

Market Comment | Oil prices breach \$50 pb in the day but trim gains later

Global Financial Markets Unit
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- **Positive macroeconomic data in the US.** US jobless claims dropped by more than expected in the week ended 21 May (268K; consensus: 275K, previous: 278K). On another front, durable goods orders preliminary data showed a surge in April (by 3.4% MoM; consensus: 0.5%), while ex transportation also rose (by 0.4% MoM; consensus: 0.3%). In addition, pending home sales rose sharply above estimates in April (by 5.1% MoM; consensus: 0.7%). Atlanta Fed GDP “nowcast” confirmed the positive economic data and pointed to 2.9% growth in 2Q16, increasing from 2.5% forecast on May 17
- **Spanish GDP final data confirmed the stabilisation in economic growth**, which was 0.8% QoQ in 1Q16, as expected. This increase was supported mainly by the improvement in domestic demand (+1.0% QoQ) and despite the deterioration in foreign demand (-0.28% QoQ). ([see](#))
- **Bullard welcomed the realignment of market outlook with FOMC’s forecast.** Fed member James Bullard considers that the minutes helped investors to see the probability of a rate hike in June, which before the minutes they were completely excluding. He also insisted that the Fed path depends of macroeconomic data, "I'm keeping an open mind, I want to look at the data as it's available at the meeting," he said. As regards Brexit, he thinks that it is not a determinant issue for the FOMC, "I do not think Brexit is the global financial event that it's being made out to be," he added.
- **Oil prices breach \$50 pb in the day but trim.** Oil prices breached the US\$50 pb threshold during the session - reaching the highest level in seven months - underpinned by the better-than-expected US inventories data released this week, which helped to dissipate partially the concerns about global supply. This increase in oil price was one of the main drivers in financial markets, allowing main assets to maintain their current upward trend. European equity markets increased across the board, driven by the energy and basic resources sectors (EuroStoxx: +0.3%, IBEX: -0.5%, DAX: +0.7%, CAC: +0.7%). The exceptions were those indices in which the banking sector is high-weighted, especially IBEX 35 where the announcement of the increase of capital in a medium-size bank caused a sharp drop in its price (around 20%) and dragged the sector. The US indices remained almost unchanged despite the better-than-expected macroeconomic data, suggesting profit-taking. On bond markets, the US sovereign yield curve declined across all tenors, led by shorter tranches (2Y: -4 bps, 10Y: -3 bps) awaiting tomorrow's speech by Janet Yellen - investors are expecting her monetary policy comments to include mention of a possible rate-hike in June or July. Meanwhile, European peripheral yields increased (ITA 10Y: +1 bp, SPA 10Y: +2 bps, POR 10Y: +5 bps, GRE 10Y: +6 bps) dragged down by IMF comments about the agreement between Greece and the Eurogroup. The IMF considers that the measures are still insufficient to transform the current country debt into a sustainable debt burden. In FX, the USD depreciated against other major currencies with the exception of the British pound, which depreciated after yesterday's movements (EUR: +0.25%, JPY: +0.36% GBP: -0.12%). EM currencies appreciated against the US dollar, with some exceptions such as the Russian Ruble (RUB: -0.3%, CLP: +0.8%, COP: +0.3%, MXN: +0.2%) underpinned by commodity prices (Brent: +0.3% Wtx: +0.2% Copper: +0.6%).

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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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