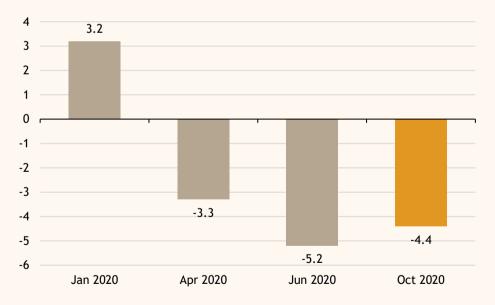


Key Economic Figures/Events of the Week

- The discussion of a new fiscal stimulus package in the US has continued to be the main focus for the markets this week. No progress has been achieved, with parties blaming each other for the failure. Meanwhile, US Treasury Secretary has affirmed that it would be "difficult to get something done" before the 3 November presidential elections. While the disappointment has led to stock markets falling slightly, bond markets have stayed resilient so far. The damage from the delay in approving new fiscal measures will probably become visible as next month's data starts to come in and this is likely to spur the market jitters. In the following weeks markets will turn their attention to the third quarter earnings reports and the forward guidance from companies. How they fare against forecasts will likely drive the market sentiment in one direction or the other.
- Newly revised world economic outlook from IMF helped to paint an overall picture of how the global economy is
 faring in its most challenging year since the 2008-2009 financial crisis. IMF forecast a 4.4% contraction of the
 global output in 2020, but the number has been revised upward from -5.2% in June. The revision has not come
 in as a surprise, as the situation was far more unpredictable back then and the swift and efficient intervention
 of central banks induced a fast recovery in the few months after the crisis. Now its time for governments to aid
 with further stimulus, as we are yet far from the pre-crisis levels. Among the G20 countries, only China is
 expected to register growth, at 1.9% in 2020.



IMF forecasts a deep recession for the global economy in 2020, but revises projections upward

(year-on-year percent change)

Weekly Investment Insights

 The Brazilian meat producer JBS (BB/BB+/Ba2), which has 55% revenue exposure to the US market, has reached an agreement with the US Justice Department regarding a settlement of the fine for bribery charges in the amount of USD 128 million, much lower than expected. The company has been for years under pressure due to involvement in corruption scandals. The settlement paves the way for the long-sought listing on the US stock exchange, which will allow the company to raise new equity funds. S&P has recently upgraded JBS to BB+ from BB and updated the outlook of the other Brazilian meat producer we hold, Marfrig (BB-), to positive from

Source: International Monetary Fund



stable. It's another example of how US prosecution works and what consequences it usually has at the end. First market reaction is always quite strong given that the first fines are usually huge. The process takes time, up to several years, which is often characterized by bouts of volatility for the bond under question depending on the news. But finally there is a settlement and in predominant number of cases the final fine is several times less than the original one which is being favoured by the markets. We believe that Teva case will follow the practice and the bond price will recover.

US banks were, as usual, first to report quarterly earnings. Morgan Stanley (A2/A/BBB+) was among the companies which have profited from the crisis, seeing a surge in revenue due to an increase in trading activities. During the March dip we subscribed to several new issues of US banks, including Morgan Stanley, which we deemed as too expensive to acquire pre-crisis. Since then, the intervention of the Fed has led to a rapid tightening in credit spreads for US issuers, including financials.

Strategy

This week, we have participated in several new primary offers. We have received an allocation in a 7-year new issue of the Arab Emirates utility company Tabreed (BBB/Baa3), placed at 2.7% yield-to-maturity, 5-year new issue of the Union Bank of the Philippines, placed at 2.2% yield-to-maturity and a tap of the Colombian gas distribution company Promigas (Baa3/BBB-) bonds maturing in 2029, issued at 3.8%.

We hope you will find this information useful and we will be glad to answer your questions

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