

GLOBAL MARKETS RESEARCH

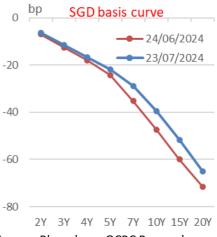
Interest Rates Focus

25 July 2024

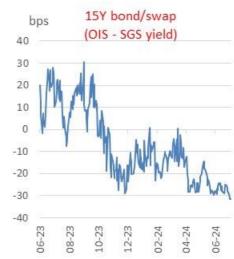
15Y SGS auction preview

- The size of the 15Y SGS (reopen) auction on 29 July has been announced at SGD1.7bn, with MAS intending to take SGD200mn; the size is within expected range and keeps gross issuance on track to our full year expectation of SGD28-30bn assuming 4-5% growth in outstanding SGS this year, probably towards the lower end.
- The 15Y SGS supply is likely to be readily absorbed. First, as the lower-rate view has become more entrenched, investor appetite for duration may be gradually building up. After this upcoming 15Y SGS auction, there are only 5Y SGS (MD) and 50Y green SGS (infra) sales left for the year, and no more supply in Q4. As such, preference for duration may show up at this upcoming 15Y SGS auction, despite that the 15Y might not have been the most favoured tenor.
- Second, asset swap pick-up remains decent, albeit having narrowed mildly. USD-funded investors may prefer longer-tenor SGS as asset-swap becomes more favourable further out the curve given that both the SGD basis curve and SGD SORA OIS curves are inverted. Asset-swap pick-up (before crossing bid/offer spreads) was last at around SOFR+80bps at 15Y SGS and around SOFR+100bps at 20Y SGS.
- Third, the 15Y bond/swap spread (OIS minus bond yield) is on the low side. The spread was last at -35bps, compared to a 2-year median of -8bps. Moreover, taking the longer history of bond/IRS spreads, these spreads tended to be higher at higher rates and yields levels meaning the current 15Y bond/swap spread looks even lower.
- While the auction may suffer from the richening in SGS in the earlier part of the month, the recent performances precisely reflected the lower-rate view and yields have nevertheless gone back up slightly. There is a mild kink on the curve at the 15Y; the 15Y yield was last a tad higher than the 10Y yield and the 20Y yield. The kink is however small and these few bps will likely be reflected at the auction, i.e. we do not expect the kink to be smoothed through the auction.
- On balance, a 15Y cut-off in the range of 3.11-3.16%, or more than 30bps above 15Y SGD OIS may be seen as attractive, barring any material moves in market levels between now and the auction day. Note US PCE/core PCE can be a potential market mover.

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Source: Bloomberg, OCBC Research



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