

#### Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- US consumer confidence fell in March to its lowest level since mid-2017. The index fell 12.6 points, the steepest since 2011 and is currently at 120. The data came prior to this month's layoffs data as more businesses close down, and illustrates concerns about the economy's near-term outlook amid the coronavirus pandemic. The US now has the highest number of confirmed cases, and as the virus intensifies confidence is expected to drop further.
- Meanwhile, China's manufacturing index rebounded to an unexpected expansion of 52 in March, following a sharp drop to the record low of 35.7 in February. The National Bureau of Statistics said the reading "reflects that more than half of the surveyed enterprises have resumed work and resumed production, better than last month, but it does not mean that China's economic operation has returned to normal". The rebound is somewhat expected due to February's record low base and does not necessarily signal stabilization in economic activity. The country's services PMI also saw an increase to 52.3 in March from 29.6 in the prior month. The services sector accounts for more than half of China's economic output, and may face limitations moving forward as measures such as travel bans weigh on the sector's recovery. China must now also face a collapse in overseas demand amidst the coronavirus pandemic, leading many to estimate recovery is still far from assured.
- US stocks ended lower in yesterday's trading, marking the worst ever first quarter for the Dow Jones Industrial Average. The Dow has fallen 23% for the first quarter, registering a 1.8% drop yesterday alone. The S&P 500 index and Nasdaq Composite followed similar paths, falling 1.6% and 0.95% respectively. Oil prices saw slight relief on hopes that Saudi Arabia and Russia may call a truce on their price war to stabilize the battered market. Brent crude is currently trading at around 26.09, recovering from the low of 21.67 seen this week.

**Brent Crude**  
3-Month Performance



**S&P 500**  
3-Month Performance



#### Chart Points and Other Technical Input

| CCY | 2nd Support | 1st Support | Spot   | 1st Resistance | 2nd Resistance |
|-----|-------------|-------------|--------|----------------|----------------|
| EUR | 1.0880      | 1.0940      | 1.1022 | 1.1080         | 1.1120         |
| GBP | 1.2160      | 1.2280      | 1.2381 | 1.2440         | 1.2525         |
| JPY | 106.25      | 107.20      | 107.74 | 108.40         | 108.90         |
| CHF | 0.9510      | 0.9570      | 0.9610 | 0.9670         | 0.9749         |

#### Major Currencies

| CCY     | Closing Rate | YTD %  | CCY     | Closing Rate | YTD %  |
|---------|--------------|--------|---------|--------------|--------|
| EUR/USD | 1.1029       | (1.68) | EUR/GBP | 0.8883       | 5.28   |
| GBP/USD | 1.2418       | (6.62) | GBP/JPY | 133.54       | (6.60) |
| USD/JPY | 107.5300     | (1.07) | EUR/JPY | 118.66       | (2.67) |
| USD/CHF | 0.9608       | (0.69) | EUR/CHF | 1.0603       | (2.38) |

#### Brief Technical Commentary

GBPUSD looks steadier than before, even though more swings are expected after the death toll number surged. A range of 1.2480 to 1.22 should be firm, but put in considerations GBP bulls have lost drive and a return of US dollar dominance should be taken seriously.

USDJPY lowered today to 107.25 as more investors buying JPY and selling USD after a high of 108 during Asian time zone. A lower trend looks to be shaped after the break of higher highs rally from 107.00 to 108.80, as more cases in US are being uncovered.

#### Local & Global Rates

| CCY | 1-Week | 1-Month | 3-Month | 6-Month | 1-Year |
|-----|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| KWD | 1.38   | 1.75    | 2.00    | 2.25    | 2.44   |
| USD | 0.59   | 0.98    | 1.43    | 1.09    | 1.01   |
| EUR | -0.45  | -0.39   | -0.26   | -0.20   | -0.19  |
| GBP | 0.13   | 0.25    | 0.57    | 0.73    | 0.86   |
| CHF | -0.80  | -0.80   | -0.66   | -0.58   | -0.46  |
| AUD | 0.93   | 0.64    | 0.90    | 0.81    | 0.80   |

#### Economic Events

| Date      | Country | Event                       | Actual | Forecast | Previous |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| 27-Mar-20 | CAD     | BOC Rate Statement          |        |          |          |
| 27-Mar-20 | CAD     | Overnight Rate              | 0.25%  |          | 0.75%    |
| 31-Mar-20 | CNY     | Manufacturing PMI           | 52.0   | 44.9     | 35.7     |
| 31-Mar-20 | USD     | CB Consumer Confidence      | 120    | 115.1    | 130.7    |
| 1-Apr-20  | USD     | ADP Non-Farm Employment     |        | -125K    | 183K     |
| 1-Apr-20  | USD     | ISM Manufacturing PMI       |        | 46.0     | 50.1     |
| 2-Apr-20  | USD     | Unemployment Claims         |        |          | 3283K    |
| 3-Apr-20  | USD     | Average Hourly Earnings m/m |        | 0.2%     | 0.3%     |
| 3-Apr-20  | USD     | Non-Farm Employment         |        | -81K     | 273K     |
| 3-Apr-20  | USD     | ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI   |        | 48.0     | 57.3     |

#### Government Yields

| Country        | 1-Year | 2-Year | 5-Year | 10-Year | 30-Year |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|
| United States  | 0.13   | 0.23   | 0.35   | 0.63    | 1.30    |
| Germany        | -0.77  | -0.71  | -0.67  | -0.49   | 0.02    |
| United Kingdom | 0.10   | 0.11   | 0.21   | 0.36    | 0.83    |
| Japan          | -0.15  | -0.14  | -0.13  | 0.00    | 0.41    |

#### Commodities

| Index      | Last Price | % Change | Index      | Last Price | % Change |
|------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|
| Kuwait Oil | 28.62      | 8.86     | Dow Jones  | 21,917.16  | (1.84)   |
| Brent      | 22.74      | (0.09)   | Nikkei 225 | 18,565.08  | (1.86)   |
| West Texas | 20.50      | 0.10     | S&P 500    | 2,584.59   | (1.60)   |
| Gold       | 1,584.10   | 0.83     | KuwaitSE   | 4,822.71   | 1.33     |

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