



Highlights in the Foreign Exchange Market:

- Since mid-March, 26.5 million Americans have filed for unemployment benefits. This represents 16.2% of the labor force. The data confirms that all jobs gained during the country's longest employment boom has been wiped out. The expansion which began in September 2010 and ended this February added 22 million jobs. Initial claims for state unemployment benefits totaled 4.427 million for the week ending April 18, the Labor Department said. That compared to 5.237 million in the prior week. President Donald Trump who is seeking re-election for the second term has been eager to restart the economy battered by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Other data released last week revealed US flash manufacturing and services PMI's at 36.9 and 27.0 respectively. The US Composite Output Index - which tracks both the manufacturing and services sector - fell to its lowest level since 2009 at 27.4 this month from 40.9 in March. New home sales saw the largest percentage decline since 2013, dropping 15.4%.
- The US Federal Reserve will slow the pace at which it plans to buy Treasuries. In its unlimited QE program that began last month, it will now buy around \$10 billion a day during the April 27-May 1 week. That compares to purchases of \$15 billion for the previous week. Meanwhile, President Trump signed a \$484 billion package that includes more financial aid for small businesses.
- The greenback rallied last week aided by a historic drop in oil prices. Gains receded as prices later stabilized leading the dollar index to end the week at 100.380. The euro and sterling both ended the week higher, while the yen and swiss franc lost some ground. On Wall Street, the S&P 500 index and Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.86% and 0.62% respectively for the week aided by positive earnings results.

Chart Points and Other Technical Input

CCY	2nd Support	1st Support	Spot	1st Resistance	2nd Resistance
EUR	1.0650	1.0740	1.0820	1.0890	1.0920
GBP	1.2150	1.2290	1.2371	1.2420	1.2500
JPY	106.00	106.80	107.50	108.00	108.50
CHF	0.9625	0.9680	0.9729	0.9780	0.9820

Major Currencies

CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %	CCY	Closing Rate	YTD %
EUR/USD	1.0820	(3.48)	EUR/GBP	0.8749	3.49
GBP/USD	1.2367	(6.73)	GBP/JPY	132.88	(6.9)
USD/JPY	107.5000	(1.25)	EUR/JPY	116.35	(4.5)
USD/CHF	0.9730	0.54	EUR/CHF	1.0528	(2.9)

Major Crosses

Brief Technical Commentary

EURUSD: EUR closed around 1.08 with a bearish outlook. This week's highlight will be Thursdays ECB meeting as the commentary may move the markets to 1.0740 and 1.0650. USD will become the currency to buy as global economy will be hit hard.

GBPUSD: GBP reached 1.2370 more steady in the range from 1.2150 and 1.2550. Like many world economies, the pound will suffer severely; support should be tested around 1.2250. Expectation of a long term lower trend around 1.20 and safe havens should be in demand.

Local & Global Rates

CCY	1-Week	1-Month	3-Month	6-Month	1-Year
KWD	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25
USD	0.16	0.44	0.89	0.92	0.94
EUR	-0.49	-0.40	-0.15	-0.07	-0.01
GBP	0.10	0.23	0.64	0.72	0.88
CHF	-0.78	-0.71	-0.57	-0.54	-0.43
AUD	0.01	0.05	0.50	0.44	0.80

Economic Events

Date	Country	Event	Actual	Forecast	Previous
23-Apr-20	USD	Unemployment Claims	4427K	4350K	5237K
23-Apr-20	USD	Flash Manufacturing PMI	36.9	35.1	48.5
24-Apr-20	GBP	Retail Sales m/m	-5.1%	-4.5%	-0.3%
24-Apr-20	EUR	German Ifo Business Climate	74.3	79.8	85.9
24-Apr-20	USD	Core Durable Goods Orders m/m	-0.2%	-6.1%	-0.7%
28-Apr-20	JPY	BOJ Outlook Report			
28-Apr-20	JPY	Monetary Policy Statement			
29-Apr-20	AUD	CPI q/q		0.2%	0.7%
29-Apr-20	USD	Advance GDP q/q		-3.9%	2.1%
29-Apr-20	USD	FOMC Statement			

Government Yields

Country	1-Year	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.16	0.22	0.37	0.60	1.17
Germany	-0.56	-0.72	-0.67	-0.48	-0.10
United Kingdom	0.08	0.05	0.17	0.29	0.62
Japan	-0.21	-0.18	-0.17	-0.04	0.40

Commodities

Index	Last Price	% Change	Index	Last Price	% Change
Kuwait Oil	16.10	(0.98)	Dow Jones	23,775.27	1.11
Brent	21.44	0.52	Nikkei 225	19,262.00	(0.86)
West Texas	16.94	2.67	S&P 500	2,836.74	1.39
Gold	1,727.43	(0.22)	KuwaitSE	4,713.17	0.59

Global Indices

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