



by Alan Bush, Senior Financial Economist

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STOCK INDEX FUTURES

At 9:00 central time Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will deliver the central bank's semiannual report on the economy and monetary policy to Congress during two days of testimony beginning with the Senate Banking Committee.

Mr. Powell is likely to signal that easy money policies will remain for the foreseeable future. In addition, he will likely face questions on the next fiscal stimulus package, interest rates, bond purchases and the potential for inflation to increase.

The House of Representatives Budget Committee yesterday approved the \$1.9 trillion economic relief package, and a full House vote is anticipated later in the week. The Senate is expected to vote next week.

The 9:00 central time consumer confidence index is expected to be 90 and the 9:00 February Richmond Federal Reserve manufacturing index is anticipated to be 14.

Stock Index futures are likely to recover after Fed Chair Powell's testimony.

CURRENCY FUTURES

After making a seven-week low in the overnight trade, the U.S. dollar index is higher now.

The euro currency is lower after European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde on Monday said the ECB was closely monitoring bond yields, which suggests the ECB is unhappy with their recent rise.

The British pound advanced to its highest level against the U.S. dollar in nearly three years.

The headline U.K. unemployment rate edged up to 5.1% in December, as expected. However, data also showed that the number of people claiming benefits dropped by 20,000 in January, rather than increasing as analysts had estimated.

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Markets in Japan are closed today for a public holiday.

The Australian dollar advanced to a 36-month high against the U.S. dollar as investors become more optimistic on the prospects of faster growth.

INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES

Futures are mixed today. However, increased inflationary expectations have recently pressured futures at the long end of the curve.

Dallas Federal Reserve President Robert Kaplan on Monday repeated that he expects the U.S. economy will grow at about a 5.0% rate this year.

The Treasury will auction 2-year notes today.

In light of the Federal Reserve pledging not to hike its fed funds rate until possibly 2023, futures at the short end of the curve are likely to hold steady.

The next Federal Open Market Committee meeting is scheduled for March 17.

SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

March 21 S&P 500

Support	3835.00	Resistance	3898.00
March 21 U.S. Dollar Index			
Support	89.870	Resistance	90.250
March 21 Euro Currency			
Support	1.21350	Resistance	1.21940
March 21 Japanese Yen			
Support	.94820	Resistance	.95400
March 21 Canadian Dollar			
Support	.79160	Resistance	.79540
March 21 Australian Dollar			
Support	.78880	Resistance	.79440
March 21 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds			
Support	161^20	Resistance	163^0
April 21 Gold			
Support	1800.0	Resistance	1822.0
May 21 Copper			
Support	4.1200	Resistance	4.2400

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April 21 Crude Oil

Support 61.10 Resistance 63.34

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