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NEWS UPDATE

19 May 2022

MARKET SUMMARY

US Treasury	Yield 18 May 22	Daily Change bps	Yield 17 May 22	Weekly Change bps	Yield 11 May 22	Monthly Change bps	Yield 18 Apr 22	YTD Change bps	Yield 31 Dec 21
3 YEAR	2.84	-5	2.89	3	2.81	17	2.67	187	0.97
5 YEAR	2.89	-7	2.96	-2	2.91	10	2.79	163	1.26
7 YEAR	2.91	-9	3.00	-8	2.99	7	2.84	147	1.44
10 YEAR	2.88	-10	2.98	-11	2.99	5	2.83	136	1.52

*Good Friday

MGS	Yield 18 May 22	Daily Change bps	Yield 17 May 22	Weekly Change bps	Yield 10 May 22	Monthly Change bps	Yield 15 Apr 22	YTD Change bps	Yield 31 Dec 21
3 YEAR	3.67	-2	3.69	-4	3.71	33	3.34	86	2.81
5 YEAR	4.01	2	3.99	-8	4.09	44	3.57	85	3.16
7 YEAR	4.43	-1	4.44	-4	4.47	48	3.95	104	3.39
10 YEAR	4.38	-7	4.45	2	4.36	29	4.09	78	3.60

GII	Yield 18 May 22	Daily Change bps	Yield 17 May 22	Weekly Change bps	Yield 10 May 22	Monthly Change bps	Yield 15 Apr 22	YTD Change bps	Yield 31 Dec 21
3 YEAR	3.64	2	3.62	-6	3.70	55	3.09	74	2.90
5 YEAR	4.21	0	4.21	-2	4.23	48	3.73	100	3.21
7 YEAR	4.44	0	4.44	-3	4.47	46	3.98	101	3.43
10 YEAR	4.58	0	4.58	2	4.56	38	4.20	96	3.62

AAA	Yield 18 May 22	Daily Change bps	Yield 17 May 22	Weekly Change bps	Yield 10 May 22	Monthly Change bps	Yield 15 Apr 22	YTD Change bps	Yield 31 Dec 21
3 YEAR	4.17	2	4.15	2	4.15	57	3.60	92	3.25
5 YEAR	4.48	1	4.47	-1	4.49	45	4.03	88	3.60
7 YEAR	4.80	1	4.79	1	4.79	47	4.33	86	3.94
10 YEAR	4.88	-1	4.89	-4	4.92	36	4.52	94	3.94

- 1 bps = 0.01%
- Increase in Yield = Decrease in the bond price/value

Source: US Treasury, BNM & BIX
Malaysia

NEWS UPDATE

Today's headlines of interest and summaries as extracted from the international and local media.

THE EDGE

StanChart expects Malaysia's economy to grow 7% in 2022

The Malaysian economy is expected to return to above pre-Covid-19 pandemic levels with the 2022 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast up at 7% from 6.2% given stronger-than-expected growth in the first quarter (1Q22), said Standard Chartered Bank (StanChart).

The bank also maintained that overnight policy rate (OPR) hikes in 2022 will total 75 basis points, with two more hikes in July and September 2022 respectively, bringing the OPR up to 2.5% by end-2022.

StanChart said the “growth recovery was broad-based”, which saw all components expanding quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q), with the exception of investment and trade in services remaining below pre-pandemic levels as of 1Q22.

"In terms of industries, 18 out of 21 sectors expanded q-o-q, and we estimate that 74% of the economy is above pre-Covid-19 levels," StanChart said in a research note on Tuesday (May 17).

The bank noted that the labour market had also continued to recover, with strong employment growth and tighter conditions translating into higher wage growth.

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THE MALAYSIAN RESERVE

Will rate hikes tame cost-push inflation effectively?

As Central Banks around the world are racing to raise interest rates to tame inflation, some quarters argue that an interest rate hike at this juncture is not an effective measure to address the current situation in which prices are driven up mainly by higher costs as a result of the sharp rise of commodity prices plus supply chain disruption.

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) has joined its peers to raise the overnight policy rate (OPR) by 25bps last Wednesday (May 11) to 2% after keeping a record low rate of 1.75% since July 2020.

When contacted MIER chief economist Dr Shankaran Nambiar told The Edge that the rate hike would not address rising costs, as inflation is being driven more by supply constraints amid the Ukraine conflict, China's Covid-19 containment policies and supply chain restrictions, rather than demand-pull factors.

"There is pent-up demand, but that is not likely the cause for the increase in the price of fertilisers, vegetables or oil. We are looking at inflation that is more generated by cost-push rather than burgeoning demand.

"That being the case, the rate hike will hardly be able to make a dent on cost-related pressures," said Shankaran.

NEWS UPDATE

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CNBC

Treasury yields fall, prices rise as investors huddle in bonds for safety amid stock sell-off

U.S. Treasury yields fell Wednesday, as investors sought shelter from a blistering sell-off in the equities market.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note fell 9 basis points to 2.88%, despite topping 3% earlier in the day. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond traded down 10 basis points to 3.061%. Yields move inversely to prices and 1 basis point is equal to 0.01%.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 were on track for their biggest daily declines since 2020, after a quarterly report from retailer Target stoked concern of rising inflation biting into corporate profits. The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite also faltered, dropping 4.7%.

Those declines pushed the Nasdaq deeper into bear market territory. They also put the S&P 500 down more than 17.7% for 2022; the Dow was down 13.3% year to date.

Risk assets like stocks have been under pressure all year as worries over surging inflation and tighter Federal Reserve policy rattled investors. On Tuesday, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said on Tuesday that the U.S. central bank would continue to raise interest rates until inflation starts to fall back to a healthy level.

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