21 March 2016

Danske Daily

Market Movers

- There are few key releases today in the US. Existing home sales is expected to continue the positive development seen in 2015 but the market impact should be small. We will also keep an eye on the speeches from Fed's Lockhart and Lacker. Lacker is viewed as a hawk at the FOMC so interesting to hear his comments after the latest FOMC meeting.
- The two most important US data releases this week will be Markit manufacturing PMI and durable goods orders due tomorrow and Thursday respectively.
- ECB's Constancio speaks in London, otherwise there is little on the agenda in the euro zone today. Later this week the ZEW, IFO and PMI business surveys for March will attract attention after all three figures declined in January and February, with the financial uncertainty having a negative effect on economic sentiment.

Selected Market News

We have seen a strong recovery over the past month in oil and during the Friday session the Brent front-contract traded above USD42.5 for the first time since November last year. However, overnight oil has once again drifted lower as the USD has strengthened slightly and as oil rig count data on Friday showed that US oil producers for the first time this year added news rig – though the rise was very small.

US equity markets ended Friday and the week in positive territory and both the Dow Jones and the S&P 500 are now in green for the year. Especially commodity-related stocks and financials had a good day, supported by the general dovish sentiment among major central banks witnessed recently. The view that the Fed is ready to do 'whatever it takes' is also visible in markets for inflation: 5Y5Y inflation forward swaps have moved to 2.05% after trading below 1.80% a month ago.

After a negative opening in Asia the positive sentiment has also gained momentum in Asia. Note that Japan is closed for holiday today.

We had some interesting news from Chinese policy makers over the weekend. People's Bank of China Governor Zhou underlined his concern about a surge in Chinese debt leverage. The warning comes just weeks after the national legislature said that the top priority is to secure at least 6.5% annual growth for years to come. The comment shows that the Chinese authorities are aware that a target growth rate of 6.5% comes with a risk of creating an unsustainable overhang of debt. However, note that the comments come after the Chinese authorities loosened rules on margin trading for securities firms, adding renewed support to the Chinese stock market.

Market overview

		07:30	1 day +/-,%	
S&P500 (close)		2049.6	•	0.44
S&P500 fut (chng from clo	2033.6	Ψ.	-0.19	
Nikkei		16724.8	Ψ.	-1.25
Hang Seng		20676.9	0.03	
	17:00	07:30		+/-, bp
US 2y gov	0.84	0.84	•	0.0
US 10y gov	1.88	1.87	Ψ.	-0.9
iTraxx Europe (IG)	71	71	•	0.8
iTraxx Xover (Non IG)	309	311	•	1.9
				+/-, %
EUR/USD	1.129	1.127	Ψ.	-0.20
USD/JPY	111.420	111.470	•	0.04
EUR/CHF	1.09	1.09	Ψ.	-0.08
EUR/GBP	0.779	0.781	•	0.33
EUR/SEK	9.284	9.277	Ψ.	-0.07
EUR/NOK	9.42	9.44	•	0.20
				USD
Oil Brent, USD	41.8	40.9	Ψ.	-1.99
Gold, USD	1253.8	1246.1	÷.	-0.61
Note:				

Note:

* The iTroxx Europe Index shows the spread development for the most liquid investment grade CDS contracts in the euro credit market.

**The iTraxx Europe Crossover show the spread development of the most liquid non-investment grade CDS contracts in the euro credit market.

***The Markit CDX North America Investment Grade Index shows the spread development for the most liquid investment grade CDS contracts in the US credit market.

Source: Bloomberg

Selected readings from Danske Bank

- Weekly Focus
- FX Forecast Update

CBR rate decision: unchanged, no spring doves

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Scandi Markets

No important market data today.

Fixed Income Markets

On Friday S&P affirmed Portugal's BB+ rating and the outlook was kept unchanged at 'stable'. S&P says that it thinks that 'the new government will remain committed to policies that underpin further fiscal consolidation'. The S&P view should calm market fears and underline that the risk of a downgrade from DBRS to below investment grade is now relatively small. The Portuguese debt office said on Friday that it will tap EUR0.75 to 1.0bn in the 5Y and the 15Y on Wednesday. After the S&P rating announcement the auctions should go well.

Note that S&P also affirmed Finland's AA+ rating but that the outlook remains negative. Ahead of the announcement there were some market fears that S&P like Fitch a week ago could decide to announce a downgrade. RFGBs could see some small relief today.

There are no auctions in the EGB market today (Belgium cancelled) but tomorrow the Netherlands plans to sell EUR4-6bn of the new Jul-26 10Y benchmark with a 0.5% coupon. It will announce the initial spread guidance against the reference bond DBR 0.5% Feb-26 later today.

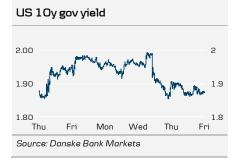
On Wednesday Germany is set to tap at the ultra-long end of the curve, with a seventh tap in the Aug-46 Bund. The demand history for this particular bond is not impressive as the past several auctions have been technically uncovered. However, the step-up in QE from the ECB and better demand when the Jun-44 was tapped at the end of February could indicate that demand for the ultra-long end of Germany has improved.

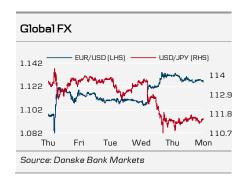
For more on the EGB market and why we still see value in global Fixed Income after last week's rally see *Government Bonds Weekly: Supportive FI environment following Fed, ECB and a stronger JPY* that we published on Friday.

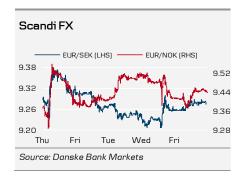
FX Markets

The comments from ECB's Praet regarding the ECB's options on rate cuts have weighed on EUR crosses but EUR/USD continues to trade close to the 1.13 level. In Friday's *FX Forecast Update* we rolled out our forecasts for the cross, now looking for 1.14 (previously 1.10) in 6M and 1.18 (previously 1.16) in 12M and stress that it will take a combination of Brexit fears and a re-pricing of the Fed in a more hawkish direction to send the cross below 1.10 near term. More broadly we stress that the skies are clearing for the Scandies and have revised our outlook for the SEK, NOK and DKK against the EUR. Whether the BoJ will keep the currency war alive will be seen at the late April meeting. We now expect Kuroda to cut rates by 20bp (previously we called for a cut in July). However, the effect on the currency might be limited in the short run as the BoJ is currently fighting gravity as fundamental factors, flows and stretched valuations provide substantial support for the JPY at the moment. We now forecast USD/JPY at 118 in 6-12M (120).



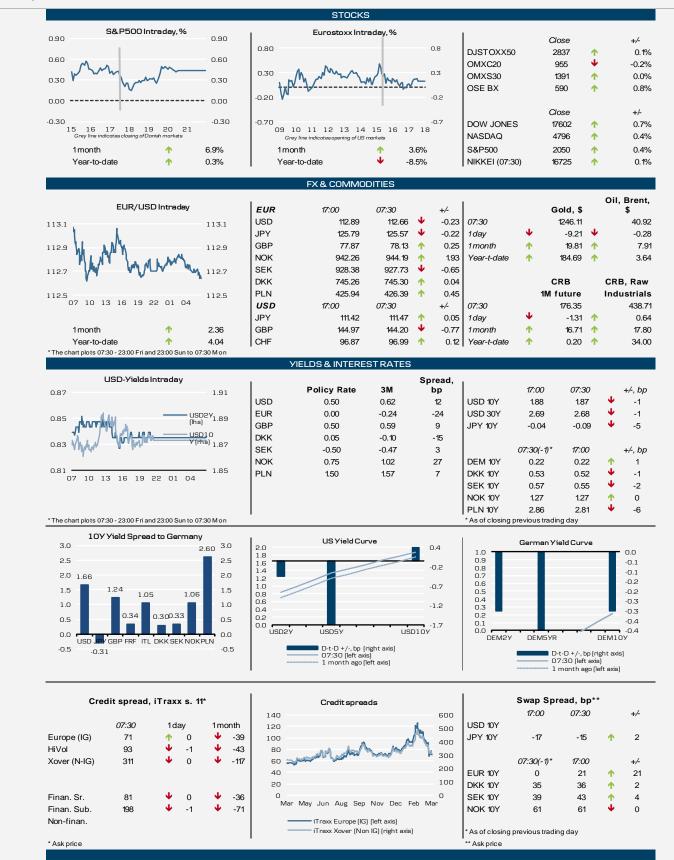






Key figures and events										
Monday, I	March	21,2016		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous			
1:01	GBP	Rightmove House Prices	m/m y/y	Mar			2.9% 7.3%			
8:45	EUR	ECB's Coeure speaks in Paris								
9:00	DKK	Consumer confidence	Net. bal.	Mar	4	4	4			
9:00	DKK	Employment (monthly)	1.000 m/m	Jan	3.000		2630 5200			
9:15	USD	Fed's Lacker (non-voter, hawkish) speaks								
10:00	EUR	Current account	EUR bn	Jan			25.5			
10:30	EUR	ECB's Constancio speaks in London								
15:00	USD	Existing home sales	m (m/m)	Feb		5.31	5.47 0.004			
17:40	USD	Fed's Lockhart (non.voter, neutral) speaks								
Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets										





Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets

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Expected updates

Danske Daily is updated on a daily basis.

First date of publication

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