

Monday, July 31, 2017

Highlights

The US economy grew better than expected 2.6% gog annualised in 2Q17, nearly double the revised 1Q pace of 1.2% and led by consumption (+2.8%) and non-residential fixed investment (+5.2%), but wage growth, namely the employment cost index remained muted at 0.5% following 1Q's 0.8% expansion. S&P500 ended lower due to the drag from earnings from Amazon, Exxon and Starbucks, while the USD and UST bond yields dipped amid the soft US wage data. There was also another North Korean missile launch over the weekend which could again stress the Sin-US relationship, but was largely shrugged off by financial markets.

Global

Asian bourses may trade with a mixed tone this morning on the above themes. The economic data calendar kicks off with US' pending home sales and Chicago Purchasing Manager, Eurozone's June unemployment rate, German retail sales, Thai trade and current account, and Singapore's bank loans (our forecast 7.5% YoY) data today, and culminates with the US' key nonfarm payrolls and unemployment report on Friday, with market eyeing +180k (previously +222k) and 4.3% (previously 4.4%) respectively. For this week, look for RBA to keep rates pat at 1.5% tomorrow, while RBI is tipped to trim repo and reverse repo rates by 25bps to 6% and 5.75% respectively on 2 Aug in reaction to softer than expected inflation, and BOE likely static on 3 Aug. On the corporate earnings front, watch for Apple tomorrow, followed by AIG, BP, Tesla etc.

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US' core PCE deflator rose just 0.9% in 2Q, half of the revised 1.8% reading seen in 1Q. The University of Michigan sentiment index printed at 93.4 in July, up from the 93.2 estimate. Meanwhile, Fed's Kashkari opined that "I have been in favour of us slowly bringing that balance sheet back down to a more normal size even though I'm still concerned about inflation". The failure of Congress to pass healthcare legislation last week, which prompted Trump to scold Congress for looking like "fools" and urge Republican senators not to be "total quitters" on Saturday, now focuses market attention on the budget with the upcoming debt ceiling deadline.

SG

The overall unemployment rate was unchanged at 2.2% in June, but declined for residents (-0.1% point to 3.1%) and citizens (-0.2% points to 3.3%). Employment excluding FDW fell by 8.4k in 2Q, less than 9.4k in 1Q, but was contributed mainly by a decline in work permit holders in Marine and Construction, whereas services employment continue to grow by 3.4k albeit this growth was slower than 1Q. Layoffs also fell from 4k in 1Q to 3.5k in 2Q, but was broad-based across industries. The labour market outlook remains uneven across sectors, even though there are initial signs of some stabilisation as growth prospects and domestic sentiments improve modestly. Hiring remains cautious in sectors such as Construction and Marine, but opportunities will continue to be available in Finance & Insurance, Infocomms & Media, Healthcare, Professional Services and Wholesale Trade. Looking ahead, the domestic labour market should tread a steadier path amid the brighter global and regional growth prospects.

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Major Markets

- US: Equities were mostly lower on Friday, on political headlines regarding the latest failure of the healthcare repeal, and North Korea's missle test. US 2Q GDP growth also came in slightly softer than expected at 2.6%, although consumption growth matching expectations at 2.8% was a relief. Overall, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite were down 0.13% and 0.12% respectively, while the Dow ended higher by 0.15%. VIX appear to be on a mild upswing, closing at 10.29. Meanwhile, US Treasuries were supported by political headlines over North Korea and weak the US GDP print. However, trading was within a tight range, and gains were modest. 2y and 10y benchmark yields stood at 1.35% and 2.29% at close, down 1-2bps. This week will be a busy one for data releases, note especially global PMIs on Monday, US personal income and manufacturing data on Tuesday and non-farm payrolls on Friday.
- Singapore: STI saw profit-taking of 0.71% to close at 3330.75 and may continue to consolidate
 amid weak cues from Wall Street on Friday and morning slippage in Kospi. STI's support and
 resistance are tipped at 3320 and 3340 respectively. With the soft US core PCE deflator data driving
 UST bond yields lower on Friday, SGS bonds may unwind the 1-2bps sell-off seen on Friday as well.
- Macau: The number of hotel guests edged up at a slower pace at 15.9% yoy to 1.09 million in June. The slowdown is in tandem with the deceleration of growth in visitor arrivals. As a result, hotel occupancy rate increased merely by 2.4 percentage points to 85.1% in June. Specifically, hotel guests from Mainland China increased by 17.3% yoy while those from South Korea grew by 102.1% yoy. This reinforces that a wide range of promotions offered by a slew of new hotels helped to lure tourists.
- Hong Kong: Government estimates that 98,000 units of new homes will be available in the coming three to four years. This is a record high number since the government started to release the data of private housing supply in primary market in September 2004. The prospect for increasing new home supply is likely to hurt housing market sentiments in the short term. Nevertheless, 74% (up from 72% in 1Q) of the new home supply over the next 3-4 years consists of small to medium size houses while the demand for smaller housing units is expected to remain resilient. Therefore, we believe the real impact of the increasing supply will be limited.
- China: The launch of North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday put the Sino-US relationship under test again. The timing was bad for China as it just came after China and US failed to reach consensus on how to reduce trade imbalance in the latest Sino-US Comprehensive Economic Dialogue. Trump's frustration with China over North Korea is likely to put the bilateral trade in the spotlight again in particular when the result of section 232 investigation on whether aluminium and steel imports are threatening national security will be due soon. Market will continue to monitor the increasing risk of trade friction between world's two largest economy.
- Indonesia: Finance Ministry has reportedly refrained from including Rupiah redenomination initiative in the list of financial legislations to be discussed by the parliament this year. Reports suggest that the ministry decided to focus its energy on other priorities for now, including next year's budget as well as revisions to legislations involving VATs, income tax and banking regulations.
- **Commodities:** Another session of higher oil prices were seen over the weekend, while WTI crossed its critical \$50/bbl handle in early Asian trading hours this morning. As written in our latest "Commodities Weekly: It's already rebalanced!", global oil fundamentals are already rebalanced as of April 2017, while demand remains robust, thus supporting the oil rally of late. Elsewhere, gold prices staged a rally to close at \$1,275.3/oz, the highest in a month, chiefly on dollar weakness.



Bond Market Updates

- Market Commentary: The SGD swap curve traded upwards on Friday, with swap rates trading 1-2bps higher across all tenors (with the exception of 7Y swaps). In the broader dollar space, the spread on JACI IG Corporates fell 1bps to 188bps, while the yield on JACI HY Corporates was flattish at 6.90%. 10y UST yields fell 2bps to 2.29% at Friday close, as GDP price index for the second quarter came in lower than expected.
- New Issues: Olam International Limited priced a SGD50mn tap of its existing SGD300mn 5.5% PNC5 at 100.25, for a yield of 5.44%. Powerlong Real Estate Holdings Ltd has priced a USD100mn re-tap of its PWRLNG 5.95%'20s. The issue ratings are 'B-/B2/NR'. PT Tunas Baru Lampung Tbk has scheduled investor meetings for potential SGD bond issuance from 31 Jul to 1 Aug. PT Medco Energi Internasional Tbk has scheduled investor meetings for potential USD bond issuance from 31 Jul. The expected issue ratings are 'B/B2/B'. Jiangsu Nantong Sanjian Engineering Jobbing Co Ltd has scheduled investor meetings for potential USD bond issuance from 31 Jul.
- Rating Changes: S&P has affirmed Australian Gas Networks' (AGN) 'BBB+' credit ratings while revising the outlook to positive from stable. The rating action reflects the possibility of AGN's rating going up by one notch, as its major shareholders, CK Infrastructure Holdings and Power Assets Holdings (together referred to as the CKI Group) have their outlooks revised to positive from stable. S&P has assigned PT Medco Energi Internasional Tbk (Medco) a corporate credit rating and senior unsecured rating of 'B'. The rating action reflects Medco's operations which are concentrated in a few fields, and its elevated investment appetite despite high leverage. However, these risks are tempered by Medco's good operating track record, growing cash flows, creditworthy and good standing in credit markets. S&P has downgraded Tianjin Binhai New Area Construction & Investment Group Co Ltd (BHCI) to 'BBB+' from 'A-'. The outlook is stable. S&P has also lowered the company's senior unsecured rating to 'BBB+' from 'A-'. The rating action reflects S&P's view that BHCI's rating reflects the credit profile of the Binhai Government, which deteriorated due to its widening budget deficit. Moody's has confirmed Baidu Inc's (Baidu) 'A3' issuer and senior unsecured debt ratings, as well as its negative outlook. The rating action reflects Moody's expectation that Baidu's Financial Services Group's (FSG) business will weaken Baidu's financial profile and raise execution risks. Moody's has assigned PT Medco Energi Internasional Tbk (Medco) a corporate family rating and secnior unsecured rating of 'B2'. The outlook is stable. The rating action reflects Medco's improving scale of production and modest degree of visibility on its cash flow, but are constrained by Medco's high leverage. Moody's has assigned QT Mutual Bank Limited (QTMB) a senior unsecured rating of 'Baa1'. The outlook is stable. The rating action reflects QTMB's mutual ownership structure, which allows it to maintain its low-risk model, as well as its aboveaverage capital levels and conservative funding. However, the ratings are constrained by the bank's small scale. Moody's has assigned Spyder (BC) BidCo Pty Ltd (Spyder), the holding company of the combined Camp Australia Group, a corporate credit rating of 'B2'. At the same time, Moody's has assigned 'B2' ratings to its first lien senior secured term loan facility and senior secured revolving credit facility, as well as a 'B3' rating to its second lien senior secured term loan facility. The outlook is stable. The rating action reflects Camp Australia Group's track record of strong cash flow generation and solid margins, but is constrained by its relatively high financial leverage. Fitch has assigned PT Medco Energi Internasional Tbk (Medco) an issuer default rating (IDR) of 'B'. A similar rating was assigned to its proposed US dollar notes. The outlook is stable. The rating action reflects Medco's business profile as a small upstream producer and its high leverage, which the company is reducing. Fitch has assigned PT Tunas Baru Lampung Tbk (TBLA) an issuer default rating and a senior unsecured rating of 'BB-'. Fitch has also assigned a 'BB-' rating to TBLA's proposed senior unsecured notes. The outlook is stable. The rating action reflects the beneficial regulatory environment for sugar in Indonesia, as well as TBLA's small but well-diversified palm operations and healthy debt leverage.



Key Financial Indicators

Foreign Exchange					Equity and Commodity			
	Day Close	% Change		Day Close	%Change	Index	Value	Net change
DXY	93.259	-0.64%	USD-SGD	1.3568	-0.19%	DJIA	21,830.31	33.76
USD-JPY	110.680	-0.52%	EUR-SGD	1.5941	0.43%	S&P	2,472.10	-3.32
EUR-USD	1.1751	0.63%	JPY-SGD	1.2259	0.33%	Nasdaq	6,374.68	-7.51
AUD-USD	0.7987	0.25%	GBP-SGD	1.7824	0.35%	Nikkei 225	19,959.84	-119.80
GBP-USD	1.3136	0.54%	AUD-SGD	1.0835	0.04%	STI	3,330.75	-23.96
USD-MYR	4.2813	0.11%	NZD-SGD	1.0196	0.17%	KLCI	1,767.08	-2.99
USD-CNY	6.7369	-0.09%	CHF-SGD	1.4006	-0.59%	JCI	5,831.03	11.28
USD-IDR	13324	0.05%	SGD-MYR	3.1479	-0.11%	Baltic Dry	933.00	-9.00
USD-VND	22729	0.03%	SGD-CNY	4.9644	0.13%	VIX	10.29	0.18
Interbank Offer Rates (%) Government Bond Yields (%)							s (%)	
Tenor	EURIBOR	Change	Tenor	USD LIBOR	Change	Tenor	SGS (chg)	UST (chg)
1M	-0.3710		O/N	1.1783	0.0011	2Y	1.24 (+0.01)	1.35 (-0.02)
2M	-0.3390		1 M	1.2317	-0.0022	5Y	1.53 (+0.01)	1.83 (-0.02)
3M	-0.3290		2M	1.2583	0.0011	10Y	2.10 (+0.02)	2.29 (-0.02)
6M	-0.2720		3M	1.3106	-0.0006	15Y	2.30 (+0.02)	
9M	-0.2080		6M	1.4550	0.0006	20Y	2.36 (+0.02)	
12 M	-0.1520	0.0010	12M	1.7290	-0.0006	30Y	2.43 (+0.02)	2.90 (-0.02)
Fed Rate Hike Probability Financial Spread (bps)								
Meeting	Prob Hike	1-1.25	1.25-1.5	1.5-1.75	1.75 - 2.0		Value	Change
09/20/2017	4.1%	0.0%	4.1%	0.0%	0.00%	LIBOR-OIS	15.05	-0.23
11/01/2017	7.9%	0.0%	7.7%	0.2%	0.00%	EURIBOR-OIS	2.95	0.02
12/13/2017	38.7%	0.0%	35.9%	2.7%	0.10%	TED	23.36	1.77
01/31/2018	39.2%	0.0%	36.1%	3.0%	0.10%			
03/21/2018	57.0%	0.0%	43.4%	12.7%	0.90%			
05/02/2018	57.7%	0.0%	43.4%	13.2%	1.10%			
Commoditie	s Futures							
Energy			Futures	% chg	Base Metals	<u> </u>	Futures	% chg
WTI (per barrel)		49.71	1.37%	Copper (per mt)		6,338.3	-0.09%	
Brent (per barrel)		52.52	2.00%	Nickel (per mt)		10,165.5	0.68%	
,		1.6397	2.28%	,		1,888.8	-1.69%	
Gasoline (per gallon) 1.6761			1.92%	- A		,		
Natural Gas (per MMBtu) 2.9410		-0.94%	Asian Commodities		Futures	% chg		
2.9410		0.0170	Crude Palm Oil (MYR/MT)		2,655.0	-0.82%		
Precious Metals Futures		% chg	Rubber (JPY/KG)		204.5	-4.66%		
Gold (per oz)			1,275.3	0.69%	110) 1000011	,)	204.0	4.0070
Silver (per oz			16.695	0.74%				
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Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

(Note that rates are for reference only)



CFTC Commodities Futures and Options

For the week ended: 25 Jul 2017

	Current	Previous	Net Chg		Current	Previous	Net Chg
Gold	92,335	58,045	34,290	Wheat	23,804	31,700	-7,896
Nymex Crude	471,298	443,253	28,045	Natural Gas	-43,650	-36,434	-7,216
Soybean	49,648	33,866	15,782	Live Cattle	137,293	140,836	-3,543
Silver	19,431	8,630	10,801	Lean Hogs	80,905	84,250	-3,345
Sugar	-47,378	-57,893	10,515	Palladium	19,261	19,014	247
Copper	23,883	15,071	8,812	Corn	166,635	166,098	537
RBOB Gasoline	58,248	49,707	8,541	Platinum	10,335	9,015	1,320
Coffee	-15,602	-21,687	6,085	Heating Oil	11,957	10,184	1,773
Cocoa	-38,207	-43,846	5,639	Cotton	32,303	30,229	2,074

Key Economic Indicators

Date Time		Event		Survey	Actual	Prior	Revised
07/28/2017 05:00	SK	Business Survey Manufacturing	Aug		78	80	
07/28/2017 07:00	SK	Industrial Production YoY	Jun	1.10%	-0.30%	0.10%	0.20%
07/28/2017 07:30	JN	Jobless Rate	Jun	3.00%	2.80%	3.10%	
07/28/2017 07:30	JN	Job-To-Applicant Ratio	Jun	1.5	1.51	1.49	
07/28/2017 07:30	JN	Natl CPI YoY	Jun	0.40%	0.40%	0.40%	
07/28/2017 07:30		Natl CPI Ex Fresh Food YoY	Jun	0.40%	0.40%	0.40%	
07/28/2017 07:30		Tokyo CPI YoY	Jul	0.10%	0.10%	0.00%	
07/28/2017 07:30		Tokyo CPI Ex-Fresh Food YoY	Jul	0.10%	0.20%	0.00%	
07/28/2017 07:50		Retail Trade YoY	Jun	2.40%	2.10%	2.00%	2.10%
07/28/2017 10:30		Unemployment rate SA	2Q	2.30%	2.20%	2.30%	2.20%
07/28/2017 10:47		Hotel Occupancy Rate	Jun		85.1	84.9	
07/28/2017 13:30		GDP QoQ	2Q A	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	
07/28/2017 13:30		GDP YoY	2Q A	1.60%	1.80%	1.10%	
07/28/2017 14:45		CPI EU Harmonized MoM	Jul P	-0.40%	-0.40%	0.00%	
07/28/2017 14:45		CPI EU Harmonized YoY	Jul P	0.80%	0.80%	0.80%	
07/28/2017 14:45		CPI MoM	Jul P	-0.40%	-0.30%	0.00%	
07/28/2017 14:45		CPI YoY	Jul P	0.70%	0.70%	0.70%	
07/28/2017 16:00		GDP YoY	2Q P	2.20%	2.10%	2.60%	
07/28/2017 17:00	_	Consumer Confidence	Jul F	-1.7	-1.7	-1.7	
07/28/2017 18:00	_	CPI MoM	Jul P	0.20%	0.40%	0.20%	
07/28/2017 18:00	_	CPI YoY	Jul P	1.50%	1.70%	1.60%	
07/28/2017 18:00		CPI EU Harmonized MoM	Jul P	0.30%	0.40%	0.20%	
07/28/2017 18:00	_	CPI EU Harmonized YoY	Jul P	1.40%	1.50%	1.50%	
07/28/2017 20:30		GDP MoM	May	0.20%	0.60%	0.20%	
07/28/2017 20:30		GDP Annualized QoQ	2Q A	2.70%	2.60%	1.40%	1.20%
07/28/2017 20:30		GDP Price Index	2Q A	1.30%	1.00%	1.90%	2.00%
07/28/2017 20:30		Employment Cost Index	2Q	0.60%	0.50%	0.80%	
07/28/2017 22:00		U. of Mich. Sentiment	Jul F	93.2	93.4	93.1	
07/29/2017 09:00	VN	CPI YoY	Jul	2.45%	2.52%	2.54%	
07/31/2017 06:45	NZ	Building Permits MoM	Jun		-1.00%	7.00%	6.90%
07/31/2017 07:50		Industrial Production MoM	Jun P	1.50%		-3.60%	
07/31/2017 07:50		Industrial Production YoY	Jun P	4.80%		6.50%	
07/31/2017 09:00		Melbourne Institute Inflation MoM	Jul			0.10%	
07/31/2017 09:00		ANZ Business Confidence	Jul			24.8	
07/31/2017 09:00	CH	Manufacturing PMI	Jul	51.5		51.7	
07/31/2017 09:30	AU	Private Sector Credit MoM	Jun	0.40%		0.40%	
07/31/2017 09:30	AU	Private Sector Credit YoY	Jun	5.20%		5.00%	
07/31/2017 15:30	TH	Exports YoY	Jun			10.60%	
07/31/2017 15:30	TH	BoP Current Account Balance	Jun	\$2900m		\$1130m	
07/31/2017 16:30	UK	Mortgage Approvals	Jun	65.0k		65.2k	
07/31/2017 17:00	EC	Unemployment Rate	Jun	9.20%		9.30%	
07/31/2017 17:00	IT	CPI NIC incl. tobacco MoM	Jul P	0.00%		-0.10%	
07/31/2017 17:00	IT	CPI EU Harmonized MoM	Jul P	-1.90%		-0.20%	
07/31/2017 17:00	IT	CPI EU Harmonized YoY	Jul P	1.20%		1.20%	
07/31/2017 17:00	EC	CPI Estimate YoY	Jul	1.30%		1.30%	
07/31/2017 21:45	US	Chicago Purchasing Manager	Jul	60		65.7	
07/31/2017 22:00	US	Pending Home Sales MoM	Jun	1.00%		-0.80%	
Source: Bloomber	g	j					
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Treasury Research & Strategy



OCBC Treasury Research				
Macro Research	Credit Research			
Selena Ling	Andrew Wong			
LingSSSelena@ocbc.com	WongVKAM@ocbc.com			
Emmanuel Ng	Wong Liang Mian (Nick)			
NgCYEmmanuel@ocbc.com	NickWong@ocbc.com			
Wellian Wiranto	Ezien Hoo			
WellianWiranto@ocbc.com	EzienHoo@ocbc.com			
Tommy Xie Dongming	Wong Hong Wei			
XieD@ocbc.com	WongHongWei@ocbc.com			
Barnabas Gan				
BarnabasGan@ocbc.com				
Terence Wu				
TerenceWu@ocbc.com				

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