

MARKET SUMMARY

FX	CLOSE(Asia)	CLOSE(NY)	Daily Δ*	Wkly Δ
JPY	155.88	156.22	+0.44	+2.30
EUR	1.0775	1.0790	+0.0019	+0.0021
AUD	0.6602	0.6608	+0.0004	▼0.0017
SGD	1.3544	1.3535	▼0.0011	+0.0023
CNY	7.2347	7.2334	+0.0065	+0.0246
INR	83.53	83.53	+0.03	+0.03
IDR	16084	16080	+35	+55
MYR	4.7450	4.7295	▼0.0102	▼0.0098
PHP	57.85	57.87	+0.44	+0.64
THB	36.81	36.82	+0.09	+0.02

*compared with previous day CLOSE(NY)

Yields	CLOSE	Daily Δ	Wkly Δ
USD (10YR)	4.487%	▼1.0 bp	▼0.1 bp
JPY (10YR)	0.937%	+2.5 bp	+3.6 bp
EUR* (10YR)	2.510%	▼0.7 bp	+4.2 bp
AUD (5YR)	4.014%	▼0.3 bp	▼6.7 bp
SGD (5YR)	3.285%	+4.5 bp	+5.4 bp
CNY (5YR)	2.102%	▼4.5 bp	▼2.4 bp
INR (5YR)	7.120%	▼0.7 bp	+1.4 bp
IDR (5YR)	6.952%	+0.5 bp	+4.6 bp
MYR (5YR)	3.741%	+0.7 bp	▼0.5 bp
PHP (5YR)	6.481%	+1.5 bp	+3.8 bp
THB (5YR)	2.509%	▼1.0 bp	▼3.3 bp

* German bunds

Equity Indices	CLOSE	Daily Δ	Wkly Δ
DJIA (US)	39,431.51	▼0.21%	+1.49%
N225 (JP)	38,179.46	▼0.13%	▼0.15%
STOXX 50 (EU)	5,078.96	▼0.12%	+2.46%
ASX (AU)	4,575.33	▼0.24%	+2.38%
STI (SG)	3,303.66	+0.39%	+0.01%
SHCOMP (CN)	3,148.02	▼0.21%	+0.23%
SENSEX (IN)	72,776.13	+0.15%	▼1.51%
JSE (ID)	7,099.26	+0.15%	▼0.51%
KLSE (MY)	1,602.91	+0.14%	+0.35%
PSE (PH)	6,604.25	+1.42%	▼0.73%
SET (TH)	1,372.50	+0.04%	+0.19%

Commodity	CLOSE	Daily Δ	Wkly Δ
CRB	287.69	▲0.61%	+0.03%
COPPER (LME)	10,082.40	+1.87%	+2.99%
IRON ORE (CN)	117.29	+0.53%	▲1.96%
GOLD	2,336.32	▲1.02%	+0.53%
OIL (WTI)	79.12	+1.10%	+0.82%

Three Take-Aways

- 1) Pre-US CPI, markets are by the side-lined as evidence of broad-based inflation cooling.
- 2) Markets can easily turn circumspect about extending risk on or cheer "Goldilocks" no landing.
- 3) Regardless, EM Asia FX may be compromised as "for longer" Fed conspires with China risks.

Of Inflation & Infatuation

- So it may not quite be unqualified infatuation. Nonetheless, there is no denying that markets are **obsessing over CPI**, respectfully taking to the side-lines in the run up. After the early-2024 pick-up in inflation that interrupted the dis-inflation path, **markets are scrutinizing the underlying trajectory**. Specifically, trying to gauge if the **early-2024 inflation bump** turns out to be a **pedestrian blip in, or a provocative and persistent break from, dis-inflation**.

- To be sure, an emphatic case of the latter could turn out to be undesirable for risk appetite.

- But for now, **infatuation has gotten the better of equity bulls and bond bears alike**. **Equity bulls** looking to extend rallies *interpret "sticky" inflation as evidence of a "hot", "no landing" economy that can still deliver bumper earnings*. **Bond bears** meanwhile grasp at least *deferred, if not materially dampened scope for, rate cuts*; with more extreme bets on higher neutral rates. That said, it is unclear a priori whether "Goldilocks" assumptions (of "risk on despite higher rates) will endure post-CPI. Fact is, **markets could just as easily either adopt circumspection to trim risk or cheer the state of risk appetite unfettered by higher rates**. And reasons for either (circumspection or cheer) abound.

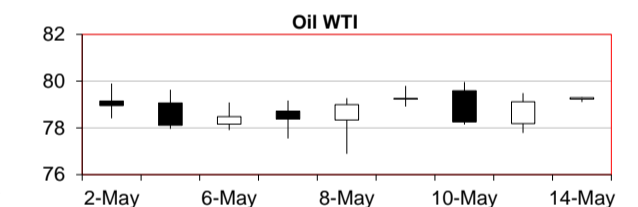
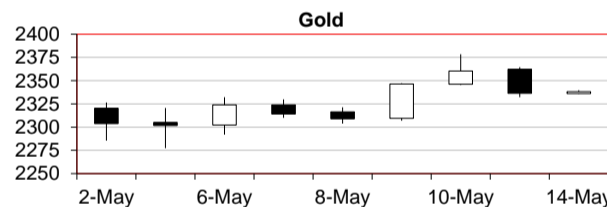
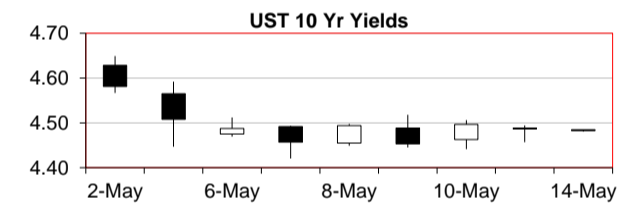
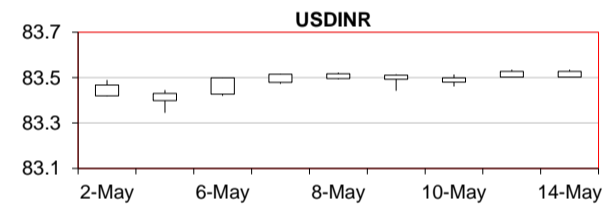
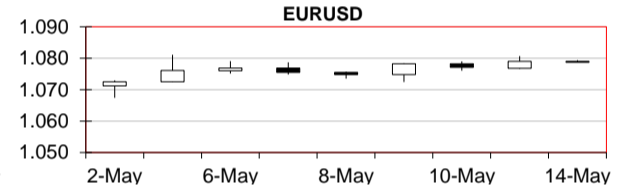
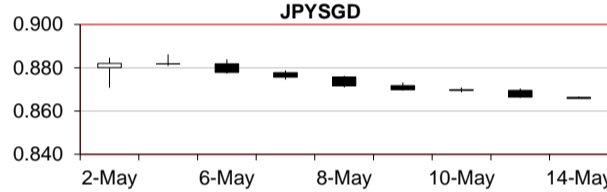
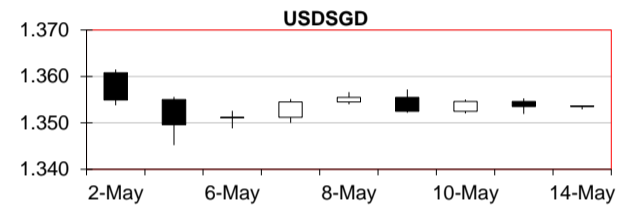
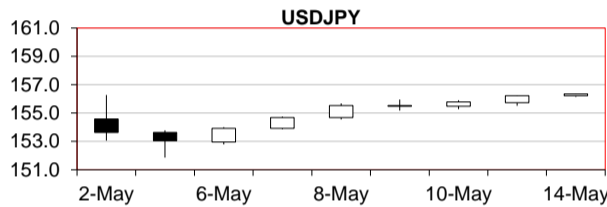
Three Reasons for Circumspection

- 1) "Buy the Rumour, Sell the Fact": With a resumption of dis-inflation in April almost universally expected, perceptions of inadequate dis-inflation may trigger a retrenchment of risk.
- 2) Elevated (Inflation) Expectations: What's more, even if there is some cooling in inflation pressures, the recent read of elevated inflation expectations from UoM survey, with distinctly higher upside inflation extremes, may trigger understandable caution.
- 3) Inflationary Geo-politics: Finally, a conspiracy of geo-political risks from threats of supply disruptions due to conflict to mounting trade tensions with the risk of escalatory tit-for-tat tariffs point to problematic inflationary risks.

OVERNIGHT RESULTS

(IN) CPI YoY (Apr): 4.8% (Mkt: 4.8%; Mar: 4.9%)

* Past Two Weeks Movement *



TODAY'S COMMENTS & FORECAST

Open

USD/JPY	156.23	EUR/USD	1.0793
USD/SGD	1.3530	USD/THB	36.80
JPY/SGD	0.8661	USD/MYR	4.730

Forecast

USD/JPY	154.00 - 156.50
EUR/USD	1.0720 - 1.0820
AUD/USD	0.6510 - 0.6640
USD/SGD	1.3490 - 1.3570
JPY/SGD	0.8620 - 0.8812
USD/CNH	7.2100 - 7.2500
USD/INR	83.40 - 83.60
USD/IDR	15900 - 16100
USD/MYR	4.728 - 4.750
USD/PHP	57.40 - 57.80
USD/THB	36.70 - 37.00

Today's Direction

	Bull	Bear
USD/SGD	1	2
USD/JPY	2	1

Three Reasons for Cheer

1) **Blip Not Outburst**: Yet, underlying inflation, despite bumpiness, appears set to cool further, and perhaps durably. Especially as slower moving components such as rentals as well as one-off lagged administrative adjustments start to ease.

2) **Wage-Price Spiral Risks Contained**: Crucially, **cooling wage pressures are poised to interact with signs of loosening jobs** (lower quit rates, openings and rising claims) to further, and **substantially dampen wage-price spiral risks**; the critical inflation "coolant" for the Fed.

3) **(Fed's) Response, Not Read**: Finally, and above all, it is the **Fed's response to, and not a naked read of, in-coming data that drives risk sentiments**. On that count, **cooling wage-price dynamics alongside the runway of "higher for longer" rates ought to nudge the Fed towards a cut soon enough - a matter of "when"**.

EM Asia: Looking for Love in the Wrong Places

- **Regardless** of which way risk appetite swings post-CPI, the warning is that **EM Asia may not be in pole position one way or another**. In other words, **US CPI** (and specifically relief on signs of dis-inflation resumed) **may be the wrong place to look for love for EM Asia assets and currencies**. Especially as, **geo-politics** (including and particularly, US-China trade tensions), **Fed speak backing "for longer" peak rate and remarks from the US Treasury discouraging FX intervention** all suggest **propensity for pressures in EM Asia FX to persist**. Point being, nothing in US CPI data is likely to distract from USD advantage from "for longer" or spill-over underlying fragilities from wider China/CNH risks. All of which point to **vulnerabilities in EM Asia FX**. And worryingly, it is **sometimes currency that drives wider policy, macro and market risks**.

FX Daily Outlook

- EUR/USD: Case for restrained rallies persist as UST yields remain elevated.
- USD/JPY: Intervention risk remain live to aid caution towards mid-156.
- USD/SGD: Rangebond around 1.35-mid-1.35 as CNH provide little relief.
- AUD/USD: Cautious consolidation around 66 cents ahead of US CPI.

TODAY EVENTS

(JP) PPI YoY (Apr): 0.9% (Mkt: 0.8%; Mar: 0.8%) | (IN) Wholesale Prices YoY (Apr): (Mkt: 1.1%; Mar: 0.5%) | (US) PPI Final Demand/Ex Food and Energy MoM (Apr): (Mkt: 0.3%/0.2%; Mar: 0.2%/0.2%) | (JP) Machine Tool Orders YoY (Apr P): (Mar: -3.8%) | (GE) ZEW Survey Current Situation/Expectations (May): (Apr: -79.2/42.9)

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