Economic Analysis

Daily Report 21 August 2023

Interest	: Rates (%)		FX			Commodities US\$		
Australia		$\Delta {f bp}$	AUD/USD	0.6417	0.0%	WTI Crude Oil	81.23	\$1.09
90-day Bill	4.14	-1	AUD/JPY	93.14	-0.3%	Brent Crude Oil	84.70	\$0.88
3-year Bond	3.86	-8	AUD/EUR	0.5896	0.0%	Mogas95*	102.04	\$1.52
10-year Bond	4.23	-8	AUD/GBP	0.5033	0.1%	CRB Index	275.48	1.08
			AUD/NZD	1.0819	0.0%	Gold	1890.79	-\$1.49
			AUD/CNY	4.6661	0.1%	Silver	22.82	\$0.06
US			EUR/USD	1.0884	0.1%	Iron Ore (62% Fe)**	105.55	-\$0.75
2-year	4.93	0	USD/JPY	145.15	-0.4%	Iron Ore (23-24 Average)	107.40	-\$0.01
10-year	4.25	-2	USD/CNY	7.2845	0.0%	Copper	8240.50	\$5.00
			RBA Policy			Equities		
			O/N Cash Rate Target 4.10		ASX200	7143	4	
Other 10-year			Interbank O/N Cash Rate		4.07	Dow Jones	34501	26
Japan	0.63	-1	Probability of a 25bps Hike in Sep		2.4%	S&P500	4370	-1
Germany	2.62	-9	RBA Bond Holdings (31 Jul)		A\$337.0b	Stoxx600	448	-3
UK	4.68	-7				CSI300	3784	-47

^{*}Mogas95 is the Singapore benchmark petrol price closely linked to Australian domestic fuel

Concern over possible financial instability in China kept financial markets on edge on Friday. US equities closed pretty much flat following losses across most of Europe and the Asia-Pacific. Government bond yields declined after rising through most of last week.

The Aussie equity market closed virtually unchanged on Friday however, the market has opened lower this morning. Aussie bond yields fell along with global yields but also as trouble in China saw traders cut their expectations for an RBA rate hike in September to near zero. The Aussie dollar slipped to as low as US\$0.6379 but recovered to be currently almost unchanged against the big dollar from Friday morning.

The People's Bank of China met with financial institutions and regulators over the weekend, telling the banks to increase their lending and urging regulators to optimise policies for home mortgage lending. Measures to reduce risks in the heavily indebted local government sector were also discussed. The meeting comes after a week when financial market risks in China escalated substantially. The People's Bank of China will almost certainly cut its benchmark one-year prime loan rate by 15 basis points to 3.40% today, having cut its one-year medium term lending facility rate by 15 basis points last week.

Nomura became the latest financial institution to slash its China growth forecast for 2023, cutting it to 4.6% from 5.1%. The Chinese government is targeting 5.0% growth this year.

Commodity prices were mixed, with iron ore dragged down by troubles in the Chinese property sector and deteriorating outlook. Oil prices steadied following a week of losses.

It'll be a quiet week for domestic economic news with the release on Wednesday of the Judo bank flash PMI for August the major piece of economic data. The major event overseas will be the annual central bank symposium at Jackson Hole in Wyoming from Thursday to Saturday. Other events will be the People's Bank of China announcement today, the flash PMIs for August for the major economies on Wednesday, US existing home sales for July on Thursday and US durable goods orders for July on Thursday.

Any news out of China regarding the trouble in the financial and property sectors carries the most risk of causing market volatility.

ECONOMIC DATA REVIEW

No market-moving data.

ECONOMIC DATA PREVIEW

CH: People's Bank of China (One-year Prime Lending Rate) – Expected 3.40%, Previous 3.55%.

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^{**}Iron ore is the second SGX futures contract.