

WEEK AHEAD

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21-Mar-2025

One MIZUHO

Economic Calendar

G3

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Date Country **Event** Period Survey* Prior 24 Ma Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index Feb -0.14 -0.03 Mar F PMI Mfg/Services (US, EZ, JP) 25 Ma US New Home Sales Feb 680k 657k US Conf. Board Consumer Confidence Mar 94.0 98.3 US Richmond Fed Manufact. Index Mar 6.0 GE Mar 87.0/--IFO Business Climate/Expectations 85.2/85.4 26 Mai US Feb P Durable Goods Orders/Nondef Ex Air -0.7%/-3.2%/0.8% JΡ PPI Services YoY Feb 3.1% 3.1% Coincident Index/Leading Index CI JΡ Jan F 116.2/108.0 27 Mai GDP Annualized QoQ 4Q 1 2.4% US 4Q T Personal Consumption 4.2% US Wholesale Inventories MoM Feb F 0.8% US Initial Jobless Claims 223k US Pending Home Sales MoM Feb -4 6% US Kansas City Fed Manf. Activity Mar -5.0

US US Week-in-brief- Inaction is Action

LIS

US

28 Mar

This week, the Fed went ahead with their widely expected rate hold amid revisions to economic forecast showing the stagflation risks. The tariff threat to inflation was viewed as a transitory one off shock even as still the necessary caveat.

Feb

Feb

Mar F

Mar F

0.4%/0.6%

2.5%/2.7%

0.9%/-0.2%

2.5%/2.6%

57.9/54.2

4.9%/3.9%

Personal Income/Spending

PCE/Core Deflator YoY

U. of Mich. Sentiment/Expectations

U. of Mich. 1Y/5-10Y Inflation

- Meanwhile, the **BoE's rate hold at 4.50%** came with a hawkish inclinations as dovish members changed their earlier preference for rate cuts. Governor Bailey said that we have to be quite careful at this point in their earlier preference for rate cuts. Governor Bailey said that we have to be quite careful at this point in how we calibrate our response as policymakers are still waiting to see what really happens. While the Fed and BoE are still in restrictive territory, the SNB has clearly signaled that their rate cut represent an expansionary impact with the policy rate at just 0.25%.

 In Sweden, the Riksbank held rates at 2.25% but signalled an end to their easing cycle. Nonetheless, Governor Erik Thedeen said that they stand ready to act but our best assumption is to stay on our
- current path.

 Amid these seemingly similar "rate hold", it is perhaps to be reminded about the on-going economic impulse from their current stance as well as earlier actions on which tariff threats would be layered on. For example, in Japan's case, the on-going impulse from earlier tightening also imply that the hold is certainly not inaction from monetary policy. For other G10 peers, amid rate hold, we should also note the risks of accentuating already asymmetric inflation-growth risks from tariffs.

 In EM-Asia, Bank Indonesia also held rates but understandably so as they need to provide an anchor of stability for the IDR to prevent further spillover onto already slumping asset markets with the Jarkarta
- composite index down 2% this week. Nonetheless, despite the rate hold, IDR underperformed as progrowth measures continue to impart fiscal slippage fears on top of a contentious bill which allows for military personnel to assume civilian posts in the government.
- Down Under, Australia's job report came in weaker than expected as employment contracted. While older age groups not returning to work was seen as a key driver, one ought to think about the lack of replacements in a signal of caution or potential rebound in subsequent months.
 Looking ahead, Asia is set for a data light week though we will not be short on action given the
- roximity to 2 April. Singapore CPI on Monday will remain benign but it does not point to outright easing prospects as import prices of food show a resurgence while domestic policies drove dis-inflation. Meanwhile, Australia's CPI will likely prove sticky but remain in range such that the focus can remain marginally tilted towards growth concerns.

 - All in, markets and policy makers are likely to continue active preparations bracing for 2 April.

FOMC: Patience

- Patience: If there was one word to sum up the FOMC, it must be "patience"
- The rate hold conveyed patience on policy being "in a good place ... (to assess and) wait for more clarity." Especially amid heightened uncertainty. The slowdown in QT was premised on the benefits of a more gradual glide path to balance sheet reduction (mitigating the risks of inadvertent) liquidity shocks. And the SEP* conveyed patience in assessing whether inflation shocks would be one off (hence, requiring no policy response) or seep into expectations.

 - Accordingly, the "Dot Plot" in its median was patiently unchanged (50bp reduction in the FFR both in 2025
- and 2026) although the drift within voters was hawkish.
- A patient Fed however is no assurance of contained risks as Fed-Asian central bank divergence and risk The parent is a lowever is no assurance or contained itses as it expression certain variety repricing amid mounting global trade tensions exacerbate underlying AXJ vulnerabilities.

 Why BoJ Hawkish Bias Will be Non-Linear
- BoJ hawkishness, or more precisely, the linearity of BoJ's hawkish intent may be overestimated as there be a steep drop off in the propensity to hike after the next hike (to 0.75%), in what is a very gradual tightening bias. For one, JPY and imported inflation risks diminish fairly quickly.

 - Crucially, already fragile domestic confidence/consumption is at risk of being consequentially exacerbated
- by sharp risks from external trade So, the risk is that the next 25b by sharp risks from external radio.

 So, the risk is that the next 25bp (to 0.75bp%) into mid-year giving way to a far more stretched out and contingent (on worst case trade risks being averted) hike to 1.00%.
- Specifically, assumptions of a 25bp hike every 4-6 months will need serious reassessment to factor in a <u>suspended path to higher terminal rates</u> (1.00-1.25%) much further out (into 2026 and beyond). In a more emphatic version of that risk, there is a high probability that the BoJ pauses/suspends tightening this year after lifting the next hike to 0.75%.
- insofar that this catches (linear) BoJ tightening bets wrong-footed, it may have a significant impact on JGB yields and the JPY.
- JGB Yields: The corresponding 10Y JGBs may test 1.68-1.88% (a further 18-38bp upside from current Job Tields: The corresponding 101 JGBs may test 1.68-1.88% (a further 18-38bp upside from current levels) on initial hawkish bets, but are then susceptible to softening back on non-linear BoJ tightening pace (that decays/slows significantly)

 Term Premium: Specifically, upside in long-end JGB yields could be hampered as the rise in yields so far has already been disproportionately driven by an anticipatory surge in term premium.

 - Hence, liable to be exhausted sooner than otherwise expected.

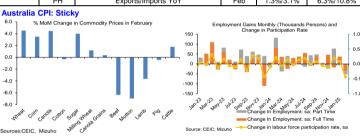
 - Especially in the absence of further demand-driven recovery exacerbated by external headwind

- impacting vulnerable exports channels (that have high multiplier effects for Japan's economy).

 Fiscal uncertainties post-elections is the wild card we need to watch for long-end JGB yield shifts.

 JPY: While it is tempting to suggest JPY weakness, this will be less clear and dependent on the Fed's cycle (propensity to cut). So, a 135-148 USD/JPY is not outlandish.

Asia					
Date	Country	Event Period Sur		Survey*	Prior
24- 28 Mar	IN	BoP Current Account Balance	4Q	-\$11.5b	-\$11.2b
24 -26 Mar	TH	Customs Exports/Imports YoY	/Imports YoY Feb		13.6%/7.9%
24 Mar	CH	1-Yr Medium-Term Lending Facility Rate		2.00%	2.00%
	SG	CPI/Core YoY	Feb	1.0%/0.7%	1.2%/0.8%
	AU	PMI Mfg/Services	Mar P		50.4/50.8
	IN	PMI Mfg/Services	Mar P		56.3/59.0
	KR	Retail Sales YoY	Feb		11.7%
	TW	Unemployment Rate	Feb		3.4%
25 Mar	KR	Consumer Confidence	Mar		95.2
	TW	Industrial Production YoY	Feb	15.9%	5.1%
26 Mar	SG	Industrial Production YoY	Feb	8.0%	9.1%
	AU	CPI/Trimmed Mean YoY	Feb	2.5%/	2.5%/2.8%
	TH	Mfg Production Index ISIC NSA YoY	Feb	-2.5%	-0.9%
27 Mar	CH	Industrial Profits YTD YoY	Feb		-3.3%
28 Mar	CH	BoP Current Account Balance	4Q F		\$180.7b
	IN	Fiscal Deficit YTD INR	Feb		11695b
	PH	Exports/Imports YoY	Feb	1.3%/3.1%	6.3%/10.8%



- For Australia's upcoming CPI print, we expect headline CPI in February to stick around January's 2.5% while the trimmed mean stay around the upper bound of the RBA's 2-3% range.
 Commodity price outcomes remain mixed with meat prices softening to offset higher costs from the likes
- of wheat and corn. Admittedly, the passthrough to end consumer retail prices will be uneven. On aggregate. food inflation is expected to remain sticky given the buoyant retail sales from restaurants and cafe. Looking ahead, Cyclone Alfred's destruction of crops in March will imply that supply side constraints will continue to underpin inflationary pressures for food.
- Continue to underpin initiationary pressures for foot.

 On the holiday travel and accommodation, the effects of end of school holiday demand is likely to continue to play out in term of lower airfare and aid lower inflation for recreation and culture.

 On the education front, fee adjustments for 2025 are likely to feature in this print and education inflation is likely to exceed the 5.1% mark posted in 2024 as international admissions faced propsects of capped enrolment. As for transport costs, higher petrol prices in tadem with global moves will also backstop headline inflation.
- All in this sticky inflation print is unlikely to impart much comfort for the RBA as they contemplate if they can look past the employment contraction in Febraury

Singapore CPI: Domestic Efforts, External Stresses



- In Singapore, headline inflation has declined to 1.2% in January 2025. Admittedly the decline thus far has been rather fast with the inflation rate being halved from that observed in mid-2024. Similarly, core inflation has also fallen significantly to 0.8% in January 2025, a far cry from the 2.6-3.0% range in mid-2024. Both headline and core inflation will be expected to remain subdued for February and Budget
- mid-2024. Both headline and core inflation will be expected to remain subdued for February and Budget 2025 measures are likely to drive prices down further.

 Nonetheless, an examination of the underlying drivers of dis-inflation (across H2 24 and in Jan 25, with the split in sample period owing to statistical CPI rebasing) imply that the MAS is unlikely to take their foot of the current modest and gradual appreciation stance for the SNEER.

 First, while there has been broad based dis-inflation across categories, a few of the key drivers were
- driven by various government's measures. Housing and utilities inflation being lower drove 36% of the decline in headline inflation in H2 2024 and this was on the back of expanded U-Save rebtates under Budget 2024. Similarly, healthcare costs were also lower in Q4 on the back of expanded scope of healthcare subsidies to a broader segment of the population.
- Second, some of the dis-inflation is a mark of normalisation such as a step down in the pace of airfare
- Lastly, components such as food inflation show nascent signs of a resurgence and face upside risk
- given that import price are growing at a faster clip in recent months.

 All in, given that importance of a modest appreciation of S\$NEER to dampen import pass through, the MAS will continue to keep a vigilant eye on a seemingly worry-free inflation print.

rorex Rate						
	Close*	Chg^	% Chg^	We	eek Fore	ecast
USD/JPY	149.41	0.680	0.46%	146.00	~	151.00
EUR/USD	1.0838	-0.0001	-0.01%	1.070	~	1.092
USD/SGD	1.3346	-0.001	-0.09%	1.3230	~	1.3480
USD/THB	33.83	0.207	0.62%	33.30	~	34.00
USD/MYR	4.418	-0.0243	-0.55%	4.380	~	4.480
USD/IDR	16500	150	0.92%	16,300	~	16,700
JPY/SGD	0.8934	-0.005	-0.55%	0.876	~	0.923
AUD/USD	0.6298	0.000	-0.05%	0.620	~	0.638
USD/INR	86.04	-0.972	-1.12%	85.8	~	87.4
USD/PHP	57.33	0.072	0.13%	56.8	~	57.8

^Weekly change

FX: Policies &

- The **DXY** oscillated around mid-103 levels for the week.

 While tariffs remains at the back of everyone's minds, there are indications that the next round of tariffs may be more receptive towards feedback from stakeholders. Meanwhile, FOMC presser noted duality risks
- arising from tariffs -- on inflation and growth.

 NOK led gains amid a further paring back of rate cut bets by Norges bank next week from ~30% to ~28%; while CHF outperformed as SNB cut rates and signalled that additional easing may not be forthcoming as
- GBP was in the middle of the pack amid a hawkish hold, with previously dovish BoE officials dialling back their inclinations for easing.
- AUD led losses following an unexpected contraction in employment change while EUR underperformed amid spillovers from the TRY (amid political headlines).

- In EM Asia, KRW and IDR were notable underperformers amid political woes.
- IDR sold-off as the cloudy fiscal outlook, alongside the passing of a contentious bill to allow military personnel to assume civilian posts in the government, rattled confidence. Relatedly, BI proceeded with a dovish hold, and took care to clarify that discussions on changes to BI's mandate would not affect BI's independence.
- Meanwhile, KRW continue to be plauged by political uncertainty, amid rumours that the Opposition is planning an impeachment of current acting President Choi.
- PHP continued to outperform regional peers as the economy is comparatively less affected by tariff threats. The performance was despite BSP reiterating their easing bias, highlighting a probable cut in April.

 MYR fared well, taking cue from a supportive CNH on better-than-expected China's data and suggesions of more incoming support from authorities. In addition, due to BNM's notable lack of easing bias vis-a-vis peers, lower UST yields aided ringgit's climb.

Bond Yield (%)

21-Mar	2-yr	Chg (bp)^	10-yr	Chg (bp)^	Curve
USD	3.963	-5.4	4.248	-6.4	Flattening
GER	2.156	-2.1	2.771	-10.2	Flattening
JPY	0.838	1.5	1.510	0.5	Flattening
SGD	2.480	1.7	2.655	1.7	Steepening
AUD	3.732	-1.5	4.391	0.1	Steepening
GBP	4.247	7.9	4.676	1.2	Flattening

Stock Market

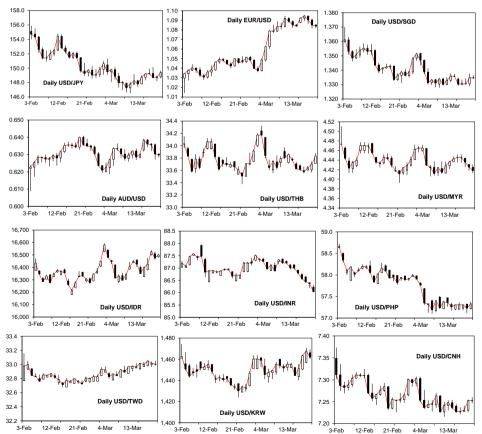
	Close	% Chg
S&P 500 (US)	5,662.89	0.42
Nikkei (JP)	37,677.06	1.68
EuroStoxx (EU)	5,450.93	0.87
FTSE STI (SG)	3,925.73	2.34
JKSE (ID)	6,308.52	-3.18
PSEI (PH)	6,266.75	-0.43
KLCI (MY)	1,505.08	-0.47
SET (TH)	1,184.49	0.91
SENSEX (IN)	76,943.86	4.22
ASX (AU)	7,931.23	1.82

- USTs: Flight to Safety?
 UST yields edged lower this week as risk aversion persisted.
- While falling equities reflect the poor risk sentiments, geo-political tensions re-igniting in the
- Middle East and rupturing in Turkey dampens the mood further.

 While the base case typically ought to be for lower UST yields ahead given caution before 2 April reciprocal tariffs, stagflation risks set to fuel pockets of upside yield volatility
- Resurgence in oil prices will aso bias towards a steepening to the yield curve.
 All in, we expect 2Y yields to trade in the 3.85-4.10% range while 10Y yield hover around 4.15%-4.35%

FX Brief:

- 1) JPY: Contemplating pace of BoJ hikes could temper JPY bulls and assist buoyancy above 147
- 2) EUR: Rally stalled, defence allure may need to take a backseat ahead of potential tariffs. Consolidatiion around 1.07-mid-1.08 expected/
- 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: Middle of the pack performance allowed PBoC to lower fixing support. Similarly, inclination to lower support imply constrained room for gains even amid a softer USD backdrop.
- 5) INR: Outperformance in the past week on inflows and smaller trade deficit may ebb, and see USD/INR return to above mid-86 levels.
- 6) SGD: May not see durable dips below 1.33 handle amid softer EUR while two-way tariff risks persis.
- 7) IDR: Undissipated concerns over fiscal outlook, coupled by protests triggered by amendment to military bill, likely means dips below 16,300 may be difficult.
- 8) THB: Slippage despite exports outperformance. BoT's relaxation of mortgage rules will also renew bets for further rate cuts.
- 9) MYR: Subjected to be rocked by headline risks ahead of Apr 2 "big-bang" tariffs; supported CNH ought to backstop declines though.
- 10) PHP: Unlikely to see much durability under 57 handle amid BSP's easing bias and much of the comparative relief from tariff premium ought to have already been mosty priced in.
- 11) KRW: Underperformed as geo-political tensions rise on impending ruling on President Yoon's impeachment. Peaceful ruling is key to KRW stability, volatility to be accentuated prior to ruling. Buoyancy above 1440.
- 12) TWD: Late week recovery on the back of favourable exports orders print. With semiconductor risk off and reciprocal tariiff woes, buoyancy above 32.9 to sustain.





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