



by Alan Bush, Senior Financial Economist July 28, 2021

STOCK INDEX FUTURES

Major U.S. stock index futures remain near record highs ahead of the Federal Reserve announcement.

Traders have been encouraged by recent comments from the Federal Reserve, which indicated it doesn't plan to pull back on supportive policies in the near term.

Mortgage applications in the U.S. were up 5.7% in the latest week, rebounding from the 4.0% drop as mortgage rates fell. Applications to refinance a home loan increased 9.3% while those to purchase a home declined 1.6%.

The fundamentals and technical aspects remain positive for U.S. stock index futures.

CURRENCY FUTURES

The U.S. dollar index is higher as demand for safe-haven assets remains strong.

In the weeks ahead it is likely that the flight to quality influence that the greenback has enjoyed recently will dominate over other market influences.

The GfK Consumer Climate Indicator for Germany was unchanged at -0.3 heading into August, remaining at one-year high but well below market forecasts of 1.0.

Annual house price growth in the U.K. eased to 10.5% in July from a 17-year high of 13.4% in the previous month. Figures compare with market forecasts of 12.1% growth.

The annual inflation rate in Australia increased to 3.8% in Q2 2021 from 1.1% in Q1 and matching the market consensus. This was the highest reading since Q3 2008.

INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES

The Federal Open Market Committee concludes its two-day policy meeting today.

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The Fed will release its policy statement at 1:00 p.m. central time. Most of the focus is likely to center on Chairman Jerome Powell's news conference at 1:30 p.m., including any comments he makes about the Fed's stance toward tapering its \$120 billion a month in asset purchases.

The Federal Reserve is expected to keep the fed funds rate at 0-0.25% and bond-buying at the current \$120 billion monthly pace. The central bank at the end of last year said it would continue to buy \$120 billion in Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities monthly until officials believe they have achieved "substantial further progress" toward their goals of low unemployment and inflation reaching their 2.0% goal.

Any surprises are likely to be on the dovish side.

SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

September 21 S&P 500		
Support	4377.00	Resistance 4421.0
September 21 U.S. Dollar Index		
Support	92.380	Resistance 92.740
September 21 Euro Currency		
Support	1.18000	Resistance 1.18500
September 21 Japanese Yen		
Support	.90740	Resistance .91200
September 21 Canadian Dollar		
Support	.79280	Resistance .79700
September 21 Australian Dollar		
Support	.73280	Resistance .73840
September 21 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds		
Support	164^2	Resistance 165^4
August 21 Gold		
Support	1790.0	Resistance 1812.0
September 21 Copper		
Support	4.5100	Resistance 4.5900
September 21 Crude Oil		
Support	71.55	Resistance 72.88

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