RESEARCH NOTE

Monday, April 20, 2020

Snatching Defeat from the Jaws of Victory, Quick Take, Calendar

Both sides in the US government COVID-19 response seem to be working against their own interest. It may seem we are overly focused on US politics now. Yet they are critical due to US economic factors… and by extension the market impact.

And as noted in last Thursday's 'We Call 'Em the Way We See 'Em' research note, complaints from a select number of Trump supporters that some of our analysis seemed 'anti-Trump' is laughable. We are equal-opportunity critics, and are more than happy to highlight misguided assertions from anyone, including central banks, governments, corporate executives, and so on.

Our extended discourse on that in last Thursday's research note included the overview of how we did so in all previous serious market failures going back to 1987, 2000 and 2008.

Back to the present again for non-US readers, recent actions and communication are classic examples in American politics of one side having an edge but then striving mightily to '*snatch defeat from the jaws of victory*'. Last Tuesday we cited Senator Rubio's disparagement of the Democratic House leadership's refusal to support an automatic extension of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP.)

To wit, (paraphrased) "...*imagine the impact on the public psyche if they are told a program that was at least partially effective is being shut down due to Congress not being able to agree on providing more money for something that is already in place and functioning*." While we do not always agree with them, it would seem the Republicans had a legitimate point in this case.

And if Speaker Pelosi and her House comrades wanted more money for hospitals and very small businesses, they could have easily floated a new bill in the House. She would have had the backing of her Democratic majority, and the Republicans would likely have gone along.

Yet there is a political dynamic here: They want to have their demands included to create talking points for the election campaign into this November: their changes made it 'better'.

Is this a great country… or what? Yet that may be moot, as the Republicans have capitulated on allowing for some additional Democratic demands for funding for other sectors, and promised future funding for state and local governments in separate bills. Good for them for not letting fragile small businesses be even more nervous on the program and susceptible to failure for lack of funding.

Yet our greater criticism wheels back around to the Republicans, and specifically the still incorrect missives from Dear Leader Trump on 'testing'. He has continued for a long time (in COVID-19 pandemic evolution terms) to assert the US has a strong infection testing facility. This was not true on March 6th when he clearly (mis)stated, "*Anybody who needs a test, gets a test*…" (**http://bit.ly/3cUM2dm**.)

While one might think that a month-and-a-half later that might be accurate, it is still not the case; at least not on the scale necessary to move toward his highly touted staged reopening of the US economy. In fact, Governors from both sides of the political aisle were all over the Sunday political analysis shows decrying Trump's misguided claims, Republicans as well as Democrats.

The most damning likely came from a fellow Trump Republican Party member, who has praised the federal government for some things they have indeed done well. That is Maryland's respected Governor Larry Hogan, also the Chair of the National Governors Association. While appearing on various Sunday shows, his most telling perspectives and points were derived from an extended interview on Jake Tapper's CNN State of the Union (**https://cnn.it/2RTdwHp**.)

Proceeding through various topics, Tapper got Hogan's responses Democrats holding up that PPP funding (01:00), noting that the governors did not want to have funding for their states delay the funding for small businesses. Hogan went on to note (02:30) that the President's own guidelines are conditions that are not being met in his state (and many others.)

And regarding Trump's assertion that the Governors need to get more aggressive and are dragging their feet where they already have ample testing ability (03:30-05:30), Hogan is very pointed: After video clips of Trump and Pence making those assertions on the availability of ample testing availability, Hogan first says that this has been a complaint of his since the spread of the novel coronavirus started, and he is hearing the same from Governors on both sides of the aisle every single day. Then there was this…

"...*to try to push this off to say that the Governors have plenty of testing and they should just get to work on testing, somehow we are not doing our job, is just 'absolutely false'*." (Our additional punctuation) "*Every Governor in America has been pushing and fighting and clawing to get more tests*…" So there you have it.

The other aspect of this that has been sorely lacking is any indication on the type of tests the federal government says it is ramping up at present. Are they the same tests which we have already had? Our understanding is that those were the 4-5 day results tests.

Well, those are not very effective for re-opening an economy where there will be close quarters everywhere from factory floors to the dining, hospitality and travel businesses. That delay will be an insurmountable hurdle.

And the one person in all of government we have heard express this in terms that go to the crux of the matter is none other than Speaker Pelosi. In her Fox News Sunday interview with Chris Wallace she inquired, "*Where are the 'rapid' tests*?" (Once again our additional punctuation)

This is the real point even beyond the per capita deficient US testing that Trump continues to deny: There needs to be sustained, regular, extensive testing, even including the asymptomatic.

The two-week asymptomatic nature of this particular virus was a problem we highlighted as a major market concern from when awareness of that aspect first appeared back in late-January (see our January 27th "The 'Known Unknown' Carries the Day" research note for more.)

The only way to address this is the 'rapid' tests. Ironically, as we noted last week Tuesday, there seems to be only one place to get a rapid response novel coronavirus test right now: Wuhan.

And this is why we remain skeptical of US EQUITIES overall, even though they might be able to rally further once they shake off this morning's Crude Oil shock (more below.) More government programs and central bank largesse might encourage more near-term hope.

Yet the overall economic dynamic is going to return to a weaker reality dictated by social distancing and quarantines, and that will likely support GLOBAL GOVVIES and continue to weigh on EMERGING CURRENCIES.

For more on that, please see Friday's 'The Powell Put and Anticipation Again' research note that explored the basis for the current upbeat expectations.

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's from early 2016 low (**https://bit.ly/2Vo0bZP** updated as of last Friday'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 recently above) and NEGATED 2,675 Tolerance of the 2,600 DOWN Break are nearby key levels.

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.) GLOBAL GOVVIES strength into early March was temporarily 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 pressure for previously explored economic reasons.

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 Friday's Close **https://bit.ly/34OkCm1**.)

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.)

Even though it had been under pressure back below that 138-00/-16 area of late, it is currently pushing back above it despite the US EQUITIES strength. This reinforces the NEGATION of that mid-March 138-00/-16 DOWN CPR, which should indicate higher ground to come. The next resistance is the near-term congestion in the 139-00 area. Beyond that is the 140-24 mid-March all-time trading high reinforced by extended Oscillator resistance (MA-41 plus 09-16/10-00.)

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 Friday's Close **https://bit.ly/2xMJ6zV**.)

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 it also dropped 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 prior to renewed weakness, with 175.00-.60 above. 170.50-.00 is the reinstated lower support. As that lower bound has held for now, 173.00-.50 remains the current near-term resistance reinforced by a confluence of all key weekly MAs.

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 and overran temporarily in early March. And much like the T-NOTE, its selloff into mid-March left a DOWN CPR from the previous week's 139.00 area Close.

The Tolerance of that DOWN CPR is 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 around 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 a partial 'haven' 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 mid-March retest of the more significant 102.00-.25 (late-2016/early-2017) congestion prior to recently setting temporarily back below 100.00-99.50. Even though there was a late-March retest of 98.37-.00, it has been back up retesting 100.00-99.50 of late.

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 and subsequent slide back toward 1.0800.

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 despite last week's very temporary blip above it.

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 next week are the 18.50 and 18.70 areas, each moving up by 0.10 per week. The recent improved sentiment on the US EQUITIES had it back below that area early this week. Yet at present it is well above them, setting up a critical RAND failure into the weekend.

The only resistance above that is the sharp USD/ZAR 19.00 DOWN Closing Price Reversal (CPR) two weeks ago with a Tolerance to the 19.08 high of the previous week. That said, to confirm any DOWN CPR there typically needs to be some downside follow through, and nothing of the sort was apparent on USD/ZAR last week.

Along with the Oscillator indications, this is a hyper-critical level now for USD/ZAR. That is because Closing above those levels would create 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. If USD/ZAR strengthens beyond them, the next discernable resistances above that major 19.00 area weekly DOWN CPR are 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 any (so far elusive) Crude Oil improvement on the Russo-Saudi pumping truce has seen a RUBLE rally, weakening USD/RUB from 80.00 back below the 75.00 area for now with next support into the 71.00-70.00 area. Yet the USD/RUB recovery only carrying up to no better than the 75.00 area at present is a bit of a mystery in the context of the continued pressure on Crude Oil; especially compared to the relatively heavier pressure on the also Crude Oil sensitive Mexican peso.

In that regard, even the previously more resilient MEXICAN PESO saw **USD/MXN** surge through 19.50-.60 on its way to testing the interim 19.95 area prior to slipping back temporarily. Yet it 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 into mid-March 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 out of 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 Russo-Saudi pumping truce has not seen a Crude Oil rally, yet it has also seen another round of USD/MXN weakening from the early April 25.76 new all-time high. That left yet another weekly DOWN CPR from 24.96 (Tolerance 25.04) that is now the fresh elevated near-term topping signal which is now key resistance.

Lower support is the recent congestion in the low 23.00 area it neared early last week and overrun weekly Oscillator resistance (MA-41 plus 2.30) that moves up to the 22.30 area next week (also around weekly MA-9.) 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 and 6.83 that have both been exceeded. That leaves the 7.10 area all-time high, all of which last seen during the 2018 LIRA crisis.

Reports & Events

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.

Except for the Chinese PBoC rate cut to 3.85% (from 4.05%) and Bundesbank Monthly Report, today saw mostly 'rearview mirror' data that everyone now understands is less than relevant in the current context. Tuesday picks up a bit with the RBA Meeting Minutes and its Governor Lowe's 'Economic and Financial Update' as well as current Euro-zone and German ZEW Surveys. Wednesday brings additional still dated data.

Thursday gets quite a bit more interesting with global Advance PMIs along with the next round of US Weekly Initial Jobless Claims and a current Kansas City Fed Manufacturing Activity Index. That is followed by Friday's recent UK Retail Sales, current Italian Confidence indicators and German IFO, and US Durable Goods and Michigan Consumer Sentiment.

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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