

Local Markets

The South African stock market experienced another quiet week as the FTSE/JSE All Share Index ended the week flat (-0.01%).

Resources (JSE Resource 20 Index) (+2.0%) made a strong comeback over the week as the platinum price rebounded by just over 3% in US dollar terms.

The Financials and Listed Property sectors gained 0.1% and 0.7% respectively over the week, while Industrials lost 1.1%.

Small caps (+0.5%) outperformed large caps (-0.1% for the Top 40 Index).

The All Bond Index managed to eke out a gain of 0.4% over the week, while inflation-linked bonds gained 0.1%.

While the rand started the week on the back foot, it managed to recover slightly in the new year, ending the week flat against the US dollar. However, it did gain over 1% against the British pound and the euro.

On 27 December, Bloomberg reported that positioning in the options market suggests the rand is poised for a rebound that may be as steep as its rapid decline in December.

Global Markets

United States: Major stock indexes experienced mixed performance during the holiday-shortened week, with early declines due to year-end profit-taking but broad Friday gains helping limit losses. Despite the December slump, 2024 marked the S&P 500's second consecutive year of over 20% gains, with the Nasdaq also posting strong annual returns.

The Chicago PMI fell to 36.9 in December, indicating continued contraction in manufacturing activity, while the Atlanta Fed lowered its Q4 GDP forecast to 2.6% from 3.1%. Negative sentiment was further impacted by Tesla's missed delivery expectations and declining iPhone shipments to China.

Initial jobless claims dropped to 211 000, the lowest in eight months, and continuing claims fell to a three-month low, signalling resilience in the labour market.

US Treasury yields decreased, and municipal bonds saw strong support amid light issuance and reinvestment activity. Investment-grade corporate bonds posted positive returns, while high-yield bonds advanced marginally despite equity market weakness.

Europe: The STOXX Europe 600 Index rose 0.20% on light trading volume. Major indexes like Germany's DAX, France's CAC 40, and Italy's FTSE MIB fell modestly, while the UK's FTSE 100 gained 0.91%, supported by a weaker British pound aiding multinational companies.

Spain's annual inflation rose to 2.8% in December from 2.4%, driven by higher fuel prices, with core inflation also surpassing expectations at 2.6%, raising concerns about persistent price pressures.

The rise in inflation strengthened the case for hawkish ECB policymakers advocating a cautious approach to rate cuts. However, ECB President Christine Lagarde reaffirmed that inflation is expected to align with the 2% target by 2025, signalling a gradual rate reduction trajectory.

UK house prices increased 0.7% in December, marking a 4.7% year-over-year gain, the highest since 2022. Mortgage approvals dipped slightly in November but remained above the 12-month average, reflecting ongoing demand.

Asia: Japanese stocks ended lower during the holiday-shortened week, with the Nikkei 225 closing 2024 at a record year-end level despite losing nearly 1% on the final trading day. The Nikkei gained 20% annually, supported by share buybacks, governance reforms, and a weaker yen. The TOPIX Index rose 17.6% for the year but declined 0.6% this week.

The yen remained stable near JPY 157, depreciating 11% over the year. The 10-year Japanese government bond yield hovered near a 13.5-year high at 1.09%, as the BoJ debated a potential rate hike amid accelerating inflation. The manufacturing PMI indicated contraction for a sixth month in December, but signs of stabilization emerged despite rising input costs.

Chinese stocks fell, with the Shanghai Composite Index dropping 5.55% and the CSI 300 declining 5.17%, due to weaker-than-expected manufacturing data. The official manufacturing PMI remained above 50 but missed forecasts, signalling modest growth, while the nonmanufacturing PMI exceeded expectations, pointing to resilience in construction and services.

New home sales by the top 100 developers in China were flat year-over-year in December but rose 24.2% month-over-month, signalling a possible recovery. However, for the full year, sales dropped 28.1%, reflecting ongoing challenges despite Beijing's stimulus measures to support the housing sector.

Currencies							
Description	Classification	Currency	Exchange Rate	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
ZAR/USD	USD/ZAR	ZAR	18,77	0,21%	-3,97%	0,39%	0,39%
ZAR/Pound	GBP/ZAR	ZAR	23,36	0,97%	-1,68%	0,90%	0,90%
ZAR/Euro	EUR/ZAR	ZAR	19,36	1,18%	-1,57%	0,73%	0,73%
USD/Euro**	USD/EUR	EUR	0,97	0,90%	2,45%	0,37%	0,37%
USD/Yen	USD/YEN	YEN	157,76	0,58%	5,17%	0,35%	0,35%

Commodities							
Description	Classification	Currency	Commodity Price	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Gold	Gold Spot	USD	2633,63	1,04%	0,01%	0,35%	0,35%
Brent Crude Oil	ICE Brent Futures	USD	76,17	3,23%	7,58%	2,05%	2,05%
Platinum	Platinum Spot	USD	932,77	3,16%	0,13%	2,78%	2,78%
Copper	LME 3 month Copper	USD	8876,50	-0,83%	-2,58%	1,24%	1,24%
Silver	Silver Spot	USD	29,45	1,73%	-4,90%	1,90%	1,90%

Global Equity Indexes (Total Return Indices)							
Description	Index	Currency	Index Value	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
Global	MSCI World	USD	3737,50	-0,45%	-2,31%	0,81%	0,81%
United States	S&P 500	USD	13046,88	-0,45%	-1,66%	1,05%	1,05%
Europe	Euro Stoxx 50	EUR	11602,42	-0,52%	-0,11%	-0,46%	-0,46%
Britain	FTSE 100	GBP	9120,81	0,92%	-1,51%	0,64%	0,64%
Germany	DAX	EUR	19906,08	-0,39%	-0,55%	-0,02%	-0,02%
Japan	Nikkei 225	JPY	71223,93	1,99%	4,53%	4,53%	21,33%
Emerging Markets	MSCI Emerging Markets	USD	1073,21	-0,81%	-1,97%	-0,13%	-0,13%

South African Equity Indexes (Total Return Indices)							
Description	Index	Currency	Index Value	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
All Share	JSE All Share	ZAR	84711,80	-0,01%	-1,09%	0,73%	0,73%
Top 40	JSE Top 40	ZAR	13755,05	-0,10%	-1,35%	0,98%	0,98%
Shareholder Weighted	JSE SWIX	ZAR	33681,93	-0,01%	-1,09%	0,73%	0,73%
Small Companies	JSE Small Cap	ZAR	92679,54	0,55%	1,61%	-0,75%	-0,75%
Resources	JSE Resource 20	ZAR	4669,42	1,98%	-5,10%	3,53%	3,53%
Industrials	JSE Industrial 25	ZAR	26036,75	-1,07%	-0,20%	0,01%	0,01%
Financials	JSE Financial 15	ZAR	15821,13	0,15%	-0,34%	0,76%	0,76%
SA Listed Property	JSE SA Listed Property	ZAR	2425,29	0,72%	0,62%	0,91%	0,91%
Preference Shares	JSE Pref Shares	ZAR	4803,17	-0,29%	0,82%	0,06%	0,06%

South African Fixed Interest							
Description	Index	Currency	Index Value	Week	Month	Month-to-Date	Year-to-Date
All Bond	BESA ALBI Index	ZAR	1107,37	0,40%	0,42%	0,43%	0,43%
Inflation Linked Bonds	BESA CILI	ZAR	377,17	0,13%	0,57%	0,12%	0,12%
Cash	STEFI Composite	ZAR	595,10	0,15%	0,66%	0,06%	0,06%

** Negative indicates USD weakness

Asia

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Actual	Prior
2001/09/25 03:30	CPI YoY	Dec	0,001	--	0,002
2001/09/25 03:30	PPI YoY	Dec	-0,024	--	-0,025

South Africa

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Actual	Prior
2001/09/25 13:00	Manufacturing Prod NSA YoY	Nov	--	--	0,008
2001/09/25 13:00	Manufacturing Prod SA MoM	Nov	--	--	0,004
2001/08/25 11:00	Absa Manufacturing PMI	Dec	--	--	48,1
2001/08/25 08:00	Gross Reserves	Dec	--	--	\$65.86b
2001/08/25 08:00	Net Reserves	Dec	--	--	\$60.62b
2001/09/25 00:00	Naamsa Vehicle Sales YoY	Dec	--	--	0,081
2001/06/25 09:15	S&P Global South Africa PMI	Dec	--	49,9	50,9

United States

Date Time	Event	Period	Surv(M)	Actual	Prior
2001/10/25 15:30	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Dec	160k	--	227k
2001/08/25 15:30	Initial Jobless Claims	45661	216k	--	211k
2001/06/25 18:00	Export Inspections - Wheat	45659	--	--	337.7k
2001/10/25 19:00	WASDE Corn End Stocks	Jan	--	--	1738m
2001/09/25 15:30	Net Export Sales Wheat-Old	45659	--	--	140.6k
2001/10/25 17:00	U. of Mich. Sentiment	Jan P	73,9	--	74
2001/08/25 17:30	DOE U.S. Crude Oil Inventories	45660	--	--	-1178k
2001/09/25 15:30	Net Export Sales Cotton-Old	45659	--	--	128.9k
2001/10/25 19:00	USDA Quarterly Corn Stocks	4Q	--	--	1760m
2001/06/25 17:00	Durable Goods Orders	Nov F	-0,004	--	-0,011
2001/06/25 18:00	Export Inspections - Corn	45659	--	--	878.4k
2001/10/25 19:00	USDA Quarterly Soybean Stocks	4Q	--	--	342m
2001/08/25 15:15	ADP Employment Change	Dec	133k	--	146k
2001/09/25 15:30	Net Export Sales Corn-Total	45659	--	--	777.0k
2001/08/25 14:00	MBA Mortgage Applications	45660	--	--	--
2001/10/25 15:30	Unemployment Rate	Dec	0,042	--	0,042

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