

Top News

NZ dollar drops to 15-month low vs euro after Draghi fails to voice concern

The New Zealand dollar fell to a 15-month low against the euro after European Central Bank president Mario Draghi failed to mention the currency's strength in a speech at Jackson Hole as some market commentators had predicted while Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen avoided the topic of monetary policy.

The euro gained to its highest level in two years against the greenback following Draghi's speech at the central bankers' symposium, where he talked broadly about risks to free trade. Traders had been speculating that both Draghi and Yellen may give clues to the direction of monetary policy and when they didn't, the market drove up the euro.

US tax reform, jobs

The Trump administration's tax reform plans and the latest US jobs data are expected to top the agenda this week as second-quarter earnings season fades away.

US President Donald Trump will launch a major push for tax reform this week with a speech in Missouri, the Financial Times reported on Friday, citing Gary Cohn, head of the White House national economic council.

Investors also will eye the ADP employment report on Wednesday, weekly jobless claims on Thursday, and the government's nonfarm payrolls report on Friday.

Wall Street welcomed firmer expectations that the next Fed interest rate increase won't happen until December. The Fed's open market committee is expected to approve the gradual paring of its US\$4.5 trillion balance sheet when it meets in September.

NZ shares down, Metro Glass at record low while A2, Comvita gain

New Zealand shares fell last week, with Metro Performance Glass dropping to a record low while A2 Milk Co and Comvita rose on continued optimism following their earnings.

Metro Glass led the index lower for the second day in a row, falling 8.9% to a record low \$1.13. The company said it expects its first half results to be largely flat despite the contribution from recently acquired Australian Glass Group. A2 Milk Co gained 4.9% to \$5.74, a fresh record. On Wednesday the milk marketer announced it had tripled its annual profit to \$90.6 million and would use some of its accumulated cash to buy back shares, and may pay a special dividend.

Comvita gained 4.4% to \$7.20. It began gaining on Tuesday after beating full year guidance and announcing it expects to return to an operating profit in the current financial year. Port of Tauranga rose 2.2% to \$4.56. New Zealand's biggest port company today posted a 7.9% gain in annual profit to \$83.4 million, at the top of its guidance, in a year when total trade rose 10% to a record 22.2 million tonnes.

NZX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
S&P/NZX All Index	8,510.13	9.58	↓	0.11%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	7,857.81	10.59	↓	0.13%
S&P/NZX Mid Cap Index	22,630.01	53.20	↑	0.24%
S&P/NZX Small Cap	52,961.39	25.45	↑	0.05%
S&P/NZAX All Index	549.12	1.76	↑	0.32%

ASX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
ALL ORDINARIES	5,803.4	1.7	↑	0.03%
S&P/ASX 200	5,743.9	1.6	↓	0.03%
S&P/ASX SMALL ORD	2,418.2	12.3	↑	0.51%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	6,237.8	9.4	↓	0.15%
S&P/ASX 20	3,237.8	5.3	↓	0.16%

Foreign Markets Index				
	Last		Change	
S&P 500	2,443.05	4.08	↑	0.17%
DJIA	21,813.67	30.27	↑	0.14%
Nasdaq	6,265.64	5.69	↓	0.09%
FTSE 100	7,401.46	5.60	↓	0.08%
ALL ORDINARIES	5,803.40	1.70	↑	0.03%
Nikkei 225	19,452.61	98.84	↑	0.51%
Hang Seng	27,848.16	329.56	↑	1.20%

Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last		Change	
AUD	0.9140	0.0023	↑	0.25%
USD	0.7243	0.0003	↑	0.04%
CNY	4.8130			
EUR	0.6059	0.0012	↓	0.20%
CAD	0.9037	0.0012	↑	0.13%
GBP	0.5599	0.0022	↓	0.39%
JPY	79.0750	0.1800	↓	0.23%

NZ Interest Rates		
	Last	Change
NZ OCR	1.75	
3-month Bank Bill	1.94	
5-year Swap	2.64	
10-year Swap	3.13	

Commodities				
	Last		Change	
Spot Gold \$US	1,290.59	0.23	↓	0.02%
Spot Silver \$US	17.05	0.01	↑	0.06%
Oil(WTI)	47.87	0.28	↑	0.59%

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Tel: +64 (9)304 0145

Web: www.equity.co.nz

E-mail: Info@equity.co.nz

Address: Level 7, 12-26 Swanson Street, Auckland, NZ