

FFR 2013

Review and Outlook - Commodity & Equity Markets

Commodity Market Returns Impress, but equity market gains in January are worth noting

- Boost Copper 3x Leverage Daily ETP (3HCL) was up 11.1% last week. With Copper prices (HG COMEX) pressing near 380c/lb. resistance, there is potential for further rises while the macro outlook depends on the outlook for China.
- Boost Natural Gas 3x Short Daily ETP (3NGS) returned 13.4% on the week due to warmer than
 expected weather. For this week though we favour a correction higher in Natural Gas as range
 trading dominates.
- US Q4 GDP fell at a -0.1% pace, but durable goods orders and the revisions to previous US employment data bolstered investor sentiment.
- RBA, BoE and ECB rate decisions are worth watching this week not because they will move on rates but to see if the central banks offer any clues on future moves.

Commodity market returns were in the spotlight last week as Copper prices turned higher while Natural Gas prices fell. Equity markets broadly worked higher as the gains from January continued to impress, which is worth noting. The volatility in the commodity markets may continue over the coming weeks as traders try and price in China growth potential (Copper) and weather related effects (Natural Gas), and these should offer a potential break out trade (Copper) and range trading opportunities (Natural Gas, WTI Oil, Gold and Silver).

Equity market investors have a 'New Goldilocks' environment to keep in mind as growth is strong enough to keep the consumer spending and bolster corporate profits, but it is not strong enough to make the Fed remove their stimulus measures. As long as the Fed's jobless rate target of 6.5% remains elusive, this means that low rates are set to remain in place for some time. This provides a strong backdrop to equity market investment decision (low rates with no inflation helps stocks to rally, as Fed Chairman Greenspan noted in 1996 in his 'Irrational Exuberance' speech).

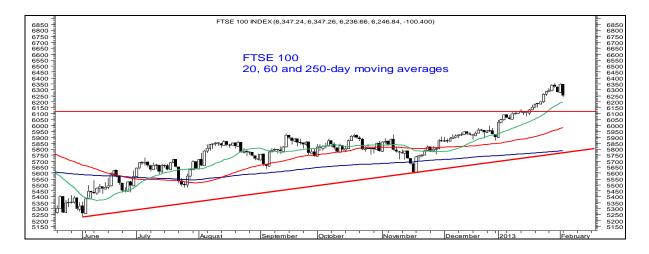
The other side of this coin is that prolonged 'easy monetary policies' may drive investor flows into 'safe asset' in the coming weeks (Gold, Silver and to some extend Oil). If growth is propped up and China's economy benefits then Copper prices would be expected to rally ('proxy' trade as an expression of higher industrial demand).



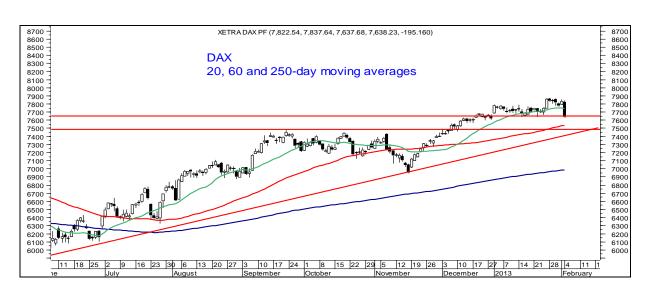
Week Ahead – Equity Markets

Equity markets remain bid, Commodity markets volatile range trading

The **FTSE 100** cleared 6300 last week which leaves resistance at 6377/6400 vulnerable. The sights are shifting to the 2007 high at 6754.10 after this as the soft Q4 GDP reading, sliding GBP and further austerity measures are being put aside by investors. Chart support is at 6200 ahead of the 6150/6130 area and then 6000/5900.



The **DAX** consolidated recent gains last week with the risk of further gains to the 8151.57 all-time highs from 2007 still seen. Chart support is expected at 7635/7600 ahead of 7400. The stunning returns in the second half of 2012 may be difficult to repeat, but pullbacks continue to draw out buyers, which is difficult to fight at the moment.



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Week Ahead – Equity Markets

The **EuroSTOXX 50** did see a corrective drop late last week, but this may be retraced for a challenge of 2754 again (30 January high). The next layer of chart resistance is at the pullback high of 2887, while support is at 2611/2600 ahead of 2427/2400.



In the US the **NASDAQ 100** ended the week on a strong note and further gains to 2878.37 (21 September 2012 peak) may attract. The focus will be on index heavyweight Apple which has lagged lately, and support at 2719 and then 2703/2700 in the index is important to hold in order to avoid a deeper pullback to chart support at 2600 and lower.



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Week Ahead - Equity & Commodity Markets

The **Russell 1000** ended the week with new post-2009 slump highs posted on Friday, leaving the 2007 all-time high at 858.63 attracting next. Further gains may be seen to 920 if 858.63 gives way. Chart support is at 821/813 which will be important to monitor ahead of 771, the 250-day moving average.



In **Gold** the consolidation that persisted last week may be difficult to shake off, leaving a broad \$1,680/oz to \$1,700/oz range top in place, with buyers below \$1,660/oz to \$1,650/oz supporting the yellow metal. There is a risk that a turn below \$1,650/oz will be seen again to leave support at \$1,625/oz to \$1,600/oz under pressure again as a medium term top may unfold. On the upside though gains above \$1,700/oz would be expected to see Gold rise back to \$1,754/oz and even \$1,800/oz – the bigger range top. While this is possible, favouring trading the short term range between \$1,700/oz and \$1,625/oz instead.



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Week Ahead – Commodity Markets

Silver prices consolidated above the 250-day moving average (\$31.05/oz) for the most part last week, and this could be setting the stage for a rally to \$33.55/oz resistance (trendline). Use a turn above the latter as the spark for gains to \$35.36/oz (01 October 2012 peak) if seen. If the range trading persists here as well though then upticks would be expected to remain capped for a pullback to \$31.05/oz and then \$30.73/oz. A turn below the latter would leave losses to \$29.20/oz area support to follow and is worth watching.



Copper prices (HG COMEX) are pressing near 380c/lb. resistance, which will serve as the technical confirmation for further gains to 385c/lb. and even 400c/lb. further out. Dips are seen finding support at 371c/lb. to 364c/lb. Use the latter as the level to break for a slide to 351.75c/lb. and even 348c/lb. rising line support if broken.



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Week Ahead - Commodity Markets

Natural Gas (NG) fell on the back of milder weather expectations in key parts of the US last week but the pullback is expected to remain limited. This should see strong chart support at \$3.05 per mio btu hold, with early support at \$3.207 per mio btu to \$3.193 per mio btu expected to be difficult to break ahead of this. Upticks to \$3.50 per mio btu and even \$3.645 per mio btu are open on a range trade if support holds and should attract.



Oil prices (WTI) continued to eke out gains last week and a probe of \$100.42/bbl, the front month contract peak from 14 September 2012 may be seen. If this remains a range trade though then a drop back to \$93.67/bbl (250-day moving average) would be expected to follow, with some potential to \$90/bbl and lower then seen. A break above \$100.42/bbl though would leave gains above \$106/bbl at risk next.





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Contact Information

If you would like further information about Boost ETP's product range or any of the content within this fact sheet, please contact us:

+44 (0)20 3515 0050

☑ info@boostetp.com

www.boostetp.com

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Source: Redtower Asset Management, Boost, Bloomberg, Reuters as of 4 Feb 2013

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