

FX Weekly Back to Consolidation?

The Week Ahead

- Dollar Consolidation. Support at 99; Resistance at 106
- USD/SGD Consolidation. Support at 1.32; Resistance at 1.36
- USD/MYR Bullish. Support at 4.34; Resistance at 4.60
- AUD/SGD Range. Support at 0.88; Resistance at 0.91
- SGD/MYR Bullish. Support at 3.30; Resistance at 3.39

Some Consolidation Possible, USD to Remain Supported on Dips

USD made a strong rebound in the past week on stronger US data and hawkish Fed rhetoric. The greenback was all the more boosted by the unravelling of the RMB after a slew of weak China data for Apr. Fed fund futures now imply around 66bps of rate cut vs. around 100bps seen this time, two weeks before. With rate cuts bets pared quite substantially, there could be more two-way risks from here for the UST yields and the USD. There could be increasing focus on the US debt ceiling unless a deal is reached soon (as indicated by both Biden and Kevin McCarthy). The earliest date that the Treasury could run out of cash is pencilled to be on 1 Jun according to Yellen and negotiations in the past typically drag until the eleventh hour. Treasury balance is reported to be \$68.3bn, lowest since 2021. We look for the DXY index to remain supported on dips.

The greenback has been more nuanced. We turn our attention to some of our North Asians where exports growth for South Korea and Taiwan could be bottoming, albeit still in contraction. That could be driving the KRW and TWD higher in anticipation for exports recovery. We have pencilled in short CNHKRW trade yesterday. We also prefer to short CNHAUD to reflect our view that AUD can still benefit from stronger AU-CH trade relations as well as any economic supports (infrastructure investments) that the government could unleash to prop up growth.

A Hike and Two Holds Next Week

We have three central bank decisions next week including RBNZ's as well as BoK's. We had looked for RBNZ to hold but that seem to be increasingly unlikely especially after the generous budget announced on Thu and expectations for NZ recession to be avoided. This was a significant contrast to the "no-frills" budget that the government had been touting. With that, we close our NZDCAD position today with small profit. For BoK, consensus looks for the central bank to sit on its hands. BI is likely to hold too on Thu and there are some expectations to end Operation Twist. Chinese banks are likely to take the cue from MLF and keep LPRs unchanged. Meanwhile, focus is also on preliminary PMI numbers for a sense of growth momentum. Some deterioration there could see some flight back to safe haven USD.

Other Key Data/Events We Watch Next Week

Mon: CH 1Y LPR, 5Y LPR

Tue: SG CPI (Apr), US, EC, AU, UK JP Mfg, Services PMI (May P)

Wed: RBNZ Policy, UK CPI (Apr), FOMC Minutes,

Thu: BI policy, Bok Policy, US GDP (1Q)

Fri: US PCE Core Deflator (1Q), Tokyo CPI (Apr), MY CPI (Apr)

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Our in-house model implies that S\$NEER is trading at +1.04% to the implied midpoint of 1.3600, suggesting that it is modestly firmer vs. other trading partner currencies.



Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events			
Dollar Index	S: 99; R: 106	Mon: Fed Bullard speaks, Bostic and Barkin discuss Tue: Philly Fed Non-Mfg Activity, Fed Logan speaks, Mfg PMI, Services PMI, New Home Sales (Apr), Richmond Fed Mfg index, Fed Richmond Fed Business Conditions (May) Wed: MBA Mortgage (May), FOMC Meeting Minutes (3 May), Thu: Chicago Fed Nat. Activity index (Apr), GD, Core PCE (1Q) Fri: Personal Income (Apr), PCE Core Deflator, Durable Goods Orders (Apr P), UNiv. of Mich. Sentiment(May F), Kansas City Fed Services Activity			
EURUSD	S: 1.05; R: 1.12	Mon: ECB Vujcic speaks, Guindos speaks, Construction output (Mar), Holzmann, Lane, Villeroy speaks, Consumer Confidence (May P) Tue: Guindos speaks, Mfg, Services, Comp PMI (May P), Muller, Villeroy, Nagel speak Wed: ECB Non-Policy Meeting in Frankfurt Thu: ECB Nagel, Villeroy speaks Fri: ECB Vujcic speak			
AUDUSD	S: 0.66; R: 0.7080	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Judo Bank Mfg, Services, Composite PMI (May P) Wed: RBA Jacob speaks Thu: -Nil- Fri: Retail sales (Apr)			
NZDUSD	S: 0.60; R: 0.65	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: Retail sales Ex inflation (1Q), RBNZ Policy Decision Thu: -Nil- Fri: ANZ Consumer confidence (May)			
GBPUSD	S: 1.2250; R: 1.27	Mon: Rightmove house prices (May) Tue: Mfg, Services, Composite (May P), BoE Haskel speaks Wed: CPI (Apr), RPI (Apr), BoE Bailey speaks, Andrew Bailey speaks Thu: CBI Reported sales (May) Fri: BoE Haskel speaks, Retail sales (Apr)			
USDCAD	S: 1.32; R: 1.37	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Industrial Product Price (Apr), Raw Materials Price (Apr) Wed: -Nil- Thu: CFIB Business Barometer(May) Fri: -Nil-			
USDJPY	S: 135; R: 140	Mon: Core machine orders (Mar) Tue: Jibun Bank Mfg, Services, Composite PMI (May P) Wed: Machine Tool Orders (Apr F) Thu: -Nil- Fri: Tokyo CPI, core CPI (Apr)			
USDCNH	S: 6.95; R: 7.10	Mon: 1Y LPR, 5Y LPR (22 May) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Industrial profits (Apr)			
USDTWD	S: 30.10 ;R: 31.03	Mon: Export orders (Apr) Tue: Industrial Production (Apr) Wed: Money supply (Apr) Thu: -Nil- Fri: GDP (1Q)			
USDKRW	S: 1315 ;R: 1340	Mon: Imports, Exports (20 days, May) Tue: consumer confidence (May), South Korea (1Q) Wed: Business survey Non-Mfg (Jun) Thu: PPI (Apr), Bok Policy Decision Fri: Retail sales			
USDSGD	S: 1.32; R: 1.36	Mon: -Nil- Tue: CPI (Apr) Wed: -Nil- Thu: GDP (1Q F) Fri: Industrial Production (Apr)			
USDMYR	S: 4.34; R: 4.60	Mon: Foreign Reserves (15 May) Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: CPI (Apr)			



Currency	Support/Resistance	Key Data and Events		
USDPHP	S: 53.10; R: 56.90	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: Budget (Apr) Fri: Bank Lending (Apr, 28-31 May due)		
USDIDR	S: 14,460; R: 15,070	Mon: -Nil- Tue: Current Account (1A) Wed: -Nil- Thu: BI Policy Decision Fri: -Nil-		
USDTHB	S: 33.00 ;R: 35.60	Mon: -Nil- Tue: -Nil- Wed: -Nil- Thu: -Nil- Fri: Foreign Reserves (19 May), Custom trade (Apr, due 26-31 May)		

Key FX Strategy

Date	Trade	Entry/[SL]	Objective(s)	P&L	Open/Closed	Remarks
24 Feb 23	Short AUDNZD	1.0915	1.0850, 1.0780	+1.24%	Closed	Hawkish RBNZ Stance should benefit the NZD vs. the AUD that could see RBA turning a tad dovish on recent moderation in CPI.
10 Mar 23	Sell USDJPY	137.50 [140.50]	132.40; 128.00			Markets look for +50bps hike from Fed. An NFP print in line with consensus could bring about USD weakness against the JPY. In addition, potential for credit /financial risks emerging could potentially drive safe haven JPY demand in addition to potentially lower UST yields. 17 Mar Remarks: Trade idea did not come to fruition due to a high entry price. That said, we retain bearish view for USDJPY to head towards 128.
24 Mar 23	Short GBPUSD	1.2240 [1.2380]	1.1890	-3.5%	Closed	Banking Crisis could linger. European banks are under pressure. Barring a potential contagion from the banking crisis, GBP could also weaken as BoE faces a dilemma between growth risks (weaker Mar mfg PMI) vs. elevated inflation. Risk reward of 1:2.5.



6 Apr 23	Buy the USDCAD	1.3479 [1.3380]	1.3550, 1.3630, 1.3700	-0.7%	Closed	Risk reward ratio is 1:2.2
14 Apr 23	Short EURAUD	1.6440 [1.6700]	1.5920, 1.5760	-2.6%	Closed	Risk reward ratio is 1:2.6
12 May 23	Short NZDCAD	0.8480 [0.8572]	0.8397, 0.8290, 0.8160	+0.7%	Closed at 0.8420	Risk reward ratio is 1:3.5
18 May 23	Short CNHAUD	0.2150 [0.2172]	0.2122, 0.2104, 0.2093	+0.5%	Open	Risk reward ratio is 1:2.1 Refer to FX Insight dated 18 May 2023
18 May 23	Short CNHKRW	190.10 [192.01]	188.10, 185.23			Risk reward ratio is 1:2.5 Refer to FX Insight dated 18 May 2023
Cumulative P/L			-1.8%			



Selected G7 FX Views

Currency

Stories of the Week

DXY Index Double Bottom Could Play Out. The DXY index has risen, finally playing out the double bottom formation that we flagged for several weeks now and has arrived around the 103.60-resistance. Beyond this level, there could be a move towards the 105.80 that we do not rule out but gains could slow. Support at 102.90.

> A significant driver of the USD strength is the rise of the UST yields on strong data with 10y seen around 3.66% while 2Y was last at 4.25%. The 2Y10Y inversion deepened further to -60bps. These were fanned higher by hawkish Fed speaks with Bullard looking for further rate hikes "as insurance" against inflation while Fed Logan opined that the current data does not support a pause in Jun. interestingly, probability of a rate hike implied by Fed Fund Futures is still quite low at 30% but rate cuts implied are now less than three by Jan 2024. With more Fed speaks scheduled next week along with the FOMC Minutes, expect the UST yields and USD to remain supported.

> Separately, Federal Reserve backstop liquidity facilities was utilized more last week with outstanding loans from the Bank Term Funding Program rising to \$87bn (a new high) while outstanding borrowing from the Fed's discount window is down to \$9bn as of Wed. Total borrowings has risen to \$96.1bn as of 17 May from previous \$92.4bn seen on 10 May, albeit still lower than the \$164.8bn peak in Mar.

> Markets were focused on the debt ceiling discussion as House Speaker Kevin McCathy said that a deal is possible next week as negotiations are in "a much better place" now. Treasury balance has fallen to \$68.3bn, lowest since 2021.

EUR/USD Bearish Moves May Slow. EURUSD is about to meet its support around 1.0720. A break there could open the way towards the 1.05-figure. Momentum is bearish but stochastics are oversold and show signs of turning. A turn could be pre-mature but there are quite a number of ECB officials speaking next week (Vujcic, Nagel, Villeroy, Muller, Guindos) and potential for hawkish rhetoric could bring out the Fed-ECB divergence a bit. Regardless, after such a move lower and we eye support levels around 1.0720, 1.0610. Rebounds to meet 1.0950.

GBP/USD

Focus Still on the Downside. GBPUSD softened and was last seen around 1.2420. Focus for the GBPUSD would be on the CPI release on Wed after the double digit shock last month. Expectations are for inflation headline to come off sharply to 8.1%y/y in Apr vs. previous 10.1%. Recent admission by BoE Bailey that the country is dealing with wage price spiral could mean more rate hikes that could tip the UK into a recession. Fed-BoE divergence that is in favour now could probably turn against the cable at some point and we retain a bearish outlook for the medium term.

Back on the GBPUSD chart, next support is seen around 1.2230 (100-dma). Bearish divergence that we flagged last week has played out. Momentum indicators are bullish on the weekly chart but has become more neutral on the daily chart. Resistance around 1.2650 remains intact. Break of the 21-dma support (1.2505) could open the way towards the 1.2360 (50-dma) and then at 1.2250 (100-dma). Resistance is seen around 1.2650 (61.8% Fibonacci retracement of the 2021-2022).

USDJPY

Consolidation. USDJPY rose alongside UST yields amid stronger US data and hawkish Fed speaks which contrasts with the dovish monetary policy stance that BoJ Ueda has been sticking to. This pair was last seen around 138-figure. Momentum on the weekly chart remains bullish and stochastics are still on the upmove and this pair may extend towards the 140-figure. Support is seen around 136.90 and then at 135.50.

AUD/USD

Tied to Market Sentiment. AUDUSD remained at the lower end of the 0.6550-0.6790 range, last printed 0.6650. Weaker-than-expected set of Apr China data and fear of more pressure on RMB might have dragged on the AUD. We are still cautiously optimistic on China's consumption recovery but we think this could take a lot longer to pan out than expected. In addition, it is also clear that the government is unwilling to fall back on the old ways of stimulating the property sector in order to drive growth. Regardless, we still look for some form of stimulus be it in terms of more infrastructure investment or monetary easing in order to provide more support for economic recovery and that could eventually be supportive of AUD.



Back on the daily AUDUSD chart, momentum indicators are mixed now. Support at this point is seen at 0.6590 before 0.6550 (61.8% Fibonacci retracement of the Oct-Dec rally). Range-trading could continue within the 0.6550-0.6790 for a while but we continue to prefer to accumulate the AUD on dips and break of the 0.6790-resistance (100-dma) is required to open the way towards the 0.6870 and then the 0.70-figure.

NZD/USD

Choppy. NZDUSD was last seen around 0.6260, still in the middle of the 0.61-0.64 range. Momentum indicators are mixed. Key support remains around 0.6100. Beyond the near-term, we keep in mind that there is a probable inverted head and shoulders bullish reversal pattern but requires the break of the neckline resistance at 0.6530.

OIS now imply a 25bps hike expected at the next RBNZ policy meeting on 24 May after the strong labour report for 1Q. Markets could be taking the RBA decision into consideration as the central bank had hiked in spite of slower-than-expected inflation, determined to inflation back to the target. However, we do not hold the view that RBNZ could hike anymore as wholesale interest rates have risen and there are signs of further disinflation with food prices for Apr slowing.

May 19, 2023 6

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Technical Chart Picks:

USDSGD Daily Chart - Bullish Bias



USDSGD was last seen around 1.3450. Momentum is bullish for this pair but stochastics are stretched to the upside and this pair was down together with USDCNH as PBoC warns that it could curb speculation.

Support at 1.3448 and the next is seen around 1.370 (38.2% Fibonacci retracement of the Feb-Mar rally). There could be more two-way trades for this pair but we won't rule out more USDCNH upmoves that could also bring the USDSGD along.

USDMYR Daily Chart - Bullish Risk



USDMYR hovered around 4.5380. This pair continues to remain rather elevated and we cannot rule out a move towards the 4.5870.

Momentum remains bullish. Stochastics tilt north and not showing any signs of turning lower. MACD is also increasingly bullish.

Support at 4.4865 before the next at 4.4670.

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank FX Research & Strategy Note: orange line - 21SMA; blue line - 50 SMA; red line - 100 SMA; green line - 200 SMA

May 19, 2023 7

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SGDMYR Daily Chart: Bullish Skew



SGDMYR was last seen around 3.3740, on a steady rise since Apr. At this point, momentum indicators are still bullish, albeit stretched. Regardless, uptrend seems intact.

Next resistance at 3.3674 before the next at 3.3950. Support at 3.3275 (50,21-dma) before 3.2990 (100-dma). We cannot rule out a move towards resistance at 3.3950.

Note: orange line - 21SMA; blue line - 50 SMA; red line - 100 SMA; green line - 200 SMA



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