

WEEK AHEAD



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Economic Calendar

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Date	Country	Event	Period	Survey*	Prior	Date	Country	Event	Period	Survey*	Prior
31 Mar	US	MNI Chicago PMI	Mar	45.5	45.5	31 Mar	CH	Mfg/Non-Mfg PMI	Mar	50.4/50.6	50.2/50.4
	US	Dallas Fed Manf. Activity	Mar	-5.0	-8.3		AU	Private Sector Credit MoM	Feb	0.5%	0.5%
	JP	Retail Sales YoY	Feb	2.5%	4.4%		KR	Industrial Production YoY	Feb	4.5%	-4.1%
	JP	Industrial Production YoY	Feb P	1.2%	2.2%		TH	BoP Current Account Balance	Feb	\$3500m	\$2700m
							TH	Exports/Imports YoY	Feb		12.9%/7.5%
01 Apr	US	JOLTS Job Openings	Feb	7690k	7740k						
	US	ISM Manufacturing/Prices Paid	Mar	49.8/	50.3/62.4	01 Apr	CH	Caixin China PMI Mfg	Mar	50.8	50.8
	US	Construction Spending MoM	Feb	0.2%	-0.2%		AU	RBA Cash Rate Target		4.10%	4.10%
	EZ	Unemployment Rate	Feb	6.2%	6.2%		AU	Retail Sales MoM	Feb	0.3%	0.3%
	EZ	CPI Estimate/Core YoY	Mar P	2.3%/2.5%	2.3%/2.6%		KR	Exports/Imports YoY	Mar	4.9%/2.2%	0.7%/0.2%
	JP	Tankan Large Non-Mfg Index/Outlook	1Q	33/29	33/28						
	JP	Tankan Large Mfg Index/Outlook	1Q	12/9	14/13	02 Apr	SG	Purch. Managers/Electronics Sector Index	Mar		50.7/51.0
	JP	Tankan Large All Industry Capex	1Q	3.3%	11.3%		AU	Building Approvals MoM	Feb	-1.5%	6.3%
	JP	Jobless Rate/Job-To-Applicant Ratio	Feb	2.5%/1.3	2.5%/1.3		KR	CPI/Ex Food and Energy YoY	Mar	1.9%/1.8%	2.0%/1.8%
							PH	Budget Balance PHP	Feb	-	68.4b
02 Apr	US	ADP Employment Change	Mar	119k	77k						
	US	Durable Goods Orders/Nondef Ex Air	Feb F		0.9%/-0.3%	03 Apr	CH	Caixin China PMI Services	Mar	51.5	51.4
	US	Factory Orders	Feb	0.4%	1.7%		AU	Trade Balance	Feb	A\$5400m	A\$5620m
							AU	Job Vacancies QoQ	Feb		4.2%
03 Mar	US	Trade Balance	Feb	-\$110.0b	-\$131.4b						
	US	Initial Jobless Claims		-	224k	04 Apr	SG	Retail Sales/Ex Auto YoY	Feb		4.5%/4.8%
	US	ISM Services Index/Prices Paid	Mar	53.1/	53.5/62.6		TH	CPI/Core YoY	Mar	1.1%/1.0%	1.1%/1.0%
	EZ	ECB Account of March 5-6 Policy Meeting					PH	CPI YoY 2018=100	Mar	2.0%	2.1%
	EZ	PPI YoY	Feb		1.8%						
						06 Apr	VN	Trade Balance	Mar		-\$1550m
04 Apr	US	Change in Nonfarm Payrolls	Mar	135k	151k		VN	Industrial Production/Retail Sales YoY	Mar		17.2%/9.4%
	US	Unemployment Rate	Mar	4.1%	4.1%		VN	GDP YoY	1Q		7.6%
	US	Average Hourly Earnings MoM	Mar	0.3%	0.3%		VN	CPI YoY	Mar	-	2.9%
	JP	Household Spending YoY	Feb	-0.9%	0.8%	RBA: Skipping and Tumbling Inflation (% YoY: Services inflation remain elevated though Budget Position					

- Week-in-brief: Choppy Waters

 Risk sentiments remained subdued as tariffs news continued to rock headlines.

 Trump inked an executive order for auto tariffs, while signalled that the reciprocal tariffs (due to be announced in April 2) would be "lenient". Meanwhile, Trump's one-month delay of 25% tariffs on Canadian and Mexican imports are set to expire that day.
- The fear is that even after April 2, there remains the potential of layered tariffs. On top of the threat of secondary tariffs such as that threatened in the case for Venezuela, uncertainties over the additive of reciprocal tariffs and sectoral tariffs as well as consideration of non-tariff barrier loom large.

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 Gold remained elevated amid the wax and wanes of tariff headlines, while Brent Crude climbed on Trump's comments on Venezuela's oil and amid lower US inventories.

 In FX, USD was resilient on tariff premiums and higher UST yields. Despite haven flows, cautious FedSpeak casting doubt on the *transitory* impact of tariffs on inflation sent yields higher.

 Looking ahead, China's manufacturing PMI print is expected to remain in expansionary territory (and unchanged from February), as still robust auto manufacturing (production of both steel and semi-steel tires reaching their new highs) could offset moderation in several high-frequency activity indicators, especially those related to light industries. Nonetheless, the print may bring little cheer given that prices for outward shipments from China have weakened to a new low since January 2024, hinting at slower export demand.

 Down under, RBA is expected to take a pause as it contemplates implications of tariffs on inflation. Meanwhile, Australia's budget saw a slew of measures, including tax cuts and electricity rebates, to bolster consumption by addressing cost of living concerns ahead of their May 3 elections.

 Vietnam is expected to grow at around 6.6% in Q1 amid prior months of buoyant retail sales. In addition, production of computer and electronics has been robust, which may reflect front loading tendencies ahead of impending reciprocal tariffs. Despite an intent to boost growth and inflation well below SBV's target range, any rate cuts by SBV are unlikely given distinct VND weakness and a lack of FX reserves buffers.
- All in, knee-jerk reactions on tariff developments would likely mean two-way volatility; but subdued risk sentiments impart a downside bias to equities and impart resiliency to the USD.

7.2 7.0

- Earlier this year, following the conclusion of the annual National People's Congress session, the PBoC reaffirmed its commitment to implementing commitment to implementing accommodative monetary policy, including potential interest rate and RRR cuts at an appropriate time.

 - The question remains: when will these measures be implemented?
 - The timing for China's first rate cut this year is delayed amid heightened trade uncertainty.
- uncertainty.
- uncertainty.

 The earlier opportunity for the PBoC to lower interest rates is likely in late April, contingent on the specifics of Trump's reciprocal tariffs and market reactions.

 In the interim, the PBoC is expected to maintain moderately light RMB liquidity both onshore and offshore, aiming to narrow the gap between the RMB's spot rates and fixing rates and foster a more halanced currency willow. balanced currency outlook.
- Predicting the timing for the next RRR cut is more challenging given the PBoC's various tools to release
- Predicting the timing for the next RRR cut is more challenging given the PBoC's various tools to release liquidity.
 Late last year, the PBoC introduced two new policy tools to inject both short-term (<1Y outright reverse repurchases) and long-term liquidity (purchases of CGBs) through open market operations.
 Since then, net liquidity injections through these two tools averaged above RMB1tn monthly, equivalent to a 50bp RRR cut.
- a 50bp RRR cut.

 That said, we expect general liquidity easing in coming months to facilitate government bond issuance, as the government has pledged front-loaded fiscal spending and subsidies to bolster domestic consumption amidst trade uncertainties.

 Additionally, Chinese policymakers have reiterated their commitment to stable property and stock markets, suggesting additional stimulus measures should market sentiment significantly deteriorates.

- -\$1550m 7.2%/9.4% 7.6% 2.9% Underlying Cash Balance (ASb. LHS) -CPI: YoY 0.5 -CPI: Goods -CPI: Services -10 -20 -10 -30 -1.5 -50 23-24 25-26 26-27 27-28 4 24-25 tralia Treasury, Mizuh
- For the upcoming meeting, we expect that the RBA will keep rates unchanged but it should not distract

- For the upcoming meeting, we expect that the RBA will keep rates unchanged but it should not distract from our call that this **meeting is a skip rather than a prolonged hold.** While February's inflation print gliding lower would somewhat impart confidence over the dis-inflation trend, **heightened uncertainty surrounding both reciprocal tariffs and impact of fiscal policy** would imply that the **RBA will opt to stay patient to parse through policy and data.** On February inflation print, notable aspects include softer rent inflation alongside mentions of higher vacancies ought to provide some relief to the RBA. Insurance costs have also eased in tandem with lower costs of spare parts and second hand vehicles. On the contrary, education costs rose 5.6% YoY which is one of the fastest pace of increase in recent years.

 Looking ahead, we **expect budget 2025 measures to guide inflation lower in a bumpy manner** by lowering healthcare and childcare costs alongside a deference of the mechanical jump in electricity prices due to the extension of rebates. That said, the easing cycle is still expected to be a shallow one as consumption passthrough from the expansionary impulse of the Budget 2025-26 measures will cast doubts into the need for consecutive rate cuts.
- into the need for consecutive rate cuts.

 The difficulty and risks for this meeting lie in their communication attempting to balance the potential to ease from confidence over inflation, optimism over some nascent growth uptick and risk from reciprocal tariffs. On balance, marginally dovish vibes are to be expected.

50 26000 25000 24000 22000 USD/VND (SBV Reference Rate 21000 Trading Range 20000 Mary 22 - Jan 23 - Mary 24 - Jan 25 - Mary 25 - Jan 25 - Mary 26 - Jan 26 - Mary 26 - Jan 26 - Jan 27 - Jan 27 - Jan 24 - Jan 27 - Jan 24 - Jan 24

- For upcoming Q1 GDP print for Vietnam, we have upwardly revised our estimates to around 6.6%.

- For upcoming Q1 GDP print for Vietnam, we have upwardly revised our estimates to around 6.6%. High frequency indicators reflect robust production in the likes of the computer and electronics which may reflect front loading tendencies ahead of reciprocal tariffs.

 In fact, we expect broad based front loading even in the other sectors ranging from food, furniture to textiles given the importance of the US market and Vietnam's precarious status of holding substantial current account surplus with the US.

 Nominal retail sales also appear buoyant with above 9% growth in the first two months of 2025. The likes of tourism and accomodation & food services were very supportive growing 56% YoY and 12.5% respectively while goods retail sales also expanded 9.5%.

 Inflation ought to remain well below the SBV's target range even as headline inflation in March may be prone to an upward bounce on petrol prices. Nonetheless, the authorities' current growth focus is apparent as they look to extend a VAT reduction till 2026.

 We continue to push back against calls for rate cuts by the SBV to boost growth given distinct VND weakness and a lack of FX reserves buffers. In fact, the situation has become more acute as the SBV's upward adjustment of the reference rate appears to indicate willingness to totaret pipeline VND depreciation by providing enough room between the spot rate and the upper limit, without needing to dig into their FX reserves.
- Should untimely rate cuts to boost growth after frontloading fades coincide with unfortunate reciprocal tariffs, sharp VND depreciation risks are to be watched for.

Forex Rate

	Close*	Chg^	% Chg^	We	eek For	ecast	
USD/JPY	150.38	1.060	0.71%	148.50	~	152.50	
EUR/USD	1.0795	-0.0023	-0.21%	1.070	~	1.092	
USD/SGD	1.34	0.004	0.30%	1.3288	~	1.3500	
USD/THB	33.9	0.035	0.10%	33.50	~	34.30	
USD/MYR	4.431	0.0105	0.24%	4.390	~	4.470	
USD/IDR	16560	60	0.36%	16,400	~	16,750	
JPY/SGD	0.8911	-0.004	-0.42%	0.871	~	0.909	
AUD/USD	0.6299	0.003	0.41%	0.622	~	0.635	
USD/INR	85.49	-0.485	-0.56%	84.8	~	86.5	
USD/PHP	57.382	0.052	0.09%	56.9	~	57.9	

Weekly chang

FX: Two Fat Tails, Slim Middle

- Amid the mixed USD performance as UST yields remain elevated, SEK outperformed while the JPY underperformed among G10 peers.
- The former was on the back of continued affirmation over the Riksbank rate hold while the latter faced headwinds from auto tariffs wrecking economic damage to pare back bets for BoJ hikes.
 - EUR was largely sideways as the defence led rally consolidatsed.
- Down Under, AUD is also hovering on both sides of 63 cents as a lower than expected CPI print restrain RBA bulls alongside political uncertainty from their 3 May elections.

FM-Asia: Pressured

- In EM Asia, most currencies turned weaker given the region's exposure to the automobile supply chain on top of the threat of upcoming reciprocal tariffs
- With subtantial exposure from autos and car parts, the TWD was clearly an underperformer even as industrial production print was very robust.
- Industrial production plint was very follow:

 IDR weakeness continue to persist as Danatara woes continue to weigh. KRW's relative stability is no comfort given that the USD/KRW remains elevated at near historical highs.
- INR has outperformed perhaps in part due to lesser relative explicity scrutiny from Trump administration on tariffs alongside reports of progress on US-India trade pact while the optics of relaxed Russian saction may also have aided

Bond Yield (%)

28-Mar	2-yr	Chg (bp)^	10-yr	Chg (bp)^	Curve
USD	3.978	3.0	4.321	7.5	Steepening
GER	2.029	-9.5	2.717	-4.6	Steepening
JPY	0.852	1.4	1.530	2.0	Steepening
SGD	2.475	-1.8	2.671	2.1	Steepening
AUD	3.731	-0.1	4.457	0.1	Steepening
GBP	4.234	-2.0	4.746	3.6	Steepening

Stock Market

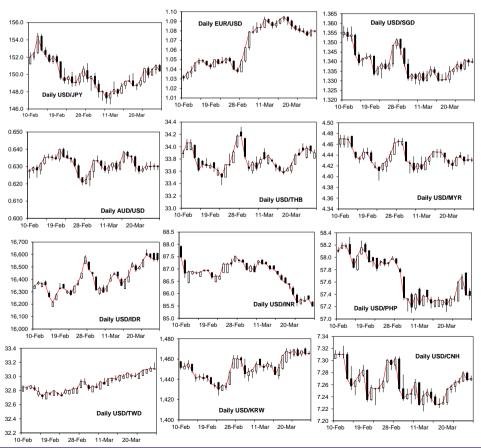
	Close	% Chg
S&P 500 (US)	5,693.31	0.45
Nikkei (JP)	37,120.33	-1.48
EuroStoxx (EU)	5,381.08	-0.79
FTSE STI (SG)	3,973.92	1.21
JKSE (ID)	6,510.62	4.03
PSEI (PH)	6,147.44	-1.90
KLCI (MY)	1,527.08	1.44
SET (TH)	1,175.45	-0.94
SENSEX (IN)	77,264.43	0.47
ASX (AU)	7,982.01	0.64

- USTs: The Impact of Tariffs
 The UST yield curve bear steepened as haven flows from tariff headlines were overshadowed by sticky inflation fears.
- Notably, Fed Bostic refrained from characterising the impact of tariffs on inflation as "transitory" while Fed Musalem warned that second round inflationary effects from tariffs could prolong the rate hold.
- Jobs data ahead will be keenly watched for hints of any weakening in the labour market.

 Insofar as tariffs present duality risks (i.e. downside growth risks and upside inflation risks), movements of yields in either direction are not ruled out.
- All in, we expect 2Y yields to trade around 3.90-4.10% and 10Y yields around 4.20-4.50%.

FX Brief:

- on the upside. Governor Ueda keeping his options open was no assistance to JPY bulls.
- EUR: As expected, EUR traded sidwards in the 1.07-mid-1.08 range. Antagonising comments from Trump continued to weigh.
- 3) AUD: After the dismal CPI print, an in range CPI print may continue to aid consolidation at lower levels. Gyrations around mid-62 cents expected
- 4) CNH: Continue to weaken as domestic risk sentiments worsen and auto tariffs threathen. Buoyancy above 7.25 likely to be retained for coming week.
- 5) INR: Outperformance this week on the back of "good progress" on trade talks and equities inflow. Revelation of reciprocal will likely see return back to above 86 levels.
- 6) SGD: Downside risks more accentuated in coming week on spillovers from CNH and EUR on US tariffs announcements.
- 7) IDR: Underperformance could last as Danantara moves ahead and fiscal woes unresolved. Could potentially hit new lows and test 16,700 levels.
- 8) THB: Trade Surplus with the US comes into scrutiny on top of possible woes on its already lackluster automobile sector. Buoyancy above 34 on the cards even as casino bill may invite initial optimism.
- 9) MYR: Downside bias amid higher UST yields as recent FedSpeak sounds more cautious compared to FOMC presser. Volatility expected should US jobs market see sharp moves in USTs
- 10) PHP: May perform better-than-average going into April 2, given relatively more modest impact expected from US tarifs. In addition, a BSP cut lilkely in April ought to see buoyancy above 57 levels.
- 11) KRW: Staying buoyed above 1450 as political uncertainty drags on and auto tariffs weigh.
- 12) TWD: Risk off sentiments and auto tariffs hit hard alongside seasonal USD demand likely to also have weighed. Recoveries may be hard to come by as reciprocal tariffs brings uncertainty at best and outright depreciation is not a remote risk





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