

Daiwa's View

Imagining FY21 extra budgets

See first extra budget during ordinary Diet session, end-year FILP bond reduction FICC Research Dept.

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Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.

Imagining FY21 extra budgets

See first extra budget during ordinary Diet session, end-year FILP bond reduction Japan's Lower House approved the government's initial budget for FY21 on 2 March. Upper House deliberations are now ongoing, but this budget will certainly be approved within March in accordance with provisions in the Constitution. After this approval, the market will likely grow more aware of the first extra budget for FY21. We would not be surprised if such an extra budget is compiled around May with the intention of passing that budget by June during the ordinary Diet session. Such a timeframe seems plausible when considering the period for the ordinary Diet session, the Tokyo Summer Olympic / Paralympic Games, the election for president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the end of terms in office for Lower House members, and a possible snap general election. However, while the first extra budget would temporarily increase JGB issuance, supplementary budgets compiled at the end of the year could result in a reduction in FILP bonds, as was the case in FY20. As such, the increase over the full year should not reach the same scale as FY20. Even if capital provided to policy financial institutions for financing crisis responses is returned to the national coffers, such a return would probably not happen until from FY22.

First, there is no possibility of a fourth extra budget for FY20. That is because roughly Y2.67tn in coronavirus-related emergency funds remain and there is less than three weeks remaining until the end of FY20. Simply put, there is not enough time to compile, debate, pass (by the Diet), and implement a new budget.

Next, working backwards from Japan's political schedule, we would not be surprised to see compilation of the first FY21 extra budget <u>around May</u>. The initial budget for FY20 included absolutely no expenditures for coronavirus measures, so the government on 7 April 2020 announced an economic package, including coronavirus response measures. However, the initial budget for FY21 includes Y5.0tn in coronavirus-related reserves, meaning that there is not a pressing need to compile an extra budget unlike last year. Having said that, the outlook for fully containing the pandemic remains clouded and infection conditions are such that we can assume that some of these coronavirus-related reserves will be spent from the start of the new fiscal year. Eventually, there will probably be some need to replenish spent coronavirus-related reserves.

However, extra budgets cannot be implemented unless they are passed by the Diet. Looking at Japan's political calendar, the current ordinary Diet session will end on 16 June. The Tokyo Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will then run from 23 July to 5 September. The term of office for the president of the ruling LDP (current PM Suga) will expire at the end of September. The Lower House will likely be dissolved before the terms in office for its members expire on 21 October in order to make way for a snap general election. Once the ordinary Diet session ends, there will be no time to convene an extraordinary Diet session before the general election. If the Suga Cabinet, hampered by low approval ratings, hammers out additional economic stimulus and coronavirus-related reserve measures, it would target passage of those measures in June during the ordinary Diet session. Counting backwards from this schedule, we can conclude that the government would need to compile a first extra budget by May.



As such, first there is the potential for an increase in JGB issuance in FY21. However, afterwards we do not expect a rush to increase issuance for financing large-scale extra budgets, as was the case in FY20. Indeed, we will probably see some JGB issuance reduction factors in the second half of FY21.

A meaningful portion of the FY20 extra budgets were earmarked for the steady execution of safety net loans, so the government injected additional capital into policy financial institutions. However, such financing peaked in Apr/May 2020 with little to no growth thereafter. Such additional contributions will not be needed in FY21.

Also, the Fiscal Investment and Loan Program (FILP) in FY20 grew from Y13.2tn in the initial budget to Y65.1tn on extra budgets and flexibility clauses in order to ensure a safety net credit line. However, this financing did not grow as much as expected. Indeed, the issuance of FILP bonds (JGBs and not FILP agency bonds), the source of this financing, was reduced by Y13.5tn in the third extra budget. A large sum of Y40.9tn has been prepared in the FY21 initial budget, but if this financing again does not grow, the government could again reduce the FILP bond amount through adjustments at the end of FY21.

Toward the end of our 22 December 2020 report, we said, "In order to implement a very large amount of loans, the government injected capital to policy financial institutions, and such capital has accumulated. We may hear that such capital will be returned to the national coffers (once the pandemic is under control)." However, we do not expect this capital will quickly be returned to the Treasury in FY21. This is because first the coronavirus must be contained, safety net loans must become largely unneeded, and the government must ascertain the extent of damage from financing already provided. Then we can expect a gradual reduction in unneeded capital. We see this as a prolonged process covering several years starting from FY22.



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■ Credit Rating Agencies

[Standard & Poor's]

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1) As of 26 April 2016, Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd., its parent company Daiwa Securities Group Inc., GMO Financial Holdings, Inc., and its subsidiary GMO CLICK Securities, Inc. concluded a basic agreement for the establishment of a business alliance between the four companies.

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- 2) Daiwa Real Estate Asset Management is a subsidiary of Daiwa Securities Group Inc. and serves as the asset management company for the following J-REITS: Daiwa Office Investment Corporation (8976), Daiwa Securities Living Investment Corporation (8986).
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- Before engaging in any trading, please thoroughly confirm accounting and tax treatments regarding your trading in financial instruments with such experts as certified public accountants.
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Corporate Name: Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.

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