

Australian Economic Comment

Business conditions imply a turning point

Economics

Australia

June NAB business conditions lift to +10.9, best since Oct-14, & well above ave.

NAB's survey of business conditions picked up strongly in June to +10.9 (UBS: 'down' based on weaker PMIs; mkt: nf) – to the highest level since Oct-14, and is now well above average (of +4.5 since 1997) – after +6.6 in April. By industry, mining strangely rebound (-2 after -38); but non-mining (un-weighted) also lifted again (+8 after +4).

However, employment intentions remain the weakest category in June with the smallest improvement (+0.9 after -1.0), and still suggests moderate jobs growth ahead. Notably, selling prices remain subdued, and imply ongoing low CPI ahead. However, the wages bill bounced m/m, albeit after dropping to the weakest trend since the GFC, so the trend still points to soft household income. Meanwhile, capacity utilisation also increased to highest level since 2012, despite sub-trend GDP growth, albeit the up-trend is broadly consistent with the better trend in the unemployment rate.

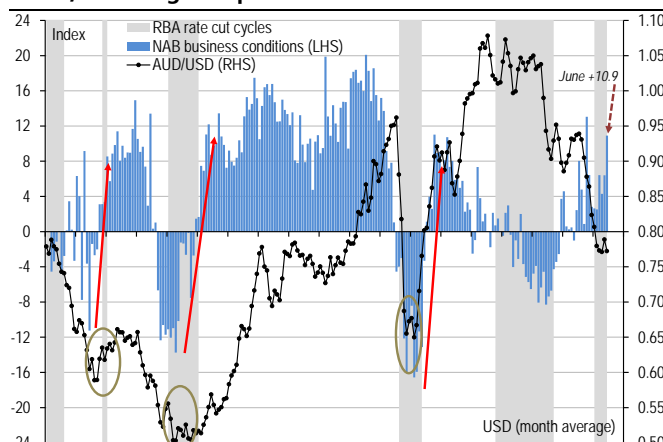
Business confidence also picked up +9.8 (after +7.7); & now above average

Meanwhile, business confidence also picked up further to +9.8 in June – seemingly shrugging off worries over Greece/China – to the highest level since Sep-13, and is now above its average (+5.8 since 1997; after +7.7 in May).

Implications: business conditions (still) suggest a turning point in the economy

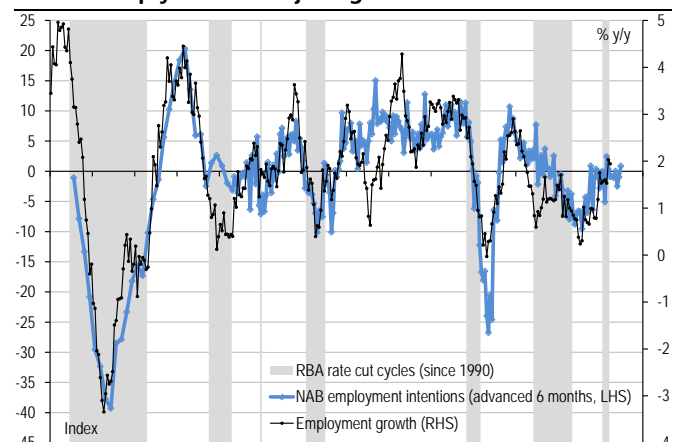
Overall, the NAB business survey shows clear improvement in business conditions & confidence to above average. This implies the sustained fall in the AUD & interest rates may finally be leading to an upturn of the (non-mining) economy – and provides some 'confirmation' of the [surprisingly resilient jobs data](#). But, there have been 'false dawns' in recent years that subsequently relapsed, and this recent improvement of conditions is increasingly diverging from actual GDP/domestic demand which has been on a slower trend (at least up to Q1-2015); and is in complete contrast to the ['recessionary' ABS capex survey & commencements data](#). Nonetheless, the RBA historically closely watches the NAB survey to provide a lead indicator on the economy, and hence it will probably give them comfort to stay on hold ahead (barring surprisingly low core CPI data ahead).

Figure 1: June business conditions lift to above average +10.9, showing an uptrend amid the lower AUD/rates



Source: NAB, RBA, Datastream, UBS

Figure 2: Employment intentions remain relatively soft, and still imply moderate jobs growth ahead



Source: NAB, RBA, ABS, UBS

NAB business survey (June 2015)

Figure 3: NAB business survey (index)

	Confidence	Conditions	Trading	Profits	Employment	New orders	Stocks	Labour cost (%)	Sell price (%)	Cap. Util. (%)
Mar-15	3.0	6.4	11.2	8.5	0.0	-0.5	0.0	0.6	0.4	80.5
Apr-15	3.5	4.3	10.7	5.0	-2.5	-0.5	1.3	0.6	0.4	80.2
May-15	7.7	6.4	12.3	8.0	-1.0	2.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	80.9
Jun-15	9.8	10.9	19.7	9.9	0.9	4.6	-1.5	1.2	0.2	81.3

Figure 4: Business confidence >ave (but consumers <ave)

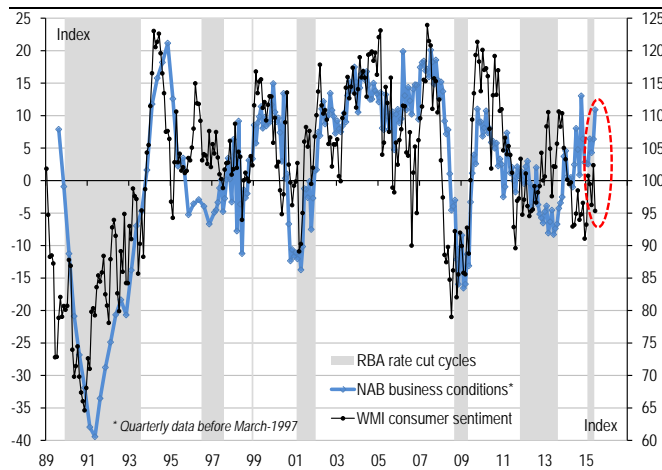


Figure 5: Biz conditions diverging from softer GDP

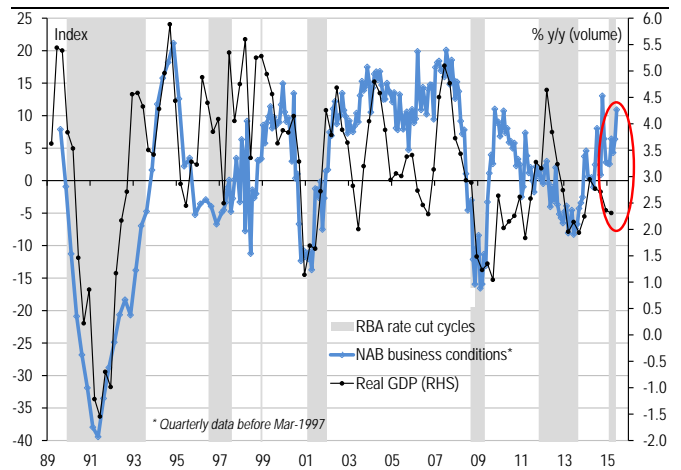


Figure 6: Selling prices still indicate relatively low CPI

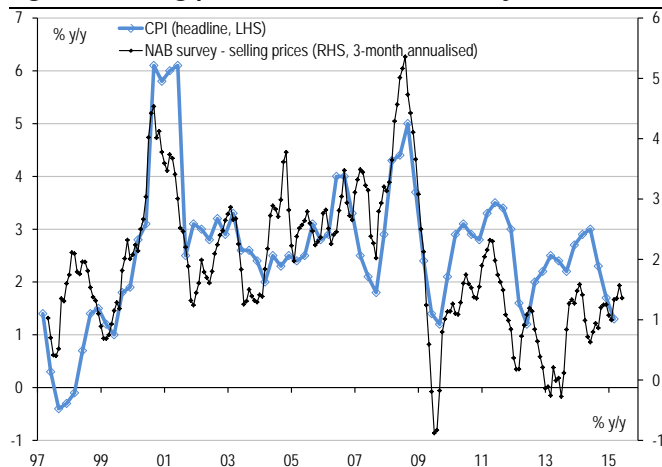


Figure 7: Wages bounce m/m, but after worst since GFC

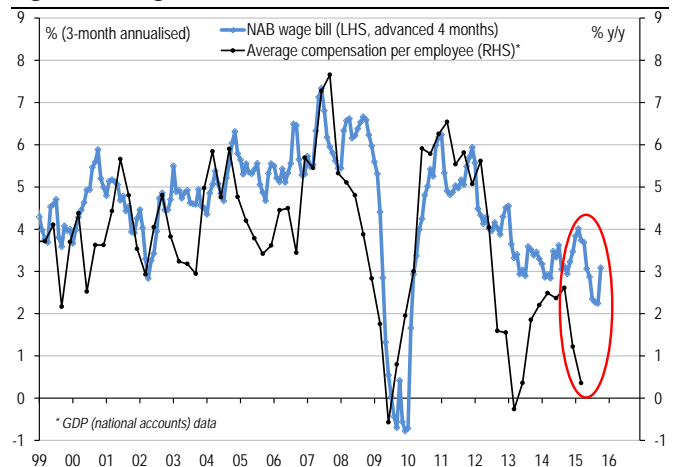


Figure 8: Capacity utilisation 'confirms' unemployment

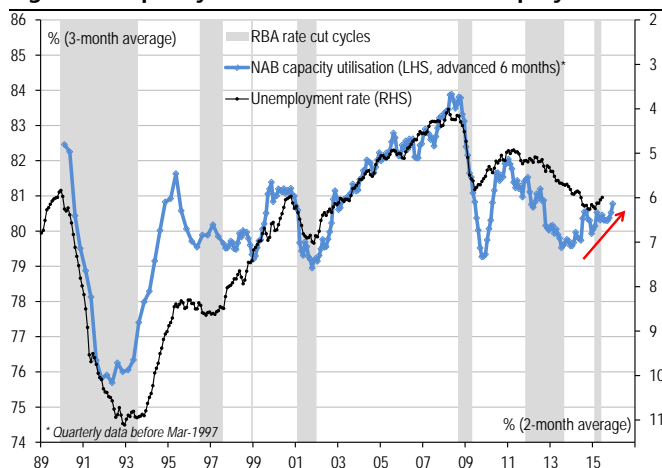
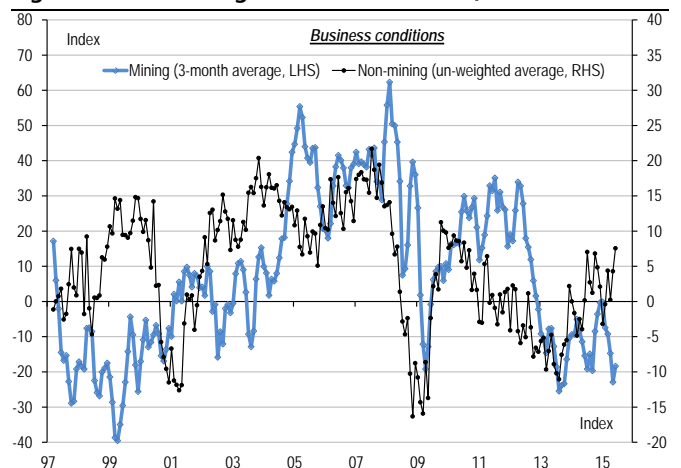


Figure 9: Non-mining conditions rebound; best since 2010



Source: ABS, NAB, RBA, Westpac Melbourne Institute, UBS

Required Disclosures

This report has been prepared by UBS Securities Australia Ltd, an affiliate of UBS AG. UBS AG, its subsidiaries, branches and affiliates are referred to herein as UBS.

For information on the ways in which UBS manages conflicts and maintains independence of its research product; historical performance information; and certain additional disclosures concerning UBS research recommendations, please visit www.ubs.com/disclosures. The figures contained in performance charts refer to the past; past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. Additional information will be made available upon request. UBS Securities Co. Limited is licensed to conduct securities investment consultancy businesses by the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

Analyst Certification: Each research analyst primarily responsible for the content of this research report, in whole or in part, certifies that with respect to each security or issuer that the analyst covered in this report: (1) all of the views expressed accurately reflect his or her personal views about those securities or issuers and were prepared in an independent manner, including with respect to UBS, and (2) no part of his or her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed by that research analyst in the research report.

Global Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by UBS Securities Australia Ltd, an affiliate of UBS AG. UBS AG, its subsidiaries, branches and affiliates are referred to herein as UBS.

Global Research is provided to our clients through UBS Neo, the UBS Client Portal and UBS.com (each a "System"). It may also be made available through third party vendors and distributed by UBS and/or third parties via e-mail or alternative electronic means. The level and types of services provided by Global Research to a client may vary depending upon various factors such as a client's individual preferences as to the frequency and manner of receiving communications, a client's risk profile and investment focus and perspective (e.g. market wide, sector specific, long-term, short-term, etc.), the size and scope of the overall client relationship with UBS and legal and regulatory constraints.

When you receive Global Research through a System, your access and/or use of such Global Research is subject to this Global Research Disclaimer and to the terms of use governing the applicable System.

When you receive Global Research via a third party vendor, e-mail or other electronic means, your use shall be subject to this Global Research Disclaimer and to UBS's Terms of Use/Disclaimer (<http://www.ubs.com/global/en/legalinfo2/disclaimer.html>). By accessing and/or using Global Research in this manner, you are indicating that you have read and agree to be bound by our Terms of Use/Disclaimer. In addition, you consent to UBS processing your personal data and using cookies in accordance with our Privacy Statement (<http://www.ubs.com/global/en/legalinfo2/privacy.html>) and cookie notice (<http://www.ubs.com/global/en/homepage/cookies/cookie-management.html>).

If you receive Global Research, whether through a System or by any other means, you agree that you shall not copy, revise, amend, create a derivative work, transfer to any third party, or in any way commercially exploit any UBS research provided via Global Research or otherwise, and that you shall not extract data from any research or estimates provided to you via Global Research or otherwise, without the prior written consent of UBS.

For access to all available Global Research on UBS Neo and the Client Portal, please contact your UBS sales representative.

This document is for distribution only as may be permitted by law. It is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or would subject UBS to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction. It is published solely for information purposes; it is not an advertisement nor is it a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any financial instruments or to participate in any particular trading strategy. No representation or warranty, either expressed or implied, is provided in relation to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information contained in this document ('the Information'), except with respect to Information concerning UBS. The Information is not intended to be a complete statement or summary of the securities, markets or developments referred to in the document. UBS does not undertake to update or keep current the Information. Any opinions expressed in this document may change without notice and may differ or be contrary to opinions expressed by other business areas or groups of UBS. Any statements contained in this report attributed to a third party represent UBS's interpretation of the data, information and/or opinions provided by that third party either publicly or through a subscription service, and such use and interpretation have not been reviewed by the third party.

Nothing in this document constitutes a representation that any investment strategy or recommendation is suitable or appropriate to an investor's individual circumstances or otherwise constitutes a personal recommendation. Investments involve risks, and investors should exercise prudence and their own judgement in making their investment decisions. The financial instruments described in the document may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain categories of investors. Options, derivative products and futures are not suitable for all investors, and trading in these instruments is considered risky. Mortgage and asset-backed securities may involve a high degree of risk and may be highly volatile in response to fluctuations in interest rates or other market conditions. Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or related instrument referred to in the document. For investment advice, trade execution or other enquiries, clients should contact their local sales representative.

The value of any investment or income may go down as well as up, and investors may not get back the full (or any) amount invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Neither UBS nor any of its directors, employees or agents accepts any liability for any loss (including investment loss) or damage arising out of the use of all or any of the Information.

Any prices stated in this document are for information purposes only and do not represent valuations for individual securities or other financial instruments. There is no representation that any transaction can or could have been effected at those prices, and any prices do not necessarily reflect UBS's internal books and records or theoretical model-based valuations and may be based on certain assumptions. Different assumptions by UBS or any other source may yield substantially different results.

This document and the Information are produced by UBS as part of its research function and are provided to you solely for general background information. UBS has no regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient. In no circumstances may this document or any of the Information be used for any of the following purposes:

- (i) valuation or accounting purposes;
- (ii) to determine the amounts due or payable, the price or the value of any financial instrument or financial contract; or
- (iii) to measure the performance of any financial instrument.

By receiving this document and the Information you will be deemed to represent and warrant to UBS that you will not use this document or any of the Information for any of the above purposes or otherwise rely upon this document or any of the Information.

Research will initiate, update and cease coverage solely at the discretion of UBS Investment Bank Research Management. The analysis contained in this document is based on numerous assumptions. Different assumptions could result in materially different results. The analyst(s) responsible for the preparation of this document may interact with trading desk personnel, sales personnel and other parties for the purpose of gathering, applying and interpreting market information. UBS relies on information barriers to control the flow of information contained in one or more areas within UBS into other areas, units, groups or affiliates of UBS. The compensation of the analyst who prepared this document is determined exclusively by research management and senior management (not including investment banking). Analyst compensation is not based on investment banking revenues; however, compensation may relate to the revenues of UBS Investment Bank as a whole, of which investment banking, sales and trading are a part.

For financial instruments admitted to trading on an EU regulated market: UBS AG, its affiliates or subsidiaries (excluding UBS Securities LLC) acts as a market maker or liquidity provider (in accordance with the interpretation of these terms in the UK) in the financial instruments of the issuer save that where the activity of liquidity provider is carried out in accordance with the definition given to it by the laws and regulations of any other EU jurisdictions, such information is separately disclosed in this document. For financial instruments admitted to trading on a non-EU regulated market: UBS may act as a market maker save that where this activity is carried out in the US in accordance with the definition given to it by the relevant laws and regulations, such activity will be specifically disclosed in this document. UBS may have issued a warrant the value of which is based on one or more of the financial instruments referred to in the document. UBS and its affiliates and employees may have long or short positions, trade as principal and buy and sell in instruments or derivatives identified herein; such transactions or positions may be inconsistent with the opinions expressed in this document.

United Kingdom and the rest of Europe: Except as otherwise specified herein, this material is distributed by UBS Limited to persons who are eligible counterparties or professional clients. UBS Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. **France:** Prepared by UBS Limited and distributed by UBS Limited and UBS Securities France S.A. UBS Securities France S.A. is regulated by the ACPR (Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution) and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). Where an analyst of UBS Securities France S.A. has contributed to this document, the document is also deemed to have been prepared by UBS Securities France S.A. **Germany:** Prepared by UBS Limited and distributed by UBS Limited and UBS Deutschland AG. UBS Deutschland AG is regulated by the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin). **Spain:** Prepared by UBS Limited and distributed by UBS Limited and UBS Securities España SV, SA. UBS Securities España SV, SA is regulated by the Comisión Nacional del Mercado de Valores (CNMV). **Turkey:** Distributed by UBS Limited. No information in this document is provided for the purpose of offering, marketing and sale by any means of any capital market instruments and services in the Republic of Turkey. Therefore, this document may not be considered as an offer made or to be made to residents of the Republic of Turkey. UBS AG is not licensed by the Turkish Capital Market Board under the provisions of the Capital Market Law (Law No. 6362). Accordingly, neither this document nor any other offering material related to the instruments/services may be utilized in connection with providing any capital market services to persons within the Republic of Turkey without the prior approval of the Capital Market Board. However, according to article 15 (d) (ii) of the Decree No. 32, there is no restriction on the purchase or sale of the securities abroad by residents of the Republic of Turkey. **Poland:** Distributed by UBS Limited (spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością) Oddział w Polsce regulated by the Polish Financial Supervision Authority. Where an analyst of UBS Limited (spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością) Oddział w Polsce has contributed to this

document, the document is also deemed to have been prepared by UBS Limited (spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością) Oddział w Polsce. **Russia:** Prepared and distributed by UBS Bank (OOO). **Switzerland:** Distributed by UBS AG to persons who are institutional investors only. UBS AG is regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA). **Italy:** Prepared by UBS Limited and distributed by UBS Limited and UBS Italia Sim S.p.A. UBS Italia Sim S.p.A. is regulated by the Bank of Italy and by the Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa (CONSOB). Where an analyst of UBS Italia Sim S.p.A. has contributed to this document, the document is also deemed to have been prepared by UBS Italia Sim S.p.A. **South Africa:** Distributed by UBS South Africa (Pty) Limited (Registration No. 1995/011140/07), an authorised user of the JSE and an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP 7328). **Israel:** This material is distributed by UBS Limited. UBS Limited is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. UBS Securities Israel Ltd is a licensed Investment Marketer that is supervised by the Israel Securities Authority (ISA). UBS Limited and its affiliates incorporated outside Israel are not licensed under the Israeli Advisory Law. UBS Limited is not covered by insurance as required from a licensee under the Israeli Advisory Law. UBS may engage among others in issuance of Financial Assets or in distribution of Financial Assets of other issuers for fees or other benefits. UBS Limited and its affiliates may prefer various Financial Assets to which they have or may have Affiliation (as such term is defined under the Israeli Advisory Law). Nothing in this Material should be considered as investment advice under the Israeli Advisory Law. This Material is being issued only to and/or is directed only at persons who are Eligible Clients within the meaning of the Israeli Advisory Law, and this material must not be relied on or acted upon by any other persons. **Saudi Arabia:** This document has been issued by UBS AG (and/or any of its subsidiaries, branches or affiliates), a public company limited by shares, incorporated in Switzerland with its registered offices at Aeschenvorstadt 1, CH-4051 Basel and Bahnhofstrasse 45, CH-8001 Zurich. This publication has been approved by UBS Saudi Arabia (a subsidiary of UBS AG), a Saudi closed joint stock company incorporated in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under commercial register number 1010257812 having its registered office at Tatweer Towers, P.O. Box 75724, Riyadh 11588, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. UBS Saudi Arabia is authorized and regulated by the Capital Market Authority to conduct securities business under license number 08113-37. **Dubai:** The information distributed by UBS AG Dubai Branch is intended for Professional Clients only and is not for further distribution within the United Arab Emirates. **United States:** Distributed to US persons by either UBS Securities LLC or by UBS Financial Services Inc., subsidiaries of UBS AG; or by a group, subsidiary or affiliate of UBS AG that is not registered as a US broker-dealer (a 'non-US affiliate') to major US institutional investors only. UBS Securities LLC or UBS Financial Services Inc. accepts responsibility for the content of a document prepared by another non-US affiliate when distributed to US persons by UBS Securities LLC or UBS Financial Services Inc. All transactions by a US person in the securities mentioned in this document must be effected through UBS Securities LLC or UBS Financial Services Inc., and not through a non-US affiliate. **Canada:** Distributed by UBS Securities Canada Inc., a registered investment dealer in Canada and a Member-Canadian Investor Protection Fund, or by another affiliate of UBS AG that is registered to conduct business in Canada or is otherwise exempt from registration. **Brazil:** Except as otherwise specified herein, this material is prepared by UBS Brasil CCTVM S.A. to persons who are eligible investors residing in Brazil, which are considered to be: (i) financial institutions, (ii) insurance firms and investment capital companies, (iii) supplementary pension entities, (iv) entities that hold financial investments higher than R\$300,000.00 and that confirm the status of qualified investors in written, (v) investment funds, (vi) securities portfolio managers and securities consultants duly authorized by Comissão de Valores Mobiliários (CVM), regarding their own investments, and (vii) social security systems created by the Federal Government, States, and Municipalities. **Hong Kong:** Distributed by UBS Securities Asia Limited and/or UBS AG, Hong Kong Branch. **Singapore:** Distributed by UBS Securities Pte. Ltd. [MCI (P) 016/09/2014 and Co. Reg. No.: 198500648C] or UBS AG, Singapore Branch. Please contact UBS Securities Pte. Ltd., an exempt financial adviser under the Singapore Financial Advisers Act (Cap. 110); or UBS AG, Singapore Branch, an exempt financial adviser under the Singapore Financial Advisers Act (Cap. 110) and a wholesale bank licensed under the Singapore Banking Act (Cap. 19) regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, the analysis or document. The recipients of this document represent and warrant that they are accredited and institutional investors as defined in the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289). **Japan:** Distributed by UBS Securities Japan Co., Ltd. to professional investors (except as otherwise permitted). Where this document has been prepared by UBS Securities Japan Co., Ltd., UBS Securities Japan Co., Ltd. is the author, publisher and distributor of the document. Distributed by UBS AG, Tokyo Branch to Professional Investors (except as otherwise permitted) in relation to foreign exchange and other banking businesses when relevant. **Australia:** Clients of UBS AG: Distributed by UBS AG (Holder of Australian Financial Services License No. 231087). Clients of UBS Securities Australia Ltd: Distributed by UBS Securities Australia Ltd (Holder of Australian Financial Services License No. 231098). Clients of UBS Wealth Management Australia Ltd: Distributed by UBS Wealth Management Australia Ltd (Holder of Australian Financial Services License No. 231127). This Document contains general information and/or general advice only and does not constitute personal financial product advice. As such, the information in this document has been prepared without taking into account any investor's objectives, financial situation or needs, and investors should, before acting on the information, consider the appropriateness of the information, having regard to their objectives, financial situation and needs. If the information contained in this document relates to the acquisition, or potential acquisition of a particular financial product by a 'Retail' client as defined by section 761G of the Corporations Act 2001 where a Product Disclosure Statement would be required, the retail client should obtain and consider the Product Disclosure Statement relating to the product before making any decision about whether to acquire the product. The UBS Securities Australia Limited Financial Services Guide is available at: www.ubs.com/ecs-research-fsg. **New Zealand:** Distributed by UBS New Zealand Ltd. The information and recommendations in this publication are provided for general information purposes only. To the extent that any such information or recommendations constitute financial advice, they do not take into account any person's particular financial situation or goals. We recommend that recipients seek advice specific to their circumstances from their financial advisor. **Korea:** Distributed in Korea by UBS Securities Pte. Ltd., Seoul Branch. This document may have been edited or contributed to from time to time by affiliates of UBS Securities Pte. Ltd., Seoul Branch. **Malaysia:** This material is authorized to be distributed in Malaysia by UBS Securities Malaysia Sdn. Bhd (Capital Markets Services License No.: CMSL/A0063/2007). This material is intended for professional/institutional clients only and not for distribution to any retail clients. **India:** Prepared by UBS Securities India Private Ltd. (Corporate Identity Number U67120MH1996PTC097299) 2/F, 2 North Avenue, Maker Maxity, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai (India) 400051. Phone: +912261556000. It provides brokerage services bearing SEBI Registration Numbers: NSE (Capital Market Segment): INB230951431, NSE (F&O Segment) INF230951431, NSE (Currency Derivatives Segment) INE230951431, BSE (Capital Market Segment) INB010951437; merchant banking services bearing SEBI Registration Number: INM000010809 and research services. UBS AG, its affiliates or subsidiaries may have debt holdings or positions in the subject Indian company/companies. Within the past 12 months, UBS AG, its affiliates or subsidiaries may have received compensation for non-investment banking securities-related services and/or non-securities services from the subject Indian company/companies. With regard to information on associates, please refer Annual Report at: http://www.ubs.com/global/en/about_ubs/investor_relations/annualreporting.html

The disclosures contained in research documents produced by UBS Limited shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law.

UBS specifically prohibits the redistribution of this document in whole or in part without the written permission of UBS and UBS accepts no liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect. Images may depict objects or elements that are protected by third party copyright, trademarks and other intellectual property rights. © UBS 2015. The key symbol and UBS are among the registered and unregistered trademarks of UBS. All rights reserved.

