21 December 2015

Danske Daily

Market Movers

- **Euro area** economic confidence data for December is released at 16:00 CET. Consumer confidence has been trending downwards since March 2015 but unexpectedly improved in November. We expect another - albeit slight - increase in December to -5.4 from -5.9 in November. Note that although consumer confidence has been trending downwards since March, the indicator is still the highest it has been for several years.
- In Sweden, NIER is due to release the December business and consumer confidence surveys and a new economic forecast (released at 9:00 CET and 9:15 CET, respectively). We think it is especially important to monitor what businesses are saying about price plans. Danish consumer confidence also coming up (9:00 CET). For more details see *Scandi Markets*.

Selected Market News

The price of Brent crude oil continues to edge lower after yet another slide last week. This morning the Brent oil price broke below the 2008-low at USD36.20/barrel (on 24 December 2008) and fell to the lowest level since July 2004 at USD36.17/barrel, according to Bloomberg. As such, risk sentiment remains negative as focus has shifted from the Fed interest rate hike to the global growth outlook and as year-end is approaching. Hence, US equity markets traded lower on Friday with the SP500 index closing 1.78% lower, while trading this morning in Asia is mixed with Chinese equity indices trading in positive, while Japan is down.

The collapse in the oil price has been the biggest macro shock in the past one and a half years and while a lower oil price in isolation should be positive for US and European consumers and thus for global growth, the equity markets tell us that this might not be the case right now. We earlier flagged the risks to the US high-yield market and EM leverage from the lower oil price but the Fed could still hike three times next year with oil at current levels as long as data are strong. Hence, our view on higher short-end US rates and a modestly stronger USD versus EM and commodity currencies still stands even if we are wrong about the oil price stabilising. For more details, see *Getting started but will it have the desired effect*?, 18 December.

In Spain the ruling conservative Popular Party (PP) became the biggest party in the 350seat parliament in yesterday's elections. However, the election outcome was very fragmented and there is no clear picture of who will take power as the only possible twoparty coalition is PP together with the Spanish Socialist Workers' party (PSOE), which seems very unlikely. It might take some time before we get clarity about the new government and the uncertainty is likely to weigh on Spanish markets in the near term. Hence, expect yields on Spanish government bonds to widen relative to e.g. Italian bonds.

Market overview

		07:30	1 day +/-,%	
		07.50	1 U	ay •/-,70
S&P500 (close)		2005.6	J.	-1.78
S&P500 fut (chng from cl	2000.6	*	0.44	
Nikkei		18909.4	÷	-0.41
Hang Seng		21829.1	•	0.34
			11	
	17:00	07:30		+/-, bp
US 2y gov	0.96	0.96	Ψ.	-0.4
US 10y gov	2.21	2.21	•	0.0
iTraxx Europe (IG)	80	81	•	0.8
iTraxx Xover (Non IG)	334	336	•	2.1
				+/-, %
EUR/USD	1.085	1.088	•	0.28
USD/JPY	121.460	121.310	Ψ.	-0.12
EUR/CHF	1.08	1.08	Ψ.	-0.06
EUR/GBP	0.728	0.729	•	0.10
EUR/SEK	9.284	9.303	•	0.20
EUR/NOK	9.49	9.51	•	0.20
				USD
Oil Brent, USD	37.4	36.4	Ψ.	-2.62
Gold, USD	1064.5	1069.0	•	0.42
Note:				

* The iTraxx 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: 'Post the first hike' era begins
- Yield Forecast Update: Central banks have now set the direction for 2016

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Scandi Markets

Swedish data today come from NIER which releases both the December confidence survey and a new forecast. The latter is the prime focus and it is perhaps mainly the outlook for government finances that we are interested in this time against the background of soaring flows of asylum seekers.

Denmark. Consumer confidence typically falls in December but on this occasion we expect the fall in the oil price to pull in the other direction.

Fixed Income Markets

In Spain, the ruling conservative PP (122 seats) became the biggest party in the 350-seat parliament. The Spanish two-party system that has been in place for 30 years has come to an end but the election outcome failed to provide a clear picture of who will take power. PP+Ciudanos won 160 seats, while the possible opposition PSOE+Podemos got 161 seats. The only possible two-party alliance would be PP with PSOE, which seems very unlikely. The situation is similar to what happened in Portugal but a new election can already be called after two months.

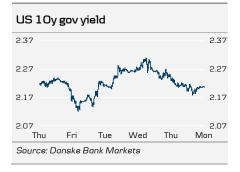
It is likely to take time before we get clarity and uncertainty is not a friend of the market. Spain could widen up to 10bp versus Italy today, potentially taking the spread back to the November highs. ECB QE buying could cushion some of the knee-jerk reaction but as today is the last day before the QE goes on pause we probably should not expect much help from that side. Liquidity is set to be poor into year-end and with elevated uncertainty, higher volatility is likely to follow. Looking towards next year and beyond the political uncertainty we are positive on Spain. Spanish fundamentals are stronger than the Italian ones as also reflected by the higher rating level. The recovery is solid with GDP growth trailing around 3%. We expect Spanish yields to drop below Italy again next year reversing the 2015 underperformance. Spain should also be helped by lower bond issuance. We estimate that QE purchases will amount to around 55% of Spanish bond issuance, while the figure for Italy will be around 39%.

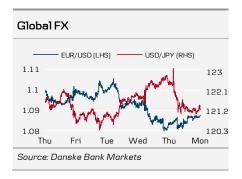
In Scandinavia focus is on Norway where the debt office at Norges Bank will publish its funding plan for 2016 today at 16:00 CET. We expect supply of NOK50bn in 2016 as the budget indicated.

FX Markets

A quiet week in terms of data releases but FX moves could still be ahead as liquidity dies out as the holiday period approaches. The USD has entered the post-the-first-hike era and we expect relative rates to weigh on USD crosses on a broad scale in the months ahead. However, we stress that notably for EUR/USD this requires decent US data for markets to keep the faith in Yellen. Canadian CPI disappointed on the downside on Friday and coupled with weakness in oil this is putting increasing pressure on the BoC. We maintain our view that the central bank will stay on hold but it surely requires new highs in USD/CAD to keep BoC sidelined.









Key figures and events										
Monday, I	Decem	nber 21, 2015		Period	Danske Bank	Consensus	Previous			
9:00	DKK	Consumer confidence	Net.bal.	Dec		4.5	5.6			
9:00	CHF	Total sight deposits	CHF bn				467.7			
9:00	SEK	Consumer confidence	Index	Dec		95.6	95.8			
9:00	SEK	Economic Tendency Survey	Index	Dec		106.9	106.5			
9:00	SEK	Manufacturing confidence	Index	Dec		108.1	107.6			
9:15	SEK	NIER economic forecasts								
16:00	EUR	Consumer confidence, preliminary	Net bal.	Dec	-5.4	-5.8	-5.9			
Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets										



Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets

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First date of publication

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