

## **ECONOMIC COMMENT**

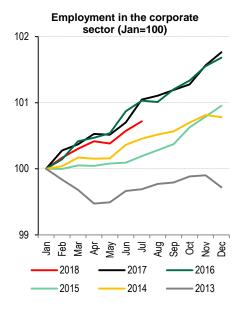
17 August 2018

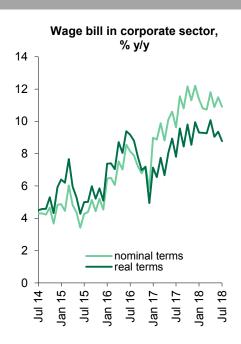
## Labour market a bit weaker in July

Labour market data for July were in line with our expectations and weaker than the market expected. Employment growth has slowed to 3.5% y/y from 3.7% y/y in June (in line with our call and vs. market consensus at 3.6%), after a rise by 9k m/m. Still, slowdown was mostly due to high base effect (+20k m/m in July 2017), as the newest reading is one of the strongest Julies in the last years. In our view, the demand for labour remains strong. Wages decelerated to 7.2% y/y from 7.5% y/y in June (our forecast: 7.3% y/y, market: 7.6% y/y). June's result was dragged higher by one-off payments in mining, so July saw a mere normalization of wage growth. Detailed data on wage and employment will be released at the end of August. We are expecting the wage growth to gain strength in the months to come. Strong labour market will be supportive for households' disposable incomes and hence private consumption.

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