

ECB BMCG

Rates Market Update

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Rates markets have been influenced more by inflation downgrade than the growth upgrade



EZ consensus growth upgraded, while US downgraded since the tariffs

Large trade frontloading has supported Q1 EZ growth. Payback time ahead

EZ Exports To The US

Consensus GDP 2025



➡US Goods Imports From EZ ➡EZ Goods Exports To US

The market is assuming inflation not back to 2% until 2030. Structural allocation shifts away from linkers could be distorting long-end pricing



Market pricing in rising real yields as nominal fwds rise faster than inflation.



Net supply ex QE at multi-decade highs, with about 1/3rd coming from CB QT

Term premia have risen fast, but still low compared to history



Term Premia Statistical Proxies



German net issuance ex QE from flat the past decade to EUR225bn per year



10pp of GDP increase in EZ's net issuance, the largest in 35 years

Source: Commerzbank

Foreign and price sensitive investors have been driving demand as CBs turned into sellers

Foreigners and MMF have been buying while the Fed has been selling

United States Flow of Funds UST Purchases (annualised)



Foreign investor Brokers & Dealers MMF
Insurance State & Local Governments Household
Others
Mutual fund & ETFs Pension Banks
Fed

The Japanese long-end selloff coincided with when domestic insures stopped buying

Japan Long Term Bond Buyers



UK LDI have reduced their exposure to gilts. Banks bought on asset swap

Selected Holders of UK Gilts



Foreigners have also stepped in to buy EGBs during QT



Change in government bond holdings in 2024

Source : Deutsche Bank, ECB

The Dutch pension reform could result in a structural shift in EUR rates demand

Significant part of the EUR1.9tn assets are allocated to fixed income

Dutch Pension Fund Assets





Analysis on derivatives suggests large exposure to interest rates

During Q1, the net market value of the Dutch Pension Fund hedges fell by €33bn while the 20y increased by 40bp.

The DV01 of their derivatives book is still a €822mn, underscoring the potential challenges in completing the transition until Jan28.

Source: Commerzbank

IC & PFs own significant percentage of the core and semi-core govies

Q4 2024	GER	FRA	FIN	NET	AUS	BEL	IRE	SPA	ITA
Eurosystem NCBs	32%	24%	32%	32%	28%	23%	42%	31%	29%
Domestic MFIs	6%	9%	2%	3%	6%	5%	7%	16%	15%
Other EA MFIs	1%	5%	9%	6%	9%	8%	7%	9%	5%
Domestic IC/PFs	2%	12%	0%	17%	1%	8%	2%	9%	11%
Other EA IC/PFs	8%	8%	12%	4%	17%	21%	17%	9%	3%
Domestic Others	5%	2%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	5%	18%
EA Others	8%	8%	12%	9%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%
Non- EA Residents	37%	31%	32%	28%	23%	22%	13%	12%	11%

*Heatmaps apply vertically for each country separately

Source : Deutsche Bank, ECB

Source: ECB

The Eurozone investors own large amounts of debt and equities abroad

EZ investors bought EUR3tn net of foreign bonds once rates went negative

EZ investors own net 1.9tn of US bonds and 1.7tn of US equity

Eurozone Cumulative Debt Flows



Following two years of stability, EZ investors started buying foreign bonds this year

Eurozone Financial Account: Equities & Bonds Rolling 3m

- Debt Net - Equity Net





Eurozone Investment Position With The US

Source: ECB

Topics for discussion

- Dutch pension reform impact on European rates markets
- Risks of domestic investor base duration demand saturation (e.g. Japan)
- Real money investors' shifting strategic allocation from public to private fixed income