

Macro Snapshot - Chief Economist Jean Ergas

November 6, 2015

Update November 6th 2015

Surprise number for US jobs – US recovery continues its Little League recovery - GDP growth middling – where is productivity growth? - Wondering about UK economy

What a number for jobs + 271000 - well above all estimates. US stock futures are moving down but not collapsing. The Euro is continuing to weaken and we expect to see yet more pressure on the EM currencies. Labor force participation remains at Depression levels and wages are putting in a slightly better but still sub-par performance, as the US economy continues to plod ahead in its "Little League" recovery.

Long and the short of it, we expect the Federal Reserve to take its "small step for the US but big step for mankind" rate increase by January if not December. If they do not move, their credibility – if this still counts –shall be zero.

This number is about the "happy few" - wealth accumulation as opposed to the income earners - the key is about asset allocation and not about paying the bills!

Rest of World shall do little - structural reforms remain "persona non grata"

Looking beyond US borders, what shall the rest of the world do in the wake of the US data? Our bottom dollar bet is that it shall overall do little and continue to persevere with its competitive devaluations masked as monetary easing. With structural reforms "persona non grata" – devaluation is the easy way out.

Commodities keep on taking it on the snout – German behemoth slowing?

Commodities are continuing to take it on the snout, with German factory orders falling – prospective demand looks weak in both the developed and the emerging markets.

Oil is firming at the US Dollar 45 WTI level and no short term relief in sight. We remain cautious on the commodity complex and see spikes upwards used by producers to hedge future production at a higher price.

A tale of two sectors – Maersk earnings getting crushed

With regard to global growth, we are intrigued by the results of two behemoths at the opposite spectrum of the economic spectrum. Maersk – the shipping leader – has announced worse than expected third quarter results. While part of the loss stems from a dismal oil market, the focus is on a lack of recovery in the global consumer driven container market.

The Federal Reserve shall be raising rates in a steadily slowing "nuts and bolts" global economy.

Luxury group Richemont disappoints – Is this the swan song of the HENRY – High Earners Not Rich Yet?

At the other end of the spectrum - the superfluous as opposed to the essential - luxury group Richemont disappoints. Are we starting to see a more brittle performance by the HENRY – High Earners Not Rich Yet? Is there a plateauing of wealth accumulation in the emerging markets?

Jean Ergas (646) 780-8880 jergas@tigressfp.com Twitter: @jean ergas

Tigress Financial Partners
Member of FINRA / MSRB /
SIPC

500 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10110 (212) 430-8700

www.tigressfinancialpartners.com

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Rate rise in UK - Will it set off a property collapse?

We are interested in the adventures of the pound sterling – with interest rate increases again being postponed. Weak inflation and concerns as to the global economy – slowing of the Euro Zone – are staying the Bank of England's hand. We might also add that the BOE is likely scared out of their wits as to popping a massive property bubble.

The UK is still beholden to property speculation and financial markets for its livelihood. The two are closely correlated.



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Contacts

Jean Ergas Chief Economist (917) 551-6533 Direct jergas@tigressfp.com

Brian O'Sullivan Managing Director, Trading (646) 798-8453 Direct bosullivan@tigressfp.com Ivan Feinseth Chief Investment Officer (212) 430-8730 Direct ifeinseth@tigressfp.com

Ernest Williams Institutional Sales & Trading (646) 862-2912 Direct ewilliams@tigressfp.com Philip Van Deusen Director of Research (646) 862-2909 Direct pvandeusen@tigressfp.com

Chris DeCarolis
Research Associate
(646) 402-6695 Direct
cdecarolis@tigressfp.com

About Jean:

Jean Ergas is the Chief Economist for Tigress Financial Partners LLC (Member FINRA, MSRB,SIPC) based in New York City.

He is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at New York University's School of Professional Studies and an Adjunct Faculty member at Manhattanville College. In 2014 he received the award for teaching excellence from NYU School of Professional Studies.

He is fluent in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. He also has a certificate in Arabic – from NYU School of Professional Studies.

His career has spanned the complete range of macro risk analysis - energy / commodities with ENI - Global Fortune 500 17 - leading global natural resources group, capital markets with Swiss Bank Corporation (now UBS) and insurance / reinsurance with the A.M.Best Company. Jean contributes regularly to international media commenting on key macro-economic issues.

Jean is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and has an MBA and an Advanced Professional Certificate in Accounting from New York University's Stern School. He has also passed the FINRA Series 7 examination.



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