

# CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP 13 March 2025

This week's risk-aversion was interrupted by the much-needed good news of a soft US CPI inflation print. The 5&P500 rebounded +0.5% and the Nasdaq +1.2%, still far from recovering the heavy losses of the previous days. On aggregate, stocks gained +0.6% in developed markets and +0.2% in emerging ones. US Treasury yields added +3 basis points on average across the curve and the trade-weighted dollar appreciated by +0.2%. Prices of both gold and Brent were in the green, to respectively \$2,930 and \$71.

The inflation surprise was not massive but it was welcome, especially as January had triggered stagflation concerns. Consumer prices in February increased modestly less than what the consensus expected by +0.22% for the headline and +0.23% for the core, putting their year-over-year levels at respectively +2.8% and +3.1%. Both are 0.1% lower than the median forecast and 0.2% lower than in January. Contributions to the downside surprise came mostly from services, including a drop in airline fares In absolute, this is objectively not enough to stop talking about inflation stickiness and impress central bankers. Fed fund futures only modestly reacted: they now price in 70 basis points of easing in 2025, a 5 bps daily move. India's CPI report also surprised positively with the headline number printing 3.6% year on year, below the RBI's target. However, core inflation accelerated to 4.3% YoY.

In other news, there is no respite in the trade war as US tariffs on aluminum and steel are now effective, and as America may now respond to the countermeasures announced by the European Union and Canada. To conclude on geopolitics, Russia is yet to respond to the truce proposal brokered by the US and Ukraine in Saudi Arabia. The proposal will most probably not be accepted in its current content, especially as Russia's military position appears to be very strong and as the plan does not address their key objectives, but the Kremlin may not interrupt the dialogue.

### Markets this morning

Yesterday's relief extends to Asian markets today, but without euphoria. Stocks are up 1.2% in Japan and +0.8% in Korea but futures on Hong-Kong are down. There is no significant move in yields, currencies or commodities as we write this (early) morning.

# Upcoming key events/data

We will look at US February PPI inflation report and at weekly jobless claims.

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