

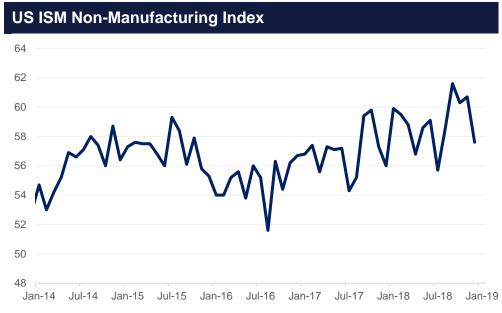
Daily 8 January 2019

Daily Outlook

Delegates from the US and China began the crucial face-to-face negotiations in Beijing yesterday to ease the ongoing trade tensions. Both sides have much to lose if no reasonable agreement can be signed within the 90days truce period that ends on March 1. China has sent some very senior officials for these talks and is working towards presenting a plan to meet Trump's demands to cut down the USD 375 billion trade deficit. Ahead of the talks, China had also softened its stand by offering a mix of concessions by resuming purchases of US soybeans, suspend punitive tariffs on imports of US cars and toning down its "Made in China 2025" hi-tech policy. It has also proposed clear bans on forced technology transfer in new draft foreign investment legislation. While the outlook of the trade talks still hangs in balance, the negative impact of the trade tensions have begun to show its effect. The ISM Non-Manufacturing Index in the US in December fell to 57.6 from 60.7 in the prior month.

In the UK, though the Prime Minister, Ms Theresa May's Brexit deal looks set to be defeated in a vote in the House of Commons, she confirmed that the vote on it will go ahead around January 15. If Parliament rejects May's deal in the vote, she says the country could be forced out of the EU with no agreement in place. On Sunday, May restated her position that no deal is better than a bad deal and has stepped up contingency planning in case negotiators fail to reach an accord in time for exit day on March 29.

Within the EU, new factory orders in Germany fell by 4.3% y/y in November vs estimate of fall of only 2.7%. The fall was mainly due to fall in the airplane and consumer goods orders. That said, German retail sales increased 1.4% MoM in November vs the estimate of 0.4%, validating the fact that the largest economy in the EU block remains on solid footing. For the wider Eurozone Aggregate retail sales in November registered YoY growth of 1.1% - higher than the estimate of 0.4% gain but worse than the 1.7% recorded in the previous month.



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

Today's Economic Data and Events

	Time	Cons		Time	Cons
GE Nov Indus production YoY	11:00	-0.8%	UK Dec House Price	12:30	0.5%
US New Home Sales	18:00	568k	US Trade Balance	17:30	-\$54bn
US Durable Goods orders	18:00	NA	US Factory Orders	18:00	0.3%

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research.

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Fixed Income

The full impact of the robust US employment report released on last Friday and the positivity ensuing from the current ongoing trade talks in Beijing was felt by the UST treasury curve yesterday which shifted noticeably upwards. Yields on 2yr, 5yr and 10yr closed at 2.54% (+5bps), 2.54% (+4bps) and 2.70% (+3bps) respectively. The rising hopes of a credible plan to address trade tensions between the US and China helped reducing credit spreads. CDS levels on US IG and Euro Main closed 2bps lower each at 82bps and 86bps respectively.

Average yield on local GCC bonds reduced 3bps to 4.59% mainly as a result of six bps decline in average credit spreads from 210bps to 204bps on the Bloomberg Barclays GCC bond index.

FX

EURUSD rose 0.69% on Monday to close at 1.1474 in a move that was mainly driven by stronger than expected Eurozone retail sales supporting the common currency, while a softer than expected ISM Composite PMI weighed on the dollar. Analysis of the daily candle chart shows that further gains were halted by resistance at the 100-day moving average (1.1477) which continues to provide resistance in the current Asia session.

This morning, AUD is trading mildly softer against the other major currencies following softer than expected economic data. Following a decline in consumer confidence during the first week of January (from 117.8 to 115.2), a decline in iron ore and coal exports in November accompanied with a narrowing trade balance during the same period (AUD 1925Mn vs AUD 2013Mn), AUDUSD has fallen 0.32% to 0.71256. Despite this decline, AUDUSD still looks likely to test the 0.7180 region (100-day moving average) and 0.7186 level (50-day moving average). A break and daily close above this level is likely to catalyse a larger move towards 0.73.

Equities

Developed market equities closed mixed with the S&P 500 index adding +0.7% and the Euro Stoxx 600 index losing -0.2%. Strength in technology stocks helped broad US indices.

Regional markets continued their positive run. The DFM index and the Tadawul added +0.1% and +1.5% respectively. Banking sector stocks continued their gains with Al Rajhi adding +2.2% and Samba gaining +4.3%. Elsewhere, QNB and FAB gained +1.0% each.

Commodities

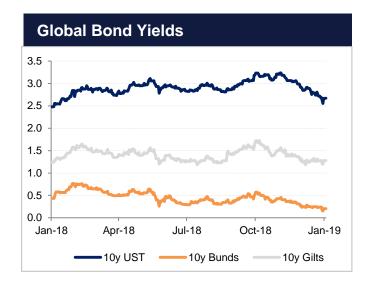
Commodity markets generally began the first full trading week of 2019 on a positive footing. The start of a new round of trade talks between the US and China has helped improve sentiment even if the risk of no deal materializing from this round still remains high. Oil futures ended the day up 1.2% for WTI at USD 48.52/b while Brent gained just short of 0.5% to close at USD 57.33. Both contracts had edged up more than 3% at one point during trading before tempering off later in the day.

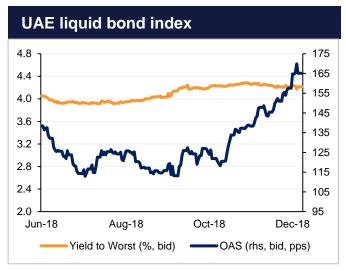
Industrial metals ended the day higher as well, largely on the back of the resumption of China-US trade talks. Copper closed the day essentially flat with a positive bias at USD 5,923/tonne on the LME while iron ore added more than 1.4%.

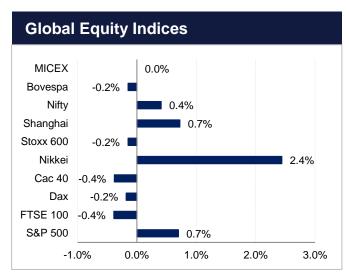
As to be expected on a risk on day precious metals gave up some ground with silver, platinum and palladium all falling. Gold managed to gain about 0.3% to close at USD 1,288.63/troy oz. Precious metals markets will still be reeling from Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary last week that rate hikes in the US would be more attuned to market conditions.

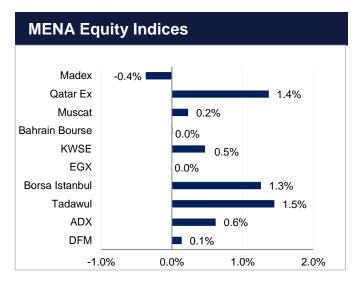


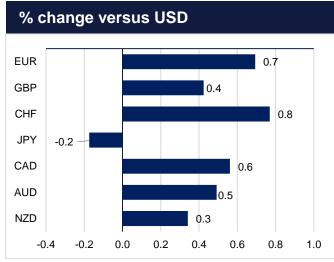
Markets in Charts

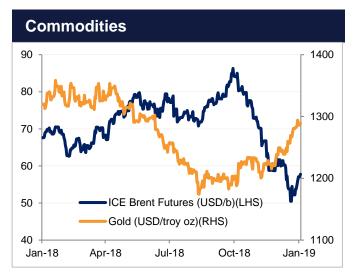












Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Currencies									
	Close	%1D chg	1 yr fwd		Close	%1D chg		Close	%1D chg
EURUSD	1.1474	+0.69	1.1840	USDTRY	5.3858	+1.00	EURAED	4.2146	+0.69
GBPUSD	1.2777	+0.42	1.3000	USDEGP	17.9189	+0.03	GBPAED	4.6936	+0.44
USDJPY	108.72	+0.19	105.41	USDSAR	3.7511	+0.00	JPYAED	0.0338	-0.15
USDCAD	1.3299	-0.56	1.3207	USDQAR	3.6800	+0.69	CADAED	2.7620	+0.58
AUDUSD	0.7148	+0.49	0.7189	USDKWD	0.3031	-0.06	AUDAED	2.6251	+0.41
USDCHF	0.9797	-0.80	0.9454	USDBHD	0.3770	+0.00	CHFAED	3.7493	+0.69
EURGBP	0.8979	+0.28	0.9106	USDOMR	0.3850	-0.00	TRYAED	0.6800	-1.28
USDAED	3.6730	-0.00	3.6761	USDINR	70.0675	+0.48	INRAED	0.0552	+4.56

Rates							
Interbank	1 mo	3mo	6 mo	1 yr	Swaps	Close	1D chg (bps)
EIBOR	2.6083	2.8785	3.1833	3.4774	USD 2 yr	2.688	+4
USD LIBOR	2.5206	2.8039	2.8558	2.9649	USD 5 yr	2.609	+4
GBP LIBOR	0.7301	0.9054	1.0307	1.1718	USD 10 yr	2.724	+2
JPY LIBOR	-0.0940	-0.0745	0.0073	0.1027	EUR 2 yr	-0.160	+1
CHF LIBOR	-0.7826	-0.7116	-0.6374	-0.4992	EUR 5 yr	0.199	+1
					EUR 10 yr	0.798	+1

Commodities & Fixed Income									
Commodities	Close	%1D chg	Bonds/Sukuk	YTM	1D chg (bps)	CDS	Close	1D chg (bps)	
Gold	1289.21	+0.25	ADGB 6.75 19	2.42		Abu Dhabi	68	-2	
Silver	15.66	-0.29	DUGB 7.75 20	3.26	-6	Bahrain	315	1	
Oil (WTI)	48.52	+1.17	QATAR 6.55 19	2.30	-26	Dubai	134	-2	
Aluminium	1866.25	-0.19	US Tsy 2 yr	2.54	+5	Qatar	82		
Copper	5904.25	+0.12	US Tsy 10 yr	2.70	+3	Saudi Arabia	103		

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



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Emirates NBD Research & Treasury Contact List

Emirates NBD Head Office 12thFloor Baniyas Road, Deira P.OBox777 Dubai

Jonathan Morris

General Manager Wholesale Banking Jonathan M@emiratesnbd.com

Aazar Ali Khwaja

Senior Executive Vice President Global Markets & Treasury +971 4 609 3000 aazark@emiratersnbd.com Tim Fox

Head of Research & Chief Economist +9714 230 7800 timothyf@emiratesnbd.com

Research

Khatija Haque

Head of MENA Research +9714 230 7803 khatijah@emiratesnbd.com

Daniel Richards

MENA Economist +9714 609 3032 danielricha@emiratesnbd.com

Hessa Al Khawaja

Research Associate +9714 609 3015 hessaalkh@emiratesnbd.com Anita Yadav

Head of Fixed Income Research +9714 230 7630 anitay@emiratesnbd.com

Edward Bell

Commodity Analyst +9714 230 7701 edwardpb@emiratesnbd.com Aditya Pugalia

Financial Markets Research +9714 230 7802 adityap@emiratesnbd.com

Mohammed Altajir

FX Analytics and Product Development +9714 609 3005 mohammedtaj@emiratesnbd.com

Sales & Structuring

Group Head - Treasury Sales

Tariq Chaudhary +971 4 230 7777 tariqmc@emiratesnbd.com

London Sales

+44 (0) 20 7838 2241

Saudi Arabia Sales

Numair Attiyah +966 11 282 5656 numaira@emiratesnbd.com

Egypt

Gary Boon +20 22 726 5040 garyboon@emiratesnbd.com Singapore Sales

Supriyakumar Sakhalkar +65 65785 627 supriyakumars@emiratesnbd.com

Emirates NBD Capital

Hitesh Asarpota

Head of Debt Capital Markets. +971 50 4529515 asarpotah@EmiratesNBD.com

Group Corporate Affairs

Patrick Clerkin

Investor Relations

+9714 230 7805 patricke@emiratesnbd.com Ibrahim Sowaidan +9714 609 4113 ibrahims@emiratesnbd.com Claire Andrea +9714 609 4143 clairea@emiratesnbd.com