

WEEK AHEAD



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Economic Calendar

Date	Country	Event	Period	Survey*	Prior
10 Jun	EZ	Sentix Investor Confidence	Jun		-3.6
	JP	BoP Current Account Balance	Apr	¥1739.9b	¥3398.8b
	JP	Eco Watchers Survey Current/Outlook SA	May	48.6/49.0	47.4/48.5
	JP	GDP SA QoQ	1Q F	-0.5%	-0.5%
11 Jun	JP	Machine Tool Orders YoY	May P		-8.9%
12 Jun	US	CPI/Ex Food and Energy YoY	May	3.4%/3.5%	3.4%/3.6%
	US	Real Avg Hourly Earnings YoY	May		0.5%
	JP	PPI YoY	May	2.0%	0.9%
	US	FOMC Decision (Lower/Upper Bound)		5.25%/5.50%	5.25%/5.50%
13 Jun	US	Initial Jobless Claims			229k
	US	PPI Final Demand/Ex Food and Energy MoM	May	0.1%/0.3%	0.5%/0.5%
	EZ	Industrial Production WDA YoY	Apr		-1.0%
	JP	BSI Large All Industry QoQ	2Q		0.0%
14 Jun US		U. of Mich. Sentiment/Expectations	Jun P	73.0/-	69.1/68.8
	US	U. of Mich. 1Y/5-10Y Inflation	Jun P		3.3%/3.0%
	JP	BOJ Target Rate (Lower/Upper Bound)		0.00%/0.10%	0.00%/0.10%
	JP	Tertiary Industry Index MoM	Apr	0.4%	-2.4%

- Week-in-brief: Of Similarities & Idiosyncrasies

 UST yields fell as a slew of data releases in the past week affirmed softer labour markets. Regardless, growth alone may not be sufficient to tone down Fed hawks at the FOMC next week.

 Point being, it would take a more material growth deterioration (ISM services was the bright spot, even as manufacturing disappointed) and softer labour markets.

 As such, US CPI release merely hours before FOMC implies the need to brace for volatility and economic projections will be closely watched.

 The Fed is not alone in its preference to hold at elevated rates. While ECB acted in accordance to the well-telegraphed cut with only 1 dissenter, their statement was non-committal on rate paths, with attention geared towards wage growth and an upwardly revised inflation estimate. Meanwhile, Governor Bullock remarked that RBA will not hesitate to hike if inflation proves sticky, amid a still-tight labour market. While RBA could still ease on weak growth, the disappointing Q1 GDP print was likely within the boad's "quite low" growth expectations.

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- Ahead of the upcoming BoJ meeting, USD/JPY slid below 156 on expectations of reduced bond purchases. That said, any policy tightening would likely be viewed with dovish lens and risks derailing the already fragile growth without providing much support to the JPY.
 Over in EM Asia, IDR was pressured by fiscal woes, as the 2025 budget deficit cap at 2.8%, similar to the upwardly revised cap for 2024 is a material increase from 2023 budget deficit (1.7% of GDP). Even as the RBI proceeded with their widely expected hold alongside a GDP growth upgrade, INR underperformed after a tight victory for Modi, casting worries that diminished political sway could blunt the economic reform momentum; while PHP was unchanged as a lower inflation print in May (3.8%) risks increasing RSP's rate cut inclinatings.
- the economic reform momentum; while PHP was unchanged as a lower inflation print in May (3.8%) risks increasing BSP's rate cut inclinations.

 Elsewhere, THB was stronger for the week despite news that the Thai government was weighing nominees for BoT Board Chair. Looking ahead, feeble growth outlook and rising inflation back towads the target band imply a continued hold by BoT (12 Jun) while keeping a keen eye on adverse spillovers of fiscal policy. Finally, CBC (13 Jun) is expected to stand pat for now on contained inflation, although future hikes remain on the table should inflation surge as robust growth and a tight labour market provide policy room.

 FOMC- Dilution, Dispersion & Deferment

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- FOMC- Dilution, Dispersion & Deferment

 At the upcoming FOMC meeting, a hawkish hold is the expectation, with the 'Dot Plot'*' likely to feature as the barometer of hawkish restraint alongside the rhetoric and economic projections. To be sure, the base message will still be one of "when, not if" with regards to rate cuts ahead.

 But the timing and pace of these becomes a lot more debated and debatable. Needless to say, the post-FOMC press conference is going to be the main conduit to articulate far more nuanced views to complement the coded and constrained statement.

 But a lot more may be made of quantitative guidance from the quarterly revisions to economic projections (SEP)' as well as the updated 'Dot Plot'**. On the SEP revisions, the bar may be higher for downside in GDP growth and upside in unemployment to offset any upward revisions to inflation (with particular attention to core PCE).

 But arguably the "Dot Plot" will steal the thunder, given that it is seen as a distillation of economic risks to policy response. And for the "Dot Plots" three dimensions will feature.

 The first will be the hard-to-ignore, dilution in the median rate cuts projected for 2024 vis-a-vis the three rate cuts (75p reduction) priced into the March 'Dot Plot'.

 Dilution: Market expects 2024 rate cuts to be diluted down to 2 from 3. So, a lot is baked in, and a measured reduction in 2024 median lone may not be a higher hawkish joit for UST yields or the USD.

 Instead, the dispersion of FOMC projections is set to calibrate market reactions as it provides far more clarity and insight on FOMC thresholds for rate cuts.

 Dispersion: In particular, the tendency of the dispersion rate forecasts (how close the mean gets to just one cut instead of two) will have greater sway on hawkish market reactions (for higher yields and USD). In addition, so will the number of more extreme votes for (no cuts in 2024) referred to agrieve at longer-term 2.50% pand out. Deferment: Specifically, if diminished rate cuts for 2024 are simply
- Known as the SEP (summary of economic projections)

 This is a projection of where each member sees the Fed Fund rates as of the end of each year.

- BOJ: The Dovish Hike Risk

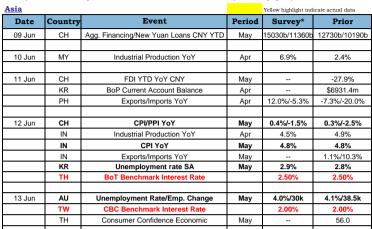
 The risk that any BoJ tightening could be disrespected as a dovish hike reinforces our pre-existing fundamental view that the be the BoJ has cause to extend the patient pause in any case. Even if the BoJ wants to convey that the direction of travel is for tightening, the key guiding principle is gradualism. Specifically, to be absolutely sure that policy accommodation is not removed in such a haste that it ultimately turns out to be deleterious.

 Fact is, underlying economic confidence is at best fragile if not fraught. And it is certainly underwhelming for household and uneven across small and large businesses.

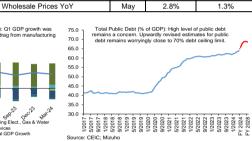
 Worst of all, if a hike is once again dismissed as a dovish hike, it would unnecessarily pose economic headwinds whilst depriving any residual JPYfinancial market stability. The policy equivalent of throwing good money after bad. So the risk of being unfairly framed as dovish hike is an additional reason not to pull the trigger just yet; although it has ample economic justifications for extending the patient pause.

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- the patient pause.

 Especially given that sharp JPY depreciation are likely to have had a significant role in boosting profits (of exporters) and the trickle down wage gains suggests that neither of the income tailwind is sustainable. Worse, could be reversed sharply And so, over-steering policy aggressively on the vagaries of the JPY and would risk a costly policy folly that also erodes future credibility. Crucially, relying on monetary policy to rein in JPY losses not only sets a dangerous precedent in undermining policy independence/control, but may exacerbate economic and attendant macro stability risks.







- For the upcoming BoT policy meeting (12 June), keeping rates unchanged is a foregone conclusion. Strictly speaking, the focus of monetary policy makers may hardly be on their own policy settings.

 Externally, the implications of the FOMC meeting right after the BoT's decision looms large as the THB remains weak, underperforming regional peers in EM-Asia on a YTD basis.

 The relative weakness though is not without reason as domestic growth remains highly skewed and worries around fiscal imbalances mount. Q1 GDP printing at 1.5% Y0Y which was an upside surprise was not much relief considering that the manufacturing sector contracted 3% Y0Y.

 The services sector was the main driver of growth contributing 2.3%-points with tourism related accommodation and food services as well as transportation and storage making up half of these gains.

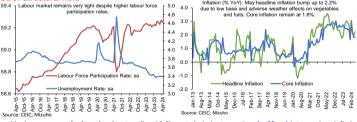
 Furthermore, the BoT will be worryingly concerned around the revised fiscal medium term framework in late May which showed expanded fiscal deficits and upwardly revised fiscal debt trajectory which falls dangerously close to the debt ceiling limits of 70% of GDP.

 Given that the increased debt will be used to finance the digital wallet scheme (cash handout) which is goods focused, the risk of leakages and rising import expenditures may hold back the THB recovery prospects on top of on-going concerns around the efficacy of the household transfer.

 We remain wary of warnings of a downgrade in ratings outlook should the official debt trajectory materialise given the slim buffers (~1.1% of GDP) to the legal ceiling and the relative contrast to regional peers embarking on fiscal consolidation.

 On balance, the feeble growth outlook and rising inflation back towards the target band (1-3%) imply continued hold to keep while keeping a close watch on adverse spillovers of fiscal policy.

CBC: Structural Hold



- Having pre-emptively raised rates (by 12.5bp at their last meeting in March) to anchor inflation expectations amid the electricity tariff hike in April, the CBC will keep rates unchanged on 12 June.
 Despite the electricity hike, inflation remain contained with core inflation at 1.8% in May. That said, adverse weather conditions saw a bump up in headline inflation to 2.2% (from 1.9% in April) underscoring

- adverse weather conditions saw a bump up in headline inflation to 2.2% (from 1.9% in April) underscoring the bumpy nature of the dis-inflation path. We expect further moderation in both core and headline inflation and end up more durably below the 2%-mark by end 2024. Nonetheless, these estimates remain significantly elevated than the pre-Covid trend (2016-19 avg: 1.0% headline, 0.9% core).

 In addition, amid the semiconductor recovery, growth stayed robust with industrial production levels up 7.1% on average in 2024 thus far (Jan-Apr) also backs the case to keep rates elevated.

 At this juncture, we are unable to convincingly rule out further hikes should inflation see a resurgence towards 2.5% as real rates remain accommodative rather than restrictive. (Real policy rate: 0.0% (April 2024); 0.4% (2016-19 avg).

 As such, even prospects of policy rate normalisation is doubted, barring adverse growth shocks.

 In fact, an unprecedentedly tight labour market adds to the case that underlying demand and associated price pressures may have structurally shifted for the medium term.

 Taiwan's labour force participation rates have continued to rise in 2024 and the increase in supply has not induced slack as the unemployment rate remains at record lows. Furthermore, job vacancies in Q1 2024 are higher than pre-pandemic levels.

- Induced stack as the unemployment rate remains at record lows. Furthermore, job vacancies in Q1 2024 are higher than pre-pandemic levels.

 Governor Yang's previous allusion to higher neutral rates ought to be given due merit. Reflecting these views, we only expect a 12.5bps calibration by the end of 2024.

 As for the TWD, the CBC's continued FX intervention for the tenth month is a reminder of its high beta and telling of the persistent deference to the volatility of the yield differentials with USTs.

Forex Rate

	Close*	Chg^	% Chg^	Wee	ek For	ecast
USD/JPY	155.33	-1.770	-1.13%	154.00	~	158.50
EUR/USD	1.0889	0.0063	0.58%	1.072	~	1.090
USD/SGD	1.3449	-0.007	-0.55%	1.3400	~	1.3580
USD/THB	36.417	-0.378	-1.03%	36.20	~	37.00
USD/MYR	4.695	-0.013	-0.28%	4.630	~	4.730
USD/IDR	16195	-55	-0.34%	15,900	~	16,400
JPY/SGD	0.8658	0.005	0.58%	0.849	~	0.879
AUD/USD	0.6667	0.003	0.45%	0.646	~	0.670
USD/INR	83.41	0.036	0.04%	82.9	~	83.6
USD/PHP	58.525	-0.001	0.00%	58.0	~	59.3

- FX: Slipping Cuts and Calibration
 This week, the USD slipped against most G10 peers as UST yields declined. The naunces behind the timing of policy rate calibration dictated FX outcomes.
- SEK led gains as the Riksbank Governor re-iterated that the bar is very high for a June cut (27 June) as they stick to their guidance of the two cuts being in H2.
 In the same vein, CHF continued to appreciate as the SNB turned less dovish.
- In contrast, at the other end, amid lower oil prices, the CAD weakened as the Bank of Canada initiated its first rate cut. Further slippages may slow as they cautioned against moving rates lower too quickly.
 While the EUR may have landed in the middle of the pack after the ECB's first rate cut, durable traction
- above 1.09 was found wanting given that markets had already priced in one cut left in 2024 prior to

EM-Asia: Suspicious Gains

- Alongside lower UST yields, KRW recovered with an outperformance this week on tailwinds from positive news from Samsung's memory chips being certified by Nvidia.

 That said, final approval is yet to be achieved and domestic CPI dis-inflation this week may allow
- dovish tones to seep into KRW.

 With the BoT set to hold their policy rate this week, the THB also outperformed regional peers
- However, the durability of these THB gains is suspect given reports of the government attempting to influence the BoT via personel selection and insistence of the digital wallet scheme implementation in Q4.
- In the abscence of CNH/CNY gains, EM-Asia FX gains may look shaky heading into FOMC next week.

Bond Yield (%)

4-Jun	2-yr	Chg (bp)^	10-yr	Chg (bp)^	Curve
USD	4.734	-13.9	4.291	-20.8	Flattening
GER	3.015	-7.4	2.549	-11.3	Flattening
JPY	0.333	-5.9	0.960	-9.8	Flattening
SGD	3.292	-7.7	3.190	-14.5	Flattening
AUD	3.975	-14.0	4.217	0.1	Steepening
GBP	4.282	-7.7	4.168	-14.8	Flattening

Stock Market

	Close	% Chg
S&P 500 (US)	5,235.48	-1.31
Nikkei (JP)	38,487.90	-0.41
EuroStoxx (EU)	4,983.68	-1.03
FTSE STI (SG)	3,333.65	0.52
JKSE (ID)	6,969.85	-3.50
PSEI (PH)	6,433.10	-2.82
KLCI (MY)	1,600.70	-1.15
SET (TH)	1,345.52	-1.39
SENSEX (IN)	74,071.69	-1.78
ASX (AU)	7,701.74	-0.33

UST: Reverse?

- A strong week for Treasuries as yields plummeted amid soft jobs data, where the UST yield curve flattened.
- Ahead of NFP print tonight, JOLTs job openings saw the lowest openings, ADP employment change fell while initial jobless claims rose; and unit labour costs were revised lower
- Nonetheless, we expect yields to reverse declines on a hawkish hold at FOMC next week. Afterall, while softer, the labour market is not in a state which necessitates a shift in the Fed's policy trajectory and over focus on combating inflation.

 We expect front end yields to move back to trade above 4.8%, although testing 5.0% may be
- too high a bar.
- Meanwhile, in a curve flattening move, we expect 10Y yields to see a milder climb (to around 4.35-4.50%) amid lower oil prices following OPEC+ flagging plans to sart returning supply to the market.

FX Brief:

- 1) JPY: Looking towards a BoJ hold next week merely affirms the JGB-UST gap to largely buoy above 154 though enlarged volatility surrounding details of potential rate hike and bond buying reduction imply enlarged range of
- 2) EUR: ECB's hawkish cut fails to re-take 1.09 this week. Hawkish Fed dot plot may see EUR shallow slips below 1.08. Trading largely rangebound between 1.08-1.09.
- 3) AUD: FOMC Dot Plot affirming 2 cuts alongside soft jobs report in Australia may see the AUD persist below 67 cents next week.
- 4) CNH: CNH unable to latch onto weaker USD trend as PBoC fixing continues to emphasize stability rather than appreciation.
- 5) INR: Slippage last week could reverse as initial knee-jerk reaction to elections dissipates; but caution on broad USD environment.
- 6) SGD: Soft CNH on fizzling optimism on property stimulus could backstop
- 7) IDR: Fiscal woes overhang could risk testing 16,300 levels, especially if dot plot shifts reveal Fed's hawkish sentiments.
- 8) THB: Further gains next week will rest on lower UST yields. Outperformance unlikely as depreciation risks stemed from prospects of

weaker BoT independence and digital wallet plans.

- 9) MYR: Resilience shown in the past few weeks could temper weakness towards 4.75 levels, but conversely, strength below 4.65 could be restrained by soft CNH
- 10) PHP: Risk of testing 59 levels remains especially with FOMC; and inflation prints plausibly increasing BSP's rate cuts inclinations.
- 11) KRW: Outperformance resembles more of recovery from the previous week's depreciation as UST yields decline and chip woes saw silver lining. Risk of retaking 1375 as FOMC affirms rate plans pushback.
- 12) TWD: Milder gains this week amid the broadly softer USD. Given a CBC hold next week, gains remain at risk from a hawkish Dot Plot





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