

Monday 14 August 2023

CURRENCIES	Spot	6mths
NZD/USD	0.5978	0.0001
NZD/AUD	0.9208	-0.0057
NZD/JPY	86.73	-2.55
NZD/EUR	0.5464	-0.0051
NZD/GBP	0.4708	-0.0001
NZD/CNH	4.3574	0.0000
AUD/USD	0.6498	0.0041
AUD/EUR	0.5935	-0.0019
EUR/USD	1.0944	0.0104
USD/CNH	7.2602	0.0000
GBP/USD	1.2694	0.0003
EUR/GBP	0.8620	0.0079
INT RATES	NZ	Australia
OCR/Cash	5.50%	4.10%
90 day bills	5.67%	4.22%
2 year swap	5.48%	4.23%
10 year Govt	4.92%	4.18%

China a "ticking time bomb"

Last week's economic data shone a spotlight on China's problems: deflation; weak trade numbers; dire bank lending stats; but it was the warnings from Chinese property giant, Country Garden, which saw market risk sentiment sour on Friday. Country Garden, which is one of China's biggest property developers, has warned that it could see a loss of up to USD 7.6 billion for the first six months of the year, with Moody's quick to announce a ratings downgrade, citing, "heightened liquidity and refinancing risks".

Last month, Evergrande, which was once China's biggest real estate firm before defaulting on its debts, revealed that in 2021 and 2022 it lost a combined USD 81.1 billion. The construction industry in China is said to account for around a third of the economy, the current woes prompting US President, Joe Biden, to label China's growing economic issues a *"ticking time bomb"* last week. One wonders if there is more behind US Secretary, Janet Yellen's, four day China visit last week.

The 'risk-off' theme saw the USD bid, the NZD/USD dipping back under 0.6000 (down a cent over the week), and the AUD/USD nudging 0.6500 and closing in on a 2023 low. The Australasian currencies also performed poorly against the other majors, touching multi-year lows against both the EUR and GBP.

There was further turbulence in interest rate markets, with the US 10-year yield spiking back to 4.15%, just 10bp off the November high. Perhaps adding to the upward momentum was data showing a 0.3% rise in US producer prices in July, slightly above expectations. Higher US debt issuance is also being blamed for much of the current volatility in US longterm yields, with the recent US credit rating downgrade bringing an unwelcome focus on the ever-growing government debt load and rising servicing costs.

UK economy expands, just

A warm June is being thanked for boosting the UK economy, with figures showing the economy expanded 0.2% in the June quarter, up from a 0.1% rise in the March quarter. While June's growth was better than expected, the UK remains the only country out of the G7 nations to not yet see its GDP return to pre-Covid levels. And with most of the drag from higher interest rates still to come, that goal may still be some time away. And while most economies have turned the inflation corner, UK CPI is still at 7.9%, almost four times the BoEs 2% target. Market pricing suggests two further interest rate hikes being required in the UK, the only major economy seen as still having further tightening to do to bring inflation back under control.

While the data calendar is light today, this week's highlights include Wednesdays RBNZ policy decision (no change expected but an updated OCR track will be provided), the July FOMC meeting minutes and Australian wage price and jobs data. Wednesdays GlobalDairyTrade auction results will also be nervously awaited. With auction volumes increasing and still few signs of Chinese demand returning, another leg lower is expected – reinforcing Fonterra's recent large downward revision to its milk price forecast.











	Spot FECs (mid)						Spot Mid	
FX	Mid	1mth	3mths	6mths	12mths		NZD/	AUD/
NZTWI	70.20					CAD	0.8031	0.8732
NZD/USD	0.5978	0.0000	0.0000	0.0001	-0.0004	CHF	0.5241	0.5673
NZD/AUD	0.9208	-0.0010	-0.0030	-0.0057	-0.0106	CNY	4.3296	4.6995
NZD/JPY	86.73	-0.42	-1.25	-2.55	-5.00	DKK	4.0690	4.4230
NZD/EUR	0.5464	-0.0008	-0.0024	-0.0051	-0.0104	FJD	1.3237	1.4389
NZD/GBP	0.4708	-0.0001	-0.0002	-0.0001	0.0002	HKD	4.6731	5.0796
						KRW	795.25	864.43
AUTWI	60.60					MYR	2.7409	2.9793
AUD/USD	0.6498	0.0007	0.0021	0.0041	0.0067	NOK	6.2165	6.7573
AUD/NZD	1.0849	0.0010	0.0032	0.0064	0.0121	SEK	6.4709	7.0338
AUD/JPY	94.11	-0.36	-1.06	-2.22	-4.42	SGD	0.8082	0.8785
AUD/EUR	0.5935	-0.0002	-0.0007	-0.0019	-0.0047	TWD	19.07	20.72
AUD/GBP	0.5117	0.0005	0.0015	0.0030	0.0061	ZAR	11.32	12.30
USD Index	102.85					EQUITIES		
EUR/USD	1.0944	0.0016	0.0048	0.0104	0.0201			Index
USD/JPY	145.01	-0.70	-2.09	-4.29	-8.33	NZX50		11,837
GBP/USD	1.2694	0.0002	0.0003	0.0003	-0.0013	ASX200		7,340
EUR/GBP	0.8620	0.0011	0.0035	0.0079	0.0169	Dow Jones		35,281
					S&P 500		4,464	
INTEREST		New Zealand		Australia		FTSE10	0	7,524
RATES	Mid Mi		Mid	DAX 30)	15,832		
						Nikkei		32,474
30 day bank bills			5.64%		4.11%			
90 day bank bills		5.67%		4.22%		COMMODITIES		
1 year swap			5.78%		4.33%			USD
2 year swap		5.48%		4.24%		Brent Crude		86.81
3 year swap		5.17%		4.13%		Gold		1,913.32
5 year swap		4.85%		4.22%		Silver		22.67
10 year swap		4.73%		4.48%		Iron Ore		105.37
3 year Govt bond		5.11%		3.87%		CRB Index		313.01
5 year Govt bond		4.90%		3.90%				NZD
10 year Govt bond		4.92%		4.18%		NZ Carbon		60.20

This document has been prepared by Bancorp Treasury Services Limited ("BTSL"). Whilst all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the facts stated are accurate and the opinions given are fair and reasonable, neither BTSL nor any of its directors, officers or employees shall in any way be responsible for the contents. No liability is assumed by BTSL, its directors, officers or employees for action taken or not taken on the basis of this document.







