

Risk-on mood reappears

Overview

Equity indices all ended up strongly on Friday last week, with the three major US indices each putting an end to a three-week losing streak as the dollar pulled back from recent highs and investors were left unfazed by the Fed's third 75bp rate hike.

US indices end three-week losing streak

The US dollar, which peaked at the beginning of last week, subsequently fell back for three consecutive days as a result of the rate hike in Europe and a renewed appetite for risk among investors. In the bond market, the benchmark 10-year yield ebbed to 3.32% while the 2-year yield edged up by 5bp to 3.55% – still indicative of a recession in the US. However, such a recession is not yet showing up in the various statistics measuring the country's economic activity. Instead, the release of the Fed's Beige Book points to solid industrial production, with capital spending and retail sales both rising. Services also continue to grow.

The major event last week was the ECB's decision to raise its benchmark policy rate by 75bp to accelerate the pace of monetary tightening. The deposit rate was thereby increased from 0 in July to 0.75%. Caught up in the inflation spike caused by the energy crisis that Europe is enduring in retaliation for sanctions against Russia, Lagarde and her chums had no choice but to follow in the footsteps of their counterparts across the Atlantic. Further increases are expected, with the aim of encouraging

savings and cramping consumer spending and thereby easing the pressure on prices. With the prospect of further 75bp increases in the coming months, the euro has strengthened against the dollar to back above parity (1.01). GDP growth in Euroland has been revised downwards but remains at 3.1% for this year. It is expected to slow to 0.9% next year.

ECB raises benchmark policy rate by 75bp to accelerate pace of monetary tightening

The Chinese Communist Party Congress is due to begin on 16 October to redefine the zero-covid policy and sketch out possible new support measures for the slowing economy. Inflation unexpectedly decelerated in August to 2.5%, down from 2.7% in July, giving the Chinese authorities leeway to support their economy. This slowdown in prices is mainly due to sporadic lockdowns resulting from the strict zero-covid policy, which has similarly reduced spending. This gathering could inject some zest into markets – and especially into the Chinese economy, hit by the property crisis for the past year and which is now spreading to all the country's business sectors as well as undermining the confidence of various economic agents.

This week all eyes will be on the economic data, especially US inflation, which is expected to ebb to 8.1%. If that happens, it could give the market another shot in the arm.

Swiss Market Index (SMI)

Last week, the SMI bounced almost to 10650 with sights set on the resistance at 10950. Technical indicators are still unsupportive, as are volumes, placing 11270 out of reach for now.



Key data

	USD/CHF	EUR/CHF	SMI	EURO STOXX 50	DAX 30	CAC 40	FTSE 100	S&P 500	NASDAQ	NIKKEI	MSCI Emerging Markets
Latest	0.96	0.96	10'900.24	3'570.04	13'088.21	6'212.33	7'351.07	4'067.36	12'112.31	28'214.75	970.29
Trend	➡	➡	➡	⬇	➡	⬇	➡	➡	⬇	➡	⬇
YTD	5.27%	-7.01%	-15.34%	-16.95%	-17.61%	-13.15%	-0.45%	-14.66%	-22.58%	-2.00%	-21.24%

(values from the Friday preceding publication)

Swissquote

Swissquote Group is the Swiss leader in financial services and online securities trading, employing over 1,000 people worldwide. Some 70% of its revenues stem from transactions (brokerage, currency spreads, etc.). The rest is made up of custody services (depository and account management). The company processed almost 3.2 million trades in the first half of 2022 with an average transaction value of CHF 24,835. Client assets stood at CHF 55.9 billion.

As well as holding a banking licence, Swissquote is a pioneer in online financial services, including innovations that have attracted younger generations to the investment industry. For example, investors can create portfolios with the help of an AI advisor and determine their ESG ratings. One of its recent projects, launched in partnership with PostFinance, is a digital application for younger generations, YUH, which today has 75,000 accounts and CHF 281 million in client assets. Swissquote has also been active in cryptocurrencies for several years and launched a new cryptocurrency platform in the current quarter.

Swissquote has been listed on the Swiss Stock Exchange since 29 May 2000 and is headquartered in Gland (Vaud), with offices in Zurich, Bern, London, Luxembourg, Bucharest, Malta, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore. Market capitalisation is CHF 1.6 billion. The group is gradually expanding abroad. Net new money continues to rise (CHF 9.6 billion in 2021).

Its share price often tends to move in line with the Bitcoin price, which is not justified as the contribution of crypto assets to the group's revenues remains small at only 10% of revenues in H1 2022.

Swissquote has achieved significant growth and boasts cutting-edge technology and strong innovation capabilities as well as a cross-border growth strategy. We think that, at around 10x earnings, the stock is undervalued.



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