22 May 2020



### Summary

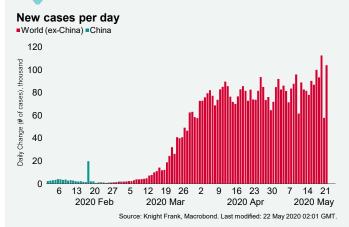
- **COVID-19 Cases:** Many European countries are seeing the rate of COVID-19 cases remain low as they cautiously ease restrictions. This includes the Czech Republic (+0.9%), Denmark (+0.7%) and Germany (+0.4%). Sweden, which has avoided a full lockdown, currently has a case growth rate of +2.4%. In Asia, the case rate for South Korea remains low at +0.1%, while Singapore has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases over the day of +2.0%. In the UAE, where shopping malls are open, albeit with tight restrictions, confirmed cases have increased by +3.8%. Brazil, with the fourth-highest cumulative number of infections, saw a +6.8% increase in confirmed cases over the day. The daily growth in confirmed cases for India is +5.3%.
- **Equities:** Global equities were subdued this morning, following an escalation of tension between the US and China. The Hang Seng closed -5.7% lower on Friday, marking the index's worst one-day performance in circa five years. In Europe, declines were led this morning by the FTSE 100, which fell -1.7%, followed by the FTSE 250 (-1.5%), STOXX 600 (-1.2%) and the DAX (-1.1%). The S&P 500 and DJIA are both -0.8% lower.
- VIX: The "investor fear gauge" continues its upwards trajectory. Following an increase of +5.3% yesterday, the index is up +3.1% to 32.0 this morning, indicating further expectations of near-term volatility.
- **Bonds:** Bonds have compressed this morning. Declines were led by the US 10-year treasury bond yield which has contracted by -4bps to 0.64%. Both the UK 10-year gilt yield and the German 10-year bund yield have compressed by -1bp to 0.16% and -0.50%, respectively.
- **US Unemployment:** Unemployment applications increased by 2.4 million in the week to May 16<sup>th</sup>, the lowest increase since the coronavirus crisis began, but marginally above expectations. The total number of US jobless claims has increased by 38.6 million over the past 9-weeks. The highest number of first-time applications were recorded in California with 246,115 claims, followed by New York (226,521) and Florida (223,927).
- **UK Finances:** Public sector net debt excluding public sector banks increased to 97.7% of GDP in April 2020, compared to 80.3% in April one year ago. This is the largest year on year increase in debt as a percentage of GDP, on record.

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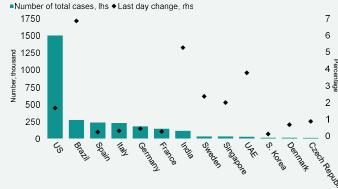
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## COVID-19



The number of total confirmed cases reached 4893k on the 21 May, an increase of 104k new cases over the day prior.

### Cumulative number of cases



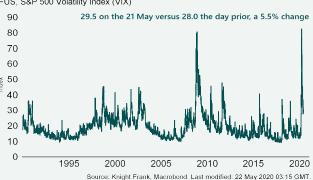
Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond, Last modified: 21 May 2020 00:00 GMT

The chart presents the number of cumulative cases (left axis) and the percentage change of new cases against the day before (right axis).

### Investor sentiment

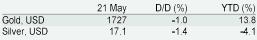






The CBOE VIX (colloquially known as the Investor fear gauge) is an indication of near term S&P 500 stock price volatility based on underlying options.





## Brent crude and global commodity price index



Brent crude monitors the level of demand for raw materials and is a measure of economic activity. Lately also influenced by Saudi-Russia price war.

## Baltic Dry Index (BDI)

-World, Baltic Exchange, Shipping, Dry Index (BDI), USD



Baltic Dry Index is a measure of what it costs to ship raw materials and is a leading indicator of global demand. A lower value means lower demand.

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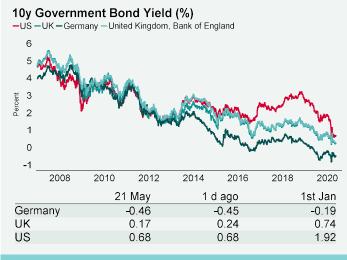
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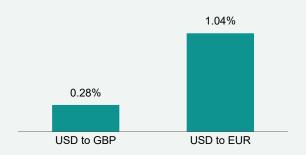


### Bonds and currencies





# Currency hedging benefit p.a. based on a five year forward



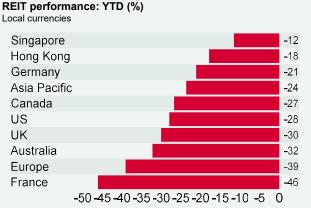
Source: Knight Frank, Investing.com

Approximate additional return per annum that dollar denominated investors may obtain based on five year currency hedge.



The chart presents the performance of selected equity indexes since the months prior the global financial crisis (2007).

### Equity performance: YTD (%) Local currencies SSE (China) -8 S&P 500 (US) -9 Nikkei 225 (JP) -14 HSI (HK) -14 -14 Dow Jones (US) DAX 30 (GER) -16 S&P/ASX 100 (AU) -17 STOXX 600 (EU) -18 FTSE 100 (UK) -20 -25 FTSE 250 (UK) -25 SENSEX (IND) CAC 40 (FR) -26 FTSE MIB (IT) -27 IBEX 35 (SP) -30 -30 -25 -20 -15 -10



Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

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Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond

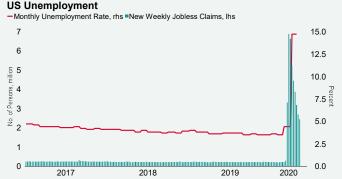
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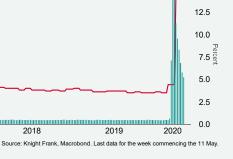
### US indicator

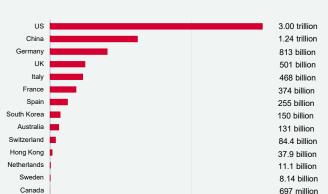
## Fiscal policy



The chart presents the number of Americans that each week file for

unemployment benefits (left axis) and the overall monthly unemployment





Fiscal measures by selected governments (YTD total, \$)

Source: Knight Frank, Macrobond.

YoY (%)

43.4%

223.1%

13.5%

11.6%

8.3%

11.2%

28.7%

14.7%

2.5%

82.2%

-14.3%

-1.7%

33.2%

4.5%

12.9%

-3.8%

-5.4%

19.5%

MoM (%)

5.1%

103.7%

3.7%

11.7%

2.5%

3.0%

6.4%

3.2%

0.2%

8.0%

-0.6%

-1.2%

8.6%

3.2%

-0.6%

-3.8%

0.7%

11.0%

### Fiscal measures details

£330bn+: Government backed loans and guarantees equivalent to 15% of UK GDP. SMEs will be granted access to cash grants of more than £25k to tackle the Support for furloughed employees of 80% salary ≤£2,500 per month. Furlough has been extended until October 2020, with employers to start sharing the cost from August. Taxable grant for self-employed <£50k trading profit, worth 80% of monthly profits up to £2.5k, paid as a lump sum in June.

\$3.0tn: 2<sup>nd</sup> package passed 23<sup>rd</sup> April, worth \$483 billon, increasing US stimulus to \$3 trillion (15% GDP).

€500bn: The EU member states passed this stimulus package, which includes €240bn to the European Stability Mechanism, as well as €200bn in guarantees from the European Investment Bank.

€750bn: The emergency aid measure approved by the Germany

German Cabinet on Monday 23rd of March.

Italy

France

UK

USA

ΕU

€400bn: The stimulus announced on the 7 April to help businesses hurt by a national lockdown. €25bn: Emergency package to support businesses and

families.

€45bn: The aid package for SMEs and other hard-hit sectors announced by the French government on 17th of March. Includes deferred corporate tax, social security charges and two months state payments to laid off workers.

€300bn: government backed loans.

Spain

€200bn: the aid package includes government loan guarantees to ensure liquidity for SMEs (the government said it would provide businesses with "all the liquidity they need"), other government commitments and private money.

Japan

\$10bn: The aid package issued in early March for SMEs and self-employed workers. Additional economic stimulus measures are expected.

HK\$10k for every adult citizen (c.£7bn). Hong Kong

## Source: Knight Frank, various sources

# rate (right axis)

## Central Banks Policy Rates

	Current Rate	Rate at 1/1/2020	YTD Change
Advanced Economies			
Australia	0.25%	0.75%	-50 bps
Canada	0.25%	1.75%	-150 bps
Euro Area	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
France	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
Germany	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
Italy	0.00%	0.00%	0 bps
Sweden	0.00%	-0.25%	25 bps
Japan	-0.10%	-0.10%	0 bps
United Kingdom	0.10%	0.75%	-65 bps
United States	0.25%	1.75%	-150 bps
<b>Developing Economies</b>			
Brazil	3.00%	4.50%	-150 bps
China	4.35%	4.35%	0 bps
India	4.00%	5.15%	-115 bps
Mexico	5.50%	7.25%	-175 bps
Russia	5.50%	6.25%	<b>-</b> 75 bps
Saudi Arabia	1.00%	2.25%	-125 bps
South Korea	0.75%	1.25%	-50 bps
Turkey	8.25%	12.00%	-375 bps

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Advanced Economies

Australia

Canada

France

Italy

Germany

Sweden

United Kingdom

**Developing Economies** 

United States

Japan

Brazil

China

India

Mexico

Russia

Saudi Arabia

South Korea Turkev

Euro Area

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Central Bank Assets Purchasing Programme

Lastest (\$)

175 bn

278 bn

5.96 tn

1.39 tn

2.16 tn

1 22 tn

123 bn

5.88 tn

795 bn

7.04 tn

480 bn

5.09 tn

351 bn

206 bn

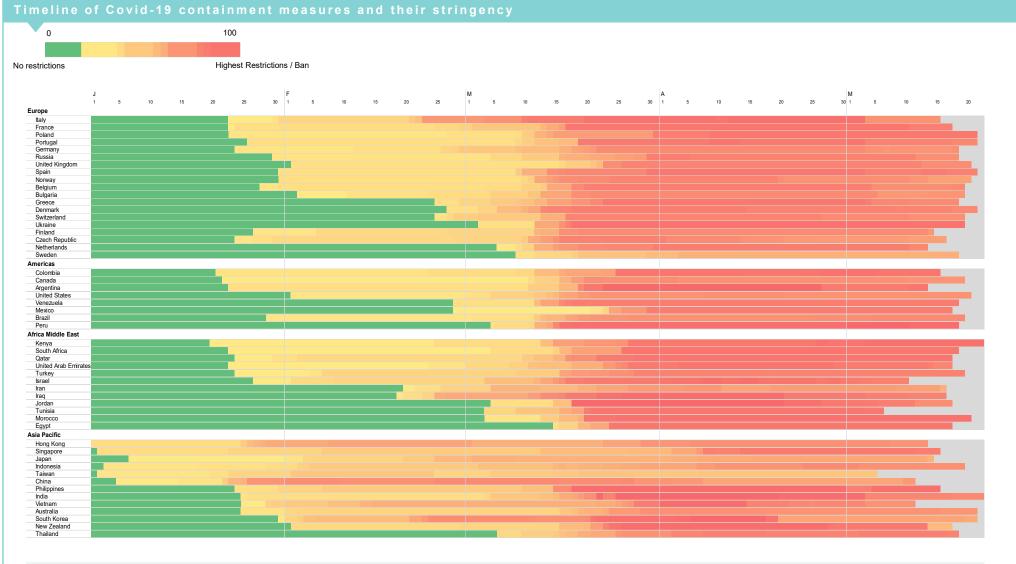
684 hn

485 bn

417 bn

108 bn

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This chart shows the change in severity of containment measures over time, up to the latest data. Green indicates a score of zero or no restrictions, while the darkest red indicates the highest restrictions or complete bans. Where grey, no new data is available.

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### Confirmed Cases Confirmed Deaths Lockdown Index Internal Movement Public Events Public Transport Workplace Schools International Travel Europe Italy France 227 364 32 330 143,845 28,132 962 1,263 19.739 Portugal 29.660 176,752 8,147 Germany 308,705 2 972 United Kinadom 248.293 35.704 Spain 8,268 234 9,150 Belgium 55 983 Bulgaria 2,331 Greece 2.850 166 Denmark 11,117 30,575 554 Switzerland 1,629 Ukraine 19 230 564 304 Finland 6.443 304 5,748 Czech Republio 8,721 Netherlands 44 447 Sweden 31.523 Americas 630 6,030 Colombia 17,687 Canada 80 091 9,270 Argentina United States 1.551.853 93,439 Venezuela 824 Mexico 56,594 6,090 Brazil 291 579 18.859 104,020 3,024 Africa Middle East 1,029 South Africa 18.003 339 United Arab Emirates 26,004 233 Turkey 152 587 4 222 16,670 Israel Iran 126,949 7.183 Iraq Jordan 3,724 134 Tunisia 1.045 Morocco 7,133 14,229 Egypt Asia Pacific 1.055 Hona Kona 29,364 Singapore 16,424 Indonesia 19.189 1.242 Taiwan South Kore 11.122 264 China 84 067 4 638 13,221 Philippines India 112.359 3.435 Vietnam 324 7,079 Australia New Zealand 1 153 Thailand Lockdown Index key & Scale Public transport International travel Value Internal movement Public events Schools No Restrictions: 0 - 25 No measure No Measure No measure No measure No measure No measure Recommended Restrictions: 26 - 50 Recommended Recommended Recommended Recommended Screening Enforced Restrictions: 51 - 75 Restriction Required Required Some level of Quarantine arrivals from Highest Restrictions / Ban: 76 - 100 Required closure of schooling required to high risk regions some sectors close Ban on high risk regions Required closure for all All schools required to Total border closure but essential work close In line with some of the fewest reported cases and the smallest reported deaths For most countries, public transport has the most relaxed restrictions. Sweden is the only country where there are no measures implemented on public attributed to COVID-19, Taiwan has the lowest 'lockdown index' score at 29, events. Meanwhile, across the world, there is some measure of restriction on international travel. However, the UK, Jordan and Iran are the exceptions,

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highest 'lockdown index' scores.

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indicating the restrictions in place are generally recommendations and are not

enforced. Countries including Peru, the Philippines and Kenya have some of the

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where international travel is freely permitted with no measures implemented.

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