

# Market Comment | European markets extend gains ahead of the ECB meeting

Global Financial Markets Unit  
20 Apr 2016

- **Positive existing home sales data in the US.** In the US existing home sales increased by more than expected in March (to 5.33M from 5.07M; consensus: 5.30M) reflecting the improvement in the housing market.
- **Turkey's Central Bank cuts interest rate.** The new governor of Turkey's Central Bank started his mandate with a cut in the overnight lending rate by 50 bps to 10.0%. This decision was taken due mainly to the slowdown in inflation. Meanwhile, the one-week repo rate and the overnight borrowing rate remain unchanged at 7.5% and 7.25% respectively.
- **BoE official maintains dovish tone.** Mr. McCafferty argued that no immediate increase in interest rates is needed; he prefers to wait to see "dissipation of the external forces holding down headline inflation, or renewed wage growth" before hiking rates. He also stated that the upward trend in interest rates would be a slower path than in the previous cycle.
- **In a session with no significant macroeconomic data releases, high volatility in Chinese financial markets was not enough to derail the recent positive market mood ahead of tomorrow's ECB meeting.** The main Chinese indices had been falling during the day, reaching 4.0% in a very volatile session, but in the end they partly recovered previous losses (Shanghai: -2.3% Shenzhen: -4.4%). This sharp reversal may have been influenced by the words of Jun Ma, Chief Economist with the PBoC, who said that the improvement shown by the latest macroeconomic data could lead to a slower pace in the implementation of new easing measures. Additionally, technical factors may have been another dragger today - investors may have been taking their profits after the recent sharp recovery. Despite the poor performance in China, the European equity indices held their positive mood, particularly Ibex, boosted by the banking sector (Eurostoxx: +1.0% IBEX: +2.1% DAX: +0.7% CAC: +0.6% MIB: +1.2%). Meanwhile, the US remained almost unchanged at the time of writing. Oil prices fluctuated, in line with the volatile context expected after the disappointing outcome of the Doha meeting. Early in the session oil prices fell after Kuwait's oil workers ended their strike, but they recovered later after US inventories proved lower than expected (Brent: +0.8% Wtx: +0.4%). In bond markets, European yields remained unchanged ahead of tomorrow's ECB meeting, in which we do not expect changes after last month's measures and the slight easing of uncertainty and volatility in the financial markets. However, the central bank could retain its dovish communication and reiterate its commitment to the full implementation of its measures and its readiness to do more if needed. In the same vein, US treasury yields remained stable. On FX markets, the USD appreciated slightly against other major currencies (EUR: -0.26% GBP: -0.13% JPY: -0.17%). EM currencies showed a mixed performance against the US dollar (RUB: +0.5% BRL: -0.3% CLP: +0.2% MXN: +0.2% COP: 0%). The Turkish lira appreciated (+ 0.7%) despite the interest rate cut. On the other hand, investors welcomed Argentina's return to global markets. The Argentine government issued USD16.5 billion in international markets to settle debt with holdouts, resume the payments of the restructured debt and finance part of the fiscal deficit. The orders reached USD 70bn. The treasury

issued bonds at different maturities (3, 5, 10 and 30 years) with coupons ranging from 6.25% to 8%. This is the largest issue made by an emerging country and marks the return of Argentina to the international capital markets.

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Table 1

**Current level and changes at daily, weekly, monthly and annual frequencies**

**Index markets (changes in bp)**

**Equity Index**

US Dow	377 (1) (2) (4) (32)
US S&P	125 (0) (1) (1) (42)
US 10yr	78 (1) (1) (1) (4) (49)

**Asia**

Nikkei	109 (2) (1) (1) (4) (49)
CSI 300	454 (6) (1) (1) (4) (49)
HSI	407 (1) (1) (1) (1) (32)
SEI	19 (1) (1) (1) (1) (44)

**Europe**

FTSE 100	54 (2) (2) (2) (4) (43)
France	109 (4) (2) (2) (4) (42)
Germany	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Italy	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Spain	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
UK	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Russia	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Poland	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Czech	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Hungary	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Slovak	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)

**Emerging Markets**

China	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
India	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Brazil	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Mexico	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Russia	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)
Turkey	109 (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)

**Country risk (changes in bp)**

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

Denmark	29 (0) (0) (0) (0)
France	34 (0) (1) (1) (2)
Germany	102 (1) (4) (8) (14)
Ireland	70 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Italy	24 (1) (2) (2) (2)
Netherlands	28 (0) (2) (2) (2)
Poland	29 (0) (1) (1) (2) (10)
Spain	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)

**Low-risk (against Germany)**

Denmark	7 (0) (2) (2) (1) (1)
France	14 (0) (0) (1) (1)
Germany	100 (0) (1) (1) (1) (2)
Ireland	40 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Italy	11 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Netherlands	1 (1) (1) (1) (1) (2)
Poland	29 (0) (1) (1) (1) (2)
Spain	78 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

Denmark	4 (0) (1) (1) (1)
France	9 (0) (1) (1) (1)
Germany	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
Ireland	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Netherlands	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Poland	19 (0) (1) (1) (1) (1)
Spain	48 (1) (1) (1) (1)

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

Denmark	5 (1) (1) (1) (1)
France	7 (0) (1) (1) (1)
Germany	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
Ireland	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Italy	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Netherlands	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Poland	19 (0) (1) (1) (1) (1)
Spain	48 (1) (1) (1) (1)

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

Denmark	4 (0) (1) (1) (1)
France	9 (0) (1) (1) (1)
Germany	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
Ireland	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Italy	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Netherlands	1 (1) (1) (1) (1)
Poland	19 (0) (1) (1) (1) (1)
Spain	48 (1) (1) (1) (1)

**Index risk**

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

VIX	12 (2) (2) (2) (4) (17) (45)
WTI	47 (1) (1) (1) (1) (1)
EUR	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
USD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
GBP	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
JPY	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
RUB	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
INR	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
BRL	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
MEX	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
TRY	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
PLN	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
CZK	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
HUF	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
SKK	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
SEK	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
NOK	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
DKK	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
CHF	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
SGD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
HKD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
TWD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
THB	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
MYR	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
PHP	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
IDR	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
SGD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
HKD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
TWD	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
THB	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
MYR	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
PHP	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)
IDR	100 (0) (1) (1) (1)

**Index risk (changes in percentage)**

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

US Dow	377 (1) (2) (4) (32)
US S&P	125 (0) (1) (1) (1) (42)
US 10yr	78 (1) (1) (1) (1) (4) (49)

**Asia**

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Turkey	109 (2) (2) (2) (2) (4) (39)

**Stock markets (changes in percentage)**

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

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**Commodities (in percentage, positive for dollar depreciation)**

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

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**Commodities (change in percentage)**

**Very low-risk (against Germany)**

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\*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay

\*\*Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

\*\*\*S&P GSCI with one day delay

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