

Market Comment | Risk-off mood slightly eased this week

Global Financial Markets Unit 11 Sep 2015

- US Producer Prices index (PPI) was flat in August, surprising expectations (0.0% MoM; consensus: -0.1% MoM), whereas in YoY terms it dropped less than estimated (-0.8% YoY; consensus: -0.9%). Meanwhile, PPI ex-food and energy rose more than expected (by 0.3% MoM and 0.9% YoY; consensus: 0.1% MoM and 0.7% YoY). On another front, the University of Michigan sentiment index dropped in September more than estimations (by 6.2 points to 85.7; consensus: 91.1).
- German EU harmonised remained stable at 0.1% YoY August. In line with expectations, the CPI EU harmonised increased (0.1% YoY; BBVAe and consensus: 0.1%) for the third month in a row the inflation remain stable at 0.1%, due to the fall in energy prices. Excluding energy, the inflation rate increased (1.1% YoY, previous month 1.0% YoY). On the other side, Spanish headline inflation returned to negative territory (-0.3% MoM and -0.4% YoY), due to the sharp fall in energy prices. However, core inflation remained virtually stable again (see). On another front, Italian industrial production rose in July more than estimated (by 1.1% MoM; BBVAe: 0.4%, consensus: 0.8%), and in YoY terms also surged more than expected (by 2.7% YoY; consensus: 0.9%). (see)
- Risk-off mood slightly eased this week. Expectations of further growth support measures in Japan and helped some rebound in equity markets across the board after last week's falls (S&P 500: +1.2% Euro Stoxx: +0.8%, CAC: +1.1%, DAX: +1.4%, Nikkei: +2.7%). Nonetheless, the Spanish equity index (Ibex-35) dropped (-0.4%), dragged by the downgrade of Brazil's sovereign credit rating to junk, as Brazil represents a high share of its EBITDA. Despite the easing in equity implied volatility this week, it remains at high levels across both markets and asset classes. Meanwhile, bond markets showed a mixed performance in safe-haven yields (the 10Y yield was +6bp in US and -1bp in Germany) this week. On the periphery, yields also performed unevenly (ITA 10Y: -5bp, GRE 10Y: -53bp, SPA 10Y: +3bp, POR 10Y: +9bp). The spread between Italian and Spanish 10Y yields increased (+4.5bp to 43.72bp). On FX markets, the USD depreciated against other major currencies (EUR: +1.24% GBP: +1.63%), whereas EM showed mixed performance, with negligible spillover effects from the Brazilian sovereign credit downgrade. Nonetheless, idiosyncratic factors weighed this week on several currencies, which depreciated against USD (BRL: -1.0%, TRY: -1.4%, MYR:-1.3%, IDR: -1.1%), while other EM currencies appreciated (COP: +3.4%, RUB: +0.5%, CLP:+1.0%). In China, the offshore/onshore RMB spread continued narrowing due to rumours of the SAFE introduced further measures to tighten the administration of foreign exchange controls. In the commodity markets, oil prices plunged during the week (Brent: -4.5%, WTI:-3.8%), while the copper price surged by 5.2%.

FOMC Preview

• Risks to Delaying Liftoff are Rising, but Dovish Undertones Rule. The latest economic developments are not pointing to a clear path for the FOMC. Despite the fact that inflation is low and global financial



markets remain vulnerable, labor market conditions have shown "some further improvement" and the unemployment rate has dropped to the Fed's long-run goal. According to fed funds futures, the probability of an interest rate hike in September has increased from 24% on the first day of the Jackson Hole Symposium to 30% with just one week to go before the big event. We maintain our view that the Fed should increase rates next week, but there is a real possibility that some FOMC members may be spooked by the ongoing weakness in the global economy. Increasing rates in September would send a positive signal on the economic outlook, whereas delaying would prolong this period of economic uncertainty (see)

Update 16.40 CET 11 September, 2015 Table1

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*CDS, EMBI & MSCI indices with one day delay **Credit spread (BAA) with two days delay

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