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MONTHLY REPORT

Monthly Report

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

+6.2%

ASX performance

+2.8%

US markets were stronger in the month, with the Dow Jones up +2.8% and S&P500 up +6.2%



- **US markets**. US markets were stronger in the month, with the Dow Jones up +2.8% and S&P500 up +6.2%, as investors continued to bet a decline in inflation should see the U.S Feds pause its monetary policy tightening with US short-and long-term inflation expectations improving in January, with consumers expecting prices to advance +3.9% over the next year, the lowest since April 2021 and inflation to rise +2.9% over the next 5-to-10 years.
- Long-dated US were lower, with the 2-Yr yield at 4.2% and 10-Yr yield at 3.5%.

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GLOBAL MARKET UPDATES

• European markets. European markets were higher with the Stoxx Europe 600 Index up +6.7%, UK FTSE up +4.3% and German DAX up +8.7%.

- Asian markets. Asian markets were higher, with the Shanghai Composite up +5.4%, as China's Finance Minister Liu Kun reiterated plans to appropriately expand fiscal spending to aid economic recovery while pledging to prevent systemic risks and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He forecast economy to likely rebound to its pre-pandemic growth trend in 2023 as coronavirus infections passed their peak with data by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicating the number of Covid-related deaths and severe cases at Chinese hospitals have declined by more than 70% from peak levels reached in early January. Nikkei was up +4.7%, amid weakening of yen as BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda signalled data which revealed Japan's core inflation hit +4% y/y for the first time since 1981 in December has no impact on his determination to continue with monetary easing, announcing current inflation is led mainly by import-price increases, and that it's likely to start cooling from next month. KOSPI was up +8.4%.
- Commodities. Over the month, WTI oil price declined -2.0% to US\$78.87/bbl, as OPEC+ kept crude production steady despite IEA forecasting global oil markets to face a bigger surplus in 1Q23 than previously expected, with demand still constrained despite China's bid to reopen its economy from COVID lockdowns, anticipating world supplies to exceed consumption by roughly 1m barrels a day in the quarter before global oil markets start to tighten in 2H23 with world consumption remaining on track to expand by 1.9m barrels a day in 2023 to reach a record average of 101.7m a day.

IN POLITICAL NEWS

- Geopolitical tensions between North Korea and U.S. flared up after U.S. and South Korean air drills led to North Korea's Foreign Ministry announcing the door remains shut for talks with the US on winding down its atomic arsenal, setting the stage for renewed provocations by pledging to respond to what it saw as threats from Washington.
- U.S.-China tensions continued to simmer with U.S. shooting down a giant Chinese balloon that it says has been spying on key military sites across America leading to China expressing strong discontent.

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

- **Megaport Ltd (MP1)** declined -8.4%, after warning economic uncertainty is delaying customer decision making and lengthening sales cycles.
- Nanosonics Ltd (NAN) gained +12.6%, after upgrading FY23 total revenue growth guidance to +36-41% y/y from +20-25% y/y and gross margin forecast to 77-79% from 75-76%.

IN ECONOMIC NEWS

- Global growth outlook 1. The World Bank warned of a recession as it forecast 2022 world GDP growth of +2.9% (advanced economies estimate downgraded by -10bps to 2.5% with U.S. down -60bps to 1.9%, Euro area up +80bps to 3.3% and Japan down -50bps to 1.2%, and EM & developing economies estimate of 3.4% with China down -160bps to 2.7% and India down -60bps to 6.9%) while downgrading 2023 world GDP growth by -130bps to 1.7% (advanced economies down -170bps to 0.5% with U.S. down -190bps to 0.5%, Euro area down -190bps to 0% and Japan down -30bps to 1%, and EM & developing economies down -80bps 3.4% with China down -90bps to 4.3% and India down -50bps to 6.6%) and 2024 GDP growth by -30bps to 2.7% (advanced economies down -30bps to 1.6% with U.S. down -40bps to 1.6%, Euro area down -30bps to 1.6% and Japan up +10bps to 0.7%, and EM & developing economies down -30bps 4.1% with China down -10bps to 5% and India down -40bps to 6.1%).
- Global growth outlook 2. The IMF raised its 2023 global growth outlook by +20bps to +2.9% (advanced economies upgraded by +10bps to 1.2% with U.S. up +40bps to 1.4%, Euro area up +20bps to 0.7%, U.K. down -90bps to -0.6% and Japan up +20bps to 1.8%, and EM & developing economies estimate upgraded by +30bps 4.0% with China up +80bps to 5.2% and India unchanged at 6.1%) while downgrading 2024 world GDP growth by -10bps to 3.1% (advanced economies down -20bps to 1.4% with U.S. down -20bps to 1.0%, Euro area down -20bps to 1.6%, U.K. up +30bps to +0.9% and Japan down -40bps to 0.9%, and EM & developing economies down -10bps 4.2% with both China and India unchanged at +4.5% and +6.8%, respectively), as it upgraded both 2023 and 2024 inflation forecasts by +10bps and +20bps to +6.6% and +4.3%, respectively.
- **U.S.** The Fed slowed rate hikes, increasing target rate by +25bps to 4.5-4.75%, however, announced further rates hikes are in store with Fed Chair Jerome Powell announcing that policy will need to remain restrictive "for some time" and there will be no cuts this year as "substantially more evidence" is required to be confident that inflation is on track to decline to the Fed's 2% target while pointing out that the Fed can now say for the first time that the disinflationary process has started.
- **U.S.** Economy expanded at a faster-than-forecast pace in 4Q22 with GDP rising at a 2.9% q/q annualized pace, down from 3.2% q/q in 3Q22, however, warning signs of recession emerged with weakening demand among American consumers with personal consumption up +2.1% q/q. US consumer confidence unexpectedly retreated in January with consumers' six-month outlook dropping by the most since June, however, current conditions index rising to the highest since April. U.S. manufacturing downturn deepened in January with a gauge of factory activity coming in at the weakest since May 2020, fueled by a further pullback in orders and factory production, both of which fell further into contraction territory and to lowest since mid-2020. Labor market burned red-hot in January as hiring unexpectedly surged with nonfarm payrolls increasing 517k and unemployment rate falling -10bps MoM to a 53-year low of 3.4%.

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IN ECONOMIC NEWS (CONT.)

• **China.** GDP grew +2.9% y/y in 4Q22, equating to 2022 GDP growth of +3% y/y (vs +8.4% y/y in 2021), the second slowest pace since the 1970s, and China's population contracted in 2022 for the first time since 1961, pointing to repercussions for the labour market, demand for housing and the country's pension system in coming years, however, outlook for 2023 remained bright with almost all of China's provinces targeting economic growth of >5% in 2023 with most of China's 31 provincial-level jurisdictions seeing their economies expanding +5-6.5% y/y. Budget deficit jumped to a record \$1.3 trillion in 2022 with Debt-to-GDP ratio of 7.4%, higher y/y but lower than the record 8.6% in 2020.

- Australia. Inflation accelerated to the fastest pace in 32 years in 4Q22 with CPI increasing +7.8% y/y and PPI rising +5.8% y/y. Australia's consumer confidence jumped +5% MoM in January, the largest monthly gain since April 2021, despite inflation expectations rising +40bps MoM in the month with consumers expecting prices to rise +5.6% over the next 12-months.
- Europe. ECB raised interest rates by +50bps to 2.5%, the highest since 2008, and announcing it would deliver another hike of the same magnitude in March despite President Christine Lagarde calling risks to the growth and inflation outlook more balanced now. Euro-area economy unexpectedly grew in 4Q22 with GDP expanding +1.9% y/y (+0.1% q/q), with German and Italian output shrinking while France and Spain recording expansion. Euro-area inflation slowed more than expected in January with CPI advancing +8.5% y/y, however, a gauge of underlying inflation held at an all-time high of +5.2% y/y. Euro-area economic confidence rose for a third month in January, climbing to the highest level since June with all major underlying indicators, from industry to services to consumer sentiment, also increasing.
- **U.K.** BOE signalled interest-rate hikes may be drawing to a close after it raised its benchmark lending rate by +50bps to 4%, highest since 2008, forecasting inflation to decline to 4% in 2023 and below the 2% in 2024. Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt presented a mixed forecast of U. K's inflation to UK cabinet, announcing green shoots of recovery are beginning to show with inflation past its peak and falling quicker than expected, however, warned getting inflation below 5% in 2023 will be difficult, insisting the government has to hold the line on fiscal discipline at his budget in March.
- India. India unveiled a \$550bn budget for 2023 with the government increasing capital spending by +33% to \$122bn to ramp up infrastructure spending and cutting personal income taxes to boost consumption, while aiming to narrow the budget gap by -50bps y/y to 5.9% of GDP. India's Statistics Ministry forecast the country's GDP to grow +7% y/y in 2023 vs 6.8% expansion forecast by the RBI.
- Japan. BOJ kept its main policy settings unchanged, leaving its negative interest rate at -0.1% and the target for 10- year yields under its curve-control program around 0%. Government cut its monthly economic assessment in January for the first time in 11 months, downgrading its view of exports, imports and bankruptcies and announcing parts of the economy are showing weakness, while overall it's picking up moderately.
- **Germany.** GDP grew +1.9% y/y in 2022 and government upgraded Germany's economic outlook for 2023, expecting GDP to grow +0.2% y/y vs prior prediction of a -0.4% contraction, inflation slowing to 6% from 7.9% in 2022 and business investment increasing by 3.3% vs 2.5% in 2022.

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