

3 May 2024

MORNING REPORT

Today's economic developments and market movements.

Key themes

Risk sentiment improved as Jerome Powell's post-meeting remarks continued to soothe markets. However, weaker US productivity data overnight and tonight's non-farm payrolls report capped the enthusiasm.

US equities trudged higher in familiar fashion - led by the tech heavyweights.

US treasury yields were lower across the curve as markets pulled forward the expected timing of the first Fed rate cut and upped the probability of a second by year-end.

The US dollar followed the yield curve lower, falling to a 3-week low on a DXY basis. The Aussie dollar strengthened on a weaker greenback and outperformed on the crosses.

Data snapshot

FX Last 24 hrs	Current	Change
TWI	62.3	0.8%
AUD/USD	0.6566	0.6%
AUD/JPY	100.93	0.1%
AUD/GBP	0.5239	0.6%
AUD/NZD	1.1015	0.1%
AUD/EUR	0.6123	0.5%
AUD/CNH	4.7319	0.3%
AUD/SGD	0.8894	0.2%
AUD/HKD	5.1312	0.5%
AUD/CAD	0.8979	0.2%
EUR/USD	1.0724	0.1%
USD/JPY	153.70	-0.6%
USD Index	105.40	-0.3%

Equities	Close	Change
S&P/ASX 200	7,587	0.2%
S&P 500	5,064	0.9%
Japan Nikkei	38,236	-0.1%
Hang Seng	18,207	2.5%
Euro Stoxx 50	4,891	-0.6%
UK FTSE100	8,172	0.6%
VIX Index	14.68	-4.6%

Commodities	Current	Change
CRB Index	284.74	-0.2%
Gold	2303.83	-0.7%
Copper	9652.46	-1.5%
Oil (WTI futures)	78.95	-0.1%
Coal (thermal)	253.00	-1.2%
Coal (coking)	147.75	0.1%
Iron Ore	117.00	-0.6%
ACCU	33.75	-0.7%

AUS Interest Rate Swaps	Last	Change
30 day BBSY	4.36	0.00
90 day BBSY	4.46	0.01
180 day BBSY	4.74	0.00
1 year swap	4.44	-0.04
2 year swap	4.33	-0.03
3 year swap	4.25	-0.08
4 year swap	4.23	-0.08
5 year swap	4.26	-0.08
6 year swap	4.31	-0.08
7 year swap	4.37	-0.08
8 year swap	4.42	-0.08
9 year swap	4.47	-0.08
10 year swap	4.65	-0.06

Government Bond Yields	Close	Change
Australia		
3 year bond	4.07	-0.05
10 year bond	4.45	-0.06
United States		
3-month T Bill	5.24	-0.02
2 year bond	4.87	-0.09
10 year bond	4.58	-0.05
Other (10 year yields)		
Germany	2.54	-0.04
Japan	0.90	0.01
UK	4.29	-0.08

Sydney Futures Exchange	Current	Change
10 yr bond	4.44	-0.02
3 yr bond	4.05	-0.01
3 mth bill rate	4.42	-0.01
SPI 200	7,636	0.5%

Data as at 7:50am AEDT. Change is from the previous trading day (excluding the SFE, which is the change during the night session). Source: Bloomberg.



Jameson Coombs
Economist, Westpac Group
P: +61 401 102 789
E: jameson.coombs@westpac.com.au

Share markets:

US equities gained, supported by a rise in tech stocks. The S&P 500 rose 0.9% while the NASDAQ jumped 1.5%.

The major European bourses were mixed. The Euro Stoxx 50 and the Dax slipped 0.6% and 0.2%, respectively. In London the FTSE 100 rose 0.6%.

The ASX 200 rose 0.2% yesterday. Futures traded higher overnight, pointing to a solid open this morning.

Interest rates:

US treasury yields continued to unwind after Jerome Powell said it would be unlikely the Fed's next move will be a hike. The 2-year yield fell 9 basis points to 4.87%, its lowest close since the March inflation surprise on April 10. The 10-year yield was down 5 basis points to 4.58%.

Interest rate markets upped the chances of a second rate cut from the Fed this year to around 50/50. The first cut is fully priced in for November.

Aussie bond futures gained modestly (i.e. yield fell) following the direction of the US market. The 3-year (futures) yield slipped 1 basis point to 4.05%, while the 10-year yield eased 2 basis points to 4.44%.

Market pricing is still suggesting a rate hike is more probable than a rate cut in 2024. However, the implied odds of hike by the end of the year have shortened to around 25%.

Foreign exchange:

The US dollar followed the yield curve lower, slipping against every G-10 peer. The DXY index fell from 105.89 to a 3-week low of 105.29.

The AUD/USD is trading just below its overnight high after rising from a low of 0.6516 to a high of 0.6573. The Aussie dollar outperformed gaining on all the major crosses.

Commodities:

Oil futures traded largely sideways after gyrating through gains and losses. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil futures remained comfortably below US\$80 per barrel. Gold, copper and iron ore softened overnight.

Australia:

Dwelling approvals posted a modest rise in March rising 1.9% in the month. Both private sector houses (+3.8%)

Today's key data and events

Time	Event	Exp	Prev
11:30am	AU Housing Finance Mar		
	Total	4.0%	1.5%
	Owner-occupier	3.8%	1.6%
	Investor	4.0%	1.2%
7pm	EZ Unemployment Rate Mar	6.5%	6.5%
10:30pm	US Non-farm Payrolls Change Apr	240k	303k
	US Unemployment Rate Apr	3.8%	3.8%
	US Average Hourly Earnings Apr	0.3%	0.3%
11:45pm	US S&P Services PMI Final	51.0	50.9
12pm	US ISM Non-Manufacturing PMI Apr		51.4

Times are AEST. All data forecasts are m/m or q/q and seasonally adjusted unless otherwise specified. Forecasts for Australian data are our forecasts and for other countries they are consensus forecasts.

and multi-density (+3.6%) approvals rose in March. However, the monthly increase did little to turn the tide on what is a bleak outlook for new dwelling supply.

Smoothing through the month-to-month volatility, total residential dwelling approvals are at their weakest level since September 2012 on a 6-month moving average basis. Weakness is concentrated in multi-density approvals, however, detached house approvals are also decidedly lacklustre.

Elevated and uncertain building costs are keeping investors on the sidelines as many projects have been delayed or withdrawn as they no longer commercially viable. This is despite rising dwelling prices and rents.

Australia's goods trade balance weakened further in April, following material declines in the goods surplus since November 2023. The surplus narrowed to a more than three year low of \$5.0bn in the month, from \$6.6bn in February. This extends steady declines in recent months from November's \$11.5bn surplus.

New Zealand:

Building permits fell 0.2% in March, dropping to their lowest level in six years. In the 12 months ended March approvals fell 25% from a year earlier as rising interest rates continue to drag on residential construction activity.

United States:

Softer than expected productivity growth in the March quarter contributed to a 4.7% annualised rise in unit labour costs - the biggest increase in a year. While short-run productivity data can be volatile, the data underlines the importance of the recent re-acceleration in wages growth. A sustained increase in unit labour costs would be a troubling development for the Fed and has the potential to complicate disinflation further.

The trade deficit was broadly unchanged in March narrowing slightly to US\$69.4bn from US\$69.5bn.

Factory orders rose 1.6% in March, meeting expectations. This followed a revised 1.2% increase in order in February. Excluding transportation, factory orders rose 0.5%, slightly higher than expectations for a 0.2% increase. The March increase in durable goods orders was finalised unchanged at 2.6%.



Authors

Westpac Economics

Besa Deda

M: +61 404 844 817

E: besa.deda@westpac.com.au

Pat Bustamante

M: +61 434 856 909

E: pat.bustamante@westpac.com.au

Jarek Kowcza

M: +61 481 476 436

E: jarek.kowcza@westpac.com.au

Jameson Coombs

M: +61 401 102 789

E: jameson.coombs@westpac.com.au



 westpaciq.com.au

©2024 Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 (including where acting under any of its Westpac, St George, Bank of Melbourne or BankSA brands, collectively, "Westpac"). References to the "Westpac Group" are to Westpac and its subsidiaries and includes the directors, employees and representatives of Westpac and its subsidiaries.

Things you should know

We respect your privacy: You can view our [privacy statement](#) at [Westpac.com.au](#). Each time someone visits our site, data is captured so that we can accurately evaluate the quality of our content and make improvements for you. We may at times use technology to capture data about you to help us to better understand you and your needs, including potentially for the purposes of assessing your individual reading habits and interests to allow us to provide suggestions regarding other reading material which may be suitable for you.

This information, unless specifically indicated otherwise, is under copyright of the Westpac Group. None of the material, nor its contents, nor any copy of it, may be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed to any other party without the prior written permission of the Westpac Group.

Disclaimer

This information has been prepared by Westpac and is intended for information purposes only. It is not intended to reflect any recommendation or financial advice and investment decisions should not be based on it. This information does not constitute an offer, a solicitation of an offer, or an inducement to subscribe for, purchase or sell any financial instrument or to enter into a legally binding contract. To the extent that this information contains any general advice, it has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the advice. Certain types of transactions, including those involving futures, options and high yield securities give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. We recommend that you seek your own independent legal or financial advice before proceeding with any investment decision. This information may contain material provided by third parties. While such material is published with the necessary permission none of Westpac or its related entities accepts any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any such material. Although we have made every effort to ensure this information is free from error, none of Westpac or its related entities warrants the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of this information, or otherwise endorses it in any way. Except where contrary to law, Westpac Group intend by this notice to exclude liability for this information. This information is subject to change without notice and none of Westpac or its related entities is under any obligation to update this information or correct any inaccuracy which may become apparent at a later date. This information may contain or incorporate by reference forward-looking statements. The words "believe", "anticipate", "expect", "intend", "plan", "predict", "continue", "assume", "positioned", "may", "will", "should", "shall", "risk" and other similar expressions that are predictions of or indicate future events and future trends identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements include all matters that are not historical facts. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, nor are forecasts of future performance. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which any forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The ultimate outcomes may differ substantially from any forecasts.

Conflicts of Interest: In the normal course of offering banking products and services to its clients, the Westpac Group may act in several capacities (including issuer, market maker, underwriter, distributor, swap counterparty and calculation

agent) simultaneously with respect to a financial instrument, giving rise to potential conflicts of interest which may impact the performance of a financial instrument. The Westpac Group may at any time transact or hold a position (including hedging and trading positions) for its own account or the account of a client in any financial instrument which may impact the performance of that financial instrument.

Author(s) disclaimer and declaration: The author(s) confirms that no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to any views or (if applicable) recommendations expressed in this material. The author(s) also confirms that this material accurately reflects his/her personal views about the financial products, companies or issuers (if applicable) and is based on sources reasonably believed to be reliable and accurate.

Further important information regarding sustainability-related content: This material may contain statements relating to environmental, social and governance (ESG) topics. These are subject to known and unknown risks, and there are significant uncertainties, limitations, risks and assumptions in the metrics, modelling, data, scenarios, reporting and analysis on which the statements rely. In particular, these areas are rapidly evolving and maturing, and there are variations in approaches and common standards and practice, as well as uncertainty around future related policy and legislation. Some material may include information derived from publicly available sources that have not been independently verified. No representation or warranty is made as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information. There is a risk that the analysis, estimates, judgements, assumptions, views, models, scenarios or projections used may turn out to be incorrect. These risks may cause actual outcomes to differ materially from those expressed or implied. The ESG-related statements in this material do not constitute advice, nor are they guarantees or predictions of future performance, and Westpac gives no representation, warranty or assurance (including as to the quality, accuracy or completeness of the statements). You should seek your own independent advice.

Additional country disclosures:

Australia: Westpac holds an Australian Financial Services Licence (No. 233714). You can access [Westpac's Financial Services Guide here](#) or request a copy from your Westpac point of contact. To the extent that this information contains any general advice, it has been prepared without taking into account your objectives, financial situation or needs and before acting on it you should consider the appropriateness of the advice.

New Zealand: In New Zealand, products and services are provided by either Westpac (NZ division) or Westpac New Zealand Limited (company number 1763882), the New Zealand incorporated subsidiary of Westpac ("WNZL"). Any product or service made available by WNZL does not represent an offer from Westpac or any of its subsidiaries (other than WNZL). Neither Westpac nor its other subsidiaries guarantee or otherwise support the performance of WNZL in respect of any such product. WNZL is not an authorised deposit-taking institution for the purposes of Australian prudential standards. The current disclosure statements for the New Zealand branch of Westpac and WNZL can be obtained at the internet address www.westpac.co.nz.

Singapore: This material has been prepared and issued for distribution in Singapore to institutional investors, accredited investors and expert investors (as defined in the applicable Singapore laws and regulations) only. Recipients of this material in Singapore should contact Westpac Singapore Branch in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this material. Westpac Singapore Branch holds a wholesale banking

Disclaimer continues overleaf ▶

licence and is subject to supervision by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

U.S.: Westpac operates in the United States of America as a federally licensed branch, regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Westpac is also registered with the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (“CFTC”) as a Swap Dealer, but is neither registered as, or affiliated with, a Futures Commission Merchant registered with the US CFTC. The services and products referenced above are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”). Westpac Capital Markets, LLC (“WCM”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westpac, is a broker-dealer registered under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (‘the Exchange Act’) and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (‘FINRA’). This communication is provided for distribution to U.S. institutional investors in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 under the Exchange Act and is not subject to all of the independence and disclosure standards applicable to debt research reports prepared for retail investors in the United States. WCM is the U.S. distributor of this communication and accepts responsibility for the contents of this communication. Transactions by U.S. customers of any securities referenced herein should be effected through WCM. All disclaimers set out with respect to Westpac apply equally to WCM. If you would like to speak to someone regarding any security mentioned herein, please contact WCM on +1 212 389 1269. Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments mentioned in this communication may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, or be subject to the regulations of, the SEC in the United States. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Non-U.S. companies may not be subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect in the United States. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related derivative instruments denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars is subject to exchange rate fluctuations that may have a positive or adverse effect on the value of or income from such securities or related derivative instruments. The author of this communication is employed by Westpac and is not registered or qualified as a research analyst, representative, or associated person of WCM or any other U.S. broker-dealer under the rules of FINRA, any other U.S. self-regulatory organisation, or the laws, rules or regulations of any State. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the views expressed herein are solely those of the author and may differ from the information, views or analysis expressed by Westpac and/or its affiliates.

UK and EU: The London branch of Westpac is authorised in the United Kingdom by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and limited regulation by the PRA (Financial Services Register number: 124586). The London branch of Westpac is registered at Companies House as a branch established in the United Kingdom (Branch No. BR000106). Details about the extent of the regulation of Westpac’s London branch by the PRA are available from us on request.

Westpac Europe GmbH (“WEG”) is authorised in Germany by the Federal Financial Supervision Authority (‘BaFin’) and subject to its regulation. WEG’s supervisory authorities are BaFin and the German Federal Bank (‘Deutsche Bundesbank’). WEG is registered with the commercial register (‘Handelsregister’) of the local court of Frankfurt am Main under registration number HRB 118483. In accordance with APRA’s Prudential Standard 222 ‘Association with Related Entities’, Westpac does not stand behind WEG other than as provided for in certain legal agreements (a risk transfer, sub-participation and collateral agreement) between Westpac and WEG and obligations of WEG do not represent liabilities of Westpac.

This communication is not intended for distribution to, or use by

any person or entity in any jurisdiction or country where such distribution or use would be contrary to local law or regulation. This communication is not being made to or distributed to, and must not be passed on to, the general public in the United Kingdom. Rather, this communication is being made only to and is directed at (a) those persons falling within the definition of Investment Professionals (set out in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the “Order”)); (b) those persons falling within the definition of high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc. (set out in Article 49(2) of the Order); (c) other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated in accordance with the Order or (d) any persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be made (all such persons together being referred to as “relevant persons”). Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this communication or any of its contents. In the same way, the information contained in this communication is intended for “eligible counterparties” and “professional clients” as defined by the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority and is not intended for “retail clients”. Westpac expressly prohibits you from passing on the information in this communication to any third party.

This communication contains general commentary, research, and market colour. The communication does not constitute investment advice. The material may contain an ‘investment recommendation’ and/or ‘information recommending or suggesting an investment’, both as defined in Regulation (EU) No 596/2014 (including as applicable in the United Kingdom) (“MAR”). In accordance with the relevant provisions of MAR, reasonable care has been taken to ensure that the material has been objectively presented and that interests or conflicts of interest of the sender concerning the financial instruments to which that information relates have been disclosed.

Investment recommendations must be read alongside the specific disclosure which accompanies them and the general disclosure which can be found [here](#). Such disclosure fulfils certain additional information requirements of MAR and associated delegated legislation and by accepting this communication you acknowledge that you are aware of the existence of such additional disclosure and its contents.

To the extent this communication comprises an investment recommendation it is classified as non-independent research. It has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and therefore constitutes a marketing communication. Further, this communication is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research.