Daily Treasury Outlook

16 September 2021

Highlights

Global: Global sentiments edged up overnight with the UN tipping this year's growth to mark the fastest recovery in almost five decades, notwithstanding China's slowing growth momentum as reflected in the August industrial production and retail sales data. The S&P 500 added 0.85% overnight while VIX fell to 18.18. This was despite the tightening of regulations on Macau casinos which initially weighed on risk appetite. UST bonds also lost ground with the 10-year bond yield up 2bps to 1.30%. Crude oil prices also rose after a larger-than-expected decline in US crude stockpiles. Meanwhile, New Zealand expanded 2.8% qoq in 2Q21, double the pace of 1Q21, but may slow in 3Q21 due to the national lockdown. Separately, Australia is joining anew Indo-Pacific security partnerships with the US and UK that will allow it to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Market watch: Asian markets may range trade today. Today's economic data calendar comprises of HK's unemployment rate, and US' retail sales, initial jobless claims, and Philadelphia Fed business index. ECB's Lagarde and Rehn are also speaking today.

US: US' August industrial production moderated from 0.8% in July to 0.4% mom but was largely contributed to utility output and as Hurricane Ida led to some disruptions. Meanwhile, the House Ways and Means Committee approved US\$2.1 tn of new taxes on corporations and the wealthy, but differences remain with the Senate.

EU: ECB's Lane opined that "we have a coherent policy setting" as "our monetary accommodation is strengthening the underlying inflation dynamic" and "it's not a good idea to identify the monetary policy stance with the volume of asset purchases".

CN: China's August economic indicators disappointed with consumption missed the forecast by a big margin. Retail sales was the weakest link in August. On two-year average, retail sales growth decelerated to 1.5% yoy from 3.6% yoy in July. The sharp deceleration of retail sales was mainly attributable to the decline of catering sales and weak car sales. Nevertheless, after looking at the industry and sector breakdowns of those major indicators in details. We think the latest disappointed data has not changed the narratives about China's economic fundamental. We will discuss this in a note sent out later.

SG: The job vacancy hit a record high of 92.1k in June, bringing the ratio of job vacancies to unemployed persons above 1 for the first time since March 2019 to 1.63x. Meanwhile, the resident employment rose 28.5k in 1H21, while the non-resident employment declined by 32.6k. The overall, resident and citizen unemployment rates fell to 2.7%, 3.5% and 3.7% respectively in June. However, the labour market recovery is tipped to remain uneven across sectors, with a slower recovery for the tourism, aviation-related, F&B and retail trade sectors, especially with the return to P2(HA) measures in July-August.



Source: Bloomberg



Key Market Movements

Value

% chg

Equity



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Major Markets

SG: The STI declined 0.71% to close at 3058.61 yesterday and may range trade today. SGS bonds traded firmer yesterday, with yields lower by around 2bps, but may unwind those gains today amid weak leads from the UST bond market.

CN: Retail sales was the weakest link in August. On two-year average, retail sales growth decelerated to 1.5% yoy from 3.6% yoy in July. The sharp deceleration of retail sales was mainly attributable to the decline of catering sales and weak car sales. Catering sales fell by 4.5% yoy in August down sharply from growth of 14.3% yoy in July, the first decline in 2021. This is not surprising given the falling mobility as a result of the sporadic delta variant outbreak across more than 15 provinces in early August.

The recent sluggish car sales could be the cause for concern, This could be the result of both chip shortage and weaker consumer sentiment. Retail sales excluding car sales increased by 3.6% yoy, better than 2.5% headline growth.

The deceleration of industrial production was partially attributable to sharp decline of car production as a result of chip shortage. Auto production fell by 12.6% yoy. On positive note, high-tech manufacturing production accelerated to 18.3% yoy in August, highest since the data was published in 2018. In addition, pharmaceutical production reaccelerated to 32.9% yoy, second highest in record. This shows that China's production is likely to continue to receive support from China's domestic drive towards technology self-sufficient and external demand due to resurgence of Covid-19 globally.

HK: Southbound bond connect will be launched next Friday with annual aggregate quota of RMB500 billion and daily quota of RMB20 billion. Though the HKMA's official clarifies that all bonds sold in Hong Kong will be available under the new connect scheme, the continuous increase in foreign investors' holding of China's onshore bonds indicates that onshore bonds are sufficiently attractive at this juncture. Having said that, China's onshore investors may not only search for yield but also try to diversify the portfolio with offshore assets. As such, we expect some interests in the southbound bond connect. Also notable is that the new connect scheme will become a new source of offshore RMB liquidity, bring in new participants to offshore RMB bond market and prompt China's onshore investors to strengthen the ability of cross-border capital flows and foreign exchange risk management. Furthermore, this may provide a channel to digest the abundant onshore USD liquidity and in turn ease the upward pressure on RMB. If offshore bonds can be used for repo in onshore market, the appeal may increase further. In conclusion, the new connect scheme would undoubtedly be helpful to promote RMB internationalization in the longer term.



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Macau: The government said they would kick start a 45-day public consultation on 15th September regarding the revision to Macau's gambling laws. Since 2014, China's anti-corruption campaign had hit Macau's gaming sector hard with the share of VIP gaming revenue in total gaming revenue falling to 43.9% in 3Q 2019 from 60.9% in 4Q 2014. Recently, amid Covid-19 outbreak and China's crackdown on cross-border gambling, gaming revenue plunged further while the share of VIP gaming revenue in total gaming revenue also dropped further to record low of 33.5% in 2Q 2021. The upcoming revamp of gambling laws indicates that China will tighten the grip on the sector in order to crack down on money laundering. There may be three implications. First, even if border reopens fully and safely, the gaming revenue may not necessarily return to the pre-pandemic level of over MOP20 billion per month given the shrinking VIP segment. Second, Macau's GDP may not easily return to the pre-pandemic level either as it takes time for economic diversification. Third, as gaming sector is the main employer in Macau, the labour market may take some time for full recovery as well.

Indonesia: Indonesia reported an encouraging set of August trade prints yesterday, with exports growing by over 64% yoy, compared to estimates of 36% increase, on the back of big upticks in commodity shipments. Trade balance came in at a record-high surplus of \$4.74bn. Overall, the trade prints present a signal that the economic recovery may start to take root again in Indonesia, coming out of the latest pandemic resurgence.



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Bond Market Updates

Market Commentary: The SGD swap curve traded lower yesterday with shorter tenors trading 1-2bps lower, belly tenors trading 3-4bps lower, and longer tenors trading 3-5bps lower. There were heavy flows in SGD Corporates yesterday, with flows in OLAMSP 4%'26s, CS 5.675%-PERPs, AIA 2.9%-PERPs, MAPLSP 3.7%-PERPs, and UOBSP 2.55%-PERPs. UST 10Y Yields rose 2bps to 1.30% yesterday as investors absorb the lower-than-expected consumer price index reading released yesterday. The lower inflation reading may provide further impetus to the Fed's tapering plans as it seeks to reduce its monthly bond-buyback purchases by the end of the year.

New Issues: JSW Steel Ltd priced a USD500mn 5-year senior unsecured bond at 3.95%, tightening from an IPT of 4.375% area, and a USD500mn 10year senior unsecured sustainability-linked bond at 5.05%, tightening from an IPT of 5.5% area. Trafigura Group Pte Ltd priced a USD400mn perpNC6 subordinated bond at 5.875%, tightening from an IPT of 6.25% area. Korea Electric Power Corp priced a USD300mn 5-year senior unsecured green bond at T+40bps, tightening from an IPT of T+75bps area. Jinan Urban Construction International Investment Co Ltd (Guarantor: Jinan City Construction Group Ltd Co) priced a USD305mn 5-year senior unsecured bond at 2.4%, tightening from an IPT of 3% area. Bangkok Bank PCL priced a USD1.0bn 15NC10 Tier 2 subordinated bond at T+215bps, tightening from an IPT of T+250bps area. Keppel REIT MTN Pte Ltd priced a SGD150mn 7year senior unsecured bond at 2.07%. AYC Finance Ltd has arranged investor calls commencing 15 September for its proposed USD bond offering. Pinghu State-Owned Assets Holding Group Co has arranged investor calls commencing 15 September for its proposed USD bond offering. Beijing Environment Sanitation Engineering Group Co., Ltd has arranged investor calls commencing 15 September for its proposed USD bond offering.

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Foreign Exchange	D Cl	0/ Ch		Dec el	0/ Cl	_	Equity and Co	-	Not alt and
DWV	Day Close	% Change		Day Clo	-		Index	Value	Net change
	92.548	-0.08%	USD-SGD	1.340				34,814.39	236.8
JSD-JPY	109.380	-0.28%	EUR-SGD	1.584			S&P	4,480.70	37.6
UR-USD	1.182	0.12%	JPY-SGD	1.225			Nasdaq	15,161.53	123.7
AUD-USD	0.733	0.18%	GBP-SGD	1.855			Nikkei 225	30,511.71	-158.3
BP-USD	1.384 4.158	0.22%	AUD-SGD	0.983			STI KLCI	3,058.61	-21.7
JSD-MYR		-0.12%	NZD-SGD	0.953			JCI	1,555.26	
JSD-CNY JSD-IDR	6.433 14243	-0.09% -0.04%	CHF-SGD SGD-MYR	1.457 3.101			Baltic Dry	6,110.23 3,833.00	-18.8 176.0
USD-VND	22759	0.02%	SGD-CNY	4.795			VIX	18.18	-1.2
Interbank Offer Rat	es (%)						Government	Bond Yields (%)	
Tenor	EURIBOR	Change	Tenor	USD Libor	Change	-	Tenor	SGS (chg)	UST (chg
LM	-0.5580	-0.57%	O/N	0.078	0		2Y	0.36 (-0.01)	0.22(
2M	-0.3360	-0.34%	1M	0.088			5Y	0.79 (-0.01)	0.8 (+0.01
BM	-0.5480	-0.55%	2M	0.105			10Y	1.42 (-0.02)	1.24 (+0.02
5M	-0.5270	-0.53%	3M	0.130			15Y	1.71 (-0.02)	1.24(0.02
9M	-0.1940	-0.20%	6M	0.158			20Y	1.86 (-0.02)	-
12M	-0.4930	-0.49%	12M	0.235			30Y	1.88 (-0.02)	1.87(
Fed Rate Hike Proba	ability						Financial Spre	ad (bps)	
Meeting	# of Hikes/Cuts	Implied R	ate Change	Implied	l Rate		Value	Change	
09/22/2021	-0.007	-	077	0.07			EURIBOR-OIS	-6.00	(
11/03/2021	0.015		083	0.083			TED	35.36	· -
12/15/2021	0.002	C	.08	0.08					
01/26/2022	-0.007	0.077		0.07	7		Secured Over	night Fin. Rate	
03/16/2022	-0.007	0.	077	0.07	7		SOFR	0.05	
05/04/2022	0.016	0.	083	0.083	3				
Commodities Futu									
inergy		Fu	tures	% chg	Soft Commodit	ies		Futures	% ch
VTI (per barrel)		7	2.61	3.05%	Corn (per bushe	el)		5.335	2.59
Brent (per barrel)		7	75.46	2.53%	Soybean (per bu	ushel)		12.945	0.9
Heating Oil (per gallon)		220.53		2.04%	Wheat (per bushel)			7.123	1.69
Gasoline (per gallon)		220.66		1.57%	Crude Palm Oil	(MYR/MT)		45.670	2.2
Natural Gas (per M	IMBtu)		5.46	3.80%	Rubber (JPY/KG)		1.949	1.19
Base Metals		Fu	tures	% chg	Precious Metal	s		Futures	% ch
Copper (per mt)		962	27.00	1.96%	Gold (per oz)			1794.1	-0.69
Nickel (per mt)		2001	16.00	2.00%	Silver (per oz)			23.8	-0.19
			Econo	omic Cale	endar 🛛				
Date Time		Eve	nt			Survey	Actual	Prior	Revised
9/16/2021 06:45	NZ	GDP SA QoQ			2Q	1.10%	2.80%	1.60%	1.40%
9/16/2021 06:45	NZ	GDP YoY			2Q	16.10%	17.40%	2.40%	2.90%
9/16/2021 07:50	JN	Trade Balance			Aug	¥2.9b		¥441.0b	
9/16/2021 09:30	AU	Unemployment Rate			Aug	5.00%		4.60%	
9/16/2021 09:30	AU	Employment Change			Aug	-80.0k		2.2k	
9/16/2021 09:30	AU	Participation Rate			Aug	65.70%		66.00%	
9/16/2021 16:30	НК	Unemployment Rate SA			Aug	4.90%		5.00%	
9/16/2021 20:15	CA	Housing Starts			Aug	266.5k		272.2k	
9/16/2021 20:30	US	Retail Sales A	dvance MoM		Aug	-0.70%		-1.10%	
9/16/2021 20:30	US Ph	Philadelphia Fed Business Outlo			Sep	19.00		19.40	
9/16/2021 20:30	US	Continuing Claims			Sep-04	2740k		2783k	
9/16/2021 20:30	US	Retail Sales Ex Auto MoM			Aug	0.00%		-0.40%	
9/16/2021 20:30	CA	Wholesale Trade Sales MoM			Jul	-2.00%		-0.80%	
9/16/2021 20:30	US				Aug	0.00%		-0.70%	
9/16/2021 20:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims			Sep-11	323k		310k	
9/16/2021 21:45	US	Langer Consu			Sep-12			57.90	
<i>J9/10/2021 21.</i> 43		0 0			50p 12			07.000	

Source:Bloomberg

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