

# Daily 12 March 2018

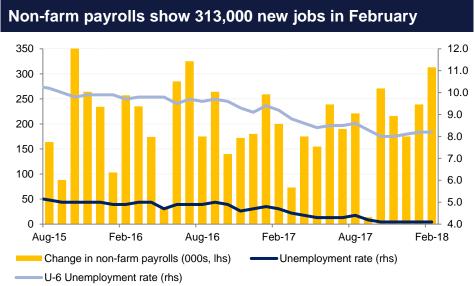
# **Daily Outlook**

US non-farm payrolls increased the most in a year-and-a-half last month, with 313k new jobs added; much higher than the consensus forecast of 200k. The December and January employment numbers were also revised higher by a cumulative 54k. The increase in jobs last month was broad-based, with retail, construction, manufacturing and professional services sectors all posting strong increases. The unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1% as the labour force participation rate increased to a five-month high of 63.0%. Importantly, despite the sharp rise in the headline employment figure, average hourly earnings growth slowed to 0.1% m/m (2.6% y/y) from 0.3% m/m (2.8% y/y) in January, easing fears that the Fed is behind the curve in terms of rate hikes. February's inflation reading (due tomorrow) will be the next key indicator for Fed watchers.

President Trump finally signed off on steel and aluminium import tariffs on Thursday but the policy was more flexible than had been feared, with Canada and Mexico exempted pending the outcome of the NAFTA negotiations, and the door left open for other countries, and specific products, to be exempted as well.

The ECB removed the 'loosening' bias from its monetary policy statement last Thursday, in another gradual step towards monetary policy normalisation. Nevertheless, the ECB indicated that asset purchases of EUR30bn per month would continue until at least September, and possibly beyond then, depending on inflation data. Overall, the ECB was upbeat about growth prospects, revising its GDP forecast for 2018 up slightly to 2.4% (from 2.3% previously), with risks to the outlook deemed to be balanced. However, President Draghi highlighted the downside risk to growth from increased protectionism.

**Finally, China's parliament yesterday voted to repeal presidential term limits** that had been enshrined in the constitution, opening the way for President Xi to remain in power indefinitely.



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

## Day's Economic Data and Events

	Time	Cons		Time	Cons
India CPI y/y	16:00	4.74%	US Monthly Budget Statement	22:00	-\$216.0b
India Industrial Production y/y	16:00	6.4%			

Source: Bloomberg

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#### **Fixed Income**

US treasuries closed lower and the curve steepened after non-farm payrolls data for February came in stronger than expected. Yields on the 2y USTs, 5y USTs and 10y USTs ended the week at 2.25% (+2bps 5d), 2.65% (+2bps 5d) and 2.89% (+3 bps 5d) respectively.

Following the Italian election which threw up a hung parliament, yield on the 10y Italian government bonds rose +4bps 5d to close at 2.0%. In contrast, yield on the 10y bunds closed flat at 0.648%.

In the EM space, Moody's downgraded the long-term ratings of 14 Turkish banks and affirmed the ratings of 3 other Turkish banks. The outlook on 12 banks was changed to stable from negative whilst the outlook on 5 other banks remained negative. This follows the rating downgrade of the sovereign Turkey to Ba2 from Ba1.

Regional bonds continued to drift lower in line with the move in benchmark yields. A flurry of new issues last week also added to the pressure. On an aggregate level, USD 2bn was raised last week by banks (USD 1bn) and Emirate of Sharjah (USD 1bn). The YTW on the Bloomberg Barclays GCC Credit and High Yield index rose +2bps 5d to 4.20% and credit spreads tightened by 1 bp to 158 bps.

#### FX

Despite constructive employment reports (see macro), the dollar finished Friday on a softer note, the Dollar Index closing 0.1% lower at 90.093. The index had traded as high as 90.357, but appears have faced significant selling pressure at every attempt to challenge the 50 day moving average (90.253). Should we see a daily close above this 50 day moving average, we can expect further towards the 23.6% one year Fibonacci retracement of 91.493. On the other hand, a break below 89.70 (the supporting baseline of the 23 hour candle chart that has been intact since February 16<sup>th</sup>) is likely to catalyse further declines towards the 38.2% five year Fibonacci retracement of 88.42, a level which has provided support on multiple occasions in 2018. Should this level falter, a larger decline towards 85 remains a significant risk.

#### **Equities**

Regional markets closed higher with the DFM index adding +1.0% and the Tadawul gaining +1.8%. Emirates NBD (+13.6% 5d) led the gains on the DFM after the bank sought shareholders' approval to raise the foreign ownership limit to 20% from 5%. The bank also plans to raise capital by AED 7.35bn by issuing new shares at no less than 10% discount to the market price.

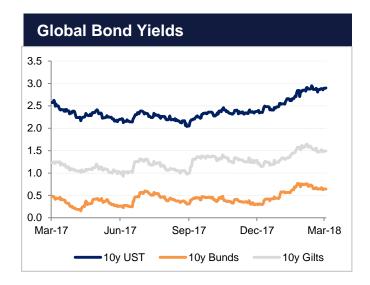
#### **Commodities**

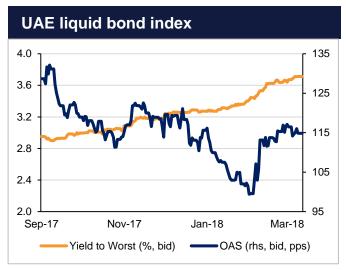
Oil prices ended the week in positive territory with Brent and WTI adding +1.7% 5d and +1.3% 5d respectively. However, that was primarily on the back of sharp gains on Friday when WTI rallied +3.2% and Brent gained +3.0%. The strength can be attributed to a broad risk-on environment helped by strong economic data from the US.

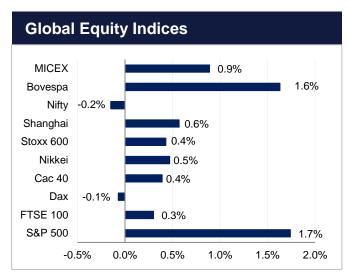
The Bloomberg Base Metals Spot Price Commodity index ended last week with losses of -2.4% as the US President formally ratified import tariffs of 10% on Aluminium and 25% on Steel. This was third consecutive week of losses for the index.

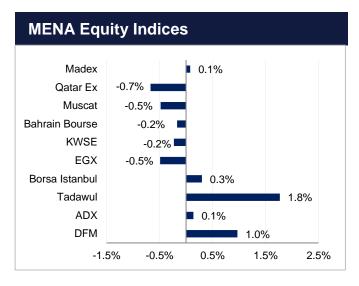


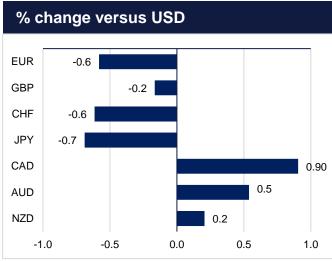
#### **Markets in Charts**

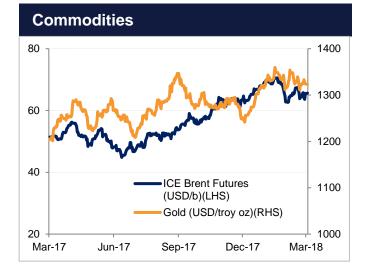












Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Currencies										
	Close	%1D chg	1 yr fwd		Close	%1D chg		Close	%1D chg	
EURUSD	1.2307	-0.58	1.2678	USDTRY	3.8125	-0.01	EURAED	4.5158	-0.68	
GBPUSD	1.3850	-0.17	1.4079	USDEGP	17.6168	-0.03	GBPAED	5.0739	-0.43	
USDJPY	106.82	+0.71	103.89	USDSAR	3.7504		JPYAED	0.0344	-0.65	
USDCAD	1.2812	-0.89	1.2730	USDQAR	3.6800	+0.57	CADAED	2.8535	+0.43	
AUDUSD	0.7844	+0.54	0.7867	USDKWD	0.3004	+0.09	AUDAED	2.8661	+0.01	
USDCHF	0.9513	+0.61	0.9199	USDBHD	0.3770		CHFAED	3.8650	-0.50	
EURGBP	0.8886	-0.41	0.9005	USDOMR	0.3850	+0.00	TRYAED	0.9600	-0.35	
USDAED	3.6729	-0.00	3.6764	USDINR	65.1675	+0.03	INRAED	0.0564	-0.07	

Rates							
Interbank	1 mo	3 mo	6 mo	1 yr	Swaps	Close	1D chg (bps)
EIBOR	1.7008	2.0620	2.2928	2.6630	USD 2 yr	2.556	+1
USD LIBOR	1.7503	2.0888	2.2686	2.5445	USD 5 yr	2.776	+1
GBP LIBOR	0.4999	0.6013	0.7026	0.9168	USD 10 yr	2.908	+1
JPY LIBOR	-0.0835	-0.0563	0.0162	0.1112	EUR 2 yr	-0.124	-0
CHF LIBOR	-0.8097	-0.7420	-0.6590	-0.5298	EUR 5 yr	0.461	-1
					EUR 10 yr	1.075	-2

Commodities & Fixed Income									
Commodities	Close	%1D chg	Bonds/Sukuk	YTM	1D chg (bps)	CDS	Close	1D chg (bps)	
Gold	1323.93	+0.15	ADGB 6.75 19	2.42		Abu Dhabi	55	-1	
Silver	16.48	-0.03	DUGB 7.75 20	3.10	-0	Dubai	96	-1	
Oil (WTI)	62.04	+3.19	QATAR 6.55 19	2.68	+1	Qatar	81	-1	
Aluminium	2099.75	+0.68	US Tsy 2 yr	2.26	+1	Saudi Arabia	76	-2	
Copper	6937.50	+2.03	US Tsy 10 yr	2.89	+4	Bahrain	238	-4	

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



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