

# Market Comment | Lacklustre economic data weighed on equity markets

Global Financial Markets Unit  
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- **Mixed data in the US, with private sector employment softening and the service sector improving.** ADP employment data surprised negatively in April, increasing by less than estimates (by 156K; consensus: 195K). On another front, factory orders surged in March above estimates (by 1.1% MoM; consensus: 0.6%), while durable goods orders rose in line with expectations (by 0.8%) and durables ex transportation fell by more than expected (by -0.2% MoM; consensus: -0.1%). In addition, the ISM non-manufacturing composite index improved in April (to 55.7 points from 54.5; consensus: 54.8). Meanwhile, the trade deficit decreased in March, surprising positively (to USD-40.4bn from USD-47.0bn; consensus: USD-41.2bn).
- **Euro zone composite PMI final data showed a slight decrease in April** in line with estimates (by 0.1 points to 53.0) while services remained unchanged (at 53.1 points; BBVAe and consensus: 53.2). By country, Germany's composite and services PMI final data dropped by more than expected (Composite: by 0.4 points to 53.6; BBVAe and consensus: 53.8; Services: by 0.6 points to 54.5; BBVAe and consensus: 54.6). In France, composite PMI rose by less than estimates (by 0.2 points to 50.2; BBVAe and consensus: 50.5) due to the smaller-than-expected improvement in services data, although at least it stopped contracting (to 50.6 from 49.9; BBVAe and consensus: 50.8). Meanwhile the Spanish composite rose unexpectedly (by 0.1 to 55.2; consensus: 54.8), while services declined (by 0.2 to 55.1; consensus: 55.0). Italian services increased by more than estimates (by 0.9 points to 52.1; consensus: 51.9).
- **Lacklustre economic data weighed on equity markets.** The worries about global growth persisted today, after the worse-than-expected ADP employment data in the US ahead of this week's payrolls release. Meanwhile, in Europe, final April PMI slightly decreased from March levels. Oil prices suffered high volatility and finally declined due to the larger-than-expected inventories data in the US (Brent: -0.4% Wtx: -0.1%). Moreover, media reports stated that OPEC was heading for its June meeting with no plan to freeze output. Corporate earnings released today were mixed, and although several companies beat market expectations the general picture suggests weak earnings, and this weighed on equity markets, which extended their falls (Euro Stoxx: -1.3% IBEX: -1.3% DAX: -1.1% CAC: -1.2% S&P: -0.7%), except for Japanese markets which were closed for Greenery Day. Performances among sectors were mixed, with no clear distinction between cyclical and defensive sectors. Sovereign bond markets were broadly steady today, with safe-haven yields remaining almost unchanged after yesterday's falls. However, the increase in the cyclical risk premium weighed on peripherals, with their yields inching up, led by Portugal (ITA 10Y: +3 bps SPA 10Y: +2 bps POR 10Y: +5 bps). In FX markets, the USD rebounded slightly against its major peers (JPY: -0.4% GBP: -0.39%) after reaching a low against the yen yesterday (106.4). EM currencies depreciated against the US dollar, with the exception of the Brazilian real (RUB: -0.1% BRL: +0.7% CLP: -0.3% COP: -0.8% MXN: -0.6%) caused by the strength of the US dollar. Gold fell from the high level reached yesterday (-0.5%) and copper also fell (-1.1%).

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Table 1







\*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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