 10-year, very close to your year-end fair value. The price of Brent crude oil grinds 0.5% higher, approaching the \$70 mark.

Upcoming key events/data

Today will focus on US CPI inflation report for February at 4.30PM Dubai time. Both headline and core measures are expected to have progressed by 0.3% month over month, which would lead to respectively +2.9% and +3.3% year over year.

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