

Daily 2 October 2017

Daily Outlook

Weekend violence in Spain's Catalonia region over an unofficial referendum for independence is making the headlines this morning causing the EUR to struggle. Catalan separatist leaders may declare independence later this week as a result of the vote, which saw 2 million out of 5 million eligible voters support independence although it is unclear what legal basis such a declaration would have. However, it would put the Spanish government and the EU in a quandary about how to react, with the attempt to suppress the referendum playing into the opposition hands by threatening to extend the uncertainty and raising doubts about the authority of the national government. The main focus this week will be US jobs data at the end of the week, although these are likely to have been impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and may not give a clear picture about growth. Expectations of a US rate hike before the end of the year have risen to 70%, although inflation remains subdued as shown by the dip in the underlying core PCE deflator to 1.3% in August.

Saudi GDP contracted -1.0% y/y in Q2 2017, down from -0.5% y/y in Q1 2017 and +0.9% y/y in Q2 2016. The main driver was a -2.4% decline in oil sector GDP, which was expected given Saudi Arabia's compliance with the OPEC production cuts agreed in November 2016. Of greater interest is the acceleration in non-oil GDP in Q2 2017, which reached 0.8% y/y up from 0.5% in Q1. Financial services grew 1.9% y/y last quarter while manufacturing and utilities expanded 1.6% y/y and 1.1% y/y respectively. We expect non-oil growth to gain momentum in H2 2017.

Kuwait has been added to the FTSE Russell Emerging Market Index, which could trigger inflows estimated between USD 600-800mn to Kuwait's equity market. Kuwait is expected to account for 0.5% of the index. Saudi Arabia was not included in the index on Friday, but will be assessed again in March 2018.

Saudi GDP growth falls further in Q2 (% q/q) 16 14 12 10 8 6 4 -2 Mar-11 Mar-12 Mar-13 Mar-14 Mar-15 Mar-16 Mar-17

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research

Day's Economic Data and Events

	Time	Cons		Time	Cons
Markit Eurozone Manuf. PMI	12:00	58.2	Markit US Manuf. PMI	17:45	53.0
Markit UK PMI Manufacturing	12:30	56.2	ISM Manufacturing	18:00	58.0
EZ Unemployment Rate	13:00	9.0%			

Source: Bloombero



Fixed Income

Hawkish comments from Federal Reserve Chair, Janet Yellen and supportive economic data out of the US shifted the yield curve on US treasuries upwards with 2yr and 10yr UST yields closing the week at 1.48% (+6bps) and 2.33% (+11bps) respectively. Central banks from the Euro Zone and the UK also appear to be committed to halting their easing bias. Yields on 10yr Gilts and Bunds rose in tandem with USTs, closing the week at 1.36% (+3bps) and 0.46% (+6bps) respectively.

Regional GCC bonds suffered from increasing expectations of a rate hike in the US. Average yield on Barclays GCC bond index rose 6bps to 3.37% even though average credit spreads were narrower by 5bps to 133bps. Shorter dated bonds, including the perpetuals which mostly have call dates between 2018 and 2020, were the main losers. Yields on perpetual securities from FAB, ADIB, GMSEDU, DIB MAF etc widened between 15 to 20bps during the week. That said, high yield bonds such as DARALA, TPZMAR, BHRAIN curve etc outperformed their investment grade counterparts. On the positive front, Dubai Aerospace continued to be well sought by local investors with yield on DUBAEE 22s tightening another 10bps to 4.22% during the week.

FX

The dollar index appreciated last week, broking and closing above the resistive cap of the daily decline that that has been in effect since April 10 2017. Furthermore, supporting that this may be the beginning of a reversal in the trend, the index was able to sustain they break of its 50 day moving average (92.878) and close above this key level for the first time since April. Presently sitting at 93.076, while the index stays above this level, we expect further upside with the 23.6% one year Fibonacci retracement of 94.034 being the next hurdle.

Last week's 1.14% decline took the EURUSD below the 50 day moving average (1.1843) and to consecutive daily closes below the supporting baseline of the former daily uptrend. This is the first time that this has happened since April 2017. Further losses in EURSD were only abated when strong support was found at 1.1717, close to the 200 week moving average (1.1722). Should a sustained break of this level materialise in the coming week, it will catalyse a far greater decline.

Equities

It was a mixed start to the week for regional equities. The Tadawul declined -0.7% after FTSE decided to delay including the index in its secondary emerging market index. The decline was led by market heavyweights with Sabic losing -1.0% and Samba dropping -1.3%.

FTSE also decided that the KWSE index would enter the emerging market index in September 2018. This boosted the index heavyweights with Agility adding +1.2% and National Bank of Kuwait gaining +3.3%.

Commodities

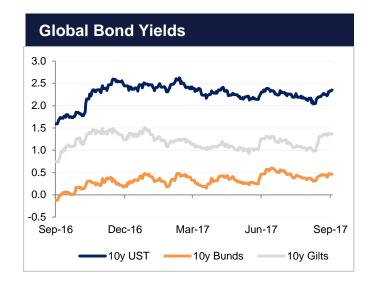
Oil markets spent most of last week paying for Monday's exuberance. Despite encroaching on USD 60/b Brent futures ended the week up only 1.2%, closing Friday at less than USD 57/b while WTI added nearly 2% on the week to close at USD 51.67/b. Nevertheless, Brent ended the quarter higher, with the quarterly average up 2.6% on Q2 while WTI was nearer to flat.

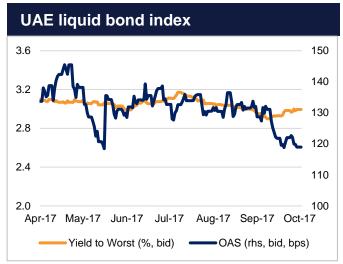
Market structures closed generally intact, if a little less toppy than they began last week. The backwardation at the front of the Brent curve ended the week at USD 0.20/b for Nov/Dec 2017 while Dec spreads also compressed across 17-18 and 17-19. WTI remains in contango at the front of the curve; Oct-Nov spread closed the week at USD 0.28/b while a muted backwardation is in place from the end of Q1 2018.

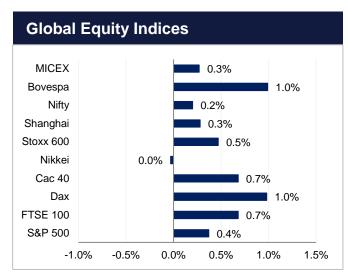
Reuters' estimate of September OPEC production rose 50k b/d to 32.86m b/d thanks to sizeable gains from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iraq and Libya. Overall compliance among those party to the production cut agreement slipped to less than 86% as Iraq, Algeria and the UAE fell notably short.

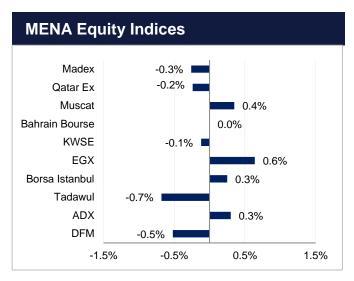


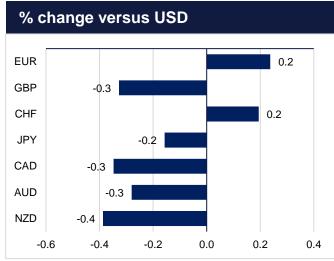
Markets in Charts

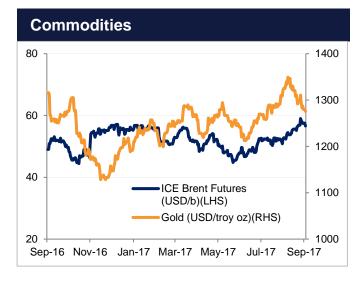












Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



Currencies										
	Close	%1D chg	1 yr fwd		Close	%1D chg		Close	%1D chg	
EURUSD	1.1814	+0.24	1.2077	USDTRY	3.5633	+0.11	EURAED	4.3392	+0.23	
GBPUSD	1.3398	-0.33	1.3545	USDEGP	17.6420	-0.01	GBPAED	4.9226	-0.29	
USDJPY	112.51	+0.15	110.23	USDSAR	3.7502	+0.01	JPYAED	0.0326	-0.15	
USDCAD	1.2472	+0.35	1.2461	USDQAR	3.6800	+0.39	CADAED	2.9456	-0.34	
AUDUSD	0.7834	-0.28	0.7803	USDKWD	0.3021	+0.01	AUDAED	2.8774	-0.30	
USDCHF	0.9683	-0.20	0.9434	USDBHD	0.3772		CHFAED	3.7938	+0.20	
EURGBP	0.8820	+0.59	0.8919	USDOMR	0.3850	-0.00	TRYAED	1.0300	-0.19	
USDAED	3.6728	-0.01	3.6788	USDINR	65.2800	-0.35	INRAED	0.0562	+0.04	

Rates								
Interbank	1 mo	3mo	6 mo	1 yr	Swaps	Close	1D chg (bps)	
EIBOR	1.3525	1.5612	1.7885	2.1728	USD 2 yr	1.741	+4	
USD LIBOR	1.2322	1.3339	1.5060	1.7823	USD 5 yr	2.004	+3	
GBP LIBOR	0.2543	0.3350	0.4909	0.7278	USD 10 yr	2.291	+2	
JPY LIBOR	-0.0475	-0.0512	-0.0089	0.1037	EUR 2 yr	-0.166	-1	
CHF LIBOR	-0.7826	-0.7260	-0.6488	-0.5106	EUR 5 yr	0.252	+0	
					EUR 10 yr	0.910	-1	

Commodities & Fixed Income									
Commodities	Close	%1D chg	Bonds/Sukuk	YTM	1D chg (bps)	CDS	Close	1D chg (bps)	
Gold	1279.75	-0.59	ADGB 6.75 19	1.87	+2	Abu Dhabi	60	-2	
Silver	16.65	-1.21	DUGB 7.75 20	2.59	+2	Dubai	147	-2	
Oil (WTI)	51.67	+0.21	QATAR 6.55 19	2.07	-1	Qatar	97		
Aluminium	2080.00	-1.29	US Tsy 2 yr	1.48	+3	Saudi Arabia	86	-1	
Copper	6432.25	-0.64	US Tsy 10 yr	2.33	+3	Bahrain	240	-6	

Source: Bloomberg, Emirates NBD Research



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Emirates NBD Research & Treasury Contact List

Emirates NBD Head Office 12thFloor Baniyas Road, Deira P.OBox777 Dubai

Jonathan Morris

General Manager Wholesale Banking Jonathan M@emiratesnbd.com

Aazar Ali Khwaja

Group Treasurer & EVP Global Markets & Treasury +971 4 609 3000 aazark@emiratersnbd.com Tim Fox

Head of Research & Chief Economist +9714 230 7800 timothyf@emiratesnbd.com

Research

Khatija Haque

Head of MENA Research +9714 230 7803 khatijah@emiratesnbd.com

Athanasios Tsetsonis

Sector Economist +9714 230 7629 athanasiost@emiratesnbd.com

Aditya Pugalia

Analyst +9714 230 7802 adityap@emiratesnbd.com **Anita Yadav**

Head of Fixed Income Research +9714 230 7630 anitay@emiratesnbd.com

Edward Bell

Commodity Analyst +9714 230 7701 edwardpb@emiratesnbd.com **Shady Shaher Elborno**

Head of Macro Strategy +9714 2012300 shadyb@emiratesnbd.com

Mohammed Altajir

Manager, FX Analytics and Product Development +9714 609 3005 mohammedtaj@emiratesnbd.com

Sales & Structuring

Group Head - Treasury Sales

Tariq Chaudhary +971 4 230 7777 tariqmc@emiratesnbd.com

London Sales

+44 (0) 20 7838 2241 vallancel@emiratesnbd.com

Saudi Arabia Sales

Numair Attiyah +966 11 282 5656 numaira@emiratesnbd.com

Egypt

Gary Boon +20 22 726 5040 garyboon@emiratesnbd.com Singapore Sales Supriyakumar Sakhalkar

+65 65785 627 supriyakumars@emiratesnbd.com

Emirates NBD Capital

Ahmed Al Qassim

CEO- Emirates NBD Capital AhmedAQ@emiratesnbd.com

Hitesh Asarpota

Head of Debt Capital Markets. +971 50 4529515 asarpotah@EmiratesNBD.com

Investor Relations

Patrick Clerkin +9714 230 7805

patricke@emiratesnbd.com

Group Corporate Affairs

Ibrahim Sowaidan

+9714 609 4113 ibrahims@emiratesnbd.com

Claire Andrea +9714 609 4143

clairea@emiratesnbd.com