RMB Global Markets Research Africa markets update



The week in focus

Botswana

- December's Business Expectations Survey shows slump in local confidence
- BWP: BWP/USD and BWP/ZAR to be almost exclusively driven by USD/ZAR

CMA

- Namibia: Mining industry forecast to be valued at US\$1.3bn in 2017
- ZAR: Weak US non-farm payrolls figure provides rand with brief respite

Ghana

- BoG introduces new measures to lessen impact of cedi weakness on local economy
- GHS: Cedi expected to come under fire this week

Kenya

- Sovereign's maiden US\$1.5bn Eurobond issuance is nearing fruition
- KES: USD/KES begins the year hovering below 87.00

Mozambique

- Headline inflation slows to 3.54% y/y in December from 4.04% in November
- MZN: We expect USD/MZN to gravitate towards 29.00 in 2014

Nigeria

- Presidency denies claims that it intends to privatise Nigeria's four oil refineries
- NGN: The naira recovered strongly after a shaky start last week

Tanzania

- Annual headline inflation drifts lower in December, printing at 5.6% y/y
- TZS: The shilling is seasonally weak in the first two months

Zambia

- Ministry of Finance hints at possible introduction of sovereign wealth fund
- ZMW: Quarterly tax obligations should provide support to the kwacha

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Botswana

News flash

 Business confidence slumped to 43% in December, reflecting local firm's uncertainty about the current economic environment. According to the BoB, the latest Business Expectations Survey shows that negative sentiments regarding rising costs of all inputs including utilities, transport and wages are very strong compared with the March 2013 survey, adversely affecting production objectives. The survey does, however, suggest that businesses are more confident about prospects for 2014.

Pula (BWP) in brief

• The basket peg arrangement and limited crawl implies that BWP/USD and BWP/ZAR rates will almost exclusively be driven by the movements in USD/ZAR. Our forecast for a weak rand in early 2014, followed by mild gains later in the year, generates a BWP/USD forecast of 0.1133 by mid-year and 0.1156 by end-year. The equivalent cross rates on the rand are 1.133 and 1.122. Our forecasts assume a zero crawl in the coming years.



Source: Bloomberg Data as at January 2014

CMA

News flash

• Namibia: According to a report by Business Monitor International, the local mining industry should be valued at US\$1.3bn by 2017. Forecasted growth levels for the industry have been lowered due to the sluggish economic backdrop and a precipitous fall in uranium prices in 2013, which led to the postponement of several major projects. The regulatory environment was also marred by tensions between the Chamber of Mines and the government over the possible introduction of a mining super-tax, which is aimed at lessening the administrative burden on companies.

Rand (ZAR) in brief

 The weak US non-farm payrolls figure has brought some much needed relief for the rand. From a 10.83 high, USD/ZAR has traded back into the low 10.60s and might just be able to dip into the 10.50s this morning. EUR/ZAR and GBP/ZAR have also fallen back but are struggling to regain the early year ranges around 14.50 and 17.45. With event risk limited, volatility should drop away this week but no one would be surprised to see the rand's weakening trend slowly resume.



Source: Bloomberg Data as at January 2014

Ghana

News flash

- The presidency maintains that an 8.5% fiscal deficit is attainable in 2014. We do not foresee a significant moderation in wages and expect continued high interest payments (especially as short-term domestic interest rates remain elevated). But fiscal consolidation will prevail and we can expect the deficit to continue its downward trend into 2015.
- The BoG has introduced new measures to reduce the impact of exchange rate weakness on the real economy. The restrictions, introduced at the beginning of the week, are aimed at bolstering interbank liquidity and stabilising the cedi. They require that commercial banks actively quote twoway pricing of foreign exchange and limit the spread on corporate transactions to a maximum of 200pips. The BoG has indicated that limits would also be applied to foreign accounts.

Cedi (GHS) in brief

• The cedi is expected to come under fire this week as corporate demand outpaces the volume of inflows into the interbank market, throwing liquidity conditions off kilter.

Kenya

News flash

- Headline inflation drifted back towards 7.1% y/y in December. The index registered a marginal increase of 0.5% m/m, reflecting only slight changes in the goods and services components. We expect inflation to average 6.50% in 2014 and 6.4% in 2015. Favourable base effects will ensure that headline inflation remains near the government's mediumterm target of 5%.
- The sovereign's maiden US\$1.5bn Eurobond issuance is nearing fruition. Lead arrangers have reportedly scheduled investor meetings for the week of 20 January, suggesting that the bond will come to market in 1Q14. Though the government intends to issue a Eurobond before the end of FY2013/14 in July, it continues to show a tendency for concessional funding from institutions like the World Bank.

Shilling (KES) in brief

 USD/KES begins the year hovering below 87.00. Foreign investors have shown renewed interest in Kenyan stocks, bolstering the level of portfolio inflows. This has complemented the recent intake of export earnings, allowing USD/KES to remain comfortably below 87.00.





Data as at January 2014



Source: Bloomberg Data as at January 2014

Mozambique

News flash

- Headline inflation slowed to 3.54% y/y in December 2013 from 4.04% registered the previous month. Headline inflation has hovered below the 5% level for the better part of the last two years. These low rates are supported by effective monetary policy, but most of all by the strength of the local currency against the South African rand (South Africa is Mozambique's largest import partner). The metical has appreciated over 13% against the rand since January 2013.
- The government will attain US\$672m from Japan over a period of five years to assist in the development of infrastructure, particularly in the Nacala Corridor Region.

Metical (MZN) in brief

• The metical peaked at USD/MZN30.00 last week, touching the level for the first time in almost six months. We expect USD/MZN to gravitate toward 29.00 in 2014 before drifting back to 28.25 in 2015. Short-term momentum indicators, notably the 14-day moving average, suggest an appreciatory bias but this could change depending on prevailing liquidity conditions.

Nigeria

News flash

 The presidency has denied claims that it intends to privatise Nigeria's four oil refineries, stating that the leadership has not approved any plans to sell the plants. Despite a number of maintenance contracts being doled out over the last 10 years, the refineries operate well below capacity jointly pumping a meagre 445,000bpd, exacerbating Nigeria's fuel burden. Although privatisation is proposed within the Petroleum Industry Bill, it has been seemingly cast aside to avoid strike action by the main oil workers' unions.

Naira (NGN) in brief

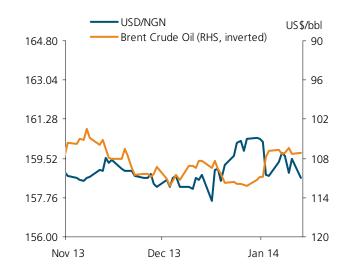
 The naira recovered strongly after a shaky start last week as US dollar sales by multinational oil firms helped to offset the rampant demand by importers. The re-commencement of the CBN's bi-weekly auctions, coupled with sustained inflows into the interbank market should ensure that liquidity conditions remain balanced, keeping the naira in check.





Data as at January 2014

Figure 6: Naira boosted by month-end US dollar sales



Source: Bloomberg Data as at January 2014

Tanzania

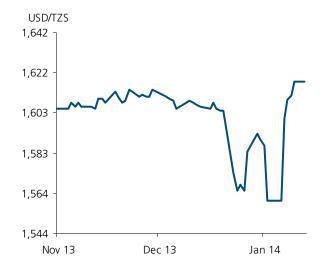
News flash

- Tanzania recorded a 7.1% annual growth rate in 2013, owing to a restoration of purchasing power due to slowing inflation and the continued development of manufacturing, telecommunication and financial services. The World Bank's recent dispensation to the Tanzanian government, valued at US\$60m, should provide impetus to financial activities as the monies will be put towards the Private Sector Competitiveness Project, which aims to improve legal certainty and lower the cost of doing business. We anticipate growth rates to expand by 7.2% in 2014 and 7.5% in 2015.
- Annual headline inflation drifted lower in December, printing at 5.6%. A recipe of factors, including tight monetary policy, fiscal restraint, stability in the international oil market and better regional food supply, suggests that the deceleration in inflation could be sustained over the next two years.

Shilling (TZS) in brief

• The shilling is seasonally weak in the first two months of the year due to a lack of tangible US dollar inflows. Interbank demand has overwhelmed the market as commercial banks seek out funds to cover their short positions.

Figure 7: Seasonal weakness evident in spot movements



Source: Bloomberg Data as at January 2014

Zambia

News flash

 The Ministry of Finance has hinted at the possible introduction of a sovereign wealth fund (SWF) but has not disclosed details relating to its possible size or dates of implementations. This type of fund acts as a stabiliser in resource-rich economies. It is a mechanism by which surpluses arising from commodity exports are invested into financial assets, thereby dampening the negative consequences of resource wealth. According to the Centre for Global Development, SWFs can aid in smoothing resource price volatility, help in the formulation of long-term fiscal policy, assist in the management currency appreciation, facilitate intergenerational savings and reduce corruption if structured correctly.

Kwacha (ZMW) in brief

• Indications are that the kwacha will continue to trade within its current range of USD/ZMW5.525/35 with a slight strengthening bias. The third instalment of provisional taxes is due on 14 January. The quarterly tax obligations require companies to make payments in kwacha, hence the conversions are likely to give the local currency support. Support is evident at 5.520 and resistance at 5.535.

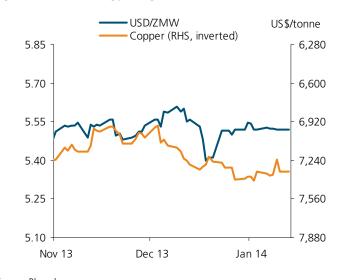


Figure 8: Kwacha seemingly flat against the US dollar

Source: Bloomberg Data as at January 2014

Spot and implied forward exchange rates

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Mozambique USD/MZN 29.92 0.10 -0.23 -0.76 29.71 30.31 30.9 EUR/MZN 40.64 0.19 -0.90 -1.78 41.11 41.44 42.2 GBP/MZN 49.25 0.19 -0.14 -0.44 49.56 49.93 50.8 MZN/JPY 3.50 -0.26 0.16 2.25 - - - Nigeria	13 0.32 143.54 145.77 147.73 153.08
USD/MZN29.920.10-0.23-0.7629.7130.3130.9EUR/MZN40.640.19-0.90-1.7841.1141.4442.2GBP/MZN49.250.19-0.14-0.4449.5649.9350.8MZN/JPY3.50-0.260.162.25Nigeria-0.480.040.40159.75159.75159.75USD/NGN158.87-0.480.040.40159.75159.75159.75EUR/NGN215.79-0.39-0.63-0.63218.38218.37218.33GBP/NGN261.48-0.390.140.72263.25263.14262.9NGN/JPY0.660.32-0.121.070.661.521.5South Africa3.932.8714.6114.7414.99GBP/ZAR10.800.291.013.932.8714.6114.7414.99GBP/ZAR17.770.381.114.2617.6217.7618.00ZAR/JPY9.70-0.45-1.07-2.369.749.669.5	15 1.47 0.84 0.85 0.86 0.90
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MZN/JPY 3.50 -0.26 0.16 2.25 - - Nigeria	90 -1.78 41.11 41.44 42.26 43.79
NigeriaUSD/NGN158.87-0.480.040.40159.75159.75159.75EUR/NGN215.79-0.39-0.63-0.63218.38218.37218.33GBP/NGN261.48-0.390.140.72263.25263.14262.9NGN/JPY0.660.32-0.121.070.661.521.5South AfricaUSD/ZAR10.800.291.013.9310.7010.7810.9EUR/ZAR14.660.380.332.8714.6114.7414.9GBP/ZAR17.770.381.114.2617.6217.7618.0ZAR/JPY9.70-0.45-1.07-2.369.749.669.5	14 -0.44 49.56 49.93 50.88 52.62
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EUR/ZAR14.660.380.332.8714.6114.7414.9GBP/ZAR17.770.381.114.2617.6217.7618.0ZAR/JPY9.70-0.45-1.07-2.369.749.669.5	
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ZAR/JPY 9.70 -0.45 -1.07 -2.36 9.74 9.66 9.5	33 2.87 14.61 14.74 14.95 15.39
	11 4.26 17.62 17.76 18.00 18.50
	07 -2.36 9.74 9.66 9.52 9.23
Tanzania	
USD/TZS 1,611.50 0.12 3.30 0.22 1,628.95 1,658.02 1,711.7	30 0.22 1,628.95 1,658.02 1,711.75 1,778.06
EUR/TZS 2,188.90 0.21 2.61 -0.80 2,226.75 2,266.38 2,339.7	61 -0.80 2,226.75 2,266.38 2,339.76 2,431.22
Zambia	
	00 -1.60 5.34 5.36 5.50 5.77

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Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, RMB Global Markets All data as at January 2014

Commodities prices

	Current	m/m % change	y/y % change	Implied volatility	3-month future	12-month future
Metals						
Gold US\$/oz	1,250.68	1.0	-24.8	16.6	1,247.5	1,250.3
Copper US\$/tonne	7,283.50	0.9	-9.8	17.6	7,308.5	7,269.5
Softs						
Cattle USc/lb	168.65	0.9	12.5	14.8	137.0	132.6
Cocoa US\$/tonne	2,712.00	-2.6	20.2	22.3	2,712.0	2,713.0
Coffee — Arabica USc/lb	120.65	5.4	-21.3	26.4	120.7	130.0
Coffee — Robusta US\$/tonne	0.00	-	-	27.6	1,739.0	1,673.0
Cotton USc/lb	83.03	-0.2	9.8	19.8	82.6	77.5
Maize — Yellow R/tonne	2,750.00	3.0	25.8	24.0	2,750.0	2,216.0
Maize — White R/tonne	2,910.00	7.9	37.2	23.7	2,910.0	2,340.0
Raw Sugar USc/lb	15.57	-4.3	-18.8	17.0	17.2	17.2
Energy						
WTI Crude US\$/bbl	92.36	-4.4	-1.3	16.1	92.7	87.5

Source: Bloomberg

Interest rates

	3-m T-	Policy rate	
	Dec - 13	Current	Current
Botswana	3.58	3.52	7.50
Ghana	18.68	17.50	16.00
Kenya	9.63	9.63	8.50
Mozambique	5.21	5.23	8.25
Namibia	5.15	5.57	5.50
Nigeria	10.89	10.90	12.00
South Africa	5.15	5.09	5.00
Tanzania	13.54	13.40	OMO ²
Zambia	7.41	7.75	9.75

1 End of month

2 Open Market Operations Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, FNB Mozambique, RMB Namibia, RMB Global Markets All data as at January 2014

All rated sub-Saharan countries

	Fitch	Moody's	S&P
Angola	BB-	Ba3	BB-
Benin	-	-	В
Botswana	-	A2	A-
Burkina Faso	-	-	В
Cameroon	В	-	В
Cape Verde	B+	-	B+
Egypt	В	Caa1	CCC+
Gabon	BB-	-	BB-
Ghana	В	B1	В
Kenya	B+	B1	B+
Lesotho	BB-	-	-
Mauritius	-	Baa1	-
Morocco	BBB-	Ba1	BBB-
Mozambique	B+	B1	B+
Namibia	BBB-	Baa3	-
Nigeria	BB-	Ba3	BB-
Rwanda	В	-	В
Senegal	-	B1	B+
Seychelles	В	-	-
South Africa	BBB	Baa1	BBB
Tunisia	BB+	Ba2	BB-
Uganda	В	-	B+
Zambia	B+	B1	B+

Note: For full ratings disclosure, please refer to the last page

The sources used to compile this document are: EIN News desk, Bloomberg, Reuters, AllAfrica.com, respective central bank, FNB subsidiaries and national statistical websites.



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