



CIO OFFICE MORNING MARKET WRAP

2nd June 2025

Last week started and ended with breaking news on tariffs, with Nvidia's quarterly results and the Fed's FOMC minutes in between. Volatility was material but markets were overall positive. Stocks gained +1.6% in developed markets, led by the US at +1.9% with tech outperforming. Their peers from emerging regions were down -1.1%: -2.7% for the MSCI China, -1.4% for the GCC and -0.6% for India, all expressed in US dollars. US Treasury yields "bull flattened", with the 2-year shedding -9 basis points to 3.9% and the 10-year falling -11 bps to 4.4%. Still, the dollar was 0.2% stronger against trade-weighted counterparts. Finally, gold saw profit taking, down -2% to \$3,290 and the price of Brent crude oil fell -1.4% to \$63.9.

On the trade-war front, the week was eventful. It started with the White House extending the deadline for aggressive tariffs on Europe from a few days to a full month, to July 9th. Markets rallied and enjoyed even more Wednesday's ruling from the US's Court of International Court stating that a large majority of President Trump's tariffs were illegal and should be stopped in the coming 10 days. Euphoria didn't last long however as the ruling was immediately challenged by the administration. Trade tensions only intensified at the end of the week, with the White House accusing China of violating the terms of their temporary trade deal and also announcing an intention to double tariffs on global steel and aluminum, from 25% to 50%. Bottom-line, regardless of the unpredictable outcome from complex legal battles, we can assume that tariffs are here to stay, one way or another, and acknowledge that for the time being, tensions are rising again, in an actually not totally surprising pattern for readers of "The Art of the Deal".

In other news, NVidia's quarterly results were strong with an even stronger forward-looking guidance, mentioning "exponential growth" but also the progresses of China in the field. The minutes from the Fed's May FOMC committee didn't reveal breaking news, only confirming their "wait and see" stance, while several officials made relatively hawkish statements last week. The Fed's preferred measure of inflation, the core PCE, was in line with expectations at a modest +0.1% monthly increase in April, which sets its year-over-year increase at +2.5%. April is obviously too early to see any impact from tariffs, but it's not far from the 2% target. US Consumer Confidence from the Conference Board exceeded all expectations in May, and the comparable survey from the University of Michigan was also positive, although not as upbeat.

The new week starts with China's PMIs and an OPEC+ decision. On the former, the manufacturing index was a slight improvement, in line with forecast at 49.5, while services were a bit weaker than expected at 50.3. Finally, the OPEC+ confirmed their third production hike in a row, this time by 411,000 barrels a day. The cumulative increase is massive, however analysts point that the impact of the last one on actual output should be modest, as some countries are already exceeding their quotas by a comparable magnitude.

Markets this morning:

Trade tensions are shaping markets as we write this morning. Stocks drop across Asia, from -0.5% for onshore China to -1.5% for Japan and -2.5% in Hong-Kong. US Treasury yields are table in Tokyo trading and so is the dollar, but gold is up +0.5%, crossing the \$3,300 mark, and oil prices are rallying +2.5% to \$64 for the Brent.

Upcoming key events/data:

The working week ahead will be shorter for us in the UAE due to Eid al Adha holidays on Thursday and Friday. Regardless, there will be tons of data as this is the first week of June. We will get May final PMIs for all regions as well as their US ISM equivalent, starting with manufacturing gauges for India, Europe and the US today. The ECB will meet on Thursday and the week will end with the always important US monthly job report where the consensus expects a 125k increase in payrolls.

Have a great week.

Chief Investment Office
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