



RESEARCH NOTE

Friday, October 1, 2021

Charge of the Flight Brigade, Quick Take, Calendar

While there has been a bit of a reversal on some very interesting positive news this morning (more below), in general the previous 'risk-on' psychology investors had taken flight by late Thursday morning. That was on DECEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE again failing the key 4,348 level we heavily highlighted since early last week.

As noted since Wednesday's 'US Equities *Déjà Vu*' research note (repeated below for your ease of access), *"The market doesn't repeat, but it rhymes." In a modified way, the December S&P 500 future 4,348 area has reverted to the key support again this week on the renewed yield escalation pressure. And much like last week, it was temporarily violated relatively early this week..."*

However, previous that seemed to be on yield escalation indicated by weakness of GLOBAL GOVVIES. That is not so much the case anymore, with extended signs of global economic weakness on the sustained impact of the COVID-19 pandemic leading to much lower expectations. And as we have often noted, US EQUITIES classically do not succumb to any single negative influence.

The current multiple weaker influences are what brought to mind Alfred, Lord Tennyson's heroic 1854 poem "Charge of the Light Brigade" as today's title (with apologies to the long-dead UK Poet Laureate for the parody to relate it to the current flight of previously sanguine bulls.)

It memorializes the heroic charge of British Light Cavalry into withering cannon fire at the Battle of Balaclava earlier that Fall. On the way in they faced enfilades on all three sides, and after they finished their action it was the same on the way out... *"Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon behind them Volleyed and thundered..."* It must feel a bit like that to the previously still bullish 'risk-on' psychology investors who are seeing multiple problems now.

Having moved from our own more bullish Evolutionary Trend View (ETV) as the FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE stalled into weekly Oscillator thresholds in early September, there was always still the question of just how much of a correction would discount the 'macro' influence shift.

After last week's Evergrande-driven weakness below 4,348 abated on diminished fears over the impact of its missed interest payment, the DECEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE recovered well back above the 4,348 area... indeed pushing back above a weekly channel 4,410 DOWN Break.

Once that failed to hold, it was back down into the 4,348 area. That was assumed to be in part on pressure from the past two weeks rising yields, exacerbated by further GLOBAL GOVVIES weakness to new recent lows this week. However, the renewed US EQUITIES weakness Thursday along with DEVELOPED CURRENCIES and EMERGING CURRENCIES maintaining previous weakness was definitely not on any further yield escalation.

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In fact, GLOBAL GOVVIES recovered from key lower support levels late Thursday into this morning. So what could the matter be? Well, on a multiple problems scenario, the cannon fire on three sides is from one flank on the newly infused question over previously assumed US fiscal support for the economy. The issue is the Democratic Party ‘moderates’ not supporting the full ‘progressives’ \$3.5 trillion extended ‘social infrastructure’ plan.

As you are likely already well aware, this is after a bipartisan \$1.2 trillion ‘classic infrastructure’ plan was approved by negotiators from both parties months ago. However, as the progressives are bound and determined to see the broader ‘unconventional infrastructure’ plan pass Congress, they are threatening to scuttle the \$1.2 trillion plan unless their moderate members go along with the ‘unconventional infrastructure’ plan. This would be an act of political suicide.

In one of our classical brief insights into the US political undercurrents, the progressives have been running around for months saying that “*because the Democratic Party holds the White House and ‘controls’ (not really true) both houses of Congress*”, they should be able to pass both bills. The truth is that with such a slim legislative majority in the House and a tied Senate, they only control when any piece of legislation commands total support from all members.

The minutiae of the price level and key program specifics of the ‘unconventional infrastructure’ plan are less important than the problem that occurs if the demand it be passed leads to the failure of the ‘classic infrastructure’ plan. In that case, there will be no success for President Biden’s agenda in the first year of his term. That is along with seriously flagging approval ratings on the overall COVID-19 stubborn problems, Afghanistan withdrawal, and immigration.

In the established context of the tendency for the party that won the presidential election to see slippage in its Congressional seats in midterm elections. With that already a consideration, the lack of any significant legislative progress from the Democrats would likely only exacerbate that tendency, which already portends a loss of both their Senate and House majorities. This is a good reason why (as opposed to his resistance to the first term Obama administration) Senate Minority Leader McConnell could not be happier in opposing Democrats at every turn.

If they fail to achieve any legislative victories (like at least the \$1.2 trillion ‘classic infrastructure’ plan), the Democrats have basically written Republican’s campaign ads for them for the 2022 election. Recall the progressives mantra, “*because the Democratic Party holds the White House and ‘controls’ (not really true) both houses of Congress*”? Well, all the Republicans need to do is add the idea that even with all of that they accomplished ‘nothing’... and “Do you really want to return these folks to Washington to waste more time and taxpayer dollars?”

This is why the next few days are so critical to not just the Democratic Party agenda and future political fortunes, but also whether any expected further fiscal support from the US government will be forthcoming at all. If not, it removes a source of actual economic activity in the form of fixing public transportation, seriously degraded roads and bridges, water systems, high-speed internet, and clean energy based on expanded electric vehicle programs.

Going back to voters and saying “We’ve got nothing” would be a critical failure for the Democratic Party, and even more so would be a real disappointment for markets.

On the other flank is still elevated COVID-19 infections, deaths and restrictions in the US and elsewhere. The resilience of the pandemic based on the Delta variant spread is part of the broader problem affecting the global outlook. While there are increasing vaccination levels, the degree to which some key industrial centers like China still need to impose select quarantines has created, and will continue to create, drags on the performance of key functions; like shipping and retail.

Which gets back to the central cannon fire which is bothering the markets, and cannot be so easily reversed: a weaker Asian economy (based in good measure on China) driving lower global growth expectations into problems in Europe. Reuters posted a very good article (<https://reut.rs/3A1eRzk>) this morning on how the Asian economy led by China is no longer a reliable source of global growth.

However much the second quarter reopenings were very hopeful, there is little doubt that waned in the third quarter... as previously reported regarding the September 14th OECD Composite Leading Indicators (<https://bit.ly/3nxve3S>.)

Therefore, the thought that the US EQUITIES might hold a limited correction that seemed possible on the recovery from last week's early week Evergrande debacle now seems to not be the case. And the idea it is only driven by higher yields also went by the wayside Thursday into this morning on the US EQUITIES weakness independent of any further GLOBAL GOVVIES selloff, as they actually rallied a bit.

Yet that stubborn pandemic problem is where the 'good news' may make a difference in the intermediate-term. It was Merck pharmaceuticals announcement this morning that, along with its partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, it had developed a pill which (according to this morning's extensive Reuters article <https://reut.rs/2WwOval>) "*...could half the chances of dying or being hospitalized for those most at risk of contracting severe COVID-19...*" That self administered pill would be a real advance on the current in-hospital infusion requirement for the current COVID-19 acute symptom treatment, Gilead Science's Remdesivir.

Yet that has only brought a modest DECEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE recovery back above the interim 4,300 area that was loosely held last week prior to being violated down to the 4,260 level overnight into this morning. Unless it is going to demonstrate at least the ability to recover back above the 4,348 area sometime soon, an extension of the correction down to the more prominent May-June 4,235-00 congestion or even the low 4,100 area congestion is very likely.

Courtesy Repeat of Thursday's 'On the Cusp' research note

As should be very apparent from our Wednesday 'US Equities *Déjà Vu*' research note (we suggest a read if not already done), the interplay between Global Govvies and the other asset classes is a key Evolutionary Trend View (ETV) influence. Considering how far yields have risen (and prices have fallen) since early last week, the extended selloffs in both EMERGING CURRENCIES as well as the more recent weakening of DEVELOPED CURRENCIES should not be a surprise at this point.

As noted repeatedly in previous analysis, while they tend to be more insulated against initial inflation concerns due to higher pricing options, US EQUITIES have also been under a bit more pressure of late. While last week that was due to the exigent Evergrande problems factor, this week it seems to be more so on weaker data and higher yields. The latter has naturally affected the high flying tech NASDAQ more than mainstream stocks in the S&P 500 and DJIA.

That said, both last week and again this week we have been keen to note the importance of the 4,348 FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE mid-August trading low as a key weekly Close level. Being generally back down into that area since Tuesday leaves the ETV there 'on the cusp'. That actually looks better than yield-impacted emerging currencies that have been significantly weaker of late (except for the CRUDE OIL-advantaged RUSSIAN RUBLE.) Even DEVELOPED CURRENCIES have seen more of a US DOLLAR 'haven' bid of late on the concerns over 'reopening' global growth.

Yet lo and behold, this is all also with the additional pernicious influence of the higher yields, most clearly expressed in recent weakness in the previously more resilient US T-NOTE. As also noted previous, the FRONT MONTH US T-NOTE FUTURE had churned not too far below its key 134-00 area for two months. Yet after it expired last Tuesday, DECEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE fell to the 132-00/131-16 support, which it traded slightly below this week.

That it has held not much worse than the low end of that range since Tuesday is a key ETV that leaves it 'on the cusp', with implications for the other asset classes. That is due to the degree to which the decision by GLOBAL GOVVIES has the potential to spill over into further weakness by both the US EQUITIES and OTHER CURRENCIES against the US DOLLAR. Beat down EMERGING CURRENCIES (i.e. outside of the resilient RUSSIAN RUBLE) are either right against, or even slightly below, key lower supports.

Key developed currencies like the euro have failed support over the past couple of days, leaving them vulnerable to more weakness as well if US yields should escalate further. The 'good news' under a classical "*bad news is good news*" psychology is that the 'rearview mirror' economic data has weakened a bit of late. That was capped off for today with a higher than expected levels of US Initial Jobless Benefits Claims. Maybe weaker data points have had some influence on the T-NOTE holding against the low end of its once again critical current support, as well as the beleaguered DECEMBER BUND FUTURE holding its 170.00-169.50 area.

Yet this is not just driven by near-term data, as the broader inflation expectations can also be a factor regardless of what the near-term data may communicate. The latest Fed view on that was in Chair Powell's comments at Wednesday's ECB central banking forum. As noted in a Reuters article (<https://reut.rs/2Y2qqJ8>), he noted, "... (among) *his biggest concerns right now... ..is the possible clash between the Fed's two goals of stable prices and full employment, a situation that could force the Fed to make trade-offs between the two by raising interest rates to tame prices at a time when it still wants to encourage job growth.*"

Yet along with that he reiterated his view that the current inflation problem is substantially driven by economic reopening production 'bottlenecks', and not by the far more pernicious 'wage-price spiral' leading to stubbornly higher inflation expectations. As such, while economies continue to strengthen overall, the Fed still expects a 'normalization' which will also cool inflation.

That is yet to be seen, and is always an issue insofar as it can also tend to ingrain inflation even in a slowing economy, as was seen in 1970s 'stagflation'. Based on the current Fed view allowing more inflation, it has bought itself more time before it needs to act. Yet that is only as long as global govies trends do not weaken further in a way that leaves the Fed looking like it is well 'behind the curve'.

Contrary to much popular belief, neither the Fed nor other central banks control interest rates at the longer end of the curve. That is regardless of how aggressive their government bond buying QE programs may be at any point. Having seen multiple yield cycles, rising official rates are often only confirmation of what the bond market has dictated, regardless of what central bankers would like to see.

We've previously quoted, and return to a citation from the estimable Democratic political consultant James Carville. In response to the necessity for the Clinton administration to raise tax rates due to deficit worries that were driving higher yields back in 1994 he quipped, "*I used to think that if there was reincarnation, I wanted to come back as the president or the pope or as a .400 baseball hitter. But now I would like to come back as the bond market. You can intimidate everybody.*" That vintage view seems very apropos in the context of so many markets being 'on the cusp' of their further trend decisions after such interesting recent swings.

Courtesy Repeat of Wednesday's Quick Take

After the early July downside reaction the 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. That is clear on the FRONT MONTH S&P 500 FUTURE weekly chart (<https://bit.ly/3ickAw2> updated through Friday.) It is of note the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE had managed to retest that area right into the ECB press conference prior to weakening once again the following Thursday morning.

And the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE subsequently sustaining activity above the 4,425 and 4,450 weekly Oscillator thresholds was a sign of continued strength as they were still rising \$25 per week. As such, the Oscillator indications remain important after what was the 'lackluster jailbreak' after the previous outstanding US Employment report. With the market dropping back below the 4,450 level two weeks ago, there seemed to finally be some real risk.

Yet even below the key lower interim levels into the recent 4,425 area congestion and 4,380-65 area bottom of that, it also held key lower support in mid-August looking forward into the following week. That bigger level was 4,340 on weekly MA-13 (loosely held on all sharp reactions) at that time, and the significant aggressive weekly UP Channel from the major 2,174 March 2020 cycle low.

In the event, the recent late week recovery back above the 4,425 area pointed to the strength of the psychological recovery as well as exceeding the key technical resistance areas. That led to the recent new all-time highs above the previous week's 4,476.50 trading high (prior to the temporary selloff.) That again left the near-term Oscillator thresholds into 4,515 and 4,540 areas (on the rising MA-41), which it failed to maintain two weeks ago, fomenting the reaction.

This led to the SEPTEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE violation of the 4,492 interim daily chart congestion after trading around it previous, with the more prominent 4,462 area also being violated two weeks ago. And while it traded back above that as well early last week, recent softening below it spoke of an ability to trend lower in the near term. That left the more major 4,420-10 area as next support on both weekly MA-13 as well as that significant aggressive weekly UP Channel from the major March 2020 low.

Having tested that area on subsequent Closes and violating it was a fresh 4,410 DOWN Break. That fed further weakness already anticipated from the negative fundamental influence flowing out of China.

As usual there is a Tolerance below that (as seen on selloffs in both June and July) down to the 4,350 area developed during the temporary July topping activity, and retested on the mid-August sharp temporary reaction to a 4,347.75 trading low. While that may seem to be a broad berth, on past form only below the 4,350 area does the market signal a full reversal.

Yet as always with these matters, the weekly Close was more important than temporary trading weakness below it. And the DECEMBER S&P 500 FUTURE held overall against low-4,300 support, and ended the week back above the low 4,400 area. The extent of the temporary selloff means that it needs to be treated as a 4,410 weekly up channel DOWN Break. Yet that also means the Close back above it establishes it as a Negated DOWN Break, and therefore a support area. That is also consistent with weekly MA-13 moving up to the 4,430 area this week.

That said, the 4,348 area has reverted to the key support again this week on renewed pressure. And much like last week, it was temporarily violated early this week. The difference is that the daily 'trend flow' is a bit different, where last week it was seriously violated on Monday and churned around it on Tuesday prior to recovering so well. This week it slipped on Tuesday, and is churning around it today with much less slippage. Will this see another late week recovery?

We suggest watching the key 132-00/131-16 DECEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE support the potential for that to occur.

Courtesy Repeat of Wednesday's Evolutionary Trend View

While the FRONT MONTH T-NOTE FUTURE (March at the time) 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 (as apparent on the weekly chart through Tuesday <https://bit.ly/3kONsMu>.) The next key decision into mid-low 132-00 area was the March contract expiration 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.) Yet the subsequent 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 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 well above 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 into recently tested weekly MA-41 that has now dropped to the upper 134-00 area. Yet the more major DOWN Channel resistance (from the 140-235 March 2020 all-time high) is not until the mid-136-00 area.

However, in the wake of all of this inflation pressure, the SEPTEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE was holding in the mid 133-00 area. That is still only a bit below the 134-00/-16 area it subsequently traded above, and still well above the key lower 132-00 area it recovered above after slippage in March and repeated tests through June. This is all the more interesting as the pressure on the other GLOBAL GOVVIES seems to stem in part from US inflation indications.

And the SEPTEMBER T-NOTE had finally been weakening a bit below the 134-00 area, even if only slightly up until its September 21st expiration. However, even after the recent bounce, the DECEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE was still at a 24/32nds discount. That left it down into the low 133-00 area, and slipping for a vigorous test of the more important 132-00/131-16 area.

As noted above, DECEMBER T-NOTE FUTURE weakness is particularly telling both in the context of how quickly it weakened into that area, and the next historic support not being until the 130-00 area (as it tends to run in two point increments.) That is allowing that the previous sharp selloff into early April held at 130-255, essentially not any sort of historic congestion. This opens the door to a 10-year yield swing to a new high above the April-May 1.70-1.75% area, after which it might react back down.

While the **MARCH BUND FUTURE** remained above 173.00-172.50 congestion, as expected it was a bit demoralizing that the JUNE BUND FUTURE was so far below it when it became front month future (as seen in the weekly chart updated through Tuesday <https://bit.ly/3ojZglH>.) 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 previous 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. 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 the recent recovery back above 174.00 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 back in the 177.50-.00 congestion area that has been vigorously tested in recent trading. Next resistance was as nearby as 178.00 congestion, yet with the extended level in that area being the 178.77 December trading high, and its gap lower from the 178.68 high Close that same week.

On the current return to weakness below 177.00-.50 area the key lower remains the 175.50-.00 area it pushed above in mid-July after a more telling rally above the 172.00-.50 area. Yet it was now already back down into the low end of the 175.50-.00 range. While holding might have given some folks a sense of support, that was also violated into early this week.

And that was only the prelude to today's SEPTEMBER BUND FUTURE typically early month expiration with the DECEMBER BUND FUTURE trading at a full 3.00 discount. And that is with the December contract also below the 173.00-172.50 area, which seems to point to quite a bit of inflation expectation there. It also points to the potential test of the next major 170.00-169.50 congestion unless there is a recovery back above the 173.00-172.50 area. And on the recent rally it only reached the 172.00 area.

That said, previous downside leader DECEMBER BUND FUTURE Monday drop into its major 170.00-169.50 range key support has not seen any further weakness so far. The overall drop represents a yield rally to -0.20%. While that may sound quite low to others, it is well up from nearly -0.50% as recently as mid-August. Its importance is highlighted by this being the key support this side of the 168.00-167.50 range. However, much like the T-NOTE, its selloff into May did not quite reach that 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 pointed to resistance in the low-mid 129.00 area into which it indeed stalled into early June.

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 had it back up into to the 130.50-.00 range prior to recently backing off. It is interesting that even as the Delta variant continues to impact the UK and global economy.

In that regard, the GILT not rallying any further than a retest of the high end of the 130.50-.00 area was a warning, even if it was maintaining that rally into higher resistance until the recent return of pressure.

Yet on the current weakening back below 130.50-.00 area the next support remains 128.00. While quite a ways off, the September contract expiration currently sees a **DECEMBER GILT FUTURE** that is already trading down below that lower congestion, and closer to the major 126.00-125.50 major congestion prior to the recent bounce. That said, FRONT MONTH GILT FUTURE (as of Tuesday), which had been the weak sister previous, failed to hold its 128-00 support last week on the September contract selloff.

With the typical full point discount at expiration in the 'second month' DECEMBER GILT FUTURE, it is back to well below its 126-00 support. That is striking in being so far back below the 126.86 May trading low (March-May high yields near 0.90%), and insofar as the cash rate is now into the psychologically important 1.00% with the next futures support not until even further down into the 124.30-123.60 range.

As such, even considering how far GLOBAL GOVVIES prices have fallen and yields have risen, the 'straight-line' factor means they may have further to go prior to any stabilization or counterpoint reaction. That may become more apparent later this week.

In **FOREIGN EXCHANGE** the **DEVELOPED CURRENCIES** had also seen massive shifts from 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** on the more upbeat global recovery outlook on the COVID-19 vaccination success despite near-term setbacks.

Yet the current higher yield anticipation is driving the 'risk-off' psychology in the vulnerable EMERGING CURRENCIES, and even more of a US DOLLAR 'haven' bid at present in the DEVELOPED CURRENCIES. While that bid may also be partly on the basis of the recent surge in US yields, that is historically less of a significant factor compared to the prospects for inward investment overall.

After the **US DOLLAR INDEX** had 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 above that area (as seen on the weekly chart <https://bit.ly/3kPGTJv> through Tuesday.) That still left historic 89.50-.00 area support tested during December through February and just missed in late May as 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 had 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.

That is along with the recent fresh major weekly 92.70 down channel UP Break (see the chart.) While recently slightly above the next congestion in the 93.30-.40 area (including the March 93.43 8-month trading high), back below it the 92.70-.60 area was a key consideration.

Failing below it prior to the current recovery was a negative sign which has been mitigated on the rise back above it. Whether that maintains, and whether it can invigorate stronger activity back above the 93.30-.40 area will be the key current trend indications.

Yet the market activity is clear on the US DOLLAR INDEX rising above 93.40 area once again. Also above the August 93.72 trading high makes this a new 10-month trading high, with next resistance not until the 94.30-74 Fall 2020 trading highs. That is also the case for the EUR/USD weakening again below the 1.1700 key level below its August 1.1800 area weekly Head & Shoulders DOWN Break. However, unlike the minor new high in the US DOLLAR INDEX, EUR/USD is still holding slightly above its 1.1664 mid-August trading low. Yet this still leaves the burden of proof on bulls to create an immediate return to strength, even if next lower support is as nearby as the 1.1600 area Fall 2020 trading lows.

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 meant that was once again the area to closely watch. And the recent sharp failure put the 1.1750 area back in play as a weekly Head & Shoulders H&S) Top Neckline (as evident on the atypical one-off weekly chart through Tuesday <https://bit.ly/3zUgvCy>), which it quietly slipped below on a fresh 1.1800 DOWN Break.

Does that mean the 1.1100 Objective will be hit? Well, long before that would happen it will be important to see if it sees greater weakness below the important late-March 1.1700 area trading low than the temporary weekly Close slightly below it two weeks ago.

That is the low between the Head (H) and Right Shoulder (RS), the violation of which is always a key indication of whether the H&S Top is a bona fide pattern reversal, and fulfills at least the minimum bear trend definition of a "lower low after a lower high" (as the right shoulder by definition always is.) Yet on current form, the sheer 'trend flow' for the past several weeks looks bad for the bears.

Having a sizable weekly pattern DOWN Break show some progress only to not exhibit downside 'follow through' on a selloff two weeks later feels like that overall DOWN signal that is not performing to reinforce the overall trend reversal. Into last week it was all coming down to whether the bears could defend the 1.1800 area overall despite the recent buoyant price activity, and that was not the case. Yet the current weakness back below that area leaves a question yet to be resolved, and makes the 1.1700 area more critical once again.

However, unlike the minor new high in the US DOLLAR INDEX, EUR/USD is still holding slightly above its 1.1664 mid-August trading low. Yet this still leaves the burden of proof on bulls to create an immediate return to strength, even if next lower support is as nearby as the 1.1600 area Fall 2020 trading lows.

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 Brexit agreement prior to reacting back down.

That was back 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 had evolved in the context of recent US DOLLAR weakness assisting in pushing it above major 1.4000 area congestion since mid-May. That had previously held despite any minor US DOLLAR bounces, also now including weekly MA-9 and MA-13 trend supports.

The next resistances were not until the interim low-1.4200 area it recently tested prior to slipping 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 (even if now refuted), it was back below the 1.4000 area congestion with 1.3750-1.3800 area next support that had also been violated after previously 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. After the recovery back up to near 1.4000 prior to weakening once again left the 1.3750-1.3800 area reinstated as next support, which has now already violated once again.

That brought the 1.3700-1.3670 area which was violated weeks ago back into focus, with the next interim support in the 135.00 area, and the more major congestion not until the 1.3300 area. The current weakness back below the 1.3750-1.3800 area looks as important as the EUR/USD decision, with the weekly MAs also all in that area meaning it was a significant decision along way to also violating the 1.3700-1.3670 area.

That left important lower support into the 1.3500 area which has already been violated for a fresh 8-month trading low (below the 135.71 July trading low), with the next support into the 1.3350 and 132.00 areas not seen since late 2020.

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.

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, that leaves the current selloff back below the .7350-.7400 area after the failure to reach .7500 next resistance on the rally.

While it was recently back below the .7200 area once again with next support not until the .7000 area, the current rally back above both the .7200 area left it back near the 7350-.7400 area prior to the current weakness. Yet now back blow .7200 opens the door to the first test of the .7106 August spike selloff low, with the more major .7000 area historic congestion below that.

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 not much worse than the 110.00 area, which was recently more critical on slippage below that level.

Yet the surge above it has also reinforced the degree to which there is no 'haven' bid in the yen, and encourages the idea that the current overall 'risk-off' weakness might still be reversed if the GLOBAL GOVVIES weakness abates in the near term.

And **EMERGING CURRENCIES** have now diverged to a greater degree than in recent memory, due to 'country' factors. That has seen the SOUTH AFRICAN RAND weaken to a greater degree, and the previously beleaguered TURKISH LIRA hold more of a bid than seen in a while until its current weakness. However, in general they remain a good general indication of 'risk appetite' due to their economies' sensitivity to overall economic conditions, and their reversion to weakness has illustrated the degree to which 'risk-off' is note the major psychology.

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 political violence adding to its already substantial COVID-19 woes.

Even though the violence had abated, the RAND remained weak after a churn around the higher interim area around 14.70 area (with weekly MA-41 at 14.72 at that time.) However, that is with the more prominent recent and historic congestion into the 15.00-.10 area it was recently above, only stopping into the next congestion in the mid-15.00 area.

Yet the renewed risk appetite has been very prominent in USD/ZAR, with the slide since early last week dropping back below 15.00-.10 area, 14.80-.70 and even the 14.40-.50 area, leaving 14.20 once again as the next key congestion (early-August trading low.) While that had held previous, activity back above 14.40-.50 area had left it challenging the 14.70-.80 resistance.

Woth that violated it has also pushed above the significant 15.00 area congestion. On historic form that does not leave and resistance until recent trading highs in the 15.40 area initially, yet more significantly into the 15.55-.65 area (January and March 2021 trading highs.)

Even when other EMERGING CURRENCIES have reacted to the downside of late, the **RUSSIAN RUBLE** had seen **USD/RUB** weaken at times on the back of sustained CRUDE OIL strength. The 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.

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 was back above 73.00-72.50 area to nearer the 75.00 area prior to weakening once again to retest 73.00-72.50 area. After that held, weakening WTI CRUDE OIL prices had seen it rally back near 75.00 once again prior to stalling.

However, the recent major WTI CRUDE OIL recovery back above 70.00 had seen it drop back slightly below the 73.00-72.50 area prior to stabilizing in that range once again. While it pushed up a bit earlier this week on the general EMERGING CURRENCIES weakness, it is right back into that range at present.

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 had USD/MXN back down into the 19.80 area, which it has interestingly held despite the partial return to CRUDE OIL weakness.

Yet the extended energy market drop that had seen it back above 20.00 after recent serial tests of the 19.80 area is now reversed. However, after breaching the recent hefty 20.25 area congestion (also tied into the 20.10 weekly MA-41 at that time) it is back below it. Recently back below the 20.00 area (also weekly MA-9 and MA-13) brought the 19.80 area back into focus prior to the push back above 20.00.

Having now breached the 20.20-.25 area as well has seen it push above the August 20.45 trading high. The next resistance is the 20.75 June trading high, with the significant congestion above that not until the 21.00 and 21.40-.50 range..

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 had slipped below nearer to that 8.23-8.20 range earlier this week prior to recovering into the 8.52-8.45 area once again.

Yet it is now the case that weekly MA-13 and MA-9 have stalled up into the 8.54-8.57 range, reinforcing resistance around that 8.5764 previous major November 2020 all-time high. And the weekly Oscillator indications suggest that it was up against near-term weekly Oscillator thresholds prior to the recent more prominent selloff. While the more critical thresholds (reinforced by recent topping into the minor new highs) are into June's current 8.7917 all-time high, those moot after the current two-month selloff.

The recent USD/TRY weakness had left it more so down vigorously testing the early-August 8.2960 and early-June 8.2832 trading lows, with the more prominent support down into the 8.00 area (including weekly MA-41.)

Yet the weakening of EMERGING CURRENCIES has seen USD/TRY surge back above the 8.50 area (also still weekly MA-13 and MA-9) and even back above congestion around the late-May 8.7424 all-time high. Also now above the June previous 8.79 all-time high sees it up to a key 8.90 weekly Oscillator threshold, with any even more important threshold into the 9.00 area.

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.

While last week saw the end of two weeks of Central Bank-O-Rama on serial rate decisions and some press conferences, they still represent a significant influence this week due to Fed speeches and testimony and quite a few instances of other banks' events. Yet it is also the important last week of the month economic release phase right into Friday's important global Manufacturing PMIs. The one lighter than usual top of the month influence is the absence of the US Employment report on Friday, where the BLS usually demures when the first Friday of the month is the first day of the month.

Monday was always going to be a calmer day, with the only critical data being a much better than expected US Durable Goods Orders report, which is driving further inflation expectations after last week's GLOBAL GOVVIES weakness. However, that is the lull before the storm, which picks up just a bit again on Tuesday with mostly US data, yet also with Fed Chair Powell's 'Coronavirus and CARES Act' testimony before the Senate Banking Committee.

The real onslaught begins on Wednesday, with only Japanese Retail Trade in Asia leading into the usual raft of late month data in Europe, and the ECB's "Beyond the pandemic: the future of monetary policy" forum. Thursday sees the typically earlier than other country Chinese release of its NBS Manufacturing PMI and the Non-Manufacturing PMI along with the other major global end of month data, including the final US Q2 GDP update. As noted above, there is no US Employment report Friday. Yet along with the global Manufacturing PMIs it sees German Retail Sales, French Trade numbers, and US Personal Income and Spending prior to its Michigan Sentiment and Construction Spending data.

Of course, the troubling resilience of the COVID-19 pandemic on the continued Delta variant spread is still offsetting some of the more upbeat recent vaccination developments. Yet even as this seemed to take a toll on US equities, the current markets seem more so concerned with inflation that had not been quite as prominent a factor until last week in the GLOBAL GOVVIES and foreign exchange.

As such, you will likely not be at all surprised that we obviously maintain our recent advice that has been fully vindicated again of late: Keep those seat belts firmly fastened.

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