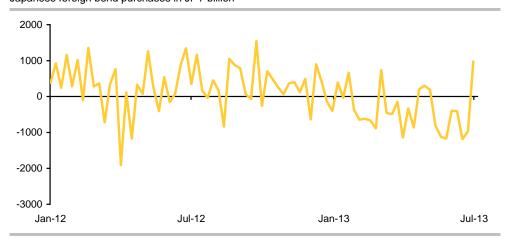
FX Alpha

JPY – Even more to be worried about?

JPY – Even more to be worried about? Purchases of foreign bonds by Japanese investors are not a risk to JPY exchange rates. However a slowdown in emerging market economies most definitely is.

CHART 1: **Finally some bond buying!** Japanese foreign bond purchases in JPY billion



16 July 2013

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Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

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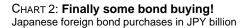
JPY- Even more to be worried about?

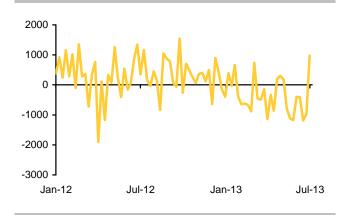
Purchases of foreign bonds by Japanese investors are not a risk to JPY exchange rates. However a slowdown in emerging market economies most definitely is.

Last week the FX market was thrown into turmoil following Bernanke's comments regarding the outlook for monetary policy in the US. The reaction in USD-JPY was unforgiving, falling by 3 big figures from 101.50 towards 98.50. However, what investors seemingly missed was that in the same week, Japanese investors finally bought foreign bonds to the tune of 973 billion JPY. The question is whether this development marks the beginning of the so called wall of money and what are the implications for JPY exchange rates.

To be brief, the assumption underlying the 'wall of money' is that the BoJ will purchase JGB's from Japanese investors, who will then invest the proceeds of the sale in higher yielding foreign assets and in so doing a wave of JPY selling will take place. From a theoretical point of view this is problematic in that one is assuming that quantitative easing by the BoJ is equivalent to wealth creation, which in this case is exported to purchase foreign assets. Second, the rationale was perhaps even more valid one year ago when trade weighted JPY was trading close to all time highs, yet no large scale foreign asset purchases took place. It also assumes that foreign investors paid in JPY will be content to sit and hold JPY, whilst the BoJ increases its balance sheet. More likely than not, investors will simply reverse the flow and purchase Japanese assets. In the end, any increase in JPY money supply will end up back in Japan. At the margin of course one can expect portfolio rebalancing effects. But to expect a significantly weaker JPY as a result of this alone is naive. So, investors should not get too excited with one data release from what is already a rather volatile series.

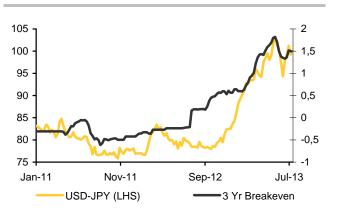
Perhaps the greatest (as yet unrecognised) risk to JPY exchange rates stems from developments in emerging markets. Japan currently sends nearly 40% of its exports to emerging market countries, with China alone accounting for 20%. Last week Finance Minister Lou Jiwei stated that 6.5% growth for China 'wouldn't be a problem'. This suggests that the bar towards stimulus measures in China is quite high. Any significant slowdown in China and EM generally could herald an even greater stimulus response by the BoJ, which in the context of balance sheet contraction by the other major central banks does not augur well for JPY exchange rates. One way of thinking about USD-JPY performance year to date is to look at the development of inflation expectations. Given that breakevens have rallied to close to 1.5% from negative levels only 1 year ago, one could argue that a large part of the idiosyncratic JPY weakening is now done. Breakevens will be unlikely to move substantially above 2% in the absence of a realised pickup in inflation, hence any substantial upmove in USD-JPY will be due to a stronger USD and / or higher global interest rates. Both of these factors seem to be manifesting, to a greater or lesser degree. The bottom line is that there are plenty of reasons to hold a bearish view towards JPY, just that the 'wall of money' is not one of them.





Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

CHART 3: Keep an eye on inflation expectations USD-JPY spot, 3 Yr Breakeven in %



Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

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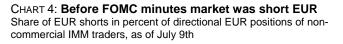
G10 Highlights

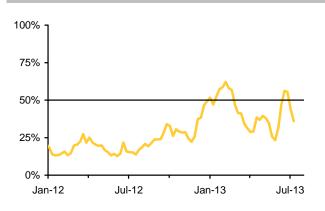
The market is waiting for Fed guidance. Japan needs more yen weakness. Chances of another RBA rate cut have decreased.

EUR-USD: Ahead of Fed chairman Ben Bernanke's semi-annual testimony in front of the House (Wednesday) and the Senate (Thursday) players are reluctant to enter new positions. They are keen on "guidance" from the Fed on QE3 tapering. The recent swing between 1.2760 and 1.3209 in the wake of the FOMC minutes is likely to have washed out most EUR short positions. Therefore, current positioning is likely to be rather neutral and nobody wants to go out on a limb ahead of the key event this week. We think Bernanke will stick to its view, trying to keep US 10y yields unter control, and may sound rather dovish to the market, although his assessment hasn't changed. This risks pushing EUR-USD again to 1.32. The bigger surprise would be some slightly more hawkish comments, though, triggering a new rally in the USD.

JPY: If nothing happens USD-JPY moves up. While EUR-USD was more or less paralysed yesterday, USD-JPY was temporarily able to appreciate to 100.50. In my view this proves that everything we saw in USD-JPY over the last few weeks was either USD strength or weakness. If the greenback does not provide any momentum what we see is the underlying trend of JPY weakness again. Unfortunately this is far too often overshadowed by the general USD weakness. But does anyone really think that the yen was already weak enough? Real exports in Japan (adjusted by exchange rate and price effects) have only risen by 4.8% since the low in December and are still 7.1% below last year's level. And I do not want anyone to say that the global economic environment is so difficult. German exports are only 2.7% below last year's level – despite the recession in many of Germany's major trading partners in Southern Europe. No, the yen weakness is simply not sufficient to counterbalance the structural weakness of the Japanese export sector and the deteriorating terms of trade. Japan needs more yen weakness!

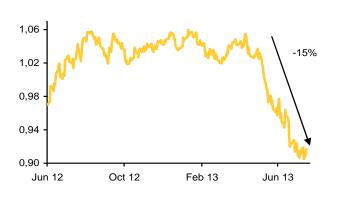
AUD: Surprise! The RBA is always good for one, as is the case today with the minutes of its meeting on 2nd July. Of course the RBA remains cautious and maintains its dovish approach, but the depreciation of the AUD is expected "to add to inflation over time" according to the RBA and the depreciation could continue. As a result it is raising its inflation forecast slightly. "The effects of lower interest rates [previous cuts] were apparent across a range of indicators" and the process has further to run. "Given the exchange rate adjustment that was occurring and with the substantial degree of monetary stimulus already in place" the current stance of policy was "appropriate" according to the RBA. "The inflation outlook, although slightly higher because of the exchange rate depreciation, could still provide some scope for further easing". In other words: the chances of a further rate cut have fallen. We have been always more cautious in our rate expectations than the market and see the possibility of rates not falling any further. As a result 0.90 is likely to hold in AUD-USD unless Fed President Bernanke sounds unexpectedly hawkish in his semi-annual statements tomorrow and the day after.





Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

CHART 5: Depreciating AUD takes pressure off the RBA AUD-USD spot rate, daily data



Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

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FX Metrics

G10 carry trade indices

The portfolio weighting of a common carry trade strategy often simply corresponds to the ranking of the interest rate levels. Moreover the number of investment positions is usually fixed at the outset. However, such a strategy does not effectively exploit the benefits of diversifying across different investments. We therefore suggest a portfolio strategy that optimizes the diversification effect and significantly reduces the downside risk entailed in carry trades using "mean-variance" optimization.

Below we illustrate an example of a mean-variance optimised carry trade portfolio on a selected currency basket with a pre-set risk level. For the optimization the variance has been chosen randomly and can be adjusted as required.

CHART 6: Historic performance of optimized Carry Trade Portfolio

Cumulative return¹ since 6 January 2009, weekly rebalancing, target variance: 6%; Naïve strategy: B&H strategy, 3 high yielders long, 3 low yielders short; Currency basket: EUR (base), USD, GBP, JPY, AUD, SEK, CHF (excluded after Sept 2011)

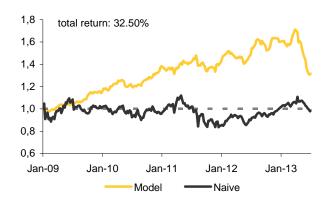


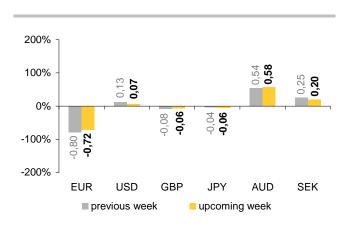
CHART 7: **Portfolio weights for week 16 July to 23 July** Currency basket: EUR (base), USD, GBP, JPY, AUD, SEK; weights in %

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Source: Commerzbank Research

Source: Commerzbank Research

Methodology

Our optimized strategy considers the correlation of the exchange rates in the portfolio weighing decision, i.e. the good old "mean-variance" optimisation according to Harry M. Markowitz. For the carry trade portfolio this means investing in carries in such a manner that an optimum relation between carry and the risk assumed is achieved. Needless to say, the more accurate the estimate of the correlation matrix the larger the advantage of the portfolio optimisation. For our portfolio we therefore use a trend model to forecast the relevant correlations on a weekly basis. In particular, the forecast is based on a linear trend over the weekly correlations of the last month. This trend is then extrapolated to the coming week to yield a forecast. Subsequently, the trend is rolled over on a weekly basis. This trend-based forecast therefore uses more timely input which ultimately increases forecast accuracy.

¹ Returns are based on Tuesdays' London opening



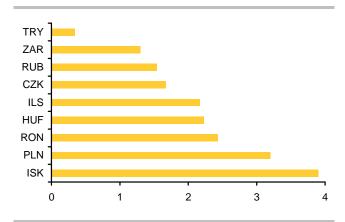
EM Highlights

The key event risk for ZAR this week is Thursday's MPC meeting. Markets also hope to get more clarity about further rate increases in Brazil from the minutes.

ZAR: The key event risk for ZAR this week is Thursday's MPC meeting where SARB is expected to maintain benchmark rates at 5%. Given the mix of a large current account deficit and relatively high inflation prints, the central bank really has no room for maneuvre, at least in the short term. Coming into the meeting USD-ZAR has fallen from levels around 10.30 towards current levels at 9.90, whilst implied volatilities have also fallen considerably. Yields on benchmark 10 year bonds have also retraced considerably, falling from highs of 8% in mid June to current levels around 7.60%. The fall in risk premia have little to do with domestic developments, but are a reflection of the broader risk environment within the emerging market complex. Our view is that it remains far too early to initiate long ZAR positions. Developments in US treasury yields argue against getting too bullish about EM FX for the foreseeable future and given that ZAR is the worst performing EMEA currency year to date, it stands to reason that as US yields increase over the course of 2013, with a consequently stronger USD, ZAR should continue to trade with an offered bias.

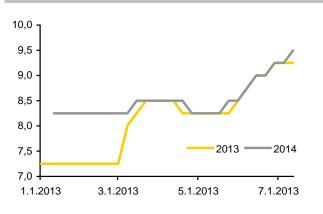
BRL: Last week the central bank raised the Selic by 50 bps to 8.50% as expected. Since the accompanying statement was quite brief market participants are hoping for more clarity about the central banks's future moves from the meeting minutes, which will be released on Thursday. It is clear that rates will rise further, the question is how far. According to the Brazilian central bank's weekly poll among economists the expectation for rates are 9.25% at the end of this year with another 25 bps rate hike expected next year. However, the signals given by the central bank are not that clear yet, so it will be interesting to see if the meeting minutes will confirm markets expectations. We doubt, though, that the real will be able to benefit from hawk-ish minutes. As the weekly poll showed there are growing concerns about GDP growth. A more aggressive monetary policy is an additional risk for the economy. On the other hand, a less aggressive monetary policy would not bring any relief on the inflation front. Difficult times for the real. While we see less scope for a move in USD-BRL to the downside a move to the upside is also limited as the central bank will intervene further to support the real. However, should US central bank governor Bernanke surprise markets on Wednesday by re-kindling tapering speculation the Brazilian central bank will be unlikely to stop rising USD-BRL prices.

CHART 8: **All up against the USD week on week** % Gain / Loss Vs. USD since 9th July 2013



Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

CHART 9: **Rising expectations for year-end Selic** Expectations for the Brazilian Selic (year-end) according to weekly central bank poll among economists



Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

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Tactical trade recommendation

Long USD-JPY risk reversal.

We recommend investors to establish long USD-JPY positions via longer dated risk reversals, by selling 6 month 92.00 puts and buying 108 calls, in equal amounts. This is a zero cost structure.

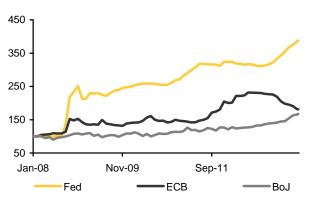
We remain of the view that USD-JPY will trade significantly higher over the remainder of this year. The rationale behind our view rests upon the clearly divergent monetary policy outlooks for the Fed and BoJ respectively. The Fed are set to taper QE3 by the end of 2013, whilst the BoJ are set to expand their balance sheet with monthly purchases of JGB's with a value of nearly \$75 billion per month. On a relative basis this is significantly more than the Fed expanded its balance sheet by, hence our view that USD-JPY will trade significantly higher.

As described above, developments in emerging markets will be important for the BoJ, given that nearly 40% of Japanese exports go to EM countries. In the case of a negative surprise to EM growth the BoJ might be forced to engage in further measures, which would of course be a negative development for JPY exchange rates.

CHART 10: **Riskies skewed to the downside** USD-JPY spot, 25D 3 Month risk reversals in % volatility



CHART 11: **BoJ have room to expand balance sheet** Balance sheets rebased, $100 = 1^{st}$ Jan 2008



Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research

TAB. 1: Discretionary Option Trade Recommendations (base currency EUR)

Trade date	Strategy	Expiry	Size	Premium	Value	P&L	Open /
							Closed
04.02.2013	Short EURp-CHFc 1.2050	04.12.2013	1m	+1.10%	-0.31%	0.79%	Open
26.02.2013	Sell AUDc-USDp 1.06 Buy AUDp-USDc 1.00	22.08.2013	2m x 1m	0.28%	7.28%	7.00%	Open
12.03.2013	Sell CAD-MXN risk reversal 13.00 / 11.90	12.09.2013	2m x 1m	0.28%	-0.20%	-0.48%	Open
22.04.2013	Sell EUR-USD risk reversal 1.33 /1.28	22.07.2013	1m x 1m	0.20%	0.43%	0.23%	Open
28.05.2013	Buy USD-CHF risk reversal 0.94 / 1.00	28.08.2013	1m x 1m	0.23%	-0.04%	-0.27%	Open
19.05.2013	EUR-GBP put spread 0.84 / 0.81	19.08.2013	1m x 1m	0.98%	0.20%	-0.78%	Open
06.05.2013	Buy MXN-JPY risk reversal 8.00 / 8.40	06.08.2013	2m x 1m	0.005%	-0.23%	-0.235%	Open
08.07.2013	Sell GBP-USD risk reversal 1.51 / 1.46	08.10.2013	1m x 1m	0.01%	-0.23%	-0.24%	Open

Sources: Bloomberg L.P., Commerzbank Research

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Sources: Bloomberg L..P.Commerzbank Research



Technical Analysis

US Dollar expected to consolidate short term, longer term bias still bullish

We highlighted last week that corrections in the US yields were likely to spill over into the US dollar and we felt that GBP-USD was unlikely to sustain a break of 1.4832 and AUD-USD was unlikely to sustain a break below 0.9000 at this juncture and this is essentially what we have seen last week.

EUR-USD also found support at the 1.2740 April low last week before briefly shooting back up to the 1.3200 region. It is possible that the market has already topped here, but even if this is not to be the case, EUR-USD is expected to remain below the 2011-13 resistance line and 55 week ma at 1.3386/1.3422.

Loss of 1.3000 should undermine near term stability and re-focus attention onto the 1.2740 support. For now we expect it will consolidate over the next week or so. Below 1.2740 we target the1.2661 November low en route to the 1.2052 200 month ma.

CHART 12: **EUR-USD weekly chart** Tested and held the 1.2740 low



Source: CQG, Commerzbank Research

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Eveni							
Date	Time	Region	Release	Unit	Period	Survey	Prior
16 July	13:00	PLN	Wages	mom	JUN	3,4	-3,4
				уоу	JUN	2,1	2,3
	13:00	PLN	Core rate	mom	JUN	0,0	-0,1
				уоу	JUN	0,9	1,0
	13:30	USA	Consumer prices	mom	JUN	0,3	0,1
				yoy	JUN	1,6	1,4
			core rate	mom	JUN	0,2	0,2
				уоу	JUN	1,6	1,7
	14:00	USA	Tic data	USD bn	MAY	-25,0	-37,3
	14:15	USA	Industrial production	mom	JUN	0,3	0,0
	14:15	USA	Capacity utilization	%	JUN	77,7	77,6
	15:00	USA	NAHB Housing Market Index		JUL	51	52
17 July		GBP	Unemployment rate	%	MAY	7,8	7,8
	10:00	CHF	ZEW business expectations		JUL	-	2,2
	12:00	USA	MBA Mortgage Applications	%	JUL 12	-	-4,00
	13:00	PLN	Producer price index	mom	JUN	0,2	0,1
				yoy	JUN	-1,8	-2,5
	13:00	RUB	CPI weekly year to date	%	JUL 15	-	4,0
	13:00	PLN	Sold Industrial Output	mom	JUN	1,0	-0,7
				yoy	JUN	1,5	-1,8
	13:30	USA	Housing Starts	К	JUN	960	914
			Housing Permits	К	JUN	1000	985
	15:00	CAD	Interest rate decision	%	JUL 17	1,00	1,00
18 July	09:30	GBP	Retail sales	mom	JUN	0,3	2,1
				уоу	JUN	1,7	1,9
	-	ZAR	Interest rate decision	%	JUL 18	5,00	5,00
	12:00	RUB	FX and gold reserves	USD bn	JUL 12	-	505,0
	13:30	USA	Initial jobless claims	К	JUL 13	345	360
	15:00	USA	Philadelphia Fed Index		JUL	8,0	12,5
	15:00	USA	Leading indicator CB		JUN	0,3	0,1
19 July		JPY	Leading Index CI		MAY F	0,0	110,5
			Coincident Index CI		MAY F	-	105,9
		GER	Producer price index	mom	JUN	-0,1	-0,3
				уоу	JUN	0,6	0,2
	13:30	CAD	Consumer prices	mom	JUN	0,1	0,2
				уоу	JUN	1,2	0,7
22 July	15:00	USA	Existing Home Sales	mn	JUN	5,24	5,18
				mom	JUN	1,2	4,2

Event Calendar



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