



by Alan Bush, Senior Financial Economist

May 17, 2021

STOCK INDEX FUTURES

The May Empire State manufacturing index was 24.3 when 25.0 was expected. The New York Federal Reserve conducts this monthly survey of manufacturers in New York State.

The 9:00 central time May housing market index is anticipated to be 83.

With the earnings season drawing to a close, earnings for S&P 500 companies are expected to have climbed 50.6% from a year ago, according to Refinitiv IBES, which is the strongest rate of growth in 11 years.

Overall, stock index futures are performing well on the news.

CURRENCY FUTURES

The U.S dollar index has underperformed recently, ignoring last week's bullish larger than expected increases in consumer price and producer price indexes. Some of the underperformance in the greenback can be explained by Federal Reserve officials persistently downplaying inflation risks, saying they are transitory.

The euro currency remains close to last week's two-month high, supported by optimism about Europe's economic recovery.

Housing starts in Canada fell 19.8% from a month earlier to 268,631 units in April of 2021, which is below market expectations of 280,000 units, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Producer prices in Japan increased 3.6% on a year-to-year basis in April, which is the second straight month of increase and the highest since September 2014.

On Tuesday the Reserve Bank of Australia will release the minutes from its latest policy meeting.

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INTEREST RATE MARKET FUTURES

Federal Reserve speakers today are Raphael Bostic at 9:00, Richard Clarida at 9:05, Raphael Bostic at 11:30 and Robert Kaplan at 5:00.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department will auction \$34 billion in 52-week bills, \$27 billion in 20-year bonds and \$13 billion in 10-year TIPS this week.

In my minority view, I am seeing indications that the global economy will continue to improve, but growth may not be as strong as many analysts are predicting.

GOLD AND SILVER FUTURES

Futures are higher today with gold trading at its highest level since February 11.

Most major central banks will probably keep their accommodation for longer, which remains a bullish longer term influence on the precious metals.

SUPPORT & RESISTANCE

June 21 S&P 500			
Support	4145.00	Resistance	4182.00
June 21 U.S. Dollar Index			
Support	90.100	Resistance	90.440
June 21 Euro Currency			
Support	1.21300	Resistance	1.21820
June 21 Japanese Yen			
Support	.91280	Resistance	.91700
June 21 Canadian Dollar			
Support	.82340	Resistance	.82690
June 21 Australian Dollar			
Support	.77250	Resistance	.77880
June 21 Thirty-Year Treasury Bonds			
Support	156^16	Resistance	157^16
June 21 Gold			
Support	1838.0	Resistance	1858.0
July 21 Copper			
Support	4.6400	Resistance	4.7050
lune 21 Crude Oil			

June 21 Crude Oil

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Support 64.75 Resistance 65.90

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