Market Alert

Friday 04 April 2025

CURRENCIES	Spot	6mths
NZD/USD	0.5798	0.0026
NZD/AUD	0.9147	0.0027
NZD/JPY	84.865	-1.27
NZD/EUR	0.5252	-0.0031
NZD/GBP	0.4425	0.0021
NZD/CNH	4.1578	-0.0303
AUD/USD	0.6336	0.0009
AUD/EUR	0.5739	-0.0050
EUR/USD	1.1038	0.0110
USD/CNH	7.2788	-0.0852
GBP/USD	1.3099	-0.0005
EUR/GBP	0.8423	0.0087
INT RATES	NZ	Australia
OCR/Cash	3.75%	4.10%
90 day bills	3.59%	4.17%
2 year swap	3.27%	3.41%
10 year Govt	4.48%	4.35%

President Trump implemented reciprocal tariffs ...

... starting with a 10.0% baseline, of which New Zealand and Australian exports will be subject to, but there was a clear discrimination amongst some countries such as China, who saw their tariffs increase from 20.0% to 54.0%. Vietnam gets 46.0%, while the EU gets 20.0%. There is still some confusion on what Canada and Mexico are facing, but ultimately it depends on the product, given it could be 25.0%, or it could be 0.0% as Trump is keeping the tariff exemption on USMCA products. Beyond China, the new tariffs will not apply to products that Trump has already implemented tariffs on, such as steel, aluminium and automobiles. Energy and other certain minerals that are not available in the US will also be excluded.

Initial estimates suggested the weighted average tariff on US imports is roughly at 21.0%- pretty much the worst-case scenario.

One big question is whether these are just negotiating positions and that we should expect tariff rates to come down or whether this is revenue generation to support the extension of his prior tax cuts. Some forecasters suggest the full implementation of the tariffs could lift US inflation to 5.0%, while other reports suggest the 54.0% tariff on Chinese goods could lead to a 90.0% decrease in Chinese exports to the US by 2030. Interestingly, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick has already suggested Chinese tariffs would drop 20.0% if President Xi offered fentanyl cuts.

We would expect economists to start increasing the odds of a US recession with lower growth and higher prices given the US doesn't have the manufacturing capacity to replace most/ all of its imported goods, which suggests a significant pricing adjustment for US consumers. US manufacturing wages are amongst the highest in the world at an average of USD102k. In China, it is around 25.0% of that figure, Korea is at 40.0%, while Germany is less than 75.0%.

Various countries have come out strongly against the tariffs, with Canadian PM Mark Carney matching Trump's 25.0% auto tariffs while EU President von der Leyen responded with, "The EU has always been ready to negotiate with the US, (although we are) preparing for further counter measures on US tariffs if negotiations fail. We are preparing a further

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package of measures to protect our interests." Australian PM Anthony Albanese stressed Australia imposes no tariffs on US imports, suggesting the correct tariff to apply was "0.0%," although he then added the Australian Government would not take any retaliatory action against the US tariffs.

Overall, the tariffs are worse than the market was expecting, and this has impacted the USD-index, falling -1.7%, its single biggest drop in 2-years, to reach a 6-month low. The biggest beneficiary was the CHF, which rallied 2.25%, while the JPY rose 2.0%, and EUR also outperformed by 1.75%. Interestingly, the CNH only rallied 0.25%, which held back the NZD and AUD as they under performed. NZD/AUD firmed to the 0.9150 level.

Fixed income markets have also been volatile. The US 10-year treasury yield has fallen through its recent 4.10% low and is currently at 4.05%, down -14bps on the day, while the 2-years is -17bps lower at 3.73%. This saw Australian swap rates tumble, falling between -14bps and -17bps, although NZ swap rates were a lot more stable, falling 4bps-6bps amid a slight flattening bias on the day.

Equity markets have been 'crushed' with the S&P off -4.25% and the Nasdaq -4.75% lower, although European bourses held up better falling between -2.0% and -3.0%. Commodity prices were all lower, with oil prices plummeting after 8 OPEC+ countries unexpectedly announced they would increase oil production by 411,000 barrels per day.









FECs (mid) Spot Mid Spot FΧ Mid 1mth 3mths 6mths 12mths NZD/. AUD/.. NZTWI 68.10 CAD 0.8158 0.8982 NZD/USD 0.0004 0.0014 0.0026 0.0039 0.4990 0.5458 0.5798 CHF NZD/AUD 0.9147 0.0005 0.0014 0.0027 0.0038 CNY 4.2206 4.6139 NZD/JPY -0.22 -0.67 -2.42 3.9176 4.2826 84.865 -1.27 DKK NZD/EUR 0.5252 -0.0005 -0.0015 -0.0031 -0.0066 FJD 1.3230 1.4462 NZD/GBP 0.4425 0.0004 0.0011 0.0021 0.0037 HKD 4 5080 4,9280 KRW 840.87 919.21 AU TWI 59.50 MYR 2.5734 2.8132 AUD/USD 0.6336 0.0001 0.0005 0.0009 0.0015 NOK 5.9854 6.5430 AUD/NZD 1.0928 -0.0007 -0.0019 -0.0035 -0.0056 SEK 5.6664 6.1943 AUD/JPY 92.92 -0.30 -0.87 -1.66 -3.06 SGD 0.7737 0.8458 AUD/EUR 0.5739 -0.0008 -0.0025 -0.0050 -0.0096 TWD 19.16 20.95 AUD/GBP 0.4835 0.0001 0.0003 0.0008 0.0019 ZAR 10.87 11.89 EQUITIES USD Index 102.08 EUR/USD 1.1038 0.0018 0.0056 0.0110 0.0210 Index NZX50 USD/JPY 146.38 -0.50 -1.49 -2.83 -5.16 12.339 GBP/USD -0.0001 -0.0001 -0.0005 -0.0026 ASX200 7,860 1.3099 EUR/GBP 0.8423 0.0014 0.0043 0.0087 0.0174 Dow Jones 40,831 524 USD/CNY 7.2813 -0.0165 -0.0488 -0.1021 -0.2035S&P 500 FTSE100 8,475 INTEREST New Zealand Australia **DAX 30** 21,717 RATES Nikkei Mid Mid 34.736 30 day bank bills 3.67% 4.15% COMMODITIES USD 90 day bank bills 3.59% 4.17% 1 year swap 3.30% 3.63% Brent Crude 70.12 2 year swap 3.32% 3.46% Gold 3,106.58 3 year swap 3.39% 3.44% Silver 31.89 5 year swap 3.58% 3.75% Iron Ore 100.90 10 year swap 3.99% 4.14% **CRB** Index 381.15 3 year Govt bond 3.63% 3.59% 5 year Govt bond 3.93% 3.78% NZD 10 year Govt bond 4.48% 4.35% NZ Carbon 58.00

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