

For inquiries related to this article, please contact:

Alain.Marckus@bankfab.com

Christofer.Langner@bankfab.com

6 August, 2020

## Beware of the Turkish lira's potential impact on gold prices

◆ Turkish lira dropped 5% against the US dollar and 5.3% against the euro in the past two days.

◆ Turkey has 83% of its foreign currency reserves in gold, one of the highest percentages of the yellow metal in the world.

◆ The country has burned through more than a third of its FX reserves this year as it defended the lira.

◆ Turkey has sold mostly foreign currency reserves while it continued to build its gold stash.

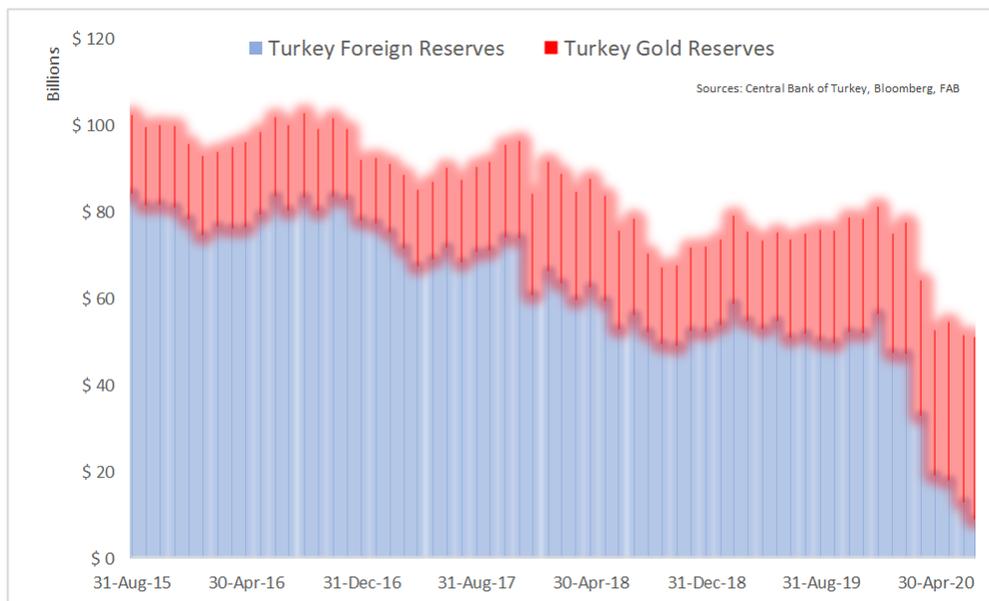
◆ Further selling of the lira could create a ripple effect on other currencies and hit gold prices too.

◆ The FAB AAC has recently reduced its overweight position in gold, though it remains bullish about the metal.

One of the challenges for investors in modern times is that markets are so connected that seemingly unrelated events can have wide-ranging impacts. A sudden sell-off in the Turkish lira is a candidate for that kind of situation.

The Turkish currency has gone on a free-fall in the past two days, having dropped 5% against the US dollar and 5.3% against the euro, reaching all-time lows against both currencies today. The move was sparked by an unintended effect of a recent liquidity squeeze imposed by the central in a bid to control the devaluation of the lira, which began in 2018.

The sharp move has already started to impact other emerging market currencies but could soon spread wider.



The South African rand, which suffers from some of the same ailments as Turkey (current account deficits and high debt) and is also a carry-trade favourite, has started to sink, down 2.3% in the past two days. Based on previous moves of this kind, the next candidates would be the Brazilian real and the Indonesian rupiah, though those are yet to feel the impact.

Perhaps the asset at the biggest risk of being dragged into the lira cyclone is gold. Turkish banks are allowed to hold gold as liquid reserves — one of the few countries that allows that — and could sell gold to meet foreign currency payments if the lira continues to drop. More importantly, the Turkish central bank's foreign exchange reserves are heavily concentrated in gold.

As of 24 July, the latest data available, almost 83% of Turkish foreign reserves were held in gold, the highest such percentage in recent history. This means that if the central bank has to burn reserves to protect the lira it will sell gold.

### Turkey has burned through 37% of its reserves this year, but has not touched its gold

Such a large seller of gold could push the price down, particularly as the yellow metal's price has just breached through several resistances which, on its own, could already have prompted some profit-taking. This happened in 2018, when the central bank sold roughly 5 million ounces of gold between June and October as it tried to slow down the lira's depreciation.

This year, the Turkish central bank has already burned through about 37% of its FX reserves, but it has chosen to keep its gold. In fact, in ounces, the amount of gold Turkey holds is higher than at the end of 2019. The seeming bet on the yellow metal has worked out well as it rose 35% year-to-date. With the lira under pressure, however, Turkey's central bank may have to sell, and that could hit gold prices.

# Investment Strategy Update

**Disclaimer:** This report has been prepared and issued by Products & Services - Elite & Private Banking ("P&S-EPB") of First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC ("FAB") outlining particular services provided by P&S-EPB. This report is for general informational purposes and does not constitute or form part of any offer or invitation to sell, or any solicitation of any offer to purchase or subscribe for, any shares in FAB or otherwise or a recommendation for a particular person to enter into any transaction or to adopt any strategy nor shall it or any part of it form the basis of or be relied on in connection with any contract therefore. Anyone proposing to rely on or use the information contained in this publication should independently verify and check the accuracy, completeness, reliability and suitability of the information and should obtain independent and specific advice from appropriate professionals or experts.

This report is provided on a confidential basis for informational purposes only and is proprietary to P&S-EPB. This report may not be disclosed to any third party or used for any other purpose without the prior written consent of P&S-EPB. The manner of circulation and distribution may be restricted by law or regulation in certain countries, hence any unauthorised use or disclosure of this document is prohibited.

The information in this report reflects prevailing conditions and our views as of this date, which are accordingly subject to change. In preparing this report, we have relied upon and assumed, without independent verification, the accuracy and completeness of all the information available from public sources or which was otherwise reviewed by us. FAB PJSC makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information in this report. FAB PJSC shall have no liability to the Customer or to third parties for the quality, accuracy, timeliness, continued availability or completeness of any data or calculations contained and/or referred to in this report nor for any special, direct, indirect, incidental or consequential loss or damage which may be sustained because of the use of the information contained and/or referred to in this report or otherwise arising in connection with the information contained and/or referred to in this report, provided that this exclusion of liability shall not exclude or limit any liability under any law or regulation applicable to FAB PJSC that may not be excluded or restricted.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future performance and should not be seen as an indication of future performance due to a variety of economic, market or other factors. The information contained in this report does not purport to contain all matters relevant to any particular investment or financial instrument and all statements as to future matters are not guaranteed to be accurate. Any projections of potential risk or return are illustrative and should not be construed as limitations of the maximum possible loss or gain. Data included in this report may not take into account all potentially significant factors, such as market risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. Undue reliance should not be placed on forward looking statements in making an investment decision.

In addition, our analysis are not and do not purport to be appraisals of the assets, stock or business of the recipient and has been prepared without taking into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of particular person. Even when this presentation contains a kind of appraisal, it should be considered preliminary, suitable only for the purpose described herein and not be disclosed or otherwise used without the prior written consent of P&S-EPB. FAB clients may already hold positions in the assets subject to this report and may accordingly benefit from the buying or selling of such assets as referred to in this report. This document does not purport to set out any advice, recommendation or representation on the suitability of any investment, transaction or product (as referred to in this document or otherwise), for potential purchasers. In receiving this report, the client is fully aware that there are risks associated with investment activities. Potential purchasers should determine for themselves the relevance of the information contained in this document and the decision to purchase any investment contained herein should be based on such investigation and analysis as they themselves deem necessary. Before entering into any transaction potential purchasers should obtain the investment offering materials, which include a description of the risks, fees and expenses and ensure that they fully understand the potential risks and rewards of that transaction (including, without limitation, all financial, legal, regulatory, tax and accounting consequences of entering into the transaction and an understanding as to how the transaction will perform under changing conditions) and that they independently determine that the transaction is appropriate for them given their objectives, experience, financial and operational resources and other relevant circumstances. Potential purchasers should consider consulting with such advisers and experts as they deem necessary to assist them in making these determinations.

FAB is acting solely in the capacity of a potential arm's-length contractual counterparty and not as a financial adviser or fiduciary in any transaction unless we have otherwise expressly agreed so to act in writing. FAB does not provide any accounting, tax, regulatory or legal advice. FAB is licensed by the Central Bank of the UAE.

**London:** FAB London Branch is Authorized by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority. Details about the extent of our regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority are available from FAB London branch on request. Registered in England & Wales: Company No: FC009142: VAT No: GB245 3301 91.

**Paris:** FAB Paris Branch is licensed by the French Prudential Control Authority as a credit institution. FAB Paris is registered in France under the company number: RCS Paris B 314 939 547.

**Switzerland:** This publication is for informational purposes only and is not intended as an offer, or a solicitation of an offer, to buy or sell any investment or other specific product. Certain services and products are subject to legal restrictions and cannot be offered worldwide on an unrestricted basis and/or may not be eligible for sale to all investors. This report is for distribution only under such circumstances as may be permitted by applicable law. All information and opinions expressed in this document were obtained from sources believed to be reliable and in good faith, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to its accuracy or completeness. All information and opinions as well as any prices indicated are currently as of the date of this report, and are subject to change without notice. The analysis contained herein is based on numerous assumptions. Different assumptions could result in materially different results. At any time the First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC and/or FAB Private Bank (Suisse) SA may have a long or short position, or deal as principal or agent, in relevant securities or provide advisory or other services to the issuer of relevant securities or to a company connected with an issuer. Some investments may not be readily realizable since the market in the securities is illiquid and therefore valuing the investment and identifying the risk to which you are exposed may be difficult to quantify. Futures and options trading is considered risky. Past performance of an investment is no guarantee for its current or future performance. Some investments may be subject to sudden and large falls in value and on realization you may receive back less than you invested or may be required to pay more. Changes in foreign exchange rates may have an adverse effect on the price, value or income of an investment. First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC and/or FAB Private Bank (Suisse) SA expressly prohibit the distribution and transfer of this document to third parties for any reason. First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC and/or FAB Private Bank (Suisse) SA will not be liable for any claims or lawsuits from any third parties arising from the use or distribution of this document.

**Singapore:** First Abu Dhabi Bank P.J.S.C., Singapore Branch is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and holds a Wholesale Bank license.

For more details relating the investment products, please refer to the Prospectus and/or offering document on <https://www.bankfab.ae/en/invest>. Please contact your relationship manager for information relating to subscription, redemption, dividends, client eligibility and/or any other information relating to the investment products.