



# by Alan Bush, Senior Financial Economist

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# **STOCK INDEX FUTURES**

S&P 500 futures advanced to a new record high today after the minutes of the Fed's last policy meeting, published on Wednesday, showed the Federal Open Market Committee will not be ending its bond-buying support for the economy anytime soon. The FOMC indicated the economy was still short of its target and was in no rush to scale back its \$120 billion a month of bond buying.

Jobless claims in the week ended April 3 were 744,000 when 680,000 were expected.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will speak on the global economy later this morning.

Stock index futures continue to perform well for the news.

# CURRENCY FUTURES

The U.S dollar index is lower due to an on balance dovish stance from the FOMC.

The euro currency is higher after a report showed German manufacturing orders increased by more than expected in February. Manufacturing orders grew 1.2% on the month in February after a revised 0.8% increase in January. Economists expected February orders to grow 1.0% on the month.

Producer prices in the euro area increased 0.5% from a month earlier in February, following an upwardly revised 1.7% advance in the previous month and missing market expectations of a 0.6% increase.

The British pound is higher after a U.K. construction PMI jumped to 61.7 in March from 53.3 in the previous month and well above market expectations of 54.6.

The Japanese yen is higher after a report showed a consumer confidence index increased by 2.2 points from the previous month to 36.1 in March, which is the highest since February of last year.

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## **INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES**

The June 30-year Treasury bond futures remain above a two-month downtrend line and are showing signs of stabilizing by not making news lows when there is bearish news.

Yesterday's release of the minutes from the FOMC's March 17 policy meeting were overall dovish. Officials appeared to not be worried by the possibility of a sustained rise in inflation.

The FOMC issues minutes of its meetings with a three week lag after the meeting.

San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank President Mary Daly said on Wednesday that the size of the U.S. central bank's balance sheet, now more than \$7 trillion, is "far" from hitting any limits.

In addition to Federal Reserve Chairman Powell, other Federal Reserve speakers today are James Bullard at 10:00 and Neel Kashkari at 1:00.

In my minority view, I am seeing indications that global economic growth may not be as strong as many analysts are predicting.

# **SUPPORT & RESISTANCE**

### June 21 S&P 500

Support	4068.00	Resistance	4095.00
June 21 U.S. Dollar Index			
Support	92.080	Resistance	92.520
June 21 Euro Currency			
Support	1.18700	Resistance	1.19180
June 21 Japanese Yen			
Support	.91000	Resistance	.91880
June 21 Canadian Dollar			
Support	.79160	Resistance	.79550
June 21 Australian Dollar			
Support	.76020	Resistance	.76560
June 21 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds			
Support	155^30	Resistance	157^0
June 21 Gold			
Support	1730.0	Resistance	1762.0
May 21 Copper			
Support	4.0500	Resistance	4.1000

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### May 21 Crude Oil

Support 59.00 Resistance 59.95

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