







Whether it be on purpose or by coincidence, investors also saw multiple strategists cut their year-end price targets, including:

Bank of America Managing Director Savita Subramanian cut her year-end S&P 500 target to 3,600 from 4,500 (noted 3,000-3,200 in a recession).

UBS Strategist Keith Parker cut his target to 4,150, seeing modest upside with slowing growth and no recession.

Chief Investment Strategist Michael Kantrowitz of Piper Sandler cut his year-end target to 3,400 from 4,000, believing that earnings expectations will weaken with the economic slowdown.

U.S. equities on Monday turned sharply lower after Apple (which slid more than 2% for its worst day in over 3 weeks) announced their plans to slow hiring, which added to investor worries that the Federal Reserve's campaign against inflation will ultimately send the economy into a recession. The S&P 500 finished near its worst levels of the day, with healthcare leading the decline.

## INTERNATIONAL

European equities ended off their worst level but still broadly down with the STOXX 50 down 0.8%. Euro zone Recession worries, inflation, and political instability, and depressed Chinese macro news kept indices from staging a recovery.

Based on projections from The European Commission, the Euro's rebound will be slower than expected due to the continued macroeconomic pressure of Russia's war in Ukraine and the looming threats of permanent energy deprivation as a result. Already the potential of a full halt to Russian gas has depressed previous GDP outlooks by 1.5% by some of the worst estimates. Downgrades for European earnings are expected as this larger effect filters through the economy.

The largest challenge the region faces is heating homes during the winter season if a suitable substitute for Russian gas is not secured as temperatures begin to drop. EU winter energy reserves are at historically low levels, which only provides for 46 days of normal consumption. Nord Stream 1, which was projected to be supplying 65% of total capacity before sanctions, is only supplying 40% from pre-war levels. Whether this is in retaliation for Western sanctions or due to supply difficulties originating from Russia's difficulty in maintaining their previous capacity without the aid of western specialized industrial components is not known. The pipeline is completely closed for repairs and it is unknown if and when repairs are done what the new capacity will be. Bloomberg analysts have said that even without Russia artificially disrupting pipelines a recession in the EU is inevitable.

The Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi stepped down after he tendered his resignation late on Thursday. This comes after a vote of no confidence by his parliament, a government named "The Five Star Movement". Italy has been plagued by high inflation and energy prices much like the rest of the EU after COVID-19 and fallout from Russia's invasion. However, his party boycotted Draghi's wide-ranging \$26B policy package aimed at helping Italian families cope with soaring inflation. He threatened to resign if he was unable to secure support for his bill, which required additional borrowing on top of already high Italian debt level. As of Thursday, he has officially followed through with his threat leaving this country without a prime minister for the time being. Without the approval of the budget, Italy is unable to access the \$200B COVID-19 recovery fund set up by the EU.

The spread between 10-year Italian government bonds and their German counterparts has soared past 200bps, a higher spread than was thought possible, because of this upheaval, which may put additional pressure on the European Central Bank (ECB) to become more aggressive in their hiking. The ECB is expected to continue to hike rates to combat inflation with a 25bps hike expected next Thursday.

**AP** India and Japan see increased case numbers with both markets reporting losses for the week.

China has confirmed 580 locally transmitted cases of COVID, which is the highest number of daily infections in the last two months during the local waves. Most cases were focused in Lanzhou in the Gansu district, which is in the Western mainland region of China sharing a border with Mongolia. In response, the regional government announced an extension of its temporary lockdowns to July 24th. Entertainment business such as bars and karaoke sites are to remain closed, and capacity limits are to be enforced at restaurants, cinemas, and gyms. Shanghai has reported the first case during the lockdown that was found to be outside the local quarantine zone. City health officials have stated the situation remains relatively stable.

In Japan, Kyodo News reported that case numbers have topped 110,000 for the first time since their previous record of 104,000 cases, amid their seventh wave of COVID. Friday the government, along with urging citizens to be vaccinated and tested, made clear that existing medical capacity is sufficient to handle increased demand of this current wave.

Severe cases are approximately one in every 1000 new cases, which is a distinct difference from previous waves when this was ten times more than current levels. The government has stated they are not considering restricting people's movements and they will seek to balance potential disruptions of socioeconomic activities with any new measures to keep the infections in check.

