

Global Markets Research

Daily Market Highlights

Key Takeaways

- US and European markets were mostly closed on Friday for Good Friday holiday. **Asian markets ended mixed on Friday - shares went up in China, Japan and Korea but fell in Hong Kong with lighter trading volume as investors turned cautious against the three-day holiday for global markets.** The Shanghai Composite Index rose 0.63%, Nikkei 225 rose 0.50% and the KOSPI edged up by 0.11%. Hang Seng Index lost 0.54%.
- Data releases were limited to US housing starts and building permits on Friday with both missing analyst' estimate. **Housing starts fell 0.3% MOM in March marking its second month of decline** following an outsized gain in January. **Building permits, a leading indicator for housing starts also slid by 1.7% MOM**, also accompanied by a downward revision to previous month's figure as well, raising questions on whether the housing market is on course for a recovery this quarter.
- **The Dollar index closed 0.09% lower at 97.338** in a very quiet and non eventful manner due to Good Friday holiday. **We maintain USD bullishness over the medium term** and we look towards US GDP as the catalyst this coming Friday to reinforce this view in an otherwise light data week.
- **MYR closed 0.22% stronger at 4.1330** as the pair was rejected at the 4.1500 important resistance level. **MYR has been rejected** at the 4.15 handle and now trades circa 4.13 handle. The pair will likely consolidate around 4.12-4.15 as previously mentioned. Only a sustained break below the 4.12 handle will negate current upside pressure towards the 4.15 handle.
- **SGD closed stronger by 0.05% at 1.3552 against USD** in quiet trading. **We maintain bearish SGD** as a stronger USD regionally amongst peers may affect overall SGD performance.

Overnight Economic Data

US



What's Coming Up Next

Major Data

- Malaysia Foreign Reserves
- US Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index, Existing Home Sales MOM
- Japan Convenience Store Sales

Major Events

- Nil

Daily Supports – Resistances (spot prices)*

	S2	S1	Indicative	R1	R2	Outlook
EURUSD	1.1170	1.1200	1.1244	1.1265	1.1300	↗
GBPUSD	1.2850	1.2930	1.2992	1.3100	1.3150	↗
USDJPY	111.40	111.70	111.98	112.30	112.70	➔
AUDUSD	0.7070	0.7120	0.7147	0.7200	0.7230	➔
EURGBP	0.8570	0.8600	0.8655	0.8675	0.8700	➔
USDMYR	4.1250	4.1300	4.1350	4.1400	4.1450	➔
EURMYR	4.6250	4.6400	4.6495	4.6610	4.6850	↗
JPYMYR	3.6620	3.6800	3.6935	3.7100	3.7200	➔
GBPMYR	5.3400	5.3600	5.3725	5.3900	5.4000	↗
SGDMYR	3.0400	3.0450	3.0500	3.0600	3.0650	↘
AUDMYR	2.9300	2.9500	2.9560	2.9750	3.0000	➔
NZDMYR	2.7300	2.7450	2.7640	2.7890	2.7980	➔
USDSGD	1.3475	1.3510	1.3555	1.3575	1.3600	↗
EURSGD	1.5100	1.5160	1.5245	1.5311	1.5370	↗
GBPSGD	1.7410	1.7560	1.7612	1.7875	1.7975	↗
AUDSGD	0.9600	0.9650	0.9688	0.9750	0.9775	↗

* at time of writing

↗ = above 0.1% gain; ↘ = above 0.1% loss; ➔ = less than 0.1% gain / loss

	Last Price	DoD %	YTD %	Name	Last Price	DoD %	YTD %
KLCI	1,622.07	0.14	-4.05	CRB Index*	187.13	0.28	10.21
Dow Jones Ind.*	26,559.54	0.42	13.86	WTI oil (\$/bbl)*	64.00	0.38	40.94
S&P 500*	2,905.03	0.16	15.88	Brent oil (\$/bbl)*	71.97	0.49	33.77
FTSE 100*	7,459.88	-0.15	10.88	Gold (\$/oz)	1,275.52	-0.02	-0.46
Shanghai	3,270.80	0.63	31.15	CPO (RM/tonne)	2,052.50	-0.27	5.12
Hang Seng	29,963.26	-0.54	15.93	Copper (\$/tonne)	6,476.00	-1.22	8.57
STI*	3,347.58	-0.03	9.09	Rubber (sen/kg)	492.00	-1.60	29.82

*Last price for 18 April

Source: Bloomberg

Economic Data

	For	Actual	Last	Survey
US Housing Starts MOM	Mar	-0.3%	-12.0% (revised)	5.4%
US Building Permits MOM	Mar	-1.7%	-2.0% (revised)	0.7%

Source: Bloomberg

➤ Macroeconomics

- US homebuilding data disappointed, raising question on housing market recovery:** Housing starts unexpectedly fell 0.3% MOM in March (Feb: -12.0% revised), marking its second month of decline following an outsized gain in January. It is worth noting that housing starts fell more than initially estimated in February as the number was revised from -8.7% to -12.0% MOM. March building permits, a leading indicator for housing starts also slid by 1.7% MOM (Feb: -2.0% revised), accompanied by a downward revision to previous month's figure as well. Both readings missed expectations as analysts have been calling for rebounds given the recent improvement in NAHB homebuilders' sentiment index as well as rising mortgage approvals amidst falling interest rates, raising questions on whether the housing market is on course for a recovery this quarter.

Economic Calendar

Date	Country	Events	Reporting Period	Survey	Prior	Revised
22/04	Malaysia	Foreign Reserves	Apr-15	--	\$103.0b	--
22/04	US	Chicago Fed Nat Activity Index	Mar	2.55	-0.29	--
		Existing Home Sales MOM	Mar	-3.8%	11.8%	--
23/04		FHFA House Price Index MOM	Feb	0.6%	0.6%	--
		Richmond Fed Manufact. Index	Apr	10.0	10.0	--
		New Home Sales MOM	Mar	-2.7%	4.9%	--
23/04	Eurozone	Consumer Confidence	Apr A	-7.0	-7.2	--
22/04	Japan	Convenience Store Sales YOY	Mar	--	-2.0%	--
23/04		Nationwide Dept Sales YOY	Mar	--	0.4%	--
		Machine Tool Orders YOY	Mar F	--	-28.5%	--
23/04	Singapore	CPI YOY	Mar	0.7%	0.5%	--

Source: Bloomberg

	Last Price	DoD%	High	Low	YTD %
EURUSD	1.1245	0.13	1.1248	1.1229	-1.94
GBPUSD	1.2993	0.02	1.3010	1.2983	1.87
USDJPY	111.92	-0.04	112.01	111.90	2.03
AUDUSD	0.7152	0.01	0.7159	0.7145	1.42
EURGBP	0.8652	0.06	0.8659	0.8644	-3.73
USDMYR	4.1330	-0.22	4.1500	4.1295	-0.01
EURMYR	4.6474	-0.28	4.6579	4.6411	-1.69
JPYMYR	3.6918	-0.41	3.7021	3.6889	-1.76
GBPMYR	5.3721	-0.54	5.3863	5.3659	1.98
SGDMYR	3.0493	-0.40	3.0573	3.0469	0.44
AUDMYR	2.9565	-0.51	2.9629	2.9523	1.15
NZDMYR	2.7652	-0.61	2.7718	2.7613	-0.49
CHFMYR	4.0777	-0.63	4.0846	4.0685	-2.89
CNYMYR	0.6164	-0.35	0.6171	0.6159	1.85
HKDMYR	0.5267	-0.40	0.5285	0.5264	-0.28
USDSGD	1.3552	-0.05	1.3560	1.3547	-0.57
EURSGD	1.5236	0.06	1.5245	1.5222	-2.51
GBPSGD	1.7607	-0.05	1.7632	1.7597	1.29
AUDSGD	0.9695	-0.01	0.9699	0.9685	0.85

Source: Bloomberg

Forex

MYR

- **MYR closed 0.22% stronger at 4.1330** as the pair was rejected at the 4.1500 important resistance level.
- **MYR has been rejected** at the 4.15 handle and now trades circa 4.13 handle. The pair will likely consolidate around 4.12-4.15 as previously mentioned. Only a sustained break below the 4.12 handle will negate current upside pressure towards the 4.15 handle.

USD

- **The Dollar index closed 0.09% lower at 97.338** in a very quiet and non eventful manner due to Good Friday holiday.
- **We maintain USD bullishness over the medium term** and we look towards US GDP as the catalyst this coming Friday to reinforce this view in an otherwise light data week.

EUR

- **EUR closed 0.13% higher at 1.1245 against USD** in very quiet trading due to Good Friday holiday.
- **We continue to maintain EUR bullishness** towards our 1.1350 target. However, this might be a challenge to achieve in a data light week.

GBP

- **GBP closed flat at 1.2993** against the USD in very quiet Good Friday trading.
- **We continue to maintain bullish GBPUSD** over the medium term on Brexit developments but short term direction may be influenced by headlines from external events.

JPY

- **JPY strengthened 0.04% to 111.92** in very quiet Good Friday trading.
- **We maintain bearish JPY** although it seems as though momentum has somewhat waned as we lack push/pull factors as it continues to grapple with a higher equity market vs heightened trade war concerns and lower global growth outlook.

AUD

- **AUD closed flat against the USD at 0.7152** in quiet Good Friday trading.
- **We continue to remain neutral on AUD** as price action suggests further consolidation in between 0.71-0.72.

SGD

- **SGD closed stronger by 0.05% at 1.3552 against USD** in quiet trading.
- **We maintain bearish SGD** as a stronger USD regionally amongst peers may affect overall SGD performance.

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