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Sent: Friday, September 13, 2019 9:28 AM
To: Alan Rohrbach
Subject: ROHR-BLOG: Crunch Time into Expirations, Quick Take, Calendar

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Dear Subscribers,

After wondering in Thursday's research note '...Where's the Beef?', it is important to note the critical position of US EQUITIES. That is both important in its own right and as a psychological influence on the other asset classes.

Consider the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE test of its 3,015-25 congestion very near its previous 3,029.50 all-time high. That is as the GLOBAL GOVVIES test key lower supports after a major retracement of the previous major rally. This is especially for previous upside leader BUND, with the DECEMBER FUTURE into its first test of trend support in quite a while. Yet the same is true for the T-NOTE and the GILT.

Of course, this is all in the context of the 'friendly developments' also noted on Thursday, including the ECB as well as Trump's two-week forbearance on Chinese tariff increases. Will those continue to feed on themselves, or might the rally have priced in all the good news?

We shall see. And we recommend a read of Thursday's assessment for a more extensive review of all these factors (as well as a passing mention of Brexit.)

There is also a very good Financial Times article (<http://bit.ly/2IN0Nck> for our mild mark-up) exploring all ECB developments, and especially Draghi's pique with the lack of fiscal stimulus.

And after the SEPTEMBER BUND FUTURE last week, upcoming quarterly futures expirations are more critical as well. Next Thursday is the

SEPTEMBER T-NOTE expiration, with the good news for the bulls that the **December contract** trades at a bit more than a half point premium. That leaves the latter testing the low end of the 130-00/129-16 area.

The **SEPTEMBER GILT FUTURE** has a typical late month expiration (on the 26th), yet with a full point discount on the **DECEMBER CONTRACT**. As September is already testing the 134.00-133.50 range (with a Tolerance to 133.00), it is important for it to rally back later this month to respect support.

All of which highlights the importance of the current classical countervailing **EQUITIES** versus **GOVVIES** tendencies...

...it's crunch time.

Courtesy repeat of Thursday's Quick Take

After the early June US-Mexico tariffs scare sent **FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE** back near the 2,722 March trading low, **US EQUITIES** rallied sharply. Lower supports at 2,865, 2,836-30 and 2,825-14 were all reinstated. Higher resistance was 2,900-10 area, with the May 2,938.25-2,947.50 gap lower from the all-time high Close above; which is where rallies failed at the highs throughout August.

They were overrun in June. **SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE** above historic Oscillator levels at 2,965-70 and 2,985 left the critical 3,015-20 area above on continued rise of weekly MA-41. There was also the weekly topping line (<http://bit.ly/2m0ztXZ>) it failed to exceed, all of which preceded the recent major correction.

Any reversal needed **SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE** to fail below the 2,938.25-2,947.50 area, with 2,910-00 next. That left key lower support into important weekly MA-41 at 2,796 it so far only traded temporarily below, extending its hopeful rally back above 2,865 into 2,885 to the mid-2,900 area prior to the next negative influences.

Recent data improvement had left it above the repeated 2,900-10 over-under area again, even as it retested it a couple of times early last week prior to the late week surge. Now above the May 2,938.25-2,947.50 gap, it has also maintained the push above 2,950-60 area after the early week test. That brings 3,015-25 (also weekly high Close) congestion and 3,050 topping line and Oscillator back into play.

Even with the recent US consumer-driven improvement, overall weakness

of international data on balance continues. This has been reinforced by central banks' perspective, including especially the ECB and also BoE concerns about Brexit. While the Fed is more balanced, it is also concerned about global weakness despite current US strength.

As repeatedly noted for months, this is also consistent with serial downbeat OECD indications on a weaker global outlook. We saw more of the same in Monday's OECD Composite Leading Indicators (<http://bit.ly/2kq4gNI> for our marked up version.)

And that outlook continues to be reinforced by the US-China situation despite the ostensible 'breakthrough' at the G20 meeting. Especially note that subsequent the US-China talks degenerated into nothing more than discussion of Chinese agricultural purchases and Huawei relief. Those ended early, with only a recent agreement to resume after mutual US and Chinese tariffs hikes.

There is also continuing Brexit concern discussed at length during the BoE Inflation Report press conference. That is now back in sharp focus on the latest UK political machinations (see this recent Reuters article <https://reut.rs/2ZQWPIU> for more details.) There is also Trump's capricious flip into tariffs as a political weapon, which has continued into the present: Accelerated Uncertainty (see June 3rd research note.) That is despite some recent US forbearance which went by the wayside in the wake of the recent Chinese tariffs retaliation. All of this will still be good for 'haven' GOVVIES, even as they exhibit their first major corrections since mid-July.

All of the recent weak OECD Composite Leading Indicators were reinforced by May's OECD Economic Outlook (<http://bit.ly/2HGYmz7>.) This is now also reinforced by all of the subsequent indications: IMF global growth downgrade, weak global Manufacturing PMI's and further weakness in recent surveys and especially German.

The heavily discounted JUNE BUND FUTURE had been well back below the 164.00-.50 area while the MARCH BUND FUTURE early-March expiration neared. Yet after glancing the top of the 162.50-.00 range at the end of February, more weak data and the ECB perspective put it right back up into the 164.00-.50 area.

That left the burden of proof back on the bears to weaken it below there, or suffer the next surge up into the 166.00-.50 major congestion it saw by late March. This was classic BUND bull trend rollover activity on the second month pushing back up into previous front month levels.

Extended resistance in the 168.00 area from mid-2016 was exceeded on the surge just prior to the early month June contract expiration, and even

carried above the 168.86 June 2016 all-time FRONT MONTH BUND FUTURE high.

Yet as we noted extensively prior to that event, that was not the most bullish indication for the trend: The SEPTEMBER BUND FUTURE major 2.50 premium fostered even more bullish activity into that June contract expiration.

Note that the BUND FUTURE never turned into a bear trend on the reaction since 2016 from the bull trend into those highs. As opposed to the T-NOTE (more below) that had indeed been in a bear trend since 2016 (recently reversing on its late May major channel UP Break), the BUND seems to have only been a reaction in a bull.

It is also Closed the first full week of June above the next extended weekly Oscillator threshold in the 171.00-.50 area, leaving a burden of proof on the bears. The next higher historic congestion was not until upper 172.00 area since mid-June with the 174.00 area above that. And even after it dropped back below the key 172.00 congestion into mid-July, it quickly recovered back above it the following week.

The recovery extending above the higher upper 172.00 congestion also sustained upside Acceleration out of an already steep channel (see the weekly chart at <http://bit.ly/2kaTB9q> updated through last Friday.) That pointed to a retest of the 174.05 early July all-time high. It then exceeded the next Oscillator resistance in the 174.25-.75 range. It was then also above the next elevating (increasing by 0.40 each week based on strong upward MA-41 momentum) threshold into the 176.00 area.

Sustained activity above that pointed to the sort of extreme extension last seen in mid-2011 (weekly MA-41 11.75) into the 179.80 area last week (on a weekly Closing basis.) And the rising MA-41 means it is up into the 180.15 area this week, with the lower threshold moving up into 177.50. Yet last week's sharp market reaction to the potential less damaging Brexit situation has seen the SEPTEMBER BUND FUTURE drop all the way back to the 178.00 area. While the commensurate DECEMBER BUND FUTURE drop to the 175.00 area looks bad, 175.00 area is weekly MA-13, and the 174.00-173.50 area is key recent congestion and Oscillator support.

Also note the major weekly chart drop is actually a dislocation on the major December contract discount; and it also leaves it closer to the aggressive up channel support that is also in the 173.50 area. That is very important after last Friday's September contract expiration.

It is very interesting that DECEMBER BUND FUTURE has held that lower support so far, and is improving on the announcement of the ECB's

renewed APP. The question is whether that will act as a springboard to put on a typical post-expiration rally back up toward the previous front-month trading levels?

After the MARCH T-NOTE FUTURE held around 121-12 again into early March, it was back above 122-00 after the previous Fed influence until the very strong February US Employment report. Weaker global data, and the central bank harmony on that factor, had seen it overrun higher interim 123-00/-08 area historic and recent resistance, which it only retested on the mid-April selloff with a Tolerance to the 122-16 area (including weekly MA-13.)

For the JUNE T-NOTE FUTURE the more prominent 124-00/-06 historic congestion remained the key area it pushed above more definitively into mid-May on trade worries. Next resistance above 124-00/-06 was the 125-00 area broadest down trend resistance directly derived from the overall trend trajectory from that 2016 high.

That was violated on the late May fresh major 125-00 down channel UP Break (see the weekly chart at <http://bit.ly/2kzOcZH>), which was an important bullish indication. It also pushed above the important 126-00 area congestion as well as the next resistance is not until the 127-16/128-00 area congestion and September 2017 rally high (128-03.)

The SEPTEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE was testing that area prior to the July US Employment report-driven downside reaction. Yet it held very well without violating the low end of the 128-00/127-16 congestion. However, its relative weakness within the bull trend was highlighted by its inability to overrun that congestion while the BUND and GILT have pushed up more aggressively. Also note the 127-31 early-July weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal (CPR) (the solid red line) as further reinforcement for its near-term resistance with a 128-08 Tolerance.

Yet Trump's early-August Chinese tariffs announcement also drove more extensive T-NOTE strength above that resistance. Also obvious are the extended congestion resistances were into 129-16 it is above and held during the early August reaction. The higher historic congestion in the 131-00 area was exceeded on the recent resurgence prior to the current slippage back below it. Higher resistances remain the 132-00 and 133-00 areas, and it is back below the 130-00/129-16 support at present.

However, much as with the expiration of the SEPTEMBER BUND FUTURE, the SEPTEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE expires next Thursday with a critical twist. The DECEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE is trading at a bit more than a half point premium, and as such has only tested the 130-

00/129-16 support and held for now.

The same bullish condition was true for the MARCH GILT FUTURE that in the wake of more Brexit stress and the general global weakness, finally pushed above 124.00-.50. Yet that was the least of it, as the atypical significant premium (full 3.00) in the JUNE GILT FUTURE prior to the late-month March contract expiration was a major bullish sign.

This is obviously a Brexit premium anticipating continued economic weakness, and it had weakened a bit (as expected) on the major Brexit extension. JUNE GILT FUTURE was a bit back below 127.00-.50 after testing higher resistances in the 129.00 and 130.00 areas, yet held lower support in the (late March) automatically overrun 126.00-125.50 area. Back above 127.00-.50 since early-May opened the door to a test of those higher 129.00 and 130.00 area resistances it also then exceeded.

Higher resistances are the nominal 131.00-.50 range the JUNE GILT FUTURE was back up into prior to its expiration. And the typical full point discount in the SEPTEMBER GILT FUTURE left it well back below that range. While the overall strength of GOVVIES remained, the question was whether the SEPTEMBER GILT FUTURE that held the immediate lower support into 130.00 area on all pullbacks since early June was going to push back up into 131.00-.50; as indeed it did on a typical expiration rollover psychology.

While reacting back down near the 130.00 area in early July, it quickly pushed back above 131.00-.50. Next major higher resistances remain into the mid-2016 132.50 congestion and 132.97 all-time high have been exceeded.

That leaves us reverting to historic weekly Oscillator thresholds (much as with the recent BUND new all-time highs.) The scary part for the bears is that overrunning the old 132.97 all-time high also overran the weekly MA-41 plus 5.50-6.00 historic threshold that was most recently respected on the March rally. Next resistances were not until weekly MA-41 plus 9.50-10.00, equating to roughly 137.50-138.00 last week, which looked technically more likely after it overran the 'half-penny' 135.00 area.

Yet the less damaging path the UK government Brexit situation has now taken leaves it well back below that level; also influences by the weakness of upside leader BUND. The lower Oscillator bound is up to the 134.00-133.50 area this week with a buffer to 133.00 that has held so far with temporary slippage to the 132.65 weekly MA-13.

Yet the challenge here is the DECEMBER GILT FUTURE typical full point discount. That calls for a rally toward the late month expiration (on the

26th.) This is why much still rests with upside leader Bund, and whether the December contract can indeed rally back toward the recent September contract pre-expiration levels.

In FOREIGN EXCHANGE strong US corporate earnings and relatively firmer economic data had assisted the US DOLLAR INDEX previous in finally fully overrunning the mid-upper 97.00 resistance. That required the push above the April-May 98.37 area trading highs which had occurred prior to lapsing back into near-term weakness.

Next resistances are the interim 99.00 area, yet with the more prominent area not until 100.00 'big penny' historic congestion. In any event, recently strengthening again after a selloff saw it above lower support in the interim 96.50-.00 range on the continued weaker global data outside of the US. That set the stage for the continued strength despite the FOMC's modest (and possibly temporary) easing. After holding those lower supports, weaker Chinese and European data has it back up into the 98.00 area with 98.37 remaining the key resistance area.

Yet it has also exceeded the early-August 98.60 daily DOWN Closing Price Reversal from its failure to remain above 98.37 on that swing. That opened the door to a test of 100.00 historic congestion, with the 101.50 to low-102.00 area above that. While it is reacting from above 99.00 at present, the more critical test was going to be whether it could hold 98.37-.00 area. The ECB easing has assisted it in doing so, and it will be interesting to see if it can NEGATE last week's 98.80 (Tolerance 99.02) weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal (CPR) from that pre-existing historic congestion on the way to a test of the 100.00 area.

While EUR/USD was well back above 1.1400 into early February (and even very temporarily above the 1.1500 area), it had dropped back below the 1.1400 area on the increasingly nervous Brexit implications and generally weak European data. That left it into the top of the 1.1250-00 area 20-month trading lows in mid-February. While it recovered closer to 1.1400 again into mid-March, stalling there had left it under pressure again into the low end of 1.1250-00 area.

GREENBACK weakness had assisted it in swinging well back above 1.1200, and it is no surprise it had extended that rally back up into the 1.1400 area on the previous dovish FOMC influence.

However, recent weak European data fomenting rightful concerns over ECB accommodation has left it back below 1.1200 once again, and churning around the 1.1100 area trading lows prior to bouncing from near the 1.1000-1.0950 area with 1.0800 below.

While the recent recovery had it churning in 1.1200 area, it is back below the 1.1100 area and fully testing 1.1000-1.0950 without that much of a recent bounce.

Any failure would likely bring a test of the 1.0800 area, with 1.0600-1.0500 below. Those correlate well with US DOLLAR INDEX up into the higher 100.00 and beyond if EUR/USD 1.0800 fails.

Brexit concerns were morphing into a bit of a ‘good news is bad news’ psychology in late-January on GBP/USD rally back above 1.28-1.30 (never reaching 1.25-1.24 area.) Back above the low-1.2800 area for some time looked firm, and it had even sustained activity above the 1.30 area (including all weekly MAs in that area) into late February on hope for a Brexit deal or further deadline delay. Next important historic congestion was 1.3250-1.3300 tested once again in late March prior to the overall selloff resuming.

Brexit concerns left it retesting the 1.3000 area since late March with only minor bounces. As we had suggested, the major Brexit extension (October 31st) granted by the EU is not necessarily an economic positive even though it avoided an April 12th ‘hard’ no-deal Brexit crisis. It only exacerbates UK economic uncertainty. That was reinforced by Governor Carney’s previous Inflation Report press conference comments revisited on August 1st.

This has been reflected since mid-May in GBP/USD slipping not just back below 1.3000, but also below the low end of the 1.3000-1.2800 key support range. This was recently even below the 1.2773 February selloff lows, and subsequent rallies all failed into the 1.2800 area.

Lower key historic supports were into the 1.2500-1.2430 range late 2018 (2-year) trading lows it had slipped below in the wake of stronger US economic data prior to temporary stabilization. More sustained activity below that has also now led to violation of interim 2016-2017 congestion at 1.2360, with nothing recent until 1.2150-00 area this weak sister had managed to hold into until recently. Yet the fact it had not managed a more substantial short-term bounce (like the EURO) was a troubling sign.

While recently recovering from slightly below 1.2150-00, the recent drop below it left the 1.1987 January 2017 3-year trading low as the only support this side of the 1.1710 major October 2016 34-year trading low (post-Brexit referendum selloff low.) That’s right, not below 1.1710 since March 1985. Yet the rapidly evolving UK government situation has brought a relief rally back above 1.2150-00 for now (stronger than the EURO), even if the more critical resistances remain into 1.2360 and especially the 1.2500 area.

And despite US changeability, the previous hint of US-China

rapprochement encouraged AUD/USD to squeeze back above its historic .7200-50 area (also weekly MA-9 & MA-13.) However, that same negative early-December Trump ‘Tariffs Man’ tweet that hit US EQUITIES on the lower chances for US-China trade rapprochement also dropped AUD/USD back from a hopeful early-December test of the .7300-50 area to back below .7200-50. It was subsequently down into more major .7000 area congestion.

This was not a surprise on previous Chinese economic weakness and still somewhat problematic US-China relations despite the ostensible G20 ‘breakthrough’. While late-January secular US DOLLAR weakness had it recovering modestly above .7200-50, it subsequently dropped back below it toward the .7000 area once again prior to subsequent partial recoveries.

Recently below the .7000 area prior to the temporary squeezes, it is now well back below it once again. Next lower major support is the .6825 area early-2016 10-year trading lows it neared in mid-May and mid-June.

And it finally failed below that (not surprisingly in the wake of the last early August Trump tariffs move), yet has only churned modestly below it. And the current relief rally has it back up somewhat above that .6825 area, especially on the slight thaw in US-China discussions. That is important with the next interim supports at .6500 and .6250 this side of the .6000 area October 2008 16-year trading low.

While EMERGING CURRENCIES are still more country-specific trends, previous US DOLLAR weakness was assisting them once again. That was partially on central bank accommodation creating more extensive economic hope that would be good for emerging economies.

And it is of note that even with the recent weakness of DEVELOPED CURRENCIES against the GREENBACK, the EMERGINGs were holding up fairly well on that same psychology until that was reversed on the Fed sounding a bit less accommodative than many had assumed and broader global economic concerns in the wake of Trump’s shifting China tariffs moves.

The MEXICAN PESO that had seen USD/MXN drop back temporarily below its 20.00-20.20 congestion, had been back up on multiple November-December tests of the 20.50 area prior to sliding back below 20.00 again. It has also been below interim support at 19.70 as well as more major 19.60-.50 congestion since early January. Next lower congestion areas are in a range from 19.20 (high end which it was also below in January) to interim 18.70 and ultimately 18.50-.40 (low end.)

While back below 19.20 in mid-March, it was back above it once again after nearing 18.70 area lower support also in mid-March (last seen on its

January selloff.) Major 19.60-.50 congestion was higher resistance this side of 19.90-20.00. Back below 19.20 of late on its way to 18.70 yet again had seen a quick rebound to test 19.20 prior to recently churning on both sides of the 19.00 area in March and April as well as again of late.

Yet Trump's previous Mexico tariffs threat had put the PESO back under extreme pressure, with USD/MXN surging right through 19.20 into the major 19.60-.50 congestion once again. Any sustained activity above that pointed to another test of the 20.00-20.20 area it neared on the rally into early-June. Yet of course the at least temporary withdrawal of the US tariffs threat had seen a substantial PESO rally on USD/MXN dropping back into the 19.20-.00 area.

There was also no surprise recent central bank accommodation dropped it back below 19.00 once again prior to the recent bounce back to 19.20 that left it stuck in the 19.20-.00 range since early June until early August. Possibly on better expectations for Mexico on USMCA agreement and overall US economic strength, it had stabilized even if no better for the PESO than 19.00.

However, in the wake of the latest Trump tariffs threatening global economic activity, the PESO has sunk below the USD/MXN 19.60-.50 range once again. Sustained activity above the interim 19.60-.68 pointed to the 20.00-20.20 range it was recently retesting prior to the current PESO relief rally drop back below 20.00 all the way to a retest of 19.60-.50 congestion and even below at present on encouragement from the ECB actions. Next lower support remains back into the 19.20 area.

And that was just part of the EMERGING CURRENCY return from weakness prior to the subsequent pressure. USD/ZAR had pushed up from below 14.00 to testing and failing from 14.50 again on its way back below 14.00 in November. Next lower support in the 13.60-.50 area was probed into the beginning of December prior to pushing temporarily back up into 14.40-.50 area and even 14.60 into the holidays prior to dropping back below 14.00 into early January.

Those areas remained important even after the February drop below 13.60-.50 area, which was reversed on the push back above 14.00. The 14.00 area remains the more major congestion it has been once again back above since late April.

Higher resistance remained in the 14.40-.50 area it had exceeded into early June as well as the extended resistance at the 14.69 December high. Yet it stalled into next resistance in the historic 15.00 area. And the secular US DOLLAR weakness along with dovish central banks dropped it all the way back below 14.50-.40 since mid-June with 14.00 area below that. Yet the

current confluence of factors has seen it push back up above 14.40-.50 and even the higher levels in the historic 15.00 area noted above.

Recently through the 15.17 area early June high and historic congestion left the next significant historic congestion into the 15.70 and 16.00 areas. Yet now back below 15.00 on the current RAND rally leaves it below the 14.69 December high, with lower supports into the 14.50-.40 area with 14.10-.00 below that.

USD/RUB was a clear outlier on the previous and current EMERGING CURRENCIES return to weakness. That was due to the extensive Crude Oil recovery from the depths of December that is now also fading again with some pressure back on the RUBLE.

USD/RUB had reacted back down from above 67.00 yet was back above both it and 68.00 on the suffering of the Crude Oil market back in December, even if USD/RUB failed once again at the 70.00 area resistance in early January (just like early September.)

Yet it had been back below both 68.00 and 67.00 (including weekly MA-9 & MA-13) since January on the resurgence of Crude Oil from the depths below 50.00 to well back above it. Further support once again back into 65.00 (including weekly MA-41 up to 65.75 area) had been breached as well into mid-March. However, the additional hefty mid-2018 congestion into the 64.00 area was only violated temporarily into mid-March and again in mid-April.

Previous Crude Oil weakness had assisted USD/RUB recover back above 64.00 and 65.00 temporarily prior to slipping back below that range since mid-June. Lower supports at the recent mid-63.00 area lows had been violated prior to the current recovery without getting down to major supports in the 62.00 and especially the 61.00 areas. Now USD/RUB back above 65.00 looks strong again, especially with CRUDE OIL also weaker on balance. The current strength above mid-65.00 congestion and weekly MA-41 since mid-August opened the door to 67.00 it hit once again last week and also possibly the 68.00 area. And it is of note that while the current relief rally elsewhere has not been as prominent in the RUBLE, it is finally back below 65.50-.00 with 64.00-63.50 and 62.50 next lower congestion supports.

In the meantime, previous improvement in the TURKISH LIRA had USD/TRY slipping once again from 5.50 late last year, even if it experienced an intraday spike above it to 5.6230 on January 3rd. While failing below 5.22 in January on overall US DOLLAR weakness left it closer to the 5.13 late-November lows, back above 5.22 since early February rescued it back into the previous range.

That was very important with weekly MA-41 up into the 5.50-5.60 area in April. Sustaining activity above the 5.50 and 5.6230 resistances in late April had seen it rally above the 5.90-6.00 range congestion from summer 2018.

This was once again very important, as extended resistance was not until the 6.35-6.40 range last seen during the beginning of the TURKISH LIRA upturn (USD/TRY extended selloff) last September. As such, the late-May USD/TRY drop back below 6.00-5.90 area was a major LIRA improvement.

Next lower supports (LIRA resistance) are 5.65-.60 (January high and weekly MA-41) tested into early June and barely violated into early July prior to Closing near the low end of the range, and the heftier congestion in the 5.50-5.45 area.

And it seems that even President Erdogan's early July dismissal of central bank Governor Cetinkaya a year prior to the end of his term had not weighed too heavily on the LIRA. After USD/TRY ranged as high as 5.7871 in the wake of the dismissal prior to stabilizing, it dropped back below 5.65-.60 area despite the recent much larger than expected 4.25% rate cut with 5.50-5.45 also tested last into early August.

Yet it held that key area, and was recently back above the 5.65-.60 range again, and also above the early July 5.7871 high from after the central bank governor dismissal. Next higher key resistances remain at 5.90-5.93 and the 6.00 area even as it sags back into the 5.65-.60 range.

While still obviously less relevant (as we have been noting for some time and is most glaringly apparent again at present) on the standard report releases in the midst of more major global trade and political cross currents, this week's Weekly Report & Event Calendar (accessible for Sterling and higher level subscribers) is available via the www.rohr-blog.com sidebar.

After heavy information flow from central bankers and various early month economic data (like the US Employment report and even the previous Thursday's OECD G20 International Trade Statistics), influences remain intense this week.

Monday was a particularly heavy economic release day, including weak Chinese Trade numbers and the OECD Composite Leading Indicators (<http://bit.ly/2kq4gNI> for our marked up version.) Tuesday and Wednesday were both a bit lighter leading into Thursday's ECB rate decision and press conference as a key bellwether of just how accommodative it is prepared to be at this time. Friday is also a bit lighter, yet includes the Euro-zone Trade Balance and the currently very important US Retail Sales.

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