

## Daiwa's View

## 20-year JGB auction

> Trouble-free auction is expected, but slightly cautious about secondary trends

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Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd.

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## 20-year JGB auction

A 20-year JGB auction is to be conducted on Thursday, 26 August. The scheduled maturity date is 20 June 2041, and the planned issuance amount is around Y1.2tn, the same as in the previous auction. These new 20-year JGBs will be a reopening of the July issue (JL177). As of 15:00 on 24 August, the yield of JL177 closed at 0.405% on a conventional basis (up 0.5bp vs. previous day's close).

Reflecting very strong US jobs data for July, Fed officials commented on a timeline for asset purchase tapering taking into consideration buying time for rate hikes. This has led to a slight change in the consensus in the bond market. The 10-year US Treasury yield, which had been trending just below 1.30%, rose briefly. However, the University of Michigan's Consumer Sentiment Index, released on 13 August, tumbled to its lowest level in ten years due to the spreading Delta variant and concerns about inflation. These conditions contributed to the emergence of a stagflation scenario and the 10-year Treasury yield again turned sharply lower. Due to the aftereffects of US yield trends, the JGB market has been posting slight fluctuations within its range. The 20-year JGB yield has remained range bound at around 0.40%. We will consider points regarding tomorrow's auction under these circumstances.

With US yield trends having an impact on the JGB market recently, trends with foreign investors, which are a transmission channel, are also attracting attention. Since April, with no major issues arising from the BOJ's assessment meeting, uncertainty about the JGB market has receded. Probably due to this, net buying by foreign investors, which had quieted down before then, increased. Based on the MOF's weekly published "Portfolio Investment Liabilities," we can presume that the outstanding amount of JGBs held by overseas investors has increased to its peak level logged in March 2020.

Net buying by foreign investors is currently focused on medium/long-term bonds. However, as long as there is no change in the 10-year forward 10-year yield, the 10-year yield could serve as a major factor in changing the 20-year yield. Therefore, the movements of foreign investors, who support the long-term bond market, are likely to indirectly support 20-year JGBs.

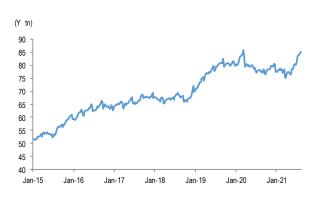
One topic of mention in Japan is that the loan-deposit gap at both major banks and regional banks narrowed in July compared to June. A drop in deposits was the main contributor to the narrowing of the gap. From a nationwide standpoint, however, the state of emergency and "manbo" quasi-state of emergency measures were suspended in July. Therefore, it appears that the increase in household consumption took place through the withdrawal of deposits.

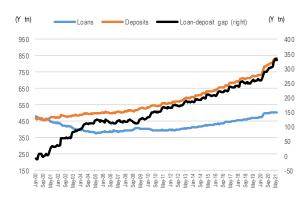
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Except for four prefectures in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, Osaka, and Okinawa, no other regions in Japan were subject to a state of emergency or the "manbo" quasi-state of emergency measures from 12 Jul to 1 Aug.



# Outstanding Amount of JGBs Held by Overseas Investors (estimate)<sup>2</sup>

## Loan-deposit Gap at Major Banks and Regional Banks





Source: MOF; compiled by Daiwa Securities.

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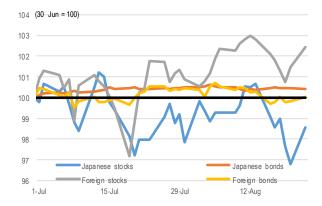
However, the number of COVID-19 infections is currently spiking nationwide in line with the spread of the Delta variant. On 20 August, the area covered by the state of emergency was expanded. Under the circumstances, excess money may be increasing due to a re-accumulation of deposits at depository institutions.

The environment surrounding Japanese risk assets has also changed. With Chinese authorities starting to crackdown on the IT and education sectors, prices of related Chinese stocks have plunged. Also, the other day Toyota Motor announced that it would cut global output by 40% in September, which aggravated the situation, and led to bearish stock prices in Japan.

In terms of textbook logic, we can say that these risk-off movements partially support bond investment. However, we can also say that such movements may trigger asset allocation from Japanese bonds to Japanese stocks by trust banks, which had been major buyers in the JGB market up until now.

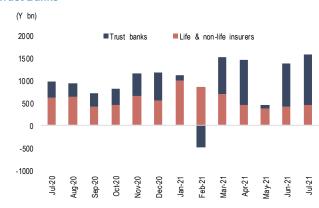
In the Trends in Bond Transactions (July) report released on 20 August, it was confirmed that the level of superlong JGB net buying by trust banks was the highest since these figures began being tallied, while the amount of superlong JGBs purchased by life and non-life insurers was modest y/y similar to the Apr-Jun quarter. However, we need to keep in mind to a certain degree the possibility that these flows could change.

## Price Trends of Japanese/Foreign Assets Since End-Jun<sup>3</sup>



Source: Bloomberg; compiled by Daiwa Securities.

## Net Buying of Superlong JGBs by Life & Non-life Insurers and Trust Banks



Source: Japan Securities Dealers Association; compiled by Daiwa Securities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Net inward bond investment (medium/long-term JGBs) accumulated on end-2014 external debt balance (JPY, medium/long-term bonds).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> For asset indexes, we simply used TOPIX (incl. dividends) for Japanese stocks, DC DOMESTIC BOND INDEX F BPI for Japanese bonds, MSCI Kokusai Index (World Ex Japan) NETR JPY for foreign stocks, and FTSE Non-JPY WGBI JPY for foreign bonds.



Turning to the fiscal and political situations, a candidate supported by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga lost big in the Yokohama mayoral election, for which voting and vote counting were conducted on 22 August. The outcome caused a change in the consensus regarding the schedule for dissolution of the lower house and the supplementary budget. We now assume that 1) the Cabinet decision on the supplementary budget will happen around Nov-Jan 2022 and 2) factors that increase the JGB issuance amount and those that decrease it are likely to cancel each other out<sup>4</sup>.

Given the aforementioned factors, we think that the auction itself tomorrow will go smoothly at a level above 0.40%. However, considering the trend with trust banks, we should be slightly concerned about the secondary market. In terms of relative value, as well, 20-year JGBs have been expensive in the long end, but it is relatively easy to buy them compared to 10-year JGBs. Although market factors are mixed, we would like to place our bids under the assumption that 1) upward pressure on US yields is unlikely to intensify and 2) 20-year JGBs can perform better in terms of the carry and roll-down return, similar to 10-year JGBs whose auction had an average result.

## 20-year JGB Auction Results

Αι		Issue #	Maturity date		Issuance amount (Y bn)	Bid-to-cover ratio (X)	Average accepted yield (%)	Highest accepted yield (%)	average price (Y)	accepted price (Y)	Tail (Y)	Allotment	Bloomberg consensus (Y)
	26-Aug-21	177R	20-Jun-41	0.40	1,200*								
	13-Jul-21	177	20-Jun-41	0.40	1,266	3.51	0.404	0.408	99.92	99.85	0.07	9.4%	99.80
	24-Jun-21	176R	20-Mar-41	0.50	1,207	3.62	0.433	0.436	101.21	101.15	0.06	31.1%	101.15
	21-May-21	176R	20-Mar-41	0.50	1,219	3.48	0.445	0.450	101.00	100.90	0.10	37.5%	100.90
	20-Apr-21	176	20-Mar-41	0.50	1,225	3.34	0.438	0.439	101.12	101.10	0.02	79.6%	101.00
	11-Mar-21	175R	20-Dec-40	0.50	1,300	3.40	0.513	0.519	99.75	99.65	0.10	33.2%	99.60
	18-Feb-21	175R	20-Dec-40	0.50	1,273	3.13	0.482	0.488	100.31	100.20	0.11	47.0%	100.20
	18-Jan-21	175	20-Dec-40	0.50	1,209	3.35	0.443	0.448	101.04	100.95	0.09	78.8%	100.95

Source: MOF; compiled by Daiwa Securities. \*Scheduled issuance amount.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Refer to *Daiwa's View—<u>Schedule for supplementary budget, taking into consideration Yokohama mayoral election results* (DWVE977 dated 24 Aug 2021).</u>



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