ROHR

RESEARCH NOTE

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Testing Trauma, Quick Take, Calendar

There's an awful lot being tested in medical, financial and psychological realms. Another of our old market axioms is, "*You can't trade the market you 'want'; you can only trade the market you 'have'*." The sudden change into conditions which are not consistent with many folks' experience is causing stress for medical professionals, the public, politicians and market participants.

As noted in Thursday's 'Colossal Cross Currents Indeed' research note, the massive government response still flies in the face of less effective actions that may mute its impact. And that is regardless of the recent addition of further massive Fed actions (FOMC multifaceted program link **https://bit.ly/2JTGfra**) that are going to leverage all of the major US Treasury funding for rescue programs.

The good news is US EQUITIES are maintaining their 'triumph of hope over reason' bid, likely due to further upbeat assertions of US politicians that the recent erratic start to the COVID-19 rescue programs will be addressed soon. Yet despite this Brobdingnagian financial support, the flow of the funds has been obviously less than effective.

Among others in the political class and business folks, successful entrepreneur and sports franchise owner Mark Cuban laid out fine line problems in a CNBC interview (**https://cnb.cx/2K0auNj**) on how problems are defusing the potentially positive impact of the major Paycheck Protection Program (PPP.)

In some ways the traumas are interrelated under the massive impact of COVID-19. Among the other aspects of the 'testing' nature of the situation, one of the most obvious and telling is at the politico-economic nexus. It is a lot of trauma for President Trump. Despite his trumpeting (pardon the pun) his effective shutdown of Chinese-US travel in late January, he continues to deflect on his less effective steps in weak US response to the (at some point obvious) threat from COVID-19.

The three most obvious forms of late are his claims the US has 'great testing' (which seems in part an attempt to deflect criticism for actually being behind the curve on this necessary component of safely reopening the US economy), that he took effective action at all points, and that as President he has "*absolute power*" (that is a direct quote) to direct the states to reopen their economies even though he never instituted a national social distancing and economic shutdown policy.

On the latter, it is a bit scary watching Donald Trump repeatedly claim in a live press conference that as President he has "*absolute power*"; it goes to a fear that he is as extreme a megalomaniac as had been feared based on previous words and attempted actions. It also speaks of the man at the top having a distinct lack of understanding of the US constitution and federalist system. It seems the President would prefer to be running the government he'd '*want*' rather than the one he '*has*'... and this is not the first time he has acted in this manner.

And he shut down the repeated questions on this by accusing the inquisitors of being 'bad reporters' asking 'unnecessarily negative questions'. Yet the expert opinion is clearly not on his side. As a Reuters article (**https://reut.rs/3cjwe2C**) that was updated this morning notes, "...*a US president has quite limited power to order citizens back to their places of employment*, (and other measures.)" In fact, respected NY Governor Cuomo has said he would ignore such an order if it was inconsistent with the best interests of the health and welfare of his constituents.

And the government response so typically has the cart out in front of the horse, even if a necessary psychological step at this point. This was clearly laid out in a March 25th City Journal interview (**https://bit.ly/3a33cD2**) of the estimable Paul Romer, the crux of which he has repeated in recent live interviews. In the first couple of paragraphs he explains the current disconnect between what is actually needed and the US (along with other governments') response: supporting the incomes of workers without providing them any incentive to feel safe.

That is the only thing which will encourage them to go out and actively engage in the economy. As we (among many other, more highly qualified folks) have noted, he posited, "*We need widespread, regular testing to figure out who should be in quarantine and who should be allowed, at least provisionally, to get back to their regular lives: back to work, back to producing, earning income, and spending*."

Highlighting an informed opinion on this, we return to the previously referenced article in Toronto's Globe and Mail (**https://tgam.ca/3dwzBoi**) on when and how social distancing can end (or at least be reduced.) Especially note the graphs a bit lower down on 'flattening the curve' of the infection spread, and even more so the one below on what is necessary to fully suppress the pandemic's impact. Admittedly the latter does not include any assumption of rapid response testing, and the chances are this would mitigate obvious worst-case scenarios.

Yet the Trump administration remains unprepared despite the President's claim that, "(paraphrased) *we have the tests and ours are the best*." This is just untrue, especially in the context of 'rapid response' tests, which the US lacks. The reality is also that they would need to necessarily be repeated on a regular basis to monitor and implement selective quarantines, instead of the current destructive general quarantine. Romer covers it all in the interview.

While CNN's Jim Acosta is not our favorite reporter, Trump and Pence responses to his questions at a recent press conference (**https://cnn.it/34Bv8No**) highlights the disconnect. [Trump for the first 45 seconds, and be sure to catch the CNN fact checker's brief discussion from 03:25 through the end of the clip.] The ironic bit right now is the place on earth where it is easiest to get tested and be provided a rapid response: Wuhan. That's right, possibly due to the major origination there.

The prospect of a further US federal versus state confrontation is also unsettling to the general population looking for definitive leadership. That is also impugned by the return of politics as usual to the US government response. The Democratic Party still wants more of their general social agenda funded by the emergency monies the Republicans want to rapidly apply to the expansion of PPP funding as a major portion of the initial money is due to run out.

As Senator Rubio has said of late, imagine the impact on the public psyche if they are told a program that was at least partially effective is being shut down because Congress cannot agree on providing more money for something that is already in place. While we do not always agree with them, it would seem Republicans have a legitimate point in this case. The question will be whether Democrats come to appreciate the political damage they will incur if they stall too long.

Yet here we are now with at least temporarily buoyant US EQUITIES, and based on the recent technical Evolutionary Trend View (ETV) it appears they might want to work their way up to higher resistances (failed supports.) We have laid this out again in a brief TrendView Video (**https://bit.ly/2yOk3wn** based on last Thursday's pre-Good Friday US weekly Close.) It highlights the importance of last Tuesday's FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE push above the key low-2,600 area (most pointed from 04:30 into the video.) We hope you find that useful.

It is also still of note that the GLOBAL GOVVIES have only come under modest and orderly pressure despite the US EQUITIES push higher. That seems to indicate they are not very concerned about any return of inflation on an actual 'V Bottom' resurgence of the US or global economy. This is also apparent in the continued overall weakness of both DEVELOPED CURRENCIES and EMERGING CURRENCIES against the US DOLLAR despite their recent partial recoveries.

What is notable about all of this as well is this morning's release of the latest IMF World Economic Outlook (**https://bit.ly/2V1k9JY** with related graphics and links) that highlights just how bad things are at present, and are likely to remain into the intermediate-term future. This reinforces our overall skepticism on US EQUITIES.

Market Quick Take

COVID-19 virus spread caused US EQUITIES intermediate-term bull psychology to 'crack'. FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE was already back below key congestion around the mid-2019 3,030-00 previous all-time high congestion (see our previous 'Crunch Time' research note.) That was also below support from the push above the multi-year topping line at 3,070 as well and left the late-February 2,970 DOWN Break below the intermediate-term up channel (from the late 2018 low.)

Did this signal reversal into a bear trend? Maybe not, but the subsequent fresh DOWN Break below the FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE 2,600 area major up channel seemed to indicate it was. That is from early 2016 low (**https://bit.ly/2wxaZv6** updated as of Thursday's Close.) That was the recent key higher resistance it has just exceeded on the violation of its Tolerance: that was the 2,675 trading high of the week ending March 20th (including monthly MA-48)

As such, it is reasonable that the JUNE S&P 500 FUTURE will now treat the low 2,600 area (with a Tolerance to the mid-2,500 area) as support. This leaves FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE up into a broad higher range, with the top back into the 3,000 area. It must be allowed that along the way the previously violated supports at 2,850 area along with the more prominent 2,750 area (already above) are nearby resistances.

Evolutionary Trend View

Moving on now to a critical market assessment in the wake of the US EQUITIES recovering back above the 2,600 channel DOWN Break from the early-2016 FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE 1,800 area lows (projected from (from the 2,313 late 2018 low.) After the past month-and-a-half of seeing GLOBAL GOVVIES strength, that also recently significantly reversed on the prospect of the major global fiscal stimulus likely weighing on those markets as well, Yet the current US EQUITIES strength is not reinstating that previous pressure for the reasons explored at length above.

The MARCH **T-NOTE FUTURE** surging into a new all-time high into mid-March (i.e. shortly prior to its expiration) above the 134-00/-08 summer 2016 previous high was understandable (weekly chart through last Thursday's Close **https://bit.ly/3c47DyW**.)

As we had based our future expectation on its historic weekly Oscillator activity likely extending its rally at least into the 135-16/136-00 area (MA-41 plus 06-00/-16), which was violated in early March. Sustained activity above that zone pointed to the next Oscillator resistance into the 138-00/-16 area (MA-41 plus 08-00/-16) it was already testing back then into its parabolic extension to the weekly Oscillator resistance in the 139-16/140-00 area (MA-41 plus 09-16/10-00) into mid-March prior to its sharp setback.

In fact, that sharp selloff later that week created a DOWN Closing Price Reversal (CPR) back below the 138-00 area (Tolerance the previous week's 138-16 high.) That is now resistance which has been repeatedly tested on the initial push above it and again in recent recoveries. 140-08/-24 area was next Oscillator resistance this side of the mid-March 140-24 all-time high (and trading high of that recent DOWN CPR.) Yet as it has been back under pressure below that 138-00/-16 area of late, lower support remains into the 135-16/136-00 area not as yet retested on the current downside reaction.

Similarly, the previous strong sister **BUND FUTURE** had seen the MARCH CONTRACT rally back to fully test and exceed its 177.00-.50 resistance from last summer (weekly chart through last Thursday's Close **https://bit.ly/3a1yvhI**.)

Much above that next resistance was not until 178.50 congestion from back then it hit prior to a week ago Friday's expiration, with a DOWN CPR at 179.20 (Tolerance at 179.67 all-time high) above. Yet there was a twist here on the typical very early expiration of the MARCH CONTRACT that Friday with the JUNE BUND FUTURE trading almost 3.00 lower.

While there was a chance it would be back into or below the 175.60-.00 area, in the event the strength of the uptrend extension in the MARCH BUND FUTURE to test that mid-179.00 resistance left the JUNE BUND FUTURE trading above 175.60-.00. That implied instead of weakening, it was more likely to trend up into the 177.00-.50 resistance and above.

And while we always expect the second month contract to swing back up to front month values once the BUND maintained its up trend, the JUNE BUND FUTURE had done this in record time: literally between becoming the front month on Friday, March 6th into only early afternoon (Central European Time) the following Monday. Yet even that hypervolatile push up into the low 179.00 area was once again only a retest of the early September DOWN CPR.

And after that it sagged back below the 177.50-.00 area, and had been unable to sustain activity back above it. That even left a fresh DOWN CPR from the previous week's 176.52 Close. As such, despite the strength of the other GLOBAL GOVVIES, that weakness carried it below next lower support in the 175.60-.00 range, then below the next lower 173.25-.00 support, and even back below the previously staunch 170.50-.00 NEGATED early November DOWN Break support that had been tested extensively over the winter.

It is a clear sign of how concerned the BUND is about the necessary fresh fiscal largesse necessary to counter the heavy European COVID-19 impact. Next lower support was not until back in the major 168.58-.00 area from during the summer 2016 previous all-time high congestion that it held on the sharp selloff into mid-March prior to the bounce back above the 170.50-.00 area. The extended weak economic psychology had recently boosted it back up into the important 173.00-.50 range once again, with 175.00-.60 above and 170.50-.00 below. As the lower bound has held for now, 173.00-.50 is the current near-term resistance.

As far the MARCH **GILT FUTURE** was concerned also at new all-time highs like the T-NOTE saw it overrun the September 2019 135.26 weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal (Tolerance to 135.87.) That also overran some historic weekly Oscillator resistance at 137.00-.50 (MA-41 plus 4.00-.50.)

This left the next weekly Oscillator resistance at 139.00-.50 (MA-41 plus 6.00-.50) it had already tested three weeks ago and overran temporarily two weeks ago. And much like the T-NOTE, last week's selloff left a DOWN CPR from the previous week's 139.00 area Close (Tolerance right there as well due to that Close being at the high of the week.) Not only did the MARCH GILT FUTURE fall back down into the 137.00 area, but the full point discount in the JUNE GILT FUTURE left it back below the 135.26 violated weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal support.

That also saw the JUNE GILT FUTURE below the 130.00-.50 FRONT MONTH GILT FUTURE support into next historic low-128.00 congestion it hit temporarily two weeks ago Thursday prior to the major rebound above the mid-low 135.00 area. 137.00 area congestion remains higher resistance that is has stalled into once again for now, with 139.00 area above and the mid-low 135.00 area below.

In **FOREIGN EXCHANGE** the **DEVELOPED CURRENCIES** have also seen massive shifts over the past two months. As noted previous, even though the **US DOLLAR INDEX** had a 'haven' bid as into mid-February, it then came under extensive pressure against the other DEVELOPED CURRENCIES (including the recent atypical depression of the other 'haven' **JAPANESE YEN**.) Yet the recent concerns about how poorly the other countries might fare under the extended COVID-19 impact has seen the bid return to the greenback.

While the volatility in this area is also historically extreme, previous **US DOLLAR INDEX** weakness was not a surprise with COVID-19 is spreading in the previously 'safe' United States. Yet that was reversed on worse impacts elsewhere leading to a wild rally to 103.00 prior to settling back into the 99.00 area.

Firmer US economic data had assisted the US DOLLAR INDEX last summer in finally fully overrunning the mid-upper 97.00 resistance. That inspired the push above the April-May 98.37 area trading highs which occurred in early August prior to lapsing back into near-term weakness. Next levels were the interim 99.00 area, yet with the more prominent area not until the 99.50-100.00 'big penny' historic congestion at which it failed again on the retest in mid-February (just like last October.)

After weakening in the end of February it failed back below 98.37-.00 (also important cluster of weekly MAs in the upper 97.00 area) on its way to also cracking the 96.50-.00 well-established congestion range support held at the end of last year. With the previous COVID-19 flight to US safety reversed, it was retesting the longer-term congestion in the 96.00-95.84 area (12-month trading low.) Much below that is the interim congestion into the recently tested 95.00 area it held into mid-March, with the more major 94.00-93.70 area below.

Yet the recent return of more pointed concerns elsewhere has seen it surge back above the 98.37-.00 area, and even above previously tested (February high) 99.50-100.00 and interim 101.30 into the recent retest of the more significant 102.00-.25 (late-2016/early-2017) congestion prior to recently setting temporarily back below 100.00-99.50 prior to recovering to retest and fail from that range of late after holding a retest of the 98.37-.00 area.

Along with the extreme concerns now affecting the BUND on a fiscal basis, European currencies were under pressure again versus the US DOLLAR. **EUR/USD** was also under pressure previous early this year due to its still weak economy, the initial response to the COVID-19 spread there took it to 33-month lows below last October's 1.0878 trading low prior to the subsequent sharp recovery.

The EURO was strengthening so much against the temporarily weak US DOLLAR due to previous 'greenback avoidance'. The US DOLLAR losing its haven bid had seen EUR/USD surge back above 1.0800 and even the more prominent 1.1000 area as well as the heavy 1.1250-00 area. That was the next lower support, yet with the greenback surging once again it was readily violated.

It has now failed back below it as well as the interim 1.1100 area and even the more prominent 1.1000-1.0950 area. It is now also back below last October's 1.0878 trading low once again. It also weakened below the more prominent historic and recent congestion in the 1.0800 area with a buffer to the weekly chart gap higher from a mid-April 2017 1.0722 weekly Close it weakened below prior to recent recovery into the 1.1000 area.

Yet if it should come back under pressure, that is just part of an entire broader range with interim congestion at 1.0500, a low end into the January 2017 1.0340 more than 17-year trading low (i.e. from the time of the EUR/USD recovery back above 1.0000 after several years of travails following its 1999 inception.)

GBP/USD had already held up much better against the US DOLLAR than other DEVELOPED CURRENCIES in the wake of the Brexit vote finally confirming its exit from the EU. While failing from 1.3500 again in December as well as back below the interim 1.3200 congestion, it only worked its way gradually into the historically important 1.3000-1.2800 range. Even on the late February US DOLLAR surge, GBP/USD only dropped to a Close near the bottom of that range.

However, the BoE leading the emergency rate cut efforts spooked the POUND bulls, leaving it back below 1.2800. Since then it Closed below 1.2500-1.2450 three weeks ago and even the interim 1.2200 area and major 1.2000-1.1960 September 2019 three-and-a-half year low.

It was recently even below the October 2016 post-Brexit political crisis 1.1711 35-year trading low prior to the current rebound above it near the 1.2500-1.2450. While it sounds like a long way down, due to the nature of the aggressive 1984-1985 selloff and recovery, next support is not until the 1.1000 area.

Yet even that is also relatively minor congestion from that 1984-1985 swing down into and recovery from the 1.0345 February 1985 all-time low. Thankfully it has rebounded back above the 1.2200 area for now, even if only stalling back into the 1.2500-1.2450 area.

And despite US-China rapprochement on the Phase I trade and tariffs agreement, **AUD/USD** remains depressed on the heavier East Asian COVID-19 impact. That is only as expected, even as there has finally been a bounce on the lower Asian COVID-19 impact. Yet that is still from well below the .7000 area held in mid-May of last year.

Minor squeezes temporarily back above the .7000 area were only a prelude to slipping more definitively below it last July. Next lower major support was the .6825 area early-2016 10-year trading lows it also slipped below around the same time.

That is important after it slipped below next interim support at .6690-77 in early February on COVID-19 driven weak Chinese economic concerns. The .6500 area was the next support it slipped below along with violating the .6250 area next support. That was the last interim congestion this side of the now also violated .6000 area October 2008 17-year trading low.

The ‘good’ news here it that there is somewhat substantial 1998-2003 congestions at .5720, even if it washed out below temporarily in mid-March (trading low .5510) prior to the recovery back above the .6000 area it is holding back above at present and even exceeding that .6250 area violated support. Yet it has not been able to sustain activity back above .6500 area. If it should weaken below .6250 and the .6000 area again, lower supports remain at .5325-15 and near .5000 this side of the major April 2001 .4793 all-time trading low.

In light of the recent more radical swings we resurrected our analysis of the **USD/JPY**. This was the prima facie example of the extreme mid-February ‘haven’ bid in the US DOLLAR, as the typical fellow ‘haven’ currency YEN came under heavy pressure on the USD/JPY surge above 110.00 for the first time since May 2019, leading to an immediate rally to the prominent 112.00-.50 area into the end of that week.

Yet here as well, once the US DOLLAR came under pressure on its loss of ‘haven’ status due to the COVID-19 spread in the previously safe US, at the end of February it ‘crashed’ back below the 110.00 area to Close into 108.00 again. Yet that did not hold since early March began on weakness that carried below the interim 106.00 area and once again below the very prominent 105.00-104.50 range (39-month trading low with major tests in March 2018, January 2018 and August 2019.)

Next lower congestion was not until the interim 102.50 area that USD/JPY traded below recently prior to and recovering back above the low 105.00 area as well as 108.00 and recently even the 110.00 area once again prior to the current weakness. Higher resistances remain in the 112.00-.50 and 114.00-.50 areas even if it has sagged back to below the 108.00 area of late.

And **EMERGING CURRENCIES** that had been under pressure had been recovering to some degree in February prior to coming back under pressure. The SA RAND has seen **USD/ZAR** overrun 15.40-.50 and even the 15.69 September 2018 high prior to pulling back previous.

Even though it sagged all the way to 15.20 in early March, it was back above 15.40-.50 and the 15.69 resistance a week later. Then it surged above the 16.00 and 16.30 next higher congestion resistances all the way into violating the 16.95 resistance in mid-March.

The weak economic outlook has caused it to now exceed the major January 2016 17.94 all-time high it had set back a bit from in the wake of the US rescue package last week. Yet it is important to note the next extreme weekly Oscillator thresholds (from 2008 and 2016) into this week are the 18.40 and 18.60 areas, each moving up by 0.10 per week. The recent improved sentiment on the US EQUITIES surge has it back around that area, which sets up a critical decision into the end of this week… again.

That is because Closing above those levels two weeks ago created a critical failure on the SA RAND potentially being subject to the sort of downside runaway activity the MEXICAN PESO experienced when USD/MXN overran 21.60 in early March. Even as USD/ZAR has weakened somewhat of late, if it strengthens again the next discernable resistances are last week’s major 19.00 area weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal and not again until the 20.70 ‘return’ (i.e. topping) line of the broad up channel from the 6.5274 May 2011 major cycle low, and 20.90 area straight topping line across the 2008 and 2016 highs.

The RUSSIAN RUBLE had seen **USD/RUB** push above 66.50-67.00 on weak Crude Oil as well (economic weakness driven) prior to dropping back on short-term EQUITIES and CRUDE OIL recovery. Back out above it last week left the bigger resistance not until 69.00-70.00 it began this week pushing sharply above. And historically there is not much resistance again until the 75.00 area (early 2016 congestion) which it tested into early March prior to pulling back nearer to the interim 71.00 area.

Yet here as well the return of economic stresses has seen it rally back up above 75.00 of late as well as trading above higher resistances above the 80.00 area in mid-March. While recently also weakening a bit prior to pushing back into the 80.00 area, next higher resistance is not until the 85.00 area last seen on the early 2016 surge. Current hope for the global economy and a Saudi-Russian pumping truce has seen Crude Oil rally, and that is also weakening USD/RUB from 80.00 back below the 75.00 area for now with next support into the 71.00-70.00 area.

Even the previously more resilient MEXICAN PESO has seen **USD/MXN** surge through 19.50-.60 on its way to testing the interim 19.95 area prior to slipping back temporarily. Yet it recently exceeded that once again along with its surge above the 20.25 resistance in early March leading to an explosive rally. Here as well PESO weakness continued on the COVID-19 North American impact, with next resistances at 20.50 and 20.65 sharply overrun of late on the way to also violating the 20.96 June 2018 high (also congestion) on the way to surging above the 22.03 January 2017 all-time high as well.

And the return of the economic stresses and weak Crude Oil prices had seen it surge to a new 24.62 all-time high into mid-March, which had been exceeded on the US rescue package worries leading to another new 25.44 all-time high in late March prior to setting back around the mid-low 23.00 area. That left a weekly DOWN CPR from 24.40 (Tolerance 24.62) as new near-term resistance, yet which was NEGATED on last week's push higher (and Closing above it.)

Much like USD/RUB, the Saudi-Russian pumping truce has seen a Crude Oil rally, and that fostered another round of USD/MXN weakening from last week's 25.76 new all-time high. That left yet another weekly DOWN CPR from 24.96 (Tolerance 25.04) that is now the elevated near-term topping signal.

Lower support is the recent congestion in the low 23.00 area and overrun weekly Oscillator resistance (MA-41 plus 2.30) that moves up to the 22.15 area this week (also weekly MA-9 this week.) Of note, the recent USD/MXN strength has also been significantly above previous prominent weekly Oscillator resistance that should have kicked in around 21.60 in early March… time to reassess that once the current surge is over.

The TURKISH LIRA had been relatively steady through all of the EMERGING CURRENCY turmoil elsewhere. Yet it has been under pressure since **USD/TRY** held key 5.50-5,45 support and pushed back above 5.65-.60 range along with last July's 5.7871 high from after the central bank governor dismissal. Key resistance at 5.90-5.93 was also exceeded again in January.

USD/TRY has now even strengthened above the 6.00 area that seemed to point to a retest of interim 6.15 area that was also exceeded on the way to a test of the May 2019 crisis 6.25 area 17-month trading high. Compared to the weakness of other EMERGING CURRENCIES this previously left the LIRA a bastion of stability.

Yet recently above the 6.25 area left the door open to a test of the higher September 2018 6.45-6.55 congestion it had exceeded again prior to the temporary subsequent setback into that area. Now that it is rallying once again, the extended higher resistances are 6.72 (now exceeded), 6.83 it is nearing at present, and the 7.10 area all-time high that were all seen during the 2018 LIRA crisis.

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, the Weekly Report & Event Calendar (accessible for Sterling and higher level subscribers) is available via the www.rohr-blog.com sidebar.

As we have been noting for some time in our research notes, regularly scheduled releases are obviously less relevant in the face of the COVID-19 'macro' factors. That said, there are still some very important economic releases and central bank influences again this week.

After a quiet Easter Monday holiday start (as the Russo-Saudi oil market production reduction tiff was resolved) in Western markets outside the US, there are serial important influences throughout the week. Tuesday brought a somewhat better than expected Chinese Trade Balance yet also that next, very negative IMF World Economic Outlook. That is followed on Wednesday by a prescheduled PBoC 0.50% Required Reserve Requirement (RRR) reduction. It also sees key US data, a BoC rate decision and press conference, and the Fed Beige Book that afternoon.

Thursday brings Australian Employment followed by more key US data and an important Bank of England speech and UK Parliament Treasury Select Committee hearing. Friday sees more influential Chinese data and a National Bureau of Statistics press conference followed by important Japanese and European data. It wraps with whatever missives may flow from the IMF/World Bank Spring Meetings (video conference) from Friday through the weekend.

And due to the vagaries of the COVID-19 volatility, we maintain our recent classic advice: Keep those seat belts firmly fastened.

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