16 April 2013

# FX Top Trades Update

# Take profit on RUB/CZK with readiness to re-enter

As one of our FX Top Trades published on 5 December 2012, we suggested entering a RUB/CZK spot at 0.6246 and exiting at 0.6565. The rationales for the trade were intervention risks for the CZK loom, a fairly strong Russian economy, a hawkish Bank Rossii and a commencing global recovery. However, we have decided to take profit on our RUB/CZK trade, reflecting increased uncertainty regarding commodity prices. However, we would look to possibly re-enter if the oil price once again stabilises. Overall, we continue to see the Czech koruna softening and as such we still view it as an interesting funding currency for carry trades in the EM universe.

When the trade was entered in December 2012, we expected RUB/CZK to climb over 0.6500 over a period of two to four months. The Czech central bank (CNB) exhausted standard monetary policy tools after it cut the key policy rate to a technical zero (0.05%) in November 2012. Russia's central bank, Bank Rossii, has been set to closely examine consumer price inflation, aiming for a target within the 5-6% corridor. Our forecast that CPI would easily climb over 7% y/y in Q1 13 was realised when price increases were introduced in January 2013 and this resulted in Bank Rossii remaining hawkish. Tight monetary policy in Q1 13 was RUB positive. Together with the strong current account, the RUB longs looked attractive. As we expected, the seasonality effect pushed the USD/RUB below 30.00 exactly in late January-February 2013. Thus, Bank Rossii intervened to keep the RUB a bit weaker. Given the unexpected Cyprus deal in March, we saw the pair climbing to 0.6493 on a weaker EUR within our maturity recommendation, letting the profit to rise almost to 4%.

However, we were surprised by the decline in the oil price on a weaker-than-expected global performance as Chinese macro numbers were not good enough. The uncertainty of the Cyprus deal pushed investors out of the RUB assets, which strongly weighed on the Russian currency. Russian economic growth continued to slow in early 2013, taking January-February 2013 GDP growth to 0.9% y/y. The seasonally strong current account effect is fading as we go into Q2 13.

Going forward, we look to possibly re-enter if the oil price once again stabilises. Overall, we continue to see the Czech koruna softening and as such we still find it to be an interesting funding currency for carry trades in the EM universe.

Please see the table on the following page for an update on the performance of the 2013 FX Top Trades.

# Key points

- Take profit on RUB/CZK.
- We have closed the RUB/CZK trade with a total return of 3.33% (FX return: 0.95%, carry: 2.38%) (spot. ref.: 0.6305).

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# FX Top Trade 2013 overview

# Closed FX Top Trades

Closed FX Top Trades								
#	Туре	Trade	Opened	Level	Closed	Level	P/L	
1	Option	Bearish 6M JPY/SEK risk reversal	05/12/12	8.02	11/01/13	7.320	6.44%	
2	Spot	Sell GBP/NOK	05/12/12	9.04	16/01/13	8.962	1.00%	
з	Spot	Buy EUR/CHF	05/12/12	1.2145	18/01/13	1.250	2.89%	
4	Spot	Sell USD/CAD	05/12/12	0.9914	19/01/13	1.015	-2.16%	
5	Spot	Sell USD/SGD	05/12/12	1.2183	11/03/13	1.250	-2.70%	
6	Option	USD/JPY option strategy	05/12/12	82.20	22/03/13	94.850	11.45%	
7	Spot	Buy RUB/CZK	05/12/12	0.6246	15/04/13	0.6305	3.33%	

Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets

# Open FX Top Trades

Open FX Top Trades									
Туре	Trade	Idea	Target & P/L*						
	EUR/USD butterfly	Enter 6M EUR/USD 1.30-1.36-1.42 butterfly at an indicative cost of USD 176 pips	Opened	05/12/2012					
			Start	1.31					
Option			Target/Stop						
			Now	1.31					
			P/L	0.02%					
	Sell USD/CNH 12 Forward	Sell 12M USD/CNH © 6.3550. We set a 3.2% profit target and will close the trade if we incur a 2.5% mark-to-market loss on the trade. Spot-ref. 6.2120	Opened	05/12/2012					
			Start	6.36					
Forward			Target/Stop	3.2% / 2.5%					
			Now	6.27					
			P/L	1.36%					
	Long TRY, MXN, HUF vs. Short USD	Buy equally weighted carry basket (Long	Opened	05/12/2012					
		TRY, MXN, HUF vs. Short USD) spot at index 100 for a 110 target; stop at 95.This basket yields an indicative carry of close to 4%.	Start	100.0					
Spot			Target/Stop	110/95					
			Now	100.744					
			P/L	2.21%					

Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets

# FX Top Trades 2013

FX Top Trades 2013						
	#	Cum Return	AvgReturn	Avg Days Open		
Profitable	8	28.7%	3.6%	94 days		
Loss-Making	2	-4.9%	-2.4%	70 days		
AllTrades	10	23.8%	2.4%	89 days		

Source: Bloomberg, Danske Bank Markets

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