



Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- The United States has experienced a hit to labor not seen since the Great Depression as the country battles the coronavirus outbreak. Last week, 5.2 million people filed for unemployment claims, bringing the total to 22 million in the four weeks since Trump declared a national emergency. The figure represents 13.5% of the labor force. Other data showed manufacturing activity fell to levels unseen since 1980, while homebuilding collapsed by 22.3% in March - the most in 36 years. Economists are predicting the economy contracted in the first quarter.
- Meanwhile, the severity of the outbreak in China has resulted in the lowest gross domestic product growth in decades, ending an era of uninterrupted expansion. In the first three months of 2020, GDP plummeted by 6.8% according to the National Bureau of Statistics. The data marks a historic moment for the world's second-largest economy as it is the first quarter China has recorded a contraction since publishing those figures in 1992. As large portions of the country remain in lockdown, China's three main engines for growth stagnated. Retail spending fell 19% last quarter, exports plunged over 13%, and fixed asset investment declined 16%. The country now faces the challenge of reviving growth and halting job losses while demand from major trading partners abroad declines. Hours after the GDP report release on Friday, Beijing pledged to deliver more stimulus. Despite the contraction, the International Monetary Fund predicted China's economy will grow 1.2% in 2020 and 9.2% in 2021, still placing it upon the best performers among major economies.
- The greenback in its safe-haven capacity has held up considerably among its global counterparts. Last week, the dollar rose while the euro, yen, and swiss franc lost ground. The sterling ended the week higher at 1.2499, maintaining its recovery from its March plummet.
- Stocks rallied on Wall Street, with the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average up 1.13% and 1.8% respectively. Amazon and Netflix surged to record highs as stay-at-home orders drove demand for both services.

Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.0670	1.0770	1.0876	1.0980	1.1080
GBP	1.2300	1.2400	1.2500	1.2600	1.2700
JPY	105.50	106.50	107.51	108.55	109.45
CHF	0.9470	0.9565	0.9671	0.9770	0.9870

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.0876	(2.98)	EUR/GBP	0.8699	2.90
GBP/USD	1.2499	(5.66)	GBP/JPY	134.45	(5.84)
USD/JPY	107.5100	(1.24)	EUR/JPY	116.93	(4.12)
USD/CHF	0.9671	(0.08)	EUR/CHF	1.0516	(3.10)

Brief Technical Commentary

EUR/USD: The pair moved up to the 1.0892 level during Friday's trading session and closed for the week at 1.0876. EUR/USD Resistance are at (1.0980-1.1080) any break above would take the pair up to 1.1225. Short term outlook is Neutral.

GBP/USD: The pair moved up to the 1.2522 level during Friday's trading session and closed for the week at 1.2500. GBP/USD Supports are at (1.2300-1.2400) any break below would take the pair down to 1.2075. Short term outlook is Neutral.

Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	1.31	1.63	1.88	2.13	2.38
USD	0.18	0.67	1.11	1.10	0.98
EUR	-0.48	-0.37	-0.18	-0.09	-0.02
GBP	0.11	0.25	0.66	0.72	0.89
CHF	-0.79	-0.72	-0.59	-0.53	-0.44
AUD	0.98	0.42	0.70	0.70	0.71

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
16-Apr-20	AUD	Unemployment Rate	5.2%	5.4%	5.1%
16-Apr-20	USD	Unemployment Claims	5245K	5350K	6615K
17-Apr-20	USD	President Trump Speaks			
17-Apr-20	CNY	GDP q/y	-6.8%	-6.2%	6.0%
21-Apr-20	AUD	RBA Gov Lowe Speaks			
21-Apr-20	EUR	German ZEW Economic Sentiment		-40.0	-49.5
22-Apr-20	GBP	CPI y/y		1.5%	1.7%
23-Apr-20	EUR	Flash Services and Manufacturing PMI			
23-Apr-20	USD	Unemployment Claims			5245
23-Apr-20	USD	Flash Manufacturing PMI			48.5

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.14	0.20	0.36	0.64	1.26
Germany	-0.56	-0.71	-0.67	-0.48	-0.07
United Kingdom	0.09	0.07	0.17	0.30	0.68
Japan	-0.18	-0.16	-0.12	0.00	0.48

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	% Change
Kuwait Oil	20.53	0.49	Dow Jones	24,242.49	2.99
Brent	28.08	0.93	Nikkei 225	19,897.26	3.15
West Texas	18.27	(8.05)	S&P 500	2,874.56	2.68
Gold	1,700.00	(1.03)	KuwaitSE	4,799.00	1.11

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