Global Markets Research

Weekly Market Highlights

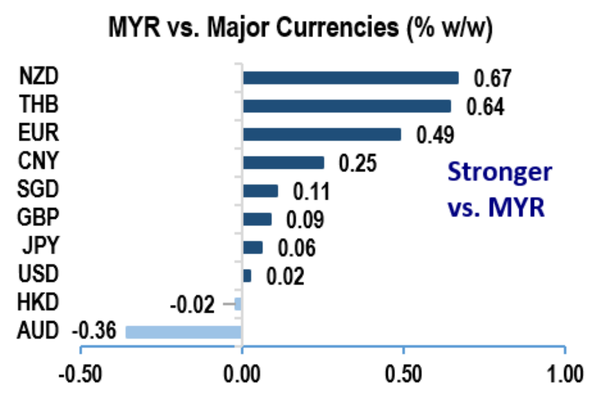
Market

	Last Price	WOW%	YTD %
Dow Jones Ind.	52,208.06	0.96	8.62
S&P 500	7,437.63	0.40	8.65
FTSE 100	10,897.27	2.43	9.73
Hang Seng	25,858.88	2.57	0.81
KLCI	1,720.40	0.34	2.12
STI	5,673.58	1.65	21.28
Dollar Index	99.97	-1.44	1.83
WTI oil ($/bbl)	83.96	-9.09	45.58
Brent oil ($/bbl)	89.45	-11.47	44.91
Gold (S/oz)	4,099.90	1.17	-5.77
CPO (RM/ MT)	4,539.00	-1.15	13.33
Copper ($$/MT)	13,798.50	1.71	11.11
Aluminum($/MT)	3,193.00	0.09	6.68

Source: Bloomberg

- **Volatile week amid FOMC, geopolitical and mega cap earnings:** Markets whipsawed amid a busy week swamped by corporate earnings from mega cap companies, in addition to the fragile geopolitiical situation in the Middle East. Markets were intially rather steady until the FOMC policy outcome that showed a split 9-3 vote for a rate pause, that promopted a sharp pullback in equities and the Dollar Index, further dampened by softer than expected 2Q GDP growth and core PCE from the US. The Dow and S&P500 closed the week higher by 1.0% and 0.4% w/w respectively while the tech-heavy Nasdaq saw a marginal 0.1% w/w decline. Crude oil prices meanwhile plummeted 9-12% w/w given no major escalation in the geopolitiical temperature.
- **US nonfarm payroll in focus next week:** Another busy week jam-packed with first tier economic indicators. Topping investor radar will be nonfarm job report which is expected to show more job additions for the month of July. On top of this, more July PMI prints from both the majors (final readings) and the region will be srutinzied to get a better sense of how 3Q growth has started. In addition, the usual data dump (exports, retail sales, industrial production, CPI) from Vietnam is in the pipeline and expectation is these data will reinforce expectations for a still positive outlook for the Vietnamese economy. Other economic indicatos due for releases include US trade balance, factory orders, durable goods orders (final), NY Fed inlfation expectations, and Singapore and Hong Kong retail sales.

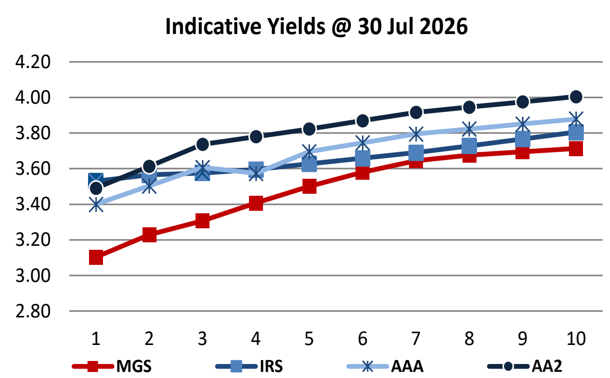
Forex



Source: Bloomberg

- **MYR:** MYR was little changed in trading against the greenback for the week (prior: -0.4%), inching lower to 4.0900 from 4.0890 the prior week, amidst an empty data calendar domestically and BNM Governor Rasheed continuing to remain upbeat on the economy and indicating that growth for the year is expected to come in at the higher end of the official forecast. Against the rest of the G10 and major regional currencies, the MYR was mostly weaker across the board, except against the IDR (+0.9%), TWD (+0.6%) and AUD (+0.4%). We are ***Neutral*** on USD/MYR for the coming week, foreseeing a possible trading range of 4.0650 – 4.1150. The week ahead sees the release of the S&P Global Malaysia manufacturing PMI for July that may provide an indication of the economic momentum as we began 3Q.
- **USD:** The DXY lost ground in trading this week, depreciating by 1.6% w/w (prior: 0.7%) to 99.86 from 101.44 the week before, amidst the FOMC leaving rates on hold in a 9-3 majority decision and a volatile week for the conflict in the Middle East. Economic data for the week saw advanced 2Q GDP come in softer than expected, while the core PCE index for June was slightly cooler than anticipated, while the preliminary US PMIs for July rose more than expected, driven by the services sector. We are ***Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish*** on the USD for the week ahead, eyeing a probable trading range of 98.75 – 101.25 for the DXY. The coming week brings the release of the ISM indices for July and the usual slew of labour market indicators (ADP, JOLTS and Challenger) as we build up towards next Friday's monthly employment report for July.

Fixed Income



Source: Bloomberg/ BPAM

- **UST:** US Treasuries were mixed in trading for the week in review, with shorter dated bonds registering gains while the longer end of the maturity spectrum saw weakness, after the FOMC voted to hold policy in 9-3 majority vote. Economic data for the week saw advanced 2Q GDP come in lower than anticipated, while the core PCE index for June was slightly cooler than expected and the preliminary US PMIs for July rose by more than anticipated. **Overall benchmark yields for the week were mixed by between -10 to +5bps w/w** (prior: 8 to 21bps higher). The benchmark 2Y UST yield declined by 10bps for the week to 4.25% while the benchmark 10Y UST saw its yield decline by 2bps to 4.67%, resulting in the UST curve steepening for the week. **We expect USTs to trade on a constructive note for the coming week**. The week ahead sees the release of the ISM indices for July and also features the release of the usual slew of labour markets indicators (ADP, JOLTS job openings and Challenger job cuts) ahead of the monthly employment report for July that is due next Friday.
- **MGS/GII:** Local government bonds declined for the week in review, amidst an empty data calendar for the week domestically. BNM Governor Rasheed continued to sound upbeat on the economy, mentioning that they expect growth for the year to come in at the higher end of the official forecast. **Overall benchmark MGS/GII yields closed the week higher by between 0 to 7bps w/w** (prior: 1 to 6bps higher). The benchmark 5Y MGS 6/31 yield was 5bps higher for the week at 3.51%, while the benchmark 10Y MGS 7/35 yield advanced by 2bps to 3.71%. **For the week ahead, we expect local govvies to trade with a bullish bias.** The coming week sees the release of the S&P Global Malaysia manufacturing PMI for July, and we will also see the announcement of the re-opening of the GII 10/31 which is set to take over from the GII 08/30 as the new benchmark 5Y GII, and we expect RM5bn to be put up for sale in the first of four government bond auctions that we are due to get in August.

Macroeconomic Updates

- **Volatile week amid FOMC, geopolitical and mega cap earnings:** Markets whipsawed amid a busy week swamped by corporate earnings from mega cap companies for further assess on the authenticity of concerns over tech overvaluation, in addition to the fragile geopolitiical situation in the Middle East. Markets were intially rather steady until the FOMC policy outcome that showed a split 9-3 vote for a rate pause, that promopted a sharp pullback in equities and the Dollar Index. The Dollar Index was pushed back further below the 100-handle, dampened by softer than expected 2Q GDP growth and core PCE from the US. The Dow and S&P500 closed the week higher by 1.0% and 0.4% w/w respectively while the tech-heavy Nasdaq saw a marginal 0.1% w/w decline. Crude oil prices meanwhile plummeted 9-12% w/w with the WTI last closed at $84.08/ barrel and Brent at $89.45/ barrel as at Thursday close given no major escalation in the geopolitiical temperature.

- **No surprises from central bank policy meets; divided views from the FOMC and BOE:** The FOMC voted 9-3 to keep rates unchanged at 3.50-3.75% at this week's policy meeting, continuing the most divided decisions last seen in April (8-4) and last December (9-3). In terms of the statement, there were little changes, reiterating that inflation remained elevated and that growth has remained firm despite mounting uncertainties. Given expectations for soft payroll numbers and potentially furhter pullback in inflation readings, we maintain our house view for rate pause from the FOMC this year. Market pricing for Fed rate hikes for 2026 has fallen to 33bps post-FOMC, from 45bps before the meeting.

- The BOE also threaded on similar grounds, with a 6-3 vote to keep rates on hold. The three dissenters preferred a 25bps hike due to concerns over second round effects and prefer an "insurance hike" per se but BOE Governor was adamant in downplaying rate hike expectations at his press conference, citing "clear signs' domestic inflation pressures are easing. Similar to the Fed, we are maintaining our house view for a rate pause from the BOE at this juncture given the downside surprises in inflation readings, but will continue to monitor any potential shift in the balance of risks.

- For MAS (Monetary Authority of Singapore), they increased "very slightly" the pace of appreciation of its S$NEER policy band (previous decision: increased slightly), and left the width and center unchanged, to ward off inflation pressure. "External price pressures are expected to persist and pass through more broadly to domestic consumer prices in the period ahead", according to the latest MAS statement. Upside surprises from the 1H GDP print (6.0% y/y) should keep MAS on a tightening bias, but the softer than expected pick-up in headline and core inflation in June should reduce urgency for further tightening.

- **First tier US data prints all turned out softer than expected:** Advanced 2Q GDP growth moderated more than expected to 1.5% q/q in 2Q (1Q: 2.0% q/q). Declines in government consumption and net exports exerted a drag on overall GDP growth during the quarter, and offset the higher contribution from personal consumption. Contrary to the quicker expansion in private consumption (+3.2% vs +0.5% y/y), personal income and spending surprised on the downside. Personal income tapered off more than expected to 0.2% m/m in June (May: 0.7% m/m), while personal spending eased from 0.9% m/m to 0.3% m/m, spurring fear of a slowdown in the consumer sector. On inflation, tracking recent signs of downside surprises in inflation, core PCE also came in softer than expected. Headline moderated from 4.1% to 3.7% y/y while core PCE also moderated, from 3.4% to 3.3% y/y, both very much within expectations, due to slower gains in services and durable goods prices.

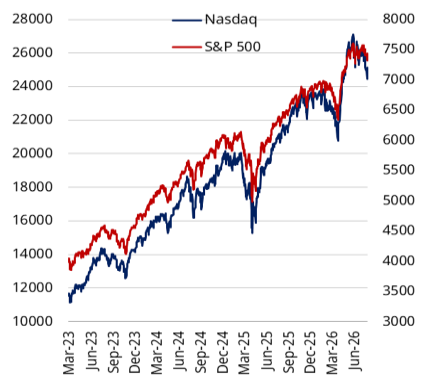
- **Better than expected advanced 2Q GDP from the Eurozone:** Advanced 2Q GDP growth from the Eurozone surprised on the upside at 0.4% q/q and 1.0% y/y. picking up from the 0.0% q/q and 0.5% y/y increase seen in 1Q (revised higher from -0.2% q/q and 0.3% y/y announced previously). This marked its strongest growth in five quarters and was supported by growth in German, France, Italy and Spain, despite headwinds from the energy shock.

- **Softer than expected Australia CPI further dampened RBA rate hike expectations:** In tandem with downside surprises seen in recent CPI readings from the major economies, Australian CPI also came in softer than expected. Headline CPI eased off more than expected from 4.0% to 3.8% y/y while the RBA's preferred inflation gauge, the trimemd mean CPI, ticked up lesser than expected from 3.5% to 3.6% y/y.

- **July PMIs mainly surprised on the upside:** Composite PMIs for all major economies namely the US, EU, UK, Japan and Australia, picked up more than expected nad were all in expansionary mode, driven by business confidence and employment outlook. We are however concerned over a potentail pullback in August given the renewed tension and increase in oil prices. In a stark contrast, China offiical PMI just released this morning hugely disappoionted, with the composite PMI falling sharply into contraction territory at 49.3 (Jun: 50.6), its first contractionary reading in five months. Manufacturing (49.2 vs 50.3) and services (49.0 vs 50.2) acitivities both weakened more than expected and fell below 50 – dragged by new orders and prices, suggesting the stockbuilding era may have come to an end earlier than the majors.

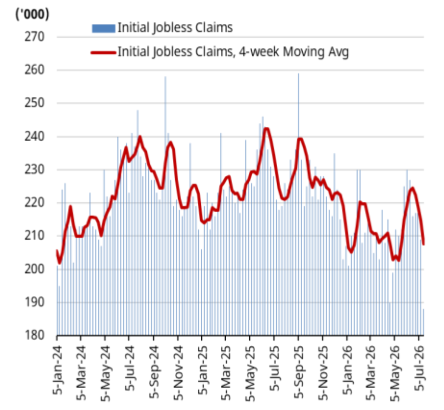
- **US nonfarm payroll in focus next week:** Another busy week jam-packed with first tier economic indicators. Topping investor radar will be nonfarm job report which is expected to show more job additions for the month of July, alongside other job prints like unemployment rate, ADP employment, Challenger job cuts, and JOLTS job openings. On top of this, more July PMI prints from both the majors (final readings) and the region will be srutinzied if the improved outlook seen in the major economies is also felt in China and the region to get a better sense of how 3Q growth has started. In addition, the usual data dump (exports, retail sales, industrial production, CPI) from Vietnam is in the pipeline and expectation is these data will reinforce expectations for a still positive outlook for the Vietnamese economy. Other economic indicatos due for releases include US trade balance, factory orders, durable goods orders (final), NY Fed inlfation expectations, and Singapore and Hong Kong retail sales.

Equities whipsawed through the week amid tech, geopolitical and policy headlines



Source: Bloomberg

Smaller than expected jobless claims numbers reaffirmed a still healthy labour market in the US



Source: Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

- **MYR:** MYR was little changed in trading against the greenback for the week (prior: -0.4%), inching lower to 4.0900 from 4.0890 the prior week, amidst an empty data calendar domestically and BNM Governor Rasheed continuing to remain upbeat on the economy and indicating that growth for the year is expected to come in at the higher end of the official forecast. Against the rest of the G10 and major regional currencies, the MYR was mostly weaker across the board, except against the IDR (+0.9%), TWD (+0.6%) and AUD (+0.4%). We are *Neutral* on USD/MYR for the coming week, foreseeing a possible trading range of 4.0650 – 4.1150. The week ahead sees the release of the S&P Global Malaysia manufacturing PMI for July that may provide an indication of the economic momentum as we began 3Q.

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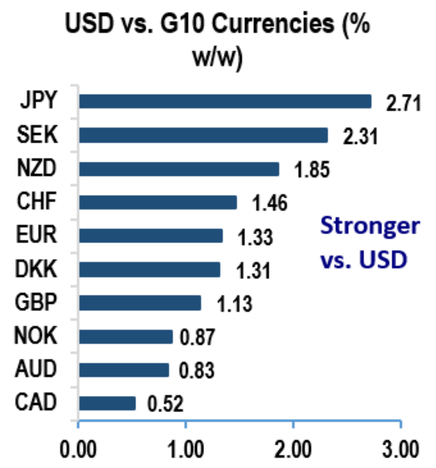
- **EUR**: EUR advanced in trading this week, climbing by 1.3% (prior: -0.6%) against the greenback to 1.1528 from 1.1377 the prior week, amidst Eurozone advanced 2Q GDP coming in stronger than anticipated. Other economic data for the week saw the unemployment rate for June hold steady at 6.3% and cooler than expected inflation expectations for the month, while the preliminary Eurozone PMIs for July rose by more than expected as the services sector rebounded. We are ***Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish*** on the EUR/USD for the coming week, looking at a likely trading range of 1.1375 – 1.1650 for the pair. The week ahead sees the release of the preliminary Eurozone CPI estimates for July as well as the retail sales report for June, with the ECB also scheduled to release their latest Economic Bulletin.

- **GBP**: The GBP rose against the USD in trading this week, appreciating by 1.1% w/w (prior: -1.2% w/w) to 1.3466 from 1.3315 the week before, amidst the Bank of England leaving rates on hold in a 6-3 majority vote, with Governor Andrew Bailey insisting that his committee is not getting closer to a rate hike despite three members voting for tighter policy. Economic releases for the week were strong, with retail sales for June unexpectedly registering a further monthly rise and the preliminary UK composite PMI rising by more than expected, driven by a strong services sector reading. We are ***Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish*** on the Cable for the week ahead, foreseeing a possible trading range of 1.3300 – 1.3575 It will be a lighter week for economic data ahead, with only the Nationwide Building Society's house price index and the final UK PMIs for July due.

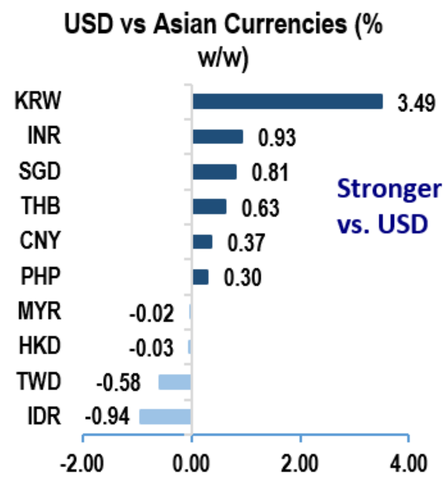
- **JPY**: The Japanese Yen surged against the USD in trading this week and was the best performer in the G10 space, jumping by 2.7% (prior: -0.9%) to 159.53 from 163.86 the prior week, amidst reported intervention by the Bank of Japan to stem the weakness in the Yen. Data for the week saw the national CPI figures for June coming in mostly as expected and mixed readings for the preliminary Japanese PMIs for July. We are ***Neutral*** on USD/JPY for the coming week, eyeing a probable trading range of 156.50 – 162.50. After the Tokyo CPI figures for July came out hotter than anticipated and retail sales for June underwhelmed this morning, the week ahead sees the Bank of Japan decide on policy later today where no change is expected, and we will also get the labour earnings report for the month of June during the week.

- **AUD**: AUD appreciated against the USD in trading this week, climbing by 0.8% (prior: -0.4%) to 0.7027 from 0.6969 the week before, amidst cooler than anticipated quarterly CPI figures resulting in a paring back of RBA rate hike expectations. Futures markets are implying a 59% chance of a further 25bps hike by the RBA this year versus the 95% chance seen the week before. We are ***Neutral-to-Slightly Bearish*** on AUD/USD for the week ahead, looking at a likely trading range of 0.6900 – 0.7125. The coming week brings the release of the PPI figures for 2Q, the private sector credit numbers and trade balance for June and the Melbourne Institute's inflation reading for July.

- **SGD**: SGD advanced against the greenback in trading this week, rising by 0.8% (prior: -0.1%) to 1.2817 from 1.2921 the prior week, amidst the MAS tightening policy for a second straight quarter in their quarterly monetary policy statement, altering the slope of the S$NEER curve "very slightly" with an adjustment that was "smaller than that in April". Against other G10 currencies, the SGD was softer across the board for the week except for against the CAD (+0.3%), while versus major regional currencies the SGD mostly registered gains, except against the KRW (-2.7%) and INR (-0.1%). We are ***Neutral-to-Slightly Bullish*** on USD/SGD for the coming week, foreseeing a possible trading range of 1.2725 – 1.2950. The week ahead sees the release of the retail sales report and unemployment rate for June, as well as the purchasing managers index and electronic sector index for July.



Source: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Forecasts

	Q3-26	Q4-26	Q1-27	Q2-27
DXY	102.28	100.86	99.42	98.07
EUR/USD	1.13	1.14	1.16	1.18
GBP/USD	1.29	1.30	1.32	1.33
USD/JPY	162	159	155	153
AUD/USD	0.68	0.70	0.71	0.72
USD/MYR	4.15	4.11	4.07	4.03
USD/SGD	1.31	1.30	1.28	1.27
USD/CNY	6.85	6.78	6.72	6.65
	Q3-26	**Q4-26**	**Q1-27**	**Q2-27**
EUR/MYR	4.68	4.71	4.73	4.75
GBP/MYR	5.37	5.36	5.36	5.36
AUD/MYR	2.83	2.86	2.87	2.89
SGD/MYR	3.18	3.17	3.17	3.17
CNY/MYR	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61

Source: HLBB Global Markets Research

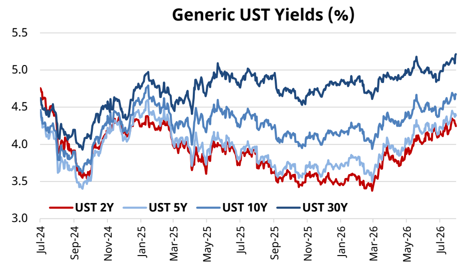
Fixed Income

- **UST:** US Treasuries were mixed in trading for the week in review, with shorter dated bonds registering gains while the longer end of the maturity spectrum saw weakness, after the FOMC voted to hold policy in 9-3 majority vote. Economic data for the week saw advanced 2Q GDP come in lower than anticipated, while the core PCE index for June was slightly cooler than expected and the preliminary US PMIs for July rose by more than anticipated, pointing to a decent start to the economy in 3Q. Fed Fund futures saw the pricing of rate hikes by the Fed this year recede during the week, with 33bps of hikes priced in for 2026 (prior week: 45bps). **Overall benchmark yields for the week were mixed by between -10 to +5bps w/w** (prior: 8 to 21bps higher) as of the close of business on Thursday. The benchmark 2Y UST yield declined by 10bps for the week to 4.25% while the benchmark 10Y UST saw its yield decline by 2bps to 4.67%, resulting in the UST curve steepening for the week. **We expect USTs to trade on a constructive note for the coming week**. The week ahead sees the release of the ISM indices for July, which should give us a better picture of economic conditions as we began 3Q, and also features the release of the usual slew of labour markets indicators (ADP, JOLTS job openings and Challenger job cuts) ahead of the monthly employment report for July that is due next Friday.

- **MGS/GII:** Local government bonds declined for the week in review, amidst an empty data calendar for the week domestically. BNM Governor Rasheed continued to sound upbeat on the economy, mentioning that they expect growth for the year to come in at the higher end of the official forecast. **Overall benchmark MGS/GII yields closed the week higher by between 0 to 7bps w/w** (prior: 1 to 6bps higher). The benchmark 5Y MGS 6/31 yield was 5bps higher for the week at 3.51%, while the benchmark 10Y MGS 7/35 yield advanced by 2bps to 3.71%. Secondary market activity was up slightly for the week, with the average daily secondary market volume for MGS/GII inching higher by 5% to RM4.86bn for the week in review versus the daily average of RM4.63bn seen the prior week, driven by an 11% rise in MGS trading for the week. Trading for the week was led by the off-the-run GII 9/26, which saw RM3.37bn swapping hands, while decent interest was also seen in the off-the-run MGS 11/26 and the benchmark 3Y GII 10/29, with RM2.45bn and RM2.41bn traded respectively. GII trades totalled 49% of government bond trading for the week, receding slightly from the 51% seen the week before. **For the week ahead, we expect local govvies to trade with a bullish bias.** The coming week sees the release of the S&P Global Malaysia manufacturing PMI for July, and we will also see the announcement of the re-opening of the GII 10/31 which is set to take over from the GII 08/30 as the new benchmark 5Y GII, and we expect RM5bn to be put up for sale in the first of four government bond auctions that we are due to get in August.

- **MYR Corporate bonds/ Sukuk**: Trading in the secondary corporate bond/sukuk market was better offered for the week in review. Secondary market activity rose, with the average daily volume traded surging by 70% to RM1.09bn (prior week: RM0.64bn). Trading for the week was again led by the AAA-rated segment of the market. In the GG universe, the activity was light and the interest was dominated by PRASA 7/31, with RM600m traded for the week and the bond last changing hands at 3.62%. In the AAA-rated space, BPMB 7/29 led the activity for the week, with RM360m traded and last switching hands at 3.71%. Strong interest was also seen in PSEP 8/35, with RM200m traded and the paper last swapping hands at 3.93%. Over in the AA-rated arena, trading was led by MRCB 7/33, with RM160m changing hands for the week and last being traded at 3.98%. Decent interest was also seen in OSK 3/35, with RM120m traded and last switching hands at 4.01%. In the A-rated segment of the market, trading was led by DRBH 4.85% Perps, where RM45m swapped hands for the week with the bond last traded at 4.57%. Issuance activity was similar versus the week before and was led by AAA-rated CAGA, which issued and re-opened a total of five IMTNs totalling RM1.2bn with maturities between 3yrs and 9.75yrs. Also seen in the primary market was AAA-rated Bank Pembangunan, which came to the market with RM1bn total of three IMTNs (RM390m 3yr at 3.71%, RM410m 5yr at 3.80% and RM200m 7yr at 3.90%), AA1-rated RHB Bank, which printed RM500m of a 1yr MTN at a yield of 3.66% and A3-rated Affin Bank, which issued RM400m of a 5yr MTN at 4.35%.

- **Singapore Government Securities:** SGS were mixed for the week in review, amidst the Monetary Authority of Singapore tightening policy mildly in its quarterly monetary policy statement by adjusting the slope of the S$NEER curve “very slightly”. Economic data for the week saw industrial production figures for June come in softer than expected. Benchmark yields closed the week mixed by between -3 to +1bp (prior week: 12 to 20bps higher) as at the end of business on Thursday. **The benchmark SGS 2Y yield fell by 2bps for the week to 1.73%, while the benchmark SGS 10Y yield advanced by 1bp to 2.41%**, resulting in slight steepening in the slope of the 2s10s SGS curve to +67bps. The mixed nature of bond prices for the week resulted in Bloomberg’s Total Return Index unhedged SGD being little changed for the week (prior week: -1.3%). The coming week brings the release of the PMI and Electronic Sector index for July, as well as the retail sales report and the unemployment rate for June.



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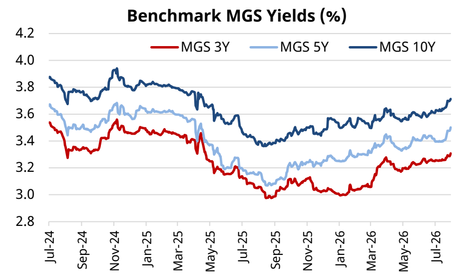

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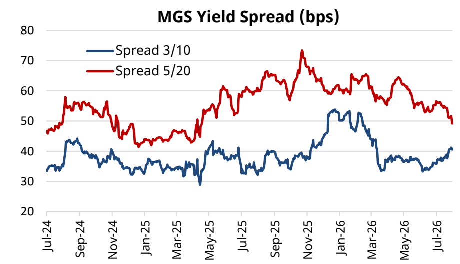

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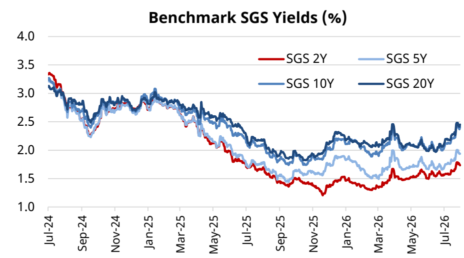


Source: Bloomberg

Rating Actions

Issuer	PDS Description	Rating/Outlook	Action
Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad	Financial institution ratings RM1bn Subordinated Sukuk Murabahah Programme (2016/2036)	A2/Stable/P1 A3/Stable	Affirmed Affirmed
Axis REIT Sukuk Two Berhad	Sukuk programme of up to RM3bn: Senior Sukuk; Subordinated Perpetual Sukuk	 AA2(s)/Stable A1(s)/Stable	Affirmed
Zamarad Assets Berhad	Tranche 2 Sukuk: RM20 mil Class A; RM20 mil Class B	 AAA/Stable AAA/Stable	Withdrawn
7-Eleven Malaysia Holdings Berhad	RM600m Medium-Term Notes Programme	AA-/Stable	Affirmed
Bumitama Agri Ltd	RM2bn Islamic MTN Sukuk Musharakah (2014/2029)	AA2/Stable	Withdrawn
Manulife Holdings Berhad	Corporate credit ratings	AA2/Stable/P1	Affirmed
Johor Corporation	Corporate credit ratings	AAA/Stable/P1	Affirmed

Source: MARC/RAM

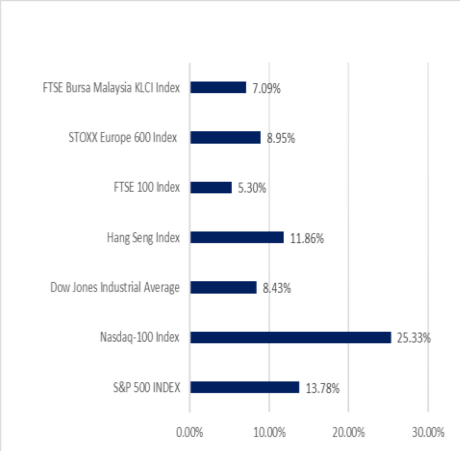
HongLeong Bank

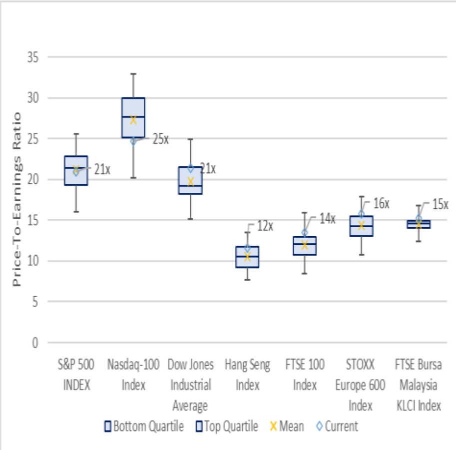
Equities

- **US**: US equities delivered a split verdict for the week, with the S&P 500 edging up **+0.4%** and the Dow gaining **+1.0%**, while the Nasdaq Composite slipped **-0.1%** and the Nasdaq-100 fell **-1.2%**. The dominant theme was a sharp divergence between the broad market and mega-cap technology: the Federal Reserve held rates steady at 3.50–3.75% in a 9-3 vote, hinting at a growing conviction that higher rates are needed to curb resurgent price pressures. However, it was Microsoft's blowout earnings on the final session that helped define the week. Microsoft surged **+15.5%** on 30 July, its largest single-day gain since October 2008, adding approximately **$450bn** in market capitalisation in a single session. Azure cloud revenue grew 43% in the fiscal fourth quarter, beating the ~40% consensus estimate. The Philadelphia Semiconductor Index (SOX) advanced **+8.2%** on the final session, with SanDisk the top S&P 500 gainer at **+26.0%** for the day. Consumer staples led for the week at **+2.5%,** while Utilities lagged at **-3.4%.** The earnings season continued to impress, with approximately 90% of S&P 500 companies beating EPS estimates and a revenue beat rate of approximately 76%.

- **Asia**: The Hang Seng Index gained **+2.6%** for the week, with the Hang Seng Tech Index adding **+2.2%**. Tencent rose **+6.0%** and Meituan gained **+6.1%**, while Alibaba slipped **-2.7%** for the week. Taiwan was the week's second-worst performing major market globally, with its index falling **-11.0%,** its lowest closing level since 30 April 2026 — as the index's cumulative decline from its June peak extended to more than **16%**. The selloff came despite Taiwan expecting to grow by 9.6% for the year, which would mark the fastest annual growth rate in at least 15 years, underscoring that the market decline was driven by global risk-off sentiment rather than domestic fundamentals. South Korea was the worst-performing major market globally for the week, with the KOSPI plunging **-21.2%** — the worst monthly decline in the index's history since at least 2020. SK Hynix collapsed **-30.2%** for the week and Samsung Electronics fell **-21.8%**, even as Samsung's semiconductor division reported a more than 250-fold surge in chip operating profit, with group-wide net income rising 14-fold year-on-year. The record earnings failed to arrest the decline. Korean authorities held an emergency meeting and pledged further curbs on leveraged ETF products.

- **Malaysia**: The KLCI bucked the regional rout, edging up **+0.3%** for the week as domestically-oriented earnings provided a buffer against the broader Asian selloff. Nestle Malaysia was the standout performer, rising **+9.1%** after reporting Q2 net income of **MYR 155.0mn (+38% YoY)** on revenue of **MYR 1.81bn (+8.7% YoY)**. ViTrox delivered strong results with Q2 net income of **MYR 85.0mn**, tripling from MYR 28.1mn a year earlier on revenue of **MYR 374.9mn** (vs MYR 183.0mn). Bursa Malaysia reported Q2 net income of **MYR 71.8mn (+26% YoY)** on revenue of **MYR 211.0mn (+22% YoY),** reflecting elevated market activity. Alliance Bank posted a record full-year net profit of **MYR 826.5mn (+10% YoY),** with RAM Ratings subsequently upgrading the bank's credit profile.





HongLeong Bank

Economic Calendar

Date	Time	Country	Event	Period	Prior
3-Aug	7:00	AU	S&P Global Australia PMI Mfg	Jul F	51.7
	8:30	JN	S&P Global Japan PMI Mfg	Jul F	54.7
	8:30	MA	S&P Global Malaysia PMI Mfg	Jul	50.7
	8:30	VN	S&P Global Vietnam PMI Mfg	Jul	51.8
	9:45	CH	RatingDog China PMI Mfg	Jul	51.7
	10:05	VN	CPI YoY	Jul	4.69%
	10:05	VN	Exports YoY	Jul	28.10%
	10:05	VN	Imports YoY	Jul	45.20%
	10:05	VN	Trade Balance	Jul	-$2644m
	10:05	VN	Industrial Production YoY	Jul	12.70%
	10:05	VN	Retail Sales YoY	Jul	14.80%
	16:00	EC	S&P Global Eurozone Manufacturing PMI	Jul F	52
	16:30	UK	S&P Global UK Manufacturing PMI	Jul F	52.8
	21:00	SI	Electronics Sector Index	Jul	52.2
	21:00	SI	Purchasing Managers Index	Jul	51.3
	21:45	US	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI	Jul F	53.8
	22:00	US	ISM Manufacturing	Jul	53.3
	22:00	US	Construction Spending MoM	Jun	0.10%
4-Aug	16:30	HK	Retail Sales Value YoY	Jun	7.90%
	20:30	US	Trade Balance	Jun	-$77.6b
	22:00	US	Factory Orders	Jun	-1.30%
	22:00	US	JOLTS Job Openings	Jun	7594k
	22:00	US	Durable Goods Orders	Jun F	0.30%
5-Aug	7:00	AU	S&P Global Australia PMI Services	Jul F	53
	8:30	HK	S&P Global Hong Kong PMI	Jul	52
	8:30	SI	S&P Global Singapore PMI	Jul	57.4
	8:30	JN	S&P Global Japan PMI Services	Jul F	51.9
	9:45	CH	RatingDog China PMI Composite	Jul	53.6
	9:45	CH	RatingDog China PMI Services	Jul	54.1
	13:00	SI	Retail Sales YoY	Jun	3.00%
	16:00	EC	S&P Global Eurozone Services PMI	Jul F	51.6
	16:30	UK	S&P Global UK Services PMI	Jul F	51.8
	17:00	EC	PPI YoY	Jun	5.90%
	19:00	US	MBA Mortgage Applications	31-Jul	-6.4%
	20:15	US	ADP Employment Change	Jul	98k
	21:45	US	S&P Global US Services PMI	Jul F	53.6
	22:00	US	ISM Services Index	Jul	54
6-Aug	9:30	AU	Trade Balance	Jun	-A$3018m
	16:00	EC	ECB Publishes Economic Bulletin		
	16:30	UK	S&P Global UK Construction PMI	Jul	38.4
	17:00	EC	Retail Sales MoM	Jun	0.20%
	17:30	US	Challenger Job Cuts YoY	Jul	-4.50%
	20:30	US	Initial Jobless Claims	1-Aug	197k
7-Aug	13:00	JN	Leading Index CI	Jun P	116.5

15:00	MA	Foreign Reserves	0:00	$131.8b
20:30	US	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Jul	57k
20:30	US	Unemployment Rate	Jul	4.20%
23:00	US	NY Fed 1-Yr Inflation Expectations	Jul	3.67%
-	CH	Exports YoY	Jul	27.00%

Source: Bloomberg

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