

# **WEEK AHEAD**

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One MIZUHO

0.1%/-3.6%

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Economic Calendar

Date	Country	Event	Period	Survey*	Prior	
04 Aug	US	Factory Orders	Jun	-5.0%	8.2%	
	US	Durable Goods Orders/Nondef Ex Air	Jun F	-9.3%/	-9.3%/-0.7%	
	EZ	Sentix Investor Confidence	Aug	8.0	4.5	
05 Aug	US	Trade Balance	Jun	-\$62.0b	-\$71.5b	
		Services PMI (US, EZ, JP)	Jul F		ī	
	US	ISM Services Index/Prices Paid	Jul	51.5/	50.8/67.5	
	EZ	PPI YoY	Jun		0.3%	
06 Aug	EZ	Retail Sales MoM	Jun	0.4%	-0.7%	
	JP	Labor/Real Cash Earnings YoY	Jun	3.3%/-0.5%	1.4%/-2.6%	
07 Aug	US	Initial Jobless Claims			218k	
	US	Wholesale Inventories MoM	Jun F		0.2%	
	JP	Coincident Index/Leading Index CI	Jun P	116.6/106.0	116.0/104.8	
08 Aug	JP	BoP Current Account Balance	Jun	¥1639.2b	¥3436.4b	

- Trade news hogged headlines this week as Trump closed in on final tariff levels, which are due to be effective on August 8. One notable development is that tables appear to have turned in relative favour for EM Asia countries, which were hardest hit during "Liberation Day". EM Asia countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and Korea have had their tariff rates slashed ranging from 134%-46% to 15%-20% across the board. In contrast, developed markets now have a relative disadvantage with Switzerland's tariffs increased from 31% to 39% and Canada's tariffs increased from 25% to 35%. While EU had a trade deal, the deal came with asymmetric terms.
- In addition to trade developments, it was a heavy calendar week with central bank decisions and tier 1 data releases. While the Fed held rates as widely expected, Fed Governors Waller and Bowman dissented the first dissent by two members since 1993, and would likely be a harbinger for more diverging views within FOMC members as incoming data rolls in.
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  Notably, Powell had retained the optionality on Sep decision even as he noted that economy is not performing as though policy rate is restrictive. Slight upside surprise to Fed's preferred inflation gauge following FOMC affirmed Fed's decision, buoying UST yields and the USD.

  BOJ stood pat, as expected. While BOJ revised FY2025 core CPI to 2.7% (prev: 2.2%), Governor Ueda pushed back rate hike expectations as he opined that the bank was not behind the curve.

  Bank of Canada held policy rate at 2.75%, citing uncertainty posed by US tariffs, but kept the door open the property in the curve of the previous previous previous property in the curve.

- to more cuts if the economy weakens and inflation pressures stay in check.

   MAS sat on its hands and alluded to prior "insurance" moves, having eased twice earlier this year. For October, MAS may retain a dovish tilt. but this is to a fundamentally netural stance. So, it is not a given that the MAS will ease
- Down under, Australia inflation report affirmed the next RBA rate cut but buoyant retail sales will mean that the calibration mantra is retained.
- IMF July's World Economic Outlook broadly revised growth revisions upwards, but relief was kept at bay
- with one key assumptions being higher tariffs indefinitely delayed.

   Meanwhile, BNM cut GDP forecast to 4-4.8% for 2025 (from 4.5-5.5% previously), notwithstanding Q2 GDP outrun.
- Next week, Indonesia Q2 GDP is expected to moderate slightly while Philippines Q2 GDP could see
- RBI is expected to defer easing following the jumbo cut at the previous meeting and amid rupee-/macrostability-risks. Vietnam's economic activity ought to remain supported, but could see some
- /macrostability-risks. Vietnam's economic activity ought to remain supported, but could see some signs of fading frontloading tailwinds.

   All in, the rebound in USD strength may continue, given trade terms appearing to be tilting to the advantage of the US; and resilient US data thus far supporting a "wait-and-hold" narrative.

  The RBI's Deferred (Policy) Space

   Deferred Doves/Policy Space: While the RBI is officially on neutral stance, it may be more accurate to characterise the RBI as deferred doves, whose policy space (to ease) may be hobbled by the inconvenience of a strong USD that could wider macro-/geo-economic risks.

   On (an Interim) Hold: After an upsized 50bp cut at the last meeting in June accompanied by a shift to neutral stance, we expect the RBI to be on an interim hold at the August MPC as it assesses evolving risks
- Scope for More Easing: To be sure, the RBI has scope for more rate cuts given that a conspiracy of
- Scope for More Easing: To be sure, the RBI has scope for more rate cuts given that a conspiracy of concerted headwinds to growth (both domestic and external) and subdued inflation. So, not only is some of the front-loading is also validated given the policy lags, but more easing likely warranted.
   Given Prominent Pressures: Fact is, not only has underlying consumption slowed given the strains on household leverage, but the threat of external headwinds remain prominent given threats of US tariffs exacerbated by potential sanctions on Russian oil imports.
   But Not Imminently So: But timing is everything. And in that regard, "not right now" is the clear conclusion when wider rupee-/macro-stability risks are duly considered.
   Rullish ILSD & Brader Stability Risks: For a start an emphatically bullish turn in the ILSD coursels.

- conclusion when wider rupee-/macro-stability risks are duly considered.

  <u>Bullish USD & Broader Stability Risks</u>: For a start, an emphatically bullish turn in the USD counsels against an imminent cut as this may unnecessarily accentuate pressures on the rupee and undermine the broader asset market and macro-stability for the Indian economy.

  <u>Entailing Higher Policy Cost & Diminished Transmission</u>: Trouble is, rupee-/macro-stability inadvertently undermined not only <u>imposes a high policy cost</u> (sharper trade off) to the easing/rate cut insofar that the RBI might have to step in to lean against rupee pressures but <u>could also impair</u>
- cut insorar that the RBI might have to step in to lean against rupee pressures but <u>could also impair policy transmission.</u>

   <u>Long-End Yields Lifted by Risk Premia</u>: Specifically, the expected relief from softer long-end yields, in response to policy rate cuts, may be hobbled as long-end yields remain stubbornly sticky. Worse, long-end yields may, paradoxically, even be lifted, if perceived currency/macro risks from a mis-timed cut are expressed as credit/term premium.
- expresses as creativerm premium.

   <u>Squandering Benefits of a Costly Cut</u>: In which case, a rate cut at this point would risk the expected benefits of easing being squandered (as loss of rate cut transmission to the long-end crimps credit/demand boost transmission lost. Which is a policy loss that is exacerbated by the high policy cost (rupee-/macro-stability compromised) associated with this ultimately.

   <u>Easing Option Too Costly to Exploit</u>: So, while the confrontation with downside risks to growth and the space conceded by subdued inflation both provide policy space to ease, the RBI's ability to exploit this policy space right now is undermined. In particular, as the costs may vastly outweigh any benefits to be derived from rate cuts.

- derived from rate cuts.

   <u>Easing Options to Re-Emerge</u>: **Nonetheless the RBI retains (dovish) policy optionality**. Which becomes especially more pronounced when the Fed shifts back into easing mode.

   <u>Interim Rupee & Yield Risks</u>: For now though rupee pressures are likely to persist, turning more prominent if the RBI is not adequately restrained. Concurrently, long-end Indian bond yields could also be pressured higher if economic (headline growth) risks offset softer inflation.

   <u>Accentuated by Russian Oil Risks</u>: And more so, given the threat of US sanctions in response to India's Russian oil imports. If enacted, these sanctions on Russian oil may simultaneously worsen the "twin deficit" and bump up inflation. All of which are to the detriment of rupee and Indian bonds (softer prices and higher yields).

#### Asia Date Country Event Period Prior СН S&P Global China PMI Services 05 Au Ju 50.6 SG Retail Sales/Ex Auto YoY 1.4%/0.0% Jun 2Q .8%/3.7% 4.9%/-1.0% ID GDP YoY/QoQ KR CPI/Ex Food, Energy YoY Jul 2.1%/--2.2%/2.0% PH CPI YoY 2018=100 Jul TH -0.4%/0.9% -0.3%/1.1% 06 Aug CPI/Core YoY Jul **RBI Repurchase** PH **Unemployment Rate** Jun 3.9% TW CPI/Core YoY Jul 1.5%/-1.4%/1.5% TW PPI YoY Jul -5.5% Trade Balance \/N Jul \$2826m VN Industrial Production YoY Jul 10.8% VN Retail Sales YoY 8.3% Jul VN CPI YoY Jul 3.6% Exports/Imports YoY 07 Aug СН Jul 5.6%/-0.9% 5 9%/1 1% AH Trade Balance Jun A\$3500m A\$2238m KR BoP Current Account Balance \$10141.5m .lun MY Industrial Production YoY .lun 1.8% 0.3% PH GDP YoY/SA QoQ 2Q 5.6%/-5.4%/1.2% СН 08 Aug BoP Current Account Balance 2Q P \$165.4b 28.5%/19.4% TW Exports/Imports YoY Jul 33.7%/17.3%

### СН Philippines Q2 GDP: Acceleration

09 Aug



Jul

CPI/PPI YoY

- We expect Philippines Q2 GDP to accelerate to 5.6% in Q2 (Q1: 5.4%).
- Household spending should moderate slightly. While average net sales index for Apr-May period was only 6.2% higher compared to a year ago (Q1: 10.2%), s survey conducted by a Philippines nonprofit social research institution suggested that incidence of hunger fell from 27.2% in March to 20% in April, which
- could be an indication of more supported spending.

   Government spending ought to moderate (Q1: 18.7%) as fiscal expenditures growth moderated sharply to 1.6%, from 19.7% YoY in Q1.
- Gross fixed capital formation is expected to remain supported on long-term infrastructure projects.

   Nonetheless, external front is expected to be the bright spot, especially on the goods balance front as rade deficit in Q2 have narrowed materially compared to a year ago. Nonetheless, part of the improvement would be offset by moderating services exports (Q1: 7.2% YoY) as tourist arrivals grew contracted further. Would be thiset by incoeraining services exports (21.7.2.8 1017) as bothst arrivals grew contracted further. Chinese tourists remain ~14% of 2019 levels. South Korea tourists are about 50% of 2019 levels. Chinese and South Korea tourists are a significant segment of Philippine tourism, constituting an average of 16.6% and 23.9% of total tourists in 2016-2019 period.
- and 23.9% of total tourists in 2016-2019 period.

   Anyhow, intent to ease by BSP is explicit in latest remarks. PHP unlikely to see any durable boost as tariff tides have turned the tables, with Philippines being the only economy regionally to have tariffs rates increased and relative tariff differential advantage diminished.

  Indonesia Q2 GDP: Slightly Slower

   We expect Indonesia's GDP to slow slightly

  USDm

  Indonesia Investments Realisation

  % YoY
- to around 4.8% YoY (Q1: 4.9%).

   Despite reports of mass layoffs, **domestic** consumption could still hold up (Q1: 4.9%) amid job subsidies and discounts. Of note, retail sales index is 1.2% higher compared to a year ago, compared to a 2.8% average in Q1. Government expenditures should remain stable at 4.9% YoY. While breakdown for personnel outlays (which historically have a
- better correlation with government expenditures) are not yet updated, overall government spending in Q2'25 is marginally
- Domestic ——Growth (RHS) 35,000 50 30,000 40 25.000 30 20.000 20 15,000 10 10,000 0 5.000 -10 Sep-16 Sep-17 Sep-17 Sep-18 Sep-19 Sep-19 Mar-20 Mar-20 Mar-20 Sep-21 Mar-22 Sep-22 Mar-23 Sep-23 Mar-24 Sep-24 Sources: CEIC; Ministry of Investment and D

(Q1: +1.4%) while government spending in April and May on material contracted -26% YoY.

- Investments could see slight moderation (Q1: 2.1%) as total realised investments growth moderated in Q2. Notably, the fall in foreign realised investments (which the investment ministry attributed to increase in geopolitical headwinds) was offset by an acceleration in domestic investment realisation from 14.1% in Q1 to 27.7% in Q2. **Net exports growth should moderate from Q1 (19.6% YoY)** as higher exports growth in
- Q2 was in part offset by higher imports growth.

   All in, the GDP print is unlikely to allay fears of underlying growth concerns and BI's easing inclinations to support growth.

- Hong Kong Recap: Intervention Required
   Amid the USD resurgence, HKMA had to step in yet again to defend the peg. Notably, the US\$500mn buying of HKD is much small than previous episodes.
   Despite the HSI decline, Stock Connect flows was also much stronger this week which may in part reflect
- some opportunistic buying tendencies.
   Hong Kong Q2 GDP released this week at 3.1% YoY maintained robustness from the 3.0% YoY print in
- เอาทุ พงกุฐ ฉุง อยากาะเยลงอน (riis week at 3.1% 101 maintained robustness from the 3.0% YoY print in Q1. Household spending rebounded to 1.9% YoY (from Q1's 1.2% contractions) while investment spending accelerated to 2.9% YoY from Q1's 1.1%
- · All in, amid USD resurgence and tariff woes, intervention is more likely to be required.

#### Forex Rate

=						
	Close*	Chg^	% Chg^	We	ek Fore	ecast
USD/JPY	150.56	2.870	1.94%	148.50	~	153.00
EUR/USD	1.1419	-0.0323	-2.75%	1.120	~	1.160
USD/SGD	1.2978	0.016	1.26%	1.2890	~	1.3090
USD/THB	32.802	0.422	1.30%	32.30	~	33.30
USD/MYR	4.2805	0.058	1.37%	4.240	~	4.320
USD/IDR	16493	178	1.09%	16,300	~	16,700
JPY/SGD	0.862	-0.006	-0.65%	0.842	~	0.881
AUD/USD	0.643	-0.014	-2.07%	0.634	~	0.650
USD/INR	87.44	0.916	1.06%	86.8	~	88.2
USD/PHP	58.168	1.040	1.82%	57.6	~	59.0

## Trump's Tariff USD

- As the slew of fariff deals affirmed the asymmetric bias in favour of the US, the USD surged against G10 peers this week. EUR led losses sinking to below mid-1.14 as German leaders sent out economic warnings
- AUD also slipped towards 64 cents as CPI print affirms the likelihood of an RBA cut. That said, the
- baseline 10% tariff has perhaps allowed it to maintain a middle of the C10 pack performance.

   CAD suffered the least despite heightened tariff threats as oil prices surged 4%. The surge in oil prices
- also aid the NOK to lean against the resurgent USD backdrop.

   The USD/JPY rose above 150 with the BoJ's lifting of their inflation outlook providing some marginal fears to JPY bears amid the BoJ's hold this week.

#### FM-Asia FX: Deal - Relief Not Resolution

- EM Asia FX also caved in to the stronger USD.
- The VND's mild slippage should not hide the fact that it has reached record lows against the Greenback and remain subject to risks of disorderly depreciation given lower FX reserves ratio.

  - CNH slipped about 0.6% as PBoC allows some some weakening,
- Most ASEAN countries gather in the middle of the pack as trade deals struck hovered around the 19-20% mark
- TWD's sharp weakening likely an effect of dividend flows rather than the 20% reciprocal tariffs given substantial chips exemptions
- All in, EM-Asia FX will begin to weigh the cost of tariff deals as the deals do not resolve the wider

#### Bond Yield (%)

1-Aug	2-yr	Chg (bp)^	10-yr	Chg (bp)^	Curve
USD	3.945	2.2	4.382	-0.6	Flattening
GER	1.963	2.2	2.723	1.0	Flattening
JPY	0.802	-4.2	1.548	-4.8	Flattening
SGD	1.673	6.7	2.097	3.2	Flattening
AUD	3.392	-2.1	4.312	0.1	Steepening
GBP	3.889	1.1	4.631	-0.2	Flattening

Stock Market

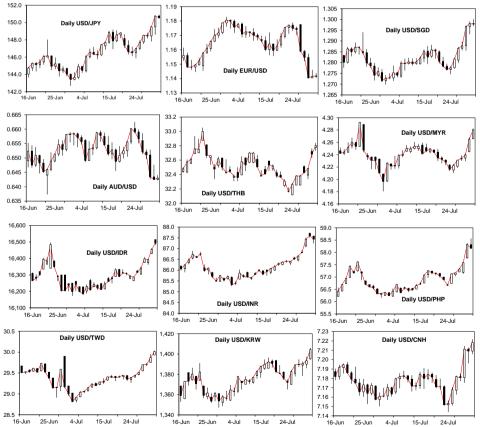
	Close	% Chg
S&P 500 (US)	6,339.39	-0.77
Nikkei (JP)	40,799.60	-1.58
EuroStoxx (EU)	5,241.32	-2.07
FTSE STI (SG)	4,157.50	-2.43
JKSE (ID)	7,536.85	-0.09
PSEI (PH)	6,306.13	-1.67
KLCI (MY)	1,531.93	-0.12
SET (TH)	1,237.97	1.71
SENSEX (IN)	80,897.56	-0.69
ASX (AU)	8,662.05	-0.06

- USTs: Further Bear-Flattening?
   The UST yield curve flattened over the week
- Front-end yields were supported following Fed's expected hold, and cautious rhetoric, and gained further momentum on a slightly higher-than-expected PCE print and lower-than-expected initial jobless claims.
- As Fed retains optionality on Sep decision, incoming data would take precedent.
   In particular, NFP print tonight could further flatten the curve should it show a resilient labour market; while for next week, ISM services print would be watched for indications on strength of domestic spending and services-related inflation.
- Given the resiliency of US data thus far, we have a slight bias for UST yield curve to continue bear-flattening in the upcoming week.

   We expect 2Y yields to trade around 3.85-4.15% and 10Y yields to trade around 4.30-4.50%.

### FX Brief:

- 1) JPY: BoJ's hold did little to restrain JPY weakness but a lift to the inflaiton outlook may provide a case for opportunistic bulls with some buying at these
- 2) EUR: Asymmetric deal worsen economic plight and dulls the bullish EUR case. EUR movement remain subject to scrutiny over US exceptionalist
- 3) AUD: CPI print allows for RBA cut but retail sales outperformance imply that calibration remains the mantra for the RBA's path. Sideways around 64cents may prevail in the week ahead.
- 4) CNH: Only mild slippage allow for by the PBoC but weak growth indicators such as dismal PMI will imply that deprecipation pressures retained.
- 5) INR: Marginal decrease in reciprocal tariffs could mean further underperformance; RBI's dovish inclinations even as policymakers defer another cut would also lend pressure to the rupee.
- 6) SGD: Rebound in USD strength could mean sustained buoyancy above 1.29 levels, and possibly even breaching above mid-1.29 levels.
- 7) IDR: Any domestic weakness in GDP could lend pressure to the IDR.
- 8) THB: Depreciation was again in line with the decline in gold prices. We maintain our call for buoyancy to maintain above 32.3 and even test 33 levels should risk-on sentiments in the US hold.
- 9) MYR: Relief on positive tariff developments tussle with higher UST yields (and stronger USD). Could mean middle-of-the-pack perform
- 10) PHP: Goods news for regional peers on lower tariffs is bad news for Philippines, having lost most relative tariff differentials advantage. But weakness at 59 handle ought to be backstopped as BSP would likely step in.
- 11) KRW: Slippage as USD/KRW tested 1400 levels amid the strong USD 30.5 backdrop aided by higher UST yields. As euphoria from trade deal fades, KRW may consolidate around 1400 levels especially as markets ponder the effects of fiscal consolidation with the government's reforms raising taxes.
- 12) TWD: Month end dividend flows may have exacerbated weakeness given that trade deals and semiconductor exemption imply a not worse off reciprocal tariff rate.





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