

Market Highlights

- The U.S dollar received support after Federal Reserve Governor Christopher Waller stated that the recent disappointing inflation data has reinforced the case for the Fed Bank to hold off on cutting its short-term interest rate target. On the other hand, the euro faced downward pressure as European Central Bank (ECB) officials are increasingly suggesting a probable interest rate cut in June. Moreover, weaker-than-forecast German retail sales data released this morning is weighing on the Euro.
- The Pound sterling was slightly up against the dollar after Bank of England (BoE) policymaker Jonathan Haskel warned against rushing to cut interest rates.
- The Australian dollar was almost unchanged against the U.S dollar due to softer Consumer Inflation Expectations and Retail Sales figures from Australia. February's seasonally adjusted Retail Sales showed a month-over-month increase of 0.3%, falling short of the expected 0.4%; thus, heightening expectations of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) considering interest rate cuts in the second half of 2024.
- The South African rand got upward momentum following the Central Bank's decision to maintain its main interest rate unchanged, as widely expected.
- The Japanese yen held ground against the greenback after Japan's three main monetary authorities held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss the weak yen, and suggested they would intervene in the market to stop what they described as "disorderly and speculative moves in the currency".
- Oil prices rose as Russia cut oil production and supported by low signs of war de-escalation in the middle east as well as increasing demand of oil for the spring season.

Term of the Day: Gross Processing Margin (GPM)

The gross processing margin (GPM) is the difference between the cost of a raw commodity and the income it generates once sold as a finished product. The gross processing margin is affected by supply and demand. The prices for raw commodities fluctuate, creating an ever-changing spread between the raw inputs and the processed products.

Source: Investopedia

Local Securities:

The Bank of Mauritius will conduct the following auction today:

Tenor	BOM/GOM	Amount (Mio)
91-D and 364 -D	BOM	3,000
182-D	GOM	1,300

Govt of Mauritius Securities			
Date	Tbills/Govt Bonds	Actual	Previous
22-Mar-24	7 - Day	4.50%	4.50%
21-Mar-24	91 - Day	3.22%	3.22%
21-Mar-24	182 - Day	3.68%	4.04%
21-Mar-24	364 - Day	4.15%	3.82%
9-Feb-24	2-Year	3.91%	3.88%
22-Mar-24	3 -Year	4.92%	4.71%
11-Mar-24	5 - Year	5.22%	4.45%
23-Feb-24	7 - Year	5.29%	4.73%
8-Sep-23	10 - Year	4.41%	5.24%
24-Jan-24	15 - Year	5.20%	4.46%
22-Dec-23	20 - Year	5.69%	5.71%

Today Economic Calendar:			
Country	Indicators	Poll	Prior
11:00 UK	GDP Growth Rate YoY Final (Q4)	-0.20%	0.20%
16:30 US	GDP Growth Rate QoQ Final (Q4)	3.20%	4.90%
16:30 US	Continuing Jobless Claims (Mar/16)		1807K
16:30 US	Core PCE Prices QoQ Final (Q4)	2.10%	2.00%
16:30 US	Initial Jobless Claims (Mar/23)	215.0K	210K
18:00 US	Michigan Consumer Sentiment Final (Mar)	76.5	76.9

Equities Market			
Indices	Last	Previous	% Change
DOW JONES	39,760.08	39,282.33	1.22%
FTSE	7,931.98	7,930.96	0.01%
NIKKEI	40,289.62	40,843.33	-1.36%
NASDAQ	16,399.52	16,315.70	0.51%
SEM	2,114.66	2,111.94	0.13%

Market Currency		
Currency	Actual	Previous
EUR - USD	1.0825	1.0831
GBP - USD	1.2634	1.2618
USD - JPY	151.35	151.71
USD - ZAR	18.9230	18.9778
USD - MUR	46.800	46.800
EUR - MUR	51.139	51.167
GBP - MUR	59.639	59.546
ZAR - MUR	2.5380	2.5290

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