Research Note

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

Very Much the Same into BoE Thursday, Quick Take, Calendar

The overall picture remains very much the same as explored in Tuesday's 'Interesting Non-US Equities Bifurcation' research note, and even Monday's 'Two-Way Stretch' (both of which are repeated below for your ease of review.) That includes the weakening into very mixed economic releases from previous overall strength.

This is reflected in this morning's US ISM Services 'popping' to 64.2 from last month's 60.1, yet with the ADP Employment Change only coming in at a gain of 330,000 against a 695,000 gain estimate. And that is also after last month's was revised just a bit lower to 680,000 from the previously reported 692,000.

The expectation for Thursday morning is that the Bank of England will maintain current levels of accommodation after previously being part of only two banks (along with Bank of Canada) signaling the potential to reduce its quantitative easing program. That should be obvious on the heavy COVID-19 Delta variant impact on the UK, even if things appear to be improving at present. The mixed economic data now leaves the market psychology battle between continued central bank accommodation (and the likely further fiscal stimulus in the US) versus the continued spread of the Delta variant infections, especially in the US.

All of this plays into the same themes and specific factors extensively explored over the past two days. That especially includes the 'risk appetite' psychology bifurcation in the various asset classes since late last week. The SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE is less upbeat in stalling into the 4,400-25 weekly Oscillator threshold. That is consistent with the rally extensions in GLOBAL GOVVIES, even as they give back a bit from recent new highs in the wake of US ISM Services.

Yet foreign exchange remains a more convoluted picture of less than impressive DEVELOPED CURRENCIES gains against the US DOLLAR, as the US DOLLAR INDEX remains parked back up in the important, recently violated, 92.00-.30 range. Yet it is the EMERGING CURRENCIES showing quite a bit more strength, which would normally be associated with a resumption of a global 'risk-on' psychology. However, that is neither apparent in the US EQUITIES nor especially the GLOBAL GOVVIES at present.

Courtesy Repeat of Tuesday's 'Interesting Non-US Equities Bifurcation' research note

While there are other factors influencing the recent stallout of the US EQUITIES rally last week into early this week, undoubtedly one of the very most prominent factors is the COVID-19 Delta variant spread, As noted in Monday's 'Two-Way Stretch' research note (repeated below), that is now every bit as bad as predicted in the US South and Southeast, and is spreading into the Northern climes. Yet any economic impact will also involve the rest of the world.

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That becomes clearer by the day, with new Delta variant surges everywhere from the Pacitic Rim back across Europe into the Western Hemisphere. Note this past weekend's Reuters article(**https://reut.rs/3zZEKzX**) on the now virulent spread throughout Asia, "COVID-19 surge hits Asia; Tokyo, Thailand, Malaysia post record infections."

As noted on Monday, there is some hope that the Delta variant has a natural 'arch' which exhausts its rampant individual country spread. However, what has been observed in the UK may not be representative of what will occur elsewhere. That would be due to the fact that the UK has done a much better job at vaccination than most of the rest of the planet. And even the sudden shift to more US vaccination acceptance may be a case of 'too little too late'.

That is due to the vaccinations not providing immediate protection… It takes approximately several weeks to a month after the first dose. And that is in the face of the extreme infection spike (as in worse than a 'surge') in the vulnerable regions in the US. Louisiana just recorded its highest daily infections since the start of the pandemic (much worse than last Winter.) It is both completely out of ICU capacity, and seeing many more infections among younger victims.

This is also the case (or nearly as bad) in a select number of other states in the US South, especially Florida that is now responsible for every bit of 20% of new US COVID-19 cases. Governor DeSantis has also just issued an executive order proscribing mask mandates in local school districts. While it's contentious, one must wonder what will happen if covid-19 worsens?

Considering how that may affect the 'back to school' push into the middle of this month, this may be a major economic influence on parents' (especially women's) ability to be available for work out of the home. We shall see. Yet what we do know (due in large measure so far to the situation in the South and Southeast) is the overall US COVID-19 infection rate is at a critical juncture. After improving so well through the Spring and early Summer, since the middle of July total new US COVID-19 infections have spiked back up to key mid-2020 and early 2021 levels.

As is apparent in the latest CDC chart (**https://bit.ly/3rOGtoR**) as of Sunday, both daily new infections and 7-day average exceeded the highest levels in the 69,000 area (for the more important 7-day average) seen on the way down back in April. That is very important due to it being the key July 2020 level that was retested on the temporary resurgence back in April prior to the constructive drop. On a short-term view it appears that the daily cases and 7-day average have both retreated from the 'blip' above 69,000.

However, it is important to note that throughout this data set there is a tendency to see a weekly drop from Sunday into Monday (due to slack reporting), with the real trend only becoming obvious from the Tuesday-Friday data. As such, in addition to this week being a major reporting week with much to follow from Wednesday through Friday, it will also be a critical US COVID-19 indications week on all of the aspects mentioned above; especially any spread into the North.

That is all the preamble to our thoughts on the 'Interesting Non-US Equities Bifurcation'. The US EQUITIES weakening (at least insofar as upward momentum seems stalled of late into the key 4,400-25 area) along with GLOBAL GOVVIES extending their already impressive up trends should be part of a 'risk-off' psychology. However, the issue in that otherwise unified psychology is some degree of nominal strength coming back to other currencies against the US DOLLAR.

While DEVELOPED CURRENCIES are flagging a bit again with the US DOLLAR INDEX back up into its recently violated 92.00-.30 range, emerging currencies are indeed getting the bid back. The RUSSIAN RUBLE AND MEXICAN PESO have both improved of late despite the CRUDE OIL drop back from the 74.00-75.00 area to around 70.00. There is also the recently beleaguered SOUTH AFRICAN RAND seeing USD/ZAR drop back from the 14.70 area to below 14.50-.40. By all rights any global reversion to 'risk-off' should engender the same emerging currency weakness as past phases.

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Therefore, it is reasonable to ask, "*Why the US DOLLAR weakness against the EMERGINGS at this time, with both US EQUITIES and GLOBAL GOVVIES signally more of a 'risk-off psychology'?*" The only thing we can imagine at present (which may or may not pan out) is an aversion to the US DOLLAR on the latest COVID-19 surge.

Courtesy Repeat of Monday's 'Two-Way Stretch' research note

As noted in Friday's 'The Reversal' research note, there are both psychological and technical reversals in process at present. There is the very mild SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal (CPR) next modest attempt to at least temporarily reverse the longstanding up trend from the previous week's 4,403 Close (with a Tolerance to the previous week's 4,408 trading high.)

While that may seem to already be problematic on this morning's push back up near last week's 4,422.50 trading high, the full confirmation of the rejection of the latest DOWN signal will not likely be confirmed unless there is sustained activity above that high. The reason is (also previously extensively explored) that the near-term weekly Oscillator thresholds rise to 4,400 and 4,425 this week.

As such, the sense that the US EQUITIES up trend was also feeling a bit stale into the very quiet new trading high last week (after the previous week's strong surge) is supported by the technical indications. While trading back up near last week's high during overnight electronic trading into this morning, it has stalled not much better than last week's 4,408 trading high since Regular Trading Hours began today.

There are also other asset classes to consider based on more questionable US EQUITIES trend activity last week. GLOBAL GOVVIES are maintaining their bid, with SEPTEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE pushing above the high end of the 134-00/-16 which it temporarily probed the low end of last week. That is also now inspiring the GILT and BUND to renew their respective rallies which had recently stalled.

Even though the FOREIGN EXCHANGE activity is more problematic, the US DOLLAR INDEX has stabilized not too far below its key 92.00-.30 range. And while EMERGING CURRENCIES have strengthened again a bit of late, they are now only testing some of their important higher resistances (i.e. US DOLLAR support.)

What could be behind this renewed sense of 'risk-off' activity right now (most especially in the GLOBAL GOVVIES)? Quite simply, the COVID-19 Delta variant, even as that will likely fuel the major continued central bank accommodation reconfirmed by the FOMC and especially Fed Chair Powell's press conference last Wednesday afternoon. However, just how bad that might become in the US is still the wild card factor which will potentially still represent the downside of the 'two-way stretch'.

Just to be clear, whatever transpires with the governmental response to this next phase if the pandemic may be less important than the visceral public perception. There are already more than a few state level proscriptions on any measures to limit the pandemic spread in the more conservative places like Florida, and a general aversion to restrictive mandates even in the more liberal regions.

As such, it may more so boil down to whether the negative stories surrounding the Delta variant will create an aversion to 'gathering' activities even among the fully vaccinated population. On the other hand, those same horror stories have encouraged more extensive vaccination among even the most highly resistant US individuals, even in the very vulnerable South and Southeast.

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That gets us to the 'two-way stretch' between current surge and possible medical and also important cultural cure. In another CNBC interview this morning (**https://cnb.cx/2VnBejJ**) with former FDA chief and current Pfizer board member Dr. Scott Gottlieb, he notes again that the weakness in the US Covid-19 testing regime means there are likely up to possibly one million new infections a day. Yet he also notes with 90 million unvaccinated US citizens and 50 million eligible who are unvaccinated, there is hope on the recent vaccination surge.

While cases in the South are still rising, the place is slowing. That is also a sign there may be some sign of the Delta variant surge reaching a natural endpoint sometime soon despite its more highly transmissible nature. What is not included in this interview video clip is his mention of the degree to which the major Delta surges in both India first and then the UK lasted about six weeks prior to abating.

This is further explored in a major way in today's David Wallace-Wells' New York Magazine 'Intelligencer' article (**https://nym.ag/3C6aB3G**), "The U.K.'s Delta Surge Is Collapsing. Will Ours?" As his inference from part of a discussion he had with Eric Topol of Scripps he suggests, "*What is happening in Britain now seems very clear, and matches the shape of other pandemic surges elsewhere — including the Delta surge in India, where cases spiked for six weeks and then collapsed without the benefit of widespread vaccines, but primarily, it seems, through immunity acquired through infection*... " Could this happen in the US?

That would almost seem too much to ask in the context of the horrific headlines. With the Delta variant spread now still very bad in the South and Southeast just as children are headed back to school, it is also moving into the northern tier of the nation. It must be allowed that serious illness and fatalities among the major vaccinated population are going to be much less than during last Winter's surge.

However there is also a much greater vulnerability among young people than with the previous variants. Therefore, as noted above, the public perception of the risk to both the children and any vulnerable folks at home from a variant which seems to readily infect the vaccinated (even if in an asymptomatic manner where they can spread the disease) is going to be a driver for future US economic activity.

While we would like to declare a clear decision on the Delta variant and the US economy as the key influences for the markets, it is more convoluted than that. However, at the very least the situation seems to be more challenging for the US economy and the markets than the recent US EQUITIES 'risk-on' psychology has been reflecting, even when some other asset classes have recently behaved in a more problematic manner. Yet sustained strength in GLOBAL GOVVIES speaks volumes about the risks which are still facing the US economy and markets.

Courtesy Repeat of Monday's Quick Take

A really interesting part of the overall equation was whether overrunning the 4,200 area (including that lower 4,193 Objective), just meant a likely test of the higher (weekly Chart) 4,316 Runaway Gap Objective? That is clear on the FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE weekly chart (**https://bit.ly/3fI1RNk** updated through Friday.) Yet JUNE S&P 500 FUTURE pushing back above the previously tested lower early April UP Runaway Gap 4,193 (daily chart) Objective seemed to speak of it being ready to extend the rally to a higher 4,316 (weekly chart) Objective.

The question on the previous downside reaction was whether the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE ($10 discount to expiring June contract) could re-establish upside momentum back above the 4,200 area from its weakness below the 4,175 Tolerance.

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That was necessary to make sure the market felt Powell provided enough comfort on inflation and planned Fed action in his testimony at that time. That is exactly what transpired. That left the 4,200 area support once again if there was any setback from around the old mid-May 4,238 all-time high.

Yet instead it churned above the Immediate higher resistance at the previous week's 4,246 weekly DOWN Closing Price Reversal (CPR with 4,249 Tolerance.) The new mid-June 4,267.50 all-time high (part of the DOWN CPR) being exceeded (still in mid-June) for another new all-time high clearly Negated that topping signal.

After the downside reaction into early last week, last Tuesday morning's recovery back above the 4,300 area violated support left the higher resistance into the previous week's 4,360 DOWN Closing Price Reversal with a Tolerance to 4,364. And it is of note that the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE had managed to retest that area right into the ECB press conference prior to weakening once again Thursday morning. That was the critical resistance which it was successful in exceeding.

That sums up the near-term contingencies, even if with prominent support lower. The more major lower support is also the low 4,200 area based on the aggressive weekly UP Channel from the March 2020 pandemic-driven major cycle low (see the chart.) Of note based on previous form, there is not much below that until the 4,120-00 area. In addition to that being clear congestion, that support vacuum is also reinforced by the nature of the May and June holding actions and selloffs.

That said, if the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE can sustain activity later this week above the 4,400 and 4,425 weekly Oscillator thresholds, it will be a sign of continued strength after they rose another $25 into this week. That also means that this week the higher Oscillator indications will rise to 4,495 and 4,525.

However, the more pressing issue on last week's late weakness was whether it could recover from early Friday weakness to exceed the 4,400 area once again. That was a twofold indication. In the first instance, could it strengthen enough to Close last week above at least the 4,400 lower near-term Oscillator threshold to maintain upside momentum, and now whether it will exceed it this week.

That is also with the higher near-term Oscillator threshold up to 4,425 this week. That will also be an indication of whether it can convincingly Negate last week's 4,403 next DOWN Closing Price Reversal, even if that was ostensibly a very mild DOWN signal. Even so, with it being tied into the Oscillators this week, which could make it more telling in terms of an extended bull trend that is feeling stale.

Courtesy Repeat of Evolutionary Trend View
[Much the same. To be updated after Thursday's BoE Rate Decision]

There was a renewed 'risk-on' psychology into the previous US EQUITIES early April all-time high near the 4,000 area, which was a sustained major influence back into 'risk on' psychology spreading into FOREIGN EXCHANGE as most tellingly reflected in EMERGING CURRENCIES. The prospect of further US government stimulus/relief had created a psychology where the GLOBAL GOVVIES had reverted to overall weakness to a greater degree than seen during anything previous since the last bear market.

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Yet they are now recovering to a goodly degree on the central bank assurances that any inflation will be transitory and possibly over the COVID-19 Delta variant concerns. While the March US NFP release along with other 'good' news turned out to actually be supportive of US EQUITIES (rather than a drover for any Fed tightening), the weaker April NFP and other data along with higher inflation was not playing well after the US EQUITIES test of higher resistance.

However, the JUNE S&P 500 FUTURE recovery back above the 4,100-20 area after nearing the early April UP Runaway Gap in the 4,021-15 range was a positive sign. The question then (after the substantial mid-May correction) was whether it could also overrun the 4,238 all-time high, as had recently transpired prior to the return of a bout of 'Fed Dread'.

Yet that FOMC influenced selloff vigorously tested the proposition of this remaining a 'risk-on' psychology into lower supports, and it survived. That was substantially reinforced by both the subsequent Chair Powell pandemic response testimony, which continued into this week's reiteration of full accommodation prior to the resurgent COVID-19 Delta variant concerns.

It will now be interesting to see if the US EQUITIES falling back from the next new all-time highs can restore any general 'risk-on' psychology by rebounding as quickly as on their most limited recent reactions; or is something more extensive on the downside in store due to the change in the Delta variant calculus on the latest shift in the CDC perspective?

The **FRONT MONTH T-NOTE FUTURE** slipped back below previously violated 139-20/-24 heavy congestion from the previous four months in early October (as apparent on the weekly chart through Friday **https://bit.ly/37fYGC8**.) However, the NEGATED DOWN Closing Price Reversal top from early March was in the 138-16/-00 range not revisited until recent trading.

While the key weekly Moving Averages were still in the mid 139-00 area, only the failure back below that 138-16/-00 range reinstated the downside momentum. That had changed on the early November response to the Pfizer-BioNTech announcement of the extreme efficacy of their COVID-19 vaccine. In last our Monday November 9th research note we also briefly reviewed the importance of the first ever mRNA vaccine.

The more upbeat longer term US economic outlook left the next minor support below the 138-16/-00 range into the 136-24 weekly area gap, with significant support in 135-00/134-16 area. While the 136-16 classical quarter point Tolerance of that 136-24 weekly area gap seemed to be violated on the weakness into mid-January that was reversed on the following week's ratchet back above 136-16, yet with the market back down testing those areas last week. Violating it from the opening last week opened the door to a test of major 135-00/134-16 historic support.

That is reinforced by the broader price history showing mid-low 135-00 congestion around the mid-2012 previous all-time high in addition to the more recent 134-16 area. While that was significantly violated last week, it never got very near the next historic support in the mid-low 132-00 area prior to rebounding. Failing back up to the mid 134-00 area on recent rallies leaves that as resistance on a sign they were likely headed lower.

While March contract had not really challenged the mid-low 132-00 area support, the discounted JUNE T-NOTE FUTURE was only back to trading somewhat above it. The next key decision into mid-low 132-00 area was the March contract expiration last week Monday after the JUNE T-NOTE FUTURE failure on the rally into that area. Even as it recovered then, the bounce back above that area had failed again, with the lower support still down into the interim 130-00 area, and major support not until 128-00 area (2019-2020 congestion.)

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Yet the recent sanguine Fed attitude along with COVID-19 Delta variant concerns seemed to be supporting JUNE T-NOTE FUTURE in its recovery back above 132-00. That opened the door to the retest of the historically prominent 134-00 area seen of late.

However, the recent quarterly expiration saw the SEPTEMBER T-NOTE at a typical full point discount, even if it recovered nicely from recent activity back below the 132-00 area once again on the FOMC fears. While that should provide comfort to the bears, it was also a risk they could rally to retest the 134-00 area if they did not remain below 132-00. That recovery has transpired in the context of the recent COVID-19 Delta variant spread, with a rally nearer 134-00.

That it is also still likely abetted by the consistent FOMC commitment to continued bond purchases, which has led to the push above the 134-00/-16 congestion from March 2020, with the next resistance as nearby as the 135-00 area recently tested weekly MA-41. Yet the more major DOWN Channel resistance (from the 140-235 March 2020 all-time high) is not until the 137-00 area (see the chart.)

Similarly, the previous strong sister **BUND FUTURE** has reversed into the weak sister for quite some time. This is likely due to its yield coming up from negative ground, despite the fact that the US economic data has been that much stronger. With as accommodative a central bank as the Fed, there is also matter of the inflation concerns being that much greater if it turns out to be less transitory than the central banks are currently hoping.

Looking back, the GLOBAL GOVVIES story on further near-term late-2020 economic weakness was reflected in Europe as the MARCH BUND FUTURE 2.30 premium to DECEMBER BUND FUTURE on a typically early expiration. That left it temporarily back above the very prominent 177.00-.50 congestion full year high (as seen in the weekly chart updated through Friday **https://bit.ly/3A4gfSi**.) Yet that was the 'last hurrah' of the bull trend prior to the COVID-19 situation improving, and the attendant better economic expectations.

After that it fell back quite a bit from above the 178.01 area, with the push at that time for much more Euro-zone stimulus leaving it below the 177.50-.00 support once again. It had been violated several times since mid-January, with the market back below it despite previous temporary recoveries. Then below next major support at the 175.00-.50 congestion, it also vigorously retested the 173.00-172.50 congestion into early March.

While the MARCH BUND FUTURE remained above it, as expected it was a bit demoralizing that the JUNE BUND FUTURE was so far below the 173.00-172.50 congestion when it became front month future. That left it more so poised to retest the 170.50-169.75 area congestion that had reached prior to the current recovery rally, with the far more major lower recent and historic congestion in the 168.86-.00 area from the summer 2016 previous all-time high.

However, it was more important on the recent recovery whether it could once again sustain activity back above the 173.00-172.50 congestion. Yet after only rallying into that area on the recent general GLOBAL GOVVIES recovery, this current weak sister had been back under pressure toward 170.50-169.75 area congestion on stronger European inflation indications despite rallies on central banker assurances regarding inflation.

Even its recent recovery from temporary slippage below 170.50 left it only up into the existing 173.00-172.50 congestion once again. While that leaves a long way back down to the key recently tested 170.50-169.75 area, even after fading from the contrarian FOMC bounce it was only somewhat back below that 173.00-172.50 congestion.

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And that lack of any downside momentum left it hanging around the low end of that important 173.00-172.50 congestion of late, with a recovery back above 174.00 at present looking more so like a retest of the 175.00-.50 area was possible under the influence of the recent COVID-19 Delta variant spread. And now that even that resistance has been exceeded on the extended Delta variant influence, with next congestion is back in the 177.50-.00 congestion area.

As the co-downside leader the **MARCH GILT FUTURE** (possibly on the inflationary implications of the Brexit break with the EU) was already failing somewhat below major 130-00 congestion. That was also with the typical full point discount in the **JUNE GILT FUTURE**. That left next support into the mid-low 128.00 area it was recently below prior to rebounding. Even though back above it once again, it remained vulnerable along with the rest of the GLOBAL GOVVIES. If it should slide further, the next major supports are not until the 126.50 and 125.50-.00 areas.

Yet central banker assurances inflation will be transitory had it recently rallying back into the upper 128.00 area of late. While the prominent resistance remains in that 130.50-.00 range congestion (violated previous 22-month trading lows), weekly chart congestion, MA-13 and the gap down from the March contract expiration all point to resistance in the low-mid 129.00 area into which it has indeed stalled.

And the GILT FUTURE expiration saw the opposite picture from the premium in SEPTEMBER BUND FUTURE. The **SEPTEMBER GILT FUTURE** was actually a typical full point below the June contract when it expired. While it was recently back down below the 128.00 area, we ascribed this to the economic differential between the previously fully reopened UK economy versus some residual drags in Europe.

While recently only modestly back above the 128.00 area, the current rally under the influence of recent UK COVID-19 Delta variant spread has it back up into to the 130.50-.00 range prior to backing off of late. It is interesting that even as the Delta variant continues to impact the UK and global economy, the GILT has not rallied any further than a retest of the high end of the 130.50-.00 area prior to dropping below it, possibly influenced by UK vaccination success.

In **FOREIGN EXCHANGE** the **DEVELOPED CURRENCIES** had also seen massive shifts in the Spring of 2020 prior to quieting down once again. As noted extensively throughout the year, even though the **US DOLLAR INDEX** had a ‘haven’ bid into mid-February 2020, it then came under extensive pressure against the other DEVELOPED CURRENCIES.

The problems in the US COVID-19 response had left it under sustained pressure. Yet the concerns about how poorly the other countries might fare under the extended COVID-19 impact had seen a partial ‘haven’ bid return to the greenback until the US DOLLAR INDEX stall on its late September temporary push above the key 94.00-.30 area.

While this was previously likely also at least partially tied to the US EQUITIES renewed ‘risk on’ psychology, there is also the degree to which the US has a more troubling COVID-19 pandemic problem that the rest of much of the world, and the Democratic presidential election victory fomenting fiscal concerns.

It is of note that even the Democrats ‘Blue Wave’ psychology dissipating into the middle of the week after the US election only saw US DOLLAR INDEX rally back to the top of the 94.00-.30 range prior to dropping repeatedly back to the 92.50-24 range once again. As that was violated in late November, the Evolutionary Trend View for the greenback was a continued down trend even though it had already tested lower support and temporarily rebounded into early February.

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However, the subsequent yield escalation created more of a 'risk off' psychology had restored the bid to the greenback. Whether that was merely a 'haven' bid or a reflection of a better US economy driving anticipation of premium US interest rates is moot.

In the event the US DOLLAR INDEX strength above the 91.00-.23 resistance pointed to higher levels, which had seen it overrun the more major 92.00-.30 area and even the higher 92.75-.85 area that it fully weakened from back below along with 92.30-.00.

In fact, DEVELOPED CURRENCIES exhibiting more strength had the US DOLLAR INDEX failing the 91.70 Tolerance of the 92.30-.00 range, and dropping below the 91.00-90.50 congestion. Even though it failed back up into the low end of it on the weakening of the 'risk-on' psychology, it had recently pushed back above that 92.00-.30 area as well as higher interim resistance in the 92.60, yet with a partially restored 'risk-on' psychology now dropping it back below it at present. Next lower support reverts to the 91.20-.00 area.

US DOLLAR INDEX inability to sustain activity back above the low 94.00 area top of the violated historic congestion had seen it drop below 92.50-.24 in late November. The more major supports were down in the 91.00-90.50 area tested and held since early December prior to being violated (as evident on the weekly chart through Friday **https://bit.ly/3fmeB6z**.)

As the 90.00 'big penny' is only psychological at this time, after 91.00-90.50 was violated the next lower support was not until the 89.50-.00 area already barely being tested again (after the January test) in recent trading with the 88.25 6-year low below that. That said, the recovery from the 89.50-.00 area had carried up in February into the high end of the 91.00-90.50 area. That said, the December rally failures back up at the top of that area had a Tolerance to the early December 91.23 trading high.

Strength above the 91.00-.23 resistance pointed to higher levels, yet with it stalling into the violated September 92.30 UP Closing Price Reversal that had held until late-November. The selloff at that time from the 92.50 trading high created a fresh DOWN Closing Price Reversal from the previous week's 91.98 Close (Tolerance of that week's 92.19 high.)

That had been Negated by the rally to the new high for that rally into early April. Yet the subsequent slide back below 92.85-.75 on DEVELOPED CURRENCIES exhibiting more strength had the US DOLLAR INDEX failing the 91.70 Tolerance of the 92.30-.00 range, and dropping into the 91.00-90.50 congestion prior to recovering temporarily up above the top of that range this week prior to slight slippage once again.

After it has failed to remain out above the 91.00-.23 range in recent trading, next lower support in the 91.00-90.50 area was violated prior to the recent squeeze back up above that area. That still left historic 89.50-.00 area support tested during December through February and just missed in late May as the lower support.

Yet in the wake of FOMC moving to a seemingly more aggressive tightening, it was back into 92.30-.00 area once again, which it has recently overrun. While the recent focus was back on 91.00-.50 area (including weekly MA-41) that it could not weaken back below of late, the higher interim resistances above the 92.00-.30 range are into the already violated 92.60 and the next congestion in the 93.30-.40 area (including the March 93.43 8-month trading high.)

Yet with the US DOLLAR INDEX failing the 92.30-.00 range once again on a partially restored 'risk-on' psychology, next lower support reverts to the 91.20-.00 area.

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With **EUR/USD** below 1.2000 again, there seemed to be more of a 'risk off' psychology again into early March, which was then independent of the strength of EMERGING CURRENCIES. Lower supports were back down into those 1.1815 and 1.1700 areas. That reinforced the potential for more US DOLLAR strength. The next lower EUR/USD support into 1.1815 had been violated in late March, with next support into the 1.1700 area subsequently tested prior its subsequent rapid push back above the 1.1800 area.

That was extended as EUR/USD rallied above 1.2000 again, and even churned above the top of the 1.2000-1.2100 range prior to temporary slippage back below the top end of that range in recent trading. The next significant resistance above is back into the recently tested 1.2200-50 area at the bottom of the early 2018 major range, with next resistances above into the 1.2400 area interim 2018 congestion, and 1.2550 top of that range.

Yet in the wake of FOMC moving to a seemingly more aggressive tightening (now refuted), it was back below 1.2000-1.2100 range with 1.1900 area interim support being violated overall on the way to the current weakness below the 1.1815 interim support. That left the 1.1700 area more major lower support, which correlates well with the US DOLLAR INDEX 93.30-.40 area. While much below that the next more major support is not until the 1.1600 area, the recovery back above the 1.1815 interim support means that is once again the area to closely watch.

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 early December, once it recovered the next resistance was not until the 1.3600-50 range it had rallied to in the wake of the Brexit agreement prior to reacting back down toward the 1.3500 area in January. Next interim resistance was as nearby as the 1.3750-1.3800 area it exceeded into early February, and loosely held on the subsequent selloff.

While this might be in part due to the higher UK interest rates, it is interesting to see how it has evolved in the context of recent US DOLLAR weakness assisting in pushing it above major 1.4000 area congestion since mid-May. That has held despite any minor US DOLLAR bounces, also now including weekly MA-9 and MA-13 trend supports.

The next resistances are not until the interim low-1.4200 area it recently tested prior to slipping somewhat back below it, and the more major 1.4350-76 congestion that includes the April 2018 nearly five year trading high. Yet in the wake of FOMC moving to a seemingly more aggressive tightening (now refuted), it is back below the 1.4000 area congestion with 1.3750-1.3800 area next support that has now also been violated after recently being tested and holding.

That had a Tolerance down to the hefty March-April 1.3700-1.3670 area 5-month pullback lows congestion (including weekly MA-41) which had also been recently violated. While the next interim support is 135.00 area with the more major congestion not until the 1.3300 area, the recovery back up to near 1.4000 prior to weakening once again leaves that nearby resistance.

The **AUD/USD** early-November through December surge back above .7200, .7350-.7400 congestion as well as interim .7500 area was a strong sigh that led to temporary strength even above the .7650-.7700 resistance the subsequently fizzled. The next interim resistance was as nearby as the recently exceeded .7800 area it was churning around prior to the resumption of recent weakness.

That left lower supports back into the interim .7500 area it previously dipped modestly below and then sagged further below again. The key lower supports are the recently neared congestion in the .7350-.7400 area and the .7200 area once again.

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While recent stability had left it back up near .7500 once again, the COVID-19 Delta variant impact had it back down below .7350-.7400 area, with next interim support back into the .7200 but with the major support not until the .7000 area once again (as back in the Fall of 2020.) However, now back up into the .7350-.7400 area leaves that as nearby resistance.

USD/JPY was the prima facie example of the extreme mid-February 2020 '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 105.00-104.50 range (39-month trading low with major tests in March 2018, January 2018 and August 2019.)

On recent form it had been previously churning below 105.00-104.50 as recently as January prior to pushing aggressively back above both 106.00 and 108.00 into early March. That it was above both 106.00 and even 108.00 despite US DOLLAR strength is in line with the strength of other DEVELOPED CURRENCIES, and is thereby another 'risk-on' indication.

The bid leaving the other 'haven' currency reinforced the previous secular US DOLLAR weakness on the violation of higher USD/JPY resistance into 110.00 being temporarily violated into early April prior to weakening back down to hold a test of the 108.00 area. Yet that lack of any 'haven' bid is once again reflected in USD/JPY stabilizing back up well above the 110.00 area, which runs counter to any shift to a 'risk-off' psychology on the lack of a 'haven' bid in the alternate 'haven' currency.

While other 'risk-on' indications have weakened of late, USD/JPY had remained strong above 110.00 up nearer 112.00-.50. That signaled a lack of full 'haven' status, yet with USD/JPY now weakening back into a recent churn around 110.00 in a sign that may be reversing in under the influence of the COVID-19 Delta variant global spread outside the US. The current nominal weakness back below 110.00 would seem to suggest a return of the YEN 'haven' bid, even if that weakened a bit on the recent nominal passing 'risk-on' psychology return.

And **EMERGING CURRENCIES** that had been under pressure had been recovering to some degree in February 2020 prior to coming back under pressure. While stronger over the Summer, they were back under pressure on the 'macro' view deteriorating into the COVID-19 'risk off' again until a previous 'risk on' revival on US DOLLAR weakness that then reversed.

While that was previously except for the TURKISH LIRA, even that had recovered to a goodly degree on recent renewed global 'risk on' psychology creating secular US DOLLAR weakness, even if that has reversed a bit on higher US yields of late.

That contrarian US DOLLAR rally in the wake of the ostensibly more profligate Democratic regime expectations had left all of the EMERGING CURRENCIES back under some pressure into the early part of the year. While that had substantially reversed over subsequent trading, it was back a bit again on the recent weakening of the 'risk on' psychology and the evolving sentiment focused on the recent GLOBAL GOVVIES yield escalation.

However, even as the GLOBAL GOVVIES weakened again in March trading prior to their April recovery, EMERGING CURRENCIES resilience spoke of some degree of global 'risk appetite' being maintained, and will continue to be a key indication.

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This was apparent during the sharp mid-May US EQUITIES downside reaction, where the EMERGING CURRENICES managed to only react a bit in their overall bull trends, and had strengthened again prior to the latest FMOC shift to a possibly more aggressive stance.

Yet the question must be whether that is on the sheer interest rate differential back into the US DOLLAR, or is it over concerns the global ‘risk-on’ reopening is threatened by any early shift to a less accommodative Fed policy? As noted of late, it seemed the more telling issue is just how damaging the rapidly spreading COVID-19 Delta variant might be within the cross currents, and that is now clearly the more telling influence in the context of consistent Fed messaging on its desire to NOT withdraw any accommodation just yet. Yet it is also split on some of the EMERGING CURRENCIES responding well to the strength of CRUDE OIL.

SA RAND had seen **USD/ZAR** failing in early April on renewed ‘risk on’ psychology violating the next interim support in the 14.70 area (part of the major range from late-2018 through early-2020), even if there was more major support into the 14.50-.45 area it had tested and held back in December through February. While the previous US DOLLAR rallies had seen USD/ZAR ratchet back above the 15.00 area to vigorously test the 15.40-.50 range again, it ultimately reverted to weakness.

That left 14.70 area (in the overall major range from late-2018 through early-2020) next support that had been violated more completely in late March. While that also opened the door for a test of more major support into 14.50-.45 area seen in both December and February, only on the mid-April weakness was that area violated on a weekly Close.

Back below the 14.50-.45 area again overall left USD/ZAR nearer to the 14.00 area, and the prominent historic congestion into the upper 13.00s (including the very important 13.81 July 2019 26-month trading low.)

A new round of weakness in late April set in motion to a new 27-month trading low below the July 2019 13.81 trading low. That left the next interim support at 13.55-.50 which was temporarily overrun into early June, and the 13.23 February 2019 33-month trading low as the next major level that was not quite reached. Yet in the wake of FOMC moving to a seemingly more aggressive tightening, it was back above the 13.80 and 14.00 areas, with next interim resistance into recent 14.20 congestion it also pushed above prior to the recent retest.

Yet more major influence is now likely further COVID-19 Delta concerns. After its inability to sustain weakness back below the 14.20, next resistance was into 14.40-.50 area. That was vigorously tested again of late, and was finally exceeded on South African pollical violence adding to its already substantial COVID-19 woes.

Even though the violence has abated, the RAND remains weak after a vigorous test of higher interim resistance is into the 14.70 area (with weekly MA-41 at 14.72.) However, that is with the more prominent recent and historic congestion into the 15.00-.10 area, and the 14.50-.40 area remains the key lower range.

Even when other EMERGING CURRENCIES have reacted to the downside of late, the **RUSSIAN RUBLE** had seen **USD/RUB** weaken on the back of sustained CRUDE OIL strength. The recent USD/RUB drop back below 75.00 since late April has seen it even slip below the 73.00-72.50 area prior to the recent recovery back above it.

That recent break was despite US sanctions and the weakness of other EMERGING CURRENCIES in the wake of the previous FOMC announcements and Chair Powell’s press conference prior to recovering last week.

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Lower support is the 72.00-71.75 interim area (albeit still at a 10-month trading low) with the next major support still into the 71.00-70.00 area that was temporarily violated on the combined temporary US EQUITIES weakness and OPEC negotiations disarray. However, after the recent OPEC disruption USD/RUB has rallied back above 73.00-72.50 area to nearer the 75.00 area prior to weakening once again.

The **MEXICAN PESO** saw **USD/MXN** selloff after the early-mid March surge quickly violated the lower interim 20.90 congestion, with the interim 20.65 congestion also violated on the way to the broad berth next support in the 20.25 area. That included an important 20.30-.10 weekly chart gap from on the way up in March of last year that had already been violated last November.

It then failed once again into a retest of the additional significant historic congestion (2018-2019) in the 19.80 area, with the next hefty historic congestion as nearby as the recently very vigorously tested 19.65-.50 area. The overall bottom of the very significant late-2018 through early-2020 range is not until the 18.50-.40 range.

That was even allowing there are interesting interim supports at 19.30 and into the 19.00-18.90 range. That said, the current rally back above 19.80 was more critical even after the previous failure as nearby as the 20.25-.30 area. Now slightly back above 20.00 leaves that as the near-term consideration on a weakening ‘risk-on’ psychology despite what seems to be some support from sustained CRUDE OIL strength.

While higher hefty congestion is the 20.30 area, there is also the higher 20.65 congestion it traded very temporarily above in mid-June prior to weakening below 20.00 again. While next higher resistance is the 20.90 congestion, the focus shifts more so to the 20.00 and 20.30 congestion areas once again after its recent inability to fail on serial tests of the 19.80 area.

Despite the recent CRUDE OIL slippage back below the 75.00-74.00 area leaving USD/MXN weakening back below 20.00, the extended CRUDE OIL weakness below even 71.00-70.00 nearer to 65.00 support prior left USD/MXN back up above 20.00 area to nearer 20.25-.30. However, the restrengthening of CRUDE OIL has USD/MXN back down into the 19.80 area.

The TURKISH LIRA had been back under pressure since **USD/TRY** pushed back above the 8.00 hefty late 2020 congestion back in March. That left the LIRA as the outlier weak sister, with the inability of USD/TRY to drop below 8.00 turning into another bout of strength back above recent 8.20-8.23 short term congestion.

While it was slightly below that until mid-April, the recent weaker indication was a late April daily DOWN Closing Price Reversal from 8.3750, which left 8.40 as a general Tolerance that needed to be watched into May. Above that again in line with the other EMERGING CURRENCIES weakening on the temporarily diminished ‘risk-on’ psychology into mid-May reversed into USD/TRY strength once again.

While that left the door open to a full retest of last November’s 8.5146 all-time high weekly Close, with only the 8.5765 coincident all-time high above that. While the LIRA seemed to firm on the mid-May return of the ‘risk-on’ psychology, that did not even bring a USD/TRY drop back to the 8.23-8.20 range. And while it recently did drop back near that lower interim congestion last week, it was then surging back up to somewhat above the late-May 8.7424 all-time high.

However, there has been a contrarian LIRA rally last week into this week on USD/TRY slipping back slightly below the late-May 8.7424 all-time high. That said, the more important near-term lower support is now the recent 8.52-8.45 area congestion it has finally managed to test on the downside reactions over the past several weeks with weekly MA-13 in that same area.

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And the weekly Oscillator indications suggest that the critical thresholds (reinforced by recent topping into the minor new highs) are into a very minor new high at 8.75 and then 8.88 and then well above that on the extended rally indications from 2018 and late 2020.

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.

The first week of the month being a full week always points to extreme influences, and this week is no exception. It starts off with a bang on Monday's global Manufacturing PMIs, and US Construction Spending. Tuesday brings quite a bit of Asian economic data and the Reserve Bank of Australia Rate Decision and Statement into limited European data and US Factory Orders along with limited other economic data.

Wednesday sees global Services PMIs along with Euro-zone and Italian Retail Sales into the US ADP Employment Change precursor to Friday's full US Employment report. Thursday is another big day on German Factory Orders and French Industrial Output into the Bank of England Rate Decision and Statement along with the MPC Meeting Minutes and Monetary Policy Report, followed by Governor Bailey's press conference.

That is followed by US Weekly Jobless Claims, and the US and Canadian Trade Balance along with the US Monthly Chain Store Sales. And it all wraps up on Friday with the RBA Monetary Policy Statement, Japanese Leading Economic Index and German and Spanish Industrial Production into the US and Canadian Employment reports. Even all of that is followed by US Wholesale Inventories and the holiday delayed Canadian Ivey PMI.

Of course, as good as the resilient 'risk-on' psychology may appear in US equities, the lack of confirmation from the other asset classes on the troubling spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant moving more rapidly than some health authorities had expected creates some important trend psychology dislocations. As such, you will not be surprised that we obviously maintain our recent strong advice that has been fully vindicated again of late: Keep those seat belts firmly fastened.

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