

19 March 2020

### Highlights

Global: ECB joins the QE party with its emergency EUR750b temporary asset purchase program to buy public and private sector securities till at least end-2020 and will be extended to commercial papers of sufficient credit quality. ECB's Lagarde reacted to this move saying "extraordinary times require extraordinary action" and this came after European banks tapped \$130b in USD swap lines from the Fed yesterday. Note that Europe has surpassed China in terms of the number of Covid-19 cases, and German Chancellor Merkel is now signalling she may be open to joint EU debt issuance to combat Covid-19, albeit she cautioned about tapping the ESM's EUR410b firepower. With more lockdowns after the EU closed its borders for 30 days and many large manufacturers (eg. Volkswagen, Airbus, Daimler, Fiat Chrysler and Renault) idling plants in Europe, Europe has become the new epicentre of the Covid-19 outbreak. Overnight, the Dow fell 1339 points (-6.3%) while UST bonds bear-steepened as T-bill yields turned negative with 1- and 3-month yields as low as -0.089% and -0.0178% respectively. VIX remained elevated at 76.45 and the USD benefited from the risk-off sentiments.

Market watch: Asian markets are likely to see some interim relief today from the ECB's temporary asset purchase program. Central banks take center stage today with RBA, BI, BSP and CBC meeting and are under pressure to cut interest rates amid the Covid-19 fallout, albeit BI may be in a dilemma due to the ongoing IDR volatility (-9% against USD YTD). RBA will also be closely watched if it will embark on unconventional measures like QE beyond cutting its cash rate further to 0.25% following its 3 March 25bps cut. Today's economic data releases comprises of German IFO, US' initial jobless claims and Philadelphia Fed business index.

**US:** Economic advisor Kudlow said the Trump administration may consider taking an equity position in companies and "call it Bailout Nation or Ownership Nation", it's an unprecedented degree of government command, control and planning, all in the name of a tough economic downturn".

Japan: Core CPI rose 0.6% yoy in February, moderating from January's 0.8%.

**Singapore:** All inbound travellers to Singapore will see a 14-day stay home notice from 11.59pm tomorrow and all Singaporeans are advised to defer all travel abroad with immediate effect. This came after 47 new Covid-19 cases were reported yesterday, of which 33 were imported.

**Oil:** Crude oil collapsed again yesterday, with WTI falling 24% and Brent declining 13.4%. Markets continue to be choppy, with a strong increase in oil prices this morning following the double positive news flow of US fiscal stimulus and ECB monetary stimulus. WTI is up 17% and Brent is up 9% at time of writing, almost reversing all of yesterday's losses. Expect prices to remain choppy short-term and to sit at depressed levels in the medium-term.

Key Market Movements						
Equity	Value	% chg				
S&P 500	2398.1	-5.2%				
DJIA	19899	-6.3%				
Nikkei 225	16727	-1.7%				
SH Comp	2728.8	-1.8%				
STI	2425.6	-1.2%				
Hang Seng	22292	-4.2%				
KLCI	1239.0	-1.4%				
Currencies	Value	% chg				
DXY	101.160	1.6%				
USDJPY	108.08	0.4%				
EURUSD	1.0915	-0.7%				
GBPUSD	1.1608	-3.7%				
USDIDR	15223	0.3%				
USDSGD	1.4445	1.1%				
SGDMYR	3.0446	-0.3%				
Rates	Value	chg (bp)				
3M UST	-0.01	-15.00				
10Y UST	1.19	11.31				
1Y SGS	1.07	5.10				
10Y SGS	1.61	20.94				
3M LIBOR	1.05	16.25				
3M SIBOR	0.99	-9.04				
3M SOR	0.80	5.78				
Commodities	Value	% chg				
Brent	24.88	-13.4%				
WTI	20.37	-24.4%				
Gold	1486	-2.8%				
Silver	11.98	-5.0%				
Palladium	1603	-3.0%				
Copper	4745	-7.8%				
BCOM 59.48 -4.1%						
Source: Bloomberg						





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#### **Major Markets**

**US**: US equity markets tumbled last night as worries over the pandemic's impact on the global economy continued to dent risk sentiment. The S&P500 index fell by 5.2%. Looking ahead, with the ECB announcing a massive bond purchase program and further details emerging on the fiscal stimulus measures in the US, markets may see short-term relief but expect volatility to remain high in the near-term.

**Singapore:** The STI slipped 1.18% to close at 2425.62 yesterday, but may try to capitalise today on the better risk appetite fuelled by ECB's emergency move. With the ongoing flight for cash, SGS bonds are likely to mirror the overnight UST bond rally today. The 3-month SIBOR eased further to 0.99490% (lowest since Apr17) but the SOR rebounded to 0.87151%.

**Malaysia:** PM Muhyiddin Yassin said that the 2-week movement control order may have to be extended if the Covid-19 virus continues to spread. He asked Malaysians to stay at home and refrain from moving around. This comes after reports of mass gatherings, including people who take this as an opportunity to leave the cities to go back to their hometowns.

**Indonesia:** Indonesia saw a sharp uptick in Covid-19 cases. Death toll is now at 19, with total number of cases at 227. The government has announced a stricter set of controls including banning arrivals from some European countries, but stopped short of a lockdown. Separately, Bank Indonesia is due to announce its rates decision today. Given the overt market volatility, we expect it to refrain from cutting rate at this point.

### **Bond Market Updates**

**Market Commentary**: The SGD swap curve bear-steepened yesterday, with the shorter and the belly tenors trading 3-7bps higher, while the longer tenors traded 4-6bps higher. The Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD IG Bond Index average OAS widened 9bps to 216bps, and the Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD HY Bond Index average OAS widened 70bps to 949bps. The HY-IG Index Spread widened 61bps to 732bps. Flows in SGD corporates were heavy, with flows in UBS 4.85%-PERPs, CS 5.625%-PERPs, SINTEC 5%-PERPs, DBSSP 3.98%-PERPs, HSBC 4.7%-PERPs, SPHSP 4%-PERPs, STANLN 5.375%-PERPs and TMGSP 4.05%'25s. 10Y UST Yields gained 36bps to 1.08%, as the Federal Reserve decided to re-launch a commercial paper funding facility and the U.S. government announced a fiscal package which would include sending checks directly to the Americans.

New Issues: There were no new issues or mandates.

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Foreign Exchange					Equity and Commodity			
	Day Close	% Change		Day Close	% Change	Index	Value	Net change
DXY	101.160	1.59%	USD-SGD	1.4445	1.07%	DJIA	19,898.92	-1338.46
USD-JPY	108.080	0.35%	EUR-SGD	1.5764	0.29%	S&P	2,398.10	-131.09
EUR-USD	1.0915	-0.75%	JPY-SGD	1.3349	0.53%	Nasdaq	6,989.84	-344.94
AUD-USD	0.5773	-3.78%	GBP-SGD	1.6773	-2.64%	Nikkei 225	16,726.55	-284.98
GBP-USD	1.1608	-3.71%	AUD-SGD	0.8337	-2.75%	STI	2,425.62	-28.91
USD-MYR	4.3737	0.51%	NZD-SGD	0.8283	-2.47%	KLCI	1,239.01	-17.57
USD-CNY	7.0475	0.60%	CHF-SGD	1.4902	0.21%	JCI	4,330.67	-126.08
USD-IDR	15223	0.33%	SGD-MYR	3.0446	-0.28%	Baltic Dry	629.00	17.00
USD-VND	23247		SGD-CNY	4.8799	-0.53%	VIX	76.45	0.54
Interbank Offe	r Rates (%)					Government E	Bond Yields (%)	
Tenor	EURIBOR	Change	Tenor	USD Libor	Change	Tenor	SGS (chg)	UST (chg)
1M	-0.4950	0.50%	O/N	0.2581	1.89%	2Y	1.10 (+0.18)	0.53 (+0.04)
2M	-0.3360	1.89%	1M	0.7500	13.84%	5Y	1.24 (+0.19)	0.79 (+0.04)
3M	-0.4080	13.84%	2M	0.9033	18.65%	10Y	1.61 (+0.21)	1.19 (+0.11)
6M	-0.3730	18.65%	3M	1.0519	16.25%	15Y	1.68 (+0.17)	
9M	-0.1940	16.25%	6M	0.9130	6.93%	20Y	1.68 (+0.11)	
12M	-0.2630	6.93%	12M	0.8618	4.24%	30Y	1.66 (+0.09)	1.79 (+0.1)
Fed Rate Hike I	Probability					Financial Spre	ad (bps)	
Meeting	# of Hikes/Cuts	% Hike/Cut	Implied R	ate Change	Implied Rate		Value	Change
29/04/2020	-0.021	-2.1	-0.	005	0.118	EURIBOR-OIS	9.43	-0.87
10/06/2020	-0.073	-5.3	-0.018		0.104	TED	35.36	
29/07/2020	-0.081	-0.8	-0.02		0.103			
16/09/2020	-0.101	-2.1	-0.	-0.025 0.097		Secured Overn	Secured Overnight Fin. Rate	
05/11/2020	-0.053	4.9	-0.	013	0.109	SOFR	0.54	
16/12/2020	-0.004	4.9	-0.	.001	0.122			
Commodities Fu	tures							
Energy		Futures	% chg	Soft Commo	odities	Futures	% chg	
		20.37	-24.4%	Corn (per bı	ishel)	3.3525	-2.5%	
WTI (per barrel)			-13.4%	Soybean (per bushel)		8.255	0.2%	
	1)	24.88						
Brent (per barre	,	24.88 0.9542	-7.9%	Wheat (per	bushel)	5.0825	1.8%	
Brent (per barrel Heating Oil (per	gallon)				bushel) Oil (MYR/MT)	5.0825 2,321.0	1.8% -0.2%	
WTI (per barrel) Brent (per barrel Heating Oil (per Gasoline (per gal Natural Gas (per	gallon) llon)	0.9542	-7.9%		Oil (MYR/MT)			
Heating Oil (per Gasoline (per ga	gallon) llon)	0.9542 0.6377	-7.9% -10.4%	Crude Palm	Oil (MYR/MT) /KG)	2,321.0	-0.2%	
Brent (per barrel Heating Oil (per Gasoline (per gal Natural Gas (per	gallon) llon)	0.9542 0.6377 1.6040	-7.9% -10.4% -7.2%	Crude Palm Rubber (JPY	Oil (MYR/MT) /KG) etals	2,321.0 154.2	-0.2% 0.1%	

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters

(Note that rates are for reference only)

### Economic Calendar

Date Time		Event		Survey	Actual	Prior	Revised
03/19/2020	TA	CBC Benchmark Interest Rate	Mar-19	1.25%		1.38%	
03/19/2020 05:45	NZ	GDP SA QoQ	4Q	0.50%	0.50%	0.70%	0.80%
03/19/2020 07:30	JN	Natl CPI YoY	Feb	0.50%	0.40%	0.70%	
03/19/2020 08:30	AU	Unemployment Rate	Feb	5.30%		5.30%	
03/19/2020 08:30	AU	Employment Change	Feb	6.3k		13.5k	
03/19/2020 08:30	AU	Participation Rate	Feb	66.10%		66.10%	
03/19/2020 12:30	JN	All Industry Activity Index MoM	Jan	0.30%		0.00%	
03/19/2020 15:20	ID	Bank Indonesia 7D Reverse Repo	Mar-19	4.50%		4.75%	
03/19/2020 16:00	PH	BSP Overnight Borrowing Rate	Mar-19	3.38%		3.75%	
03/19/2020 17:00	GE	IFO Business Climate	Mar P			96.1	
03/19/2020 17:00	GE	IFO Expectations	Mar P			93.4	
03/19/2020 17:00	GE	IFO Current Assessment	Mar P			98.9	
03/19/2020 20:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims	Mar-14	220k		211k	
03/19/2020 20:30	US	Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook	Mar	8		36.7	
03/19/2020 22:00	US	Leading Index	Feb	0.10%		0.80%	
Source: Bloomberg							

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