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MONTHLY REPORT

Monthly Report

Our October monthly report is out now. See the global and Australian updates and trends.

+1.92%

ASX performance

-4.61%

US markets declined in the month, with the Dow Jones down -4.61% and S&P500 down -2.77%, as Congress remained unable to agree on a fiscal aid.



- Long-dated US treasury yields were higher, with the 2-Yr yield at 0.15% and 10-Yr yield at 0.87%.
- European markets. European markets slumped with the Stoxx Europe 600 Index down -5.19%, UK FTSE down
- -4.92% and German DAX down -9.44%, as the resurgent virus unleashed restrictions and lockdowns across Europe.
- Asian markets. Asian markets were mostly lower over the month, with the Nikkei down -0.90%, KOSPI down -2.61%, and the Shanghai Composite up +0.20%.
- Commodities. Over the month, WTI oil price declined -11.56% to US\$35.79/bbl, iron ore prices declined -3.82% to US\$115.62 per tonne and spot gold fell -0.37% to US\$1,879 per ounce.

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IN POLITICAL NEWS:

• China suspended purchases of Australian wine, lobsters, sugar, coal, copper ore, barley and timber amid soured political relations with Canberra.

- Intense, round-the- clock discussions between European Union and U.K.'s top Brexit negotiators failed to yield a breakthrough, with both sides warning of big disagreements.
- Tensions between the U.S. and China escalated, with the U.S. designating six more Chinese publications as "foreign missions," adding to the list of media outlets it describes as controlled by Beijing and China vowing to impose sanctions on Boeing Co.'s defense unit, Lockheed Martin Corp. and Raytheon Technologies Corp. amid the U.S. State Department's approval of \$1.8bn in arms sales to Taiwan.

IN ECONOMIC NEWS:

- Australian RBA decision. RBA kept both the key interest rate and three-year yield target unchanged at 0.25%, however, lowered them to record low of 0.1% in November. Australia released a fiscal blueprint that pushes debt and deficit to a peacetime record, with net debt to peak at 43.8% of GDP in June 2024 from 24.8% last fiscal year, and the bond market to swell beyond A\$1 trillion after July 1, 2021. The budget forecast a shortfall of A\$213.7bn (11% of GDP in FY21) with jobless rate expected to peak at 8% late this year, a level last seen in 1998 amid fallout from the Asian financial crisis.
- Global growth outlook. The IMF offered a less-dire view of this year's recession following massive stimulus from central banks and governments, forecasting world GDP to shrink -4.4% this year, compared with the -5.2% drop seen in June, however, downgraded its forecast for 2021 to growth of +5.2%, down from +5.4% in June.
- US. 3Q20 GDP jumped +33.1% qoq. In the month of October, U.S. business activity grew at the strongest pace since February 2019, business expectations advanced to a more than two-year high, however, consumer confidence unexpectedly pulled back.
- U.S. posted its largest fiscal deficit on record with budget shortfall more than tripling to \$3.1 trillion in the government's fiscal year ended in September (deficit as a % of 2Q20 GDP surged to 16%, the largest since 1945), swelling the national debt to exceed the economy's size.
- China. Recovery from the coronavirus slump continued in the third quarter and showed signs of broadening in September, with GDP expanding +4.9% yoy in 3Q20 and both retail sales (up +3.3% yoy) and industrial production (up +6.9% yoy) gaining momentum in September. The PBOC announced it will remove a method it had used to control weakness in the yuan, cutting the reserve ratio for financial institutions when they sell the dollar against the yuan to clients in some forward trading to zero from 20% from October 12.
- Australia. Unemployment climbed in September with the jobless rate advancing to 6.9% from 6.8% in August and consumer spending fell with preliminary retail sales sliding -1.5% from the previous month. Australia's consumers prices rose slightly faster than forecast in 3Q20, with CPI increasing +0.7% yoy (+1.6% qoq).
- U.K. Inflation accelerated with CPI rising +0.5% yoy in September, driven by transport and restaurants following the end of a government subsidy to encourage eating out, and U.K. retail sales rose more than expected in September, with sales including auto fuel increasing +1.5% month-on-month.

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ON STOCK SPECIFIC NEWS (WHICH CAUSED SIGNIFICANT INTRADAY MOVES DURING THE MONTH):

- Afterpay Ltd (APT) gained +7.3%, after announcing momentum toward the end of FY20 continued into 1Q21 with the run rate for 1Q21 now at A\$16.4bn, up from A\$15bn in 4Q20.
- AMP Ltd (AMP) surged +19.5%, after confirming an acquisition offer from NYSE-listed investment giant Ares Management.
- Bluescope Steel Ltd (BSL) gained +10.9%, after announcing 1H21 earnings are expected to increase about +30% on 2H20.
- Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd (CCL) surged +16.3%, after agreeing to an approach from Coca-Cola European Partners Plc at a +19% premium to its most recent close.
- Crown Resorts Ltd (CWN) declined -8.2%, after Austrac started an enforcement probe into compliance at Crown Melbourne for a potential breach of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing rules.
- IDP Education Ltd (IEL) declined -7.2%, after announcing its network is currently operating at around 70% of total capacity with applied volumes for student placement down -22% over pcp for 1Q21.
- Mayne Pharma Group Ltd (MYX) slumped -17.1%, after FDA raised questions in relation to the Company's generic version of the drug Nuvaring.
- Pro Medicus Ltd (PME) gained +7.7%, after winning a contract worth A\$10m over 7 years to implement its Visage technology for one of the largest university hospitals in Germany.
- ResMed Inc (RMD) gained +9.4%, after 1Q21 revenue jumped by +9% in cc..

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