Deutsche Bank Research

Asia China

Economics China Macro in Charts

Revising current account forecast to deficit

China's current account is on a structural downward trend owing to strong consumption and competition from peer exporting countries. We had expected the current account surplus to disappear by 2020 (see our report <u>here</u>). But a number of recent events have led us to believe that the current account may shrink faster than expected.

- Goods imports remained strong in July and August, while exports moderated slightly (<u>Figure 1</u>). Services trade continued to be in deficit. As a result goods and services surplus was only USD12bn in July and August, a 70% reduction from the same months last year (<u>Figure 2</u>).
- Trade war escalated with the US imposing 10% additional tariff on almost \$200bn of Chinese exports in September. This will reduce China's exports to the US in Q4 2018, and even more so in 2019 when the tariff rate rises to 25%.
- 3. The government loosened monetary and fiscal policies since mid-year to boost domestic demand. Last week the government further announced to cut import tariff rates for a wide range of products. The cut will reduce China's overall tariff rate to 7.5% from 9.8% last year. These measures will boost imports and further shrink the trade surplus.

We now expect exports growth to drop to 5% in 2019 from 11% in 2018, before rebounding slightly to 7% in 2020 (<u>Figure 3</u>). Imports growth will also slow but at a more gradual pace. As a result, we expect the current account to turn into a small 0.2% of GDP deficit in 2019 and 0.4% deficit in 2020 (previous forecasts: 0.3% surplus in 2019 and 0% in 2020) (<u>Figure 4</u>). China will likely allow the RMB to depreciate. We maintain our USDCNY forecast of 7.4 by end-2019.

Inflation pressures are building

Food prices continued to rise in recent months. While price increases in July and August were largely seasonal, recent price hikes in September looked more alarming (<u>Figure 5</u>). Extreme weather arguably played a role as typhoons and heavy rainfall hit the east coast. Nevertheless we are becoming more vigilant about inflation risks. With policy loosening and the RMB depreciating, inflation pressures are building up for the coming months. Our inflation forecasting model now shows 25% probability of CPI inflation rising above 3% 12 months ahead, up from 22% last month (Figure 6).

Date 1 October 2018



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> China Macro in Charts (CMiC) is a comprehensive chart pack that highlights key macro economic developments. It covers four broad themes: (1) economic activities and price development; (2) monetary and capital market development; (3) trade, capital flows, and RMB exchange rate; and (4) fiscal development.

It also provides regular updates on in-depth research in our previous publications.

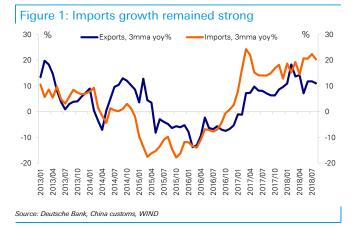
Other China Macro publications in September:

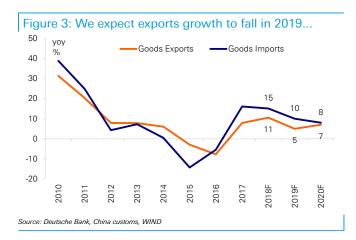
How will China handle the trade war, 4 Sept Growth stable while inflation rose in August , 14 Sept

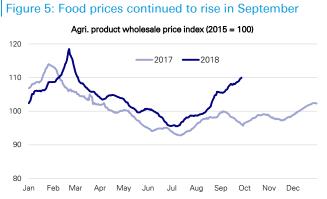
Trade war may be put on hold? 14 Sept Here comes the real trade war, 18 Sept When will the trade war affect China's exports? 19 Sept Trade war and supply chains, part I, 27 Sept

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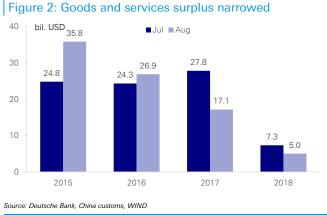
Featured charts







Source: Deutsche Banks, Ministry of Agriculture, WIND



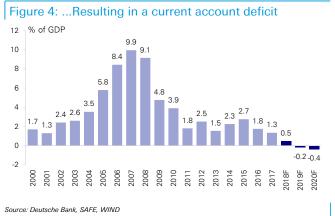


Figure 6: CPI inflation, model forecast

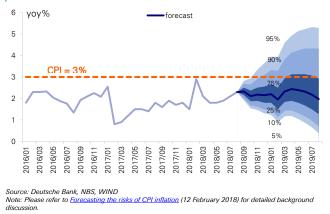




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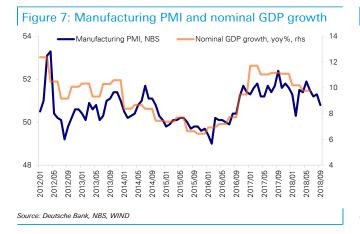
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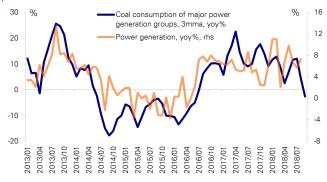
1. Economic activities and price development

1.1 High frequency leading indicators

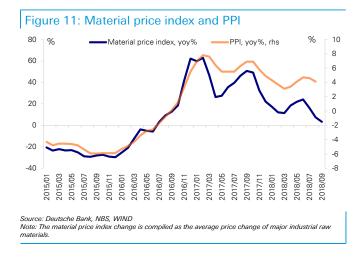
PMI weakened, financial conditions eased substantially







Source: Deutsche Bank, NBS, WIND



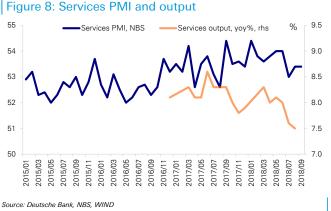
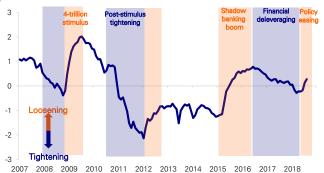
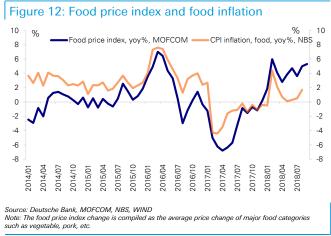


Figure 10:A Financial Conditions Index for China



Source:Deutsche Bank

Note: Please refer to <u>China Macro: Launching a Financial Conditions Index (FCI) for China</u> (30 May 2018) for background discussion.



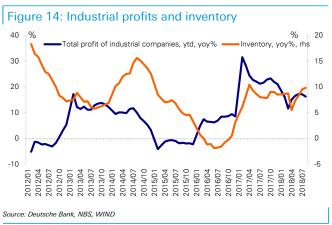


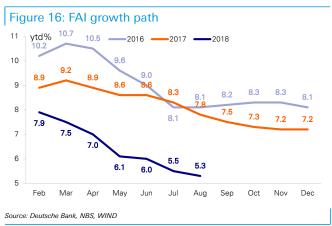
1.2 Headline activity indicators Investment growth declined further, retail sales stabilized













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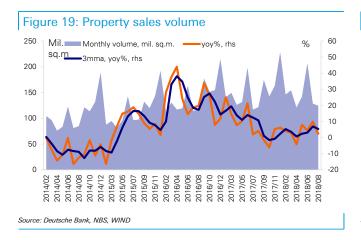
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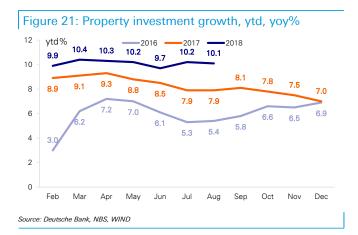
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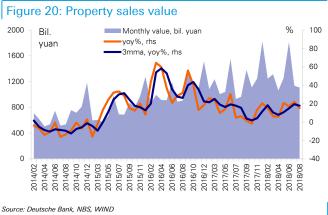
1.3 Property market

property market remained strong, new housing starts surged

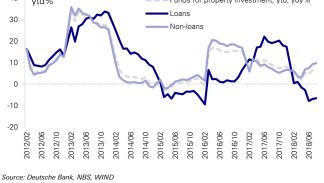
















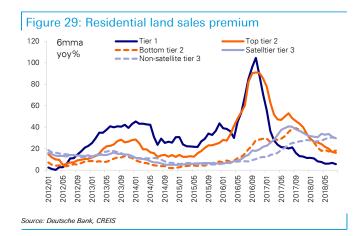
1.4 Land market Land sales growth declined

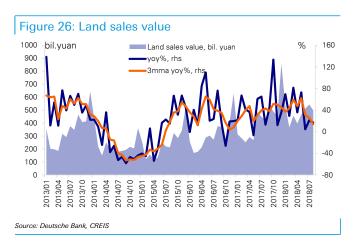


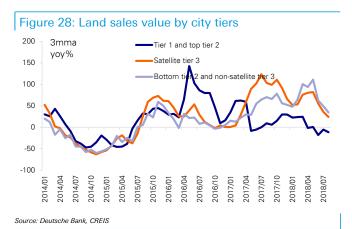


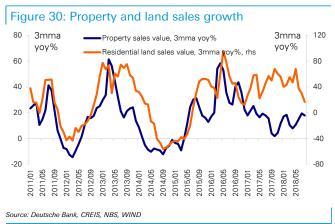


Source: Deutsche Bank, CREIS









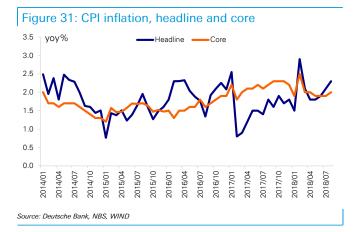
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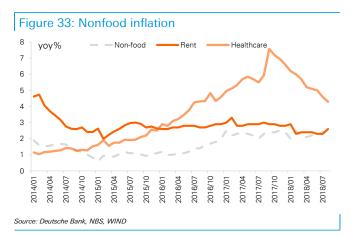
China Macro in Charts

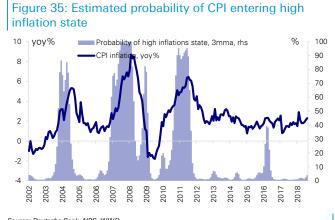
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1.5 Price development

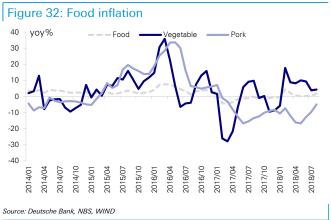
CPI Inflation rose in recent months

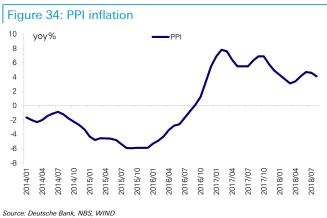




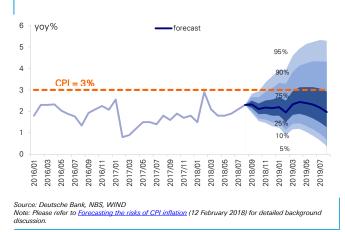


Source: Deutsche Bank, NBS, WIND Note: Please refer to <u>Forecasting the risks of CPI inflation</u> (12 February 2018) for detailed background discussion.











2. Monetary and capital market indicators

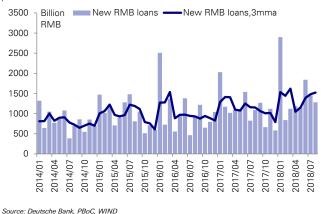


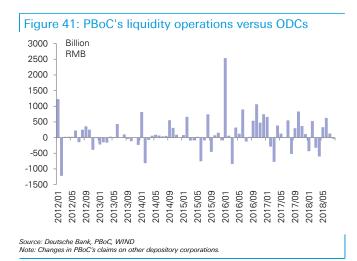


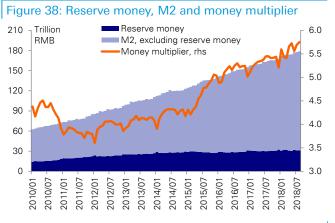


Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, WIND

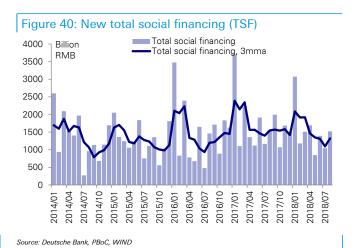




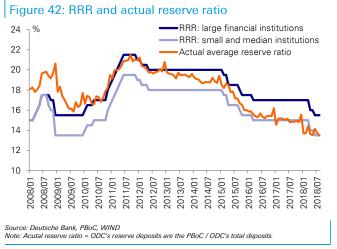




Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, WIND





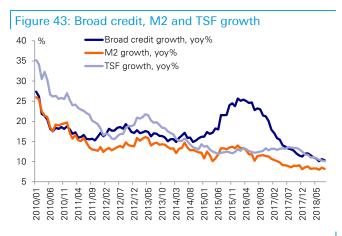


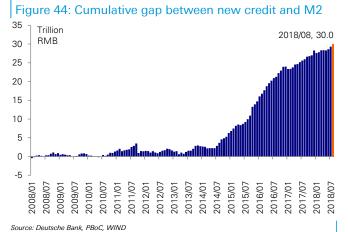
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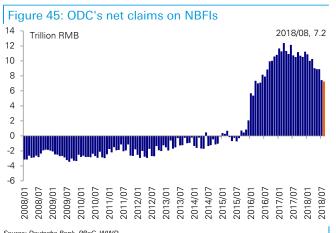
2.2 Shadow banking indicators

Shadow banking sector continued to deleverage



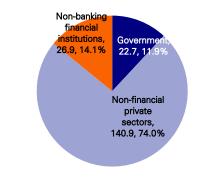


Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, WIND

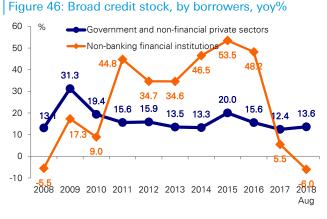


Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, WIND

Figure 47: Broad credit decomposition, tri. yuan, August 2018

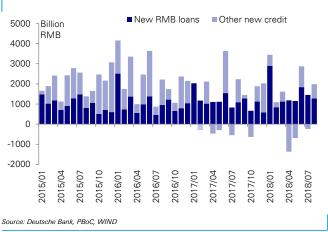


Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, WIND



Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, WIND

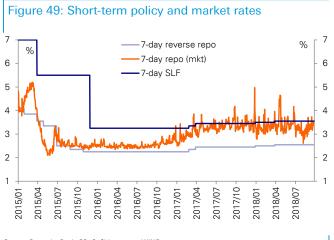




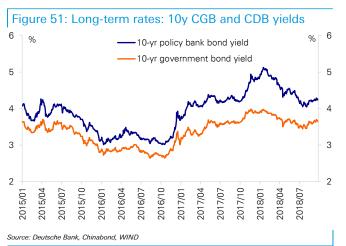


2.3 Policy and market rates

Interest rates edged up in September



Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, Chinamoney, WIND



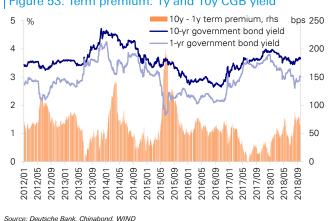
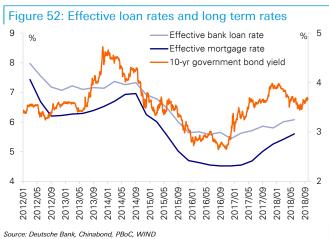


Figure 50: Short-term liquidity conditions: interbank CD and 7d repo rates





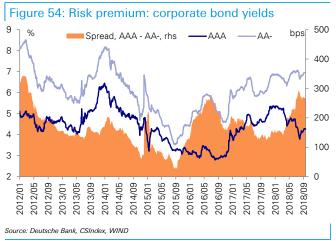


Figure 53: Term premium: 1y and 10y CGB yield

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2.4 Bond market development

Local governments speeded up bond issuance

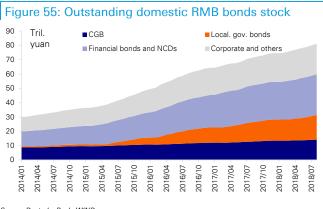
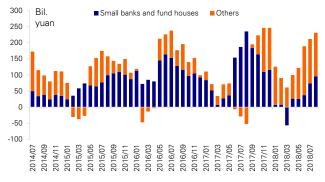


Figure 56: Local government bond issuance



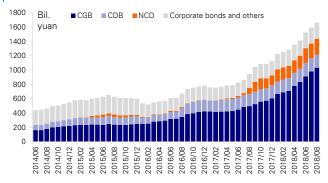
Source: Deutsche Bank, WIND





Source: Deutsche Bank, Chinabond, WIND

Figure 59: Foreign bond holdings of domestic RMB bonds

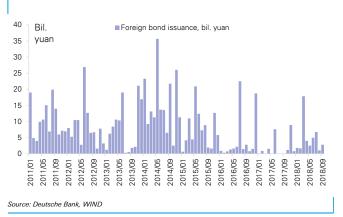


Source: Deutsche Bank, Chinabond, WIND

Figure 58: Bond purchase and yields, CGB and CDB



Figure 60: International bond issuance

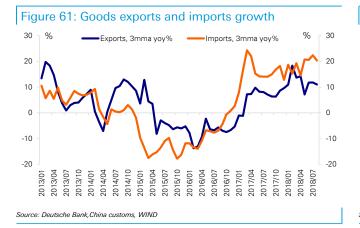


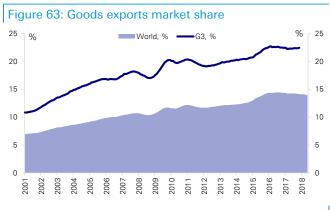


3. Trade, capital flows and RMB exchange rate



trade surplus narrowed upon strong imports growth





Source: Deutsche Bank, IMF DOTS, Haver Analytics

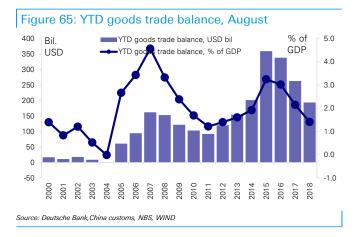
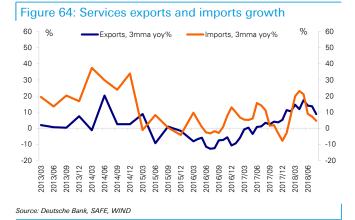
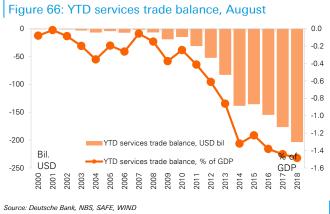


Figure 62: Goods exports and imports price indices







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3.2 RMB exchange rate

USDCNY stabilized from sharp depreciation

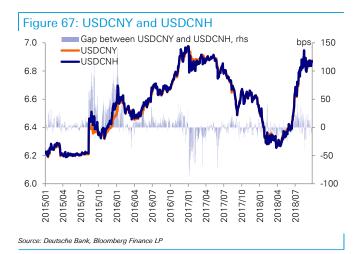
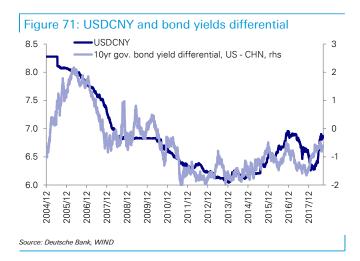
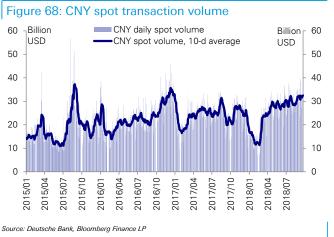
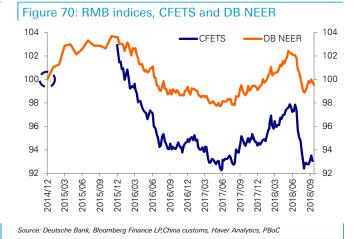


Figure 69: Dollar index and USDCNY 110 30 USDINDEX USDCNY gap 105 25 20 100 95 15 90 10 5 85 80 0 200 <u>9</u>8 202 $\overline{0}\overline{0}$ 000 20

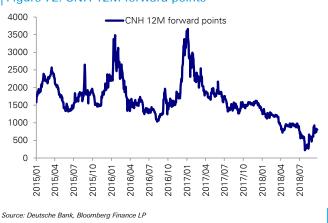
Source: Deutsche Bank, Bloomberg Finance LP, WIND







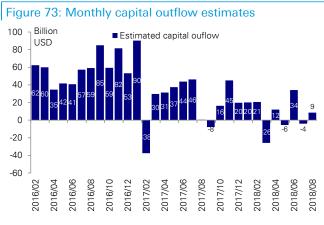






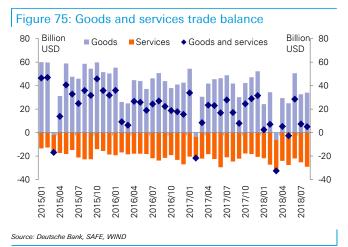
3.3 Capital flow monitor

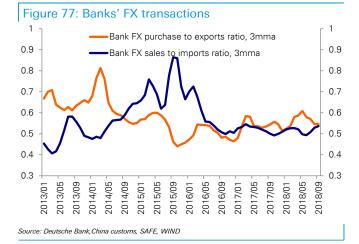
Capital flow was stable despite RMB depreciation

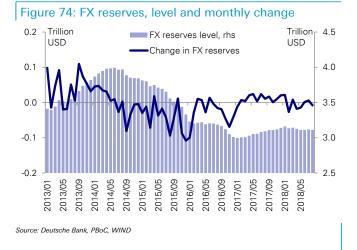


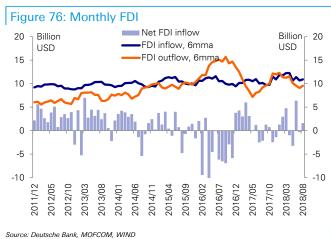
Source: Deutsche Bank, PBoC, SAFE, MOFCOM, WIND

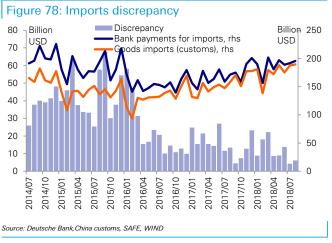
Note: It is estimated as changes in FX reserves, adjusted for goods and services trade balance, net FDI flows, revaluation effects and cross-border RMB settlement.









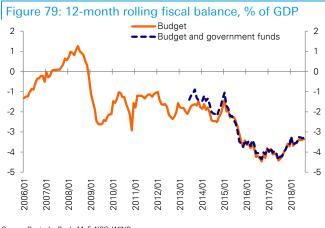


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1 October 2018

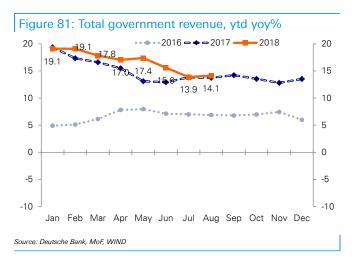
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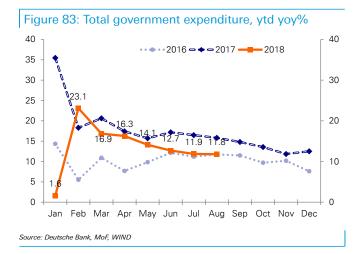
4. Fiscal indicators



YTD fiscal balance remained on track towards a smaller deficit







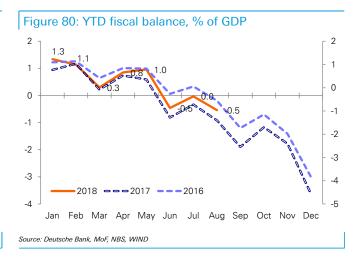
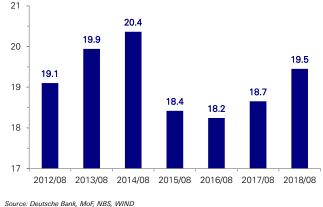


Figure 82: YTD total government revenue, % of GDP



22 20.0 19.6 20 18.8 18.5 18.2 18 17.4 16.8 16 14 12 10 2012/08 2013/08 2014/08 2015/08 2016/08 2017/08 2018/08 Source: Deutsche Bank, MoF, NBS, WIND

Figure 84: YTD total government expenditure, % of GDP

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5. Key macro economic forecasts

Figure 85: Key macro economic indicators

	2015	2016	2017					2018F					- 2019F
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Annual	Q1	Q2	Q3 F	Q4 F	Annual	- 2019F
Real GDP growth, yoy%	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.3
Economic Activities and Price development													
FAI growth, ytd yoy%	10.0	8.1	9.2	8.6	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.5	6.0			7.0	6.5
Industrial production growth, ytd yoy%	6.1	6.0	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.7			6.2	6.2
Retail sales growth, ytd yoy%	10.7	10.4	10.0	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.2	9.8	9.4		-	10.5	10.5
CPI, period average %	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.6	2.2	1.8		-	2.1	2.4
PPI, period average %	-5.2	-1.3	7.4	5.8	6.2	5.9	6.3	3.7	4.1		-	3.5	1.7
Monetary													
M2 growth, end of period, %	13.3	11.3	10.6	9.4	9.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.0		-	9.0	8.8
Credit growth, end of period, %	16.5	10.9	10.4	10.4	11.1	10.6	10.6	11.6	11.3		-	11.0	10.8
1yr deposit rate, end of period, %	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		-	1.5	1.5
Trade, capital flows and RMB exchange rate													
Goods exports, billion USD	2273	2098	480	564	591	636	2264	544	630			2501	2626
Goods imports, billion USD	1680	1587	417	444	474	505	1841	498	535		-	2122	2335
Goods trade balance, billion USD	594	511	63	120	117	131	423	46	95		-	379	292
Goods trade balance, ytd % of GDP	5.4	4.6	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.5	3.5	0.3	1.0		-	2.8	2.1
Current account balance, billion USD	331	196	18.4	50.9	40.5	164.9	164.9	-34.1	-		-	68	-27
Current account balance, ytd % of GDP	3.0	1.8	0.2	0.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	-		-	0.5	-0.2
FDI, net inflow, billion USD	62	-59	13	4	-3	-3	11	9	2		-	50	50
FX reserves, trillion USD, end of period	3.33	3.01	3.01	3.06	3.11	3.14	3.14	3.14	3.11		-	3.00	2.80
USDCNY, end of period	6.49	6.94	6.89	6.78	6.65	6.51	6.51	6.3	6.6		-	6.95	7.40
Fiscal													
Fiscal balance, ytd % of GDP	-3.4	-3.8	0.2	-0.8	-1.9	-3.6	-3.6	0.3	-0.5			-3.5	-3.5



Appendix 1

Important Disclosures

*Other information available upon request

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1 October 2018 China Macro in Charts



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