

# MACRO MARKETS DAILY

## Economic data today

- **Spain June Preliminary CPI** (exp. -0.9% YoY, last -1.0% YoY). We anticipate similar annual rates for June as those seen in May for both energy (-14.0%) and food (2.6%), so the key to a modest rise in total inflation might lie in the performance of core inflation (we forecast 0.8% YoY from 0.7% YoY).
- **Germany June Preliminary CPI** (exp. 0.3% YoY, last 0.1% YoY). After the 'noise' in consumer prices due to Easter seasonality, we expect to see clear support from the services component to lift total inflation towards c1.5% YoY by the end of the year.
- **Euro zone June Economic Confidence** (exp. 104.7, last 104.7). Confidence outpaced expectations in May thanks to improved sentiment among companies in the industrial sector and households, which was more than enough to offset a slight deterioration in expectations in the services sector. Bearing in mind that production, new orders and employment rose, we expect another good reading for the economic confidence index in June to close a quarter where Euro zone GDP could attain another very decent pace of expansion, which we estimate at 0.5% QoQ in 2Q16 after 0.6% QoQ in 1Q16.
- **US May Personal Income** (exp. 0.3% MoM, last 0.4% MoM) **and Personal Spending** (exp. 0.4% MoM, last 1.0% MoM). Confirmation of the good trend in these indicators is key to sustaining our forecast of acceleration in US GDP as soon as 2Q16. We continue thinking that fundamentals for private consumption are still clearly supportive. **May Pending Home Sales** (exp. -1.1% MoM, last 5.1% MoM). Although quite volatile month-on-month, the real estate sector figures undoubtedly continue to show a clearly positive contribution to GDP growth.
- **Central bank speakers:** The Fed's Yellen as well as the ECB's Draghi, Lautenschlaeger and Constancio.
- **UK May Bank of England Mortgage Approvals** (fcst. 67.6k, last 66.3k), **Net Consumer Credit** (fcst. £1.5bn. last £1.3bn) **and Non-Residents' Net Gilt Holdings** (last +£214mn). The BBA's data suggests a slight increase in housing market activity in May, after April's stamp duty-related slowdown. Strong retail sales suggest that consumer credit was also growing well at the time.

## Rates Strategy

- **EUR Rates:** Yesterday, a more sanguine tone in equities allowed risk premia to recover part of the ground lost in the previous sessions (Italy, at 151bp over the 10y Bund, tightened 11bp yesterday, but is still 14bp wider than last week) and, in the specific case of Spain, extend the post-election rally initiated on Monday (the 10y SPGB, at 143bp over Germany, was not only 14bp tighter on the day, but is already 3bp tighter than one week ago), outperforming Italy again (the spread has moved around 15bp in favour of Spain in the past two sessions). Interestingly, yesterday the risk-on sentiment did not entail significant selling pressure for Bunds (the 10y ended the day flat, at -0.11%), meaning that all the spread compression was caused by an actual rally in periphery govies.
- **UK rates:** Markets shrugged off the retrospective and unsurprising UK sovereign ratings downgrades with a modest swing back in a risk-on direction yesterday, with a 5bp rise in UK short rates and a 2.6% recovery in the FTSE 100 (mostly at the open, but extended through the session). The sell-off in gilts was strongest at 5y (4.5bp), with a little flattening of 5s10s and much more in the long end. This appeared to reflect more quarter-end buying, which meant 50y posted a 1bp

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outright rally to a new record low yield (1.61% for the 68s). Gilt swap spreads also widened back a little, particularly the longs, appearing to highlight the irrelevance of the credit rating changes. This flattening support for the yield and spread curves could be expected to peter out by next week, once supply resumes and month-end extensions are complete. Linkers outperformed nominals, especially in the front end. This was helped by better risk appetite and a bounce in oil prices, but hindered by a slight recovery in the currency and resistance around -1.40% in ultra-long real yields.

## FX Strategy

- The **NZD** was boosted overnight as Statistics New Zealand revised the Q1-16 unemployment rate lower, to 5.2%, from 5.7% previously. It should be noted that this improvement is due to a change in methodology, which no longer includes those looking at job ads on the internet as “actively” seeking work. Nevertheless, **NZD/USD** rose on this announcement, and sits at just below 0.71 this morning.
- After two days of heavy losses, Sterling posted gains yesterday, with **GBP/USD** temporarily touching above 1.34, and **EUR/GBP** dropping to 0.8300. Despite these partial gains, and as discussed in our latest [FX Compass](#), published yesterday, we are now negative Sterling and expect the Pound to weaken in the coming months.
- **EUR/USD** also recovered a little yesterday, despite the release of a slightly firmer GDP print in the US. While consumer confidence data are released in the Eurozone today, and personal income and spending numbers are out in the US, we again expect the FX markets to continue to digest to impact of last week’s Brexit vote and, therefore, to continue to move off general risk sentiment.

## Summary of our FX views

Please see our [FX Compass – June 2016 report](#), published yesterday for our latest forecasts and updated views on G10, LatAm and CEE FX. Below is a summary of our views on G10 FX.

We are no longer positive on **Sterling**. The UK’s vote to leave the EU implies uncertainty and downside risks for the economy. Hence, we no longer expect a BoE rate hike in Q1-17, but rather see a rate cut in Q4-16. As such, we have changed our Sterling forecasts and now forecast **GBP/USD** at 1.25 by the end of 2016, rather than 1.58. We see **EUR/GBP** at 0.88 by year-end.

The **USD** outlook may be more mixed following the UK’s Brexit vote. The Dollar is likely to gain on safe-haven demand, as the UK’s decision to leave the EU is expected to keep global risk elevated. However, increased risk may also imply that the Fed decides against hiking rates in 2016, and limit USD upside pressure.

We retain a relatively positive outlook on the **EUR** through to the end of 2016, but downside risks have clearly increased in the aftermath of the Brexit vote. The UK’s decision to start the process of leaving the EU will likely have a negative impact on the Eurozone economy. However, the hit that this implies

for **EUR/USD** could be countered by the expectation that Brexit suggests the Fed will now be reluctant to hike rates in 2016.

Global risk will remain a focus for the **Yen**, at least for the time being. Whilst this implies upside pressure on the Yen via safe-haven flows, it also puts the spotlight back on to monetary policy. The Brexit-related risks suggest that the Fed may postpone US rate hikes beyond 2016, which should be **USD/JPY** negative. However, an even stronger Yen, and the risk that this could weigh on CPI in Japan, may increase the prospect of more easing from the BoJ.

We remain positive on the **CAD** and **NOK**, but still expect only small gains during the remainder of 2016. The recent rise in the oil price has helped both currencies, but they are likely to require a much stronger oil price to rise significantly higher in H2-16.

The SNB still views the **CHF** as “heavily overvalued” and intervened to weaken it following the Brexit vote. A sustained rise in **EUR/CHF** would probably now require a firmer EUR and further SNB action.

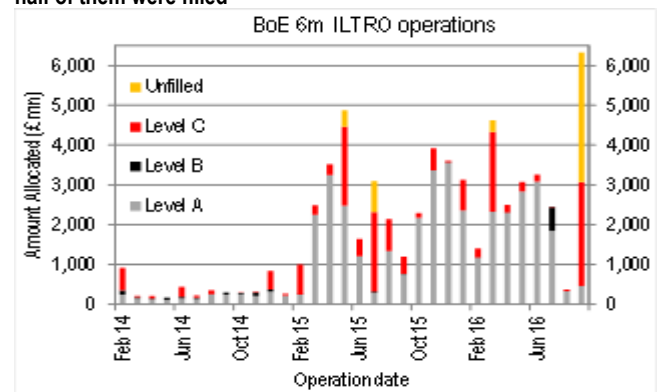
We remain negative both the **AUD** and **NZD**. Following the Brexit vote, expectations for near-term rate cuts from the RBA and RBNZ have risen. Q2-16 CPI data are released in both Australia and New Zealand in July. Even weaker inflation could prompt sooner-than-expected rate cuts, and thus AUD or NZD weakness.

## Bank of England repo operation

Yesterday, the BoE conducted the last of its additional 6m Index Long-Term Repo Operations (ILTROs). These are regular, monthly liquidity operations, but the Bank had scheduled additional, weekly ones around the date of the EU referendum. This was intended to reassure financial institutions –and markets– that there will be ample liquidity available in the event of any market turbulence and, therefore, to hopefully prevent any disruption from even occurring. Note that the operation is Bank rate-linked, so participants would still benefit in the event of cuts from the MPC.

Some £3.1bn of liquidity was allocated –slightly below the recent March high of £4.3bn and matching the £3.1bn seen in May– but the level of demand in this operation proved higher, totalling £6.3bn versus the £4.6bn seen back in March. This gave the lowest-ever fill ratio, 49% (Chart 1).

Chart 1: The latest ILTRO received the largest-ever bids, but less than half of them were filled



Source: Bank of England, Santander



Interestingly, the demand in this latest auction was seen mainly against Level C collateral (the weakest form), with bids in this category totalling £5.9bn, again much higher than the £2.3bn seen in this category back in March. This is also the first time that the clearing spread over Bank Rate for accepted Level C bids (of 20bp) was above its 15bp floor. All successful bidders for cash versus the same collateral level receive the same “clearing” spread, suggesting that (determined) bids at  $\geq 20$ bp were accepted, but £3.3bn of (more relaxed) bids at the typical 15bp spread were declined.

So, all in all, the focus of the bids in this ILTR appear to be the more interesting feature of these results. And it will, of course, be interesting to see if the Bank of England feels the need to schedule further ILTR operations over and above the typical monthly pattern, which resumes on 5 July. That next operation will deliver six-month funding that lasts over year-end, giving it an additional appeal versus the June operations, including yesterday’s, which all mature on 8 December.

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