PSCE update: Private sector credit extension moderated in June on slower corporate credit growth

29th July 2019

- The rate of private sector credit extension moderated to 6.9% y/y in June from 7.7% y/y in May, mainly on a slowdown in corporate credit growth.
- The corporate credit category is the main influencing factor over the changes in private sector credit extension as it comprises 55.7% of the total.
- Corporate credit growth slowed to 7.5% y/y in June from 9.0% y/y in May, partially on account of higher statistical base factors established in June 2018, that were underpinned by an acceleration in unsecured credit growth.
- In June, credit extended to households remained virtually steady at 6.2% y/y versus 6.1% previously.
- On aggregate, total unsecured credit growth slowed to 6.8% y/y from 9.5% y/y in May. This category typically represents the demand for corporate funding, and for households, unsecured credit is presently utilised to supplement incomes to fund household expenses (according to TransUnion).
- Mortgage advances remained relatively subdued at 4.9% y/y in June versus 4.7% y/y in May. The SARB has assessed that the rate of increase in mortgage advances has been “dampened by a lack of employment opportunities, modest property price increases, uncertainty regarding land expropriation without compensation, and tight lending criteria.”
- Growth in vehicle finance remained unchanged at 7.9% y/y in June and is consistent with the relatively weak vehicle sales performance. The SARB expects that “(w)eak income growth, (…) the carbon tax, the increase in the fuel levy and higher vehicle running costs” will constrain vehicle sales in 2019.
- Weak economic activity, and particularly low rates of private sector fixed investment, as well as depressed business confidence have constrained the appetite for corporate credit.
- The moderation in labour income growth and high levels of indebtedness raise consumer financial vulnerability. This coupled with low consumer confidence suggests that consumers will be reluctant to finance additional spending with more borrowing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>May 2019</th>
<th>June 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total loans and advances (excl. investment &amp; bills)</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Finance (installment sales &amp; leasing finance)</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage Advances</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other loans &amp; advances</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer credit</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate credit</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PSCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>7.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.9</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SARB

Figure 1: Private sector credit: contributions to total credit growth

Figure 2: Growth in the components of PSCE
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