3 October 2025

Global Markets Research
Daily Market Highlights

3 Oct: Wall Street shrugged off US government shutdown

OpenAI drove Wall Street higher; muted trading for treasuries; US Dollar rebounded
US jobless claims data delayed; Challenger showed slower hiring plans and layoffs
Stable PMI for Singapore; Hong Kong retail sales gained momentum and beat forecasts

- Nasdaq led gains in Wall Steet overnight after an OpenAI share sale and high valuation bolstered optimism for AI stocks, while investor jitters from the US government shutdown were largely overlooked. Traders were also contending with temporary blackout in official economic readouts after the jobless claims and factory data was delayed because of the shutdown. Nasdaq finished up 0.4% d/d, outpacing S&P 500 (0.1% d/d) and the Dow (0.2% d/d).
- Elsewhere, Stoxx Eur 600 (0.5% d/d) extended its upward trend with auto and tech stocks leading gains, while real estate and bank lagged. Asian bourses closed mostly in green, with Kospi hitting a record as Samsung and SK Hynix soared on OpenAI partnership.
- In the bond space, treasuries traded in a narrow range with the government shutdown leaving traders in the dark without official labour market readings. The benchmark 2Y yield closed the day just above its flatline at 3.54%, while the 10Y ended 2bps lower at 4.08%. Trading in 10Y European bonds were equally muted with yields closing mixed between +/-2bps.
- In the commodity space, the Dollar (DXY: 0.1% d/d to 97.85) rebounded after a 4-day slide, while NOK (-0.7% d/d) lagged all its peers. EUR, GBP, JPY and AUD depreciated between 0.1-0.3% d/d to close the day weaker at 1.1715, 1.3440, 147.26 and 0.6596 respectively against the greenback. Regional currencies close mixed, with MYR closing just above its flatline at 4.2065 while SGD weakened 0.1% d/d to 1.2891.
- In the commodity space, crude oil prices tumbled around 2.0% d/d each, its fourth day of decline amid oversupply concerns ahead of a meeting of the OPEC+ group over the weekend. Brent closed the day at $64.11/barrel, and the WTI at $60.48/barrel.

US layoffs fell, but YTD planned hiring at lowest in 16 years

- According to the Challenger report, US-based employers announced 54.1k job cuts in September, a 37.1% drop on a monthly basis and down 25.8% from a year ago (prior: 13.3%

Key Market Metrics

	Level	d/d (%)
Equities		
Dow Jones	46,519.72	0.17
S&P 500	6,715.35	0.06
NASDAQ	22,844.05	0.39
Stoxx Eur 600	567.60	0.53
FTSE 100	9,427.73	-0.20
Nikkei 225	44,936.73	0.87
CSI 300	4,640.69	0.45
Hang Seng	27,287.12	1.61
Straits Times	4,395.21	1.67
KLCI 30	1,637.80	1.04
FX		
Dollar Index	97.85	0.14
EUR/USD	1.1715	-0.14
GBP/USD	1.3440	-0.28
USD/JPY	147.26	0.13
AUD/USD	0.6596	-0.26
USD/CNH	7.1327	0.07
USD/MYR	4.2065	-0.01
USD/SGD	1.2891	0.08
USD/KHR	4,012.50	-0.02
USD/THB	32.37	0.05
Commodities		
WTI ($/bbl)	60.48	-2.10
Brent ($/bbl)	64.11	-1.90
Gold ($/oz)	3,839.70	-0.72
Copper ($/MT)	10,490.50	1.07
Aluminum($/MT)	2,692.50	0.15
CPO (RM/tonne)	4,346.00	1.49

Source: Bloomberg, HLBB Global Markets Research
** Closing as of 1 Oct for CPO*

y/y). That said, employers have so far announced 946.4k job cuts, the highest YTD since 2020, and one that could become more prominent due to a US government shutdown. Coupled with the lowest hiring plan since 2009 at 204.9k, all data essentially points to a stagnating labour market for now. Government accounted for the bulk of planned layoffs, followed by technology firms and retailers.

Australia's household spending continues to grow, albeit at a softer pace; narrower trade surplus does not bode well for 3Q GDP calculation

- Household spending decelerated more than expected to 0.1% m/m in August, slowing from 0.4% m/m in July and 0.5% m/m in June. Despite this, August marks the fourth month of continuous growth, remained robust and 5.0% y/y higher, and led by discretionary spending like airline travel and accommodation services, largely echoing RBA's view that private consumption is picking up and that households are more comfortable consuming amid rising real incomes and wealth.
- Trade surplus narrowed sharper than expected to A$1.8bn from A$6.6bn previously, as exports plunged 7.8% m/m (prior: 2.5% m/m) while imports rebounded by 3.2% m/m (prior: -2.4% m/m). In sign that household spending will continue to grow, the jump in imports were driven by consumption goods, while on the export front, shipments to the US nearly halved for the month because of the tariff hikes.
- Data this morning showed that the final services PMI was revised up 0.4ppts to 52.4 in September (prior: 55.8).

Improved Japan's consumer confidence

- Consumer confidence index improved more than expected to 35.3 in September from 34.9 previously. All the sub-categories that contributed to the index held steady or improved, notably by willingness to buy durable goods index. Improved sentiment, coupled with resilient labour market (unemployment rate still low at 2.6% in August) bodes well for consumer spending and BOJ rate hike expectations going forward.

Hong Kong's retail sales beat forecast, expanding for the fourth month

- Supported by stabilising local consumer sentiment and sustained growth in inbound visitors, retail sales beat forecasts and grew for the fourth month by 3.8% y/y in August, gathering momentum from July's 1.8% y/y. By product, Hong Kong saw strong demand for jewellery, watches & clocks, closely followed by medicines & cosmetics and wearing apparel.

Singapore's headline and electronics PMIs improved slightly

- Singapore's factory activities remained largely stable, with the PMI inching up 0.1ppts to 50.1 in September and the electronics sector PMI gaining 0.3ppts to 50.7. For the rest of the year, the manufacturing sector remained susceptible to prospects of softer external demand amid pullbacks from the frontloading and softer global growth, with added dampener from new rounds of sectoral tariffs, namely pharmaceutical products and potentially semiconductor.

House View and Forecasts

FX	This Week	4Q-25	1Q-26	2Q-26	3Q-26
DXY	97.00-99.75	96.45	95.57	94.24	92.99
EUR/USD	1.16-1.20	1.19	1.20	1.22	1.24
GBP/USD	1.32-1.35	1.36	1.37	1.38	1.39
USD/CHF	0.78-0.82	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.76
USD/JPY	147-152	146	145	142	140
AUD/USD	0.64-0.67	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.68
NZD/USD	0.56-0.60	0.59	0.60	0.60	0.60
USD/CNY	7.11-7.15	7.08	7.06	6.99	6.94
USD/MYR	4.18-4.24	4.20	4.15	4.10	4.10
USD/SGD	1.28-1.31	1.28	1.26	1.24	1.23
USD/THB	31.50-33.00	32.25	32.30	32.20	32.00

Rates, %	Current	4Q25	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26
Fed	4.00-4.25	3.50-3.75	3.25.-3.50	3.00.-3.25	3.00.-3.25
ECB	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
BOE	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.50	3.50
SNB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BOJ	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	0.75
RBA	3.60	3.35	3.10	3.10	3.10
RBNZ	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
BNM	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75

Source: HLBB Global Markets Research

Up Next

Date	Events	Prior
3-Oct	SI S&P Global Singapore PMI (Sep)	51.2
	JN S&P Global Japan PMI Services (Sep F)	53.0
	SI Retail Sales SA MoM (Aug)	4.10%
	EC HCOB Eurozone Services PMI (Sep F)	51.4
	UK S&P Global UK Services PMI (Sep F)	51.9
	EC PPI YoY (Aug)	0.20%
	US Change in Nonfarm Payrolls (Sep)**	22k
	US S&P Global US Services PMI (Sep F)	53.9
	US ISM Services Index (Sep)	52
5-Oct	HK S&P Global Hong Kong PMI (Sep)	50.7
	VN CPI YoY (Sep)	3.24%
	VN GDP YoY (3Q)	7.96%
	VN Exports YoY (Sep)	14.50%
	VN Industrial Production YoY (Sep)	8.90%
	VN Retail Sales YoY (Sep)	10.60%
	EC Sentix Investor Confidence (Oct)	-9.2

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EC Retail Sales MoM (Aug)	-0.50%

Source: Bloomberg

*** Releases likely delayed by the US government shutdown*