

Market Comment | Positive tone in financial markets amid Fed interest rate bets

Global Financial Markets Unit
08 Aug 2016

- **Positive tone in the financial markets** ahead of important economic indicators to be published this week, both in Europe and China. UK Manufacturing production and German GDP 2Q will help to gauge the impact of Brexit on the European economy. On the other hand, the disappointing trade data from China with both lower-than-expected exports (-4.4%, consensus -3.0%, prior -4.8%) and imports (-12.5%, consensus -7%, prior -8.4%), suggest cooling domestic demand. Nonetheless, last Friday's encouraging US employment data allowed a positive beginning of the week in markets and also increased the probability of Fed's rate-hike in its September meeting (from 20% to 28%).
- Positive mood was also present in **oil prices trend (+2.4%), benefiting from rumours regarding the possibility of OPEC's meeting informally next month** - amid glut concerns and low oil prices - thereby renewing hopes for an agreement among exporters to freeze output.
- Against this backdrop, **global stocks rose across the board, with US equities hovering around historical record highs** (S&P: -0.1% at 2180.9). The Nikkei outperformed (+2.4%), propped up by the yen's depreciation, while European indices rose modestly (EuroStoxx +0.3%, Dax +0.6%) led by European banks - continuing the ongoing recovery after the recent sell-off.
- **Government bond yields showed no significant changes** (10Y US -1bps, GER 0 bps). EZ peripheral premiums decreased (ITA -2 bps, SPA -3 bps), and the Spanish Government Bond yield went below 1%, setting a new record low. The UK Government bond, which continued the downward pressure in yield (-6 bps) shored up by BoE's measures announced last week, while at the same time sterling corporate bonds renewed their historically lowest yields.
- **The USD appreciated against its main peers** (GBP -1.06%, EUR -0.06%, JPY -0.72%), due to renewed bets on a US interest rate hike. EM currencies (TRY +0.5%, COP +1.6%, CLP +0.5%, MXN +1%) appreciated, triggered by the recovery in oil prices.

Update 17.45 CET 08 August, 2016
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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