

Global Markets Research

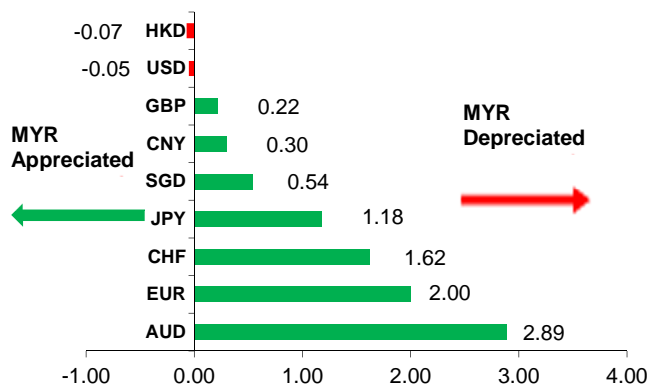
Weekly Market Highlights

Weekly Performance

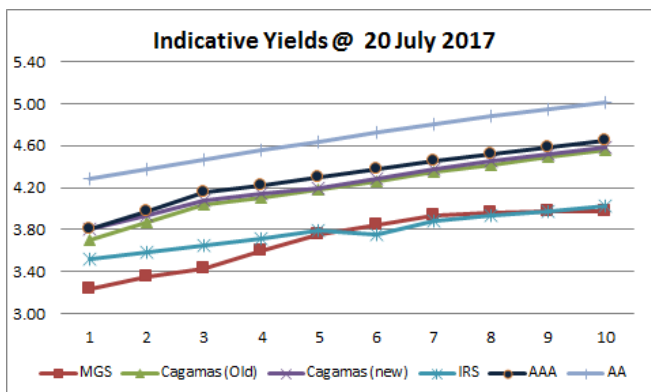
	Macro	Currency	Equity	10-y Govt Bond Yields
US	↔	↑	↑	↓
EU	↔	↑	↓	↓
UK	↔	↑	↑	↓
Japan	↑	↑	↑	↓
Malaysia	↓	↑	↑	↓
China	↑	↑	↑	↑
Hong Kong	↔	↓	↑	↓
Singapore	↑	↑	↑	↔

Weekly MYR Performance

MYR vs Major Counterparts (% WOW)



Indicative Yields



Please see important disclosure at the end of the report

Macroeconomics

- There are two key focuses on the macro front this week: global inflation and monetary policy meetings. Latest price reports reaffirmed that global inflation is losing its upward traction. CPI readings from the US, EU, UK, New Zealand, and even Malaysia (though mainly due to changes in administered prices), all added to signs of moderating inflationary pressure across the globe. While soft commodity prices are partly to be blamed, overall still subdued demand conditions continue to dampen price outlook. This has been, and will continue to be a key influencing factor in policy tightening especially among major central banks.
- ECB and BOJ stood pat as expected and both cited subdued inflation pressure as a concern. ECB President Draghi reiterated that there is no change to the central bank policy guidance but markets hung on his remarks that tapering discussion could begin in autumn, bringing forth September as a probable window in outlining tapering plans. We hold on to our believes that even if the ECB may begin discussing tapering plans in September, actual implementation will likely kick in only next year. We also do not see a case for policy tightening in Australia in the near term despite a slightly more hawkish RBA minutes.
- FOMC meeting will take center stage next week and we do not expect much new insights out of the meeting. More importantly, we expect markets to scrutinize advance reading on 2Q GDP, PMI manufacturing and services, durable goods orders and home sales data for more clues on recovery in the US economy. Based on recent data bag, we expect to see a pick-up in the US economy back above 2.0% in 2Q.

Forex

- MYR made soft gains through the week to advance 0.05% WOW to 4.2910 against USD, but weakened against all other G10s. We are slightly bearish on MYR, which will again be at the mercy of USD next week, and we reckon that it will be a stern test given the line-up of US data. Risk appetite looks likely to dim, which will put pressure on MYR. Even though bearish bias prevails in USDMYR, we suspect that declines will be limited given that the pair managed to close above 4.2887. Continued closings above this will likely establish firmer upsides and lifted USDMYR to 4.3020 going forward.
- USD tumbled against all G10s while the Dollar Index slumped 1.48% WOW to 94.30 as sell-off intensified with markets discounting Fed's hawkish outlook and to some extent, risk aversion as President Trump's administration comes under investigation. USD is neutral in our view, but we speculate that a rebound may be on the horizon after recent slump. USD may get a chance at redemption if US data improves next week, more so if the FOMC provides clearer details on balance sheet reduction. Otherwise, the decline may continue. Technically, the Dollar Index remains bearish and based on current signs, we cannot rule out extended declines. However, recent sharp declines suggest that rebounds may form though gains could be limited.

Fixed Income

- UST continue to trade range-bound with the absence of top tier US data, with investors preferring to take on a more tactical approach ahead of Fed FOMC meeting going into next week. Recent US macro prints this week continues to resonate a more optimistic tone, with housing starts and building permits exceeding market consensus levels. Levels exceeded market consensus, with readings of 8.3% and 7.4% respectively, suggesting that the US economic recovery remains on track. Renewed optimism for the US economy may warrant a stronger case for the Fed to continue with its rate normalization cycle.
- On the local front, MYR govies ended supported with bond yields easing lower towards end of week, with renewed buying interest emerging on benchmark 3-year and 5-year GII. Inflation for the month of June moderated lower with 3.6% yoy print versus May's 3.9% level. Expect investors to stay tactical ahead of upcoming FOMC meeting next week, with market players looking out for hints on timing of upcoming Fed's balance sheet reduction plan.

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Macroeconomics

6-month Macro Outlook

	Economy	Inflation	Interest Rate	Currency
US	↔	↔	↔	↑
EU	↑	↔	↔	↓
UK	↓	↔	↔	↓
Japan	↔	↔	↔	↔
Australia	↔	↔	↔	↓
China	↓	↔	↔	↓
Malaysia	↓	↓	↔	↔
Thailand	↔	↔	↔	↔
Indonesia	↔	↔	↔	↔
Singapore	↔	↔	↔	↔

Review

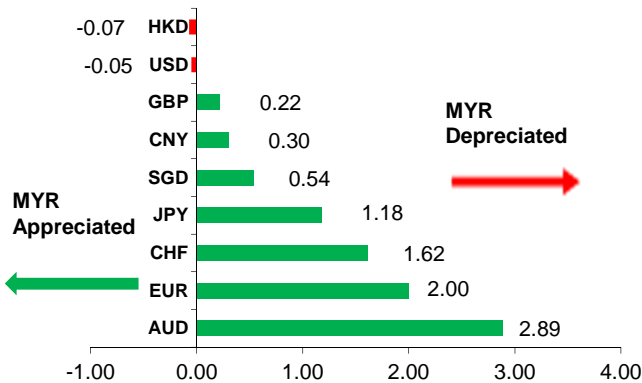
- There are two key focuses on the macro front this week: global inflation and monetary policy meetings. Latest price reports reaffirmed that global inflation is losing its upward traction. CPI readings from the US, EU, UK, New Zealand, and even Malaysia (though mainly due to changes in administered prices), all added to signs of moderating inflationary pressure across the globe. While soft commodity prices are partly to be blamed, overall still subdued demand conditions continue to dampen price outlook. This has been, and will continue to be a key influencing factor in policy tightening especially among major central banks.
- On the monetary policy front this week, ECB and BOJ stood pat as expected and both cited subdued inflation pressure as a concern. ECB President Draghi reiterated that there is no change to the central bank policy guidance but markets hung on his remarks that tapering discussion could begin in autumn, bringing forth September as a probable window in outlining tapering plans. We hold on to our belief that even if the ECB may begin discussing tapering plans in September, actual implementation will likely kick in only next year.
- Separately, BOJ policy makers maintained the same voting pattern (7-2) in keeping its policy rate unchanged at -0.1% and maintaining its bond yield target near zero percent. Moderate growth outlook as well as tempered inflationary outlook suggests the BOJ would continue to maintain an accommodative monetary policy stance. The Cabinet Office monthly report reaffirmed that the Japanese economy remains on a moderate growth path while BOJ has trimmed its inflation forecasts for the next two years to 1.1% and 1.5% respectively (prior: 1.4% and 1.7%).
- RBA minutes turned surprisingly hawkish. RBA minutes revealed that outlook for the Australian economy has improved and policymakers continued to be encouraged by strong labour market data. Policymakers opined that they believe a cash target rate of 3.5% is the new neutral real interest rate for the Aussie economy compared to the current level of 1.5%. It added that monetary policy had been clearly expansionary for the preceding 5-years or so. Despite slight hawkishness in RBA, we do not see a case for policy tightening in Australia in the near term.
- China's economy grew 6.9% YOY in 2Q, steady from 1Q and beating expected dip to 6.8%. GDP remains largely driven by the services sector (~52% of total GDP), followed by manufacturing (~42%) and agriculture. Given commendable data in the first 2 quarters, it appears that China has room to maneuver in the coming quarters to beat its projected growth target of 6.5% this year, at the same time continuing its agenda to curb excessive debt levels, reduce financial risks and address overcapacity issues in the industries.
- Back home, inflation moderated for a 3rd straight month, with CPI eased lower to 3.6% YOY in June versus May's 3.9%. Smaller gains in non-food prices, coupled with more moderate increase in food prices seen dampening price pressure in June. We are reaffirming our views for CPI to moderate in the second half, leading to a lower full year average of 3.4% for 2017.

The Week Ahead...

- FOMC meeting will take center stage next week and we do not expect much new insights out of the meeting. More importantly, we expect markets to scrutinize advance reading on 2Q GDP, PMI manufacturing and services, durable goods orders and home sales data for more clues on recovery in the US economy. Based on recent data bag, we expect to see a pick-up in the US economy back above 2.0% in 2Q.
- There are also plenty first tier data in the pipeline from other major economies: 2Q GDP, nationwide house prices, and GfK consumer confidence from the UK, PMI manufacturing and services, economic and consumer confidence from the EU, and over in Japan, jobless rate, retail sales and CPI. Down under, CPI and PPI will be key in assessing underlying inflationary/ disinflationary risks given downside surprises from most price report recently.
- In the Asia sphere, China industrial profit, Hong Kong exports, Singapore industrial production and CPI, as well as the usual barrage of Vietnamese data on retail sales, exports, industrial production and CPI are on the cards. Meanwhile, Malaysia will see the release of financial and monetary conditions for the month of June.

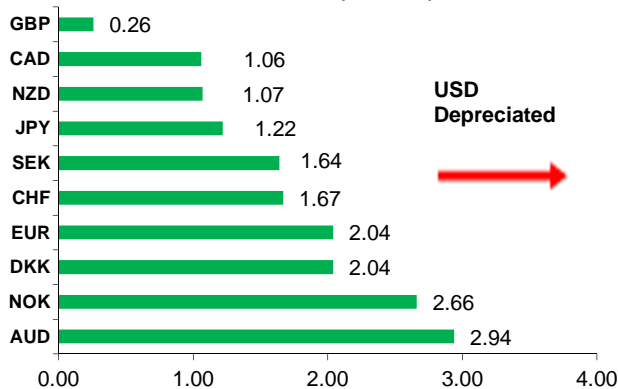
Forex

MYR vs Major Counterparts (% WOW)



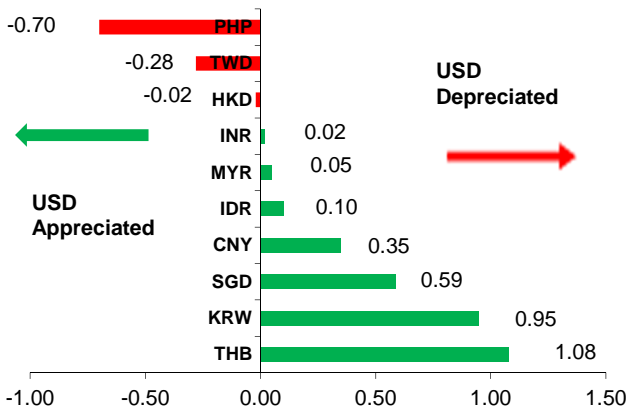
Source: Bloomberg

USD vs the G10s (% WOW)



Source: Bloomberg

USD vs Asian Currencies (% WOW)



Source: Bloomberg

Review and Outlook

- MYR:** MYR made soft gains through the week to advance 0.05% WOW to 4.2910 against USD, but weakened against all other G10s. We are slightly bearish on MYR, which will again be at the mercy of USD next week, and we reckon that it will be a stern test given the line-up of US data. Risk appetite looks likely to dim, which will put pressure on MYR. Even though bearish bias prevails in USDMYR, we suspect that declines will be limited given that the pair managed to close above 4.2887. Continued closings above this will likely establish firmer upsidess and lifted USDMYR to 4.3020 going forward.

- USD:** USD tumbled against all G10s while the Dollar Index slumped 1.48% WOW to 94.30 as sell-off intensified with markets discounting Fed's hawkish outlook and to some extent, risk aversion as President Trump's administration comes under investigation. USD is neutral in our view, but we speculate that a rebound may be on the horizon after recent slump. USD may get a chance at redemption if US data improves next week, more so if the FOMC provides clearer details on balance sheet reduction. Otherwise, the decline may continue. Technically, the Dollar Index remains bearish and based on current signs, we cannot rule out extended declines. However, recent sharp declines suggest that rebounds may form though gains could be limited.

- EUR:** EUR surged 2.04% WOW to 1.1631 against a weak USD and climbed against 6 G10s, lifted by markets' firmer belief that the ECB is close to tapering its QE programme. There is a need to highlight that the ECB remains firmly dovish, stressing that stronger growth has not translated into higher inflation, which is why it is perplexing that markets ignored this point and focused on upcoming ECB meetings, when QE tapering discussion is anticipated. We are slightly bearish on EUR against USD next week, expect the recent surge to fade once facts prevail. Softer Eurozone data would help push EURUSD lower. Technically, EURUSD is indeed inclined to test higher but we remain skeptical that the pair could establish an uptrend before first reversing lower.

- GBP:** GBP rose 0.26% WOW to 1.2973 against USD but fell against 9 G10s as Brexit concerns prevail. GBP is bearish against USD next week as we anticipate further eakness in UK data, adding to current Brexit worries. The larger part of the movement will be USD-driven, thus providing possibility that GBP can still register soft gains if the greenback falls further. GBPUSD has recently lost 1.3000, which dents current bullish bias and tilts the pair lower. We opine that the pair can test 1.2908 next week, and losing this exposes a drop to 1.2858.

- JPY:** JPY jumped 1.22% to 111.91 against a weak USD but slipped against 6 G10s as demand for European and risk-sensitive major improved. We are neutral on JPY against USD next week, but the bias is slightly biased in favour of JPY given likelihood of heightened risk aversion ahead of US data. USDJPY remains tilted to the downside and poised to test 111.25. This is a strong support that could bounce the pair back to 112.57, otherwise expect losses to 110.65.

- AUD:** AUD soared 2.94% WOW to 0.7958 against a weak USD and advanced against all G10s, boosted by an upbeat RBA that had markets jumping onto the current fervor that major central banks are gradually turning hawkish. We are slightly bearish on AUDUSD next week. Caution that a surprised slowdown in Australia CPI will add more downsides to the pair. Technically, we maintain the view that AUDUSD has peaked and will soon retreat. We cannot rule out last-ditch rally that could test 0.7989, but anything short would maintain our bearish view and potentially establish a drop to 0.7737.

- SGD:** SGD climbed 0.59% WOW to 1.3662 against a weak USD but declined against 9 G10s. Recent upbeat Singapore that has buoyed SGD will likely fade, and given bullish potential in USD as well as risk aversion in the markets ahead of US data, expect SGD to turn slightly bearish. We caution that a potential rebound is forming in USDSGD, and a rally to 1.3752 looks to be on the horizon.

Technical Analysis:

Currency	Current price	14-day RSI	Support - Resistance		Moving Averages			Call
					30 Days	100 Days	200 Days	
EURUSD	1.1634	71.30	1.1229	1.1632	1.1346	1.1018	1.0848	Positive
GBPUSD	1.2979	54.79	1.2770	1.3117	1.2867	1.2735	1.2572	Positive
USDJPY	111.92	44.82	111.35	114.21	112.13	111.73	111.97	Positive
USDCNY	6.7649	35.63	6.7443	6.8334	6.7978	6.8568	6.8536	Negative
USDSGD	1.3645	29.90	1.3631	1.3918	1.3800	1.3921	1.4056	Negative
AUDUSD	0.7905	70.73	0.7455	0.7970	0.7665	0.7566	0.7539	Positive
NZDUSD	0.7423	70.21	0.7219	0.7402	0.7287	0.7079	0.7105	Positive
USDMYR	4.2863	44.03	4.2835	4.3024	4.2855	4.3534	4.3588	Neutral
EURMYR	4.9868	73.04	4.8046	4.9861	4.8568	4.7789	4.7340	Positive
GBPMYR	5.5631	53.80	5.4620	5.6328	5.5153	5.5273	5.4746	Positive
JPYMYR	3.8303	52.81	3.7541	3.8615	3.8271	3.8925	3.9163	Negative
CHFMYR	4.5076	63.26	4.4080	4.5110	4.4396	4.4151	4.3866	Positive
SGDMYR	3.1411	70.71	3.0844	3.1438	3.1052	3.1246	3.1060	Positive
AUDMYR	3.3881	75.16	3.1991	3.4101	3.2817	3.2959	3.2896	Positive
NZDMYR	3.1819	69.68	3.0969	3.1705	3.1188	3.0811	3.0984	Positive

➤ Trader's Comment:

Eventful week with lots of Tier 1 data, which was mostly positive for every nation except US and Japan. It started with the worse than expected US CPI and retail sales figures last Friday, and then decent China industrial production data on Monday, but the main mover was the RBA minutes released on Tuesday morning. Markets reacted to the mention of neutral rates at 1.5% vs policy rate at 3.5%, sending AUDUSD 1 big figure higher within an hour and subsequently reached a high of 0.7989 on the release of improvement in Australian full time employment data on Thursday. It has since retraced to low of 0.7875 as RBA assistant governor Debelle clearly indicated preference for a weaker AUD in his speech this morning, but seeing how it is still extremely resilient there may be further upside for this currency.

The other highlight of the week was the optimistic ECB last night, even suggesting policy change discussions to begin in September this year, leading EURUSD to break 1.1600 resistance at last. Furthermore, oil, stocks and commodities were all up as well this week and there is ongoing political investigations into the relationship between Trump and Russia. All these resulted in a continuation of the DXY downtrend, sending it to low of 94.09 which is very close to the previous low of 94.077 in August last year. The only news that was somewhat USD positive was a dovish BOJ on Thursday, which admitted being behind target time in hitting inflation goal of 2% but apart from that maintained its policy stances. Next week we have some EUR PMI data and also FOMC on Thursday morning. Should the Fed fail to deliver, expect DXY to be pushed another leg lower.

Despite all the excitement globally, USDMYR remained within a 4.2830-4.2920 range all week. Expect MYR to remain stable within 4.2700-4.3000 for the week ahead.

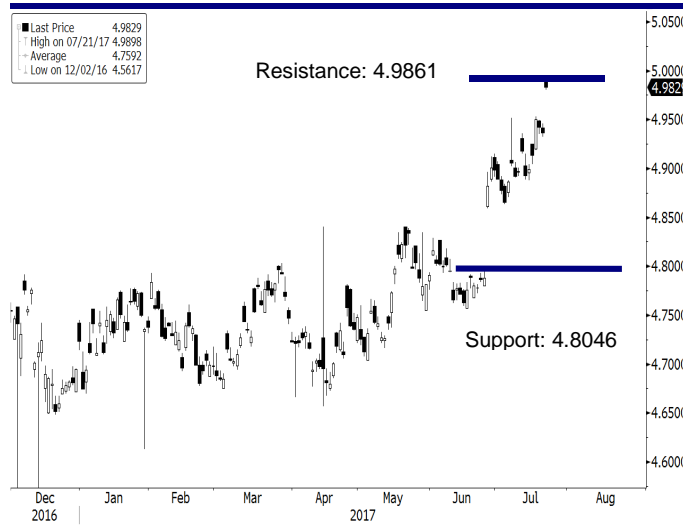
Technical Charts

USDMYR



Source: Bloomberg

EURMYR



Source: Bloomberg

GBPMYR



Source: Bloomberg

JPYMYR



Source: Bloomberg

AUDMYR



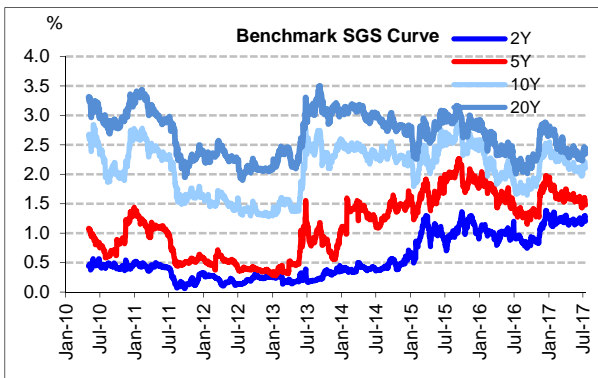
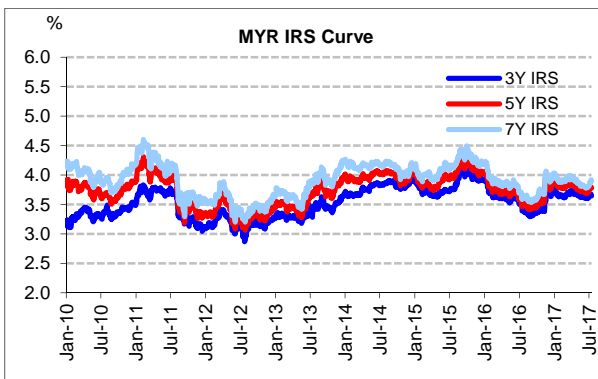
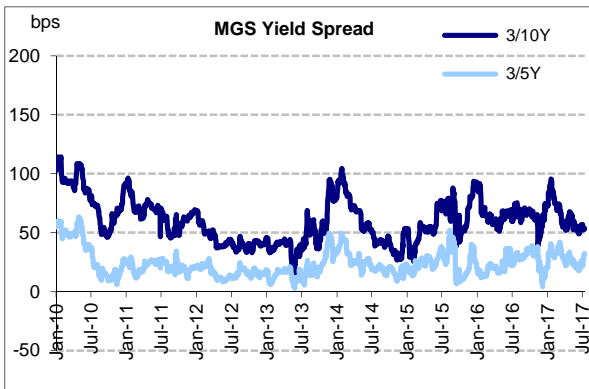
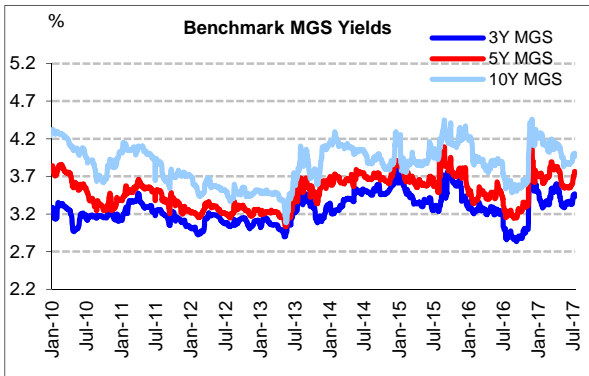
Source: Bloomberg

SGDMYR



Source: Bloomberg

Fixed Income



Review & Outlook

- UST continue to trade range-bound with the absence of top tier US data, with investors preferring to take on a more tactical approach ahead of Fed FOMC meeting going into next week. Recent US macro prints this week continues to resonate a more optimistic tone, with housing starts and building permits exceeding market consensus levels. Levels exceeded market consensus, with readings of 8.3% and 7.4% respectively, suggesting that the US economic recovery remains on track. Renewed optimism for the US economy may warrant a stronger case for the Fed to continue with its rate normalization cycle.
- On the local front, MYR govies ended supported with bond yields easing lower towards end of week, with renewed buying interest emerging on benchmark 3-year and 5-year GII. Inflation for the month of June moderated lower with 3.6% yoy print versus May's 3.9% level. Expect investors to stay tactical ahead of upcoming FOMC meeting next week, with market players looking out for hints on timing of upcoming Fed's balance sheet reduction plan.
- Moving into the corporate bonds space, trading volume remained thin with the absence of fresh leads. We saw a slew of SPR Energy bonds emerging on the secondary trading space. As of Thursday's close we saw GG papers PTPTN '8/21 and '6/22 traded with levels closing at 4.03% and 4.08% level respectively. Prasa '3/24 meanwhile ended at 4.25% level. Toll road bonds ANIH 2018-2020 seen changing hands, with levels crossed at 4.20%, 4.35% and 4.45% level respectively.
- On a similar tone, benchmark SGS mirrored a similar range-bound trading mode. We opine recent hawkish rhetorics from the Fed and ECB on prospects of tapering and balance sheet reduction have somewhat influenced bond yields to creep higher. 10-year SGD benchmark saw yields hovering at 2.06% level at time of writing. On the macro front, NODX for the month of June improved with a reading of 8.2% YoY versus a revised level of 0.4% in May. All eyes on Singapore's June CPI release going into next week, with survey expecting a 1.6% YoY gain.

Rating Actions			
Aquasar Capital Sdn Bhd	RM1,500 million Sukuk Murabahah	AAA / Stable	Affirmed
Northern Gateway Infrastructure Sdn Bhd	Proposed issuance of up to RM340 million in nominal value Medium-Term Notes Programme (MTN Programme)	AA1 / Stable	Assigned
OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad	RM600 million Redeemable Subordinated Bonds (2012/2022)	AA1 / Stable	Affirmed
	RM400 million Innovative Tier-1 Capital Securities (2009/2039)	AA2/ Stable	

Source: RAM, MARC

Economic Calendar Release Date

Date	Country	Event	Reporting Period	Survey	Prior	Revised
08/01	Malaysia	Nikkei PMI	Jul	--	46.9	--
08/04		Exports YOY	Jun	--	32.5%	--
07/24	US	Markit US Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	--	52.0	--
		Markit US Services PMI	Jul P	--	54.2	--
		Existing Home Sales MoM	Jun	-1.4%	1.1%	--
07/25		S&P CoreLogic CS 20-City YoY NSA	May	--	5.67%	--
		Conference Board consumer confidence	Jul	116.0	118.9	--
		Richmond Fed Manufact. Index	Jul	--	7	--
07/26		MBA Mortgage Applications	Jul-21	--	6.3%	--
		New Home Sales MoM	Jun	0.9%	2.9%	--
07/27		FOMC Rate Decision (Upper Bound)	Jul-26	1.25%	1.25%	--
		Durable Goods Orders	Jun P	2.7%	-0.8%	--
		Initial Jobless Claims	Jul-22	--	--	----
		Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index	Jun	--	-0.26	--
		Kansas City Fed Manf. Activity	Jul	--	11	--
07/28		GDP Annualized QoQ	2Q A	2.60%	1.40%	--
		U. of Mich. Sentiment	Jul F	93.2	93.1	--
07/31		Chicago PMI	Jul	59.5	65.7	--
		Pending home sales MOM	Jun	1.0%	-0.8%	--
		Dallas Fed manufacturing	Jul	--	15.0	--
08/01		Personal income	Jun	--	0.4%	--
		Personal spending	Jun	0.2%	0.1%	--
		PCE core MOM	Jun	--	0.1%	--
		Markit PMI manufacturing	Jul F	56.0	57.8	--
		ISM manufacturing	Jul	--	55.0	--
08/02		MBA mortgage applications	Jul 28	--	--	--
		ADP employment change	Jul	--	158k	--
08/03		Initial jobless claims	Jul 29	--	--	--
		Markit PMI services	Jul F	--	--	--
		ISM services	Jul	56.4	57.4	--
		Factory orders	Jun	1.0%	-0.8%	--
		Durable goods orders	Jun F	--	--	--
08/04		Change in nonfarm payroll	Jul	175k	222k	--
		Unemployment rate	Jul	4.3%	4.4%	--
		Trade balance	Jun	-\$45.6b	-\$46.5b	--
07/25	UK	CBI Trends Total Orders	Jul	--	16	--
07/26		GDP QoQ	2Q A	0.3%	0.2%	--
		Index of Services 3M/3M	May	--	0.2%	--
07/28		GfK Consumer Confidence	Jul	--	-10	--
		Nationwide House Px NSA YoY	Jul	--	3.1%	--
07/31		Net consumer credit	Jun	--	1.7bn	--
		Mortgage approvals	Jun	--	65.2k	--
08/01		PMI manufacturing	Jul	--	54.3	--
08/02		PMI construction	Jul	--	54.8	--
08/03		Markit PMI services	Jul	--	53.4	--
		BOE bank rate	Aug 3	0.25%	0.25%	--
		BOE asset purchase target	Aug 3	435b	435b	--
		BOE Inflation Report				
07/24	Euro zone	Markit Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Jul P	--	57.4	--
		Markit Eurozone Services PMI	Jul P	--	55.4	--
07/28		Economic Confidence	Jul	--	111.1	--
		Business Climate Indicator	Jul	--	1.15	--

		Consumer Confidence	Jul F	--	--	--
07/31		Unemployment rate	Jun	--	9.3%	--
		CPI YOY	Jul	--	1.3%	--
08/01		Markit PMI manufacturing	Jul F	--	--	--
		GDP YOY	2Q A	--	1.9%	--
08/02		PPI YOY	Jun	--	3.3%	--
08/03		ECB Economic Bulletin				--
		Markit PMI services	Jul F	--	--	--
		Retail sales MOM	Jun	--	0.4%	--
07/24	Japan	Nikkei Japan PMI Mfg	Jul P	--	52.4	--
		Leading Index CI	May F	--	104.7	--
		Coincident Index	May F	--	115.5	--
07/26		Small Business Confidence	Jul	--	49.2	--
07/28		Jobless Rate	Jun	2.9%	3.1%	--
		Overall Household Spending YoY	Jun	0.7%	-0.1%	--
		Natl CPI YoY	Jun	0.4%	0.4%	--
		Retail Sales MoM	Jun	0.5%	-1.5%	--
07/31		Industrial production MOM	Jun P	--	-3.6%	--
		Housing starts YOY	Jun	--	-0.3%	--
08/01		Nikkei PMI manufacturing	Jul F	--	--	--
08/02		Consumer confidence	Jul	--	43.3	--
08/03		Nikkei PMI services	Jul	--	53.3	--
07/27	China	Industrial Profits YoY	Jun	--	16.70%	--
07/31		PMI manufacturing	Jul	--	51.7	--
		PMI services	Jul	--	54.9	--
		Caixin PMI manufacturing	Jul	--	50.4	--
		Caixin PMI services	Jul	--	51.6	--
07/27	Hong Kong	Exports YoY	Jun	8.0%	4.0%	--
08/02		Retail sales value YOY	Jun	--	0.5%	--
08/03		Nikkei PMI	Jul	--	51.1	--
07/24	Singapore	CPI YoY	Jun	0.8%	1.4%	--
07/26		Industrial Production YoY	Jun	12.1%	5.0%	--
07/28		Unemployment rate SA	2Q	--	2.3%	--
08/02		PMI	Jul	--	50.9	--
		Nikkei PMI	Jul	--	50.7	--
07/26	Australia	CPI YoY	2Q	2.3%	2.1%	--
07/28		PPI YoY	2Q	--	1.3%	--
08/01		AiG manufacturing index	Jul	--	55.0	--
		RBA cash target rate	Aug 1	1.50%	1.50%	--
08/02		Building approvals	Jun	--	-5.6%	--
08/03		AiG services	Jul	--	54.8	--
		Trade balance	Jun	--	A\$2471m	--
08/04		Retail sales MOM	Jun	--	0.6%	--
		RBA statement on monetary policy				--
07/26	New Zealand	Trade Balance NZD	Jun	300m	103m	--
07/31		Building permits MOM	Jun	--	7.0%	--
		ANZ activity outlook	Jul	--	42.8	--
		ANZ biz confidence	Jul	--	24.8	--
08/02		Unemployment rate	2Q	--	4.9%	--
		Employment change	2Q	--	1.2%	--
07/24	Vietnam	CPI YoY	Jul	--	2.54%	--
07/25-31		Retail Sales YTD YoY	Jul	--	10.10%	--
		Exports YTD YoY	Jul	--	18.90%	--
		Industrial Production YoY	Jul	--	8.60%	--
08/01		Nikkei PMI	Jul	--	52.5	--

Source: Bloomberg

Hong Leong Bank Berhad

Fixed Income & Economic Research, Global Markets

Level 6, Wisma Hong Leong

18, Jalan Perak

50450 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 603-2773 0469

Fax: 603-2164 9305

Email: HLMarkets@hlbb.hongleong.com.my

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