

Daily 23 August 2017

Daily Outlook

The German ZEW's Assessment of the Current Situation improved to 86.7 in August from 86.4 the previous month, against the market consensus for a drop back to 85.2. However, in the same period, the ZEW Expectations component fell to 10.0 from 17.5, worse than the expected. German investor confidence has now declined for three consecutive months amid concerns that the strengthening euro will dampen export prospects and weigh down on the Eurozone's largest economy. The same measure for expectations in the Eurozone declined to 29.3 from 35.6 which may also be attributed to the 12% appreciation of EURUSD in 2017 and recent geopolitical uncertainty.

According to a report from the UK's Office for National Statistics, the UK posted a budget surplus of GBP 184m in July compared with expectations for a deficit of GBP 1bn. The surplus is a result of the Treasury benefitting from higher than expected income tax receipts thanks to an 11% y/y increase in self-assessed receipts as well as a 5% y/y rise in VAT revenue. It is noteworthy that this is the first July in 15 years that there has been a budget surplus. The same report showed that downside risks to the economy remain, as a result of reduced spending and debt costs rising 23% year to date for the fiscal year, the largest increase since 2010.

Saudi Arabia plans to transfer ownership of all its airports to the Public Investment Fund, the kingdom's principal sovereign wealth fund. A Saudi official with the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) was quoted saying companies will be set up for each airport under Saudi Civil Aviation Holding, a spin-off from the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), which will continue to regulate the industry. The official added that a company had already been established for Dammam's main airport, while Singapore's Changi Airport Group would start managing the expanded King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah which would start operating in the second half of 2018. The airport privatization drive comes under the umbrella of a wider economic reform program needed to support the kingdom's long term economic diversification vision. The privatization push will culminate with the IPO of Saudi Aramco sometime next year, expected to be the biggest IPO in history.



Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research.

Day's Economic Data and Events

	Time	Cons		Time	Cons
Eurozone Composite PMI	12.30	55.5	US New Home Sales	18:00	610k
US Composite PMI	13:00	N/A	EZ Consumer Conf.	18:00	-1.8

Source: Bloomberg



Fixed Income

US Treasuries ended the day lower as political risk premium reduced and the focus shifted to a possible tax reform. The yields were higher by 2-3 bps across the curve with 2y USTs yielding 1.32% (+2 bps), 5y USTs 1.78% (+3 bps) and 10y USTs 2.21% (+3 bps).

There was limited impact of rising UST yields on regional bonds. The yield on the Bloomberg Barclays GCC Credit and High Yield index remained flat at 3.47% and credit spreads tightened 3 bps to 166 bps. It appears that the recent strength in oil prices has boosted investor sentiment.

Moody's downgraded the long-term local currency rating of five Tunisian banks including Arab Tunisian Bank (B1 from Ba3), Banque Internationale Arabe de Tunisie (B1 from Ba3), Banque de Tunisie (B1 from Ba3), Amen Bank (B2 from B1) and Societe Tunisienne de Banque (B2 from B1). This follows the rating downgrade of Tunisia to B1 negative from Ba3 negative.

Elsewhere, the Egyptian central bank governor said that most of the Egypt's USD 13bn obligations maturing in 2018 will be rolled over or extended. However, he added that anywhere between USD 4bn to USD 5bn could be repaid.

FX

Sterling has underperformed, depreciating against the other G-10 currencies over the course of yesterday, despite the UK posting its first July budget surplus in 15 years (see macro). Sentiment stayed sour on Sterling after the same report showed that spending remains under pressure and investors remained concerned over how long it will take the U.K. to cement post-Brexit trade agreements with the European Union.

Of technical importance is the GBPUSD breaking below the 100 day moving average (1.2879) which had held as a support for the previous five trading days. Furthermore, the latest move confirms a break below the baseline of the former daily uptrend that had been in effect since 15 March 2017 and paves the way for further declines towards the 200 day MA of 1.2648.

Equities

Developed market equities closed higher as political risk premium reduced. The S&P 500 index and Euro Stoxx 600 index added +1.0% and +0.8% respectively.

Regional equities closed mixed. Both the Tadawul (+0.4%) and KWSE index (+0.3%) continued their positive run as investors' added position ahead of a possible upgrade in the FTSE indices. However, volumes continued to remain low.

Commodities

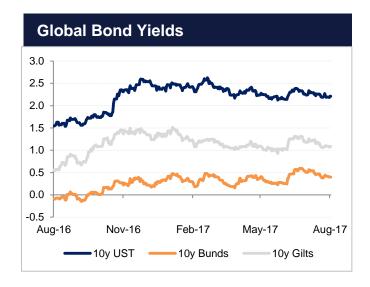
Oil markets moved in a listless direction overnight, failing to make up Monday's steep decline. Brent settled at USD 51.87/b and WTI at USD 47.64/b. The market is largely devoid of fundamental news with supply issues from Libya the only major catalyst to shape flows. The Sharara field, Libya's largest, has been opened and shut several times over the past week as pipelines are blocked by protesters.

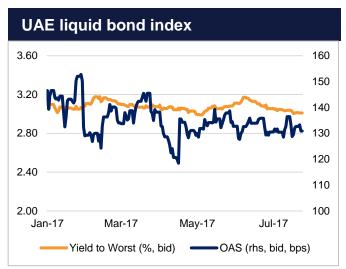
Data from the API estimated US crude inventories fell 3.6m bbl last week, roughly in line with market expectations. The API also estimated a decline in refinery demand while an increase in gasoline stocks of 1.4m bbl may signal the end of driving season is upon us.

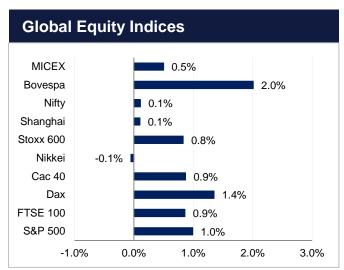
A moderate push higher in the USD helped weigh on commodities generally with all the precious metals losing ground and a generally negative performance from the LME complex. Iron ore futures were up 0.7% but are reportedly down sharply this morning in Asia trade.

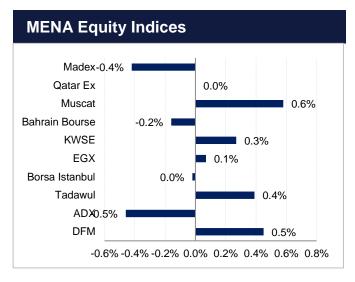


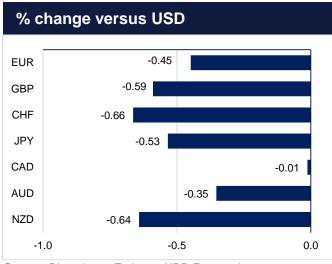
Markets in Charts

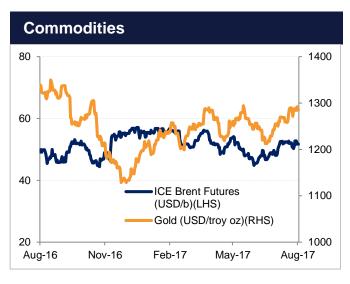












Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Currencies									
	Close	%1D chg	1 yr fwd		Close	%1D chg		Close	%1D chg
EURUSD	1.1762	-0.45	1.2008	USDTRY	3.4949	-0.04	EURAED	4.3200	-0.45
GBPUSD	1.2824	-0.59	1.2983	USDEGP	17.7335	-0.09	GBPAED	4.7102	-0.58
USDJPY	109.57	+0.54	107.42	USDSAR	3.7502		JPYAED	0.0335	-0.53
USDCAD	1.2565	+0.06	1.2531	USDQAR	3.6700		CADAED	2.9238	-0.04
AUDUSD	0.7911	-0.35	0.7874	USDKWD	0.3019	+0.01	AUDAED	2.9060	-0.36
USDCHF	0.9681	+0.64	0.9444	USDBHD	0.3771		CHFAED	3.7932	-0.66
EURGBP	0.9172	+0.13	0.9250	USDOMR	0.3850	-0.01	TRYAED	1.0500	-0.05
USDAED	3.6730		3.6805	USDINR	64.0875	-0.08	INRAED	0.0573	+0.16

Rates							
Interbank	1 mo	3mo	6 mo	1 yr	Swaps	Close	1D chg (bps)
EIBOR	1.3080	1.5345	1.7590	2.1292	USD 2 yr	1.583	+2
USD LIBOR	1.2361	1.3172	1.4561	1.7273	USD 5 yr	1.843	+3
GBP LIBOR	0.2513	0.2815	0.4051	0.5943	USD 10 yr	2.156	+3
JPY LIBOR	-0.0316	-0.0294	-0.0069	0.1131	EUR 2 yr	-0.179	+0
CHF LIBOR	-0.7838	-0.7262	-0.6512	-0.5024	EUR 5 yr	0.190	+1
					EUR 10 yr	0.816	+1

Commodities & Fixed Income									
Commodities	Close	%1D chg	Bonds/Sukuk	YTM	1D chg (bps)	CDS	Close	1D chg (bps)	
Gold	1285.08	-0.53	ADGB 6.75 19	1.76	+1	Abu Dhabi	56	-2	
Silver	17.04	+0.14	DUGB 7.75 20	2.56	+1	Dubai	115	-5	
Oil (WTI)	47.64	+0.57	QATAR 6.55 19	2.14	-1	Qatar	94	-	
Aluminium	2086.50	-0.13	US Tsy 2 yr	1.32	+2	Saudi Arabia	91	-1	
Copper	6547.25	-0.06	US Tsy 10 yr	2.21	+3	Bahrain	235	+1	

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



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