MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

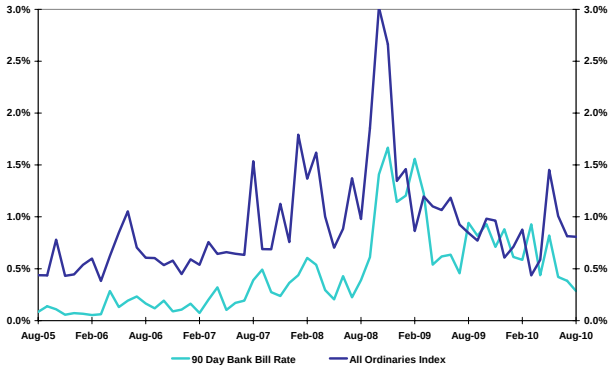
6 September 2010

ASX Group Monthly Activity Report – August 2010

The value of ASX-listed stocks, as measured by the All Ordinaries Index, fell 1.5% in August 2010 consistent with falls in most major global markets including: Japan down 7.5%, the US down 4.7%, Hong Kong down 2.3%, Singapore down 1.3%, and the UK down 0.6%.

Australian Equity and Interest Rate Market Volatility

Average absolute daily percentage change in the month

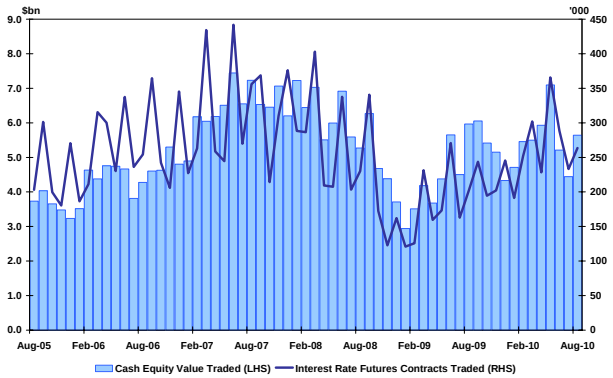


Volatility in Australian equity markets remained relatively subdued this month (as measured by daily movements in the All Ordinaries Index) with average daily movements of 0.8% in August (0.8% in July) despite rising towards the end of the month.

Volatility in US markets (S&P 500 Index) was also subdued in August with average daily movements of 0.8% in the S&P 500 Index (0.9% in July). Expectations of future volatility (as measured by the CBOE Volatility Index) moved up over the course of August.

ASX Cash Equity and Interest Rate Futures

Average daily trading



The value of daily cash market trading in August rose following a dip in July, with the average traded value rising to $5.7 billion a day, compared to $4.4 billion in the previous month.

Activity in interest rate futures contracts continued to trend higher, with trading in the four main contracts (3 and 10 year bonds, 90 day bank bills, and the 30 day cash rate) reaching a daily average of around 264,000 contracts traded.

There was steady activity in Australia's primary capital raising market, with 5 initial public offerings (IPOs) during August representing $2.0 billion in value, including $0.8 billion value of scheme/compliance listings for which no cash was raised. Secondary capital raisings remained robust, notwithstanding the decline in secondary raisings compared to the very high levels of a year ago.

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Listings and capital raisings

- In August 2010 there were 5 new listings, compared to 4 in the previous corresponding period (pcp). Total listed entities at the end of August 2010 were 2,186, up 0.6% on the 2,173 a year ago.

- Total capital raised in August amounted to $4.3 billion, down 32% on the $6.3 billion raised in the pcp which was dominated by several jumbo raisings. There was $2.0 billion of initial capital raised and $2.3 billion in secondary raisings. For the financial year-to-date (the months of July and August 2010), capital raised from IPOs was $3.3 billion ($189 million pcp) and from secondary raisings was $4.8 billion ($21.2 billion pcp).

Trading – Cash markets (including equities, interest rates and warrants trades)

The All Ordinaries Index closed at 4,438.8 points, a fall of 1.5% over the course of the month. The index has fallen 9.1% in the calendar year-to-date.

- Total cash market trades for August 2010 were 11.2 million, down 0.1% on the pcp.

- Average daily trades for August 2010 of 509,113 were 5% lower than the pcp.

- Total cash market traded value was $126.0 billion in August 2010, up 3% on the pcp, with a daily average value of $5.7 billion, down 2% on the pcp.

- In August 2010 the average value per trade increased to $11,248, up 3% on the pcp of $10,935. The percentage of traded value crossed was 32% (30% pcp).

Trading – Financial derivatives markets

Trading in the major ASX quoted interest rate futures contracts was robust during August, driven by strong bond issuance and continued volatility in global fixed interest markets. Trading in interest rate options was also strong, with monthly records in the 3 year overnight (217,760 contracts) and the 3 year intra-day (119,135 contracts) options contracts.

August saw strong issuance of $A denominated debt, particularly focussed around the three to five-year maturity range, with more than $10 billion of corporate bonds and $4.8 billion of Commonwealth Government bonds issued.

Volatility in the domestic markets continues to be largely driven by overseas events and market conditions, particularly in response to shifting views on the outlook for economic growth in the major economies of the US and China.

The Reserve Bank of Australia left the cash rate unchanged at 4.50% in early August and the cash rate futures curve flattened further during the month, indicating that the futures market has priced in no further cash rate changes for the next 18 months. Bond yields declined around 20 to 40 basis points during August.

- Equity derivatives volume (excluding ASX SPI 200) for August 2010 was 2.0 million contracts, up 11% on the pcp, with a daily average of 89,377 contracts, up 6% on pcp.

- Total futures and options on futures contracts volume (excluding equity derivatives and CFDs) for August 2010 was 7.2 million, up 36% on the pcp, with a notional value of $3.0 trillion. Average daily contracts volume during August of 325,895 was also up 30% on the pcp.

- A total of 10,468 ASX CFD trades were transacted in August 2010, comprising a volume of 16.3 million contracts. The total notional value of all CFD trades for August was $371.6 million, up 9% on the pcp, while the value of CFD open interest at the end of August was $169.5 million, an increase of 99% on the pcp.

Trading – Energy and agricultural derivatives markets

- A total of 19,526 electricity futures and options contracts were traded in August 2010, which is an increase of 141% on the pcp. Total open interest was 51,189 contracts.

- The ASX grain futures and options market experienced record activity levels with 58,631 contracts (approximately 1.2 million tonnes) traded during the month, a new monthly volume record which represents 84% growth on the pcp. A new record for daily volume was established on 6 August with 11,404 contracts traded (228,080 tonnes). Open Interest, as at 31 August, of 118,065 futures contracts is also a record level and represents approximately 2.4 million tonnes.

- The Western Australia Wheat contract traded a total of 15,260 contracts (305,200 tonnes) in August and has traded 151,465 contracts (3,029,300 tonnes) since inception in September 2009.

ASX CLEARING CORPORATION (intermediate holding company for ASX's two central counterparty clearing subsidiaries)

Clearing

All on-market trades (equities and derivatives markets) are novated by ASX's two central counterparty clearing subsidiaries, which act as counterparties to those trades and replace bilateral counterparty exposures.

- Total margins (including additional margins held against stress testing exposures and concentrated large positions) averaged $3.5 billion over August 2010 (including excess cash collateral but excluding equity securities lodged in excess of the margin requirement), with cash margins lodged averaging $2.8 billion.

- Intra-day margin call activity decreased slightly in August ($7 million called) compared to $17 million in July.

ASX SETTLEMENT CORPORATION (intermediate holding company for ASX's two securities settlement facilities subsidiaries)

ASX Settlement

There were no delays to the completion of batch settlement in the equities market during August 2010.

- Equity settlement delivery fail rates continued to average less than 0.5% per day during August 2010.

Austraclear Settlement

There were no disruptions to the Austraclear settlement sessions during August 2010.

The level of total debt holdings in Austraclear fell over the course of August by $9 billion to $1.15 trillion, with the largest decreases being in electronic bank accepted bills down $7.7 billion, electronic certificates of deposit (ECD) down $5.6 billion, electronic promissory notes down $2.1 billion, asset backed fixed income down $640 million, and Treasury bonds down $2.9 billion. Austraclear holdings of corporate bonds increased by $3.5 billion, floating rate notes by $4.0 billion and Treasury notes by $3.2 billion. All other holdings decreased by $770 million.

A detailed activity statement for ASX Group markets for August 2010 is attached.

A separate ASX Compliance activity report for August 2010 has also been released today.

For further information:

Media
Leeanne Bland
Corporate Relations Executive
(BH) +61 2 9227 0410
leeanne.bland@asx.com.au
www.asx.com.au/media

Investor Relations
Rachel Cooper
Investor Relations Adviser
(BH) +61 2 9227 0835
(M) 0488 206661
rachel.cooper@asx.com.au
www.asx.com.au/shareholder

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

ASX Group Monthly Activity Report - August 2010

Date: 6 September 2010

Australian Securities Exchange	Aug 2010 Month	Aug 2009 Month	Aug 2010 Financial YTD	Aug 2009 Financial YTD
Cash Markets				
Total Trading Days	22	21	44	44
Cash Market Volume				
Total trades	11,200,491	11,214,582	21,958,445	21,198,523
Change on PCP	-		4%	
Average daily trades	509,113	534,028	499,056	481,785
Change on PCP	(5%)		4%	
Cash Market Value (including Value of Crossed Trades)				
Total value ($billion)	125.987	122.630	223.763	224.830
Change on PCP	3%		-	
Average daily value ($billion)	5.727	5.840	5.086	5.110
Change on PCP	(2%)		-	
Cash Market Behaviour Statistics				
Turnover crossed (%)	32%	30%	29%	29%
Off-market crossings represent 19% and on-market 13% of turnover				
Total value crossed ($billion)	39.691	36.560	65.131	65.226
Non billable value (above cap) ($billion)	2.929	6.832	4.954	9.520
Total billable value ($billion)	123.058	115.798	218.809	215.310
Billable value - off-market crossings (%)	13%	12%	13%	13%
Billable value - on-market crossings (%)	18%	14%	15%	13%
Cash Market includes equity, warrant and interest rate market transactions				
Listings and Capital Raisings				
New listed entities admitted	5	4	18	6
Change on PCP	25%		200%	
Total listed entities (at end of month)	2,186	2,173		
Change on PCP	1%			
Initial capital raised ($million)	2,014	69	3,289	189
Secondary capital raised ($million)	2,272	6,264	4,798	21,221
Total capital raised ($million)	4,286	6,333	8,086	21,410
Change on PCP	(32%)		(62%)	
Other capital raised including scrip for scrip ($million)	931	297	1,139	622

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

ASX Group Monthly Activity Report - August 2010

Date: 6 September 2010

Australian Securities Exchange	Aug 2010 Month	Aug 2009 Month	Aug 2010 Financial YTD	Aug 2009 Financial YTD
Derivatives Markets				
Derivatives Total Trading Days	22	21	44	44
(Derivatives includes exchange traded options, commodities, and index options and futures)				
Derivatives Volume				
Total contracts	1,966,290	1,774,087	3,548,783	3,249,611
Change on PCP	11%		9%	
Average daily contracts	89,377	84,480	80,654	73,855
Change on PCP	6%		9%	
Futures & Options Total Trading Days	22	21	44	44
(Futures & Options includes interest rate, ASX SPI 200 and energy contracts)				
Futures Volume				
Total contracts	6,734,660	5,039,117	12,636,057	9,973,816
Change on PCP	34%		27%	
Average daily contracts	306,121	239,958	287,183	226,678
Change on PCP	28%		27%	
Options on Futures Volume				
Total contracts	435,034	218,830	713,663	473,086
Change on PCP	99%		51%	
Average daily contracts	19,774	10,420	16,220	10,752
Change on PCP	90%		51%	
Total Futures & Options on Futures Volume				
Total contracts	7,169,694	5,257,947	13,349,720	10,446,902
Change on PCP	36%		28%	
Average daily contracts	325,895	250,378	303,403	237,430
Change on PCP	30%		28%	
Contracts For Difference Market				
Total trades	10,468	9,953	21,294	18,468
Total contracts traded	16,304,219	14,705,041	28,317,913	27,179,621
Notional value traded ($million)	371.6	339.9	751.0	606.7
Total open interest value as at 31 August ($million)	169.5	85.2	169.5	85.2

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

ASX Group Monthly Activity Report - August 2010

Date: 6 September 2010

ASX Clearing Corporation	Aug 2010 Month	Aug 2009 Month	Aug 2010 Financial YTD	Aug 2009 Financial YTD
Collateral Balances - at End of Month				
Cash margins held on-balance sheet - ASX Clear ($billion)	0.4	0.5		
Cash margins held on-balance sheet - ASX Clear (Futures) ($billion)	2.4	2.6		
Cash equivalents held on-balance sheet - ASX Clear (Futures) ($billion)	0.1	0.0		
Collateral cash cover held off balance sheet (equities and guarantees) - ASX Clear ($billion)	4.0	4.0		
Total billable value cleared ($billion)	97.377	95.850	176.615	177.783
ASX Settlement Corporation				
ASX Settlement				
Gross value of novated settlements ($billion)	87.2	88.1	157.6	157.4
Net value of novated settlements ($billion)	32.7	36.7	61.1	66.5
Gross value of non-novated settlements ($billion)	134.9	160.5	246.4	286.3
Total value of settlements post netting ($billion)	167.6	197.2	307.5	352.8
Value of Chess holdings - period end ($billion)	1,114.7	1,092.6		
Austraclear Settlement and Depository				
Austraclear securities holdings - period end ($billion)	1,149.9	1,096.7		