Market Alert

Tuesday 14 March 2023

NZD/USD 0.6233 -0.0016 NZD/AUD -0.0079 0.9338 NZD/JPY 83.17 -2.37 NZD/EUR 0.5805 -0.0074 NZD/GBP -0.0029 0.5110 NZD/CNH 4.2692 -0.0635 AUD/USD 0.6673 0.0039 AUD/EUR -0.0029 0.6214 EUR/USD 1.0735 0.0109 USD/CNH 6.8501 -0.0845 GBP/USD 1,2193 0.0030 EUR/GBP 0.8802 0.0062 ΝZ Australia

Spot

6mths

 INT RATES
 NZ
 Australia

 OCR/Cash
 4.75%
 3.60%

 90 day bills
 5.22%
 3.69%

 2 year swap
 5.30%
 3.52%

 10 year Govt
 4.45%
 3.58%

Contagion contained!

CURRENCIES

No sooner had SVB and Signature Bank gone into receivership than the Fed put on their shiny cape and flew to the rescue, announcing an emergency lending facility and that all deposits are to be guaranteed. But it does raise the question, when is a bail out not a bail out? Well, according to a senior US Treasury official, "the Banks are not being bailed out, the depositors are being protected. The SVB equity and bondholders will be wiped out."

The move was made after discussions between the Federal Reserve, US Treasury, the FDIC, and consultation with President Biden. The move can be view as a pre-imperative strike to "demonstrate the US commitment to take the necessary steps to ensure that depositors' savings remain safe." To support the process, "the Fed will make available additional funding to eligible depository institutions, to help assure banks can meet depositors' needs. To provide liquidity to US Depository institutions, each federal reserve bank would make advances to eligible borrowers, taking as collateral certain types of securities. The Treasury department, using the exchange stabilization fund, will provide USD \$25 billion as credit protection to the Federal Reserve banks in connection with bank term funding program."

And the end lesson — being overexposed to the tech sector, it appears SVB 'doubled down' by not hedging any of the interest rate risk on its USD \$212 billion asset book, nor its USD \$173 billion deposit (or liability) book. All banks normally manage this interest rate risk, and are required to do so by regulators, so the question is, why didn't SVB? I guess with yields lower at least the mark-to-market on SVB's remaining USD \$116 billion securities portfolio won't be as bad! Seriously though, if you are concerned about your existing hedging, speak to your Treasury Advisor ASAP!

Currently, Apollo Management, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan, and PNC Financial Services are reportedly among potential suitors to acquire SVB, while HSBC acquired the British arm of SVB, allegedly for 1 pound, in a government-facilitated private sale to protect depositors.

Ultimately, whichever way this plays out, it will impact the FOMC's decision next

week. At this stage, JP Morgan "continue to look for a 25bp hike" while Goldman Sachs is forecasting 'nil poi' to leave the Fed funds rate unchanged. The treasury market has taken the possibility of a rate hike completely off the table after the 2-year treasury yield collapsed -46bps overnight, following on from Fridays -26bps fall, while 10-years yields are also lower, off -18bps at 3.52%. This weakness has also filtered through to swap market pricing in NZ and Australia with absolute levels -15 to -25bps lower. The US-dollar index fell below the 104.0 mark, sliding for the third straight session to a three-week low, with the NZD the main beneficiary while AUD and EUR also posted significant gains. The NZD and AUD also had strong sessions on the crosses. Equities markets were also volatile as bank stocks were crushed while European bourses suffered but, late in the session, US exchanges moved into positive territory as speculation grew that the banking turmoil may force the Federal Reserve to pause its tightening cycle.

With US CPI tonight, PPIs and retail sales tomorrow, and the ECB on Friday, expect volatility to remain elevated!

Finally, NZ service PMIs increased to 55.8 from 54.7, while food prices rose 1.5% in February.











FX	Spot FECs (mid)						Spot Mid	
	Mid	1mth	3mths	6mths	12mths		NZD/	AUD/
NZTWI	70.80					CAD	0.8551	0.9156
NZD/USD	0.6233	-0.0001	-0.0003	-0.0016	-0.0065	CHF	0.5678	0.6078
NZD/AUD	0.9338	-0.0012	-0.0036	-0.0079	-0.0159	CNY	4.2738	4.5811
NZD/JPY	83.17	-0.42	-1.19	-2.37	-4.76	DKK	4.3217	4.6268
NZD/EUR	0.5805	-0.0014	-0.0038	-0.0074	-0.0144	FJD	1.3636	1.4599
NZD/GBP	0.5110	-0.0005	-0.0013	-0.0029	-0.0062	HKD	4.8886	5.2337
						KRW	807.92	864.95
AUTWI	60.30					MYR	2.7999	2.9975
AUD/USD	0.6673	0.0008	0.0022	0.0039	0.0057	NOK	6.5736	7.0376
AUD/NZD	1.0703	0.0012	0.0039	0.0088	0.0178	SEK	6.6029	7.0690
AUD/JPY	89.05	-0.34	-0.94	-1.82	-3.67	SGD	0.8391	0.8983
AUD/EUR	0.6214	-0.0007	-0.0018	-0.0029	-0.0055	TWD	18.98	20.32
AUD/GBP	0.5471	0.0002	0.0005	0.0015	0.0025	ZAR	11.34	12.14
USD Index	103.55					EQUITIES		
EUR/USD	1.0735	0.0022	0.0064	0.0109	0.0186			Index
USD/JPY	133.42	-0.67	-1.85	-3.47	-6.38	NZX50		11,673
GBP/USD	1.2193	0.0009	0.0023	0.0030	0.0039	ASX200		7,109
EUR/GBP	0.8802	0.0011	0.0033	0.0062	0.0111	Dow Jones		320,405
				S&P 50	0	3,885		
INTEREST		New Zealand		Australia		FTSE10	00	7,549
RATES		Mid		Mid		DAX 30		14,959
						Nikkei		27,833
30 day bank bills			4.97%		3.59%			
90 day bank bills		5.22%		3.69%		COMMODITIES		
1 year swap			5.55%		3.80%			USD
2 year swap		5.30%		3.52%		Brent Crude		80.65
3 year swap		4.98%		3.40%		Gold		1,911.16
5 year swap		4.65%		3.66%		Silver		21.77
10 year swap		4.46%		3.94%		Iron Ore		129.44
3 year Govt bond		4.77%		3.23%		CRB Inc	dex	290.10
5 year Govt bond		4.53%		3.27%				NZD
10 year Govt bond			4.45%		3.58%	NZ Car	bon	65.50

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