

Week Ahead

Focus: COVID-19 outbreak in China

Analysts:

Gudrun Egger
gudrun.egger@erstegroup.com

Rainer Singer
rainer.singer@erstegroup.com

China fights Delta variant

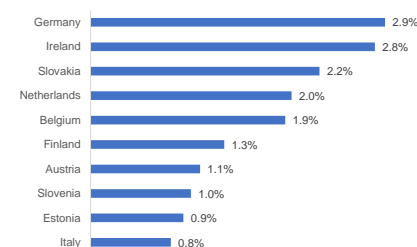
Rising new infections with the Delta variant have been reported in China in recent days. Although a daily increase of less than 100 – out of a population of almost 1.4bn – seems very small, drastic travel restrictions have been put in place by local health authorities to immediately contain the virus.

All flights from Nanjing and Yangzhou airports (Jiangsu province) were suspended after media reports said a cluster with the Delta variant had spread to more than 20 cities and more than a dozen provinces. Rail, bus, and air services from Beijing to the affected areas were also suspended and mass testing and environmental disinfection were carried out there, with local quarantine regulations imposed. In addition, all citizens of China have been asked not to travel to areas of medium or high COVID-19 risk, and not to leave provinces where they live unless absolutely necessary.

China succeeded in rapidly containing the virus in spring 2020 through strict containment measures. As a result, the economy recovered rapidly. This time, too, China is trying to quickly combat locally occurring infections in order to stabilize the situation and avoid widespread lockdowns. It should be helpful that, according to the National Health Commission, about 1.69bn doses of COVID-19 vaccine have already been administered. These are considered to be highly protective against severe cases.

China's zero covid policy makes it difficult to assess further containment measures and thus the impact on the economy. From the trade statistics, however, it is at least possible to estimate for which sectors there is the highest risk should there actually be a noticeable slowdown in China.

Share of exports to China, in % of GDP



Source: Eurostat, Erste Group Research

Major Markets & Credit Research

Gudrun Egger, CEFA (Head)

Rainer Singer (Senior Economist EZ, USA)
Gerald Walek, CFA (Economist EZ)
Margarita Grushanina (Economist AT, Quant.
Analyst EZ)

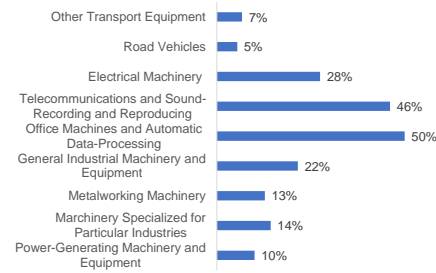
Note: Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results

In the case of exports, the trade link between the euro area and China is smaller than in the case of imports. Just under 9% of Eurozone exports go to China. Exports of electrical machinery account for 16% of total Eurozone exports of this product category, while those of road vehicles account for 13%.

By country, Germany unsurprisingly stands out, accounting for just under half of all euro area exports to China in 2020. Also measured as a share of GDP, German exports are the most exposed to China, closely followed by Ireland and Slovakia.

Overall, imports from China accounted for 16.5% of Eurozone imports in 2020. Of these, more than half were in the product category Machinery and Transport Equipment. In absolute terms, Telecommunications and Sound Recording and Reproducing Machinery accounted for the largest amount within this category. Looking at shares, the euro area's greatest dependence is in Office and Computing Machinery and Communications and Sound-Recording and Reproducing Machinery, where 50% and 46% of imports of these products come from China, respectively. The concentration in some

Share of imports from China, selected product categories, in %



Source: Eurostat, Erste Group Research

product categories makes the Eurozone's dependence on China much greater for imports than for exports.

Looking at the risks by country, the Netherlands stands out, importing goods from China worth 11% of GDP. More than half of these are in the product categories mentioned above (office and data processing machinery or communications and sound recording equipment). However, the Netherlands re-exports the vast majority of this to other EU countries. The import figures therefore overestimate the risk to which the Netherlands is exposed, but underestimate that of the other Eurozone countries.

In general, trade statistics can only give a rough overview of the risks. Here, too, the devil is in the detail. The bottlenecks in semiconductor production have shown how relatively small components in terms of value can slow down entire production processes. Also, a key "detail" is that, while China has a relatively small share of global semiconductor production, at just under 8% (2019), so the risks should be relatively small. However, if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in the center of China's semiconductor industry (Jiangsu), then there are risks for globally noticeable impacts as well.

Even if recent developments in China pose some risk to the Eurozone economy, the potential is relatively small compared to the positive factors. Steps towards opening, rising employment, and the EU's recovery plan are for us the decisive determinants for the economy during the coming quarters and these argue for high growth.

Economic calendar

Ctry	Date	Time	Release	Period	Consens	Prior
Eurozone						
USA						
	11-Aug	14:30	Inflation y/y	Jul	5.3%	5.4%
China						
	9-Aug	3:30	Inflation y/y	Jul	0.9%	1.1%

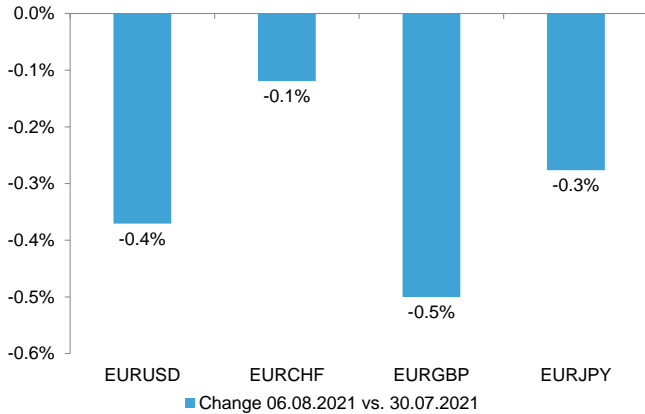
Central bank events

	Date	Time	Event
ECB			No monetary policy relevant events
Fed			No monetary policy relevant events

Source: Market Data Provider, ECB, Federal Reserve, Erste Group Research

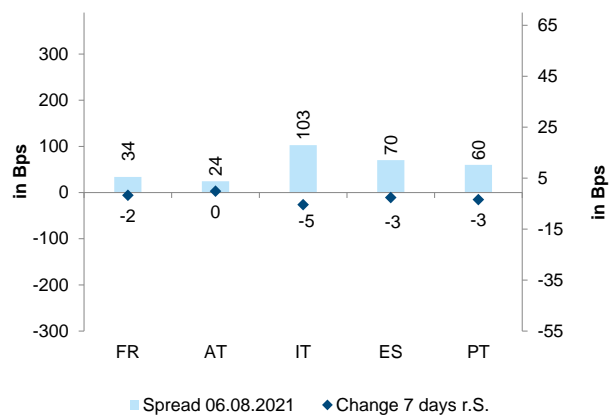
Forex and government bond markets

Exchange rates EUR: USD, CHF, GBP and JPY
 Changes compared to last week



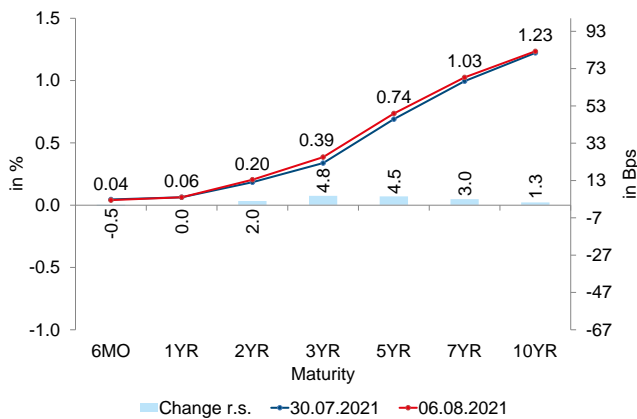
Source: Market Data Provider, Erste Group Research

Eurozone spreads vs. Germany
 10Y government bonds



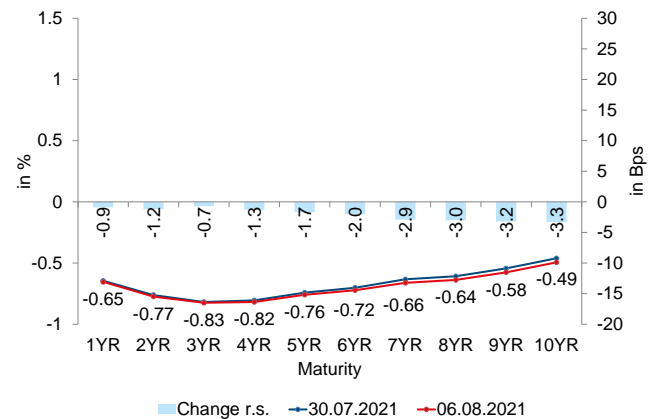
Source: Market Data Provider, Erste Group Research

US Treasuries yield curve
 Changes compared to last week



Source: Market Data Provider, Erste Group Research

DE Bund yield curve
 Changes compared to last week



Source: Market Data Provider, Erste Group Research

Forecasts¹

GDP	2019	2020	2021	2022
Eurozone	1.3	-6.5	4.4	4.1
US	2.3	-3.5	6.1	3.3

Inflation	2019	2020	2021	2022
Eurozone	1.2	0.3	1.8	1.4
US	1.8	1.2	4.0	2.2

Interest rates	current	Sep.21	Dec.21	Mar.22	Jun.22
ECB MRR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3M Euribor	-0.54	-0.54	-0.54	-0.54	-0.54
Germany Govt. 10Y	-0.49	-0.30	-0.10	0.00	0.10
Swap 10Y	-0.11	0.00	0.20	0.30	0.40

Interest rates	current	Sep.21	Dec.21	Mar.22	Jun.22
Fed Funds Target Rate*	0.10	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
3M Libor	0.12	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
US Govt. 10Y	1.24	1.40	1.70	1.80	1.90
EURUSD	1.18	1.18	1.20	1.20	1.20

*Mid of target range

*In case of changes to our forecasts compared to the previous issue, arrows show the direction of the change.
 Source: Market Data Provider, Erste Group Research*

¹ Note: In accordance with regulations, we are obliged to issue the following statement:
 Forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Contacts

Group Research

Head of Group Research
 Friedrich Mostböck, CEFA +43 (0)5 0100 11902

CEE Macro/Fixed Income Research
 Head: Juraj Kotian (Macro/FI) +43 (0)5 0100 17357
 Katarzyna Rzentarzewska (Fixed income) +43 (0)5 0100 17356
 Malgorzata Krzywicka (Fixed income, Poland) +43 (0)5 0100 17338

Croatia/Serbia
 Alen Kovac (Head) +385 72 37 1383
 Mate Jelic +385 72 37 1443
 Ivana Rogic +385 72 37 2419

Czech Republic
 David Navratil (Head) +420 956 765 439
 Jiri Polansky +420 956 765 192
 Michal Skorepa +420 956 765 172
 Nicole Gawlasova +420 956 765 456

Hungary
 Orsolya Nyeste +361 268 4428

Romania
 Ciprian Dascalu (Head) +40 3735 10108
 Eugen Sinca +40 3735 10435
 Dorina Ilasco +40 3735 10436
 Iulian George Misu +40 758484043

Slovakia
 Maria Valachyova (Head) +421 2 4862 4185
 Katarina Muchova +421 2 4862 4762

Major Markets & Credit Research
 Head: Gudrun Egger, CEFA +43 (0)5 0100 11909
 Ralf Burchert, CEFA (Sub-Sovereigns & Agencies) +43 (0)5 0100 16314
 Hans Engel (Global Equities) +43 (0)5 0100 19835
 Margarita Grushanina (Austria, Quant Analyst) +43 (0)5 0100 11957
 Peter Kaufmann, CFA (Corporate Bonds) +43 (0)5 0100 11183
 Heiko Langer (Financials & Covered Bonds) +43 (0)5 0100 85509
 Stephan Lingnau (Global Equities) +43 (0)5 0100 16574
 Carmen Riefler-Kowarsch (Financials & Covered Bonds) +43 (0)5 0100 19632
 Rainer Singer (Euro, US) +43 (0)5 0100 17331
 Bernadett Povazsai-Romhild, CEFA (Corporate Bonds) +43 (0)5 0100 17203
 Elena Statelov, CIA (Corporate Bonds) +43 (0)5 0100 19641
 Gerald Walek, CFA (Euro, CHF) +43 (0)5 0100 16360

CEE Equity Research
 Head: Henning Eißkuchen +43 (0)5 0100 19634
 Daniel Lion, CIA (Technology, Ind. Goods&Services) +43 (0)5 0100 17420
 Michael Marschallinger, CFA +43 (0)5 0100 17906
 Nora Nagy (Telecom) +43 (0)5 0100 17416
 Christoph Schultes, MBA, CIA (Real Estate) +43 (0)5 0100 11523
 Thomas Unger, CFA (Banks, Insurance) +43 (0)5 0100 17344
 Vladimira Urbankova, MBA (Pharma) +43 (0)5 0100 17343
 Martina Valenta, MBA +43 (0)5 0100 11913

Croatia/Serbia
 Mladen Dodig (Head) +381 11 22 09178
 Anto Augustinovic +385 72 37 2833
 Magdalena Dolenec +385 72 37 1407
 Davor Spoljar, CFA +385 72 37 2825

Czech Republic
 Petr Bartek (Head) +420 956 765 227
 Marek Dongres +420 956 765 218
 Jan Safranek +420 956 765 218

Hungary
 József Miró (Head) +361 235 5131
 András Nagy +361 235 5132
 Tamás Pletszer, CFA +361 235 5135

Poland
 Tomasz Duda (Head) +48 22 330 6253
 Cezary Bernatek +48 22 538 6256
 Konrad Grygo +48 22 330 6254
 Emil Poplawski +48 22 330 6252
 Marcin Gornik +48 22 330 6251

Romania
 Caius Rapanu +40 3735 10441

Group Markets

Head of Group Markets
 Oswald Huber +43 (0)5 0100 84901

Group Markets Retail and Agency Business
 Head: Christian Reiss +43 (0)5 0100 84012

Markets Retail Sales AT
 Head: Markus Kaller +43 (0)5 0100 84239

Group Markets Execution
 Head: Kurt Gerhold +43 (0)5 0100 84232

Retail & Sparkassen Sales
 Head: Uwe Kolar +43 (0)5 0100 83214

Corporate Treasury Product Distribution AT
 Head: Christian Skopek +43 (0)5 0100 84146

Fixed Income Institutional Sales

Group Securities Markets
 Head: Thomas Einramhof +43 (0)50100 84432

Institutional Distribution Core
 Head: Jürgen Niemeier +49 (0)30 8105800 5503

Institutional Distribution DACH+
 Head: Marc Friebertshäuser +49 (0)711 810400 5540
 Bernd Bollhof +49 (0)30 8105800 5525
 Andreas Goll +49 (0)711 810400 5561
 Mathias Gindele +49 (0)711 810400 5562
 Ulrich Inhofner +43 (0)5 0100 85544
 Sven Kienzle +49 (0)711 810400 5541
 Rene Klasen +49 (0)30 8105800 5521
 Christopher Lampe-Traupe +49 (0)30 8105800 5523
 Karin Rattay +43 (0)5 0100 84118
 Michael Schmotz +43 (0)5 0100 85542
 Klaus Vosseler +49 (0)711 810400 5560

Slovakia
 Sariota Sipulová +421 2 4862 5619
 Monika Směliková +421 2 4862 5629

Institutional Distribution CEE & Insti AM CZ
 Head: Antun Burić +385 (0)7237 2439
 Jaromir Malak +43 (0)5 0100 84254

Czech Republic
 Head: Ondrej Čech +420 2 2499 5577
 Milan Bartoš +420 2 2499 5562

Institutional Asset Management Czech Republic
 Head: Petr Holeček +420 956 765 453
 Petra Maděrová +420 956 765 178
 Martin Peřina +420 956 765 106
 David Petrášek +420 956 765 809
 Bianca Weinerová +420 956 765 317
 Petr Valenta +420 956 765 140

Croatia
 Head: Antun Burić +385 (0)7237 2439
 Zvonimir Tukač +385 (0)7237 1787
 Natalija Zujic +385 (0)7237 1638

Hungary
 Head: Peter Csizmadia +36 1 237 8211
 Gábor Bálint +36 1 237 8205
 Ádám Szónyi +36 1 237 8213

Romania and Bulgaria
 Head: Ruxandra Lungu +40 373516562

Group Institutional Equity Sales
 Head: Brigitte Zeitlberger-Schmid +43 (0)50100 83123
 Werner Fürst +43 (0)50100 83121
 Josef Kerekes +43 (0)50100 83125
 Cormac Lyden +43 (0)50100 83120

Czech Republic
 Head: Michal Řízek +420 224 995 537
 Jiří Fereš +420 224 995 554
 Martin Havlan +420 224 995 551
 Pavel Krabička +420 224 995 411

Poland
 Head: Jacek Jakub Langer +48 22 538 62 65
 Tomasz Galanciak +48 22 538 62 12
 Przemyslaw Nowosad +48 22 538 62 66
 Stepien Grzegorz +48 22 538 62 11
 Wysocki Wojciech +48 22 538 62 17

Croatia
 Damir Eror +385 (0)72 37 2836

Hungary
 Nandori Levente +36 1 23 55 141
 Krisztian Kandik +36 1 23 55 162
 Balasz Zankay +36 1 23 55 156

Romania
 Liviu Avram +40 3735 16569

Group Fixed Income Securities Markets
 Head: Goran Hobljaj +43 (0)50100 84403

FISM Flow
 Head: Aleksandar Doric +43 (0)5 0100 87487
 Margit Hraschek +43 (0)5 0100 84117
 Christian Kienesberger +43 (0)5 0100 84323
 Ciprian Mitu +43 (0)5 0100 85612
 Bernd Thaler +43 (0)5 0100 84119
 Zsuzsanna Toth +36-1-237 8209

Poland:
 Pawel Kielek +48 22 538 6223

Michal Jarmakowicz +43 50100 85611

Group Fixed Income Securities Trading
 Head: Goran Hobljaj +43 (0)50100 84403

Group Equity Trading & Structuring
 Head: Ronald Nemeč +43 (0)50100 83011

Business Support
 Bettina Mahoric +43 (0)50100 86441

Disclaimer

This publication was prepared by Erste Group Bank AG or any of its consolidated subsidiaries (together with consolidated subsidiaries "Erste Group") independently and objectively as general information pursuant to Art. 36 (2) delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565 as no direct buying incentives were included in this publication, which is of information character. This publication does not constitute investment research pursuant to Art. 36 (1) delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/565. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and it is not subject to the prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research. The information only serves as non-binding and additional information and is based on the level of knowledge of the person in charge of drawing up the information on the respective date of its preparation. The content of the publication can be changed at any time without notice. This publication does not constitute or form part of, and should not be construed as, an offer, recommendation or invitation to subscribe for or purchase any securities, and neither this publication nor anything contained herein shall form the basis of or be relied on in connection with or act as an inducement to enter into any contract or inclusion of a security or financial product in a trading strategy. Information provided in this publication are based on publicly available sources which Erste Group considers as reliable, however, without verifying any such information by independent third persons. While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the facts stated herein are accurate and that the forecasts, opinions and expectations contained herein are fair and reasonable, Erste Group (including its representatives and employees) neither expressly nor tacitly makes any guarantee as to or assumes any liability for the up-to-dateness, completeness and correctness of the content of this publication. Erste Group may provide hyperlinks to websites of entities mentioned in this document, however the inclusion of a link does not imply that Erste Group endorses, recommends or approves any material on the linked page or accessible from it. Neither a company of Erste Group nor any of its respective managing directors, supervisory board members, executive board members, directors, officers of other employees shall be in any way liable for any costs, losses or damages (including subsequent damages, indirect damages and loss of profit) howsoever arising from the use of or reliance on this publication. Any opinion, estimate or projection expressed in this publication reflects the current judgment of the author(s) on the date of publication of this document and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Erste Group. They are subject to change without prior notice. Erste Group has no obligation to update, modify or amend this publication or to otherwise notify a reader thereof in the event that any matter stated herein, or any opinion, projection, forecast or estimate set forth herein, changes or subsequently becomes inaccurate. The past performance of securities or financial instruments is not indicative for future results. No assurance can be given that any financial instrument or issuer described herein would yield favorable investment results or that particular price levels may be reached. Forecasts in this publication are based on assumptions which are supported by objective data. However, the used forecasts are not indicative for future performance of securities or financial instrument. Erste Group, its affiliates, principals or employees may have a long or short position or may transact in the financial instrument(s) referred to herein or may trade in such financial instruments with other customers on a principal basis. Erste Group may act as a market maker in the financial instruments or companies discussed herein and may also perform or seek to perform investment services for those companies. Erste Group may act upon or use the information or conclusion contained in this publication before it is distributed to other persons. This publication is subject to the copyright of Erste Group and may not be copied, distributed or partially or in total provided or transmitted to unauthorized recipients. By accepting this publication, a recipient hereof agrees to be bound by the foregoing limitations.

Erste Group is not registered or certified as a credit agency in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on credit rating agencies (the Credit Rating Agencies Regulation). Any assessment of the issuers creditworthiness does not represent a credit rating pursuant to the Credit Rating Agencies Regulation. Interpretations and analysis of the current or future development of credit ratings are based upon existing credit rating documents only and shall not be considered as a credit rating itself.

© Erste Group Bank AG 2021. All rights reserved.

Published by:

Erste Group Bank AG
Group Research
1100 Vienna, Austria, Am Belvedere 1
Head Office: Wien
Commercial Register No: FN 33209m
Commercial Court of Vienna
Erste Group Homepage: www.erstegroup.com