

# **Singapore Banking Monthly**

All looking good

## SINGAPORE | BANKING & FINANCE | UPDATE

- Singapore October domestic loans growth was up 6.8% YoY, 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive month of acceleration. Loan demand driven by stronger property related business loans.
- Hong Kong October domestic loans growth was 22.3% YoY, driven by IPO loans.
- SIBOR and HIBOR spiked up at the end of November signalling an increase in mortgage rates in Hong Kong and Singapore.
- Narrowing spread between 1mth and 3mth HIBOR is tailwind for Hong Kong NIMs.
- Maintain Accumulate for the Singapore Banking Sector.

#### Singapore October domestic loans +6.8% YoY as business loans growth remain buoyant

Singapore domestic business loans grew 9% in October driven by strong property related business loans as other business loans remained relatively stable. Building and construction loans growth of 0.9% was lacklustre. Car loans registered 4.5% YoY growth, the highest since the beginning of 2013.

# Hong Kong Q2 and Q3 domestic loans registered 10.6% and 12.6% growth respectively as property related loans accelerated.

Hong Kong mass market residential values are up 13.1% YTD and is expected to grow 15% for FY17 (according to JLL Hong Kong November residential sales market monitor). Outstanding value of mortgage loans continue to climb higher sequentially, increasing 0.3% MoM to HK\$1,190.2bn at end of October. Loans growth was also driven up by a buoyant IPO loans market at the end of October in preparation for mega IPOs like China Literature and Yixin Group in early November.

### SIBOR rates moved up higher at the end of November

Our channel checks show that the Singapore banks' fixed rate home loan packages have risen in December from a month ago. But we did not notice big changes to the spread on SIBOR pegged loans.

#### 1 month HIBOR was sharply higher in November signaling higher mortgage rates in HKG

We believe that part of the strong spike in 1 month HIBOR was due to the <u>strong demand for IPO loans</u> which soaked up a substantial amount of liquidity in the short duration money market. Most of Hong Kong's new mortgages continue to be referenced to HIBOR. In October 93.1% of new mortgages within Hong Kong were priced with reference to HIBOR, a slight decline from September's 93.4%.

## Asset quality in Singapore and Hong Kong is expected to remain robust

The strong economic growth continues to support asset quality as we saw 3Q GDP growth for Hong Kong (3.6% YoY) and Singapore (5.2% YoY) beat estimates. Bankruptcy orders in Singapore are in a declining trend and Hong Kong mortgage delinquency ratio remains low at 0.02%. Over at the offshore oil and gas space, semisubmersibles utilisation could be bottoming out and Jackups utilisation has recovered to levels last seen in 2015. However, in both cases, day rates continue to languish at an all-time low.

#### **INVESTMENT ACTIONS**

Maintain Singapore Banking Sector at Accumulate – All indicators such as volume, margins and asset quality point to a healthy 4Q17 for the banking sector. Valuations of Singapore banks continue to be undemanding at between 1.1x and 1.2x P/BV.



8 December 2017

## **ACCUMULATE (Maintain)**

# DBS Group Holdings Buy (Maintain)

| BLOOMBERG CODE    | DBS SP    |
|-------------------|-----------|
| LAST TRADED PRICE | SGD 24.40 |
| FORECAST DIV      | SGD 0.66  |
| TARGET PRICE      | SGD 29.30 |
| TOTAL RETURN      | 22.79%    |

# Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp Buy (Maintain)

| BLOOMBERG CODE    | OCBC SP   |
|-------------------|-----------|
| LAST TRADED PRICE | SGD 12.17 |
| FORECAST DIV      | SGD 0.40  |
| TARGET PRICE      | SGD 13.48 |
| TOTAL RETURN      | 14.05%    |

# United Overseas Bank Limited Accumulate (Maintain)

| BLOOMBERG CODE    | UOB SP    |
|-------------------|-----------|
| LAST TRADED PRICE | SGD 25.85 |
| FORECAST DIV      | SGD 0.80  |
| TARGET PRICE      | SGD 25.22 |
| TOTAL RETURN      | 0.66%     |

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List of Abbreviations

WM – Wealth Management

NII – Net Interest Income

NIM - Net Interest Margin

LDR – Loan to Deposit Ratio

NPL - Non-performing Loans

PPOP – Pre-Provision Operating Profit

WACC – Weighted Average Cost of Capital

ROIC - Return on Invested Capital

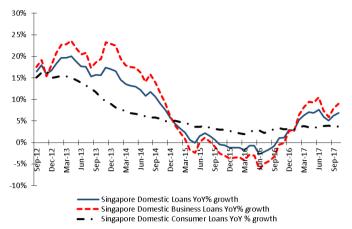
FHR – Fixed Deposit Home Loan Rate

EV – Economic Value

JLL – Jones Lang LaSalle

Ref. No.: SG2017\_0301

Figure 1: Singapore domestic business loans continue to lead the growth as 3Q GDP YoY growth surpassed expectations.



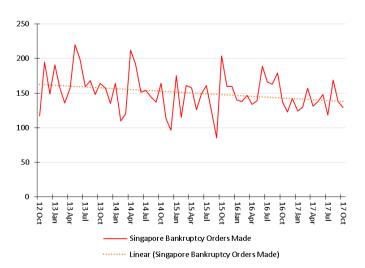
Source: MAS, PSR estimates

Figure 3: 3 month SIBOR and 1 month SIBOR have risen by c.8bps at the end of November.



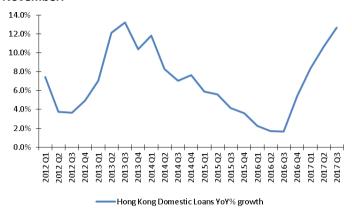
Source: MAS, PSR estimates

Figure 3: Singapore's bankruptcy orders is on a declining trend.



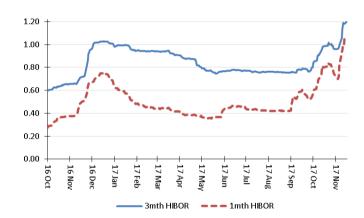
Source: Singstats, PSR estimates

Figure 2: Unprecedented demand for Hong Kong IPO loans boosted stronger loans growth in late October and early November.



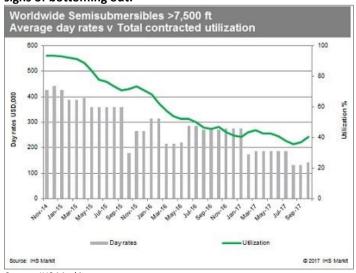
Source: HKMA, PSR estimates

Figure 4: DBS' and OCBC's Hong Kong NIMs are expected improve as the spread between the 1-month HIBOR and 3-month HIBOR continues to narrow.



Source: MAS, PSR estimates

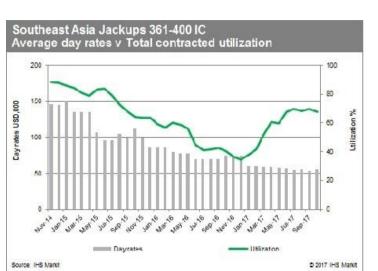
Figure 4: Worldwide Semisubmersibles utilisation has bottomed out since Sept 2017 but day rates have not showed signs of bottoming out.



Source: IHS Markit

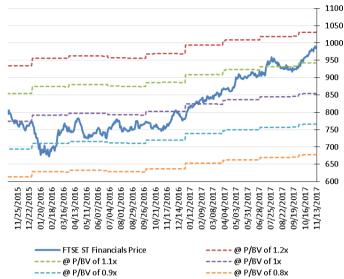


Figure 5: Southeast Asia Jackups utilisation has tapered since it rebounded in March 2017. Day rates appear to be stable YTD.



Source: IHS Markit

Figure 6: Singapore banks' valuation is undemanding at between 1.1x and 1.2x P/BV.



Source: Bloomberg, PSR estimates



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#### BANKING & FINANCE SECTOR UPDATE



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