

Indian Economy

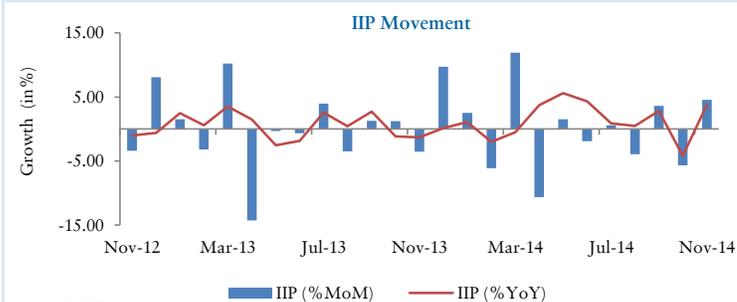
Economic Releases in January-2015

Policy Rates	Period	Actual	Previous
Repo Rate [^]	30-Jan-15	7.75%	8.00%
Reverse Repo [^]	30-Jan-15	6.75%	7.00%
CRR [^]	30-Jan-15	4.00%	4.00%
Key Indicators	Actual	Previous	
Index Of Industrial Production (IIP)	3.80% (Nov-14)	-4.20% (Oct-14)	
Wholesale Price Index Inflation (WPI)	0.11% (Dec-14)	0.00% (Nov-14)	
Export (Y-o-Y)	-3.75% (Dec-14)	7.27% (Nov-14)	
Import (Y-o-Y)	-4.78% (Dec-14)	26.80% (Nov-14)	
Current Account Deficit (\$ Billions)	-10.1 (Sep-14)	-7.84 (Jun-14)	
Fiscal Deficit FYTD (INR Trillion)	525.13 (Nov-14)	475.75 (Oct-14)	

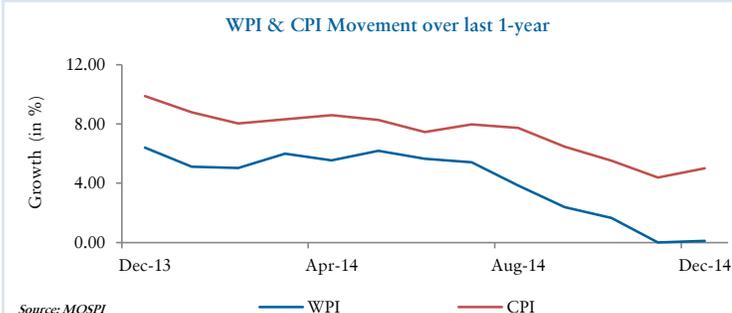
Source: RBI, Reuters; [^]Based on Second-Quarter RBI Monetary Policy review released on 15-January-2015



Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce & Industry



Source: MOSPI



Source: MOSPI

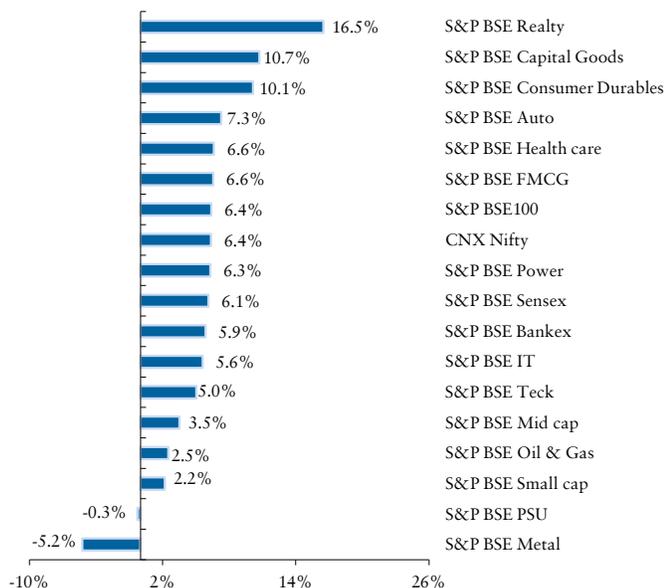
- The Central Bank has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.75% outside the Monetary Policy Review. The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) stood unchanged at 4%. *According to the Central Bank Governor, easing of inflationary pressure has provided room for a shift in interest rate stance.*
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 3.8% on a yearly basis in November compared to 4.2% contraction seen in the previous month. The manufacturing sector grew by 3% against 7.6% fall in October. Meanwhile, Mining and Electricity sectors grew at 3.4% and 10%, respectively. As per use-based classification, Basic Goods, Capital Goods and Intermediate goods rose by 7.0%, 6.5% and 4.3%, respectively while Consumer Goods contracted by 2.2%.
- The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rose 5% on a yearly basis in December against 4.38% witnessed in the previous month, driven by higher food costs. Urban inflation stood at 5.32% against 4.69% and rural inflation stood at 4.71% compared to 4.09% recorded in November.
- *The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose marginally to 0.11% in December from 0% in the previous month, mainly due to rise in prices of food items, particularly fruits.* However, inflation in manufactured products, which have the highest weight on WPI, fell due to lower demand. Fuel prices also declined as global crude oil rates fell.
- *Government data showed that fiscal deficit overshoot the full-year target in December as the gap swelled to Rs. 5.32 trillion (\$85.90 billion), or 100.2% of the target for the financial year ending in March.* The deficit stood at 95.2% during the same period a year ago. Net tax receipts stood at Rs. 5.46 trillion (\$88.16 billion) in the first nine months of the current financial year.
- *Trade deficit contracted to \$9.43 billion in December from \$10.19 billion a year ago due to larger fall in imports than exports.* Merchandise exports declined 3.77% on a yearly basis to \$25.39 billion in December compared to \$26.39 billion in the same month last year. Similarly, imports fell by 4.78% to \$34.83 billion compared to \$36.58 billion.
- The Central Statistics Office has come out with a new series of national accounts with 2011-12 as the base year for computing economic growth rate. Following the revision, GDP growth stood at 6.9% FY14 compared to the earlier estimate of 4.7% and 5.1% in FY13.

Indian Equity Market

Index PE Ratio & Returns	Closing Values [#]	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year
CNX Nifty*	8,808.90	44.78	19.21	12.51
CNX Nifty PE	17.88	15.11	15.13	18.14
S&P BSE Sensex*	29,182.95	42.38	19.28	12.26
S&P BSE Sensex PE	17.59	16.12	15.22	18.41

Source: NSE, BSE, * Returns less than 1 year are absolute, greater than 1 year are Compounded Annualized, [#] As on 31-Jan-2015

Monthly returns as on January 31, 2015



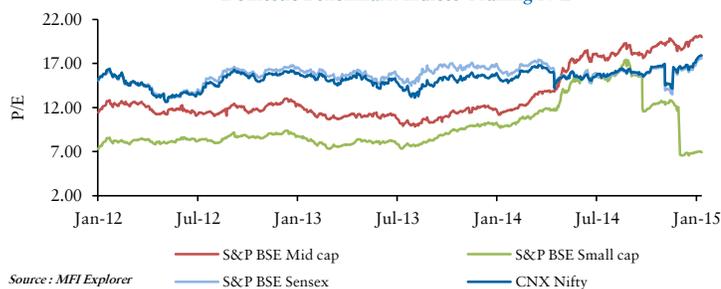
Source: MFI Explorer

Growth of Rs 1,000 over Last 10-Yrs



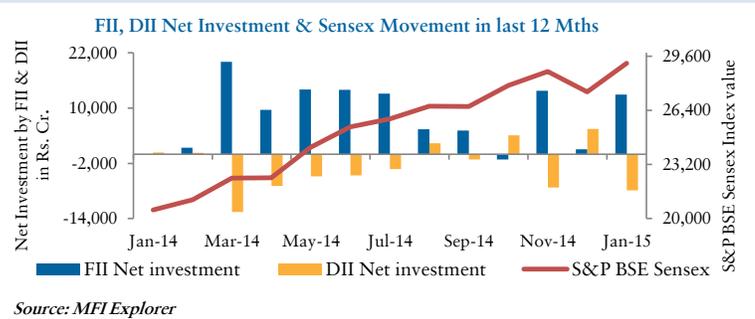
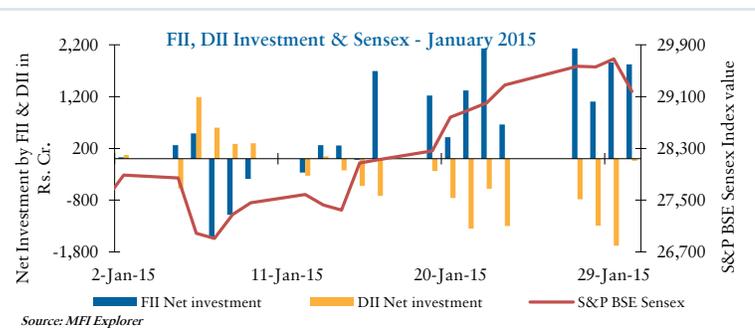
Source: MFI Explorer

Domestic Benchmark Indices Trailing P/E



Source: MFI Explorer

- Indian equity markets strengthened during the month with S&P BSE Sensex and CNX Nifty touching all-time highs of 29,844 and 8,997 points, respectively. A surprise rate cut by the Central Bank outside the Monetary Policy Review and encouraging economic data boosted markets. Hopes of further reforms measures by the Government in the upcoming Union Budget contributed to the rally. However, weak crude oil prices and political uncertainty in Greece restricted the gains.
- Key benchmark indices, S&P BSE Sensex and CNX Nifty, rose 6.12% and 6.35% to close at 29,182.95 and 8,808.90 points, respectively. Besides, S&P BSE Mid-Cap and S&P BSE Small-Cap rose 3.53% and 2.18%, respectively.
- According to data from the Central Depository Services (India) Limited, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) were net buyers of Indian stocks worth Rs. 12,918.97 crore in January against Rs. 1,036.29 crore in the previous month. Domestic mutual funds remained net buyers in the equity segment to the tune of Rs. 879.50 crore in January.
- Bourses witnessed a mixed trend initially during the month. Buying interest improved following upbeat core sector growth data for November. Sentiments improved further after final reading of a private survey showed that India's manufacturing activity rose to a two-year high in December. Telecom stocks were in the limelight in January. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India recommended the base price for 2,100-MHz spectrum auction, which was lower than the reserve price of the same spectrum in the previous auction, conducted in 2010.
- Bourses pared some of their gains after crude oil prices witnessed a sharp drop, which raised concerns over global growth. Besides, political uncertainty in Greece also weighed on investor sentiments.
- Markets regained momentum later during the month after retail inflation data for December came in line with expectations. Rise in industrial production numbers to a five-month high in November also supported the markets. Bourses lost some sheen after the World Bank cut its forecast for global growth. However, markets witnessed a sharp rally after the RBI cut the repo rate outside the Monetary Policy review by 25 basis points to 7.75%. The easing of interest rates renewed expectations of further economic growth. Markets found more support after data showed that trade deficit narrowed in December. Encouraging corporate earning numbers for the December quarter also supported buying interest.



- Markets extended the rally towards the end of the month after the *International Monetary Fund (IMF)* said that India is expected to grow at 6.3% in 2015 and 6.5% in 2016. On a different growth parameter, it projected India's economy to grow faster than China's by 2016-17. Bourses got more support following the European Central Bank's decision to announce a massive bond-buying program to revive the sluggish economy of the region. Sustained inflow of foreign funds, on hopes of more reforms measures, further supported the rally.
- On the BSE sectoral front, barring S&P BSE Metal, all the indices closed in green. S&P BSE Realty was the top gainer, up 16.48%, followed by S&P BSE Capital Goods and S&P BSE Consumer Durables which rose by 10.71% and 10.15%, respectively. The real estate sector rose on hopes that the Central Bank's decision to cut interest rates will improve sentiment in the sluggish property market.

Regulatory Update

- The Central Bank has allowed banks to become insurance brokers by permitting them to sell policies of different insurance firms, subject to certain conditions. The Central Bank added that only one entity per banking group can sell insurance and the sale of policies can either be through the broking model or the corporate agency model. The Central Bank further clarified that to start a new insurance broking business, a bank's net worth should not be less than Rs. 1,000 crore with minimum capital adequacy of 10%. Also the bank's net non-performing assets should not exceed 3% and it should have made a net profit for the last three years.
- According to the Central Bank, business houses with assets above Rs. 1,000 crore with finance companies will not be eligible to apply for a small bank license. The Central Bank further added that existing non-banking finance companies will have to fold their operations into the small bank. The Central Bank further added that payment banks are expected to do the normal banking business as stated and clarified. All rules and regulations applicable for normal banks such as the use of ATMs, cheque books issuance will be applicable to these banks as well.
- The Central Bank has relaxed the external commercial borrowing (ECB) norms under which authorised money changing banks had been allowed to create a charge on securities. Earlier, the choice of security to be provided to the overseas lender or the supplier for securing ECB was left to the borrower.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified a stricter set of insider trading norms to curb illicit transactions in shares of listed firms by management personnel and connected persons. Under the new framework, a connected person would be someone who is or has, during the past six months prior to the concerned act, been associated with a company either directly or indirectly.
- SEBI approved stricter norms for trustees managing issuance of securitised debt instruments, as part of its efforts to boost investor confidence in securitisation transactions. SEBI has approved a proposal for a standardised term sheet for securitisation transactions that cover both public issues and private placements. The objective of the new norms is to rationalize and make clear the roles and responsibilities of securitisation trustees.

Source: Reuters

Indian Fixed Income

RBI Policy Rates

Key Rates (%)	Current [^]	Previous
Reverse Repo Rate	6.75	7.00
Repo Rate	7.75	8.00
CRR	4.00	4.00
SLR	22.00	22.00
Bank Rate	8.75	9.00

[^]Based on Second Quarter RBI Monetary Policy review released on 15-January-2015

Source: RBI

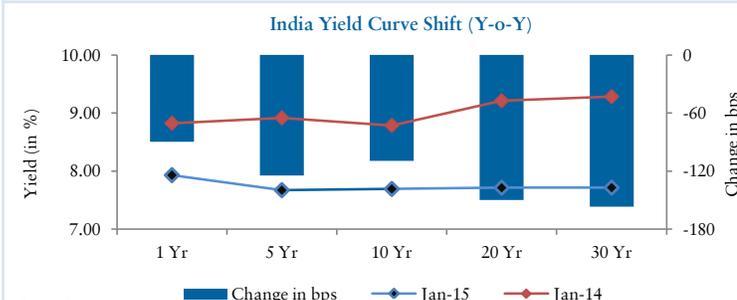
Debt Indicators (Yield %)	Jan-15	Dec-14
Call Rate	7.72%	8.91%
1 Mn NSE Mibor	8.35%	8.59%
10-Yr Benchmark Bond	7.69%	7.86%
91-Day T-Bill [#]	8.30%	8.29%
182-Day T-Bill [#]	8.19%	8.35%
364-Day T-Bill [#]	8.04%	8.22%

[#]Indicates Monthly Average cut off during Auction

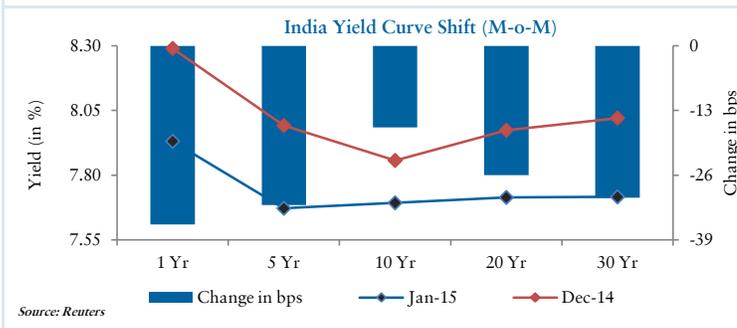
Source: RBI



Source: CCIL

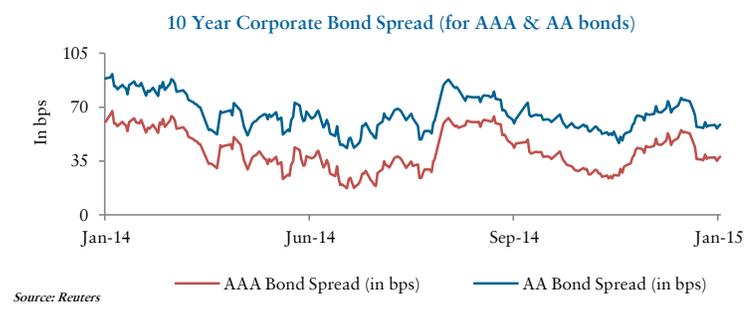
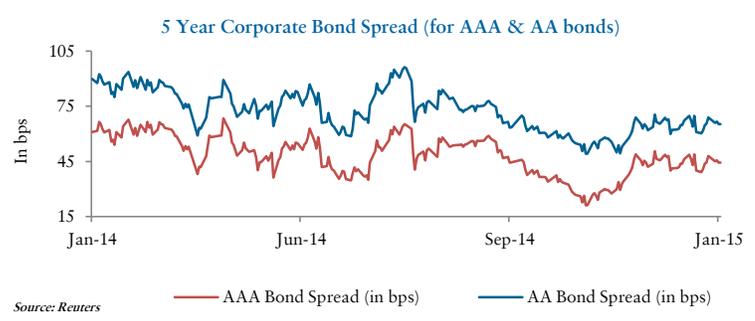
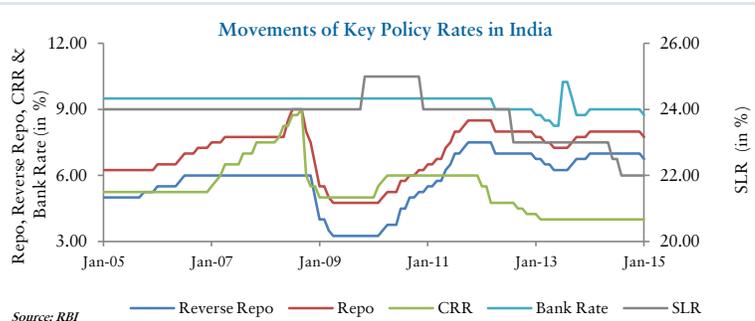
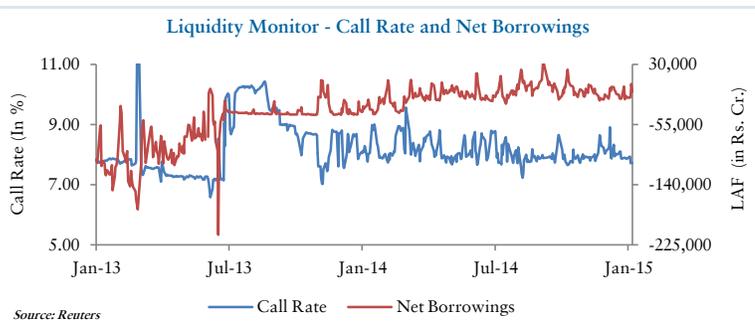


Source: Reuters



Source: Reuters

- Bond yields fell for the fifth consecutive month mainly on the back of an unexpected rate cut by the Central Bank. Continued fall in global crude oil prices and better-than-expected consumer inflation data further boosted bond prices.
- The yield on the 10-year benchmark bond fell 17 bps to close at 7.69% against the previous month's close of 7.86%, after moving in the broad range of 7.69% to 7.90% over the month.
- Bond markets remained steady in the beginning of the New Year as concerns over achieving fiscal deficit target neutralized the positive effect of rate cut hopes by the Central Bank. During the first half of the month, bond yields fell following continued decline in global crude oil prices. Besides, the Finance Minister's comments on interest rates and better-than-expected consumer inflation data increased speculation that the Central Bank may ease its monetary policy soon to support growth. Bond yields fell sharply after the Central Bank actually announced its decision to cut policy repo rate.
- The Central Bank has cut the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to 7.75%. The CRR remained unchanged at 4%. Easing of inflationary pressure has provided room to the Central Bank for a shift in the monetary policy stance.
- In the second half of the month, bond yields traded in a tight range due to absence of any major trigger. Investors booked profits after the recent rally in bond markets. Concerns over the Government's ability to meet the fiscal deficit target also weighed on investor sentiments to some extent. On the other hand, hopes of further rate cut in the monetary policy review provided support to the bond markets.
- Government data showed that CPI-based inflation rose to 5% in December from 4.38% in November, driven by higher food costs. The WPI-based inflation rose marginally to 0.11% in December from 0% in the previous month, mainly on account of an increase in prices of food items, particularly fruits. However, inflation in manufactured products, which have the highest weight on WPI, fell due to lower demand. Fuel prices also declined as global crude oil rates fell.
- Fund inflows into the debt market further boosted bond prices. FPI bought debt worth Rs. 23,068 crore in January 2015, much higher than Rs. 11,059 crore bought in the previous month and Rs. 12,356 crore in the same month of the previous year.



- During the month, interbank call money rates remained in the range of 7.71% to 8.33%. In the first half, rates remained around 8% but after the rate cut, it went below and closed around the lowest levels of the month compared to 8.91% in the previous month. Banks' net average borrowings through the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) window stood at Rs. 12,458.05 crore slightly higher than previous month's average borrowing of Rs. 11,238.55 crore. Banks' average borrowing under the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) window stood at Rs. 1,249.39 crore, against the previous month's average borrowing of Rs. 1,311.90 crore.
- The Central Bank continued to conduct term repo auctions under its revised liquidity framework to ensure that liquidity condition within the system remains comfortable. Banks are also focusing more on the term repo auctions to meet their liquidity requirements rather than approaching the LAF and MSF windows. The Central Bank conducted term repo auctions and allotted cumulatively Rs. 1,43,077 crore in January compared to Rs. 1,36,476 crore in December, for which the cut-off stood in the range of 7.76% to 8.12%. The Central Bank conducted variable repo auctions (overnight, 2, 3 and 7-day) and cumulatively allotted Rs. 1,52,375 crore, for which the cut-off stood in the range of 7.76% to 8.08%.
- The Central Bank conducted the auction of dated securities for the notified amount of Rs. 69,000 crore with no devolvement on primary dealers. The cut-off yield remained in the range of 7.65% to 8.06% during the month. The Central Bank also conducted the auction of State Development Loans (SDL) for the notified amount of Rs. 30,900 crore, for which the cut-off stood in the range of 8.05% to 8.16%. The Central Bank also conducted auctions of 91-days, 182-days and 364-days Treasury bills for an aggregate amount of Rs. 57,000 crore during the month. The cut-off yield stood in the range of 7.91% to 8.39%.
- Yields on Gilt Securities plunged across the maturities in the range of 21 bps to 36 bps. It fell the least on 10 and 14-year papers and the most on 12-year paper. Corporate Bond yields also fell sharply across the maturities in the range of 28 bps to 37 bps. It fell the least on 2-year paper and the most on 4-year paper. Spread between AAA Corporate Bond and Gilt contracted across the maturity segment in the range of 2 bps to 13 bps. The highest change was seen on 10 and 15-year papers.
- Data from the Central Bank showed that External Commercial Borrowings and Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds stood at \$0.64 billion in December compared to \$3.49 billion recorded in the previous month.

Currency

Movement of Major Currencies (Denominated in Indian Rupee)

Currency	Value(as of 31-Jan-2015)	1 Mth Ago	3 Mths Ago	1 Year Ago
INR/1 USD	61.76	63.33	61.41	62.48
INR/1 EURO	70.03	77.00	77.19	84.60
INR/1 GBP	93.13	98.58	98.06	102.95
INR/ 100 YEN	52.00	53.00	55.00	61.00

Source: RBI

Rupee Versus Dollar during the quarter



Source: RBI

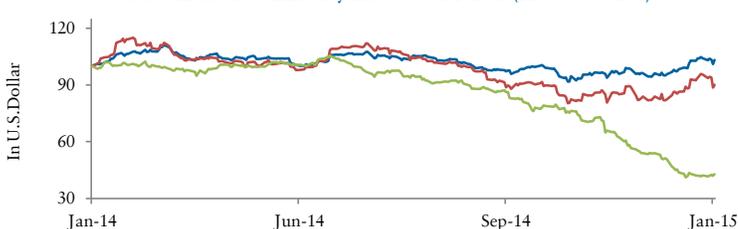
Commodity

Performance of various Commodities

Commodities	Value(as of 31-Jan-2015)	Returns (in %)			
		1 Wk Ago	1 Mth Ago	6 Mths Ago	1 Year Ago
Crude Brent (\$/Barrel)	46.92	1.80	-15.41	-55.25	-57.14
Gold (\$/Oz)	1282.80	-0.88	8.39	0.06	3.19
Gold (Rs./10 gm)	27630.00	-1.38	3.20	-0.99	-7.08
Silver (\$/Oz)	17.22	-5.64	9.96	-15.38	-9.84
Silver (Rs./Kg)	37495.00	-5.41	2.67	-15.83	-13.34

Source: Reuters, MCX

Movement of Commodity Prices Over 1 Year (Rebased to 100)



Source: Reuters

INR

- The rupee weakened initially against the dollar on concerns that the Government may fall short of its divestment target in FY15 and continued decline in global crude oil prices. However, *the trend reversed, tracking gains in domestic equity and debt markets after the Central Bank unexpectedly lowered its key policy repo rate by 25 basis points.* Dollar selling by exporters and banks also boosted the rupee. The domestic currency rose 1.86% to close at 61.86 compared to the previous month's close of 63.03.

Euro

- The euro plummeted to a more than 11-year low against the dollar *after the European Central Bank (ECB) announced a landmark bond-buying program to counter deflationary pressure and boost the stagnating Euro zone economy.* The Swiss National Bank's move to discontinue with its currency cap against the euro and concerns over the political situation in Greece also weighed on sentiments. The euro fell 6.70% to close at 1.1286 compared to the previous month's close of 1.2097.

Crude

- Oil prices fell by around 15% during the month amid persistent concerns about oversupply.* During the beginning of the month, crude prices fell after data showed that Russia's oil output touched a post-Soviet record high level in 2014. Saudi Arabia's move to cut monthly oil selling prices for European buyers and record oil production by Iraq in December also weighed on prices. Besides, lower global growth forecast by the World Bank kept oil prices under pressure. However, prices found some support after the death of Saudi Arabia's king raised concerns in the oil market.

Gold

- Gold prices rose by 8.4% during the month* as concerns over Greece's future in the Euro zone improved the safe-haven appeal of the metal. The bullion found support after demand for the yellow metal rose in China ahead of the Lunar New Year. The Swiss Central Bank's decision to discontinue with its currency ceiling and the International Monetary Fund's move to cut its global economic growth forecast for 2015 also supported the metal. Gold prices rose further after the U.S. GDP data for the fourth quarter came weak. However, gains were capped to some extent after the U.S. Federal Reserve, in its policy statement, provided a positive outlook on the U.S. economy and indicated that it would remain on track to raise interest rates this year.

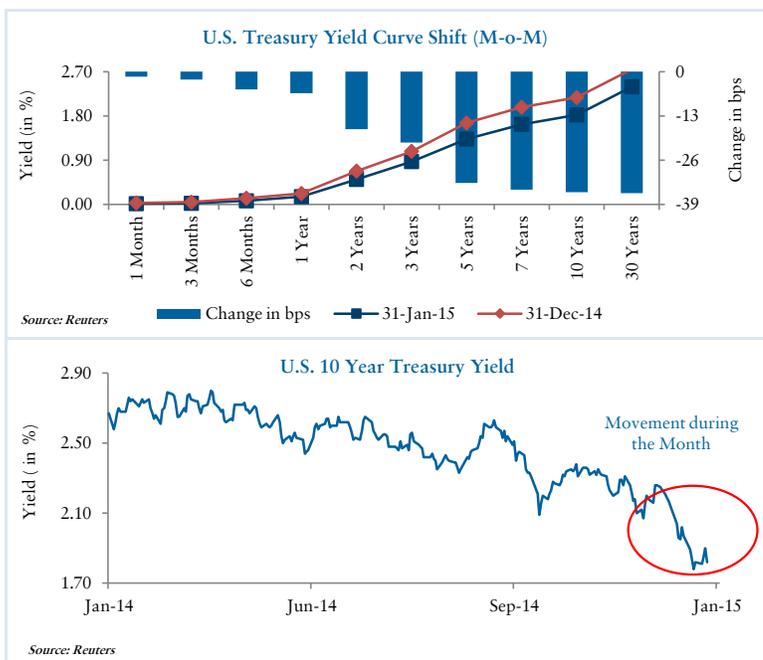
Global Equity Market

Performance of Major International Markets (as on January 31, 2015)

Indices	Country	1 Mth
United States		
Nasdaq 100	U.S.	-2.07
S&P 500	U.S.	-3.10
DJ Industrial Average	U.S.	-3.69
Asia Pacific		
SET IDX	Thailand	5.58
JSX Composite	Indonesia	1.19
FTSE Straits Times	Singapore	0.77
KOSPI	S. Korea	1.76
Hang Seng	Hong Kong	3.82
NIKKEI 225	Japan	1.28
Shanghai SE Composite	China	-0.75
S&P BSE Sensex	India	6.12
S&P/ASX 200	Australia	3.28
Europe		
FTSE 100	U.K.	2.79
CAC 40	France	7.76
FSE DAX	Germany	9.06

Source: MFI Explorer & Reuters

Global Fixed Income - U.S.



United States

- The U.S. markets remained under pressure during the month. Investor sentiments dampened initially after the U.S. job report for December showed a slowdown in wage growth despite better-than-expected jobs data. Concerns over the political situation in Greece and lower durable goods orders in December also hit the markets. Selling pressure intensified more on the back of disappointing U.S. GDP data for the fourth quarter.

Europe

- European markets exhibited strong performance during the month as the ECB announced a massive asset-purchase program to boost the region's economy. Sentiments improved after Euro zone retail sales grew more than expected in November. However, gains were capped amid concerns over Greece.

Asia

- Most of the Asian markets remained firm during the month. Better-than-expected Chinese trade data supported investor sentiments initially. Buying activities increased following the announcement of the ECB's stimulus package. However, markets witnessed pressure after the World Bank cut its global growth forecast for 2015 and 2016. Sentiments dampened further as the Bank of Japan did not announce any new measure in its policy meeting.

- After moving in the range of 1.68% to 2.12%, the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond fell 49 bps to close at 1.68% compared to the previous month's close of 2.17%.
- The U.S. Treasury prices rose initially after growth in the U.S. manufacturing sector slowed more than expected in December. The trend continued on concerns that the Euro zone economy may slip into disinflation and on the possibility that Greece may leave the Euro zone. The U.S. Treasury prices rose further and yields fell below 2% for the first time since October, 2014 as investors sought the safe-haven U.S. debt on worries over global growth amid continued fall in crude oil prices.
- The U.S. bond markets got more support after wages in the U.S. witnessed their biggest decline in at least eight years although job growth increased in December for the eleventh consecutive month.

Demystifying Valuation

Every investor wants to buy a security at the rock-bottom price and sell at the peak. While the wish may be natural for everyone, but in practice it is not always possible to time the market correctly. Those who make buy or sell decision by considering only the price level, have often been befooled when the stock scales fresh highs or hit new lows during a bull or bear rally. This highlights why a stock should be judged by its value and not by the price.

There are two major valuation parameters: Price to Book Value (PBV) and Price to Earnings (PE) that help one understand whether he is paying the right price for a stock. While PBV indicates how many times of net worth of the company is the current stock price trading, PE determines the price investors are paying for the company's earnings per share. While a low-capital intensive, high-growth company is valued on PE, capital-intensive businesses are valued on PBV. There is another ratio known as Enterprise Value/ Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EV/EBITDA), which focuses on the debt leveraging aspect across companies.

Price Earnings ratio

PE ratio of a company is the ratio of its market price per share to its earnings per share. It implies how much more investors are willing to pay for each rupee of the company's earnings. For example, if the share price of a company is Rs. 200 and its Earning per Share is Rs. 20, then its PE ratio will be 10. In other words, investors are willing to pay Rs.10 for every rupee of the company's earnings.

Price to Book Value

PBV is the ratio of the market price of a company's share to the respective company's book value per share. A low value of this ratio means that the stock is undervalued in the market and vice versa.

There can be various reasons for low PBV ratio. For example, underperformance of the management and underutilization of its resources and utilities may lead to poor earnings and poor returns on its assets and hence the Price to Book Value ratio can be low. In such cases, it is better not to invest in such an organization for the time being. However, this ratio can also be used to identify companies which have high growth potential, but are trading at lower prices.

EV/ EBITDA

Enterprise value or EV is calculated by adding the market value of equity and debt, and subtracting the cash holding as shown in the firm's book of accounts. It gives the cost of acquiring business, as the buyer needs to pay the market value of equity while purchasing the company. Since the cash with the firm acts as a cushion for the buyer, it needs to be deducted.

The value of debt has to be included while estimating the buying cost because the interest cost on debt can affect the firm's future cash flow and the principal is repayable on maturity.

The other part is the EBITDA, also known as the operating profit, which appears in the firm's income statement. EBITDA can be calculated by adding depreciation, interest cost and tax to the net earnings.

The division of EV by EBITDA estimates the number of years in which the business will repay its acquisition cost to the buyer through its earnings. For example, if one is interested in buying a firm at an EV of Rs. 500 crore and its EBITDA is Rs. 100 crore, the firm will repay its entire acquisition cost to the buyer in just five years.

Lower the EV/ EBITDA ratio, the better it is. It helps determine the true earning potential of the business. It is ideal for valuing telecommunication, cement and steel companies as these businesses carry a high debt in their balance sheets and have high gestation periods.

Debt-Equity Ratio

It is important to know how a company finances its assets, which brings debt / equity ratio into the picture. This ratio indicates what proportion of financing a company has received from debt (like bonds or loans) and equity (like the issuance of stock). Like the P/E ratio, debt-equity ratio can vary from industry to industry.

Price/earnings growth

The price/earnings growth ratio (PEG Ratio) is a slightly modified version of the P/E ratio and also takes into account earnings growth. PEG ratios can help find companies that are undervalued but growing and could gain investor attention in the near future. Like the P/E ratio, this metric is also industry specific.

Discounted Cash Flow

While the parameters discussed above mainly take into account relative valuations, fundamental valuation of a company is done through Discounted Cash Flow (DCF). DCF analysis is a method of valuation used to estimate the attractiveness of an investment opportunity. DCF analysis uses future free cash flow projections and discounts them to arrive at a present value. If the value arrived through DCF analysis is higher than the current cost of investment, it indicates good investment opportunity. DCF analysis is done to determine the intrinsic value of the company and there is no need to compare with peer sets.

Limitations of valuation parameters

It needs to be noted that these valuation metrics have their own limitations. While studying PE ratio, companies from the same industry need to be taken into consideration because growth potential varies from industry to industry. Moreover, PE ratio is based on past performance of companies, which changes with time.

Similarly, PBV indicates only the inherent value of the company and not the real value of the entity. For example, companies in the services sector may have a comparatively low PBV ratio in spite of high growth. After deriving the book value, a peer group comparison is needed.

Numbers are not Everything

Investors need to remember that qualitative metrics like robust management and transparent business practices also factor into a company's valuation. Moreover, valuations are dynamic and change with time, depending on various factors like market sentiment and sectoral preference. Thus a stock which is trading at a discount but records good earnings growth rates and scores better on operational efficiencies can be a good investment pick. Investors need to be careful about the valuation before choosing a particular stock.

Source for data, graphs and analysis, unless otherwise specified: ICRA Online Research

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