



Bumper data week for SA on the cards

In this week's report

- Rand – Busy SA data week that will test rand's relative attractiveness
- Local bonds – Some consolidation due post the pronounced move in rate expectations
- A look at the Swiss Gold Referendum

Weekly Currency Outlook

- Entering the new week, there is good reason to believe that the **bout of risk sentiment to have supported many EM currencies through the past two weeks will continue for now**. The basis for this improved risk appetite is of course the renewed dovishness we are seeing in the major central bank space, as it gives **confidence to market participants in their carry trade positions** knowing that funding through the major currencies such as the EUR and JPY will continue to prove reliable. At the start of the week the EUR-USD is trading around 1.2400 and not far off its two-year lows, with ECB President Draghi's comments on Friday that **"excessively low" inflation needed to be quickly raised**, further affirming the bank's intentions of heading down the more conventional QE path.
- Perhaps more curious **on Friday was the interest rate cut by the PBOC**. Chinese policymakers finally appear to be responding as expected to a domestic growth slowdown which could be exacerbated by weak global growth pressures. Local sources indicate that **policymakers are ready to engage in more rate cuts and a loosening of lending criteria if necessary**, perhaps unwinding some of what was supposed to be structural reform taking place through the banking sector. For now, the bank has cut its 1yr deposit rate to 2.75% (-0.25%) and 1yr lending rate to 5.60% (-0.40%), with some now expecting a reserve requirement cut to follow in December given the primary objective of debt service relief. The local sources cited a concern in a "trigger of debt defaults", revealing the **ongoing imperative of policymakers to keep the debt spiral afloat**.
- Against the backdrop of this positive carry-flow undercurrent, rand sentiment will be put to the test more specifically through a **host of domestic data releases this week**. Data such as the SARB leading indicator and PPI will perhaps be of less significance to the rand given that a **softer growth and inflation tone has already been well established by the SARB** in its latest policy statement and now reflected

in the markets. Nevertheless, the **money supply and credit figures** will be useful in determining the forward-looking momentum of the economy, while the **trade and government budget balances as core components in our rand fragility model** will provide an update as to the currency's vulnerability to further dollar-led blow-offs.

- Trade in context of growth in key export regions (Europe & China) coming under strain and interest rates which remain too low to generate a commensurate decline in import growth (by squeezing of credit-fuelled spending) are **suggestive of a deficit which fails to narrow meaningfully** on a y/y or ytd basis. **We do nevertheless expect some reprieve to be found** from a rand which is stabilising on a trade-weighted basis and commodity prices which are falling, which could factor into a **slightly positive short-term view for the trade account**. The govt budget however has shown few signs of improvement and will be a key test for govt in months ahead prior to the main budget in February.

Exchange Rates Monday 24 November, 2014

	ZAR	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY
ZAR	..	10.98	13.63	17.23	0.09
USD	0.09	..	1.24	1.57	0.01
EUR	0.07	0.81	..	1.26	0.01
GBP	0.06	0.64	0.79	..	0.01
JPY	10.76	118.21	146.67	185.45	..

*rates expressed per currency on top

Source: Reuters contributed prices, taken at 10:30 GMT

- USD-ZAR downside bias can continue to hold given accommodation provided by offshore data and CB rhetoric. Note however the **pair is becoming technically oversold** given the pace of its run which may start to squeeze shorts toward 10.90. **The support trend line from 2011 around 10.85** will be particularly important to watch and will take a strong trigger to break.
- **USD-ZAR at the time of this report: 10.9889**
- **Range for the week: 10.8500/11.1500**



Fixed Income & Capital Markets

South Africa

Some consolidation due post the pronounced move in rate expectations

- **SA data will garner increased focus this week in a quieter international week** filled with US Thanksgiving holidays on Thursday and Friday. Though somewhat historical and subject to the positive influence of many sectors rebounding from weak levels, **the Q3 GDP data due for release on Tuesday** will nevertheless be closely watched by the market for signs of deviation relative to expectations and given that a rebasing of the data will be taking place. It will be followed by money supply and credit figures on Friday as a set of more forward-looking growth data that will no doubt be looked at **in context of a global economy which is deflating and a SARB which clearly turned much less hawkish** at of last week's MPC.
- The subsiding of domestic growth and inflation expectations in a **global economy characterised by central banks which are responding in a more consistently dovish manner** has provided fuel for a strong rally on SA bonds. On Friday, **ECB President Draghi referred to inflation as "excessively low" and needing to be quickly raised**, and the **PBOC cut interest rates due to mounting growth concerns**. Local sources indicate that further rate cuts and a loosening of lending criteria could follow. Many market participants are now expecting ECB QE details to emerge as early as the next policy meeting in two weeks, and this will put some emphasis on the **German data including the IFO which surprised to the upside on into the start of the week, also Q3 GDP and November CPI this week**.
- As a sign of the times, **Alibaba**, which held its US IPO just two months ago, **shot the lights out with an \$8bn bond sale on Thursday** that amassed \$55bn worth of bids. This was a record for dollar-bond sales from an Asian company, and was said to be more reflective of US credit conditions and investor demand for EM exposure than Chinese growth risks. It coincided with a **large R2.2bn worth of foreign bond inflows to SA last week**, shooting the monthly figure up to five-month highs of R4.8bn.
- However, despite greater justification for pricing down the magnitude of the SARB rate hike cycle, **the risk of the market overshooting should be kept in mind** given the extent of the recent moves. Such sharp and one-directional moves across FRA yields are rarely sustainable for more than a few weeks, especially given the sensitivity of the market in a more data-dependent central bank world. Furthermore, **a deeper decline on FRA yields would discount too greatly the fragility risks still attached to the rand**. The unwind has resulted in a particularly strong overbought status being exhibited across the local bond curve given yields that have fallen too rapidly, and with the US Thanksgiving holidays approaching **this may give some reason to start lightening up on long-bond positions**.

International

Major central banks soften their interest rate guidance

- US Fed mouthpiece Jon Hilsenrath, reporting over the weekend on the Chinese rate cut and ECB QE guidance, restated a **problem acknowledged by US policymakers**: "Global economic weakness creates a dilemma for the U.S. **If the Fed pulls away from easy money as other central banks ramp up money-pumping policies, it could drive up the value of the U.S. dollar, straining U.S. exports**. It also could **put downward pressure on U.S. inflation and on commodities prices**, which are typically denominated in dollars." This highlights how rate hikes from the Fed are still flagged as being months away at the earliest; nothing new on the policy outlook front.
- Across the Atlantic, **UK October public finances last week improved, but not necessarily enough to quell market fears that Osborne's budget goals won't be achieved before next year's budget**. Spending cuts alone may not be enough to fully plug the gap between the target and the current fiscal position. Some more in the way of structural reforms will likely be needed.
- In Asia the big news is the **reduction of lending and deposit rates in China as the PBOC attempts to push back against the economic slowdown taking place over there**. This is an obvious plus for the Asian giant's major trading partners, as seen in the sharp rally across equity markets in response.
- Meanwhile, in Europe, ECB President Draghi's thinly-veiled jawboning against the Euro at the end of last week saw a sharp effect on the spot exchange rate, but **sustainability questions will be raised on ECB's impotence on actual policy**. The market will meanwhile scrutinize details of first ABS purchases in ECB data out on Monday. Quite rightly, **the market is pricing in the prospect of full blown QE**, although it **remains unclear how this will assist in boosting growth** given that the impaired credit transmission mechanism through the banks is the major reason behind weak credit extension and money supply growth. **Without tackling this meaningfully and allowing banks to recapitalise themselves, QE will only serve a very temporary purpose**.
- This week focus will fall on Q3 GDP data revisions out of Germany, the US, and the UK as well as the BoJ policy minutes due on Tuesday. Moreover it will be worth keeping an eye out for November German and Eurozone flash CPI estimates for November as the ECB attempts to push back against deflationary pressures in the region.

SA Yields & Spreads	24-Nov-14	17-Nov-14	chge (bp)
R203 (2017)	6.5200	6.6000	-8.0
R204 (2018)	6.8250	6.9000	-7.5
R186 (2026)	7.7400	7.8350	-9.5
R203/R186 spread(bp)	122.0	123.5	-1.5

Source: Reuters contributed prices, taken at 10:30 GMT



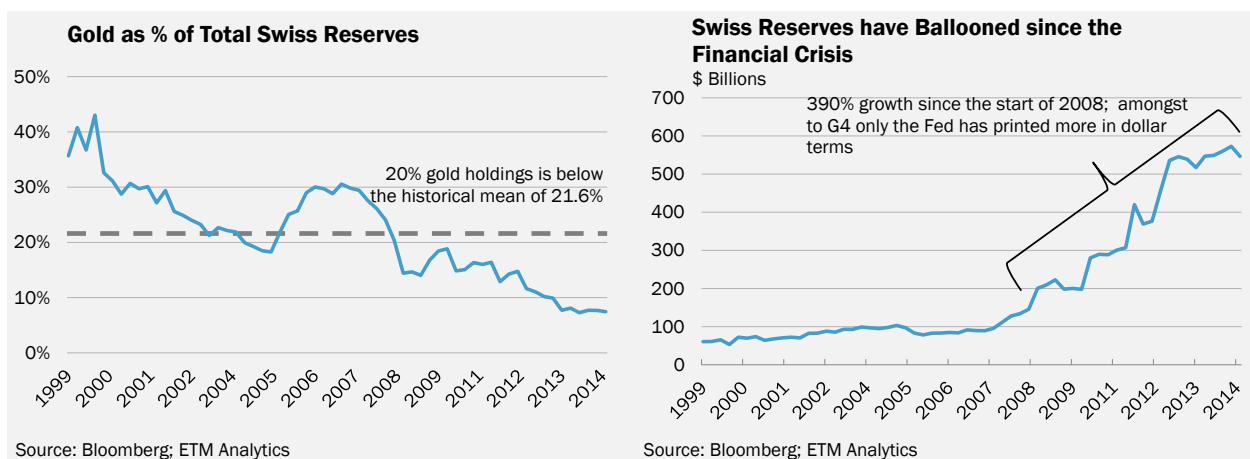
3. Market Perspective

Viewpoint

Swiss Referendum: Nice Thought but Lacking the Cutting Edge

Bottom Line: On 30 November 2014 Switzerland will go to the polls to vote on three propositions regarding the Swiss National Banks' (SNB) gold holdings. The referendum, if passed, will force the SNB to 1) not sell any more gold, 2) repatriate all Switzerland's physical gold holdings to Switzerland, and 3) allocate at least 20% of its balance sheet in physical gold. Current polling suggests that the vote will be a close one. While a "yes" vote would certainly change the complexion of central bank policy, we don't believe a binding referendum in its current form can impose stringent enough constraints on the SNB to stop it from inflating the Swiss Franc (CHF) in order to maintain a EUR-CHF target. For gold, the 5-year time-frame allowed for the implementation of proposition 3) may soften the impact the market immediately but it would provide another significant bidder in the physical gold market which is gold price supportive.

The SNB's gold holdings have dropped from 40% of total assets in 2000 to 7.4% at present as the SNB inflated its foreign currency reserves (particularly Euro reserves) in order to offset monetary inflation across the G4.



FX Implications - How will the SNB buy its gold?

In the event of a "yes" vote, the SNB would have at least three ways to reach its hypothetical monetary reserve goal of 20% gold holdings on its balance sheet: 1) Sell dollars or euro for Swiss franc, thereby withdrawing swissie money supply out the system and shrinking non-gold asset holdings to 80% of balance sheet; 2) sell dollars and euro to buy gold until the 20% gold:total assets ratio is restored; or 3) print Swiss franc to buy gold until the 20% gold:total assets ratio is restored.

Impact on Gold

A "yes" vote on 30 November could imply a significant bid for gold from the SNB. At current prices the SNB could be required to purchase at least 1621 tons of gold. However the SNB would have 5 years to implement the gold target. Assuming 3-6% q/q growth in the SNB's balance sheet (average growth since 2008 is 6% q/q), a constant USD-CHF exchange rate and a constant gold price, suggests that the SNB would have to purchase 3843 tons of gold by December 2019 or 768 tons per year for the next 5 years. This equates to a substantial 31-64% of annual new gold production purchased by the SNB each year.

Fundamentally the decision would be bullish for gold because physical gold SNB purchases will squeeze the already crowded physical market. Currently the London gold offered rate is trading negative, a sign of investor's reluctance to swap their gold for dollars. Shortages in the physical market are well documented. There is even evidence of physical constraints in Krugerrands, which trade at a higher premium over spot gold than a few years ago, despite the softer price of gold over the past year.

The 5 year time horizon given to the SNB to implement the gold balance sheet target gives the central bank the ability to drag its heels and devise ways in which to massage the gold purchases into financial markets. We remain fundamentally bullish on gold in the long term and continue to favour holding physical gold as part of a balanced portfolio. However gold is an insurance against monetary debasement and loss of currency and financial confidence, and should not be held in order to generate cyclical returns. Gold purchases ahead of the referendum should be viewed with a long term outlook, which we see as decisively bullish gold.

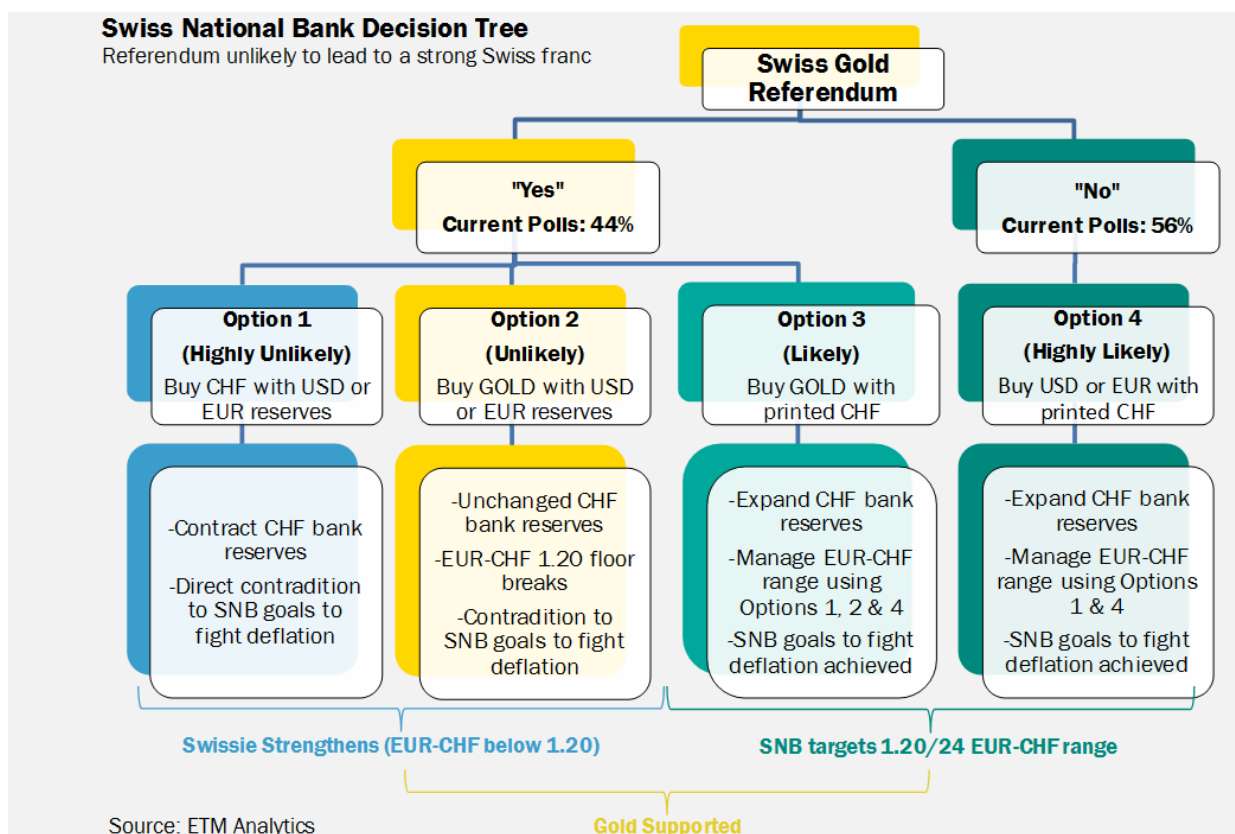


Outlook

While increasing the SNB's holdings of gold is a noble attempt at monetary discipline, it cannot, as currently proposed, meaningfully constrain the SNB's monetary inflation. As a primary option the SNB can merely print swissie in order to buy gold, juicing bank reserves and making bank lending easier at the margin and averting price deflation. If the swissie becomes significantly undervalued relative to other major currencies, the SNB can sell euro or dollars to purchase gold, allowing the central bank to effectively maintain its EUR-CHF target. On FX terms then, we see the referendum as EUR-CHF neutral with swissie printing set to continue in order to buy either gold or euro.

Increasing gold holdings is an insurance mechanism for the SNB in the event of global monetary and financial disorder, but SNB officials are saying a "yes" vote would increase currency risks and financial risks. Yet only 15 years ago, the stable Swiss currency and banking system was supported by a SNB with 40% gold asset backing.

A central banks' ability to create inflation will only be restrained when its ability to expand its balance sheet is constrained in nominal terms, period. At present there is no sign of balance sheet caps anywhere around the globe. Instead global monetary policy doctrine remains heavily tilted towards pursuing higher consumer price inflation which effectively results in currency wars, a futile attempt to create nominal growth at the expense of trading partners.



Strategy

- A downside break of the EUR-CHF unlikely to hold, "yes" vote or not. Short term tactical traders will find value in adding to long positions if a break takes place.
- A yes vote will add to an already strong fundamental bias for long gold positions. We caution in viewing the referendum as a short term gold play since the current dollar strengthening cycle can weigh on gold and potential nullify gains resulting from a Swiss "yes" vote. Moreover major central banks are well versed in the dark arts of gold market manipulation and would attempt to stop the Swiss referendum from spiking the gold price.
- This noble attempt by the Swiss isn't enough to constrain inflation of the swissie. Central bank balance sheets must receive nominal caps in order to protect currency value. In short, if the Swiss People's Party (SVP) wanted to constrain the SNB, it would have motioned for a hard balance sheet cap of say only 1-2% growth per year. Perhaps this would have been too technical a motion to garner the 100,000 signatures needed to call a referendum and perhaps would have had a harder chance of passing. Who knows, perhaps the SVP is playing a longer strategy of monetary reform and this is the first phase in its battle against debasement.



Indicators	Monday	Week ago	Start of 2014	Six months ago	Year ago				
RATES	24-Nov-14	17-Nov-14	change(bp)	01-Jan-14	change(bp)	27-Apr-14	change(bp)	24-Nov-13	change(bp)
SARB REPO RATE	5.75	5.75	0	5.00	75	5.50	25	5.00	75
FED FUNDS RATE	0.25	0.25	0	0.25	0	0.25	0	0.25	0
ECB REFI RATE	0.05	0.05	0	0.25	-20	0.25	-20	0.50	-45
PRIME OVERDRAFT RATE	9.25	9.25	0	8.50	75	9.00	25	8.50	75
3m NCD	6.10	6.30	-20	5.30	80	5.93	18	5.28	82
6m NCD	6.75	6.83	-8	5.73	103	6.53	23	5.73	103
12m NCD	6.95	7.10	-15	5.90	105	6.75	20	5.83	112
BONDS	24-Nov-14	17-Nov-14	change(bp)	01-Jan-14	change(bp)	27-Apr-14	change(bp)	24-Nov-13	change(bp)
13.5% R157 (2015)	6.5500	6.5500	0	6.1600	39	6.5550	0	6.1200	43
8.0% R204 (2018)	6.7950	6.7950	0	7.9750	-118	7.4700	-68	8.0400	-125
10.5% R186 (2026)	7.7200	7.7200	0	8.6050	-89	8.3350	-62	8.7200	-100
8.75% R2048 (2048)	8.5150	8.5150	0	9.3000	-79	9.0350	-52	9.4350	-92
4.75% US 10Y	2.3294	2.3400	-1	3.0060	-68	2.5340	-20	2.7540	-42
CURRENCIES	24-Nov-14	17-Nov-14	% change	01-Jan-14	% change	27-Apr-14	% change	24-Nov-13	% change
RAND/DOLLAR	10.9829	11.1278	-1.30	10.4550	5.05	10.2878	6.76	10.0590	9.18
DOLLAR/EURO	1.2408	1.2449	-0.33	1.3752	-9.77	1.3633	-8.99	1.3558	-8.48
RAND/EURO	13.6276	13.8530	-1.63	14.3777	-5.22	14.0254	-2.84	13.6380	-0.08
RAND/POUND	17.2311	17.4039	-0.99	17.3166	-0.49	17.3185	-0.50	16.3187	5.59
YEN/RAND	10.7627	10.4734	2.76	9.9697	7.95	9.8915	8.81	10.0466	7.13
TW/RAND	138.46	140.64	-1.55	139.64	-0.85	136.75	1.25	133.43	3.77
COMMODITIES	24-Nov-14	17-Nov-14	% change	01-Jan-14	% change	27-Apr-14	% change	24-Nov-13	% change
GOLD	1195.19	1186.24	0.75	1205.29	-0.84	1292.61	-7.54	1242.99	-3.85
PLATINUM	1214.25	1193.90	1.70	1370.50	-11.40	1465.80	-17.16	1377.80	-11.87
PALLADIUM	787.20	767.43	2.58	711.00	10.72	824.30	-4.50	712.36	10.51
IPE BRENT CRUDE	80.03	79.31	0.91	110.80	-27.77	110.54	-27.60	111.05	-27.93

Rates taken at 10:30 GMT 24-Nov-14

DOMESTIC DATA	MONTH	ACTUAL	PREVIOUS	m/m	previous m/m	NEXT RELEASE	TIME (GMT)
CONSUMER INFLATION	Sep	5.9%	5.9%	0.2%	0.0%	10-Dec	08:00
PRODUCER INFLATION	Sep	6.9%	7.2%	0.1%	0.0%	27-Nov	09:30
MONEY SUPPLY	Sep	7.9%	6.4%	1.9%	0.0%	28-Nov	06:00
PRIVATE CREDIT EXTENSION	Sep	8.7%	8.8%	0.6%	0.6%	28-Nov	06:00
MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION	Sep	8.0%	-1.0%	4.0%	2.6%	9-16 Dec	11:00
TRADE BALANCE	Sep	R-2.9bn	R-16.7bn			29-Nov	12:00
Net GOLD AND FOREX RESERVES	Oct	\$43.09bn	\$43.33bn			01-05 Dec	06:00
RETAIL SALES	Aug	2.3%	2.0%	-0.8%	0.5%	9-16 Dec	11:00

Source: Reuters contributed prices, taken at 10:30 GMT



Key International and South African data & events: 24-28 November

***Source: Reuters, Stats SA, SARB**

Date	Country	Indicator/data release	GMT	Period	Our Exp	Consensus	Previous
24-Nov	JP	Market holiday					
	EZ	ECB's Nowotny speaks	07:45				
	DE	IFO business climate	09:00	Nov		103.00	103.20
	US	Chicago Fed activity index	13:30	Oct			0.47
	US	Markit services PMI (preliminary)	14:45	Nov		57.30	57.10
	US	Markit composite PMI (preliminary)	14:45	Nov			57.20
25-Nov	SA	Leading Indicator	07:00	Sep			100.50
	SA	Bond auction (R213-650mn; R2032-1bn;R2044-1bn)	09:00				
	SA	GDP q/q annualized	09:30	Q3		1.50%	0.60%
	SA	BER business confidence	10:00	Q4			46.00
	JP	BoJ meeting minutes	O/N				
	JP	BoJ's Kuroda speaks	01:00				
	JP	BoJ's Nakaso speaks	04:00				
	DE	GDP q/q seasonally adjusted (final)	07:00	Q3		0.10%	0.10%
	DE	Exports q/q	07:00	Q3		1.30%	0.90%
	US	GDP q/q annualized (second reading)	13:30	Q3		3.30%	3.50%
	US	Personal consumption (second reading)	13:30	Q3		1.90%	1.80%
	US	House price index m/m	14:00	Sep		0.50%	0.50%
	US	S&P/Case-Shiller house price composite-20 y/y	14:00	Sep		4.65%	5.57%
	US	Consumer confidence	15:00	Nov		95.80	94.50
	US	Richmond Fed manufacturing index	15:00	Nov		16.00	20.00
	26-Nov	JP	BoJ's Shirai speaks	01:30			
GB		GDP q/q (preliminary)	09:30	Q3		0.70%	0.70%
US		Durable goods orders m/m	13:30	Oct		-0.60%	-1.10%
US		Initial jobless claims	13:30	w/e			291k
US		PCE core y/y	13:30	Oct		1.50%	1.50%
US		Chicago PMI	14:45	Nov		63.00	66.20
US		Michigan consumer confidence (final)	14:55	Nov		90.00	89.40
US		Pending home sales y/y	15:00	Oct			1.00%
US		New home sales	15:00	Oct		470k	467k
27-Nov		SA	PPI y/y	09:30	Oct		6.60%
US	Market holiday - Thanksgiving holiday						
CN	Industrial profits y/y	01:30	Oct				0.40%
DE	Unemployment rate sa	08:55	Nov		6.70%	6.70%	
EZ	M3 money supply sa y/y	09:00	Oct		2.60%	2.50%	
EZ	Consumer confidence (final)	10:00	Nov		-11.60	-11.60	
DE	GfK consumer confidence	12:00	Dec		8.60	8.50	
DE	CPI y/y (preliminary)	13:00	Nov		0.60%	0.80%	
28-Nov	SA	M3 money supply y/y	06:00	Oct		8.08%	7.85%
	SA	Private sector credit y/y	06:00	Oct		8.96%	8.74%
	SA	ILB auction (R800mn)	09:00				
	SA	Trade balance	12:00	Oct		-6.6bn	-2.9bn
	SA	Government budget balance (ZAR)	12:00	Oct		-26.50bn	-5.36bn
	US	Market holiday - Day after Thanksgiving					
	JP	Jobless rate	O/N	Oct		3.60%	3.60%
	JP	National CPI y/y	O/N	Oct		3.00%	3.20%
	JP	Retail trade y/y	O/N	Oct		1.50%	2.30%
	JP	Industrial production y/y (preliminary)	O/N	Oct		-1.70%	0.80%
	GB	GfK consumer confidence	00:05	Nov		-1.00	-2.00
	GB	Nationwide house prices nsa y/y	07:00	Nov		8.60%	9.00%
	DE	Retail sales y/y	07:00	Oct		1.70%	2.30%
	EZ	ECB's Costa speaks	09:30				
	EZ	Unemployment rate	10:00	Oct		11.50%	11.50%
	EZ	CPI estimate y/y	10:00	Nov		0.30%	0.40%
	DE	FinMin Schaeuble speaks on future of the EUR	18:30				

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