

# FX Alpha

# Targets reached in short GBPAUD and short EURNOK year-ahead trades

## Close 3m GBP/AUD put spread

We close 3m 1.90-1.86 strike GBP/AUD put spread that was entered as part of the 2024 Macro Year Ahead in November 2023 (see <u>G10 FX Year Ahead: The year of the landing 20 November 2023</u>). The trade initially costed 0.6806% GBP. After GBP/AUD spot briefly fell below our strike target of 1.86 at the end of December, we close the trade now for 1.2315% GBP (spot ref 1.8762, vol refs 7.354 and 6.921).

### Closing EURNOK lower via risk reversal

For premium 1.91% EUR (spot ref: 11.3215, vol refs: 9.67% and 10.13%), we are closing our Year Ahead 2024 recommendation to position for EURNOK lower by buying a 11.35 EURNOK put and selling a 12.20 call with expiry 15 May 2024 (see <u>G10 FX Year Ahead: The year of the landing 20 November 2023</u>). We had <u>received 0.7307% EUR on November 16 (spot ref: 11.8623, vol refs: 8.929 and 9.108).</u>

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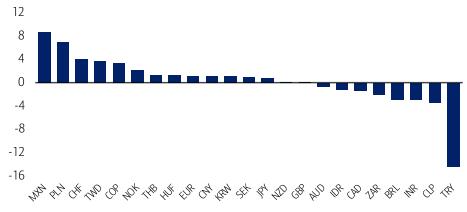
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# Close 3m GBP/AUD put spread

We close 3m 1.90-1.86 strike GBP/AUD put spread that was entered as part of the 2024 Macro Year Ahead in November 2023 (see G10 FX Year Ahead: The year of the landing 20 November 2023). The trade initially costed 0.6806% GBP. After GBP/AUD spot briefly fell below our strike target of 1.86 at the end of December, we close the trade now for 1.2315% GBP (spot ref 1.8762, vol refs 7.354 and 6.921). Weaker than expected UK CPI data drove GBP/AUD spot lower in December. Our dynamic factor model for FX shows GBP is no longer rich, and AUD cheapness has also shrunk (Exhibit 1). Please see the Global FX Weekly for our open trade recommendations and trades closed in the last 12 months.

Exhibit 1: GBP is no longer rich and AUD is only slightly cheap in our dynamic factor model framework

Dynamic factor model estimation of FX over/undervaluation vs the USD



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg

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This trade was premised on the respective structural positions of UK versus Australia and despite our view that GBP could benefit from a further pricing out of UK rate cuts. We continue to believe that the structural headwinds (supply side shocks) will outweigh positive carry considerations for GBP. By contrast, the Australian economy has successfully diversified towards service orientated exports which has had a positive impact on the balance of payments and NIIP. Combined with a stable domestic fiscal position, we continue to see longer-term AUD out-performance versus GBP.

However, we are cognizant that the move in GBP/AUD has been rapid in the aftermath of the surprisingly dovish Fed meeting in December and this has compelled us to close the trade. Furthermore, a sustained rebound in Chinese activity remains elusive and we are concerned by the impending data flow at the start of the year which could be negatively impacted by yoy base effects. We therefore think it is prudent risk management to close this trade now. Our longer-term conviction for a lower GBP/AUD remains.

#### Technicals: GBPAUD head and shoulders top and range breakdown working

Our year head bias was also bearish GBPAUD due to a head and shoulders top, broken trendline and bearish Elliott wave count. We still see some downside potential. The range breakdown targets 1.84 and head and shoulders top target is just below 1.82. The 200wk SMA is in the middle at 1.8328. We consider fading a bounce to 1.8850/1.90 resistance (Exhibit 2).



#### Exhibit 2: GBPAUD - weekly chart

Head and shoulders top and wave "C" down was expected in/into 2024, This has seen follow through. Potential for lower lows in 1H24 remain as downside targets are 1.84/1.82. Consider fading 1.8850/1.90.



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# Closing EURNOK lower via risk reversal

For premium 1.91% EUR (spot ref: 11.3215, vol refs: 9.67% and 10.13%), we are closing our Year Ahead 2024 recommendation to position for EURNOK lower by buying a 11.35 EURNOK put and selling a 12.20 call with expiry 15 May 2024 (see <u>G10 FX Year Ahead: The year of the landing 20 November 2023</u>). We had <u>received 0.7307% EUR on November 16 (spot ref: 11.8623, vol refs: 8.929 and 9.108). Please see the <u>Global FX Weekly</u> for our open trade recommendations and trade closed in the last 12 months.</u>

EURNOK was the EUR cross that moved the most from November 16 until the year-end, with most of the factors we had discussed (more recently in Four reasons we like NOK 15 Dec 23) likely contributing to its move lower: 1) Risk sentiment was supported after the Fed embraced our (and markets') "soft landing" narrative. 2) Norges Bank was hawkish in December (see our Norges Bank Dec 23 review). Meanwhile, despite the ECB remaining cautious, the Euro area data remained weak. 3) Norges Bank's NOK sales moved meaningfully lower, with the 2022 petroleum tax revenue in the rear-view mirror.

With the market now pricing more/faster Fed rate cuts vs our base case and a relative Norges stance that matches our expectations, we see near-term risks of EURNOK moving higher.

Still, with our EURNOK year-end forecast at 10.90, which counts on our forecasts of EURUSD at 1.15 by year-end and Brent averaging 90\$/bbl in 2024, we will be looking for opportunities to reengage.

#### Technicals: EURNOK finding some support at Jul-23 lows

Our year head bias was bearish EURNOK due to a systematic sell signal (red 13), a broken uptrend (red dashed line) and no new highs in 2H23 above 12.11. Price turned down to the bottom of the range and is finding some support at the 11.10-11.20 area last tested in July 2023. This is a reasonable place to close short trades provided a range continues. To resume a decline with more technical conviction, price will need to break



support to confirm a double top and signal a drop to 10.70 / 10.50 (Exhibit 3).

#### Exhibit 3: EURNOK - weekly chart

Price declined to the low end of the range, in line with our year ahead views.



Source: BofA Global Research, Bloomberg, DeMark Analytics

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