

Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- The dollar held steady against a basket of major currencies on Monday after pulling back slightly from a 3-month high last week as the benchmark US 10-year Treasury yield moved back down below the psychological 3.0% level. Other than the FOMC meeting Wednesday, there are several significant labor market figures to be released this week. Markets will be paying attention to Friday's non-farm payrolls and average hourly earnings to better predict the FOMC tightening schedule.
- Oil prices edged lower on Monday as a rising rig count in the United States pointed to higher production. Prices however, held near their three year highs and were on track to rise for a second consecutive month. The recent rise was driven by supply concerns amid prospects of the United States reimposing sanctions on Iran, while OPEC-led producers continue to withhold supplies. Brent dipped 0.6%, to \$74.19 a barrel while US West Texas were at \$67.80 a barrel, down 0.44%, from their last settlement.
- Meanwhile in the UK, the sterling pound recorded a second week of losses after official data showed economic growth slumped in early 2018, prompting investors to scale back their bets that interest rates will rise in May. The yield on two-year gilts, which are highly sensitive to rate expectations, fell by more than seven basis points to as low as 0.794%, the lowest level since March 16. The last time the two-year gilt yield fell that much in one day was Nov. 2, when the Bank of England raised rates for the first time in more than 10 years but said it expected only "very gradual" increases as Brexit approached. The growth data indicated that Britain's economy grew at its weakest pace since the fourth quarter of 2012, expanding by just 0.1% in the first quarter of 2018. The pound ended up falling 240 points during the past week alone, ending it at a level of 1.3778.

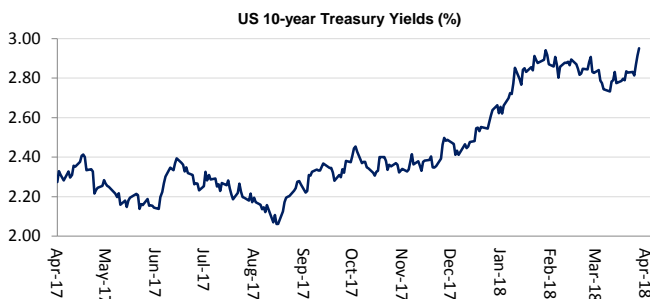
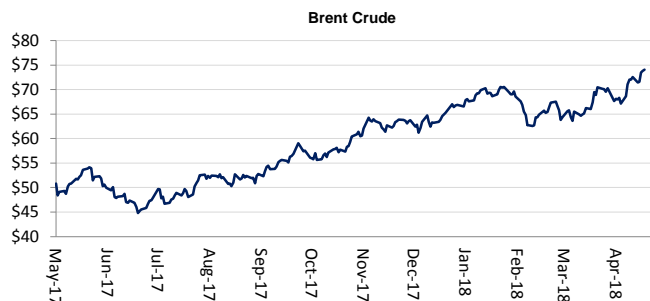


Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.2020	1.2075	1.2126	1.2180	1.2225
GBP	1.3680	1.3725	1.3778	1.3825	1.3875
JPY	108.15	108.65	109.15	109.65	110.15
CHF	0.9775	0.9825	0.9877	0.9930	0.9975

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.2128	1.13	EUR/GBP	0.8799	(0.83)
GBP/USD	1.3778	1.89	GBP/JPY	150.32	(1.16)
USD/JPY	109.03	(3.08)	EUR/JPY	132.27	(2.00)
USD/CHF	0.9877	1.37	EUR/CHF	1.1980	2.52

Major Crosses

Brief Technical Commentary

EUR/USD: The pair moved down to the 1.2053 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 1.2126. EUR Resistance is at (1.2225-1.2245) any break above targets 1.2315 and Support is at (1.2020-1.2050) any break below targets 1.1915. The pair is currently Neutral.

USD/JPY: The pair moved down to the 108.95 level during Friday's trading session and currently trading at 109.15 USD/JPY Resistance is at (110.15-110.50) any break above targets 111.75. The pair is currently Bullish.

Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	1.25	1.75	2.00	2.19	2.44
USD	1.75	1.91	2.36	2.52	2.78
EUR	-0.42	-0.40	-0.36	-0.32	-0.24
GBP	0.49	0.52	0.71	0.81	0.98
CHF	-0.80	-0.78	-0.73	-0.65	-0.52
AUD	1.35	1.88	2.07	2.15	2.30

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
30-Apr-18	CNY	Manufacturing PMI		51.3	51.5
30-Apr-18	EUR	German Retail Sales m/m		54.6	54.6
30-Apr-18	USD	Core PCE Price Index m/m		0.2%	0.2%
1-May-18	GBP	Manufacturing PMI		54.9	55.1
2-May-18	USD	ADP Non-Farm Employment		194K	241K
2-May-18	USD	FOMC Statement			
3-May-18	GBP	Services PMI		53.3	51.7
4-May-18	USD	Average Hourly Earnings m/m		0.2%	0.3%
4-May-18	USD	Non-Farm Employment		185K	103K
4-May-18	USD	FOMC Dudley Speaks			

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	2.22	2.48	2.81	2.96	3.13
Germany	-0.68	-0.57	-0.04	0.58	1.24
United Kingdom	0.69	0.79	1.14	1.45	1.86
Japan	-0.15	-0.14	-0.11	0.05	0.74

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	Change
Kuwait Oil	69.77	(0.48)	Dow Jones	24,311.19	(11.15)
Brent	76.07	(0.03)	Nikkei 225	22,467.87	148.26
West Texas	68.06	(0.15)	S&P 500	2,669.91	2.97
Gold	1,317.34	(0.34)	KuwaitSE	4,780.12	(1.68)

All information has been sourced from Reuters

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